

The Revelations of the Holy Spirit—Sacrifice Brings Forth Salvation,  
Episode of Queen Esther—Where Knowledge is Given Obedience is  
Required—Noah and the Antediluvians, Penalty of Disobedience—The  
Knowledge Which Comforts the People of God, the Skepticism of the  
World—The Testimony of the Latter-day Saints—The Indestructibility  
of "Mormonism"—God Will Overrule and Deliver, If the Saints Will Do  
Their Duty

Lorenzo Snow

October 5, 1882

## Section I (Levi)

It might not be improper for us as Latter-day Saints in assembling together on occasions of this kind to remind ourselves that the information and intelligence that it is our privilege to receive, depend very much upon the assistance we get from the Holy Spirit—that Spirit which the Savior told us would bring all things to our remembrance, and open up unto our understanding all things that might be profitable. Of course we learn a great many things through reflection and by the exercise of the intelligence which we have acquired through the cultivation of the principles of truth; but those things which are of the greatest importance to the Latter-day Saints are derived through the revelations of the Holy Spirit. Many principles of vast importance, principles that will assist greatly through all the scenes of life, may be developed through the revelations of the Holy Spirit on occasions of this kind when we come together to hear the word of the Lord through His servants.

I will read a portion of Scripture—not that I intend to confine myself particularly to any text; but there are some things contained in a short history that will be found in the Book of Esther, from which I think we may derive much profit and consolation under the circumstances that surround us at the present time as well as the circumstances that may surround us in the future. In the 4th chapter of the Book of Esther, beginning at the 15th verse, we read:

"Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

"Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

"So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him."

Now we find in tracing the history of the Lord's dealings from the beginning to the present time—we find it in our own history, we find it in the histories contained in the Bible, the New Testament, and the Book of Mormon, that where circumstances arose or events transpired of a peculiar nature, it required the action of men and women to accomplish certain duties that were devolving upon them in the interest and the salvation of the people, or for a class of people, or perhaps for certain individuals, we find this in tracing the history of God's dealings with the human family. Now to my mind there is something very singular in the history of a certain

people connected with the events related in the Book of Esther. There was a people at this time scattered throughout the provinces of the Medes and Persians, Ahasuerus being then king of Persia and Media. This people were the people of God, they had been acknowledged of God as his people for several centuries, commencing with Abraham; but in consequence of their dissipation and transgression, and because they sought to worship other Gods, he scattered them throughout those 127 provinces, and they were in captivity. But in consequence of a certain feeling that was gotten up, a feeling of hatred and a determination to destroy this people, they were placed in very imminent jeopardy. A decree had been passed by the king that on a certain day they should all be destroyed, and there was weeping and wailing from one end of the kingdom to the other. But it appears—as it will, and has appeared in our history in the past—that the Lord had concealed his plan for the deliverance of his people. It was for the purpose of destroying Mordecai that the decree was established. Haman, who was the author of the difficulties, had determined in his mind that he would destroy Mordecai, but disdained to execute his vengeance on Mordecai alone, therefore desired to make a sweeping arrangement which would include the destruction of all his people scattered throughout the provinces, and Haman succeeded in influencing the king to accomplish this business. He had informed the king that this was a people who had laws that were different from the laws of any other people, and that they were actually in some instances living in disobedience to his laws, that disobedience consisting in not worshipping the false gods that were worshipped in those days. He succeeded in blinding the mind of the king to that extent that he was given the privilege of accomplishing the destruction of thousands and tens of thousands of this people, the people of God. On account of this, Mordecai, we are told, rent his clothes and put on sackcloth and sat in ashes; and finally he conceived the idea that the salvation of this people was in Queen Esther, his niece. So he sent her word to the effect that it was her business to take a course to accomplish this object. But she sent back word when she received this communication that it was a very difficult matter for her to get an audience with the king, because according to the law it was death for any person to go into the inner court and ask anything of the king uncalled, and if she went in it would be at the risk of her life. The answer to this was that if she felt that under the circumstances she could not risk all she possessed, then should their deliverance arise from another source, but she and her father's house should be destroyed. Esther took all these things into consideration, and finally sent word to Mordecai in the language I have read in those verses. Accordingly after this fasting she went into the king, the desire of her heart was granted and the people were saved.

In many instances of a similar nature where the destruction of the people of God seemed imminent, and there appeared no way of escape, suddenly there arose something or another that had been prepared for their salvation to avert the impending destruction. We find this in the case of the Israelites when led by Moses. When they came to the Red Sea and the Egyptian army in their rear threatened their destruction, there seemed no way of escape, but at the very moment when deliverance was required, behold, it appeared and they were delivered. So it has been and so it ever will be with us. Notwithstanding our difficulties may appear very great, yet there will be means provided for our escape if we ourselves perform the duties incumbent upon us as the children of God. But it may become necessary in the future—and this is the point I wish to make—for some of the Saints to act the part of Esther, the queen, and be willing to sacrifice anything and everything that is required at their hands for the purpose of working out the deliverance of the Latter-day Saints.

### **Levi's Thoughts:**

When I was young, I would have assumed this first paragraph was just filler - some way to open a talk. I have since learned to pay close attention to the openings. One of my institute teachers always started in verse 1 of DC sections. It's so easy to just glance over these words but they teach some important truths.

(JD 22:82, Charles W. Penrose, Partaking of the Lord's Supper, Etc)

"But do you know that Jesus is the Christ? No, you cannot know unless you get a revelation from God to that effect. You may believe that Jesus is the Christ, you may have been trained up in that belief; but you cannot know it unless God shall reveal it to you. It is only by the power of the Holy Ghost, that this knowledge can come to the children of men, neither can knowledge come to anyone concerning the things of God, except by the same spirit "

What else did we learn here? We come together to hear the word of the Lord through his servants, and that is the occasion where we can develop the revelations of the Holy Spirit.

