

April 1–7

Jacob 1–4

"Be Reconciled Unto God Through the Atonement of Christ"



# Overview

## 2 Nephi 2:1-2

What blessings does Lehi give to Jacob and what do we learn about Jacob from Lehi's blessing?

# Small Plates of Nephi

Jacob 1:1-3

What does Nephi tell Jacob to record on the small plates?



## 1 Nephi 9

3... I have received a commandment of the Lord that I should make these plates, for the special purpose that there should be an account engraven of the ministry of my people.

4... these plates are for the more part of the ministry...

5 Wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me to make these plates for a wise purpose in him, which purpose I know not.

6 But the Lord knoweth all things from the beginning; wherefore, he prepareth a way to accomplish all his works among the children of men...

# Nephite Kings

Jacob 1:9-12

What did Nephi do that set a standard for the kings of the Nephites?



# Jacob Magnifies His Calling

Jacob 1:17-19

What was Jacob called to do?

What did Jacob do that demonstrated he magnified his calling?

## Hugh B. Brown

“President John Taylor said on one occasion, speaking to the brethren of the priesthood: 'If you do not magnify your callings, God will hold you responsible for those you might have saved, had you done your duty.'

“This is a challenging statement.... If I fail in my assignment as a bishop, a stake president, a mission president, or one of the General Authorities of the Church--if any of us fail to teach, lead, direct, and help to save those under our direction and within our jurisdiction, then the Lord will hold us responsible if they are lost as the result of our failure.” (CR, Oct. 1962)



# Jacob Magnifies His Calling

Jacob 2:2,7-10

What does Jacob recognize is the expectation of followers of Christ when they gather together to hear their priesthood leaders speak?

But why did he have to confront them about their sins?



## Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"It is our job to build up, repair, strengthen, uplift, and make whole. Our assignment is to follow the Savior's example and reach out to those who suffer. We 'mourn with those that mourn... and comfort those that stand in need of comfort' (Mosiah 18:9). We bind up the wounds of the afflicted. We 'succor the weak, lift up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees' (D&C 81:5)....

"As priesthood leaders... we should be committed and dedicated healers. We carry in one hand a vial of consecrated oil for blessing the sick; in the other we carry a loaf of bread to feed the hungry; and in our hearts we carry the peaceable word of God, 'which healeth the wounded soul' (Jacob 2:8)....

"The Savior is the worker of miracles. He is the great Healer. He is our example, our light, even in the darkest moments, and He shows us the right way. Let us follow Him. Let us rise up to our role and become healers by serving God and our fellowmen." (CR, April 2013)

# Pride

Jacob 1:15-16

The pride cycle:

humility > prosperity > pride > destruction >

humility > ...



## Hugh Nibley

“Among the timeless lessons to be learned from the Book of Mormon are the perils of the prosperity cycle....

Whenever any group chose to keep the commandments of God, he blessed and prospered them. At that point, instead of returning constant thanks to him who had rewarded them... [they] lost sight of the source of their blessings.... Wealth became the end in life rather than a means to the accomplishment of good. Whenever the acquisition of 'things' became more important than people, then it was only a matter of time before class distinctions, caste systems, and the persecution of the poor followed." (Since Cumorah, pg. 393)

# Pride

## Jacob 2:13-16

What reason does Jacob give that the Nephites “are lifted up in the pride”?

What is Jacob concerned that their pride will damage the most?



# Pride

Jacob 2:17-19

What should you do to keep prosperity from leading to pride?

What is a righteous reason for seek riches?

## Spencer W. Kimball

“Book of Mormon history eloquently reveals the corrosive effect of the passion for wealth.... Had the people used their wealth for good purposes they could have enjoyed a continuing prosperity. But they seemed unable for a sustained period to be simultaneously wealthy and righteous.” (The Miracle of Forgiveness, pg. 47-48).



# Polygamy

Jacob 2:23-24

What do you think that Jacob was referring to when he told the people that “they understand not the scriptures”?

