

## Lesson 9: 2 Nephi 26–30, "A Marvelous Work and a Wonder"

### Overview

In this lesson Nephi continues his prophecies based largely on passages from Isaiah. Much of his teachings center around the Book of Mormon and the times when the Book of Mormon will come forth:

- How the Book of Mormon will be brought forth
- Priestcrafts will impede the acceptance of the Book of Mormon
- State of wickedness during the Book of Mormon times
- The impact that the Book of Mormon will have
- It will stand with the Bible and other records as a witness of Christ
- The sealed portion of the Gold Plates

### Coming Forth of the Book of Mormon

Nephi tells us how the Book of Mormon will be brought forth in the last days.

2Ne 26:16-17

[16] For those who shall be destroyed shall speak unto them out of the ground, and their speech shall be low out of the dust, and their voice shall be as one that hath a familiar spirit; for the Lord God will give unto him power, that he may whisper concerning them, even as it were out of the ground; and their speech shall whisper out of the dust.

[17] For thus saith the Lord God: They shall write the things which shall be done among them, and they shall be written and sealed up in a book, and those who have dwindled in unbelief shall not have them, for they seek to destroy the things of God.

This language is from Isaiah 29.

How does the Book of Mormon fulfill Isaiah's description of a record "out of the dust", and a voice "that hath a familiar spirit?"

(It is a record of a people who have been destroyed – out of their graves)  
(familiar spirit: may those who have read the Bible and/or felt the influence of the Holy Ghost)

Nephi's prophecies of the witnesses of the Gold Plates and Book of Mormon

2Ne 27:12-14

[12] Wherefore, at that day when the book shall be delivered unto the man of whom I have spoken, the book shall be hid from the eyes of the world, that the eyes of none shall behold it save it be that three witnesses shall behold it, by the power of God, besides him to whom the book shall be delivered; and they shall testify to the truth of the book and the things therein.

[13] And there is none other which shall view it, save it be a few according to the will of God, to bear testimony of his word unto the children of men; for the Lord God hath said that the words of the faithful should speak as if it were from the dead.

[14] Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to bring forth the words of the book; and in the mouth of as many witnesses as seemeth him good will he establish his word; and wo be unto him that rejecteth the word of God!

We studied the testimony of the 3 and 8 witnesses in the first lesson on the BoM

I've always liked the description of this event by Joseph Smith's mother. Note how having 3 additional witnesses affected Joseph Smith

Lucy Mack Smith

"Joseph threw himself down beside me, and exclaimed, 'Father, mother, you do not know how happy I am: the Lord has now caused the plates to be shown to three more besides myself. They have seen an angel, who has testified to them, and they will have to bear witness to the truth of what I have said, for now they know for themselves, that I do not go about to deceive the people, and I feel as if I was relieved of a burden which was almost too heavy for me to bear, and it rejoices my soul, that I am not any longer to be entirely alone in the world.'" (History of Joseph Smith, pg.153)

Note that many will be called to bear witness of the words of the Book of Mormon, "the Lord God will proceed to bring forth the words of the book; and in the mouth of as many witnesses as seemeth him good"

## Opposition to the Book of Mormon

Nephi states why the acceptance of the Book of Mormon will be impeded

2Ne 26:20-21

[20] And the Gentiles are lifted up in the pride of their eyes, and have stumbled, because of the greatness of their stumbling block, that they have built up many churches; nevertheless, they put down the power and miracles of God, and preach up unto themselves their own wisdom and their own learning, that they may get gain and grind upon the face of the poor.

[21] And there are many churches built up which cause envyings, and strifes, and malice.

Why do the Gentiles build up many churches?

(stumbled, because of the greatness of their stumbling block  
lifted up in the pride of their eyes  
preach up unto themselves their own wisdom and their own learning,  
that they may get gain and grind upon the face of the poor)

Nephi states, “the Gentiles... have stumbled, because of the greatness of their stumbling block”

What is the stumbling block that has caused the Gentiles to stumble?

(From 1 Nephi 13:29 we learn:  
because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the [record of the Jews]... an exceedingly great many do stumble, yea, insomuch that Satan hath great power over them)

Nephi expands on his statement that the Gentiles are “lifted up in pride” and “preach up unto themselves their own wisdom and their own learning”

2Ne 26:29-31

[29] He commandeth that there shall be no priestcrafts; for, behold priestcrafts are that men preach and set themselves up for a light unto the world, that they may get gain and praise of the world; but they seek not the welfare of Zion.

[30] Behold, the Lord hath forbidden this thing; wherefore, the Lord God hath given a commandment that all men should have charity, which charity is love, and except they should have charity they were nothing. Wherefore, if they should have charity they would not suffer the laborer in Zion to perish.

[31] But the laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for money they shall perish.

Note that right after Nephi condemns priestcrafts, he talks of the necessity of charity.

How does Nephi relate priestcrafts and charity to the building of Zion?

(the Lord hath forbidden this thing; wherefore, the Lord God hath given a commandment that all men should have charity)

Dallin H. Oaks

"Some may serve for hope of earthly reward. Such a man or woman might serve in Church positions... to achieve prominence or cultivate contacts that would increase income or aid in acquiring wealth....

"If our service is to be most efficacious, it must be accomplished for the love of God and the love of his children....

"This principle—that our service should be for the love of God and the love of fellowmen rather than for personal advantage or any other lesser motive—is admittedly a high standard. The Savior must have seen it so, since he joined his commandment for selfless and complete love directly with the ideal of perfection." (CR, Oct 1984)

Book of Mormon Brought Forth During Wicked Times

Nephi tells us about the state of wickedness that will prevail at the time that the Book

of Mormon is brought forth

2Ne 28:7-9

[7] Yea, and there shall be many which shall say: Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die; and it shall be well with us.

[8] And there shall also be many which shall say: Eat, drink, and be merry; nevertheless, fear God -- he will justify in committing a little sin; yea, lie a little, take the advantage of one because of his words, dig a pit for thy neighbor; there is no harm in this; and do all these things, for tomorrow we die; and if it so be that we are guilty, God will beat us with a few stripes, and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God.

[9] Yea, and there shall be many which shall teach after this manner, false and vain and foolish doctrines, and shall be puffed up in their hearts, and shall seek deep to hide their counsels from the Lord; and their works shall be in the dark.

What two philosophies does the attitude of “eat, drink, and be marry” appeal to?

(for tomorrow we die  
God will beat us with a few stripes, and at last we shall be saved)

In verse 9 it states, “there shall be many which shall teach after this manner.” Whether you believe in God or not you can “eat, drink, and be marry.”

Nephi warns us that those who follow Christ can also be caught in worldliness

2Ne 28:20-21,24-25

[20] For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good.

[21] And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well -- and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell.

[24] Therefore, wo be unto him that is at ease in Zion!

[25] Wo be unto him that crieth: All is well!

What reason does Nephi give for some members of the church saying, “all is well in Zion?”

(he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security)

Adam S. Bennion

“I am always interested in this one. 'Wo be unto him that is at ease in Zion! Wo be unto him that crieth: All is well.' If there is any one keynote that ought to be sounded from one end of the Church to the other, it is that we should beware the prosperity and peace that we enjoy. I fear that there may be many in Zion who are at ease. And this passage says: 'Wo be unto him that is at ease in Zion!.'” (Young Woman's Journal, 3:436)

Brigham Young

"This people will stand mobbing, robbing, poverty and all manner of persecution, and be true. My greater fear for them is that they cannot stand wealth; and yet they have to be tried with riches, for they will become the richest people on this earth." (Brigham Young, the Man and His Work, pg. 128)

## Impact of the Book of Mormon

Nephi tells us that the Book of Mormon will be a great blessing to the humble follower of Christ

2Ne 27:24-26,29-30

[24] And again it shall come to pass that the Lord shall say unto him that shall read the words that shall be delivered him:

[25] Forasmuch as this people draw near unto me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their hearts far from me, and their fear towards me is taught by the precepts of men --

[26] Therefore, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, yea, a marvelous work and a wonder, for the wisdom of their wise and learned shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid.

[29] And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.

[30] And the meek also shall increase, and their joy shall be in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

What impact will the Book of Mormon have on our wisdom and understanding?

(the wisdom of their wise and learned shall perish  
the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness  
the meek also shall increase)

Those who are lifted up for their wisdom and understanding will be shown to be wrong. And those who humbly seek after the truth shall find it

The Book of Mormon will be delivered to the house of Israel by the Gentiles

2Ne 30:3-6

[3] And now, I would prophesy somewhat more concerning the Jews and the Gentiles. For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed.

[4] And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are descendants of the Jews.

[5] And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers.

[6] And then shall they rejoice; for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God; and their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a pure and delightsome people.

President Benson

"We hardly fathom the power of the Book of Mormon, nor the divine role it must play, nor the extent to which it must be moved....

"[God] has revealed to me the absolute need for us to move the Book of Mormon forward now in a marvelous manner. You must help with this burden and with this blessing which He has placed on the whole Church." (CR, Oct. 1988)

#### Another Testament of Christ

The Book of Mormon will stand with the Bible and other records as a witness of Christ

2Ne 29:3-4,8

[3] And because my words shall hiss forth -- many of the Gentiles shall say: A Bible! A Bible! We have got a Bible, and there cannot be any more Bible.

[4] But thus saith the Lord God: O fools, they shall have a Bible; and it shall proceed forth from the Jews, mine ancient covenant people. And what thank they the Jews for the Bible which they receive from them? Yea, what do the Gentiles mean? Do they remember the travails, and the labors, and the pains of the Jews, and their diligence unto me, in bringing forth salvation unto the Gentiles?

[8] Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together the testimony of the two nations shall run together also.

Boyd K. Packer

"Some have been offended that anyone would assume that the Bible was incomplete or that there needed to be more. They have, indeed, said, 'A Bible! A Bible! We have got a Bible. What need have we for more Bible?'

"We are, nonetheless, inescapably faced with the fact that with the Bible only, well-intentioned men, as worthy as you today, with centuries of opportunity to seek their end, have devised such a multiplicity of churches that even the ecumenical movement seems hopeless to unite them." (CR,

April 1967)

Nephi's tells us how we will have the writings of the Jews, the decedents of Lehi, and, eventually, the lost tribes to testify of Christ

2Ne 29:12-14

[12] For behold, I shall speak unto the Jews and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the Nephites and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the other tribes of the house of Israel, which I have led away, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto all nations of the earth and they shall write it.

[13] And it shall come to pass that the Jews shall have the words of the Nephites, and the Nephites shall have the words of the Jews; and the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the lost tribes of Israel; and the lost tribes of Israel shall have the words of the Nephites and the Jews.

[14] And it shall come to pass that my people, which are of the house of Israel, shall be gathered home unto the lands of their possessions; and my word also shall be gathered in one. And I will show unto them that fight against my word and against my people, who are of the house of Israel, that I am God, and that I covenanted with Abraham that I would remember his seed forever.

Neal A. Maxwell

"Lost books are among the treasures yet to come forth. Over twenty of these are mentioned in the existing scriptures. Perhaps most startling and voluminous will be the records of the lost tribes of Israel. We would not even know of the impending third witness for Christ except through the precious Book of Mormon, the second witness for Christ! This third set of sacred records will thus complete a triad of truth. Then, just as the Perfect Shepherd has said, 'My word also shall be gathered in one (2 Ne 29:14). There will be 'one fold and one shepherd' (1 Ne 22:25) in a welding together of all the Christian dispensations of human history.'" (CR, Oct. 1986)

As we receive and believe witnesses of Christ we are promised we will receive more

2Ne 28:30

[30] For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; for unto him that receiveth I will give more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have.

How does this relate to receiving additional doctrine and witnesses of Christ?

(living prophets, record of the 10 tribes, sealed portion)

The Sealed Portion of the Golden Plates

Nephi also teaches about about the sealed portion of the golden plates

2Ne 27:6-8,11

[6] And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall bring forth unto you the words of a book, and they shall be the words of them which have slumbered.

[7] And behold the book shall be sealed; and in the book shall be a revelation from God, from the beginning of the world to the ending thereof.

[8] Wherefore, because of the things which are sealed up, the things which are sealed shall not be delivered in the day of the wickedness and abominations of the people. Wherefore the book shall be kept from them.

[11] And the day cometh that the words of the book which were sealed shall be read upon the house tops; and they shall be read by the power of Christ; and all things shall be revealed unto the children of men which ever have been among the children of men, and which ever will be even unto the end of the earth.

What information and revelations are contained in the sealed portion of the Golden Plates?

(everything)

Why is the sealed portion kept from us and what must be done away with before they can be delivered?

(shall not be delivered in the day of the wickedness)

Who wrote the sealed portion?

(Brother of Jared)

Ether 3:24; 4:1-4

[25] And when the Lord had said these words, he showed unto the brother of Jared all the inhabitants of the earth which had been, and also all that would be; and he withheld them not from his sight, even unto the ends of the earth.

[1] And the Lord commanded the brother of Jared to go down out of the amount from the presence of the Lord, and write the things which he had seen; and they were forbidden to come unto the children of men until after that he should be lifted up upon the cross; and for this cause did king Mosiah keep them, that they should not come unto the world until after Christ should show himself unto his people.

[2] And after Christ truly had showed himself unto his people he commanded that they should be made manifest.

[3] And now, after that, they have all dwindled in unbelief; and there is none save it be the Lamanites, and they have rejected the gospel of Christ; therefore I am commanded that I should hide them up again in the earth.

[4] Behold, I have written upon these plates the very things which the



brother of Jared saw; and there never were greater things made manifest than those which were made manifest unto the brother of Jared.

What do we learn from these verses about the sealed portion of the Gold Plates?

(The showed the Brother of Jared all things  
King Mosiah had them – from the 24 plates  
The Nephites had them during the 4th Nephi time frame  
Moroni wrote them onto the gold plates and sealed them)

Here's some more insight into what we can expect from the sealed plates

Ether 12:24

[24] And thou hast made us that we could write but little, because of the awkwardness of our hands. Behold, thou hast not made us mighty in writing like unto the brother of Jared, for thou madest him that the things which he wrote were mighty even as thou art, unto the overpowering of man to read them.

Note in 2Ne 27:11 it states, “they shall be read by the power of Christ”

2Ne 27:21-22

[21] Touch not the things which are sealed, for I will bring them forth in mine own due time; for I will show unto the children of men that I am able to do mine own work.

[22] Wherefore, when thou hast read the words which I have commanded thee, and obtained the witnesses which I have promised unto thee, then shalt thou seal up the book again, and hide it up unto me, that I may preserve the words which thou hast not read, until I shall see fit in mine own wisdom to reveal all things unto the children of men.

When will the sealed portion be revealed?

Joseph Fielding Smith

"Now the Lord has placed us on probation as members of the Church. He has given us the Book of Mormon, which is the lesser part, to build up our faith through our obedience to the counsels which it contains, and when we ourselves, members of the Church, are willing to keep the commandments as they have been given to us and show our faith as the Nephites did for a short period of time, then the Lord is ready to bring forth the other record and give it to us, but we are not ready to receive it. Why? Because we have not lived up to the requirements in this probationary state in the reading of the record which had been given to us and in following its counsels." (CR, Oct. 1961)