

Seek to be Prepared for the Coming of Christ



There were around 300 prophecies given concerning Christ's birth, life and death. There are over 500 concerning His second coming and many of them have already been fulfilled, but not all.

There are a few yet to be fulfilled but take note:

He is coming soon will you be ready?

The Jews had many prophecies concerning the birth of Christ, yet as a people, they totally missed His birth, except for the shepherds, who the angels appeared to. We can only speculate as to why the Jewish nation, as a whole, not only missed the great event of the Messiah's birth but did not recognize Him later as He healed the sick and raised the dead. Generally, the Jewish people were in a state of pride, confusion, mis-interpretation of the scriptures and unbelief. They were not even looking for the Messiah to be born in Bethlehem, although it had been listed as the place of His birth. Even Herod would discover, by the things written by the prophets, where the Christ Child was to be born. *And they said unto him, It is written by the prophets, that he should be born in Bethlehem of Judea, for thus have they said, The word of the Lord came unto us, saying, And thou Bethlehem, which lieth in the land of Judea, in thee shall be born a prince, which art not the least among the princes of Judea; for out of thee shall come*

the Messiah, who shall save my people Israel (Matthew 3:5-6). Most of the Jewish nation just went about their daily lives caught up in the business of life. What a terrible shame it was that they were in such a state of pride, ignorance and unbelief, that they crucified their Messiah. Only a few recognized Him, believed and followed Him.

I believe that today we are much like the Jewish people in Jesus' day. Many are unaware of the hour in which they live, they don't know about the prophecies, concerning Christ's second coming, and they have no understanding. A large majority of Christians actually know the prophecies about His second coming but a goodly number have lost faith and don't believe it will ever happen. They think life will always continue as it is. Recently a person, who grew up in the church, said to me, when I was talking of the second coming, "Oh, people have been saying that for years, ever since I was a child". Peter talked about this day and time in which we live. He said: *That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandments of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior; Knowing this first, that in the last days there shall come scoffers, walking after their own lusts. Denying the Lord Jesus Christ, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things must continue as they are, and have continued as they are from the beginning of the creation (2 Peter 3:2-4).*

But equally concerning are those who believe, who know the scriptures, even understand the prophecies but somehow can't get motivated to prepare. The cares of this life have overcome them. Too many church members are weary, exhausted, and asleep; hence procrastinating their repentance and preparation. **Jesus warned us about this time in the parable of *The Ten Virgins*. He stated that out of the ten only five will be ready. Yes, half of the church will be unprepared, with no oil in their lamp, when the Bridegroom returns to meet His bride.** *And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Lest there be not enough for us and you, go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with*

him to the marriage; and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, Ye know me not (Matthew 25: 5-11).

Which half are you in at this moment in time?

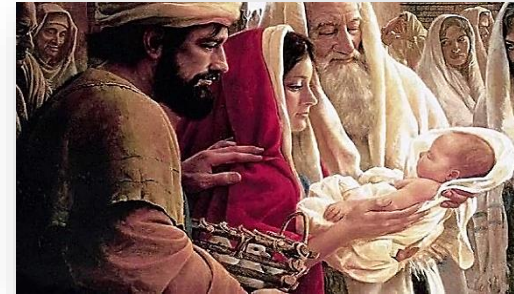


And at that day when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins; for they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived, verily I say unto you, They shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day, and the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance (Doctrine & Covenants 45:10b-c).

Yes, the Jewish people, in Christ's day, seemed to be living in darkness, not really looking for or expecting the Messiah; at the very least they were insensitive, caught up in the affairs of daily life. Yet there were those few devout people who searched the Scriptures and understood that the Christ was soon to be born. God always places Sentinels/watchmen on the earth to declare His purposes to mankind. At Jesus birth, when there was no Sentinel in Bethlehem, God sent angels to announce the Christ Child's birth.

Simeon was one of those Sentinels. We are told that he was just and devout (meaning righteous). The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not see death until he had looked upon the Lord's Christ. He was a Sentinel; who had been placed in Israel to point out the Christ, when He came. I can imagine that whenever Simeon entered the temple, he looked about him to see if the Messiah had come. Is that the one? No! Is that the Christ? No! Always watching, always prepared.

