

President Nelson

“We live in the day that ‘our forefathers have awaited with anxious expectation.’ We have front-row seats to witness live what the prophet Nephi saw only in vision, that ‘the power of the Lamb of God’ would descend ‘upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory.’

You, my brothers and sisters, are among those men, women, and children whom Nephi saw. Think of that!” (‘Hear Him’, April 2020 General Conference)

President Nelson quoted one of the most dramatic and pivotal prophecies in scripture, seen also by Daniel, John the revelator and many other prophets, and he identified us as the ones that will live to see it come to pass. This is the greatest prophecy I've heard any living prophet ever speak to a generation.

And then he invited us to “think of that!”

He quoted the part of Nephi's prophecy that describes how Zion will overcome as all the powers of the earth unite to fight against the saints of God.

Nephi also saw other events and circumstances leading up to that point. As we follow the prophets invitation to think about and ponder this prophecy, we discover life-changing truths.

All of society will be polarized into two groups one will align themselves with an emerging world government of tyranny, surveillance, and control, the other will resist, stand for liberty, and trust in God for salvation.

Satan's collectivist ideology will cause people to feel that they can't be safe until every person is compelled to live the new world religion of global sustainability.

The polarization of society will be brought about by an increasing display of evidence and deception that will convince all to align themselves either for liberty or captivity.

Do the scriptures really speak of these things? Let's ponder the prophecy and find out!

1 Nephi 14

7 For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other—either to the **convincing** of them unto **peace and life eternal**, or unto the **deliverance** of them to the **hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds unto their being brought down into captivity, and also into destruction, both temporally and spiritually**, according to the captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken.

Convincing unto peace and eternal life	Deliverance unto captivity & destruction
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1 Nephi 14

8 And it came to pass that when the angel had spoken these words, he said unto me: Rememberest thou **the covenants of the Father unto the house of Israel?** I said unto him, Yea.

Convincing unto peace and eternal life

Deliverance unto captivity & destruction

1 Nephi 14

10 And he said unto me: Behold there are save **two churches only**; the one is **the church of the Lamb of God**, and the other is **the church of the devil**; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to **the church of the Lamb of God** belongeth to **that great church**, which is **the mother of abominations**; and she is the whore of all the earth.

11 And it came to pass that I looked and beheld **the whore of all the earth**, and she sat upon many waters; and she had dominion over all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people.

Convincing unto peace and eternal life
the church of the Lamb of God

Deliverance unto captivity & destruction
The church of the devil, that great church, mother of abominations, whore of all the earth

1 Nephi 14

12 And it came to pass that I beheld **the church of the Lamb of God**, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters; nevertheless, I beheld that **the church of the Lamb**, who were **the saints of God**, were also upon all the face of the earth; and their dominions upon the face of the earth were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw.

Convincing unto peace and eternal life
the church of the Lamb of God
The saints of God

Deliverance unto captivity & destruction
The church of the devil, that great
church, mother of abominations, whore
of all the earth

1 Nephi 14

13 And it came to pass that I beheld that **the great mother of abominations** did gather together multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to fight against **the Lamb of God**.

14 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon **the saints of the church of the Lamb**, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory.

Convincing unto peace and eternal life
the church of the Lamb of God
The saints of God

Deliverance unto captivity & destruction
The church of the devil, that great
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of all the earth

1 Nephi 14

15 And it came to pass that I beheld that **the wrath of God was poured out upon that great and abominable church**, insomuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth.

Convincing unto peace and eternal life
the church of the Lamb of God
The saints of God

Deliverance unto captivity & destruction
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1 Nephi 14

7 For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that **I will work a great and a marvelous work** among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other—either to the **convincing** of them unto **peace and life eternal**, or unto the **deliverance** of them to the **hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds unto their being brought down into captivity, and also into destruction, both temporally and spiritually**, according to the captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken.

The Lord calls this a great and a marvelous work that He will perform.

