



**Come Follow Me 2020**  
**1 NEPHI 11-15**

## **LEHI'S VISION**

- **Dark and dreary wilderness/waste**
- **Man in white robe leading the way**
- **Travels in darkness**
- **Prays to God for mercy**



## **NEPHI'S VISION**

- **High mountain**
- **Spirit of the Lord speaks and asks questions**
- **Positive tone**

**“a literary masterpiece and a doctrinal gem.”**

*Robert L. Millet, “Another Testament of Jesus Christ,” in The Book of Mormon: First Nephi, the Doctrinal Foundation, ed. Monte S. Nyman and Charles D. Tate Jr. (Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 1988), 163.*

**ACT 1, Christ's earthly ministry  
(1 Nephi 11)**

**ACT 2, the Nephites and Lamanites in the land of promise  
(1 Nephi 12)**

**ACT 3, the Gentiles and house of Israel in America  
(1 Nephi 13)**

**ACT 4, the period immediately preceding Christ's Second Coming  
(1 Nephi 14)**

*Amy Easton-Flake, "Lehi's Dream as a Template for Understanding Each Act of Nephi's Vision," in The Things Which My Father Saw: Approaches to Lehi's Dream and Nephi's Vision (2011 Sperry Symposium), ed. Daniel L. Belnap, Gaye Strathearn, and Stanley A. Johnson (Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2011), 179–98.*



# 1 Nephi 11:16, 26. The Condescension of God

*Condescension means a voluntary descent from rank or dignity.*

“Here was Jesus—a member of the Godhead, the Firstborn of the Father, the Creator, Jehovah of the Old Testament—now leaving His divine and holy station; divesting Himself of all that glory and majesty and entering the body of a tiny infant; helpless, completely dependent on His mother and earthly father. That He should not come to the finest of earthly palaces and be ... showered with jewels but should come to a lowly stable is astonishing. Little wonder that the angel should say to Nephi, ‘Behold the condescension of God!’”

*(Elder Gerald N. Lund, “Jesus Christ, Key to the Plan of Salvation.” [1991], 16).*

Lord, and he spake unto me as a man speaketh with another.

12 And it came to pass that he said unto me: Look! And I looked and I looked upon him, and I saw that he had gone from before me.

13 And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the city of Jerusalem, and also other cities; and I beheld the city of Nazareth in the city of <sup>a</sup>Nazareth, <sup>b</sup>virgin, and she was fair and white.

14 And it came to pass that I saw the <sup>a</sup>heavens open; and an angel came down and stood before me; and he said unto me: Nephi, what beholdest thou?

15 And I said unto him: A virgin, most beautiful and fair above all

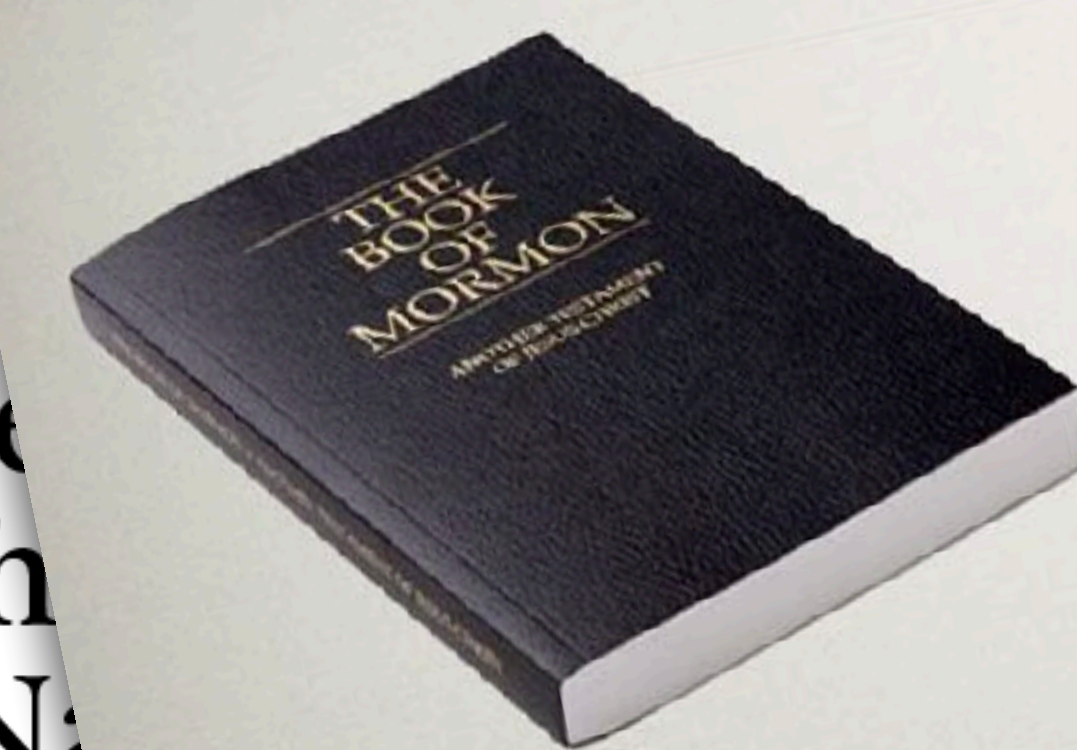
the son of the  
Knowest

HOW SHOULD WE UNDERSTAND  
THE SCRIPTURES?



Alma 3:6

And the skins of the Lamanites were dark, according to the mark which was set upon their fathers, which was a curse upon them because of their transgression.



**BLACK & WHITE**

and after he had said these words, he said unto me: Look and I looked, and I beheld the Son of God going forth among the children of men; and I saw many fall on their faces and worship him.

25 And it came to pass that the Lord said unto me: Behold, I have



pres·ent·ism

*/ˈprezənˌtɪzəm/*

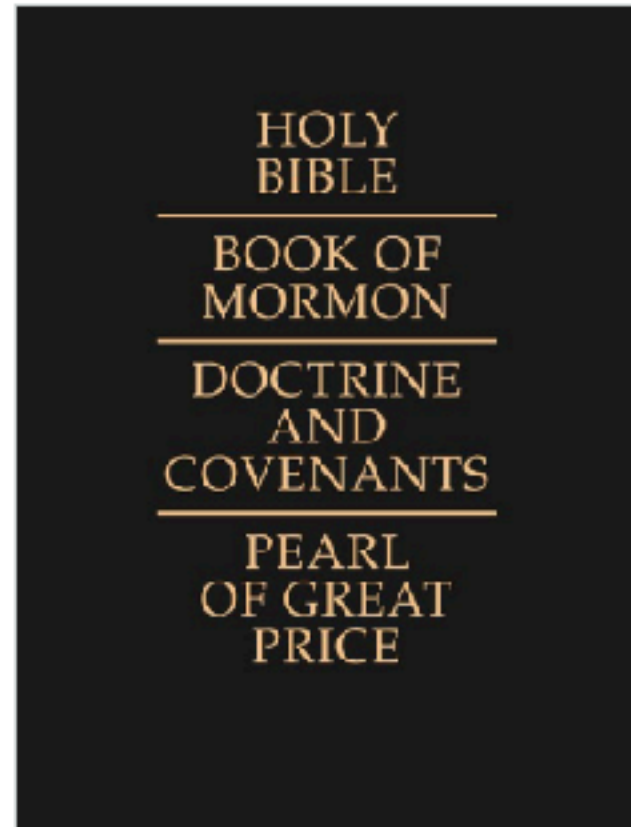
*noun*

uncritical adherence to present-day attitudes, especially the tendency to interpret past events in terms of modern values and concepts.

**Sorry for butchering the quote**

**“The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.”**

*L. P. Hartley, “The Go-Between,” 1953*



Scriptures



Come, Follow Me



General Conference



Notes



Music



Magazines



Seminaries and Institutes



Videos



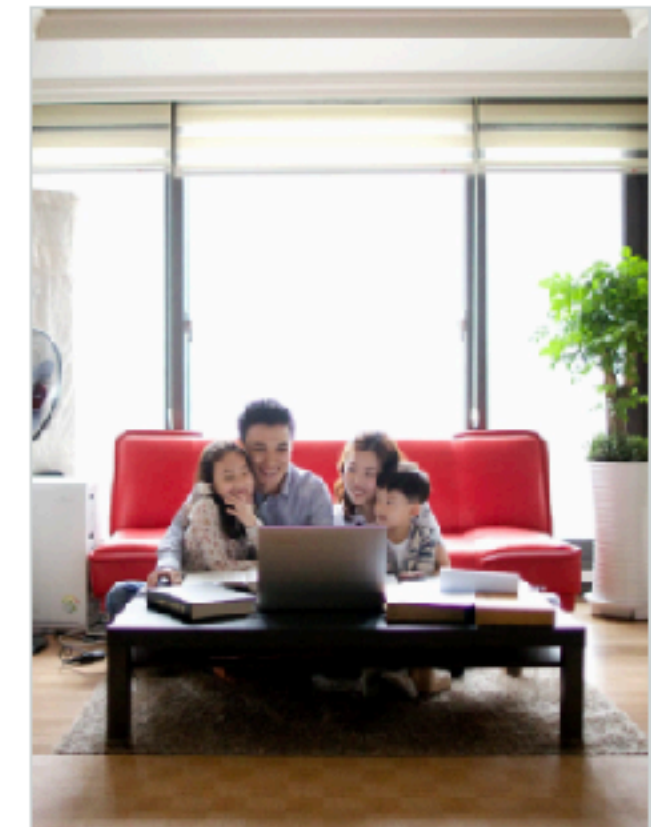
Topics



Jesus Christ



Missionary



Individuals and Families





Seminary



Institute



Worldwide  
Devotionals



Teacher Training

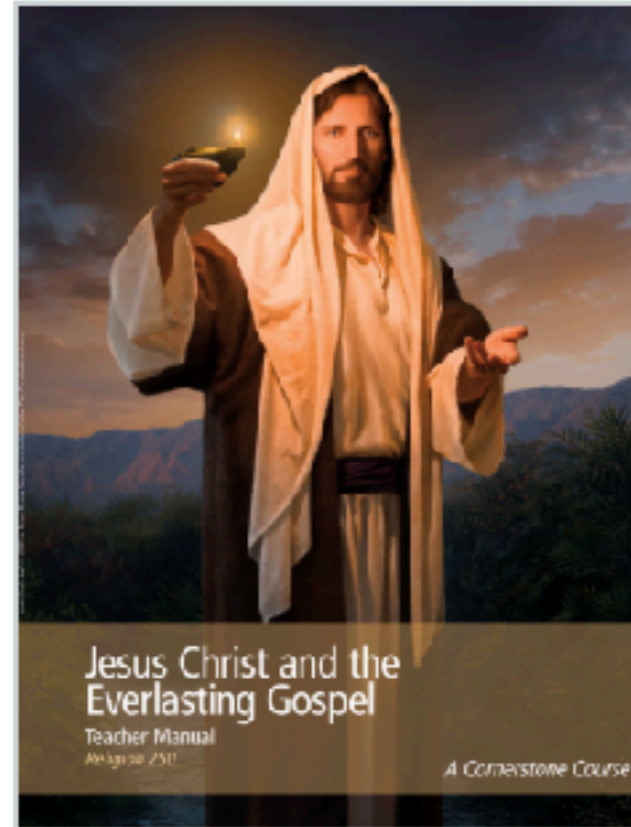


Talks for Teachers

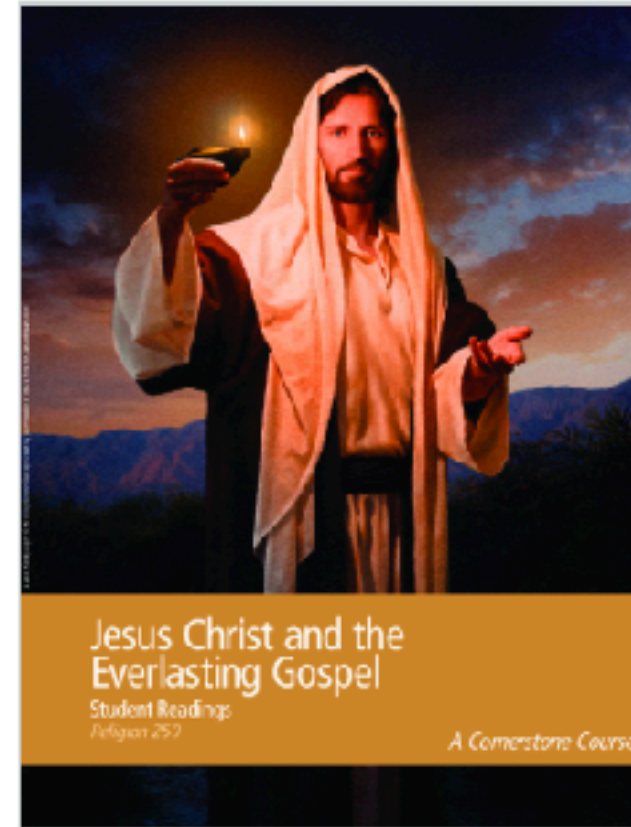


History

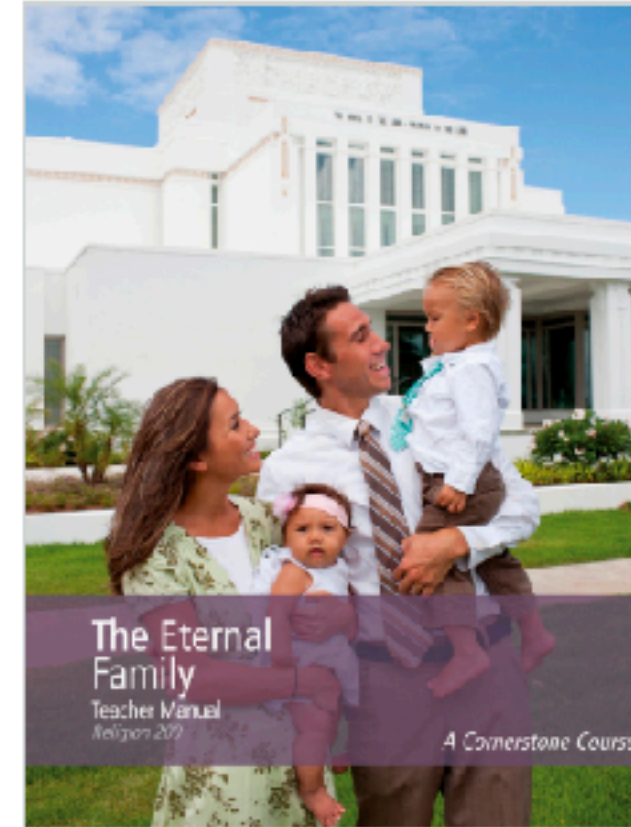




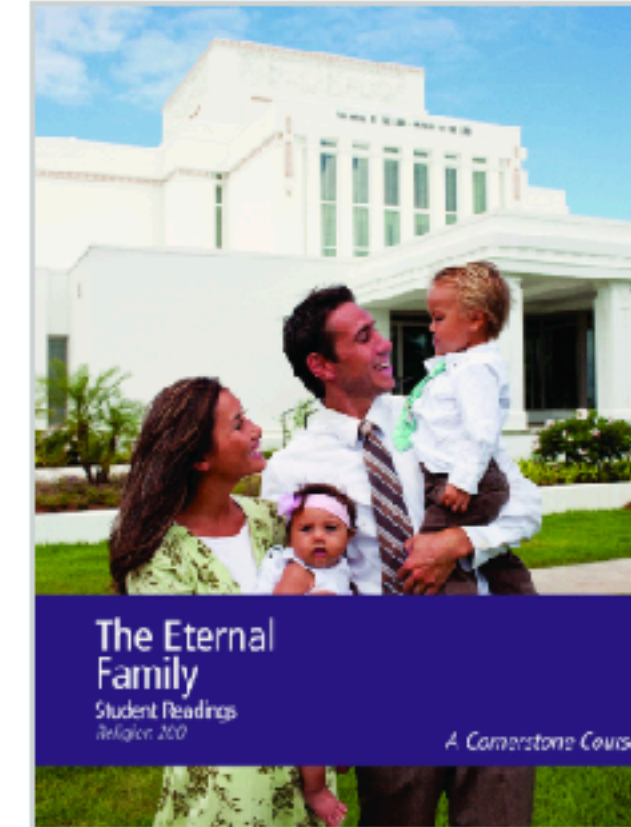
Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel Teacher Manual



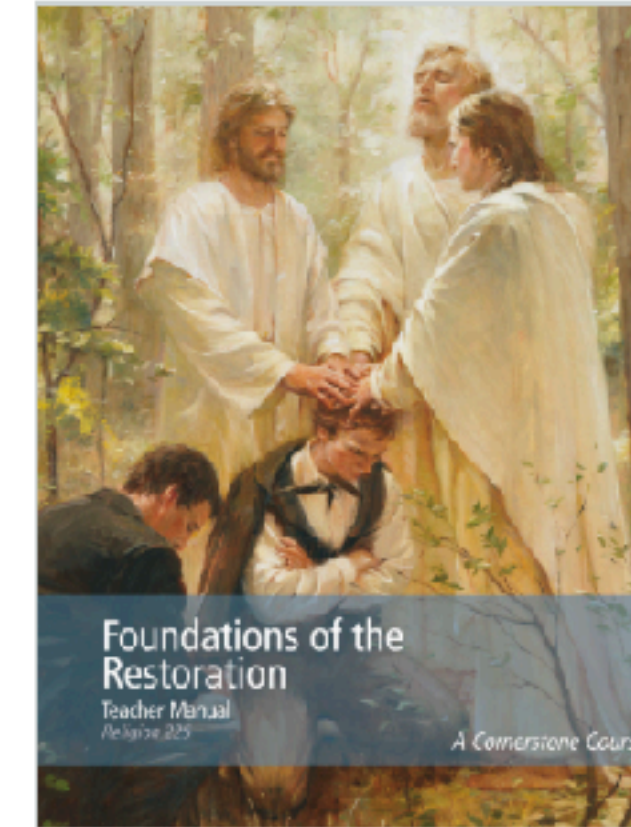
Jesus Christ and the Everlasting Gospel Student Readings



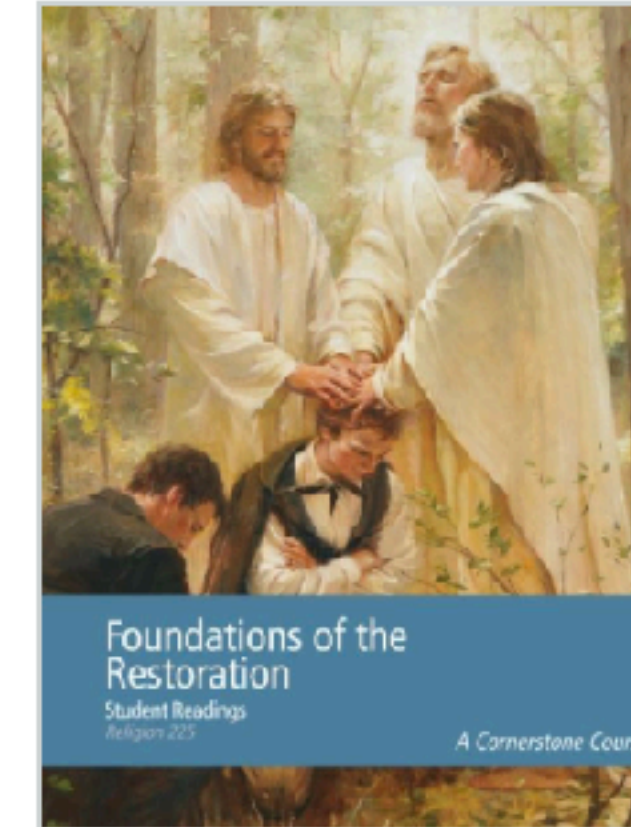
The Eternal Family Teacher Manual



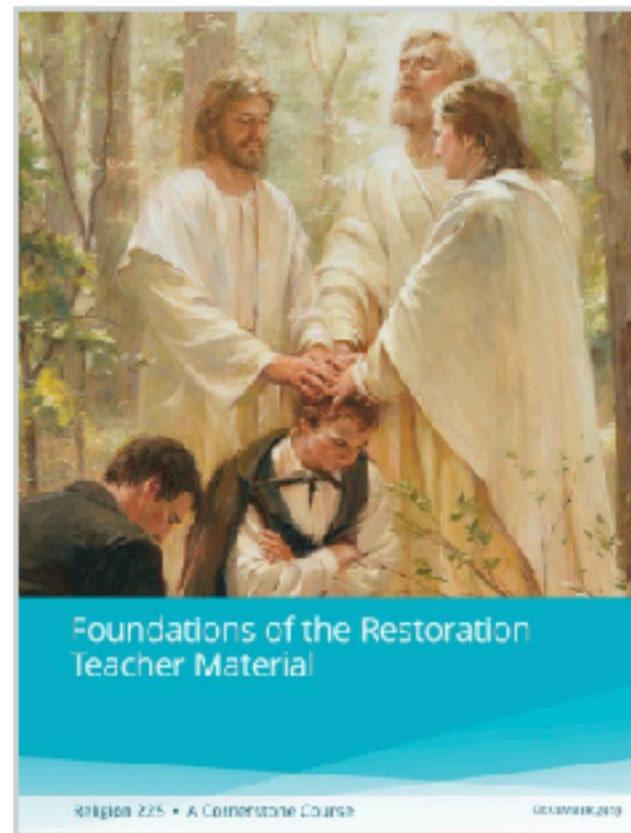
The Eternal Family Student Readings



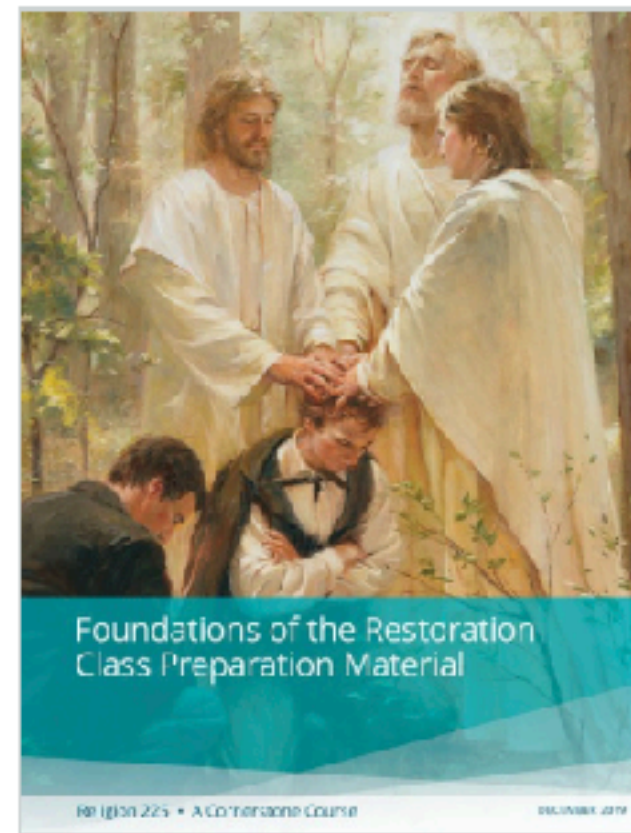
Foundations of the Restoration Teacher Manual



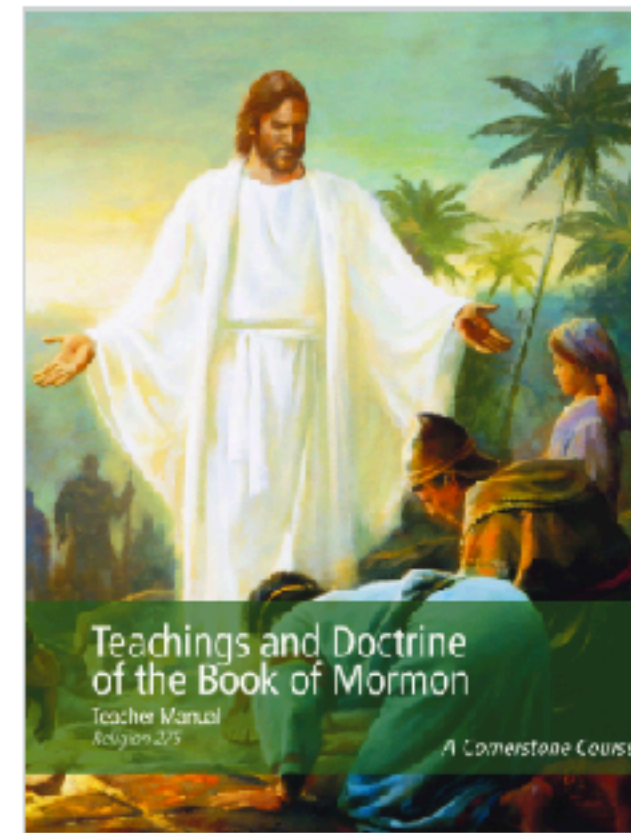
Foundations of the Restoration Student Readings



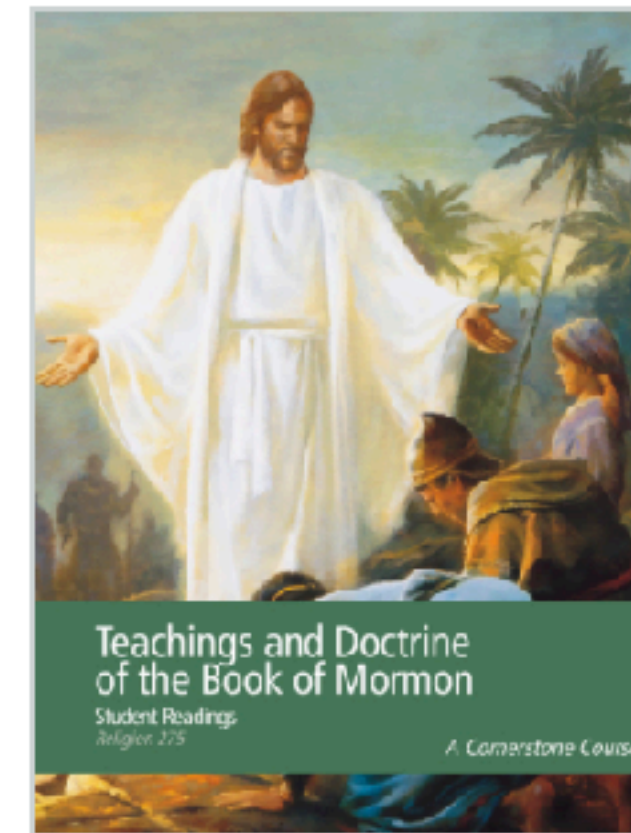
Foundations of the Restoration Teacher Material (Religion 225)



Foundations of the Restoration Class Preparation Material (Religion 225)



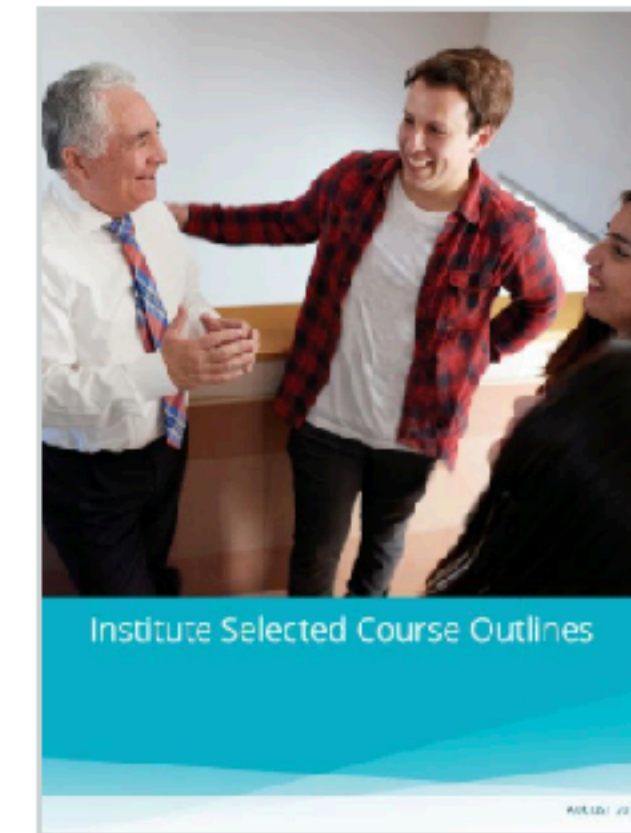
Teachings and Doctrine of the Book of Mormon Teacher Manual



Teachings and Doctrine of the Book of Mormon Student Readings



Institute Student Readings



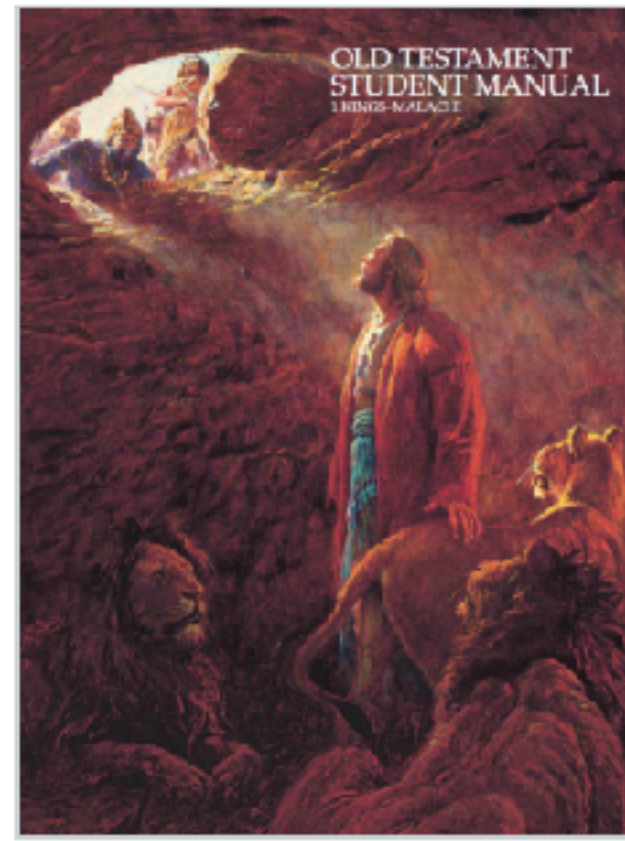
Institute Selected Course Outlines

Material (Religion 225)



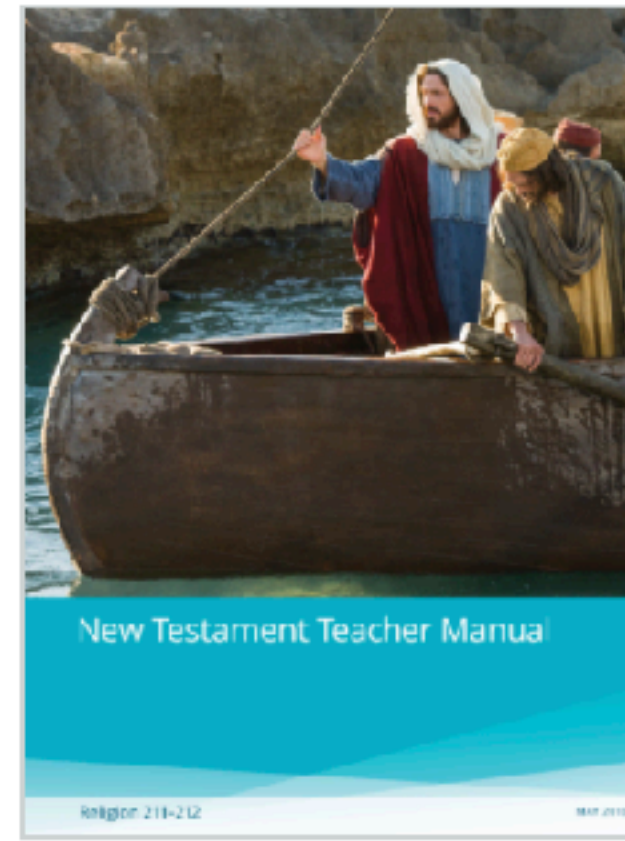
Old Testament Student Manual  
Genesis-2 Samuel

Preparation Material (Religion 225)



Old Testament Student Manual Kings-  
Malachi

of Mormon Teacher Manual

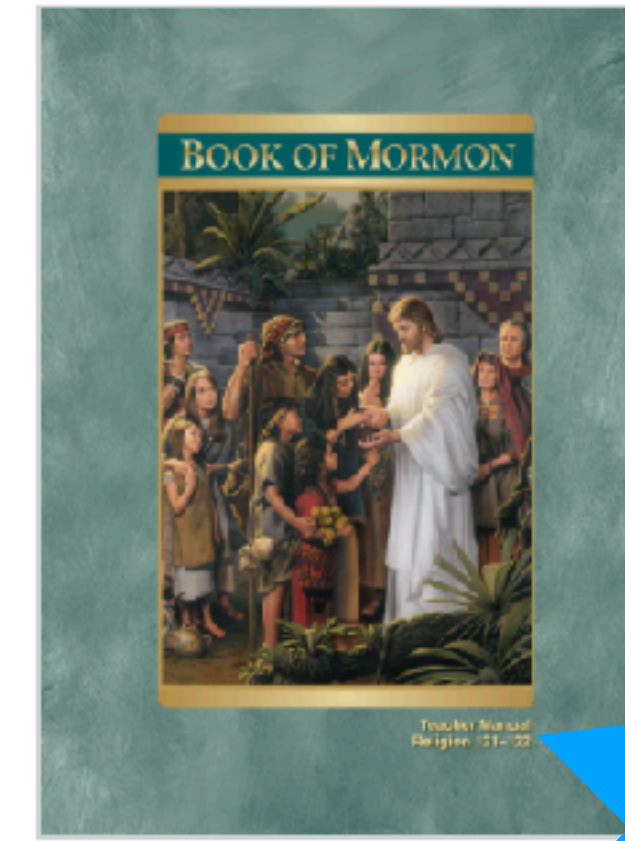


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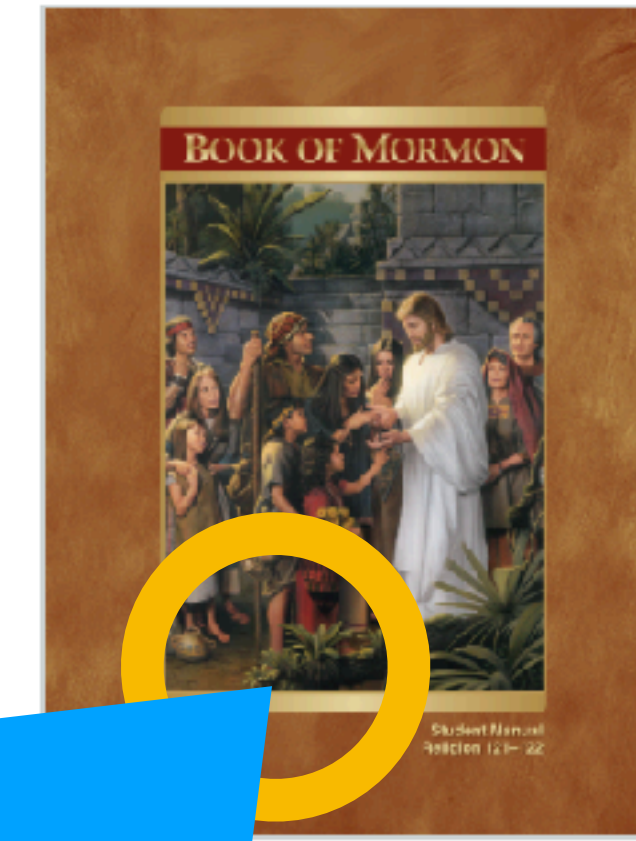
of Mormon Student Readings



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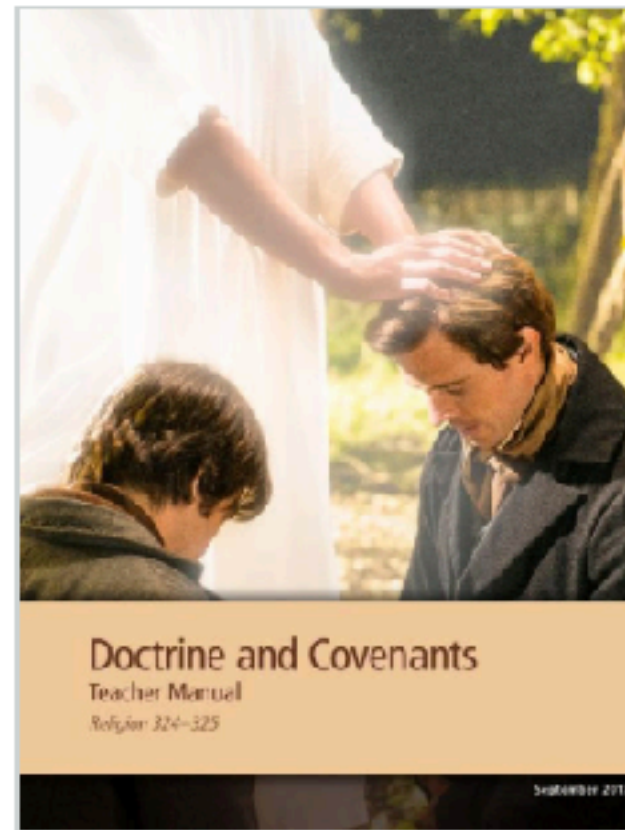
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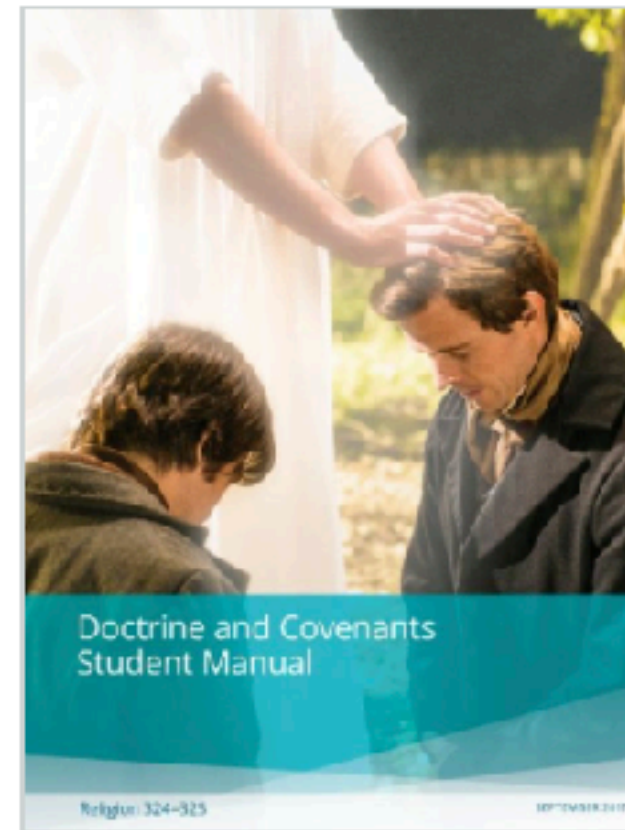
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Doctrine and Covenants Instructor's Guide: Religion 324-325



Doctrine and Covenants Teacher Manual



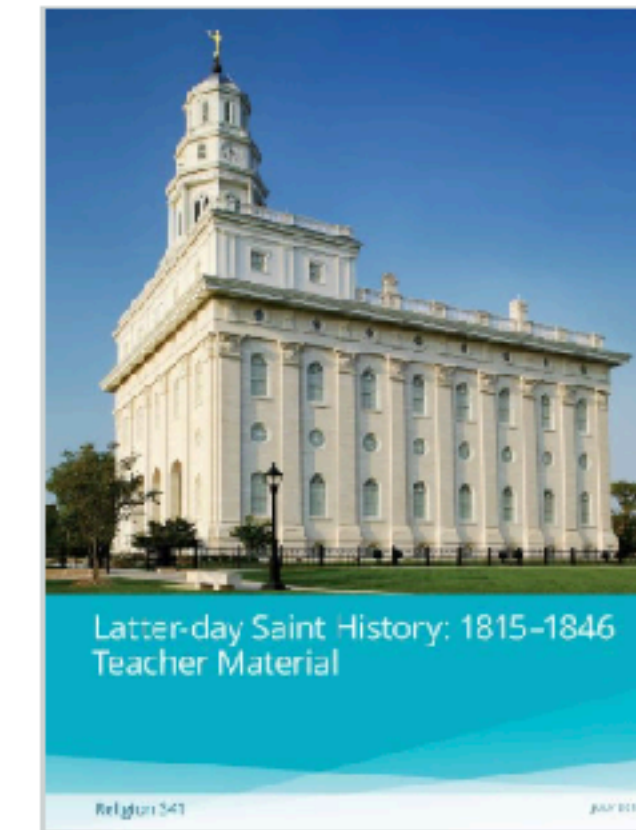
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The Pearl of Great Price: Teacher Manual



The Pearl of Great Price Student Manual



Latter-day Saint History: 1815-1846 Teacher Material

# 1 Nephi 12–15

## Introduction

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, spoke of Heavenly Father’s desire to give us the righteous desires of our hearts: “No message appears in scripture more times, in more ways than ‘Ask, and ye shall receive’” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1991, 26; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1991, 21). Nephi applied the invitation to ask for the “things that [his] father had seen, and believing that the Lord was able to make them known” (1 Nephi 11:1). Nephi’s

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again, saying: Thus shall be the destruction of all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, that shall fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

## CHAPTER 12

*Nephi sees in vision the land of promise; the righteousness, iniquity, and downfall of its inhabitants; the coming of the Lamb of God among them; how the Twelve Disciples and the Twelve Apostles will judge Israel; and the loathsome and filthy state of those who dwindle in unbelief. About 600–592 B.C.*

AND it came to pass that the angel said unto me: Look, and behold thy seed, and also the seed of thy brethren. And I looked and beheld the <sup>a</sup>land of promise; and I beheld

pieces; and I saw the plains of the earth, that they were <sup>c</sup>broken up; and I saw many cities that they were <sup>d</sup>sunk; and I saw many that they were burned with fire; and I saw many that did tumble to the earth, because of the quaking thereof.

5 And it came to pass after I saw these things, I saw the <sup>a</sup>vapor of darkness, that it passed from off the face of the earth; and behold, I saw multitudes who had not fallen because of the great and terrible judgments of the Lord.

6 And I saw the heavens open, and the <sup>a</sup>Lamb of God descending out of heaven; and he came down and <sup>b</sup>showed himself unto them.

7 And I also saw and bear record that the Holy Ghost fell upon <sup>a</sup>twelve others; and they were ordained of

God, and chosen.

8 And the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold the twelve disciples of the Lamb, who are chosen to minister unto thy seed.

9 And he said unto me: Thou rememberest the <sup>a</sup>twelve apostles of the Lamb? Behold they are they who shall <sup>b</sup>judge the twelve tribes of Israel; wherefore, the twelve ministers of thy seed shall be judged of them; for ye are of the house of Israel.

10 And these <sup>a</sup>twelve ministers whom thou beholdest shall judge thy seed. And, behold, they are righteous forever; for because of their faith in the Lamb of God their <sup>b</sup>garments are made white in his blood.

11 And the angel said unto me: Look! And I looked, and beheld <sup>a</sup>three generations pass away in

righteousness; and their garments were white even like unto the Lamb of God. And the angel said unto me: These are made white in the blood of the Lamb, because of their faith in him.

12 And I, Nephi, also saw many of the <sup>a</sup>fourth generation who passed away in righteousness.

13 And it came to pass that I saw the multitudes of the earth gathered together.

14 And the angel said unto me: Behold thy seed, and also the seed of thy brethren.

15 And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the people of my seed gathered together in multitudes <sup>a</sup>against the seed of my brethren; and they were gathered together to battle.

16 And the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold the fountain of

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<sup>b</sup> Matt. 19:28;  
D&C 29:12



**“There is something that goes a little further than we think about sometimes; and that is, while we profess to be followers of the Lord, while we profess to have received the Gospel and to be governed by it, a profession will amount to nothing unless we have washed our robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is not enough for us to be connected with the Zion of God, for the Zion of God must consist of men that are pure in heart and pure in life and spotless before God, at least that is what we have got to arrive at. We are not there yet, but we must get there before we shall be prepared to inherit glory and exaltation; therefore a form of godliness will amount to but little with any of us. ...**





**It is not enough for us to embrace the Gospel ... and be associated with the people of God, attend our meetings and partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's supper, and endeavor to move along without much blame of any kind attached to us; for notwithstanding all this, if our hearts are not right, if we are not pure in heart before God, if we have not pure hearts and pure consciences, fearing God and keeping His commandments, we shall not, unless we repent, participate in these blessings about which I have spoken, and of which the Prophets bear testimony”**

*(Teachings of Presidents of the Church: John Taylor [2001], 114–15).*

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multitudes of people, yea, even as it were in number as many as the <sup>b</sup>sand of the sea.

2 And it came to pass that I beheld multitudes gathered together to battle, one against the other; and I beheld <sup>a</sup>wars, and rumors of wars, and great slaughters with the sword among my people.

3 And it came to pass that I beheld many generations pass away, after the manner of wars and contentions in the land; and I beheld many cities, yea, even that I did not number them.

4 And it came to pass that I saw a <sup>a</sup>mist of <sup>b</sup>darkness on the face of the land of promise; and I saw lightnings, and I heard thunderings, and earthquakes, and all manner of tumultuous noises; and I saw the earth and the rocks, that they rent; and I saw mountains tumbling into

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and beheld the people of my seed gathered together in multitudes <sup>a</sup>against the seed of my brethren; and they were gathered together to battle.

16 And the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold the fountain of <sup>a</sup>filthy water which thy father saw; yea, even the <sup>b</sup>river of which he spake; and the depths thereof are the depths of <sup>c</sup>hell.

17 And the <sup>a</sup>mists of darkness are the temptations of the devil, which <sup>b</sup>blindeth the eyes, and hardeneth the hearts of the children of men, and leadeth them away into <sup>c</sup>broad roads, that they perish and are lost.

18 And the large and spacious <sup>a</sup>building, which thy father saw, is vain <sup>b</sup>imagination and the <sup>c</sup>pride of the children of men. And a great and a terrible <sup>d</sup>gulf divideth them; yea, even the word of the <sup>e</sup>justice of the Eternal God, and the Messiah who is the Lamb of God, of whom

of the land.

21 And I saw them gathered together in multitudes; and I saw <sup>a</sup>wars and rumors of wars among them; and in wars and rumors of wars I saw <sup>b</sup>many generations pass away.

22 And the angel said unto me: Behold these shall <sup>a</sup>dwindle in unbelief.

23 And it came to pass that I beheld, after they had dwindled in unbelief they became a <sup>a</sup>dark, and loathsome, and a <sup>b</sup>filthy people, full of <sup>c</sup>idleness and all manner of abominations.

## CHAPTER 13

*Nephi sees in vision the church of the devil set up among the Gentiles, the discovery and colonizing of America, the loss of many plain and precious parts of the Bible, the resultant state of gentile apostasy, the restoration of the gospel, the coming forth of latter-*

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**"Because no religious denomination—Christian or non-Christian—has ever had “dominion” over all nations of the earth or the potential to bring all the saints of God down into “captivity,” this great and abominable church must be something far more pervasive and widespread than a single “church,” as we understand that term today. It must be any philosophy or organization that opposes belief in God. And the “captivity” into which this “church” seeks to bring the saints will not be so much physical confinement as the captivity of false ideas.**

**Nephi was told by revelation that there were only “two churches”: “the church of the Lamb of God” and “the church of the devil” (1 Nephi 14:10; see also 13:4–6). This description suggests the contrast between those who believe in God and seek to serve Him according to their best understanding and those who reject the existence of God (see 1 Nephi 14:10).”**

*(“Stand as Witnesses of God,” Ensign, Mar. 2015, 32).*

## **Doctrine and Covenants 10:53-54**

*Revelation given in 1828-29 before the Church was organized in 1830*

**53 And for this cause have I said: If this generation harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them.**

**54 Now I do not say this to destroy my church, but I say this to build up my church;**



**“Let me say that we appreciate the truth in all churches and the good which they do. We say to the people, in effect, you bring with you all the good that you have, and then let us see if we can add to it. That is the spirit of this work. That is the essence of our missionary service”**

*(meeting, Nairobi, Kenya, 17 Feb. 1998).*



**“Actually, no single known historical church, denomination, or set of believers meets all the requirements for the great and abominable church: it must have formed among the Gentiles; it must have edited and controlled the distribution of the scriptures; it must have slain the Saints of God, including the Apostles and prophets; it must be in league with civil governments and use their police power to enforce its religious views; it must have dominion over all the earth; it must pursue great wealth and sexual immorality; and it must last until close to the end of the world. No single denomination or system of beliefs fits the entire description. Rather, the role of Babylon has been played by many different agencies, ideologies, and churches in many different times. ...**

**“Can we, then, identify the historical agency that acted as the great and abominable church in earliest Christianity? Such an agent would have had its origins in the second half of the first century and would have done much of its work by the middle of the second century.**

**“This period might be called the blind spot in Christian history, for it is here that the fewest primary historical sources have been preserved. We have good sources for New Testament Christianity; then the lights go out, so to speak, and we hear the muffled sounds of a great struggle. When the lights come on again a hundred or so years later, we find that someone has rearranged all the furniture and Christianity has become something very different from what it was in the beginning”**

*(Stephen E. Robinson, “Warring against the Saints of God,” Ensign, Jan. 1988, 38–39).*

AND it came to pass that the angel spake unto me, saying: Look! And I looked and beheld many nations and kingdoms.

2 And the angel said unto me: What beholdest thou? And I said: I behold many <sup>a</sup>nations and kingdoms.

3 And he said unto me: These are the nations and kingdoms of the Gentiles.

4 And it came to pass that I saw among the nations of the <sup>a</sup>Gentiles the formation of a <sup>b</sup>great church.

5 And the angel said unto me: Behold the formation of a <sup>a</sup>church which is most abominable above all other churches, which <sup>b</sup>slayeth the saints of God, yea, and tortureth them and bindeth them down, and yoketh them with a <sup>c</sup>yoke of iron, and bringeth them down into captivity.

6 And it came to pass that I beheld this <sup>a</sup>great and <sup>b</sup>abominable church; and I saw the <sup>c</sup>devil that he was the founder of it.

7 And I also saw <sup>a</sup>gold, and silver, and silks, and scarlets, and fine-twined <sup>b</sup>linen, and all manner of precious clothing; and I saw many harlots.

8 And the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold the gold, and the silver, and the silks, and the scarlets, and the fine-twined linen, and the precious clothing, and the harlots, are the <sup>a</sup>desires of this great and abominable church.

9 And also for the <sup>a</sup>praise of the world do they <sup>b</sup>destroy the saints of God, and bring them down into captivity.

10 And it came to pass that I looked and beheld many waters; and they

divided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren.

11 And it came to pass that the angel said unto me: Behold the wrath of God is upon the seed of thy brethren.

12 And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and <sup>a</sup>wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land.

13 And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters.

14 And it came to pass that I beheld many <sup>a</sup>multitudes of the Gentiles upon the <sup>b</sup>land of promise; and I beheld the wrath of God, that it was upon the seed of my brethren; and they were <sup>c</sup>scattered before the Gentiles and were smitten.

15 And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles, and they did prosper and <sup>a</sup>obtain the <sup>b</sup>land for their inheritance; and I beheld that they were white, and exceedingly fair and <sup>c</sup>beautiful, like unto my people before they were <sup>d</sup>slain.

16 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord; and the power of the Lord was <sup>a</sup>with them.

17 And I beheld that their mother Gentiles were gathered together

God establishes a free land where the gospel would be restored

Future Gentiles will have the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and latter-day scriptures

upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them.

18 And I beheld that the power of God was with them, and also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together <sup>a</sup>against them to battle.

19 And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were <sup>a</sup>delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations.

20 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that they did prosper in the land; and I beheld a <sup>a</sup>book, and it was carried forth among them.

21 And the angel said unto me: Knowest thou the meaning of the book?

22 And I said unto him: I know not.

23 And he said: Behold it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew. And I, Nephi, beheld it; and he said unto me: The <sup>a</sup>book that thou beholdest is a <sup>b</sup>record of the <sup>c</sup>Jews, which contains the covenants of the Lord, which he hath made unto the house of Israel; and it also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets; and it is a record like unto the engravings which are upon the <sup>d</sup>plates of brass, save there are not so many; nevertheless, they contain the covenants of the Lord, which he hath made unto the house of Israel; wherefore, they are of great worth unto the Gentiles.

24 And the angel of the Lord said unto me: Thou hast beheld that the <sup>a</sup>book proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew; and when it proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew it contained the fulness of the gospel

of the Lord, of whom the twelve apostles bear record; and they bear record according to the truth which is in the Lamb of God.

25 Wherefore, these things go forth from the <sup>a</sup>Jews in purity unto the <sup>b</sup>Gentiles, according to the truth which is in God.

26 And after they go forth by the <sup>a</sup>hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews <sup>b</sup>unto the Gentiles, thou seest the formation of that <sup>c</sup>great and abominable <sup>d</sup>church, which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have <sup>e</sup>taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are <sup>f</sup>plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away.

27 And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord, that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men.

28 Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and <sup>a</sup>precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God.

29 And after these plain and precious things were <sup>a</sup>taken away it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles; and after it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles, yea, even across the many waters which thou hast seen with the Gentiles which have gone forth out of captivity, thou seest—because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the

book, which were plain unto the understanding of the children of men, according to the plainness which is in the Lamb of God—because of these things which are taken away out of the gospel of the Lamb, an exceedingly great many do stumble, yea, insomuch that Satan hath great power over them.

30 Nevertheless, thou beholdest that the Gentiles who have gone forth out of captivity, and have been lifted up by the power of God above all other nations, upon the face of the land which is choice above all other lands, which is the land that the Lord God hath covenanted with thy father that his seed should have for the <sup>a</sup>land of their inheritance; wherefore, thou seest that the Lord God will not suffer that the Gentiles will utterly destroy the <sup>b</sup>mixture of thy <sup>c</sup>seed, which are among thy brethren.

31 Neither will he suffer that the Gentiles shall <sup>a</sup>destroy the seed of thy brethren.

32 Neither will the Lord God suffer that the Gentiles shall forever remain in that awful state of blindness, which thou beholdest they are in, because of the plain and most precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back by that <sup>a</sup>abominable church, whose formation thou hast seen.

33 Wherefore saith the Lamb of God: I will be <sup>a</sup>merciful unto the Gentiles, unto the visiting of the remnant of the house of Israel in great judgment.

34 And it came to pass that the angel of the Lord spake unto me, saying: Behold, saith the Lamb of God, after I have <sup>a</sup>visited the <sup>b</sup>remnant of the house of Israel—and this remnant of whom I speak is the seed of thy father—wherefore, after I have visited them in judgment, and smitten them by the hand of the Gentiles, and after the Gentiles do <sup>c</sup>stumble exceedingly, because of the most plain and precious parts of the <sup>d</sup>gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back by that abominable church, which is the mother of harlots, saith the Lamb—I will be merciful unto the <sup>e</sup>Gentiles in that day, insomuch that I will <sup>f</sup>bring forth unto them, in mine own power, much of my <sup>g</sup>gospel, which shall be plain and precious, saith the Lamb.

35 For, behold, saith the Lamb: I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious; and after thy seed shall be destroyed, and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren, behold, <sup>a</sup>these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles, by the gift and power of the Lamb.

36 And in them shall be written my <sup>a</sup>gospel, saith the Lamb, and my <sup>b</sup>rock and my salvation.

37 And <sup>a</sup>blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my <sup>b</sup>Zion at that day, for they shall have the <sup>c</sup>gift and the <sup>d</sup>power of the Holy Ghost; and if they <sup>e</sup>endure unto the end they

shall be <sup>f</sup>lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting <sup>g</sup>kingdom of the Lamb; and whoso shall <sup>h</sup>publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be.

38 And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the <sup>a</sup>book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles <sup>b</sup>unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren.

39 And after it had come forth unto them I beheld <sup>a</sup>other <sup>b</sup>books, which came forth by the power of the Lamb, from the Gentiles unto them, unto the <sup>c</sup>convincing of the Gentiles and the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the Jews who were scattered upon all the face of the earth, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are <sup>d</sup>true.

40 And the angel spake unto me, saying: These <sup>a</sup>last records, which thou hast seen among the Gentiles, shall <sup>b</sup>establish the truth of the <sup>c</sup>first, which are of the <sup>d</sup>twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them; and shall make known to all kindreds, tongues, and people, that the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father, and the <sup>e</sup>Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him, or they cannot be saved.

41 And they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb; and the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the <sup>a</sup>records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb; wherefore they both shall be established in <sup>b</sup>one; for there is <sup>c</sup>one God and one <sup>d</sup>Shepherd over all the earth.

42 And the time cometh that he shall manifest himself unto all nations, both unto the <sup>a</sup>Jews and also unto the Gentiles; and after he has manifested himself unto the Jews and also unto the Gentiles, then he shall manifest himself unto the Gentiles and also unto the Jews, and the <sup>b</sup>last shall be first, and the <sup>c</sup>first shall be last.

#### CHAPTER 14

*An angel tells Nephi of the blessings and cursings to fall upon the Gentiles—There are only two churches: the Church of the Lamb of God and the church of the devil—The Saints of God in all nations are persecuted by the great and abominable church—The Apostle John will write concerning the end of the world. About 600–592 B.C.*

AND it shall come to pass, that if the <sup>a</sup>Gentiles shall hearken unto the Lamb of God in that day that he shall manifest himself unto them in word, and also in <sup>b</sup>power, in very deed, unto the <sup>c</sup>taking away of their <sup>d</sup>stumbling blocks—

2 And harden not their hearts

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“These great and marvelous results are not to be attributed to any merit of mine ... ; for that which the unaided intellect of man could not compass, the Spirit of God has granted to human exertions, for God is wont to hear the prayers of His servants who love His precepts even to the performance of apparent impossibilities” (The Annals of America [Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1976], 1:5).

divided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren.

11 And it came to pass that the angel said unto me: Behold the wrath of God is upon the seed of thy brethren.

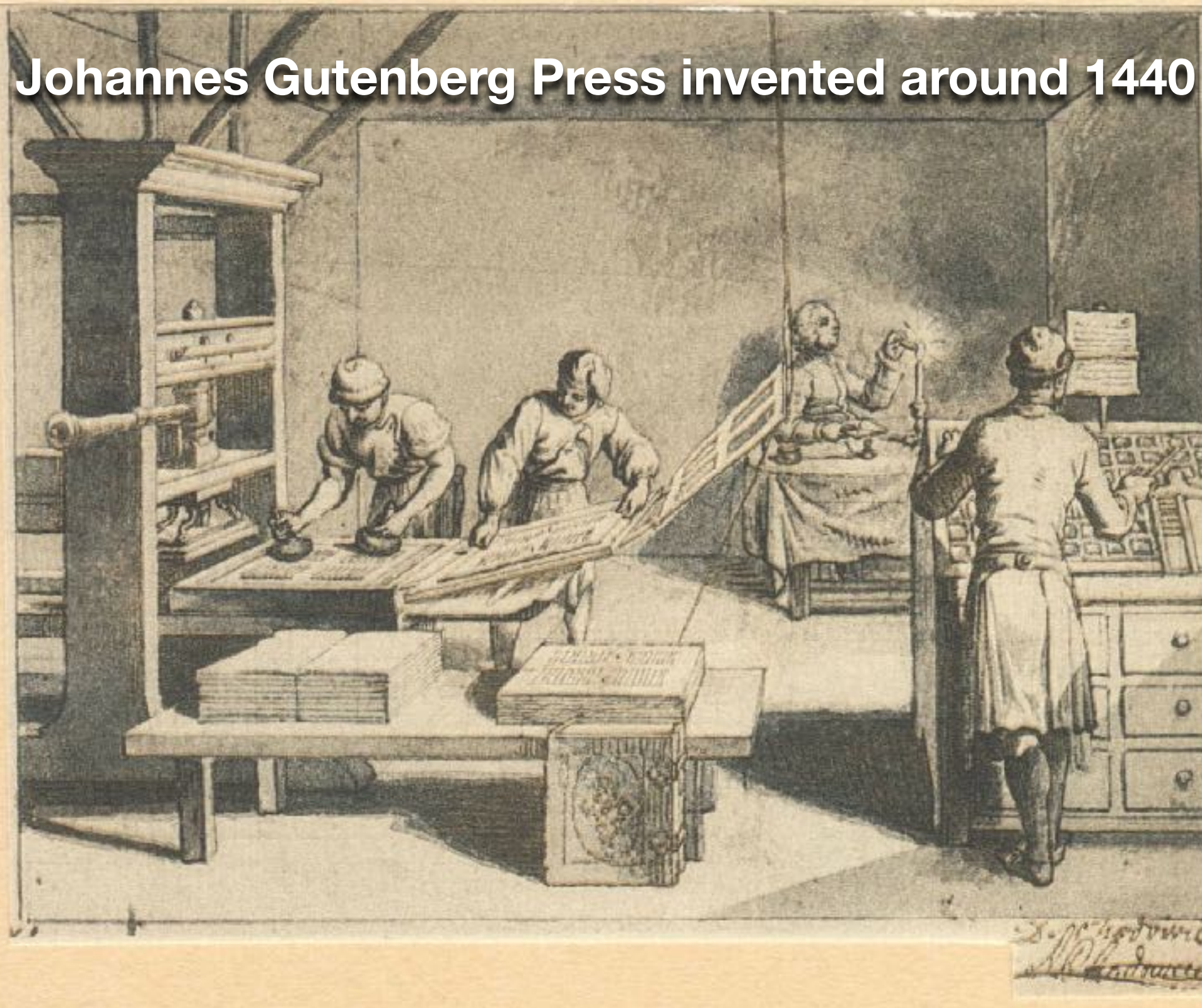
12 And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and <sup>a</sup>wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land.

13 And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters.

14 And it came to pass that I beheld many <sup>a</sup>multitudes of the Gentiles

AND it came to pass that the angel spake unto me, saying: Look! And I divided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren.

### Johannes Gutenberg Press invented around 1440



precious clothing; and I saw many harlots.

8 And the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold the gold, and the silver, and the silks, and the scarlets, and the fine-twined linen, and the precious clothing, and the harlots, are the <sup>a</sup>desires of this great and abominable church.

9 And also for the <sup>a</sup>praise of the world do they <sup>b</sup>destroy the saints of God, and bring them down into captivity.

10 And it came to pass that I looked and beheld many waters; and they

Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles, and they did prosper and <sup>a</sup>obtain the <sup>b</sup>land for their inheritance; and I beheld that they were white, and exceedingly fair and <sup>c</sup>beautiful, like unto my people before they were <sup>d</sup>slain.

16 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord; and the power of the Lord was <sup>a</sup>with them.

17 And I beheld that their mother Gentiles were gathered together

upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them.

18 And I beheld that the power of God was with them, and also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together <sup>a</sup>against them to battle.

19 And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were <sup>a</sup>delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations.

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of the Lord, of whom the twelve apostles bear record; and they bear record according to the truth which is in the Lamb of God.

25 Wherefore, these things go forth from the <sup>a</sup>Jews in purity unto the <sup>b</sup>Gentiles, according to the truth which is in God.

26 And after they go forth by the <sup>a</sup>hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews <sup>b</sup>unto the Gentiles, thou seest the formation of that <sup>c</sup>great and abominable <sup>d</sup>church, which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have <sup>e</sup>taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are <sup>f</sup>plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away.

27 And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord, that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men.

28 Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and <sup>a</sup>precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God.

29 And after these plain and precious things were <sup>a</sup>taken away it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles; and after it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles, yea, even across the many waters which thou hast seen with the Gentiles which have gone forth out of captivity, thou seest—because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the

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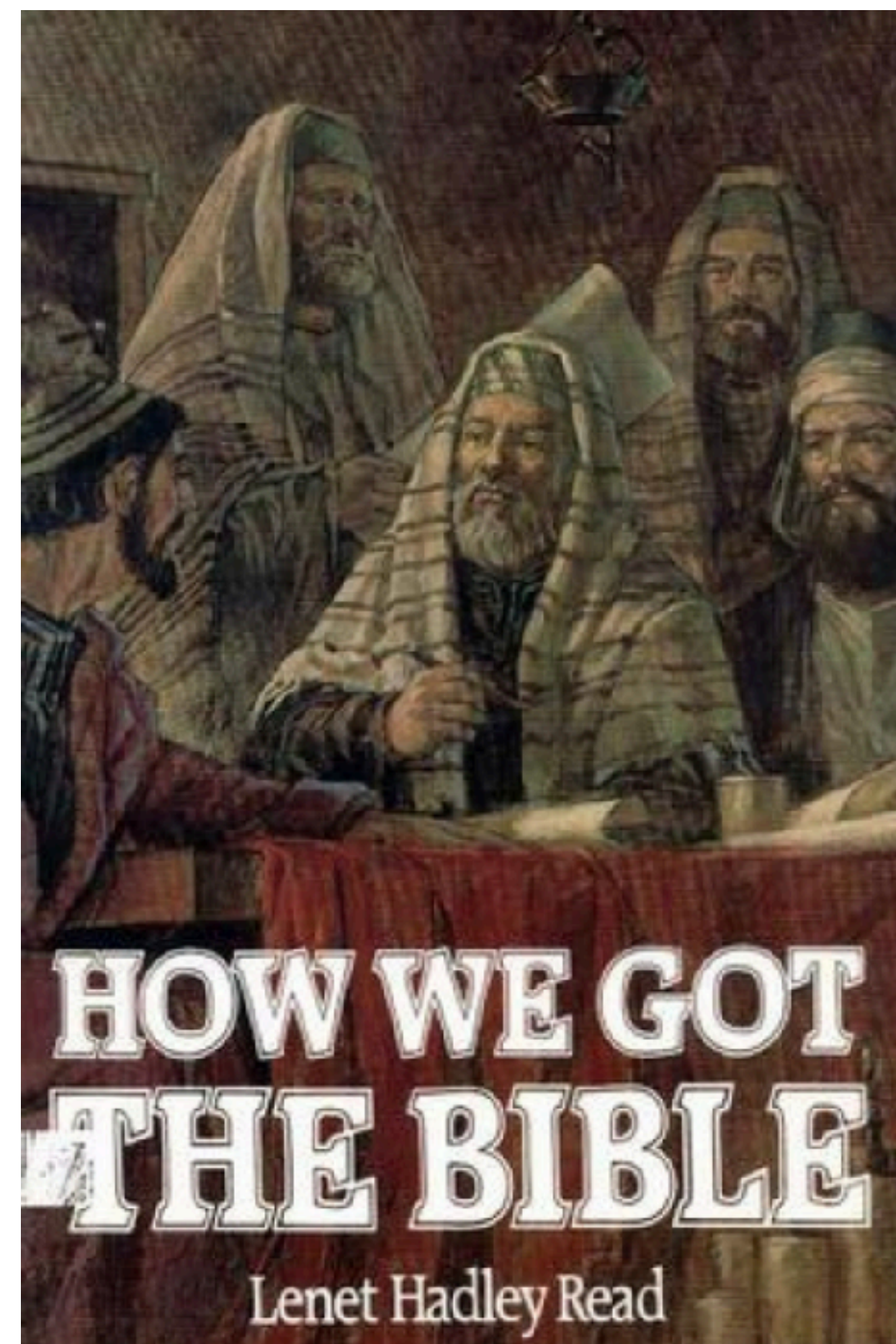
**“Apparently the original manuscripts of the Bible disappeared very early. This seems particularly true of the New Testament. Sir Frederic Kenyon, one of the greatest textual scholars of the early twentieth century, commented thus: ‘The originals of the several books have long ago disappeared. They must have perished in the very infancy of the Church; for no allusion is ever made to them by any Christian writer.’ Kenyon’s statement is particularly important to us because it means that for centuries there has not been an original Bible manuscript to guide the reader. Even in the early decades of the original Christian church, the original texts seem to have been absent. ...**

**“The angel [in 1 Nephi 13:21–29] makes it clear that he is not talking about subtle accidents of hand and eye, resulting in a few misplaced letters or words—the unplanned errors of copyists. He pointedly ascribes these changes to the planned editorial work of designing men [see 1 Nephi 13:27–28]. ...**

**“As we read the words of the angel, we discover that the world never has had a complete Bible, for it was massively—even cataclysmically—corrupted before it was distributed. Of course, in addition to the major willful corruption of the Bible in the early Christian era, the manuscripts have also continued to suffer the gradual and relatively mild changes, due to errors of hand and eye, that the scholars talk about. Thus there have been two processes at work: (1) a major, sudden, and deliberate editorial corruption of the text and (2) a gradual promulgation of variants that has occurred as a natural consequence of copying and translation”**

*(Robert J. Matthews, A Bible! A Bible! [1990], 74–75).*





She also wrote an 8 part series for the Ensign magazine in 1982 "How the Bible Came to Be"



**“This church, the great institutional body of Christ, is a marvelous work and a wonder not only because of what it does for the faithful but also because of what the faithful do for it. Your lives are at the very heart of that marvel. You are evidence of the wonder of it all”**

*(Elder Jeffrey R. Holland in Conference Report, Oct. 1994, 42; or Ensign, Nov. 1994, 32).*

shall be <sup>f</sup>lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting <sup>g</sup>kingdom of the Lamb; and whoso shall <sup>h</sup>publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be.

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39 And after it had come forth unto them I beheld <sup>a</sup>other <sup>b</sup>books, which came forth by the power of the Lamb, from the Gentiles unto them, unto the <sup>c</sup>convincing of the Gentiles and the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the Jews who were scattered upon all the face of the earth, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are <sup>d</sup>true.

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41 And they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb; and the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the <sup>a</sup>records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb; wherefore they both shall be established in <sup>b</sup>one; for there is <sup>c</sup>one God and one <sup>d</sup>Shepherd over all the earth.

42 And the time cometh that he shall manifest himself unto all nations, both unto the <sup>a</sup>Jews and also unto the Gentiles; and after he has manifested himself unto the Jews and also unto the Gentiles, then he shall manifest himself unto the Gentiles and also unto the Jews, and the <sup>b</sup>last shall be first, and the <sup>c</sup>first shall be last.

CHAPTER 14

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AND it shall come to pass, that if the <sup>a</sup>Gentiles shall hearken unto the Lamb of God in that day that he shall manifest himself unto them in word, and also in <sup>b</sup>power, in very deed, unto the <sup>c</sup>taking away of their <sup>d</sup>stumbling blocks—

2 And harden not their hearts

37f James 4:10.  
g TG Kingdom of God.

TG Book of Mormon.  
b TG Scriptures. Value of.

c Luke 13:30;  
1 Ne. 10:14;

against the Lamb of God, they shall be numbered among the seed of thy father; yea, they shall be <sup>a</sup>numbered among the house of Israel; and they shall be a <sup>b</sup>blessed people upon the <sup>c</sup>promised land forever; they shall be no more brought down into captivity; and the house of Israel shall no more be confounded.

3 And that great <sup>a</sup>pit, which hath been digged for them by that great and abominable church, which was founded by the devil and his children, that he might lead away the souls of men down to hell—yea, that great pit which hath been digged for the destruction of men shall be filled by those who digged it, unto their utter destruction, saith the Lamb of God; not the destruction of the soul, save it be the casting of it into that <sup>b</sup>hell which hath no end.

4 For behold, this is according to the <sup>a</sup>captivity of the devil, and also according to the justice of God, upon all those who will work wickedness and abomination before him.

5 And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me, Nephi, saying: Thou hast beheld that if the Gentiles repent it shall be <sup>a</sup>well with them; and thou also knowest concerning the covenants of the Lord unto the house of Israel; and thou also hast heard that whoso <sup>b</sup>repenteth not must perish.

6 Therefore, <sup>a</sup>wo be unto the Gentiles if it so be that they harden

2a Gal. 3:7 (7, 29);  
2 Ne. 10:18 (18, 10).

TG Damnation; Hell.  
4a TG Bondage. Spiritual.

e 2 Ne. 2:29 (26–29);  
Alma 13:11 (9, 11).

The consequences for future generations of obeying or disobeying the Lord

their hearts against the Lamb of God.

7 For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a <sup>a</sup>marvelous work among the children of men; a <sup>b</sup>work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other—either to the convincing of them unto <sup>c</sup>peace and <sup>d</sup>life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds unto their being brought down into captivity, and also into destruction, both temporally and spiritually, according to the <sup>e</sup>captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken.

8 And it came to pass that when the angel had spoken these words, he said unto me: Rememberest thou the <sup>a</sup>covenants of the Father unto the house of Israel? I said unto him, Yea.

9 And it came to pass that he said unto me: Look, and behold that great and abominable church, which is the mother of abominations, whose founder is the <sup>a</sup>devil.

10 And he said unto me: Behold there are save <sup>a</sup>two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the <sup>b</sup>other is the church of the <sup>c</sup>devil; wherefore, <sup>d</sup>whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the <sup>e</sup>whore of all the earth.

11 And it came to pass that I

battle between the church of the Lamb of God and the great and abominable church

looked and beheld the whore of all the earth, and she sat upon many <sup>a</sup>waters; and she had dominion over <sup>b</sup>all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people.

12 And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were <sup>a</sup>few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters; nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon <sup>b</sup>all the face of the earth; and their dominions upon the face of the earth were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw.

13 And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations did gather together multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to <sup>a</sup>fight against the Lamb of God.

14 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were <sup>a</sup>armed with <sup>b</sup>righteousness and with the <sup>c</sup>power of God in great glory.

15 And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was <sup>a</sup>poured out upon that great and abominable church, insomuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the <sup>b</sup>nations and kindreds of the earth.

16 And as there began to be <sup>a</sup>wars and rumors of wars among all the

nations which belonged to the mother of abominations, the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold, the wrath of God is upon the mother of harlots; and behold, thou seest all these things—

17 And when the <sup>a</sup>day cometh that the <sup>b</sup>wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church of all the earth, whose founder is the devil, then, at that day, the <sup>c</sup>work of the Father shall commence, in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his <sup>d</sup>covenants, which he hath made to his people who are of the house of Israel.

18 And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me, saying: Look!

19 And I looked and beheld a man, and he was dressed in a white robe.

20 And the angel said unto me: Behold <sup>a</sup>one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

21 Behold, he shall <sup>a</sup>see and <sup>b</sup>write the <sup>c</sup>remainder of these things; yea, and also many things which have been.

22 And he shall also write concerning the end of the world.

23 Wherefore, the things which he shall write are just and true; and behold they are written in the <sup>a</sup>book which thou beheld proceeding out of the mouth of the Jew; and at the time they proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, or, at the time the book proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, the things which were written were plain and pure, and most <sup>b</sup>precious and easy to the understanding of all men.

24 And behold, the things which this <sup>a</sup>apostle of the Lamb shall write are many things which thou hast seen; and behold, the remainder shalt thou see.

25 But the things which thou shalt see hereafter thou shalt not write; for the Lord God hath ordained the apostle of the Lamb of God that he should <sup>a</sup>write them.

26 And also others who have been, to them hath he shown all things, and they have <sup>a</sup>written them; and they are <sup>b</sup>sealed up to come forth in their purity, according to the truth which is in the Lamb, in the own due time of the Lord, unto the house of Israel.

27 And I, Nephi, heard and bear record, that the name of the apostle of the Lamb was <sup>a</sup>John, according to the word of the angel.

28 And behold, I, Nephi, am forbidden that I should write the remainder of the things which I saw and heard; wherefore the things which I have written sufficeth me; and I have written but a small part of the things which I saw.

29 And I bear record that I saw the things which my <sup>a</sup>father saw, and the angel of the Lord did make them known unto me.

30 And now I make an end of speaking concerning the things which I saw while I was <sup>a</sup>carried away in the Spirit; and if all the things which I saw are not written, the things which I have written are <sup>b</sup>true. And thus it is. Amen.

## CHAPTER 15

*Lehi's seed are to receive the gospel from the Gentiles in the latter days—The gathering of Israel is likened unto an*

*olive tree whose natural branches will be grafted in again—Nephi interprets the vision of the tree of life and speaks of the justice of God in dividing the wicked from the righteous. About 600–592 B.C.*

AND it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had been carried away in the Spirit, and seen all these things, I returned to the tent of my father.

2 And it came to pass that I beheld my brethren, and they were disputing one with another concerning the things which my father had spoken unto them.

3 For he truly spake many great things unto them, which were hard to be <sup>a</sup>understood, save a man should inquire of the Lord; and they being hard in their hearts, therefore they did not look unto the Lord as they ought.

4 And now I, Nephi, was grieved because of the hardness of their hearts, and also, because of the things which I had seen, and knew they must unavoidably come to pass because of the great wickedness of the children of men.

5 And it came to pass that I was overcome because of my afflictions, for I considered that mine <sup>a</sup>afflictions were great above all, because of the <sup>b</sup>destruction of my people, for I had beheld their fall.

6 And it came to pass that after I had received <sup>a</sup>strength I spake unto my brethren, desiring to know of them the cause of their disputations.

7 And they said: Behold, we cannot understand the words which our father hath spoken concerning the natural branches of the <sup>a</sup>olive tree, and also concerning the Gentiles.

8 And I said unto them: Have ye <sup>a</sup>inquired of the Lord?

25 But the things which thou shalt see hereafter thou shalt not write; for the Lord God hath ordained the apostle of the Lamb of God that he should <sup>a</sup>write them.

26 And also others who have been, to them hath he shown all things, and they have <sup>a</sup>written them; and they are <sup>b</sup>sealed up to come forth in their purity, according to the truth which is in the Lamb, in the own due time of the Lord, unto the house of Israel.

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29 And I bear record that I saw the things which my <sup>a</sup>father saw, and the angel of the Lord did make

AND it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had been carried away in the Spirit, and seen all these things, I returned to the tent of my father.

2 And it came to pass that I beheld my brethren, and they were disputing one with another concerning the things which my father had spoken unto them.

3 For he truly spake many great things unto them, which were hard to be <sup>a</sup>understood, save a man should inquire of the Lord; and they being hard in their hearts, therefore they did not look unto the Lord as they ought.

4 And now I, Nephi, was grieved because of the hardness of their hearts, and also, because of the things which I had seen, and knew they must unavoidably come to pass because of the great wickedness of the children of men.

5 And it came to pass that I was overcome because of my afflictions, for I considered that mine <sup>a</sup>afflictions were great above all, because

of the Lamb was <sup>a</sup>John, according to the word of the angel.

28 And behold, I, Nephi, am forbidden that I should write the remainder of the things which I saw and heard; wherefore the things which I have written sufficeth me; and I have written but a small part of the things which I saw.

29 And I bear record that I saw the things which my <sup>a</sup>father saw, and the angel of the Lord did make them known unto me.

30 And now I make an end of speaking concerning the things which I saw while I was <sup>a</sup>carried away in the Spirit; and if all the things which I saw are not written, the things which I have written are <sup>b</sup>true. And thus it is. Amen.

## CHAPTER 15

*Lehi's seed are to receive the gospel from the Gentiles in the latter days—The gathering of Israel is likened unto an*

they ought.

4 And now I, Nephi, was grieved because of the hardness of their hearts, and also, because of the things which I had seen, and knew they must unavoidably come to pass because of the great wickedness of the children of men.

5 And it came to pass that I was overcome because of my afflictions, for I considered that mine <sup>a</sup>afflictions were great above all, because of the <sup>b</sup>destruction of my people, for I had beheld their fall.

6 And it came to pass that after I had received <sup>a</sup>strength I spake unto my brethren, desiring to know of them the cause of their disputations.

7 And they said: Behold, we cannot understand the words which our father hath spoken concerning the natural branches of the <sup>a</sup>olive tree, and also concerning the Gentiles.

8 And I said unto them: **Have ye <sup>a</sup>inquired of the Lord?**

they did not look unto the Lord as they ought.

4 And now I, Nephi, was grieved because of the hardness of their hearts, and also, because of the things which I had seen, and knew they must unavoidably come to pass because of the great wickedness of the children of men.

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8 And I said unto them: **Have ye <sup>a</sup>inquired of the Lord?**

31

9 And they said unto me: <sup>a</sup>We have not; for the Lord maketh no such thing known unto us.

10 Behold, I said unto them: How is it that ye do not keep the commandments of the Lord? How is it that ye will <sup>a</sup>perish, because of the hardness of your hearts?

11 Do ye not remember the things which the Lord hath said?—If ye will not harden your hearts, and <sup>a</sup>ask me in <sup>b</sup>faith, believing that ye shall receive, with diligence in keeping my commandments, surely these things shall be made known unto you.

12 Behold, I say unto you, that the house of Israel was compared unto an olive tree, by the Spirit of the Lord which was in our father; and behold are we not broken off from the house of Israel, and are we not a <sup>a</sup>branch of the house of Israel?

13 And now, the thing which our

<sup>a</sup>come to the forefathers, a edge of the gos which was m fathers by him come to the k deemer and t doctrine, that to come unto

15 And then not rejoice a their everlast and their salv will they not and nourish <sup>b</sup>vine? Yea, wi the true fold

16 Behold, they shall be among the h shall be <sup>a</sup>graf ral branch o the true olive

17 And thi



**“Nephi attempted to teach his brothers that they could know the meaning of their father’s prophetic utterances, ‘which were hard to be understood, save a man should inquire of the Lord’ (1 Ne. 15:3). Nephi told them if they did not harden their hearts and would keep the commandments and inquire of the Lord in faith, ‘surely these things shall be made known unto you’ (1 Ne. 15:11).**

**“If we harden our hearts, reject continuing revelation, and limit our learning to what we can obtain by study and reason on the precise language of the present canon of scriptures, our understanding will be limited to what Alma called ‘the lesser portion of the word’ (Alma 12:11). If we seek and accept revelation and inspiration to enlarge our understanding of the scriptures, we will realize a fulfillment of Nephi’s inspired promise that those who diligently seek will have ‘the mysteries of God ... unfolded unto them, by the power of the Holy Ghost’ (1 Ne. 10:19)”**

*(Elder Dallin H. Oaks, “Scripture Reading and Revelation,” Ensign, Jan. 1995, 7).*



house of Israel was compared unto an olive tree, by the Spirit of the Lord which was in our father; and behold are we not broken off from the house of Israel, and are we not a <sup>a</sup>branch of the house of Israel?

13 And now, the thing which our father meaneth concerning the grafting in of the natural branches through the fulness of the Gentiles, is, that in the latter days, when our seed shall have <sup>a</sup>dwindled in unbelief, yea, for the space of many years, and many generations after the <sup>b</sup>Messiah shall be manifested in body unto the children of men, then shall the fulness of the <sup>c</sup>gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the <sup>d</sup>Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed—

14 And at that day shall the remnant of our <sup>a</sup>seed <sup>b</sup>know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the <sup>c</sup>covenant people of the Lord; and then shall they <sup>e</sup>know and

16 Behold, I say unto you, Yea; they shall be remembered again among the house of Israel; they shall be <sup>a</sup>grafted in, being a natural branch of the olive tree, into the true olive tree.

17 And this is what our father meaneth; and he meaneth that it will not come to pass until after they are scattered by the Gentiles; and he meaneth that it shall come by way of the Gentiles, that the Lord may show his power unto the Gentiles, for the very cause that he shall be <sup>a</sup>rejected of the Jews, or of the house of Israel.

18 Wherefore, our father hath not spoken of our seed alone, but also of all the house of Israel, pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days; which covenant the Lord made to our father Abraham, saying: In thy <sup>a</sup>seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be <sup>b</sup>blessed.

<sup>a</sup> D&C 58:33.

<sup>b</sup> TG Jesus Christ, Messiah.

<sup>e</sup> D&C 3:18 (16–20). See

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11 Do ye not remember the things which the Lord hath said?—If ye will not harden your hearts, and <sup>a</sup>ask me in <sup>b</sup>faith, believing that ye shall receive, with diligence in keeping my commandments, surely these things shall be made known unto you.

12 Behold, I say unto you, that the house of Israel was compared unto an olive tree, by the Spirit of the Lord which was in our father; and behold are we not broken off from the house of Israel, and are we not a <sup>a</sup>branch of the house of Israel?

13 And now, the thing which our father meaneth concerning the grafting in of the natural branches through the fulness of the Gentiles,

<sup>d</sup>come to the <sup>e</sup>knowledge of their forefathers, and also to the <sup>e</sup>knowledge of the gospel of their Redeemer, which was ministered unto their fathers by him; wherefore, they shall come to the <sup>e</sup>knowledge of their Redeemer and the very points of his doctrine, that they may <sup>e</sup>know how to come unto him and be saved.

15 And then at that day will they not rejoice and give praise unto their everlasting God, their <sup>a</sup>rock and their salvation? Yea, at that day, will they not receive the strength and nourishment from the true <sup>b</sup>vine? Yea, will they not come unto the true fold of God?

16 Behold, I say unto you, Yea; they shall be remembered again among the house of Israel; they shall be <sup>a</sup>grafted in, being a natural branch of the olive tree, into the true olive tree.

17 And this is what our father meaneth; and he meaneth that it will not come to pass until after they are scattered by the Gentiles;

## **LEHI'S VISION**

**1 Nephi 8:30**

**and they came and caught hold of the end of the rod of iron; and they did press their way forward, continually holding fast to the rod of iron, until they came forth and fell down and partook of the fruit of the tree.**



## **NEPHI'S VISION**

**1 Nephi 11:24**

**and I beheld the Son of God going forth among the children of men; and I saw many fall down at his feet and worship him.**



**“My brethren and sisters, do you realize what we have? Do you recognize our place in the great drama of human history? This is the focal point of all that has gone before. This is the season of restitution. These are the days of restoration. This is the time when men from over the earth come to the mountain of the Lord’s house to seek and learn of His ways and to walk in His paths. This is the summation of all of the centuries of time since the birth of Christ to this present and wonderful day”**

*(President Gordon B. Hinckley in Conference Report, Oct. 1999, 94; or Ensign, Nov. 1999, 74).*