

THE CHURCH OF Jesus[®] Christ

PREPARED

A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

In all ages of time, the creation of God has faced many defining moments. Today is no different. As we look at our world today, there seems to be no ending to the challenges of life and the uncertainty of our world. We also are bombarded today with the views and opinions of a vast array of ‘so called’ authorities proclaiming even more confusion. The world today has even created clever little names for sin that has been in the world since creation. So, without a doubt, we live in challenging days. Today, all people need to be fixed and anchored upon the truth of Jesus Christ. In this truth, we can understand and endure our world. Jesus said, *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33)

God Has Prepared – Redemption

God has given mankind a glorious creation, and we firmly believe He is intimately and actively involved in all aspects of our world. *“But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. **The LORD hath prepared** his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.”* (Psalms 103:17 - 19)

Jesus Christ was with the Father from the beginning of creation and it was the Father’s great preparation for this world that Jesus Christ would be our Savior. *“Therefore he sent angels to converse with them, who caused men to behold of his glory. And they began from that time forth to call on his name; therefore God conversed with men, and made known unto them the plan of redemption, **which had been prepared** from the foundation of the world; and this he made known unto them according to their faith and repentance and their holy works.”* (Alma 12:29 - 30)

God’s great preparation for us, His children, is beyond our greatest understanding. When you are upset. When you are in fear. When you are confused. When this world has you shaking your head in doubt at what is going to happen next. Understand one thing above all - the One, True and Living God – the great “I Am”; He has all things prepared for His children. *“For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, **what he hath prepared** for him that waiteth for him.”* (Isaiah 64:4) *“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which **God hath prepared** for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”* (1 Corinthians 2:9 - 10)

God’s Counsel & Instruction – Prepare Your Soul

God has prepared for us, but He has not forced or demanded our preparation for Him. God encourages, pleads, and instructs, but He never makes us “robotically” obey Him. What a God! A man of God, in the early church said this; “God who created you without your help, will not save you without your

cooperation.” How true. We must prepare our heart and soul for God. It is simple. But it takes our will and cooperation.

The wise man said, *“There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise: The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;...”* (Proverbs 30:24 - 25) The Lord desires us to be wise, and in our wisdom to be prepared. The ant must prepare naturally when it has the chance to gather food for the day when there is no food. The ant who is diligent and prepares, is content. The people of God’s creation must be spiritually prepared, and if so, are also content.

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.” (Timothy 6:6 - 7)

*“And we see that death comes upon mankind, yea, the death which has been spoken of by Amulek, which is the temporal death; nevertheless there was a space granted unto man in which he might repent; therefore **this life** became a probationary state; **a time to prepare to meet God**; a time to prepare for that endless state which has been spoken of by us, which is after the resurrection of the dead. Now, if it had not been for the plan of redemption, which was laid from the foundation of the world, there could have been no resurrection of the dead; but there was a plan of redemption laid, which shall bring to pass the resurrection of the dead, of which has been spoken.”* (Alma 12:24 - 25)

God’s Plan – Righteous Believers

Even though our world today seems upside down in many aspects, the Word of God allows us to understand a glorious aspect of our world. God’s ultimate and perfect plan is that the creation will conclude as it began, in glory and goodness.

“And the Lord God doth work by means to bring about his great and eternal purposes;...” (Alma 37:7)
...for he doth counsel in wisdom over all his works, and his paths are straight, and his course is one eternal round.” (Alma 37:12)

The word of God is very clear for those who seek God’s wisdom. The great God of the universe desires, and has a plan, for His Kingdom to be on the earth before the end of time. Jesus said, *“...Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **Thy kingdom come**. Thy will be done **in earth**, as it is in heaven.”* (Matthew 6:9 - 10)

*“And the Lord God doth work by means to bring about **his great and eternal purposes**; and by very small means the Lord doth confound the wise and bringeth about the salvation of many souls.”* (Alma 37:7)

*“...-that they may be persuaded that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God; that the Father may bring about, through his most Beloved, **his great and eternal purpose**, in **restoring the Jews, or all the house of Israel**, to the land of their inheritance, which the Lord their God hath given them, unto the fulfilling of his covenant;...”* (Mormon 5:14)

Friends and believers, let us be prepared in our heart and in our soul for the great and eternal purposes of God. Do not be discouraged or dismayed at our current world. Sin is currently raging in the hearts of men. However, we are confident God has prepared salvation for all of His people that prepare their hearts and souls in the assurance of Jesus Christ.



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*“And the time cometh speedily that the righteous must be led up as calves of the stall, and **the Holy One of Israel must reign in dominion, and might, and power, and great glory.** And he gathereth his children from the four quarters of the earth; and he numbereth his sheep, and they know him; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd; and he shall feed his sheep, and in him they shall find pasture. And because of the righteousness of his people, Satan has no power; wherefore, he cannot be loosed for the space of many years; for he hath no power over the hearts of the people, for they dwell in righteousness, and the Holy One of Israel reigneth. And now behold, I, Nephi, say unto you that **all these things must come according to the flesh.**” (1 Nephi 22:24 - 27)*

In the love of God,

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles

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www.thechurchofjesuschrist.org