

# FOUNDATION OF THE GOSPEL

## THE LORD SPEAKS TO YOU!

Too often we bask in our comfortable complacency and rationalize that the ravages of war, economic disaster, famine, and earthquake cannot happen here. Those who believe this are either not acquainted with the revelations of the Lord, or they do not believe them. Those who smugly think these calamities will not happen, that they somehow will be set aside because of the righteousness of the Saints, ARE DECEIVED and will rue the day they harbored such a delusion. The Lord has warned and forewarned us against a day of great tribulation and given us counsel, through His servants, on how we can be prepared for these difficult times. Have we heeded His counsel? May God bless us to be prepared for the days which lie ahead, which may be the most severe YET!

Ezra Taft Benson - CR Oct 80

Those who support only the popular principles of the gospel have their reward. And those who want to lead the quiet, retiring life but still expect to do their full duty cannot succeed. The troubles of the world may largely be laid at the doors of those who are neither hot nor cold; who always follow the line of least resistance; whose timid hearts flutter at taking sides for truth. As in the Great Council in Heaven, so in the Church of Christ on earth, THERE CAN BE NO NEUTRALITY! The Lord will not protect us unless we do our part.

Elder John A Widtsoe - CR Apr 41

The devil knows that if the elders of Israel should ever wake up, they could step forth and help preserve freedom and extend the gospel. Therefore, the devil has concentrated, and to a large extent successfully, in neutralizing much of the priesthood. He has reduced them to sleeping giants. It is the devil's desire that the Lord's priesthood stay asleep while the strings of tyranny gradually and quietly entangle us until, like Gulliver, we awake too late and find that while we could have broken each string separately as it was put upon us, our sleepiness permitted enough strings to bind us--to make a rope that enslaves us.

Ezra Taft Benson - CR Apr 65 & Oct 66 BYU

"For nearly six thousand years, God has held you in reserve to make your appearance in the final days before the Second Coming. Every previous gospel dispensation has drifted into apostasy, but ours will not. ..God has saved for the final inning some of his strongest children, who will help bear off the kingdom triumphantly. And that is where you come in, for you are the generation that MUST BE PREPARED to meet your God...Make no mistake about it-you are a marked generation. There has never been more expected of the faithful in such a short period of time as there is of us. Each day we personally make many decisions that show where our support will go. The final outcome is certain--the forces of righteousness will finally win. What remains to be seen is where each of us personally, now and in the future, will stand in this fight--and how tall we will stand. Will we be true to our last days, foreordained mission?"

Marvin J. Ashton quoting Ezra Taft Benson - CR Oct 89

Christ says no man knoweth the day or the hour when the Son of Man cometh...Did Christ speak this as a general principle throughout all generations? Oh no, he spoke in the present tense. No man that was then living upon the footstool of God knew the day or the hour. But he did not say that there was no man throughout all generations that should not know the day or the hour.

Prophet Joseph Smith, Jr. (Words of Joseph Smith) April 6, 1843

Not only should we know what history and faith promoting stories it contains, but we should understand its teachings. If we really did our homework and approached the Book of Mormon doctrinally, we could expose the errors and find the truths to combat many of the current false theories and philosophies of men, including socialism, humanism, organic evolution and others.

Pres. Ezra Taft Benson - New Era May 75

The scriptures abound with evidences of the severe consequences of the sin of pride to individuals, groups, cities, and nations. "Pride goeth before DESTRUCTION" (proverbs 16:18). It destroyed the Nephite nation and the city of Sodom...Pride results in secret combinations which are built up to get power, gain and glory of the world. This fruit of the sin of pride, namely secret combinations, brought down both the Jaredite and the Nephite civilizations and has been and WILL yet be the fall of many nations....God will have a humble people. Either we can choose to be humble or we can be compelled to be humble... My dear brothers and sisters; WE MUST PREPARE TO REDEEM ZION. It was essentially the sin of pride that kept us from establishing Zion in the days of the Prophet Joseph Smith. It was the same sin of pride that brought consecration to an end among the Nephites... Pride is the great stumbling block of Zion. I repeat: Pride is the great stumbling block to Zion.

Pres. Ezra Taft Benson - CR Apr 89

Security is not born of inexhaustible wealth, but of unquenchable faith.

Now in the authority of the sacred priesthood in me vested, I invoke my blessing upon the Latter-day Saints and upon good people everywhere. I bless you with increased discernment to judge between Christ and anti-Christ. I bless you with increased power to do good and to resist evil. I bless you with increased understanding of the Book of Mormon. I promise you that from this moment forward, if we will daily sup from its pages and abide by its precepts, God will pour out a blessing hitherto unknown--and we will plead to the Lord that he will begin to lift the condemnation--the scourge and judgment. Of this I bear solemn witness.

Pres. Ezra Taft Benson - CR Apr 86

I testify that as the forces of evil increase under Lucifer's leadership and as the forces of good increase under the leadership of Jesus Christ, there will be growing battles between the two until the final confrontation. As the issues become clearer and more obvious, all mankind will eventually be required to align themselves either for the kingdom of God or for the kingdom of the devil. As these conflicts rage, either secretly or openly, the righteous will be tested. God's wrath will soon shake the nations of the earth and will be poured out on the wicked without measure. God will provide strength for the righteous. It is time for us, as members of the Church, to walk in ALL the ways of the Lord. Now we

need eyes that will see, ears that will hear, and hearts that will hearken to God's direction. I testify that not many years hence the earth will be cleansed.

Pres. Ezra Taft Benson - CR Oct 88

The Prophet Joseph Smith declared it will be the elders of Israel who will step forward to help save the Constitution, NOT THE CHURCH. And have we elders been warned? Yes, we have! And besides, if the Church should ever inaugurate a program, who do you think would be in the forefront to get it moving? It would not be those who were sitting on the sidelines prior to that time or those who were appeasing the enemy. It would be those choice spirits who, not waiting to be "commanded in all things" used their own free will, the counsel of the prophets, and the Spirit of the Lord as guidelines and who entered the battle "in a good cause" and brought to pass much righteousness in freedom's cause.

Pres. Ezra Taft Benson - CR Apr 65

I do not believe an American citizen can be patriotic and loyal to his own country and its God-inspired Constitution of freedom without being anti-communist -- anti-socialist!

Pres. Ezra Taft Benson - Title of Liberty pg. 15

We all believe that the Lord will fight our battles, but how? Will he do it while we are unconcerned and make no effort whatever for our own safety when an enemy is upon us? If we make no efforts to guard our towns, our houses, our cities, our wives and children, will the Lord guard them for us? He will not, but if we pursue the opposite course and strive to help Him to accomplish His designs, then He will fight our battles. The Lord requires us to be quite as willing to fight our own battles as to have Him fight them for us. If we are not ready for an enemy when he comes upon us, we have not lived up to the requirements of Him who guides the ship of Zion; or who dictates the affairs of His kingdom.

Brigham Young JD 11:131

If the breach is daily widening between ourselves and the world, we may be assured that our progress is certain, however slow. On the opposite hand, if our feelings and affections, our appetites and desires, are in unison with the world around us, [then let us] examine ourselves. Individuals in such a condition would be lacking the life of the work, and, like the foolish virgins who slumbered while the bridegroom tarried, they would be unprepared for His coming.

Pres. George Q. Cannon Oct. 5, 1861

I believe with all my heart and soul that we are expected to mobilize and put these young men to work in this kingdom. We are training now and the young men who will lead us in the "great and dreadful" day that will precede the millennial reign of the Master. We have difficult places through which we pass. They will face far greater difficulties. We will be tried greatly, they will be tried to the limit and beyond. We will find a little relief some temporary respite. They will have none. We need to steel them for the days ahead.

Elder Vaughn J. Featherstone Church News

As the Book of Mormon, speaking of our day, states; "they have all gone astray save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ; nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err because they are taught by the precepts of men." (2 Ne. 28:14) Christ taught us that we should be in the world but not of it. Yet there are some in our midst who are not so much concerned about taking the Gospel into the world as they are about BRINGING WORLDLINESS INTO THE GOSPEL. They want us to be popular with the worldly even though a Prophet has said that this is impossible, for all hell would then want to join us. Through their own reasoning and a few misapplied scriptures they try to sell us the PRECEPTS AND PHILOSOPHIES OF MEN. They do not feel the Church is progressive enough-that it should embrace the social and SOCIALIST GOSPEL of apostate Christendom.

Ezra Taft Benson - CR Apr 69

We must help those who have been deceived or who are misinformed to find the truth. Unless each person who knows the truth will STAND UP AND SPEAK UP, it is difficult for the deceived or confused citizen to find his way back.

**Pres. Ezra Taft Benson**

The scriptures also tell about our inspired Constitution. If you accept these scriptures, you will automatically reject the counsel of men who depreciate our Constitution. If you use the scriptures as a guide, you know what the Book of Mormon has to say regarding murderous conspiracies in the last day and how we are to awake to our awful situation today. I find certain elements in the Church do not like to read the Book of Mormon and D & C so much--they have too much to say about freedom.

Pres. Ezra Taft Benson - Teachings of pg. 81 & BYU Dec.63

The war that began in heaven is not yet over. The conflict continues on the battlefield of mortality. And one of Lucifer's primary strategies has been to restrict our agency through the power of earthly governments.

Pres. Ezra Taft Benson - Constitution, a Heavenly Banner

To all who have discerning eyes, it is apparent that the republican form of government established by our noble forefathers cannot long endure once fundamental principles are abandoned. Momentum is gathering for another conflict--a repetition of the crisis of two hundred years ago. This collision of ideas is worldwide. Another monumental moment is soon to be born. The issue is the same that precipitated the great premortal conflict--will men be free to determine their own course of action or must they be coerced?

Pres. Ezra Taft Benson - Teachings of p. 623-624

Now we may rest assured of this: If there is no devil, there is no God. But there is a God and there is a devil, and the bringing of peace requires the elimination of Satan's influence. Where he is, peace can never be. Further, peaceful coexistence with him is impossible. He cannot be brought to cooperate in the maintenance of peace and harmony. He promotes nothing but the works of the flesh.... As a prelude to

peace, then, the influence of Satan must be completely subjugated. Even in heaven there could be no peace with him after his rebellion. There, in the world of Spirits, the Father and the Son could find no ground upon which they could cooperate with him. He had to be cast out--not compromised with, but cast out.

Pres. Marion G. Romney - First Pres. Message, Ensign, Oct 83

Saints shall know the season of the Second coming of Christ. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, "Peace and safety", THEN SUDDEN DESTRUCTION COMETH UPON THEM, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that THAT DAY SHOULD OVERTAKE YOU AS A THIEF. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day, we are not of the night, NOR OF DARKNESS.

I Thess. 5:2-5

I testify that not many years hence the earth will be cleansed. God's wrath will soon shake the nations of the earth and will be poured out on the wicked without measure. I testify that it is time for every man to set in order his own house both temporally and spiritually.

Pres. Ezra Taft Benson Oct 88

And it becometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbor.

D&C 88:81

Taylor - JD 19:248