Jeffrey R. Holland

“We are witnessing an ever greater movement toward polarity. The middle-ground options will be removed from us as Latter-day Saints. The middle of the road will be withdrawn.” (Jeffrey R. Holland December 1998, cited by David A. Bednar General Conference Oct. 2020)

Ezra Taft Benson

“I testify that as the forces of evil increase under Lucifer’s leadership and as the forces of good increase under the leadership of Jesus Christ, there will be growing battles between the two until the final confrontation. As the issues become clearer and more obvious, all mankind will eventually be required to align themselves either for **the kingdom of God** or for **the kingdom of the devil.**” (General Conference October. 1988, "I Testify")

The two opposing churches are the result of this polarization.

Knowing that we are among the men, women, and children that Nephi saw, we should better understand what we will witness live. The three questions we will investigate are:

- **Who are the two opposing churches?**
- What motivates one church to fight the other?
- What will polarize everyone into these two groups?

Who are the two opposing churches?

Let's read some other scriptural descriptions of these churches and gather more information about them.

1 Nephi 22

14 And every nation which shall **war against thee, O house of Israel**, shall be turned one against another, and they shall fall into the pit which they digged to ensnare the people of the Lord. And **all that fight against Zion shall be destroyed**, and **that great whore**, who hath perverted the right ways of the Lord, **yea, that great and abominable church, shall tumble to the dust** and great shall be the fall of it.

15 ...the day soon cometh that all the proud and they who do wickedly shall be as stubble; and the day cometh that they must be burned.

16 For the time soon cometh that **the fulness of the wrath of God shall be poured out** upon all the children of men; for **he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous**.

1 Nephi 22

17 Wherefore, **he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it so be that the fulness of his wrath must come**, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, they shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire.

In order to preserve the righteous, the fulness of the wrath of God shall be poured out on those that fight against the house of Israel and against Zion. Namely **the church of the devil**.

2 Nephi 10

15 Wherefore, for this cause, that my covenants may be fulfilled which I have made unto the children of men, that I will do unto them **while they are in the flesh**, I must needs destroy the secret works of darkness, and of murders, and of abominations.

16 Wherefore, **he that fighteth against Zion**, both Jew and Gentile, both bond and free, both male and female, **shall perish**; for they are they who are **the whore of all the earth**; for they who are not for me are against me, saith our God.

The whore of all the earth are those that fight against Zion and they shall perish in the flesh.

Doctrine & Covenants 76 (Speaking of Telestial)

104 These are they who suffer the **wrath of God on earth**.

2 Nephi 6

12 And blessed are the Gentiles, they of whom the prophet has written; for behold, if it so be that **they shall repent and fight not against Zion, and do not unite themselves to that great and abominable church, they shall be saved**; for the Lord God will fulfil his covenants which he has made unto his children;

Those who fight against Zion are the church of the devil. They will inherit the telestial glory and will suffer the wrath of God on earth. Everyone else will be those who don't unite with the church of the devil. They will be of the Terrestrial or Celestial order and will continue on earth into the millennium.

Joseph Fielding Smith

“When the reign of Jesus Christ comes during the millennium, only those who have lived the telestial law will be removed. The earth will be cleansed of all its corruption and wickedness. Those who have lived virtuous lives, who have been honest in their dealings with their fellow man and have endeavored to do good to the best of their understanding, shall remain” (Doctrines of Salvation, 3:62)

Brigham Young

"Do you expect that every person will be destroyed from the face of the earth, but the Latter-day Saints? If you do, you will be mistaken... there will be every sort of sect and party, and every individual following what he supposes to be the best in religion, and in everything else, similar to what it is now. Will there be wickedness then as now? No." (Journal of Discourses 2:47)

Brigham Young

"If the Latter-day Saints think, when the kingdom of God is established on the earth, that all the inhabitants of the earth will join the church called Latter-day Saints, they are egregiously mistaken. I presume there will be as many sects and parties then as now. Still, when the kingdom of God triumphs, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Christ, to the glory of the Father. Even the Jews will do it then; but will the Jews and Gentiles be obliged to belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? No; not by any means."

(Journal of Discourses 11:42)

The church of the devil will be destroyed by the Lord, the church of the Lamb will be saved and live into the millennium.

There will be people of many different faiths in the millennium.

The church of the Lamb is not identified with any single religion, church or organization. Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints doesn't mean that one will be aligned with the church of the Lamb.

