



DOCTRINE & COVENANTS

& CHURCH HISTORY GOSPEL DOCTRINE CLASS

* GREEN MOUNTAIN 1ST WARD * LAKEWOOD, COLORADO * 14 JUNE 2009 * PAGE 1 *

Lesson 21: "Looking Forth for the Great Day of the Lord to Come," D&C 29:9-29; 34:5-12; 45:16-75; 88:86-99; 101:22-34; 133.

Introduction

Look for the relationship between the words of the hymn and the pictures:



Jesus Once of Humble Birth

1. *Jesus, once of humble birth,
Now in glory comes to earth.
Once he suffered grief and pain;
Now he comes on earth to reign.
Now he comes on earth to reign.*
2. *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.*
3. *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.*
4. *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.*

Parley P. Pratt, 1807-1857

Lesson Highlights

- The Savior will return to the earth in power and great glory.
- The Millennium will be a time of joy and peace.
- We must prepare for the Second Coming.

A study of this lesson will help us understand and recognize the signs of the Second Coming and prepare for "the great day of the Lord to come" (D&C 45:39).

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 in power and great glory. This lesson is about the Savior's Second Coming and millennial reign on the earth.

The Savior will return to the earth in power and great glory.

We are privileged to live in the dispensation of the fulness of times, when latter-day revelation teaches us great truths about the Second Coming, the events that will precede it, and the thousand years of peace that will begin when the Savior comes again. The Doctrine and Covenants provides a wealth of information on these important subjects.

Just as every prophecy relating to the Savior's birth was fulfilled, so too will every prophecy relating to His Second Coming be fulfilled.

Prophecies about the Second Coming include:

- **D&C 29:9-11; 45:44** – Christ will come in power and glory; the proud and wicked will be burned, and wickedness will cease on the face of the earth.
- **D&C 34:7, 12; 43:17; 110:16** – The time of the Second coming is at hand
- **D&C 34:8, 11; 63:34** – All nations will tremble; His power and influence will be with the faithful

Next Week

#22 The Word of Wisdom: "A Principle with Promise", D&C 89; Our Heritage, pp25-26.

- **D&C 45:45-54; 88:96-99** – Deceased Saints will rise to meet the Savior. Living Saints will be gathered to welcome Him. He will appear on the Mount of Olives, which will divide. Jews will recognize the Messiah and suffer remorse for having persecuted Him when He came into mortality and during His ministry. Then, those inhabitants of the spirit prison who received the gospel there will be resurrected.

The Millennium will be a time of joy and peace.

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 101** provides a description of the beauty and joy we can look forward to during the Millennium.

- **101:23** – Everyone will be able to see the Savior
- **101:24** – The wicked will be destroyed
- **101:25** – The earth will be in a renewed state
- **101:26** – People and animals will coexist peacefully together
- **101:27** – Righteous desires will be granted
- **101:28; 45:55; 88:110** – Satan will be bound (how and by whom?) and we will not allow him to tempt us or gain power over us

We must prepare for the Second Coming.

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.

Watch for the signs of the Savior's coming

In the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord reveals many of the signs that will precede His Second Coming and encourages us to "*be watchful*".

- **D&C 49:6** – All enemies will be under His feet (subjected to Him)
- **D&C 49:7** – No one, not even the angels know when the day or hour of the Second Coming.
- **D&C 133:46-53** – The Savior's robes will be red and vengeance will come upon the wicked, while the righteous will be redeemed.

- **101:29** – No sorrow or death
 - **101:30-31** – The elderly will change suddenly from mortality to immortality (*They'll be "twinkled"!!*)
 - **101:32-34** – All things about the earth and heaven, their creation and destiny, will be revealed
 - **45:58** – Children will grow up without sin
 - **45:59; 133:25** – The Lord will be the king and the lawgiver for the entire earth
- Understanding the Millennial conditions should be a blessing to us now and should strengthen our confidence in the Savior's promises and the teachings of the prophets.

