

Chapter Seven: Many Are Called; Few Aren't Swept

v 1.01

The Generation (Jesus)

Matthew 23

33 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon *this generation*.

34 Ye bear testimony against your fathers, when ye, yourselves, are partakers of the same wickedness.

35 Behold your fathers did it through ignorance, but ye do not; wherefore, their sins shall be upon your heads.

36 Then Jesus began to weep over Jerusalem, saying,

37 O Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Ye who will kill the prophets, and will stone them who are sent unto you; how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and ye would not.

38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

Matthew 24

1 And Jesus went out and departed from the temple; and his disciples came to him for to hear him, saying, Master, shew us concerning the buildings of the temple; as thou hast said, They shall be thrown down and left unto you desolate.

2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? And do ye not understand them? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here upon this temple, one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

3 And Jesus left them and went upon the mount of Olives.

4 ¶ And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be which thou hast said concerning the destruction of the temple, and the Jews

Jesus told the generation alive (“come upon *this* generation”) that they would live to see the fulfillment and destruction that he was then prophesying about- that “not one stone would be left”. Jesus made this prophecy sometime near his death during his ministry- meaning sometime around 33AD. This prophecy deals with the “abomination of Desolation” spoken of by Daniel, in which Jerusalem would be punished for her wickedness and would be utterly destroyed. Three things we need to ask ourselves here about this prophecy and it’s fulfillment that will be useful when “likening things unto us today”, for we know that the Lord “is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (1 Nephi 10: 18)

1. What was “the sign” for “that generation” to look for to know that the prophecy was about to be fulfilled?
2. How literal was the Lord’s prophecy fulfilled?
3. What did the Lord define as a generation? I.E. How long did it take for “that generation” to see the fulfillment?

Let’s start with the first question:

The Sign (Jesus)

Luke 21

19 *And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.*

20 Then let them who are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them who are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them who are in the countries return to enter into the city.

21 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

22 But woe unto them who are with child and to them who give suck in those days! For there shall be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people.

23 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

24 Now these things he spake unto them concerning the destruction of Jerusalem.

JSM 1:

12 When you, therefore, shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, then you shall stand in the holy place; whoso readeth let him understand.

13 Then let them who are in Judea flee into the mountains;

14 Let him who is on the housetop flee, and not return to take anything out of his house;

15 Neither let him who is in the field return back to take his clothes;

16 And wo unto them that are with child, and unto them that give suck in those days;

17 Therefore, pray ye the Lord that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day;

18 For then, in those days, shall be great tribulation on the Jews, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, such as was not before sent upon Israel, of God, since the beginning of their kingdom until this time; no, nor ever shall be sent again upon Israel.

19 All things which have befallen them are only the beginning of the sorrows which shall come upon them.

The sign the Lord gave to “that generation” to know that the prophesied destruction and desolation would take place was, “when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies”. So “that generation” knew that in its lifetime this prophecy would be fulfilled, and then told that generation that when you see this one sign, this single event, know that the prophecy was about to be fulfilled. So now that we know that, let’s answer the second question, “how literally was this fulfilled”?

The Destruction

“Now, then, comes the thing the Apostles asked about, after he had told them the preliminary leading to it; filling up the interstices of time, he gets at length to the destruction of that temple—to the throwing down of those beautiful stones. “When ye see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know the desolation thereof is nigh.” Does that need any spiritualizing?

Go and read Josephus, read the history of the Roman army under Titus, the Roman general, who came up and laid siege against that city and surrounded it with the Roman legions; and then read the history of the war. It took place at the time when almost the whole nation had poured into that devoted city, just as you have poured into Salt Lake City, only we are a mere handful compared with that great nation; they had come into one of the great Conferences that happened about once a year; it was during the time that tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands that come into Jerusalem, from all the surrounding country, that they were laid siege to by the Roman army.

The city was blockaded—none could escape. Besides this there were several factions within the city; Jews were at war with Jews under different leaders. This made a desolating war within, while the enemy was encamped without; and besides all this, famine overtook them, and pestilence caused by want; and by being crowded and shut up in the city, and by the dead bodies with no place to bury them.

Hence with sword, famine, pestilence, &c., Jerusalem began to be desolated. “Now when you see this, understand that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.”

Some of our Sectarian friends tell us that Jesus Christ did not preach a gathering; he only preached the Gospel, and then let the people live right where they had a mind to. But here is a positive revelation from the Son of God, to those that would give heed to his warning voice, to actually remove to the mountains in order to escape the war, the troubles, and pestilence that awaited the Jews and Jerusalem.

Now if we had all the history of those times; if we only had what the Apostles have written, in full, instead of a little of it, we should have the particular place where they did go, and where they lived, you would have an account of the organization of a gathered people taking care of themselves, while war desolated the nation. We have not got this part of ancient history, but we will have it, for there is nothing secret but what will be revealed—hid but what will be brought to light.

When God sees fit we will have the record of the fulfillment of this gathering; of every man, woman, and child that heeded the warning of the blessed Jesus. About seventy years after the birth of Christ, which was about the date that the Roman army compassed Jerusalem, I warrant you they left Judea and Jerusalem, and gathered into the mountains to take care of themselves. This is the very period of Christian history I would very much like to read—how they conducted themselves when they were gathered together, and how they maintained themselves when their nation and temple were crumbling to the dust.

"Let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the country enter thereinto." We are given to understand that there was a little time after the Roman army had laid siege to Jerusalem, in consequence of a certain movement of that army, that gave a chance to the people in the city that were wide awake, to gather. If they would give heed to the warning voice of Jesus, or to the words of his Apostles, not to come down from the housetop, or stop to get their bed, but run with all their might, they could escape. A little moment of relaxation, an advantageous position of the army, made escape possible to those who would not stop to take their clothes out of the house, their bed, or anything else, but flee at once.

"For these be the days of vengeance." Vengeance on what? On the people of the Jews and on all the people of Jerusalem that had rejected the Gospel, that had rejected and killed the true Messiah, and persecuted and killed the Apostles, and his disciples.

"These be the days of vengeance." What for? That all things that were written may be fulfilled, not spiritualized, nor transformed, nor done away, but absolutely fulfilled.

What did he mean by that saying? Go and read Moses; I shall not trouble myself to give chapter and verse; go and read Moses and the Prophets and see if they do not predict the horrors of war to that age, and desolation, even to the eating of their own children for mere want, because of the pressure of the famine; "even the tender and delicate women," says Moses, "who would not venture to put the soles of their feet on the ground for tenderness and delicacy, should eat their own children in the siege and the straitness, whereby your enemies shall distress you in all your gates, if you will not hearken to my words." He also predicted that the Lord God would raise up a Prophet like unto him, and the people should hear him in all things whatsoever he should say unto them, and every soul that would not hear him, should be cut off from among the people....

"For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people." That is, in the land of Judea, upon the Jews, and in that city...

One thing we know certain, we have no need to conjecture, that is, that all these things happened literally. The Roman army on the outside, and the three factions on the inside of the city of Jerusalem, and the famine, and the pestilence helping it on, performed their work until finally it came to an end by the city being taken by the Romans, the temple set on fire, and burned, and the whole city desolated, and brought under Gentile rule, namely, Roman rule. And it is said, in the history written by Josephus, that one million and a half of Jews perished in that siege, that is, in that one city, in putting an end to a national polity; a national corrupted form of government, a national priesthood, a national house of worship.

One million and a half perished! They fell by the edge of the sword, by pestilence, and by famine, and the remnants of the Jews were carried captive among all nations. To remain how long? As I have said, we know this prophecy has been literally fulfilled, for we see them scattered among all nations to this day...

But about one stone of the temple at Jerusalem not being left one upon another—the fire itself would not do this—but history has informed us that the Jews concealed their treasures under the stones of the temple, and the Roman army went to work, and tumbled them about, and did not leave one stone upon another, and finally they were removed.

In fulfillment of another scripture, they took a plough and ploughed the temple site—so completely was the scripture fulfilled.

Had I time I would quote the chapter and verse of this plowing, and the history which refers to it.”

-Parley P. Pratt (Journal of Discourses 3:19)

From this we learn that the prophecy of Christ was very literally fulfilled and that the destruction to the Jewish people was almost incalculable. To answer the last question then- “how long was a generation” or rather “how long was it from the prophecy to its fulfillment”? It was from 33AD to 70AD, a time period of 37 years! So the Lord clearly was referring to a very literal generation of men! If the Lord was speaking to the generation as a mid point that would mean “the generation” was around 74 years- which still today floats around the average life expectancy. Meaning, for the prophecy to include the majority of those Christ was speaking about we’d have to expand the life expectancy out to 74 years. If the prophecy was given not to the middle, but rather at the beginning, it would have read something like “when you see Christ’s birth... that generation (meaning those born at that same time) will not all pass before they see Jerusalem compassed about.” Christ however was giving the prophecy to the generation already there, so he said, “this generation... will not all pass before they see Jerusalem compassed about.” Understanding this difference is important to moving forward.

Multiple Fulfillments

Abomination of desolation

Daniel spoke prophetically of a day when there would be “the abomination that maketh desolate” (Dan. 11:31; 12:11), and the phrase was re coined in New Testament times to say “the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet” (Matt. 24:15).

Conditions of desolation, born of abomination and wickedness, were to occur twice in fulfillment of Daniel’s words. The first was to be when the Roman legions under Titus, in A.D. 70, laid siege to Jerusalem (Matt. 24:15; JS—M 1:12).

Speaking of the last days, of the days following the Restoration of the gospel and its declaration “for a witness unto all nations,” our Lord said: “And again shall the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, be fulfilled” (JS—M 1:31–32). That is, Jerusalem again will be under siege.

In a general sense, abomination of desolation also describes the latter-day judgments to be poured out upon the wicked wherever they may be. And so that the honest in heart may escape these things, the Lord sends His servants forth to raise the warning voice, to declare the glad tidings of the Restoration, lest “desolation and utter abolishment” come upon them. The elders are commanded to reprove “the world in righteousness of all their unrighteous and ungodly deeds, setting forth clearly and understandingly the desolation of abomination in the last days” (D&C 84:114, 117; 88:84–85).

-Bible Dictionary (Abomination of desolation)

This prophecy saw a fulfillment with the time of Jesus, but it will see another fulfillment in our day, and the keys around both prophecies are exactly the same. In the first prophecy Christ identified a generation and then gave a sign to look for in the lifespan of that generation to know that the fulfillment of the Abomination of Desolation would be fulfilled shortly. So answering the same questions from above again:

1. What is the generation/how do we identify it?
2. What is the sign for that generation to look for to know it is wrapping up?
3. How literally will the prophecies be fulfilled?

Let's start with the first, which was already gone over in great detail in the first chapter of section one “A Sense of Urgency”, “The Generation”, but let's do a quick recap on that generation- the generation in which the Times of the Gentiles be Fulfilled.

The Generation (Today)

"And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and they shall be led away captive among all nations: and Jerusalem" —what will become of it finally?—"shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until" —that is a big word, and means much in the position it occupies here—"UNTIL" —on that word is suspended that nation's fate, and the fate of all the neighboring nations—"Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

I tell you there is meaning in these words, contained in that single line. O ye nations of the earth, if I had the voice of an angel's trump, that I could be heard to earth's remotest bounds, by kings, rulers, captains, generals, armies, and nations, I would wish to read that one line in their ears, and tell them the things that are summed up in it.

*"Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."
What is meant by it?...*

Now then this last line I have read has been fulfilling until now; that is certain. The Jews are among all nations, in captivity—without being organized and nationalized; without being restored; without having returned to the God of their fathers; to His matchless power; to the administration of His Holy Spirit; to the enjoyment of heavenly communication, through Holy Prophets, by the revelations of God; to the administration of angels; to the enjoyment of the religion of their fathers, and to the power of God to defend them, and deliver them from their enemies.

They have been 1,800 years without these blessings. This is a fact foretold in this chapter, and literally fulfilled before the eyes of all men. All the nations know it that know anything about the Bible or about history.

Now there was a time allotted for the Gentile powers to reign, for their corruptions to bear rule, and during the time here designated as the times of the Gentiles, the times of their polity, of their nationality, their religion, and to prove them and to see what they would do with the power committed unto them—the times spoken of by Daniel the Prophet, in which the fourth monarchy, namely, the Roman, and all those divisions, and subdivisions that should grow out of it in modern times, the times when these divided powers should bear rule.

There is just as much a time for these to have their day and prove themselves, and bring forth the fruits of their rule, and a time for them to come to an end, as ever there was a time for Jerusalem to rule or for the Jewish polity to come to an end. Now when that time arrives, ye nations look out, for there is a prophecy gone forth about you; it is in these words, and recorded in the Old Testament: "Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet will I not make a full end of you," speaking of Israel.

Now, when the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled there will be an uprooting of their governments and institutions, and of their civil, political, and religious polity. There will be a shaking of nations, a downfall of empires, an upturning of thrones and dominions, as Daniel has foretold, and the kingdom and power, and rule on the earth will return to another people, and exist under another polity, as Daniel has further foretold. But let me read it here, let Jesus speak in his own words, or the writer for him. Now understand that we have got down to the present time, that is sure with this prophecy, no man can mistake it. Jerusalem has been overthrown, and not one stone of that magnificent temple has been left upon another. A great portion of that nation fell by the edge of the sword, and the residue went captive among all nations, and their city has been trodden under foot of the Gentiles, and will be until their times are fulfilled, that is, until they have had their reign out. Then what will happen? We will read; "And there shall be signs in the sun." Has anybody seen them?—not away back among those other things; there were signs in the air then; Josephus tells you about it, and this book tells you about it, as I have been reading today in this chapter, about the signs which happened as a forerunner of the destruction of Jerusalem, and the Jews as a nation. Now after the Jews have remained among the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled, as a forerunner of this latter overturn, "there shall be signs

in the sun, and in the moon." Have any of you seen them during the last 30 years? I have. "And in the stars." Have you seen any signs in the stars? Think back for the last 30 years. "And upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And THEN" —not some other time. Are there any Millerites here who have been setting a time for the Son of Man to come? "Then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." Not you, my disciples, whom I told a little while ago should be delivered up to the synagogues, and to prisons, and be beheaded, and suffer many things; not you whom I have warned to take heed lest you are deceived by false Christs that shall come to you; and when you should hear of wars and commotions to be not terrified, &c.; but Jesus Christ now directs his attention to another age; this does not refer to you my followers, you will be dead, and in paradise when these things that I now refer to shall take place. But THEY. Who? The people who shall live when the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled—when their reign is about to come to an end, the generation that will be alive when Jerusalem and the Jews are about to be restored, and the full end of all Gentile polity is about to usher in. "Then shall they see," those that shall live in those days. And what shall they see? "The Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

-Parley P. Pratt (Journal of Discourses 3:19)

D&C 45:30–31. Why Is the Fulfilling of the Times of the Gentiles So Significant?

The fulfilling or closing out of the times of the Gentiles is one of the great signs given by the Savior in answer to the question of the disciples, "What is the sign of thy coming?" (JS—M 1:4). Doctrine and Covenants 45:31 shows its great significance: "There shall be men standing in that generation [in which the times of the Gentiles will be fulfilled] that shall not pass." That language is almost identical with the Savior's warning to the Jews, as he recounts in verse 21, and the fulfillment will be just as sure (see Notes and Commentary for D&C 45:21).

-Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual ("Looking Forth for the Great Day of the Lord", Section 45)

D&C 45:24–30. What Are the "Times of the Gentiles" and When Are They Fulfilled?

*"Jerusalem will no longer be "trodden down of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24). Again President Smith explained: "When we consider the words of the Savior to his disciples, that the Jews should be scattered and 'Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled,' we have a fair understanding of the meaning of this ... verse [D&C 45:30] in this revelation. Jerusalem **was trodden down of the Gentiles** from the day of its destruction **until the close of the year 1917**, when it was freed from Turkish rule by General Edmund H. Allenby of the British forces. After the war Palestine became a British mandate, and Great Britain by proclamation declared that country to be a refuge for the Jews, who were invited to return. ... It is very significant, however, that **Jerusalem is no longer trodden down by***

the Gentiles and the Jews are again gathering there. This is the sign given by our Lord, for the end of the times of the Gentiles. We are now in the transition period and shortly the day of the Jew will dawn and the Gospel will be taken to them and to the remnants on this land.” (Church History and Modern Revelation, 1:196–97.)”

-Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual (“Looking Forth for the Great Day of the Lord”, Section 45)

The Times of the Gentiles was fulfilled between 1917-1967, marking the generation in which The Times of the Gentiles was fulfilled. Now that we have that generation identified and using the 74 year mark from earlier, what can we glean? That the fulfillment of the second Abomination of Desolation will take place *no later than* 1991- 2041. Interestingly enough, The Family: A Proclamation to the World came out in 1995 and it contained in it, “Further we warn that the disintegration of the family [will bring about the second Abomination of Desolation]”. That aside, the next question then becomes “what was the major sign given to this generation to know that the second Abomination of Desolation was about to be fulfilled?”

The Sign (Today)

Luke 21

29 And he spake to them a parable, saying, Behold the fig tree and all the trees.

30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

32 Verily, I say unto you, *This generation, the generation when the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled, shall not pass away till all be fulfilled.*

33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

We went over this parable in a previous chapter, once again this parable dealt with identifying “the generation in which the Times of the Gentiles be fulfilled”. The important part to pick up here is the Lord promising that “the generation when the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled, shall not pass away till all be fulfilled.”

Doctrine and Covenants 45

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 [because] 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.

We will get to verses 32-33 later on in this chapter, but it is important to include them here for/as points of reference to clearly identify the time period we are in. We are here talking about the generation in which the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled, it then mentions the sign that generation should look for as the indicator before the scourge- “a desolating sickness”. The sign to look for in Jesus’ time was “Jerusalem compassed by armies”, which when they saw they knew the “scourge”, i.e. “the Abomination of Desolation” was near at hand. Here, in Doctrine and Covenants 45 the Lord gives the key, the event, for the generation in which the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled to look for as “a desolating sickness”. When the generation in which the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled sees the desolating sickness, they can know that the scourge is nigh at hand.

They will also know that there will be events tied to the desolating sickness that will cause people to “lift up their voices and curse God and die” and others to “stand in holy places and be not moved”.

We Live in That Day

“We invite you to be a major part of sharing the message of the ongoing Restoration of the Savior’s gospel. We will share more about this soon, but you can start today by acting on the invitations I extended to you at last general conference to immerse yourself in the glorious light of the Restoration.

“. . . You may wish to begin your preparation by reading afresh Joseph Smith’s account of the First Vision as recorded in the Pearl of Great Price. Or ponder important questions such as ‘How would my life be different if my knowledge gained from the Book of Mormon were suddenly taken away?’ or ‘How have the events that followed the First Vision made a difference for me and my loved ones?’

“Select your own questions. Design your own plan. Act on any of these invitations to prepare yourself for sharing the important messages of the ongoing Restoration. . . . It is your personal preparation that will help April’s general conference become for you not only memorable but unforgettable. The time to act is now. This is a hinge point in the history of the Church, and your part is vital.”

-**President Russell M. Nelson** (Church News, January 2 2020)

*“Now, as President of His Church, I plead with you who have distanced yourselves from the Church and with you who have not yet really sought to know that the Savior’s Church has been restored. Do the spiritual work to find out for yourselves, and please do it now. **Time is running out.**”*

-**President Russell M. Nelson** (Come, Follow Me, April 2019)

*“The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord **will be separated from those who do** (see Doctrine and Covenants 86:1–7). Our safest insurance is to continue to be worthy of admission to His holy house. The greatest gift you could give to the Lord is to keep yourself unspotted from the world, worthy to attend His holy house. His gift to you will be the peace and security of knowing that you are worthy to meet Him, whenever that time comes.”*

- **President Russell M. Nelson** (The Future of the Church: Preparing the World for the Savior’s Second Coming, April 2020)

Doctrine and Covenants 1:14

14 And the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, **shall be cut off from among the people**

“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.”²

You, my brothers and sisters, are among those men, women, and children whom Nephi saw. Think of that!

Regardless of where you live or what your circumstances are, the Lord Jesus Christ is your Savior, and God’s prophet Joseph Smith is your prophet. He was foreordained before the foundation of the earth to be the prophet of this last dispensation, when “nothing shall be withheld”³ from the Saints. Revelation continues to flow from the Lord during this ongoing process of restoration.”

- **President Russell M. Nelson** (Hear Him, Apr 2020 Sunday Morning Session)

*“As you study your scriptures during the next six months, I encourage you to make a list of all that the Lord has promised He will do for covenant Israel. I think you will be astounded! Ponder these promises. Talk about them with your family and friends. **Then live and watch for these promises to be fulfilled in your own life.**”*

- **President Russell M. Nelson** (Let God Prevail, Oct 2020 Sunday Morning Session)

“Lesson 1: The Home Is the Center of Faith and Worship

*Often when the Lord warns us about the perils of the last days, He counsels thus: “Stand ye in holy places, and be not moved.”² These “holy places” certainly include the Lord’s temples and meetinghouses. **But as our ability to gather in these places has been restricted in varying degrees**, we have learned that one of the holiest of places on earth is the home—yes, even your home.”*

-**President Russell M. Nelson** (*What We Are Learning and Will Never Forget*, April 2021)

FOOTNOTE 2

[Doctrine and Covenants 45:31–33](#)

Doctrine and Covenants

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.

