

## September 23–29: 3 Nephi 8–11, “Arise and Come Forth Unto Me”

### Review

Samuel the Lamanite had prophesied of terrible destructions that would take place when Jesus was crucified

Helaman 14

20... there shall be no light upon the face of this land, even from the time that he shall suffer death, for the space of three days, to the time that he shall rise again from the dead.

21 Yea, at the time that he shall yield up the ghost there shall be thunderings and lightnings for the space of many hours, and the earth shall shake and tremble...

23... there shall be many mountains laid low, like unto a valley, and there shall be many places which are now called valleys which shall become mountains...

25 And many graves shall be opened, and shall yield up many of their dead; and many saints shall appear unto many.

### Signs of the Death of Christ

Samuel’s prophecies about the death of Christ are fulfilled

3 Nephi 8:3-6,22-23

3 And the people began to look with great earnestness for the sign which had been given by the prophet Samuel, the Lamanite, yea, for the time that there should be darkness for the space of three days over the face of the land.

4 And there began to be great doubtings and disputations among the people, notwithstanding so many signs had been given.

5 And it came to pass in the thirty and fourth year, in the first month, on the fourth day of the month, there arose a great storm, such an one as never had been known in all the land.

6 And there was also a great and terrible tempest; and there was terrible thunder, insomuch that it did shake the whole earth as if it was about to divide asunder.

22 And there was not any light seen, neither fire, nor glimmer, neither the sun, nor the moon, nor the stars, for so great were the mists of darkness which were upon the face of the land.

23 And it came to pass that it did last for the space of three days that there was no light seen; and there was great mourning and howling and weeping among all the people continually; yea, great were the groanings of the people, because of the darkness and the great destruction which had come upon them.

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

The voice of Christ comes to those who survived the destruction

3 Nephi 9:1,13-17

1 And it came to pass that there was a voice heard among all the inhabitants of the earth, upon all the face of this land, crying:

13 O all ye that are spared because ye were more righteous than they, will ye not now return unto me, and repent of your sins, and be converted, that I may heal you?

14 Yea, verily I say unto you, if ye will come unto me ye shall have eternal life.

Behold, mine arm of mercy is extended towards you, and whosoever will come, him will I receive; and blessed are those who come unto me.

15 Behold, I am Jesus Christ the Son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are. I was with the Father from the beginning. I am in the Father, and the Father in me; and in me hath the Father glorified his name.

16 I came unto my own, and my own received me not. And the scriptures concerning my coming are fulfilled.

17 And as many as have received me, to them have I given to become the sons of God; and even so will I to as many as shall believe on my name, for behold, by me redemption cometh, and in me is the law of Moses fulfilled.

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

(repent of your sins, and be converted, that I may heal you  
whosoever will come, him will I receive  
as many as have received me... have I given to become the sons of God)

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)

Jesus declared that the law of Moses was fulfilled in Him and that He would no longer accept burnt offerings and sacrifices

3 Nephi 9:19-22

19 And ye shall offer up unto me no more the shedding of blood; yea, your sacrifices and your burnt offerings shall be done away, for I will accept none of your sacrifices and your burnt offerings.

20 And ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit. And whoso cometh unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost, even as the Lamanites, because of their faith in me at the time of their conversion, were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and they knew it not.

21 Behold, I have come unto the world to bring redemption unto the world, to save the world from sin.

22 Therefore, whoso repenteth and cometh unto me as a little child, him will I receive, for of such is the kingdom of God. Behold, for such I have laid down my life, and have taken it up again; therefore repent, and come unto me ye ends of the earth, and be saved.

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

(a broken heart and a contrite spirit)

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)

The Lord states that he always has been, and continues to be, anxious to gather His people so He can forgive and nourish them. if they will repent

3 Nephi 10:3-6

3 And it came to pass that there came a voice again unto the people, and all the people did hear, and did witness of it, saying:

4 O ye people of these great cities which have fallen, who are descendants of Jacob, yea, who are of the house of Israel, how oft have I gathered you as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and have nourished you.

5 And again, how oft would I have gathered you as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, yea, O ye people of the house of Israel, who have fallen; yea, O ye people of the house of Israel, ye that dwell at Jerusalem, as ye that have fallen; yea, how oft would I have gathered you as a hen gathereth her chickens, and ye would not.

6 O ye house of Israel whom I have spared, how oft will I gather you as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, if ye will repent and return unto me with full purpose of heart.

