

December 18th 2021 TPJS Fireside

1. A Sleeping Christianity (Section One 1830-34, p.14)

I think that it is high time for a Christian world to awake out of sleep, and cry mightily to that God, day and night, whose anger we have justly incurred. Are not these things a sufficient stimulant to arouse the faculties, and call forth the energies of every man, woman or child that possesses feelings of sympathy for their fellows, or that is in any degree endeared to the budding cause of our glorious Lord? I leave an intelligent community to answer this important question, with a confession, that this is what has caused me to overlook my own inability, and expose my weakness to a learned world; but, trusting in that God who has said that these things are hid from the wise and prudent and revealed unto babes, I step forth into the field to tell you what the Lord is doing, and what you must do, to enjoy the smiles of your Savior in these last days.

Ammon

Jeremiah 9:1

1 Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might **weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!**

Chapter Heading: Jeremiah sorrows greatly because of the sins of the people—They will be scattered among the nations and punished.

What does it profit Jeremiah to weep over his fallen people? Is his energy wasted? Is there any point in crying over spilt milk? Meaning, is there any purpose to sorrow and regret over something we wish to change yet seem unable to do so with our own efforts alone?

2 Nephi 33:3

But I, Nephi, have written what I have written, and I esteem it as of great worth, and especially unto my people. **For I pray continually for them by day, and mine eyes water my pillow by night, because of them; and I cry unto my God in faith, and I know that he will hear my cry.**

Nephi also seems to believe that after all he done to help his people that the Lord would also hear his cries.

- Did he receive visions when he prayed and asked the Lord for them? Yes, he saw in vision what his Father Lehi saw.
- Was he led by the spirit in Jerusalem when trying to obtain the ancient records? Yes, his life was protected and he accomplished something his brothers thought impossible.
- Was he able to build a Boat as instructed by the Lord with no prior boat building experience?
- Was he able to obtain meat for his family after breaking the last of their hunting bows? He prayed to the Lord to direct him and he built a wooden bow and found game.
- Was he able to safely navigate and sail across the ocean to the New World? He broke the bands that held him captive by the power of God and they travelled to their promised land.

He has a lifetime collection of foundational testimony building experiences. A rock upon which men build, they cannot fall.

So it would seem that from Nephi's own experiences, he has come to learn a valuable lesson.

2 Nephi 25:23

For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.

Alma 26:12

Yea, I know that I am nothing; as to my strength I am weak; therefore I will not boast of myself, but I will boast of my God, for in his strength I can do all things; yea, behold, many mighty miracles we have wrought in this land, for which we will praise his name forever.

Thus we see that after all of our own efforts have been exhausted to bring forth our righteous desires, the Lord will step in and make up the difference. It is through him after all we can do that we are saved. It is through him after all we can do that the impossible is made possible.

Share two mission stories:

- My first area. My companion told me we needed to pray and ask the Lord to help us find people to teach. Initially I thought it a waste of time – How can my prayers affect the agency of others to talk to me? Then it hit me... It is not **me** alone that has any impact on another persons agency... The Lord will not only send us to his Children prepared to receive us, but will also soften the hearts of his Children because of our prayers and preparation to bring the Gospel to them.
- Share story of meeting Brother Dang. Mission focus was families. Had never taught a family. Prayed to specifically teach a family. Bumped into Bro Dang at the ‘fourth watch’ of the day – Felt by inspiration to ask him if we could teach his family in his home. Felt prompted further to teach the Children English which really softened Sister Dangs heart to us from the offer of service. They were baptised as a family.

I want you to know that I have wept and pled with the Lord through my life to accomplish my righteous desires. I have wept over the people of Hong Kong that I might be led to those prepared for the Gospel. I have wept over my family, that I might know how to help them temporally and spiritually. I have wept over my own weaknesses and sin and sought strength from the Lord to make my weaknesses strengths. I know many of us have wept over similar things.

D&C 84:88:

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

Now we have established that the Lord will hear and answer our cries to him in fulfilling our righteous desires and also his commandments... What do we weep for now? Our families? Our friends? The state of the world? Avoiding war? Failing constitutional rights? Relief from calamities? What has the Lord asked us to do and prepare for in these last days?

The Lord has given us the answer. Micah will quote powerful verses in his section from D&C 101 that answer this question. A refuge, safety an inheritance has been promised to us by the Lord. But **only through truly weeping for Zion and after all we can do collectively as a group can we receive it:**

96 For I, the Almighty, have laid my hands upon the nations, to **scourge them for their wickedness.**
97 And plagues shall go forth, and they shall not be taken from the earth until I have completed my work, **which shall be cut short in righteousness—**

98 Until all shall know me, **who remain**, even from the least unto the greatest, and shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, and shall see eye to eye, and shall lift up their voice, and with the voice together sing this new song, saying:

99 **The Lord hath brought again Zion;**

The Lord hath redeemed his people,
Israel, According to the election of grace,
Which was brought to pass by the faith
And covenant of their fathers.

