

October 14–20: 3 Nephi 20–26, “Ye Are the Children of the Covenant”

Overview

To drive home the point that the descendants of Lehi are children of the covenant Jesus teaches extensively from some of the Old Testament prophets. These include:

Micah 5:8–9	3 Nephi 20:16–17
Micah 4:12–13	3 Nephi 20:18–19
Isaiah 52:8	3 Nephi 20:23
Isaiah 52:9–10	3 Nephi 20:34–35
Isaiah 52:1–3	3 Nephi 20:36–38
Isaiah 52:6–7	3 Nephi 20:39–40
Isaiah 52:11–15	3 Nephi 20:41–45
Isaiah 52:15	3 Nephi 21:8
Habakkuk 1:5	3 Nephi 21:9
Micah 5:9–11	3 Nephi 21:12–21
Isaiah 52:12	3 Nephi 21:29
Isaiah 54	3 Nephi 22
Malachi 3 & 4	3 Nephi 24 & 25

Gathering of Israel

Here Jesus elaborates on the words of the prophet Micah (Micah 5:8-9)

3 Nephi 20:13-17

13 And then shall the remnants, which shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth, be gathered in from the east and from the west, and from the south and from the north; and they shall be brought to the knowledge of the Lord their God, who hath redeemed them.

14 And the Father hath commanded me that I should give unto you this land, for your inheritance.

15 And I say unto you, that if the Gentiles do not repent after the blessing which they shall receive, after they have scattered my people—

16 Then shall ye, who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, go forth among them; and ye shall be in the midst of them who shall be many; and ye shall be among them as a lion among the beasts of the forest, and as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he goeth through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

17 Thy hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.

What does Jesus prophesy about the descendants of Lehi when they are “brought to the knowledge of the Lord their God”?

(I should give unto you this land
ye shall be in the midst of them who shall be many
both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver)

Could you argue that this has happened, is happening, will happen?

Brigham Young

“They [the Government] will keep teasing and worrying and contending and fighting with one another, until the prophecy be fulfilled concerning the sons of Jacob, who will rise up and go through among the Gentiles like a lion through the forest. And who can stand before them? No one. Jew and Gentile, hear it; you are bringing upon your heads the very things you are trying to avoid, like the Government of the United States, which is striving with all its might, and calling to its aid the best wisdom of the nation to preserve its existence. Everything they do divides them until they will be split asunder and shivered to pieces. So they would do with this work.” (JD, 8:222)

Again, Jesus elaborates on Micah (Micah 4:12-13)

3 Nephi 20:18-22,26

18 And I will gather my people together as a man gathereth his sheaves into the floor.

19 For I will make my people with whom the Father hath covenanted, yea, I will make thy horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass. And thou shalt beat in pieces many people; and I will consecrate their gain unto the Lord, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth. And behold, I am he who doeth it.

20 And it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that the sword of my justice shall hang over them at that day; and except they repent it shall fall upon them, saith the Father, yea, even upon all the nations of the Gentiles.

21 And it shall come to pass that I will establish my people, O house of Israel.

22 And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a New Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you.

26 The Father having raised me up unto you first, and sent me to bless you in turning away every one of you from his iniquities; and this because ye are the children of the covenant --

What does Jesus prophesy will be established for the house of Israel?

(this people will I establish in this land... and it shall be a New Jerusalem)

Could you argue that this has happened, is happening, will happen?

It seems that the establishment of the New Jerusalem will happen after the descendants of Lehi dominate the Gentiles

3 Nephi 20:29-33, 46

29 And I will remember the covenant which I have made with my people; and I have covenanted with them that I would gather them together in mine own due time, that I would give unto them again the land of their fathers for their inheritance, which is the land of Jerusalem, which is the promised land unto them forever, saith the Father.

30 And it shall come to pass that the time cometh, when the fulness of my gospel shall be preached unto them;

31 And they shall believe in me, that I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and shall pray unto the Father in my name.

32 Then shall their watchmen lift up their voice, and with the voice together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye.

33 Then will the Father gather them together again, and give unto them Jerusalem for the land of their inheritance.

46 Verily, verily, I say unto you, all these things shall surely come, even as the Father hath commanded me. Then shall this covenant which the Father hath covenanted with his people be fulfilled; and then shall Jerusalem be inhabited again with my people, and it shall be the land of their inheritance.

What does Jesus prophesy concerning the Jews in Jerusalem?

(the fulness of my gospel shall be preached unto them
they shall believe in me, that I am Jesus Christ
give unto them Jerusalem for the land of their inheritance
then shall Jerusalem be inhabited again with my people)

Could you argue that this has happened, is happening, will happen?

LeGrand Richards

"It would be an interesting thing were there time to consider the prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled.... So many of the prophets, and the Savior of the world, himself, and particularly when he visited the Nephites, have told of the day when the Jews would be gathered back to that land and how the Lord would fight their battles and how he would do a marvelous work among them. And when you read what is going on and see how they have become a nation today, it is a wonderful thing." (CR, April 1954)

Jesus gave them an indication of when the gathering of Israel will begin

3 Nephi 21:1-3,7

1 And verily I say unto you, I give unto you a sign, that ye may know the time when these things shall be about to take place—that I shall gather in, from their long dispersion, my people, O house of Israel, and shall establish again among them my Zion;

2 And behold, this is the thing which I will give unto you for a sign—for verily I say unto you that when these things which I declare unto you, and which I shall declare unto you hereafter of myself, and by the power of the Holy Ghost which shall be

given unto you of the Father, shall be made known unto the Gentiles that they may know concerning this people who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, and concerning this my people who shall be scattered by them;

3 Verily, verily, I say unto you, when these things shall be made known unto them of the Father, and shall come forth of the Father, from them unto you;

7 And when these things come to pass that thy seed shall begin to know these things—it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the people who are of the house of Israel.

What did Jesus prophesy concerning the gathering that lets us know that we live in the time that it is taking place?

(when these things which I declare unto you... shall be made known unto the Gentiles
And when these things come to pass that thy seed shall begin to know these things
a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced)

Marion G. Romney

"Now, with this foreknowledge as an interpretative guide to the signs of the times, all who have seeing eyes and understanding hearts may rest assured that the fulfillment of the promises to the Lamanites is at hand. Most of the foregoing prophecies have already been fulfilled, and others are now in course of fulfillment. The apostasy and fourth generation destruction, the degeneration of the remnant, the coming of the gentiles, their establishment by the power of God as a free people in this land, their harassment of the remnant, the preservation of the promised record, and its coming forth by way of the gentiles are now all documented history." (CR, April 1963)

Jesus also makes reference to an important condition that must exist before the Book of Mormon can come forth and His gospel can be established to usher in the gathering

3 Nephi 21:4

4 For it is wisdom in the Father that they should be established in this land, and be set up as a free people by the power of the Father, that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed, that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which he hath covenanted with his people, O house of Israel;

Why was it important to the gathering that America was established as a free country?

(be set up as a free people... that these things might come forth)

President Mark E. Petersen

“I take you back now to the time when the Savior was ministering in America... It is meaningful to us as Americans and as Latter-day Saints who live right now....

“[The Savior] had been talking about... the records which eventually become the Book of Mormon. He said that this great modern nation of the Gentiles should be established on this land as a free people. And now I quote directly, 'that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed, that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which he hath covenanted with his people, O house of Israel' (3Ne 21:4).

“That is the reason there is an America. That is the destiny of America. He raised it up specially as he has raised up no other nation.” (BYU Speeches of the Year, 1968)

Christ discuss the prophet who will bring these things forth

3 Nephi 21:9-11

9 For in that day, for my sake shall the Father work a work, which shall be a great and a marvelous work among them; and there shall be among them those who will not believe it, although a man shall declare it unto them.

10 But behold, the life of my servant shall be in my hand; therefore they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them. Yet I will heal him, for I will show unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil.

11 Therefore it shall come to pass that whosoever will not believe in my words, who am Jesus Christ, which the Father shall cause him to bring forth unto the Gentiles, and shall give unto him power that he shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles, (it shall be done even as Moses said) they shall be cut off from among my people who are of the covenant.

What does the Lord promise the prophet who brings forth this “great and marvelous work”?

(the life of my servant shall be in my hand
they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them. Yet I will heal him)

In verses 12 through 21 Jesus elaborates on Micah concerning the fate of the gentiles when these things come forth if the gentiles do not repent (Micah 5:9-15).

But then Jesus talks about how the gentiles are important to the gathering and how the gentiles can be blessed

3 Nephi 21:22-25

22 But if they will repent and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for

their inheritance;

23 And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem.

24 And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.

25 And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst.

What does Jesus promise the gentiles if “they will repent and hearken unto [His] words”?

(I will establish my church among them
they shall assist my people... build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem
the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst)

Could you argue that this has happened, is happening, will happen?

Scripture Study

In chapter 22 the Lord quotes Isaiah. In chapter 25 He quotes Malachi. How does this, and what we have studied in chapters 20 and 21, demonstrate the importance Jesus puts on the scriptures?

He teaches from them

He commands all to search the scriptures diligently

3 Nephi 23:1-5

1 And now, behold, I say unto you, that ye ought to search these things. Yea, a commandment I give unto you that ye search these things diligently; for great are the words of Isaiah.

2 For surely he spake as touching all things concerning my people which are of the house of Israel; therefore it must needs be that he must speak also to the Gentiles.

3 And all things that he spake have been and shall be, even according to the words which he spake.

4 Therefore give heed to my words; write the things which I have told you; and according to the time and the will of the Father they shall go forth unto the Gentiles.

5 And whosoever will hearken unto my words and repenteth and is baptized, the same shall be saved. Search the prophets, for many there be that testify of these things.

How do these verses demonstrate the importance that Jesus puts on the scriptures?

He commands us to search and study them

He commanded that His words be written for others (us) to have

Bruce R. McConkie

"We believe in gospel scholarship. We think that devout men everywhere, in and out of the Church, should seek spiritual truth, should come to know God, should learn his laws, and should strive to live in harmony with them. There are no truths as important as those that pertain to God and his gospel, to the pure religion that he has revealed, to the terms and conditions whereby we may gain an inheritance with him in his kingdom....

"I know of no better way to heed his counsel, 'follow thou me,' than to live in harmony with the truths recorded in the scriptures." (CR, Oct. 1988)

3 Nephi 23:6-11

6 And now it came to pass that when Jesus had said these words he said unto them again, after he had expounded all the scriptures unto them which they had received, he said unto them: Behold, other scriptures I would that ye should write, that ye have not.

7 And it came to pass that he said unto Nephi: Bring forth the record which ye have kept.

8 And when Nephi had brought forth the records, and laid them before him, he cast his eyes upon them and said:

9 Verily I say unto you, I commanded my servant Samuel, the Lamanite, that he should testify unto this people, that at the day that the Father should glorify his name in me that there were many saints who should arise from the dead, and should appear unto many, and should minister unto them. And he said unto them: Was it not so?

10 And his disciples answered him and said: Yea, Lord, Samuel did prophesy according to thy words, and they were all fulfilled.

11 And Jesus said unto them: How be it that ye have not written this thing, that many saints did arise and appear unto many and did minister unto them?

How does this example of Samuel the Lamanite demonstrate the importance that Jesus puts on the scriptures?

Milton R. Hunter

"Christ admonished the Nephites for neglecting to record these important predictions [from Samuel] and their fulfillment.... Perhaps Jesus desired that those important events should be recorded as a testimony for the people in the latter days to help us know that if a man dies, he will live again." (CR, April 1960)

After quoting Malachi chapters 24 & 25 the Lord says this:

3 Nephi 26:1-2

1 And now it came to pass that when Jesus had told these things he expounded them

unto the multitude; and he did expound all things unto them, both great and small.
2 And he saith: These scriptures, which ye had not with you, the Father commanded that I should give unto you; for it was wisdom in him that they should be given unto future generations.

How does this example of Malachi demonstrate the importance that Jesus puts on the scriptures?

Gives them Malachi, important understanding from the scriptures

Why do you think he chose these two chapters of Malachi?
What principles do they teach us?

(Tithing – 3Ne 24:8-12)
(Elijah – 3Ne 25:5-6)

Mormon talks more about the scriptures

3 Nephi 26:9-11

9 And when they shall have received this, which is expedient that they should have first, to try their faith, and if it shall so be that they shall believe these things then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them.

10 And if it so be that they will not believe these things, then shall the greater things be withheld from them, unto their condemnation.

11 Behold, I was about to write them, all which were engraven upon the plates of Nephi, but the Lord forbade it, saying: I will try the faith of my people.

How do you think that the scriptures try your faith?

(if it so be that they will not believe these things, then shall the greater things be withheld from them)

Spencer W. Kimball

“I have had many people ask me through the years, ‘When do you think we will get the balance of the Book of Mormon records? And I have said, ‘How many in the congregation would like to read the sealed portion of the plates?’ And almost always there is a 100-percent response. And then I ask the same congregation, ‘How many of you have read the part that has been opened to us?’ And there are many who have not read the Book of Mormon, the unsealed portion. We are quite often looking for the spectacular, the unobtainable. I have found many people who want to live the higher laws when they do not live the lower laws.” (The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, pg. 531-2)

What do you think are the "greater things" Mormon made reference to?

Can you think of other times in the scriptures when great things have been

revealed but not permitted to come forth?

Moses, Nephi, Brother of Jared

The Savior taught these 'greater things' to the Nephites at this time

3 Nephi 26:3-4

3 And he did expound all things, even from the beginning until the time that he should come in his glory—yea, even all things which should come upon the face of the earth, even until the elements should melt with fervent heat, and the earth should be wrapt together as a scroll, and the heavens and the earth should pass away;

4 And even unto the great and last day, when all people, and all kindreds, and all nations and tongues shall stand before God, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil—

Compare this with teachings he has given other prophets. Teachings that we are not yet able to receive

Moses 1:36, 40-41, 2:1 (vision of earths history)

1Ne 14:20-22,25-26 (vision of earths history)

Ether 4:25-26 (vision of earths history)

DC 107:56-57 (Book of Enoch – all of Adam’s posterity)

It is important that we share with each other our understanding and testimony of the scriptures.

3 Nephi 24:16-17

16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened and heard; and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

What blessing can we receive if we who “[fear] the Lord [speak] often one to another”?

(when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son)

George Q. Cannon

"I thank him every day that I live for this Church. I thank him that I am a Latter-day Saint. If I can only have a name among this people I feel as though I could have no greater comfort.... I know this is the Church and Kingdom of God. I know that those who cling to it will, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, receive glory and exaltation at his right hand. I know that people who love him, as the Latter-day Saints do, and are willing to make sacrifice, will not be forgotten by him. He will not forget them in the day

that he makes up his jewels; he will bless them and honor them." (JD, 23:133)

Children

3 Nephi 26:14,16

14 And it came to pass that he did teach and minister unto the children of the multitude of whom hath been spoken, and he did loose their tongues, and they did speak unto their fathers great and marvelous things, even greater than he had revealed unto the people; and he loosed their tongues that they could utter.

16 Behold, it came to pass on the morrow that the multitude gathered themselves together, and they both saw and heard these children; yea, even babes did open their mouths and utter marvelous things; and the things which they did utter were forbidden that there should not any man write them.

Jeffrey R. Holland

“As he had done the first and second days, so too on the third he again ministered to the children, loosing their tongues and filling their hearts with spiritual truths. As a result, not only children but also babes in arms 'did open their mouths and utter marvelous things; and the things which they did utter were forbidden that there should not any man write them' (3Ne 26:16).

“It is significant that in each of the three days of his Nephite ministry, Christ had a singular spiritual experience with children. Those experiences, linking each of the days of his Nephite ministry, trumpet again the truth that Christ taught in the Old World as well as the New, that 'of such is the kingdom of heaven' (Matt 19:14).” (Christ And The New Covenant, pg. 301-2)