

D&C Lesson # 11
The Field Is White Already to Harvest
D&C 4, 11-12, 14-18, 31, 33, 58, 75
By Lenet Hadley Read

(Here is inspirational background and evidences supporting the Restoration).

I. Many sections of the Doctrine and Covenants proclaim “A marvelous work is about to come forth.” The coming forth of the Gospel would indeed bring “marvelous works and wonders.”

A. It began with the wonder of God speaking from the Heavens, by the ministering of angels, and has continued with many great and many untold miracles.

B. This was accompanied by **marvelous new inventions in transportation and communication** thereby allowing **the Lord’s work to go forward with a speed never known before.**

C. But the most amazing miracles have been in the changed lives of millions.

“ And by your hands **I will work a marvelous work** among the children of men, unto the convincing many of their sins, that they may come unto repentance, and that they may come unto the Kingdom of my Father”(D&C 18:44).

II. Many D&C Sections also proclaim, “The field is white already to harvest.”

A. Since Adam, **the great and final harvest of the earth in the Last Days had been anticipated.**

B. Just one of many scriptures repeatedly pointing to this harvest is Isaiah’s prophecy that the Lord would make Latter-day Israel a “new, sharp threshing instrument, having teeth” (Is. 41:16).

C. Even the Feasts of Israel anticipated this day.

1. God commanded Israel to observe Holy Days in the *seventh month* to celebrate Israel’s last agricultural harvests. But **they also contained prophecies of His last day’s spiritual harvest.**

2. The **Feast of Trumpets was set to celebrate the beginning of this final harvest.** It was no accident that on the very day when Jews were celebrating this feast in 1827, Joseph Smith received the golden plates. (See “The Feast of Trumpets and the Golden Plates,” Ensign 2000).

C. Now we understand why the Lord commanded the brethren to “lift up your voices as with the sound of a trump” (D&C 33:2; 75:4). And certainly it is not surprising the Lord warned, “and it is the eleventh hour, and the last time that I shall call laborers into my vineyard” (D&C 33:3).

III. The Title Page to the Book of Mormon says it will “show unto the remnant of the House of Israel what great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever --- And also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentiles that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations.”

A. This promise was not idle. The Book of Mormon *has* been a great power in gathering in the final harvest, working with the Holy Ghost which bears witness of its truthfulness. For as Moroni testifies at its end, “And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost” (Moroni 10:4). Thus **the Book of Mormon, accompanied by the Holy Ghost, has been the great threshing instrument of which Isaiah prophesied.**

1. Bishop Christopher Waddell, Presiding Bishopric, recently told the new Mission Presidents, “The combination of the Spirit and the Book of Mormon makes for a powerful converting tool. When the Spirit teaches the heart, the heart changes.” (Church News Feb. 5, 2017).

IV. All members are invited to do missionary work. The Lord proclaimed that **whosoever desireth to reap is called to the work** (D&C 12:3-4).

A. No one should hesitate to thrust in their sickle!

B. Taking this to heart, and living most of my adult life in the Midwest and the East, and moving many times, I tried to share with my many non-member neighbors and other associates. I opened my mouth and shared the Gospel. I invited to open houses. I invited to Relief Society, to Sunday School, to Sacrament. I invited to church productions testifying of Christ and the Gospel. I shared church scriptures and literature. I invited to meet with the missionaries.

While none of my dear friends at that time were converted, I *know* I planted seeds. One priesthood leader comforted me by saying most persons need six and seven contacts with the church before joining. I have strong confidence that at some point my efforts will bear fruit.

And the Lord did bless me for my desires. Through the years I did help bring people into the Church. They were strangers to me who asked for missionaries because of some oral or written presentation I made. So while often the objects of our efforts do not respond as quickly, someone who is prepared does! I do have the joys the Lord promised those who open their mouths.

V. The Lord told us how to prepare to be missionaries.

A. One of the key preparations he said was “Seek not to declare my word, **but first seek to obtain my word, and then shall your tongue be loosed**; then if you desire, you shall have my Spirit and my word, yea, the power of God unto the convincing of men” (DC 11:21).

B. I know this is true. The time came when I was able to serve a full time mission. Just prior to that mission, I reread the Gospels, Isaiah and The Book of Mormon. I found power from what was an intense study. I was so filled with a testimony of Jesus Christ and of His restored gospel, that I felt no fear in testifying. In fact, while I was initially assigned as a proselyting missionary to Romania, I was disappointed when it was changed to the office, in Ireland. So, upon my arrival, I begged my mission president that I might be allowed to proselyte as much as possible. He did give me that opportunity, and by the time I left my mission, over half of my time was spent proselyting. Again, I was blessed to help bring several people into the Church.

VI. “No unhallowed hand can prevent this harvest.”

A. There have always been enemies to God’s work. **They have not nor will not prevail.**

B. “Wherefore, confound your enemies... inasmuch as ye are faithful their shame shall be made manifest... Verily, thus saith the Lord --- there is no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; and if any man lift his voice against you he shall be confounded” (D&C 71:7-10).

C. The darkest day of the Church was when Joseph Smith was martyred. Enemies felt Joseph’s death would defeat “Mormonism.”

1. But the Lord knew otherwise. Just prior to his death, there was with him a young man named Dan Jones. Brother Jones wanted to stay with the prophet, but the prophet deliberately sent him on an errand to prevent his death. And before he left, he prophesied to him that, “You will yet see Wales, and fulfill the mission appointed you before you die.”

Dan Jones eventually presided over a mission in Wales. Throughout his time, he wrote and printed many church materials which taught of the Restoration. His labors eventually paid off. He is credited with over six thousand converts!

VII. **Thousands upon thousands of faithful latter-day Saints keep this work from failing.**

A. My oldest brother, Darrell, is an example of what an ordinary member can do in missionary work. After serving three missions, [two with his wife], and serving for years as ward or stake mission leader, he then began to teach English as a second language.

He lives in Provo, Utah where he grows a marvelous garden whose major purpose is missionary and reactivation work. [“No one can resist a fresh tomato,” is his motto]. There are white Caucasians in his neighborhood he has baptized or reactivated.

But he and his wife also take visitors from other countries to the West’s remarkable landscapes, even as far away as the Grand Canyon. **While living in Provo, he has helped convert persons from Korea, Mongolia, and Latin America.**

And he has had special success with Chinese, converting more than one, and is now still working with two others, who have promised to be baptized.

B. Truly, anyone who labors with all one’s heart, might, mind, and strength, whatever their unique ways, will “treasure up for his soul everlasting salvation in the kingdom of God.”

C. Those who truly are great missionaries do not do it for reward, however, but for love: love for the Savior and love for God’s children.

VIII. The Lord is unleashing new Wonders through new technologies.

A. They can help the messages of the gospel of Christ spread ‘to the uttermost parts of the earth’ to be ‘preached to every creature’” (D&C 58:64). (See Church News, February 5, 2017).

B. Speaking of these new technologies, Elder David A. Bednar recently told mission presidents, this “miraculous progression of innovations, inventions, and technologies’ has **enabled and accelerated the work of salvation and is part of the Lord hastening His work in the last days.**” (Emphasis added)

C. The easiest way for members to use these technologies to spread the gospel is to share items which the Church itself has already developed.

D. To use new technologies, Elder Bednar has told the members to follow these guidelines:

1. Testify of God the Eternal Father, His plan of happiness for His children, and His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Savior of the world.

2. Proclaim the reality of the Restoration of the gospel in the latter days.

E. And in doing so, he also counseled:

1. Be authentic and consistent.

2. **Seek to edify and uplift rather than to argue, debate, condemn, or belittle.**

3. Respect the intellectual property of other people and organizations.

4. Be wise and vigilant in protecting yourself and those you love (the world will have access to your message or picture for all time).

The “talents” which we saints have been given in our day include the Gift of the Fullness of the Gospel. It is up to us whether we multiply this gift through sharing it, that the Lord might say, “Well done thou good and faithful servant, Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things.” Or whether, out of fear, we will “bury” this gift. In which case we are in danger of being called “unprofitable servants” (Parable of the Talents, Matthew 25:14-30).

*The Feast of Trumpets has other names such as The Day of Remembrance and Rosh Hashanah.