

029 Mike Stroud Podcast: Power in the Priesthood (transcribed by Carol Crisp)

Did you look at the pictures of the Cebu Temple that I put online last week that showed that interesting bubble over the temple complex? They were in one of the handouts for dropbox. I'd like to continue that discussion tonight. It kind of centers on that kind of a principle.

Let's go to Section 45 in D&C real quick. This, to me, is the main take-off scripture of how to get through, successfully and safely, what's coming at us. First of all, everyone should know that I'm not a "pickle sucker". I don't find any joy in doom and gloom type things. However, the Lord has given us information, specifically concerning the events that are coming in our future, for a purpose. I choose to study those things, and discuss them, only to the degree that we can glean info about how to successfully maneuver through these events. Because, the truth of the matter is, on the other side of these events is something glorious. As a matter of fact, it's these very events that are going to prepare a people for that glorious thing that's on the other side of these great tribulations and travails. In a talk back in the 70's, Elder McConkie gave this, and he said this, "All of the tribulation of the past (Now just stop and think about that for a minute. In other words, from Adam up to when E. McConkie said this, and that includes all the wars, plagues, and the destruction, and the adversity, and everything) all the tribulation of the past is but a foretaste of what's coming."

Now, if you dwell on that, it can be a little bit discouraging, a little bit depressing, especially if you are a student of history and you've studied the rise and fall of nations and warfare. I'm a great student of WWII. I'm just fascinated with WWII. I have studied that a good portion of my life and served a mission in Germany just 16 years after the fall of the Third Reich. When I think of that comment by Bro McConkie that was given in a General Conference, I question how can we ever hope to survive that kind of a situation that will refine, through fire, a people that will be prepared to stand in the presence of the resurrected Christ, and survive that encounter. Here's the point. None of us in this telestial world, the way we are right now, are prepared for that encounter. There has to be something happen in order for us to physically, psychologically, sociologically, and in every way be prepared to stand in the presence of the resurrected, glorified Christ when He appears in glory and survive, to stay alive from the encounter. That encounter with Christ, in glory, will destroy you. Forget about wars and everything that precedes that. That encounter, in glory, will destroy men and women, unless they have been changed, through the gospel of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Ghost. Unless they've been changed, they can't survive, physically, stay alive, in the presence of Christ, unless something has happened to make that possible.

So, how are we going to get through what's coming without going into detail, and there are plenty of scriptures on that, especially in the N.T.--Matthew 24. The D&C is loaded with signs that are on us right now and are going to intensify, and some other signs that we haven't seen yet but are certainly coming. How are we going to get through that? And the key is in D&C 45: *55 And Satan shall be bound, that he shall have no place in the hearts of the children of men.*

This verse is talking about the millennial world. That's the millennium. Now, the millennium begins with the Second Coming of Christ. That's the official starting point of the thousand-year millennial kingdom. This is the key, or the take-off for tonight's discussion. Look at vs. 56: *And at that day, (at the 2nd Coming, notice when it says, "when I shall come in my glory", that's the start of the M.) when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins.*

You can read about that in Matthew 25. I find it interesting that the parable of the ten virgins is in the chapter just following Matthew 24, where it talks about the destruction of the world and all of the signs leading up to the 2nd Coming. Then, the chapter right after that talks about the parable of the 10 virgins. It's just a little short verse, but here's the key to survival of what's coming. Now, here we go, vs. 57:

57 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.

The day is, the day of burning, and the day of transformation, the day when the earth is renewed and receives its paradisaical glory, when this planet moves out of its present solar system, moves closer to the center of the Milky Way Galaxy, and takes up its position in a terrestrial realm. Now, notice the keys. There

are certain keys. The wise "virgins" have done certain things. They received the truth. That sounds simple, but in the telestial world, that is not a simple proposition to recognize truth. There's the discussion where Jesus is talking to Pilate, as he is brought before him, and Pilate is talking to him and Christ says, "*For this purpose have I come into the world to bear testimony of the truth.*" And Pilate says, "*What is truth?*"

That's a great question. We don't want the philosophies of men, mingled with scripture. We don't want what the B of M calls, "the precepts of men". We don't want what Section 123 says is the mainspring of all corruption in the telestial world is, "the traditions of the fathers that are passed on to the children, and the children inherit lies" (from the parents, from the fathers). We don't want that. The world is full of that. So what we're looking for is "the truth". Section 93 defines it: *24 And truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come;*

