

Feb 26–March 3: 2 Nephi 11–19, "His Name Shall Be Called... The Prince Of Peace"
March 4–10: 2 Nephi 20–25, "We Rejoice in Christ"
Part 1

Lesson Explanation

The first weeks reading assignment (2 Nephi 11-19) is basically the same as Isaiah 2-9 with a preamble about the importance of his writings in chapter 11.

The second weeks reading assignment (2 Nephi 20-25) re-records Isaiah 10-14 and then in chapter 25 Nephi explains Isaiah's writings and how they apply to his people

Since chapter 25 is so useful in explaining Isaiah I have chosen to merge the content of these two reading assignments into a combined lesson and then divide that lesson into two parts

Lesson One of 2 Nephi 11-25

Nephi Helps Us Understand Isaiah

After including the words of Isaiah in his record Nephi explains what Isaiah's words mean. This is very beneficial for us because we can use the expatiation of Nephi to help us to understand Isaiah's words

Nephi tells us why recording and explaining Isaiah was so important to him

2 Nephi 11:2,8

2 And now I, Nephi, write more of the words of Isaiah, for my soul delighteth in his words. For I will liken his words unto my people, and I will send them forth unto all my children, for he verily saw my Redeemer, even as I have seen him.

8 And now I write some of the words of Isaiah, that whoso of my people shall see these words may lift up their hearts and rejoice for all men. Now these are the words, and ye may liken them unto you and unto all men.

What is it that makes Nephi's soul delight in the words of Isaiah?

(he verily saw my Redeemer, even as I have seen him
I will liken his words unto my people
and ye may liken them unto you and unto all men)

Susan W. Tanner

"Nephi speaks often of delight. He delights 'in the things of the Lord,' 'in the scriptures,' and 'in the great and eternal plan' of our Father in Heaven. Notably, Nephi often remembers his sources of delight in the midst of affliction, serving to lift and focus his spirit on eternal blessings.

“We too should delight in the things of the Lord for it will ‘lift’ our hearts and give us cause to ‘rejoice.’... Like Nephi, ‘I glory in my Jesus,’ in His ministering and saving roles upon the earth.” (CR, April 2008)

Isaiah strong witness that Christ is the savior of the Jews, the descendants of Lehi, and all mankind

But he also new the words of Isaih would be hard for us and his people to understand.

2 Nephi 25:1-2,7

1 Now I, Nephi, do speak somewhat concerning the words which I have written, which have been spoken by the mouth of Isaiah. For behold, Isaiah spake many things which were hard for many of my people to understand; for they know not concerning the manner of prophesying among the Jews.

2 For I, Nephi, have not taught them many things concerning the manner of the Jews; for their works were works of darkness, and their doings were doings of abominations.

7 But behold, I proceed with mine own prophecy, according to my plainness; in the which I know that no man can err; nevertheless, in the days that the prophecies of Isaiah shall be fulfilled men shall know of a surety, at the times when they shall come to pass.

What is it about Isaiah’s writings that makes it hard for us to understand?

(for they know not concerning the manner of prophesying among the Jews)

But what does Nephi say about his explanation of the words of Isaiah?

(in the which I know that no man can err)

While giving us a clear understanding of Isaiah's message Nephi emphasizes these points of doctrine:

- Destruction of Judah
- Christ's earthly ministry
- Scattering and scourging of the Jews
- Latter-day restoration and gathering of Israel
- Nephi exhorts all to come to Christ

Destruction of Judah

The first message from Nephi is that Jerusalem will be destroyed and that the Jews will be taken captive

2 Nephi 25:9-10

9 And as one generation hath been destroyed among the Jews because of iniquity, even so have they been destroyed from generation to generation according to their iniquities; and never hath any of them been destroyed save it were foretold them by the prophets of the Lord.

10 Wherefore, it hath been told them concerning the destruction which should come upon them, immediately after my father left Jerusalem; nevertheless, they hardened their hearts; and according to my prophecy they have been destroyed, save it be those which are carried away captive into Babylon.

What has always proceeded any destructive event that has fallen upon the Jewish people?

(never hath any of them been destroyed save it were foretold them by the prophets)

Just as Lehi had warned them before they were “carried away captive into Babylon”

As was foretold by Isaiah

2 Nephi 15:1-2

1 And then will I sing to my well-beloved a song of my beloved, touching his vineyard. My well-beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill.

2 And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a wine-press therein; and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

What do the metaphors in these verses represent?

Wellbeloved	Jews
vineyard	Jerusalem
wild grapes	wickedness of the Jews in Jerusalem

2 Nephi 15:3-6

3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.

4 What could have been done more to my vineyard that I have not done in it?

Wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes it brought forth wild grapes.

5 And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard—I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and I will break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down;

6 And I will lay it waste; it shall not be pruned nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

What does the Lord do because of the “vineyard” produced “wild grapes” despite the fact that the Lord did everything possible to protect it?

(take away the hedge
I will break down the wall
I will lay it waste; it shall not be pruned nor digged)

God will leave them to their own devices by removing His protection
and His great works

What is the result of this action?

(it shall be eaten up... and it shall be trodden down
I will lay it waste... there shall come up briars and thorns)

Jews taken captive and Jerusalem is left desolate

Judah's wickedness, or why Judah is considered "wild grapes", is illustrated by Isaiah

2 Nephi 15:11-13

11 Wo unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink,
that continue until night, and wine inflame them!

12 And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine are in their feasts; but
they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands.

13 Therefore, my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge;
and their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

Why were the Jews led into captivity?

(because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished,
and their multitude dried up with thirst)

They were no longer guided by prophets and the word of God

2 Nephi 13:16-24

16 Moreover, the Lord saith: Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk
with stretched-forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and
making a tinkling with their feet—

17 Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters
of Zion, and the Lord will discover their secret parts.

18 In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments, and
cauls, and round tires like the moon;

19 The chains and the bracelets, and the mufflers;

20 The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets,
and the ear-rings;

21 The rings, and nose jewels;

22 The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the
crisping-pins;

23 The glasses, and the fine linen, and hoods, and the veils.

24 And it shall come to pass, instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle, a rent; and instead of well set hair, baldness; and instead of a stomacher, a girding of sackcloth; burning instead of beauty.

What is the desire of the people of Judea? What are they seeking after?

(the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched-forth necks and wanton eyes)

They are caught up in worldliness. They are seeking after Babylon instead of Zion.

How can we apply this to our day?

Joseph Fielding Smith

"The Prophet Isaiah without question saw our day, for he speaks of the daughters of Zion who, in the latter days, would be guilty of all kinds of improprieties in their dress....

"Now, my good brethren and sisters, I am making a plea for modesty and chastity and for the members of the Church, male and female alike, to be chaste, clean in their lives, and obedient to the covenants and commandments the Lord has given us." (CR, April 1964)

Christ's Earthly Ministry

The next message Nephi emphasizes from Isaiah is Christ's ministry

2Ne 25:12-13

12 But, behold, they shall have wars, and rumors of wars; and when the day cometh that the Only Begotten of the Father, yea, even the Father of heaven and of earth, shall manifest himself unto them in the flesh, behold, they will reject him, because of their iniquities, and the hardness of their hearts, and the stiffness of their necks.

13 Behold, they will crucify him; and after he is laid in a sepulchre for the space of three days he shall rise from the dead, with healing in his wings; and all those who shall believe on his name shall be saved in the kingdom of God. Wherefore, my soul delighteth to prophesy concerning him, for I have seen his day, and my heart doth magnify his holy name.

Isaiah foretells the coming of Christ

2 Nephi 17:14

14 Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign—Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

2 Nephi 19:6-8

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be

upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called, Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of government and peace there is no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this.

8 The Lord sent his word unto Jacob and it hath lighted upon Israel.

Thomas S. Monson

"For generations, enlightened mankind anxiously sought the fulfillment of prophecies uttered by righteous men inspired of Almighty God. For did not Isaiah declare: 'Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.' And again, 'For unto us a child is born... and his name shall be called... The Prince of Peace.'...

"With the birth of the babe in Bethlehem, there emerged a great endowment—a power stronger than weapons, a wealth more lasting than the coins of Caesar. This child was to be the King of kings and Lord of lords the Promised Messiah, even Jesus Christ the Son of God." (CR, Oct. 1965)

The Scattering of the Jews

Nephi details the scattering and scourging of the Jews

2 Nephi 25:15-16

15 Wherefore, the Jews shall be scattered among all nations; yea, and also Babylon shall be destroyed; wherefore, the Jews shall be scattered by other nations.

16 And after they have been scattered, and the Lord God hath scourged them by other nations for the space of many generations, yea, even down from generation to generation until they shall be persuaded to believe in Christ, the Son of God, and the atonement, which is infinite for all mankind—and when that day shall come that they shall believe in Christ, and worship the Father in his name, with pure hearts and clean hands, and look not forward any more for another Messiah, then, at that time, the day will come that it must needs be expedient that they should believe these things.

To what extent will the Jews be driven from Jerusalem?

(the Jews shall be scattered among all nations
the Jews shall be scattered by other nations)

Why will the Lord allow this to happen?

(until they shall be persuaded to believe in Christ)

They have not believed the prophets and they do not accept Christ

2 Nephi 13:1-8,12

1 For behold, the Lord, the Lord of Hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem, and from Judah, the stay and the staff, the whole staff of bread, and the whole stay of water—

2 The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient;

3 The captain of fifty, and the honorable man, and the counselor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator.

4 And I will give children unto them to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them.

5 And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbor; the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honorable.

6 When a man shall take hold of his brother of the house of his father, and shall say: Thou hast clothing, be thou our ruler, and let not this ruin come under thy hand—

7 In that day shall he swear, saying: I will not be a healer; for in my house there is neither bread nor clothing; make me not a ruler of the people.

8 For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen, because their tongues and their doings have been against the Lord, to provoke the eyes of his glory.

12 And my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they who lead thee cause thee to err and destroy the way of thy paths.

What is one of the results in Judah's hardheartedness that had a direct result in their being scattered?

(they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths)

Hugh Nibley

“The costly fashions reflect a world in which people are out to impress and impose themselves on others. Everyone is after a career, everyone is aspiring to be a VIP: ‘The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient. The captain... and the honorable man, and the counselor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator.’ What about them? ‘I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them.’ So much for their authority--and why? Because everyone is out for himself.... They stubbornly think they can go it alone.” (Old Testament and Related Studies, pg.224)