

September 30–October 6  
3 Nephi 12–16  
“I Am the Law, and the Light”



# The Gospel of Christ

## 3 Nephi 12:1-2

What does Christ command the multitude to do in order to be “blessed”?

## Boyd K. Packer

"Often overlooked in that revelation is a marvelous promise: 'If my people will hearken unto my voice, and unto the voice of my servants whom I have appointed to lead my people, behold, verily I say unto you, they shall not be moved out of their place' (D&C 124:45).

"Remember this promise; hold on to it. It should be a great comfort to those struggling to keep a family together in a society increasingly indifferent to, and even hostile toward, those standards which are essential to a happy family.

"The promise is a restatement of what the Lord told the multitude: 'Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve whom I have chosen from among you to minister unto you, and to be your servants' (3Ne 12:1).

"I repeat the promise that those who hearken to the voice of these men whom the Lord has raised up 'shall not be moved out of their place.'" (CR, Oct. 1996)

# The Sermon at the Temple

## 3 Nephi 12:3-12

Matthew 5:3-12

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

## Jeffrey R. Holland

“The Book of Mormon sermon added the phrase 'who come unto me...' Obviously in the 3 Nephi rendering, being poor in spirit is not in itself a virtue, but it will be so if such humility brings one to claim the blessings of the kingdom through the waters of baptism, making covenants, and moving toward all the promises given to covenant-making disciples. It is significant that the phrase 'come unto me, is used at least four more times in the twenty or so verses that follow this one.” (Christ And The New Covenant, pg. 263)

## Bruce R. McConkie

“Filled with the Holy Ghost! As starving men crave a crust of bread, as choking men thirst for water, so do the righteous yearn for the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is a Revelator: he is a Sanctifier; he reveals truth, and he cleanses human souls. He is the Spirit of Truth, and his baptism is one of fire; he burns dross and evil out of repentant souls as though by fire. The gift of the Holy Ghost is the greatest of all the gifts of God, as pertaining to this life; and those who enjoy that gift here and now, will inherit eternal life hereafter, which is the greatest of all the gifts of God in eternity.” (The Mortal Messiah, Book 2, pg. 122)

## Neal A. Maxwell

“The straight and narrow is the path of perspiration and is too arduous to be free from adversity. There are many ways in which the disciple can suffer as a Christian, and for righteousness' sake. Practical, perceptive Peter said, 'For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God' (1 Peter 2:20)....

“Those who have suffered most, and for the right reasons, will have stretched their capacity for joy and happiness.” (A Time To Choose, pg. 43)

## Mosiah 3:19

For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.



## Alma 13:27-28

[27] And now, my brethren, I wish from the inmost part of my heart, yea, with great anxiety even unto pain, that ye would hearken unto my words, and cast off your sins, and not procrastinate the day of your repentance;

[28] But that ye would humble yourselves before the Lord, and call on his holy name, and watch and pray continually, that ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear, and thus be led by the Holy Spirit, becoming humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love and all long-suffering; Gospel of Christ.

# The Sermon at the Temple

## 3 Nephi 12:13-14

Matthew 5:13-14

13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

The phrase "I give unto you to be" is added to verse 13. What does it clarify?

What does it mean to be the salt of the earth?

## Bruce R. McConkie

“Among the ancient Hebrews salt... was used as a preservative, in seasoning food, and in all animal sacrifices. So essential was it to the sacrificial ordinance that it was the symbol of the covenant made between God and His people in connection with that sacred performance.

“Accordingly, our Lord s statement, made first to the Jews and then to that other great body of Hebrews, the Nephites, that they had power to be the salt of the earth, takes on great significance.... They had power, in other words, to be the seasoning, savoring, preserving influence in the world, the influence which would bring peace and blessings to all others.  
(Mormon Doctrine, pg. 667-68)

## Carlos E. Asay

"In 1833 Joseph Smith received a revelation which included these instructions: 'When men are called into mine everlasting gospel, and covenant with an everlasting covenant, they are accounted as the salt of the earth and the savor of men' (D&C 101:39)....

"When the Lord used the expression 'savor of men,' he was speaking of those who have covenanted to take upon them his name and his cause....

"We should extend honor, friendship, and hospitality to all of our brothers and sisters.... In all of this, we advance the purposes of the Master and assist in the reconciliation of men to the God who gave them life. And, in the process, we not only preserve our savor but we save ourselves." (CR, April 1980)

# The Sermon at the Temple

## 3 Nephi 12:19-20

Matthew 5:19-20

19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Why do you think these passages are so different?

# The Sermon at the Temple

## 3 Nephi 12:21-22

Matthew 5:21-22

21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

The phrase "without a cause" is left out. What does that clarify?

# The Sermon at the Temple

## 3 Nephi 12:48

Matthew 5:48

48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect

Jesus adds "even as I" to this commandment.  
What does that clarify?

## Bruce R. McConkie

“Finite perfection may be gained by the righteous saints in this life. It consists in living a godfearing life of devotion to the truth, of walking in complete submission to the will of the Lord, and of putting first in one’s life the things of the kingdom of God. Infinite perfection is reserved for those who overcome all things and inherit the fullness of the Father in the mansions hereafter. It consists in gaining eternal life, the kind of life which God has in the highest heaven within the celestial world.” (Mormon Doctrine, pg. 567)



# The Sermon at the Temple

## 3 Nephi 13:9-13

Matthew 6:9-13

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

In verse 10 the phrase "Thy kingdom come" is left out. What does that clarify?

In verse 11 the phrase "Give us this day our daily bread" is left out. What does that clarify?

# The Sermon at the Temple

## 3 Nephi 13:25,31-34

Matthew 6:31-34

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

To whom is Christ addressing these remarks?

Why is this commandment meant specifically for the Twelve?

## Jeffrey R. Holland

“In a general sense these verses can apply to all believers, but at their most literal level they apply to those the Lord has called as his full-time witnesses. Most people must give some thought to what they will eat and what they will wear; the necessities of life require it. But the twelve disciples were not to do so, for they were chosen “to minister unto [the] people.” Their call was to give complete devotion to their spiritual ministry and to trust in God's—and the people's—providence for their temporal needs.” (Christ And The New Covenant, pg. 265)

# The Sermon at the Temple

3 Nephi 14:24-27

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## Thomas S. Monson

"Where could any of us locate a more suitable blueprint whereby he could wisely and properly build? Such a house would meet the building code outlined in Matthew, even a house built 'upon a rock.'...a house capable of withstanding the rains of adversity, the floods of opposition, and the winds of doubt everywhere present in our challenging world...Let the Lord be the General Contractor for the family-even the home-we build. Then each of us can be the subcontractors responsible for a vital segment of the whole project. All of us are thereby builders." (Live the Good Life, pg. 124)

# The Gathering of Israel

## 3 Nephi 16:1-3

What role will having the records of the “other sheep” have on assuring that there is “one fold and one shepherd”?

## Neal A. Maxwell

“Thus, in the dispensation of the fulness of times there is not only a 'welding together' (D&C 128:18) of the keys of all the dispensations, but there will also be a 'welding together' of all the sacred books of scripture given by the Lord over the sweep of human history. Then, as prophesied, 'my word also shall be gathered in one, (2 Nephi 29:14). Then there will be one fold, one shepherd, and one stunning scriptural witness for the Christ!” (Book of Mormon Symposium Series, First Nephi, edited by PR Cheesman, MS Nyman, and CD Tate, Jr., pg. 15)

# The Gathering of Israel

## 3 Nephi 16:4-5

What does Christ prophesy will first be manifested to the Gentile, then taken to scattered Israel?

What does Christ say that the Book of Mormon will bring about?



# The Gathering of Israel

3 Nephi 16:6-7

Why was the gospel restored to a Gentile nation instead of the House of Israel?

# The Gathering of Israel

## 3 Nephi 16:8-9

What does Christ prophesy the Gentile nation will do to the descendants of Lehi?

Could you argue that this has already happened?

# The Gathering of Israel

## 3 Nephi 16:10

What will happen if the Gentile nation rejects the gospel?

Could you argue that this has already happened?

Could you argue that this “[lifting] up in... pride” has already happened?

## Orson Pratt

“Some seventeen years after the rise of this Church circumstances rolled round by which the Lord fulfilled this prophecy in taking the main body of the people from among the Gentiles... we were brought out west here to these mountains, and I do not know of another place on the face of this vast continent where we could have been so completely isolated from the Gentiles, the wicked who had rejected the Gospel.” (JD,17:300)

## B. H. Roberts

“Notwithstanding the list of their abominations (3 Ne 16:10) -- great as it is -- *notwithstanding their rejection of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the people of God*, yet, if they will but repent, God promises to renew their lot and their part in the glories of this great Latter-day work.” (CR, Oct. 1922)

# The Gathering of Israel

## 3 Nephi 16:11-13

What does the Lord prophesy will happen after the Gentiles reject the gospel?

Could you argue that this has happened?

Sometime in September 2000, a significant milestone in Church membership will be reached. Statisticians estimate that in September the Church will at have more non-English-speaking members than English-speaking....

Sometime around the year 2020, however, based on present membership growth rates, Spanish is projected to be the largest language group in the Church.”

(<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2000/09/news-of-the-church/>, Sept 2000)

Next Week:

October 7–13

3 Nephi 17–19

“Behold, My Joy Is Full”

