

November 25–December 1: Ether 12–15, "By Faith All Things Are Fulfilled"

Hope

Moroni explains how hope and faith work together

Ether 12:2-4

2 And Ether was a prophet of the Lord; wherefore Ether came forth in the days of Coriantumr, and began to prophesy unto the people, for he could not be restrained because of the Spirit of the Lord which was in him.

3 For he did cry from the morning, even until the going down of the sun, exhorting the people to believe in God unto repentance lest they should be destroyed, saying unto them that by faith all things are fulfilled—

4 Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God, which hope cometh of faith, maketh an anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God.

What is it that those “[who] believeth in God” can hope for with “surety”?

(a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God)

Bruce R. McConkie

“As used in the revelations, *hope is the desire of faithful people to gain eternal salvation* in the kingdom of God hereafter. It is not a flimsy, ethereal desire, one without assurance that the desired consummation will be received, but a desire coupled *with full expectation of receiving the coveted reward.*” (Mormon Doctrine, pg. 365)

How do you think that this “hope cometh of faith”?

Howard W. Hunter

“The words 'He is not here, but is risen' contain all the hope, assurance, and belief necessary to sustain us in our challenging and sometimes grief-filled lives.” (CR, April 1986)

Neal A. Maxwell

“Real hope is much more than wishful musing.... It is tied to Jesus and the blessings of the great Atonement... Hope is realistic anticipation which takes the form of a determination.” (CR, Oct. 1998)

Hope for an eternal reward is tied directly to the gifts offered by Christ

How do you think that being blessed with this hope would increase your faith?

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"Faith, hope, and charity complement each other, and as one increases, the

others grow as well. Hope comes of faith, for without faith, there is no hope. In like manner faith comes of hope, for faith is 'the substance of things hoped for' (Hebrews 11:1)." (CR, Oct. 2008)

How do you think that hope "[makes] an anchor to [our] souls"?

("hope is the desire of faithful people to gain eternal salvation... with full expectation of receiving the coveted reward." (McConkie))
(sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God)

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"We have the responsibility to make [hope] an active part of our lives and overcome the temptation to lose hope. Hope in our Heavenly Father's merciful plan of happiness leads to peace, mercy, rejoicing, and gladness. The hope of salvation is like a protective helmet; it is the foundation of our faith and an anchor to our souls." (CR, Oct. 2008)

Faith

Moroni teaches us about faith

Ether 12:5-7

5 And it came to pass that Ether did prophesy great and marvelous things unto the people, which they did not believe, because they saw them not.

6 And now, I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith.

7 For it was by faith that Christ showed himself unto our fathers, after he had risen from the dead; and he showed not himself unto them until after they had faith in him; wherefore, it must needs be that some had faith in him, for he showed himself not unto the world.

What does Moroni teach us about faith in these verses?

(faith is things which are hoped for and not seen
ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith
they did not believe, because they saw them not)

Spencer W. Kimball

"In faith we plant the seed, and soon we see the miracle of the blossoming. Men have often misunderstood and have reversed the process. They would have the harvest before the planting, the reward before the service, the miracle before the faith." (CR, Oct. 1952)

Ether 12:8-9

8 But because of the faith of men he has shown himself unto the world, and glorified the name of the Father, and prepared a way that thereby others might be partakers of the heavenly gift, that they might hope for those things which they have not seen.

9 Wherefore, ye may also have hope, and be partakers of the gift, if ye will but have faith.

What does Moroni teach us about faith in these verses?

Through faith we can also receive a testimony and witness of Jesus Christ. Through that witness we have hope that there is a definite purpose to this life, that God is in control, and we can also “be partakers of the heavenly gift”

Charity

Moroni explains how charity is a natural result of faith and hope

Ether 12:28,33-34

28 Behold, I will show unto the Gentiles their weakness, and I will show unto them that faith, hope and charity bringeth unto me—the fountain of all righteousness.

33 And again, I remember that thou hast said that thou hast loved the world, even unto the laying down of thy life for the world, that thou mightest take it again to prepare a place for the children of men.

34 And now I know that this love which thou hast had for the children of men is charity; wherefore, except men shall have charity they cannot inherit that place which thou hast prepared in the mansions of thy Father.

How does Moroni define charity?

(I know that this love which thou hast had for the children of men is charity)

Bonnie D. Parkin

"Charity is our love for the Lord, shown through our acts of service, patience, compassion, and understanding for one another.

"Additional insight into the pure love of Christ is found in Ether.... Charity is also the Lord's love for us, shown through His acts of service, patience, compassion, and understanding." (CR, Oct. 2003)

What do you think Moroni means when he says that faith, hope and charity, “bringeth unto me – the fountain of all righteousness”?

Alma 7:24

And see that ye have faith, hope, and charity, and then ye will always abound in good works.

Neal A. Maxwell

"Unsurprisingly the triad of faith, hope, and charity, which brings us to Christ, has strong and converging linkage: faith is in the Lord Jesus Christ, hope is in His atonement, and charity is the "pure love of Christ"! Each of these attributes qualifies us for the celestial kingdom. Each, first of all, requires us to be meek and lowly." (CR, Oct. 1994)

We read the hope we receive from faith is "hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God." In these verses -
What does Moroni tell us we must obtain in order to "inherit that place... in the mansions of [the] Father"?

(except men shall have charity)

Neal A. Maxwell

"The capacity to love grows out of 'faith unfeigned.' The Gospel of Jesus Christ offers to man 'a more excellent hope,' a perspective about life that infuses it with purpose, even with its tragedy....

"Faith and meekness permit the Holy Ghost to bless us, and the 'Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth' (Moroni 8:26)." (A Time To Choose, pg. 48)

And it's, "The Gospel of Jesus Christ offers to man 'a more excellent hope,' a perspective about life that infuses it with purpose"

And, "the Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth"

Humility

Also in Ether 12 Moroni teaches us about the importance of humility

Ether 12:23,26

23 And I said unto him: Lord, the Gentiles will mock at these things, because of our weakness in writing; for Lord thou hast made us mighty in word by faith, but thou hast not made us mighty in writing; for thou hast made all this people that they could speak much, because of the Holy Ghost which thou hast given them;

26 And when I had said this, the Lord spake unto me, saying: Fools mock, but they shall mourn; and my grace is sufficient for the meek, that they shall take no advantage of your weakness;

What does Moroni say is a characteristic that we must possess in order to be taught and guided by God's grace?

(my grace is sufficient for the meek)

Neal A. Maxwell

“Meekness ranks low on the mortal scale of things, yet high on God's: ‘For none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly in heart’ (Moroni 7:44). The rigorous requirements of Christian discipleship are clearly unattainable without meekness. In fact, meekness is needed in order to be spiritually successful, whether in matters of the intellect, in the management of power, in the dissolution of personal pride, or in coping with the challenges of daily life.” (Meek and Lowly, pg. 9)

Ether 12:27

27 And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them.

Spiritually speaking, what do you think it means to “make weak things become strong”?

Ezra Taft Benson

“...if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them’ (Ether 12:27).

“What a promise from the Lord! The very source of our troubles can be changed, molded, and formed into a strength and a source of power. This promise is repeated in one form or another in many other scriptures....

“Brothers and sisters, we must take our sins to the Lord in humble and sorrowful repentance. We must plead with Him for power to overcome them. The promises are sure. He will come to our aid. We will find the power to change our lives.” (CR, Oct. 1989)

New Jerusalem

Ether 13:2

2 For behold, they rejected all the words of Ether; for he truly told them of all things, from the beginning of man; and that after the waters had receded from off the face of this land it became a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord; wherefore the Lord would have that all men should serve him who dwell upon the face thereof;

Why do you think that “this land... became a choice land above all other lands” after “the waters had receded”?

Hugh Nibley

"When men had defiled all the other lands in the glorious and beautiful world he had given them. *He would set apart a place where he would stand*

for no nonsense; where men would be given such freedom as nowhere else, and could enjoy such prosperity as nowhere else.

"But in return for this liberty, certain ground rules have to be observed.... When the inhabitants abuse that freedom until they 'are ripened in iniquity,' their presence will be no longer tolerated" (The Prophetic Book of Mormon, pg. 505)

Ether 13:3,6

3 And that it was the place of the New Jerusalem, which should come down out of heaven, and the holy sanctuary of the Lord.

6 And that a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, for which things there has been a type.

What reasons are given for “the New Jerusalem [being] built up upon this land”?

(which should come down out of heaven
the holy sanctuary of the Lord unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph)

Bruce R. McConkie

"This New Jerusalem on the American continent will have a dual origin. It will be built by the saints on earth and it will also come down from heaven, and the cities so originating will be united into one holy city." (Mormon Doctrine, pg. 532)

James E. Talmage

"The Church in this day teaches that the New Jerusalem seen by John and by the prophet Ether, as descending from the heavens in glory, is the return of exalted Enoch and his righteous people; and that the people or Zion of Enoch, and the modern Zion, or the gathered saints on the western continent, will become one people." (Articles of Faith, pg. 318)

John the Revelator prophesied of the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven

Revelations 21:1-2,21-23

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it:

for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

What is the timeframe for when the New Jerusalem will come down from heaven?

The beginning of the Millennium
(the first heaven and the first earth were passed away)

Ether prophesied of the building up of the New Jerusalem

Ether 13:7-8

7 For as Joseph brought his father down into the land of Egypt, even so he died there; wherefore, the Lord brought a remnant of the seed of Joseph out of the land of Jerusalem, that he might be merciful unto the seed of Joseph that they should perish not, even as he was merciful unto the father of Joseph that he should perish not.

8 Wherefore, the remnant of the house of Joseph shall be built upon this land; and it shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old; and they shall no more be confounded, until the end come when the earth shall pass away.

What does the Lord promise “the remnant of the house of Joseph”?

(this land... shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord)

Russell M. Nelson

"As part of that promise, certain lands were to be inherited. While most descendants of Israel received their inheritance in the Near East, the choice land of the Americas was reserved for Joseph. It was to be the repository of the plates from which the Book of Mormon would be translated. It was also destined to become world headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. From there the restored gospel would go forth to bless all nations of the earth—according to the promise. Devout men, women, and children are being gathered in our day, turning to the truths of salvation that they have not heard before." (CR, April 1995)

Ether also tells us that the New Jerusalem will be ready and complete at beginning of the Millennium

Ether 13:9-10

9 And there shall be a new heaven and a new earth; and they shall be like unto the old save the old have passed away, and all things have become new.

10 And then cometh the New Jerusalem; and blessed are they who dwell therein, for it is they whose garments are white through the blood of the Lamb; and they are they who are numbered among the remnant of the seed of Joseph, who were of the house of Israel.

Ether also tells us about the future of Old Jerusalem

Ether 13:5,11-12

5 And he spake also concerning the house of Israel, and the Jerusalem from whence Lehi should come—after it should be destroyed it should be built up again, a holy city unto the Lord; wherefore, it could not be a new Jerusalem for it had been in a time of old; but it should be built up again, and become a holy city of the Lord; and it should be built unto the house of Israel.

11 And then also cometh the Jerusalem of old; and the inhabitants thereof, blessed are they, for they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb; and they are they who were scattered and gathered in from the four quarters of the earth, and from the north countries, and are partakers of the fulfilling of the covenant which God made with their father, Abraham.

12 And when these things come, bringeth to pass the scripture which saith, there are they who were first, who shall be last; and there are they who were last, who shall be first.

Where will those who inhabit the old and new Jerusalems be gathered in from?

(gathered in from the four quarters of the earth, and from the north countries)

It sounds like “from the north countries” is a specific reference to the rest of lost tribes

How do we know that those who are gathered to the old and new Jerusalems will be a righteous people?

(whose garments are white through the blood of the Lamb they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb)