

Tonight I'd like to take the time and spend it on discussing a pure Book of Mormon doctrine. It's mentioned 17 times in the B of M, not mentioned once in the Bible, mentioned once in the D & C, it's mentioned once in the Pearl of Great Price, but 17 times in the Book of Mormon! It is the doctrine of "secret combinations". I'd like to spend a little time on that tonight, especially with the current political atmosphere, and what's going on in our country and throughout the world. I think that the primary purpose that the Book of Mormon was given to us was so we could recognize what's going on around us and have some power to confront it. It's not going away. It's something that comes from the pre-mortal life. The war in heaven was a combined war. The enemy combined against the Father and the Savior. To start out tonight, I'd like to go to D&C Section 38. Then I want to look into the history of things a bit. The whole idea is to bring us up to date on what the Lord about this. This Section is little studied and little talked about. It was given in Jan. 1831, in the early history of the Church.

11 For all flesh is corrupted before me; and the powers of darkness prevail upon the earth, among the children of men, in the presence of all the hosts of heaven—

12 Which causeth **silence to reign, and all eternity is pained**, (Isn't that an interesting statement?) and the angels are waiting the great command to reap down the earth, to gather the tares that they may be burned; (Now, those angels, according to Wilford Woodruff, that had been praying day and night for the Lord to set them loose, to separate the wheat from the tares, and bind the tares in bundles and burn them, according to W. Woodruff in 1896--those angels had been set loose, and are now working upon the face of the earth, working, as of 1896. I want you to look at the last part: ) **and, behold, the enemy is combined.**

There is where we get that word, combined. Now look at vs. 13:

13 And now I show unto you a mystery, a thing which is had in secret chambers, to bring to pass even your destruction in process of time, and ye knew it not; 14 But now I tell it unto you, and ye are blessed, not because of your iniquity, neither your hearts of unbelief; for verily some of you are guilty before me, but I will be merciful unto your weakness.

15 Therefore, be ye strong from henceforth; fear not, for the kingdom is yours.

I would say there has probably never been a time in the history of the world where we need to be strong and courageous, than we are right now, and even more so in the days that are coming. Back up to vs. 13: "I show unto you a mystery," (keep in mind now, we're talking about a combined enemy which seeks the destruction of the Saints, in these verses.)

Now skip over to vs. 28: "And again, I say unto you that the enemy in the secret chambers seeketh your lives."

The key words here are: the enemy is not in the open, the enemy is in "secret chambers". So, now we have these 2 words back in vs. 12 "the enemy is combined" and "they operate in secret" and this is where you get the phrase "secret combinations". When the enemy is combined, it means groups of people, operating under the direction of Satan--the devil, to overthrow all people. The purpose of devils is this: it is to "captivate and enslave". Devils are interested in one thing. They're interested in power and enslaving God's children. It's my opinion that, because they have not had bodies, that they are not interested so much in the physicalness of the telestial world ie. sexual sins and those kinds of things. Unclean spirits are, but devils are interested in captivating and enslaving people and in obtaining power over them. Go to vs. 29: Ye hear of wars 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.

Speaking of America. This is in 1831.

Vs 30: I tell you these things because of your prayers; wherefore, treasure up wisdom 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; (In other words, you're going to find out about these combinations, you're going to learn about them, you can learn about them before they are on you, or you can learn about them while you're under attack, and there's little hope of deliverance, but you are going to learn about them, and notice the last part:) "but if ye are prepared ye shall not fear."

Well, the preparation is to learn about these combinations. They operate in the dark, they operate in secret places, they seek to enslave all of God's children, and they've done a pretty dang good job of it throughout the history of the world. Let's go over to P of GP, Moses, where the first secret combination comes from. This is the account of the first one in this world. We see that it has to do with Cain in Moses 5:16: "And Adam and Eve, his wife, ceased not to call upon God. And Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bare Cain,"

Mike: Now, it's interesting that we should know, that, if you go back to vs. 12 ch. 5: "And Adam and Eve blessed the name of God, and they made all things known unto their sons and their daughters."

