

December Week #1 Devotionals and Consideration



Revelation 19:9

And He saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And He saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Christmas is a time that we give consideration to the birth of our Savior. When I read the prophecies in the Old Testament concerning His birth I wonder, why were there not more people awaiting the arrival of the King? It almost went unnoticed. The wise men were really the only ones actively searching for Him.

Matthew 3:1, 10-11 Behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, ...and lo, the star which they saw in the east, went before them, until it came and stood over where the young child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child, with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshiped him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Have you ever wondered why not one person, other than the wise men, was actively engaged? There are several reasons we can consider:

1. As time went by, some people just forgot the prophecies.
2. Many of the Jews completely misunderstood them.
3. Others had given up hope for their fulfillment and said, "It's been too long."

4. Some still believed, but did not think it would happen in their day.
5. I suppose some just did not care.
6. I am sure there was a core group that believed, but was too busy with the demands of daily life to actively wait/seek for him.

Is it not the same today concerning "His Second Coming?" Do you fall into one of the above categories? When He comes again there is going to be a great celebration called "The Marriage Supper of the Lamb." Those who are prepared and have on their wedding garments will be a part of that great celebration. Don't you want to be a part of that group who are blessed to be called into the marriage supper? Are you anxiously and actively engaged in awaiting His arrival?

Ether 5:41 And now I would commend you to seek this Jesus of whom the prophets and apostles have written, that the grace of God the Father, and also the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of them, may be, and abide in you forever. Amen.

In Hebrew, the word "WAIT" is not a passive word; it means "to expect, to gather together, to look for, to patiently look." When you are expecting

an important visitor, as you wait for that time/day, you take action; you prepare yourself and your home. You are active—going about cleaning and cooking, making everything ready. You don't want to be caught unaware. Are you actively awaiting the arrival of the King? The wise men were actively awaiting Him, not sitting, but looking for Him, going forth doing what they could. What can you do to await the king? What can you do to assure that you will have a place in this great celebration, **EVEN THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB?**

Remember, Wise Men and Women Still Actively Seek/Wait for Him!!



Also See: [Isaiah 25:9](#), [Matthew 22:1-14](#), [D&C 45:10 b-d](#), [63:13](#), [58:1-3](#), and [58:6d-I](#), [D&C 59:1-5](#), [D&C 64:5a-b](#) and [7-8](#), [D&C 26:1-3](#)

There are promises given to those who wait upon the Lord. This one from Isaiah is so meaningful.

[Isaiah 40:31](#) But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Are you weary, are you fainting and weak? Then get busy seeking and working/waiting for the Lord's return. He promises to renew your strength. I know this promise to be true, as just this last summer as I contemplated being Women's Leader for one more year, I was weary and felt faint. Yet, as I set out to work for the Lord in this capacity, a great renewal came to me. I was lifted up, my strength renewed; I was invigorated, and no longer felt faint.

My sisters of the church, Zion awaits us if we will but rise up and seek to serve, seek to prepare ourselves for the return of our King.

Prepare yourselves for the Marriage Supper!

December Week #2 Devotionals and Consideration



Hymn: "Admonition"

Time is ripe, My work must hasten! Who so will, may bide the hour. Naught can harm whom God protecteth, elements confess His power. Up ye, then, to the high places I have bid you occupy! Peril waits upon the heedless, Grace upon the souls who try.

The hymns we are considering are not scripture, but, here again I must say they are inspired works. The beginning statement in this verse, "Time is ripe," is an important statement. There is a time for things to be ripe, to come to fruition. In the meridian of time it was prophesied that Jesus would come.

Genesis 6:60 ...and the name of his Only Begotten is the son of Man, even Jesus Christ, a righteous judge, who shall come in the meridian of time.

As that time drew near, all was in place. The events surrounding that prophecy were ripe, ready to be fulfilled and it was time for the Son of God to be born into the world. The Jews, as a people, overlooked His coming.

D&C 39:1a Hearken and listen to the voice of Him who is from all eternity to all eternity, the great I AM, even Jesus Christ, the light and the life of the world; a light which shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not; 1b the same which came in the meridian of time unto My own, and My own received Me not;

The Jews did not understand the prophecies pertaining to their day. Let

us not be like them. Hopefully we can recognize the day and time we live in. We live in the time called the Last Days.

D&C 1:1d ...and the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of My disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days.

In our day and age, which is, "The Last Days," the words of this hymn warn us that the time is at hand for His Second Coming. Events in the world are ripe and many prophecies are being fulfilled right before our eyes.

We are moving ever closer to the return of our Lord and Savior. The song reminds us that, "My work must Hasten." It is the hastening time.

D&C 135:2b The hastening time is here and greater unity than ever before is necessary if the forces of opposition are to be met;

Also, the word "BIDE" in the second sentence is very important. Webster's Dictionary tells us, "BIDE" means:

1. Abide, Wait for, and Endure, Permanent.

2. So to “bide the hour” means we will be permanent in our waiting, not giving up, but enduring all trials, never wavering from our fixed course.

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Sometimes terrible trials do come upon us, but when that happens we are to “bide the hour” and hold steady—believing in all the promises of our God and trusting Him. He has promised to wipe all tears from our eyes and restore all things.

Psalms 23:3 He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Isaiah 58:12 And they that shall be of Thee shall build the old waste places; Thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and Thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

We even have the promise that those we have lost in death will one day soon be restored to us. What joy we have to look forward to at that great day.

D&C 108:10d And the graves of the saints shall be opened, and they shall come forth and stand on the right hand of the Lamb, when He shall stand upon Mount Zion, and upon the holy city,

Also See: **Genesis 7:73, Omni 1:47, 1 John 3:24, John 15:1-16, D&C 28:2-3, D&C 38:1-2, D&C 33:1e-2**

the New Jerusalem, and they shall sing the song of the Lamb day and night for ever and ever.

So hold firm, dear sisters, in your hour of trial, and continue to eagerly await the Second Coming of our King!

During this Christmas season let us not just rejoice in the story of His birth, but look forward with joy, and wait expectantly for His return when all His Promises will be fulfilled in our lives.

Alma 17:48 For He will fulfill all His promises which He shall make unto you, for He has fulfilled His promises which He has made unto our fathers.

He is the great restorer and the Christmas story is just the beginning. There is more to the story. Just think, we have the great privilege to live in a special time, called the “Last Days,” a time when we have the opportunity to be active participants in the end part of the story, even “Zion and Christ’s Return to the earth as King of Kings.”

May we endure and abide the hour and prepare ourselves for that most glorious day.

Let us Rejoice in the Christmas season looking forward to that which is yet to come!!

December Week #3 Devotionals and Consideration



Hymn: "Let Us Pray for One Another"

Pray in faith and pray unceasing, To the God we love and trust, For our prayers are much availing, If we walk upright and just; Be not weary of exhorting; Heed the lessons of each day; and that we may be unwavering, for each other let us pray.

We can pray in faith and pray unceasing because Jesus Christ, our Savior, whose birth we celebrate this time of year, lives!

D&C 76:3g And, now, after the many testimonies which have been given of Him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of Him, that He lives; for we saw Him, even on the right hand of God;

Death could not hold Him. He dwells in the heavens and hears our prayers and answers them.

The line to heaven is never busy and I promise — you have instant messaging and text, too. If you write out a prayer to Him it's like a text, it goes right to him; of course, no cell phone is needed. If you even think a prayer, it goes to Him. Prayer really is instant messaging!

No prayer goes unanswered.

Psalms 40:1 I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

He always answers us. We all love those "yes" answers, but sometimes, like any good parent, He

has to tell us no, or, wait awhile. Then our faith is tested.

1 Peter 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ;

In your time of testing or trial hold firm, and remember He is your "Loving Heavenly Father." Continue to pray unto Him.

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

He is the God we love and trust, because He is Powerful, Pure, Holy, Unchanging, Loving and Faithful. He is so caring He even knows when one hair falls from your head. You can trust Him for all.

Matthew 10:27 And the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not, therefore; ye are of more value than many sparrows.

This year as you celebrate Christmas, as one Christmas card read, "Remember the Baby in the Manger, but Rejoice in the Gift of the Savior." Don't forget the baby is now a Great King and

the “King is Coming,” and we must be ready for His return. So in all the busyness of this season, take time to worship Him, take time to pray, make Him the center of your celebration. Don’t be like the innkeeper who had no room for the King.

Luke 2:7 And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was none to give room for them in the inns.

Pray, Fast, Prepare your Heart so that if He came today you would have room for Him!

Do not be disheartened if you have to wait awhile for your prayers to be answered. God hears your prayers and He will answer them in due time.

Also See: James 5:16, D&C 85:16a-f, D&C 95:1a, D&C 4:1b, D&C 26:3d-g, Psalms 66:19, Psalms 66:20, Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6, 1 Peter 3:12

Your prayers are powerful and they come up before God as a sweet incense. Your prayers are important and they are sweet unto Him.

Let us continue to pray for one another and be unwavering in our prayer life.

Revelation 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

December Week #4 Devotionals and Consideration



D&C 85:36c

That your incomings may be in the name of the Lord; that your outgoings may be in the name of the Lord; that all your salutations may be in the name of the Lord, with uplifted hands unto the Most High.

What if, during this Christmas season, all you do would be done in the name of the Lord? What if we carried that on into the coming year? Do you ever think, "Today I want everything I do to be done in the name of the Lord?"

D&C 77:2a And now, verily thus saith the Lord, It is expedient that all things be done unto My glory.

Are there things in your life that are not Godly, that do not glorify His Holy Name, that are not done in His name? Let us examine ourselves and our activities. This coming year is about being transformed and changed. Will you try to change, to come up to a higher spiritual level?

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is.

When our children were little we always had a family Christmas worship where we each thought about some spiritual improvement in our life—to give as a gift to the Christ. Then we wrote it down and put the papers in little individual gift boxes and they were

packed away until the next Christmas. The next year we would open them and see how we did. Sometimes it made you feel good, for you had stayed true to the offered gift. Other times you realized you had fallen short and you did not feel so good and knew you needed to try harder. Change that involves spiritual growth is always hard, but we must try and not give up.

II Peter 3:13 Nevertheless, if we shall endure, we shall be kept according to His promise. And we look for a new heaven, and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent, that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless...

18 But grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

It is so easy to just stay where we are and become complacent, but if we ask the Lord to assist us, in our change and spiritual growth, He will. He has great blessings just waiting for us, if we will but come up to a higher level.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

One year my gift was to pray more and learn to communicate better with my Heavenly Father. The Lord certainly assisted me, for in January I was asked to teach for six weeks on prayer for our women's group. I had never taught on prayer. Each week as I studied on prayer the good Spirit would rest upon me and my mind was enlightened. What a blessing this proved to be for me. The truth is that whatever gift, "spiritual improvement," we choose to give the Christ **it is really a blessing to us, is it not?**

Mosiah 1:56 And He never doth vary from that which He hath said; therefore, if ye do keep His commandments, He doth bless you, and prosper you.

Maybe the best gift we can offer to the Christ Child this coming year is a life where all our activities are such that it can be said they were done in the

name of the Lord. What a challenge to make all our incomings, outgoings and salutations—all in the name of the Lord. All given with uplifted hands, or, in other words with "Joyful Worship."

The Three Wise Men brought Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, to the Christ Child. What gift will you offer to Him, who came and died for your sins?

Matthew 3:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child, with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshiped him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

This coming week, consider what Gift you will offer to the Christ this Christmas.

Plan a time when your family can worship together and offer your gifts to the Christ Child.

Also See: D&C 59:2f-2g, 3 Nephi 11:6, 1 Peter 1-5, D&C 46:9b, D&C 50: 7e, D&C 53:2a, D&C 59:2a, D&C 85:16-18, D&C 87:6e and 8d, D&C 59:2e