It seemed well timed that I read this talk the very same day I finished reading the Book of Esther for Come Follow me. As any good prophet and teacher does, he likens this scripture to our day, and prophesies that we will derive much profit from it in future circumstances...Could he possibly be talking about our day...?

Fast ye for me

Fasting demonstrates my dependence on the Lord.

Student Manual for Old Testament

Esther seized advantage in her first favorable reception to enhance her good standing with the king and to bring about a strategic announcement of her request. But the first delay was not enough. She offered a second banquet the next night. What happened in those twenty-four hours was of the greatest importance (see chap. 6). The sudden desire of the king to read the records was obviously inspired from the Lord. The fasting and faithfulness of Esther and her people was productive and brought the Lord into the situation. With Haman's powerful position and favor in the eyes of the king, a direct accusation by Esther might well have been rejected had the king not been prepared beforehand.

If I perish, I perish

(Accepting the Lord's Will and Timing By Elder David A. Bednar A 2016)

I asked Elder Maxwell what lessons he had learned through his [cancer]. I will remember always the precise and penetrating answer he gave. "Dave," he said, "I have learned that not shrinking is more important than surviving." "Shrink" meaning to retreat or to recoil. Not shrinking is much more important than surviving! Moreover, partaking of a bitter cup without becoming bitter is likewise part of the emulation of Jesus."

He spoke of a young man who had cancer after newly becoming a husband and father. The young man asked Elder Bednar for a blessing.

"I then posed questions I had not planned to ask and had never previously considered: "John, do you have the faith not to be healed? If it is the will of our Heavenly Father that you are transferred by death in your youth to the spirit world to continue your ministry, do you have the faith to submit to His will and not be healed?"

Frequently in the scriptures, the Savior or His servants exercised the spiritual gift of healing and perceived that an individual had the faith to be healed. But as John and Heather and I counseled together and wrestled with these questions, we increasingly understood that if God's will were for this good young man to be healed, then that blessing could be received only if this valiant couple first had the faith not to be healed. In other words, John and Heather needed to overcome, through the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, the "natural man" tendency in all of us to demand impatiently and insist incessantly on the blessings we want and believe we deserve."

When Esther said "If I perish, I perish" she was demonstrating that faith to not be saved. Shadraaq Meshaq and Abednego said a similar thing when they said Our God will save us, but if not, we will still worship the Lord.

Come Follow me Manual

We may not always recognize the Lord's influence in these "small details." But we learn from Esther's experience that He can guide our path and prepare us "for such a time" when we can be instruments in His hands to fulfill His purposes. Sister Anne C. Pingree taught: "To become an instrument in the hands of God is a great privilege and sacred responsibility. Wherever we live, whatever our circumstances, no matter our marital status or age, the Lord needs each one of us to fulfill [our] unique part in building His kingdom in this final dispensation" ("Knowing the Lord's Will for You," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2005, 112). how He has guided your life in ways that allow you to bless others. What are some circumstances or relationships that you feel He has guided you to "for such a time as this"?

something had been prepared. Long before the plot was even conceived things were put into motion. Esther was put into place

Student Manual

It may be that your calling is not to save a nation, or to lead one. But one thing is certain: you are here now not by chance but by design. If you will, you have a role to play in building the kingdom that will eventually produce Zion and prepare for the Second Coming of Christ.

## **Micah's Thoughts:**

I love how President Lorenzo Snow goes through a basic breakdown of the Holy Ghost at the start of this talk... Many times as members we hear doctrines being taught so often that we become complacent and assume we know what is being said, and when asked about it we blend worldly understandings and teachings on the subject with buzz words from the church... Much like "rights to revelation", most of the debate seems to be over "who can receive thou shalt know and do for another", when the fact is that 99.99% of all revelation is given specifically for the individual themselves. We do this with most debates, the one currently raging (once again) is the abortion debate, and where does 99.99% of the debate take place? Around the .001% of all abortions ever received- around "rape, incest, and health of the mother"... Such a

waste of time and effort to be spent debating what most will never experience vs what everyone of us is currently experiencing! So how does this relate back to the Holy Ghost as taught here by President Lorenzo Snow (and others)? How is the Holy Ghost described?

### 1. Bring all things to your remembrance

Does that not by its very nature prove that the Holy Ghost can't or won't work on empty vessels? If you have not studied and learned, what can it bring to your remembrance? If one goes "well, what about the pre-earth life!" I would respond A) we are debating the .001% again and B) the doctrine still holds, for the Holy Ghost won't "bring something to your remembrance from the pre-earth life, that you did not study and learn in the pre-earth life".

### 2. Open our understanding

Once again, "understanding of what?" If we are not studying, if we don't have something in front of us (i.e. search) we get nothing in our brains (i.e. pondering) thus we get no Holy Ghost confirming truth and expanding understanding when we pray. I went over this in this weeks Three Brothers CFM, a lot of Saints teach Moroni 10: 3-5 completely wrong, as though the Holy Ghost is everyone's personal dousing rods and they just stumble through life witching wells and the Holy Ghost just lets them know where to dig... no... We must read what has been handed to us from Adam down to our time and then ponder them in our hearts, and then with real intent sincere heart, and real intent (which are all further proved by our commitment to study), then the Holy Ghost will expand our understanding of the things truthfulness, and not before. I won't read it again, but bring to mind President Joseph F. Smith's "Right to the Guidance of the Holy Ghost" quote...

The next thing that President Lorenzo Snow goes into that I'd like to draw attention to is the "willingness of the Saints to sacrifice anything and everything that is required at their hands for the purpose of working out the deliverance of the Latter-day Saints." And that the worthy people of God who are worthy, always find deliverance.