They had many many sons and daughters before Cain. You can't get that so much out of the Bible, so one of the great Bible mysteries is: Where did Cain come from, who did he marry, etc. There were all kinds of posterity of Adam and Eve before Cain comes on the scene. Then, why is Cain mentioned? Look at what Eve says, Vs. 16: "and she conceived and bare Cain, and said: I have gotten a man from the Lord; wherefore he may not reject his (the Lords) words. (What is Eve saying here?) But behold, Cain hearkened not, saying: Who is the Lord that I should know him?"

17 And she again conceived and bare his brother Abel. And Abel hearkened unto the voice of the Lord. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

What Eve is looking for here is a Priesthood heir. They understood the patriarchal order of the priesthood at this point. Adams whole emphasis that he tries throughout his whole life is to bring his posterity, his children, and their children, unto many generations, to bring them up through the priesthood, through ordinances, through knowledge of the gospel into the presence of Christ so that they can have a face-to-face encounter with Jesus Christ, and through that, become redeemed from the "fall". Most of Adam and Eve's children reject that invitation. We don't have the full background here, but Eve was hoping that this son, over other sons and daughters, see, we don't have the whole record, but she was hoping that this son would be the priesthood heir in the patriarchal order to all that Adam had. That is a likeness "type" of all of us becoming heirs with Christ, in all that the Father has, that's the patriarchal order. That's where the whole system of "joint heirs with Jesus Christ" comes. In the patriarchal order, there's only one legal heir per generation, and it appears that Eve hoped that that heir would be Cain. Look at vs. 18. And Cain loved Satan more than God. And Satan commanded him, saying: Make an offering unto the Lord.

We know the whole story that his offering was rejected, and the Lord tries to reason with him. Let's go down to vs. 23. Here's the Lord speaking to Cain, who is upset because his offering was rejected and Abels was accepted. We won't go into the reason for that. But, the Lord is reasoning with Cain and says,

23 If thou doest well, thou shalt be accepted. And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door, and Satan desireth to have thee; (this part right here) and except thou shalt hearken unto my commandments, I will deliver thee up, and it shall be unto thee according to his desire. And thou shalt rule over him; (In other words, Satan desires this and is the architect behind this rebellion that is taking place in their family. But, the last sentence in 23 is interesting. The Lord is speaking to Cain and says, "And thou (Cain) shalt rule over him (Satan);

That's an interesting little statement. Remember we've said several times throughout our podcasts, and this comes from the Prophet Joseph Smith: "All beings who have physical bodies have power over those who don't. Possessing a physical body is a powerful edge in spiritual things. "

One of the reasons that Cain would rule over Satan is the fact that he has this physical body. Look at vs. 24:

24 For from this time forth thou shalt be the father of his lies (you, Cain, will be the father of Satan's lies) ; thou shalt be called Perdition; for thou wast also before the world. (Interesting little statement, because it shows that Cain comes into this world with a predisposition towards things that would allow him to be captivated like he's about to be here).

In the book: Jesus the Christ, James Talmage is talking about perdition, and what it took for a person to qualify to have a body in the telestial world verses the third part who were cast out, never to have that birth. He said: "Those who did not come out in active warfare against the Father and the Son obtained a physical body. I assume Cain would fall into that category, along with some other characters that we see that are born into this world, that have physical bodies, and yet end up being abjectly evil. Now I want to skip down to a little thing down here in vs. 29. Cain takes his posterity and others that will follow them, and he has them enter into an agreement with him. This is the beginning of your "secret combinations". You can't have a combination unless you have more than one person involved. You've got to have at least 2 persons that combine together for the same purpose, in this case, it is how to murder and get gain, and keep it a secret, which was the great combination in the early days of the history of the world, and it is the great combination still in our day. But isn't this interesting what they do here?

