

## Chapter One: Times of the Gentiles

v 1.05

### Introduction

Let me pose a hypothetical situation and question to you mothers who have daughters: your daughter comes up to you, she has three boys she is interested in. She just doesn't know who the right one is. You, as a mother, don't like any of these three choices, you don't think any of these three is the right choice- do you say to your daughter a. "daughter, those with the spirit will know the right one" or b. "daughter, those with the spirit will know the right one *when* he comes along." Sherlock Holmes solved a mystery due to a dog not barking when he realized that the dog barked at everyone except for those he was familiar with and there was no reported barking on the night of the incident. It wasn't evidence but rather the lack of evidence that made things clear.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie asked the question, "Does anyone know when the Lord will come [to New Jerusalem]?" Now remember, the Saints will know the day and the hour of the Mount and Olives as well as the Great and Dreadful Day, ergo this quote from Elder McConkie must be talking about New Jerusalem as it will be the only event that will sneak up on the Saints. After asking the question, Elder McConkie answered it, "As to the day and hour, No; as to the generation, Yes. The Saints, the children of light, those who can read the signs of the times, those who treasure up the Lord's word so they will not be deceived, will know the generation" (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:665-66). Elder Bruce R McConkie when he said/wrote this obviously thought that the generation could already be identified, which will become more and more apparent as I continue.

The Prophet Joseph Smith said, "There are those of the rising generation who shall not taste death till Christ comes" (April 6 1843 General Conference). Elder McConkie explained who would constitute the "rising generation": "The rising generation is the one that has just begun. Thus, technically, children born on April 6, 1843, would be the first members of [that] rising generation, and all children born, however many years later, to the same parents would still be members of that same rising generation. It is not unreasonable to suppose that many young men had babies at the time of this prophecy and also had other children as much as 50 or 75 years later, assuming for instance that they were married again to younger women. This very probable assumption would bring the date up to, say, the 2nd decade in the 20th century — and the children so born would be members of that same rising generation of which the Prophet spoke. Now if these children lived to the normal age of men generally they would be alive well past the year 2000 A.D." (Mormon Doctrine pp. 692-693).

So that rising generation would have entailed people born as late as 1920.

What should you have noticed about these three quotes? They all had to do with *the generation*. Joseph Smith said that some of the rising generation would be part of it, not all and not even most. *Some*. McConkie clarified that those born as late as 1920 would still constitute this

generation. That would mean that at least some born between 1915-1920 would live to see the Lord's second coming to New Jerusalem. This is also supported by this prophecy given by James E. Talmage,

“The ten tribes shall come; they are not lost unto the Lord; they shall be brought forth as hath been predicted; *and I say unto you there are those now living—aye, some here present—who shall live to read the records of the Lost Tribes of Israel*, which shall be made one with the record of the Jews, or the Holy Bible, and the record of the Nephites, or the Book of Mormon, even as the Lord hath predicted” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1916, p. 76; emphasis added).

James E. Talmage was not so much prophesying but bearing his testimony of Joseph Smith's prophecy. Once again, “some” born between 1915-1920 will live to see New Jerusalem.

We also have the quote from Wilford Woodruff who said in **1873**, “But one thing is certain, though the Lord has not revealed the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man shall come, he has pointed out the generation, and the signs predicted as the fore-runners of that great event have ***begun*** to appear in the heavens and on the earth, and they will continue until all is consummated.” (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Wilford Woodruff, chapter 24 or Deseret News: Semi-Weekly, February 4, 1873, 2)

Wilford Woodruff says that the signs to point out the generation, the major signs, had already *begun* to move forward, once again confirming the timeline (post 1873, pre- Elder McConkie's quote). Remember the story of the mother and Sherlock Holmes I gave at the start- President Woodruff here, like the mother in the story, is saying “when” (i.e., “forerunners have begun”) while McConkie did not.

Now we need to answer, “what is this generation”? What is “this generation” that we are trying to identify? Yes, it is the generation that will live to see Christ's return in New Jerusalem, but how do we know that? We know that because of Christ's prophecy regarding the generation in which the times of the gentiles are fulfilled. Thus we need to have an understanding of the times of the gentiles and when they were fulfilled.

## **The Times of the Gentiles Begin**

The Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual for Section 45 explains,

“President Joseph Fielding Smith explained that “the times of the Gentiles commenced shortly after the death of our Redeemer. The Jews soon rejected the Gospel and it was then taken to the Gentiles. The times of the Gentiles have continued from that time until now. The Lord said: ‘But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.’ In that day the Gospel was given first to the Jews and then taken to the Gentiles. In this dispensation it was taken first to the Gentiles and afterwards it will go to the Jews.” (*Church History and Modern Revelation*, 1:196.) The times of the Gentiles began with Peter's vision and the baptism of Cornelius (see Acts 10).”

