December 14–20
Malachi
“I Have Loved You, Saith the Lord”



The Second Coming

Mal 4:5-6

Could you make a case that this prophecy has been or is being fulfilled in our day?

Why is it so important that families be united for eternity before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ?

Why will the Second Coming be a “great” event for some people but a “dreadful” event for others?

D&C 110:13-16

13) After this vision had closed, another great and glorious vision burst upon us; for Elijah the prophet, who was taken to heaven without tasting death, stood before us, and said:

14) Behold, the time has fully come, which was spoken of by the mouth of Malachi—testifying that he [Elijah] should be sent, before the great and dreadful day of the Lord come

15) To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, lest the whole earth be smitten with a curse—

16) Therefore, the keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands; and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors.

L. Tom Perry

“The eternal family is central to the gospel of our Savior. There would be no reason for Him to return to earth to rule and reign over His kingdom unless the eternal family unit has been established for our Father in Heaven’s children.” (CR, Oct. 1973)

Todd Christofferson

“Our work for the dead bears witness that Jesus Christ will come again to this earth….

“The vicarious ordinances we perform in temples, beginning with baptism, make possible an eternal welding link between generations that fulfills the purpose of the earth’s creation. Without this, ‘the whole earth would be utterly wasted at [Christ’s] coming’ (D&C 2:3).” (CR, Oct. 2000)

Ezra Taft Benson

“[The Savior’s] coming will be both glorious and terrible, depending on the spiritual condition of those who remain”. (“Prepare Yourself for the Great Day of the Lord,” New Era, May 1982)

The Second Coming

Mal 4:1-3

For whom will the Second Coming be a dreadful experience?

What will happen to those who are proud and do wickedly?

What do you think Malachi means when he says the wicked will be left with "neither root nor branch"?

To whom will the Second Coming be a great event, and why?

Theodore M. Burton

"What is meant by the expression, ‘that it shall leave them neither root nor branch’? This expression simple means that wicked and indifferent persons who reject the gospel of Jesus Christ will have no family inheritance or patriarchal lineage - neither root (ancestors or progenitors) nor branch (children or posterity). Such persons cannot be received into the celestial kingdom of glory of resurrected beings, but must be content with a lesser blessing." (CR, Oct 1967)

D&C 133:46,50-52

46) And it shall be said: Who is this that cometh down from God in heaven with dyed garments; yea, from the regions which are not known, clothed in his glorious apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength?

50) And his voice shall be heard: I have trodden the wine-press alone, and have brought judgment upon all people; and none were with me;

51) And I have trampled them in my fury, and I did tread upon them in mine anger, and their blood have I sprinkled upon my garments, and stained all my raiment; for this was the day of vengeance which was in my heart.

52) And now the year of my redeemed is come; and they shall mention the loving kindness of their Lord, and all that he has bestowed upon them according to his goodness, and according to his loving kindness, forever and ever.

John Taylor

“When he comes again, he comes to take vengeance on the ungodly and to bring deliverance unto his Saints. ‘For the day of vengeance,’ it is written, ‘is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come’ (Isaiah 63:4). It behooves us to be made well aware which class we belong to, that if we are not already among the redeemed, we may immediately join that society, that when the Son of God shall come the second time with all the holy angels with him... we shall be among that number who shall be ready to meet him with gladness in our hearts and hail him as our great deliverer and friend.” (JD, 10:113)

The Second Coming

Mal 3:2-4

How will the Second Coming serve as a refining and cleansing process for the righteous?

The Second Coming

Mal 3:13-15

Why do some believe it was pointless to serve the Lord?

The Second Coming

Mal 3:16-18

What does the Lord promise to those who remain faithful and wait on Him?

Erastus Snow

“Whether in life or death, we shall be His, we shall enter into His glory and be numbered with His jewels; for the Lord cometh to make up His jewels, and it will be those who have met together often and have spoken often one to another, that will be numbered therein; while all the proud and they that do wickedly, will become as stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” (JD, 25:68)

The Second Coming

Mal 3:1

What events does Malachi prophesy will take place that relate to the Second Coming?

Could you make a case that this prophecy has been or is being fulfilled in our day?

Bruce R. McConkie

“It is with reference to the Second Coming that the ancient word promises: ‘Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me.’ John the Baptist did this very thing in the meridian of time, but it remained for Joseph Smith to perform the glorious work in our day. He is the latter-day messenger who was sent to restore the gospel, which itself prepares a people for the return of the Lord.” (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg. 629)

George A. Horton Jr.

"Joseph [Smith] prepared the way for the Lord's second coming by receiving the keys and powers of the Aaronic and Melchizedek priesthoods and the 'fulness of the gospel,' found in the Book of Mormon. Through him the holy temple blessings and the saving ordinances of the gospel were restored. Through him, the kingdom of God was restored to the earth, with all the keys, rights, powers, and authority necessary for the salvation of men-never to be taken from the earth again." ("Prophecies in the Bible about Joseph Smith," Ensign, Jan. 1989)

Bruce R. McConkie

"The temple appearance was fulfilled, in part at least, by his return to the Kirtland Temple on April 3, 1836; and it may well be that he will come again, suddenly, to others of his temples, more particularly that which will be erected in Jackson County, Missouri.” (Mormon Doctrine, pg. 693)

John Taylor

“Said he, Is [the Salt Lake temple] that Temple [from Malachi 3:1]? No, sir. What is this then? It is a Temple, but not the Temple your fathers spoke of. But you will yet build a Temple in Jerusalem, and the Lord whom you seek will come to that Temple.” (JD, 23:175)

Tithing

Mal 3:8-12

How does paying tithing help the Lord's Church fulfill its mission?

What blessings does the Lord promise to those who faithfully pay their tithing?

Bruce R. McConkie

"The work of the kingdom must go forward, and the members of the Church are and shall be called upon to bear off its burdens. It is the Lord's work and not man's. He is the one who commands us to preach the gospel in all the world, whatever the cost. It is his voice that decrees the building of temples, whatever the cost. He is the one who tells us to care for the poor among us, whatever the cost....

"This is his work. He is at the helm guiding and directing the destiny of his kingdom." (CR, April 1975)

Gordon B. Hinckley

“The basic purpose for tithing is to provide the Church with the means needed to carry on His work. The blessing to the giver is an ancillary return, and that blessing may not be always in the form of financial or material benefit….

“There are many ways in which the Lord can bless us beyond the riches of the world. There is the great boon of health. The Lord has promised that he will rebuke the devourer for our sakes. Malachi speaks of the fruits of our ground. May not that rebuke of the devourer apply to various of our personal efforts and concerns?

“There is the great blessing of wisdom, of knowledge, even hidden treasures of knowledge. We are promised that ours shall be a delightsome land if we will walk in obedience to this law. I can interpret the word land as people, that those who walk in obedience shall be a delightsome people. What a marvelous condition to be a delightsome people whom others would describe as blessed!” (CR, April 1982)

Next Week:

