

## January 30 2022 Fireside: Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith

### **The Church to Prevail Against All Evil Powers p.257-258**

#### FEMALE RELIEF SOCIETY'S MEETING—REMARKS OF THE PROPHET

President Joseph Smith arose and said, "I am happy and thankful for the privilege of being present on this occasion. Great exertions have been made on the part of our enemies to carry me to Missouri and destroy my life; but the Lord has hedged up their way, and they have not, as yet, accomplished their purpose. God has enabled me to keep out of their hands. I have warred a good warfare, insomuch as I have outgeneralled or whipped out all Bennett's corrupt host.

My feelings at the present time are that, inasmuch as the Lord Almighty has preserved me until today, He will continue to preserve me, by the united faith and prayers of the Saints, until I have fully accomplished my mission in this life, and so firmly established the dispensation of the fullness of the priesthood in the last days, that all the powers of earth and hell can never prevail against it.

This constant persecution reminds me of the words of the Savior, when He said to the Pharisees, "Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected." I suspect that my Heavenly Father has decreed that the Missourians shall not get me into their power; if they do, it will be because I do not keep out of their way.

I shall triumph over my enemies: I have begun to triumph over them at home, and I shall do it abroad. All those that rise up against me will surely feel the weight of their iniquity upon their own heads. Those that speak evil of me and the Saints are ignorant or abominable characters, and full of iniquity. All the fuss, and all the stir, and all the charges got up against me are like the jack-a-lantern, which cannot be found

#### **Tiffany's Thoughts:**

Joseph is stating he knows that the Lord has helped to preserve his life until he established the church. Pres Nelson said in Hebrew the word Israel.....means to Let God Prevail.

[Russell M. Nelson, "Let God Prevail," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2020, 92; see also Bible Dictionary, "Israel."] Prevail Websters online dictionary means to Triumph, Win, Predominate, Persist.

I love that Joseph uses the word prevail and triumph in this quote. He knew that he would triumph over his enemies even though it was constant and unrelenting persecution. He says "I shall triumph over my enemies, I have begun to triumph over them at home and shall do it abroad"

A Prophet's Story

**President Loren C. Dunn**

*Of the First Council of the Seventy*

Loren C. Dunn, *Conference Report*, April 1970, pp. 33-35

Joseph was persecuted even as Christ. This talk reads in a you vs he perspective.

Building Nauvoo. You enjoy peace for a time, and the worldwide missionary work goes on; yet the storms of persecution begin to gather again. Charges and counter-charges are made. Through the evil designs of men, you have already been arrested 37 times and acquitted each time.

You are asked to come to Carthage to stand trial but are fearful because of the ruthless, unlawful nature of the mobs. Nevertheless, on June 24, 1844, you and several associates set out for Carthage. You mention that you are going like a lamb to the slaughter, but you are calm as a summer's morning. D&C 135:4 You arrive in Carthage, and you are immediately arrested. The governor of the state promises you protection, but this does not materialize.

### **The martyrdom**

And now, it is a hot, sultry, summer afternoon, June 27, 1844. A mob assembles and storms the jail, bursting past the jailer, firing shots through the door and through the window.

Your brother Hyrum is shot dead in your sight, and one other person is wounded. You spring to the window and are struck immediately by three shots. You utter your last mortal words, "Oh Lord, my God," and fall dead.

Yes, your name is Joseph Smith, Jr., Prophet of the living God, and though you seal your testimony with your blood, the Church of Jesus Christ goes on. Today nearly three million (today 16,565,036) revere you as a prophet, seer, revelator; and thousands each year are added to that number. You restored the Church and kingdom of God under the direction of Jesus Christ.

Doctrine and Covenants 6:34 we read, "Therefore, fear not, little flock; do good; let earth and hell combine against you, for if ye are built upon my rock, they cannot prevail."

*I love this scripture. I am a chicken mom. I have 8 chickens that come running to me every time I go visit them. Because they trust me, I take care of them, I love them, I feed them, they are dependent upon me to sustain life. We are His flock. We shouldn't fear. Joseph re-established a firm foundation of the Gospel before his death. The devil knew this and tried to stop him with all of earth and hell combined. We already know the ending, Christ prevails ( triumphs, wins).*

Satan does not.



### Josline's Thoughts:

*We can see in these paragraphs that the prophet has been persecuted by his enemies. From the footnotes of these quotes we can deduct that no matter what the adversary was trying to do to stop the work of God to that point, he was not succeeding. Joseph Smith was confident that God would preserve him. He expressed his gratitude to the prayers of the saints on his behalf. In Jeremiah 1*

**19** And they shall <sup>a</sup>fight against thee; but they shall not <sup>b</sup>prevail against thee; for I *am* with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.

### 1Nephi 22

**16** For the time soon cometh that the fulness of the <sup>a</sup>wrath of God shall be poured out upon all the children of men; for he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous.

**17** Wherefore, he will <sup>a</sup>preserve the <sup>b</sup>righteous by his power, even if it so be that the fulness of his wrath must come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, they shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire.

**19** For behold, the righteous shall not perish; for the time surely must come that all they who fight against Zion shall be cut off.

*Satan was after Joseph Smith in full force, because he knew about his mission from the beginning. He used or took possession of wicked men who were Joseph associates to accomplish his purposes. They were in that state because of their betrayal and arrogance. The prophet knew those who persecuted him will sure receive their condemnation in their appointed time. With their narrowness of mind, they don't seek to know God to obtain knowledge and wisdom. Instead they proceed to attack and persecute the Lord's messenger. God often let people continue in their wickedness until the cup of His indignation is full and they will feel His wrath if they don't repent.*

D&C 127:

2 And as for the <sup>a</sup>perils which I am called to pass through, they seem but a small thing to me, as the <sup>b</sup>envy and wrath of man have been my common lot all the days of my life; and for what cause it seems mysterious, unless I was <sup>c</sup>ordained from before the foundation of the world for some good end, or bad, as you may choose to call it. Judge ye for yourselves. God <sup>d</sup>knoweth all these things, whether it be good or bad. But nevertheless, deep water is what I am wont to swim in. It all has become a second nature to me; and I feel, like Paul, to glory in <sup>e</sup>tribulation; for to this day has the God of my fathers delivered me out of them all, and will deliver me from henceforth; for behold, and lo, I shall triumph over all my enemies, for the Lord God hath spoken it.

