

060 – PERPLEXITY -1:13 Min

By Mike Stoud

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*The signs in the heavens and on the earth signal the end of The Day of the Gentile and the opening of the Day of Israel.*

I pray that the Holy Spirit will give direction and guidance during this podcast, lesson and presentation. And that the Holy Ghost will be a companion to all of us, to me as I teach this lesson, and to you as you receive, that both teacher and learner can be edified and rejoice together. Please turn with me to the Old Testament. 1 Kings Chapter 18. This chapter contains one of my favorite stories in all of Scripture. This is the story of Elijah and his confrontation with the priest of Baal. You can read the chapters before and the chapters after to get a better content and context. But, basically this is a confrontation, a showdown, between Elijah and 450 of the priest of Baal who served under Ahab and Jezebel. The whole country is in a severe famine and the members of the church, the priesthood leaders, are being hunted down by Jezebel and Ahab and are being killed. Some of them have been hidden in a cave by Obadiah, who was a follower after the Lord. But it is a severe time of trial for the baptized, covenant members in that day. I think one of the reasons that I love this story is I am partial to firebrand individuals. I love these kinds of people who are fearless. Some examples of firebrand individuals from the Scriptures, along with Elijah, would be Peter after his baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost and John and yet others who are absolutely fearless in the cause of the Lord. The book of Mormon is filled with such individuals, Maroni, and Mormon, are just the people I admire so much because they are fearless in their face of overwhelming opposition. And the opposition at this point is 1 versus 450, quite the odds. We're going to scan the verses rather quickly to get to the meat of this story. Let's go to verse 17, Ahab meets with Elijah and accuses him as being the one who troubles all of Israel.

### **1 Kings 18**

17 - And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that they had set and to him, Art thou he that trouble of Israel?

18 – And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim.

I love Elijah's response in verse 18, “, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and I father's house”, in other words, it's not my fault that you are in the situation that you are it's you and your father's house. The bottom of verse 18, you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim.

### **1 Kings 18**

19- Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto Mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal 450, and the prophets of the groves 400, which eat at Jezebel's table.

So we know that there's going to be at least outside of the congregation of Israel on Ahab's side of the line 850 people.

### **1 Kings 18**

20 - So Ahab sent and to all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together and to Mount Carmel.

Verse 21 is the place where we want to start to pay attention. With this large congregation that have been brought together there,

### 1 Kings 18

21 - And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

Between two opinions, now that's the part that I would be underlining my Scriptures I would underline it two or three times. How long halt ye between two opinions? And then he goes on to say, *if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him*. Then I like this little statement at the end of the verse of 21. *And the people answered him not a word*. This is a very, very tense, very intense situation. A lot of the people in the congregation of Israel are not going to say anything because they know that anybody under this government regime who aligns themselves anyway with the God of the Israelites will suffer a death penalty... And many have; And many are in exile, and many hiding in caves and other places to escape the persecution of this government regime. Well Elijah sets up a circumstance here where he, let's go on down here to verse 25.

### 1 Kings 18

25 - And Elijah said unto the prophets of all, choose you one look for yourself, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.

Now skip back up to verse 24,

### 1 Kings 18

24 - And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

I want you to concentrate on that consumption of this sacrifice by fire. Now, it was common for the sacrifices offered in the new Old Testament, called burnt offerings, some of them under certain circumstances were consumed by fire. And I'm going to pull all of this into our day or attempt to in a few minutes. I want you to concentrate on the words "*by fire*". The Lord will answer *by fire*. Now let's go down to verse 26.

### 1 Kings 18

26- And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called upon the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

So the priest of Baal, there's 450 of them, dressed the bullock and put it on their altar. It says, *called upon the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered*.

27, I love this part. Every time I read it I love this part.

### 1 Kings 18

27 - And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a God; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awakened.

In other words, you have had four hours to call upon your God to consume your sacrifice and there's not a word nor an answer coming from anywhere. So he really stirs them up with this mockery, and it's a righteous mockery. Look at verse 28.

## 1 Kings 18

28 - and they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lances, till the blood gushed out upon them.

And I have an interesting experience here a few years ago. I had a woman and her husband call me. These are family members. And they were concerned about their daughter who had gone way off the deep end into drugs, sex, and all manner different things. Had withdrawn from the membership of the church in activity, even come to a point that she was making a mockery of those who were faithful in their church membership. And so she really departed from anything that was light. And they called me and Margie and we went over and they said their daughter was possessed with an evil spirit. And when we got over there, the spirit that was there, that had frightened both the mother and the father had left, or at least gone into hiding so that when we walked into the room we didn't sense his presence. But here was this girl, young girl, mother was sitting on the floor with her back to the wall and was holding her daughter in her arms and on her one arm there were about 30 slices made with a razor blade down her arm. And her arm was all bloodied. And this girl crawled across the floor wrapped her arms around my legs and said, "grandpa, please help me." I had the spirit whisper to me some things about all of this cutting of you out there who are going to relate to these cuttings to be something that girls in our day do a lot of. I was taught by the Spirit that she was possessed with an ancient evil spirit that when that spirit was on earth in a mortal existence practiced the cutting of their flesh as a form of their devotion to their false gods. And so that spirit that had entered into my granddaughter was an ancient Canaanite spirit that perhaps could have even come from this period of time that we're reading about in 1 Kings chapter 18. [10:02] Having had that information given to me by the spirit I review that spirit, identified it as such, and commanded it come out, depart, and never come back. And this girl has never cut herself since. Now going back to the Scripture, let's go to verse 29.

## 1 Kings 18

29 - And it came to pass, when midday was passed, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, or any that regarded.

Now, you see they have been at this all day, at least were involved in this now seven or eight hours, where all Israel and Elijah has stood back watching the antics and the frustration and franticness of frenzied actions of these priests. As each minute goes by they become more and more of frenzied in their activity. You can get a mental picture of this there jumping up and down on this altar, they're slicing themselves with knives, there's blood, and frenzy and confusion - chaos it must've been quite a scene. And it says at the bottom of 29, **that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, or any that regarded.** And at this time Elijah says, enough, look at verse 30.

## 1 Kings 18

30 - And Elijah said unto all the people, come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.

And Elijah said unto all the people, and I love this, **come near unto me.** You draw them up close **And all the people came near unto him... repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.** And see this place on Mount Carmel was a known sacred place where an altar to the Lord, Jehovah had been built. And apparently the enemies of the Lord who knew about this place had desecrated it and had torn that altar down.

I want to just digress a little bit from this, and tell you that last January, I had the opportunity to visit Adam-ondi-Ahman, and with some friends who had invited us out there. I was impressed that when you got off the property that is owned by the church, when you go on to the church property, that they on, there's a sweet spirit... The spirit of peace, the spirit of calm, the spirit of unity, the spirit of the Lord. But when you go off of that property into the surrounding areas around the church property it's obvious that that property is heavily cursed. And just the opposite feelings are felt and you wear around that property. Unless the property around Adam-ondi-Ahman is owned by some of the Latter Day Saints, who have blessed and dedicated that property, and thereby lifted the curses off of it. But the thought came to me while I was back there, is; the ancients, for the last 6000 years, ancient societies have known about this property that was Adam's home after he was driven from the garden of Eden and traveled about 70 miles northwest from where modern-day revelation says the garden of Eden was. And he spent the next almost 1000 years in and around that area that we now define around Davies County, Missouri. Well the ancient people knew that this was sacred ground and hallowed by the presence of our first mother and father. I'm presence by the presence of the other patriarchs, even Enoch, and Mahalaleel, and Jared, and all these ancient patriarchs that you can read about in section 107 and in the Old Testament. And so when these prophets were no longer there, then these ancient societies came in and desecrated all this ground. The agent alters, build up to unto the Lord were torn down. Somewhere buried perhaps by the Lords people so that when the Prophet Joseph Smith came in there, into Adam-ondi-Ahman, he went and took a shovel and uncovered the altar that Adam had altered sacrifice on. Now whether Adam and his people had buried that, or whether it had been buried by time, the point was it was still in the condition, pristine condition, that it was when Joseph stood upon the uncovered altar and identified it as Adams altar. It was still there in its form, fashioned after the ancient order in three different tiers. That altar is all gone now, has been carried away as stone at a time that where there's nothing there. But nonetheless, as in the days of Elijah, people who recognized the sacred places where the Lord's alters were desecrate those and tear them down. So here in verse 30 we have Elijah who repairs the altar of the Lord that was broken down. And he takes 12 stones according to the number of the tribes of Israel and includes those in the construction and the rebuilding and repairing of this altar. Verse 32,

### **1 Kings 18**

**32 - And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.**

And there's some controversy as to just how, what the measurement here is. It is obvious that the trench around the altar is designed to hold water that overflows the altar that you will see her in a minute. There are lots of different opinions of just how much that is, but to suffice it to say, it was sufficient for everybody that was there as a witness to know that under the circumstances that Elijah is creating here it would be impossible under normal circumstances for the altar that's going to be placed, Lords altar, to be consumed by fire after it had been drenched and soaked with so much water that it filled the trench that was dug around the base of the altar. That's the idea. How much that really was doesn't matter that much. After he's done this, he prepares the bullock, and they cut it to pieces, and lay it according to accepted ritual, accepted ceremony on the altar. And then in verse 34 he tells them to take water and pour the water upon the altar and then there's verse 34 do it a second time and then later in verse 34 do it a third time. And look at 35...

### **1 Kings 18**

**35 - and the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.**

It's interesting that there is about 250 feet below where this altar platform is there is a perpetual spring of water. That even in times of famine and drought this little spring never ever runs dry. So it would be very

easy for them to haul this water up and to drench this altar to this degree where it feels the trench with the overflowing water. Continuing on must go down to verse 36, three lines down...

### **1 Kings 18**

36 - ... Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

37 - Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their hearts back again.

It's an interesting thing right there. Turn their heart back again, because of what they are about to see. These are people who are going to come back to the Lord because they're going to witness a miracle of his power. They're not coming back because of the whisperings and promptings of the still small voice. This is a group of people who are hard hearted, frightened as it were, but will not align themselves with the Lord because of the government persecution and executions and deaths that have taken place. So their conversion and turning back to the Lord is going to come because of the mighty miracle, a sign as it were, from heaven. I want you to remember that. A sign from heaven that is going to cause them to turn back to the Lord. I am reminded again what Pres. Benson said, that God will have a humble people. You can choose whether your or you can be compelled. Now, over in the Book of Mormon, chapter 32, Alma talks about humility or compelled humility. And he says humility at any level is desirable, but to be compelled is not as desirable as voluntarily humbling yourself according to the whisperings and impressions and promptings of the Holy Spirit. If it takes a mighty miracle to turn our hearts, so be it. But I believe are more blessed are those who love the Lord and follow the promptings of the spirit when there is no need for a mighty sign in heaven or on earth. They do it simply because simply because the love of the Lord is in their heart. And they are accustomed to following the promptings of the Holy Spirit and have the companionship of the Holy Ghost. [20:00] Verse 38...

