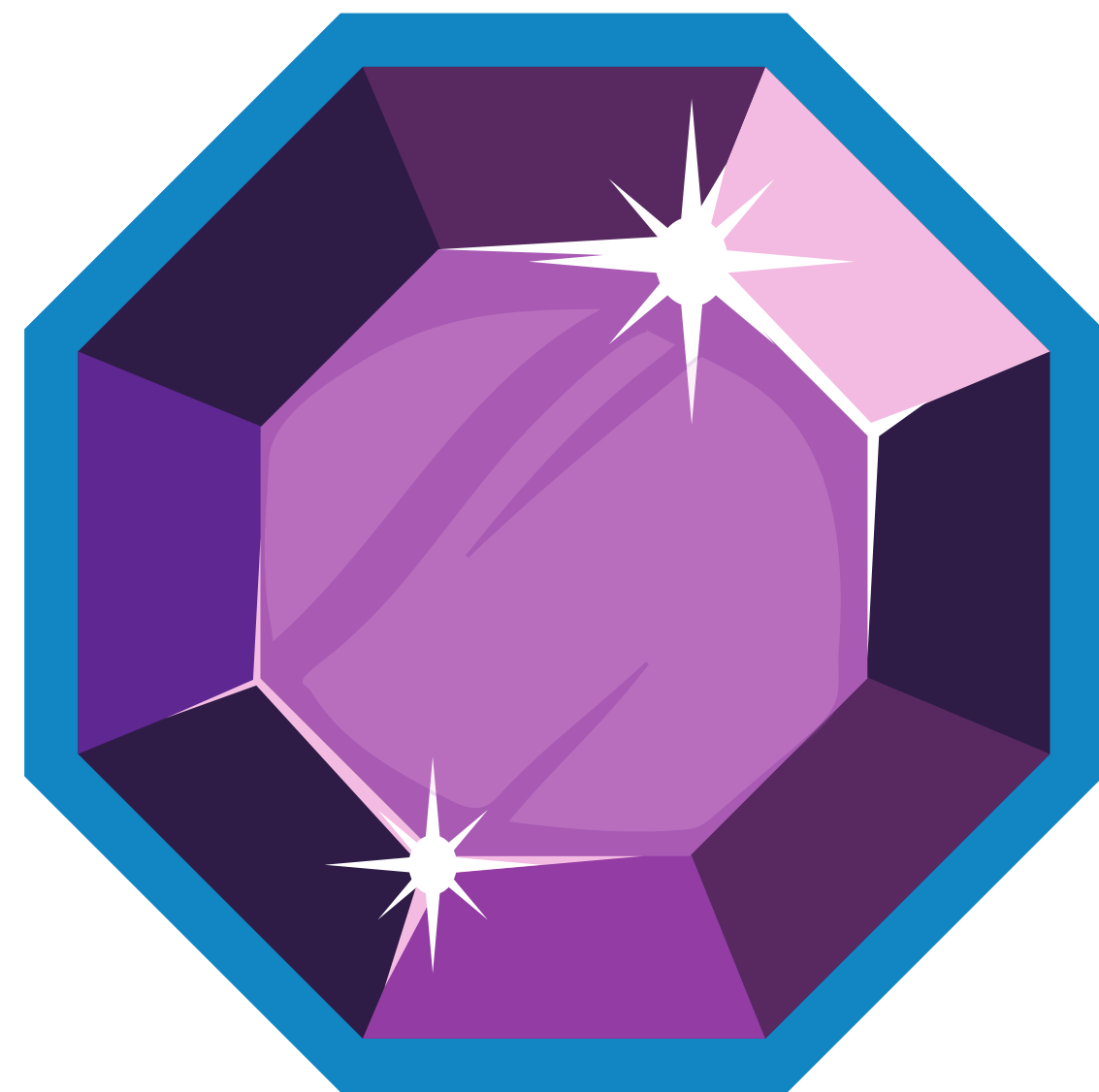
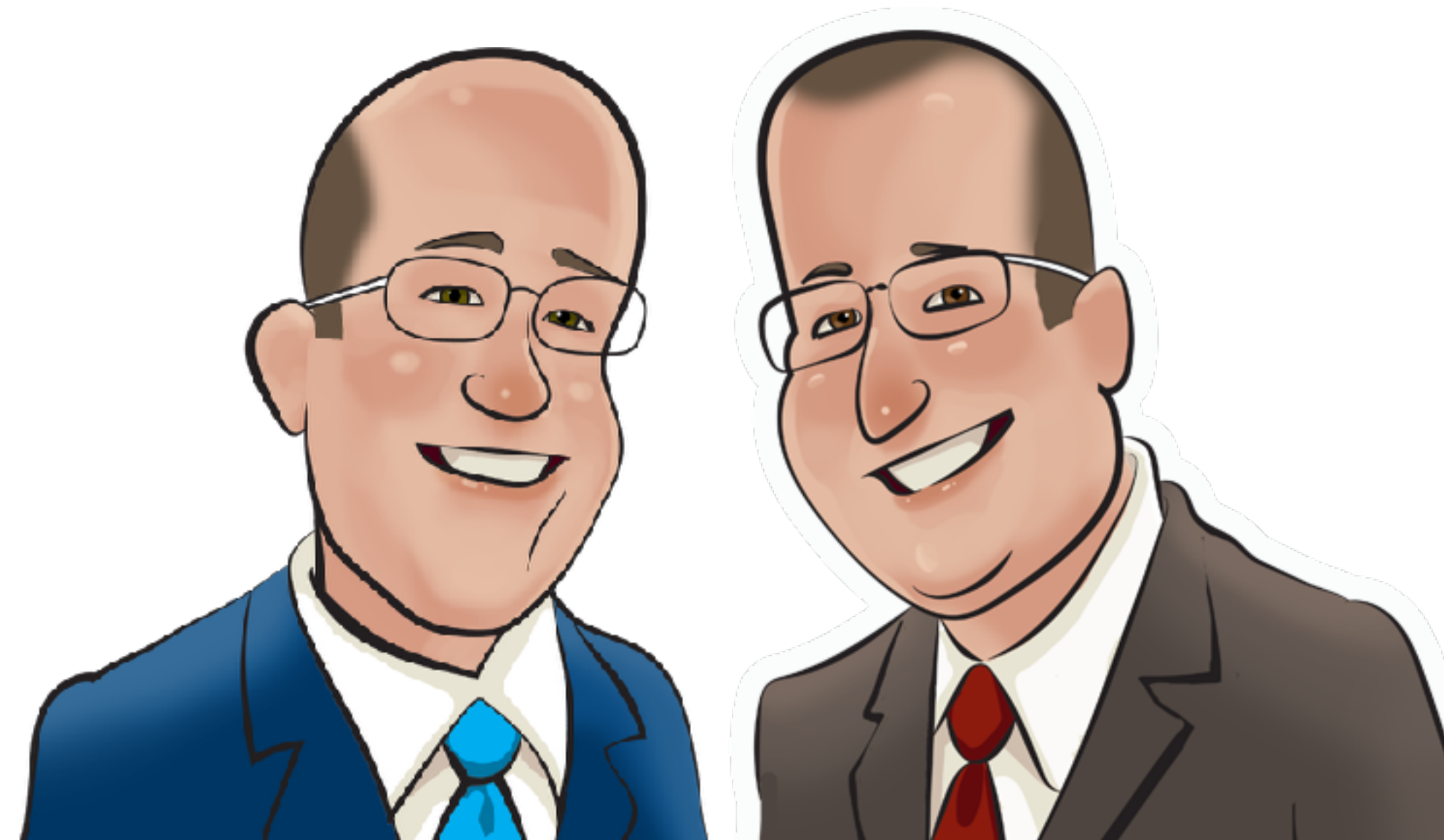
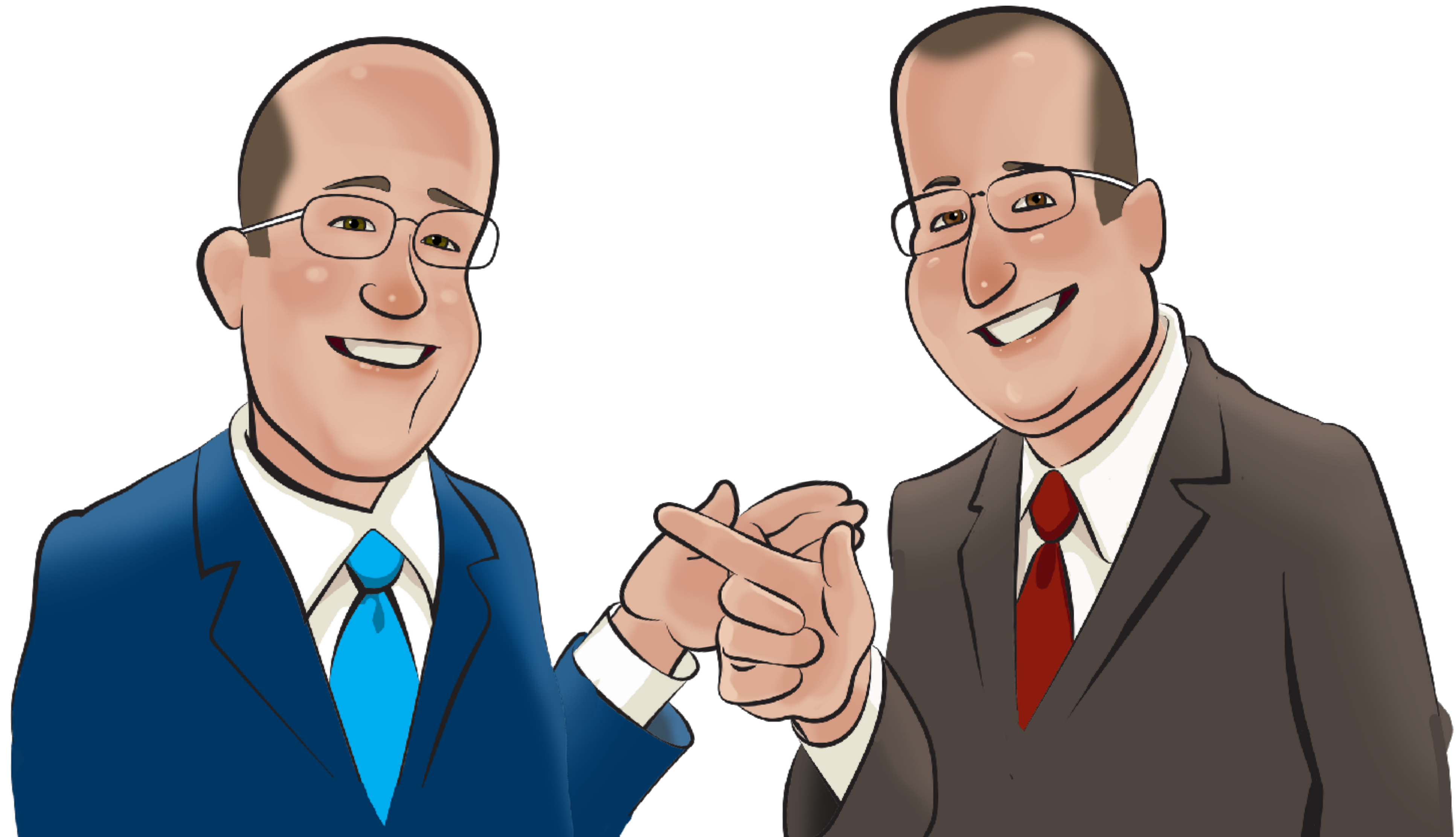


Episode 34



# Scripture GEMS

*August 31-September 6:* **Helaman 13-16**





20 And behold, if the Lord shall say unto a man—Because of thine iniquities, thou shalt be accursed <sup>a</sup>forever—it shall be done.

21 And if the Lord shall say—Because of thine iniquities, thou shalt be <sup>a</sup>cut off from my presence—he will cause that it shall be done.

22 And wo unto him to whom he shall say this, for it shall be done unto him that will do iniquity; he cannot be <sup>a</sup>saved; therefore, because, that men might be brought to repentance been declared.

23 Therefore, blessed are they who will repent and hear the voice of the Lord their God, for they are they that shall be saved.

24 And may God grant unto all of us his <sup>a</sup>mercifulness, that we may be brought unto repentance, that we may have grace for <sup>a</sup>good works.

25 And I, Samuel, might be saved in the <sup>a</sup>great day, and some of you, who shall be saved in the <sup>b</sup>presence of the Lord.

26 And he shall be consigned to a state of endless misery, fulfilling the words which say: They that have done good shall have <sup>a</sup>everlasting life; and they that have done evil shall have everlasting <sup>b</sup>damnation. And thus it is. Amen.

The prophecy of Samuel, the Lamanite, to the Nephites.

Comprising chapters 13 through 15.

## CHAPTER 13

Samuel the Lamanite prophesies the destruction of the Nephites unless

they repent—They and their riches are cursed—They reject and stone the prophets, are encircled about by demons, and seek for happiness in doing iniquity. About 6 B.C.

AND now it came to pass in the eighty and sixth year, the Nephites did still remain in wickedness, yea, in great wickedness, while the <sup>a</sup>Lamanites did observe strictly to keep the commandments of God, according to the law of Moses.

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3 But behold, the <sup>a</sup>voice of the Lord came unto him, that he should return again, and prophesy unto the people whatsoever things should come into his <sup>b</sup>heart.

4 And it came to pass that they would not suffer that he should enter into the city; therefore he went and got upon the <sup>a</sup>wall thereof, and stretched forth his hand and cried with a loud voice, and <sup>b</sup>prophesied unto the people whatsoever things the Lord put into his heart.

5 And he said unto them: Behold, I, Samuel, a Lamanite, do speak the words of the Lord which he doth put into my heart; and behold he hath put it into my heart to say unto this people that the <sup>a</sup>sword of justice hangeth over this people; and four hundred years pass not away save the sword of justice falleth upon this people.

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7 And behold, an <sup>a</sup>angel of the Lord hath declared it unto me, and he did bring <sup>b</sup>glad tidings to my soul. And behold, I was sent unto you to declare it unto you also, that ye might have glad tidings; but behold ye would <sup>c</sup>not receive me.

8 Therefore, thus saith the Lord: Because of the hardness of the hearts of the people of the Nephites, except they repent I will take away my word from them, and I will <sup>a</sup>withdraw my Spirit from them, and I will suffer them no longer, and I will turn the hearts of their brethren against them.

9 And <sup>a</sup>four hundred years shall not pass away before I will cause that they shall be smitten; yea, I will visit them with the sword and with famine and with pestilence.

10 Yea, I will visit them in my fierce anger, and there shall be those of the <sup>a</sup>fourth generation who shall live, of your enemies, to behold your utter destruction; and this shall surely come except ye repent, saith the Lord; and those of the fourth generation shall visit your destruction.

11 But if ye will repent and <sup>a</sup>return unto the Lord your God I will turn away mine anger, saith the Lord; yea, thus saith the Lord, blessed are they who will repent and turn unto me, but wo unto him that repenteth not.

12 Yea, <sup>a</sup>wo unto this great city of Zarahemla; for behold, it is because of those who are righteous that it

is saved; yea, wo unto this great city, for I perceive, saith the Lord, that there are many, yea, even the more part of this great city, that will harden their hearts against me, saith the Lord.

13 But blessed are they who will repent, for them will I spare. But behold, if it were not for the righteous who are in this great city, behold, I would cause that <sup>a</sup>fire should come down out of heaven and <sup>b</sup>destroy it.

14 But behold, it is for the righteous' sake that it is spared. But behold, the time cometh, saith the Lord, that when ye shall cast out the righteous from among you, then shall ye be <sup>a</sup>ripe for destruction; yea, wo be unto this great city, because of the wickedness and abominations which are in her.

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16 Yea, and wo be unto all the cities which are in the land round about, which are possessed by the Nephites, because of the wickedness and abominations which are in them.

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18 And it shall come to pass, saith the Lord of Hosts, yea, our great and true God, that whoso shall <sup>a</sup>hide up treasures in the earth shall find them again no more, because of the great curse of the land, save he be a righteous man and shall hide it up unto the Lord.

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22 And wo unto him to whom he shall say this, for it shall be unto him that will do iniquity, and he cannot be <sup>a</sup>saved; therefore, for this cause, that men might be saved, hath repentance been declared.

23 Therefore, blessed are they who will repent and hearken unto the voice of the Lord their God; for these are they that shall be saved.

24 And may God grant, in his great fulness, that men might be brought unto repentance and good works, that they might be restored unto grace for <sup>a</sup>grace, according to their works.

25 And I would that all men might be saved. But we read that in the <sup>a</sup>great and last day there are some who shall be cast out, yea, who shall be cast off from the <sup>b</sup>presence of the Lord;

26 Yea, who shall be consigned to a state of endless misery, fulfilling the words which say: They that have done good shall have <sup>a</sup>everlasting life; and they that have done evil shall have everlasting <sup>b</sup>damnation. And thus it is. Amen.

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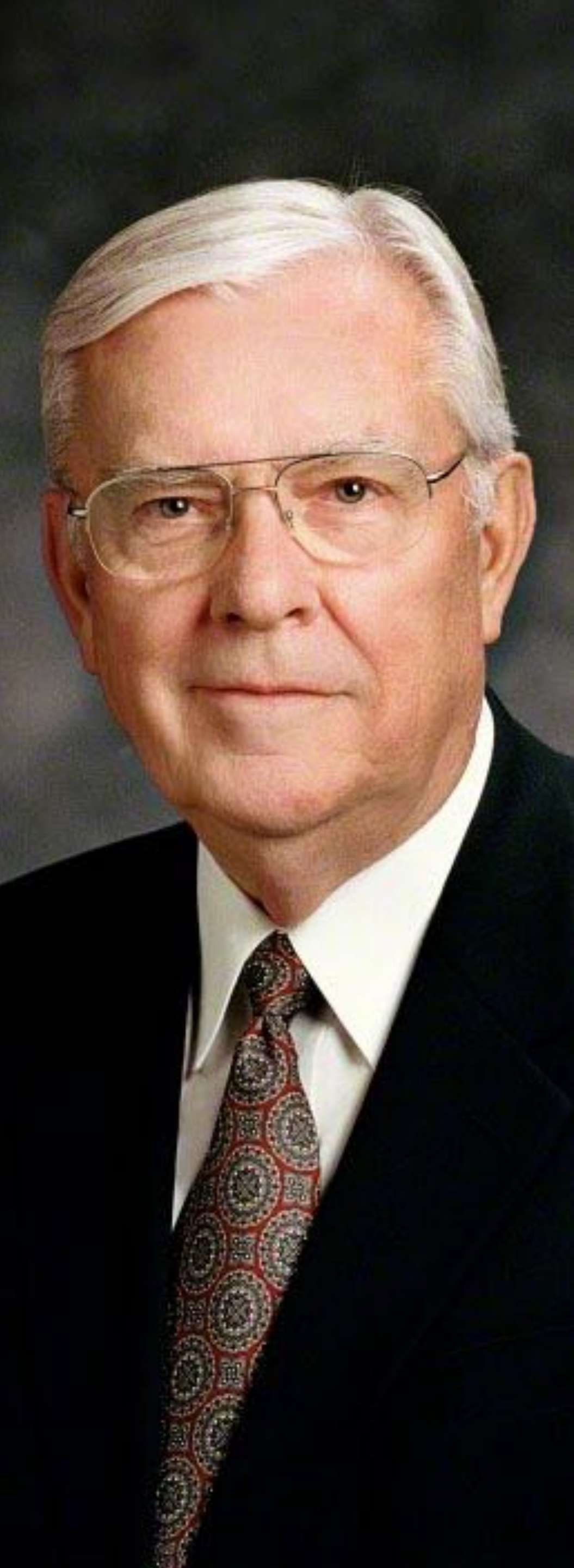


**“Revelation comes as words we feel more than hear. Nephi told his wayward brothers, who were visited by an angel, ‘Ye were past feeling, that ye could not feel his words’ [1 Nephi 17:45; italics added].**

**“The scriptures are full of such expressions as ‘The veil was taken from our minds, and the eyes of our understanding were opened’ [D&C 110:1], or ‘I will tell you in your mind and in your heart’ [D&C 8:2], or ‘I did enlighten thy mind’ [D&C 6:15], or ‘Speak the thoughts that I shall put into your hearts’ [D&C 100:5]. There are hundreds of verses which teach of revelation”**

*(President Boyd K. Packer in Conference Report, Oct. 1994, 77; or Ensign, Nov. 1994, 60).*





**“Through the centuries, prophets have fulfilled their duty when they have warned people of the dangers before them. The Lord’s Apostles are duty bound to watch, warn, and reach out to help those seeking answers to life’s questions”**

*(President M. Russell Ballard, “God Is at the Helm,” Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2015, 25).*



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**“Repentance means more than simply a reformation of behavior. Many men and women in the world demonstrate great will-power and self-discipline in overcoming bad habits and the weaknesses of the flesh. Yet at the same time they give no thought to the Master, sometimes even openly rejecting Him. Such changes of behavior, even if in a positive direction, do not constitute true repentance. ...**

**“... True repentance is based on and flows from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other way. True repentance involves a change of heart and not just a change of behavior (see Alma 5:13)”**

*(The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson [1988], 71).*



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unto me; and cursed be they who hide not up their treasures unto me; for none hideth up their treasures unto me save it be the righteous; and he that hideth not up his treasures unto me, cursed is he, and also the treasure, and none shall redeem it because of the curse of the land.

20 And the day shall come that they shall hide up their treasures, because they have set their hearts upon riches; and because they have set their hearts upon their riches, and will hide up their treasures when they shall flee before their enemies; because they will not hide them up unto me, cursed be they and also their treasures; and in that day shall they be smitten, saith the Lord.

21 Behold ye, the people of this great city, and hearken unto my words; yea, hearken unto the words which the Lord saith; for behold, he saith that ye are <sup>a</sup>cursed because of your riches, and also are your riches cursed because ye have set your hearts upon them, and have not <sup>b</sup>hearkened unto the words of him who gave them unto you.

22 Ye do not remember the Lord your God in the things with which he hath blessed you, but ye do always remember your <sup>a</sup>riches, not to thank the Lord your God for them; yea, your hearts are not drawn out unto the Lord, but they do swell with great pride, unto <sup>b</sup>boasting, and unto great <sup>c</sup>swelling, <sup>d</sup>envyings, strifes, malice, persecutions, and murders, and all manner of iniquities.

23 For this cause hath the Lord God caused that a curse should come upon the land, and also upon your

riches, and this because of your iniquities.

24 Yea, wo unto this people, because of this time which has arrived, that ye do <sup>a</sup>cast out the prophets, and do mock them, and cast stones at them, and do slay them, and do all manner of iniquity unto them, even as they did of old time.

25 And now when ye talk, ye say: If our days had been in the days of our <sup>a</sup>fathers of old, we would not have <sup>b</sup>slain the prophets; we would not have stoned them, and cast them out.

26 Behold ye are worse than they; for as the Lord liveth, if a <sup>a</sup>prophet come among you and declareth unto you the word of the Lord, which testifieth of your <sup>b</sup>sins and iniquities, ye are <sup>c</sup>angry with him, and cast him out and seek all manner of ways to destroy him; yea, you will say that he is a <sup>d</sup>false <sup>e</sup>prophet, and that he is a sinner, and of the devil, because he <sup>f</sup>testifieth that your deeds are evil.

27 But behold, if a man shall come among you and shall say: Do this, and there is no iniquity; do that and ye shall not suffer; yea, he will say: <sup>a</sup>Walk after the pride of your own hearts; yea, walk after the pride of your eyes, and do whatsoever your heart desireth—and if a man shall come among you and say this, ye will receive him, and say that he is a <sup>b</sup>prophet.

28 Yea, ye will lift him up, and ye will give unto him of your substance; ye will give unto him of your gold, and of your silver, and ye will clothe him with costly apparel; and because he speaketh <sup>a</sup>flattering words unto you, and he saith that all is

Nephites Embrace False Prophets

Regret Will Come Too Late

well, then ye will not find fault with him.

29 O ye wicked and ye perverse generation; ye hardened and ye <sup>a</sup>stiffnecked people, how long will ye suppose that the Lord will suffer you? Yea, how long will ye suffer yourselves to be led by <sup>b</sup>foolish and <sup>c</sup>blind guides? Yea, how long will ye <sup>d</sup>choose darkness rather than <sup>e</sup>light?

30 Yea, behold, the anger of the Lord is already kindled against you; behold, he hath cursed the land because of your iniquity.

31 And behold, the time cometh that he curseth your riches, that they become <sup>a</sup>slippery, that ye cannot hold them; and in the days of your poverty ye cannot retain them.

32 And in the days of your poverty ye shall cry unto the Lord; and in vain shall ye cry, for your desolation is already come upon you, and your destruction is made sure; and then shall ye weep and howl in that day, saith the Lord of Hosts. And then shall ye lament, and say:

33 O <sup>a</sup>that I had repented, and had not killed the prophets, and <sup>b</sup>stoned them, and cast them out. Yea, in that day ye shall say: O that we had remembered the Lord our God in the day that he gave us our riches, and then they would not have become slippery that we should lose them; for behold, our riches are gone from us.

34 Behold, we lay a tool here and on the morrow it is gone; and behold, our swords are taken from us in the day we have sought them for battle.

35 Yea, we have hid up our <sup>a</sup>treasures and they have slipped away from us, because of the curse of the land.

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**“Materialism, which gives priority to material needs and objects, is obviously the opposite of spirituality. The Savior taught that we should not lay up ‘treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal’ (Matthew 6:19). We should lay up treasures in heaven: ‘For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also’ (Matthew 6:21). ...**

**“There is nothing inherently evil about money. The Good Samaritan used the same coinage to serve his fellowman that Judas used to betray the Master. It is ‘the love of money [which] is the root of all evil’ (1 Timothy 6:10; italics added). The critical difference is the degree of spirituality we exercise in viewing, evaluating, and managing the things of this world and our experiences in it.**





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**“If allowed to become an object of worship or priority, money can make us selfish and prideful, ‘puffed up in the vain things of the world’ (Alma 5:37). In contrast, if used for fulfilling our legal obligations and for paying our tithes and offerings, money can demonstrate integrity and develop unselfishness. The spiritually enlightened use of property can help prepare us for the higher law of a celestial glory”**

*(Elder Dallin H. Oaks in Conference Report, Oct. 1985, 78; or Ensign, Nov. 1985, 62–63).*



unto me; and cursed be they who hide not up their treasures unto me; for none hideth up their treasures unto me save it be the righteous; and he that hideth not up his treasures unto me, cursed is he, and also the treasure, and none shall redeem it because of the curse of the land.

