

Prophecies of Joseph Smith and Their Literal Fulfillment—The Rise of the Church and the Gathering—Martyrdom of the Saints and Flight of the Church to the Rocky Mountains—The Great United States Rebellion—The Gospel to Be Preached to the Gentiles; Then to the Jews—Plagues of the Last Days—Millennial Reign

Orson Pratt

Journal of Discourses 18:28

Section I (Elisha read by Brandon)

A little upwards of forty-six years ago, the Lord our God, through the administration of holy angels, organized his Church in the State of New York, and called men to the ministry, commanding them to go forth as missionaries, and preach to the people of the United States. They, in obedience to the command, went forth in their weakness, commencing their labors in the State of New York, and succeeded in baptizing believers, and organizing branches of the Church. From that day to the present, the Lord has been with his servants, and with the people who have embraced the message they proclaim.

In connection with the establishing of this Church, the Lord inaugurated the Gathering, which is peculiar to the dispensation in which we live. This work of gathering of the people, has continued for forty-six years, and we can behold its results—a people settled throughout these mountain valleys, numbering a hundred and fifty thousand.

I have often reflected upon the early prophecies that were given through our Prophet, Joseph Smith, whom the Lord called to organize his Church in this last dispensation, and have often marveled at their literal fulfillment. I will refer to some of them.

It is well known that the Book of Mormon was translated by Joseph Smith, from certain plates which he discovered, deposited in a certain hill, anciently called Cumorah, which is situated in Ontario County, State of New York, having previously been shown the place in open vision. This book was translated, and its first edition of five thousand copies was published, before the organization of this Church. It was stated in that book, that a Church should arise, and the people who should embrace the Gospel which it contained, should be gathered together into one body. For the fulfillment of this, I have only to refer you to the people, the body of this Church, inhabiting these mountain vales. This prophecy also speaks of the extent of this future work—it

should not only be preached to the people of this American Continent, but it should be proclaimed to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, under heaven, and the gathering should be from all these nations.

An impostor may prophesy, but he cannot fulfill his own prophecies. If Joseph Smith was an impostor, as the world say he was, how could he know beforehand of the rise of this Church, and that the Gospel would be preached in all parts of this nation? Still more, how could he know, that it would go to every land, and be proclaimed throughout every nation of the earth, and even to those inhabiting the islands of the sea? Has this been fulfilled? All you have to do is to make yourselves acquainted with the fact. You will find that the Gospel message has been carried out by our missionaries to the nations of Great Britain and Ireland, to France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and the countries of Scandinavia, to Austria and Russia, to Asia and Africa, to Australia and the island of New Zealand, and the various islands of the South Pacific Ocean, as well as to the Sandwich and Society Islands. Among all these nations, this work has gone in fulfillment of prophecy, published before there was any Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Joseph Smith, therefore, so far as the fulfillment of his prophecies is concerned, has so much to establish the divinity of his mission.

Let us refer still further to the prophecies contained in the Book of Mormon. We read in that book, that not only a Church should arise, etc., but that the blood of the Saints who should embrace its faith, should cry from the ground to the God of heaven, against the inhabitants of this nation. How unlikely a thing to be fulfilled! Here, upon this land, is one of the most free governments given to man, bestowing upon all, civil and religious liberty. In other lands, persecution existed in consequence of men's religious convictions; here all religious societies enjoyed the freedom of religious liberty to the fullest extent. If an impostor were going to prophesy, would he not be most likely to predict something that would suit the popular feeling of the people, something that would naturally come to pass? But for him to prophesy that the blood of the Saints, who were yet unconverted, should cry unto God for vengeance, against a people who glorified in their freedom, who could believe it? The people said such a thing never could come to pass; Joseph Smith must be an impostor. But how long was it before this met with its fulfillment? History shows that three years after the rise of this Church, the Latter-day Saints, numbering some twelve hundred persons, were settled in Jackson, one of the western counties of Missouri, where they possessed flourishing homes, which they had made out of the lands they had bought of the United States Government, and which they had paid for, and where, in consequence of their having preached the ancient Gospel, which had been restored to the earth through the ministration of angels, they met with serious opposition, insomuch that they were finally driven en masse from their possessions, their homes were torn down and destroyed, their animals were shot down as you would shoot the wild beasts of the forest, their hay stacks were burned, and their corn fields despoiled, and many of the Saints were also shot dead by the hands of their persecutors. What for? Was it because they had committed crimes that merited this treatment? No, their court records do not show a single instance of our people having broken the laws. Was it polygamy? No, for the principle of plural marriage was not known among us then. They said, "You proclaim that God is a God of revelation. We do not believe it. You say that God has reorganized his Church on the earth, according to the ancient pattern. We do not believe it. We do not wish such doctrines, we do not wish our families corrupted by believing in them, for prophets, and new revelation, and miracles are all done away with; therefore you must leave

us. We have pledged ourselves, our lives, and all we possess, to drive you from our midst." Perhaps you strangers may think I am telling you that which is false. It is written and printed by our enemies, and forms part of history; and it furnishes another testimony proving the divine calling of the boy who was inspired of the Lord to translate that book.

After we had again established ourselves in a new country, and built up a beautiful city, and when all was peaceful and prosperity attending us, this same Prophet, on assembling the Elders of this Church on a certain occasion at Nauvoo, told us that we would have to flee to the Rocky Mountains for safety. The fulfillment of this prediction is apparent to all. I might mention scores of others, and in no instance has that man uttered a single prophecy that either has not already been fulfilled, to the very letter, or will not have its fulfillment in the due time of the Lord. I will mention another prophecy, which was printed in several languages, and published among the various nations in whose languages it was printed, which was twenty-eight years reaching its fulfillment. The Lord revealed to the Prophet, Joseph Smith, that there would be a great rebellion between the Northern and Southern States, commencing in the State of South Carolina, and that it should terminate in the death and misery of many souls. This, as you all know, has been literally fulfilled. When I was a boy, I traveled extensively in the United States and the Canadas, preaching this restored Gospel. I had a manuscript copy of this revelation, which I carried in my pocket, and I was in the habit of reading it to the people among whom I traveled and preached. As a general thing the people regarded it as the height of nonsense, saying the Union was too strong to be broken; and I, they said, was led away, the victim of an impostor. I knew the prophecy was true, for the Lord had spoken to me and had given me revelation. I knew also concerning the divinity of this work. Year after year passed away, while every little while some of the acquaintances I had formerly made would say, "Well, what is going to become of that prediction? It's never going to be fulfilled." Said I, "Wait, the Lord has his set time." By and by it came along, and the first battle was fought at Charleston, South Carolina. This is another testimony that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of the Most High God; he not only foretold the coming of a great civil war at a time when statesman even never dreamed of such a thing, but he named the very place where it should commence.

Elisha's Thoughts:

Yellow- sections from the talk

Purple my thoughts

Black quotes from the brethren

In connection with the establishing of this Church, the Lord inaugurated the Gathering, which is peculiar to the dispensation in which we live.

The work of the gathering

The newly translated Book of Mormon and the Lord's revelations to Joseph Smith taught early Latter-day Saints that they lived in the time in which the promised gathering would begin.

April 1836 when the Old Testament prophet Moses appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in the Kirtland Temple and gave them the “keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth, and the leading of the ten tribes from the Land of the North.”

The work continues to our day....

President Nelson has said “ anytime you do anything that helps anyone on either side of the veil take a step toward making covenants with God and receiving their essential baptism and temple ordinances, you are helping together Israel. It is as simple as that June 3, 2018 world wide devotional

Sisters participation in the gathering of Israel- President Nelson 2018 Oct Conference

I extend a prophetic plea to you the women of the church to shape the future by helping to gather scattered Israel

Hope of Israel 2018- President Nelson

The greatest challenge, the greatest cause, and the greatest work on earth today

If Joseph Smith was an impostor, as the world say he was, how could he know beforehand of the rise of this Church, and that the Gospel would be preached in all parts of this nation?

Growth of the church

The growth of the church as foretold by Joseph Smith Jr.

6-members → 16,663,663 member church in 160 countries, 178 languages, 265 Temples in operation, under construction, or announced Soon every member will live within 2 hours of an operating temple.

Joseph affirmed, despite the adversity the young Church had already faced. “Persecutions may rage, mobs may combine, armies may assemble, calumny may defame, but the truth of God will go forth boldly, nobly, and independent, till it has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country, and sounded in every ear, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished and the Great Jehovah shall say the work is done.”³

- “[Times and Seasons, 1 March 1842](#),” 709, josephsmithpapers.org. For other contemporary statements regarding the future of the Church, see “[Revelation, 30 October 1831](#),” 112, josephsmithpapers.org.

They said, "You proclaim that God is a God of revelation. We do not believe it. You say that God has reorganized his Church on the earth, according to the ancient pattern. We do not believe it. We do not wish such doctrines, we do not wish our families corrupted by believing in them, for prophets, and new revelation, and miracles are all done away with; therefore you must leave us. We have pledged ourselves, our lives, and all we possess, to drive you from our midst." Perhaps you strangers may think I am telling you that which is false. It is written and printed by

our enemies, and forms part of history; and it furnishes another testimony proving the divine calling of the boy who was inspired of the Lord to translate that book.

