

PREPARING FOR THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD: FIVE INDICATORS OF HOW SOON THE END?

The Son of Man. . . will reign till he descends on the earth to put all enemies under his feet, which time is nigh at hand— I, the Lord God, have spoken it; but the hour and the day no man knoweth, neither the angels in heaven, nor shall they know until he comes (D&C 49:6-7; see also 39:7, JS-M 1:40).

1. THE BOOK OF REVELATION & THE GRAND OVERVIEW OF HISTORY

Key Scriptures: Revelation 5:1-7, 12-13; D&C 77:6-10, 13.

2. THE LORD SPECIFICALLY SAYS THE TIME IS “NEAR.”

Key Scriptures: D&C 110:16; D&C 35:15 (see also D&C 43:17; 45:37, 49:6; 58:4; 63:53; 104:59; JS-M 1:38; Luke 21:30; Joel 2:1); D&C 33:3; D&C 64:23-24; JS-H 1:40-41, 45.

3. THE ANGELS OF DESTRUCTION ARE NOW LOOSED.

Key Scriptures: Revelation 7:1; D&C 77:8; D&C 38:11-12; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; D&C 86:1-7.

Prophetic Commentary

- **Wilford Woodruff:** God has held the angels of destruction for many years lest they should reap down the wheat with the tares. But. . . those angels have left the portals of heaven and are hovering over this people and this nation now, and are hovering over the earth waiting to pour out the judgments. And from this very day they shall be poured out” (*Young Women’s Journal*, 5:512-13). First stated at dedication of the Salt Lake Temple, April 6, 1893).
- **Wilford Woodruff.** What is the matter with the world today? . . . Why these terrible earthquakes, tornadoes, and judgments? What is the meaning of all these mighty events that are taking place? The meaning is, these angels that have been held for many years in the temple of our God have got their liberty to go out and commence their mission and their work in the earth, and they are here today in the earth (*Discourses*, 251, October 8, 1894).
- **Wilford Woodruff.** The day is come when those angels are privileged to go forth and commence their work. They are laboring in the United States of America; they are laboring among the nations of the earth; and they will continue. These things are at our doors, and neither you nor I can hinder them. We need not marvel or wonder at anything that is transpiring in the earth (*Discourses*, 252, October 4, 1896).
- **Dallin H. Oaks.** For example, the list of major earthquakes in *The World Almanac and Book of Facts*, 2004 shows twice as many earthquakes in the decades of the 1980s and 1990s as in the two preceding decades (pp. 189–90). It also shows further sharp increases in the first several years of this century. The list of notable floods and tidal waves and the list of hurricanes, typhoons, and blizzards worldwide show similar increases in recent years (pp. 188–89). Increases by comparison with 50 years ago can be dismissed as changes in reporting criteria, but the accelerating pattern of natural disasters in the last

few decades is ominous (*Ensign*, May, 2004).

4. THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES: THE FIG TREE IS IN LEAF

Key Scriptures: Matthew 24:32; D&C 68:11; D&C 45:34-40; D&C 1:35; D&C 43:25; D&C 45:26; 1 Nephi 14:12.

Prophetic Commentary:

- **Bruce R. McConkie.** In every age the Lord sends forth clearly discernible signs and warnings so that those who are spiritually inclined can know his dealings with men. In the meridian of time, when Jewish tempters . . . came desiring that “he would shew them a sign from heaven,” he rebuked and derided them by asking, “Can you not discern the signs of the times?” (Matthew 16:1-4) (*Mormon Doctrine*, 2nd ed, 715).
- **Melvin J. Ballard.** I am sure also that God is moving in Russia. Much as we are disturbed over the tyranny and the oppression that is waged against religion in that land today, it is not a new thing, for that has been the order for ages. But I can see God moving also in preparing the way for other events that are to come. The field that has gone to wild oats needs to be plowed up and harrowed and prepared for a new seed. So in Russia. It may seem appalling to us, but it is God breaking up and destroying an older order of things, and the process will be the accomplishment of God’s purposes within a very short period of time, which normally may have taken generations. But that people will come back, for I bear witness that there are thousands of the blood of Israel in that land, and God is preparing the way for them.” (*CR*, April 1930, 157).

5. THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES ARE BEING FULFILLED

Key Scriptures: JST Luke 21:24-25; JS-H 1:41; D&C 45:18-31;

Prophetic Commentary:

- **Bruce R. McConkie (1966).** Obviously, the fulfilling of the Gentiles will not come at a specified moment; it will involve a period of time. We are living in that transition period (*Mormon Doctrine*, 2nd ed, 722).
- **Joseph Fielding Smith.** In this dispensation there is a reversal of this commandment given to the Twelve in former days when they were commanded to go first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles. The Lord said that in these last days the first should be last and the last should be first. Since the restoration of the gospel it has been carried to the Gentile nations, and soon it will be taken to the Jews. Fulfillment of prophecy indicates that the days, or “times of the Gentiles,” are about fulfilled, and the days of Judah are now at hand.” (JFS, DS 3:144).
- **Joseph Fielding Smith.** Jesus said the Jews would be scattered among all nations and Jerusalem would be trodden down of the by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled. . . . Jerusalem, . . . is no longer trodden down but is made the home for the Jews. They are returning to Palestine, and by this we may know that the times of the Gentiles are near their close (*IE*, June, 1966, 499).