

EPISODE 29 • PART I



Dr. Craig K. Manscill

D&C 77-80



- Hank Smith: 00:00:01 Welcome to followHim, a weekly podcast, dedicated to helping individuals and families with their *Come, Follow Me* study. I'm Hank Smith.
- John Bytheway: 00:00:09 And I'm John Bytheway.
- Hank Smith: 00:00:11 We love to learn.
- John Bytheway: 00:00:11 We love to laugh.
- Hank Smith: 00:00:13 We want to learn and laugh with you.
- John Bytheway: 00:00:15 As together, we followHIM.
- Hank Smith: 00:00:20 Hello, my friend. Welcome to another episode of followHim. I am your host Hank Smith. I am here with the indomitable, John Bytheway. Hello, John.
- John Bytheway: 00:00:30 I don't even know what that means. I was domitable at one point, but then I've ...
- Hank Smith: 00:00:33 Yes, you were [crosstalk 00:00:34].
- John Bytheway: 00:00:34 But then I've striven to become indomitable.
- Hank Smith: 00:00:38 All right. We thank you so much for joining us. Hey, make sure you find us on social media. You can find us on Instagram, on Facebook. You can find transcripts and show notes on followhim.co, and be sure to rate and review the podcast. It really helps us out. John, as usual, we have a great mind with us today. Someone who has dedicated their life and career to Church History. Tell us who we have.
- John Bytheway: 00:01:11 Oh, I will. We have Dr. Craig Manscill with us today. I have seen him many times on the BYU Roundtable discussions that are still on YouTube now. Brother Manscill's formative years were in the small farming community of Farr West. I thought that was so cool. How appropriate, somebody that there's a Far West in Missouri. This is a Farr, it has an extra R, Farr West on the

outskirts of Ogden. Brother Manscill served in the Ohio West Virginia Mission and is married to Jana Hancey. They're the parents of eight children. He has been a religious educator for over 25 years with either Church Educational System, and more recently, at BYU Religious Education. He received his undergraduate degree at Weaver State College and his master's and PhD from BYU. He enjoys gardening, the great outdoors, travel, and is an ultra distance runner.

- John Bytheway: 00:02:06 That sounds indomitable to me. His hobbies include beekeeping. I don't think we've had that distinction here yet, Hank, to have a beekeeper, beekeeping, reading, and photography. He teaches Doctrine and Covenants, Teachings of Living Prophets: Doctrines of the Gospel. His areas of expertise are 19th century Church History, South Pacific church history, Doctrine and Covenants, presence of the church in Fiji and document editing. The thing I found most interesting in this bio was that he reads and speaks Fijian. They speak that in West Virginia, how did that happen?
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:02:44 I had a Church assignment in Fiji, Suva, Fiji, at the Church school in Suva for three years.
- John Bytheway: 00:02:55 Wonderful.
- Hank Smith: 00:02:56 Oh wow.
- John Bytheway: 00:02:56 Oh, that's great. Well, that's a wonderful bio and we're so glad to have you. Welcome to followHIM.
- Hank Smith: 00:03:05 Well, I think we're ready to get started. Let's jump into this week's lesson, Craig. We're studying Sections 77 through 80.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:03:15 Right. Let's start with Section 77 then. Section 77. It is a section that's associated with the Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible. As early as 1830, once Joseph Smith had organized the Church, Joseph Smith's next mission was to bring about the JST Translation. He's presently in Hiram, Ohio. This is Section 77 we're talking about. Section 76 was also a result of Joseph's JST work, of course. Now, here we are about a month later Joseph and Sidney are still up in Hiram, Ohio. They ask a series of questions about the symbolism in the book of John so that we're talking about John the Revelator, the Book of Revelation.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:04:13 This is a 22-chapter book and Joseph Smith will ask 15 questions. Sidney Rigdon is the scribe, and he's asking questions and he's being answered by the Spirit as he's working with the JST. He's looking at these verses, looking at the Finney Bible, the

pulpit-sized Bible that was published in Cooperstown in New York, that's in front of him. And he's going through the Book of Revelations, especially from chapters 4 to chapters 11. And Joseph will come up with these 15 questions. Now, apparently, this is after the fact that he's been working on the JST during this month of March.

- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:04:59 Now these questions are percolated probably between him and Sidney. Sidney is a great scribe and they've been thinking and talking, and finally, Joseph sits down in a revelatory manner and then gives us this revelation, at least it's recorded, we assume by Sidney Rigdon. It could have been Jesse Gause. We're not exactly certain of that, but nonetheless.
- Hank Smith: 00:05:24 Yeah, this is fascinating because it's a different section than ... I remember reading this one as a kid and I was like, wait, what? Question and Answer with the Lord? Like, I would be asking different questions. So, it really helps that you're saying, no, we're studying the Book of Revelation. Because I would be asking other questions of the Lord saying ...
- John Bytheway: 00:05:44 Oh boy, it's like ...
- Hank Smith: 00:05:45 When are you coming again? Things like that. But it's specific to the Joseph Smith Translation, what they were doing. Hiram, Ohio, that's the John Johnson Farm, right?
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:05:57 Yeah, they're up at the John Johnson Farm in Hiram, Ohio. It's interesting, this is a unique revelation. It wasn't originally included in the Book of Commandments, or the 1835 Edition, or the 1844 Edition of the Doctrine and Covenants. This revelation is included in the 1876 Edition published in Utah, under the direction of Brigham Young. Brigham Young gave Orson Pratt, the Church Historian at the time and the oldest apostle serving in the Quorum of the Twelve, the assignment to give us a new edition of the Doctrine and Covenants. Orson Pratt included 26 new revelations that hadn't been included, and this is one of those 26.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:06:49 Now, to give that a little bit more context and why that's important to understand what's going on here is that Orson Pratt was just this great scribe, and he loved to use the scriptures to validate Joseph Smith and the great doctrines that he taught. This revelation hadn't been included in the Doctrine and Covenants, and it's also worthy to note here that other important revelations that had been left out of the D&C at this point are such as, listen to this, D&C 2, D&C 13, D&C 110, and they're all to do with what visitations from heavenly messengers.