29 And Satan said unto Cain: Swear unto me by thy throat, and if thou tell it thou shalt die; (I'm going to come back to that throat thing in just a moment) and swear thy brethren by their heads, and by the living God, that they tell it not; for if they tell it, (this combination/secret, these great plans of darkness) they shall surely die; and this that thy father may not know it; and this day I will deliver thy brother Abel into thine hands.

Now, that's Satan speaking to Cain. In other words, we're entering into a covenant here, of darkness, which is what a secret combination is. It's a covenant. The master of the covenant invites someone in a lesser standing to enter in, and that person either chooses "in or out", says, "no", or accepts the covenant. There's 2 sides. This is the dark counterfeit of the covenant relationship that we have with the Father and the Son. They invite us to enter in, and we choose either to accept the conditions and enter in, or to reject them. If you accept the conditions of a covenant with the Father and the Son, the by-product of that is, that you are now able to tap into power and knowledge that you otherwise would not have. These are called the mysteries of Godliness. And you enter into that, you have access to those mysteries when you accept the covenant from God. Now, here is the anti-god, Satan, who is now inviting Cain to enter into a covenant, and Cain accepts that. Now, interesting in vs. 30, we miss this, but look at vs. 30: 30 And Satan sware unto Cain that he (Satan) would do according to his (Cain's) commands. (Did you catch that?) And all these things were done in secret. Mike: Let me back up again. Up in vs. 29, Cain says, sware unto me this, and this and this..." and in vs. 30, Satan swears to Cain that he (Satan) would do according to his commands. You've got a 2-way partnership here. Satan realizes that he needs to have mortal counterparts in the telestial world in order to fully captivate and enslave and destroy God's

children. He understands he needs to have mortal counterparts, and I'll tell you, brothers and sisters, that today, those immortal counterparts are every bit alive as they ever were. As a matter of fact, one of these interesting things about Cain is, is that we have no record that he dies in the scriptures. It just simply says that he will be a vagabond on the earth.

I want to share with you a little story here. This comes out of Pres. Kimball's book: The Miracle of Forgiveness. I'll post this on our site as a dropbox item for you. Pres. Kimball said this: (here is the whole quote)

David W. Patten and "Cain" Spencer W. Kimball, Miracle of Forgiveness, (SLC: Bookcraft, 1969), 127–128.

On the sad character of Cain, an interesting story comes to us from Lycurgus A. Wilson's book on the life of David W. Patten. (Mike: David W. Patten was the first apostolic martyr in this dispensation. He was shot to death at the Battle of Crooked River) From the book I quote an extract from a letter by Abraham O. Smoot (Mike: who was a member of the Quorum of the 12) giving his recollection of David Patten's account of meeting "a very remarkable person who had represented himself as being Cain."

(Here is the quote from D.Patton's account) As I was riding along the road on my mule I suddenly noticed a very strange person walking beside me.... His head was about even with my shoulders as I sat in my saddle. (Mike: now, I'm a horseman, and I can tell you that when you are sitting on a mule, they are taller than most horses. So, if you're a 6 ft. person sitting on a mule, and his head is about even with your shoulders, the person you're talking to standing next to the mule, is pretty good-sized) He wore no clothing, but was covered with hair. His skin was very dark. I asked him where he dwelt and he replied that he had no home, that he was a wanderer in the earth and traveled to and fro. He said he was a very miserable creature, that he had earnestly sought death during his sojourn upon the earth, but that he could not die, and his mission was to destroy the souls of men. About the time he expressed himself thus, I rebuked him in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by virtue of the Holy Priesthood, and commanded him to go hence, and he immediately departed out of my sight...."

What we have with Cain, and then later on with his descendants, are these secret combinations, and again, the purpose of the secret combinations is "how to murder to get gain, make money at it, and keep it a secret". You can tell when a secret combination is working at it's peak, then and now, is when people think there is no such thing. You can tell when it's operating at it's greatest performance, because when you try to expose them, the majority of the people will say, "there is no such thing". That's when it's working very well.