Witness of the book of Mormon

Elder Holland Taught- Oct 4 2009- Safety for the soul

“The encouraging thing ... is that Father in Heaven knows all of these latter-day dangers, these troubles of the heart and the soul, and has given counsel and protections regarding them,” Elder Holland declared. “In light of that, it has always been significant to me that the Book of Mormon, one of the Lord’s powerful ‘keystones’ in this counter-offensive against latter-day ills, begins with a great parable of life, an extended allegory of hope versus fear, of light versus darkness, of salvation versus destruction.”

Let us refer still further to the prophecies contained in the Book of Mormon. We read in that book, that not only a Church should arise, etc., but that the blood of the Saints who should embrace its faith, should cry from the ground to the God of heaven, against the inhabitants of this nation. How unlikely a thing to be fulfilled! Here, upon this land, is one of the most free governments given to man, bestowing upon all, civil and religious liberty. In other lands, persecution existed in consequence of men's religious convictions; here all religious societies enjoyed the freedom of religious liberty to the fullest extent. If an impostor were going to prophesy, would he not be most likely to predict something that would suit the popular feeling of the people, something that would naturally come to pass?

Elder Hollands testimony of the book of Mormon. As one of a thousand elements of my own testimony of the divinity of the Book of Mormon, I submit this as yet one more evidence of its truthfulness. In this their greatest—and last—hour of need, I ask you: would these men blaspheme before God by continuing to fix their lives, their honor, and their own search for eternal salvation on a book (and by implication a church and a ministry) they had fictitiously created out of whole cloth? . . . [T]ell me whether in this hour of death these two men would enter the presence of their Eternal Judge quoting from and finding solace in a book which, if *not* the very word of God, would brand them as imposters and charlatans until the end of time? *They would not do that!* They were willing to die rather than deny the divine origin and the eternal truthfulness of the Book of Mormon.

I solemnly declare my witness is the same as Elder Hollands. I will exhort and exhort forever those who gave their lives for this most precious words of my God and Savior Jesus Christ. That I may find pure truth pure doctrine and pure knowledge (like President Nelson said) in these latter days when so many lies and deceptions abound.

Elder Holland continued, “For 179 (now 192 years) years this book has been examined and attacked, denied and deconstructed, targeted and torn apart like perhaps no other book in modern religious history—perhaps like no other book in *any* religious history.”

And still it stands. Failed theories about its origins have been born and parroted and have died—from Ethan Smith to Solomon Spaulding to deranged paranoid to cunning genius. None of these frankly pathetic answers for this book has ever withstood examination because there is no other answer than the one Joseph gave as its young unlearned translator. In this I stand with my own great-grandfather, who said simply enough, “No wicked man could write such a book as this; and no good man would write it, unless it were true and he were commanded of God to do so.”

He emphasized the significance of the Book of Mormon for those who contemplate leaving the Church. “If *anyone* is foolish enough or misled enough to reject 531 pages of a heretofore unknown text teeming with literary and Semitic complexity without honestly attempting to account for the origin of those pages . . . then such a person, elect or otherwise, has been deceived; and if he or she leaves this Church, it must be done by crawling over or under or around the Book of Mormon to make that exit.” He concluded with a powerful apostolic witness of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon that stands in effect today.

An impostor may prophesy, but he cannot fulfill his own prophecies

Through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Lord revealed many prophecies concerning the Second Coming,

As the Book of Mormon testifies, “A seer can know of things which are past, and also of things which are to come, and by [him] shall all things be revealed, or, rather, shall secret things be made manifest, and hidden things shall come to light, and things which are not known shall be made known” ([Mosiah 8:17](#)).

The talk then goes on to discuss fulfillment of the prophecies of Joseph Smith Jr. some have come to pass some are yet to come to pass.

All prophecy is to be literally fulfilled

The Prophet Joseph Smith said: “Be not discouraged when we tell you of perilous times, for they must shortly come, for the sword, famine, and pestilence are approaching. There shall be great destructions upon the face of this land, for ye need not suppose that one jot or tittle of the prophecies of all the holy prophets shall fail, and there are many that remain to be fulfilled yet” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 252).

Saints who exercised faith in Joseph Smith’s revealed pronouncements and worked to bring them about – Here is a key for all of us. Are we working on being part of fulfillment of prophecy? Are we ready for call any time anywhere? Is the answer to the call like the early apostles, Mathew 4 :19-22

19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

20 And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him.

21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him

or is it like the rich ruler son unable to give up some things that then hold us back?

Mathew 19 21-22

21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me.

22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

On April 26, 1838, Joseph Smith received a revelation that instructed the Twelve Apostles to depart from Far West for a mission to England in one year's time. When the Saints were driven out of Missouri that fall, some called it a false prophecy. Despite facing potential violence or imprisonment in returning to Missouri, Brigham Young was determined to act in accordance with the prophecy. He led the Twelve in a clandestine trip back to Far West, Missouri, and under cover of darkness on April 26, 1839, they departed symbolically on their mission in fulfillment of the commandment.

I feel like I could list hundreds of prophecies and how they were fulfilled, and as you study you begin to grow in light and knowledge of this great work lead by our savior Jesus Christ with Joseph leading the charge, and other great men to follow him not to create new doctrine but rather everything is built upon the doctrine that Joseph Smith revealed during his short lifetime. I often ponder how much more could we have had if he would have just lived a few years longer.

Saints were to build a "city of Zion" to which converts could gather in preparation for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

This will literally be fulfilled as sited in D&C 124 the cornerstone has been laid in temple lot in Jackson County Missouri and will be the site as foretold by Joseph Smith Jr of New Jerusalem. While I may not know the details of how things will play out, I trust in the Lord, I follow my prophet Joseph Smith knowing this to be literally fulfilled.

'Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets.' (See [Amos 3:7](#).)

: -Therefore hear this, O earth: The Lord will not come to reign over the righteous, in this world, in 1843, nor until everything for the Bridegroom is ready.'" *History of the Church*, 5:291; from a letter from Joseph Smith to the editor of the *Times and Seasons*, Feb. 28, 1843, Nauvoo, Illinois, published in *Times and Seasons*, Mar. 1, 1843, p. 113.

Joseph Smith said: "Behold the prophecies of the Book of Mormon are fulfilling as fast as time can bring it about. The Spirit of the living God is upon me; therefore, who will say that I shall not prophesy. The time is soon at hand that we shall have to flee whithersoever the Lord will, for safety. Fear not those who are making you an offender for a word], but be faithful in witnessing

unto a crooked and a perverse generation that the day of the coming of our Lord and Savior is at hand. Yea, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight his path “Letter from Joseph Smith and John Whitmer to the Saints in Colesville, New York, Dec. 2, 1830, Fayette, New York; in Newel Knight, *Autobiography and Journal*, ca. 1846–47, pp. 198–206, Church Archives.

Other scriptures to ponder

[Ezekiel 47:1–9](#)

[Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:26](#)

[Isaiah 29:20–21](#)],

[Matthew 3:3](#)].

History of the Church, 5:337; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on Apr. 6, 1843, in Nauvoo, Illinois; reported by Willard Richards.

[\(D&C 87:6, 8\)](#)

Joseph Smith Jr. - **Prophet seer and revelator, a dispensational head**

- “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’¹ from the Saints. Revelation continues to flow from the Lord during this ongoing process of restoration.” President Russell M. Nelson, “[Hear Him](#),” April 2020 general conference
- Joseph Smith’s role as the revelator of latter-day scriptures. “Much of our precious body of scripture was revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith,” he said. “Through him we have received more pages of scripture than we have from any other prophet.”- President Nelson
- **Scripture to ponder: D & C 124 –31-32**
- I ask where would you be without the basic pure doctrine revealed by the Prophet Joseph Smith? The Godhead for me can never become 1 spirit entity that so many other Christian religions proclaim. Where would you be without the knowledge found in the book of morman about America is rise and fall? About secret combinations, About the eternal nature of God, about progression, spirit world, premortal exsistance, war in heaven, temple covenants, roles of temples, how to pray and commune with God, the priesthood and authority upon the church. Where would you be without Brigham Young to faithfully gave his all to Jospheh smith and lead a people to Utah. I would be no where and nothing, these things I can never unlearn or turn away from, this knowledge I am always grateful for and in debt to Joseph Smith who answered the call on that fateful spring day. I cannot unlearn what I know to be true
- President Brigham Young, remembered a meeting at which some Church members were discussing how to depose the Prophet Joseph: “I rose up, and in a plain and forcible

manner told them that Joseph was a Prophet and I knew it, and that they might rail and slander him as much as they pleased, [but] they could not destroy the appointment of the Prophet of God; they could only destroy their own authority, cut the thread that bound them to the Prophet and to God, and sink themselves to hell. Many were highly enraged at my decided opposition to their measures. ... Brigham Young, in Historian's Office, Manuscript History of Brigham Young, 1844–46, vol. 1, p. 16, Church Archives.

- Brothers and Sisters cant we see this happening before our yes, Have we not been learning from our studys to follow the Prophet. I testify I have seen the rage the anger and the hate that never stops in the people that leave the church. They are cursed with a festering boil they cant get rid of their spirit is in constant turmoil it knows the truth, The internal battle will rage until the accept the true nature of the book of Mormon , the Prophet Joseph smith and the teachings of all the past and current prophets, if they don't unquatable fire will eat at their souls. They are never truly at peace with their decisions. I wondered how many leave the church and go to another denomination, my guess is not many. They stop church all together , they will never be able to unlearn the truth.

