

D&C Lesson # 26
Go Ye Into All the World and Preach My Gospel
D&C 112
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(Here is inspirational background and evidences supporting the Restoration)

I. As a Latter-day Israel, the Lord had been preparing His people.

A. He had been preparing them for a great work:

1. He had led them into the wilderness.
2. He had given them His Law.
3. He had instructed them to build a temple.
4. He has set them apart and consecrated them.
5. He had poured out His Holy Spirit upon them.
6. He had given them all the keys necessary to accomplish the salvation of the earth.
7. He had blessed them and instructed them in regard to their Priesthood Powers.

II. Now the time had come for the Lord to send forth **this, His last great threshing machine, to thresh the world.**

A. “Behold, I will make thee [into] a new sharp threshing machine, having teeth; thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shall make the hills as chaff” (Isaiah 41:15).

B. The puzzling imagery given here is simply that because this threshing machine is in the latter-days, it will **lead to the Second Coming when the haughty, like some mountains, will be made low, and the wicked will be harvested into chaff, like the hills made low.”**

III. **Having been “endowed with power from on high,” they were now called to “Go into all the World” and to harvest out the righteous and the repentant.**

A. In recounting how the early Saints must have felt about this challenge, Elder Neal Anderson said in April Conference, 2013:

“The Church of Jesus Christ was restored to the earth 183 years ago, the Lord’s charge to His small band of disciples echoed His words spoken centuries before. ‘The voice of warning shall be unto all people.’” For, verily, the sound must go forth... into all the world, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.”

“All people”? “All the world”? “The uttermost parts of the earth”? Was it possible?

“The Savior reassured His Latter-day Saints,⁷ but could they foresee the reach and destiny of this marvelous work? They must have wondered if miracles really would accompany them in spreading the gospel....”

B. But they did. And Elder Anderson continues:

1. “faith overcame doubt, and thousands were baptized. In England, Elder Wilford Woodruff found an entire community awaiting his arrival. The Spirit of the Lord fell upon them; he baptized 45 preachers and several hundred members during his first month at Benbow farm.”

C. When missionaries were sent to the British Isles, they were gathering Ephraim *so they* could help gather others who were willing to give up the world.

IV. The work of Harvesting the earth had begun in earnest.

- A. Even before Kirtland, attempts to gather the descendants of Lehi had been made.
 - 1. While this work was hampered by others in regard to taking the gospel to the Lamanites in Western Missouri, (D&C 28:32), more has been done than most realize.
 - 2. Members of U.S. Native American tribes eventually did join, such as the Catawba Indians in South Carolina and some tribes in the West.
- B. Missionaries even threshed the isles of the sea. Mormon missionaries arrived in Tonga in 1891; from the beginning they were well received in that and other South Pacific Islands.

C. From Nauvoo missionaries were sent to other distant lands: Australia, India, Jamaica, South America, Germany. However, at that time, the work was not very fruitful. The laborers were extremely few, and most people unresponsive. However, in the meantime, miracle after miracle would be performed so that **in later days, these lands would be prepared and become more fruitful.**

V. Here are some of the miracles of how the Lord has opened the ways to “go into all the world.”

- A. Missionary work in the Latin American Countries really did not boom until after the translation of the Book of Mormon into Spanish and later Portuguese. The Spanish translation came forth in 1874. The major translator, Meliton Trejo, had a great thirst for truth, and was led from Spain to the Philippines, then to Utah and to Brigham Young in miraculous ways, showing the hand of the Lord in bringing about this important translation. (See Eduardo Balderas, “How the Scriptures Came to Be Translated into Spanish” *The Ensign*, Sept. 1972).
- B. The work in Asia also shows the hand of the Lord. For example, a Korean came to the United States to study. There he was impressed with a member of the church, who introduced him to the Gospel. After he returned to Korea he became a prominent leader in his country, influencing many. Through his conversion, through faithful LDS soldiers and through later missionaries, the Gospel has flourished in Korea.
- C. The Lord prepared a special “Ambassador” to help open the way in many countries.
 - 1. David M. Kennedy was a prominent and respected international banker who developed relationships with significant persons in many nations through his work. Under President Spencer W. Kimball he was called to become an “ambassador to the world” in behalf of the Church. His mission was to help get the church recognized in many countries who did not allow our missionaries, and to help overcome other problems. **Two years after his assignment,** he had labored for the church in Lebanon, Greece, Portugal, Thailand, India, Pakistan, Yugoslavia, the Philippines, Hungary, Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Iran and Egypt. Some countries proved more difficult than others. But through his faith in the Lord he patiently went forth, accomplishing miracles. He came to draw upon the great resources of Brigham Young University as well, which provided great benefits.
- D. President Kimball accomplished other remarkable things, including urging members continually to pray that the hearts of the leaders of the world would be softened, so that the gospel might go into their lands. Were not those prayers a factor in the fall of the Iron Curtain, which finally allowed missionaries into that large block of nations previously denied the Gospel?

E. Under President Kimball another great roadblock was overcome. Through his perpetual seeking the Lord, the previous policy of the Church denying the priesthood to those of African descent was changed. This change in policy opened up many doors not only in Africa, but also in other countries, such as Brazil, and in the United States.*

1. **The hand of the Lord was definitely behind this work as when missionaries arrived in many countries of Africa, they found the Gospel already there. The Lord's Spirit had touched individual after individual to seek the truth, and many had obtained it, setting up preliminary churches.** When the missionaries arrived, they at first had merely to instruct more perfectly, give the priesthood to already faithful saints, and the Church has grown with amazing rapidity.

G. Nation by nation the Lord's mandate to "go into all the world" to preach His gospel has been coming to pass. He did not require this work without blessing the Saints to be able to accomplish it. He has repeatedly helped prepare the way for it to be accomplished through miracle after miracle.

VI. We have just recently seen another great miracle in regard to this work --- **the masses of missionaries currently going forth into the world.** Elder Neal Anderson also laid out this part of the miracle of spreading the Gospel in April Conference, 2013.

"When Elder David A. Bednar and I were missionaries approximately 40 years ago ... there were 16,000 missionaries. As President Thomas S. Monson reported yesterday, we now have 65,000—more than ever before. There were then 562 stakes. Today there are more than 3,000. At that time, our wards and branches were in 59 countries. Today we have congregations in 189 of the 224 nations and territories of the world. We are few in number, just as Nephi foretold.⁹ But at the same time, you and I are eyewitnesses of Daniel's prophetic words: the "stone ... cut ... without hands ... [is filling] the whole earth."¹⁰

"Our day is a remarkable time of miracles. Six months ago as President Monson announced the age change for young men and young women desiring to serve missions, there was an undeniable spiritual outpouring. Faith overcame doubt, and young men and women moved forward. **The Thursday following conference, I was assigned to recommend missionary calls to the First Presidency. I was amazed to see the applications of 18-year-old men and 19-year-old women who had already adjusted their plans, visited their doctors, been interviewed by their bishops and stake presidents, and submitted their missionary applications—all in just five days.** Thousands more have now joined them." (Emphasis added)

"These miracles continue. At the very recent Seminar for Mission Presidents, broadcast to buildings throughout the church, it was announced the missionary force is now 70,000, and expected to reach 85,000 by the end of the year. And all we members were urged to become involved in a way never really seen before. Furthermore, **new methods of utilizing this great new army of missionaries, via technology, was announced. These new methods will unquestionably carry the Lord's Gospel into all the world.**" (Emphasis added)

V. Isaiah foresaw the Lord's Latter-day threshing machine centuries ago. But this great latter-day work has been prophesied repeatedly throughout the scriptures.

A. All the prophets looked forward to our day when the Lord would reach forth and seek for the last time to find the believing among all the nations. And He would give every individual an opportunity to accept or reject His great truths.

Hopefully, all we members will be caught up in this highly significant and great work of the Last Days.

*The reasons for this change was not pragmatic. Some of the best insights on the policy and its change can be found in Keith Hamilton, *The Last Laborer: Thoughts and Reflections of a Black Mormon*.