

Mormon's Final Epistle

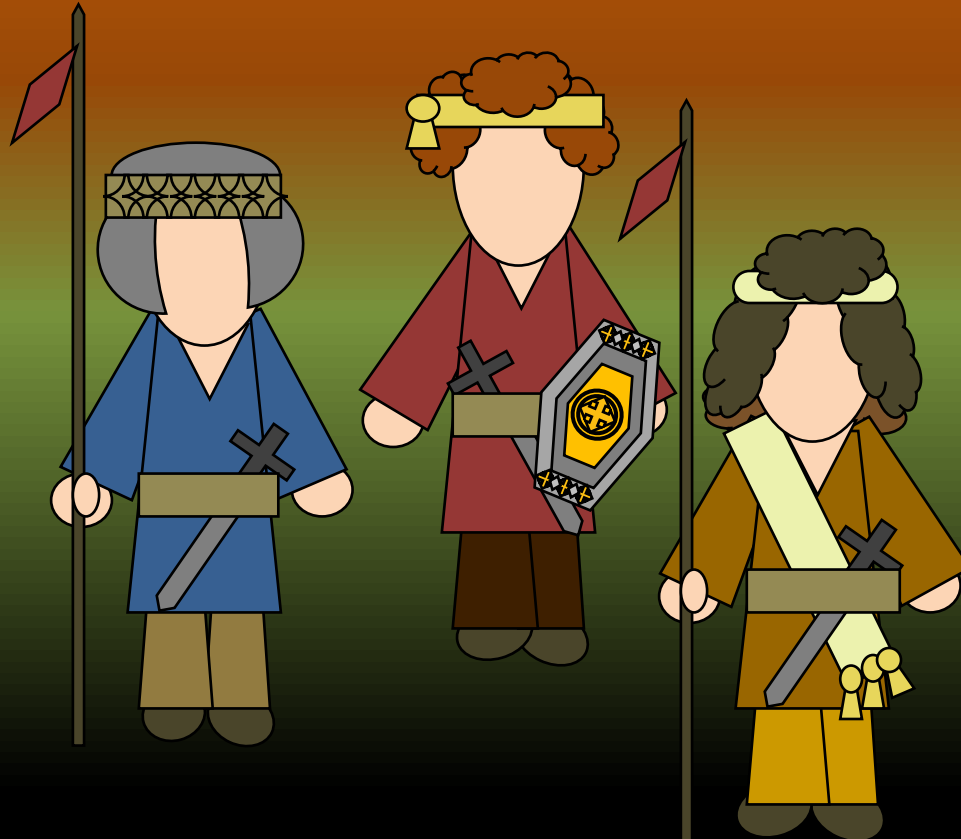
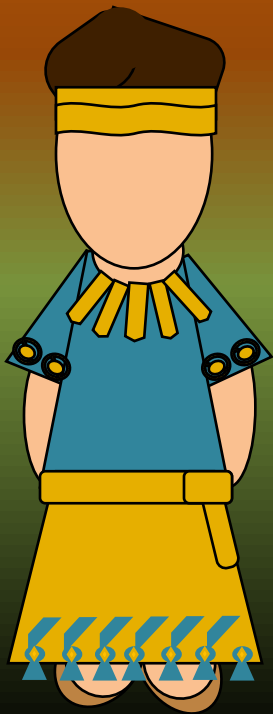
Lesson 158
Suggested Hymn:
#144 Secret Prayer
or #96 Dearest
Children



The Condition of the Nephites

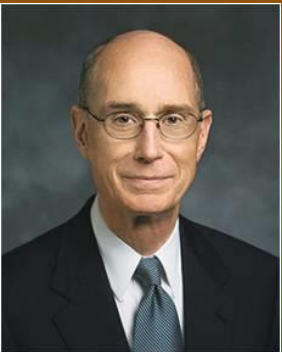
Mormon's writes final letter to Moroni during a great battle with the Lamanites

“Archeantus has fallen by the sword, and also Luram and Emron”—the great Nephite men who battled with the Lamanites



To Labor Among the People

We are to labor diligently in God's service, even if those we serve do not respond positively.



“It is a covenant we make with God to keep all His commandments and give service as He would give it if He were personally present. Living up to that standard as best we can builds the strength we will need to endure to the end.

“Great priesthood trainers have shown me how to build that strength: it is to form a habit of pushing on through the fatigue and fear that might make you think of quitting. The Lord’s great mentors have shown me that spiritual staying power comes from working past the point when others would have taken a rest. ...

“... I promise you if you do all that you can, God will magnify your strength and your wisdom”
President Henry B. Eyring

**The Lamanites
Moroni 9:2-5**

Loss of many great men

Satan stirs up them
continually

Mormon labors continually

They are angry with Mormon

Mormon fears the Spirit has
left them

They have no fear of death

They have lost their love one
for another

They thirst for blood and
revenge

**The Nephites
Moroni 9:7-10**

Many men, women, and
children are prisoners of the
Lamanites

The husbands and fathers
have been slain

They feed the women and
children the flesh of the men

They give them very little
water

The Nephites have taken the
daughter of the Lamanites
prisoners—they lost their
chastity and virtue

They have murdered and
tortured them and devoured
their bodies

**Both Lamanites and Nephites
Moroni 9:16-19**

Many widows and daughters
wander and are left to die

The army of the Nephites are
weak

Many of the armies have
fallen to an awful brutality

They are without order

They are without mercy

They delight in everything
wicked

Mormon has no strength and
cannot enforce his commands

They have become strong in
wickedness



What do you think it means to be “without civilization”?

To act uncivilized—without refinement or restraint; to have no respect for other individuals; to disregard laws that govern society

What do you think it means to be “without principle”?

To live without standards and without honoring and keeping the commandments of God

What do you think it means to be “past feeling”?

To be hard-hearted against the Spirit of the Lord and the Light of Christ and to not distinguish between right and wrong

What evidence do you see in the world today that some people are without civilization, are without principle, and are past feeling?

“Atay”

“Atay”—Greek

Introduced in playwrights to allow the audience to see the consequences and forces as a result of the choices made by the hero.

As the play progresses the hero approaches the moment of *Ate*.

At any moment they could speak—as to repent, they could turn around, back out and undo their crisis.

If they chose right, there was hope. But if they chose wrong—usually of so many poor decisions in the past—the audience could do nothing but watch them destroy themselves.

“They “reached the point of no return”

So it is with the Nephites (and the Jaredites)...that they proved to be at the point of no return. They had known and been taught to repent of their sins but they chose to lose that power and so the Lord could not receive them back.



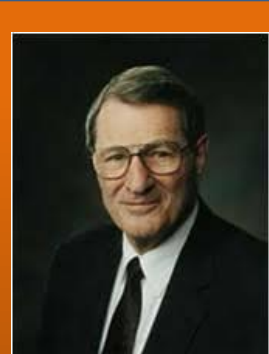
Past Feeling—without Principle

The Failure to respond to the promptings
of the Holy Spirit:

“Our capacity to feel controls our behavior in many ways, and by inaction when our feelings prompt us to do good, we deaden that capacity to feel. It was Jesus’ striking sensitivity to the needs of those about him that made it possible for him to respond in action.

“At the other end of the spiritual spectrum are individuals such as Nephi’s erring brothers; Nephi noted their increasing insensitivity to things spiritual: ‘[God] hath spoken unto you in a still small voice, but ye were past feeling, that ye could not feel his words’.





“When we become too encrusted with error, our spiritual antennae wilt and we slip beyond mortal reach. This can happen to entire civilizations. In his lamentation to his son Moroni, Mormon notes the deterioration of the Nephite society. The symptoms include a wickedness so profound that Mormon’s people were described by him as being ‘past feeling’.

The Apostle Paul lamented the destructive lasciviousness of Church members in Ephesus because they had developed such insensitivity in their satiation that they were ‘past feeling’.

A sex-saturated society cannot really feel the needs of its suffering members because, instead of developing the love that looks outward, it turns man selfishly inward.

Imperviousness to the promptings of the still small voice of God will also mean that we have ears but cannot hear, not only the promptings of God, but also the pleas of men.”

Neal A. Maxwell

Moroni 9:18-20



“The world grows increasingly noisy. Clothing and grooming and conduct are looser and sloppier and more disheveled. Raucous music, with obscene lyrics blasted through amplifiers while lights flash psychedelic colors, characterizes the drug culture. Variations of these things are gaining wide acceptance and influence over our youth. ...



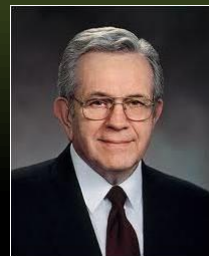
“This trend to more noise, more excitement, more contention, less restraint, less dignity, less formality is not coincidental nor innocent nor harmless.



“The first order issued by a commander mounting a military invasion is the jamming of the channels of communication of those he intends to conquer. “Irreverence suits the purposes of the adversary by obstructing the delicate channels of revelation in both mind and spirit”



President Boyd K. Packer



Trustful and Faithful

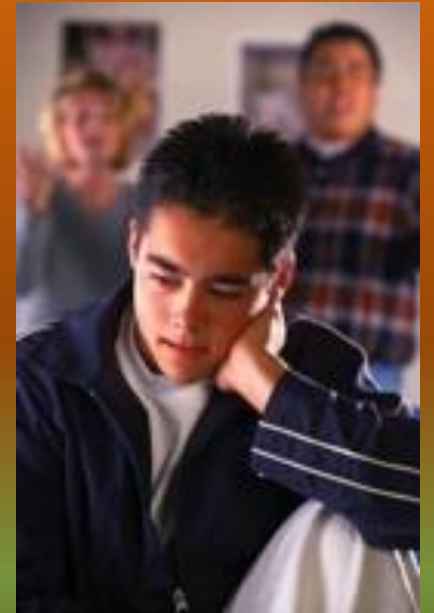
What causes you to be discouraged?

Trust that thou wilt be saved and God will spare thy life

Be faithful in Christ for He will lift thee up



If we are faithful in Jesus Christ, He will lift us up even when difficulties and wickedness surround us.



”...may his sufferings and death, and the showing his body unto our fathers, and his mercy and long-suffering, and the hope of his glory and of eternal life, rest in your mind forever.”



Yongsung Kim

Mormon's Final Words

“And may the grace of God the Father, whose throne is high in the heavens, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who sitteth on the right hand of his power, until all things shall become subject unto him, be, and abide with you forever. Amen.”

Sources:

Video:

Strengthen Thy Brethren (10:06)

Reach Out With Love (8:32)

Scriptures Legacy (19:35)



President Henry B. Eyring (“Preparation in the Priesthood: ‘I Need Your Help,’” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 58–59).

Neal A. Maxwell (*A Time to Choose* [1972], 59–60).

Atay—Student Manual Religion 121-122 Book of Mormon pg. 463

President Boyd K. Packer (“Reverence Invites Revelation,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1991, 22).

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