Christ taught:

#### **Luke 21**

36 And what I say unto one, I say unto all: Watch ye, therefore, and pray always, and keep my commandments, *that ye may be counted worthy to escape all these things, which shall come to pass*, and to stand before the Son of Man when he shall come clothed in the glory of his Father.

#### **D&C 45:64–75. Zion: A Place of Defense and Refuge**

In the scriptures four words seem closely related to the concept of Zion: gathering, preparation, defense, and refuge. The tribulations and judgments that will be poured out upon the world prior to the Second Coming will be so extensive and devastating that if the Lord did not prepare a means of preservation, His people too would perish. But He has prepared a means for His people to escape those terrible times; that means is Zion. Enoch was told that the Lord would preserve His people in the tribulations of the last days by gathering His elect to Zion where they could

gird up their loins (prepare themselves) and look forward to His coming (see Moses 7:61–62). In an earlier revelation in the Doctrine and Covenants, the Savior called the elders of the Church to gather the elect so their hearts could be prepared for the day of tribulation (see D&C 29:7–8). In 1838 the Lord explained that the gathering to Zion ... was to be for defense and refuge from the coming storm that will be poured out on the earth (see D&C 115:5–6). These commands and promises are found also in section 45. The Saints are to gather to

Zion (see D&C 45:64–65), a place of safety, peace, and refuge (see v. 65). Even though the rest of the world is in a state of horrible warfare (see v. 68), in Zion there will be peace and joy (see D&C 45:69–71).

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught: “Without Zion, and a place of deliverance, we must fall; because the time is near when the sun will be darkened, and the moon turn to blood, and the stars fall from heaven, and the earth reel to and fro. Then, if this is the case, and if we are not sanctified and gathered to the places God has appointed, with all our former professions and our great love for the Bible, we must fall; we cannot stand; we cannot be saved; for God will gather out his Saints from the Gentiles, and then comes desolation and destruction, and none can escape except the pure in heart who are gathered.” (Teachings, p. 71; see also Enrichment B.)

- **Student Manual**

### **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."

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

## **Section II (Brandon)**

First we should know that we are the people of God. In every dispensation of importance pertaining to the Lord's people, there is an opportunity given whereby persons may receive a knowledge of that which is required of them. Before the destruction of the Antediluvians, there was a medium through which that people could have come to a knowledge of those things that Noah declared. Had it not been so there would have been an apparent inconsistency in the Lord demanding that the people should pursue a certain course contrary to their feelings, contrary to

their wishes, contrary to their traditions, and that required a great deal of sacrifice—I say, unless they could be confident within themselves that the course he wished them to pursue was the right one, there would be an apparent inconsistency in demanding it. But when Noah stood up before the people, he preached to them the everlasting Gospel. He preached the same Gospel that Adam preached. He preached the same Gospel that the people of old preached. He preached the same Gospel the Apostles preached. He preached the same Gospel that we preach, through which a knowledge from God could be obtained as to its truth. All those who would repent of their sins, and be baptized for a remission of them, should have the privilege of receiving the Holy Ghost, which would give them a knowledge of the things of God, and a knowledge of the things required at their hands. And so it is in our day. The Gospel is proclaimed, a channel is opened through which individuals may receive a knowledge of things pertaining to life and salvation, of those things that are required at their hands, and of the course they should pursue as the servants and handmaids of God.

The world thinks that the Latter-day Saints will be destroyed; they think that the Latter-day Saints will be scattered; they think that the time will come when the Latter-day Saints will be disunited and become like the sectarian world, and they have foolishly set to work to accomplish this purpose. Well, now, as Brother Woodruff has said, we know better. We understand that this is the kingdom that was spoken of by Daniel the Prophet, that should be set up in the last days, that should be no more thrown down nor given to another people. Now, is this a fact? There are but few people who believe in these matters; there are but few people who profess to understand them. But the faithful Latter-day Saints have attained to a knowledge in these matters that is highly satisfactory: highly comforting; it is something that is of great consequence in the position we find ourselves placed from time to time; it is something that is comforting because of the sacrifices we are required to make, and which we may be required to make of such a nature that no man could be expected to make unless he has a perfect knowledge of what he is about. These principles have been manifested to us, and have established happiness in our hearts, and given us knowledge in reference to the outcome. We understand that the days of our probation here are but short, and that when we leave this stage of action and go into the spirit world, we have the privilege of dwelling in the presence of holy beings; and we understand fully, that as Jesus Christ dwelt here in a body, and that he received that body and now dwells in it glorified, that we are entitled to the same blessing, the same exaltation, and the same glory. The Christian world profess to believe that Jesus rose from the dead, they profess to believe that he lives; but yet the real spirit of that belief does not amount to a very great deal. They do not believe that there are any persons living that have seen individuals that have lived upon the earth and have received their glorified bodies. John upon the Isle of Patmos, had the privilege of beholding and conversing with an individual that had lived upon the earth and had gone back to the spirit world and received a resurrected body. He describes the glory with which that person was covered and says, "His eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters." Does anybody really believe this? There were two persons with whom I was very well acquainted who saw a personage of this description in the Temple in Kirtland, Ohio. We are told that there appeared, standing upon the breastwork of the pulpit of that Temple, our Lord and Savior, the same that the Revelator beheld, and they describe him in about the same manner. Now, I have been in the Kirtland Temple and preached from the pulpit therein several times. This person stood upon the breastwork of that pulpit, and he is described as follows, "His eyes were as a flame of fire; the hair of his head was white like the pure snow; his countenance shown above the brightness of the sun; and his voice was as the

sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah, saying: I am the first and the last; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father. Behold, your sins are forgiven you; you are clean before me; therefore, lift up your heads and rejoice." I have seen Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery; they were the individuals who saw that person and conversed with him. And they also saw Moses, Elias and Elijah. Now, who believes this? What testimony has the sectarian world in regard to these things, or in regard to the Gospel as preached in former days, or in regard to Jesus Christ? Have they a testimony to declare to their congregations? If so, what is the nature of their testimony? What is the nature of our testimony? It is this: That this is the dispensation of the fullness of times; that the angel that John the Revelator saw flying through the midst of heaven having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred and tongue and people—that that angel has made his appearance and restored the Gospel to the earth, Joseph Smith being the instrument through which the restoration was effected. Joseph Smith was authorized to open up a channel and lay down a plan through which man could receive a knowledge of these things, so that we might not be left to depend upon the testimony of the Prophets, or the testimony of the ancient Apostles, or to the testimony of the Apostles of the present day, or to the Book of Mormon, or to anything that was done or said in the past, but that we might know for ourselves. It is an individual knowledge. And if people in ancient times had faith, they had grounds upon which to found their faith, and so have we.

## **Brandon's Thoughts:**

### **The Lord in the same yesterday today and forever**

- The Lord is the same yesterday today and forever. The Lord is perfectly consistent. The things he's teaching us today are the same as it's been taught before. The gospel is at odds with the world. It contradicts the commonly held beliefs of the times. To obey the laws of God often requires great sacrifice. For this reason, one needs to be confident within themselves that the course we are pursuing is the right one. This is absolutely essential. It is my personal belief that we can all gain that confidence. That we know that pursuing is the right course. This same message of the gospel has been preached through all dispensations from the time of Adam to today. That everyone who repents of their sins and is baptized for their remission and receives the Holy Ghost, can know everything that is asked of us. This is essential to receiving our own knowledge.
- In the book of Daniel we learn that there is a key difference between the restoration of the gospel this time and other prior dispensations. Daniel saw a stone cut out of a mountain without hands that rolled forth smashing all earthly kingdoms and eventually filling the whole earth. *Daniel (2:34-35, 44-45)*
  - 34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.
  - 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.
  - 44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.



- 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.
- This time, which is the dispensation of the fullness of times, the gospel will never again be taken from the earth, rather, the Lord himself will appear, dwell with us, and the gospel will flood the whole earth. Do we actually believe these things?
  - 1 That the gospel is true, always has been true and always will be true
  - 2 That those seeking to live by all gospel teachings will ultimately triumph and be safely beyond the reach of evil.
  - 3 That the Kingdom of God will fill the whole earth.

### **The gospel offers comfort, satisfaction and happiness if we truly believe it is true**

- Now, is this a fact? There are but few people who believe in these matters; there are but few people who profess to understand them. But the faithful Latter-day Saints have attained to a knowledge in these matters that is highly satisfactory: highly comforting; it is something that is of great consequence in the position we find ourselves placed from time to time; it is something that is comforting because of the sacrifices we are required to make, and which we may be required to make of such a nature that no man could be expected to make unless he has a perfect knowledge of what he is about. These principles have been manifested to us, and have established happiness in our hearts, and given us knowledge in reference to the outcome
- This testimony is pointed out by Lorenzo Snow to be essential in order for us to make the sacrifices necessary to realize our full potential in the Kingdom of God, which realized potential stands in stark contrast to that of Babylon. For if we know these things to be true, we are comforted in the certain knowledge of the outcome in the great contest between the world and the gospel. (the scoreboard shows the final score already but many are still deciding what team to cheer for, what team jersey to wear).

### **The difference between us and other Christian faiths**

- Lorenzo Snow next gets into some key differences between the truths restored by Joseph Smith and the remainder of the those professing Christianity. They believe in the resurrected Savior, but not that it's possible for anyone to have "seen individuals that have lived upon the earth and have received their glorified bodies". John the revelator reports visiting with such a person (*Revelation 1:14-15*).
  - 14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;
  - 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.
- It is interesting to note the similarities in the descriptions of John the Revelator and Joseph Smith with Oliver Cowdery in the Kirtland Temple.
- The description that Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdry gave of the Savior in the Kirtland on April 3, 1836, is the same description that John the Revelator gave of a resurrected person.

- "His eyes were as a flame of fire; the hair of his head was white like the pure snow; his countenance shown above the brightness of the sun; and his voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah, saying: I am the first and the last; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father. Behold, your sins are forgiven you; you are clean before me; therefore, lift up your heads and rejoice."
  - Eyes as a flame of fire
  - Feet like unto fine brass as if they burned in a furnace
  - His voice as the sound of many water.
- Does anybody really believe this?
- This is what the Lord is inviting us to all become. The blessings of sanctification culminating in exaltation will impart to us this same glorified state.
- We understand that the days of our probation here are but short, and that when we leave this stage of action and go into the spirit world, we have the privilege of dwelling in the presence of holy beings; and we understand fully, that as Jesus Christ dwelt here in a body, and that he received that body and now dwells in it glorified, that we are entitled to the same blessing, the same exaltation, and the same glory.
- "Behold, your sins are forgiven you; you are clean before me; therefore, lift up your heads and rejoice."
  - This is what we can receive from the Lord when we become sanctified. Forgiveness of all our sins!
  - Prior to this point and/or reaffirmed at this event, Joseph Smith had already received his calling and election.
  - Imagine what our own sanctification and receiving our calling and election will be like.

### **Joseph Smith restored the everlasting gospel**

- "That this is the dispensation of the fullness of times; that the angel that John the Revelator saw flying through the midst of heaven having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred and tongue and people—that that angel has made his appearance and restored the Gospel to the earth, Joseph Smith being the instrument through which the restoration was effected."
- "Stay the Course" Gordon B. Hinkley ○ "The crossover of that line is a wonderfully significant thing. It represents the fruit of a tremendous outreach. The God of Heaven, whose servants we are, never intended that this should be a narrow, parochial work. John the Revelator "saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Rev. 14:6). That angel has come. His name is Moroni. His is a voice speaking from the dust, bringing another witness of the living reality of the Lord Jesus Christ."
- Moroni met with and counseled with Joseph Smith over a period of several years in the early stages of the restoration of the gospel.

