

October 16th Fireside

2 Nephi 27-28

1. 2 Nephi 27

1 But, behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles—yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land and those who shall be upon other lands, yea, even upon all the lands of the earth, behold, they will be drunken with iniquity and all manner of abominations—

2 And when that day shall come they shall be visited of the Lord of Hosts, with thunder and with earthquake, and with a great noise, and with storm, and with tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire.

3 And all the nations that fight against Zion, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision; yea, it shall be unto them, even as unto a hungry man which dreameth, and behold he eateth but he awaketh and his soul is empty; or like unto a thirsty man which dreameth, and behold he drinketh but he awaketh and behold he is faint, and his soul hath appetite; yea, even so shall the multitude of all the nations be that fight against Mount Zion.

Topher:

Forgive the 2am ramblings of an injured, recently vaxxed Australian... 🙏

The earth is certainly “drunken with iniquity and all manner of abominations”. I was thinking about this recently and about how much the world is just so ready for a rebuking and a punishment – Abortions, pride, blasphemy and sexual sin – I honestly don’t know how the Lord has stayed his hand this long. It makes me think of **2 timothy 3:1-7**

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

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

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

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

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Wow did Paul ever nail our generation on the head! I find it very interesting how fast the garbage is escalating. Even just in my lifetime there has been considerable decline in the world in terms of morality etc. From when I was young until now the difference is like chalk and cheese. I could pick a single topic from that scripture and elaborate on how it applies to our day and I think we would all agree we are almost overdue for a “scourge” ... Oh wait, we are in one right now LOL. If you don’t know what I mean

by that just google how great the US economy is doing whilst standing in line for your mandated vaccine. (FYI I'm all for the vaccine because the Prophet urged us to get it but I am not for a vaccine mandate in general as this is more in line with Satans plan rather than the Saviours). I don't want to derail on this one part too much but I find it very interesting that right now it feels like the 'Assyrian' is almost seeing how far the people can be pushed and tested with a police state and almost dictatorship style rules in VICTORIA AUSTRALIA. I never thought Americans would be messaging us and asking if Australia is OK haha. For those who don't know Australian Geography – thankfully Victoria is the opposite side of Australia and essentially the difference of living in California or New York. You might also find it fascinating that Ammon was inspired to move out of Victoria and move over here to Perth. Now what is actually interesting about this is that there is almost a perfect correlation with the rise in the craziness in Victoria and crazy natural disasters. Victoria has had an Earthquake and recently had multiple freak hail storms and flash floods. So, looking back to verse 2, all that is left is the devouring fire. I would expect it any minute now 🤔

Ammon:

Nephi identifies the timing of this prophecy by explaining it begins in the last days and during the time of the Gentiles. We also know that the time of the Gentiles has come in as the generation to see it fulfilled has been identified (See Time of the Gentiles Fulfilled video/paper). This means that we are actually beginning the prophecy mid-fulfilment.

We have seen the calamities mentioned here come to pass in abundance. In recent months we have seen each of these occur several times over around the world.

All those that have and will fight against Gods people will have their hopes dashed. In our family we have always said that every time Satan tries to destroy the work and people of God, he just speeds up and fulfills the process. He tempted Eve which brought about the plan of salvation and enabled them to bring forth the whole human family. He destroyed religious freedom which led the Pilgrims across the seas to a promised land that initiated the restoration of the Gospel in the last days. He tried to destroy the Jewish people which actually initiated the gathering of the Jews. The examples are endless, but in every circumstance where Satan stirs up the hearts of the nations to fight against Mount Zion, they do not profit.

Micah's Thoughts: The first verse is a reference to Ephraim in it's drunken condition in the last days

Isaiah 28:1-3

1 Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!

2 Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, which as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down to the earth with the hand.

3 The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet:

Doctrine and Covenants 101:11

11 Mine indignation is soon to be poured out without measure upon all nations; and this will I do when the cup of their iniquity is full.

Isaiah 28:7-8

7 ¶ But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

8 For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.

Verse two

“visited of the Lord”

Isaiah 10

5 ¶ O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation.

6 I will send him against a hypocritical nation; and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge: to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Doctrine and Covenants 101

50 And while they were at variance one with another they became very slothful, and they hearkened not unto the commandments of their lord.

51 And the enemy came by night, and broke down the hedge; and the servants of the nobleman arose and were affrighted, and fled; and the enemy destroyed their works, and broke down the olive trees.

The Lord sends the Assyrian(s) (a VERY "drastic measure) to cleanse the Church because of slothfulness in keeping the commandments of our Lord. Interesting the olive trees representing "the church" or "stakes" or "12 specific stakes" it seems like the damage might be the members being cleansed out... And yes, directly before the redemption of Zion

Doctrine and Covenants 45:30-33

30 And in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

31 And there shall be men standing in that generation, that shall not pass until they shall see an overflowing scourge; for a desolating sickness shall cover the land.

32 But my disciples shall stand in holy places, and shall not be moved; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices and curse God and die.

33 And there shall be earthquakes also in divers places, and many desolations; yet men will harden their hearts against me, and they will take up the sword, one against another, and they will kill one another.

3 Nephi 20:27-28

27 And after that ye were blessed then fulfilleth the Father the covenant which he made with Abraham, saying: In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed—unto the pouring out of the Holy Ghost through me upon the Gentiles, which blessing upon the Gentiles shall make them mighty above all, unto the scattering of my people, O house of Israel.

28 And they shall be a scourge unto the people of this land. Nevertheless, when they shall have received the fulness of my gospel, then if they shall harden their hearts against me I will return their iniquities upon their own heads, saith the Father.

Points of Reference: the children of the covenant are blessed → Ephraim mingles with the seed of the kingdoms of the earth → the Holy Ghost or intelligence of God leavens the loaf of the gentile nations (ie. Increasing their IQ) → the Gentiles become mighty above all because of this → Gentiles scatter what's left of the house of Israel → these gentile become the scourge (ie. The Assyrian) in America → the fullness of the gospel is restored (ie. Celestial law) → Gentiles are presented with the option in 1 Nephi 14:7

D&C 88:87-92

87 For not many days hence and the earth shall tremble and reel to and fro as a drunken man; and the sun shall hide his face, and shall refuse to give light; and the moon shall be bathed in blood; and the stars shall become exceedingly angry, and shall cast themselves down as a fig that falleth from off a fig tree.

88 And after your testimony cometh wrath and indignation upon the people.

89 For after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes, that shall cause groanings in the midst of her, and men shall fall upon the ground and shall not be able to stand.

90 And also cometh the testimony of the voice of thunderings, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea heaving themselves beyond their bounds.

91 And all things shall be in commotion; and surely, men's hearts shall fail them; for fear shall come upon all people.

92 And angels shall fly through the midst of heaven, crying with a loud voice, sounding the trump of God, saying: Prepare ye, prepare ye, O inhabitants of the earth; for the judgment of our God is come. Behold, and lo, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Revelation 6:12-13

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

2 Nephi 30:10

10 For the time speedily cometh that the Lord God shall cause a great division among the people, and the wicked will he destroy; and he will spare his people, yea, even if it so be that he must destroy the wicked by fire.

2 Nephi 20:15-16, 27-28

15 And I say unto you, that if the Gentiles do not repent after the blessing which they shall receive, after they have scattered my people

16 Then shall ye, who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, go forth among them; and ye shall be in the midst of them who shall be many; and ye shall be among them as a lion among the beasts of the forest, and as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he goeth through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

27 And after that ye were blessed then fulfilleth the Father the covenant which he made with Abraham, saying: In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed—unto the pouring out of the Holy Ghost through me upon the Gentiles, which blessing upon the Gentiles shall make them mighty above all, unto the scattering of my people, O house of Israel.

28 And they shall be a scourge unto the people of this land. Nevertheless, when they shall have received the fulness of my gospel, then if they shall harden their hearts against me I will return their iniquities upon their own heads, saith the Father.

3 Nephi 21:8-13

8 And when that day shall come, it shall come to pass that kings shall shut their mouths; for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

9 For in that day, for my sake shall the Father work a work, which shall be a great and a marvelous work among them; and there shall be among them those who will not believe it, although a man shall declare it unto them.

10 But behold, the life of my servant shall be in my hand; therefore they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them. Yet I will heal him, for I will show unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil.

11 Therefore it shall come to pass that whosoever will not believe in my words, who am Jesus Christ, which the Father shall cause him to bring forth unto the Gentiles, and shall give unto him power that he shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles, (it shall be done even as Moses said) they shall be cut off from among my people who are of the covenant.

12 And my people who are a remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles, yea, in the midst of them as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he go through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

13 Their hand shall be lifted up upon their adversaries, and all their enemies shall be cut off.

But who is this remnant that shall be lions in that day?

Isaiah 28:5-6

5 ¶ In that day shall the LORD of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people,

6 And for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate.

3 Nephi 24:16-18

16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened and heard; and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

18 Then shall ye return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

D&C 101:12-19

12 And in that day all who are found upon the watch-tower, or in other words, all mine Israel, shall be saved.

13 And they that have been scattered shall be gathered.

14 And all they who have mourned shall be comforted.

15 And all they who have given their lives for my name shall be crowned.

16 Therefore, let your hearts be comforted concerning Zion; for all flesh is in mine hands; be still and know that I am God.

17 Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered.

18 They that remain, and are pure in heart, shall return, and come to their inheritances, they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy, to build up the waste places of Zion—

19 And all these things that the prophets might be fulfilled.

D&C 45:66-71

66 And it shall be called the New Jerusalem, a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the Most High God;

67 And the glory of the Lord shall be there, and the terror of the Lord also shall be there, insomuch that the wicked will not come unto it, and it shall be called Zion.

68 And it shall come to pass among the wicked, that every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor must needs flee unto Zion for safety.

69 And there shall be gathered unto it out of every nation under heaven; and it shall be the only people that shall not be at war one with another.

70 And it shall be said among the wicked: Let us not go up to battle against Zion, for the inhabitants of Zion are terrible; wherefore we cannot stand.

71 And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion, singing with songs of everlasting joy.

2. **2 Nephi 27**

4 For behold, all ye that doeth iniquity, stay yourselves and wonder, for ye shall cry out, and cry; yea, ye shall be drunken but not with wine, ye shall stagger but not with strong drink.

5 For behold, the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep. For behold, ye have closed your eyes, and ye have rejected the prophets; and your rulers, and the seers hath he covered because of your iniquity.

6 And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall bring forth unto you the words of a book, and they shall be the words of them which have slumbered.

7 And behold the book shall be sealed; and in the book shall be a revelation from God, from the beginning of the world to the ending thereof.

8 Wherefore, because of the things which are sealed up, the things which are sealed shall not be delivered in the day of the wickedness and abominations of the people. Wherefore the book shall be kept from them.

Topher:

So, the world is staggering around like a drunk not only due to earthquakes etc but also staggering because they are confused and misled amongst a generation of fools who champion virtue signaling and political correctness above the commandments of God. They have “closed their eyes” and “rejected the prophets” and place importance on “wickedness and abominations” so much so that the revelations of the Lord shall be kept from them.

Isaiah 5:20-21

20 ¶ Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

21 Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

Now verse 8 mentions the sealed portion of the Book of Mormon which we know contains revelations about the beginning of the world all the way until the end and it won't be “delivered in the day of the wickedness and abominations of the people”. All I want to say is that I hope, and we better be careful that we are not part of these people contributing to the wickedness that is stopping these scriptures coming forth.

Ammon:

The coming forth of the Book of Mormon – It contains a portion that provides a very Bible like history from the beginning of the world until the end that remains sealed. Because of the wickedness at the time of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, the sealed portion was to remain hidden. Understanding that purity and knowledge by itself is not enough – action is the power of faith.

Micah's Thoughts:

It's interesting that this group the Lord says will be drunk but not with strong drink, whereas in Isaiah 28 talks about them also being drunk with strong drink. How do we reconcile these two? Because one is referencing to Ephraim at large, i.e. the West, and the other is talking about the Church and its members who are drunk on Ephraim culture and Babylon but who refrain from drinking actual strong drink.

The last time we talked about the quote from Joseph Smith about the veil of stupidity:

"While upon one hand I behold the manifest withdrawal of God's Holy Spirit, and the veil of stupidity which seems to be drawn over the hearts of the people" (TPJS, p.13-14)

Which ties into:

D&C 101:53

53 Ought ye not to have done even as I commanded you, and—after ye had planted the vineyard, and built the hedge round about, and set watchmen upon the walls thereof—built the tower also, and set a watchman upon the tower, and watched for my vineyard, and not have fallen asleep, lest the enemy should come upon you?

“...Take the boys here, the sons of our brethren and sisters, and you may cut them into inch pieces, and they will not forsake this cause, but they will defend it to the last. Some of them may be rough, and perhaps some of them do not pray much, but send them into the vineyard, and then you will see them shew forth the power that is in them. At present the Prophet Joseph's boys lay apparently in a state of slumber, everything seems to be perfectly calm with them, but by and by God will wake them up, and they will roar like the thunders of Mount Sinai.”

-Heber C. Kimball (Journal of

Discourses 4:1)

The only other thing I would mention here is that this book can't be referring to what we currently have as the Book of Mormon because A) it's not the sealed portion, B) it does not contain a revelation from God “from the beginning of the world to the end thereof” and C) this book will not be delivered until after Ephraim makes itself clean- it won't be delivered in the day of Ephraim's wickedness and sleep.

3. 2 Nephi 27

24 And again it shall come to pass that the Lord shall say unto him that shall read the words that shall be delivered him:

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—

26 Therefore, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, yea, a marvelous work and a wonder, for the wisdom of their wise and learned shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid.

27 And wo unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord! And their works are in the dark; and they say: Who seeth us, and who knoweth us? And they also say: Surely, your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay. But behold, I will show unto them, saith the Lord of Hosts, that I know all their works. For shall the work say of him that made it, he made me not? Or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, he had no understanding?

28 But behold, saith the Lord of Hosts: I will show unto the children of men that it is yet a very little while and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field; and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest.

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.

There's some really interesting stuff in here. Part of the "Marvelous work and a wonder" is the translation of the Book of Mormon as it stands now, but it is not THE marvelous work and wonder alone. **Elder LeGrand Richards** said:

"What would really constitute a marvelous work and a wonder? Why should not honest lovers of truth welcome the pronouncement of such a work? Should any generation reject revealed truth when sent from heaven, even as they rejected the Christ when he came among men? Why does it seem so much easier to accept and believe in the dead prophets than in living prophets?"

"In the accomplishment of this promised marvelous work and a wonder, the Lord had in mind a 'restitution of all things' and moved upon Peter to so prophesy to those who had crucified his Lord: [Acts 3:19–21]." (A Marvelous Work and a Wonder, pp. 34–35.)

Thus, the entire restoration of the priesthood—the Church, the ordinances, the gospel truths—constitute the marvelous work and a wonder that Isaiah foretold. I think the return of Joseph Smith and him completing his mission is also a part of this.

