

September 9–15
Helaman 13–16
“Glad Tidings of Great Joy”



Warnings of Judgments

Helaman 13:12-14

Even though they are a small minority, why do you think the Lord is will to spare “Zarahemla... because of those who are righteous” in it?

Spencer W. Kimball

“There are many many upright and faithful who live all the commandments and whose lives and prayers keep the world from destruction.” (CR, April 1971)

Warnings of Judgments

Helaman 13:21-23

How do you think that someone can be “cursed because of your riches”?

What do you think Samuel means when he tells them that “also... your riches [are] cursed”?

Dallin H. Oaks

"Materialism, which gives priority to material needs and objects, is obviously the opposite of spirituality..... Like other Book of Mormon prophets, Samuel the Lamanite warned the Nephites that they were cursed because of their riches, 'Because ye have set your hearts upon them, and have not hearkened unto the words of him who gave them unto you.'...

"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." (CR, Oct. 1985)

Hugh Nibley

“The Prophet Samuel the Lamanite sets forth the interesting rule that when 'the Economy' becomes the main and engrossing concern of a society... the economy will self-destruct.... Note well the sequence of folly: first we are well pleased with ourselves because of our wealth, then comes the game of status and prestige, leading to competitive maneuvers, hatred, and dirty tricks, and finally the ultimate solution. Where wealth guarantees respectability, principles melt away as the criminal element rises to the top: 'For this cause hath the Lord God caused that a curse should come upon the land, and also upon your riches' (Hel 13:17).”
(The Prophetic Book of Mormon, pg. 349)

Warnings of Judgments

Helaman 13:24-26

Why do some people who claim to believe former prophets refuse to believe in modern prophets?

Warnings of Judgments

Helaman 13:27-29

Why do you think a civilization would "choose darkness rather than light"?

Joseph Smith

"The world always mistook false prophets for true ones, and those that were sent of God, they considered to be false prophets and hence they killed, stoned, punished and imprisoned the true prophets, and these had to hide themselves 'in deserts and dens, and caves of the earth,' and though the most honorable men of the earth, they banished them from their society as vagabonds, whilst they cherished, honored and supported knaves, vagabonds, hypocrites, impostors, and the basest of men." (TPJS, pg. 206)

Warnings of Judgments

Helaman 13:37-39

How do you think we can get to the point to where our “destruction is made sure”?

Marion G. Romney

"The free agency possessed by any one person is increased or diminished by the use to which he puts it. Every wrong decision one makes restricts the area in which he can thereafter exercise his agency. The further one goes in the making of wrong decisions in the exercise of free agency, the more difficult it is for him to recover the lost ground. One can, by persisting long enough, reach the point of no return. He then becomes an abject slave. By the exercise of his free agency, he has decreased the area in which he can act, almost to the vanishing point...

"These poor souls have placed themselves in the power of Lucifer and his followers.... The fact that they were originally endowed by their Creator with free agency does not save them from the most awful bondage, the bondage of sin."
(CR, Oct. 1981)

Signs of Christ's Coming

Helaman 14:9-13

What does Samuel say is his intent in teaching the Nephites from the walls of the city?

How do you think that knowing the signs of the times can help us to believe in Christ?

Signs of Christ's Coming

Helaman 14:2-7

What timeframe does Samuel give the Nephites of when Christ will be born?

What indisputable signs would be given so that they would know the very day of the birth of Christ?

Signs of Christ's Coming

Helaman 14:20-21,28-29

What indisputable signs would be given so that they would know the very day of the death of Christ?

What reason does Samuel give for being so specific about the signs of Christ's birth and death?

Repentance

Helaman 15:4,7-8

What steps are outlined by Samuel that show how the Lamanites obtained this change of heart and became “firm and steadfast in the faith”?

David A. Bednar

"Line upon line and precept upon precept, gradually and almost imperceptibly, our motives, our thoughts, our words, and our deeds become aligned with the will of God. Conversion unto the Lord requires both persistence and patience.

"Samuel the Lamanite identified five basic elements in becoming converted unto the Lord: (1) believing in the teachings and prophecies of the holy prophets as they are recorded in the scriptures, (2) exercising faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, (3) repenting, (4) experiencing a mighty change of heart, and (5) becoming 'firm and steadfast in the faith.' This is the pattern that leads to conversion." (CR, Oct. 2012)

Repentance

Helaman 16:1-5

What were the people of Zerehemla witnessing at this time for “the intent that they might believe”?

Repentance

Helaman 16:13-18

When the signs and wonders began to be fulfilled, why do you think the wicked “[depended] upon their own strength and... wisdom”?

Robert D. Hales

"For the most part, the Nephites 'harden[ed] their hearts' and became blind to the 'signs and wonders' of the times. These signs were given so 'that [the people] might know that the Christ must shortly come.' But instead of heeding them, the Nephites 'depend[ed] upon their own... wisdom, saying: Some things [the believers] may have guessed right,... [but] it is not reasonable that such a being as a Christ shall come.'

"In those days as in ours, some naysayers, called anti-Christ, convinced others that there was no need for a Savior and His Atonement." (CR, Oct. 2004)

Repentance

Helaman 16:20-22

Why do you think wicked would claim that the intent of the prophets was to “keep [the people] in ignorance”?

Delbert L. Stapley

"Samuel, the Lamanite prophet, prophesied to the Nephites of the approaching birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord, in the land of Jerusalem. They rejected his witness and testimony. They attempted to explain away the teachings of Samuel and the unusual phenomena of nature so much in evidence on this continent before Christ's birth, which happenings were also prophesied of by their prophets. They accused their spiritual leaders of keeping the people down to be servants to their words, also servants unto them. Thus ignorantly persuaded they were unwilling to yield themselves to the teachings and warnings of the prophets." (CR, Oct. 1961)

Next Week:

September 16–22

3 Nephi 1–7

“Lift Up Your Head and Be of Good Cheer”

