

*Drenched in Destiny*

*Mechelle R. McDermott*

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# Dedication

This book has been a journey for me to move even closer to my  
Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. I dedicate this book to Him,  
Redeemer of the world.  
I anxiously anticipate his return.

# Acknowledgements

Many hours over the last five years has been spent with some of the most sincere, loving and dedicated servants of Christ who have willingly shared their testimonies, visions and materials with me. Thank you for your generosity and support.

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# Drenched in Destiny

*"Whether you realize it or not, you are a generation drenched in destiny. If you are faithful, you will prove to be a part of the winding up scenes for this world, as in participants not merely spectators, though on a later occasions you might understandably prefer the latter."*

Neal A. Maxwell BYU  
Fireside Address  
Sept 5, 1982

**Contents** **Page**

---

Introduction .....1

**Chapter One**

Ephraim's Assignment to Gather the House of Israel .....5

**Chapter Two**

How Long to do Our Mission?.....17

The Times of the Gentiles.....18

**Chapter Three**

America's Role in the End Times.....27

**Chapter Four - The Start of the Tribulations**

Book of Revelation Overview.....41

Civil War.....51

The Remnant of Jacob.....54

Financial Collapse.....60

**Chapter Five - The Middle of the Tribulations**

Matthew 24 Overview.....64

A Devastating Sickness.....65

The Testimony of Earthquakes.....66

The Antichrist.....71

**Chapter Six - The End of Tribulations**

Adam-ondi-Ahman.....75

New Jerusalem.....78

The 144,000.....87

**Chapter Seven - The Beginning of the End**

The Appearance of Jesus Christ to the Jews.....92

The Resurrection.....93

Armageddon.....95

**Chapter Eight - The Grand Finale**

The Second Coming and the Millennium.....106



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INTRODUCTION

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This book is the third book of a series. *The Great Gathering* and *The Great Awakening* were written to compile collected files and show patterns in scriptures, leadership quotes, dreams, visions, and current political events in relation to end-time prophecies.

May this book, with the assistance of the Holy Ghost, guide the reader to ask the Lord what our own individual role may be and how can we prepare temporally and spiritually for the events ahead of us? We are reminded that President Ezra Taft Benson said, "for we are the generation that must be prepared to meet God."

*"For nearly six thousand years, God has held you in reserve to make your appearance in the final days before the Second Coming of the Lord...God has saved for the final inning some of His strongest and most valiant children, who will help bear off the kingdom triumphantly. That is where you come in, for you are the generation that must be prepared to meet your God.*

*In all ages prophets have looked down through the corridors of time to our day. Billions of the deceased and those yet to be born have their eyes on us. Make no mistake about it—you are a marked generation. There has never been more expected of the faithful in such a short period of time than there is of us. Never before on the face of this earth have the forces of evil and the forces of good been so well organized. Now is the great day of the devil's power. But now is also the great day of the Lord's power, with the greatest number of priesthood holders on the earth."* (President Benson, In His Steps, 14 Stake Fireside, BYU, March 4, 1979)

In my studies and research I was always fascinated when I found a clue that helped me to see the order of events leading up to the Second Coming or gauge where we are in the order of things. Along the way, I have progressed from seeing calamities and hardships to seeing a sacred and cherished calling to defend the gospel, share the gospel, and to *help gather the Lord's children on both sides of the veil*. It has also become apparent to me that the real peace of mind will come from being spiritually strong enough to have the Holy Ghost as a constant companion and guide.

Consider this book like a roadmap for the events ahead. Part of understanding the magnitude of what we need to accomplish is getting a glimpse of the events, the order they come in and what that means to us.

Each event will have a description of what it is from the scriptures, but it will also have words of encouragement to the Lord's servants; there is much protection offered. Also, notice how the faithful saints will have a different experience than the wicked during the end-times.

It is important that we recognize and fulfill our responsibilities as Elder Neal A. Maxwell states "we are drenched in destiny".

*"Whether you realize it or not, you are a generation drenched in destiny. If you are faithful, you will prove to be a part of the winding up scenes for this world, as in participants not merely spectators, though on a later occasions you might understandably prefer the latter." (Neal A. Maxwell at a BYU Fireside Address, Sept 5, 1982)*

How different would our lives be today if we could peek into the future and see the magnificent role we will play in the building up of Zion and the ushering in of the Millennium? President Benson said, "We were reserved for this exceptional time!"

*"Will you be among those who are faithful to the end? Will you endure? Are you prepared? Can you live in the world and not partake of the sins of the world? Will you "arise and shine forth" as the Lord has commanded? Will you be a light and "standard for the nations"? We know you can. We pray you will.*

## *Drenched in Destiny*

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*We have every confidence that you, "the rising generation," will not falter. I repeat: You were valiant spirits reserved for this exceptional time. Make the choice. Rise to the task of this momentous hour!"* (President Ezra Taft Benson, May 1982)

Here are some questions to consider while reading and searching for the answers.

What was the covenant made to Father Abraham? What does that have to do with us?

Who gets to come forward in the *Morning of the First Resurrection*?

How many epoch events have happened on the land known as America today and how many more are scheduled to happen?

Did Joseph Smith prophesy of a second civil war in America?

What is the *Fulness of the Priesthood*? How will that change our experience during the hard times?

Who gets to build New Jerusalem?

Who are the 144,000?

Many will scoff at the idea that we are in the end-times. They will say that the signs are no different than the previous generations. But we have been commanded to "watch and be ready". We have been commanded to "study the end times".

In Matthew 24 the Lord himself prophesied many would ignore the signs as in the days of Noah. For example, the prophecy that Israel will be gathered again in their homeland (in 1948) has occurred. There are signs in heaven that are starting to emerge. Many missed the reappearance of the Star of Bethlehem on June 30, 2015. As of the writing of this book, the year 2017, we are in the middle of the rare Constellation Virgo (Revelation 12:1).

We must be careful not to think that every sign has an immediate event tied to it. The signs are often gentle reminders that we are in the beginning of sorrows, and we have been told, *be ye not troubled*.

Elder Neal A. Maxwell, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, wrote:

*“As in the days of Noah, people will also be preoccupied with the cares and the pleasures of the world. Ironically, most therefore will even miss such signs as God gives pertaining to Jesus’ glorious second coming”. He also said: “It is no accident that the scriptures have preserved for us certain precious insights about the times in which Noah lived. Those were times, we read, that were ‘filled with violence’ and corruption abounded. There was apparently a sense of self-sufficiency, a condition to which Jesus called attention. (Matthew 24:36–41.) Jesus said this condition would be repeated in the last days. The people of Noah’s time were desensitized to real dangers. So we may become in our time. Noah and those with him had to let go of their world or perish with it!” (Wherefore, Ye Must Press Forward).*

President Thomas Monson is prophet of the church today and his prophetic words in the September 2014 Ensign, "*Are We Prepared?*" still rings true today. He tells us he cannot say anything that will cause us to "molt" like the chickens in his parable, but he is resolute, ***"When the time for decision arrives, the time for preparation is past."***

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*Chapter One*  
*Ephraim's Assignment to*  
*Gather the House of Israel*

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***What does it mean to gather the House of Israel?***

The priesthood will be given to the House of Israel (Ephraimites) and they shall bless the earth in the last days, and use this priesthood to gather the House of Israel, either by missionary work (baptism) around the world or by work done in the temples for those who have passed on through temple ordinances. When the Savior returns, those "gathered" *can participate in the resurrection and Millennium*. This is all made possible through the *Abrahamic Covenant*.

The Morning of the First Resurrection will consist of those who have received these ordinances. Those who do not have these ordinances will have to rest a season and come forth at the end of the Millennium. The temple is a house of covenants. It is how we gather Father's children into the House of Israel until the earth is prepared for the Second Coming of the Lord.

President Wilford Woodruff declares that we must have these ordinances in order to come forth in the Morning of the First Resurrection. Can you think of any deceased relatives that would like to participate in this event and still need their ordinances done?

*"It is our duty to rise up and build these Temples. I look upon this portion of our ministry as a mission of as much importance as preaching to the living; the dead will bear the voice of the servants of God in the spirit-world, and they cannot come forth in the morning of the [first] resurrection, unless certain ordinances are performed, for and in their behalf, in Temples built to the name of God." (Deseret News: Semi-Weekly, March 26, 1878, 1.)*

Joseph F. Smith remarked:

*"The Lord said he would scatter Israel among the Gentile nations, and by doing so he would bless the Gentile nations with the blood of Abraham."*

*"Today we are preaching the gospel in the world and we are gathering out according to the revelations given to Isaiah, Jeremiah, and other prophets, the scattered sheep of the House of Israel. These scattered sheep are coming forth mixed with Gentile blood from their Gentile forefathers. Under all the circumstances it is very possible that the majority, almost without exception, of those who come into the Church in this dispensation have the blood of two or more of the tribes of Israel as well as the blood of the Gentiles." (Answers to Gospel Questions, 5 vols., Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1957–66, 3:63.)*

***Alma teaches us we will bear this ministry.***

• **Abraham 2:9-11**

*"Thou shalt be a blessing unto thy seed after thee, that in their hands they shall bear this ministry and Priesthood unto all nations; and I will bless them through thy name; for as many as receive this Gospel shall be called after thy name, and shall be accounted thy seed, and shall rise up and bless thee, as their father; ... and in thy seed after thee (that is to say, the literal seed, or the seed of the body) shall all the families of the earth be blessed, even with the blessings of the Gospel, which are the blessings of salvation, even of life eternal."*

***What does it mean to be a member of the House of Israel?***

Joseph Smith made it clear that the descendants of Ephraim hold the residing keys to carry forth the work of the Restoration and of the gathering of Israel in the last days.

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*“The members of the Church, most of us of the tribe of Ephraim, are of the remnant of Jacob. We know it to be the fact that the Lord called upon the descendants of Ephraim to commence his work in the earth in these last days. We know further that he has said that he set Ephraim, according to the promises of his birthright, at the head. Ephraim receives the ‘richer blessings,’ these blessings being those of presidency or direction. The keys are with Ephraim. It is Ephraim who is to be endowed with power to bless and give to the other tribes, including the Lamanites, their blessings. All the other tribes of Jacob, including the Lamanites, are to be crowned with glory in Zion by the hands of Ephraim. ...*

*“That the remnants of Joseph, found among the descendants of Lehi, will have part in this great work is certainly consistent, and the great work of this restoration, the building of the temple and the City of Zion, or New Jerusalem, will fall to the lot of the descendants of Joseph, but it is Ephraim who will stand at the head and direct the work.” (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:250–51; italics in original removed.)*

### ***What is the Abrahamic Covenant?***

Abraham first received the gospel by baptism (which is the covenant of salvation). Then he had conferred upon him the higher priesthood, and he entered into celestial marriage (which is the covenant of exaltation), gaining assurance thereby that he would have eternal increase. Finally he received a promise that all of these blessings would be offered to all of his mortal posterity (**D&C 132:29–50; Abr. 2:6–11**). Included in the divine promises to Abraham were the assurances that (1) Christ would come through his lineage, and that (2) Abraham’s posterity would receive certain lands as an eternal inheritance (**Gen. 17; 22:15–18; Gal. 3; Abr. 2**). These promises taken together are called the “Abrahamic covenant.” It was renewed with Isaac (**Gen. 26:1–4, 24**) and again with Jacob (**Gen. 28; 35:9–13; 48:3–4**).

The portions of the covenant that pertain to personal salvation and eternal increase are renewed with each individual who receives the ordinance of celestial marriage (see **D&C 132:29–33**). Those of non-Israelite lineage, commonly known as Gentiles, are adopted into the

house of Israel and become heirs of the covenant and the seed of Abraham through the ordinances of the gospel (**Gal. 3:26–29**).

Being an heir to the Abrahamic covenant does not make one a “chosen person” per se but does signify that such are chosen to responsibly carry the gospel to all the peoples of the earth. Abraham’s seed have carried out the missionary activity in all the nations since Abraham’s day. (**Matt. 3:9; Abr. 2:9–11**.)

To fulfill the covenant God made with Abraham—having particular reference to the fact that the literal seed of his body would be entitled to all of the blessings of the gospel (**Abr. 2:10–11**)—a number of specific and particular things must take place in the last days. The gospel must be restored, the priesthood must be conferred again upon man, the keys of the sealing power must be given again to mortals, Israel must be gathered, and the Holy Ghost must be poured out upon the Gentiles. All this has already taken place or is in process of fulfillment (lds.org)

### ***Who is the House of Israel?***

The descendants of Abraham (Hebrews) include anyone whose lineage goes back to any of the sons born to Abraham and his three wives. These wives and their sons, listed in the order of the wives’ marriages to Abraham, are as follows: from Sarah—Isaac; from Hagar—Ishmael; from Keturah—Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

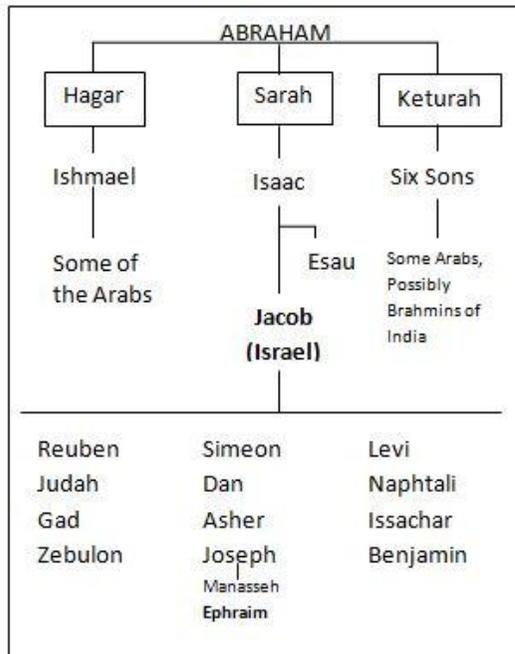
Please note that the descendants of Abraham include many, many more peoples than those who are descended from Isaac, the son who is discussed most in the Bible. Entire nations are directly descended from Abraham, *including citizens of the numerous Arab countries* and those from multitudinous groups who have intermarried into other cultures and races.

Isaac, the son of Abraham and Sarah, had a son called Jacob, whose name was subsequently changed to Israel. Jacob had four wives, by whom he had twelve sons: from Leah—Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun; from Rachel—Joseph and Benjamin; from Bilhah—Dan and Naphtali; from Zilpah—Gad and Asher.

The descendants of these twelve sons have been divided into separate family tribes, each carrying the name of the son of Israel through whom they were born: Reuben, Simeon, etc. Collectively, the descendants of the tribes of Israel are known as the house of Israel and are called Israelites. Obviously, all Israelites (descendants of Jacob) are Hebrews (descendants of Abraham), but not all Hebrews are Israelites.

Additional family names are used for some groups in the house of Israel. The descendants of Judah (the fourth-born son of Jacob), for example, are known as Jews, *and the descendants of Ephraim (a son of Joseph) are called Ephraimites.* (See **Judg. 12:4–6.**)

In summary, then, the literal descendants of Abraham (Hebrews) include the descendants of Jacob (Israelites), Judah (Jews), and Ephraim (Ephraimites), all of whom are mentioned extensively in the scriptures. (Daniel H. Ludlow, January 1991)



### ***Who is a Gentile?***

The basic meaning of the word Gentile is "foreign," "other," or "non." To the Jews, non-Jews are Gentiles. To the Mormons, non-Mormons are Gentiles, thus the joke, "Only in Utah can you be a Jew and a Gentile at the same time." When Nephi saw the plates come forward by way of the Gentile, he was referring to the Latter Day Saints because they were Non-Jew. Again, the term is applied to "others".

### ***What if I am not a descendant of Abraham, can I be a part of the House of Israel?***

Yes, the allegory of the tame and wild olive tree contained in Jacob 5 tells us we can be. Joseph F. Smith has instructed us that anyone who is baptized into the gospel is "adopted" into the House of Israel.

*“Every person who embraces the gospel becomes of the house of Israel. In other words, they become members of the chosen lineage, or Abraham’s children through Isaac and Jacob unto whom the promises were made. The great majority of those who become members of the Church are literal descendants of Abraham through Ephraim, son of Joseph.*

*Those who are not literal descendants of Abraham and Israel must become such, and when they are baptized and confirmed they are grafted into the tree and are entitled to all the rights and privileges as heirs.”* (Doctrines of Salvation, 3 vols., Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1954–56, 3:246.)

**President Joseph F. Smith also stated that the purpose of the Church is to gather the house of Israel:**

*“We proclaim the objects of this organization to be, the preaching of the gospel in all the world, the gathering of scattered Israel, and the preparation of a people for the coming of the Lord”.*

***The Book of Mormon tells us of the covenant God made to gather his people “in this land” (America) to build New Jerusalem and the powers of heaven will be afforded them!***

- 3Nephi 20:22

And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a New Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you.

The Lord will remember the covenant with Judah to gather them in the last days and preach the gospel to them and the Jews will believe in him!

- **3Nephi 20:29-31**

29 And I will remember the covenant which I have made with my people; and I have covenanted with them that I would gather them together in mine own due time, that I would give unto them again the land of their fathers for their inheritance, which is the land of Jerusalem, which is the promised land unto them forever, saith the Father.

30 And it shall come to pass that the time cometh, when the fulness of my gospel shall be preached unto them;

31 And they shall believe in me, that I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and shall pray unto the Father in my name.

***The event of gathering the 10 Tribes from the north will be so grand that the miracles of Moses will be forgotten and these events of gathering from all the lands will be talked about!***

- **Jeremiah 16:14-15**

14 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be said, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

15 But, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.

The gathering is done through the gospel, by missionary work, by temple work, by building New Jerusalem and by converting the Jews to the gospel when the *Marvelous Work and a Wonder* takes place.

We shall not fear. We will have help when needed. The Lost 10 Tribes will come from the north, the City of Enoch will return to help build New Jerusalem, the Remnant of Jacob will convert after a season, and God has promised protection to his servants to get this work done!

The Bible is complete with all that will happen to Jerusalem in the last days and mentions very little about America, and the New Jerusalem; probably because America had not been discovered yet. However, the Book of Mormon has plenty of prophecies for America in the last days and will be used extensively for references.

The Remnant is mentioned several times in relation to the end times. Joel 2:32 we see that there are three places of deliverance in the last days: ***Jerusalem, New Jerusalem and The Remnant.***

***Who are the Remnant during this time?***

In 1Nephi we learn the Remnant is the covenant people. The covenant people are those who have taken covenants in the temple.

- **1Neph 15:14, 18**

14 And at that day shall the remnant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord;

18 Wherefore, our father hath not spoken of our seed alone, but also of all the house of Israel, pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days; which covenant the Lord made to our father Abraham, saying: In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

Revelation 13:10 teaches that there will be people taken captive, and people who will prepare for war, but die by the sword. Our goal should be to be among the covenant people, the Remnant who will survive and be among those who are delivered to prepare the earth for the millennial period. Here is a review of how the scattering of the Jews happened and the how it is the gathering of the House of Israel that drives the mission of the Saints in the latter days.

### **The Scattering**

- After 600 years of slavery, Moses leads the Jews from out of Egypt to the Promised Land. (Exodus 13:20-23)
- The Israelites are under the Abrahamic Covenant with God to preach the gospel to the world and he will in return give them the priesthood. 1446BC (Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28)
- When the Jews are called "chosen people" in the Bible, it means "covenant people". The Saints today are the covenant people. (Kent P. Jackson, February 1990, lds.org)
- The scattering began when the Assyrians carried the ten tribes away into captivity. 701BC (2 Kings 15:29; 17:6)
- The scattering continued when the Babylonians carried Judah away into captivity. 589BC (2 Kings 25:1, 7, 11; 1 Nephi 10:3)
- Lehi and his descendants were a branch of Israel, broken off and scattered. 600BC (1 Nephi 15:12; 19:24; 2 Nephi 3:5)
- After the death of Jesus, the Jews were scattered among the gentile nations. 30AD (2 Nephi 25:15; Luke 21:24; D&C 45:18)
- The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed and Israel is scattered throughout the earth because the people rejected God's covenant. 70AD (Matt. 24:10–12; JS—M 1:6–10)

### **The Gathering**

- Through his prophets, God promised to gather scattered Israel again. (Isaiah 54:7; Ezekiel 11:17; Jeremiah 50:4–5; 2 Nephi 10:7; 30:7)
- According to God's prophets, the gathering and redemption of scattered Israel shall be accomplished in the latter days. (Deuteronomy 4:27–31; D&C 113:6)
- The raising of an ensign (new and everlasting covenant) to the nations is the signal for Israel to be gathered home in the latter days. (Isaiah 5:26; 11:12)
- Moses delivered to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery the keys of the gathering of Israel. (D&C 110:11)
- All nations will eventually deliver up the scattered people and return to the lands of their forefathers' inheritance. (Deuteronomy 30:3; Psalm 107:1–3; Isaiah 43:5–6)
- Of the 12 tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh will be gathered first and then direct the other 10 tribes in their gathering. (JST, Genesis 48:5–11; Deuteronomy 33:16–17; D&C 133:30–39)
- All who join the LDS Church are being gathered in through adoption. The 10 Tribes from the north and the Jews will be gathered shortly before the Lord's Second Coming to Zion. (Daniel H. Ludlow, *The House of Israel*, 1991, lds.org)
- Known as the remnant of the Lord, the gathered Israel is taken back into the house. (Isaiah 10:21–22; 11:11–12; Ezekiel 34:11–16; 2 Nephi 8:11)

## *Suggestions*

### Temporal and Spiritual Preparedness

#### Reading Material:

- ✓ *Of the House of Israel*, Daniel H. Ludlow, lds.org
- ✓ *Whence Came They: Israel, Britain and the Restoration*, Vaughn E. Hansen
- ✓ *Chapter 24: The Scattering and the Gathering of Israel*, Doctrines of the Gospel Student Manual, (2000), 64–66

#### Other:

- ✓ Listen to "*Temples: The Purpose of Gathering*" and "*The Remnant*" Mike Stroud, [www.mstroud.podamatic.com](http://www.mstroud.podamatic.com)
- ✓ Mark scriptures from the references given in this chapter.
- ✓ Increase your temple attendance. "Stand in Holy Places". Prepare the day before to attend with prayer, fasting, and a list of questions to enhance your experience.
- ✓ Follow the prophet's command to store up every needful thing. Start with a 3 month supply and gradually build to a 1 year supply. (Refer to the last chapters in both the books, *The Great Gathering* and *The Great Awakening* for resources.)
- ✓ Plant a garden. Learn skills for living off-grid.



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*Chapter Two - How Long To Do Our Mission?*

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***What is the “hastening”?***

There is a short period of time called “hastening the work” among the Gentiles before the gospel is taken from the Gentile and given to the Jews.

- **D&C 88:73**

73 “Behold, I will hasten my work in its time”

***President Thomas S. Monson has indicated that we are in the hastening period of time:***

*“...These things are important, but the reason the Church is growing today is that the Lord indicated it would. In the Doctrine and Covenants, He said, “Behold, I will hasten my work in its time.”*

*We, as spirit children of our Heavenly Father, were sent to earth at this time that we might participate in hastening this great work.*

*The Lord has never, to my knowledge, indicated that His work is confined to mortality. Rather, His work embraces eternity. I believe He is hastening His work in the spirit world. I also believe that the Lord, through His servants there, is preparing many spirits to receive the gospel. Our job is to search out our dead and then go to the temple and perform the sacred ordinances that will bring to those beyond the veil the same opportunities we have.” (October 2013)*

***What is the Times of the Gentiles?***

The Times of the Gentiles refers to the time when the Gentiles no longer accept the gospel, the missionaries are called home for a season and the gospel is then taken to the Jews in anticipation of the Lord's return to the earth.

***President Joseph Fielding Smith explained that “the Times of the Gentiles commenced shortly after the death of our Redeemer.”***

*“The Jews soon rejected the Gospel and it was then taken to the Gentiles. The times of the Gentiles have continued from that time until now. The Lord said: ‘But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.’ In that day the Gospel was given first to the Jews and then taken to the Gentiles. In this dispensation it was taken first to the Gentiles and afterwards it will go to the Jews.”* (Church History and Modern Revelation, 1:196.)

**We learn what the Times of the Gentiles means:**

• **D&C 45:28–30**

28 And when the times of the Gentiles is come in, a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fulness of my gospel;

29 But they receive it not; for they perceive not the light, and they turn their hearts from me because of the precepts of men.

30 And in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

***What are the signs that the Times of the Gentiles has been fulfilled?***

According to the scriptures, we will know when the Times of the Gentiles is approaching fulfillment by these signs:

- **D&C 45:26-27, 30-34**

26 And in that day shall be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion, and men's hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayeth his coming until the end of the earth.

27 And the love of men shall wax cold, and iniquity shall abound.

30 And in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

31 And there shall be men standing in that generation that shall not pass until they shall see an overflowing scourge; for a desolating sickness shall cover the land.

32 But my disciples shall stand in holy places, and shall not be moved; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices and curse God and die.

33 And there shall be earthquakes also in divers places, and many desolations; yet men will harden their hearts against me, and they will take up the sword, one against another, and they will kill one another.

34 And now, when I the Lord had spoken these words unto my disciples, they were troubled.

***How can we prepare for this period of tribulation?***

There is a tribulation period that occurs when the Time of the Gentiles is over. We have been admonished to stand in holy places during this time. Christ commands us to stand in holy places:

- **D&C 45:32**

32 But my disciples shall stand in holy places, and shall not be moved; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices and curse God and die.

***What does that mean to stand in holy places?***

President Russell M. Nelson reminds us to spend more time in the temple:

*"Spend more time - much more time - in places where the Spirit is present ... Spend more time on your knees in prayer, more time in the scriptures, more time in family history work, more time in the temple.*

*I promise you that as you consistently give the Lord a generous portion of your time, He will multiply the remainder." (Pres. Russell M. Nelson, YSA Devotional, Jan. 2016)*

John the Revelator sees who Christ will dwell with - those who serve him day and night in the temple:

- **Revelation 7:13-15**

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

Elder Kim B. Clark reminds us whatever we are doing now, we can do more:

*"Whatever level of spirituality or faith or obedience we now have, it will not be sufficient for the work that lies ahead. We need greater spiritual light and power. We need eyes to see more clearly the Savior working in our lives and ears to hear His voice more deeply in our hearts." (General Conference, 2015)*

President Russell M. Nelson in the Priesthood session of General Conference, April 2016 pleads with us to live up to our privileges:

*"I urgently plead with each one of us to live up to our privileges as bearers of the priesthood. In a coming day, only those men who have taken their priesthood seriously, by diligently seeking to be taught by the Lord Himself, will be able to bless, guide, protect, strengthen, and heal others. Only a man who has paid the price for priesthood power will be able to bring miracles to those he loves and keep his marriage and family safe, now and throughout eternity.*

*... Are you willing to worship in the temple regularly? The Lord loves to do His own teaching in His holy house. Imagine how pleased He would be if you asked Him to teach you about priesthood keys, authority, and power as you experience the ordinances of the Melchizedek Priesthood in the holy temple. Imagine the increase in priesthood power that could be yours."*

President Gordon B. Hinckley reminds us what it is to be saviors on Mt. Zion.

*"We literally become saviors on Mount Zion. What does this mean? Just as our Redeemer gave His life as a vicarious sacrifice for all men, and in so doing became our Savior, even so we, in a small measure, when we engage in proxy work in the temple, become as saviors to those on the other side who have no means of advancing unless something is done in their behalf by those on earth." (Ensign, Nov. 2004).*

We see in Isaiah that those who ignore going to the temple will be cut off and his servants will eat when others go hungry, drink when others go thirsty:

- **Isaiah 65:11-13**

11 But ye are they that forsake the Lord, that forget my holy mountain (temple), that prepare a table for that troop, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number.

12 Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not.

13 Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed:

### ***The Parable of the 10 Virgins***

The parable of the 10 Virgins gives us further insight into what it means to be prepared for this tribulation period. (Matthew 25:1-13)

President Kimball expounds on the parable of the 10 Virgins to help us prepare for these events.

*“I believe that the Ten Virgins represent the people of the Church of Jesus Christ and not the rank and file of the world. All of the virgins, wise and foolish, had accepted the invitation to the wedding supper; they had knowledge of the program and had been warned of the important day to come. They were not the gentiles or the heathens or the pagans, nor were they necessarily corrupt and reprobate, but they were knowing people who were foolishly unprepared for the vital happenings that were to affect their eternal lives.”*

*“They had the saving, exalting gospel, but it had not been made the center of their lives. They knew the way but gave only a small measure of loyalty and devotion. I ask you: What value is a car without an engine, a cup without water, a table without food, a lamp without oil?”*

*“Rushing for their lamps to light their way through the blackness, half of them found them empty. They had cheated themselves. They were fools, these five unprepared virgins. Apparently, the bridegroom had tarried for reasons that were sufficient and good. Time had passed, and he had not come. They had heard of his coming for so long, so many times, that the statement seemingly became meaningless to them. Would he ever come? So long had it been since they began expecting him that they were rationalizing that he would never appear. Perhaps it was a myth.*

*“Hundreds of thousands of us today are in this position. Confidence has been dulled and patience worn thin. It is so hard to wait and be prepared always. But we cannot allow ourselves to slumber. The Lord has given us this parable as a special warning.*

## Drenched in Destiny

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*“At midnight, the vital cry was made, ‘Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.’ ...*

*“At midnight! Precisely at the darkest hour, when least expected, the bridegroom came. When the world is full of tribulation and help is needed, but it seems the time must be past and hope is vain, then Christ will come. The midnights of life are the times when heaven comes to offer its joy for man’s weariness.*

*But when the cry sounds, there is no time for preparation. The lamps then make patterns of joy on the hillside, and the procession moves on toward the house of banqueting, and those without lamps or oil are left in darkness. When they have belatedly sought to fulfill the requirements and finally reach the hall, the door is shut. In the daytime, wise and unwise seemed alike; midnight is the time of test and judgment—and of offered gladness. ...*

*“The foolish asked the others to share their oil, but spiritual preparedness cannot be shared in an instant. The wise had to go, else the bridegroom would have gone unwelcomed. They needed all their oil for themselves; they could not save the foolish. The responsibility was each for himself.*

*“This was not selfishness or unkindness. The kind of oil that is needed to illuminate the way and light up the darkness is not shareable. How can one share obedience to the principle of tithing; a mind at peace from righteous living; an accumulation of knowledge? How can one share faith or testimony? How can one share attitudes or chastity, or the experience of a mission? How can one share temple privileges? Each must obtain that kind of oil for himself.*

*“The foolish virgins were not averse to buying oil. They knew they should have oil. They merely procrastinated, not knowing when the bridegroom would come.*

*“In the parable, oil can be purchased at the market. In our lives the oil of preparedness is accumulated drop by drop in righteous living. Attendance at sacrament meetings adds oil to our lamps, drop by drop over the years. Fasting, family prayer, home teaching, control of bodily appetites, preaching the gospel, studying the scriptures—each act of dedication and obedience is a drop added to our store.*

*Deeds of kindness, payment of offerings and tithes, chaste thoughts and actions, marriage in the covenant for eternity—these, too, contribute importantly to the oil with which we can at midnight refuel our exhausted lamps.*

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*“Midnight is so late for those who have procrastinated.”* (Faith Precedes the Miracle, pp. 253–56.)

***Other than through the temple ordinances and missionary work, how else will we gather Israel?***

As stated in the 10th Article of Faith, we believe in the literal gathering of Israel.

*“We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.”* (10th Article of Faith, Joseph Smith)

Joseph Smith, when giving the dedication at the Kirtland Temple (which was later recorded as revelation) prayed for our deliverance while gathering to build New Jerusalem:

- **D&C 109:45-46, 57-58**

45 We know that thou hast spoken by the mouth of thy prophets terrible things concerning the wicked, in the last days—that thou wilt pour out thy judgments, without measure;

46 Therefore, O Lord, deliver thy people from the calamity of the wicked; enable thy servants to seal up the law, and bind up the testimony, that they may be prepared against the day of burning.

57 That all the ends of the earth may know that we, thy servants, have heard thy voice, and that thou hast sent us;

58 That from among all these, thy servants, the sons of Jacob, may gather out the righteous to build a holy city to thy name, as thou hast commanded them.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie reassures us to be obedient and seek righteousness, there is no other course.

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*“We do not know when the calamities and troubles of the last days will fall upon any of us as individuals or upon bodies of the Saints.*

*The Lord deliberately withholds from us the day and hour of his coming and of the tribulations which shall precede it—all as part of the testing and probationary experiences of mortality. He simply tells us to watch and be ready.*

*“We can rest assured that if we have done all in our power to prepare for whatever lies ahead, he will then help us with whatever else we need. . . .*

*“We do not say that all of the Saints will be spared and saved from the coming day of desolation. But we do say there is no promise of safety and no promise of security except for those who love the Lord and who are seeking to do all that he commands.*

*“It may be, for instance, that nothing except the power of faith and the authority of the priesthood can save individuals and congregations from the atomic holocausts that surely shall be.*

*“And so we raise the warning voice and say: Take heed; prepare; watch and be ready. There is no security in any course except the course of obedience and conformity and righteousness.” (In Conference Report, Apr. 1979, pp. 132–133; or Ensign, May 1979, p. 93.)*

Perhaps we need not worry so much about the doom and gloom reports of the end times, as it appears his servants will have a different experience. Thus, the journey in this book, to layout that overall plan and to instill confidence in us and go forth boldly to fulfill the mission ahead of us when things appear so bleak around us.

We will not be chosen at random to do this physical gathering. We will be chosen because we are ready. The Prophet Joseph Smith:

*"The nearer man approaches perfection, the clearer are his views, and the greater his enjoyments, till he has overcome the evils of his life and lost every desire for sin; and like the ancients, arrives at that point of faith where he is wrapped in the power and glory of his Maker and is caught up to dwell with Him. But we consider that this is a station to which no man ever arrived in a moment."* (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 51)

President Ezra Taft Benson, then President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, explained that when the gospel is taken to all the earth, we can know the end is near:

*"This commission to take the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people is one of the signs by which believers will recognize the nearness of the Savior's return to earth" (in Conference Report, Apr. 1984, 63; or Ensign, May 1984, 43). Elder James E. Talmage wrote: "When such witness among the nations is made complete, then shall the end come'; and the nations 'shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.'" (Jesus the Christ, 777).*

# *Suggestions*

## Temporal and Spiritual Preparedness

### Reading Materials:

- ✓ *Let the Holy Spirit Guide*, Elder Ronald A. Rasband, General Conference, April 2017
- ✓ *The 5,000 Year Leap*, Cleon Skousen
- ✓ *The Coming Tests and Trials and Glory*, Elder Bruce R. McConkie, May 1980

### Other:

- ✓ Search family names and family history weekly (great for Sunday afternoons). [Familysearch.org](http://Familysearch.org) is a great place to start. Get the children involved and helping!
  - ✓ Obtain temporary shelter and lay out an emergency meet-up plan for your family.
  - ✓ Avoid debt like you would a plague. Set up a budget and find ways to trim spending and pay down your debt.
  - ✓ Mark your scriptures: Moses 7:59-62
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*Chapter Three – America’s Role in the End Times*

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***Our Destiny and a Safe Place for a Restoration***

Ever wonder why you were born at this time in history and which country you were born in? Why you were afforded privileges that most of the world does not possess? Like the liberties and freedoms that are protected by a constitution that nearly no other government or people in 5,000 years has possessed?

Ever wonder why thousands of years have passed and suddenly technologies burst onto the scene like electricity, planes, computers and open-heart surgeries?

Maybe if we reverse the question and ask, why didn’t all of this technology come about sooner? Is there a downside to greater prosperity? Is there a downside in governments that have centralized power that is shrouded in a state religion?

The Book of Mormon and revelations given to Joseph Smith can help us have more insight as to what unique role America will play and what this change in the historical patterns mean.

In order for the Savior to return, He needed to fulfill his covenant to gather the House of Israel. Which we have concluded that this is done through the temple ordinances on both sides of the veil.

In order for that to occur, we needed to build temples. In order for that to occur, we needed to have a missionary program that would span the globe. In order for that to occur, we needed to have the ordinances and priesthood of God restored on the earth.

In order for that to occur, we needed to have a country that was free to practice religion without state interference, especially if the government was heavily entrenched in a particular religion for centuries.

In order for many of those factors to be put into place, there needed to be a land that was free from centuries of traditions of political and religious precepts by its inhabitants which were so numerous it could prevent such an epoch event from even taking root.

God has commanded us to study the things which will “shortly come to pass,” not just for a great story or historical perspective, but to warn us, guide us, and give us a road map of what is to come.

He also tells us our study of wars, perplexities and other nations, is to magnify the calling in which he has given us and the mission he has commissioned us to do. We are commanded to study the end-times!

- **D&C 88:78-81**

78 Teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that are expedient for you to understand;

79 Of things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms—

80 That ye may be prepared in all things when I shall send you again to magnify the calling whereunto I have called you, and the mission with which I have commissioned you.

