

# The Day of The Lord

Online zoom Sunday School, 27 Dec 2020

(<http://jayball.name/dc/>)

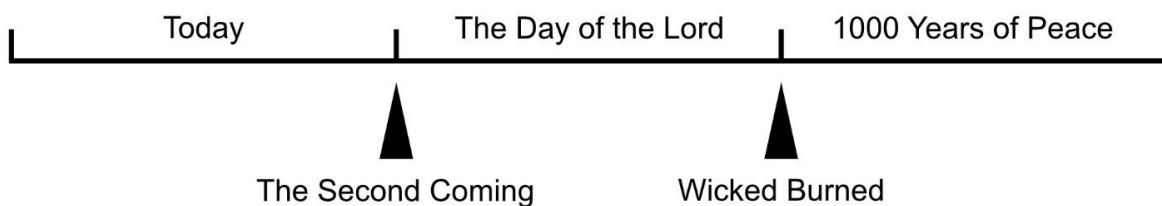
The following outline is taken largely from notes from a discussion I attended earlier in September this year where the organizer shared his outline with me.

An attempt to put things together in any cohesive linear way based on what scriptures tell us about these events seems rather unattainable to me. We can only make observations about what we read about the Second Coming and make sure that we are aware of what the scriptures say about things so that when we witness stuff happening we can recognize that, "oh, I remember the scriptures said something about this..." So, this discussion is more of an attempt to explore and make sense of some things we know, without necessarily trying to fit it into a specific order of events etc.

## Many misinterpret the prophecies

Five Major points - NOT a comprehensive examination of all prophecy. For example we won't look at the prophecies of Daniel, Ezekiel, John, etc.

- **Point 1:** First comes a lengthy period called *today*, then comes a lengthy period called *tomorrow* or *The Day of the Lord*, before all wickedness ends.
- **Point 2:** Before the Lord will come in glory the signs of his coming will appear, there will be gathering to Zion, and Adam Ondi Ahman must occur.
- **Point 3:** The second coming is witnessed by a few and begins a period of judgement and burning called *The Day of the Lord*.
- **Point 4:** Many things occur in *The Day of the Lord* while there is still wickedness on earth.
- **Point 5:** Many prophecies describe one or more fenestrations in a veil that separates this world from God's throne.



*"And it shall come to pass that he that fears me shall be looking for the great day of the Lord to come, even for the signs of the coming of the Son of Man." (D&C 45:39)*

## Multiple “Second Comings”

Louis Naegle made a comment in a talk that there are 4 Second Comings

- 1 coming to the temple in new Jerusalem
- 1 where He stands on the Mt of olives and cracks it, big earthquake, Jews are under siege
- 1 where coming in heaven the earth rolls together as a scroll
- 1 where he appears to you personally

(2019.08.04, Talk by Louis Naegle, *Be Ye Kind* Youth Conference)

Major Point 1: First comes a lengthy period called *today*, then comes a lengthy period called *tomorrow* or *The Day of the Lord*, before all wickedness ends.

- Speaking after the manner of the Lord “today” is a period of time in which to hear, sacrifice, tithe and labor:  
*“...hear my voice while it is called today” (D&C 45:6) and “if ye believe me, you will labor while it is called today (D&C 64:25). Behold, now it is called today until the coming of the Son of Man, and verily it is a day of sacrifice, and a day for the tithing of my people (D&C 64:23)*
- Tomorrow is a day of judgement and burning:  
*For after today cometh the burning—this is speaking after the manner of the Lord—for verily I say, tomorrow all the proud and they that do wickedly shall be as stubble (D&C 64:24)*
- Tomorrow begins when the Lord comes in glory – The day of the Lord:  
*Behold, now it is called today (until the coming of the Son of Man), ... for after today comes the burning. This is speaking after the manner of the Lord. For verily I say, tomorrow all the proud and they that do wickedly shall be as stubble. (D&C 64:23-24)*
- Speaking after the manner of the Lord, the Day of the Lord is not a 24 Hour Day just as Today is a lengthy period of time. The day of judgement is not a 24 hour day.  
*“But concerning the coming of the Lord, beloved, I would not have you ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” (2 Peter 3:8)*

The implication of men not noticing His coming is that life goes on. The wicked destroying the wicked (D&C 63:33), the Great and Abominable Church fighting against Zion, “then shall the arm of the Lord fall upon the nations”. (D&C 45:47).

Major point 2: Before the Lord will come in glory the signs of his coming will appear, there will be gathering to Zion, and Adam Ondi Ahman must occur.

Before the Day of the Lord Many Things Must Happen...

Some of which already has begun.

Christ will set His hand a second time to reclaim and rescue His people before His coming. (Jacob 6:2)

*“...before this great day shall come the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall be turned into blood”, (D&C 29:14) We believe we are approaching a moment in which the Lord is about to return.... If you’ve not noticed, the signs have begun to appear. “...I will consecrate of the riches of those who embrace my gospel among the Gentiles unto the poor of my people who are of the house of Israel.” (D&C 42:39)*

*“And when the times of the Gentiles is come in, a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fulness of my gospel; But they receive it not; for they perceive not the light, and they turn their hearts from me because of the precepts of men. And in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. (D&C 45:28-30)*

Much of it still future.

The New Jerusalem must be built in the Rocky Mountains:

There is reason to suspect that our presumption that the New Jerusalem will be in Independence Missouri is somewhat misplaced. I am persuaded it will not be there until after the Lord’s return. There will be a location elsewhere, in the Rocky Mountains, where the preliminary gathering to a Holy City to be built will occur before the Lord’s return.

Some few need to be gathered so that the earth is not utterly wasted at His coming (D&C 2:3). Zion shall *“be assembled together unto the place which I have appointed.”* (D&C 49:25)

The building of the New Jerusalem in the Americas will precede the establishment of Zion. The Book of Mormon ... foretells the coming of the Kingdom of God on the earth and the return of the Lord in his glory, along with the prophetic requirements that will come forth to precede that event. It includes prophecies about a kingdom — an incipient planting, a return of a religious body, small though it may be — that will build a New Jerusalem, an antecedent to the establishment of Zion, and bears witness that the Old Testament prophecies about Zion and Jerusalem at the time of the Lord’s return are not speaking of a single location where the Lord’s people will gather. When the Lord returns, the sun will never set on his kingdom. One kingdom will be established on one side of the world in Jerusalem, and the other will be established in the Americas — a New Jerusalem; that is, Zion.

Elijah will return

Elijah will open the fiery corridor

There must be a place [Zion] from which the first preparations for the Second Coming begin.

The pillar of fire will remain over Zion and will be visible there. (2 Ne 14:5)

But before the great day of the Lord shall come<sup>1</sup>, Jacob shall flourish in the wilderness, (D&C 49:24)

The Lamanites shall blossom as the rose.

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<sup>1</sup> The Lord has at times used the word “come” to refer to the completion or end not the beginning. “And when the times of the Gentiles is come in, a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fulness of my gospel” (D&C 45:28) The time of the Gentiles began with the gospel being taken to Cornelius and is ending now as shown by the twin solar eclipses yet “come in” is used to refer to the wrapping up of the times of the Gentiles.

Zion shall flourish upon the hills and rejoice upon the mountains (D&C 49:25)

*Interpretive Caution: Some of these prophecies are only partially fulfilled or only partially in our future.*

### All the SIGNS in a Single Generation

Things will happen after his return. Events will happen in the Day of the Lord. Those may not occur in the same generation but his return and all of the signs of his return will happen in a single generation.

We believe we are approaching a moment in which the Lord is about to return. Read Matthew 24. All of the signs that He speaks of will occur in one single generation.

*“Truly I say unto you, this generation in which these things shall be shown forth shall not pass away until all I have told you shall be fulfilled.” (Matt 24:34)*

*Interpretive Caution: “Generation” does not have a single meaning. There are several things to suggest “generation” here is used to mean within the lifetime of “the prophet/prophets of that time — the mortals living, the messengers.*

*Almost invariably, however, the way a new revelation from heaven works is that God will reveal himself in a generation, and then when the prophet/prophets of that time — the mortals living, the messengers — die, what survives cannot be kept intact.*

### We are now in the generation in which the Lord will return

If the signs have begun and all the signs of His coming will occur within a single generation then we are now in the generation in which the Lord will return. Just which signs have begun to appear?

I would say that the eclipse in 2017 was a rather ominous sign. It’s part of a pair. There will be another one in 2024, and they essentially make an X across the United States. It’s a fairly dramatic celestial event that suggests possible meanings, like the times of the gentiles are coming to an end and they’re about to be swept away and replaced as the possessors and the rightful owners of the land. The conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn last week was another sign. It marked the halfway mark between the two eclipses.

Because “the Son of Man will come as the sign of the coming of the Son of Man...” (TPJS, p. 286-87) AND “all the signs he speaks of will occur in this generation”, His coming in glory will occur in our generation. To say it differently, the signs of his coming include one sign that will indicate his coming BUT only the gathered remnant will see the Lord come. All will see the sign of the coming of the Son of Man.

*Interpretive Caution: We are in the generation in which the Lord will return does not mean that all alive today will live to the time of the Lords coming.*

The gathered remnant will include “a small group prepared to endure this opening” as well as “those called to join with them”

Need reference. At Zion a gathered remnant consist of:

- 1- A small group prepared to endure this opening
- 2- Those called to join with them

This is typical of Zions past. In Adam's gathering at Adam Ondi Ahman there were:

- 1- "Adam", "Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, and Methuselah"
- 2- "...the residue of his posterity who were righteous  
...and the Lord appeared unto them" (The eight? All the righteous?) (D&C 107:53-54)

And in the Nephite experience there were:

- 1- "...they [who] were encircled about with [angels and with] fire", (3 Ne 17:24)
- 2- "...while they [the multitude] were overshadowed, he [Jesus] departed from them and ascended into Heaven." (3 Ne 18:39)

*Interpretive Caution: The wording does not force the conclusion that "the small group called to join with them" necessarily see the Lord "at the unveiling of our Lord in glory at His return" only that they will not be "utterly wasted".*

Major point 3: The second coming is witnessed by a few and begins a period of judgement and burning called *The Day of the Lord*.

The Lord will appear within the light of the sign that first appears as a light.

In Joseph Smith's words "But the Son of Man will come as the sign of the coming of the Son of Man...", (TPJS, p. 286-87.) All the above statements agree that when Christ initially comes in glory most will only see the sign of His coming. That sign will first appear shortly before his coming in glory.

There is a period of time, a lag, from the first appearance of the sign until the coming of the Lord in glory.

There will be a new star seen. Light turns to us. (need reference)

*Interpretive Caution: How long after the sign is first seen until his coming in glory is unknown and won't be guessed at here.*

The coming of the Lord in clouds and glory is His second Coming

Although we usually refer to Christ's future coming as "the Second Coming" the Lord only rarely refers to his coming using that term, instead he often refers to his coming in the clouds with power and great glory, using Daniel's original words (Dan 7:13)<sup>2</sup>. The two comings are one and the same as these scripture shows:

*"...cry repentance unto a crooked and perverse generation, preparing the way of the Lord for his second coming. For behold, verily, verily I say unto you, the time is soon at hand that I shall come in a cloud with power and great glory. And it shall be a great day at the time of my coming, for all nations shall tremble. But before that great day shall come, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon be turned to blood, and the*

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<sup>2</sup> Coming with the clouds, Daniels language, is also seen by some as figurative, the clouds with whom the Lord comes are the righteous. Clouds using to refer to people is seen in Paul's writing to the Hebrews (Heb 12:1).

*stars shall refuse their shining, and some shall fall, and great destructions await the wicked.” (D&C 34:6-9)*

*“As you have asked of me concerning these signs of my coming, in the day when I shall come in my glory in the clouds of Heaven, to fulfill the promises that I have made unto your fathers...” (D&C 45:16)*

Coming “in the clouds” suggests that the Lord is hiding from the view of the world. The world only sees clouds (and the light). When Moses passed through the veil the presence of the Lord was shielded by a covering of a thick cloud. The cloud operated as a veil to the onlookers of Israel but Moses was allowed to pass through or enter through the cloud into the very presence of God. (See Exod 24:15-18) The cloud also hid God’s glory from the apostles at the Mount of Transfiguration. (Luke 9:34).

Clouds cover the sky. As Solomon lamented, *“Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud that our prayers pass not through.”* (Lamentations 3:44)

*Interpretive Caution: Not every reference to the Lords coming in glory necessarily refer to the same coming.*

*Clouds may also have another meaning than the visible covering.*

### When the Lord comes he will be clothed in red

*And he is clothed with a vesture dipped in blood. (Rev 19:13)*

See D&C 133:46-48

*“And it shall be said: Who is this that cometh down from God in heaven with dyed garments; yea, from the regions which are not known, clothed in his glorious apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength? And he shall say: I am he who spake in righteousness, mighty to save. And the Lord shall be red in his apparel, and his garments like him that treadeth in the wine-vat. (D&C 133:46-48)*

His apparel will be red. He will be clothed in red. There appears a prophecy in the book *Visions of Glory* where it tells of Christ appearing with leaders of the church in conference. If someone tells of a vision that varies from this description in D&C 133, I’m inclined to doubt it.

