

# Overcome the World and Find Rest

By President Russell M. Nelson

*President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

*Find rest from the intensity, uncertainty, and anguish of this world by overcoming the world through your covenants with God.*

## Section I (Levi)

My dear brothers and sisters, I am grateful to greet you on this glorious Sabbath morning. You are constantly on my mind. I marvel at the way you spring into action whenever you see others in need. I stand amazed at the faith and testimony you demonstrate again and again. I weep over your heartaches, disappointments, and worries. I love you. I assure you that our Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, love you. They are intimately aware of your circumstances, your goodness, your needs, and your prayers for help. Again and again, I pray for you to feel Their love for you.

Experiencing Their love is vital, as it seems that we are accosted daily by an onslaught of sobering news. You may have had days when you wished you could don your pajamas, curl up in a ball, and ask someone to awaken you when the turmoil is over.

But, my dear brothers and sisters, so many wonderful things are ahead. In coming days, we will see the *greatest* manifestations of the Savior's power that the world has *ever* seen. Between now and the time He returns "with power and great glory,"<sup>1</sup> He will bestow countless privileges, blessings, and miracles upon the faithful.

Nonetheless, we are presently living in what surely is a most complicated time in the history of the world. The complexities and challenges leave many people feeling overwhelmed and exhausted. However, consider a recent experience that might shed light on how you and I can find rest.

During the recent open house of the Washington D.C. Temple, a member of the open house committee witnessed an insightful interchange as he escorted several prominent journalists through the temple. Somehow a young family became attached to this media tour. One reporter kept asking about the "journey" of a temple patron as he or she moves through the temple. He wanted to know if the temple journey is symbolic of the challenges in a person's journey through life.

A young boy in the family picked up on the conversation. When the tour group entered an endowment room, the boy pointed to the altar, where people kneel to make covenants with God, and said, "Oh, that's nice. Here is a place for people to *rest* on their temple journey."

I doubt that the boy knew just how profound his observation was. He likely had no idea about the direct connection between making a covenant with God in the temple and the Savior's stunning promise:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you *rest*.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; ... and ye shall find *rest* unto your souls.

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."<sup>2</sup>

Dear brothers and sisters, I grieve for those who leave the Church because they feel membership requires too much of them. They have not yet discovered that making and keeping covenants actually makes life easier! Each person who makes covenants in baptismal fonts and in temples—and keeps them—has increased access to the power of Jesus Christ. Please ponder that stunning truth!

The reward for keeping covenants with God is heavenly power—power that strengthens us to withstand our trials, temptations, and heartaches better. This power eases our way. Those who live the higher laws of Jesus Christ have access to His higher power. Thus, covenant keepers are entitled to a special kind of *rest* that comes to them through their covenantal relationship with God.

Before the Savior submitted Himself to the agony of Gethsemane and Calvary, He declared to His Apostles, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have *overcome the world*."<sup>3</sup> Subsequently, Jesus entreated each of us to do the same when He said, "I *will* that ye should *overcome* the world."<sup>4</sup>

Dear brothers and sisters, my message to you today is that because Jesus Christ overcame this fallen world, and because He atoned for each of us, you too can overcome this sin-saturated, self-centered, and often exhausting world.

Because the Savior, through His infinite Atonement, redeemed each of us from weakness, mistakes, and sin, and because He experienced every pain, worry, and burden you have ever had,<sup>5</sup> then as you truly repent and seek His help, you can rise above this present precarious world.

## **Levi's Thoughts:**

Find rest from the intensity, uncertainty, and anguish of this world by overcoming the world through your covenants with God. - [what do we hope to gain from this talk? less intensity, more certainty, less anguish.](#)

[Experiencing Their love is the antidote to turmoil](#)

[The phrase "coming days" has not been used except recently in the history of the church and in scripture. In D&C, they uses phrases such as "the time is not far distant"](#)

[Later, in the 1900s, they said "in the days ahead"](#)

[Now they've switched to "coming days". It may just be the evolution of speech, but it feels like the time certainly is very near](#)

[power and great glory - footnote 1 shows us this is the great and dreadful day](#)

President Nelson makes no apologies to those who leave the church feeling it is too hard, he simply points out they have misunderstood the principle that life is easier with covenants

“us to overcome the world”. This footnote reference was specifically given to the Elders of the church. Being baptized is not overcoming the world. Just going to church is not overcoming the world. Those who hold the priesthood and would logically be active members of the church were being told to overcome the world

Christ knows how to succor his people. Do you believe he will, that he can?

You have the words of a prophet right here. If you are experiencing these negative things in your life, apply this talk more fully in your life.

Am I too exhausted to do what I'm asked? (Note He doesn't say save us from tiredness). Then, according to President Nelson, I don't understand, or maybe I'm not living the higher law as I ought?

## **Micah's Thoughts:**

The first thing I loved about this section was President Nelson's clever way of telling the members that they can't simply sleep until the turmoil is over... “You might want to do so, but my brothers and sisters, so many wonderful events lie ahead... blessings, privileges, and miracles... that the Lord will only bestow upon the faithful”... Did you catch that? What is he clearly saying? He is clearly saying that “if you remain sleeping, avoiding any turmoil, if you don't put any skin in the game... you won't be a part of the blessings, privileges, and miracles that only are bestowed upon the faithful...” It can't get any clearer than that, and yet many if not most will sleep right on through it- and might even become hostile when you draw attention to it... How sad! “Weep” indeed!

The second thing I really want to draw attention to is the very first reference that President Nelson put in here... This is yet another thing that most likely will have gone over people's heads, but this is single handily the greatest “we are NOT post 7<sup>th</sup> seal being opened in heaven” that I've heard from a prophet of God post the year 2000... And before people who are new here lose what's left of their minds, let me clearly say, there is a difference between when the seal is opened in heaven and what is contained in the scroll that the seal is on... If you don't understand what that means may I humbly suggest that you clearly don't know as much about this subject as you think you do... What is contained in the scrolls is each of the thousand-year periods of the earth, the seals themselves are open/broken in heaven in sequential order in the last-days... We are living in the 7<sup>th</sup> thousandth years of the temporal earth, however, the 7<sup>th</sup> seal binding that's scroll in heaven has not been opened yet. Now, how is what President Nelson said a confirmation of that fact?

