

2 NEPHI 6-10



MAKING AN ABRIDGMENT



2 NEPHI 6



TWO-DAY SERMON

Nephi's records a part of a sermon by his brother Jacob.

Jacob testifies that the Lord will remember His covenant people

2 Nephi 6–8

The rest of Jacob's sermon is recorded in 2 Nephi 9–10.



When we are baptized and receive the Holy Ghost, we enter the path that leads back to Heavenly Father and eternal life.

What happens when we sin or turn away from God?



What does God want us to do when we turn off the path?

to repent = to turn from sin and turn back to God.)

HIS HOLY ORDER

The higher or Melchizedek Priesthood

Anciently called:

The Holy Priesthood, after the order of the Son of God



Out of respect or reverence to the name of the Supreme Being, to avoid the too frequent repetition of his name, they, the church, in ancient days, called that priesthood after Melchizedek, or the Melchizedek Priesthood.

(D&C 107:3-4)



**A government of heaven
is a government of order**

Melchizedek's ordination states that he was "ordained an high priest after the order of the covenant which God made with Enoch, it being after the order of the Son of god—not by man but of God Genesis 14:27-29 (JST)

THE PURPOSE OF JACOB'S SERMON

It was for the “welfare of [their] souls”

He wanted to help them “glorify the name of [their] God”

He wanted them to “know concerning the covenants of the Lord”

And he wanted them to “rejoice, and lift up [their] heads forever”



GENTILE

Isaiah's prophecy: one of the meanings of the word Gentiles may refer to people who are not of the lineage of Israel.



ENSIGN

“A flag or standard around which people gather in a unity of purpose or identity”



*And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:
Isaiah 5:26*

JACOB INTERPRETS ISAIAH'S PROPHECIES



Lift up mine hand to the Gentiles—As a loving father stretches out his arms to embrace his children and draw them to his bosom, so the Lord will reach after the Gentiles in the latter days



Tribe of Gad Banner

Set up a standard—A house of order.

As a newly formed nation each tribe was assigned its position in the order of march and place of encampment. There was a standard or banner on a pole around which the tribes could rally and quickly find their places (Numbers 2)

The Emblem or Ensign is a symbol of the gospel to which the lost and disordered tribes of Israel will return in the latter days.

JACOB INTERPRETS ISAIAH'S PROPHECIES

Upon their shoulders— as the gathering of Israel is both temporal and spiritual,—the return to the saving truths of the gospel of Christ and a return to the lands of inheritance, so the blessings of help and protection promised them will be both temporal and spiritual.



“Lick up the dust of thy feet”
Isaiah 49:23—Respect--Honor

2 Nephi 6:6-7



Symbols
of twelve
tribes of
Israel

Kings shall be thy nursing fathers...and queens thy nursing mothers—the promise is that in the last days governments will arise with policies to aid downtrodden Israel.



Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet



JACOB'S ANGEL



Revelation

A Warning Angel ---Calamities

A message of hope, that Israel would again obtain the land promised to them, and the Messiah would manifest himself to them.



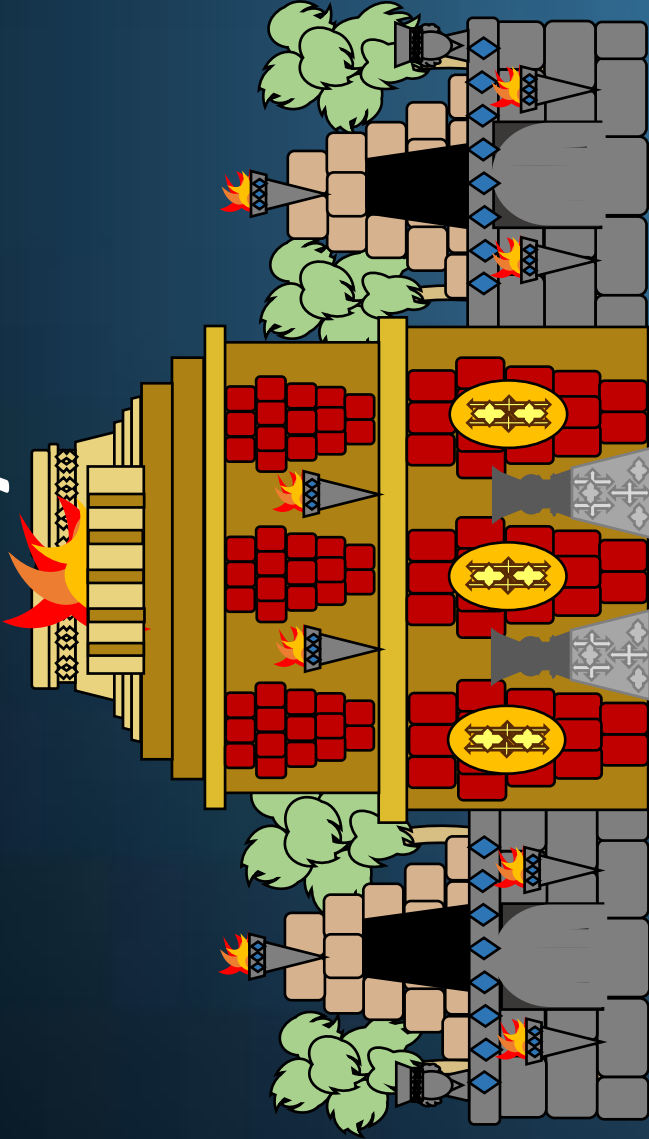
Scattered and smitten—the rejection of their Messiah



Holy One of Israel—embodied of holiness and that He would come through the lineage of chosen people

None have rights or promises to lands of inheritance until they have accepted Jesus as the Christ and live according to the gospel teachings.

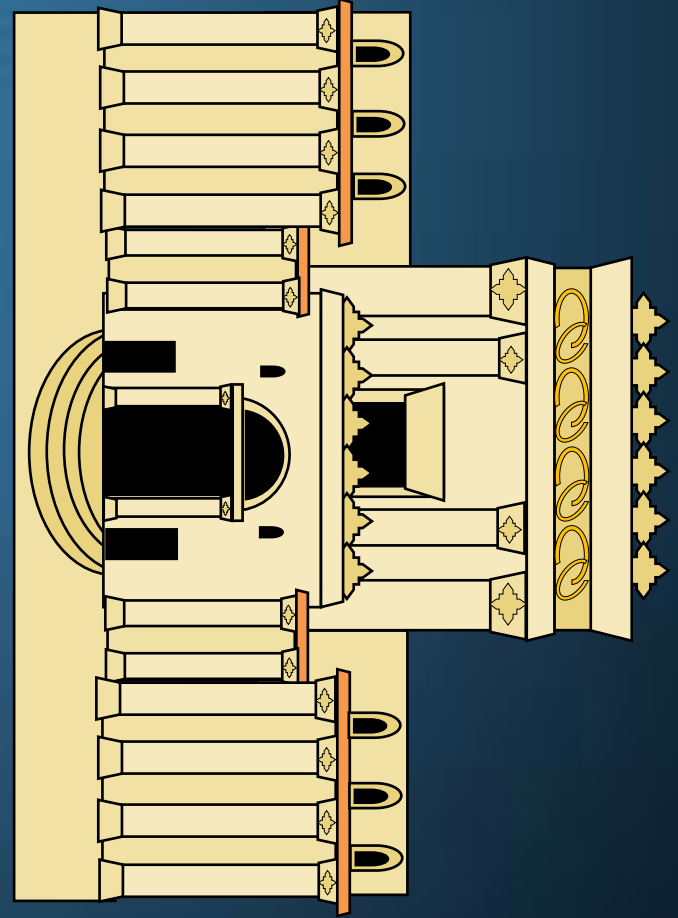
Babylon



THE WARNING

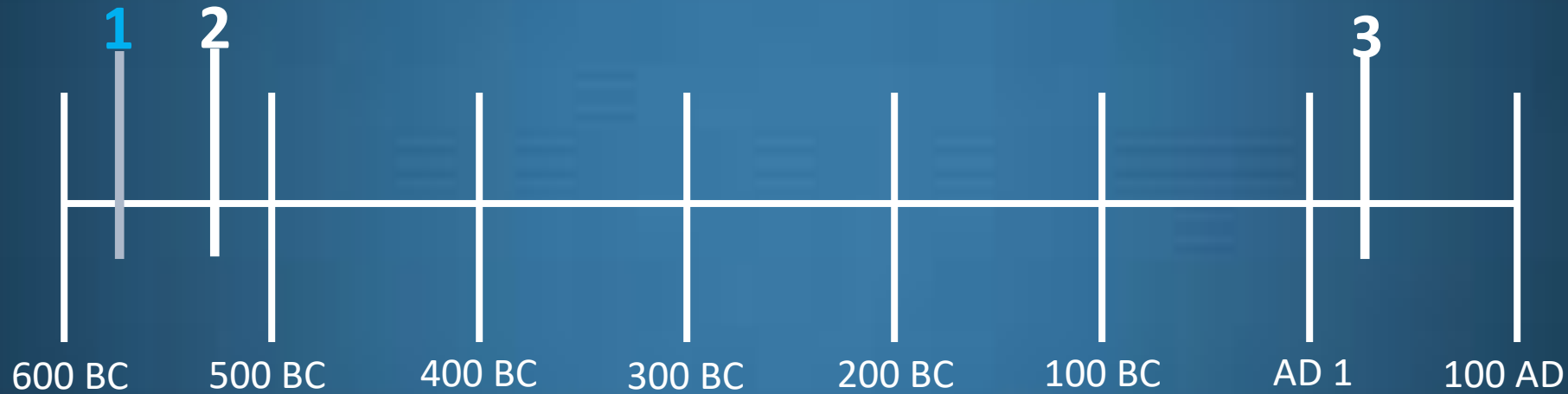
In 587 BC, shortly after Lehi left Jerusalem, the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem and deported many of the Jews to Babylon.

Prophets had repeatedly warned the Jews that this would happen if they did not repent of their wickedness.



Jerusalem

THINGS WHICH ARE, AND WHICH ARE TO COME



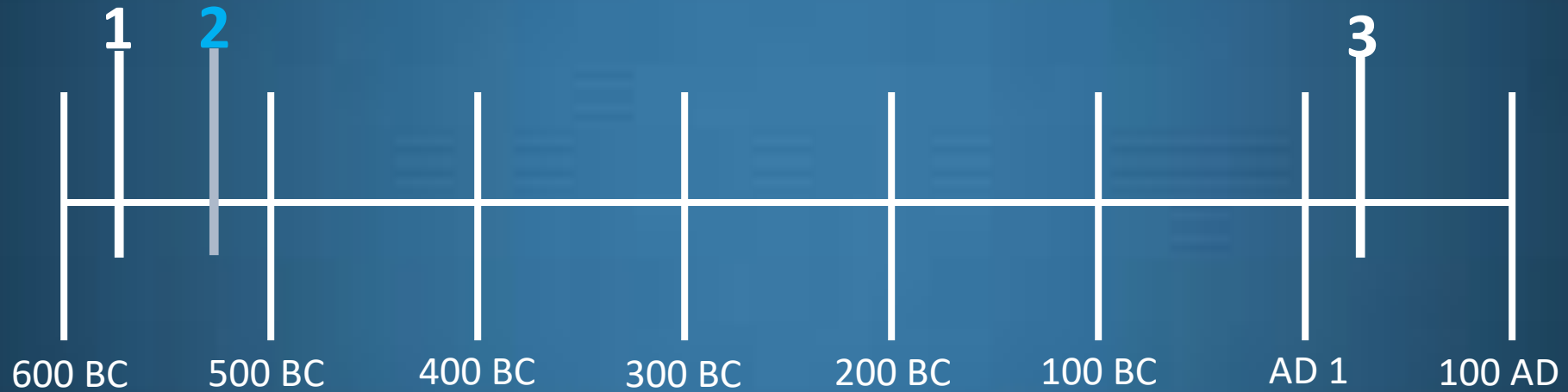
1: What happened to the Jews in Jerusalem because they turned away from the Lord?

Some were slain, and some were carried away captive.

Lehi, Jeremiah, and other prophets had prophesied that these things would happen. Their prophecies were fulfilled in about 587 B.C., when the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem and took many Jews captive into Babylon.

Bible Dictionary

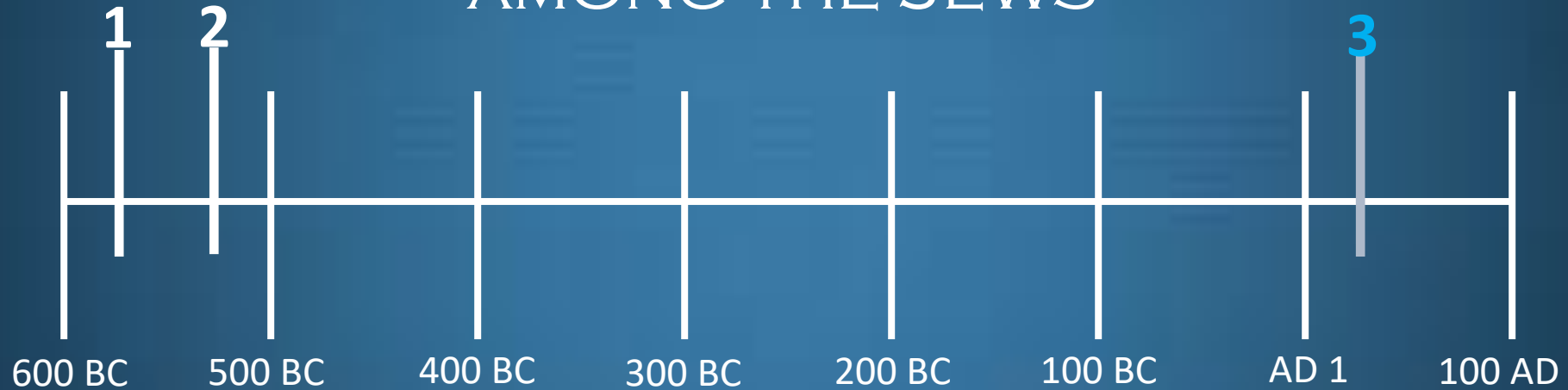
DESCENDANTS OF THE JEWS



2. What would eventually happen to the descendants of the Jews who were taken captive in Babylon?

They would return to Jerusalem. This prophecy was fulfilled in about 537 B.C., when King Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to their homeland.

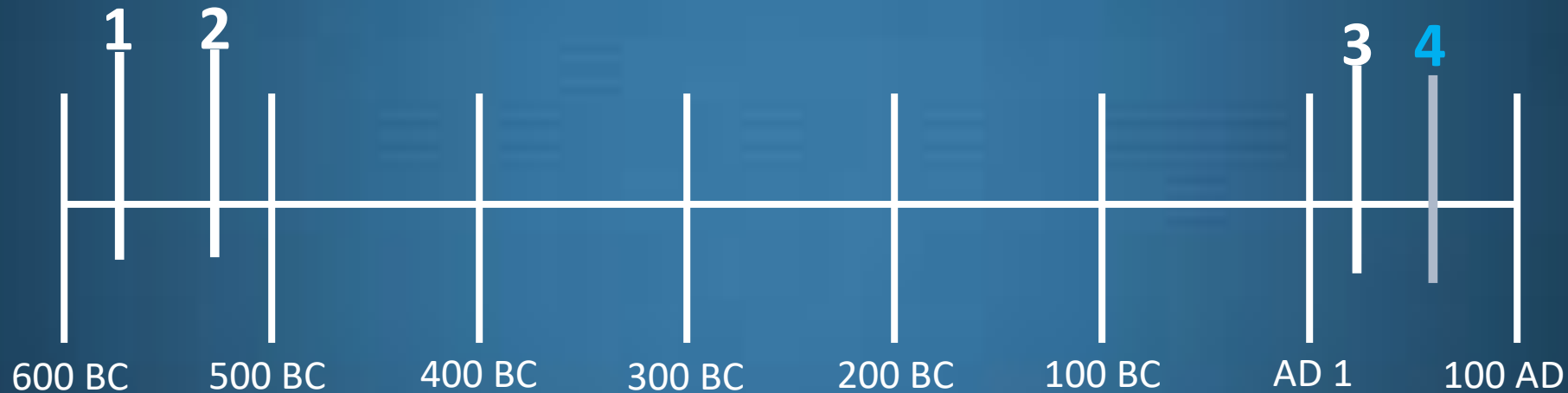
THE SAVIOR WOULD LIVE HIS MORTAL LIFE AMONG THE JEWS



3. How did some of the Jews act and feel toward the Savior during His mortal ministry?

“scourge him,” “crucify him,” and “hardened their hearts and stiffened their necks against” Him.

ROMAN ARMY BESIEGED JERUSALEM



4. What did Jacob say would happen to the Jews after the Savior's Crucifixion?

The prophecy was fulfilled in AD 70 when a Roman army besieged Jerusalem and destroyed the temple. Many Jews were killed and others were driven and scattered throughout the world. Invite students to scatter themselves around the room.

THEY WHO WAIT FOR HIM

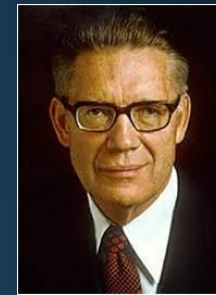
“Verily I say unto you my friends, fear not, let your hearts be comforted; yea, rejoice evermore, and in everything give thanks; waiting patiently on the Lord, for your prayers have entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, and are recorded with this seal and testament—the Lord hath sworn and decreed that they shall be granted, Therefore, he giveth this promise, unto you, with an immutable covenant that they shall be fulfilled; and all things wherewith you have been afflicted shall work together for your good, and to my name’s glory, saith the Lord.”

D&C 98:1-3

Isaiah 64:1



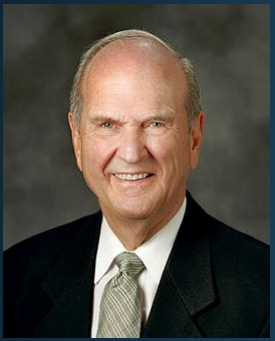
THE GATHERING



“...many Jews are now gathering to Palestine,” but they are not doing so as a result of “a belief in Christ or an acceptance of the laws and ordinances of his everlasting gospel.”

Therefore, this gathering “is not the gathering promised by the prophets” but rather is “a preliminary gathering” and “a preparatory work” occurring before the gathering that Jacob and other prophets spoke of.”





My dear extraordinary youth, you were sent to earth at this precise time, the most crucial time in the history of the world, to help gather Israel.

There is *nothing* happening on this earth right now that is more important than that.

There is *nothing* of greater consequence. Absolutely *nothing*.

This gathering should mean *everything* to you.

This *is* the mission for which you were sent to earth.

Russell M. Nelson and Wendy W. Nelson



As members of the Savior's restored Church, we have a responsibility to participate with the Lord in the latter-day gathering of Israel.

DESTRUCTION OF ENEMIES

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"
Matthew 23:37



In power and great glory Christ will return to
destroy the enemies of his people and to restore
the kingdom of Israel
Acts 1:6-8

By voice of thunders
Voice of lightnings
Voice of tempests
Voice of earthquakes
Great hailstorms
Voice of famines and pestilences
Great sound of a trump
Voice of judgment
Voice of mercy
Voice of glory and honor and the riches of eternal
life
D&C 43:25

JACOB ANNOUNCES SECOND COMING



It will not be guns or planes
or military strategy or
battlefield courage that
redeems Israel;

Jesus the Christ will deliver
and redeem his people both
temporally and spiritually.

Sources:

“Chronology” in the Bible Dictionary

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet Doctrinal Commentary of the Book of Mormon pg. 227

Elder Bruce R. McConkie (see *The Millennial Messiah*, 229).

Russell M. Nelson and Wendy W. Nelson, “Hope of Israel” [worldwide youth devotional, June 3, 2018], ChurchofJesusChrist.org

2 Nephi 6:5-7, Gentile:

Sometimes it designates people of non-Israelite lineage, sometimes people of non-Jewish lineage, and sometimes nations that are without the gospel, even though there may be some Israelite blood among the people. This latter usage is especially characteristic of the word as used in the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants. Guide to the Scriptures.

2 Nephi 6:5-7; Ensign:

In the scriptures, a flag or standard around which people gather in a unity of purpose or identity. In ancient times an ensign served as a rallying point for soldiers in battle. The Book of Mormon and the Church of Jesus Christ are symbolic ensigns to all nations of the earth.

2 Nephi 6:5; Gathering Israel:

Anytime we do anything that helps anyone—on either side of the veil—to make and keep their covenants with God, we are helping to gather Israel. (Russell M. Nelson, “Let God Prevail,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2020, 92–93)

What if they reject the gospel?

Understand that it’s not your job to convert people. That is the role of the Holy Ghost. Your role is to share what is in your heart and live consistent with your beliefs.
So, don’t be discouraged if someone does not accept the gospel message immediately. It is not a personal failure.
That is between the individual and Heavenly Father.
Yours is to love God and love your neighbors, His children. (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Missionary Work: Sharing What Is in Your Heart,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2019, 17)

THE SERVANT SONG

2 NEPHI 7 AND ISAIAH 50



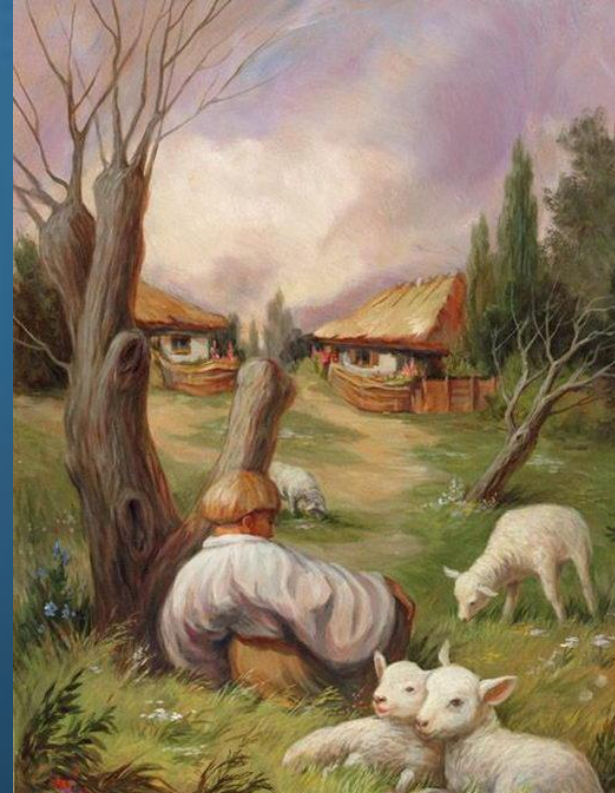
2 NEPHI 7 AND ISAIAH 50

The Servant Songs (also called the Servant poems or the Songs of the Suffering Servant) are songs in the Book of Isaiah.

“These verses are known among biblical scholars as a ‘servant’s song.’ This is a major poetic passage wherein a servant of the Lord is described, although not specifically identified. There are differences of opinion among commentaries regarding the identity of this Servant. ..The song in Isaiah 50 refers primarily to the Messiah. He will be treated despicably, but the power of God will be manifest in Him. Those who oppose Him will be destroyed.”

Hoyt W. Brewster, Jr.

There are four poems written about a certain "servant of YHWH."



Oleg Shuplyak

YHWH— SOMETHING OF INTEREST

God. In Numbers 27:16, Moses invoked "the LORD" [*yhwh/Jehovah*], the God [*'ēlohê*] of the spirits of all flesh."

Numbers 16:22 reads, "O God [*'ēl*], the God [*'ēlohê*] of the spirits of all flesh." In the context of Numbers 16 as it now exists, *YHWH/Jehovah* is clearly the *'ēl*, or God, intended (see verses 19, 20, 23).

The term translated "God" in the phrase "God of the spirits of all flesh" in Numbers 16:22 and 27:16 is the noun *'ēlohê*, a grammatically altered form of *'ēlohîm*.

Throughout the Hebrew Bible the title *'ēlohîm*, "God," is used interchangeably with *yhwh/Jehovah*, Israel's God, as it is here. Thus, *YHWH/Jehovah* is titled "the God [*'ēlohê*] of the spirits of all flesh."

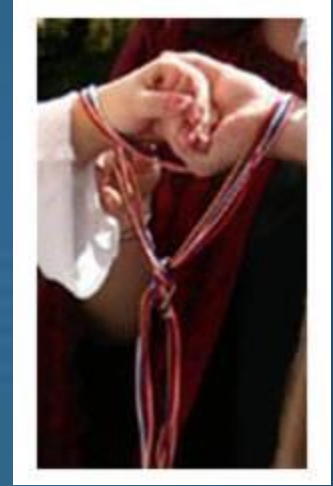
This could be viewed as problematic for Latter-day Saints, who teach that God the Father, not Jehovah—God the Son—created the premortal spirits of all humans. However, creation of spirits is not the issue here. The issue is who presides over and judges "the spirits of all flesh," and that was *YHWH/Jehovah*, as far as the ancient Israelites were concerned.

Dana M. Pike

HAVE I PUT YOU AWAY?

Isaiah uses marriage imagery between God and Israel—
The Church=Bride

Divorced---cast off. Divorce was accomplished simply
by the husband casting off his wife. But I was not the husband
(Christ) but the bride who turned away.



Abraham Covenant was the marriage covenant made with Abraham's posterity

Mother=Israel or Zion

Children= Sons and Daughters of the covenant



“For your iniquities YOU have
sold yourselves”

If you find yourself further away
today than yesterday ask
yourself, “Who Moved?

The 4 P's=
Posterity
Promised land
Prosperity
Priesthood



HIS WILL—NOT OURS

God is dependable. He doesn't move. God is constantly available, constantly willing to keep His promises, and has not lost His power to perform miracles in our lives.

Just as the Suffering Servant was determined to fulfill the Father's will, despite persecution, we should be willing to do the Lord's will, not our own agenda.



The Savior, once in scripture, did separate himself from ancient Israel (Jeremiah 3:8).

The reassurance in this verse applies to latter-day Israel.

WHY DID YOU MOVE?

No man= D&C 133:66-69

When Christ came during his mortal ministry, the Jews collectively rejected Him—When Christ comes again they will only be ready when they see the presence of him (prophecy).

“My hand shortened at all?” He has not withdrawn his hand...My hand is stretched out still” is found throughout the scriptures.
The question is: “Why did you Move?”

Is it because you don't have faith that I can save you?



EXAMPLES

Dry up the sea— I am still in control.



Ba'al Polemic—the language
—Canaanite god, the lord of heaven and son of El.

Ba'al conquers his brother God, Yam, the god of the seas and chaos who seeks to become god in the place of El.

Ba'al dries them up so he can feed and save his children by sending rain.

Isaiah is trying to get the people to ascribe the greatness of Jehovah as the true God that controls the elements, not Ba'al.

(Elijah sealed the heavens for 3 years showing that Jehovah in control, not Ba'al)—
1 Kings 18:26-29,36-40

CLOTHED THE HEAVEN

Blackness

No more revelations—Apostasy



Sackcloth

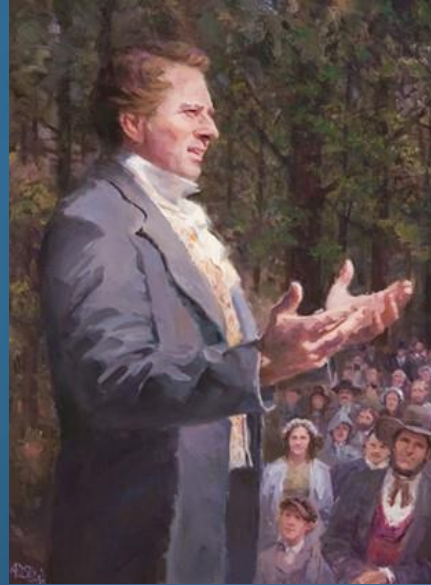
Cloth made of black goats' hair, coarse, rough, and thick, used for sacks, and also worn by mourners (Gen. 37:34; 42:25; 2 Sam. 3:31; Esther 4:1, 2; Ps. 30:11, etc.), and as a sign of repentance (Matt. 11:21).

It was put upon animals by the people of Nineveh (Jonah 3:8).

TONGUE

Christ was blessed with knowledge and eloquence to confound his mortal enemies so none will misunderstand Him.

“...weary he waketh morning by morning”



God gives prophets and all mankind the “tongue of the learned” if we work to have the constant companionship of the Spirit.

Joseph Smith had a third grade education, but became very articulate

When you are slumbering spiritually I will be there for you every morning; Also the servant speaks to those who are weary because of the burdens of this world and offers comfort. The temple offers a place of comfort and peace.

Where is your place of comfort?



OPENED MINE EAR

“...appointed by ears”

The Lord speaks to the servant’s responsive ear through continuing revelation
D&C 58:1

“...neither turned away back”

Learn to hear the Lord

Was there ever a time Christ thought about turning back?

In Gethsemane...He felt His will was not quite what His Father’s will was, but no matter how difficult it was for Him He says, “I will not rebel, I will finish it.”

Luke 22:42-44 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.



HID NOT MY FACE

Christ endured His trial

He will do what He has come to do



Plucked off the hair— Eastern thought regarded the beard as a sign of freedom and respect. To pluck out the hair was to show utter contempt. The Greek word for beard is “pagon,” meaning a heathen to truth.

This is part of the torture inflicted on Christ by the Jews and Romans

Spitting—The Soldiers spit on His face

Hid not my face—The servant didn't try to escape the persecution (1 Nephi 19:9)

THE LORD GOD WILL HELP ME

How was He able to do all this?

Because 'Lord God' will help Him as he puts God's will first.



If we will put God's will first---He will Help us



Set my face like a flint

Determination. It is set in stone

There is no turning back

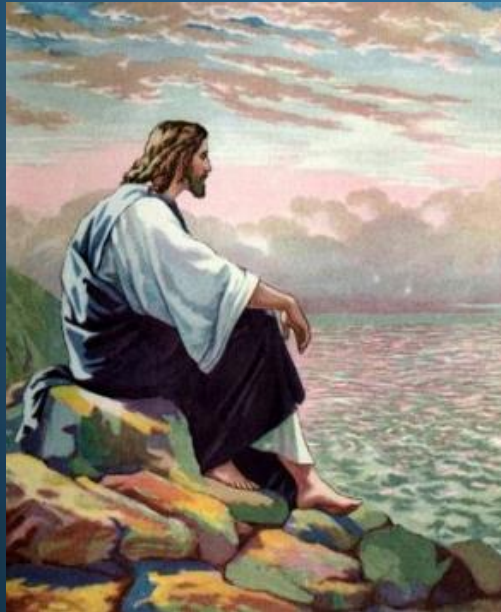
The honor of God's Power (D&C 29:36)

STAND TOGETHER

Near that justified me—Christ knows God the Father will validate all he has done.

Stand together—In Eastern court the opponents stood together to hear the judge's decision.
The servant will be persecuted but the Father will stand with him

Strength of my mouth—God's words are powerful



“...when the worlds were framed, God spake, and this divine fluid (light or spirit) went forth and executed the mandate, by controlling the elements in accordance with the will, pattern or design formed in the mind of Him that spake...By this divine Spirit all things were designed and formed.” Parley P. Pratt



God knows where we need to be (spiritually) before He comes and Jesus steps in when we are ready to listen.

WHO SHALL CONDEMN ME?

Old garment/moth—The Lord's enemies will be destroyed over time and eaten away (spiritual imagery)



WHO WILL FEAR?

Walk in darkness—No one. Israel is walking by her own light not God's.

He asks, "You don't think I can save you?"

He says, "Try saving yourself."



Agency:

Christ has dominion over the earth.

We are the ones to choose.

Satan has been given dominion also.

Christ gave it to him.

He says, "If you stay removed from me you will walk in darkness"

Walk in the light of *your* fire

Those who hear the Lord but try to solve their own problems without guidance from God are walking in their own fire.

Sources:

Hoyt W. Brewster, Jr. Isaiah Plain and Simple pg 209

Dana M. Pike Exploring the Biblical Phrase "God of the Spirits of All Flesh"

Provo, Utah: Maxwell Institute

Parley P. Pratt *Key to Theology* pg. 104

Becky Davies and Lesley Meacham *Poway Institute Notes*

Servant Songs Handouts on next two page

Servant Songs

Scattered throughout Isaiah's writings is a collection of passages that scholars sometimes lump together called the Servant Songs. They call them the Servant Songs because they all deal with a particular servant who will come and serve the people, sometimes suffering greatly for them and in the process doing a great work for them. Servant songs are found in Chapters 42:1-9, 49:1-7; 50:4-9; 52:13-15; 53:1-12. Perhaps the greatest of all is Chapter 53.

It's interesting to see how modern scholars deal with the servant songs. They scratch their heads and say, "Hmmm, we wonder who the suffering servant could be?" Some suggest perhaps it's Isaiah himself or the nation of Israel as a whole, and perhaps dualistically that could be so. Many modern scholars are remiss to think these are prophecies of Jesus Christ, then would have to say then that prophets could prophesy. And did you know a basic tenant of textual criticism is that prophets could not prophesy? And then if you are reading a passage of scripture that is prophetic, and is very accurate of something that actually happened that it was not given before it occurred, rather after it occurred. It was written by someone that saw the event then appended it to the text. How sad. So they don't want to say these are prophecies of Jesus Christ then they would have to say that prophets could prophesy. In fact that is the reason why many biblical scholars want to say more than one person wrote Isaiah.

It's very common to teach that there's an Isaiah that lived in the 8th century and a pseudo-Isaiah that lived after the Babylonian captivity and sometimes an "Isaiah" that lived after. Do you know why they say that? Because so many of these prophecies are so accurate in prophesying of things such as the rise of the Babylonian Empire and the subsequent Babylonian captivity, and then the rise of Cyrus and the return of the Jews, they say, "Those prophecies couldn't have been written by the Isaiah in the 8th century BC, they must have been written by another Isaiah who lived later after the fact, and then just appended them to the text. ... because they don't want to accept that prophets can prophesy.

Now as Latter Day Saints we have a fine rebuttal for that, because many of the passages they ascribe to a post Babylon captivity Isaiah, are found quoted in the Book of Mormon. And if the Book of Mormon prophets are quoting Isaiah, where are they getting their text of Isaiah? The Brass Plates. And when were the brass plates written? Before 600 BC, before the Babylon captivity. Meaning that prophets can prophesy!

-- Understanding the Words of Isaiah, CD

by Terry Ball

The Suffering Servant is the true king during the period of his ritual humiliation, representing his death. At that time his place is taken by a pretender who turns out to be the real substitution when the time for his death arrives. This noble victim dies that his people might live. This is called the "Law of Substitution." Both Abraham and Isaac are types of the Messiah as "the Suffering Servant."

An important part of this sacrifice is the complete freedom of will with which the victim submits. Abraham had opportunity to escape sacrifice at the hand of the priest of Elkenah but chose to submit and show faith in God. Isaac submitted and asked only to be bound when his father acted as the High Priest at the altar to sacrifice him.

The Law of Substitution sacrifice is found all over the ancient world. It began with the angel teaching Adam (Moses 5:5-9). The sacrifice of an animal was done in similitude of the great sacrifice of the son of God, who was to come. As nations apostatized from true worship they turned to human sacrifice of the substitute king.

--Taken from Abraham in Egypt by Hugh Nibley, pp 326-339,359

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

2 NEPHI 8 AND ISAIAH 51



AWAKE—WAKE UP ISRAEL

“...look unto the rock from whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit from whence ye are digged.”



“Look unto Abraham, our father, and unto Sarah, she that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him.”

Look where the Savior is overseeing God’s works and look at the hole you have crawled out of

Abraham’s children were the covenant people



A COVENANT PEOPLE

Remember Who You Are

“During this time of your lives...hazards loom. I speak of temptings of the evil one, following the wrong crowd, doing the wrong things, and forgetting who you are and what God expects you to become. Remember, oh remember, the prayers of your parents, the teachings learned at home. And never forget the safety of personal prayer and your determination to stand firm for truth and righteousness.”

Pres. Thomas S. Monson

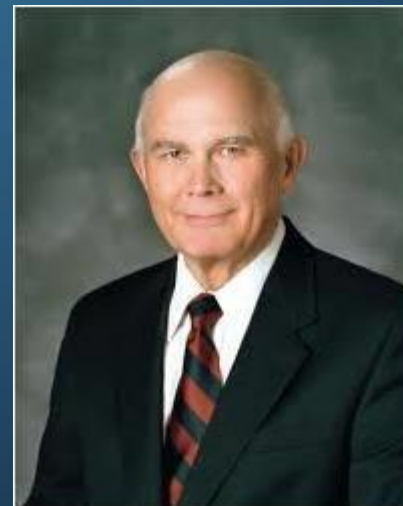


COMFORT ZION

Remember what God has done for you

“What has our Savior done for us? He has given us His Atonement, His gospel, and His Church, a sacred combination that gives us the assurance of immortality and the opportunity for eternal life. I testify that this is true, and I testify of God the Father, the author of the plan, and of His Son Jesus Christ, the Atoning One who has made it all possible.”

Dallin H. Oaks



JUDGMENT

The Law

He is going to give you the gospel

He is going to return to the earth to
rule and judge his people

*The Light that shineth in darkness,
the light of the life of the world
(D&C 88:49)*



He has not forsaken them—He is the 'light'

RIGHTEOUS

Is Near

His law and His Salvation will prevail



Christ's dual role as both Savior
and final Judge

“...mine arm shall they trust.”

His arms are also a place of comfort
and trust (Isaiah 40:11)

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Fear not

Men who understand the Savior
need not fear

“...shall be forever...”

“The Lord also promises the righteous
that their salvation is eternal and does
not depend on the world”

The earth's telestial state:

“...wax old like a garment...”

We are surrounded by worldly objects
and philosophies, they will eventually
be forgotten.

The covenants and ordinances do not die away with the
return of the Savior, they last throughout eternity.



AWAKE!

Wake up

“...strength, O arm of the Lord”

Israel petitions the Lord to fulfill
His promises in the last days

Let God be involved in His work for us

He uses his strength to bring joy,
holiness, and comfort as He assists in
fulfilling Israel’s destiny



Sea Monster—Rahab—Dragon—Slain
by Ba’al

Isaiah uses Rahab, to represent Satan
and remind the people of the Lord’s
victory over the adversary not Ba’al

A reminder that Jehovah controls the
great seas

I AM HE

Isaiah Speaks for the Lord

“...afraid of man...”--Why do you fear mortal man?

“...forgettest the Lord thy maker...”Have you forgotten your creator?

“...fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy?”—Why fear your oppressors?

You are my people and I will teach and protect you.

I am the great creator

You will be freed from your oppressors



He is there and He loves you
and is committed to you
“Behold thou art *my* people”

STAND UP

Isaiah speaks of a time when the Lord's covenants are fulfilled and the children of Israel are brought back home through their righteousness.

Not only the physical punishment of the children of Israel but also to the Savior's proxy suffering as He took upon Himself the sins of the world.



“...drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling wrung out—”



The cup often has the same meaning in the Old Testament and the New Testament. “A symbolic expression for a bitter or poisonous potion typifying experiences of suffering.” James E. Talmage

“O my Father if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt”
(Matthew 26:39)



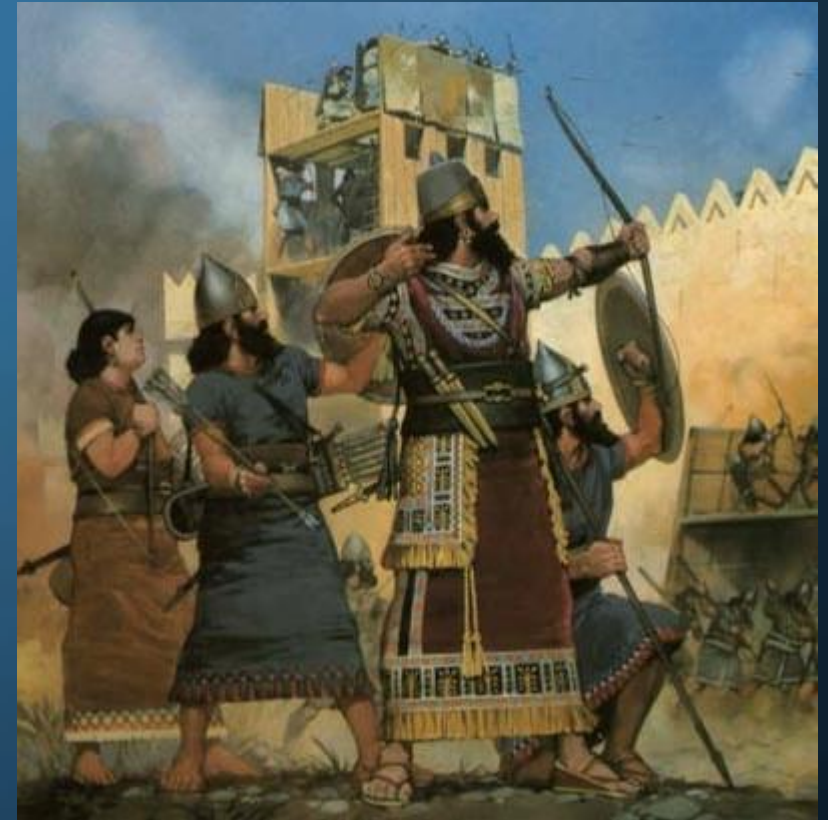
ISRAEL'S SUFFERING

For her sins

The Lord promises that he will give the “cup of trembling” to Israel's tormentors, such as the Assyrians or Romans, who have forced the Israelites to lie on the ground while they walked upon them.

The Savior promises them that He will deliver them both physically and spiritually at His coming.

None to guide them—they have no prophets or inspired leaders. They must look elsewhere for guidance.



TWO SONS

Spoken of by:

John the Revelator Rev. 11:1-14

Zechariah 4:11-14

Joseph Smith D&C 77:15

‘the two will have power to shut the heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.’



“These two shall be followers of that humble man, Joseph Smith...Their prophetic ministry to rebellious Jewry shall be the same in length as was our Lord’s personal ministry among their rebellious forebears.”

Bruce R. McConkie



“At the end of their designated ministry, the two prophets will be slain. Their dead bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for three and one-half days while the wicked of the world rejoice. However, their victory will be short-lived, for the two martyrs will arise as resurrected beings. A great earthquake, of a magnitude never before known, will follow and the Savior will shortly appear. The wicked will be destroyed and the earth prepared for the millennial reign.”

ZION'S RESCUE

God's Invitation



A wedding gown symbolizes getting ready for a wedding. Gathering the scattered.

Those who gather recognize the coming of the Lord

Put on strength

Put on beautiful garments (there are a large number of children doing the work already)
1 Nephi 21:18 (getting ready for the bridegroom)

Loose bands of bondages as Israel received priesthood powers...delivered by the latter-day people (exercise your priesthood)

Gather home from their scattered condition
D&C 113:7-10

“What comes about as a result of exercising the priesthood is equivalent to putting on ‘her beautiful garments...”
Hyrum Smith



“What, then, is involved in the gathering of Israel?

The gathering of Israel consists in believing and accepting and living in harmony with all that the Lord once offered his ancient chosen people. It consists of having faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, of repenting, of being baptized and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and of keeping the commandments of God.

It consists of believing the gospel, joining the Church, and coming into the kingdom. It consists of receiving the holy priesthood, being endowed in holy places with power from on high, and receiving all the blessings of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, through the ordinance of celestial marriage”

Bruce R. McConkie

Sources:

Pres. Thomas S. Monson *Dear to our Hearts Always* BYU Devotional Sept. 12, 2000

DALLIN H. OAKS *The Gospel in Our Lives* April 2002 General Conference

Ideas taken from *Unlocking Isaiah* by Victor L. Ludlow pg 73-74

Hoyt W. Brewster Jr. *Isaiah Plain and Simple* pg. 25-26

Bruce R. McConkie *Doctrinal New Testament Commentary* 3:509-510

Hyrum Smith (as quoted in *Doctrine & Covenants Encyclopedia*, Brewster. Pg 40)

Bruce R. McConkie (*A New Witness for the Articles of Faith* [1985], 515).

Effects of the Fall

2 Nephi 9:1-26

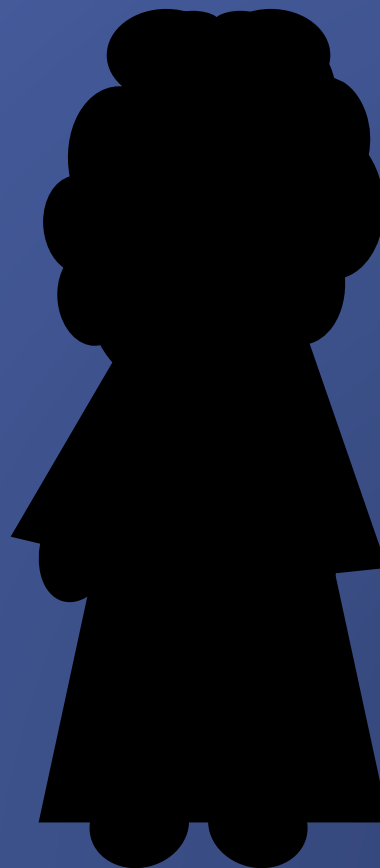
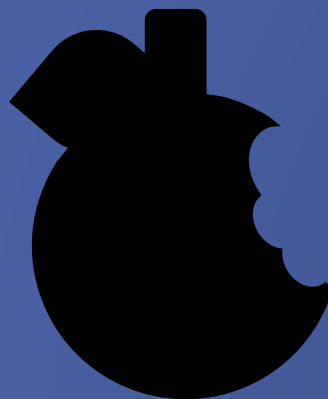




Photo from the Film: The 33

On August 5, 2010, 33 Chilean miners were trapped by a massive cave-in after the rock inside the mine collapsed.

They were restricted to a small safe area and to the mine shafts below the collapse, 2,300 feet (700 m) deep inside the earth.

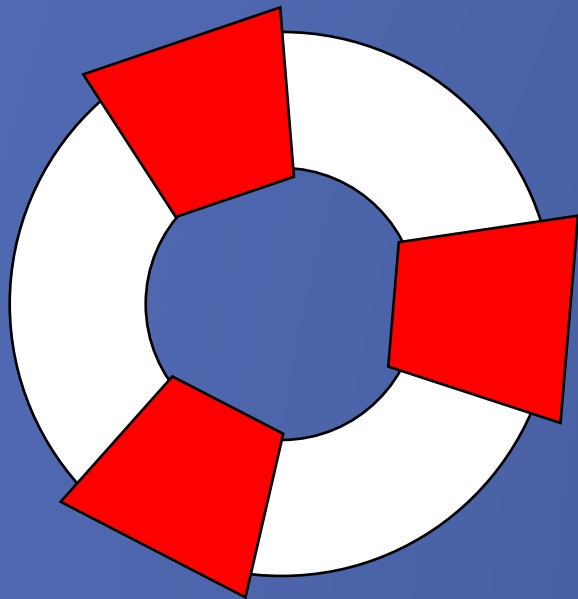
The situation looked bleak. They were separated from home and family by almost a half a mile of unmovable rock overhead, and they had only a small supply of food and water.

Although they had tools and knowledge, because of the instability of the mine they could not save themselves. Their only chance was to be found and rescued.

2nd Day of Jacob's Sermon



Jacob shared his own testimony of the Atonement of Jesus Christ—of the Savior's power to rescue us from the effects of the Fall and the consequences of our sins.



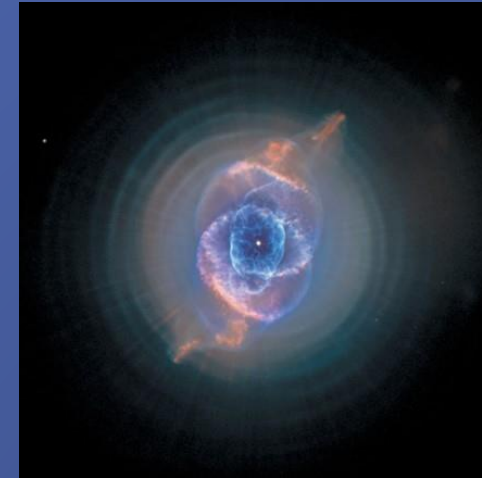
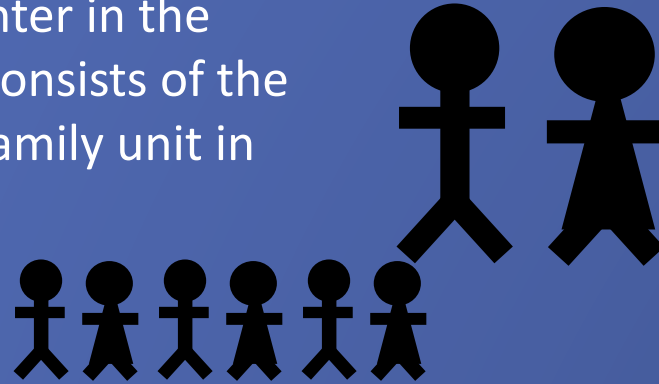
“...one of the most enlightening discourses ever delivered in regard to the atonement. It should be carefully read by every person seeking salvation.”

President Joseph Fielding Smith

Blessings Upon Your Children

“...there is no greater promise that God can grant the righteous than to bless their posterity. The greatest joys of the gospel center in the family, for salvation consists of the continuation of the family unit in eternity.”

JFM & RLM



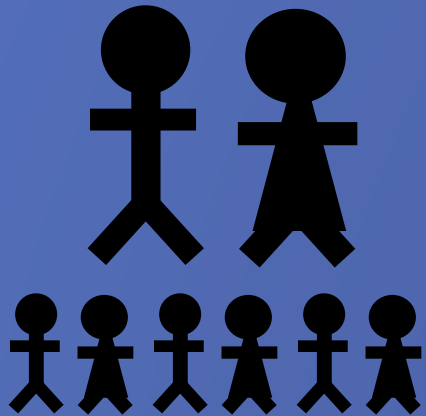
All things of eternity are to be known “from days of old, and for ages to come” (D&C 76-7) and be unveiled unto those who love the Lord and seek to acquire his virtues.

“Ye have searched much...to know of things to come”:

The Lord is eager to reward the faithful with knowledge and power. There are no secret mysteries to be revealed until the Saints are able to bear them.

Resurrection for us

“...our flesh must waste away and die;
nevertheless, in our bodies we shall see God.”



Doctrine of Resurrection:

Moses 5:10

Job 19:26

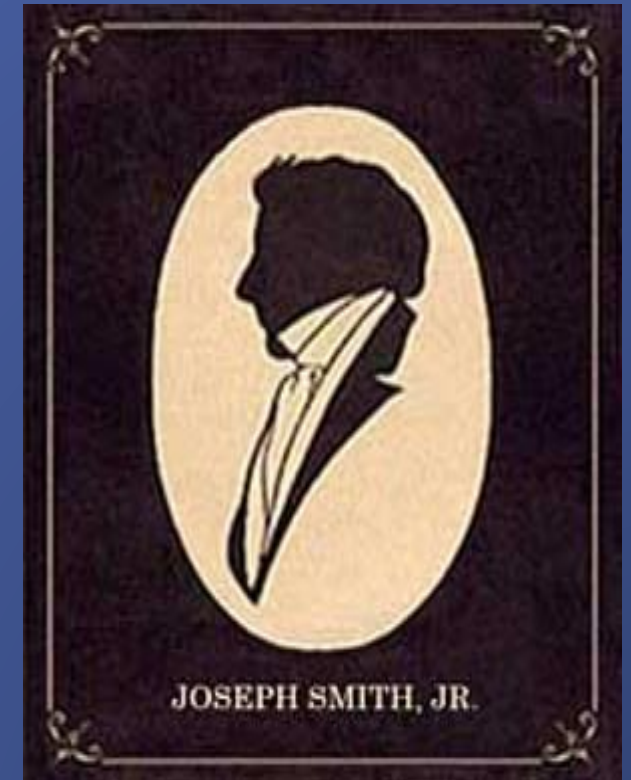
“It is know throughout time that the Sinless One would take a tabernacle of clay; would go forth among the people working miracles, would teach and train and ordain and organize a church then suffer and bleed for the sins of mankind, and die and be buried and would be raised into glorious immortality, becoming who in spirit and body never again to be divided.



“...for if there be no resurrection from the dead, then Christ has not risen; and if Christ has not risen He was not the Son of God; and if He was not the Son of God, there is not nor cannot be a Son of God, if the present book called the Scriptures is true; because the time has gone by when, according to that book, He was to make His appearance...

And if He has risen from the dead, He will by His power, bring all men to stand before Him; for if He has risen from the dead the bands of the temporal death are broken that the grave has no victory. If the grave has no victory, those who keep the saying of Jesus and obey His teachings have not only a promise of resurrection from the dead, but an assurance of being admitted into His glorious kingdom.”

Joseph Smith



Subject to Die

(D&C 88:6) Subject to man

Christ's rise to the throne of exaltation was preceded by his descent below all things.

Only submitting to the powers of demons and death and hell could He, in the resurrection, serve as our exemplar of a saved being, one who had placed all things beneath his feet.



“Death hath passed upon all”

We are born to die and die to live

Life's starkest reality is death. Death is the common lot of all mankind. Everyone is subject to die.

All are born helpless in infancy, and all are equally helpless in the face of death.

It was not intended that any be spared the experience of death, for that would deny them the eternal happiness that can only come in the resurrection
(Alma 42:8; D&C 93:33-34)

No Fall—No Death

When Jacob spoke of “the first judgment which came upon man,” he referred to results of the Fall of Adam and Eve.

When he spoke of “corruption,” he referred to our mortal bodies, which will die.

When he spoke of “incorruption,” he referred to our resurrected bodies, which will live forever.

If there were no
Atonement, what would
happen to our bodies?

If there were no
Atonement, what would
happen to our spirits?



Awful Monster

Separation from
the Body

Separation from God
(Spiritual death)

Separation

Death

Hell

“death of the body”

“death of the spirit”

Some things that are real can be more frightening than imaginary creatures because they are capable of bringing lasting harm.



Jacob used the phrase “awful monster” to describe a condition we all face and the eternal harm that could result from it.



“If our separation from God and our physical death were permanent, moral agency would mean nothing.



Yes, we would be free to make choices, but what would be the point?

The end result would always be the same no matter what our actions: death with no hope of resurrection and no hope of heaven.

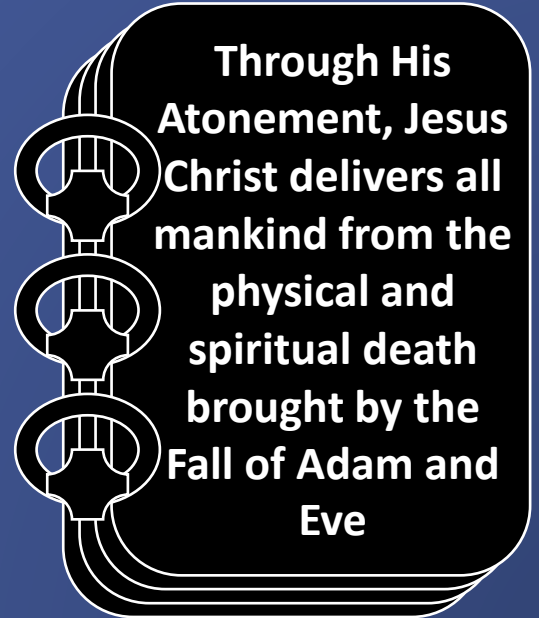
As good or as bad as we might choose to be, we would all end up ‘angels to a devil.’

D. Todd Christofferson

Jacob teaches that through the Atonement, the Savior delivers us from the effects of the Fall and offers us forgiveness from our sins



God has prepared “a way for our escape from the grasp of ... death and hell.” This escape—from the physical and spiritual death brought by the Fall—is assured because of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.



Through His Atonement, Jesus Christ delivers all mankind from the physical and spiritual death brought by the Fall of Adam and Eve

More than two weeks after the miners had been trapped, rescuers found a way to provide them with food, water, and supplies.

Nearly two months later, the rescuers were finally able to create an opening large enough to lower a small capsule that could rescue the miners one at a time.

Each miner stepped into the capsule and chose to give his will over to the rescue plan and the rescuers to be saved. After being trapped for a total of 69 days, each of the miners was rescued.



Photo from the Film: The 33



While deliverance from physical death is a gift the Savior offers to all mankind, our deliverance from spiritual death depends partly on our desires and actions.



Infinite and Eternal

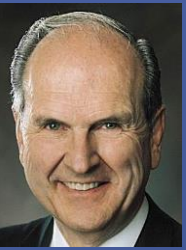
Timeless—
embracing the past,
presence and future

God Himself is
infinite—he
inherited from His
mother mortality,
and from His Father,
Immortality



Conquers the most
universal reality in
mortal existence--
death

Encompasses all the
worlds Christ created
D&C 76:24



“His Atonement is infinite—without an end.

It was also infinite in that all humankind would be saved from never-ending death. It was infinite in terms of His immense suffering. It was infinite in time, putting an end to the preceding prototype of animal sacrifice.

It was infinite in scope—it was to be done once for all.

And the mercy of the Atonement extends not only to an infinite number of people, but also to an infinite number of worlds created by Him. It was infinite beyond any human scale of measurement or mortal comprehension.

“Jesus was the only one who could offer such an infinite atonement, since He was born of a mortal mother and an immortal Father. Because of that unique birthright, Jesus was an infinite Being”

“According to eternal law, that atonement required a personal sacrifice by an immortal being not subject to death. Yet He must die and take up His own body again. The Savior was the only one who could

accomplish this. From His mother He inherited power to die. From His Father He obtained power over death.”

Russell M. Nelson

2 Nephi 9:7; 25:16; Alma 34:10, 12, 14; Hebrews 10:10; D&C 76:24; Moses 1:33

Suffering for the Pains of All

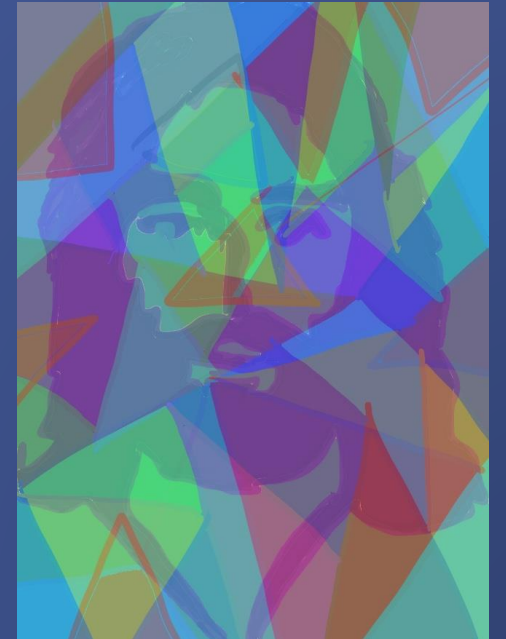


The Savior suffered the pains of all who have lived and will yet live on the earth.

“Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God...”
(D&C 18:10-14)



“For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent, but if they would not repent they must suffer even as I...” (D&C 19:16-19)



Stand Before Him

Judgment Day

Deliverance from the Fall is a gift to all mankind, our deliverance from the consequences of our sins depends partly on our desires and actions.



**Through the
Atonement of Jesus
Christ, we can
overcome the
consequences of
our sins as we have
faith in Jesus
Christ, repent, are
baptized, and
endure to the end.**

Baptism

First Fruits of Repentance
(Moroni 8:25)



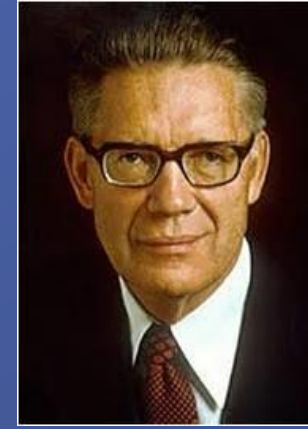
Having Faith in the Holy One



*Endure to the End:
He has given a law:*

"...where there is no law given there is no punishment; and where there is no punishment there is no condemnation; and where there is no condemnation the mercies of the Holy One of Israel have claim upon them, because of the atonement; for they are delivered by the power of him."

“Our God is just and merciful. When we are given a law—whenever opportunities for obedience are made available—the Almighty expects us to be true to those divine directives.....



The law of justification thus demands that all who are saved in the celestial kingdom must have conformed to the laws requisite for entrance into that kingdom.”

Bruce R. McConkie



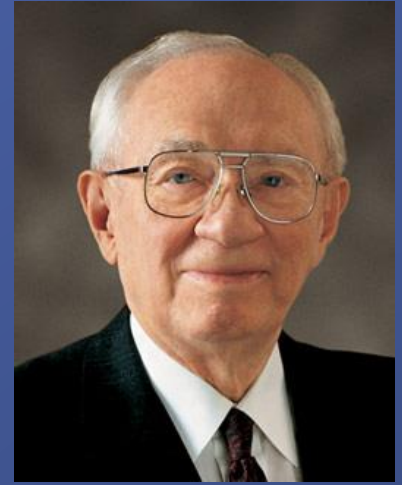
“Thanks be to God for the wonder and the majesty of His eternal plan.

Thank and glorify His Beloved Son, who, with indescribable suffering, gave His life on Calvary’s cross to pay the debt of mortal sin.

He it was who, through His atoning sacrifice, broke the bonds of death and with godly power rose triumphant from the tomb.

He is our Redeemer, the Redeemer of all mankind.
He is the Savior of the world.
He is the Son of God,
the Author of our salvation.”

Gordon B. Hinckley



Sources:

President Joseph Fielding Smith (*Answers to Gospel Questions*, comp. Joseph Fielding Smith Jr., 5 vols. [1957–66], 4:57).

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet Doctrinal Commentary of the Book of Mormon Vol. 1 p 233

D. Todd Christofferson [2 Nephi 9:9.]” (“Moral Agency,” *Ensign*, June 2009, 50).

Joseph Smith *Teachings* p 62

Bruce R. McConkie Doctrinal New Testament Commentary 2:222

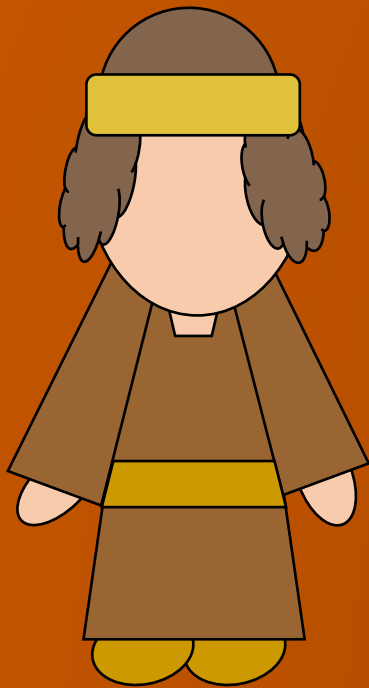
Russell M. Nelson ” (“The Atonement,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 35) and (“Constancy amid Change,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 34).

Gordon B. Hinckley (“The Victory over Death,” *Ensign*, May 1985, 51).

Connie Goulding, “Seeking Rescue,” *Ensign*, June 2015, 63)

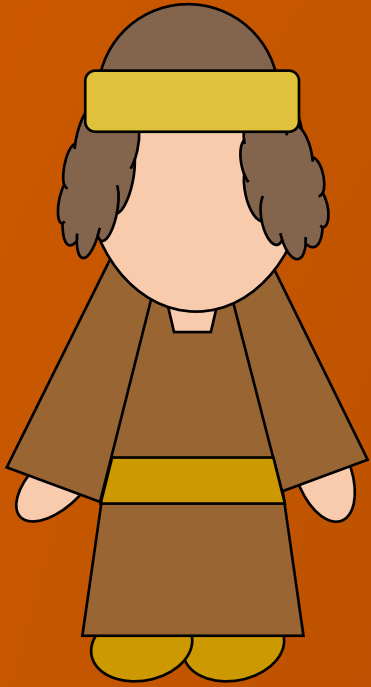


Reconcile Yourselves to the Will of God



2 Nephi 27-53 and
2 Nephi 10

Understanding



Jacob invites all to come unto Christ and warns of attitudes and actions that separate us from the Lord

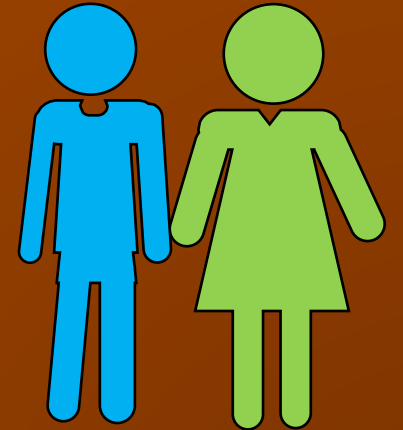
What I must do?

Why do I need to help? (Think of someone who has a terrible disease)

Why is it important that **this person** understand the need to seek help?

Why is it important that **the person** also understand what to do to receive help?

What will result if **the person** understands the need for help but does not understand what to do to receive it?



Distancing from Christ

Sin against 'the light'



"of him unto is given much is required; and he who sins against the greater light shall receive the greater condemnation."

(D&C 82:3)

Wasting our time on idle things



"...if we do not improve our time while in this life then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed" (Alma 34:33)

Ignorant

2 Nephi 9:28-29



Those who lack intelligence due to their laziness and make only feeble efforts.

Prideful



Those who stuff themselves with theories and the philosophies of men.

Trusting in the earth's wealth



"for the love of money is the root of all evil..."

(1 Timothy 6:10) Those who place other gods (worldly possessions) ahead of Jehovah. Often those trusting in riches despise the poor.

(3 Nephi 6:11-16) and (D&C 49:20)

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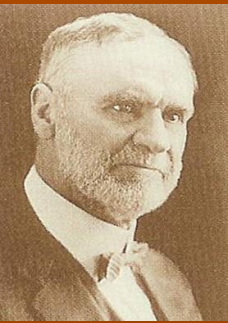
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“We have not right to take the theories of men, however scholarly, however learned, and set them up as a standard, and try to make the Gospel bow down to them, making of them an iron bedstead upon which God’s truth, if not long enough, must be stretched out, or if too long, must be chopped off—anything to make it fit into the system of men’s thoughts and theories?”

On the contrary, we should hold up the *Gospel as the standard of truth*, and measure thereby the theories and opinions of men. What God has reveled, what the prophets have spoken, what the servants of the Lord proclaim when inspired by the Holy Ghost, can be depended upon, for these are the utterances of a spirit that cannot lie and that does not make mistakes, while the teaching of men are often based upon sophistry and founded upon false reasoning.”



To Be Learned is Good

Obtain an education: “If [you] hearken unto the counsels of God.”

“Education is an investment that brings great rewards and will open the doors of opportunity that may otherwise be closed to you. Plan now to obtain an education. Be willing to work diligently and make sacrifices if necessary. Share your educational goals with your family, friends, and leaders so they can support and encourage you.”

Note: Seminary and institute can help you strengthen your faith while you are engaged in secular learning.



For the Strength of Youth

Wo, Wo, and Wo!



To the deaf that will
not hear



Those who refuse to hear the voice of the Lord or the voices of His servants—those who give no heed to the prophets and Apostles of their day

To the blind that they
will not see



He who refuses to see the hand of God in all things is indeed blind, not only to the glories of God but also to the glories that could be his.

Uncircumcised of heart



Those whose hearts are not open to God and who are unwilling to keep covenants with Him.

Shall Perish—“for a knowledge of their iniquities shall smite them at the last day.”

The Liars



There will be no liars in the celestial kingdom.
Unrepentant liars shall be ushered into hell (outer darkness) at the time of death and shall come forth in the resurrection to inherit the telestial kingdom.



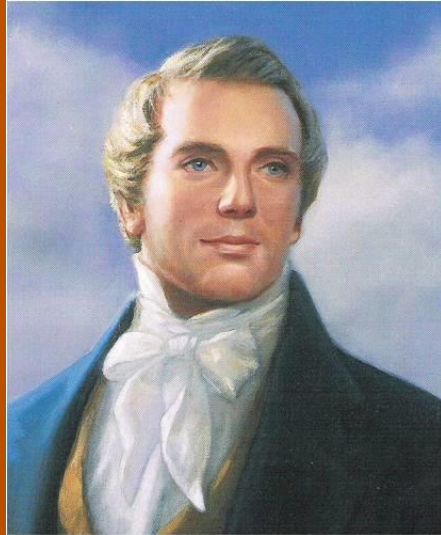
***“Wherefore, I, the Lord, have said that the fearful, and the unbelieving, and all liars, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie, and the whoremonger, and the sorcerer, shall have their part in that lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.
Verily I say, that they shall not have part in the first resurrection.”
(D&C 63:17-18)***

The Murderers



Premeditated murder (1 John 5:16-17)

One that has no forgiveness (D&C 42:79)



“A murderer is one that sheds innocent blood, (and) cannot have forgiveness.”
Joseph Smith

***“Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God made he man.”
(Genesis 9:6)***

Committing Whoredoms

The scriptures and prophets boldly attest that misery and suffering will follow the violation of the law of chastity.



Victims of sexual abuse are not guilty of sin and do not need to repent. If you have been a victim of abuse, know that you are innocent and that God loves you.

***“And go ye out from among the wicked.
Save yourselves. Be ye clean that bear
the vessels of the Lord. Even so Amen.”
(D7C 38:42)***

**When you are sexually pure, you
prepare yourself to make and keep
sacred covenants in the temple.**

Idol Worshipers



Whenever a person places his affections and desires upon anything other than the true and living God

Whenever one's devotion and loyalty and trust is centered in any person or object other than the Lord and His kingdom

Whenever the acclaim and applause of men take precedence over the approval of God



Other idols besides stone or wood:

Academic degrees

Titles

Careers

Social standing

Fashion

False feelings of desire for fulfillment

Dying in Their Sins

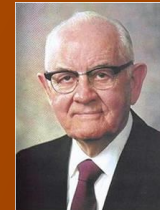
Procrastination— a thief of eternal life.



***“But remember that he that persists in his own carnal nature, and goes on in the ways of sin and rebellion against god, remaineth in his fallen state and the devil hath all power over him.”
(Mosiah 16:5)***

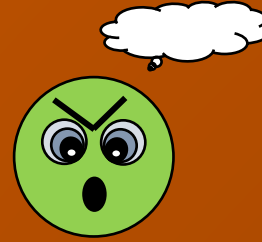


The sinner takes his disposition and nature with him into the world of spirits. All men take the work of their lives with them through the veil of death.
(D&C 59:2)



“This earth life is the time to repent. We cannot afford to take any chances of dying an enemy to God.”
Spencer W. Kimball

Carnally Minded = Death



If:

We think evil thoughts → Our tongues will utter unclean sayings

We speak words of wickedness → We will end up doing the works of wickedness

Our minds are centered on the things of the world → Then worldliness and unrighteousness will seem to us to be a natural way of life

Those who are carnally minded hate the truth, for the truth condemns their actions, actions which are untrue to all that is good and proper. JFM and RLM

Being carnally minded leads to spiritual death.

Spiritually Minded = Life Eternal



If:

Ponder in our hearts the
things of righteousness



We shall become righteous

Virtue garnish our
thoughts



Our confidence shall wax strong in
the presence of God

Those who are spiritually minded are those who treasure up in their minds continually the words of life (D&C 84:85)—enjoy the peace and assurance of the Spirit her and qualify for that life which is eternal hereafter. JFM and RLM

Coming unto Christ

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ



And now as I said concerning faith—faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true.
(Alma 32:21)

Turning away from sin



“...the time to quit evil ways is before they start. The secret of the good life is in protection and prevention.”
Spencer W. Kimball

Repent



“Behold, he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more.
(D&C 58:42)

Be Baptized



“And the first fruits of repentance is baptism; and baptism cometh by faith unto the fulfilling the commandments; and the fulfilling the commandments bringeth remission of sins;”
(Moroni 8:25)

Endure to the end



“But blessed are they who are faithful and endure, whether in life or in death, for they shall inherit eternal life.”
(D&C 50:5)

Take off My Garments



Innocence of sins—symbolic fashion

Jacob stated that his garments were clean of the sins of the people.

He had performed his duty...to teach and instruct God's commandments

The people were now obligated to obey or be damned

All Searching Eye—

"The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good." (Proverbs 15:3)



The results:

'We did magnify our office unto the Lord, taking upon us the responsibility, answering the sins of the people upon our own heads if we did not teach them the word of God with all diligence; wherefore, by laboring with our might their blood might not come upon our garments.'" (Jacob 1:19)

Shake off the Chains



The Chains of Satan:

Binding mankind into servitude and slavery (2 Nephi 1:13)

Ignorance of Eternity (Alma 12:9-11)

False Doctrine (2 Nephi 28:22)

Sin (John 8:31-34)



Enoch, the seer “beheld Satan: and he had a great chain in his hand, and it veiled the whole face of the earth with darkness, and he looked up and laughed, and his angels rejoiced.: (Moses 7:26)

Praise The Holy Name of My God



To the Faithful:

Prepare your souls

Do not fear

That your minds be pure

Rejoice in the Lord

Praise His name

***“Come, my brethren, every one that thirsteth,
come ye to the waters; and he that hath no
money, come buy and eat; yea, come buy wine
and milk without money and without price.”
(Isaiah 55:1-2)***



Cross Reference Activity



Without Money, and Without Price



When difficult things are asked of us, even things contrary to the longings of our heart, remember that the loyalty we pledge to the cause of Christ is to be the supreme devotion of our lives. Although Isaiah reassures us it is available “without money and without price” [Isaiah 55:1]

—and it is—we must be prepared, using T. S. Eliot’s line, to have it cost “not less than everything.”

Jeffrey R. Holland

*“We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.
Through the unknown, remembered gate
When the last of earth left to discover
Is that which was the beginning;
At the source of the longest river
The voice of the hidden waterfall
And the children in the apple-tree
Not known, because not looked for
But heard, half-heard, in the stillness
Between two waves of the sea.
Quick now, here, now, always—
A condition of complete simplicity
(Costing not less than everything)
And all shall be well and
All manner of thing shall be well
When the tongues of flames are in-folded
Into the crowned knot of fire
And the fire and the rose are one.” T. S. Eliot*



When earth life is over and things appear in their true perspective, we shall more clearly see and realize what the Lord and his prophets have repeatedly told us, that the fruits of the gospel are the only objectives worthy of life's full efforts.

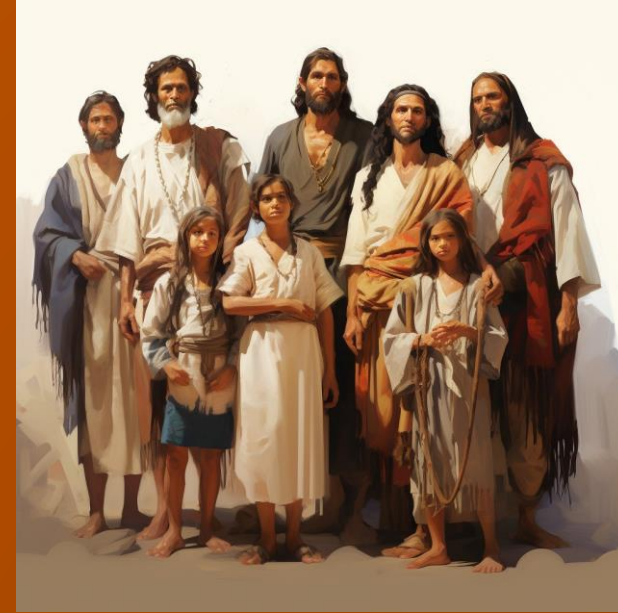
Their possessor obtains true wealth—
wealth in the Lord's view of values.
Marion G. Romney



Rejoice in the Name of the Lord

Promises:

The descendants of Lehi, after a long apostasy, are destined to become a righteous branch in the house of Israel.



Nevertheless

...God will be merciful unto many; and our children shall be restored, that they may come to that which will give them the true knowledge of their Redeemer.”

We Are Not Cast Off

... let us remember him, and lay aside our sins, and not hang down our heads, for we are not cast off;

David's Plea

*Cast me not away from thy presence;
and take not thy holy spirit from me.*

Psalms 51:11



The Book of Mormon has been preserved for *our day* in fulfillment of promises and visions to its ancient record keepers. The invitation and responsibility of every reader of the Book of Mormon, whether of the house of Israel or Gentile, is **to accept the covenants** contained therein through faith in Christ.

Only then can God's purposes be fulfilled and his power revealed. We can then **gain the assurance** that because of our deliverer, Jesus Christ, we also are not cast off forever.

BYU Religious Study

The Gift of the Atonement

Free to Act for yourselves

Free to choose the way of everlasting death or the way of eternal life

Resurrection

You will be received into the eternal kingdom of God



“...reconcile yourselves to the will of God, and not to the will of the devil and the flesh; and remember, after ye are reconciled unto God, that it is only in and through the grace of God that ye are saved.”

Sources:

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