

## ENGAGING GOSPEL DOCTRINE (EPISODE 147)

### LESSON 21

#### “What Is the Sign of Thy Coming?”

Hook	The idea that God will come crashing into history and make everything better is both appealing and terrifying. We also need to be careful that it does not become disempowering or otherwise counterproductive.
Manual Goal	To help class members recognize the signs that will precede the Savior’s Second Coming and to encourage members to prepare themselves for this great event.
EGD Goal	To help class members channel in productive ways the motivation, preparedness, and hope related to the idea of the Second Coming.

#### Lesson 21: Signs of the Second Coming

##### I. Sunday School

- a. Themes in 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming discussions: Fear, anxiety, hope (excitement/fascination)
- b. Review the Reading
- c. Second coming in perspective (Packer’s quote)
- d. How each element of discussion can be constructive
  - i. Fear
  - ii. Hope
  - iii. Preparation (Hinckley quote cherry trees live ready every day)
- e. Pros and cons of literal belief in the Second Coming
- f. Conclusion

##### II. Scripture Study

- a. Return to the reading (mention the comparison in the notes)
- b. Review: Second coming in historical context
  - i. Jewish apocalypticism
  - ii. 19<sup>th</sup> century apocalypticism (William Miller, Great Disappointment, Adventism)
- c. Canonization of Revelation (Revelation was early accepted in the West, such as in Rome, but not in the East, and was not universally accepted until after the 11<sup>th</sup> century!!)

##### III. Study Notes

- i. Review Second Coming down the rabbit hole
  1. Second coming soon (this generation, children, grandchildren)
- ii. Second coming, but not soon (few hundred years)
- iii. Second coming, but distant future (thousand years? Two? It has already been that long since the first who expected it..)
- iv. No literal second coming

- a.
- b. Can false hopes be useful?
- c. Can we not believe in the Second Coming and still be good Mormons?
- d. What would be a constructive take on the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming for the Church of Jesus Christ of \*Latter-day\* Saints?

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/2011/10/counsel-to-youth?lang=eng>

Sometimes you might be tempted to think as I did from time to time in my youth: “The way things are going, the world’s going to be over with. The end of the world is going to come before I get to where I should be.” Not so! You can look forward to doing it right—getting married, having a family, seeing your children and grandchildren, maybe even great-grandchildren.

[https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/richard-neitzel-holzapfel\\_glass-half-full-second-coming-lord-jesus-christ/](https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/richard-neitzel-holzapfel_glass-half-full-second-coming-lord-jesus-christ/)

I recall a reported statement, attributed, as I remember it, to President Wilford Woodruff. Some of the brethren of his time are said to have approached him (they had their troubles also) and to have inquired of him as to when he felt the end would be—when would be the coming of the Master? These, I think, are not his exact words, but they convey the spirit of his reported reply: “I would live as if it were to be tomorrow—but I am still planting cherry trees!” I think we may well take this as a page for our own book and live as if the end might be tomorrow—and still plant cherry trees! [Richard L. Evans, CR, April 1950, 105–6]

[http://www.boap.org/LDS/LDS-scriptures/Pearl\\_of\\_GP/Matt24.html](http://www.boap.org/LDS/LDS-scriptures/Pearl_of_GP/Matt24.html)

(Don’t vouch for anything else on the site, but hard to mess up scripture parallels. Simple ones like this at least)

Function of apocalypses: To offer hope in a seemingly hopeless situation, like a parent tells a child “It is ok. It is all going to be ok. It is almost over. It is going to get better”

“Interest [in Matthew 24] is elsewhere [than details about the end of the world]—(1) in supplying the true ending of the Messiah’s story so that the whole can be rightly grasped; (2) in foretelling and therefore making bearable Christian suffering; (2) in nurturing hope by showing how a good future can issue from an evil present; and (4) in encouraging battle against moral languor...So eschatology does not simply console; it also demands discernment and adherence to Jesus’ commands” (Oxford Bible Commentary, 876).

KJV Matthew 24	JST-Matthew
	<b>1</b> For I say unto you, that ye shall not see me henceforth and know that I am he of

**1** And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

**2** And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

**3** ¶And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

**4** And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

**5** For many shall come in my name,

whom it is written by the prophets, until ye shall say: Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord, in the clouds of heaven, and all the holy angels with him. Then understood his disciples that he should come again on the earth, after that he was glorified and crowned on the right hand of God.

**2** And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple; and his disciples came to him, for to hear him, saying: Master, show us concerning the buildings of the temple, as thou hast said—They shall be thrown down, and left unto you desolate.

**3** And Jesus said unto them: See ye not all these things, and do ye not understand them? Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here, upon this temple, one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down.

**4** And Jesus left them, and went upon the Mount of Olives. And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying: Tell us when shall these things be which thou hast said concerning the destruction of the temple, and the Jews; and what is the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world, or the destruction of the wicked, which is the end of the world?