## **The Fulness of the Times of the Gentiles**

Moroni, when visiting Joseph Smith as a young man said, “the fulness of the Gentiles was soon to come in” (JSH 1:41). In 1830 the Lord said, “I have sent forth the fulness of my gospel by the hand of my servant Joseph” (D&C 35:17). We know that Joseph ushered in the fulness of the gospel and thus what Moroni had told Joseph had come to fruition; the fulness of the times of the Gentiles was come in, or as Elijah declared, “the time has fully come” (D&C 110:14). The fulness of the gospel included celestial law which contains in it the law of consecration and celestial marriage.

## **The Times of the Gentiles is Fulfilled**

In Doctrine and Covenants 45 we read,

### **Doctrine and Covenants 45:28-30**

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

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

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

### **3 Nephi 16:10-11**

10 And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you: At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fulness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; and if they shall do all those things, and shall reject the fulness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fulness of my gospel from among them.

11 And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel,...

In these verses we learn that the fulness of the Gentiles is to come in and the fulness of the Gentiles is synonymous with the fulness of the Lord’s gospel (D&C 35:17). However, the people rejected celestial law, they turned their hearts from it and began to be infiltrated by the precepts of men, and in that generation’s lifetime the times of the Gentiles was to be fulfilled.

### **Doctrine and Covenants 105:2-5**

2 Behold, I say unto you, were it not for the transgressions of my people, speaking concerning the church and not individuals, they might have been redeemed even now.

3 But behold, they have not learned to be obedient to the things which I required at their hands, but are full of all manner of evil, and do not impart of their substance, as becometh saints, to the poor and afflicted among them;

4 And are not united according to the union required by the *law of the celestial kingdom*;

5 *And Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom*; otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself.

### **Doctrine and Covenants 132:1-6**

1 Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servant Joseph, that inasmuch as you have inquired of my hand to know and understand wherein I, the Lord, justified my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as also Moses, David and Solomon, my servants, as touching the principle and doctrine of their *having many wives and concubines*—

2 Behold, and lo, I am the Lord thy God, and will answer thee as touching *this matter*.

3 Therefore, prepare thy heart to receive and obey the instructions which I am about to give unto you; for all those who have *this law* revealed unto them must obey the same.

4 For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory.

5 For all who will have a blessing at my hands shall abide *the law* which was appointed for that blessing, and the conditions thereof, as were instituted from before the foundation of the world.

6 And as pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant, it was instituted for the *fulness of my glory*; and *he that receiveth a fulness thereof must and shall abide the law*, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God.

### **Lorenzo Snow (April 5 1877, Journal of Discourses, 18:375)**

*“The principles of Plural Marriage were revealed for the benefit and exaltation of the children of men*, but how much unhappiness has arisen through failure, on the part of some who have contracted this order of marriage, to conform to the laws that govern it! But does it arise through any defect in the order of the marriage system? O no; but from ignorance and the folly and wickedness of those individuals who enter into it, who abuse, rather than righteously obey, it. *So in regard to the principles of the United Order*. Its principles too are sacred, and I assure you we will never go back to Jackson County, Missouri, there to build up the new Jerusalem of the latter days, *until there is a perfect willingness on our part to conform to its rules and principles.*”

### **Church History Topics: United Orders (from lds.org):**

“By the 1890s, both the cooperative institutions and United Orders had either closed or transitioned into private business entities.”

### **Official Declaration 1: Excerpts from Three Address from President Wilford Woodruff**

The question is this: Which is the wisest course for the Latter-day Saints to pursue—to continue to attempt to practice plural marriage, with the laws of the nation against it and the opposition of sixty millions of people, and at the cost of the confiscation and loss of all the Temples, and the stopping of all the ordinances therein, both for the living and the dead, and the imprisonment of

the First Presidency and Twelve and the heads of families in the Church, and the confiscation of personal property of the people (all of which of themselves would stop the practice); or, after doing and suffering what we have through our adherence to this principle to cease the practice and submit to the law, and through doing so leave the Prophets, Apostles and fathers at home, so that they can instruct the people and attend to the duties of the Church, and also leave the Temples in the hands of the Saints, so that they can attend to the ordinances of the Gospel, both for the living and the dead?

The Lord showed me by vision and revelation exactly what would take place if we did not stop this practice. If we had not stopped it, you would have had no use for . . . any of the men in this temple at Logan; for all ordinances would be stopped throughout the land of Zion. Confusion would reign throughout Israel, and many men would be made prisoners. This trouble would have come upon the whole Church, and we should have been compelled to stop the practice. Now, the question is, whether it should be stopped in this manner, or in the way the Lord has manifested to us, and leave our Prophets and Apostles and fathers free men, and the temples in the hands of the people, so that the dead may be redeemed. A large number has already been delivered from the prison house in the spirit world by this people, and shall the work go on or stop? This is the question I lay before the Latter-day Saints. You have to judge for yourselves. I want you to answer it for yourselves. I shall not answer it; but I say to you that that is exactly the condition we as a people would have been in had we not taken the course we have (Cache Stake Conference, Logan, Utah, Sunday, *November 1, 1891*. Reported in *Deseret Weekly*, November 14, 1891).”

The fulness of the gospel was available and President Wilford Woodruff asked the question, and laid it before the Latter-day Saints and told them to judge for themselves and to answer it for themselves. The result was or the answer to that question was ending the United Order and the practice of plural marriage, both in the 1890’s.

**Ezra Taft Benson (Jesus Christ—Gifts and Expectations, BYU Speeches, December 10, 1974):**

“God has to work through mortals of varying degrees of spiritual progress. Sometimes he temporarily grants to men their unwise requests in order that they might learn from their own sad experiences. Some refer to this as the “Samuel principle.” The children of Israel wanted a king, like all the nations. The prophet Samuel was displeased and prayed to the Lord about it. The Lord responded by saying to Samuel, “They have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.” The Lord told Samuel to warn the people of the consequences if they had a king. Samuel gave them the warning, but they still insisted on their king. So God gave them a king and let them suffer. They learned the hard way. God wanted it to be otherwise, but within certain bounds he grants unto men according to their desires. Bad experiences are an expensive school that only fools keep going to (see 1 Samuel 8).”

**John Taylor's 1886 Revelation (September 27, 1886):**

“My son John, you have asked me concerning the New and Everlasting Covenant how far it is binding upon my people.

Thus saith the Lord: All commandments that I give must be obeyed by those calling themselves by my name unless they are revoked by me or by my authority, and ***how can I revoke an everlasting covenant***, for I the Lord am everlasting and my everlasting covenants cannot be abrogated nor done away with, but they stand forever.

Have I not given my word in great plainness on this subject? ***Yet have not great numbers of my people been negligent in the observance of my law and the keeping of my commandments***, and yet have I borne with them these many years; and this because of their weakness—because of the perilous times, and furthermore, ***it is more pleasing to me that men should use their free agency in regard to these matters. Nevertheless, I the Lord do not change and my word and my covenants and my law do not, and as I have heretofore said by my servant Joseph: All those who would enter into my glory must and shall obey my law***. And have I not commanded men that if they were Abraham's seed and would enter into my glory, they must do the works of Abraham. I have not revoked this law, nor will I, for it is everlasting, and those who will enter into my glory must obey the conditions thereof; even so, Amen.

*It was confirmed that this was written by the hand of President John Taylor, however President Grant in an official statement clarified that it was not a revelation binding on the Church."*

### **Isaiah 50:1-2**

1 Yea, for thus saith the LORD, Have I put thee away, or have I cast thee off forever? For thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement? To whom have I put thee away, or to which of my creditors have I sold you? Yea, to whom have I sold you?

2 Behold, for your iniquities ***have ye sold yourselves***, and for your transgressions is your mother put away; wherefore, when I came there was no man; when I called there was none to answer. O house of Israel, is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver?

### **Old Testament Student Manual (17-11) Isaiah 50. "Where Is the Bill of Your Mother's Divorcement?":**

"The Lord employed the figure of a divorce and the sale of a slave to teach that though Israel's past apostasy scattered them among the nations, the ***Lord had not set aside the original covenant He made with His people***. Chapter 50 continues the theme begun in chapters 48 and 49 that in the last days Israel would be gathered and established again.

Under Mosaic law a man who divorced his wife was required to give her a written bill of divorce. She was then free to marry again (see Deuteronomy 24:1–4). Likewise, under the ancient laws, a man could sell himself or his children into slavery to satisfy his creditors. But the Lord had no creditors; neither had He divorced His "wife," Israel. ***Instead, Israel had separated herself from the Lord*** by her sins and was in debt to her evil creditors. "For your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away" (Isaiah 50:1).

But the Lord has power both to redeem Israel from their creditors and to forgive their transgressions against Him. This He assured them He will do. Speaking of the future as if it were

already past, He reminded them that He tried to do so once before when He, Jehovah, came to earth as Jesus Christ. This statement is a messianic passage, since Jesus is both Redeemer from sin and Deliverer from evil ways. Yet when He appeared on earth, there was no man ready to receive Him; when He called upon men to repent, there was none to answer (see v. 2). He gave His “back to the smiters” (He was scourged) and hid not His face “from shame and spitting” (v. 6; compare Matthew 26:67; 27:26). But in spite of such rejection and treatment, He still did not divorce Israel or sell her as a slave. The covenant was still in effect, and Israel would be restored to the status of a free and faithful wife of Jehovah.”

From what we learned in D&C 45 the generation that made that choice and/or witnessed it would live to see the times of the Gentiles fulfilled. This should bring Wilford Woodruff’s quote from the introduction into clearer view.

**Wilford Woodruff (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Wilford Woodruff, chapter 24 or Deseret News: Semi-Weekly, February 4, 1873, 2):**

“But one thing is certain, though the Lord has not revealed the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man shall come, he has pointed out the generation, and the signs predicted as the fore-runners of that great event have *begun* to appear in the heavens and on the earth, and they will continue until all is consummated.”

So according to the Lord those in the 1890’s would live to see the times of the Gentiles fulfilled but how was that generation to know when they had witnessed the time of the Gentiles being fulfilled? Or in other words, what did the Lord mean when He said, “And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel,…” (3 Nephi 16:11)?

## **Knowing the Times of the Gentiles is Fulfilled**

### **D&C 45:12-16**

12 [Zion]— a city reserved until a day of righteousness shall come—a day which was sought for by all holy men, and they found it not because of wickedness and abominations;

13 And confessed they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth;

14 But obtained a promise that they should find it and see it in their flesh.

15 Wherefore, hearken and I will reason with you, and I will speak unto you and prophesy, as unto men in days of old.

16 And I will show it plainly as I showed it unto my disciples as I stood before them in the flesh, and spake unto them, saying: As ye have asked of me concerning the signs of my coming, in the day when I shall come in my glory in the clouds of heaven, to fulfil the promises that I have made unto your fathers

What is the Lord referring to here? He is referring to the Olivet Discourse that He gave on the Mount of Olives, speaking with His disciples, in the which He said:

**Luke 21:20-24, 32 (JST)**

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

21 Then let them which are in Judæa 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.

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

23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.

24 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.

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.

### **D&C 45:31**

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

It is important to note that the first scripture is from Doctrine and Covenants- the voice of the Lord written by the hand of Joseph Smith. The second scripture from Luke was also translated and verified by Joseph Smith. If this isn't correct then it makes Jesus a liar or at the very least, makes Joseph Smith a false prophet. In other words, we can't just brush this off, this is a serious prophecy. Another thing to note is that these passages make it impossible for members to create ambiguity in the Lord's words and/or trying to twist them into something He is not saying, the Lord prefaced this saying "I will show it plainly..." So once again if you try to create ambiguity in His words you are turning Jesus into a liar by saying what He said isn't what He meant, i.e. He didn't speak clearly and plainly.

So what did the Lord plainly say here?

1. Jerusalem would be trodden down and destroyed by the Gentiles- that's the desolation spoken of by Daniel (JS-Matthew 1:12. Daniel 9:27, 11:31, see TG Abomination of Desolation)
2. They would be trodden down and scattered of the Gentiles
3. The times of the Gentiles would be fulfilled
4. Jerusalem would return into the hands of Judah
5. The generation in which the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled will have men standing from that generation which shall not all pass until they see a desolating sickness cover the land **and** see the coming of the Lord.

Did the generation of men who rejected celestial law in the 1890's live to witness these things? President Joseph Fielding Smith said, as recorded in the D&C Student Manual Chapter 45,

*"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.)"*

President Wilford Woodruff said:

*"The Temple at Jerusalem was overthrown until not one stone was left upon another, and the Jews have been scattered and trodden under the feet of the Gentiles now for eighteen hundred years, and so they will remain until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled, and that is pretty near." (Journal of Discourses Volume 18:14)*

Elder Parley P. Pratt in his book, *A Voice of Warning*, explained this crystal clear, "During all this time the Gentiles have possessed the land of Canaan, and trodden under foot the holy city where their forefathers worshipped the Lord. Now, in this long captivity, the Jews have never lost sight of the promises respecting their return. Their eyes have watched and failed with longing for the day when they might possess again that blessed inheritance bequeathed to their forefathers; when they might again rear their city and temple, and reestablish their priesthood, and worship as in the days of old. Indeed, they have made several attempts to return, but were always frustrated in all their attempts; for it was an unalterable decree, that Jerusalem should be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles should be fulfilled." (*A Voice of Warning*, p.23)