- 1. Praise to the man who communed with Jehovah!
Jesus anointed that Prophet and Seer.
Blessed to open the last dispensation,
Kings shall extol him, and nations revere.
- [Chorus]
Hail to the Prophet, ascended to heaven!
Traitors and tyrants now fight him in vain.
Mingling with Gods, he can plan for his brethren;
Death cannot conquer the hero again.
- 2. Praise to his mem'ry, he died as a martyr;
Honored and blest be his ever great name!
Long shall his blood, which was shed by assassins,
Plead unto heav'n while the earth lauds his fame.
- 3. Great is his glory and endless his priesthood.
Ever and ever the keys he will hold.
Faithful and true, he will enter his kingdom,
Crowned in the midst of the prophets of old.
- 4. Sacrifice brings forth the blessings of heaven;
Earth must atone for the blood of that man.
Wake up the world for the conflict of justice.
Millions (billions) shall know "Brother Joseph" again.

In the Name of Jesus Christ AMEN

Micah's Thoughts:

I love reading the things that we used to be able to say openly but now can't... It should be noted that the "mad dash to destruction" people are prone to follow is not the same as the "slow drip decay" of the loss of doctrine- or the "flaxen which eventually becomes strong cords"... Doctrine is lost first by people "fearing man more than God", and so people stop preaching the "hard things"- once a long enough time is past, when enough people no longer even know what used to be openly taught, the precepts of men can then begin to creep in and dilute the once plain and precious (and I'd say "obvious") truths of the gospel. At the start of this talk Elder Pratt says "they went forth preaching... and succeeded in baptizing"... Are we even allowed to say that anymore let alone believe it? Is "success on a mission" equal to or conflated with "baptisms" anymore?

PMG gospel stats in Ch. 1:

A Successful Missionary

Your success as a missionary is measured primarily by your commitment to find, teach, baptize, and confirm people and to help them become faithful members of the Church who enjoy the presence of the Holy Ghost.

And we learn in Doctrine and Covenants:
SECTION 4

1 Now behold, a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men.

2 Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day.

3 Therefore, if ye have desires to serve God ye are called to the work;

4 For behold the field is white already to harvest; and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul;

5 And faith, hope, charity and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualify him for the work.

6 Remember faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence.

7 Ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Amen.

And we learn from Nephi that:

"I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them."

I'll let people figure the rest of that one out themselves... I love the things we used to be able to say matter-of-factly and now no longer can even define- "what is a woman?" We are so far gone on this down the rabbit hole only divine intervention can deliver us.

I love that the next things he goes into directly after that are the

1. The literal gathering of Israel
- and
2. The literal fulfillment of prophesy

Elder Pratt goes as far as to say that the prophecy concerning the preaching of the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people had literally been fulfilled. Once again, an apostle can't declare doctrine, but what this can do- if there is nothing higher on the pyramid of truth that says the contrary- is provide a possible explanation to the literal fulfillment of this prophecy. If you were matching words between a BYU professor and an Apostle, (and we have nothing higher on the pyramid of truth) we take the words of the Apostle. So unless someone can provide something higher on the pyramid of truth, once again, we need to stop looking at that prophecy as something huge that has yet to be fulfilled- let alone before the Redemption of Zion and building of New Jerusalem, that is simply not true and besides that it is false as Brother Hyrum Andrus would say.

He then lists off some more prophecies that have literally been fulfilled, one of which is really important for a lot of reasons- that being "that the Saints would go into the Rocky Mountains"... This can be verified through multiple sources... This is a prophecy that needs to be addressed when we discuss those that stayed behind vs those that went into the mountains- it is a piece amongst many pieces that allows people to properly build a correct understanding of many things and many individuals.

There was a golden quote in here that I hope lit everyone's heart ablaze when it was read and I'll end my thoughts for section one with it:

I might mention scores of others [literally fulfilled prophecies of Joseph Smith Jr], and in no instance has that man uttered a single prophecy that either has not already been fulfilled, to the very letter, or will not have its fulfillment in the due time of the Lord.

I'd just like to give a hearty "amen!" to that, I know that none of the words of the Prophet Joseph Smith Jr. will fail, they will all literally be fulfilled. When the time comes when people are questioning Joseph Smith, when they are questioning his right to certain events and blessings, know that the elect, the very "chosen ones" will stand in faith behind Joseph Smith Jr. the prophet seer of this the last and greatest dispensation.

Section II

I have not time now to notice any others. I wish, however, to say more particularly to the strangers present, that God informed us immediately after the organization of this Church, that this Gospel should be preached first to the nations of the Gentiles, and then the Lord would call in his servants and give them a special mission to the scattered remnants of the house of Israel, that are among the Gentile nations. You have not heard of our trying to convert the Jews. Why? Because God has decreed and determined that he will fulfill the times of the Gentiles first, in

accordance with ancient prophecy. When that time arrives, the Lord will have prepared some of the Jewish nation to receive the Gospel, and then they will gather to their own land, and rebuild their city upon its former site. You doubtless will remember those words of the Savior referring to the Jewish nation, which can be found in the 21st chapter of St. Luke—"For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 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." How and in what way will the Lord fulfill the times of the Gentiles? There must first be a revealed message, a Gospel message, sent to them. The preaching of this message is referred to in the 14th chapter of Revelation, by the Apostle John, who in vision saw the angel in the act of bringing it to the earth. And we are told it was to be preached to all nations which may be said to be composed of the two peoples known as the Gentiles and the Jews. But the Lord has said that "the last shall be first, and the first shall be last." Jesus came to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, but they rejected him, and the Apostles were moved upon to say, "Lo, we turn to the Gentiles;" and they did so, the Jews having proved themselves unworthy of eternal life, "and the kingdom of God shall be taken from you," says the Savior, "and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof." The Gentiles, to whom the Gospel was to be given, received it, and the gifts and graces of the Church, which were before enjoyed by Israel, were now manifested among the Gentiles. But behold, they corrupted themselves, after having received the kingdom, and Paul perceived the decline of their faith, which was the beginning of the great "falling away," which he, in his second epistle to the Thessalonians, said must be before the day of the Lord came. Also in the 11th chapter of Romans, Paul speaks of the Gentiles who had received the Gospel as the wild olive tree, having been grafted into the tame olive tree, and cautions them in this language—"Because of unbelief, they (Israel), were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear. For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee." This, with other prophetic warnings of a similar character, was disregarded.

I will refer you to another ancient prophecy contained in the 4th chapter of the second of Timothy—"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables;" and who, he says, in the previous chapter, shall "have a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away." It seems, then, that this people, whom Paul speaks of, were to have a form of godliness; they were, in other words, to be a pious people, professedly a very religious people, but were only to possess a form, lacking all power; to be destitute, therefore, of Apostles and Prophets, miracles, etc. How long was the people to continue in this state? John informs us that this state of things would continue a long time; that, instead of the Church, another great power should arise, to be called "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots, and abominations of the earth, presenting in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and filthiness of her fornications; which should be drunken with the blood of the Saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus." And this power was to prevail against the Saints and destroy them. How long was it to exist? Until another angel should fly through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to commit to the earth, with power to again administer its ordinances. To whom is the angel to bring the Gospel? The Scriptures say, the first shall be last, and the last shall be first. The Gentiles were the last to receive the Gospel in ancient times, but on its restoration by the angel in the last days, they are to receive it first, and then the Jews. But before the Jews receive it, the following words of the

Savior must be fulfilled—"Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled," when the Gospel again will revert to that people. What do you think will bring about the fulfillment of the times of the Gentiles? It must be the promulgation of the Gospel, which the angel brings, which is to be sounded in the ears of the Gentile nations; all those receiving it are to gather out from this spiritual wickedness called Babylon the Great, because God has decreed her downfall. The overthrow of Babylon is spoken of in connection with the bringing of the Gospel by the angel, who declares also, "the hour of his judgment is come." Judgment upon whom? First, upon the Gentile nations, when their times are fulfilled. In what way? By visiting upon them famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes; nation rising against nation in war, etc., until the Gentile nations are overthrown. Or, to speak in the language of John, who declared that after the angel shall bring the Gospel, another angel shall follow, crying with a loud voice, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication; she is fallen like a great millstone, cast into the depths of the sea, and no more place found for her.

How long will it be before the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled? This is a question I cannot fully answer. It will be in the generation that the angel comes. Forty-six years have already transpired, since the Lord sent his Gospel message to the Gentile nations; and for upwards of forty years the Saints have been gathering out from the midst of Babylon, in fulfillment of another prophecy of John—"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." Remember, strangers and all, that this gathering of the people was not to result from a cunningly devised fable, or the natural scheming of man; but it should be in consequence of new revelation—a voice from heaven, commanding the people to come out from those nations where the Mother of Harlots has her seat. For it is written in the Revelation of John, that the great waters upon which the millions called Babylon sit, are nations, and multitudes, and tongues, and people. "Come out of her my people." Why? That ye be not partakers of her sins. How great are her sins? "Her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." Come out from Babylon, lest you be made partakers of her plagues. Death and mourning, lamentation and distress, will be visited upon all the inhabitants of the earth. But blessed are they who come out from Babylon, for they shall stand in holy places and not be moved, having kept the commandments of the Most High.