### The gathered remnant will see the Lord’s coming in glory

*“And before the day of the Lord shall come, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon be turned into blood, and some stars shall fall from heaven, and the remnant shall be gathered unto this place. [Context does not help identify which place]. And then they [the gathered remnant] shall look for me, and behold, I will come, and they [the gathered remnant] shall see me in the clouds of Heaven, clothed with power and great glory, with all the holy angels.” (D&C 45:43-44)*

*Interpretive Caution: Not every reference to the Lords coming in glory necessarily refer to the same coming.*

The appearance of the Lord as the light turns to “us” begins the day of the Lord.

*The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come. (Joel 2:31)*

*Wherefore, stand in holy places and be not moved until the day of the Lord come, for behold, it comes quickly, says the Lord. Amen. (D&C 87:8)*

The sign will persist

Joseph Smith was quoted as saying that the sign of the coming of the son of man “will be small at its first appearance and gradually becomes larger until every eye shall see it.” (James Burgess notes, Saturday April 6, 1843, afternoon, *The Words of Joseph Smith* p. 181)

*Interpretive Caution: The sign persists at least as long as the length of time from its first appearance until at length it turns on “us”. Could the light have turned on other remnant before it turns on “us”?*

The Lords Coming in Glory will not be noticed by the World although they will see the glory as a light

I believe it will be easy for the world to not notice.

“I come as a thief in the night”. (See D&C 106:4-5) (Thieves who come in the night are not noticed)

This is a rather important bullet point. I believe as a Mormon I have been taught that all the world will know when Christ comes in judgement as have other Christians (see Mark 13:26, Rev 1:7)

*Interpretive Caution: Although the world will not notice his coming, some will in time.*

The sign of His coming In Glory will be explained away as an astronomical anomaly.

In Joseph’s words, “But what will the world do? They will say it (one grand sign of the Son of Man in heaven) is a planet, a comet, etc.” (Teachings, pp. 286-87.)

The prophet Joseph said:

*The dawning of the morning makes its appearance in the east and moves along gradually, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. It will be small at its first appearance and gradually becomes larger until every eye shall see it. Shall the saints understand it? Yes, says Paul. Shall the wicked understand? No. They attribute it to a natural cause. They will probably suppose it is two great comets coming in contact with each other. (James Burgess notes, Saturday April 6, 1843, afternoon, *The Words of Joseph Smith* p. 181)*

*Interpretive Caution: The words of a note taker are useful to consider but not reliably accurate. We can know what Joseph discussed that day but can’t be sure what words Joseph used.*

Major point 4: Many things occur in *The Day of the Lord* while there is still wickedness on earth.

As He comes the rules will change. The opportunity to repent for some will be limited. Many will be cut off and will have lost the chance for the ordinances of salvation in the kingdom of God.

*"...he that watches not for me shall be cut off." (D&C 45:44)*

*And it shall come to pass that every soul who will not hear that prophet (Christ) shall be cut off from among the people. (3 Ne 20:23)*

*Interpretive Caution: I am of the opinion that this prophecy of Moses, "cut off from among the people", is fulfilled at the Lord's Coming in glory. For some it could happen sooner but I believe anyone, even those who have persecuted the prophets, can repent and be baptized up to the Day of the Lord.*

The Day of the Lord begins with His return in glory and continues to the end of the world. Peter describes the Lord's coming as a thief (they come unnoticed) as well as the events at the end of the world (elements filled with fervent heat and corruptible works burned up). (2 Peter 3:10)

*"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night (the beginning of the day of the Lord); in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up [all of which happen at the end of the world]". (2 Peter 3:10-13)*

*Interpretive Caution: The Day of the Lord continues to the end of the world (meaning the destruction of the wicked-see next bulletpoint). Whether the millennium of peace after the wicked are destroyed is properly call the Day of the Lord is not clear to me from scripture.*

The end of the world is the destruction of the wicked

*"And of the end of the world, or the destruction of the wicked, which is the end of the world?" (JS-M 1:4)*

*"The field is the world. ... The harvest is the end of the world, or the destruction of the wicked, and the reapers are the angels or the messengers sent of Heaven. ... As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so shall it be in the end of this world, or the destruction of the wicked." (Matt 13:38-42 JST)*

*Interpretive Caution: The end of the world is not the end of the earth, the end of society nor the end of mankind. It is the destruction of the wicked.*

Late in the Day of the Lord the wicked will be burned

*For after today comes the burning. This is speaking after the manner of the Lord. For verily I say, tomorrow all the proud and they that do wickedly shall be as stubble, and I will burn them up, for I am the Lord of Hosts and I will not spare any that remain in Babylon. (D&C 63:24)*



*“That great day when the earth shall be rolled together as a scroll and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” (Morm 9:2)*

Unhiding God’s throne will require the heavens to be rolled to, like a scroll, before you finally see past the veils that prevent us from seeing God’s throne. But by that time, if you’re unprepared, it’s too late. Because the glory will be such that you cannot abide it. And the Lord appears preliminary to the rolling together of the scrolls.

*Interpretive Caution: Preliminary means “something that comes before or is preparatory”. It describes the order of the events and gives no sense of the amount of time between them.*

The earth or heavens being rolled together or unrolled will result in the burning of the wicked.

*I, the Lord, am angry with the wicked.... I have...decreed wars upon the face of the earth, and the wicked shall slay the wicked, and fear shall come upon every man, and the saints also shall hardly escape. Nevertheless, I, the Lord, am with them, and will come down in Heaven from the presence of my Father and consume the wicked with unquenchable fire. (D&C 63:32-34)*

Impurity is like a compound that exists within each person, a compound that could be identified by the Lord and burned away. He is like the fuller’s soap or the refiner’s fire, where impurity is removed and something pure and clean is left behind. To survive that burning purge there must be so little to burn away that the injury from the burn will not threaten life. This is a useful way for each person to examine what is inside them and a useful way to reconsider their thoughts.

Prior to the unveiling of the Lord’s glory and the burning of the wicked, the wicked will kill the wicked by war, arms and bloodshed

*I, the Lord, am angry with the wicked.... I have...decreed wars upon the face of the earth, and the wicked shall slay the wicked, and fear shall come upon every man, and the saints also shall hardly escape. Nevertheless, I, the Lord, am with them, and will come down in Heaven from the presence of my Father and consume the wicked with unquenchable fire. (D&C 63:32-34)*

*...the judgments of God will overtake the wicked; and it is by the wicked that the wicked are punished, for it is the wicked that stir up the hearts of the children of men unto bloodshed. (Morm 4:5)*

*Those who are in the promised latter-day Zion will be protected by the “the terror of the Lord.” The residents will be those who “will not take up arms against their neighbor.” (D&C 45: 67-68) There is no need to overthrow the world. It will overthrow itself. The Lord will not permit the wicked to destroy the righteous. (1 Ne 22:16.) It is the wicked who destroy the wicked. (Morm 4:5)*

Latter-day Zion will not need to take up the sword to defend themselves. The Lord will be their shield and protection. Since the wicked are responsible for killing the wicked, you join them when you decide to take up arms. You also exclude yourself from those who are to come to Zion – for that group will be composed only of those who refuse to take up arms against their neighbor. (D&C 45:68).

There is one return of the Lord in glory separated in time from the events at the end of the world.

*And there shall be silence in heaven for the space of half an hour; and immediately after shall the curtain of heaven be unfolded, as a scroll is unfolded after it is rolled up, and the face of the Lord shall be unveiled. (D&C 88:95)*

*Interpretive Caution: This refers to the **rolling** together of the scroll whereas the Lord in D&C 88 refers to the **unfolding** of the heavens as a scroll. Are these opposite verbs, rolling together and unfolding, referring to the same phenomenon?*

A rapture (being caught up) will proceed the end of the world which is the destruction of the wicked

*Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)*

Which Joseph Smith changed to read:

*Then they who are alive shall be caught up together into the clouds with them who remain, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we be ever with the Lord (NC 1 Thessalonians 1:12)*

The Greek word ἀρπαγησόμεθα (harpagēsometha) means seize, catch up, or snatch away

*I tell you, in that night there shall be two [men] in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. (Luke 17:34-37 See also Matt 24:40-41)*

*And immediately after shall the curtain of Heaven be unfolded as a scroll is unfolded after it is rolled up, and the face of the Lord shall be unveiled. ... And the saints that are upon the earth, who are alive, shall be quickened and be caught up to meet him. ... And they who have slept in their graves shall come forth, for their graves shall be opened, and they also shall be caught up to meet him in the midst of the Pillar of Heaven. ... They are Christ's, the firstfruits, they who shall descend with him first, and they who are on the earth and in their graves, who are first caught up to meet him, and all this by the voice of the sounding of the trumpet of the angel of God. (D&C 88:95-98)*

Major point 5: Many prophecies describe one or more fenestrations in a veil that separates this world from God's throne.

A veil separates us from the Throne of God

It is mental and spiritual

*And prepare [mentally, and spiritually] for the revelation which is to come, when the veil of the covering of my temple, in my tabernacle, which hideth the earth, shall be taken off, and all flesh shall see me together. (D&C 101:23)*

*And because of the knowledge of this man he could not be kept from beholding within the veil; and he saw the finger of Jesus, which, when he saw, he fell with fear; for he knew that it was the finger of the Lord; and he had faith no longer, for he knew, nothing doubting. (Ether 3:19)*

*And there were many whose faith was so exceedingly strong, even before Christ came, who could not be kept from within the veil, but truly saw with their eyes the things which they had beheld with an eye of faith, and they were glad. (Ether 12:19)*

*But the day soon cometh that ye shall see me, and know that I am; for the veil of darkness shall soon be rent, and he that is not purified shall not abide the day. (D&C 38:8)*

*...inasmuch as you strip yourselves from jealousies and fears, and humble yourselves before me, for ye are not sufficiently humble, the veil shall be rent and you shall see me and know that I am—not with the carnal neither natural mind, but with the spiritual. (D&C 67:10)*

## A veil separates us from the Throne of God

It is material and literal

*And prepare [mentally, and spiritually] for the revelation which is to come, when the veil of the covering of my temple, in my tabernacle, which hideth the earth, shall be taken off [physically removed], and all flesh shall see me together. (D&C 101:23)*

*Interpretive Caution: Joseph Smith differentiated between physical matter and spiritual matter. D&C 131:7-8. Whether the veil is physical or spiritual it appears to be material. All scriptural references to this veil could be easily interpreted as metaphorical.*

## The Throne of God is in the far reaches of the North

*Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. (Ps 48:1-2)*

The word translated “sides” in the King James Version is (yerekah) in Hebrew and is also translated “extreme parts”, “remote parts” or “recesses”. This suggests the throne of God is in the north in a remote or distant location. Indeed several Bible versions translate yerekah as “farthest reaches<sup>3</sup>” or “remotest parts<sup>4</sup>”.

*I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north (Isa 14:13)*

*“Kolob [Kolob was a star] is set nigh unto the throne of God”, (Abr 3:9)*

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<sup>3</sup> Berean Bible and English Standard Version

<sup>4</sup> Christian Standard Bible

Kolob was the name of a star Abraham could identify. Kolob was a star within sight from the vantage point of the earth<sup>5</sup>. The entire astronomy revealed to father Abraham was geocentric. It was entirely earth-based, looking upward. From the vantage point of the earth, looking upward in Abraham's day, the astronomy oriented Abraham. In our day, because the precession of the equinoxes, the alignments of stars have changed. Abraham already knew the name of the star. God said to Abraham, You see that star? From where you sit, looking there, the Throne of God is in that direction.

An opening in the veil that separates us from God will allow the glory of God to come through as a light

Need reference.

*Interpretive Caution: The nature of the light and the glory may be different than physical light. When the pillar of light descended on young Joseph Smith he expected to see "the leaves and boughs of the trees consumed"<sup>6</sup> yet they were not.*

The opening will persist

Need reference.

The fiery corridor is an opening in the veil between heaven and earth

Need reference.

*Interpretive Caution: The wording "the unveiling of the Lord" allows other interpretations than the one I have given.*

The unrolling of the heavens is an opening in the veil

This prophecy is given differently in the Book of Mormon than in the Bible. In the Book of Mormon it is the earth which is rolled together or wrapped together<sup>7</sup>. Whereas in the Revelation of John, the heavens are opened and in Isaiah's writings the heavens are unfolded<sup>8</sup>. In the Greek New Testament the word *isouranos* (*ouranos*) is translated "heavens". The word *Ouranos* does not differentiate between the heaven of God hidden from the view of man, the sky or atmosphere or the starry heaven. Heaven or heavens have been used to refer to all three, the air in which the birds fly, "the vaulted sky" on which

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<sup>5</sup> Which star in our sky was the star called Kolob by our Lord is unknown but Thuban in Draco was the pole star from the 4th to 2nd millennium BC. Some suggest Kochab in the Little Dipper was the North Star at the time of Abraham: "The Ursids are so named because they appear close to the star Beta Ursae Minoris in Ursa Minor, also known as Kochab. In antiquity, this star was the northern pole star, near the center point about which the heavens rotate." (Adrian Larsen blog, 21 Dec 2018, Gaining Light; <https://www.totheremnant.com/2018/12/gaining-light.html>)

<sup>6</sup> Backman, First Vision, p. 5

<sup>7</sup> Earth rolled together as a scroll— (Morm 5:23)

The earth shall be rolled together as a scroll. (Morm 9:2)

The earth should be wrapped together as a scroll— (3 Ne 26:3)

<sup>8</sup> And the heavens opened as a scroll is opened when it is rolled together. (Rev 6:14)

The heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll — (Isa 34:4)

Heaven be unfolded as a scroll is unfolded after it is rolled up— (D&C 88:95)

“the stars were attached and on which the sun traveled” as well as the region “above this vault<sup>9</sup>”. This definition of heaven (ouranos) is essentially the same as the concept of firmament which Miriam-Webster defines as “the vault or arch of the sky” first encountered in Genesis.

