

Let God Prevail

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Are you willing to let God prevail in your life? Are you willing to let God be the most important influence in your life?

I have to admit upfront that this talk was an awful lot like a President Monson “pigeon talk” for me. Every other conference or stake conference meeting or district conference meeting that President Monson talked at, he brought up his pigeon story and every time I had to deal with members acting like it was some kind of ground-breaking, earth shattering thing that they had never heard before. I’m an auditory learner and I remember things very well. If anybody has been in the Church for longer than a week and doesn’t know “God’s people are those people who let God prevail in their lives”, I don’t know where you have been or what you have been learning. I understand the need or desire of individuals to create “catch phrases” or to create a name for oneself or create some independence or separation in quorums. For example, Elder Uchtdorf and airplanes, President Benson with the Book of Mormon, etc etc. People should take doubly care with priestcraft the more keys and the more responsibility they have. “Let God Prevail” is now found on pillows, wall hangings, etc etc all available for purchase, all of which present an image in the mind of those viewing it as “President Nelson”. No one is looking at that on their pillow or on their wall and thinking Jesus Christ, they are thinking President Nelson, while in contrast, the new symbol of the Church which A. is a symbol of Jesus Christ and B. bears the name of Jesus Christ we are not allowed to produce anything with that image on it, let alone sell it. Can anybody explain that doctrinally? What would people think if they saw that symbol on a pillow or a wall hanging etc (let alone their neighbors or non-members of the Church)? They would think of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. If the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is actively prohibiting people from making and distributing that symbol of the Church (let alone selling it), they should equally fight against people making, distributing and selling “President Nelson”. When you invite a non-member into your home and you have quotes from President Nelson on merchandise spewed throughout your home, you can’t see how that would be a difficult thing to explain to a Christian in the world vs. having the new symbol of the Church (ie. a picture of Jesus)?

This was overall a very good talk, but once again if anything in this talk was new to you, I’d humbly suggest waking up and taking scripture study a lot more seriously. May I suggest two talks that explain this doctrine even clearer: 1. President Benson’s “Beware of Pride” and 2. Elder Neal A. Maxell’s “Repent of [Our] Selfishness”.

I know President Nelson is a prophet of God and I’m excited to go through this talk today, so if you haven’t already downvoted in ignorance and fled in feigned moral superiority and righteousness, let’s continue.

My dear brothers and sisters, how grateful I am for the marvelous messages of this conference and for my privilege to speak with you now.

For the more than 36 years I've been an Apostle, the doctrine of the gathering of Israel has captured my attention.¹

President Nelson in his footnote points out that of his 800 talks as an apostle he has spoken on this subject at least 378 times. There are a couple things that I want to say about this. 1. This proves beyond any reasonable doubt what I said in the point above, we should have heard this before, in fact, 378 times before. 2. That I find it terribly sad that a prophet of God has to or feels the need to give his credentials before speaking on a subject. Once again, see my paper series *Agency in Progression* to see what and who this applies to the most. President Nelson's age, or his "specialty in the gospel" should have no impact on the message and add zero validity and credibility to it. It is President Nelson's keys and the mantle of prophet, seer and revelator that he holds that gives him his authority, validity and credibility. If this was the very first time that he spoke on this subject it shouldn't matter to us.

Everything about it has intrigued me, including the ministries and names² of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; their lives and their wives; the covenant God made with them and extended through their lineage;³ the dispersion of the twelve tribes; and the numerous prophecies about the gathering in our day.

I have studied the gathering, prayed about it, feasted upon every related scripture, and asked the Lord to increase my understanding.

The process of studying canonized scriptures, praying about it and pondering as you ask the Lord to increase your understanding on the subject is not limited to the prophet of God only. Every member who has been baptized and receives the gift of the Holy Ghost and then studies the word of God qualifies for the Holy Ghost.

President Joseph Fielding Smith taught, "Our right to guidance from Holy Ghost. We have the right to the guidance of the Holy Ghost, but we cannot have that guidance, if we wilfully refuse to consider the revelations that have been given to help us to understand and to guide us in the light and truth of the everlasting gospel. We cannot hope to have that guidance when we refuse to consider these great revelations which mean so much to us both temporally and spiritually.

