

THE
WEIGHTY
MATTERS
OF THE
LAW

A Plea for the Latter-day Saints to Awaken

**A compilation by Mark E. Hudson
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Compiled in August of 2006 by Mark Hudson, Syracuse, Utah.

This work was completed with contributions from my wife and thoughts from my friends Shaun Knapp and Kert Hall. I received inspiration from all of the Latter-day Prophets as well as authors like H. Verlan Anderson and Christopher Bentley. The most thorough modern-day work, in my opinion, one can read about the scriptural warnings concerning today’s political events can be found in *The Hidden Things of Darkness: An Expose of the Enemies of Christ*” by Chris Bentley. This book truly fits the description of “good books” that we should seek out (see D&C 109:7,14)

Thank you and May God bless you!

The Weighty Matters Of The Law

A Plea for the Latter-day Saints to Awaken

Compiled By Mark Hudson

This booklet was written for the sincere consideration of my Latter-day Saint brethren and sisters in the last part of the latter days. I truly feel that anyone who will take the time to read and ponder these words will have vital information that they can consider and pray about when contemplating what we are experiencing in the last days. This information could also affect our future as well as our salvation. I am simply sharing with you my testimony about things “as they really are and as they really will be”. I testify that these things are true.

The Last Days

We know from the words of the living Prophets and Apostles that the signs are all around us and the end is near. Consider the words of Elder Dallin H. Oaks from his April 2004 General Conference talk about preparing for the Second Coming:

“..the faithful are taught to study the signs of it and to be prepared for it. I wish to speak about the fourth of these great realities: the signs of the Second Coming and what we should do to prepare for it.

*“**These signs of the Second Coming are all around us and seem to be increasing in frequency and intensity.....the accelerating pattern of natural disasters in the last few decades is ominous.***

*“While we are powerless to alter the fact of the Second Coming and unable to know its exact time, **we can accelerate our own preparation and try to influence the preparation of those around us.**”*

Also consider the words of Elder Robert C. Oaks from the April 2005 General Conference:

“In this dispensation of the fullness of times, as we prepare for the final satanic battles in anticipation of the return of Christ to the earth.....

*“**We know from the signs of the times that the end is drawing near.***

*“In a worldwide priesthood leadership training meeting, President Hinckley, noting the immoral conditions in the world, stated, “**I do not know that things were worse in the times of Sodom and Gomorrah.**”..*

“He went on to say, “They and their wicked inhabitants were annihilated. We see similar conditions today. They prevail all across the world....

“I do not know how much more our prophet has to say for us to consider ourselves warned....”

President Thomas S. Monson also had the same tone as that of the brethren quoted above had. Here President Monson speaks about the times in which we live in his April 2005 General Conference address:

*“At that day shall the Devil....lull them away into carnal security, that they will say “All is well in Zion; yea. Zion prospereth, all is well – and thus the devil cheateth their souls.” Someone has said that our complacency tree has many branches, and each spring more buds come into bloom. We cannot afford to be complacent. We live in perilous times; **the signs are all around us.**”*

These very recent statements from the Lord’s servants make it very clear that we are in the last part of the last days. There is no doubt that this is part of the reason for the “RESCUE” theme in a recent stake general priesthood session in Northern Utah. As the scriptures say, “it is not a time of many words, but a time of warning.” It is also a time to reach out to our neighbors with Christ-like love and a concern for every soul. We must all become more true and faithful to our covenants with the Lord. There are many in and outside the Church who need to be awakened from their sleep and their “All is well in Zion” mentality.

Warnings

Historical and modern examples clearly show that many of the warnings of our Latter-day Prophets go unheeded. In my calling as a stake preparedness coordinator I see first hand how many of today’s Latter-day Saints are not prepared in the way that the Lord has commanded. One of the most repeated requests from our Latter-day Prophets, for example, has been to obtain a year’s supply of food and every needful thing. They have also commanded us to get out of debt. Elder Ezra Taft Benson in his powerful talk from the 1965 General Conference *Not Commanded In All Things* warned:

*“For years we have been counseled to have on hand a year's supply of food. Yet there are some today who will not start storing until the Church comes out with a detailed monthly home storage program. Now suppose that never happens. **We still cannot say we have not been told.***

*“Should the Lord decide at this time to cleanse the Church—and **the need for that cleansing seems to be increasing—a famine in this land of one year's duration could wipe out a large percentage of slothful members, including some ward and stake officers. Yet we cannot say we have not been warned.**”*

In this warning a Prophet is clearly saying that in the event of a famine in the land, which has been prophesied to occur here in America as well as world-wide, that many Saints including some of their leaders would be “wiped out” because of their disobedience to the Lord’s commandment of obtaining a year’s supply of food. Many reports indicate that less than 5% of the Latter-day Saints have their full, one year’s supply of food.

Our living Prophet has recently given us the same general warning about preparedness in his October 2005 General Priesthood meeting address entitled *If Ye Are Prepared, Ye Shall Not Fear*:

“If anyone has any doubt concerning the terrible things that can and will afflict mankind, let him read the 24th chapter of Matthew. Among other things the Lord says: “Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars. . . .

*“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be **famines**, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.*

“All these are the beginning of sorrows. . . .

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be....

“Someone has said it was not raining when Noah built the ark. But he built it, and the rains came.

“The Lord has said, “If ye are prepared ye shall not fear” ([D&C 38:30](#))....

“We can heed warnings.....

*“We have built grain storage and storehouses and stocked them with the necessities of life in the event of a disaster. **But the best storehouse is the family storeroom.** In words of revelation the Lord has said, “Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing” ([D&C 109:8](#))” [end of Hinckley quote]*

To re-emphasize the point about the times which we are facing and the need to be spiritually and temporally prepared, Elder Henry B. Eyring had this warning when he spoke to students at BYU-Idaho in January of 2005. He was awakened in the middle of the night by the Holy Ghost and told to say these things. He said this just after the great Tsunami in Indonesia, which killed over 250,000 people, had occurred. He specifically warned us in this talk entitled *Raise The Bar*:

“The giant earthquake, and the tsunami it sent crashing into the coasts around the Indian Ocean, is just the beginning and a part of what is to come, terrible as it was. You remember the words from the Doctrine & Covenants which now seem so accurate: (he quotes [D&C 88: 88-91](#))....

Fear shall come upon all people. But you and I know that the Lord has prepared places of safety to which He is eager to guide us.... It will be our choice whether or not to move up or stay where we are. But the Lord will invite and guide us upward by the direction of the Holy Ghost....

*I did not plan to speak to you about **the hard times that are ahead and they are real, and they are coming...**”[end of Eyring quote]*

In the most recent warning that I have found, Elder Boyd K. Packer had very ominous words about the coming days when he spoke at a recent Handcart Pioneer commemoration event in Iowa City, Iowa on June 11th, 2006:

“In ways, our journey today is harder than theirs, and definitely more dangerous. There are dark, ominous clouds ahead.”

Now if the Saints and many of their leaders could be wiped out because of their disobedience to a plain, temporal (and spiritual) commandment to store a one year’s supply of food, does it follow that there may be other areas where the Saints are potentially failing and/or being deceived?

I sincerely ask you to ponder and pray about that which will follow as I attempt to do what Elder Dallin H. Oaks requested that we do in his 2004 talk about preparing for the second coming of Christ. I will *“try to influence the preparation of those around [me].”*

The Saints Can Be Deceived

The Latter-day Prophets and Apostles are constantly preaching “the milk” of the gospel, even to life-long members of the Church. “Pay your tithing”, “do your home teaching”, “go to the Temple”, “love your neighbors”, “provide for and nurture your family”, “have Family Home Evening every Monday”, “read your scriptures”, etc., are all common themes and are all very important to not leave undone. While some may get tired of hearing it, it must be needed. If the Saints cannot live the basics of the gospel and stay away from pornography, gambling, worldliness, greed, abuse and violence on their own accord, then the Prophets must spend their time on these very basic evils and constantly warn the Saints against them. This also means that they are not able to preach about the real “meat” of the gospel and the weighty matters of the kingdom. However, I will make the case that our leaders really are speaking of “the meat” to those who have ears to hear.

There are many wonderful and faithful Latter-day Saints who are doing many of the basic, righteous things of the gospel and yet are still deceived or “blinded by the craftiness of men”. How? It is very important to be obedient to the basics of the gospel as mentioned above. Without obedience to the “milk” of the gospel we will never have the Holy Ghost with us long enough to see clearly and not be deceived nor to ultimately get the “meat”.

We know from the scriptures that even the very elect will be deceived. Consider Joseph Smith Translation of Mathew 1:22:

*22 For in those days there shall also arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch, that, if possible, **they shall deceive the very elect**....*

Also in Doctrine and Covenants section 76 the Lord warns that many good men of the earth will go to the Terrestrial Kingdom because they were deceived:

*71 And again, we saw the terrestrial world, and behold and lo, these are they who are of the terrestrial, whose glory differs from that of the church of the Firstborn.....
75 These are they who are **honorable men** of the earth, who were **blinded by the craftiness of men**.*

Is it not possible for Latter-day Saints to be included in this definition of those who were “blinded by the craftiness of men” and hence will inherit the terrestrial kingdom because of it? President Benson apparently thought this could be the case when he stated:

*“The Lord said that “the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.” (Luke 16:8) [From Benson’s *Civic Standards For The Faithful Saints* talk]*

“President Marion G Romney also stated in a talk... ***‘There is no guarantee that the devil will not deceive a lot of men who hold the priesthood.’***” [From Benson’s *Be Not Deceived* talk in General Conference from the early 60s]

What are they talking about? Can the saints be deceived by pornography, immodesty, alcoholism, gambling, etc.? No! The Saints absolutely know that these things are wrong! Consider the very beginning, even the War in Heaven. What was it fought over?

The Battle for Free Agency Is Still Raging Today

In the pre-existence we were all involved in a fight for freedom. The fight was led by Christ on one side and Lucifer on the other. It was about Christ’s plan of free agency and freedom on one hand and Lucifer’s plan of force and slavery on the other. All of those who have lived in the flesh upon the earth were on Christ’s side in that pre-mortal battle and there we chose to support the plan of free agency. Of course after being born here on the earth we forgot all of what occurred in the pre-existence. We forgot the urgency of that battle in which we fought before we obtained our physical bodies. We were sent to the earth onto another testing ground, to see if we would again choose freedom and individual responsibility over dependency and slavery.

President John Taylor tried to warn the Saints about this important and vital part of the gospel that most leave undone. He said:

*“...As we have progressed the mist has been removed, and in relation to these matters, **the Elders of Israel begin to understand that they have something to do with the world politically as well as religiously**, that it is as much their duty to study correct political principles as well as religious, and to seek to know and comprehend the social and political interests of man, and to learn and be able to teach that which would be best calculated to promote the interest of the world.” (1862, JD-9:340)*

President Taylor also said:

“Do you not think that we need revelations about government as much as anything else? I think we do. I think we need God to dictate to us as much in our national and social affairs as in church matters.” (1872, JD-15:175-6)

President Ezra Taft Benson said the following in the April 1965 General Conference:

*“As important as are all other principles of the gospel, it was the freedom issue which determined whether you received a body. **To have been on the wrong side of the freedom issue during the war in heaven meant eternal damnation. How then can Latter-day Saints expect to be on the wrong side in this life and escape the eternal consequences?** The war in heaven is raging on earth today. The issues are the same: Shall men be compelled to do what others claim is for their best welfare or will they heed the counsel of the prophet and preserve their freedom?”*

President Benson also said this in his book *An Enemy Hath Done This*, pg 313-317:

*“**Satan is anxious to neutralize the inspired counsel of the Prophet** and hence keep the priesthood off balance, ineffective and inert in the fight for freedom. He does this through diverse means, including the use of perverse reasoning. For example, he will argue, “There is no need to get involved in the fight for freedom – all you need to do is live the gospel.” **Of course this is a contradiction, because we cannot fully live the gospel and not be involved in the fight for freedom.**”*

***“The cause of freedom is a most basic part of our religion”***

*“Sometimes from behind the pulpit, in our classrooms, in our council meetings, and in our Church publications, we hear, read or witness things that do not square with the truth. **This is especially true where freedom is involved.** Now do not let this serve as an excuse for your own wrongdoing. **The Lord is letting the wheat and the tares mature before he fully purges the Church. He is also testing you to see if you will be misled. The devil is trying to deceive the very elect.**” [End of Benson quote]*

These are very powerful words for sure and Presidents Benson and Taylor weren't the only latter-day prophets to speak about these things. All of the Latter-day Prophets have spoken about divine involvement in the founding of the United States of America and the Constitution. They have all honored our nation's Founding Fathers as being inspired of

God. President George Albert Smith said ***“The Constitution is as much from my heavenly Father as the Ten Commandments”***. In today’s lessons from the pulpit, classrooms, and/or council meetings it seems that not a word about these freedom issues is ever uttered. There is much happening in the world as we speak to be commented upon when it comes to our free agency which is under direct attack.

The Constitution was given to us by God to protect mankind in their rights and allow them to enjoy these God-given rights of life, liberty and property. In the Doctrine and Covenants the Lord revealed the very importance of proper Government in our lives and our responsibility in maintaining it. Consider D&C 134:1-2:

*1 WE believe that governments were instituted of God for the benefit of man; and that **he holds men accountable for their acts in relation to them, both in making laws and administering them, for the good and safety of society.***

*2 We believe that no government can exist in peace, **except such laws are framed and held inviolate as will secure to each individual the free exercise of conscience, the right and control of property, and the protection of life.***

3 We believe that all governments necessarily require civil officers and magistrates to enforce the laws of the same; and that such as will administer the law in equity and justice should be sought for and upheld by the voice of the people....

Remember this scripture later on. It is very important to keep in mind. The Lord also told us which law was established by Him for the government of His peoples upon the land of America, the promised-land. Consider these scriptures in the Doctrine and Covenants:

D&C 98:6-7

6 Therefore, I, the Lord, justify you, and your brethren of my church, in befriending that law which is the constitutional law of the land;

7 And as pertaining to law of man, whatsoever is more or less than this, cometh of evil.

This scripture clearly states that any law which is outside the scope of the Constitution is evil. Now comes the great taboo subject in all of the Church today – “politics”.

You Cannot Separate Politics from Religion

Could the Latter-day Saints’ political beliefs be a source of potential deception among them and be leading to their condemnation? The answer to this question has been the subject of many of the teachings of latter-day prophets. Consider the following:

*“Next to being one in worshipping God, there is nothing in this world upon which this Church should be more united than in **upholding and defending the Constitution of the United States!**” (David O. McKay)*

Again from President Benson’s *Be Not Deceived* talk given in the early 60s:

“President Marion G Romney stated in a talk... ‘there is no guarantee that the devil will not deceive a lot of men who hold the priesthood.’ Then, after referring to a talk on free agency by President McKay, Elder Romney states, ‘...Free agency is the principle against which Satan waged his war in heaven. It is still the front on which he makes his most furious, devious, and persistent attacks.’

*“And then after quoting the scripture from the Pearl of Great Price regarding the war in heaven over free agency (Moses 4: 1-4) Elder Romney continues: ‘You see, at the time he was cast out of heaven, his objective was (and still is) ‘to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will.’ This he effectively does to as many as will not hearken unto the voice of God. **His main attack is still on free agency.** When he can get men to yield their agency, he has them well on the way to captivity.’ [i.e. the USA Patriot Act]*

*“We who hold the priesthood must beware concerning ourselves, **that we do not fall into the traps he lays to rob us of our freedom.** We must be careful that we are not led to accept or support in any way any organization, cause or measure which, in its remotest effect, would jeopardize free agency, whether it be in politics, government, religion, employment, education, or any other field. **It is not enough for us to be sincere in what we support. We must be right!**” [End of Benson quote]*

To reinforce the importance of this “political” theme, President Benson said this in his *Civic Standards for the Faithful Saints* talk in 1972:

*“We honor our founding fathers of this republic for the same reason. God raised up these patriotic partners to perform their mission and he called them “wise men.” (See D&C 101:80.) The First Presidency acknowledged that wisdom **when they gave us the guideline a few years ago of supporting political candidates “who are truly dedicated to the Constitution in the tradition of our Founding Fathers.”***

“The Lord said that “the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.” (Luke 16:8.) Our wise founders seemed to understand, better than most of us, our own scripture, which states that “it is the nature and disposition of almost all men, as soon as they get a little authority ... they will immediately begin to exercise unrighteous dominion.” (D&C 121:39.)

*“To help prevent this, the founders knew that **our elected leaders should be bound by certain fixed principles.** Said Thomas Jefferson: “**In questions of power then, let no more be heard of confidence in man but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.**” [End of Benson quote]*

“But These Things Were Said By Dead Prophets”

Lest anyone think that these things were said back at a time when communism was a threat to our way of life and that we are no longer facing the same serious threats to our

freedoms, consider the request given to us by our living Prophet Gordon B. Hinckley in his book *Standing For Something*:

“Teach them the beauty of freedoms – the marvelous freedoms established by the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution of this nation...

“In leadership, in standing for principle, there is loneliness. But men and women of integrity must live with their convictions. Unless they do so, they are miserable....

“Never in the history of the world has there been a more profound need for leaders of principle to step forward. Never before, at least not in our generation, have the forces of evil been so blatant, so brazen, so aggressive as they are at the present time....

“We are involved in an intense battle. It is a battle between right and wrong, between truth and error, between the design of the Almighty on the one hand and that of Lucifer on the other. For that reason we desperately need men and women who, in their individual spheres of influence, will stand for truth in a world of sophistry... We need moral men and women, people who stand on principle, to be involved in the political process. Otherwise, we abdicate power to those whose designs are almost entirely selfish.” [End of Hinckley quote]

Is it not clear from this plea from our Prophet that the Saints need to be politically involved in these last days? However this involvement needs to be in the right cause and for correct principles.

In the statements that we have already reviewed, including when President Romney stated ***“It is not enough for us to be sincere in what we support, we must be right!”***, it is clear that the Latter-day Saints must be careful that they do not unknowingly support that which is evil in the political realm.

Supporting Correct Political Principles

President Benson stated the fact that the Saints during his days were supporting incorrect principles in his talk *Be Not Deceived* from 1965:

*“In the crisis through which we are now passing, we have been fully warned. This has brought forth some criticism. There are some of us who do not want to hear the message. It embarrasses us. **The things which are threatening our lives, our welfare, and our freedoms are the very things some of us have been condoning.** Many do not want to be disturbed as they continue to enjoy their comfortable complacency...”*

Many Latter-day Saints today are doing their best to raise their families, be active in the Church and provide for their needs. However, many Latter-day Saints are neglecting this very important part of the gospel – the freedom fight, which is God’s fight. All around us in the world and especially in the United States, we are losing our liberties that were

guaranteed by the Constitution. They are slowly slipping away and most of us are either unaware or do not care. It's as the Book of Mormon says, "*the devil cheateth their souls and leads them carefully down to hell*" because they believe that "*all is well in Zion*".

How many people know what the Constitution says and understand the reality that it is now 'hanging by a thread'? How many know what their elected officials are doing and how the laws that they are passing are affecting our God-given liberties and agency?

Plato, a historical Greek philosopher (429-347 B.C.) whom the Founding Fathers often quoted said this:

"The penalty good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men."

Our Latter-day Prophets have known about this danger and have warned us about it many, many times. However they won't tell us everything because we are here on earth to be tested. This is evidenced by what Elder Boyd K. Packer said in his Sept. 2005 Ensign article about the Twelve Apostles when he said, "*There are limits to which the Spirit permits us to say*". The Lord will allow the wheat and the tares to grow together because this life is about being tested. Yet they have told us enough, if we just seek it out. Most Latter-day Saints today do not get involved in politics at all beyond just going to the voting booth. They do not study the issues and hold their elected officials accountable for the legislation and programs they pass. This allows us to easily be misled.

The Weighty Matter of the Law

President Ezra Taft Benson made it very clear in his 1965 talk *Not Commanded In All Things* that it is part of Satan's plan to keep the Elders of Israel asleep when it comes to the "weighty matters" of the law or in other words, our defense of freedom and free agency:

"The devil knows that if the elders of Israel should ever wake up, they could step forth and help preserve freedom and extend the gospel. Therefore the devil has concentrated, and to a large extent successfully, in neutralizing much of the priesthood. He has reduced them to sleeping giants. His arguments are clever. Here are a few samples:

"First: "We really haven't received much instruction about freedom," the devil says. . . .

*"Second: "You're too involved in other church work," says the devil. **But freedom is a weighty matter of the law; the lesser principles of the gospel you should keep but not leave this one undone.** We may have to balance and manage our time better. **Your other church work will be limited once you lose your freedom** as our Saints have found out in Czechoslovakia, Poland, and many other nations.*

“Third: “You want to be loved by everyone,” says the devil, “and this freedom battle is so controversial you might be accused of engaging in politics.” . . .

“Fourth: “Wait until it becomes popular to do,” says the devil, “or, at least until everybody in the Church agrees on what should be done.” . . .

“Fifth: “It might hurt your business or your family,” says the devil, “and besides why not let the gentiles save the country? They aren’t as busy as you are.” . . .

“Sixth: “Don’t worry,” says the devil, “the Lord will protect you, and besides the world is so corrupt and heading toward destruction at such a pace that you can’t stop it, so why try.” . . .

“And now as to the last neutralizer that the devil uses most effectively—it is simply this: “Don’t do anything in the fight for freedom until the Church sets up its own specific program to save the Constitution.” This brings us right back to the scripture I opened with today—to those slothful servants who will not do anything until they are “compelled in all things” [D&C 58:26]. Maybe the Lord will never set up a specific church program for the purpose of saving the Constitution. Perhaps if he set one up at this time it might split the Church asunder, and perhaps he does not want that to happen yet for not all the wheat and tares are fully ripe....

*“Brethren, if we had done our homework and were faithful, we could step forward at this time and help save this country. **The fact that most of us are unprepared to do it is an indictment we will have to bear. The longer we wait, the heavier the chains, the deeper the blood, the more the persecution, and the less we can carry out our God-given mandate and worldwide mission. The war in heaven is raging on the earth today. Are you being neutralized in the battle?**” (Not Commanded in All Things 538-39; also in GFC 385-89)*

Again from Ezra Taft Benson’s talk *Civic Standards for the Faithful Saints* in 1972:

*“President [J. Rueben] Clark warned us that **“we stand in danger of losing our liberties, and that once lost, only blood will bring them back; and once lost, we of this church will, in order to keep the Church going forward, have more sacrifices to make and more persecutions to endure than we have yet known. ...”** (CR, April 1944, p. 116.) And he stated that if **the conspiracy** “comes here it will probably come in its full vigor and there will be a lot of vacant places among those who guide and direct, not only this government, but also this Church of ours.” (CR, April 1952.)”*

Secret Combinations

Uh-oh! There’s that great buzzword – “Conspiracy”. This is a word which immediately most Latter-day Saints will either shut out, ignore or refuse to believe exists. Yet it is

these conspiracies or “secret combinations” which are the very things that are deceiving a majority of the Latter-day Saints today. How can I claim this? *“The signs are all around us”*. We must remember what the Prophets have said about our inspired Constitution and that next to worshipping Christ, there is nothing more important than upholding and defending the Constitution of the United States (said David O. McKay). The Constitution must be preserved because it is what allows the Lord’s Church, in its base of operations – America, to continue its mission throughout the world.

So what about these “Secret Combinations”? What are they and why are they absolutely vital for the Saints to know about? What does this have to do with the Latter-day Saints’ eventual exaltation? These things are rarely ever mentioned in any gospel doctrine class.

Here is just one example, among many from history, where straying from the Constitution has led to evil men taking control. In the Constitution it calls for our own government to print and coin money (Article 1 Section 8 Clause 5), backed by a tangible and valuable substance – gold. In 1913 conspiring elites in our government and from both major political parties illegally transferred this Constitutional duty of our government into the hands of private bankers who created the Federal Reserve Bank.