Ezra Taft Benson (Pres of Quorum on 12) – A Marvelous Work and a Wonder – GC 1980

In 1845, the Quorum of the Twelve issued an epistle to the heads of state in the world. I quote from one paragraph:

"As this work progresses in its onward course, and becomes more and more an object of political and religious interest and excitement, no king, ruler, or subject, no community or individual, will stand neutral. All will at length be influenced by one spirit or the other; and will take sides either for or against the kingdom of God" (James R. Clark, comp., Messages of the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6 vols., Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1965–75, 1:257).

That day is now here. Opposition has been and will be the lot of the Saints of the kingdom in any age. The finger of scorn has been pointed at us in the past, and we may expect it in the future. We also expect to see men in high places defend the Church; there will also be “pharaohs” who know neither Joseph nor his brethren. The seed planted and watered in 1830 has now matured to a fully grown tree for all to see. Some will seek the refuge of its shade in the heat of the day, but none will be neutral in their appraisal of its fruit.

The Church will continue its opposition to error, falsehood, and immorality. The mission of the Church is to herald the message of salvation and make unmistakably clear the pathway to exaltation. Our mission is to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord. As the world drifts further away from God and standards of virtue and honor, we may expect opposition to the work of the Church. We may expect to see the time, as the Book of Mormon forecasts, when “multitudes ... among all the nations of the Gentiles [will gather] to fight against the Lamb of God” (1 Ne. 14:13). The power of God and the righteousness of the Saints will be the means by which the Church will be spared (see 1 Ne. 14:14–15).”

Verse 26 talks about people doing their secret works in the dark. This shouts ‘Gadianton Robbers’ to me and makes me think about the current state of the Government and the Governors in America right now – somehow all winning votes with landslide figures when real world opinion would prove otherwise.

Verse 11 which we didn’t actually read in the readings says:

“11 And the day cometh that the words of the book which were sealed shall be read upon the house tops; and they shall be read by the power of Christ; and all things shall be revealed unto the children of men which ever have been among the children of men, and which ever will be even unto the end of the earth.”

So, I look forward to the secret works of these thieves and criminals being shouted from the rooftops as part of this Marvelous Work and Wonder.

I was going to go into some detail about Lebanon becoming a fruitful field and how that is a reference to the Jews returning to their homeland and how this signifies the generation of, and the ending of the times of the gentiles and how President Nelson has referred to this in his talks with his footnotes so we can specifically know that this is our time period right now.... But I wont – We’ve covered this before and I’ve talked on this section enough haha

Ammon:

The Lord is explaining the way in which the Saints in the last days will receive the Book of Mormon and treat it lightly. They will say they follow Christ with their outward appearance and yet their hearts are set on the things of the world. They mingle their own doctrines with scripture and wave around their whiteboards to gather others to their personal cause.

They can fool themselves and they can lead others astray, but they cannot hide their wickedness from the Lord. The day of burning and renewal of the Earth is to come quickly and it will cleanse the Earth of this unrighteousness.

We need to note the difference between verse 25 here and verse 19 of Joseph Smith History.

“they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.”

There is a difference and the difference is profound. 2 Nephi 27:25 is the Lord talking to His Saints “this people”, the JSH was talking about the professors of religion in Joseph’s day.. We learn of when this change happened in the Saints’ hearts in:

D&C 45:28-29

28 And when the times of the Gentiles is come in, a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fulness of my gospel;

29 But they receive it not; for they perceive not the light, and they turn their hearts from me because of the precepts of men.

And because the Saints’ have removed their hearts from the Lord and only worship them with their mouths, the Lord will work THE marvelous work and a wonder.

Isaiah 28:16-21

16 ¶ Therefore, thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste.

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.

19 From the time that it goeth forth it shall take you: for morning by morning shall it pass over, by day and by night: and it shall be a vexation only to understand the report.

20 For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it.

21 For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.

Doctrine and Covenants 128:18

18: ...And not only this, but those things which never have been revealed from the foundation of the world, but have been kept hid from the wise and prudent, shall be revealed unto babes and sucklings in this, the dispensation of the fulness of times.

4. 2 Nephi 28

1 And now, behold, my brethren, I have spoken unto you, according as the Spirit hath constrained me; wherefore, I know that they must surely come to pass.

2 And the things which shall be written out of the book shall be of great worth unto the children of men, and especially unto our seed, which is a remnant of the house of Israel.

3 For it shall come to pass in that day that the churches which are built up, and not unto the Lord, when the one shall say unto the other: Behold, I, I am the Lord's; and the others shall say: I, I am the Lord's; and thus shall every one say that hath built up churches, and not unto the Lord—

4 And they shall contend one with another; and their priests shall contend one with another, and they shall teach with their learning, and deny the Holy Ghost, which giveth utterance.

5 And they deny the power of God, the Holy One of Israel; and they say unto the people: Hearken unto us, and hear ye our precept; for behold there is no God today, for the Lord and the Redeemer hath done his work, and he hath given his power unto men;

6 Behold, hearken ye unto my precept; if they shall say there is a miracle wrought by the hand of the Lord, believe it not; for this day he is not a God of miracles; he hath done his work.

7 Yea, and there shall be many which shall say: Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die; and it shall be well with us.

8 And there shall also be many which shall say: Eat, drink, and be merry; nevertheless, fear God—he will justify in committing a little sin; yea, lie a little, take the advantage of one because of his words, dig a pit for thy neighbor; there is no harm in this; and do all these things, for tomorrow we die; and if it so be that we are guilty, God will beat us with a few stripes, and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God.

9 Yea, and there shall be many which shall teach after this manner, false and vain and foolish doctrines, and shall be puffed up in their hearts, and shall seek deep to hide their counsels from the Lord; and their works shall be in the dark.

10 And the blood of the saints shall cry from the ground against them.

11 Yea, they have all gone out of the way; they have become corrupted.

12 Because of pride, and because of false teachers, and false doctrine, their churches have become corrupted, and their churches are lifted up; because of pride they are puffed up.

13 They rob the poor because of their fine sanctuaries; they rob the poor because of their fine clothing; and they persecute the meek and the poor in heart, because in their pride they are puffed up.

14 They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, and abominations, and whoredoms, they have all gone astray save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ; nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err because they are taught by the precepts of men.

15 O the wise, and the learned, and the rich, that are puffed up in the pride of their hearts, and all those who preach false doctrines, and all those who commit whoredoms, and pervert the right

way of the Lord, wo, wo, wo be unto them, saith the Lord God Almighty, for they shall be thrust down to hell!

16 Wo unto them that turn aside the just for a thing of naught and revile against that which is good, and say that it is of no worth! For the day shall come that the Lord God will speedily visit the inhabitants of the earth; and in that day that they are fully ripe in iniquity they shall perish.

17 But behold, if the inhabitants of the earth shall repent of their wickedness and abominations they shall not be destroyed, saith the Lord of Hosts.

Topher:

Its amazing (or it's not really amazing because the Book is true) how accurate the Book of Mormon can describe the religions of our day. Speaking about other churches - I have a friend who is a 'Baptist' but she doesn't actively go to church. She says that she will be saved because she has been baptized, regardless of how active she is. She also believes in the 'Rapture'. Here is why the notion of the 'Rapture' is so harmful. Firstly, just so we are all on the same page here, we as LDS don't believe in the 'Rapture' as a means to escape the tribulations as other Christian Faiths do. So, this friend of mine fully expects that when the tribulations come, she will be raptured away and not have to deal with any of it. The harm in this is that when this does not happen, these people will be left completely unprepared for the tribulations because they expected to bypass them completely. This is a very smart and sneaky subversion by Satan. "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die; and it shall be well with us." because I accepted Jesus on my deathbed. Or because I will be raptured. All responsibility for their safety and salvation apparently rests on Jesus but unfortunately one day these people are going to find that the responsibility for their salvation rests on themselves accepting and abiding by the commandments and ordinances of the Gospel that lead to eternal life through Jesus. Neal A Maxwell said in Conference in 1988 - "The philosophy of ritual prodigalism is 'eat, drink, and be merry, ... [and] God will beat us with a few stripes' (2 Nephi 28:8). This is a cynical and shallow view of God, of self, and of life. God never can justify us 'in committing a little sin' (verse 8). He is the God of the universe, not some night-court judge with whom we can haggle and plea bargain! "Of course God is forgiving! But He knows the intents of our hearts. He also knows what good we might have done while AWOL [absent without leave]. In any case, what others do is no excuse for the disciple from whom much is required (see Alma 39:4). Besides, on the straight and narrow path, there are simply no corners to be cut (see D&C 82:3)" (in Conference Report, Oct. 1988, 40; or Ensign, Nov. 1988, 33).

You might've seen the debate on youtube between Kwaku and a Calvinist Pastor – the differences and incorrect doctrines taught by these misguided churches become very apparent when put in such contrast. I wouldn't usually recommend a debate on religion as it usually avails nothing but I found it quite enjoyable and enlightening in this case

Verse 14 says "They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of **pride, and wickedness, and abominations, and whoredoms, they have all gone astray save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ**; nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err because they are **taught by the precepts of men.**"

Unfortunately, even some "humble followers of Christ" exist but are being "taught by the precepts of men". They believe in a God that "hath done his work" and gone "he hath given his power unto men". Their churches are 'dead' in the fact that they cannot receive any further light and knowledge or revelations from God because they don't want them or even believe in the possibility. How blessed are

we to be in a living church with constant revelation? Not only through a living Prophet but also individually. Its like the difference between a stagnant swamp or a beautiful flowing river filled with life. Verse 17 says “But behold, if the inhabitants of the earth shall repent of their wickedness and abominations they shall not be destroyed, saith the Lord of Hosts.”

Unfortunately, I think we know that as a whole, this is not going to happen – the earth will not repent. Nevertheless, this is why it is important for us to not sit on our hands thinking all is well and the responsibility rests with someone else in speaking up, sharing and talking about the Gospel to anyone who will hear because there are “many humble followers of Christ” that will turn to the truth if they hear it. Not only non-members but also within the Church, the culture of laziness and “all is well” and “everything is fine” is rampant. We’ve talked about this many times – we can see, feel and sense the urgency coming from the Presidency of the Church but it seems to only be apparent for those with eyes to see and ears to hear. There are many that still require a wake up to their awful condition. This is covered more in the next section.

Ammon:

How hard did this last conference hit these points? Talking about ‘absolute truth’ and RMN mentioned why temple marriage was critical ‘Only if you want to live together forever’...

My heart breaks as I read these verses and realize now more than ever that these are the times we are living in and that I know so many members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints that fit these descriptions. We need to stop reading these verses as though they are describing some other random non-affiliated group. This is us! These are our people!

I have had far too many conversations recently with members that are trying to justify sin. We all have. People twisting the teachings of the Lord and telling others that Jesus is accepting of all sin because he loves us – It is the opposite! He loves us In spite of our sin and does not approve ANY sin whatsoever. It might be LGBT issues or abortion. It might be the complete ‘stoning’ and turning away from the Prophets from trashing a heartfelt message by Elder Holland at BYU or deciding that President Nelson no longer speaks for the Lord.

The other day I wondered what an old missionary friend was up too and went to his facebook profile. I saw he had a recent post about how he left the Church over LGBT doctrinal concerns. He was seeking acceptance and comfort from others around him and there were dozens of replies. I thought to myself “I wonder how many people I served with will ‘out’ themselves in this thread”. Sure enough, at least 4-5 people I served with had all come out and thrown their support behind him to leave the Church and shared the same sentiments. It made me think about those in the great and spacious building calling out to the people tasting the Fruit of the Tree of Life and feeling shame and getting lost in forbidden paths.

First thing to note is that this book of great worth hopefully we should recognize by now it is the sealed portion that is to come forth and not the Book of Mormon that we have now. The sealed portion comes forth because there are so many churches, sects and denominations. This leads people to incorrectly assume that it therefore must be talking about our current Book of Mormon.

But Nephi is giving us a key to understanding, he is showing us that the sealed portion is what changes the scenario from multiple churches down to two churches, or as he put it in

1 Nephi 14:10

10 And he said unto me: Behold there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth.

The sealed portion is what brings about that change from multiple churches down to this, only two churches. And we get that a couple verses previous to this one in

1 Nephi 14:7

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

Or as Moroni summarized in Ether 4:

Ether 4

5 Wherefore the Lord hath commanded me to write them; and I have written them. And he commanded me that I should seal them up; and he also hath commanded that I should seal up the interpretation thereof; wherefore I have sealed up the interpreters, according to the commandment of the Lord.

6 For the Lord said unto me: They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord.

7 And in that day that they shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are.

8 And he that will contend against the word of the Lord, let him be accursed; and he that shall deny these things, let him be accursed; for unto them will I show no greater things, saith Jesus Christ; for I am he who speaketh.

We then get a clear distinction made between those who are the Savior's on Mount Zion, or in other words, those on the watchtower, or in other words "all mine Israel saith the Lord" and that of the world (i.e. the two churches). One group teaches and believes in miracles, the points of reference, and the other believes that the Lord has already done His work and we are simply waiting of the Second Coming. In this they teach many pervasive lies such as "God will save you as you are". Once again,

10 And the blood of the saints shall cry from the ground against them.

11 Yea, they have all gone out of the way; they have become corrupted.

Why are the Saint's blood crying from the ground? Because the modern day Saints have forgotten or given up on "the tower", they no longer preach, teach, or believe in a literal redemption of Zion and a literal gathering of Israel- something the early Saints believed in so much so that they shed their own blood in her defense, they died for the idea of Zion, they gave their all for her and her construction and now sitting in laps of luxury we can't be bothered with the idea of "New Jerusalem". How is this error brought about? How is this able to have been done to the Saints? Because of priestcrafts, because of the "precepts of men"... This is gone over in a lot more detail in my paper "The Why, The Key"...

5. 2 Nephi 28

18 But behold, that great and abominable church, the whore of all the earth, must tumble to the earth, and great must be the fall thereof.

19 For the kingdom of the devil must shake, and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance, or the devil will grasp them with his everlasting chains, and they be stirred up to anger, and perish;

20 For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good.

21 And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well—and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell.

22 And behold, others he flattereth away, and telleth them there is no hell; and he saith unto them: I am no devil, for there is none—and thus he whispereth in their ears, until he grasps them with his awful chains, from whence there is no deliverance.

23 Yea, they are grasped with death, and hell; and death, and hell, and the devil, and all that have been seized therewith must stand before the throne of God, and be judged according to their works, from whence they must go into the place prepared for them, even a lake of fire and brimstone, which is endless torment.

Topher:

Everything Satan does is sly – He lulls, he pacifies, He "cheateth", he "flattereth" and he "whispereth in their ears, until he grasps them with his awful chains, from whence there is no deliverance." If people could only be aware of how they are being deceived they would likely wake up, shake off the chains that are already grasping them and fight against it. We can be literally sitting in the middle of a "scourge" with a looming famine, a Government deserving of overthrow akin to stories in the Book of Mormon, people literally revolting as vaccines are mandated all around us (in Australia at least) and freedoms are taken away - literally like watching the awful chains of Satan wrap around us in real time and people are still saying "All is well in Zion".... Zion is Utah (haha)

Our Christian based culture with a foundation that was based on Christian belief and principles in its very Constitution has now eroded little by little to a point where the majority are against the values that originally established it. The general rules of morality that we have lived for the past few hundred years now have no basis in our current day according to the popular vote because it is now stupid to base your moral values on a compass that the majority of people don't follow.

Elder Marvin J Ashton in conference 1992 – "... By the looks of what we constantly see depicted in the news media, it appears that Satan is doing a pretty good job. In the name of reporting the news, we are besieged with sometimes graphic depictions—too often in living color—of greed, extortion, violent sexual crimes, and insults between business, athletic, or political opponents" (in Conference Report, Apr. 1992, 24–25; or Ensign, May 1992, 19)."

That was 30 years ago. We are infinitely worse today. Again, how fast have we declined?! You have a problem with homosexuality or abortion? Well, you shouldn't and therefore you can't because God isn't real, so your morality has no basis and therefore no leverage. The Politically correct, "woke" mob believe this and that there can be no harm done by a person making immoral choices. To the contrary they say that there is no sin, "there is no hell" and there is "no devil" and no matter what we do there is nothing evil about it and all will be well. This was Satans plan from the start. Choices don't matter and no one shall be lost. He is still trying to push it to this day. Interestingly enough, they demand their freedoms to do as they please whilst therefore removing our freedoms to do the same. Also, again with the vaccine mandates – one soul lost is not acceptable, so surrender your freedoms. We've already fought against this once – apparently, we need to keep fighting it.

Marion G Romney said in conference 1971 – "A corollary to the pernicious falsehood that God is dead is the equally pernicious doctrine that there is no devil. Satan himself is the father of both of these lies. To believe them is to surrender to him. Such surrender has always led, is leading now, and will continue to lead men to destruction."

"You believe in God? What a weirdo..". Because, you know if you don't believe in God then Satan also doesn't exist... 😊

Ammon:

I remember when the Proclamation to the World on the Family came out. I remember the Church going to great lengths to ensure the members understood it and that it was sent out as far and wide as they possibly could. It all seemed a little silly to me at the time as it was the most obvious statement I have ever read...I thought "How can people get this wrong?!"

Well, in the years that followed we have seen the absolute decline of society and destruction of the Family. There are even laws in place in some instances that can prevent you from correctly identifying a person's gender! Every aspect of who we are is being corroded, from our roles, gender, orientation, morals etc. It was a slow and steady decline that has brought many of the people of God with it as society lulls them away and flatters them into thinking the ways of the world are good and right. They have been drawn away until they are beyond hope and bound down with the chains of the Devil.

This is talking about the era of warfare against Zion.

1 Nephi 14:11-17

11 And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the whore of all the earth, and she sat upon many waters; and she had dominion over all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people.

12 And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters; nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth; and their dominions upon the face of the earth were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw.

13 And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations did gather together multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to fight against the Lamb of God.

14 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory.

15 And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon that great and abominable church, insomuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth.

16 And as there began to be wars and rumors of wars among all the nations which belonged to the mother of abominations, the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold, the wrath of God is upon the mother of harlots; and behold, thou seest all these things—

17 And when the day cometh that the wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church of all the earth, whose founder is the devil, then, at that day, the work of the Father shall commence, in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his covenants, which he hath made to his people who are of the house of Israel.

For an even greater breakdown of this concept see my paper “The Power of the Lamb”

6. 2 Nephi 28

24 Therefore, wo be unto him that is at ease in Zion!

25 Wo be unto him that crieth: All is well!

26 Yea, wo be unto him that hearkeneth unto the precepts of men, and denieth the power of God, and the gift of the Holy Ghost!

27 Yea, wo be unto him that saith: We have received, and we need no more!

28 And in fine, wo unto all those who tremble, and are angry because of the truth of God! For behold, he that is built upon the rock receiveth it with gladness; and he that is built upon a sandy foundation trembleth lest he shall fall.

29 Wo be unto him that shall say: We have received the word of God, and we need no more of the word of God, for we have enough!

30 For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; for unto him that receiveth I will give more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have.

31 Cursed is he that putteth his trust in man, or maketh flesh his arm, or shall hearken unto the precepts of men, save their precepts shall be given by the power of the Holy Ghost.

32 Wo be unto the Gentiles, saith the Lord God of Hosts! For notwithstanding I shall lengthen out mine arm unto them from day to day, they will deny me; nevertheless, I will be merciful unto them, saith the Lord God, if they will repent and come unto me; for mine arm is lengthened out all the day long, saith the Lord God of Hosts.

Topher:

The Lord gives us line upon line and “for unto him that receiveth I will give more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have” If we don’t use, accept or study what the Lord has already given us he will not give us more and he will also take away that which he has already given us.

Russel M Nelson in Conference October 2019 – “How would my life be different if my knowledge gained from the Book of Mormon were suddenly taken away?”

This takes on a new meaning if we look at it from this context. You know what seems like a really good yardstick for this? Come Follow Me. Very timely if you ask me, and a very easy way for the Lord to gauge who is actually cherishing his words and learning “line upon line” and who is ready for more. He’s given us a tiny portion of the Book of Mormon and has a huge stack more to give. The Lord is waiting to give us the sealed portion of the plates. He has been waiting thousand of years to do so but he cannot reveal it to a wicked generation, and he will not cast his pearls before swine.

The Prophet Joseph Smith (1805–44) explained the shortcomings of the Bible and how we should expect further scripture - “Much instruction has been given to man since the beginning which we do not possess now. ... Some of our friends ... are bold to say that we have everything written in the Bible which God ever spoke to man since the world began. ... Does it remain for a people who never had faith enough to call down one scrap of revelation from heaven, and for all they have now are indebted to the faith of another people who lived hundreds and thousands of years before them, does it remain for them to say how much God has spoken and how much he has not spoken? ... It is nowhere said in that volume by the mouth of God, that He would not, after giving, what is there contained, speak again” (History of the Church, 2:18).

This chapter screams at me that we should not be content in “Zion” or more accurately in the ‘Stakes of Zion’ and that we should not be comfortable or complacent until we, by our actions, provide a way for the Lord to continue the Restoration and his Marvelous Work and Wonder. As President Nelson has said, this is “an ongoing Restoration”, we are literally “witnesses to a process of restoration” and we’re “just seeing the beginning”. What is left to restore? The fulness of the Lords scriptures along with the fulness and restitution of his Laws and Ordinances that are currently only not in use due to the pride and wickedness of this generation.

“Therefore, wo be unto him that is at ease in Zion!” and “Wo be unto him that crieth: All is well!”. The Hingepoint has past and the Lord will continue this restoration with, or without us.

We went to the Temple last night (just before it shuts for 3 months to have some changes made along with all other smaller Temples – interesting?) and it really stood out to me that all of us have covenanted our time, talents and everything we have or will have to the Lord for the building up of his Kingdom and ZION... We have already made the covenant, literally in relation to the building of Zion and I literally attribute that now to the New Jerusalem. When will he finally make us live our end of the covenant? Soon. So plant your feet on the Rock and be ready to receive everything the Lord has to offer with gladness. I look forward to it with all my heart. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Ammon:

Learning line upon line. What does it mean to learn ‘wisdom’?

My patriarchal blessing says: “You are blessed with intelligence and knowledge, the righteous use of knowledge brings intelligence and with intelligence comes wisdom, be wise...”

RMN referred to a book called ‘Saviours on Mount Zion’ Pg 164 in his foot notes in the recent General conference. I had a read through and found this definition of Power. “A Temple is a place in which those whom ha has chosen are endowed with Power from on high. And what is power? Knowledge made alive and useful – that is intelligence; and intelligence in action – That is Power. Our Temples give us Power.

From these points I have come to personally understand that spiritual power comes from much more that simply ‘knowing’ but DOING!

My understanding of the importance of the Temple in these days has also increased. In a recent dream I was asked a question – “What does it mean to be a Saviour on Mount Zion?”. I recommend searching out the true meaning of becoming a ‘Saviour on Mount Zion’ and what we need to be doing.

This is literally, right now, the time period to not say “all is well”... Prophets and Saints have warned about it, talked about it, etc. but we are now, RIGHT NOW, in the time period when this prophesy, this warning, from Nephi to the Saints of the Most High was given and for whom it was given- WO BE to those that are at ease in Zion! WO BE to those crying “all is well in Zion! Yeah Zion is prosperous!” or in other words, WO BE to those crying “all is well in Zion, the

Lord will do what he will when he wills it, and will forgive us of our wickedness, slothfulness, and slumber, yea eat drink and be merry for there is no need or requirements at our hands for the redemption of Zion and building of New Jerusalem!"

Isaiah 28:9-13

9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Why does it matter Micah? Why so much desperation for the RoZ and the building of New Jerusalem? Why not take an "all is well in Zion" mentality and just "let the Lord do His own work"?! He doesn't need anything from us...

From [these scriptures in Psalms 102] we learn First, that there is a set time to build up Zion, or the city of which Isaiah speaks, namely, just before the second coming of Christ ; and that when this city is built, the Lord will appear in His glory, and not before. So from this we affirm, that if such a city is never built, then the Lord will never come. Second, we learn that the people and kingdoms are to be gathered together, to serve the Lord, both in Zion and Jerusalem ; and third, that this Psalm was written expressly for the generation to come, and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord, -when they read it and see it fulfilled."

- Elder Parley P. Pratt (A Voice of Warning, p.79)

"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. "

- Joseph Smith the Prophet (TPJS, pp. 70-71)

Brothers and Sisters we must not be “all is well”, we must cry repentance, we must cry “Zion or Bust!” and it can’t be simply a nice platitude or catch phrase- do we actually believe that without the New Jerusalem we as a people are damned? Do we actually believe that the Lord himself put the whole church under condemnation for not believing the words of the Book of Mormon literally, rending the veil of unbelief, redeeming Zion and building the New Jerusalem? Do we actually believe these things or do we believe that “all is well in Zion, and we can and will be saved with or without a Zion, without the New Jerusalem”? Which is it? My commitment today is for everyone to gain a testimony of “Zion” for themselves and the importance of it, before it is everlastingly too late- in the name of Jesus Christ, amen!