



# **The Righteous Need Not Fear**

I Nephi 22:22

## ***A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles***

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

It is wonderful to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be constantly aware of the promise of salvation as well as the goodwill that God has for all mankind. As is so commonly quoted: "...God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten son...."

God wants all of us to reap his benevolence. He does not discriminate by wealth, status, ethnicity, personality, or anything other than our desire and effort to believe in Jesus Christ and our commitment to obey Him. The *Holy Bible* and *The Book of Mormon* are the two scriptures that contain His directions to us with history and prophecy of God's dealings with mankind – both His servants as well as those who do not choose His way. He has continued to reveal His will to mankind in our day through His Spirit manifested in various ways – never in contradiction to scriptures – sometimes elaborating with detail regarding understandings we have been given previously.

Recently, a number of experiences have been presented for consideration. At the October, 2013 General Conference, six experiences were accepted as revelations and reaffirmations of God's plans. These are being distributed through the Church. They contain four main messages:

- Beginning with the Priesthood, self-examination and purging of all unrighteousness is urgent
- The inspired leadership of the Church will provide guidance for the preservation of the righteous
- Iniquity in the land has become rampant and will prompt serious consequences at the hand of God
- The righteous who trust in God need not fear

Elaborating on each of these main messages:

**Beginning with the Priesthood, self-examination and purging of all unrighteousness is urgent.**

The Lord is very clear that He has chosen the ministry of the Church and that he requires them to lead the people in true righteousness according to His explicit and



implicit precepts and principles. He does not find all of our lives and behaviors in order at this time. Sadly, behaviors that blatantly violate moral codes taught by God's scriptures have surfaced among our people – including some who had been part of the ministry while offending. Behaviors that do not stand up to God's scrutiny are deemed iniquity, and living with such practices disconnects us from Christ as our foundation. This includes indulgence of personal egos and priorities at the expense of the Lord's intentions, His people, and His glory. God calls for immediate individual self-examination and self-purging of all that falls short of His standards. The righteous leadership - implementing, living, and teaching in purity – will be easy to follow and will lead the membership to God's glorious blessings.

**The inspired leadership of the Church will provide guidance for the preservation of the righteous**

God spoke to His servants in times past – as the scriptures bear out. With the same Spirit, He speaks to us in these times and will continue to do so as the prophecies of old come to pass and the forecast judgments unfold upon the land. As we know through scripture, the Americas are God's promised land, which carry the requirement that its inhabitants serve the Lord. Iniquity – evils that rage in this time - will be purged from the land by means that God chooses to use. God wants us to be prepared in righteousness so that He can keep us safe while the purging occurs. He will provide His guidance which will come to the membership from the Apostles and Ministry, so long as the Church holds onto righteousness in Spirit and in truth. It is important to trust in God and expect to see great things occurring.

**Iniquity in the land has become rampant and will prompt serious consequences at the hand of God.**

*The Book of Mormon* clearly tells us of the choiceness of the Americas. This Choice concept has been proven over the centuries – especially exemplified by the United States of America - by the wealth and power, the innovations, and the various ways we have thrived in the land. Likewise, the scripture dictates the requirement that those who are blessed to possess the land must return God's favor by remaining faithful to Him and living in righteousness. This requirement has been proven by God's dealings with those previous possessors who failed to keep faithful.

In recent decades, moral values, the standards of what is right and wrong, have deteriorated. Evil combinations (gangs, terror cells, action groups advocating against God's ways) have gained ground. Even official public policy is increasingly less reliable in terms of alignment with God's word. Over the past decade or so, a number of revelations have been accepted that confirm the advance of evil and warn us to be prepared. From scriptures alone – we should be anticipating a reaction from the Lord.

The experiences accepted in October Conference step up the call for spiritual preparation. Urgency, the notion that God has run out of patience, and indications that



He will act decisively are pervasive in these experiences. The experiences are not explicit – but forecast significant events with severe consequences such that only those who are under the shelter of God’s hand and guidance can be safe. In fact, the message should be very alarming for those who have not made sure that their lives are pleasing to the Lord.

Some of the experiences are quite graphic – symbolic – of terrific events, which cannot be specifically discerned from what is given. God keeps His plans His own. Rather than speculate as to the specific interpretations, all are encouraged to heed the call for preparation of our hearts and minds. As we carry on with our lives – working, going to school, raising families, interacting with friends and neighbors – the adjustments called for are spiritual not material. We will understand the details as things actually take place around us.

### **The righteous who trust in God need not fear.**

Perhaps the most important message goes back to ... *God so loved the world...* Jesus came to save us. He came to show us the way to Salvation and provided Himself as a real-life example of living in the Spirit of God and overcoming all evil. The consequences of evil - punishment, destruction, retribution of the Lord, etc. – are designed to rid the land of unrighteousness so that those who will serve Him can do so in peace and blessing.

We have the opportunity – choice - to dedicate our hearts to the Lord thereby sensitizing ourselves against unrighteousness – making ourselves righteous – and bringing ourselves under His blessing. The righteous are promised guidance and preservation. The righteous will trust in God. The righteous will be led. The righteous need not fear because they understand that God does not include them in His reaction to evil. Instead of fear, they feel His love.

Nevertheless, this is not a casual matter. We must ensure that we take the Lord into our hearts deeply and sincerely. That is the essence of righteousness by which God’s rich promises unfold to his servants.

Please contact your Presiding Elder or Region President should you desire to read the experiences in their entirety.

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[www.thechurchofjesuschrist.com](http://www.thechurchofjesuschrist.com).