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# “The Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord”

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Lesson  
**48**  
Summary

*Zechariah 10; Judah and Joseph shall be sown among the people in far countries—The Lord will hiss for them and gather them and redeem them.*

*Zechariah 11; Zechariah speaks Messianically: Messiah shall be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver—It shall be cast to the potter in the house of the Lord.*

*Zechariah 12; In the final great war, all nations shall be engaged at Jerusalem but the Lord shall defend his people—Then the Jews shall look upon Jesus whom they crucified, and there shall be great mourning.*

*Zechariah 13; The Jews shall gain forgiveness at the Second Coming—They shall ask Jesus: What are these wounds in thine hands?—The remnant, tried and refined, shall be his people.*

*Zechariah 14; At his Second Coming the Lord shall fight for Israel—His feet shall stand upon the Mount of Olives—He shall be King over all the earth—Plagues shall destroy the wicked.*

*Malachi 1; The Jews despise the Lord by offering polluted bread upon the altar and by sacrificing animals with blemishes—The Lord's name shall be great among the Gentiles.*

*Malachi 2; The priests are reproved for not keeping their covenants and teaching the people—The Jews are condemned for dealing treacherously one with another, and with the wife of the covenant.*

*Malachi 3; The Lord's messenger shall prepare the way for the Second Coming—Christ shall sit in judgment—Israel commanded to pay tithes and offerings—They keep a book of remembrance.*

*Malachi 4; At the Second Coming the proud and wicked shall be burned as stubble—Elijah shall return before that great and dreadful day.*

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## **Supplemental Holy Land and Jewish insights:**

**Title Seems Foreboding, Yet Only for the Unprepared:** Preparations are being made that include beautiful and sacred “Houses of the Lord” throughout the world. There will be at least two temple cities, Jerusalem and Zion. “. . . his voice out of Zion, and he shall speak from Jerusalem . . .” (*D. & C. 124:35, 133:21*) The “dress rehearsal” of today’s preparation and building – was before his “first” coming. Therefore, the accounts of the children of Israel returning to their sacred city and rebuilding the temple is valuable for us today. Zechariah believed that the Exile was God's way of punishing the Jews for their sins, but he urged them to repent and rebuild the Temple with God's blessing.

**Duty of Return, Build the Temple:** “Zechariah continued in the same task as Haggai; he too encouraged the Jews to rebuild the Temple. Zechariah reminded Israel that before God returned to the Temple the people must return to God through righteousness, justice, and mercy: "Return to Me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you." The nation's future security would be guaranteed, "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, says the Lord of Hosts" (4:6), and Israel would flourish once again. Zechariah prophesied of the Golden Age of the Messiah when God's Kingdom would be established on earth.” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

**Holidays of Return, Gathering:** The greatest return to Israel was from Egypt and every year two holidays are memorials of that deliverance as well as expectations of an even greater deliverance in the future. These holidays are celebrated on the first full moon after the first day of spring (Passover) and fall (Sukkot). “This holiday (Sukkot) was also the occasion for the consecration of the Temple built by Solomon and every seventh year on Sukkot, the Torah was read by the king before the assembled people. In his vision of the end of days, the prophet Zechariah foretells that all the nations of the world will assemble for the festival of Sukkot in Jerusalem to worship God.” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

**Malachi Speaks of His Day and Our Day:** On both holidays, special arrangements are made in anticipation of expected guests who will come unexpectedly. They include Moses and Elijah! The prophet Malachi speaks of Elijah’s anticipated return and the work needed to prepare the people. The pattern is familiar today. “The ecstasy

of rebuilding the holy Temple passed and the Jews fell into disreputable ways once again. Inter-marriage was common, as was divorce, and morals were weak. Malachi was faced with the task of awakening the people from their religious lethargy and bringing them back to God.”