**Joseph Smith (TPJS 279-280)**

### **The “Sign” of the Son of Man**

Sir:—Among the many signs of the times and other strange things which are continually agitating the minds of men, I notice a small speculation in the Chicago Express, upon the

certificate of one Hyrum Redding, of Ogle county, Illinois, stating that he has seen the sign of the Son of Man as foretold in the 24th chapter of Matthew...

The editor, as well as some others, “thinks that Joe Smith has his match at last,” because Mr. Redding thinks that he has seen the sign of the Son of Man. But I shall use my right, and declare that, notwithstanding Mr. Redding may have seen a wonderful appearance in the clouds one morning about sunrise (which is nothing very uncommon in the winter season) he has not seen the sign of the Son of Man, as foretold by Jesus; neither has any man, nor will any man, until after the sun shall have been darkened and the moon bathed in blood; for the Lord hath not shown me any such sign; and as the prophet saith, so it must be—“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets.” (See Amos 3:7.) Therefore, hear this, O earth: The Lord will not come to reign over the righteous, in this world, in 1843, nor until everything for the Bridegroom is ready.

Yours respectfully,  
JOSEPH SMITH.

So Joseph Smith clearly teaches us that the Sign of the Son of Man has not taken place, and will not take place until he first tells the Prophet of God thus. President Nelson in this talk says these wonderful events and signs LIE AHEAD... and then he references:

1.

Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:36: “Then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven, and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn; and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.”

President Nelson is telling us that The Sign of the Son of Man has not taken place yet, it lies in the future... And as the Prophet of God there is nothing final on that subject... So why is that important? Well, we know when the Sign of the Son of Man Appears:

### **Doctrine and Covenants 88**

89 For after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes, that shall cause groanings in the midst of her, and men shall fall upon the ground and shall not be able to stand.

90 And also cometh the testimony of the voice of thunders, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea heaving themselves beyond their bounds.

91 And all things shall be in commotion; and surely, men’s hearts shall fail them; for fear shall come upon all people.

92 And angels shall fly through the midst of heaven, crying with a loud voice, sounding the trump of God, saying: Prepare ye, prepare ye, O inhabitants of the earth; for the judgment of our God is come. Behold, and lo, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

93 **And immediately there shall appear a great sign in heaven, and all people shall see it together.**

94 And another angel shall sound his trump, saying: That great church, the mother of abominations, that made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, that persecuteth the saints of God, that shed their blood—she who sitteth upon many waters, and upon the islands of the sea—behold, she is the tares of the earth; she is bound in bundles; her

bands are made strong, no man can loose them; therefore, she is ready to be burned. And he shall sound his trump both long and loud, and all nations shall hear it.

95 **And there shall be silence in heaven for the space of half an hour**

## **Revelation 8**

1 **And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.**

2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters

The Sign of the Son of Man appears after the 7<sup>th</sup> seal is opened in heaven... If the Prophet of God says that the Sign of the Son of Man lies in the future this “debate” is over... Period...

The next thing I loved was President Nelson being clever with his words once again... “each person who makes covenants actually makes life easier- if they keep them”... The “if they keep them” once again is key and if omitted from the quotes surrounding it, would not be as clear. Putting that “and keeps them” after focusing on the positive allows people to hear what they want to hear... The children of Light ponder on those stunning truths, they understand the meaning of these things...

President Nelson then differentiates between blessings keeping lower covenants and “higher laws/covenants” of Jesus Christ... Those that keep the lower covenants obtain “the Power of the Lamb” such that they can withstand trials, temptations, and heartaches better, etc. while those that live the “higher laws” of Jesus Christ have access to His “higher power”, to the true “Power of the Lamb”... Those followers of Christ who obtain such power are entitled to a special kind of “rest”, a “rest” that can only be truly obtained in the New Jerusalem of Christ. See how well this teaching jibes with President Nelson telling us that we are those that Nephi saw only in vision... “the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory.” I am really glad that President Nelson made this differentiation here... In previous conferences I cringed when “the Power of the Lamb” was compared to simple things such as “taking a test” or “overcoming

temptation”- this differentiation here is much clearer... There are varying degrees of The Power of the Lamb obtained by varying degrees of “letting God prevail”, and those that obey (or are at least willing to obey) the higher Celestial Laws will “prevail with God”...

Finally, in conclusion for this section, I love that President Nelson used the reference in Doctrine and Covenants 64 for “overcoming the world”... What was going on in this chapter of the Doctrine and Covenants?

### **Doctrine and Covenants 64**

30 And he hath set you to provide for his saints in these last days, that they may obtain an inheritance in the land of Zion.

31 And behold, I, the Lord, declare unto you, and my words are sure and shall not fail, that they shall obtain it.

32 But all things must come to pass in their time.

33 Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great.

34 Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days.

35 And the rebellious shall be cut off out of the land of Zion, and shall be sent away, and shall not inherit the land.

36 For, verily I say that the rebellious are not of the blood of Ephraim, wherefore they shall be plucked out.

Brings us full circle does it not? Letting God prevail and prevailing with God and obtaining our rest and our inheritance in Zion, the New Jerusalem... It is like seeing through a glass perfectly clean, it is crystal clear to me. Zion or Bust!

## **Section II (Mason)**

You can overcome the spiritually and emotionally exhausting plagues of the world, including arrogance, pride, anger, immorality, hatred, greed, jealousy, and fear. Despite the distractions and distortions that swirl around us, you can find true *rest*—meaning relief and peace—even amid your most vexing problems.

This important truth prompts three fundamental questions:

First, what does it mean to overcome the world?

Second, how do we do it?

And third, how does overcoming the world bless our lives?

What does it mean to overcome the world? It means overcoming the temptation to care more about the things of this world than the things of God. It means trusting the doctrine of Christ more than the philosophies of men. It means delighting in truth, denouncing deception, and

becoming “humble followers of Christ.”<sup>6</sup> It means choosing to refrain from anything that drives the Spirit away. It means being willing to “give away” even our favorite sins.<sup>7</sup> Now, overcoming the world certainly does not mean becoming perfect in this life, nor does it mean that your problems will magically evaporate—because they won’t. And it does *not* mean that you won’t still make mistakes. But overcoming the world does mean that your resistance to sin will increase. Your heart will soften as your faith in Jesus Christ increases.<sup>8</sup> Overcoming the world means growing to love God and His Beloved Son more than you love anyone or anything else.

How, then, do we overcome the world? King Benjamin taught us how. He said that “the natural man is an enemy to God” and remains so forever “*unless* he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord.”<sup>9</sup> Each time you seek for and follow the promptings of the Spirit, each time you do anything good—things that “the natural man” would not do—you are overcoming the world. Overcoming the world is not an event that happens in a day or two. It happens over a lifetime as we repeatedly embrace the doctrine of Christ. We cultivate faith in Jesus Christ by repenting daily and keeping covenants that endow us with power. We stay on the covenant path and are blessed with spiritual strength, personal revelation, increasing faith, and the ministering of angels. Living the doctrine of Christ can produce the most powerful virtuous cycle, creating spiritual momentum in our lives.<sup>10</sup>

As we strive to live the higher laws of Jesus Christ, our hearts and our very natures begin to change. The Savior *lifts* us above the pull of this fallen world by blessing us with greater charity, humility, generosity, kindness, self-discipline, peace, and *rest*.

Now, you may be thinking this sounds more like hard spiritual work than *rest*. But here is the grand truth: while the world insists that power, possessions, popularity, and pleasures of the flesh bring happiness, they do not! They cannot! What they do produce is nothing but a hollow substitute for “the blessed and happy state of those [who] keep the commandments of God.”<sup>11</sup> The truth is that it is much *more exhausting* to seek happiness where you can *never* find it! However, when you yoke yourself to Jesus Christ and do the spiritual work required to overcome the world, He, and He alone, does have the power to lift you above the pull of this world. Now, how does overcoming the world bless our lives? The answer is clear: entering into a covenant relationship with God binds us to Him in a way that makes *everything* about life easier. Please do not misunderstand me: I did *not* say that making covenants makes life *easy*. In fact, expect opposition, because the adversary does not want you to discover the power of Jesus Christ. But yoking yourself with the Savior means you have access to *His* strength and redeeming power.

## **Mason’s Thoughts:**

**President Nelson’s words – Black**

**Mason’s words and thoughts – Blue**

**Scriptures – Black & highlighted yellow**

## Quotes from Prophets & Apostles – Purple

In his response to the question “What does it Mean to overcome the world?” President Nelson References 2 Nephi 28:14.

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

If we also go back and read the chapter heading for 2 Nephi 28, Nephi warns us about false doctrines that will arise in our time.

*‘Many false churches will be built up in the last days—They will teach false, vain, and foolish doctrines—Apostasy will abound because of false teachers—The devil will rage in the hearts of men—He will teach all manner of false doctrines. About 559–545 B.C.’*

President Nelson is warning us to be aware of many who are looking to deceive the disciples of Jesus Christ. The devil will nestle up inside the hearts and minds of men, and just as the Watchmen are tasked to warn and preach truth, the devil is influencing his own masters of deception and sending them out among the followers of Christ to deceive them. The devil rewards these men and women with all sorts of carnal philosophies brought about by men’s precepts of the scriptures, a prideful mind and heart, and all manner of worldly riches.

### 2 Nephi 28:

3 For it shall come to pass in that day that the <sup>a</sup>churches which are built up, and not unto the Lord, when the one shall say unto the other: Behold, I, I am the Lord’s; and the others shall say: I, I am the Lord’s; and thus shall every one say that hath built up <sup>b</sup>churches, and not unto the Lord—

4 And they shall contend one with another; and their priests shall contend one with another, and they shall teach with their <sup>a</sup>learning, and deny the <sup>b</sup>Holy Ghost, which giveth utterance.

5 And they <sup>a</sup>deny the <sup>b</sup>power of God, the Holy One of Israel; and they say unto the people: Hearken unto us, and hear ye our precept; for behold there is <sup>c</sup>no God today, for the Lord and the Redeemer hath done his work, and he hath given his power unto men;

President Nelson has given us these warnings before. “Contrary to the doubts of some, there really is such a thing as right and wrong. There really is absolute truth—eternal truth. One of the plagues of our day is that too few people know where to turn for truth.” (President Nelson (Opening Remarks, October 2021)

When one does not have a testimony built upon the correct teaching of Jesus Christ, we are warned of what becomes of those who are lured into the false teachings by these masters of deception.

### 2 Nephi 28:

7 Yea, and there shall be many which shall say: <sup>a</sup>Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die; and it shall be well with us.



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

9 Yea, and there shall be many which shall teach after this manner, “<sup>a</sup>false and vain and <sup>b</sup>foolish <sup>c</sup>doctrines, and shall be puffed up in their hearts, and shall seek deep to hide their counsels from the Lord; and their works shall be in the dark.

10 And the “<sup>a</sup>blood of the saints shall cry from the ground against them.

11 Yea, they have all gone out of the “<sup>a</sup>way; they have become <sup>b</sup>corrupted.

12 Because of “<sup>a</sup>pride, and because of <sup>b</sup>false teachers, and <sup>c</sup>false doctrine, their churches have become corrupted, and their churches are lifted up; because of pride they are puffed up.

13 They “<sup>a</sup>rob the <sup>b</sup>poor because of their fine sanctuaries; they rob the poor because of their fine clothing; and they persecute the meek and the poor in heart, because in their <sup>c</sup>pride they are puffed up.

The time that this forewarned deception takes place, has already happened and is continuing to happen today. If we are not aware of what is currently taking place, we will be led away by false teachers and false spirits. We will become accustomed to relying on our own feelings, and carnal securities will quickly submit to anything that Satan will comfortably put in the way of our covenant path. Satan knows how to deceive us, we must be willing to act when the spirit prompts us to do something, or when a Prophet of God warns us repeatedly to seek out truth and learn how to shine our lights constantly without letting that light burn out.

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

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

If I may also add my warning to those who read or hear these words, I have witnessed this coming to pass for myself. I have seen good men and women become lulled away from the truths and teachings of Jesus Christ because of false teachings and carnal securities. My heart aches for those who cannot see it. We must take the call from our Prophet of God today, and remember who we are, what we were sent here to do. We are disciples of Jesus Christ, we don’t just follow, we arise and put on the Strength of Zion. We call out these false teachers who seek to oppress and mislead for false gain and filthy lucre. We stand for truth. We shine our lights so bright that we light the way for others. We ignore the taunting callings, insults, and mockery of those who sit within the great and spacious building slandering those who have partaken of and tasted the fruit of truth and light. We hold tight to what we have learned and have had confirmed to us by the Power of the Holy Ghost. We do whatever it takes, to put to the ungodly aside and focus on building and defending the Kingdom of God. We know that Peace is coming, we know

that our reward is further light and knowledge. We know that the truth and light of God is mightier than anything Satan can conjure up to come upon our heads.

“The Lord never created this world at random; he has never done any of his work at random. The earth was created for certain purposes; and one of these purposes was its final redemption, and the establishment of his government and kingdom upon it in the latter days, to prepare it for the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose right it is to reign. (D&C 58:22) That set time has come, that dispensation is before us, we are living in the midst of it.”

(His Testimony- The Fulfilling of Prophecy—Advice to Mothers. Discourse by Elder Wilford Woodruff, delivered in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 6, 1872. Reported By: David W. Evans.)

President Nelson also promises us that if we put away our sins, even our favorite sins that our love for God will grow. And in that growing process, our problems will not just “magically evaporate”, but our “resistance to sin will increase”, our “heart will soften”, our “faith in Jesus Christ increases” He then gives us this next comforting insight. “Overcoming the world means growing to love God and His Beloved Son more than you love anyone or anything else.”

What blessings can come from letting our love for God grow? How do we stay strong during this process? Let’s review this profound and true statement from President Nelson. “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. (D&C 138:56) That teaching endures within you!

(Stand as True Millennials, Ensign, Oct 2016, 26; Liahona, 48)

Let’s look at the scripture referenced in this quote.

### **D&C 138:56**

**56** Even before they were born, they, with many others, received their first <sup>a</sup>lessons in the world of spirits and were <sup>b</sup>prepared to come forth in the due <sup>c</sup>time of the Lord to labor in his <sup>d</sup>vineyard for the salvation of the souls of men.

If we follow the footnote (d) from D&C 138:56 it takes us to Jacob Chapter 6 versus 2 and 3. But let’s look once again at the Chapter heading before reading these versus.

*The Lord will recover Israel in the last days—The world will be burned with fire—Men must follow Christ to avoid the lake of fire and brimstone.*

Now let’s read Versus 2 and 3, because this applied directly to us right now.

### **Jacob 6**

**2** And the day that he shall set his hand again the second time to <sup>a</sup>recover his people, is the day, yea, even the last time, that the <sup>b</sup>servants of the Lord shall go forth in his <sup>c</sup>power, to <sup>d</sup>nourish and prune his <sup>e</sup>vineyard; and after that the <sup>f</sup>end soon cometh.

**3** And how <sup>a</sup>blessed are they who have labored <sup>b</sup>diligently in his vineyard; and how <sup>c</sup>cursed are they who shall be cast out into their own place! And the <sup>d</sup>world shall be <sup>e</sup>burned with fire.

We are in this second time of recovery or gathering. We have made a covenant to be servants in the vineyard to go forward with power to nourish and to prune, to call out repentance and truth, to build and defend. And we were taught this and promised to do it even before we came to earth. This knowledge is inside us. I know it is. Gaining a testimony of Jesus Christ and learning truth has unlocked this knowledge and the Holy Ghost has brought it to my remembrance and confirmed to me that it is true.

### **John 15: 1, 5-14**

**1** I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

**5** I am the "vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without "me ye can do nothing.

**6** If a man "abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

**7** If ye "abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall "ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

**8** Herein is my Father "glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

**9** As the Father hath "loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

**10** If ye "keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my "love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

**11** These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your "joy might be full.

**12** This is my commandment, That ye "love one another, as I have "loved you.

**13** Greater "love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his "life for his "friends.

**14** Ye are my "friends, if ye do whatsoever I "command you.

I love these verses. As one who is trying very hard to be a servant to bring forth good fruit, I am reminded of this promise given to us from our Savior in Verse 14. "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." The savior laid down His life for us. He has suffered so much for us even through all our sins, our weakness, and our vile wretchedness. Yet he still proclaims that we are to be His friends. As we seek to not be of the world, we build a friendship with God and Jesus Christ. We learn to place our trust in Them, and They place Their trust in us as servants in the vineyard. But we can not serve two masters. For if we try to please two master we cannot be trusted with the building up of the Vineyard. We must trust that God and Jesus Christ truly are our Friends, and Friends stand up for one another and support each other. Friends Gather together often and do good. As President Daniel H. Wells said; we cannot hold hands with Christ and the Devil.

"We are now in our probation, and the work in which we are engaged will reach into a world to come. Then let us act like men and women who are determined to be for the kingdom of God or nothing, progressing steadily, unitedly, and firmly, day by day, week by week, month by month, and year by year, as long as we shall live, and never falter in our feeling, in our faith, and good works. Never strike hands with the Devil; never seek to make friends of Christ and Baal. They cannot be friends. If we do not let go the hand of the Devil, we must the hand of Christ. Christ has long ago refused to hold communion with Satan. We cannot hold one with one hand, and the

other with the other hand. If we try this, the first we know we shall find ourselves entirely on the side of the Devil.”

(Building Up of the Kingdom of God—Home Manufactures. Discourse by President Daniel H. Wells, made at Logan City, September 10th, 1861. Reported By: G. D. Watt.)

As we release our hands of the Devil and seek to join hands with our Savior, let our hearts be reminded of what President Nelson tells us through King Benjamin’s words.

**Mosiah 3:19** For the <sup>a</sup>natural <sup>b</sup>man is an <sup>c</sup>enemy to God, and has been from the <sup>d</sup>fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he <sup>e</sup>yields to the enticings of the <sup>f</sup>Holy Spirit, and <sup>g</sup>putteth off the <sup>h</sup>natural man and cometh a <sup>i</sup>saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and cometh as a <sup>j</sup>child, <sup>k</sup>submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.

**Mosiah 5: 5** And we are willing to enter into a <sup>a</sup>covenant with our God to do his will, and to be obedient to his commandments in all things that he shall command us, all the remainder of our days, that we may not bring upon ourselves a <sup>b</sup>never-ending torment, as has been spoken by the <sup>c</sup>angel, that we may not drink out of the cup of the wrath of God.

**6** And now, these are the words which king Benjamin desired of them; and therefore he said unto them: Ye have spoken the words that I desired; and the covenant which ye have made is a righteous covenant.