Because of the Federal Reserve Act passed in 1913, instead of printing and coining our own money backed by gold, they began printing worthless fiat paper money not backed by anything. One of the chief backers of the original Federal Reserve Bank – Lord Rothschild said: ***“Give me control of a nation’s currency, and I care not who makes its laws”***.

The Federal Reserve is a private banking system which simply loans the US Government money or credit by printing paper money out of thin air and in return they charge the government interest on that money. Hence the need for burdensome income taxes to pay for the interest charges. The Book of Mormon is full of examples of burdensome taxes placed upon the people by unrighteous leaders. (Mosiah 7:15, Ether 10:5, Mosiah 11:3)

Why is that dangerous? It means that now the Government had the ability to deficit spend. They basically got a brand new credit card with no limit. The politicians could now spend more money than they actually had in order to buy more votes and more political influence. Then they tax our income to pay for the interest charges on their out-of-control borrowing.

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan was an economist who knew the importance of a gold standard BEFORE he was appointed as the FED chairman. Back in 1967 he said this about the danger of not having gold as a backing for our money:

“The abandonment of the gold standard made it possible for the welfare statist to use the banking system as a means to an unlimited expansion of credit....”

“Deficit spending is simply a scheme for the confiscation of wealth. Gold stands in the way of this insidious process. It stands as a protector of property rights!”

(Alan Greenspan, Gold and Economic Freedom, in Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal, ed. Ayn Rand (New York: Signet Books, 1967), p. 101.) (as Quoted in The Creature From Jekyll Island by G. Edward Griffin, p. 148.)

Republican President Richard Nixon finally outlawed gold as the official backing of our money during the early seventies. This was a direct attack on our property rights.

When discussing organized evil and its potential effect on our lives, in relation to political conspiracies, many people will say, “Why focus on such negative things?” These same people will also say, “There isn’t anything uplifting, ‘praiseworthy or of good report’ about discussing such things. I thought a lot about that and I kept thinking about whether or not knowing these things blesses us in any way or uplifts us. Of course with evil things, one will not feel the spirit. Never-the-less it is important for us to identify evil so that we don’t fall prey to it or unwittingly uphold and support it. **Many in the Church seem to want to separate politics (government) and religion.** They want there to be no relation between the two so that it justifies their inactivity in the political realm. Please take the time read the following quotes and scripture and ponder them in your heart.

Elder Ezra Taft Benson said in his *Stand Up For Freedom* talk in 1965:

*“I am not here to tickle your ears, to entertain you; I will talk to you frankly and honestly. **The message I bring is not a happy one, but it is the truth. And time is always on the side of truth.** As the German Philosopher Goethe said, **“Truth must be repeated again and again, because error is constantly being preached round about.”**As a people, we love sweetness and light. Especially sweetness. Ralph Waldo Emerson said that “Every mind must make a choice between truth and repose. “Those who will learn nothing from history are condemned to repeat it. This we are doing in the Americas today. George Washington stated, “Truth shall ultimately prevail, where there are pains taken to bring it to light...”*

In Doctrine and Covenants section 123 we read:

7 It is an imperative duty that we owe to God, to angels, with whom we shall be brought to stand, and also to ourselves, to our wives and children.....

12 For there are many yet on the earth among all sects, parties, and denominations, who are blinded by the subtle craftiness of men, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, and who are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it—

13 Therefore, that we should waste and wear out our lives in bringing to light all the hidden things of darkness, wherein we know them; and they are truly manifest from heaven—

14 These should then be attended to with great earnestness.

15 Let no man count them as small things; for there is much which lieth in futurity, pertaining to the saints, which depends upon these things.

Also from D&C 42, the Lord is sending out his first missionaries to the “East” (eastern states) and tells them what to teach:

*64 And even now, let him that goeth to the east teach them that shall be converted to flee to the west, and **this in consequence of that which is coming on the earth, and of secret combinations**.*

When these same missionaries returned, it seems that they had not taught what the Lord commanded them to and did teach about the secret combinations. Remember “secret combinations” are the 4th most-mentioned topic in the Book of Mormon, behind only Christ, missionary work and warfare. So clearly the Book of Mormon includes a lot of scriptural warnings about secret combinations seeking to overthrow our freedom. (See Ether chapter 8, among many others).

You must ask yourself, what are those “plain and precious truths of the gospel” that were removed from the Bible? The Bible speaks of visions and dreams, Priesthood authority, baptism, repentance, the Holy Ghost, missionary work, the temple, the three degrees of glory, the spirit world, tithing, etc, etc. However, do you read that much about “secret combinations” or conspiracy in the Bible? Is the term “secret combination” found in the Bible? No. Those parts were removed. Remember that the whole War in Heaven was fought over free agency and freedom and that is still Satan’s battle front here on earth. Lucifer only uses all of the immorality and worldliness as a distraction to keep us from being obedient to the ‘weightier matters of the law’, which is to promote Christ’s plan.

When the missionaries mentioned above came back from the east, they were rebuked by the Lord in D&C section 84. Why? Read verses 54-57:

*54 And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated **lightly the things you have received**—*
*55 Which **vanity and unbelief** have brought the whole church under condemnation.*
56 And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all.
*57 And they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the **new covenant, even the Book of Mormon** and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, **but to do** according to that which I have written—*

Do what? Teach and warn about “*that which is coming on the earth, and of secret combinations*”, the 4th most-mentioned topic in the Book of Mormon.

We have to know about these things so that we aren’t deceived by them. Then we must “*waste and wear out our lives in bringing to light*” these “*hidden things of darkness*”. Why? Because there are many in all sects (including LDS) who are being deceived and are building up and upholding the secret combinations.

This is why President Benson stated:

*“Now, we have not been using the **Book of Mormon** as we should. Our homes are not as strong unless we are using it to bring our children to Christ. **Our families may be corrupted by worldly trends and teachings unless we know how to use the book to expose and combat the falsehoods in socialism, organic evolution, rationalism,***

*humanism, etc. Our missionaries are not as effective unless they are “hissing forth” with it. Social, ethical, cultural, or educational converts will not survive under the heat of the day unless their taproots go down to the fullness of the gospel which the Book of Mormon contains. Our Church classes are not as spirit-filled unless we hold it up as a standard. And our nation will continue to degenerate unless we read and heed the words of the God of this land, Jesus Christ, **and quit building up and upholding the secret combinations** which the Book of Mormon tells us proved the downfall of both previous American civilizations.” (April 1975, Ezra Taft Benson)*

The Book of Mormon Is the Key

The Book of Mormon is the key to us not being deceived. How are the Saints “building up and upholding the secret combinations”? Why were we asked by the Prophet to re-read the Book of Mormon last year? Why was so much emphasis placed upon the membership of the Church reading that book again? Could it be that the Saints as a whole are still under condemnation from treating lightly the Book of Mormon? Could it be that the Saints, through their votes and their politics, are supporting the very things that are destroying our freedoms because they are deceived?

President Gordon B. Hinckley told us why this Book is so important when he first asked us to re-read it by the end of last year. In his First Presidency Message from the August 2005 Ensign he said:

*“The Book of Mormon narrative is a chronicle of nations long since gone. **But in its descriptions of the problems of today’s society, it is as current as the morning newspaper and much more definitive, inspired, and inspiring concerning the solutions of those problems.***

*“I know of no other writing which sets forth with such clarity the tragic consequences to societies that follow courses contrary to the commandments of God. Its pages trace the stories of two distinct civilizations that flourished on the Western Hemisphere. Each began as a small nation, its people walking in the fear of the Lord. But with prosperity came growing evils. **The people succumbed to the wiles of ambitious and scheming leaders who oppressed them with burdensome taxes, who lulled them with hollow promises, who countenanced and even encouraged loose and lascivious living. **These evil schemers led the people into terrible wars that resulted in the death of millions and the final and total extinction of two great civilizations in two different eras.....*****

*“No other written testament so clearly illustrates the fact that when men **and nations** walk in the fear of God and in obedience to His commandments, they prosper and grow, **but when they disregard Him and His word, there comes a decay that, unless arrested by righteousness, leads to impotence and death.** The Book of Mormon is an affirmation of the Old Testament proverb: “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (**Prov. 14:34**).*

*“The God of heaven spoke to these people of the Americas through prophets, telling them where true security could be found: “Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, **if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ” (Ether 2:12).** [End of Hinckley quote]*

Does this not speak about political things? “Burdensome taxes”, “scheming” leaders “leading the people into terrible wars”, are both political in nature. You could also add lost liberties [The Patriot Act], lost sovereignty and the taking of God out of everything in our nation. Who else could place these burdens upon us but a corrupt government? It certainly isn’t any terrorist. As a nation “for the people”, “by the people” and “of the people” we must be obedient to the law which God gave us to live under, which is the Constitution. If we move away from that standard, we are apostatizing from the truth and the commandment of God concerning our governance. Consider President Hinckley’s words about this from his October 2001 General Conference talk:

*“Great are the promises concerning this land of America. We are told unequivocally that it “is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ” (Ether 2:12). **This is the crux of the entire matter—obedience to the commandments of God.***

“The Constitution under which we live, and which has not only blessed us but has become a model for other constitutions, is our God-inspired national safeguard ensuring freedom and liberty, justice and equality before the law.”

Yes, the very essence of the Gospel includes what we support politically and whether or not we are upholding and defending the Constitution. Yet today rarely anything is said about any of this by our gospel teachers. This is not about politics in the way that the Church is to remain neutral, i.e. about Republicans versus Democrats and other party politics. It is about gospel principles and the correct principles of government, which is spiritual in nature as well, especially since we live in a Republic “by the people”. (See D&C 134:1)

A Proper Understanding of the Proper Role of Government

A very good friend of Ezra Taft Benson, former BYU Economics Professor, and Church General Authority – H. Verlan Anderson wrote:

“A person’s political philosophy is an extension of his moral beliefs because he cannot determine whether he favors or opposes a law without consulting his moral standards...A person’s political philosophy not only reflects his moral convictions, but it also represents his most intense feelings regarding good and evil...When a person is so firmly convinced of the correctness of his political code that he is willing to impose it on all

other members of society [through his votes] with death, imprisonment, and fine [using Government force] he has expressed those convictions in the strongest possible manner.”

If as D&C 134 verse 1 states: “that men will be held accountable in their actions in relation to their government”, and since we live in a free Republic, our votes and what we support politically will have a major effect on our salvation.

Let’s put it another way. It may be stated that the degree to which a person supports corrupt laws is the standard by which his disdain for another person’s agency can be accurately measured. Nowhere is this pride, or contempt for another’s life, liberty or property, more brazen than in the perverted laws one favors.

A Constitutional Republic is based upon set laws as well as limits on Government that allow us to live here in freedom. Our Founders recognized that rights come from God and not the State and that the purpose of government was to protect man in the enjoyment of those basic God-given rights of life, liberty and property.

Today most of our elected officials believe that God-given rights include: jobs, health care, housing, transportation, education and many others. They believe that Government must provide these things. However, the government cannot provide these things without forcibly taking from one and giving to another through burdensome taxes.

When Government seeks to be the great equalizer in society and then uses the redistribution of wealth to achieve it – this is Socialism. As President Benson stated above, “*we must use the Book of Mormon...to combat the falsehoods in socialism.*” (See also Dallin H. Oaks’ October 2003 General Conference address *Repentance and Change* to see a clear warning against supporting the “culture of dependency” in any way)

It is well known that the Democrat Party in America has always been identified as the political party which “stands for the little guy”, and will use the government to make things more “fair” or “equal” in society. As you read further you will also see that this is the mission of the Republican Party as well. But what methods do they rely on to achieve this “equality”? LDS President John Taylor felt that there is something very wrong about government welfare and its practice of forced charity. He said:

"There is also another political party, who desire, through the influence of legislation and coercion, to level the world. To say the least, it is a species of robbery; to some it may appear an honorable one, but nevertheless, it is robbery. What right has any private man to take by force the property of another? The laws of all nations would punish such a man as a thief. Would thousands of men engaged in the same business make it more honorable? Certainly not. And if a nation were to do it, would a nation's act sanctify a wrong deed? No; the Algerine pirates, or Arabian hordes, were never considered honorable, on account of their numbers; and a nation, or nations, engaging in this would only augment the banditti, but could never sanctify the deed". (John Taylor, Government of God, 1852, p. 23)

The Saints Support the Secret Combinations

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in his October 2005 General Conference address spoke about the blessings that come from truly reading and understanding the Book of Mormon. He said:

*“Why is the reading of the Book of Mormon so important to us today? It is because the major writers of the Book of Mormon fully understood that **their writings were primarily for the people of a future generation** rather than for the people of their own generation. Moroni wrote to our generation, “I speak unto you as if ye were present” (Morm. 8:35).*

***“The Book of Mormon is a voice of warning to this generation.** See how vividly it describes conditions on the earth today:*

*... “And it shall come in a day when the blood of saints shall cry unto the Lord, **because of secret combinations and the works of darkness.**”*

“President Ezra Taft Benson reaffirmed the fact that the Book of Mormon is of particular value to our time when he said:

*“The Book of Mormon was **written for us today.** God is the author of the book. It is a record of a fallen people, compiled by inspired men for our blessing today. Those people never had the book—it was meant for us. Mormon, the ancient prophet after whom the book is named, abridged centuries of records. **God, who knows the end from the beginning, told him what to include in his abridgment that we would need for our day**” (“The Book of Mormon Is the Word of God,” Ensign, May 1975, 63).*

“Each time we read the book we should probably ask ourselves: “Why did these writers choose these particular stories or events to include in the record? What value are they for us today?” [Note: Why are secret combinations the fourth most-mentioned topic within the pages of the Book of Mormon?]”

*“Among the lessons we learn from the Book of Mormon are **the cause and effect of war and under what conditions it is justified.** It tells of evils and dangers of secret combinations, which are built up to get power and gain over the people. It tells of the reality of Satan and gives an indication of some of the methods he uses.”*

Why does Elder Perry mention secret combinations twice? Why does he also mention that the Book of Mormon teaches us “the cause and effect of war and under what conditions it is justified” if we were fighting a justifiable war now in Iraq? There are many who rightfully question the righteousness of the current war.

If you read Helaman Chapter 6: 18-22 you will be struck by the following verses. Remember that the Nephites represented members of God’s true Church:

18. ...there were many, even among the Nephites, of Gadianton's band....

21. *But behold, Satan did stir up the hearts of the more part of the Nephites, insomuch that they did unite with those bands of robbers, and did enter into their covenants and their oaths...*

22. *And thus they might commit murder, and plunder, and steal, and commit whoredoms and all manner of wickedness, contrary to the laws of their country and also the laws of their God.*

I don't think that these Nephites were just "useful idiots" - it seems they willfully entered into covenants and oaths with other conspirators.

Also noteworthy, a majority or "more part" of the Nephites were united with the Gadiantons.

How was that possible? Is it possible today among the Saints?

Ezra Taft Benson stated the same thing and paralleled that to our day in stating:

*"Secret combinations flourished because, as Helaman tells us, **the Gadianton robbers 'had seduced the more part of the righteous until they had come down to believe in their works and partake of their spoils... even as today.**"* (Helaman 6:38). (Ezra Taft Benson "The Savior's Visit to America" May Ensign 1987. p.4.)

Now what does all of this have to do with the Latter-day Saints today? Surely the Gadiantons in this context have nothing to do with the mafia, terrorists, drug cartels or gangs which many Saints falsely interpret the secret combinations to be. The Saints typically aren't tempted to join any of these evil groups, but they do align themselves with false governmental and political philosophies.

A Word of Warning to the Saints about Their Political Beliefs

From the statements above we know that the Saints in all times have been guilty of building up and upholding secret combinations.

How can we be assured that we are not one of them? How can we be assured that we are not deceived? How can we be assured that we aren't one of the ones who President Clark warned about, as quoted here by Ezra Taft Benson?

*"Yes, within the Church today there are tares among the wheat and wolves within the flock. As President Clark stated, **'The ravening wolves are amongst us, from our own membership, and they, more than any others, are clothed with sheep's clothing because they wear the habiliments of the priesthood.... We should be careful of them...'**"* (Ezra Taft Benson, "To the Humble Followers of Christ" Improvement Era June 1969. p.43.)

A great patriot of our nation, President David O. McKay, said back in the 60's in a letter to the BYU faculty about our trend towards socialism in America and I believe it is still applicable today:

"I cannot help but think that there is a direct relationship between the present evil trends and the very marked tendency of the people of our country to pass on to the state the responsibility for their own moral and economic welfare. This trend to a welfare state in which people look to and worship government more than their God, is certain to sap the individual ambitions and moral fiber of our youth unless they are warned of the consequences. History is replete with the downfall of nations who, instead of assuming their own responsibility...mistakenly attempted to shift their individual responsibility to the government."

Consider what the Saints overwhelmingly support politically today and compare these things with the words of our Founding Fathers and the Prophets. There is a perception among the members of the LDS Church, that in order to be a 'good Mormon' one should vote Republican. It is also commonly felt among the Saints that the precepts of the modern day Democratic Party platform are opposed to what we believe. However, as will be demonstrated below, there is a distinct danger to the Saints in blindly following either major party. The deception comes when the Saints believe that they are "choosing the right" when that choice all along may not be correct or righteous.

Fact: the State of Utah gives President Bush the highest job-approval rating of all of the States in America.

Fact: over 70% of the population in Utah are registered Republican.

Fact: Utah is the most "Republican" state in America.

Fact: Under Bush and the Republicans (with help from the Democrats) our nation is in more debt than ever before in our nations history – over \$9 Trillion. As of 2006 the per capita national debt is over \$30,000 per man, woman and child. Under Bush and the Republican led Congress more debt has been added to our national debt than under all previous Presidential administrations combined.

In 1997 Gordon B. Hinckley had this to say about our national debt:

"What a dismal station we have reached in this nation where we have borrowed and spent and failed to repay. At the close of 1994, every man, woman, and child in the United States owed as his or her part of the national debt \$17,805.64. Think of it. It is a disgrace. It affects all of our monetary policies and all of our commerce. It burdens us with taxes from which there is little or no relief."

Thomas Jefferson said:

"I deem economy to be one of the first and most important republican virtues and public debt as the greatest of the dangers to be feared."

We have doubled our national debt since Hinckley said that, largely under supposedly “conservative” political leadership.

Fact: Due to the passage of the USA Patriot Act by politicians from both major parties and with President Bush’s signature, Americans have lost more of their God-given Constitutional liberties than ever before in our nation’s history. This legislation severely threatens the Bill of Rights but especially the 4th Amendment protections. The President alone can now determine who is a terrorist threat. Many Saints support these measures because the President and Congress claim that it is for our safety, but as President Benson quoted: *“There used to be a time when the American people roared like lions for liberty, but now they bleat like sheep for security.”* We shouldn’t sacrifice liberty for safety.

President J. Reuben Clark also warned about legislation like the USA Patriot Act:

“Under [God’s] plan the only allegiance we owe as citizens...of the United States, runs to our inspired Constitution which God himself set up....This principle of allegiance to the Constitution is basic to our freedom.

*“I wish to say with all the earnestness I possess**when you see government invading any of these realms of freedom which we have under our Constitution, you will know that they are putting shackles on your liberty, and that tyranny is creeping upon you, no matter who curtails these liberties or who invades these realms, and no matter what the reason and excuse therefore may be.**”* (The Improvement Era, July 1940)

Have we heeded that warning? Do we support in any way any legislation which, in its remotest effect, would endanger our God-given liberties? Tyranny is creeping upon us.

Fact: Utah gave President Bush and the Republicans the highest percentage of victory in the 2004 Presidential election out of the entire country. This was clearly a vote in support of the Un-constitutional War in Iraq and the perpetual ‘War on Terror’ in general. This also shows LDS support for the expansion of the welfare state and the attack on our liberties through legislation like the Patriot Act. In fact many Latter-day Saints come out in fervent support of our nation’s current foreign policy. Many Saints even believe that we should be spreading “democracy” through force around the world because it is “for their own good”.

While this may show good intentions, it doesn’t mesh with proper Constitutional principles. It has been said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Have the Saints considered the words of our Prophets concerning proper U.S. foreign policy as well as their warnings against worshipping the false gods of war?

President Benson stated:

*“There is one and only one legitimate goal of United States foreign policy. It is a narrow goal, a nationalistic goal: the preservation of our national independence. Nothing in the Constitution grants that the president shall have the privilege of offering himself as a world leader.... **Nothing in the Constitution nor in logic grants to the president of the***

United States or Congress the power to influence the political life of other countries, to ‘uplift’ their cultures, to bolster their economies, to feed their people, or even defend them against their enemies.” (Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p. 614; pp.682 & 704)

And President Spencer W. Kimball stated in his 1976 talk *The False Gods We Worship*:

*“When I review the performance of this people.....I am appalled and frightened..... **We are a warlike people**, easily distracted from our assignment of preparing for the coming of the Lord. When enemies rise up, we commit vast resources to the fabrication of gods of stone and steel – ships, planes, missiles, fortifications – and depend on them for protection and deliverance. **When threatened, we become anti-enemy instead of pro-Kingdom of God; we train man in the art of war and call him a patriot, thus, in the manner of Satan’s counterfeit of true patriotism, perverting the Savior’s teaching: ‘Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven’.**”*

The scriptures are filled with verses discussing the wicked nature of offensive, preemptive war and the evil of “going out” to battle. (See 3 Nephi 3: 17-21, D&C 98:33, 3 Nephi 2:12, D&C 98:16-18, Mormon 3: 10,14-15, etc..)

This is what President Gordon B. Hinckley said in the context of the current war in Iraq:

*“War, of course, is not new. The weapons change. **The ability to kill and destroy is constantly refined. But there has been conflict throughout the ages over essentially the same issues....***

*“Isaiah speaks further concerning that great conflict (see **Isa. 14:12–20**). Modern revelation gives additional light (see **D&C 76:25–29**), as does the book of Moses (see **Moses 4:1–4**), which **tells of Satan’s plan to destroy the agency of man....***

[Note: the War on Terror seems to be a war on our liberties more than anything.]

*“**We sometimes are prone to glorify the great empires of the past**, such as the Ottoman Empire, the Roman and Byzantine Empires, and in more recent times, the vast British Empire. **But there is a darker side to every one of them. There is a grim and tragic overlay of brutal conquest, of subjugation, of repression, and an astronomical cost in life and treasure...***

*“**But modern revelation states that we are to “renounce war and proclaim peace.” (D&C 98:16).....**[end of Hinckley quote]*

Are we truly fighting for “a better cause” as the Book of Mormon says? Are we truly defending our own homes, lives, families and liberties over in Iraq? Did Iraq attack America? In the Book of Mormon the righteous Nephites never “went out” to battle but

only fought to defend the borders of their own lands. When the Nephites did venture out in offensive war they were always defeated.

Fact: Under President Bush and the Republicans the federal government and taxpayer funded welfare entitlements have grown more than at any other time in our nation's history. Far more people are dependent upon the Government for some benefit than at any other time in our history.

Fact: The National Republican Party Platform from 2004 says the following:

“Republicans applaud President Bush for launching groundbreaking efforts to address the needs and hopes of the world's poor, cutting across traditional boundaries to focus on what works....”

“Republicans believe that a world where some live in comfort and plenty, while half of the human race lives on less than \$2 a day, is neither just nor stable. We applaud President Bush and the Republican Congress for their leadership and moral clarity in making the inclusion of all of the world's poor in an expanding circle of development – and opportunity – one of the top priorities of U.S. international policy....”

“Decades of massive development assistance have failed to spur economic growth in the poorest countries....”

*“Where governments have implemented real policy changes, **we will provide significant new levels of assistance.** The United States and other developed countries should set an ambitious and specific target: to double the size of the world's poorest economies within a decade.”* [end of excerpt from Republican Platform]

Contrast those words with the words of our Prophets. Again, remember these words uttered by a Prophet of God:

“Nothing in the Constitution nor in logic grants to the president of the United States or Congress the power to influence the political life of other countries, to ‘uplift’ their cultures, to bolster their economies, to feed their people, or even defend them against their enemies.” (Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p. 614; pp.682 & 704)

I also highly encourage you to locate Elder Dallin H. Oaks' entire talk from October 2003 General Conference entitled *Repentance and Change* to see where the Lord stands on government entitlements and programs established to bring equality to the people. Here is just part of what he said:

“The traditions or culture or way of life of a people inevitably include some practices that must be changed by those who wish to qualify for God's choicest blessings....”

*“In these examples I am not contrasting the culture or traditions of one part of the world with another. **I am contrasting the Lord's way with the world's way**—the culture of the gospel of Jesus Christ with the culture or traditions of every nation or people....”*

*“There is a unique gospel culture, a set of values and expectations and practices common to all members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This gospel way of life comes from the plan of salvation, the commandments of God, and the teachings of the living prophets. It is given expression in the way we raise our families and live our individual lives....This requires us to make some changes from our family culture, our ethnic culture, **or our national culture**. We must change all elements of our behavior that are in conflict with gospel commandments, covenants, and culture....*

“The gospel plan is based on individual responsibility.... This requirement of individual responsibility, which has many expressions in our doctrine, is in sharp contrast to Satan’s plan to “redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost .” (Moses 4:1). The plan of the Father and the Savior is based on individual choice and individual effort.

“... We live in a world where there are large differences in income and material possessions and where there are many public and private efforts to narrow these differences. The followers of the Savior are commanded to give to the poor, and many do. But some gifts have promoted a culture of dependency, reducing their recipients’ need for earthly food or shelter but impoverishing them in their eternal need for individual growth. The growth required by the gospel plan only occurs in a culture of individual effort and responsibility. It cannot occur in a culture of dependency. Whatever causes us to be dependent on someone else for decisions or resources we could provide for ourselves weakens us spiritually and retards our growth toward what the gospel plan intends us to be.” [End of Dallin H. Oaks’ quote]

Also consider this statement from President Ezra Taft Benson:

"When government presumes to demand more and more of the fruits of men's labor through taxation, and reduces more and more its actual income by printing money and furthering debt, the wage earner is left with less and less to buy food, to provide housing, medical care, education, and private welfare. Individuals are then left without a choice, and must look to the state as benevolent supporter. When that happens, liberty is gone!"

Are we, through our votes or our party loyalty, supporting candidates who support “the culture of dependency” or socialism? Have we supported the taking away of our freedoms in exchange for safety? Are we failing the test?

This is what Heber. C Kimball said of the Saints:

"Yes, we think we are secure here in the chambers of these everlasting hills . . . but I want to say to you, my brethren, the time is coming when we will be mixed up in these now peaceful valleys to that extent that it will be difficult to tell the face of a Saint from the face of an enemy against the people of God. Then is the time to look out for The great sieve, for there will be a great sifting time, and many will fall. For I say unto you there is a test, a Test, a TEST coming."

(Heber C. Kimball, 1856. Quoted by J. Golden Kimball, Conf. Report, Oct1930, pp. 59-60.)

THE TEST & More about Modern Day Deception

This test could be many things. There are “divers ways” which Satan can deceive us and lead us captive down to hell.

However, based upon the servants of the Lord quoted above, could our “building up and upholding of the secret combinations” be as simple as who we are voting for? Could it be about the principles we stand for through our votes and political support?

Do we support the principle of free agency and personally accountability at all costs?

President Benson gave us this warning in his talk from the 1968 General Conference:

“If America is destroyed, it may be by Americans who salute the flag, sing the national anthem, march in patriotic parades, cheer Fourth of July speakers--normally good Americans, but Americans who fail to comprehend what is required to keep our country strong and free--Americans who have been lulled away into a false security” ...

*“The facts are clear. Our problem centers in Washington, D.C. And **this applies to the administration of both political parties.** In the words of James Madison, “since the general civilization of mankind, I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power, than by violent and sudden usurpations.” (Elliot's Debates, Vol. 3, p. 87.)*

Are we being lulled away into carnal security that we will say “All is well in Zion, yea, all is well” – as the Devil “cheateth our souls and leads us carefully down to hell”?

Elder Ezra Taft Benson, again from his 1968 conference talk *Americans Are Destroying America*:

“I do not believe the greatest threat to our future is from bombs or guided missiles. I do not think our civilization will die that way. I think it will die when we no longer care, when the spiritual forces that make us wish to be right and noble die in the hearts of men, when we disregard the importance of law and order. If American freedom is lost, if America is destroyed, if our blood-bought freedom is surrendered, it will be because of Americans. What's more, it will probably not be only the work of subversive and criminal Americans. The Benedict Arnolds will not be the only ones to forfeit our freedom.”

Elder Ezra Taft Benson also said this in his 1972 talk *Civic Standards For the Faithful Saints* on the importance of the Book of Mormon in warning us today:

*“Joseph Smith said that the Book of Mormon was the “keystone of our religion” and the “most correct” book on earth. (DHC, vol. 6, p. 56.) This most correct book on earth states that the downfall of two great American civilizations **came as a result of secret conspiracies whose desire was to overthrow the freedom of the people.** “And they have*

caused the destruction of this people of whom I am now speaking,” says Moroni, “and also the destruction of the people of Nephi.” (**Ether 8:21**.)

“Now undoubtedly Moroni could have pointed out many factors that led to the destruction of the people, but **notice how he singled out the secret combinations**, just as the Church today could point out many threats to peace, prosperity, and the spread of God’s work, but it has singled out the greatest threat as the godless conspiracy. **There is no conspiracy theory in the Book of Mormon—it is a conspiracy fact.**

“Then Moroni speaks to us in this day and says, “Wherefore, the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which shall be among you” (**Ether 8:14** [End of Benson quote])

Are the Latter-day Saints today being deceived by the Secret Combinations set about to destroy our very agency and the very gospel plan that Christ fought and died for?

As I attend church every week I rarely hear one word about these things. I believe that these issues must be brought to light and that we can speak of proper governmental principles without “getting into politics” as far as which party or candidate to support. It seems that the very things that can cause the “very elect to be deceived” are seldom mentioned by anyone in church. As we have seen, the Prophets have not been silent on these issues and have even recently spoken out about these things. Often times the brethren teach these principles in parable or code for those who have “eyes to see” or “ears to hear”.

The General Authorities of the Church are restricted by necessity on what they can teach because of tax exempt rules and because as President Hinckley recently stated, “*there are those who are watching us very carefully, hoping to ensnare us in our words.*” They are worldwide leaders now and not just speaking to Americans. However, regular Church members in America should be taught about these things. We must do this because it seems that the very elect are often blindly following their political leaders to their own peril because they do not know correct principles.

The great importance of not being deceived politically was strongly expressed in Ezra Taft Benson’s talk *Civic Standards For The Faithful Saints* from 1972:

“Said Brigham Young: “I am more afraid that this people have so much confidence in their leaders that they will not inquire for themselves of God whether they are led by Him. ... Let every man and woman know, by the whisperings of the Spirit of God to themselves, whether their leaders are walking in the path the Lord dictates, or not.” (JD, vol. 9, p. 150.)...

“A number of years ago, because of a statement that appeared to represent the policy of the Church, **a faithful member feared he was supporting the wrong candidate for public office. Humbly he took the matter up with the Lord. Through the Spirit of the Lord he**

gained the conviction of the course he should follow, and he dropped his support of this particular candidate.

“This good brother, by fervent prayer, got the answer that in time proved to be the right course.

“We urge all men to read the Book of Mormon and then ask God if it is true. And the promise is sure that they may know of its truthfulness through the Holy Ghost, “and by the power of the Holy Ghost [men] may know the truth of all things.” (Moro. 10:5)

“We need the constant guidance of that Spirit. We live in an age of deceit. “O my people,” said Isaiah in the Book of Mormon, “they who lead thee cause thee to err and destroy the way of thy paths.” (2 Ne. 13:12.) Even within the Church we have been warned that:

“The ravening wolves are amongst us, from our own membership, and they, more than any others, are clothed in sheep’s clothing, because they wear the habiliments of the priesthood.” (J. Reuben Clark, Jr., CR, April 1949, p. 163.)

“The Lord holds us accountable if we are not wise and are deceived. “For they that are wise,” he said, “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.” (D&C 45:57.)

“And so four great civic standards for the faithful Saints are, first, the Constitution ordained by God through wise men; second, the scriptures, particularly the Book of Mormon; third, the inspired counsel of the prophets, especially the living president, and fourth, the guidance of the Holy Spirit.” [End of Benson quote]

What Else Do the Scriptures Say about Political Things?

The Latter-day revelations and scripture are very clear that the Saints must be involved in the political realm of things. In many instances the **Doctrine and Covenants warns of the effect that the secret combinations will have on the Saints if they don’t expose them and are deceived by them.** Again, remember D&C 123 where it states that “*we should wasted and wear out our lives in bringing to light the hidden things of darkness*”? **Also consider this from Doctrine and Covenants 38:28-30 and how it applies today:**

*28 And again, I say unto you that **the enemy in the secret chambers seeketh your lives.***

*29 **Ye hear of wars in far countries, and you say that there will soon be great wars in far countries, but ye know not the hearts of men in your own land.***

*30 I tell you these things because of your prayers; wherefore, treasure up wisdom in your bosoms, **lest the wickedness of men reveal these things unto you by their wickedness, in***

a manner which shall speak in your ears with a voice louder than that which shall shake the earth; but if ye are prepared ye shall not fear.

In my opinion, the very people that the Latter-day Saints, as a whole, support politically today are the very men that the Lord was warning us about in the revelation above. President Hinckley also mentioned this in his talk right after the attacks of Sept. 11th. He said:

“We of this Church know something of such groups. The Book of Mormon speaks of the Gadianton robbers, a vicious, oath-bound, and secret organization bent on evil and destruction. In their day they did all in their power, by whatever means available, to bring down the Church, to woo the people with sophistry, and to take control of the society. We see the same thing in the present situation.”

Do Muslim Terrorists “woo the people with sophistry...to take control of the society” and seek to “bring down the church”? Who has been removing God from all public acknowledgment in recent years in America? Who can place burdensome taxes upon us? Who can lead a nation to war? Secret Combinations are the fourth most-mentioned topic in the Book of Mormon. Again, refer to Hinckley’s August 2005 Ensign First Presidency Message in the first few paragraphs, quoted earlier, to see more clues as to who is seeking to bring down this nation.

Here is another thought expressed by my wife while she reading D&C 38: 28-30 above. If we do allow the "wicked" to reveal these things to us, we will not be getting the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Wicked men like to combine the philosophies of the world with religious verse. Satan lies. Wicked and deceived men lie. If we lean to the understanding of "men" (men of power and influence in the world or the "arm of flesh" in any form) we risk getting lies. This includes the information we get from the mainstream media and especially the Fox News’ and Rush Limbaughs’ of the world. Or we may get the information "mixed" (the philosophies of the world mingled with religion). A half truth is a lie. But if we allow ourselves to be taught from the scriptures, "all good books" (best books), and from the words of our prophets and apostles on such topics and subjects, then we can be assured that the Lord is revealing the truth and that our source is good. Then we can pray for the veracity of these things and have the Holy Ghost manifest it unto us, so that it becomes written in our hearts.

One other thought on this subject: Somebody once asked why we should bother with topics of government, freedom, and national survival. There are **a lot** of answers and reasons for that, but here are just **some** of them:

D&C 88:78-82

*78 Teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, **that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that are expedient for you to understand;***

79 Of things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; **things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms**—

80 *That ye may be prepared in all things when I shall send you again to magnify the calling whereunto I have called you, and the mission with which I have commissioned you.*

81 *Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbor.*

82 *Therefore, they are left without excuse, and their sins are upon their own heads.*

All of the things mentioned in the above scripture were in the context given by the Lord of warning our neighbors about various political things or things of proper and improper government as well as the spiritual matters. They truly are inseparable. Also consider the suggestions given by the Lord as follows:

D&C 88:118

*"And as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, **seek ye out of the best books** words of wisdom; seek learning, even **by study and also by faith**".*

D&C 90:15

*"And set in order the churches, and study and learn, and **become acquainted with "all good books"**, and with languages, tongues, and people".*

How many of the Saints spend much of their time watching TV and reading ridiculous fiction novels like "Harry Potter" or "The DaVinci Code"? Are these the type of things the Lord was referring to when he said "good books"?

Powerful Words for Today – A Latter-day Political Conspiracy to Deceive Many

I testify, in the name of Jesus Christ, of the same thing that a Prophet, Seer and Revelator prophesied of in one of his last public testimonies. In the October 1988 General Conference, President Ezra Taft Benson testified of the truth concerning America at that time. And because the Saints have been and continue to treat lightly the Book of Mormon and continue to remain asleep, today things have only gotten much worse. In 1988 President Benson said:

"I testify that wickedness is rapidly expanding in every segment of our society. (See D&C 84:49-53; 1:14-16.) It is more highly organized, more cleverly disguised, and more powerfully promoted than ever before. Secret combinations lusting for power,

gain, and glory are flourishing. A secret combination that seeks to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries is increasing its evil influence and control over America and the entire world. (See Ether 8: 18-25)

This threat was not just about communism. It is much broader than that. This threat certainly did not die when the Berlin Wall fell. It is a continuation of Satan's pre-mortal plan to use force to save all mankind.

This threat is alive today as evidenced by President Hinckley's words from the August 2005 Ensign article and Elder L. Tom Perry's words from October 2005 general conference. The identity of these combinations is found in the Book of Mormon. Again, what type of entity is it that can place "burdensome taxes" upon the people and "lead people into terrible wars"? It is the Great and Abominable Church (1 Nephi 13-14) that we must beware of, corrupt government, including organizations like the FED and the international bankers. Just a few of the great books on the subject are as follows: one that was written by H. Verlan Anderson (which is out of print but available through used book stores) is called *The Great and Abominable Church of the Devil*. This was recommended to every member to read by President Benson as well as *None Dare Call It Conspiracy* by Gary Allen. A more modern text which accurately shows these things is *The Hidden Things of Darkness: An Expose of the Enemies of Christ* by Christopher Bentley (this is also out of print but the author is trying to get it reprinted). Reading books like these follows the Lord's council to "seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom."

The Evils of World Government, a.k.a. 'The New World Order'

Latter-day Saints must beware of who and what they are supporting politically. How many Saints know that President George H.W. Bush (1) [ex-CIA director, Knights of Malta, Skull & Bones, Trilateral Commission] while addressing the General Assembly of the U.N. in February 1, 1992 said:

"My vision of a New World Order foresees a U.N. with a revitalized peacekeeping function. It is the sacred principles enshrined in the U.N. Charter to which we henceforth pledge our allegiance."

Bush Sr. may have pledged his soul to the Lucifarian UN Charter, but not me, and not the USA.

J. Reuben Clark Jr., Undersecretary of State to President Coolidge, warned about world government. He was widely respected as an international legal mind and this member of the First Presidency was publicly opposed to the United Nations. In 1945 he (at this point having served as a member of the LDS Church First presidency since 1933) submitted his 33 page letter to the editor of Salt Lake City's Deseret News, giving his analysis of the UN charter quoted here in part:

*“The Charter is built to prepare for war, not to promote peace. . . . **The Charter is a war document not a peace document.** . . . Not only does the Charter Organization not prevent future wars, but it makes it practically certain that we shall have future wars, and as to such wars it takes from us the power to declare them, to choose the side on which we shall fight, to determine what forces and military equipment we shall use in the war, and to control and command our sons who do the fighting. (Clark 451, 455, 470)*

Latter-day Saints had a member of the LDS Church First Presidency warning of this vicious, wicked organization. A Prophet opposed and exposed that wicked organization and its evil charter, but who bears sway in the minds of LDS people? Is it J. Reuben Clark, who they consider to be a Prophet, Seer and Revelator, or George Herbert Walker Bush (or his son) who “pledges” himself to the "*sacred principles enshrined*" in this corrupt document of wickedness and perpetual war. The United Nation charter’s end-game objective is for global tyranny and oppression and a one world government.

What is the answer? Which of these two men bear more influence with the LDS people of today?

As evidenced by what the 2004 Republican platform says below, which the majority of Latter-day Saints subscribe to politically, I would say many Saints are in spiritual danger:

“Republicans are guided by the conviction that no nation can build a safer, better World alone. In addition to NATO,...and other longstanding alliances, the United States is committed to lasting institutions like the United Nations and the World Trade Organization...” [End of Republican Party Platform excerpt]

Now consider these scriptural warnings about a latter-day threat which will come in the form of a member-nation, world body, which will spread destruction in the name of “peace”:

Daniel Chapter 8:

*23 And **in the latter time of their kingdom**, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.*

*24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, **and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.***

*25 **And through his policy** also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and **he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many:** he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.*

Now consider the following quotes taken from **President George W. Bush**, speaking about going to War in Iraq on behalf of the United Nations:

President Bush, 20 November 2002, Press Conference with President Havel:

*"We did talk about Iraq. There is universal recognition that Saddam Hussein is a threat to world peace. There's clear understanding that **he must disarm in the name of peace**. We hope he chooses to do so. Tomorrow we'll discuss the issue. We'll consider what happens if he chooses not to disarm. But one thing is certain; **he'll be disarmed, one way or the other, in the name of peace.**"*

President Bush, 12 September 2002, Address to the United Nations:

*"My nation **will work with the U.N. Security Council** to meet our common challenge. If Iraq's regime defies us again, the world must move deliberately, decisively to hold Iraq to account. We will work with the U.N. Security Council for the necessary resolutions. But the purposes of the United States should not be doubted. The Security Council resolutions will be enforced -- **the just demands of peace and security will be met** -- or action will be unavoidable. And a regime that has lost its legitimacy will also lose its power."*

President Bush, 19 September 2002: Press Conference:

*"At the **United Nations Security Council** it is very important that the members understand that **the credibility of the United Nations is at stake**, that the Security Council must be firm in its resolve **to deal with a true threat to world peace**, and that is Saddam Hussein."*

President Bush, 24 September 2002: Press Conference, Washington, DC:

*"And **I again call for the United Nations to pass a strong resolution** holding this man to account. And if they're unable to do so, the United States and **our friends will act, because we believe in peace; we want to keep the peace**. We don't trust this man -- and that's what the Blair report showed today."*

Considering the warning from Daniel Chapter 8 quoted above, and the self-proclaimed mission of the United Nations to "keep the peace", and the Wars that have been and are being fought because of U.N. Security Council resolutions, couldn't the United Nations be part of the Great and Abominable Church of the Devil?

Consider what 1 Nephi Chapter 14 says about the Devil's church:

*11 And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the whore of all the earth, and she sat upon many waters; and she **had dominion over all the earth**, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people.*

12 And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters;

*13 And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations **did gather together multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations** of the Gentiles, to fight against the Lamb of God.....*

*15 And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon that great and abominable church, insomuch that **there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth**.*

*16 And as there began to be wars and rumors of wars **among all the nations which belonged to the mother of abominations,** the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold, the wrath of God is upon the mother of harlots; and behold, thou seest all these things-*

Again the Book of Mormon in 2 Nephi Chapter 6 warns us not to “unite” with that world body, member-nation group which will destroy because of “peace”:

*12 And blessed are the Gentiles, they of whom the prophet has written; for behold, if it so be that they shall repent and fight not against Zion, **and do not unite themselves to that great and abominable church,** they shall be saved; for the Lord God will fulfil his covenants which he has made unto his children; and for this cause the prophet has written these things.”*

There is a conspiracy to destroy the sovereignty of the United States and our Constitution. This will endanger the God-given liberties that it protects including our right to worship as we desire. Leaders from both major political parties are intricately involved in this subversive activity. One of richest men in America, a leading supporter of candidates from both major parties and **a member of the Council on Foreign Relations** (CFR) which is a think tank organization dedicated to world government, David Rockefeller, stated this in his book *Memoirs* published in 2002:

*“For more than a century ideological extremists at either end of the political spectrum have seized upon well-publicized incidents such as my encounter with Castro to attack the Rockefeller family for the inordinate influence they claim we wield over American political and economic institutions. Some even believe **we are part of a secret cabal working against the best interests of the United States,** characterizing my family and me as ‘internationalists’ and of **conspiring with others around the world to build a more integrated global political and economic structure -- one world, if you will.** If that’s the charge, I stand guilty, and I am proud of it.”*

This is an example of the mindset of the power elite that our political leaders rub shoulders with (including LDS Congressmen, Senators and even our current governor in Utah). Part of their plan was to create two opposing political parties that appear to be different but ultimately have the same goal of destroying national sovereignty and pushing us into a Satan-inspired World Government. This is evidenced in a book, written by Georgetown Professor and political mentor to the political elite - Carroll Quigley, called *Tragedy and Hope* written in 1966. In it he wrote of a plan that is being mirrored today:

“The argument that the two parties should represent opposed ideals and policies, one, perhaps, of the Right and the other of the Left, is a foolish idea acceptable only to the doctrinaire and academic thinkers. Instead, the two parties should be almost identical, so that the American people can “throw the rascals out” at any election without leading to any profound or extreme shifts in policy....

In addition to this, Quigley argued, "there is one other benefit to having two political parties, each with the same program".

Should either party become corrupt or un-enterprising while in office,

"Then it should be possible to replace it, every four years if necessary, by the other party, which will be none of these things but will still pursue, with new vigor, approximately the same basic policies."

[Carroll Quigley, *Tragedy and Hope: A History of the World in Our Time* (New York: Macmillan, 1966), pp. 1247-1248.]

The formula advocated by Quigley in 1966 has been put into practice by the Power Elite, which dominates both major political parties.

Nearly 30 years ago, in April 1974, a now-famous essay entitled "The Hard Road to World Order" appeared in the Council on Foreign Relations' journal *Foreign Affairs*. It was penned by Columbia University professor and veteran State Department official Richard N. Gardner, who most recently served in the Clinton administration. It is also the game plan followed by the CFR elites in both major parties.

Gardner told his fellow one-worlders that "instant world government" is an illusion because Americans would not accept an open assault on their constitutional system.

"The globalists", he said, "must continue to labor for the piecemeal creation of an all-powerful super state. It must be built gradually, piece by piece, brick by brick," he then said:

"In short, the "house of world order" will have to be built from the bottom up rather than from the top down. It will look like a great "booming, buzzing confusion," but an end run around national sovereignty, eroding it piece by piece, will accomplish much more than the old-fashioned frontal assault."

Gardner suggested luring all nations into a variety of technological, economic, and political entanglements which would gradually be strengthened until they formed a genuine world government. These include NAFTA (The North American Free Trade Agreement – supported by Bush 1 and signed by Clinton) and CAFTA (The Central American Free Trade Agreement - pushed and signed by Bush 2 and passed by ALL CURRENT UTAH Congressmen and Senators).

As a result of so-called "free trade" agreements like NAFTA the United States has lost over 3 million manufacturing jobs, U.S. farm failures have increased and the US trade deficit has exploded. Thus the American middle class is being eroded because of massive job outsourcing to other nations. Our economy is becoming dependent upon foreign nations, therefore threatening our sovereignty. CAFTA, signed in 2005, will only make these problems worse. These agreements hand over our trade policies into the hands of the World Trade Organization which does not have Americans' best interests at heart.

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) has long played an inordinately large role in presidential administrations. Since its inception, the CFR has worked assiduously to maintain control of the presidency, regardless of which party is in office, and direct policy as much as it is able toward the submergence of U.S. sovereignty under the overarching authority of a world government. Just as the CFR played a significant role in both the Clinton and first Bush administrations, it does so today in the George W. Bush administration. It was started during Woodrow Wilson's administration and has been influential in American politics since its inception. Utah's own governor Huntsman was a member of this elite globalist group until just before he ran for office.

Apostle of the Lord and Dwight D. Eisenhower's Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson, warned of this treason, which now the Bush Administration and politicians from both major parties are pursuing with great rapidity, treason of which most people are ignorant. Benson said:

"Sovereignty for a nation is hard to come by and even more difficult to retain. It cannot be shared, for then sovereignty becomes something else, and, for want of a better word, when its lessened the end-product is internationalism. Sovereignty is neither more nor less than self-government. American self-government is blueprinted in the Constitution." (The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p. 695.)

"Many well-intentioned people are now convinced that we are living in a period of history which makes it both possible and necessary to abandon our national sovereignty, to merge our nation militarily, economically, and politically with other nations, and to form, at last, a world government which supposedly would put an end to war." (Ibid., p. 695.)

This is where the deception has come to pass upon the Latter-day Saints as a whole. The Saints can't be deceived by pornography, or not paying their tithing, or being dishonest, or not attending Church. No, they know that these things are wrong. Deception occurs when a people are going forward and supporting that which they think is right but in actuality it is very wrong. They are deceived.

No Neutrality Is Possible and The Importance of Sovereignty

Said Elder John A. Widtsoe:

"The troubles of the world may largely be laid at the doors of those who are neither hot nor cold; who always follow the line of least resistance; whose timid hearts flutter at taking sides for truth. As in the great Council in the heavens, so in the Church of Christ on earth, there can be no neutrality." (Ibid, p. 440. from Benson's *Not Commanded In All Things* talk)

I fear that this describes many of the Saints today.

I will draw to a conclusion with the following and would ask you to ponder and pray about the things that I have presented in this article.

Below is a powerful and truthful article written by a **non-LDS** evangelical Minister from Florida. He was also a vice-presidential candidate in 2004 for the Constitution Party. I have also come to the same conclusions as Chuck Baldwin. Many of the LDS Prophets and Apostles have also come to the same conclusion. Chuck Baldwin truly has a perfect understanding of what I feel are some of the “weightier matters of the law”. Anyone who has read the teachings of Ezra Taft Benson would probably come to the same conclusion as well.

There are many wise and truthful, God-fearing Christians who are not LDS yet are inspired. We should listen to them. Chuck Baldwin is one of them. Here is what President Ezra Taft Benson said about this in his *Civic Standard for the Faithful Saints* talk in 1972:

“God, the Father of us all, uses the men of the earth, especially good men, to accomplish his purposes. It has been true in the past, it is true today, it will be true in the future. Perhaps the Lord needs such men on the outside of His Church to help it along,” said the late Elder Orson F. Whitney of the Quorum of the Twelve. “They are among its auxiliaries, and can do more good for the cause where the Lord has placed them, than anywhere else. ... Hence, some are drawn into the fold and receive a testimony of the truth; while others remain unconverted ... the beauties and glories of the gospel being veiled temporarily from their view, for a wise purpose. The Lord will open their eyes in His own due time. God is using more than one people for the accomplishment of His great and marvelous work. The Latter-day Saints cannot do it all. It is too vast, too arduous for any one people. ... We have no quarrel with the Gentiles. They are our partners in a certain sense.” [End of Benson quote]

In the article that follows, Chuck Baldwin calls out the religious right and warns that their deception will cause our downfall as a nation. He starts out quoting another truth seeker, Martin Luther, who spoke the truth when he uttered these words:

*“If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. **Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved; and to be steady on all the battlefield besides is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.**”*

Chuck Baldwin then finishes his article with powerful and truthful words, and I believe President Benson, McKay and other LDS leaders would concur because they said the same things. Following is most of this great article by a true man of God. He reveals where our real danger lies today:

The Religious Right Has Fled The Battlefield!

by Chuck Baldwin

June 9, 2006

“For the record, the real battlefield today is not abortion. It is not homosexual marriage. It is not Social Security. It is not al Qaeda. It is not taxes. It is not inflation. It is not electing conservatives. It is not posting the Ten Commandments. That is not to say that those issues are not important and not deserving of our best efforts and attention. We have fought and continue to fight for those issues. But those issues do not represent the major battlefield today.

The battlefield where the devil has amassed his greatest forces and is thrusting his deadliest armies is the surrender of our national sovereignty and independence, and the creation of global government! Yes, Martha, the devil has targeted the United States for destruction, and he is using our own political leaders to do his diabolical work! Furthermore, unless God awakens His people, especially His preachers, America's fall will be swift, and few will even notice that it happened-until it's too late.

Obviously, the surrender of our independence has been ongoing for some time. However, under Bill Clinton and especially under G.W. Bush, the pace has quickened exponentially! Doubtless, the biggest reason President Bush has more aggressively hastened the pace of America's merger into supranational government is because he enjoys widespread support among evangelical Christians. Absent opposition from Christian leaders, G.W. Bush has virtually had a free hand. And please know this: before Bush was a Republican, before he was a "conservative," before he was a Christian, he was and is a globalist, as was his father and grandfather before him!

Of course, the other reason Bush has been free to behave lawlessly is due to the fact that the GOP controls both houses of Congress. Absent political opposition from the legislature (or the national media, for that matter), Bush has virtually no impediment to his actions. For all intents and purposes, President Bush has been able to conduct business as a de facto dictator. There are no checks and balances at work today.

Because our national Christian leaders are content to revel in the lap of political cronyism with President Bush, they have abandoned their positions as watchmen on the wall. Instead of being watchmen and heralds of truth, they have become political lackeys and toadies for Bush. As a result, the message of truth must be carried by others. At the moment, I don't know anyone who is more faithfully engaged in the real battle for America than Jerome Corsi.

Many of you know Corsi as the man who co-authored the Number 1 New York Times best-seller, "Unfit for Command: Swift Boat Veterans Speak Out Against John Kerry." Corsi recently wrote two columns that every American should read. One was carried by Human Events Online (<http://www.humaneventsonline.com/article.php?id=15233>) and the other one was carried by World Net Daily

(http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=50451). I urge my readers to read both of these columns.

Jerome Corsi holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University in political science. He is not some fringe-radical. (Not that Harvard hasn't produced its own radicals!) Furthermore, it doesn't appear that he embraces any particular religious persuasion. If he does, I haven't heard about it. However, Corsi is doing what our religious leaders should be doing, but aren't: he is sounding the trumpet of truth for the real battlefield.

In a nutshell, Corsi warns us that President Bush is secretly working to merge the United States into a trilateral government with Canada and Mexico. Corsi maintains that back in March of 2005, Bush, Mexican President Vicente Fox, and (then) Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin entered into an agreement which binds the three countries into a regional or hemispheric government. Corsi insists that this is one of the central reasons why Bush is so adamant about granting amnesty to Mexico's illegal aliens. Bush is simply following through with his commitment to Fox and Martin. (This is also why Bush will doubtless issue a "guest worker" Executive Order or Signing Statement should the House of Representatives refuse to accept the Senate's amnesty bill. Bush has repeatedly demonstrated his willingness to circumvent Congress by issuing executive directives to get his way. See http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2006/04/30/examples_of_the_presidents_signing_statements/)

Corsi also notes that this new hemispheric country already has a name. It is called the North American Union, and it is being created without any input (or even knowledge) from our legislative or judicial branches of government. The official name of the agreement made between the three leaders is the "**Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America**" (SPP). Obviously, the new North American Union is modeled after the already established European Union (EU).

The SPP (North American Union) already has headship. Three top cabinet level officers from each country have been selected. Corsi writes, "Representing the United States are Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Representing Mexico are Secretario de Economia Fernando Canales, Secretario de Gobernacion Carlos Abascal, and Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores, Luis Ernesto Derbez. Representing Canada are Minister of Industry David L. Emerson, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety, Anne McLellan, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Pierre Stewart Pettigrew."

Corsi further writes, "According to the signed 'Memorandum of Understanding,' the only borders or tariffs which would remain would be those around the continent, not those between the countries within." Then quoting from the Memorandum he writes, "Its (the North American Community's) boundaries will be defined by a common external tariff and an outer security perimeter within which the movement of PEOPLE [emphasis mine], products, and capital will be legal [that's why Bush wants to legalize illegal aliens

in the U.S.], orderly and safe. Its goal will be to guarantee a free, secure, just, and prosperous North America." (page 3)

Folks, please notice, this Memorandum does not call for a free, secure, just, and prosperous United States, but a free, secure, just, and prosperous NORTH AMERICA! **President Bush has already committed the United States to a regional or hemispheric government!** When completed, this regional government will control everything relative to the "security" and "prosperity" of this new North American Union. **That includes everything relating to travel, law enforcement, trade, education, military matters, etc. In other words, EVERYTHING!**

Please remember, too, that all of this is being done without any input from the American people or their elected representatives at the state or federal level. I would even dare say that the vast majority of congressmen and senators are completely oblivious to the fact that this is even happening. With the attention of the American people (and Congress) focused on the Middle East, Bush and his cabal of elitists are moving forward with plans to surrender our national independence and merge our country into a regional government. Friends, this is the real war; this is the real battlefield!

When America loses its sovereignty and independence, we will lose all of our fundamental liberties. The Constitution will be meaningless and irrelevant. The Bill of Rights will be moot. The principles of religious liberty, the right to life, and the Christian foundation of our country will be passé. And, as I said at the outset of this column, our national leaders, especially our Christian leaders, are totally absent from this battlefield! And they should know better!

Any preacher worth his salt knows that world government (including regional or hemispheric government) is a history-long ambition of the Evil One. Ever since Babel, Satan has inspired power-hungry men to defy God's standard of independent nationalism set forth in His Word and seek global domination. True men of God also know that only Christ's kingdom can be justly universal and that any attempt to circumvent or steal His kingdom is devilish by definition! So, why do they sit back and say nothing as George W. Bush does the devil's bidding?

The surrender of our national sovereignty and independence is where the battle currently rages, it is where the devil is at this moment attacking. Where is the Religious Right? To use Luther's assessment, they are not confessing Christ, however boldly they may be professing Christ. They have flinched and fled in the face of battle. Their actions are truly disgraceful!" [end of Chuck Baldwin article]

IN CONCLUSION

President Marion G. Romney, in the First Presidency Message of the September 1979 Ensign, gave the Saints a warning as well as religious and "political" counsel:

“.... our vulnerability is directly attributable to our loss of active faith in the God of this land, who has decreed that we must worship Him or be swept off. Too many Americans have lost sight of the truth that God is our source of freedom, the Lawgiver, and that personal righteousness is the most important essential to preserving our freedom. So, I say with all the energy of my soul that **unless we as citizens of this nation forsake our sins, political and otherwise, and return to the fundamental principles of Christianity and of constitutional government, we will lose our political liberties, our free institutions, and will stand in jeopardy before God.**

“No nation which has kept the commandments of God has ever perished, but I say to you that **once freedom is lost, only human blood will win it back.**

There are some things we can and must do at once if we are to stave off a holocaust of destruction.

First: We must return to worship the God of this land, who is Jesus Christ. He has promised that the righteous will be preserved by His power (see 1 Ne. 22:17). But we must keep the commandments of God. We must pay our tithes and offerings, keep the Sabbath day a holy day, stay morally clean, be honest in all our dealings, and have our family and personal prayers. We must live the gospel.

*Second: We must awaken to a sense of [our] awful situation, because of this **secret combination which [is] among [us]** (Ether 8:24).....*

Then we must put our trust in Him who has promised us His protection and pray that He will intervene to preserve our freedom just as He intervened in our obtaining it in the first place.

Third: We must do as the Lord commanded us by revelation in 1833: Wherefore, honest men and wise men should be sought for diligently, and good men and wise men ye should observe to uphold; otherwise whatsoever is less than these cometh of evil (D&C 98:10).

*Men who are wise, good, and honest, **who will uphold the Constitution** of the United States in the tradition of the Founding Fathers, **must be sought for diligently.** This is our hope to restore government to its rightful role.*

*Last: **We must study the inspired Constitution and become involved in the political process ourselves.** I quote the First Presidency statement that was read in sacrament meetings on Sunday, 1 July 1979: We encourage all members, as citizens of the nation, **to be actively involved in the political process**, and to support those measures which will strengthen the community, state, and nation morally, economically, and culturally.” (Letter from the First Presidency, 29 June 1979).*

President Ezra Taft Benson also said:

*“...many of the prophecies referring to America's preservation are conditional. That is, if we do our duty we can be preserved, and **if not then we shall be destroyed**. This means that a good deal of the responsibility lies with the priesthood of this Church as to what happens to America and as to how much tragedy can be avoided if we do act now.”*

(Not Commanded In All Things talk, 1965)

This counsel still applies today and yet from my experience, the Latter-day Saints still remain under the same condemnation.

I love the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I love our living Prophet Gordon B. Hinckley, I love my fellow Latter-day Saint brethren and sisters and I want the best for them. I love my local leaders and sustain and support them. I am not a perfect man, but wherein I have been warned by the Lord of these things, I intend to “waste and wear out my life in bringing to light the hidden things of darkness” and warn my neighbors.

The Latter-day Saints must repent for many of the things that we are leaving undone in the gospel, but I submit that the things discussed in this article represent the “weighty matters of the law” by which a majority of the active Saints today are being deceived.

It is clear that God commanded us to be governed by the supreme law of our land, even the Constitution, and as a nation we have apostatized from that truth. Because we will be held accountable for our actions (or in-action) in relation to our government, this does not seem to bode well for many of the Latter-day Saints today who overwhelmingly and probably unknowingly support that which is doing the damage.

Isn't it clear from the above evidence that the Republican Party National Platform and the actions of politicians from both major parties are at odds with the thoughts and views of the LDS Prophets and Apostles? Isn't it clear that our currently elected officials' views on government are at odds with God's plan and gospel of individual responsibility and accountability? The actions of most Republicans and Democrats in congress fit right in with the Communist Manifesto and are completely at odds with national sovereignty and independence as well as the divinely inspired Constitution. Their actions are also an adoption of the principles of socialism which requires the complete re-distribution of the wealth of Americans to achieve their goals. This also destroys liberty.

Before any Latter-day Saint votes for any Republican or Democrat in future elections, they should ponder what is contained in this article and not be deceived. **We must know what our elected officials are doing and compare their votes to our inspired Constitution to see if they are governing themselves according to its righteous precepts.** How can we do that if we don't know what the Constitution says and how it limits the government or what the principles of our Founding Fathers are? We must find good, honest and wise people to vote for (D&C 98:10) even if they are not from the two major parties. The “lesser of two evils” mentality is killing America. Most people today clearly place party over principle. This is wrong. The Prophet Joseph Smith stated:

“...we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that we have acted conscientiously, and have used our best judgment. And if we have to throw away our votes, we had better do so upon a worthy rather than an unworthy individual who might make use of the weapon we put in his hand to destroy us.” (Times and Seasons, Nauvoo, IV, 441. Cited also in Roberts, Comprehensive History, II, 208-209.)

We must study the Constitution and become very familiar with it. We must have an understanding of the proper role of government. I am a student of the Constitution and I also teach a course on the Constitution which discusses our Founding Fathers’ views on government. It is also important to discuss “the wars and perplexities of the nations” and how current events are endangering our freedoms. This is something that we were asked to do by our Prophets and Apostles. In a First Presidency Letter read throughout the Church on January 15, 1987, Presidents Benson, Hinckley and Monson wrote:

“Because we as Latter-day Saints accept the Constitution as divinely inspired, and the Lord justifies us in befriending it (D&C 98:6), it is appropriate that we enter wholeheartedly into the bicentennial observance....

“Prophets beginning with Joseph Smith have loved and sustained the Constitution. The Prophet Joseph Smith said, “The Constitution of the United States is a glorious standard; and it is founded in the wisdom of God. It is a heavenly banner.”...

“We should, therefore, in the tradition of our Founding Fathers, learn the principles of the Constitution and abide by its precepts.

“...we encourage Latter-day Saints throughout the nation to familiarize themselves with the Constitution. They should focus attention on it by reading and studying it. They should ponder the blessings that come through it. They should recommit themselves to its principles and be prepared to defend it and the freedom it provides (D&C 109.54).

“Citizens of this nation are free, of course, participate in efforts designed to warn of the threat of any force or power, theory or principle, that would deprive them of their freedom or the individual liberties vouchsafed by the Constitution.

“Because some Americans have not kept faith with our Founding Fathers, the Constitution faces severe challenges. Those who do not prize individual freedom are trying to erode its great principles. We believe the Constitution will stand, but it will take the efforts of patriotic and dedicated Americans to uphold it.....Thus we, as Latter-day Saints, must be vigilant in doing our part to preserve the Constitution and safeguard the way of life it makes possible.”

I urge others to begin learning about these principles so that we don’t fall prey to Lucifer’s ploy to rob us of our freedom and gain power over the flesh. We must encourage and support those who are seeking to “bring to light the hidden things of darkness” and teach correct Constitutional principles of America, the Lord’s base of

operations, will be in dire straights. We are close to that point now. Awaken, ye Latter-day Saints! Please! Your Constitution is hanging by a thread.

Read about Moroni in Alma 48: 11-13; 17

President Ezra Taft Benson said of these verses: *“Part of the reason we may not have sufficient priesthood bearers to save the Constitution, let alone to shake the powers of hell, is because unlike Moroni, I fear, our souls do not joy in keeping our country free, and we are not firm in the faith of Christ, nor have we sworn with an oath to defend our rights and the liberty of our country.”*

“It is within the Church that the greatest hindrance comes. And so, it seems, it has been. Now the question arises, will we stick with the Kingdom and can we avoid being deceived? Certainly this is an important question, for the Lord has said that in the last days the ‘devil will rage in the hearts of men’ (2 Nephi 28:20), and if were possible he ‘shall deceive the very elect’. (The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, pgs 406-407)

Read Matthew 24:24.

President Benson said of that verse: *“There is a conspiracy of evil. The source of it all is Satan and his hosts. He has a great power over men to ‘lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken’ to the voice of the Lord (Moses 4:4). **His evil influence may be manifest through governments; through false educational, political, economic, religious, and social philosophies; through secret societies and organizations; and through myriads of other forms. His power and influence are so great that, if possible, he would deceive the very elect.**”* (The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, pg 404)

Read Helaman 6:38. The modern Prophet Ezra Taft Benson, quoting the Book of Mormon Prophet Helaman, has noted that secret combinations flourish because they are able to seduce *“the more part of the righteous”* to *“believe in their works and partake of their spoils”* (Conference Report, April 1987)

I pray that going forward the Elders of Israel or members of the LDS Church will take up the responsibility that the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve placed upon our shoulders back in the 70’s to “Stand for Something” and fight for freedom. The fight for freedom is God’s fight and as one of the preachers, Jonathon Mayhew, who was very influential to our nation’s Founding Fathers stated: ***“To fight against tyranny is obedience to God.”***

The Church General Authorities placed the responsibility to defend freedom and the Constitution upon the members of the Church. President Benson said that it will not be in the form of a Church program, but that the Lord expects his people to stand for freedom and not be asleep as the strings of tyranny are laid upon them. The Church’s Apostles and Prophets must now be about the harvest and about their ecclesiastical mission only. Their days of speaking openly about the things of freedom and the Constitution are over,

especially since we have become a world-wide Church. However, the responsibility to uphold and defend the Constitution remains with the members of this Church in America and the Saints are NOT doing their job. This also is a very spiritual matter. We have a responsibility to make sure our brethren and sisters are not deceived.

I testify that the Constitution is now hanging by a thread and that tyranny is creeping upon us. It is time for the Latter-day Saints to be awakened from their sleep of hell. We are losing our "Heavenly Banner" as the Prophet Ezra Taft Benson said in 1976:

*"At this bicentennial celebration we must, with sadness, say that we have not been wise in keeping the trust of our Founding Fathers. For the past two centuries, those who do not prize freedom have chipped away at every major clause of our Constitution until **today we face a crisis of great dimensions.**" (The Constitution: A Heavenly Banner, pp. 24-25, 1976)*

We must now awake as Moroni warned in Ether chapter 8 or we will lose our liberties forever and as Chuck Baldwin said, even our rights of worship. Ether Chapter 8 says:

24 Wherefore, the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which shall be among you;....

25 For it cometh to pass that whoso buildeth it up seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries; and it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people...

I testify of the truth of these things and plead for your help in this cause of defending freedom and our inspired Constitution in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Patriotism, Religion, Political Awareness (Recommended Reading)

<u>Book</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Place of Purchase</u>
* The Law	Frederic Bastiat	AOBS/Google
* Many Are Called But Few Are Chosen	H. Verlan Andersen	Benchmark
* Liberalism, Conservatism & Mormonism	Hyrum L. Andrus	Benchmark
* The Great and Abominable Church of the Devil	H. Verlan Andersen	Benchmark or Barnes & Noble
* Prophets, Principles and National Survival	Compiled by Jerreld L. Newquist	Joe Ferguson/Google
* The 5,000 Year Leap	W. Cleon Skousen	NCCS or Skousen site
* The Naked Capitalist	W. Cleon Skousen	Benchmark/Google
* The Naked Communist	W. Cleon Skousen	Benchmark/Google
* The Great Prologue	Mark E. Petersen	Google
* This National Shall Endure	Ezra Taft Benson	Benchmark/Google
* An Enemy Hath Done This	Ezra Taft Benson	Benchmark/Google
* The Red Carpet	Ezra Taft Benson	Benchmark/Google
* God, Family, Country	Ezra Taft Benson	Benchmark/Google
*The Teachings of Ezra T. Benson	Ezra Taft Benson	Google
*The Proper and Improper Role of Govt.	Ezra Taft Benson/H. Verlan Andersen	Google
*The Prophet J. Smith's Views of Govt.	Joseph Smith	
http://www.archivepublishers.com/html/99.html		
* Stand Fast by Our Constitution	J. Reuben Clark Jr.	Google
* The Majesty of God's Law	W. Cleon Skousen	Deseret Book
* The Making of America	W. Cleon Skousen	Deseret Book/NCCS
* None Dare Call It Conspiracy	Gary Allen (Benson's stamp on back)	Google
* Prophecy and Modern Times	W. Cleon Skousen	Desert Book
* FedEd	Allen Quist	Google
* The Elders of Israel & The Constitution	Jerome Horowitz	Benchmark
* The Federalist Papers	Founding Fathers	Any Book Store
* The Mainspring of Human Progress	Henry Grady Weaver	Google
* The Hidden Things Of Darkness	Christopher Bentley	Google
* Standing for Something	Gordon B. Hinckley	Deseret Book
Benchmark Books		801-486-3111
Joe Ferguson of American Fork		801-756-4452
American Opinion Book Services		1-800-342-6491
or www.aobs-store.com		

Some of these books are still in print, but many are not. You can probably find them in *some* LDS bookstores and online at BarnesandNoble.com or even Amazon.com in their **Used and Out of Print sections**. I highly recommend the books on this list!!! The following were recommended by Ezra T. Benson - *Many Are Called But Few Are Chosen*, *The Great and Abominable Church of the Devil*, *None Dare Call it Conspiracy* (with Benson's words on the back cover), and *Prophets, Principles and National Survival*. Try these websites too: www.nccs.net/books.html or www.skousen2000.com/all.htm .

Remember these scriptures in the D&C:

*“And set in order the churches, and study and learn, and become acquainted with all **good books**, and with languages, tongues, and people.”* D&C 90:15

*“And as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the **best books** words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith.”* D&C 88:118

“A Nation that forgets it's past, has no future”

- For those who have never heard of H. Verlan Andersen, here are a few tidbits. He was called as a Seventy just after Ezra T. Benson was sustained as prophet. He taught at BYU, worked for the Church (my father-in-law remembers him from early contacts), and was a member of the Utah State Legislature. He was rudely nick-named the “No Vote” by his peers since he would never support unconstitutional policies or spending. H. Verlan Andersen was a very good and close friend to the prophet. President Benson wished that members of the Church would read his books. You can see the booklet that they co-wrote together listed above (we used to have several copies of this, but now we don't). If a prophet puts his stamp of approval on a book, then I tend to consider it a “good book” or maybe even a “best book”. That is just my opinion. ☺ I have certainly learned a lot and have had my eyes “opened” by reading these books. I desire to share.