

## D&C#21 "Looking Forth For the Great Day of the Lord To Come"

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### I. Introduction

In 1918-1919, there was an "influenza epidemic" in the Salt Lake Valley. It was so severe that it necessitated the suspension of public gatherings for several months, including the Sunday Church meetings and the postponement of a General Conference of the Church. Orson F. Whitney, a member of the Twelve Apostles, was invited to write a series of articles that appeared in the Saturday issues of the Deseret Evening News, beginning October 26, 1918, and ending May 31, 1919. These articles "were designed to fill in some degree a spiritual void and meet a special need of those who were in the habit of attending Sunday services, but were denied that privilege by the prevalence of the...epidemic." (Orson F. Whitney. Forward. *Saturday Night Thoughts*. Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1921, 3).

Orson F. Whitney states,

"According to received chronology--admittedly imperfect, yet approximately correct--four thousand years, or four of the seven great days given to this planet as the period of its 'temporal existence,' had passed before Christ was crucified; while nearly two thousand years have gone by since. Consequently, Earth's long week is drawing to a close, and we stand at the present moment in the Saturday Evening of Time, at or near the end of the sixth day of human history. Is it not a time of thought, a season for solemn meditation? Morning will break upon the Millennium, the thousand years of peace, the Sabbath of the World!

"Marvel not, therefore, that all things are in commotion. War, famine, pestilence, earthquake, tempest and tidal wave, these are among the predicted signs of the Savior's second coming...Earth must be freed from oppression and cleansed from all iniquity. It is God's House; and He is coming to live in it, and to make of it a glorified mansion. House-cleaning is in progress, and Saturday's work must be done and out of the way, before the Lord of the Sabbath appears." (*Saturday Night Thoughts*. Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1921, 12-13).

We are among those who are now living in the eleventh hour. For the wicked, as well as those who are mostly righteous, it is time for us to repent. The Book of Mormon Prophet Amulek gave this warning.

B/M, Alma 34:32-35

**32 For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.**

**33 And now, as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore, I beseech of you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; for after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed.**

**34 Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye cannot say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world.**

**35 For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until death, behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his;...**

There is no doubt that for those who have procrastinated the day of their repentance, the Second Coming of the Savior will be a day of great mourning. For those who are righteous, it will be a day of great joy and happiness, a day to be anticipated.

As Satan gathers his forces in these latter-days, we will see prophecy fulfilled.

Russell M. Nelson states,

"A host of prophets, including Isaiah, Paul, Nephi, and Mormon, foresaw that perilous times would come, that in our day the whole world would be in commotion, that men would be lovers of their own selves...without natural affection,... lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, and that many would become servants of Satan who uphold the adversary's work. Indeed, you and I [as members of Christ's Church] wrestle...against the rulers of the darkness of this world, [and] against spiritual wickedness in high places" (2 Timothy 3:1-5; Doctrine and Covenants 10:5; 45:26; 88:91; Ephesians 6:12)." ("Joy and Spiritual Survival," in *Ensign*, November 2016, 81).

Robert L. Millet states,

"[In spite of the fulfillment of prophecy], the Second Coming is not something we need fear or be unduly alarmed about. It can and should be a glorious and long-awaited day for men and women who have grown weary of waywardness, who have had their patience stretched by the allurements and taunting of a world engulfed in wickedness. It will be a time of deliverance and salvation, a day of joy and sweet satisfaction, particularly for those who have watched for his coming and sought to stand in holy places. (*Living In The Eleventh Hour*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 2014, 2).

If there ever was a time to ask the Lord, "What lack I yet?" (Matthew 19:20), that time is now. The time for house-cleaning has arrived, not only for the wicked, but also for the righteous.

## **II. The Savior Will Return to Earth in Power and Great Glory**

The words of the hymn, #196, Jesus, Once of Humble Birth, notes the contrast between the humble birth of Jesus Christ, and the glory that He has now received.

## Jesus, Once of Humble Birth, #196

Jesus, once of humble birth,  
Now in glory comes to earth.  
Once he suffered grief and pain;  
Now he come on earth to reign,  
Now he comes on earth to reign.

Once a meek and lowly Lamb,  
Now the Lord, the great I Am.  
Once upon the cross he bowed;  
Now his chariot is the cloud,  
Now his chariot is the cloud.

Once he groaned in blood and tears;  
Now in glory he appears.  
Once rejected by his own,  
Now their King he shall be known.  
Now their King he shall be known.

Once forsaken, left alone,  
Now exalted to a throne.  
Once all things he meekly bore,  
But he now will bear no more.  
But he now will bear no more.

(Text: Parley P. Pratt, 1807-1857  
Music: Giacomo Meyerbeer, 1791-1864, adapted.  
("Jesus, Once of Humble Birth, #196, in *LDS Hymns*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1985).

Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual states,

"Jesus Christ's birth and His Second Coming are two of the most glorious events in the history of the world. When the Savior first came to the earth, He came in humble circumstances and was not generally recognized as the Messiah. However, when He comes the second time, He will come with power and great glory. (*Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 115).

Throughout the scriptures, the prophets prophesied the events that preceded the birth of Jesus Christ and all were fulfilled. The prophecies regarding Jesus' Second Coming have also been recorded in both ancient and modern scriptures. These words will also find fulfillment.

Scriptures regarding the Savior's return [a-g]:

"a. Christ will come in power and glory. The proud and the wicked will be burned, and there will not be wickedness upon the earth.

Doctrine and Covenants 29:9-11

**9 For the hour is nigh and the day soon at hand when the earth is ripe; and all the proud and they that do wickedly shall be as stubble; and I will burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that wickedness shall not be upon the earth;**

**10 For the hour is nigh, and that which was spoken by mine apostles must be fulfilled; for as they spoke so shall it come to pass;**

**11 For I will reveal myself from heaven with power and great glory, with all the hosts thereof, and dwell in righteousness with men on earth a thousand years, and the wicked shall not stand.**

Doctrine and Covenants 45:44

**44 And then they shall look for me, and, behold, I will come; and they shall see me in the clouds of heaven, clothed with power and great glory; will all the holy angels; and he that watches not for me shall be cut off.**

In the 2013 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, the heading for Section 45 states, "Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet of the Church, at Kirtland, Ohio, March 7, 1831. Prefacing the record of this revelation, Joseph Smith's history states, that 'at this age of the Church...many false reports...and foolish stories, were published...and circulated,...to prevent people from investigating the work, or embracing the faith...But to the joy of the Saints,...I received the following.'" (Heading: Section 45. *The Doctrine and Covenants*. Salt Lake City: The

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981, [2013], 79).

When the Savior returns to earth, He will come, not as a helpless infant, but with power and great glory. With His coming, the wicked will be destroyed.

"b. The Second Coming is near.

Doctrine and Covenants 34:7, 12

**7 For behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, the time is soon at hand that I shall come in a cloud with power and great glory.**

**12 And verily, verily, I say unto you, I come quickly. I am your Lord and your Redeemer. Even so. Amen.**

In the 2013 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, the heading for Section 34 states, "Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet to Orson Pratt, at Fayette, New York, November 4, 1830. Brother Pratt was nineteen years old at the time. He had been converted and baptized when he first heard the preaching of the restored gospel by his older brother, Parley P. Pratt, six weeks before. This revelation was received in the Peter Whitmer Sr. home." (Heading: Section 34. *The Doctrine and Covenants*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981, [2013], 58).

Doctrine and Covenants 43:17

**17 Hearken ye, for, behold, the great day of the Lord is nigh at hand.**

In the 2013 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, the heading for Section 43 states, "Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Kirtland, Ohio, in February 1831. At this time some members of the Church were disturbed by people making false claims as revelators. The Prophet inquired of the Lord and received this communication addressed to the elders of the Church. The first part deals with matters of Church policy; the latter part contains a warning that the elders are to give to the nations of the earth." (Heading: Section 43. *The Doctrine*

*and Covenants*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981, [2013], 75-76).

Doctrine and Covenants 110:16

**16 Therefore, the keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands; and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors.**

In these verses, we learn that the time for Jesus' Second Coming is near. He will come quickly and without delay. Zion or the pure in heart who are striving to keep His commandments will be blessed.

"c. All nations will tremble when the Savior comes. If we are faithful, His power and influence will be with us until He comes.

Doctrine and Covenants 34:8, 11

**8 And it shall be a great day at the time of my coming, for all nations shall tremble.**

**11 And if you are faithful, behold, I am with you until I come--**

Doctrine and Covenants 63:34

**34 And the saints also shall hardly escape; nevertheless, I, the Lord, am with them, and will come down in heaven from the presence of my Father and consume the wicked with unquenchable fire.**

We are taught in these verses that when Jesus appears the leaders of the nations will be affected in fear of the judgment that shall follow. The saints or members of His Church will not escape being impacted by the wickedness of the people, but the Lord will bless those who are righteous, while the wicked will burn.

"d. The Saints who have died will be resurrected and meet with the Savior. The Saints who are alive will be gathered to meet Him. He will come to the Mount of Olives, and it will divide, [thereby, providing an escape from their enemies]. The Jews will [then]

recognize their Savior [from the tokens in his hands and feet] and weep because they persecuted Him. Then those who have received the gospel in spirit prison will be resurrected.

Doctrine and Covenants 45:45-54

45 But before the arm of the Lord shall fall, an angel shall sound his trump, and the saints that have slept shall come forth to meet me in the cloud.

