

Section Two: Zeal Without Knowledge
Chapter Four: Understanding Prophecy

v 1.01

Why Prophecy?

1 Ne. 20: 3-11 (see also Isaiah 48)

3 Behold, I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I showed them. I did show them suddenly.

4 And I did it because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass;

5 And I have even from the beginning declared to thee; before it came to pass I showed them thee; and I showed them for fear lest thou shouldst say—Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image hath commanded them.

6 Thou hast seen and heard all this; and will ye not declare them? And that I have showed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them.

7 They are created now, and not from the beginning, even before the day when thou heardest them not they were declared unto thee, lest thou shouldst say—Behold I knew them.

8 Yea, and thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time thine ear was not opened; for I knew that thou wouldst deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb.

9 Nevertheless, for my name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain from thee, that I cut thee not off.

10 For, behold, I have refined thee, I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

11 For mine own sake, yea, for mine own sake will I do this, for I will not suffer my name to be polluted, and I will not give my glory unto another.

(17-3) Isaiah 48:1–8. Judah's Apostasy (Old Testament Institute Manual)

Isaiah 48:1–2 describes Israel's apostasy from God's revealed ways. While these chosen people of the Lord have "come forth out of the waters of ... baptism" (1 Nephi 20:1; compare Isaiah 48:1–2 with 1 Nephi 20:1–2), "they do not stay themselves upon the ... Lord" (1 Nephi 20:2). In other words, they have apostatized. For this reason, the Lord elected to demonstrate His powers of omniscience. He had, He told them, "declared ... things from the beginning," that is, He spoke of them before their occurrence, and then "shewed them ... suddenly" by bringing them to pass

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(Isaiah 48:3). This He had done, He said, lest the apostates should say, "Mine idol hath done them" (v. 5), or "Behold, I knew them" (v. 7), that is to say, "I already knew that." The Lord then promised to defer His anger but utterly refused to give His glory to false gods or to suffer His name to be polluted (compare v. 11 with 1 Nephi 20:11). ***Thus the Lord's purpose for revealing the future unto man is partly made clear: it is the solid proof that He is truly God, for no mute idol could possibly duplicate such a feat.*** (Emphasis added)

If we understand that the main purpose or function of prophecy is so that we can see that He truly is God, so that we have something to then build our structure of faith on, etc., then we understand what isn't a real prophecy, how prophecy will and will not be fulfilled, what prophecies we are/should focus on, etc. etc.

If the children of Light could not see and identify the fulfillments of the prophecy (let alone the world) who would the prophecy be for? Of what benefit would it be for man? How would it help develop faith in an unchanging loving Father in Heaven (Lectures on Faith)? Etc.

How Was Prophecy Historically fulfilled?

Elder Parley P. Pratt (A Voice of Warning, bolded emphasis added)

CHAPTER I.

ON PROPHECY ALREADY FULFILLED.

"But, first, for the definite rule of interpretation. For this we will not depend on any man or commentary, for the Holy Ghost has given it by the mouth of Peter: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation." 2 Peter i, 20.

There is one grand division to be kept constantly, in view in the study of prophecy; namely, the distinction between the past and the future. The reader should be careful to ascertain what portion has been fulfilled, and what remains to be fulfilled: always remembering Peter's rule of interpretation will apply to both. Now, if we should find in our researches that every prophecy which has been fulfilled to the present year, has been *literally* fulfilled, then it follows of necessity that **every prophecy which is yet future will not fail of a literal fulfilment**. Let us commence with the days of Noah. Gen. vi, 17: "And behold I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die."

In the verses which follow the above the Lord commands Noah to enter the Ark, and take with him animals of every kind, etc. And in the 22d verse it is written, "Thus did Noah, according to all that God commanded him, so did he." It was well for Noah that he was not well versed in the spiritualizing systems of modern divinity; for, under their benighted influence, he would never

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have believed that so marvelous a prophecy would have had a literal meaning and accomplishment. No, he would have been told that the flood meant a spiritual flood, and the Ark a spiritual Ark, and, the moment he thought otherwise, he would have been set down for a fanatic, knave, or fool; but it was so, that he was just simple enough to believe the prophecy literally. Here then is a fair sample of *foreknowledge*; for all the world, who did not possess it, perished by the flood.

The next prediction we will notice is Gen. xv, 13-16. "And he said unto Abraham. Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them, and they shall afflict them four hundred years. And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge; and afterwards shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age; but in the fourth generation they shall come hither again, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full."

The evil entreating of the children of Israel four hundred years, together with their coming out with great substance, and the judgment of God upon Egypt, as well as the death of Abraham in a good old age, are all facts too well known to need comment here; suffice it to say, that it is a striking example of the **exact fulfilment of prophecy**, uttered more than four hundred years before it had its accomplishment. From this we gather that none of those ancient men knew anything of the modern system of spiritualizing.

Our next is Gen. xix, 12, 13: "And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son-in-law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: for we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxed great before the face of the Lord; and the Lord hath sent us to destroy it." Now, Lot being simple enough to believe the thing in its literal sense, took as many of his family as would follow, and escaped for his life; to the great amusement, no doubt, of the Sodomites, who probably stood gazing after, crying "Delusion, delusion!" they thinking all the while that the prophecy was only a figure. Here is an example of a man escaping from the flames by *foreknowledge* imparted to him, while the whole city perished. O! what a blessing that Lot had no knowledge of the modern manner of interpreting prophecy. **If it had once entered his heart that he must come out of Sodom spiritually, instead of literally, it would have cost him his life.**

Let us examine a prophecy of Joseph in the land of Egypt. Gen. xli, 29-31: "Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt: and there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land: and the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous." Joseph then proceeds to give directions for corn to be laid up in great abundance during the seven plenteous years, in order to provide against the famine. And Pharaoh, being no better versed in the school of modern divinity than his predecessors, never once thought of any other interpretation but the most literal, And thus he was the means, together with Joseph, in the hand of God, of saving, not only their nation, but the house of Israel, from famine. This is another striking example of the power of *foreknowledge*. It not only saved from famine, but it exalted Joseph from a dungeon to a palace; from the lowest degradation to the highest honor; so that they cried before him, "Bow the knee!" **But, O! what death and mourning would have followed had they dreamed only of spiritual famine and spiritual corn.**

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Having given a few plain examples of early ages, we will lightly touch upon some of the most remarkable events of prophecy, and its fulfilment, until we come down to the Jewish Prophets, where the field opens wide, touching in its progress the most remarkable events of all ages, and terminating in a full development of the opening glories of the last days.

One remarkable instance, concerning Elijah the Prophet, was, that he prophesied to Ahab that it should not rain for three years and upwards, which came to pass according to his word. There is also a remarkable instance of Hazael, the Syrian, who came to Elisha to inquire of the Lord concerning the king of Syria, his master, who was sick. The Prophet, earnestly beholding him, burst into tears: and Hazael asked him, saying, "Why weepest thou?" and he, answering, said, "The Lord hath showed me that thou shalt be king over Syria." And he then proceeded to unfold unto him the cruelties which he would afterwards exercise towards Israel, which are too horrible to mention here, lest in so doing I might offend the delicate ear. But Hazael, astonished to hear these things predicted concerning himself, which at that time filled him with horror, exclaimed with surprise, "But what? is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing?" Yet astonishing to tell, **all was afterwards fulfilled to the very letter.**

In the 21st chapter, 2 Chron., it is written that there came a writing to Jehoram from Elijah, which, after stating the great wickedness of which he had been guilty, in turning to idolatry, and also murdering his brethren of his father's house, who were better than himself, proceeds thus: "Behold, with a great plague will the Lord smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods; and thou shalt have great sickness by disease of the bowels, until thy bowels fall out, by reason of thy sickness, day by day." In the same chapter it is written, that the Philistines and Arabians came against him, and took his wives, and children, and goods captive; and after all this, the Lord smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease, and his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness, so he died of sore disease.

In the 6th chapter of Joshua, 26th verse, there is a wonderful prediction concerning Jericho: "Cursed be the man before the Lord, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho. He shall lay the foundation thereof in his first-born, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it."

After this curse the city of Jericho lay waste for ages, none daring to rebuild it at the expense of their first-born and of their youngest son; until after a long succession of judges and kings, when hundreds of years had passed, Hiel the Bethelite, who lived in the days of Ahab, probably supposing that the Lord had forgotten the curse pronounced upon it by Joshua, ventured to rebuild the city: but no sooner had he laid the foundation thereof than Abiram his first-born died, and, still persevering in the hardness of his heart, he set up the gates thereof, with the loss of his youngest son, Segub, **according to the word of the Lord** by Joshua; see 1 Kings, xvi, 34.

...

We will now [turn] to Nebuchadnezzar, whom the Lord, by the mouth of Jeremiah, calls His servant, to execute His judgment upon the nations. It seems that the Lord exalted this great man, and made him a king of kings, and lord of lords, arming him with His own sword, and clothing him with power and authority, for the express purpose of executing His judgments, and scourging and humbling all the nations of the earth. Jeremiah, chapter xxv, says that the Lord purposed to

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bring Nebuchadnezzar and his army against Jerusalem, and against all the nations round about, that he might bring them to desolation and captivity for seventy years; and after seventy years, He would turn and punish the king of Babylon and that nation for their iniquity. Now, who can trace the history of the fulfilment of these great events, **so exactly pointed out by Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Ezekiel, and not be struck with astonishment and wonder at the marvellous gift of prophecy enabling men in those days to read the history of the future as they read the history of the past?** Indeed, the reader of history in the nineteenth century, holding in his hand the history of the Babylonians, Medes and Persians, Greeks, Romans and Egyptians, together with that of the Jews, will hardly render himself more familiar with the events which transpired among those nations, than the Prophets were seventy years previous to their accomplishment.

The Jews were reduced to subjection by Nebuchadnezzar; their city, Jerusalem, was burned, together with their temple; their princes, nobles, and people were carried to Babylon, together with all their holy things. All the particulars of this destruction and captivity were distinctly foretold by Jeremiah, and the time of its continuance, viz., seventy years. After subduing the Jews, the king of Babylon marched his army against Tyre, the city of merchants, situated at the haven of the sea, surrounded not only by the sea, but by a strong wall. A hold so strong required the utmost skill and perseverance of Nebuchadnezzar and his whole army, who labored incessantly for a long time, and at length succeeded in taking Tyre, and bringing it into captivity for seventy years. After which they returned and established their city, for Jeremiah had previously foretold the reduction of Tyre, its captivity for seventy years, and its restoration at the expiration of that time. After the restoration of Tyre, the city flourished for a time, but was afterwards reduced to an entire desolation. Its ruined fragments are seen to this day in the bottom of the sea; its site has become a barren rock, only occupied by poor fishermen. **All this desolation, and even its present appearance of desolation and perpetual waste, were clearly pointed out by the Prophets.**

...

What powerful argument, what mighty influence was it which caused Cyrus to be convinced that it was the God of heaven who dwelt at Jerusalem, who alone was God, and who had done all these things? He had not been traditioned in the belief of the true God, nor of the holy Scriptures. Nay, he had ever been very zealous in the worship of idols; it was to idols he looked for assistance in the former part of his life. I reply, it was the power of God, made manifest by prophecy and its fulfilment; not in a spiritualized sense, **not in some obscure, uncertain, or dark, mysterious way, which was difficult to be understood; but in positive, literal, plain demonstration, which none could gainsay or resist.** Isaiah says that this was the object the Lord had in view when he revealed such plainness. And Cyrus manifested that it had the desired effect.

I would here remark that when we come to treat of that part of prophecy which yet remains to be fulfilled, we shall bring proof positive that the heathen nations of the latter days are to be convinced in the same way that Cyrus was; that is, there are certain events plainly predicted in the Prophets, yet future, which, when fulfilled, will convince all the heathen nations of the true God, and they shall know that he hath spoken and performed it. And all the great and learned men of Christendom, and all societies, who put any other than a *literal*

construction on the word of prophecy, shall stand confounded, and be constrained to acknowledge that all has come to pass even as it is written.

But to return to our research of prophecy and its fulfilment. The Prophets had not only predicted the reduction of Babylon by Cyrus, but they had denounced its fate through all ages, until reduced to entire desolation, never to be inhabited, not even as a temporary residence for the wandering Arab: "And the Arabian shall not pitch tent there." See Isaiah, xiii, 19-22.

Mr. Joseph Wolfe, the celebrated Jewish missionary, while traveling in Chaldea, inquired of the Arabs whether they pitched their tents among the ruins of Babylon, to which they replied in the negative, declaring their fears that, should they do so, Nimrod's ghost would haunt them. **Thus all the predictions of the Prophets concerning that mighty city have been fulfilled.**

Edom also presents a striking fulfilment of plain and pointed predictions in the Prophets. These predictions were pronounced upon Edom at a time when its soil was very productive and well cultivated, and everywhere abounding in flourishing towns and cities. But now its cities have become heaps of desolate ruins, only inhabited by the cormorant, bittern, and by wild beasts, serpents, etc., and its soil has become barren; the Lord has cast upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness, and it has been waste from generation to generation, in express fulfilment of the word of prophecy.

...

We will now proceed to show how exactly the prophecies were fulfilled *literally* in the person of Jesus Christ. "Behold," said the Prophet, "a virgin shall conceive and bear a son." Again, Bethlehem should be the place of his birth, and Egypt, where he sojourned with his parents, the place out of which he was to be called. He turned aside to Nazareth, for it was written, "He shall be called a Nazarene." He rode into Jerusalem upon a colt, the foal of an ass, because the Prophet had said, "Behold thy King cometh, meek and lowly, riding upon a colt," etc. And again, saith the Prophet: "He shall be afflicted and despised; he shall be a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; he shall be led as a lamb to the slaughter, and, like a sheep dumb before his shearers, so he opened not his mouth; in his humiliation his judgment was taken away; and who shall declare his generation, for his life is taken from the earth. He was wounded for our transgressions, and by his stripes we are healed; he was numbered with the transgressors; he made his grave with the rich." Not a bone of him is broken; they divide his raiment; cast lots for his vesture; give him gall and vinegar to drink; betray him for thirty pieces of silver; and finally, when it was finished, he rested in the tomb until the third day, and then rose triumphant, without seeing corruption. Now, kind reader, had you walked up and down with our dear Redeemer during his whole sojourn in the flesh, and had you taken pains to record the particular circumstances of his life and death, as they occurred from time to time, your history would not be a plainer one than the Prophets gave of him hundreds of years before he was born. There is one thing we would do well to notice concerning the manner in which the Apostles interpreted prophecy, and that is this—they simply quoted it, and recorded its literal fulfilment. By pursuing this course, they were enabled to bring it home to the hearts of the people in the Jewish synagogues, with such convincing proof that they were constrained to believe the supposed impostor whom they had crucified was the Messiah. But had

they once dreamed of rendering a spiritualizing or uncertain application, like the teachers of the present day, all would have been uncertainty and doubt, and demonstration would have vanished from the earth.

Having taken a view of the Old Testament Prophets, concerning prophecy and its fulfilment, and having shown clearly that nothing but a literal fulfilment was intended, the objector may inquire whether the same mode will apply to the predictions contained in the New Testament.

We will therefore bring a few important instances of prophecy, and its fulfilment, from the New Testament; after which we shall be prepared to enter the vast field which is still future. One of the most remarkable prophecies in sacred writ is recorded by Luke, chap, xxi, 20-24: "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto; for these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days; for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people; and they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." This prophecy involves the fate of Jerusalem and the temple, and the whole Jewish nation, for at least eighteen hundred years. About the year seventy, the Roman army compassed Jerusalem. The disciples remembered the warning which had been given them by their Lord and Master forty years before, and fled to the mountains. The city of Jerusalem was taken, after a long and tedious siege, in which the Jews suffered the extreme of famine, pestilence and the sword; filling houses with the dead, for want of a place to bury them, while women ate their own children, for want of all things. In this struggle there perished, in Judea, near one million and a half of Jews, besides those taken captive. Their country was laid waste, their city burned, their temple destroyed, and the miserable remnant dispersed abroad into all the nations of the earth; in which situation they have continued ever since, being driven from one nation to another, often falsely accused of the worst of crimes, for which they have been banished and their goods confiscated. Indeed, they have been mostly accounted as outlaws among the various nations; the soles of their feet have found no rest, and they have been a hiss and a byword; and people have said, "These are the people of the Lord, and are gone forth out of his land."

CHAPTER II.

ON THE FULFILMENT OF PROPHECY YET FUTURE.

What is Prophecy but History reversed?

Having made the discovery and produced sufficient proof that the prophecies, thus far, have been LITERALLY fulfilled—to the very letter—we hope the reader will never lose sight of the same rule with regard to those yet future. And, while we stand upon the threshold of futurity, with the wonders of unborn time about to open upon our view, presenting before our astonished vision the most mighty and majestic scenes, the most astonishing revolutions, the most extraordinary destructions, as well as the most miraculous displays of the power and majesty of Jehovah, in His great restoration of His long dispersed covenant people from the four quarters of the earth: I say,

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as these scenes are about to open to our view, let us bow before the great I AM, in the name of Jesus, and pray in faith for His Spirit to enlarge our hearts and enlighten our minds, that we may understand and believe all that is written, however miraculous it may be.”

Avoid Speculation

The Prophet Joseph Smith said: “I make this broad declaration, that whenever God gives a vision of an image, or beast, or figure of any kind, He always holds Himself responsible to give a revelation or interpretation of the meaning thereof, otherwise we are not responsible or accountable for our belief in it. Don’t be afraid of being damned for not knowing the meaning of a vision or figure, if God has not given a revelation or interpretation of the subject.” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 291.)

“For reasons not at present known, the Lord has not revealed the key for interpreting [certain] passages, and, until He does so, speculation and calculations are pointless.” (Old Testament Student Manual, p.309)

Examples of Speculation:

1. The beasts of Daniel
2. All of the “periods of weeks” mentioned in Daniel
3. The dragon beast of Revelation
4. Exact dates (including the opening of seals in heaven)
5. The two goats in Daniel
6. John’s creature that mounts the Whore of all the Earth
7. Mark of the beast (666)
8. Apocryphal writings (any and all non-canonized scriptures)

Warning

If you are watching videos, reading papers/books, etc. from people who spend the majority of their time speculating over these things (the “what ifs” of the Gospel), you are choosing to spend your time in “pointless endeavors.” Period. But does this mean that we are to not study signs of the times? No. Does this mean that we don’t have enough information to make intelligent conclusions regarding last day timelines? No. The Lord said that the children of the light will have enough light to be able discern timeline.

Elder Orson Pratt

“The day is at hand, the morning has broken, the sun of the Gospel has arisen in the eastern horizon, and is beginning to shine with a degree of splendor. The time is near—how near, no

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man knoweth: the day and the hour when the Son of Man shall come is a secret. In a revelation given to this Church, it is said that no man shall know until he comes; therefore we cannot expect to know the day nor the hour; but we know it is near at hand, and what a consolation it is. There may be men that will know within a year—that will have revelation to say within one or two years when the Lord shall appear. I do not know that there is anything against this.” (Journal of Discourses 8:10)

Orson Pratt said that there will be enough information so that there will be Saints who will be able to know the exact order of events to occur, but is it important to know? Should we even bother? Is it important for our salvation? Etc.

Elder Orson Pratt

"But the Latter-day Saints are not in darkness; they are the children of light, although many of us will actually be asleep. We shall have to wake up and trim up our lamps, or we shall not be prepared to enter in; for we shall all slumber and sleep in that day, and some will have gone to sleep from which they will not awake until they awake up in darkness without any oil in their lamps. But, as a general thing, the Saints will understand the signs of the times, if they do lie down and get to sleep. Others have their eyes closed upon the prophecies of the ancient Prophets; and not only that, but they are void of the spirit of prophecy themselves. When a man has this, though he may appeal to ancient Prophets to get understanding on some subjects he does not clearly understand, yet, as he has the spirit of prophecy in himself, he will not be in darkness; he will have a knowledge of the signs of the times; he will have a knowledge of the house of Israel, and of Zion, of the ten tribes, and of many things and purposes and events that are to take place on the earth; and he will see coming events, and can say such an event will take place, and after that another, and then another; and after that the trumpet shall sound, and after that certain things will take place, and then another trump shall sound, &c., &c.; and he will have his eye fixed on the signs of the times, and that day will not overtake him unawares; but upon the nations it will come as a thief upon the mighty men and upon the chief captains, who will gather up their hosts upon the mountains, hills, and valleys of Palestine, to fight against the Jews; and they will be as blind as the dumb ass; and right in the midst of their blindness the Lord will rend the heavens and stand his feet upon the Mount of Olives, and all the Saints will come with him, and the wicked will be destroyed from off the face of the earth." (Journal of Discourses 7:29)

Elder Parley P. Pratt

“Whoever will look to the word of the Prophets, and to the sayings of Jesus Christ, on this subject, the same will be convinced that all the signs of which I have spoken are clearly pointed out as the signs of His coming. But, notwithstanding all these things are written, His coming will overtake the world unawares, as the flood did the people in the days of Noah. The reason is, they will not understand the Prophets. They will not endure sound doctrine; their ears are turned away from the truth, and turned to fables, because of false teachers, and the precepts of men; and what is still worse, when God sends men with the New and Everlasting Covenant, and clothes them with boldness to testify to the truth, they will be treated as the servants of God have been before them by the fallen... every[one]... will cleave to [their] own way, and will unite in saying: "There is no need of these ... things, [our] way is right;" while at the same time they are walking

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in as many different ways as there are sects, and only agree in persecuting and speaking all manner of evil against the fishers and hunters whom God shall send. But, thank heaven, there are individuals in every sect who are humbly seeking the truth, and who will know the voice of truth, and be gathered out, and planted in the New and Everlasting Covenant; and they will be adopted into the family of Israel, and will be gathered with them, and be partakers of the same covenant of promise. Yea, as Jeremiah says, in the sixteenth chapter of his Prophecies: "The Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanities, and things wherein there is no profit." But as the Jews overlooked Christ's first coming, by not understanding the Prophets, and fastening their whole expectations on His glorious coming in the last days, to restore the kingdom to Israel, and avenge them of their enemies, and, by this mistake, were broken and scattered; so the Gentiles will overlook the prophecies concerning His second coming, by confounding them with the last judgment, which is to take place more than a thousand years afterward. But this fatal mistake, instead of causing the Gentiles to be broken and scattered, will cause them to be ground to powder.

O my brethren, according to the flesh, my soul mourns over you, and had I a voice like a trumpet, I would cry, Awake, awake and arouse from your slumber, for the time is fulfilled, your destruction is at the door, "for I have heard from the Lord God of Hosts, a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth!" Prepare to meet your God! And again, Awake, O house of Israel, and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh." (A Voice of Warning, Chapter II)

D&C 133:11. When Will Christ Come to Usher in His Millennial Reign?

Elder Bruce R. McConkie wrote:

“Question: Does or will anyone know when the Lord will come? Answer: As to the day and hour, No; as to the generation, Yes.

“Question: Who shall know the generation? Answer: The saints, the children of light, those who can read the signs of the times, those who treasure up the Lord’s word so they will not be deceived.

“Paul told the Thessalonians that ‘the coming of the Lord’ would be ‘as travail upon a woman with child’; that where people of the world are concerned Jesus would come ‘as a thief in the night,’ that is unexpectedly and without warning; but that where ‘the children of light’ are concerned, the Lord would not come as ‘a thief in the night,’ for they are aware of the ‘times and seasons’ connected with his return. (1 Thess. 4:13–18; 5:1–7.) Thus, though the saints do not know the day, they are aware of the season. As a woman in travail feels the pains of the approaching birth, so the saints read the signs of the times; neither knows the exact moment of the anticipated happening, but both know the approximate time.” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:665–66; see also Matthew 24:36, 42; D&C 45:39; 49:7; 77:6, 12; 130:14–17.)

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So where are we, as children of the light, to gain this light and not speculation?

1. Prophecies/Visions that have interpretations given and that are canonized
2. Stories that have been identified as “types of things to come”
3. Authoritative sources (scriptures etc.)

In other words, the Pyramid of Truth.

Examples:

1. Joseph being sold into Egypt as a type (Ether 13)
2. Moses leading the children out of Egypt as a type (Doctrine and Covenants 101, 103, 105)
3. The times of the Gentiles
4. Identifying what needs to take place during the 6th seal and what needs to happen during the 7th seal, etc. (D&C 77)
5. The New Jerusalem events vs the Old Jerusalem events vs the Great and Dreadful Day (see preface)
6. The desolating sickness that sweeps the land and paves the way for the overflowing scourge (Doctrine and Covenants 45)
7. The marvelous work and a wonder
8. Etc.

If you are listening to videos or reading material from the Church or its members that deal with things like these, you will not be in “speculation zone” and thus you won’t be pursuing pointless wastes of time.

Spirit of Prophecy and Revelation

Elder L. Aldin Porter

Some years ago I enjoyed a stake conference assignment as a junior companion to Elder LeGrand Richards, who had, under the influence of this directing Spirit, reorganized a stake presidency. We were driving home; he was very pensive. After a rather long period of silence, I asked him if there was something he would like to teach me. Quietly he said, “We have too many in the Church who deny the spirit of prophecy and of revelation.” That was it—he said no more about it. As I reminisced about the calling of the new stake president that day, it occurred to me then that this Church could not function for even one day without the spirit of prophecy and revelation.

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But ours is a day of dwindling faith and increasing skepticism about sacred things. Our time reminds me of the period just prior to the coming of the resurrected Savior to this continent. They were very dark days.

Mormon recorded the roots of the problems that beset Nephite society when he said, “And it was because of the pride of their hearts, because of their exceeding riches, yea, it was because of their oppression to the poor, withholding their food from the hungry, withholding their clothing from the naked, and smiting their humble brethren upon the cheek, making a mock of that which was sacred, denying the spirit of prophecy and of revelation.”

Later Mormon continues: “And because of their iniquity the church had begun to dwindle; and they began to disbelieve in the spirit of prophecy and in the spirit of revelation; and the judgments of God did stare them in the face.” (1996–O:9, The Spirit of Prophecy)

George A. Smith

Now, it is not certain that the Prophet always reveals those secrets unto the people. It may happen in many instances, that the Lord will reveal unto his servants the Prophets many things that are to come, and yet leave those who are not enlightened by the Spirit of Prophecy to wait until those things transpire before they are apprised of them.

There appears to be in the midst of the Saints a very great stress laid upon the word “prophet,” and the words of Amos seem to be definitely pointed at in the minds of a great many individuals, to show, as it were, there was but one. But when the Spirit of the Lord was poured out in the camp of Israel, and Eldad and Medad began to prophesy, persons whose minds were contracted went to Moses and complained that Eldad and Medad were prophesying. “Would to God,” said Moses “that all the Lord's people were prophets!” (Num. 11:26-29) There are in the Church a variety of gifts, and these gifts are all combined together, and are necessary for the development of the principles we understand, the diffusion of knowledge, and the complete organization of the whole body. There are Apostles, Prophets, and Teachers, and all these officers bring about the great and complete organization of the whole. (Eph. 4:11-13) In tracing through the history of the sacred writings, we find that the Lord in some instances chose men that were ignorant. I presume he did this in many instances from necessity, for those who had been learned in the world were seldom found to possess humility enough to humble themselves before the Lord to get the Spirit of Prophecy, and to be a Prophet is to have the Spirit of Prophecy, and to have the testimony of Jesus, “for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy,” (Rev. 19:10) nothing more nor nothing less. The man who can testify that Jesus is the Christ has this testimony, and as he improves upon his gift he becomes a Prophet. It is not one individual, it is not three, it is not

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twelve individuals, but it is for all the Saints who have the testimony of Jesus and live in the exercise of that testimony. A man that does not foresee by the Spirit of God, who does not learn things to come by it, is not living up to his privilege and profession, is not living in the enjoyment of that testimony which he has received; he is blinded by the mists of darkness (1 Ne. 8:23) and is liable to fall into a snare. The Apostle Peter in exhorting his brethren tells them that it was necessary they should add to their faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Pet. 1:5-8) That is, that you will be made partakers of the Divine mind, (2 Pet. 1:4) the Holy Spirit dwelling in you, you will know for yourselves of the principles and the doctrines which you have received. The storms of adversity which surround us amount to nothing with the man who has this knowledge planted in his breast, he cares not for slanders, for abuse, for sacrifices or losses of earthly goods. He who does not possess this testimony, and is not made a partaker of the Divine nature, (2 Pet. 1:4) and does not struggle to attain to exaltation, is turning away and falling into darkness. It is strange to me that persons who have been many years in this Church, who have borne their testimony of the truth of the work of God in the last days many times, should finally come to the conclusion that they have gone astray, and must go in some other direction. Why is this? It is simply because they have suffered the mists of darkness (1 Ne. 8:23) to overcome them; they have not lived up to the principles they have professed, and instead of advancing to be made partakers of the divine nature and overcome the wiles that are in the world through lust, (2 Pet. 1:4) they suffer them to have dominion over them, and they fall back into darkness. When the storm of persecution surrounds us, then, of course, we are apt to be zealous, but when we are as it were left to ourselves we are tried in another way; and when the Lord commenced giving revelations to this people he said to them, through his servant Joseph, that they should be tried in all things. (D&C 98:14) If there is any one thing that is calculated to try us more than another, that thing we may expect to encounter. I know this people will bear poverty and affliction, they will bear persecution, they will suffer their houses to be burned, their property to be destroyed, and sacrifice what the Lord has given them of earthly goods, expose themselves to suffering and hardship for the sake of the principles they have received, joyfully; but how many of these, when the smiles of Providence have beamed upon them, when prosperity has surrounded them, and they have been blessed and are in affluent circumstances, have forgotten the Lord, like the Prophet said of Jeshurun, "They waxed fat, and kicked, and forgot the Lord." (Deut. 32:15) Such is the fact with hundreds of Latter-day Saints. Now a man that expects to be exalted to thrones and dominions (D&C 132:19) must be just as good a Saint when he is surrounded with wealth, with the comforts and blessings of life in abundance, as he is, when he is in poverty—when being robbed of his possessions, and deprived of the means of subsistence; and the one condition is just as necessary to try some individuals as the other condition is to try any other.

From the time that I first became acquainted with the principles of this Church, I have watched the progress of the development of the Spirit of Prophecy among the Saints. I have never made pretensions to prophesy, though many things have been made manifest to me before they were fulfilled. I have foreseen many results which have been astonishing, in many instances, to others.

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The man that wishes to know the future let him study well the present, let him be careful that the present is all right; that the principles which he professes are not abused; that he lives up to the doctrines which he has received, and that he maintains his integrity towards his fellow beings as God requires at his hands; let him do this, and the future will be unfolded to him, and he will be prepared for it just as fast as necessary.

As Elder Middlemas said, he knew some things that were manifested to him, and knew how it would be beforehand. There are hundreds that can foresee by the Spirit of the Almighty, the Spirit of Prophecy, things that are to come to pass, without being able to know the precise manner how it will be effected. But I can tell you from the day of Joseph Smith's first commencement to testify of the things of God unto the present, that the very results that have been predicted have come to pass, but the manner has seldom been understood until it came. (The Privilege of the Saints, Etc. JD 10:66)

No Salvation Without Revelation (TPJS, p.160)

Salvation cannot come without revelation; it is in vain for anyone to minister without it. No man is a minister of Jesus Christ without being a Prophet. No man can be a minister of Jesus Christ except he has the testimony of Jesus; and this is the spirit of prophecy. Whenever salvation has been administered, it has been by testimony. Men of the present time testify of heaven and hell, and have never seen either; and I will say that no man knows these things without this.

Signs of Second Coming Have Commenced (TPJS, p.160)

Men profess to prophesy. I will prophesy that the signs of the coming of the Son of Man are already commenced. One pestilence will desolate after another. We shall soon have war and bloodshed. The moon will be turned to blood. I testify of these things, and that the coming of the Son of Man is nigh, even at your doors. If our souls and our bodies are not looking forth for the coming of the Son of Man; and after we are dead, if we are not looking forth, we shall be among those who are calling for the rocks to fall upon them.

Hearts of Children Turn to Fathers (TPJS, p.160-161)

The hearts of the children of men will have to be turned to the fathers, and the fathers to the children, living or dead, to prepare them for the coming of the Son of Man. If Elijah did not come, the whole earth would be smitten.

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There will be here and there a Stake [of Zion] for the gathering of the Saints. Some may have cried peace, but the Saints and the world will have little peace from henceforth. Let this not hinder us from going to the Stakes; for God has told us to flee, not dallying, or we shall be scattered, one here, and another there. There your children shall be blessed, and you in the midst of friends where you may be blessed. The Gospel net gathers of every kind.

I prophesy, that that man who tarries after he has an opportunity of going, will be afflicted by the devil. Wars are at hand; we must not delay; but are not required to sacrifice. We ought to have the building up of Zion as our greatest object. When wars come, we shall have to flee to Zion. The cry is to make haste. The last revelation says, Ye shall not have time to have gone over the earth, until these things come. It will come as did the cholera, war, fires, and earthquakes; one pestilence after another, until the Ancient of Days comes, then judgment will be given to the Saints.

No Peace But in Zion (TPJS, p.161)

Whatever you may hear about me or Kirtland, take no notice of it; for if it be a place of refuge, the devil will use his greatest efforts to trap the Saints. You must make yourselves acquainted with those men who like Daniel pray three times a day toward the House of the Lord. Look to the Presidency and receive instruction. Every man who is afraid, covetous, will be taken in a snare. The time is soon coming, when no man will have any peace but in Zion and her stakes.

I saw men hunting the lives of their own sons, and brother murdering brother, women killing their own daughters, and daughters seeking the lives of their mothers. I saw armies arrayed against armies. I saw blood, desolation, fires. The Son of Man has said that the mother shall be against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother. These things are at our doors. They will follow the Saints of God from city to city. Satan will rage, and the spirit of the devil is now enraged. I know not how soon these things will take place; but with a view of them, shall I cry peace? No; I will lift up my voice and testify of them. How long you will have good crops, and the famine be kept off, I do not know; when the fig tree leaves, know then that the summer is nigh at hand.

Joseph Smith (Recorded Dream)

"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...." (History of the Church, 6:194–95).

Points of Reference

There are two types of people inside and outside the church when it comes to understanding last day timelines and 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, etc. etc., 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 is near

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! After reading Section One; A Sense of Urgency, this should only be more clear to you!

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 (Spring → Summer → Fall → Winter), 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 some are doing. Some list a bunch of events that happen during the day and then say night will shortly be upon us- thanks Sherlock, none 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 is the question.

The reason why some teach like this and the reason why some act like this is because their motivation is to ramp fear up i.e., “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

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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 coming to Mount Zion, the Lord's coming to the Mount of Olives and finally the Lord's 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!*** Once you know these definitions then you can start pinpointing signs of transition i.e. 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 because of this statement that A. temperature had to be high(er) B. the temperature gets colder and then C. it can now snow. These once again are *points of reference*.

Ten Things That Will Greatly Help Understanding

We understand what we should be reading and spending our time on, we understand we have to understand "the seasons" so as to best create points of reference, etc. What are some general knowledge points that will help us greatly as we go about this? What are ten things, if we know, will help us understand our reading better? What are some of the largest pitfalls I've personally seen as people fail to grasp/understand "seasons"? (References for these will be provided in subsequent chapters in depth)

1. Sea of glass, paradisaical glory, earth as Urim and Thummin, celestial kingdom, new heaven and new earth; all of these refer to the earth being changed and brought back into the presence of God. If you read any of these keywords, mentally understand the

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timeframe they are talking about. The earth was in this state before the fall of Adam and Eve and will be progressively rolled back in the presence of God post the Great and Dreadful day of the Lord.

2. Calling and election made sure, sealing in their foreheads, Church of the Firstborn, the book of the Lamb, fullness of charity, celestial marriage, sons and daughters to Christ, election of grace, the more sure word of prophecy, sealing of exaltation, the Second Comforter; all of these refer to a series of events in which individuals and then couples have their ordinances sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise and then eventually have had the risen Lord appear to them to be sealed by Him into the Heavenly Patriarchal Order.
3. The remnant, lost ten tribes, those from the north country; all these refer to the 10 tribes as a body that were led away and hidden by the Lord.
4. Baurak Ale, my servant, Joseph Smith, Gazelam, One Like Moses, One Mighty and Strong; all names for the prophet Joseph Smith
5. 1,260 days, 3.5 years, time times and the diving of times; all different ways of saying 3.5 years. Could be literal depending on the context but also could just mean “a specified amount of time”
6. 144k: this will be the new subset of leadership in the Church of the Firstborn. We currently have the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and missionaries, when the Kingdom of God is established and the ten tribes return, 12k from each of the tribes will be selected. Resurrected and translated persons will obviously be among the initial group. The group, just like with all callings, might change over the course of the millennium. These 144k will be sent out prior to the great and dreadful day, one last time to gather what is left of the elect of God as “hunters and fishers” (Jer. 16: 16), after the events of New Jerusalem.
7. New Jerusalem, Zion, Mt Zion, Jackson County Missouri; all the same location. Will be started to be built primarily by Ephraim after the Redemption of Zion, but will be finished with the return of the ten tribes.
8. Adam-on-di-ahman: a place nearby the New Jerusalem (i.e., Jackson County), where multiple meetings involving high ranking members of Christ’s past and present church will meet. Adam will eventually be part of the final meeting where Christ will be crowned king of king and lord of lords and that all nations should serve him
9. The Lord’s multiple appearances: appearing “suddenly to His temple” vs “placing His foot on the Mt of Olives” vs “the veil is removed and the Earth rolled as a scroll, His face revealed, the city of Enoch comes down and the righteous are caught up, etc.” These are three different events taking place in three different locations (America, Israel, and the world). A lot of things, and in some cases years, transpire between them. These are not a singular event or even a singular time frame (e.g., “one year”.)
10. There are multiple resurrections in the morning of the first resurrection: at Adam-on-di-ahman people will be resurrected. At the Mount of Olives people will be resurrected. At the Great and Dreadful Day people will be resurrected. Etc. Etc. There is not a singular one-time resurrection for the just. This confusion arose from members patriarchal blessings that promise them vaguely that “after they die they will come forth in the morning of the first resurrection”- members then believe this refers to a single event, most of the time they are thinking the resurrection at the great and dreadful day. This, however, isn’t the first resurrection and won’t even be the first resurrection of this last dispensation. To be resurrected “in the morning of the first resurrection” simply means to

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be resurrected in the time frame of all the Celestial beings. Reading about a “resurrection event” tied to the just is not enough to pinpoint it to a specific event as resurrections have continued in the morning of the first resurrection since Christ’s resurrection and will continue until the morning of the first resurrection ends.

Examples of Points of Reference

Now that you have the definitions under your belt, you understand the doctrine- you know the “seasons”- you can now start to take notes as points of references. Let me provide some important points of reference so that we can see A) how it is done in practice and B) learn some very basic yet important points of reference.

Doctrine and Covenants 45:

24 And this I have told you concerning Jerusalem; and when that day shall come, shall a remnant be scattered among all nations;

25 But they shall be gathered again; but they shall remain until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Elder Parley P. Pratt

“And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and they shall be led away captive among all nations: and Jerusalem”—what will become of it finally?—“shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until”—that is a big word, and means much in the position it occupies here—“UNTIL”—on that word is suspended that nation's fate, and the fate of all the neighboring nations—“Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” (Luke 21:24)

I tell you there is meaning in these words, contained in that single line. O ye nations of the earth, if I had the voice of an angel's trump, (Alma 29:1) that I could be heard to earth's remotest bounds, by kings, rulers, captains, generals, armies, and nations, I would wish to read that one line in their ears, and tell them the things that are summed up in it.

“Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” (Luke 21:24) What is meant by it? One thing we know certain, we have no need to conjecture, that is, that all these things happened literally... One million and a half perished! They fell by the edge of the sword, by pestilence, and by famine, and the remnants of the Jews were carried captive among all nations. To remain how long? As I have said, we know this prophecy has been literally fulfilled, for we see them scattered among all nations to this day... A great portion of that nation fell by the edge of the sword, and the residue went captive among all nations, and their city has been trodden under foot of the Gentiles, and will be until their times are fulfilled..” (JD 3:127, Literal Fulfillment of Prophecy, Etc.)

Jerusalem trodden down → Times of the Gentiles fulfilled → Jews return to Jerusalem

Doctrine and Covenants 45

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

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

Time of the Gentiles fulfilled → Desolating sickness covers the land

Doctrine and Covenants 45

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

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

SYNONYMS FOR for ⓘ

↔ Compare Synonyms

- as
- because
- considering
- now
- whereas
- as long as
- being
- inasmuch as
- since

Desolating sickness → Overflowing scourge

Zion and Jerusalem (TPJS, p.17)

And now I am prepared to say by the authority of Jesus Christ, that ... *the United States shall present such a scene of bloodshed* as has not a parallel in the history of our nation; *pestilence, hail, famine, and earthquake will sweep the wicked of this generation from off the face of the land*, to open and prepare the way *for the return of the lost tribes of Israel from the north country*. The people of the Lord, those who have *complied with the requirements of the new covenant, have already commenced gathering together to Zion, which is in the state of Missouri; therefore* I declare unto you the warning which the Lord has commanded me to declare...

Zion people complying with the new covenant in Zion, Jackson County Missouri → United States scene of bloodshed → pestilence, hail, famine, and earthquake → Wicked swept from off the face of America → Ten tribes return from the north country

Interpretation of Scripture (TPJS, p.364-365)

Section Two: Zeal Without Knowledge

The Savior said when these tribulations should take place, it should be committed to a man who should be a witness over the whole world: the keys of knowledge, power and revelations should be revealed to a witness who should hold the testimony to the world. It has always been my province ... Just at the time when some men think that I have no right to the keys of the Priesthood—just at that time I have the greatest right... All the testimony is that the Lord in the last days would commit the keys of the Priesthood to a witness over all people. Has the Gospel of the kingdom commenced in the last days? And will God take it from the man until He takes him Himself? I have read it precisely as the words flowed from the lips of Jesus Christ. John the Revelator saw an angel flying through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth.

The scripture is ready to be fulfilled when great wars, famines, pestilence, great distress, judgments, &c., are ready to be poured out on the inhabitants of the earth. John saw the angel having the holy Priesthood, who should preach the everlasting Gospel to all nations. God had an angel—a special messenger—ordained and prepared for that purpose in the last days. Woe, woe be to that man or set of men who lift up their hands against God and His witness in these last days: for they shall deceive almost the very chosen ones!

The Lord commits the keys of the Priesthood to Joseph Smith → The Gospel of the kingdom commenced in the last days → (wo)men/sets of (wo)men preach against Joseph Smith and his future role → they deceive almost the very elect of God → Angel flying through the midst of heaven (i.e. the witness) to preach to those on the earth → great wars, famines, pestilence, great distress, judgements, etc.

3 Nephi 21

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

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

14 Yea, woe unto the Gentiles except they repent; for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots;

15 And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strongholds;

16 And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy land, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers;

17 Thy graven images I will also cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee, and thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands;

18 And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities.

19 And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, shall be done away.

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20 For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day whosoever will not repent and come unto my Beloved Son, them will I cut off from among my people, O house of Israel;

21 And I will execute vengeance and fury upon them, even as upon the heathen, such as they have not heard.

22 But if they will repent and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance;

23 And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem.

24 And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.

25 And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; **and I also will be in the midst.**

26 And then shall the work of the Father commence at that day, even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily I say unto you, at that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people, **yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem.**

Doctrine and Covenants 133

25 And **the Lord, even the Savior, shall stand in the midst of his people**, and shall reign over all flesh.

26 **And they who are in the north countries shall come in remembrance before the Lord**; and their prophets shall hear his voice, and shall no longer stay themselves; and they shall smite the rocks, and the ice shall flow down at their presence.

27 And an highway shall be cast up in the midst of the great deep.

28 Their enemies shall become a prey unto them,

29 And in the barren deserts there shall come forth pools of living water; and the parched ground shall no longer be a thirsty land.

30 And they shall bring forth their rich treasures unto the children of Ephraim, my servants.

31 And the boundaries of the everlasting hills shall tremble at their presence.

32 And there shall they fall down and be crowned with glory, even in Zion, by the hands of the servants of the Lord, even the children of Ephraim.

33 And they shall be filled with songs of everlasting joy.

34 Behold, this is the blessing of the everlasting God upon the tribes of Israel, and the richer blessing upon the head of Ephraim and his fellows.

The remnant of Jacob/ redemption of Zion → Building of New Jerusalem → Jesus in the midst of New Jerusalem → the work with the ten tribes shall commence → the ten tribes come to Zion and are crowned by Ephraim

Revelation 7

1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

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2 And I saw *another angel ascending from the east*, having the seal of the living God: and I heard him cry with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

3 Saying, *Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*

4 And the number of them who were sealed were an hundred and forty and four thousand *of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*

5-8 Of the tribe of Juda, Reuben, Gad, Ase, Nephthalim, Manasses, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zabulon, Joseph, and Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, *These are they which came out of great tribulation*, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, *and serve him day and night in his temple*: and he that sitteth on the throne *shall dwell among them.*

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 *For the Lamb which is in the midst* of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Angel flying through the midst of heaven (i.e. the witness) to preach to those on the earth says to delay the great wars, famines, pestilence, great distress, judgements, etc. until the servants are

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sealed in their heads → Jesus in the midst of New Jerusalem → the ten tribes are in Zion and are crowned by Ephraim → praising the Lord surrounding His throne

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

93 And immediately there shall appear *a great sign in heaven*, and all people shall see it together.

95 And there shall be *silence in heaven for the space of half an hour*

Footnote on “sign in heaven”:

Matthew 24

30 And then shall *appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven*: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn

Revelation 8

1 And when he had *opened the seventh seal*, there was *silence in heaven about the space of half an hour*.

Angel flying through the midst of heaven (i.e. the witness) to preach to those on the earth → Sign of the Son of Man → Opening of 7th seal in heaven → silence in heaven for the space of half an hour

Elder Parley P. Pratt

From [these scriptures in Psalms 102] we learn First, that there is *a set time to build up Zion*, or the city of which Isaiah speaks, namely, just before the second coming of Christ ; *and that when this city is built, the Lord will appear in His glory*, and not before. So from this we affirm, that if such a city is never built, then the Lord will never come. Second, we learn that the people and kingdoms are to be gathered together, to serve the Lord, both in Zion and Jerusalem ; and third, that this Psalm was written expressly *for the generation to come, and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord, -when they read it and see it fulfilled.*” (A Voice of Warning, p.79)

The generation in which the times of the Gentiles is fulfilled → New Jerusalem built → Jesus in the midst → praising the Lord surrounding His throne

Importance of Revelation (TPJS, p.70-71)

"In the last days, *God was to call a remnant*, in which was to be deliverance, as well as in Jerusalem and Zion. Now if God should give no more revelations, where will we find Zion and this remnant? The time is near when desolation is to cover the earth, and then God will have a place of deliverance in his remnant, and in Zion... For without Zion, and a place of deliverance, we must fall; because the time is near when the sun will be darkened, and the moon turn to blood, and the stars fall from the heaven, and the earth reel to and fro. Then, if this is the case, and *if we are not sanctified* and gathered to the places God has appointed, with all our former professions and our great love for the Bible, we must fall; we cannot stand; we cannot be saved; for *God will gather out his Saints from the Gentiles, and then comes desolation and destruction*, and none can escape except the pure in heart who are gathered. "

Doctrine and Covenants 105

35 There has been a day of calling, but the time has come for a day of choosing; and let those be chosen that are worthy.

36 And it shall be manifest unto my servant, by the voice of the Spirit, those that are chosen; *and they shall be sanctified*;

37 And *inasmuch as they follow the counsel which they receive*, they shall have power after many days to *accomplish all things pertaining to Zion*.

Days of calling → Days of choosing → Sanctification of the chosen by following the counsel from the keys → The remnant of Jacob/redemption of Zion → building of New Jerusalem and gathering in and unto it → great wars, famines, pestilence, great distress, judgements, etc.

Try the Fruit; Know of Yourself

I am confident that when you compile quotes from the Pyramid of Truth and make your points of reference that you will arrive at the same series of events as everyone else who is filled with the Spirit of Prophecy and Revelation have. If you have the desire, the faith, and worthiness you could compile the rest of this book, The Macro Last-day Timeline, yourself. It really is as simple as that- understanding prophecy.

Elder Parley P. Pratt

The Lord will never come until he has organized his kingdom on the earth, and prepared his people by sending a messenger to prepare the way before him; (D&C 45:9) that messenger has come, and the man that delivered it has been slain, namely, Joseph Smith... If the people had read the Scriptures they would [be] looking [and see]... if they had not listened to a set of blind

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guides, (Matt. 23:24) who have hired out for money to tell them the Scriptures mean something else. (JD 3:127, Literal Fulfillment of Prophecy, Etc.)