

Fireside January 3 2020

"What do you think is coming? Has it already started? What does it look like?"

JST Matthew 7 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you, and ye shall be hated of all nations, for my name's sake; 8 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another; 9 And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many; 10 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold;

- LGBTQ interest groups working on anti-christian legislation making our beliefs hate speech
- shift in verbage "science"
- covid fear/lack of faith relying on arm of flesh

President Nelson in the January Liaison

Grow into the principle of Revelation

Physical and spiritual tempests are a part of life on the earth, as the COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us. Of the time prior to His Second Coming, the Savior predicted days of great tribulation. He said, "There shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places"

(Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:29 Behold I speak for mine elect's sake; for nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.).

Compounding such tribulation is the increasing darkness and deception that surround us. As Jesus told His disciples, "Iniquity shall abound" before His return

(Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:30 And again, because iniquity shall abound, the love of men shall wax cold; but he that shall not be overcome, the same shall be saved.).

These events may be the same as those described in D+C 45 after the desolating sickness in verse 31.

"Do not take for granted the personal friendships and associations you enjoy in your life. The time will come when you won't have immediate association with each other". – Elder Holland

"The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do ... difficult days are ahead. Rarely in the future will it be easy or popular to be a faithful Latter-day Saint. Each of us will be tested. The Apostle Paul warned that in the latter days, those who diligently follow the Lord 'shall suffer persecution'. That very persecution can either crush you into silent weakness or motivate you to be more exemplary and courageous in your daily lives"- President Nelson

The Old Testament Student Manual for Isaiah 10 lumps the whole chapter together and says, "the destruction of Assyria the wicked" and then says "the destruction of Israel and Assyria is a type of things to come and has its prophesied parallel for the latter days." The chapter heading for Isaiah 10 or 2 Nephi 20 says "The destruction of Assyria is a type of the destruction of the wicked at the Second Coming"

Isaiah 10: 1 Wo unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed; 2 To turn away the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless! 3 And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory? 4 Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

The desolating sickness paves the way for the overflowing scourge which happens after or during the sickness. The signs of the overflowing scourge have already cropped up, in response to this sickness as it swept the land, but it will get progressively worse from this point on. Like a compromised immune system to a virus, it will get progressively worse over time until the effects of the virus will be easily and readily seen. Isaiah identifies in the verses before it the effects of the overflowing scourge, the signs and symptoms. He describes political decrees/laws that are written which are grievous then the second thing he describes is the effects of the laws- crushing the poor/widows, their ability to pursue happiness, their freedom is taken away. The rights of the lower class are gone. These laws will make victims of single mothers because now these people will have no choice but to rely on the government for help and in this process the fatherless are being robbed. Another way you can describe these people being crushed by these laws is “unessential.”

Isaiah 10: 14 And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people; and as one gathereth eggs that are left have I gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped.

The Assyrian(s) describes robbing people like robbing a bird’s nest of its eggs and while he did it the bird didn’t even move its wing, open its mouth or peep- there was not even a little fight. “Eggs” are not just a symbol for “wealth, money, savings/retirement/etc.”, they are also a symbol for children. Another major strategy of the Assyrian(s) is to steal your children.

"Why would understanding the doctrine taught in the Lord's restored church be crucial?"

The very first thing [the Savior] told disciples when they asked of His coming:

5 And Jesus answered, and said unto them: Take heed that no man deceive you;

as things progress

22 For in those days there shall also arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch, that, if possible, they shall deceive the very elect, who are the elect according to the covenant.

Being anchored to pure doctrine, and being knowledgeable of the doctrine gives us something to hope in. We will act in faith if we have a hope in deliverance. Or if we have hope in the promised blessings.

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

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

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

"How does a temple recommend fit into this?"

Look for "covenant" and "holy place"

Especially abrahamic covenant/ Israel (micah's latest video, Let God Prevail) willingness desire vs someone who has covenanted

12.... then you shall stand in the holy place; whoso readeth let him understand.

20 And except those days should be shortened, there should none of their flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake, according to the covenant, those days shall be shortened.

Satan's goal is to take down the elect. when the scriptures talk of the eagles gathered around the carcass. the saints, or what's left of us, are the carcass. the eagles are circling above picking off the weak. ben franklin didn't want to use the bald eagle as a symbol for The usa because its a lazy cowardly bird often stealing food other animals work to get. they pick us apart clean to the neck before we are rescued by the return of the 10 tribes.

Our personal worthiness is key.

