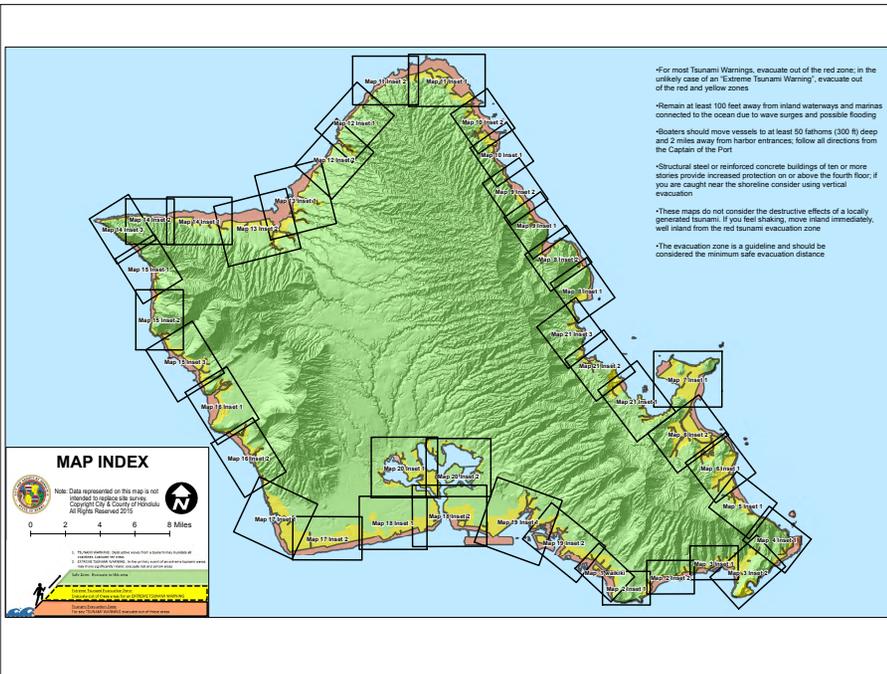




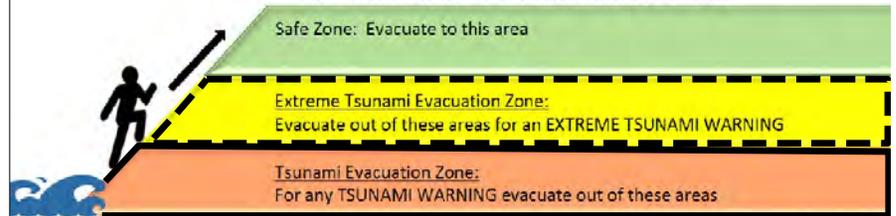
LESSON 2: SIGNS

“...the faithful are taught to study the signs of it and to be prepared for it. I wish to speak about the fourth of these great realities: the signs of the Second Coming and what we should do to prepare for it” (Dallin H. Oaks, April 2004).

