

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith

Parable of the Leaven

“And another parable spake He unto them. The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till the whole was leavened.” It may be understood that the Church of the Latter-day Saints has taken its rise from a little leaven that was put into three witnesses. Behold, how much this is like the parable! It is fast leavening the lump, and will soon leaven the whole. But let us pass on

"All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake He not unto them: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world. Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and His disciples came unto Him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the Kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one." Now let our readers mark the expression--"the field is the world, the tares are the children of the wicked one, the enemy that sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the world, [let them carefully mark this expression--the end of the world] and the reapers are the angels."

Leaven-

I wanted to start off by saying that the parables we are going over today are very important to helping us understand the subject of the gathering and the establishment of zion.

Joseph specifically pointed out that these parables "in my mind affords us as clear an understanding, upon the important subject of the gathering, as any thing recorded in the bible."

"I shall now proceed to make some remarks from the sayings of the Savior, recorded in the 13th chapter of his gospel according to St Matthew, which in my mind affords us as clear an understanding, upon the important subject of the gathering, as any thing recorded in the bible."

The first parable we are going to discuss is that of the leaven. No one can dispute the power of exponential growth that began with the testimony of the 3 witnesses found in the front of every copy of the book of mormon. And we continue to pattern as established 2 Corinthians 13:1

" In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established"

And on a greater scale the scriptures also give us 3 witnesses of Christ that will lift up and cause the Kingdom of God to to grow.

The Bible, the Book of Mormon and the record of the lost tribes are 3 leavening agents that have been hidden and as they come forth they will leaven the whole.

"For the work of this example, see the book of Mormon, coming forth out of the treasure of the heart; also the covenants given to the Latter Day Saints: also the translation of the bible: thus bringing forth out of the heart, things new and old: thus answering to three measures of meal, undergoing the purifying touch by a revelation of Jesus Christ, and the ministering of angels, who have already commenced this work in the last days, which will answer to the leaven which leavened the whole lump. Amen." (p. 229 Joseph Smith papers)

Parables-

I want to point out that in the last sentence of our reading material on page 100 Joseph Smith said to carefully mark the expression the end of the world, and then went on to quote the savior in explaining that the reapers are the angels.

Under #angels on discord I posted a quote I found recently emphasizing the relationship we will have with angels in these last days.

"Men and angels are to be co-workers in bringing to pass this great work: and a 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: for the tabernacle of the Lord shall be with them."

And just to remind us of the definition of angels there are 4 types of beings defined by the scriptures as angels

The first two are spirit beings

-those who haven't come to earth and received a body yet

-or those who have and are waiting to be resurrected

The other two have a physical body

-those who are translated

-those who are resurrected

Ryan and Kelly Thompson

That ye may be healed

When reading through the parables for me it is important to understand how they happened in scripture. For the parables we are talking about this evening I started in Matthew chapter 12. It is also important to have a copy of Joseph Smith's New Translation of the Bible.

In verse two of chapter 12 (Matthew) the Pharisees are upset and said why are your disciples eating and the Savior responded to them that he is the Lord of the Sabbath. The very next thing that our Lord and savior Jesus Christ did was go to the synagogue and bless a man with a withered hand and the Pharisees accused him again in verse 11 of the JST version. It states then **he said to the man stretch forth thy hand and he stretched it forth and it was restored whole like unto the other.** The Pharisees again got very angry with him, but Jesus continued to heal the sick. In verse 18 of the JST version it says **then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil blind and dumb and he healed him and so much that the blind and dumb both speak and saw.** After he healed this child of God, the Pharisees again accused him of being Satan the Lord respond in verse 29 **oh you generation of Vipers how can you being evil speak good things for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh 30 a good man out of the good treasure of the heart bring it forth good things and an evil man out of the evil treasure bring it forth evil things.** After Jesus had spoken these words the same day it says **Jesus went out and spoke to the multitudes.**

Why do we need to understand the situation that happened before the parables are spoken? I believe we have two groups of people. Speaking of those about to hear the parables we have the following. **Matthew 13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of**

hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. On one hand there are the Pharisees who have their hearts hardened with apostasy, their eyes dull by spiritual blindness, and their eyes closed because of unbelief.

The second group of people who hear parables are found as an example in the Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ. This group is the righteous who are left after Christ's death and are blessed to see Him.**3 Nephi 9:13-14 13 O all ye that are spared because ye were more righteous than they, will ye not now return unto me, and repent of your sins, and be converted, that I may heal you?**

14 Yea, verily I say unto you, if ye will come unto me ye shall have eternal life. Behold, mine arm of mercy is extended towards you, and whosoever will come, him will I receive; and blessed are those who come unto me.

[So why did I start my remarks with the title,] Ye may be healed? I believe we can understand the parables and become converted and healed. As we talk about the parables look for the theme of Healing and Conversion. My prayer this evening is that you have your eyes opened, your ears hearing, and your heart converted and healed by Jesus Christ.

Leaven according to the LDS bible dictionary is inward growth and influence of the Church. The Kingdom of Heaven according to the bible dictionary is the LDS Church.

a little leaven that was put into three witnesses. The three witnesses are prophesied by Moroni and Nephi (Isaiah) to come forth for a specific purpose.

Nephi 2: 12 Wherefore, at that day when the book shall be delivered unto the man of whom I have spoken, the book shall be hid from the eyes of the world, that the eyes of none shall behold it save it be that three witnesses shall behold it, by the power of God, besides him to whom the book shall be delivered; and they shall testify to the truth of the book and the things therein.

Ether 5: 4 And in the mouth of three witnesses shall these things be established; and the testimony of three, and this work, in the which shall be shown forth the power of God and also his word, of which the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost bear record—and all this shall stand as a testimony against the world at the last day.

The three witnesses had three things in their testimony. 1) Eyes = They saw a Holy Angel. 2) Ears= Voice of the Lord saying the Book of Mormon was translated by the “ Gift and Power of God” 3) Heart= Full purpose of Heart

Remember the two groups from earlier? They are written in connection with the Three Witnesses.

2 Nephi 27 (Isaiah 29)

Group One:

25 Forasmuch as this people draw near unto me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their hearts far from me, and their fear towards me is taught by the precepts of men—

Group Two:

29 And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.

Which group do you want to be? How can we hear the words of the book and see? What about the woman and why did she divide it in three measures of meal? Why did it fill the whole?

In the Bible there is another example of a woman and three measures of meal. Abraham told Sarah to make ready quickly (leaven), three measures of meal and make cakes (Gen 18:16). Abraham and Sarah are preparing food for the Lord and Angels. This is the chapter where the Lord repeats the Abrahamic Covenant, and that Sarah will bear a son and all the promised blessings (Gen 18:9). After the meeting with Lord, they go to Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities are destroyed. There could be parallels here between Abraham and Sarah/ Sodom and Gomorrah and the Three witness/Destruction of the Wicked.

Would you be healed and converted to the Lord?

Matthew 16:5-12

5 And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

6 ¶ Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the “leaven” of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, *It is* because we have taken no bread.

8 “Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

9 Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

10 Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

11 How is it that ye do not understand that I spake *it* not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

12 Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the “doctrine” of the Pharisees and of the “Sadducees”.

Matthew 16:6–12. “Beware of the Leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees” (see also Mark 8:14–21; Luke 12:1)

The Savior taught His disciples to beware of “the leaven” of the Pharisees and Sadducees, which was their doctrine. Elder Bruce R. McConkie explained that this teaching of the Savior can be

likened to the need to beware of false doctrines and philosophies in all ages: "Literally, leaven is a substance that produces fermentation, as for instance yeast which causes bread to rise. Figuratively, leaven is any element which, by its fermenting, spreading influence, affects groups of people so that they believe and act in particular ways. Thus to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees is to shun their false doctrines, their concept that the Messiah must prove his claim to divinity by signs, for instance. Similarly, today, the warning is to beware of the leaven of any group whose false doctrines and antichrist philosophies work to keep men from accepting the truths of the restored gospel" (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:379).

Destruction of the Wicked the End of the World

Now men cannot have any possible grounds to say that this is figurative, or that it does not mean what it says: for He is now explaining what He had previously spoken in parables; and according to this language, the end of the world is the destruction of the wicked, the harvest and the end of the world have an allusion directly to the human family in the last days, instead of the earth, as many have imagined; and that which shall precede the coming of the Son of Man, and the restitution of all things spoken of by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began; and the angels are to have something to do in this great work, for they are the reapers. As, therefore, the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so shall it be in the end of the world; that is, as the servants of God go forth warning the nations, both priests and people, and as they harden their hearts and reject the light of truth, these first being delivered over to the buffetings of Satan, and the law and the testimony being closed up, as it was in the case of the Jews, they are left in darkness, and delivered over unto the day of burning; thus being bound up by their creeds, and their bands being made strong by their priests, are prepared for the fulfilment of the saying of the Savior--"The Son of Man shall send forth His angels, and gather out of His Kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity, and shall cast them into a furnace of fire, there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." We understand that the work of gathering together of the wheat into barns, or garners, is to take place while the tares are being bound over, and preparing for the day of burning; that after the day of burnings, the righteous shall shine forth like the sun, in the Kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Destruction of wicked-

I chose to focus on the differences between wheat and tares. While the plants are young they look identical and they need the same things to grow but as they reach the time for harvest the tares stand above the wheat while the wheat bend slightly bearing the weight from their fruit. That isn't to say tares don't produce fruit they actually do have tiny black seeds that if eaten are poisonous causing dizziness and nausea.

So when the angles gather us on the left hand in bundles to be burned or on the right to be saved in the garners it becomes very literal that by our fruit they shall know us.

I think it's especially interesting in today's world that the fruit of the wolves in sheep's clothing or those that knowingly or unknowingly teach false doctrine, lead people to a drunken state. True doctrine taught leads to good works, it is the bread of life.

Ryan and Kelly Thompson

In this we find there are two groups described which are the wicked and the righteous.

WICKED

- Angels gather the tares (wicked) and burn them
 - **Doctrine and Covenants 101:65 Parable of nobleman and olive trees**
- The wicked have harden their hearts (eyes/ears) and left in darkness
- Them which due iniquity cast into the furnace

RIGHTEOUS

- Gathering in preparation for the day of burning
 - Doctrine and Covenants 101:65 Parable of nobleman and olive trees
- Look for new Heavens and Earth
 - **And they shall see signs and wonders, for they shall be shown forth in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath. (Doctrine and Covenants 45: 39, 40)**
 - **Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. (2 Peter 3:12)**
- Gather elect unto Holy City (New Jerusalem)
 - **....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. (Moses 7: 62))**
- Remnant gathered (Doctrine and Covenants 45: 43)
 - **And the remnant shall be gathered unto this place (Doctrine and Covenants 45: 43)**
- Humbled in Kingdom of the Father
 - **And inasmuch as you have humbled yourselves before me, the blessings of the kingdom are yours. (Doctrine and Covenants 61:37)**
 - **Behold, the kingdom is yours. And behold, and lo, I am with the faithful always. Even so. Amen. (Doctrine and Covenants 62:9)**
- Shine forth the like the Sun in the Kingdom of their Father (Celestial Kingdom) (JST Matt 13: 35)

Will ye be healed and converted until you shine like the sun in our Father's kingdom?

D&C 86:1–7. The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

When Jesus first gave the parable of the wheat and the tares (see Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43), He interpreted most the details in the parable.

1. The man sowing seed is the Son of Man (Jesus).
2. The field is the world.
3. The good seed are the children of the kingdom (followers of Jesus).
4. The tares are children of the wicked one (those who follow the enticements of Satan).
5. The enemy is the devil.
6. The harvest is the end of the world.
7. The reapers are the angels sent to reap the field.
8. The tares bound and burned are the evil ones separated out and cast into fire (punishment) at the Judgment.
9. The wheat gathered into the barn represents the righteous who are separated out and made to “shine forth” in the kingdom of the Father.

The Lord did not interpret the following details in Matthew 13:

1. The wheat springing forth and starting to bear fruit.
2. The men sleeping.
3. The wheat and tares being allowed to grow together until the harvest.
4. The wheat being uprooted in an attempt to weed out the tares.

In Doctrine and Covenants 86, the Lord explains these additional details and gives more information on the first details:

1. The field is the world (see v. 2).
2. The Apostles are the sowers of the seed (see v. 2). President Joseph Fielding Smith explained: “In Matthew’s account the Lord declares that he is the sower of the good seed, and in the Doctrine and Covenants it is stated that the apostles were the sowers of the seed. There is no contradiction here. Christ is the author of our salvation and he it was who instructed the apostles, and under him they were sent to preach the Gospel unto all the world, or to sow the seed, and as the seed is his and it is sown under his command, he states but the fact in this revelation and also in the parable.” (Church History and Modern Revelation, 1:353.)
3. Falling asleep implies the death of the original Apostles (see D&C 86:3).
4. The enemy is Babylon (see v. 3), the great whore, which is elsewhere called the great and abominable church (see 1 Nephi 13:4–8). Babylon is a symbol of worldliness and evil, and therefore may be said to represent the devil’s power in this world. Those who remain in Babylon are those who follow the practices of the world and who do not accept the word of the Lord.

Sometimes Satan’s persecution of the Church takes the form of aggressive persecution, such as killing the prophets or physically abusing the Saints. More often the persecution consists of social pressure against the humble followers of Christ. Those in the “great and spacious building” in Lehi’s dream mocked those who were pressing forward to partake of the fruit of the tree of life, and many became ashamed and fell away (see 1 Nephi 8:27–33).

5. The tares (see D&C 86:4) represent evil doctrines and those who spread them. “Traditionally, tares have been identified with the darnel weed, a species of bearded ryegrass which closely resembles wheat in the early growth period and which is found in modern Palestine. This weed has a bitter taste; if eaten in any appreciable amount, either separately or when mixed with bread, it causes dizziness and often acts as a violent emetic.” (McConkie, *Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 1:296.) President Joseph Fielding Smith pointed out that “even in the Church the tares are to be found. It is the tares which are to be gathered up and burned from all over the world, but those in the Church will also be gathered out and find their place in the fire. [See D&C 112:23–26.] The Savior also bore witness of [this. When] speaking to the Nephites he said: ‘For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day whosoever will not repent and come unto my Beloved Son, them will I cut off from my people, O house of Israel.’ (3 Nephi 21:20.)” (*Church History and Modern Revelation*, 1:354.) False doctrines or individuals who present themselves as faithful members of the Church but are in reality servants of Satan are a source of temptation to the faithful and tend to choke or corrupt the word of God, or the good seed that is sown.

6. The Church being driven into the wilderness (see D&C 86:3) represents the time of the Apostasy. When the tares (the evil in the Church) grew to maturity, the result was apostasy. The wilderness represents the period of time when the Church and the priesthood were taken from the earth (see Revelation 12:12–17).

7. The tenderness of the wheat is explained in Doctrine and Covenants 86:6 as weakness, or newness, in the faith. When this revelation was given in December 1832, the Church was not yet three years old and was, therefore, still very “tender.” At that time many of the tares were not yet identifiable, and attempts to systematically root out those who would eventually prove themselves to be tares would have been very destructive.

8. As in Matthew, the reapers are identified as the angels of God (see D&C 86:5). But the Lord also indicates that at the time this revelation was given, the angels were anxiously awaiting permission to carry out their mission. (Notes and Commentary on D&C 86:5 discusses the time when that permission was given.)

9. The harvest and the burning of the tares (see v. 7) was explained by the Prophet Joseph Smith: “The harvest and the end of the world have an allusion directly to the human family in the last days. ... As, therefore, the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so shall it be in the end of the world; that is, as the servants of God go forth warning the nations, both priests and people, and as they harden their hearts and reject the light of truth—these first being delivered over to the buffetings of Satan, and the law and the testimony being closed up, as it was in the case of the Jews—they are left in darkness, and delivered over unto the day of burning; thus, being bound up

by their creeds, and their bands being made strong by their priests, [they] are prepared for the fulfillment of the saying of the Savior—‘The Son of Man shall send forth His angels, and gather out of His Kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire, there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.’ We understand that the work of gathering together of the wheat into barns, or garners, is to take place while the tares are being bound over, [in preparation] for the day of burning, that after the day of burnings, the righteous shall shine forth like the sun, in the Kingdom of their Father.” (Teachings, p. 101.)

The Treasure Hid in a Field

But to illustrate more clearly this gathering: We have another parable--"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hid in a field, the which, when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof, goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field!" The Saints work after this pattern. See the Church of the Latter-day Saints, selling all that they have, and gathering themselves together unto a place that they may purchase for an inheritance, that they may be together and bear each other's afflictions in the day of calamity.

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a merchantman seeking goodly pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." The Saints again work after this example. See men traveling to find places for Zion and her stakes or remnants, who, when they find the place for Zion, or the pearl of great price, straightway sell that they have, and buy it.

The treasure hid in a field-

I want to start off with another quote from Joseph Smith: "Let us take the book of Mormon, which a man took and hid in his field; securing it by his faith, to spring up in the last days, or in due time: let us behold it coming forth out of the ground, which is indeed accounted the least of all seeds, but behold it branching forth; yea, even towering, with lofty branches, and God-like majesty, until it becomes the greatest of all herbs: and it is truth, and it has sprouted and come forth out of the earth; and righteousness begins to look down from heaven; and God is sending down his powers, gifts and angels, to lodge in the branches thereof:"

So indeed the pearl of great price can be likened to the scriptures but then he goes on to say that it can also represent Zion.

I don't know how I missed this before, I read the scriptures, I go to church and I pay attention while I'm there and I never remember hearing it thinking of Zion as being the pearl of great price. I always related it to the scriptures and the word and maybe abstractly to my testimony but Joseph Smith clearly states that the pearl of great price is Zion and if you want to take that further, Zion is the Kingdom of Heaven. After emphasizing how literally the scriptures are to be fulfilled, it is safe to say that those who find Zion are asked to sacrifice/sell all that they possess. The Law of Consecration, plural marriage, the Abrahamic test all come to mind. We all know the scripture in doctrine and covenants where there is a law irrevocably decreed... Blessing come by

obedience to that law...I think we focus on the connection part can't have blessings without obedience and that's true and important but also of note it that there is but one law. One rule simply to obey or be found unwilling/unable to obey.

Ryan and Kelly Thompson:

Jesus in Matthew spoke of treasures and compared the Pharisees to Good man. This parable needs to start with remembering this verse.

Matt 12:29 oh you generation of Vipers how can you being evil speak good things for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh 30 a good man out of the good treasure of the heart bring it forth good things and an evil man out of the evil treasure bring it forth evil things.

So what is the good treasure of the heart? The first man found it by chance and not in his fields but when he found it He gave away all that he had to buy the field. The second man was seeking the treasure and found it.

Another example is in the Book of Mormon when King Lamoni is being taught by the Holy Ghost. King Lamoni asks Aaron what he must do to buy the Treasure and he is willing to give away all his sins.

Alma 22:15-18

15 And it came to pass that after Aaron had expounded these things unto him, the king said: What shall I do that I may have this eternal life of which thou hast spoken? Yea, what shall I do that I may be born of God, having this wicked spirit rooted out of my breast, and receive his Spirit, that I may be filled with joy, that I may not be cast off at the last day? Behold, said he, I will give up all that I possess, yea, I will forsake my kingdom, that I may receive this great joy.

16 But Aaron said unto him: If thou desirest this thing, if thou wilt bow down before God, yea, if thou wilt repent of all thy sins, and will bow down before God, and call on his name in faith, believing that ye shall receive, then shalt thou receive the hope which thou desirest.

17 And it came to pass that when Aaron had said these words, the king did bow down before the Lord, upon his knees; yea, even he did prostrate himself upon the earth, and cried mightily, saying:

18 O God, Aaron hath told me that there is a God; and if there is a God, and if thou art God, wilt thou make thyself known unto me, and I will give away all my sins to know thee, and that I may be raised from the dead, and be saved at the last day. And now when the king had said these words, he was struck as if he were dead.

The Prophet Joseph Smith said the Saints work after this pattern speaking about the Treasure hidden in the field and the man who sells everything to buy the Treasure. What is the pattern of a Zion people that the Prophet mentions?

- They sell all that they have (temporal)
 - And like King Lamoni give away all of their sins (spiritual)
- Gather together (Doctrine and Covenants 42:9)
 - **Until the time shall come when it shall be revealed unto you from on high, when the city of the New Jerusalem shall be prepared, that ye may be gathered in one, that ye may be my people and I will be your God.**
- Purchase for an inheritance (Doctrine and Covenants 48:4-5)
 - **It must needs be necessary that ye save all the money that ye can, and that ye obtain all that ye can in righteousness, that in time ye may be enabled to purchase land for an inheritance, even the city.**
 - **The place is not yet to be revealed; but after your brethren come from the east there are to be certain men appointed, and to them it shall be given to know the place, or to them it shall be revealed.**
- Bear one another afflictions (Alma 34: 40-41)
 - **40 And now my beloved brethren, I would exhort you to have patience, and that ye bear with all manner of afflictions; that ye do not revile against those who do cast you out because of your exceeding poverty, lest ye become sinners like unto them;**
 - **41 But that ye have patience, and bear with those afflictions, with a firm hope that ye shall one day rest from all your afflictions.**
 - **Also Mosiah 18:8-11**
- Changed by Christ (Mosiah 5:7)
 - **And now, because of the covenant which ye have made ye shall be called the children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters; for behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on his name; therefore, ye are born of him and have become his sons and his daughters.**

There is a lot of very good information here. Simply put, in summary, the pearl is the Kingdom of God and the treasure in the field is the New Jerusalem.

The Net Cast into the Sea

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a net that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind, which when it was full they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away." For the work of this pattern, behold the seed of Joseph, spreading forth the Gospel net upon the face of the earth, gathering of every kind, that the good may be saved in vessels prepared for that purpose, and the angels will take care of the bad. So shall it be at the end of the world--the angels shall come forth and sever the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire, and there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

"Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto Him, Yea, Lord." And we say, yea, so plain and so glorious, that every Saint in that last days must respond with a hearty Amen to them.

"Then said He unto them, therefore every scribe which is instructed in the kingdom of heaven, is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things that are new and old."

For the works of this example, see the Book of Mormon coming forth out of the treasure of the heart. Also the covenants given to the Latter-day Saints, also the translation of the Bible--thus bringing forth out of the heart things new and old, thus answering to three measures of meal undergoing the purifying touch by a revelation of Jesus Christ, and the ministering of angels, who have already commenced this work in the last days, which will answer to the leaven which leavened the whole lump. Amen

So I close, but shall continue the subject in another number.

In the bonds of the New and Everlasting Covenant,

JOSEPH SMITH, JUN.

--Messenger and Advocate, Dec. 1835, also DHC 2:264-272.

The net cast in the sea-

I think I addressed some if this section earlier when I talked about the 3 witnesses being scripture so I'll just add this thought starting in the book of revelation chapter 20:12

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

We are judged by the books we were given, and the books that were recorded of our works. Either we heeded their admonitions and they lifted us up to do good or we were hearers only and are good for nothing salt that lost it's savor.

Ryan and Kelly Thompson:

The prophet Joseph Smith speaks of the pattern and says **behold the seed of Joseph**. I thought back to the parable of the Leaven and how the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are covenant children unto the Lord. Again here we have the dividing of the two groups- the wicked and good.

We are commanded to bring forth our treasured things into the Kingdom of Heaven. What are the treasures of the righteous?

- Coming forth of the Book of Mormon= Treasure of the Heart JST Matthew 12:30
 - **30 a good man out of the good treasure of the heart bring it forth good things and an evil man out of the evil treasure bring it forth evil things.**
- Covenants given to Latter day Saints (**Mosiah 5:7**)

- **And now, because of the covenant which ye have made ye shall be called the children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters; for behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on his name; therefore, ye are born of him and have become his sons and his daughters.**
 - This is more than Baptism and Confirmation. It is being converted and Healed by Christ. **3 Nephi 9:13 O all ye that are spared because ye were more righteous than they, will ye not now return unto me, and repent of your sins, and be converted, that I may heal you?**
- Joseph Smith translation of the Bible is bringing things new and old out of the heart
- The three measures of meal parable with Christ as the Exemplar (JST Matt 13:32) and Seed of Joseph gathering in the last days
 - **1 Nephi 1:11 And they came down and went forth upon the face of the earth; and the first came and stood before my father, and gave unto him a book, and bade him that he should read.**
 - **Doctrine and Covenants 77:14 Q. What are we to understand by the little book which was eaten by John, as mentioned in the 10th chapter of Revelation?**
 - A. **We are to understand that it was a mission, and an ordinance, for him to gather the tribes of Israel; behold, this is Elias, who, as it is written, must come and restore all things.**
- Purifying touch of Jesus
 - **Doctrine and Covenants 90:11 For it shall come to pass in that day, that every man shall hear the fulness of the gospel in his own tongue, and in his own language, through those who are ordained unto this power, by the administration of the Comforter, shed forth upon them for the revelation of Jesus Christ.**
- Called of God
 - **Alma 13: 3 And this is the manner after which they were ordained—being called and prepared from the foundation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God, on account of their exceeding faith and good works; in the first place being left to choose good or evil; therefore they having chosen good, and exercising exceedingly great faith, are called with a holy calling, yea, with that holy calling which was prepared with, and according to, a preparatory redemption for such.**

What shall happen with those who are wicked?

- Cast bad away
 - JST Matt 13:50-51 The world is the children of the wicked and they shall be severed from the Just
- Not called of God
 - **Alma 13:4 And thus they have been called to this holy calling on account of their faith, while others would reject the Spirit of God on account of the**

hardness of their hearts and blindness of their minds, while, if it had not been for this they might have had as great privilege as their brethren.

- Fornication, Pride and Glorifying in their own strength and includes those with apostasy, spiritual blindness and hardness of heart
 - **1 COR 5:5 to 7 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.**
 - 6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?**
 - 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us**

Do we as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints desire the treasures of the Kingdom of Heaven? Are we willing to be full converted, made new and healed by our Savior?

Jeremiah 16:16

16 Behold, I will send for many “fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; ...

(23-36) Jeremiah 16:13–21. Doom and Delivery

In Conference 1971, Elder LeGrande Richards said,

“And Jeremiah saw the day when the Lord would do this very thing, when he would call for many fishers and many hunters, ‘and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.’ (Jer. 16:16.) Where do you find those fishers...that we read about in this great prophecy of Jeremiah? They are these 14,000 missionaries of this church, and those who have preceded them from the time that the Prophet Joseph Smith received the truth and sent the messengers out to share it with the world. Thus have they gone out, fishing ... I think that is more literal than some of us think!” (In Conference Report, Apr. 1971, p. 143; or Ensign, June 1971, pp. 98–99.)

The Glorious Resurrection

Now I understand by this quotation, that God clearly manifested to Enoch the redemption which He prepared, by offering the Messiah as a Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world; and by virtue of the same, the glorious resurrection of the Savior, and the resurrection of all the human family, even a resurrection of their corporeal bodies, is brought to pass; and also righteousness and truth are to sweep the earth as with a flood. 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, for the tabernacle of the Lord shall be with them.

The glorious resurrection-

We we partook of the sacrament at home during covid instead of at church, the thought of the Savior knocking at the front door came into my head on more than one occasion. My kids and husband and i even discussed what it would be like for him to come into our home. Would we feel comfortable would he be happy with what he felt or saw here? And then though out the year I wondered what it would be like for Joseph Smith or others closer to home like our grand parents or pioneer ancestors to come back and again come visit us.

And then in conference this april I was surprised on more than one occasion to hear of a speaker share their thoughts a long this line. Especially sister Reyna when she talked about her brother walking through her child hood home. I testify that God and angels will be our literal co-workers in building His kingdom on the earth. I pray and work so that my home will be a place they will be welcome and that I won't be embarrassed for them to enter.

Ryan and Kelly Thompson:

The Prophet Joseph Smith asks the questions How are righteousness and truth going to sweep the earth? We can reference the seed of Abraham and the parable of the Leaven. When I read this I was pondering the question how can I become worthy to enter New Jerusalem? I came back to the theme from the parables Come unto Christ to be converted and Healed, be called of God, and made a new treasure in the kingdom of God. In the Days of the coming of the Son of Man what shall be required of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints?

The righteous dead were seen in vision by President Joseph F. Smith. What are the treasures those righteous had given everything to receive?

Doctrine and Covenants 138: 12-17 12 And there were gathered together in one place an innumerable company of the spirits of the just, who had been faithful in the testimony of Jesus while they lived in mortality;

13 And who had offered sacrifice in the similitude of the great sacrifice of the Son of God, and had suffered tribulation in their Redeemer's name.

14 All these had departed the mortal life, firm in the hope of a glorious resurrection, through the grace of God the Father and his Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

These righteous Spirits had suffered tribulation in their Redeemer's name. What tribulations will we be asked to endure to be found worthy? As President Nelson challenged us, I encourage each of you to carefully remove debris from your life so that you can do the following.

- 1) Be a co-worker with Angels
- 2) Be in Zion and the New Jerusalem
- 3) Be part of the elect gathered
- 4) Be in the Holy City which has the tabernacle of the Lord

Jeremiah 16:16

16 Behold, I will send for many [“fishers](#), saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; *and after* will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.

D&C 77:11. Who Are the 144,000?

“Before the Lord shall come ... there is to be a great work among the nations. ... The ten tribes will have to come forth and come to this land, to be crowned with glory in the midst of Zion by the hands of the servants of God, even the Children of Ephraim; and twelve thousand High Priests will be elected from each of these ten tribes, as well as from the scattered tribes, and sealed in their foreheads, and will be ordained and receive power to gather out of all nations, kindreds, tongues and people as many as will come unto the general assemblage of the Church of the first-born.” (Orson Pratt, in Journal of Discourses, 16:325.)

Elder Gerald N. Lund,

“The Prophet (Joseph Smith) clearly indicates that the twelve thousand sealed from each of the twelve tribes is not just a symbolic representation of the forces of righteousness, as some scholars maintain. They are a great missionary force of the sixth seal (see D&C 77:10). Joseph Smith shows us that they are ordained high priests chosen from among every nation to carry forth the gospel and bring as many as will come to the true Church (see D&C 77:11). (In another revelation the Prophet indicated that these 144,000 would also stand on Mt. Zion with the Savior. See D&C 133:18 and compare with Revelation 14:1–5.) The Prophet also said, shortly before his death, “I attended prayer-meeting with the quorum in the assembly room, and made some remarks respecting the hundred and forty-four thousand mentioned by John the Revelator, showing that the selection of persons to form that number had already commenced.” [HC, J SMITH 6:196.] This statement would seem to indicate that this great body of missionaries may be composed of mortals and immortals together.” (BYU Religious Studies Center: Insights from the JST into the Book of Revelation By Gerald N. Lund;

New Testament Student Manual: Revelation 7:4–8. The Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand

In Doctrine and Covenants 77:11 the Lord explained to Joseph Smith that the number 144,000 mentioned in Revelation 7:4–8 is the number of representatives out of the twelve tribes of Israel who will be ordained to assist others in their quest for exaltation (see the commentary for Revelation 14:1–5). It is not, as some people believe, the total number of people who will be exalted. “The church of the Firstborn” refers to those who will be exalted and become joint-heirs with Jesus Christ (D&C 77:11). Members of the Lord’s earthly Church—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—who live righteously and receive the ordinances of exaltation will become members of the Lord’s heavenly Church—the Church of the Firstborn (see D&C 93:20–22).

Old Testament Student Manual Enrichment: The Assyrian Conquest and the Lost Tribes