Now if we find ourselves in this condition of unbelief or unwillingness to seek for the light and the knowledge which the Lord has placed within our reach, then we are liable or in danger of being deceived by evil spirits, the doctrines of devils, and the teachings of men. And when these false influences are presented before us, we will not have the distinguishing understanding by which we can segregate them and know that they are not of the Lord. And so we may become prey unto the ungodly, to the vicious, to the cunning, to the craftiness of men." (Doctrines of Salvation, p.43)

I cannot stress enough the importance of that doctrine. If you do not study the canonized scriptures, what was revealed to us through the keys, you will not qualify for the Holy Ghost for discernment or understanding. You will not be able to "hear Him" unless you do so.

So imagine my delight when I was led recently to a new insight. With the help of two Hebrew scholars, I learned that one of the Hebraic meanings of the word *Israel* is “let God prevail.”⁴ Thus the very name of *Israel* refers to a person who is *willing* to let God prevail in his or her life. That concept stirs my soul!

The word *willing* is crucial to this interpretation of *Israel*.⁵ We all have our agency. We can choose to be of Israel, or not. We can choose to let God prevail in our lives, or not. We can choose to let God be the most powerful influence in our lives, or not.

The choice between “letting God prevail in our life or not” is the same choice that Elder Neal A. Maxwell discusses in his talk about selfishness; selfishness is the reason why one chooses their own way over the Lord’s way. Choosing your own way, will, intellect etc over that of the Lord’s way is an act of pride as described in President Benson’s talk *Beware of Pride*. Ergo, the reason why is selfishness, with the antidote being meekness/humility and we learn in Preach My Gospel that gratitude is a part of humility and meekness, ergo ergo, if President Nelson wants us to let God prevail in our lives the biggest obstacle to that would be our selfishness and the antidote to that is gratitude. Remember the why is the desire or the motive and the desire affects the outcome. Thus, if we changed the why or the desire from selfishness to gratitude the outcome would be more results of letting God prevail in our lives versus outcomes of pride. (See my papers *Pride, The Why is Transformative, Becoming Like Him, Agency in Progression* etc)

For a moment, let us recall a crucial turning point in the life of Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. At the place Jacob named *Peniel* (which means “the face of God”),⁶ Jacob wrestled with a serious challenge. His agency was tested. Through this wrestle, Jacob proved what was most important to him. He demonstrated that he was willing to let God prevail in his life. In response, God changed Jacob’s name to *Israel*,⁷ meaning “let God prevail.” God then promised Israel that *all* the blessings that had been pronounced upon Abraham’s head would also be his.⁸

To understand crucial turning points in people’s lives, to understand moments of sacrifice, see my papers *Agency in Progression, The Church of the Firstborn, Calling and Election Made Sure, the Second Comforter*, as well as Defending Zion’s video entitled *The Abrahamic Test*.

Sadly, Israel’s posterity broke their covenants with God. They stoned the prophets and were *not* willing to let God prevail in their lives. Subsequently, God scattered them to the four corners of the earth.⁹ Mercifully, He later promised to gather them, as reported by Isaiah: “For a small moment have I forsaken thee [Israel]; but with great mercies will I gather thee.”¹⁰

With the Hebraic definition of *Israel* in mind, we find that the gathering of Israel takes on added meaning. The Lord is gathering those who are willing to let God prevail in their lives. The Lord is gathering those who will choose to let God be the most important influence in their lives.

There are two different gatherings. There is the spiritual gathering of scattered Israel and the literal return of the Ten Tribes. The Lord’s gathering based on choice, based on spiritually being grafted into the Church is the spiritual gathering of scattered Israel, which is all those who join the Church. President Nelson provides a reference in the next paragraph that describes this perfectly.

Mosiah 15:11

11 Behold I say unto you, that whosoever has heard the words of the prophets, yea, all the holy prophets who have prophesied concerning the coming of the Lord—I say unto you, that all those who have hearkened unto their words, and believed that the Lord would redeem his people, and have looked forward to that day for a remission of their sins, I say unto you, that these are his seed, or they are the heirs of the kingdom of God.

For centuries, prophets have foretold this gathering,¹¹ and it is happening right now! As an essential prelude to the Second Coming of the Lord, it is *the most* important work in the world!

