



THE LAST DISPENSATION OF TIME

A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

We live in a day and time, possibly like no other, where uncertainty and instability appear on nearly every horizon. Our heightened awareness may be directly linked to what we read, listen and see, almost in real-time, throughout the world. No land is too distant and no fact too obscure to be reported or shared. Maybe we have become desensitized to wars and rumors of wars, economic fluctuations, world government volatilities and even global weather conditions. Yet whether individuals are knowledgeable of latter day events through the Bible and Book of Mormon or not, many have begun to ask the question... "What lies in our future?"

For some, these questions are motivated out of fear, some may be seeking to prepare themselves or seek to understand God's plan, while others may simply be curious. As the people of God, we are confident in His Word. As Jesus stated, *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. ...Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."* Matthew 24:36-44*. (*refers to the second coming of Christ and His return, which is near the end of the latter day events highlighted below).

Looking back, we see various dispensations of time and ways by which God has made known His dealings with mankind. We can reflect on the time of Noah and the flood, of Abraham and the covenant between him and God, of salvation coming through Jesus Christ (prophesied throughout the Old Testament and much of the Book of Mormon and its fulfillment as noted in the New Testament and III Nephi). As time progressed, false teachings slowly entered the Church and eventually, a falling away (apostasy) of the true teachings of Christ and His church occurred (I Timothy 4:1-3), beginning around 35 A.D. with the gospel authority completely taken away around 560 A.D. (agreed upon by many historians as the timeframe marking the beginning of the Dark Ages).

The final dispensation of time is the time of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (the latter days) wherein the Lord restored His Church and priesthood authority as a means to recover His covenant people (Israel) and ALL that would be drawn to Him. This is our time to search the scriptures and recognize that in this last dispensation of time, we have been provided a unique opportunity to see prophecies unfold.

Although neither the Bible nor the Book of Mormon lay out the precise timing of events, and even the exact sequence has various interpretations, the scriptures are replete with references that provide us with what we NEED to know. A comprehensive study of all the scriptures related to the last dispensation would take more space than we have here. Let's walk through some of the scriptures that The Church of Jesus Christ understands to relate to the events during this last dispensation of time (these events are not in a definite order and should not be interpreted as sequential):

- A restoration of that which had fallen away occurred, and His Church / His Gospel, His true teachings and His priesthood authority were restored and established again on the earth (Revelation 14:6).
 - The Gospel authority was returned to the earth in 1829 A.D. along with the Book of Mormon, published in 1830 A.D.
 - The Gospel was restored to the Gentiles and the Gentiles are to bring the Gospel to the tribe of Joseph (Native American) (III Nephi 21:5-6) and to all the world (Mark 16: 15-16).
 - God sent His son for the salvation of every man (I Timothy 2:1-6).
- The sinful condition of the Gentiles is warned – rejecting the fullness of the Gospel (III Nephi 16:7-10). Wickedness, sin, pride, lyings, murders, whoredoms, etc.
- In order for God’s kingdom to be built on earth, the land (and those who possess it) must be clean from sin. (Ether 2:9-12, III Nephi 20:20).
 - If the people choose sin, they will be swept off the land – destruction is necessary to cleanse the land (III Nephi 20:15-20), unless they choose to turn to Christ, repent and choose righteousness.
 - No matter what, The Righteous Need Not Fear (I Nephi 22:17), but it is critical that the people of God are spiritually prepared by purifying themselves, repenting daily, fasting and praying, learning His Word, having the pure love of Christ in our hearts, separating themselves from sin, etc. (Matthew 25: 1-13).
- The Choice Seer will come forth out of the tribe of Joseph and translate records (II Nephi 3:8-13).
- The Gentiles and the followers of Christ from the tribe of Joseph build the New Jerusalem and establish Zion on the land of America (in the flesh) – referred to as the Peaceful Reign (III Nephi 21:23-24).
- The Peaceful Reign (Zion) will last for a long time (possibly hundreds of years, though scripture is not clear exactly how long) and Christ will visit (III Nephi 21:25).
 - This is the kingdom of Christ on earth referred to by Daniel as the reign of “The Ancient of Days” (Daniel chapter 7) where the devil will have no power due to the righteousness of the saints (II Nephi 30:18).
- “...there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil...” (I Nephi 14:8-12).
- Believing Jews will be converted to Christ (Hosea 10:11, Isaiah 31:31, Jeremiah 31:31).
- Jerusalem (in the land of Israel) will be rebuilt unto the house of Israel (Ether 13: 5).
- All the tribes of Israel will be gathered (Ezekiel 37:21-28) and an invitation extended to all nations (Daniel 2:44) who love and follow Christ.
- At the time when evil returns, the days of the Peaceful Reign are to be shortened for the sake of the elect. The Peaceful Reign ends with the gathering and disposition of the good and the bad (Jacob 5:77; Matthew 24:21-22).

- Christ will return (Matthew 25:30-32).
- Resurrection – our body and soul will reunite (Alma chapter 40).
 - This is the First Resurrection for the Redeemed – joining with Christ at His coming and dwelling with Him through Millennium (Revelation 20:6).
- The evil power and his followers will march against the camp of the saints. Fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours the evil (Revelation 20:9). The devil, death and hell will be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10-15).
- Judgment day occurs at the Throne of God (Revelation 20:12-15):
 - Christ is the Judge.
 - The books are opened wide.
- All the Redeemed will spend eternity with God and Christ and inhabit a new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:10).

We encourage you to read and study the Word of God with diligence, attend church and scripture study, seek to draw nearer to the Lord and His gospel each day. Jesus reminds us that, *“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”* Matthew 5:6. Future Messages from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles will delve into greater detail on many of these individual subjects and we encourage the elders and teachers of The Church to use these Messages as foundations for lessons.

While many prophecies lie in our future during this last dispensation, we still have much to do! We ask that you remain focused on reaching out to those lost in sin, that they might find salvation through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

May the peace of Christ rest upon you,

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles.

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