

# Assyria, Babylon, and the Second Coming of Christ Isaiah 10-16



*Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.*

*In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Jeremiah 23:5-6*



# Woe

Misery, intense sorrow and suffering, distress, sadness, unhappiness, heartache, heartbreak, regret

What actions  
bring suffering?

The leaders and people of Israel had turned away from the Lord through their wickedness, they would be punished and not have the Lord's help.



The Lord allowed the Assyrian army to be a tool to remind Israel of their broken covenants with God.

Isaiah describes the pride of the Assyrians king, which would be the downfall of Judah. (1)



# Israel Hardened Their Hearts Against The Poor

The Israelites repeatedly turned away “the needy from judgment” and took away “the right from the poor...that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless”



This went against the counsel of the Lord given centuries earlier to the tribes of Israel.

*If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:*

*For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land. Deuteronomy 15:7,11*



# Who Would Be Punished?

Isaiah prophesied that after the Assyrians had fulfilled the Lord's purposes in punishing Judah and the Northern Kingdom of Israel, the Lord would destroy the Assyrians as well because of their pride and wickedness.

This destruction is symbolic of the destruction the proud and wicked will experience at the Second Coming.





# After the Destruction of Israel

Isaiah gave a prophecy concerning the destiny of Assyria lest anyone conclude that this heathen nation was righteous and noble because of its success against Israel and Judah.

The fulfillment of this detailed prophecy has been historically confirmed.

Isaiah mentioned some of the successful military campaigns of Assyria and prophesied of the eventual intrusion and success against Judah, even listing the names of many of the cities of Judah that would fall to Assyria.

The destruction both of Israel and of Assyria is described as complete.

The destruction of Israel and Assyria is also a type of the destruction of the wicked in any age and has its prophesied parallel even for the latter days.





# Jerusalem Spared

Isaiah foretold that the Assyrian army would destroy many cities as it marched toward Jerusalem; however, Jerusalem would be miraculously spared



Modern covenant Israel need not live in fear, even when these trials are at their doors because, “at the last minute,” the Lord will intervene and redeem covenant Israel. (2)

*Therefore, dearly beloved brethren, let us cheerfully do all things that lie in our power; and then may we stand still, with the utmost assurance, to see the salvation of God, and for his arm to be revealed. D&C 137:17*



# Jesse

He was of the line of Judah's son, (son of Leah and Jacob) Pharez, the elder of the twin sons of Judah with his former daughter-in-law Tamar (Genesis 29:32-35)

His name is pronounced yee-shaw-ee...which meant 'to hold out, as in to extend

He was the grandson of Ruth (Ruth 4:18-22)

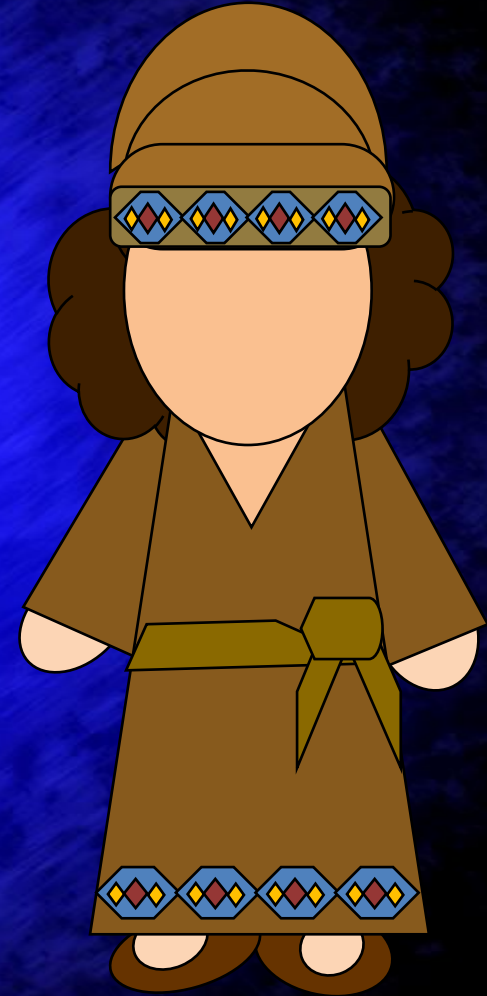
He was the son of Obed

He was from Bethlehem (1 Samuel 17:58)

He was the father of David, the boy who slayed Goliath and became King of Israel

Jesse became renowned throughout the land because of David's heroic act

His direct line of descents leads to Christ (Matthew 1:5-6)





# Stem of Jesse (Christ)

## *The Rod:*

*It is a servant in the hands of Christ, who is partly a descendant of Jesse as well as of Ephraim, or of the house of Joseph, on whom there is laid much power.*

*D&C 133:4*



Rod = shoot = A servant



Branch= a Great Leader among the Jews

Hebrew—natzar

Daniel 11:7

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Hosea 3:5



Stem of Jesse= Most powerful part of tree providing support for the network of branches and twigs

Hebrew word for stump (Root word—geza)



# Faithful Followers

Branches and twigs symbolize His faithful followers that have developed from His care. We can be part of this network of branches if we choose to be grafted in through the ordinance of baptism and obedience to the commandments of God. (1)





“It is Ephraim, today, who holds the priesthood. It is with Ephraim that the Lord has made covenant and has revealed the fulness of the everlasting gospel.

