

The Law and the Word of the Lord: Our Duty and Our Quest

Talk (F'89) and Chiasm (F'92) by Sterling D. Allan

Main Chiasm:



- A We live during the most **exciting**
- B and **challenging** time in the history of the world.
- C We have embarked on an **adventure**
- D that *far surpasses anything Hollywood ever produced.*
- E-1 We have **important**
- E-2 **foreordained destinies** to fulfil.
- F-1 The *forces of evil*
- F-2 that are now **arrayed**
- F-3 must be **overcome**, both individually and collectively.
- G-1 Individually
- G-2 we are striving ultimately to *come unto Christ.*
- G-3 Collectively
- G-4 we are *striving to build up Zion.*
- H-1 The struggles that **lie ahead** will try us to the very core--
- H-2 even as *Abraham.* (D&C 101:4.)
- H-3 That is the **purpose** of the trials.
- I-1 Great tribulations
- I-2 will **produce a sanctified people**
- J-1 worthy to *raise up* the city of Zion.
- J-2 Individually, if a person is *faithful*,
- K-1 tribulations like unto **Abraham's**
- K-2 will bring the **blessings** of Abraham.
- L-1 Nearly one third of all scriptures deal with **prophecy.**
- L-2 Many of those prophecies focus on the very day in which we live, it is so **crucial.**
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- L-1 As we **contemplate**
- L-2 the **trials** that *lie ahead*,
- K-1 the following remarks of the apostle Paul become reassuring. He counseled, "...Despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For **whom the Lord loveth** he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." (Heb. 12:5,6.)
- K-2 Nephi declared that the Lord "doeth not anything save it be for the **benefit** of the world; for he loveth the world...." (2 Ne. 26:24.)
- J-1 Zion is our *goal* collectively,
- J-2 and having our *calling and election made sure* is our goal individually.
- I-1 The chastisements of the Lord
- I-2 are "for our profit, *that we might be partakers of his holiness.*" (Heb. 12:10.)
- H-1 "No chastening for the **present**," continued Paul, "seemeth to be joyous, but *grievous*;
- H-2 nevertheless afterward it *yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness* unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees...." (Heb. 12:11.)
- H-3 Paul further indicated that **if** we do these things, we "*shall see the Lord.*" (12:14.)
- G-1 Like an individual
- G-2 must overcome the world to be **redeemed**,
- G-3 so must the saints of God
- G-4 *overcome the kingdoms of the world so that the world might be redeemed.*
- F-1 The *Lord*
- F-2 will be our **staff**
- F-3 and **our stay**,
- E-1 but we **must**
- E-2 be the **instruments.**
- D This is our **DUTY**,
- C this is our quest.
- B May we be **faithful**
- A in this glorious **responsibility.**
- [end of text]

- M-1** Joel called this *crucible of time*, "the *valley of decision*." (Joel 3:14.)
- M-2** The *decision* of which he spoke lies at the core of the dreadful events
- M-3** that are *shortly to come*.
- N-1** The *picture that the prophecies paint of that which is just ahead is not pleasant*.
- N-2** Yet the main purpose of prophecies is not to frighten us--though they do *stir us up in remembrance of the Lord*.
- N-3** They are given so that we might *believe, repent, understand, and prepare*. (Hel 14:11-13; D&C 84:117; Hel 14:9.)
- O-1** In Third Nephi, Christ prophesied that the time would come in the latter days that *the Gentiles would sin against the gospel and reject it*. (3 Ne. 16:10.)
- O-2** He said they would be "*lifted up in the PRIDE of their hearts*
- O-3** *above all nations, and above all the people*
- O-4** of the *whole earth....*" (3 Ne. 16:10.)
- P-1.a** President Benson, in the last April General Conference,
- P-1.b** addressed this issue of *PRIDE*.
- P-1.c** He reminded us of the warning in the Doctrine and Covenants that states, "*Beware of pride, lest ye become as the Nephites of old.*" (D&C 38:39.)
- P-1.d** We must remember that pride not only caused **THE NEPHITES'** utter destruction. (Moro. 8:27.)
- P-1.e** It also brought punishing destructions upon them, to chasten them. (Hel. 15:3.)
- P-1.f** The situations presented in the book of Helaman *PARALLEL* remarkably
- P-1.g** the *conditions we find in the world today and the chastening destructions that apparently await us*.
- P-1.a'** Christ continued his prophecy, declaring
- P-1.b'** that if **THE GENTILES** would *not repent and hearken* unto him
- P-1.c'** that they would be "*as salt that hath lost its savor,*
- P-1.d'** which is thenceforth good for nothing but to be *cast out*
- P-1.e'** and...*trodden under foot....*" (3 Ne. 16:15.)
- P-1.f'** Many **OTHER PROPHETS** have also described
- P-1.g'** how *this hypocritical Gentile nation shall be trodden down*. (See normal text for references)
- P-2.a** The two points I would like to address are the *reasons* behind this awful scene that will unfold and the *stance we should take* as we enter into it.
- P-2.b** These *two points*,
- P-2.c** the *reasons and the solution*,
- P-2.d** seem to hinge on the *same factors*.
- Q-1** As *members of the Church*,
- Q-2** collectively, our *garments are not completely clean*
- Q-3** of the *degeneration of our society*.
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- Q-1** Only those *saints* whose names are "written in the book of life"
- Q-2** will not *worship the beast*
- Q-3** and *take the mark of the beast*. (13:8,16.)
- P-1.a''** In the previous chapter, John described
- P-1.b''** another war--the **WAR IN HEAVEN**. (12:7.)
- P-1.c''** Then in the same context he mentioned the *war that satan will wage yet again* on the earth. (12:17.)
- P-1.d''** Indeed, the war that is *now being waged on earth*,
- P-1.e''** and which will become *most intense in the days ahead*,
- P-1.f''** is a *REPEAT*
- P-1.g''** of the *war in heaven*.
- P-2.a** *Freedom is still the crux*,
- P-2.b** this time on *two arenas*.
- P-2.c** The *conflict*
- P-2.d** is *not only spiritual, it is also physical*.
- O-1** Satan's *alluring alternative*
- O-2** and his *arrogant aim* were no different in the pre-existence than they are today. Satan's *soothing appeal* was then, and is now that *not one soul will be lost*. (Moses 4:1.)
- O-3** His plan then, as now, was not in reality a noble solution: he only wanted *unsurpassed praise*
- O-4** as the autocratic *global* guardian. (4:1.)
- N-1** Though *the kingdoms of the world will prevail for a time*,
- N-2** the *saints of God will eventually triumph*.
- N-3** Nephi saw that the *saints would be "armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory"*. (1 Ne. 14:14.)
- M-1** The *challenge ahead is great*,
- M-2** but the *rewards will more than match the trials*
- M-3** that will *precede* them.

