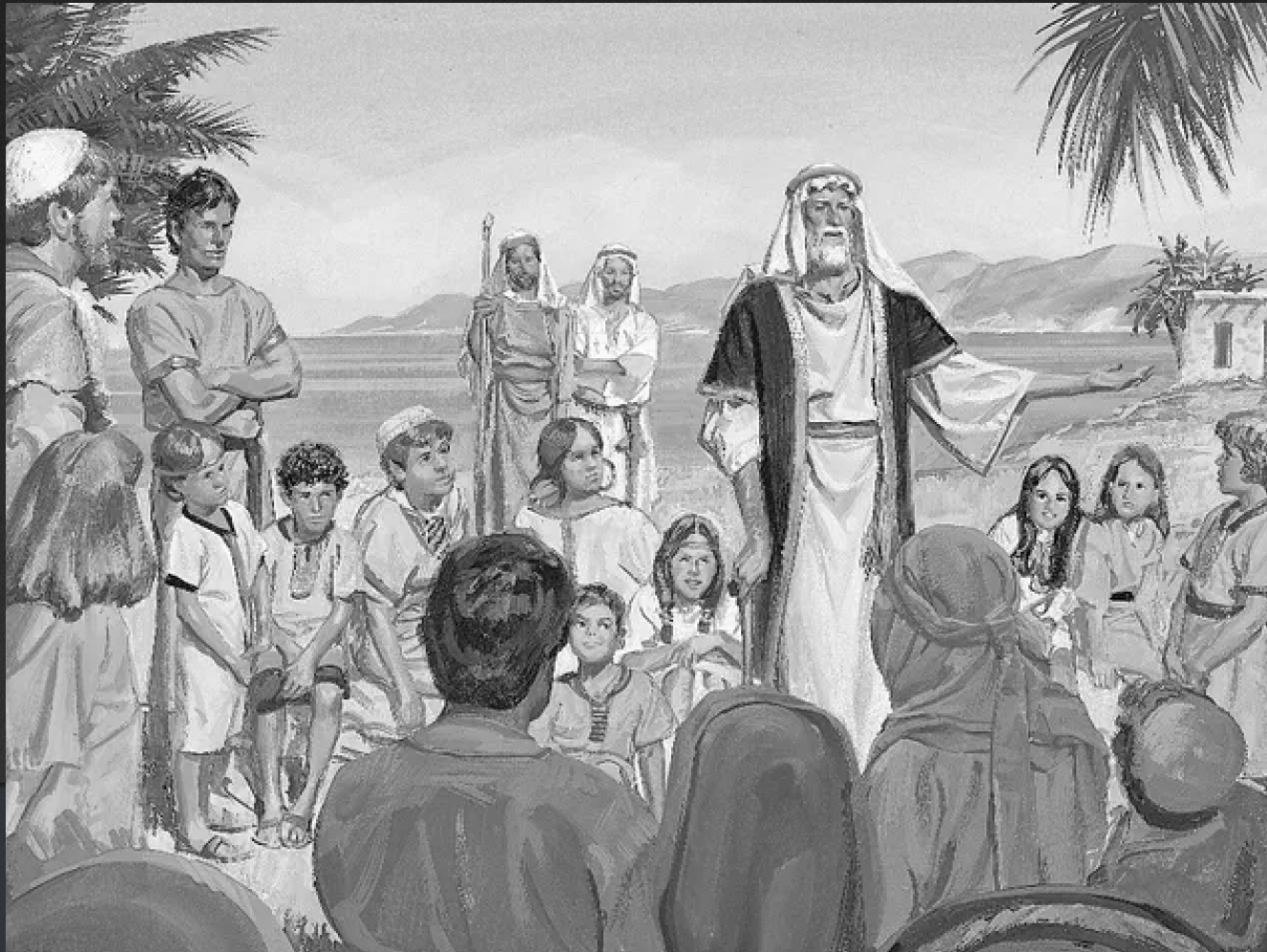


February 5–11

2 Nephi 1–2

"Free to Choose Liberty and Eternal Life, Through the  
Great Mediator"



# The Promised Land

2 Nephi 1:5-7,9

For whom has the Lord reserved this land?

What are some of the promises to those whom the Lord brings to this land if they keep His commandments?

## Ezra Taft Benson

“Lehi, who led the second colony which came to this great land, was told that he was leading that colony to a land of promise and that none should come here save those who would come here under the influence of heaven. This land would be consecrated unto those whom the Lord would guide here.” (CR, April 1952)

## Spencer W. Kimball

"This America is no ordinary country. It is a choice land, 'choice above all other lands' (2Ne 2:20). It has a tragic and bloody past, but a glorious and peaceful future if its inhabitants really learn to serve their God. It was consecrated as a land of promise to the people of the Americas, to whom God gave these great promises:

'It will be a land of liberty to its people' (2Ne 1:7).

'They shall never be brought down into captivity' (2Ne 1:7).

'And there shall be none to molest them' (2Ne 1:9).

'It is a land of promise' (1Ne 2:20).

'It shall be free from all nations under heaven.'

'There shall be no enemies come into this land.'

'It shall be free from bondage' (Ether 2:12).

'There shall be no kings upon the land' (2Ne 10:11).

'I will fortify this land against all other nations' (2Ne 10:11).

'He that fighteth against Zion shall perish' (2Ne 10:13).

"But these promises, glorious though they be, desirable as they are, can come only 'if they will but serve the God of this land who is Jesus Christ' (Ether 2:12). There is only one way. That infallible cure is simply righteousness, obedience, Godliness, honor, and integrity." (CR, Oct. 1961)

# The Promised Land

## 2 Nephi 1:10-11

What will happen to nations who possess the land of promise but are not obedient to the commandments?

What examples do we have that this is true?

1 Nephi 22:8,12

8 And after our seed is scattered the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed; wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles and being carried in their arms and upon their shoulders.

12 Wherefore, he will bring them again out of captivity, and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance; and they shall be brought out of obscurity and out of darkness; and they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel.

## David O. McKay

“Let men and women in these United States then continue to keep their eyes centered upon Him who ever shines as a Light to all the world. Men and women who live in America have a responsibility greater than that yet borne by any other people. Theirs the duty, the obligation to preserve... Christian principles.” (CR, Oct. 1942)

# Lehi Admonishes Laman and Lemuel

2 Nephi 1:13, 21-23

What admonitions does Lehi have for his sons Laman and Lemuel?



## Spencer W. Kimball

"There are Church members who are steeped in lethargy. They neither drink nor commit the sexual sins. They do not gamble nor rob nor kill. They are good citizens and splendid neighbors, but spiritually speaking they seem to be in a long, deep sleep. They are doing nothing seriously wrong except in their failures to do the right things to earn their exaltation. To such people as this, the words of Lehi might well apply: 'O that ye would awake; awake from a deep sleep, yea, even from the sleep of hell' (2 Nephi 1:13)." (Church News, 30 June 2001)

## Marvin J. Ashton

"Who among us hasn't felt the chains of bad habits. These habits may have impeded our progress, may have made us forget who we are, may have destroyed our self-image, may have put our family life in jeopardy, and may have hindered our ability to serve our fellowmen and our God. So many of us tend to say. 'This is the way I am. I can't change'. Lehi warned his sons to "shake off the chains" because he knew that chains restrict our mobility, growth, and happiness.... [These chains] can only be broken by people who are willing to change.... Those who are committed to improvement break chains by having the courage to try." (CR, Oct. 1985)

# Lehi's Instructions to Jacob

## 2 Nephi 2:1-3

To whom does the Lord promise to consecrate afflictions into blessings?

D&C 98:3

Therefore, he giveth this promise unto you, with an immutable covenant that they shall be fulfilled; and all things wherewith you have been afflicted shall work together for your good, and to my name's glory, saith the Lord.

## Joseph Smith

“I am like a huge, rough stone rolling down from a high mountain; and the only polishing I get is when some corner gets rubbed off by coming in contact with something else, striking with accelerated force against religious bigotry, priest-craft, lawyer-craft, doctor-craft, lying editors, suborned judges and jurors, and the authority of perjured executives, backed by mobs, blasphemers, licentious and corrupt men and women - all hell knocking off a corner here and a corner there. Thus I will become a smooth and polished shaft in the quiver of the Almighty.” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg. 304)

## Dallin H. Oaks

"Our needed conversions are often achieved more readily by suffering and adversity than by comfort and tranquillity.... Father Lehi promised his son Jacob that God would 'consecrate [his] afflictions for [his] gain.' The Prophet Joseph was promised that 'thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment; and then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high.'

"Most of us experience some measure of what the scriptures call 'the furnace of affliction.' Some are submerged in service to a disadvantaged family member. Others suffer the death of a loved one or the loss or postponement of a righteous goal like marriage or childbearing.... Through the justice and mercy of a loving Father in Heaven, the refinement and sanctification possible through such experiences can help us achieve what God desires us to become." (CR, Oct. 2000)

# Lehi's Instructions to Jacob

## 2 Nephi 2:5,13

What has been proved to use that we may be “instructed sufficiently [to] know good from evil”?

What consequences do we face if we believe that there is no law and there is no sin?

## Marion G. Romney

“Modern doctrine [states] that there is no personal responsibility for wrongdoing.... If a man commits a crime—lies, steals, commits adultery, or even murders—he has no personal responsibility for his act.... I compared that evil doctrine with the teachings Lehi gave to his sons as he was about to go down into his grave. I remember how he taught his sons that men were placed upon the earth between good and evil, that... they are held responsible for their decisions and actions. And as the Lord liveth, that doctrine is true....

“This doctrine that man is not morally responsible for his own acts, which is gaining wide acceptance in the world today, is the doctrine of the evil one.” (CR, April 1949)



# Lehi's Instructions to Jacob

## 2 Nephi 2:6-8

What does it mean to “have a broken heart and a contrite spirit”?

Why is it so important let the “inhabitants of the earth” know that Christ “[answered] the ends of the law”?

## Bruce D. Porter

“When our hearts are broken, we are completely open to the Spirit of God and recognize our dependence on Him for all that we have and all that we are. The sacrifice so entailed is a sacrifice of pride in all its forms....

“This comes when our desire to be cleansed from sin is so consuming that our hearts ache with sorrow and we yearn to feel at peace with our Father in Heaven. Those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit are willing to do anything and everything that God asks of them, without resistance or resentment.” (CR, Oct. 2007)

## Robert L. Backman

“Jesus displayed a missionary zeal, a fervent desire that all the children of God enjoy the blessings of his gospel. Isn't it interesting that the last chapter of each of the Gospels contains an appeal from the risen Lord to spread the gospel....

“We know, and knowing, we too must testify. Is there any question in the mind of any of us that this is one of the chief responsibilities we enjoy by reason of our membership in his Church? I began with Mormon's declaration, 'I have been called of him to declare his word among his people, that they might have everlasting life' (3 Nephi 5:13). Such is the calling of each of us.” (CR, Oct. 1991)

# Lehi's Instructions to Jacob

## 2 Nephi 2:10-11

What are we promised if we accept the atonement? And what if we don't?

Why is it essential to us to have opposition in our lives?

## Byron R. Merrill

"In its most basic aspects, agency is both the God-given right to choose and the power to do so. To have the gift of agency fully operative there must be competing choices and a person must have some knowledge of what the choices are and understand something about the nature of the consequences that flow from the respective choices.... If there were no opposition, no competing choices - in other words, if all alternatives were compounded into one - of what value would the gift of agency be? Lehi concluded that without opposition 'there would have been no purpose' in the creation (2 Nephi 2:12)." ("Agency and Freedom in the Divine Plan", Religious Studies BYU 2005)

# Lehi's Instructions to Jacob

## 2 Nephi 2:14-15

In what way does the creation play an essential role in bringing about God's eternal purpose of man?

In what ways do you think that the creation provides "both things to act and things to be acted upon"?

## Brigham Young

“Can the people understand that it is actually necessary for opposite principles to be placed before them, or this state of being would be no probation, and we should have no opportunity for exercising the agency given us? Can they understand that we cannot obtain eternal life unless we actually know and comprehend by our experience the principle of good and the principle of evil?... We must discern and acknowledge that the providences of the Lord are over all the works of his hands.” (JD, 7:237)

# Lehi's Instructions to Jacob

## 2 Nephi 2:16-18

What important role does Satan play in our free agency?

What did Satan entice Eve to choose?



## M. Russell Ballard

“Like the fly fisherman who knows that trout are driven by hunger, Lucifer knows our ‘hunger,’ or weaknesses, and tempts us with counterfeit lures which, if taken, can cause us to be yanked from the stream of life into his unmerciful influence.... Lucifer will not voluntarily let go. His goal is to make his victims as miserable as he is.”  
(CR, Oct. 2010)

# Lehi's Instructions to Jacob

## 2 Nephi 2:22-25

Why was it essential that Adam and Eve had the opportunity to choose?

## Joseph Fielding Smith

"Adam and Eve therefore did the very thing that the Lord intended them to do.... It was the divine plan from the very beginning that man should be placed on the earth and be subject to mortal conditions and pass through a probationary state as explained in the Book of Mormon." (Answers to Gospel Questions, 4:79-82)

# Lehi's Instructions to Jacob

## 2 Nephi 2:21

According to Lehi, what is one of the reasons we have the opportunity of our mortal existence?

## Hugh Nibley

"You are enticed by the one or the other, and you are enticed equally in either direction. The devil enticeth and inviteth in one direction. At the same time God inviteth and enticeth in the other. Neither one is overpowering or irresistible. Which way you go depends on you...

"'The days of the children of men were prolonged... that they might repent' (2 Nephi 2:21). That's good, that gives me another day - hooray, hooray! I'll need it. Repentance is a file of intention to change your way, but you have to keep repenting. You always have a chance to repent; it's not too late." (Commentary of the Book of Mormon, 1:274-275)

# Lehi's Instructions to Jacob

## 2 Nephi 2:26-27

What does everyone receive thru the atonement, regardless of rather or not they accept Christ?

## D. Todd Christofferson

“We are forever grateful that the Savior’s Atonement overcame original sin so that we can be born into this world yet not be punished for Adam’s transgression. Having been thus redeemed from the Fall, we begin life innocent before God and ‘become free forever, knowing good from evil; to act for [ourselves] and not to be acted upon’ (2 Nephi 2:26). We can choose to become the kind of person that we will, and with God’s help, that can be even as He is.” (CR, Oct. 2014)

# Lehi's Instructions to Jacob

## 2 Nephi 2:28-29

What are the two big options from which we can choose because Christ has made free agency possible?



## D. Todd Christofferson

“In matters both temporal and spiritual, the opportunity to assume personal responsibility is a God-given gift without which we cannot realize our full potential as daughters and sons of God. Personal accountability becomes both a right and a duty that we must constantly defend...

“I am under no illusion that this can be achieved by our own efforts alone without His very substantial and constant help. 'We know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.' Divine aid can be ours every hour of every day, no matter where we are in the path of obedience. But I know that beyond desiring His help, we must exert ourselves, repent, and choose God for Him to be able to act in our lives consistent with justice and moral agency. My plea is simply to take responsibility and go to work so that there is something for God to help us with.” (CR, Oct. 2014)

Next Week:

February 12–18

2 Nephi 3–5

"We Lived After the Manner of  
Happiness"

