THE NEXT 25 YEARS   
Essential Excerpts from a Talk by W. Cleon Skousen   
Given Late 1998   
  
So I turn to John...who saw our day. It begins on Chapter 8, Verse 1; he says At the opening of the seventh seal the half hour of silence will begin in heaven....if the half hour of silence begins at the opening of the seventh seal, that’s next year (2000)....That’s probably only true if our calendar is right....now the question is, is it on target?   
  
In the 20th Section of D&C the Lord uses the Gregorian calendar, and says I want the organization of my restored church to be on the 6th day of April when it is one thousand, eight hundred and thirty years since came I in the flesh. In the 21st section He uses the Gregorian calendar again. So I feel pretty good about that. If He uses the calendar, I’m going to use it. In the 88th Section it says that at the end of the half hour of silence is the second coming.   
  
The Lord says I’ve never revealed the day or the hour of the second coming. What about the year? And so I have here a reference that you’ll be interested in where Bruce R. McConkie ...says “undoubtedly we’re talking about a period that can be calculated for a half an hour. Abraham and Peter both speak of God’s day equal to one thousand of our years....you divide 1000 by 24 to see if you can find out how long one of God’s hours is, and it’s just under 42 years. What’s a ½ hour? It’s just under 21 years. So I use that as a basis for thinking that we are moving into a very exciting period starting with Y2K. Everybody’s worried about the computers. That’s not all I’m worried about.   
  
I want to know what begins with the ½ hour of silence. So I get over to reading John now; he’s supposed to have the inside story. He doesn’t say anything about history until he gets to Chapter 13. Revelations 13 says, during these 21 years, that is after the ½ hour of silence begins, you have 2 monumental dictatorships. The first one is identified by a beast that rises out of the sea. Some of those good friends of Hartman Recktor with whom he’s associated suggested that was probably the North Atlantic Treaty. That was the one that fought WW2, that’s the organization that then developed into the United Nations, and that is the organization that is now gradually taking over more and more power, the new world order. So I’m watching the new world order very carefully. These are all conclusions on my part, but they fit. So I’m watching the new world order. Will it fulfill John’s prophecy? He says it will gradually accumulate power to the point where it dominates the whole world. I watch it sending a ½ million troops, American troops at a time into this part of the world or that part of the world to enforce peace whether the people want it or not. It will not allow people to fight a war for their independence or for whatever purpose if they don’t agree to it. This new world order is becoming tremendously powerful.....If our calendar is on target, we’re moving into the ½ hour of silence next year (2000)...The silence is in heaven, not down here....  
  
Now, beginning with Chapter 13, you have the beast rise up out of the sea, and it was an ugly, gruesome creature. John says that it will set up a world dictatorship, and it will get to a peak of 3 ½ years, and then it will turn on the saints. Now that’s an interesting verse. Verse 7 in Chapter 13. Turn on the saints. Well, I think that means turn on good people, and as a result of that it will be wiped out. John never tells you how it’s wiped out. He says, they who live by the sword die by the sword and the faith of the saints was vindicated. Well, John, you can’t do that to us. Nephi didn’t give us the details. We thought you would. Well, he’s given you all you need.....So he left out the story....The story is contained over on the other side of the page. Because America gets **cleansed** at that time. Not only is the dictatorship wiped out, so are the dominant wicked gentiles who inhabit this continent.  
  
When it was seen in vision by Joseph Smith, he said I was amazed how the population of the entire continent was reduced to a point where there’ll be plenty of room for the 10 tribes when they come. However, there are 3 groups that gather to America to help build it back up again, and build the New Jerusalem, and build Zion’s cities from one tip of the continent to the other. This western hemisphere is a very special place in the eyes of God.   
  
Three groups will survive:  
1. All the members of the kingdom who have covenanted with God are brought to America after it is cleansed. That’s all thru the scriptures.   
2. All of those who are righteous gentiles have a right to be preserved, and Brigham Young said when we set up God’s kingdom don’t expect everybody to be members of our particular church. All the righteous who will be preserved will also be with us, and we’ll put our arms around them and call them brother.....  
3. Now the other group are people that see the 2nd dictatorship rising and they want to get out of Europe. John says this beast is the one that rises out of the earth. And we know the name of this one...It’s Gog and Magog. And so they are invited by those of us who survive in America to all come to America. They are they who don’t want to be drafted into the new dictatorship. They are invited to come to America. You got 3 groups that are promised sanctuary in the new America after its cleansing.   
  