**7** And now, because of the covenant which ye have made ye shall be called the <sup>a</sup>children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters; for behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are <sup>b</sup>changed through faith on his name; therefore, ye are <sup>c</sup>born of him and have become his <sup>d</sup>sons and his daughters.

Through the power that lies within our covenants we feel a desire to seek out others who have become Friends with God and Jesus Christ. We desire to gather with them and serve alongside them in the Lord’s vineyard. For we are becoming the Children of Light, the Children of Christ, His sons, and His daughters. Our hearts will change, and we will no longer find rest in the carnal securities of the world. But we will find rest among those whom we can call our brothers and sisters, our fellow servants, our Friends. We will long for the day when we can dwell with those who want to speak of truth and speak of Christ to often remember our promises. We will shine our light forth and draw others unto us that they may to know where to truly find rest from the woes and sins of the world. As children of the light our truths will spread into the four corners of the earth in an effort to recover those who have yet to be gathered in.

Now if we also look in the topical guide under recover, we find these words; Israel, Gathering of, Restoration of. As well as these following verses.

### **1 Nephi 22:10–12**

**10** And I would, my brethren, that ye should know that all the kindreds of the earth cannot be blessed unless he shall make bare his arm in the eyes of the nations.

**11** Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations, in bringing about his covenants and his gospel unto those who are of the house of Israel.

**12** Wherefore, he will bring them again out of captivity, and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance; and they shall be brought out of obscurity and out of darkness; and they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel.

### **Doctrine and Covenants 110:11**

**11** After this vision closed, the heavens were again opened unto us; and Moses appeared before us and committed unto us the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth, and the leading of the ten tribes from the land of the north.

### **Doctrine and Covenants 137:6**

**6** And marveled how it was that he had obtained an inheritance in that kingdom, seeing that he had departed this life before the Lord had set his hand to gather Israel the second time, and had not been baptized for the remission of sins

Before we entered our mortal journeys we were educated and given the light needed to remember our true purpose for being here. Understanding where we are in the timeline of our dispensation is necessary to understanding our divine roles in the playing out of the wind-up scenes prior to the second coming of our Savior. President Nelson has very plainly taught where we currently are. Those who are not able to see this by now put themselves at risk of being sifted off into the caverns and trap holdings of Babylon. God needs us to grow and nurture our relationship with Him by listening and studying out the words of the Prophets and the scriptures. The maps and keys are there. No lock is left without a key, but in order to mature in faith, and become stronger we must do the work. We must progressively overload ourselves with true doctrines; to build ourselves up and become refined through our own actions and our ability to listen and obey. This is how we prepare ourselves for what is to come. This is how we receive more light and knowledge. This is how we learn to put Babylon aside, let God prevail, and become part of gathered Israel.

To truly realize who we are and what we are to be doing at this specified time in the history of the world, we must rely on our trusted Prophets sent to us by God. We have been warned that it will be extremely difficult to survive both spiritually and temporally in the coming days.

The Prophet Joseph Smith Taught us; "If men do not comprehend the character of God, they do not comprehend themselves." (Joseph Smith TPJS p. 343)

"As the Son partakes of the fulness of the Father through the Spirit, so the saints are, by the same Spirit, to be partakers of the same fulness, to enjoy the same glory; for as the Father and the Son are one, so in like manner the saints are to be one in them, through the love of the Father, the mediation of Jesus Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit; they are to be heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ." (Joseph Smith Lecture 5:3 Lectures on Faith)

In my experience as I have sought to truly understand the power in the covenants, it has led me to understand my Heavenly Father more fully. And in that understanding, I was able to increase my spiritual maturity and strengthen my loyalty to God and Jesus Christ, and to Joseph Smith as

well as all of God's prophets. Bruce R. McConkie stated; "The measure of a person's spiritual maturity is found in his or her loyalty to the Prophet Joseph Smith."

*(Elder Bruce R. McConkie (Joseph Fielding McConkie, The Bruce R. McConkie Story: Reflections of a Son (2003), 256. See also Bruce R. McConkie, "Joseph Smith: A Revealer of Christ", BYU Devotional Address, 3 September 1978, 6.)*

"Every prophet is a witness of Christ; every dispensation head is a revealer of Christ for his day; and every other prophet or apostle who comes is a reflection and an echo and an exponent of the dispensation head. All such come to echo to the world and to expound and unfold what God has revealed through the man who was appointed for that era to give his eternal word to the world" (Bruce R. McConkie "This Generation Shall Have My Word through You," pp. 4–5).

In closing I will share one last quote from President Nelson along with my testimony.

"Learn about God and how He works. One of our greatest challenges today is distinguishing between the truths of God and the counterfeits of Satan. That is why the Lord warned us to "pray always, ... that [we] may conquer Satan, and ... escape the hands of the servants of Satan that do uphold his work." Moses provided an example of how to discern between God and Satan. When Satan came tempting Moses, he detected the deception because he had just had a face-to-face interaction with God. Moses quickly realized who Satan was and commanded him to depart. When Satan persisted, Moses knew how to call upon God for more help. Moses received divine strength and rebuked the evil one again, saying, "Depart from me, Satan, for this one God only will I worship." We should follow that example. Cast Satan's influence out of your life! Please do not follow him down to his "gulf of misery and endless wo." With frightening speed, a testimony that is not nourished daily "by the good word of God" can crumble. Thus, the antidote to Satan's scheme is clear: we need daily experiences worshipping the Lord and studying His gospel. I plead with you to let God prevail in your life. Give Him a fair share of your time. As you do, notice what happens to your positive spiritual momentum."

( President Nelson April 2022 The Power of Spiritual Momentum)

Brothers and Sisters, I promise that you are meant to do marvelous works. If you humble yourself, cast your doubts, egos, arrogance, insecurities, and sins aside just for a moment you will feel the love of your God. Take time to Plead with your Father to show you the way. We all have the light of Christ within us. Truth is upon the earth in abundance, and we can obtain it. It will light our paths; it will show us where to go. We are in a time of Gathering. If you are not being compelled to Gather with your fellow brothers and sisters and labor in the vineyard of the Lord, then you are not on the covenant path. Stop and reassess yourself. I plead with you to do so. My heart truly does ache for those who are lost and are suffering for the causes of Babylon. Do not put yourselves through hell, only to find out in the end that is what you profit. Align yourself to God's will and be gathered unto Him! Please Hear Him! He loves you and He needs you. We need you. Listen to a prophets voice for "blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; and if they endure unto the end they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; and whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how

beautiful upon the mountains shall they be.” (1 Nephi 13:37). We are living in the prophesied time, the latter end of the last days when Zion will return, and Israel will be redeemed. The time foretold when Peace (Jesus Christ) will finally come. So let us now boldly proclaim; “<sup>a</sup>Awake, awake; put on thy <sup>b</sup>strength, O <sup>c</sup>Zion; put on thy <sup>d</sup>beautiful <sup>e</sup>garments, O <sup>f</sup>Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. <sup>g</sup>Shake thyself from the dust; <sup>h</sup>arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the <sup>i</sup>bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.” (Isaiah 52:1-2). God loves you and He needs you. Let us awaken, arise, loose the bands of Babylon from our necks, and stand upon the watchtower with our beloved Prophet President Nelson. That we may add strength to his words and cries of repentance. Let us be a light so our fellow brothers and sister may know where to gather unto and put-upon Zion’s Strength. Let us in our gathered state prepare ourselves to see the marvelous works, wonders and miracles of this Dispensation come to fruition even in the coming days. I know this to be true and as your friend I testify of these things unto you, In the name of our true friend Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Micah’s Thoughts:**

I love President Nelson’s use of asking questions and then answering them... Once again, a great example on not only how one should be teaching, but more importantly how one should be studying the gospel... In going over how to overcome the world he first says that we must care more about the Lord and the things of the Lord more than “the things of the world”...

### **Doctrine and Covenants 121**

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

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

39 We have learned by sad experience that it is the nature and disposition of almost all men, as soon as they get a little authority, as they suppose, they will immediately begin to exercise unrighteous dominion.

40 Hence many are called, but few are chosen.

### **Revelation 9:20–21. Modern Idolatry**

As described at the conclusion of Revelation 9, the evil men who are not killed by the war and destruction described in earlier verses will still refuse to repent of their evil practices, including idol worship. While serving as a member of the Seventy, Elder David R. Stone taught that a prevalent form of modern idolatry is adopting the tastes and attitudes of the worldly culture that surrounds us:

“Our culture tends to determine what foods we like, how we dress, what constitutes polite behavior, what sports we should follow, what our taste in music should be, the importance of education, and our attitudes toward honesty. It also influences men as to the importance of recreation or religion, influences women about the priority of career or childbearing, and has a powerful effect on how we approach procreation and moral issues. All too often, we are like puppets on a string, as our culture determines what is ‘cool.’ ...

“Seduced by our culture, we often hardly recognize our idolatry, as our strings are pulled by that which is popular in the Babylonian world” (“Zion in the Midst of Babylon,” Ensign or Liahona, May 2006, 91–92).

END QUOTE STUDENT MANUAL

Far too many “Saints” don’t recognize their idolatry... Idolatry being one of what I call “the big three of The Book of Mormon”... So what are the next two things President Nelson covers?

“Trusting in the doctrine and Christ more than the philosophies of men... etc.”

Sounds like the groundwork for “priestcraft”, but let’s check the reference President Nelson provides here to see if we are on the right track:

## **2 Nephi 28**

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

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

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

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

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

15 O the wise, and the learned, and the rich, that are puffed up in the pride of their hearts, and all those who preach false doctrines, and all those who commit whoredoms, and pervert the right way of the Lord, wo, wo, wo be unto them, saith the Lord God Almighty, for they shall be thrust down to hell!

A dead ringer for priestcraft and The Macro Last-day Timeline... So what is the last point President Nelson makes? “It means delighting in truth, denouncing deception, etc.” Well that sounds like a dead ringer for “secret combinations” does it not? Honesty, without guile, etc. So once again, President Nelson when answering “how to overcome the world” went directly into “Idolatry, Priestcraft, and Secret Combinations”... I hope people picked up on that... The Book of Mormon is the keystone of our religion. Period.

President Nelson then references the entirety of 2 Nephi 31, yes, the entire chapter... Which contains in it (amongst other things) Nephi saying that he “glories in plainness” and that the “Lord speaks to us according to our understanding”... It is commonly known as the “baptism” chapter as the doctrine of baptism is laid out clearly in it, but that is not why President Nelson included it here, and that is made clear in his next paragraph. 2 Nephi 31 continues as Nephi asks



“okay, you’ve been baptized and entered in the gate... is that all? Nope... You have to continue”... Nephi might have continued and said “nope, you have to continue and strive to live the *higher laws* of Jesus Christ”... Those “higher laws” are exactly what President Nelson goes into next, saying as we strive to live them, as we humble ourselves and submit ourselves to God as a little child doeth submit to his father, our very natures will be changed. A “refiners fire” if you will... In closing this section I loved President Nelson’s use of “anti-anti”, by pointing out that opposition will grow as you make covenants because the adversary does not want us to succeed in those most crucial of covenants... In teaching skills, this is what I call an ‘anti-anti’.

### Section III (Andrew)

I reaffirm a profound teaching of President Ezra Taft Benson: “Men and women who turn their lives over to God will discover that He can make a lot more out of their lives than they can. He will deepen their joys, expand their vision, quicken their minds, ... lift their spirits, multiply their blessings, increase their opportunities, comfort their souls, raise up friends, and pour out peace.”<sup>12</sup>

These incomparable privileges follow those who seek the support of heaven to help them overcome this world. To this end, I extend to members of the entire Church the same charge I gave to our young adults last May. I urged them then—and I *plead* with you now—to take charge of your own testimony of Jesus Christ and His gospel. Work for it. Nurture it so that it will grow. Feed it truth. Don’t pollute it with false philosophies of unbelieving men and women. As you make the continual strengthening of your testimony of Jesus Christ your highest priority, watch for miracles to happen in your life.<sup>13</sup>

My plea to you this morning is to find *rest* from the intensity, uncertainty, and anguish of this world by *overcoming* the world through your covenants with God. Let Him know through your prayers and your actions that you are serious about overcoming the world. Ask Him to enlighten your mind and send the help you need. Each day, record the thoughts that come to you as you pray; then follow through diligently. Spend more time in the temple, and seek to understand how the temple teaches you to rise above this fallen world.<sup>14</sup>

As I have stated before, the gathering of Israel is the *most* important work taking place on earth today. One crucial element of this gathering is preparing a people who are able, ready, and worthy to receive the Lord when He comes again, a people who have already chosen Jesus Christ over this fallen world, a people who rejoice in their agency to live the higher, holier laws of Jesus Christ.