That's what we're looking for. So, go back to vs. 57: *they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide.*

Remember, we talked in some detail about that. The Holy Spirit is not the same thing as the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit is that channel, that conduit, that comes from the Father and the Son. It is the channel of all truth. It's also called the Light of Christ, the Spirit of Christ, etc. We talked about that. Notice that nowhere in here in this verse, and then it comes out and it says, "*and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived—*

So, you see that formula right there? How are we going to get through, how are we going to maneuver safely, successfully, and be here on this earth through all this turmoil and greet the risen Lord, the King of Kings? How are we going to do that? There is your key. That little verse, in my mind, is the most important verse in all of scripture on how to get through the tribulation of the latter days and meet the Lord.

D&C 45: 57 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.

Abide means to live. It means to dwell in. It means to take a habitation in--that day. And that day is the day of the 2nd Coming, followed immediately by the beginning of the millennial kingdom. That's the key on how to get through it. So here's the trick. We have to become better at recognizing this message that comes through this channel. The Lord is speaking to us all the time. The problem is, in this world, it's difficult to hear that message, because it's still and small and in a whisper, and the world we are in is loud, boisterous and fast moving.

Mother Teresa made a great statement. I love this statement. She said, "God is a lover of silence." I love that. I think that is so true. If you want to find Him, you're going to have to slow down, quiet down, and look inside, because he's inside, he's not outside. This is why one of his names is The Great I Am, which is a pre-tense, not a past-tense or future tense. It's not "I Was" or The Great I Will Be". It's the Great I Am that shows us that if you want to find God, you find Him in the stillness of the present. He's right in the present. Isn't it interesting, if you're like me, you spend most of your life in the past or in the future. It's very difficult, in the telestial world, to remain in the present. That's where God is. So the great formula in Section 101 defining God is, "Be still, and know that I am God". The scriptures teach us bountifully that He's inside. You have to look inside. You have to quiet down, you have to slow down, you have to be in the present, and you have to look inside to find him. This is why you'll see, and we gave a lesson on "Being Perfected In Christ". (not by Christ) The key word is in-dwelling. It's an indwelling type thing.

With that in mind, we come up to this point. I was talking with a man today about the food storage and preparedness programs of the Church. It's my son-in-law, who's just been asked to be the Ward Preparedness Specialist. He's very talented. He's Special Forces, Austrian Ranger, has great military experience, is very talented in organizing and developing programs. Within a short period of time, after he'd been called to this position, he had put together a 110-page program for emergency preparedness for his ward. We talked about that at some length. This will kind of flow over from where I was last week. I've been involved in preparedness all my life. And, Margie has been involved in that. We've worked hard to have our home and our property and everything we've done, to be become independent so that in a day of isolation, we could successfully survive that time when every one is cut off from everything they need, to stay alive in our day.

The Church has counseled us for 80-100 years that we should have a program of food storage... here's what the program used to be, and for most of my preparation time: a years supply of food, clothing, where possible--some kind of fuel (a lot of places in the world you are not allowed to), get out of debt, have an emergency cash supply. That's been the program of the Church for years and years. With that said, it's estimated from everything we can guess, that roughly about 5% across the board of the membership of the Church (higher in some places and lower in others)...I'll give it the benefit of the doubt: roughly 10% of Church members have followed a program where they could rely on what they have in their home, for more than a 2-week period. So, after all this time, even that counsel has not been followed very well by the membership of the Church. What I'd like to say tonight is, that food storage is not going to get you through what's coming. You need to do it, because following that program qualifies you to call upon the Lord in an extreme, and have Him answer and say, "Here I am".

So, I don't look at food storage and the welfare program of the Church as the vehicle to get us through what's coming. But I do look at it as a necessary act of faith and obedience to qualify you to tap into the power that will get you through what's coming. Last week I ended thing, btw: I think we lost Sherry, talking about guns and weaponry Let's go over to 3 Nephi 2 and let me show you something that's interesting. There's a lot of discussion going on in the US about the 2nd Amendment. The 2nd A. is inspired and it came from godly men. But, it's my feeling that we're moving into a different day than ever has been seen before. Let me just show you that in 3 Nephi 2:11-12:

11 And it came to pass in the thirteenth year there began to be wars and contentions throughout all the land; for the Gadianton robbers had become so numerous, and did slay so many of the people, and did lay waste so many cities, and did spread so much death and carnage throughout the land, that it became expedient that all the people, both the Nephites and the Lamanites, should take up arms against them.

12 Therefore, all the Lamanites who had become converted unto the Lord (now see, these are members of the Church) did unite with their brethren, the Nephites, (we're talking now, baptized members of the Church-- here we go) and were compelled, for the safety of their lives and their women and their children, to take up arms against those Gadianton robbers, yea, and also to maintain their rights, and the privileges of their church and of their worship, and their freedom and their liberty.

That's good B of M doctrine. They were commanded and compelled to become weaponized in order to protect their rights, families, liberty, and their privileges. The 2nd Amendment was given in the US Constitution, according to the founding fathers, for American citizens to protect themselves against a government gone amuk! So, it wasn't to protect ourselves from foreign invaders, it was to protect ourselves from our own government. That's in the Federalist Papers by James Madison. That's the purpose of the 2nd Amendment. All of those things I've used in the past to justify buying ammo and learning how to use weapons. So, over the years, as I mentioned last week, I had developed quite an arsenal. If you read that article that was written by my friend Wayne Schute, he's seen that arsenal, and when we went to the Philippines, the Lord showed us something different. He showed us that in our day, we're going to be doing something that the founding fathers did not look at, and that the Nephites were not doing. That is, to establish a Zion society, preparatory to the Second Coming of the Lord.

In a Zion society, you cannot use weapons. Go with me to 2 Nephi 4 and let me show you the take-off scripture for that thought. I know that this is going to raise a lot of questions, and maybe we'll upset some people who listen to this. Just bear with me, and you're not compelled to believe, but let me lay out my case for what I'm thinking. I felt that I was taught by the Spirit that if I want to be a part of what's coming, in other words, not only to survive the day of the tribulation prior to the 2nd Coming, but also be a part of a group that the Lord will use to build the New Jerusalem. That is not going to be done with weaponry.

So 2 Nephi 4:34 Nephi comes out and gives us a little take-off here. This ties in with our scripture in Section 45, and I'll show you how in just a second.

34 O Lord, I have trusted in thee, and I will trust in thee forever. I will not put my trust in the arm of flesh; for I know that cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh. Yea, cursed is he that putteth his trust in man or maketh flesh his arm.

I've learned that when the Lord repeats a statement twice in the same verse, we probably ought to pay attention. Here, he is telling us, in this place and in other places, that until you learn to put your trust in ME, and let ME fight your battles, unless I tell you otherwise--like he did in the B of M, you need to put your trust in ME and not man or in your own strength or in your own ingenuity or in your own weapons of warfare. That verse, and several others that we'll refer to tonight, led me to believe that if you want to be a part of what's coming, it will not be by force of arms, by weaponry. People will come out and say, but Br. Stroud, they did in the B of M. Yea, that's right, but nowhere in the B of M were they seeking to establish a Zion society. In our day, we're commanded to do that.

Let's go back to Section 45 for just a minute. That little booklet that Elder Schute wrote has all of these scriptures laid out in it. That booklet will go into more detail about this. Section 45:66, and this is talking about the establishment of Zion, the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem will be build and functioning before Christ comes. It will be built and inhabited by a group of people who have been transformed and refined by the things that are going to take place in our near future, so that they can qualify to build this place and to be involved in that.

66 And it shall be called the New Jerusalem, a land of peace, a city of refuge, a place of safety for the saints of the Most High God;

Notice the 3 underlined words. You are not going to enter into the boundaries of the New Jerusalem unless you have made/entered into a covenant. That entrance covenant is baptism. There is no place within the boundaries, within the city itself, within it's walls, for people who have not made covenants with the Lord, and kept those covenants. Now, you'll have millions of people, who are not members, who will make their way to this place that will have to be taught and instructed by messengers sent from the city, out, to those camps and villages and towns outside of the general city limits of the New Jerusalem. Those people that come that far will have gotten there because they are, at minimum, the honorable and just men and women of the earth and have kept the law of chastity and are morally clean. To get to that place does not require a covenant. To get into the city and to participate in what goes on, does. Now, the messengers that are going to go out, throughout the world, and find pockets of righteous people, members and non-members, that are trapped in various places throughout the world because of societal collapse, economic collapse, war and turmoil, who cannot escape where they are at without divine help, these messengers who go out are the 144,000 that we read about in the scriptures. They will have a temporary, or maybe permanent--I don't know, but the New Jerusalem will be the place of their going out, they will be translated beings. These are people who are ordained by the angels and given priesthood power over the elements so that they can go out from the New Jerusalem into a world of total collapse, anarchy, blood and horror, and successfully bring pockets of righteous men and women, both members and non-members, to the New Jerusalem and its confines and perimeters, so that they can enjoy a land of peace, a city of refuge, and a place of safety. There, they will be taught. If they accept the gospel from the messengers that come from the N.J. out, to the surrounding areas of people that come that far, then they'll be allowed to participate and enter into the city and have the blessings that are available from citizenship of that city. Look at vs. 67.