### **Pure knowledge will be given to you through the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

- "Conversion to the Will of God" Quentin L. Cook ○ Is Jesus Christ divine? ○ Is the Book of Mormon the word of God? ○ Is Joseph Smith the prophet of the restoration?

- “That night I prayed fervently and with real intent. The Spirit, in an undeniably powerful way, confirmed to me that the answer to all three of these questions was yes. This was a seminal event for me. I realized that every decision I would make for the rest of my life would be influenced by these truths.”
- *Moroni 10:4-5*
  - 4 And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.
  - 5 And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.
- Brandon’s experience at baptism.

## Micah’s Thoughts:

“First we should know that we are the people of God. In every dispensation of importance pertaining to the Lord’s people, there is an opportunity given whereby persons may receive a knowledge of that which is required of them.”

I want to read a bit from a President Nelson talk that I believe goes perfectly with this, for our day...

Many people refer to you as *Millennials*...

When I pray about you and ask the Lord how *He* feels about you, I feel something far different from what the researchers say. Spiritual impressions I’ve received about you lead me to believe that the term *Millennial* may actually be perfect for you. But for a much different reason than the experts may ever understand.

The term *Millennial* is perfect for you if that term reminds you of who you *really* are and what your purpose in life *really* is. A True Millennial is one who was taught and did teach the gospel of Jesus Christ premortally and who made covenants with our Heavenly Father there about courageous things—even *morally* courageous things—that you would do while here on earth.

A True Millennial is a man or woman whom God trusted enough to send to earth during the most compelling dispensation in the history of this world. A True Millennial is a man or woman who lives now to help prepare the people of this world for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and His millennial reign. Make no mistake about it—you were born to be a True Millennial.

The question is “How can you stand and live as a True Millennial?” I have four recommendations.

### Learn Who You Really Are

My first recommendation: Learn who you *really* are.

Take time to think prayerfully about these facts:

- You are an elect son or daughter of God.
- You are created in His image.

- You were taught in the spirit world to prepare you for anything and everything you would encounter during this latter part of these latter days.<sup>1</sup> That teaching endures within you!

You are living in the “eleventh hour.” The Lord has declared that this is the last time that He will call laborers into His vineyard to gather the elect from the four quarters of the earth.<sup>2</sup> And *you* were sent to participate in this gathering. Again and again I have seen firsthand the powerful influence of True Millennials as they bring others to a knowledge of the truth. This is part of your identity and your purpose as the seed of Abraham!<sup>3</sup>

Therefore, my first recommendation is to learn *for yourselves* who you really are. Ask your Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, how He feels about you and your mission here on earth. If you ask with real intent, over time the Spirit will whisper the life-changing truth to you. Record those impressions and review them often, and follow through with exactness.

I promise you that when you begin to catch even a glimpse of how your Heavenly Father sees you and what He is counting on you to do for Him, your life will never be the same!

### **Expect and Prepare to Accomplish the Impossible**

My second recommendation: Expect and prepare to accomplish the impossible.

God has always asked His covenant children to do difficult things. Because you are covenant-keeping sons and daughters of God, living in the latter part of these latter days, the Lord will ask *you* to do difficult things. You can count on it—Abrahamic tests did not stop with Abraham.<sup>4</sup>

...

As a True Millennial whom the Lord can count on, *you* will make history too! You will be asked to accept challenging assignments and become an instrument in the Lord’s hands. And He will enable you to accomplish the impossible.

How will you accomplish the impossible? By doing whatever it takes to strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ by increasing your understanding of the doctrine taught in His restored Church and by relentlessly seeking truth. As a True Millennial, anchored in pure doctrine, when you are asked to do impossible things, you will be able to step forward with faith and dogged persistence and cheerfully do all that lies in your power to fulfill the purposes of the Lord.<sup>6</sup>

You will have days when you will be thoroughly discouraged. So, pray for courage not to give up! You will need that strength because it will become less and less popular to be a Latter-day Saint. Sadly, some whom you thought were your friends will betray you. And some things will simply seem unfair.

However, I promise you that as you follow Jesus Christ, you will find sustained peace and true joy. As you keep your covenants with increasing precision, and as you defend the Church and kingdom of God on the earth today, the Lord will bless you with strength and wisdom to accomplish the impossible.

END QUOTE

The only other thing I’d like to read (and reread, and Reread, and REREAD) is this quote from Joseph Smith:

### **Interpretation of Scripture (TPJS 364-365)**

The Savior said when these tribulations should take place, it should be committed to a man who should be a witness over the whole world: the keys of knowledge, power and revelations I 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 Priesthood—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. Has the Gospel of the kingdom commenced in the last days? And will God take it from the man until He takes him Himself? 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.

The scripture is *ready to be fulfilled* when great wars, famines, pestilence, great distress, judgments, &c., are ready to be poured out on the inhabitants of the earth. John saw the angel having the holy Priesthood, who should preach the everlasting Gospel to all nations. 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 God and *His witness* in these last days: for they shall deceive almost the very chosen ones!