### **1 Kings 18**

38- Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

The fire of the Lord fell, look at this, consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. When this shaft of fire comes down in response to Elijah's ministrations and authority with the Lord, there is nothing left. There is nothing left. The altar, not only the meat, not only the flash of the Bullock, but the altar itself is vaporized, disappears, stones, water, even the dust where the altar stood. It stirred up, no wonder then in verse 39 we have this response when the people saw it.

### **1 Kings 18**

39 - And when the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and he said, the Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.

Then you can see the rest of the story. You can look at it. You can see Elijah gathers up the 450 priest of ball and causes them to all be executed... Quite an interesting story. What does that have to do with anything to do with us today? Well Elijah had the ceiling power of the patriarchal order of the Melchizedek priesthood. What the Scriptures call the holy order, is also a translated being, and could move about at will. If you go back in the same chapter, verse 12, Elijah is having a discussion with Obadiah and Elijah is a telling Obadiah to go tell Ahab that I am here and Obadiah is worried about that. And what is he worried about? Look at verse 12.

## 1 Kings 18

### 1 Kings 18

12 - And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the spirit of the Lord shall carry thee weather I know not; and so when I come until Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the Lord from my youth.

See it was known that Elijah had power to travel as a translated being and that time and space did not hold him captive. So, this is a man who is in full possession of all the rights and privileges and blessings of a translated being. He has the fullness of the Melchizedek priesthood, and has a right to control the elements as you will see toward the ends of this story. You want to read the back of chapter 18. He ends the famine by using the sealing power of the Melchizedek patriarchal order, called forth rain from the heavens and makes it quite a show of that miracle so that there can be no mistaking that this is not some circumstance that happened but this is an actual result of the exercise of the sealing power that Elijah had.

Brothers and sisters, the purpose of this story is that Elijah brought the people of Israel to the point where they had to make a choice. I love that statement, **how long Halt ye between two opinions?** We could ask ourselves that. Here we are in the latter days, and there's some joking about not Latter Day Saints, we are Latter-Day Aints. We talk about social Mormonism, social Mormons. That we enjoy the sociology that exist in the church, but when it comes to keeping the commandments and being serious about our relationship with God, we just can't be bothered. And so we could easily ask ourselves as members of the church today the same question that Elijah asked our ancient forefathers. **How long Halt you between two opinions?**

It's like brother Neil Maxwell use to say is that the latter-day Saints keep 1 foot in Babylon and another foot in Zion, or try too. They want to have all the blessings of Babylon but they also want to have a summer house in Zion, or cottage, you know. You just can't have it two ways. Matthew, in the New Testament, says you cannot serve God and Mammon. For, either you will love the one and hate the other, or hate the one I love the other: and that is what we're trying to do. And I think that is a big problem for us today. I think the brethren are trying to teach us in general conference that we need to come up and be loosened from the tethers of Babylon. We just can't have it both ways. And if you think we live in a day now, where you can have it both ways, and enjoy the world and all the blessings of the gospel then you will find yourself perishing in the events that are about to come. As we said over and over in these podcasts we have to take the Holy Spirit for our guide. You cannot survive what's coming if you put your trust in man or make flash your arm. You need to use the guides that the Lord has given us in mortality, but eventually need to come to a point where you are so experienced and practice in receiving personal revelation that the Lord can speak to you in the still small voice, you will immediately recognize that voice and hearkened to his words. That is the only safe way for us to make us through the challenges that are coming. The day that we are in is magnificent and terrible. As I was thinking about our day the Spirit whispered to me this; and said, today, right now, September 2017 is the mirrored image time in the pre-mortal life where the lines were drawn, the controversy ended, and the decision now had to be made. Who's on the Lords side? In essence, that same question, that Elijah asked, I'm sure echoed through the corridors of our pre-mortal life. **How long Halt you between two opinions? If the Lord is God, then serve him.**

And I think that we are right now, today, where we were then when the great division took place, the battle lines were drawn, the controversy ended, the testimony bearing was over, and Satan and those that followed him were expelled from the presence of our father and the heavenly realm. I believe that we are

in our day at that exact point that we were there. Brothers and sisters, we have been here before. This is not new. And if you will slow down, and quiet down, and take time to be holy, the Lord will teach you through his Spirit that this is a repeat of something that we've already passed through. We passed through it successfully then, but we stand in jeopardy now. The leadership of the church is doing everything they can to warn us, to teach us, to inspire us, to encourage and persuade us to come up to something higher, something more significant, something more profound. But I fear that way too many, the majority, I feel safe in saying that the majority of the membership of the church have been distracted, neutralized, and are enjoying their time in Babylon. This brings me to the point of this podcast.