I find it very interesting that the word "conspiracy" is also tied in with secret combinations. There's something about us, as men and women in this world, and, as LDS--we're not immune from that, we get very upset to think that there is any kind of a power that we're not aware of that is operational and controlling our lives day in and day out. Our independence just struggles with that and we want to just discard that idea that "I'm being manipulated, or I'm being controlled in any way", especially when I don't know about it. That's the definition of a conspiracy and a secret combination. Let's go to Section 89, and let me just show you a couple of things here that are kind of interesting in the scriptures. The Latter Day Saints, above all people, should understand that there is conspiracy in the world. You cannot believe in a devil and reject the idea of a conspiracy. You can't do it. Because, by nature, the devil is a conspirator. His plans are conspiratory. Section 89 is the Word of Wisdom. We've read it over and over, but I want to go down to vs. 4. We don't talk much about this one:

4 Behold, verily, thus saith the Lord unto you: In consequence of evils and designs which do and will exist in the hearts of conspiring men in the last days, I have warned you, and forewarn you, by giving unto you this word of wisdom by revelation—

Mike: Did you ever stop to think that the purpose of the W of W was to counteract a satanic conspiracy that's operational in our day? How many of us have thought about that? The Lord gives it to us because there's a conspiracy to destroy God's children by working through the things they take into their body--the elements of food, water and sustenance, etc.

D&C 123:11 (Here's another one of these things that we're talking about, the Lord is warning us about these things that are taking place in secret chambers. The Lord says:

11. And also it is an imperative duty that we owe to all the rising generation, (this was given in 1839) and to all the pure in heart—12 For there are many yet on the earth among all sects, parties, and denominations, who are blinded by the subtle craftiness of men, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, (That's a definition of a secret combination) and who are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it—

Mike: In other words, there's a conspiracy to keep people from coming into contact with revealed restoration truth. Look at this one:

13 Therefore, that we should waste and wear out our lives in bringing to light all the hidden things of darkness, wherein we know them; and they are truly manifest from heaven—

Look at footnote 13b: 1 Cor. 4:5. TG Secret Combinations. These "hidden things of darkness" are secret combinations. 14 These should then be attended to with great earnestness.

Mike: We're going to find out why, because people are being destroyed by a power that is organized and combined, and they are kept from a knowledge of it because they know not where to find it--the truth. Look what it says in 15.

15 Let no man count them as small things; for there is much which lieth in futurity, (this is in the future from 1839 to our day) pertaining to the saints, which depends upon these things.

So, here we have various scripture references where the Lord is talking to us. We need to be aware of what's going on. President Benson said in his next to last general conference talk, which was in April 1989, and it was a little address given to children. This last talk in Oct. 1988, and you can look it up, is called I Testify. I just want to pull out a couple of things out of this talk. He said, "I testify that wickedness is rapidly expanding in every segment of our society." Remember that this was 1988! "It is more highly organized, more cleverly disguised and more powerfully promoted than ever before. Secret combinations, lusting for power, gain and glory are flourishing. A secret combination" (he was talking about multiple, and now he's talking about a specific one) "that seeks to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries is increasing its evil influence and control over America and the entire world."

Let's take just a minute and go over to Ether 8 in the B of M. The Book of Ether gives us, probably in any place in the B of M, the most definitive information on secret combinations of anywhere in the Book of Mormon. In the Book of Ether, this is Moroni who is speaking. Let's go to Ether 8:18 And it came to pass that they formed a secret combination, (this is talking about some of the Jaredites, people by the name of Akish, and some of that family) even as they of old; (Which means going back before the flood. The Jaredites are after the flood. It's interesting that the records of these secret combinations was on the Arc. They came across the flood with Noah and his family, these same combinations that were had in the days of Cain and Lamech, and every one of the master mahans that came up through the patriarchal order, all the way through to Noah--they had a record of these things) which combination is most abominable and wicked above all, in the sight of God;