[Matthew 24:15](#)

New Testament

15 **When ye therefore shall see** the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, **stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)**

The definition of desolate is:

Adjective:

1 : devoid of inhabitants and visitors : deserted e.g. a desolate abandoned town

2 : joyless, disconsolate, and sorrowful through or as if through separation from a loved one e.g. a desolate widow

3a : showing the effects of abandonment and neglect : dilapidated e.g. a desolate old house

b : barren, lifeless e.g. a desolate landscape

c : devoid of warmth, comfort, or hope : gloomy e.g. desolate memories

Verb:

a : to deprive of inhabitants e.g. The neighboring towns were desolated.

b : to lay waste e.g. desolating the city with bombs

c : forsake e.g. their desolated families back home

d : to make wretched

Now that we know we live in these days and that (at least according to President Nelson) Covid-19 was/is the “desolating sickness”, let us not see if we can identify the prophesied sifting, or in other words “those lifting up their voices to curse God and die” vs “those standing in holy places”.

Curse God and Die

Doctrine and Covenants 121:16-25

16 *Cursed* are all those that shall *lift up* the heel against mine anointed, saith the Lord, and *cry* they have sinned when they have not sinned before me, saith the Lord, but have done that which was meet in mine eyes, and which I commanded them.

17 But those who cry transgression do it because they are the servants of sin, and are the children of disobedience themselves.

18 And those who swear falsely against my servants, that *they might bring them into bondage and death*—

19 Wo unto them; because they have offended my little ones *they shall be severed from the ordinances of mine house.*

20 Their basket shall not be full, their houses and their barns shall perish, and *they themselves shall be despised by those that flattered them.*

21 They shall not have right to the priesthood, nor their posterity after them from generation to generation.

22 *It had been better for them that a millstone had been hanged about their necks, and they drowned in the depth of the sea.*

23 Wo unto all those that discomfort my people, and drive, and murder, and testify against them, saith the Lord of Hosts; a generation of vipers shall not escape the damnation of hell.

24 Behold, ***mine eyes see and know all their works***, and I have in reserve a ***swift judgment*** in the season thereof, for them all;

25 For there is a time appointed for every man, according as his works shall be.

2 Nephi 28:8-9, 11-14

8 And there shall also be many which shall say: Eat, drink, and be merry; nevertheless, fear God—he will justify in committing a little sin; yea, lie a little, take the advantage of one because of his words, dig a pit for thy neighbor; there is no harm in this; and do all these things, for tomorrow we die; and if it so be that we are guilty, God will beat us with a few stripes, and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God.

9 Yea, and there shall be many which shall ***teach after this manner, false and vain and foolish doctrines*** and shall be puffed up in their hearts, and shall seek deep to hide their counsels from the Lord; and their works shall be in the dark.

10 And the blood of the saints shall cry from the ground against them.

11 Yea, they have all gone out of the way; they have become corrupted.

12 Because of pride, and because of false teachers, and false doctrine, their churches have become corrupted, and their churches are lifted up; because of pride they are puffed up.

13 They rob the poor because of their fine sanctuaries; they rob the poor because of their fine clothing; and they persecute the meek and the poor in heart, because in their pride they are puffed up.

14 They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, and abominations, and whoredoms, they have all gone astray save it be ***a few***, who are the humble followers of Christ; nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err ***because they are taught by the precepts of men.***

Hosea 4:6,12

6 ¶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children

12 ¶ My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.

Hosea 4:12. What Are Stocks and Staffs?

The stocks were wooden idols. The staffs were divining rods, instruments used to foretell the future, to find lost or hidden objects, and so forth. All were consulted within the Canaanite culture much like divining instruments are used in today's Satanic cults. Thus, instead of seeking counsel from the living God, they looked to the idols.

- **Old Testament Student Manual** (The Ministry of Hosea: A Call to Faithfulness)

Matthew 18:5–10. A Warning Not to Offend Little Ones

Though Jesus was speaking to leaders of His day when He issued a stern warning not to offend little ones, the message recorded in Matthew 18:5–10 applies to all of us (see D&C 50:40–41 for a broader definition of “little children”). We must not cause anyone seeking greater understanding of the gospel plan to stumble in their faith, nor should we do anything to block their progress toward eternal life. Elder Bruce R. McConkie taught about this warning:

“Few crimes are as gross and wicked as that of teaching false doctrine and leading souls away from God and salvation. ... If eternal joy is the reward given those who teach the truth and bring souls to salvation, shall not those who teach false doctrines and lead souls to damnation receive as their reward eternal remorse? (D. & C. 18:10–16.)

“... It is better to die and be denied the blessings of continued mortal existence than to live and lead souls from the truth, thereby gaining eternal damnation for oneself” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:420).

-**New Testament Student Manual** (Chapter 6: Matthew 16-18)

DO NOT BETRAY THE BRETHREN

*“O ye Twelve! and all Saints! profit by this important Key--that in all your trials, troubles, temptations, afflictions, bonds, imprisonments and death, see to it, that you do not betray heaven; that you do not betray Jesus Christ; **that you do not betray the brethren**; that you do not betray the revelations of God, whether in Bible, Book of Mormon, or Doctrine and Covenants, or any other that ever was or ever will be given and revealed unto man in this world or that which is to come. Yea, in all your kicking and flounderings, see to it that you do not this thing, lest innocent blood be found upon your skirts, and you go down to hell. All other sins are not to be compared to sinning against the Holy Ghost, **and proving a traitor to the brethren.**”*

- **Joseph Smith** (Do Not Betray the Brethren, TPJS, p.156)

2 Nephi 27:24-27

24 And again it shall come to pass that the Lord shall say unto him that shall read the words that shall be delivered him:

25 Forasmuch as this people draw near unto me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their hearts far from me, and their fear towards me is taught by the precepts of men—

26 Therefore, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, yea, a marvelous work and a wonder, *for the wisdom of their wise and learned shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid.*

27 *And wo unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord! And their works are in the dark; and they say: Who seeth us, and who knoweth us?* And they also say: Surely, your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay. But behold, I will show unto them, saith the Lord of Hosts, that I know all their works. For shall the work say of him that made it, he made me not? Or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, he had no understanding?

Isaiah 28:14-18

14 Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem.

15 Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with *death*, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

16 Therefore, thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste.

17 Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall *sweep* away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.

18 And *your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.*

3 Nephi 24:14-15

14 Ye have said: It is vain to serve God, and what doth it profit that we have kept his ordinances and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of Hosts?

15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

D&C 45:27, 33

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

33 ...yet men will harden their hearts against me...

Doctrine & Covenants 45:27. What Will Cause the Love of Men to Wax Cold?

“The expression is the same as that found in Matt. 24:12, where we read (translated literally), ‘And because lawlessness has abounded, the love of the many [this indicates more than a few] shall wax cold.’ ‘Love’ here means Christian unity, harmony...” (Smith and Sjodahl, Commentary, p. 262.)

-Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual (“Looking Forth for the Great Day of the Lord”, Section 45)

We learn here simply and plainly that to “lift up one’s voice, curse God, and die spiritually” is to cry against the Lord’s anointed, to preach against following the counsel and commands of the keys. We also learn that to betray the brethren is on par with sinning against the Holy Ghost- *“It is better to die and be denied the blessings of continued mortal existence than to live and lead souls from the truth, thereby gaining eternal damnation for oneself”*. There will be those “teaching after the precepts of men” and denying these truths, and their reward will be eternal damnation.

The Lord next goes into another thing being made desolate, “the courage of men”, i.e., “men’s hearts failing them”. In what or how do men’s hearts fail them? Only when they fail to let God prevail and the act of not letting God prevail is an act of pride. We prevail with God when we build upon Him and His rock. When we harden our hearts against Him it is when we choose our own way versus the Lord’s way. This is the point of reference that we are in right now. Will you let God prevail, will you give the Lord your heart of stone so that He may place in you a heart of flesh? (Ezekiel 36:26) Or will you harden your hearts? Did we go to the philosophies and opinions of men? Did we decide to shorten the arm of the Lord and spiritualize and make figurative His word? That is where we are now.

We learn that what is causing the love of man to wax cold is the molestation of the law. The laws of the land are being trampled and that destruction is causing the love of man to wax cold, and that is causing people to lift up their heel against the Lord’s anointed and curse God and die spiritually.

Have we not seen this literally and plainly take place since Covid-19?

So then, who are the other people, the other side of the sifting, those “standing in holy places” and what does that look like?

Stand in Holy Places

President Nelson committed us to "study all the promises to the House of Israel" but then didn't follow up on it the following conference... or did he? I believe he did!

D&C 45:32. Stand in Holy Places

President Harold B. Lee "How shall we find places of safety?... *as one studies the Lord's commands and attending promises upon compliance therewith*, one gets some definite ideas as to how we might 'stand in holy places', as the Lord commands- if we will be preserved with such protection as accords with his holy purposes, in order that we might be numbered among the 'pure in heart' who [shall] constitute Zion, as I have read from the Lord's own words" (in conference report Oct 1968, pp 61-62)

-**Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual** (“Looking Forth for the Great Day of the Lord”, Section 45)

If we studied “the promises made to the House of Israel” as President Nelson committed us to, we would have learned "where to stand in Holy places" and hopefully started the process of making ourselves numbered among those worthy for the New Jerusalem (Zion). President Nelson in the very next conference (after giving the commitment) covered heavily "standing in Holy places"- the answer or follow up to “studying the promises made to the House of Israel.”

So, what does it mean to “stand in holy places”?

“Current adjustments in temple procedures, and others that will follow, are continuing evidence that the Lord is actively directing His Church. He is providing opportunities for each of us to bolster our spiritual foundations more effectively by centering our lives on Him and on the ordinances and covenants of His temple. When you bring your temple recommend, a contrite heart, and a seeking mind to the Lord’s house of learning, He will teach you.”

- **President Russell M. Nelson** (The Temple and Your Spiritual Foundation, October 2021 General Conference)

Doctrine and Covenants 43:24-25

24 O, ye nations of the earth, how often would I have gathered you together as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, but ye would not!

25 How oft have I called upon you *by the mouth of my servants*, and by the ministering of angels, and by mine own voice, and by the voice of thunderings, and by the voice of lightnings, and by the voice of tempests, and by the voice of earthquakes, and great hailstorms, and by the voice of famines and pestilences of every kind, and by the great sound of a trump, and by the voice of judgment, and by the voice of mercy all the day long, and by the voice of glory and honor and the riches of eternal life, and would have saved you with an everlasting salvation, but ye would not!

2 Nephi 28:32

32 Wo be unto the Gentiles, saith the Lord God of Hosts! For notwithstanding I shall lengthen out mine arm unto them from day to day, they will deny me; nevertheless, I will be merciful unto them, saith the Lord God, if they will repent and come unto me; for mine arm is lengthened out all the day long, saith the Lord God of Hosts.

Doctrine and Covenants 124

45 And if my people will hearken unto my voice, and unto the voice of my servants whom I have appointed to lead my people, behold, verily I say unto you, *they shall not be moved out of their place.*

46 But if they will not hearken to my voice, nor unto the voice of these men whom I have appointed, they shall not be blest, because they pollute mine holy grounds, and mine holy ordinances, and charters, and my holy words which I give unto them.

Doctrine and Covenants 1:38

What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same.

Amos 3:7

7 Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets

3 Nephi 24:16-18

16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened and heard; and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

18 Then shall ye return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Thus we see that the molesting the laws of the land causes the love of man to wax cold, yea they are lifting up their voices (on YouTube, Facebook, Social Media, etc.) cursing God and dying, while the righteous are standing in holy places- and here it is better explained as pockets of Saints preaching the word of God and teaching to fear the Lord according to the Lord's precepts not man's. The Lord then describes in verse 16 and 17 that this is a large part of the test or requirement for the New Jerusalem.

One might ask, "can we think of a counsel/command/urging/etc. that came from the prophets that tied directly to the desolating sickness that caused people to lift up their heel against the Lord's anointed, to curse God and die spiritually and kick against the pricks, because their hearts were hardened because the laws of the land were being trampled?" Did anything like that take place within The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints?

The Call (By the Voice of My Servants)

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We find ourselves fighting a war against the ravages of COVID-19 and its variants, an unrelenting pandemic. ***We want to do all we can to limit the spread of these viruses. We know that protection from the diseases they cause can only be achieved by immunizing a very high percentage of the population.***

To limit exposure to these viruses, we urge the use of face masks in public meetings whenever social distancing is not possible. ***To provide personal protection from such severe infections, we urge individuals to be vaccinated. Available vaccines have proven to be both safe and effective.***

We can win this war if everyone will follow the wise and thoughtful recommendations of medical experts and government leaders. Please know of our sincere love and great concern for all of God's children.

The First Presidency Asks Latter-day Saints Worldwide to Wear Face Masks in Temples



On September 22, 2021, the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sent [this letter](#) to Church leaders around the world. The letter is also available in [French](#), [German](#), [Italian](#), [Japanese](#), [Portuguese](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#).

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We are grateful that in recent months, some level of ordinance work has resumed in every temple. Our desire is to keep temples open.

As cases of COVID-19 increase in many areas, we want to do everything possible to allow temples to remain open. Therefore, effective immediately, all temple patrons and workers are asked to wear face masks at all times while in the temple. These safety protocols are temporary, based on COVID-19 conditions, and will be rescinded as soon as circumstances permit.

Our urging Church members to be vaccinated and to protect themselves and others from the spread of disease has precedent. Prior First Presidencies shared similar messages in [1900 about smallpox](#) and in [1957 regarding polio](#). Please do all you can to protect yourself and others so the work of the Lord on both sides of the veil can move forward.

