

Revelation 8-9

I want the Latter-day Saints to understand their position. Our trust is in God. ... We are living at the commencement of the Millennium, and near the close of the 6,000th year of the world's history. Tremendous events await this generation. You can read an account of them in the revelations of St. John; the opening of the seals; the blowing of the trumpets; the pouring out of the plagues; the judgments of God which will overtake the wicked when Great Babylon comes in remembrance before God, and when the sword that is bathed in heaven shall fall on Idumea, or the world, who shall be able to abide these things? Here we are living in the midst of these tremendous events. ...

We are in the hands of God; our nation is, and so are the nations of the earth; and when they undertake to overthrow the Kingdom of God, which is decreed shall be established, they have somebody to fight against ... This warfare is between God and the devil, between light and darkness, truth and error, between the heavens and the earth; and that God who has supported His work from the creation of the world, is bound to do it unto the end.

President Wilford Woodruff, January 6, 1884

Revelation 8:6

The Prophet on one occasion asked the Lord what was meant by the sounding of the trumpets of the seven angels, and the Lord answered him in this language, as near as I can recollect: "As the Lord made the earth and the heavens in six days, and on the seventh day finished his work, and made man out of the dust of the earth, even so, in the beginning of the seventh thousand years will the Lord God sanctify the earth, and redeem man, even all that is within his power, and shall seal all things unto the end of all things. And the sounding of the seven trumps is the preparing and finishing of his work, in the morning of the seventh thousand years." (See D&C 77:12)

This gives a clue to the time when the seven angels will sound. They will not sound their trumpets in the evening of the sixth thousand years, but when the six thousand years shall have passed away from the creation, and the morning of the seventh has commenced, then these great events will happen. Jesus does not come immediately at the commencement of the seventh thousand years, but as there was a work in the beginning which he performed on the seventh day, such as planting the garden and placing men therein, so there will be a certain work to be performed in the beginning of the seventh thousand years, namely, the resurrection and redemption of man, including the heathen nations and those people in prison who have died without the law and have been punished for their sins. When the Lord

has caused these seven angels to sound their trumpets, he will bring about all these purposes which he has ordained, and which must be accomplished in that morning. Before Jesus appears in the clouds of heaven they are to sound to prepare the way of the Lord before his coming.

Latter-Day Judgments. Elder Orson Pratt, January 26, 1873.

Revelation 8:10 - Who Fell from Heaven?

A star is sometimes used in the scriptures as a symbol of a great and important person. One star that fell from heaven is Satan, or Lucifer, as he was known in the premortal existence. (Read Isaiah 14:12; D&C 76:25–27.)

Revelation 8:10. What Is the Significance of Wormwood as It Relates to the Star That Fell from Heaven?

The wormwood associated with the star that fell from heaven is a symbol of the bitterness and awfulness which comes to all who follow the devil. Wormwood was a plant with an extremely bitter taste. To use it for food or drink was to eat that which brought about death. In the case of Satan, all who follow his evil ways perish in spiritual death.

The Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles, Chapter 55: "The Kingdoms of This World Are Become the Kingdoms of Our Lord"

Revelation 9:1

if hell has no bottom in it, those who were sent there would crawl out at the other side. If the inhabitants of the earth could be persuaded of the absurdity of the sectarian notions, they would not care much about the hell they believe in. ...

I do not wish to dwell upon these absurdities, but I desire you to go to work and save your grain against a day of famine.

Gospel of Salvation, &c., President Heber C. Kimball, September 2, 1860.

Revelation 9:4–10

"During this particular period of the war and desolation the evil forces will be directed against all men, save those sealed up unto eternal life, for those in Zion shall be preserved. The plagues and torments of this era shall so afflict men that they shall desire to die rather than to suffer more.

"In prophetic imagery John here seeks to describe a war fought with weapons and under circumstances entirely foreign to any experience of his own or of the people of that day. Joel, subject to the same limitations of descriptive ability, attempted to portray the same scenes in these words: [Read Joel 2:1–11.]

"It is not improbable that these ancient prophets were seeing

such things as men wearing or protected by strong armor; as troops of cavalry and companies of tanks and flame throwers; as airplanes and airborne missiles which explode, fire shells and drop bombs; and even other weapons yet to be devised in an age when warfare is the desire and love of wicked men.” (McConkie, DNTC, 3:502–3.)