If these two churches aren't identified with any single church or institution currently on the earth, then the question remains, how can we identify either of these groups that Nephi saw?

In order to do this we must understand the principles that divide all humanity into these two groups.

1 Nephi 14

24 And behold, the things which this apostle of the Lamb shall write are many things which thou hast seen; and behold, the remainder shalt thou see

27 And I, Nephi, heard and bear record, that the name of the apostle of the Lamb was John, according to the word of the angel.

28 ...and I have written but a small part of the things which I saw. And I bear record that I saw the things which my father saw

John was permitted to write more than Nephi. John, Lehi, and Nephi all had a vision of the same events. But all three writers describe them very differently. It's like three artists painting the same object from different angles. If we study them together we get a more complete understanding.

Nephi

“I beheld that **the great mother of abominations** did gather together multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to fight against **the Lamb of God.**” (1 Nephi 14:13)

John

These shall make war with the Lamb, and **the Lamb** shall overcome them...”
(Revelation 17:14)

Nephi and John saw the same war, but John’s account gives us the details of how this war starts, and what it’s about.

JST Revelation 1

16 And he [Jesus] had in his right hand seven stars...

20 This is the mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand... **The seven stars are the servants** [KJV angels] of the seven churches

Symbolic Keys

Stars servants or angels

1 Nephi 11

25 the rod of iron... was the word of God...

Symbolic Keys

Stars servants or angels

Rod of iron word of god

Doctrine & Covenants 107

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

Symbolic Keys

Stars	servants or angels
Rod of iron	word of god
Michael	Adam’s name in the pre-existence

Other symbols that will be interpreted in the text

Symbolic Keys

Stars	servants or angels
Rod of iron	word of god
Michael	Adam in the pre-existence
Dragon	satan
Woman	the church
Man child	the kingdom of God or Zion

Revelation 12

1 And there appeared a great sign in **heaven in the likeness of things on the earth**: a **woman** clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve **stars**.

2 And the woman, being with child, cried, travailing in birth and pained to be delivered.

3 And she brought forth a **man-child**, who was to rule all nations with a **rod of iron**; and her child was caught up unto God and his throne.

The child would rule all nations with a rod of iron

George Albert Smith

"The Constitution is as much from God as the Ten Commandments" (General Conference April 1948)

Doctrine & Covenants 101:77

“the laws and constitution of the people... should be maintained for the rights and protection of **all flesh**”

The ten commandments and law of Moses are called the Torah (the law). The Torah contains the moral and civic laws of the nation of Israel. The U.S. Constitution is God's political law.

Revelation 12

4 And there appeared another sign in heaven--and behold, a great red **dragon**, having seven heads, and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the **stars** of heaven and did cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the **woman** which was delivered, ready to devour her **child** after it was born.

6 And there was war in heaven; **Michael** and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought against Michael;

When and where did this sign take place?

Revelation 12

7 And the dragon prevailed not against Michael, neither the child, nor the woman, which was the church of God, who had been delivered of her pains and brought forth the kingdom of our God and his Christ.

8 Neither was there place found in heaven for the great dragon, who was cast out--that old serpent called the devil, and also called Satan, which deceiveth the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12

9 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven: Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ;

12 And after these things, I heard another voice saying, Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, yea, and they who dwell upon the islands of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

That whole scene of the church and kingdom and war in the pre-existence was a “sign in heaven in the likeness of things on the earth”. It is a sign, a type, or a pattern of something that will repeat on the earth. The next thing John sees is the same war that Nephi saw. The vision of the war in heaven was given as an introduction to the vision of the war on earth.

JST Revelation 13

1 And I saw another sign in the likeness of the **kingdoms of the earth**: a **beast** rise up out of the sea.

Symbolic Keys

Beast kingdoms of the earth (governments)

Revelation 17

9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven **heads** are seven **mountains**, on which the woman sitteth.