It is important to note that only one of the two works is taking place right now, the gathering of scattered Israel is taking place today. The lost ten tribes, which is a separate body, is still hidden. See my paper *The Ten Tribes, the 144,000, New Jerusalem* or *Defending Zions'* video on the ten tribes. President Nelson references Isaiah Chapter 11 here in which I will let Brother Hyrum Andrus explain:

“Speaking of the Lord’s redemption of Israel, Isaiah stated, “He shall . . . assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah” (Isaiah 11:12; emphasis added). “Outcasts” implies that this body was cast out of its native land but remained intact and will return as a group, while those who were “dispersed” have been scattered and will be gathered.”

This premillennial gathering...

The Millennium begins when Christ lives among the Saints in Zion or New Jerusalem- those who believe that the 7th seal has already been opened believe that Adam-ondi-ahman has already taken place and that the New Jerusalem and Zion was really Nauvoo and Salt Lake City etc. A flat out declaration that we are still premillennial is a flat out declaration that we are not in the 7th seal. Just a friendly FYI.

...is an individual saga of expanding faith and spiritual courage for millions of people. And as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or “latter-day covenant Israel,”¹² we have been charged to assist the Lord with this pivotal work.¹³

President Nelson has already referenced the “Ensign”, says we are living premillennial and that individual faith and courage is being put on display, and then references “in that day when I make up my jewels” in his footnotes. This is fascinating because this is exactly the time period I keep testifying we are in. And what time period is that? (I hope somebody out there yelled the correct answer), 3 Nephi 24!

3 Nephi 24:1, 11-12

“I will send my messenger [the Ensign, Joseph Smith] and he shall prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple [New Jerusalem]...And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither

shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the fields, saith the Lord of Hosts. And all nations shall call you [New Jerusalem] blessed, for ye shall be a delightsome land saith the Lord of Hosts.”

But before that day it shall be said,

3 Nephi 24:14-15

“It is vain to serve God, and what does it profit that we have kept his ordinances and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of Hosts? And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.”

This is the time period we are in right now. Members are now presented with a choice to have faith and spiritual courage or be crushed into silent weakness. President Nelson counselled, “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...The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do. Our safest insurance is to be worthy of admission to his holy house...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’. That very persecution can either crush you into silent weakness or motivate you to be more exemplary and courageous in your daily lives...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.” (April 2020 Ensign) With that basis of understanding, the rest of 3 Nephi 24 should be crystal clear:

3 Nephi 24:16-18

“Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened and heard; and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye [Joseph Smith] return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.”

The choice between serving God and those who serveth him not is just another way of saying those who let God prevail in their lives and those who do not. Once again, for anybody who read 3 Nephi 24, this should not have been earth shattering. But what it is, is a clear declaration from a prophet of God clearly identifying the time period that we are in.

When we speak of gathering Israel on both sides of the veil, we are referring, of course, to missionary, temple, and family history work. We are also referring to building faith and testimony in the hearts of those with whom we live, work, and serve. Anytime we do anything that helps anyone—on either side of the veil—to make and keep their covenants with God, we are helping to gather Israel.

President Nelson once again gives a very good definition of the gathering of scattered Israel. This consists of work on both sides of the veil, thus it includes a lot, however, it does not include the return of the ten tribes as a body, thus the “and” always issued when describing and separating/differentiating between them.

Not long ago, the wife of one of our grandsons was struggling spiritually. I will call her “Jill.” Despite fasting, prayer, and priesthood blessings, Jill’s father was dying. She was gripped with fear that she would lose both her dad and her testimony.

Late one evening, my wife, Sister Wendy Nelson,...

There is a fascinating bit of doctrine being taught here that coincides with being myopic perfectly. President Nelson does not think myopically and thus he knows even right now he has more than one wife, thus he specifies which one of his wives he is referencing.

...told me of Jill’s situation. The next morning Wendy felt impressed to share with Jill that my response to her spiritual wrestle was one word! The word was *myopic*.

Jill later admitted to Wendy that initially she was devastated by my response. She said, “I was hoping for Grandfather to promise me a miracle for my dad. I kept wondering why the word *myopic* was the one he felt compelled to say.”

After Jill’s father passed on, the word *myopic* kept coming to her mind. She opened her heart to understand even more deeply that *myopic* meant “nearsighted.” And her thinking began to shift. Jill then said, “*Myopic* caused me to stop, think, and heal. That word now fills me with peace. It reminds me to expand my perspective and seek the eternal. It reminds me that there is a divine plan and that my dad still lives and loves and looks out for me. *Myopic* has led me to God.”

