Millennium

Isa 65:17-25. (Note: the Anchor Bible suggests that “A boy who dies at the age of 100, and the sinner who dies at the age of 100 will be thought accursed.” In other words, there will be no premature death. If you die at 100 you would be a mere boy; you will live as long as they did before the flood, i.e., almost 1000 years.)

D&C 29:13-29

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg. 13 “Sabbath of Creation.” D&C 77:6, 12.

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg. 268-269. While in conversation at Judge Adams’ during the evening, I said, Christ and the resurrected Saints will reign over the earth during the thousand years. They will not probably dwell upon the earth, but will visit it when they please, or when it is necessary to govern it. There will be wicked men on the earth during the thousand years. The heathen nations who will not come up to worship will be visited with the judgments of God, and must eventually be destroyed from the earth.

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg. 268-269. Footnote. The Prophet’s statement that there will be wicked men on the earth during the Millennium has caused considerable confusion in the minds of many who have read in the Scripture in many places that when Christ comes the earth shall be cleansed from its wickedness, and that the wicked shall not stand, but shall be consumed. See D&C 5:18-29; 29:8-10; 101:23-25; Isa 24:1-3; Mal 4:1. The evil-minded inhabitants, those “who love and make a lie” and are guilty of all manner of corruption, will be consumed and pass away when Christ comes. In using the term “wicked men” in this instruction at the home of Judge Adams, the Prophet did so in the same sense in which the Lord uses it in the 84th section of the Doctrine and Covenants, vs. 49-53. The Lord in this scripture speaks of those who have not received the Gospel as being under the bondage of sin, and hence “wicked.” However, many of these people are honorable, clean living men, but they have not embraced the Gospel. The inhabitants of the terrestrial order will remain on the earth during the Millennium, and this class are without the Gospel ordinances. See D&C 76:75-76. [See also Doctrine and Covenants Commentary, pg. 149.]

D&C Commentary, pg. 160. Some who believe in a Millennium hold that Christianity will be gradually diffused until the entire race is Christianized, and that will be the Millennium. This is an error. The world will be redeemed through the mighty arm of Jehovah; through judgments and tribulation. The general conversion will take place during the Millennium.

D&C 63:49-54. (Cf. 2 Ne 30:10 - division.)

D&C 101:22-34.

Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation 2:15. NOT HALF THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS TO BE SAVED. Those who receive the fulness will be privileged to view the face of our Father. There will not be such an overwhelming number of the Latter-day Saints who will get there. President Francis M. Lyman many times has declared, and he had reason to declare, I believe, that if we save one-half of the Latter-day Saints, that is, with an exaltation in the celestial kingdom of God, we will be doing well. Not that the Lord is partial, not that he will draw the line as some will say, to keep people out. He would have every one of us go in if we would; but there are laws and ordinances that we must keep; if we do not observe the law we cannot enter. Many come into the Church, like fish that are gathered into the net, that have to be sorted and thrown out again or put into piles where they belong. And so it will be with us. The Savior compared the kingdom, in other words the Church, to ten virgins, five of whom were wise and five of whom were foolish, and so we must not get the understanding that because we are members of the Church it is all well with us, and our salvation is secure, that is, our exaltation is secure. It is not so.

We must continue to the end; we must obey the commandments. We must keep the ordinances. We must receive covenants, sealings, the sealing power, and privileges which are obtained in the temple of the Lord, and then live in accordance with them. That we must do.


Only Tithepayers Can Enter The United Order. Does any man think that he can violate the law of tithing—the paying of one-tenth of his increase or income, and do this year after year, and then be prepared to enter into the “united order” and accept the full law of consecration, when Christ comes? Verily no! If a man will not pay tithing he shall not have the Privilege of entering into the higher law which belongs to the celestial kingdom. (D.C. 64:23.) The parable of the ten virgins presents the condition which shall prevail in the kingdom of heaven (Church) when Christ comes. Some will be ready through the performance of good works and obedience to the words of the Father, others will not be ready because they have failed, and they shall be shut out, where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Joseph Fielding Smith, “Predicted Judgments,” BYU 1967. Men will learn then to love the Lord and keep His commandments, and if they don’t they will not stay here.