46 Wherefore, if ye have slept in peace blessed are you; for as you now behold me and know that I am, even so shall ye come unto me and your souls shall live, and your redemption shall be perfected; and the saints shall come forth from the four quarters of the earth.

47 Then shall the arm of the Lord fall upon the nations.

48 And then shall the Lord set his foot upon this mount, and it shall cleave in twain, and the earth shall tremble, and reel to and fro, and the heavens also shall shake.

49 And the Lord shall utter his voice, and all the ends of the earth shall hear it; and the nations of the earth shall mourn, and they that have laughed shall see their folly.

50 And calamity shall cover the mocker, and the scorner shall be consumed; and they that have watched for iniquity shall be hewn down and cast into the fire.

51 And then shall the Jews look upon me and say: What are these wounds in thine hands and in thy feet?

52 Then shall they know that I am the Lord; for I will say unto them: These wounds are the wounds with which I was wounded in the house of my friends. I am he who was lifted up. I am Jesus that was crucified. I am the Son of God.

53 And then shall they weep because of their iniquities; then shall they lament because they persecuted their king.

54 And then shall the heathen nations be redeemed, and they that knew no law shall have part in the first resurrection; and it shall be tolerable for them.

We learn that many will be resurrected, including those who accepted the gospel in the Spirit Prison, and those who knew no law. The wicked will recognize their wickedness.

Those who are righteous will be gathered from the four corners of the earth. The Jews will be miraculously protected from their enemies and the Mount of Olives will be split in two. Then they will mourn for through the emblems of his crucifixion, they will recognize that they rejected Him as their King.

Doctrine and Covenants 88:96-99

96 And the saints that are upon the earth, who are alive, shall be quickened and caught up to meet him.  
97 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--  
98 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.  
99 And after this another angel shall sound, which is the second trump; and then cometh the redemption of those who are Christ's at his coming; who have received their part in that prison which is prepared for them, that they might receive the gospel, and be judged according to men in the flesh.

Those who are righteous, but still on the earth will be caught up to meet Him. Following the sound of the second trump, those who have been in the Spirit Prison and accepted Christ and His gospel prior to His Second Coming will now come forth, be resurrected, and enter the terrestrial glory.

"e. The Savior will put all enemies under His feet.

Doctrine and Covenants 49:6

6 And they have done unto the Son of Man even as they listed; and he has taken his power on the right hand of glory, and now reigneth in the heavens, and will reign till he descends on the earth to put all enemies under his feet, which time is nigh at hand--

Following the Saviors' death and resurrection, He then took his place next to His Father. Here he reigns until He returns to the earth to put all the enemies under his feet.

"f. No one, not even the angels, knows the hour or the day when the Savior will come.

Doctrine and Covenants 49:7

**7 I, the Lord God, have spoken it; but the hour and the day no man knoweth, neither the angels in heaven, nor shall they know until he comes.**

Many individuals have sought to predict the day and hour of the Savior's return. They have even convinced some individuals to follow their direction and authority. It is important for each of us to be on guard regarding these individuals for the day and hour of the Savior's return is not known even to the angels in heaven.

"g. The Savior will come in red apparel. His coming will be a time of vengeance upon the wicked and redemption for the righteous.

Doctrine and Covenants 133:46-53

**46 And it shall be said: Who is this that cometh down from God in heaven with dyed garments; yea, from the regions which are not known, clothed in his glorious apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength?**

**47 And he shall say: I am he who spake in righteousness, mighty to save.**

**48 And the Lord shall be red in his apparel, and his garments like him that treadeth in the wine-vat.**

**49 And so great shall be the glory of his presence that the sun shall hide his face in shame, and the moon shall withhold its light, and the stars shall be hurled from their places.**

**50 And his voice shall be heard; I have trodden the wine-press alone, and have brought judgment upon all people; and none were with me;**

**51 And I have trampled them in my fury, and I did tread upon them in mine anger, and their blood have I sprinkled upon my garments, and stained all my raiment; for this was the day of vengeance which was in my heart.**

52 And now the year of my redeemed is come; and they shall mention the loving kindness of their Lord, and all that he has bestowed upon them according to his goodness, and, according to his loving kindness, forever and ever.

53 In all their afflictions he was afflicted. And the angel of his presence saved them; and in his love and in his pity, he redeemed them, and bore them, and carried them all the days of old;

In the 2013 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, the heading for Section 133 states, "Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Hiram, Ohio, November 3, 1831. Prefacing this revelation, Joseph Smith's history states, "At this time, there were many things which the Elders desired to know relative to preaching the Gospel to the inhabitants of the earth, and concerning the gathering; and in order to walk by the true light, and be instructed from on high, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, 1831, I inquired of the Lord and received the following important revelation.' This section was first added to the book of Doctrine and Covenants as an appendix and was subsequently assigned a section number," (Heading: Section 133. *The Doctrine and Covenants*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981, [2013], 273).