Mike: This is a great warning for us. Vs 19: For the Lord worketh not in secret combinations, neither doth he will that man should shed blood, but in all things hath forbidden it, from the beginning of man.<sup>20</sup> And now I, Moroni, do not write the manner of their oaths (I'm going to take you over in a moment and show you that Alma gave a commandment to his sons concerning these secret oaths, and he said the same thing. Notice that they don't write the "manner" of these oaths) and combinations, for it hath been made known unto me that they are had among all people, and they are had among the Lamanites.

These same ancient combinations that we're reading about here in this book are alive and well in our day, probably operating more successfully now than they have in the history of the world, and probably more involved and enrolled in these combinations now, numerically, than ever before. Moroni says in Vs. 21: And they have caused the destruction of this people (the Jaredites) of whom I am now speaking, and also the destruction of the people of Nephi.

See, what Moroni is warning us of here is that the latter-day gentiles, and we've given a lesson on that, members of the Church who have these records, you members of the Church, you need to pay attention because there have already been several large civilizations living on the very same soil that we're living on, that are no more, because of these combinations. This is the warning. Vs. 22, watch this:

22 And whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations, (Isn't that interesting that the goal of the secret combination is to take over the government and to have it's headquarters and its "seat" within governmental power. When it gets to a governmental level, then it's in a position to enslave the whole national population, which is what it desires to do, that's the purpose.) to get power and gain, until they shall spread over the nation, behold, they shall be destroyed; for the Lord will not suffer that the blood of his saints, which shall be shed by them, shall always cry unto him from the ground for vengeance upon them and yet he avenge them not.

President Benson, in some of his talks said that we, the United States, need to pay attention to this, because the government of the U.S. is guilty of upholding these secret combinations, to get power and gain. See vs. 22 again. I remember reading that and saying, wait a minute, this combination isn't killing the LDS. There are no LDS that are being killed and butchered like this, but there have been. It didn't say "the Saints of the last days": "for the Lord will not suffer that the blood of his saints, which shall be shed by them, shall always cry unto him from the ground for vengeance upon them and yet he avenge them not."

The Saints have always been murdered by these combinations. According to John in the Book of Revelation, we, as members of the Church, are going to go into a persecution time in the future, and many will lose their lives by beheading--which is interesting and I will talk about that in a minute, because of these combinations. Vs. 23: Now, we as members of the Church, need to perk up on that. We are gentiles, and The Church of Jesus Christ is a gentile organization. The United States of America is the "great gentile nation/country of the latter days

23 Wherefore, O ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God that these things should be shown unto you, (remember that I said that there are 17 references to "secret combinations" in the B of M--none in the Bible. this is one of the purposes of the B of M, right now, is to warn us) that thereby ye may repent of your sins, and suffer not that these murderous

combinations (look at this right here) shall get above you, (That's government. If this combination controls the government, and get's above us as citizens) which are built up to get power and gain—and the work, yea, even the work of destruction come upon you, yea, even the sword of the justice of the Eternal God shall fall upon you, to your overthrow and destruction if ye shall suffer these things to be.

Last 2 verses, now watch:

24 Wherefore, the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which shall be among you; or wo be unto it, because of the blood of them who have been slain; for they cry from the dust for vengeance upon it, and also upon those who built it up. 25 For it cometh to pass that whoso buildeth it (the combination) up seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries; and it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people, for it is built up by the devil, who is the father of all lies; even that same liar who beguiled our first parents, yea, even that same liar who hath caused man to commit murder from the beginning; who hath hardened the hearts of men that they have murdered the prophets, and stoned them, and cast them out from the beginning.

