

PREPARE THE BRIDE

(Sermon Notes – October 25, 2009)

These are **portentous** times. Meaning to me that something is about to occur. May be something marvelous, amazing or could be something evil about to occur. Let us now consider a few things about these portentous times.

In **April 1950** the church was told through the Prophet that it “will be profitable for my servants of the eldership to meet often for study, under the direction of those having responsibility to teach, at such times and places as may be practicable, in preparation for the **greater endowment of spiritual power** which has been promised and which awaits the time when they can receive it”. See D&C 142:4a.

We were also told that the hopes of my people and the goals of my church while not yet fully realized, and at times and too many seemingly distant, are closer to realization than many recognize. See D&C142:5a.

The church was told that “it is yet day when all can work. The night will come when for many of my people opportunity to assist will have passed”. D&C 142:5b.

The above instruction was given **almost sixty years ago** so my question for all of us is what the portentous times were. Have they passed? Or they about to come to pass or do we even consider that this information given about sixty years ago is even now important?

Have we **ignored prophetic warnings** concerning the times in which we live? I think that the Church has ignored the warnings that have been given that warn us that we need to prepare for these portentous times.

We were **warned** in III Nephi 13:11 “Enter ye in at the straight gate; for straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life, and few there be that find it, but wide is the gate, and broad the way which leads to death, and many there be that travel therein, until the night cometh, wherein no man can work”.

Throughout the ages God's people have been **told-warned to prepare** for the night will come for many the time will pass when they can not assist in this marvelous work.

So after so many years the Lord is still telling us that the warnings of the past are still valid. In **April 2002** the church was told that warnings given in previous times was "even more portentous now than then and the mantle of leadership will be yours **to prepare** my people before the night comes". So here today the leadership of the church continues to have the **responsibility** to warn and prepare the people for the portentous times that lurk before us.

We sometimes **talk a big story** about the coming of the Kingdom about the wonderful life that will be ours at some future time; however we forget that we are to spread the love of Christ to a sin sick world, to study to understand the fullness of the Gospel.

As we seek to fulfill these requirements we will be blessed beyond measure. **"The Kingdom of God awaits our response. Make ready for the bridegroom"**. See D&C R145:7b.

So today we must remember, it is still day when preparation can be made for the coming of the Bridegroom. **Prepare the Bride**. Put **oil** in your vessels and **trim** your lamps and be prepared as Zion unfolds before you.

We must not fear these portentous times for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. There are those things that we need to consider and assist our heavenly Father in the work of assisting others to be prepared for the coming of the Bridegroom.

Galatians 5: 22-26 is a good place to start. We need to understand and place the **fruit of the Spirit in our lives**. Those fruits include Love, Joy, Peace, Long-suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness and Temperance. These fruits in our life will place us in good standing before our God as we prepare for the Bridegroom.

There are a few things that all of us need to strive to accomplish and to assist our brothers and sisters as these portentous times surround us. I will name only a few.

1. Encourage the Saints not to be deceived and not feel that the Lord will delay his coming.
2. Encourage the Saints to study and educate themselves.
3. Humble ourselves.
4. Dedicate ourselves to the Lord's work.
5. Earnestly seek the endowment.
6. Sanctify ourselves.
7. Unite in common purpose.
8. Wait on the Lord.

Our **failures** as individuals have caused untold misery. Our God has told us that the church **has not learned** to be obedient to the things which he requires at our hands, but are full of all manner of evil, and do not import of our substance as becometh Saints, to the poor and afflicted among them, and are not united according to the union required by the law of the **celestial** kingdom. See D&C 102:2b.

The people of the church will continue to be **chastened** until they learn obedience, if it must needs be, by the things which they suffer. See D&C 102:2c.

Our promise is sure. Our Lord has promised “**inasmuch as ye are humble and faithful and call on my name, behold, I will give you the victory**”.

My responsibility includes the following: To teach, expound, exhort, baptize, and watch over the church. To that end I pledge my life to God and to you.

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