



**Come Follow Me 2020**  
**2 NEPHI 26-30**

appear, ye must keep the performances and ordinances of God until the law shall be fulfilled which was given unto Moses.

## CHAPTER 26

*Christ shall minister to the Nephites—Nephi foresees the destruction of his people—They will speak from the dust—The Gentiles will build up false churches and secret combinations—The Lord forbids men to practice priestcrafts. About 559-545 B.C.*

AND after Christ shall have <sup>a</sup>risen from the dead he shall <sup>b</sup>show himself unto you, my children, and my beloved brethren; and the words which he shall speak unto you shall be the <sup>c</sup>law which ye shall do.

2 For behold, I say unto you that I have beheld that many generations shall pass away, and there shall be great wars and contentions among my people.

3 And after the Messiah shall come there shall be <sup>a</sup>signs given unto my people of his <sup>b</sup>birth, and also of his <sup>c</sup>death and resurrection; and great and terrible shall that day be unto the wicked, for they shall perish; and they perish because they cast

out the <sup>a</sup>prophets, and the saints, and stone them, and slay them; wherefore the cry of the <sup>e</sup>blood of the saints shall ascend up to God from the ground against them.

4 Wherefore, all those who are proud, and that do wickedly, the day that cometh shall <sup>a</sup>burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, for they shall be as stubble.

5 And they that kill the <sup>a</sup>prophets, and the saints, the depths of the earth shall <sup>b</sup>swallow them up, saith the Lord of Hosts; and <sup>c</sup>mountains shall cover them, and whirlwinds shall carry them away, and buildings shall fall upon them and crush them to pieces and grind them to powder.

6 And they shall be visited with thunderings, and lightnings, and earthquakes, and all manner of destructions, for the <sup>a</sup>fire of the anger of the Lord shall be kindled against them, and they shall be as stubble, and the day that cometh shall consume them, saith the Lord of Hosts.

7 <sup>a</sup>O the pain, and the anguish of my soul for the loss of the slain of my people! For I, Nephi, have seen it, and it well nigh consumeth me before the presence of the Lord; but I must cry unto my God: Thy ways are <sup>b</sup>just.

8 But behold, the righteous that hearken unto the words of the prophets, and destroy them not, but look forward unto Christ with <sup>a</sup>steadfast-

ness for the signs which are given, notwithstanding all <sup>b</sup>persecution—behold, they are they which shall <sup>c</sup>not perish.

9 But the Son of Righteousness shall <sup>a</sup>appear unto them; and he shall <sup>b</sup>heal them, and they shall have <sup>c</sup>peace with him, until <sup>a</sup>three generations shall have passed away, and many of the <sup>e</sup>fourth generation shall have passed away in righteousness.

10 And when these things have passed away a speedy <sup>a</sup>destruction cometh unto my people; for, notwithstanding the pains of my soul, I have seen it; wherefore, I know that it shall come to pass; and they sell themselves for naught; for, for the reward of their pride and their <sup>b</sup>foolishness they shall reap destruction; for because they yield unto the devil and <sup>c</sup>choose works of <sup>a</sup>darkness rather than light, therefore they must go down to <sup>e</sup>hell.

11 For the Spirit of the Lord will not always <sup>a</sup>strive with man. And when the Spirit <sup>c</sup>ceaseth to strive with man then cometh speedy destruction, and this grieveth my soul.

12 And as I spake concerning the <sup>a</sup>convincing of the <sup>b</sup>Jews, that Jesus is the <sup>c</sup>very Christ, it must needs be that the Gentiles be convinced also that Jesus is the Christ, the <sup>a</sup>Eternal <sup>e</sup>God;

13 And that he <sup>a</sup>manifesteth himself unto all those who believe in



**“As with all gifts, [the gift of the Holy Ghost] must be received and accepted to be enjoyed. When priesthood hands were laid upon your head to confirm you a member of the Church, you heard the words, ‘Receive the Holy Ghost.’ This did not mean that the Holy Ghost unconditionally became your constant companion. Scriptures warn us that the Spirit of the Lord will ‘not always strive with man.’ When we are confirmed, we are given the right to the companionship of the Holy Ghost, but it is a right that we must continue to earn through obedience and worthiness. We cannot take this gift for granted”**

*(Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin in Conference Report, Apr. 2003, 27; or Ensign, May 2003, 27).*

## Midrash – 2 Nephi 26:14-19 and 27:6-23

“The creative reinterpretation of a scriptural passage (2 Nephi 26:14-19 and 27:6-23) in ways that highlight it’s hidden significance with regard to new contexts and situations is somewhat akin to later rabbinic exegesis. The fact that this is done through insertions within a continuous, phrase-by-phrase recitation of the original passage is extraordinary.”

*Maxwell Institute Study Edition of the Book of Mormon, Grant Hardy, 2018*

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**Christ and  
the Gentiles**

**Lehi’s Descendants in the Last Days  
(Commentary on Isaiah 29:3-5)**

him, by the power of the <sup>b</sup>Holy Ghost; yea, unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, working mighty <sup>c</sup>miracles, signs, and wonders, among the children of men according to their <sup>d</sup>faith.

14 But behold, I prophesy unto you concerning the <sup>a</sup>last days; concerning the days when the Lord God shall <sup>b</sup>bring these things forth unto the children of men.

15 After my seed and the seed of my brethren shall have <sup>a</sup>dwindled in unbelief, and shall have been smitten by the Gentiles; yea, after the Lord God shall have <sup>b</sup>camped against them round about, and shall have laid siege against them with a mount, and raised forts against them; and after they shall have been brought down low in the dust, even that they are not, yet the words of the righteous shall be written, and the <sup>c</sup>prayers of the faithful shall be heard, and all those who have <sup>d</sup>dwindled in unbelief shall not be forgotten.

16 For those who shall be destroyed shall <sup>a</sup>speak unto them out of the ground, and their speech shall be low out of the dust, and their voice shall be as one that hath a familiar spirit; for the Lord God will give unto him power, that he may whisper concerning them, even as it were out of the ground; and their speech shall whisper out of the dust.

17 For thus saith the Lord God: They shall <sup>a</sup>write the things which shall be done among them, and they shall be written and <sup>b</sup>sealed up in a book, and those who have dwindled in <sup>c</sup>unbelief shall not have them, for they <sup>d</sup>seek to destroy the things of God.

18 Wherefore, as those who have been destroyed have been destroyed speedily; and the multitude of their <sup>a</sup>terrible ones shall be as <sup>b</sup>chaff that passeth away—yea, thus saith the Lord God: It shall be at an instant, suddenly—

19 And it shall come to pass, that those who have dwindled in unbelief shall be <sup>a</sup>smitten by the hand of the Gentiles.

20 And the Gentiles are lifted up in the <sup>a</sup>pride of their eyes, and have <sup>b</sup>stumbled, because of the greatness of their <sup>c</sup>stumbling block, that they have built up many <sup>d</sup>churches; nevertheless, they <sup>e</sup>put down the power and miracles of God, and preach up unto themselves their own wisdom and their own <sup>f</sup>learning, that they may get gain and <sup>g</sup>grind upon the face of the poor.

21 And there are many churches built up which cause <sup>a</sup>envyings, and <sup>b</sup>strifes, and <sup>c</sup>malice.

22 And there are also secret <sup>a</sup>combinations, even as in times of old, according to the combinations of the <sup>b</sup>devil, for he is the founder of

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all these things; yea, the founder of murder, and <sup>c</sup>works of darkness; yea, and he leadeth them by the neck with a flaxen cord, until he bindeth them with his strong cords forever.

23 For behold, my beloved brethren, I say unto you that the Lord God worketh not in <sup>a</sup>darkness.

24 He doeth not <sup>a</sup>anything save it be for the benefit of the world; for he <sup>b</sup>loveth the world, even that he layeth down his own life that he may draw <sup>c</sup>all men unto him. Wherefore, he commandeth none that they shall not partake of his salvation.

25 Behold, doth he cry unto any, saying: Depart from me? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but he saith: <sup>a</sup>Come unto me all ye <sup>b</sup>ends of the earth, <sup>c</sup>buy milk and honey, without money and without price.

26 Behold, hath he commanded any that they should <sup>a</sup>depart out of the synagogues, or out of the houses of worship? Behold, I say unto you, Nay.

27 Hath he commanded any that they should not partake of his <sup>a</sup>salvation? Behold I say unto you, Nay; but he hath <sup>b</sup>given it free for all men; and he hath commanded his people that they should persuade all men to <sup>c</sup>repentance.

28 Behold, hath the Lord commanded any that they should not partake of his goodness? Behold I say unto you, Nay; but <sup>a</sup>all men are privileged the one <sup>b</sup>like unto the other, and none are forbidden.

