

Lesson 47: D&C 133-134, "Prepare Ye For the Coming of the Bridegroom"

Historical Background

Section 133 was added to the original book of Doctrine and Covenants as an appendix. This may be because the main messages is for members of His church to prepare themselves and the world for the Lord's second coming

The Gospel Has Been Restored to Prepare for His Second Coming

God has sent the angel referenced in Revelations 14:6-7

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

D&C 133:16-17

16 Hearken and hear, O ye inhabitants of the earth. Listen, ye elders of my church together, and hear the voice of the Lord; for he calleth upon all men, and he commandeth all men everywhere to repent.

17 For behold, the Lord God hath sent forth the angel crying through the midst of heaven, saying: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight, for the hour of his coming is nigh—

What event to prepare for the second coming has already happened?

(the Lord God hath sent forth the angel crying through the midst of heaven)

Mark E. Petersen

"Moroni... did come to earth as an angel. He did deliver to Joseph Smith the golden record which had been prepared under the direction of Almighty God. It is a new witness for the Lord Jesus Christ; it declares, as does the Bible, that Jesus of Nazareth indeed is the Son of God, our Savior and Redeemer. That book is available to all mankind. A million copies are published each year, in more than a score of languages.

"So, again, we testify that the Book of Mormon is true. It is the word of Almighty God, restored in this day by angelic ministry and by the direction of God himself. We testify that Moroni came as an angel on September 21, 1823, revealing his ancient record and that he did so as a servant of Jesus Christ." (CR, Oct. 1983)

D&C 133:36-39

36 And now, verily saith the Lord, that these things might be known among you, O inhabitants of the earth, I have sent forth mine angel flying through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel, who hath appeared unto some and hath

committed it unto man, who shall appear unto many that dwell on the earth.
37 And this gospel shall be preached unto every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.
38 And the servants of God shall go forth, saying with a loud voice: Fear God and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come;
39 And worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters—

After the everlasting gospel has been restored, what are the ‘servants of God’ to do?

(the servants of God shall go forth, saying with a loud voice: Fear God and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come unto every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people)

Note the similar language from Revelations

Gordon B. Hinckley,
"The figure of Moroni, atop many of our temples, is a constant reminder of the vision of John the Revelator:...

"There must be no diminution in our effort to carry the gospel to the people of the earth. In the future even more of our young men must prepare themselves to go out in service to the Lord. Our Christian acts must precede them and accompany them wherever necessary....

"But there are many other things we must do as we move forward the work to a new and promising century. Simply put, we must be better Latter-day Saints. We must be more neighborly. We cannot live a cloistered existence in this world. We are a part of the whole of humanity." (CR, Oct. 1997)

Members Prepare for His Second Coming

So after the gospel has been restored the ‘people of [His] church’ need to prepare for His coming by preaching the gospel to ‘every nation, kindred, tongue, and people’

D&C 133:1-7

1 Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the Lord your God, and hear the word of the Lord concerning you—

2 The Lord who shall suddenly come to his temple; the Lord who shall come down upon the world with a curse to judgment; yea, upon all the nations that forget God, and upon all the ungodly among you.

3 For he shall make bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of their God.

4 Wherefore, prepare ye, prepare ye, O my people; sanctify yourselves; gather ye together. O ye people of my church, upon the land of Zion, all you that have not been commanded to tarry.

5 Go ye out from Babylon. Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.

6 Call your solemn assemblies, and speak often one to another. And let every man call upon the name of the Lord.

7 Yea, verily I say unto you again, the time has come when the voice of the Lord is unto you: Go ye out of Babylon; gather ye out from among the nations, from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

What does the Lord command the ‘people of [His] church’ to do to prepare for His coming?

(sanctify yourselves; gather ye together
Go ye out from Babylon. Be ye clean)

Brigham Young

"This was the doctrine of Jesus; this was the cry of John when on the Isle of Patmos. That angel has flown through the midst of heaven having the everlasting Gospel to preach to those who dwell on earth, and his cry was and is, 'Come out from Babylon, from pride, from the foolish fashions of the world; come out from the spirit of the world, from the spirit of hatred, anger, malice, wrath, selfishness and every feeling but that is honorable and justified of the heavens. Gather yourselves together! Sanctify the Lord God in your heart.' This was the cry, and it is the cry today, and it will be until the pure in heart are gathered together." (JD, 13:209)

Where are we to gather to?

