

Tribalism, Covenants, Honesty

“I know that the Lord God will consecrate my prayers for the gain of **my people**. And the words which I have written in weakness will be made strong **unto them**; for it persuadeth **them** to do good; it maketh known **unto them** of **their fathers**; and it speaketh of Jesus, and persuadeth them to believe in him, and to endure to the end, which is life eternal. And **it speaketh harshly against sin, according to the plainness of the truth; wherefore, no man will be angry at the words which I have written save he shall be of the spirit of the devil. I glory in plainness; I glory in truth**; I glory in my Jesus, for he hath redeemed my soul from hell. **I have charity** for my people, and great faith in Christ that I shall meet many souls spotless at his judgment-seat.”

-Nephi (2 Nephi 33)

I know this paper isn't the “sexiest” paper I have ever written (I don't have my scribe!) but I believe it might be one of my most important. It might not get the views, but I know the elect will “hear Him” in it. My prayer is that hopefully we will be able to understand better the connection between “increasing your testimony of the Savior by deepening your understanding of the doctrine taught in His restored church” and “hearing Him”, why that has been my purpose and how that can only be done grounded in the Lord's words and not our own. We need to understand Honesty, Covenants, and Hypocrisy with a sprinkling of Tribalism.

Tribalism

trib•al•ism trī'bə-līz"əm ►

- n. The organization, culture, or beliefs of a tribe.
- n. A strong feeling of identity with and loyalty to one's tribe or group.
- n. The state of existing in separate tribes; tribal relation or feeling.

Synonym: Religionism

Numbers 30:

2 If a man vow a vow unto the Lord, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.

A man of God does what he says he will do

Matthew 14:

6 But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. 7 Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. 8 And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger. 9 And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her. 10 And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison.

Even evil men in the world understand the value of honesty- keeping your word/promises

Hebrews 7:

19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God. 20 And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest: 28 For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

The law, or Word of the Lord, or LOGOS, is not enough- one must promise, take an oath, a covenant and then live it

1 Nephi 4:

37 And it came to pass that when Zoram had made an oath unto us, our fears did cease concerning him.

In times when honesty meant something, if someone were to say for example, "I will never talk about ___ again and I give you my word", your fears could cease concerning the individual, if you can't trust an individual they are ungodly- which we know are always fearing and trembling

Alma 53:

11 And because of their oath they had been kept from taking up arms against their brethren; for they had taken an oath that they never would shed blood more; and according to their oath they would have perished; yea, they would have suffered themselves to have fallen into the

hands of their brethren, had it not been for the pity and the exceeding love which Ammon and his brethren had had for them.

Alma 24:

21 Now when the people saw that they were coming against them they went out to meet them, and prostrated themselves before them to the earth, and began to call on the name of the Lord; and thus they were in this attitude when the Lamanites began to fall upon them, and began to slay them with the sword. 22 And thus without meeting any resistance, they did slay a thousand and five of them; and we know that they are blessed, for they have gone to dwell with their God. 23 Now when the Lamanites saw that their brethren would not flee from the sword, neither would they turn aside to the right hand or to the left, but that they would lie down and perish, and praised God even in the very act of perishing under the sword— 24 Now when the Lamanites saw this they did forbear from slaying them; and there were many whose hearts had swollen in them for those of their brethren who had fallen under the sword, for they repented of the things which they had done.

When you come unto God, you realize the importance of making and keeping covenants as being central to your salvation- these people would rather die than break a promise and thus will inherit mercy and forgiveness and the kingdom of glory while those that are “oathbreakers” and “liars” will be “thrust down to hell”

Hypocrite (True to the Faith)

The word generally denotes one who pretends to be religious when he is not (though it is sometimes used to mean simply a bad man; see Job 8:13; 13:16; Isa. 9:17; 33:14). Hypocrisy was the besetting sin of the Pharisees and was severely condemned by the Lord (Matt. 23:13–33; Mark 12:38–40; Luke 11:37–44; 20:46–47).

A hypocrite at his/her core is a liar. There are sets of rules for others that don't apply to yourself; there are standards that apply to others but not yourself. Brother Hyrum Andrus in one of his lectures goes into beautiful depth on “what it really means to love your neighbor as yourself” explaining that “to love you neighbor as yourself, does not mean you treat them better or differently than you would yourself or your own family”. A hypocrite is someone who doesn't live the “golden rule”, who is a respecter to persons. To “love your neighbor as yourself” is not to “love them more”, it is “to love them the SAME”. This confusion brings on many false understanding that the adversary then uses against the Saints in their ignorance.

Proverbs 12:

12 The wicked desireth the net of evil men: but the root of the righteous yieldeth fruit. 13 The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble. 14 A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompence of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him. 15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. 16 A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame. 17 He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit. 18 There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health. 19 The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment. 20 Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy. 21 There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief. 22 Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight. 23 A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.

*What comes out of your mouth is more important than how it comes out. A fool cares about his own opinions while the wise hearken to counsel, ie. "they listen". A fool's face is easily seen, he makes no attempt at hiding his foolishness while the prudent keeps his shame in his own closet. Speaking truth shows ones righteousness while speaking falsehoods and lies shows ones unrighteousness. Those that speak truths will be exalted and endure while those of a lying tongue "are but for a moment", ie as I have always said, "some are called to endure, others to be endured". The wicked are full of mischief, or guile, etc. Lying lips are abominations to the Lord while those who speak truth are loved of the Lord- or as Joseph Smith said "I would rather have a man swear the length of his arm and deal justly/honestly/without guile". What one speaks is more important than how one speaks it. *

Luke 8:

11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. 14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. 15 But that on the good ground **are they, which in an honest and good heart**, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. 16 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. 17 For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad. 18 Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

*Firstly, the Lord is breaking up His Church into Tribes, for all those "received the seed" which is "the Word" receive it through baptism- this is one of many cases where the Lord himself separated sections of His church into groups or groupings. Was the Lord wrong or evil for doing

this? God forbid. We are to look at the different groups, judge them, and then ask ourselves “which group do we want to be in?” and then do what is required to be in that group. The huge difference between the different “spots of ground” ie “members of the church” is here identified as having “an honest and good heart”. Honesty is key.*

Romans 12:

16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. 17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

I screwed up with this recently, I did not “condescend to men of low estate”, I mirrored, I did not talk to a level they’d understand, I mirrored. I took eye for eye, this was wrong, this was casting pearls before swine, this was below me. I dusted my feet, I repented before God and angels and committed to not do so again, but to simply provide things honest before all men as I should have. As I do so I know the Lord will forgive me of my weakness and give me strength.

2 Corinthians 4:

2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God. 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the flight of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. 8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

God knows what it means to “handle the Word of God deceitfully” and so should we. When people do this they literally blind their own eyes, they deafen their own ears, and the truth, the gospel then becomes “hid to them that are lost”. You can know the difference because one side “preaches not of themselves, but of Christ and His doctrine”, ie “they preach no opinions but only Christ’s doctrine”. Those holding the truth of God in our hearts, not the opinions of men, will be troubled/perplexed/and persecuted/cast down but they are not distressed/in despair/or forsaken/or destroyed.

2 Corinthians 8:

21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

1 Thessalonians 4:

12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

Being honest, being a covenant making and keeping people is not just to the Lord but also between us

2 Corinthians 13:

5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? 6 But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates. 7 Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates. 8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. 9 For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, even your perfection. 10 Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.

If you are dishonest the Lord is not in you. Sharpness in the Word of God is the power of Christ given to men for edification and not destruction it's to prevent your destruction.

Philippians 4:

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Article of Faith 13:

“13 We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.”

Temple Recommend Question number 9:

“Do you strive to be honest in all that you do?”

Being a dishonest person not only makes one unworthy of the Savior to be within us, it makes us unworthy to be within the Lord's house. Period.

1 Peter 2:

11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they

speaking against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Dishonesty is connected to “lusts of the flesh”, which is why you see it so often in adultery, priestcrafts, etc.

Proverbs 16:

8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right. 13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right.

Once again, better to speak less but honest than more with dishonesty- what one speaks is more important than how or how much.

Jacob 4:

13 Behold, my brethren, he that prophesieth, let him prophesy to the understanding of men; for the Spirit speaketh the truth and lieth not. Wherefore, it speaketh of things as they really are, and of things as they really will be; wherefore, these things are manifested unto us plainly, for the salvation of our souls. But behold, we are not witnesses alone in these things; for God also spake them unto prophets of old. 14 But behold, the Jews were a stiffnecked people; and they despised the words of plainness, and killed the prophets, and sought for things that they could not understand. Wherefore, because of their blindness, which blindness came by looking beyond the mark, they must needs fall; for God hath taken away his plainness from them, and delivered unto them many things which they cannot understand, because they desired it. And because they desired it God hath done it, that they may stumble.

The Spirit doesn't and cannot lie. Those that “have felt the Spirit” in a lie were following strange spirits. The admonition that honesty is also tied to plain speaking is laid out. Those that would rather hear “evil/lies/falsehoods” spoken in a “soft tongue” have plainness removed from them and they are left with things they cannot understand.

Alma 7:

20 I perceive that it has been made known unto you, by the testimony of his word, that he cannot walk in crooked paths; neither doth he vary from that which he hath said; neither hath he a shadow of turning from the right to the left, or from that which is right to that which is wrong; therefore, his course is one eternal round. 21 And he doth not dwell in unholy temples; neither can filthiness or anything which is unclean be received into the kingdom of God; therefore I say unto you the time shall come, yea, and it shall be at the last day, that he who is filthy shall remain in his filthiness.

The Lord is perfectly honest, he only goes and does exactly where and what he has said he would do. Those that believe He does/can/will/etc. do things differently than he has promised, are filthiness and the Lord cannot dwell in them. This is explained by Joseph Smith in great detail in The Lectures on Faith.

Alma 53:

20 And they were all young men, and they were exceedingly valiant for courage, and also for strength and activity; but behold, this was not all—they were men who were true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted. 21 Yea, they were men of truth and soberness, for they had been taught to keep the commandments of God and to walk uprightly before him.

All of the attributes listed first were overshadowed, lesser in value and importance to that of them being “men of truth”. Let that sink it.

Doctrine and Covenants 51:

7 And let that which belongs to this people be appointed unto this people. 8 And the money which is left unto this people—let there be an agent appointed unto this people, to take the money to provide food and raiment, according to the wants of this people. 9 And let every man deal honestly, and be alike among this people, and receive alike, that ye may be one, even as I have commanded you. 10 And let that which belongeth to this people not be taken and given unto that of another church.

This church, that church, this group that group... Once again, the Lord separates people. Secondly, “honesty” is one of if not THE key to Zion, ie. “the Law of Consecration”, and finally the Lord doesn’t want this group sharing with another group. Tribalism.

Doctrine and Covenants 97:

6 And to the residue of the school, I, the Lord, am willing to show mercy; nevertheless, there are those that must needs be chastened, and their works shall be made known. 7 The ax is laid at the root of the trees; and every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit shall be hewn down and cast into the fire. I, the Lord, have spoken it. 8 Verily I say unto you, all among them who know their hearts are honest, and are broken, and their spirits contrite, and are willing to observe their covenants by sacrifice—yea, every sacrifice which I, the Lord, shall command—they are accepted of me. 9 For I, the Lord, will cause them to bring forth as a very fruitful tree which is planted in a goodly land, by a pure stream, that yieldeth much precious fruit. 10 Verily I say unto you, that it is my will that a house should be built unto me in the land of Zion, like unto the pattern which I have given you.

The Lord promises mercy but only after being chastened, so once again, no quick fix pretribulation rapture. If you don’t produce good fruit during your chastening you will be hewn down. The honest are identified as a major key to understand “Alma’s group” (see Abinadi: A Type of Things to Come) and the Lord identifies that the Lord has here “given us the pattern”- the descriptions here provided paint a clear image of New Jerusalem.

Covenant (True to the Faith)

Sometimes denotes an agreement between persons (1 Sam. 23:18) or nations (1 Sam. 11:1); more often between God and man; but in this latter case it is important to notice that the two parties to the agreement do not stand in the relation of independent and equal contractors. God in His good pleasure fixes the terms, which man accepts. The same word is sometimes rendered "testament."

The gospel is so arranged that principles and ordinances are received by covenant, placing the recipient under strong obligation and responsibility to honor the commitment. Thus the severe consequences to Ananias and Sapphira, who deliberately broke their covenant and lied unto God (Acts 5:1–11).

We can hopefully see the connection between honesty and covenants/covenant keeping/covenant path/ etc. etc. We enter into covenants but it is our honesty that gives them validity- we find it no coincidence than, that it's the Holy Ghost (whose job it is to bring us to "all truth", who "cannot lie", who is "perfectly honest") is the one that seals those covenants we make.

Exodus 19:

5. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

The Lord separates "His people" from "all people", forming a "tribe" or "group" which becomes known as "the covenant people".

Exodus 23:

29 I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. 30 By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land. 31 And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the driver: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee. 32 Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. 33 They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.

The Lord promises to wipe another group out as He increases "His group". He then makes borders to separate these groups from each other. He then says that "His group" won't "make covenants" or "promises" with the other group, and warns them of the consequences of doing so. He even says they shouldn't allow them within their own borders. Tribalism.

Judges 2:

1. And an angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you.

Once again, Lord makes covenants with groups for specific pieces of land and the Lord's promises cannot ever be broken on His end.

1 Samuel 18:

3. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

Important to note that making promises and covenants does not only apply to the Lord. People can covenant with each other and the Lord expects you to keep those promises. We can also covenant with the devil to obtain pieces of his power. Once again, we choose who to covenant with (tribalism), and we choose if we will keep those covenants (honesty), but we don't get to choose the consequences of our actions (hypocrisy- living one way but expecting to be treated as though you are living another way). Tribalism + Honesty + Hypocrisy.

Doctrine and Covenants 78:

11 Wherefore, a commandment I give unto you, to prepare and organize yourselves by a bond or everlasting covenant that cannot be broken. 12 And he who breaketh it shall lose his office and standing in the church, and shall be delivered over to the buffetings of Satan until the day of redemption. 13 Behold, this is the preparation wherewith I prepare you, and the foundation, and the ensample which I give unto you, whereby you may accomplish the commandments which are given you; 14 That through my providence, notwithstanding the tribulation which shall descend upon you, that the church may stand independent above all other creatures beneath the celestial world;

Consequences are here laid out. Gone over in my "Parable of the Nobleman and His Olive Trees".

Doctrine and Covenants 54:

3 And if your brethren desire to escape their enemies, let them repent of all their sins, and become truly humble before me and contrite. 4 And as the covenant which they made unto me has been broken, even so it has become void and of none effect. 5 And wo to him by whom this offense cometh, for it had been better for him that he had been drowned in the depth of the sea. 6 But blessed are they who have kept the covenant and observed the commandment, for they shall obtain mercy.

*Gratitude is a sign of Humility, which President Nelson just committed us to do. Breaking covenants makes all the promises void. Being honest in our covenants is the only way we obtain

the promises.*

Doctrine and Covenants 84:

40 Therefore, all those who receive the priesthood, receive this oath and covenant of my Father, which he cannot break, neither can it be moved. 41 But whoso breaketh this covenant after he hath received it, and altogether turneth therefrom, shall not have forgiveness of sins in this world nor in the world to come. 42 And wo unto all those who come not unto this priesthood which ye have received, which I now confirm upon you who are present this day, by mine own voice out of the heavens; and even I have given the heavenly hosts and mine angels charge concerning you.

Receiving the priesthood (as already gone over above) is received by oath, or covenant; being honest to that covenant one will receive the blessings. Those that do not make such promises or who are not honest are warned of the consequences of such a choice.

Doctrine and Covenants 84:

48 And the Father teacheth him of the covenant which he has renewed and confirmed upon you, which is confirmed upon you for your sakes, and not for your sakes only, but for the sake of the whole world. 49 And the whole world lieth in sin, and groaneth under darkness and under the bondage of sin. 50 And by this you may know they are under the bondage of sin, because they come not unto me. 51 For whoso cometh not unto me is under the bondage of sin. 52 And whoso receiveth not my voice is not acquainted with my voice, and is not of me. 53 **And by this you may know the righteous from the wicked**, and that the whole world groaneth under sin and darkness even now. 54 And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received—55 Which vanity and unbelief have brought the whole church under condemnation. 56 And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all. 57 And they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written— 58 That they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom; otherwise there remaineth a scourge and judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion. 59 For shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay. 60 Verily, verily, **I say unto you who now hear my words, which are my voice**, blessed are ye inasmuch as you receive these things; 61 For I will forgive you of your sins with this commandment—that you remain steadfast in your minds in solemnity and the spirit of prayer, in bearing testimony to all the world of those things which are communicated unto you. 77 And again I say unto you, my friends, for from henceforth I shall call you friends, it is expedient that I give unto you this commandment, that ye become even as my friends in days when I was with them, traveling to preach the gospel in my power; 79 Behold, I send you out to

prove the world, and the laborer is worthy of his hire. 80 And any man that shall go and preach this gospel of the kingdom, and fail not to continue faithful in all things, shall not be weary in mind, neither darkened, neither in body, limb, nor joint; and a hair of his head shall not fall to the ground unnoticed. And they shall not go hungry, neither athirst.

*"By this you may know they are under sin... they come not unto me"... What does it mean to come unto the Lord? It means to "hear Him", and to "hear Him" is to understand His doctrine, the doctrine taught in the Lord's restored church and cling to it. If one does this, they "let God prevail" in their lives, if they "lean unto their own understanding", if they lean unto their own "opinions" they do not "let God prevail" and have not "come unto Christ" and thus are "under sin". The Lord also says crystal clear, that those who "are not acquainted with His voice" are not "acquainted with Him", but what is "the Lord's voice?" This is **CRUCIAL** for you to understand, the Lord says here "I say unto you who now hear my **words**, which are my **voice**".

Doctrine and Covenants 35:

20 And a commandment I give unto thee—that **thou shalt write** for him; and **the scriptures** shall be given, **even as they are in mine own bosom, to the salvation of mine own elect**; **21 For they will hear my voice**, and shall see me, and shall not be asleep, and shall abide the day of my coming; for they shall be purified, even as I am pure.

Doctrine and Covenants 18:

33 And I, Jesus Christ, your Lord and your God, have spoken it. 34 **These words** are not of men nor of man, but of me; wherefore, you shall testify they are of me and not of man; 35 For it is **my voice** which speaketh them unto you; for they are given by my Spirit unto you, and by my power **you can read them one to another**; and save it were by my power you could not have them; 36 Wherefore, **you can testify that you have heard my voice**, and know my words.

The voice of the Savior is found in the scriptures. Those that are not familiar with the "voice of the Savior" are those NOT familiar with the scriptures. Those that "lean unto their own understanding/opinions" are those that base their teaching/understanding/opinions off of themselves and not off of the Word of God, the Scriptures. The Lord then stated, crystal clear, "And by this you may know the righteous from the wicked". This singular fact is enough, according to the Lord, to "KNOW the righteous from the wicked". Is their understanding, faith, teachings, etc. grounded in the scriptures (revealing keys, ie. "Joseph Smith") or in unto "themselves", their opinions, etc. God's elect will turn to the scriptures for they hear the voice of the Savior in them. Period.

The Lord continues, telling the Saints that their minds have become darkened BECAUSE they have not read the scriptures as they should have. I brought this exact thing up (in my Ten Tribes paper) with the quote from President Joseph F. Smith; that those who do not study the scriptures don't even qualify for the Holy Ghost, ergo, mind darkened. So, the lack of reading the scriptures, hearing the voice of the Savior, etc. not only is a sign of "the wicked" but it is also a sign of those "with darkened minds". The Lord then laser focuses your attention in and points directly to The Book of Mormon and says "this book specifically", the neglect of reading it and truly understanding it IS THE REASON the Saints will be scourged, will have to pass through the tribulation, etc. Ironically, or sadly, the Saints focused entirely on Daniel, Revelation, etc. and a "pre-tribulation rapture" are exactly the reason why will have to go through, as a church, the tribulation, according to the Lord. We should have been focused on The Book of Mormon (and Isaiah which is IN the Book of Mormon), heard the voice, and built Zion. The Lord then calls the elect, those that hear the voice, those that read the scriptures, to go forth boldly and with power and prove themselves to be the elect with the scriptures and their preaching. If they stay grounded in "the voice" they will be able to endure all.

Doctrine and Covenants 98:

8 I, the Lord God, make you free, therefore ye are free indeed; and the law also maketh you free. 9 Nevertheless, when the wicked rule the people mourn. 10 Wherefore, honest men and wise men should be sought for diligently, and good men and wise men ye should observe to uphold; otherwise whatsoever is less than these cometh of evil. 11 And I give unto you a commandment, that ye shall forsake all evil and cleave unto all good, that ye shall live by every word which proceedeth forth out of the mouth of God. 12 For he will give unto the faithful line upon line, precept upon precept; and I will try you and prove you herewith. 13 And whoso layeth down his life in my cause, for my name's sake, shall find it again, even life eternal. 14 Therefore, be not afraid of your enemies, for I have decreed in my heart, saith the Lord, that I will prove you in all things, whether you will abide in my covenant, even unto death, that you may be found worthy. 15 For if ye will not abide in my covenant ye are not worthy of me.

*Honesty is a sign of righteousness, and should be sought after. The Lord tells you to "uphold the honest", and those who are "dishonest" that you still uphold ("less than this" the standard being "honest") it will come of evil. Once again, the Lord calls your attention to the fact that "honest" and "being locked into the scriptures", ie. "every word ... of God" are connected. The Lord finished once again with "the covenant"... Honesty + Covenant + separation and groups (tribalism) determined by the Word of God = over and over and over again.

Hebrews 4:

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing

even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

People will be “discerned”, people will be “divided asunder”, the “carcasses will be torn in half in the streets”, the church will be turned upside down and esteemed as the potters clay, by the Word of God.*

Doctrine and Covenants 136:

18 Zion shall be redeemed in mine own due time. 19 And if any man shall seek to build up himself, and seeketh not my counsel, he shall have no power, and his folly shall be made manifest. 20 Seek ye; and keep all your pledges one with another; and covet not that which is thy brother's.

Amazing scripture sets... First the Lord condemns priestcraft and says of such that “they shall have no power” (priesthood) and that their folly shall be made know. The Lord then says to “seek HIS counsel”, ie “the scriptures” and to be an honest person who does what they pledge.

Doctrine and Covenants 131:

1 In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees; 2 And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage]; 3 And if he does not, he cannot obtain it. 4 He may enter into the other, but that is the end of his kingdom; he cannot have an increase.

One of the many covenants we will have to make and keep in this life in order to obtain the highest degree of glory is that of the covenant of marriage. Honesty is obviously key to every marriage. The top reasons for divorces are all directly related to a lack of honesty.

Numbers 24:

2 And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him.

Ezekiel 45:

8 In the land shall be his possession in Israel: and my princes shall no more oppress my people; and the rest of the land shall they give to the house of Israel according to their tribes.

Numbers 34:

18 And ye shall take one prince of every tribe, to divide the land by inheritance.

*I said, after my *Lamanites VS Nephites* paper (which I recommend watching/reading- it very much is an extension of this paper) that I would probably not ever get into “race” or “tribes” etc. and I still feel like that is the best way forward; people will have to read the scriptures, words of prophets, etc. and come away with their own conclusions. What I will say however at this time conclusively, is that those who don’t believe that the Lord sees things in terms of “tribes” or “tribalism” or “separation of groups” don’t know anything about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints or its doctrine. We believe there are three degrees in the Celestial Kingdom alone, we believe that when the Lord said “in my Father’s house there are many mansions”, the Lord was speaking literally. Tribalism is a thing, one thing you can’t decide in this life, literally one, and that is “your race” or “tribe you are adopted into the House of Israel”. That was decided by you and I and our actions in the pre-earth life. What were those choices? We don’t know exactly. But we do know that all the other choices are decided in this life. We don’t get to decide “the groups”, we just get to decide which group we will be a part of. Jesus identified all the groups past and present, He knew and knows them. He knows what makes them, how to identify them, how to discern them one from the other, etc. and he has taught us by His voice in the scriptures. It is always why I try to refer to them as, “The Word of God”, I know they are literally His voice, His mind, His will, His charity.

We as Saints need to understand that things WILL get tribal -I went over three more groups that will be forming in my Trump; A Fulfillment to Prophecy paper alone- we need to be able to recognize the groups and “stand ye in those Holy places”. *Lamanites VS Nephites*, *Warmongers VS Anarchists VS Peacemakers*, *Priestcraft vs The Honest*, *The Church of Christ VS The Church of the Devil*, *Hot VS Lukewarm VS Cold* etc. etc. etc. Pacifism is not a doctrine of Christ- we will have to take stands, maybe not shedding blood, but most certainly we will have to decide who we are going to be and who we will stand next to and who we will stand behind. The Lord has given us the tools in the scriptures, “His voice”, to be able to discern between “His voice”, the “Holy Ghost”, the “mind of God”, “charity”, etc. and that of strange spirits and doctrines of devils. I pray to God we will take the call to bury ourselves in the scriptures and learn to hear the Lord’s voice! That we will no longer be drawn and enticed by the whisperings of men but by His voice who’s call we must answer; His voice by whom angels speak by the power of. I close this paper with the words of Nephi, which I will make my own:

“And now, behold, my beloved brethren, I suppose that ye ponder somewhat in your hearts concerning that which ye should do after ye have entered in by the way. But, behold, why do ye ponder these things in your hearts? Do ye not remember that I said unto you that after ye had received the Holy Ghost ye could speak with the tongue of angels? And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost? Angels speak by the power of the Holy

Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you, feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do. Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye cannot understand them it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark. For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way, and receive the Holy Ghost, it will show unto you all things what ye should do. Behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and there will be no more doctrine given until after he shall manifest himself unto you in the flesh. And when he shall manifest himself unto you in the flesh, the things which he shall say unto you shall ye observe to do. And now I cannot say more; the Spirit stoppeth mine utterance, and I am left to mourn because of the unbelief, and the wickedness, and the ignorance, and the stiffneckedness of men; for they will not search knowledge, nor understand great knowledge, when it is given unto them in plainness, even as plain as word can be.”

[Brothers and sisters, search knowledge is my prayer in Jesus’ name, amen!]