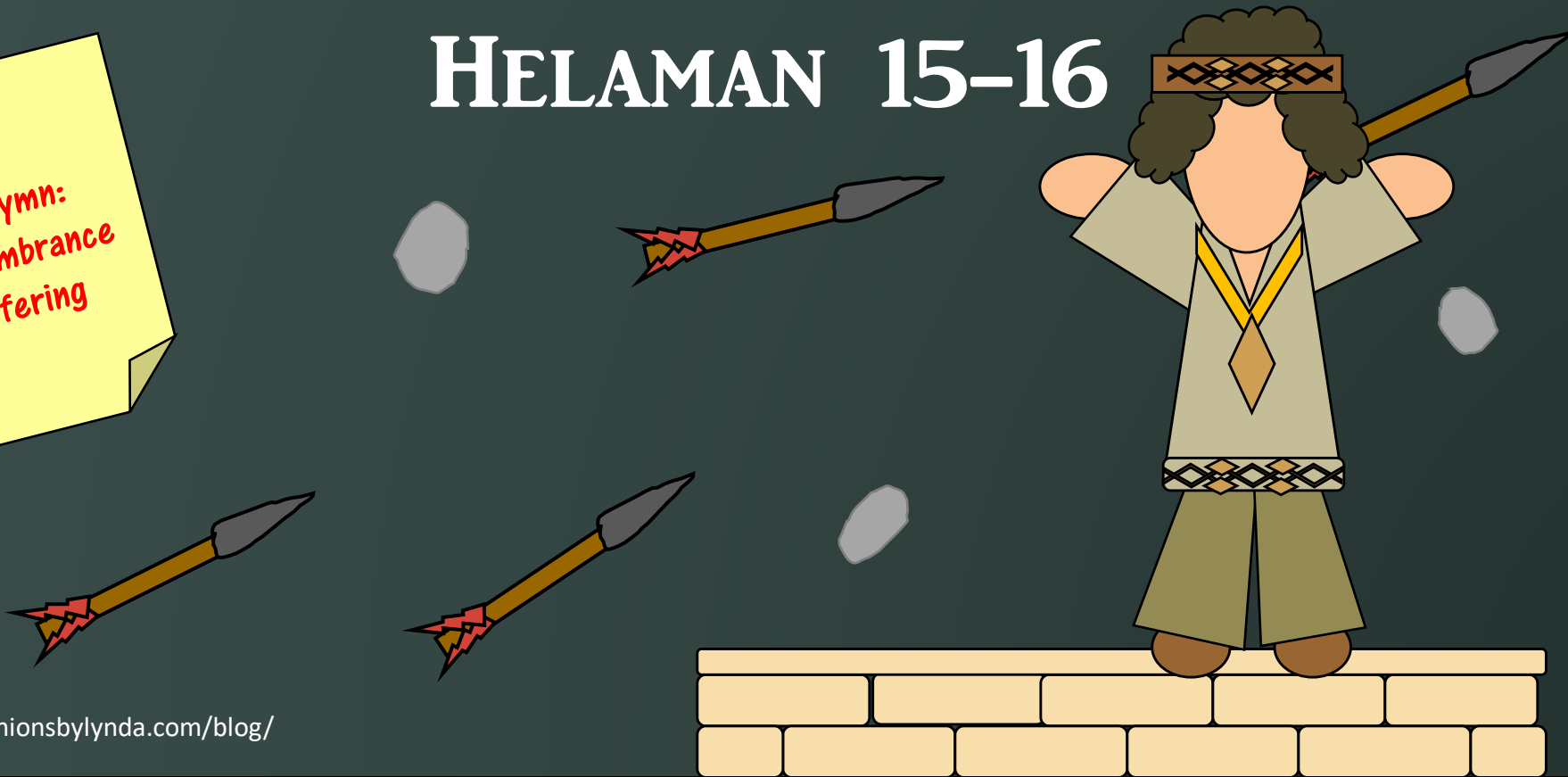


BELIEVE IT OR NOT— SAMUEL'S FINAL WORDS

HELAMAN 15-16

Lesson 115

Suggested Hymn:
#183 In Remembrance
Of Thy Suffering



Young Man #1

One young man was raised by parents who were not members of the Church and did not emphasize the teachings of Jesus Christ.

They allowed him to drink alcohol, a practice he continued in college.



Then he met the Latter-day Saint missionaries.

After meeting with the missionaries a few times, he pledged to give up alcohol.

A few days later, he was with a group of friends. They offered him an alcoholic drink.



Young Man #2

Another young man was raised in a Latter-day Saint family. His parents held family home evening and family scripture study.

He developed a habit of daily scripture study and personal prayer.



He attended Primary, served in Aaronic Priesthood quorums, and graduated from seminary, gaining knowledge of the commandments and ways of the Lord. While attending college, he developed new friendships.

One night a friend offered him an alcoholic drink.



Would accepting the alcoholic drink be a more serious offense for the first young man or the second?

Why or why not?

If people become unbelieving after having received the fulness of the gospel, they will receive greater condemnation



Spiritual condition of
the Lamanites
Helaman 15:4-6

They were observing
the commandments

Spiritual condition of the
Nephites
Helaman 15:1-3, 17

They had become unbelieving,
wicked, and unrepentant



Spiritual condition of the Nephites

Helaman 15:1-3, 17

They had once been a
chosen people.

However,

They had become
unbelieving, wicked,
and unrepentant

The Lord chastened
them for their
unrighteousness



Spiritual condition of the Lamanites

Helaman 15:4-6

They had once been
the more wicked of the
people

However,

They had become more
believing, righteous,
and repentant

The Lord blessed them



Why were the Nephites in danger of being destroyed?

chasten means to correct someone through punishment or suffering of some kind.


How is the Lord's chastening a sign of His love?

Although the Lamanites had a long history of wickedness, why were they able to receive so many blessings?

When people know the truth and believe the scriptures, they are led to faith and repentance, which bring a change of heart

A CHANGE OF HEART

Bringing the remainder of their brethren to the knowledge of the truth  Those who are truly converted are compelled to share the gospel with others

Faith in the scriptures and knowledge of the truth  Faith comes by hearing the words of leaders and reading the scriptures then believing on those words

Firm and steadfast  To be constant, consistent, and vigilant in one's faith and approach to living the gospel

THOSE WHO BELIEVED SAMUEL

Sought to be baptized
by Nephi

Confessed their sins

Denied not—to be
opened to counsel,
direction, and the
promptings of the Spirit



When we see or
feel evidence of
God's power
upon His
prophets, we can
choose to either
believe or
dismiss that
evidence

THOSE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE

They were angry with Samuel

Sought to take Samuel life by throwing stones and arrows at him

They did not believe in the words of Samuel

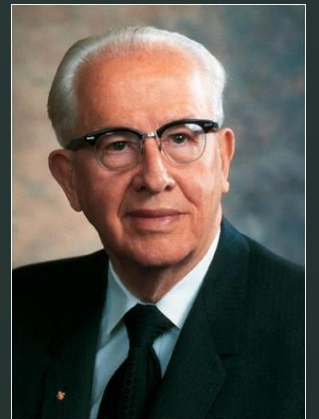
Realizing they could not bind him, Samuel got off the wall and fled, and preached among his own people



“When the prophet points out the sins of the world, the worldly, rather than repent of their sins, either want to close the mouth of the prophet or else act as if the prophet didn’t exist. Popularity is never a test of truth.

Many a prophet has been killed or cast out. As we come closer to the Lord’s second coming, you can expect that as the people of the world become more wicked, the prophet will be less popular with them.”

Ezra Taft Benson



REJECTING THE SIGNS

86th - 89th Year of the Reign
of the Judges

There was little change in
the people

Some rejected the
prophecies of a
Christ



90th Year of the Reign of
the Judges

The signs and prophecies
began to be fulfilled

nevertheless—
The people harden their
heart, except for some

“This ended the
book of Helaman,
according to the
record of Helaman
and his sons.”



**When we
reject the
Lord's
witnesses, we
allow Satan to
get hold upon
our hearts**

“When we reject the counsel which comes from God, we do not choose to be independent of outside influence. We choose another influence.

We reject the protection of a perfectly loving, all-powerful, all-knowing Father in Heaven, whose whole purpose, as that of His Beloved Son, is to give us eternal life, to give us all that He has, and to bring us home again in families to the arms of His love.

In rejecting His counsel, we choose the influence of another power, whose purpose is to make us miserable and whose motive is hatred.

We have moral agency as a gift of God. Rather than the right to choose to be free of influence, it is the inalienable right to submit ourselves to whichever of those powers we choose.”

President Henry B. Eyring



Sources:

Suggested Hymn 183 *In Remembrance of Thy Suffering*

Ezra Taft Benson (*The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson* [1988], 133).

President Henry B. Eyring (“Finding Safety in Counsel,” *Ensign*, May 1997, 25).

Chart—Book of Mormon Student Manual Religion 121-122 pg. 375



The Birth of Jesus Christ	Samuel Prophecies	The Fulfillment
1. Christ to be born in five years	Helaman 14:2	3 Nephi 1:13
2. No darkness for two day	Helaman 14:3-4	3 Nephi 1:15
3. A new star to arise	Helaman 14:5	3 Nephi 1:21
4. Other signs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Many signs and wonders in heaven b. People to fall to the earth 	Helaman 14:6 Helaman 14:7	No mention
The Death of the Lord		
1. Sun to be darkened, moon and stars not to give light for three days	Helaman 14:20, 27	3 Nephi 8:19-23
2. Signs of the earth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Thunderings, lightnings for many hours b. Earth to shake and tremble and be broken up c. Tempests, mountains to be laid low, valleys raised d. Highways to be broken up, cities to become desolate 	Helaman 14:21 Helaman 14:21-22 Helaman 14:23 Helaman 14:24	3 Nephi 8:6,7 3 Nephi 8:12, 17, 18 3 Nephi 8:5-6 3 Nephi 8:8-11, 13
3. Many graves to be opened and people resurrected, who shall appear unto many	Helaman 14:25	3 Nephi 23:9-14