

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

Part 2: PROPHECIES OF THE LAST DAYS

Welcome to the Anderson Tours Holy Land Scripture Series;
Understanding God, Scripture, & Self

This is Part II...the Prophecies of the LAST DAYS!

“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. LAST DAYS: INTRODUCTION / OVERVIEW

a. Introduction to “Anderson Tours Theories”

- i. Once you visit the Holy Land you will never read the scriptures or worship the same again. It fully enhances both of those! It is especially helpful in deciphering the prophecies of the last days.

ii. Course Description and what to expect

1. 17 class sessions
2. Meet once per week in person
3. Discussions in between on Canvas
4. 360 video footage from our Virtual Tour
5. We will remain anchored in scripture and the words of Prophets
6. We will avoid speculation and will NOT try to interpret scripture for you

- b. God is committed to fulfilling the prophecies given by Prophets (Luke 18:31-33; Matt 4:14; Matt 5:18/3 Nephi 12:17; Matt 24:34/Luke 21:32/JSM 1:34; Matt 26:54; Matt 27:35; Mark 15:28; Luke 4:21; Luke 24:44; Isaiah 48:14/1 Nephi 20:14; 2 Nephi 9:17; 2 Nephi 10:17; 2 Nephi 25:7; D&C 1:7; D&C 1:38; D&C 24:14; D&C 101:64; D&C 105:34; 3 Nephi 1:13-14, 20, 26; Rev 17:17;)**

- c. D&C 136:22 “I am He who led the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; and my arm is stretched out in the last days, to save y people Israel.”**

d. Mt of Olives Discourse:

- i. **3 Scriptural Sources: Matt 24-25; JSM 1; D&C 45**
- ii. “Let no man deceive you!” (Matt 24:3-4)

- iii. “When shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?” (Matt 24:3-4)
- e. **Purposely Difficult?** (Matt 13:10-13, John 8:47, Daniel 11:32, Daniel 12:10)
- f. **Scriptures on “When”?**
 - i. Woman in Travail (**I Thes 5:1-6, 9,14**)
 - ii. **Children of Light** will know the Signs and not be surprised as a thief (D&C 106:4-5)
 - iii. Tomorrow (**D&C 64:22-25**)
 - iv. No Man knoweth the day or hour (**Matt 24:36**)
- g. **Voices of Warning (Earthquakes, etc.)** (**Rev 8:1-6; D&C 1:11-24; D&C 84:117-120; D&C 88:74-116; D&C 43:15-35; Ezek 33; Isaiah 52; D&C 29:4; Isaiah 1**)
- h. **Common Narrative: Know and See the Pattern & Elements in the Narrative**
 - 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 (See Daniel Ch. 8-12)
- i. **Jerusalem in KEY** to deciphering the prophecies of the last days!
- j. **The Gathering of Israel (2 Gatherings; Judah to Jerusalem; Joseph to Americas)**
 - i. 3 Nephi 5:21-26; Alma 46:24-25; 3 Nephi 10:17; 3 Nephi 20:21-26; Ether 13: 2-13; 2 Nephi 1:3-12; Gen 15:18-21; Gen 26:3; Gen 32:28; Exodus 23:31; Numbers 34:1-12; Deuteronomy 1:8; Deut. 19:8-9; Isaiah 2:2-5; Isaiah 43:1, 5-6; Isaiah 54:7-8; Isaiah 65
 - ii. Greatest work on Earth Pres. Nelson

Some of the QUESTIONS we will address about The Last Days:

The Savior told us regarding His return that He will return shortly after the *Abomination of Desolation* spoken of by Daniel (See Matt 24:15). So we will explore; What exactly is the *Abomination of Desolation* spoken of by the Prophet Daniel? (THIS IS ACTUALLY VERY, VERY SIGNIFICANT TO UNDERSTAND). Has it occurred or is it still in the future? What still needs to happen before He returns? WHAT do the prophecies say will happen prior to the 2nd Coming? Will we be able to figure out How close are we to His Return? Will He come without warning? HOW can I best prepare myself for the 2nd Coming? What specifically should I be looking for with the Signs of the Times? What specifically can I do to be prepared?