Student: Does the enemy have power over these translated beings? Mike: No, they are beyond that situation. These are men and women that now have power over all the earthly elements. A mixture of these are people who are on the earth right now that are within the membership of the Church, a remnant that is being prepared, and then with that, you'll also have a group that return with the City of Enoch that will join them. These are the people that are going to be the messengers, rescuers, to catch people who are trapped in pockets of the world when the world collapses in a general collapse.

Student: Bro. Stroud, are these the 144,000? Mike: These are the 144,000 and it's my personal opinion, and I can't prove this, but, that 's not an exact number. It represents a group of people. I personally believe that it could be a bunch more than 144,000. I believe that it's men and women and it can even be husband and wife pairs that go out. The important part is, they have their Father's name written in their forehead. That means that they have received the fullness of the Melchizedek Priesthood, they're called, elected and made sure, and their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Then they've had hands laid upon their heads by angels or by Gods, and receive a higher priesthood order, in order to go out into the telestial world, have power over

the elements, and literally, not be restrained by time or space.

Student: And they are led by a Davidic King? Mike: The Davidic King is going to have a role in Judah. As I understand it, the Davidic King will be over in the Jerusalem area. This is my personal opinion now, this is Mike Stroud. The leader in this side, the New Jerusalem, will be Joseph Smith. That's just my opinion. I can't prove it. It's kind of based on what some of the early brethren said. Go to vs. 67:

67 And the glory of the Lord shall be there, and the terror of the Lord also shall be there, insomuch (watch) that the wicked will not come unto it, and it shall be called Zion.

I don't read anywhere in here that there is telestial men and women that hold back the wicked by machine gun fire or grenades or tanks, or whatever. I don't see that at all. Look at vs. 68:

68 And it shall come to pass among the wicked, that every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor must needs flee unto Zion for safety.

In other words, if you don't want to be involved in the warfare, you're out among the wicked, you're out in the turmoil, if you want to escape that, and you don't want to be involved in taking the life of another human being, you'll need to be in Zion. Next verse:

69 And there shall be gathered unto it (the New Jerusalem) out of every nation under heaven; and it shall be the only people that shall not be at war one with another.

Can you picture that? The whole world is in a meltdown mode, and we have good people, we have God's people, who are trapped. They can't fly, they can't take ships, they can't drive cars. I think of my friends in Mongolia. Mongolia is a nation that sits between two super powers: China and Russia. Mongolia's history has been one of occupation all the way back to the days of Genghis Khan. We went on a mission there in 2006. They had only been released from Russian occupation for a number of years. Before the Russians came in, the Chinese Manchu controlled Mongolia. Now, some of the strongest LDS and 2 Stakes of Zion are found there. I was talking to the Stake President the other night, we talk weekly on Skype and we have gospel discussions. I was talking to him and I said, "Mongolia is like a bone between 2 junkyard dogs." He just laughed and said, "That is so true, E. Stroud." And, it's not over yet. There is already political things going on that are portending occupation of Mongolia one more time by one or both of these nations. So, here's my beloved friends that I know and love over there that stand an excellent chance of being trapped, cut off from church and isolated like nobody you've ever seen. How would they, in Mongolia, so many thousands of miles away from where the New Jerusalem will be, how will our beloved friends ever escape that kind of a thing, and come to Zion, with praising and singing to a place of refuge, peace and safety? How can they make it? There's no earthly way that that can happen, if you have WWII and thermo-nuclear explosions going off. It will require divine assistance. That's what we're talking about here. And if you're not in the N.J., vs. 69, you will be in a place of war. It's the only place there won't be war. Vs. 70:

70 And it shall be said among the wicked: (Think about now, bearing arms to protect yourself) Let us not go up to battle against Zion, for the inhabitants of Zion are terrible; wherefore we cannot stand.

