

REGARDING “THE END TIMES”  
(South Chrysler Restoration Branch Reunion, 2009)

I. WHY CONCERN OURSELVES WITH THE END TIMES?

A. The Lord Has Counseled Us To Be Watching For His Return

“And what I say unto one, I say unto all men; *Watch*, therefore, *for ye know not at what hour* your Lord doth come.”  
– Matt. 24:49

“And what I say unto one, I say unto all, *Watch* ye therefore, and *pray always*, and *keep my commandments*, that ye may be counted worthy to escape all these things which shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man when he shall come clothed in the glory of his Father...And now, verily I say these things unto you, that ye may know this, that the coming of the Lord is *as a thief in the night*.”  
– Lk. 21:36; 12:44

“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. *Ye are all the children of light*, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness. *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others*; but let us watch and be sober.”  
– 1 Thess. 5:4-6

“*Watch*, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour. Let them, therefore, who are among the Gentiles, *flee unto Zion*. And let them who be of Judah, *flee unto Jerusalem*, unto the mountains of the Lord's house. *Go ye out from among the nations, even from Babylon, from the midst of wickedness, which is spiritual Babylon*.”  
– D&C 108:4a-b

“And now, I will show unto you *a parable* that you may know my will *concerning the redemption of Zion*. A certain nobleman had a spot of land, very choice; and he said unto his servants, *Go ye into my vineyard, even upon this very choice piece of land, and plant twelve olive trees; and set watchmen round about them and build a tower*, that one may overlook the land round about, to be a watchman upon the tower; that mine olive trees may not be broken down, when the enemy shall come to spoil and take unto themselves the fruit of my vineyard.”  
– D&C 98:6a-c

B. He Has Commanded Us To Sound The Warning Voice About the Coming Judgment Upon the Wicked

“Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, *When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman; if when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.*

*But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.*

*So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.*

*When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.”*  
– Ezek. 33:2-9

*“and the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days, and they shall go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them.”* – D&C 1:1d

*“Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh every man who hath been warned, to warn his neighbor; therefore, they are left without excuse, and their sins are upon their own heads.”*  
– D&C 85:22a

*“And let your preaching be the warning voice, every man to his neighbor, in mildness and in meekness.”*  
– D&C 38:9d

*“...I will that my saints should be assembled upon the land of Zion; and that every man should take righteousness in his hands, and faithfulness upon his loins, and lift a warning voice unto the inhabitants of the earth; and declare both by word and by flight, that desolation shall come upon the wicked... this is a day of warning, and not a day of many words.”*  
– D&C 63:9d-e, 15a

### C. The Lord Has Set This Land Apart For His Purposes

*“And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity...Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written.”* – Eth. 1:31-32, 35

*“Wherefore the Lord would have that all men should serve him, who dwell upon the face thereof; and that it was the place of the New Jerusalem, which should come down out of heaven, and the holy sanctuary of the Lord... Behold, Ether saw the days of Christ, and he spake concerning a New Jerusalem upon this land...And that a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph...and it shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old; and they shall no more be confounded, until the end come, when the earth shall pass away. And there shall be a new heaven and a new earth; and they shall be like unto the old, save the old have passed away, and all things have become new.*

*And then cometh the New Jerusalem; and blessed are they who dwell therein, for it is they whose garments are white through the blood of the lamb; and they are they who are numbered among the remnant of the seed of Joseph, who were of the house of Israel.”* – Eth. 6:3-4, 6, 8-10

*“Wherefore, I, Lehi, prophesy according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me, that there shall none come into this land, save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord. Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them; Wherefore, they shall never be brought down into captivity: if so, it shall be because of iniquity: For if iniquity shall abound, cursed shall be the land for their sakes; But unto the righteous, it shall be blessed for ever.”* – 2 N 1:10-15

*“...it is wisdom in the Father that they [the Gentiles] should be established in this land, And be set up as a free people by the power of the Father, that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed, that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which he hath covenanted with his people, O house of Israel;”*

– 3 N 9:89-90

*“Hearken, O ye elders of my church saith the Lord your God, who have assembled yourselves together, according to my commandments, in this land which is the land of Missouri, which is the land which I have appointed and consecrated for the gathering of the Saints: wherefore this is the land of promise, and the place for the city of Zion...*

*Behold, the place which is now called Independence, is the Center Place, and the spot for the temple is lying westward upon a lot which is not far from the courthouse; wherefore it is wisdom that the land should be purchased by the Saints; and also every tract lying westward, even unto the line running directly between Jew and Gentile. And also every tract bordering by the prairies, inasmuch as my disciples are enabled to buy lands. Behold, this is wisdom, that they may obtain it for an everlasting inheritance.”* – D&C 57:1