Sincerely yours,

Russell M. Nelson
Dallin H. Oaks
Henry B. Eyring

Russell M. Nelson
Dallin H. Oaks
Henry B. Eyring
The First Presidency

You cannot destroy the appointment of a prophet of God, but you can cut the thread that binds you to the prophet of God, and sink yourselves to hell.

-Brigham Young (Conference Report, May 1963, p. 81)

Order by Which Revelation Comes

I will inform you that it is contrary to the economy of God for any member of the Church, or any one, to receive instruction for those in authority, higher than themselves; therefore you will see the impropriety of giving heed to them.

-Joseph Smith (TPJS, p.21-22)

A Key to Mysteries

I will give you one of the Keys of the mysteries of the Kingdom. It is an eternal principle, that has existed with God from all eternity: That man who rises up to condemn other, finding fault with the Church, saying that they are out of the way, while he himself is righteous, then know assuredly, that that man is in the high road to apostasy; and if he does not repent, will apostatize, as God lives. The principle is as correct as the one that Jesus put forth...

-Joseph Smith (TPJS, p.156)

Whenever you see a man disobeying the counsel of the Lord through the Holy Priesthood, you may know that unless he repents, he will apostatize. It is a sure sign of apostasy. A man may be an Apostle, a Seventy, a High Priest, an Elder or a Bishop, yet if he tries to divide the people and persuades them to disobey the Prophet of God, he will surely fall, unless he repents with all his heart. The Lord asks us to obey Him. He tells us how to do so. He does not ask for blind obedience, because He gives His Holy Spirit to all who ask for it to show them that it is right to obey."

- George Q. Cannon ("Satan Hates a United People," Gospel Truth, Vol. 1, p. 210–11)

The Lord will never permit me or any other man who stands as President of this Church to lead you astray. It is not in the programme. It is not in the mind of God. If I were to attempt that, the Lord would remove me out of my place, and so He will any other man who attempts to lead the children of men astray from the oracles of God and from their duty.

-President Wilford Woodruff (Official Declaration 1)

"Years ago as a young missionary I visited Nauvoo and Carthage with my mission president,

and we were holding a missionary meeting in the jail room where Joseph and Hyrum had met their deaths. The mission president related the historical events that led up to the martyrdom and then he closed with this very significant statement: 'When the Prophet Joseph Smith was martyred, there were many saints who died spiritually with Joseph.' So it was when Brigham Young died: so it was when John Taylor died. ... Some Church members died spiritually with Wilford Woodruff, with Lorenzo Snow, with Joseph F. Smith, with Heber J. Grant, with George Albert Smith. We have some today willing to believe someone who is dead and gone and to accept his words as having more authority than the words of a living authority today"

-Harold B Lee (*Stand Ye in Holy Places* [1974], 152–53)

"Those who do not accept God's revelation through his prophets have devised numerous philosophies from their limited human reasoning and seemingly think that they can find happiness and the satisfaction of their souls by ignoring God's plan of salvation. One of the greatest threats to the work of the Lord today comes from false educational ideas. There is a growing tendency of teachers within and without the church to make academic interpretations of gospel teachings—to read, as a prophet-leader has said, "by the lamp of their own conceit." Unfortunately, much in the sciences, the arts, politics, and the entertainment field, as has been well said by an eminent scholar, is "all dominated by this humanistic approach which ignores God and his word as revealed through the prophets." This kind of worldly system apparently hopes to draw men away from God by making man the "measure of all things," as some worldly philosophers have said... That this danger would be among us today was foreshadowed by the ancient prophets, who gave us a sure measure by which we might know that which is of God and that which emanates from evil sources...

In these days of our generation, many of you are asking: Where is safety? The word of the Lord is not silent. He has admonished us: '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.' (D&C 45:32.) ... clearly the Lord has placed the responsibility of directing the work ... in the hands of his divinely appointed leaders. May I fervently pray that all Saints and truth-seekers everywhere will attune their listening ears to these prophet-leaders... As one studies the Lord's commandments and attending promises upon compliance therewith, one gets some definite ideas as to how we might 'stand in holy places,' as the Lord commands—if we will be preserved with such protection as accords with his holy purposes, in order that we might be numbered among the 'pure in heart' who constitute Zion, as I have read from the Lord's own words."

- Harold B Lee (In Conference Report, Oct. 1968, pp. 61—62.)

Another fallacy is to believe that the choice to accept or not accept the counsel of prophets is no more than deciding whether to accept good advice and gain its benefits or to stay where we are. But the choice not to take prophetic counsel changes the very ground upon which we stand. It becomes more dangerous. The failure to take prophetic counsel lessens our power to take

inspired counsel in the future. The best time to have decided to help Noah build the ark was the first time he asked. Each time he asked after that, each failure to respond would have lessened sensitivity to the Spirit. And so each time his request would have seemed more foolish, until the rain came. And then it was too late.

Looking for the path to safety in the counsel of prophets makes sense to those with strong faith. When a prophet speaks, those with little faith may think that they hear only a wise man giving good advice. Then if his counsel seems comfortable and reasonable, squaring with what they want to do, they take it. If it does not, they consider it either faulty advice or they see their circumstances as justifying their being an exception to the counsel. Those without faith may think that they hear only men seeking to exert influence for some selfish motive. They may mock and deride, as did a man named Korihor...

Korihor was arguing, as men and women have falsely argued from the beginning of time, that to take counsel from the servants of God is to surrender God-given rights of independence. But the argument is false because it misrepresents reality. When we reject the counsel which comes from God, we do not choose to be independent of outside influence. We choose another influence. We reject the protection of a perfectly loving, all-powerful, all-knowing Father in Heaven, whose whole purpose, as that of His Beloved Son, is to give us eternal life, to give us all that He has, and to bring us home again in families to the arms of His love. In rejecting His counsel, we choose the influence of another power, whose purpose is to make us miserable and whose motive is hatred. We have moral agency as a gift of God. Rather than the right to choose to be free of influence, it is the inalienable right to submit ourselves to whichever of those powers we choose.

- **Henry B Eyring** (Finding Safety in Counsel, April 1997)

The Voices (The Spirit of Elijah)

JSH 1:38-39

38 And again, he quoted the fifth verse thus: Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

39 He also quoted the next verse differently: And he *shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers*. If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming.

Doctrine and Covenants 128:18-19

18. ... for it is necessary in the ushering in of the dispensation of the fulness of times, which dispensation is now beginning to usher in, that a whole and complete and perfect union, and welding together of dispensations, and keys, and powers, and glories should take place, and be revealed from the days of Adam even to the present time. And not only this, *but those things*

which never have been revealed from the foundation of the world, but have been kept hid from the wise and prudent, shall be revealed unto babes and sucklings in this, the dispensation of the fulness of times.

19 Now, what do we hear in the gospel which we have received? A voice of gladness! *A voice of mercy from heaven; and a voice of truth out of the earth; glad tidings for the dead; a voice of gladness for the living and the dead; glad tidings of great joy. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those that bring glad tidings of good things, and that say unto Zion: Behold, thy God reigneth! As the dews of Carmel, so shall the knowledge of God descend upon them!*

We live in the day that “our forefathers have awaited with anxious expectation.” (Doctrine and Covenants 121:27)

- **President Russell M. Nelson** (Hear Him, April 2020)

Doctrine and Covenants 121:26-32

26 God shall give unto you knowledge by his Holy Spirit, yea, by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost, *that has not been revealed since the world was until now;*

27 Which *our forefathers have awaited with anxious expectation to be revealed in the last times, which their minds were pointed to by the angels, as held in reserve for the fulness of their glory;*

28 A time to come in the which nothing shall be withheld, whether there be one God or many gods, they shall be manifest.

29 All thrones and dominions, principalities and powers, shall be revealed and set forth upon all who have endured valiantly for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

30 And also, if there be bounds set to the heavens or to the seas, or to the dry land, or to the sun, moon, or stars—

31 All the times of their revolutions, all the appointed days, months, and years, and all the days of their days, months, and years, and all their glories, laws, and set times, shall be revealed in the days of the dispensation of the fulness of times—

32 According to that which was ordained in the midst of the Council of the Eternal God of all other gods before this world was, that should be reserved unto the finishing and the end thereof, when every man shall enter into his eternal presence and into his immortal rest.

The Bible says, "I will send you Elijah the Prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord; and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to the fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

Now, the word turn here should be translated bind, or seal. But what is the object of this important mission? or how is it to be fulfilled? The keys are to be delivered, the spirit of Elijah is to come, the Gospel to be established, the Saints of God gathered, **Zion built up, → and the Saints to come up as saviors on Mount Zion.**

But how are they to become saviors on Mount Zion? By building their temples, erecting their baptismal fonts, and going forth and receiving all the ordinances, baptisms, confirmations, washings, anointings, ordinations and sealing powers upon their heads, in behalf of all their progenitors who are dead, and redeem them **that they may come forth in the first resurrection and be exalted to thrones of glory with them;** and herein is the chain that binds the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, which fulfills the mission of Elijah. And I would to God that this temple was now done, that we might go into it, and go to work and improve our time, and make use of the seals while they are on earth.

- **Joseph Smith** (The Sending of Elijah, TPJS, p.330)

Many are Called; Few aren't Swept

Doctrine and Covenants 105:35-37

35 There has been a day of calling, but the time has come for a day of choosing; and let those be chosen that are worthy.

36 And it shall be manifest unto my servant, by the voice of the Spirit, those that are chosen; and they shall be sanctified;

37 **And inasmuch as they follow the counsel which they receive,** they shall have power after many days to accomplish all things pertaining to Zion.

Doctrine and Covenants 121:33-35

33 How long can rolling waters remain impure? What power shall stay the heavens? As well might man stretch forth his puny arm to stop the Missouri river in its decreed course, or to turn it up stream, as to hinder the Almighty from pouring down knowledge from heaven upon the heads of the Latter-day Saints.

34 Behold, there are many called, **but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen?**

35 **Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men**

3 Nephi 27

33 And it came to pass that when Jesus had ended these sayings he said unto his disciples: Enter ye in at the strait gate; for strait is the gate, and narrow is the way that leads to life, **and few there**

be that find it; but wide is the gate, and broad the way which leads to death, and many there be that travel therein, until the night cometh, wherein no man can work.

“We live in a day when the whole social structure is dividing itself into two camps. This is a day of the polarization of all people. In the Church the faithful members are perfecting their lives and drawing nearer to the Lord and his way of life. In the world wickedness is increasing and the rebellious and carnal among men are sinking to lower levels of evil and depravity than has been the case in any past days. These trends will continue unabated until the Lord comes. When he arrives there will be, on the one hand, a people prepared to meet him, and, on the other hand, there will be greater wickedness and carnality than has ever before been known. As time goes on, fewer and fewer among men will remain aloof from one or the other of these camps.

“Then when the Lord comes, he himself will both cause and complete the division among the people. Then there will be a great day of separation in which the wicked will be consumed and the righteous will be rewarded. ...

“... The Lord does not delight in the destruction of the wicked. His bounteous mercy and grace and goodness are available for all men in all ages, but they are poured out only upon those whose works merit the receipt of such a wondrous boon. ‘For behold, the righteous shall not perish; for the time surely must come that all they who fight against Zion shall be cut off.’”

- **Elder Bruce R. McConkie** (Millennial Messiah, 554–55, 560)

Doctrine and Covenants 112:23-26

23 Verily, verily, I say unto you, darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt *before my face*.

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;

26 *First among those among you, saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house, saith the Lord.*

JST Matthew 25:5-11

5 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

6 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

7 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; *for our lamps are gone out.*

8 But the wise answered, saying, Lest there be not enough for us and you, go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

9 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

10 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us.

11 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, ***Ye know me not.***

“A Warning to Zion

Repent, repent, is the voice of God to Zion; and strange as it may appear, yet it is true, mankind will persist in self-justification until all their iniquity is exposed, and their character past being redeemed, and that which is treasured up in their hearts be exposed to the gaze of mankind. I say to you (and what I say to you I say to all), hear the warning voice of God, lest Zion fall, and the Lord swear in His wrath the inhabitants of Zion shall not enter into His rest.

The brethren in Kirtland pray for you unceasingly, for, knowing the terrors of the Lord, they greatly fear for you. You will see that the Lord commanded us ..., this is the word of the Lord to us, and we must, yea, the Lord helping us, we will obey: as on conditions of our obedience He has promised us great things; yea, even a visit from the heavens to honor us with His own presence. We greatly fear before the Lord lest we should fail of this great honor, which our Master proposes to confer on us; we are seeking for humility and great faith lest we be ashamed in His presence. Our hearts are greatly grieved at the spirit which is breathed ..., the very spirit which is wasting the strength of Zion like a pestilence; and if it is not detected and driven from you, it will ripen Zion for the threatened judgments of God. Remember God sees the secret springs of human action, and knows the hearts of all living.

*Brother, suffer us to speak plainly, for God has respect to the feelings of His Saints, and He will not suffer them to be tantalized with impunity. * * * All we can say by way of conclusion is, if the fountain of our tears be not dried up, we will still weep for Zion. This from your brother who trembles for Zion, and for the wrath of heaven, which awaits her if she repents not.*

(Signed) JOSEPH SMITH, JUN.”

-Joseph Smith (TPJS, p.18-19)

*“The Lord has also prophesied of these things, and they have been mentioned by ancient seers and prophets. We have had ample warning. We have been told of the calamities that are coming. We have been taught how we might avoid them, how we might be protected, **if we would only hear the counsels that come to us, heed the testimony of truth.** If we fail, we cannot escape... Do not think that we have reached a condition where things could not be worse. Unless there is repentance they will be worse. And so I cry repentance to this people, to the Latter-day Saints, to the people of the nation, and to the nations of the earth everywhere... How to escape calamities?*

HOW ZION MAY ESCAPE THE LORD'S SCOURGE.

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

*This way of escape, insuring the protection of the Lord, is a very simple one. Unfortunately, many of the people of Zion have refused to take advantage of this promise. As I observe conditions among the people I cannot see how we are going to escape when the judgments are to pass over the nations, which are promised in this revelation and in others which I cannot take time to read. Because of our disobedience and our failure to keep the commandments of the Lord, the **righteous, as in times past, may be called upon to suffer with the unrighteous among us.**”*

- **Joseph Fielding Smith** (Doctrines of Salvation, Volume 3, p.25, 31-32)

Doctrine and Covenants 121:15

15 **And not many years hence**, that they and their posterity **shall be swept** from under heaven, saith God, **that not one of them is left to stand by the wall.**

*“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 a parallel in the history of our nation; pestilence, hail, famine, and earthquake will **sweep** the wicked of this generation from 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. The people of the Lord, those who have complied with the requirements of the new covenant, have already commenced gathering together to **Zion, which is in the state of Missouri**; therefore I declare unto you the warning which the Lord has commanded me to declare unto this generation, remembering that the eyes of my Maker are upon me, and that to Him I am accountable for every word I say, wishing nothing worse to my fellowmen than their eternal salvation; therefore, "Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come." Repent ye, repent ye, and embrace the everlasting covenant, and flee to Zion, before the overflowing scourge overtake you... Remember these things; call upon the Lord while He is near, and seek Him while He may be found, is the exhortation of your unworthy servant.”*

- **Joseph Smith** (TPJS, p.17)

“The Saints have not too much time to save and redeem their dead, and gather together their living relatives, that they may be saved also, before the earth will be smitten, and the consumption decreed falls upon the world.

*I would advise all the Saints to go with their might and gather together all their living relatives to this place, that they may be sealed and saved, that they may be prepared against the day that the destroying angel goes forth; and **if the whole Church should go to with all their might to save their dead, seal their posterity, and gather their living friends, and spend none of their time in behalf of the world, they would hardly get through before night would come, when no man can work**; and my only trouble at the present time is concerning ourselves, that the Saints will be divided, broken up, and scattered, **before we get our salvation secure; for there are so many fools in the world for the devil to operate upon, it gives him the advantage oftentimes.**"*

- **Joseph Smith** (Saints Have Not Much Time, TPJS, p.330)

*"But to proceed. In the letter alluded to, the principles of repentance and baptism for the remission of sins were not only set forth, but many passages of scripture were quoted, clearly elucidating the subject; let me add, I do positively rely upon the truth of those principles inculcated in the New Testament, and then pass on from the above-named items, to the item or subject of the gathering, and show my views upon this point. **It is a principle I esteem to be of the greatest importance to those who are looking for salvation in this generation, or in these, that may be called, "the latter times."** All that the prophets that have written, from the days of righteous Abel, down to the last man that has left any testimony on record for our consideration, in speaking of the salvation of Israel in the last days, goes directly to show that it consists in the work of the gathering.*

*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, 1902 edition.)*

*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.**"*

- **Joseph Smith** (Righteousness to Sweep the Earth, TPJS, p.83)

"Whatever you may hear about me or Kirtland, take no notice of it; for if it be a place of refuge, the devil will use his greatest efforts to trap the Saints. You must make yourselves acquainted with those men who like Daniel pray three times a day toward the House of the Lord. Look to the Presidency and receive instruction. Every man who is afraid, covetous, will be taken in a snare. The time is soon coming, when no man will have any peace but in Zion and her stakes.

I saw men hunting the lives of their own sons, and brother murdering brother, women killing their own daughters, and daughters seeking the lives of their mothers. I saw armies arrayed against armies. I saw blood, desolation, fires. The Son of Man has said that the mother shall be against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother. These things are at our doors. They will follow the Saints of God from city to city. Satan will rage, and the spirit of the devil is now enraged. I know not how soon these things will take place; but with a view of them, shall I cry peace? No; I will lift up my voice and testify of them. How long you will have good crops, and the famine be kept off, I do not know; when the fig tree leaves, know then that the summer is nigh at hand."

- Joseph Smith (JD vol. 6, pp. 237-240)

*"An army of Elders will be sent to the four quarters of the earth to search out the righteous and warn the wicked of what is coming. All kinds of religions will be started and miracles performed that will deceive the very elect if that were possible. Our sons and daughters must live pure lives so as to be prepared for what is coming. After a while the Gentiles will gather by the thousands to this place, and Salt Lake City will be classed among the wicked cities of the world. A spirit of speculation and extravagance will take possession of the Saints, and the results will be financial bondage. Persecution comes next and all true Latter-day Saints will be tested to the limit. Many will apostatize and others will be still not knowing what to do. Darkness will cover the earth and gross darkness the minds of the people. The judgments of God will be poured out on the wicked to the extent that our Elders from far and near will be called home, or in other words the gospel will be taken from the Gentiles and later on carried to the Jews. The western boundary of the State of Missouri **will be swept so clean of its inhabitants** that as President Young tells us, when you return to that place, there will not be left so much as a yellow dog to wag his tail. Before that day comes, however, the Saints will be put to a test that will try the integrity of the best of them. **The pressure will become so great that the more righteous among them will cry unto the Lord day and night until deliverance comes ...***

[For] the time is coming when we will be mixed up in these now peaceful valleys to that extent that it will be difficult to tell the face of a Saint from the face of an enemy to the people of God. Then, brethren, look out for the great sieve, for there will be a great sifting time, and many will fall; for I say unto you there is a test, a Test, a TEST coming, and who will be able to stand? This church has before it many close places through which it must pass before the work of God is crowned with victory. To meet the difficulties that are coming it will be necessary for you to have knowledge of the truth of this work for yourselves. The difficulties will be of such character that the man or woman who does not possess this personal knowledge or witness will fall. If you have

*not got the testimony, live right and call upon the Lord and cease not 'till you obtain it. If you do not, **you will not stand**... Then the Prophet Joseph and others will make their appearance and those who have remained faithful will be selected to return to Jackson County, Missouri and take part in the building of that beautiful city, the New Jerusalem."*

- **Elder Heber C. Kimball** (May 1868, in Deseret News, 23 May 1931; see also Conference Report, Oct. 1930, p. 58-59; Orson F. Whitney, Life of Heber C. Kimball, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1945, p. 446, Smith, Robert W. and Elisabeth A., Scriptural and Secular Prophecies Pertaining to The Last Days, Ninth Edition, Pyramid Press, SLC, UT, 1947, pp. 134-138; Deseret News, May 23, 1931; W. Cleon Skousen, Prophecy and Modern Times, pp. 31-33, An Army of Elders, May 1868, Heber C. Kimball Reported by his son J. Golden Kimball, CR October 1930, p. 58. See also Prophetic Sayings of Heber C. Kimball to Sister Amanda H. Wilcox)

Doctrine and Covenants 109:29-32

29 We ask thee, Holy Father, to confound, and astonish, and to bring to shame and confusion, ***all those who have spread lying reports abroad, over the world, against thy servant or servants***, if they will not repent, when the everlasting gospel shall be proclaimed in their ears;

30 And that all their works may be brought to naught, and be ***swept away by the hail, and by the judgments which thou wilt send upon them in thine anger***, that there may be an end to lyings and slanders against thy people.

31 For thou knowest, O Lord, that ***thy servants have been innocent*** before thee in bearing record of thy name, for which they have suffered these things.

32 Therefore we ***plead before thee for a full and complete deliverance from under this yoke***

Amen