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)

Mormon wants us to learn a lesson about prophecies and the importance of listening to the prophets

3 Nephi 10:11-14

11 And thus far were the scriptures fulfilled which had been spoken by the prophets.

12 And it was the more righteous part of the people who were saved, and it was they who received the prophets and stoned them not; and it was they who had not shed the blood of the saints, who were spared—

13 And they were spared and were not sunk and buried up in the earth; and they were not drowned in the depths of the sea; and they were not burned by fire, neither were

they fallen upon and crushed to death; and they were not carried away in the whirlwind; neither were they overpowered by the vapor of smoke and of darkness. 14 And now, whoso readeth, let him understand; he that hath the scriptures, let him search them, and see and behold if all these deaths and destructions by fire, and by smoke, and by tempests, and by whirlwinds, and by the opening of the earth to receive them, and all these things are not unto the fulfilling of the prophecies of many of the holy prophets.

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

(all these things are not unto the fulfilling of the prophecies of many of the holy prophets)

The Father introduces His Son

3 Nephi 11:3-7

3 And it came to pass that while they were thus conversing one with another, they heard a voice as if it came out of heaven; and they cast their eyes round about, for they understood not the voice which they heard; and it was not a harsh voice, neither was it a loud voice; nevertheless, and notwithstanding it being a small voice it did pierce them that did hear to the center, insomuch that there was no part of their frame that it did not cause to quake; yea, it did pierce them to the very soul, and did cause their hearts to burn.

4 And it came to pass that again they heard the voice, and they understood it not.

5 And again the third time they did hear the voice, and did open their ears to hear it; and their eyes were towards the sound thereof; and they did look steadfastly towards heaven, from whence the sound came.

6 And behold, the third time they did understand the voice which they heard; and it said unto them:

7 Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name—hear ye him.

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)

The first thing Christ does is declare who He is and what He has done. Then He gives the multitude the opportunity to know for themselves that He is the resurrected

## Christ

3 Nephi 11:8-12

8 And it came to pass, as they understood they cast their eyes up again towards heaven; and behold, they saw a Man descending out of heaven; and he was clothed in a white robe; and he came down and stood in the midst of them; and the eyes of the whole multitude were turned upon him, and they durst not open their mouths, even one to another, and wist not what it meant, for they thought it was an angel that had appeared unto them.

9 And it came to pass that he stretched forth his hand and spake unto the people, saying:

10 Behold, I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified shall come into the world.

11 And behold, I am the light and the life of the world; and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning.

12 And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words the whole multitude fell to the earth; for they remembered that it had been prophesied among them that Christ should show himself unto them after his ascension into heaven.

Why to 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)

3 Nephi 11:13-17

13 And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto them saying:

14 Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world.

15 And it came to pass that the multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet; and this they did

do, going forth one by one until they had all gone forth, and did see with their eyes and did feel with their hands, and did know of a surety and did bear record, that it was he, of whom it was written by the prophets, that should come.

16 And when they had all gone forth and had witnessed for themselves, they did cry out with one accord, saying:

17 Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Most High God! And they did fall down at the feet of Jesus, and did worship him.

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

(did know of a surety and did bear record, that it was he, of whom it was written by the prophets, that should come)

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

The next thing He does is establish His gospel. He calls the 12 and gives them the authority to baptize

3 Nephi 11:18-22

18 And it came to pass that he spake unto Nephi (for Nephi was among the multitude) and he commanded him that he should come forth.

19 And Nephi arose and went forth, and bowed himself before the Lord and did kiss his feet.

20 And the Lord commanded him that he should arise. And he arose and stood before

him.

21 And the Lord said unto him: I give unto you power that ye shall baptize this people when I am again ascended into heaven.

22 And again the Lord called others, and said unto them likewise; and he gave unto them power to baptize. And he said unto them: On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you.

The “others” the Lord calls in verse 22 are the members of His quorum of the 12 and the instruction in this chapter are directed to them. We know this from verse one in the next chapter

3 Nephi 12:1

And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words unto Nephi, and to those who had been called, (now the number of them who had been called, and received power and authority to baptize, was twelve)...

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)

For the rest of this chapter He gives the 12 specific information about baptism

How someone qualifies to be baptized (faith, repent)

The necessary authority to baptize

The manner of baptism (immersion in water)

The baptismal prayer

And how the Father will give the Holy Ghost after baptism for a witness

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)