### D. It Is A Key Element Of The Lord’s Plan Of Redemption

#### 1. Babylon must fall so the Kingdom of God can have dominion over all the earth.

*“Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunken; the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.”* – Jer. 51:7

*“And another angel shall sound his trump, saying, That great church, the mother of abominations, that made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, that persecuteth the saints of God, that shed their blood: she who sitteth upon many waters, and upon the islands of the sea; behold, she is the tares of the earth, she is bound in bundles, her bands are made strong, no man can loose them; therefore, she is ready to be burned...And again, another angel shall sound his trump, which is the sixth angel, saying, She is fallen, who made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication: she is fallen! is fallen!”* – D&C 85:26b-c, 32

*“...verily I say, Tomorrow all the proud and they that do wickedly shall be as stubble; and I will burn them up, for I am the Lord of hosts; and I will not spare any that remaineth in Babylon...”* – D&C 64:5b

2. According to His covenant with the house of Israel, they shall be gathered to the lands of their inheritance.

*“And now, my beloved brethren, I have read these things that ye might know concerning the covenants of the Lord; that he has covenanted with the house of Israel; That he has spoken unto the Jews, by the mouth of his holy prophets, even from the beginning down, from generation to generation, until the time comes that they shall be restored to the true church and fold of God; When they shall be gathered home to the lands of their inheritance, and shall be established in all their lands of promise.”* – 2 N 6:1-3

*“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left...And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”*

– Isa. 11:11-12

- E. The Saints Must Pass Through These Difficult Times (There is no “Rapture”!)

*“...In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”* – Jn. 16:33  
[ “tribulation” = severe affliction (especially that arising from persecution) ]

*“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be which thou hast said concerning the destruction of the temple, and the Jews; and what is the sign of thy coming; and of the end of the world? (or the destruction of the wicked, which is the end of the world.)... Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake...But he that remaineth steadfast, and is not overcome, the same shall be saved.”* – Matt. 24:4, 7, 11

*“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her [Babylon], my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”* – Rev. 18:4

*“And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered; for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.”*

– Joel 2:30-32

*“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; 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?*

*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 fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”*

– Rev. 6:9-11

- Following the opening of the 6<sup>th</sup> seal –

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

– Rev. 7:9, 13-14

*“...and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands: and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”*

– Rev. 20:4

*“And immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven shall be shaken...And as I said before, after the tribulation of those days, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken, then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven... And they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.*

– Matt. 24:34, 37-38

[Jesus never mentioned that the more righteous would escape the tribulation!]

*“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”*

– 1 Cor. 15:51-52

*“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then they who are alive, shall be caught up together into the*

clouds with them who remain, *to meet the Lord* in the air; and so shall we be ever with the Lord.”

– 1 Thess. 4:16-17

“And there shall be silence in heaven for the space of half an hour, and immediately after shall the curtain of heaven be unfolded, as a scroll is unfolded after it is rolled up, and the face of the Lord shall be unveiled; and the saints that are upon the earth, who are alive, shall be quickened, and be *caught up* to meet him. And they who have slept in their graves, shall come forth; for their graves shall be opened, and they also shall be *caught up* to meet him in the midst of the pillar of heaven: they are Christ's, the first fruits: they who *shall descend with him* first, and they who are on the earth, and in their graves, who are first caught up to meet him; and all this by the voice of the sounding of the trump of the angel of God.”

– D&C 85:27a-d

### The Rapture Doctrine –

Scotland, Spring of 1830, among the Irvingites; Margaret Macdonald had a supposed revelation on her sickbed; “I felt this needed to be revealed, and that there was great darkness and error about it; but suddenly what it was burst upon me with a glorious light.”; claims a secret return of Christ and a pre-tribulation resurrection of the Gentile church before Christ’s second coming; Daniels 70th week is separated by 2000 years from the first 69 weeks, these 7 years immediately precede Christ’s return in glory

#### three popular camps:

pre-trib.–the Tribulation = “day of the Lord” (the wrath of God) = the entire 7 yrs; the church raptured at the beginning; the last 3½ years is the “great tribulation” of Matt. 24; [most commonly held view in America]

mid-trib.–the Tribulation = the entire 7 yrs; the “day of the Lord” is the entire period; the last 3½ yrs = the “day of the Lord” (the wrath of God) = the “great tribulation”; the church raptured at the great tribulation; [more recent view in America, since 1941]

post-trib. – the church must endure the entire 7 years of Tribulation; God will protect His children through His wrath, which they will witness; the rapture occurs at the end, immediately before the second coming; they immediately return with Christ; [was the most prominent view during the Reformation (16<sup>th</sup> century)]

“I have sworn in my wrath and decreed wars upon the face of the earth, and the wicked shall slay the wicked, and fear shall come upon every man, and *the Saints also shall hardly escape*.”

