

January 22–28: 1 Nephi 11–15,  
“Armed with Righteousness and with the Power of God”



# Overview

Chapter 11: Interpretation of Lehi's vision

Chapter 12: Events in Nephite history

- Wars between the Nephites and Lamanites.
- The great destruction just prior to Christ's arrival in the Americas
- Christ's visit to the people on this continent
- Christ establishing His church and calling twelve disciples
- The four generation of peace and prosperity that followed Christ's visit
- The wars that resulted in the destruction of the Nephite nation

# The Church of the Devil

1 Nephi 13:1-4, 26

What information is given in verse 26 that gives us an idea of the timeframe of the formation of the “great church”?

D&C 86:3

After [the Apostles] have fallen asleep the great persecutor of the church, the apostate, the whore, even Babylon, that maketh all nations to drink of her cup, in whose hearts the enemy, even Satan, sitteth to reign—behold he soweth the tares; wherefore, the tares choke the wheat and drive the church into the wilderness

# The Church of the Devil

## 1 Nephi 13:5-9

What characteristics of the great and abominable church are given in these verses that can help us to identify it?

# The Church of the Devil

1 Nephi 14:10-11,15-16

What information about the great and abominable church is given in these verses that can help us to identify it?

## Bruce R. McConkie

“The titles church of the devil and great and abominable church are used to identify all churches or organizations of whatever name or nature—whether political, philosophical, educational, economic, social, fraternal, civic, or religious—which are designed to take men on a course that leads away from God and his laws and thus from salvation in the kingdom of God” (Mormon Doctrine, 2nd ed. [1966], pg. 137–38)

## Stephen E. Robinson

“The term great and abominable church means an immense assembly or association of people bound together by their loyalty to that which God hates....

“The symbol... represents false religion, false beliefs and ideologies that often capture and motivate governments.....

"No single denomination or system of beliefs fits the entire description. Rather, the role of Babylon has been played by many different agencies, ideologies, and churches in many different times." ("**Warring Against the Saints of God**", Ensign, January 1988)



# The Church of the Lamb of God

1 Nephi 14:7

What will the Lord do that will provide a way for His followers to be delivered from the captivity of the devil?

## Ronald A. Rasband

“By divine design, ancient prophets of God, when moved upon by the Holy Ghost, prophesied of the Restoration and what was to come in our day, the last dispensation and the fulness of times. The very work fired the souls of the early seers. Through generations of time, they foretold, dreamed, envisioned, and prophesied of the future of God’s kingdom on earth, what Isaiah called ‘a marvellous work and a wonder.’” (CR, April 2020)

# Opportunity for Freedom

## 1 Nephi 13:16-19

In what way did God intervene to assure that there would be a place where His people would have the freedom necessary to grow in the gospel?

## Ezra Taft Benson

"Before the gospel could again shine forth its resplendent light, religious and political freedom first had to be restored. This land had been preserved as a continent apart from the religious oppression, tyranny, and intolerance of Europe.... A war was fought for their independence, and by God's intervention, victory was achieved. By that same omnipotent power the Constitution was born, which guaranteed religious and political liberty. Only then was the time propitious for the kingdom of God-that 'stone cut out without hands' to be restored."  
(Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, pg.109)

# The Holy Bible

1 Nephi 13:20-25

What do we learn about the Bible from these verses?

M. Russell Ballard

“The Holy Bible is well named. It is holy because it teaches truth, holy because it warms us with its spirit, holy because it teaches us to know God and understand His dealings with men, and holy because it testifies throughout its pages of the Lord Jesus Christ....

“Without the Bible, we would not know of His Church then, nor would we have the fulness of His gospel now.” (CR, April 2007)

# The Holy Bible

## 1 Nephi 13:26-29

What did the church of the devil do to the recorded words of the apostles?

What was the result of changing many plain and precious truths of the Bible?

## Orson Pratt

“By reason of this great stumblingblock, the Scriptures being in such a state, there should be many among the nations of the Gentiles in the latter times that should exceedingly stumble and build up numerous churches after the forms of different doctrines, and they should deny miracles and the power of God.” (JD, 7:176)



## Joseph Smith

"it was apparent that many important points touching the salvation of men, had been taken from the Bible, or lost before it was compiled."  
(TPJS, pg.10)

"I believe the Bible as it read when it came from the pen of the original writers. Ignorant translators, careless transcribers, or designing and corrupt priests have committed many errors." (TPJS, pg. 327)

# The Book of Mormon

## 1 Nephi 13:34-35

What was the process of bringing forth the Book of Mormon?

## D&C 20:8-11

[8] And gave him power from on high, by the means which were before prepared, to translate the Book of Mormon;

[9] Which contains a record of a fallen people, and the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles and to the Jews also;

[10] Which was given by inspiration, and is confirmed to others by the ministering of angels, and is declared unto the world by them--

[11] Proving to the world that the holy scriptures are true, and that God does inspire men and call them to his holy work in this age and generation, as well as in generations of old;

# The Book of Mormon

1 Nephi 13:36,40-41

What essential works have been accomplished by the Book of Mormon?

## George Q. Cannon

"All those who know anything about the effect of the Book of Mormon... know that these words have been fulfilled to the very letter. False doctrines have been put down. Contentions have ceased. Peace has been established, and the people have been brought to the knowledge of the covenants which God made with His ancient servants. Those who have read this Book know how precious are the words of God, contained in it—how plain the doctrine of Jesus Christ is set forth in it. There are no mistranslations; there is no mysticism infused into it by men who have had their own peculiar views of the doctrine of Christ." (JD, 25:119)

# The Holy Ghost

1 Nephi 13:37

What gift is promised to those strive to build up the church of Christ?

## Henry B. Eyring

“Even the smallest act to build faith in another person or in a family qualifies us for the gift and power of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost testifies of truth. Therefore, in our service, our faith increases that Jesus is the Christ, that our Heavenly Father lives and loves us, and that Joseph was Their prophet. You can expect that every time you [help] to build faith.” (CR, Oct. 2003)

# Covenants

1 Nephi 14:12-14

How does keeping the covenants made with God bless those who wish to serve Him?



## Boyd K. Packer

“To counterbalance these monstrous forces of evil the Lord did not arm his people with weapons or military forces. But arm them he did, as Nephi said, 'they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory.'

“No work is more of a protection to this Church than temple work and the genealogical research which supports it. No work is more spiritually refining. No work we do gives us more power. No work requires a higher standard of righteousness. Our labors in the temple cover us with a shield and a protection, both individually and as a people.” (“The Holy Temple”, Ensign, Oct 2010)

# Summary

The Lord has armed His people:

Restored gospel

Opportunity for freedom

Book of Mormon

Clarification of the Bible

Holy Ghost

Make and keep covenants

Next Week:

January 29–February 4

1 Nephi 16–22

"I Will Prepare the Way Before You"