Revelation 9:11. Who Is Abaddon, or Apollyon?

John tells us that this is the angel of the bottomless pit. He gives his name in Hebrew and Greek. Both the Hebrew and the Greek words come from the roots meaning “to destroy” or “destruction.” Thus the name signifies “the Destroyer,” an appropriate title for Satan. There is yet another word which is related to these two names and which serves as one of the devil’s names. It is Perdition (see Moses 5:24), and it means “utter loss” or “destruction.”

The Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles, Chapter 55: “The Kingdoms of This World Are Become the Kingdoms of Our Lord”

Revelation 10-11

Revelation 10:10, 11 - What Was the Little Book John Ate?

“A great mission was given unto John because of his desire, and he is even now laboring as ‘a flaming fire and a ministering angel, for those who are heirs of salvation.’ In the tenth chapter of Revelation we read that John was given a little book by the angel and commanded to eat it up, which he did, and he said ‘it was in my mouth sweet as honey; and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.’ And the angel said by way of interpretation of this act: ‘Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.’ When this mission was given, John was an old man far beyond the allotted years of three score and ten. In answer to a question as to the meaning of this vision of the book, the Prophet Joseph Smith said: It was a mission and an ordinance for John to gather the tribes of Israel. (D. & C. 77:14.) At a conference of the Church, held June, 1831, Joseph Smith said ‘that John the Revelator was then among the ten tribes of Israel who had been led away by Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, to prepare them for their return from their long dispersion.’ (Documentary History of the Church, Vol. 1:176; Essentials in Church History, p. 126.)” (Smith, Church History and Modern Revelation, 1:48.)

Revelation 11:3–13 – The Two Witnesses Who Prophesy at Jerusalem

Read D&C 77:15.

“Suffice it to say, the Jews gather home, and rebuild Jerusalem. The nations gather against them in battle. Their armies encompass the city, and have more or less power over it for three years and a half. A couple of Jewish prophets, by their mighty miracles, keep them from utterly over-coming the Jews; until at length they are slain, and the

city is left in a great measure to the mercy of their enemies for three days and a half. The two prophets then rise from the dead and ascend up into heaven.

The Messiah comes, convulses the earth, overthrows the army of the Gentiles, delivers the Jews, cleanses Jerusalem, cuts off all wickedness from the earth, raises the Saints from the dead, brings them with him, and commences his reign of a thousand years; during which time his Spirit will be poured out upon flesh; men and beasts, birds and serpents, will be perfectly harmless, and peace and the knowledge and glory of God shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea; and the kingdom and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the saints of the Most High.” (Pratt, A Voice of Warning and Instruction to All People, pp. 49–50.)

The Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles, Chapter 55: “The Kingdoms of This World Are Become the Kingdoms of Our Lord”

Revelation 11:15 – The Kingdoms are become the Lord's

May I quote one sentence which the Prophet Joseph Smith, writing by revelation and inspiration, included in that famous document, "The Wentworth Letter." He said: ". . . No unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing; persecutions may rage, mobs may combine, armies may assemble, calumny may defame, but the truth of God will go forth boldly, nobly, and independent, till it has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country, and sounded in every ear, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the Great Jehovah shall say the work is done" (*History of the Church*, vol. 4, p. 540).

You and I are in this kingdom at its beginning. The groundwork is being laid. Out of small beginnings come great things. We have had tremendous progression and growth; we are established and recognized in the world already; but there will be an eventual day when the whole earth will be converted to the truth, when every living soul will come into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

We are in the kingdom of God now which is exclusively an ecclesiastical kingdom. This kingdom is going to grow and increase, multiply and abound, and nothing can stop it, until the day comes that it will be both an ecclesiastical kingdom and a political kingdom, and it will govern in all things—spiritual, civil, temporal, and political. The kingdoms of this world are going to become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ (Rev. 11:15).