As I was kneeling in prayer in my office the other morning and I was asking the Lord, I had felt the client still impressions that I needed to do this podcast. And had several different thoughts that come through my mind over a period of days. And I told Margie that I need to do another podcast and I'm not sure exactly what it's about I had the feeling that I need to do that. As I was kneeling in prayer in my office, which is the place I have dedicated by priesthood power and authority for holy purposes, the word came into my mind, *perplexity*. And I pondered on that for a minute, and I even said in my mind, what? And as I thought about again came into my mind the word *perplexity*. The next was the thought was to go to the LDS.org site bring up the Scripture app, type in this word, *perplexity*, and see how often it was is used in the Scriptures. Before I could end my prayer, I had another interesting experience, it was into my mind came a picture of a solar eclipse, and I thought, what is this? [30:00] so now in prayer, with no exclamation, I see a picture in my mind of a total solar eclipse... And then twice, the word, simply the word and no exclamation, the word *perplexity*. So as I close my prayer I immediately got up with the computer and pulled up the word *perplexity*. I was interested to find that in all of the Scriptures, in all of the standard works that this work *perplexity* is only found four times: Once in the New Testament, in Luke chapter 21 verse 25; will go there in a minute, once in the Doctrine and Covenants Section 88 Verse 79, Once in Isaiah chapter 22 verse 5, and one in the book of Micah chapter 7 verse 4. [30:01] I think you will find it interesting that as I went to the Scriptures one of the common threads that was in the Scriptures was the word *the sun shall be darkened*. And then the rest of it the moon to blood and the stars fall from heaven. And I thought, okay. I'm getting a very, very interesting message here that we need to do something with this.

So let's go into this a little bit and let me share with you some things that I have found. The origin of the word *perplexity* comes from old French and Latin which simply means to be in-tangled or confused. Another word that is associated with it is *bewildered*. Now, before we go any further let's go to the 2 Nephi chapter 30 and look at a prophesied event that I believe is now happening. Let's look at 2 Nephi 31<sup>st</sup> 10.

## **2 Nephi 30**

**10 - For the time speedily cometh that the Lord God shall cause a great division among the people, and the wicked will he destroy; and he will spare his people, yea, even if it so be that he must destroy the wicked by fire.**

Now, I want you to think back about the fire experience that took place at Elijah's altar. This division, I believe, is not only worldwide, and in our nationwide, I believe it's among the Latter Day Saints. And it's among the Latter Day Saints that I want to talk about. I see in sacrament meetings and in classes that we have become so addicted to our Internet devices that I even see members of the church who are texting and receiving text during the sacrament. And I think, how distracted we have become, when the key to surviving the day is to take the time daily to be holy. I look at us and how distracted and involved we are with our Internet devices and how absorbed we are into the world that it becomes very, very difficult for us to find any time for the Lord, even during something that is sacred as the administration of the sacrament of the Lord's supper. There is great need for us to be reclaimed and have our hearts changed even if it

has to be through the things which we suffer. Go with me over to section 105 in the Doctrine and Covenants and let's look at verse 6. Speaking about the principles upon which as I and people must be founded the Lord comes and says this

### **D&C 105**

**6 - And my people must needs be chastened until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer.**

**And my people**, this is in speaking to the general population. His people are those people who have entered into a covenant relationship with him. **My people must needs be chastened until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer.** I think that the day is it that they were moving into. I feel that there are many who have received a four ordination before the Lord to perform a mighty task. If you will, I think that many of that elect group, the hundred and 44,000, the gatherers, that the Lord's going to use to prepare a people for his coming and to establish the cause of Zion. It's my feeling that the majority of them are asleep, distracted, and absorbed into the Babylon culture. And even though they have been foreordained to this great calling, which includes the ordination of translation, the focus of the Melchizedek priesthood, the sealing power of the patriarchal order of the priesthood, even though they have a foreordained mission and a destiny to that they are so absorbed in the things of Babylon that these things have little meaning to them at that point. The only way the majority even of this select group who have this mission ahead of them to be awakened will be through the things which they suffer. I believe that that awakening day, that cleansing period, That time of necessary holiness is going to come and that the doors are opening for that day right now. There is a group who are already awakened, who have chosen to follow the path of righteousness and seek for the face of the Lord without having to be compelled to humility or to have these sacred doors opened by their suffering. This group are in the process now of receiving all the blessings, rights and privileges, that belong to those Saints who are foreordained to these missions and are receiving these powers that we have talked about. The ordinance of translation is being performed. There are many who have received it and are in the process of receiving it. The fullness of the Melchizedek priesthood is being restored and bestowed from heaven upon men and women. Power over the elements to command and have the elements obey, men and women who are priests and kings, priestesses and queens, is amongst us now. And the groundwork foundation is being laid as we speak to counter the vicious evil that exists and will increase as we come near to the advent of our Lord to be able to counter that and to come off victorious.

Go with me for a moment to Luke chapter 21, verse 25.

### **Luke 21**

**25 - And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;**

**26 - Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the power of heaven shall be shaken.**

Let's look at this word perplexity and see how it is used. Verse 25, quote, "**and there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; remember what that means the sea and the waves roaring;**" 26 - **men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the power of heaven shall be shaken.** Let's go over to Isaiah chapter 22 and let's look at verse 5. Quote...

### **Isaiah 22**



5 - For it is a day of trouble, and of treading down, and of perplexity by the Lord God of hosts in the Valley of vision, breaking down the walls, and of crying to the mountains.

Notice again it has reference when we use the word perplexity to a day of trouble and treading down. Let's skip over to Micah chapter 7 and look at verse 4.

### **Micah 7**

2- The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net.

4 - The best of them is as a briar: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchman and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

To get a feel for the context look at verse 2 in Micah 7. The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net. Verse 4 the best of them is a briar, a briar is worthless, the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: see there is nothing good. The whole house of Israel is in such a state of darkness and apostasy that Micah mourns them. Now look at the rest of verse 4 ...the day of thy watchman and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity. To see the Lord's comparison in our day, with our ancient ancestors and their apostate condition go with me to section 112 in the doctrine and covenants, and let's look at verse 23.

### **D&C 112**

23 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt before my face.

24 - Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation; and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord.

25 - And upon my house it shall begin, and from my house it shall go forth, saith the Lord;

26 - First among those among you, saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house, saith the Lord.

You can see that we are in the exact same state [40:00] as our ancient fathers and mothers were. Verse 23 Verily, verily, I say unto you, darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt before my face. That was uttered in 1837. Because of this, is the same in ancient Israel, because of this, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, a day of wrath, here we go with this fire again, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation; and as a whirlwind think of the tornado, think of the one a few years ago that went through Joplin Missouri it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord. And this sobering thought, And upon my house it shall begin, and from my house it shall go forth, saith the Lord;

Why? Because the rest of the world cannot benefit from the covenant people of the Lord as long as they are trapped in Babylon and live in the filthy vessel with hard hearts and a rebellious attitude. The Saints that are going to be the leaven of the earth and to bless the whole earth as the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob cannot provide any blessing while they are in a state of filthiness and apostasy. So the Lord is going to wake us up. And it's my testimony that we are on that day, it is here, it is here. Look at the next to verse, verse 26, First among those among you, saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name think about that brothers and sisters and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house, saith the Lord. So these things are coming. And I think the Lord gave me the little impression on the word perplexity and the avatar of the solar eclipse for this purpose. It's interesting that

this solar eclipse only takes place when something is placed between us and the sun. The sun, SUN, is symbolic of the son, SON... The source of all life and light and love. When that moon goes between the earth and the sun it results in total blackness as we have mentioned in section 112. The Lord says in our day **darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt before my face**. What a perfect symbol to represent that human condition, then a total solar eclipse. We have allowed something to be placed between us and the source of all life and light. And the result is darkness and death.

Well let's look at one more Scripture. Let's go to doctrine and covenants section 88. This is the last of four places where the word perplexity is mentioned. Let's look at verse 79.

### **D&C 88**

**78 – Teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, and doctrine, and the law of the gospel, and all things that pertain into the kingdom of God, that are expedient for you to understand;**

**79 - All things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home, things which are a broad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and the knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms –**

The verses at this point in section 88 are talking about the latter days. Events that I believe are imminent. Look at verse 79, the Lord tells us that we need to be instructed **more perfectly in theory, in principle, and doctrine and the law of the gospel**, that's in verse 78. **and all things that pertain into the kingdom of God, that are expedient for you to understand**; this part, 79, **All things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass**; this is the thrust of my podcast today. I believe that we are at that point. The short period of time that the Lords mentioning here **is over**. **Things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and the knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms –**

Now, this brings me to this solar eclipse that we witnessed on 21 August. Anciently the solar eclipses were looked upon, especially when they happened during times of holy days and festivals by the covenant people of the Lord; total solar eclipse was always viewed as a sign of judgment. And I notice that the Lord says there in verse 88, says **the perplexities of the nations and the judgments which are on the land**, what land? Well, I think the judgments are upon the land of America. This is the land of Jesus Christ. This is his land and the book of Mormon speak specifically that if we reject the God of the land then we stand to be swept off when the fullness of his wrath comes. And there's a great division among the population of the United States right now. I'd like to think that there is at least a majority of the people, the inhabitants of the land of America that still have traditional values of family, honesty, prayer, uprightness; doesn't matter which religion you belong to, this is a Christian land. I'd like to think that the majority, at least 51% of the population of the United States, still worship the Lord to the best of their knowledge and with the scriptural resources that they have available to them. I'd like to believe that, but I'm not so sure. It is my opinion that we have been given our current president of the United States, not that he can save the United States or turn us from the course we have been involved in for so many years; although I believe he is trying to do that, but that we been given this person who's administration is now showing us *in stark contrast*, as Elijah did on Mount caramel, *the difference between good and evil... Between the government of the Lord and the institutions of darkness*. I think that his administration in the last seven months has made it more clear than ever who the enemies and the traders are in this country.

Now that that is being made manifest question comes up to all of us. **How long halt you between two opinions?**

I think that this is being made clear and manifest to us through the administration of Donald Trump so that there can be a perfect and a just judgment pronounced upon this holy and sacred land. So with the events that are coming no one will be able to say, *this isn't fair. It wasn't clear. I didn't know.* The signs and wonders that were talking about that are in the heavens this month and will be in future days, weeks, and years also have ancient precedents in the book of Mormon. If you'll go with me to Helaman in chapter 14 we can see an account where Samuel the Lamanite is on the wall and he has given us signs to the people concerning the birth and death of the Lord Jesus Christ. I'd like you to just go with me to verse 28.

#### **Helaman 14**

28 - And the angel said unto me that many shall seek greater things than these, to the intent that they might believe that the signs and these wonders should come to pass upon all the face of this land, to the intent that there should be no cause for unbelief among the children of men –

29 - And this to the intent that whosoever will believe might be saved, and that whosoever will not believe, a righteous judgment come upon them; and also if they are condemned they bring upon themselves their own condemnation.

30 - And now remember, remember, my brethren, that whosoever perisheth, perisheth unto himself; and whosoever doth iniquity, doth it unto himself, for behold, ye are free; ye are permitted to act for yourselves; for behold, God has given unto you a knowledge and he has made you free.

31 - He hath given unto you that ye might know good from evil, and he hath given unto you that ye might choose life or death; and ye can do good and be restored unto that which is good, or have that which is good restored unto you; or ye can do evil, and have that which is evil restored unto you.

He was commissioned by an angel to say these words. And I think what we read in these next few verses has great counterpart significance for us right now; especially in this month and in the coming months. Verse 28, **And the angel said unto me that many shall seek greater things than these, to the intent that they might believe that the signs and these wonders should come to pass upon all the face of this land, to the intent I have that double underlined, or what's the purpose, that there should be no cause for unbelief among the children of men –** verse 29 **And this to the intent that whosoever will believe might be saved, and that whosoever will *not believe*, a *righteous judgment* come upon them; and also if they are condemned they bring upon themselves their own condemnation.** Basically, the Lord is putting us into a position where we will be left without excuse. As I mentioned, also, in this podcast that what we see taking place under the administration of Pres. Trump is also placing us in a position where [50:00] we will be left without excuse. It's interesting to me that the term *left without excuse* is only found only four times in all of the standard works of the church. Those four times are *only* found in the Doctrine and Covenants. Since we've already quoted section 88 let's look at verse 82.

#### **D&C 88**

82 - Therefore, they are left without excuse, and their sins are upon their own heads.

Remember that these verses are talking about all the judgments that are coming upon the earth. Remember also that we said that a total solar eclipse is a sign of judgment upon this land. Verse 82, section 88, **Therefore**, because of these things, **they are left without excuse, and their sins are upon their own heads.** And another place in section 101 of the doctrine and covenants verse 93 the board says,

#### **D&C 101**

93 - What I have said unto you must needs be, that all men may be left without excuse;

See all of these things are happening are as a sign and a wonder that have intense, one of the intensive these signs and these wonders is for those that disbelieve that a righteous judgment might come upon them and they will be left without excuse. Now let's take one more. Doctrine and covenants section 123 verse 6 says this...

### **D&C 123**

6 - That we may not only publish to all the world, but present them to the heads of government in all their dark and hellish hue, as the last effort which is enjoined on us by our heavenly father, before we can fully and completely claim that promise what shall call him forth from his hiding place; and also that the whole nation may be left without excuse before he can send forth the power of his mighty arm.

That we may not only publish to all the world, but present them to the heads of government in all their dark and hellish hue, this was a document proclamation of recourse against the United States government, against the government of Missouri for the false persecutions against the Latter Day Saints. The Lord commanded this proclamation the written and that the Saints exercise their First Amendment rights under the Constitution that for redress against wrong. *the heads of government in all their dark and hellish hue, As the last effort which is enjoined on us by our heavenly father, before we can fully and completely claim that promise what shall call Him forth from his *hiding place*; and also that the *whole nation* may be left without excuse before *he can send forth the power of his mighty arm.**

Let's go back over to Helaman in chapter 14. It says that *a righteous judgment*, this is verse 29, *a righteous judgment come upon them; and also if they are condemned they bring upon themselves their own condemnation.* Now look at these last two verses and think about us in our day and the events and the signs and the wonders that the Lord is bringing to pass for these intents. That those that can believe that be saved and *those that disbelieve and are hard hearted* will be condemned, *judged*, and parish.

*And now remember, remember, my brethren*, verse 30...*that whosoever perisheth, perisheth unto himself;* so that can only happen when the controversy is clearly and perfectly declared. And when people understand exactly what is involved in the decisions they are about to make. *And whosoever doth iniquity, doth it unto himself, for behold, ye are free; ye are permitted to act for yourselves; for behold, God has given unto you a *knowledge* and he has made you free.* Now this knowledge comes at least in part in the signs and wonders that the Lord is showing forth in the heavens and on the earth. Verse 31, *He hath given unto you that ye might know good from evil, and he hath given unto you that ye might choose life or death; and ye can do good and be restored unto that which is good, or have that which is good restored unto you; or ye can do evil, and have that which is evil restored unto you.*

Even though there may be perplexity in the meantime at the end when all is said and done the issue will be clear. The controversy perfectly understood and the decisions that men and women make in the midst of that will either bring upon them their salvation or their damnation. Now, let's look a little bit closer at what's coming. You are all aware of the signs that are taking place and had have been prophesied, I'm not going to go into that. You could look under Revelation chapter 12 signs. You can also Google up September 23, 2017 and you can read everything that is there. The one thing is clear is, there are signs in the heavens and on the earth that have taken place since 2015 and 2016 and now into 2017 concerning blood Moon tetras, solar eclipses, and now the alignment of the constellation Virgo and Leo, which appears to fulfill the prophetic utterance of John found in Revelation chapter 12. You can go into that and get all that background. There is much that spoken of about that within the church and also among our eventual medical brother and sisters. In fact some of them are more lucid and more clear on the interpretation then we are as members of the Lord church. So I invite you to look into that. Just look up

Revelation 12 for September 23 and you can find out everything there. One thing is for sure, there are signs that have been seen, and are now being seen, and are about to be seen that cannot be *and should not be dismissed* easily. The Lord is giving us some signs in the heavens in the form of moons, blood moons, and solar eclipses. Interesting, the solar eclipse that took place on 21 August where it passed from the West Coast of America on down through the South Carolina; You are all familiar with that. It had its longest duration of total blackness in an area that encompasses Adam-ondi-ahman. Then, in April of 2024 there is another total solar eclipse that will come up from off the West Coast of Mexico and travel into the North Eastern part of the United States and that those two eclipse paths cross... And where the cross meets is right over the area of Adam-ondi-ahman. Is the Lord trying to tell us something here? I believe that he is. So there's a lot of talk about September 23, 2017. A lot of people feel that this will be the time of the rapture, that the Christian brothers and sisters talk about.

Here's my feelings on this. I believe that this date marks the end of the *Day of the Gentile*. This is just my opinion, I'm giving to you such, Now, I'm not going to say, and I don't believe that on September 23 that were going to have major upheavals, that society as we know it is going to collapse, that were going to see huge physical upheavals. I don't believe that is necessarily so. But, I do believe that this is the sign that marks the ending of an era, and the opening of another. The *Day of the Gentile* effectively began with Peter's vision when he visited Cornelius house in Joppa in the modern state of Israel. This is the beginning of what we call in the Scriptures of the day of the Gentile. Proceeds all through the New Testament record with Paul being called to be the apostle to the Gentiles. Continues on, figuratively, throughout the dark ages but then it is again opened during the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ through the Prophet Joseph Smith. And we have been living in that *Day of the Gentile* since that time. It's my feeling that the sign of Revelation 12, along with the solar eclipse that took place in early August, it's my feeling that these signs signal the end of the *Day of the Gentile*.

Now I want you to go over to chapter 16 in 3 Nephi for just a minute. And let's look at a couple Scriptures there. I gave a whole podcast on the definition and meaning of Gentile, and it might be well at this point to go back and look at that lesson on the Gentile in order for us to get a feel for what we're seeing here. In the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of 3<sup>d</sup> Nephi the Lord Jesus Christ makes a distinction between two definite time periods that are going to be represented in the latter days. Let's look at verse 6 for just a minute.

### **3 Nephi 16**

6 - And blessed are the Gentiles, because of their belief in me, in and of the Holy Ghost, which witnesses unto them of me and of the father.

7 - Behold, because of their belief in me, saith the Father, and because of the unbelief of you, O house of Israel, in the latter-day shall the truth come unto the Gentiles, that the fullness of these things shall be made known unto them.

8 - But woe, saith the father, unto the unbelieving of the Gentiles – for notwithstanding they have come forth upon the face of this land, and has scattered my people who are of the house of Israel; and my people who are of the house of Israel have been cast out from among them, and have been trodden under feet by them;

9 - And because of the mercies of the father unto the Gentiles, and also the judgments of the father upon my people who are of the house of Israel, verily, verily, I say and do you, that after all this, and I have cause my people who are of the house of Israel to be smitten, and to be inflicted, and to be slain, and to be cast out from among them, and to be hated by them, and to become a his and a byword among them –

10 - And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you: at that day when the Gentiles shall send against my gospel, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of

lines, and up to seats, and of mischief's, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priest crafts, and courtrooms, and all secret abominations; and if they shall do all those things, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them.

In verse 6 the Lord speaks about Gentiles and says, *And blessed are the Gentiles, because of their belief in me, in and of the Holy Ghost, which witnesses unto them of me and of the father. Behold, because of their belief in me, saith the Father, and because of the **unbelief of you**, [1:00:00] O house of Israel, see those two groups, in the latter-day shall the truth come unto the Gentiles, that the fullness of these things shall be made known unto them.* Now that has happened. That's a fulfilled prophecy. The Church of Jesus Christ of latter-day Saints is a Gentile church. And again go back and look at the podcast to understand that. But now look, here is a wall in verse 8. *But woe, saith the Father, unto the **unbelieving of the Gentiles** – for notwithstanding they have come forth upon the face of this land, and has scattered my people who are of the house of Israel; and my people who are of the house of Israel have been **cast out** from among them, and have been trodden under feet by them; verse 9, And because of the mercies of the father unto the Gentiles, and also the **judgments** of the Father upon my people who are of the house of Israel, verily, verily, I say and do you, that after all this, and I have cause my people who are of the house of Israel to be smitten, and to be inflicted, and to be slain, and to be cast out from among them - to become a hiss, and to be hated by them, and to become a hiss and a byword among them.* Now watch here we go, verse 10. *And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you: **at that day** when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, and I testify to you that that has happened, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lies, and deceits, and of mischief's, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priest crafts, and whoredom's, and all secret abominations; and if they shall do all those things, and shall **reject** the fullness of my gospel, and it's my testimony to you that the Gentile nations and even the majority of the church membership have done that **shall reject the fullness of my gospel**, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them.* That that right there signals the end of the *Day of the Gentiles*.

Now whether you're talking about the Gentile nations of Western Europe and others among the Gentiles rejecting it or whether you're talking about the members of the church rejecting the fullness of the gospel, and we talked about that in section 84, that the church is been under condemnation for rejecting the fullness of the gospel which is contained in the book of Mormon and the other commandments which the Lord has given us. Because of that the Lord says in section 84, there remains a scourge and discouragement to be poured out upon the Latter-Day Saints. Remember section 112 said, **upon my house it shall begin**. Now look, with the closing of the day of the Gentile, which I believe is as happened this month, and I believe these signs in the heavens and on the earth are an indicator of that change of time.

### **3 Nephi 16**

11 - And then will I remember my covenant which I have made into my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them.

12 - And I will show unto thee, O house of Israel, that the Gentiles shall not have power over you; but I will remember my covenant unto you, O house of Israel, and you shall come unto the knowledge of the fullness of my gospel.

13 - But if the Gentiles will repent and return unto me, saith the father, behold they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel.

14 - And I will not suffer my people, who are of the house of Israel, to go through among them, and tread them down, saith the father.

Verse 11, **And then will I remember my covenant which I have made into my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them.** So we have the *Day of the Gentile*. The *Day of the Gentile*, in my understanding, has been an Aaronic priesthood day. It is the day for the covenant of baptism, for the covenant of the sacrament and for the ministry of angels. Basically, even though we have Melchizedek priesthood among us, the fullness of the Melchizedek priesthood, the patriarchal or Holy order and all the rights and privileges associated with that order of the priesthood is not generally found among the membership of the church. And so the general membership of the church from Joseph Smith's day up to the present have enjoyed an Aaronic priesthood dispensation. With the *Day of the Gentile* ending, which I believe is Aaronic/preparatory, we now move into the Melchizedek priesthood part of the *Dispensation of the Fullness of Times*.

I believe the dispensation given to Joseph Smith is divided into at least two parts. The first part called the *Day of the Gentile*, which is Aaronic or preparatory; the second part be in the day of Israel which is everlasting and Melchizedek. Now let's look at the Scriptures again. Look at verse 11... **then will I remember my covenant which I have made into my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them. And I will show unto thee, O house of Israel, that the Gentiles shall not have power over you; but I will remember my covenant unto you, O house of Israel, and you shall come unto the knowledge of the fullness of my gospel.** 13, a very important verse, **But if the Gentiles will repent and return unto me, saith the Father, right here, behold they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel.**

Now, brothers and sisters, right now if what I'm presenting to you is correct and you have to determine by the spirit whether this is correct or not. If I'm presenting to you that these signs indicate that close of the day of the Gentile and that the fullness of the gospel of Christ is now being withdrawn, the opportunity is going to be withdrawn and not taken more fully to the covenant house of Israel, you want to be sure as members of the Gentile church and numbered among the Gentiles because of the time in which we live, you want to be among these repentant Gentiles who will be numbered among the house of Israel in this day. Verse 14, **And I will not suffer my people, who are of the house of Israel, to go through among them, and tread them down, saith the father.** And we talked about that in our podcasts on the remnant, the remnant and third Nephi 20 and 21.

### **3 Nephi 16**

**15 - But if they will not return unto me, and hearkened unto my voice, I will suffer them, yea, I will suffer my people, O house of Israel, that they shall go through among them, and shall tread them down, and they shall be as salt that hath lost its savor, which is henceforth good for nothing but to be cast out, and to be trodden underfoot of my people, O house of Israel.**

Now, brothers and sisters, from the eclipse that took place on August 21 of this year, in seven years from now, there's going to be another eclipse that takes place in April 2024. I believe it is not by coincidence that the time that divides these two eclipses is seven years. The Scriptures speak about seven years of tribulation. Again, I'm not going to go into that. There is so much on the Internet, all you have to do is go in and type in the *beginning of sorrows*, that Matthew talks about in chapter 24; or you can type in *seven years of tribulation*; or you can type in *70 weeks of Daniel*; and you going to see that there is much out there about the prophecies that are written in Daniel, and Ezekiel, and also the Revelation of John that seems to be about to be fulfilled. I will let you draw your own conclusions if you do your homework.

But I think it is interesting that there is a seven-year period between these two eclipses. These prophecies divide the seven years two 3 ½ year periods. In one of those periods, I believe it's in the first part, were going to see the coming forth of great political change in turmoil in the world, globally. You're going to see the coming the fourth of a global world leader that the Scriptures refer to as the antichrist, he

accompanied by his religious counterpart, the false prophet. Isn't it interesting that the Devils prophetic leadership mirrors exactly what the Lord is going to do. You have a king and a priest on the light side; and you going to have a king and a priest on the dark side... Exact mirror of opposites. So I believe that the next 3 ½ years should show forth great political, global turmoil and upheaval. Where people will be further divided and the majority of the world's population will site themselves with this dark Lord, the antichrist and his false prophet who have power to perform miracles to such an extent that a large numbers of the world's population will refer to him as God. And many Christians will look to him as the coming Messiah.

The second 3 1/2 year period seems to be major cleansing. [1:10:00] You can read about that in all the Scriptures in section 29, and section 101, section 76, section 22, Matthew 24. And there is so much that have been written on this period of time where the earth is cleansed and large population numbers are ushered out of life into the spirit world so that the earth can make its transition from telestial to terrestrial with those humble men and women who made the decision to stand on the Lord side, who have not put their trust in flesh nor man; but have shown by their faith and works that they love the Lord and are willing to trust in the Lord with all their hearts and lean not unto their own understandings, in all their days acknowledge him and he has directed their paths. This is the group that will have power in the priesthood that will be able to make themselves invisible, that will be able to destroy armies, that will be able to call upon the elements of the universe to call down fire from heaven to consume their enemies, to multiply the necessities that they needed this life using priesthood power to do that... All of that. Being prepared now, there are men and women who are receiving keys and authority and the powers to do that... Will escalate as moved into the day of trouble... And the day of turmoil and travail. What a glorious day this is to be a alive. As never before we should be able to say, let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

I glory in the Lord Jesus Christ. I glory in plainness. I'm glory that he's redeemed my soul from hell. I love the Lord, I love my father. I'm so grateful for their blessings to me. I testify to you it's time for us to awake and arise, follow the spirit, listen to the still small voice, do quickly what it prompts you to do, take time to be holy. Listen to the message of the Lords apostles and prophets this coming general conference. I think that were going to hear some magnificent messages of warning and of peace. Truly, this is the day that is terrible and magnificent.

I so testified he you, with my love, I love you. You have become my friends. For some reason the Lord has given Marquis and I this marvelous opportunity to teach and testify. I had a man called me the other day and say, can you tell me a little about yourself? And I truly feel I'm in great company with magnificent men and women when I declare I am nobody but a wretched fool, who for some reason has been given this platform to speak to so many. I pray that my words are not in any way offensive. I'm only doing the best that I can, and like you, seeking to follow our beloved master and Savior. And I say these things in his holy name, even the name of Jesus Christ, the coming holy Messiah, amen.