10 And there are seven **kings**...

Symbolic Keys

Beast kingdoms of the earth (governments)

heads of the beast mountains and their kings (territories and their governments)

Revelation 17

12 And the ten **horns** which thou sawest are ten **kings**, which have received **no kingdom** as yet...

Symbolic Keys

Beast	kingdoms of the earth (governments)
heads of the beast	mountains and their kings (territories and their governments)
horns of the beast	powerful people that aren't in government

Revelation 17

15 The **waters** which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are **peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.**

Symbolic Keys

Beast	kingdoms of the earth (governments)
heads of the beast	mountains and their kings (territories and their governments)
horns of the beast	powerful people that aren't in government
sea/waters	the people of the earth

JST Revelation 13

1 And I saw another **sign in the likeness of the kingdoms of the earth**: a **beast** rise up out of the **sea**. And he stood upon the sand of the sea, having seven **heads** and ten **horns**...

2 and the **dragon** gave **him** his power, and his seat, and great authority.

7 And it was given unto **him** to make war with **the saints** and to overcome them; and power was given **him** over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

The beast is a combination of government leaders and other powerful people unified in one entity that fights against the saints

Revelation 17

3 I saw a **woman** sit upon a scarlet coloured **beast**, full of names of blasphemy, having seven **heads** and ten **horns**.

What does sitting upon the beast symbolize?

What is this woman that drives and controls the governments of the earth?

Revelation 17

2 ...the great whore that sitteth upon many **waters**, with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication

Both the heads and horns were referred to as kings.

What does the committing fornication with the whore represent?

Revelation 17 (referring to the heads and horns)

13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

14 **These** shall make war with **the Lamb**, and the Lamb shall overcome them:

These government leaders and powerful people all partake in the same abominable secret society. They share the same ideology and goals. They combine, collaborate and share their power to build up a world governing body, the beast.

Ether 8 (Moroni)

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...**

25 For it cometh to pass that whoso buildeth it up **seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries...**

1 Nephi 14

11 ...I looked and beheld **the whore of all the earth**, and she sat upon many waters; and she had dominion over all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people

13 ...I beheld that **the great mother of abominations** did gather together multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to fight against **the Lamb of God**.

If everyone is polarized into one of these two groups, then who are those aligned with the church of the devil and who are those aligned with the church of the Lamb?

The **church of the devil** are those who align themselves with the emerging world government that seeks to overthrow freedom. The **church of the Lamb** are those who don't unite with it.

What motivates one church to fight the other?

John saw that this war was a continuation of the war in heaven.

As we better understand the principles that motivated the division and war in heaven, we will be able to recognize those same principles in dividing and motivating the war on earth.

Other prophets have revealed the principles of the war in heaven.

Moses 4

1 That Satan... is the same which was from the beginning, and he came before me, saying—Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and **I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it...**

3 Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and **sought to destroy the agency of man**, which I, the Lord God, had given him...**I caused that he should be cast down**

Satan had an alternative plan to save everyone, a meritless plan of safety and security for all that required the destruction of agency, or freedom to choose. Here are some fitting campaign slogans that may have been used for satan's plan. "Better safe than sorry" and "We're all in this together", "I'm choosing to do this for my loved ones"

David O. McKay

President McKay taught of “Two Contending Forces. Those forces are known and have been designated by different terms throughout the ages. ‘In the beginning’ they were known as **Satan** on the one hand, and **Christ** on the other... In these days, they are called ‘**domination by the state**,’ on one hand, ‘**personal liberty**,’ on the other; **communism** on one hand, **free agency** on the other.” (Two Contending Forces. May 18, 1960.)

Ezra Taft Benson

“The central issue in the premortal council was: Shall the children of God have untrammelled agency to choose the course they should follow, whether good or evil, or shall they be coerced and forced to be obedient? Christ and all who followed him stood for the former proposition-freedom of choice; Satan stood for the latter-coercion and force. The war that began in heaven over this issue is not yet over. The conflict continues on the battlefield of mortality. And one of Lucifer’s primary strategies has been to restrict our agency through the power of earthly governments.” (The Constitution a Heavenly Banner. 16 September 1986.)