**5** And Jesus answered, and said unto them: Take heed that no man deceive you;

**6** For many shall come in my name,

saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

**6** And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

**7** For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

**8** All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

**9** Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

**10** And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

**11** And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

**12** And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

**13** But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

**14** And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

**15** When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the

saying—I am Christ—and shall deceive many;

**7** Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you, and ye shall be hated of all nations, for my name's sake;

**8** And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another;

**9** And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many;

**10** And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold;

**11** But he that remaineth steadfast and is not overcome, the same shall be saved.

**12** When you, therefore, shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, concerning the

holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

**16** Then let them which be in Judæa flee into the mountains:

**17** Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

**18** Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

**19** And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

**20** But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

**21** For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

**22** And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

**23** Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not.

destruction of Jerusalem, then you shall stand in the holy place; whoso readeth let him understand.

**13** Then let them who are in Judea flee into the mountains;

**14** Let him who is on the housetop flee, and not return to take anything out of his house;

**15** Neither let him who is in the field return back to take his clothes;

**16** And wo unto them that are with child, and unto them that give suck in those days;

**17** Therefore, pray ye the Lord that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day;

**18** For then, in those days, shall be great tribulation on the Jews, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, such as was not before sent upon Israel, of God, since the beginning of their kingdom until this time; no, nor ever shall be sent again upon Israel.

**19** All things which have befallen them are only the beginning of the sorrows which shall come upon them.

**20** And except those days should be shortened, there should none of their flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake, according to the covenant, those days shall be shortened.

**21** Behold, these things I have spoken unto you concerning the Jews; and again, after the tribulation of those days which

**24** For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

**25** Behold, I have told you before.

**26** Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, *he is* in the secret chambers; believe *it* not.

**27** For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

**28** For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

shall come upon Jerusalem, if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there, believe him not;

**22** For in those days there shall also arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch, that, if possible, they shall deceive the very elect, who are the elect according to the covenant.

**23** Behold, I speak these things unto you for the elect's sake; and you also shall hear of wars, and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled, for all I have told you must come to pass; but the end is not yet.

**24** Behold, I have told you before;

**25** Wherefore, if they shall say unto you: Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: Behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not;

**26** For as the light of the morning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, and covereth the whole earth, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.

**27** And now I show unto you a parable. Behold, wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together; so likewise shall mine elect be gathered from the four quarters of the earth.

**28** And they shall hear of wars, and rumors of wars.

**29** Behold I speak for mine elect's sake; for nation shall rise against nation, and

**29** ¶Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

**30** And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn,

kingdom against kingdom; there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

**30** And again, because iniquity shall abound, the love of men shall wax cold; but he that shall not be overcome, the same shall be saved.

**31** And again, this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come, or the destruction of the wicked;

**32** And again shall the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, be fulfilled.

**33** And immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

**34** Verily, I say unto you, this generation, in which these things shall be shown forth, shall not pass away until all I have told you shall be fulfilled.

**35** Although, the days will come, that heaven and earth shall pass away; yet my words shall not pass away, but all shall be fulfilled.

**36** And, as I said before, after the tribulation of those days, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken, then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven, and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn; and they shall

and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

**31** And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**32** Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer *is* nigh:

**33** So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, *even* at the doors.

**34** Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

**35** Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

**36** ¶But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

**37** But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

**38** For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe

see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory;

**37** And whoso treasureth up my word, shall not be deceived, for the Son of Man shall come, and he shall send his angels before him with the great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together the remainder of his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**38** Now learn a parable of the fig tree— When its branches are yet tender, and it begins to put forth leaves, you know that summer is nigh at hand;

**39** So likewise, mine elect, when they shall see all these things, they shall know that he is near, even at the doors;

**40** But of that day, and hour, no one knoweth; no, not the angels of God in heaven, but my Father only.

**41** But as it was in the days of Noah, so it shall be also at the coming of the Son of Man;

**42** For it shall be with them, as it was in the days which were before the flood; for until the day that Noah entered into the ark they were eating and drinking,

entered into the ark,

**39** And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

**40** Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

**41** Two *women shall be* grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

**42** ¶ Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

**43** 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.

**44** Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

**45** Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

**46** Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

**47** Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

**48** But and if that evil servant shall

marrying and giving in marriage;

**43** And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.

**44** Then shall be fulfilled that which is written, that in the last days, two shall be in the field, the one shall be taken, and the other left;

**45** Two shall be grinding at the mill, the one shall be taken, and the other left;

**46** And what I say unto one, I say unto all men; watch, therefore, for you know not at what hour your Lord doth come.

**47** But know this, if the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to have been broken up, but would have been ready.

**48** Therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh.

**49** Who, then, is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

**50** Blessed is that servant whom his lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing; and verily I say unto you, he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

**51** But if that evil servant shall say in his heart: My lord delayeth his coming,

say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

**49** And shall begin to smite *his* fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

**50** The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for *him*, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

**51** And shall cut him asunder, and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**52** And shall begin to smite his fellow-servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken,

**53** The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

**54** And shall cut him asunder, and shall appoint him his portion with the hypocrites; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**55** And thus cometh the end of the wicked, according to the prophecy of Moses, saying: They shall be cut off from among the people; but the end of the earth is not yet, but by and by.