I am very proud of our precious granddaughter-in-law. During this heart-wrenching time in her life, dear Jill is learning to embrace God’s will for her dad, with an eternal perspective for her own life. By *choosing* to let God prevail, she is finding peace.

President Nelson is explaining that we can be selfish, the desire, and not let God prevail in our response to events, ergo, sins of commission and sins of omission should both be considered. We should have gratitude and humility which will make us abound in good works, good works of letting God prevail in our lives, but it’s more than just us choosing to make good decisions, it’s also in acceptance of bad things that have happened to us. Ie. things that are in our control vs things that are out of our control; sins of commission vs sins of omission.

The act of being myopic is an act of selfishness. It is also a sign of low IQ. For those interested in that I would highly recommend looking up and reading about the marshmallow test. Simply put, the kids that were myopic, the kids who wanted the one marshmallow now (selfish), vs the kids who were able to curb their appetite (ie. were able to look ahead and not be selfish) was a very strong indicator for IQ later on in life and no other single piece of data is more telling for “success in life” than IQ. The connection between IQ and the Holy Ghost and the children of Israel etc is a fascinating study (see my paper *The Light of Christ, the Holy Ghost, the Second*

Comforter or Jesus' Macro Last Day Timeline). Elder Uchtdorf referenced the marshmallow test in his 2010 *Continue in Patience* talk.

If we will allow it, there are many ways this Hebraic interpretation of *Israel* can help us. Imagine how our prayers for our missionaries—and for our own efforts to gather Israel—could change with this concept in mind. We often pray that we and the missionaries will be led to those who are prepared to receive the truths of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. I wonder, to whom will we be led when we plead to find those who are willing to let God prevail in their lives?

I don't know what the difference is here. If anybody can help me understand the difference, I would appreciate it. My email is amenglish@live.com. Those that are willing to let God prevail in their lives are those who are prepared to receive the truth of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. And those who are prepared to receive the truth of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ are those who are willing to let God prevail in their lives. People lost their minds when I explained how the keys work and how much of a difference there is between asking what we can do personally vs thou shalt know and thou shalt do for someone else, they couldn't understand the difference between those two, but yet there is a massive difference between these two? I'm personally unable to see the difference. If somebody can decipher that for me, once again, please do. There isn't a case in which somebody is A. willing to let God prevail in their lives and B. yet are unwilling to receive the restored gospel. That is literally, not figuratively, the entire promise made by Moroni in the Book of Mormon, "All who ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, and faith in Christ, will come to know it is true by the power of the Holy Ghost." What is a sincere heart and real intent if not those who are willing to let God prevail in their lives? Ergo, those who are willing to let God prevail in their lives, ie. those with real intent and a sincere heart, WILL accept the restored gospel. Anybody who is unwilling to accept the restored gospel but who claims to let God prevail in their lives is a liar. The prophet Joseph Smith taught that there isn't another religion on the planet that generates real faith, it is fake.

President Nelson then gives a few examples, but I still can't see the differentiation.

We may be led to some who have never believed in God or Jesus Christ but who are now yearning to learn about Them and Their plan of happiness.

If somebody asked me, "Micah explain to me who you think defines those who are prepared to receive the truths of the restored gospel" an answer of mine might literally be "those who are yearning to learn about God and Jesus Christ and Their plan of happiness."

Others may have been "born in the covenant"¹⁴ but have since wandered away from the covenant path. They may now be ready to repent, return, and let God prevail. We can assist them by welcoming them with open arms and hearts.

Missionaries cannot receive revelation for members of the Church. Their keys apply only to non-members of the Church. So first of all, a missionary praying for this is out of their purview. It would be like a Young Women's President asking to be led to deacons that she can bring back into the Church. Or in the words of Elder Uchtdorf this would not be "lifting where you stand."

And some to whom we may be led may have always felt there was something missing in their lives. They too are longing for the wholeness and joy that come to those who are willing to let God prevail in their lives.