Gordon B. Hinckley

“That war, so bitter, so intense, has gone on, and it has never ceased. It is the war between truth and error, between agency and compulsion, between the followers of Christ and those who have denied Him. His enemies have used every stratagem in that conflict. They’ve indulged in lying and deceit. They’ve employed money and wealth. They’ve tricked the minds of men. They’ve murdered and destroyed and engaged in every other unholy and impure practice to thwart the work of Christ.” (The War We Are Winning October 1986 General Conference)

Bruce R. McConkie

“...when the Father announced his plan, when he chose Christ as the Redeemer and rejected Lucifer, then there was war in heaven. That war was a war of words; **it was a conflict of ideologies**; it was a rebellion **against God and his laws**. Lucifer sought to dethrone God, to sit himself on the divine throne, and to save all men without reference to their works. He sought to deny men their agency so they could not sin. **He offered a mortal life of carnality and sensuality, of evil and crime and murder**, following which all men would be saved...

Bruce R. McConkie

And so, in the courts of heaven, the war of wars was waged. Christ and Michael and a mighty host of noble and great spirits preached the gospel of God and exhorted their brethren to follow the Father. Lucifer and his lieutenants preached another gospel, a **gospel of fear and hate and lasciviousness and compulsion**. They sought salvation without keeping the commandments, without overcoming the world, without choosing between opposites. And they “prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” And his legions, the legions of hell, are everywhere.

Bruce R. McConkie

They are 'the third part of the stars of heaven,' the one-third of the spirit children of the Father; and they were cast out of their heavenly home because of rebellion. And so the holy word says: "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath." And he goes forth "to make war" with all men and particularly with those who "keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Rev. 12:4-17.) **And the war that is now going on among men, the war between good and evil, is but a continuation of the war that began in heaven.**" (The Millennial Messiah, p.666-667)

The saints of the church of the Lamb are those who stand for individual liberty, trusting in God as the author of human rights, and human dignity. They hold fast to the rod of iron, the word of God, the light of Christ within them and the divine principles set forth in God's political law, the U.S. Constitution. They will receive divine strength by tapping into the power of covenants, including the covenant of America.

Those belonging to the church of the devil seek salvation through the emerging world political system of tyranny, compulsion, surveillance and regulation. They trust in the arm of the flesh to save them.

The same war that divided the sons of perdition in the pre-existence will now divide the Telesial from advancing into the terrestrial millenium.

D. Todd Christofferson

“when people turn from a sense of accountability to God and begin to trust instead in the ‘arm of flesh,’ disaster lurks. Trusting in the arm of flesh is to ignore the divine Author of human rights and human dignity” (‘Sustainable Societies’ October 2020 General Conference)

The ideology of church of the devil

The ideology of the church of the devil is founded on the belief that there is no God, no intelligent design, no purpose in our creation, and no life after death. The atheistic theories of creation and the origins of life emphasize scarcity, and survival of the fittest. Within that framework salvation consists in prolonging existence in mortality as long as possible. Fear of death is the primary motivation. The values of this ideology are focused on the material, while spiritual evidence is rejected and values such as liberty and dignity are secondary.

As those beliefs permeate our culture, Satan introduces the concept of collective salvation. The idea that our salvation depends upon the compliance of all mankind to regulations calculated to save us all.

The ideology of church of the devil

As a fanatical religion this new morality is emerging, using guilt, shame, & scorn towards those who don't comply with the new commandments. Lehi's vision depicts these manipulation and pressure tactics. "...and they were in the attitude of **mocking** and **pointing their fingers** towards those who had come at and were partaking of the fruit. And after they had tasted of the fruit they were **ashamed**, because of those that were **scoffing** at them..." (1 Nephi 8:27-28)

When a person truly believes these doctrines as the foundation for their worldview, it is considered noble, wise, courageous, and selfless to sacrifice liberty for the salvation of the whole, and even to attack the enemies of their salvation, those who dissent and support freedom.

The ideology of church of the Lamb

On the other hand those aligned with the church of the Lamb have a fundamentally different ideological basis for their values and behaviors. Our lives did not begin with birth and do not end in death. This planet was purposefully created for mankind to inhabit. Our physical life on earth has a much greater purpose than to merely survive as long as possible. Our purpose is to be free to experience good and evil that we may know to prize the good. Jesus Christ came to heal and repair the wounds of experiencing evil. As we come to know what is good through experience, we choose good and receive joy like God the Father.