When the Lord appears He will be dressed in red apparel symbolic of the blood He shed on behalf of all mankind. The judgment of the wicked by the Lord will be seen to be given in fury and anger, however, He knows the sins they committed and the repentance necessary for them to be redeemed. It was in the garden and on the cross where He suffered for the sins of all. Because He knows, like no one else, their wickedness, His judgments will always be fair and merciful.

The righteous will see the attributes of loving kindness, and goodness in Jesus. To those who were obedient in keeping His commandments, they will receive a greater glory. It is through His atonement that Jesus Christ will redeem His Father's spirit children, the wicked as well as the righteous. For their own personal sins, they will have to undergo a period of punishment before they can be redeemed of their spiritual separation from God, the Father."

[a–g were quoted from the *Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 116).

### **III. The Millennium Will Be a Time of Joy and Peace**

Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual states,

"The Savior's Second Coming will usher in the thousand-year period called the Millennium. The Tenth Article of Faith declares that during this time, 'Christ will reign personally upon the earth,' and 'the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.' Doctrine and Covenants, [Section] 101 provides a description of the beauty and joy we can look forward to during the Millennium." (*Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 116).

Description of Beauty and Joy during the Millennium mainly from Doctrine and Covenants 101 [a–k]:

"a. Everyone will be able to see the Savior.

Doctrine and Covenants 101:23

**23 And prepare for the revelation which is to come, when the veil of the covering of my temple, in my tabernacle, which hideth the earth, shall be taken off, and all flesh shall see me together.**

"b. All the wicked will be destroyed.

Doctrine and Covenants 101:24

**24 And every corruptible thing, both of man, or of the beasts of the field, or of the fowls of the heavens, or of the fish of the sea, that dwells upon all the face of the earth, shall be consumed;**

"c. The earth will become new.

Doctrine and Covenants 101:25

**25 And also that of element shall melt with fervent heat; and all things shall become new, that my knowledge and glory may dwell upon all the earth.**

"d. People and animals will live in peace.

Doctrine and Covenants 101:26

**26 And in that day the enmity of man, and the enmity of beasts, yea, the enmity of all flesh, shall cease from before my face.**

"e. People will be granted what they righteously desire.

Doctrine and Covenants 101:27

**27 And in that day whatsoever any man shall ask, shall be given unto him.**

"f. Satan will be bound and will not have power to tempt anyone.

Doctrine and Covenants 101:28

**28 And in that day, Satan shall not have power to tempt any man.**

Doctrine and Covenants 45:55

**55 And Satan shall be bound, that he shall have no place in the hearts of the children of men.**

Doctrine and Covenants 88:110

**110 And so on, until the seventh angel shall sound his trump; and he shall stand forth upon the land and upon the sea, and swear in the name of him who sitteth upon the throne, that there shall be time no longer; and Satan shall be bound, that old serpent, who is called the devil, and shall not be loosed for the space of a thousand years.**

"g. There will no sorrow or death.

Doctrine and Covenants 101:29

**29 And there shall be no sorrow because there is no death.**

"h. A person will grow old, then be changed suddenly from mortal to immortal life.

Doctrine and Covenants 101:30-31

**30 In that day an infant shall not die until he is old; and his life shall be as the age of a tree;  
31 And when he dies he shall not sleep, that is to say in the earth, but shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye, and shall be caught up, and his rest shall be glorious.**

"i. The Lord will reveal all things about the earth and heaven, including how the earth was created and what will become of it.

Doctrine and Covenants 101:32-34

**32 Yea, verily I say unto you, in that day when the Lord shall come, he shall reveal all things--  
33 Things which have passed, and hidden things which no man knew, things of the earth, by which it was made, and the purpose and the end thereof--  
34 Things most precious, things that are above, and things that are beneath, things that are in the earth, and upon the earth, and in heaven.**

"j. Children will grow up without sin.

Doctrine and Covenants 45:58

**58 And the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance; and they shall multiply and wax strong, and their children shall grow up without sin unto salvation.**

"k. The Lord will be the king and lawgiver for the whole earth.

Doctrine and Covenants 45:59

**59 For the Lord shall be in their midst, and his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their king and their lawgiver.**

Doctrine and Covenants 133:25

**25 And the Lord, even the Savior, shall stand in the midst of his people, and shall reign over all flesh.**  
(a-k. *Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 117).

\*How can this knowledge about the Millennium be a blessing in our lives now?

It is a blessing in my life to know that if I am faithful, I will have the opportunity to live with my loved ones, without the interference of Satan and his forces. Those who are wicked and choose not to serve the Lord will no longer be upon the earth. We will also live in a society of God's children that many saints have sought to live, but were not able. When the Nephites were able to have such a society of believers, for almost two hundred years, they wrote: "there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people...and surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of the Lord." (B/M, 4<sup>th</sup> Nephi 1:15-16).

\*How does it help you to know that righteousness will eventually triumph over wickedness?

I realize that the forces of the wicked will be great in number in comparison to the forces of good. By knowing that despite their being few in number, they will overcome the wicked, it gives me great faith and courage. Knowing that Jesus Christ is our leader, I consider it an honor to stand with Him and his chosen servants against the forces of evil.

#### **IV. We Must Prepare for the Second Coming**

Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual states,

"The Lord has repeatedly emphasized that we must prepare for His coming (D&C 133:4, 10-11). Some people may feel that they can never do enough or be good enough to prepare adequately. They may become discouraged and feel that such preparation is impossible. However, the Lord has given counsel in the Doctrine and Covenants to teach us that we can prepare for this important event as part of our daily lives." (*Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 117).

\*What can we do in our lives to prepare for the Second Coming?

The Signs of the Savior's coming.

Through the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord has revealed many of the signs that will precede His Second Coming. Knowing the signs will give us strength and understanding and help us not to fear the events as they occur. Some people who know it is going to rain today, stay home and worry about the potential damage of the storm. Others, gather their umbrella, and raincoat, and go forward with their lives. While they also know it is going to rain, they go forward because they are prepared. If we are prepared, we too can survive the storm of the latter days.

A. Positive Signs [a-e]:

"a. The fulness of the gospel will be restored.

Doctrine and Covenants 45:9

**9 And even so 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.**

I believe it is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, that serves as the bearer of the everlasting covenants for herein is found the power of the priesthood which binds on earth and in heaven. The Church of Jesus Christ also teaches the mission and life of Jesus Christ who stands as a light to the world. His gospel provides a

standard to the world that they may know right from wrong. In turn, it is the missionary force of the Church [members and full-time missionaries] who serve as messengers throughout the world of the Savior and his restored gospel.

"b. The New Jerusalem will be built. It will be a place of peace and safety for the righteous in the last days.

Doctrine and Covenants 45:66-71

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 shall also 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.

70 And it shall be said among the wicked: Let us not go up to battle against Zion, for the inhabitants of Zion are terrible; wherefore we cannot stand.

71 And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, and shall come to Zion, singing with songs of everlasting joy.

We read in the Pearl of Great Price regarding Enoch's power to protect his city against their enemies.

PGP, Moses 7:13 [underline added]

13 And so great was the faith of Enoch that he led the people of God, and their enemies came to battle against them: and he spake the word of the Lord and the earth trembled, and the mountains fled even according to his command; and the rivers of water were turned out of their course; and the roar of the lions was heard out of the wilderness; and all nations feared greatly, so powerful was the word of Enoch, and so great was the power of the language which God had given him.

We see that the Lord protected the inhabitants of Enoch's city from their enemies. He will also protect the righteous in the city of Zion who gather together in the latter days for protection.

"c. God's kingdom will be established on the earth.

Doctrine and Covenants 65:2-6

**2 The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth.**

**3 Yea, a voice crying--Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the supper of the Lamb, make ready for the Bridegroom.**

**4 Pray unto the Lord, call upon his holy name, make known his wonderful works among the people.**

**5 Call upon the Lord, that his kingdom may go forth upon the earth, that the inhabitants thereof may receive it, and be prepared for the days to come, in the which the Son of Man shall come down in heaven, clothed in the brightness of his glory, to meet the kingdom of God which is set up on the earth.**

**6 Wherefore, may the kingdom of God go forth, that the kingdom of heaven may come, that thou, O God, mayest be glorified in heaven so on earth, that thine enemies may be subdued; for thine is the honor, power and glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

In the 2013 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, the heading for Section 65 states, "Revelation on prayer given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Hiram, Ohio, October 30, 1831." (Heading: Section 65. *The Doctrine and Covenants*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981, [2013}, 122).

We learn that there are two kingdoms of God. One is the kingdom of heaven and the other is the kingdom of God upon the earth. They both operate on the same principles and commandments, the difference being their location. With the coming of the Savior, the kingdom of heaven will be united with the kingdom of God on earth. When this occurs there would be full and complete communication between heaven and earth. It would seem that family history work could then go

forth with greater speed since there is now full access to heavenly records.

"d. Priesthood keys to be restored. [Moses, Elias, Elijah]

Doctrine and Covenants 110:11-16

11 After this vision closed, the heavens were again opened unto us; and Moses appeared before us, and committed unto us the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth, and the leading of the ten tribes from the land of the north.

12 After this, Elias appeared, and committed the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham, saying that in us and our seed all generations after us should be blessed.

13 After this vision had closed, another great and glorious vision burst upon us; for Elijah the prophet, who was taken to heaven without tasting death, stood before us, and said:

14 Behold, the time has fully come, which was spoken of by the mouth of Malachi--testifying that he [Elijah] should be sent, before the great and dreadful day of the Lord come--

15 To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the fathers, lest the whole earth be smitten with a curse--

16 Therefore, the keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands; and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors.

"e. The gospel to be preached throughout the world.

Doctrine and Covenants 133:8-9, 36-39

8 Send forth the elders of my church unto the nations which are afar off; unto the islands of the sea; send forth unto foreign lands; call upon all nations, first upon the Gentiles, and then upon the Jews.

9 And behold, and lo, this shall be their cry, and the voice of the Lord unto all people: Go ye forth unto the land of Zion, that the borders of my people may be enlarged, and that her stakes may be strengthened, and that Zion may go forth unto the regions round about.

36 And now, verily saith the Lord, that these things might be known among you, O inhabitants of the earth, I have sent forth mine angel flying through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel, who hath appeared unto some and hath committed it unto man, who shall appear unto many that dwell on the earth.  
37 And this gospel shall be preached unto every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.  
38 And the servants of God shall go forth, saying with a loud voice: Fear God and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come;  
39 And worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters--

(a-e *Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 118).

B. Negative signs [a-f]:

"a. There will be great weeping, despair, and fear. Man's hearts will fail them.

Doctrine and Covenants 29:15

**15 And there shall be weeping and wailing among the hosts of men;**

Doctrine and Covenants 88:91

**91 And all things shall be in commotion; and surely men's hearts shall fail them; for fear shall come upon all people.**

It is important to remember that during times when we begin to feel fear, the antidote to fear is faith in Jesus Christ. As we turn our focus to Him, and trust in Him, all will be well despite the storm that surrounds us.

"b. There will be famines, scourges, sickness, and desolation [striped of inhabitants].

Doctrine and Covenants 29:16

**16 And there shall be a great hailstorm sent forth to destroy the crops of the earth.**

Doctrine and Covenants 45:31

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

Doctrine and Covenants 112:24

**24 Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation; and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord.**

In the past, the Lord has used the forces of nature to bring his children to repentance. Two examples are, Elijah brought about a famine [1 Kings 17:1], as did Nephi II [B/M, Helaman 10:6] in order to bring the people to repentance. Famines also test the obedience of the righteous who have in latter days been directed to have a year's supply of food and water on hand. Those who heed the Lord's counsel will be prepared.

"c. There will be signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth.

Doctrine and Covenants 34:9

**9 But before that great day shall come, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon be turned into blood; and the stars shall refuse their shining, and some shall fall, and great destructions await the wicked.**

Doctrine and Covenants 45:40-42

**40 And they shall see signs and wonders, for they shall be shown forth in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath.**

**41 And they shall behold blood, and fire, and vapors of smoke.**

**42 And before the day of the Lord shall come, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon be turned into blood, and the stars fall from heaven.**

Doctrine and Covenants 88:87

**87 For not many days hence and the earth shall tremble and reel to and fro as a drunken man; and the sun shall hide his face, and shall refuse to give light; and the moon shall be bathed in blood; and the stars shall become exceedingly angry, and shall cast themselves down as a fig that falleth from off a fig tree.**

It seems to me that the signs in the heavens are for the benefit of those who have read the scriptures and are familiar with the signs of the Lord's coming. Those who are unfamiliar with the Lord's signs, likely will pass them off as cosmic occurrences, attributing little importance to them.

"d. There will be wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth will be in commotion.

Doctrine and Covenants 45:26

**26 And in that day 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.**

As recorded in the Book of Mormon, Samuel the Lamanite gave the sign of a-day-and-a night-and-a-day without darkness so the people in ancient America would know that the Savior had been born. As the time drew near, the disbelievers stated that the day had passed and no sign was given. They then set a date when the believers would be put to death. (see B/M, Heleman 14:3-4; B/M, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi 1:8-9, 13-19.)

Doctrine and Covenants 63:33

**33 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;**

"e. The love of men will become cold, and iniquity will abound.

Doctrine and Covenants 45:27

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

2 Timothy 3:1-4

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous [risk, dangerous] times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy;

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent [without self restraint], fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady [rash, reckless], highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.

"f. There will be earthquakes, tempests, and great waves of the sea. Men will harden their hearts against God and fight each other.

Doctrine and Covenants 45:33

33 And there shall be earthquakes also in divers [different, dissimilar] places, and many desolations; yet men will harden their hearts against me, and they will take up the sword, one against another, and they will kill one another.

Doctrine and Covenants 88:89-90

89 For after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes, that shall cause groaning in the midst of her, and men shall fall upon the ground and shall not be able to stand.

90 And also cometh the testimony of the voice of thunderings, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea heaving themselves beyond their bounds.

(a-f *Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 118).

As we evaluate the occurrence of the signs noted, we will recognize some that have already occurred; some are in the process of being fulfilled, and some await fulfillment.

Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual states,

"The Lord has counseled us [as members] to "be not troubled" during the turmoil of the last days (D&C 45:35).

\*How can we maintain hope and avoid feeling distressed when we are surrounded by the wickedness and turmoil of the last days?

Doctrine and Covenants 38:30

**30 I tell you these things because of your prayers; wherefore, treasure up wisdom in your bosoms,...if you are prepared ye shall not fear.**

We are blessed to have the words of the scriptures to give us strength and comfort. In them we learn that others have had difficult times and they have survived, some even had their faith strengthened.

We also have modern-day Prophets and Apostles who are inspired of the Lord to give us words of counsel. If we heed the words of the Lord, and follow the direction of His servants, though times will be difficult, we need not fear. We also have the gift of the Holy Ghost to prompt us and give us personal direction.

## **V. Standing in Holy Places**

It is especially important that we are prepared spiritually and our lives are in keeping with the covenants we have made with the Lord.

Steps to take to be prepared [a-d]:

"a. Be steadfast in righteousness

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet state,

"One is "steadfast in Christ" (B/M, 2 Nephi 31:20) when...we pursue an undeviating course of obedience and righteousness." (*Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, Vol. 1. Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1987, [11<sup>th</sup> Printing, 1999], 367).

Doctrine and Covenants 27:15

**15 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, that ye may be able to stand.**

Doctrine and Covenants 33:17

**17 Wherefore, be faithful, praying always, having your lamps trimmed and burning, and oil with you, that you may be ready at the coming of the Bridegroom--**

"b. Cry repentance and be repentant.

Doctrine and Covenants 34:6

**6 To lift up your voice as with the sound of a trump, both long and loud, and cry repentance unto a crooked and perverse generation, preparing the way of the Lord for his second coming.**

Doctrine and Covenants 39:19-20

**19 Wherefore, go forth, crying with a loud voice, saying: The kingdom of heaven is at hand; crying: Hosanna! blessed be the name of the Most High God.  
20 Go forth baptizing with water, preparing the way before my face for the time of my coming;**

Doctrine and Covenants 43:20-23

**20 Lift up your voices and spare not. Call upon the nations to repent, both old and young, both bond and free, saying: Prepare yourselves for the great day of the Lord;**

21 For if I, who am a man, do lift up my voice and call upon you to repent, and ye hate me, what will ye say when the day cometh when the thunders shall utter their voices from the ends of the earth, speaking to the ears of all that live, saying--Repent, and prepare for the great day of the Lord?

22 Yea, and again, when the lightening shall streak forth from the east unto the west, and shall utter forth their voices unto all that live, and make the ears of all tingle that hear, saying these words--Repent ye, for the great day of the Lord is come?

23 And again, the Lord shall utter his voice out of heaven, saying: Hearken, O ye nations of the earth, and hear the words of that God who made you.

\*Why is repentance important in preparing for the Second Coming?

We all have sinned. We cannot come into the presence of God when we are unclean. Therefore, it is important that we strive to repent of our sins that we may become clean. The words of the Psalmist remind us, those who are going to be ready to meet the Lord without fear will be those who "hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully" (Psalm 24:40). They have worked to put their spiritual home in order.

"c. Stand in holy Places.

Doctrine and Covenants 45:32

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.

Doctrine and Covenants 87:8

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.

In the 2013 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, the heading for Section 87 states, "Revelation and prophecy on war, given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at or near Kirtland, Ohio, December 25, 1832. At the time disputes in the United State over slavery and South Carolina's

nullification of federal tariffs were prevalent. Joseph Smith's history states that 'appearances of troubles among the nations' were becoming 'more visible; to the Prophet 'than they had previously been since the Church began her journey out of the wilderness.'" (Heading: Section 87. *The Doctrine and Covenants*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1981, [2013], 164).

Ezra Taft Benson states,

"Holy men and holy women stand in holy places, and these holy places include our temples, our chapels, our homes, and the stakes of Zion." ("Prepare Yourselves for the Great Day of the Lord," in *Brigham Young University 1981 Fireside and Devotional Speeches*. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University, 1981, 68).

Doctrine and Covenants 101:22-23

**22 Behold, it is my will, that all they who call on my name, and worship me according to mine everlasting gospel, should gather together, and stand in holy places;**

**23 And prepare for the revelation which is to come, when the veil of the covering of my temple, in my tabernacle, which hideth the earth shall be taken off, and all flesh shall see me together.**

\*What can we do to keep ourselves worthy and holy even when we are in [a] worldly environment?

We can begin and end our day on our knees seeking guidance and protection for ourselves and our families. We can follow the promptings of the Holy Ghost. We can be an example of our beliefs. We can stand up for what we believe is right. We can treat others with kindness and patience.

"d. Have the Holy Spirit as our guide.

Doctrine and Covenants 45:56-57

**56 And at that day, when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins.**

**57 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.**

Gordon B. Hinckley asks,

"How do you prepare for the Second Coming? You just live the kind of life that if the Second Coming were to be tomorrow you would be ready. Nobody knows when it is going to happen...Our responsibility is to prepare ourselves, to live worthy of the association of the Savior, to deport ourselves in such a way that we would not be embarrassed if He were to come among us. That is a challenge in this day and age." (*Church News*, 2 January 1999, 2).

Robert L. Millet adds,

"The extent to which I am prepared to meet the Lord Jesus when he comes again might very well be reflected, for example, in the extent to which I am learning each day to tame the tongue; to channel my thoughts in righteous paths; to choose not to be offended but rather to assume the best; to ask myself consistently what I can do to serve and lighten the burdens of others; to put on hold my immediate gratifications in order to achieve a higher aim than satisfied selfhood; to be willing to be inconvenienced; and to be found at my duty station at all times." (*Living in the Eleventh Hour*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 2014, 3).

(a-d *Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 118).

Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual states,

"The Lord has revealed more information about the Second Coming and the Millennium to...[the Latter-day prophets of His Church] than to any other group in the history of the world. With this information, we can be prepared and steadfast in righteousness as His prophecies are being fulfilled all around us. [Rather than a time of dread], we should look forward with joy to the time when the Savior will return and usher in the millennial reign of peace and righteousness." (*Doctrine and Covenants and Church History*

*Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1999, 118-119).

Those who should fear the Lord's Coming are those who have chosen to follow the directions of Satan. Those who should fear are those who have chosen evil over good; and who resent and despise those who seek to do good. Those who should fear are those who distribute pornography, alcohol, and drugs. Those who should fear are those who call good, evil; and evil, good. Those who should fear are those who lie and cheat their fellowmen and turn their backs on those in need. Those who should fear the Lord's Second Coming are those who do not value human life. In the end, like Satan whom they serve, they will become as miserable as he is.

## **VI. Conclusions**

Orson F. Whitney reminds us that "we stand at the present moment in the Saturday evening of time...House cleaning is in progress, and Saturday's work must be done and out of the way, before the Lord of the Sabbath appears." (*Saturday Night Thoughts*. Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1921, 3).

As we consider the Second Coming of the Lord, we need to remember that we need to prepare for His coming, including putting our own house in order.

**The Savior Will Return to Earth in Power and Glory:** In contrast to His birth, the Savior's return will be in power and glory. (a) Those who are proud and rebellious and wicked will be burned; (b) These are the latter days and the Second Coming is near; (c) All nations will tremble and only the faithful and righteous will be saved; (d) It will be a time of resurrection for many who have died will live again. The Savior will come to the Mount of Olives as the Battle of Armageddon comes to a close. Due to His intervention, many of the Jews will be saved. Many will then recognize Him as Jesus Christ whom they crucified; (e) The Savior will put all enemies under His feet; (f) No one, not even the angels knows the hour or day when the Savior will come; and (g) The Savior will come in red apparel.

**The Millennium Will be a Time of Joy and Peace:** (a) Everyone will be able to see the Savior; (b) All the wicked will be destroyed; (c) The earth will be renewed; (d) People and animals will live in peace; (f) Satan will be bound and will have no power to tempt anyone; (g) There will be no sorrow or death; (h) A person will grow old, then be changed suddenly from mortal to immortal life; (i) The Lord will reveal all things about the earth and heaven; (j) Children will grow up without sin; and, (k) The Lord will be the king and lawgiver for the whole earth.

**We Must Prepare for the Second Coming: Positive signs include:** (a) The fullness of the gospel will be restored; (b) The New Jerusalem in Jackson County, Missouri, will be built. It will be a place of peace and safety for the righteous in the last days; (c) God's kingdom will be established on the earth; (d) Priesthood keys will be restored; and, (e) The gospel will be preached throughout the world. Negative signs are: (a) There will be great weeping, despair, and fear. Men's hearts will fail them; (b) There will be famines, scourges, sickness, and desolation; (c) There will be signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth; (d) There will be wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth will be in commotion; (e) The love of men will become cold, and iniquity will abound; and, (f) There will be earthquakes, tempests, and great waves of the sea. Men will harden their hearts against God and fight each other.

**Standing in Holy Places:** (a) Be steadfast in righteousness; (b) Cry repentance and be repentant; (c) Stand in holy places; and, (d) Have the Holy Spirit as our guide.

We prepare ourselves spiritually and temporally by putting our own houses in order, through personal repentance, obedience to all the commandments, and following the counsel of our leaders. If we do so, we will be blessed, even during the tremulous times that are ahead.

Our next lesson [D&C#22] addresses the Word of Wisdom: A Principle with Promise. We will also examine the Lord's other counsel about our physical health.