# Polygamy

Jacob 2:27-29

What is the clear message that the people should have learned about marriage if they had properly studied the scriptures?



# Polygamy

Jacob 2:30

What reason is given that the Lord may command his people to practice polygamy?

## Erastus Snow

"It is high time that the Lord, who wishes to raise up seed unto Himself, should command His people and renew upon them the obligations placed upon our first parents. It is to the Latter-day Saints that this mission has been committed, and the result is the multitude of school children that we find all over this Territory. Over fifty thousand Sabbath school children in the Territory of Utah—nearly one-third of the entire population, as shown in our statistics at our various Conferences—are children under eight years of age." (JD 26:213)



## Joseph Smith

"Brother Levi, the Lord has revealed to me that it is his will that righteous men shall take righteous women even a plurality of wives that a righteous race may be sent forth upon the earth preparatory to the ushering in of the Millennial Reign of our Redeemer" (Autobiography of Levi Ward Hancock, pg. 61 - Church History Library)

# Immorality

Jacob 2:35

What sins had the Nephites committed that Jacob stated was greater than those committed by the Lamanites?



## Howard W. Hunter

“The Lord forbids and his church condemns any and every intimate relationship outside of marriage. Infidelity on the part of a man breaks the heart of his wife and loses her confidence and the confidence of his children.

“Be faithful in your marriage covenants in thought, word, and deed. Pornography, flirtations, and unwholesome fantasies erode one’s character and strike at the foundation of a happy marriage. Unity and trust within a marriage are thereby destroyed. One who does not control his thoughts and thus commits adultery in his heart, if he does not repent, shall not have the Spirit, but shall deny the faith and shall fear.”  
(CR, Oct. 1994)

# Immorality

Jacob 3:1-2

What does Jacob give as one blessing of maintaining a pure heart and living a moral life?



## Gerald N. Lund

"God allows us to be the guardians, or the gatekeepers, of our own hearts. We must, of our own free will, open our hearts to the Spirit, for He will not force Himself upon us.

"So how do we open our hearts?"

"In the Sermon on the Mount, the Savior said, 'Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God' (Matt 5:8). If something is pure, it is not polluted or tainted by things which do not belong to it. Purity of heart is certainly one of the most important qualifications for receiving inspiration from God. While none of our hearts are perfect, the more diligently we strive to eliminate impurity, or push out things which do not belong there, the more we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit. Note this sweet promise of the prophet Jacob: 'O all ye that are pure in heart, lift up your heads and receive the pleasing word of God, and feast upon his love' (Jacob 3:2)." (CR, April 2008)

# Immorality

Jacob 3:3,10

What is Jacob's prophecy for the Nephites if they don't repent and strive to maintain a pure heart?



# Focus on Christ

Jacob 4:4,10-11

What does Jacob state is the purpose of his writings?

How can we obtain this same hope in Christ

# Focus on Christ

Jacob 4:14

Jacob warns us to not “[look] beyond the mark.”  
What do you think he means by that?



## Dean L. Larsen

"Jacob speaks of people who placed themselves in serious jeopardy in spiritual things because they were unwilling to accept simple, basic principles of truth. They entertained and intrigued themselves with 'things that they could not understand.' They... obviously failed to stay within the circle of fundamental gospel truths which provide a basis for faith.... There are other ways in which many of us often look beyond the mark.... We do not draw close enough to the Lord to know him and feel of his redeeming love." (CR, Oct. 1987)

## Neal A. Maxwell

"It matters so very much how we regard and view Jesus Christ. Some seek to substitute Caesars for Christ. Others are blinded because they are 'looking beyond the mark' when the mark is Christ. Many sects—without the reinforcing rods of revelation—have been badly shaken by theological tremors; the resulting ecclesiastical erosion has been so rapid it is measured in months, not centuries." (CR, April, 1976)



Next Week:

April 8–14

Jacob 5–7

“The Lord Labors With Us”

