

### 3 Ne. 1–7: Birth to Death of Christ

Monte F. Shelley

#### Quotes

- If at first you do succeed, it probably wasn't too difficult.
- The only person who likes change is a wet baby.
- Those who rob Peter to pay Paul will have Paul's vote.
- *Golden Rule*: He who owns/controls the gold makes the rules.
- FEAR = False Expectations Appearing Real

#### Lucky "Guesses"

- If he say unto the earth—Move—[and<sup>1830</sup>] it is moved. (Hel. 12:13; also verses 14, 16–17, 19–21)

"If ... and" instead of "if ... then" is a Hebraism. (see lesson 1).

- Ancient Israelite laws: Thief= local who steals from neighbor; Robber= outsiders, groups, oath, ransom, attack

These words are correctly used in the Book of Mormon.

#### 1. Laws and Government Corrupted (62–70<sup>th</sup> ~30 BC)

<sup>22</sup> [The Nephites] had altered ... the laws of Mosiah ... which the Lord commanded him to give unto the people; and ... their laws had become corrupted ... <sup>52</sup> Their laws and their governments were established by the voice of the people, and they who chose evil were more numerous than they who chose good, therefore they were ripening for destruction. (Hel. 4:22, 5:2)

<sup>38</sup> The Nephites did build [the Gadianton robbers] up and support them, beginning at the more wicked part ..., until they had overspread all the land of the Nephites, and had seduced the more part of the righteous until they had come down to believe in their works and partake of their spoils, and to join with them. (6:38)

OED *spoils*: "any goods, property, territory, etc., seized by force, acquired by confiscation, or obtained by similar means"

If you rob Peter to pay Paul, you'll have the support of Paul and of those who are concerned about Paul. (Money is taken by legal force to pay taxes, debts, obligations, etc.)

"Golden Rule" He who owns/controls the gold makes the rules

"These revolutionists are using a technique that is as old as the human race,—a fervid but false solicitude for the unfortunate over whom they thus gain mastery, and then enslave them." (First Presidency, Apr. 1942)

- War in heaven: "concern" for those who would be lost
- Dissenters: "concern" for wronged Lamanites
- Communism: "concern" for poor and workers

<sup>39</sup> Thus they did obtain the sole management of the government, insomuch that they did trample under their feet and smite and rend and turn their backs upon the poor and the meek, and the humble followers of God. ... <sup>74</sup> Gadianton robbers [filled] the judgment-seats ... <sup>5</sup> Condemning the righteous ...; letting the guilty and the wicked go unpunished because of their money; and moreover to be held in office at the head of government, to rule and do according to their wills, that they might get gain and glory of the world, and ... that they might the more easily commit adultery, and steal, and kill, and do according to their own wills. (6:39; 7:4–5)

How did they become judges? Elected using legal or illegal means (voter fraud, kill opponents or judges, buy votes)

D&C 98:9 when the wicked rule the people mourn.

#### 2. Nephi given power (71<sup>st</sup> year) [See TPJS, 150/152]

Nephi said that the chief judge had been murdered by his brother. Instead of believing Nephi was a prophet, they accused him of conspiring to kill chief judge until he gave another sign.

<sup>3</sup> As [Nephi was] pondering ..., a voice ... [said]: <sup>4</sup> Blessed art thou, ... for I have beheld how thou hast with unweariness declared the word, which I have given unto thee, unto this people. And thou hast not feared them, and hast not sought thine own life, but hast sought my will, and to keep my commandments. <sup>5</sup> And now ... I will make thee mighty in word and in deed, in faith and in works; yea, ... all things shall be done unto thee according to thy word, for thou shalt not ask that which is contrary to my will. ... Ye shall have power over this people, and shall smite the earth with famine, ... pestilence, and destruction, according to the wickedness of this people. ... <sup>11</sup> Now ... I command you, that ye shall go and declare unto this people ... Except ye repent ye shall be smitten ... unto destruction. ... Nephi ... did return ... and began to declare ... the word of the Lord. (10:3–11)

Jim Carry in the movie *Bruce Almighty* was given God's power and used it selfishly at first. I asked one of my sons, what he would do with all power? He said he would nuke Washington DC. We then discussed why God has not done it?