I call upon you, my dear brothers and sisters, to become this righteous people. Cherish and honor your covenants above all other commitments. As you let God prevail in your life, I promise you greater peace, confidence, joy, and yes, *rest*.

With the power of the holy apostleship vested in me, I bless you in your quest to overcome this world. I bless you to increase your faith in Jesus Christ and learn better how to draw upon His power. I bless you to be able to discern truth from error. I bless you to care more about the things of God than the things of this world. I bless you to see the needs of those around you and

strengthen those you love. Because Jesus Christ overcame this world, you can too. I so testify in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.

### Footnotes:

1. [Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:36](#): “Then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven, and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn; and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.”
2. [Matthew 11:28–30](#); emphasis added.
3. [John 16:33](#); emphasis added.
4. [Doctrine and Covenants 64:2](#); emphasis added.
5. See [Alma 7:11–13](#).
6. [2 Nephi 28:14](#).
7. See the account of King Lamoni’s father in [Alma 22](#), especially [Alma 22:18](#).
8. See [Mosiah 5:7](#).
9. [Mosiah 3:19](#); emphasis added.
10. See [2 Nephi 31](#); [3 Nephi 27:16–20](#).
11. [Mosiah 2:41](#).
12. [Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Ezra Taft Benson](#) (2014), 42–43.
13. See Russell M. Nelson, “[Choices for Eternity](#)” (worldwide devotional for young adults, May 15, 2022), [broadcasts.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#).
14. President David O. McKay said that in the temple we take a “step-by-step ascent into the Eternal Presence” (in Truman G. Madsen, *The Temple: Where Heaven Meets Earth* [2008], 11).

### Andrew’s Thoughts:

I reaffirm a profound teaching of President Ezra Taft Benson: “Men and women who turn their lives over to God will discover that He can make a lot more out of their lives than they can. He will deepen their joys, expand their vision, quicken their minds, strengthen their muscles lift their spirits, multiply their blessings, increase their opportunities, comfort their souls, raise up friends, and pour out peace.”<sup>12</sup>

God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Had Abraham loved Isaac more than God, would he have consented? As the Lord indicates in the Doctrine and Covenants, both Abraham and Isaac now sit as gods (see D&C 132:37). They were willing to offer or to be offered up as God required. They have a deeper love and respect for each other because both were willing to put God first.

I feel so inadequate to add to this other than to testify of its truthfulness and lend my personal experience in applying this principle. I apologize but the majority of my section will probably be full of personal experiences and Application of scripture. For I do as Nephi, and liken the Scriptures unto myself.

I want to ask this rhetorical question how many of us and who of us can say that we are doing just this?

In the school of Joseph’s boys there is a section that we discuss law of sacrifice. You cannot discuss the law of sacrifice without discussing Abraham and Isaac their story is so intertwined in that principle. I can picture Nephi having been taught these principles, and drawing upon them

when he says to his father Lehi, “7 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.”

This is a very often quoted scripture but just consider the learning and teaching that he received and practical application throughout his life to have this understanding.

Another group whose experiences we could draw upon is that of the early members of the church. Consider their sacrifices that they made in the journeys they had to make, the heartbreaking losses that they had to experience... when they heard the word spoken by the mouth of the Lord's servants, do you think they knew what they were getting into? What stories and scriptures do you think they were drawing upon in their trials and turmoil's? Did they know and understand what the Lord was doing to them and for them to help them “make a lot more out of their lives than they could”

And lastly one more example did Joseph Smith know beforehand the persecution he would face? As he suffered in liberty jail he heard the words of the Lord in the moment he felt forsaken.  
7 My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment;

8 And then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high; thou shalt triumph over all thy foes.

9 Thy friends do stand by thee, and they shall hail thee again with warm hearts and friendly hands.

10 Thou art not yet as Job; thy friends do not contend against thee, neither charge thee with transgression, as they did Job.

These incomparable privileges follow those who seek the support of heaven to help them overcome this world. To this end, I extend to members of the entire Church the same charge I gave to our young adults last May. I urged them then—and I plead with you now—to take charge of your own testimony of Jesus Christ and His gospel. Work for it. Nurture it so that it will grow. Feed it truth. Don't pollute it with false philosophies of unbelieving men and women. As you make the continual strengthening of your testimony of Jesus Christ your highest priority, watch for miracles to happen in your life.<sup>13</sup>

Why are we bringing in the philosophies of men and why are we mingling it with scripture? It's because we want it easy we don't want to have to face trial and tribulation like our ancestors have we don't want to have to sacrifice as they did. We want calm soothing doctrines that tell us that we can sin a little take a slap on the wrist and find ourselves sitting down with Abraham and Isaac. Are we worthy to sit down with those who sacrificed everything or was willing to sacrifice everything if we also have not paid that price? Picture yourself there at the family table would you even be worthy to be in their presence? Brothers and sisters if we cannot sacrifice even as Abraham if we don't give everything to God we won't be there. We need to learn the doctrine we need to learn the gospel. We must learn to do the hard things even as Abraham. Any watering of it down to soothe the ears of others does not do any good. How can we exercise such faith to

bring about such miracles without this understanding.? How do we do these things that President Nelson is asking of us? We study the scriptures, then we apply them. We study the word of God, and then we apply it. We act on it in faith, and then watch as each step we take opens up into new understanding and realization of the visions and blessings that are before us. The Lord can't bless us unless we act in faith on the things that we have learned. It means we need to learn the word of God and do it.

My plea to you this morning is to **find rest** from the intensity, uncertainty, and anguish of this world by **overcoming the world through your covenants with God**. Let Him know through your **prayers** and your **actions** that you are serious about **overcoming the world**. Ask Him to enlighten your mind and send the help you need. Each day, record the thoughts that come to you as you pray; then follow through diligently. Spend more time in the temple, and seek to understand how the temple teaches you to rise above this fallen world.<sup>14</sup>

The Temple is a house of learning we learn and make secret covenants there. And we are endowed with power from on high to accomplish his work here on earth? It is not a power that can be used selfishly. It is a power that can be only used to bring about his righteous purposes on earth. And what greater purpose is there than bringing about his kingdom and bringing as many people into the doors of church of the firstborn as possible?