Clearly older prophets and apostles accepted the Lord's words and believed them; the Jews could not regain Jerusalem until *after* the times of the Gentiles was fulfilled. Which is also reaffirmed in Joseph Fielding Smith's remarks above saying that the times were fulfilled and we are now in a transitional period waiting for the times of the Gentiles to end (which will not occur until the Mount of Olives). But, did the Jews regain Jerusalem in a single year? No. The D&C Student Manual (1981, 2001) Chapter 45 continues,

*"When Joseph Fielding Smith wrote those words in 1947 [quote given above], Israel had not yet been made a state; they were still under the British mandate. But on 15 May 1948, Israel became an independent nation and declared Jerusalem to be her capital. In the war that followed this declaration, the Jews could maintain control of western Jerusalem only. East Jerusalem became part of the state of Jordan. In general conference in 1966, Elder Smith, now President of the Quorum of the Twelve, said: "Jesus said the Jews would be scattered among all nations and Jerusalem would be trodden down by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled. (Luke 21:24.) The prophecy in Section 45, verses 24–29, of the Doctrine and Covenants*

*regarding the Jews was literally fulfilled. Jerusalem, which was trodden down by the Gentiles, is no longer trodden down but is made the home for the Jews. They are returning to Palestine, and by this we may know that the times of the Gentiles are near their close.” (In Conference Report, Apr. 1966, p. 13.)*

It is interesting to note, and the manual continues, that “during the Six-Day War of 1967, Israel conquered the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and for the first time since the city fell to the legions of Titus in A.D. 70, Jerusalem came completely under the control of a Jewish government.”

So what do we “plainly” take away from this?

1. The generation of the 1890’s was told they would live to see the times of the Gentiles fulfilled.
2. The Jews became no longer trodden down of Gentiles, 1917 at the earliest and 1967 *at the latest*. By virtue of this, the times of the Gentiles are now fulfilled no later than 1967. This is 27-77 years from the generation rejecting celestial law in the 1890’s, clearly fulfilling that prophecy.
3. There will be “men standing” in that generation that will not all die before they see a desolating sickness sweep the earth and not all of that generation generally will pass before they see the coming of the Lord (1917-1967)
4. The Savior will return during the lifetime of that generation, for if this generation *all* passes before the Lord’s return, Christendom should rightfully collapse

## **Identifying the Generation**

We have at this point in time an uncanny amount of proof that the year 1917 is the start.

1. Joseph Smith’s prophecy of the rising generation (those born as late as 1920)
2. The Lord telling us that the generation who rejects celestial law will live to see the times of the Gentiles fulfilled- the rejection took place in the 1890’s
3. Elder Talmage’s prophecy of those born in 1917 living to see the ten tribes and their scripture
4. 1917 the Jews reclaimed their homeland which was the sign for the times of the Gentiles being fulfilled

There will be “some” born in the year 1917 that will live to see the ten tribes return, as well as Christ come to New Jerusalem. Those born in 1917 became 103 years old in 2020. The oldest people living on the earth today are around 115, meaning we are within the final 10 years until the ten tribes return and Jesus appears to New Jerusalem.

But obviously “this generation” was not everyone born in a single year, nor was Jerusalem completely “untrodden down of the gentiles” in a single year. There is a range. Not coincidentally so, the D&C student manual teaches what happened 50 years later (a significant number to the House of Israel, a “jubilee”):

“During the Six-Day War of 1967, Israel conquered the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and for the first time since the city fell to the legions of Titus in AD 70, Jerusalem came completely under the control of a Jewish government.” (Doctrine and Covenants Manual, Section 45, p.94)

So “this generation” was anybody born between 1917 to 1967. Anybody born from 1917-1932 would constitute the old of that generation, or in other words the “some” mentioned. Anybody born between 1932-1952 would constitute the bulk of the generation or “a lot” or “men standing from that generation”. Those born between 1952-1967 would constitute the babies of that generation or “almost all” will live to see the fulfillment of all things. So we have already done the years with the old, so if you were to do the years of the bulk you would have to work with the average life expectancy, not the oldest people alive. The average life expectancy in the USA is 78 (in 3 Nephi 28:2-3 we learn that the age of man is 72), which means that the fulfillments of all these things should take place between the years 2010-2030. Looking at those years what would that make 2020? The hinge point! (President Nelson, Church News, 2 January 2020). The babies of that generation, those born between 1952-1967, most or almost all of them would/will live to see these events. This means these events have to take place well below the average life expectancy; to make the numbers comfortably below the average life expectancy, I’ve used 60 years of age and I believe that to be fair. Using that, it puts the “no later than” dates at 2012-2027 (1952-1967 + 60).

We are looking for a period of 14 years which we will prove later in the series. But for now let’s simply just say that these 14 years are seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. This will become important as we continue to unfold this. The consensus of the data derived from prophecy is that the ten tribes need to return and New Jerusalem built somewhere no later than this time period. It is important here to identify “no later than.” Although the time period for the Great and Dreadful Day is set, the time period for the return of the ten tribes, building of New Jerusalem and the Lord coming to New Jerusalem was not set (“even now”, D&C 105:1-6). The fulfillment of these events is guaranteed, the generation that will get to redeem and build New Jerusalem is not. Joseph Smith’s generation could have built it, Jesus could have been living with the Saints for almost the last 200 years. That generation and every other subsequent generation has failed.

## **On the Clock**

The problem? Christ giving a countdown with regards to this prophesy, that “the generation in which the time of the gentiles is fulfilled, they will not all pass away (or die) before Christ’s second coming”. “Well, what is the problem with this?” I hear one ask. The answer, what if the time frame ticks out and Christ hasn’t returned? Well, then Christendom might and frankly should collapse as the second coming not happening when Christ said it would happen would single handily prove Christendom to be a false religion as its literal largest prophesy regarding the second coming would then be proven false.

Has there been any precedent for this? The answer is yes, when Jesus was to be born, Samuel the Lamanite prophesied that Christ would be born within 5 years. And at the end of that time the

unbelievers were ready to kill the believers (Helaman 14-16, 3 Nephi 1). Another example is when Jesus Christ himself prophesied that the generation he was then talking to would not all pass before Jerusalem would be destroyed and not one stone of the temple would be left standing (Luke 21). When 40 years passed away many obviously would have begun to doubt. But when Titus showed up in 70 A.D. the prophecy was literally fulfilled. There is a precedent for this and the wicked's response to such prophecies are always the same- threats, persecution, etc.

So what changed post 1917-1967 and why? Even in the church, the talk changed amongst members from "the times of the Gentiles is fulfilled!" and "Christ is coming soon!" (e.g., Joseph Fielding Smith, Church History and Modern Revelation 1:196-97) to "Israel is our greatest ally!" (e.g., Glenn Beck) and "someday *soon* the times of the Gentiles *will be* fulfilled!" (e.g., James Prout, The Last Days Timeline). Huh? What happened?

In order to understand what happened, we have to understand Zionism.

## Zionism

Of all the subjects to write on and produce this was the most important by far. Why is this so important? Because understanding this subject will unlock your understanding of basically everything that is going on geopolitically in the world today. It will open your eyes to time frames and the fragility of them. It is a fascinating subject that was pushed hard by early leaders of the Church and very heavily by all of Christendom in the early 1900's only to be dropped, scrapped, and now ripped apart. It is the single most important sign for Christians as well as members of Christ's church in the latter days to look for with regards to Christ's second coming.

So what is "Zionism"?

**Zionism:** Jewish nationalist movement that has had as its goal the creation and support of a Jewish national state in Palestine, the ancient homeland of the Jews (Hebrew: Eretz Yisra'el, "the Land of Israel"). Though Zionism originated in eastern and central Europe in the latter part of the 19th century, it is in many ways a continuation of the ancient attachment of the Jews and of the Jewish religion to the historical region of Palestine, where one of the hills of ancient Jerusalem was called Zion (Encyclopaedia Britannica).

Ok, so the Jewish people wanted a Jewish state in Israel just like they used to have years and years ago. Makes sense. Why do Christians care? How did the Jewish people convince Christians to help them recapture their ancient homeland? Why do Christian nations today take such a strong policy of staying out of Israel's policies, letting them completely control themselves while at the same time defending Israel, spilling Gentile's own blood in her defense, giving her Gentile money, etc. the whole while Gentiles ask for nothing in return? Why do Christian nations today still spout the incorrect line that "Israel is *our* greatest ally" when in reality Israel takes Gentile money, blood, etc. and gives nothing back. Why are we okay with this arrangement or how did Israel convince us that this was a desirable arrangement? It all goes back to Christ's prophecy of

the times of the Gentiles being fulfilled, that most significant prophesy that we have already discussed in this chapter.

## **The Balfour Declaration**

We have already gone over that prophecy in great detail but it is important to note here that Jewish people don't believe in Christ or His prophesy, however they did wish to have their own country again. Appealing to Christians they made the case "you want Christ to come back? You have to get us back to Israel again..." or something similar to that, which was a solid point for both sides. Christians *do* believe Christ and His prophesies and thus believe(d) that the Jews *did need* to back in Jerusalem; Jews did *not* believe in Christ but did understand that without the Gentiles they never would get back to Jerusalem or hold her once they captured her (Nephi explains this very thing in 1 Nephi 22 starting in verse 3). Because of this it was a perceived win-win for Gentile Christian nations to help the Jews reclaim Jerusalem.

In 1917 the British government made a public statement, the Balfour Declaration, in which they announced support for the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. The British empire (allies) knew they would lose the war without America's help and so Zionists struck up a deal in which they promised to exercise their influence to get America into the war in exchange for this mandate from Britain. Zionism flourished in America as Christians were united in their desire to have Jews reclaim their homeland. The gentiles gave Israel all they needed to take back their homeland in a fulfillment to the prophecies of Isaiah and the explanation of it found in 1 Nephi 22. It was one of, if not *the*, largest cause of America entering WWI; WWII simply sealed the deal. Remember, the Lord is in charge, He started these wars for a reason and this was the reason- to get Jews back to Jerusalem.

The Balfour Declaration could take up an entire chapter, but there are others who have devoted the time to create solid breakdowns of that and I don't want to bloat this book. The History Channel, Britannica, Israel-Palestine News etc are all places where one could go to understand this more clearly. There are also several Latter-day Saint Ensign articles written about the history of Israel (e.g. The Birth of Modern Israel by W. Cleon Skousen). As I said at the beginning, an understanding of this will unlock your understanding of almost everything geopolitical today.

## **The Child's Manipulation**

The Jews gained the Christian Gentiles' help in reclaiming Jerusalem based purely off of Zionism, the Gentile's belief in the prophecy of Jesus regarding the times of the Gentiles being fulfilled. But now that the Jews are back in Jerusalem and the times of the Gentiles is fulfilled, what now?

The Jews never believed in Jesus Christ's second coming, they simply wanted Christians' support in taking back what they believed to be "theirs" (Palestine). Now that the Jews had Jerusalem/Israel they needed to give The West (Christians) other reasons to continue to provide money, bullet sponges, etc. for Israel. The West (Christendom) took these other reasons hook, line, and sinker, e.g., "Israel is our greatest ally", "Israel provides stability to the region", "The

West is based on *Judeo*-Christian values” etc. The actual relationship is how Nephi explained it in 1 Nephi 22, that is between a nursing mother and a child- without the nursing mother the child would die. The child is not the mother’s greatest ally, the mother is the child’s greatest ally. And if you are a child and you know this, won’t you do everything in your power to keep your mother there? The solution was to get Christians to lose their faith and/or get them so confused about the prophecy of the times of the Gentiles being fulfilled that it would no longer be the motivation for the nursing mother. For, once again the Jews did not believe the prophecy would be fulfilled and if that remained the nursing mother’s primary reason for nursing the child when the prophecy wasn’t fulfilled and the nursing mother realized it, she would re-evaluate her relationship with the child.

Even the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints changed their tune on a dime in 1966 and then proceeded to never mention this prophecy again- no seriously, find anything spoken at conference post 1966 regarding it. A citation search for Luke 21:24 and even D&C 45:25-30 will yield you nothing post 1966. Silence. Where did our faith in Christ’s prophecies go? Did we ever believe? Was this prophesy misunderstood? Was it too hard to understand? No... Christendom lost their faith in Jesus Christ and His prophecy and the Jews never had faith in Jesus Christ nor His prophecies. This a fulfillment to Isaiah’s prophecy, “As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths” (Isaiah 3:12).

## **False Understanding**

There are some who erroneously teach that there are other events that need to happen before the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled, such as a spiritual return of the Jews to Christ or a pulling out of missionaries from Gentile countries etc. The problems with this are many but let’s start with,

1. It universally removes the plainness of Christ’s words and thus it would make Christ a liar
2. It voids Joseph Smith’s prophecy of the rising generations, Talmage’s prophecy of the return of the ten tribes and Joseph Fielding Smith identifying the sign as being fulfilled, thus making all of them liars.

If the Savior said “by the end of this night you will all flee from me and Peter you will deny me 3 times before the cock crows” (Matthew 26:34, Mark 14:30) if then, Peter denies Jesus twice, the cock crows, and then Peter denies him again, would that be a fulfillment to prophecy? No! If Peter denied Jesus 3 times, the cock crowed, then the disciples fled, would that be a fulfillment to prophecy? No! If the disciples fled, the cock crowed, and then Peter denied him 3 times, would that be a fulfillment of prophecy? No! The order matters and the thing that determines everything else in this example, is the placement of the cock crowing. Why? Because the cock crowing is the end- you know that everything else has to happen before the cock crows. Which means that everything that the Lord prophesied has to take place at or before the cock crowing. In this case, the disciples fled, Peter denied Jesus twice and as Peter was denying the third time the cock crowed- all the events had to happen at or before.