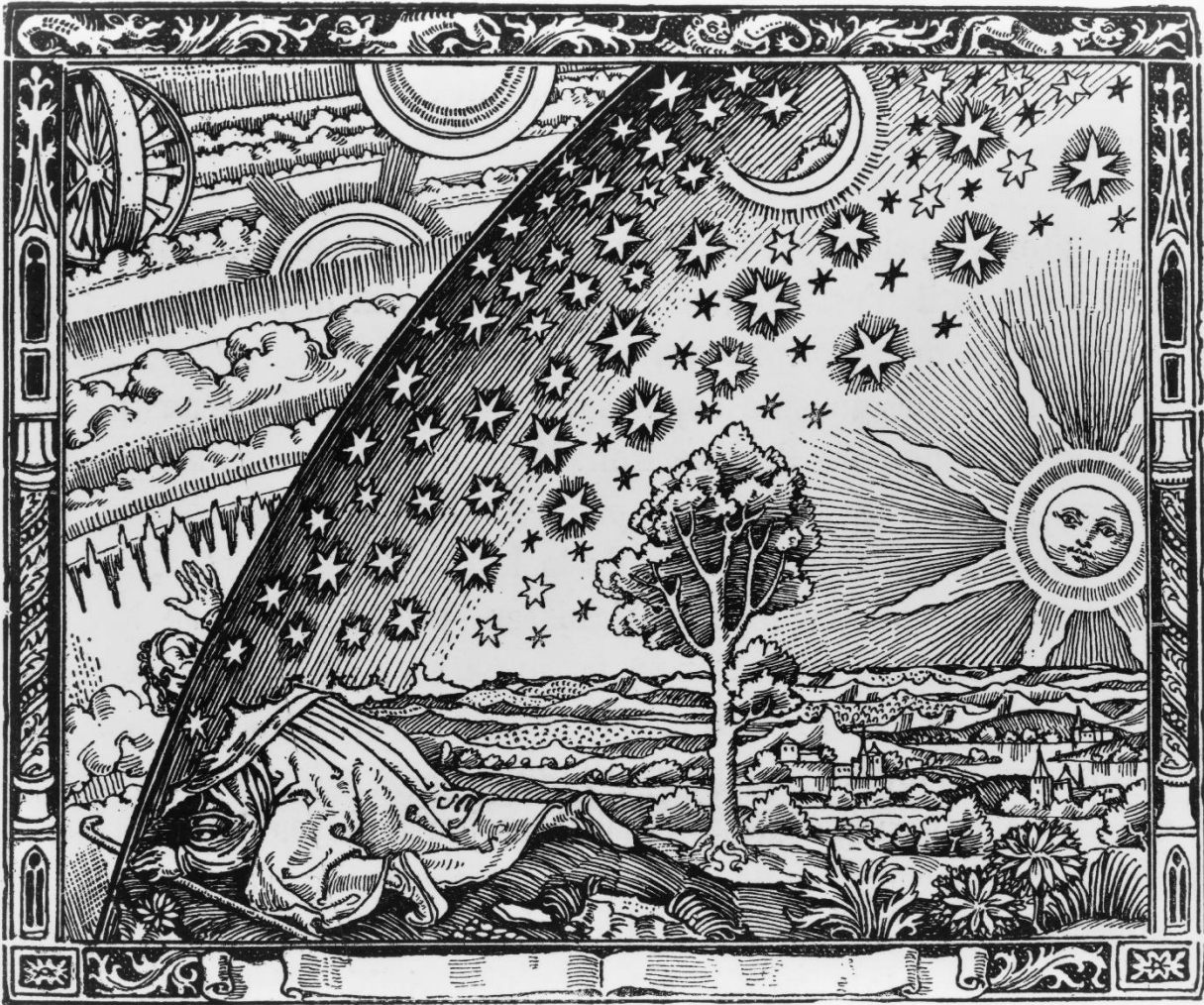
*And again I, God, said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters. ... And I, God, made the firmament and divided the waters, yea, the great waters under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament. ... And I, God, called the firmament heaven. (Gen 1:6-8)*

The Hebrew for firmament is (raqia) which means extended surface, expanse or expanse of heaven. Many Bible versions use expanse rather than firmament and so does the Book of Abraham.

*And the Gods also said, Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and it shall divide the waters from the waters. And the Gods ordered the expanse so that it divided the waters which were under the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse. And it was so, even as they ordered. And the Gods called the expanse heaven. (Abr 4:6-8)*

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<sup>9</sup> Thayer’s Greek lexicon



The wood engraving<sup>10</sup> above depicts a man penetrating the firmament in which the stars are imbedded. The Genesis version of the creation has God setting the stars, sun and moon in the firmament.

*And I, God, said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night. And let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and for years. And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven, to give light upon the earth. And it was so. And I, God, made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. And the greater light was the sun, and the lesser light was the moon. And the stars also were made even according to my word. And I, God, set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, and the sun to rule over the day, and the moon to rule over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. (Moses 2:14-19)*

<sup>10</sup> From Camille Flammarion's 1888 book, *L'atmosphère : météorologie populaire*. The Flammarion engraving depicts a man crawling under the edge of the sky, depicted as if it were a solid hemisphere, to look at the mysterious Empyrean beyond. The caption underneath the engraving (not shown here) translates to "A medieval missionary tells that he has found the point where heaven and Earth meet..."

The unrolling or unfolding of the heavens can therefore be understood as the unfolding of the firmament, the expanse, namely the barrier that separates the air and atmosphere above the earth from the primordial waters above the barrier, the great deep. Virtually everyone in the ancient world at some point of time believed in a solid firmament into which the stars were affixed<sup>11</sup>. Several scriptures support the idea that one day the heaven or dome will come crashing down along with its embedded stars including the Revelation verse under scrutiny.

*And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.  
(Rev. 6:13-14)*

So the title of this number “The unrolling of the heavens is an opening in the veil” might be reworded “The unrolling of the firmament is a collapse of the dome eliminating the barrier that separates the earth from the waters of the great deep.”

Is there a way to rationalize the Book of Mormon language with the Biblical language, the earth rolled together vs the heavens rolled together? I think there is. It is a matter of perspective as shown in this revelation.

*Behold, it is my will that all they who call on my name and worship me according to my everlasting gospel should gather together and stand in holy places, and prepare for the revelation which is to come when the veil of the covering of my temple in my tabernacle, which hides the earth, shall be taken off and all flesh shall see me together. (D&C 101:22-23)*

From the Lord’s perspective the veil or firmament hides the earth. From our perspective the veil hides the throne of God. Both are equally true from the perspective of the viewer.

Perhaps the unrolling of the heavens as a scroll from the perspective of the earth is the same thing as the unrolling of the earth (with its veil) from the perspective of Gods throne.

*Interpretive Caution: I could have this totally wrong!*

We have not been told whether there is a single opening that progresses from star, to a sign, from a sign to a pillar, from a pillar to unrolling the heavens as a scroll OR whether these are separate fenestrations in the veil.

In favor of the idea that the sign, the star, the pillar of fire and the unrolling of the heavens (or earth) are one opening in the veil that changes over time include:

- They all are signs of light or glory
- They all are seen with the eye in the sky above

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<sup>11</sup> Seely documents a generalized belief in many ancient cultures that the dome of the sky was solid. The Westminster Theological Journal 53 (1991) 227-40, THE FIRMAMENT AND THE WATER ABOVE, Part I: The Meaning of raqia in Gen 1:6-8 PAUL H. SEELY

- The word “sign” is used to refer to the new star, the sign of the coming of the Son of Man.
- The star, the sign of the coming of the Son of Man, and the unveiling of the heavens are all universally seen. The pillar of fire is said to be “visible”.
- Joseph Smith was quoted as saying the sign of the coming of the Son of man (Matthew 24) “The dawning of the morning makes its appearance in the east and moves along gradually, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. It will be small at its first appearance and gradually becomes larger until every eye shall see it. Shall the saints understand it? Yes, says Paul. Shall the wicked understand? No. They attribute it to a natural cause. They will probably suppose it is two great comets coming in contact with each other. (James Burgess notes, Saturday April 6, 1843, afternoon, *The Words of Joseph Smith* p. 181)

Going against this idea that all 4 are one opening that changes over time... Hummm, I can't think of any but

- The idea is speculative

There will be a new pole star (Polaris) and a new constellation (Aquarius) at sunrise on the vernal equinox when Christ returns.

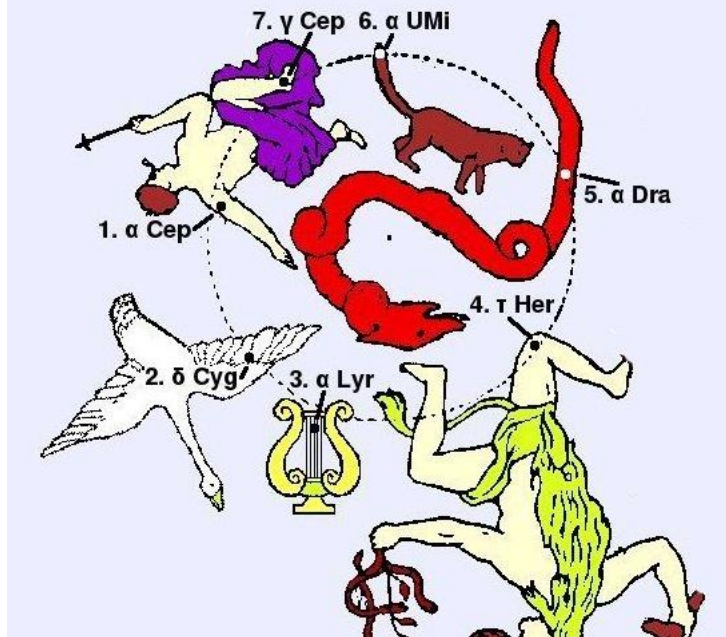
Christ's Second Coming is the largest starfield on the ecliptic. He will return to pour out judgment, blessing those who follow Him and destroying those who rebel. ..Aquarius has two outflows from the water-bearer's urn. One represents water (giving life) and the other represents fire (or purging).

When the stars move from one age to another by the precession through the equinoxes, the new constellation was said anciently to be a new earth. There is a different constellation that appears at sunrise on the vernal equinox, and that constellation tells you what age (Pisces, Aquarius, etc.) mankind is in. When that constellation changes from the previous constellation age (on the horizon at the vernal equinox), that's called a New Earth. There will be a New Heaven and a New Earth when Christ returns.

When the pole star changes, which happens about seven times every 25,900 years, anciently that change was called a New Heaven.



# Circle of Pole Stars



New Heaven: "Polaris is actually still drawing closer to the pole and on March 24, 2100, it will be as close to it as it ever will come, just 27.15 arc-minutes or slightly less than the moon's apparent diameter." (<https://www.space.com/15567-north-star-polaris.html>)

New Earth: The date the Age of Aquarius begins depends of where the boundary between Pisces and Aquarius is drawn. Although modern astronomers do not allow overlapping constellations, earlier sages did. A single star was described as forming part of adjacent constellations. Such is the case with Deneb Kaitos- the whales tail (also called Diphda) according to the Greek poet Aratus. This star was on the horizon at the vernal equinox in about 1836. See figure below.



*Yellow circle shows stars in Cetus that are part of Aquarius follow the white line into the tail of Pisces. Anciently this white line signaled the beginning of Aquarius. (Adapted from John Pratt)*

John Pratt has estimated that the Age of Aquarius began in 1836 (Zodiac Ages and Their Presidencies, [https://www.johnpratt.com/items/docs/2017/zodiac\\_ages.html](https://www.johnpratt.com/items/docs/2017/zodiac_ages.html)).

Star fields overlap, and sometimes there are gaps. Right now we are in an overlap between— Christ said, “I will make you fishers of men,” and the constellation that that age was identified with is Pisces, two fish. One fish caught in the net is endlessly circling the equator. But another fish, and it’s much smaller— this other fish is headed to the north where you will find God. That constellation is going to be replaced by the “one who is coming.” We call him Aquarius, we also call him the “Waterman”— he is pouring out. A new age will come. If you go back far enough, what he is pouring out is two streams: one stream is water, which gives life, and one stream is fire. “He who is coming” in the great day of the Lord is coming for the great (the water) and dreadful (the fire) day of the Lord to pour something out.

Well it just so happens that the star fields of these two overlap. If you date the return of the Lord by the star field of Aquarius at its earliest star, then the first sign of the “times of refreshing” would have been about in the 1840’s when Joseph Smith was saying that Christ appeared to him and gave him a message to preach. We have not yet fully exited the star field of Pisces.

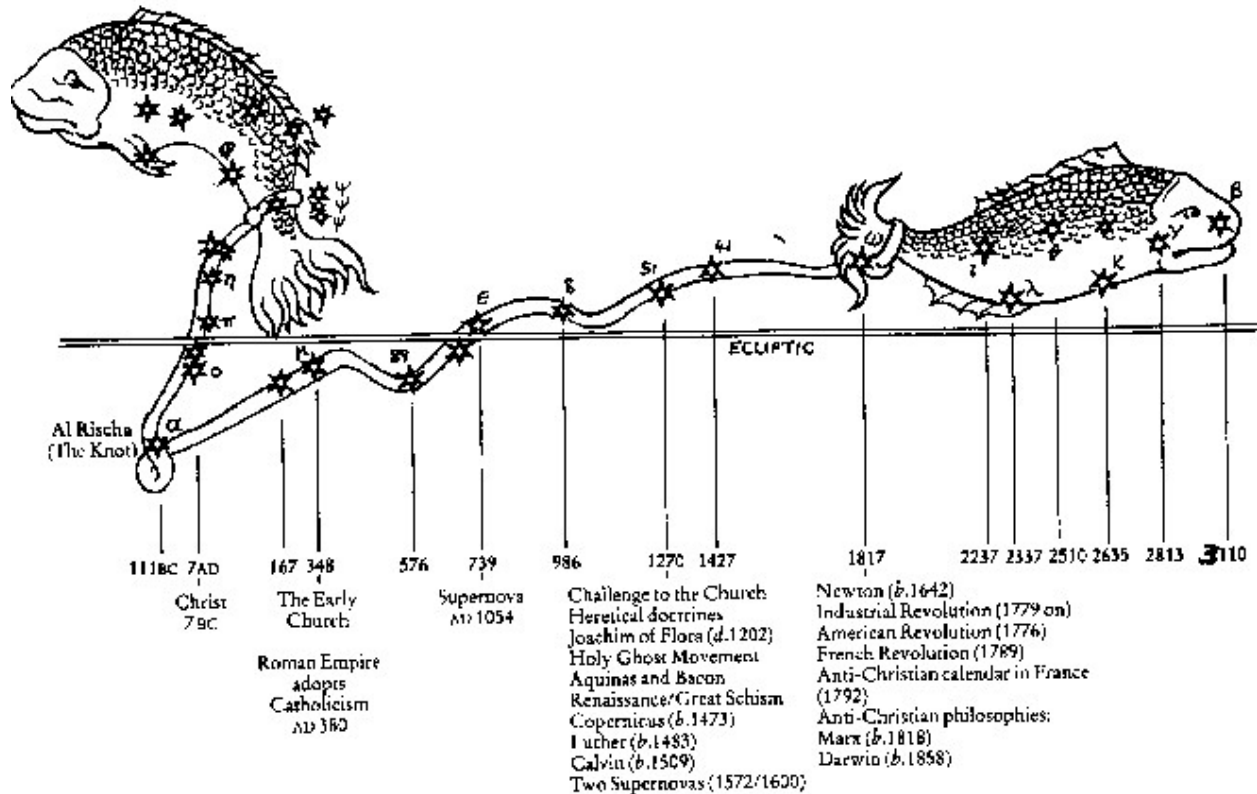


Figure 1.3 The Age of the Fishes.

The Sign of the Son of Man is associated with these descriptors

- light emanating from a point
- sign in the heavens
- hole
- unveiled
- glory
- angels

The Fiery Pillar is associated with these descriptors

- above the brightness of the sun (JS-H 1:16)
- conduit that reaches up into heaven (Elijah Reconsidered)
- permanent connection (Elijah Reconsidered)
- open Stairway (Elijah Reconsidered)
- Jacob's ladder (Elijah Reconsidered)
- the chariot of fire (Elijah Reconsidered)
- heavenly connection—heavenly presence (Elijah Reconsidered)
- "An opening at this end" and "an opening at the far end".

The Heavens unrolling as a scroll is associated with these descriptors

- The Throne hidden by veils
- The Throne hidden in the North

- it will require the heavens to be rolled to, like a scroll, before you finally see past the veils that prevent us from seeing it (Gods Throne).
- the unprepared cannot abide the glory of that time
- utter destruction (Isaiah 34:2)
- saints caught up to meet Christ (D&C 88:96)
- face of the Lord unveiled (D&C 88:95)

*Interpretive Caution: The Book of Mormon teaches about the earth being rolled together as a scroll, and some scriptures have the heavens being rolled closed as a scroll, others have the heavens unfolded as a scroll is opened. It is unclear whether these all refer to the same event.*

The events at the end of the world include the unfolding the curtain of heaven where the face of the Lord will be unveiled. This not referred to as his second coming, his coming in the clouds with glory.

*And there shall be silence in heaven for the space of half an hour; and immediately after shall the curtain of heaven be unfolded, as a scroll is unfolded after it is rolled up, and the face of the Lord shall be unveiled. (D&C 88:95)*

The rolling together or unfolding as a scroll is associated with many descriptors:

- elements melt with fervent heat
- heavens and the earth pass away
- stand before the Lamb of God
- face of the Lord shall be unveiled
- And the saints ...quickenened and caught up to meet him in the midst of the pillar of
- heaven
- those sleeping in their graves come forth

Isa 34:4; 3 Ne 26:3; Morm 5:23; 9:2; D&C 88:95-97

The elements melting with fervent heat is associated with many overlapping descriptors:

- heavens rolled together as a scroll
- heavens on fire
- a great noise
- heavens and the earth pass away
- new heavens & a new earth- When the stars move from one age to another by the precession through the equinoxes, the new constellation was said anciently to be a new earth. There is a different constellation that appears at sunrise on the vernal equinox, and that constellation tells you what age (Pisces, Aquarius, etc.) mankind is in. When that constellation changes from the previous constellation age (on the horizon at the vernal equinox), that's called a New Earth. There will be a New Heaven and a New Earth when Christ returns.
- the works on the earth burned up
- all people stand before God to be judged
- the veil covering the throne of God which hideth the earth shall be taken off
- and all flesh shall see me together.

- every corruptible thing consumed-I.e. wicked burned with fire
- all things shall become new
- The Lords knowledge and glory will dwell upon all the earth
- enmity and sorrow will cease
- from before my face.
- whatsoever any man shall ask, it shall be given unto him.
- Satan shall not have power to tempt any man.
- In that day an infant shall not die until he is old
- when men are old they will not sleep, in the earth, but shall be caught up into a glorious rest.
- the Lord will reveal all things

2 Pet 3:10-12; Morm 5:23; 9:2; D&C 88:95-97; D&C 101:24-34

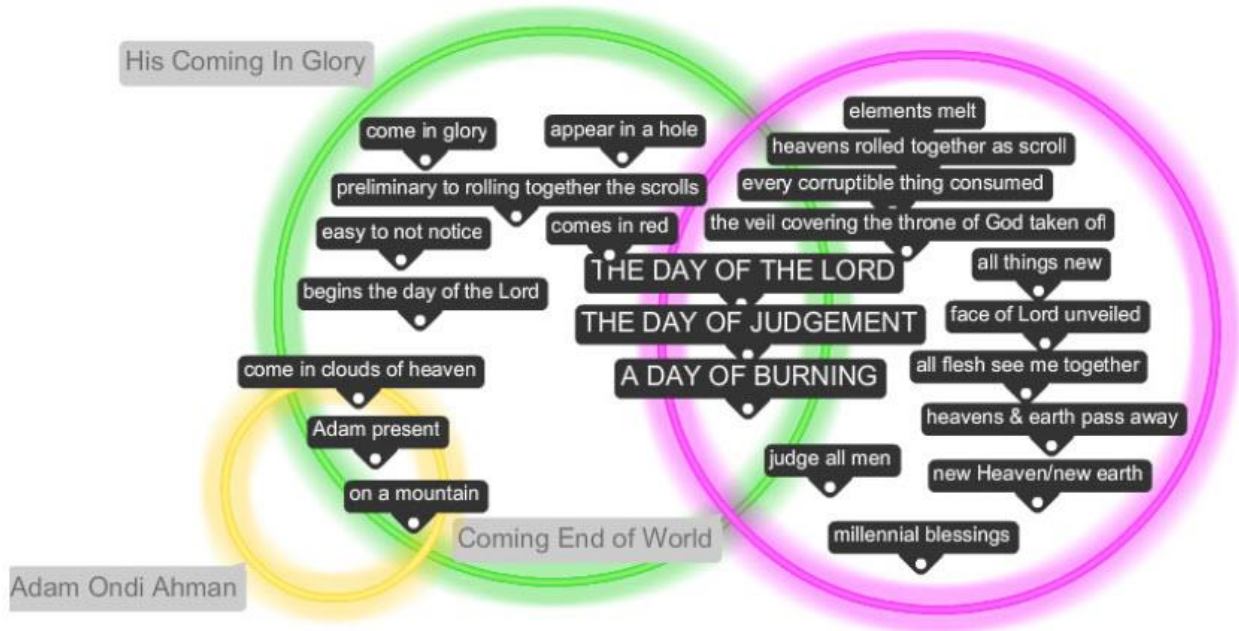
“every corruptible thing consumed” or its equivalent “the wicked burned with fire” is associated with:

- “He’s going to obliterate life on the earth, except for those who are in the Ark or those in Zion. The wicked can’t come against them, and all are going to be destroyed.”
- “they that come shall burn them”
- The day of burning is called tomorrow
- The Lord will not spare any that remain in Babylon
- I will burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that wickedness shall not be upon the earth
- the day of my coming in a pillar of fire
- the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and
- the elements shall melt with fervent heat
- earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up
- The proud and wicked will be left with neither root nor branch.
- The great and dreadful day of the Lord
- all people stand before God to be judged
- the veil covering the throne of God which hideth the earth shall be taken off
- and all flesh shall see me together.
- every corruptible thing consumed-I.e. wicked burned with fire
- all things shall become new
- The Lords knowledge and glory will dwell upon all the earth
- enmity and sorrow will cease from before my face.
- whatsoever any man shall ask, it shall be given unto him.
- Satan shall not have power to tempt any man.
- In that day an infant shall not die until he is old
- when men are old they will not sleep, in the earth, but shall be caught up into a glorious rest.
- the Lord will reveal all things

Malachi 4:1; D&C 101:24-34; D&C 29:9; D&C 64:24; JS-H 1:37; 2 Pet 3:10-13



The coming of the Lord to Adam-Ondi-Ahman is associated with descriptors which overlap with the Lords coming in glory but occurs before his coming in judgement



*Evidence of at least two comings- one at the beginning & one at the end of the day of the Lord.*

- coming in the clouds - “I saw in the night visions, and behold, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of Heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before him”. (Dan 7:13) (many, many verses describe his coming in the clouds- D&C 34:7, 45:16)
- on a mountain  
Adam, in the presence of Son Ahman, will return the government to our Lord. This event, Adam-Ondi-Ahman, or Adam in the presence of Son Ahman, will happen in the new temple [in the tops of the Rocky Mountains] and will be done before the Lord returns to judge the world. His coming in the clouds with power and great glory signals “the day of judgement”, so presumably Adam-Ondi-Ahman occurs before His coming in glory.
- Adam present  
Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord, in the clouds of heaven, and all the holy angels with him. (JS-M 1:1)

*“The keys of dominion pass from all who hold them to Michael and from him to Christ.” (TPJS p. 157)*

*When someone receives an assignment, and fulfills it with honor, they hold the keys of that assignment to all eternity. (D&C 128: 21.) They are expected to come to the great meeting when keys are returned to Adam and then, in turn, to Christ, preliminary to His return as the One whose right it is to preside over all things. (TPJS p. 157.)*

His return will open a permanent, fixed stairway between the ‘fathers in heaven’ and those who are prepared for the return of Zion. Zion will be overshadowed by the Lord’s glory. (see e.g. D&C 64:41; 133:32; 136:31; 84:32, among other places).

### Questions to consider

Is “the highway cast up in the midst of the great deep” (D&C 133:27) the same as the fiery pillar, the stairway to heaven, the conduit? Is the highway north of town with two exits in the parable *Brakhill's Greatest Citizen* the same fiery pillar? Is the “rending of the heavens” (D&C 133:40) the same phenomenon as unrolling the heavens as a scroll?

What is the sign?

Wandle Mace claimed that the Prophet said that this sign would be the return of the city of Enoch (cf. Moses 7:62–63). Wandle Mace statement located in the “Joseph Smith Papers” collection, LDS Church Archives, Salt Lake City, Utah. According to Elder Mace, the Prophet said: "It was the return of the City of Enoch to the earth."

When the scriptures talk about the earth will melt with fervent heat (see e.g. 2 Pet 3:10-13), the question arose for me, if what we are moving into (millennium) is a repeat of a pattern that has gone on before, did things melt with fervent heat then? How do we have a Sphinx that appears to pre-date this go-round? When the earth melts with fervent heat, how complete is that burning or melting? Are there things that can endure this and be preserved into another portion of an eternal round?