Dallin H. Oaks

"Another sign of the times is the gathering of the faithful. In the early years of this last dispensation, a gathering to Zion involved various locations in the United States: to Kirtland, to Missouri, to Nauvoo, and to the tops of the mountains. Always these were gatherings to prospective temples. With the creation of stakes and the construction of temples in most nations with sizeable populations of the faithful, the current commandment is not to gather to one place but to gather in stakes in our own homelands. There the faithful can enjoy the full blessings of eternity in a house of the Lord. There, in their own homelands, they can obey the Lord's command to enlarge the borders of His people and strengthen her stakes. In this way, the stakes of Zion are 'for a defense, and for a refuge from the storm, and from wrath when it shall be poured out without mixture upon the whole earth' (D&C 115:6.)" (CR, April 2004)

D&C 133:8-11,15

8 Send forth the elders of my church unto the nations which are afar off; unto the islands of the sea; send forth unto foreign lands; call upon all nations, first upon the Gentiles, and then upon the Jews.

9 And behold, and lo, this shall be their cry, and the voice of the Lord unto all people: Go ye forth unto the land of Zion, that the borders of my people may be

enlarged, and that her stakes may be strengthened, and that Zion may go forth unto the regions round about

10 Yea, let the cry go forth among all people: Awake and arise and go forth to meet the Bridegroom; behold and lo, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Prepare yourselves for the great day of the Lord.

11 Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour.

15 But verily, thus saith the Lord, let not your flight be in haste, but let all things be prepared before you; and he that goeth, let him not look back lest sudden destruction shall come upon him.

What are the elders of His church commanded to do?

(Send forth the elders of my church unto the nations which are afar off that Zion may go forth unto the regions round about Prepare yourselves for the great day of the Lord let not your flight be in haste)

Todd Christofferson

"He called for the elders of His Church to be sent forth across the world to accomplish this gathering, commencing an effort that continues in full vigor today....

"And so today the Lord's people are gathering 'out from among the nations' as they gather into the congregations and stakes of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that are scattered throughout the nations." (CR, Oct. 2008)

Delbert L. Stapley

"There is an urgency in his work. Time is getting short. This sense of urgency in promoting the Lord's kingdom in these last days does not arise out of panic, but out of a desire to move swiftly and surely to establish and strengthen his kingdom among all people who are seeking the light and truth of the gospel, which is God's plan of life for all his children." (CR, Oct. 1975)

Israel will be gathered and the lost tribes will return

D&C 133:26-35

26 And they who are in the north countries shall come in remembrance before the Lord; and their prophets shall hear his voice, and shall no longer stay themselves; and they shall smite the rocks, and the ice shall flow down at their presence.

27 And an highway shall be cast up in the midst of the great deep.

28 Their enemies shall become a prey unto them,

29 And in the barren deserts there shall come forth pools of living water; and the parched ground shall no longer be a thirsty land.

30 And they shall bring forth their rich treasures unto the children of Ephraim, my

servants.

31 And the boundaries of the everlasting hills shall tremble at their presence.

32 And there shall they fall down and be crowned with glory, even in Zion, by the hands of the servants of the Lord, even the children of Ephraim.

33 And they shall be filled with songs of everlasting joy.

34 Behold, this is the blessing of the everlasting God upon the tribes of Israel, and the richer blessing upon the head of Ephraim and his fellows.

35 And they also of the tribe of Judah, after their pain, shall be sanctified in holiness before the Lord, to dwell in his presence day and night, forever and ever.

Compare with Jeremiah

Jeremiah 31:8-12

8 Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.

9 They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

10 Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.

11 For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he.

12 Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.

Neal A. Maxwell

"The valley of Adam-ondi-Ahman will ring again—this time with the sounds of dispensational reunion, as it glows with gathering. Those of Enoch's utterly unique city of 'one heart' will greet those of the New Zion with holy embraces and holy kisses amid the sounds of sweet sobbing. The 'hills shall tremble' at the presence of the lost tribes, and hearts, as well as ice, will melt, as they come 'filled with songs of everlasting joy'." (CR, Oct. 1986)

Events of the Second Coming

All people throughout the world will know when He first appears

D&C 133:18-22,25

18 When the Lamb shall stand upon Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having his Father's name written on their foreheads.