D&C 61:38 – Be watchful for signs of the Savior's coming

D&C 45:36-39 this parable teaches *why* these signs have been (or will be) given to us

Positive signs

- D&C 45:9; 133:57–58.** (The fulness of the gospel will be restored.)
- D&C 45:66–71.** (The New Jerusalem will be built. It will be a place of peace and safety for the righteous in the last days.)
- D&C 65:2–6.** (God's kingdom will be established on the earth.)
- D&C 110:11–16.** (Priesthood keys will be restored.)
- D&C 133:8–9, 36–39.** (The gospel will be preached throughout the world.)

We are taught in numerous places in the scriptures that the resurrected Christ will come to rule and reign on the earth for a thousand years. This period is referred to as the Millennium. It will be a time of peace and accomplishment in the work of saving souls. Untold billions will be born and raised in righteousness, living with Christ as "*Lord of lords and King of kings*" (Rev. 17:14). The government of the earth during the Millennium will be a theocracy, which means government by God. Christ will be the head of this government. In vision, John the Revelator saw this period of time and the righteous, resurrected Saints who "*lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years*" (Rev. 20:4).



Negative signs

- a. **D&C 29:15; 88:91.** (There will be great weeping, despair, and fear. Men's hearts will fail them.)
- b. **D&C 29:16; 45:31; 112:24.** (There will be famines, scourges, sickness, and desolation.)
- c. **D&C 34:9; 45:40–42; 88:87.** (There will be signs and wonders in the heavens and in the earth.)
- d. **D&C 45:26; 63:33.** (There will be wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth will be in commotion.)
- e. **D&C 45:27.** (The love of men will become cold, and iniquity will abound.)
- f. **D&C 45:33; 88:89–90.** (There will be earthquakes, tempests, and great waves of the sea. Men will harden their hearts against God and fight each other.)

Some of these signs have occurred, others are occurring, and others will yet come.

Throughout these times, the Lord counseled in **D&C 45:35** that we “*be not troubled*”. It will not be easy, but we as Latter-day Saints can maintain a bright hope and have faith even while surrounded on all sides by turmoil, sin, and distress. It's a matter of trusting the Lord, his promises, and his anointed leaders who hold the earthly keys during these troubled times!

Stand in holy places

In addition to counseling us to watch for the signs of the Second Coming, the Lord also counsels us to prepare by being righteous.

- a. **D&C 27:15; 33:17.** (Be steadfast in righteousness.)
- b. **D&C 34:6; 39:19–20; 43:20–23.** (Cry repentance and be repentant.)
- c. **D&C 45:32; 87:8; 101:22–23.** (Stand in holy places.)
- d. **D&C 45:56–57.** (Have the Holy Spirit as our guide.)

Conclusion

The Lord has revealed more information about the Second Coming and the Millennium to us 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. We should look forward with joy to the time when the Savior will return and usher in the millennial reign of peace and righteousness.

President Gordon B. Hinckley taught:

“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, 2 Jan. 1999, 2).

Elder Boyd K. Packer gave the following counsel:

“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 (see D&C 49:7), 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.

“One day you will cope with teenage children of your own. That will serve you right. Later, you will spoil your grandchildren, and they in turn spoil theirs. If an earlier end should happen to come to one, that is more reason to do things right” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1989, 72; or Ensign, May 1989, 59).

President Howard W. Hunter:

“This is a day for action. This is the time for decision, not tomorrow, not next week. This is the time to make our covenant with the Lord. Now is the time for those who have been noncommittal or who have had a half-hearted interest to come out boldly and declare belief in Christ and be willing to demonstrate faith by works.” (CR, Oct 1960)

Gospel Doctrine Notebook

Record your thoughts on the teachings discussed in this lesson.

- What are some of your holy places?
- What do you need to do to prepare for the Savior's second coming?