Joseph Fielding Smith, Answers to Gospel Questions 5:145. “… a change will come over all who remain on the earth after it is cleansed.” . . . not resurrected.

Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation 3:56-57. Latter-day Saints believe that the day is near, even at the doors, when Christ shall make his appearance as the rightful ruler of the earth. When that time comes, the whole earth and all things which remain upon its face shall be changed, and “the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.” (A of F 10.) That means that the earth shall be brought back to a similar condition which prevailed when peace and righteousness ruled and before death entered with its awful stain of evil and destruction.

When that day comes wickedness must cease and every unclean creature shall be swept from the earth for they will not be able to endure the changed conditions.

All “element shall melt with fervent heat; and all things shall become new, that my knowledge and glory may dwell upon all the earth. And in that day the enmity of man, and enmity of the beasts, yea, the enmity of all flesh, shall cease from before my face.” (D&C 101:25-26; 2 Pet 3:10-14; Isa 11:6-9; 65:25.)
Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation* 3:58-60. It shall be in that day that the lion shall lie down with the lamb and eat straw as the ox, and all fear, hatred, and enmity shall depart from the earth because all things having hate in their hearts shall pass away; and there shall come a change, a change over men, a change over the beasts of the field, and upon all things living upon the face of the earth.

According to this word I have read there shall be harmony, and love, and peace, and righteousness because Satan is bound that he cannot tempt any man, and that will be the condition that shall be upon the earth for 1,000 years. Not only that, but men shall live free from sin and free from the ravages of disease and death until they reach the age of 100 years. Infants shall not die, they shall live until they have filled the measure of their mortal creation. In fact, mortality shall be reduced to a minimum.

**Temple Work by Mortals During Millennium.** However, there shall be mortality upon the face of the earth during the thousand years, because of the great work that is to be accomplished of salvation for the dead. During that thousand years of peace the great work of the Lord shall be in the temples, and into those temples the people shall go to labor for those who have passed beyond and who are waiting to have these ordinances which pertain to their salvation performed for them by those who still dwell in mortality upon the earth. And so there shall be mortal men, but they shall live from the time of birth until they are 100 years old and shall then be changed suddenly.

Men will have power over disease, and their bodies will become vigorous and strong, for it will be a new creation of all things when Christ shall come.

**Resurrection of Righteous at Beginning of Millennium.** Again, when the Lord comes, not only is this change going to come to the earth and to those who remain upon the earth, to the fish of the sea, to the fowl of the air, and the beasts upon the earth, but the graves are to be opened, and the righteous dead, they who have kept the commandments of the Lord, are going to come forth; they shall receive their resurrection no matter when they have lived.

All those who have died in Christ shall come forth from the dead at his coming and shall dwell upon the earth as Christ shall be upon the earth during this millennium. They shall not remain here all the time during the thousand years, but they will mingle with those who are still here in mortal life. These resurrected saints and the Savior himself, shall come to give instructions and guidance; to reveal unto us the things we ought to know; to give us information concerning the work which is essential to the salvation of worthy men.

It matters not so far as we are concerned whether we die before that day comes or are living on the earth, for if we die in righteousness we shall be raised in the resurrection of the just, and shall be caught up to meet Christ in the clouds of glory when he comes to take possession of the earth, as King of kings and Lord of lords. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is declared in the revelations of the Lord which are found in the Bible and the Doctrine and Covenants.

**Wicked Remain in Spirit Prison During Millennium.** However, if we have not kept the commandments of the Lord, if we have been unjust, and lovers of sin and our hearts have been set upon evil then we shall die and shall not live again until the thousand years are ended. [D&C 76:81-88; 98-112; 88:100-102.] It is decreed that the unrighteous shall have to spend their time during this thousand years in the prison house prepared for them where they can repent and cleanse themselves through the things which they shall suffer.