What does the Lord do for us in these times of trial and tribulation? How do we find rest? Which is the whole basis of this talk. President Nelson has answered that time and time again. We take the Lord's yoke upon us. We do his will. We seek to do his will. His burden is light. He then magnifies our efforts in other areas, helping us do far more than we could ever do on our own. The words of the prophet's plea with me to find rest was what I needed to hear this conference. He was speaking directly to me. I'm sure others could say that about themselves. I have felt the burn out and I would say disconnect of my body and spirit. My own spirit trying to run faster than my body can handle. and that only started to happen when I thought on worldly pursuits instead of doing the will of Father. What happened then, I looked upon the waves around me and feared, and I started to sink. I had to call upon the Lord and cry out " Lord save me " it was in this experience that I learned don't take your eyes off the Savior and no more can you think of yourself and your own will. It's our job to learn what the will of the Lord is for you and then move in that direction.

As I have stated before, the gathering of Israel is the most important work taking place on earth today. One crucial element of this gathering is preparing a people who are able, ready, and worthy to receive the Lord when He comes again, a people who have already chosen Jesus Christ over this fallen world, **a people who rejoice in their agency to live the higher, holier laws of Jesus Christ**.

The prophet makes it clear hear about the Lord's will concerning his gathering.

This is the work that we are to be doing. This is His will and this is his way. The crucial element that he lists here is preparing a people that can live celestial law.

Why? Because it is this people that builds the new Jerusalem. It is this people that welcomes the Lord first. President Russell M Nelson is teaching us about the redemption of Zion. Once you have Zion in your heart and you cannot help but move in that direction. And you become forever

changed. The middle ground is removed. President Nelson's has told us to leave Babylon. The Savior will come to people who's already chosen him over Babylon. we cry out for our family and our friends who are drunk on Babylon. And we join with the voice of our prophet seek the ways of the Lord. Seek to establish his righteousness. Move your heart mind and strength in ways that will remove your dependency on the world and its systems. Now that's a broad sweeping statement. But I'm sure we can all think of examples of ways to do this. I let me give you a hint. our parents and grandparents time maybe even great grandparents they were warned about putting their kids through a public education. Learning was to be done in the home. Would our people today be less asleep had we heeded the council? would we have to be walking lockstep with Babylonian and sodomite culture today? now I'm talking in hypotheticals but we recognize the importance of following prophetic counsel.

I'm going to do one more plug here for the school of Joseph's boys, These higher holier laws that the prophet is speaking of, are discussed heavily in the school of Joseph's boys.

I call upon you, my dear brothers and sisters, to become this righteous people. Cherish and honor your covenants above all other commitments. As you let God prevail in your life, I promise you greater peace, confidence, joy, and yes, rest.

We have been called upon to become this righteous people. We do that by honouring our covenants above all else.

With the power of the holy apostleship vested in me, I bless you in your quest to overcome this world. I bless you to increase your faith in Jesus Christ and learn better how to draw upon His power. I bless you to be able to discern truth from error. I bless you to care more about the things of God than the things of this world. I bless you to see the needs of those around you and strengthen those you love. Because Jesus Christ overcame this world, you can too. I so testify in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.

And now with this final paragraph from our dear prophet, he has given us an apostolic blessing to do this work. He has blessed us with the power we need to make it happen. It's time to leave Babylon. It's time to wake up, it's time to get going. I have faith in the prophets words and the blessing he has given us to carry this work forward and bare off the kingdom. And I have faith that we will do it. We may find ourselves taking steps out into the darkness, and we will have to depend more upon the light of our own testimonies and discernment. It is crucial that we learn and know the doctrine of Jesus Christ. And we will no longer be able to live spiritually on borrowed light. Because what has the prophet said?

In coming days, it will not be possible to survive spiritually without the guiding, directing, comforting, and constant influence of the Holy Ghost.

I testify in the name of Jesus Christ that these things are true. I testify to you that the Lord is preparing a people who can redeem Zion who are pure and worthy. Who will establish that society ready to receive the Lord. And as our dear prophet has said this is a crucial part of the gathering of Israel. I say this in the name of Jesus Christ amen.

## Micah's Thoughts:

President Nelson warns us again, that the “incomparable privileges” of the last-days will only follow those who seek to overcome the world... He then, once again, paraphrases the Elder Heber C. Kimball quote calling us to “gain that testimony” and follows that up with a *pleading* to not pollute our testimonies with false philosophies of unbelieving men and women. Don't spend a second with those that teach you to not follow the prophet, to follow after your own “Spirit-O-Meter”, don't spend a second with them... You will be denied the “incomparable privileges” ahead... Don't spend a second with those who seek to remove promised blessings to the prophet Joseph Smith and give them to an “Indian Warrior Princess”, don't you spend one second with them, or you will be denied the “incomparable privileges” of the last-days... Don't you spend one second with those that destroy faith in God, Jesus the Christ or His church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the prophets of God, the Prophet Joseph Smith, the pyramid of truth... Brothers and Sisters let me add my pleading to this as well... Stop listening to those that practice priestcraft and make money preaching the Word of God... please stop spending even a second with such... You will be denied the “incomparable privileges of the last-days” thus speaks the Prophet of God... Instead, let the Lord know you are serious about overcoming the world, that you are seriously “Zion or Bust!”, through your daily prayers for deliverance, for the Redemption of Zion and the building of New Jerusalem and through your actions day to day. Join the School of Joseph's Boys and seek to understand how the temples are teaching us to ruse above this fallen world...

Brothers and Sisters, the gathering of Israel is the MOST important work taking place on earth today, and a crucial element of that gathering is the preparing of a people who are able, ready, and worthy to receive the Lord when He comes again, a people who have already chosen Jesus Christ over this fallen world, a people who rejoice in their agency, who have not been compelled, who made the choice to learn of the higher, holier laws of Jesus Christ and stand ready to live them. Brother and Sisters, you who are Joseph's Boys have been involved LITERALLY in this VERY PROCESS, and there is NOTHING more important than that! Please don't overlook the gravity of what was just said by our Prophet ye Joseph's Boy's who take your pledges seriously! There has not been a greater confirmation given over the pulpit in your life that you are doing the most important work than this... If you have ears to hear... of that I testify, Zion or Bust!, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen!