

Where Are We?

The macro last day timeline is doctrine. The points of reference are real. The dates attached to them? Attaching specific events to points of reference? Etc? Speculation. Right? Well, maybe not any longer. There has been a lot of talk and a lot of buzz of what our prophet President Nelson identified in this last conference; I will get into that personally when we breakdown that talk specifically. In the meantime, let's figure out or get a refresher on the verses and the verses that surround them that President Nelson (and others) identified in his (their) April 2021 talks. Understanding the points of reference, understanding the macro last day timeline will enable you to clearly understand A) the time period we are in and B) what President Nelson (and others) actually identified. So let's start with the verses in Doctrine and Covenants 45.

D&C 45:23-33

23 And in this ye say truly, for so it is; but these things which I have told you shall not pass away until all shall be fulfilled.

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

*This remnant is referring to the Jews who are scattered among all nations after the first abomination of desolation. Jesus clearly stated here that they will remain scattered physically (not spiritually) among all nations until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. A lot of people (including myself) use Elder Pratt's quote regarding the times of the Gentiles ending when the Jews return there physically to prove the times of the Gentiles ending (among other quotes from individuals such as President Joseph F. Smith etc), but they don't have to- Jesus said the exact same thing here in clear, plain language. Reading it in this context provided by the Savior it is clear that it is talking about a physical separation and a physical gathering. You can't take what the Savior said here and say that the first half of what he prophesied was fulfilled when the Jews were physically scattered from Jerusalem and then turn around and make the second half of it spiritual ie. a spiritual gathering, for the language doesn't change and it is one fluid sentence/thought process.

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

26 And in that day...

In what day? In the days of the generation in which the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled ie. in the lifespan or in the lifetime of that generation.

...shall be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion, and men's hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayeth his coming until the end of the earth.

27 And the love of men shall wax cold, and iniquity shall abound.

We begin to see these prophecies clearly fulfilled from 1917-1967, but many of these things do not find their fulfillment during the years of 1917-1967 but rather during the lifetime of the generation in which the times of the Gentiles is fulfilled- we will get to explaining that next and we will get to the love of men waxing cold by verse 33.

28 And when the times of the Gentiles is come in,....

We have to talk about “is come in”- we have to understand that this is extremely unique grammar that could confuse some people. We have to ask the question here, just like we do with all points of reference, “come in” to what? What is this talking about? The Lord just described the times of the Gentiles being fulfilled and then He says this, “and when the times of the Gentiles is come in”, once again, when the times of the Gentiles has come into what time period? The time period of its ending. We in hindsight know that this occurred between 1917-1967 but let’s look at this and see if this holds true. When the times of the Gentiles is come into the period of its ending, ie. 1917-1967:

...a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fulness of my gospel;

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints went global during this time period and more specifically, in this generation because in that generation, meaning in the lifespan of that generation, all of these things would be fulfilled. The generation in which the times of Gentiles ended was identified, we can see and recognize that time period but we should also know that the complete fulfillment of everything listed was not to take place entirely from 1917-1967 but during the lifetime of that generation. This will become crystal clear by the time we hit verse 31.

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

We need to understand now that this point of reference occurs no sooner than 1917-1967 meaning this did not occur during the life of Joseph Smith. That will become even clearer with a study of 2 Nephi 27 and understanding the points of reference tied to verse 25.

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

1917-1967 is that generation.

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

There will be men standing born in that generation from 1917-1967 that will not die until they see a desolating sickness that will pave way for an overflowing scourge. There are those that don’t understand that the desolating sickness is not the same thing as pestilence, plagues and THE plague. Once again, there are many earthquakes mentioned but there is only one “the” earthquake that will unite the continents again (Mount of Olives). Similarly this desolating sickness will make things desolate. The definition of desolate is:

Adjective:

1 : devoid of inhabitants and visitors : deserted

eg. a *desolate* abandoned town

2 : joyless, disconsolate, and sorrowful through or as if through separation from a loved one

eg. a *desolate* widow

3a : showing the effects of abandonment and neglect : dilapidated

eg. a *desolate* old house

b : barren, lifeless

eg. a *desolate* landscape

c : devoid of warmth, comfort, or hope : gloomy

eg. *desolate* memories

Verb:

a : to deprive of inhabitants

eg. The neighboring towns were *desolated*.

b : to lay waste

eg. *desolating* the city with bombs

c : forsake

eg. their *desolated* families back home

d : to make wretched

The desolating sickness is not the various plagues and pestilences that are to be poured out in the last days; for further breakdown on that see my *Macro Last Days Timeline* series.

The Lord in the next verses describes the effects of the desolating sickness and the scourge and the conditions in the world at that time. This helps us not only understand the time period but also helps us identify the desolating sickness and the scourge or scourging. Another thing that we can take from this is that the sickness would come near the end of that generation's life, for if it happened earlier in their lifespan the Lord would have said "this cometh quickly" or "it will speedily be upon you" opposed to "not all of this generation will have died out before this hits", ergo this desolating sickness was to come within the last 20 years of this generation's life expectancy. This would have allowed Saints in 1965-1985 to know that the desolating sickness wasn't going to be around for awhile.

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

This can be interpreted as both spiritual death and physical death and we can do this because the Lord identifies the first group as “standing in holy places and being not moved”- yes that absolutely means physical locations but physical locations hold no spiritual power or become holy without spiritual power and/or keys, or in other words they do not become holy without spiritual power. There are no holy places without holy people. Ergo to be not moved in a holy place is to hold to one’s faith and spiritual power and worthiness to stand in those places. This can be your house (for example) but it won’t be holy if you are not holy, the same is said of temples- as soon as something unholy enters into it, it is no longer holy until that which is unholy has left.

With that understanding the second half of this will make more sense, yes this absolutely could refer to physical death but it can’t entirely refer to physical death because Joseph Smith taught us that both the righteous and the wicked in the last days will be subject to weaknesses of the flesh and shall perish. Meaning just because somebody dies does not mean they were wicked. Yet these people were cursing God and dying and in the first group there was no mention of death. Meaning this is referring to spiritual death. And I would ask, has not COVID done this? Has it not woken people up to a higher standard of gospel learning, worthiness etc and caused them to stand in holy places? And likewise, have we not seen droves of people die spiritually? Have we not seen droves of people give into “itching ears” and stand in unholy places? Did not our prophet say this in this last conference? Did he not say that if you surround yourself with people who will destroy your faith you shall die spiritually, yea you shall curse God and die? Did he not likewise say that the righteous will *continue* to stand in holy places? (And note, temples are still shut down, meaning according to him and his understanding this deals entirely with one’s worthiness). President Nelson is clearly identifying the macro time period we are in as this period.

The Lord continues to explain the conditions of the world during the desolating sickness:

33 And there shall be earthquakes *also* in divers places,...

“Also” is one of those points of reference key indicators that we need to pay attention to. It means in addition to- in this case, in addition to what? In addition to the desolating sickness and the signs and symptoms of it. And did we not experience at this time, at this exact time, an earthquake in Utah, Idaho, Alaska, etc? One of which caused Moroni to drop his trumpet at the Salt Lake City temple? Is this not so far exactly what happened? Continuing:

...and many desolations;...

If this was *the* plague (tied to the trumpets after the 7th is opened) there wouldn’t be “many”, there would only be one and it would be death. This desolating sickness will cause “many desolations”. Can we not see all of them? Our churches empty, depression on the rise, obesity on the rise, loneliness, streets empty, etc. It is staggering and overwhelming the amount of examples that we can point to to describe these “many desolations.”

The Lord goes into next another thing that has been made desolate- the courage of man, “men’s hearts failing them” and in what or how do men’s hearts fail them? Only when they fail to let God prevail and the act of not letting God prevail is an act of pride that is described thus:

...yet men will harden their hearts against me,...

This is the antithesis of letting God prevail. We prevail with God when we build upon Him and His rock. When we harden our hearts against Him it is when we choose our own way versus the Lord’s way. This is the point of reference that we are in right now. A test, a Test, a TEST. Will you let God prevail, will you give the Lord your heart of stone so that He may place in you a heart of flesh? (Ezekiel 36:26, the chapter directly before Ezekiel 37!) Or will you harden your hearts? Did we go to the source, ie. the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon, etc or did we go to the philosophies and opinions of men? Did we decide to develop faith as the brother of Jared or did we decide to shorten the arm of the Lord and spiritualize and make figurative His word? That is where we are now. If you have shortened the arm of the Lord and attempted to make figurative His word, President Nelson taught that the only reason why you could do that is because you are participating in lazy scripture study. And you might think that is harsh now, just like those who thought their drill Sargent was harsh now. But there will come a day where if you listened and heeded that frustration and possibly even hatred towards those individuals will be replaced with gratitude and love.

This is also where verse 27 comes back in our timeline “the love of men shall wax cold and iniquity shall abound”. Turning to the Doctrine and Covenants Manual, we learn:

D&C 45:27. What Will Cause the Love of Men to Wax Cold?

“The expression is the same as that found in Matt. 24:12, where we read (translated literally), ‘And because lawlessness has abounded, the love of the many [this indicates more than a few] shall wax cold.’ ‘Love’ here means Christian unity, harmony...” (Smith and Sjodahl, Commentary, p. 262.)

We learn here that what is causing the love of man to wax cold is the molestation of the law. Do we know anything dealing with the Assyrian/scourge and destroying the laws of the land? Yes. Understanding Isaiah Chapter 10, the Parable of the Nobleman and the Olive Trees etc all teach us this; the Assyrian/scourge will be destroying the laws of the land.

3 Nephi 24:14-18

14 Ye have said: It is vain to serve God, and what doth it profit that we have kept his ordinances and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of Hosts?

15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

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

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

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

In these scriptures we learn of the same points of reference- the Assyrian/scourge will be molesting the laws of the land which is causing the love of man to wax cold, yea they are cursing God and dying, while the righteous are standing in holy places and here it is better explained **as pockets of Saints preaching the word of God and teaching to fear the Lord according to the Lord's precepts not man's**. The Lord then describes in verse 16 and 17 that this is a large part of the test or requirement for the New Jerusalem. Verse 18 we have the return of Joseph Smith who then judges. Once again, the same points of reference.

What comes next in Doctrine and Covenants 45?

....and they will take up the sword, one against another, and they will kill one another.

Wicked men using false doctrines can kill you with their "sword" spiritually but the righteous using the "sword of truth" ie. the scriptures, don't kill others. Meaning this refers to literal bloodshed, literal civil war. That is what is on our horizon, what is in our near future. And we just learned what will be the cause of this- the Assyrian molests the laws of the land, the love of man waxes cold, men kill each other.

This time period is described again later in D&C 45, but now that we have correctly inserted 3 Nephi 24, our understanding of Joseph Smith's return, the redemption of Zion and the initial building of New Jerusalem we know occurs BEFORE the war gets poured out. The Lord here is warning that during this time period, this is your last time to flee to New Jerusalem for those that will not flee at that time must needs take up their sword against their neighbor.

D&C 45:63-69

63 Ye hear of wars in foreign lands; but, behold, I say unto you, they are nigh, even at your doors, and not many years hence ye shall hear of wars in your own lands.

64 Wherefore I, the Lord, have said, gather ye out from the eastern lands, assemble ye yourselves together ye elders of my church; go ye forth into the western countries, call upon the inhabitants to repent, and inasmuch as they do repent, build up churches unto me.

65 And with one heart and with one mind, gather up your riches that ye may purchase an inheritance which shall hereafter be appointed unto you.

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

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

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

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

[Let's read more points of reference dealing with this war.](#)

D&C 87:1-8

1 Verily, thus saith the Lord concerning the wars that will shortly come to pass, beginning at the rebellion of South Carolina, which will eventually terminate in the death and misery of many souls;

2 And the time will come that war will be poured out upon all nations, beginning at this place.

3 For behold, the Southern States shall be divided against the Northern States,...

[1. American Civil War](#)

...and the Southern States will call on other nations, even the nation of Great Britain, as it is called,...

[2. The South will ask Great Britain for aid during the American Civil War](#)

...and [Great Britain] shall also call upon other nations, in order to defend themselves against other nations; and then war shall be poured out upon all nations.

[3. World War I and World War II](#)

4 And it shall come to pass, after many days,...

[4. Many years after World War II...](#)

...slaves shall rise up against their masters, who shall be marshaled and disciplined for war.

[5. "Masters" become marshaled and disciplined for war \(Assyrian/scourge\)](#)

[6. "Slaves" rise up against them \(why are they slaves? Because the laws have been molested\)](#)

5 And it shall come to pass *also*...

[Once again, in addition to, but in addition to what? In addition to slaves fighting against masters...](#)

...that the remnants who are left of the land will marshal themselves, and shall become exceedingly angry, and shall vex the Gentiles with a sore vexation.

[7. This is Joseph's Boys after 3 Nephi 24 and after the open return of Joseph Smith. I will go over this more when we breakdown 3 Nephi 21.](#)

6 And thus, with the sword and by bloodshed the inhabitants of the earth shall mourn;...

8. Neighbor taking up sword against neighbor, the whole earth in commotion, etc.

...and with famine, and plague, and earthquake, and the thunder of heaven, and the fierce and vivid lightning also, shall the inhabitants of the earth be made to feel the wrath, and indignation, and chastening hand of an Almighty God,...

9. This is “everything highlighted in green”- this is the period between the redemption of Zion and the Anointing/opening of the 7th seal. This is D&C 88:85-92, this is Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith p. 17:

“And now I am prepared to say by the authority of Jesus Christ, that not many years shall pass away before 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;...”

For those who purport that Salt Lake City is the New Jerusalem, and that the ten tribes have already returned before any of these events have happened, they are calling the Lord and Joseph Smith liars. Unless there has already been pestilence, hail, famine etc that have wiped the wicked of this generation off of this land that I wasn't aware of... I know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and I know that Jesus Christ is not a liar, yea I know that the heavens and earth will pass away but the Lord's words shall never pass away. And because of that I know (and so would you if you held the testimony) that:

The redemption of Zion and a Zion people complying with the law are prerequisite for these events as made clear by Joseph Smith in the quote. Meaning, that it has to have taken place before these events described here by Joseph Smith as well as in verse 6. Meaning, we know that the redemption of Zion has to take place no later than verses 4 and 5. With President Nelson in this conference (April 2021) clearly identifying the points of reference that we are currently in, once again, we are out of time. If COVID is the desolating sickness and those events have just taken place we know what comes next. It is the last line in D&C 45:33, it is verses 4 and 5 here.

Continuing in D&C 87:6

...until the consumption decreed hath made a full end of **all nations**;

7 That the cry of the saints, and of the **blood of the saints**, shall cease to **come up into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, from the earth**, to be **avenged** of their enemies.

We will get into verse 7 later when we go through 3 Nephi and Revelation 6:10- the color coordination is provided here for you to compare when we get to those references.

This destruction will grow exponentially from the Anointing until the Great and Dreadful Day. This generally describes the events from the Anointing to the Great and Dreadful Day.

8 Wherefore, stand ye in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come; for behold, it cometh quickly, saith the Lord. Amen.

It's fascinating to note (or at least should be) that the Lord gives an extremely macro timeline from the time of Joseph to the Great and Dreadful Day, and after giving that macro timeline He hones in on one point of reference and only one point of reference and it was once again, it always is, the time period directly before the redemption and building of New Jerusalem and the Lord coming to it, ie. the verse that we just went over in D&C 45:32.

It should be flabbergasting, mind-blowing, life-altering etc. to realize that

- A) This is the most talked about and prophesied time period in the history of the world save the life of Jesus Christ (ie. the Ten Virgins, D&C 45, the Parable of the Nobleman and the Olive Trees etc)
- B) The prophet of God just identified (April 2021) that today is that time period
- C) You reading this, hearing this, comprehending it, are living in that time period. It is right now!

In 2014 President Monson said time to prepare is now, in 2019 President Nelson said time to prepare is running out. President Nelson later in 2020 prophesied “we have front-row seats to witness live what the prophet Nephi saw only in vision,” and now in 2021 President Nelson confirms we are in fact smack dab right in the middle of this time period. The stakes have never been higher, the reward never so great, the consequences never so dire.

Let's now get into 2 Nephi 27 which President Nelson also identified at this conference (specifically 2 Nephi 27:19-26). I did a complete breakdown of 2 Nephi 27 in *Joseph Smith to Return Continued*, but for this let's just hone in on specifically the verses in question here which also tie directly into D&C 45 and everything we have done so far, [ie. 2 Nephi 27:25 with D&C 45:29](#).

People need to understand these points of reference.

[Point of Reference #1. Joseph Smith is called of the Lord,](#)

Joseph Smith History

18 My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong)—and which I should join.

19 I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: “they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.”

Many in the Church are familiar with this point of reference but they get it confused with verse 25 which we will be going over and we need to understand a) the correct placement in terms of the points of reference and b) we need to understand the difference between JSH 18-19 and 2 Nephi 27:24-25, which we will get to.

Point of Reference #2. Joseph Smith translates the Book of Mormon but does not translate the sealed portion, returns the plates (2 Nephi 27:9-20)

Verse 15 deals with the process described in verse 9. This is Joseph Smith delivering the manuscript to Martin Harris who then delivered it to the learned. This process goes from verse 15 to verse 20 and is described well in the Old Testament Student Manual for Isaiah 29:11-12

(15-17) Isaiah 29:11–12. What Was the “Book That Is Sealed” and to Whom Were Its “Words” Delivered?

Early in the process of translating the Book of Mormon, Martin Harris desired proof that the translation Joseph Smith was making was genuine. He obtained permission to carry a copy of several of the “words” from the plates, together with their translation, to some learned men. Martin Harris’s account given to the Prophet Joseph Smith states that he took the copy to Professor Charles Anthon of New York City, who certified that the characters were real and correctly translated. But when Professor Anthon discovered that the record from which the characters were obtained was itself received by supernatural means, he retracted his statement by asking for his certificate back and tearing it to bits. Martin Harris reports that Anthon said that “if I would bring the plates to him he would translate them. I informed him that part of the plates were sealed, and that I was forbidden to bring them. He replied, ‘I cannot read a sealed book.’ I left him, and went to Dr. Mitchell, who sanctioned what Professor Anthon had said respecting both the characters and the translation” (Joseph Smith—History 1:65). The unlearned man to whom the book was delivered was, of course, Joseph Smith. Elder Orson Pratt once said: “Now in regard to Joseph Smith’s qualifications or attainments in learning, they were very ordinary. He had received a little education in the common country schools in the vicinity in which he had lived. He could read a little, and could write, but it was in such an ordinary hand that he did not venture to act as his own scribe, but had to employ sometimes one and sometimes another to write as he translated. This unlearned man did not make the same reply that the learned man did. For when the book was delivered to this unlearned youth and he was requested to read it, he replied, ‘I am not learned.’ I suppose he felt his weakness when the Lord told him to read this book; for he thought it was a great work” (In Journal of Discourses, 15:186).

The Lord in 2 Nephi 27:21-23 tells Joseph Smith to translate the Book of Mormon, obtain the witnesses, and to not translate or touch the sealed portion but to return the book back at that time. The Lord then gives some of the rationale for why he will bring out the sealed portion when he brings out the sealed portion.

1. To show that the Lord can do His own work (this was mentioned by President Nelson)
2. To show the world that He is the same yesterday, today and forever (this was mentioned by President Nelson-faith)

3.To show that the Lord is a God of miracles, but He does not do those works among the children of men save it be according to their faith (once again, gone over a lot at this conference)

If this doesn't scream April 2021 Conference you were dead asleep! (and I wrote this above, this breakdown of 2 Nephi 27, well before the conference).

Point of Reference #3. The period of the times of the Gentiles ending (1917-1967). This is described in D&C 45 and we have already gone over. We learn that in that generation the light will go global, people perceive not the light, **members begin turning their heart from the Lord because of the precepts of men (D&C 45:29).** So we know that the precepts of men are beginning to infiltrate the Church at this time.

President Ezra Taft Benson taught,

"The world worships the learning of man. They trust in the arm of flesh (see D&C 1:19). To them, man's reasoning is greater than God's revelations. **The precepts of man** have gone so far in the educational system that in many cases, a higher degree today, in the so-called social sciences can be tantamount to a major investment in error. Very few men can build firmly enough on the rock of revelation to go through this kind of indoctrination and come out untainted.

Unfortunately, of those who succumb, some use their higher degree to get teaching positions even in our Church Educational System, where they spread the falsehoods they have been taught. President Joseph Fielding Smith was right when he said that false educational ideas would be one of the threats to the Church within."-Ezra Taft Benson; God, Family & Country p. 258

“Now Satan is anxious to neutralize the inspired counsel of the Prophet and hence keep the priesthood off-balance, ineffective and inert in the fight for freedom. He does this through diverse means including the use of perverse reasoning....Sometimes from behind the pulpit, in our classrooms, in our Council meetings and in our church publications we hear, read or witness things that do not square with the truth... Now do not let this serve as an excuse for your own wrong-doing. The Lord is letting the wheat and the tares mature before he fully purges the Church. He is also testing you to see if you will be misled. The devil is trying to deceive the very elect. As members of the Church we have some close quarters to pass through if we are to save our souls. As the Church gets larger some men have increasing responsibility and more and more duties must be delegated. We all have stewardships for which we must account to the Lord. Unfortunately some men who do not honor their stewardships may have an adverse affect on many people. Often the greater the man's responsibility the more good or evil he can accomplish. The Lord usually gives a man a long enough rope and sufficient time to determine whether that man wants to pull himself into the presence of God or drop off somewhere below. There are some regrettable things being said and done by some people in the Church today. As President Clark so well warned, ‘The ravening wolves are amongst us, from our own membership and they, more than any others, are clothed in sheep's clothing because they wear the habiliments of the priesthood.... We should be careful of them.’”

-Ezra Taft Benson-Our Immediate Responsibility. BYU Devotional, October 25, **1966**

Point of Reference #4. The desolating sickness and all that it brings with it. We discussed all of this above when dissecting D&C 45. But the big thing that you need to take away from this point of reference now is the righteous rending the veil of unbelief and standing in holy places vs. those who are cursing God and dying (see my paper *Faith As the Brother of Jared*).

Point of Reference #5. Joseph Smith returns. We will get into this later in the paper when I go through 3 Nephi 21, but for even more breakdown on that see *Joseph Smith to Return, Joseph Smith to Return Continued* etc. and for an exceptionally good paper that will take you through the points of reference that we just went over and then the return of Joseph Smith see my paper *The Parable of the Nobleman and the Olive Trees*.

Point of Reference #6. Joseph is again delivered the sealed plates by the Lord to translate the sealed portion, and the Lord explains why:

What do we learn in **2 Nephi 27:24-25**?

1. That this is now at least the second time that the Lord will have said this statement or something similar to this to the same individual, for the Lord says “and again”.
2. There are some major differences between the first time He said something similar to this and this time.

With this understanding, it allows us to more clearly understand when this takes place and why there are changes. This takes place after Joseph has finished his work and has returned the plates and directly before the Lord brings forth the sealed portion. That is where we are at with the points of reference. But what about the changes? There are two major changes that should be identified:

1. When Jesus was talking to Joseph in the Sacred Grove (point of reference 1 above) He said that men’s hearts in that day were far from Him. Whereas in the second instance, a yet future event from us (as far as we know), the Lord says that His Saints have **removed their hearts from Him**. This once again hearkens directly back to the Parable of the Nobleman and the Olive Trees and point of reference 3 above. In this point of reference 3 this was beginning to happen. By this point, point #6, the transformation is utterly complete.

2. When Jesus was talking to Joseph in the Sacred Grove He said the commandments were taught by men who had a form of godliness but they denied the power thereof. Whereas in this instance, a yet future event from us (once again, as far as we know), the Lord says that **the Saints will be taught to fear Him according to the precepts of men**. Once again, this is what was taking place in point #3 above now reaching completion. In the next couple chapters of Nephi (2 Nephi 28-FIN), Nephi warns the Saints in that time period (which is our time period) of the state that they are in (a state that I believed we are currently in today, but for which President Nelson just confirmed). 2 Nephi 28 and 29 are chock-full of references dealing directly to the Saints of today in this state of mind. They have removed their own hearts from the Lord (idolatry) and no longer fear the Lord because they are taught by the precepts of men (priestcraft). Some might be saying right now, “but what about secret combinations?” You will find that in 2 Nephi 27:27 (which I won’t get into in this paper).

[Point of Reference #7. THE marvelous work and a wonder:](#)

2 Nephi 27:26

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

2 Nephi 27:24-28: “A Marvelous Work and a Wonder”

The “marvelous work and a wonder” spoken of by the Lord in 2 Nephi 27:26 includes the Book of Mormon, the restoration of the priesthood and the Church, and the presence of latter-day prophets on the earth. But it is even more than these things. It is the restoration of all things, including the establishment of Zion on the earth again.

“When the lost tribes come...it will be a most wonderful sight and marvelous thing when they do come to Zion” (President Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, volume 3, p.605)

According to the Lord the marvelous work and a wonder does not begin until this time. The Book of Mormon, the restoration of the priesthood etc were all precursors to this event. The Book of Mormon was written and designed to get us ready to build Zion and to get us ready for the sealed portion of the scriptures and to get us ready for the return of the ten tribes etc. I have brought this up before and I got some push back from individuals. I then asked them if they were familiar with Brother Hyrum Andrus and I told them that he clearly taught the same thing. I then had one of these individuals in the chat (this was during one of the Q and A’s of one fireside) write “I love Brother Hyrum Andrus and he wouldn’t agree with you!” Below is a transcript from Brother Hyrum Andrus’ lecture *Christ's Coming to Zion, Jerusalem and the World*:

“Therefore, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people...and a wonder.’ Now, that marvelous work and wonder, according to the angel Moroni to Joseph Smith, is a work subsequent to the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Let me turn here to the *Messenger and Advocate*, where Oliver Cowdery writes about the visit of the angel Moroni and says this: "Therefore, says the Lord, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder. The wisdom of their wise shall perish, the understanding of their prudent shall be hid. For according to his covenants which he made with his ancient saints, his people, the house of Israel, must come to the knowledge of the gospel and own their Messiah whom their fathers rejected, and with them the fulness of the Gentiles be gathered in to rejoice in one fold under one Shepherd." Now, this great gathering of Israel hasn't yet taken place. And the marvelous work and a wonder isn't just the restoration of the gospel. It is a marvelous work and I heartily agree with Elder LeGrand Richards in calling a book, *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*. But now note what he says: "This cannot be brought about until first certain preparatory things have been accomplished." You can't get the marvelous work and a wonder, which is not the Book of Mormon, it's the gathering of Israel, it's the building of Zion, it's the turning of things upside down with a new order of society and a government of law. It's the endowment of glory, it's this marvelous thing that finally ushers in the millennial period. That's the marvelous work and a wonder. Take a

Concordance and look through the Book of Mormon under the word "marvelous," and read all the passages where it's used. And that's the context in which it is written, that's it. It puts it in this latter-day when you are going to finally redeem Israel and establish Zion. That is the marvelous work and a wonder, and the endowment of Zion with glory, the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night." (Hyrum L Andrus, Lecture 19 Christ's Coming to Zion, Jerusalem and the World)

So simply put, this is the marvelous work and a wonder that will be so miraculous that as Jeremiah put it, we will altogether stop talking about Moses. This involves the resurrection of Joseph Smith, which is now once again proven by the Lord identifying Joseph as the person who will once again receive the sealed portion and translate it, and if Joseph is dead he must be resurrected in order to do this work. This point of reference ties directly into *the Parable of the Nobleman and the Olive Trees, Joseph's Boys* and *Understanding Revelation: Chapters 6 and 7*. It's also important to note the last line in verse 26 almost assuredly has reference entirely to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (this becomes clear by verse 35, which we will not be getting into in this paper).

Now that we are done with 2 Nephi 27 and we have identified THE marvelous work and a wonder, we will now be able to completely understand 3 Nephi 21.

3 Nephi 21:7-29

7 And when these things come to pass that thy seed shall begin to know these things—it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the people who are of the house of Israel.

This is the Lamanites blossoming as a rose. It's interesting to note that those who were to understand this as a completion to the prophecy were not the Gentiles or Ephraim but rather the literal and adopted ancestors of whom the Lord was speaking to, "thy seed shall know these things". This is a point of reference and so it is important to include it here before we continue.

8 And when that day shall come, it shall come to pass...

Important to note with the points of reference that the word "also" was not used but rather this sentence. Meaning, what comes next is not in addition to but rather subsequent to. For us in hindsight that obviously has to be true because the Lamanites have blossomed as a rose but the other things have yet to happen, but if you were reading this in Joseph Smith's time this sentence is how you would have created a more accurate macro last day timeline.

... that **kings shall shut their mouths**; for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

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

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

This is once again the marvelous work and a wonder, and once again, just like in 2 Nephi 27, we have confirmation that the resurrection and return of Joseph Smith is integral to that point of reference. If you are confused about how this is a reference to that, see my paper *Joseph Smith to Return* or simply check out the footnote for “marred” provided in verse 10, and figuring out what the word “heal” means should be pretty simple after learning that marred= the martyrdom of Joseph Smith.

D&C 135:7

7 They were innocent of any crime, as they had often been proved before, and were only confined in jail by the conspiracy of traitors and wicked men; and their **innocent blood** on the floor of Carthage jail is a broad seal affixed to “Mormonism” that cannot be rejected by any court on earth, and their **innocent blood** on the escutcheon of the State of Illinois, with the broken faith of the State as pledged by the governor, is a witness to the truth of the everlasting gospel that all the world cannot impeach; and their **innocent blood** on the banner of liberty, and on the magna charta of the United States, is an ambassador for the religion of Jesus Christ, that will touch the hearts of honest men among all nations; and their **innocent blood**, with the **innocent blood** of all the martyrs under the **altar that John saw**, will cry unto the Lord of Hosts till he **avenges that blood** on the earth. Amen.

Revelation 6:9-17

9 **And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar** the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and **avenge our blood** on them that dwell on the earth?

11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

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

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

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15 **And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;**

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Understanding these points of reference will lead one to an understanding that the opening of the 5th seal could not have occurred until after Joseph and Hyrum's martyrdom. Going back to 3 Nephi:

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

This is Joseph Smith bringing forth the sealed portion that we just went over in 2 Nephi 27. The warning that the Lord gives here for those who reject those words is echoed by Moroni in Ether 4:8-11. Once again, the fact that "these words" are referring to the sealed portion is confirmed in Ether 4.

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, wo be 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.

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.

This is D&C 87:5, this is the Parable of the Nobleman and the Olive Trees (more specifically D&C 101:52-58), etc. This is Joseph's Boys. This is the redemption of Zion.

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.

This is after the redemption of Zion for the Lord says those who repent and join them are in fact joining the remnant of Jacob who have already received their inheritances- and we do not receive any inheritances in the flesh until after the redemption of New Jerusalem, for that is where and when our inheritances are delivered. It is also identified as THE New Jerusalem and the Lord identified THE New Jerusalem in Jackson County Missouri and only in Jackson County Missouri. So once again, this is not Salt Lake City.

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.

This is the time period in which if you do not flee to New Jerusalem, if you do not allow yourself to be gathered into the program, you must take up the sword to fight against your neighbor (D&C 45:63-69).

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

This is #1 in my Macro Last Day Timeline Part One- the meetings at Adam-ondi-ahman.

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.

This is the lost ten tribes returning and the work commencing among them. The Lord here clearly says that the work will not commence among the lost ten tribes as a body until this point, once again confirming the separation between the gathering of scattered Israel and the return of the lost ten tribes as a body. After the ten tribes return 12,000 of each of the tribes will be selected to form the 144,000 which will then go off and sweep the world "as like a flood" to gather out the elect. This is the second time the Lord will set forth his hand, this is the day of the hunters of men. It is described in the completion of this chapter:

27 Yea, the work shall commence among all the dispersed of my people, with the Father to prepare the way whereby they may come unto me, that they may call on the Father in my name.

28 Yea, and then shall the work commence, with the Father among all nations in preparing the way whereby his people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance.

29 And they shall go out from all nations; and they shall not go out in haste, nor go by flight, for I will go before them, saith the Father, and I will be their rearward.

These points of reference are also gone over in the exact same order in

Moses 7:61-66

61 And the day shall come that the earth shall rest, (the Great and Dreadful Day) but *before* that day (the Great and Dreadful Day) the heavens shall be darkened, and a veil of darkness shall cover the earth; and the heavens shall shake, and also the earth; and great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve;

62 And righteousness will I send down out of heaven (Joseph Smith); and truth will I send forth out of the earth (the lost ten tribes as a body), to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men (the resurrection of Joseph Smith and the new scripture); and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood (the 144,000), to gather out mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare, an Holy City (Jackson County Missouri), that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming (the Great and Dreadful Day); for there (in the Holy City) shall be my tabernacle (the Savior's physical body), and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem.

63 And the Lord said unto Enoch: *Then shalt thou* (after these events) and all thy city (the sign of the Son of Man) meet them there (Great and Dreadful Day), and we will receive them into our bosom, and they shall see us; and we will fall upon their necks, and they shall fall upon our necks, and we will kiss each other;

64 And there shall be mine abode, and it shall be Zion, which shall come forth out of all the creations which I have made; and for the space of a thousand years the earth shall rest.

65 And it came to pass that Enoch saw the day of the coming of the Son of Man, in the last days, to dwell on the earth in righteousness for the space of a thousand years;

66 *But before that day* (the Great and Dreadful Day) he saw great tribulations among the wicked; and he also saw the sea, that it was troubled, and men's hearts failing them, looking forth with fear for the judgments of the Almighty God, which should come upon the wicked.

Without an accurate understanding of macro last day timelines and events we will not be able to understand the times and seasons that we are in. We will not be able to know what is expected of us and why it is expected of us. If we do not understand what is expected of us how will we ever be able to live up to those expectations? We need to learn the macro last day timeline, the points of references so that we will be able to understand the talks being given at general conference fully, so that we will not have ears dull of hearing and eyes dull of sight and a mind full of doubt and the veil of unbelief. We must learn these things and then acquire the faith as the brother of Jared that these things will all be fulfilled, literally and plainly, as the Lord prophesied they would. As we do this I can promise you in the name of Jesus Christ that our minds will be expanded and our understanding enlarged and our faith perfected in Christ Jesus. Of this I testify and commit in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.