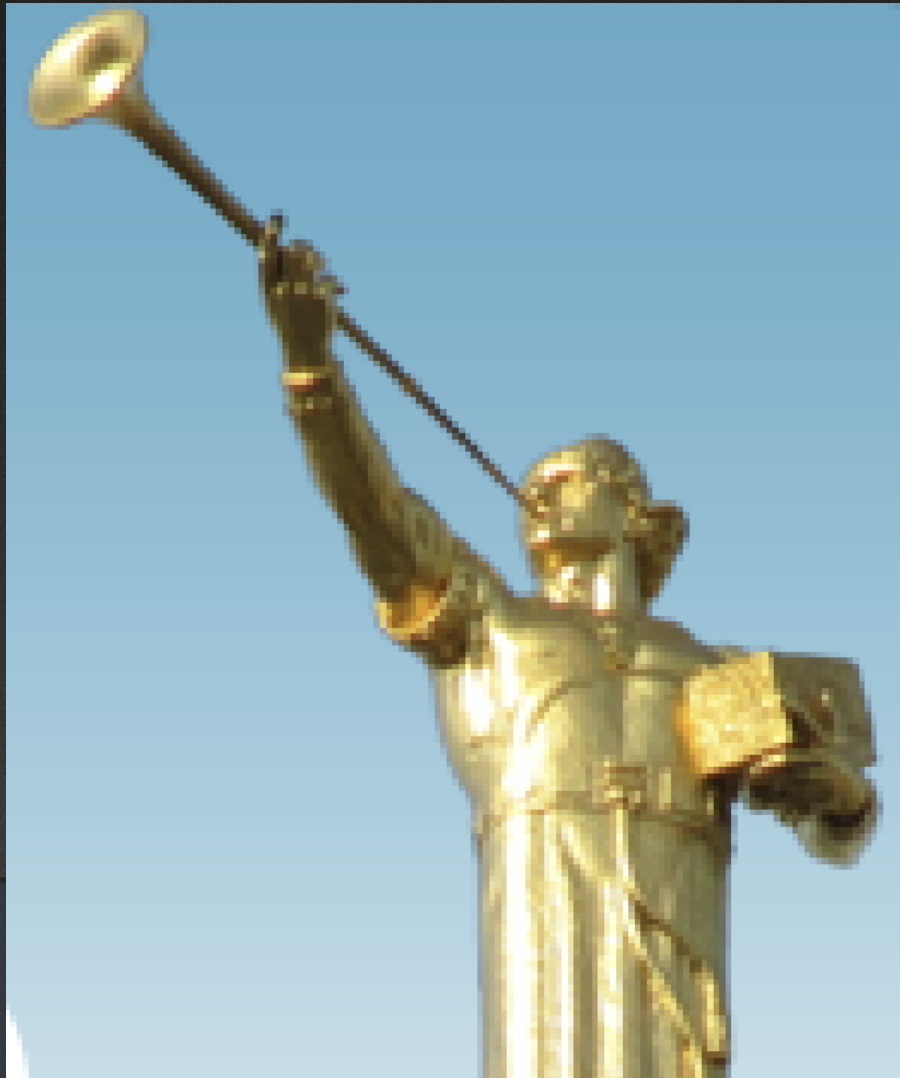


March 11–17  
2 Nephi 26–30

"A Marvelous Work and a Wonder"



# Coming Forth of the Book of Mormon

## 2 Nephi 26:16-17

How does the Book of Mormon fulfill Isaiah's description of a record “out of the dust,” and a voice “that hath a familiar spirit?”

## Gerrit W. Gong

“The Book of Mormon speaks by ancient and modern covenant to you who are the children of Lehi, ‘children of the prophets’ (3 Nephi 20:25). Your forefathers received a covenant promise that you, their descendants, would recognize a voice as if from the dust in the Book of Mormon. That voice you feel as you read testifies you are ‘children of the covenant’ (3 Nephi 20:26) and Jesus is your Good Shepherd.” (CR, Oct. 2019)

# Coming Forth of the Book of Mormon

## 2 Nephi 27:12-14

Why do you think that it's important that no one sees the Gold Plates except for a few chosen witnesses?