– D&C 63:9b

“Behold, I say unto you, Were it not for the transgressions of my people, speaking concerning the church and not individuals, they might have been redeemed even now; but, behold, they have not learned to be obedient to the things which I require at their hands... Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom, otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself; my people must needs be chastened until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer.”

– D&C 102:2

“And the Lord said, I speak unto those whom the Lord shall make rulers over his household, to give his children their portion of meat in due season. And they said, Who then is that faithful and wise servant? And the Lord said unto them, It is that servant who *watcheth, to impart his portion of meat in due season. Blessed be that servant whom his Lord shall find, when he cometh, so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.*”

– Lk. 12:49-53

“wherefore lift up your hearts and rejoice, and gird up your loins, and take upon you my whole armor, *that ye may be able to withstand the evil day, having done all ye may be able to stand.*” – D&C 26:3d (See Eph. 6:13)  
[Suggests the “evil day” is yet to come.]

#### F. The Church will be ministering to the world throughout this time of great calamity.

“And again, this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations, *and then shall the end come, or the destruction of the wicked.*”

– Matt. 24:32

“And it shall come to pass in the last days when the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it; And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem;”

– Isa. 2:2-3

## II. DETERMINING WHAT IS PROPHESED TO COME

### A. Key Texts

A Fundamental Question: How can one determine which passages of scripture apply to the end times?

Might this be a reasonable approach to answering this question?

- 1<sup>st</sup>: If the D&C speaks of things to come, we know for certain it regards the end times.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: The Book of Mormon likely speaks of the end times. Events occurring contemporaneously with the Jews in the Old World did not directly concern them, so any mention of things to come is likely in regards to the end times.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: What did the Lord Jesus say about the end times? (Matt. 24, Mk. 13, Lk. 17 and 21)
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Note those passages of scripture clearly identified as pertaining to “the last days” or using similar language.
- 5<sup>th</sup>: Look for similar patterns and lists as in the D&C and Book of Mormon.

## B. Guiding Principles Used in Interpreting Scripture

(The Lord expects us to use our minds, always praying for discernment from the Spirit.)

*Hermeneutics* – the study of the methodological principles of interpretation (as of the scriptures)

From *Prophecy and Today...* by Norma Anne Holik, pp. 2-4:

“When looking at history in the light of Scriptures as well as current events, there is always a danger of missing the real purpose of prophecy. The basic purpose of prophecy has always been and remains that of lifting the vision of God’s people from the bewildering past and present to the joyous future planned by God for man. Thus it is a “lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawn...” (2 Pet. 1:19) And it also is a solid reminder that in every age of human history, every dispensation, that God’s people are called on to separate from the world and to play their part in serving God’s purposes. Prophecy is a call to service, a corrective to squandering our lives from present gain; it clothes the present with the grandeur of eternity.

“Thus one should always study the background of prophecy as well as prophecy itself. The factground of prophecy comes only when you know the prophet, the times, the reason for the prophecy and the meaning of the prophecy both for the past and for today...”

“There are vital laws of interpretation which we should survey before ever starting our study.

First: Discover the prophet, the people addressed, and the life and times of the people involved in a given case. Observe the dispensation. Always ask who are the legitimate recipients of that prophecy, and do not misappropriate a prophecy which does not rightly go beyond that era...

Second: Always discover the facts and truths presented in a prophecy; note the exact wording of the text... Give close attention to the parts of speech, note the time element, motives, and vehicle of the prophecy... If available, Hebrew and Greek dictionaries will be useful on some of the “questionable” words.

Third: The golden rule of interpretation is that when the plain sense of a scripture makes common sense, you need seek no further. therefore take each word at its primary, ordinary, usual literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages, clearly indicate otherwise...

Fourth: There is a law of DOUBLE REFERENCE in prophecy which merely means that there is a principle of associating similar or related ideas which are usually separated by long periods of time and which are blended into a single picture like the blending of pictures by a stereopticon.

Fifth: Another law is that of RECURRENCE which has one prophet recording an event and then later repeating with more details. Or another prophet may give the same message but with embellishment.