Like the example above, Jesus prophesied of events that would happen and then prophesied they would happen before this specific event, the event being “when Jerusalem is no longer trodden down by the Gentiles” or “when the remnant of Jews who were scattered from Jerusalem among all nations are once again gathered to Jerusalem” (D&C 45:24-25). Meaning, just like the story above, Jesus gave three “denying’s” or prophecies that needed to happen before that event:

1. It will be in a time of great social turmoil
2. The Gentiles will have for the most part rejected the fulness of gospel (celestial law)
3. The times of the Gentiles would be fulfilled

(Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual 1981,2001, p.94)

He then stated that the cock crowing, or the end point of these events, would be when Jerusalem is no longer trodden down by the gentiles and the Jews are gathered again *physically*. Meaning if any of the points 1-3 occur after the Jews reclaim Jerusalem and Jerusalem is no longer trodden down of the gentiles, Jesus would be a liar. Just like if Peter hadn’t denied 3 times before the cock crowed or the disciples fled after the cock crowed, etc. Could events 1-3 occur at the same time or during the same time period? Yes. But could any of these events occur after “the cock crowing”? No. Because Jesus said, and Joseph Smith translated it to make it even more clear, that Jerusalem would be trodden down, owned, ruled etc. by the Gentiles *until* the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled and that the Jews would remain in their scattered state among all nations without a country to call their own, without Jerusalem, without Israel *until* the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. If Jerusalem is no longer trodden down by the Gentiles and is once again peopled by the Jews, the times of the Gentiles by definition *are* fulfilled, or Jesus is a liar. Period.

### **Doctrine and Covenants 1:37–38**

37 Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled

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

A quote from Orson Pratt is used out of context to purport or opine that a different event signals the times of the Gentiles being fulfilled, *not* Jerusalem no longer being trodden down. The problem? They have to take it *woefully* out of context. Here is the full quote with all the context:

“*After the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled*, which period is set in the mind of God, another scene will open up before the world, in the grand panorama of the last days. What is that? The downfall of the Gentile nations. Says one— “Whom do you call Gentiles?” Every nation excepting the literal descendants of Israel. We, the Latter-day Saints, are Gentiles; in other words, we have come from among the Gentile nations, though many of us may have the blood of Israel within our veins. When God has called out the righteous, when the warning voice has been

sufficiently proclaimed among these Gentile nations, and the Lord says “It is enough,” he will also say to his servants—”O, ye, my servants, come home, come out from the midst of these Gentile nations, where you have labored and borne testimony for so long a period; come out from among them, for they are not worthy; they do not receive the message that I have sent forth, they do not repent of their sins; come out from their midst, *their times are fulfilled*. Seal up the testimony among them and bind up the law.” What then? Then the word of the Lord will be—“O, ye, my servants, I have a new commission for you. Instead of going forth to convert the Gentile nations, go unto the remnants of the house of Israel that are scattered in the four quarters of the earth. Go and proclaim to them that the times of their dispersion are accomplished; *that the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled*; that the time has arrived for my people Israel, who have been scattered for generations in a dark and cloudy day, to gather unto their own homes again, and to build up old Jerusalem on its former heap. And then will commence the gathering of the Jews to old Jerusalem; then the ten tribes in the northern regions, wherever they may be, after having been concealed from the nations for twenty-five hundred years, will come forth and will return, as Jeremiah has said, from the north country. A great company will come, and they will sing in the height of Zion...” (Journal of Discourses, Orson Pratt 18:7)

How can the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled, then sometime later when missionaries get called home be fulfilled again, and then when missionaries preach to scattered Israel be fulfilled *again*. That is three different time periods, *all* of which are “when the times of the Gentiles is fulfilled”? A time period that Orson Pratt said in the same quote “is set in the mind of God”; does this sound “set in the mind of God”? God forbid. Orson Pratt clearly addressed this as “what happens *after* the time of the gentiles is fulfilled”. So what is he saying?

1. The time of the Gentiles is fulfilled, and a “transitional period” takes place, a period which we have already addressed
2. During the transitional period, when the warning voice has been sufficiently proclaimed among these Gentile nations, the Lord will progressively call missionaries home *because* the time of the Gentiles *has been fulfilled*, past tense (transitioning priorities and focus)
3. Eventually the missionary force will be entirely focused on scattered Israel and the Jews *because* the time of the gentiles *has been fulfilled* and is nearing its end (“the downfall of the Gentile nations”)

The other two events happen *because* of the times of the Gentiles have been fulfilled, it gives rationale, reason for the action- it is not a signifier of the end of the times of the Gentiles fulfilled, it is the prerequisite. The times of the Gentiles being fulfilled was not only the sign of Christ’s imminent return but also the sign for the times of the Gentiles ending, or as Elder Orson Pratt said, “the downfall of the Gentile nations.”