One day he was led by the Spirit to come to the temple. He saw a poor couple with a baby. Immediately the Holy Spirit bore testimony to Simeon that this baby was the long-awaited Savior. I'm sure baby Jesus was not what he was expecting but because he was familiar with the workings of the Spirit of God, he knew truth when it was revealed to him.

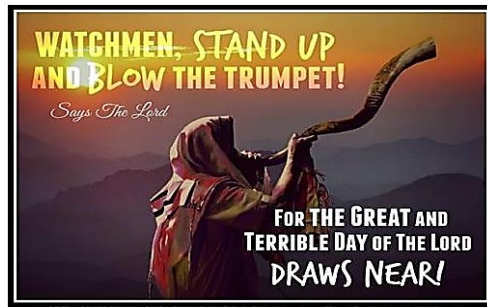


Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel (Luke 2:28-31). Anna, the prophetess, also recognized Jesus as the Messiah and gave thanks. And she, coming in that instant, gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him, to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem (Luke 2:38). So, we had two sentinels that day in the temple. But remember, they knew ahead of time that it was time for His coming. They were prepared, watching and waiting.

Today, are we aware of the signs of Christ's return? We live in the day of the second coming of the Lord and we do not want to be caught unaware or unprepared. Are we watching and waiting? *Gird up your loins and be watchful, and be sober, looking forth for the coming of the Son of man, for he cometh in an hour you think not (Doctrine & Covenants 61:6d).*

Do we have Sentinels among us, calling us to repentance and to prepare? I say to you that we do and we need to listen and quickly respond. I hope this Christmas Season we will all deeply consider **not only His first appearance as "The Baby in the Manger" but will also consider the prophecies of His coming in the Latter Days. We need to pay attention and be watching, be prepared, be ready.**

Digging Deeper



Words from one of the Sentinels/Watchman in the Last Days. Evan Frye was a great Sentinel for the church. He preached every Sunday on the church's radio station. I can remember listening to him as a child. He is gone now from this earth but his words still carry forth the message of the watchman.

Evan Frye, Radio Sermon, "The Manner of His Coming": Some confusion of difference in the way Christ's coming is described are difficult to reconcile, His coming in clouds of great glory, when every eye shall see....with his coming "as a thief in the night".

A thief comes quietly, does his work and is gone. It is not difficult to reconcile if we start with the concept that Jesus is not coming just one more time, but that he may come several times—at least twice after His birth. We should be expecting Him in the right time and place and way. We shall be surprised if we are looking for him in the wrong manner, as if we were not looking for Him at all.

At His birth the Jews thought they were watching for him, but they were looking for a conquering and liberating Messiah, not for a babe or a suffering servant to be crucified. Obviously, the birth of Jesus was in the first watch. It would seem that there may be two more general comings, one as a thief and one in glory.

The time when we and the world must give an account of our stewardship is drawing nigh...We cannot procrastinate the days of our probation, and suddenly get ready when we see the sign of our

coming Lord in the heavens. Behave each day as if he were expected! *For, behold, he cometh in the first watch of the night, and he shall also come in the second watch, and again he shall come in the third watch. 42 And verily I say unto you, He hath already come, as it is written of him; and again when he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, blessed are those servants when he cometh, that he shall find so doing (Luke 12:41-42).*

More Recent Warnings from God's Sentinels/Watchmen.

Elder Rob Bird = Message Given at Central Missouri Restoration Branch Reunion 2013: My love for each of you remains undiminished and always will be, however, the hour of your most effective work is waning and will soon be passed on to a more obedient and committed people. Important choices lie before you this day...choices that have eternal consequences...**Use the tools I've provided for each of My Covenant People, so you won't be as one of the five virgins left out of the wedding feast because of the lack of obedience and preparation. Don't ever under-estimate the value of the gift of My Holy Spirit or the power of a fervent prayer or fail to treasure up and feast upon the promises found in my word or the strength found in obedience to my two greatest commandments. God's Zion awaits a people in this dispensation to become one and keep His commandments as this will cause God to keep His Everlasting Covenant.**

