

A HAVEN IN A WORLD OF TURMOIL
by Vaughn J. Featherstone

The season of the world before us will be like no other in the history of mankind. Satan has unleashed every evil, every scheme, every blatant, vile perversion ever known to man in any generation. Just as this is the dispensation of the fulness of times, so it is also the dispensation of the fulness of evil. We and our wives and husbands, our children, and our members must find safety. There is no safety in the world; wealth cannot provide it, enforcement agencies cannot assure it, membership in this Church alone cannot bring it.

As the evil night darkens upon this generation, we must come to the temple for light and safety. In our temples we find quiet, sacred havens where the storm cannot penetrate to us. There are hosts of unseen sentinels watching over and guarding our temples. Angels attend every door. As it was in the days of Elisha so it will be for us, "Those that be with us are more than they that be against us."

Before the Savior comes the world will ~~darken~~. There will come a period of time where even the elect will lose hope if they do not come to the temples. The world will be so filled with evil that the righteous will only feel secure within these walls. The Saints will come here not only to do vicarious work, but to find a haven of peace. They will long to bring their children here for safety sake.

I believe we may well have living on the earth now or very soon the boy or babe who will be the prophet of the Church when the Savior comes. Those who will sit in the Quorum of Twelve Apostles are here. There are many in our homes and communities who will have apostolic callings. We must keep them clean, sweet, and pure in an oh so wicked world.

There will be greater hosts of unseen beings in the temple. Propnets of old as well as those in this dispensation will visit the temples. Those who attend will feel their strength and feel their companionship. We will not be alone in our temples.

The covenants and ordinances will fill us with faith as a living fire. In a day of desolating sickness, scorched earth, barren wastes, sickening plagues, disease, destruction, and death, we as a people will rest in the shade of trees, we will drink from the cooling fountains. We will abide in places of refuge from the storm, we will mount up as on eagles wings, we will be lifted out of an insane and evil world. We will be as fair as the sun and clear as the moon.

The Savior will come and will honor His people. Those who are spared and prepared will be a temple loving people. They will know Him. They will cry out "blessed be the name of He that cometh in the name of the Lord thou art my God and I will bless thee, thou art my God and I will exalt thee."

Our children will bow down at His feet and worship Him as the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings. They will bathe His feet with their tears and He will weep and bless them for having suffered through the greatest trials ever known to man. His bowels will be filled with compassion and His heart will swell wide as eternity and He will love them. He will bring peace that will last a thousand years and they will receive their reward to dwell with Him.

Let us prepare them with the faith to surmount every trial and every condition. We will do it in these holy, sacred temples. Come, come, oh come up to the temples of the Lord and abide in His presence.

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What do I need to do to more fully magnify my [other] stewardships?

If we pose these questions to Jesus, listen peacefully for His counsel, and follow it earnestly, we are engaged in the greatest development program in the universe.

Think how different this is from our usual process. Commonly each of us settles on something that has helped us and then we impose the practice on others. One person finds that getting up at 5 a.m. and reading the scriptures has made all the difference. That person may recommend that practice to everyone at every opportunity. But many of the recipients of the counsel will find that they can't do it or it doesn't work well for them; so they feel like spiritual failures. They give up.

We should not generalize our spiritual remedies any more than we should pass around our prescription drugs in sacrament meeting. Of course we rejoice in our spiritual discoveries; but we ordinary saints do not have the right to make them into commandments for other people.

And, if we want optimal growth, we will take regular counsel from the One who is in charge of perfection. We will get weekly counsel during the sacrament. We will be renewed and energized by our encounter with Him. And we will seek to apply His counsel every day of the week looking forward to when we meet Him again at the sacred sacrament table to report and make new commitments.

When we form our own resolutions, we are also taking personal responsibility for their enactment. In contrast, when we make Jesus our growth partner, He not only coaches us on next steps but also enables us in taking them. He knows exactly what we must do next in the process of growth and He gladly supports and energizes us along the inspired path. He is the Light and the Life of our lives!

All of this is consistent with Jesus' simple directive: "Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not."

Rather than annually make resolutions with ourselves, I recommend that we weekly make covenants with Jesus.

Thanks to Barbara Keil and Nancy Goddard for their insightful comments on this article.

Recommendations: You can buy a copy of Brother Goddard's newest book, [Bringing Up Our Children in Light and Truth](#), at [Deseret Book](#). You may also be interested in some of his other books such as [The Soft-Spoken Parent](#), [Between Parent and Child](#), or [Drawing Heaven into Your Marriage](#).