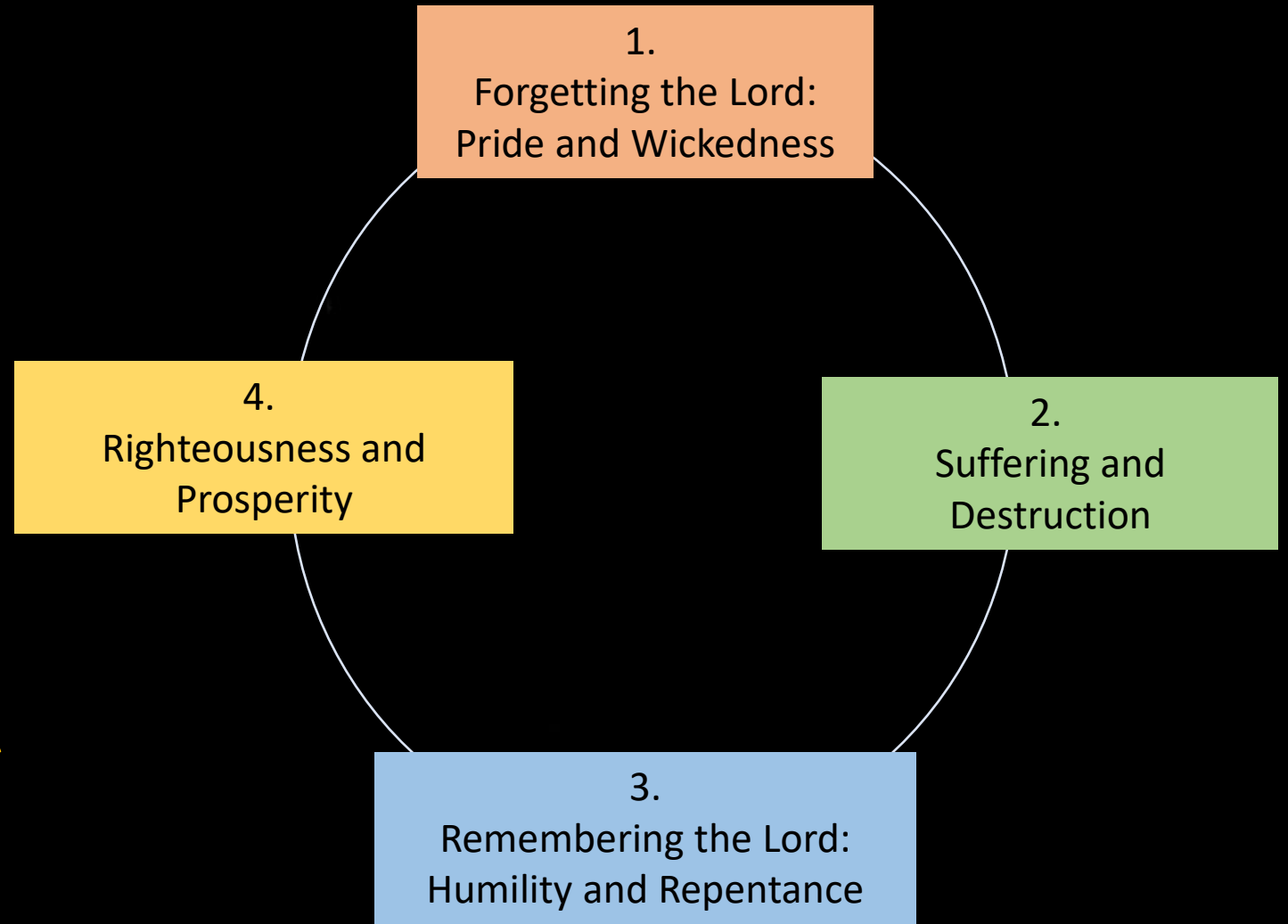
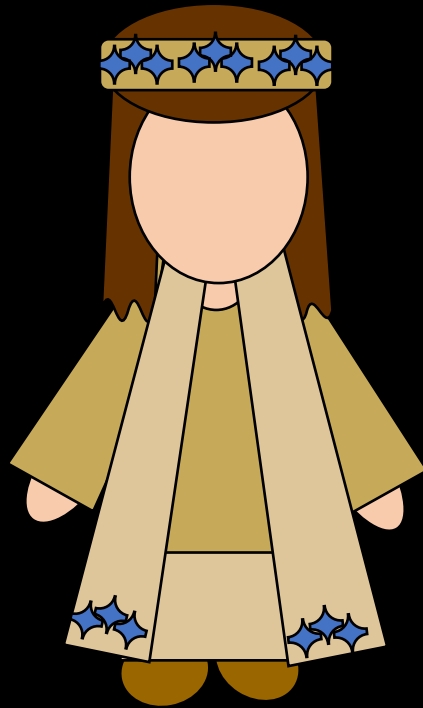


# Alma 7-12

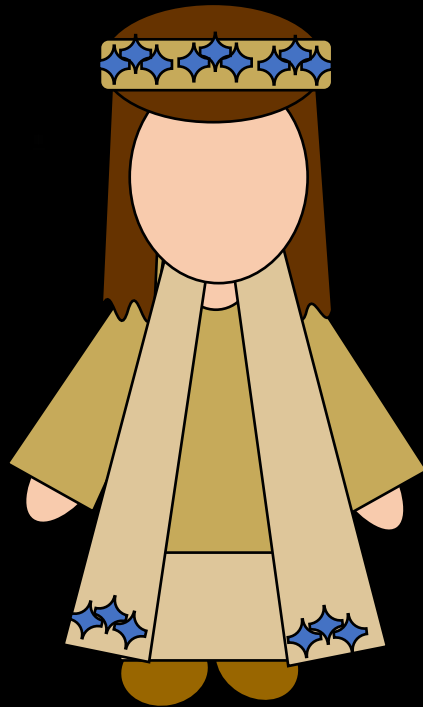


# Alma 7



# Wickedness of the People

Helaman 7:1  
Who returned  
from the land  
northward?



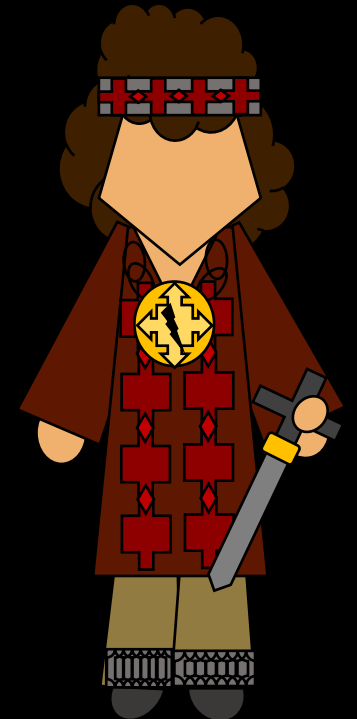
Helaman 7:2  
What did  
Nephi teach  
the people in  
the land  
northwards?



Helaman 7:3  
Why did Nephi  
leave the land  
northward?



Helaman 7:4  
Who had filled  
the judgment  
seats by the  
time Nephi  
returned to  
Zarahemla?



# Pouring Out His Soul

## The Prayer of Nephi

“bowed himself upon the tower”

“There are some prayers, some pleading to God, in which the supplicant truly bends and stretches his soul...Nephi is pained over the sins and iniquities of his day and raises his voice high that it reaches the heavens”

JFM and RLM



Nosmelone

Prophets  
of God  
invite  
people to  
repent

# Entice

*...how could you have given way to the enticing of him who is seeking to hurl away your souls down to everlasting misery and endless wo?*



*Do you recognize someone or something who wants to entice us?*

Our tempters are those who entice to be impatient, frustrated, doubtful, fearful, or angry

“...inherent in every enticement to do wrong is a spiritual growth opportunity to do right...”

Every enticement can be a blessing to us if we allow it to be.” Joy D. Jones

# Spiritually Unattended

“We should also endeavor to discern when we ‘withdraw [ourselves] from the Spirit of the Lord, that it may have no place in [us] to guide [us] in wisdom’s paths that [we] may be blessed, prospered, and preserved’ (Mosiah 2:36).

Precisely because the promised blessing is *that we may always have His Spirit to be with us*, we should attend to and learn from the choices and influences that separate us from the Holy Spirit.

“The standard is clear. If something we think, see, hear, or do distances us from the Holy Ghost, then we should stop thinking, seeing, hearing, or doing that thing. If that which is intended to entertain, for example, alienates us from the Holy Spirit, then certainly that type of entertainment is not for us.

Because the Spirit cannot abide that which is vulgar, crude, or immodest, then clearly such things are not for us. Because we estrange the Spirit of the Lord when we engage in activities we know we should shun, then such things definitely are not for us.”

Elder David A. Bednar





# Knowledge from God



Those who do not repent:

The city will be taken away from you and the land

You will not have a place to live

You will not have the strength to withstand the enemy

You will be destroyed from off the face of the earth



*If we refuse to repent of our sins, we will lose the Lord's protection and the blessings of eternal life.*

## The Seal of a Testimony



*“Behold now, I do not say that these things shall be, of myself, because it is not of myself that I know these things; but behold, I know that these things are true because the Lord God has made them known unto me, therefore I testify that they shall be.”*



## Sources:

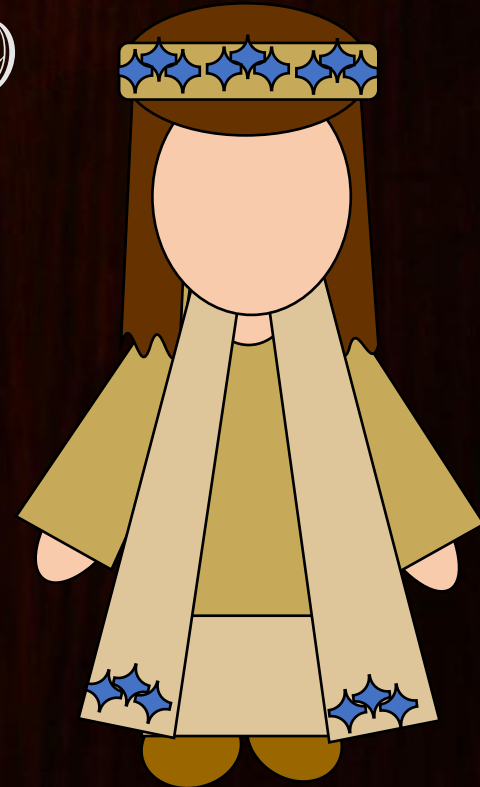
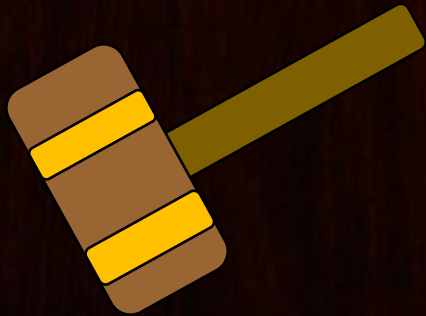
Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon Vol. 3 pg. 366-369

Elder David A. Bednar (“That We May Always Have His Spirit to Be with Us,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2006, 30).

President Spencer W. Kimball What is True Repentance? May 1974 Ensign

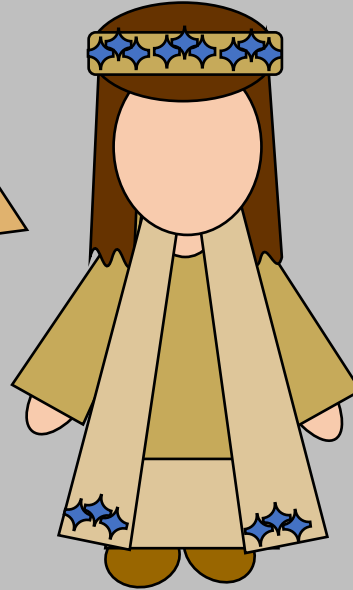
# UNRIGHTEOUS JUDGMENTS

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."



A prophet's message is not his own. It comes from the Lord



# 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  
Gidianton'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



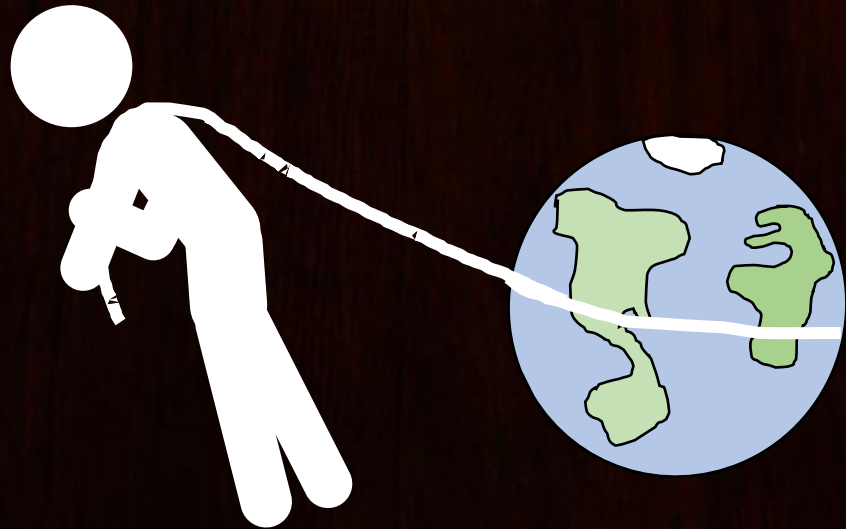
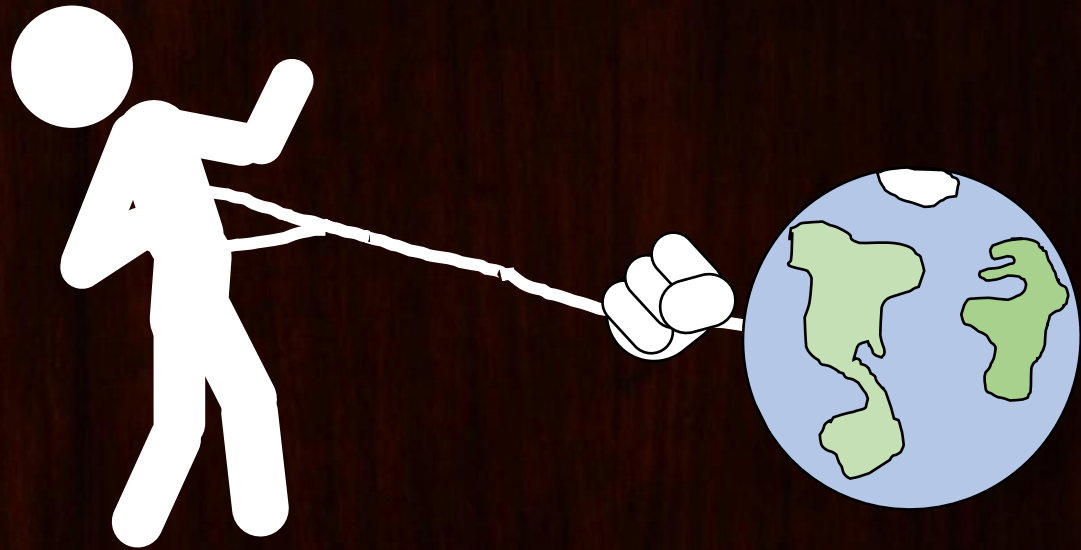
How can we resist influences that attempt to persuade us against the words of prophets?

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





# 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 testify of Jesus Christ



# TESTIMONIES OF PROPHETS

## Moses:

Exodus 15:2;  
Deuteronomy 18:15 (see  
also 3 Nephi 20:23–24)



## Abraham:

Abraham 3:22–24;  
Joseph Smith Translation,  
Genesis 15:12 (in the Bible appendix)



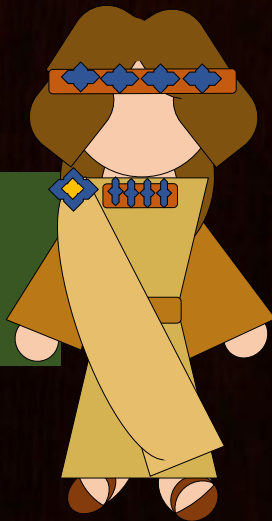
## Isaiah:

Isaiah 7:14; 9:6;  
53:3–5



## Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 33:14–  
16; 50:34



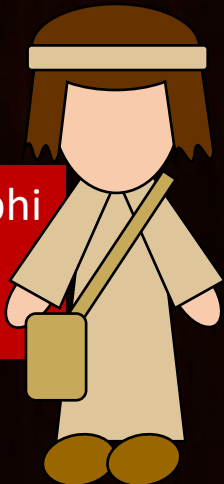
## Lehi:

1 Nephi 1:14–15;  
2 Nephi 2:6–8



## Nephi, son of Lehi:

1 Nephi  
19:9–11;  
2 Nephi 25:19, 23–26



# PROPHETS OF OLD

Zenos



Zenock



Ezias



Zenos, Zenock, and Ezias were prophets who are mentioned in the Book of Mormon. Their teachings and testimonies would have come from the brass plates, which we do not have now. Book of Mormon prophets have recorded that each of them testified of Jesus Christ.

1 Nephi 19:10; Alma 33:15–16; 34:7; Helaman 8:19–20).

The prophet Jacob credited Zenos as the author of the parable of the olive tree (see Jacob 5:1–77).



# 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







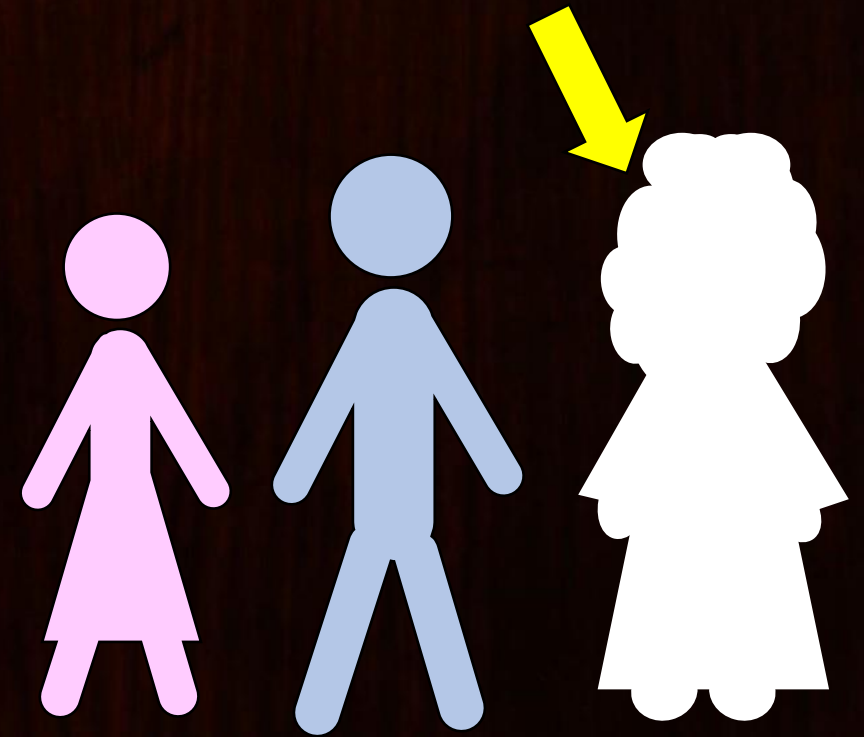
The most important role of the Lord's prophet is to teach us of the Savior and lead us to Him. ...

A prophet does not stand between you and the Savior.

Rather, he stands beside you and points the way to the Savior.

A prophet's greatest responsibility and most precious gift to us is his sure witness, his certain knowledge, that Jesus is the Christ.

Neil L. Andersen



# 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

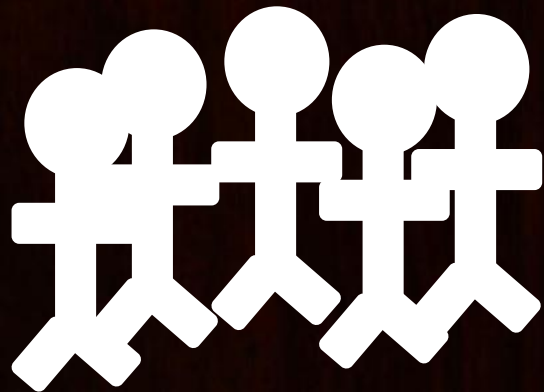


# AN INVESTIGATION



## 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.”

Nephi is a prophet

Nephi is a God

I believe the five testimonies





## Sources:

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

<http://www.ldsliving.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.

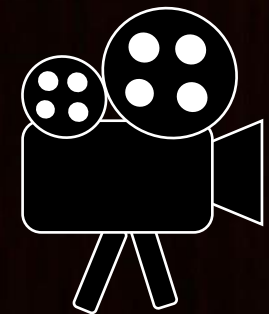
Book of Mormon Who’s Who by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg 166-167

Neil L. Andersen, “The Prophet of God,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2018, 25, 27

## 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.



**What if we don't agree with what the Prophet says?**

You may not like what comes from the authority of the Church. It may conflict with your political views. It may contradict your social views. It may interfere with some of your social life. ... Your safety and ours depends upon whether or not we follow the ones whom the Lord has placed to preside over His Church. ... Let's keep our eye on the President of the Church. (Harold B. Lee, in Conference Report, Oct. 1970, 152–53.)

Sometimes we will receive counsel that we cannot understand or that seems not to apply to us, even after careful prayer and thought. Don't discard the counsel, but hold it close. If someone you trusted handed you what appeared to be nothing more than sand with the promise that it contained gold, you might wisely hold it in your hand awhile, shaking it gently. Every time I have done that with counsel from a prophet, after a time the gold flakes have begun to appear and I have been grateful. (Henry B. Eyring, "Finding Safety in Counsel," *Ensign*, May 1997, 26)

**Unpopular Truths:**

Sometimes we are accused of being uncaring as we teach the Father's requirements for exaltation in the celestial kingdom. But wouldn't it be far more uncaring for us not to tell the truth—not to teach what God has revealed? It is precisely because we do care deeply about all of God's children that we proclaim His truth. We may not always tell people what they want to hear. Prophets are rarely popular. But we will always teach the truth! (Russell M. Nelson, "The Love and Laws of God" [Brigham Young University devotional, Sept. 17, 2019], [speeches.byu.edu](https://speeches.byu.edu))

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

## Day One of the Investigation

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## 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.

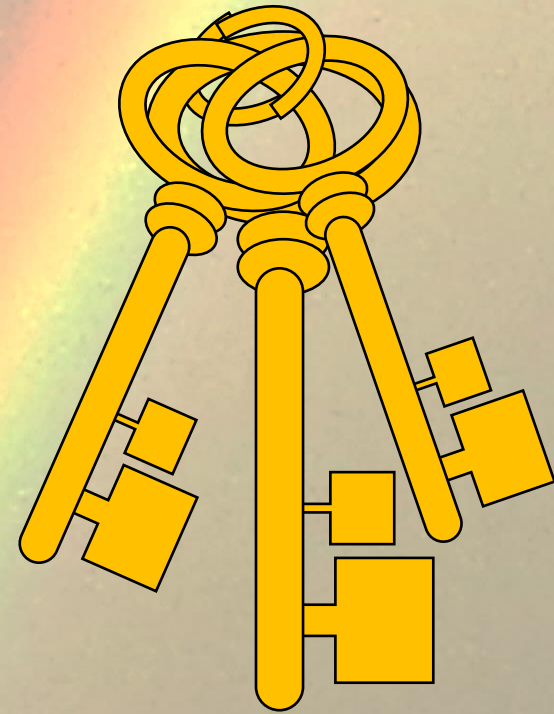
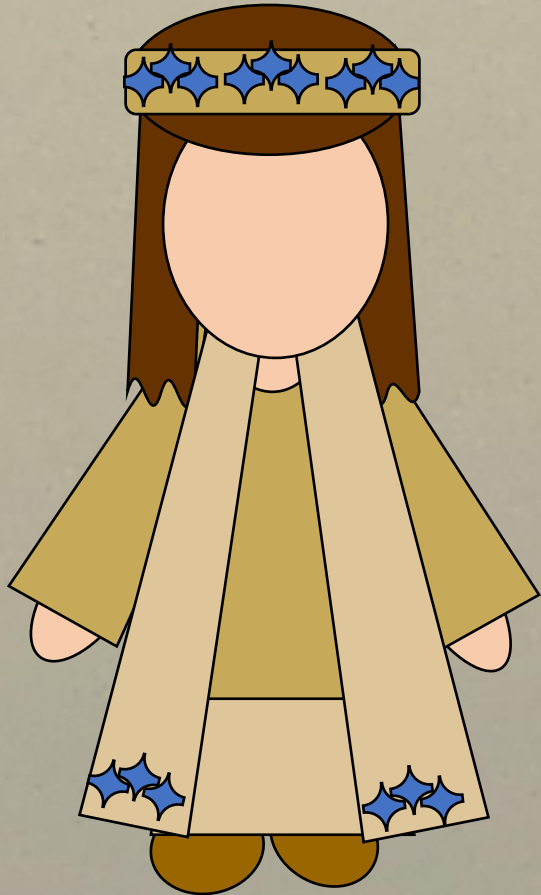
### Helaman 8:14-15 Brazen Serpent:

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).

# Keys to Sealing Powers

## Helaman 10







# Noise

“something that attracts attention”



“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.”  
Boyd K. Packer



# Pondering

Nephi realizes the division among the people

To Ponder: to give serious reflection and thought to something.



Jessica Pingel

Pondering things of the Lord prepares us to receive revelation

“Never did any passage of scripture come with more power to the heart of man than this did at this time to mine. It seemed to enter with great force into every feeling of my heart. **I reflected on it again and again**, knowing that if any person needed wisdom from God, I did; for how to act I did not know, and unless I could get more wisdom than I then had, I would never know; for the teachers of religion of the different sects understood the same passages of scripture so differently as to destroy all confidence in settling the question by an appeal to the Bible.”  
Joseph Smith History 1:12



# Receiving Your Own Revelations

When has pondering helped you receive personal revelation?



Receiving personal revelation is not usually as dramatic as some of the examples in the scriptures.

Revelatory experiences are usually moments of sudden enlightenment, such as when we suddenly understand something we have struggled with before.

During and after sacrament meeting

Before and after personal prayers and scripture study

After watching or listening to general conference

While fasting

While serving in the temple

While honoring the Lord on the Sabbath

What are times or situations when pondering the things of the Lord would be especially appropriate?





# Seeking God's Will

An eye single to the glory of God seek to only do which is pleasing to God. They strive to know the will of God.

Nephi had no desire to “do his own thing”



Jesus said, “And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.”  
John 8:29

The Lord entrusts us with blessings and responsibilities when we seek His will and keep His commandments

# A Blessing Forever

“Even the timeless waves of eternity will not be able to wear away the blessings that God will place on the head of his faithful servant.”

JFM and RLM



The Word—Jesus Christ

A Representative of God:

Nephi’s words were God’s words, and his works were to be God’s works.

All things were done according to the Word



“He that asketh in the Spirit asketh according to the will of God; wherefore it is done even as he asketh.”

D&C 46:30



# The Power

To have power over the people—smite the earth with famine, pestilence, and destruction---according to the wickedness of the people



“And it came to pass that after I had prayed and labored with all diligence, the Lord said unto me: I will grant unto thee according to thy desires, because of they faith.”

Enos 1:12

Helaman 10:5

However:

“Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”

1 John 21-22



# Keys of the Sealing Power

Same keys held by the prophet Elijah



The Lord gives His prophet the sealing power



The authority of these keys that Elijah sealed the heavens for three and half years, and by the same authority broke that seal and brought forth rain (1 King 17: 1, 18:1, 45)

This authority is to bring forth blessings or to bring forth disasters

To seal (bind) on earth and in the heavens

This authority was conferred upon Peter, James, and John on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:3)  
And also, on Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery (D&C 110:13-16)





# Nephi Was Given This Same Power

To Joseph Smith

“For I have conferred upon you the keys and power of the priesthood, wherein I restore all things, and make known unto you all things in due time.

And verily, verily, I say unto you, that whatsoever you seal on earth shall be sealed in heaven; and whatsoever you bind on earth, in my name and by my word, saith the Lord, it shall be eternally bound in the heavens; and whosoever sins you remit on earth shall be remitted eternally in the heavens; and whosoever sins you retain on earth shall be retained in heaven.

And again, verily I say, whomsoever you bless I will bless, and whomsoever you curse I will curse, saith the Lord; for I, the Lord, am thy God.”  
(D&C 132:45-47)

Even though it is not mentioned more than likely others had same power:

Lehi  
Nephi  
Jacob  
Mosiah  
Alma  
Mormon  
Moroni

How do we know this?

“And I, Nephi, did build a temple...”  
2 Nephi 5:16—(see also Helaman 10:8)

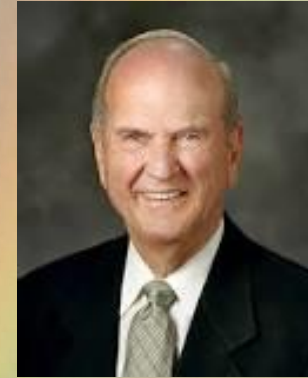
“The fact that temples were established, sealings, marriages, and ordinances of the Melchizedek Priesthood were a part of their religious life”

JFM and RLM

# Responsibility of Church Presidents

The keys of this same power are held today by the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Like Nephi, the Presidents of the Church have served unwearingly and shown that the Lord can entrust them with great blessings and responsibilities.

We most often refer to the sealing power in relation to the sealing of families through temple ordinances.



“Temples, ordinances, covenants, endowments, and sealings have been restored, precisely as prophesied.

Ordinances of the temple provide for reconciliation with the Lord and seal families together forever. Obedience to the sacred covenants made in temples qualifies us for eternal life—the greatest gift of God to man.”

Elder Russell M. Nelson



# Nephi Returns to Preach

The power of God was with him



The people hardened their hearts

They sought to slay him



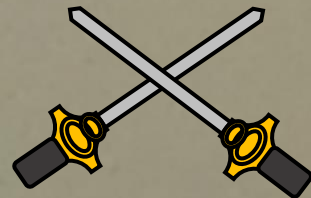
God protected him—he was 'taken by the Spirit and conveyed away out of the midst of them'

With the Spirit he declared the word of God



The people hardened their hearts

The people began to be contentious and slay one another



What message might we send to others when we delay doing what they ask of us?

What do we show the Lord when we respond quickly to His counsel and commandments?

What does Nephi's example teach us?

How did the Lord help Nephi?

How can you show your determination to serve the Lord?

**When we respond promptly to the Lord's direction, we will have His power to help us.**

# For He Was Taken By the Spirit

The other Nephi:

“And upon the wings of his Spirit hath my body been carried away upon exceedingly high mountains. And mine eyes have beheld great things, yea, even too great for man; therefore I was bidden that I should not write them.”

2 Nephi 4:25



Ezekiel:

“In the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain, by which *was* as the frame of a city on the south.”

Ezekiel 40:2—transported from captivity in Babylon to the temple mount in Jerusalem



John the Revelator:

“And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,”

Revelation 21:10

## Sources:

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

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon Vol. 3 pg. 285-287

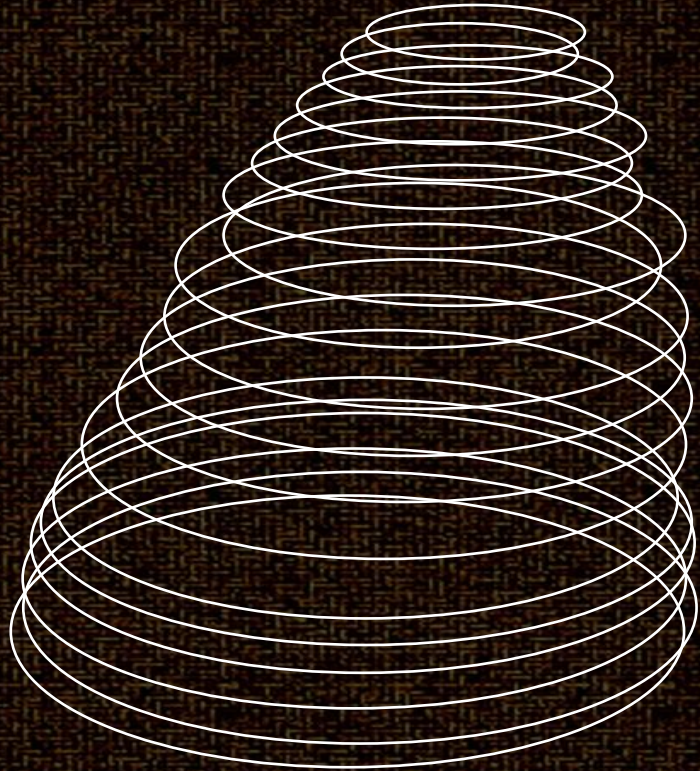
Elder Russell M. Nelson (“Prepare for the Blessings of the Temple,” *Ensign*, Oct. 2010, 42).

The end of the 71<sup>st</sup> year of the  
Reign of the Judges



# Let Us Remember

## Helaman 11-12



Reoccurring cycles of wickedness



“...let there be famine--  
...so they might remember”



# Activity—Identifying Patterns

Look at the following numbers. In 30 seconds, find as many numbers as you can in numerical order, beginning with “1.”

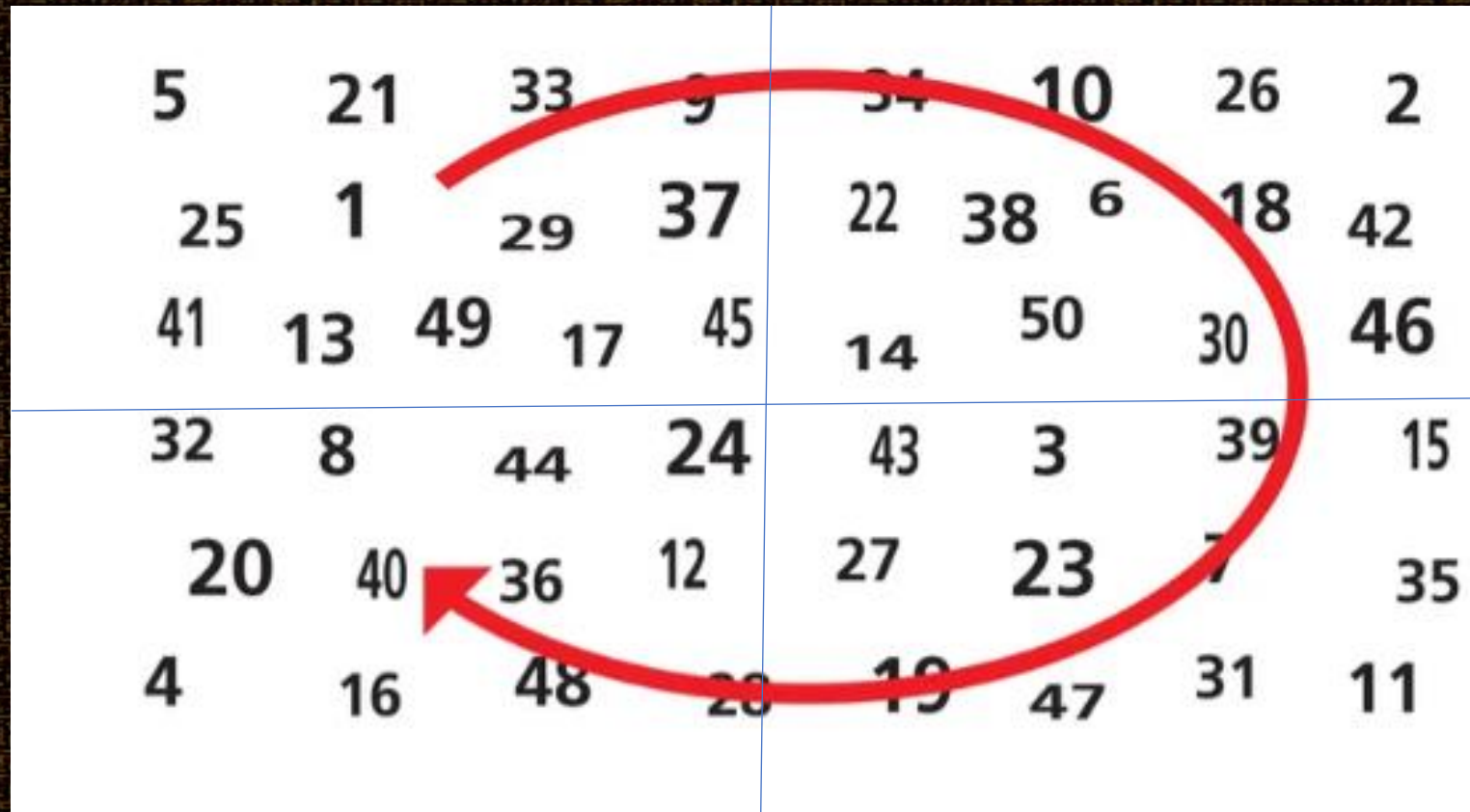
5	21	33	9	34	10	26	2	
25	1	29	37	22	38	6	18	42
41	13	49	17	45	14	50	30	46
32	8	44	24	43	3	39	15	
20	40	36	12	27	23	7	35	
4	16	48	28	19	47	31	11	

How many numbers were you able to find in 30 seconds?

Did you notice a pattern to where the numbers are located?



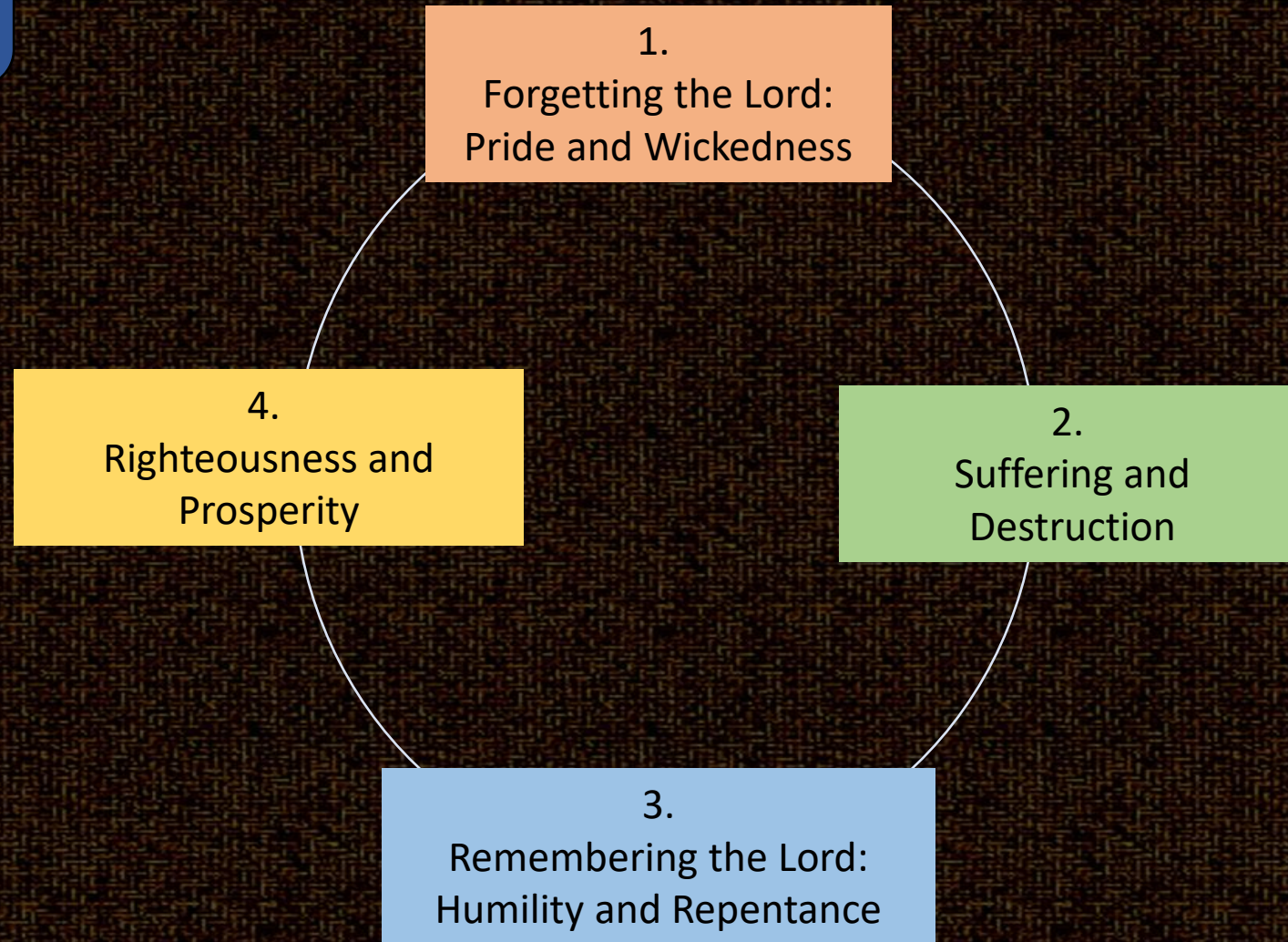
If you insert a vertical and a horizontal line in the center of the chart to create four equal quadrants, you will find that the numbers follow a clockwise pattern, like the arrow shows. For example, "1" is in the top left quadrant, "2" is in the top right, and so on.



Being able to identify patterns is a skill that can enhance your scripture study. Doing so can help you better apply what is in the scriptures to your life.



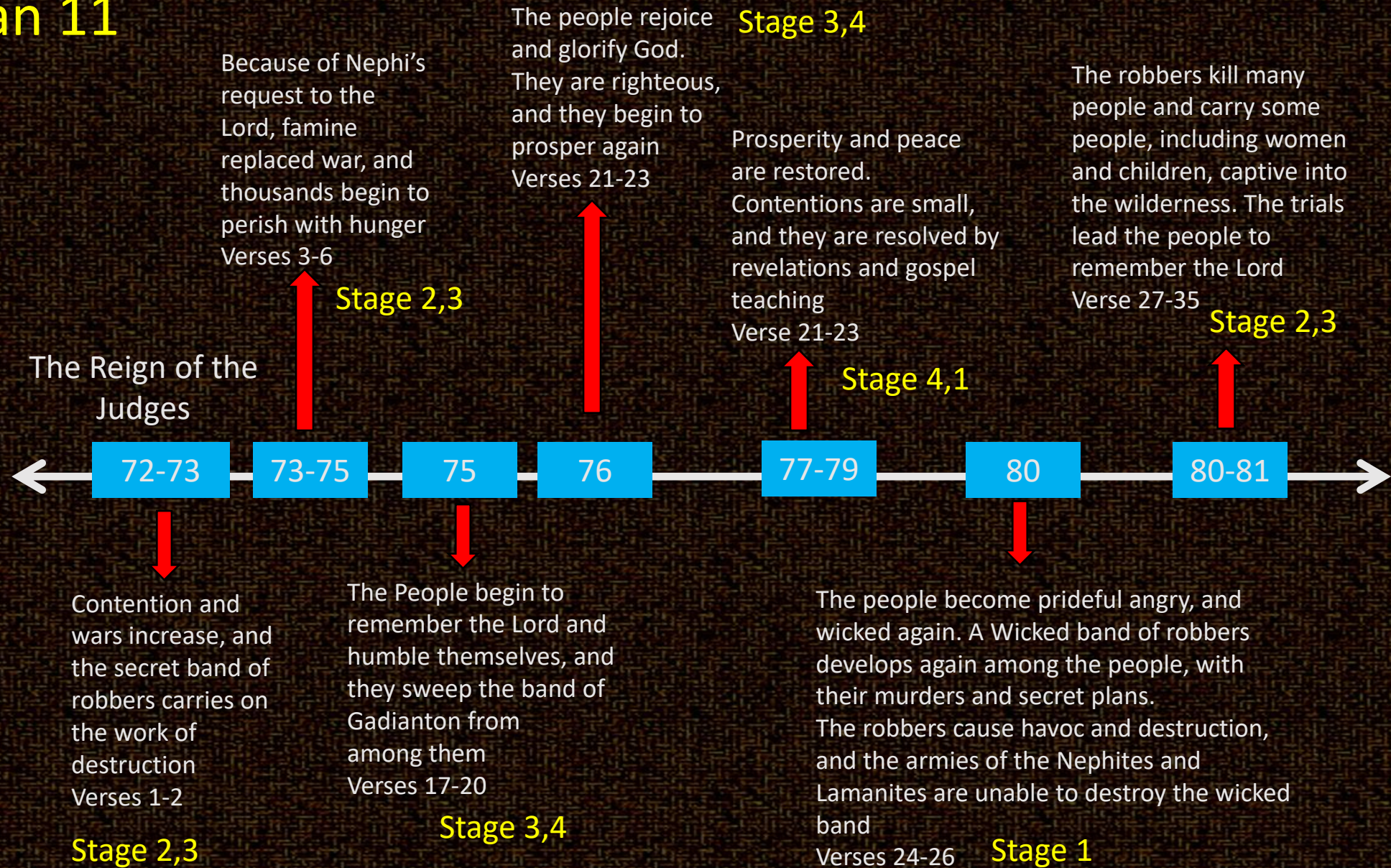
# The Cycle



If we choose to remember the Lord, humble ourselves, and repent, we can avoid pride and its consequences



# Helaman 11



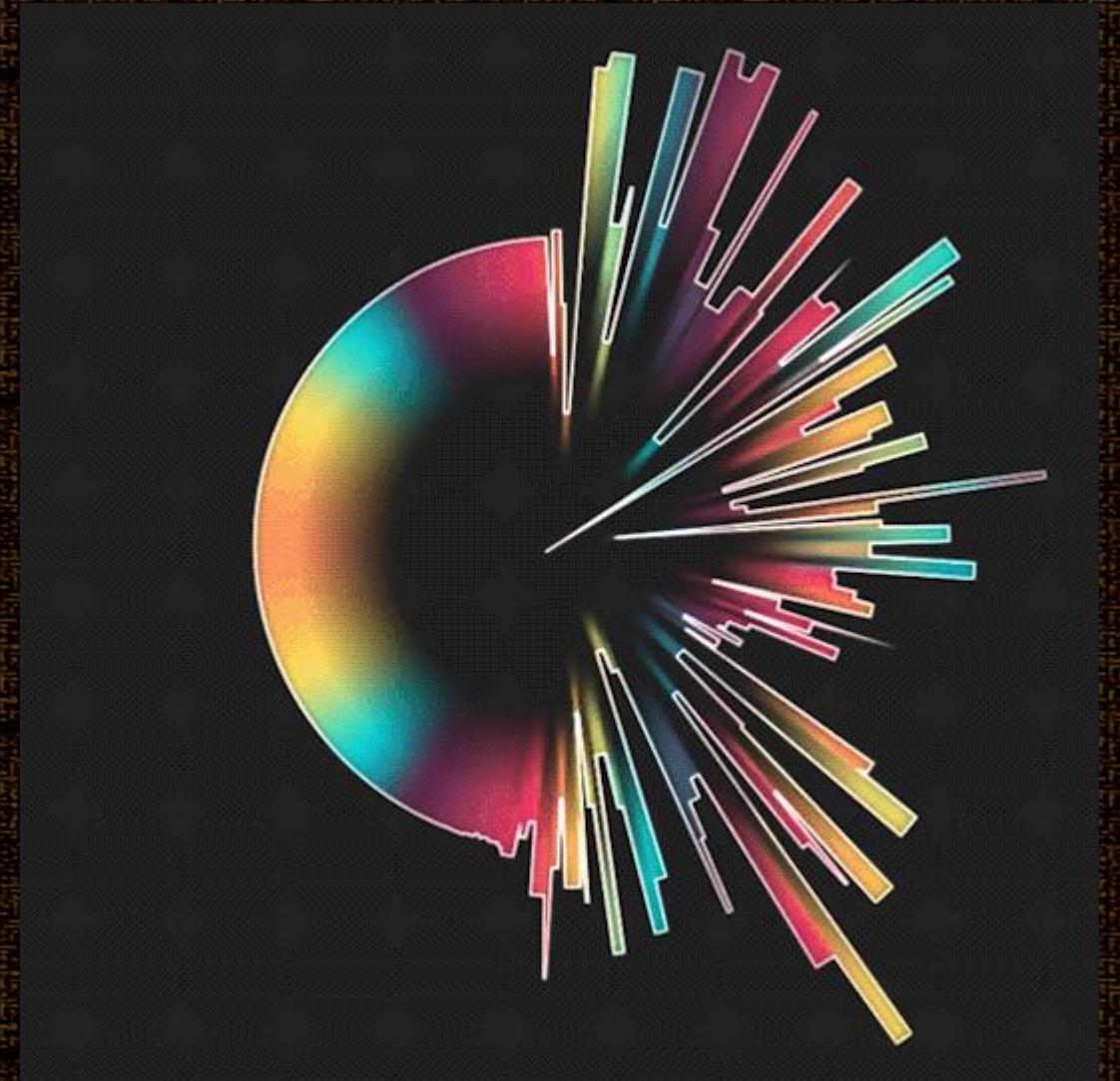
## Description of the People's Condition



# Recurring Cycles of Nations

“Great nations rise and fall—the people go from  
bondage to spiritual faith,  
from spiritual faith to great courage,  
from courage to liberty,  
from liberty to abundance,  
from abundance to selfishness,  
from selfishness to complacency,  
from complacency to apathy,  
from apathy to dependency,  
from dependency back again into bondage.”

Robert Muntzel





# Famine—Getting the Attention of the Rebellious

A **famine** is a widespread scarcity of food, caused by several factors including crop failure, population unbalance, or government policies. This phenomenon is usually accompanied or followed by regional malnutrition, starvation, epidemic, and increased mortality.

Nearly every continent in the world has experienced a period of famine throughout history. Some countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, continue to have extreme cases of famine.



**Nephi had the power from God to send famine among the people**

“Behold I speak for mine elect’s sake; for nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places”  
Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:29



**Read D&C 43:25**



# Getting Back on Track

Through humility and repentance, we can avoid pride and destruction.



The Nephites could have lived righteously and humbly always, repenting without delay whenever they sinned. If they had lived this way, they still would have experienced some trials, but they would not have needed to endure the terrible suffering and destruction that came as a result of their wickedness.

How long after remembering the Lord did it take for the Nephites to be “ripening again for destruction”?

4 years



# Nations Decline



Worship of money

Loss of idealism

Good men staying away from politics

The lessening of national pride as people become concerned with only their private affairs

A preponderance of the great cities

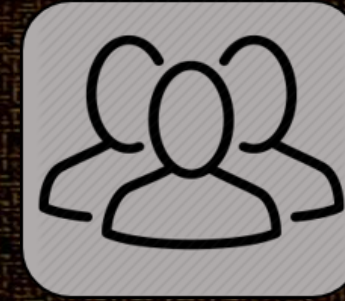
A general desire to limit the number of children

The loss of respect for representative government

The substitution of 'unparliamentary methods' such as economic pressure

Above all—anti-national peace movements which mean the abdication of the nation not in favor of everlasting peace

Oswald Spengler





# Chasten

If we are not careful, our prosperity can lead us to forget the Lord; the Lord chastens His people to stir them up in remembrance of Him

*Chasten* means to correct someone through punishment or suffering of some kind



“Divine chastening has at least three purposes:

(1) to persuade us to repent,

(2) to refine and sanctify us, and

(3) at times to redirect our course in life to what God knows is a better path”

Elder D. Todd Christofferson

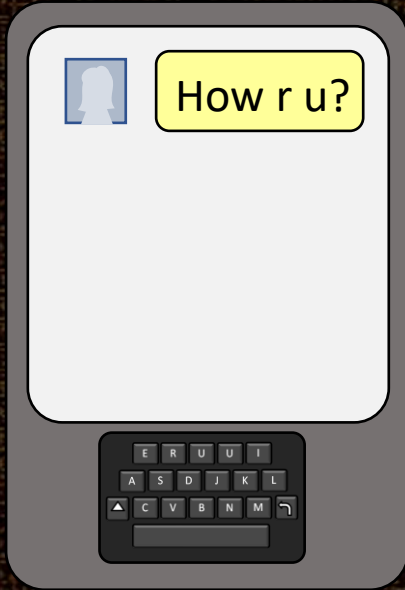
Why do you think people who are prosperous sometimes forget the Lord?

Why do you think people sometimes need to be chastened before they remember the Lord?



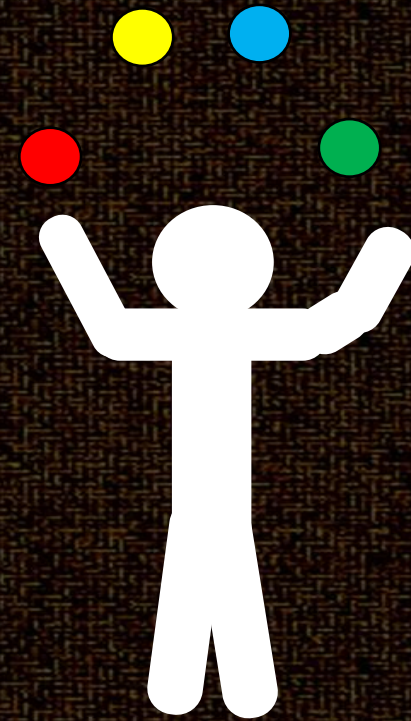


# Quick or Slow

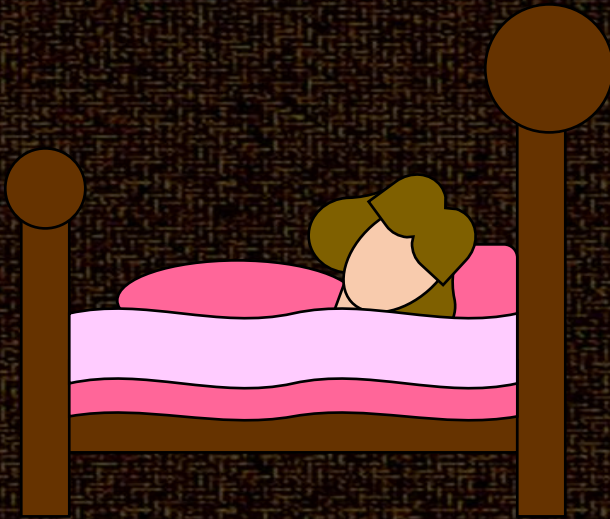


How quick are you to reply a text from a friend?

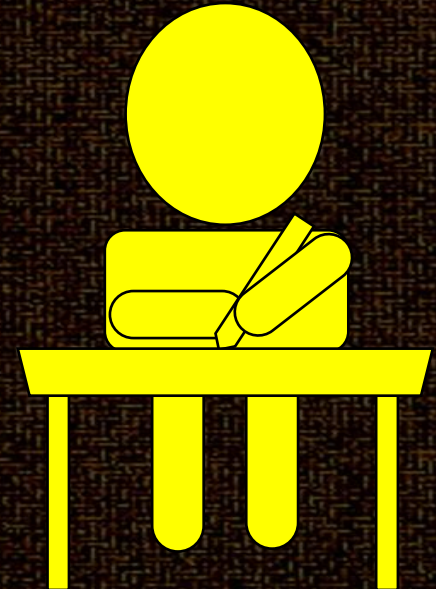
How quick are you at trying something new?



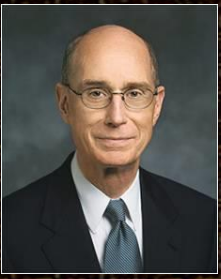
How quick are you at getting up in the morning?



How quick are you at completing an assignment?







# Easy to Forget



“We so easily forget that we came into life with nothing. Whatever we get soon seems our natural right, not a gift. And we forget the giver. Then our gaze shifts from what we have been given to what we don’t have yet. ...”

“Confronting death and difficulty does return memory and therefore gratitude to righteous people as well as the wicked. But there must be another way to remember, one we can choose. ...”  
“You can choose to remember the greatest gift of all.”



Next week, you can go to a meeting where the sacrament is administered. You will hear the words, ‘Always remember him.’ You can pledge to do that, and the Holy Ghost will help you”  
Henry B. Eyring



# Less Than the Dust

Why could such people be considered “less than the dust of the earth”?

Mormon was not teaching that people are of less worth to Heavenly Father than the dust of the earth. Rather, he was drawing attention to the fact that dust always obeys God’s commands, but people often do not.



“For behold, if the knowledge of the goodness of God at this time has awakened you to a sense of your nothingness, and your worthless and fallen state—”

Mosiah 4:5



# The Power of God

Mormon reminds us of the Lord's great power—that the Lord can command physical elements to move or change and that He can cause a sinful person to be cut off from His presence.



“And it shall be a voice as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder, which shall break down the mountains, and the valleys shall not be found.

He shall command the great deep, and it shall be driven back into the north countries, and the islands shall become one land;

And the land of Jerusalem and the land of Zion shall be turned back into their own place, and the earth shall be like as it was in the days before it was divided.”

D&C 133:22-24



“Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:”

Isaiah 40:4



# All Men Might Be Saved

“No person came into this life incapable of gaining salvation”

JFM and RLM



“We believe that through the Atonement of Christ all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.”  
Articles of Faith 1:3



“The contention in heaven was—Jesus said there would be certain souls that would not be saved; and the devil said he could save them all.”

Joseph Smith

*“And I pray the Father in the name of Christ that many of us, if not all, may be saved in his kingdom at that great and last day.”*

*2 Nephi 33:12*



# Everlasting Damnation



“The phrase “everlasting life” describes more than a life that does not end; it is descriptive of the kind and quality of life enjoyed by the obedient and faithful, the life of exalted and glorified beings.

Conversely, “everlasting damnation” is not properly understood to mean an endless stint in hell, but rather is descriptive of the kind of punishment—Gods’ punishment—which will be meted out to the defiant”

JFM and RLM

**Read D&C 19:4-12**







# Let Us Remember Our God

**“...be not faithless, but believing” John 20:27**

**“Let us not personally be diverted from our course**

**Let us seek the Lord to establish his righteousness (D&C 1:16)**

**Let us prove worthy to live with him eternally in the heavens.**

**Let us not be deceived by the learning and sophistries and the wickedness of this world**

**Let us not forget that God lives, that we are his children, that his purpose is to bring us to immortality and eternal life.**

**Let us love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.**

**Let us be constantly aware that we are living in the last gospel dispensation and that Satan has all his forces for war in this final premillennium stage**

**Let us understand that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the literal kingdom of God in the earth”**  
**Excerpts from Marion G. Romney**





## Sources:

Robert Muntzel (Manage Magazine, January 1961) from Student Manual Religion 121-122 pg 369

Elder D. Todd Christofferson (“As Many as I Love, I Rebuke and Chasten,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2011, 98).

Oswald Spengler (Today and Destiny: vital Excerpts from Decline of the West of Oswald Spengler, arranged by Edward F. Dakin.) (Ernest L. Wilkinson, BYU commencement address, 21 Aug. 1970, p. 6.) from Student Manual Religion 121-122 pg. 370

Excerpts from Marion G. Romney, *Look to God and Live* pp. 12-13---from Student Manual Religion 121-122 pg. 371

Joseph Smith McConkie and Robert L. Millet *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon* Vol. 3 pg. 397

Henry B. Eyring, “Remembrance and Gratitude,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1989, 12, 13).

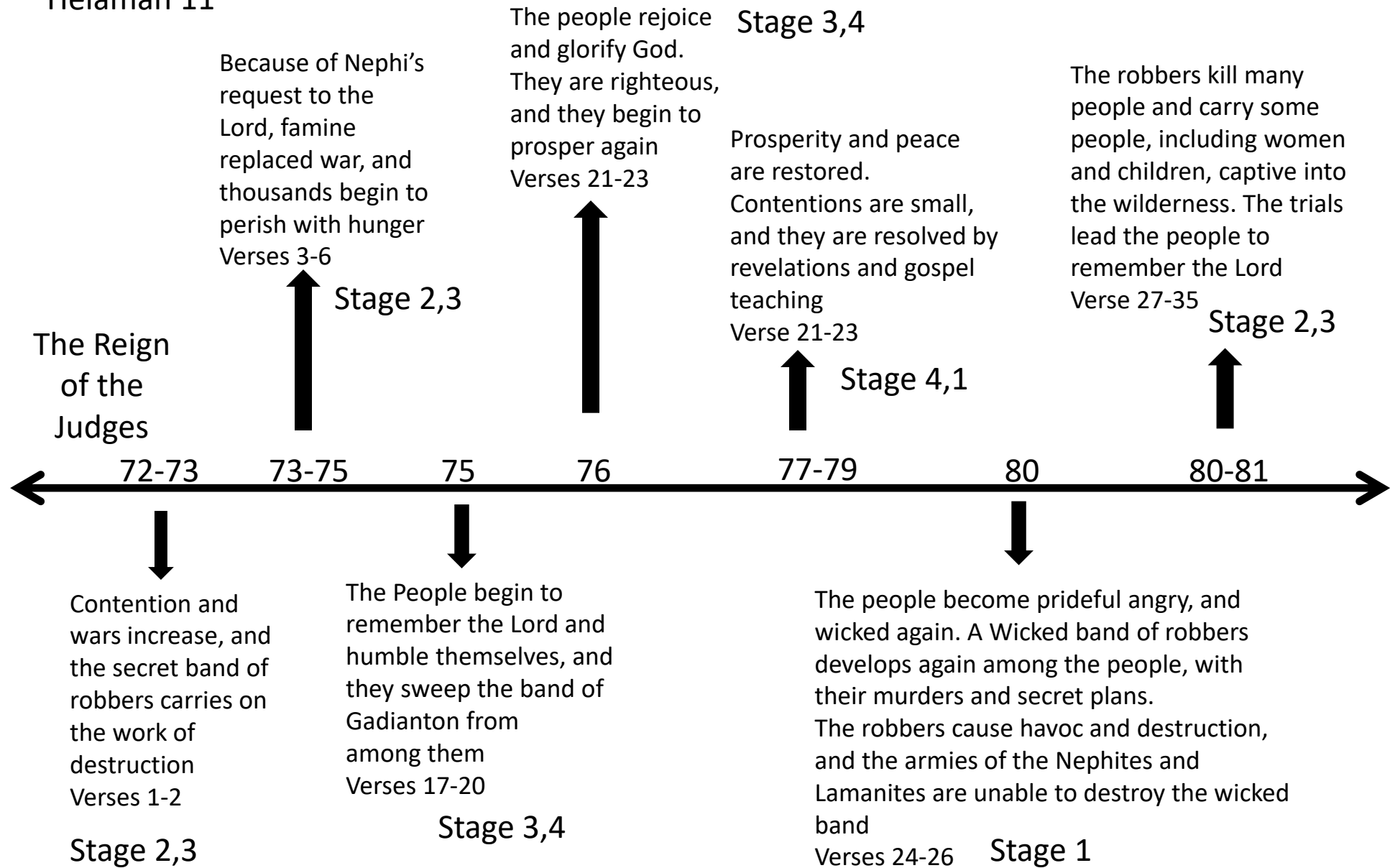
Joseph Smith *Teachings* pg. 357

Ladder of Divine Ascent Sinai 12th century.jpg

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Famine>



# Helaman 11

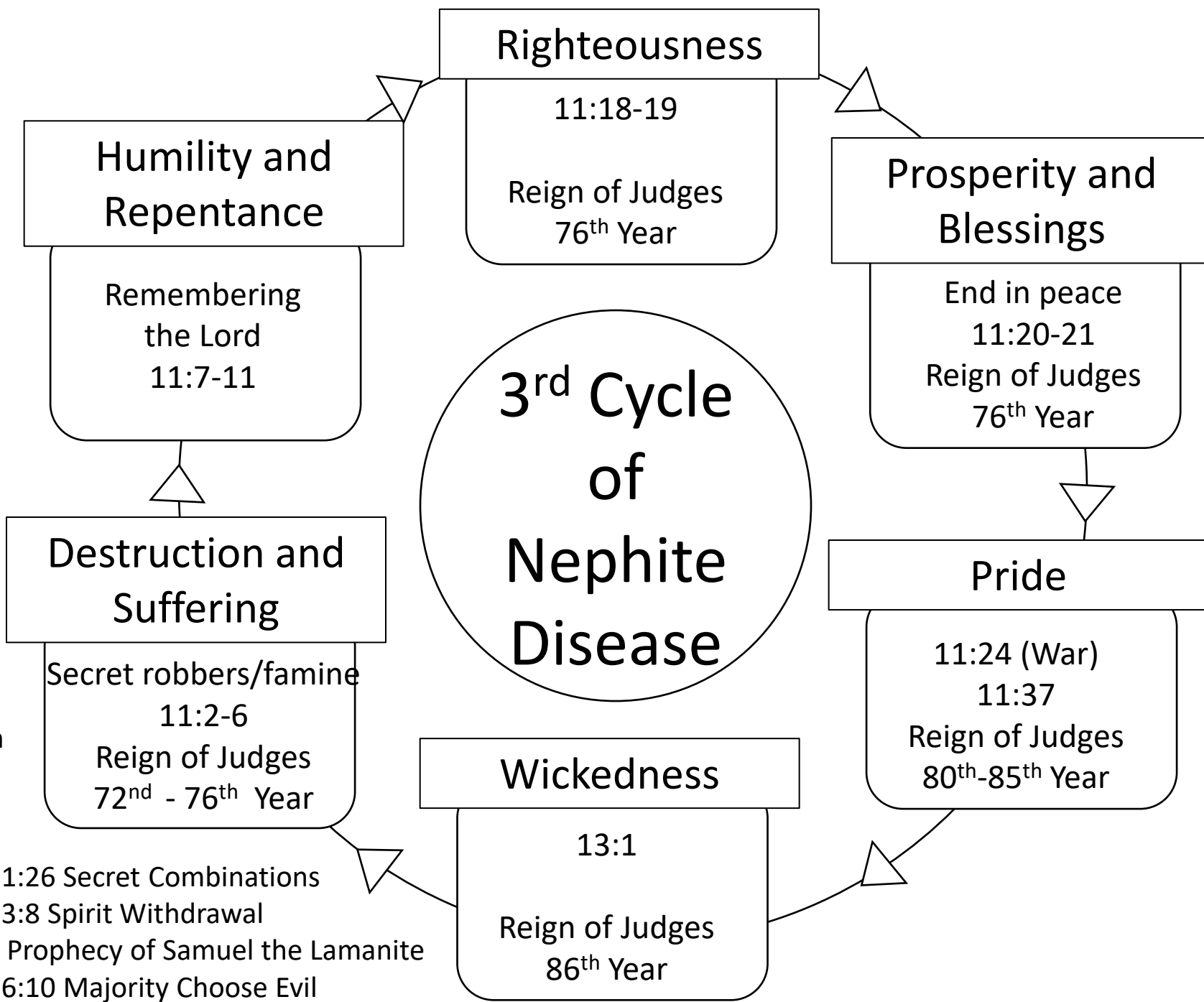


Description of the People's condition



11:6 earth smitten  
11:6 death toll high

11:26 Secret Combinations  
13:8 Spirit Withdrawal  
Prophecy of Samuel the Lamanite  
16:10 Majority Choose Evil



**Humility and Repentance**

Remembering the Lord  
11:7-11

**Destruction and Suffering**

Secret robbers/famine  
11:2-6  
Reign of Judges  
72<sup>nd</sup> - 76<sup>th</sup> Year

**Righteousness**

11:18-19

Reign of Judges  
76<sup>th</sup> Year

**Prosperity and Blessings**

End in peace  
11:20-21  
Reign of Judges  
76<sup>th</sup> Year

**3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle of Nephite Disease**

**Pride**

11:24 (War)  
11:37  
Reign of Judges  
80<sup>th</sup>-85<sup>th</sup> Year

**Wickedness**

13:1

Reign of Judges  
86<sup>th</sup> Year

“In 1787 Edward Gibbon completed his noble work *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Here is the way he accounted for the fall.

1. The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.
2. Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public monies for free bread and circuses for the populace.
3. The mad craze for pleasure, sports becoming every year more and more exciting and brutal.
4. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within the decadence of the people.
5. The decay of religion—faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life, and becoming impotent to warn and guide the people.

Is there a parallel for us in America today? Could the same reasons that destroyed Rome destroy America?...The lessons of history, many of them very sobering, ought to be turned to during this hour of our great achievements, because during the hour of our success is our greatest danger. Even during the hour of our great prosperity, a nation may sow the seeds of its own destruction. History reveals that rarely is a great civilization conquered from without unless it has weakened or destroyed itself within.”

--Ezra Taft Benson (God, Family, Country, pp. 363-364)