

November 11–17

Ether 1–5

“Rend that Veil of Unbelief”



Overview

Mosiah 28:17-19

17 Now after Mosiah had finished translating these records, behold, it gave an account of the people who were destroyed, from the time that they were destroyed back to the building of the great tower, at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people and they were scattered abroad upon the face of all the earth, yea, and even from that time back until the creation of Adam.

18 Now this account did cause the people of Mosiah to mourn exceedingly, yea, they were filled with sorrow; nevertheless it gave them much knowledge, in the which they did rejoice.

19 And this account shall be written hereafter; for behold, it is expedient that all people should know the things which are written in this account.

Promised Land

Ether 1:38

What did Jared realize that he and his family must do to receive this blessing from the Lord?

Promised Land

Ether 2:7,10-12

What is the “everlasting decree of God” concerning this land?

At what point will the Lord sweep the inhabitants from of the face of this choice land?

What do you think Moroni is referring to when he says, “this cometh unto you... that ye may know the decrees of God”?

What is the promise to those on this choice land if they serve God?

Delbert L. Stapley

"The Lord also emphasized to this early prophet that whatsoever nation shall possess this land of promise shall serve God or they shall be swept off when the fulness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fulness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity. 'This,' said the prophet, 'is an everlasting decree of God.'

"Thus, from ancient American prophets, we learn that this United States of America was established by God for a divine purpose, and that great blessings, which *all must admit, as we review the history of this nation, have so far been literally fulfilled*; yet the fulfillment of future promise of blessings is conditional upon the continued righteousness of its people. A great challenge is presented to the citizens of this land if God is to be on our side and give us power as a nation to overcome our enemies and not be brought down into captivity." (CR, Oct. 1963)

Faith and Works

Ether 2:22-25

What does the Lord promise that he will do for them when they face these difficulties?

What was the Lords response to the brother of Jared when he came to the Lord with his concerns about lighting the vessels?

Dwan J. Young

"How does a person venture out into the darkness without fear? How do any of us venture out day after day into a world where there are no guarantees of safety? The Lord gave a profound answer that again applies not just to the dark sea the brother of Jared faced, but to our own dark seas as well: 'Ye cannot cross this great deep save I prepare you against the waves of the sea.' 'I will bring you up again out of the depths of the sea.' The Lord was not going to spare the Jaredites from the experience, but he prepared them for it and gave them the sweet promise of bringing them up again out of the depths of the sea." (CR, Oct. 1986)

Dwan J. Young

“The Lord wanted the brother of Jared to suggest a solution, and he did well. He went to the mountain and refined out of a rock sixteen stones clear as transparent glass. I cannot imagine that this was an easy task; it took time and faith. When he finished, he took these stones to the Lord.” (CR, Oct. 1986)

Harold B. Lee

“Notice how the Lord dealt with this question. He said to the brother of Jared, 'What will ye that I should do that ye may have light in your vessels?' – as much as to say, 'Well, have you any good ideas? What would you suggest that we should do in order to have light?'”
 (“How to Receive a Blessing from God”, Improvement Era, Oct. 1966)

Faith and Works

Ether 3:1,4-5

How do you think this solution proposed by the brother of Jared demonstrated his faith?

Harold B. Lee

“It was as though the Lord were saying to [the brother of Jared], 'Look, I gave you a mind to think with and I gave you agency to use it. Now you do all you can to help yourself with this problem; and then, after you've done all you can, I'll step in to help you.'...

“This is the principle in action. If you want the blessing, don't just kneel down and pray about it. Prepare yourselves in every conceivable way you can in order to make yourselves worthy to receive the blessing you seek.” (“How to Receive a Blessing from God”, Improvement Era, Oct. 1966)

Russell M. Nelson

"Often I have heard [President Hinckley] say, 'I don't know how to get anything done except getting on my knees and pleading for help and then getting on my feet and going to work.' Unshakable faith, hard work, and contagious optimism epitomize our prophet." (CR, Oct. 1997)

Faith and Works

Ether 3:6-13

What made it possible for him to see past the veil?

How do you think faith and knowledge are related?

Bruce R. McConkie

“[Alma stated that] 'faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things,' but that men have faith when they 'hope for things which are not seen, which are true.' In this sense faith is both preceded and supplanted by knowledge, and when any person gains a perfect knowledge on any given matter, then, as pertaining to that thing, he has faith no longer; or, rather, his faith is dormant; it has been supplanted by pure knowledge.... The brother of Jared stands out as a good illustration of how the knowledge of God is gained by faith, and also of how that perfect knowledge, from a mortal perspective, replaces faith.” (The New Witness to the Articles of Faith, pg. 209-211)

Sanctification

Ether 3:19-20

Again, why could he not be kept within the veil?

Joseph Smith

"When any man obtains this last Comforter, he will have the personage of Jesus Christ to attend him, or appear unto him from time to time, and even He will manifest the Father unto him, and they will take up their abode with him, and the visions of the heavens will be opened unto him, and the Lord will teach him face to face, and he may have a perfect knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God" (TPJS, pg. 151)

“Having a knowledge of God, we begin to know how to approach him, and how to ask so as to receive an answer. When we understand the character of God, and know how to come to Him, he begins to unfold the heavens to us.” (TPJS, pg. 350)

D&C 67:10,13

10 And again, verily I say unto you that it is your privilege, and a promise I give unto you that have been ordained unto this ministry, that inasmuch as you *strip yourselves from jealousies and fears, and humble yourselves before me, for ye are not sufficiently humble, the veil shall be rent and you shall see me* and know that I am—not with the carnal neither natural mind, but with the spiritual.

13 Ye are not able to abide the presence of God now, neither the ministering of angels; wherefore, continue in patience until ye are perfected.

Sanctification

Ether 3:25-28

What was the extent of things witnessed by him in this vision

Can you name others who have seen similar visions?

The Record of the Brother of Jared

Ether 4:1-5

Ether included them with his record; the 24 gold plates
The Limhi's expedition to find Zarahemla brought back 24 gold plates
Limhi gave these plates to king Mosiah
King Mosiah translated these plates by the gift and power of God
The translation was kept from the people until the coming of Christ
Christ commanded that they should be made manifest to the Nephites
Moroni records them on the Golden Plates ('these plates')
Moroni seals up that portion of the Golden Plates and hides them up

The Record of the Brother of Jared

Ether 4:6-7

What will be the state of the world when the writings of the brother of Jared come forth again?

Bruce R. McConkie

“We do not have, and are not yet prepared to receive, the fulness of gospel truth. This is perfectly illustrated by the fact that we do not have the sealed portion of the Book of Mormon. That treasure-house of Holy Writ contains an account of the creation of the world, of the dealings of God with men in all ages of the Second Coming of the Son of Man, and of the millennial era when the earth shall rest and Zion prosper to the full—all of which we are not prepared to receive. The doctrines revealed to the brother of Jared, and which are recorded in the sealed portion of the Book of Mormon, were had among the Jaredites; they were known to the Nephites during their Golden Era... but when the Lehite people 'dwindled in unbelief,' Moroni was commanded to 'hide them up.'” (Mortal Messiah, Book 2, pg. 237)

The Record of the Brother of Jared

Ether 12:24

... Behold, thou hast not made us mighty in writing like unto the brother of Jared, for *thou madest him that the things which he wrote were mighty even as thou art, unto the overpowering of man to read them.*

Next Week:

November 18–24

Ether 6–11

“That Evil May Be Done Away”

