

Education and Skills

(Priest Lesson November 2014 – Roald Peterson)

Few Men Will Survive the Last Days

- As we enter the days of cleansing we need to keep in mind that they will not last forever. When the cleansing is over, the dust and smoke will clear and the New Jerusalem will be built by those who have become Zion in their hearts. Let's read an interesting Scripture about that day.

(2 Nephi 14:1) And in that day, seven women shall take hold of one man, saying: We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel; only let us be called by thy name to take away our reproach.

- This may or may not be literal, but it is certainly metaphorical (symbolic). There will be many more women left than men. How many more? A lot. Let me read you Isaiah's words about that time.

(Isaiah 13:11–12) 11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

12 I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

- ? What will happen to the men, that there are so few left?

(2 Nephi 13:25) Thy men shall fall by the sword and thy mighty in the war.

- ? Why will they fall in the war and by the sword?

- Because they have rejected the fullness of the gospel and sinned against the lesser gospel. (3Nephi 16:10)
- Because they are not wise virgins.

(D&C 45:56–59) 56 And at that day, when I shall come in my glory, shall the parable be fulfilled which I spake concerning the ten virgins.

57 For they that are wise and have **received the truth**, and have **taken the Holy Spirit for their guide**, and **have not been deceived**—verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire, but shall abide the day.

58 And the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance; and they shall multiply and wax strong, and their children shall grow up without sin unto salvation.

59 For the Lord shall be in their midst, and his glory shall be upon them, and he will be their king and their lawgiver.

Men are Abdicating Their Responsibility

- In Pres. Hinckley's last talk in general priesthood meeting he discussed some alarming statistics. Most education, especially advanced education, is now being obtained by women. Men have fallen seriously behind in pursuing learning.
- Many think knowledge is not essential to their salvation.
- There are many in the church who avoid studying and discussing deeper doctrines and say that it is **not essential to their salvation**. I've heard that

many times in the high Priest group – in between the snoring. How do you know what is essential to your salvation, and to the fulfilling of your mission here, until you have accomplished both? These are many of the same people who spend hours every week watching television. Presumably, TV shows are essential to their salvation.

If Ye Were Children of Abraham...

- Many people think that membership in the church is sufficient to save them, that being part of a special group is somehow the same as personal righteousness. That is being deceived. In the time of Jesus, many of the Jews felt the same way. They thought that being descendants of Abraham was sufficient to save them.

(John 8:39) 39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

- What's really amazing is that being the children of Abraham will save us.
- How do we become the children of Abraham?

- By being born in his lineage? That may provide us with special opportunities but it will not make us Abraham's children in the end.

- As the Savior said, only those who do the works of Abraham are considered his children.

- ? What are the works of Abraham?

(Abraham 1:1–2) 1 In the land of the Chaldeans, at the residence of my fathers, I, Abraham, saw that it was needful for me to obtain another place of residence;

2 And, finding there was greater happiness and peace and rest for me, I sought for the blessings of the fathers, and the right whereunto I should be ordained to administer the same; having been myself a follower of righteousness, **desiring also to be one who possessed great knowledge**, and to be a greater follower of righteousness, and **to possess a greater knowledge**, and to be a father of many nations, a prince of peace, and desiring to receive instructions, and to keep the commandments of God, I became a rightful heir, a High Priest, holding the right belonging to the fathers.

- ? Is astronomy essential to your salvation?

- It was for Abraham. (See facsimile 3 and Abraham chapter 3).

Principle of intelligence

(D&C 130:18-19) 18 Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection.

19 And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come.

- Introduce to meaning of intelligence and discuss what principle of intelligence really means.