Angie's Thoughts:

I have not time now to notice any others. I wish, however, to say more particularly to the strangers present, that God informed us immediately after the organization of this Church, that this Gospel should be preached first to the nations of the Gentiles, and then the Lord would call in his servants and give them a special mission to the scattered remnants of the house of Israel, that are among the Gentile nations. You have not heard of our trying to convert the Jews. Why? Because God has decreed and determined that he will fulfill the times of the Gentiles first, in accordance with ancient prophecy. When that time arrives, the Lord will have prepared some of the Jewish nation to receive the Gospel, and then they will gather to their own land, and rebuild their city upon its former site.

You doubtless will remember those words of the Savior referring to the Jewish nation, which can be found in the 21st chapter of St. Luke—"For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 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."

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D&C 90

9 That through your administration they may receive the word, and through their administration the word may go forth unto the ends of the earth, unto the Gentiles first, and then, behold, and lo, they shall turn unto the Jews.

D&C 28

8 And now, behold, I say unto you that you shall go unto the Lamanites and preach my gospel unto them; and inasmuch as they receive thy teachings thou shalt cause my church to be established among them; and thou shalt have revelations, but write them not by way of commandment.

D&C 113

10 We are to understand that the scattered remnants are exhorted to return to the Lord from whence they have fallen; which if they do, the promise of the Lord is that he will speak to them, or give them revelation... The bands of her neck are the curses of aged upon her, or the remnants of Israel in their scattered condition among the Gentiles.

The scattering of Israel, however, is only half of the story. The Lord doesn't forget His people, nor does He fully forsake them, even when they have forsaken Him. The many prophecies that Israel would be scattered were accompanied by many promises that God would one day gather them.

That day is today—our day. The gathering has already begun. In 1836, thousands of years after Moses gathered the children of Israel at the foot of Mount Sinai, Moses appeared in the Kirtland Temple to commit to Joseph Smith “the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth”. Now, under the direction of those who hold these keys, the tribes of Israel are being gathered from every nation where the Lord’s servants are able to go.

Gathering Israel means bringing God’s children back to Him. It means restoring them to their covenant relationship with Him. It means reestablishing the “holy nation” He proposed to establish so long ago.

As a covenant keeper, you are part of the house of Israel. You have been gathered, and you are a gatherer. The centuries-long epic story that began with a covenant between God and Abraham is building to its climax, and you are a key player. Now is the time when “Jesus will say to all Israel, ‘Come home.’”

This is the message of the gatherers: Come home to the covenant. Come home to Zion. Come home to Jesus Christ, the Holy One of Israel, and He will bring you home to God, your Father.
-Thoughts to Keep in Mind: “Jesus Will Say to All Israel, ‘Come Home’” Come Follow Me 2022

"Because of unbelief, they (Israel), were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high minded, but fear. For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee."

D&C 45:16-30

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 fulfill the promises that I have made unto your fathers,**

17 For as ye have looked upon the long absence of your spirits from your bodies to be a bondage, I will show unto you how the day of redemption shall come, and also **the restoration of the scattered Israel.**

18 And now ye behold this temple which is in Jerusalem, which ye call the house of God, and your enemies say that this house shall never fall.

19 But verily I say unto you, that desolation shall come upon this generation as a thief in the night, and this people shall be destroyed and scattered among all nations.

20 And this temple which ye now see shall be thrown down that there shall not be left one stone upon another.

21 And it shall come to pass, that this generation of Jews shall not pass away until every desolation which I have told you concerning them shall come to pass.

22 Ye say that ye know that the end of the world cometh; ye say also that ye know that the heavens and the earth shall pass away;

23 And in this ye say truly, for so it is; but these things which I have told you **shall not pass away until all shall be fulfilled.**

24 And this I have told you concerning Jerusalem; and when that day shall come, shall a remnant be scattered among all nations;

25 But they shall be gathered again; but they shall remain **until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.**

26 And in that day shall be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion, and men's hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayeth his coming until the end of the earth.

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

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 fullness 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.

Ether 13

11 And then also come the Jerusalem of old; and the inhabitants thereof, blessed are they, for they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb; and they were they who were scattered and gathered in from the four quarters of the earth, and from the north countries, and are partakers of the fulfilling of the covenant which God made with their father, Abraham.

Its a humbling state for those that are built ready to receive the gospel to remember their God and only he can deliver them as promised in the times of Moses. And it is always a promise kept as God's children keep his commandments and covenants.

Luke 21

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 the nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables;" and who, he says, in the previous chapter, shall "have a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away." It seems, then, that this people, whom Paul speaks of, were to have a form of godliness; they were, in other words, to be a pious people, professedly a very religious people, but were only to possess a form, lacking all power; to be destitute, therefore, of Apostles and Prophets, miracles, etc."

1 Corinthians 12

26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

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.) 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.

-Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual

D&C 45

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.

Anyone with eyes to see the signs of the times and ears to hear the words of prophets knows that is true. The perils of greatest danger come to us from the forces of wickedness. Those forces are increasing. And so it will become more difficult, not easier, to honor the covenants we must make and keep to live the gospel of Jesus Christ.

-President Eyring, GC April 2022

President Harold B Lee Stated: “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.) ... The Lord has told us where these ‘holy places’ are: ‘And it shall come to pass among the wicked, that every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor must needs flee unto Zion for safety.’ (D&C 45:68.) ... Where is Zion? During the various periods of time or dispensations, and for specific reasons, the Lord’s prophets, his ‘mouthpieces,’ as it were, have designated gathering places where the Saints were to gather. After designating certain such places in our dispensation, the Lord then declared: ‘Until the day cometh when there is found no more room for them; and then I have other places which I will appoint unto them, and they shall be called stakes, for the curtains or the strength of Zion.’ (D&C 101:21.) “Thus, clearly the Lord has placed the responsibility of directing the work of gathering 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. ...

-Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual

“Now Let Us Rejoice”

Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation.

No longer as strangers on earth need we roam.

Good tidings are sounding to us and each nation,

And shortly the hour of redemption will come,

When all that was promised the Saints will be given,

And none will molest them from morn until ev’n,

And earth will appear as the Garden of Eden,

And Jesus will say to all Israel, “Come home.”

Articles of Faith

10 We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.

Moses 7

67 And the Lord showed Enoch all things, even unto the end of the world; and he saw the day of the righteous, the hour of their redemption, and received a fulness of joy;

...blessed are they who come out from Babylon, for they shall stand in holy places and not be moved, having kept the commandments of the Most High.

Micah's Thoughts:

The first thing Elder Pratt goes into in this section deals with the preaching of the gospel and the fulfillment to the times of the Gentiles- once again, it is confirmed that the times of the Gentiles happens before the Jews return to their homeland, i.e. "Israel" and within the "generation of the angel", meaning "within the generation that rejected the light" as per Doctrine and Covenants 45...

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.

i.e. "the gospel is restored, the light goes forth, is rejected, and in that generation's lifetime the times of the Gentiles will be fulfilled, which is the birth of the generation in which the times of the Gentiles is fulfilled..." (if you are still confused on that I'd recommend reviewing that chapter in the Macro Last-day Timeline)

This is another prophecy, speaking of prophecies that people scoffed at and thought "could never happen literally!" and yet here we are... The Jews literally have returned and Israel is there, and we will still not believe- amazing!

Elder Pratt also low-key identifies Joseph Smith as the angel in Revelation, which isn't actually so "low-key" as Joseph Smith himself identified himself thus:

Interpretation of Scripture (TPJS 364-365)

The Savior said when these tribulations¹³ should take place, it should be committed to a man¹⁴ who should be a witness over the whole world: the keys of knowledge, power and revelations¹⁵ should be revealed to a witness who should hold the testimony to the world. It has always been my province ... Just at the time when some men think that I have no right to the keys of the Priesthood¹⁷—just at that time I have the greatest right. ...

All the testimony is that the Lord in the last days would commit the keys of the Priesthood to a witness over all people.¹⁹ Has the Gospel of the kingdom¹ commenced in the last days? And will God take it from the man until He takes him Himself?² I have read it precisely as the words flowed from the lips of Jesus Christ. John the Revelator saw an angel flying through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth.³

The scripture is ready to be fulfilled when great wars,⁴ famines, pestilence,⁵ great distress,⁶ judgments, &c., *are ready to be poured out* on the inhabitants of the earth.⁷ John saw the angel having the holy Priesthood, who should preach the everlasting Gospel to all nations.⁸ God had an angel—a special messenger—ordained and prepared for that purpose in the last days. Woe,

woe be to that man or set of men who lift up their hands against God⁹ and His witness¹⁰ in these last days: for they shall deceive¹¹ almost the very chosen ones!¹²

There are some solid points of reference in that quote that should perk everyone's ears who know the time period we now are in. "When great wars, famines, pestilences, great distress, judgements, etc. are READ TO BE Poured OUT (meaning they haven't yet!)- then this angel shows up on the scene"

And when will these things be poured out?