## Lucy Mack Smith

"Joseph threw himself down beside me, and exclaimed, 'Father, mother, you do not know how happy I am: the Lord has now caused the plates to be shown to three more besides myself. They have seen an angel, who has testified to them, and they will have to bear witness to the truth of what I have said, for now they know for themselves, that I do not go about to deceive the people, and I feel as if I was relieved of a burden which was almost too heavy for me to bear, and it rejoices my soul, that I am not any longer to be entirely alone in the world.'" (History of Joseph Smith by His Mother, pg. 153)

# Opposition to the Book of Mormon

## 2 Nephi 26:20-21

Why do the Gentiles build up many churches?

What seems to be common characteristics of these churches built up because of pride?

What is the stumbling block that has caused the Gentiles to stumble?

1 Nephi 13:29

... because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the [record of the Jews]... an exceedingly great many do stumble, yea, insomuch that Satan hath great power over them.

# Opposition to the Book of Mormon

## 2 Nephi 26:29-31

How does Nephi contrast priestcrafts with charity with regard to building Zion?



## Dallin H. Oaks

"Some may serve for hope of earthly reward. Such a man or woman might serve in Church positions... to achieve prominence or cultivate contacts that would increase income or aid in acquiring wealth....

"If our service is to be most efficacious, it must be accomplished for the love of God and his children....

"This principle—that our service should be for the love of God and the love of fellowmen rather than for personal advantage or any other lesser motive—is admittedly a high standard. The Savior must have seen it so, since he joined his commandment for selfless and complete love directly with the ideal of perfection." (CR, Oct 1984)

# Opposition to the Book of Mormon

## 2 Nephi 28:7-9

How does the philosophy of “eat, drink, and be merry” appeal to both those who believe there is a god and those who do not?

Where do we often see this “eat, drink, and be merry” philosophy taught and practiced today?

## Carlos E. Asay

Those who believe that the grave is man's final destiny live without hope of a better world and are inclined to embrace that fatalistic approach, 'Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.' This approach often leads to wanton experimentation, immoral conduct, and all the other behaviors that reap misery and remorse of conscience." (CR, April 1994)

## Dallin H. Oaks

“Those who fall for this deception may profess to believe in God, but they do not take His commandments or His justice seriously. They are confident in their own prosperity and conclude that God must have accepted their chosen route.” (CR, Oct. 2004)

## Dallin H. Oaks

“Surely you have seen and heard these arguments, brethren. They will come at you in classrooms and hallways, in what you read, and in what you see in popular entertainment. Many in the world deny the need for a Savior. Others deny that there is any right or wrong, and they scoff at the idea of sin or a devil. Still others rely on the mercy of God and ignore His justice.”  
(CR, Oct. 2004)

# Opposition to the Book of Mormon

## 2 Nephi 28:20-21,24-25

What reason does Nephi give that some members of the church believe that, “all is well in Zion?”

## Adam S. Bennion

“I am always interested in this one. 'Wo be unto him that is at ease in Zion! Wo be unto him that crieth: All is well.' If there is any one keynote that ought to be sounded from one end of the Church to the other, it is that we should beware the prosperity and peace that we enjoy. I fear that there may be many in Zion who are at ease.” (Young Woman's Journal, 3:436)

## Brigham Young

"It is our duty to preach the Gospel, gather Israel, pay our tithing, and build temples. The worst fear I have about this people is that they will get rich in this country, forget God and His people, wax fat, and kick themselves out of the Church and go to hell. This people will stand mobbing, robbing, poverty, and all manner of persecutions, and be true. But my greater fear for them is that they cannot stand wealth."

(Deseret News, March 4, 2000 - Reference: James S. Brown, Life of a Pioneer, pg. 122-23)



# Impact of the Book of Mormon

2 Nephi 27:24-26,29-30,35

What impact will the Book of Mormon have on those who have been led astray by conventional wisdom and understanding?