We need to be aware that these things are here. Going back to another statement by Pres. Benson, "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... (I've been politically involved all my life. There has never been a presidential election I have not voted in. I have studied these secret combinations for almost 40 years. I've been heavily involved in working with congressmen and senators and writing presidents to a point where I just decided it was futile, and refused to do it any longer, but I've been following this, and I noticed what P. Benson says here, he says, "There will be growing battles between the two. As the issues become clearer and more obvious in my lifetime, I have never seen issues more clear and more obvious, (as they are right now in U.S. politics) 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."

Mike: Are we there yet? Not yet, but we're getting close. Let's go to Ether 2. Let me show you something. This is a warning to us. This is all us, the United States of America. Brothers and sisters, the U.S.A is the B of M promised land. It's not Canada, it's not Mexico, it's not South America, it is the B of M promised land. It is the place where the New Jerusalem will be built, and you can expect that Satan's h.q. will also be here. You can talk what you want about the New World Order being headquartered in Brussels, Belgium in Europe, but I think those h.q. are right here in the USA. Now, here's a warning in Ether 2:7-8 He's talking about the Jaredites. 7 And the Lord would not suffer that they should stop beyond the sea in the wilderness, but he would that they should come forth even unto (right here) the land of promise, which was choice above all other lands, which the Lord God had preserved for a righteous people.

8 And he had sworn in his wrath unto the brother of Jared, that whoso should possess this land of promise, (that you and I right there, right now) from that time henceforth and forever, should serve him, the true and only God, or they should be (here we go) swept off when the fulness of his wrath should come upon them.

Mike: You've got 2 terms here. This is a warning to us. P. Benson said, "If you think these things can't happen here (meaning, in America) you either have not read the scriptures or you do not understand them and will rue the day you harbored such an opinion." That's pretty bold, and was said in a general conference talk. So, 2 statements: "swept off" and "the fullness of his wrath". I think I understand swept off, because we have a record here of 2 civilizations that were wiped out in genocidal war down to the last man. Vs 9:

9 And now, we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise; and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall serve God (the USA), or they shall be swept off when the fulness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fulness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity.

So, there's 2 times in 2 verses that we're told, "if we don't worship the God of the land and keep his commandments, WE will be swept off". We have no guarantee that that won't happen. Now look at vs. 10:

10 For behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God. And it is not until the fulness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off.

Four times in 3 verses he used that term. Here's Moroni in vs. 11, and he's speaking to US. I believe this is members of the Church, because the gentiles that are not members of the Church, don't have this record, they're not reading these words, so there is no value to the "gentiles". But the gentiles who are numbered among the Church it says:

11. And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God—that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fulness come, that ye may not bring down the fulness of the wrath of God upon you as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done.

This is a choice land, and it is the United States of America. 12 Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but

serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ, who hath been manifested by the things which we have written. Now, go over to Ether 15 and let me show you what it means when it says "the fullness of the wrath of God", when whole civilizations are swept off. The Lord said at this time that there were no civilizations that were larger or more populous than the Jaredite civilization. In a very short period of time it came down to Coriantumr and Shiz. Millions of men, women and children were wiped out in genocidal war because of the secret combination that was amongst them. Moroni says, this secret combination caused this end of the Jaredites. Here is a definition of the fullness of the wrath of God. Watch:

Ether 15:19 But behold, the Spirit of the Lord had ceased striving with them, and Satan had full power over the hearts of the people; for they were (here we go) given up unto the hardness of their hearts, and the blindness of their minds that they might be destroyed; wherefore they went again to battle.

All God has to do for the fullness of His wrath to be poured out is to withdraw His Spirit. This is why He comes out and says, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." You can get to a point where He withdraws His Spirit, and at that point, the fullness of the wrath of God comes upon you. In D&C 19, He talks to Martin Harris about this. Martin felt this just a little bit with the loss of 116 pages. D&C 19:20 Wherefore, I command you again to repent, lest I humble you with my almighty power; and that you confess your sins, lest you suffer these punishments of which I have spoken, of which in the smallest, yea, even in the least degree you have tasted at the time I withdrew my Spirit.