Doctrine and Covenants 101

11 Mine indignation is soon to be poured out without measure upon all nations; and this will I do when the cup of their iniquity is full.

And when is the cup of iniquity full?

We must love our young people, whether they are in righteousness or in error. In this way we can give them a chance to discern and to learn. But we must also give them a fair choice. Today many are not succeeding.

Yes, "There comes a time when the general defilement of a society becomes so great that the rising generation is put under undue pressure and cannot be said to have a fair choice between the Way of Light and the Way of Darkness."

-Elder Ezra Taft Benson (Satan's Thrust- Youth, Ensign, December 1971)

"There comes a time when the general defilement of a society becomes so great that the rising generation is put under undue pressure and cannot be said to have a fair choice between the way of light and the way of darkness. When such a point is reached the cup of iniquity is full, and the established order that has passed the point of no return and neither can nor will change its ways must be removed physically and forcibly if necessary from the earth, whether by war, plague, famine, or upheavals of nature" (Mormon 2:13-15)

-Hugh Nibley (Collected Works of Hugh Nibley, Vol.6, Part.5, Ch.11, p.140).

We warn that individuals who violate covenants of chastity, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities will one day stand accountable before God. Further, we warn that the disintegration of the family will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets.

- The Family Proclamation

And finally, before "Babylon the Great" falls, there is a call out from her which seals the fate of the wicked and Babylon...

Helaman 13

13 But blessed are they who will repent, for them will I spare. But behold, if it were not for the

righteous who are in this great city, behold, I would cause that fire should come down out of heaven and destroy it.

14 But behold, it is for the righteous' sake that it is spared. But behold, the time cometh, saith the Lord, that when ye shall cast out the righteous from among you, then shall ye be ripe for destruction; yea, wo be unto this great city, because of the wickedness and abominations which are in her.

These are points of reference that I hope we are all intimately familiar with!

Section III

But if you Latter-day Saints who have received the message of the everlasting Gospel, and who have, in obedience to the voice from heaven, gathered out of Babylon, if you pollute yourselves by turning again to the vanities, wickedness, and corruptions of the people from whose midst you have been delivered, then, says the Lord, "Behold, judgment shall begin at the house of God," it shall begin with you Latter-day Saints, and then will go forth to the nations and kingdoms of the earth, weeping, wailing and lamentations among all people, which will come to pass just as literally as that foretold by the Prophet Joseph Smith, concerning what should take place between the North and the South.

These plagues named in John's revelations, will take place literally—"The Lord God will curse the waters of the great deep, and they shall be turned into blood." "The sea shall become as the blood of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea shall be destroyed." And the time will come, when the seven angels having the seven last trumpets will sound their trumpets literally, and the sound thereof will be heard among the nations, just preparatory to the coming of the Son of man; and all the judgments foretold by John, which are to succeed the sound of each of the seven trumpets, will be fulfilled literally upon the earth in their times and seasons. And the wicked will gnaw their tongues for peace, and will curse God, wishing to die because of their pain. These are they who repented not when the gospel was preached to them, and who became hardened in their iniquities, which were overflowing, in order that God might visit them according to all that had been spoken by the mouths of his ancient Prophets.

What will become of the Latter-day Saints? When the judgments shall have ceased, which will be visited first on the house of the Lord, they who remain will spread forth, increase and multiply; and they will build upon this continent a great and magnificent city, called Zion, or the New Jerusalem. And they will build a Temple within that city, upon which a cloud will rest by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night; and upon all the assemblies of the people of Zion the Lord will create this glorious appendage, and will shed forth his loving kindness. This is the destiny of Zion, as foreseen by Isaiah and David, and many of the Prophets who have predicted concerning her.

Says one, I will wait to see if God will do these things. But peradventure, while waiting, you may be cut asunder, and your portion appointed among the unbelievers, where there are weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. Woe unto them who wait to see if God will really fulfill the prophecies of his servants, and who repent not of their sins! But, blessed are they who repent as

soon as they hear the sound of the message, and who turn unto the Lord their God with all their hearts, for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, which bears record of the Father and the Son, and they shall be prepared for the dispensation of his providences, and hail his coming with great joy.

The people of the antediluvian world waited one day too long; they waited until the flood came, when it was too late, and they were swept away, eight persons only escaping. The Savior, speaking of his second coming, said—"As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded. But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Did the Lord raise up a Prophet and warn the antediluvians by new revelation? He did: and he did the same in the case of the people in the days of Lot. Will he do the same prior to his second coming? He will. He is doing it by means of his Gospel; revealed for the purpose of saving all who receive it, who gather to a place of safety, as Noah and those who believed his message did. But the day will come when the Lord will not spare any who remain in Babylon; that will be, however, when this prophecy of Isaiah is completely fulfilled—"I will gather them from the east, and from the west; I will say to the north, give up, and to the south, keep not back; bring my sons from afar, and my daughters from the ends of the earth, even every one that is called by name." All this is to take place in the very dispensation in which the angel should bring the Gospel, which is the dispensation of the fullness of times. The Apostle Paul also refers to the same great event, in the following language: "That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; even in him." It is the purpose of God then, not to confine the gathering to earthly Saints alone. "What," says one, "are immortal beings coming down from heaven to live on this earth?" Certainly, and thus fulfill numerous prophecies in the Scriptures; one of which is, "They shall reign on the earth." Who are these persons? They are they whom John heard singing in heaven about it. They said, "Thou hast redeemed us out of every nation, kindred, tongue and people, and hast made us unto our God, kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." What a glorious song! While we are singing about going to heaven, all heavenly beings are singing about coming back to earth to live and to reign. Why? Because this is their inheritance, they have been made worthy through the blood of the lamb, and their Redeemer will be their King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and to his dominion there shall be no end. When this takes place, then will be fulfilled the saying, that all things which are in Christ, both in heaven and on earth, shall be gathered together. The wicked, too, shall be gathered, but in bundles ready for the burning.

Marvel not, therefore, Latter-day Saints, that you have been exalted out from among the Gentile nations! Marvel not that the Lord has said to the North, give up, and to the south, keep not back, bring my sons from afar, and my daughters from the ends of the earth! Marvel not at the Savior's parable of the gathering of all kinds of fish and bringing them to the shore! By and by, angels will come among the Latter-day Saints who have been gathered from the nations, and they will pluck out one here, and another there, putting them into their place. The separation of the fish will take place; the bad will be cast away, while the good will be reserved in vessels for the Master's use.

May the Lord who has redeemed us from among the nations bestow upon us the rich blessings of his kingdom, which he has decreed to bestow upon his people in the latter days! And may this people spread forth on the right hand and on the left; may they enlarge the place of their dwelling, and stretch forth the curtains of their habitation, until they shall become a great mountain, as the Prophet Daniel has predicted, and fill the whole earth, until the kingdom and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom, under the whole heavens; shall be given to the Saints of the Most High God! Amen.

Marlene's Thoughts:

But if you later-day Saints who have received the message of the everlasting gospel, and who have, in obedience to the voice from heaven, gathered out of Babylon, if you pollute yourselves by turning again to the vanities, wickedness, and corruption of the people from whose midst you have been delivered,

Those who have awoken, do not go back to sleep. Why might we go back to sleep after having tasted of the fruit of the tree; after having received the message of the everlasting gospel and gathered out of Babylon? The list of reasons one might have is long but in the end it all comes down to pride. We go through trials whether of our own making or imposed upon us, and how we react, our humility or pride, can take us in one of two directions.

Elder Robert D. Hales "Your Sorrow Shall Be Turned to Joy", Ensign, Nov. 1983, "Suffering is universal; how we react to suffering is individual. Suffering can take us one of two ways. It can be a strengthening and purifying experience combined with faith, or it can be a destructive force in our lives if we do not have faith in the Lord's atoning sacrifice. The purpose of suffering, however, is to build and strengthen us."

Those who have tasted of the fruit, then are made to feel foolish, embarrassed, angry, cheated, depressed, etc. by the voices from the Great and Spacious Building and will find themselves in the midst of Babylon again.

Elder Neal A Maxwell "Lest Ye Be Wearied and Faint in Your Minds, "Ensign, May 1991, "Spiritual refinement is not only to make the gross more pure but to further refine the already fine!"

then, says the Lord, "Behold, judgment shall begin in the house of God", it will begin with you Latter-day Saints, and then will go forth to the nations and kingdoms of earth, weeping, wailing and lamentations among all the people, which will come to pass just as literally as that foretold by the Prophet Joseph Smith, concerning what should take place between the North and the South.

1 Peter 4:16-19

16. Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on his behalf.
17. For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?
18. And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?

19. Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls *to him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

Why will judgement begin at the House of God first? Because He has given us the fulness of His law and he will visit His people first. We have no reason to be ignorant, we have no reason to be rebellious. If the saints had not turned back to Babylon, there would have been no need for judgement starting at His house. Judgement is the process of separating the wheat from the tares; from separating the righteous from the wicked. To establish His house, the judgment must start with His house to cleanse it from all unrighteousness.

Orson Pratt references Joseph Smith's prophesy, "and then will go forth to the nations and kingdoms of earth, weeping, wailing and lamentations among all the people, which will come to pass just as literally as that foretold by the Prophet Joseph Smith, concerning what should take place between the North and the South."

