

February 12–18

2 Nephi 3–5

"We Lived After the Manner of Happiness"



Prophecies of Joseph

2 Nephi 3:4-7

What do we learn about a branch of the descendants of Joseph of Egypt?

What does the Lord promise Joseph of Egypt that He will do for that branch?

What does the Lord promise Joseph of Egypt that He will do to bring about this great work?

Who is that latter-day seer spoken of by Joseph of Egypt and what work did he bring forth?

JST Genesis 50:24-25

24... the LORD hath visited me, and I have obtained a promise of the LORD that out of the fruit of my loins the LORD God will raise up a righteous branch out of my loins...

25... a branch shall be broken off and shall be carried into a far country; nevertheless, they shall be remembered in the covenants of the LORD when the Messiah cometh; for he shall be made manifest unto them in the latter days, in the Spirit of power, and shall bring them out of darkness into light: out of hidden darkness and out of captivity unto freedom.

Ronald A. Rasband

“Joseph of Egypt prophesied that in the latter days ‘a seer shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a choice seer unto the fruit of my loins’ (2 Nephi 3:6). ‘For he shall do [the Lord’s] work’ (2 Nephi 3:8). Joseph Smith, the prophet of the Restoration, was that seer.”
(CR, April 2020)

Brigham Young

"It was decreed in the counsels of eternity, long before the foundations of the earth were laid, that [Joseph Smith] should be the man, in the last dispensation of this world, to bring forth the word of God to the people, and receive the fulness of the keys and power of the Priesthood of the Son of God. The Lord had his eye upon him.... He was foreordained in eternity to preside over this last dispensation." (JD, 7:289-90)

LeGrand Richards

“The Prophet Joseph Smith brought us the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price, and many other writings. As far as our records show, he has given us more revealed truth than any prophet who has ever lived upon the face of the earth.” (CR, April 1981)

Prophecies of Joseph

2 Nephi 3:11-12

What do we learn from these verses about the writings of the tribe of Judah and the writings of this branch of Joseph?

Boyd K. Packer

"The stick or record of Judah-the Old Testament and the New Testament-and the stick or record of Ephraim-the Book of Mormon, which is another testament of Jesus Christ-are now woven together in such a way that as you pore over one you are drawn to the other as you learn from one you are enlightened by the other. They are indeed one in our hands. Ezekiel's prophecy now stands fulfilled." (CR, Oct. 1982)

Lehi Blesses the Children of Laman

2 Nephi 4:3-7

Why do you think Lehi would tell his descendants that “if ye are brought up in the way ye should go ye will not depart from it”?

George Q. Cannon

"There may be faithful men who will have unfaithful sons, who may not be as faithful as they might be; but faithful posterity will come.... There are many things that we cannot understand, cannot see the reason why they should be so; but these promises are unalterable."
(JD, 25:360)

Brigham Young

"I will here say to parents, that kind words and loving actions towards children, will subdue their uneducated natures a great deal better... than physical punishment.... Children who have lived in the sunbeams of parental kindness and affection, when made aware of a parent's displeasure, and receive a kind reproof from parental lips, are more thoroughly chastened, than by any physical punishment that could be applied to their persons....

“Kind looks, kind actions, kind words, and a lovely, holy deportment towards them, will bind our children to us with bands that cannot easily be broken.” (JD, 10:361)

The Psalm of Nephi

Sideny B. Sperry

"This is a true psalm in both form and ideas. Its rhythm is comparable to the notable cadence of David's poems. It not only praises God but lays bare to us the very depths of Nephi's soul. A study of this psalm reveals how the scriptures delighted Nephi. The influence upon him of the Books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, and the Psalms is very apparent to the student of scripture." (Book of Mormon Compendium, pg. 153)

The Psalm of Nephi

2 Nephi 4:16-19

What blessing can we receive by pondering continually the works of God?

Why do you think Nephi describes himself as a 'wretched man'?

Even though his heart groans because of his sins, what is it that gives him hope?