19 Wherefore, prepare ye for the coming of the Bridegroom; go ye, go ye out to meet him.

20 For behold, he shall stand upon the mount of Olivet, and upon the mighty ocean, even the great deep, and upon the islands of the sea, and upon the land of Zion.

21 And he shall utter his voice out of Zion, and he shall speak from Jerusalem, and his voice shall be heard among all people;

22 And it shall be a voice as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder, which shall break down the mountains, and the valleys shall not be found.

25 And the Lord, even the Savior, shall stand in the midst of his people, and shall reign over all flesh.

These events were covered in the lesson on Section 45

D&C 45:48–49

48 And then shall the Lord set his foot upon this mount, and it shall cleave in twain, and the earth shall tremble, and reel to and fro, and the heavens also shall shake.

49 And the Lord shall utter his voice, and all the ends of the earth shall hear it; and the nations of the earth shall mourn, and they that have laughed shall see their folly.

Neil L. Andersen

"Then, a seemingly impossible experience: 'All flesh,' the Lord says, 'shall see me together' (D&C 101:23). How will it happen? We do not know. But I testify it will happen—exactly as prophesied. We will kneel in reverence, 'and the Lord shall utter his voice, and all the ends of the earth shall hear it' (D&C45:49). 'It shall be ... as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder' (D&C 133:22)." (CR, April 2015)

D&C 133:46-51

46 And it shall be said: Who is this that cometh down from God in heaven with dyed garments; yea, from the regions which are not known, clothed in his glorious apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength?

47 And he shall say: I am he who spake in righteousness, mighty to save.

48 And the Lord shall be red in his apparel, and his garments like him that treadeth in the wine-vat.

49 And so great shall be the glory of his presence that the sun shall hide his face in shame, and the moon shall withhold its light, and the stars shall be hurled from their places.

50 And his voice shall be heard: I have trodden the wine-press alone, and have brought judgment upon all people; and none were with me;

51 And I have trampled them in my fury, and I did tread upon them in mine anger, and their blood have I sprinkled upon my garments, and stained all my raiment; for this was the day of vengeance which was in my heart.

Why will the Lord be clothed in red garments when He comes again?

(I have trodden the wine-press alone
their blood have I sprinkled upon my garments, and stained all my raiment)

Neal A. Maxwell

"In addition to the consequences of scourging, how Christ's lifeblood had already flowed in Gethsemane! Remember, he suffered 'both body and spirit' (D&C 19:18). Declared King Benjamin, Christ would suffer 'even more than man can suffer, except it be unto death; for behold, blood cometh from every pore, so great shall be his anguish' (Mosiah 3:7).

"Having bled at every pore, how red His raiment must have been in Gethsemane, how crimson that cloak!

"No wonder, when Christ comes in power and glory, that He will come in reminding red attire, signifying not only the winepress of wrath, but also to bring to our remembrance how He suffered for each of us in Gethsemane and on Calvary!" (CR, April 1987)

The righteous will be resurrected and caught up to meet Him

D&C 133:54-56

54 Yea, and Enoch also, and they who were with him; the prophets who were before him; and Noah also, and they who were before him; and Moses also, and they who were before him;

55 And from Moses to Elijah, and from Elijah to John, who were with Christ in his resurrection, and the holy apostles, with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, shall be in the presence of the Lamb.

56 And the graves of the saints shall be opened; and they shall come forth and stand on the right hand of the Lamb, when he shall stand upon Mount Zion, and upon the holy city, the New Jerusalem; and they shall sing the song of the Lamb, day and night forever and ever.

These events were covered in the lesson on Section 45

D&C 45:45-46

45 But before the arm of the Lord shall fall, an angel shall sound his trumpet, and the saints that have slept shall come forth to meet me in the cloud.

46 Wherefore, if ye have slept in peace blessed are ye; for as you now behold me and know that I am, even so shall ye come unto me and your souls shall live, and your redemption shall be perfected; and the saints shall come forth from the four quarters of the earth.

Neil L. Andersen

"Those awaiting the Savior's coming will 'look for [Him].' And He has promised, 'I will come!' The righteous will see Him 'in the clouds of heaven

[with all the holy angels], clothed with power and great glory' (D&C 45:44). 'An angel shall sound his trump, and the saints... from the four quarters of the earth' (D&C 45:45–46) will 'be caught up to meet him' (D&C 88:96). Those 'that have slept,' meaning those worthy Saints who have died, 'shall [also] come forth to meet [Him]' (D&C 45:45)." (CR, April 2011)

After His Coming

The earth will be filled with the Lords love and peace during His millennial reign

D&C 133:52-53

52 And now the year of my redeemed is come; and they shall mention the loving kindness of their Lord, and all that he has bestowed upon them according to his goodness, and according to his loving kindness, forever and ever.
53 In all their afflictions he was afflicted. And the angel of his presence saved them; and in his love, and in his pity, he redeemed them, and bore them, and carried them all the days of old;

Compare with Isaiah

Isaiah 63:7

I will mention the loving kindnesses of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his loving kindnesses.

Neal A. Maxwell

"His Atonement remains the rescuing and reassuring reality.

"No wonder, of all the things for which we might praise Jesus when He comes again in majesty and power, we will praise Him for His 'loving kindness' and His 'goodness'; moreover, we will go on praising Him for ever and ever! We will never need to be coaxed." (CR, April 1997)

He talks about the judgement of the wicked

D&C 133:63-64,70-72

63 And upon them that hearken not to the voice of the Lord shall be fulfilled that which was written by the prophet Moses, that they should be cut off from among the people.

64 And also that which was written by the prophet Malachi: For, behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven, and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

70 And this shall ye have of my hand—ye shall lie down in sorrow.

71 Behold, and lo, there are none to deliver you; for ye obeyed not my voice when I

called to you out of the heavens; ye believed not my servants, and when they were sent unto you ye received them not.

72 Wherefore, they sealed up the testimony and bound up the law, and ye were delivered over unto darkness.

What will be used to judge the wicked and the righteous?

(ye obeyed not my voice when I called to you out of the heavens; ye believed not my servants, and when they were sent unto you ye received them not)

Orson Pratt

"All the warnings that have been given to the Latter-day Saints, and to the world, will... be required of us to render an account, whether we have been obedient to those warnings, or whether we have been disobedient.... They will be judged according to law, according to testimony, and according to that which is written in the sacred books. The records of heaven will be opened. The records, kept by divine authority on the earth, will also be opened. The evidences and testimonies will be set forth; and every man and every woman, who is condemned, in the great judgment day, will be condemned according to law, according to testimony, according to evidence, according to the light that has been given, according to the deeds done in the body." (JD, 21:232)

Prepare By Teaching the Fulness of His Gospel by His Spirit

To help prepare for His second coming we have received the fulness of the gospel in plainness and simplicity and we are commanded to teach it by the power of the Spirit

D&C 133:57-62

57 And for this cause, that men might be made partakers of the glories which were to be revealed, the Lord sent forth the fulness of his gospel, his everlasting covenant, reasoning in plainness and simplicity—

58 To prepare the weak for those things which are coming on the earth, and for the Lord's errand in the day when the weak shall confound the wise, and the little one become a strong nation, and two shall put their tens of thousands to flight.

59 And by the weak things of the earth the Lord shall thresh the nations by the power of his Spirit.

60 And for this cause these commandments were given; they were commanded to be kept from the world in the day that they were given, but now are to go forth unto all flesh—

61 And this according to the mind and will of the Lord, who ruleth over all flesh.

62 And unto him that repenteth and sanctifieth himself before the Lord shall be given eternal life.

How can “the weak things of the earth” teach the gospel and confound the “wise”?

(he Lord sent forth the fulness of his gospel, his everlasting covenant,
reasoning in plainness and simplicity
by the power of his Spirit)

Joseph Fielding Smith

"As agents of the Lord we are not called or authorized to teach the philosophies of the world or the speculative theories of our scientific age. Our mission is to preach the doctrines of salvation in plainness and simplicity as they are revealed and recorded in the scriptures.

"After directing us to teach the principles of the gospel found in the standard works, as guided by the Spirit, the Lord then made that great pronouncement which governs all the teaching of his gospel by anyone in the Church: 'And the Spirit shall be given unto you by the prayer of faith; and if ye receive not the Spirit ye shall not teach' (D&C 42:14)." (CR, Oct. 1970)