_Ibid._ 3:64. **Spread of Gospel During Millennium.** The gospel shall be taught far more intensely and with greater power during the millennium, until all the inhabitants of the earth shall embrace it. Satan shall be bound so that he cannot tempt any man. Should any man refuse to repent and accept the gospel under those conditions then he would be accursed. Through the revelations given to the prophets, we learn that during the reign of Jesus Christ for a thousand years eventually all people will embrace the truth.**

_Ibid._ 3:65-66. **Deceased Children to Choose Mates in Millennium.** We have people coming to us all the time just as fearful as they can be that a child of theirs who has died will lose the blessings of the kingdom of God unless that child is sealed to someone who is dead. They do not know the wishes of their child who died too young to think of marriage, but they want to go straight to the temple and have a sealing performed. Such a thing as this is unnecessary and in my judgment wrong.

The Lord has said through his servants that during the millennium those who have passed beyond and have attained the resurrection will reveal in person to those who are still in mortality all the information which is required to complete the work of these who have passed from this life. Then the dead will have the privilege of making known the things they desire and are entitled to receive. In this way no soul will be neglected and the work of the Lord will be perfected.

It is the duty of parents who have children who have died and who were old enough to be endowed, to go to the temple and perform this endowment for them. When you have done this, you may let the matter of further work rest, except the sealing of these children to their parents, until the proper time comes.**

When the thousand years are ended, Satan shall be loosed for a little season and wickedness shall return to the earth. Satan shall gather his forces and in anger attempt a vain effort to wrest the earth from Christ. Michael, the great prince, the archangel, who once graced the earth and was known as Adam, the father of the human family, shall fight the battles of the just and shall overcome. The last resurrection shall take place, and the rest of the dead, who had no place in the millennial reign shall be brought forth to the final judgment. All men shall be judged according to their works.

Then the end shall come and the earth shall pass away in death, but to be raised in the resurrection by which it shall be made a celestial body and the fit abode of celestial beings who shall dwell in the presence of God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ forever as priests and kings unto the Most High.

_Ibid._ 3:74-75. **Garden of Eden and City Zion Same Place.** In accord with the revelations given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, we teach that the Garden of Eden was on the American continent located where the City Zion, or the New Jerusalem, will be built. [D&C 57:1-3; 84:1-3.] When Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden, they eventually dwelt at a place called Adam-ondi-Ahman, situated in what is now Daviess County, Missouri. Three years before the death of Adam he called the righteous of his posterity at this place and blessed them, and it is at this place where Adam, or Michael, will sit as we read in the 7th chapter of Daniel.
If all the water was in one place, then naturally all the land was in one place; therefore, the shape of the earth, as to the water and the land surface, was not as we find it today. Then we read in Genesis that there came a time when the earth was divided. [Gen. 10:25] There are some people who believe that this simply means that the land surface was divided among the various tribes, but this is not the meaning; it was an actual dividing of the surface of the earth, and it was broken up as we find it now.

The Lord revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith that when he comes, as a part of the great restoration, this land surface will be brought back to its original form. When that time comes, the land of Zion (Western Hemisphere) and the land of Jerusalem, “shall be turned back into their own place, and the earth shall be like as it was in the days before it was divided.” (D&C 133:21-25). John saw this day when “every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.” [Rev 6:14; 16:20.]

Brigham Young. Other religions during the Millennium. *Journal of Discourses*, 2:316-317, July 8, 1855. Do you expect that every person will be destroyed from the face of the earth, but the Latter-day Saints? If you do, you will be mistaken. Many of our Elders labor under these erroneous expectations when reading over the sayings of the Apostles and Prophets in regard to the coming of the Son of Man. In one verse the Prophet will be describing the second coming previous to the commencement of the Millennium, and perhaps in the same verse he will describe a scene that will take place after the Millennium, and when the earth will be cleansed from all wickedness, after Satan has been let loose a little season, and had another tour upon it, and after it is renovated and becomes sanctified, and is like a sea of glass, as John describes it. Will this be in the Millennium? No. But the order of society will be as it is when Christ comes to reign a thousand years; there will be every sort of sect and party, and every individual following what he supposes to be the best in religion, and in everything else, similar to what it is now.

Will there be WICKEDNESS then as now? No. How will you make this appear? When Jesus comes to rule and reign King of Nations as he now does King of Saints, the veil of the covering will be taken from all nations, that all flesh may see his glory together, but that will not make them all Saints. Seeing the Lord does not make a man a Saint, seeing an Angel does not make a man a Saint by any means. A man may see the finger of the Lord, and not thereby become a Saint; the vail of the covering may be taken from before the nations, and all flesh see His glory together, and at the same time declare they will not serve Him. They may, perhaps, feel something as a woman in Missouri did, who had been driven four times, and when she was about to be driven again she said, “I will be damned if I will stand it any longer; if God wants me to go through such a routine of things, He may take me where He pleases, and do with me as He pleases; I won't stand it any longer.”

When the nations shall see the glory of God together, the spirit of their feelings may be couched in these words, “I will be damned if I will serve You.” In those days, the Methodists and Presbyterians, headed by their priests, will not be allowed to form into a mob to drive, kill, and rob the Latter-day Saints; neither will the Latter-day Saints be allowed to rise up and say, ”We will kill you Methodists, Presbyterians, &c.,” nor will any sects or parties of Christendom be allowed to persecute each other.

What will they do? They will hear of the wisdom of Zion, and the kings and potentates of the nations will come up to Zion to inquire after the ways of the Lord, and to seek out the great knowledge, wisdom, and understanding manifested through the Saints of the Host High. They will inform the people of God that they belong to such and such a Church, and do not wish to change their religion.

They will be drawn to Zion by the great wisdom displayed there, and will attribute it to the cunning and craftiness of men. It will be asked, “What do you want to do, ye strangers from afar.” “We want to live our own religion.” “Will you bow the knee before God with us?” “O yes, we would as soon do it as not;” and at that time every knee shall bow, and every tongue acknowledge that God who is the framer and maker of all things, the governor and controller of the universe. They will have to bow the knee and confess that He is God, and that Jesus Christ, who suffered for the sins of the world, is actually its Redeemer; that by the shedding of his blood he has redeemed men, women, children, beasts, birds, fish, the earth itself, and everything that John saw and heard praising in heaven.

They will ask, “If I bow the knee and confess that he is that Saviour, the Christ, to the glory of the Father, will you let me go home and be a Presbyterian?” “Yes.” “And not persecute me?” “Never.” “Won't you let me go home and belong to the Greek Church?” “Yes.” “Will you allow me to be a Friend Quaker, or a Shaking Quaker?” “O yes, anything you wish to be, but remember that you must not persecute your neighbors, but must mind your own business, and let your neighbors alone, and let them worship the sun, moon, a white dog, or anything else they please, being mindful that every knee has got to bow to and every tongue confess. When you have paid this tribute to the Most High, who created you and preserves you, you may then go and worship what you please, or do what you please, if you do not infringe upon your neighbors.”

The brethren who spoke this morning had not time to explain these points, and I have only just touched upon the subject.

The Church of Jesus Christ will produce this government, and cause it to grow and spread, and it will be a shield round about the Church. And under the influence and power of the Kingdom of God, the Church of God will rest secure and dwell in safety, without taking the trouble of governing and controlling the whole earth. The Kingdom of God will do this, it will control the kingdoms of the world.

When the day comes in which the Kingdom of God will bear rule, the flag of the United States will proudly flutter unsullied on the flag staff of liberty and equal rights, without a spot to sully its fair surface; the glorious flag our fathers have bequeathed to us will then be unfurled to the breeze by those who have power to hoist it aloft and defend its sanctity.

Up to this time we have carried the world on our backs. Joseph did it in his day, besides carrying this whole people, and now all this is upon my back, with my family to provide for at the same time, and we will carry it all, and...
bear off the Kingdom of God. And you may pile on state after state, and kingdom after kingdom, and all hell on top, and we will roll on the Kingdom of our God, gather out the seed of Abraham, build the cities and temples of Zion, and establish the Kingdom of God to bear rule over all the earth, and let the oppressed of all nations go free.

Brigham Young. Kingdom of God to protect religious freedom. *Journal of Discourses* 6:345, July 31, 1859. Jehovah has decreed and plainly foretold the establishment of his kingdom upon this earth; and it will prove to me a shield to the ordinances of his house, in the endowments, and in all the gifts and graces of the Spirit of God with which the Priesthood, so to speak, is clothed. The municipal laws of that kingdom are designed for the protection of all classes of people in their legitimate rights; and were it now in its fullness upon the earth, and the New Jerusalem built upon this continent, which is the land of Zion, and Latter-day Saints would not alone enjoy its blessings, but all denominations and communities would be alike protected in their rights, whether they worshipped the Supreme Author of our existence, or the sun, or the moon, or, as do some of our aborigines, a white dog; and none will be permitted to infringe upon their neighbours, though every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Christ. The Hindoos would have the privilege of erecting their temples and of worshipping as they pleased; but they would not be permitted to compel other worshippers to conform to their mode of worship, nor to burn their companions upon the funeral pyre; for that would interfere with individual rights.

The kingdom of God will be extended over the earth; and it is written, “I will make thine officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness.” Is that day ever coming? It is; and the doctrine we preach leads to that point. Even now the form of the Government of the United States differs but little from that of the kingdom of God.

*Discourses of Brigham Young*, pg. 114-115. Jesus has been upon the earth a great many more times than you are aware of. When Jesus makes his next appearance upon the earth, but few of this Church will be prepared to receive him and see him face to face and converse with him; but he will come to his temple. Will he remain and dwell upon the earth a thousand years, without returning? He will come here, and return to his mansions where he dwells with his Father, and come again to the earth, and again return to his Father, according to my understanding. Then angels will come and begin to resurrect the dead, and the Savior will also raise the dead, and they will receive the keys of the resurrection, and will begin to assist in that work. Will the wicked know of it? They will know just as much about that as they now know about “Mormonism,” and no more.

*Ibid*. pg. 115. The Millennium consists in this—every heart in the Church and Kingdom of God being united in one; the Kingdom increasing to the overcoming of everything opposed to the economy of heaven, and Satan being bound, and having a seal set upon him. All things else will be as they are now, we shall eat, drink, and wear clothing.

*Ibid*. pg. 115. When all nations are so subdued to Jesus that every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess, there will be millions on the earth who will not believe in him; but they will be obliged to acknowledge his kingly government.
to be present at the marriage supper of the Lamb.—JD
22:208, January 9, 1881.

Wilford Woodruff, JD18:110. Sept. 12, 1875. The parable of
the ten virgins is intended to represent the second
coming of the Son of man, the coming of the Bridegroom
to meet the bride, the Church, the Lamb's wife, in the last
days; and I expect that the Savior was about right when
he said, in reference to the members of the Church, that
five of them were wise and five were foolish; for when
the Lord of heaven comes in power and great glory to
reward every man according to the deeds done in the
body, if he finds one-half of those professing to be
members of his Church prepared for salvation, it will be
as many as can be expected, judging by the course that
many are pursuing.

Spencer W. Kimball, The Miracle of Forgiveness, pg. 7-8.
There are even many members of the Church who are lax
and careless and who continually procrastinate. They live
the gospel casually but not devoutly. They have complied
with some requirements but are not valiant. They do no
major crime but merely fail to do the things
required—things like paying tithing, living the Word of
Wisdom, having family prayers, fasting, attending
meetings, serving. Perhaps they do not consider such
omissions to be sins, yet these were the kinds of things of
which the five foolish virgins of Jesus' parable were
probably guilty.

The ten virgins belonged to the kingdom and had
every right to the blessings—except that five were not
valiant and were not ready when the great day came.
They were unprepared through not living all the
commandments. They were bitterly disappointed at
being shut out from the marriage—as likewise their
modern counterparts will be.

One Church member of my acquaintance said, as she
drank her coffee: "The Lord knows my heart is right and
that I have good intentions, and that I will someday get
the strength to quit." But will one receive eternal life on
the basis of his good intentions? Can one enter a country,
receive a scholastic degree, and so on, on the strength of
his good intentions? Can one enter a country,
receive a scholastic degree, and so on, on the strength of
his good intentions? The Lord will not translate one's good
hopes and desires and intentions into works. Each of us must
do that for himself.

Spencer W. Kimball, Faith Precedes the Miracle, pg. 253-
257. He gave us another parable of being always
prepared. It is the parable of the Ten Virgins, a powerful
warning to all men....

I believe that the Ten Virgins represent the people of
the Church of Jesus Christ and not the rank and file of the
world. All of the virgins, wise and foolish, had accepted
the invitation to the wedding supper; they had
knowledge of the program and had been warned of the
important day to come. They were not the gentiles or the
heathens or the pagans, nor were they necessarily corrupt
and reprobate, but they were knowing people who were
foolishly unprepared for the vital happenings that were
to affect their eternal lives.

They had the saving, exalting gospel, but it had not
been the center of their lives. They knew the way
but gave only a small measure of loyalty and devotion. I
ask you: What value is a car without an engine, a cup
without water, a table without food, a lamp without oil?

Rushing for their lamps to light their way through the
blackness, half of them found them empty. They had
cheated themselves. They were fools, these five unprepared
virgins. Apparently, the bridegroom had tarried for
reasons that were sufficient and good. Time had passed,
and he had not come. They had heard of his coming for so
long, so many times, that the statement seemingly became
meaningless to them. Would he ever come? So long had it
been since they began expecting him that they were
rationalizing that he would never appear. Perhaps it was a
myth.

Hundreds of thousands of us today are in this
position. Confidence has been dulled and patience worn
thin. It is so hard to wait and be prepared always. But we
cannot allow ourselves to slumber. The Lord has given us
this parable as a special warning.

The coming of the Lord is nigh. And there are many
among us who are not ready for the great and glorious
event. Of such the Lord said:
"And that servant, which knew his Lord's will, and
prepared not himself, neither did according to his will,
shall be beaten with many stripes.
"But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy
of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto
whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:
and to whom men have committed much, of him they will
ask the more. (Lk 12:47-48.)

Bruce R. McConkie, The Mortal Messiah, 3:473-474. This is
the day of judgment for the saints of the Most High. For
them the judgment is set and the books are opened. Their
destiny is to be determined on the basis of their
early works. This is the great day of division in the
Church, the sheep being divided from the goats, the one
group going to the right hand of honor, the other to the left
hand of disgrace. It is the story of the ten virgins all over
again—five wise, five foolish—half of whom entered the
house and sat at the marriage feast and half of whom were
locked out because they never knew the Bridegroom.

Bruce R. McConkie, Doctrinal New Testament Commentary
3:112. [2 Tim 3:7]. The millennium will not be ushered in
because men repent and turn to God, or because mankind
generally becomes more upright and wholesome. Sin and
evil shall increase from day to day until the Lord comes;
every form of corruption shall exceed its counterpart of the
past, until the cup of iniquity shall be full. Then the Lord
shall return to cleanse the vineyard and the wicked shall be
destroyed.

Orson Pratt, JD 21:203-204, Nov 12, 1879. There is one thing
connect with the temporal form of the earth which I did not
mention; I will refer to it now. While this earth existed in its
more perfect temporal form, Adam and Eve were placed
upon it, and they were immortal, just like all the beasts and
just like the fishes of the sea; death had not yet come upon
any of them; all things were immortal so far as this creation
was concerned. The first pairs, the beginning of his
temporal work, were not subject to death. And another
thing, they were not to be shut out from the presence of the
Almighty. They could behold his countenance, they could
hear his voice. Those who then existed could converse with
him freely. There was no veil between them and the Lord.