29 He commandeth that there shall be no <sup>a</sup>priestcrafts; for, behold, priestcrafts are that men preach and set <sup>b</sup>themselves up for a light unto the world, that they may get <sup>c</sup>gain and <sup>d</sup>praise of the world; but they seek not the <sup>e</sup>welfare of Zion.

30 Behold, the Lord hath forbidden this thing; wherefore, the Lord God hath given a commandment that all men should have <sup>a</sup>charity, which <sup>b</sup>charity is <sup>c</sup>love. And except they should have charity they were nothing. Wherefore, if they should have charity they would not suffer the laborer in Zion to perish.

31 But the <sup>a</sup>laborer in <sup>b</sup>Zion shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for <sup>c</sup>money they shall perish.

32 And again, the Lord God hath <sup>a</sup>commanded that men should not murder; that they should not lie; that they should not <sup>b</sup>steal; that they should not take the name of the Lord their God in <sup>c</sup>vain; that they should not <sup>d</sup>envy; that they should not have <sup>e</sup>malice; that they should not contend one with another; that they should not commit <sup>f</sup>whoredoms; and that they should do none of these things; for whoso doeth them shall perish.

33 For none of these iniquities come of the Lord; for he doeth that which is good among the children of men; and he doeth nothing save it be plain unto the children of men; and he <sup>a</sup>inviteth them <sup>b</sup>all to <sup>c</sup>come unto him and partake of his goodness; and he <sup>d</sup>denieth none that come

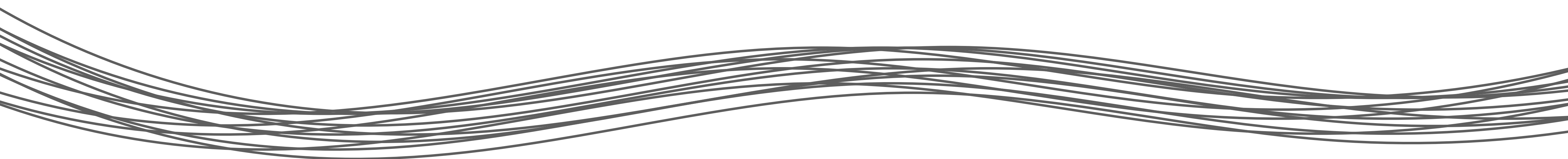
## The Gentiles in the Last Days

### The Lord Invites and Commands



**“The first wrongdoing is like a single strand of flaxen thread; it is easily broken and thrown aside. But each time the wrong is repeated another strand is intertwined around the first, and on and on it goes until an almost unbreakable cord of multi-strands is woven. ‘The chains of habit,’ said Samuel Johnson, ‘are too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken’”**

*(Elder Carlos E. Asay, The Road to Somewhere: A Guide for Young Men and Women [1994], 88).*



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**“Therefore, let us beware of false prophets and false teachers, both men and women, who are self-appointed declarers of the doctrines of the Church and who seek to spread their false gospel and attract followers by sponsoring symposia, books, and journals whose contents challenge fundamental doctrines of the Church. Beware of those who speak and publish in opposition to God’s true prophets and who actively proselyte others with reckless disregard for the eternal well-being of those whom they seduce. Like Nehor and Korihor in the Book of Mormon, they rely on sophistry to deceive and entice others to their views. They ‘set themselves up for a light unto the world, that they may get gain and praise of the world; but they seek not the welfare of Zion’ (2 Nephi 26:29)”**

*(Elder M. Russell Ballard in Conference Report, Oct. 1999, 78; or Ensign, Nov. 1999, 63).*



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unto him, black and white, <sup>b</sup>bond and free, <sup>c</sup>male and female, and he remembereth the <sup>d</sup>heathen; and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile.

## CHAPTER 27

*Darkness and apostasy will cover the earth in the last days—The Book of Mormon will come forth—Three witnesses will testify of the book—The learned man will say he cannot read the sealed book—The Lord will do a marvelous work and a wonder—Compare Isaiah 29. About 559–545 B.C.*

BUT, behold, in the <sup>a</sup>last days, or in the days of the Gentiles—yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land and those who shall be upon other lands, yea, even upon all the lands of the earth, behold, they will be <sup>b</sup>drunken with iniquity and all manner of abominations—

2 And when that day shall come they shall be <sup>a</sup>visited of the Lord of Hosts, with thunder and with earthquake, and with a great noise, and with storm, and with tempest, and with the <sup>b</sup>flame of devouring fire.

3 And all the <sup>a</sup>nations that <sup>b</sup>fight against Zion, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision; yea, it shall be unto them, even as unto a hungry man which dreameth, and behold he eateth but he awaketh and his soul is empty; or like unto a thirsty man which dreameth, and behold he drinketh but he awaketh and behold he is faint, and his soul

hath appetite; yea, even so shall the multitude of all the nations be that fight against Mount Zion.

4 For behold, all ye that doeth iniquity, stay yourselves and wonder, for ye shall cry out, and cry; yea, ye shall be <sup>a</sup>drunken but not with wine, ye shall stagger but not with strong drink.

5 For behold, the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep. For behold, ye have closed your <sup>a</sup>eyes, and ye have <sup>b</sup>rejected the prophets; and your rulers, and the seers hath he covered because of your iniquity.

6 And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall bring forth unto <sup>a</sup>you the words of a <sup>b</sup>book, and they shall be the words of them which have slumbered.

7 And behold the book shall be <sup>a</sup>sealed; and in the book shall be a <sup>b</sup>revelation from God, from the beginning of the world to the <sup>c</sup>ending thereof.

8 Wherefore, because of the things which are <sup>a</sup>sealed up, the things which are sealed shall not be delivered in the day of the wickedness and abominations of the people. Wherefore the book shall be kept from them.

9 But the book shall be delivered unto a man, and he shall deliver the words of the book, which are the words of those who have slumbered in the dust, and he shall deliver these words unto <sup>a</sup>another;

10 But the words which are <sup>a</sup>sealed he shall not deliver, neither shall he deliver the book. For the book shall

## 2 Nephi 26:33

...he inviteth them all to come unto him and partake of his goodness; and he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; and he remembereth the heathen; and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile.

## Alma 11:44

Now, this restoration shall come to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, both the wicked and the righteous;

## Alma 1:30

therefore they were liberal to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, whether out of the church or in the church, having no respect to persons as to those who stood in need.



**“Our Father in Heaven loves all of His children equally, perfectly, and infinitely. His love is no different for His daughters than for His sons. Our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, also loves men and women equally. His Atonement and His gospel are for all of God’s children. During His earthly ministry Jesus served men and women alike: He healed both men and women and He taught both men and women.**

**“... For example, faith, repentance, baptism, and the gift of the Holy Ghost are requirements for all of God’s children, regardless of gender. The same is true of temple covenants and blessings. Our Father’s work and glory is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of His children (see Moses 1:39). ... His greatest gift, the gift of eternal life, is available to all”**

*(Elder M. Russell Ballard , “Equality through Diversity,” Ensign, Nov. 1993, 89).*

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5 For behold, the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep. For behold, ye have closed your <sup>a</sup>eyes, and ye have <sup>b</sup>rejected the prophets; and your rulers, and the seers hath he covered because of your iniquity.

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7 And behold the book shall be <sup>a</sup>sealed; and in the book shall be a <sup>b</sup>revelation from God, from the beginning of the world to the <sup>c</sup>ending thereof.

8 Wherefore, because of the things which are <sup>a</sup>sealed up, the things which are sealed shall not be delivered in the day of the wickedness and abominations of the people. Wherefore the book shall be kept from them.

9 But the book shall be delivered unto a man, and he shall deliver the words of the book, which are the words of those who have slumbered in the dust, and he shall deliver these words unto <sup>a</sup>another;

10 But the words which are <sup>a</sup>sealed he shall not deliver, neither shall he deliver the book. For the book shall

be sealed by the power of God, and the revelation which was sealed shall be kept in the book until the own due time of the Lord, that they may come forth; for behold, they <sup>b</sup>reveal all things from the foundation of the world unto the end thereof.

11 And the day cometh that the words of the book which were sealed shall be read upon the house tops; and they shall be read by the power of Christ; and all things shall be <sup>a</sup>revealed unto the children of men which ever have been among the children of men, and which ever will be even unto the end of the earth.

12 Wherefore, at that day when the book shall be delivered unto the man of whom I have spoken, the book shall be hid from the eyes of the world, that the eyes of none shall behold it save it be that <sup>a</sup>three <sup>b</sup>witnesses shall behold it, by the power of God, besides him to whom the book shall be delivered; and they shall testify to the truth of the book and the things therein.

13 And there is <sup>a</sup>none other which shall view it, save it be a few according to the will of God, to bear testimony of his word unto the children of men; for the Lord God hath said that the words of the faithful should speak as if it were <sup>b</sup>from the dead.

14 Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to bring forth the words of the book; and in the mouth of as many witnesses as seemeth him good will he establish his word; and wo be unto him that <sup>a</sup>rejecteth the word of God!

15 But behold, it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall say unto him to whom he shall deliver

the book: Take these words which are not sealed and deliver them to another, that he may show them unto the learned, saying: <sup>a</sup>Read this, I pray thee. And the learned shall say: Bring hither the book, and I will read them.

16 And now, because of the glory of the world and to get <sup>a</sup>gain will they say this, and not for the glory of God.

17 And the man shall say: I cannot bring the book, for it is sealed.

18 Then shall the learned say: I cannot read it.

19 Wherefore it shall come to pass, that the Lord God will <sup>a</sup>deliver again the book and the words thereof to him that is not learned; and the man that is not learned shall say: I am not learned.

20 Then shall the Lord God say unto him: The learned shall not read them, for they have rejected them, and I am <sup>a</sup>able to do mine own work; wherefore thou shalt read the words which I shall give unto thee.

21 <sup>a</sup>Touch not the things which are sealed, for I will bring them forth in mine own due time; for I will show unto the children of men that I am able to do mine own work.

22 Wherefore, when thou hast read the words which I have commanded thee, and obtained the <sup>a</sup>witnesses which I have promised unto thee, then shalt thou seal up the book again, and hide it up unto me, that I may preserve the words which thou hast not read, until I shall see fit in mine own <sup>b</sup>wisdom to <sup>c</sup>reveal all things unto the children of men.

23 For behold, I am God; and I am a God of <sup>a</sup>miracles; and I will show



**“Many more scriptural writings will yet come to us, including those of Enoch (see D&C 107:57), all of the writings of the Apostle John (see Ether 4:16), the records of the lost tribes of Israel (see 2 Nephi 29:13), and the approximately two-thirds of the Book of Mormon plates that were sealed: ‘And the day cometh that the words of the book which were sealed shall be read upon the house tops; and they shall be read by the power of Christ; and all things shall be revealed unto the children of men which ever have been among the children of men, and which ever will be even unto the end of the earth’ (2 Nephi 27:11). Today we carry convenient quadruple combinations of the scriptures, but one day, since more scriptures are coming, we may need to pull little red wagons brimful with books”**

*(Elder Neal A. Maxwell, “A Wonderful Flood of Light” [1990], 18).*

unto him, black and white, <sup>e</sup>bond and free, male and female; and he remembereth the <sup>f</sup>heathen; and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile.

## CHAPTER 27

*Darkness and apostasy will cover the earth in the last days—The Book of Mormon will come forth—Three witnesses will testify of the book—The learned man will say he cannot read the sealed book—The Lord will do a marvelous work and a wonder—Compare Isaiah 29. About 559-545 B.C.*

BUT, behold, in the <sup>a</sup>last days, or in the days of the Gentiles—yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land and those who shall be upon other lands, yea, even upon all the lands of the earth, behold, they will be <sup>b</sup>drunken with iniquity and all manner of abominations—

2 And when that day shall come they shall be <sup>a</sup>visited of the Lord of Hosts, with thunder and with earthquake, and with a great noise, and with storm, and with tempest, and with the <sup>b</sup>flame of devouring fire.

3 And all the <sup>a</sup>nations that <sup>b</sup>fight against Zion, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision; yea, it shall be unto them, even as unto a hungry man which dreameth, and behold he eateth but he awaketh and his soul is empty; or like unto a thirsty man which dreameth, and behold he drinketh but he awaketh and behold he is faint, and his soul

hath appetite; yea, even so shall the multitude of all the nations be that fight against Mount Zion.

4 For behold, all ye that doeth iniquity, stay yourselves and wonder, for ye shall cry out, and cry; yea, ye shall be <sup>a</sup>drunken but not with wine, ye shall stagger but not with strong drink.

5 For behold, the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep. For behold, ye have closed your <sup>a</sup>eyes, and ye have <sup>b</sup>rejected the prophets; and your rulers, and the seers hath he covered because of your iniquity.

6 And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall bring forth unto <sup>a</sup>you the words of a <sup>b</sup>book, and they shall be the words of them which have slumbered.

7 And behold the book shall be <sup>a</sup>sealed; and in the book shall be a <sup>b</sup>revelation from God, from the beginning of the world to the <sup>c</sup>ending thereof.

8 Wherefore, because of the things which are <sup>a</sup>sealed up, the things which are sealed shall not be delivered in the day of the wickedness and abominations of the people. Wherefore the book shall be kept from them.

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be sealed by the power of God, and the revelation which was sealed shall be kept in the book until the own due time of the Lord, that they may come forth; for behold, they <sup>b</sup>reveal all things from the foundation of the world unto the end thereof.

11 And the day cometh that the words of the book which were sealed shall be read upon the house tops; and they shall be read by the power of Christ; and all things shall be <sup>a</sup>revealed unto the children of men which ever have been among the children of men, and which ever will be even unto the end of the earth.

12 Wherefore, at that day when the book shall be delivered unto the man of whom I have spoken, the book shall be hid from the eyes of the world, that the eyes of none shall behold it save it be that <sup>a</sup>three <sup>b</sup>witnesses shall behold it, by the power of God, besides him to whom the book shall be delivered; and they shall testify to the truth of the book and the things therein.

13 And there is <sup>a</sup>none other which shall view it, save it be a few according to the will of God, to bear testimony of his word unto the children of men; for the Lord God hath said that the words of the faithful should speak as if it were <sup>b</sup>from the dead.

14 Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to bring forth the words of the book; and in the mouth of as many witnesses as seemeth him good will he establish his word; and wo be unto him that <sup>a</sup>rejecteth the word of God!

15 But behold, it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall say unto him to whom he shall deliver

the book: Take these words which are not sealed and deliver them to another, that he may show them unto the learned, saying: <sup>a</sup>Read this, I pray thee. And the learned shall say: Bring hither the book, and I will read them.

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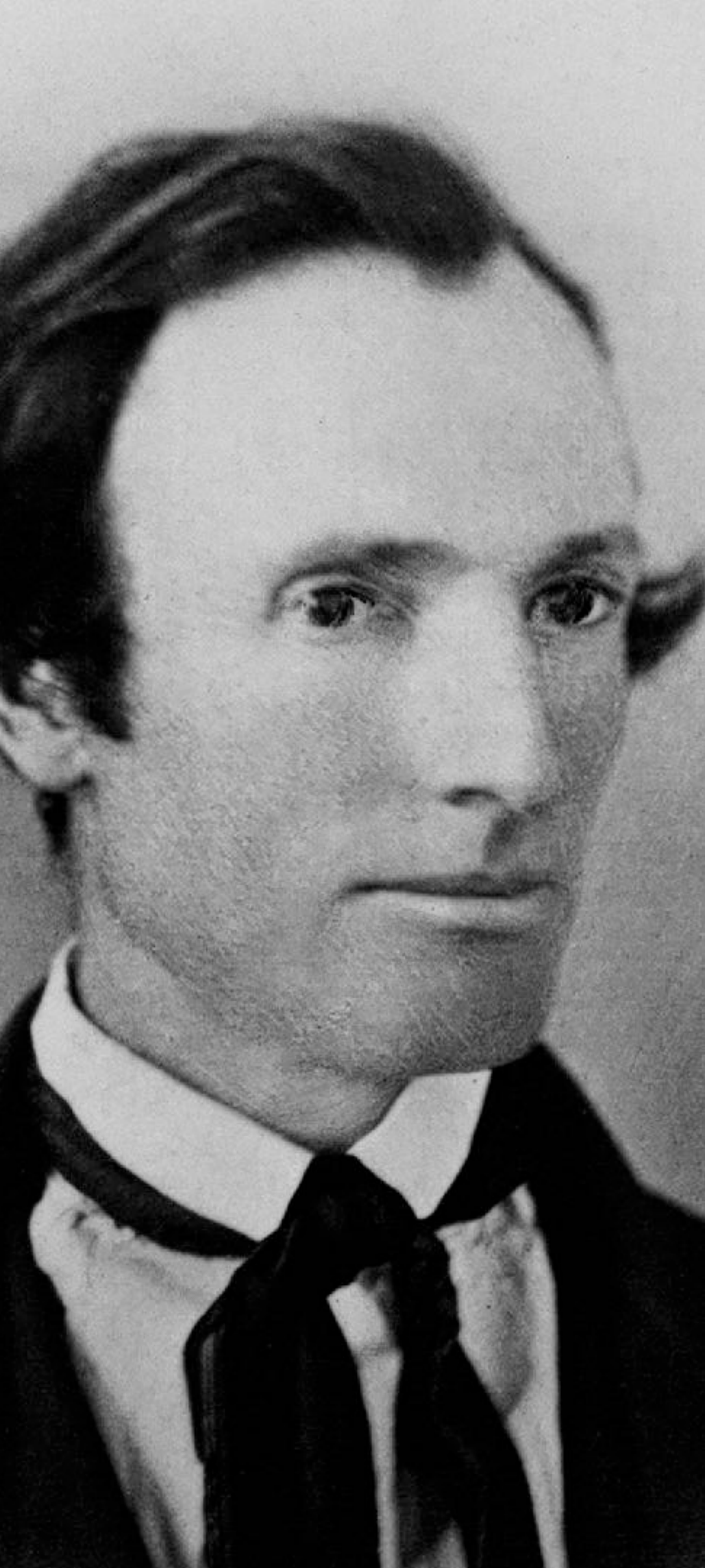
20 Then shall the Lord God say unto him: The learned shall not read them, for they have rejected them, and I am <sup>a</sup>able to do mine own work; wherefore thou shalt read the words which I shall give unto thee.

21 <sup>a</sup>Touch not the things which are sealed, for I will bring them forth in mine own due time; for I will show unto the children of men that I am able to do mine own work.

22 Wherefore, when thou hast read the words which I have commanded thee, and obtained the <sup>a</sup>witnesses which I have promised unto thee, then shalt thou seal up the book again, and hide it up unto me, that I may preserve the words which thou hast not read, until I shall see fit in mine own <sup>b</sup>wisdom to <sup>c</sup>reveal all things unto the children of men.

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A Sealed Book (commentary on Isaiah 29:11-12)



Oliver Cowdery reported that during Moroni's initial visit to Joseph Smith on September 21–22, 1823, Moroni quoted the prophecy of Isaiah cited in 2 Nephi 27 and said that Joseph was to fulfill it:

**“‘Yet,’ said he, ‘the scripture must be fulfilled before it is translated, which says that the words of a book, which were sealed, were presented to the learned; for thus has God determined to leave men without excuse, and show to the meek that his arm is not shortened that it cannot save’”**

*(“Letter IV. To W. W. Phelps,” Messenger and Advocate, Feb. 1835, 80).*



**“This is not solely a reference to Professor Anthon, since the plural pronoun they is used [2 Nephi 27:20]. The reference suggests a mind-set of most of the learned of the world, who, by and large, do not take the Book of Mormon seriously. Even when they read it, they do not really read it, except with a mind-set which excludes miracles, including the miracle of the book’s coming forth by the ‘gift and power of God’”**

*(Elder Neal A. Maxwell, “The Book of Mormon: A Great Answer to ‘the Great Question,’” in Monte S. Nyman and Charles D. Tate Jr., eds., The Book of Mormon: First Nephi, The Doctrinal Foundation [1988], 9).*



be sealed by the power of God, and the revelation which was sealed shall be kept in the book until the own due time of the Lord, that they may come forth; for behold, they <sup>b</sup>reveal all things from the foundation of the world unto the end thereof.

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13 And there is <sup>a</sup>none other which shall view it, save it be a few according to the will of God, to bear testimony of his word unto the children of men; for the Lord God hath said that the words of the faithful should speak as if it were <sup>b</sup>from the dead.

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21 <sup>a</sup>Touch not the things which are sealed, for I will bring them forth in mine own due time; for I will show unto the children of men that I am able to do mine own work.

22 Wherefore, when thou hast read the words which I have commanded thee, and obtained the <sup>a</sup>witnesses which I have promised unto thee, then shalt thou seal up the book again, and hide it up unto me, that I may preserve the words which thou hast not read, until I shall see fit in mine own <sup>b</sup>wisdom to <sup>c</sup>reveal all things unto the children of men.

23 For behold, I am God; and I am a God of <sup>a</sup>miracles; and I will show

unto the <sup>b</sup>world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and I <sup>c</sup>work not among the children of men save it be <sup>a</sup>according to their faith.

24 And again it shall come to pass that the Lord shall say unto him that shall read the words that shall be delivered him:

25 <sup>a</sup>Forasmuch as this people draw near unto me with their mouth, and with their lips do <sup>b</sup>honor me, but have removed their <sup>c</sup>hearts far from me, and their fear towards me is taught by the <sup>d</sup>precepts of men—

26 Therefore, I will proceed to do a <sup>a</sup>marvelous work among this people, yea, a <sup>b</sup>marvelous work and a wonder, for the <sup>c</sup>wisdom of their wise and <sup>d</sup>learned shall perish, and the <sup>e</sup>understanding of their <sup>f</sup>prudent shall be hid.

27 And <sup>a</sup>wo unto them that seek deep to hide their <sup>b</sup>counsel from the Lord! And their works are in the <sup>c</sup>dark; and they say: Who seeth us, and who knoweth us? And they also say: Surely, your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the <sup>d</sup>potter's clay. But behold, I will show unto them, saith the Lord of Hosts, that I <sup>e</sup>know all their works. For shall the work say of him that made it, he made me not? Or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, he had no understanding?

28 But behold, saith the Lord of Hosts: I will show unto the children of men that it is yet a very little while and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field; and the <sup>a</sup>fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest.

29 <sup>a</sup>And in that day shall the <sup>b</sup>deaf

hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.

30 And the <sup>a</sup>meek also shall increase, and their <sup>b</sup>joy shall be in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

31 For assuredly as the Lord liveth they shall see that the <sup>a</sup>terrible one is brought to naught, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off;

32 And they that make a man an <sup>a</sup>offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the <sup>b</sup>gate, and <sup>c</sup>turn aside the just for a thing of naught.

33 Therefore, thus saith the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: Jacob shall <sup>a</sup>not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale.

34 But when he <sup>a</sup>seeth his children, the work of my hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel.

35 They also that <sup>a</sup>erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall <sup>b</sup>learn doctrine.

## CHAPTER 28

*Many false churches will be built up in the last days—They will teach false, vain, and foolish doctrines—Apostasy will abound because of false teachers—The devil will rage in the hearts of men—He will teach all manner of false doctrines. About 559–545 B.C.*

AND now, behold, my brethren, I have spoken unto you, according

A Sealed Book (commentary on Isaiah 29:11-12)

God Knows All (Isaiah 29:13-16)

See v 5

Hope for the Future (Isaiah 29:17-24)



**“Such is the purpose of the Book of Mormon. Members of false churches who err in spirit, who think they have the truth, are brought by the Book of Mormon to the fulness of the gospel. Those who have based their beliefs on isolated verses and obscure passages, and who have wondered and murmured at seeming biblical conflicts, come to learn sound doctrine. No longer do they worry about the atonement, salvation by grace alone, infant baptism, the priesthood, the gifts of the Spirit, the passages about an apostasy, a gospel restoration, and the gathering of Israel. All things fall into place because of this new witness for Christ and his gospel”**

*(Elder Bruce R. McConkie, “The Millennial Messiah” [1982], 174–75).*

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AND now, behold, my brethren, I have spoken unto you, according

as the Spirit hath constrained me; wherefore, I know that they must surely come to pass.

2 And the things which shall be written out of the <sup>a</sup>book shall be of great <sup>b</sup>worth unto the children of men, and especially unto our seed, which is a <sup>c</sup>remnant of the house of Israel.

3 For it shall come to pass in that day that the <sup>a</sup>churches which are built up, and not unto the Lord, when the one shall say unto the other: Behold, I, I am the Lord's; and the others shall say: I, I am the Lord's; and thus shall every one say that hath built up <sup>b</sup>churches, and not unto the Lord—

4 And they shall contend one with another; and their priests shall contend one with another, and they shall teach with their <sup>a</sup>learning, and deny the <sup>b</sup>Holy Ghost, which giveth utterance.

5 And they <sup>a</sup>deny the <sup>b</sup>power of God, the Holy One of Israel; and they say unto the people: Harken unto us, and hear ye our precept; for behold there is <sup>c</sup>no God today, for the Lord and the Redeemer hath done his work, and he hath given his power unto men;

6 Behold, hearken ye unto my precept; if they shall say there is a miracle wrought by the hand of the Lord, believe it not; for this day he is not a God of <sup>a</sup>miracles; he hath done his work.

7 Yea, and there shall be many which shall say: <sup>a</sup>Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die; and it shall be well with us.

8 And there shall also be many which shall say: <sup>a</sup>Eat, drink, and be <sup>b</sup>merry; nevertheless, fear God—he will <sup>c</sup>justify in committing a little <sup>d</sup>sin; yea, <sup>e</sup>lie a little, take the advantage of one because of his words, dig a <sup>f</sup>pit for thy neighbor; there is <sup>g</sup>no harm in this; and do all these things, for tomorrow we die; and if it so be that we are guilty, God will beat us with a few stripes, and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God.

9 Yea, and there shall be many which shall teach after this manner, <sup>a</sup>false and vain and <sup>b</sup>foolish <sup>c</sup>doctrines, and shall be puffed up in their hearts, and shall seek deep to hide their counsels from the Lord; and their works shall be in the dark.

10 And the <sup>a</sup>blood of the saints shall cry from the ground against them.

11 Yea, they have all gone out of the <sup>a</sup>way; they have become <sup>b</sup>corrupted.

12 Because of <sup>a</sup>pride, and because of <sup>b</sup>false teachers, and <sup>c</sup>false doctrine, their churches have become corrupted, and their churches are lifted up; because of pride they are puffed up.

13 They <sup>a</sup>rob the <sup>b</sup>poor because of their fine sanctuaries; they rob the poor because of their fine clothing;

and they persecute the meek and the poor in heart, because in their <sup>c</sup>pride they are puffed up.

14 They wear <sup>a</sup>stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, and abominations, and <sup>b</sup>whoredoms, they have all <sup>c</sup>gone astray save it be a <sup>d</sup>few, who are the humble followers of Christ; nevertheless, they are <sup>e</sup>led, that in many instances they do <sup>f</sup>err because they are taught by the precepts of men.

15 O the <sup>a</sup>wise, and the learned, and the rich, that are puffed up in the <sup>b</sup>pride of their <sup>c</sup>hearts, and all those who preach <sup>d</sup>false doctrines, and all those who commit <sup>e</sup>whoredoms, and pervert the right way of the Lord, <sup>f</sup>wo, wo, wo be unto them, saith the Lord God Almighty, for they shall be thrust down to hell!

16 Wo unto them that <sup>a</sup>turn aside the just for a thing of naught and <sup>b</sup>revile against that which is good, and say that it is of no worth! For the day shall come that the Lord God will speedily visit the inhabitants of the earth; and in that day that they are <sup>c</sup>fully ripe in iniquity they shall perish.

17 But behold, if the inhabitants of the earth shall repent of their wickedness and abominations they shall not be destroyed, saith the Lord of Hosts.

18 But behold, that great and <sup>a</sup>abominable church, the <sup>b</sup>whore of all the earth, must <sup>c</sup>tumble to



**“Each of the major writers of the Book of Mormon testified that he wrote for future generations. ...**

**“If they saw our day and chose those things which would be of greatest worth to us, is not that how we should study the Book of Mormon? We should constantly ask ourselves, ‘Why did the Lord inspire Mormon (or Moroni or Alma) to include that in his record? What lesson can I learn from that to help me live in this day and age?’ ...**

**“... In the Book of Mormon we find lessons for dealing with persecution and apostasy. We learn much about how to do missionary work. And more than anywhere else, we see in the Book of Mormon the dangers of materialism and setting our hearts on the things of the world. Can anyone doubt that this book was meant for us and that in it we find great power, great comfort, and great protection?”**

*(President Ezra Taft Benson in Conference Report, Oct. 1986, 5–6; or Ensign, Nov. 1986, 6–7).*

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6 Behold, hearken ye unto my precept; if they shall say there is a miracle wrought by the hand of the Lord, believe it not; for this day he is not a God of <sup>a</sup>miracles; he hath done his work.

7 Yea, and there shall be many which shall say: <sup>a</sup>Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die; and it shall be well with us.

8 And there shall also be many which shall say: <sup>a</sup>Eat, drink, and be <sup>b</sup>merry; nevertheless, fear God—he will <sup>c</sup>justify in committing a little <sup>d</sup>sin; yea, <sup>e</sup>lie a little, take the advantage of one because of his words, dig a <sup>f</sup>pit for thy neighbor; there is <sup>g</sup>no harm in this; and do all these things, for tomorrow we die; and if it so be that we are guilty, God will beat us with a few stripes, and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God.

9 Yea, and there shall be many which shall teach after this manner, <sup>a</sup>false and vain and <sup>b</sup>foolish <sup>c</sup>doctrines, and shall be puffed up in their hearts, and shall seek deep to hide their counsels from the Lord; and their works shall be in the dark.

10 And the <sup>a</sup>blood of the saints shall cry from the ground against them.

11 Yea, they have all gone out of the <sup>a</sup>way; they have become <sup>b</sup>corrupted.

12 Because of <sup>a</sup>pride, and because of <sup>b</sup>false teachers, and <sup>c</sup>false doctrine, their churches have become corrupted, and their churches are lifted up; because of pride they are puffed up.

13 They <sup>a</sup>rob the <sup>b</sup>poor because of their fine sanctuaries; they rob the poor because of their fine clothing;

and they persecute the meek and the poor in heart, because in their <sup>c</sup>pride they are puffed up.

14 They wear <sup>a</sup>stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, and abominations, and <sup>b</sup>whoredoms, they have all <sup>c</sup>gone astray save it be a <sup>d</sup>few, who are the humble followers of Christ;

e Last Days

### So Close Jon...

### 2 Nephi 12:22

Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils; for wherein is he to be accounted of?

Nephi Prophecies

the just for a thing of naught and <sup>b</sup>revile against that which is good, and say that it is of no worth! For the day shall come that the Lord God will speedily visit the inhabitants of the earth; and in that day that they are <sup>c</sup>fully ripe in iniquity they shall perish.

17 But behold, if the inhabitants of the earth shall repent of their wickedness and abominations they shall not be destroyed, saith the Lord of Hosts.

18 But behold, that great and <sup>a</sup>abominable church, the <sup>b</sup>whore of all the earth, must <sup>c</sup>tumble to



**“Thomas R. Rowan . . . said: ‘Author and commentator Malcolm Muggeridge once told a story about some frogs who were killed without resistance by being boiled alive in [a] cauldron of water. Why didn’t they resist? Because when they were put in the cauldron, the water was tepid. Then the temperature was raised ever so slightly, . . . then a bit warmer still, and on and on and on. The change was so gradual, almost imperceptible, that the frogs accommodated themselves to their new environment—until it was too late. The point that Mr. Muggeridge was making was not about frogs but about us and how we tend to accept evil as long as it is not a shock that is thrust on us abruptly. We are inclined to accept something morally wrong if it is only a shade more wrong than something we are already accepting’” (National Press Club Forum).**

**After sharing this analogy, Elder Faust said, “This gradual process was foretold by ancient prophets”**

*(Elder James E. Faust in Conference Report, Apr. 1989, 40; or Ensign, May 1989, 32).*



**“The Book of Mormon exposes the enemies of Christ. It confounds false doctrines and lays down contention. (See 2 Ne. 3:12.) It fortifies the humble followers of Christ against the evil designs, strategies, and doctrines of the devil in our day. The type of apostates in the Book of Mormon are similar to the type we have today. God, with his infinite foreknowledge, so molded the Book of Mormon that we might see the error and know how to combat false educational, political, religious, and philosophical concepts of our time”**

*(President Ezra Taft Benson in Conference Report, Apr. 1975, 94–95; or Ensign, May 1975, 64).*



**“The philosophy of ritual prodigalism is ‘eat, drink, and be merry, ... [and] God will beat us with a few stripes’ (2 Nephi 28:8). This is a cynical and shallow view of God, of self, and of life. God never can justify us ‘in committing a little sin’ (verse 8). He is the God of the universe, not some night-court judge with whom we can haggle and plea bargain!**

**“Of course God is forgiving! But He knows the intents of our hearts. He also knows what good we might have done while AWOL [absent without leave]. In any case, what others do is no excuse for the disciple from whom much is required (see Alma 39:4). Besides, on the straight and narrow path, there are simply no corners to be cut (see D&C 82:3)”**

*(Neal A. Maxwell in Conference Report, Oct. 1988, 40; or Ensign, Nov. 1988, 33).*





**“[One deception] is what some erroneously call ‘premeditated repentance.’ There is no such doctrine in this Church. This may sound subtly appealing, but it is in fact pernicious and a false concept. Its objective is to persuade us that we can consciously and deliberately transgress with the forethought that quick repentance will permit us to enjoy the full blessings of the gospel, such as temple blessings or a mission. True repentance can be a long, painful process. This foolish doctrine was foreseen by Nephi:**

**““And there shall also be many which shall say: Eat, drink, and be merry; nevertheless, fear God—he will justify in committing a little sin; ... there is no harm in this: and do all these things, for tomorrow we die:**



**justify in committing a little sin; ... there is no harm in this; and do all these things, for tomorrow we die; and if it so be that we are guilty, God will beat us with a few stripes, and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God' [2 Nephi 28:8].**

**“... All of our covenants must not only be received through ordinances but, to be eternal, must also be sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise. This divine stamp of approval is placed upon our ordinances and covenants only through faithfulness. The false idea of so-called premeditated repentance involves an element of deception, but the Holy Spirit of Promise cannot be deceived”**

*(President James E. Faust in Conference Report, Oct. 2000, 61; or Ensign, Nov. 2000, 46).*

and they persecute the meek and the poor in heart, because in their <sup>c</sup>pride they are puffed up.

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15 O the <sup>a</sup>wise, and the learned, and the rich, that are puffed up in the <sup>b</sup>pride of their <sup>c</sup>hearts, and all those who preach <sup>d</sup>false doctrines, and all those who commit <sup>e</sup>whoredoms, and pervert the right way of the Lord, <sup>f</sup>wo, wo, wo be unto them, saith the Lord God Almighty, for they shall be thrust down to hell!

16 <sup>Wo</sup> unto them that <sup>a</sup>turn aside the <sup>just</sup> for a thing of naught and <sup>b</sup>revile against that which is good, and say that it is of no worth! For the day shall come that the Lord God will speedily visit the inhabitants of the earth; and in that day that they are <sup>c</sup>fully ripe in iniquity they shall perish.

17 But behold, if the inhabitants of the earth shall repent of their wickedness and abominations they shall not be destroyed, saith the Lord of Hosts.

18 But behold, that great and <sup>a</sup>abominable church, the <sup>b</sup>whore of all the earth, must <sup>c</sup>tumble to

the earth, and great must be the fall thereof.

19 For the kingdom of the devil must <sup>a</sup>shake, and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance, or the <sup>b</sup>devil will grasp them with his everlasting <sup>c</sup>chains, and they be stirred up to anger, and perish;

20 For behold, at that day shall he <sup>a</sup>rage in the <sup>b</sup>hearts of the children of men, and <sup>stir them up to anger against that which is good.</sup>

21 And others will he <sup>a</sup>pacify, and lull them away into carnal <sup>b</sup>security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well—and thus the <sup>c</sup>devil <sup>d</sup>cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell.

22 And behold, others he <sup>a</sup>flattereth away, and telleth them there is no <sup>b</sup>hell; and he saith unto them: I am no devil, for there is none—and thus he whispereth in their ears, until he grasps them with his awful <sup>c</sup>chains, from whence there is no deliverance.

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28 And in fine, <sup>wo</sup> unto all those who tremble, and are <sup>a</sup>angry because of <sup>b</sup>the truth of God! For behold, he that is built upon the <sup>c</sup>rock <sup>d</sup>receiveth it with gladness; and he that is built upon a sandy foundation trembleth lest he shall fall.

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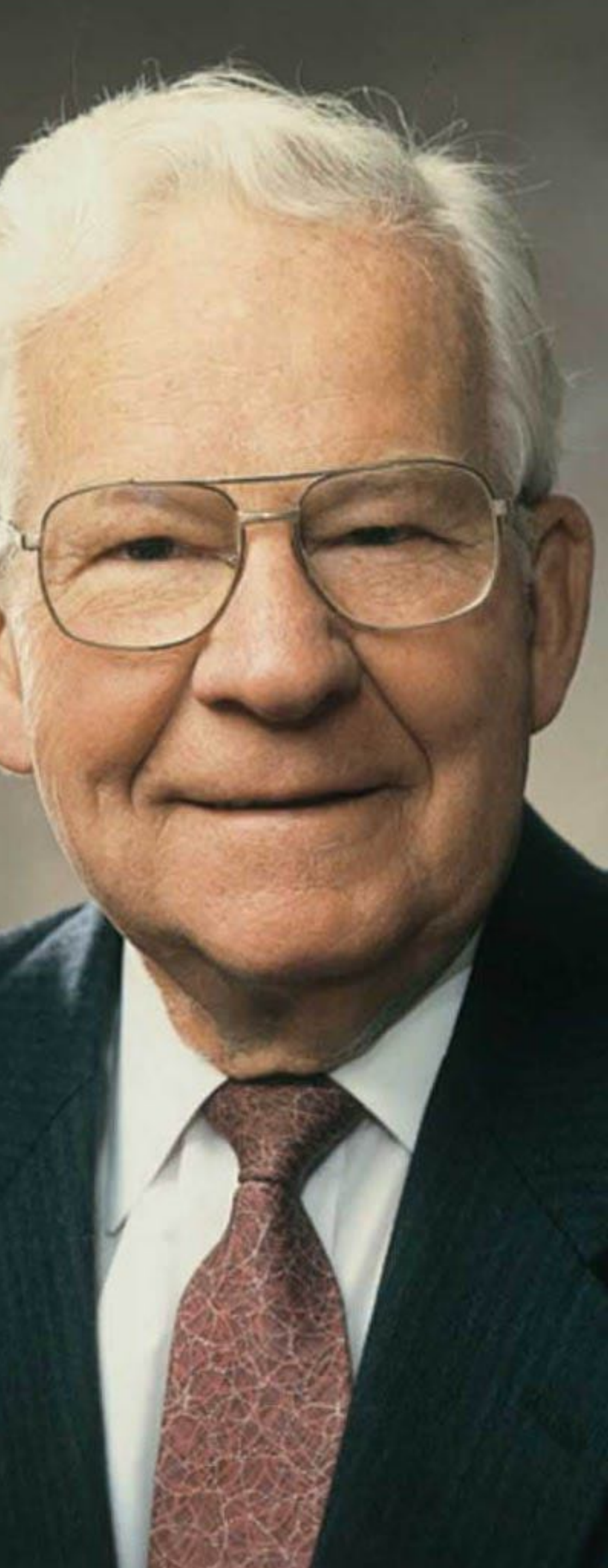
### CHAPTER 29

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BUT behold, there shall be many—at that day when I shall proceed to do a <sup>a</sup>marvelous work among them, that I may remember my <sup>b</sup>covenants which I have made unto the children of men, that I may set my hand again the <sup>c</sup>second time to recover my people, which are of the house of Israel;

2 And also, that I may remember the promises which I have made unto thee, Nephi, and also unto thy father, that I would remember your seed; and that the <sup>a</sup>words of your seed should proceed forth out of my mouth unto your seed; and my words shall <sup>b</sup>hiss forth unto the <sup>c</sup>ends of the earth, for a <sup>d</sup>standard unto my people, which are of the house of Israel;

3 And because my words shall hiss forth—many of the Gentiles shall say: A <sup>a</sup>Bible! A Bible! We have



**“It should come as no surprise that one of the adversary’s tactics in the latter days is stirring up hatred among the children of men. He loves to see us criticize each other, make fun or take advantage of our neighbor’s known flaws, and generally pick on each other. The Book of Mormon is clear from where all anger, malice, greed, and hate come from.**

**“... By the looks of what we constantly see depicted in the news media, it appears that Satan is doing a pretty good job. In the name of reporting the news, we are besieged with sometimes graphic depictions—too often in living color—of greed, extortion, violent sexual crimes, and insults between business, athletic, or political opponents”**

*(Elder Marvin J. Ashton in Conference Report, Apr. 1992, 24–25; or Ensign, May 1992, 19).*

and they persecute the meek and the poor in heart, because in their <sup>c</sup>pride they are puffed up.

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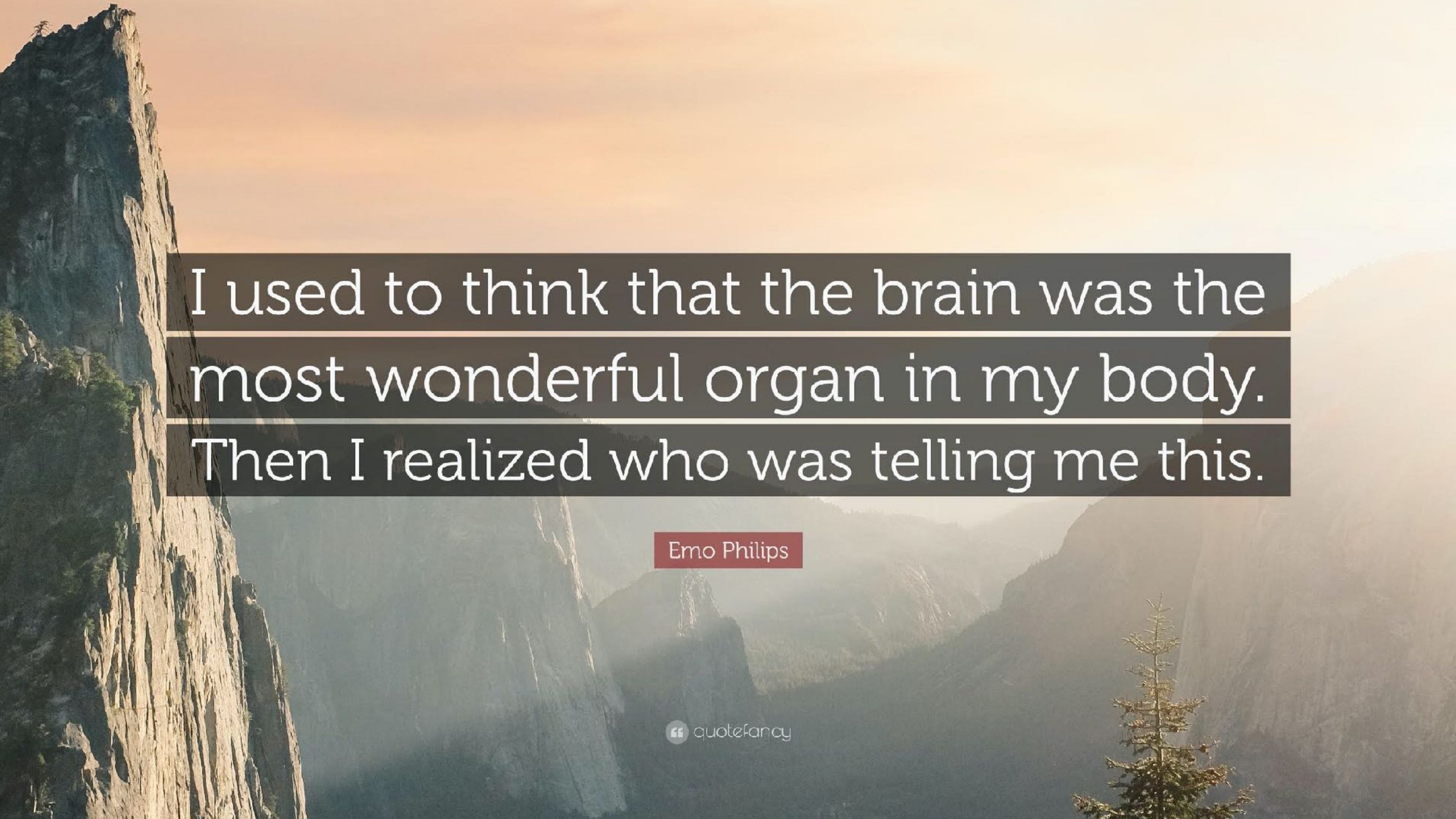
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A scenic view of a mountain valley. On the left, a tall, narrow rock formation rises vertically. The valley floor is filled with green trees and vegetation. In the foreground on the right, a single evergreen tree stands prominently. The background shows more mountain ranges under a hazy, golden sky, suggesting a sunrise or sunset.

I used to think that the brain was the most wonderful organ in my body. Then I realized who was telling me this.

Emo Philips



**“A corollary to the pernicious falsehood that God is dead is the equally pernicious doctrine that there is no devil. Satan himself is the father of both of these lies. To believe them is to surrender to him. Such surrender has always led, is leading now, and will continue to lead men to destruction.**

**“Latter-day Saints know that there is a God. With like certainty, they know that Satan lives, that he is a powerful personage of spirit, the archenemy of God, of man, and of righteousness.**

**“The reality of the existence of both God and the devil is conclusively established by the scriptures and by human experience”**

*(President Marion G. Romney in Conference Report, Apr. 1971, 22; or Ensign, June 1971, 35).*



**“We have ... had very specific warnings regarding Satan’s power, influence, and determination. Nephi prophesied more than twenty-five hundred years ago of the trials and turbulence that you would face. You all know the scripture. It is found in the 28th chapter of 2 Nephi: [2 Nephi 28:20–21]**

**“I believe this scripture is true. I believe the time is now. And I believe the target is you. For the most part, Satan has made great strides in establishing and selling his value system, which is based upon the son of man, not the Son of God: ‘Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die’ (2 Nephi 28:7) and ‘There is no hell’ (2 Nephi 28:22). His is a value system based upon selfishness, self-indulgence, and immediate gratification. Thus we see devastating decisions constantly being made by those of your age. We see cultures infested with drugs, sex, alcohol, pornography, laziness, and many other spiritually devastating practices. But that does not have to be you.**





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**“President Gordon B. Hinckley has warned us and pleaded with us: ‘I wish to say in the strongest language of which I am capable, stay away from moral iniquity. You know what is right and wrong. You cannot use ignorance as an excuse for unacceptable behavior. ...**

**“I beg of you, my dear young friends, to avoid such behavior. It will not be easy. It will require self-discipline. ... You need the strength that comes of prayer’ (“To Men of the Priesthood,” Ensign, Nov. 2002, 58–59)”**

*(Bishop Richard C. Edgley, “Becoming You” [CES fireside for young adults, Nov. 3, 2002], 4, [www.ldsces.org](http://www.ldsces.org)).*

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### Woes Similar to:

Jacob's in 2 Nephi 9:27-38

And

Isaiah's in 2 Nephi 15:8-25

children of men, that I may set my hand again the <sup>c</sup>second time to recover my people, which are of the house of Israel;

2 And also, that I may remember the promises which I have made unto thee, Nephi, and also unto thy father, that I would remember your seed; and that the <sup>a</sup>words of your seed should proceed forth out of my mouth unto your seed; and my words shall <sup>b</sup>hiss forth unto the <sup>c</sup>ends of the earth, for a <sup>d</sup>standard unto my people, which are of the house of Israel;

3 And because my words shall hiss forth—many of the Gentiles shall say: A <sup>a</sup>Bible! A Bible! We have

25 Wo be unto him that crieth: All is well!

26 Yea, wo be unto him that <sup>a</sup>hearkeneth unto the precepts of men, and denieth the power of God, and the gift of the Holy Ghost!

27 Yea, wo be unto him that saith: We have received, and we <sup>a</sup>need no more!

28 And in fine, wo unto all those who tremble, and are <sup>a</sup>angry because of <sup>b</sup>the truth of God! For behold, he that is built upon the <sup>c</sup>rock <sup>a</sup>receiveth it with gladness; and he that is built upon a sandy foundation trembleth lest he shall fall.

29 Wo be unto him that shall say: We have received the word of God, and we <sup>a</sup>need <sup>b</sup>no more of the word of God, for we have enough!

30 For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, <sup>a</sup>precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn <sup>b</sup>wisdom; for unto him that <sup>c</sup>receiveth I will give <sup>d</sup>more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have.

31 Cursed is he that putteth his <sup>a</sup>trust in man, or maketh flesh his arm, or shall hearken unto the <sup>b</sup>precepts of men, save their precepts shall be given by the power of the Holy Ghost.

32 <sup>a</sup>Wo be unto the Gentiles, saith the Lord God of Hosts! For notwith-

standing I shall lengthen out mine arm unto them from day to day, they will deny me; nevertheless, I will be merciful unto them, saith the Lord God, if they will repent and <sup>b</sup>come unto me; for mine <sup>c</sup>arm is lengthened out all the day long, saith the Lord God of Hosts.

## CHAPTER 29

*Many Gentiles will reject the Book of Mormon—They will say, We need no more Bible—The Lord speaks to many nations—He will judge the world out of the books which will be written. About 559-545 B.C.*

BUT behold, there shall be many—at that day when I shall proceed to do a <sup>a</sup>marvelous work among them, that I may remember my <sup>b</sup>covenants which I have made unto the children of men, that I may set my hand again the <sup>c</sup>second time to recover my people, which are of the house of Israel;

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got a Bible, and there cannot be any more Bible.

4 But thus saith the Lord God: O fools, they shall have a <sup>a</sup>Bible; and it shall proceed forth from the <sup>b</sup>Jews, mine ancient covenant people. And what <sup>c</sup>thank they the <sup>d</sup>Jews for the Bible which they receive from them? Yea, what do the Gentiles mean? Do they remember the travails, and the labors, and the pains of the Jews, and their diligence unto me, in bringing forth salvation unto the Gentiles?

5 O ye Gentiles, have ye remembered the Jews, mine ancient covenant people? Nay; but ye have <sup>a</sup>cursed them, and have <sup>b</sup>hated them, and have not sought to recover them. But behold, I will return all these things upon your own heads; for I the Lord have not forgotten my people.

6 Thou fool, that shall say: A <sup>a</sup>Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible. Have ye obtained a Bible save it were by the Jews?

7 Know ye not that there are more <sup>a</sup>nations than one? Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men, and that I remember those who are upon the <sup>b</sup>isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above and in the <sup>c</sup>earth beneath; and I bring forth my <sup>d</sup>word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth?

8 Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? Know ye not that the <sup>a</sup>testi-

mony of <sup>b</sup>two nations is a <sup>c</sup>witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one <sup>d</sup>nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two <sup>e</sup>nations shall run together the testimony of the two nations shall run together also.

9 And I do this that I may prove unto many that I am the <sup>a</sup>same yesterday, today, and forever; and that I speak forth my <sup>b</sup>words according to mine own pleasure. And because that I have spoken one <sup>c</sup>word ye need not suppose that I cannot speak another; for my <sup>d</sup>work is not yet finished; neither shall it be until the end of man, neither from that time henceforth and forever.

10 Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my <sup>a</sup>words; neither <sup>b</sup>need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written.

11 For I command <sup>a</sup>all men, both in the east and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the islands of the sea, that they shall <sup>b</sup>write the words which I speak unto them; for out of the <sup>c</sup>books which shall be written I will <sup>d</sup>judge the world, every man according to their works, according to that which is written.

12 For behold, I shall speak unto the <sup>a</sup>Jews and they shall <sup>b</sup>write it; and I shall also speak unto the



**“Our main task is to declare the gospel and do it effectively. We are not obligated to answer every objection. Every man eventually is backed up to the wall of faith, and there he must make his stand. ...**

**“The Book of Mormon is to be used ‘for a standard unto my people, which are of the house of Israel,’ the Lord says, and its words ‘shall hiss forth unto the ends of the earth.’ (2 Ne. 29:2.) We, the members of the Church, and particularly the missionaries, have to be the ‘hissers,’ or the tellers and testifiers, of the Book of Mormon unto the ends of the earth.**

**“The Book of Mormon is the great standard we are to use. ... The Book of Mormon is the great finder of the golden contact. It does not contain things which are ‘pleasing unto the world’ (1 Ne. 6:5). ... It is a great sieve”**

*(President Ezra Taft Benson in Conference Report, Apr. 1975, 95–96; or Ensign, May 1975, 65).*

**“Strange as it may seem to present day enemies of the truth, their very opposition to the receipt of more of the word of the Lord by way of the Book of Mormon is one of the signs of the times. Their opposition, summarized in the canting chant, ‘A Bible! A Bible! We have got a Bible, and there cannot be any more Bible,’ brings forth this severe rebuke from the Lord: ‘Thou fool, that shall say: A Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible. ... Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word?’ (2 Ne. 29.)”**

*(Elder Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine,” 2nd ed. [1966], 719).*

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5 O ye Gentiles, have ye remembered the Jews, mine ancient covenant people? Nay; but ye have <sup>a</sup>cursed them, and have <sup>b</sup>hated them, and have not sought to recover them. But behold, I will return all these things upon your own heads; for I the Lord have not forgotten my people.

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Nephites and they shall <sup>c</sup>write it; and I shall also speak unto the other tribes of the house of Israel, which I have led away, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto <sup>d</sup>all nations of the earth and they shall write it.

13 And it shall come to pass that the <sup>a</sup>Jews shall have the words of the Nephites, and the Nephites shall have the words of the Jews; and the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the <sup>b</sup>lost tribes of Israel; and the lost tribes of Israel shall have the words of the Nephites and the Jews.

14 And it shall come to pass that my people, which are of the <sup>a</sup>house of Israel, shall be gathered home unto the <sup>b</sup>lands of their possessions; and my word also shall be gathered in <sup>c</sup>one. And I will show unto them that fight against my word and against my <sup>d</sup>people, who are of the <sup>e</sup>house of Israel, that I am God, and that I <sup>f</sup>covenanted with <sup>g</sup>Abraham that I would remember his <sup>h</sup>seed <sup>i</sup>forever.

## CHAPTER 30

*Converted Gentiles will be numbered with the covenant people—Many Lamanites and Jews will believe the word and become delightful—Israel will be restored and the wicked destroyed. About 559-545 B.C.*

AND now behold, my beloved brethren, I would speak unto you; for I, Nephi, would not suffer that ye



Nephites and they shall <sup>a</sup>write it; and I shall also speak unto the other tribes of the house of Israel, which I have led away, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto <sup>a</sup>all nations of the earth and they shall write it.

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*Converted Gentiles will be numbered with the covenant people—Many Lamanites and Jews will believe the word and become delightsome—Israel will be restored and the wicked destroyed. About 559–545 B.C.*

AND now behold, my beloved brethren, I would speak unto you; for I, Nephi, would not suffer that ye

should suppose that ye are more righteous than the Gentiles shall be. For behold, except ye shall keep the commandments of God ye shall all likewise <sup>a</sup>perish; and because of the words which have been spoken ye need not suppose that the Gentiles are utterly destroyed.

2 For behold, I say unto you that as many of the Gentiles as will repent are the <sup>a</sup>covenant people of the Lord; and as many of the <sup>b</sup>Jews as will not repent shall be <sup>c</sup>cast off; for the Lord <sup>d</sup>covenanteth with none save it be with them that <sup>e</sup>repent and believe in his Son, who is the Holy One of Israel.

3 And now, I would prophesy somewhat more concerning the Jews and the Gentiles. For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall <sup>a</sup>believe the words which are written; and <sup>b</sup>they shall carry them forth unto the <sup>c</sup>remnant of our seed.

4 And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are descendants of the Jews.

5 And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among <sup>a</sup>them; wherefore, <sup>b</sup>they shall be restored unto the <sup>c</sup>knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers.

6 And then shall they rejoice; for they shall <sup>a</sup>know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God; and their <sup>b</sup>scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a pure and a <sup>c</sup>delightful people.

7 And it shall come to pass that the <sup>a</sup>Jews which are scattered also shall <sup>b</sup>begin to believe in Christ; and they shall begin to gather in upon the face of the land; and as many as shall believe in Christ shall also become a delightful people.

8 And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall commence his work among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, to bring about the <sup>a</sup>restoration of his people upon the earth.

9 And with righteousness shall the <sup>a</sup>Lord God <sup>b</sup>judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the <sup>c</sup>meek of the earth. And he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth; and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

10 For the <sup>a</sup>time speedily cometh that the Lord God shall cause a great <sup>b</sup>division among the people, and the wicked will he <sup>c</sup>destroy; and he will <sup>d</sup>spare his people, yea, even if it so be that he must <sup>e</sup>destroy the wicked by fire.

11 And <sup>a</sup>righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

12 <sup>a</sup>And then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb; and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and

the calf, and the young lion, and the fatling, together; and a little child shall lead them.

13 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

14 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den.

15 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy <sup>a</sup>mountain; for the earth shall be full of the <sup>b</sup>knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

16 Wherefore, the things of <sup>a</sup>all nations shall be made known; yea, all things shall be made <sup>b</sup>known unto the children of men.

17 There is nothing which is secret save it shall be <sup>a</sup>revealed; there is no work of darkness save it shall be made manifest in the light; and there is nothing which is sealed upon the earth save it shall be loosed.

18 Wherefore, all things which have been revealed unto the children of men shall at that <sup>a</sup>day be revealed; and Satan shall have power over the hearts of the children of men <sup>b</sup>no more, for a long time. And now, my beloved brethren, I make an end of my sayings.

## CHAPTER 31

*Nephi tells why Christ was baptized—Men must follow Christ, be baptized, receive the Holy Ghost, and endure to the end to be saved—Repentance and*

**“‘And it shall come to pass that the Jews which are scattered also shall begin to believe in Christ; and they shall begin to gather in upon the face of the land.’ (2 Ne. 30:7.) Much of the old Jewish bitterness against Christ has ceased; many now accept him as a great Rabbi, though not the Son of God. A few have accepted him in the full sense, coming into the true Church along with the gathered remnants of Ephraim and his fellows.**

**“But the great conversion of the Jews, their return to the truth as a nation, is destined to follow the Second Coming of their Messiah. Those able to abide that day, in their extremity and mourning, will ask: ‘What are these wounds in thine hands and in thy feet? Then shall they know that I am the Lord; for I will say unto them: These wounds are the wounds with which I was wounded in the house of my friends. I am he who was lifted up. I am Jesus that was crucified. I am the Son of God.’ (D. & C. 45:51–52; Zech. 12:8–14; 13:6.)”**

*(Bruce R. McConkie, “Mormon Doctrine,” 722–23)*

the face of the land, and as many as shall believe in Christ shall also become a delightsome people.

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