

Lesson 110

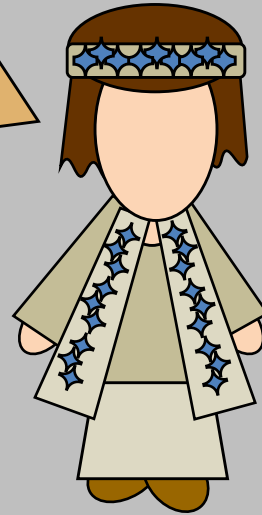
Suggested Hymn: #7  
Israel, Israel, God is  
Calling  
Verse 4

# UNRIGHTEOUS JUDGMENTS HELAMAN 8-9



# PREVIOUSLY ON THE PROPHET NEPHI:

"Yea, wo be unto you because  
of your wickedness and  
abominations!  
And except ye repent ye shall  
perish; yea, even your lands  
shall be taken from you, and ye  
shall be destroyed from off the  
face of the earth."



# INFLUENCES

What are some influences  
that try to persuade you  
not to believe the words of  
prophets?



One sip won't hurt



But you look so cute in it



Just take one look...that won't hurt



We are just friends



# JUDGES

Some Judges were part of  
Gidianon's band

"Those whose wickedness was exposed  
by Nephi responded with the  
ferociousness of a trapped animal"

JFM and RLM

We are angry with your words

Why wouldn't the  
judges punish Nephi?



# UNPOPULARITY



The teachings of a living prophet are often contrary to the trends of the world. We, as Latter-day Saints... must understand that there is an expanding gulf between the standards of the world and those of the gospel and kingdom of God, and that living prophets will always teach the standards of God.

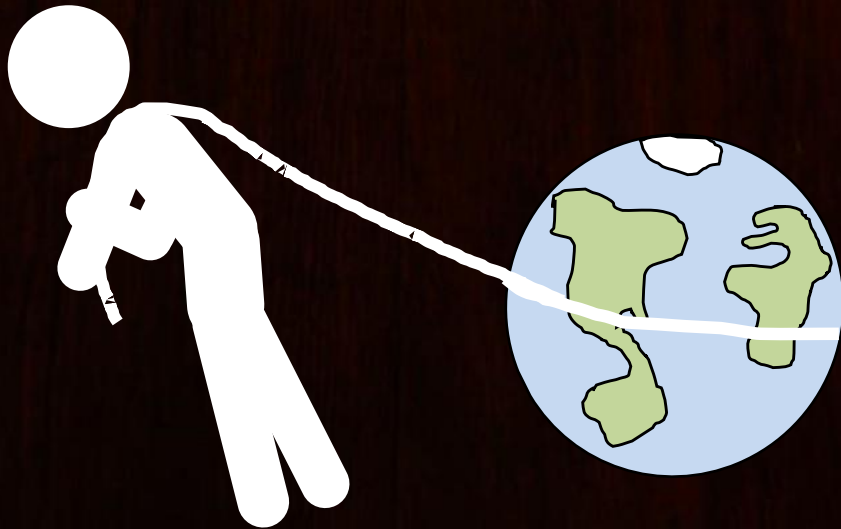
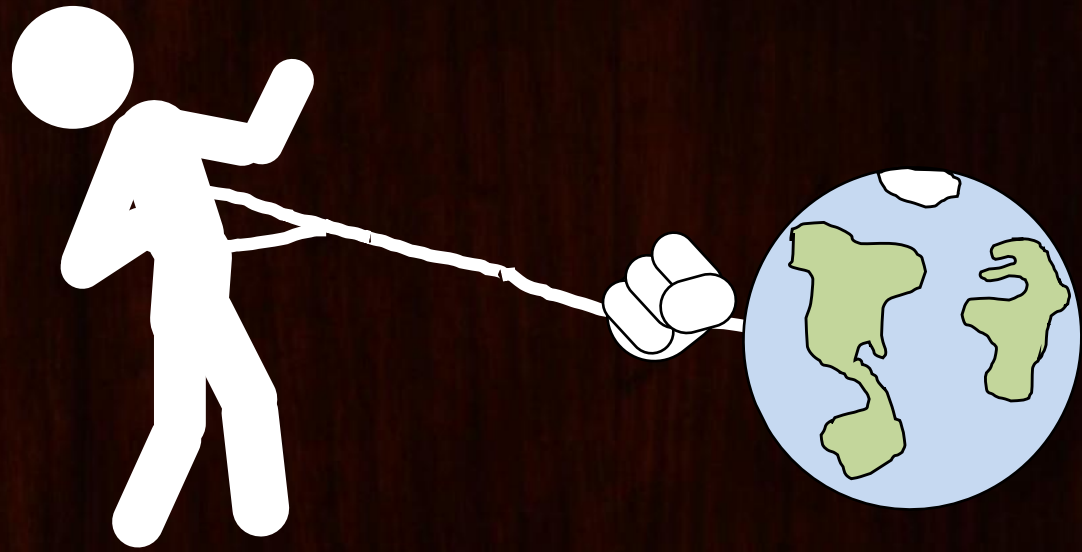
As much as we may want the gospel to accommodate to the world, it can't, it won't, it never has, and it never will.  
Dennis B. Neuenschwander

How can we resist influences that attempt to persuade us against the words of prophets?

What are some appropriate ways to speak out against evil influences and in favor of the words of prophets?



DOES THE  
WORLD  
DICTATE  
HOW YOU  
LIVE...



...OR DO YOU  
DICTATE YOUR  
OWN DESTINY?



# RAISING OUR VOICES

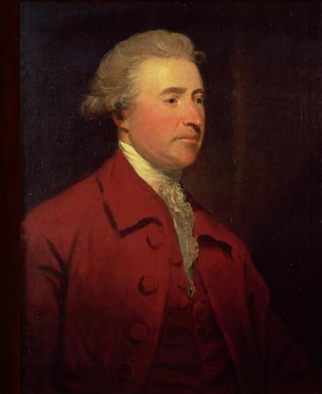
We can raise our voices in support of the prophet, even when it is not the popular thing to do.



What difference did it make when some people supported the prophet?

Why do you think it is important for us to do this today?

“We need to raise our voices with other concerned citizens throughout the world in opposition to current trends. We need to tell the sponsors of offensive media that we have had enough. We need to support programs and products that are positive and uplifting. Joining together with neighbors and friends who share our concerns, we can send a clear message to those responsible”  
Elder M. Russell Ballard



“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”  
Edmund Burke



# PROPHETS TESTIFY

Moses 1:11

“But now mine own eyes have beheld God; but not my natural, but my spiritual eyes, for my natural eyes could not have beheld; for I should have withered and died in his presence; but his glory was upon me; and I beheld his face, for I was transfigured before him.”



Abraham (JST Genesis 15:12)



Zenos  
Zenock  
Ezias  
Isaiah

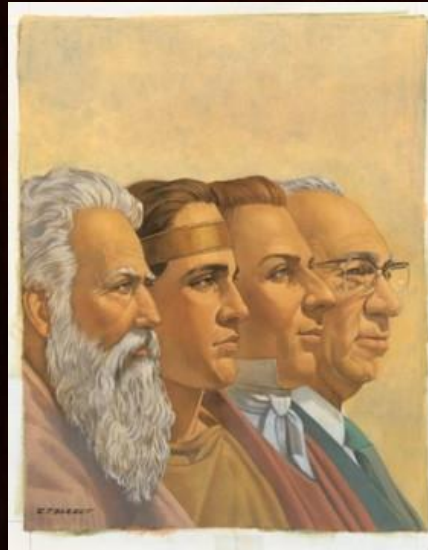
Recorded  
in brass  
plates

All the sons of Zedekiah (Mulek)  
(2 Kings 25:7)

Jeremiah (same prophet that testified of  
destruction of Jerusalem)

Lehi

Prophets of today





# LOOK UPON WITH FAITH

If we look  
upon the Son  
of God with  
faith, having a  
contrite spirit,  
then we will  
receive  
eternal life

Contrite Spirit= to be  
humble, repentant, and  
receptive to the Lord's will



# CORRUPTION

But behold, ye have rejected the truth, and rebelled against your holy God; and even at this time, instead of laying up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where nothing doth corrupt, and where nothing can come which is unclean, ye are heaping up for yourselves wrath against the day of judgment.



“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:  
“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:  
“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”  
Matthew 6:19-21





# TREASURES IN HEAVEN



“The promised reward was not a treasure of ivory, gold, or silver. Neither did it consist of acres of land or a portfolio of stocks and bonds. The Master spoke of riches within the grasp of all—even joy unspeakable here and eternal happiness hereafter.

Today I have chosen to provide the three pieces of your treasure map to guide you to your eternal happiness.

They are:

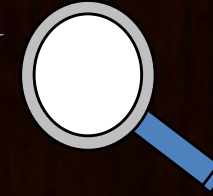
1. Learn from the past.
2. Prepare for the future.
3. Live in the present.”

President Thomas S. Monson





# AN INVESTIGATION

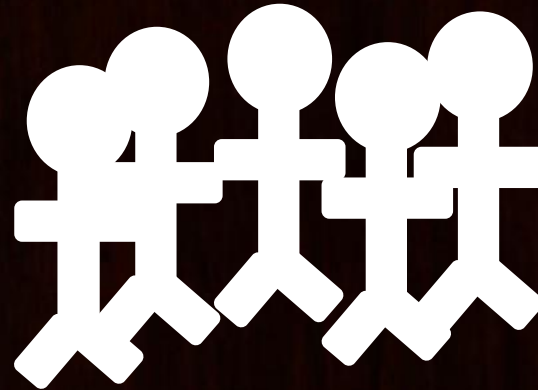


## Day One of the Investigation:

1. When five people investigated Nephi's claims, what did they find? Why did they fall to the ground? (See Helaman 9:1–5.)
2. Who did the people suspect were the murderers? (See Helaman 9:7–9.)

## Day Two of the Investigation:

3. Who was set free? (See Helaman 9:10–13, 18.)
4. Who was accused? (See Helaman 9:16–17, 19.)
5. What additional information did Nephi share? (See Helaman 9:25–36.)
6. Who was the murderer? (See Helaman 9:37–38.)



# SEEZORAM & SEANTUM

He was chief judge during the ministry of Nephi, son of Helaman

He was murdered by his brother, Seantum



He was the brother of Seezoram from about 23 to 20 BC

He murdered Seezoram

Nephi had announced this while preaching repentance to the people from his garden tower

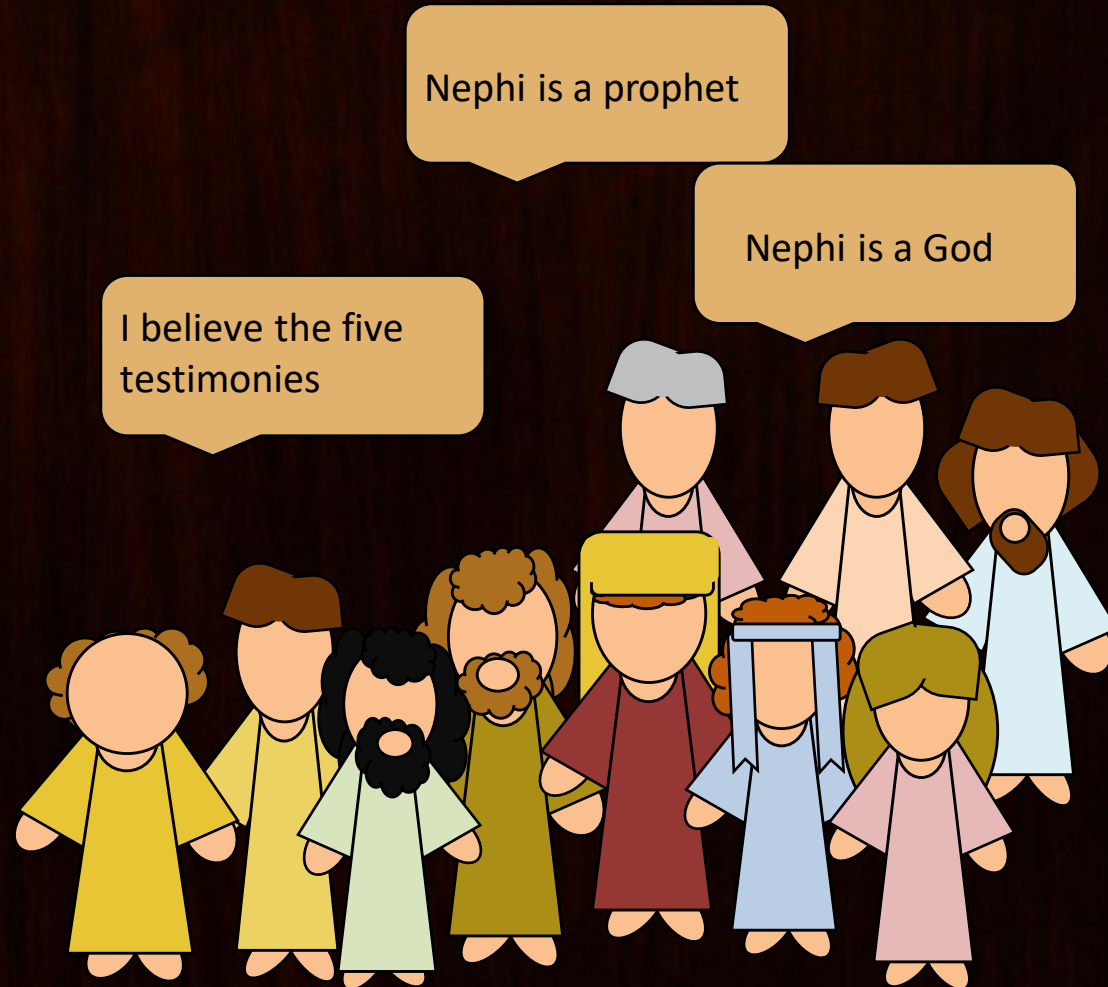


# THOSE WHO BELIEVE

“And there were some of the Nephites who believed on the words of Nephi; and there were some also, who believed because of the testimony of the five, for they had been converted while they were in prison.

And now there were some among the people, who said that Nephi was a prophet.

And there were others who said: Behold, he is a god, for except he was a god he could not know of all things. For behold, he has told us the thoughts of our hearts, and also has told us things; and even he has brought unto our knowledge the true murderer of our chief judge.”





## Sources:

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet Doctrinal Commentary of the Book of Mormon Vol. 3 pg. 373

<http://www.ldsiving.com/story/72742-10-ways-to-support-your-bishop>

Dennis B. Neuenschwander *Living Prophets, Seers, and Revelators* Oct. 2002 Gen. Conf.

Edmund Burke statement: [Attributed in John Bartlett, comp., *Familiar Quotations*, 15th ed. (1980), ix.]

Elder M. Russell Ballard (“Let Our Voices Be Heard,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2003, 18).

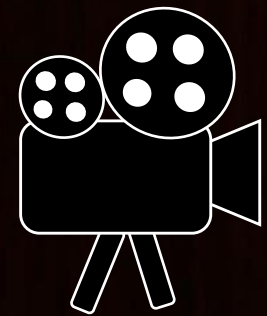
*First Counselor in the First Presidency* Thomas S. Monson In Search of Treasure April 2003 Gen. Conf.

Book of Mormon Who’s Who by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg 166-167

## Video Presentation Option:

Instead of using the investigation activity in the lesson, you may want to show the video presentation titled “The Pride Cycle,” which is a depiction of the account in Helaman 7–9 and the first few verses in Helaman 10.

The presentation is available on *Book of Mormon DVD Presentations 1–19* (54011) and LDS.org.



# Helaman 9: Investigation of the Murder of the Chief Judge

## Day One of the Investigation

1. When five people investigated Nephi's claims, what did they find? Why did they fall to the ground? (See Helaman 9:1–5.)
2. Who did the people suspect were the murderers? (See Helaman 9:7–9.)

## Day Two of the Investigation

3. Who was set free? (See Helaman 9:10–13, 18.)
4. Who was accused? (See Helaman 9:16–17, 19.)
5. What additional information did Nephi share? (See Helaman 9:25–36.)
6. Who was the murderer? (See Helaman 9:37–38.)

# Helaman 9: Investigation of the Murder of the Chief Judge

## Day One of the Investigation

1. When five people investigated Nephi's claims, what did they find? Why did they fall to the ground? (See Helaman 9:1–5.)
2. Who did the people suspect were the murderers? (See Helaman 9:7–9.)

## Day Two of the Investigation

3. Who was set free? (See Helaman 9:10–13, 18.)
4. Who was accused? (See Helaman 9:16–17, 19.)
5. What additional information did Nephi share? (See Helaman 9:25–36.)
6. Who was the murderer? (See Helaman 9:37–38.)

# Helaman 9: Investigation of the Murder of the Chief Judge

## Day One of the Investigation

1. When five people investigated Nephi's claims, what did they find? Why did they fall to the ground? (See Helaman 9:1–5.)
2. Who did the people suspect were the murderers? (See Helaman 9:7–9.)

## Day Two of the Investigation

3. Who was set free? (See Helaman 9:10–13, 18.)
4. Who was accused? (See Helaman 9:16–17, 19.)
5. What additional information did Nephi share? (See Helaman 9:25–36.)
6. Who was the murderer? (See Helaman 9:37–38.)

# Helaman 9: Investigation of the Murder of the Chief Judge

## Day One of the Investigation

1. When five people investigated Nephi's claims, what did they find? Why did they fall to the ground? (See Helaman 9:1–5.)
2. Who did the people suspect were the murderers? (See Helaman 9:7–9.)

## Day Two of the Investigation

3. Who was set free? (See Helaman 9:10–13, 18.)
4. Who was accused? (See Helaman 9:16–17, 19.)
5. What additional information did Nephi share? (See Helaman 9:25–36.)
6. Who was the murderer? (See Helaman 9:37–38.)

**10 ways to support a bishop: (this could also be 10 ways to support the prophets)**

1. Pray for him specifically, just as you would the prophet. A prayer uttered on behalf of someone, by name, can yield great results.
2. Magnify your calling. When members anxiously go about serving as they are assigned, the Lord blesses not only them but the entire ward with an outpouring of inspiration and unity.
3. The most difficult calling in the ward belongs to the bishop’s wife. Often times, my wife feels like the loneliest person in my ward. I am happy when my ward recognizes my wife’s (and my children’s) sacrifices.
4. Earnestly prepare when asked to speak in Sacrament meeting. Teach with the Spirit.
5. Never ask to be released. If circumstances change that are making it difficult for you to serve, inform your bishop and then allow him to seek inspiration. Don’t short-change yourself of heaven’s blessings because life gets a little hectic.
6. Make temple attendance a priority. When you go to the temple often, you are able to be a more effective instrument in the Lord’s hands, and you have a greater resistance to temptation and sin. Every bishop wants his ward to be unified, charitable, obedient, and willing to sacrifice. The temple helps in all those areas.
7. Don’t murmur or be contentious.
8. Be reverent, especially during the Sacrament.
9. Don’t just do your duty as a home or visiting teacher. Rather, truly minister to those you are called to serve. This is the first line of defense for a family, and an engaged home and visiting teacher can literally change a family’s life.
10. Follow his counsel—even when you see things a little differently. There is power and protection in following your leaders. This isn’t blind obedience, it is obedience founded on faith and trust. Those two things are very different.

**Helaman 8:14-15 Brazen Serpent:**  
When Nephi spoke of Moses lifting up a “brazen serpent,” he referred to a time when the children of Israel were plagued by “fiery serpents” (see Numbers 21:6–9; note that the word *brazen* means brass). The prelude to the Israelites’ trouble was that they had spoken evil of God and His prophet (see Numbers 21:5). Those who looked at the brazen serpent were healed, and those who chose not to look at it perished (see Numbers 21:9; 1 Nephi 17:41). Like those Israelites, many of the people in Nephi’s day spoke against God and His prophet. When Nephi referred to the account of the brazen serpent, he emphasized that his people should “look upon the Son of God with faith” and live (Helaman 8:15; see also John 3:14–15, in which Jesus Christ Himself referred to the brazen serpent as a symbol of His coming Crucifixion). Nephi then reminded the people that all the prophets had testified of Christ (see Helaman 8:16–23).