

September 23–29

3 Nephi 8–11

“Arise and Come Forth Unto Me”



Signs of the Death of Christ

3 Nephi 8:3-6,22-23

N. Eldon Tanner

"The signs of Christ's crucifixion came to pass, attested by storms and earthquakes, by darkness, by thunder, and by fire. Cities sank into the depths of the sea, mountains were raised, and the whole face of the land was changed. This lasted for three days, and the people were heard to cry, saying, 'O that we had repented before this great and terrible day, and then would our brethren have been spared, and they would not have been burned in that great city Zarahemla.'

"Here another lesson is obvious. Throughout ecclesiastical history we find that those who rejected the prophets and failed to repent of their wickedness were struck by calamities which caused them literally to weep and to mourn and to regret their failure to heed the warnings of the prophets....

"Today the world is rejecting the messages of the prophets of God.... We need to heed the lessons from the history of the past lest we be consumed as were some of those earlier civilizations." (CR, April 1975)

Appearance of Christ

3 Nephi 9:1,13-17

What is Christ's first message to those who have survived the great destruction?

Walter F. González

"Those who receive knowledge not from flesh and blood but from our Heavenly Father do know of a surety that Jesus is the Christ and this is His Church. That very knowledge provides strength to make necessary changes to come unto Christ. For this reason, we invite every soul to be baptized, repent, and turn unto Him now.

"By coming unto Christ, every soul can see, feel, and know of a surety that Christ suffered and atoned for our sins that we may have eternal life. If we repent, we will not suffer needlessly. Thanks to Him, wounded souls may be healed and broken hearts may be mended. There is no burden that He cannot ease or remove. He knows about our infirmities and sicknesses. I promise and testify to you that when all doors seem to be closed, when everything else seems to fail, He will not fail you. Christ will help and is the way out, whether the struggle is with an addiction, depression, or something else. He knows 'how to succor his people.' Verily our conversion unto Him is rewarded with our healing." (CR, Oct. 2012)

Appearance of Christ

3 Nephi 9:19-22

What sacrifice did Christ say that His followers now must offer?

What do you think it mean to offer a broken heart and a contrite spirit?

J. Reuben Clark Jr.

“Under the new covenant that came in with Christ, the sinner must offer the sacrifice out of his own life, not by offering the blood of some other creature; he must give up his sins, he must repent, he himself must make the sacrifice.” (Behold the Lamb of God, pg. 107)

Neal A. Maxwell

“The real act of personal sacrifice is not now nor ever has been placing an animal on the altar. Instead, it is a willingness to put the animal that is in us upon the altar - then willingly watching it be consumed! Such is the 'sacrifice unto [the Lord of] a broken heart and a contrite spirit.'” (Meek and Lowly, pg. 94)

Appearance of Christ

3 Nephi 10:3-6

What do we learn about coming to Christ from this metaphor of a hen gathering her chickens?

Monte S. Nyman

“The hen calls to her chickens, but they must come of their own volition. They are not forced under her wings; they are invited, even urged, but *they must exercise their own agency*. In using this metaphor, the Lord designates his call to those of the fallen cities... And his use of the three verbs: ‘how oft have I gathered you;... how oft would I have gathered you;... how oft will I gather you’ *emphasizes his timeless call to repentance—past, present, and future*. The Savior's love is always there. His arms are always extended in mercy as long as there is any hope for his children to return to him.”

(Book of Mormon Symposium Series, 3 Nephi 9-30, edited by P.R. Cheesman, M.S. Nyman, and C.D. Tate, Jr., 1988)

Appearance of Christ

3 Nephi 10:11-14

Why do you think that it is important to understand all of these events were foretold to the people by prophets?

Appearance of Christ

3 Nephi 11:3-7

Why do you think that the Father now adds the phrase, “in whom I have glorified my name” when he announces His son?

Robert D. Hales

"In the Garden of Gethsemane, our Savior and Redeemer did not shrink from drinking the bitter cup of the Atonement. And on the cross He suffered again to do His Father's will, until at last He could say, 'It is finished.' He had endured to the end. In response to the Savior's perfect obedience in standing strong, our Heavenly Father declared, 'Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name.'" (CR, April 2013)

Appearance of Christ

3 Nephi 11:8-12

Why do you think Jesus wants to make it clear that he is the Christ “whom the prophets testified shall come into the world”?

Jeffrey R. Holland

“He speaks and says simply, with a voice that penetrates the very marrow of your bones, 'I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified shall come into the world.'”

“There it is-or, more correctly speaking, there he is. The focal point and principal figure behind every fireside and devotional and family home evening held by those Nephites for the last six hundred years, and by their Israelite forefathers for thousands of years before that.

“Everyone has talked of him and sung of him and dreamed of him and prayed-but here he actually is. This is the day and yours is the generation. What a moment! But you find you are less inclined to check the film in your camera than you are to check the faith in your heart.” (On Earth As It Is In Heaven, pg. 125)

Appearance of Christ

3 Nephi 11:13-17

Why did Jesus want the people feel the prints of the nails?

Brian K. Ashton

"Jesus's visit to the Nephites after His Resurrection was carefully organized to teach us the things of greatest importance. It began with the Father testifying to the people that Jesus was His 'Beloved Son, in whom [He was] well pleased.' Then Jesus Himself descended and testified of His atoning sacrifice, inviting the people to 'know of a surety' that He was the Christ by coming forth and feeling the wound mark in His side and the prints of the nails in His hands and feet. These testimonies established without doubt that Jesus's Atonement was complete and that the Father had fulfilled His covenant to provide a Savior." (CR, Oct. 2016)

Daniel Ludlow

“At the time of the appearance of the resurrected Jesus Christ to the Nephites, the multitude went forth, felt the resurrected body of the Savior, and testified that 'it was he, of whom it was written by the prophets, that should come' and then cried out 'with one accord, saying: Hosanna!' The word Hosanna is a transliteration of a Hebrew word of supplication which means in essence 'Oh, grant salvation.' Evidently the people were asking the Savior to teach them the way to salvation; thus it is not surprising that *he immediately teaches them the basic principles and ordinances of the gospel.*” (A Companion to Your Study of the Book Of Mormon, pg. 261)

Baptism

3 Nephi 11:18-22

What does this teach us about the importance of someone receiving authority before performing this essential ordinance?

The Nephites had been practicing baptism before this. Why did they need to be baptized again?

Joseph Fielding Smith

“The Church among the Nephites before the coming of Christ was not in its fullness and was under the law of Moses. The Savior restored the fullness and gave them all the ordinances and blessings of the gospel.

Therefore, it actually became a new organization, and through baptism they came into it.... All who had been previously baptized were baptized again, not for the remission of sins, but *for entrance into the Church.*”

(Answers to Gospel Questions, 3:205-6)

Lowell D. Wood

"What were the next words Jesus gave to the people in Bountiful? Think of all he could have said.... But he chose to teach his doctrine, which is:

'And again I say unto you, ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God.

'Verily, verily, I say unto you, that this is my doctrine, and whoso buildeth upon this buildeth upon my rock, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them.' (3 Ne 11:38–39)

"Not only did the Lord teach the need for baptism, but he called special disciples and gave them power to baptize. He also taught them the correct manner of baptism.

"Clearly, it is vital, on the journey to eternal life, to exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of our sins, and be baptized in the proper manner, by those holding the proper authority and using the proper prayer. After this kind of baptism we can “be visited with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and... receive a remission of... sins.’ (3 Ne 12:2)” (CR, April 1993)

Next Week:

September 30–October 6

3 Nephi 12–16

“I Am the Law, and the Light”