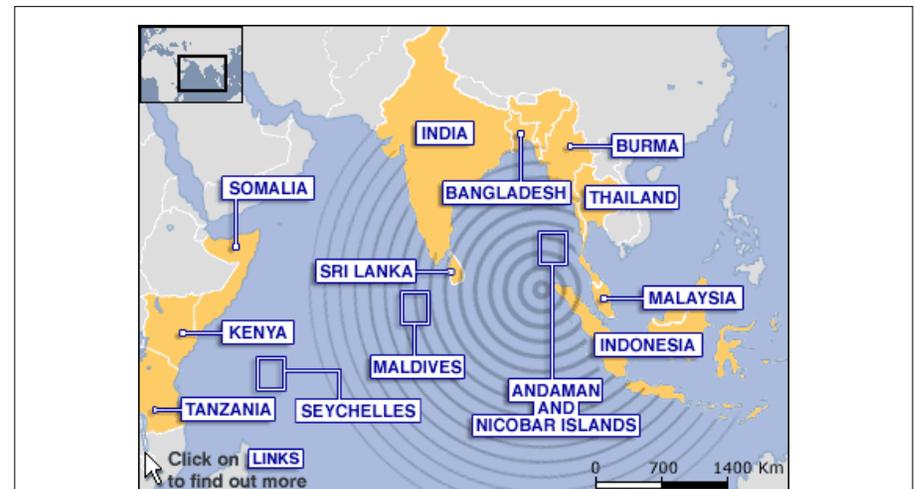
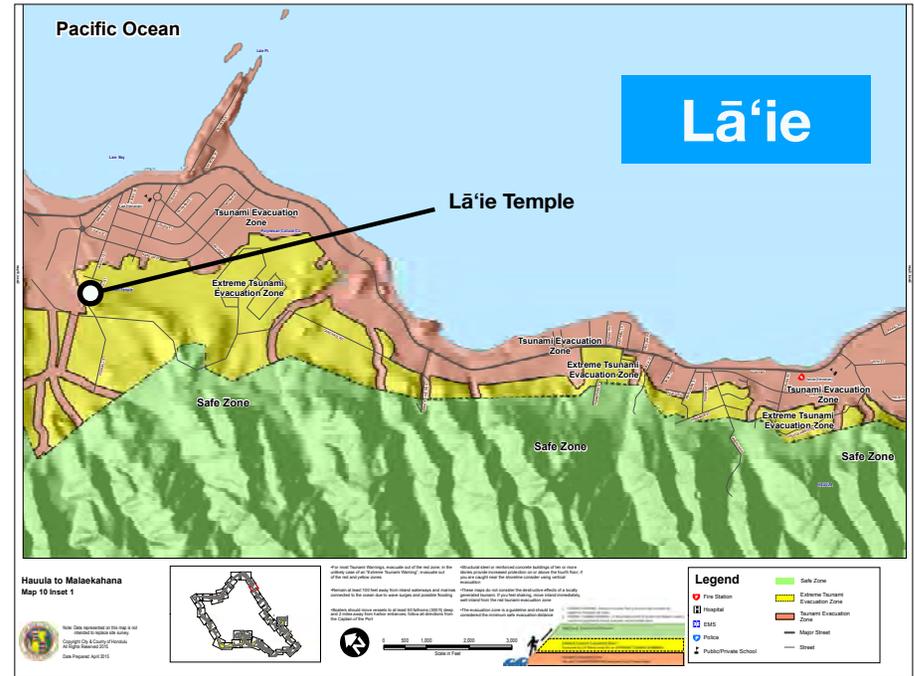
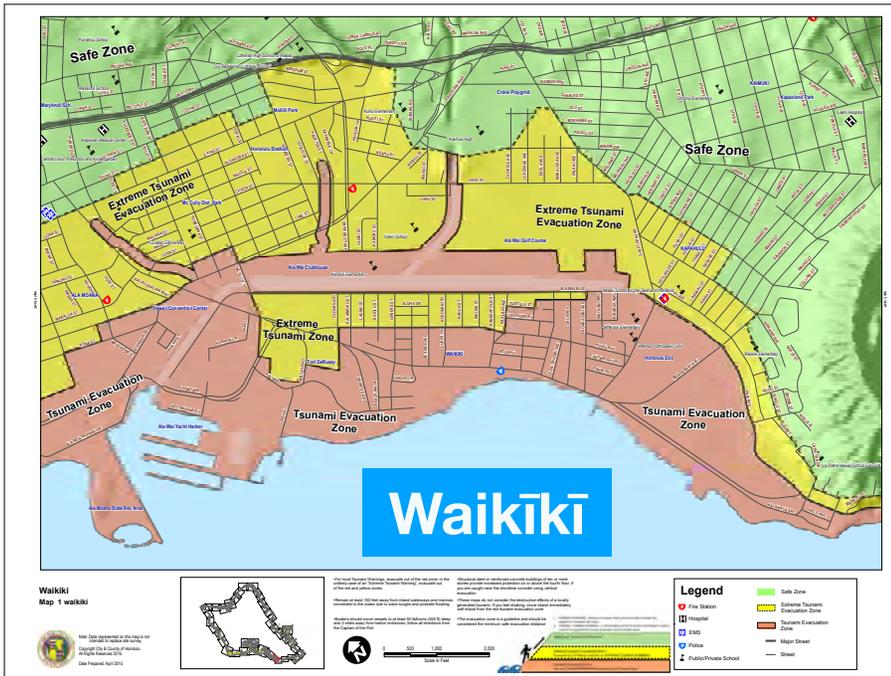
Hawaii tsunami warning system sirens



1. **TSUNAMI WARNING:** Destructive waves from a tsunami may inundate all coastlines. Evacuate red areas
2. **EXTREME TSUNAMI WARNING:** In the unlikely event of an extreme tsunami waves may move significantly inland; evacuate red and yellow areas



Green: safe
Yellow: questionable
Red: evacuate!



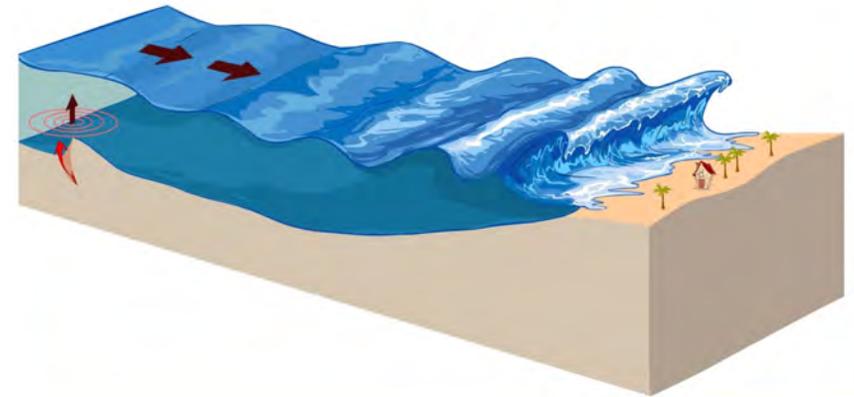
On December 26, 2004, a massive undersea earthquake with a magnitude of **9.1** struck off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, triggering a devastating tsunami that affected multiple countries around the Indian Ocean, resulting in approximately **228,000** deaths.



The worst natural disasters ranked by death toll:

- 1• Yangtze River flood of 1931 (423,000 to 4 million)
- 2• Tangshan earthquake of 1976 (242,000 to 655,000)
- 3• Bhola cyclone of 1970 (300,000 to 500,000)
- 4• **Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 (228,000 deaths)**
- 5• Haiti earthquake of 2010 (316,000 deaths).

Earthquakes and volcanoes cause tsunamis

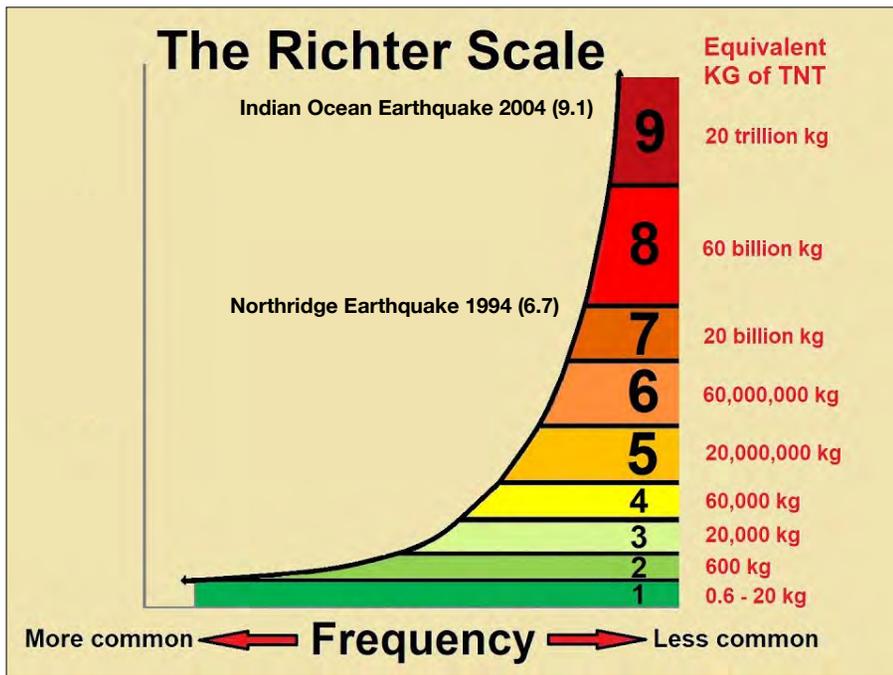


Why were there so many (288,000) casualties in 2004?

- > 9.1 earthquake
- > Waves up to 100 to 167 high
- > Hit coastlines within minutes
- > Dense populations in these areas
- > Lots of December 26 visitors
- > Impacted 14 countries
- > No warning systems
- > Lack of education

MAGNITUDE	IMPACT
8.0 +	CATASTROPHIC
7.0 - 7.9	MAJOR DAMAGE
6.1 - 6.9	DAMAGE LIKELY
5.5 - 6.0	SLIGHT DAMAGE
2.5 - 5.4	RARELY DAMAGE
< 2.5	NOT ALWAYS FELT

Richter Scale: A numerical scale for expressing the magnitude of an earthquake on the basis of seismograph oscillations. The more destructive earthquakes typically have magnitudes between about 5.5 and 8.9; the scale is logarithmic and a difference of one represents an approximate **thirtyfold** difference in magnitude.




After 2004, what improvements have been made to prepare for future tsunamis in the Indian Ocean?



Improved Early Warning Systems

- Tsunami Warning Centers
- Satellite technology
- Seismographs



Strengthened Infrastructure

- Coastal Barriers
- Seawalls and Levees
- Evacuation Routes

Japan's 245-mile wall



Enhanced Community Preparedness

- Public Education Campaigns
- Drills and Training



Policy Changes

- Land use and development
- International Collaboration



Disaster Response

- Emergency Response Plans
- Aid and Reconstruction



Of Preparation?

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	CASUALTIES
2006 Pangandaran tsunami	July 17, 2006	Java, Indonesia	668
2010 Mentawai earthquake and tsunami	October 25, 2010	Mentawai Islands, Indonesia	490
2018 Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami	September 28, 2018	Palu, Indonesia	4,340
2018 Sunda Strait tsunami	December 22, 2018	Sunda Strait, Indonesia	431

Deaths Decreased



From the movie "The Impossible"

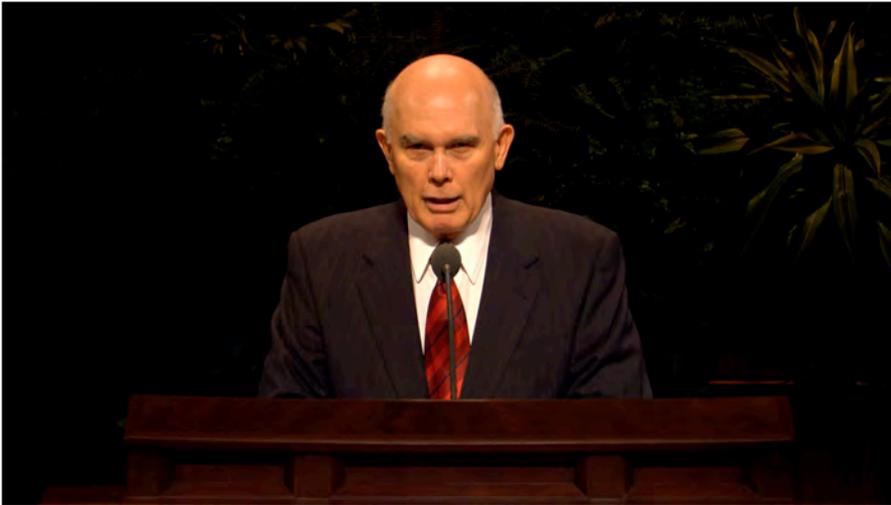
The story of a tourist family in Thailand caught in the destruction and chaotic aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