Ask yourself the question. Do you think Zion's inhabitants are terrible because they are weaponized and fully armed? Look at vs. 71:

71 And it shall come to pass that the righteous shall be gathered out from among all nations, (see, they are trapped) and shall come to Zion, singing with songs of everlasting joy.

You know why they're going to be singing those songs when they come? Because they are rescued and there was no hope for them to get out of the situation they were in, without divine intervention. So as a sign that I believe this principle, and that it's a principle of being able to have power in the priesthood, to put a shield and a protection by calling down the powers of heaven, and to put a shield of protection over you, your family, your loved ones, over your property, your possessions, anything else that you feel inspired to be protected and shielded, you can do so. I believe that the Lord showed us, at the same time that we were contemplating this whole idea. This all started with my wife, because I was going to buy some more ammunition. My wife said this, "No matter how much you buy, there's always someone who will have bigger and more".

Yesterday I had a conversation with a man, this man that I was talking to you about, this preparedness instructor from his Ward. He said, "Mike, I have no doubt that if 2 people were standing on your doorstep in

a hostile situation, we could probably take care of 2. What are you going to do if you have 200 of them standing in the street?"

I said, "Exactly, that's not the answer." So, if we're going to rely on our own wisdom, our own strength--the arm of flesh, you're not going to make it. For that very reason, weapons aren't the answer. The answer is Priesthood. I will tell you this. It's a lot easier to go to the store and buy weapons and store up ammunition, then it is to come to a point of spirituality where you have power in the priesthood. That's why most people won't make it. It requires more of you, in a different direction to come up and have power to do what we're talking about. The Lord showed us those pictures of the Cebu Temple at the exact time when we were contemplating and pondering this conundrum. I take those pictures of the Cebu Temple, I don't know for what other use they were given, but I know that they had a profound effect and a lasting effect on Mike and Margie Stroud, and changed our whole direction of thinking on preparedness and how to get through the day that's coming.

I was talking to my son-in-law last night and he said what are you going to do when you have 200 people out there that are in a hostile situation and they know you have things that they need, and they're going to come, what are you going to do? Exactly, so what we need to do is become invisible. And he said, "What?"

And I said, "You need to become invisible. You need to be able to be in a position, through priesthood power, that these people don't even know you are there. Now, is it possible for the Lord to do such a thing?" He said, "You mean like Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth when they took him and threw him over the brough of a hill and the scriptures say he disappeared out of their midst?" And I said, "Exactly."

Or, how about the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus where the resurrected Christ appears to them? These 2 men knew Christ before he died. These are 2 disciples. And yet, they could not recognize him because it says "their eyes were holden". Something happened there, to where these 2 men could not recognize Christ, the Master. Until they sat down and he blessed the food, he put a blessing on it, then it says, "their eyes were opened and he vanished out of their midst." That's the kind of power we need to have. And not only to navigate ourselves and our family and to help others, that's the kind of power you're going to need to have in order to be an instrument in the hands of the Lord to be used in the days that are coming.

Let's go to Section 105:9. There are so many of these, and once you start thinking along this line, then the scriptures take on a whole new direction for you.

9 Therefore, in consequence of the transgressions of my people, it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion—

The bottom of vs. 9 the Lord is telling the members of the Church that they need to wait a little season for the redemption of Zion. They tried to do it, but because of jarrings and bickerings and this, that and the other thing and the general unrighteousness of the early members of the Church, Zion was postponed. Vs. 10:

10 That they themselves may be prepared, and that my people may be taught more perfectly, and have experience, and know more perfectly concerning their duty, and the things which I require at their hands. Vs. 11:

11 And this cannot be brought to pass until mine elders are endowed with power from on high. (That's your temple endowment.)

12 For behold, I have prepared a great endowment and blessing to be poured out upon them, inasmuch as they are faithful and continue in humility before me. (now watch this)

13 Therefore it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season, for the redemption of Zion.

14 For behold, I do not require at their hands to fight the battles of Zion; (Did you see that?) for, as I said in a former commandment, even so will I fulfil—I will fight your battles.

Now, you start to put this together. One reason that Zion is "terrible" is that it can't be defeated. And, anytime anyone makes an attack against the New Jerusalem, or against translated beings--the 144,000, any time anybody makes an attack or an attempt, they end up dead. Not because the people they're attacking have weaponry and arms, but because God fights their battles, or they have power in the Priesthood where they can call down fire and consume their enemies. That's the place we need to go.