The ten tribes will remain in the land of Zion among the tribe of Ephraim for some time. Elder Orson Pratt explained: “How long will they who come from the north countries tarry in the

heights of Zion? Sometime. They have got to raise wheat, cultivate the grape, wine and oil, raise flocks and herds, and their souls will have to become as a watered garden. They will dwell in Zion a good while, and during that time, there will be twelve thousand chosen out of each of these ten tribes, besides twelve thousand that will be chosen from Judah, Joseph, and the remaining tribes, one hundred and forty-four thousand in all [see Revelation 7:4–8; D&C 77:11]. Chosen for what? To be sealed in their foreheads. For what purpose? So that the power of death and pestilence and plague that will go forth in those days sweeping over the nations of the earth will have no power over them. These parties who are sealed in their foreheads will go forth among all people, nations and tongues, and gather up and hunt out the house of Israel, wherever they are scattered, and bring as many as they possibly can into the Church of the first-born, preparatory to the great day of the coming of the Lord. ***One hundred and forty-four thousand missionaries!*** Quite a host. All this has got to take place. There are persons in this congregation who will be in the midst of Zion, when the ten tribes come to Zion from the north countries, and will assist in bestowing the blessings promised by the Almighty upon the heads of the tribes of Israel. There are servants of God in the midst of this congregation who will lay their hands upon many of each of these twelve thousand, chosen out of the ten tribes, and ***set them apart as missionaries*** to visit the nations of the earth and ***hunt up*** the remnants of the seed of Jacob.” (In Journal of Discourses, 18:25.)

We Cannot Be Perfect Without Our Dead

The Kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed. The mustard seed is small, but brings forth a large tree, and the fowls lodge in the branches. The fowls are the angels. Thus angels come down, combine together to gather their children, and gather them. We cannot be made perfect without them, nor they without us; when these things are done, the Son of Man will descend, the Ancient of Days sit; we may come to an innumerable company of angels, have communion with and receive instruction from them. Paul told about Moses' proceedings; spoke of the children of Israel being baptized. (1 Cor. 10:1-4.) He knew this, and that all the ordinances and blessings were in the Church. Paul had these things, and we may have the fowls of heaven lodge in the branches, etc.

The "Horn" made war with the Saints and overcame them, until the Ancient of Days came; judgment was given to the Saints of the Most High from the Ancient of Days; the time came that the Saints possessed the Kingdom. This not only makes us ministers here, but in eternity.

We cannot be perfected without our dead

Multiple times in our readings tonight it has been emphasized that the angels are the reapers. We need them, they need us to the work for them.

Ryan and Kelly Thompson:

This section starts with the parable of the mustard seed and how the angels come and gather the children of Christ before the coming of the Son of Man. The Prophet Joseph says “We cannot be made perfect without them, nor they without us”.

JST Hebrews 11: 40 God having provided some better things for them through their sufferings, for without sufferings they could not be made perfect.

What are some of the sufferings the righteous were asked to endure? Or a better question what sufferings and tribulations am I willing to go through that I may be fully converted, healed and counted among the righteous?

Hebrews Chapter 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Am I willing to be mocked, scourged, imprisoned, stoned, sawn asunder, tempted, slain, wander in goat/sheep skin, be destitute, afflicted, and tormented?

I want to close by bearing my testimony with you Brothers and Sisters. I know that the coming of Christ and the day of the Son of Man is soon. I look forward to that glorious day and can truly say that **ALL** who come unto Christ can be converted and healed by Christ. I encourage any of you that may be holding back to give all that you have to know God. Without a testimony of God and Jesus Christ we will not stand the tribulations and afflictions. I testify that those who choose to suffer affliction, bear one another burdens are the righteous who shall redeem Zion and build New Jerusalem. I know that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is lead by a Prophet of God. I know that the Prophet Joseph Smith will lead us to Zion. The full desire of my heart is to bring souls to Christ and I testify that ye may be healed. In the name of Jesus Christ Amen.

Orson Pratt taught, “the Gentile believers will gather to Zion; and because of your testimony, all the elect of God, of whatever nation, tongue, and people, will be gathered out year after year (fishers/missionaries/etc); and by-and-by, the great and last gathering *will be done* through instrumentality of angels (hunters/144,000/etc). There will be two, as it were, grinding at a mill; the faithful one will be taken, and the other will be left: there will be two, as it were, sleeping in one bed; one will be picked up by the angels, and the other will be left; and the remnant of the children of God scattered abroad on all the face of the earth will receive their last gathering by the angels.” (Journal of Discourses 7:188)

Brother and Sisters, we can't be saved without our dead; the turning of the hearts of the children to the fathers and the hearts of the fathers to the children. Joseph Smith taught that the final gathering will be done through the instrumentality of angels while teaching this doctrine that we cannot be saved without our dead. This last gathering will be done through the instrumentality of angels and these angels will be those connected to us through the temple. The Assyrian is here, he is molesting the laws of the land which is causing the love of men to wax cold and soon we will see the sword. We must do as D&C 98:16 commands us:

D&C 98:16

16 Therefore, renounce war and proclaim peace, and seek diligently to turn the hearts of the children to their fathers, and the hearts of the fathers to the children;

Peace and security will be obtained in Zion, the New Jerusalem and we should not have any anxiety over it. The angels will come, the redemption will occur and if we remain faithful we will be lodged in its branches. In Jesus' name, Amen.