Joseph and his whole household, when the Lord withdrew His Spirit, even a small little withdrawal, the loss of 116 pages, was the darkest time that they'd ever experienced. It led Joseph to say, "My God, I've lost my soul."

That's what it means to have the fullness of the wrath of God poured out. Now I'd like to read you some statements by general authorities on secret combinations. We'll put all these up for you to look at.

J. Reuben Clark, Oct. 1941: "We are in the midst of the greatest exhibition of propaganda that the world has ever seen. Just do not believe all you read and hear." Mike: Do you think that has value today? One of the tactics of the secret combinations, brothers and sisters, is disinformation. We have to be so practiced, and become as perfect as we possibly can, in taking the Holy Spirit for our guide.

This is what D&C 45:57 says: 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.

Mike: It's the only way. You won't make it if you haven't learned to take the Holy Spirit for your guide. These are the only ones that will be there when I come. Here's another one by Pres. Clark again, from 1944. Notice that these are during the war:

"If the conspiracy comes here it will probably come in its full vigor and there will be a lot of vacant places among those who guide and direct, not only this government, but also this Church of ours."

How's that for a statement? Let me give you another one.

This one's by Ezra Taft Benson. "Concerning the United States the Lord revealed to his prophets that its greatest threat would be a vast, worldwide "secret combination" which would not only threaten the United States but also seek to "overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and people".

Another one by J. Reuben Clark given in 1949, after the war. "Do not think that these usurpations, intimidations, and impositions are being done to us through inadvertence or mistake; The whole course is deliberately planned and carried out; its purpose is to destroy the Constitution and our constitutional government; then to bring chaos, out of which the new Statism with its slavery is to arise, with a cruel, relentless, selfish, ambitious crew in the saddle, riding hard with whip and spur, a red-shrouded band of night riders for despotism. (Of course, he's talking about Red Communism)

Mike: I once heard the definition of communism and socialism. "Communism is enforced with a bayonet, Socialism is enforced at a ballot box."

Let me give you just a couple more quotes. Pres. Benson quoted Joseph Smith here: Joseph Smith said that the Book of Mormon was the "keystone of our religion" and the "most correct" book on earth. (*DHC*, vol. 6, p. 56.)

Pres. Benson: This most correct book on earth states that the downfall of two great American civilizations came as a result of secret conspiracies whose desire was to overthrow the freedom of the people. "And they have caused the destruction of this people of whom I am now speaking," says Moroni, "and also the destruction of the people of Nephi." (Ether 8:21.) He continues: "Now undoubtedly Moroni could have pointed out many factors that led to the destruction of the people, but notice how he singled out the secret combinations, just as the Church today could point out many threats to peace, prosperity, and the spread of God's work, but it has singled out the greatest threat as the godless conspiracy. There is no conspiracy theory in the Book of Mormon—it is a conspiracy fact."

Well, brothers and sisters, we're living in historic times. I don't know what the Lord's strange act is. He talks in the D&C about his strange act, his strange work when he will gather together his jewels, but there are some strange things going on. It's been interesting to watch the presidential politics that have unfolded over the last year and a half, and here we are

48 hrs from the election. I chose this lesson tonight because I think that never before have we exposed a global conspiracy and a secret combination than we have right now, that's going on in our very current history. I'd like to go to one more scripture here. Let's go to Mosiah 29. I think it's giving us some information. I feel that we've had a Supreme Court Judge that was assassinated. We've had judges that were assassinated in the B of M. I believe we've had one killed here recently. Time will tell. Let's go to Mosiah 29:25. This is kind of a form, it's called the system of the judges. It's kind of a form. It points to a future time when a constitutional republic will be brought forth in the promised land. Here, King Mosiah says this:

25: Therefore, choose you by the voice of this people, judges, that ye may be judged according to the laws which have been given you by our fathers, which are correct, and which were given them by the hand of the Lord. (Here is a truth, it is a gospel truth)

26 Now it is not common that the voice (majority) of the people desireth anything contrary to that which is right; (In any given circumstance in the telestial world where God's children have a right to govern themselves, it is not common that the majority choose wrong) but it is common for the lesser part of the people to desire that which is not right; therefore this shall ye observe and make it your law—to do your business by the voice of the people.