**Joseph:** After a person has faith in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized... then let him continue to humble himself before God, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and living by every word of God. ... When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve Him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and his election made sure, then it will be his privilege to receive the other Comforter [Jesus Christ]. ... He will have the personage of Jesus Christ to attend him, or appear unto him from time to time, ... and the visions of heaven will be opened unto him, and the Lord will teach him face to face. (TPJS, 150/152)

#### 3. Nephi uses power: 3 year famine (72–75<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>3</sup> Nephi did cry unto the Lord, saying: <sup>4</sup> O Lord, do not suffer that this people shall be destroyed by the sword; but ... rather let there be a famine ... to stir them up in remembrance of the Lord ... and perhaps they will repent. ... And so it was done. ... [After 3 years] <sup>9</sup> [Nephi] cried again unto the Lord, saying: ... <sup>10</sup> O Lord, behold this people ... have swept away the band of Gadianton ... and ... <sup>15</sup> they have repented. ... <sup>16</sup> And now, O Lord, wilt thou turn away thine anger, and try again if they will serve thee? ... <sup>17</sup> And [in the 76<sup>th</sup> year] ... the Lord ... caused that rain should fall. (11:3–17)

**Did they have a multi-year supply of food?** "They did perish by thousands in the more wicked parts of the land" (Hel 11:6). The Nephites had a seven year supply (3 Ne 4:4).

#### 4. Prophecy of Samuel the Lamanite (86<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>2</sup> I give unto you a sign; for five years more cometh, and ... then cometh the Son of God. (14:2)

What was the sign? What else did he prophecy?

<sup>4</sup> There shall be one day and a night and a day, as if it were one day ... the night shall not be darkened; and it shall be the night before he is born. <sup>5</sup> And ... there shall a new star arise, such an one as ye never have beheld; ... <sup>6</sup> There shall be many signs and wonders in heaven. <sup>7</sup> And ... ye shall all be amazed, and wonder, insomuch that ye shall fall to the earth. (14:4–7)

#### 5. Prophecy Fulfilled (92<sup>nd</sup> = 1<sup>st</sup> year of star) \*Change

<sup>4</sup> In the commencement of the [92<sup>nd</sup>] year [of the judges] ... there began to be greater signs and ... miracles. ... <sup>5</sup> But there were some who began to say that the time was past. ... <sup>6</sup> And they began to rejoice ... saying: ... your joy and your faith ... hath been vain. ... <sup>9</sup> Now ... there was a day set apart by the unbelievers, that all those who believed in those traditions should be put to death except the sign should come to pass. (3 Ne 1:4–9)

Why did they believe the time was past?

What happened?

<sup>12</sup> [Nephi] cried mightily unto the Lord all that day; and behold, the voice of the Lord came unto him, saying: <sup>13</sup> Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world, to show unto the world that I will fulfil all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets. ... <sup>16</sup> There were many, who had not believed the words of the prophets, who fell to the earth and became as if they were dead. ... <sup>21</sup> A new star did appear (3 Ne 1:12-21)

**DATES:** 600 years left Jerusalem= 92<sup>nd</sup> year “of the judges” = 1<sup>st</sup> year of the star sign of Christ’s birth [LDS footnotes = AD 1]

<sup>8</sup> The Nephites began to reckon their time from ... when the sign was given, or from the coming of Christ; therefore, nine years had passed away. [=100 years “of the judges” passed] (2:8)

## 6. Gadianton Robbers (93<sup>rd</sup> = 2<sup>nd</sup> year)

<sup>27</sup> Gadianton robbers ... dwelt upon the mountains... [and] did commit many murders, and ... <sup>28</sup> in the [94<sup>th</sup>] year they began to increase ... because there were many dissenters of the Nephites. ... <sup>29</sup> The Lamanites ... had many children who did grow up and ... were led away by some who were Zoramites, by their lyings and their flattering words, to join those Gadianton robbers. (1:27-29)

## 7. People Forget (96<sup>th</sup> = 5<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>1</sup> The people began to forget those signs ... and began to be ... less astonished at a sign ... insomuch that they began to be hard in their hearts, and blind in their minds, and began to disbelieve all which they had heard and seen—<sup>2</sup> Imagining up some vain thing ... that it was wrought by men and by the power of the devil. ... <sup>3</sup> And ... the people began to wax strong in wickedness. (2:1-3)

‘How long will this people provoke me?’ the Lord said to Moses, ‘and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs that I have shewed among them?’ (Num. 14:11.)

