

Next Weeks Lesson: “To Hunger and Thirst After Righteousness”

Today’s Lesson: “The Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord” ([Zachariah 10-14](#); [Malachi](#))

1. Let’s examine the last two verses of the Old Testament:
“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”
 - A. Our lesson today includes discussions about (1) the prophecies that Zechariah and Malachi made about the last days and (2) our preparations for the Second Coming.
2. **Prophecies that have been fulfilled in preparation for the Second Coming:**
 - A. [Malachi 3:1](#) “Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.” (John the Baptist prepared the way for the Savior’s first coming. Joseph Smith prepared the way for his Second Coming.)
 - B. [Malachi 4:5-6](#) “ (above) This prophecy was fulfilled when Elijah appeared to Joseph Smith in the Kirtland Temple, restoring the keys of the sealing power. ([D&C110](#))
3. **Prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled before the Savior comes a second time.**
 - A. [Zachariah 10:6-8](#) “The people of Judah and Joseph will be gathered, and the people of Ephraim will become mighty. The Lord will “hiss” or call, to gather his people.
 - B. [Zachariah 12:2-3, 8-9](#) “A great war will be fought in and around Jerusalem, but the Lord will intervene and save the inhabitants of Jerusalem from destruction.
 - C. [Zachariah 14:8](#) “Living waters will flow from the temple in Jerusalem and will heal the Dead Sea and the Judean wilderness. ([Ezekiel 47:8-9](#))
4. **Prophecies that will be fulfilled when the Savior comes.**
 - A. [Zachariah 14:3-4](#) The Savior will stand on the Mount of Olives, and the mount will be divided in half. ([D&C 45:48](#))
 - B. [Zachariah 12:10](#); [13:6](#) The Jewish people living at the time of Jerusalem’s deliverance will see Jesus Christ and will mourn because they as a people rejected him as the messiah. ([D&C 45:51-53](#))
 - C. [Zachariah 13:2](#) False idols, unclean spirits, and false prophets will be destroyed.
 - D. [Zachariah 14:5](#) The righteous who are alive will be caught up to meet Christ. The righteous who have died will be resurrected and be caught up to meet him also.
 - E. [Zachariah 14:9](#) The Lord will be king over all the earth and rule during the millennium.
5. **Malachi teaches of the blessings that come to those who pay tithes and offerings.**
 - A. [Malachi 3:8-12](#)
^aWill a man ^brob^c God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In ^ctithes and offerings. Ye are ^acursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the ^atithes^c into the storehouse, that there may be ^bmeat in mine house, and ^cprove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not ^dopen you the ^ewindows^c of heaven, and pour you out a ^fblessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will ^arebuke the ^bdevourer^c for your sakes,

and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

The First Presidency has stated: “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” (First Presidency letter, 19 Mar. 1970;

President Gordon B. Hinckley said:

“Now, do not get me wrong. I am not here to say that if you pay an honest tithing you will realize your dream of a fine house, a Rolls Royce, and a con-dominium in Hawaii. The Lord will open the windows of heaven according to our need, and not according to our greed. If we are paying tithing to get rich, we are doing it for the wrong reason. The basic purpose for tithing is to provide the Church with the means needed to carry on His work” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1982, 60; or [Ensign, May 1982, 40](#)).

6. When will the Second Coming occur?

The Lord has made clear that while he will surely come again, no person knows the exact time ([D&C 39:20–21](#); [49:7](#)).

Elder Richard L. Evans said: “Some of the brethren . . . approached [President Wilford Woodruff and . . . 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! In worrying about things that are beyond our reach, we should not overlook our opportunities with our own families and friends; in worrying about possible eventualities we should not neglect the things that need to be done here and now, and that are within our reach” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1950, 105–6).

7. [D&C 38: 29-30](#)

Ye hear of ^awars^{*} in far countries, and you say that there will soon be great wars in far countries, but ye know not the hearts of men in your own land. I tell you these things because of your prayers; wherefore, ^atreasure^{*} up ^bwisdom in your bosoms, lest the wickedness of men reveal these things unto you by their wickedness, in a manner which shall speak in your ears with a voice louder than that which shall shake the earth; but if ye are prepared ye shall not fear.