President John Taylor said this: "It has been asked . . . whether this kingdom will fail. I tell you in the name of Israel's God it will not fail. I tell you in the name of Israel's God it will roll forth, and that the things spoken of by the holy prophets in relation to it will receive their fulfillment. But in connection with this I will tell you another thing: A great

many of the Latter-day Saints will fail, a great many of them are not now and never have been living up to their privileges, and magnifying their callings and their priesthood, and God will have a reckoning with such people, unless they speedily repent" (*Gospel Kingdom*, p. 137)

Bruce R. McConkie, Conference Report, October 1958, pp. 114-117

The kingdom of God will not fail; it shall not be destroyed; it will not be left to other people; it will stand forever until "the kingdoms of this world [will] become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ."

"May the Kingdom of God Go Forth", President Ezra Taft Benson, April 1978 General Conference

Revelation 12-14

Joseph Smith made many significant changes in the book of Revelation as he worked on the Inspired Version. Of the many chapters in which changes were made, chapter twelve was the most revised. Every verse, with the exception of verse 12, received some change. Two verses were changed in such a manner that the meaning of the entire chapter was significantly altered. Those verses are 1 and 7:

"And there appeared a great sign in heaven, in the likeness of things on the earth; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars."

"And the dragon prevailed not against Michael, neither the child, nor the woman which was the church of God, who had been delivered of her pains, and brought forth the kingdom of our God and his Christ."

Revelation 12:1, 4, 15 – Who Are the Woman and the Manchild Mentioned by John?

"A woman ('the church of God') gives birth to a man child ('the kingdom of our God and his Christ' which shall hold sway during the Millennial Era, the kingdom John has just seen in vision!). See Rev. 11:14–19. Such is the Prophet's inspired interpretation. Among Biblical scholars of the world, the man child is presumed to be Christ, a speculative conclusion which, though seemingly persuasive, is refuted by the obvious fact that the Church did not bring forth Christ; he the Creator of the Church. Among Latter-day Saint scriptural exegetes [those who explain scriptures using critical techniques], it is not uncommon to say that the man child is the priesthood, a seemingly persuasive speculation, which again however must be rejected by the same line of reasoning. The Church did not bring forth the priesthood, but the priesthood is the power that brought the Church into being." (McConkie, DNTC, 3:511.)

Though at first it may seem confusing to speak of the Church

and the kingdom as separate entities, the one giving birth to the other, this in fact is the condition to exist in the Millennium. The Church is a spiritual organization governed by priesthood and revelation. Only those who have covenanted with Christ in the waters of baptism hold membership therein. The kingdom of God is a product of the Church. It is a political organization in which all men who live in the millennial era will belong.

"After Christ comes, all the peoples of the earth will be subject to him, but there will be multitudes of people on the face of the earth who will not be members of the Church; yet all will have to be obedient to the laws of the kingdom of God, for it will have dominion upon the whole face of the earth. These people will be subject to the political government, even though they are not members of the ecclesiastical kingdom which is the Church.

"This government which embraces all the peoples of the earth, both in and out of the Church, is also sometimes spoken of as the kingdom of God, because the people are subject to the kingdom of God which Christ will set up; but they have their agency and thousands will not be members of the Church until they are converted; yet at the same time they will be subject to the theocratic rule." (Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:229.)

The Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles, Chapter 55: "The Kingdoms of This World Are Become the Kingdoms of Our Lord"

Each one of you can be a friend to someone, even if it is only by smiling. Like Vicki, you can let the sunshine that is in your heart show in your face. The Apostle John wrote of "a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet." [Joseph Smith Translation, Rev. 12:1.] Similarly, you young women can be bearers of light.

Your Light—a Standard to All Nations, President James E. Faust, April 2006 General Conference

Revelation 12:3–4, 7–17—A Red Dragon with Seven Heads, Ten Horns, and Seven Crowns

The dragon is identified in Revelation 12:9 as Satan, the devil. The heads represent his knowledge, the horns represent his power, and the crowns represent his rule or control over those who allow themselves to be overcome by him. Notice that according to verse 4 he "drew the third part of the stars of heaven." Modern revelation helps us understand this represents those who followed him in the premortal life and were not permitted to obtain a body and continue their eternal progression (see D&C 29:36–38; Abraham 3:23–28).

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Revelation 12:4. Who Are the Stars of Heaven That Were Cast to the Earth?

These are the Father's spirit children who rejected the plan of

salvation and followed Lucifer in the premortal life.

The Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles, Chapter 55: "The Kingdoms of This World Are Become the Kingdoms of Our Lord"

Revelation 12:7–11, 17 — War in Heaven

The Prophet Joseph Smith said, "The contention in heaven was—Jesus said there would be certain souls that would not be saved; and the devil said he would save them all, and laid his plans before the grand council, who gave their vote in favor of Jesus Christ. So the devil rose up in rebellion against God, and was cast down, with all who put up their heads for him" (History of the Church, 6:314; see also Moses 4:1–4; Abraham 3:23–28).

The war between good and evil was not over after Satan's defeat in the premortal life. Revelation 12:17 tells us that he continues to war against the Saints of God (see also D&C 76:28–29). President Ezra Taft Benson said, "We live in that day which John the Revelator foresaw. . . . Satan is waging war against the members of the Church who have testimonies and are trying to keep the commandments" ("The Power of the Word," Ensign, May 1986, 79). . . .

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With God's kingdom restored to the earth and your entry into the world, Satan knows that "he hath but a short time." [Revelation 12:12.] Therefore, Satan is marshalling every resource at his disposal to entice you into transgression. He knows that if he can draw you into transgression, he may prevent you from serving a full-time mission, marrying in the temple, and securing your future children in the faith, all of which weakens not only you but the Church. He knows that nothing can overthrow God's kingdom "save it [be] the transgression of [his] people." [Mosiah 27:13.] Make no mistake about it—the focus of his war is now on you—you who seek to "keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." . . .

So, as we enter the final climactic stages of the war against Satan, be sober, my young friends. Understand that you cannot partake of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. You cannot participate in pornography or other immoral activity. You cannot lie, cheat, or steal. You cannot use false, demeaning, or dirty language. You cannot deface your body with tattoos and other piercings. You cannot do these things and be victorious in the battle for your own soul, let alone be a valiant warrior in the great struggle for the souls of all the rest of our Father's children. . . .

Understand, my young friends, that there is only one way to win the war against Satan, and that is to win it in the same way it was won in the beginning. When victory was finally achieved in the War in Heaven, a loud voice was heard to declare:

"Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ. . . .

"For they [referring to Michael and his angels] have overcome him [referring to the devil] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; for they loved not their own lives, but kept the testimony even unto death." [Joseph Smith Translation, Revelation 12:9, 11] Do not miss the significance of this declaration. Satan was overcome in the beginning by (1) faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice, (2) testimony of Him that was steadfastly kept to the very end, and (3) consecration of oneself to the Lord and His work. If this was the means for defeating him in the beginning, you can be sure that this is the one sure way to defeat him now. [See D&C 76:53 (those who inherit the celestial kingdom "overcome by faith"); 1 John 5:4–5 ("this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith," and "he that overcometh the world" is "he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God").]

Now, you may wonder how to acquire the faith, testimony, and consecration of spirit necessary to overcome the adversary. Let me assure you that these qualities are already within you. You simply need to recover them. To that end, allow me to make three suggestions.

First, do as young Joseph Smith did. Find a quiet place and pray to your Father in Heaven. [See Joseph Smith—History 1:11–15.] Do so regularly and earnestly. Prayer is a precondition to revelation. The more regular and earnest the prayer, the more frequent the revelation. When received, revelation provides the evidence or assurance of things unseen, which is the foundation of faith. [See Hebrews 11:1; Alma 32:21; Ether 12:6.]

Second, learn to hear the voice of the Lord. His is a still, small, and whisper-like voice. [The voice of the Spirit is described as a still, small voice of perfect mildness, as if it were a whisper. See 1 Kings 19:12; Helaman 5:30; D&C 85:6.] It is one that is felt more than it is heard. It comes in the form of thoughts, feelings, and impressions. To hear such a voice, you must be still and quiet in your own soul, laying aside your excess laughter and light-mindedness. [See D&C 88:69, 121.] While it may not seem easy to so discipline your life, hearing the precious, loving voice of the Lord will sustain you in every circumstance and is therefore worth every effort.