Go to Section 103 and let me show you another one. Again, once you get a feel for this, and you start thinking along this line, don't think about having weaponry. There was a time for that. The Second

Amendment was there to protect them, and we may even yet, use 2nd A. rights. But, I'm talking about a remnant of people, brothers and sisters, that are going to have a specific mission to prepare people for Zion and to build up that city.

Now, Section 103:15 is really an interesting verse. *15 Behold, I say unto you, the redemption of Zion must needs come by power;*

In other words, what we're going to do here is not going to happen by political wranglings or by societal manipulations or meanderings. It's going to happen because God is going to endow a remnant of men and women with power to redeem Zion. This is called "power in the Priesthood".

16 Therefore, I will raise up unto my people a man, who shall lead them like as Moses led the children of Israel.

We're talking about over here now, because when we're talking about Zion, we're talking about the American continent, specifically the USA, which is the B of M latter day promised land. We're not talking about Judah here. Judah has their own struggle. Their going through their own program over in the Middle East while all this is happening in America. Now watch:

17 For ye are the children of Israel, and of the seed of Abraham, and ye must needs be led out of bondage by power, and with a stretched-out arm.

I want you to look at the word "bondage". See footnote, 17c. Go down and see what kind of bondage we're talking about. "Physical bondage", not spiritual. So, what the Lord's doing here through Joseph Smith is, he's making a comparison with what took place with our ancient fathers in Egypt and saying that the exact thing is going to happen in our day. But now we're talking about the redemption of Zion.

18 And as your fathers were led at the first, (think Egypt, think Moses, after 400 years of bondage) even so shall the redemption of Zion be.

So look at the story that took place with Moses there, and the Passover. Look at Egypt. Look at the 10 plagues. Look at the things that caused Egypt to be the super power in the world in it's day, and look also at the things that caused it to decline. You can see the same thing in our day. Now, brothers and sisters, when Isaiah sees Egypt he's seeing a latter-day super power. The largest super power on the face of the earth, as was ancient Egypt in her day. When you read in Isaiah 19, and you can go look at that, in the place of Egypt, put "the United States of America". Because in Isaiah's writing, Egypt is the USA. When you look at Isaiah chapter 18, you'll see a land overshadowed with wings. That is North and South America with the isthmus in between. It looks like a giant bird, with the body and the head of the bird in the center and 2 outstretched wings as North and South America. You can google that, and see that it's very interesting. Chapter 17 is talking about Damascus and the doom of Damascus. Damascus is the capital city today of what nation? Syria. You can go into chapter 17 and it's like reading the headline of the news today on what's happening with Syria and with the refugees and with Damascus in ruins. It says, "Damascus is a ruinous heap." Just google and go on to "Damascus" and ask for images and look what's going on. Think what's happening with the Syrian refugee situation. You read chapter 17, and it's like reading today's headlines. Then in chapter 20, Egypt is attacked and over come by Assyria. And, as Syria today, is Iraq, Iran, all of the Islamic States, and they form an allegiance with other countries. I believe that's China, Russia, N. Korea and all the Islamic States. The bottom line is, the United States are invaded and overcome for a while. Now, go back to Section 103:17.

17 For ye are the children of Israel, and of the seed of Abraham, and ye must needs be led out of bondage (physical bondage) by power, and with a stretched-out arm.

18 And as your fathers were led at the first, even so shall the redemption of Zion be.

Now, go back to Exodus and read what happened there, and we're going to see a replay of that in our day. The interesting thing is, the nations that participate in Exodus, if you'll look and find out what the modern day name for those nations are, you'll see that it's happening today, just like it did in Isaiah's day. It's so fascinating. Now, we're not through yet.

The United States is going to suffer a period of occupation. It's my opinion, this is Mike Stroud, the Russians will attack the East coast, the Chinese will attack the West coast, and they'll move inward from there. Their invasion will be successful. They'll put all of those cities and states into bondage until they reach

about 11 states that go from the Canadian border to the Mexican border, right on through the heart of this country, called the Rocky Mountain States. From there, the invasion will stall. We'll talk about that. There's a prophecy by Joseph Smith on that. Now, come back with me now to vs. 19:

19 Therefore, let not your hearts faint, (Daniel and Revelation both talk about the saints being attacked by a foreign power and taken into bondage, but it will be a short time. Therefore, we'll have to learn how to submit and wait patiently on the Lord.) for I say not unto you as I said unto your fathers (think about the Israelites in Egypt under Moses): Mine angel shall go up before you, but not my presence.