That's where Section 77 fits into. It's a great vision of great vision of the apocalypse or events leading up to the Second Coming from John the Revelator.

- Hank Smith: 00:07:53 Okay. It seems to me that, Craig, correct me if I'm wrong here, but I think I've heard you say this before, that this is not meant to be an all understanding of the Book of Revelation. It's meant to open the door to us saying, "Hey, I want to understand more of the Book of Revelation, maybe a little taste." Would that be correct?
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:08:15 Yeah. You're right on, Hank, on that, is what this is, is these are keys for Latter-day Saints to better understand the Book of Revelation. Latter-day Saints, because of modern-day revelation from Joseph Smith, and the Book of Mormon even yeah, Nephi is involved in this. In 1 Nephi chapter 14, Nephi sees this whole, the panorama of the history of the world, but he was told not to write about it, whereas John was told to write about it.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:08:47 Here we have, John the Revelator is given it, and he's working on the JST. We, as Latter-day Saints are admonished to ... "Great are the words of Isaiah," and great are the words of John. Joseph Smith said at one time in his teaching, "The book of Revelation is a plain book for all of us to understand." Let us know the difference between where Joseph is with scripture understanding and where we are as Latter-day Saints, because to him, it was plain, and he asked these 15 questions to help us as Latter-day Saints, as much as himself, to better understand what's going on in this great vision.
- John Bytheway: 00:09:33 Yeah. I've always thought that ... I've heard it said, well, it's easy for Joseph to say. He probably saw the same vision, so we're trying to read it. We're reading the book. He saw the movie.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:09:45 Yeah. Joseph's in great company, Enoch, Joel, Jeremiah, Isaiah ...
- John Bytheway: 00:09:52 Nephi.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:09:55 Yeah. The brother of Jared. These prophets have seen the panorama. Most of them haven't been able to write about it, but here John is asked to do that. Maybe I can give a little bit of more historical background to who's the author of it to make sure, because the world sees this book differently, the Book of Revelation, they don't necessarily agree with where we come from our standpoint of our LDS history and doctrine on this great book. We certainly believe Nephi saw and identified in, firstly, 5-14 verses, you can look at those 16 through 19, that this

was John the Revelator, the same John, the Beloved, the son of Zebedee and the Son of Thunder.

- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:10:43 His brother was of course, James, and it is Peter, James, and who?
- Hank Smith: 00:10:54 John.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:10:54 John, who appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery to restore the Melchizedek Priesthood. Yes, we believe John was translated, a translated being, and we believe that where he received the revelation was on the Isles of Patmos in the Algerian Sea. There, he had been exiled by Nero, the Emperor of Rome to ... Yeah. So, he'd been exiled out there. Fortunately, I've been out to Patmos, had a chance to look around in the cave where supposedly he had received this great manifestation. When he calls it a vision, what this vision is about is John is allowed to pick up a pen and write down what he sees. If you can remember Section 76, when Joseph and Sidney are sitting there and receiving it, Joseph says, "I see this".
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:11:54 And Sidney says, "I see the same." Well, John didn't have a companion or an eye witness to see what he sees. He was by himself. And he takes a pen and he's asked to write this down. In the first chapter, his audience, so who he's writing to, are the seven churches in Asia minor, and Ephesus being one of those. Today, they all reside in the country of Turkey just to give you an idea. That's who he's writing to, that's his audience, but then, of course, his audience now is, since it was canonized and put into scripture in the New Testament, it's in the entire Christian world. There is, and of course, another book that is treated like the Book of Revelation being apocalyptic and symbolic. That's sort of the setting with John and that's what's going on here.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:12:49 One of the points, so maybe I can just sort of, what is this vision that he sees? John is seen ... The big picture starting in the fourth chapter of the Book of Revelation, John sees a door is opened, and through that door, he sees into the heavens and he sees a throne, and upon that throne is our God. Around him are the seven candlesticks, which later on, we learn that candle sticks very well, might represent great patriarchs or prophets fits in the latter days, but there are seven candlesticks. In front of him is this great globe or Urim and Thummim or sea of glass that's in front of him, and seated around him are 24 elders.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:13:41 24 elders who are supposedly associated with the seven churches that are in Asia minor. As the vision unfolds then, John, the God of heaven who is on the throne, and Jesus, the Lamb of

God, is there next to his side, on his right hand. The God of heaven holds up a book. A book appears in his hand and he holds it up. In that book or a scroll, it's either a book or a scroll, there are seven seals on it. Who takes the book from the God of heaven? The Savior himself, who is the only one worthy and qualified to open the seven seals, both symbolically, in a sense literally when he opened up his seal of his dispensation in the Meridian of Time when he came into mortality.

- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:14:40 There's the seven seals, and that's really what the rest of the vision is about is the opening of these seven seals.
- John Bytheway: 00:14:50 Craig, can you talk about just the ... I've heard apocalyptic described as a type of writing, like in Daniel, Ezekiel, and even f1 Nephi 14. Can you talk about the difference between our average scriptures and what apocalyptic scriptures are?
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:15:09 If this is a Greek word that means to unveil or to reveal that which is hidden from mankind. It's cloaked in symbolism of, in this case, either four beasts or four horses, or just a number of things that are going on. It's apocalyptic in that it reveals events prior to Jesus's first coming and His Second Coming. A good deal of the Revelation, of the chapters, deal with prior to his Second Coming, his Second Coming and events after his Second Coming. So, it reveals John, is what it's doing, it's revealing things that have been found in no other place in scripture, in our canonized scripture, meaning the biblical scripture.
- John Bytheway: 00:16:05 Would you say that's true then of the other books that seem to be written in this style, like Ezekiel and Daniel, they're revealing things that are nowhere else?
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:16:13 That's correct. Yeah, and Isaiah.
- John Bytheway: 00:16:16 Yeah. That helped me just to know, this is a different sounding kind of scripture, and there's things that are even hard to visualize. I remember Richard Draper saying, "Well, maybe it's better to listen to Revelation than to try to picture it, to hear the symbols." That helped me like, oh, okay, I'll approach it differently.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:16:36 Right. You bring up Richard Draper, one of our great colleagues there at BYU who's retired now, but I'll tell you, Richard, there was ... When he taught the Book of Revelation, it was amazing. If you don't, I have his book here, and it's titled, *Opening the Seven Seals*. That's what the main story is here and showing the serpents and the dragon who symbolizes Satan and Lucifer, both

in the premortal life and the mortal life, and even the postmortal life when he goes into and he's bound in the Latter-days, talked about in this revelation. But the revelation really focuses on, as the depiction here of the picture, it focuses on the Lamb of God and his role in bringing about and overcoming the great evils that will confront mankind and Christianity in the latter days.

John Bytheway: 00:17:34

One of the things I remember Richard Draper saying that I thought, oh, that's really interesting, he said that if you don't want scripture tampered with, if you don't want the text tampered with, you write it in code, and apocalyptic was the code. I thought that's a good way to ... Because nobody knew what to do with it. You better copy it literally, even if it sounds strange, but that was the way he put it in code, and maybe 77 helps us decode a little bit.

Hank Smith: 00:17:59

Yeah. At BYU, we started a new class a couple of years ago called Christ the Everlasting Gospel where you don't just study his life, you study broader, back in the Old Testament and further into the New Testament, and it forced me as a teacher to start teaching the Book of Revelation, which is something I really hadn't taught before. Probably the two keys that I've noticed in the Book of Revelation is one is, I didn't realize this is a book of hope. When you think of the Book of Revelation, everybody thinks of destruction and war, and it really finishes with Zion, right?

Hank Smith: 00:18:36

Zion has come on the earth. The last three chapters are all about Zion being on the earth. The other thing that I've realized, and we don't have to go into details here, but the people of John's day would have understood this because he borrows so much from the Old Testament. He borrows from Isaiah, he borrows from Daniel, and these are things that they would have known. That was their scripture, right? And it's a message of hope. I guess I'd always thought of it as, oh, wow, it's just lots of destruction and wars and famines. But yet, when you read those last three chapters, you're feeling this sense of, what did Edward Partridge write? *Let Zion in Her Beauty Rise.*

Hank Smith: 00:19:22

Because of how beautiful it is at the beginning and the end. The middle is a little scary, but the beginning and the end are wonderful.

Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:19:31

The great story really, the positive hope about the entire Book of Revelation is this, is that good overcomes evil and wins out in the end. It takes the Savior by the power of the priesthood to do that. By his gift and the power, the great creator of this earth

himself will take that magnificent role in those latter days to overcome evil. That's that hopeful message that I think we need to cling to, especially in the day, the times and day that we live in now. I mean, I imagine people are trying to equate COVID some way to one of the plagues talked about, one of the bowls that are spilled and the way he talks about and gives that imagery, because it's been a tough go, and we wonder, well, what's happening?

- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:20:27 We've never lived through a pandemic, any of us. I mean, not since 1918. Yeah, we want to look at a few of these verses here, some of the ones that are more prominent. I think the one thing that *Come, Follow Me* teachers need to try to realize when they're teaching 77, is not to put it into a lesson on the Book of Revelation. I think the best thing is to try to help everyone realize that this is a lifelong process to study this book and it's well worth your time and effort to engage yourself. There are several ... To understand the Book of Revelation and these particular verses, it does really require to look at modern-day scripture. Other places in the Doctrine and Covenants, as well as go to the Book of Mormon to help understand some of the interpretations.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:21:26 Let's start off. I think we've given some pretty good background to understand historically where this comes in, how it fits and who it is, so let's jump right in. There are 15 verses in here, if you look at it and which represents the 15 questions, and each question has an answer to it. Let's jump in on the first one, which is right in Revelations, Chapter 4. "What is the sea of glass spoken of by John in the fourth chapter and the sixth verse of Revelation? The answer is it's the earth in its sanctified in mortal and eternal state."
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:22:08 Our knowledge of the history of the earth, within the context of Christianity, we've taken our understanding to some different levels when it comes to our revelation. For example, let's just ... In verse six, angels do not reside on a planet like this earth, but they reside in the presence of God on a globe like a sea of glass. Now we get the concept of the sea of glass as a globe, and if you could just picture an orb, a globe, and if you remember, when they coronate a king, even today, the Queen of England, what do they put in the hand?
- Hank Smith: 00:22:56 Yeah, globe.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:22:58 A globe, an orb, meaning that their power and authority rains throughout the entire earth, and this is this concept of a globe, like a sea of glass, a fire, where all things for their glory are

manifested past, present, and future. This really helps us to understand how the God of heaven who has this orb in front of him, which is a Urim and Thummim, and the next verse says, "The place where God resides is a great Urim and Thummim, and he can look into this orb and he can see past, present and future.

- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:23:35 Now, how would that be? That's an amazing concept. That helps us to understand how God can play someone like we're going to learn about Jared Carter, because he's looking at Jared's past life and his present, and where he needs him in the future to be a missionary. And how he can hear your prayers all at once, all of our prayers on planet earth, as a God, because he has past, present, and future knowledge all rolled into one. Then verse nine, this earth in its sanctified and in mortal state will be made like unto crystal and it'll be Urim and Thummim to the inhabitants who dwell there, and there, whereby all things pertaining to an inferior kingdom and all kingdoms of a lower order will be manifest to those who do well on it. This earth will be whose? Christ's. It will be Christ's.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:24:40 That's really important. He's the creator of this earth. When Jesus created H₂O--water--and then he's on the Sea of Galilee, and he says, "Peace, be still," and the water goes from raging to calm. It's the molecules of the water listened to Jesus because it's Christ's world. In those days that John sees the Apocalypse and the coming of these future events, he will be in charge when he comes, and he'll come in ... This time with his power and great glory and in great majesty as he's upon his steed and horse, this time with a red robe ready for battle.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:25:29 Which The Jews wanted for him to be during the Meridian of Time, that's what they wanted from him. Just this little verse, just Joseph is trying to pull this together, what is the sea of glass? And then he gets this inspiration that comes of what it is.
- Hank Smith: 00:25:49 I'll just say this. If you want to hurt your mind, if you want your brain to just stretch, think about that statement in verse seven, where he says past, "Present and future are continually before me. I see them all at the same time." I've said that to my teenagers here at home. And they're like, you can almost see their brain going, what? It brings back, what did Isaiah say? "My ways are not your ways. My thoughts are not your thoughts."
- John Bytheway: 00:26:19 I think Joseph Smith talked about "one eternal now." That phrase sound familiar? That with God, time is one eternal now. I like that. Craig pointed out this verse, because the definition of truth in Section 93 is, "Knowledge of things as they are, as they

were, as they are to come. And there's that past, present, future truth." He knows it all right now.

- Hank Smith: 00:26:43 That's a beautiful idea. Craig, you can correct John and I hear when we get it wrong, but I think Joseph Smith taught, in order to worship God, you must know who he is, and this is kind of the idea that you can trust Him because he is omniscient. He sees all things continually before Him.
- John Bytheway: 00:27:01 All things are present with him. Yeah.
- Hank Smith: 00:27:04 Right. I think it can give someone a lot of hope knowing that God not only sees you as you are, but sees you as you're going to become. Well, I think Elder Wirthlin said, "He sees the glorious being. You are going to become, he sees that right now."
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:27:20 He sees the best self of you in the future, and if we'll turn our life over to God and to Christ, they'll make the best of it rather than if we try to direct our lives ourselves. I'm really with you on that. Such a powerful thing we're talking about here, this idea of past, present and future, I love the concept. Truth is truth. That's what I love about what's happening here. There are core truths and supporting truths and we're really getting into these really core ... To know the nature of God is absolutely essential for us, that he's a corporeal being, that he exists, that he is somewhere in the universe.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:28:04 And that he has the power of a God, because he has all knowledge, and the most important thing, he's obedient to all of the knowledge that he has. Knowledge alone won't save us. The Book of Revelations won't save us, but acting upon our knowledge that we learn, acting upon are through ordinances, faith, baptism, etc, that will save us in the latter days so that we can become like God.
- Hank Smith: 00:28:36 I like how you're doing this, with this saying Joseph's knowledge from Section 77 started bleeding into his other revelations. That's a cool idea where you're going, oh, he really took these revelations to heart. He really studied them. He really believed himself. Sometimes people will say, "Oh, Joseph, this conman [inaudible 00:28:57]." He believed himself to be getting answers from God himself and getting these and using them in his life.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:29:05 Yeah. You could go to D&C Section 88, verses 18 and 19, and more of this stuff on the history of the earth and the sea of glass that sits there. Joseph will talk about this in several places, but

yeah. Moving on to another verse, the next couple of verses teach us an important pattern-

- Hank Smith: [00:29:27](#) Craig, are we back in 77?
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: [00:29:28](#) I'm back in 77, and I'm going to verse 2, 2 and verse 3. I really want to look at these together, because these two verses talk about, the question is, "What are we to understand by the four beasts spoken of in the same verse?" Meaning this John 4:6. Then the second question in verse 3 is, are the four beasts limited to individual beasts or do they represent classes or orders? What I want you to look at as we read the answers here, the pattern is that they are ... The answers that come, they are both symbolic and figurative, as well as literal.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: [00:30:14](#) It's not one, just one, it could be one or the other, literal versus figurative. If you'll notice, in verse 2, the answer to these ... What about these four beasts? "They are figurative expressions used by John the Revelator in describing heaven, the paradise of God, the happiness of man and beast, and of creeping things, and the fowls of the air, that which is spiritual being in the likeness of that which is temporal, and that was just temporal in the likeness of that which is spiritual. And the spirit of man and the likeness of his person is also the spirit of the beast and every other creature." Then look at the answer to four. "They are limited to four individual beasts."
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: [00:31:01](#) Now they're literal. Before, he sees them as figurative, and now the answer is, well, they're also literal, and they represent ... Yeah, you see, they limit the four individuals which are shown to John, to represent the glory of the classes of beings in their destined order of spirit creation in the enjoyment of their eternal felicity. In other words, yeah, these are animals. Joseph Smith has taught that, in his teachings, that animals will be resurrected, that they're eternal. They have a felicity, they have a creation, they have a purpose in the plan. And he's talking about how these beasts are literal as well as they show a figurative kind of symbolic message that you can find in verse two and three.
- Hank Smith: [00:31:53](#) That's a beautiful idea. That's a scripture study skill we all need to have, is when we get into apocalyptic scripture, being able to try to discern what is literal and what is symbolic, and sometimes it can be both. Not to limit it to just one or the other, because there's a lot of times in, I think it was Elder McConkie, John you'll have to correct me on this, you know Elder McConkie best, but who taught that a lot of the story of Adam and Eve is symbolic, but Adam and Eve are literal human beings. Right? I

don't know. Craig, when you teach your classes, how do you help students navigate between the literal and figurative? That's not easy to do.

- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:32:43 It's not. That's why it's good, when you get into these kinds of settings, to get into some of the good commentaries out there on the Book of Revelation or Isaiah, and listen to men who have been directed by the influence of the Spirit, or particularly those who lived in the days of Joseph Smith and wrote and published on some of the things Joseph is talking about. Joseph has given us a lot of teachings on what this means and what that means. We don't have to flounder with these understandings. Within arm's length, we can find the commentaries and we can find the articles that have been written out there on the Book of Revelation.
- Hank Smith: 00:33:26 Yeah. There's a point in the Book of Revelation where Jesus opens his mouth and a sword comes out. I've asked my students, literal or figurative? And they're saying, I hope it's figurative. I hope it's symbolic. And I said, I think we can ... That one's a symbolic one, right? His words will pierce you to the heart.
- John Bytheway: 00:33:42 Richard Draper says, "It just keeps coming out." It doesn't stop.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:33:46 It just doesn't stop.
- John Bytheway: 00:33:48 It's continuous. So, sword and word are often the word of God, the sword of the Spirit, but it keeps coming, which makes it even stranger to see, but when you hear it, you go, "Oh, okay, the word of God continually comes forth."
- Hank Smith: 00:34:03 Craig, I love that. One question, yes, they're symbolic. The next question, yes, they're literal.
- John Bytheway: 00:34:10 That reminds us of Isaiah, don't think, oh, it means this. Well, it probably means this and this, and it could be a dual or a multiple fulfillment. Don't limit it.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:34:23 Let's go to verse 5. "What do we understand by the foreign twenty elders spoken of by John?" I love this answer here because it's important as we consider who these elders are and try to think about it in our day and age. "We are to understand that these elders, whom John saw, were elders who had been faithful in the work of the ministry, and they were dead, that they had passed on, who belonged to the seven churches and

were then in the paradise of God". Now, we might say paradise. We would say the Spirit World, wouldn't we?

- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:34:58 They're in the Spirit World. Whether they're resurrected or not, we don't know, but at least in this vision, they're not. But they belonged to the seven churches. They were faithful individuals. These are the rank and file members of the kingdom of God who make the cogs and the wheels of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ago. When we get the directive from a living prophet, President Nelson, who asks us to, "Let Israel prevail" within us, and gather people on both sides of the veil, that's a commission to us. It's an admonition. It's a commandment.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:35:41 In order for that to happen, it has to be these rank and file members, these 24 people who make it happen, who make the ... When we talk about our temples, think about every temple, and think about all the shifts that happen in any temple on a given day when our temples are up and going. Think about that. These 24 faithful members, these 24 faithful elders, and we'll learn that they're high priests here in a minute, and these faithful people. But I think I love that because they passed onto the paradise of God, and they will [inaudible] the great resurrection if they come up with Christ or not. We'll see, but I love that verse. It just says a lot to me.
- Hank Smith: 00:36:30 So do I, because if you go back in the context of who John is writing to, these are people that are the receivers of this letter, they know these people. I see presidents, whoever, from the Philadelphia branch, and he's with God right now. That's a message of hope to the seven churches, these seven congregations that he's writing to. Maybe they were martyred and they're saying, he's with God now. I see him. I think that's a beautiful idea.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:37:06 Yeah. They very well could have been martyrs in their day. John, in his book, will talk about the altars of the martyrs and then the writers of D&C 135 talk about Joseph and Hyrum as martyrs, and then the martyrs that are found that John the Revelator talks about. Very well, these could be 24, there could be martyrs amongst them who gave their life for the Church in this difficult time under the Roman Empire. Let's jump onto verse 6. "What are we to understand by the book which John saw, which was sealed on the back with seven seals?"
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:37:53 He calls it a book. I've heard some people refer to it as a scroll, some scholars, but we can consider it as a book, and think of the ... That the book is sealed on the back with seven seals. The answer is, so the ... He's asking this as a question, we were to

understand that it contains the revealed will, the mysteries and the works of God, the hidden things of his economy concerning this earth during its 7,000 years of its continuance of its temporal existence. Okay. Wow, think about the expanse of what was just said there. The economic history of this earth. The mysteries of the works of God, when God is doing his work unseen by man, that will be revealed in this book, this great book. That will be revealed.

- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:38:59 There are seven seals to it, and each of the seven seals represent approximately a thousand years. I have my good friend Bart Kowallis, who teaches Geology at BYU. One of the questions he's always asked is the age of the earth. How does that square with the Bible? Don't get sidetracked into all of that direction, but what we're talking about here, and what John has seen in this great vision is the biblical history of mankind that's revealed in this book and through these seven seals.
- Hank Smith: 00:39:38 I like that. I think, when I teach my classes, and God has introduced in Revelation, Chapter 4, and then he has this book, it's almost as if, here's the Father presenting his plan of salvation, right? Here's his plan and he needs someone to open the book. He needs someone to open the book and play the role of Redeemer. There's this beautiful moment in John chapter 5, or sorry, Revelation 5, where John says, "There's nobody." And he says, "I wept much, there's nobody that great who can open the book or be the Savior."
- Hank Smith: 00:40:13 And then this great moment, one of the elders said, "Weep not, behold, the lion of the tribe of Judah," and John looks, and he doesn't see a lion, he sees a lamb, and he comes up and he takes the book. That's a beautiful way of presenting the plan of salvation and the Savior accepting his role as the Redeemer of the world.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:40:36 Yeah. The Jewish nation really ... You make me think of the Jews and they wanted a savior that was going to save them from the Romans, etc. That they wanted that lion, they wanted, instead, the Savior is depicted here as the lamb. A Lamb of God. The sacrificial lamb. The firstborn of the Father. The Firstborn of the Lamb. This is a beautiful symbolism. And John is taking that from all that he knows about his culture and history of being of Judah. I love what we're talking about here. I'm glad you brought that up in the fifth chapter there because that's powerful when it comes to the book.

John Bytheway: 00:41:25 Can we go back a little bit? I think maybe our listeners would appreciate, we are not saying, in our theology, that the earth is 7,000 years old.

Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:41:37 We are not.

John Bytheway: 00:41:37 That in the creation, they called ... One of the creation stories, they called it a day. It doesn't mean it was a twenty-four hour period, but they called it a day, the work that they did. I appreciate that, and I thought, maybe if you don't mind, there's a verse that when I have students to bring that up, I love to read in Section 101, when in verse 32, it says, "Yay, verily, I say unto you, on that day, when the Lord shall come, he shall reveal all things." And then listen to verse 33, "Things which have passed," now imagine what you can put under that heading, archeology, anthropology, astronomy, "hidden things which no man knew, things of the earth by which it was made and the purpose and the end there of."

John Bytheway: 00:42:23 He's going to tell us everything. He hasn't told us that now, but one day he'll tell us all that stuff about the earth that we don't know. I don't know if that was a good addition to make right there. I just wanted people to know. No, we're not saying the earth is only 7,000 years old.

Hank Smith: 00:42:39 I like that John, because that's not the purpose of the Bible, it is not the purpose of scripture. They're not trying to tell us about the age of the earth. They're trying to teach us about God. If we get lost in something that's, it's not the purpose of, I think it was Elder Talmage who said, don't try to find things in the Bible that were never even meant to be there at all. Look at it the way it was meant to be read. It's a story about God, not about geology.

Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:43:09 I just think this is a really important discussion. I've been a Gospel Doctrine teacher before in my world, and it's just really easy to get a side trip down this road. The moment that happens, I feel the Spirit just walk out of the room and it's like, "What can I do to regather the Spirit here when I start?" ... The speculation that starts to happen when it comes to the seven seals.

Hank Smith: 00:43:37 There's a great book written by Henry Eyring, Sr. called the ... I think it's called *Reflections of a Scientist*. He said he and Joseph Fielding Smith got into a heated discussion about the age of the earth. Joseph Fielding Smith said, "Oh, Henry, I'll talk about this when you're less emotional." Then, Henry Eyring Sr. says, "Is he a prophet? Absolutely, he's a prophet. I believe he's a prophet, seer, and Revelator. I just happen to disagree with him on the

age of the earth." It was such a healthy way of looking at this like, let's not get sidetracked on this issue. Let's keep our focus on the Lamb and the Father.

- John Bytheway: [00:44:27](#) That's why I like those verses in 101. It's kind of like, I'm going to tell you all of this in that day, but in the meantime, faith in Christ, repentance, and endure to the end. I'll tell you all that one day, but that's not the point.
- Hank Smith: [00:44:44](#) I think you're right, Craig. The moment we get there, I think the Holy Ghost says, nah, that's not the point. Yeah, that's not the point.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: [00:44:54](#) I know our time, we probably can't cover all the verses that are here in Section 77, but I know that there needs to be a few things said about the 144,000 and the small book and the two witnesses. Let's hit those three topics here. Let's go over to verse 11, the 11th question. "What are we to understand by the sealing of the 144,000 out of all the tribes of Israel, 12,000 out of every tribe?" By the way, in that last submission, the 12,000 out of every tribe, everybody can do the math, 12 times 12, 144, or 144, 12,000 out of each tribe. Now, let's listen to the answer. We are to understand that those who are sealed, and this means sealed up to eternal life, their names written in the book of the Lamb of God.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: [00:46:01](#) That's what that would mean. "Are high priests ordained into the holy order of God." Now let's just stop there for a moment. Let's not leave the sisters out of this. If you're going to be sealed up and your name's in the book of the lamb of God, and then that is a ... Your wife is going to be part of that sealing. You can't have that without her, because this is a ... We have a Mother in Heaven, we have a God in heaven, and if you're going to go on to exaltation, you're not going to do this alone. While it just mentions high priests, right next to the high priest, is the wife of the high priest. If he's being sealed up, that means she's there too. We don't want to lose that.
- Hank Smith: [00:46:51](#) Craig, that's not something that Joseph Smith understands quite yet. That's not going to come until what? Section 137. This is going to be something he'll understand later, that in order to be one of these sealed up, you must enter into ... Where are we?
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: [00:47:12](#) The new and everlasting covenant of marriage.
- Hank Smith: [00:47:12](#) New and everlasting covenant. Yeah.

Dr. Craig K. Ma...:	<u>00:47:15</u>	Right. Yeah. You can see how this great revelation percolates with Joseph Smith for a good long time. You find it coming out now in D&C 132 and 137 and other places and it's really important. That's why I really like these verses here, and it's a really important key to understanding. One of the keys to understanding Revelation is knowing the doctrines of the plan of salvation. Know what that means. You tell me, what is this talking about, ordained onto the Holy Order of God, what's that?
John Bytheway:	<u>00:47:57</u>	Melchizedek Priesthood.
Dr. Craig K. Ma...:	<u>00:47:58</u>	You got it. So, there, Section 84 of the Doctrine and Covenants, the holy order, and that's why they're high priests, and what is their administrative role? "To administer the everlasting gospel, for they are they who are ordained out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people by the angels to whom it is given power over the nations of the earth." That's the four angels that are on the four corners of the earth who are assisting missionary labors in our dispensation of the Restoration, to help us to get into countries to preach the gospel. Is those unseen angels who are assisting and helping so that these high priests can come into a country and administer salvation to its inhabitants.
Dr. Craig K. Ma...:	<u>00:49:01</u>	That's what's going on here, because it says every nation, kindred, tongue and people, by the angels to whom is given power over the all nations to bring as many as will come, agencies involved, to the Church of the Firstborn. The Church of the Firstborn is Jesus as the firstborn. It is those who have been sealed up to eternal life. Those who've come to know, and that's the purpose of our endowment today. It is to come to see God face to face, to see the Second Comforter who is Christ himself, and to seal us up into eternal life, and that we can live in exaltation in a celestial orb.
Dr. Craig K. Ma...:	<u>00:49:44</u>	The priesthood is necessary. The restoration of priesthood for salvation and exaltation and ordinances, and needs to ... That's when President Nelson says that we need to gather on both sides of the veil. This needs to be ... That's why we're going into every nation that we can possibly go through the front door. The brother and the Quorum of the Twelve and the First Presidency want us to go through the front door to do our missionary work and that we can bring ... Eventually, the goal is to set up a temple in every land, every nation to meet the needs of the people so that he can have exaltation.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:50:26</u>	It's a gathering of Israel type of a verse, and it's to find those who will let God prevail. It's a purpose of the priesthood-type of

verse. I always love it when it says, every nation, kindred, tongue and people, the care that God has for everyone.

- Hank Smith: [00:50:44](#) As a teacher, I would focus less on the number 144,000, and more on the every tribe that John is living in the day of the scattering, and he's telling his people, I see every tribe in the future coming to God, right? This is Revelation seven. I see every tribe, Zebulun, Benjamin, Simeon, Manassah, Judah, they're all here.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: [00:51:08](#) He mentions all of them.
- Hank Smith: [00:51:09](#) Yeah. They're all there. This has got to be, to me, the future gathering. I'm glad you said that, John, that he's saying, what do we understand by these 144,000? John's saying, it's the gathering, we're all back together. That's got to be an exciting moment for John as the writer, and those who are reading this letter originally, that's got to be exciting for them as well, a future gathering. We know Nephi was excited about the future gathering. Isaiah was excited about the future gathering. This seems to be an addition there.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: [00:51:38](#) Yeah, and your point about not getting caught up in the number of 144,000, I know that there's a Christian denomination out there that says there will only be 144,000 saved in the kingdom of God. That's just not the plan of salvation, is it? God loves all of his children. Everybody will have agency to have an opportunity to be exalted and to accept or reject the gospel. It's not a limited capacity. That's why I love this, and the priesthood is essential in the process. There is a pathway back to God, and so I love this.
- John Bytheway: [00:52:17](#) When we think of a seal, it's interesting that the different ways this is being used, the Book of Mormon being a sealed portion, it's not ... This kind of a seal, are we thinking like a wax seal that holds the revelation closed, and then also that people are sealed? Yeah, we have sealed the servants of God in our foreheads in verse 9, but I like how often that word is used and it. The plates that were sealed were closed, but when we're sealed, that's a different type of being sealed. Then there's the seals at SeaWorld, and that's a different type of seal.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: [00:52:57](#) But you bring up a good point again, it's the same thing with this topic right here, the sealing of the three numbers on the forehead in the Book of Revelation there that you're referring to. There's lots of speculation out there on that, and the same thing happens in a Gospel Doctrine class, as soon as we get speculating what that means and how those numbers can be

interpreted. I really have to be careful there. But in this case, the word is sealed, sealed up to eternal life.

- Hank Smith: [00:53:33](#) Craig, in my class, I've said, "Listen, in John's day, human beings could be sealed on their forehead, like branded, who owns you." The Book of Revelation seems to have two owners. You can either choose the Adversary as your owner, the mark of the beast, right? The adversary as your owner, or you can choose the Father as your owner. Those are your two choices, very similar to Nephi saying, "There are two churches, save only." There's Satan and his side and there's God and His side. You have to make a decision on whose side you're on.
- Hank Smith: [00:54:08](#) But yeah, you're right, getting caught up in what the seal says and what the number means is, again, I think you're out in left field and you're far away from where the Lord wants us to be here focusing on him, the Lamb and the gathering of Israel.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: [00:54:25](#) Let's go to the last two questions in the revelation. We're in verse 14 right now. "What are we to understand by the little book which was eaten by John, as mentioned in the tenth chapter of Revelation? Answer, we're to understand that it was a mission, an ordinance for him to gather the tribes of Israel. Behold, this is Elias, who, as it is written, must come and restore all things." Joseph Smith, Bruce R. McConkie has talked about this, that the book, the little book was, what was it? It was what? It was eaten.
- Hank Smith: [00:55:08](#) Yeah, and it's an assignment. Right?
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: [00:55:11](#) Okay. Let's first deal with the fact that it was eaten. A book that was eaten ... Give a book to somebody and tell them to eat this book, they'll think you're crazy. But what this is symbolic in here, think of the word, think of the words in the scriptures that equate to what is being said here, feast upon what? The little book. Feast upon the word of God. Now, what is the little book? The little book is the real history of the world. Now, we hear the word today thrown around, fake history or fake ...
- John Bytheway: [00:55:54](#) Fake news.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: [00:55:56](#) That. There is a book that has the real history of what happened in these seven seals, and we're required to feast upon that book. What we're required too. Then the book is the history of mankind, both our religious history and our secular history. If you want to know religious history, you've got to know something about European history or Middle Eastern history. If

you want to understand what's going on religiously in the Bible, culture, and history, if you'll study that, we need to feast upon it. If we do that, we'll understand the great gathering of the tribes in the latter days, and how that will all come together, and that all things will be restored.

Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:56:47

So, it's just like, the more you know before you go, the more you'll share while you're there. The more you know about our history, let's say Middle Eastern history ... If you go to Jerusalem and you have never studied Middle Eastern history, of the number of times the city of Jerusalem has been conquered and by who, if you don't have a grasp of that, then you're a blank slate just trying to understand this culture that you see in front of you. But if you do understand the history, it's magnificent in the tapestry of what's going on in the city of Jerusalem in modern day today. When it comes to understanding our history, we'll understand that the concept of an Elias of a restore of truth has been going on in our history.

Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:57:37

Whether it was the Dark Ages or through the Great Apostasy and the Enlightenment area that brought about the great revivals of the Restoration, and that there have been Eliases out there. I would say Martin Luther and the great Reformers as an Elias, a mortal Elias, who is trained to bring about, and if we understand and study the life of these great Reformers, and that helps us to understand why the need for a restoration, because there was a Great Apostasy. If we don't understand there's an apostasy, there is no need for a Restoration, and there's no need for a Book Mormon, and there's no need for a priesthood, a Peter, James, and John, and John the Baptist, and Moses and Elias and Elijah appearing, and D&C went to ...

Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 00:58:26

If we don't understand our history of who we are as Latter-day Saints, how can we understand the gathering? How can we do what President Nelson asked us? How can we allow God to prevail in our life if we don't understand our history? That's what he's saying. We need to feast. We all need to eat the book.

Hank Smith: 00:58:49

Feast upon the word. This is one of those moments, by the way, where I tell my students, this would not be odd for John's audience, him eating a little book. He's borrowing this idea from Ezekiel, Chapter 3, where the prophet eats a book and then he can speak the words. I think you're right on here, where anybody who wants to serve a mission or go out and teach, they must first, what did the Lord tell Hyrum Smith? You must first, before you can declare my word, you have to obtain my word. You have to feast upon the word before you can speak.

- John Bytheway: 00:59:22 Or treasure it up, another phrase. I think like Section 88 coming up talks about exactly what Craig is saying right now, study the wars, the perplexities of nations. It's kind of like, get a big picture and you will see the restoration and the big picture. I love what you said there Craig, because I love to tell my students, the President Benson thing. If you don't understand the Fall, then you won't understand the Atonement. If you don't understand the Apostasy, you won't understand why there needs to be a Restoration at all. All of this says the big picture. I like the image of eating the book. I'm going to consume this. I am going to learn everything about this. I'm going to make it part of me.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 01:00:08 Our last verse here is verse 15, "What is to be understood by the two witnesses in the 11th chapter of the Book of Revelation?"
- Hank Smith: 01:00:18 Oh, here's the Gospel Doctrine class is going to take off now, right? Out in the left field.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 01:00:26 They are two prophets that are to be raised up in the Jewish nation. That's Israel. If there's a Jewish nation, it's Israel today. It's in 1917 when it was declared that they could form a government and an army, and prepare for their own nation to emerge. There are two prophets that will be raised up in the Jewish nation, so we'll say Israel. We'll define that as Israel today, the borders of the country of Israel in the last days, because it is the last days. It's the sixth and seventh seal that we're talking about here.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 01:01:10 At the time of the Restoration and to prophesy to the Jews after they are gathered, and so there is a physical literal gathering of the Jews in Israel today. Nobody can refute that. Spiritually, they haven't gathered to the gospel, but they're there physically in culture. They're there, and with all the religion, they are there. They have a government. They are there for a purpose in their mind, and they're looking for the first coming of the savior. But these two prophets, the two prophets, it doesn't say they're Jewish prophets. It doesn't say they're coming out of Judah, but there are two prophets that will be raised up.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 01:01:59 That words "raised up" are interesting if you consider that for a moment. Then the last part of it, to prophesy to the Jews after they are gathered and have built the city of Jerusalem in the land of their fathers. Now, of course, let's talk about the context of the 11th chapter of this Book of Revelation. What is going on here? What do we know about this? This is the great battle of Armageddon. This is a three and a half year war that will be going on. This is a war that will take seven years to bury the

dead. And there will be these two prophets or witnesses that are there to associate with this great battle of Armageddon, and eventually, and I'm now going into other revelations that we have in teachings, that they will be backed up to the Mount of Olives.

- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 01:03:01 This is a great time. We also know from the Revelation itself there, in this 11th chapter, that these two prophets, their lives will be taken. And for three and a half days, their bodies will lie within the streets, and then, at the Second Coming, when the Mount of Olives splits in twain, and the Savior comes through to fight the battle, or the Jews, and to save that nation from annihilation, and then the two prophets, these two witnesses will be raised up. Resurrected would be the word. We ask, who are these two witnesses? And who are they? Well, we don't know.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 01:03:45 That's where speculation unfortunately has taken over some study groups in the Church. Do they come from the Quorum of the Twelve or the First Presidency? No, we have no direction on that. I wouldn't dare to say anything, not even close to putting the Brethren in that kind of situation with this prophecy right here.
- Hank Smith: 01:04:12 Yeah. This is another place where John is borrowing from the Old Testament from Zechariah, Chapter 4, these two anointed ones. You go back to our original discussion between symbolic and literal, and if we lean way too far literal, that's where I think we start to kind of go off the rails and start saying ...
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 01:04:33 We do.
- Hank Smith: 01:04:33 Yeah, I think it's going to be these two people, right? I don't think that was the intention. It looks to me like the intention here is that, when they die, it will seem like we've lost, but here comes the savior to raise them back up, and he will win. It seems to me that the purpose of Revelation 11 is to show the power of the Lamb to bring people to life. Right at the end of the book, or right at the end of the chapter, the angel says, "The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ, and shall reign forever and ever." To me, that's the point.
- John Bytheway: 01:05:16 That's a good way to ... I think we ought to, the whole section here, what is a great way to look at that? And that is [inaudible] and that music came to my mind, because those are the lyrics of the Hallelujah Chorus. The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our God, and of his Christ. He shall reign

forever and ever, and we sing. That's a great way to ... Instead of getting too concerned about the little symbols, what's happening here, the history of the world has already been written, and Christ is the victor and he will save and gather. What else would you add to that?

- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 01:05:54 I would like to say that, as we look at some of the book of this great revelation that John sees, I think that it behooves us as Latter-day Saints to do all that we can to become familiar with these teachings, but what's important for us as a Latter-day Saint today is to be true to our covenants, be active in the kingdom of God, be moving forward in a progressive way to do all that we can to bring about these events in the latter days. They're going to happen, with or without us. We want them to happen with us. We want to be contributors. We need to follow the direction of our prophet, seer, and revelator.
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 01:06:41 We never want to be ahead of the prophet. We want to listen to him, what he's going to ask us to do, and he's asked us some very important things to do recently in the Church. That's what we need to do. That should be our watch.
- Hank Smith: 01:06:56 Yeah. I don't think one of those things is speculating about the Book of Revelation in Gospel Doctrine. I don't think he's asked us to do that. Does he [crosstalk 01:07:04] remember?
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 01:07:03 Yeah, we need to be careful there.
- John Bytheway: 01:07:07 I was wondering too, a Church History question, were the missionaries out teaching the Book of Revelation or were they teaching more about the Restoration and the Prophet Joseph Smith?
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: 01:07:19 I think that's a great question. I think our missionaries were very Bible driven as much as anything. Most of them didn't have the revelations available to them. Some of them copied them down and were carrying with them until they did get the book, the 1835 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, but most of them are the biblical sense. We didn't have enough knowledge, this 1832, and we didn't have enough knowledge going around about these kinds of things yet for missionaries to be taking. It is faith, repentance, the doctrine of Christ is what's bringing them into the Church. The Book of Mormon, it is a biblical presentation along with that there's been an Apostasy and a Restoration.

- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: [01:08:13](#) Here's a Book of Mormon now, the fruits of this, and then there's a church that's organized that has authority and power and ordinances to bring us back to God. Again, these are keys to fight, these are 15 keys to help us understand the Book of Revelation when you study it as a member of the Church.
- John Bytheway: [01:08:38](#) I love what the *Come, Follow Me* manual only has really one comment on Section 77. It just says, "Ponder how," there's a paragraph, but after that, it says, "Ponder how you can follow the Prophet Joseph's example when you study the scriptures. You might ask Heavenly Father, what am I to understand?" I love it, because that phrase is over and over in here. What are we to understand about this? Well, we can go to our Heavenly Father and say, "What am I to understand as we study our scriptures?"
- Dr. Craig K. Ma...: [01:09:08](#) Well, I think that's the application part that you're bringing in here now, and for us as Latter-day Saints, where do we need to be, and how can we be better saints in the kingdom of God? How can the Book of Revelations help us to do that? I think it can be a godsend to every member of the Church if they'll spend the time to get to know John the Revelator and his great revelation.
- John Bytheway: [01:09:33](#) Please join us for Part II of this podcast.