It is Ephraim who is building temples and performing the ordinances in them for both the living and for the dead.

When the ‘lost tribes’ come—and it will be a most wonderful sight and a marvelous thing when they do come to Zion—in fulfilment of the promises made through Isaiah and Jeremiah, they will have to receive the crowning blessings from their brother Ephraim, the ‘firstborn’ in Israel.” (3)







“It is the house of Israel we are after, and we care not whether they come from the east, the west, the north, or the south; from China, Russia, England, California, North or South America, or some other locality; and it is the very lad on whom father Jacob laid his hands, that will save the house of Israel.

The Book of Mormon came to Ephraim, for Joseph Smith was a pure Ephraimite, and the Book of Mormon was revealed to him, and while he lived he made it his business to search for those who believed the Gospel.”

(4)



# Conditions of the Millennium

Girdle of his loins (waist)

The righteous should strive to live their lives in purity and harmony...

The robes of righteousness



Animals will interact with each other

No longer will they prey or have to flee from their predator

A child will play with an asp and a cockatrice (possibly a lizard—traditionally is a mythical beast, essentially a two-legged dragon or serpent-like creature with a rooster's head)



The pure in heart and innocent will be the leaders of the converted wild ones.

**“Isaiah is testifying that life will become as it was before the Fall.” (1)**



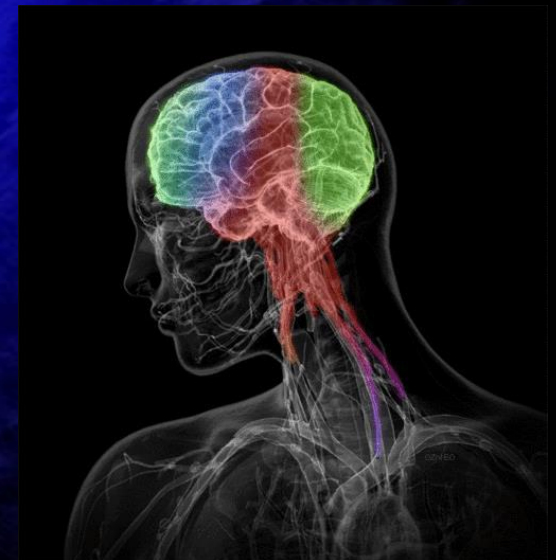
# The Earth Full of Knowledge

*They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

*Wherefore, the things of all nations shall be made known; yea, all things shall be made known unto the children of men.*

*There is nothing which is secret save it shall be revealed; there is no work of darkness save it shall be made manifest in the light; and there is nothing which is sealed upon the earth save it shall be loosed.*

*Wherefore, all things which have been revealed unto the children of men shall at that day be revealed; and Satan shall have power over the hearts of the children of men no more, for a long time. And now, my beloved brethren, I make an end of my sayings.*





# An Ensign

A flag or banner that an army may sometimes gather under or march behind

Another great servant of the Lord, a 'root of Jesse' would come forth when the true knowledge of God and His truths were missing from the earth, and he would 'stand for an ensign of the people.'



The Root is generally understood to be the Prophet Joseph Smith

Joseph Smith filled both requirements:  
He was a rightful heir of the priesthood and was given all the keys of the kingdom throughout his life as part of the restoration of all things.

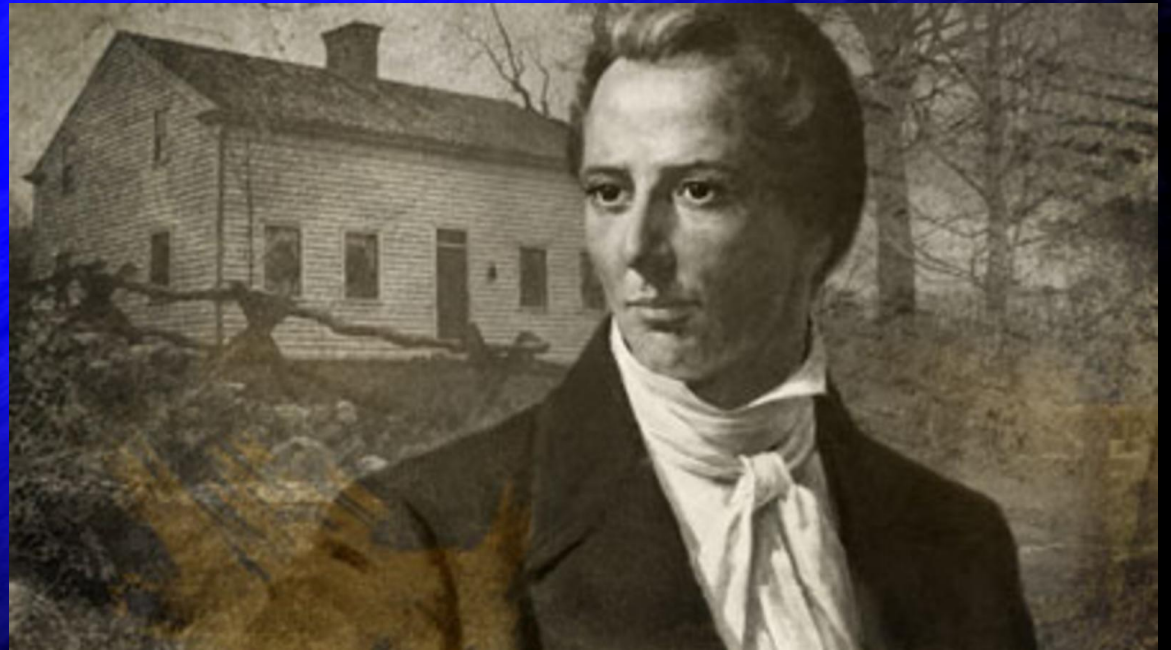
See D&C 86:8-10



# The Standard

The Gospel of Jesus Christ so that all will see

*And even so I have sent mine everlasting covenant into the world, to be a light to the world, and to be a standard for my people, and for the Gentiles to seek to it, and to be a messenger before my face to prepare the way before me.*  
*D&C 45:9*





# Set His Hand the Second Time

The first gathering of Israel occurred about 6 centuries before Isaiah's time when Moses led the Israelite people out of Egyptian captivity (Exodus 12-14)

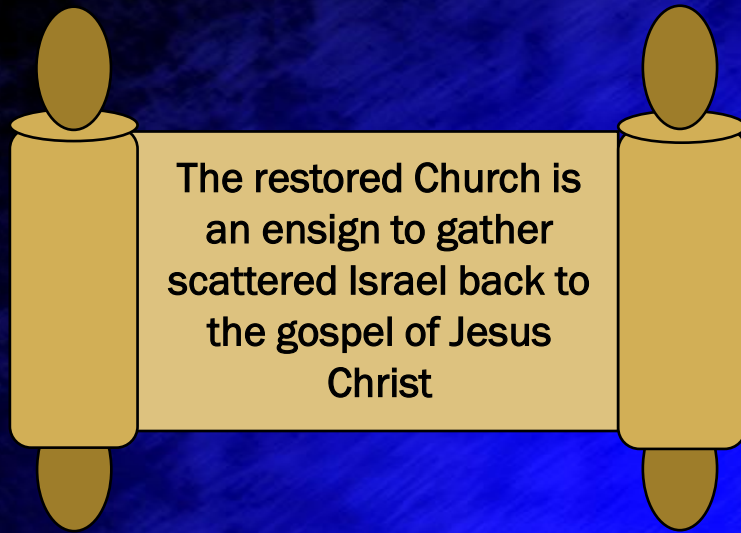


The second gathering began on April 3, 1836, a week after Joseph Smith dedicated the Kirtland Temple.

On this Sunday, many prophets of previous dispensations appeared to Joseph and bestowed upon him necessary keys for the building of the kingdom of God. One set of keys that Joseph Smith received that day were the “keys of the gathering of Israel.”  
(D&C 110:11)



# The Gathering



*And marveled how it was that he had obtained an inheritance in that kingdom, seeing that he had departed this life before the Lord had set his hand to gather Israel the second time, and had not been baptized for the remission of sins. D&C 137:6*

Three important events were to transpire:

- (1) He shall set up an ensign for the nations;
- (2) He shall assemble the outcasts of Israel;
- (3) He shall gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. (5)



# Ephraim and Judah Gather Together

Ephraim represented the tribe of Israel—the more dominant tribe

The kingdom of Judah represented those who split from Israel after the death of King Solomon



“The latter-day gathering of Israel within the gospel of peace will result in a healing reunion of all members of the house of Israel.” (2)



# The Wells of Salvation



Water

It gives life

It sustains

It saves

*Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:*

*But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

*John 4:13-14*



# Babylon

The destruction of Babylon to the destruction of the wicked at the Savior's Second Coming.

*Babylon* refers generally to the wickedness of the world.

Isaiah prophesied that 'great destruction' would come upon the wicked in Babylon and in the last days.



The Burden of Babylon—The message of doom (weighty judgments )

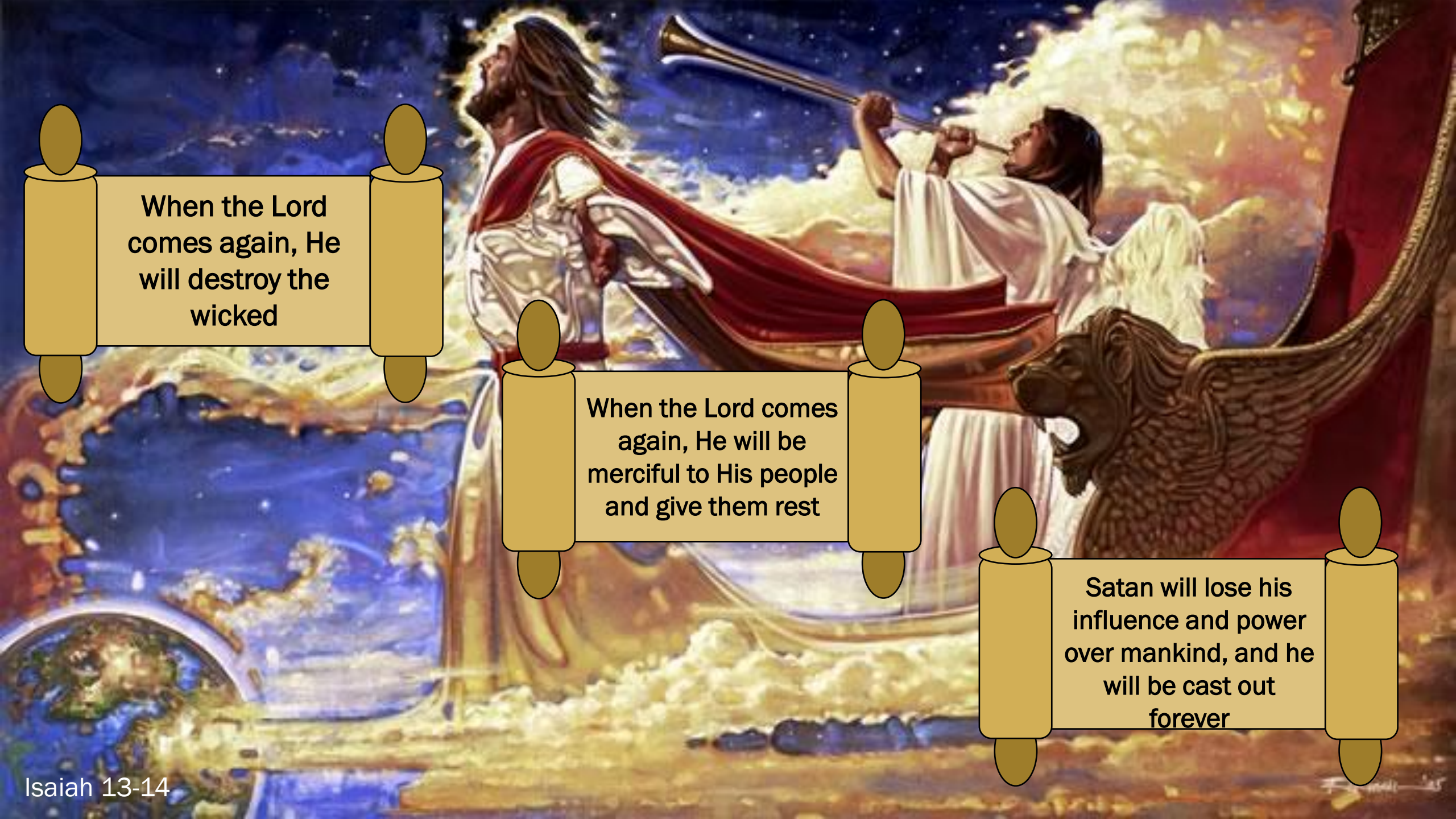
Lift ye up a banner—standard around which armies gather

Gates of the Nobles—Often represent the entire city—or the proud

My sanctified ones—Saints

I'll be your host---"Lord of Hosts" = "Lord of Sabaoth" = title of Jehovah = hosts were armies of Israel...also angelic armies of heaven





When the Lord  
comes again, He  
will destroy the  
wicked

When the Lord comes  
again, He will be  
merciful to His people  
and give them rest

Satan will lose his  
influence and power  
over mankind, and he  
will be cast out  
forever



Sources:

Suggested Hymn: #2 *The Spirit of God*

Video:

By Small and Simple Things: Sharing the Gospel (3:19)



1. Victor L. Ludlow *Unlocking Isaiah in the Book of Mormon* p. 155, 168, 171-173
2. John Bytheway *Isaiah for Airheads* p. 137, 142
3. President Joseph Fielding Smith (*Doctrines of Salvation*, 3:252–53).
4. President Brigham Young (In *Journal of Discourses*, 2:268–69.)
5. Elder LeGrand Richards (*A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, pp. 207–9)



Moab was the eldest son of Lot's older daughter (see Genesis 19:37). His people settled east of the Dead Sea from the Zered River northward. The Moabites were cousins of the Israelites; but there was continual strife between them, and the Lord used them as His chastening rod against Israel.

Nevertheless, lest Israel feel that the wickedness of the Moabites was preferred before the Lord, Isaiah revealed the Moabites' destiny in these two chapters.

Isaiah promised that some day the Lord would remember His covenants with Israel and gather them from the world and establish His covenant with them forever, while Moab would receive the sentence of destruction.

In this sense Moab was also a symbol for the wicked world, and none of her powerful cities nor her lucrative trade routes nor her prominence among her sister nations would be able to stand in that day, but all would be destroyed.

The cry of destruction of Moab is universal, even beyond her borders to Eglaim (En-Eglaim) northwest of the Salt Sea. To show the extent of the tragedy that Moab would experience, Isaiah prophesied that the heart of the rich pastoral land around Dibon would have its waters (called Dimon) stained with the blood of the people. In other words, there would be widespread slaughter and destruction of the people, the enemy penetrating even the very heart of Moab.

In the Hebrew text, the word translated "lion" is actually a single lion. Isaiah revealed that the relationship of Judah and Moab would change, for the "lion," Judah, would come upon the remnant of Moab that was spared and make them her vassal.

The nations of the earth who are likened to Moab are high and mighty forces but will be brought to howl and mourn. Their defenses will come to naught, their wealth and abundance of food will fail, and in place of their joy, as they suppose, they will be pierced with sorrow to the center. At that day all the world will finally come to understand that wickedness never was happiness.

Although Moab was Israel's bitter enemy, Isaiah still wept over the great tragedy of her sin and resulting destruction within three years.

Old Testament Institute Manual *A Voice of Warning to the Wicked*

## Isaiah 15-16





A. The wicked will bow down (vs. 1-4)

B. Assyria raised by the Lord (5)

C. The Assyrian king speaks against Jerusalem (6-11)

D. The Lord will punish proud Assyria (12-14)

E. An ax is used as a tool (15)

F. The Lord is a burning fire in the land (16-17)

G. Out of all the (multitudes)—only a remnant returns (18-19)

**H. A remnant of Israel shall return to the Lord (20-21)**

G. Out of the 'sand of the sea'—only a remnant returns (22)

F. A divine consumption is in the land (23)

E. A rod is used as an instrument (24-26)

D. Assyria's yoke will be lifted (27)

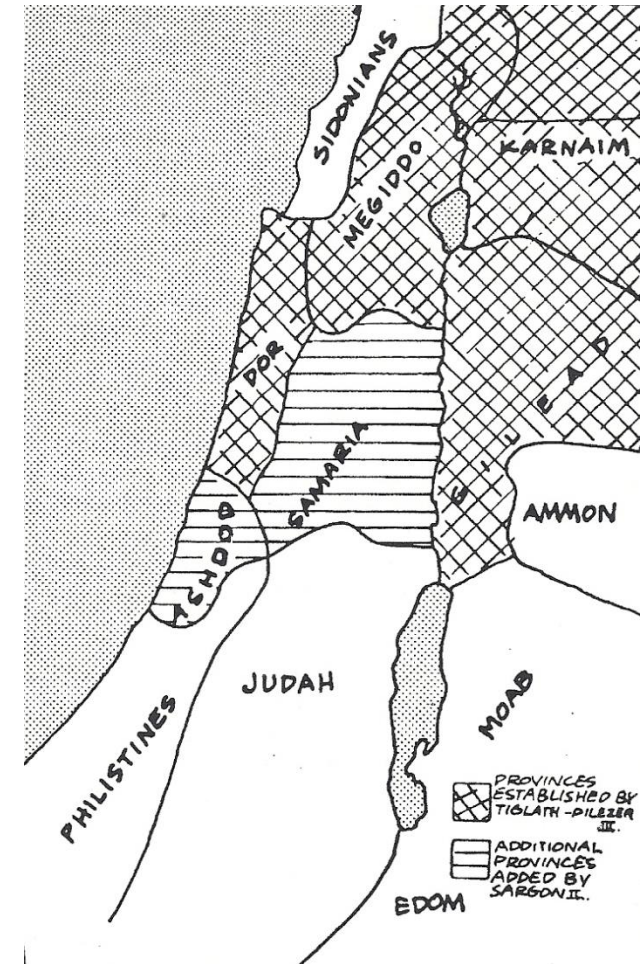
C. Assyrian army approaches Jerusalem (28-32)

B. Assyria humbled by the Lord (33)

A. The haughty will be cut down (34)

# Chiasmus Isaiah 10:1-34/2 Nephi 20

Victor Ludlow



## Assyrian Provinces in Palestine



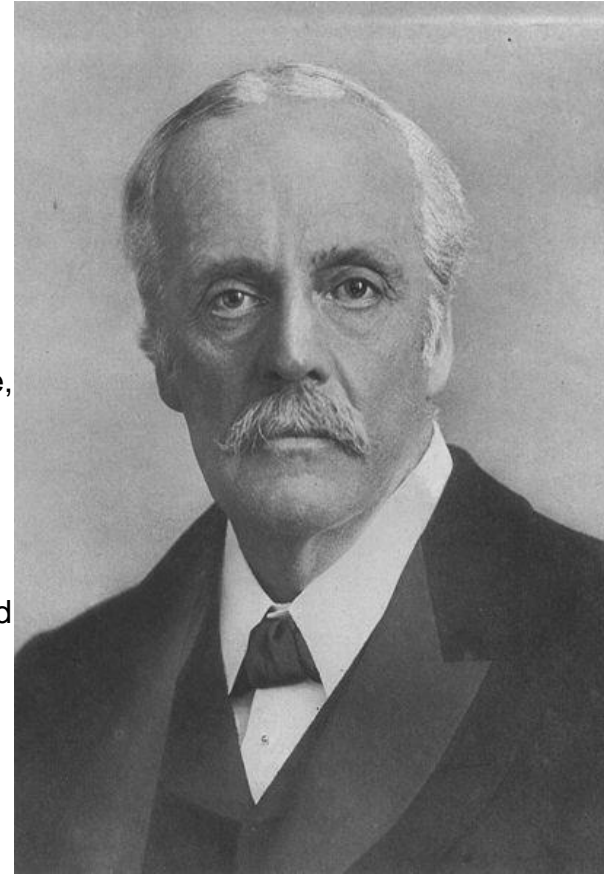
<p><b>Isaiah 10: The destiny of Assyria</b></p> <p>Immediately after the prophecy of the destruction of Israel, Isaiah gave a prophecy concerning the destiny of Assyria lest anyone conclude that this heathen nation was righteous and noble because of its success against Israel and Judah. The fulfillment of this detailed prophecy has been historically confirmed. Isaiah mentioned some of the successful military campaigns of Assyria (see v. 9) and prophesied of the eventual intrusion and success against Judah, even listing the names of many of the cities of Judah that would fall to Assyria (see vv. 28–32). The destruction both of Israel and of Assyria is described as complete (vv. 15–19). The destruction of Israel and Assyria is also a type of the destruction of the wicked in any age and has its prophesied parallel even for the latter days. Old testament Institute Manual <i>The Establishment of Zion</i></p>	<p><b>Joseph Smith, An Ensign:</b></p> <p>“In the little town of Fayette, Seneca County, New York, the Lord set up an ensign to the nations. It was the fulfillment of the prediction made by the Prophet Isaiah...that ensign was the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which was established for the last time, never again to be destroyed or given to other people. It was the greatest event the world has seen since the day that the Redeemer was lifted upon the cross and worked out the infinite and eternal atonement. It meant more to mankind than anything else that has occurred since that day.”</p> <p>Joseph Fielding Smith <i>Doctrines of Salvation</i> 3:254-55</p>
<p><b>The Animals during the Millennium:</b></p> <p><b><i>And in that day the enmity of man, and the enmity of beasts, yea, the enmity of all flesh, shall cease from before my face. D&amp;C 101:26</i></b></p> <p>“All animals shall mingle together in peace, and the appetites of the carnivorous beast shall be changed so that the grass of the field becomes the common diet of the animal world” Elder Bruce R. McConkie <i>Mormon Doctrine</i> p. 496</p> <p>“Six animals are listed: 3 wild carnivores: Wolf, Leopard, Lion that feed on 3 tame animals: lamb, kid, calf.</p> <p>The wild animals, which are ferocious, aggressive, and vicious, are a threat to mankind; the tame animals are docil, submissive, and useful to man. This passage may be taken literally; or the wolf, leopard, and lion may represent those who foment war and murder; the lam, kid, and calf may symbolize meek and peaceful people.” (Parry, Understanding Isaiah , 119) found in Isaiah for Airheads by John Bytheway p. 140</p>	<p><b>The Gathering:</b></p> <p>“When speaking of Israel, most people have the Jews in mind, and when referring to the gathering of Israel, they have in mind the return of the Jews to the land of Jerusalem. It should be remembered that the Jews, the descendants of Judah, represent but one of the twelve branches, or tribes, of the house of Israel—the family of Jacob.” Elder LeGrand Richards(<i>A Marvelous Work and a Wonder</i>, pp. 207–9).</p> <p><b>Water: Isaiah 12</b></p> <p>“It was water from a Bethlehem well for which David in the wilderness longed. To appreciate his desire, one needs to know what thirst in the wilderness means, and also be acquainted with the cool water of Bethlehem wells and cisterns....The men of Bethlehem boast of their cool water. One man was given a drink, but expressed a longing for water out of his father’s vineyard, saying that it was so cold that he couldn’t drink an entire glassful without taking it away from his lips at least three times.</p> <p>Fred H. Wight: (<i>manners and Customs of the Bible Lands</i>, 281</p>
<p><b>The Earth During the Millennium:</b></p> <p>“There will be no place of ignorance, no place of darkness, no place for those that will not serve God, Why?</p> <p>Because Jesus...will be himself on the earth,</p> <p>and His holy angels will be on the earth,</p> <p>and all the resurrected Saints that have died in former dispensations...will be on the earth.</p> <p>What a happy earth this creation will be, when this purifying process shall come, and the earth be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the great deep! What a change!</p> <p>Orson Pratt</p>	<p><b>Warnings to Babylon:</b></p> <p>The Lord showed through these burdens that the world too would be brought to judgment. Here, as in the previous chapters, Isaiah often used dualism to prophesy simultaneously to his own people and to us in modern times. Though chapters 13–23 were given to nine different nations, giving them notice that the divine timetable for their repentance had run out and that they were to reap the judgments of God, each nation was also a symbol of the modern world. You may feel a spirit of doom associated with the condition and future of Babylon and the other nations, but you should also realize that ancient Babylon with its evil and judgment was a shadow and a type of present-day Babylon, or the world. It is to present-day Babylon that Isaiah delivered the sharpest warnings. Old Testament Institute Manual A Voice of Warning to the Wicked (Isaiah 13–23)</p>



# It's a Start

The **Balfour Declaration** (dated 2 November 1917) was a letter from the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour to Walter Rothschild, 2nd Baron Rothschild, a leader of the British Jewish community, for transmission to the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland.

It read:  
His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.  
The text of the letter was published in the press one week later, on 9 November 1917. The "Balfour Declaration" was later incorporated into both the Sèvres peace treaty with the Ottoman Empire, and the Mandate for Palestine. The original document is kept at the British Library.  
The declaration was in contrast to the McMahon-Hussein correspondence, which promised the Arab independence movement control of the Middle East territories "in the limits and boundaries proposed by the Sherif of Mecca" in exchange for revolting against the Ottoman Empire.  
The issuance of the Declaration had many long lasting consequences, and was a key moment in the lead-up to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, often referred to as the world's "most intractable conflict"



Foreign Office,  
November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

*Arthur James Balfour*

Purpose: Confirming support from the British government for the establishment in Palestine of a "national home" for the Jewish people



## The Lord Gathers His Forces Isaiah 13:1-5

Scripture	Phrases	Isaiah's Day	Second Coming
Isaiah 13:1	Burdon of Babylon	The Destruction of Babylon—a prophecy	Destruction of the wicked
Isaiah 13:2	The Banner on the High Mountain	A standard around which armies gather	A standard or ensign being lifted up in the last days as a “banner” to which the world may gather (Temple Image)
Isaiah 13:2	Shake the Hand	Beckon those to return to the gospel	Inviting others to come out of the world
Isaiah 13:2	Gates of the nobles	The entire city and the proud	Those who have lifted themselves up through the worldly pleasures
Isaiah 13:3	Sanctified Ones	“saints” those who are valiant and repentant	Those who are clean through the blood of the atonement
Isaiah 13:4	Multitude	Great people who come together	The Saints who will be gathered from every nation in the last days and enlisted in the army of the living God to wage war against wickedness
Isaiah 13:4	Be Your Host	The Hosts were the armies of Israel	The angelic armies of Heaven “Sabaoth” Bible Dictionary
Isaiah 13:5	Noise/ Multitude/ mountains	The righteous who will gather together	The many who are preparing to preach the gospel of peace by being in the temple. The righteous from all nations including the angels and Christ



## The Lord Brings His Power Against (Spiritual) Babylon Isaiah 13:6-13

Scripture	Phrases	Isaiah's Day	Second Coming
Isaiah 13:6	The day of the Lord	Days of Judgment	Days of Judgment
Isaiah 13:7	Heart[s] shall melt	Men's hearts will fail them	Men's hearts will fail them...sorrow, pain, suffering, terror
Isaiah 13:8	Faces shall be as flames	Faces flushed with shame and guilt	Faces witnessing the burning at the Second Coming
Isaiah 13:9	Wrath and fierce anger	God's justice doing His work. The wrath of God will come upon the people of that day enough to become a desolate land	The Lord's judgments come only after repeated invitations to repent are ignored
Isaiah 13:10	Stars/sun/moon and no light	The darkness in the people	Great wonders to be manifest in the heavens (D&C 45:42)
Isaiah 13:11	Arrogance/ Haughtiness Ceases	The Lord will "level the playing field"	It is better to learn to "be humble" than to be humbled"
Isaiah 13:12	More Precious Than Gold	Gold comes from a purifying process that burns away all dross and what is left is incorruptible, pure, and valuable	The righteous men will become as difficult to find as precious gold and will be treasured as highly. Many will be destroyed, righteous and evil
Isaiah 13:13	Heavens be shaken and Earth removed	calamity and disaster—the fall of Babylon	All things are to be restored. The heavens will flee as the earth is brought back to a condition it once enjoyed. The earth will then receive its paradisiacal glory.

## The Lord Brings the Medes against (Physical) Babylon Isaiah 13:14-22

Scripture	Phrases	Isaiah's Day	Second Coming
Isaiah 13:14	Chased roe and fleeing sheep	A hunted deer...they run swiftly when frightened. A sheep with no shepherd	The wicked will run away to hide, and will have no one to guide them
Isaiah 13:15-16	Thrust through and fall by the sword/ children and wives destroyed	Medes as a weapon of war against physical Babylon...the weak and defenseless will be massacred	The destruction of Satan's army/ Babylon of the latter days and destroy its proud, its wicked, and its confederates
Isaiah 13:19	When God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah	The greatest cities were completely destroyed overnight	The Second Coming will also come where cities will be destroyed quickly, either by man or the Lord
Isaiah 13:20-22	Doleful creatures/ wild beasts	The wild beasts that remain in the once great city They are some type of howling animal (jackel, owl, or wild dogs)	After the destruction beasts may roam the cities and terrorize the inhabitants
Isaiah 13:22	I will be merciful unto my people	The only ray of hope in a rather dismal prophecy	Christ will reign again on the earth and peace will remain for 1,000 years



Scripture	Phrases	Isaiah’s Day	Second Coming
Isaiah 14:1-3	Israel set in their own land		
Isaiah 14:7	A Rest Hymn		
Isaiah 14:8	No More Deforestation	Forrest or tree = people	
Isaiah 14:9-10	Do all former world leaders wind up in hell?		
Isaiah 14:11	Worms Cover Thee		
Isaiah 14:12	How art thou fallen		
Isaiah 14:12-16	Lucifer, son of the morning		
Isaiah 14:17	Opened not the house of his prisoners		
Isaiah 14:18	Lie in glory...in his own house		
Isaiah 14:19-20	Thou art cast out of thy grave		

# The Fate of those who follow Lucifer    Isaiah 14:21-23 And The Fall of Palestina

Fill in your own interpretation

Scripture	Phrases	Isaiah's Day	Second Coming
Isaiah 14:21	Prepare slaughter for his children...that they do not rise		
Isaiah 14:22	Cut off		
Isaiah 14:23	Possession for the bittern		
Isaiah 14:25	The Assyrian in my land		
Isaiah 14:25	His yoke depart from off them	Removed from the covenant	
Isaiah 14:29	Palestina	Philistia—a kingdom west of Judah and Israel	
Isaiah 14:29	Rejoice not		
Isaiah 14:30	Lie down in safety		
Isaiah 14:30	I will kill thy root		
Isaiah 14:31	Smoke	Dust kicked up by invading armies	
Isaiah 14:31	None shall be alone		



## Avoiding the Trap of Sin

“We must be alert because small choices can bring great consequences.

What may appear to be of little importance, such as going to bed late, not praying for a day, skipping fasting, or breaking the Sabbath—such little slips—will make us lose sensitivity little by little, allowing us to do worse things.

Often, becoming prey to sin starts with someone choosing friends whose standards are not consistent with the gospel; and in order to be popular or to be accepted by peers, the person then compromises gospel principles and laws, going down a path that will bring only pain and sadness to this person and to his or her loved ones.

We must be alert not to let sin grow around us. Forms of sin are everywhere—even, for example, in a computer or cell phone. These technologies are useful and can bring great benefits to us. But their inappropriate use—such as involvement in time-wasting games, programs that would drive you to carnal pleasure, or much worse things such as pornography—is destructive. Pornography destroys character and makes its user sink in the quicksand of filth, out of which the person can escape only with much help.

This terrible monster causes pain and suffering both to the user and to his or her innocent children, spouse, father, and mother.”

2010 Oct. Gen. Conf. by Jairo Mazzagardi