Here, Orson Pratt is not saying that the judgment that would go from His house was the Civil War, but will come to pass just as the Civil War. What happened during the Civil War? The people were torn in two. A judgement went out across the nation and the people were torn and divided in two. This is what we will be experiencing again; a judgment that tears the people in two.

Continuing to read from Orson Pratt's discourse we see what that judgement will be like that will tear the people apart; that will separate the wheat from the tares.

These plagues named in John's revelations, will take place literally - "The Lord God will curse the waters of the great deep, and they shall be turned into blood." "The sea shall become as the blood of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea shall be destroyed." And the time will come, when the seven angels having the seven last trumpets will sound their trumpets literally, and the sound thereof will be heard among the nations, just preparatory to the coming of the Son of man; and all the judgments foretold by John, which are to succeed the sound of each of the seven trumpets, will be fulfilled literally upon the earth in their times and seasons. And the wicked will gnaw their tongues for peace, and will curse God, wishing to die because of their pain. These are they who repented not when the gospel was preached to them, and who became hardened in their iniquities, which were overflowing, in order that God might visit them according to all that had been spoken by the mouths of his ancient Prophets.

What will become of the Latter-day Saints? When the judgments shall have ceased, which will be visited first on the house of the Lord, they who remain will spread forth, increase and multiply; and they will build upon this continent a great and magnificent city, called Zion, or the New Jerusalem. And they will build a Temple within that city, upon which a cloud will rest by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night; and upon all the assemblies of the people of Zion the Lord will create this glorious appendage, and will shine forth his loving kindness. This is the destiny of Zion, as foreseen by Isaiah and David, and many of the Prophets who have predicted concerning her.

Here Orson Pratt gives us a clear distinction between the righteous and the wicked or rather a

clear distinction between the two churches; the church of the Lamb and the church of the devil.

1 Nephi 14:10

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

Alma 5:39

39 And now if ye are not the sheep of the good shepherd, of what fold are ye? Behold, I say unto you, that the devil is your shepherd, and ye are of his fold; and now, who can deny this? Behold, I say unto you, whosoever denieth this is a liar and a child of the devil.

Says one, I will wait to see if God will do these things. But peradventure, while waiting, you may be cut asunder, and your portion appointed among the unbelievers, where there are weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. Woe unto them who wait to see if God will really fulfill the prophecies of his servants, and who repent not of their sins! But, blessed are they who repent as soon as they hear the sound of the message, and who turn unto the Lord their God with all their hearts, for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, which bears record of the Father and the Son, and they shall be prepared for the dispensation of his providences, and hail his coming with great joy.

Now Orson Pratt turn's his attention back to the Saints and here we can draw a connection to the five wise virgins and the five foolish virgins, and the people of Alma and Limhi. Who are the Five Wise Virgins and the People of Alma? Those who speedily repent, and who turn their hearts to God. They are those who are learning, preparing, serving, and sanctifying themselves NOW and not when they are put under severe duress or rather are compelled to be humble and repent. Who now are the Five Foolish Virgins and the people of Limhi? They are those who see the signs of the time but they have no faith that God will fulfill His promises. So they sit around on their hands waiting for a major disaster or other devastating event to hit them between the eyes to say, "oh, this is what was prophesied in the scriptures and now I see that God will do what he said." By then it is too late for them. They are now to be found without any preparations, ie. without their oil in their lamps and they are neck deep in tribulations as the people of Limhi.

The people of the antediluvian world waited one day too long; they waited until the flood came, when it was too late, and they were swept away, eight persons only escaping. The Savior, speaking of his second coming, said — "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise, also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded. But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Did the Lord raise up a Prophet and warn the antediluvians by new revelation? He did: and he did the same in the case of the people in the days of Lot. Will he do the same prior to his

second coming? He will. He is doing it by means of his Gospel; revealed for the purpose of saving all who receive it, who gather to a place of safety, as Noah and those who believed his message did.

There will come the day when for the wicked and the members of the church who have not repented that just as in the days of Noah, the rains will come, the fire will come, the earth will part, and there will be no more second chances. They will be swept of from the earth and utterly destroyed. That is why we have been continually chastised as God's people and told over and over again to gather in sacred places and to essentially, built our own arks. Has God sent us a modern day prophet to warn us just as the people in the time of Noah? Yes, he sent us Joseph Smith and subsequent prophets who have all warned and continue to warn us. If we look at our current prophet, has he not extensively warned us?

1. Keep on the Covenant Path - "Keep on the covenant path. Your commitment to follow the Savior by making covenants with Him and then keeping those covenants will open the door to every spiritual blessing and privilege available to men, women and children everywhere." (Press Conf. Jan. 2018)
2. Invitation to the Youth to enlist in the Lord's Youth Battalion – The gathering is "the most important thing taking place on earth today." "This gathering should mean everything to you. This is the mission for which you were sent to earth." Challenge to the youth to 1. read daily from the Book of Mormon to learn more about the gathering, 2. hold a seven-day fast from social media, 3. make a weekly sacrifice of time to the Lord, 4. Stay on the covenant path, pray daily that all of God's children might receive gospel blessings, 5. Stand out and be a light. President Nelson promised, these five invitations "will change you and help change the world." (Worldwide Devotional June 2018)
3. Invitation to women to Gather Israel - Extended a prophetic plea to women to participate in the gathering of Israel, hold a ten day fast from social media, read the Book of Mormon before the end of the year, attend the temple regularly, and participate fully in Relief Society. (General Women's Session Oct 2018)
4. Make our homes a Sanctuary of Faith - Remodel your homes into a "sanctuary of faith" and "center of gospel learning" "Changes in your family will be dramatic and sustaining." (G.C. Oct 2018)
5. Invitation to Priesthood leaders Daily Repentance - "I plead with you to repent. Experience the strengthening power of daily repentance- of doing and being a little better each day." (G.C. April 2019)
6. Do the Spiritual Work Necessary - "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 yourself, and please do it now. Time is running out." (G.C. April 2019)
7. Increase Spiritual Capacity - "In coming days, it will not be possible to survive spiritually without the guiding, directing, comforting, and constant influence of the Holy Ghost"
8. Invitation to women to increase in spiritual capacity and understand priesthood power.- He invited the women to increase spiritual capacity and prayerfully study

- D&C 25 and “all truths we can find about priesthood power” “As your understanding increases and as you exercise faith in the Lord and His priesthood power, your ability to draw upon this spiritual treasure that the Lord has made available will increase.” (G.C. Oct. 2019)
9. Hear Him - “I invite you to think deeply and often about this key question: How do you hear Him?” (Social Media Post Feb. 2020) “What will help us the very most is to hear His Son, because when we seek to hear- truly hear- His Son, we will be guided to know what to do in any circumstance.” (G.C. April 2020)
 10. Gather Israel- “Anytime we do anything that helps anyone – on either side of the veil – and make and keep their covenants with God, we are helping to gather Israel.” “Are you willing to let God prevail in you life? Are you willing to let God be the most important influence in your life?” (G.C. Oct. 2020)
 11. Abandon attitudes and actions of prejudice - “Today, I call upon our members everywhere to lead out in abandoning attitudes and actions of prejudice. I plead with you to promote respect for all of God’s children.” (G.C. Oct. 2020)
 12. Give Thanks – 1. “Just for the next seven days, turn social media into your own personal gratitude journal. Post everyday about what you are grateful for, who you are grateful for and why you are grateful.” Use the hashtag #GiveThanks 2. “Let us unite in thanking God through daily prayer by first expressing gratitude to God, and then petitioning Him for the things we need. Prayer brings forth miracles.” (Video Message Nov. 2020)
 13. Increase Faith in Christ- “Faith in Christ is the greatest power available in this life.” “My dear brothers and sisters, my call to you this Easter morning is to start today to increase your faith. Through your faith, Jesus Christ will increase your ability to move the mountains in your life, even though your personal challenges may loom as large as Mount Everest.” Five invitations: 1. Study, become an engaged learner. 2. Choose to believe in Jesus Christ. 3. Act in Faith. 4. Partake in sacred ordinances worthily. 5. Ask Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, for help. (G.C. April 2021)
 14. Make Time for the Lord Every Day - Counter the lure of the world by making time for the Lord every day. “Nothing invites the Spirit more than fixing your focus on Jesus Christ.” (G.C. Oct 2021)
 15. Strengthen Spiritual Foundation – implement “extraordinary measures” to strengthen your personal spiritual foundation. “My dear brothers and sisters, these are the latter days. If you and I are to withstand the forthcoming perils and pressures, it is imperative that we each have a firm spiritual foundation built upon the rock of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.” “How firm is your foundation? And what reinforcement to your testimony and understanding of the gospel is needed? ... Please believe me when I say that when your spiritual foundation is built solidly upon Jesus Christ, you have no need to fear.” (G.C. Oct. 2021)
 16. Act to Receive Spiritual Momentum (Seek and Expect Miracles)– “With all the pleadings of my heart, I urge you to get on the covenant path and stay there. Experience the joy of repenting daily. Learn about God and how He works. Seek and Expect Miracles. Strive to end conflict in your life. As you act on these pursuits, I promise you the ability to move forward on the covenant path with increased momentum, despite whatever obstacles you face. And I promise you greater strength

to resist temptation, more peace of mind, freedom from fear, and greater unity in your families.” (G.C. April 2022)

17. Missionary Service – “Today I reaffirm strongly that the Lord has asked *every* worthy, able young man to prepare for and serve a mission.” To young women, “Pray to know if the Lord would have you serve a mission, and the Holy Ghost will respond to your heart and mind.” (G.C. April 2022)

Is it not evident that we have a prophet of God directing us in our specific day teaching us how to create that place of safety; how to build our own ark?