**Jews Expect, Mormons Remember Elijah’s Return:** As previously mentioned in another lesson supplement, Passover is a time for Elijah to return. At one Passover I asked my youngest son at the appropriate time to open the door for Elijah. He refused. The seven-year-old said, “I don’t have to open the door for Elijah, he’s already come!” As a child, he knew of Elijah’s appearance in the Kirtland Temple on April 3, 1836, the Passover season that year!

**Legend of Newborn on Straw Bed:** The legendary status of Elijah as an emissary for the coming Messiah (to some - as a newborn laid in a stone manger filled with straw) is shown in the story of Rabbi Akiva. In the second century C.E., young Rabbi Akiva worked as a shepherd for one of the wealthiest men of Jerusalem, Kalba Savua, who had a beautiful daughter, Rachel. “Akiva and Rachel fell in love, but her father opposed the marriage because Akiva was unlearned and illiterate. He promised to learn, but Kalba Savua was stubborn in his opposition. He refused to see the young couple or to give Rachel any dowry when she left home to marry Akiva. Instead of beds, they had straw to sleep on. Akiva told Rachel: “I wish I could afford to give you a Jerusalem of Gold.” (This was a gold design of the city which was popular as an ornament.) According to a legend, Elijah then appeared to them as a poor man begging for a bit of straw on which he could lay his newborn infant. Akiva told Rachel, “See, we are not really so poor—that man doesn’t even have straw!”

**Old Jerusalem Made New:** Now that Jerusalem has been restored and it is once again the capital of “a distinct nation,” Jewish prayers at every meal and at every synagogue service have been modified to say, “Next year in Jerusalem, rebuilt!” Orson Hyde prophesied about Jerusalem, its temple and its leadership: “. . . Let them know that it is Thy good pleasure to restore the kingdom unto Israel, raise up Jerusalem as its capital, and constitute her people a distinct nation and government, with David Thy servant, even a descendant from the loins of ancient David to be their king . . . Let that nation or that people who shall take an active part in behalf of Abraham's children, and in the raising up of Jerusalem, find favor in Thy sight. Let not their enemies prevail against them, neither let pestilence or famine overcome them, but let the glory of Israel overshadow them, and the power of the Highest protect them; while that nation or kingdom that will not serve Thee in this glorious work must perish, according to Thy word --Yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.” (*History of the Church, vol. 4, pp. 456-57.*)

**Old and New Jerusalem City Temples:** The Lord will return to a Jerusalem that will have the House of the Lord. The entire city will become the City of The Lord. “And he spake also concerning the house of Israel, and the Jerusalem from whence Lehi should come--after it should be destroyed it should be built up again, a holy city unto the Lord; wherefore, it could not be a new Jerusalem for it had been in a time of old; but it should be built up again, and become a holy city of the Lord; and it should be built unto the house of Israel.” (*Ether 13:5*) The Lord will also come to a Zion that will have a House of the Lord. Apparently it will become a City of the Lord as well. “For it is ordained that in Zion, and in her stakes, and in Jerusalem, those places which I have appointed for refuge, shall be the places for your baptisms for your dead. (*Doctrine & Covenants 124:36*) “Far West, Missouri, also appears to be included in the land of Adam-ondi-Ahman. On April 17, 1838, the Lord commanded his saints to assemble at Far West, which place, he said, was holy ground; and there they were to build a city. (D. & C. 115)” (*Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, Page 20*)

**Prepared for His Coming:** May we learn from our forefathers and benefit from their mistakes. May we ever praise God for sending his Son to pay for all mistakes. May we live with him, in his house, in his city, in his glory.

Daniel Rona, born in Israel and living in Jerusalem has authored Old & New Testament, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants and Church History Supplement Study Materials to be used in conjunction with the weekly LDS Gospel Doctrine Lesson study. NOTE: Three versions of the supplemental study materials are available FREE at [www.HolyLandsRevealed.com](http://www.HolyLandsRevealed.com). (Just click “LDS SUPPLEMENTS”)

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