Third, obey the word of the Lord as it is given to you. His word will not only love and comfort but invariably instruct and correct. Do as He bids you to do, no matter how hard it may seem to you, and do it now. It is in doing the will of the Lord that knowledge of Him and love for Him accrue to your soul, which leads you to be ever more willing to lay down your own life and follow Him. [See Matthew 16:24–25; John 7:17.]

My dear brethren of the Aaronic Priesthood, these are your

days! Do not squander them! Be sober! Take “the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall . . . quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” [Ephesians 6:16.] Then “fight the good fight of faith.” [1 Timothy 6:12.] And when you have done all, “stand” [See Malachi 3:2. “Who shall be able to stand?” (Revelation 6:17). Those who have taken the “whole armour of God” and have “done all” (Ephesians 6:13).] still and “see the salvation of the Lord.” [Exodus 14:13.] I assure you that His salvation will come, delivering you and yours from every evil.

Winning the War ag,inst Evil, Elder James J. Hamula, October 2008 General Conference

Revelation 12:7–11 tells about the war in heaven in the premortal life. How could you reasonably assume that you are one of the people referred to in verse 11? How can what you did then help you now? (see Abraham 3:23–28).

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Revelation 12:14 – Woman Going into the Wilderness

The woman is symbolic of the church of Jesus Christ, and we learn in verse 13 that the dragon (Satan) persecuted the woman. The woman fleeing into the wilderness is the symbolic driving of the church into the wilderness of apostasy. See D&C 86:3.

The Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles, Chapter 55: “The Kingdoms of This World Are Become the Kingdoms of Our Lord”

Revelation 12:14 – Time, and times, and a half time

This refers to three and one-half years.

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Revelation 13 – the Mark of the Beast

In Revelation 13 John symbolically described his continuing vision of the battle between good and evil. This chapter portrays the evil that Satan promotes on earth as a powerful beast that goes against all that the kingdom of God stands for, and it seeks to enforce its ways with threats and violence. The beast also represents Satan’s efforts before the Second Coming of Christ, telling how wounding the beast does not stop it (see Revelation 13:3). In other words, even though one effort of Satan might be stopped, he continues others or starts new ones. Many people have tried to explain the meaning of “the number of the beast” (666; v. 18). Modern prophets have not given an interpretation on this passage of scripture, and members should be careful not to teach or promote the theories of men that do not agree with the doctrine of the Church and are not taught by the prophets.

New Testament Student Study Guide, Revelation 12

Revelation 14:1

This earthly probation is a day of trial. We have to pass through tests and ordeals, and have to prove ourselves worthy to be numbered among that great company who will stand as saviors upon Mount Zion, with the very impress of

Deity upon them—the name of God written upon their foreheads.

President Daniel H Wells, Oct. 7, 1875

Revelation 14:6, 7 – And I Saw Another Angel

“Now, as to the actual work of restoration—what angel performed this mighty deed, this work which involves the salvation of all men on earth in these latter-days? Who restored the everlasting gospel? Was it one angel or many? “It is traditional (and true!) to reply: ‘Moroni, son of Mormon, the now resurrected Nephite prophet, who holds the keys of “the stick of Ephraim” (D. & C. 27:5), the one through whose ministry the Book of Mormon was again brought to light.’ The reasoning that the Book of Mormon contains ‘the fulness of the everlasting gospel’ (D. & C. 135:3); that therein is God’s message of salvation for all of the earth’s inhabitants; and that this gospel message is now being taken by the Lord’s witnesses to one nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people after another. . . .

“... But other angels were yet to come—Moses, Elias, Elijah, Gabriel, Raphael, and ‘divers angels. . . all declaring their dispensation, their rights, their keys, their honors, their majesty and glory, and the power of their priesthood; giving line upon line, precept upon precept; here a little, and there a little.’ (D. & C. 128:21.)

“Thus the angel Moroni brought the message, that is, the word; but other angels brought the keys and priesthood, the power. And in the final analysis the fulness of the everlasting gospel consists of all of the truths and powers needed to enable men to gain a fulness of salvation in the celestial heaven.” (McConkie, DNTC, 3:528–30.)

The Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles, Chapter 55: “The Kingdoms of This World Are Become the Kingdoms of Our Lord”

Revelation 15-16

Although Revelation 4–22 is considered one vision, the vision changes scenes from time to time. Revelation 15 marks a new scene in the vision. In it, John saw “a sea of glass mingled with fire” (v. 2) where those who overcame “the beast” referred to in Revelation 13 lived. Doctrine and Covenants 130:6–7 tells us that globes that are “like a sea of glass and fire” are “in the presence of God.” . . . John saw those who dwelt there singing songs of praise to God. He also saw a temple there that was filled with the glory of God. Out of the temple came seven angels, clothed in white. Their assignment is described in Revelation 16.

New Testament Student Study Guide, Revelation 15

Some of what is found in Revelation 16 is like what we read in Revelation 8–9. . . . Revelation 16 might repeat some of the things [John] saw earlier, but this time they are shown for different purposes. For example, in Revelation 16 John saw

the role the beast, Satan, played in these latter-day judgments. In Revelation 9 are several verses about the warfare after the sixth angel sounded his trump.

In Revelation 16, after the sixth angel poured out his vial, John saw that the beast gathered people to Armageddon (see vv. 14–16), which is the place of a last great battle before the Second Coming of Christ. The next thing that happened in Revelation 16 was the seventh angel, like the seventh angel in Revelation 11, announcing that “it is done” (Revelation 16:17), or that the time of the Second Coming had come. This was a most terrible time for those who refused to repent through the previous judgments, but a glorious time for the righteous.

New Testament Student Study Guide, Revelation 16

Revelation 15:2 - Sea of Glass

When his kingdom is established upon the earth, and Zion built up, the Lord will send his servants as saviors upon Mount Zion. The servants of God who have lived on the earth in ages past will reveal where different persons have lived who have died without the Gospel, give their names, and say, “Now go forth, ye servants of God, and exercise your rights and privileges; go and perform the ordinances of the house of God for those who have passed their probation without the law, and for all who will receive any kind of salvation: bring them up to inherit the celestial, terrestrial, and telestial kingdoms,” ...

What will become of the rest? Jesus will reign until he puts all enemies under his feet, and will destroy the death that we are afflicted with, and will also destroy him that hath the power of death; and one eternal life will spread over the earth. Then it will be exalted and become as a sea of glass, as seen by John the Revelator, and become the eternal habitation of those who are so happy as to gain eternal life and live in the presence of our Father and Savior.

President Brigham Young, July 31, 1859.

The angels do not reside on a planet like this earth;

But they reside in the presence of God, on a globe like a sea of glass and fire, where all things for their glory are manifest, past, present, and future, and are continually before the Lord.

The place where God resides is a great Urim and Thummim.

This earth, in its sanctified and immortal state, will be made like unto crystal and will be a Urim and Thummim to the inhabitants who dwell thereon, whereby all things pertaining to an inferior kingdom, or all kingdoms of a lower order, will be manifest to those who dwell on it; and this earth will be Christ's.

Then the white stone mentioned in Revelation 2:17, will become a Urim and Thummim to each individual who receives one, whereby things pertaining to a higher order of

kingdoms will be made known;

And a white stone is given to each of those who come into the celestial kingdom, whereon is a new name written, which no man knoweth save he that receiveth it. The new name is the key word.

D&C 130:6-11

Revelation 15:5-8

The generation in which we live is a wicked and an adulterous generation, and wickedness and abomination of every kind are increasing, and the earth has commenced to groan under the evil practices of man. The heavens are in pain over the disobedience and unrighteousness of the children of men, and the angels, we are told, are waiting in their places in the Temple for the time to come when they will be called upon to go forth and reap down the earth.

Judgments await the world, but they heed not, and apparently do not care. With fire and sword the Lord will plead with all flesh, and as the prophet has said respecting this event, “the slain of the Lord will be many;” and these things will overtake the world in an hour when they expect them not, when they will be crying peace, but alas, peace will have departed from them, and they left to devour and destroy each other. All these things are foretold and many of them are written in these revelations given in our day, and they are already being fulfilled before our eyes; and they will continue to be fulfilled, until all that is spoken of shall have come to pass.