### **Eternal Judgment (TPJS 365)**

My enemies say that I have been a true prophet. Why, I had rather be a fallen true prophet than a false prophet. When a man goes about prophesying, and commands men to obey his teachings, he must either be a true or false prophet. False prophets always arise to oppose the true prophets and *they will prophesy so very near the truth that they will deceive almost the very chosen ones.*

## **Section III (Reba)**

Well, what have we to fear with regard to persecution and with regard to attempts that are made to destroy the principles of "Mormonism?" We know they cannot be destroyed. Our enemies, if permitted, may kill the President of our Church, they may kill his Counselors and the Twelve Apostles, they may destroy the Seventies, and even the whole of the Priesthood, but the principles of "Mormonism" they cannot destroy. The principles of "Mormonism" are eternal; they emanate from the God of heaven, and never can be destroyed. When men have received a knowledge of the truth, they will bear testimony of that truth so long as they are able. Any number of decrees proscribing their actions and belief will not avail. We have an instance of this in the case of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. These men had received knowledge from the eternal world, and they chose to worship the true and the living God, they objected to worshipping the golden image set up by King Nebuchadnezzar. For this act of disloyalty they were brought before the king and were ordered to be cast into the fiery furnace. Even at this they were not dismayed, for said they, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast

set up." They were accordingly thrown into the fiery furnace, and all the people, as it were, said, Amen, let them be destroyed. But there was deliverance the moment deliverance was needed. When Nebuchadnezzar saw four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, unhurt; and the fourth like unto the Son of God—how changed was the scene! Nebuchadnezzar was converted by the power that he saw manifested, and he issued a decree saying, "That every people, nation, and language, which speak anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill." In this way was the Lord able to touch the heart of a heathen king, and to turn the heart of a nation. And I will say to the Latter-day Saints—you may call it prophecy if you choose—that if this people will be united and will keep the commandments of God, God will turn the popular sentiment of this nation in our favor; the nation will feel disposed to bestow upon us favor instead of persecution and destruction. But it is our business to step forward as did Esther, and be willing to risk all for the salvation of the people. In undertaking her task, Esther said, "If I perish, I perish." Here is a lesson for our sisters. But the people of God will not perish. There will always be a ram caught in the thicket for their deliverance.

Now, I know of the things of which I speak. A little spiritual knowledge is a great deal better than mere opinions and notions and ideas, or even very elaborate arguments; a little spiritual knowledge is very important and of the highest consideration. We have received that knowledge, and we will stand by it, the Lord being our helper. It is now time for the Latter-day Saints to humble themselves before the Almighty, as did the people that were at the point of destruction by the decree of Ahasuerus. It is time now for the Latter-day Saints to find out wherein they have committed themselves; it is time for the Latter-day Saints to repent of their sins and follies and call upon the Almighty, that his aid may be given; that those fetters and chains that are being forged for us may fall to the ground, and that we may have the deliverance that is necessary; that we may go forward and accomplish the great work entrusted to our care.

Well, I ask God to bless the Latter-day Saints, to bless His Holy Priesthood; to bless President Taylor, his Counselors, and the Apostles; that we may do that which is right and acceptable before the Lord, and humble ourselves before him, and call upon him in mighty power; that we may do those things required at our hands no matter at what sacrifice. The Lord has said, "I have decreed in my heart, that I will prove you in all things, whether you will abide in my covenant, even unto death, that you may be found worthy. For if ye will not abide in my covenant ye are not worthy of me." We have something to live for; we have everything to die for. But there is no death in these matters. There is salvation and there is life if the people of God—those that call themselves after the name of the Lord Jesus Christ—will keep his commandments and do that which is acceptable in his sight. It is not in the economy of the Almighty to permit his people to be destroyed. If we will do right and keep his commandments he will surely deliver us from every difficulty.

May God bless and pour out His Holy Spirit upon us, is my prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

## **Reba's Thoughts:**

**A little spiritual knowledge is very important and of the highest consideration. We have received that knowledge, and we will stand by it, It is time now for the Latter-day Saints to find out wherein they have committed themselves**

(What have we covenanted to do?) If you have or are experiencing the Joseph Boy's studies, this is a question for the entire study, or I should say an answer for the entire study. It IS the study. And especially for "Honesty/Covenants. It is important to ponder this. What have I said I would do? and, am I doing it? I was a member for decades, but it wasn't until 2020 when I began to seek knowledge for a different reason than I had in the past. Not because I was getting a lesson ready, or preparing a talk, but because I desperately wanted to know what I needed to do to fulfill the requirements for Eternal Life. There was a feeling of yearning, hunger and desire there, that wasn't before.

The lord also said "There shall be no disputations among you, as there have hitherto been; neither shall there be disputations among you **concerning the points of my doctrine**, as there have hitherto been. ([3 Ne. 11:28-29.](#))

The only way we can become united on the points of His doctrine is if we know the doctrine. This is one thing I really like about the group here. We are seeking to understand and gain a witness of the truth, each for ourselves. Being told truth is important, but to have it planted in the soul takes personal effort.

President Nelson (The future of the church/Preparing the world for the Savior's second coming)

"Do whatever it takes to strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ by increasing your understanding of the doctrine taught in His restored Church and by relentlessly seeking truth. Anchored in pure doctrine, you will be able to step forward with faith and dogged persistence and cheerfully do all that lies in your power to fulfill the purposes of the Lord.

You will have days when you will be discouraged. So pray for courage not to give up! Sadly, some who you thought were your friends will betray you. And some things will simply seem unfair.

However, **I promise you** that as you follow Jesus Christ, you will find sustained peace and true joy. As you keep your covenants with increasing precision, **and as you defend the Church and kingdom of God on the earth today, the Lord will bless you with strength and wisdom** to accomplish what only members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can accomplish.

We are to be builders of an individual faith in God, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and faith in His Church. We are to build families and be sealed in holy temples. We are to build the Church and kingdom of God upon the earth (see [Matthew 6:33](#)). We are to prepare for our own divine destiny: glory, immortality, and eternal lives (see [Romans 2:7](#); [Doctrine and Covenants 75:5](#)).

He is describing exaltation. Like many prophets before him, President Nelson is urging us to seek to have our calling and election made sure. It has to start with knowledge, Joseph Smith taught:

After a person has faith in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized for the remission of his sins and receives the Holy Ghost (by the laying on of hands), which is the first Comforter, then let him continue to humble himself before God, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and living by every word of God, and the Lord will soon say unto him, 'Son, thou shalt be exalted.' When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and his election made sure" (Smith, Teachings, 150).

Joseph goes on to say, "What is the secret, the starting point? "How did he obtain these things? Through the knowledge of Him who hath called him. There could not anything be given pertaining to life and Godliness, without knowledge." TPJS pg 305 "Suppose you have an idea of a resurrection, etc. And yet know nothing at all of the gospel, nor comprehend one principle of the order of heaven, but find yourselves disappointed – yes, at last find yourselves disappointed in every hope or anticipation, when the decision goes forth from the lips of the Almighty. Would not this be a greater disappointment – a more painful thought than annihilation? Had I inspiration, revelation, and lungs to communicate what my soul has contemplated in times past, there is not a soul in this congregation but would go to their homes and shut their mouths in everlasting silence on religion till they had learned something. TPJS pg.320

It stood out to me that President Nelson said first, We are to be builders of an individual faith in God, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and faith in His Church". It has to start with our own testimony. That must be in place before we can build and defend the kingdom of God here on the Earth. That kingdom is Zion. We must have our feet planted on a solid and true foundational knowledge of the restored doctrine. We must have that fire burning in ourselves before we can share and



ignite it in other people. Joseph Smith said, It always starts with a human testimony.

President Nelson tells us, “*The Lord*, is the One who wants you to understand with great clarity exactly what you are making covenants to do. *He* is the One who wants you to experience fully *His* sacred ordinances. *He* wants you to comprehend your privileges, promises, and responsibilities. *He* wants you to have spiritual insights and awakenings you’ve never had before.” (The temple and your spiritual foundation)

I pray we can ponder that statement by Lorenzo Snow, that **It is time now for the Latter-day Saints to find out wherein they have committed themselves.** And he goes on...

**It is time for the Latter-day Saints to repent of their sins and follies and call upon the Almighty, that his aid may be given; that those fetters and chains that are being forged for us may fall to the ground, and that we may have the deliverance that is necessary; that we may go forward and accomplish the great work entrusted to our care.**

Zion is the great work entrusted to our care. We are seeing the Assyrian rise. We can actually see the fetters and chains being forged for the believers in Christ, and those that value goodness. We are at the top of the list. Elder Bednar said in our stake conference,

“Lucifer is miserable, and savagely and unequivocally HATES the Father’s plan of happiness! He HATES that we have a body, which is a gift from God. He is doing everything in his power to tempt us to misuse our bodies in any way he possibly can. He HATES that a man and a woman can marry and bring forth spirit children to take part in this plan of happiness and that the family can endure. Satan attacks what he hates most!”

He hates those who are true disciples of Jesus Christ and children of the covenant. He hates what Zion is, and he has diminished and polluted the idea of it, to the point it is no different than the world. Hugh Nibley said “If Zion is mixed with Babylon in any degree, Babylon wins” We have targets on our backs. And I appreciated what Micah said in a recent Come Follow Me video. “If we are not

feeling the pressure, or antagonism from the world, then we are not opening our mouths enough”

**D&C 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.

**12** And in that day all who are found upon the “watch-tower, or in other words, all mine Israel, shall be saved.

Who is Israel? Israel are those who have entered into covenants with God through the authority of the holy priesthood.

“Every person who embraces the gospel becomes of the house of Israel. In other words, they become members of the chosen lineage, or Abraham's children. The great majority of those who become members of the Church are literal descendants of Abraham. Those who are not literal descendants of Abraham must become such, and **when they are baptized and confirmed they are grafted into the tree and are entitled to all the rights and privileges as heirs.**” Doctrines of Salvation (Joseph Fielding Smith) Pg 600.

President Nelson mentioned that our 3 main identifiers should be that we are Children of God, Disciples of Jesus Christ and Children of the Covenant.

President Nelson asks, “Why do we need such resilient faith? Because difficult days are ahead. Rarely in the future will it be easy or popular to be a faithful Latter-day Saint. Each of us will be tested. The Apostle Paul warned that in the latter days, those who diligently follow the Lord “shall suffer persecution” **Our prophet is not saying we “might” suffer persecution, but that we will experience it. (2 Timothy 3:12)**. That very persecution can either crush you into silent weakness or motivate you to be more exemplary and courageous in your daily lives. (President Nelson (The future of the church/Preparing the world for the Savior’s second coming)

Lorenzo Snow spoke about Meshach, Shadrach, Abednego and Esther. They chose to do what was right even if it costed them their lives. Instead of being crushed into silent weakness, they acted courageously. They proved to themselves and to God that they would serve him “at all hazards.”

**John 15:18** If the world “hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.

**19** If ye were of the <sup>a</sup>world, the world would <sup>b</sup>love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

**20** Remember the word that I said unto you, The <sup>a</sup>servant is not greater than his lord. If they have <sup>b</sup>persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

**21** But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

**22** If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had <sup>a</sup>sin: but now they have no <sup>b</sup>cloak for their sin.

**No matter at what sacrifice. The Lord has said, "I have decreed in my heart, that I will prove you in all things, whether you will abide in my covenant, even unto death, that you may be found worthy. For if ye will not abide in my covenant ye are not worthy of me." We have something to live for; and everything to die for. He also said "what have we to fear with regard to persecution?"**

**Bruce R. McConkie.** "As members of the Church, we are engaged in a mighty conflict. We are at war. We have enlisted in the cause of Christ to fight against Lucifer and all that is lustful and carnal and evil in the world. We have sworn to fight alongside our friends and against our enemies, and we must not be confused in distinguishing friends from foes. As another of our ancient fellow apostles wrote: "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." (James 4:4.)