But the day will come when the Lord will not spare any who remain in Babylon; that will be, however, when this prophecy of Isaiah is completely fulfilled — "I will gather them from the east, and from the west; I will say to the north, give up, and to the south, keep not back; bring my sons from afar, and my daughters from the ends of the earth, even every one that is called by name."

Isaiah 43:5-7

5 Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

6 I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

In the footnotes we see that this is directly referring to the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel. The Institute Student Manuel states “Isaiah used east, west, north, and south (see vv. 5–6) to symbolize “all the nations” (v. 9) throughout the world to which Israel was scattered and from which she will be gathered. The promised gathering is to be brought about in the last days by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (See Orson Pratt, in *Journal of Discourses*, 18:228; Joseph Fielding Smith, *Answers to Gospel Questions*, 2:181–82.)

In connection with this promise, read Notes and Commentary on Isaiah 42:17–25, concerning the servant who sees and hears and will open the eyes and ears of those who will be gathered.

JST, Isaiah 42:19-23

19. For I will send my servant unto you who are blind; yea, a messenger to open the eyes of the blind, and unstop the ears of the deaf;

20. And they shall be made perfect notwithstanding their blindness, if they will hearken unto the messenger, the Lord’s servant.

21. Thou art a people, seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears to hear, but thou hearest not.

22. The Lord is not well pleased with such a people, but for his righteousness’ sake he will magnify the law and make it honorable.

23. Thou art a people robbed and spoiled; thine enemies, all of them, have snared thee in holes,

and they have hid thee in prison houses; they have taken thee for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore.” (JST, Isaiah 42:19–23.)

All this is to take place in the very dispensation in which the angel should bring the Gospel, which is the dispensation of the fullness of times.

Which we know the messenger, the servant, and the angel, is Joseph Smith.

The Apostle Paul also refers to the same great event, in the following language: "That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; even in him." It is the purpose of God then, not to confine the gathering to earthly Saints alone. "What," says one, "are immortal beings coming down from heaven to live on this earth?" Certainly, and thus fulfill numerous prophecies in the Scriptures; one of which is, "They shall reign on the earth." Who are these persons? They are they whom John heard singing in heaven about it. They said, "Thou hast redeemed us out of every nation, kindred, tongue and people, and hast made us unto our God, kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." What a glorious song! While we are singing about going to heaven, all heavenly beings are singing about coming back to earth to live and to reign. Why? Because this is their inheritance, they have been made worthy through the blood of the lamb, and their Redeemer will be their King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and to his dominion there shall be no end. When this takes place, then will be fulfilled the saying, that all things which are in Christ, both in heaven and on earth, shall be gathered together. The wicked, too, shall be gathered, but in bundles ready for the burning.

Is Brother Pratt not describing the event when he said that He would send you Elijah the prophet before the great and dreadful day of the Lord?

Malachi 5:6

6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Are we not looking to Heaven and our ancestors looking to the Earth?

Marvel not, therefore, Latter-day Saints, that you have been exalted out from among the Gentile nations! Marvel not that the Lord has said to the North, give up, and to the south, keep not back, bring my sons from afar, and my daughters from the ends of the earth! Marvel not at the Savior's parable of the gathering of all kinds of fish and bringing them to the shore! By and by, angels will come among the Latter-day Saints who have been gathered from the nations, and they will pluck out one here, and another there, putting them into their place. The separation of the fish will take place; the bad will be cast away, while the good will be reserved in vessels for the Master's use.

Savior's parable of the gathering of all kinds of fish and bringing them to the shore really jumped out to me here and I wanted to dive into that a little further. The Separation of the fish will take place; the bad will be cast away, while the good will be reserved in vessels for the Master's use.

Matthew 13

The people gather to him at the sea shore. He enters into a boat and speaks to them from the boat.

1. He first gives them the parable of the Sower. The seed that fall by the side, seeds planted in stony places, thorns, and good ground.

2. The parable of the Man Who Sowed Good Seed and the enemy who came and sowed tares. This is more specifically, the wheat and the tares growing together until the harvest when the tares will be burned.

3. The parable of the mustard seed which talks about the least being the greatest which when grown is able then the care for and nourish others.

4. The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto leaven.

5. The kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hid in a field.

6. Merchant seeking goodly pearls.

7. Gathering of all kinds of fish.

Matthew 13:47-50

47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

The part in this that really jumps out to me is, “the angels came forth”.

D&C 84:88

And whoso receiveth you, there will I be also, for I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up.”

President Nelson in his talk, “Hear Him” 2020 stated, “...please schedule regular time to worship and serve in the temple. Every minute of that time will bless you and your family in ways *nothing* else can. Take time to ponder what you hear and feel when you are there. Ask the Lord to teach you how to open the heavens to bless your life and the lives of those you love and serve. ...I invite you to increase your participation in family history, including family history research and indexing. I promise that as you increase your time in temple and family history work, you will increase and improve your ability to hear Him.

Then in the October 2021 General Conference President Nelson in his talk, “the Temple and Your Spiritual Foundation” stated, “And to each of you who have made temple covenants, I plead with you to seek- prayerfully and consistently- to understand temple covenants and ordinances. Spiritual doors will open. You will learn how to part the veil between heaven and earth, how to ask for God's angels to attend you, and how to better receive direction from heaven.”

In speaking of the temple, In April 2009 Elder Gary E. Stevens said in his talk, “Sacred Homes, Sacred Temple”, “It is the most holy of any place of worship on the earth,” followed by this insightful statement: “Only the home can compare with the temple in sacredness.” For me this suggests a sacred relationship between the temple and the home. Not only can we turn the doors of our home to the temple, of the house of the Lord; we can make our homes a “house of the Lord.”

I have greatly pondered over the past couple of years, how it is that I can make my home like a temple. My mind has gone to my temple covenants and honoring those. It has gone to thinking about how we can more fully invite the spirit into our home. I had a realization a few weeks ago during a Relief Society activity. We were sitting in a circle discussing different gospel topics and one of the sisters brought up this very subject, “How can I make my home like a temple?” As she spoke expressing her desire to have the spirit in her home, and to have peace and calm I realized that most of the time when we think about the temple or think about our homes as a temple, we think about the atmosphere. We think about the peace, calm, quiet, beautiful, and spiritual nature. And while those things are nice, those are not what a temple is. Those are effects created from what the purpose of the temple is. As my friend spoke, understanding washed over me. The purpose of the temple is to receive saving ordinances, make covenants with our Heavenly Father, and to complete saving ordinances for our ancestors. This is the purpose. As we then are faithful to our covenants and make ourselves sacred and holy, the temple is sacred and holy. The effect is *then* that there will be peace, calm, quiet, beauty, and the spirit. I realized that we are most commonly looking at the temple and making our homes temples from the effect end and not the cause end. The cause is making and keeping covenants and completing ordinances for us and our ancestors. As we complete those causes in our homes, we will naturally begin to have the effects we so desire. So what does that mean we need to do in our homes? We need keep our covenants and while we can’t complete ordinances in our homes for our ancestors, we can work on our genealogy and prepare names to be ready to take to the temple. The work we do in our homes is the preparatory work to be able to complete the ordinances in the temple. Our homes then become an extension office of the temple where we are faithful to covenants and prepare ourselves and our ancestors for ordinances.

When we do these things, our homes will become, “a house of the Lord”.

When we regularly attend the temple and do as we have been asked to make our homes “a house of the Lord” and “a sanctuary of faith”, Spiritual doors will open. You will learn how to part the veil between heaven and earth, how to ask for God's angels to attend you, and how to better receive direction from heaven.”, even in our own homes.

Then we will truly go out with His angels round about us to bear us up.

This takes us back to Matthew 13:49

49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

The angels will be able to come forth in the first place because of all the things listed above as President Nelson and Elder Stevenson explained; attending the temple, coming to understand temple covenants, honoring temple covenants, completing the work for our ancestors, making our home a “house of the Lord”. The hearts of the just will have turned to their fathers and their fathers to the just. The just will be living in the company of angels. This is how the veil will be thinned between us and them and they will be our companions. They will know us, and we will come to know them and thus the angels will be able to testify as to who are the wheat and the tares and who are the good and the bad fish.

I also grabbed onto what Orson Pratt said right at the end of this last paragraph, “while the good will be reserved in vessels for the Master's use.”

He's pointing out that we won't just be separated from the wicked and sent to live in our safe city of Zion, but that we will be divided into our places where Heavenly Father will need us to be to be able to fulfill The Plan. We essentially will become co-servants, co-messengers, and co-angels with Joseph Smith. We will not replace Joseph Smith but will share in those duties, responsibilities, and blessings with him. We become Joseph's Boys and watchmen on the tower.

