Elders to be called home

M. Catherine Thomas, “Using the Book of Mormon to Face the Tests Ahead” Chapter 2 in Robert L. Millet, Watch and Be Ready —

President Heber C. Kimball was quoted later with respect to the intensity of the tests:

“The judgments of God will be poured out upon the wicked, to the extent that our elders from far and near will be called home; or in other words, the Gospel will be taken from the gentiles, and later on will be carried to the Jews.

“The western boundaries of the State of Missouri will be swept so clean of its inhabitants that as President Young tells us, ‘when we return to that place there will not be as much as a yellow dog to wag his tail.’

"Before that day comes, however, the Saints will be put to the test that will try the very best of them.

"The pressure will become so great that the righteous among us will cry unto the Lord day and night until deliverance comes. . . .

“Then is the time to look out for the great sieve, for there will be a great sifting time, and many will fall.” [J. Golden Kimball, in Conference Report, Oct. 1930, 59–60.]

Gerald Lund, Coming of the Lord, 42–43 —

The plagues, the famines, the thunderings and lightnings, the hail and the earthquakes are all necessary, for the children of men will not otherwise heed the warning voice of the Lord. In these times of chaos and catastrophes which are coming, the missionaries of the Church will be called home, and the Lord will preach his own sermons to the people.

Both Heber C. Kimball and Brigham Young taught that the calling home of the missionaries was a literal event and one of the signs of the times.

“The judgments of God will be poured out upon the wicked to the extent that our elders from far and near will be called home. Or, in other words, the gospel will be taken from the Gentiles and later on will be carried to the Jews.” [Heber C. Kimball, Deseret News, Church Department, May 23, 1931, p. 3.]

“Do you think there is calamity abroad now among the people? Not much. All we have yet heard and all we have experienced is scarcely a preface to the sermon that is going to be preached. When the testimony of the Elders ceases to be given, and the Lord says to them, “Come home; I will now preach my own sermons to the nations of the earth,” all you now know can scarcely be called a preface to the sermon that will be preached with fire and sword, tempests, earthquakes, hail, rain, thunders and lightnings, and fearful destruction. What matters the destruction of a few railway cars? You will hear of magnificent cities, now idolized by the people, sinking in the earth, entombing the inhabitants. The sea will heave itself beyond its bounds, engulfing mighty cities. Famine will spread over the nations, and nation will rise up against nation, kingdom against kingdom, and states against states, in our own country and in foreign lands.” [Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Vol. 8, p. 123, July 15, 1860.]
J. Golden Kimball, Conference Report, October 1930 —

I claim not to be a prophet, but I am a son of a prophet, and I expect to give you evidence—whether you question the truth of it or not—that shall be left with you—that Heber C. Kimball was a prophet of God. President Brigham Young on more than one occasion said: “Heber is my prophet, and I love to hear him prophesy.”

In May, 1868—that is sixty-two years ago—he said: …

“The judgments of God will be poured out upon the wicked, to the extent that our elders from far and near will be called home; or in other words, the Gospel will be taken from the gentiles, and later on will be carried to the Jews.”