‘Jesus made a triumphal entry into Jerusalem, but John records in sadness, ‘Though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him.’ (John 12:37.)

## 8. Wars, Contentions, Terrorists (13<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>11</sup> The Gadianton robbers ... spread so much death ... throughout the land, that ... <sup>12</sup> all the Lamanites who had become converted unto the Lord did unite with ... the Nephites, and were compelled, for the safety of their lives and their [families], to take up arms against those Gadianton robbers. (2:11-12)

Terrorists attacking from hiding places in mountains.

## 9. Giddianhi’s epistle (16<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>10</sup> Deliver up your lands and your possessions, without the shedding of blood, that ... my people may recover their rights and government, who have dissented away from you because of your wickedness in retaining from them their rights of government, and except ye do this, I will avenge their wrongs. (3:10)

He was a Nephite dissenter. He wanted power over Nephites and lost. He flattered the Lamanites by claiming to have left because the Nephites had wronged the Lamanites.

The Book of Mormon definition of flatter seems to be: saying words that are pleasing to the carnal mind which desires fame, money, power, and the pleasures of the flesh.

Flatter and stir up to anger: Your parents were wronged and you deserve retribution or power.

## 10. Lachoneus gathers people (17<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>12</sup> Lachoneus, the governor, was a just man, and could not be frightened by the demands and the threatenings of a robber; therefore ... <sup>13</sup> He sent a proclamation among all the people, that they should gather together their [families], ... flocks ... herds, and all their substance, ... unto one place. <sup>14</sup> And he caused that fortifications should be built. ... <sup>15</sup> Yea, he said: ... except ye repent ... and cry unto the Lord, ye will in no wise be delivered out of the hands of those Gadianton robbers. (3:12-15)

Fear → controllable

## 11. People want to attack robbers (17<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>19</sup> It was the custom among all the Nephites to appoint for their chief captains, ... some one that had the spirit of revelation and also prophecy; therefore, this Gidgiddoni was a great prophet ..., as also was the chief judge. <sup>20</sup> Now the people said unto Gidgiddoni: Pray unto the Lord, and let us go up upon the mountains and into the wilderness, that we may fall upon the robbers and destroy them in their own lands. <sup>21</sup> But Gidgiddoni saith ...: The Lord forbid; for if we should go up against them the Lord would deliver us into their hands; *therefore we will prepare ourselves in the center of our lands*, and we will gather all our armies together, and ... we will wait till they shall come against us; therefore as the Lord liveth, if we do this he will deliver them into our hands. (3:19-21)

This is the law that I gave unto mine ancients, that they should not go out unto battle against any nation, kindred, tongue, or people, save I, the Lord, commanded them. (D&C 98:33)

**How many years supply did they have?** 7 years (4:4). Why? Cycles? 3 year famine. Egypt 7 years plenty and 7 year famine

What happened? Gathered to land of Zarahemla, fortify, repent, attacked, prayed and fought, siege, killed or captured robbers as they tried to retreat to land northward.

<sup>15</sup> Lift up your hearts and rejoice, and gird up your loins, and take upon you my whole armor, that ye may be able to withstand the evil day, having done all, that ye may be able to stand. <sup>16</sup> Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, which I have sent mine angels to commit unto you; <sup>17</sup> Taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked; <sup>18</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of my Spirit, which I will pour out upon you, and my word which I reveal unto you, and be agreed as touching all things whatsoever ye ask of me, and be faithful until I come, and ye shall be caught up, that where I am ye shall be also. (D&C 27:15)

## 12. Robbers surrounded as they retreat (22<sup>nd</sup> year)

<sup>27</sup> Many thousands ... [became] prisoners and the remainder ... were slain. And their leader, Zemnarihah, was ... hanged upon a tree ... until he was dead. And ... they did fell the tree to the earth, and did cry with a loud voice, saying: <sup>29</sup> May the Lord preserve his people in righteousness ..., that they may cause to be felled to the earth all who shall seek to slay them because of power and secret combinations, even as this man hath been felled to the earth. <sup>30</sup> And they did rejoice and ... did break forth, all as one, in singing, and praising their God for the great thing which he had done for them, in preserving them from falling into the hands of their enemies. (4:27-30)

Lucky “guess”: Israelite practice required that the hanging tree be buried with the body ‘that it should not serve as a sad

reminder [with] people saying: This is the tree on which so-and-so was hanged' (Maimonides). ...

Deut. 19:20 says that 'those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you.' How was this to be accomplished? Rabbi Jehudah explained: '... he is executed immediately and messengers are sent out to notify the people.' (*Reexploring*, ch 73)

<sup>4</sup> They did cast their prisoners into prison, and did cause the word of God to be preached unto them; and as many as would repent of their sins and enter into a covenant that they would murder no more were set at liberty.<sup>5</sup> But ... [those] who did not enter into a covenant ... were condemned and punished. (5:4)

### 13. Mormon's Comment

<sup>12</sup> I am called Mormon, being called after the land of Mormon. ...

<sup>13</sup> I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. ... <sup>20</sup> I am ... a pure descendant of Lehi. ... <sup>22</sup> And insomuch as the children of Lehi have kept his commandments he hath blessed them and prospered them according to his word. (5:12–22; See also Morm. 1:5; 8:13.)

<sup>5</sup> I, ... [am] a descendant of Nephi (Morm 1:5; also 8:13) Zoramites, Mulekites

### 14. Peace and Prosperity (26–28<sup>th</sup> years)

<sup>4</sup> There was great order in the land; and they had formed their laws according to equity and justice.<sup>5</sup> And now there was nothing in all the land to hinder the people from prospering continually, except they should fall into transgression.<sup>6</sup> ... It was Gidgiddoni, and the judge, Lachoneus, and those who had been appointed leaders, who had established this great peace in the land. (6:4–6)

### 15. Pride, Ranks, Persecution (29<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>10</sup> There began to be some disputings among the people; and some were lifted up unto pride and boastings because of their exceedingly great riches, yea, even unto great persecutions; <sup>11</sup> For there were many merchants ..., lawyers, and ... officers.<sup>12</sup> And the people began to be distinguished by ranks, according to their riches and their chances for learning. (6:10–12)

**Ezra Taft Benson:** The two groups who seem to have the greatest difficulty with pride are the learned and the rich. (*CR*, Apr. 1986, 6)

In this verse, city folk look down on country folk. The rich and educated looked down on the poor and uneducated.

In India, a bishop was from a lower caste.

Brother and sister are not titles like doctor or president.

**Joseph:** If a high priest comes along, and goes to snub either of them in their presidency, because they are Seventies, let them knock the man's teeth down his throat—I mean spiritually. (*HC* 5:368.)

**Joseph:** Many persons think a prophet must be a great deal better than anybody else. Suppose I would condescend ... to be a great deal better than any of you, I would be raised up to the highest heaven; and who should I have to accompany me? ... 'I do not want you to think that I am very righteous, for I am not. God judges men according to the use they make of the light which He gives them. (*HC* 5:401.)

### 16. Responses to persecution (29<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>13</sup> Some did return railing for railing, while others would receive railing and persecution and all manner of afflictions, and would not turn and revile again, but were humble and penitent before God.<sup>14</sup> And thus there became a great inequality ... insomuch that in the thirtieth year the church was broken up in all the land save it were among a few of the Lamanites. ... <sup>15</sup> Now the cause

of this iniquity ... was this—Satan had great power, unto the stirring up of the people to do all manner of iniquity, and to the puffing them up with pride, tempting them to seek for power, and authority, and riches, and the vain things of the world. (6:13–15)

**Robert D. Hales:** "When we respond to our accusers as the Savior did, we not only become more Christlike, we invite others to feel His love and follow Him as well. ... Some people mistakenly think responses such as silence, meekness, forgiveness, and bearing humble testimony are passive or weak. But, to "love [our] enemies, bless them that curse [us], do good to them that hate [us], and pray for them which despitefully use [us], and persecute [us]" (Mt. 5:44) takes faith, strength, and, most of all, Christian courage. ...

"When we do not retaliate—when we turn the other cheek and resist feelings of anger—we too stand with the Savior. We show forth His love, which is the only power that can subdue the adversary and answer our accusers without accusing them in return. That is not weakness. *That* is Christian courage." (*Ensign*, Nov. 2008)

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"Although most of us don't have to deal with persecution, we are often 'provoked' by small things. Rudeness, nagging, disobedience, waiting, disagreements, disappointment, and unfulfilled expectations can irritate us, particularly when we are tired, sick, or in a hurry.

