

## FOURTH OF JULY MESSAGE

To: family and friends

From: David W. Allan

As we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the freedoms granted us by our Declaration of Independence and our inspired Constitution, we see their principles crumbling before us. Ezra Taft Benson, as US Secretary of Agriculture and as President of the Church, had as good a perspective as anyone during his tenure to see the threats to our Constitution. The message in his book, *The Constitution: a Heavenly Banner*, are even more relevant today:

We are fast approaching that moment prophesied by Joseph Smith when he said: “Even this nation will be on the very verge of crumbling to pieces and tumbling to the ground and when the Constitution is upon the brink of ruin, this people will be the staff upon which the nation shall lean, and they shall bear the Constitution away from the very verge of destruction.”

Will we be prepared? Will we be among those who will “bear the Constitution away from the very verge of destruction?” If we desire to be numbered among those who will, here are some things we must do:

1. *We must be righteous and moral* – We must live the gospel principles – all of them... John Adams stated, “Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

2. *We must learn the principles of the Constitution and then abide by its precepts* – We have been instructed again and again to reflect more intently on the meaning and importance of the Constitution and to adhere to its principles... Have we read the constitution and pondered it? Are we aware of its principles? Would we defend it? Can we recognize when a law is constitutionally unsound? The Church will not tell us how to do this, but we are admonished to do it.

3. *We must become involved in civic affairs* – As citizens of this republic, we cannot do our duty and be idle spectators.

4. *We must make our influence felt by our vote, and letters, and our advice* – We must be wisely informed and let others know how we feel.

I have faith that the Constitution will be saved as prophesied by Joseph Smith. But it will not be saved in Washington. It will be saved by the citizens of this nation who love and cherish freedom. It will be saved by enlightened members of the Church – men and women who will subscribe to and abide the principles of the Constitution.

Our fundamental problem as a nation is that we have turned from the God of this land – even Jesus Christ. Hence, the Constitution established by Him, is becoming increasingly ignored – opening the doors for the antichrists to do their ugliness and to take away our freedoms vouchsafed by the Constitution. Those who will turn to Christ, humble themselves, and hear His voice will be guided through the tumultuous days ahead in preparation for His glorious return. The righteous need not fear and will have peace in the midst of the storms – for those who are “looking forth for the time of my Coming.” (Moses 7:62)