GOSPEL TRUTH:

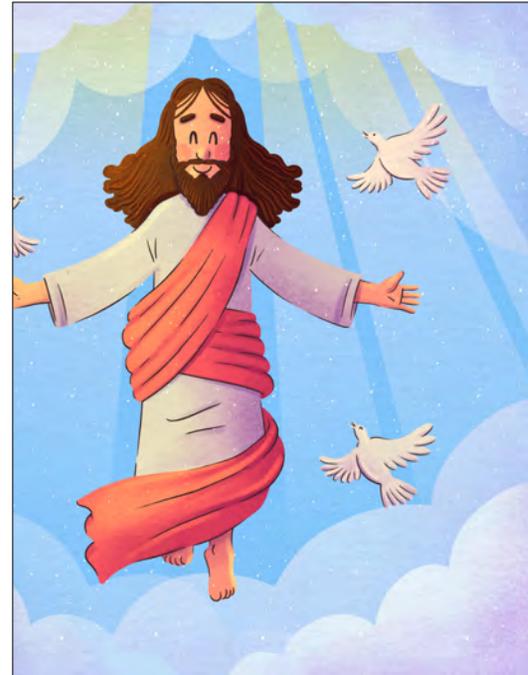


We are commanded to know the signs (both the good and bad) of the Second Coming.

“And unto you it shall be given to know the signs of the times, and the signs of the coming of the Son of Man” (D&C 68:11).

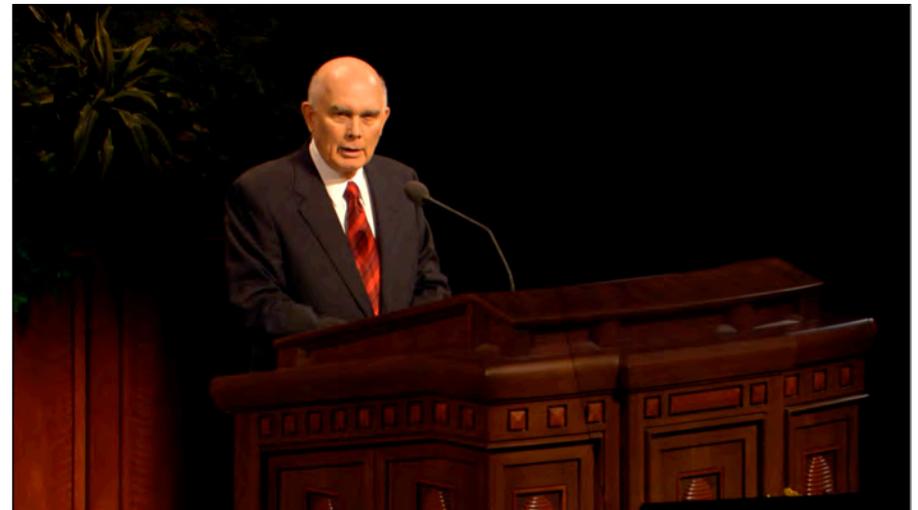


“...the faithful are taught to study the signs of it and to be prepared for it. I wish to speak about the fourth of these great realities: the signs of the Second Coming and what we should do to prepare for it” (Dallin H. Oaks, April 2004).



And it shall come to pass that he that feareth me shall be looking forth for the great day of the Lord to come, even for the signs of the coming of the Son of Man. (D&C 45:39)

“And they shall see signs and wonders, for they shall be shown forth in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath” (D&C 45:40).



“The Savior taught this in the parable of the fig tree whose tender new branches give a sign of the coming of summer. “So likewise,” when the elect shall see the signs of His coming, “they shall know that he is near, even at the doors” (Dallin H. Oaks, April 2004).



“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors” (Matthew 24:32–33).

“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; So likewise, mine elect, when they shall see all these things, they shall know that he is near, even at the doors; But of that day, and hour, no one knoweth; no, not the angels of God in heaven, but my Father only” (JS—M 1:38–40).



Figs are an important food in the Middle East. The fig tree is one of the earliest to show its fruit buds, which appear before the leaves; thus a fig tree with leaves would be expected also to have fruit.

The time when the leaves appear indicates that summer is near. The fig tree differs from most other fruit trees in that its fruit is green and inconspicuous, concealed among leaves until near the time of ripening. (See Bible Dictionary, “fig tree,” 674).





And I said unto them: **Be not troubled**, for, when all these things shall come to pass, ye may know that the promises which have been made unto you shall be fulfilled.

And when the light shall begin to break forth, it shall be with them like unto a parable which I will show you— (D&C 45:35–36)



Ye look and behold the fig trees, and ye see them with your eyes, and ye say when they begin to shoot forth, and their leaves are yet tender, that summer is now nigh at hand; Even so it shall be in that day when they shall see all these things, **then shall they know that the hour is nigh.** (D&C 45:37–39)



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

What are the purposes of the signs of His Second Coming? Why doesn't Christ just suddenly come?

