

Lesson 130

Suggested Hymn #34

Oh, Ye Mountains

High

3 NEPHI 21-22

The Sign of Thy
Father's Work
to Come Forth

What are signs used for?



Why is it important that a sign be posted properly and that the message on the sign be easy to understand?

To prepare, warn,
and instruct us

Establishment of a Free People



America was
born of God

1 Nephi 13:15-19

America came to be
because of divine
intervention—

The ‘founding
fathers’ with the
belief in ‘a God’



“The gospel message comes to those
in the great Gentile nation of America.
Those who accept it repent of their
sins, receive the ordinances of
salvation, and come to know “the true
points of [Christ’s] doctrine.”

JFM and RLM

As many as the Gentiles
and Jews repent they
will be of the covenant
people (2 Nephi:30:2)

3 NEPHI 21:4-6

Restoration of Christ's Gospel

Restoration



THROUGH

Like prophets in earlier dispensations, Joseph Smith was called as the prophet of this last dispensation. Joseph Smith sought for truth and received revelation

3 NEPHI 21:7-9

Martyrdom of a Servant

MY
SERVANT

*He shall be marred
I will heal him*

The Lord would watch over his
servant Joseph Smith and the
work to come forth
Read D&C 122:3-4,9



“Through cruel and wicked men
would murder the head of this
final dispensation, yet the work
which he would set in motion...
would roll forward to eventually
fill the whole earth.”

JFM and RLM

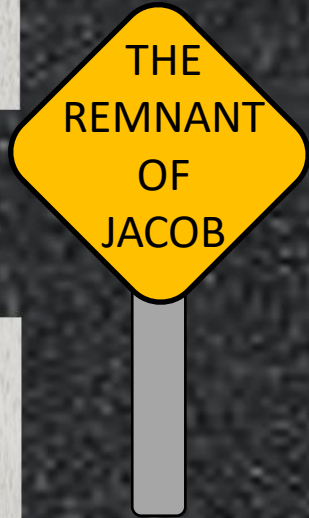
CONDEMNATION

To reject the words of
Christ in this final
stage on earth



3 NEPHI 21:10-11

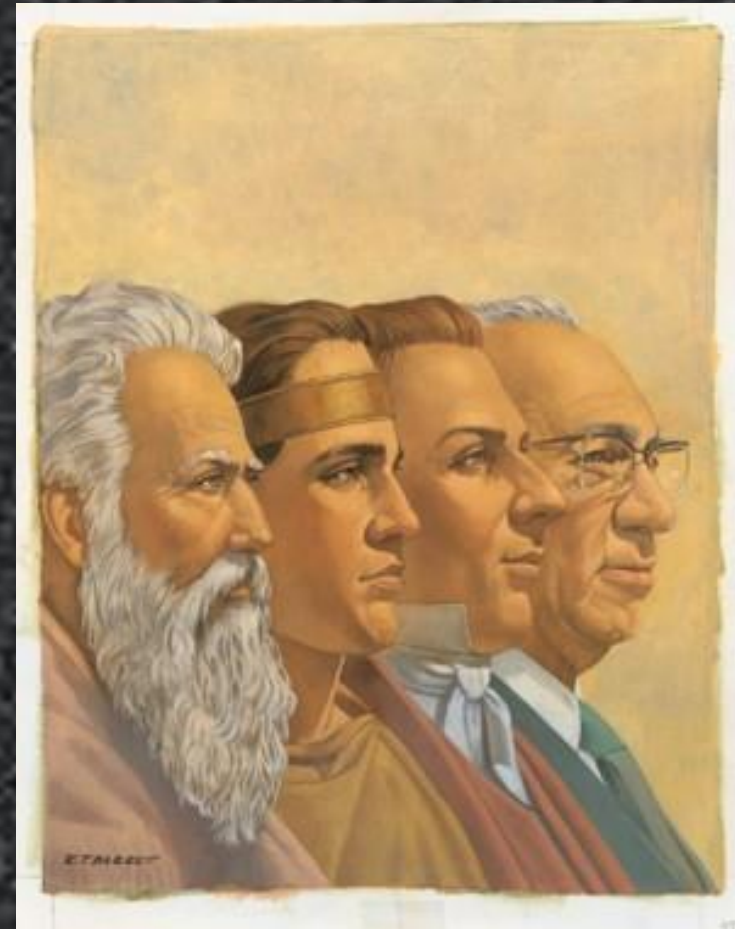
Taking the Gospel to the Lamanites



The remnant of the House of Jacob refers to all the House of Israel

“All through the Lord has been speaking for the remnant of Jacob or Israel and of the great promises made to the Gentiles who are *on this land* and in *all other lands*, if they will only come into the Church and be numbered with the house of Israel. Their privileges would be to assist in building the New Jerusalem, and if they refuse, then shall the punishments come upon them.”

Joseph Fielding Smith



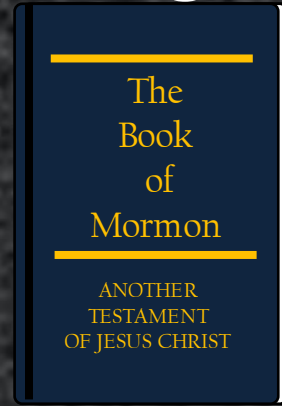
If individuals will repent, hearken to the Savior's words, and harden not their hearts, they will be gathered into His Church as part of His covenant people.

3 NEPHI 21:22-28

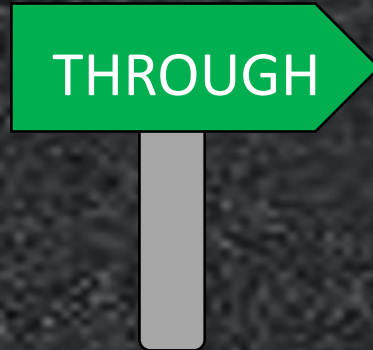
What is the Sign?



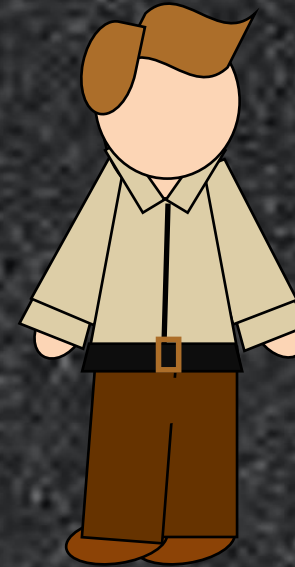
The coming forth of
the Book of
Mormon



The gathering the
house of Israel



Joseph Smith
the Gentiles of
the last days



**The coming forth of the
Book of Mormon is a
sign that God is fulfilling
His covenant to gather
Israel in the latter days.**



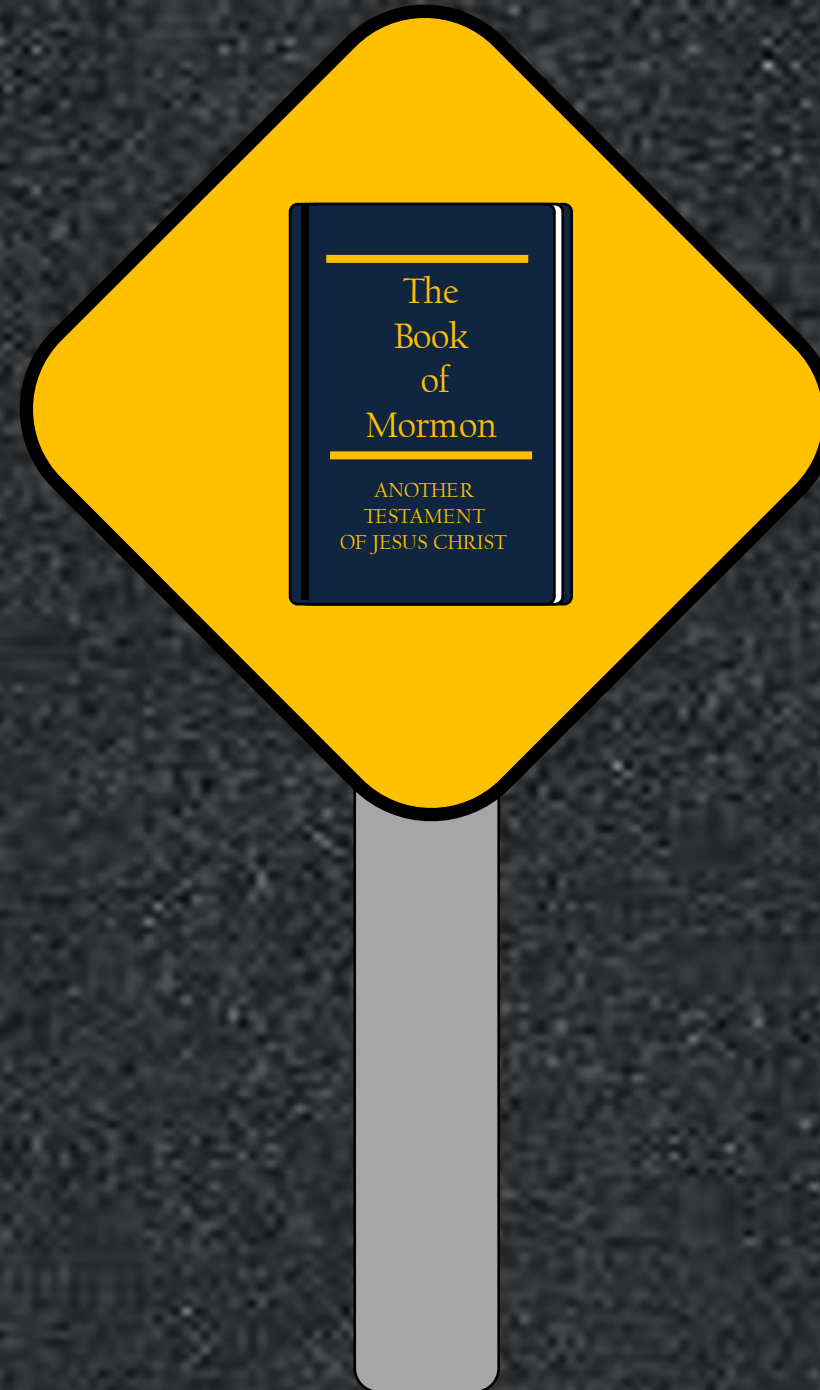
The message of the
Restoration to the
natural branches of
Israel, the Lamanites
and the Jews

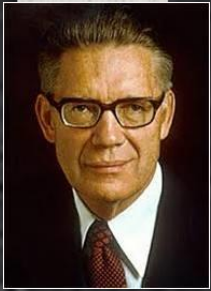


“The Book of Mormon is central to this work. It declares the doctrine of the gathering. It causes people to learn about Jesus Christ, to believe His gospel, and to join His Church.

In fact, if there were no Book of Mormon, the promised gathering of Israel would not occur.”

Elder Russell M. Nelson





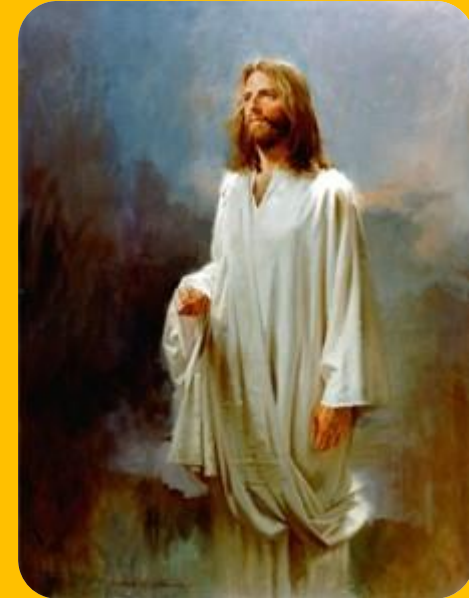
“No one is ever gathered with Israel until they accept the Crucified One.

...

The present gathering of the Jews to Palestine is political, not spiritual, and it is not the gathering of Israel of which the prophecies speak.

“The gathering of Israel consists of joining The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which church is the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth”

Bruce R. McConkie



Robert A. Boyd

Her-She-Wife-Woman = Israel

Sing O barren = a metaphor for scattered Israel, who hasn't fulfilled her foreordained destiny because of her inability or unwillingness to produce spiritually strong offspring for the Lord

She is barren because she has been separated from her husband (the Lord) because of her wickedness



The married wife = Covenant Israel—those remaining in the Holy land.

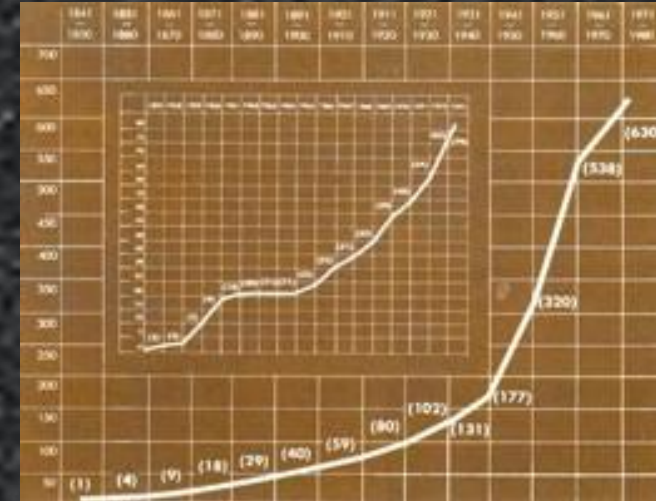
The desolate woman—scattered Israel

And now the Gentiles will come into the Church in greater numbers than Covenant Israel

Enlarge Your Tents

Why might this “tent” need to be enlarged and strengthened in the latter days?

The growth of Israel’s conversion will come so rapidly that her dwelling places must be enlarged to accommodate them



Stakes = They are constantly moved to handle the growth but they stabilize the tent

Isaiah phrases:

“Enlarge thy borders forever,” = Proclaim the Gospel

“Strengthen thy stakes” = Perfect the Saints

“Put on thy beautiful garments” = Redeem the Dead

Isaiah 54: 2-3

3 NEPHI 22:2-3

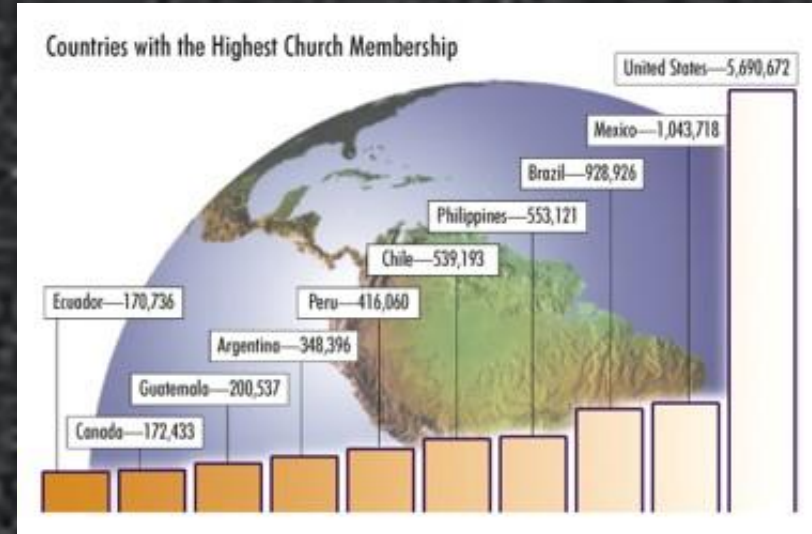
Zion Will Increase

In latter-day revelation, Zion is defined as
“the pure in heart” (D&C 97:21)

“For Zion must increase in beauty, and
in holiness; her borders must be enlarged;
her stakes must be strengthened; yea,
verily I say unto you, Zion must arise and
put on her beautiful garments.”
D&C 84:14



Isaiah 54: 2-3



“For, behold, I say unto you that Zion shall
flourish, and the glory of the Lord shall be
upon her;
And she shall be an ensign unto the people,
and there shall come unto her out of
every nation under heaven.”
D&C 64:41-42

3 NEPHI 22:2-3

Forget the Shame of Thy Youth

An expression of Jehovah's
tenderness

In the latter days you will be able
to put it behind you.



Why?

The Lord shows everlasting
kindness and mercy to
people who return to Him.



“Scattered Israel’s unfaithfulness—her failure to forsake the ways of Babylon and receive the covenants of Zion—shall be forgiven; Israel’s God will remember her and the promises he able to her. The reproach of her youth, her spiritual sterility, shall b e forgotten.”

JFM and FLM

Isaiah 54:4

3 NEPHI 22:4

Thy Maker-Husband-Bridegroom

The Savior is the Bridegroom—
the Lord of Hosts

The Bride is the Church

Hid my face = When the Savior was
rejected He withdrew His Spirit—for a
little moment

The Lord's mercy is every lasting

Prior to His Second Coming and the final gathering
Israel will experience a brief abandonment

A possible prophecy may refer to the restoration of the
gospel as well as the “period just before the Second
Coming when the Jews seem abandoned by God as the
armies of Armageddon come against them.”

Victor L. Ludlow



Isaiah 54:5-8

3 NEPHI 22:5-8



“Even though there has been barrenness and sometimes unfaithfulness, yet will the husband (Christ) reclaim and redeem his bride (Israel). ...



“... Christ has, on occasion, been rightfully angry with backsliding Israel, but that has always been brief and temporary—‘a small moment.’ Compassion and mercy always return and prevail in a most reassuring way.

The mountains and the hills may disappear. The water of the great seas may dry up. The least likely things in the world may happen, but the Lord’s kindness and peace will never be taken from his covenant people. He has sworn with a heavenly oath that he will not be wroth with them forever.”
Jeffrey R. Holland



Peace of Thy Children

The relationship of the Lord and all his children during the Millennial Era

“And the earth shall be given unto them for an inheritance; and they shall multiply and wax strong, and their children shall grow up without sin unto salvation.”

D&C 45:58

All thy children---will be taught and there will be peace



“And again, inasmuch as parents have children in Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the Son of the living God, and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands, when eight years old, the sin be upon the heads of the parents.”

D&C 68:25

Isaiah 54:13

3 NEPHI 22:13



“How much more beautiful would be the world and the society in which we live if every father looked upon his children as the most precious of his assets, if he led them by the power of his example in kindness and love, and if in times of stress he blessed them by the authority of the holy priesthood; and if every mother regarded her children as the jewels of her life, as gifts from the God of heaven who is their Eternal Father, and brought them up with true affection in the wisdom and admonition of the Lord.”

Elder Gordon B. Hinckley



Blessings of the Righteous

The Lord's promise:
Continual Protection, peace, and
freedom from oppression (prolonged
cruelty) among the righteous



Jane Ashley

The Lord's Kanah

“Behold, the great day of the Lord is at hand; and who can abide the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap; and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness...”

D&C 128:24

Satan's Intent:
Oppressive influences
“smith that bloweth the coals
in the fire”—refiners fire



Isaiah 54:14-16

3 NEPHI 22:14-16

No Weapon Will Prosper

Although Satan will be allowed free reign on the earth, those that follow the Savior will have peace, comfort, and protection.

The Lord does not condone the devil's work, but he sometimes allows Satan's evil action to fulfill His own plan: to help purify the Saints for their eventual redemption...all things will eventually be for our good."



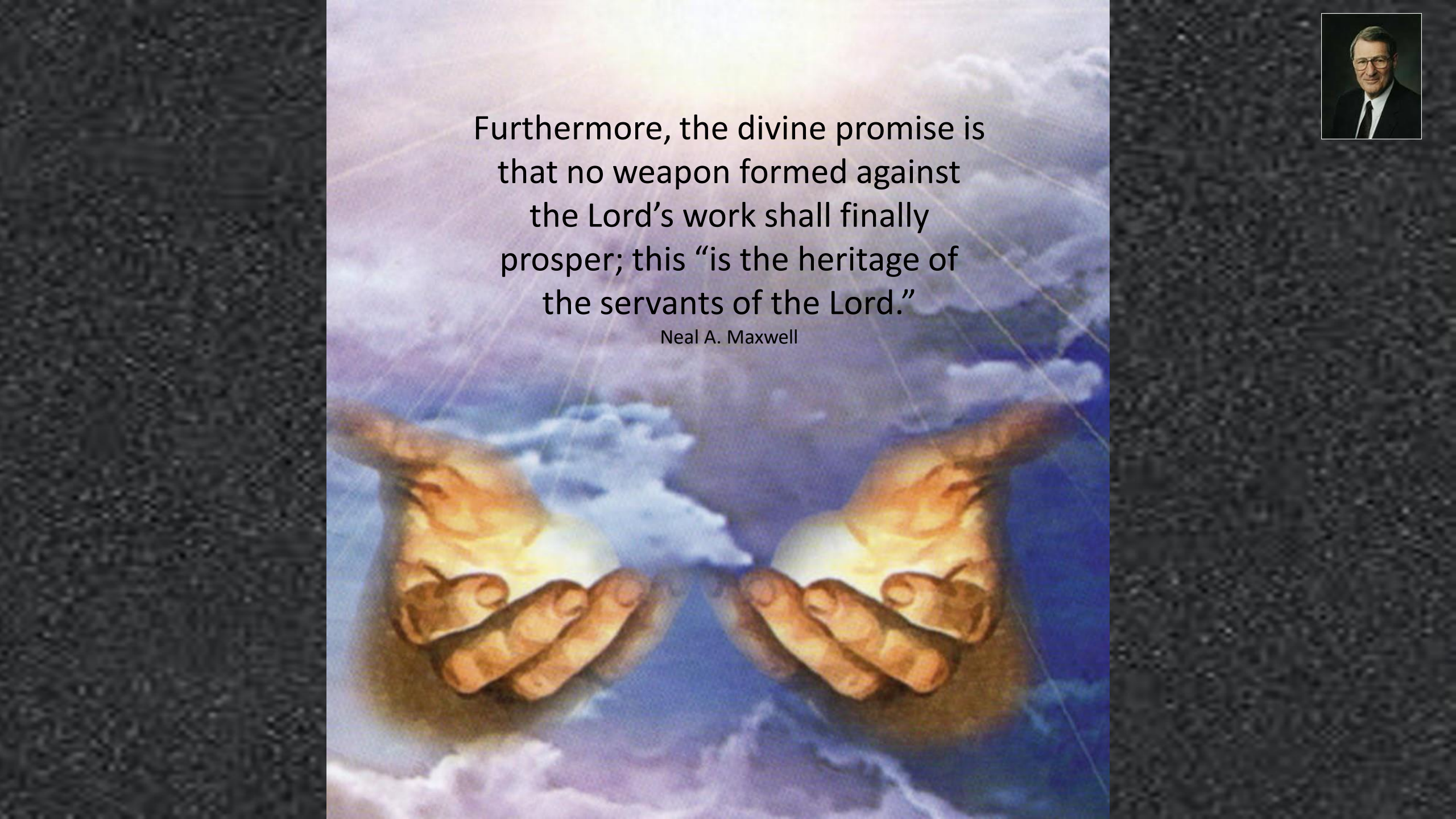
"Every Tongue—both wicked and righteous will declare that Jesus is Lord of the earth. Although some tongues may deny the Savior's divinity, all people will eventually recognize and declare his supremacy as the ruler of this earth." (Isaiah 45:23)

Victor L. Ludlow



Isaiah 54:17

3 NEPHI 22:17

The background of the slide features a dramatic sky with soft, white and blue clouds. Two large, golden, cupped hands are positioned in the lower half of the frame, holding a bright, glowing orb. The lighting is warm and ethereal, suggesting a divine or celestial theme.

Furthermore, the divine promise is
that no weapon formed against
the Lord's work shall finally
prosper; this "is the heritage of
the servants of the Lord."

Neal A. Maxwell





Sources:

Videos:

The Book of Mormon Gathers Scattered Israel (1:31)

Jesus Wants Us To Succeed (1:20)



Elder Russell M. Nelson (“The Gathering of Scattered Israel,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2006, 80).

Joseph Fielding Smith and Robert L. Millet *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon* Vol. Pg.147, 155

Joseph Fielding Smith *Doctrines of Salvation* 2:247-51

Bruce R. McConkie (*A New Witness for the Articles of Faith* [1985], 564, 565; see also pages 511, 519–20 and *The Millennial Messiah: The Second Coming of the Son of Man*[1982], 229).

Victor L. Ludlow *Unlocking Isaiah in the Book of Mormon* pg. 247, 252

Elder Gordon B. Hinckley *Behold Your Little Ones* Ensign Nov. 1978

Jeffrey R. Holland, *Christ and the New Covenant*, 290

Neal A. Maxwell *Behold, the Enemy is Combined* (D&C 138:12) Ensign May 1993

This chapter is a promise to the righteous members of Zion. Its various poetic forms depict the relationship between the Lord and covenant Israel. Like a husband who provides gifts and strengths to his family, the Lord blesses righteous Israel, as seen in the following chart.

Verses	Husband provide wife	The Lord provides Israel
1-3	Children	Great numbers of posterity
4-8	Love	Reconciliation
9-10	Commitment	Covenant relationship
11-12	Material comfort	Prosperity
13-17	Protection	Peace

Year	Net New Stakes	Total Stakes
1997	End of Year	2424
1998	81	2505
1999	37	2542
2000	39	2581
2001	26	2607
2002	(-5) <i>Church closed approx. 25 stakes in Chile</i>	2602
2003	22	2624
2004	41	2665
2005	36	2701
2006	44	2745
2007	45	2790
2008	28	2818
2009	47	2865

“We are experiencing a combined growth of converts and natural increase of some 400,000 a year. Every single year that is the equivalent of 160 new stakes of 2500 people each.” July 1999 Ensign

Speech by President Gordon B. Hinckley at BYU on November 6, 1998

The Lord's Kanah

For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jehovah, is a jealous God.

Exodus 34:14

Jealousy = (Heb) Kanah. The word in ancient times did not convey the negative emotion we attach to it today. In our language today it would convey the emotion we feel when a cherished object is threatened and we may lose it. **The “mother bear” response to a threat made toward one of our children.**

Kanah means filled up with this deep emotion. It is used in the same sense of fabric put in a dye which has reached its maximum point of saturation and can take on no other dye. A common experience would be dying Easter eggs. Little children will dye pastel eggs because they get so excited and take the eggs out before the egg has fully pulled in the dye. Older children or adults will let the eggs sit in the dye until the color is rich and full.

Kanah means to be filled up with strong ardor, a fervent zeal, and an intense emotion toward someone or something important to us.

God's Kanah has two edges:

- To cherish or protect His children, even to bloodshed
- A demand for the repentance of His children or retribution when He is offended by them.