Once again, I'm confused on the difference. If you were to ask me the same question, "Micah, who would you define as those who are prepared to receive the truths of the restored gospel?" Once again, I might literally respond, "those who feel there is something missing in their life, those longing for wholeness and joy etc." If the prophet of God came out tomorrow and said "Micah, you will only ever pray for this your whole life" I would do it. But if you are asking me doctrinally speaking what the difference is, I couldn't tell you because there is none. If President Nelson said something along the lines of "we as members far too often pray that the missionaries may be led to those who are ready to receive the gospel but we would see miracles as a church if members prayed instead that they themselves would be led to those who will let God prevail in their life and to whom they could then influence", I would be able to see the clear difference between those two.

The gospel net to gather scattered Israel is expansive. There is room for each person who will fully embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Did President Nelson here just say the thing that he just told us that we are not supposed to say or that there is a better way of saying it? What's the difference between those who "will fully embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ" and "those who will receive the truths of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ." This is the only part of his talk where I felt like he went in a complete circle. I don't know the difference between "those who are prepared to receive the truths of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ" vs those "who are willing to let God prevail in their lives" let alone the difference between those who "will fully embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ" and "those who will receive the truths of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ." Once again, in conclusion, if the prophet of God told me to only ever use one of those wordings ever again, I would do it in a heartbeat, but weirdly enough he didn't commit the members or tell them to do anything specifically. And if somebody held a gun to my head and said, "explain the differences between these or I'm going to kill you," I would turn to my wife and say "I love you, see you on the other side." This is not like the difference between "Mormons" vs. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or the angel Moroni vs Jesus Christ as the symbol. The rationale for those changes is sound and the difference between them are brutally self-evident.

Each convert becomes one of God's covenant children,¹⁵ whether by birth or by adoption. Each becomes a full heir to all that God has promised the faithful children of Israel!¹⁶

Each of us has a divine potential because each is a child of God. Each is equal in His eyes. The implications of this truth are profound. Brothers and sisters, please listen carefully to what I am about to say. God does not love one race more than another. His doctrine on this matter is clear. He invites *all* to come unto Him, "black and white, bond and free, male and female."¹⁷

I assure you that your standing before God is not determined by the color of your skin. Favor or disfavor with God is dependent upon your devotion to God and His commandments and not the color of your skin.

From the restoration of the Church to today that doctrine has not changed. Some would mistakenly say “the Church has gotten better dealing with race” but that is a lie. The Church is no better or worse then when it was restored. The doctrine that obedience to commandments and ordinances determines worthiness before God, not their skin color, has been the doctrine of Christ and this Church since Father Adam. Eleven of the twelve tribes of Israel did not get the priesthood, until it changed. The Gentiles, the non-Jews, not only didn’t get the priesthood, they were denied entry into the church of Jesus Christ, until it changed. Those of African decent were denied the priesthood, until it changed. If an African was obedient to all of the commandments and ordinances available to him or her, he or she would have been just as worthy before God. This doctrine hasn’t changed, nor will it, for doctrine doesn’t change.

I grieve that our Black brothers and sisters the world over are enduring the pains of racism and prejudice.

I grieve for my white brothers and sisters experiencing and enduring the pains of racism and prejudice in the west as well, especially my millennial men of Ephraim, who take it on every front. You want to get a job? You want to get money from the government? You want free education? There is no greater racism, plus bigotry, plus ageism, in the west than that against millennial men of Ephraim. Period.

The biggest gang wars that were taking place in Philly were taking place between Africans and African-Americans, Dominicans against Mexicans, and African-Americans against both Dominicans and Mexicans. The number one thing that I was told by Africans from Africa, and this was across the board, every African that I talked to, and that was this, they were shocked at the amount of love and affection that white people showed them and how much more they had in common with white people than African-Americans.

This massive phantom white racism is just that, it’s a phantom, it doesn’t exist. The most racism that I have ever experienced in my entire life was that of black Hebrew Israelites threatening to kill me while I walked the streets of Philadelphia, purely because of my skin color (they didn’t want to kill my black companion, it wasn’t over religion, it was purely off my race).

You go into an East Indian restaurant and you will find East Indians and white people. You go into a Chinese restaurant and you will find Chinese and white people. You go into an African restaurant and you will find Africans and white people. You go to a Mexican restaurant, you will find Mexicans and white people. I don’t care if I’m talking to a West African, a Mexican, a Korean, a Puerto Rican, etc, and I personally haven’t met a white racist anywhere that I have lived, in or outside the Church. I met full blown non-white racists against other races every day on my mission. And if there are full blown white racists, white people purge them from their communities, while other communities circle around and protect their racists such as Al Sharpton, Reverend Wright etc.