81 Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbor.

## **Prophecies Concerning America**

Let's take a look at the prophecies concerning America, her role in the past, present and future. When you see the patterns and connect the prophecies that have come to pass and are yet to be fulfilled, you should be able to see that not only is this country significant to the end time events, but so are we.

### **Past Prophecies Fulfilled**

- Nephi saw the man who was to discover America, saw him leave Europe, sail the ocean and find the Natives upon arrival. (1Nephi 13:12)
- Kings fought for the land, but prophecy forbid that they would be able to obtain it for themselves. (2Nephi 10:10-13)
- Pilgrims would come here to escape religious persecutions. (1Nephi 13:13, 19)
- There would be a “revolution” and the colonies would win it. (1Nephi 13:17-19)
- This land would be a choice land above all other lands. (1Nephi 13:30)
- Predicts the downfall of the natives on this land. (1Nephi 13:14; 3Nephi 16:8-9; 1Nephi 22:7)
- The Bible would have a prominent place in our national life. (2Nephi 29:3-13; 1Nephi 13:38)

- Moses saw the Bible changed or lost. Most wouldn't believe in it. (2 Peter 3:1-6)
- Joseph Smith would restore the gospel here. (2Nephi 3:24) Moses, Joseph of Egypt, Moroni, Nephi, Christ, Malachi, Isaiah, Jeremiah all knew about Joseph Smith. (Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 29:12; Jeremiah 3:14-15; Moses 1:41; 2Nephi 3:6, 15; Ether, 5; 2Nephi 27:9-12; 3Nephi 21:9-11; 2Nephi 3:7, 11-12)
- Prophets saw the Book of Mormon here in this land. (2Nephi 3:7, 11-12) Ezekiel, Moroni, Nephi, Isaiah, Christ, John, Lehi all saw the Book of Mormon here. (Ezekiel 37:15-20; Mormon 9:34; 2Nephi 27:22; Isaiah 29:11; Matthew 24:14, Rev 14:6-7; D&C 133:36; 2Nephi 3:24)
- Daniel saw this land as the final restoration of the church. (Daniel 2:44)
- Nephi saw that the inhabitants will say "We don't need any more Bibles" (2Nephi 29:3)
- America was interwoven with significant developments in the pre-Millennial preparation of the earth: The Garden of Eden, the City of Enoch, Methuselah and his grandson Noah were here, Noah's descendants (the people of Jared) were led back here, Lehi came here, and New Jerusalem will be built here! (Ether 2:1-3; Ether 1:43; Ether 13:2-8; D&C 107:53; D&C 116; Genesis 8:4; Genesis 11:2; Moses 3:13-14; 7:7; Smith, JF, *The Progress of Man*, p. 249)

### **Current Prophecies Being Fulfilled**

- Zion will be built in the mountains. (Ezekiel 20:34-38; Isaiah 40:9; 1Nephi 13:37)

- No one will come to this land except by the hand of the Lord. (2Nephi 1:6-7)
- The nation will become politically powerful and economically prosperous, but their pride would be lifted up “above all nations, and above all people”. (3Nephi 13:10)
- Heber C. Kimball’s prophesy shows: missionaries sent out to all the world, sons and daughter will live pure lives to be prepared, gentiles will come to Utah, saints will be in financial bondage, persecution will come next, many will apostatize, darkness will cover the minds of the people, judgements will be poured out and missionaries will be called home, time of the gentiles will come to an end, the gospel will be taken to the Jews, Missouri will be wiped cleaned, the saints will cry out, the prophet and others will visit them and select them to go to New Jerusalem. (Deseret News, May 23, 1931)
- Because of her wealth, the land would become a nation of liars, hypocrites, murderers, addiction, fraud and secret combinations. (3Nephi 16:10)
- The gospel would be taken from the land and forces would cut them off from the land. (3Nephi 16:10)

### **Future Prophecies to be Fulfilled**

- The Remnant of Jacob will scatter and downtrodden the Gentiles. (3Nephi 16:9)
- America will be destroyed by the Remnant of Jacob. (3Nephi 21:15-23)
- The Remnant of Jacob will convert to the gospel and then help build New Jerusalem. (3Nephi 21:23, 25, 26; 3Nephi 22:3, D&C 57:1-5)

- Destruction is so complete, Babylon ceases to exist. America is where New Jerusalem will be built! (3Nephi 21:15-20)
- Joseph Smith teaches the destruction is to prepare for the return of the lost tribes. (Teachings of Joseph Smith, p. 17, 1938)
- President Wilford Woodruff prophesies that the Lord's hosts will help build New Jerusalem. He sees 12 men on the Missouri River dedicating the site. (Deseret News, December 5, 1878)
- Adam-ondi-Ahman will occur on Spring Hill a Nephite hill where a tower and altar once stood. Adam will sit where he called his posterity together in this spot once before. Daniel calls Adam "ancient of days". The world will not know, the Church members will not know this event has happened. (Joseph F. Smith, "Way to Perfection", Chapter 40; D&C 107:53, 54-57; Dan 7:13-14)
- Conversion of the Lamanites comes after they come into political power in America. The Remnant of Jacob will facilitate this rise to power. (3Nephi 21:26)
- The 10 Tribes will come from the North (more in subsequent chapter). Apostle John has been preparing them (Church History, p. 126); When the Lord commands they will come (D&C 133:26).
- Gathering of Saints will come from all nations to Zion. (D&C 29:7-8, 45:66, 115-116) The desert will rejoice and blossom. (Isaiah 35:1)
- Satan will be in full power. (D&C 1:35) The Mark of the Beast will be outside of Zion. (Revelation 13:16) The land will reap the abomination of desolation. (Matthew 24:15)

- Zion is the only people not at war. (D&C 45:69-70)
- Famine and pestilence will be caused because of so much war, wrath of God through the testimony of earthquakes to those who spurned the warnings of the Elders. (D&C 88:89-91)
- America will be cut off from the other nations by violent seas. (D&C 61:15-16)
- The prophet Joseph Smith prophesied another civil war, an invasion and a rescue of the Constitution.

*"There will be two great political parties in this country. One will be called the Republican, and the other the Democrat party. These two will go to war and out of these two parties will spring another party which will be the Independent American Party. The United States will spend her strength and means warring in foreign lands until other nations will say, "Let's divide up the lands of United States," then the people of the U.S. will unite and swear by the blood of their forefathers, that the land will not be divided. Then the country will go to war, and they will fight until one half of the U.S. army will give up, and the rest will continue to struggle. They will keep on until they are very ragged and discouraged, and almost ready to give up--when the boys from the mountains will rush forth in time to save the American Army from defeat and ruin. And they will say, "Brethren, we are glad you have come; give us men, henceforth, who can talk with God." Then you will have friends, but you will save the country when it's [sic] liberty hangs by a hair, as it were. "* A Prophecy of Joseph Smith on the United States (1844) as quoted in the autobiography of Mosiah Hancock

America appears to be the land the Lord has set aside for his purposes in every generation since Adam and Eve! What a privilege and a blessing to be in such a place at such a time as this to participate in the winding up scenes where righteousness prevails and evil is contained. The warrior deep inside of us must be awakened and prepared to defend our Lord and His plan! We must be brave, have confidence and know that his mouthpiece and servants will lead us to victory.

Although the future appears to be more turbulent than we have been accustomed to, we have been foreordained for this time. We have been given experiences to prepare us for the strength we will need as the rest of the world looks for answers and new leadership.

***Isaiah tells us to rise and shine!***

- **Isaiah 60:1-2**

1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

***Alma foresees our protection as well!***

- **Alma 26:6-7**

6 Yea, they shall not be beaten down by the storm at the last day; yea, neither shall they be harrowed up by the whirlwinds; but when the storm cometh they shall be gathered together in their place, that the storm cannot penetrate to them; yea, neither shall they be driven with fierce winds whithersoever the enemy listeth to carry them.

7 But behold, they are in the hands of the Lord of the harvest, and they are his; and he will raise them up at the last day.

## **Our role as Kings and Queens**

We have an incredible mission to fulfill.

Both Nephi and Isaiah spoke of a time when the kings and queens will bring the gospel to the Jews and they will believe in Christ. Not only are we the anointed kings and queens (temple), spoken of by Isaiah, we are under the covenant to perform this gathering. We also have the power under the covenant to do this work!

***Kings and Queens will bring the gospel to the Jews in Israel!***

- **2Nephi 10:8-9**

8 And it shall come to pass that they shall be gathered in from their long dispersion, from the isles of the sea, and from the four parts of the earth; and the nations of the Gentiles shall be great in the eyes of me, saith God, in carrying them forth to the lands of their inheritance.

9 Yea, the kings of the Gentiles shall be nursing fathers unto them, and their queens shall become nursing mothers; wherefore, the promises of the Lord are great unto the Gentiles, for he hath spoken it, and who can dispute?

***Isaiah sees the kings and queens. Where are servants anointed to be kings and queens?***

- **Isaiah 49:23**

23 And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

***Mormon tells us we have care for the House of Israel.***

- **Mormon 5:10**

10 And now behold, this I speak unto their seed, and also to the Gentiles (LDS) who have care for the house of Israel, that realize and know from whence their blessings come.

***Can you hear the call?***

Knowing this, we should kneel every day in prayer asking the Lord, petitioning the Lord to bless us with the ability to take the Holy Ghost as our guide, to give gratitude for this assignment to gather the House of Israel. We should ask, “Who can I prepare temple work for today or introduce the gospel to?” And finally, “What else can I learn about my role or mission today?”

Remember, little battles produce little victories! Great battles produce champions! Be an influence for good. When others stop helping and retreat, you continue to give, knowing full well the Lord has blessed you with protection and the promise to multiply your goods and your time. The fullness of the priesthood will give us the power we need for these unusual circumstances.

The best doomsday manual out there is to take the Holy Ghost as your guide. Prepare now spiritually, don't delay. Seek holiness and be so confident that you are on the Lord's errand that the rest of the world does not bother you.

***President Gordon B. Hinckley gives us some insight as to how close we are:***

*“The kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God on the earth will be combined together at Christ's coming—and that time is not far distant. How I wish we could get the vision of this work, the genius of it, and realize the nearness of that great event. I am sure it would have a sobering effect upon us if we realized what is before us.”* (The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988, p. 19.)

## *Suggestions*

### Spiritual and Temporal Preparedness

#### Reading Materials:

- ✓ "*Prophecy and Modern Times*", by Cleon Skousen
- ✓ "*Apocalyptic Commentary of the Book of Isaiah*", by Avraham Gileadi

#### Other:

- ✓ Search out and mark your scriptures in the Book of Mormon with the Past, Present and Future Prophecies listed in this chapter.
- ✓ Fast and pray that you may come to know your mission during these times.
- ✓ Teach your children about the U.S. Constitution and put a copy of it in your family papers binder.
- ✓ Start a Family Papers binder and put a copy of birth certificates, blessings, certificates, government ID, etc., in it with a Family Motto, Mission Statement, Family Will, Contact Numbers, etc., to be stored away from the home in case of an emergency.
- ✓ Have a small backpack in your car with supplies to walk home in case of an emergency, such as a light source, walking shoes, jacket, blanket and water bottle.
- ✓ Mark your scriptures: 1Thessalonian 5:2-20 (Note verse 9)

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*Chapter Four – The Start of Tribulations*

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- An Overview of the Book of Revelation
- The Second Civil War in America
- The Remnant of Jacob
- Worldwide Financial Collapse

In Matthew 24, the Lord says we will hear of wars and rumors of wars, nation will rise against nation, there shall be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes, "*and these are the beginning of sorrows*".

The Book of Revelation has considerable details about the time known as the *great tribulation* period. This period starts when the beastly system and the anti-Christ are given 42 months (3.5 years) to continue in power.

The beastly system will also make war with the saints during this time.

We know there are two prophets who will help defend Israel for those 3.5 years, are killed and then resurrected. We know the judgments (vials) are poured out when the Two Prophets are killed.

The time period called the abomination of desolations (abominations that makes things desolate) is also during these 3.5 years into the beginning of this tribulation period, then after 3.5 years Armageddon begins. (Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15).

A brief overview of the Book of Revelations can help us to sort out what are "signs", what are interludes (teaching moments) and what are historical events. The last days started with the restoration of the gospel. The end-times are the events during the tribulation period.

- Because of its symbolic nature, the Book of Revelation is best read with modern prophets and their interpretations from God.
- Nephi saw the author of the book, John the Revelator, 600 years before John was born. 1Nephi 14:19-29.
- John received a vision on a Sunday on the island of Patmos by the Holy Ghost and an angelic voice to instruct John. This is the same John the Beloved who wrote the Gospel of John.
- We are expected to understand it, otherwise it would be a sealed book. Portions of it were sealed.
- John was given great knowledge concerning the Plan of Salvation in the Book of Revelation: the pre-mortal existence, the war in heaven, the creation of the earth, the Lord's dealings with men in successive dispensations, the atonement and the resurrection, apostasy following the New Testament times, the setting up of the church of the devil, the reign of the anti-christs, the restoration of the gospel, the latter day gathering of Israel, the judgments, final destruction of the abominable church, the Second Coming and the Millennial reign, final judgment and the celestialization of the earth.

- Use these other scriptures for further descriptions of the Book of Revelation: D&C 45, D&C 76, D&C 77, D&C 88, D&C 101, and Ether 13.
- We are cautioned to reserve judgment for things in which there is no interpretation: Mark of the Beast, the Woman in Revelation 12. (Elder Bruce R. McConkie, *Understanding the Book of Revelation*, lds.org)
- **Chapters 1-5** are about the eternal rewards for the faithful and the order of things.
- **Chapter 6: Opening of the seals.** Each seal represents 1,000 years. The *first seal* was Enoch riding a white horse. White for the purity of this society.

The opening of the *second seal* revealed the violence, death, and destruction that occurred in the time of Noah and the Flood.

The opening of the *third seal* represented a time when God's people were affected by famines. Abraham moved because of a famine, and the history of Jacob's (Israel's) family was very much affected by famines.

The opening of the *fourth seal* reminds us that the time between 1000 B.C. and Christ's birth was a time of warfare among the covenant people. It was a time when they were conquered, taken captive, and scattered throughout the world by foreigners.

The *fifth seal* revealed what faithful Saints of John's day were then encountering—giving their lives for their testimony.

Events depicted in the opening of the *sixth seal* are more detailed. They pertain to the dispensation in preparation for the Savior's Second Coming.

The *7th seal* opened in the year 2000, however, there is a space of time (1/2 hour of silence) before we move into the Millennium portion. Half hour = 21 Years.

Notes: President Hinckley in his comments at the dedicatory prayer at Palmyra in 2000 mentioned that this was the opening of the 7th seal. Daniel H. Ludlow, 1983, LDS.org, "Book of Revelations Overview" also mentions the 7th seal opening in 2000 with 6 Trumps and 6 Judgments coming in the 7th.

For 21 years, after the 7th seal is opened, the Lord will be finishing up the work of the restoration, preparing the saints to receive Christ, the sealing of the 144,000 and starting New Jerusalem which includes building Zion.

Somewhere in there the Anti-Christ will arise, calamities will have started and the leader (Gog) will go against Israel (Armageddon). The seventh seal opens with the vials of judgment being poured out on the wicked for going against Israel.

Historical Perspective:

**Seal 1**  
Adam's Ministry  
  
Wickedness began to spread  
  
Repentance was taught.  
  
Adam gathered and blessed his children.  
  
Adam died.  
  
Enoch's ministry.

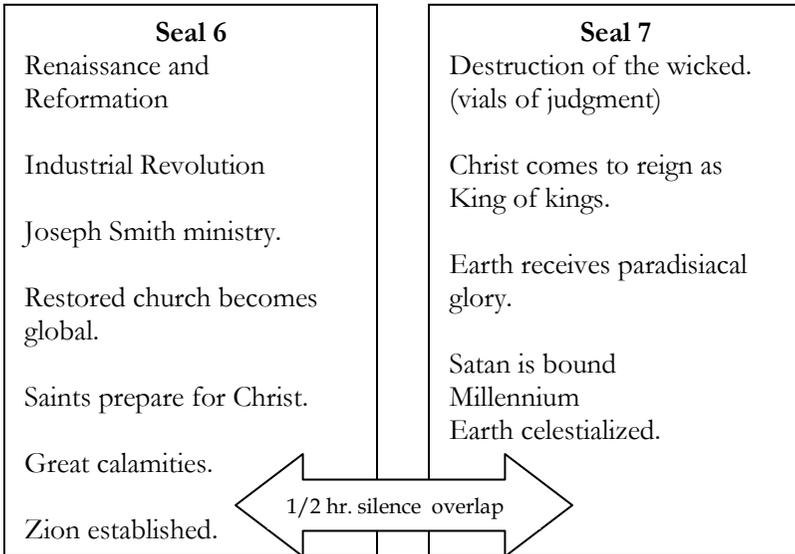
**Seal 2**  
City of Enoch translated.  
  
Noah's Ministry  
  
Great Flood.  
  
Tower of Babel

**Seal 3**  
Abraham's Ministry  
  
Isaac, Jacob and the 12 tribes.  
  
Israel's bondage.  
Moses's ministry.  
  
Conquest of Canaan  
  
Israelites began to have kings.

**Seal 4**  
Israel divided.  
  
Isaiah's ministry.  
  
Ten tribes taken captive.  
  
Judah was taken captive.  
  
Temple destroyed.  
  
Period of apostasy.

**Seal 5**  
John the Baptist ministry.  
  
Christ's ministry.  
Christ's atonement.  
  
Gospel taken to the Gentiles.  
  
Great Apostasy and Middle Ages.

Historical Perspective per 1,000 years:



Scriptural Description:

<p><b>Events in the 6th Seal:</b></p> <p>Great calamities and signs are shown on earth and in heaven. (Rev 6:12-17)</p> <p>Destruction is held back while the righteous are sealed; the gospel is restored. (Rev 7:1-8)</p>	<p><b>Events in 7th Seal</b></p> <p>Fire, destruction and war (Rev 8:1-13; 9:1-21)</p> <p>Two Special Witnesses are slain in Jerusalem.</p> <p>Voices in heaven announce triumph of God's kingdom.</p> <p>Vials of judgment are poured out on the world. (Rev 16)</p>
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There are **interludes** that are not in the line-up of events, but teaching moments. See Chapter reviews on the next page.

1. John is shown multitudes who achieved salvation. (Rev 7)
2. The Little Book. (Rev 10) John's mission in the last days.
3. The Kingdom of God/War in heaven and on earth. (Rev 12)
4. Satan's kingdom. (Rev 13) Not exclusive to last days.
5. Final outcome of Satan's kingdom. (Rev 14) (Rev 17, 18)

- **Chapter 7**

The restoration of the gospel.

The 144,000 sealed. (Still occurring, holds back the destroying angels until it is complete.)

Souls will be exalted who came through tribulation and served God day and night in the temple.

- **Chapter 8**

Opens the 7th seal. One third of the trees and grass burn up. Great mountain burning in the sea (volcano?)

One third of the earth's creatures/animals die (land and water). A comet/star hits earth (Wormwood) and fell upon one-third of the waters and became bitter. Men die because of the waters.

- **Chapter 9**

*Wars and Plagues poured out.* The bottomless pit opened. Locusts came out of the smoke from the pit. The locusts were given power to destroy EXCEPT they should not hurt the grass, or tree of those who have the Lord sealed in their foreheads. The followers of God could be tormented, but not killed.

Note: Locusts are described like modern day military vehicles. They were to hurt men for five months. This is the first "woe". Their king over them (Satan) is Abaddon, in Greek: Apollyon. John see's two more "woes" to come.

He sees 4 Kings from the Euphrates River area prepare to slay 1/3 of men. They have military equipment. The army has at least 200,000,000 fighters.

- **Chapter 10 (interlude)**

John seals up things relative to the last day. He is shown a tiny book which he is to eat. It tastes sweet, but is bitter in his belly. He is not to write what is in the book.

Note: Joseph Smith in D&C 77 tells us this book is John's mission to help gather the tribes in the last days.

- **Chapter 11**

This is the introduction of the Two Prophets who will help Israel fight off the world's army for 42 months and then they are slain and left in the streets for 3 days. The prophets arise and cause fear.

An earthquake happens, kills 7,000 and the "remnant" who were hiding in the wilderness give glory to God. This is the second woe.

The third woe comes quickly. The 24 elders declare this to be the time to prepare for the second coming, the dead to be judged and the rewards to be given to the prophets and the saints. The heaven opens and there is a temple and the ark of the testament (covenant). There were lightnings, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

- **Chapter 12 (interlude)**

John is taught about the Great Apostasy of the church, the war in heaven, Satan being cast down and he sees a continuation of that war on earth. (See: JST)

However, there is a Constellation Virgo happening in the skies now that is a rare occurrence for 9 months that fits this description. This event is to culminate in September of 2017. It is also considered a sign in heaven, as described in verse one. It has happened two other times in history. It is symbolic of an exodus.

- **Chapter 13 (started years ago)**

Introduction to the first and second beast. The first beast is a conglomeration of nations. Later, a leader from one of those nations will arise as a world leader and is called the anti-Christ.

One of the heads of the first "beast" is wounded and later healed. (Sword = war) This beast is one of the kingdoms, not a person.

The beast (seven heads, 10 horns) worshiped the devil (dragon).

Power was given unto the beast to continue 42 months. (Notice 42 months in chapter 11 is how long the 2 prophets fight off the world's army, until the world leader Gog decides to go to war against Israel and Armageddon is started.)

The second beast is also called The False Prophet, a religious leader, and causes the world to worship the first beast with an image to the first beast. He causeth the world to receive the mark in their right hand, or in their forehead. It is the mark of the beast.

The anti-Christ has the ability to make war with the Saints.

- **Chapter 14 (interlude)**

The Lord is standing on Mt. Zion with 144,000. The gospel has been restored. This is the power that will overthrow Satan's power on earth.

There are multiple angels: (Moroni) "fly in the midst of heaven, having an everlasting gospel to preach" and another angel saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, ..." and a third angel saying, "If any man take the mark of the beast, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God..."

Reminds the Saints to be patient, and if they die, they will be blessed and their works will go with them. The harvest of the wheat and tares is about to take place, an angel cries with a loud voice "thrust in thy sickle and reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe." (See also: "Those that die in me shall not taste of death, for it shall be sweet unto them"? **D&C 42:46**.)

- **Chapter 15**

Saints are exalted to the Celestial Kingdom who overcome the beast. The seven angels are ready to pour out the seven vials of plagues for the wicked.

- **Chapter 16**

Plagues are poured out upon the wicked as a judgment. The nations assemble for Armageddon, a great earthquake when Christ comes to the Jews on the Mt. of Olives.

The two beasts are possessed by 3 evil spirits, this is how they can perform miracles, and bring the world's army together against Israel. "Blessed is he who is watching and keeps his garments."

The order of the 7 vials to be released:

1. Sores/plagues.
2. Water contaminated, sea life dies.
3. Waters turned to blood for shedding the blood of saints and prophets.
4. The sun scorches men with fire.
5. Darkness spread among the beast and his kingdom, gnawed their tongues in pain.
6. The Euphrates river dries up.
7. Great earthquakes, mountains not found, collapse and great hail storms destroy crops.

**Chapter 17 (interlude)**

John is shown "Mystery Babylon" (U.S.) who has become established throughout the earth.

The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sitteth.

The ten horns are ten kings which have received no kingdom yet, but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

These kings have one mind and give their power to the beast.  
These kings shall make war with the Lamb.  
The ten kings will hate the "whore" and make her desolate.  
The woman is the great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

### **Chapter 18**

An angel comes down to declare, "Babylon has fallen" and become the habitation of devils and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

John hears a voice saying, "Come out of her my people that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues."

The Lord wants to double her portion of judgment for her iniquity.

The kings who have fornicated with her will stand afar off for fear of torment, and the merchants will mourn over her for no man buyeth their merchandise.

### **Chapters 19-22**

The marriage supper of the Lord is made ready.

Satan is bound during the Millennium.

The saints shall then live and reign with Christ. The saints will reign in celestial splendor.

Christ shall come and men shall be judged.

Notice how other scriptures give a list and how the events compare.

<b>Matt 24</b>	<b>D&amp;C 45</b>	<b>Revelation 16</b>
Famine	Missionaries Home	Plagues
Pestilence (Plague)	Plague	Sea Life Dies
Earthquakes	Earthquakes	Water contaminated
Civil War (offended)	Desolations	Scorch men w/heat
False Prophets	War	Darkness/Pain
Gospel Ends		Evil Spirits
		Earthquakes

## **The Second Civil War in America**

As we enter the wars and rumors of wars (Matt 24, Revelation 9), we learn more about the wars in America in Ether. We learn that we have been commanded to “awake” to our sense of our awful situation. If we do not repent, anarchy will begin.

- Ether 8:22-25

22 And whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations, to get power and gain, until they shall spread over the nation, behold, they shall be destroyed; for the Lord will not suffer that the blood of his saints, which shall be shed by them, shall always cry unto him from the ground for vengeance upon them and yet he avenge them not.

23 Wherefore, O ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God that these things should be shown unto you, that thereby ye may repent of your sins, and suffer not that these murderous combinations shall get above you, which are built up to get power and gain—and the work, yea, even the work of destruction come upon you, yea, even the sword of the justice of the Eternal God shall fall upon you, to your overthrow and destruction if ye shall suffer these things to be.

24 Wherefore, the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which shall be among you; or wo be unto it, because of the blood of them who have been slain; for they cry from the dust for vengeance upon it, and also upon those who built it up.

25 For it cometh to pass that whoso buildeth it up seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries; and it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people, for it is built up by the devil, who is the father of all lies; even that same liar who beguiled our first parents, yea, even that same liar who hath caused man to commit murder from the beginning; who hath hardened the hearts of men that they have murdered the prophets, and stoned them, and cast them out from the beginning.

***Joseph Smith prophecies that the children of the slaves will rise up again someday and be marshaled and disciplined for war!***

We receive further revelation about a second civil war in America from the Prophet Joseph Smith in Section 87 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

Although the initial verses are referring to the first Civil War, we receive further enlightenment that there is another one in the future.

- **D&C 87:4-6**

4 And it shall come to pass, after many days, slaves shall rise up against their masters, who shall be marshaled and disciplined for war.

5 And it shall come to pass also that the remnants who are left of the land will marshal themselves, and shall become exceedingly angry, and shall vex the Gentiles with a sore vexation.

6 And thus, with the sword and by bloodshed the inhabitants of the earth shall mourn; and with famine, and plague, and earthquake, and the thunder of heaven, and the fierce and vivid lightning also, shall the inhabitants of the earth be made to feel the wrath, and indignation, and chastening hand of an Almighty God, until the consumption decreed hath made a full end of all nations;

Verse 6 helps us to see that this is a time when other calamities are present and the Lord hath made a full end of all nations. We are witnessing the embers of social discord now between the races in America. There are multiple end-time visions that refer to this civil war and some refer to it as being race driven. (The Cardston Prophecy, The Patriarch Charles Evans Dream, The George Washington Vision, all copies can be found at [nofearpreps.com](http://nofearpreps.com))

***Civil War Starts in Chicago, A. Milton Musser***

*"My brother, Noah Packard, says that he heard the Prophet Joseph say that the next great (U.S. Civil) war after the war of the rebellion (the Civil War of the 1860s between the North and the South) would commence in a little town now called Chicago but at that time it would have grown to be a very large city. And another brother told me that the Prophet said that the cause of the next great trouble of the United States would be the depreciation of the currency of the United States. I believe I have given you all the facts in as short and concise manner as possible."* A. Milton Musser papers, LDS Church Archives, letter from Nephi Packard to A. Milton Musser, July 24, 1896.

***Civil War more bloody than the first one, David Whitmer***

Question: When will the temple be built in Independence?

Answer: Right after the great tribulation is over.

Question: What do you mean by that?

Answer: A civil war more bloody and cruel than the rebellion. It will be the smashing up of this nation, about which time the second great work has to be done, a work like Joseph did and the translation of the sealed plates and peace all over.

(Interview by Dr. Poulson with David Whitmer, Deseret News, Friday, August 16, 1878)

The Lord assures us in **2Nephi 2:30**

- 10 For the time speedily cometh that the Lord God shall cause a great division among the people, and the wicked will he destroy; and he will spare his people, yea, even if it so be that he must destroy the wicked by fire.

***The Remnant of Jacob***

We learn from 3Nephi that the Remnant of Jacob will scatter and downtrodden the Gentiles. This is not just in America but in all nations. This Remnant of Jacob will quite possibly be one of many factions during the second Civil War in America. It is certainly part of wars and rumor of wars.

***Who is the Remnant of Jacob?***

Jacob was the grandson of Father Abraham and had his name changed to Israel by God. He had 12 sons who the 12 tribes of Israel were named after.

Ten of the tribes were scattered and driven to the North of Israel when the Assyrians invaded Israel. The remaining two tribes were eventually overtaken and scattered by the Babylonians. These "remnants" are The Remnant of Jacob! They are not just descendants of Jewish heritage.

From this "scattering" we know that the Assyrians were Arabs and took the Israelites as slaves and intermarried with them. The Assyrians today are modern day Iran and Syria.

We know that the Babylonians also took the Israelites as slaves and intermarried with them. Their mixed blood descendants were known as the Samaritans in the New Testament. The Jews who managed to escape and keep their blood lines pure, looked poorly upon the Samaritans. The Babylonian area today is modern day Iraq.

We know that Lehi came from this latter group of Jews who left just before Jerusalem was to be destroyed. He later came to the Americas by boat and his posterity today is known as the Lamanites, the remnants of the American Indians and South America Latinos. They too are of the Remnant of Jacob.

When Moses took the slaves out of Egypt, the children of Israel were not always slaves. When Joseph of Egypt invited his family to live in Egypt, they intermarried with the Egyptians where we know as is modern day Egypt. Joseph was a son of Jacob. The Egyptians are a remnant.

*The “Remnant of Jacob” will bring destruction to America.*

- **3Nephi 20:15-17**

15 And I say unto you, that if the Gentiles do not repent after the blessing which they shall receive, after they have scattered my people—

16 Then shall ye, who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, go forth among them; and ye shall be in the midst of them who shall be many; and ye shall be among them as a lion among the beasts of the forest, and as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he goeth through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

17 Thy hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.

*The Remnant of Jacob later converts to the gospel!*

What is amazing is that when this destruction is finished, the Remnant of Jacob will convert to the gospel and assist in building the New Jerusalem.

- **3Nephi 21:15-26**

15 And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strongholds;

16 And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy land, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers;

17 Thy graven images I will also cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee, and thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands;

18 And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities.

19 And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, shall be done away.

22 But if they will repent and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance;

23 And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem.

24 And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.

25 And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst.

26 And then shall the work of the Father commence at that day, even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily I say unto you, at that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people, yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem.

***The Prophet Joseph Smith tells us the destruction is to prepare for the return of the Lost 10 Tribes from the north.***

*“And now I am prepared to say by the authority of Jesus Christ, that not many years shall pass away before the United States shall present such a scene of bloodshed as has not parallel in the history of our nation; pestilence, hail, famine, and earthquake will sweep the wicked of this generation off the face of the land, to open and prepare the way for the return of the lost tribes of Israel from the north country.”* (Teachings of Joseph Smith, 1938)

*The Prophet Daniel sees a time when the Saints in the last day are attacked by Stout Horn or The Antichrist. This "Assyrian" arises out of the wars.*

- **Daniel 8:23-25**

23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.

24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.

25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

*It will cause many to apostatize. We learn from Isaiah not to be afraid of the Assyrian. It will only be for a season.*

- **Isaiah 10:24**

24 Therefore thus saith the Lord God of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt.

In Isaiah we are told the yoke will be taken off of our shoulders and the yoke destroyed because of our *anointing*.

- **Isaiah 10:27**

27 And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

*In Isaiah 31 we learn that the Assyrian shall fall from the sword and his princes will be afraid of the ensign.*

- **Isaiah 31:8-9**

8 Then shall the Assyrian fall with the sword, not of a mighty man; and the sword, not of a mean man, shall devour him: but he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be discomfited.

9 And he shall pass over to his strong hold for fear, and his princes shall be afraid of the ensign, saith the Lord, whose fire is in Zion, and his furnace in Jerusalem.

We learn from Isaiah 10:20 and 2Nephi 20:20 that the Remnant of Jacob shall return in that day. The Remnant of Jacob is the ensign.

- **Isaiah 10:20-21**

20 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

21 The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God.

*The second civil war is probably started over the depreciation of the US currency.*

**A. Milton Musser**

*"My brother Noah Packard says that he heard the Prophet Joseph say that the next great U.S. civil war, after the war of the rebellion, (the civil war of the 1860's between the North and South) would commence in a little town now called Chicago, but at that time it would have grown to be a very large city. And another brother told me that the Prophet said that the cause of the next great trouble of the United States would be the **depreciation of the currency** of the United States. I believe I have given you all the facts in as short and concise a manner as possible."* (A. Milton Musser papers. LDS church archives, letter from Nephi Packard to A. Milton Musser, July 24, 1896.)

- ***The Worldwide Financial Collapse***

The scriptures clearly tell of a great collapse around the world and it will happen quickly.

- **Revelation 18:2**

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

- **Revelations 18:10, 11, 17, 18**

10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

17 For in one hour so great riches is come to naught. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

- **Helaman 13:21, 23**

21 Behold ye, the people of this great city, and hearken unto my words; yea, hearken unto the words which the Lord saith; for behold, he saith that ye are cursed because of your riches, and also are your riches cursed because ye have set your hearts upon them, and have not hearkened unto the words of him who gave them unto you.

23 For this cause hath the Lord God caused that a curse should come upon the land, and also upon your riches, and this because of your iniquities.

***Patriarch Charles Evans, 1894***

*"...Confidence is lost. Wealth is arrayed against labor, labor against wealth....together with the policy of many wealthy ones, has produced distress and do presage further sorrow. Mad with rage men and women rushed upon each other. Blood flowed down the streets of cities like water."*

***Joseph Smith tells us the civil war will weaken us and cause her to be invaded by other nations.***

*"There will be two great political parties in this country. One will be called the Republican, and the other the Democrat party. These two parties will go to war and out of these two parties will spring another party which will be the Independent American [sic] Party. The United States will spend her strength and means warring in foreign lands until other nations will say, "Let's divide up the lands of the United States," then the people of the U.S. will unite and swear by the blood of their fore-fathers that the land shall not be divided. Then the country will go to war, and they will fight until one half of the U.S. Army will give up, and the rest will continue to struggle. They will keep on until they are very ragged and discouraged, and almost ready to give up - when the boys from the mountains will rush forth in time to save the American Army from defeat and ruin. And they will say, "Brethren, we are glad you have come; give us men, henceforth, who can talk with God." Then you will have friends, but you will save the country when it's [sic] liberty hangs by a hair, as it were."*

(Prophet and presidential candidate Joseph Smith, 19 June 1844, as recorded in the autobiography of Mosiah Lyman Hancock. See Duane S. Crowther, *Prophecy - Key to the Future*, p. 10.)

## *Suggestions*

### Spiritual and Temporal Preparedness

#### Reading Material:

- ✓ *A Remnant Shall Return*, Michael B. Rush
- ✓ *Apocalyptic Commentary of the Book of Isaiah*, Avraham Gileadi
- ✓ *When Shall These Things Be?*, Elder M. Russell Ballard, December 1996
- ✓ *War Goes On*, Elder Larry R. Lawrence, Liahona, April 2017, lds.org

#### Other:

- ✓ *Be Ye Not Troubled*, Mike Stroud, mstroud.podomatic.com
- ✓ Hold Family Council weekly. Plan together family activities that will increase your knowledge or skills to be self-reliant.
- ✓ Gather winter clothing and winter shoes for each member of the family.
- ✓ Mark your scriptures: Joel 2:32



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*Chapter Five - The Middle of the Tribulations*

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- The Devastating Sickness (Plague)
- The Testimony of Earthquakes
- An Introduction to the Antichrist

In Matthew 24 we see the words, "and then" which are useful in determining the order of events. The beginning of sorrows is here. The wars and rumors of wars has been going on since the turn of the century. Famines, pestilence and earthquakes have increased in frequency in the last 25 years. "An then" the next event is persecution of the Saints, "and then" shall many be offended and hate one another (civil war). That looks very much like today's current news headlines. False prophets, iniquity, and finally the gospel is preached to the world. "And then" shall the heavens be shaken and the Son of man appear.

***Matthew 24:7-14, 29-39***

- 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.
- 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.
- 9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Resurrection)

32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; (Israel= fig tree, is gathered again and being productive.) When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

***The Savior said it will be worse than any other time in history, but it will be shortened for the elect sake.***

- ***Matthew 24:21-22***

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

***We also learn that there will be a lot of people who do not believe these are the end-times.***

- 37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

***We learn from Elder Neal A. Maxwell that it will be a "compression of events" once the greater tribulations start.***

*"Now, my brethren, "these are [your] days" (Hel. 7:9) in the history of the Church. Mark well what kind of days they will be, days when, with special visibility, the Lord will "make bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations." (D&C 133:3.) God will also "hasten" His work. (D&C 88:73.) He will also "shorten" the last days "for the elect's sake"; hence, there will be a compression of events. (Matt. 24:22; JS—M 1:20.) Furthermore, "all things shall be in commotion." (D&C 88:91.) Only those in the process of becoming the men and women of Christ will be able to keep their spiritual balance. Brethren, may we "walk by faith," and, if necessary, even on our knees!" (April 1992, LDS.org)*

***A Devastating Sickness Shall Cover the Land***

There are multiple references to this plague from many sources, the New Testament, The Doctrine and Covenants, modern prophets and earlier prophets. From what I can tell in various dreams/visions, this plague comes in multiple forms (a pox and hemorrhagic fever) and several waves. It kills 1/3 of the earth's inhabitants and is worldwide, but starts in the United States as a biological weapon that is dropped from the sky.

***D&C 45:31-32***

- 31 And there shall be men standing in that generation, that shall not pass until they shall see an overflowing scourge; for a desolating sickness shall cover the land.

32 But my disciples shall stand in holy places, and shall not be moved; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices and curse God and die.

***It appears that Zion will be protected if we do what we are commanded to do.***

- ***D&C 97:23-26***

23 The Lord's scourge shall pass over by night and by day, and the report thereof shall vex all people; yea, it shall not be stayed until the Lord come;

24 For the indignation of the Lord is kindled against their abominations and all their wicked works.

25 Nevertheless, Zion shall escape if she observe to do all things whatsoever I have commanded her.

26 But if she observe not to do whatsoever I have commanded her, I will visit her according to all her works, with sore affliction, with pestilence, with plague, with sword, with vengeance, with devouring fire.

***The Dream of Plagues, The Contributor, August 1884***

*On the first page was a picture of a feast in progress, with the long table set upon a beautiful lawn, over which were interspersed with clumps of fine shrubs and towering trees. The landscape presented the appearance of midsummer. The sky, and indeed the whole atmosphere appeared of a peculiar sickly brassy hue, similar to that which may be observed when the sun is wholly eclipsed and the disc is just beginning again to give its light. Throughout the atmosphere small white specks were represented, similar to a scattering fall of minute snowflakes in winter.*

*About the table a party of richly dressed ladies and gentlemen were seated in the act of partaking of the rich repast with which the table was laden. The minute specks falling from above were dropping into the food apparently unheeded by all, for a sudden destruction had come upon them.*

*Below this picture was the description: "A camp of the Saints who have gathered together and are living under the daily revelations of God, and thus preserved from the plague." I understood from this that each family was in its tent during the hours of the day that the poison falls, and thus were preserved from breathing the deadly particles.*

***We can draw several clues from this dream in the church archives about the Plague:***

1. It will be during a midsummer feast.
2. It was dropped from the sky, the sky was a different color, and no one notices.
3. Destruction was sudden.
4. The Saints were gathered in a camp prior to, thus being preserved from the plague.

***The Testimony of Earthquakes***

Earthquakes will be a common occurrence during the tribulation period. There have been visions of the Mississippi River splitting in two because of the New Madrid fault line. There are visions of earthquakes on both coastlines of the U.S. and even from the southern tip of Idaho down to the northern tip of Arizona devastating Utah. There will be warning quakes in these areas as well.

- **D&C 88:87-91**

87 For not many days hence and the earth shall tremble and reel to and fro as a drunken man; and the sun shall hide his face, and shall refuse to give light; and the moon shall be bathed in blood; and the stars shall become exceedingly angry, and shall cast themselves down as a fig that falleth from off a fig tree.

88 And after your testimony cometh wrath and indignation upon the people.

89 For after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes, that shall cause groanings in the midst of her, and men shall fall upon the ground and shall not be able to stand.

90 And also cometh the testimony of the voice of thunderings, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea heaving themselves beyond their bounds.

91 And all things shall be in commotion; and surely, men's hearts shall fail them; for fear shall come upon all people.

- **D&C 112:24-25**

24 Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation; and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord.

25 And upon my house shall it begin, and from my house shall it go forth, saith the Lord;

***Ezra Taft Benson, 1980 General Conference***

*“Too often we bask in our comfortable complacency and rationalize that the ravages of war, economic disaster, famine and earthquake cannot happen here. Those who believe this are either not acquainted with the revelations of the Lord, or they do not believe them. Those who smugly think these calamities will not happen, that they somehow will be set aside because of the righteousness of the Saints, are deceived and will rue the day they harbored such a delusion.*

*The Lord has warned and forewarned us against a day of great tribulation and given us counsel, through His servants, on how we can prepare for these difficult times. Have we heeded His counsel?*

*...I bear witness to that inspired counsel from 1936 to present day that the Saints lay up a year's supply of food.”*

*In D&C 45:33 we learn that the earthquakes will be many and in diverse places, yet men will harden their hearts and start to kill one another.*

- D&C 45:33  
33 And there shall be earthquakes also in divers places, and many desolations; yet men will harden their hearts against me, and they will take up the sword, one against another, and they will kill one another.

***Again we are comforted by the words of Elder M. Russell Ballard, General Conference, October 1992:***

*"Although the prophecies tell us that these things are to take place, more and more people are expressing great alarm at what appears to be an acceleration of worldwide calamity. As members of the Church, we must not forget the Savior's admonition, "Be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass."*

***The Introduction of the Anti-Christ***

In Revelation 12, 13, and 14 John is given an overview of the opposition between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. The voices in heaven announce the coming triumph of the kingdom of God. This kingdom and its great Satanic counterpart are shown to John in some detail.

1. John sees a woman (the church) bring forth the kingdom over which Christ reigns as king. (Rev. 12:1-3,7).
2. John sees that the church and kingdom of God are opposed by the great dragon (Satan) and are taken away for many years (Great Apostasy). (JST, Rev. 12:4-5, 13-17)
3. John sees the opposition actually began in the premortal existence and caused war in heaven. (JST, Rev. 12:6-12)
4. John sees a beast "in the likeness of the kingdoms of the earth" (JST, Rev 13:1) come from the sea. He is shown that Satan has political power over the kingdoms of the earth and made war with the Saints and overcame them (Great Apostasy). (Rev. 13:1-10)
5. John sees another beast, one that exercises great evil through religious power. Satan works many miracles and deceives much of mankind. (Rev. 13:11-18)
6. John is shown the power that will overthrow Satan's kingdom. He sees the Lamb on Mount Zion with 144,000 special ministers of the gospel. (Rev. 14:1-5)
7. John sees the angelic ministration of the gospel, which has the power to end Satan's dominion. (Rev. 14:6-7)
8. John is shown once again additional background on Satan's kingdom. An angel describes a great whore, with whom people of the earth have committed spiritual fornication. The whore is the counterpart to the woman in the wilderness in chapter 12 (the church of Christ). This whore sits on the head of a beast (kingdom) which is full of "names of blasphemy" and is drunken with the blood of the saints. Many earthly kingdoms are associated with her and will give their power to the beast and "make war with the Lamb." (Rev 17)
9. John sees the Son of Man with the sickle and winepress. The great harvest of the wicked is soon to begin. (Rev. 14:8-20)

From here we enter into the judgments (seven vials poured out by seven angels) onto the wicked. Sores, sea of blood, fresh waters made blood, sun scorches men, the Beast's kingdom is filled with darkness, three evil spirits influence men to battle at Armageddon and a voice from heaven from heaven declares, "it is done."

**The Anti-Christ is a "system" of governments who want political control over the people. There is a second beast that exercises evil through religious power. These two beasts have been on the earth for some time now.**

Once the beastly system (New World Order) has been established, a leader will arise from that and he will also be known as an Anti-Christ. He, Gog, will lead the world's army against Israel. Gog will have a country that has a mighty army. There will be a second beast that rises up with all the power of the first beast, and causeth the earth to worship the first beast. (Rev 13)

The good news is exalted saints will prevail and praise God in celestial glory forever. (Rev. 15)

The saints are called out of Babylon, then Babylon falls, and her plagues will come in one day. kings shall see the smoke of her burning, for in one hour her judgment shall come, the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for in one hour her great riches will come to nought, the blood of the prophets and the saints will be avenged. (Rev 18).

**In summary:**

1. The beastly system is created from seven nations and a second beast is created from a religious power.
2. John is shown the power that will overthrow Satan's Kingdom. It is the 144,000 special ministers of the gospel.
3. Christ will come to destroy the beastly system, the second beast of a religious power, the leader of the beastly system (the Antichrist), through the judgments: sores, contaminated water, etc.,
4. The Saints will be called out of Babylon before the plagues and the fall of Babylon.

## *Suggestions*

### Spiritual and Temporal Preparedness

#### Reading Materials:

- ✓ *Zion - Who Will Survive?*, Hugh Nibley (free on internet)
- ✓ *Prophecy and Modern Times*, Cleon Skousen
- ✓ *Commandments, Calamities, and the Second Coming*, Elder James J. Hamula, December 2010, lds.org
- ✓ *Preparation for the Second Coming*, Elder Dallin H. Oaks, April 2004, lds.org

#### Other:

- ✓ *Peace and Safety*, Mike Stroud, mstroud.podomatic.com
- ✓ Store up multiple cases of drinking water. Store up a water filter system.
- ✓ Have supplies for quarantine areas (masks, gloves, sheets, paper goods, etc.)
- ✓ Mark your scriptures: Isaiah 51:3

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*Chapter Six - The End of the Tribulations*

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- Adam-ondi-Ahman
- New Jerusalem
- The 144,000

It appears we are in the midst of a financial collapse, a civil war, a few earthquakes and a plague overshadowing the already hard times when it is time to call out the Lord's servants and lay out instructions for building New Jerusalem.

**Joseph Fielding Smith:** Church History and Modern Revelation. p.44

*"Daniel and John each saw the opposition the little horn made against the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This opposition will continue until the grand council is held at Adam-ondi-Ahman. This "little horn" (Dan. 7:20-22; Rev. 13) is making a renewed and determined effort today to destroy the Church.*

*The Lord has decreed otherwise and while its power will last until Michael comes and the Son of Man receives his rightful place, this great power will endure. It must, however, fall, and according to the scriptures its end will come rather suddenly." (D. & C. 29:21; 1Nephi 13:1-9; Rev. Chapters 17-18.)*

***Joseph Smith Receives Revelations about Adam-ondi-Ahman***

In May 1838 the Prophet and some other men were looking for places to build other cities for the Saints to live in. They came to a place called Spring Hill, where Joseph received another revelation (**D&C 116**). The Lord told Joseph that his name for Spring Hill was Adam-ondi-Ahman. Orson Pratt later said this name means “Valley of God, where Adam dwelt” in “the original language spoken by Adam” (in *Journal of Discourses*, 18:343).

According to Joseph Smith, Adam-ondi-Ahman is where God talked with Adam and the place where Adam offered up sacrifices to the Lord. At Adam-ondi-Ahman, Adam called his **family** together before he died so he could bless them (see **D&C 107:53–56**).

Adam-ondi-Ahman will also be an important place in the future: near the time of Christ’s second coming, Adam will come again to Adam-ondi-Ahman and hold a great council. All the prophets who have held keys of priesthood authority upon the earth will come to this council to give a report of their work to Adam. Jesus Christ will then come to Adam-ondi-Ahman, and Adam will return the priesthood keys to him. Christ will later return to earth to begin the Millennium.

***Adam-ondi-Ahman is one of many appearances of Christ before the Second Coming.***

There are several appearances of Christ associated with the Second Coming.

- Christ’s appearing at the Kirtland Temple, which has already taken place, is the first event.
- Next is Adam-Ondi-Ahman where a great gathering will take place and Christ will receive back the keys from the Dispensation Heads and where Christ will assume control of the concluding events associated with the end times.

- Christ will come next to the City of Zion, The New Jerusalem in conjunction with the First Resurrection.
- Christ will then appear at the Mount of Olives where He will take back the city of Jerusalem and liberate the Jews from the armies associated with the great battle of Armageddon.
- The final appearance of Christ is the General Coming where all in the Earth will recognize their Lord as He comes down from the Clouds in great Glory in conjunction with the Second Resurrection. Every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that this is the Promised Savior of the World  
Joseph Smith Receives Revelations about Adam-ondi-Ahman

***Adam called his family together in Adam-ondi-Ahman***

- **D&C 107:53-54**

53 Three years previous to the death of Adam, he called Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, and Methuselah, who were all high priests, with the residue of his posterity who were righteous, into the valley of Adam-ondi-Ahman, and there bestowed upon them his last blessing.

54 And the Lord appeared unto them, and they rose up and blessed Adam, and called him Michael, the prince, the archangel.

***Joseph Fielding Smith teaches what Daniel saw.***

*It was in the night vision that all this was shown to Daniel, and he saw the Son of Man come to the grand council, as he did to the first grand council in the valley of Adam-ondi-Ahman, and there he received the keys from Adam "and there was given to him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his*

*kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." (Dan. 7: 13-14.) In this council Christ will take over the reins of government, officially, on this earth, and "the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him," even Jesus Christ. Until this grand council is held, Satan shall hold rule in the nations of the earth; but at that time thrones are to be cast down and man's rule shall come to an end -- for it is decreed that the Lord shall make an end of all nations.*

*Preparation for this work is now going on. Kingdoms are already tottering, some have fallen; but eventually they shall all go the way of the earth, and he shall come whose right it is to rule. Then shall he give the government to the saints of the Most High.*

*This council in the valley of Adam-ondi-Ahman is to be of the greatest importance to this world. At that time there will be a transfer of authority from the usurper and impostor, Lucifer, to the rightful King, Jesus Christ. Judgment will be set and all who have held keys will make their reports and deliver their stewardships, as they shall be required. Adam will direct this judgment, and then he will make his report, as the one holding the keys for this earth, to his Superior Officer, Jesus Christ. Our Lord will then assume the reins of government; directions will be given to the Priesthood; and He, whose right it is to rule, will be installed officially by the voice of the Priesthood there assembled. This grand council of Priesthood will be composed, not only of those who are faithful who now dwell on this earth, but also of the prophets and apostles of old, who have had directing authority. Others may also be there, but if so they will be there by appointment, for this is to be an official council called to attend to the most momentous matters ' concerning the destiny of this earth." (The Way to Perfection, p.289-291)*

**Joseph Fielding Smith gave us some information about this special meeting.**

"When this gathering is held, the world will not know of it; the members of the Church at large will not know of it, yet it shall be preparatory to the coming in the clouds of glory of our Savior Jesus Christ as the Prophet Joseph Smith has said. The world cannot know of it. The Saints cannot know of it-- except those who officially shall be called into this council--for it shall precede the coming of Jesus Christ as a thief in the night, unbeknown to all the world." (The Way to Perfection, 291)

*New Jerusalem*

We have cities made destitute from the plague, earthquakes and wars. We have had a meeting at Adam-ondi-Ahman to transfer authority from Adam to Jesus Christ. Now, we need to gather to New Jerusalem and build a city with the help of the Lost 10 Tribes, the Remnant of Jacob and the City of Enoch. (Moses 7:63)

*People from all nations shall gather to New Jerusalem.*

• **3Nephi 21:22-29**

22 But if they will repent and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance;

23 And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem.

24 And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.

25 And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst.

26 And then shall the work of the Father commence at that day, even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily I say unto you, at that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people, yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem.

27 Yea, the work shall commence among all the dispersed of my people, with the Father to prepare the way whereby they may come unto me, that they may call on the Father in my name.

28 Yea, and then shall the work commence, with the Father among all nations in preparing the way whereby his people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance.

29 And they shall go out from all nations; and they shall not go out in haste, nor go by flight, for I will go before them, saith the Father, and I will be their rearward.

- **Jeremiah 31:6**

6 For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the Lord our God.

*The pure in heart will be searched all over the world and warned to gather to America where New Jerusalem will be built.*

- **Jeremiah 16:16**

16 Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.

- **D&C 29:8**

8 Wherefore the decree hath gone forth from the Father that they shall be gathered in unto one place upon the face of this land, to prepare their hearts and be prepared in all things against the day when tribulation and desolation are sent forth upon the wicked.

*New Jerusalem is built in preparation for the Second Coming.*

- **D&C 133:18-35**

18 When the Lamb shall stand upon Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having his Father's name written on their foreheads.

19 Wherefore, prepare ye for the coming of the Bridegroom; go ye, go ye out to meet him.

20 For behold, he shall stand upon the mount of Olivet, and upon the mighty ocean, even the great deep, and upon the islands of the sea, and upon the land of Zion.

21 And he shall utter his voice out of Zion, and he shall speak from Jerusalem, and his voice shall be heard among all people;

22 And it shall be a voice as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder, which shall break down the mountains, and the valleys shall not be found.

***The continents becomes one land mass again, and a highway is cast up in the midst of the great deep. D&C 133***

23 He shall command the great deep, and it shall be driven back into the north countries, and the islands shall become one land;

24 And the land of Jerusalem and the land of Zion shall be turned back into their own place, and the earth shall be like as it was in the days before it was divided.

25 And the Lord, even the Savior, shall stand in the midst of his people, and shall reign over all flesh.

26 And they who are in the north countries shall come in remembrance before the Lord; and their prophets shall hear his voice, and shall no longer stay themselves; and they shall smite the rocks, and the ice shall flow down at their presence.

27 And an highway shall be cast up in the midst of the great deep.

28 Their enemies shall become a prey unto them,

29 And in the barren deserts there shall come forth pools of living water; and the parched ground shall no longer be a thirsty land.

30 And they shall bring forth their rich treasures unto the children of Ephraim, my servants.

31 And the boundaries of the everlasting hills shall tremble at their presence.

32 And there shall they fall down and be crowned with glory, even in Zion, by the hands of the servants of the Lord, even the children of Ephraim.

33 And they shall be filled with songs of everlasting joy.

34 Behold, this is the blessing of the everlasting God upon the tribes of Israel, and the richer blessing upon the head of Ephraim and his fellows.

35 And they also of the tribe of Judah, after their pain, shall be sanctified in holiness before the Lord, to dwell in his presence day and night, forever and ever.

***John talks about New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven in Revelation 21. The Institute Manual tells us:***

The New Jerusalem spoken of in **Revelation 21** is not the same city that is to be built on the American continent as part of the last days and the Second Coming of **Jesus Christ** (see **Articles of Faith 1:10**). It refers to the celestial kingdom. (lds.org, new Testament Institute Manual)

New Jerusalem is sometimes synonymous with Zion. However, the city of New Jerusalem is in Missouri and Zion is found in ward buildings, the organization of the Church of God, Jackson County, Missouri and even America or the world, wherever the pure in heart will gather and the mountain of the Lord is there.

