

Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 125.2)

LESSON 48 (STUDY NOTES)

“The Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord”

Hook	The hope that God will come crashing into creation and fix everything is a compelling one.... But what do we do in the meantime?
Goal	
Overview	
Conclusion	

Manual Goal: To encourage class members to (1) prepare for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, (2) pay an honest tithing and generous offerings, and (3) experience the blessings that come because of the sealing power of the priesthood.

EGD Goal: To encourage class members to 1)

I. Sunday School

- a. Malachi and Zechariah in LDS discussion (proof texts)
- b. Second Coming in LDS discussion and culture
- c. Framing: The “awesome, fearful day of the Lord” (tension between awesome and awful), address interpretation of “Great for righteous, dreadful for wicked”)
- d. Review of the reading
- e. Review of core principles in this lesson (and reference past episodes)
 - i. Second Coming
 - ii. Tithing
 - iii. Sealing of the human family
- f. Conclusion

II. Scholarship

- a. Return to the reading
- b. Review of Eschatology (From ABD, actually a good way to review the OT and transition to the NT)

Closer to our modern time, and pertinent to our Church of Jesus Christ of *Latter-day* Saints are the Millennial movements of the 1800s. The LDS Church has not had a “Great Disappointment” on the scale of the Adventists, but it is fascinating to see how talk about the Second Coming has shifted over the history of the Church.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/apocalypse/explanation/amprophecy.html>

III. Study Notes

a. Review Second Coming down the rabbit hole (from recent lesson)

What is the maximally beneficial way to address each of these issues in a way that Sunday School members would embrace?

Second Coming: How can the Second Coming give us an empowering hope (rather than disempowering complacency?) What do we need to do to prepare for the Second Coming?

We anticipate the cataclysms in preparation for the Second coming (wars, inhumanity) but what are we doing about the cataclysms NOW?

<http://www.feministmormonhousewives.org/2014/12/its-time-to-start-building-zion/>

Temple work? How can we “turn our hearts” to our family and loved ones, both living and dead? (spend TIME with loved ones, think of them, find stories to share, keep our ancestors alive in our actions, stories, be inspired by them) (D&C 2:2)

Tithing: Pay tithing on our surplus (“income” is to family as profit is to business), which requires separating need from want, budget, then decide where God wants us to give

"The First Presidency has written: "The simplest statement we know of is the statement of the Lord himself, namely that the members of the Church should pay 'one tenth of all their interest annually,' which is understood to mean income. No one is justified in making any other statement than this."

Kevin Barney post:

<http://bycommonconsent.com/2013/05/19/qd-lesson-no-17-the-law-of-tithing/>
<http://bycommonconsent.com/2010/09/06/tithable-income/>

As Barney points out, 10% is the easy part. 10% of WHAT? Is the challenging part

A 1970 letter from the First Presidency stated that notwithstanding the fact that members should pay one-tenth of their income, "every member of the Church is entitled to make his own decision as to what he thinks he owes the Lord and to make payment accordingly" (Mar. 19, 1970; cf. Doxey, pp. 16, 18). Hence, the exact amount paid is not as important as that each member feels that he or she has paid an honest tenth.

<http://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Tithing>

<https://www.lds.org/new-era/2008/02/to-the-point/do-i-pay-tithing-on-my-income-before-taxes-are-taken-out-or-on-what-i-receive-after-taxes?lang=eng>

Previous Episodes:

<http://www.mormonsundayschool.org/044-tithes-and-fasting-doctrine-covenants-and-church-history/>

<http://www.mormonsundayschool.org/050-the-second-coming-doctrine-covenants-and-church-history-21/>

<http://www.mormonsundayschool.org/59-redeeming-the-dead-dc-and-church-history-lesson-30-2/>

<http://www.mormonsundayschool.org/069-family-history-dc-and-church-history-40/>

Second Coming:

I know I am not alone at how excited I got about the Second Coming and “Signs of the Times”. That was a top topic when I opened up youth Sunday School for questions. But as much as I love end of the world movies, we need to still take a step back.

Let’s assume that the Second Coming is fully literal and will happen. We still need to keep several things in mind:

- 1) Our sources about the Second Coming are thousands of years old and reflect that ancient worldview (concerning the details of how the world will be transformed, for example)
- 2) Pretty much EVERY SINGLE GENERATION since Jesus has believed that this global transformation would happen in their lifetime.
- 3) Including Joseph Smith and the early saints
- 4) The way the Second Coming has been talked about has fluctuated even in the past few decades (contrast when I was younger, patriarchal blessings, and now Packer’s perspective).

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

BYU scholar Dana Pike’s discussion of the expression “Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord”

<https://ojs.lib.byu.edu/spc/index.php/BYUStudies/article/viewFile/6870/6519>