“Our safest insurance [for the days ahead] is to be worthy of admission to [the Lord's] holy house...” – President Nelson

3 Nephi 24: 16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened and heard; and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. 18 Then shall ye return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

"If it will rarely be popular to be a FAITHFUL Latter-day Saint, should popularity be or is popularity a sign to the faithful? Should the faithful seek after popularity? Will the faithful ever obtain popularity, in or outside the church?"

There will be an increasing polarization of views. There will be more apostasy from the Church, more summer saints and sunshine patriots who will be won over to the cause of the adversary. Those who support the kingdom because of the loaves and the fishes will find other bread to eat. While the faithful saints get better and better, and cleave more firmly to the heaven-sent standards, the world will get worse and worse and will cleave to the policies and views of Lucifer” (McConkie, Millennial Messiah, 404).

The short answer is “no”. And the emphasis Micah has added on the word “faithful” is an important take note of. For “The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do” For those present on the internet, or know anything about the world, there has been a growth in members adopting these “popular beliefs” while rebelling against truth, and in turn God’s commandments. Those not “FAITHFUL” are probably among those President Nelson is referring to.

Matthew 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

1 Corinthians 4:12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: 13 Being defamed, we entreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day. 14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.

Ether 12: 36 And it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord that he would give unto the Gentiles grace, that they might have charity. 37 And it came to pass that the Lord said unto me: If they have not charity it mattereth not unto thee, thou hast been faithful; wherefore, thy garments shall be made clean. And because thou hast seen thy weakness thou shalt be made strong, even unto the sitting down in the place which I have prepared in the mansions of my Father.

"Are we ready to be tested? Why or why not? Are we ready for persecution? Why or why not? What can we do not to prepare?"

“Treasure up the Lord’s word. Possess it, own it, make it yours by both believing it and living it. For instance: the voice of the Lord says that if men have faith, repent, and are baptized, they shall receive the Holy Ghost. It is not sufficient merely to know what the scripture says. One must treasure it up, meaning take it into his possession so affirmatively that it becomes a part of his very being; as a consequence, in the illustration given, one actually receives the companionship of the Spirit. Obviously such persons will not be deceived where the signs of the times and the Second Coming of the Messiah are concerned” (McConkie, Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:662).

place to start Institute manual doctrines of the gospel

Harold B Lee-

“Let me give you the sure word of prophecy on which you should rely for your guide instead of these strange sources which may have great political implications.

“Read the 24th chapter of Matthew—particularly that inspired version as contained in the Pearl of Great Price [Joseph Smith—Matthew].

“Then read the 45th section of the Doctrine and Covenants where the Lord, not man, has documented the signs of the times.

“Now turn to section 101 and section 133 of the Doctrine and Covenants and hear the step-by-step recounting of events leading up to the coming of the Savior.

“Finally, turn to the promises the Lord makes to those who keep the commandments when these judgments descend upon the wicked, as set forth in the Doctrine and Covenants, section 38.

“Brethren, these are some of the writings with which you should concern yourselves, rather than commentaries that may come from those whose information may not be the most reliable and whose motives may be subject to question. And may I say, parenthetically, most of such writers are not handicapped by having any authentic information on their writings” (Harold B. Lee, in Conference Report, Oct. 1972, 128; or Ensign, Jan. 1973, 106).

We have several talks from this last conference on how enduring tribulation is necessary for our eternal progression. The concept itself I found to be digestible, but the practice of this concept is where things become difficult. I found that once I was in the midst of my own personal tribulation, I had forgotten the promised blessings of enduring tribulation. Personal study on this subject has been my preparation for the inevitable trials. We read about how prayer during trials may ease our burdens in Mosiah 24 12-14. Notice how he didn't take away the taskmasters, but that he helped them endure their trials instead.

Another good example we can learn from is Nephi in 1 Nephi 7: 16-18. Nephi, being bound with cords by his elder brothers asked to be delivered out of his situation. However, in verse 17 we learn he didn't ask “get these cords off me” he asked if he could be given strength to break the bands and overcome his situation. And immediately after breaking the bands, he immediately goes back to teaching his brothers. Likewise we should strive to not pray our situations away, rather that we should learn and grow enough to be able to overcome them.

Matthew 25: 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, ye know me not. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

D&C 45: 56 And at that day, when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins. 57 For they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day.

"How, or why does persecution, testing, either crush us into silent weakness or motivate us to be more courageous? What do we want to be? Cowards or courageous? What do we need to do now, what decisions do we need to make today that will determine that?"

