



# The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 21

Great Day of the Lord to Come

*“Wherefore, prepare ye, prepare ye, O my people; sanctify yourselves; gather ye together, O ye people of my church, upon the land of Zion, all you that have not been commanded to tarry. Go ye out from Babylon. Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord” (2 Nephi 25:4)*

D&C 29:9–29; 34:5–12; 45:16–75;  
88:86–99; 101:22–34; 133

*A study of this lesson will help us understand and recognize the signs of the Second Coming and prepare for “the great day of the Lord to come” (D&C 45:39).*

Joseph Smith: "Jesus Christ never did reveal to any man the precise time that he would come. Go and read the scriptures, and you cannot find anything that specified the exact hour he would come; and all that say so are false teachers." (History of the Church, 6:254)

Kent P. Jackson: "The deliberate suspense that is generated by anticipation and uncertainty in the hearts of the Saints serves an important function in the Lord's training of his people. While we wait, not knowing the day of his coming, we prepare. If we knew, some would find occasion to procrastinate their repentance. But keeping the uncertainty of the future in focus enables us to prepare continually—not only individually, but collectively as a Church as well." (Studies In Scripture, 1:187)

Heber J. Grant: "A sure indication of the great event, as specified by the Lord Himself, was and is that the Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world. The missionary service of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints attests the progressive fulfilment of this prediction." (quoted in Companion To Your Study of the Old Testament, p61)

President Ezra Taft Benson: "Yet in undiminished fury, and with an anxiety that his time is short (and it is), Satan, that great adversary to all men, is attempting to destroy all that we hold dear.

"We constantly hear or read of wars and rumors of wars. Atheism, agnosticism, immorality, and dishonesty are flaunted in our society. Desertion, cruelty, divorce, and infidelity have become commonplace, leading to a disintegration of the family. Truly we live in the times of which the Savior spoke, when 'the love of men shall wax cold, and iniquity shall abound'." (Come Unto Christ, p111)

Wilford Woodruff: "The Lord Jesus Christ is coming to reign on earth. The world may say that he delays his coming until the end of the earth. But they know neither the thoughts nor the ways of the Lord. The Lord will not delay his coming because of their unbelief, and the signs both in heaven and earth indicate that it is near. The fig trees are leafing in sight of all the nations of the earth, and if they had the Spirit of God they could see and understand them." (Journal of Discourses, 16:35)

President Howard W. Hunter: "This is a day for action. This is the time for decision, not tomorrow, not next week. This is the time to make our covenant with the Lord. Now is the time for those who have been noncommittal or who have had a half-hearted interest to come out boldly and declare belief in Christ and be willing to demonstrate faith by works." (Conference Report, Oct 1960)

President John Taylor: "The judgments will begin at the house of God. We have to pass through some of these things, but it will only be a very little compared with the terrible destruction, the misery and suffering that will overtake the world who are doomed to suffer the wrath of God. It behooves us, as the Saints of God, to stand firm and faithful in the observance of his laws, that we may be worthy of his preserving care and blessing." (Journal of Discourses, 21:100.)

President Gordon B. Hinckley: "How do you prepare for the Second Coming? Well, you just do not worry about it. You just live the kind of life that if the Second Coming were to be tomorrow you would be ready. Nobody knows when it is going to happen. ... Our responsibility is to prepare ourselves, to live worthy of the association of the Savior, to deport ourselves in such a way that we would not be embarrassed if He were to come among us. That is a challenge in this day and age." (Church News, 2 Jan 1999, p2)

## Next Week's Reading Assignment

D&C 89; 49:19–21; 59:15–21; 88:124;  
Our Heritage, pages 25–26