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- R-1** In the one hundred and third section of the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord told us that He *set us up* "to be a **light** unto the world and to be the **saviors** of men." (103:9.)
- R-2** Have we adequately performed our obligations over the years?
- R-3** The Lord seems to suggest that had we been diligent in our duties, our world would not have **fallen** to the state that it is now in.
- S-1** Continuing his above statement--THIS TIME SPECIFICALLY REFERRING TO THE **NEGLIGENT MEMBERS**--the Lord said, "**inasmuch as they are not the saviors of men, they are as salt that has lost its savor**, and is thenceforth good for nothing but to be **cast out an trodden under foot of men**." (103:10.)
- S-2** and is thenceforth good for nothing but to be **cast out an trodden under foot of men**." (103:10.)
- T-1** Note that some of the wording here
- T-2** is *identical*
- T-3** to that in the prophecy in *Third Nephi* about our gentile society in general. (3 Ne. 16:15.)
- U-1** Is THE REASON our society as a whole
- U-2** has *fallen* from God's favor
- U-3** because the *salt*
- U-4** has **lost its savor**?
- V-1** In this same revelation in Doctrine and Covenants 103, the Lord promised that *if the saints would **hearken** to ALL HIS COUNSELS*, they would prevail against the kingdoms of the world and would "never cease to prevail until the kingdoms of the world are subdued under [His] feet, and the earth is given unto the saints, to possess it forever and ever." (103:7.)
- V-2** However, he then warned that *if* the saints would not hearken altogether unto his precepts and commandments
- V-3** that the *kingdoms of the world would prevail against them*.
- V-4** He reassured us that Zion will "be *established*, no more to be thrown down." (103:14.)
- V-5** However, he said that this blessing will come "*after* much **tribulation**." (103:12.)
- W-1** This prophecy in the *Doctrine and Covenants*
- W-2** is *strikingly similar* in wording and essence to Daniel chapter seven.
- X** There also, Daniel spoke of how *the saints shall **eventually** "possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever."* (7:18; compare D&C 103:7.)
- Y** He said that *BEFORE* the saints would be given the kingdom, the kingdoms of the world would prevail against them. The symbolic beast he described "*shall **devour the whole earth**, and shall **tread it down**, and **break it in pieces**."* (7:23.)
- [text continued on next page]**
- Y** Perhaps a *major purpose* of the **chastisement** to come
- X** will be to **restore our determination** to stand firm on both fronts.
- W-1** From the *book of Helaman*,
- W-2** we discover that *these same factors* laid at the root of a division that occurred among the Nephites.
- V-1** They too had come to **despise** the *WORD OF GOD*. (Hel. 8:25.) They had also **cast away** the *LAWS* of Mosiah, which hold remarkable similarities to the *CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES*. (Hel. 4:22.)
- V-2** For *these reason*,
- V-3** *chastening destructions came upon them*.
- V-4** They were *delivered*
- V-5** *when they **humbled** themselves sufficiently and destroyed the Gadianton robbers from off the face of the land.* (Hel. 11:10.)
- U-1** This ancient secret combination, like one that threatens the world today,
- U-2** had *usurped* the *Nephite's virtuous government*
- U-3** and even "seduced the *more part of the righteous*
- U-4** until they had **come down** to believe in their works." (Hel. 7:4; 6:38.)
- T-1** In *Revelation chapter thirteen*, John recorded a vision
- T-2** that *closely resembles*
- T-3** the one *Daniel* saw.
- S-1** He described a **SYMBOLIC BEAST**
- S-2** that would **make war** with the *Saints for three and a half years*. (13:5,7.)
- R-1** His graphic account suggests how **influential**,
- R-2** *deceptive*,
- R-3** and **alluring** this beast will be.

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- (Z)A** It will also make "**war** with the saints, and... [**prevail**] against them" for three and a half years. (7:21,25; compare Rev. 13:5.)
- (Z)B-1** World conditions today suggest
- (Z)B-2** that we stand **on the brink**
- (Z)B-3** of the **fulfillment** of this prophecy.
- (Z)C-1** In First Nephi 14, Nephi describes
- (Z)C-2** the **TWO SIDES** of this war.
- (Z)D (1)** He saw that all mankind **(2)** would either **(3)** belong to **(4)** the church of the Lamb of God, **(5)** or they **(6)** would belong **(7)** to the church of the devil. (14:10.)
- (Z)D (1)** People **(2)** will either **(3)** be convinced **(4)** unto peace and life eternal **(5)** or they **(6)** will be delivered **(7)** to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds. (14:7.)
- (Z)C-1** Accordingly, President Benson recently declared,
- (Z)C-2** "As the issues become clearer and more obvious, all mankind will be required to align themselves either (1) for the kingdom of God or (2) with the kingdom of the devil."
- (Z)B-1** As these conflicts rage,
- (Z)B-2** either secretly
- (Z)B-3** or openly,
- (Z)A** the righteous will be **tested**." (Ensign, Nov. 1988, p. 87.)
- (Z)A** Isaiah **prepares** us for this valley of decision
- (Z)B** by laying down **THE TWO ISSUES** into which all other issues may be circumscribed.
- (Z)C-1** He said the reason
- (Z)C-2** destructions will come
- (Z)D-1** will be "because [we] have (1) **cast away**
- (Z)D-2** the law of the Lord of hosts,
- (Z)E-1** and (2) despised
- (Z)E-2** the word of the Holy One of Israel." (Isa. 5:24.)
- (Z)F-1** The law and the word,
- (Z)F-2** though related, are separate things.
- (Z)F-3** We can readily identify the word of the Lord: it is the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- (Z)F-4** Recall Christ's prophecy above. He, like Isaiah, said the time would come that **the Gentiles would reject the gospel**.
- (Z)F(3)** According to Presidents George Albert Smith and Harold B. Lee, the law of the Lord, on the other hand, has to do with the principles of the Constitution of the United States.
- [repeat] **(Z)G-1** ...the law of the Lord, on the other hand,
- (Z)G-2** has to do with the principles of the Constitution of the United States. (George Albert Smith, Improvement Era, Oct. 1945, p. 564; Harold B. Lee, Ensign, Nov. 1971, p. 15.)
- (Z)H-1** No wonder Presidents John Taylor and Ezra Taft Benson said, "Besides the preaching of the Gospel, we have **another mission, namely, the perpetuation of the free agency of man and the maintenance of liberty, freedom, and the rights of man**."
- (Z)I (1)** The word of the Lord deals with individual salvation. **(2)** Rebelling against **(3)** the word of the Lord **(4)** brings spiritual captivity (which, of course, usually has physical manifestations). **(5)** The law of the Lord deals with the salvation of nations. **(6)** Rejecting **(7)** the law of the Lord **(8)** results in literal captivity.
- (Z)I (1)** In order to achieve personal salvation **(4)** and overcome the temptations of the devil, **(2)** we must adhere **(3)** to the principles of the gospel. **(5)** In order to establish Zion **(8)** and overcome the kingdoms of the world **(6)** we must adhere **(7)** to hallowed principles of government.
- (Z)H-1** The word of the Lord should be our personal pattern of government.
- (Z)H-2** The law of the Lord is for the proper government of the masses.
- [repeat] **(Z)G-1** The law of the Lord
- (Z)G-2** is for the proper government of the masses.
- (Z)F-1** These two, the spiritual and the temporal,
- (Z)F-2** are closely intertwined.
- (Z)F-3** We as members of the church were set up to be a light unto the world ON BOTH ISSUES.
- (Z)F-4** On both fronts collectively we have not adequately fulfilled our responsibility.
- (Z)E-1** We have **not held up**
- (Z)E-2** the principles of the gospel
- (Z)E-1** as we should both by sharing it and by the way we live our personal lives.
- (Z)D-1** Also, not enough of us have stood up to defend
- (Z)D-2** our originally inspired and now faltering Constitution as it has eroded before our eyes.
- (Z)C-1** These issues constitute basic reasons
- (Z)C-2** for the coming chastening destructions.
- (Z)B** Renewing our devotion to **THESE PRINCIPLES**
- (Z)A** will likewise **save** us.

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