May the Lord who has redeemed us from among the nations bestow upon us the rich blessings of his kingdom, which he has decreed to bestow upon his people in the latter days! And may this people spread forth on the right hand and on the left; may they enlarge the place of their dwelling, and stretch forth the curtains of their habitation, until they shall become a great mountain, as the Prophet Daniel has predicted, and fill the whole earth, until the kingdom and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom, under the whole heavens; shall be given to the Saints of the Most High God! Amen.

Sometimes I look at the state of the world and think, the redemption of Zion is so far away. Look at the state of the world. It's a complete mess. How could such a righteous beautiful place be built? And then I remember Nephi when he said to his son Jacob,

2 Nephi 2:11

For it must needs be, that there is an opposition in all things. If not so, my first born in the wilderness, righteousness could not be brought to pass, neither wickedness, neither holiness nor misery, neither good nor bad. Wherefore, all things must needs be a compound in one;

The very fact that we are seeing so much wickedness in the world, testifies to the opposition of righteousness. That righteousness may be more quiet than the raging hurricane of wickedness. It may be smaller or at least appear smaller than the army of wickedness, but Heavenly Father can do his own work just as he did for Noah and the eight saved on the Ark. He will win whether there are only eight righteous that build Zion or millions. It's just for us to choose which side we

are on and start building our Arks; start building Zion. I know that God can complete his own work. I have experienced and seen this in small ways in my own life. It does not matter what satan does or throws at us, God will always, always, always come out on top. Everything satan does is a fake cheap imitation and God know how to use even the most wicked to complete his purposes. Because Christ completed His mission there is no way that satan can win the war. All he can do is steal away individuals by convincing them to give up their free agency to him. What exciting days lie ahead for those who choose the Lord and who choose to separate themselves from Babylon. I know Heavenly Father has a grand marvelous plan prepared for all of His children and I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Micah's Thoughts:

The first thing Elder Pratt goes over in this last section is the special responsibility resting on members to be clean watchman, else the judgements of God will come down first upon the Latter-day Saints and then go forth to the world. Brigham Young (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 10, p. 335, June 26, 1864) taught:

"There is one principle I would like to have the Latter-day Saints perfectly understand-that is, of blessings and cursings. For instance, we read that war, pestilence, plagues, famine, etc., will be visited upon the inhabitants of the earth; but if distress through the judgments of God comes upon this people, it will be because the majority have turned away from the Lord. *Let the majority of the people turn away from the Holy Commandments which the Lord has delivered to us, and cease to hold the balance of power in the Church, and we may expect the judgments of God to come upon us; but while six-tenths or three-fourths of this people will keep the commandments of God, the curse and judgments of the Almighty will never come upon them,* though we will have trials of various kinds, and the elements to contend with-natural and spiritual elements. While this people will strive to serve God according to the best of their abilities, they will fare better, have more to eat and to wear, have better houses to live in, better associations, and enjoy themselves better than the wicked ever do or ever will do"

And President Joseph Fielding Smith taught (Doctrines of Salvation, Volume 3, p.31-32):

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."

Elder Pratt next goes into the literal nature of fulfillment of the prophecies in the Book of Revelation, stating that the curses as well as the horns will be literal. This quote actually makes appearances in our church student manuals. The line “in order that God might visit them according to all that had been spoken by the mouths of his ancient Prophets” is a very strong call back to the language in the Family Proclamation which I’ve already read. Pratt identifies the time period for the building of New Jerusalem as being DURING the time period of these great judgements being poured out on America- also known as “the cleansing of America”. This fits perfectly in line with an understanding of Joseph in Egypt as a type- 7 years famine. There will be those that are called out who are worthy, those who remained faithful to the church, those who remained faithful to the Lord, those who remained faithful to Joseph Smith, and they will redeem Zion and start the building of the New Jerusalem- these are the five wise virgins. The five foolish virgins try to get in but are told they must wait without and pass through tribulation to make themselves worthy of entry. During the cleansing of America groups are then sent out from the New Jerusalem to bring those who have made themselves worthy during the tribulation in and unto the New Jerusalem.

Elder Pratt goes into this, the Redemption of Zion and building of New Jerusalem, and then lays down one of the most important quotes I believe in this entire talk, so important I’d like to repeat it again:

Says one, I will wait to see if God will do these things [i.e the Redemption of Zion and the building of New Jerusalem...]. But peradventure, while waiting, you may be cut asunder, and your portion appointed among the unbelievers, where there are weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. Woe unto them who wait to see if God will really fulfill the prophecies of his servants... blessed are they who repent as soon as they hear the sound of the message, and who turn unto the Lord their God with all their hearts, for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, which bears record of the Father and the Son, and they shall be prepared for the dispensation of his providences, and hail his coming with great joy.

There are many who don’t believe in the literal Redemption of Zion or building of New Jerusalem, but he truly believe that if they just “sit there and wait”, if such a thing takes place they are deserving of entrance into such a city... In the words of President Benson, “they are deceived and they will rue the day they harbored such delusions”...

Elder L. Tom Perry taught (The Power of Deliverance):

What was the difference between the people of Alma and the people of King Limhi? Obviously, there were several differences: the people of Alma were peaceful and more righteous; they had already been baptized and entered into a covenant with the Lord; they humbled themselves before the Lord even before their tribulations started. All these differences made it appropriate and fair that the Lord would deliver them quickly in a miraculous way from the hand which kept them in bondage. These scriptures teach us of the Lord’s power of deliverance.

We must have faith a the Brother of Jared (Ether 4), we must remain faithful members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but because it will become near impossible for a Saint to tell the difference between the face of a sinner or Saint in said congregations the people of the Lord will also/or in addition to going to church, be gathering outside the church structure with those who have such faith and who fear the Lord according to the Lord’s precepts and not man’s precepts (3 Nephi 24), we must pray unto the Lord night and day until deliverance comes

(Isaiah 62) and finally, Joseph Smith will collect those who have remained worthy to take part in the building of that city...

Elder Heber C. Kimball put all of that together when he prophesied:

“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.”

(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)

Or as Elder Pratt put it “By and by, angels will come among the Latter-day Saints... and they will pluck out one here, and another there, putting them into their place.”

Moses 7

61 And the day shall come that the earth shall rest, but before that day the heavens shall be darkened, and a veil of darkness shall cover the earth; and the heavens shall shake, and also the earth; and great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve;

62 And 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; yea, and also the resurrection of all men; and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare, an 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.

Righteousness to Sweep the Earth (TPJS 83-84)

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.)¹

The Glorious Resurrection (TPJS 84)

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;² and by virtue of the same, the glorious resurrection³ 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 quarters⁴ of the earth, and to be established an holy city, for the tabernacle of the Lord⁵ shall be with them.

Descent of Priesthood (TPJS 158-159)

This is why Adam blessed his posterity; he wanted to bring them into the presence of God.¹ They looked for a city, etc., “whose builder and maker is God.” (Hebrews 11:10.)² Moses sought to bring the children of Israel into the presence of God,³ through the power of the Priesthood,⁴ but he could not. In the first ages of the world⁵ they tried to establish the same thing; and there were Eliases⁶ raised up who tried to restore these very glories, but did not obtain them; but they prophesied of a day when this glory would be revealed.⁷ Paul spoke of the dispensation of the fullness of times, when God would gather together all things in one,⁸ etc.; and those men to whom these keys have been given, will have to be there; and they without us cannot be made perfect.⁹

These men are in heaven, but their children are on the earth. Their bowels yearn¹⁰ over us. God sends down men for this reason. “And the Son of Man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that give offense and them that do iniquity.” (Matthew 13:41.)¹¹ *All these authoritative characters will come down and join hand in hand in bringing about this work.*¹²

We Cannot Be Perfect Without Our Dead (TPJS 159)

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed.¹³ The mustard seed is small, but brings forth a large tree, and the fowls lodge in the branches. The fowls are the angels. Thus angels¹⁴ come down, combine together to gather their children, and gather them. We cannot be made perfect without them, nor they without us;¹⁵ when these things are done, the Son of Man will descend,¹⁶ the Ancient of Days sit;¹⁷ we may come to an innumerable company of angels,¹⁸ have communion with and receive instruction from them. Paul told about Moses’ proceedings; spoke of the children of Israel being baptized. (1 Cor. 10:1–4.)¹⁹ He knew this, and that all the ordinances and blessings were in the Church. Paul had these things, and we may have the fowls of heaven lodge in the branches,²⁰ etc.

Brothers and Sisters I know that these things will happen, I know it... Ashley was upset that she was, due to time constraints, unable to help me put this together this week, but I know she add

her voice of witness to this as well- we know these things will happen. Brothers and Sisters, we don't want to be the members who say "*I will wait to see if God will do these things*"... We don't want to be the members who don't repent now, who don't forgive now, who don't prepare now- there is no "magic wand" waiting for you in the New Jerusalem that Christ will wave over you and say "okay, now you are good to go!", there is only the Savior standing there saying with sadness in His voice, "ye know me not"... Do what we must now, we must humble ourselves, have desire, faith, and pray for these things night and day. We must not be aligned with those teaching against the rod in Christ's hands who will be working this work- Joseph Smith Jr- for they shall deceive almost the very chosen ones...

God bless, God speed, keep the faith! So that we may be a part of these wonder events at our door step, is my prayer in Christ's name, amen!