

1. Righteousness to Sweep the Earth (p.83)

But to proceed. In the letter alluded to, the principles of repentance and baptism for the remission of sins were not only set forth, but many passages of scripture were quoted, clearly elucidating the subject; let me add, I do positively rely upon the truth of those principles inculcated in the New Testament, and then pass on from the above-named items, to the item or subject of the gathering, and show my views upon this point. It is a principle I esteem to be of the greatest importance to those who are looking for salvation in this generation, or in these, that may be called, "the latter times." All that the prophets that have written, from the days of righteous Abel, down to the last man that has left any testimony on record for our consideration, in speaking of the salvation of Israel in the last days, goes directly to show that it consists in the work of the gathering.

First, I shall begin by quoting from the prophecy of Enoch, speaking of the last days: "Righteousness will I send down out of heaven, and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten, His resurrection from the dead (this resurrection I understand to be the corporeal body); yea, and also the resurrection of all men; righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare, a Holy City, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming, for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion a New Jerusalem."
(Moses 7:62, 1902 edition.)

When introducing this topic, Joseph Smith quotes Moses 7:62. So to understand the context better, I decided to read the preceding verses to see what information I could glean.

Moses 7:60-62

60 And the Lord said unto Enoch: As I live, even so will I come in the alast days, in the days of wickedness and vengeance, to fulfil the boath which I have made unto you concerning the children of Noah;

61 And the day shall come that the earth shall rest, but before that day the heavens shall be darkened, and a veil of darkness shall cover the earth; and the heavens shall shake, and also the earth; and great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve;

62 And righteousness will I send down out of heaven; and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men; and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare, an Holy City, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem.

The Lord made an oath with Enoch that in the last days, when a veil of darkness covers the earth, He will send down righteousness to preserve his people during the great tribulations.

We have a few other scriptures that talk about this darkness, so I wanted to follow some of them and see if I could figure out how the Lord will be sending His righteousness.

D&C 112:23 Verily, verily, I say unto you, a darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt before my face.

24 Behold, avengeance 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.

2 Corinthians 3:14-16

14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil unbroken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ.

15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their hearts.

16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

“It” = their hearts

So to have this righteousness sent out of heaven, to preserve God’s people, the veil of darkness and unbelief must be taken away from our hearts. And to do that, we have to turn our hearts to the Lord. I think the way to do that is explained in the further sections.

- To understand this section of the teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, we went to the letter referenced in the first line called out as **letter alluded to**. In the **Messenger and Advocate Volume 1, Number 12 September 1835** we find the letter. The letter is addressed to Oliver Cowdery and the elders of the church of Latter Day Saints.

I feel it my duty to drop a few hints, that, perhaps, the elders, traveling through the world to warn the inhabitants of the earth to feel the wrath to come, and save themselves from this untoward generation, may be aided in a measure, in doctrine, and in the way of their duty.

- This letter’s purpose is to have the elders traveling (missionaries) to warn the inhabitants of the earth of the wrath to come and save themselves from the untoward generation. What is an untoward generation? The Merriam-Webster definition is difficult to abide, manage, or work with, unruly. So the purpose of the elders spreading the doctrine referenced was to save those who would listen to the doctrine.
- The next section of the letter describes the journey of the Prophet and others to Jackson county Missouri and trying to find Zion.

after viewing the country, seeking diligently at the hand of God, he manifested himself unto me, and designated to me and others, the very spot upon which he designed to commence

the work of the gathering, and the upbuilding of an holy city, which should be called Zion:- Zion because it is to be a place of righteousness, and all who build thereon, are to worship the true and living God-and all believe in one doctrine even the doctrine of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion."-Isaiah 52:8.

But to return to my subject: after having ascertained the very spot, and having the happiness of seeing quite a number of the families of my brethren, comfortably situated upon the land, I took leave of them, and journeyed back to Ohio, and used every influence and argument, that lay in my power, to get those who believe in the everlasting covenant, whose circumstances would admit, and whose families were willing to remove to the place which I now designated to be the land of Zion

- Note that in this letter he sets up the standard for returning to Zion. 1) Believe in the everlasting covenant 2) Whose circumstances would admit 3) Families willing to move to Zion. The other sections for this fireside proved a lot of the answers to number 2 and 3 mentioned.
- What is the everlasting covenant?

Doctrine and Covenants 66:2

Verily I say unto you, blessed are you for receiving mine everlasting covenant, even the fulness of my gospel, sent forth unto the children of men, that they might have life and be made partakers of the glories which are to be revealed in the last days, as it was written by the prophets and apostles in days of old.

Doctrine and Covenants 131:2

And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage];

Doctrine and Covenants 132:4

For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory.

Doctrine and Covenants 84:33-40

33 For whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods of which I have spoken, and the magnifying their calling, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies.

34 They become the sons of Moses and of Aaron and the seed of Abraham, and the church and kingdom, and the elect of God.

35 And also all they who receive this priesthood receive me, saith the Lord;

36 For he that receiveth my servants receiveth me;

37 And he that receiveth me receiveth my Father;

38 And he that receiveth my Father receiveth my Father's kingdom; therefore all that my Father hath shall be given unto him.

39 And this is according to the oath and covenant which belongeth to the priesthood.

40 Therefore, all those who receive the priesthood, receive this oath and covenant of my Father, which he cannot break, neither can it be moved.

- Why are circumstances to admit and willingness to move to Zion important?

And now to show our doctrine on this subject, we shall commence with the first principles of the gospel, which are repentance, and baptism for the remission of sins, and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands. This we believe to be our duty, to teach to all mankind the doctrine of repentance, which we shall endeavor to show from the following quotations:

Luke 24:45,46,47

Rev. 22:17.

Acts 2:38, 39

Matt. 11:28, 29, 30

Acts 8:12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17,-36, to the end

Isaiah 45:22, 23, 24

Acts 16:13, 14, 15.-25, to 35

Acts 5:31,32

Acts 19:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Acts 22:12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Heb. 6:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Heb. 5:12, 13, 14

- We encourage that those who hear this fireside (or read the paper) to study the scriptures that the Prophet Joseph Smith included in the letter that are listed above. The fullness of the gospel cannot be understood without faith, repentance, baptism by immersion, and laying on for hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Article of Faith 1)

These quotations are so plain, in proving the doctrine of repentance and baptism for the remission of sins, I deem it unnecessary to enlarge this letter with comments upon them-but I shall continue the subject in my next.

- Now that we have the context of the section we are discussing, let us go back to the Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith. He referenced all of the scriptures in the New Testament that were in the previous letter regarding repentance, remission of sins, baptism, and gift of the Holy Ghost by laying on of hands. Then we are directed to why the gathering is so important to us as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

... the gatheringIt is a principle I esteem to be of the greatest importance to those who are looking for salvation in this generation, or in these, that may be called, "the latter times."

- We were previously called the untoward generation. So how does the generation know as unruly, difficult to manage or guide look for salvation? I think we can also look towards ourselves and ask the Lord to remove and debris that is making us personally untoward.
- In 1835, the Church had been organized for nearly 5 years, the location of Zion was known, and in the previous letter Prophet Joseph Smith had set the standard for those to gather to Zion.

All that the prophets that have written, from the days of righteous Abel, down to the last man that has left any testimony on record for our consideration, in speaking of the salvation of Israel in the last days, goes directly to show that it consists in the work of the gathering.

What is the salvation of Israel and why is a gathering mentioned as part of the righteous?

The Prophet Joseph Smith references Moses 7: 62

“And righteousness will I send down out of heaven; and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; … and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare”

Moses 7:62. “Righteousness Will I Send Down out of Heaven; and Truth Will I Send Forth out of the Earth”

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) explained that the Lord promised “that righteousness would come from heaven and truth out of the earth. We have seen the marvelous fulfillment of that prophecy in our generation. The Book of Mormon has come forth out of the earth, filled with truth, serving as the very ‘keystone of our religion’ (see introduction to the Book of Mormon). God has also sent down righteousness from heaven. The Father Himself appeared with His Son to the Prophet Joseph Smith. The angel Moroni, John the Baptist, Peter, James, and numerous other angels were directed by heaven to restore the necessary powers to the kingdom. Further, the Prophet Joseph Smith received revelation after revelation from the heavens during those first critical years of the Church’s growth. These revelations have been preserved for us in the Doctrine and Covenants” (“The Gift of Modern Revelation,” Ensign, Nov. 1986, 79–80).

- The Lord has told us how we can be preserved in these last days through the new and everlasting covenant. You must ask yourself, what are you going to do as righteousness is sweeping the earth and gathering the elect? Will you be found worthy to work with angels?

“And now, I ask, how righteousness and truth are going to sweep the earth as with a flood? I will answer. Men and angels are to be co-workers in bringing to pass this great work, and Zion is to be prepared, even a new Jerusalem, for the elect that are to be gathered from the four quarters of the earth, and to be established an holy city” (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith)

The reason why the gathering of Israel is the thing of greatest importance for those seeking salvation in this generation is: "We will attain our exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom only on the condition that we share with our Father's other children the blessings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and observe the commandments that will enrich our lives here and hereafter" (George Albert Smith, Sharing the Gospel with Others, 190 or Preach My Gospel p.12).

The gathering of Israel consists of sharing the gospel with the living and the dead, having children and raising them in the gospel. Faith without works is dead and temple worship without missionary work is dead.

2. The Elect Must Be Gathered (p.84-85)

Now Enoch was in good company in his views upon this subject: "And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God" 21:3.

I discover by this quotation, that John upon the isle of Patmos, saw the same things concerning the last days, which Enoch saw. But before the tabernacle can be with men, the elect must be gathered from the four quarters of the earth. And to show further upon this subject of the gathering, Moses, after having pronounced the blessing and cursing upon the children of Israel, for their obedience or disobedience, says thus:

"And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind, among all the nations whither the Lord thy God hath driven thee, and shalt return unto the Lord thy God, and shalt obey His voice, according to all that I command thee, this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee. If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from thence will He fetch thee (Deut. 30:1-4).

"But before the tabernacle can be with men, the elect must be gathered from the four quarters of the earth."

"Anytime you do anything that helps anyone—on either side of the veil—take a step toward making covenants with God and receiving their essential baptismal and temple ordinances, you are helping to gather Israel. It is as simple as that." President Nelson

President Nelson said gathering Israel is "...the greatest challenge, the greatest cause, and the greatest work on earth."

Joseph Smith quotes Deut 30: 1-4 that talks about the children of Israel having the blessing and cursing pronounced upon them, and when that happens, the Lord will gather the house of Israel again. So I went back a chapter to look at the blessing and cursing, and the covenant that was the

cause. Deut 29 talks about a lot of things that we can all probably see around us and relate to in these latter days. It talks about covenants being forsaken. It talks about the people worshipping idols and false gods, and it leading to plagues and destruction upon the land.

Deut 29:9 Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do. And verse 29, "...those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."

Our covenants:

Law of Obedience

- Maintain devotion to the cause of truth, walking in obedience to the counsels of the priesthood of God (the keys), all the commandments, exact obedience, give of ourselves in service to Heavenly Father's children, brings faith, strength and power.

Law of Sacrifice

- sacrifice in order to keep the commandments, sacrificing for others is the crowning test of the gospel, seek FIRST the kingdom of God, make ourselves more sacred or holy, sacrifice by obedience, sacrifice is needed for law of consecration, broken heart and contrite spirit, give away all our sins to know God, denial of self

Stake Conference: If we live a life of sacrifice and service, we will become the people Heavenly Father wants us to be. Elder M. Holland – If we always seek the kingdom of God first, we will be blessed in every other aspect of our lives. "If we choose our will over the Lord's will, we are choosing to be less happy."

Law of the Gospel

- Love one another, be charitable, benevolent, tolerant, pure, fast and pay fast offerings, help poor and needy, faith, repentance, broken heart and contrite spirit, prayer, being born again through the spirit of God in partaking of all ordinances, is Celestial Law.

Law of Chastity

- In thoughts and actions, before marriage and total fidelity in marriage, most dear and precious above all things.

Law of Consecration

- Giving of ourselves to build the kingdom, talents and material means to spread the truth and uplift the human race, seek in every way to contribute to the great preparation that the earth may be made ready to receive her King.

I didn't list out all of the sources for these, but it can all be found at:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples/prophetic-teachings-on-temples?lang=eng>

Keeping our covenants will help us in every aspect of gathering the elect and helping them receive their saving ordinances.

This fits in to this section, but is also kind of an aside, we had Stake Conference this weekend, with Elder Matthew Holland as the presiding General Authority. At the Priesthood Leadership meeting yesterday, my husband told me Elder M. Holland spoke to the priesthood there about 3rd Nephi 11. It's the chapter where Christ appears to the Nephites at the temple in Bountiful after His death and resurrection. He talked about there being a group of people gathered together, marveling and talking about Jesus Christ, that were extremely focused and engaged because of all the destruction. He went on to say that never before had there been such a group like this that was gathered and engaged and so focused on Jesus Christ. And what was the next thing that followed? God the Father presented His Son. Elder M. Holland then went on to talk about the upheavals in the world now, and the gathering going on now, and how there are more people talking about and focusing on Jesus Christ.

Elder Holland went back to Nephi 11 and laid out how in that time, Christ called a man forward who was given authority, instructions and power who immediately was told to baptize the people. He compared that again to our day (which immediately brought Joseph Smith to my husband's mind) and then asked what, then, is the most important thing Christ would have us doing? Elder Holland quoted President Nelson saying the greatest work on the earth right now is the gathering of Israel at least 3 times during the course of our Stake Conference.

Now Enoch was in good company in his views upon this subject: "And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God" 21:3).

- What is the tabernacle in the last days?

Isaiah 33:20

Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken.

"And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the **blessing (AGENCY)** and the curse which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind, among all the nations whither the Lord thy God hath driven thee, and **shalt return (RESTORATION of ISRAEL)** unto the Lord thy God, and shalt obey His voice, according to all that I command thee, this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that then the Lord thy God will turn thy **captivity (AMOS)**, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee. **If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from thence will He fetch thee (Deut. 30:1-4).**

Return= Restoration of Israel and covenant

Article of Faith 10

We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in **the restoration** of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.

Captivity Amos 9:14-15

And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, **and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them;** and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.

15 And I will **plant them** upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out **of their land** which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.

Build refers to two witness from Revelation and Zion.

Doctrine and Covenants 77:15

15 Q. What is to be understood by the two witnesses, in the eleventh chapter of Revelation?

- A. They are two prophets that are to be raised up to the Jewish nation in the last days, at the time of the restoration, and to prophesy to the Jews after they are gathered and have built the city of Jerusalem in the land of their fathers.

Doctrine and Covenants 84:2-5

Yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city of New Jerusalem.

3 Which city shall be built, beginning at the temple lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith, Jun., and others with whom the Lord was well pleased.

4 Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation.

5 For verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill the house.

Doctrine and Covenants 101:18

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—

Doctrine and Covenants 103:11

But verily I say unto you, I have decreed that your brethren which have been scattered shall return to the lands of their inheritances, and shall build up the waste places of Zion.

Plant them Amos 9:15 and Doctrine and Covenants 55:5

And I will **plant them** upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.

And again, verily I say unto you, for this cause you shall take your journey with my servants Joseph Smith, Jun., and Sidney Rigdon, that you may be **planted in the land** of your inheritance to do this work.

The covenant and land given them by the Lord

3Nephi 20:29

And I will remember the covenant which I have made with my people; and I have covenanted with them that I would gather them together in mine own due time, that I would give unto them again the land of their fathers for their inheritance, which is the land of Jerusalem, which is the promised land unto them forever, saith the Father.

Those that believe that Christ is already living among the Saints and also that the gathering of Israel is taking place right now need to mark these words of Joseph Smith carefully, “But before the tabernacle can be with men, the elect must be gathered from the four quarters of the earth.” The elect are in a scattered state and while in that state the power of the Lamb of God descends upon the Saints of the Church so that they are armed with righteousness and great glory, they are then gathered to **the** place that the Lord has appointed.

D&C 49:24-25

24 But before the great day of the Lord shall come, Jacob shall flourish in the wilderness, and the Lamanites shall blossom as the rose.

25 Zion shall flourish upon the hills and rejoice upon the mountains, and shall be assembled together unto the place which I have appointed.

3. The New Jerusalem (p.85-86)

It has been said by many of the learned and wise men, or historians, that the Indians or aborigines of this continent, are of the scattered tribes of Israel. It has been conjectured by many others, that the aborigines of this continent are not of the tribes of Israel, but the ten tribes have been led away into some unknown regions of the north. Let this be as it may, the prophecy I have just quoted "will fetch them," in the last days, and place them in the land which their fathers possessed. And you will find in the 7th verse of the 30th chapter, quoted, "And the Lord thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee."

Many may say that this scripture is fulfilled, but let them mark carefully what the prophet says: "If any are driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven," (Which must mean the

breadth of the earth). Now this promise is good to any, if there should be such, that are driven out, even in the last days, therefore, the children of the fathers have claim unto this day. And if these curses are to be laid over on the heads of their enemies, wo be unto the Gentiles. (See Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi, Chap. 16, current edition). "Wo unto the unbelieving of the Gentiles, saith the Father." And again (see Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 20:22, current edition, which says), "Behold this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob, and it shall be a New Jerusalem." Now we learn from the Book of Mormon the very identical continent and spot of land upon which the New Jerusalem is to stand, and it must be caught up according to the vision of John upon the isle of Patmos.

Now many will feel disposed to say, that this New Jerusalem spoken of, is the Jerusalem that was built by the Jews on the eastern continent. But you will see, from Revelation 21:2, there was a New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, adorned as a bride for her husband; that after this, the Revelator was caught away in the Spirit, to a great and high mountain, and saw the great and holy city descending out of heaven from God. Now there are two cities spoken of here. As everything cannot be had in so narrow a compass as a letter, I shall say with brevity, that there is a New Jerusalem to be established on this continent, and also Jerusalem shall be rebuilt on the eastern continent (see Book of Mormon, Ether 13:1-12). "Behold, Ether saw the days of Christ, and he spake also concerning the house of Israel, and the Jerusalem from whence Lehi should come; after it should be destroyed, it should be built up again, a holy city unto the Lord, wherefore it could not be a New Jerusalem, for it had been in a time of old." This may suffice, upon the subject of gathering, until my next.

Ether 13:8-12

8 Wherefore, the remnant of the house of Joseph shall be built upon this land; and it shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old; and they shall no more be confounded, until the end come when the earth shall pass away.

9 And there shall be a new heaven and a new earth; and they shall be like unto the old save the old have passed away, and all things have become new.

10 And then cometh the New Jerusalem; and blessed are they who dwell therein, for it is they whose garments are white through the blood of the Lamb; and they are they who are numbered among the remnant of the seed of Joseph, who were of the house of Israel.

11 And then also cometh the Jerusalem of old; and the inhabitants thereof, blessed are they, for they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb; and they are they who were scattered and gathered in from the four quarters of the earth, and from the north countries, and are partakers of the fulfilling of the covenant which God made with their father, Abraham.

12 And when these things come, bringeth to pass the scripture which saith, there are they who were first, who shall be last; and there are they who were last, who shall be first.

These scriptures tie in with the verses we read from Moses 7 about righteousness sweeping the earth. We know that the Lord covenanted with Enoch to preserve his people during the tribulations by sending forth righteousness on the earth. This righteousness will come because those that have turned their hearts to the Lord, the veil of darkness will be taken away, and we will live up to the covenants we have made. This is what will bring about the New Jerusalem, so until there are enough Saints that have done this, we can't have New Jerusalem. We must wash our garments in the blood of the Lamb. That can either be done by having a broken heart and a contrite spirit – aka choosing to be humble – or that can happen because of the Lord humbling His people through tribulation.

"will fetch them," in the last days, and place them in the land which their fathers possessed.

Jacob 5:14 Allegory of the Tame and Wild Olive

And it came to pass that the Lord of the vineyard went his way, and hid the natural branches of the tame olive tree in the nethermost parts of the vineyard, some in one and some in another, according to his will and pleasure.

Doctrine and Covenants 133:26

And they who are in the north countries shall come in remembrance before the Lord; and their prophets shall hear his voice and shall no longer stay themselves; and they shall smite the rocks, and the ice shall flow down at their presence.

Doctrine and Covenants 110:11

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

Many may say that this scripture is fulfilled, but let them mark carefully what the prophet says: **"If any are driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven,"** (Which must mean the breadth of the earth).

- Heaven is used in a lot of different ways in the scriptures and I'm really sure what all of it means. The celestial kingdom where Heavenly Father lives is also a Heaven. I feel I need to do more studying and praying.

Moses 2:1

And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto Moses, saying: Behold, I reveal unto you concerning **this heaven**, and this earth; write the words which I speak. I am the Beginning and the End, the Almighty God; by mine Only Begotten I created these things; yea, in the beginning I created **the heaven**, and the earth upon which thou standest.

Moses 7: 23

23 And after that Zion was taken up **into heaven**, Enoch beheld, and lo, all the nations of the earth were before him;

see Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 20:22, current edition, which says), "Behold this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob, and it shall be a New Jerusalem."

3 Nephi 16:11-20

And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them.

12 And I will show unto thee, O house of Israel, that the Gentiles shall not have power over you; but I will remember my covenant unto you, O house of Israel, and ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fulness of my gospel.

13 But if the Gentiles will repent and return unto me, saith the Father, behold they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel.

14 And I will not suffer my people, who are of the house of Israel, to go through among them, and tread them down, saith the Father.

15 But if they will not turn unto me, and hearken unto my voice, I will suffer them, yea, I will suffer my people, O house of Israel, that they shall go through among them, and shall tread them down, and they shall be as salt that hath lost its savor, which is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of my people, O house of Israel.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, thus hath the Father commanded

17 And then the words of the prophet Isaiah shall be fulfilled, which say:

18 Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing, for they shall see eye to eye when the Lord shall bring again Zion.

Now many will feel disposed to say, that this New Jerusalem spoken of, is the Jerusalem that was built by the Jews on the eastern continent. But you will see, from Revelation 21:2, there was a New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, adorned as a bride for her husband;

- New references Zion and Jerusalem references New Jerusalem. It also says that the holy city is adorned as a bride for her husband.
- The bride is linked in the following parables

Matthew 22: 2-14 (JST)

1 And Jesus answered the people again, and spake unto them in parables, and said,

2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, who made a marriage for his son.

3 And when the marriage was ready, he sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding; and they would not come.

4 Again he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them that are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my oxen, and my fatlings have been killed, and my dinner is ready, and all things are prepared; therefore come unto the marriage.

5 But they made light of the servants, and went their ways; one to his farm, another to his merchandise;

6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

7 But when the king heard that his servants were dead, he was wroth; and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

8 Then said he to his servants, The wedding is ready; but they who were bidden were not worthy.

9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all, as many as they found, both bad and good; and the wedding was furnished with guests.

11 But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man who had not a wedding garment.

12 And he said unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither, not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

13 Then said the king unto his servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take and cast him away into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

14 For many are called, but few chosen; wherefore all do not have on the wedding garment.

- To find out why they were not chosen we need to read more in the revelations of the Prophet Joseph Smith

Doctrine and Covenants 121:34-40

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

35 Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men, that they do not learn this one lesson—

36 That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.

37 That they may be conferred upon us, it is true; but when we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold, the heavens withdraw

themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man.

38 Behold, ere he is aware, he is left unto himself, to kick against the pricks, to persecute the saints, and to fight against God.

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

40 Hence many are called, but few are chosen.

There are two things that people really need to take away from this.

1. "Which must mean the breadth of the earth": the gathering of scattered Israel and the return of the ten tribes as a body must mean "the breadth of the earth"

2. "Everything cannot be had in so narrow a compass": the Zion on the American continent, the Jerusalem being rebuilt in the ancient world and Enoch's Zion are in fact three different things.

4. Zion and Jerusalem (p.17)

The Book of Mormon is a record of the forefathers of our western tribes of Indians; having been found through the ministration of an holy angel, and translated into our own language by the gift and power of God, after having been hid up in the earth for the last fourteen hundred years, containing the word of God which was delivered unto them. By it we learn that our western tribes of Indians are descendants from that Joseph who was sold into Egypt, and that the land of America is a promised land unto them, and unto it all the tribes of Israel will come, with as many of the Gentiles as shall comply with the requisitions of the new covenant. But the tribe of Judah will return to old Jerusalem. The city of Zion spoken of by David, in the one hundred and second Psalm, will be built upon the land of America, "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads." (Isaiah 35:10); and then they will be delivered from the overflowing scourge that shall pass through the land. But Judah shall obtain deliverance at Jerusalem. See Joel 2:32; Isaiah 26:20 and 21; Jeremiah 31:12; Psalms 1:5; Ezekiel 34:11, 12 and 13. These are testimonies that the Good Shepherd will put forth His own sheep, and lead them out from all nations where they have been scattered in a cloudy and dark day, to Zion, and to Jerusalem; besides many more testimonies which might be brought.

And now I am prepared to say by the authority of Jesus Christ, that not many years shall pass away before the United States shall present such a scene of bloodshed as has not a parallel in the history of our nation; pestilence, hail, famine, and earthquake will sweep the wicked of this generation from off the face of the land, to open and prepare the way for the return of the lost tribes of Israel from the north country. The people of the Lord, those who have complied with the requirements of the new covenant, have already commenced gathering together to Zion, which is in the state of Missouri; therefore I declare unto you the warning which the Lord has commanded me to declare unto this generation,

remembering that the eyes of my Maker are upon me, and that to Him I am accountable for every word I say, wishing nothing worse to my fellowmen than their eternal salvation; therefore, "Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come." Repent ye, repent ye, and embrace the everlasting covenant, and flee to Zion, before the overflowing scourge overtake you, for there are those now living upon the earth whose eyes shall not be closed in death until they see all these things, which I have spoken, fulfilled. Remember these things; call upon the Lord while He is near, and seek Him while He may be found, is the exhortation of your unworthy servant.

(Signed) JOSEPH SMITH, JUN.

This whole section is super powerful, so if you haven't read it, I recommend reading it and rereading it. I think we need to remember that when Joseph Smith wrote this, that the Jews (aka the Tribe of Judah) had not yet returned to old Jerusalem. The Saints and the people of the earth at that time (I'm not sure when it was written, but sometime before 1844) had only heard that the Jews would return to Jerusalem in the Bible. The words of the biblical prophets were already thousands of years old at that point. Even the prophesies of Jesus were over 1800 years old. But now the early Saints had a prophet of God confirming these things in modern times, and then going on to both prophesy new things and confirm prior witnesses of the things that would happen on the American continent. This is kind of huge, especially since those of us in this day and age can already see that the Jews have returned to old Jerusalem – which means that all the things prophesied about the redemption of Zion and the New Jerusalem will also be fulfilled. So, in the words of Joseph Smith, "Repent ye, repent ye, and embrace the everlasting covenant, and flee to Zion, before the overflowing scourge overtake you..." Since we cannot physically flee to the city of Zion yet, we need to be making urgent efforts in our homes to build Zion and stand in Holy places. I am currently working on some thoughts that have come to me about holy places, and what it means personally. It's still pretty scattered at the moment, but I'm seeing a huge correlation to holy places and the idea of the sacrifice of a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

The Book of Mormon is a record of the forefathers of our western tribes of Indians; having been found through the ministration of an holy angel, and translated into our own language by the gift and power of God, after having been hid up in the earth for the last fourteen hundred years, containing the word of God which was delivered unto them.

Doctrine and Covenants 128:20

And again, what do we hear? Glad tidings from Cumorah! Moroni, an angel from heaven, declaring the fulfilment of the prophets—the book to be revealed. A voice of the Lord in the wilderness of Fayette, Seneca county, declaring the three witnesses to bear record of the book! The voice of Michael on the banks of the Susquehanna, detecting the devil when he appeared as an angel of light! The voice of Peter, James, and John in the wilderness between Harmony, Susquehanna county, and Colesville, Broome county, on the Susquehanna river, declaring themselves as possessing the keys of the kingdom, and of the dispensation of the fulness of times!

By it we learn that our western tribes of Indians are descendants from that Joseph who was sold into Egypt, and that the land of America is a **promised land unto them**, and unto it all the tribes of Israel will come, with as many of the Gentiles as **shall comply with the requisitions of the new covenant.**

- Promised land as defined by LDS bible dictionary.

Lands that the Lord promises as an inheritance to His faithful followers, and often also to their descendants. There are many promised lands.

- Could the promised land by North and South Americas and Jerusalem and New Jerusalem? There are many promised lands. I need to study more on this.
- What are the requirements of fulfilling the new covenant?

President Joseph Fielding Smith taught: “The Holy Spirit of Promise is the Holy Ghost who places the stamp of approval upon every ordinance: baptism, confirmation, ordination, marriage. The promise is that the blessings will be received through faithfulness. If a person violates a covenant, whether it be of baptism, ordination, marriage or anything else, the Spirit withdraws the stamp of approval, and the blessings will not be received. Every ordinance is sealed with a promise of a reward based upon faithfulness. The Holy Spirit withdraws the stamp of approval where covenants are broken” (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:45)

- The new covenant is the everlasting covenant which we discussed earlier.

Doctrine and Covenants 66:2 Verily I say unto you, blessed are you for receiving mine everlasting covenant, even the fulness of my gospel, sent forth unto the children of men, that they might have life and be made partakers of the glories which are to be revealed in the last days, as it was written by the prophets and apostles in days of old.

Doctrine and Covenants 132:4 For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory.

President Joseph Fielding Smith taught: “The Holy Spirit of Promise is the Holy Ghost who places the stamp of approval upon every ordinance: baptism, confirmation, ordination, marriage. The promise is that the blessings will be received through faithfulness. If a person violates a covenant, whether it be of baptism, ordination, marriage or anything else, the Spirit withdraws the stamp of approval, and the blessings will not be received. Every ordinance is sealed with a promise of a reward based upon faithfulness. The Holy Spirit withdraws the stamp of approval where covenants are broken” (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:45; see also Doctrine and Covenants 76:52–53; 132:7).

52 That by keeping the commandments they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power;

53 And who overcome by faith, and are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true.

7 And verily I say unto you, that the conditions of this law are these: All covenants, contracts, bonds, obligations, oaths, vows, performances, connections, associations, or expectations, that are not made and entered into and sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, of him who is anointed, both as well for time and for all eternity, and that too most holy, by revelation and commandment through the medium of mine anointed, whom I have appointed on the earth to hold this power (and I have appointed unto my servant Joseph to hold this power in the last days, and there is never but one on the earth at a time on whom this power and the keys of this priesthood are conferred), are of no efficacy, virtue, or force in and after the resurrection from the dead; for all contracts that are not made unto this end have an end when men are dead.

But the tribe of Judah will return to old Jerusalem. The city of Zion spoken of by David, in the one hundred and second Psalm, will be built upon the land of America, "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads." (Isaiah 35:10); and then they will be delivered from the **overflowing scourge** that shall pass through the land.

Isaiah 28: 15,17,18

15 Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the **overflowing scourge** shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

17 Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.

18 ¶ And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the **overflowing scourge** shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.

- Compare those verses used to describe those who have made a covenant of death and with Zion

Isaiah 28: 16 ¶ Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Helaman 5:12

And now, my sons, remember, remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation; that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, yea, his shafts in the whirlwind, yea, when all his hail and his mighty storm shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall.

Alma 26:6

Yea, they shall not be beaten down by the storm at the last day; yea, neither shall they be harrowed up by the whirlwinds; but when the storm cometh they shall be gathered together in

their place, that the storm cannot penetrate to them; yea, neither shall they be driven with fierce winds whithersoever the enemy listeth to carry them.

- Jesus spoke to the Nephites on how they could build on a sure foundation (Our Lord and Savior)

3 Nephi 14:25,27

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them not shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell, and great was the fall of it.

But Judah shall obtain deliverance at Jerusalem. See Joel 2:32; Isaiah 26:20 and 21; Jeremiah 31:12; Psalms 1:5; Ezekiel 34:11, 12 and 13. These are testimonies that the Good Shepherd will put forth His own sheep, and lead them out from all nations where they have been scattered in a cloudy and dark day, to Zion, and to Jerusalem; besides many more testimonies which might be brought.

How will we find deliverance during these times?

Joel 2:32

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

Doctrine and Covenants 93:1

Verily, thus saith the Lord: It shall come to pass that every soul who forsaketh his sins and cometh unto me, and calleth on my name, and obeyeth my voice, and keepeth my commandments, shall see my face and know that I am;

Doctrine and Covenants 100:17

And all that call upon the name of the Lord, and keep his commandments, shall be saved. Even so. Amen.

And now I am prepared to say by the authority of Jesus Christ, that not many years shall pass away before the United States shall present such a scene of bloodshed as has not a parallel in the history of our nation; pestilence, hail, famine, and earthquake will sweep the wicked of this generation from off the face of the land, to open and prepare the way for the return of the lost tribes of Israel from the north country.

Doctrine and Covenants 29:14-19

14 But, behold, I say unto you that before this great day shall come the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall be turned into blood, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and there shall be greater signs in heaven above and in the earth beneath;

15 And there shall be weeping and wailing among the hosts of men;

16 And there shall be a great hailstorm sent forth to destroy the crops of the earth.

17 And it shall come to pass, because of the wickedness of the world, that I will take vengeance upon the wicked, for they will not repent; for the cup of mine indignation is full; for behold, my blood shall not cleanse them if they hear me not.

18 Wherefore, I the Lord God will send forth flies upon the face of the earth, which shall take hold of the inhabitants thereof, and shall eat their flesh, and shall cause maggots to come in upon them;

19 And their tongues shall be stayed that they shall not utter against me; and their flesh shall fall from off their bones, and their eyes from their sockets;

The people of the Lord, those who have complied with the requirements of the new covenant, have already commenced gathering together to Zion, which is in the state of Missouri; therefore I declare unto you the warning which the Lord has commanded me to declare unto this generation, remembering that the eyes of my Maker are upon me, and that to Him I am accountable for every word I say, wishing nothing worse to my fellowmen than their eternal salvation; therefore, "Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come." Repent ye, repent ye, and embrace the everlasting covenant, and flee to Zion, before the overflowing scourge overtake you, for there are those now living upon the earth whose eyes shall not be closed in death until they see all these things, which I have spoken, fulfilled. Remember these things; call upon the Lord while He is near, and seek Him while He may be found, is the exhortation of your unworthy servant.

(Signed) JOSEPH SMITH, JUN.

--DHC 1:312-316.

Doctrine and Covenants 84: 54-57

54 And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received—

55 Which vanity and unbelief have brought the whole church under condemnation.

56 And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all.

57 And they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written—

President Benson

Unless we read the Book of Mormon and give heed to its teachings, the Lord has stated in section 84 of the Doctrine and Covenants that the whole Church is under condemnation” and “In our day, the Lord has revealed the need to reemphasize the Book of Mormon to get the Church and all the children of Zion out from under condemnation—the scourge and judgment.” (Ensign, May 1986, pp. 5, 78.)

The first thing to point out here is that Joseph not once but twice identified “western Indians” as being the descendants of the Book of Mormon. Those that believe that the Book of Mormon took place entirely south of the USA border cannot square that with the words of Joseph Smith so they either have to outright call Joseph Smith wrong or ignorant. Both are equally insulating in my view considering Joseph was taught the culture of that people and was shown them for years and years before even receiving the Book of Mormon.

The rest of this is one giant, beautiful point of reference chain.

1. Gathering of scattered Israel
2. Jews return to Jerusalem
3. The New Jerusalem will be built (obviously the redemption has to occur before this but is not mentioned)
4. Saints comply with the requirements of the new and everlasting covenant (ie. Celestial Law), and escape the scourge
5. Pestilence, hail, famine, earthquake, civil war etc
6. The ten tribes return as a body
7. The righteous are gathered to New Jerusalem and the Jews to Old Jerusalem

5. Importance of Revelation (p.70-71)

At a conference of the Elders of the Church held at the home of Jared Carter, April 21, 1834, the Prophet read the second chapter of Joel and then made the following remarks:

It is very difficult for us to communicate to the churches all that God has revealed to us, in consequence of tradition; for we are differently situated from any other people that ever existed upon this earth; consequently those former revelations cannot be suited to our conditions; they were given to other people, who were before us; but in the last days, God was to call a remnant, in which was to be deliverance, as well as in Jerusalem and Zion. Now if God should give no more revelations, where will we find Zion and this remnant? The time is near when desolation is to cover the earth, and then God will have a place of deliverance in his remnant, and in Zion, * * *

Take away the Book of Mormon and the revelations, and where is our religion? We have none; for without Zion, and a place of deliverance, we must fall; because the time is near when the sun will be darkened, and the moon turn to blood, and the stars fall from the heaven, and the earth reel to and fro. Then, if this is the case, and if we are not sanctified

and gathered to the places God has appointed, with all our former professions and our great love for the Bible, we must fall; we cannot stand; we cannot be saved; for God will gather out his Saints from the Gentiles, and then comes desolation and destruction, and none can escape except the pure in heart who are gathered.--DHC 2:52.

Is there anyone in the church today that could honestly say they don't know that personal revelation is important? President Nelson, prophet of God, has been on record absolutely begging us to learn to "Hear Him!" I did a video that is literally one quote after another of President Nelson using that phrase. I only added my commentary at the end for a couple minutes, and that video is over 17 minutes. And those are just snippets of his talks. I think it's safe to say that revelation is not just important - it is URGENT in this day and age. "Take away the Book of Mormon and the revelations, and where is our religion? We have none; for without Zion, and a place of deliverance, we must fall; because the time is near when the sun will be darkened, and the moon turned to blood, and the stars fall from the heaven, and the earth reel to and fro. Then, if this is the case, and if we are not sanctified and gathered to the places God has appointed, with our great love for the Bible, we must fall; we cannot stand; we cannot be saved; for God will gather out his Saints from the Gentiles, and then comes desolation and destruction, and none can escape except the pure in heart who are gathered." And from the previous section, "And now I am prepared to say by the authority of Jesus Christ, that not many years shall pass away before the United States shall present such a scene of bloodshed as has not a parallel in the history of our nation; pestilence, hail, famine, and earthquake will sweep the wicked of this generation from off the face of the land, to open and prepare the way for the return of the lost tribes of Israel from the north country." And then, Joseph Smith tells us to, "Remember these things; call upon the Lord while He is near, and seek Him while He may be found..." When is the Lord near us? When we are humble. When we are teachable. When we are willing to "Let God prevail," When we have faith like the brother of Jared. We just had our Stake Conference this weekend, and Elder Matthew Holland was speaking to us. (And just as an aside - he quoted a lot of last days scriptures over the 2 days of meetings.) He read a snippet from the Lectures on Faith. I didn't catch which exact lecture it was from, but it went along with last week's fireside about faith being a principle of action. He went on to talk about revelation also as a principle of action. Revelation and faith are both intertwined.

Jarom 1:4 And there are many among us who have many revelations, for they are not all stiffnecked. And as many as are not stiffnecked and have faith, have communion with the Holy Spirit, which maketh manifest unto the children of men, according to their faith.

Alma 26:22 Yea, he that repenteth and exerciseth faith, and bringeth forth good works, and prayeth continually without ceasing—unto such it is given to know the mysteries of God; yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things which never have been revealed; yea, and it shall be given unto such to bring thousands of souls to repentance, even as it has been given unto us to bring these our brethren to repentance.

Acting in faith => receiving revelation. Acting on revelation => gathering the elect (Israel) => preparing the world for New Jerusalem => Christ coming to dwell with us.

At a conference of the Elders of the Church held at the home of Jared Carter, April 21, 1834, the Prophet read the second chapter of Joel and then made the following remarks:

It is very difficult for us to communicate to the churches all that God has revealed to us, in consequence of tradition; for we are differently situated from any other people that ever existed upon this earth; consequently those former revelations cannot be suited to our conditions; they were given to other people, who were before us; but in the last days,

President Nelson

Just a few weeks ago at general conference, I spoke about the immense power the Book of Mormon can have in our lives. I urged you to think about three related questions: First, what would your life be like without the Book of Mormon? Second, what would you not know? And third, what would you not have?

God was to call a remnant, in which was to be deliverance, as well as in Jerusalem and Zion. Now if God should give no more revelations, where will we find Zion and this remnant? The time is near when desolation is to cover the earth, and then God will have a place of deliverance in his remnant, and in Zion, * * *

Take away the Book of Mormon and the revelations, and where is our religion? We have none; for without Zion, and a place of deliverance, we must fall; because the time is near when the sun will be darkened, and the moon turn to blood, and the stars fall from the heaven, and the earth reel to and fro.

We ought to have the building up of Zion as our greatest object. When wars come, we shall have to flee to Zion. The cry is to make haste. The last revelation says, Ye shall not have time to have gone over the earth, until these things come. It will come as did the cholera, war, fires, and earthquakes; one pestilence after another, until the Ancient of Days comes, then judgment will be given to the Saints. ... The time is soon coming, when no man will have any peace but in Zion and her stakes. (Teachings, pp. 160–61.)

Then, if this is the case, and if we are not sanctified and gathered to the places God has appointed, with all our former professions and our great love for the Bible, we must fall; we cannot stand; we cannot be saved; for God will gather out his Saints from the Gentiles, and then comes desolation and destruction, and none can escape except the pure in heart who are gathered.--DHC 2:52.

- Without Zion we must fall

Doctrine and Covenants 133:14-15

14 Go ye out from among the nations, even from Babylon, from the midst of wickedness, which is spiritual Babylon.

15 But verily, thus saith the Lord, let not your flight be in haste, but let all things be prepared before you; and he that goeth, let him not look back lest sudden destruction shall come upon him.

Doctrine and Covenants 58:56

56 And let the work of the gathering be not in haste, nor by flight; but let it be done as it shall be counseled by the elders of the church at the conferences, according to the knowledge which they receive from time to time.

Isaiah 52:10-12

10 The Lord 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 our God.

11 ¶ Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord.

12 For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the Lord will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rearward.

- We must be sanctified to be gathered to Zion

McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, 675

To be sanctified is to become clean, pure, and spotless; to be free from the blood and sins of the world; to become a new creature of the Holy Ghost, one whose body has been renewed by the rebirth of the Spirit. Sanctification is a state of saintliness, a state attained only by conformity to the laws and ordinances of the gospel

Brigham Young, in Journal of Discourses, 2:123

When the will, passions, and feelings of a person are perfectly submissive to God and His requirements, that person is sanctified. It is for my will to be swallowed up in the will of God, that will lead me into all good, and crown me ultimately with immortality and eternal lives”

- The Newel and Polly Knight family supported the Prophet Joseph Smith and provided temporal assistance on more than one occasion including paper for the translation of the Book of Mormon: Another testament of Jesus Christ. Newel Knight and some of his sons were witnesses of the Book of Mormon.

Polly Knight, the mother of Newel Knight, traveled with a group of Saints on the nearly 900-mile journey from Kirtland, Ohio, to Jackson County, Missouri. Sister Knight became gravely ill on the way to Missouri, but she would not agree to stop traveling, expressing that her greatest desire was to set foot on the land of Zion and to be buried there. Her son Newel recorded that at one point in their journey he “bought lumber to make a coffin in case she should die before we arrived at our place of destination—so fast did she fail. But the Lord gave her the desire of her heart, and she lived to stand upon that land”

On August 7, four days after the site for the temple was dedicated, Polly Knight died. Her son Newel described the circumstances of her death: “She quietly fell asleep, in death rejoicing in the new and everlasting covenant of the gospel and praising God that she had lived to see the land of Zion and that her body would rest in peace, after suffering as she had done from the persecution

of the wicked” (Newel Knight autobiography and journal, circa 1846–1847, Church History Library, Salt Lake City; spelling, capitalization, and punctuation standardized).

- I think its important to understand the level of dedication of the Saints who traveled from Colesville to Zion. Study those who gave up everything to full participate in the new and everlasting covenant. What tribulations and rewards did they have?

What is the difference between remnant and Zion? When Joseph Smith mentioned “a place of deliverance” and then later “places God has appointed” is it one place or is it multiple places? This is where having an understanding of Abinadi as a type as well as Understanding Revelation Chapters 12-14 will pay dividends. There will be deliverance in Zion, a place, which is the New Jerusalem and there will be places of deliverance with the remnant of the Church worldwide who for whatever reason are not in the New Jerusalem (think Abinadi as a type)

Revelation 12:17

Therefore, the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ

The Jews will also “find deliverance” at Old Jerusalem. Anybody who knows what happens at Old Jerusalem knows that this “deliverance” comes at a cost and it most certainly does not mean that “all will be delivered”. Likewise, there will be deliverance in Zion as well as the remnant but that does not mean all of the remnant will be delivered and it most certainly does not mean that it will be just as pleasant.

6. Every Man an Agent for Himself (p.12)

Every man lives for himself. Adam was made to open the way of the world, and for dressing the garden. Noah was born to save seed of everything, when the earth was washed of its wickedness

s by the flood; and the Son of God came into the world to redeem it from the fall. But except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. This eternal truth settles the question of all men's religion. A man may be saved, after the judgment, in the terrestrial kingdom, or in the celestial kingdom, but he can never see the celestial kingdom of God, without being born of water and the Spirit. He may receive a glory like unto the moon, [i.e., of which the light of the moon is typical], or a star, [i.e., of which the light of the stars is typical], but he can never come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels; to the general assembly and church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, unless he becomes as a little child, and is taught by the Spirit of God. Wherefore, we again say, search the revelations of God; study the prophecies, and rejoice that God grants unto the world Seers and Prophets. They are they who saw the mysteries of godliness; they saw the flood before it came; they saw angels ascending and descending upon a ladder that reached from earth to heaven; they saw the stone cut out of the mountain, which filled the whole earth; they saw the Son of God come from the regions of

bliss and dwell with men on earth; they saw the deliverer come out of Zion, and turn away ungodliness from Jacob; they saw the glory of the Lord when he showed the transfiguration of the earth on the mount; they saw every mountain laid low and every valley exalted when the Lord was taking vengeance upon the wicked; they saw truth spring out of the earth, and righteousness look down from heaven in the last days, before the Lord came the second time to gather his elect; they saw the end of wickedness on earth, and the Sabbath of creation crowned with peace; they saw the end of the glorious thousand years, when Satan was loosed for a little season; they saw the day of judgment when all men received according to their works, and they saw the heaven and the earth flee away to make room for the city of God, when the righteous receive an inheritance in eternity. And, fellow sojourners upon earth, it is your privilege to purify yourselves and come up to the same glory, and see for yourselves, and know for yourselves. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.--E&MS August, 1832. DHC 1:282-284.

In the section before this one, titled “Search the Revelations of God” Joseph Smith says:

“Search the scriptures – search the revelations which we publish, and ask your Heavenly Father, in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, to manifest the truth unto you, and if you do it with an eye single to His glory nothing doubting, He will answer you by the power of His Holy Spirit. You will then know for yourselves and not another. You will not then be dependent on man for the knowledge of God; nor will there be any room for speculation. No; for when men receive their instruction from Him that made them, they know how He will save them. Then again we say: Search the Scriptures, search the Prophets and learn what portion of them belongs to you and the people of the [twenty-first] century.

...you stand then in these last days, as all have stood before you, agents unto yourselves, to be judged according to your works.”

He continues on in this section and says:

“...[a person] can never come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels; to the general assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, unless he becomes as a little child, and is taught by the Spirit of God. Wherefore, we again say, search the revelations of God; study the prophecies, and rejoice that God grants unto the world Seers and Prophets. They are they who saw the mysteries of godliness...And, fellow sojourners upon earth, it is your privilege to purify yourselves and come up to the same glory, and see for yourselves, and know for yourselves. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

I'll admit that I didn't read the section heading about being an agent unto ourselves and think immediately about searching revelation. I went to the idea that God isn't going to force anyone to heaven. We have agency in every single aspect. We don't have to be obedient – though we won't get to choose the outcome. But I suppose that is what separates the wheat from the tares.

The wheat search the revelations of God and learn what portion of them belong to us, and seek revelation on how we should act on them. The tares want the leaders to tell them exactly what they should do, what is coming next in clear language, and then still have the option of ignoring whichever parts of the Prophet's words they feel like. Maybe that is so they can have an excuse at the last day, "Wait. What? The Prophet never said I had to do _____ specifically. I didn't know..."

But I think Joseph Smith is telling us pretty clearly that we have to search for ourselves. We have to be open to revelation for ourselves, and then we don't have to be dependent on anyone else. Yes, we still listen and follow the Keys, but that is because if we are diligently searching the scriptures and receiving revelation for ourselves, we will be in total alignment with what our leaders with the keys of the priesthood are telling us, "nor will there be any room for speculation."

But except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Marion G. Romney, Look to God and Live, 269–70

Alma was trying to arouse his hearers at Zarahemla to a realization that their being able to look up 'to God at that day with a pure heart and clean hands' would depend upon their experiencing the mighty change wrought in men's hearts by the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost.

Reminding them that his father had accepted the words of Abinadi and that 'according to his faith there was a mighty change wrought in his heart. ...

And [that he had] preached the word unto [their] fathers, and a mighty change was also wrought in their hearts,' he continued,

And now behold, I ask of you, my brethren of the church, have ye spiritually been born of God? ...Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts? (Alma 5:12–14).

It was against this background that he put the question: 'Can ye look up to God at that day with a pure heart and clean hands? (Alma 5:19).

This 'mighty change' wrought by the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost should and does, if the proselyte is prepared to receive it, occur when he is baptized by immersion for the remission of sins and receives the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost—the two required ordinances for being 'born of water and of the spirit.

This eternal truth settles the question of all men's religion. A man may be saved, after the judgment, in the terrestrial kingdom, or in the celestial kingdom, but he can never see the celestial kingdom of God, without being born of water and the Spirit. He may receive a glory like unto the moon, [i.e., of which the light of the moon is typical], or a star, [i.e., of which the light of the stars is typical],

And, fellow sojourners upon earth, it is your privilege to purify yourselves and come up to the same glory, and see for yourselves, and know for yourselves. Ask, and it shall be given you;

seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.--E&MS August, 1832. DHC 1:282-284

- It has been the greatest privilege of my life to have been led to the Prophet Joseph Smith and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. I know who I was and by the new and everlasting covenant I know who I can become.
- All can come to the New Jerusalem and we must or we will fail the coming desolation

Doctrine and Covenants 76:50-70

50 And again we bear record—for we saw and heard, and this is the testimony of the gospel of Christ concerning them who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just—

51 They are they who received the testimony of Jesus, and believed on his name and were baptized after the manner of his burial, being buried in the water in his name, and this according to the commandment which he has given—

52 That by keeping the commandments they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power;

53 And who overcome by faith, and are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true.

54 They are they who are the church of the Firstborn.

55 They are they into whose hands the Father has given all things—

56 They are they who are priests and kings, who have received of his fulness, and of his glory;

57 And are priests of the Most High, after the order of Melchizedek,

58 Wherefore, as it is written, they are gods, even the sons of God—

59 Wherefore, all things are theirs, whether life or death, or things present, or things to come, all are theirs and they are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

60 And they shall overcome all things.

61 Wherefore, let no man glory in man, but rather let him glory in God, who shall subdue all enemies under his feet.

62 These shall dwell in the presence of God and his Christ forever and ever.

63 These are they whom he shall bring with him, when he shall come in the clouds of heaven to reign on the earth over his people.

64 These are they who shall have part in the first resurrection.

65 These are they who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just.

66 These are they who are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly place, the holiest of all.

67 These are they who have come to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of Enoch, and of the Firstborn.

68 These are they whose names are written in heaven, where God and Christ are the judge of all.

69 These are they who are just men made perfect through Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, who wrought out this perfect atonement through the shedding of his own blood.

70 These are they whose bodies are celestial, whose glory is that of the sun, even the glory of God, the highest of all, whose glory the sun of the firmament is written of as being typical.

- I want to close by bearing you my testimony that the greatest privilege of my life is to make and keep sacred covenants and prepare to see Jesus as He walks the streets of New Jerusalem. I know that the time is close and if there is anything in your life that is preventing you from becoming sanctified, remove it from your life as the debris that it is.
- Jesus Christ is our Savior and makes salvation possible. I long for the day to see my loved ones walk beside me in New Jerusalem. I know that we can be there!
- I testify that as you make Zion your one objective your life will change in miraculous ways that you cannot imagine.
- In the name of Jesus Christ Amen.

Orson Pratt said,

“We have been telling you about modern prophecy delivered by Joseph Smith. Is it false, or is it true?” (PERSONAL REMINISCENCES AND TESTIMONY CONCERNING THE PROPHET JOSEPH AND THE CHURCH, ETC, Orson Pratt July 10, 1859)

Brigham Young said,

“We say we believe Joseph was a prophet, that he had the priesthood and was called of God to gather the people together and establish Zion. If we believe this, why not let our lives prove that we believe the doctrine that we profess? Can you see any of the Christians in the world who do not believe the doctrine they profess? It is a very dark picture to look upon—a sad affair that we disbelieve our own doctrines. Let us remember them and live accordingly.” (Brigham Young, February 10 1867, Journal of Discourses, 11:324)

President Joseph Fielding Smith said,

“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)

Brothers and Sisters, it is our privilege as Joseph Smith said to purify ourselves and come up to the same glory, and see for ourselves, and know for ourselves. We can never come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels; to the general assembly and church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, unless we become as a little child, and are taught by the Spirit of God. And how are we to be taught? We are commanded “search the revelations of God; study the prophecies, and rejoice that God grants unto the world Seers and Prophets.” Brothers and Sisters, ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. In the name of Jesus Christ Amen.