Joseph Smith

"The things of God are of deep import; and time, and experience, and careful and ponderous and solemn thoughts can only find them out." (TPJS, pg. 137)

The Psalm of Nephi

2 Nephi 4:20-25

John A. McCune

“As followers of Christ, we are not spared challenges and trials in our lives. We are often required to do difficult things that, if attempted alone, would be overwhelming and maybe impossible. As we accept the Savior’s invitation to ‘come unto me,’ He will provide the support, comfort, and peace that are necessary, just as He did for Nephi and Joseph. Even in our deepest trials, we can feel the warm embrace of His love as we trust Him and accept His will. We can experience the joy reserved for His faithful disciples, for ‘Christ is joy.’” (CR, April 2020)

The Psalm of Nephi

2 Nephi 4:26-27

After all the great blessings that Nephi has received, what is it that makes his “soul linger in the valley of sorrow”?

What sin does Nephi state that he is guilty of?

Delbert L. Stapley

“Yielding to the illicit enticements of the flesh is the basest of human instincts, also the cause of much sorrow, unhappiness, and the loss of the clean inward feeling of peace men should strive to obtain. Those who sin deny their God and accept Satan, the author and the father of all sin....

“Satan, recognizing the weaknesses of the flesh, is vigorously attacking the weakened armor in our defenses and far too many are yielding to his enticements to error and sin.” (CR, April 1963)

The Psalm of Nephi

2 Nephi 4:28-33

What does it mean to "shake at the appearance of sin"?

Hugh Nibley

"Notice how the image is: Make the way straight for me so I can get through. Then when I go to you, will you put the robe of your righteousness around me and I will be in your protection. My enemy, meanwhile, is blocked in the sand. But don't put any stumbling block in my way so that I can escape." (Teachings of the Book of Mormon, pg. 251)

Alma 13:12

Now they, after being sanctified by the Holy Ghost, having their garments made white, being pure and spotless before God, could not look upon sin save it were with abhorrence; and there were many, exceedingly great many, who were made pure and entered into the rest of the Lord their God.

Joseph Smith

"The nearer man approaches perfection, the clearer are his views,... till he has overcome the evils of his life and lost every desire for sin; and like the ancients, arrives at that point of faith where he is wrapped in the power and glory of his Maker." (HC, 2:8)

The Psalm of Nephi

2 Nephi 4:34-35

Why do you think that Nephi was able to remove all doubt about God's plan and goodness?

W. Mark Bassett

“Over time human nature has not changed and that the Lord’s pattern for learning is timeless. Consider this Old Testament proverb: ‘Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding’ (Proverbs 3:5).

“Isaiah explained, speaking for the Lord, ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts’ (Isaiah 55:9)....

“Faith and trust in the Lord require us to acknowledge that His wisdom is superior to our own. We must also acknowledge that His plan provides the greatest potential for spiritual development and learning.” (CR, Oct. 2016)

The Nephites

2 Nephi 5:6,17-18

Why do you think that Nephi was opposed to his people being ruled over by a king?

1 Samuel 8:11-19

11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.

12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

13 And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.

15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

16 And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.

17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.

18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

The Nephites

2 Nephi 5:16,26-27

What do we know about the priesthood authority that was among the Nephites?

Joseph Fielding Smith

"The Nephites were descendants of Joseph.... There were no Levites who accompanied Lehi to the Western Hemisphere. Under these conditions the Nephites officiated by virtue of the Melchizedek Priesthood.... Jacob makes this explanation regarding the priesthood which he and Joseph held: "Behold, my beloved brethren, I, Jacob, having been called of God, and ordained after the manner of his holy order, and having been consecrated by my brother Nephi (II Nephi 6:2)." From [this] and numerous other passages we learn that it was by the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood that the Nephites administered." (Answers to Gospel Question, 1:124-26)

Next Week:

February 19–25

2 Nephi 6–10

“O How Great the Goodness of Our God”

