

Feb 26–March 3: 2 Nephi 11–19, "His Name Shall Be Called... The Prince Of Peace"
March 4–10: 2 Nephi 20–25, "We Rejoice in Christ"
Part 2

Lesson Explanation

The first weeks reading assignment (2 Nephi 11-19) is basically the same as Isaiah 2-9 with a preamble about the importance of his writings in chapter 11.

The second weeks reading assignment (2 Nephi 20-25) re-records Isaiah 10-14 and then in chapter 25 Nephi explains Isaiah's writings and how they apply to his people

Since chapter 25 is so useful in explaining Isaiah I have chosen to merge the content of these two reading assignments into a combined lesson, and then divide that lesson into two parts

Lesson Two of 2 Nephi 11-25

The Gathering of Israel

Next: latter-day restoration and the gathering of Israel

2 Nephi 25:17

17 And the Lord will set his hand again the second time to restore his people from their lost and fallen state. Wherefore, he will proceed to do a marvelous work and a wonder among the children of men.

2 Nephi 12:2-3

2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, when the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it.

3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

What do you think is meant by "the mountain of the Lords house"?

Gordon B. Hinckley

"Ever since the Salt Lake Temple was dedicated, we have interpreted that scripture from Isaiah, repeated again in Micah as applying to this sacred house of the Lord. And of this place, since the day of its dedication, an ever-increasing number from across the world have said in effect, 'Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He might teach us of His ways, that we might walk in His paths.'

"I believe and testify that it is the mission of this Church to stand as an

ensign to the nations and a light to the world. We have had placed upon us a great, all-encompassing mandate from which we cannot shrink nor turn aside. We accept that mandate and are determined to fulfill it, and with the help of God we shall do it." (CR, Oct. 2003)

What do you think is meant by "out of Zion shall go forth the law"?

Harold B. Lee

"I have often wondered what that expression meant, that out of Zion shall go forth the law. Years ago I went with the brethren to the Idaho Falls Temple, and I heard in that inspired prayer of the First Presidency a definition of the meaning of that term 'out of Zion shall go forth the law.' Note what they said: 'We thank thee that thou hast revealed to us that those who gave us our constitutional form of government were men wise in thy sight and that thou didst raise them up for the very purpose of putting forth that sacred document [the Constitution of the United States] (see D&C 101).'" ("The Way to Eternal Life," Ensign, Nov. 1971)

Harold B. Lee

"With regard to the political turmoil among the nations, we would earnestly pray that if this and other nations would be constrained to live by and adopt governmental systems where civil and political liberties are secure, we could then hopefully look for the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy of the prophets Isaiah... 'that out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.' When that day comes, the blessings and freedoms of the free world will then be realized." (CR, Oct. 1972)

What is "the law" that shall go forth?

2 Nephi 21:10-14

10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek; and his rest shall be glorious.

11 And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

13 The envy of Ephraim also shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.

14 But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines towards the west; they shall spoil them of the east together; they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.

What is the "root of Jesse" mentioned in verse 10?

D&C 113:5-6

5 What is the root of Jesse spoken of in the 10th verse of the 11th chapter?
6 Behold, thus saith the Lord, it is a descendant of Jesse, as well as of Joseph, unto whom rightly belongs the priesthood, and the keys of the kingdom, for an ensign, and for the gathering of my people in the last days.

What is the promise to the gentiles if they seek the established ensign?

(his rest shall be glorious)

John Taylor

"We certainly have a work to perform on the earth, and God our Father has selected us for that purpose. He raised up Joseph Smith and other men, and conferred the holy Priesthood upon them and today they are found organized as Elders, High Priests, Seventies, the Twelve, etc., by whom the Lord expects to lift up a standard to the nations, and an ensign to the people. And notwithstanding the calculations and plans of the world, we are told that when this standard is lifted up, the Gentiles shall seek unto it, 'and his rest shall be glorious.'" (JD, 23:333)

What is the ensign that Israel will gather to?

Bruce R. McConkie

"When Isaiah promised that the Lord would 'set up an ensign for the nations' and gather the dispersed of Israel, the ensign, the standard, the divine flag around which all men should rally was to be the holy gospel." (The Millennial Messiah, pg.106)

Note that the Gentiles will seek it first (verse 10) and then "the remnant of his people"

When the Jews are gathered from the four corners of the earth, where will they gather together?

Ezra Taft Benson

"This miracle of the return of the Jews was to be one of the events to precede Christ's second coming, and the scriptures are very clear with reference to this fact. Isaiah said that they shall gather 'the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth' and 'set them in their own land' (Isa 14:1), that they will 'build the old waste,' and 'repair the waste cities' (Isa 61:4)." (CR, April 1950)

Note from verse 13 that at the time of Isaiah Judah and Ephraim were enemies. Ephraim was captured by the Syria during Isaiah's time.

What do you think is meant by, "they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines"?

Orson F. Whitney

“We recognize the fulfillment of that prophecy in the founding of this Church by Joseph Smith, a lineal descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who thus lifted the Ensign for the gathering of their descendants from their long dispersion among the nations. But a part of the fulfillment rests with the Gentiles. Their steamships, their railroads, their means of rapid transit and communication -- these are ‘the shoulders of the Philistines,’ upon which the children of Ephraim have been and are being brought to the West, to the land of Zion.” (CR, Oct. 1919)

This concept of the Gentiles helping Israel to physically gather is similar to another passage by Isaiah

2 Nephi 15:26-29

26 And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth; and behold, they shall come with speed swiftly; none shall be weary nor stumble among them.

27 None shall slumber nor sleep; neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken;

28 Whose arrows shall be sharp, and all their bows bent, and their horses' hoofs shall be counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind, their roaring like a lion.

29 They shall roar like young lions; yea, they shall roar, and lay hold of the prey, and shall carry away safe, and none shall deliver.

LeGrand Richards

“In fixing the time of the great gathering, Isaiah seemed to indicate that it would take place in the day of the railroad train and the airplane...

“Since there were neither trains nor airplanes in that day, Isaiah could hardly have mentioned them by name. However, he seems to have described them in unmistakable words. How better could ‘their horses' hoofs be counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind’ than in the modern train? How better could ‘their roaring... be like a lion’ than in the roar of the airplane? Trains and airplanes do not stop for night. Therefore, was not Isaiah justified in saying: ‘none shall slumber nor sleep; neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken’? With this manner of transportation the Lord can really ‘hiss unto them from the end of the earth,’ that “they shall come with speed swiftly.’ Indicating that Isaiah must have foreseen the airplane, he stated: ‘Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows’ (Isaiah 60:8)?” (Israel! Do You Know?, pg. 182)

And Isaiah tells us what Zion will be like after the gathering

2 Nephi 14:2-6

2 In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious; the fruit of the earth excellent and comely to them that are escaped of Israel.

3 And it shall come to pass, they that are left in Zion and remain in Jerusalem shall be called holy, every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem—

4 When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning.

5 And the Lord will create upon every dwelling-place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for upon all the glory of Zion shall be a defence.

6 And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and a covert from storm and from rain.

2 Nephi 21:6-9

6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den.

9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

What is the reason for all this peace and tranquility?

(the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem
here shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain
the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD)

James E. Faust

"Advances in communication and travel during this last century have hastened the pace at which the word of the Lord goes out from Zion. I feel much like Isaiah, who spoke of our time, when 'the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.' I believe that this marvelous outpouring of knowledge has heightened our ability to take the Lord's saving message to the world, 'that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations' (Luke 24:47)." (CR, April 1999)

Nephi ends his commentary by exhorting all to come to Christ

2 Nephi 25:28-29

28 And now behold, my people, ye are a stiffnecked people; wherefore, I have spoken plainly unto you, that ye cannot misunderstand. And the words which I have spoken shall stand as a testimony against you; for they are sufficient to teach any

man the right way; for the right way is to believe in Christ and deny him not; for by denying him ye also deny the prophets and the law.

29 And now behold, I say unto you that the right way is to believe in Christ, and deny him not; and Christ is the Holy One of Israel; wherefore ye must bow down before him, and worship him with all your might, mind, and strength, and your whole soul; and if ye do this ye shall in nowise be cast out.