GOSPEL TRUTH:



Even though some of the signs may be troublesome, the Lord says to not fear.



And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying: ...**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? (JS-M 1:4)

“And now, when I the Lord had spoken these words unto my disciples, they were troubled. And I said unto them: **Be not troubled**, for, when all these things shall come to pass, ye may know that the promises which have been made unto you shall be fulfilled”
(D&C 45:34–35).



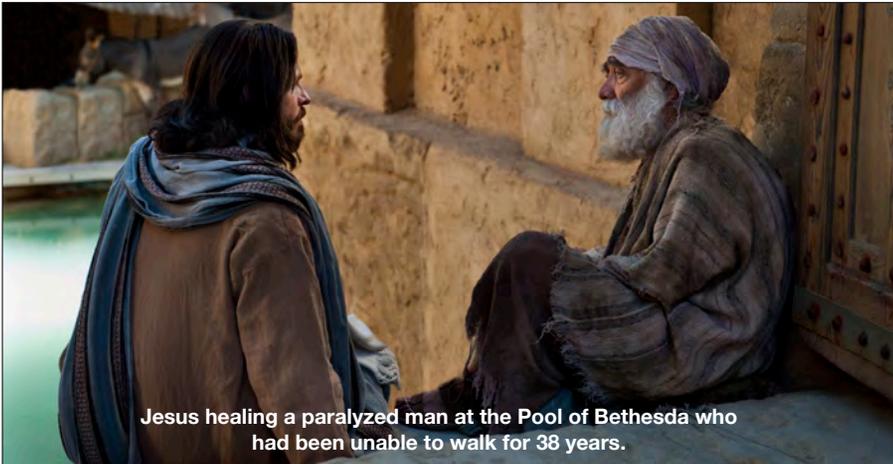
“**Fear not**, little children, for you are mine, and I have overcome the world, and you are of them that my Father hath given me; And the day cometh that you shall hear my voice and see me, and know that I am. **Watch, therefore, that ye may be ready**”
(D&C 50:41, 45-46).

And it shall come to pass that he that feareth me **shall be looking forth** for the great day of the Lord to come, **even for the signs** of the coming of the Son of Man.
(D&C 45:39)

And **they shall see signs and wonders**, for they shall be shown forth in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath. (D&C 45:40)



And then **they shall look for me**, and, behold, **I will come**; and **they shall see me** in the clouds of heaven, clothed with power and great glory; with all the holy angels; and **he that watches not for me shall be cut off**. (D&C 45:44)



Jesus healing a paralyzed man at the Pool of Bethesda who had been unable to walk for 38 years.

But he that **remaineth steadfast and is not overcome**, the same shall be saved. (JS—M 1:11)

And I said unto them: **Be not troubled**, for, when all these things shall come to pass, ye may know that the promises which have been made unto you shall be fulfilled. (D&C 45:35)

“see that ye **be not troubled**”
(JS—M 1:23)



Living in these difficult times, brothers and sisters, requires each one of us to maintain a positive, hopeful perspective about the future. Today, more so than in the past, I am asked about the signs of the times and if I think the end of the world is near. (M. Russell Ballard, Oct. 1992)



...more and more people are experiencing great alarm at what appears to be an acceleration of worldwide calamity. As members of the Church, we must not forget the Savior's admonition, "Be not troubled: for these things must all come to pass." (M. Russell Ballard, Oct. 1992)



My message to you today, my brothers and sisters, is simply this: the Lord is in control. He knows the end from the beginning. He has given us adequate instruction that, if followed, will see us safely through any crisis. His purposes will be fulfilled, and someday we will understand the eternal reasons for all of these events. Therefore, today we must be careful to not overreact, nor should we be caught up in extreme preparations; but what we must do is keep the commandments of God and never lose hope!



Knowing the signs of the Second Coming, how you “fear not” and “be not troubled”?

See D&C 50:41 and 45:35

GOSPEL TRUTH:



We have been given many signs to observe before the Second Coming.

The signs have been divided into...



GROUPS



False Prophets

False Prophets		

		
False Prophets	Social Conflict	

		
False Prophets	Social Conflict	Natural Disasters

		
False Prophets	Social Conflict	Natural Disasters
		
Emotional Distress		

		
False Prophets	Social Conflict	Natural Disasters
		
Emotional Distress	Wicked People	



False Prophets



Social Conflict



Natural Disasters



Emotional Distress



Wicked People



Happy Signs



False Prophets



And Jesus answered, and said unto them: Take heed that no man deceive you; For many shall come in my name, saying—I am Christ—and shall deceive many; 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 (JS—M 1:5-7)



And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many
(JS—M 1:9)