The reference for 'short' in verse 97 takes us to [Matthew 24:22](#):

And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

We are going into a time of scourging, plagues, and destruction due to the wickedness of the Earth. Our only escape will be Zion. Zion cannot be redeemed unless we are unified. If we think we can walk away from other Saints and 'go it alone', we will be swept away and our weeping to the Lord will be in vain. **I had a very powerful and personal experience with this. I have been shown in vision what would happen to me if I did not correct this in my own life – I would not survive to see the promises made to me in my patriarchal blessing fulfilled.**

Now that I understand this doctrine clearly, I weep for Zion. I think about it day and night. I am changing myself and preparing myself to become worthy of Zion. I am seeking out others as a watchmen on the tower to warn of the Saviours coming and invite others to prepare themselves. And importantly, I am aligning myself with as many others as I can in a collective group to prepare ourselves – For Zion will not be built without a group ready and willing to do so that are one heart and one mind.

I have heard a lot of talk lately about Discord... People saying that it is a distraction, that they don't need discord to be saved, that working out their own salvation individually is more important, that personal study is their focus and that they don't care for the group dynamic...

HOW DO YOU EXPECT ZION TO BE BUILT?!

It is not about discord. It is not about time online. It is not about just taking info and running back to your cave to supplement your personal study... **IT IS ABOUT BUILDING A GROUP THAT IS OF ONE HEART AND MIND. IT IS ABOUT DOING ALL WE CAN BECOME A UNIFIED PEOPLE SEEKING TO BUILD ZION AS A COLLECTIVE GROUP AND THEN (and ONLY THEN) WEEPING AND PLEADING WITH THE LORD TO ALLOW US TO REDEEM IT!!!!**

If you do not wish to be involved in discord – God bless you and good luck.

If you do not wish to contribute your talents to the group – God bless you and good luck.

If you do not wish to be involved in a group setting where others are speaking together oft of the Gospel and unifying themselves – God bless you and good luck!!!

But do not turn around and seek to be saved in self-imposed isolation and weep to Lord to bring forth Zion. That is hypocrisy and God will not be mocked.

The testimony of Nephi and Ammon quoted above has now become my own. In my own strength, I am nothing. In the Lord's strength I have seen mighty miracles and mighty change in my life. I cannot rely on the Lord alone – I cannot rely on my strength alone. I need to do all that I can and **ONLY THEN** rely on the Lord to make up the difference. I am grateful for this collective group of Saints

from all over the world that are working to bring forth Zion. It is because of groups like this that the Lord will shorten the days of tribulation for the 'elects sake' and will gather us as a hen gathers her chicks to the New Jerusalem. The weeping will end as the Saviour himself dries our tears, we will be safe, comforted and crowned.

Topher

What I think is awesome and amazing is how many of us are actually "waking up" out of sleep. We have so many of us – especially in this community - having "Wake Up Stories" which is great but even so, more of the Church members need to wake up still. It still feels like the majority of the Church is asleep and in some sort of comfortable groove that they likely don't realize they are going to be forcefully ejected from shortly. So, I suppose the rhetorical question is – what can be done to help the general members of the church also wake up? Joseph Smith back in 1830 said its "high time for a Christian world to awake out of sleep, and cry mightily to that God, day and night, whose anger we have justly incurred". So, its not even necessarily about just waking up and realizing the events unfolding around us are the events prophesied and foreseen by the scriptures and the Prophets but that we need to cry mightily to God for forgiveness and guidance. We are living in, but need to separate ourselves from Babylon as much as is possible. If Joseph Smith thought this was the time back in 1830 what must it be like when you slap nearly another 200 years on that? I think we can all see how bad it has become in the World. It's not just the World or Babylon that have "justly incurred" the anger of God (and they certainly have) but it is surely the sleeping saints who fail to keep their covenants who anger the Lord which is why the Lord has said that his "vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation... and upon my house shall it begin, and from my house shall it go forth... First among those among you, saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house" (D&C 112:24-26 paraphrased). President Russell M Nelson said in 2020 - "The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do". Which group do you want to be a part of and if the separation was tomorrow, which group do you actually think you would be a part of?

This is a time of action. Crazy things are about to happen. The truly righteous, repentant, and prepared will be involved. Are we going to be unprepared, faithless and hesitant like the comfortable Laman and Lemuel who were happy with the way things were in Jerusalem? Or will we be humble, courageous, and obedient like Nephi and "go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded" (1 Ne 3:7). Will we be counted worthy to participate in the amazing events leading up to the Second Coming?

The last part of Josephs quote I love so much. He is saying that his "sympathy for [his] fellows" as well as his desire to help the "budding cause of our glorious Lord" is what allowed him to "overlook [his] own inability, and expose [his] weakness to a learned world". That's so beautiful. Joseph Smith certainly had inabilities and weakness with his age and lack of education and if anyone could've made excuses and have shied away from his responsibilities it would be him, but he didn't, he instead exposed his weaknesses to the world and to his enemies and yet still triumphed in all cases. Even in death he was successful as he died as a martyr fulfilling age old prophecy and sealing his Testimony with his blood, leaving a name and a legacy that can no longer be marred. Do we have the faith in God and the love of our fellow men to expose our weaknesses as we trust in God and work towards his budding cause? The opposite of this is pride and fear. Josephs love for his fellowman was likely second only to Jesus Christ, and he proved it time and time again. Love and charity over

all. No room for pride and fear. Strip yourself of pride and fear and “Step forth into the field” and “enjoy the smiles of your Savior in these last days”.

Micah

The cry to awake out of sleep is very reminiscent of

D&C 113:7-8:

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

8 He had reference to those whom God should call in the last days, who should hold the power of priesthood to bring again Zion, and the redemption of Israel; and to put on her strength is to put on the authority of the priesthood, which she, Zion, has a right to by lineage; also to return to that power which she had lost.

Isaiah further explains in Isaiah 62:

Isaiah 62:

5 ¶ For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy God marry thee; and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

6 I have set watchmen upon **thy walls**, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,

7 And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

12 And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.

Which is a call for the priesthood to wake up, rise to the standard that is required to redeem Zion and build the New Jerusalem. One of the references here in the TPJS, takes us to

Mosiah 11:

23 And it shall come to pass that except this people repent and turn unto the Lord their God, they shall be brought into bondage; and none shall deliver them, except it be the Lord the Almighty God.

24 Yea, and it shall come to pass that when they shall cry unto me I will be slow to hear their cries; yea, and I will suffer them that they be smitten by their enemies.

25 And except they repent in sackcloth and ashes, and cry mightily to the Lord their God, I will not hear their prayers, neither will I deliver them out of their afflictions; and thus saith the Lord, and thus hath he commanded me.

Which is a warning against those who have become complacent in Babylon and have no desire to redeem New Jerusalem and build the Zion of our God. This ties directly to Alma vs Limhi as a type. Those that seek the Lord early, those that awake and arise and seek the Lord early shall find him, while those that delay will not find the Lord so forgiving. In the vein of Alma vs Limhi as a type let's turn to:

Doctrine and Covenants 121:

15 And not many years hence, that they and their posterity shall be swept from under heaven, saith God, that **not one of them is left to stand by the wall.**

16 Cursed are all those that shall lift up the heel against mine anointed, saith the Lord, and cry they have sinned when they have not sinned before me, saith the Lord, but have done that which was meet in mine eyes, and which I commanded them.

17 But those who cry transgression do it because they are the servants of sin, and are the children of disobedience themselves.

18 And those who swear falsely against my servants, that they might bring them into bondage and death—

19 Wo unto them; because they have offended my little ones they shall be severed from the ordinances of mine house.

Those that fight against the keys will be cut off. Simple as that. The line “by the wall” I want to attract attention to, because another one of references in this TPJS quote takes us to:

Lamentations 2:

5 The Lord was as an enemy: he hath swallowed up Israel, he hath swallowed up all her palaces: he hath destroyed his strong holds, and hath increased in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation.

6 And he hath violently taken away his tabernacle, as if it were of a garden: he hath destroyed his places of the assembly: the LORD hath caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest.

7 The Lord hath cast off his altar, he hath abhorred his sanctuary, he hath given up into the hand of the enemy **the walls of her palaces**; they have made a noise in the house of the LORD, as in the day of a solemn feast.

8 The LORD hath purposed to destroy **the wall of the daughter of Zion**: he hath stretched out a line, he hath not withdrawn his hand from destroying: therefore he made the rampart and **the wall** to lament; they languished together.

9 Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: the law is no more; her prophets also find no vision from the LORD.

10 The elders of the daughter of Zion sit upon the ground, **and keep silence**: they have cast up dust upon their heads; they have girded themselves with sackcloth: the virgins of Jerusalem hang down their heads to the ground.

18 Their heart cried unto the Lord, O **wall of the daughter of Zion**, let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease.

19 Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.

Doctrine and Covenants 112 gives us the rest of this key of understanding:

23 Verily, verily, I say unto you, darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt before my face.

24 Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation; and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord.

25 And upon **my house** shall it begin, and from **my house** shall it go forth, saith the Lord;

26 First among those among you, saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of **my house**, saith the Lord.

Note the contrast between those “watchmen” who “keep not silent”, vs those who did “keep silence”, confirming another important key for understanding the difference between Alma and his group and Limhi and his group. Also, note the difference in what both groups have to go through, note the difference in how the Lord responds to these two very different groups in His own church.

Doctrine and Covenants 101:

10 I have sworn, and the decree hath gone forth by a former commandment which I have given unto you, that I would let fall the sword of mine indignation in behalf of my people; and even as I have said, it shall come to pass.

11 Mine indignation is soon to be poured out without measure upon all nations; and this will I do when the cup of their iniquity is full.
12 And in that day all who are found upon the watch-tower, or in other words, all mine Israel, shall be saved.
13 And they that have been scattered shall be gathered.
14 And all they who have mourned shall be comforted.
15 And all they who have given their lives for my name shall be crowned.
16 Therefore, let your hearts be comforted concerning Zion; for all flesh is in mine hands; be still and know that I am God.
17 Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered.
18 They that remain, and are pure in heart, shall return, and come to their inheritances, they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy, to build up the waste places of Zion—
19 And all these things that the prophets might be fulfilled.
20 And, behold, there is none other place appointed than that which I have appointed; neither shall there be any other place appointed than that which I have appointed...

3 Nephi 20:

32 Then shall their watchmen lift up their voice, and with the voice together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye.
33 Then will the Father gather them together again, and give unto them Jerusalem for the land of their inheritance.
34 Then shall they break forth into joy—Sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem; for the Father hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.
35 The Father hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of the Father; and the Father and I are one.
36 And then shall be brought to pass that which is written: Awake, awake again, and put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city, for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.
37 Shake thyself from the dust; arise, sit down, O Jerusalem; loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.
38 For thus saith the Lord: Ye have sold yourselves for naught, and ye shall be redeemed without money.
39 Verily, verily, I say unto you, that my people shall know my name; yea, in that day they shall know that I am he that doth speak.
40 And then shall they say: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings unto them, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings unto them of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion: Thy God reigneth!
41 And then shall a cry go forth: Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch not that which is unclean; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.

JSM:

47 But know this, if the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to have been broken up, but would have been ready.
48 Therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh.
49 Who, then, is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?
50 Blessed is that servant whom his lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing; and verily I say unto you, he shall make him ruler over all his goods.
51 But if that evil servant shall say in his heart: My lord delayeth his coming,
52 And shall begin to smite his fellow-servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken,

53 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

54 And shall cut him asunder, and shall appoint him his portion with the hypocrites; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 21:

32 Verily, I say unto you, This generation, the generation when the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled, shall not pass away till all be fulfilled.

33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

34 ¶ Let my disciples, therefore, take heed to themselves, lest at any time their hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day come upon them unawares.

35 For as a snare it shall come on all them who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

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

Heber C. Kimball (Heber C. Kimball, First Counselor in the First Presidency, May 1868, in Deseret News, 23 May 1931; see also Conference Report, Oct. 1930, p. 58-59:

Before that day comes, however, the Saints will be put to a test that will try the integrity of the best of them. The pressure will become so great that the more righteous among them will cry unto the Lord day and night until deliverance comes.

Then the Prophet Joseph and others will make their appearance and those who have remained faithful will be selected to return to Jackson County, Missouri and take part in the building of that beautiful city, the New Jerusalem.

So I end with the commitment of Paul:

Ephesians 5:

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: **walk as children of light:**

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

14 Wherefore he saith, **Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead,** and Christ shall give thee light.

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

2. Spiritual Darkness (Section Two 1834-37, p.47)

Consider for a moment, brethren, the fulfillment of the words of the prophet; for we behold that darkness covers the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the inhabitants thereof--that crimes of every description are increasing among men--vices of great enormity are practiced--the rising generation growing up in the fullness of pride and arrogance--the aged losing every sense of conviction, and seemingly banishing every thought of a day of retribution--intemperance, immorality, extravagance, pride, blindness of heart, idolatry, the loss of natural affection; the love of

this world, and indifference toward the things of eternity increasing among those who profess a belief in the religion of heaven, and infidelity spreading to commit acts of the foulest kind, and deeds of the blackest dye, blaspheming, defrauding, blasting the reputation of neighbors, stealing, robbing, murdering; advocating error and opposing the truth, forsaking the covenant of heaven, and denying the faith of Jesus--and in the midst of all this, the day of the Lord fast approaching when none except those who have won the wedding garment will be permitted to eat and drink in the presence of the Bridegroom, the Prince of Peace!

Ammon

This was written in the early 1830's. If this was the condition of the Earth then... how great is the wickedness we now experience!

This means that the difference between the wicked and the righteous should be very apparent! If the whole world is truly covered with darkness, then pockets of light will blast through the night far brighter and with more clarity than at noon day.

Christ the Savior Is Born – RMN Dec 10 - 2002

“Lovingly we cling to that promise. Difficult days are ahead for all mankind. Sin is on the increase. We live in a time of wars and rumors of wars. **The Church and its members will come under attack and endure persecution.**

Jesus descended below all things in order to rise above all things. He expects us to follow His example. Yoked with Him, we can rise above all challenges, no matter how difficult they may be. Peter offered this counsel: **“If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”**

“The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do. Our safest insurance is to continue to be worthy of admission to His holy house. How blessed we are to have temples available. **The greatest gift you could give to the Lord at this or any other time of year 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 shall come.”

Emphasize bold points – What does it mean to be ‘worthy’ of admission to the Temple rather than just a recommend holder.

RMN quoted the above passage in the April 2020 Liahona “The Future of the Church: Preparing the World for the Savior’s Second Coming’. This was also quoted again on the Church website a few months ago... It must be important!

Topher

One of the first things that come to mind with this quote is the similarities to 2 Timothy 3:2-4

“2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God”

Again, how much worse is the world 200 years after Joseph Smith? Its on a whole other level and this describes our day perfectly. "The rising generation growing up in the fullness of pride and arrogance--the aged losing every sense of conviction". We can see our Youth growing up in pride and breaking the 5th commandment and the older generation are giving up completely – they expect they'll never see the Second Coming or participate. It's actually cool how Joseph says "darkness covers the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the inhabitants thereof" which is actually the preceding verse from the D&C verses I used in my last answer about the Lord's vengeance coming speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth. Its because darkness covers the earth – all of this garbage mentioned by Joseph and Paul in 2 Timothy that we are surrounded by and drowning in is the darkness covering the minds of the people and delaying the events required to happen before the second coming. The Lord said concerning the redemption and building up of Zion in D&C 105 that "were it not for the transgressions of my people, speaking concerning the church and not individuals, they might have been redeemed even now." It was, and is, the transgressions of the Lords people that delay the redemption of Zion and therefore all of the events leading up to the Second Coming. You can't live in a swamp without getting at least a little bit muddy. How many flaxen cords do you currently have around your neck? "None except those who have won the wedding garment will be permitted to eat and drink in the presence of the Bridegroom, the Prince of Peace"

George Albert Smith said "Here was a man who came into the wedding feast, and when the time came the king or the master saw that he didn't have a wedding garment on. He had ignored the importance of it, apparently. He had come in, not prepared, expecting to participate..."

"The world seems to think that they can come whenever they are ready. Our Father's children do not understand that there is some preparation to be made. The adversary has so deceived them as to make them believe that no preparation is necessary, anything will do, but in this message that the Savior gave in a parable to his associates we are informed that there must be some preparation, and without that preparation no one will be permitted to partake of the more precious gifts of our Heavenly Father. That applies to the membership of this Church who have an idea that because they have been invited, and because their names appear upon the record among those who have been called, there is nothing more for them to do; men who have been blessed in a financial way; women who have become prominent in social life. They have forgotten the Lord and are not preparing for the feast to which he has invited them.

"Our Heavenly Father intends that we shall prepare for the wedding feast or we will be excluded. He expects us to continue to store our minds with the truth, and to disseminate that truth as opportunity offers among all his children. The fact that our names appear upon the Church records is no guarantee that we will find our place in the celestial kingdom. Only those who live worthy to be members of that kingdom shall find place there." (Conference Report, October 1930, Second Day-Morning Meeting 68.)

So again, this idea of exclusion, separation, the ten virgins and the lack of preparation. Only those who consciously take action in sanctifying themselves and separating themselves as far as is possible from the other swamp dwellers will be accepted at the wedding feast.

Micah

I feel like this TPJS puts the capstone on what I wrote up in the first section perfectly. This is the warning, there are two sides, be careful on which side of the broom you find yourself on or you will be swept away being numbered with the hypocrites.

Brigham Young (JoD 5:304) warned:

"[I]f we do not wake up and cease to long after the things of this earth, we will find that we as individuals will go down to hell, although the Lord will preserve a people unto himself. Perhaps,

brethren and sisters, you will not get my meaning, but now go to work and let these holes in the ground alone, and let the Gentiles alone, who would destroy us if they had the power. You are running after them, and some of our brethren are putting their wives and daughters into their society, and will go to the devil with them too, if they do not look out. I would not have a dollar on the earth if I had to get it there. It has been the kingdom of God with me. What I have, I have got in this kingdom. Well, now, some of the Elders are running after these holes in the ground, and I see men before me, in this house that have no right to be here. They are as corrupt in their hearts as they can be, and we take them by the hand and call them brother. You will go to hell, lots of you, unless you repent. You may think this is plain talk, it is not as plain as you will find by and by. If you should ever go to the gates of heaven, Jesus will say he never knew you. While you have been saying your prayers and going to your meetings and are as corrupt in your hearts as men can be. You had better stop now and repent of your sins and sin no more, while there is yet time, and before the doors are closed against you. I want to wake you up, and if I had the power to lift the veil from your eyes and let you see things as they are, you would be astonished. Not but what there are a great majority of the people as good as they know how to be. Now I will say, bless the people, that they may do better, but show some of the Elders of Israel according to their present conduct a dollar on one side and eternal life on the other, and I fear they would choose the dollar."

President Lorenzo Snow (delivered in Brigham City Tabernacle, on Sunday, previous to his sentence by Judge Powers in the First District Court, Jan. 10, 1886) warned:

"The Church, no doubt, needs purifying—we have hypocrites among us—milk-and-water Saints—those professing to be Saints, but doing nothing to render themselves worthy of membership; and too many of us have been pursuing worldly gains, rather than spiritual improvements—have not sought the things of God with that earnestness which becomes our profession. Trials and afflictions will cause our hearts to turn towards our Father who has so marvelously wrought out our redemption and deliverance from Babylon."

President Ezra Taft Benson (Ensign, May 1986, pp. 5, 78.) warned:

"Watchmen—what of the night? We must respond by saying that all is not well in Zion. As Moroni counseled, we must cleanse the inner vessel (see Alma 60:23), beginning first with ourselves, then with our families, and finally with the Church."

A prophet of God stated, "Ye shall clear away the bad according as the good shall grow ... until the good shall overcome the bad." (Jacob 5:66.) It takes a Zion people to make a Zion society, and we must prepare for that."

And finally, to capstone this clarity and warning, **Joseph Smith Jr ("History of the Church, 4:587–88")** set forth:

"I shall speak with authority of the Priesthood in the name of the Lord God, which shall prove a savor of life unto life, or of death unto death. Notwithstanding this congregation profess to be Saints, yet I stand in the midst of all [kinds of] characters and classes of men. If you wish to go where God is, you must be like God, or possess the principles which God possesses, for if we are not drawing towards God in principle, we are going from Him and drawing towards the devil. Yes, I am standing in the midst of all kinds of people."

Search your hearts, and see if you are like God. I have searched mine, and feel to repent of all my sins. We have thieves among us, adulterers, liars, hypocrites. If God should speak from heaven, he would command you not to steal, not to commit adultery, not to covet, nor deceive, but be faithful over a few things. As far as we degenerate from God, we descend to the devil and lose knowledge, and without knowledge we cannot be saved, and while our hearts are filled with evil, and we are

studying evil, there is no room in our hearts for good, or studying good. Is not God good? Then you be good; if He is faithful, then you be faithful. Add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, and seek for every good thing.

The Church must be cleansed, and I proclaim against all iniquity. A man is saved no faster than he gets knowledge, for if he does not get knowledge, he will be brought into captivity by some evil power in the other world, as evil spirits will have more knowledge, and consequently more power than many men who are on the earth. Hence it needs revelation to assist us, and give us knowledge of the things of God.”

3. How and By Whom Revelation Comes (Section Two 1834-37, p.111)

President Joseph Smith, Jun., addressed the assembly and said, the Melchizedek High Priesthood was no other than the Priesthood of the Son of God; that there are certain ordinances which belong to the Priesthood, from which flow certain results; and the Presidents or Presidency are over the Church; and revelations of the mind and will of God to the Church, are to come through the Presidency. This is the order of heaven, and the power and privilege of this Priesthood. It is also the privilege of any officer in this Church to obtain revelations, so far as relates to his particular calling and duty in the Church. All are bound by the principles of virtue and happiness, but one great privilege of the Priesthood is to obtain revelations of the mind and will of God. It is also the privilege of the Melchizedek Priesthood, to reprove, rebuke, and admonish, as well as to receive revelation. If the Church knew all the commandments, one-half they would condemn through prejudice and ignorance.

Ammon

- If we are ever concerned with instruction given from a Prophet we should pray to know if the Prophet is called of God – Not to pray about his counsel.
- Story of argument with Senior missionary about a new convert Baptism program. Let's not be angry and try to circumvent the authority because of supposed seniority or experience.
- One of the biggest concerns I have with members at the moment is that they make figurative the literal commandments and revelation from the scriptures and Prophets.

Topher

One major thing this has brought to mind for me is that I need to go back and read my mission journals. My mission ended nearly 16 years ago and I cant remember what I did last week let along 16 years ago so naturally I cant remember a dang thing from it BUT luckily I kept a journal for most of it. My mission would be one of the main times of my life where the mantle that provides the privilege of revelation was upon me and I need to go back and read and remember my experiences. So take that for what its worth its just something that I learnt from this.

“If the Church knew all the commandments, one-half they would condemn through prejudice and ignorance.” I feel like this is already the case (or at least a little bit) currently in the Church with the Commandments that the members DO know about. The gross darkness covering the peoples minds from point 2 is also covering the minds of the Church members and this is the problem. The general church membership is asleep, misguided and confused because Satan is countering and counterfeiting everything the Lord is giving us in the last days. Not only would the church struggle to accept half of the commandments that are yet to be revealed they struggle with understanding and living half of the ones we DO have! Amazingly we live in a time where the urgings of a Prophet of God addressed to the membership of the church can be tossed aside like the ramblings of an

“ordinary man”. Joseph Smith said here that the “revelations of the mind and will of God to the Church, are to come through the Presidency.” And yet here we are with a church divided over whether these urgings are prophetic or nonsense. Go figure that out. To me it seems to be just another step toward that separation we have mentioned many times already. The majority of the members of the church struggle with the church’s history with Plural Marriage and strive to explain it away like its some dark blot in our history when in actual fact its an eternal doctrine required for exaltation – why? Because they don't understand it. Same thing for Consecration – the early saints couldn’t hack it and the current saints can barely deal with a cut down version of it – meaning tithing. Why? Because they don't understand it

Church members bad mouth JS and BY etc.... Like how!?

Micah

President Joseph Fielding Smith (Gospel Doctrine, 5th ed. [1939], 41–42) taught:

“We can accept nothing as authoritative but that which comes directly through the appointed channel, the constituted organizations of the Priesthood, which is the channel that God has appointed through which to make known His mind and will to the world. ... And the moment that individuals look to any other source, that moment they throw themselves open to the seductive influences of Satan, and render themselves liable to become servants of the devil; they lose sight of the true order through which the blessings of the Priesthood are to be enjoyed; they step outside of the pale of the kingdom of God, and are on dangerous ground. Whenever you see a man rise up claiming to have received direct revelation from the Lord to the Church, independent of the order and channel of the Priesthood, you may set him down as an imposter”

Brigham Young (DBY 338) taught:

If the Lord Almighty should reveal to a High Priest, or to any other than the head, things that are true, or that have been and will be, and show to him the destiny of this people twenty-five years from now, or a new doctrine that will in five, ten, or twenty years hence become the doctrine of this Church and Kingdom, but which has not yet been revealed to this people and reveal it to him by the same Spirit, the same messenger, the same voice, the same power that gave revelations to Joseph when he was living, it would be a blessing to that High Priest, or individual; but he must rarely divulge it to a second person on the face of the earth, until God reveals it through the proper source to become the property of the people at large

Therefore when you hear the Elders say that God does not reveal through the President of the Church that which they know, and tell wonderful things, you may generally set it down as a God's truth that the revelation they have had is from the Devil, and not from God. If they had received from the proper source, the same power that revealed to them would have shown them that they must keep the things revealed in their own bosoms, and they seldom would have a desire to disclose them to the second person.

In Preach My Gospel (Chapter 4, How Do I Recognize and Understand the Spirit) we read:

A Word of Caution

As you pray for inspiration, you should also confirm your feelings. For example, compare your decisions with the scriptures and the teachings of the living prophets. Be certain that the feelings are consistent with the assignment you have; for example, you will not receive revelation to tell a local bishop how he should perform in his calling.

Joseph Smith (TPJS p.21-22) taught:
Order by Which Revelation Comes

I will inform you that it is contrary to the economy of God for any member of the Church, or any one, to receive instruction for those in authority, higher than themselves; therefore you will see the impropriety of giving heed to them.

Joseph Smith (TPJS, Section Five 1842-43, p.272) further taught:

Need of Revelation

The plea of many in this day is, that we have no right to receive revelations; but if we do not get revelations, we do not have the oracles of God; and if they have not the oracles of God, they are not the people of God. But say you, What will become of the world, or the various professors of religion who do not believe in revelation and the oracles of God as continued to His Church in all ages of the world, when He has a people on earth? I tell you, in the name of Jesus Christ, they will be damned; and when you get into the eternal world, you will find it will be so, they cannot escape the damnation of hell.

President Boyd K. Packer ("We Believe All That God Has Revealed," Ensign, May 1974, 95.) confirmed:

"Revelation continues in the Church: the prophet receiving it for the Church; the president for his stake, his mission, or his quorum; the bishop for his ward; the father for his family; the individual for himself."

In the Seminary Doctrinal Mastery Core Document, Prophets and Revelations, section 5.5 we read:

"While God gives revelation through prophets to guide all of His children, individuals can receive revelation to help them with their specific needs, responsibilities, and questions and to help strengthen their testimonies. However, personal inspiration from the Lord will never contradict the revelation God gives through His prophets."

4. Angels Do Not Have Wings (TPJS, Section Four 1839-42, p.162)

Being born again, comes by the Spirit of God through ordinances. An angel of God never has wings. Some will say that they have seen a spirit; that he offered them his hand, but they did not touch it. This is a lie. First, it is contrary to the plan of God; a spirit cannot come but in glory; an angel has flesh and bones; we see not their glory. The devil may appear as an angel of light. Ask God to reveal it; if it be of the devil, he will flee from you; if of God, He will manifest Himself, or make it manifest. We may come to Jesus and ask Him; He will know all about it; if He comes to a little child, he will adapt himself to the language and capacity of a little child.

Not every spirit, or vision, or singing, is of God. The devil is an orator; he is powerful; he took our Savior on to a pinnacle of the Temple, and kept Him in the wilderness for forty days. The gift of discerning spirits will be given to the Presiding Elder. Pray for him that he may have this gift. Speak not in the gift of tongues without understanding it, or without interpretation. The devil can speak in tongues; the adversary will come with his work; he can tempt all classes; can speak in English or

Dutch. Let no one speak in tongues unless he interpret, except by the consent of the one who is placed to preside; then he may discern or interpret, or another may. Let us seek for the glory of Abraham, Noah, Adam, the Apostles, who have communion with [knowledge of] these things, and then we shall be among that number when Christ comes. (July 2, 1839.) DHC 3:383-392.

Ammon

- The adversary CAN and DOES want to communicate with us. He wants to give us his revelations. He wants us to think they are from God.
- Be very careful about who your revelations are from. If they do not square with established doctrine and words of the living Prophets, cast them aside.

Topher

"If He comes to a little child, he will adapt himself to the language and capacity of a little child." – I'd say that this also applies to the revelations or promptings or commandments that he will give you

"Speak not in the gift of tongues without understanding it" – don't get involved with things we don't understand. This could mean going down rabbit holes of strange doctrines that we don't understand which sometimes cause people to be lost or even something like energy healing which must have some actual credibility or else people wouldn't do it, BUT we don't understand it and have been now told to avoid it. How do we avoid things we don't understand? Study, study study. Knowledge is everything. We cannot be save in ignorance and on the flipside like it says in D&C 137 "Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection. And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come."

From Micah's answer in Section 2 – Joseph Smith - "The Church must be cleansed, and I proclaim against all iniquity. A man is saved no faster than he gets knowledge, for if he does not get knowledge, he will be brought into captivity by some evil power in the other world, as evil spirits will have more knowledge, and consequently more power than many men who are on the earth. Hence it needs revelation to assist us, and give us knowledge of the things of God."

The devil can imitate and mimic everything. He can appear as an angel of light, he can give promptings and cause supposed revelations and gifts like the gift of tongues.

What's funny about people who have been deceived is that they take revelations they have apparently received from incorrect sources and ALWAYS share it with others. A certain LDS YouTube personality I have in mind has openly and blatantly talked about apparent revelations and visitations he has had

Joseph Smith said "The reason we do not have the secrets of the Lord revealed unto us, is because we do not keep them but reveal them; we do not keep our own secrets, but reveal our difficulties to the world, even to our enemies, then how would we keep the secrets of the Lord? I can keep a secret till Doomsday. (Joseph Smith, 19 Dec. 1841 Recorded in Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith p. 195)

How crazy would it be that an angel appeared to you and you tested it and found it to be a false angel. You'd have to think you're doing something right for the Devil to oppose you so blatantly

The importance of presiding officers and church structure – the mantle. Derren Brown has made a few documentaries and in one he acts as a Church healer and heals people and causes tons of outward spiritual manifestations – all by manipulating adrenaline by being in front of a crowd etc

Micah

Orson Hyde ("Although Dead, Yet He Speaketh: Joseph Smith's testimony concerning being ordained by angels, delivered in the school of the prophets, in Kirtland, Ohio, in the Winter of 1832-33," Millennial Star 8/9 [20 November 1846]: 138-39L) explained:

"Brother Joseph observed to [Bro.] Bishop that he knew that he had lied before he confessed it; that his declarations were not only false in themselves, but they involved a false principle. An angel, said Joseph, may administer the word of the Lord unto men, and bring intelligence to them from heaven upon various subjects; but no true angel from God will ever come to ordain any man, because they have once been sent to establish the priesthood by ordaining me thereunto; and the priesthood being once established on earth, with power to ordain others, no heavenly messenger will ever come to interfere with that power by ordaining any more.... [Joseph tells the story of Cornelius as above.] You may therefore know, from this time forward, that if any man comes to you professing to be ordained by an angel, he is either a liar or has been imposed upon in consequence of transgression by an angel of the devil, for this priesthood shall never be taken away from this church.