Therefore, I want to say to the Latter-day Saints: exercise faith in God, and exercise faith in his revelations, and read them and ponder over them, and pray earnestly that you may have a correct understanding of all that God has revealed, that you may grow in the light and knowledge of God, and see the importance of living your religion and of living uprightly before him; for all men, both Jew and Gentile, Saint and sinner, will be judged according to the deeds done in the body, and for the opportunities which we have of informing ourselves of the will of God concerning us, which if we allow to go unimproved, we cannot be held guiltless.

Elder Wilford Woodruff, June 30, 1878.

Revelation 16:1–21. The Seven Last Plagues

“God in his mercy shall pour out destructive plagues upon the wicked and ungodly in the last days. These diseases and calamities shall sweep great hosts of men from the face of the earth, preparatory to that final Millennial cleansing which shall prepare our planet as an abode for the righteous.” (McConkie, DNTC, 3:359.)

The Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles, Chapter 55: “The Kingdoms of This World Are Become the Kingdoms of Our Lord”

“It is a false idea that the Saints will escape all the

judgments, whilst the wicked suffer; for all flesh is subject to suffer, and ‘the righteous shall hardly escape;’ still many of the Saints will escape, for the just shall live by faith; yet many of the righteous shall fall a prey to disease, to pestilence, etc., by reason of the weakness of the flesh, and yet be saved in the Kingdom of God”

Joseph Smith, History of the Church, 4:11

Revelation 16:16 - Armageddon

Lying about sixty miles north of Jerusalem is the site of Megiddo, a great mound or hill commanding the northern entrance to the broad plain called the valley of Esdraelon. The mountain or hill of Megiddo (Har Meggido in Hebrew, of which Armageddon is the Greek transliteration) guarded the strategic pass that cuts through the mountain range separating the coastal plains from the inland plains and hill country of Galilee. Because of this fortress or Mount of Megiddo, the valley and surrounding areas have also come to be known as Armageddon.

One of the most important highways of the ancient world—the main link between Egypt and Asia—ran through this valley and near the fortress of Megiddo. Because of that strategic location, Megiddo and the valley of Esdraelon have seen some of history’s bloodiest battles. Egyptian pharaohs, Roman legions, British troops, and Israeli tanks all have struggled in the valley of Megiddo. Prior to the second coming of Christ, all nations of the earth shall be gathered together to battle against Jerusalem. This tremendous war, one of the final great events prior to the Savior’s second coming, has been foreseen and described in detail by many of the Lord’s ancient prophets. (See, for example, Ezekiel 38, 39; Joel 2, 3; Isaiah 34; Jeremiah 25; Daniel 11, 12; Zechariah 12–14.) Jerusalem will be under siege and great suffering will be the lot of her inhabitants. Evidently, Armageddon, which is north of Jerusalem, will be the site of the great decisive battle of this war.

“During this siege, when the nations are gathered and the Lord comes, there will be great destruction. The armies will become so confused they will fight among themselves. There will be great slaughter. Then the Lord comes to the Jews. He shows Himself. He calls upon them to come and examine His hands and His feet, and they say, ‘What are these wounds?’ And He answers them, ‘These are the wounds with which I was wounded in the house of my friends. I am Jesus Christ.’

“Then they will accept Him as their Redeemer, which they have never been willing to do.” (Smith, Signs of the Times, p. 171.)

Revelation 16:20 - “And Every Island Flew Away”

“When that day comes great changes shall take place upon the earth. We believe this is a day of restoration, and that the earth is to be renewed. (Tenth Article of Faith) In this renewal we are informed that the Lord ‘shall command the great deep, and it shall be driven back into the north country, and the islands shall become one land; and the land of Jerusalem and the land of Zion shall be turned back into their own place, and the earth shall be like as it was in the days before it was divided.’ (Gen. 10:25.) ... The sea is to be driven back into the north. The land is to be brought back as it was originally and the lands of Zion ‘America’ and Jerusalem (Palestine and all the land pertaining unto it) will be restored to their own place as they were in the beginning. The Savior will stand in the midst of his people, and shall reign over all flesh. We have discovered in our study that the wicked, or all things that are corruptible (Section 101:23–35), will be consumed and therefore will not be permitted to be on the earth when this time comes.” (Smith, Church History and Modern Revelation, 1:264.)

The Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles, Chapter 55: “The Kingdoms of This World Are Become the Kingdoms of Our Lord”