"At such times, our first impulse may be to react with irritation, anger, or contention. But we can choose to react instead with charity and not be 'easily provoked.' (Moro. 7:45.) We can turn the other cheek (see Matt. 5:38-39) and respond with patience and kindness.

"How do we develop a spirit of charity that keeps us from being provoked? One approach is to concentrate on ways to control our anger or impatience. Taking a deep breath and stopping to think for a moment before speaking sometimes helps. Getting in the habit of ... returning good for evil drains the heart of anger. By learning to avoid contention and to control our anger, we stop evil from being passed along and become more like the Savior, whose sacrifice of self made eternal life possible for all who come unto him and emulate his example." (Visiting Teacher, *Ensign*, July 1988, 47)

### 17. Prophets sent, killed. Government destroyed (30<sup>th</sup>)

<sup>20</sup> And there began to be men inspired from heaven and sent forth, ... testifying boldly of the sins and iniquities of the people, and ... concerning ... the resurrection of Christ. ... <sup>21</sup> Now there were many of the people who were exceedingly angry ... and those ... were chiefly the chief judges, ... high priests and lawyers. ... <sup>23</sup> Many of those who testified of ... Christ ... were taken and put to death secretly by the judges. ... <sup>27</sup> Those judges ... and ... almost all the lawyers and the high priests, ... did combine against the people of the Lord, and enter into a covenant to destroy them, and to deliver those who were guilty of murder from the grasp of justice. ... <sup>7:1</sup> [And they] did murder the chief judge. ... <sup>2</sup> And the people ... did separate one from another into tribes, every man according to his family and his kindred and friends; and thus they did destroy the government. (6:20 — 7:2)

**Joseph:** This nation will be on the verge of crumbling to pieces and tumbling to the ground and when the Constitution is on the brink of ruin this people will be the staff upon which the nation shall lean and they shall bear the Constitution away from the very verge of destruction. ("I have a Question," *Ensign*, Jun 1976)

**Ezra Taft Benson:** I have faith that the Constitution will be saved as prophesied by Joseph Smith. But it will not be saved in Washington. It will be saved by the citizens of this nation who love and cherish freedom. It will be saved by enlightened members of this Church — men and women who will subscribe to and abide the principles of the Constitution. (“The Constitution — A Heavenly Banner,” 9/16/86, 28–30; <http://speeches.byu.edu>)

**18. Nephi preaches and performs miracles (31–33<sup>rd</sup>)**

<sup>15</sup> Nephi ... began to testify. ... <sup>18</sup> And ... they were angry with him, ... because he had greater power than they, for it were not possible that they could disbelieve his words, for so great was his faith on the Lord Jesus Christ that angels did minister unto him daily. <sup>19</sup> And in the name of Jesus did he cast out devils and unclean spirits; and even his brother did he raise from the dead, after he had been stoned ... by the people. <sup>20</sup> And the people saw it ... and were angry with him because of his power. <sup>21</sup> And ... there were but few who were converted. (7:15–19)

**19. Timeline of key events from 92 BC to AD 33.**

Year	Events (41% of text → 125/1000 years)
509=1	Kings replaced with judges, people vote <sup>Mos 29</sup>
1–4	Nehor, priestcrafts, pride, excommunication, church prosperity, wickedness increases <sup>Alma 1</sup>
5–7	Amlici wants to be king, lost election, war <sup>2-3</sup>
8–16	Pride, Alma resigns and preaches, peace <sup>4-30</sup>
17–19	Korihor; Helaman; Amalickiah runs for king; members believed flattery; Moroni and title of liberty <sup>30-46</sup>
20–24	Amalickiah, deceit and murder → Lamanite king, ‘media’ stirs up to anger, lose war; Nephites: peace, fortify <sup>47-50</sup>
25–31	Wars, king-men lose election, support Lamanites <sup>51-62</sup>
32–39	Fortify borders, peace, migrations; dissenters → war <sup>62-63</sup>
40	Paanchi loses election, rebels, killed; Kishkumen kills <sup>H1</sup>
41–53	Gadianton robbers flee. Peace, prosperity, pride <sup>2-3</sup>
54–61	Civil war, rebels stir up Lamanites, war, lose ½ lands <sup>4</sup>
62	Laws of Mosiah corrupted. Nephi resigns, preaches, imprisoned. Lamanites converted, return land <sup>5</sup>
63–67	Peace, prosperity, pride, wickedness <sup>6</sup>
68–70	Gadianton’s elected, sole management of government <sup>6-9</sup>
71-79	Nephi empowered, 3 year famine, repent, prosper <sup>10-11</sup>
80–85	Gadianton terrorists, wickedness <sup>11-12</sup>
86–91	Samuel the Lamanite, majority wicked, great signs <sup>13-16</sup>
92=1	Sign of Christ’s birth, believers saved, repent, peace <sup>3 Ne 1</sup>
2-15	Gadianton robbers and wickedness increase, war <sup>1-2</sup>
16–21	Lachoneus gathers people, fortifies, repent, war <sup>3-4</sup>
21–28	Righteous, peace, prosperity <sup>5-6</sup>
29	Contention, pride, ranks, boasting, wickedness <sup>6</sup>
30	Judges kill prophets, destroy government, tribes <sup>6-7</sup>
31–33	Nephi preaches with power, miracles, few repent <sup>7</sup>
1/4/34	Great storm, destruction, darkness, all hear voice <sup>8-10</sup>
___/34	Christ appeared and taught people at the temple <sup>11-28</sup>

**20. Questions**

- Could a 23 year old man have written the Book of Mormon?
- How do these things apply to me now in my circumstances?
- Are these things true? (read, remember, ponder, ask sincerely)
 

“When ye shall read these things, ... remember how merciful the Lord hath been ... and ponder it in your hearts. And ... ask God ... in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.” (Moro. 10:3–6)
- As I read these chapters, how do I feel?

- Do they invite and entice me to love God, believe in Christ, and do good?

**Conclusion**

**Leave enough time for conclusion!**

Ironically, before each presidential election we read in Book of Mormon Gospel Doctrine classes about:

- Government changed from *monarchy* to *democracy* to *tyranny* and finally to *tribes*.
- Priestcraft: paid for preaching words pleasing to the natural man who desires fame, gain, power, and the lusts of the flesh.
- Politicians seeking support flattered people with promises of power and money until they controlled the government.
- Politicians and supporters seeking power committed crimes to win elections or keep power. Murdered winners or brothers. Since 1950, he have had Water Gate, cover ups, voter fraud, vote tampering, lying, distortions, false advertising
- Political leaders seeking more power stirred up people to anger against others to start offensive not defensive wars. They sacrificed lives of their soldiers.
- Political leaders used fear and force to control people.
- Political leaders and friends had secret combinations, secretly killed opponents and traitors, helped friends avoid punishment
- People divided into tribes with tribal leaders. “Thus, they did destroy the government of the land” (3 Ne 7:2).

**Read first Ezra Taft Benson quote**

The Book of Mormon was written for our time by prophets who saw our time. Would modern political leaders use fraud, deceit, or murder to gain power? Would they use the media, half-truths, and lies to stir us up to anger against a group of people? Would they do this to justify sending men to attack this hated group to avenge wrongs? In their quest for power and wealth, would they care if their supporters died?

**Moroni:** <sup>31</sup> God ... hath made manifest unto you our imperfections, that ye may learn to be more wise than we have been. (Morm 9:31)

I love the Book of Mormon and pray that we may learn to be “more wise” in our lives.

## Quotes

**Ezra Taft Benson:** In the Book of Mormon we find a pattern for preparing for the Second Coming. A major portion of the book centers on the few decades just prior to Christ's coming to America. By careful study of that time period, we can determine why some were destroyed in the terrible judgments that preceded His coming and what brought others to stand at the temple ... and thrust their hands into the wounds of His hands and feet. ... Can anyone doubt that this book was meant for us and that in it we find great power, great comfort, and great protection?" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 6–7).

**Ezra Taft Benson:** The record of the Nephite history just prior to the Savior's visit reveals many parallels to our own day as we anticipate the Savior's second coming (*Ensign*, May 1987, 4).

## Lessons from history

Every crisis, real or imaginary, can be used by wicked men to consolidate power and wealth into the hands of a few.

Every crisis, real or imaginary, can be used by the rich and powerful to acquire more power and wealth. The fearful will sell property at a loss, pay willing for protection, or give up freedom for the promise of security.

Adapted from the Class Member Guide

Prophecy or Event in Helaman 13–16	Signs of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming
Strong righteous minority <sup>16:1, 3, 6, 10</sup>	1 Ne. 14:12; Jac. 5:7-10
Spiritual outpourings and miracles <sup>16:13–14</sup>	Joel 2:28–30; D&C 45:39–42
Great wickedness <sup>13:22; 16:12, 22–23</sup>	2 Tim. 3:1–5; D&C 45:27
Rejection of prophets and their call to repentance <sup>13:2, 6, 8, 10–11; 14:9, 11; 15:1–3, 17; 16:2</sup>	D&C 1:14–16
Conversion of many Lamanites <sup>15:4–11</sup>	D&C 49:24
Prophecy of a night with no darkness <sup>14:3–4</sup>	Zech. 14:7; see <i>TPJS</i> , [1976], 287
Prophecies of signs and wonders in the heavens <sup>14:5–6, 20</sup>	Joel 2:30–31; D&C 45:40
Denial of signs, wonders, and Christ's coming <sup>16:13–18</sup>	2 Peter 3:3–4; D&C 45:26
Prophecies of great storms and other natural destruction <sup>14:21, 23, 26</sup>	Rev. 16:18, 21; D&C 88:88–90
Prophecy of the destruction of wicked <sup>14:24; 15:1</sup>	Isa. 26:21; Mal. 4:1; D&C 1:9; 133:41

**NOTE:** The yellow shading shows what is NOT on the handout that I use in class. The handout makes it possible to share information while only briefly referring to it in class. The handout and any other supplements for the lesson are at [www.sviewp.com](http://www.sviewp.com).

## Sources:

### GENERAL

- BMRC = Dennis Largey, *Book of Mormon Reference Companion*
- TBM = Hugh Nibley, *Teachings of the Book of Mormon*, 4 vols.
- OM = Original Manuscript
- PM = Printer's Manuscript
- CR = Conference Report
- *LDS View* = This computer program with the scriptures in 11 languages was sold in the Church Distribution Center as *Scriptures on CDM*. It can now be downloaded with the scriptures in up to 30 languages (<http://ldsview.byu.edu>). At <http://WordCruncher.com>, you can download WordCruncher and Webster's 1844 Dictionary (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). If LDS View was downloaded first, WordCruncher will let you see the English scriptures and when you click on an English word, you can see Webster's 1844 definition.
- Other Bible Translations are at <http://www.blueletterbible.org/>

### BAJA model

- Baja = [www.achoiceand.com](http://www.achoiceand.com)

### MESOAMERICAN model

- Sorenson = John L. Sorenson, *An Ancient American Setting for the Book of Mormon*.
- *Reexploring* = John W. Welch, ed., *Reexploring the Book of Mormon*, <http://mi.byu.edu>
- Poulsen = [bomgeography.poulsenll.org/bomdirections.html](http://bomgeography.poulsenll.org/bomdirections.html)

### Hebraisms

- Par-Heb = Donald W. Parry, "Hebraisms and Other Ancient Peculiarities," <http://mi.byu.edu>
- Tved-Heb = John Tvedtnes, "The Hebrew Background of the Book of Mormon," chapter 8 in *Rediscovering the Book of Mormon*; <http://mi.byu.edu>

### Other sources

- BD = *Bible Dictionary* (in English LDS Scriptures).
- GS = *Guide to the Scriptures* (in electronic LDS Scriptures)
- I-BofM = New Testament Institute manual, *The Life and Teachings of Jesus & his Apostles*, [institute.lds.org](http://institute.lds.org)
- KJV King James Version of the Bible.
- NIV = New International Version of the Bible
- *TPJS* = *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*
- *SOED* = Shorter Oxford English Dictionary
- *OED* = Oxford English Dictionary
- BDB = *Brown, Driver, Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*
- Bauer = Walter Bauer, *Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament*
- EJ = *Encyclopedia Judaica*
- Rona = Daniel Rona, [www.israelrevealed.com/comp-sup-r.htm](http://www.israelrevealed.com/comp-sup-r.htm).
- MM = Meridian Magazine, Gospel Doctrine, [www.ldsmag.com](http://www.ldsmag.com)
- [beardall2000.com/gospdoct.shtml](http://beardall2000.com/gospdoct.shtml);
- [www.gospeldoctrine.com](http://www.gospeldoctrine.com)