20 And the day shall come that they shall hide up their treasures, because they have set their hearts upon riches; and because they have set their hearts upon their riches, and will hide up their treasures when they shall flee before their enemies; because they will not hide them up unto me, cursed be they and also their treasures; and in that day shall they be smitten, saith the Lord.

21 Behold ye, the people of this great city, and hearken unto my words; yea, hearken unto the words which the Lord saith; for behold, he saith that ye are <sup>a</sup>cursed because of your riches, and also are your riches cursed because ye have set your hearts upon them, and have not <sup>b</sup>hearkened unto the words of him who gave them unto you.

22 Ye do not remember the Lord your God in the things with which he hath blessed you, but ye do always remember your <sup>a</sup>riches, not to thank the Lord your God for them; yea, your hearts are not drawn out unto the Lord, but they do swell with great pride, unto <sup>b</sup>boasting, and unto great <sup>c</sup>swelling, <sup>d</sup>envyings, strifes, malice, persecutions, and murders, and all manner of iniquities.

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24 Yea, wo unto this people, because of this time which has arrived, that ye do <sup>a</sup>cast out the prophets, and do mock them, and cast stones at them, and do slay them, and do all manner of iniquity unto them, even as they did of old time.

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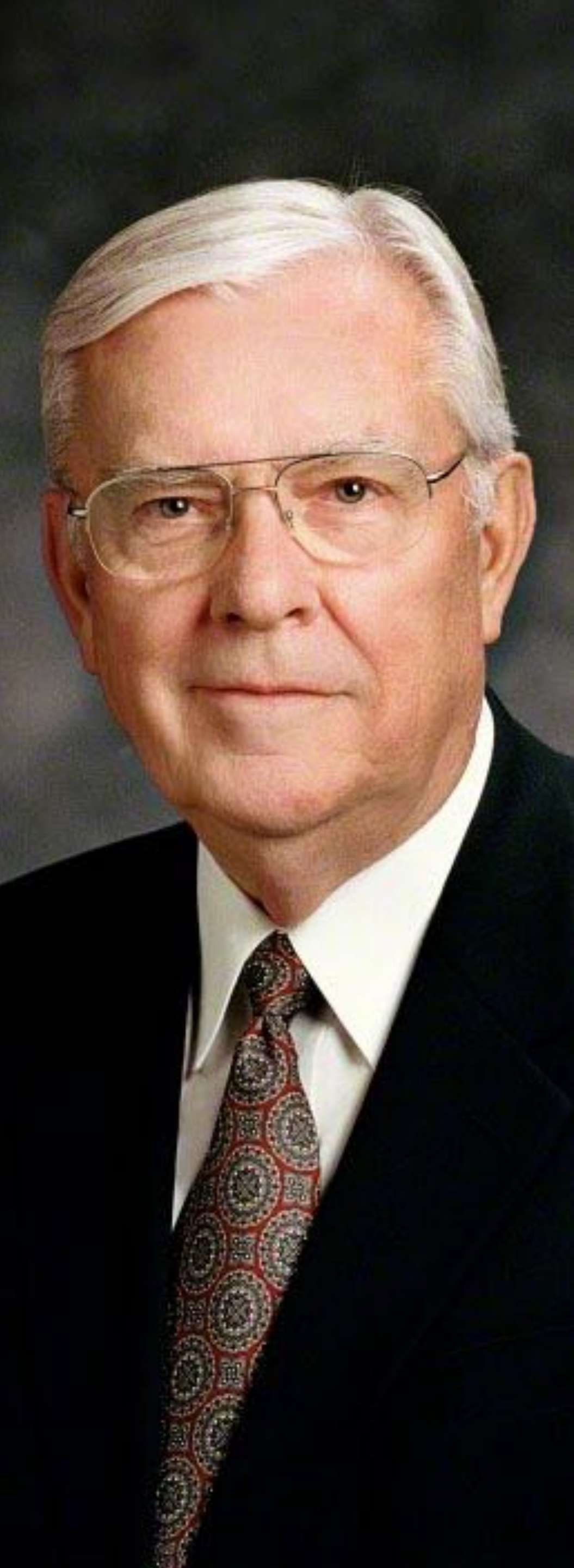
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**“Now, my dear brothers and sisters, please pay attention to those things that the leaders of the Church have taught. ... Apply the teachings that will help you and your family. Let all of us, regardless of our family circumstances, bring into our homes the teachings of the prophets and the apostles to strengthen our relationships with each other, with our Father in Heaven, and with the Lord Jesus Christ. I promise you in the name of the Lord that if you will listen not just with your ears but also with your heart, the Holy Ghost will manifest the truth unto you of the messages delivered by [the President of the Church], his counselors, the Apostles, and other leaders of the Church. The Spirit will prompt you to know what you should do as individuals and as families in order to follow our counsel, that your testimonies might be strengthened and that you might have peace and joy”**

*(Elder M. Russell Ballard in Conference Report, Apr. 2001, 86; or Ensign, May 2001, 67).*



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**“Have you noticed how Satan works to capture the mind and emotions with flashing images, blaring music, and the stimulation of every physical sense to excess? He diligently strives to fill life with action, entertainment, and stimulation so that one cannot ponder the consequences of his tempting invitations. Think of it. Some are tempted to violate the most basic commandments of God because of seductive actions portrayed as acceptable. They are made to seem attractive, even desirable. There seems to be no serious consequence, but rather apparent lasting joy and happiness. But recognize that those performances are controlled by scripts and actors. The outcome of decisions made is likewise manipulated to be whatever the producer wants.**

**“Life is not that way. Yes, moral agency allows you to choose what you will, but you cannot control the outcome of those choices. Unlike the false creations of man, our Father in Heaven determines the consequences of your choices. Obedience will yield happiness, while violation of His commandments will not”**

*(Elder Richard G. Scott in Conference Report, Apr. 2004, 105; or Ensign, May 2004, 102).*



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to redeem all those who shall believe on his name.

3 And behold, this will I give unto you for a <sup>a</sup>sign at the time of his coming; for behold, there shall be great lights in heaven, insomuch that in the night before he cometh there shall be no darkness, insomuch that it shall appear unto man as if it was day.

4 Therefore, there shall be one <sup>a</sup>day and a night and a day, as if it were one day and there were no night; and this shall be unto you for a sign; for ye shall know of the rising of the sun and also of its setting; therefore they shall know of a surety that there shall be two days and a night; nevertheless the night shall not be darkened; and it shall be the night before he is <sup>b</sup>born.

5 And behold, there shall a new <sup>a</sup>star arise, such an one as ye never have beheld; and this also shall be a sign unto you.

6 And behold this is not all, there shall be many <sup>a</sup>signs and wonders in heaven.

7 And it shall come to pass that ye shall all be amazed, and wonder, insomuch that ye shall <sup>a</sup>fall to the earth.

8 And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall <sup>a</sup>believe on the Son of God, the same shall have everlasting life.

9 And behold, thus hath the Lord commanded me, by his angel, that I should come and tell this thing unto you; yea, he hath commanded that I should prophesy these things unto you; yea, he hath said unto me: Cry unto this people, repent and prepare the way of the Lord.

10 And now, because I am a Lamanite, and have spoken unto you the words which the Lord hath commanded me, and because it was hard against you, ye are angry with me and do seek to destroy me, and have <sup>a</sup>cast me out from among you.

11 And ye shall <sup>a</sup>hear my words, for, for this intent have I come up upon the walls of this city, that ye might hear and know of the judgments of God which do await you because of your iniquities, and also that ye might know the conditions of repentance;

12 And also that ye might know of the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the <sup>a</sup>Father of heaven and of earth, the Creator of all things from the beginning; and that ye might know of the signs of his coming, to the intent that ye might believe on his name.

13 And if ye <sup>a</sup>believe on his name ye will repent of all your sins, that thereby ye may have a remission of them through his <sup>b</sup>merits.

14 And behold, again, another sign I give unto you, yea, a sign of his <sup>a</sup>death.

15 For behold, he surely must die that <sup>a</sup>salvation may come; yea, it behooveth him and becometh expedient that he <sup>b</sup>dieth, to bring to pass the <sup>c</sup>resurrection of the dead, that thereby men may be brought into the <sup>d</sup>presence of the Lord.

16 Yea, behold, this death bringeth to pass the <sup>a</sup>resurrection, and <sup>b</sup>redeemeth all mankind from the first death—that spiritual death; for all mankind, by the <sup>c</sup>fall of Adam being <sup>d</sup>cut off from the presence of

the Lord, are considered as <sup>e</sup>dead, both as to things temporal and to things spiritual.

17 But behold, the resurrection of Christ <sup>a</sup>redeemeth mankind, yea, even all mankind, and bringeth them back into the presence of the Lord.

18 Yea, and it bringeth to pass the condition of repentance, that whosoever repenteth the same is not <sup>a</sup>hewn down and cast into the fire; but whosoever repenteth not is hewn down and cast into the fire; and there cometh upon them again a <sup>b</sup>spiritual death, yea, a second death, for they are cut off again as to things pertaining to righteousness.

19 Therefore repent ye, repent ye, lest by knowing these things and not doing them ye shall suffer yourselves to come under condemnation, and ye are brought down unto this second death.

20 But behold, as I said unto you concerning another <sup>a</sup>sign, a sign of his death, behold, in that day that he shall suffer death the sun shall be darkened and refuse to give his <sup>b</sup>light unto you; and also the moon and the stars; and there shall be no light upon the face of this land, even from the time that he shall suffer death, for the space of <sup>c</sup>three days, to the time that he shall rise again from the dead.

21 Yea, at the time that he shall yield up the <sup>a</sup>ghost there shall be <sup>b</sup>thunderings and lightnings for the space of many hours, and the earth shall shake and tremble; and the <sup>c</sup>rocks which are upon the face of this earth, which are both above the earth and beneath, which ye know at this time are solid, or the more

part of it is one solid mass, shall be <sup>d</sup>broken up;

22 Yea, they shall be rent in twain, and shall ever after be <sup>a</sup>found in seams and in cracks, and in broken fragments upon the face of the whole earth, yea, both above the earth and beneath.

23 And behold, there shall be great <sup>a</sup>tempests, and there shall be many mountains laid low, like unto a valley, and there shall be many places which are now called <sup>b</sup>valleys which shall become mountains, whose height is great.

24 And <sup>a</sup>many highways shall be broken up, and many cities shall become desolate.

25 And many <sup>a</sup>graves shall be opened, and shall yield up many of their dead; and many saints shall appear unto many.

26 And behold, thus hath the <sup>a</sup>angel spoken unto me; for he said unto me that there should be thunderings and lightnings for the space of many hours.

27 And he said unto me that while the thunder and the lightning lasted, and the tempest, that these things should be, and that <sup>a</sup>darkness should cover the face of the whole earth for the space of three days.

28 And the angel said unto me that many shall see greater things than these, to the intent that they might believe that <sup>a</sup>these signs and these wonders should come to pass upon all the face of this land, to the intent that there should be no cause for unbelief among the children of men—

29 And this to the intent that whosoever will believe might be saved, and that whosoever will not believe,

3a Hel. 16:1  
3 Ne. 1:15 (9, 20)

12a Mosiah 3:8; 15:4;  
3 Ne. 9:15

Morm. 9:13.  
TG Resurrection

16e TG Death, Spiritual.

3 Ne. 8:6 (5-23).

25a Matt. 27:52 (52-53);

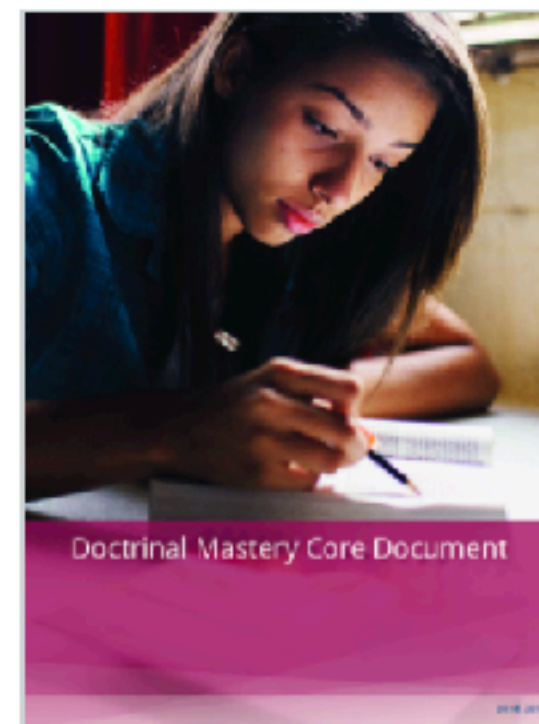




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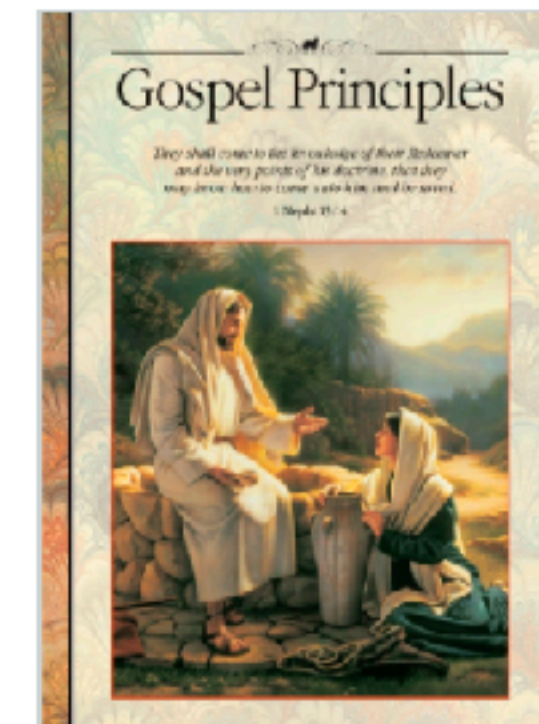
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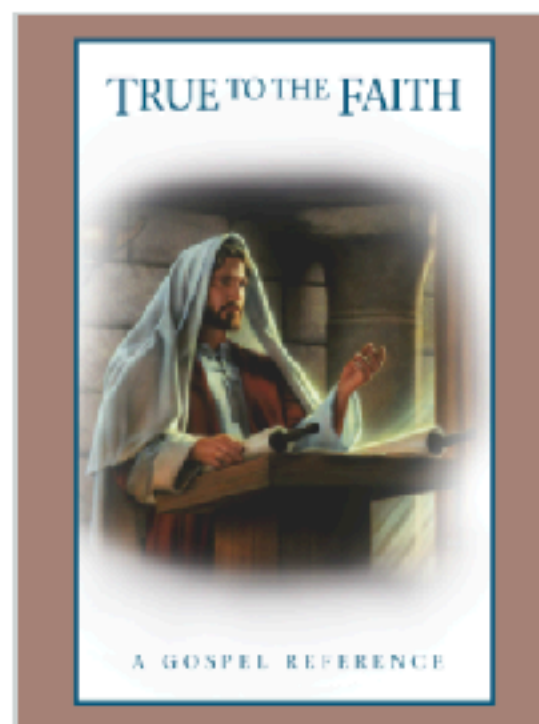
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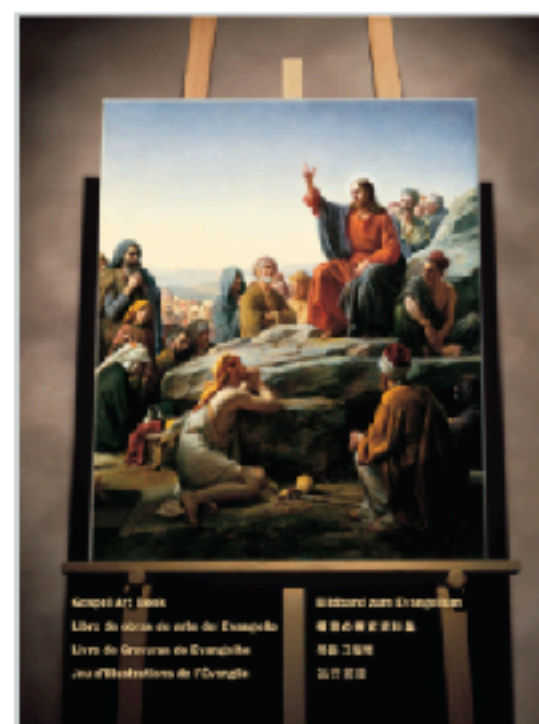
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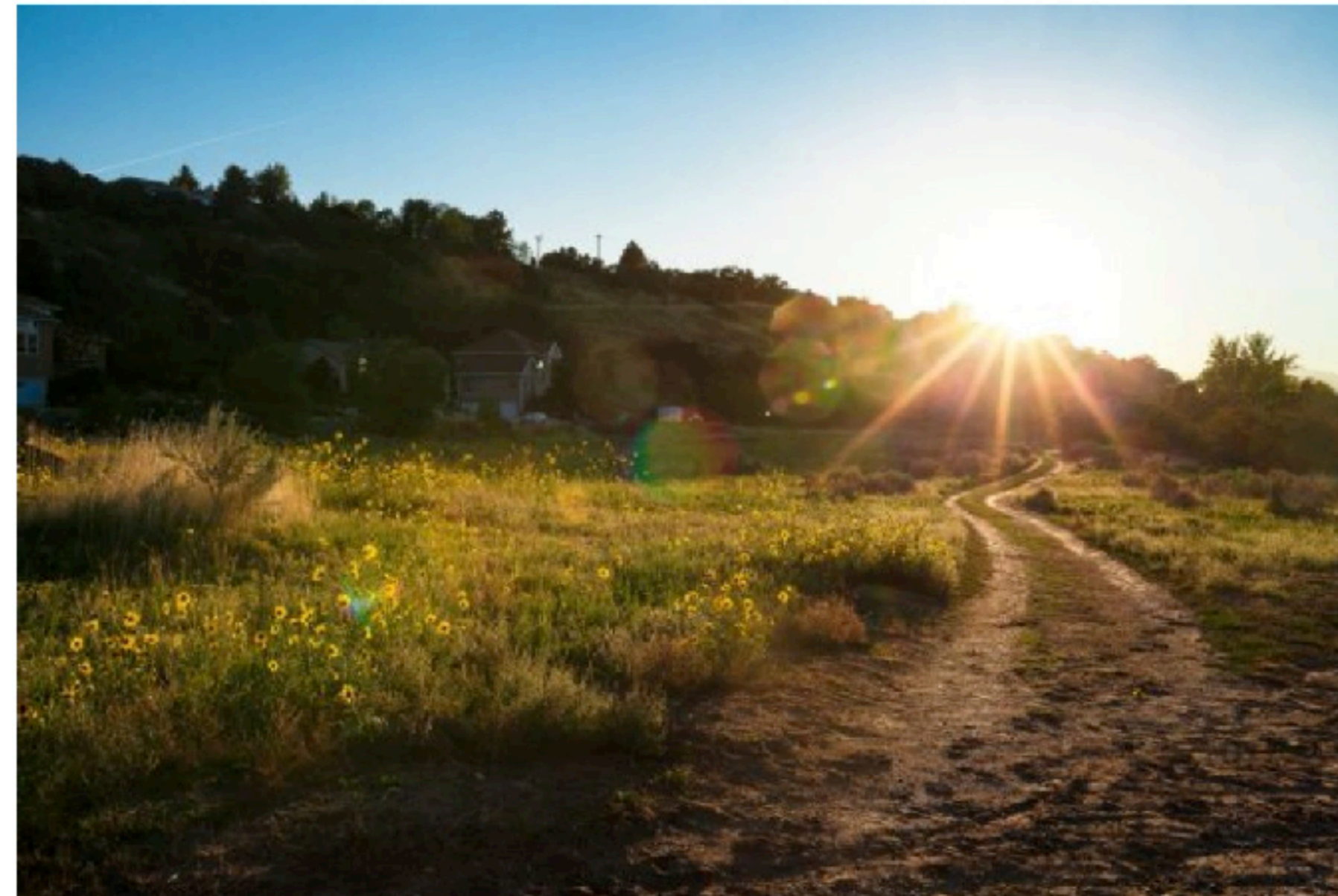
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# Repentance

Overview





**“Even the most just and upright man cannot save himself solely on his own merits”**

*(The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, 71).*





3 Nephi 23

the Lord, are considered as <sup>e</sup>dead,

lest by knowing these things and not doing them ye shall suffer yourselves to come under condemnation, and ye are brought down unto this second death.

20 But behold, as I said unto you concerning another <sup>a</sup>sign, a sign of his death, behold, in that day that he shall suffer death the sun shall be darkened and refuse to give his <sup>o</sup>light unto you; and also the moon and the stars; and there shall be no light upon the face of this land, even from the time that he shall suffer death, for the space of <sup>c</sup>three days, to the time that he shall rise again from the dead.

21 Yea, at the time that he shall yield up the <sup>a</sup>ghost there shall be <sup>b</sup>thunderings and lightnings for the space of many hours, and the earth shall shake and tremble; and the <sup>c</sup>rocks which are upon the face of this earth, which are both above the earth and beneath, which ye know at this time are solid, or the more

part of it is one solid mass, shall be <sup>a</sup>broken up;

22 Yea, they shall be rent in twain, and shall ever after be <sup>a</sup>found in seams and in cracks, and in broken fragments upon the face of the whole earth, yea, both above the earth and beneath.

23 And behold, there shall be great <sup>a</sup>tempests, and there shall be many mountains laid low, like unto a valley, and there shall be many places which are now called <sup>b</sup>valleys which shall become mountains, whose height is great.

24 And <sup>a</sup>many highways shall be broken up, and many cities shall become desolate.

25 And many <sup>a</sup>graves shall be opened, and shall yield up many of their dead; and many saints shall appear unto many.

26 And behold, thus hath the <sup>a</sup>angel spoken unto me; for he said unto me that there should be thunderings and lightnings for the space of many hours.

27 And he said unto me that while the thunder and the lightning lasted, and the tempest, that these things should be, and that <sup>a</sup>darkness should cover the face of the whole earth for the space of three days.

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29 And this to the intent that whosoever will believe might be saved, and that whosoever will not believe,

a <sup>a</sup>“righteous judgment might come upon them; and also if they are condemned they bring upon themselves their own condemnation.

30 And now remember, remember, my brethren, that whosoever perisheth, perisheth unto <sup>a</sup>himself; and whosoever doeth iniquity, doeth it unto himself; for behold, ye are <sup>b</sup>free; ye are permitted to act for yourselves; for behold, God hath given unto you a <sup>c</sup>knowledge and he hath made you free.

31 He hath given unto you that ye might <sup>a</sup>know good from evil, and he hath given unto you that ye might <sup>b</sup>choose life or death; and ye can do good and be <sup>c</sup>restored unto that which is good, or have that which is good restored unto you; or ye can do evil, and have that which is evil restored unto you.

## CHAPTER 15

*The Lord chastened the Nephites because He loved them—Converted Lamanites are firm and steadfast in the faith—The Lord will be merciful unto the Lamanites in the latter days. About 6 B.C.*

AND now, my beloved brethren, behold, I declare unto you that except ye shall repent your houses shall be left unto you <sup>a</sup>desolate.

2 Yea, except ye repent, your women shall have great cause to mourn in the day that they shall give suck; for ye shall attempt to flee and there shall be no place for <sup>a</sup>refuge; yea, and wo unto them which are <sup>b</sup>with child, for they shall be heavy and cannot flee; therefore, they shall be trodden down and shall be left to perish.

3 Yea, wo unto this <sup>a</sup>people who

are called the <sup>b</sup>people who do not accept the <sup>c</sup>gospel; for they understand them; for they have chosen people of <sup>a</sup>the world, also, in the world, in the world; and he that shall be chosen of them shall be chosen of the world; and for this intent hath the Lord <sup>c</sup>prolonged their days.

5 And I would that ye should behold that the <sup>a</sup>more part of them are in the path of their duty, and they do walk circumspectly before God, and they do observe to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments according to the law of Moses.

6 Yea, I say unto you, that the more part of them are doing this, and they are striving with <sup>a</sup>unwearied diligence that they may bring the remainder of their brethren to the knowledge of the truth; therefore there are many who do add to their numbers daily.

7 And behold, ye do know of yourselves, for ye have witnessed it, that as many of them as are brought to the knowledge of the truth, and to know of the wicked and abominable traditions of their fathers, and are led to believe the holy scriptures, yea, the prophecies of the holy prophets, which are written, which

**“CHOOSE LIFE!”**

DEUTERONOMY 30:19



## Who the Lord Loves He Chastens

Revelation 3:19

Psalms 94:12

Psalms 118:18

Proverbs 3:11–12

Jeremiah 30:11

Jeremiah 46:28

Hebrews 12:3–11

D&C 95:1

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are called the <sup>a</sup>people of Nephi except they shall repent, when they shall see all these signs and wonders which shall be showed unto them; for behold, they have been a chosen people of the Lord; yea, the people of Nephi hath he loved, and also hath he <sup>c</sup>chastened them; yea, in the days of their iniquities hath he chastened them because he loveth them.

4 But behold my brethren, the <sup>a</sup>Lamanites hath he hated because their deeds have been evil continually, and this because of the iniquity of the <sup>b</sup>tradition of their fathers. But behold, salvation hath come unto them through the preaching of the Nephites; and for this intent hath the Lord <sup>c</sup>prolonged their days.

5 And I would that ye should behold that the <sup>a</sup>more part of them are in the path of their duty, and they do walk circumspectly before God, and they do observe to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments according to the law of Moses.

6 Yea, I say unto you, that the more part of them are doing this, and they are striving with <sup>a</sup>unwearied diligence that they may bring the remainder of their brethren to the knowledge of the truth; therefore there are many who do add to their numbers daily.

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## Samuel Contrasts the Nephites and Lamanites

leadeth them to faith on the Lord, and unto repentance, which faith and repentance bringeth a <sup>a</sup>change of heart unto them—

8 Therefore, as many as have come to this, ye know of yourselves are <sup>a</sup>firm and steadfast in the faith, and in the thing wherewith they have been made free.

9 And ye know also that they have <sup>a</sup>buried their weapons of war, and they fear to take them up lest by any means they should sin; yea, ye can see that they fear to sin—for behold they will suffer themselves that they be trodden down and slain by their enemies, and will not lift their swords against them, and this because of their <sup>b</sup>faith in Christ.

10 And now, because of their <sup>a</sup>steadfastness when they do believe in that thing which they do believe, for because of their firmness when they are once enlightened, behold, the Lord shall bless them and prolong their days, notwithstanding their iniquity—

11 Yea, even if they should dwindle in unbelief the Lord shall <sup>a</sup>prolong their days, until the time shall come which hath been spoken of by our fathers, and also by the prophet <sup>b</sup>Zenos, and many other prophets, concerning the <sup>c</sup>restoration of our brethren, the Lamanites, again to the knowledge of the truth—

12 Yea, I say unto you, that in the latter times the <sup>a</sup>promises of the Lord have been extended to our brethren, the Lamanites; and notwithstanding the many afflictions which they shall have, and notwithstanding they shall be <sup>b</sup>driven to and fro upon the face of the earth, and be hunted, and shall be smitten and scattered abroad, having no

place for <sup>c</sup>refuge, the Lord shall be <sup>d</sup>merciful unto them.

13 And this is according to the prophecy, that they shall again be <sup>a</sup>brought to the true knowledge, which is the knowledge of their Redeemer, and their great and true <sup>b</sup>shepherd, and be numbered among his <sup>c</sup>sheep.

14 Therefore I say unto you, it shall be <sup>a</sup>better for them than for you except ye repent.

15 For behold, <sup>a</sup>had the mighty works been shown unto them which have been shown unto you, yea, unto them who have dwindled in unbelief because of the traditions of their fathers, ye can see of yourselves that they never would again have dwindled in unbelief.

16 Therefore, saith the Lord: I will not utterly destroy them, but I will cause that in the day of my wisdom they shall <sup>a</sup>return again unto me, saith the Lord.

17 And now behold, saith the Lord, concerning the people of the Nephites: If they will not repent, and observe to do my will, I will utterly <sup>a</sup>destroy them, saith the Lord, because of their unbelief notwithstanding the many mighty works which I have done among them; and as surely as the Lord liveth shall these things be, saith the Lord.

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**“Does this mean the Lord does not love the sinner? Of course not. Divine love is infinite and universal. The Savior loves both saints and sinners. The Apostle John affirmed, ‘We love him, because he first loved us’ [1 John 4:19]. And Nephi, upon seeing in vision the Lord’s mortal ministry, declared: ‘... Yea, they spit upon him, and he suffereth it, because of his loving kindness and his long-suffering towards the children of men’ [1 Nephi 19:9; italics added]. We know the expansiveness of the Redeemer’s love because He died that all who die might live again”**

**(Elder Russell M. Nelson, “Divine Love,” Ensign, Feb. 2003, 24).**



a “righteous judgment might come upon them; and also if they are condemned they bring upon themselves their own condemnation.

30 And now remember, remember, my brethren, that whosoever perisheth, perisheth unto <sup>a</sup>himself; and whosoever doeth iniquity, doeth it unto himself; for behold, ye are <sup>b</sup>free; ye are permitted to act for yourselves; for behold, God hath given unto you a <sup>c</sup>knowledge and he hath made you free.

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### Samuel Contrasts the Nephites and Lamanites





**“Social, ethical, cultural, or educational converts will not survive under the heat of the day unless their taproots go down to the fulness of the gospel which the Book of Mormon contains”**

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



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## Samuel's Words Convert Some Nephites and He Escapes Unharmmed

AND now, it came to pass that there were many who heard the words of Samuel, the Lamanite, which he spake upon the walls of the city. And as many as believed on his word went forth and sought for Nephi; and when they had come forth and found him they confessed unto him their sins and denied not, desiring that they might be <sup>b</sup>baptized unto the Lord.

2 But as many as there were who did not believe in the words of Samuel were <sup>a</sup>angry with him; and they cast stones at him upon the wall, and also many shot arrows at him as he stood upon the wall; but the Spirit of the Lord was with him, insomuch that they could not hit him with their stones neither with their arrows.

3 Now when they saw that they could not hit him, there were many more who did believe on his words, insomuch that they went away unto Nephi to be baptized.

4 For behold, Nephi was baptizing, and prophesying, and preaching, crying repentance unto the people, showing signs and wonders, working <sup>a</sup>miracles among the people, that they might know that the Christ must <sup>b</sup>shortly come—

5 Telling them of things which must shortly come, that they might know and remember at the time of their coming that they had been made known unto them beforehand, to the intent that they might believe; therefore as many as believed on the words of Samuel went forth unto him to be baptized, for they came repenting and confessing their sins.

6 But the <sup>a</sup>more part of them did not believe in the words of Samuel; therefore when they saw that they could not hit him with their stones and their arrows, they cried unto their captains, saying: <sup>b</sup>Take this fellow and bind him, for behold

he <sup>c</sup>hath a devil; and because of the power of the devil which is in him we cannot hit him with our stones and our arrows; therefore take him and bind him, and away with him.

7 And as they went forth to lay their hands on him, behold, he did cast himself down from the wall, and did flee out of their lands, yea, even unto his own country, and began to preach and to prophesy <sup>a</sup>among his own people.

8 And behold, he was never heard of more among the Nephites; and thus were the affairs of the people.

9 And thus ended the eighty and sixth year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi.

10 And thus ended also the eighty and seventh year of the reign of the judges, the more part of the people remaining in their pride and wickedness, and the lesser part walking more circumspectly before God.

11 And these were the conditions also, in the eighty and eighth year of the reign of the judges.

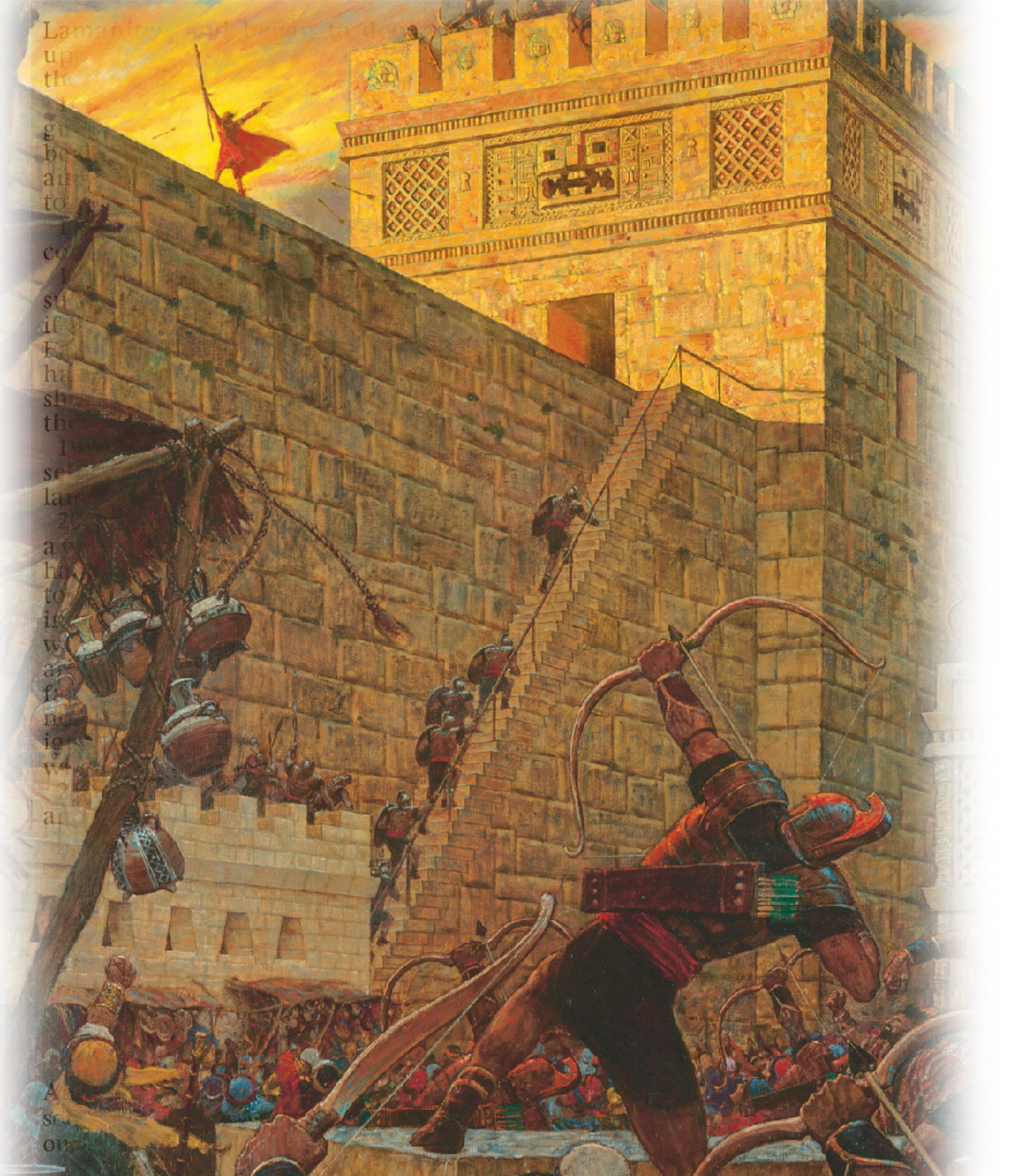
12 And there was but little alteration in the affairs of the people, save it were the people began to be more hardened in iniquity, and do more and more of that which was <sup>a</sup>contrary to the commandments of God, in the eighty and ninth year of the reign of the judges.

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14 And <sup>a</sup>angels did appear unto men, wise men, and did declare unto them glad tidings of great joy; thus in this year the scriptures began to be fulfilled.

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## The People Reject Signs and Wonders







**“I have found that as I prayerfully study the words of the prophet of God and carefully, with patience, spiritually align my will with his inspired teachings, my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ always increases. If we choose to set his counsel aside and determine that we know better, our faith suffers and our eternal perspective is clouded”**

*(Elder Neil L. Andersen, “The Prophet of God,” Ensign or Liahona, May 2018, 26–27).*



## Samuel's Words Convert Some Nephites and He Escapes Unharm

AND now, it came to pass that there were many who heard the words of Samuel, the Lamanite, which he spake upon the <sup>a</sup>walls of the city. And as many as believed on his word went forth and sought for Nephi; and when they had come forth and found him they confessed unto him their sins and denied not, desiring that they might be <sup>b</sup>baptized unto the Lord.

2 But as many as there were who did not believe in the words of Samuel were <sup>a</sup>angry with him; and they cast stones at him upon the wall, and also many shot arrows at him as he stood upon the wall; but the Spirit of the Lord was with him, insomuch that they could not hit him with their stones neither with their arrows.

3 Now when they saw that they could not hit him, there were many more who did believe on his words, insomuch that they went away unto Nephi to be baptized.

4 For behold, Nephi was baptizing, and prophesying, and preaching, crying repentance unto the people, showing signs and wonders, working <sup>a</sup>miracles among the people, that they might know that the Christ must <sup>b</sup>shortly come—

5 Telling them of things which must shortly come, that they might know and remember at the time of their coming that they had been made known unto them beforehand, to the intent that they might believe; therefore as many as believed on the words of Samuel went forth unto him to be baptized, for they came repenting and confessing their sins.

6 But the <sup>a</sup>more part of them did not believe in the words of Samuel; therefore when they saw that they could not hit him with their stones and their arrows, they cried unto their captains, saying: <sup>b</sup>Take this fellow and bind him, for behold

he <sup>c</sup>hath a devil; and because of the power of the devil which is in him we cannot hit him with our stones and our arrows; therefore take him and bind him, and away with him.

7 And as they went forth to lay their hands on him, behold, he did cast himself down from the wall, and did flee out of their lands, yea, even unto his own country, and began to preach and to prophesy <sup>a</sup>among his own people.

8 And behold, he was never heard of more among the Nephites; and thus were the affairs of the people.

9 And thus ended the eighty and sixth year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi.

10 And thus ended also the eighty and seventh year of the reign of the judges, the more part of the people remaining in their pride and wickedness, and the lesser part walking more circumspectly before God.

11 And these were the conditions also, in the eighty and eighth year of the reign of the judges.

12 And there was but little alteration in the affairs of the people, save it were the people began to be more hardened in iniquity, and do more and more of that which was <sup>a</sup>contrary to the commandments of God, in the eighty and ninth year of the reign of the judges.

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Lamanites, and began to depend upon their <sup>a</sup>own strength and upon their own wisdom, saying:

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17 And they began to reason and to contend among themselves, saying:

18 That it is <sup>a</sup>not reasonable that such a being as a Christ shall come; if so, and he be the Son of God, the Father of heaven and of earth, as it has been spoken, why will he not show himself unto us as well as unto them who shall be at Jerusalem?

19 Yea, why will he not show himself in this land as well as in the land of Jerusalem?

20 But behold, we know that this is a wicked <sup>a</sup>tradition, which has been handed down unto us by our fathers, to cause us that we should believe in some great and marvelous thing which should come to pass, but not among us, but in a land which is far distant, a land which we know not; therefore they can keep us in ignorance, for we cannot <sup>b</sup>witness with our own eyes that they are true.

21 And they will, by the cunning and the mysterious arts of the evil

one, work some great mystery which we cannot understand, which will keep us down to be servants to their words, and also servants unto them, for we depend upon them to teach us the word; and thus will they keep us in ignorance if we will yield ourselves unto them, all the days of our lives.

22 And many more things did the people <sup>a</sup>imagine up in their hearts, which were foolish and <sup>b</sup>vain; and they were much disturbed, for Satan did stir them up to do iniquity continually; yea, he did go about spreading <sup>c</sup>rumors and contentions upon all the face of the land, that he might harden the hearts of the people against that which was good and against that which should come.

23 And notwithstanding the signs and the wonders which were wrought among the people of the Lord, and the many miracles which they did, Satan did get great hold upon the hearts of the people upon all the face of the land.

24 And thus ended the ninetyeth year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi.

25 <sup>a</sup>And thus ended the book of Helaman, according to the record of Helaman and his sons.

## The People Reject Signs and Wonders

# THIRD NEPHI THE BOOK OF NEPHI

THE SON OF NEPHI, WHO WAS THE SON OF HELAMAN

And Helaman was the son of Helaman, who was the son of Alma, who was the son of Alma, being a descendant of Nephi who was the son of Lehi, who came out of Jerusalem in the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, the king of Judah.





**“As a prophet reveals the truth it divides the people. The honest in heart heed his words, but the unrighteous either ignore the prophet or fight him. When the prophet points out the sins of the world, the worldly either want to close the mouth of the prophet or else act as if the prophet didn’t exist, rather than repent of their sins. Popularity is never a test of truth. Many a prophet has been killed or cast out. As we come closer to the Lord’s second coming, you can expect that as the people of the world become more wicked, the prophet will be less popular with them”**

**(“Fourteen Fundamentals in Following the Prophet,” in 1980 Devotional Speeches of the Year [1981], 29; see also The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson [1988], 133).**





**“The Book of Mormon describes [an] attitude among a people who depended solely ‘upon their own strength and upon their own wisdom’ and upon what they could ‘witness with [their] own eyes.’ (Hel. 16:15, 20.) Upon the basis of reason, these persons rejected the prophecies, saying, ‘It is not reasonable that such a being as a Christ shall come.’ (Vs. 18.) Applying that same attitude, a prominent professor dismissed the Book of Mormon with the assertion, ‘You don’t get books from angels. It is just that simple.’**

**“Those who seek gospel knowledge only by study and reason are particularly susceptible to the self-sufficiency and self-importance that sometimes characterize academic pursuits. As the apostle Paul observed in his day, ‘Knowledge puffeth up.’ He cautioned the learned: ‘Take heed lest by any means this liberty [knowledge] of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. ... And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?’ (1 Cor. 8:1, 9, 11.)”**

*(Elder Dallin H. Oaks , “The Lord’s Way” [1991], 46–47).*





**“To understand why the Lord has commanded us not to ‘contend one with another,’ we must know the true source of contention. A Book of Mormon prophet revealed this important knowledge even before the birth of Christ. ... [See Helaman 16:22.] ...**

**“Contention existed before the earth was formed. When God’s plan for creation and mortal life on the earth was first announced, sons and daughters of God shouted for joy. The plan was dependent on man’s agency, his subsequent fall from the presence of God, and the merciful provision of a Savior to redeem mankind. Scriptures reveal that Lucifer sought vigorously to amend the plan by destroying the agency of man. ...**

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**“This war in heaven was not a war of bloodshed. It was a war of conflicting ideas—the beginning of contention.**

**“Scriptures repeatedly warn that the father of contention opposes the plan of our Heavenly Father. Satan’s method relies on the infectious canker of contention. Satan’s motive: to gain personal acclaim even over God Himself”**

*(Elder Russell M. Nelson in Conference Report, Apr. 1989, 85–86; or Ensign, May 1989, 68–69).*



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**“In the Book of Mormon we find a pattern for preparing for the Second Coming. A major portion of the book centers on the few decades just prior to Christ’s coming to America. By careful study of that time period, we can determine why some were destroyed in the terrible judgments that preceded His coming and what brought others to stand at the temple in the land of Bountiful and thrust their hands into the wounds of His hands and feet. ... 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).*