

September 16–22

3 Nephi 1–7

“Lift Up Your Head and Be of Good Cheer”



# The Birth of Christ

## 3 Nephi 1:4-8

What very specific sign given by Samuel were looking for as a sure sign?

Why do you think that some “began to say that the time was past”?

How did this affect the faith of the believers?

## Ulisses Soares

"Sometimes we seek for a blessing and set a time limit for the Lord to fulfill it. We cannot condition our faithfulness to Him by imposing upon Him a deadline for the answers to our desires. When we do this, we resemble the skeptical Nephites from ancient times, who mocked their brothers and sisters by saying that the time was past for the fulfillment of the words spoken by Samuel the Lamanite, creating confusion among those who believed. We need to trust the Lord enough to be still and know that He is God, that He knows all things, and that He is aware of each of us." (CR, Oct. 2019)

# The Birth of Christ

3 Nephi 1:9-14

What affect do you think it had and on believers and non-believers that this prophecy was fulfilled just before the set date?

# The Birth of Christ

## 3 Nephi 1:15-21

Why do you think that the reaction of the nonbelievers to the sign was “frustration” and “fear”?

# The Pride Cycle

3 Nephi 1:22; 2:1-3

Why do you think the people dismissed the miraculous signs that they had been blessed to witness?

## Dallin H. Oaks

“The viewing of signs or miracles is not a secure foundation for conversion. Scriptural history attests that people converted by signs and wonders soon forget them and again become susceptible to the lies and distortions of Satan and his servants. ‘How long will this people provoke me?’ the Lord said to Moses, ‘and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs that I have shewed among them?’ (Num. 14:11.)

“In contrast to the witness of the Spirit, which can be renewed from time to time as needed by a worthy recipient, the viewing of a sign or the experiencing of a miracle is a one-time event that will fade in the memory of its witness and can dim in its impact upon him or her.” (“Miracles”, Ensign, June 2001)

# The Pride Cycle

3 Nephi 2:11, 17-18

What did the people do that enabled the Gadianton robbers to cause such great destruction among them?



# The Pride Cycle

3 Nephi 3:12-15,25

What finally caused the people to humble themselves and repent?

How import do you think it was that the people were united in listen to their leaders?

# The Pride Cycle

## 3 Nephi 5:1-3

What do you think had changed among the people so now “there was not a living soul... who did doubt”?

Based on the Pride Cycle how would you expect the people to act after they had been so blessed by the Lord?

## Neal A. Maxwell

“Changing circumstances can likewise affect nearly a whole people's faith... Listen to this verse: ‘There was not a living soul among all the people of the Nephites who did doubt in the least the words of all the holy prophets who had spoken; for they knew that it must needs be that they must be fulfilled’ (3Ne 5:1)

“Now, listen to this: ‘There began to be great doubtings and disputations among the people, notwithstanding so many signs had been given’ (3Ne 8:4).

“As I check the years of these two verses, I note that this decline happened in the space of a mere ten years or less!

Circumstances changed from one in which ‘not a living soul’ doubted the prophecies to a time in which there were ‘great doubtings.’ It isn't very confidence inspiring, is it?” (We Talk Of Christ, We Rejoice In Christ, pg. 64)

# Unity

## 3 Nephi 6:10-15

When “the people began to be distinguished by ranks,” what qualifications did they use to divide the people up into groups?

What effect did this “great inequality” among the people have on the unity of the church?

What can we do to assure that we are united as church members?

## Ezra Taft Benson

"Our degree of pride determines how we treat our God and our brothers and sisters. Christ wants to lift us to where He is. Do we desire to do the same for others?"

"Pride fades our feelings of sonship to God and brotherhood to man. It separates and divides us by 'ranks,' according to our 'riches' and our 'chances for learning.' *Unity is impossible for a proud people, and unless we are one we are not the Lord's.*" (CR, April 1989)

## Henry B. Eyring

"We see increased conflict between peoples in the world around us. Those divisions and differences could infect us..."

"God has promised [the blessing of unity] to His faithful Saints whatever their differences in background and whatever conflict rages around them. He was praying for us as well as His disciples when He asked His Father that we might be one.

"There are principles we are following as a people which are leading to greater unity. One of those principles is revelation. Revelation is the only way we can know how to follow the will of the Lord together..."

"A second principle to guide our progress to become one is to be humble. Pride is the great enemy of unity..."

"That leads to another principle of unity. It is to speak well of each other..." (CR, Oct. 2008)

# Unity

## 3 Nephi 7:1-6

To what extent did this “great inequality” cause destruction among the inhabitants of the land?

## Henry B. Eyring

“The Lord’s prophets have always called for unity. He cannot grant it to us as individuals. The joy of unity He wants so much to give us is not solitary. We must seek it and qualify for it with others. It is not surprising then that God urges us to gather so that He can bless us. He wants us to gather into families. He has established classes, wards, and branches and commanded us to meet together often. In those gatherings, which God has designed for us, lies our great opportunity. We can pray and work for the unity that will bring us joy and multiply our power to serve.” (CR, Oct. 2008)



Next Week:

September 23–29

3 Nephi 8–11

“Arise and Come Forth Unto Me”

