

# The *Anderson Tours* Holy Land Scripture Series; Understanding God, Scripture, & Self

## Episode 2: A Common Narrative

**“Knowledge of ‘the only true God, and Jesus Christ’ (John 17:3) is the most important knowledge in the Universe...”**

President Marion G. Romney of the First Presidency (“Except a Man Be Born Again,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, 14)

### **I. A COMMON NARRATIVE**

#### **a. Summary from Episode 1:**

- **God is committed to fulfilling the prophecies made by His Prophets**
- **God delivered His covenant people out of Egypt anciently and “...His arm is stretched out in the last days, to save His people....”**
- **The 2nd Coming will NOT come as a “thief in the night” to the Children of Light. They will not be surprised when He comes because they will know the signs, etc. (D&C 106:4-5)**
- **The prophecies of the last days are difficult to decipher which might be intentional**
- **No one knows the day or the hour of the coming of the Son of Man (Matt 24:36)**
- **There are many voices warning us that the Lord is coming and we should repent and prepare (servants, Prophets, lightnings, thunder, earthquakes, etc.)**
- **There are 2 main Gatherings spoken of scripturally: Judah to the Old Jerusalem; Joseph to the New Jerusalem (Ephraim & Manasseh)**
- **The Mt of Olives Discourse is the Savior’s response to the question of when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming will be and the end of the world.**
- **There are 3 Accounts of the Mt of Olives Discourse: Matt 24-25; JSM 1; D&C 45**

b. **We will use (and study) Jesus’ words and dialog first (from the Mt of Olives Discourse)**

c. **Jesus only references 1 Old Testament Prophet...Daniel (and the Abomination of Desolation he wrote about)**

d. **“Abomination of Desolation” might be THE most difficult passages of scripture to understand (See Daniel Ch. 8-12)**

e. **Ironically...it proves to be the KEY in deciphering and understanding all other Prophecies, events, and also provides as much of a timeline as we get!**

f. **Note the Narrative from the Mt of Olives Discourse:**

- i. “15 When ye therefore shall see the ***abomination of desolation***, spoken of by Daniel the prophet...then shall be great tribulation...Immediately after the tribulation of those days...shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven...and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory...” (Matt 24:15-29)
  - ii. “***Abomination of Desolation***” might be THE most difficult passage of scripture to understand and is one of the only barometers given for a timeline by the Savior
  
- g. **HERE IS THE COMMON NARRATIVE to apply to all prophecies:**  
**The LORD is painfully sad that the sanctuary (Temple & Jerusalem) was taken, destroyed (made desolate) and His covenant people scattered due to abomination. Eventually (in the last days) there will be a complete Restoration. His people will be gathered, Judah will return to Jerusalem, the Temple rebuilt, all nations will flow unto it, and the Gentiles will bring it to them. There will be a gathering, a restoration, and a destruction of the wicked, (particularly those who scattered His covenant people). Jesus will come and fulfill all prophecies and reign personally upon the earth!**
  
- h. **HERE ARE THE SUB-NARRATIVES and topics:**
  - i. **The Battle of Armageddon will usher in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming**
  - ii. **There will be a destruction of the wicked (Babylon)**
  - iii. **There will be an Ensign set up to gather His people in the last days (Restoration)**
  - iv. **There will be 2 Centers during the Millennium (Zion & Jerusalem)**
  - v. **Judah & Ephraim will be joined together in the last days**
  
- i. **Prophets who saw our day and wrote about it:**
  - i. **Isaiah**, John the Beloved (The Book of Revelation), Nephi, Moroni, Jeremiah, **Daniel**, Ezekiel, Joel
  
- j. **2 Prophets are mentioned by the Savior regarding their writings and prophecies of the last days:**
  - i. **Isaiah** (3 Nephi 23:1-6)
  - ii. **Daniel** (Matt 24:15)
  
- k. **Assignment: Select a Prophet and Test the Narrative** (see if you can see the elements in each of the books and prophecies of the last days)

## **Links to the Scriptures:**

### **Old Testament:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/1?lang=eng>

### **New Testament:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/nt?lang=eng>

### **Book of Mormon:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm?lang=eng>

### **Doctrine & Covenants:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament?lang=eng>

### **Pearl of Great Price:**

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/pgp?lang=eng>

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