Now, when the more perfect temporal condition shall
be restored again, in the last of his work, and the Lord shall
begin to remodel this earth, to transfigure it, and get it
prepared for the righteous, the veil will be taken away, in a
measure; we shall behold the face of the Lord again; we
shall be able to associate with immortal beings again; and we shall be able to enjoy a great many blessings that were introduced in the beginning, which were lost through the fall.

The Lord Jesus Christ will be here, a part of the time, to instruct us, and those ancient patriarchs, Adam included, will come down out of their ancient celestial world, where they were first made spiritual. They are coming upon this creation; and they will have their homesteads here; and they will frequently, no doubt, take great joy in gathering together their faithful children, from the day of their own probation to the one hundredth generation. It will be some pleasure for one of our ancestors that was born a hundred years ago to say, “Come, my children, you that are here in the flesh that have not as yet become immortal, you that dwell upon the face of this earth, partially redeemed—come, I have some glorious tidings to communicate to you. I have something that you are not in possession of, knowledge you have not gained, because we have been up in yonder celestial world; we have been dwelling in the presence of our Father and God. We were restored there in the dispensation in which we died and in which we were translated, and we have learned a great many things that the children of mortality do not know anything about. Come, gather yourselves together, that you may behold your former fathers, your fathers’ fathers and so on, until you extend back for a hundred generations. Hear the instructions that they shall impart to you. They will tell you about the celestial kingdom, and the higher glory thereof, and the blessings that are to be enjoyed by those that attain to the fulness of that kingdom.”

Will not this be encouraging to those that are yet mortal, during the millennium? I think it will. Then will the knowledge of the fathers, the knowledge of the earth, and of the things of God, and the knowledge of that which is celestial, and great, and glorious, and far beyond the comprehension of imperfect beings as we now are in our fallen state—then that knowledge will be opened up to the minds of the children of men, during their respective generations here upon the earth, during the great sabbath of creation.

What is all this for? It is to prepare their children, during the millennium that they may have this earth made celestial, like unto the more ancient one, that they, with this creation, may be crowned with the presence of God the Father, and his Son Jesus Christ. We gain this knowledge and information by degrees. Our children are educated and taught, until the heavens become familiar with them; the Lord becomes familiar with them; his countenance becomes familiar to all the righteous of the earth.

Before we can fully understand the nature of a still greater change than that which has been wrought upon the temporal creation, during the millennium, we begin to expect it, and look for it, and bye and bye, when evil fruit again appears in the Lord’s vineyard, and the earth is corrupted by the sons of perdition, and some of his people begin to reject the heavenly light and deny their God,—when this period of time shall come the earth will be spared only for a little season, and the end will come, and the great white throne will appear, and God will sit upon the throne, and utter forth his voice and our temporal heaven will flee away; and this earth although it will be so greatly blessed, although it is so far redeemed, although it is inhabited by the righteous for a thousand years, yet, because it will become contaminated, and because it has been so corrupted in the past, in consequence of the fall of man, it will have to die and undergo a greater change, than all those changes of which I have spoken.

Encyclopedia of Mormonism, Vol.3, PARABLES. Other references further link Christ’s parables to the latter-day Church. The JST version of the parable of the ten virgins (Matt. 25:1-13) begins, “At that day, before the Son of man comes, the kingdom of heaven shall be likened unto ten virgins” (JST, Matt. 25:1).

The Doctrine and Covenants also refers to this parable: At “the coming of the Son of Man…there will be foolish virgins among the wise; and at that hour cometh an entire separation of the righteous and the wicked” (D&C 63:53-54; cf. 45:56-57). Of the parable of the mustard seed (Matt. 13:31-32), “the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs” (Matt. 13:32), Joseph Smith wrote, “Now we can discover plainly that this figure is given to represent the Church as it shall come forth in the last days” (TPJS, p. 98).

D&C 76:106. The millennium is part of Dispensation of the Fulness of Times.