***President Wilford Woodruff tells us somebody has got build Zion!***

"Somebody or other has got to build up Zion; somebody has got to build Temples, and to go into them and attend to the ordinances therein. The Lord has said that he will come and visit the earth, but before he does come the people have got to be pure. The Lord Jesus has declared that he will come and reign on the earth, and if you read the Book of Doctrine and Covenants you will find numerous predictions in regard to his coming, such as—"I come quickly," "I come at an hour ye think not," "My coming is at the door," "I come as a thief in the night," "I come in an hour when you are not looking for me," and "Blessed is he who is looking for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." I say that throughout the whole of the Scriptures—the Old and New Testament, the Book of Mormon, and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, the second coming of the Lord is frequently referred to; and has the Lord promised these

*things without intending to fulfill them? No, he has not, they will be fulfilled. But before Christ comes, a people have got to be prepared by being sanctified before the Lord. Temples have got to be built; Zion has got to be built up, there must be a place of safety for the people of God while his judgments are abroad in the earth, for the judgments of God will visit the earth, there is no mistake about that, the revelations are full of promises to this effect and as the Lord has declared it, he will not fail in keeping his word. (Journal of Discourses, 18:192)*

***Joseph Smith, Men and Angels will do this work!***

*First, I shall begin by quoting from the prophecy of Enoch, speaking of the last days: "Righteousness will I send down out of heaven, and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten, His resurrection from the dead (this resurrection I understand to be the corporeal body); yea, and also the resurrection of all men; righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare, a Holy City, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming, for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion a New Jerusalem." (Moses 7:62)*

*Now I understand by this quotation, that God clearly manifested to Enoch the redemption which He prepared, by offering the Messiah as a Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world; and by virtue of the same, the glorious resurrection of the Savior, and the resurrection of all the human family, even a resurrection of their corporeal bodies, is brought to pass; and also righteousness and truth are to sweep the earth as with a flood. And now, I ask, how righteousness and truth are going to sweep the earth as with a flood? I will answer. Men and angels are to be co-workers in bringing to pass this great work, and Zion is to be prepared, even a new Jerusalem, for the elect that are to be gathered from the four quarters of the earth, and to be established an holy city, for the tabernacle of the Lord shall be with them.*

*Now Enoch was in good company in his views upon this subject: "And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God" (Rev. 21:3).*

*I discover by this quotation, that John upon the isle of Patmos, saw the same things concerning the last days, which Enoch saw. But before the tabernacle can*

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be with men, the elect must be gathered from the four quarters of the earth. And to show further upon this subject of the gathering, Moses, after having pronounced the blessing and cursing upon the children of Israel, for their obedience or disobedience, says thus:

*"And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind, among all the nations whither the Lord thy God hath driven thee, and shalt return unto the Lord thy God, and shalt obey His voice, according to all that I command thee, this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee. If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from thence will He fetch thee (Deut. 30:1-4). . . .*

And again (see Book of Mormon, 3Nephi 20:22.) "Behold this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob, and it shall be a New Jerusalem." Now we learn from the Book of Mormon the very identical continent and spot of land upon which the New Jerusalem is to stand, and it must be caught up according to the vision of John upon the isle of Patmos.

Now many will feel disposed to say, that this New Jerusalem spoken of, is the Jerusalem that was built by the Jews on the eastern continent. But you will see, from Revelation 21:2, there was a New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, adorned as a bride for her husband; that after this, the Revelator was caught away in the Spirit, to a great and high mountain, and saw the great and holy city descending out of heaven from God. Now there are two cites spoken of here. As everything cannot be had in so narrow a compass as a letter, I shall say with brevity, that there is a New Jerusalem to be established on this continent, and also Jerusalem shall be rebuilt on the eastern continent (see Book of Mormon, **Ether 13:1-12**). "Behold, Ether saw the days of Christ, and he spake also concerning the house of Israel, and the Jerusalem from whence Lehi should come; after it should be destroyed, it should be built up again, a holy city unto the Lord, wherefore it could not be a New Jerusalem, for it had been in a time of old." This may suffice, upon the subject of gathering, until my next. (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp.84-86)

In all our preparing for the end-times, I would think it is safe to say, that spiritual preparedness is the key to participating in these marvelous events. New Jerusalem will be a place for the Savior to visit, and it will take translated beings to abide his presence. It will take just men made perfect. The City of Enoch will also be there. They will be in a translated state. We too must be prepared to be around them.

- **Hebrews 12:22-23**

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.

***President Joseph F. Smith taught that the center place of New Jerusalem was in Missouri.***

*The center place where the City New Jerusalem is to be built, is in Jackson County, Missouri. It was never the intention to substitute Utah or any other place for Jackson County.'* (Doctrines of Salvation, 3:72.)

***President Brigham Young said not all will go:***

*'Are we going back to Jackson County? Yes. When? As soon as the way opens up. Are we all going? O no! of course not. The country is not large enough to hold our present numbers.'* (In *Journal of Discourses*, 18:355.) He also said that 'a portion of the Priesthood will go and redeem and build up the centre Stake of Zion' (*Journal of Discourses*, 11:16)."

***In 1873 Elder Orson Pratt taught that the return to Jackson County may be accompanied by similar manifestations:***

*"I expect that when the Lord leads forth his people to build up the city of Zion, his presence will be visible. When we speak of the presence of the Lord we speak of an exhibition of power. ..."*

*"We shall go back to Jackson County. Not that all this people will leave these mountains, or all be gathered together in a camp, but when we go back there will be a very large organization consisting of thousands, and tens of thousands, and they will march forward, the glory of God overshadowing their camp by day in the form of a cloud, and a pillar of flaming fire by night, the Lord's voice being uttered forth before his army. Such a period will come in the history of this people. ... And his people will go forth and build up Zion according to celestial law.*

*"Will not this produce terror upon all the nations of the earth? Will not armies of this description, though they may not be as numerous as the armies of the world, cause a terror to fall upon the nations? The Lord says the banners of Zion shall be terrible. ... When the Lord's presence is there, when his voice is heard, and his angels go before the camp, it will be telegraphed to the uttermost parts of the earth and fear will seize upon all people, especially the wicked, and the knees of the ungodly will tremble in that day, and the high ones that are on high, and the great men of the earth." (In Journal of Discourses, 15:364.)*

### ***Preparation for Zion***

#### ***Orson F. Whitney, Zion is more than the purchase of lands.***

*It is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion' (D&C 105:9)*

*Is it marvelous that this should be; that a work of such magnitude should require preparation; that Zion, city of holiness, should be built up only by the pure in heart? Ah, reader, the redemption of Zion is more than the purchase or recovery of lands, the building of cities, or even the founding of nations. It is the conquest of the heart, the subjugation of the soul, the sanctifying of the flesh, the purifying and ennobling of the passions. Greater is he who subdues himself, who captures and maintains the citadel of his own soul, than he who, misnamed conqueror, fills the world with the roar of drums, the thunder of cannon, the lightning of swords and bayonets, overturns and sets up kingdoms, lives and reigns a king, yet wears to the grave the fetters of unbridled lust, and dies the slave of sin.*

*In her children's hearts must Zion first be built up and redeemed; "Every man seeking the interest of his neighbor, and doing all things with an eye single to the glory of God." ( Orson F. Whitney; Life of Heber C. Kimball,*

(Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1967), 78-79.

***There will be no poor among us in Zion. We will be of one mind.***

*By living these principles, Saints in previous dispensations unveiled to our view the possibilities that lie within our reach.*

*The city of Enoch, for example, became Zion, and God dwelt there with his people (see Moses 7:16). ‘And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them’ (Moses 7:18).*

*History records only the accomplishments—not the methods—of Enoch and his people. But their example has inspired faithful people through the ages with these two important truths:*

*It is possible to arrive at a condition in which temporal practices foster spiritual salvation. The scriptures report three additional examples of peoples who reached this condition: the people of Melchizedek in Abraham’s time (see JST Gen. 14:26-36), the New Testament Saints following the Savior’s earthly ministry (see Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37), and the Nephites who were visited by the resurrected Christ (see 4 Nephi 1:2-18).*

*Welfare principles lead to the conditions that characterized Zion: ‘They were of one heart and one mind’ (Moses 7:18). ‘There was no contention among all the people’ (4 Nephi 1:13). ‘They did walk after the commandments which they had received from their Lord and their God’ (4 Nephi 1:12). ‘The love of God . . . did dwell in the hearts of the people’ (4 Nephi 1:15). ‘They had all things common among them’ (4 Nephi 1:3). ‘There was no poor among them’ (Moses 7:18).*

*The message of history is clear and timely in this pre-millennial era. God has revealed basic principles for the welfare and salvation of his children, and these principles have not changed since the days of Enoch. Other civilizations have lived them and have received the promised, glorious rewards. It is expected that we will rise to the same standard in our dispensation. (“Welfare Services: A Legacy of Caring, Giving, Serving,” *Ensign*, May 1986, 97-98.)*

## The 144,000

We learn in Revelation 7:4 that the 144,000 called to traverse the earth and gather the remaining faithful throughout the world and bring them to New Jerusalem to witness the Second Coming are from the twelve tribes of Israel. " And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel."

***Elder Bruce R. McConkie gives the perfect description of who the 144,000 are.***

*"At his Second Coming, "the Lamb shall stand upon Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having his Father's name written on their foreheads." (D&C 133:18; Rev. 14:1-5) These 144,000 are Gods, as the name on their foreheads specifies; their callings and elections have been made sure; they are exalted personages; they are "redeemed from among men, ... And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." (Rev. 14:4-5) They have attained perfection.*

*These brethren, 12,000 from each of the tribes of Israel — excepting for some unspecified reason the tribe of Dan (Rev. 7:2-8) "are high priests, ordained unto the holy order of God, to administer the everlasting gospel; for they are they who are ordained out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, by the angels to whom is given power over the nations of the earth, to bring as many as will come to the church of the Firstborn." (D&C 77:9-11) They are part of "a great multitude, which no man could number — all of whom shall have membership in the Church of the Firstborn and therefore be exalted beings." (Rev. 7:9-17 Heb. 12:22-24) Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1966), 546.*

Revelation Chapter 7 gives some incredible clues to who these 144,000 translated beings will be.

- **Revelation 7:9-15**

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

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10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

In summary, we can recognize these emblems in our faith today:

1. The 144,000 consists of 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel. They will be from all nations, kindreds, people and tongues. However, they are part of a "great multitude, which no man could number."
2. They will be clothed in white robes.
3. They will have come through great tribulation and remained faithful to their covenants.

4. They serve him day and night in his temple.
5. God will be in the midst of them.

No matter which side of the veil we will be working on during this Great Gathering, the Lord has promised us if we die before this work is through, our death will be sweet.

- D&C 42:46-47.

46 And it shall come to pass that those that die in me shall not taste of death, for it shall be sweet unto them;

47 And they that die not in me, wo unto them, for their death is bitter.

## *Suggestions*

Spiritual and Temporal Preparedness

Reading Materials:

- ✓ *Approaching Zion*, Hugh Nibley
- ✓ *Triumph of Zion*, John Pontius

Other:

- ✓ *Tip of the Spear*, Mike Stroud, [mstroud.podomatic.com](http://mstroud.podomatic.com)
- ✓ Store up alternative cooking methods for indoor and outdoor emergency situations.
- ✓ Mark your scriptures: Alma 26:5-8



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*Chapter Seven - Christ's Appearance to the Jews, The Resurrection and Armageddon*

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***Christ's Appearance to the Jews and The Resurrection***

One of my favorite passages of all scripture is the description of what happens on the Mount of Olives when Christ steps foot on the ground to cause the valley to split open and rescue the Jewish people from utter destruction by the world's army. Zechariah and D&C:

- **Zechariah 14:4-5**

4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

- **D&C 45-57**

45 But before the arm of the Lord shall fall, an angel shall sound his trump, and the saints that have slept shall come forth to meet me in the cloud.

46 Wherefore, if ye have slept in peace blessed are you; for as you now behold me and know that I am, even so shall ye come unto me and your souls shall live, and your redemption shall be perfected; and the saints shall come forth from the four quarters of the earth.

47 Then shall the arm of the Lord fall upon the nations.

48 And then shall the Lord set his foot upon this mount, and it shall cleave in twain, and the earth shall tremble, and reel to and fro, and the heavens also shall shake.

49 And the Lord shall utter his voice, and all the ends of the earth shall hear it; and the nations of the earth shall mourn, and they that have laughed shall see their folly.

50 And calamity shall cover the mocker, and the scorner shall be consumed; and they that have watched for iniquity shall be hewn down and cast into the fire.

51 And then shall the Jews look upon me and say: What are these wounds in thine hands and in thy feet?

52 Then shall they know that I am the Lord; for I will say unto them: These wounds are the wounds with which I was wounded in the house of my friends. I am he who was lifted up. I am Jesus that was crucified. I am the Son of God.

53 And then shall they weep because of their iniquities; then shall they lament because they persecuted their king.

54 And then shall the heathen nations be redeemed, and they that knew no law shall have part in the first resurrection; and it shall be tolerable for them.

55 And Satan shall be bound, that he shall have no place in the hearts of the children of men.

56 And at that day, when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins.

57 For they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day.

***The Resurrection***

The resurrection will occur just prior to the Savior appearing on the Mount of Olives to end the siege on Jerusalem. Notice on the previous page, verse 54, that some heathen nations will be able to take part in the first resurrection. Those without the gospel, are not under condemnation. At the end of the Millennium, there will be a second resurrection for the remainder who did not qualify for the first, and then Final Judgment.

- **D&C 29:26**

26 But, behold, verily I say unto you, before the earth shall pass away, Michael, mine archangel, shall sound his trumpet, and then shall all the dead awake, for their graves shall be opened, and they shall come forth—yea, even all.

## *Armageddon*

Nothing says end-times like the word Armageddon. Yet, the only time it is mentioned *by name* in the scriptures is Revelation 16:16.

- **Revelation 16:16**

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

### **“The Day of the Lord Is Great and Very Terrible”**

One of the opening descriptions of the Battle of Armageddon can be found in Joel 2:2-11. The “day of the Lord” will be great because Zion will be a reality, but the events associated with it will also make it terrible, as these verses make clear. The description of this battle on the next few pages has been recorded from the LDS Old Testament Institute Manual.

An event of the latter days known as the battle of Armageddon is described in these verses. Like the locusts that devour the crops and cover the heavens with blackness because of their numbers, so “a great people and a strong” (v. 2) shall descend upon the land of Israel in the latter days. So great shall be the number of this people that “the earth shall quake before them” (v. 10). The sun, moon, and stars will be darkened. The horses (see v. 4) symbolize war. Chariots (see v. 5) symbolize a very powerful army.

***Elder Joseph Fielding Smith said of the warning given in these verses:***

*“Here we have a great, terrible army, marching with unbroken ranks and crushing everything before it, finding the garden like Eden before them, leaving the wilderness behind, causing mourning, causing suffering; and so the prophet raises the warning voice, and that voice is to us, if you please, that we might turn unto the Lord and rend our hearts.”* (The Signs of the Times, p. 160.)

When these events occur they will strike fear into the hearts of Jerusalem’s inhabitants. The siege against the city will be severe. The relentless army will overrun the land of Israel. The city walls will be breached and the houses plundered (see v. 9).

The phrase “when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded” (v. 8) may simply be a way of saying that the armaments used against the invaders will be ineffectual. But the Lord is strong, and He will keep His word. He has promised to rescue the people, and He will.

**According to the prophets, some important events must take place before the battle actually begins:**

1. The house of Israel will be gathered from among the heathen (the Gentiles) and returned to their own land (see **Ezekiel 36:24; 37:21**).
2. The land of Israel will be rebuilt and reinhabited by the covenant people (see **Ezekiel 36:10–12, 33–36**). Done in 1948!
3. The land will become highly productive and fruitful, even like the Garden of Eden (see **Ezekiel 36:8, 29–30, 34–35**).
4. There will be one nation in the land of Israel again (see **Ezekiel 37:22**).
5. Jerusalem will be reestablished as the capital city of the Israelites (see **Zechariah 1:16–17; 2:12; 12:6; 3Nephi 20:46**).
6. Judah will become powerful in politics and warfare (see **Isaiah 19:16–17; Zechariah 10:3, 5–6**).
7. A great combination of organizations serving Satan will arise in the last days. This combination has several names: the “beast ... out of the sea” (**Revelation 13:1**), representing the kingdoms of the earth (see **JST, Revelation 13:1; 17:8–14**).

**Elder George Q. Morris of the Quorum of the Twelve stated that some of the totalitarian regimes of the 20th century were part of this coalition:**

*“The Savior recognized the domination of Satan over the world generally, and called him the prince of the world, but in a special way—in the way that Brother [Ezra Taft] Benson has referred to—he has entered into the politics of the world among the nations of the world, and already subjugated about one billion people of the world, and by a dire, sanguinary, and deadly philosophy has brought death to millions and has brought slavery to almost a billion people.”* (In Conference Report, Apr. 1960, p. 100.)

### ***The participants in Armageddon***

Ezekiel and Jeremiah indicated areas that will be involved and named Israel as the target of the war:

1. Ezekiel named Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Meshech and Tubal, as the leader of the forces that would come against Israel (see **Ezekiel 38:1–3**). Magog, Meshech, and Tubal were ancient peoples in the northern part of Asia Minor. Gog is a symbolic name for the leader or leaders of this great evil power that will arise in the last days.

2. Ezekiel named Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer, and Togarmah as being in alliance with Gog (**Ezekiel 38:2–6**). (Some of these names still exist today with those names.)

These designations refer to general areas of the ancient world, so a list of modern nations fighting in Armageddon cannot be compiled from these sources. Elder Bruce R. McConkie said: “The prophecies do not name the modern nations which will be fighting for and against Israel, but the designation Gog and Magog is given to the *combination of nations* which are seeking to overthrow and destroy the remnant of the Lord’s chosen seed.” (Mormon Doctrine, p. 298.)

3. The prophets agreed that all nations should be joined in this alliance in one way or another (**Jeremiah 25:26; Joel 3:1; Zechariah 14:2; Revelation 16:14**).

4. The strategic objective of this great and evil alliance is clearly the nation of Israel (see **Ezekiel 38:8, 15–16; Joel 2:1; 3:1–2; Zechariah 14:2**).

***Gog will be thwarted by the power of two witnesses.***

One question that arises as one studies the prophetic picture is, How could a nation as tiny as modern Israel stand against the combined armies of the world? The answer lies in an understanding of the role of two important participants in these great events.

John the Revelator gave the most detailed picture of these two participants. They are called the “two witnesses,” the “two olive trees” and the “two candlesticks” (**Revelation 11:3–4**). Latter-day revelation teaches that they are “two prophets ... raised up to the Jewish nation” who will “prophesy to [them] after they are gathered and have built ... Jerusalem” (**D&C 77:15**).

***Elder Bruce R. McConkie wrote:***

*“These two shall be followers of that humble man, Joseph Smith, through whom the Lord of Heaven restored the fulness of his everlasting gospel in this final dispensation of grace. No doubt they will be members of the Council of the Twelve or of the First Presidency of the Church. Their prophetic ministry to rebellious Jewry shall be the same in length as was our Lord’s personal ministry among their rebellious forebears.”*

*“The two olive trees, and the two candlesticks [are] symbols of the two witnesses; meaning, perhaps, that as olive trees, they shall provide oil for the lamps of those who go forth to meet the Bridegroom; ... and that as lamp stands they shall reflect to men that light which comes from Him who is the Light of the World.”* (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:509–10.)

These prophets will have power to pronounce great judgments upon the earth (see **Revelation 11:5–6**).

“They shall have power like Elijah who called down fire from heaven to consume his enemies, and who sealed the heavens that it rained not in all Israel for the space of three and a half years (**1 Kings 17** and **18**; **2 Kings 1**), and like **Moses** by whose word blood and plagues lay heavily upon the Egyptians. (**Ex. 7, 8, 9, and 10.**)” (McConkie, Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:510.)

Their miraculous power seems to be the force preventing Gog and his army from succeeding in annihilating Israel.

**Elder Parley P. Pratt wrote:**

*“John, in the eleventh chapter of Revelation, gives us many more particulars concerning this same event. He informs us that after the city and temple are rebuilt by the Jews, the Gentiles will tread it under foot forty and two months, during which time there will be two prophets continually prophesying and working mighty miracles. And it seems that the Gentile army shall be hindered from utterly destroying and overthrowing the city, while these two prophets continue.” (A Voice of Warning, p. 33.)*

Isaiah called these prophets “two sons” and said they were the only hope of deliverance for Israel because they would be “full of the fury of the Lord” (**JST, Isaiah 51:19–20**; see also **JST, Isaiah 51:17–18**).

John showed that eventually the two prophets will be captured and killed by the opposing army, and their bodies will be left in the streets of Jerusalem for “three days and an half” as the forces of evil engage in a great celebration over their death (**Revelation 11:9**; see also **Revelation 11:7–8, 10**).

*“That level of spiritual debauchery is shown forth by the fact that the wicked not only slay the prophets of God, but boast of their deeds and glory in them. Such people, as the Jaredites and Nephites before them, are ripened in iniquity and are ready for that destruction and burning which shall cleanse the vineyard of corruption when Jesus descends with his chariots of fire.” (McConkie, Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:510.)*

*During the “three days and an half” that the prophets lie dead in the streets, the army will ravage the city of Jerusalem and the remaining population of Israel (**Revelation 11:9**). Elder Pratt explained: “After a struggle of three years and a half, they [Gog’s army] will at length succeed in destroying these two prophets and then overrunning much of the city; they will send gifts to each other because of the death of the two prophets, and in the meantime will not allow their dead bodies to be put in graves, but will suffer them to lie in the streets of Jerusalem three days and a half, during which time the armies of the Gentiles, consisting of many kindreds, tongues, and nations, passing through the city, plundering the Jews, will see their dead bodies lying in the street.” (Voice of Warning, p. 33.)*

Zechariah says that only one-third of the nation of Israel will survive this final extremity when the “city [Jerusalem] shall be taken, and the houses rifled [looted], and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity” (**Zechariah 14:2**; see also **Zechariah 13:8–9; 14:1**).

In what will be one of the blackest moments of Israel’s history, just as it appears that they are about to be annihilated, the Lord’s fury will be unleashed upon the kingdoms of the world (**Ezekiel 38:18**), and the Lord will “go forth, and fight against those nations” (**Zechariah 14:3**).

1. The two prophets, lying dead in the streets of Jerusalem, will be resurrected in the sight of the people (see **Revelation 11:11–12**): “After three days and a half, on a sudden, the spirit of life from God will enter them; they will arise and stand upon their feet, and great fear will fall upon them that see them. And then they shall hear a voice from heaven saying, ‘Come up hither,’ and they will ascend up to heaven in a cloud, with their enemies beholding them.” (Pratt, *Voice of Warning*, p. 33.)

2. An earthquake will strike the earth, affecting the whole world—the greatest earthquake the world has ever known (**Revelation 11:13; 16:18**)

Elder McConkie taught:

*“Three natural changes in the earth—all apparently growing out of one transcendent happening—are here named [**Revelation 16:17–21**] as attending our Lord’s Second Coming. They are:*

*“Earth’s land masses shall unite; islands and continents shall become one land.*

*” Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain shall be made low; the rugged terrain of today shall level out into a millennial garden.*

*“Such an earthquake as has never been known since man’s foot was planted on this planet shall attend these changes in the earth’s surface and appearance.*

*“And, fourthly, as recorded elsewhere, the great deep—presumably the Atlantic ocean—shall return to its place in the north, ‘and the earth shall be like as it was in the days before it was divided.’ (**D. & C. 133:21–24**.)” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:543.)*

This quake will evidently create a huge spring in Jerusalem which will form a new river, flowing westward to the Mediterranean Sea and eastward to the Dead Sea. Because of this river, the Dead Sea will have its waters healed, that is, it will become a lake with verdant foliage surrounding its shores and fish teeming in its waters (see **Ezekiel 47:6–12**; Joseph Smith, Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 286).

The area around Jerusalem, which is now very hilly and steep, will be smoothed out and become like “a plain” (**Zechariah 14:10**).

3. The Mount of Olives will be split in two, providing an avenue of escape for the house of Israel (see **Zechariah 14:4–5**).

*“All [the prophets] speak of [this day]; and when that time comes, the Lord is going to come out of His hiding place. You can see what a terrible condition it is going to be; and the Jews besieged, not only in Jerusalem but, of course, throughout Palestine are in the siege; and when they are about to go under, then the Lord comes. There will be the great earthquake. The earthquake will not be only in Palestine. There will not be merely the separation of the Mount of Olives, to form a valley that the Jews may escape, but the whole earth is going to be shaken. There will be some dreadful things take place, and some great changes are going to take place, and that you will find written in the book of Ezekiel (38:17–23).”* (Smith, Signs of the Times, p. 170.)

4. As the Jews flee through this avenue of escape they will see their Messiah who has come to deliver them. In **gratitude** and joy they will throw themselves at the feet of the Deliverer and discover the wounds in His hands and feet. Suddenly they will realize that their Messiah is the Messiah who came to them before, and the Jewish nation will be converted to their God. (**Zechariah 14:5**; **12:9–10**; **13:6**; **D&C 45:47–53**.)

5. The Lord’s fury upon the army of Gog will consist of other judgments in addition to the great earthquake:

The armies of Gog will turn upon each other, perhaps in the panic and confusion of the great earthquake (**Ezekiel 38:21**; **Zechariah 14:13**).

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A great rain of fire and hail will shower down upon the army (see **Ezekiel 38:22**). John said the hailstones will weigh a talent, which is about 75.6 pounds or 34.3 kilograms. Ezekiel stated that fire will also be sent against the land of Magog. The account by Ezekiel could very easily be a description of atomic warfare. Isaiah described the fire's effect on the land itself (see **Isaiah 34:9–10**).

A plague will strike the army, causing terrible disease and calamity (see **Zechariah 14:12**; compare **D&C 29:18–20**).

The result will be that only one-sixth of the invading army will survive the Lord's judgments (see **Ezekiel 39:2**), and their power to make war will be destroyed. In Jerusalem itself, 7000 will be slain, and one-tenth of the city destroyed (see **Revelation 11:13**).

So great will be the devastation that for seven years Israel will be able to live off the spoils of war left behind (see **Ezekiel 39:8–10**). It will take seven months to bury the dead, and thereafter burial teams will search out the remaining bodies in an attempt to cleanse the land (see **Ezekiel 39:11–16**). Isaiah said that the Lord "hath delivered them to the slaughter ... and the mountains shall be melted with their blood" (**Isaiah 34:2–3**). Jeremiah stated that the Lord "will give them that are wicked to the sword, ... and the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other" (**Jeremiah 25:31, 33**).

The judgments of the Lord upon the armies of Gog is known in the scriptures as the great day of the Lord's "sacrifice" (see **Isaiah 34:5–6**; **Ezekiel 39:17–22**), the Lord's "controversy with the nations" (**Jeremiah 25:31**), the "supper of the great God" (**Revelation 19:17**), and "the great winepress of the wrath of God".

***Elder Charles W. Penrose summarized the foregoing list of events:***

*"The bankrupt nations, envying the wealth of the sons of Judah, will seek a pretext to make war upon them, and will invade the 'holy land' to 'take a prey and a spoil.' ...*

*“His [Christ’s] next appearance [after coming to his temple] will be among the distressed and nearly vanquished sons of Judah. At the crisis of their fate, when the hostile troops of several nations are ravaging the city and all the horrors of war are overwhelming the people of Jerusalem, he will set his feet upon the Mount of Olives, which will cleave and part asunder at his touch. Attended by a host from heaven, he will overthrow and destroy the combined armies of the Gentiles, and appear to the worshipping Jews as the mighty Deliverer and Conqueror so long expected by their race; and while love, gratitude, awe, and admiration swell their bosoms, the Deliverer will show them the tokens of his crucifixion and disclose himself as Jesus of Nazareth, whom they had reviled and whom their fathers put to death. Then will unbelief depart from their souls, and ‘the blindness in part which has happened unto Israel’ be removed.” (“The Second Advent,” Millennial Star, 10 Sept. 1859, pp. 582–83.)*

## *Suggestions*

Spiritual and Temporal Preparedness

### Reading Materials:

- ✓ *Following the Light of Christ Into His Presence*, John Pontius
- ✓ *Clothed with the Sun*, John P. Pratt (free on internet)
- ✓ *Are Ye Prepared?*, President Thomas S. Monson, Ensign, November 2015

### Other:

- ✓ Fast more than once a month. Attend Sacrament meeting with near perfect attendance.
- ✓ Store up medical supplies for emergency situations.
- ✓ Mark your scriptures: Matthew 24:48



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*Chapter Eight - The Beginning of the End  
The Second Coming and the Millennium*

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Armageddon signals the end of the world, which is defined as “the destruction of the wicked.” But it prepares the way for the ushering in of the millennial reign of Christ and the era of peace that will endure for a thousand years. Mankind will enter a remarkable period of righteousness, health, education, prosperity, and security.

The millennial era could not begin without the widespread destruction of the wicked. Therefore, while the battle of Armageddon is in and of itself a thing horrible to contemplate, it is necessary because of the wickedness of the world, and ultimately it will play an important part in the Lord’s plan for redemption of the world.

***Look at the beautiful blessings promised!***

- **Isaiah 65:17-25**

17 ¶ For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

18 But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an

hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

23 They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.

24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.

***We will love the Lord, he will have delivered us, all the prophets and apostles of old will join him and the saints will also be with him.***

- **D&C 133:52-56**

52 And now the year of my redeemed is come; and they shall mention the loving kindness of their Lord, and all that he has bestowed upon them according to his goodness, and according to his loving kindness, forever and ever.

53 In all their afflictions he was afflicted. And the angel of his presence saved them; and in his love, and in his pity, he redeemed them, and bore them, and carried them all the days of old;

54 Yea, and Enoch also, and they who were with him; the prophets who were before him; and Noah also, and they who were before him; and Moses also, and they who were before him;

55 And from Moses to Elijah, and from Elijah to John, who were with Christ in his resurrection, and the holy apostles, with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, shall be in the presence of the Lamb.

56 And the graves of the saints shall be opened; and they shall come forth and stand on the right hand of the Lamb, when he shall stand upon Mount Zion, and upon the holy city, the New Jerusalem; and they shall sing the song of the Lamb, day and night forever and ever.

***An Important Work is Reserved for the Millennium.***

The work of unifying and preparing the human family for eternity will be a tremendous undertaking. With so many individuals, living or dead, they will need to be given the opportunity to accept or reject the ordinances that will be done for them in the temples.

There is a reason the 1,000 years of a millennial era is needed before final judgment.

***President Joseph Fielding Smith observed:***

*“I know these are unpleasant things. It is not a pleasant thing even for me to stand here and tell you that this is written in the Scriptures. If the Lord has a controversy with the nations, He will put them to the sword. Their bodies shall lie unburied like dung upon the earth. That is not nice, is it, but should we not know it? Is it not our duty to read these things and understand them? Don’t you think the Lord has given us these things that we might know and we might prepare ourselves through humility, through repentance, through faith, that we might escape from these dreadful conditions that are portrayed by these ancient prophets? That is why I am reading them. I feel just as keenly as you do about the condition, and I pray for it to come to an end, but I want it to come to an end right. ...”*

*“So I pray every day of my life that the Lord will hasten His work; and while all this has to take place, I hope He will hasten it, that it may soon come to an end, that peace may come; and so I repeat, as I said in one of the talks some time ago, I am praying for the end of the world because I want a better world. I want the coming of Christ. I want the reign of peace. I want the time to come when every man can live in peace and in the spirit of faith, humility and prayer.”* (Signs of the Times, pp. 154–55, 175.)



## APPENDIX

I asked different people in my study group if they would give me their favorite scriptures or prophetic quotes that show the promises the Lord has made to his people during the end-times. This Appendix is a list of those that were contributed.

*Alicia B.*

I wanted to look back over the talks President Monson has given and what was the theme. Here are quotes.

### **April 2017 – Kindness, Charity and Love**

Brethren, let us examine our lives and determine to follow the Savior's example by being kind, loving, and charitable. And as we do so, we will be in a better position to call down the powers of heaven for ourselves, for our families, and for our fellow travelers in this sometimes difficult journey back to our heavenly home. I so pray in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord, amen.

### **April 2017 – The Power of the Book of Mormon**

This morning I speak about the power of the Book of Mormon and the critical need we have as members of this Church to study, ponder, and apply its teachings in our lives. The importance of having a firm and sure testimony of the Book of Mormon cannot be overstated.

We live in a time of great trouble and wickedness. What will protect us from the sin and evil so prevalent in the world today? I maintain that a strong testimony of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and of His gospel will help see us through to safety. If you are not reading the Book of Mormon each day, please do so.

### **Oct. 2016 – Principles and Promises**

With his strength depleted, as he grimly contemplated his fate, John silently cried unto God, telling Him that he had always kept the Word of Wisdom and had lived a clean life—and he now desperately needed the promised blessings.

John later said that as he finished his prayer, he felt a great surge of strength. He began climbing once again and fairly flew up the rope.

### **Oct. 2016 – Principles and Promises**

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### **Oct. 2016 – The Perfect Path to Happiness**

Essential to the plan is our Savior, Jesus Christ. Without His atoning sacrifice, all would be lost. It is not enough, however, merely to believe in Him and His mission. We need to work and learn, search and pray, repent and improve. We need to know God’s laws and live them. We need to receive His saving ordinances. Only by so doing will we obtain true, eternal happiness.

We are blessed to have the truth. We have a mandate to share the truth. Let us live the truth that we might merit all that the Father has for us. He does nothing save it be for our benefit. He has told us, “This is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.”

### **April 2016 – A Sacred Trust**

We read in the Doctrine and Covenants, section 121, verse 36, “The rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven.” What a wonderful gift we have been given. Ours is the responsibility to guard and protect that priesthood and to be worthy of all the glorious blessings our Father in Heaven has in store for us—and for others through us.

Wherever you go, your priesthood goes with you. Are you standing in holy places? Before you put yourself and your priesthood in jeopardy by venturing into places or participating in activities which are not worthy of you or of that priesthood, pause to consider the consequences.

Continued ...

Then the Holy Spirit spoke to my friend: “You have the priesthood. Command the rescuers to pick you up.”

He did as prompted: “In the name of Jesus Christ and by the power of the priesthood, turnabout and pick us up.”

Within a few minutes the vessel was beside them, helping them on deck. A faithful and worthy bearer of the priesthood, in his extremity, had exercised that priesthood, blessing his life and the lives of others.

May we determine, here and now, ever to be prepared for our time of need, our time of service, our time of blessing.

**April. 2016 - Choices**

I have been thinking recently about choices. It has been said that the door of history turns on small hinges, and so do people's lives. The choices we make determine our destiny.

When we left our premortal existence and entered mortality, we brought with us the gift of agency. Our goal is to obtain celestial glory, and the choices we make will, in large part, determine whether or not we reach our goal.

Continued .....

May we choose to build up within ourselves a great and powerful faith which will be our most effective defense against the designs of the adversary—a real faith, the kind of faith which will sustain us and will bolster our desire to choose the right. Without such faith, we go nowhere. With it, we can accomplish our goals.

**Oct. 2015 – Keep the Commandments**

He has provided us with guidelines which, if we follow them, will see us safely through this often treacherous mortal journey.

Continued .....

We know, however, that the adversary is committed to our failure. He and his hosts are relentless in their efforts to thwart our righteous desires. They represent a grave and constant threat to our eternal salvation unless we are also relentless in our determination and efforts to achieve our goal. The Apostle Peter warns us, “Be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”<sup>3</sup>

Continued .....

... turn the volume down and to be influenced instead by that still, small voice which will guide you to safety.

Continued .....

I plead with you to avoid anything that will deprive you of your happiness here in mortality and eternal life in the world to come. With his deceptions and lies, the adversary will lead you down a slippery slope to your destruction if you allow him to do so.

Continued .....

My brethren, may we keep the commandments! Wonderful and glorious are the rewards which are in store for us if we do.

**Oct. 2015 – Be Thou an Example and a Light**

Recently, as I have been reading and pondering the scriptures, two passages in particular have stayed with me. Both are familiar to us. The first is from the Sermon on the Mount: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” The second scripture is one which came to my mind as I pondered the meaning of the first. It is from the Apostle Paul’s Epistle to Timothy: “Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

I believe the second scripture explains, in great part, how we can accomplish the first. We become examples of the believers by living the gospel of Jesus Christ in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity. As we do so, our lights will shine for others to see.

Each of us came to earth having been given the Light of Christ. As we follow the example of the Savior and live as He lived and as He taught, that light will burn within us and will light the way for others.

**Sept. 2014 – Are We Prepared?**

“Latter-day Saints have been counseled for many years to prepare for adversity by having a little money set aside. Doing so adds immeasurably to security and well-being. Every family has a responsibility to provide for its own needs to the extent possible.

“We encourage you wherever you may live in the world to prepare for adversity by looking to the condition of your finances. We urge you to be modest in your expenditures; discipline yourselves in your purchases to avoid debt. Pay off debt as quickly as you can, and free yourselves from this bondage. Save a little money regularly to gradually build a financial reserve.”

Are we prepared for the emergencies in our lives? Are our skills perfected? Do we live providently? Do we have our reserve supply on hand? Are we obedient to the commandments of God? Are we responsive to the teachings of prophets? Are we prepared to give of our substance to the poor, the needy? Are we square with the Lord?

We live in turbulent times. Often the future is unknown; therefore, it behooves us to prepare for uncertainties. When the time for decision arrives, the time for preparation is past.

*Claire G.*

It's hard for people to separate fear from the events surrounding the second coming, but it IS possible, especially when people are more focused on Zion than on the tribulations.

"So, setting aside fear of the future, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of duty to prepare my life (and to the extent that I can to help prepare the lives of the members of the Church) for that long-prophesied day, for the time when we will make a presentation of the Church to Him whose Church it is." - Elder Holland CES Fireside 2004

Does food storage seem impossible? "My second recommendation: Expect and prepare to accomplish the impossible... As you keep your covenants with increasing precision, and as you defend the Church and kingdom of God on the earth today, the Lord will bless you with strength and wisdom to accomplish the impossible." - President Nelson, Millennials talk, January 10, 2016

"The kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God on the earth will be combined together at Christ's coming - and that time is not far distant. How I wish we could get the vision of this work, the genius of it, and realize the nearness of that great event. I am sure it would have a sobering effect upon us if we realized what is before us." Gordon B. Hinckley 1992

In May of 1981 the Young Men Presidency of the Church stated, "This generation of young men [and] is going to do deeds never done before. You are going to accomplish the seemingly impossible because you are on His errand. Your generation will fight the greatest army of Satanic hosts ever assembled. You will be severely outnumbered. You will need a deep and abiding faith in Christ to survive—and you will survive. The Lord and His servants will triumph, we do know that" (Church News, 9 May 1981, p. 9).

"Through careful planning, most Church members can, over time, establish both a financial reserve and a year's supply of essentials." -1st Pres. letter 2002 "The Lord giveth no commandment unto the children of men, save He shall prepare a way for them, that they may accomplish the thing which He commandeth them." - 1Nephi 3:7

The Lord will make it possible, if we make a firm commitment, for every LDS family to have a year's supply of food reserves. - Elder L. Tom Perry, Nov. 1995.

"As we have been continuously counseled for more than 60 years, let us have some food set aside that would sustain us for a time in case of need. But let us not panic nor go to extremes. Let us be prudent in every respect. And, above all, my brothers and sisters, let us move forward with faith in the Living God and His Beloved Son" Gordon B. Hinckley, in Conference Report, Oct. 2001, 89; or Ensign, Nov. 2001, 73.

“For over forty years, in a spirit of love, members of the Church have been counseled to be thrifty and self-reliant; to avoid debt; pay tithes and a generous fast offering; be industrious; and have sufficient food, clothing, and fuel on hand to last at least one year. Today there are compelling reasons to reemphasize this counsel.” Ezra Taft Benson - October Conference, 1980

"There is more salvation and security in wheat than in all the political schemes of the world." - Brigham Young (Journal of Discourses 2: 207) (Ezra Taft Benson is also quoted to have said this.)

“Church members can begin their home storage by storing the basic foods that would be required to keep them alive if they did not have anything else to eat. Depending on where members live, those basics might include water, wheat or other grains, legumes, salt, honey or sugar, powdered milk, and cooking oil.” ... “When members have stored enough of these essentials to meet the needs of their family for one year, they may decide to add other items that they are accustomed to using day to day.” ... “Families who do not have the resources to acquire a year’s supply can begin their storage by obtaining supplies to last for a few months. Members should be prudent and not panic or go to extremes in this effort.” – The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in a letter to General Authorities; Area Authority Seventies; Stake, Mission, and District Presidents; Bishops and Branch Presidents January 20, 2002

“Life is made up of small daily acts. Savings in food budgets come by

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pennies, not only by dollars. Clothing budgets are cut by mending stitch by stitch, seam by seam. Houses are kept in good repair nail by nail. Provident homes come not by decree or by broad brushstroke. Provident homes come from small acts performed well day after day. When we see in our minds the great vision, then we discipline ourselves by steady, small steps that make it happen." (Barbara B. Smith, former Relief Society general president - Ensign, Nov. 1980, p. 86.)

"Consider the important (food storage) program which we must never forget nor put in the background. As we become more affluent and our bank accounts enlarge, there comes a feeling of security, and we feel sometimes that we do not need the supply that has been suggested by the Brethren. . . . We must remember that conditions could change and a year's supply of basic commodities could be very much appreciated by us or others. So we would do well to listen to what we have been told and to follow it explicitly" (Spencer W. Kimball, in Conference Report, Apr. 1976, 170; or Ensign, May 1976, 124).

"Those families will be fortunate who, in the last days, have an adequate supply of food because of their foresight and ability to produce their own" (Ezra Taft Benson, in Conference Report, Oct. 1980, 47; or Ensign, Nov. 1980, 33).

"There is a wise old saying 'Eat it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without'. Thrift is a practice of not wasting anything. Some people are able to get by because of the absence of expense. They have their shoes resoled, they patch, they mend, they sew, and they save money. They avoid installment buying, and make purchases only after saving enough to pay cash, thus avoiding interest charges. Frugality means to practice careful economy." James E. Faust

"The Lord has warned us of famines, but the righteous will have listened to the Prophet and stored at least a year's supply of survival food." Ezra Taft Benson

"Let us be in a position so we are able to not only feed ourselves through home production and storage, but others as well" (Ezra Taft Benson, in Conference Report, Oct. 1980, 48; or Ensign, Nov. 1980, 34).

"We encourage you to follow this counsel with the assurance that a people prepared through obedience to the commandments of God need not fear" (First Presidency letter, 24 June 1988).

"Perhaps if we think . . . of what it would take to keep us alive in case we didn't have anything else to eat, that . . . would be very easy to put in storage for a year . . . just enough to keep us alive if we didn't have anything else to eat" (Harold B. Lee, quoted in Ezra Taft Benson, "Prepare Ye," *Ensign*, Jan. 1974, 81).

- Ezra Taft Benson (General Conference, October 1973)

"For the righteous, the gospel provides a warning before calamity, a program for the crises, refuge for each disaster... The Lord has warned us of famines, but the righteous will have listened to the prophets and stored at least one year's supply of survival food..."

- Gordon B. Hinckley (General Conference, October 1992)

"The kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God on the earth will be combined together at Christ's coming - and that time is not far distant. How I wish we could get the vision of this work, the genius of it, and realize the nearness of that great event. I am sure it would have a sobering effect upon us if we realized what is before us."

- Howard W. Hunter "I promise you in the name of the Lord whose servant I am that God will always protect and care for his people. We will have our difficulties the way every generation and people have had difficulties. But with the gospel of Jesus Christ, you have every hope and promise and reassurance. The Lord has power over his Saints and will always prepare places of peace, defense, and safety for his people."

Bishop Keith B. McMullin, (*Lay Up in Store*, May 2007, *Ensign*) "Latter-day Prophets Speak on Preparedness," *Ensign*, Aug. 2007, 33 - 2nd Counselor Presiding Bishopric

"A cardinal principle of the gospel is to prepare for the day of scarcity... And, brethren, we lay up in store! Then, "through [the Lord's] providence, notwithstanding the tribulation . . . the church [and its people will] stand independent..."..and ... we lay up in store! By doing these things, "the Lord shall have power over his saints, and shall reign in [our] midst."

Vaughn J. Featherstone (Ensign May 1976, pg. 116)

“I bear my humble witness to you that the great God of heaven will open doors and means in a way we never would have supposed, to help all those who truly want a years supply...

All we have to do is to decide, commit to it, and then keep the commitment. Miracles will take place...”

Bishop Keith B. McMullin (Oct 2005 General Conference) (Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric)

Faith, spirituality, and obedience produce a prepared and self-reliant people. As we obey the covenant of tithing, we are shielded from want and the power of the destroyer. Similar blessings come as we obey the counsel of the prophets and live within our means, avoid unnecessary debt, and set aside sufficient of life's necessities to sustain ourselves and our families for at least a year.

Wilford Woodruff (Journal of Discourses, 18:121.)

"The Lord is not going to disappoint either Babylon or Zion, with regard to famine, pestilence, earthquake or storms. . . . Lay up your wheat and other provisions against a day of need, for the day will come when they will be wanted, and no mistake about it. We shall want bread, and the Gentiles will want bread, and if we are wise we shall have something to feed them and ourselves when famine comes."

Are we prepared for the emergencies in our lives? Are our skills perfected? Do we live providently? Do we have our reserve supply on hand? Are we obedient to the commandments of God? Are we responsive to the teachings of prophets? Are we prepared to give of our substance to the poor, the needy? Are we square with the Lord? We live in turbulent times. Often the future is unknown; therefore, it behooves us to prepare for uncertainties. When the time for decision arrives, the time for preparation is past. September 2014 Ensign, President Monson

Near the time of the coming of Jesus Christ, the faithful Saints will build a righteous city, a city of God, called the New Jerusalem. Jesus Christ Himself will rule there. (See 3Nephi 21:23–25; Moses 7:62–64; Articles of Faith 1:10.) The Lord said the city will be built in the state of Missouri in the United States (see D&C 84:2–3)." -Gospel Principles Chapter 43

"The Lord gives these signs to help us. We can put our lives in order and prepare ourselves and our families for those things yet to come. 1 Thessalonians 5:1–6" -Gospel Principles Chapter 43

“And all those who will obey his commandments are his elect, and he will soon gather them from the four winds of heaven, from one quarter of the earth to the other [see Matthew 24:31], to a place whithersoever he will; therefore, in your patience possess ye your souls [see Luke 21:19].”<sup>20</sup> - Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith, (2011), 248–60

Article of Faith 10 "We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory."

It would be pleasing if all the Saints had strong faith and confidence, but sometimes many seem to falter in their feelings. I do not know how many I might find in this congregation who would have faith enough to believe that we could live on the tops of these high mountains, which are 6,619 feet higher than the Temple Block, in case we were called to go up there and live, and there was no other place for us; I do not know whether a great many in this congregation could have faith to believe that we could live there.

Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Vol 3, p.153

A great many suppose that when they get there they will be perfectly safe. You will, if you keep the commandments of God; but if you cannot learn to keep the commandments of God in Great Salt Lake City, how can you learn to keep them when you have to flee to the mountains? And if you cannot keep them here, how do you expect to keep them in Jackson County?—for we are as sure to go back there as we exist.

Heber C. Kimball, Journal of Discourses, Vol 5, p.134

*Brad D.*

D&C 46:7

But Ye are commanded in all things to ask of God who giveth liberally; and that which the Spirit testifies unto you even so I would that ye should do in all holiness of heart,

The promise is "the Spirit will testify" regarding our supplications and petitions on all matters. Not if, but when.

This section goes on to warn against deception and then outlines the gifts of the Spirit as the means by which we are to overcome satanic and man-made traps. This pattern is crucial now and will be the powerful process of personal revelation by which we successfully navigate through the days ahead.

I also love that this section clearly states we all have something unique to contribute and thus share in the burden together.

*Damn N.*

1Nephi 17

1 And we did travel and wade through much affliction in the wilderness; and our women did bear children in the wilderness. 2 And so great were the blessings of the Lord upon us, that while we did live upon raw meat in the wilderness, our women did give plenty of suck for their children, and were strong, yea, even like unto the men; and they began to bear their journeyings without murmurings. 3 And thus we see that the commandments of God must be fulfilled. And if it so be that the children of men keep the commandments of God he doth nourish them, and strengthen them, and provide means whereby they can accomplish the thing which he has commanded them; wherefore, he did provide means for us while we did sojourn in the wilderness.

2Nephi 1:6–7

6 Wherefore, I, Lehi, prophesy according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me, that there shall none come into this land save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord.

7 Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. And

if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them; wherefore, they shall never be brought down into captivity; if so, it shall be because of iniquity; for if iniquity shall abound cursed shall be the land for their sakes, but unto the righteous it shall be blessed forever.

9 Wherefore, I, Lehi, have obtained a promise, that inasmuch as those whom the Lord God shall bring out of the land of Jerusalem shall keep his commandments, they shall prosper upon the face of this land; and they shall be kept from all other nations, that they may possess this land unto themselves. And if it so be that they shall keep his commandments they shall be blessed upon the face of this land, and there shall be none to molest them, nor to take away the land of their inheritance; and they shall dwell safely forever.

2Nephi 29:1-2

1 But behold, there shall be many—at that day when I shall proceed to do a marvelous work among them, that I may remember my covenants which I have made unto the children of men, that I may set my hand again the second time to recover my people, which are of the house of Israel;

2 And also, that I may remember the promises which I have made unto thee,

2Nephi 30:6-7

6 And then shall they rejoice; for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God; and their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a pure and a delightsome people.

7 And it shall come to pass that the Jews which are scattered also shall begin to believe in Christ; and they shall begin to gather in upon the face of the land; and as many as shall believe in Christ shall also become a delightsome people.

Deuteronomy 11

26 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;

27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day:

28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

Deuteronomy 28

1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.

3 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

4 Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

5 Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

6 Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

7 The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

8 The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

9 The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways.

10 And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee.

11 And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy

body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

12 The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

13 And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

14 And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Psalm 33

12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

*Jacque*

This has become my anthem. I have sung these words many times, with tears streaming down my cheeks, through what has been a difficult year's journey.

Isaiah 41:10

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

*Lacey A.*

Holiness

See also God, the Standard of Righteousness; Holy; Peculiar People; Purity; Righteousness; Sacred; Sanctification

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who is like thee, glorious in holiness, Ex. 15:11.

like the engravings of a signet, Holiness to the Lord, Ex. 28:36 (39:30).

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, 1 Chr. 16:29 (Ps. 29:2; 96:9).

God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness, Ps. 47:8.

in the mountain of his holiness, Ps. 48:1.

holiness becometh thine house, Ps. 93:5.

an highway ... called The way of holiness, Isa. 35:8.

from the habitation of thy holiness, Isa. 63:15.

Israel was holiness unto the Lord, Jer. 2:3.

shall there be upon the bells of the horses, Holiness unto the Lord, Zech. 14:20.

In holiness and righteousness before him, Luke 1:75.

as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk, Acts 3:12.

yield your members servants ... unto holiness, Rom. 6:19.

perfecting holiness in the fear of God, 2 Cor. 7:1.

created in righteousness and true holiness, Eph. 4:24.

unblameable in holiness before God, 1 Thes. 3:13.

not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness, 1 Thes. 4:7.

if they continue in faith and charity and holiness, 1 Tim. 2:15.

that we might be partakers of his holiness, Heb. 12:10.

judged of him according to the truth and holiness, 2 Ne. 2:10.

how great the holiness of our God, 2 Ne. 9:20.

shall be brought to see ... the holiness of Jesus Christ, Morm. 9:5.

walking in holiness before the Lord, D&C 20:69.

give heed ... walking in all holiness, D&C 21:4.

that which the Spirit testifies ... do in all holiness, D&C 46:7.

thy house, a place of thy holiness, D&C 109:13.

after their pain, shall be sanctified in holiness, D&C 133:35.

also another one on holiness is Sister McConkie's talk she gave just recently.

*Nicole M.*

Hi Shelle - I came across these verses in an unrelated topic. I don't think they apply to the 3rd book, not sure if you have them yet for future presentations.

D&C 61: 15-16, 24-25

15 Wherefore, the days will come that no flesh shall be safe upon the waters.

16 And it shall be said **in days to come** that none is able to go up to the land of Zion upon the waters, but he that is upright in heart.

24 Behold, I, the Lord, have appointed a way for the journeying of my saints; and behold, this is the way—that after they leave the canal they shall journey by land, inasmuch as they are commanded to journey and go up

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unto the land of Zion;

25 And they shall do like unto the children of Israel, pitching their tents by the way.

*Julie K.*

2Nephi 6:13-14

13 "Wherefore, they that fight against Zion and the covenant people of the Lord shall lick up the dust of their feet; and *the people of the Lord shall not be ashamed. For the people of the Lord are they who wait for him*; for they still wait for the coming of the Messiah."

14 "And behold, according to the words of the prophet, the Messiah will set himself again the second time to recover them; wherefore, he will manifest himself unto them *in power and great glory, unto the destruction of their enemies*, when that day cometh when they shall believe in him; and none will he destroy that believe in him."

Isaiah 51:7-8

7 "Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; *fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.*"

8 "For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but *my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.*"

Isaiah 54:7-8,10,17

7 "For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with *great mercies will I gather thee.*"

8 "In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but *with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee*, saith the LORD thy Redeemer."

10 "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, *neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed*, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee."

17 "*No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper*; and every tongue that

shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD."

*David R.*

1 Thessalonians 5:2-20

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

19 Quench not the Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesyings.

*Barb S.*

D&C Section 25

1 Hearken unto the voice of the Lord your God, while I speak unto you, Emma Smith, my daughter; for verily I say unto you, all those who receive my gospel are sons and daughters in my kingdom.

2 A revelation I give unto you concerning my will; and if thou art faithful and walk in the paths of virtue before me, I will preserve thy life, and thou shalt receive an inheritance in Zion.

3 Behold, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou art an elect lady, whom I have called.

4 Murmur not because of the things which thou hast not seen, for they are withheld from thee and from the world, which is wisdom in me in a time to come.

*Helen P.*

Hebrews 13:2

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

I think of that verse when contemplating the endowment, angels appearing to Adam and Eve without disclosing their identity.

This is the third book in a series. The first two books, *The Great Gathering* and *The Great Awakening* were written as a compilation of collected files that show patterns in the scriptures, leadership quotes, dreams, visions, and current political events in relation to end-time prophecies.

This book is written to reflect a "roadmap" of the events that are prophesied to occur with a cache of scriptures, and unique insights as given by latter day prophets and general authorities. The purpose is to encourage the reader to take a positive approach to preparedness, remove the fear and focus on the Lord's promises to his followers.

The title of this book was taken from a fireside address by Elder Neal A. Maxwell where he described our generation as being "drenched in destiny". The author felt it was a fitting description for all who are waiting and watching the events of the last days unfold and give cause to reflect on our unique responsibilities as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

This is not an official publication of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The opinions and views expressed herein belong solely to the author.



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