

The Law and the Word of the Lord: Our Duty and Our Quest

Talk (F'89) and Chiasms (F'92) by Sterling D. Allan



Two Additional Central Chiasms:

- a-1 Note that *some of the wording here is identical*
- a-2 to that in the prophecy in Third Nephi about *our gentile society* in general. (3 Ne. 16:15.)
- b-1 Is the reason
- b-2 *our society as a whole has fallen* from God's favor
- b-3 because
- b-4 *the salt has lost*
- b-5 its *savor*?
- c-1 In this same revelation in Doctrine and Covenants 103,
- c-2 the Lord *promised*
- c-3 that *if the saints would hearken to **ALL** his counsels,*
- d-1 they would prevail against the kingdoms of the world and would "never cease to prevail until the kingdoms of the world are subdued under [His] feet, and the earth is given unto the saints, to possess it forever and ever." (103:7.)
- d-2 However, he then **warned**
- d-3 that if the saints would not *hearken altogether unto his precepts and commandments*
- e that the kingdoms of the world would prevail against them.
- f He reassured us that Zion will "be established,
- g *no more to be thrown down.*" (103:14.)
- h-1 However, he said that this *blessing will come*
- h-2 "after much *tribulation.*" (103:12.)
- h-3 This prophecy in the Doctrine and Covenants
- h-4 is **STRIKINGLY SIMILAR IN WORDING AND ESSENCE** to Daniel chapter seven.
- i There also, Daniel spoke of how the *saints shall eventually "possess the kingdom* for ever, even for ever and ever." (7:18; compare D&C 103:7.)
- j-1 He said that before *the saints would be given the kingdom,*
- j-2 the *kingdoms of the world* would prevail against them. The symbolic beast he described "shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces." (7:23.)
- k It will also make "**war** with the saints, and...[prevail] against them" for three and a half years. (7:21,25; compare Rev. 13:5.)
- l *World conditions today suggest*
- l that **WE STAND ON THE BRINK OF THE FULFILLMENT OF THIS PROPHECY.**
- k In First Nephi 14, Nephi describes the two sides of this **war**.
- j-1 He saw that all mankind would either belong to the *church of the Lamb of God,*
- j-2 or they would belong to the *church of the devil.* (14:10.)
- i People will either be convinced unto *peace and life eternal*
- h-1 or they *will be delivered*
- h-2 to the *hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds.* (14:7.)
- h-3 Accordingly, President Benson recently declared,
- h-4 "**As the issues become CLEARER and more OBVIOUS,**
- g all mankind will be *required to align* themselves
- f either for the kingdom of God
- e or with the kingdom of the devil.
- d-1 As these **conflicts** rage,
- d-2 either *secretly or openly,*
- d-3 the righteous will be tested." (*Ensign*, Nov. 1988, p. 87.)
- c-1 Isaiah
- c-2 *prepares* us for this valley of decision
- c-3 *by laying down the two issues into which **ALL** other issues may be circumscribed.*
- b-1 He said the reason
- b-2 *destructions will come*
- b-3 will be "because
- b-4 [we] have (1) *cast away the law* of the Lord of hosts, and (2) *despised the word* of the Holy One of Israel." (Isa. 5:24.)
- b-5 **The law and the word,**
- a-1 though related,
- a-2 *are separate* things.

*This chiasm runs *twelve* levels deep.

- a-1** These two, the spiritual
- a-2** and the temporal, are closely intertwined.
- b-1** We as members of the church were *set up to be a light unto the world*
- b-2** on both issues.
- c-1** On both fronts collectively
- c-2** we have not adequately fulfilled our responsibility.
- c-3** We have not held up the principles of the gospel as we should
- c-4** both by sharing it
- c-5** and by the way we live our personal lives.
- d-1** Also, not enough of us
- d-2** have *stood up to defend*
- e** our originally inspired and now faltering Constitution
- f** as it has eroded before our eyes.
- g** These issues constitute *basic reasons for the coming chastening destructions*.
- h** *Renewing our devotion* to these principles
- i** will likewise save us.
- j-1** Perhaps a *major purpose*
- j-2** of the chastisement to come
- k** will be to restore our determination to *stand firm on both fronts*.
- l** From the book of Helaman, we discover that **THESE SAME FACTORS LAID AT THE ROOT OF A DIVISION THAT OCCURRED AMONG THE NEPHITES**.
- k** They too had come to *despise the word of God*. (Hel. 8:25.) They had also *cast away the laws of Mosiah*, which hold remarkable similarities to the Constitution of the United States. (Hel. 4:22.)
- j-1** For *these reasons*,
- j-2** chastening destructions came upon them.
- i** They were delivered
- h** when they *humbled themselves* sufficiently
- g** and *destroyed the Gadianton robbers* from off the face of the land. (Hel. 11:10.)
- f** This ancient *secret combination*, like one that threatens the world today,
- e** had usurped the Nephite's virtuous government
- d-1** and even "seduced the more part of the righteous
- d-2** until they had *come down to believe in their works*." (Hel. 7:4; 6:38.)
- c-1** In Revelation chapter thirteen, John recorded a vision that closely resembles the one Daniel saw. He described a symbolic beast that would *make war* with the Saints for three and a half years. (13:5,7.)
- c-2** His graphic account suggests how influential, deceptive, and alluring this beast will be.
- c-3** Only those saints whose names are "written in the book of life"
- c-4** will not worship the beast
- c-5** and take the mark of the beast. (13:8,16.)
- c(1)** In the previous chapter, John described another war--
- i** the war in heaven. (12:7.)
- ii** Then in the same context he mentioned the *war that satan will wage*
- iii** yet again on the earth. (12:17.)
- iii** Indeed, the war that is now being waged on earth,
- ii** and which *will become most intense* in the days ahead,
- i** is a repeat of the war in heaven.
- b-1** *Freedom is still the crux*,
- b-2** this time on two arenas.
- a-1** The conflict is not only spiritual,
- a-2** it is also physical.

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