Sixth: One of the more puzzling but fascination things about prophecy is also the fact that God has given many prophecies which are applicable to a certain place, people, and situation, but the same prophecy is also applicable to another age, place, and situation far removed from the original prophecy...

Seventh: ...It must be remembered that verses containing corresponding words of similar phrases are not necessarily related. Also we point out that all truth harmonizes and seeming contradictions are because of our incomplete knowledge or incomprehension of the facts.

“Many of the prophecies employ methods of description which are common in everyday speech, but must be recognized for what they are... [a play on words or ideas; symbolic language; figurative language, often appearing in the same sentence with that of literal fact; simile—two objects, person, or things compared, the words “as” or “like” usually being employed; metaphor—an implied comparison; the parable—a short, simple story, usually of an occurrence of a familiar kind, from which a lesson may be drawn; the allegory—a story with a hidden or symbolic meaning, a description of one thing in the image of another, as in a fable (Prophecy should not be interpreted as allegorical unless it is evident it was so intended.); the use of the name of one thing for another]

“...Symbols should be interpreted by the writer (prophet) or Scriptures, never the reader...”

C. Beware of Making “Easy Assumptions.” (per Glenn Scott, in *Voices From the Dust*)

Example: “*And Peleg was a mighty man, for in his days was the earth divided.*” – Gen. 10:16

Assumption: The continents, once all once land mass, moved apart in his days.

The science: Major cataclysmic seismic events would have been unleashed when this occurred, if so.

The problem: There is no evidence of such in the scriptures.

The resolution: “*...These were the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations; and by these were the nations divided on the earth, after the flood.*” – Gen. 10:17-20

D. The Slippery Slope of Speculation

1. Many chapters from the Book of Isaiah are quoted in the Book of Mormon.

“*Yea, a commandment I give unto you, that ye search these things diligently; for great are the words of Isaiah. For surely he spake as touching all things concerning my people which are of the house of Israel; therefore it must needs be that he must speak also to the Gentiles. And all things that he spake, hath been, and shall be, even according to the words which he spake.*” – 3 N 10:27-29

2. It requires special training or the gift of the Spirit to understand his words.

“*Now I, Nephi, do speak somewhat concerning the words which I have written, which have been spoken by the mouth of Isaiah. For behold, Isaiah spake many things which were hard for many of my people to understand; for they know not concerning the manner of prophesying among the Jews. For I, Nephi, have not taught them many things concerning the manner of the Jews; for their works were works of darkness, and their doings were doings of abomination. Wherefore, I write unto my people, unto all those that shall receive hereafter these things which I write, that they may know the judgments of God, that they come upon all nations, according to the word which he hath spoken. Wherefore hearken, O my people, which are of the house of Israel, and give ear unto my words: for because the words of Isaiah are not plain unto you, nevertheless, they are plain unto all those that are filled with the spirit of prophecy. But I give unto you a prophecy, according to the spirit which is in me; wherefore I shall prophesy according to the plainness which hath been with me from the time that I came out of Jerusalem with my father. For behold, my soul delighteth in plainness unto my people, that they may learn; Yea, and my soul delighteth in the words of Isaiah, for I came out from Jerusalem, and mine eyes hath beheld the things of the Jews, and I know that the Jews do understand the things of the prophets, and there is none other people that understand the things which were spoken unto the Jews, like unto them, save it be that they are taught after the manner of the things of the Jews.*” – 2 N 11:1-8

“*Nevertheless, in the days that the prophecies of Isaiah shall be fulfilled, men shall know of a surety, at the times when they shall come to pass; Wherefore, they are of worth unto the children of men, and he that supposeth that they are not, unto them will I speak particularly, and confine the words unto mine own people: For I know that they shall be of great worth unto them in the last days; for in that day shall they understand them; wherefore, for their good have I written them.*” – 2 N 11:12-14

3. Speculation can quickly take us down the wrong path.

“...The Scriptures should be taught, understood, and practiced in their most plain, simple, easy, and literal sense, according to the common laws and usage of the language in which they stand—according to the legitimate meaning of words and sentences precisely the same as if found in any other book.

Words are but signs of ideas; and if the Deity would communicate ideas to mankind by words, he must of necessity do it according to the laws of the language; otherwise the communication would be unintelligible or indefinite, and therefore unprofitable. The prophetic and doctrinal writings contained in the Bible are mostly adapted to the capacities of the simple and unlearned—to the common sense of the people. They are designed to be understood and practiced; without which no one can profit by them.”

– *Times & Seasons*, Vol. 1, p. 68 (An Address by Elias Higbee and Parley P. Pratt)

III. WHEN SHALL THESE THINGS COME TO PASS?

A. They Precede the Lord’s Return In Glory, As Shown Above

## B. The Nature of the Times

*“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good. Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth; men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.”* – 2 Tim. 3:1-8

*“And the Gentiles are lifted up in the pride of their eyes, and have stumbled, because of the greatness of their stumbling block, that they have built up many churches; Nevertheless they put down the power and the miracles of God, and preach up unto themselves, their own wisdom, and their own learning, that they may get gain, and grind upon the face of the poor; And there are many churches built up which cause envyings, and strifes, and malice;*

*And there are also secret combinations, even as in times of old, according to the combinations of the devil, for he is the foundation of all these things; yea, the foundation of murder, and works of darkness...”* – 2 N 11:90-93

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*(The following were not used on slides.)*

*“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”* – Matt. 24:10

*“Knowing this first, that in the last days there shall come scoffers, walking after their own lusts. Denying the Lord Jesus Christ, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things must continue as they are, and have continued as they are from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that of old the heavens, and the earth standing in the water and out of the water, were created by the word of God; But the heavens, and the earth which are now, are kept in store by the same word, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”* – 2 Pet. 3:4-7

*“And as it was in the days of Noe; so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.*

*Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.*

*Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.”* – Lk. 17:26-30

*“But behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles; yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles, and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land, and those who shall be upon other lands; yea, even upon all the lands of the earth; behold, they will be drunken with iniquity, and all manner of abominations...”*

*For behold, the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep. For behold, ye have closed your eyes, and ye have rejected the prophets, and your rulers, and the seers hath he covered because of your iniquity.”*

– 2 N 11:116, 123-124

*“O the wise, and the learned, and the rich, that are puffed up in the pride of their hearts, and all those who preach false doctrines, and all those who commit whoredoms, and pervert the right way of the Lord; wo, wo, wo be unto them, saith the Lord God Almighty, for they shall be thrust down to hell. Wo unto them that turn aside the just for a thing of nought, and revile against that which is good, and say that it is of no worth: For the day shall come that the Lord God will speedily visit the inhabitants of the earth; and in that day that they are fully ripe in iniquity, they shall perish. But behold, if the inhabitants of the earth shall repent of their wickedness and abominations, they shall not be destroyed, saith the Lord of hosts. But behold, that great and abominable church, the whore of all the earth, must tumble to the earth; and great must be the fall thereof: For the kingdom of the devil must shake, and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance, or the devil will grasp them with his everlasting chains, and they be stirred up to anger and perish: For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good...”*

*Yea, wo be unto him that saith, We have received, and we need no more. in fine, wo unto all those who tremble, and are angry because of the truth of God. For behold, he that is built upon the rock, receiveth it with gladness: and he that is built upon a sandy foundation, trembleth, lest he shall fall. Wo be unto him that shall say, We have received the word of God, and we need no more of the word of God, for we have enough. For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little: And blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn*

wisdom; For unto him that receiveth, I will give more: and from them that shall say, We have enough, shall be taken away even that which they have.” – 2 Nephi 12:18-24, 32-38

Mn. 4:32-56 – conditions in last days (at coming forth of BOM)!; false churches, pride, secret combinations

C. We Know We Are Now In “The Last Days”

“But behold, I prophesy unto you concerning the last days; concerning the days when the Lord God shall bring these things [the Book of Mormon record] forth unto the children of men.” – 2 N 11:80

“”The rise of the church of Christ in these last days, being one thousand eight hundred and thirty years since the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh, it being regularly organized and established agreeably to the laws of our country, by the will and commandments of God in the fourth month, and on the sixth day of the month which is called April;” – D&C 17:1a

IV. WHAT IS COMING UPON THE WORLD? (The Signs of the Times)

A. A Day of Judgment, To Fall Upon the Wicked

“prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh; and the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth; and the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people;” – D&C 1:3b-c

Why has it not come upon the world already?

“and there is no end to my works, neither to my words; for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man.” – D&C 22:23b

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise and coming, as some men count slackness; but long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” – 2 Pet. 3:9

B. The Words of Jesus to the Twelve (**Matthew 24**)

Nowhere in the scriptures will one find an exact and complete chronological sequence of the events that are to precede Christ’s coming in glory. However, the most extensive coverage of the end times in a single passage of scripture is found in the 24<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Book of Matthew and its nearest equivalents in Mark and Luke.

v. 4 – The Disciples have come to Jesus and asked Him two questions regarding things to come.

vv. 5-6 – Jesus begins to explain that His return will not be as soon as they might expect. They are not to be deceived by reports that He has, or any who come claiming to be Him.

vv. 7-8 – The apostles and the saints will suffer persecution, betrayals, death. Certainly occurred (70 AD...).

He would give them what they needed to say in the hour needed. (Matt. 10:14-26)

Not a hair of their head will perish – He who seeks to save his life vs. loses his life (Lk. 17:33)

In your patience possess ye your souls? (D&C 98:5j)

v. 9 – False prophets. The adversary is always at work...

v. 10 – The adversary takes away light and truth due to disobedience. (D&C 90:6c)

v. 11 – Pressing forward is always the call – not easy; not being ashamed (Lehi’s vision)

vv. 12-18 – Occurred in 70 AD.

“nor ever shall be sent again”? – conc. camps, gas chambers, Russian pogroms? (Judah, not Israel?)

vv. 19-20 – the beginning of sorrows

Except those days be shortened, none of their flesh (Jews) be saved

Shortened for “the elect’s” sake – elect “according to the covenant”; those who hearken, harden not

Will He find faith on the earth? – Lk. 18:8

v. 21 – These things up to this point have been regarding the Jews

### **Brief history of the House of Israel:**

Succession of kings: Saul, David, Solomon, Rehoboam

Revolt of northern 10½ tribes against heavy taxation in 975 BC; Jeroboam, an Ephraimite, becomes their king

**Northern Kingdom (Israel / Ephraim)** – under Jeroboam, at Shechem

Conquered by Assyria (Shalmanezar) in 721 BC; scattered: in Assyria, “the north countries”, among all nations; the coasts of the earth, the corners of the earth, the isles of the sea; termed “**the outcasts of Israel**” (2 K 17:5-6; 18:10-12)

**Southern Kingdom (Judah)** – Judah and part of Benjamin, under Rehoboam, at Jerusalem

A succession of 21 more kings; 586 BC–Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon) sacks Jerusalem, under King Zedekiah; Babylonian captivity for 70 yrs; King Cyrus (Persia) allows some to return to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple (under Nehemiah) in 516 BC (rest disperse throughout the nations); Jerusalem sacked by Rome in 70 AD; termed “**the dispersed of Judah**”

[Those brought to this continent: “**the remnant of Jacob**” / “**the remnant of Joseph**”

Watch for these name distinctions in the scriptures!!!

- 
- v. 22 – Jesus begins speaking about the last days, before His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming
  - vv. 22-23 – Again, false Christ’s and false prophets; even among the elect! (evidences?)
  - v. 25 – wars, rumors of wars; a great escalation in the last many decades  
the saints not to fear (will be gathering to Zion)
  - v. 26-27 – Assurance that when the Lord comes at the end, everyone will know
  - v. 28 – Regarding His church; the interpretation given in Lk. 17:37
  - vv. 29-30 – famines (where?); pestilences (which?); earthquakes, greatly increasing in frequency;  
Lk. 21:10, 25 – fearful sites (what? – floods, tsunamis, hurricanes...); great signs from heaven (what?)  
[A great Leonid meteor shower on Nov. 13, 1833; many thought the end of the world was upon them.]
  - v. 31 – iniquity shall abound – evidences?  
the love of many wax cold – evidences?
  - v. 32 – This gospel of the kingdom preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations  
Which gospel? (Which would serve as a witness?; Jn. 17:21 – that they may all be one...; 1 Cor. 1:10-13)  
What do you see as necessary before this can occur?
  - v. 33 – Again, the “abomination of desolation” – See Lk. 21:19, again!
  - vv. 34-39 – Sun, moon, stars; “immediately after the tribulations of those days”(?)  
The generation in which these things (these wonders?) are shown will not all pass away until the Lord returns  
...so rejoice when you see these things!
  - v. 40 – The “remainder of the elect” will be gathered (who?); Isa. 11:12 (notice the two groups indicated!)
  - vv. 41-42 – When His elect see these things, they may know He is even at the doors.
  - vv. 43-45 – As in the days of Noah (and Lot) – people will be oblivious / will not prepare
  - vv. 46-49 – Two shall be in the field...  
Does not refer to the non-existent “rapture of the church”.  
Could refer to the saints being caught up to meet Him when He comes, however. (1 Thess. 4:17)  
Interpreted in Lk. 17:17:36-38!  
Philip was “caught away” by the Spirit – Act. 8:39-40
  - vv. 50-56 – Clearer rendition in Lk. 12:49-57  
The faithful and wise servant (especially PH): is watchful(?), prepared(?), serving(?) when the Lord returns  
“Meat” – Jn. 4:36, 6:27; 1 Cor. 3:2; Heb. 5:12-14; Matt. 4:4; D&C 83:7a  
What kind of mindset does it require to be able to be serving in the midst of all these things?

**Lk. 21:32-36** – All this to take place in a relatively short span of time

The Lord's servants to take heed:

“**overcharged**” – filled to excess; over-burdened

“**surfeiting**” – excessive eating and drinking; gluttony

v. 35 – Significance?

What to do: watch, pray always, keep my commandments (how many?)

Why: That ye may be counted worthy to escape all these things (Is this possible?)

That ye may be counted worthy to stand before the Christ when He comes (Eph. 6 – full armor of Christ!)

### **What is the significance of Matt. 24?**

Can we identify a “key event” that signals the beginning of these troubling times?

We would like to have concrete answers...

A possible word of caution: **Jac. 3:22-23** – “looking beyond the mark” and missing the point of it all

So what is the Lord's purpose, His intent for sharing this entire passage? (Everything is so “general.”)

### C. Other Scriptures Regarding The End Times

D&C 45:2j-10 – Regarding Matt. 24

D&C 28:2e, 4-5 – hailstones, flies, maggots...

D&C 105:9-11 – vengeance cometh speedily; upon my house shall it begin (11b – purify your hearts!)

D&C 108:5d-6 – geological changes; those of the north countries

1 N 3:219-237 – the great and abominable church fighting against the church of the Lamb

1 N 7:15-42 – Isaiah 48-49 was quoted in ch. 6; explained here [Since in BOM, must be about end times!]

Isa. 13:4-11, 15-16, 19, 22 (quoted in 2 N 10)

3 N 7:34-36, 38-41; 9:51-59, 101-106 – gospel go to the Jews; remnant among Gentiles as a lion; will cut off thy horses, chariots, cities... (See Mic. 5:8-15)

3 N 10:1-8 – The people of His church among the Gentiles will assist the remnant of Jacob; then shall the work of regathering commence in earnest

3 N 10:15-16, 22, 23-25 – promises to the house of Israel; but before this, the “waster” will go forth

Jer. 4:6; Jer. 50-51 – destruction coming from the north; the destroyer “of the Gentiles” (?)

### D. Other Calamities That May Befall Us?

Financial collapse? – Curry, Chesworth, Grice (*Vision #52*), etc; recent predictions / explanations of our plight

War invading our shores?

Other?

### E. Promises Of The Lord Regarding Zion

*“Keep all the commandments and covenants by which ye are bound, and I will cause the heavens to shake for your good, and Satan shall tremble, and Zion shall rejoice upon the hills, and flourish; and Israel shall be saved in mine own due time. And by the keys which I have given shall they be led, and no more be confounded at all. Lift up your hearts and be glad; your redemption draweth nigh.”* – D&C 34:6a-c

*“...and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out my own elect from the four quarters of the earth unto a place which I shall prepare; a holy city, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem.”* – D&C 36:12f-g

*“And now I give unto you a word concerning Zion: Zion shall be redeemed, although she is chastened for a little season.”* – D&C 97:4a

*“Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered, they that remain and are pure in heart shall return and come to their inheritances; they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy; to*

*build up the waste places of Zion. And all these things, that the prophets might be fulfilled. And, behold, there is none other place appointed than that which I have appointed, neither shall there be any other place appointed than that which I have appointed for the work of the gathering of my Saints, until the day cometh when there is found no more room for them; and then I have other places which I will appoint unto them, and they shall be called stakes, for the curtains, or the strength of Zion.”*  
– D&C 98:4g-i

*“Behold, this is the blessing which I have promised after your tribulations, and the tribulations of your brethren; your redemption, and the redemption of your brethren; even their restoration to the land of Zion, to be established, no more to be thrown down...Behold, I say unto you, The redemption of Zion must needs come by power; therefore I will raise up unto my people a man, who shall lead them like as Moses led the children of Israel, for ye are the children of Israel, and of the seed of Abraham; and ye must needs be led out of bondage by power, and with a stretched out arm; and as your fathers were led at the first, even so shall the redemption of Zion be. Therefore, let not your hearts faint, for I say not unto you as I said unto your fathers, Mine angel shall go up before you, but not my presence; but I say unto you, Mine angels shall go before you, and also my presence, and in time ye shall possess the goodly land.”*  
– D&C 100:3b-c, e-f

## V. PREPARING FOR THE END TIMES

### A. When Calamity Comes, How Will It Affect Us?

Individually? / As families? / As a Branch?

What concerns do you have about how you / others / we will react?

Will you be able to take refuge in Zion? (See “Zion’s Redemption” by Alfred White, in *Infallible Proofs*)

### B. The Time To Prepare Is Now, Before It Is Upon Us!

*“But know this, if the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to have been broken up; but would have been ready. Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh.”*  
– Matt. 24:50-51

*“...God is not the author of confusion, but of peace...”*

– 1 Cor. 14:33

*“Let my disciples therefore take heed to themselves, lest at any time their hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day come upon them unawares. For as a snare it shall come on all them who dwell on the face of the whole earth. And what I say unto one, I say unto all, Watch ye therefore, and pray always, and keep my commandments, that ye may be counted worthy to escape all these things which shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man when he shall come clothed in the glory of his Father.”*

– Lk. 21:34-36

Matt. 25 – Parable of the 10 Virgins

*“...even in the day of the coming of the Son of Man, and until that hour, there will be foolish virgins among the wise...”*

– D&C 63:13g

*“And at that day when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins; for they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived, verily I say unto you, They shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day, and the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance;”*

– D&C 45:10b-c

### C. Physical Preparation

What kinds of physical preparation might we need to make?

What constitutes “reasonable” physical preparation versus going overboard?

Will I factor in my “neighbor”? How?

### D. Spiritual Preparation

#### 1. Individually (heart and mind)

*“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall shake, and the earth also shall tremble, and the mountains shall melt, and pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be*

*filled with fervent heat; the earth also shall be filled, and the corruptible works which are therein shall be burned up.*

*If then all these things shall be destroyed, what manner of persons ought ye to be in holy conduct and godliness, Looking unto, and preparing for the day of the coming of the Lord wherein the corruptible things of the heavens being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the mountains shall melt with fervent heat?*

*Nevertheless, if we shall endure, we shall be kept according to his promise. And we look for a new heavens, and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent, that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless.”* – 2 Pet. 3:10-14

We would do well to develop a deep friendship with the Lord Jesus that will sustain us.

## 2. As the Church

D&C 98 – parable regarding the redemption of Zion; how we got in a mess in the church

*“...Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom, otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself;”* – D&C 102:2c

*“Keep **all** the commandments and covenants by which ye are bound, and I will cause the heavens to shake for your good, and Satan shall tremble, and Zion shall rejoice upon the hills, and flourish; and Israel shall be saved in mine own due time.”* – D&C 34:6a

## E. What About Our Neighbors?

*“Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh every man who hath been warned, to warn his neighbor...”* – D&C 85:22a

How might we go about “sounding the warning voice” to our neighbors?

## VI. LIFT UP YOUR HEADS

### A. All The Prophets Yearned For The Promise of Zion, Soon To Come Forth

*“... I have sent mine everlasting covenant into the world, to be a light to the world, and to be a standard for my people and for the Gentiles to seek to it, and to be a messenger before my face to prepare the way before me. Wherefore come ye unto it; and with him that cometh I will reason as with men in days of old, and I will show unto you my strong reasoning; wherefore hearken ye together, and let me show it unto you, even my wisdom, the wisdom of him who ye say is the God of Enoch and his brethren, who were separated from the earth, and were received unto myself; a city reserved until a day of righteousness shall come: a day which was sought for by all holy men, and they found it not, because of wickedness and abominations, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth, but obtained a promise that they should find it, and see it in their flesh.”*

– D&C 45:2d-h

*“And righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare; an holy city, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion; a New Jerusalem.*

*And the Lord said unto Enoch, Then shalt thou and all thy city meet them there; 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; 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 shall the earth rest.”* – Gen. 7:70-72

### B. The Lord Expects Something Of Us

#### 1. We are here at this time according to His choosing.

*“God that made the world and all things therein...hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;”*

– Acts 17:24, 26

*“And for this cause, that men might be made partakers of the glories which were to be revealed, the Lord sent forth the fullness of his gospel, his everlasting covenant, reasoning in plainness and simplicity, to prepare the weak for those things which are coming on the earth;”*

– D&C 108:11

*“...and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”*

– Est. 4:14

2. We have a work to do.

*The Endowment, Question #4 – Out of your trials and sufferings a new nearness to spiritual things. You must suffer with them to save them. Because of the blessings to come, all your sufferings will be forgotten as an evil dream*

C. Let Us Be Up And Doing!

*“...the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them...Wherefore let us be faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord;”*

– 1 N 1:65, 76

*“Brethren, shall we not go on in so great a cause? Go forward and not backward. Courage, brethren; and on, on to the victory!”*

– D&C 110:22a