*Persecutions of prophets are to the condemnation of the wicked. As the saints who supported JS in his moment of trial, we too must stand with our prophet. We may be weaker than the wicked, but when we stand with our Lord Jesus Christ united with our fellow saints, we are stronger than them. We must stand to defend our faiths in our days, pray for our leaders to be strengthened and to receive revelation for our time; As we strive to do all that God has asked us to do then He will keep His promised blessings.*

**D&C 124: 49-51**

49 Verily, verily, I say unto you, that when I give a commandment to any of the sons of men to do a work unto my name, and those sons of men go with all their might and with all they have to perform that work, and cease not their <sup>a</sup>diligence, and their enemies come upon them and <sup>b</sup>hinder them from performing that work, behold, it behooveth me to <sup>c</sup>require that work no more at the hands of those sons of men, but to accept of their offerings.

50 And the iniquity and transgression of my holy laws and commandments I will <sup>a</sup>visit upon the heads of those who hindered my work, unto the third and fourth <sup>b</sup>generation, so long as they repent not, and hate me, saith the Lord God.

51 Therefore, for this cause have I accepted the offerings of those whom I commanded to build up a city and a <sup>a</sup>house unto my name, in Jackson county, Missouri, and were hindered by their enemies, saith the Lord your God.

52 And I will answer <sup>a</sup>judgment, wrath, and indignation, wailing, and anguish, and gnashing of teeth upon their heads, unto the third and fourth generation, so long as they repent not, and hate me, saith the Lord your God.

## **Micah's Thoughts:**

### **Joseph Smith's Patriarchal Blessings:**

#### **Blessing given by Joseph Smith Sr. (December 9, 1834)**

“As my blessings are to extend to the utmost bounds of the everlasting hills; as my father’s blessing prevailed above the blessings of his progen[i]tors, and as my branches are to run over the wall, and my seed are to inherit the choice land whereon the Zion of God shall stand in the last days, from among my seed, scattered with the Gentiles, shall a choice Seer arise whose bowels shall be as a fountain of truth, whose loins shall be girded with the girdle of righteousness, whose hands shall be lifted with acceptance before the God of Jacob to turn away his anger from his annointed, whose heart shall meditate great wisdom, whose intelligence shall circumscribe and comprehend the deep things of God, and whose mouth shall utter the law of the just: His feet shall stand upon the neck of his enemies, and he shall walk upon the ashes of those who seek his destruction: with wine and oil it shall he be sustained, and he shall feed upon the heritage of Jacob his father: the just shall desire his society, and the upright in heart shall be his companions: No weapon formed against him shall prosper, and though the wicked mar him for a little season, he shall be like one rising up in the heat of wine—he shall roar in his strength, and the Lord shall put to flight his persecutors: he shall be blessed like the fruitful olive, and his memory shall be as sweet as the choice cluster of the first ripe grapes. Like a shief [sheaf] fully ripe, gathered into the garner, so shall he stand before the Lord, having produced a hundred fold.”

Taking the manual and replacing every reference to Old Israel (history lesson) with Joseph Smith specifically will make it read as follows:

#### **(17-6) Isaiah 49:4–12. Did the Lord Forget [Joseph Smith], His Chosen [Prophet]?**

The Restoration was a long time in coming. During the years of [restoration, Joseph Smith] undoubtedly felt lonely and forsaken by the Lord. Isaiah 49:4–12 shows that loneliness. Verse 4 describes the attitude of [Joseph Smith] somewhat discouraged, yet not completely so: “I have spent my strength ... in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the Lord” (Isaiah 49:4).

Nephi spoke of the [Latter-Day Saints] in their cast-off condition as being “a hiss and a byword and ... hated among all nations” (1 Nephi 19:14). Isaiah 49:7 describes that condition: men despise and abhor the Lord’s covenant people. But [the church] still has hope: “Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I [Joseph Smith] be glorious in the eyes of the Lord” (v. 5). [Joseph Smith] will yet be raised and restored and stand as “a light to the Gentiles” and as a beacon of “salvation unto the end of the earth” (v. 6). “In an acceptable time” God will hear [the righteous remnant in the church,] their cry and “give thee [“my servant,” in 1 Nephi 21:8] for a covenant of the people” (Isaiah 49:8). That began with the call of Joseph Smith, [but will not see its completeness until after Joseph Smith returns].”

At which point in time Joseph Smith will no longer be discouraged, and all that was promised to him will be fulfilled.

## **Most Injury Comes from Little Evils p.258-259**

The servants of the Lord are required to guard against those things that are calculated to do the most evil. The little foxes spoil the vines—little evils do the most injury to the Church. If you have evil feelings, and speak of them to one another, it has a tendency to do mischief. These things result in those evils which are calculated to cut the throats of the heads of the Church.

When I do the best I can—when I am accomplishing the greatest good, then the most evils and wicked surmising are got up against me. I would to God that you would be wise. I now counsel you, that if you know anything calculated to disturb the peace or injure the feelings of your brother or sister, hold your tongues and the least harm will be done.

The Female Relief Society have taken a most active part in my welfare against my enemies, in petitioning to the governor in my behalf. These measures were all necessary. Do you not see that I foresaw what was coming, beforehand, by the spirit of prophecy? All these movements had an influence in my redemption from the hand of my enemies. If these measures had not been taken, more serious consequences would have resulted. I have come here to bless you. The Society have done well: their principles are to practice holiness. God loves you, and your prayers in my behalf shall avail much: let them not cease to ascend to God continually in my behalf.

### **Tiffany's Thoughts:**

**So looking at our church as a whole today and maybe you're own ward or branch. What would you consider the smallest evils to mean? What are they? How are they causing great harm? Of course social media immediately comes to mind. Instead of voice gossip and rumor (although this still happens, just slower), the greatest damage is done with one comment in lightening speed and cannot be taken back. We promise to not speak evil against the Lords anointed. How much harm can even one small negative comment or voiced doubt do? We have a world wide reach now. I think we would be amazed. I know we will be held accountable for those evils.**

**Joseph is speaking here to the relief society. He warns them to be aware if they've heard anything said could hurt the church or leaders to hold their tongue. Something to think about. Does the relief society in your ward actually provide relief from the storms of life or do those that have swirling tongues cause the tornado? What if Pres Nelson asked us to hold our tongues? Can you imagine the firestorm? Matt would have to quit his job to have the time to level back at all the "little evils" that would be posted .**

**But Joseph also praises them and gives his thanks for all they did to help him avoid more severe persecution. Let's be sure and not be the ones putting put evil into action but instead holiness. In his own way Pres Nelson spoke to the sisters regarding the same thing in ....our influence as women for good, needing our strength as never before in the gospel.**

Sisters' Participation in the Gathering of Israel  
By President Russell M. Nelson

I urge you to study the current Relief Society purpose statement.

It describes who you are and who the Lord needs you to be at this *precise* time as you do *your* part to help gather scattered Israel.

My dear sisters, we need *you!* We “need *your* strength, *your* conversion, *your* conviction, *your* ability to lead, *your* wisdom, and *your* voices.”<sup>4</sup> [Russell M. Nelson, “A Plea to My Sisters,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2015, 96; emphasis added.] We simply cannot gather Israel without you.

This is what the RS is supposed to be:

From the church website: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith, the Church's first President, in 1842. He called it “a select Society separate from all the evils of the world, choice, virtuous, and holy”<sup>1</sup>. He also taught that the purpose of the Relief Society was “not only to relieve the poor, but to save souls”<sup>2</sup>.

**If we could just stop and hold our tongues before anything negative is said we may just be able to create Zion a little quicker. Our current prophet needs our sustaining prayers as did Joseph. I challenge you to look at your own life what things could be considered little evils?**

**Make a promise to Heavenly Father to stop hurting the cause but build it up instead.**

**Josline's Thoughts:**

*The Jews, after having rejected the sure foundation which is Christ, they went apostate and the Lord had to set His hands a second time to recover His people. Joseph Smith counseled the leaders in his time to be mindful of little evils that could cause damage or could derail the church. Because one of the missions of the church is to nourish the Lord's vineyard, His righteous branch, until His return*

**Jacob 6:2**

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

**Jacob 5:**

61 Wherefore, go to, and call <sup>a</sup>servants, that we may <sup>b</sup>labor diligently with our might in the vineyard, that we may <sup>c</sup>prepare the way, that I may bring forth again the natural fruit, which natural fruit is good and the most precious above all other fruit.

62 Wherefore, let us go to and labor with our might this last time, for behold the end draweth nigh, and this is for the last time that I shall <sup>a</sup>prune my vineyard.

The Church is often spoken of as the "vineyard of the Lord." It is so referred to in a parable that the Lord gave to the Prophet Joseph Smith

The Lord expects us to live the gospel by participating in the program of the Church. Every part of that program may be likened unto the trees and the tower in the *parable of the vineyard*. Each

tree was planted by commandment of the Lord; the tower was to be erected likewise by the commandment of the Lord, who clearly explained to his servants the purpose of the construction of such a tower.

Likewise, the various parts of our program have been set in the Church by the Lord for a particular purpose, a wise purpose in him, as a means of bringing into his fold the souls of men. 1944—O:123, Mark E Petersen, Watchmen of the Vineyard

*Those who are striving to stir the hearts of the people against the gospel doctrine, or church program are following their own understanding, they want to convey what they want the gospel to be, and want to attract other people to accept their interpretation even if it is against the prophet teachings; They use truths in the gospel and cleverly take the word that suits them to subtly tempt people to rebel. The prophet Joseph knew about those wolves in his time. They were using different tactics to achieve their goals.*

But there are those among us who do not consider that all these parts of the program of the Church are necessary. They feel that they are unimportant, and that therefore they are not in any way bound to comply with them. How much are they like the servants in the vineyard, spoken of in the parable in these words:

And while they were yet laying the foundation thereof, they began to say among themselves, And what need hath my lord of this tower? And consulted for a long time, saying among themselves: What need hath my lord of this tower, seeing this is a time of peace? Might not this money be given to the exchangers? For there is no need of these things 1944—O:123, Mark E Petersen, Watchmen of the Vineyard

*The prophet Joseph Smith carefully planned and organized the administration of the church for the purpose of following the Lords command to nourish His olive tree. The leaders of the church today continue to follow the same planning pattern all the way down to the bishop on how to nourish us as the olive branches including the church welfare system.*

We might paraphrase the words of the parable to express the attitude of some among us by saying:

What need hath my Lord of this Church welfare program, seeing this is a time of prosperity? What need hath my Lord of a plan to remove the aged from the public welfare rolls of the state and the counties, seeing that we pay high taxes, and are invited to accept the government dole without so much as having to work to get it? Or what need hath my Lord of a tithing system when I need my money for other things? 1944—O:123, Mark E Petersen, Watchmen of the Vineyard

## **Jacob 6**

**7** For behold, after ye have been nourished by the good “word of God all the day long, will ye bring forth evil fruit, that ye must be “hewn down and cast into the fire?

**8** Behold, will ye reject these words? Will ye reject the words of the “prophets; and will ye reject all the words which have been spoken concerning Christ, after so many have spoken concerning him; and “deny the good word of Christ, and the power of God, and the “gift of the Holy Ghost,

and quench the Holy Spirit, and make a mock of the great plan of redemption, which hath been laid for you?

Invariably failure follows those organizations, because, as the parable points out: . . . the enemy came by night, and broke down the hedge; and the servants of the nobleman arose and were affrighted, and fled; and the enemy destroyed their works, and broke down the olive-trees  
D&C101:51

### **Micah's Thoughts:**

Someone shared in Discord this quote from Elder Orson Pratt, which I believe goes along with this perfectly so I will just read it:

"As the grand and ultimate object of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. is to take their own children who have made themselves imperfect, and restore them to perfection, and make them one like themselves, let us examine the plan by which this great work is accomplished. First, God has revealed a plan of adoption, by which these imperfect beings may be made members of His own family. Secondly. He has revealed laws for the government of His family; and lastly, He has ordained authorities to teach His laws and minister in all things to make the Saints one. Through faith, repentance, baptism, the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of the Holy Ghost, the imperfect sons and daughters of Adam become the sons and daughters of God: and being born of God, and all baptized with the same spirit into the same body, they begin to feel alike, think alike, and act alike, in many things: this is a first approximation towards a oneness: but being weak, and only having obeyed the first principles of the celestial law, they are tempted by the devil; divisions of feeling arise; each one sees the faults and imperfections of his brothers or sisters; and instead of trying to reclaim them in the spirit of meekness from their faults, he whispers them to others; prejudice arises; their love towards them begins to grow cold; this coldness is felt by others, and begets the same feeling in them. And thus the seeds of division are sown, and begin to sprout, and grow, and, if not checked, they speedily bring forth nauseous and bitter fruit, which, when ripened, contains the poison of death."

"To counteract these divisions strict laws are given, and authorities ordained to strengthen and succour the weak; to root out all evil-speaking; and to check every sinful thing on its first appearance. Those who give diligent heed, will become habituated to keep the law of God, and will understand their duties, and perform them with cheerfulness and delight. Such will become more and more assimilated in their feelings; their love towards each other, and towards God and His word, will grow stronger and stronger; and thus by habit they learn obedience to the law of oneness, until they are ready and willing to do anything which that law requires. While those, on the other hand, who do not give heed, find themselves more and more tempted, and their love growing colder and colder, and the faults and imperfections of their brethren and sisters still more magnified in their eyes; and at last they become destitute of the spirit -- destitute of good desires -- destitute of the meekness and humility of the Gospel; and the devil takes possession of

them, and leads them captive at his own will and pleasure. These do not abide a celestial law, therefore they cannot be made one."

- **Orson Pratt** (The Seer)

### **Persecution the Heritage of the Righteous p.260-261**

From an Editorial in the "Times and Seasons," by the Prophet

Abel was slain for his righteousness, and how many more up to the flood is not of much consequence to us now. But if we believe in present revelation, as published in the "Times and Seasons" last spring, Abraham, the prophet of the Lord, was laid upon the iron bedstead for slaughter; and the book of Jasher, which has not been disproved as a bad author, says he was cast into the fire of the Chaldees. Moses, the man of God, who killed an Egyptian persecutor of the children of Israel, was driven from his country and kindred. Elijah had to flee his country, for they sought his life,—and he was fed by ravens. Daniel was cast into a den of lions: Micaiah was fed on the bread of affliction; and Jeremiah was cast into the filthy hole under the Temple; and did these afflictions come upon these prophets of the Lord on account of transgression? No! It was the iron hand of persecution—like the chains of Missouri! And mark—when these old prophets suffered, the vengeance of God, in due time, followed and left the wicked opposers of the Lord's anointed like Sodom and Gomorrah; like the Egyptians; like Jezebel, who was eaten by dogs; and like all Israel, which were led away captive, till the Lord had spent his fury upon them—even to this day

Let us come into New Testament times—so many are ever praising the Lord and His apostles. We will commence with John the Baptist. When Herod's edict went forth to destroy the young children, John was about six months older than Jesus, and came under this hellish edict, and Zacharias caused his mother to take him into the mountains, where he was raised on locusts and wild honey. When his father refused to disclose his hiding place, and being the officiating high priest at the Temple that year, was slain by Herod's order, between the porch and the altar, as Jesus said. John's head was taken to Herod, the son of this infant murderer, in a charger— notwithstanding there was never a greater prophet born of a woman than him Jesus, the Son of God was crucified with his hands and feet nailed to the wood!

#### **Tiffany's Thoughts:**

**Prophets of God throughout the ages have always been persecuted and or been killed. If you doubt who the true prophet is, just look at the trail of dust the mobs chasing him leave behind. Those mobs then turn on members of Gods church who believe in the prophets' words and defend him. Are we ready as saints to take whatever persecution lies in our future for Jesus?**

**Elder Rasband gave a young adult devotional this month in the SL Tabernacle Jan 9, 2022. <https://www.thechurchnews.com/leaders-and-ministry/2022-01-09/elder-rasband-area-devotional-for-youngadults-follow-the-prophet-watchman-on-the-tower-239108>**

**“Do you feel the strength of the Savior in your life? You cannot be thin skinned in this gospel. You cannot wallow in disbelief anger frustration or pity.”**

**What does it mean to have thick skin? Meaning: impervious to criticism is an idiom. Thick skin like a callous is tough. As kids we learn how to write with a pencil or learned to play a stringed instrument. Where the pencil or guitar stings push and rub, the skin is sore, it hurts. But over time the body creates extra layers of skin and we don't feel pain anymore. In terms of the gospel it means we can't be easily offended, allow insults, criticisms, mocking just roll off. It will not hurt us. So too we will be protected against those who choose not to hold their tongues against us.**

**Elder Rasband counseled young adults to keep their faith in Jesus Christ strong, so they can defend against attacks upon righteous living and the restored gospel. “Wherever you go, there will be those who wish to do the Church harm, who hope to dissuade you from truth, who mock faith and challenge doctrine. Determine right now you will not join them, that you will be ‘steadfast and immovable,”**

2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. There is something called the Theology of Persecution. Much study in even other Christian faiths about this. A Biblical Theology of Persecution and Discipleship  
By Glenn Penner <https://idop.org/web/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/IDOP-2016-BiblicalTheology-of-Persecution.pdf>

**“Persecution** serves to test and strengthen one's faith. There is a mysterious purpose in **persecution** and suffering related to bringing about the Kingdom of God. Scripture tells us that Jesus was "perfected" as the author of salvation and in His obedience through suffering.

There is a clear scriptural link between persecution and discipleship. Indeed, there can be no discipleship without persecution; to follow Christ is to join Him in a cross-carrying journey of reconciling the world to the Father. That this journey is set in the context of conflict, self sacrifice, and suffering is alluded to as early as Genesis 3:15 when the Lord affirms that Satan's judgment, accomplished through human instrumentality, will bring deliverance to the offspring of the woman, but it will take place in a process of bruising and pain. The deliverance will come through the bruising of the serpent's head, but in the process the heel that bruises him will be also be bruised.”

Really great paper. Stats on persecution of Christians throughout the world.

I've come to understand that we will have to become so strong that the fear or threat of persecution, suffering or even death will not phase us. Our past and future is persecution. Most likely from other members of our faith, including friends and family members. Those whom we love so much will betray us.

“You will have days when you will be discouraged. So pray for courage not to give up! Sadly, some whom you thought were your friends will betray you. And some things will simply seem unfair. However, I promise you that as you follow Jesus Christ, you will find sustained peace and true joy. As you keep your covenants with increasing precision, and as you defend the Church and kingdom of God

on the earth today, the Lord will bless you with strength and wisdom to accomplish what only members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can accomplish.” End quote

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/liahona/2020/04/the-future-of-the-church-preparing-the-world-for-the-saviors-second-coming?lang=eng>

### **Josline’s Thoughts:**

*I wanted to know in what circumstances or context the prophet JS wrote these paragraphs, and I found the previous paragraph to this from T&S written by the prophet in Sept 1842:*

There is a strange notion afloat among the saints and sinners relative to the purity of the prophets. Some suppose, and some believe that the prophets were perfect and holy—and every body knew them to be so, and venerated them as the Lord’s anointed; but let us examine the scriptures and learn how the prophets sent at various times by the Lord, were treated by the saints and the wicked world. As to those who professed to have the knowledge of God, and be governed by revelation, we can not give a better sample than one that fell from the mouth of Jesus to the Jews—as follows:— Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers! how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes; and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city; that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the Temple and the altar. TIMES AND SEASONS. CITY OF NAUVOO, THURSDAY, SEPT. 1, 1842.

*Then JS went on to list all the prophets the world has persecuted from the Old to New Testaments, and the BoM to prove his point. This ignorance in understanding what a prophet should be, is on display today, with scholars (Doctors) of the scriptures. Our prophet and apostles are being slandered by those within the church who think their education gives them a higher credential to understand the scriptures better than a prophet of God. That the Lord no longer speaks to His prophet and His apostles because their counsels do not fit the narration of the world. They’ve accused our prophet of being a fallen one; they fit exactly the name that Jesus called the Pharisees and the Sadducees.*

*As JS pointed out people in every dispensation have that same view of prophets. That he must be perfect, and no sin should be found in them. But it doesn’t matter what the prophets do they will never be satisfied, because that’s the nature of those professors who live comfortably in Babylon.*

*The prophet JS listed the fate of all the other apostles in the New Testament only two, Matthew and John the revelator escaped without being murdered. He also talked about the fact that was not to stop with the apostles:*

And now, let us appeal to the sober sense of the Latter Day Saints, and enquire what right they have to expect from this generation any better treatment, and veneration for the religion of Jesus

Christ, than our brethren of old? Read what the apostle John says in his revelations on the Isle of Patmos:—And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held; and they cried with a loud voice, saying, how long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

*To avoid persecution in our time we would have to accept the way of Babylon. If we're seeking the praise, the comfortable life Babylon has to offer and siding with it, demanding that the church changes to accommodate the world, than we are rejecting the life of righteous saints. We are told to be in the world but not of it. The members of the church who are living the gospel are placed here to call to repentance those who are still in the world, to warn them of their wicked ways. If they refuse to hear the gospel they will not remain our friends; they will start to persecute anyone who dare to tell them the truth, because the truth is always hard to take by those who are comfortable leaving in sins. The gospel of Jesus Christ always creates division among people, and from division comes criticism, then persecution. We should do our part to teach those in our circle of life as it is a commandment of God. We must do that with perfect obedience to God or their sins will fall upon our heads. God will preserve His servants until their missions are completed, we should not be afraid what men can do but Him who can thrust us down to hell.*

It is a sh[a]me to the saints to talk of chastisements, and transgressions, when all the Saints before them, prophets and apostles, have had to come up through great tribulation; whether a Herod, a Nero, or a [Lilburn W.] Boggs, causes the affliction, or the blood to be shed, is all the same,—these murderers will have their reward! and the saints theirs. How many have had to wander in sheep skins and goat skins, and live in caves and dens of the mountains, because the world was unworthy of their society! And was transgression, or chastisement connected with the[i]r seclusion from the enjoyment of society? No!

let no saint suppose that righteousness will reign, or peace be on earth, and good will to men, and glory to God in the highest, to make the wilderness blossom as the rose, till the wicked cease to bear rule, and till they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**23** And they were <sup>a</sup>preachers of <sup>b</sup>righteousness, and spake and <sup>c</sup>prophesied, and called upon all men, everywhere, to repent; and <sup>d</sup>faith was <sup>e</sup>taught unto the children of men.

**32** And the Lord said unto Enoch: Go forth and do as I have commanded thee, and no man shall pierce thee. Open thy <sup>a</sup>mouth, and it shall be filled, and I will give thee utterance, for all flesh is in my hands, and I will do as seemeth me good. (Moses 6:23,32)

**D&C 1:14** And the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people;

Luke 3:9 As the axe cuts down and destroys the fruitless trees that cumber the ground, so do wicked acts destroy and overthrow all who persist in them.

### **Micah's Thoughts:**

#### **D&C 133:71. Why Are the Prophets Rejected?**

President Spencer W. Kimball commented:

“Various excuses have been used over the centuries to dismiss these divine messengers. There has been denial because the prophet came from an obscure place. ‘Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?’ (John 1:46.) Jesus was also met with the question, ‘Is not this the carpenter’s son?’ (Matt. 13:55.) By one means or another, the swiftest method of rejection of the holy prophets has been to find a pretext, however false or absurd, to dismiss the man so that his message could also be dismissed. Prophets who were not glib, but slow of speech, were esteemed as naught. . . .

“We wonder how often hearers first rejected the prophets because they despised them, and finally despised the prophets even more because they had rejected them. Even so, why else is the record of rejection so complete? The cares of the world are so many and so entangling, even very good people are diverted from following the truth because they care too much for the things of the world. . . .

“Sometimes people let their hearts get so set upon things and the honors of this world that they cannot learn the lessons they most need to learn. Simple truths are often rejected in favor of the much less-demanding philosophies of men, and this is another cause for the rejection of the prophets.

“But while there are various excuses for rejection, there’s a certain cause for this sad record. It must not be passed over: the cares of the world, the honors of the world, and looking beyond the mark are all determined by a persuasive few who presume to speak for all. . . .

“The holy prophets have not only refused to follow erroneous human trends, but have pointed out these errors. No wonder the response to the prophets has not always been one of indifference. So often the prophets have been rejected because they first rejected the wrong ways of their own society.

“These excuses for rejection of the prophets are poor excuses. The trouble with using obscurity as a test of validity is that God has so often chosen to bring forth his work out of obscurity. He has even said it would be so. (See D&C 1:30.) Christianity did not go from Rome to Galilee; it was the other way around. In our day the routing is from Palmyra to Paris, not the reverse. Just because something is in our midst does not mean that we have been in the midst of it. We can daily drive by a museum or an art gallery but know nothing of what is inside.

“The trouble with rejection because of personal familiarity with the prophets is that the prophets are always somebody’s son or somebody’s neighbor. They are chosen from among the people, not transported from another planet, dramatic as that would be! . . .

“Of course, rejection of the holy prophets comes because the hearts of people are hardened, as people are shaped by their society. Yet even when the hardening is swift, it can also be subtle.

Who, for instance, a scant twenty years ago would have foreseen the massive use of abortion in society today, like all the diseased doctrines of the devil. The practice is pleasing unto the carnal mind.

“Prophets have a way of jarring the carnal mind. Too often the holy prophets are wrongly perceived as harsh and as anxious to make a record in order to say, ‘I told you so.’ Those prophets I have known are the most loving of men. *It is because of their love and integrity* that they cannot modify the Lord’s message merely to make people feel comfortable. They are too kind to be so cruel. I am so grateful that prophets do not crave popularity.” (In Conference Report, Apr. 1978, pp. 115–16; or Ensign, May 1978, pp. 76–77.)

### **Eternal Judgment p.365-366**

My enemies say that I have been a true prophet. Why, I had rather be a fallen true prophet than a false prophet. When a man goes about prophesying, and commands men to obey his teachings, he must either be a true or false prophet. False prophets always arise to oppose the true prophets and they will prophesy so very near the truth that they will deceive almost the very chosen ones.

The doctrine of eternal judgments belongs to the first principles of the Gospel, in the last days. In relation to the kingdom of God, the devil always sets up his kingdom at the very same time in opposition to God. Every man who has a calling to minister to the inhabitants of the world was ordained to that very purpose in the Grand Council of heaven before this world was. I suppose I was ordained to this very office in that Grand Council. It is the testimony that I want that I am God’s servant, and this people His people. The ancient prophets declared that in the last days the God of heaven should set up a kingdom which should never be destroyed, nor left to other people; and the very time that was calculated on, this people were struggling to bring it out. He that arms himself with gun, sword, or pistol, except in the defense of truth, will sometime be sorry for it. I never carry any weapon with me bigger than my penknife. When I was dragged before the cannon and muskets in Missouri, I was unarmed. God will always protect me until my mission is fulfilled.

I calculate to be one of the instruments of setting up the kingdom of Daniel by the word of the Lord, and I intend to lay a foundation that will revolutionize the whole world. I once offered my life to the Missouri mob as a sacrifice for my people, and here I am. It will not be by sword or gun that this kingdom will roll on: the power of truth is such that all nations will be under the necessity of obeying the Gospel. The prediction is that army will be against army: it may be that the Saints will have to beat their ploughs into swords, for it will not do for men to sit down patiently and see their children destroyed.

### **Tiffany’s Thoughts:**

**I want to focus on true prophets vs false prophets. How will we know which is which?**

**Joseph Smith himself said “They will prophesy so very near the truth that they will deceive (almost) the very chosen ones.”**

**Beware of False Prophets and False Teachers**

**Elder M. Russell Ballard**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, 1999 Semi- Annual Gen Conf.

Jesus cautioned several times that prior to His Second Coming, “many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many” [Matt. 24:11](#) As Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is our duty to be watchmen on the tower, warning Church members to beware of false prophets and false teachers who lie in wait to ensnare and destroy faith and testimony. Today we warn you that there are false prophets and false teachers arising; and if we are not careful, even those who are among the faithful members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will fall victim to their deception.

When we think of false prophets and false teachers, we tend to think of those who espouse an obviously false doctrine or presume to have authority to teach the true gospel of Christ according to their own interpretation. We often assume that such individuals are associated with small radical groups on the fringes of society. However, I reiterate: there are false prophets and false teachers who have or at least claim to have membership in the Church. There are those who, without authority, claim Church endorsement to their products and practices. Beware of such.

President Spencer W. Kimball reminded us that the prophets “constantly cry out against that which is intolerable in the sight of the Lord; against pollution of mind, body, and our surroundings; against vulgarity, stealing, lying, pride, and blasphemy; against fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and all other abuses of the sacred power to create; against murder and all that is like unto it; against all manner of desecration.” He continued: “That such things should be found even among the Saints to some degree is scarcely believable. . . . Sadly, however, we find that to be shown the way is not necessarily to walk in it” (“The False Gods We Worship,” *Ensign*, June 1976, 4).

As members of the Church, each of us needs to model what it truly means to be a believing and **behaving** Latter-day Saint. Our example will have a powerful effect on others, making the restored gospel become much more relevant, meaningful, convincing, and desirable to them. Let us, each one, radiate to others the joy, confidence, love, and warmth of being part of the true Church of Christ. Our discipleship is not something to be endured with long face and heavy heart. Nor is it something to be jealously clutched to our bosoms and not shared with others. As we come to understand the love of the Father and the Son for us, our spirits will soar, and we will “come to Zion, singing with songs of everlasting joy” [D&C 45:71](#)

Our safety, our peace, lies in working as hard as we can to live as the Father and Son would have us live, in fleeing from false prophets and false teachers, and in being anxiously engaged in good causes.

Our prophet Pres Nelson has been prepared for the Lords purpose. I repeat a line from above Joseph Smith “Every man who has a calling to minister to the inhabitants of the world was ordained to that very purpose in the Grand Council of heaven before this world was. I suppose I was ordained to this very office in that Grand Council.”

**I truly believe the answer to gaining this strength to hold out against what is to come is to follow the guidance of our sweet Prophet.**

**“Choose to follow God’s living Prophet. He is our watchman on the tower,” said Elder Rasband “Let me say that again,” he repeated. “Choose to follow God’s living Prophet and you will never be distanced from the Lord Jesus Christ.” “I ask you today to align your desires efforts, activities and personal prayers with the direction given by President Nelson, the prophet of God on the earth today.”**

Final thoughts:

Pray to receive a testimony of our current prophet and Joseph Smith. Beware of false prophets Look at your own life and see what little evils you are participating in, repent and do good. It’s easier said than done, but we need not fear persecution, the Lord will protect us until our missions on earth are fulfilled as well. Do whatever you can to be prepared for the current and future persecution of Christians especially member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

### **Josline’s Thoughts:**

*Joseph Smith said “false prophet always arises to oppose the true prophet” that give us a clue of what will happen in the last days. The counterfeiter will prophesy as well. He will add his own twist to what we know to be true. But if we follow our prophet and the guidance we’ve been given we won’t be deceived. Joseph Smith was an instrument in the Lord’s hands to establish His kingdom in the last days. As we can see in the History of the church, Satan was using his minions trying to hinder the Lord’s work from the beginning.*

**Dan 2: 44** And in the <sup>a</sup>days of these <sup>b</sup>kings shall the God of heaven <sup>c</sup>set up a <sup>d</sup>kingdom, which shall never be <sup>e</sup>destroyed: and the <sup>f</sup>kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall <sup>g</sup>break in pieces and <sup>h</sup>consume all these <sup>i</sup>kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

**D&C 103: 7** And by <sup>a</sup>hearkening to observe all the words which I, the Lord their God, shall speak unto them, they shall never cease to prevail until the <sup>b</sup>kingdoms of the world are subdued under my feet, and the earth is <sup>c</sup>given unto the saints, to <sup>d</sup>possess it forever and ever.

**Dan 7: 27** And the <sup>a</sup>kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be <sup>b</sup>given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom *is* an <sup>c</sup>everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

**D&C 136: 41** Now, therefore, hearken, O ye people of my <sup>a</sup>church; and ye elders listen together; you have received my <sup>b</sup>kingdom.

**42** Be <sup>a</sup>diligent in keeping all my commandments, lest judgments come upon you, and your faith fail you, and your enemies triumph over you. So no more at present. Amen and Amen.

*We must be wary of whom we follow or listen to as the adversary know how to lure us to his corner one chip at a time. He uses his followers to persuade God’s children with their cunning deceit. We must be wise to recognize the details of their trickery, as they may seem harmless. The only way to gain victory is to be faithful to the doctrine of the church, be obedient to do what the scriptures say; pray that God can enlighten our mind to detect the craftiness of men.*

*It is up to us now to continue to have strong faith in keeping all the Lord's commandments and covenants we have made in the temple. Each one of us has the responsibility to gain our own testimony of the gospel and live it, seek the help of the Spirit to confirm the truths and reject all errors.*

“It is not my business nor that of any other individual to rise up as a revelator, as a prophet, as a seer, as an inspired man, to give revelation for the guidance of the Church, or to assume to dictate to the presiding authorities of the Church. . . . 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...

...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 impostor.” (Joseph F Smith, In Journal of Discourses, 24:188–90.)

*JS worked to lay the foundation of the kingdom of God on this earth. Anything aside of that belongs to the devil. Those two forces will be at war in the last days. We either belong to the church of God or the church of the devil, there won't be anything in between. The power that will be used to fight evil is the power of the priesthood of God through our faithfulness. All those who have received that priesthood need to honor that, walk straight before God and live in harmony with gospel doctrine.*

*The prophet said that the kingdom of God will be establish and so will be the kingdom of the devil in opposition*

*There are many who are willing to fulfill the position of false prophets or to lay the foundation for the last false prophet. They are enticing the hearts of people with puzzling words to pull them away from true doctrine. The scriptures address such false teachers or prophets*

**D&C 10: 56** But it is they who do not <sup>a</sup>fear me, neither keep my commandments but build up <sup>b</sup>churches unto themselves to get <sup>c</sup>gain, yea, and all those that do wickedly and build up the kingdom of the devil—yea, verily, verily, I say unto you, that it is they that I will disturb, and cause to tremble and shake to the center.

**4 Nephi:1:26** And they began to be divided into classes; and they began to build up <sup>a</sup>churches unto themselves to get <sup>b</sup>gain, and began to deny the true church of Christ.

**1 Nephi 22: 23** For the time speedily shall come that all <sup>a</sup>churches which are built up to get gain, and all those who are built up to get power over the flesh, and those who are built up to become <sup>b</sup>popular in the eyes of the world, and those who seek the lusts of the flesh and the things of the world, and to do all manner of iniquity; yea, in fine, all those who belong to the kingdom of the <sup>c</sup>devil are they who need fear, and tremble, and <sup>d</sup>quake; they are those who must be

brought low in the dust; they are those who must be ‘consumed as stubble; and this is according to the words of the prophet.

**2 Nephi 26:29** He commandeth that there shall be no priestcrafts; for, behold, priestcrafts are that men preach and set themselves up for a light unto the world, that they may get gain and praise of the world; but they seek not the welfare of Zion.

*The kingdom of God will not be built with sword but by faith. We must look into our heart to see where we have needs to repent and do all things that are in line with the words of God. We have been warned and forewarned by many prophets what it would look like in the last days. We should not be ignorant as to what God has instructed us to do. Nothing easy will get us to the kingdom of God we must work for it. Danger lies ahead if we continue to be careless thinking that all is well by doing nothing, refuse to repent and expect others to accept us in our sinful lives. The atonement of Christ was to give us the ability to repent and be forgiven. Let’s unify our hearts to that of the true followers of Christ behind our prophet today and do all that is commanded of us and help others to do the same.*

### **Micah’s Thoughts**

I want to end today with quotes often used on this channel, but quotes that I believe that I need to once again, bear my solemn testimony of, and for which we all need to remind ourselves of. I will make these quotes, these words, and the final commitment mine and I raise my warning voice once more to this generation:

### **Joseph Smith Jr.**

The Savior said when these tribulations should take place, it should be committed to a man who should be a witness over the whole world: the keys of knowledge, power and revelations should be revealed to a witness who should hold the testimony to the world. It has always been my province to dig up hidden mysteries--new things--for my hearers. Just at the time when some men think that I have no right to the keys of the Priesthood--just at that time ***I have the greater right.*** The Germans are an exalted people. The old German translators are the most nearly correct--most honest of any of the translators; and therefore I get testimony to bear me out in the revelations that I have preached for the last fourteen years. The old German, Latin, Greek and Hebrew translations all say it is true: they cannot be impeached, and therefore I am in good company.

All the testimony is that the Lord in the last days would commit the keys of the Priesthood to a witness over all people.

Has the Gospel of the kingdom commenced in the last days? And will God take it from the man until He takes him Himself? I have read it precisely as the words flowed from the lips of Jesus Christ. John the Revelator saw an angel flying through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth.

The scripture is ready to be fulfilled when great wars, famines, pestilence, great distress, judgments, &c., are ready to be poured out on the inhabitants of the earth. John saw the angel having the holy Priesthood, who should preach the everlasting Gospel to all nations. God had an angel--a special messenger--ordained and prepared for that purpose in the last days. Woe, woe be to that man or set of men who lift up their hands against God and His witness in these last days: for they shall deceive almost the very chosen ones! (*TPJS Section Six 1843-44, p.364-365*)

“The standard of truth has been erected; No unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing; persecutions may rage, mobs may combine, armies may assemble, calumny may defame, but the truth of God will go forth boldly, nobly, and independent, till it has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country, and sounded in every ear, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the great Jehovah shall say the work is done.” (*History of the Church, 4:540.*)

### **Elder Heber C. Kimball**

[For] the time is coming when we will be mixed up in these now peaceful valleys to that extent that it will be difficult to tell the face of a Saint from the face of an enemy to the people of God. Then, brethren, look out for the great sieve, for there will be a great sifting time, and many will fall; for I say unto you there is a test, a Test, a TEST coming, and who will be able to stand? This church has before it many close places through which it must pass before the work of God is crowned with victory. To meet the difficulties that are coming it will be necessary for you to have knowledge of the truth of this work for yourselves. The difficulties will be of such character that the man or woman who does not possess this personal knowledge or witness will fall. If you have not got the testimony, live right and call upon the Lord and cease not ‘till you obtain it. If you do not, you will not stand... 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.” (*May 1868, in Deseret News, 23 May 1931; see also Conference Report, Oct. 1930, p. 58-59; Orson F. Whitney, Life of Heber C. Kimball, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1945, p. 446, Smith, Robert W. and Elisabeth A., Scriptural and Secular Prophecies Pertaining to The Last Days, Ninth Edition, Pyramid Press, SLC, UT, 1947, pp. 134-138; Deseret News, May 23, 1931; W. Cleon Skousen, Prophecy and Modern Times, pp. 31-33, An Army of Elders, May 1868, Heber C. Kimball Reported by his son J. Golden Kimball, CR October 1930, p. 58. See also Prophetic Sayings of Heber C. Kimball to Sister Amanda H. Wilcox*)