

Points of Reference

I've been getting a lot of emails lately due to my last video where I presented once again the timeline of last day events. People want to know where to get this information, how I know this information, how they can go about understanding this and how they can create their own last day timeline to compare with others.

There are two types of people inside and outside the church when it comes to these events. The first group of people list a bunch of random events, and these events could be astronomical, geological, random dates that add up to something special, the general state of countries and the world, and then they pivot to vaguely saying, "The end is near." What do they mean by "the end"? What do they mean when they say "the Lord's second coming"? Your guess is as good as mine because they never explain it. They basically just try to lay out a case for "being in the last days" and then use that to pivot to "an unknown series of events that give birth to a singular event of the Lord's second coming." If I could represent this in a visual, the visual would be:

here's a group of random events → the second coming

If this is you, if you are still trying to figure out whether or not we are in the last days, I don't mean to be offensive, but Moroni explained that to Joseph before he even gave him the plates! This should be a given to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. We are commanded to study the signs of the times in order to judge the seasons. You are supposed to look outside and see frost on the lawn and because you see that you know that fall is near. Once you see the leaves change color you know that you are in fall. Once you see the leaves start falling from the trees you know that winter is near. Once snow covers the ground you know that you are in winter. Once the snow starts melting you know that spring is near etc etc. So when you step back and look at all the information you have, you know all the seasons that will transpire before the end of the year, you also know what signs to look for as transitional signs between seasons and you also know what signs to look for to know that you are in a specific season. That is what we are supposed to do. But that is not what this group is doing. They list a bunch of events that happen during the day and then say night will shortly be upon us. Thanks Sherlock, none of us realized that the sun is going to set. What we really want to know is what's going to happen directly before and after the sun sets! We all know that the sun rises and the sun sets and we are in the period of sunlight. What's going to happen next? The reason why they teach like this and the reason why they act like this is because their motivation is to ramp fear up ie. "Look at all of these things, night will surely be upon us!" and they capstone this with, "And when the night comes, creatures of the night are going to kill most of you, in fact, a well known prestigious scholar that I will now quote says that only a tenth of a tenth of people will survive the night!" People will then clamor around these individuals and will cry "Tell us more! Take our money, take our subscriptions, take our likes! But please tell us more, tell us how to avoid these things because we don't want to die!" They then can't give you anything else or refuse to give you anything else because they want to keep you in a state of fear and dependence. The Catholic church did this for many years. The Book of Mormon warns that this practice (ironically) known as priestcraft, will crop up even among the Saints in the last days. It's ironic because whether they realize it or not, they are a sign of the times.

So, how does one go about this the right way? What is the second group?

The second group does as the Lord commands, studies the signs and seasons as I described above. Using the example above, what is the very first thing that you need to learn? You need to learn the seasons, you need to know what is winter, what is spring, you need to know what fall is and finally you need to know what summer is. So when the Lord says, “his face shall be unveiled” or “I will appear in the clouds and those on earth will be caught up to meet me” or “the seas will boil and all flesh will be consumed” etc etc you need to know that all of those describe “the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord”. It would be like saying, “The frost will nip at your nose” or “the snow will be piled high” or “the days will be shorter” etc etc. If you know what winter is you will know that this is all describing one event, one season. You wouldn’t know that unless you knew the season. So before you can even attempt to understand last days timelines you should be able to, for example, explain the difference between the Lord’s second coming to Mount Zion, the Lord’s second coming to the Mount of Olives and finally the Lord’s second coming to the world. If you don’t know what I’m talking about, if you don’t know the difference, it would be like not knowing the difference between snow on the ground, a rainbow after a shower and leaves changing color. If an individual couldn’t tell the difference between those things would you trust them explaining how the seasons of the world work and the signs of their transition? God forbid! Before you can begin, you have to learn these definitions. You have to learn them. I go over in my video/paper, *Before You Journey into Your Last Days Timeline Quest*, 10 definitions of things that are a great place to start. Once you know these definitions then you can start pinpointing signs of transition ie. things to look for as signs of moving between two different seasons. These are called points of reference. For example, somebody might say “the temperature has to drop and then it will snow” this is a point of reference. We know that because of this statement that A. temperature had to be high B. the temperature is getting colder and then C. it can now snow. These once again are points of reference.

Now that you have the definitions under your belt, you understand the doctrine, you can now start to take notes as points of references. I went over one such series of points of references in my August 15th 2020 video found in 2 Nephi 27. We learn A. (verses 20-21) Joseph Smith is given the Book of Mormon plates, is told to translate them but then told not to translate a sealed portion of it. We then learn B. (verse 22) That when he is done, Joseph Smith is to give the plates back. We then learn C. (verse 24) The Lord says “and again” (future from points A and B) that He will give the plates back to Joseph Smith to translate the sealed portion. And then it gets tricky because the Lord then gives the reason for point C in verse 25. Because of that we can now make verse 25 the new point C and move the old point C (verse 24) to point D. It would be like if I said, “I plowed the field and then I planted the crops and then I harvested the crops.” You could put those points as points A, B and C. But then I added after that, “for/because the crops were ripe”. You would then know the order was actually, A. plowed the field, B. planted crops, C. crops became ripe, D. harvested crops. Original point C of harvesting crops got moved to point D. Continuing back with 2 Nephi 27, we learn in verse 26, “therefore, I will proceed to do a marvelous work and a wonder.” Now what does this mean? This is now a conjunction or a synonym, the Lord then combines this thought with the other- so we know that Joseph receiving the plates the second time and translating them is a part of the marvelous work and a wonder. So

we can now go back to the now point D and add to it so that it reads D. the Lord gives the sealed portion back to Joseph Smith to translate it which is the marvelous work and a wonder. We then learn in verse 27 now point E. the effects of the marvelous work and a wonder are the “turning of things upside down as the potter’s clay”, which I went over in that video. This is synonymous with the wheat and the tares, the 10 virgins etc. So combining everything that we know now, the visual would look something like this:

A. Joseph Smith is given the Book of Mormon plates and translates → B. Joseph Smith gives the plates back → C. Members of the church begin to draw unto [the Lord] with their mouths, and with their lips do honor [Christ] , but have removed their hearts far from [Christ] and their fear towards [Christ] is taught by the precepts of men → D. the Lord gives the sealed portion back to Joseph Smith to translate it which is the marvelous work and a wonder → E. the effects of the marvelous work and a wonder are the “turning of things upside down as the potter’s clay” (the wheat and the tares, the 10 virgins etc)

This is a beautiful point of reference chain; this is how you make a point of reference chain. Once you have enough points of reference, you can piece them together into a macro timeline.

To save you some trouble, or for just your edification, I will present what I believe to be important points of reference and the doctrinal proof to validate each point.

Times of the gentiles ending → Jews in Jerusalem

I have an entire video entitled, The Times of the Gentiles Has Been Fulfilled, which I go over in great detail. Suffice it to say that the Lord in D&C 45 said that this prophecy was “spoken plainly”, it was not figurative, it was not metaphorical, it was to be understood plainly and literally. In which the Lord said that Jews will not be back in Jerusalem until after the times of the gentiles has ended. Parley P. Pratt explained that the Jews have many times since the time of Jesus attempted to return and reclaim their ancient city of Jerusalem and that all of those attempts had failed and the reason why they had failed was because the times of the gentiles had not ended. He then makes it crystal clear that Jerusalem will not be inhabited by Jews again until after the times of the gentiles had ended.

Time of the gentiles ending → Desolating sickness

We learn in D&C 45 that the generation in which the times of the gentiles be fulfilled will not all pass away before they see the desolating sickness. This means that the times of the gentiles has to end before the desolating sickness.

Desolating sickness → Scourge

We learn in the same verse that the overflowing scourge is caused “for” (because) a desolating sickness is sweeping the land. Therefore, sickness proceeds the scourge.

Scourge/Assyrian → Building of New Jerusalem

We know from Isaiah (which I go over in detail in my Understanding Isaiah chapters) that the Assyrian, or scourge, influence will get “even to the neck” of New Jerusalem. Thus, we know the Assyrian or scourge has to be around before New Jerusalem is finished. The Savior in 3 Nephi 20:27-28 identifies “Gentiles” as the scourge or Assyrian. And Mormon identifies the Gentiles in Mormon 5:19 as those people that inhabit America.

Joseph Smith returns → Celestial Law, Sealed portion translated, Return of the 10 tribes

I have gone over this a bit already above, but for the complete breakdown of references read or watch my video, Joseph Smith to Return.

Celestial Law → Celestial/Zion People

“How can a man learn if he has not a teacher?” Nephi needed to be shown a design of the ship before he could build the ship. You have to know, understand and have all of celestial law before you could possibly live it. No one accidentally lives celestial law for celestial law by its very design comes from above and moves down. We know that the law of consecration, to have all things in union, is part of celestial law. We can’t have a people living celestial law until celestial law gets restored. We can’t have people living the law of consecration without having the law of consecration.

Celestial/Zion People → Redemption of Zion/New Jerusalem

We learn from countless of prophets and apostles that “Zion cannot be redeemed, save by a Zion people” ergo we must have a Zion people before we can redeem Zion. Parley P. Pratt summarized this by saying that we cannot have the second coming of the Savior to Mount Zion unless Mount Zion is built/redeemed and we can’t redeem Zion unless we have a Zion people.

Fulness of the gospel restored → Rejection of the fulness of the gospel

We learn from Isaiah as well as other locations that the major sifting, the “carcasses being torn in half” is due to members being unwilling or unable to accept or live the “whole staff of bread, the whole stay of water” which has reference to the fulness of the gospel which has reference to celestial law. People cannot reject the whole staff of bread, the whole stay of water until we have the whole staff of bread, the whole stay of water. How can you reject something that isn’t there?

Fulness of the gospel restored → Wheat and the tares/carcasses torn in half/10 virgins

Based off of the last one, we know that the fulness of the gospel and the rejection of it causes the carcasses torn in half, the separation of the wheat and the tares etc. Ergo, we have to have celestial law before it can sift the church.

Treaties signed → Called to Washington

We know from Brigham Young, Isaiah and a couple other locations that the leaders of the church will be called into Washington, as part of their exchange they will give a warning to not trust in the arm of flesh but rather to trust in the child, New Jerusalem, who will shortly be born. They will also testify that within 3.5 years all of the new and old alliances will fall apart. We had the old 100 year treaty, the Lausanne Treaty, ending in 2023, but there needs (needed) to be a

modern treaty signed as well for them to say “this won’t last”. We know that this treaty is mostly between America, Israel and the Arab world (see my Understanding Isaiah for greater detail), ergo we need a treaty to be signed between America, Israel and the Arab world for the prophet of God to prophesy that it will fall apart in 3.5 years. FYI the Abraham Accord just happened.

Called to Washington → Building of New Jerusalem

We learn in the point above that the church leaders tell the leaders of American to trust in New Jerusalem that is to be shortly built, so this event has to happen before the building of New Jerusalem.

Redemption of Zion/New Jerusalem → Building of New Jerusalem

This one seems self-explanatory; you have to have the army march from Utah (“from the west”) to Jackson County before we build New Jerusalem. Basically, we have to get there before we can build there.

Days of Tribulation starts → 10 tribes return

In Ether 13 we learn that the time period directly before, during and after the building of New Jerusalem will be “as the days of Joseph who was sold into Egypt, for which things was a type”. Joseph had 7 years to prepare (interesting note that in 2012 President Monson said now is the time to prepare and introduced a new self-reliance course to the church), once the 7 years of preparing are over then comes the 7 years of famine (“the time to prepare is running out”). Two years into the tribulation and famine, Joseph’s brothers come into the foreign land and join Joseph. We are Ephraim of Joseph and the 10 tribes are of the 10 brothers of Joseph.

Return of the 10 tribes → Building of New Jerusalem

We learn in multiple locations from Joseph Smith as well as Jesus Christ himself in 3 Nephi 21 that the lost 10 tribes return and assist in the building of New Jerusalem (verse 23), therefore the 10 tribes have to return before the building of New Jerusalem.

10 Tribes return → Calling of 144,000

We learn from a multitude of locations (Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, the Pratts, and even Revelation 7) that the 144,000 will be called from each of the tribes, 12,000 from each. Meaning the tribes have to be revealed and called home before they can be called.

Days of Tribulation starts → 144,000 get called and set apart, the Innumerable host perfected and made members of the Church of the Firstborn

We get that from Joseph Smith, the Lord in D&C and we also get this laid out in Revelation 7 where John is shown the temple in Jackson County Missouri and at the temple the 144,000 and the innumerable host (which were members of the Church of the Firstborn). An angel then asks John, “where did these come from?” and by “these” he is talking about the 144,000 and the innumerable host- John replies “I don’t know, tell me, where did these people come from?” The angel then answers, “these are they which came out of great tribulation.” Ergo, great tribulation

starts before this event. We now know that the tribulations start and then we have the 144,000, the New Jerusalem etc. (see D&C 77).

New Jerusalem → American Civil War

New Jerusalem needs to be built before the civil war in America. We learn in a couple locations of a 13 month civil war but the only concrete reference we have is from Charles L Walker, January 21 1881, where he stated that Christ's second coming in the New Jerusalem will occur at the same time period of the constitution and America being broken, and thus civil war. We also know that those who do not want to fight "all those who will not take up sword against his brother must needs flee to Zion". Which means that New Jerusalem needs to be built for people to flee to, this is supported by many modern prophets reassuring the members that if you are prepared places of safety/refuge will be designated.

Sign of the Son of Man → Opening of 7th seal

We learn from Joseph Smith and the book of Moses that this is the city of Enoch returning. Joseph Smith explained that when people see this coming back that they will say "it is a comet, it is a planet." It is also identified that the whole world will see this, meaning this is not a secret, there won't be a select few who sees/knows about it, the whole world will see it, and it will get brighter and brighter over the years as it gets closer and consumes our sky. In D&C 88 we read in verse 93 "there shall appear a great sign in heaven and all people shall see it together". In case you think that maybe this is referring to another sign in heaven, the church does the work for you here with the footnote taking you to Matt 24:30 which says "and then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven". That is clearly what this is talking about here. And then in verse 95 we learn that after the sign of the Son of Man appears "there shall be silence in heaven for the space of half an hour". In Revelation 8 we read "and when we had opened the 7th seal there was silence in heaven for about the space of half an hour." Meaning, the sign of the Son of Man appears in the sky before the opening of the 7th seal and the space of silence in heaven.

All events of the 6th seal → Opening of 7th seal

We have already gone over that Joseph Smith needs to return, the sealed portion translated, celestial law reinstated, days of tribulation started, called to Washington, the 10 tribes come back, the redemption of Zion, building of New Jerusalem, calling/purification of the 144,000, sign of the Son of Man appears etc. all need to take place before the 7th seal is opened (for more information on this read or watch my [very detailed] paper/video, Seventh Seal; To Be or Not to Be).

Building of New Jerusalem → 1st Second Coming ("Jesus appears suddenly in His temple")

The 1st coming of the series of "the Second Coming" will be to the Saints living in New Jerusalem. Parley P. Pratt said "if such a city is never built then the Lord will never come" speaking of New Jerusalem. There are members that think the Second Coming will occur before New Jerusalem is built; this flies in the face of what the Savior clearly taught in 3 Nephi 21:23 that they will build a city called New Jerusalem and then he says in the next verse "and then shall the power of Heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst".

144,000 purified → the mission of 144,000

Once again Brother Pratt summarized this crystal clear, the sons of Levi need to be purified in New Jerusalem before they get sent out into the world to do their mission. The Lord also explains this in the same chapters of 3 Nephi.

The Anointing → The wrath of the Lord poured out

We learn very clearly in Isaiah (see my Understanding Isaiah work for much more detail) we learn that the Lord does not go “on the offense” until after the Anointing. It is one of the special meetings that takes place in Adam-ondi-ahman (New Jerusalem). Which means that all of the vials/trumpets (which were the plagues, destruction etc) that are designed to actually kill the wicked, does not occur until after the Anointing. We learn in Revelation 7 that once the 7th seal is opened these judgments begin to be poured out. Which means that the opening of the 7th seal and the Anointing occur in very close proximity or at the same time.

Lord’s 1st coming (Mount Zion) → Mount of Olives → Great and Dreadful Day

To save time I will simply say that there are a lot of events that occur surrounding the Mount of Olives including the 2 members of the 144,000 preaching in Jerusalem, the Battle of Armageddon etc. But here I just want to simply say that there is a space that occurs from when Jesus comes and lives in New Jerusalem with the Saints and this event. We learn in Isaiah that these judgments that are to be poured out “in the valley of decision” won’t occur until the child (New Jerusalem) reaches the age of accountability. This is why the valley is called the valley of decision because you can’t make decisions unless you are accountable. We know that to the Lord the age of accountability is 8 years old (which goes all the way back to Noah; see JST Genesis 17:11 “that thou mayest know forever that children are not accountable before me until they are 8 years old”). To the Jews the age of accountability is 14, which means that the battle at the Valley of Decision (Battle of Armageddon) will not occur for at least 8-14 years after. In the Old Testament Student manual: Enrichment I, we learn that Elder Charles W. Penrose “summarized the foregoing list of events: ‘the bankrupt nations, envying the wealth of the sons of Judah, will seek a pretext to make war upon them and will invade the ‘Holy Land’ to ‘take a prey and a spoil.’...His [Christ’s] next appearance [after coming to New Jerusalem] will be among the distressed and nearly vanquished sons of Judah.” This is taught repeatedly but if you don’t understand the definitions you won’t understand what they are saying. For example, Pratt will say “Christ will come and live among the Saints in New Jerusalem, that too before He sets foot on the Mount of Olives, that too before He appears in the clouds of heaven”. What Pratt and everyone else knows is that the events at New Jerusalem happen, then the events at the Mount of Olives happen, then the events at the Great and Dreadful Day happen. But if you don’t know the synonyms for New Jerusalem (the Lord appearing suddenly in His temple, the Lord on His throne surrounded by the 144,000 and innumerable host, Mount Zion, Zion etc) or the synonyms for the Mount of Olives (Valley of Decision, Battle of Armageddon, Battle of Gog of Magog, the great day of the Lord’s sacrifice, the Lord’s controversy with the nations, the Supper of the Great God, the Great winepress of the wrath of God etc) or the synonyms for the Great and Dreadful Day (the Lord appearing in the clouds, return of the city of Enoch, the translation of the world

into a terrestrial sphere, new heavens and new earth, and the Saints being called up to meet Him and the city of Enoch that has returned, unveiling of the Lord's face which is part of the heavens unveiling as a scroll etc) then you won't understand where to put these points of reference when you read them in the scriptures. Christ's 1st appearance will not be on the Mount of Olives or at the Great and Dreadful Day, it will be at New Jerusalem, but it will not be His final appearance as his "next" appearance will be at the Mount of Olives. But once again, we know that his appearance at the Mount of Olives will not be his last, for it was just simply "his next" appearance. His last appearance will be at the G&D Day for which we have a reference in D&C 88:95-98:

95 And there shall be silence in heaven for the space of half an hour; and immediately after shall the curtain of heaven be unfolded, as a scroll is unfolded after it is rolled up, and the face of the Lord shall be unveiled;

96 And the saints that are upon the earth, who are alive, shall be quickened and be caught up to meet him.

97 And they who have slept in their graves shall come forth, for their graves shall be opened; and they also shall be caught up to meet him in the midst of the pillar of heaven—

98 They are Christ's, the first fruits, they who shall descend with him first, and they who are on the earth and in their graves, who are first caught up to meet him; and all this by the voice of the sounding of the trump of the angel of God.

You can add years to things but then it becomes purely speculation. I don't know the years that these events will happen- I can speculate and so far my speculation has been pretty good. But what I do know for a fact is that every jot and tittle needs to be fulfilled or else Christ is a liar and the kingdom of God is lost. But I can testify to you, using the words of the Lord, "the heavens and the earth shall pass away but [the Lord's] words shall never pass away. For that which the Lord puts in his heart to do, that shall he do." Christ is not a liar, the kingdom of God is not lost; the kingdom of God is nigh at hand- get your life in order while there is still time. For as President Nelson correctly stated, "time is running out."

I say this in Jesus' name, Amen.