

Take Up Thy Sword

Caution, huge trigger warning here! haha

It's not a new revelation to any of you that we live in a day of great wickedness. A day when the love of man has waxed cold. A day when we are confronted with many dangers, both spiritual and physical. Many would even say that it is the time to "beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears..." I would not say that the world has gotten that far yet because the world has not yet literally gathered to the Valley of Decision.

We will, on the other hand, want to be wise in our preparations. In order to be mindful of situations that may be ahead of us, to provide or to protect our loved ones we should consider how best to do those things. Even though we do not wish to rely upon the arm of flesh we do however want to be sure to do all that is in our power so that we are qualified to receive the Lord's grace.

In thinking about how to protect yourself and your family you possibly have come up with a few different ways to accomplish that goal. You may have acted upon those thoughts or you may have put them off. But, the real question we all need to ask ourselves is are you fully prepared now? If you feel like you are not, or even if you feel like you are then let's answer a few more questions. We have been told to have at least a year, and if possible two years, of food and water. If needed could you defend your family and that food and water for a year? What about two years? If your food supplies run low do you have a means of hunting and harvesting game to supplement your storage? If an angry mob walks down the streets of your high class gated community threatening to burn your house down and kill your family do you have a means of deterring that mob? If you are driving with your family and make a wrong turn into a crowd of angry protesters who won't let you drive away, how do you keep your family safe? If you and your family are in the local mall or restaurant and there is an armed psycho taking out people with his gun are you able to stop that threat?

Now, I am not going to tell you what you should do in each of these situations. That is for you and your family to decide through prayerful thought and study.

However, here are a few things to think about. When Nephi went back to Jerusalem to retrieve the brass plates he also brought back with him the sword of Laban. That sword was used by the prophet Nephi many times to defend his family and people. Not only was it used in that manner, but it was copied and remade because of its quality and effectiveness. Think about the amount of times that sword is referenced. Study how, who, and why it was used and referenced in the book of Mormon and you will see that Mormon, who was no armchair commando, included that so many times for more than just a spiritual reason.

Fast forward 2000 years.

Now, as for me and my house we have chosen to prepare in a like manner; or in other words, we have chosen to use firearms as a way to provide for and protect our family.

It is on that topic I wish to discuss for the rest of this paper. More specifically what firearms should you choose and keep to accomplish the goals of providing for and protecting yourself, family, and property.

In the world of firearms there are mountains of options. There are guns made for hunting, for plinking, for competition, for military use, for concealed carry, and even for just putting over your fireplace mantle. There are cheap guns, mid grade guns, and there are expensive ones. There are large calibers, small calibers and everything in between. There are foreign makers and those that are made in the US. And to top it all off there are internet ninjas, redneck commandos, and multi sponsored gun gurus with their tactical beards and m.o.l.l.e. gear trying to sell you training, ammo, guns, knives and any other tactical gear imaginable on their YouTube channel. At this point it's very easy to get overwhelmed and give up on the whole idea. But, if you persist it is more than likely you will be sold a particular product and philosophy of use that may or may not be practical or be accurate.

So with all that, where do we begin? To quote a popular saying, "If you are going to have a gunfight, rule number one is to bring a gun!" Or something along those lines. I know that not everyone can, wants, or should be allowed to have firearms, but for those who can and have decided to go this route I hope I can give you some good information.

When talking to people about guns, especially those that don't own them or are just starting out, I get asked often "what gun should I buy?" My answer is always to say "Well that depends..." And, it does. It depends on what your purpose for that gun is. I end up having to ask them questions like. Are you planning to use it for hunting? For home defense? to conceal carry? or all the above? Do you only want to have just one or are you planning to get multiple firearms that fill each role specifically? And, how much do you want to spend on this gun? At this point their eyes may start to glazover as we both realize that they didn't want an interrogation or a doctoral dissertation on the subject.

Well, I'll answer those questions if you've got the tenacity to plow through it all. But, if you know what you are looking for just go to that topic below. Now, before we go too much further this advice is mostly for those in the US and Canada. The laws of your country and state will vary and you should get to know those so you can make a wise and legal choice.

FAQ

I often get asked, if I were to have only one gun what would it be? The answer is a 12 or 20 gauge pump shotgun. The reasons:

- It can fill just about any hunting role listed above simply by using different types of ammo.
- Shot shell ammunition is cheap and usually easier to find than all other ammunition.
- Usually legal in most places and with fewer legal restrictions.
- The guns themselves can be purchased easily and rather inexpensively, sometimes for less than a few hundred dollars. I recommend the maverick 88 or a Tristar for a great budget option. Expect to pay about \$250 to \$350 for a 12 gauge model.

- They can be very effective when used for most home defense scenarios- with the right types of ammo.
- Some models come with two barrels, a short and long barrel for swapping between hunting and defense roles.
- Relatively few drawbacks, see shotgun limitations below.

How many guns should we have?

The short answer is as many as you like, but If you are willing and able to have more than just one I suggest to get at least 3 types of guns:

- Handgun- for personal and car carry. (If you are legally able)
- Shotgun- for multiple types of hunting and for home defense in certain situations. Some models come with multiple barrels that easily swap for different uses.
- Rifle- for hunting large game and possibly a home defense scenario with appropriate rifle types and particular ammo and training.
- If you get the right type of pistol and rifle you can buy 22 cal conversion kits for training and small game hunting. Glocks, 1911s, and AR15s have conversion kit options.

What are the most budget friendly options? (The Ramen noodles food storage option)

The 22 LR is your best friend in this case. Don't be too quick to dismiss this diminutive cartridge. It is a lot more effective than most people realize. According to crime statistics, shootings involving 22 caliber firearms take just as many shots to stop a person with a 22 as it does a 9mm handgun. Reference video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kR3THJW5smQ>. I have also heard of guys using them (illegally) to kill deer at close ranges.

- 22 LR semi auto rifle like the Winchester Wildcat will cost about \$250. Or a Ruger 1022 will be about \$300
- A Taurus TX22 pistol is \$299 at Bass Pro and Kel-tec p17 will run about \$250.
- The ammo is as cheap as you can get. A box of 525 rounds of Federal ammo is \$40 at Bass Pro right now. So four boxes will get you 2100 rounds for about \$160. Compare this to a 9mm where the cost of 2000 rounds will be around \$800 at current market prices (if you can find them). And the budget priced handgun such as the Taurus g2 will run you about \$300.
- The set back with 22 LR is that most people don't regard it as a viable option for self defence and the ammunition companies know this so they don't offer high quality reliable self defense ammo. Most of the malfunctions you see in 22 LR firearms are ammo related. Currently the best 22 LR ammo that is offered today is made by CCI. As a side note, all the ammo CCI makes is high quality. If you plan to use a 22 LR for defensive purposes I recommend the CCI Velocitors or the Mini Mags. Aside from that, Federal and Remington make decent priced hunting and practice ammo.

What's the best way to carry a handgun or how to concealed carry?

- Condition 1- this is how police officers carry their sidearms. The gun magazine is fully loaded and a round is in the chamber. In this condition the firearm is ready to be fired just by pulling the trigger. In this situation if there is no manual safety lever on the gun such as a Glock your holster is the primary safety device.

- Condition 2- similar to condition 1, but the external hammer is not cocked (in the ready position) and must be cocked manually to be able to fire the gun. This is common with single action semi autos such as a 1911 and revolvers with exposed hammers. These handguns may or may not have a manual safety lever and again the holster plays a vital role in preventing accidental discharges.
- Condition 3- the magazine is fully loaded but there is no round in the chamber. A round must be cycled into the chamber by racking the pistol slide before the gun can be fired. This option is the slowest (by a few fractions of a second) to get the firearm into action but it is **the safest** way to carry. This is how I carry and store my firearms that serve in a defensive role. The only time I personally would carry in condition 1 or 2 is if I served in law enforcement or similar high danger situations and needed my firearm to have the least impedence to use as possible. Thankfully I don't live or work in those types of circumstances and I think most of you don't either. So I recommend condition 3, which is also how the Israeli military trains their soldiers to carry sidearms and is why condition 3 is often called "Israeli Carry".

Firearm Roles

Hunting (be sure to check your local hunting laws)

- Large game such as deer, elk, moose, bear, or antelope- a bolt action hunting rifle chambered in something like a .308 , 270, 30-06, or 6.5 creedmoor will do well in North America. Brands that offer good value are Ruger, Savage, Winchester, Marlin and Remington. Higher quality options would be Browning, Tikka, or Weatherby. A 12g or 20g shotgun will also do well if you shoot buckshot for close ranges of 60 yards or less or slugs for distance under 200 yards. Remington, Mossberg, Benelli, Beretta, Winchester and Browning make great semi auto and pump action platforms that work well.
- Small game like rabbits or squirrels- a small caliber rifle chambered in 22 cal will work well. Shotguns loaded with birdshot or target loads will also work well. Excellent semi auto choices for 22 caliber rifles are the Ruger 1022, Winchester Wildcat, and the Marlin model 60. Great bolt action variants are the CZ 475, Ruger american rimfire, Savage mark II, and the Browning T-Bolt.
- Upland birds, turkey, and waterfowl- a shotgun in 12 or 20 gauge is usually the only practical and legal option. There are many different types of shot shells that are specifically made for each type of bird. Be aware some states regulate the type of shot that is used. Just consult your local game and fish authority for these hunting regulations. Mossberg, Remington, and Winchester all make great value platforms. Browning, Beneli, Beretta, and Weatherby make higher quality shotguns. All these manufacturers make them in pump action and in semi auto formats.
- Wild hog and javelina, a semi auto type rifle in 308, 300 blackout, 30-06, 762x39 work well. Some have even used smaller calibers like 223, but those may not have sufficient energy to perform a clean kill on larger hogs. There are many reputable brands like Smith and Wesson, Ruger, Palmetto State, Springfield Armory, FN, etc. That make semi auto rifles in these and other calibers.

Self defense

- In your home- in most of North America law abiding citizens are allowed to possess firearms in their home. In the home it is a lot easier to keep and store just about any type of firearm for self defense with few limitations on size, weight, and capacity. Another thing to consider is that since most home invasions occur at night a good weapon mounted flashlight is a great thing to have on your defense gun.
 - Handguns, despite what Hollywood shows, are not the most effective at stopping an intruder. There are many instances where police officers shoot assailants upwards of 5-10 times or more and they are still a threat. A high capacity handgun is small in comparison to a long gun and can be maneuvered very easily around corner and door ways. It can also be concealed in many more places than long guns. If you choose a handgun for this application I recommend a 9mm, 40 S&W, or a 45 acp semi auto like a Glock, Ruger American, Smith and Wesson M&P, Springfield XD, even a Taurus G3 series and many others. (Just as long as it is reliable and you can shoot it well)
 - Shotguns loaded with buckshot or slugs can be a devastating man stopper. They can even be too powerful in some situations. If you have to use a firearm inside your home you have to be aware of over penetration so that you do not harm others in or even outside your home. For that purpose I recommend #4 buckshot a freestanding dwelling and possibly birdshot if you live in an apartment type housing. They also usually have low round capacity (3-5 rounds) compared to other options. A Mossberg 500 or Remington 870, or Winchester are great options.
 - High capacity semi auto, pump, and lever action rifles are an excellent option, provided you use frangible or bullets designed for varmint hunting to prevent over penetration. If you choose a rifle for this application I highly recommend an ar15, or something like it, chambered in 223 (556 nato) varmint rounds or in 9mm hollow points. Larger rounds will be too powerful for this type of setting and you will have over penetration. If semi auto rifles are not an option for you because of legality issues a lever action in 357 or other handgun caliber will work very well.
Marlin, Winchester, and Henry make good products in this format.
- In your vehicle maneuvering and using a firearm presents unique challenges. Because of the close confines of a vehicle's interior a handgun of some sort with high capacity is probably your best option. These can be stored conveniently and securely in consoles or somewhere around the driver for quick access. I recommend a 9mm semi auto like a Glock, Ruger American, Smith and Wesson M&P, Springfield XD, even a Taurus G3 series and many others.
- On your person you basically only have the choice of a handgun if you plan to conceal; unless you want to walk around in a trench coat to conceal your shotgun... But, even with the limitations of just being able to carry a handgun there are still lots of options. There are many compact 9mm options that have cropped up in recent years that are easily concealed and have as many as 12 rounds in the magazine. I recommend looking into the Sig Sauer p365, Smith & Wesson Shield, and Springfield Hellcat.

Types of guns

Shotguns

- Pump action is the most popular and practical in terms of cost and reliability. They are very versatile and would work well for most types of hunting, home defense, and could be a good truck gun if a handgun just isn't enough. Remington, Mossberg, Benelli, Beretta, Winchester, Browning, and Escort make great pump action platforms that work well. Expect to pay \$300 to \$600.
- Semi autos can be very expensive and can have more potential for malfunction with different types of shot shells. Remington, Mossberg, Benelli, Beretta, Stoeger, Winchester, and Browning make great semi autos that work well. Expect \$550 to \$1200.
- Break action is very simple and reliable but usually limited to one or two shots before reloading is required. Best suited for hunting or sport shooting but could work for home defence, but not recommended. Expect \$200 to \$400 for single barrel models. Double barrel models can get pricey and would be what I consider mantle piece guns.

- Lever action is not very common but would work well like a pump action. Expect \$800 to \$1500
- Can be very inexpensive for a no frills pump version like a maverick 88, which is basically a cheap Mossberg 500. Remington 870 is another good option.
- Many different ammunition types and even sizes to fill many different applications. Ammo types generally include target loads, birdshot, buckshot, slugs and even specialty loads for niche purposes.
- Can be very powerful and effective at bringing down game and stopping threats.
- Barrel length matters a lot for shotguns. Shorter barrels will allow the shot pattern to spread faster at short ranges and are typically used for defense purposes. Longer barrels help hold the pattern tighter for long ranges and are typically used for bird hunting. As mentioned above some models come with two barrels to fill both roles of hunting and defense.
- Another variable with Shotguns is the type of choke you use. The choke is a short cylinder that screws to the inside of the end of the barrel. It will tighten your shot pattern or open it up. A full choke is for shooting at greater distances and the open choke is for short range situations. There are a few different intermediate chokes that are for various medium ranges. I suggest getting a choke kit with a good choke wrench and trying each choke out at the various ranges you plan to shoot at to understand the pattern sizes. The following info is more of a guideline for understanding shot spread with an open choke and a 20 inch barrel. Your mileage may vary.
- At 15 yards buckshot gives a 10" spread and fully penetrates $\frac{3}{4}$ plywood.
- At 15 yards a birdshot load did not penetrate the board but has a 24" spread.
- At 50 yards 6 buckshot pellets were on the 36" board and all pierced the board. ● At 100 yards buckshot gives a 6ft group, and 4/27 pellets hit the board and penetrated ● At 100 yards the rifled slugs and cut shells penetrated the board. ● At 200 yards the slugs didn't drop and fully penetrated.

limitations

- At 200 yards cut shells severely drop in accuracy (Cut shells good for up to 100 yards).
- At 200 yards only 1/27 buckshot pellets hit the board and did not penetrate.
- At 300 yards a shotgun slug dropped 4ft but still penetrated the board.
- At 400 yards the slug is inaccurate but makes the distance with about 8-10ft drop.
- Most pump and semi autos only hold 3 - 5 rounds. (Mag tube extensions that give you 2-3 more rounds are available for popular shotguns)
- Slow to reload unless you get one with a detachable box magazine.
- Not recommended for use when precision is required.
- Can be hard for the shooter to handle the heavy recoil.

Handguns

- Revolvers are usually chambered in 357 magnum, 38 S&W, or 44 magnum and can be very powerful. Often they are limited to 6 rounds, which I consider low capacity. They are ideal for a hunting pistol if the barrel is 6 inches or longer. Can be very effective for home defense or in a vehicle. Personal carry options are available as well. I only

- recommend double action revolvers. Great brands are Ruger and Smith & Wesson. A budget option to consider is Taurus but they do not always have the reputation for reliability as the other two brands. Expect \$500 to \$1000 for center fire and expect \$300 to \$500 for a rimfire.

Pistols are usually chambered in 9mm, 40 SW, 380 acp and 45 acp. These are best suited for defensive roles such as concealed carry, open carry, home defense and car defense situations. Expect \$300 to \$700 for center fire and expect \$200 to \$500 for a rimfire.

Limitations

- Most pistols are fairly anemic compared to long guns and even most revolvers and may require several shots to stop a person or animal. There are many cases where police officers shot an assailant multiple times before they were stopped. I have seen police videos of men being shot upwards of 5 to 10 times or more and he is still trying to evade or assault the police.
- Long distance accuracy is not a strength of most handguns. They are typically designed for close range use. (accurately at 1-50 yards)

Rifles

- Bolt action rifles are superb for hunting applications where you have time to hone in on the target. They are usually noted to have the best accuracy, especially for long distance situations like hunting out west. A good rifle should be accurate out to 300 yards at minimum. Most can achieve accuracy out to 500 and beyond with practice and good cartridge design like the 6.5 creedmoor, 300 win mag, 270 Winchester, 30-06, etc. You can find bolt action rifles chambered in just about any caliber and load you can think of. Great brands to consider are Savage, Remington, Ruger, CZ, Browning, Tikka, and Winchester. Expect \$400 to \$1500 for center fire and \$300 to \$500 for a rimfire
- Lever action rifles are also great for hunting though there are fewer caliber choices due to the fact that the magazine is usually tubular rather than a removable box shape mag. Fortunately there are also options chambered in handgun calibers such as .357 mag, .38 S&W, 44 magnum, and 45 long colt. These can have a capacity of 10 rounds or more. These would be great for short range hunting of medium sized game and would also be great in a home defense role. Good brand options would be Marlin, Henry, Winchester, and Browning BLR. Expect \$800 to \$1500 for center fire and \$300 to \$500 for a rimfire
- Pump action rifles have sort of gone out of fashion in the past few years so you will be limited in options, but their role of use will be very similar to the lever action rifle. Remington and Winchester will be your best options here and you will probably have to shop the used markets. Expect \$500 to \$1000 for center fire and \$300 to \$500 for a rimfire.
- Semi auto rifles are good options for hunting though generally not as accurate as bolt actions. Some platforms like AR15s and Ar10s can be plenty accurate for its intended purposes. They can also be great options for defensive roles as well if chambered in appropriate calibers. AR15, AR10, Mini 14, Mini 30, M14, BAR, PTR 91, SCAR16 and

- SCAR17 are the more common variants. Some of these are more restricted in certain locations. They are available in most rifle cartridges and some in pistol calibers. They usually fall in the moderate to high cost range (\$700+). For AR 15s and AR 10s there are build kits that can be more cost effective and easily assembled. Expect \$700 to \$1500 for center fire and expect \$250 to \$600 for a rimfire

Limitations

The biggest problem with most rifles is they are often too powerful for defensive roles in home or other urban situations. The power of most rifles will over penetrate the target and potentially cause unintended damage to things and people beyond it.

- Other than the semi auto types, most rifles have limited capacity (3-5 rounds). For hunting this is not much of an issue, but for defense purposes it is a bit lacking if you are facing multiple attackers. If your rifle is designed to use a detachable box magazine then you just need to buy about 3-5 magazines to have an ample supply of ready ammo.
- Larger calibers can be hard for some shooters to handle and control the heavy recoil.

Aiming Options

Most rifles are not sold with sights or if they do they are simple iron sights that will not be good for more than 50-100 yds (if you have good eyesight). This goes for handguns and shotguns as well. The out of the box aiming option may not be great for the intended purpose. You will have to spend extra money on a scope and scope rings to get a good long distance rifle. A quick bit of research on these and you will quickly find that you can easily spend more on optics than on the gun. Red dot sights or tactical iron sights can be great for short range rifles, handguns, and shotguns.

- Rifle Scopes - good brands are Nikon, Vortex, Bushnell. Expect to spend between \$100-\$200 for a decent model. Don't forget the rings, these can be \$20 to \$50
- Red Dots - look for Vortex, Primary Arms, and Sig Sauer. Expect to spend around \$80-\$150
- Lasers - don't spend your money on these, instead get a weapon mounted flashlight. Good brands are Streamlight and Surefire. Expect \$50 to \$100
- Tactical iron sights- Magpul MBUS or similar for about \$50 to \$100

Ammo

I recommend getting 2000 rounds of your choice of ammunition. This should be sufficient to last for a 1 year period. If you have multiple guns you can divide that 2000 up to achieve your intended purposes.

- For general purpose ammo I recommend any type of Federal ammo.
- For precision rifles Hornaday, Barns, and Federal make great products. You may have to try a few different brands to compare and find the best accuracy for your gun.
- For handguns I recommend Federal and CCI.

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- For shotguns pretty much any brand will be fine just be sure to get a variety of load types.

Storage

- Safes may be required by law in some locations to store firearms in a lockable secure location. The balance is to keep your firearms secure, but not too secure as to prevent quick access in a timely manner should the need arise.
- Ammo cans are a great way to store ammo because they have a rubber seal that prevents deterioration from humidity and oxidation. You can even put in some of those oxygen absorbers. They can be easily transported and if they are the metal version they

are more secure in a fire. If those are a bit out of your price range there are plastic versions available at places like Harbor Freight. In a pinch airtight Tupperware can be a viable alternative. If you live in an area with high humidity and you have a vacuum sealer this can be a cheap way to preserve your ammo if you can't afford the other storage options.

Cleaning and Maintenance

All guns get dirty when used. Some are better at handling this than others. When they get dirty it is from the unburned gunpowder, residue from spent powder, primer residue, and dirt and mud from the field. There are guns that can handle these conditions and have earned a reputation to be reliable in even extreme conditions. If you have those then you are in a good position but even so your guns will run better and more accurately if they are cleaned regularly.

- Get a simple cleaning kit along with Gun Scrubber and a can of gun oil.
- I recommend cleaning your firearms every 100 - 250 rounds or after heavy field use. For hunting rifles I recommend every 50-60 rounds or at least yearly if used.
- Get a good multi tool to keep with your gun, in your pocket, or in a range bag so if a malfunction happens while in the field you can disassemble and clean your firearm there rather than having to wait till you get back home. Leatherman makes great multi tools. There are even some multi tools out there that are specifically made for gun maintenance.
- Extractor springs and extractors themselves can wear out over time if used often and can usually be replaced easily. If you're not sure how to do this or other maintenance repairs you can probably find detailed videos online for your specific gun. Look up your guns on web forums and reviews and see if there are known issues with your guns and get spare parts or parts upgrades if needed.

Safety

Don't neglect safety training and skills training, especially if you are new to firearms. I recommend that **everyone** take a hunter safety course and freshen up on general safety skills often. There are lots of firearms training classes available out there. A quick search on the web should give you plenty of options in your location. Even watching videos online can be a good source for training refreshers, but it needs to be followed up with field training as well to form good habits.

In Closing

At the end of the day we have to do an honest assessment of what our goals are here. Be willing to learn more and make changes if necessary. I have learned new things over the years and have made improvements to my preparations many times. Teach your family how to use them and how to be safe. Firearms are tools, but in some cases they are almost invaluable.

Don't let the lack of knowledge be the thing that hinders your preparations and abilities. I pray that we will not have to take up our sword to defend ourselves. When given the chance I will flee to Zion. I pray that we will be humble of our own choice and not have to be compelled. I look forward to the day when the Savior comes again so we can beat our swords into plow shares. I would gladly lay down and give up all that I own to go to New Jerusalem. I know Joseph Smith is the prophet and head of our dispensation holding all the keys. And, I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ amen.

References

Best 22 ammo for defense

<https://www.ammo4sale.com/ammo-club/what-are-the-most-powerful-22-lr-ammunition/>

Legal discussion about self defense

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIWPP0zLwNU>

Scriptures

Nephi, when he retrieved the plates he also took the sword of Laban.

Nephi 4:19 ... I did gird on his armor...

2 Nephi 5

14 And I, Nephi, did take the sword of Laban, and after the manner of it did make many swords, lest by any means the people who were now called Lamanites should come upon us and destroy us; for I knew their hatred towards me and my children and those who were called my people

Jacob 1

10 The people having loved Nephi exceedingly, he having been a great protector for them, having wielded the sword of Laban in their defence, and having labored in all his days for their welfare

3 Nephi 3

25 And they did fortify themselves against their enemies; and they did dwell in one land, and in one body, and they did fear the words which had been spoken by Lachoneus, insomuch that they did repent of all their sins; and they did put up their prayers unto the Lord their God, that he would deliver them in the time that their enemies should come down against them to battle.

26 And they were exceedingly sorrowful because of their enemies. And Gidgiddoni did cause that they should make weapons of war of every kind, and they should be strong with armor, and with shields, and with bucklers, after the manner of his instruction.

Luke 11

21 When a strong man **armed** keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:

22 But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.

Joel 3

10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

Luke 12

39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

D&C 45

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.

Alma 44

2 Behold, **we have not come out to battle against you that we might shed your blood for power; neither do we desire to bring any one to the yoke of bondage.** But this is the very cause for which ye have come against us; yea, and ye are angry with us because of our religion.

3 But now, ye behold that the Lord is with us; and ye behold that he has delivered you into our hands. And now I would that ye should understand that this is done unto us because of our religion and our faith in Christ. And now ye see that ye cannot destroy this our faith.

Glossary of terms

Action- the type of firearm mechanism that loads the cartridge into the chamber of a gun and fires the cartridge. Examples include pump action, bolt action, semi automatic, lever action, break action, single and double action.

Caliber- the measure, usually in inches, of the diameter of the bullet projectile. Ammunition specified with millimeters also refers to the diameter of the bullet. For example .357 magnum is .357 inches in diameter

Chamber- refers to the opening of the barrel where the cartridge is inserted and fired.

Cartridge- referred to as bullets but is the more accurate term because the bullet is the projectile that is shot out of the gun while the cartridge is the casing, primer, gun powder, and projectile that is loaded into the gun.

Magazine- a container, box or tubular shaped, that is attached or affixed to a gun to hold extra ammunition that can be cycled into the action of the gun and fired. Often *incorrectly* referred to as clips.

Capacity- the total amount of cartridges that can be held in a firearm's magazine and chamber.

Clip- a device that is used for holding and loading a magazine. Not used in modern firearms. More accurately termed stripper clips because the ammo is stripped from the clip into the gun and magazine. Example the M1 Garand

Penetration- the depth a bullet will travel in solids such as ballistics gelatin, drywall, or human tissue.

Over Penetration- when the projectile (bullet or shot) passes through the intended target with enough energy or force that can cause damage to objects or people behind that target.

Shot- projectiles or pellets from a shotshell. Most often used in shotguns. These can vary in number per shell, size of pellets, and material.

Centerfire Cartridge- ammunition that has a primer charge in the center of the case head. Most ammunition falls into this category.

Rimfire Cartridge- ammunition that has the primer charge in the rim of the case head. 22 LR, 22 magnum, and 17 hmr.

Freedom and Your Responsibility

"I am hereby resolved that under no circumstances shall the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights be infringed. In particular I am opposed to any attempt on the part of the federal government to deny the people their right to bear arms, to worship, and to pray when and where they choose, or to own and control private property."

Ezra Taft Benson An Enemy Hath Done This, from an address given at the Utah Forum for the American Idea, Salt Lake City, UT, 29 Feb 1968

"To every Latter-day Saint, we have a tremendous obligation to be good citizens, to uphold the Constitution of this land, to adhere to its basic concepts, to do all in our power to protect the freedoms and the liberties and the basic rights which are associated with citizenship. The Lord has said even in our day, through the Prophet Joseph Smith, that we have an obligation. He has not only spoken about the Constitution being inspired, he has said that if we are to be good Latter-day Saints, we also have to take an interest in this country in which we live and we are to see to it that good men are upheld and sustained in public office."

Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson 615-16; from an address given at Short Hills, NJ, 15 Jan 1961
Politics and religion actually go hand in hand. Religion drives political ideology. Religion is the core of a nation's roots. America was founded with Christian values, and belief in God Almighty was prerequisite to the establishment of this country.

The men who gave the machine power were not men of inaction. These men gave life to the political machine that began the slow walk towards freedom for all.

We cannot sit idly by and watch the "hedges be torn down". Whether our actions change the outcome or not, we are decreed to defend our lands, lives, and freedoms and must act accordingly. As for now this is not a war we must fight on a battlefield of weapons, but ideals. The tower was not built. We do not have grunted protection. Each battle of ideas is up to us and all of us. Elect good men to represent the good will of God in their community. Even if it feels hopeless, you could be the pebble that triggers the avalanche.