That's describing right on down, a constitutional form of government, which we have. Now look at vs. 27, here's the warning:

27 And if the time comes that the voice of the people (the majority) doth choose iniquity," (I worry about that, I think that in the next short period of time we're going to see where we stand as a people in the promised land.)

"then is the time that the judgments of God will come upon you; yea, then is the time he will visit you with great destruction even as he has hitherto visited this land.

Any comments on that? Student: We're in trouble! Mike: Yep. I think we've been in trouble for a long while. What we see boiling up now has been coming on for a loonnngggg time! But I think that in our day, right now, I don't ever remember seeing evil as in-your-face as it is right now. It's like President Benson said in that one quote, he said, "As the issues become clearer and more obvious, all mankind will be required to align themselves either for the kingdom of God or for the kingdom of the devil." I want to finish the rest of that quote: "God will provide strength for the righteous, and the means of escape, and eventually and finally, truth will triumph."

Pres. Benson said: "I testify that it is time for every man to set in order his own house, both temporally and spiritually. It is time for the unbeliever to learn for himself that the work is true. It is time for us, as members of the Church, to walk in ALL the ways of the Lord, to use our influence to make popular that which is sound and make unpopular that which is unsound. We have the scriptures, the prophets, and the Holy Ghost. Now we need eyes that will see, ears that will hear, and hearts that will harken to God's direction."

Mike: Let me say something interesting. These ancients and in our day, this is Mike Stroud's feeling, that Satan counterfeits as close as he can to what God reveals. The counterfeit is a mixture of truth with error, and there is power. Not only does he do it to deceive, but the fact that there is truth, mixed with error, gives the error power. Anciently, what these people would do is that they swore oaths by their heads. Now, we've seen anciently with Laban, you saw it with Goliath, you saw Coriantumr take off the head of Shiz, you see all this beheading. John the Revelator talks about beheadings taking place yet in the future for those who will not give up their witness of Christ, they will not align themselves with the beast and the hoar of Babylon. They die by beheading. Ever wonder what that was? Taking off a head symbolically destroys the identity of the person in eternity. Everything from the neck up controls everything from the neck down. You remove the head and you've not only killed the person for sure, but you take away their identity, their very awareness, that part of them that is their individual "I Am". Taking off the head anciently was a symbol that you've obliterated that person, not only in this life, but you did not have to worry about them in eternity. So, ancient oaths were made with penalties where they swore by their throats that they would lose their head. They cut off the head if you violated these ancient oaths. Another thing they did was to take out the heart. You can see that down through all time. It becomes symbolic of losing the thing that's closest to you in your heart. For a man, that's his wife. Removing the heart is symbolic of losing your wife. Disemboweling is symbolic of losing your "seed", your family, your children. So, these ancient things that we looked at as ways that life can be taken, and literally talked about the loss of everything in eternity: your identity, your wife or husband, and your family. Great symbolism involved, and you can see it in all ancient cultures. Well, just some interesting thoughts, brothers and sisters. God bless us and our great land. I can tell you that I'm on the phone weekly with various places throughout the world, and I want you to know that the whole world is watching us right now. It's almost like they've all taken in a collective deep breath and their holding it to see what's going to happen with America, because, with all of our faults, America is that light upon a hill. It is the shining beacon. It'll be interesting to see what we do with what we've got and what the consequences are for those choices. I pray that God will bless us, that we'll exercise our franchise as citizens of this great country, and that we'll do our part individually, to see that everything that was laid for the foundations of this great land that is literally preserved and maintained now and in the future.