Joseph Smith Jr. (TPJS, Section Four 1839-42, p.161) on another occasion further expounded:

Try the Spirits

We may look for angels and receive their ministrations, but we are to try the spirits and prove them, for it is often the case that men make a mistake in regard to these things. God has so ordained that when He has communicated, no vision is to be taken but what you see by the seeing of the eye, or what you hear by the hearing of the ear. When you see a vision, pray for the interpretation; if you get not this, shut it up; there must be certainty in this matter. An open vision will manifest that which is more important. Lying spirits are going forth in the earth. There will be great manifestations of spirits, both false and true.

And on yet another occasion Joseph Smith Jr. (TPJS 203) further expounded:

Ignorance of the Nature of Spirits

One great evil is, that men are ignorant of the nature of spirits; their power, laws, government, intelligence, etc., and imagine that when there is anything like power, revelation, or vision manifested, that it must be of God. Hence the Methodists, Presbyterians, and others frequently possess a spirit that will cause them to lie down, and during its operation, animation is frequently entirely suspended; they consider it to be the power

of God, and a glorious manifestation from God—a manifestation of what? Is there any intelligence communicated? Are the curtains of heaven withdrawn, or the purposes of God developed? Have they seen and conversed with an angel—or have the glories of futurity burst upon their view? No! but their body has been inanimate, the operation of their spirit suspended, and all the intelligence that can be obtained from them when they arise, is a shout of "glory," or "hallelujah," or some incoherent expression; but they have had "the power."

The Shaker will whirl around on his heel, impelled by a supernatural agency or spirit, and think that he is governed by the Spirit of God; and the Jumper will jump and enter into all kinds of extravagances. A Primitive Methodist will shout under the influence of that spirit, until he will rend the heavens with his cries; while the Quakers (or Friends) moved as they think, by the Spirit of God, will sit still and say nothing. Is God the author of all this? If not all of it, which does He recognize? Surely, such a heterogeneous mass of confusion never can enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Many of those who profess to be “latter-day Saints” would turn up their nose and scoff at these examples, “what? People believing that those displays are manifestations of the Spirit? Ha! Speaking in tongues? Shouting glory hallelujah?! How preposterous...” Well done “Saints” of God, you’ve found the devil out and are so much more the wiser! Satan hasn’t fooled you with any false understanding of the Holy Ghost, clearly! Oh thou fools... We have fallen prey to an even fouler devilry, for the false flag we now wave as the Holy Ghost is a mockery of the fruits of the Light of Christ, while they simply misunderstand gifts of the Spirit itself... Joseph Smith clearly teaches us that the Holy Ghost is nothing more than “pure intelligence”, and above he identifies the way to clearly test if what one is experiencing is the actual Holy Ghost and not a false flag, “Is there any intelligence communicated?” If the answer to that question is “no”, then what one is “feeling” is no more the “Holy Ghost”, then these individuals squirming around on the floor or spouting gibberish in tongues.

In Preach My Gospel (Chapter 4 How Do I Recognize and Understand the Spirit?) we read:

A Word of Caution

President Howard W. Hunter offered this counsel: “Let me offer a word of caution. ... I think if we are not careful ... , we may begin to try to counterfeit the true influence of the Spirit of the Lord by unworthy and manipulative means. I get concerned when it appears that strong emotion or free-flowing tears are equated with the presence of the Spirit. ... that outward manifestation ought not to be confused with the presence of the Spirit itself” (The Teachings of Howard W. Hunter [1997], 184). The Spirit of the Lord always edifies.

If someone stands up on Sunday and spews non-sense about their ex-girlfriend for twenty minutes and cries and blubbers like a fool, that does not mean “Holy Ghost” any more than these people speaking in fake tongues or squirming on the ground, and worse, we are wrapping this false flag around the fruits of the spirit to claim validity. Latter-day Saints display far more false flags of the Holy Ghost today than any other denomination of Christians- while the Presbyterians reserve their false flag displays to simply Pentecost, and the Catholics fall asleep in their pews, the Latter-day Saints are bastardizing the Holy Ghost on a weekly basis around the globe. While other denominations seek to fake actual displays of God’s power and authority, Latter-day Saints are content to know they have the authority, but never rise to the power of it, instead focusing on turning our pulpits into free therapy sessions, free sob fests, satisfied to remain weak snivelling powerless ignorant fools but whom at least hold claim on authority...

Brothers and Sisters, “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” (1 Cor 13) It is time to awake... awake and arise to the power that she, Zion, has lost through transgression! Awake, awake and arise and shake off the chains of ignorance, of false traditions and lies that do bind us, so that we may come up to that beautiful standard- for we cannot and will not be saved in ignorance. The Lord speaks boldly and with clarity, calling all to repentance, to rise up to higher standard and become who we were born to be; may we rise to such a standard, repent and forsake Babylon, and come up to that Mount with songs of everlasting joy is my commitment and prayer this day in Jesus’ name, amen!