## Bruce R. McConkie

“Members of false churches who err in spirit, who think they have the truth, are brought by the Book of Mormon to the fulness of the gospel. Those who have based their beliefs on isolated verses and obscure passages, and who have wondered and murmured at seeming biblical conflicts, come to learn sound doctrine.... All things fall into place because of this new witness of Christ and His gospel” (The Millennial Messiah: The Second Coming of the Son of Man, pg. 174)

# Impact of the Book of Mormon

## 2 Nephi 30:3-6

What impact will the gentiles who believe in the book have on the descendants of Israel?

## Ezra Taft Benson

"We hardly fathom the power of the Book of Mormon, nor the divine role it must play, nor the extent to which it must be moved....

"[God] has revealed to me the absolute need for us to move the Book of Mormon forward now in a marvelous manner. You must help with this burden and with this blessing which He has placed on the whole Church."  
(CR, Oct. 1988)

# Another Testament of Christ

2 Nephi 29:3-4,8

Why is it essential that the Bible is not the only witness we have of Christ and his gospel?

## Boyd K. Packer

"Some have been offended that anyone would assume that the Bible was incomplete or that there needed to be more. They have, indeed, said, 'A Bible! A Bible! We have got a Bible. What need have we for more Bible?'

"We are, nonetheless, inescapably faced with the fact that with the Bible only, well-intentioned men, as worthy as you today, with centuries of opportunity to seek their end, have devised such a multiplicity of churches that even the ecumenical movement seems hopeless to unite them." (CR, April 1967)

# Another Testament of Christ

## 2 Nephi 29:12-14

What impact will the records of the other tribes have on witnessing that Jesus is the Christ?

## Neal A. Maxwell

"Lost books are among the treasures yet to come forth. Over twenty of these are mentioned in the existing scriptures. Perhaps most startling and voluminous will be the records of the lost tribes of Israel. We would not even know of the impending third witness for Christ except through the precious Book of Mormon, the second witness for Christ! This third set of sacred records will thus complete a triad of truth. Then, just as the Perfect Shepherd has said, 'My word also shall be gathered in one (2 Ne 29:14). There will be 'one fold and one shepherd' (1 Ne 22:25) in a welding together of all the Christian dispensations of human history."

(CR, Oct. 1986)



# Another Testament of Christ

2 Nephi 28:30

How does this verse relate to receiving additional doctrine and witnesses of Christ?

# The Sealed Portion of the Golden Plates

## 2 Nephi 27:6-8,11

What revelations are contained in the sealed portion of the golden plates?

Why is the sealed portion kept from us? What must we do before we can receive them?

What do we know about the origin of the sealed portion?

## Ether 3:25

[25]... the Lord... showed unto the brother of Jared all the inhabitants of the earth which had been, and also all that would be; and he withheld them not from his sight, even unto the ends of the earth.

## Ether 4:1-4

[1] And the Lord commanded the brother of Jared to... write the things which he had seen....

[2] And after Christ truly had showed himself unto his people he commanded that they should be made manifest.

[3] And now, after that, they have all dwindled in unbelief... I am commanded that I should hide them up again in the earth.

[4] Behold, I have written upon these plates the very things which the brother of Jared saw...

## Ether 12:24

[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.

# The Sealed Portion of the Golden Plates

*2 Nephi 27:21-22*

When will the sealed portion be revealed?

## Joseph Fielding Smith

"Now the Lord has placed us on probation as members of the Church. He has given us the Book of Mormon, which is the lesser part, to build up our faith through our obedience to the counsels which it contains, and when we ourselves, members of the Church, are willing to keep the commandments as they have been given to us and show our faith as the Nephites did for a short period of time, then the Lord is ready to bring forth the other record and give it to us, but we are not ready to receive it. Why? Because we have not lived up to the requirements in this probationary state in the reading of the record which had been given to us and in following its counsels." (CR, Oct. 1961)

Next Week:

March 18–24

2 Nephi 31–33

"This is the Way"