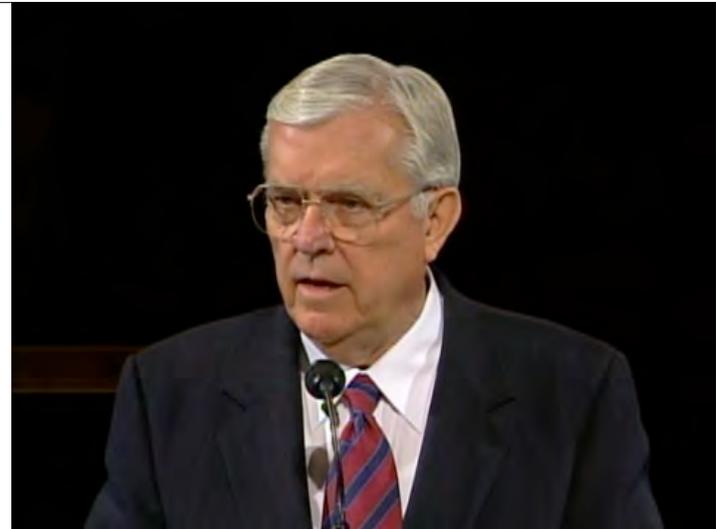
Behold, these things I have spoken unto you concerning the Jews; and again, after the tribulation of those days which shall come upon Jerusalem, if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there, **believe him not**; (JS—M 1:21)



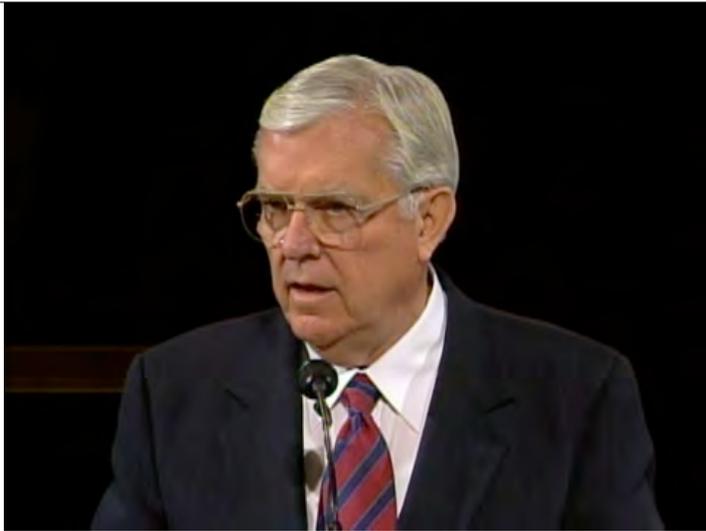
For in those days there shall also arise **false Christs**, and **false prophets**, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch, that, if possible, they shall **deceive** the very elect, who are the elect according to the covenant. (JS—M 1:22)



The Prophet Joseph Smith warned: “When a man goes about prophesying, and commands men to obey his teachings, he must either be a true or false prophet. False prophets always arise to oppose the true prophets and they will prophesy so very near the truth that they will **deceive almost the very chosen ones**” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 365).



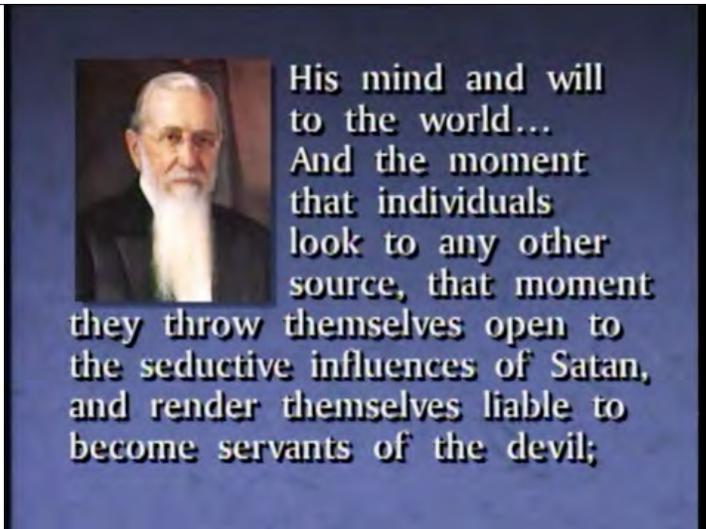
As Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is our duty to be watchmen on the tower, warning Church members to beware of false prophets and false teachers who lie in wait to ensnare and destroy faith and testimony. (M. Russell Ballard, Oct. 1999)



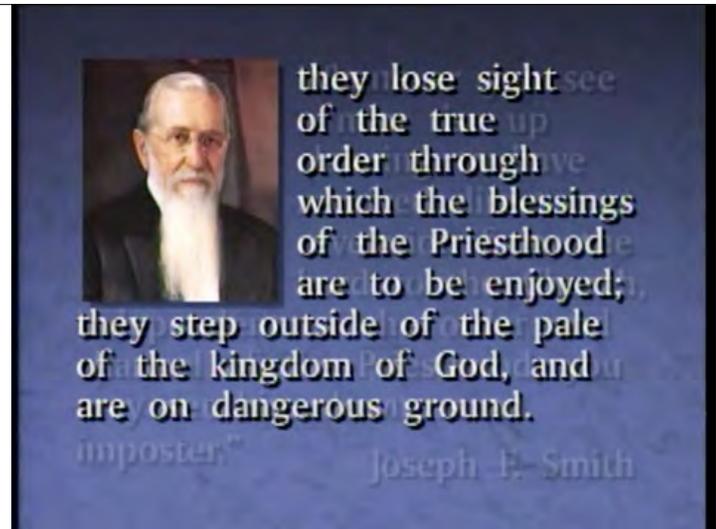
Today we warn you that there are false prophets and false teachers arising; and if we are not careful, even those who are among the faithful members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will fall victim to their deception. (M. Russell Ballard, Oct. 1999)