The great war that rages on every side and which unfortunately is resulting in many casualties, some fatal, is no new thing. There was war even in heaven, when the forces of evil sought to destroy the agency of man, [page 34] and when Lucifer sought to lead us away from the path of progression and advancement established by an all-wise Father.

Now there can not be any neutrals in this war. Every member of the Church is on one side or the other. In this war all who do not stand forth courageously and valiantly are by that fact alone aiding the cause of the enemy. "They who are not for me are against me, saith our God." (2 Ne. 10:16.)

Members of the Church, who have testimonies and who live clean and upright lives, but who are not courageous and valiant, do not gain the celestial kingdom. Theirs is a terrestrial inheritance. Of them the revelation says, "These are they who are not valiant in the testimony of Jesus; wherefore, they obtain not the crown over the kingdom of our God." (D&C 76:79.)

What is the testimony of Jesus? And what must we do to be valiant therein?

"Be not ... ashamed of the testimony of our Lord," Paul wrote to Timothy, "... but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel." (2 Tim. 1:8.) And to the Beloved John came this divine message: "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Rev. 19:10.)

And Paul's words. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also, that love his appearing." (2 Tim. 4:7-8.) (Bruce R McConkie "Be Valiant in the Fight of Faith)

[I wanted to end with these words that I think show the Saviors heart toward those that love Him.](#)

*When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not thee o'erflow,  
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, ...  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*

*When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply.  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design ...  
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine. ...*

*The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I cannot, desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, ...I'll never, no never, I'll never  
forsake!*

("How Firm a Foundation," *Hymns*, no. 85)

## **Micah's Thoughts:**

The last two paragraphs of this are absolutely golden and are why we really wanted to break down this talk... Thinking about this- "pondering" about this, one day in chat in Discord Matt came up with the inspired idea to have members of the group sign up for different times of the day to be praying for the Redemption of Zion and building of New Jerusalem, praying to be worthy of such an escape that we've already gone over so far in the paper... That way someone from our group would always be praying for it, and we would be "praying night and day until deliverance comes"... In such pondering I wrote the following, thinking about such a prayer and such a desire and what would be required at the hands of those who Redeem Zion, and I shared it in advance of this talk breakdown/fireside to have people thinking about it... The responses to it have been nothing short of "spiritual wings". Truly lifting and edifying! I wrote the following:

Serious questions for everyone who was brought here, together, by the hand of the Lord and who have claimed (by their very presence) that in some way shape or form they wish to be, desire to be, or claim to be "Zion or Bust!" "What does Zion or Bust! mean to you?"

Does it mean at the first sign of trouble you break to glass?

Does it mean at the first problem you take your toys and go home?

Does it mean that at the first fault you find in another you jump the good boat Zion?

Does it mean that as soon as "life gets busy" you cut ties and run?

Does it mean "crushed into silent weakness" the first negative comment we get?

### 1-honesty-covenants

This is the first thing we go over in The School of Joseph's Boys for a reason. Just how committed are we? Are we going to pray night and day or simply when it is convenient? Are we Saints "coming together to rend the veil"? Or are we Saints simply coming together to read a couple cookie cutter "feel good" scriptures and quotes, call it "edification", and then go back to be swallowed up in our worlds- walking after our own gods? I testify that there will be two groups in the future, Alma's and Limhi's... And Alma's group will be full of the "Zion or Bust!", while Limhi's will be full of the "lukewarm", who will have to pass through much more severe punishment and trials- who will have to be compelled to be humble. My life has been one of trying to constantly become more and more committed, and I thank God for Him bringing me in contact with others who have or are catching the same fire. I pray for Zion night and day, but more than that, my eyes water my pillow for the "sunshine Saints", the Saints who only chant "Zion! Zion! Zion!" and don't realize that there is a price attached to that word- "NO MAN cometh up to Zion BUT BY SACRIFICE"... If we flinch and flee at the first signs of trouble, if we fly to pieces like glass, if we "are unable to stand", we will not be worthy of such a "jewel status". As we pray for this, I hope we really reflect on what we really want and if we are willing to pay the price.

Questions we need to answer, testimonies we need to gain before the choices are made for us. Zion or Bust! is as a lion, yeah as a young lion roaring! Get that fire, be a watchman, stand for something!

### **Doctrine and Covenants 113:**

7 Questions by Elias Higbee: What is meant by the command in Isaiah, 52d chapter, 1st verse, which saith: Put on thy strength, O Zion—and what people had Isaiah reference to?

8 He had reference to those whom God should call in the last days, who should hold the power of priesthood to bring again Zion, and the redemption of Israel; and to put on her strength is to put on the

authority of the priesthood, which she, Zion, has a right to by lineage; ***also to return to that power which she had lost.***

9 What are we to understand by Zion loosing herself from the bands of her neck; 2d verse?

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 God upon her, or the remnants of Israel in their scattered condition among the Gentiles.

Now, I know of the things of which the prophets speak. A little spiritual knowledge is a great deal better than mere opinions and notions and ideas, or even very elaborate arguments; a little spiritual knowledge is very important and of the highest consideration. Have we all received that knowledge? Will we stand by it? It is now or never for the Latter-day Saints to humble themselves before the Almighty, as did every people that were at the point of destruction decreed by the prophets. It is now or never for the Latter-day Saints to find out wherein they have committed themselves; it is now or never for the Latter-day Saints to repent of their sins and follies and call upon the Almighty, that his aid may be given; that those fetters and chains that are being forged for us may fall to the ground, and that we may have the deliverance that ***is necessary***; that we may go forward and accomplish the great work entrusted to our care. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen!