



Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Volume 2, Issue 48

Today's Word: Malachi

December 31, 2006

Are You:

- Reading Your Scriptures Every Day?
- Taking Time for Family Home Evening?

Today's Scriptures

Zechariah 10-14;
Malachi

Next Week:

Lesson 1:



“That Ye Might Believe That Jesus is the Christ”

Isaiah 61: 1-3; JST, Luke 3: 4-11; John 1: 1-14; 20-31

W.W. Austin
Gospel Doctrine Teacher
wendywarrenaustin@hotmail.com

Lesson 48:

“The Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord”

Elder Richard L. Evans:

“Some of the brethren . . . approached [President Wilford Woodruff] and . . . inquired of him as to when he felt the end would be—when would be the coming of the Master? These, I think, are not his exact words, but they convey the spirit of his reported reply: ‘I would live as if it were to be tomorrow—but I am still planting cherry trees!’ I think we may well take this as a page for our own book and live as if the end might be tomorrow—and still plant cherry trees! In worrying about things that are beyond our reach, we should not overlook our opportunities with our own families and friends; in worrying about possible eventualities we should not neglect the things that need to be done here and now, and that are within our reach” (*Conference Report*, April 1950, 105-6).

Elder Dallin H. Oaks:

“We need to make both temporal and spiritual preparation for the events prophesied at the time of the Second Coming. And the preparation most likely to be neglected is the one less visible and more difficult—the spiritual. A 72-hour kit of temporal supplies may prove valuable for earthly challenges, but, as the foolish virgins learned to their sorrow, a 24-hour kit of spiritual preparation is of greater and more enduring value” (*Ensign*, May 2004, 7, 9).



Questions to Ponder

- Of what value is this prophetic information as we live our lives day to day?
- What should be our motivation for paying tithes and offerings?
- How have you felt your heart turn to your ancestors as you have done family history and temple work for them?
- When we hear of such tragedies as war, natural disasters, and widespread wickedness, how can we maintain hope for the future?

Elder Neal A. Maxwell:

“The Middle East has been at the intersection of human history so many times! Yet in our time the words of Zechariah are especially descriptive, saying that Jerusalem is to be a “cup of trembling” for “all the people round about” and a “burdensome stone for all people” (Zech. 12: 2-3).

Hence the need to keep our eyes on more than a few leaves of the fig tree in order to know when summer is nigh (see Matt 24: 32). . . . In the context of such cautions, I have no hesitancy in saying that there are some signs—though certainly not all—suggesting that “summer is nigh” (Matt 24:32).

We would do well to notice and to ponder, but without either becoming preoccupied or ignoring any sprouting leaves because of being “overcharged” with the “cares of life” (Luke 21:34) (“For I Will Lead You Along,” *Ensign*, May 1988, 7).

President Gordon B. Hinckley:

“Now do not get me wrong, I am not here to say that if you pay an honest tithing you will realize your dream of a fine house, a Rolls Royce, and a condominium in Hawaii. *The Lord will open the windows of heaven according to our need, and not according to our greed.* If we are paying tithing to get rich, we are doing it for the wrong reason. The basic purpose for tithing is to provide the Church with the means to carry on His work” (*Ensign*, May 1982, 40).