When the tares reach maturity, they literally choke out the wheat (forcing righteous into wilderness)

D&C 101: 4 Therefore, they must needs be chastened and tried, even as Abraham, who was commanded to offer up his only son. 5 For all those who will not endure chastening, but deny me, cannot be sanctified.

D&C student manual

"Sometimes Satan's persecution of the Church takes the form of aggressive persecution, such as killing the prophets or physically abusing the Saints. More often the persecution consists of social pressure

against the humble followers of Christ. Those in the “great and spacious building” in Lehi’s dream mocked those who were pressing forward to partake of the fruit of the tree of life, and many became ashamed and fell away (see 1 Nephi 8:27–33)”

27 And it was filled with people, both old and young, both male and female; and their manner of dress was exceedingly fine; and they were in the attitude of mocking and pointing their fingers towards those who had come at and were partaking of the fruit. 28 And after they had tasted of the fruit they were ashamed, because of those that were scoffing at them; and they fell away into forbidden paths and were lost. 29 And now I, Nephi, do not speak all the words of my father. 30 But, to be short in writing, behold, he saw other multitudes pressing forward; and they came and caught hold of the end of the rod of iron; and they did press their way forward, continually holding fast to the rod of iron, until they came forth and fell down and partook of the fruit of the tree. 31 And he also saw other multitudes feeling their way towards that great and spacious building. 32 And it came to pass that many were drowned in the depths of the fountain; and many were lost from his view, wandering in strange roads. 33 And great was the multitude that did enter into that strange building. And after they did enter into that building they did point the finger of scorn at me and those that were partaking of the fruit also; but we heeded them not.

- This process of testing proves to US where we stand, not where we think we stand or where we want to stand but where we actually stand. If you aren't willing to speak up when it's just uncomfortable or inconvenient what makes you think you would be willing to do it when your life or the lives of the children are at stake.
- We know eventually satan gets so much power one can not buy or sell without taking his mark upon you.
- The wheat and tares will be gathered. and you will either prove that you are Christ's or Satan's

With any trial we face, we are faced with the choice of yielding to the enticings of the Holy Spirit or rejecting that Spirit.

1 Nephi 14: 7 For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other— either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds unto their being brought down into captivity, and also into destruction, both temporally and spiritually, according to the captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken.

Light/heat/etc. will melt wax but it will dry mud; same source, radically different effects depending on what it is working on. If we don't turn ourselves into “wax”, then, when the Lord “turns up the heat”, we will become brittle and hard like dried mud; if we however turn ourselves into “wax” (or “clay in the potter’s hands), when the Lord “turns up the heat” we will endure.

"Why does being anchored in pure doctrine give us dogged persistence and a cheerful attitude? Will being anchored in false doctrine provide the same benefits or blessings? Why not?"

“What does it mean for you that the gospel of Jesus Christ has been restored to the earth? It means that you and your family can be sealed together forever! It means that because you have been baptized by one

who has authority from Jesus Christ and have been confirmed a member of His Church, you can enjoy the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost. He will guide and protect you. It means you will never be left comfortless or without access to the power of God to help you. It means that priesthood power can bless you as you receive essential ordinances and make covenants with God and keep them. What an anchor to our souls are these truths, especially during these times when the tempest is raging.”

-President Nelson “Hear Him”

As with Korihor we learn what happens to those that lean unto their own understanding:

Alma 30:60 And thus we see the end of him who perverteth the ways of the Lord; and thus we see that the devil will not support his children at the last day, but doth speedily drag them down to hell.

Being anchored to pure doctrine, and being knowledgeable of the doctrine gives us something to hope in. We will act in faith if we have a hope in deliverance. Or if we have hope in the promised blessings.

False doctrine does not yield the same results. It does not prepare us for the events of the last days, and it does not know where to look to for our desired outcome. Rather it does the opposite, it confuses or leads us away from the true path.

“The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do.” Seems to our obedience to the Lord is what will divide the righteous and the wicked.

We should follow the Prophets admonition to “do whatever it takes to strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ by increasing your understanding of the doctrine taught in His restored church and by relentlessly seeking truth”

Mosiah 1: 2 And it came to pass that [King Benjamin] had three sons; and he called their names Mosiah, and Helorum, and Helaman. And he caused that they should be taught in all the language of his fathers, that thereby they might become men of understanding; and that they might know concerning the prophecies which had been spoken by the mouths of their fathers, which were delivered them by the hand of the Lord. 3 And he also taught them concerning the records which were engraven on the plates of brass, saying: My sons, I would that ye should remember that were it not for these plates, which contain these records and these commandments, ***we must have suffered in ignorance, even at this present time, not knowing the mysteries of God.***