

UPWARD THOUGHT

SEARCH



Explaining the prophecies and the scriptures to all who desire to bear them. (Mosiah 27:35-36)

God's purposes in calamities

By Rob · March 18, 2020

As parents, our task is to maximize their understanding of principles for success in life by the time they reach 18. While we have the duty to protect them from the vicissitudes of

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life on their own until they are ready to handle them, preparing them requires us to incrementally expose them to more. We attempt, through patient persuasion, to teach them principles of success at increasing levels of complexity. We hope they listen to us based on their faith alone in us, but also know the day will come when they will learn, whether through precept or sad experience, that what we teach them is the path of greatest happiness and minimal sorrow.

destruction of USA
disasters
repentance

So it is with God.

He is showing us what aspects of our society, economy, and culture can't withstand reality--things that happen on this earth. He is shaking and destroying the things that don't endure

(D&C 132:14). This doesn't happen all at once. It has aspects that seem momentarily extreme, but this is a slow-burn process. The current coronavirus crisis is not the first, and it won't be the last.

In a moment, he has taken away churches, sports, public school, Walmart, Amazon, grocery stores, many jobs, government power, and modern healthcare. He has shown in a moment he has shown why he said not to live in cities (see Isaiah 5:8), not to rely on the government to save you (Isaiah 31:1 and Matthew 22:19-21), or to lean on man-made systems (2 Nephi 4:34 and Isaiah 42:3).

When things get bad, people become religious. Though they think they believe in Jesus, their

activities are closer to pagan religion than Christianity. You see, what distinguishes pagan gods from the God of Abraham is that while pagans win their gods' favor through sacrifices and pleading, the God of Abraham is the same from eternity to all eternity, with no shadow of turning, being no respector of persons. In other words, the God of Abraham operates through cause and effect. He operates through law. He is not arbitrary. He does not respond to sacrifice, but rather obedience:

"...Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord?
Obedience is better than sacrifice,
a listening ear than the fat of rams." (1 Samuel
15:22, Modern English Version)

God's purpose in sending calamities is **not** to cause people to cower to him, but rather to show them why his laws are given, and how they direct us to the greatest possible happiness given how things really are. Just as a child living in a house is not experiencing things how they really are, the USA living in the hollow of his hand was not experiencing things as they really are. Now he is exposing us to how things are, and he is not nearly done.

God has sent messages of warning, but you didn't listen to him when he did. You were instructed on what will happen in our day. <http://latterdaydestruction.blogspot.com/> You were warned in concise, practical terms how to prepare yourself temporally (for

example, [here](#) and [here](#)).

When you ignore what God says, then--while
still in willful disobedience to him--plead for him
to help, you openly mock him and deserve
exactly what you get:

"'What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me
[without your repentance]?'
Says the Lord.

'I have had enough of [your] burnt offerings of
rams

And the fat of well-fed cattle [without your
obedience];

And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls or
lambs or goats [offered without repentance].'"

(Isaiah 1:11, Amplified Version)

He warned you before you could see it coming, and you ignored him. Now that exactly what he said would happen is happening, you go to him asking for him to spare you of exactly what you chose.

For generations, the first world (and American in particular) has been blessed with greater temporal wealth than any other group of people in the history of the world. By a longshot. What did you do with those extra resources? Did you spend your unprecedented discretionary time and money to seek God, study his word, and help others? Did you help the poor more than previous generations? Did you responsibly sacrifice the future to get ahead in order to have more resources to help others? Did you even bother to crack open your scriptures?

Did you not think you would be held accountable for what God gave you? Where much is given, much is expected. Did you think God was giving you unprecedented blessings because you had earned them more than previous generations?

1 And thus we can behold how false, and also the unsteadiness of the hearts of the children of men; yea, we can see that the Lord in his great infinite goodness doth bless and prosper those who put their trust in him.

2 Yea, and we may see at the very time when he doth prosper his people, yea, in the increase of their fields, their flocks and their herds, and in gold, and in silver, and in all manner of precious things of every kind and art; sparing their lives,

and delivering them out of the hands of their enemies; softening the hearts of their enemies that they should not declare wars against them; yea, and in fine, doing all things for the welfare and happiness of his people; yea, then is the time that they do harden their hearts, and do forget the Lord their God, and do trample under their feet the Holy One—yea, and this because of their ease, and their exceedingly great prosperity.

3 And thus we see that except the Lord doth chasten his people with many afflictions, yea, except he doth visit them with death and with terror, and with famine and with all manner of pestilence, they will not remember him.

4 O how foolish, and how vain, and how evil, and devilish, and how quick to do iniquity, and how slow to do good, are the children of men; yea,

how quick to hearken unto the words of the evil one, and to set their hearts upon the vain things of the world!

5 Yea, how quick to be lifted up in pride; yea, how quick to boast, and do all manner of that which is iniquity; and how slow are they to remember the Lord their God, and to give ear unto his counsels, yea, how slow to walk in wisdom's paths!

6 Behold, they do not desire that the Lord their God, who hath created them, should rule and reign over them; notwithstanding his great goodness and his mercy towards them, they do set at naught his counsels, and they will not that he should be their guide.

7 O how great is the nothingness of the children of men; yea, even they are less than the dust of the earth.

...

23 Therefore, blessed are they who will repent and hearken unto the voice of the Lord their God; for these are they that shall be saved.

24 And may God grant, in his great fulness, that men might be brought unto repentance and good works, that they might be restored unto grace for grace, according to their works.

25 And I would that all men might be saved. But we read that in the great and last day there are some who shall be cast out, yea, who shall be cast off from the presence of the Lord;

26 Yea, who shall be consigned to a state of endless misery, fulfilling the words which say: They that have done good shall have everlasting life; and they that have done evil shall have everlasting damnation. And thus it is. Amen.

(Helaman 12)

You wasted great opportunity. Now it is time to do the best you can to repent and return to God.

For some, that will mean walking in sackcloth and ashes until they die. The best you can do is face death with perfect trust in him. Others will be granted a longer lease of life before they return to God. Hopefully you will turn your heart to the welfare of others and make the most of what time remains for you. Still others will live long enough to see God's marvelous work and wonder unfold. Still others will live to see Christ return.

No matter God's plan for you, trust him completely. Obey him perfectly. Seek all he will give you.

His judgments upon this country are underway. They will continue to roll in like a tide that continuously rises. What you are experiencing is not the end nor is it the beginning. There WILL be more disease. There WILL be famine. There WILL be invasion by a foreign power, and many survivors will be taken captive. God will shake this country until all who remain obey all of his commandments. God has spoken it, and it will not be turned away until he has made a full consumption of this country.

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