President Joseph F. Smith gave wise and clear counsel that applies to us today: "We can accept nothing as authoritative but that which comes directly through the appointed channel, the constituted organizations of the Priesthood, which is the channel that God has appointed through which to make known His mind and will to the world. (M. Russell Ballard, Oct. 1999)



And the moment that individuals look to any other source, that moment they throw themselves open to the seductive influences of Satan, and render themselves liable to become servants of the devil; they lose sight of the true order through which the blessings of the Priesthood are to be enjoyed; they step outside of the pale of the kingdom of God, and are on dangerous ground. (M. Russell Ballard, Oct. 1999)



Whenever you see a man rise up claiming to have received direct revelation from the Lord to the Church, independent of the order and channel of the Priesthood, you may set him down as an imposter" (Gospel Doctrine, 5th ed. [1939], 41–42). (M. Russell Ballard, Oct. 1999)



Whenever you see a man rise up claiming to have received direct revelation from the Lord to the Church, independent of the order and channel of the Priesthood, you may set him down as an imposter.”
Joseph F. Smith

When we think of false prophets and false teachers, we tend to think of those who espouse an obviously false doctrine or presume to have authority to teach the true gospel of Christ according to their own interpretation. (M. Russell Ballard, Oct. 1999)

6/7



We often assume that such individuals are associated with small radical groups on the fringes of society. However, I reiterate: there are false prophets and false teachers who have or at least claim to have membership in the Church. There are those who, without authority, claim Church endorsement to their products and practices. Beware of such. (M. Russell Ballard, Oct. 1999)

7/7



Who are these false Christs and prophets and how do you deal with them as you prepare for the Second Coming?



**Social
Conflict**



And then shall many be
offended, and shall **betray** one
another, and shall **hate** one
another; (JS—M 1:8)



And because **iniquity** shall
abound, the love of many
shall wax **cold** (JS—M 1:10)



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.
(JS—M 1:23)



And they shall hear of wars, and
rumors of wars. Behold I speak
for mine elect's sake; for **nation**
shall rise against nation, and
kingdom against kingdom;
(JS—M 1:28–29)



...**iniquity** shall abound, the
love of men shall wax **cold**;
(JS—M 1:30)



yet men will **harden** their hearts
against me, and they will take up
the **sword**, one against another,
and they will **kill** one another.
(D&C 45:33)



How can you find peace
when you hear about and
see the social conflict
before the Second Coming?



Natural Disasters



**And there shall be earthquakes
also in divers places, and many
desolations... (D&C 45:33)**



**But, behold, I say unto you that
before this great day shall come the
sun shall be darkened, and the
moon shall be turned into blood,
and the stars shall fall from heaven,
and there shall be greater signs in
heaven above and in the earth
beneath; (D&C 29:14)**



**there shall be famines, and
pestilences, and earthquakes,
in divers places. (JS—M 1:29)**



**And they shall behold blood,
and fire, and vapors of
smoke. (D&C 45:41)**



And there shall be a great hailstorm sent forth to destroy the crops of the earth. (D&C 29:16)



For not many days hence and the earth shall tremble and reel to and fro as a drunken man; and the sun shall hide his face, and shall refuse to give light; and the moon shall be bathed in blood; and the stars shall become exceedingly angry, and shall cast themselves down as a fig that falleth from off a fig tree. (D&C 88:87)



And also cometh the testimony of the voice of thunderings, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea heaving themselves beyond their bounds. (D&C 88:90)



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. (JS—M 1:33)



Joseph F. Smith explained some of these purposes:
“We believe that these severe, natural calamities are visited upon men by the Lord for the good of his children, to quicken their devotion to others, and to bring out their better natures, that they may love and serve him. We believe, further, that they are the heralds and tokens of his final judgment, and the schoolmasters to teach the people to prepare themselves by righteous living for the coming of the Savior to reign upon the earth”
(Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith [1998], 393).



How do you prepare for these natural disasters before the Second Coming?



Emotional Distress



And in that day shall be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion, and **men's hearts shall fail them**, and they shall say that Christ delayeth his coming until the end of the earth. (D&C 45:26)



And there shall be **weeping and wailing** among the hosts of men; (D&C 29:15)



For after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes, that shall cause **groanings** in the midst of her, and men shall **fall** upon the ground and shall **not be able to stand**. (D&C 88:89)



And all things shall be in **commotion**; and surely, men's hearts shall **fail** them; for **fear** shall come upon all people. (D&C 88:91)



What can you do about the emotional distresses you feel in yourself and see in others before the **Second Coming?**



Wicked People



But as it was in the days of Noah, so it shall be also at the coming of the Son of Man; 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, marrying and giving in marriage; And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. (JS—M 1:41–43)



And it shall come to pass, because of the **wickedness of the world, that I will take vengeance upon the **wicked**, for they will **not repent**; for the cup of mine indignation is full; for behold, my blood shall not cleanse them if they **hear me not**. (D&C 29:17)**



Speaking of these wicked people, the Lord said, “Wherefore, I the Lord God will send forth flies upon the face of the earth, which shall take hold of the inhabitants thereof, and shall eat their flesh, and shall cause maggots to come in upon them; And their tongues shall be stayed that they shall not utter against me; and their flesh shall fall from off their bones, and their eyes from their sockets; And it shall come to pass that the beasts of the forest and the fowls of the air shall devour them up” (D&C 29:18–20).