They necessarily conflict

The church of the devil believes that global control through compulsion is the only means of providing security and salvation, which they believe to be the purpose and highest value in life. The opposition necessarily becomes those who won't comply, or who propagate the opposing ideology. The collectivist ideology feels threatened by opposing ideas and therefore demands an offensive approach to eliminating the opposition.

They necessarily conflict

The church of the Lamb believes that freedom to choose is what gives life meaning and purpose and is therefore the highest value. Knowing the risks that freedom brings they trust in the power of Jesus to save. Their salvation is independent from the compliance of others, and thus requires no compulsion. They necessarily defend freedom of conscience from those who seek to control their behavior and prescribe their thoughts. Despite the risk of persecution people are voluntarily drawn to these truths.

Those who believe Christ, can be independently happy under all circumstances. Those who believe satan feel that they can't be safe or happy until everyone subscribes to their beliefs.

What will polarize everyone into these two group?

The Lord is going to cause and escalate this polarization to such a degree that no one will be left unaligned. He calls this “a great and a marvelous work”. How will He do it?

1 Nephi 14

7 For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other—either to the **convincing** of them unto **peace and life eternal**, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds unto their being brought down into captivity, and also into destruction, both temporally and spiritually

What convinces people? Evidence

What knowledge can lead people unto peace and eternal life? The truth.

The Lord will increasingly reveal evidence of the truth.

1 Nephi 14

7 For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other—either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the **blindness of their minds** unto their being brought down into captivity, and also into destruction, both temporally and spiritually

What does blindness of mind imply?

Blinds block light from passing through. Light does not penetrate eyes that are blind. A mind that is blind is one that evidence does not penetrate. The mind is closed.

1 Nephi 14

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What does hardness of heart imply?

Hard objects are not easily molded, shaped, or changed. The heart represents the will, motive, intents, and feelings of a person. A person with a hard heart has unchangeable feelings and intentions. They are obstinate and stubborn.

1 Nephi 14

7 For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other—either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the **deliverance** of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds unto their being brought down into captivity, and also into destruction, both temporally and spiritually

How could people be delivered to unchangeable feelings and closed minds in opposition of the truth? By being convinced of a lie. Evidence of a lie is also called deception.

2 Thessalonians 2 (Paul on the latter-days)

8 And then shall that Wicked be **revealed**...

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all **power and signs and lying wonders**,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause **God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:**

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1 Nephi 14

7 For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other—either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds unto their being brought down into **captivity**, and also into **destruction**, both **temporally** and **spiritually**

They will give up their liberty for the false security offered by the kingdom of the devil. Temporal captivity.

They will be destroyed in the flesh as the wrath of God is poured out upon them. Temporal destruction.

Evidence and Deception

The great and marvelous work of polarizing society consists in the Lord revealing **evidence**, while allowing satan to reveal **deception**, giving people a full excuse to justify the intentions of their hearts, whether for God and His plan of salvation or for satan's opposing plan.

Russell M. Nelson (Evidence)

“Our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, will perform some of His **mightiest works** between now and when He comes again. We will see **miraculous indications** that God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, preside over this Church in majesty and glory. But in coming days, it will not be possible to survive spiritually without the guiding, directing, comforting, and constant influence of the Holy Ghost.” ('Revelation for the Church, Revelation for Our Lives' April 2018 General Conference)

How is it that we can see miraculous indications of the truth while at the same time it being impossible to survive spiritually without personal revelation?

The deception will be equally convincing as the evidence.

The Great Deception

Revelation 17

14 ...and the **Lamb** shall overcome them; for he is **Lord** of lords

Symbolic Keys

The Lamb the Savior

Revelation 17

8 ...the great **dragon**, who was cast out--that old serpent called the devil, and also called **Satan**

Symbolic Keys

The Lamb the Savior

The dragon satan

Revelation 13

11 And I beheld **another beast** coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a **lamb**, and he spake as a **dragon**.

This second beast has the outward appearance of a lamb, a savior, but inwardly speaks as satan. This beast will appear to be caring, loving, concerned, empathetic, and primarily interested in the safety and well-being of all.

Revelation 13

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast,

Where does the first beast get its power? From the dragon (satan), the heads (government leaders), and the horns (other powerful people).