See, anciently, Christ did not lead the Children of Israel out of bondage because they couldn't come up to that level of spirituality. They had an angel that brought them out, an angel of death, and then he wanted to be their god and they rejected him, so that angel continued to guide them in the wilderness for 40 years. They did not have the presence of Christ as their guide, for 40 years while wandering in the wilderness. But, now watch.

20 But I say unto you: Mine angels shall go up before you, and also my presence, and in time ye shall possess the goodly land.

And, the goodly land is the New Jerusalem. It's the heavenly city. We've got some real exciting times ahead of us. We've got some times ahead of us. Joseph Smith said this, "Noah came before the flood, I come before the fire." Now with that in mind, I'd like to turn again, in ending tonight's lesson, with Pres. Russell M. Nelson, his priesthood talk, given in April 2016. He opened the Priesthood Session with this talk, and Pres. Monson closed it with a little 5 minute talk. That opening and closing address, I think is the most, and this is my opinion, is the most important message we've received in General Conference in 50 years. Because, I think what Pres. Nelson was inspired by the Lord to do, was to lay out a program where we can now start to seek for something beyond putting our trust in our own strength and our own wisdom and seek for something that he calls "power in the priesthood".

He has 4 fears. You can look at this. I've done this a little bit, but I'm going to go over it again tonight with these 4 fears. Because, I think what he's doing, this is a clarion call for Melchizedek Priesthood men to "come up" and obtain what we've been talking about tonight: Power to call down the powers of heaven. Power to put a shield over your property and over your family. Power to pray differently than you've ever done before. Power over the elements to bless your animals, to bless your land, bless your trees, bless your family- your wife and your children. And you need the power to put a shield of protection over them because, as I read the scriptures, that's the only way that you're going to get through what's coming, and the only way the Lord can have a people that He can use as instruments to fulfill these end-time purposes.

Fear #1: I fear there are too many men who have been given the *authority* of the priesthood but who lack priesthood *power* because the flow of power has been blocked by sins such as laziness, dishonesty, pride, immorality, or preoccupation with things of the world. (talking about WHY).

Fear #2: I fear that there are too many priesthood bearers who have done little or nothing to develop their ability to access the powers of heaven. (That's what we talked about last week) I worry about all who are impure in their thoughts, feelings, or actions or who demean their wives or children, thereby cutting off priesthood power.

Fear #3: I fear that too many have sadly surrendered their agency to the adversary and are saying by their conduct, "I care more about satisfying my own desires than I do about bearing the Savior's power to bless others."

Fear #4: I fear, brethren, that some among us may one day wake up and realize what power in the priesthood really is and face the deep regret that they spent far more time seeking power over others or power at work than learning to exercise fully the power of God.

I want you to notice that he uses a term here when he says, we'll wake up one day and realize what power in the priesthood. Not, "power of the priesthood". He uses this term in this General Conference talk that is only used, NOT found in the scriptures anywhere, that term, "power in the priesthood" is not found anywhere in God's written word. It's only found at the veil when you receive a name from God on the other side. And, Pres. Nelson used that term here. A direct reference to the temple. It's subtle, but it's referencing the temple.

I urgently plead with each one of us to live up to our privileges. What are our privileges? Go with me to

Jacob 4 in the B of M. Let me show you what our privileges are. These Nephites got to this place. There's a reason we have a record of the Nephites. There are lots of hidden civilizations that have had God minister to them. They have kept records, and those records are hidden in the earth. They are there still, and we'll have them one day. But, he's given us the Nephite record. The reason he's given us the Nephite record is that these people came up and obtained what's necessary for us to obtain, in order for us to build the New Jerusalem and be there when Christ comes.

Jacob 4:6.

6 Wherefore, we search the prophets, and we have many revelations and the spirit of prophecy; and having all these witnesses we obtain a hope, (we gave a whole lesson on that hope) and our faith becometh unshaken, insomuch that we truly can command in the name of Jesus and the very trees obey us, or the mountains, or the waves of the sea.