“And the **great and abominable** church, which is the **whore** of all the earth, shall be **cast down** by devouring fire, according as it is spoken by the mouth of Ezekiel the prophet, who spoke of these things, which have not come to pass but surely must, as I live, for **abominations** shall not reign” (D&C 29:21).



What can you do about your wickedness and the evil in others before the Second Coming?



Happy Signs



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; (JS—M 1:31)



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. (JS—M 1:27)



In this verse, eagles (“vultures” in some translations) gathering to a carcass are compared to the gathering of Israel. “The manner of the gathering, we are told, will be in the same miraculous and mysterious way as the gathering of eagles to a carcass lying in the desert—they appear suddenly and inexplicably in the four quarters of the sky and come together from vast distances to that single spot.”

Source: Scripture Helps: New Testament



The use of the word carcass makes one think of a dead and worthless body, but it may also refer to a structure or framework, which better fits its use in Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:27. This is supported by the language in the Joseph Smith Translation of Luke 17:37, “Wheresoever the body is gathered; or, in other words, whithersoever the saints are gathered, thither will the eagles be gathered together; or, thither will the remainder be gathered together.”

Source: Scripture Helps: New Testament



LET’S TALK ABOUT IT
What other signs will come or have already come before the Second Coming?



**Why be aware
of the signs?**



And also that ye might know of the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and of earth, the Creator of all things from the beginning; and that ye might know of the signs of his coming, to the intent that ye might believe on his name. (Helaman 14:12)



And if ye believe on his name ye will repent of all your sins, that thereby ye may have a remission of them through his merits. (Helaman 14:13)



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT
How would knowing the signs help you believe on his name and repent (Hel. 14:12–13)?

“And the angel said unto me that many shall see greater things than these, to the intent that they might **believe that these signs and these wonders should come to pass** upon all the face of this land, to the intent that there should be **no cause for unbelief** among the children of men”
(Helaman 14:28).



“And this to the intent that whosoever will believe **might be saved**, and that whosoever will not believe, a righteous judgment might come upon them; and also if they are condemned they bring upon themselves their own condemnation” (Helaman 14:29).



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT
How does believing the signs save us (Hel. 14:29)?

✓
TO DO

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

WEEK 2 CHALLENGE

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Will you watch for the signs, refuse to bury your head in the sand, accept that the signs are coming, try not to live in fear and know that if you are prepared, your fear will diminish?



ONLINE CLASS

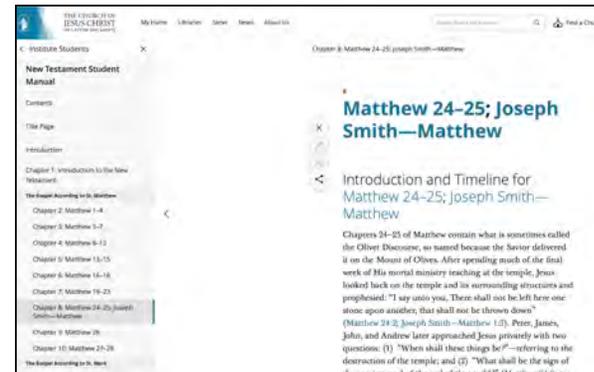
Watch this lesson online or download a PDF of today's slides.



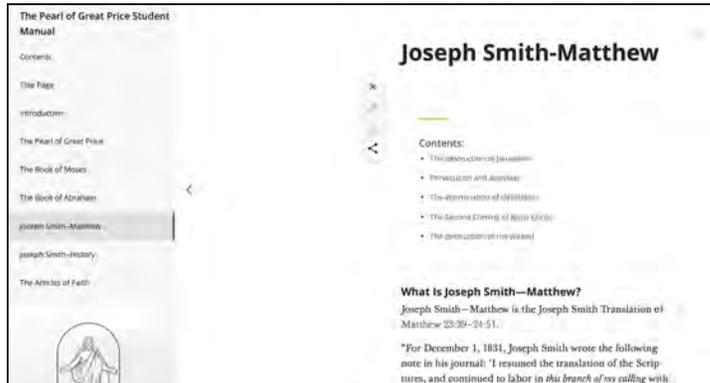
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READING LIST

JS—M 1 and Matthew 24
D&C 29:14–23
D&C 38
D&C 45:17–57
D&C 88:87–94
D&C 101
D&C 133



New Testament Institute Student Manual (Religions 211-212)
MATTHEW 24–25 AND JOSEPH SMITH—MATTHEW



Pearl of Great Price Institute Student Manual (Religion 327) JOSEPH SMITH—MATTHEW



NEXT CLASS

▶ January 22 Spiritual Preparation

“We need to make both temporal and spiritual preparation for the events prophesied at the time of the Second Coming. And the preparation most likely to be neglected is the one less visible and more difficult—the spiritual” (Dallin H. Oaks, April 2004).