The second beast shares the same power with the first beast. But its role is different. It causes or convinces all to worship, obey, or give their allegiance to the first beast, the church of the devil, the global government system of tyranny.

How does it convince the world to do this?

Moses 4

1 That Satan... came before me, saying—Behold, here am I, send me, **I will be thy son**, and **I will redeem all mankind**, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; **wherefore give me thine honor**.

Satan wants to be obeyed as a god and worshipped by all as a savior. But he can't appear to be a savior to all unless there is something to save us all from. So he must create a common enemy, a universal threat, a global crisis.

Revelation 13

13 And he doeth great **wonders**, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And **deceiveth** them that dwell on the earth **by the means of those miracles** which he had power to do

Is the fire real? Or is it an illusion?

Revelation 13

13 And he doeth great **wonders**, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And **deceiveth** them that dwell on the earth **by the means of those miracles** which he had power to do

Is it something that people will praise and adore, or something that will cause terror and fear?

Revelation 13

13 And he doeth great **wonders**, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And **deceiveth** them that dwell on the earth **by the means of those miracles** which he had power to do

If the beast puts on the appearance of a savior would it want us to know that it is the cause of the terrorizing?

Revelation 13

13 And he doeth great **wonders**, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And **deceiveth** them that dwell on the earth **by the means of those miracles** which he had power to do

Is the fire the only miracle or wonder it performs?

Revelation 13

13 And he doeth great **wonders**, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And **deceiveth** them that dwell on the earth **by the means of those miracles** which he had power to do

A miracle is something that **appears** to be unexplainable, impossible, supernatural, or beyond human ability.

These emergencies appear to be outside the realm of human contrivance, but are in fact manufactured threats to all that live on this planet.

Revelation 13

13 And he doeth great **wonders**, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And **deceiveth** them that dwell on the earth **by the means of those miracles** which he had power to do

What is the purpose of these dangerous and deadly catastrophes?

Revelation 19

20 ...the false prophet that wrought miracles..., with which he deceived them

This miracle working beast is also referred to as "the false prophet" As a doomsday prophet, foretelling civilization-ending consequences, it warns that if the people don't align with the first beast, disaster will follow. This becomes increasingly convincing as these disasters are brought about through artificial means.

Revelation 13

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark...

This global economy will require a mark of identification for monitoring all human activity within the system.

How can manufactured global threats be used to deceive people into accepting such a system of tyranny?

It will claim that this planet cannot sustain our life styles and that these emergencies are caused by unregulated human activity. The purpose is to deceive the nations into accepting the emerging world political system as the solution. It will be proposed as the only way of fighting such global threats.

This beast is a false christ or anti-christ because it proposes an opposing plan of salvation that destroys agency and excludes Jesus Christ.

This anti-Christ false prophet beast will perform a series of global crises calculated to cause fear, terror, and shame intended to cripple the world into accepting total surveillance and control as our only salvation.

Matthew 24

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

The false Christs and false prophets that Jesus warns of don't appear as religious figures. They don't claim to be Jesus Christ or prophets of God. They offer to save us independent of Jesus Christ through a false plan of salvation.

John Taylor (The Coming Crisis & How to Meet It)

“the Devil or Satan also, will be revealed in signs and wonders and in mighty deeds! This, reader, is the great key to all the marvelous events that are to transpire shortly upon the earth.

...He has made some manifestations of his power in different periods of the world, but never before has there been such an array of numbers on his side, never before such a consolidation of armies and rulers, never before has there been such an imposing and overwhelming exhibition of miracles as Satan will shortly make manifest....

...He will be so far unshackled and unchained that his power will deceive all nations, even the world. And the elect will barely escape the power of his sorceries, enchantments, and miracles!

John Taylor (The Coming Crisis & How to Meet It)

It is not to be expected that Satan will carry on his great warfare against Christ and his Saints by means of any one religion exclusively... But the great and abominable Church which you should expect to encounter is Anti-Christ. Whatever exalts and opposes itself to God, that is Anti-Christ, whether it is a civil or religious power. But the most formidable power that will be arrayed against Christ and his Saints in the last days, will consist of the revelations of Satan.

