

D&C Lesson 21

“LOOKING FORTH FOR THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD TO COME”

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, June 2001

“We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.” [Article of Faith 10]

1. The Second Coming: the Savior will return to the earth in power and great glory

The Timing:

A. *D&C 33:3*. “It is the *eleventh hour*.” [34:7, 12] “The time is *soon at hand* that I shall come in a cloud with power and great glory. . . . *I come quickly*.” [43:17] “The great day of the Lord is *nigh at hand*.” [110:16] “The great and dreadful day of the Lord is *near, even at the doors*.” [D&C 87:8] “Stand ye in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come; for behold, *it cometh quickly*, saith the Lord.”

B. *D&C 49:7*. “The hour and the day no man knoweth, neither the angels in heaven, nor shall they know until he comes.” [Mt. 24:36-39; Mk. 13:32-33; D&C 133:11]

Descriptions of Second Coming Events:

A. *D&C 29:9-11*. The Lord will reveal Himself from heaven with power and great glory, with all the heavenly hosts. The wicked will be burned. He will dwell on the earth a thousand years (the Millennium). [45:44; 63:34]

B. *D&C 45:45-59*. (1) An angel will sound his trump and the righteous dead will be resurrected and caught up heaven to descend with the Savior. (2) The saints will come forth from the four quarters of the earth. (3) The arm of the Lord shall fall upon the nations. (4) All nations will hear his voice and shall mourn. (5) The Lord shall stand upon the Mt. of Olives and it will split in two [Zech. 14:4-11, 13:6]. (6) Jews will look upon Him, recognize that is the Christ that their forefathers crucified, and lament because they persecuted their king. (7) The wicked shall be hewn down and cast into the fire. (8) The heathen nations shall be redeemed, and those that died without law [unless they are so wicked they have been cast into hell] shall have part in the first resurrection. [They will hear the gospel while on earth, as resurrected beings, during the Millennium.] (9) Satan will be bound, and have no place in men’s hearts. [1 Ne. 22:26, 15] (10) Those who are righteous shall not be cast into the fire. (11) The earth shall be given to the righteous for an inheritance. (12) The Lord will be in their midst, and be their king and lawgiver.

C. *D&C 133:41-52*. (1) The Lord shall be “as the melting fire that burneth, and as the fire which causeth the waters to boil.” Mountains shall flow down. (2) He shall be dressed in red apparel. (3) His glory shall be so great that it will exceed the light of the sun and moon. (3) His voice shall be heard, saying that he has brought judgment, and now the year of his redeemed is come.

D. *D&C 88:95-99*. A description of the first resurrection, at the time of Christ’s coming.

3. We are to prepare ourselves for the Lord’s advent in glory

A. *D&C 133:4, 10-11*. “Prepare ye, prepare ye, O my people; sanctify yourselves; . . . Prepare yourselves for the great day of the Lord. Watch, . . .”

Gordon B. Hinckley: “How do you prepare for the Second Coming? Well, you just do not worry about it. 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*, January 2, 1999, p. 2]

Boyd K. Packer: “Teenagers also sometimes think, ‘What’s the use? The world will soon be blown all apart and come to an end.’ That feeling comes from fear, not from faith. No one knows the hour or the day, but the end cannot come until all of the purposes of the Lord are fulfilled. Everything that I have learned from the revelations and from life convinces me that there is time and to spare for you to carefully prepare for a long life.” [*Ensign*, May 1989, p. 59]

B. *D&C 45:35*. “Be not troubled, for, when all these things shall come to pass, ye may know that the promises which have been made to you shall be fulfilled.”

C. *D&C 38:30*. “If ye are prepared ye shall not fear.”

4. We are to watch for signs of events which will precede the Lord’s Second Coming

A. *Mk. 13:28-37*. “Take ye heed, *watch* and *pray*: for ye know not when the time is.”

(See also *JS-M 1:38-55; Mt. 24:42-51*.)

B. *D&C 61:38*. “Gird up your loins and *be watchful* and *be sober, looking forth for the coming of the Son of Man*, for he cometh in an hour you think not.”

C. Identify both *Positive* and *Negative* signs. For example:

Positive signs:

1. The fulness of the gospel will be restored. [*D&C 45:9; 133:57-58*]
2. God’s Kingdom will be established on the earth. [*D&C 65:2-6*]
3. Priesthood keys will be restored. [*D&C 110:11-16*]
4. The gospel will be preached throughout the world. [*D&C 133:7-9, 36-39; Mt. 24:14*]
5. The New Jerusalem will be built, and the righteous will gather to it. [*D&C 45:66-71*]

Negative signs:

1. All things will be in commotion; fear shall come upon all people. [*D&C 88:91*]
2. There will be famines, scourges, sickness and desolation. [*D&C 112:24; 87:6; 45:31; 29:16*]
3. There will be wars and rumors of wars. [*D&C 87:2, 6; 45:26, 69; 63:33-34*]
4. The love of men will become cold, and iniquity will abound. [*D&C 45:27*]
5. There will be earthquakes, and great tempests. [*D&C 88:89-90*]
6. Men will harden their hearts against God and fight against each other. [*D&C 45:33, 68*]

5. We are to stand in holy places

A. *D&C 45:32*. “My disciples shall stand in holy places, and shall not be moved.”

B. *D&C 87:8*. “Stand ye in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come.”

C. *D&C 101:22-23*. “. . . gather together, and stand in holy places; and prepare for the revelation which is to come, . . . and all flesh shall see me together.”

D. “What are some of these holy places? They could include our temples, our chapels, our homes, and the stakes of Zion.” [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual*, 1999, p. 118]

6. Six parables of the Second Coming:

A. *Mt. 25:1-13*. *Parable of the Ten Virgins*. (See *D&C 45:56-59; 63:53-54*.)

B. *Mt. 25:14-30*. *Parable of the Talents*. (See *Lk. 19:11-27; Eth. 12:34-35; D&C 60:2-3, 13*.)

C. *Mt. 25:31-46*. *Parable of the Sheep and the Goats*. (See *Al. 5:57; D&C 63:53-54*.)

D. **D&C 45:36-39.** *Parable of the Fig Trees.* (See Mt. 24:32-34; Mk. 13:28-31; JS–M 1:38-40.)

E. **JS –M 1:27.** *Parable of the Eagles and the Carcass.* (See Mt. 24:28.)

F. **JS–M 1:47-54.** *Parable of the Faithful and Evil Servants.* (See Mt. 24:45-51; Mk. 13:34-37.)

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