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>

Harmony of Creation Accounts: Pearl of Great Price Institute Manual

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/the-pearl-of-great-price-student-manual-2018/a-harmony-of-the-creation-accounts?lang=eng>

Script from our Introduction to the Prophecies of the Last Days Series:

We invite you to take this *Scriptural Journey* and find out for yourself just how exciting and clear these teachings and prophecies are and enjoy the peace of mind knowing what has been revealed on the subject! It is a small investment of time and resource, but the payoff is huge in terms of understanding and insight. Knowledge is power and when it comes to scriptural knowledge it pays off big time in regards to peace and comfort. Especially when we are dealing with ‘*The most important knowledge in the Universe!*’

In closing....We would like to say a quick word about the subtitle of our Series (Understanding God) by sharing with you some insights from a few of Pres Nelson’s recent Conference addresses and then conclude with an important Warning!

A quick word on our subtitle of our Series, Understanding God...

We maintain that God does not have to be a mystery to us and be a Being we cannot understand. He has given to us His word through His prophets which we believe He provided with the intention of them being understood. **Nowhere in God’s word does He tell us to avoid the mysteries of God... It’s the opposite.** He tells us that the mysteries of God will be unfolded to us as we seek diligently to understand. (Notice all of these references: Matt 13:11; I Cor. 2:7, 11-14; Alma 12:9; Alma 26:22; D&C 42:61, 65; D&C 62:23; D&C 76:7, D&C 84:19; D&C 107:19)

The most frequently taught concept in scripture is “*Ask and you shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you!*” God desires to communicate to us as individuals. In fact he begs us to do it. “*The single most important skill that we can develop in our life, is learning how to qualify for, receive, and act on personal revelation from God.*” (Julie Beck)

“If you want to talk to God... Pray! If you want God to speak to you... Study the scriptures!”
Studying His words opens the channels of communication to God and it is often in that process when we understand how He speaks to us and guides us on our path and get to KNOW HIM!

In our quest to KNOW HIM He counsels us to *“...seek diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; and to...seek learning, even by study and also by faith”* (D&C 88:118). Study because God rewards effort and Faith because He cannot give us everything. Some things will have to be accepted on faith.

This *Scripture Series* is an opportunity to *“...Seek diligently and to seek learning by study and by faith”*. It is a tool to help you understand the scriptures and Specifically, benefit from the insights that come through a thorough understanding of the history and significance of Jerusalem and the Holy Land from those who have made a life-long study of it. It is a unique perspective of examining the scriptures and prophecies through the lens of an in-depth look at Jerusalem and the Holy Land. AND It is an extremely invaluable tool in being able to understand the scriptural passages that can be difficult and challenging (aka Isaiah, Daniel, Book of Revelation, Ezekiel).

President Nelson in April 2021 General Conference said this on the topic of Faith, [AND WE FEEL THIS SCRIPTURE SERIES AS A VALUABLE WAY TO DEVELOP THE KIND OF FAITH THAT PRES NELSON IS ENCOURAGING US TO DO AND THAT IT FITS IN BEUTIFULLY WITH HIS COUNSEL]

“Faith in Jesus Christ is the foundation of all belief and the conduit of divine power...Everything good in life—every potential blessing of eternal significance—begins with faith. **Allowing God to prevail in our lives** begins with faith that He is willing to guide us. True repentance begins with faith that Jesus Christ has the power to cleanse, heal, and strengthen us...It is *our* faith that unlocks the power of God in *our* lives...The Lord does not require *perfect* faith for us to have access to His *perfect* power. But He does ask us to believe...

WE ASK YOU TO BELIEVE ENOUGH TO TAKE THIS SCRIPTURAL JOURNEY WITH US AND TO MAKE THE EFFORT.

Pres. Nelson continues, “To do anything well requires **effort**. Becoming a true disciple of Jesus Christ is no exception. Increasing your faith and trust in Him takes effort.

He then offers **five suggestions** to help us develop that faith and trust.

First, study. Become an engaged learner. Immerse yourself in the scriptures...Know the doctrine of Christ so that you understand its power for your life. Internalize the truth that the Atonement of Jesus Christ applies to *you*...The more you learn about the Savior, the easier it will be to trust in His mercy...The Savior is never closer to you than when you are facing or climbing a mountain *with faith*.
Second, choose to **believe** in Jesus Christ. If you have doubts...*choose* to believe and stay faithful. Take your questions to the Lord and to other faithful sources. Study with the desire to *believe* rather than with the hope that you can find a flaw in the fabric of a prophet’s life or a discrepancy in the scriptures...Allow the Lord to lead you on your journey of spiritual discovery.

Third, **act** in faith...Think about it. Write about it. Then *receive more* faith by doing something that *requires more* faith.

Fourth, partake of sacred ordinances worthily. Ordinances unlock the power of God for your life.¹⁹

And **fifth, ask** your Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, for help.

Faith takes work. Receiving revelation takes work...God knows what will help your faith grow. Ask, and then ask again.” (Pres. Nelson, April 2021, “Start Today to Increase Your Faith”)

President Nelson in his last Conference talk encouraged us to “Learn about God and how He works”:

President Russell M. Nelson in April 2022 Conference gave us the following: (Note #3)

“Many actions can ignite positive spiritual momentum. Obedience, love, humility, service, and gratitude⁴ are but a few. Today I would like to suggest **five specific actions** we can take to help us maintain positive spiritual momentum.

First: Get on the covenant path and stay there...

2nd: Discover the joy of daily repentance...

My third suggestion: **Learn about God and how He works...** With frightening speed, a testimony that is not nourished daily “by the good word of God”²⁰ can crumble. Thus, the antidote to Satan’s scheme is clear: we need daily experiences worshipping the Lord and studying His gospel. I plead with you to let God prevail in your life. Give Him a fair share of your time. As you do, notice what happens to your positive spiritual momentum.

Suggestion number 4: Seek and expect miracles.

Suggestion number 5: End conflict in your personal life.

Before these addresses He gave us this (Which relates beautifully well as well),

“If we are to have any hope of sifting through the myriad of voices and the philosophies of men that attack truth, we must learn to receive revelation...In coming days, it will not be possible to survive spiritually without the guiding, directing, comforting, and constant influence of the Holy Ghost.” (Pres. Nelson April 2018, April 2020). “

This is our quest! This is our journey! **AND** this is the overall objective to the “*Holy Land Scripture Series*”! We will seek diligently to understand His words (as found in revealed scripture) and in that process, we will get to know God in a very special and personal way and develop faith. Most importantly we will focus on & increase our own abilities to feel and recognize when and how He speaks to us personally & individually which will also increase our faith.

WARNING:

There are **TOO MANY** speculative theories and misguided interpretations of the scriptures out there...**ESPECIALLY** about the Last Days. Our goal is present to you the **SCRIPTURAL** events that will give you the key to unlocking those prophecies by yourself. You don’t need someone else to interpret the Scriptures for **YOU JUST NEED TO UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THE EVENTS, STORIES AND DOCTRINES RELATED TO THE HOLY LAND** and then those Prophecies will make sense all on their own. You will be amazed at how clearly Isaiah taught and Daniel and parts of the Book of Revelation. We will give you the **KEY KNOWLEDGE** you need to know in order for those Prophecies to make sense and then you can take that Key and unlock each and every one of those prophecies.

We will NOT interpret Scriptures for you like others are doing and try to twist current events to fit ancient prophecies! **PLEASE BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ACCEPT AS TRUTH!** We will give you the historical context you need to **UNDERSTAND** the scriptures clearly and then those prophecies will unlock themselves. One of the **BIGGEST** prophecies in the Last Days is there will be “many who will claim to know will tickle their ears (REF)..... **BUT** if you are anchored in the scriptures and guided by the Holy Ghost who will testify of **TRUTH**. Then you will be among the 5 Wise Virgins who “received truth, took the Holy Spirit as their Guide and were **NOT** deceived” (D&C 45:56-57).

We have been in absolute awe and wonder at the brilliant nature of God and His revealed words and how they harmoniously mesh together in perfect synchronicity. Especially when it comes to the future (2nd Coming/Millennium) and those Prophets who have seen & written about it. When all of these Prophets and accounts are evaluated through the lens of the Covenants made to key people in the Old Testament (Abraham), analyzed with key historical events (Abomination of Desolation, etc.), and finally orchestrating that with modern revelation and insight (Restoration & accompanying scriptures of the Restoration) there evolves a clear view of God’s purposes and intents with His work and glory here on planet Earth and exactly what He will do to usher in the 2nd Coming and Millennial reign of His Son. He has revealed important events and promises that He will keep and we are the generation that get to not only witness these events, but also actively participate in them as important players. It is a **GLORIOUS** time to be alive when the prophecies and promises of God are being fulfilled and when the Prophets of the ages have looked down through the corridors of time to our day when the Kingdom of Heaven comes and replaces the Kingdom of God on Earth and where God finishes and completes His work. What an **INCREDIBLE** time to be alive!

Taking this *4-Part Scripture Series* will put you in a unique position to understand in a powerful way, the prophecies made regarding the Last Days and the Second Coming, and more importantly **YOUR** unique Role in helping it all come to pass.

We are honored and thrilled that you would join us on this remarkable scriptural journey as we strive to work through those scriptural foundation and passages as we strive to *Crack the Code!* Join us for this unique and powerful journey!

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