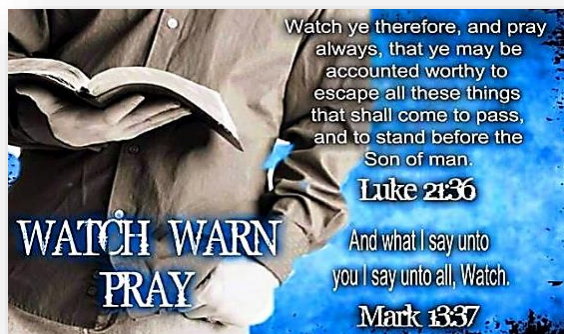
Elder Ed Story = Message given at Oak Grove 2014: My children who are willing to serve me listen to my word. **I am offering you another invitation to come unto my fold for the last time, in these the last days and age to do my will...Come to me in prayer and study and fasting, for there is no other way that you can receive me into your hearts, that I will be able to soften them to do my will among you...You have sinned before me in many ways. I will forgive you of your trespasses before me if you will repent of your wicked ways. You must obey and be cleansed and made new creatures before I will allow you to be worthy of my invitation. You must be made new, transformed, cleansed before you can come into my holy and celestial chamber to meet me, your God and my Bride at the marriage supper, my celestial and holy table, only then can I claim you as My own.**

Elder Aaron Smith = Taken from his recent testimony spring 2020 and fall of 2021 = called *The Midnight Hour*: We have reached the time when the parable of the 10 Virgins will be fulfilled. We are living in the moment's right before the cry is to go out to the bridal party to gather for the feast. Aaron says he knew God was speaking to him, telling him we were now in the midnight hour.

Elder Karl Anderson = Taken from his sermon given 2021 CMRB Reunion: It is my belief and understanding that we are now in the midnight hour! The call has gone forth. The bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him. Only few have heard the call, and many are without oil. But to the elect, the invitation has been sent, to put on your beautiful garments, clean and white, and to come to the wedding. The Spirit and the Bride say come! Even so Amen.

Action Section

Study, Fast, Serve, Pray



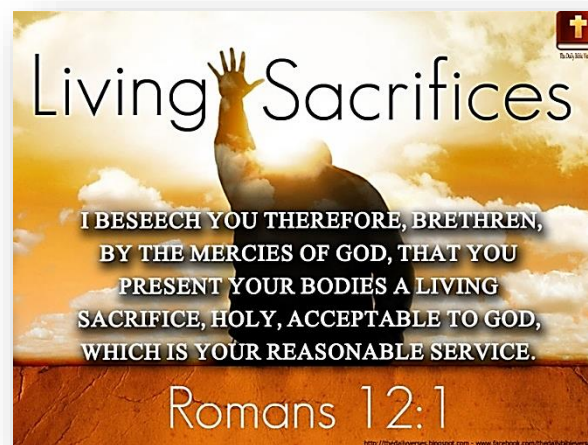
This month, let's put these things listed by the Watchmen into action in our daily lives. Hopefully as you have read the words of the Watchmen of our day, you will be motivated to Prepare for the Coming of the King!

Ask yourself are you in tune with the Holy Spirit and listening to its guiding voice? Are you prepared if the Midnight Call comes tonight? Do you have oil and extra to refill your lamp? Remember it says: *They that were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them; but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps (Matthew 25:)*. The Holy Spirit is the oil that we need and we will need a reserve supply. It

says in *Doctrine & Covenants 63:16 ye receive the Spirit through prayer*. When we pray, we open ourselves up to the Holy Spirit. When we follow this by repentance, loving God first, loving our neighbors as ourselves, serving, studying, and living out Christ in our daily lives we make a deposit of oil in our lamp.

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...Prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths strait, for the hour of his coming is nigh, when the Lamb shall stand upon Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having his father's name written in their foreheads; wherefore, prepare ye for the coming of the Bridegroom (Doctrine & Covenants 108:2a-d).

What better time than right now during the Christmas Season is there to repent, and re-dedicate yourself anew to the cause of Christ, to set your heart on making yourself ready for the Coming of the Bridegroom? With God's help we can accomplish the transformation that we need to make!!



OFFER YOUR TOTAL SELF AS A GIFT TO GOD
What a Wonderful Christmas Gift to Give to the Christ!!

*(Please note that this will be the last bulletin insert by Pat Chadwick. If you would like to volunteer to take the torch and continue the inserts, see Lisa Postlethwait.)