Now, if these Nephites did this, and you look at that, this was early in the history of the Nephite people. You see, when Jacob was writing that down, it was 500 years before the birth of Christ. Here is a group of people who obtained power IN the priesthood. And, they used it. That's why we have this record, and not some record of another lost civilization who was ministered to by God. This group obtained the fullness of the priesthood. That's one reason why they were extincted. That's why they were wiped out in genocidal war, because where much is given, much is required. He who sins against the greater light receives the greater condemnation. These people had the perfect day light. Back to this: "I urgently plead with each one of us to live up to our privileges as bearers of the priesthood."

Here's your promise/statement: "In a coming day only those men who have taken their priesthood seriously by diligently seeking to be taught by the Lord himself (You can take that literally, don't try to wrest that, don't try to manipulate that around, take that literally. That means you have communion with, an encounter with, Jesus Christ, first speaking to you behind the veil and then appearing to you face to face.) "Only those who seek to be taught by the Lord himself will be able to bless, guide (think about all this) protect, strengthen and heal others."..Pres. Nelson 4/2016.

"Only a man who has paid the price for priesthood power will be able to bring miracles to those he loves and keep his marriage and family safe, now and throughout eternity."

In the rest of the talk, he lays out 3 things on how we get this priesthood power. He says, (1) "Are you willing to pray to know how to pray for more power? The Lord will teach you." Think of 2 Nephi 4. Don't put your trust in man. We've got to come to a point where we're so adept at receiving personal revelation that you drop the training wheels of counsel and teaching and instruction from mortal man. It has its place. But you've got to go to where you go to heaven yourself and receive light.

(2) The Lord loves to do his own teaching in his holy house. Imagine how pleased he would be if you asked Him to teach you about priesthood keys, authority and power, as you experience the ordinances. You can't go to priesthood manuals, folks. You can't go to classes for this. Did you catch what Pres. Nelson was telling us? That's not to say that manuals aren't important. Classes are important, but they're training wheels. They are to get you to a point where you go to Him.

(3) If you truly want more priesthood power, catch this, "And if you truly want more priesthood power, you will cherish and care for your wife, embracing both her *and* her counsel."

Last comment: "Priesthood power can calm the seas and heal fractures in the earth. Priesthood power can also calm the minds and heal fractures in the hearts of those we love....May each one of us rise up as the man God foreordained us to be—ready to bear the priesthood of God bravely, eager to pay whatever price is required to increase his power in the priesthood. With *that* power, we can help prepare the world for the Second Coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This is His Church, led today by His prophet, President Thomas S. Monson, whom I dearly love and sustain."

Student comment, his reply: One day you may find yourself cut off from SLC. It may be that you'll have to have an open conduit to come just to you, directly through the Holy Spirit where you can receive guidance and instruction in everything you do--where you go, what you say, what you do, in a coming day.

I think it's no coincidence that this conference was ended by Pres. Monson who tells a story, and I'll close

with this. He said, "During WWII, a friend of mine was serving in the South Pacific when his plane was shot down over the ocean. He and the other crew members successfully parachuted from the burning plane, inflated their life rafts, and clung to those rafts for three days. On the third day they spotted what they knew to be a rescue vessel. It passed them by. The next morning it passed them by again. They began to despair as they realized that this was the last day the rescue vessel would be in the area. Then the Holy Spirit spoke to my friend: "You have the priesthood. Command the rescuers to pick you up." He did as prompted: "In the name of Jesus Christ and by the power of the priesthood, turn about and pick us up." Within a few minutes the vessel was beside them, helping them on deck. A faithful and worthy bearer of the priesthood, in his extremity, (there's your key, that's the key to the whole story) had exercised that priesthood, blessing his life and the lives of others. May we determine, here and now, ever to be prepared for our time of need, our time of service, our time of blessing."

Well, brothers and sisters, I hope we can get a different view. In meetings today, in Priesthood, I taught about the sacrament. We usually teach that we partake of the sacrament to renew our baptismal and other covenants on a weekly basis, so that we can have the Holy Spirit to be with us throughout that week. Today I taught that the sacrament has another purpose. The sacrament has a purpose, that by partaking of that sacrament, it puts you in a place to protect you, and shield you, and provides safety in a day of enormous travail. Next week we'll talk about that and I'll draw a parallel between the ancient paschal sacrifice, called the Passover, and partaking of the sacrament. The sacrament is another ordinance, and ordinance designed to protect you, and to shield you in the days that are coming.

Well, thank you very much.