Then guess what happens. D&C says that when that signal goes out to gather, don’t dally or you won’t be able to get to America. Why not? Luke saw the vison of it and he said you could neither fly nor sail. You couldn’t get to America after the storms begin. This whole continent is isolated after the gathering. And you got 3 classes of people who will help build the New Jerusalem, they’ll help build Zion’s cities, and we’ll set up what is called God’s law. All that’s in the scriptures, kind of tucked away here and there. That’s the future. And I’m sure God would want us to glean that material out so that when the cleansing comes, we could be a little of the rough side. It isn’t going to be easy for a while. We will know that great things are right up there in the offing....  
  
The second dictatorship doesn’t touch us....That’s a most interesting thing. 45th Section of the D&C. As the 2nd dictatorship rises in power with Gog, Prince Gog, head of the gentiles, coming down out of the North, to attack and take over the whole world, except Zion. I don’t know what scares him, but he doesn’t dare touch Zion. And I’m not sure whether the storm’s keeping him away, but Luke saw what it is, but definitely says he will not dare to attack Zion. So what he does is to set up what turns out to be the battle of Armageddon. This is the Lord’s plan for the Jews. My feeling is that during the 1st dictatorship, if they have their way, they’re going to take all the oil away from the Arabs. The reason that I assume that is because as the 2nd dictatorship is set up the Jews are all gathered to Israel, rebuild the city, and no Arab objects to the building of the temple, which they do right now....   
  
As I contemplate all the facts here, I can visualize the 1st dictatorship, especially based on some of the books that have been written by some of the gentile leaders, that they are going to take all of the oil away from the Arabs....Something happens so that the Jews are able to build their temple under the 2nd dictatorship without any resistance. And they rebuild the city, rebuild the walls. It’s wonderful. Now there’s always a danger in gathering all your wealth to one place.   
  
And that’s what the Jews will do. The temple in Jerusalem will be just loaded with the wealth of the Jews from all over the world....The mark of the beast, John says, is not adopted until the 2nd dictatorship....No, it won’t come to America, it will not. He (Gog) won’t come to America. The Lord assures us he will not dare attack America while we’re building the New Jerusalem.  
  
My question is why don’t we go over and help the Jews a little later on, because they’re going to need some help. We’ll be so busy doing what we have to do that we don’t appear to be involved in Armageddon in any way. I’m talking to you as fellow students, now, and I should say that God says that during the cleansing not only will the wicked gentiles be destroyed, so will the wicked members of the Church, and that’s Section 112. And He says from my house the destruction will begin, and from my house will it spread, and especially those that have gone into my temple and blasphemed my name - by lying to the bishop or stake president, you know, to get a recommend or whatever. That’s going to be a very serious offense in the eyes of the Lord, and He said those’ll be the first to go down, and it will be by plague and by sword, etc. ...  
  
Now He describes how the cleansing occurrs in the 97th Section, 26th Verse. In the 25th Verse we have our insurance policy. Stay close to me and you’ll go thru the cleansing without a problem. No, I shouldn’t put it that succinctly. You’ll survive in good order. Your insurance policy is in 97:25. For those that get behind in their premiums it’s 97:26. Don’t get behind in your premiums. The Lord said stay close to me, I will work it out....I will protect those who are faithful. ...  
  
Anyway, after Jerusalem is all built up and everything is in fine order, that’s a great temptation to guess whom. And when they (Gog and the gentile leaders) come down, they just wipe out all the cities in Palestine, demolish them, till they reach Jerusalem, and then, as they try to destroy Jerusalem, they are suddenly faced with curtains of fire that come down around that city, and they learn from their intelligence service, no doubt, that there’s a couple of prophets in there, and they’re calling down fire from heaven and it kills gentiles. It kills Gog and his people like 60, so they just for 3 ½ years they just sit there and then they get up the courage to try again...Now who are these 2 prophets? They are undoubtedly chosen servants of God. They are serving the King whose name is David...he is the one who supervises the building of the temple, and he’s in charge during the 3½ years that Gog is attacking Jerusalem. And they save the city for 3½ years,----   
  
I think you know the rest of the story. I only intended to share with you Brother Skousen’s description of events between now and then, which I transcribed from a recording of his talk.  
  
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