John Taylor (The Coming Crisis & How to Meet It)

These revelations of Satan will come through every medium and channel by which the cunning and power of Satan can be brought to bear against the Saints and their Lord. It is a great mistake to suppose that Satan is altogether a religious personage. No, far from this. He is a politician, a philosopher, an erudite scholar, a linguist, a metaphysician, a military commander, a prince, a god, a necromancer, an enchanter, a diviner, a magician, a sorcerer, a prophet, and (if it were not railing) a clergyman and a liar from the beginning. With these universal endowments, he has never hitherto made a full and grand exhibition of himself, as it remains for him to do... He presides over the arts of astrology, clairvoyance, mesmerism, electro-biology, and all auguries and divinations. Being Prince of the power of the air he understands aeronautic and steam navigation, and he can compose and combine the various elements, through the co-operation of them that believe in him, with far more than human skill.

John Taylor (The Coming Crisis & How to Meet It)

The Devil in the last stage of desperation, will take such a pre-eminent lead in literature, politics, philosophy, and religion; in wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, thunderings and lightnings, setting cities in conflagration, etc., that mighty kings and powerful nations will be constrained to fall down and worship him. And they will marvel at his great power, and wonder after him with great astonishment. For his signs and wonders will be among all nations. Men will be raised for the express purpose of furthering the designs and marvelous works of the devil. Every description of curious and mysterious arts that penetrate beyond the common pale of human sagacity and wisdom, will be studied and practiced beyond what has been known by mere mortals. The great capabilities of the elements of fire, air, earth, and water, will be brought into requisition by cunning men under the superior cunning of the prince and the God of this world.

John Taylor (The Coming Crisis & How to Meet It)

But marvel not, for when the greater power of the like class of persons, under the direction of Satan, shall be brought to bear in your own day, the delusion will be so much stronger that Princes, Presidents, Governors, and chief Captains, will be constrained to bow to it. Their credulity will be taxed beyond the power of resistance. The workers of these mysterious and supernatural arts will bring to their aid both natural and supernatural causes that will challenge and defy disputation.

The senses and judgment of men cannot withstand such imperative facts as will arrest their observations. For it cannot be denied that facts and truths will constitute such a measure of the ingredients of these mysterious and wonderful arts as to give them an irresistible strength of conviction to those who are unenlightened by the Spirit of God....

John Taylor (The Coming Crisis & How to Meet It)

Therefore their foolish hearts become darkened, and God suffers Satan to compound and mix up truth and error in such proportions as to be captivating and strongly delusive. As a snare, this composition will be ingeniously mixed and administered to all nations, by skillful and practiced hands.

And who shall be able to withstand? Do you think that your great sagacity and the compass of your profound, philosophical turn of mind will enable you to detect the error and delusion of these arts? Oh, man, this is a vain hope. You will not be competent to detect the delusion. God Himself will allow Satan to ply your scrutinizing eye with powers and sophistications far beyond your capacity to detect. (Millennial Star, 30 April 1853, Volume 15, Pages 273-276, 289-292 - The article is attributed to Pres. John Taylor, and believed it was put together by Parley P. Pratt)

The only people who will have the ability to resist will be those with unshakeable convictions that God is the all-powerful creator and the author of human rights and dignity.

Neil L. Andersen

"In the days ahead, those who believe in Jesus Christ will need the friendship and support of one another." (We Talk of Christ, October 2020 General Conference)

Russell M. Nelson

"Sadly, some who you thought were your friends will betray you. And some things will simply seem unfair. However, I promise you that as you follow Jesus Christ, you will find sustained peace and true joy." (The Future of the Church: Preparing the World for the Savior's Second Coming)

Who are the two opposing churches?

The **church of the devil** are those who align with the emerging world government of tyranny. The **church of the Lamb** are those who resist, stand for liberty and trust in God for salvation.

What motivates one church to fight the other?

Satan's collectivist ideology causes people to feel that they can't be safe until every person is compelled to live the religion of global sustainability. This ideology necessarily requires an aggressive offensive approach towards opposing ideas.

What will polarize everyone into these two groups?

An increasing display of evidence and deception will convince all of either the truth or the lies and to align themselves for liberty or captivity.