This situation has gotten so out of control that we now have Mexicans that have entered the United States of America illegally, calling other legal Mexican-American members of the Church “racists” for believing they should be deported for not obeying the law. That’s how crazy this situation has gotten, this is how idiotic this situation has gotten, there is no intelligence to be

found in it, there is no logos to be found in it, there are no principles that govern it. You can simply be pointed at and called a racist and your life is over.

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.

Once again, I have never seen a white group of members exclude another race from activities, friendships, etc anywhere in my entire life. However, I've seen Filipinos in Winnipeg exclude everyone save for other Filipinos from their activities, friendships, etc. I've seen the same thing with a half dozen other non-white races, but like I said, I've never seen a white group do this. If I did see this I would call it out for being repulsive, just like I called out the Mexicans and Filipinos in my ward in Winnipeg for having their own mini branches inside our ward. I was told to shut it and deal with it. In other words, white people being racist and prejudice and selective and cliquish is totally unacceptable...but every other race we take no official stance on. I love everyone who is a disciple of Jesus Christ, regardless of skin color, and invite all to be my friends, however, I am not a flaming hypocrite, I am an honest man without guile, therefore, I will call out ALL races for their bigotry, racism, prejudice etc. even if they are non-white. I know that this is what the Savior would do in my position.

The question for each of us, regardless of race, is the same. Are *you* willing to let God prevail in your life? Are *you* willing to let God be the most important influence in your life? Will you allow His words, His commandments, and His covenants to influence what you do each day? Will you allow His voice to take priority over any other? Are you *willing* to let whatever He needs you to do take precedence over every other ambition? Are you *willing* to have your will swallowed up in His?¹⁸

President Nelson adds this in his footnote for this paragraph:

“Being of Israel is not for the faint of heart. To receive all the blessings that God has in store for Abraham's seed, we can each expect to be given our own unique “Abrahamic test.” God will test us, as the Prophet Joseph Smith taught, by wrenching our very heartstrings. (See recollection of John Taylor in Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith [2007], 231.)”

What President Nelson is describing is the Abrahamic test. This is necessary to have one's calling and election made sure (see my papers *The Second Chance Theory* and *The Church of the Firstborn, Calling and Election Made Sure, the Second Comforter* as well as Defending Zion's video *The Abrahamic Test*).

Consider how such willingness could bless you. If you are unmarried and seeking an eternal companion, your desire to be “of Israel” will help you decide whom to date and how.

This is discussed in great detail in my papers I just listed above. The Church of the Firstborn are those who receive of the fulness of the Father, a fulness which cannot be obtained save by being sealed to a spouse. President Nelson says if you desire to be of Israel, you will get married in the temple. President Nelson is flat out saying that if you don't get sealed in the temple, you are not “of Israel”.

If you are married to a companion who has broken his or her covenants, your willingness to let God prevail in your life will allow your covenants with God to remain intact. The Savior will heal your broken heart. The heavens will open as you seek to know how to move forward. You do not need to wander or wonder.

President Nelson is describing here that your personal desire, your testimony, etc, should not be based off of others including your spouse and you will remain firm even if family members fall away if your desire is to let God prevail in your life.

If you have sincere questions about the gospel or the Church, as you choose to let God prevail, you will be led to find and understand the absolute, eternal truths that will guide your life and help you stay firmly on the covenant path.

I can't understate how important that doctrine is. Your learning and growth will be exponential if you decide to let God's truth, God's knowledge, understanding etc prevail vs your own. If you go to God asking for understanding with a willingness to throw out all your preconceived notions, your mind will explode with light; if you however only go to learn in an attempt to confirm what you already believe (ie. pursuing confirmation bias) your mind will be darkened and looking back on your life, you will realize you didn't accomplish or learn much of anything.

When you are faced with temptation—even if the temptation comes when you are exhausted or feeling alone or misunderstood—imagine the courage you can muster as you choose to let God prevail in your life and as you plead with Him to strengthen you.

A good paper to read in conjunction with this is that of my *Rebellion vs Weakness*. Those in rebellion are those who are sinning openly, those who have no desire to let God prevail in their life. If you let God prevail your sins will be only that of sins of weakness and President Nelson is promising you a true doctrine which is that the Lord can work upon you and strengthen you if your sins are sins of weakness; sins of rebellion are a different matter entirely.

When your greatest desire is to let God prevail, to be part of Israel, so many decisions become easier. So many issues become nonissues! You know how best to groom yourself. You know what to watch and read, where to spend your time, and with whom to associate. You know what you want to accomplish. You know the kind of person you really want to become.

This is why more than anything I want people to get a taste of New Jerusalem and to desire to be a part of it. New Jerusalem is a perfected branch of Israel, with every "Jerusalem" being its own perfected branch of Israel. And what President Nelson here is teaching is a powerful doctrine that I expound on in the talk by Elder Whiting entitled *Becoming Like Him*, and that is the connection between desire and outcome. If we surround ourselves with those who have as their greatest desire "the New Jerusalem," your desire for that will grow over time. And as your desire for that grows, many of the decisions in your life will become easier and the actions will follow suit. And the actions will be the actions of one who wishes to be a part of the New Jerusalem.

Now, my dear brothers and sisters, it takes both faith and courage to let God prevail. It takes persistent, rigorous spiritual work to repent and to put off the natural man through the Atonement

of Jesus Christ.¹⁹ It takes consistent, daily effort to develop personal habits to study the gospel, to learn more about Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, and to seek and respond to personal revelation.

This last paragraph sounds like a solid summary of the last talk that I just mentioned, *Becoming Like Him* by Elder Whiting. What President Nelson is describing here is “the incline.”

During these perilous times of which the Apostle Paul prophesied,²⁰ Satan is no longer even *trying* to hide his attacks on God’s plan. Emboldened evil abounds. Therefore, the only way to survive spiritually is to be determined to let God prevail in our lives, to learn to hear His voice, and to use our energy to help gather Israel.

This sounds like a perfect summary of my papers *El Fin, A test, a Test, a TEST!* etc. That is the timeframe.

Now, how does the Lord *feel* about people who will let God prevail? Nephi summed it up well: “[The Lord] *loveth* those who will have him to be their God. Behold, he loved our fathers, and he covenanted with them, yea, even Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and he remember[s] the covenants which he [has] made.”²¹

And what is the Lord willing to *do* for Israel? The Lord has pledged that He will “fight [our] battles, and [our] children’s battles, and our children’s children’s [battles] ... to the third and fourth generation”!²²

See my *Understanding Isaiah Chapter 49* which these two paragraphs are going over. Also see *Understanding Isaiah Chapter 10* and *The Parable of the Nobleman and the Olive Trees*. Such a promise is only valid if we built the tower, because we failed to build the tower “there remaineth a scourge” and thus the Lord will not “fight our battles for us” until after the Anointing. Ergo, scourging → New Jerusalem → the Anointing → the Lord fights our battles for us.

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

My dear brothers and sisters, as you choose to let God prevail in your lives, you will experience for yourselves that our God is “a God of miracles.”²³

To see my thoughts on this, see my paper *Thoughts on Conference +10* in which one of my ten points went over this specifically.

The last part of that sentence though should get more than just our eyeballs over it. The reference that President Nelson chose to tack on to “you will experience for yourselves” is:

Mormon 9:11

11 But behold, I will show unto you a God of miracles, even the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and it is that same God who created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are.

Why should that tie things together for us? How does this relate to 3 Nephi 24 which we have already gone over? Turning to 2 Nephi 27:22-30 we will have our answer. I would recommend reading the whole rest of 2 Nephi 27 and 28. This is once again confirmation from a prophet of God that this is the specific time period we are living in. So let's read this and wrap it up (if you don't know what is happening in 2 Nephi 27, may I suggest reading my papers *Joseph Smith to Return, Points of Reference* etc.)

2 Nephi 27:22-30

22 Wherefore, when thou hast read the words which I have commanded thee, and obtained the witnesses which I have promised unto thee, then shalt thou seal up the book again, and hide it up unto me, that I may preserve the words which thou hast not read, until I shall see fit in mine own wisdom to reveal all things unto the children of men.

23 For behold, I am God; and I am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and I work not among the children of men save it be according to their faith.

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

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

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

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

28 But behold, saith the Lord of Hosts: I will show unto the children of men that it is yet a very little while and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field; and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest.

29 And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.

30 And the meek also shall increase, and their joy shall be in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

As a people, we are His covenant children, and we will be called by His name. Of this I testify in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.