

A test, a Test, a TEST!

Heber C Kimball: “An army of Elders will be sent to the four quarters of the earth to search out the righteous and warn the wicked of what is coming. All kinds of religions will be started and miracles performed that will deceive the very elect if that were possible. Our sons and daughters must live pure lives so as to be prepared for what is coming.

After a while the Gentiles will gather by the thousands to this place, and Salt Lake City will be classed among the wicked cities of the world. A spirit of speculation and extravagance will take possession of the Saints, and the results will be financial bondage.

Persecution comes next and all true Latter-day Saints will be tested to the limit. Many will apostatize and others will be still not knowing what to do. Darkness will cover the earth and gross darkness the minds of the people. The judgments of God will be poured out on the wicked to the extent that our Elders from far and near will be called home, or in other words the gospel will be taken from the Gentiles and later on carried to the Jews.

The western boundary of the State of Missouri will be swept so clean of its inhabitants that as President Young tells us, when you return to that place, there will not be left so much as a yellow dog to wag his tail.

Before that day comes, however, the Saints will be put to a test that will try the integrity of the best of them. The pressure will become so great that the more righteous among them will cry unto the Lord day and night until deliverance comes.

Then the Prophet Joseph and others will make their appearance and those who have remained faithful will be selected to return to Jackson County, Missouri and take part in the building of that beautiful city, the New Jerusalem.” (Heber C. Kimball, First Counselor in the First Presidency, May 1868, in Deseret News, 23 May 1931; see also Conference Report, Oct. 1930, p. 58-59)

Heber C Kimball: “I want to say to you, my brethren, the time is coming when we will be mixed up in these now peaceful valleys to that extent that it will be difficult to tell the face of a Saint from the face of an enemy to the people of God. Then, brethren, look out for the great sieve, for there will be a great sifting time, and many will fall; for I say unto you there is a test, a Test, a TEST coming, and who will be able to stand? This church has before it many close places through which it must pass before the work of God is crowned with victory. To meet the difficulties that are coming it will be necessary for you to have knowledge of the truth of this work for yourselves. The difficulties will be of such character that the man or woman who does not possess this personal knowledge or witness will fall. If you have not got the testimony, live right and call upon the Lord and cease not ‘till you obtain it. If you do not, you will not stand. ” (Orson F. Whitney, Life of Heber C. Kimball, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1945, p. 446.)

President Nelson: “The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do (see Doctrine and Covenants 86:1–7). Our safest insurance is to continue to be worthy of admission to His holy house....Why do we need such resilient faith? Because difficult days are ahead. Rarely in the future will it be easy or popular to be a faithful Latter-day Saint. Each of us will be tested. The Apostle Paul warned that in the latter days, those who diligently follow the Lord “shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12)... Do whatever it takes to strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ by increasing your understanding of the doctrine taught in His restored Church and by relentlessly seeking

truth. Anchored in pure doctrine, you will be able to step forward with faith and dogged persistence and cheerfully do all that lies in your power to fulfill the purposes of the Lord. You will have days when you will be discouraged. So pray for courage not to give up! Sadly, some who you thought were your friends will betray you. And some things will simply seem unfair.”

Brigham Young: “When our brethren in the Quorum of the 12 shall be called to the courts of Washington to give an account of the position of the Latter Day Saints...the world will be in commotion and the Lord will have something to work upon. It will be after this when our Savior and others will make their appearance on the earth among the Latter Day Saints.” – Brigham Young (Recorded in a letter from Amanda H. Wilcox to Susie Young Gates, March, 11, 1904; Historical Dept. of the Church)

Brigham Young: “There never has been a time on the face of the earth...that the powers of darkness and the powers of earth and hell were so embittered, and enraged, and incensed against God and Godliness on the earth, as they are at the present. And when the spirit of persecution, the spirit of hatred, of wrath, and malice ceases in the world against this people, it will be the time that this people have apostatized and join hands with the wicked, and never until then; which I pray may never come.” (Discourses of Brigham Young compiled by John A. Widtsoe p.112)

Lorenzo Snow: “Zion cannot be built up except on the principles of union required by the celestial law.” Lorenzo Snow, April 21 1878, Journal of Discourse, 19:350)

Lorenzo Snow: “The principles of Plural Marriage were revealed for the benefit and exaltation of the children of men, but how much unhappiness has arisen through failure, on the part of some who have contracted this order of marriage, to conform to the laws that govern it! But does it arise through any defect in the order of the marriage system? O no; but from ignorance and the folly and wickedness of those individuals who enter into it, who abuse, rather than righteously obey, it. So in regard to the principles of the United Order. Its principles too are sacred, and I assure you we will never go back to Jackson County, Missouri, there to build up the new Jerusalem of the latter days, until there is a perfect willingness on our part to conform to its rules and principles. Many years have transpired since we received the revelation of the United Order, and in one sense that long period of time bespeaks negligence on our part in not more fully obeying it. The very principles of that order, in my estimation, were given for our temporal and spiritual salvation. In order to derive the benefit that God designed should flow from them, they must be established and systematized on the principle of righteousness, each person learning to love his neighbor as himself. For us to undertake to deal with them on any other principle would virtually open the way to bitter disappointment.” (Lorenzo Snow, April 5 1877, Journal of Discourses, 18:375)

Joseph Fielding Smith: “The commandment of the Lord that the saints should make themselves ‘friends with the mammon of unrighteousness,’ seems to be a hard saying when not properly understood. It is not intended that in making friends of the ‘mammon of unrighteousness’ that the brethren were to partake with them in their sins; to receive them to their bosoms, intermarry with them and otherwise come down to their level. They were to so live that peace with their enemies might be assured. They were to treat them kindly, be friendly with them as far as correct and virtuous principles would permit, but never to swear with them or drink and carouse with them. If they could allay prejudice and show a willingness to trade with and show a kindly spirit, it might help to turn them away from their bitterness. Judgment was to be left with the Lord.” (Church History and Modern Revelation, 2 vols. [1953], 1:323;

see also Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual, 2nd ed. [Church Educational System manual, 2001], 179.)

The Parable of the Ten Virgins: read or watch my paper on this parable

The Parable of the Nobleman and the Olive Trees: read or watch my paper on this parable

Isaiah Chapter 3: read or watch my paper *Understanding Isaiah Chapter Three*

Jesus Christ Macro Last Day Timeline: read or watch my paper on this

1. Period of Growth/Peace: Floods of missionaries over the years, many false churches and miracles occur over the planet, the elect must learn to live pure lives
2. Period of Variance: Gentiles begin to gather in Salt Lake City, the debate of building tower (living celestial law) begins
3. Period of Slothfulness: Saints begin intermarrying, begin lowering their standards, begin speculating with money, Saints begin to become extravagant, Saints begin to “carouse” with mammon
4. Period of Wickedness: The Saints in the words of Brigham Young “are now hand in hand with Babylon” or in the words of Heber C Kimball looking out at your congregation it will be difficult to tell the face of an enemy or friend, the persecution and wrath etc. ceases or lessens because of it, the Saints are for the most part in financial bondage (debt) and have apostatized in spirit, the Saints water-down or completely disregard the commandments of the Lord

*Lamanites blossom as a rose

5. Period of Testing: Persecution and testing, many will leave the Church, others will remain but be confused, darkness will cover the earth, darkness will cover the minds, the daughters in Zion are humbled, Joseph Smith returns but is working prudently (ie. he is watching the Church and the members but is not made public to the Church), Celestial Law is restored, the 12 apostles are called to the courts of Washington, judgements begin to be poured out as wake up calls (this includes the desolating sickness and the scourge/Assyrian). During this time missionaries begin to come home. The 7 years of economic and food famine begin. Many who you thought were your friends will betray you.
6. Period of Redemption: Joseph makes his appearance and judges between the righteous and wicked in the Church, “the faithful” will take part in the redemption of Zion and the initial building of New Jerusalem. Missouri is potentially purged of all inhabitants
7. Period of New Jerusalem: New Jerusalem is built and expanded, the remnant (ie. the ten tribes) assist in not only building the New Jerusalem but gathering in Israel to her. Christ makes the city a city of Holiness, he purges the sons of Levi, the calling and ordination of the 144,000
8. Period of Old Jerusalem: The gospel goes to the Jews in Old Jerusalem and all of the events tied to it happen

Looking at that macro timeline, after we have digested all of the doctrine, you would be hard-pressed to convince anyone of common intelligence or above, that we are not at point #5. Whether or not it has begun or shortly will begin, is up for debate. But, once again, you would be hard-pressed to convince anyone of common intelligence or above that we are already 3.5 years into the 7 years total of point #5.

There are no other signs that need to be fulfilled before this takes place. And there are signs that have been fulfilled and prophecies made regarding certain generations in which time is running out. If the seven years of tribulation do not start within the next three years, Joseph Smith's prophecy of the rising generation, Talmage's prophecy of the return of the ten tribes, McConkie's further explanation of Joseph Smith's prophecy, as well as Jesus Christ's prophecies of the time of the gentiles and "in the beginning of the seven thousand years" all would be proven false.

People are now in the process of spiritualizing and making figurative all of these prophecies of the Lord. However, if that were true, that Christ and His prophets (those with keys) are held to a standard of figurative and spiritual interpretations, nothing literal or plain, then man could not be held accountable for any commandments from the Lord save upon the same understanding, that of spiritual and figurative. Meaning, I could take the commandment of "keep the Sabbath day holy", work for six days and on the seventh day don't work. I could take it and interpret it literally and plainly. I.e. I do work to sustain life for six days (six rotations of the earth) and on the seventh day (or every seventh rotation) I rest and designate it a day unto the Lord. What if I interpreted it spiritually? "The Lord isn't saying seven literal days, he is talking spiritually, and we know there are seven time periods or seven thousand year periods of the earth, so what he is saying is work every day because in the seventh thousand year, that is when we finally get our rest." You could twist every commandment from the Lord this way, including fornication, idolatry and priestcraft. If the Lord expects you to interpret and understand and thus live all of the commandments literally and plainly, he would not hold you or me to a higher standard than that of himself. All prophecies should be interpreted plainly and literal. When you seek to spiritualize and make figurative the prophecies of the Lord, you are patronizing him, you are making excuses for him, you are shortening the length of his arm etc. The Lord does not need your excuses.

So if we are to understand the prophecies, parables etc as literal and plain as possible, we know, as I've said already but will say again, that the seven years of tribulation, the test, has either just begun or is right on the doorstep. We also then know that if that were to be true, it had to come about in a way that would not allow people time to prepare. The combination of COVID (Isaiah 28) and Elder Bednar's talk in this last conference fulfilled this perfectly. Waking up drunk Ephraim, allowing the righteous time to top off their oil and trim their wicks, and just enough time for the righteous who have not prepared to wake up, trim their wicks and realize they have no oil or time to get some (COVID robbed the already unprepared the ability to "quickly repent").

There are a lot of people who, looking at the signs of the times, looking at the fulfillment of prophecies et., are looking at the date 2024 and circling it as a time period for period #6. And a lot of members are reading this and are coming away confused at why if period #6 is occurring at 2024, why is there not time to prepare now? What they are failing to grasp, what members are failing to understand, is period #5, which we know comes before. Your food storage, your temporal preparedness, your temple recommend, if this macro timeline is to play out, will be needed now, not in three years but during the next three years. If there was or is time to prepare, then the entire macro timeline is off. Because we know that there will not be time to prepare once the wake up (COVID) and call to wake up (Elder Bednar) begins. If this is not it, then there has to be another time period to lull people back to sleep. Time, that frankly we don't have, if all of the other prophecies are to remain true. Once this begins "in the beginning of the seven thousand years" they are to be birthing pains; no woman goes into labor and then gets lulled back into non-labor for another nine months. Once the labor begins, the baby has got to

come. If the sign of Virgo in the sky is also to mean anything, in conjunction with the eclipses, there is no time.

Every Saint or at least every person who claims to be a Saint, will be tested. There is no “get down on your knees until you are translated to avoid tribulation.” The Book of Mormon is not only the keystone of our religion, it is the guide book for our day. You will not find a single story of Saints of God being translated and avoiding tribulation. Tribulation makes God’s people. There will be those, as there always are, practicing priestcraft and attempting to sell you an “easier way” but no such way exists. There is only tribulation vs a lot of tribulation. The difference between these groups and the timing is typified perfectly in the story of Abinadi (watch or read my paper *Abinadi: A Type of Things to Come*). Alma’s people did not avoid tribulation, they had it, it was just far less severe and had far less casualties (Alma’s group, AFAWK had no casualties).

An important story to learn and understand is that of Jesus walking on water. Most members studying last day timelines focus entirely on forgiveness, mercy, the good guys winning, the redemption and building of New Jerusalem etc and they overlook, neglect or omit the test. As though the reward falls out of heaven equally upon all the Saints. Likewise, with the story of Jesus walking on water, people tend to only focus on the miracle of Jesus walking on the water or that of the “failure” of Peter walking on the water to the Savior. Once again, neglecting or omitting the test, while being extremely harsh to Peter. Most members would not have reached the point in time to see Jesus walk on the water, let alone walk on water themselves and yet they hone in and magnify Peter’s fear while walking on the water as though they can relate and learn something from that part of the story. Hint: you wouldn’t have made it to that part of the story, focus on the other parts first. So what is the story?

The following is taken from the work my wife and I did on abridging the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) into a single testimony.

Chapter Seventy-Two



Jesus sends his disciples across the sea to Gennesaret and the multitude away. Jesus goes into a mountain to pray and to watch the disciple cross the sea. Jesus walks on water during the fourth watch.

1 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, to the land of Gennesaret, while he sent away the people.

2 But when Jesus therefore perceived that the people would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone to pray.

3 And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea,

4 And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them.

5 And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.

6 And the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

7 And Jesus alone on the land watched them toiling in rowing.

8 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, and about the fourth watch of the night, Jesus cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

9 But when they saw him drawing nigh unto the ship, walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out for fear:

10 For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.

11 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

12 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

13 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

14 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

15 Then they willingly received them into the ship: and immediately the wind ceased and the ship was at the land whither they went: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

16 For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

17 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Taken from Matthew 14:24-33, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:15-21

2. See also: John 18:36; Matt. 26:36; Luke 6:12; 9:28

- 10. See also: TG Cheerfulness
- 13. See also: TG Fearfulness
- 14. See also: Mark 4:40; 16:14; Luke 24:25; TG Doubt
- 16. See also: 1 Cor. 2:11; TG Hardheartedness

Let's do a macro timeline and try to understand what happened here while we do it.

1. The people wanted to make Jesus Christ king, and why? Because this group of people expect manna raining from heaven (once again, this seems to be a sign or indicator of a failed generation)
2. Jesus puts his disciples in a ship and tells them to sail across the sea (ie. their test)
3. Christ goes to a position where he can watch them discreetly or prudently as they test
4. The wind rose up contrary, meaning they were now rowing into the wind. They now have a choice to make, a point of variance if you will, in which they have to decide whether or not they will do exactly as the Lord commanded them and row to the other side that night OR if they will row to shore, start a fire, wait out the storm and proceed again in the morning. Most people would not have made it into the boat, most people would have been the group screaming for manna to come down from heaven that Jesus was fleeing from. The people in the boat are the elect, but how many of them would be exact in their obedience to such a seemingly temporal command. In this story the Savior simply told them to row across the water that night. As far as we know, He didn't explain why, He simply told them to do. Prophets for over 120 years have said to get a year supply of food and water and avoid debt like the plague, and they explained the specific whys, and yet when reading this story, members who don't have a year supply of food and water and are completely under in debt, don't realize that they never got in the boat in this story.
5. The test. The test is, they are now rowing into the wind, in a storm, in the middle of the night. Only those who have the spiritual conversion and faith will be able to pass through this period. They rowed for almost 4 miles in this condition and Jesus came down in the fourth watch (3am-6am) and they went into the boat in the evening, so depending on when they went into the boat they could have been rowing anywhere from 6-12 hours. That means they traveled around a mile in an hour or two. Most people can walk between 2-5 miles per hour. Meaning, they could have parked their boat and walked there faster. It was becoming against their better judgement to do exactly what the Lord wanted them to do.
6. During the fourth watch the Lord comes down, walks on the water, and "comes to save those who were faithful during the test."
7. Peter, now most likely to the point of exhaustion from rowing and lack of sleep, actually walks on water to the Lord, but doesn't make it all the way. Even a great man like Peter still had to reach for the hand of grace. This is not the point of the story that most members should be talking about. Most members aren't even half of what Peter was. Reading the comments online about "manna raining down from heaven", I am left to conclude that a lot of members wouldn't even have made it into the boat.

Now that we understand and have an idea of this story, I want to read you one of the last prophecies/dreams that Joseph gave to the Church before his martyrdom. In early February 1844, four months prior to his death, Joseph Smith had a dream, which he related to Wilford Woodruff, Willard Richards, and W. W. Phelps. He stated,

"I was standing on a peninsula, in the midst of a vast body of water where there appeared to be a large harbor or pier built out for boats to come to. I was surrounded by my friends, and while looking at this harbor I saw a steamboat approaching the harbor. There were bridges on the pier for persons to cross, and there came up a wind and drove the steamboat under one of the bridges and upset it. I ran up to the boat, expecting the persons would all drown; and wishing to do something to assist them, I put my hand against the side of the boat, and with one surge I shoved it under the bridge and righted it up, and then told them to take care of themselves. But it was not long before I saw them starting out into the channel or main body of the water again. The storms were raging and the waters rough. I said to my friends that if they did not understand the signs of the times and the spirit of prophecy, they would be apt to be lost. It was but a few moments after when we saw the waves break over the boat, and she soon foundered and went down with all on board. The storm and waters were still very rough; yet I told my friends around me that I believed I could stem those waves and that storm, and swim in the waters better than the steamboat did; at any rate I was determined to try it. But my friends laughed at me, and told me I could not stand at all, but would be drowned. The waters looked clear and beautiful, though exceedingly rough; and I said I believed I could swim, and I would try it anyhow. They said I would drown. I said I would have a frolic in the water first, if I did; and I drove off in the raging waves. I had swam but a short distance when a towering wave overwhelmed me for a time; but I soon found myself on the top of it, and soon I met the second wave in the same way; and for a while I struggled hard to live in the midst of the storm and waves, and soon found I gained upon every wave, and skimmed the torrent better; and I soon had power to swim with my head out of water: so the waves did not break over me at all, and I found that I had swam a great distance; and in looking about, I saw my brother Samuel by my side. I asked him how he liked it. He said, "First rate," and I thought so too. I was soon enabled to swim with my head and shoulders out of water, and I could swim as fast as any steamboat. In a little time it became calm, and I could rush through the water, and only go in to my loins, and soon I only went in to my knees, and finally could tread on the top of the water, and went almost with the speed of an arrow. I said to Samuel, See how swift I can go! I thought it was great sport and pleasure to travel with such speed, and I awoke" (Joseph Smith, History of the Church, 6:194–95).

Joseph will return, he will upright the boat and send it out to sea. He will then, just like the Savior, watch the members of the Church. When the time is right, Joseph will come across the water to us and will select those who "remained faithful to return to Jackson County, Missouri and take part in the building of that beautiful city, the New Jerusalem."

Knowing what we know, is it possible to hypothesize or deduce more information about the period of testing? I believe there is. We know celestial law has to come before period #6 and 7. We also know that Isaiah chapter 3 takes place in period #5. And we know from studying Isaiah chapter 3 that, in that day, ie. in the period of testing, the righteous women will outnumber the righteous men 7:1. And these seven righteous women are asking one righteous man to marry them all. In order for them to be righteous and the man they are asking to be righteous, celestial marriage in its fullness will have to be reinstated ie. plural marriage. This is a part of celestial law. So we know that celestial law has to come back in period #5. We also know that the law of consecration, ie. the union of all things, is also part of celestial law. But I ask the question, if you decided to live the law of consecration, much like the Amish do, do you believe that "many of those who you thought were your friends will betray you" over it? Do you believe that the Christians in the United States will rise up against the Latter-Day Saints over the law of consecration? Do you think that the Lord needs to humble the daughters of Zion, the women of Zion, to prepare them for

the law of consecration? Do you think that the quorum of the twelve apostles would be called to the courts of Washington over the law of consecration? The law of consecration will simply turn us into a more “Amish-like” community and people love the Amish.

From the abundance of evidence available to us, Joseph Smith returning and uprighting the ship or in the parable of the nobleman and the olive trees, D&C 101:52-55, almost assuredly has to deal with celestial law. Celestial law does contain in it the law of consecration but as Lorenzo Snow, D&C 132 etc clearly have taught us, celestial marriage (ie. plural marriage) is also a part of it. Joseph will come back with Jesus and will tell the leaders to do this. And doing this will compound problems, tribulation etc (make the wind go contrary) to the Saints. But we learn that when the quorum of the twelve are called to the courts of Washington, we learn that commotion and social problems are already sweeping the land. We learn in a multitude of locations of how the political stability plays into tribulation and the downfall of nations (see my paper *Trump: A Fulfillment to Prophecy?*) But we also know that the courts of Washington have not already fallen apart. Every intelligent pundit has correctly pointed out that this next election is similar and holds the same weight of that of the election of Abraham Lincoln.

Do we have a fulfillment to the 10 virgins? Check.

Do we have a fulfillment to the desolating sickness? Check.

Do we have a fulfillment to the Assyrian/destroyer in America attacking the olive trees? Check.

The most divided politically the United States has ever been? Check.

The most divisive presidential campaigns the country has ever seen? Check.

It would take decades, if not a century or more, for this series of events to play out in such near perfection to the prophecies. And that would clearly push us out of “the beginning of the seven thousand years”, not to mention all of the other prophecies. So what is coming? A test, a test, a test. A food storage and staying out of debt is part of the test. Accepting and living celestial law is part of the test. Not siding with evil and thus those who support socialism, communism, redistribution of wealth, the reimagining of the United States of America is part of the test. Not giving into anger, hatred, blood lust etc is part of the test. All of these events will compound and create tribulation and persecution as the Saints have never seen. It will not be easy in the days ahead to be “a faithful Latter-day Saint”. Those that faithfully endure the tribulation, those that row into the wind and refuse to park their boat on the shore, those that keep fighting for truth and righteousness all through the night, will be those that are selected and found faithful. Saints of God, a test, a test, a test! And who will abide the day? Those who have fortified their testimony of the Savior by doing what they were required to do to increase their testimony of the Savior before the test. Those who have learned how to “hear Him”, those that have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide by deepening their understanding of the doctrines taught in the Lord’s restored Church, by learning how to become a principle of inspiration and revelation unto themselves, before the test. In 2019 the prophet of God warned those “currently investigating the Church and those inactive coming back into the Church” to hurry up and do these things, for “time for them is running out.” If time **for them** was running out in 2019, time for the righteous, faithful Saints at the end of 2020, is now running out. Don’t let a day go by wasted, that you could have spent preparing, for a test, a test, a test, is coming and my prayer is that it won’t catch us unawares.

God bless, God speed, keep the faith, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.