

15 October 2023

## The Great Exchange

Dear Sisters and Elders,

In the famous Latter-day Saint painting by Harry Anderson of the Second Coming of Christ (attached), Christ is depicted in a white robe with a red belt flanked by angels in white descending to the earth. This depiction of his return has always troubled me because of two scriptures. D&C 133:48 which says, *"And the Lord shall be red in his apparel, and his garments like him that treadeth in the wine-vat."* And Revelation 19:13, *"And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God."* In both scriptures, Christ will return in red clothing. For reference, the word "vesture" means clothing, apparel, robe, or cloak. I have also included a second picture of Christ's Second Coming, this is a new painting by a man named Dan Wilson and hangs in the newly refurbished Washington, D.C. Temple lobby. This one is better aligned with the scriptures mentioned above.

There are also pictures (see attached) depicting the righteous as being dressed in white. These paintings are based on scriptures referencing the righteous who receive Christ. For example, Revelation 3:4-5 *"Thou hast a few names even in Sardis [name of a town] which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."* And in Revelation 19:7-8, *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."* Who is the bride of the Lamb? It is the Church. While many of these references to white clothing are found in the book of Revelation, here is one from the Book of Mormon (1 Nephi 12:11) referencing the Nephites after the visit of Christ to the Americas. *"And the angel said unto me: Look! And I looked, and beheld three generations pass away in righteousness; and their garments were white even like unto the Lamb of God...."*

Is it not ironic that the Son of God who knew no sin, comes to us dressed in a red garment? It was in the Garden of Gethsemane that He bled from every pore because of our sins. This is what the red represents. Whose sins? Our sins! On the other hand, how is that we who are sinners are the ones in white? The answer is found in Alma 5:21. *"I say unto you, ye will know at that day that ye cannot be saved; for there can no man be saved except his garments are washed white; yea, his garments must be purified until they are cleansed from all stain, through the blood of him of whom it has been spoken by our fathers, who should come to redeem his people from their sins."* In other words, because Christ is dressed in red, we are able to be dressed in white!

There is a scripture in 2 Corinthians 5:21 that has come to be known by all of Christianity as **The Great Exchange**. In this single scripture, this concept of Jesus coming in red as we meet him in white is clearly explained. *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* What is **The Great Exchange**? It is

us exchanging our sins for His righteousness. This is why He will be dressed in red and the righteous will be dressed in white. And what is His righteousness? It is the sum total of who He is. It is all of His attributes, His light, His power, His majesty, and His glory!

The word “exchange” means to give one thing and receive another. What is it that allows us to exchange our sins for his righteousness? His atonement. What must WE give? 2 Nephi 2:27 explains: *“Behold, he offereth himself a sacrifice for sin, to answer the ends of the law, unto all those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit; and unto none else can the ends of the law be answered.”* The only way we can receive His righteousness and become like Him, is to participate in **The Great Exchange** by having a broken heart and a contrite spirit. This means we are willing to discover the joy of daily repentance. This means we are willing to change and become more like Him with each passing day.

There are many other aspects of this Great Exchange. Here are five. Can you discover more?

- Death for Life (1 Cor 15:22)
- Condemnation for Redemption (John 3:17)
- Natural Man for Sanctification (Mosiah 3:19)
- Infirmities for Mercy (Alma 7:12)
- Poverty for Riches (2 Cor 8:9)

As we take advantage of this Great Exchange, may we be mindful of just how important it is to be meek and lowly of heart, willing to confess our sins and repent each day. May we claim His righteousness that He freely offers to all who willingly give away their sins to truly come to know Him (see Alma 22:18).

All my love,

President Kunz