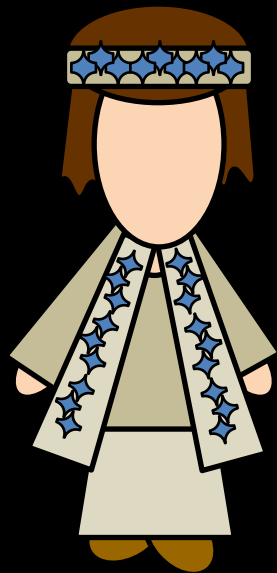
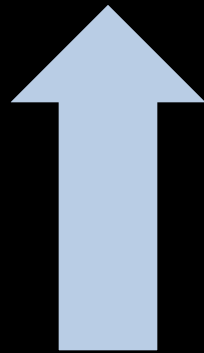


The Loss of a Society

Helaman 6-7



What attitudes and actions can increase in the influence of the Holy Ghost in your life?

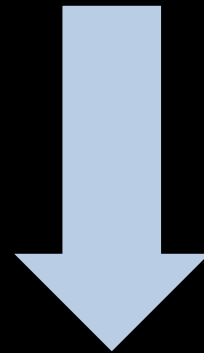


Mormon recorded that the Lord withdrew His Spirit from the Nephites and began to pour out His Spirit on the Lamanites



The Influence of the Spirit of the Holy Ghost

What attitudes and actions can decrease the Holy Ghost's influence in your life?



The Nephites had “become weak, because of their transgression”
“The Spirit of the Lord did no more preserve them”

They were “ripening for destruction”

Peace and Prosperity

62nd – 65th Year of the
Reign of the Judges

Both Lamanites and Nephites
share in peace and gained
much wealth in the land north
and in the land south



Two Chief Judges Murdered

66th Year of the Reign
of the Judges



Cezoram and his son, Cezoram were
murdered in the same year



The Heart

The heart is essential to our physical survival.

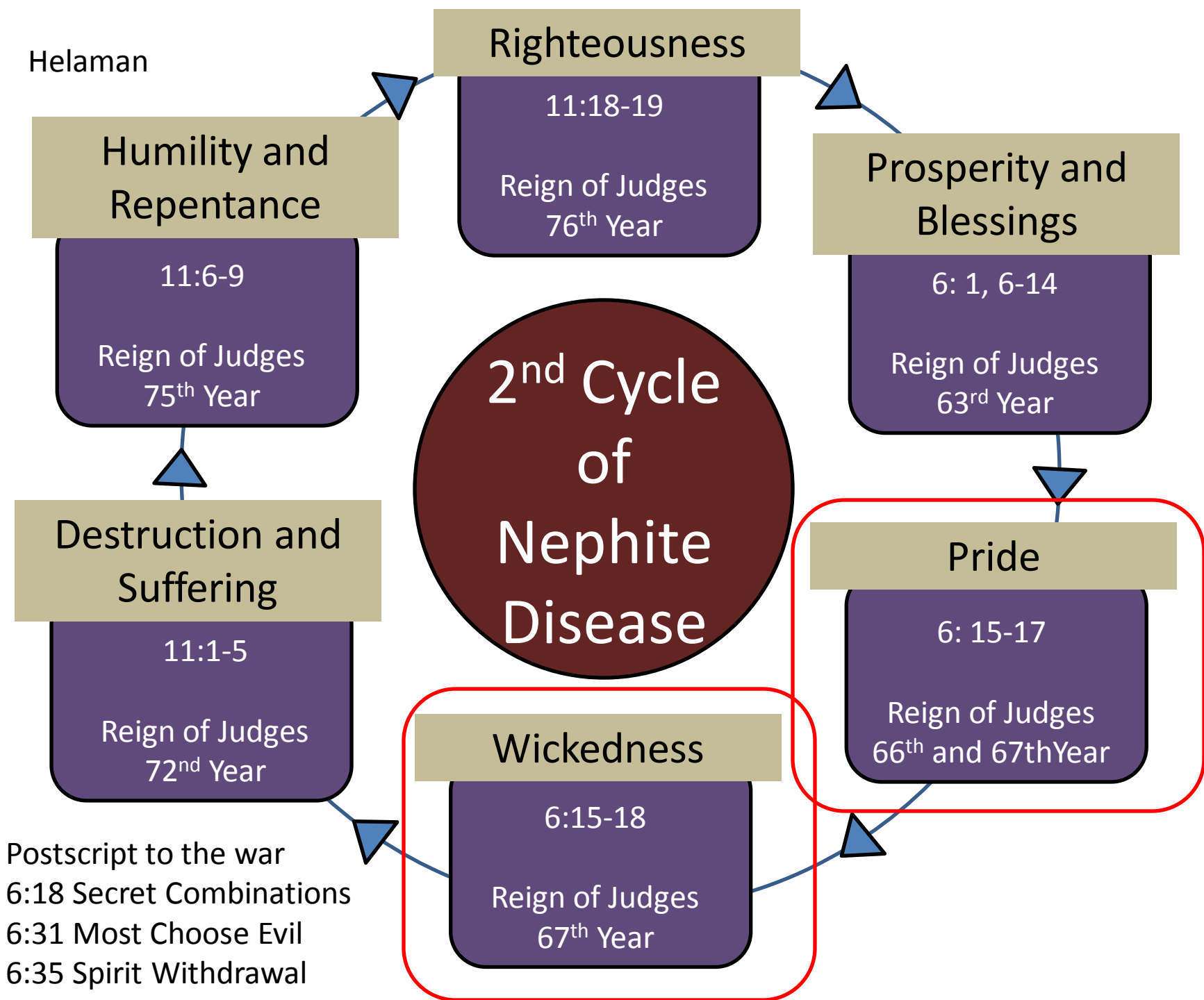
It pumps blood through our bodies so oxygen and other nutrients can reach all our cells.

About the size of a fist, the average adult heart pumps 2,000 gallons (7,570 liters) of blood daily.

It beats about 70 times per minute, or 100,000 beats per day.



Knowing the vital nature of your physical heart, what would you be willing to do to keep it healthy?



To Enable Satan

Helaman 6:17



Hearts set on riches of the world,
seek to get gain

Helaman 6:21



Satan stirs up the heart and Nephite
unite with band of robbers

Helaman 6:26



The heart of Gadianton...same who
enticed our first parents

Helaman 6:28-31



Put into their hearts to build a tower
to get to heaven---biblical Tower of
Babel...Carry on in darkness...to get a
hold of the hearts of the children of
men



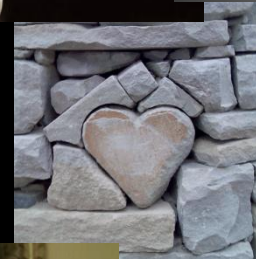
Satan Tries to Plant Temptation in Our Hearts

“There can be counterfeit revelations, promptings from the devil, temptations!

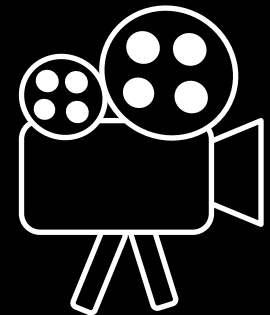
As long as you live, in one way or another the adversary will try to lead you astray. ...

“If ever you receive a prompting to do something that makes you *feel* uneasy, something you know in your *mind* to be wrong and contrary to the principles of righteousness, do not respond to it!”

President Boyd K. Packer



Insert Video:
Hold upon Your Hearts (1:24)



The Hearts of Two Groups

The Plot with Cain

The story of the origin and rise of secret combinations on earth was once contained in the record of Old Testament times. ...And the manner in which Cain plotted with Satan to become Master Mahan, master of the great secret, that he could murder and get gain—these matters were deleted from the Bible records before that book was compiled.

These were known among the Nephites through that scriptural record we know as the brass plates...(See Moses 5)

JFM and RLM



“Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

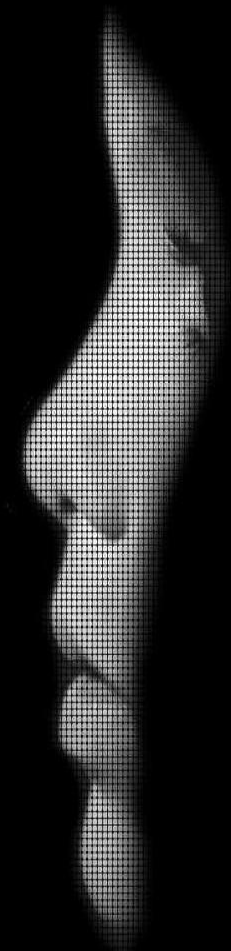
John 8:44

The Nephites lost
the Spirit
because ...

The Lord poured
out His Spirit on
the Lamanites
because ...

Secret Combinations

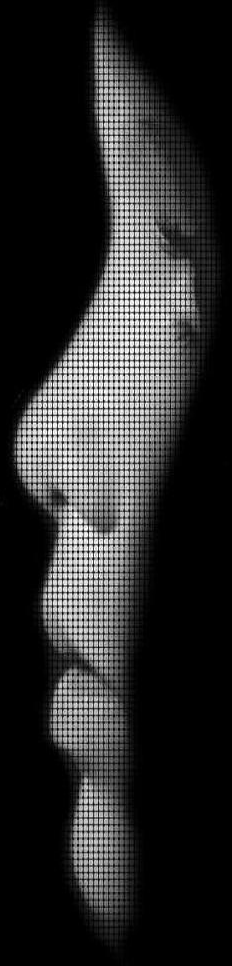
The devil is the inspiration and source of all such organizations.
Mormon clearly points out who is the grand conspirator, the real organizer of all such organizations.



Secret Combinations

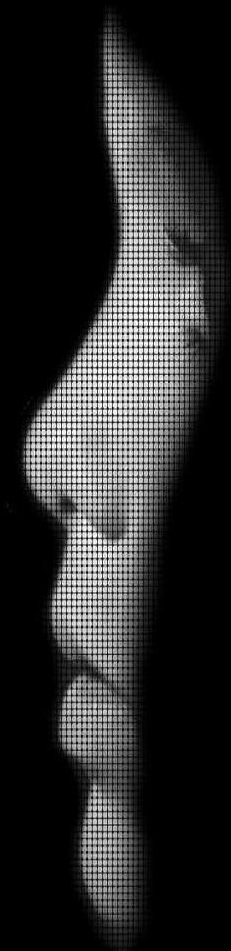
Such organizations are viewed by the Lord as constituting wickedness “above all the wickedness of the whole earth.” (3 Nephi 9:9)

While individuals may rob, steal, plunder, and murder, the truly vast crimes of mankind involved plunder and killing on a national or an international scale involving millions of lives.



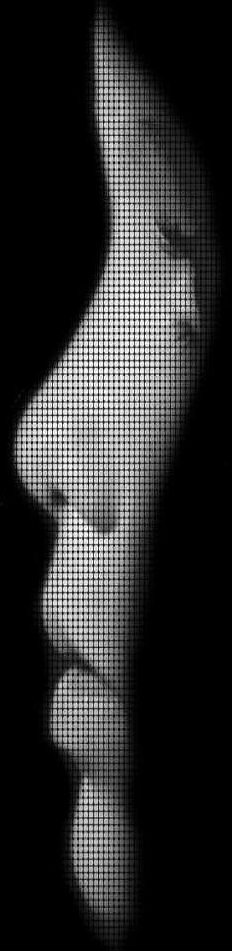
Secret Combinations

Such combinations flourish and thrive when the “more part”
(Helaman 6;21) of the people are wicked and seek to benefit
from the spoils of such wickedness



Secret Combinations

Secrecy is one of the basic operating tenets (code of belief) of such organizations

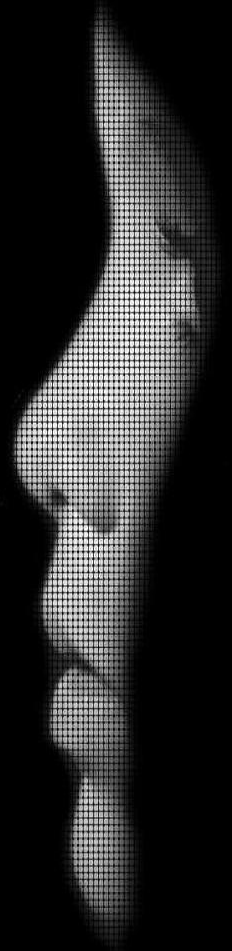


Secret Combinations

Joined with the idea of secrecy is the idea of covenant making. An oath of loyalty to the organization is made which involves a vow to maintain the secret of the conspiracy.

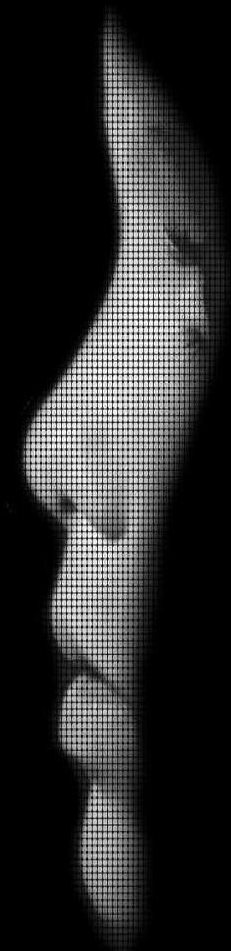
After a murder of the chief judge, Kishkumen “went unto those that sent him, and they all entered into a covenant, yea, swearing by their everlasting Maker, that they would tell no man.”

(Helaman 1:11)



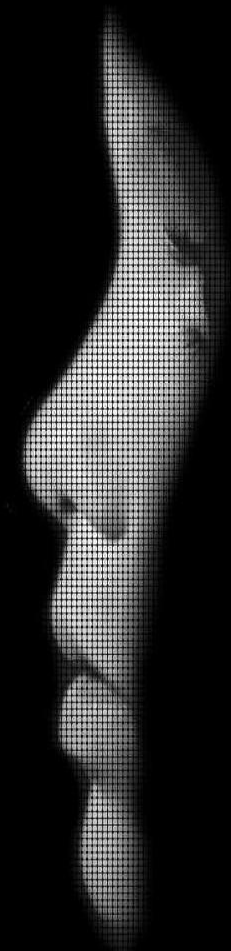
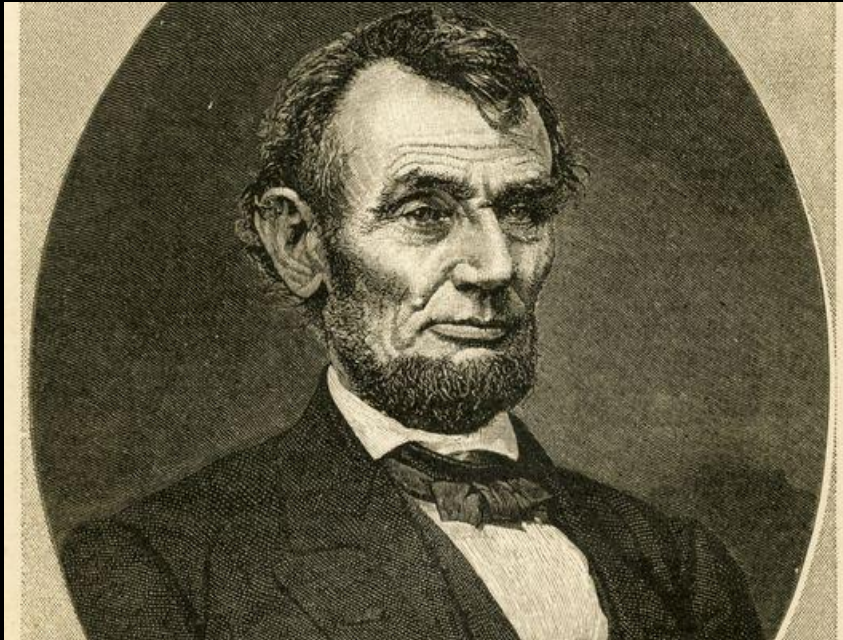
Secret Combinations

The objectives of such secret combinations are power or gain or both. Since the government is a source of great power, it is not surprising that often the target of their action is to take over the reins of government.



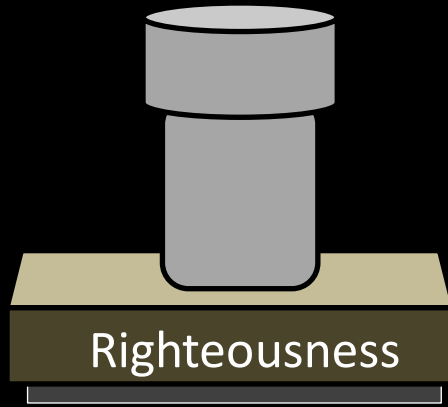
Secret Combinations

These combinations use immorality, money, and violence to achieve their ends. Assassinations of government leaders to bring their own people to power is the common tale of the Book of Mormon



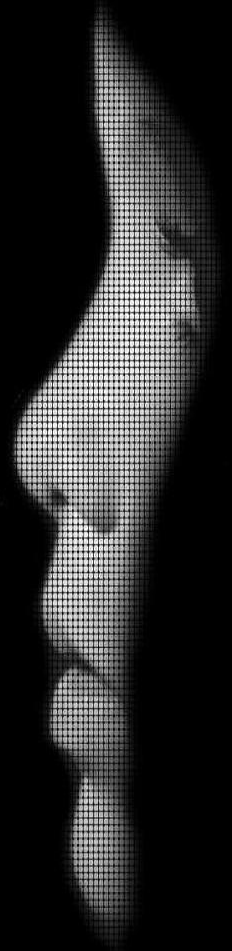
Secret Combinations

The only way to stamp out these organizations, once they are established and begin to flourish, is through conversion of the people to righteousness

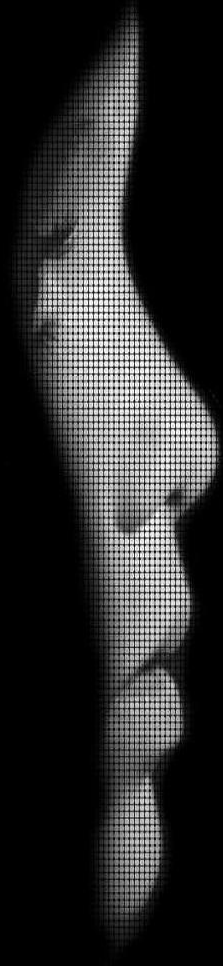
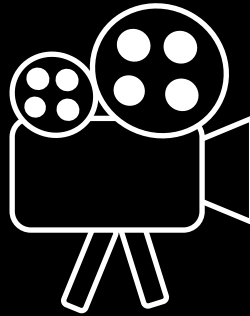


“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin *is* a reproach to any people.”

Proverbs 14:34

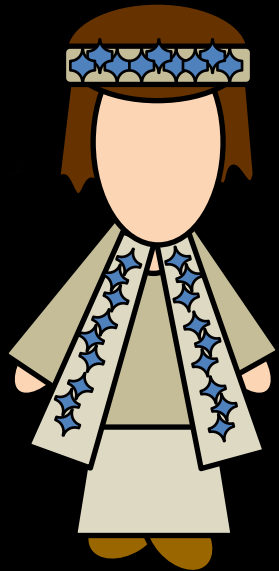


Insert Video:
Secret Combinations (0:46)



Wickedness of the People

Helaman 7:1
Who returned
from the land
northward?



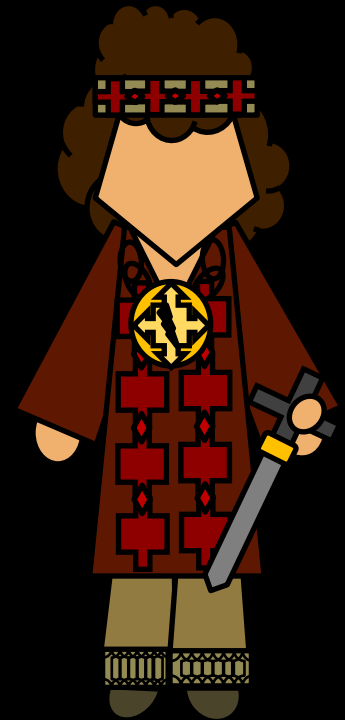
Helaman 7:2
What did
Nephi teach
the people in
the land
northwards?



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

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

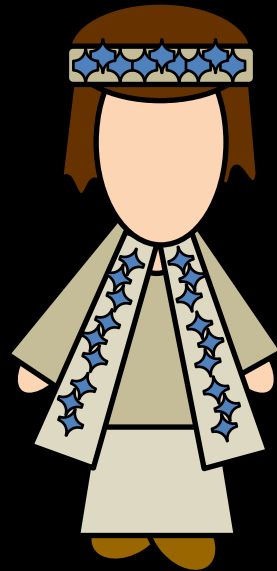
You will not have the strength to withstand the enemy

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.”

What Have We Learned?

Who is narrating this account?

Who is speaking?

Who is receiving the message?

What is happening in this account?

What has happened *before* this event?

What is the *message* of this story?

What did the writer intend for us to *learn* from this story? (Doctrine or Principle)

Sources:

Suggested Hymn 172 *In Humility, Our Savior*— 2nd verse

Book of Mormon Student Manual Religion 121-122 pg. 359-360

President Boyd K. Packer (“Personal Revelation: The Gift, the Test, and the Promise,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 61)

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*

The Nephite Cycle—Ezra Taft Benson (*God, Family, Country* pg 363-364)

Helaman

Righteousness

11:18-19
Reign of Judges
76th Year

Prosperity and Blessings

6: 1, 6-14
Reign of Judges
63rd Year

2nd Cycle
of
Nephite
Disease

Humility and Repentance

11:6-9
Reign of Judges
75th Year

Pride

6: 15-17
Reign of Judges
66th and 67thYear

Destruction and Suffering

11:1-5
Reign of Judges
72nd Year

Wickedness

6:15-18
Reign of Judges
67th Year

Postscript to the war
6:18 Secret Combinations
6:31 Most Choose Evil
6:35 Spirit Withdrawal

