

3 Ne. 16, 20–21: Scattering & Gathering

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Quotes

- If you want to walk on water, you must get out of the boat.
- Dear Lord, I pray for:
Wisdom, to understand a man;
Love, to forgive him; and
Patience, to deal with his moods.
Because, Lord, if I pray for strength, I'll just beat him to death.
- Put a smile on your kisser and maybe someone will put a kiss on your smiler!

1. The Law and the Prophets (15:5–10)

⁵ I am he that gave the law, and ... covenanted with my people Israel; therefore, the law in me is fulfilled ... therefore it hath an end. ⁶ Behold, I do not destroy the prophets, for as many as have not been fulfilled in me ... shall all be fulfilled. ... ⁷ I do not destroy that which hath been spoken concerning things ... to come. ⁸ For behold, the covenant ... with my people is not all fulfilled; but the law ... given unto Moses hath an end in me. ⁹ Behold, I am the law, and the light. Look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall ... [receive] eternal life. ... ¹⁰ I have given unto you the commandments; therefore keep my commandments. And this is the law and the prophets, for they truly testified of me.

Covenant occurs 3x (3 Ne 16), 10x (3 Ne 20), 5x (3 Ne 21).

SOED fulfil: 3. To make complete; to supply what is lacking; 4. To carry out

The Hebrew scriptures (Old Testament) is divided into three sections: the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings.

Law: Gen. 12:3; Deut. 18:15–19

Prophets: **Isaiah** 52, 54 (3 Ne 16; 20; 21); **Micah** 4:12–13; 5:8–15 (3 Ne 20; 21); **Hab.** 1:5 (3 Ne 21); **Mal.** 3–4 (3 Ne 24–25)

¹¹ When the words of Isaiah should be fulfilled—... they are written, ye have them before you, therefore search them (20:11)

Isaiah is only scripture Jesus commanded to search.

“all the prophets from Samuel” (20:24)

Writings: Ruth, 1 Chron.—Song of Solomon, Lam, Daniel.

2. Chapter Outline

11: day 1: People see, hear, and touch Christ

12–14: Sermon at the Temple

15:11—17:1 Jesus talks to 12 disciples not to multitude

18:38–39 Jesus ascends at end of day 1

19: day 2: baptism, Holy Ghost, ministering of angels, praying

20:1 [Jesus] commanded the multitude that they should cease to pray ... that they should not cease to pray in their hearts.

There is a time for prayer and a time to do.

20:2–9 Sacrament: Jesus gives bread and wine even though “there had been no bread, neither wine, brought.”

20:14–28 Message about the new world

20:29–35 Message about the old world

20:36–46 Message about both the old and the new world

3. What is the House of Israel? (15:15)

¹⁵ The other tribes of the house of Israel, whom the Father hath led away out of the land. (15:15)

Jacob=Israel: 12 tribes

¹³ If the Gentiles will repent and return unto me ... they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel. (16:13)

Joseph Fielding Smith: Every person who embraces the gospel becomes of the house of Israel. In other words, they become members of the chosen lineage, or Abraham’s children through Isaac and Jacob unto whom the promises were made. The great majority of those who become members of the Church are literal descendants of Abraham through Ephraim, son of Joseph. Those who are not literal descendants of Abraham and Israel must become such, and when they are baptized and confirmed they are grafted into the tree and are entitled to all the rights and privileges as heirs. (*Doctrines of Salvation*, 3:246) **Who are “the other tribes”?**



Which tribes are not lost? Judah and Benjamin

740–720 BC Assyrians took 10 tribes north, including Ephraim and Manasseh. Some people from these tribes had moved to Judah before the tribes were taken captive.

Where are they? Scattered and lost like the Nephites were.

Russian patriarchal blessings include lineage of all 12 tribes.

5. Who are the other sheep? (15:21–24)

²¹ Ye are they of whom I said: Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. ²² And [the Jews] understood me not, for they supposed it had been the Gentiles ... [who] should be converted through their preaching. ... ²⁴ But ... ye have ... heard my voice, and seen me. (15:21–24)

¹ I have other sheep, which are not of this land, neither of the land of Jerusalem, neither in any parts of that land round about whither I have been to minister. ... ³ I go to show myself unto them. (16:1–3)

6. Who are the Gentiles? 3 Ne 15 (3x); 16 (9x); 20 (4x); 21 (9x)

²² [The Jews] understood not that the Gentiles should be converted through their preaching. (15:22)

Paul and others took gospel to Gentiles (non-Jews, Greeks).

⁴ These sayings which ye shall write ... shall be manifested unto the Gentiles, that ... the remnant of their seed [the Jews], who shall be scattered ... may be brought to a knowledge of me, their Redeemer. ... ⁶ Blessed are the Gentiles ^{NT}, because of their belief in me. ... ⁸ The Gentiles ... have come forth upon ... this land, and have scattered my people who are of the house of Israel. (16:4–8)

A Jew said: “Only in Utah am I a Gentile.”

Gentile = non-Israelite/Jew (in scripture) or non-LDS (now).

Gentile = HEB foreign nation, NT Greeks, Romans, ...

GTS: nations without gospel even if some have Israelite blood.

7. Why was the house of Israel scattered?

⁵[The Jews] shall be scattered forth upon the face of the earth because of their unbelief. (16:5)

8. How was the house of Israel scattered?

By the gentiles in Israel and on this continent.

9. What is the gathering of the house of Israel?

^{16:12} I will remember my covenant unto you, O house of Israel, and ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fulness of my gospel.

HEB Remember → do

¹² When [the words of Isaiah] shall be fulfilled ... ¹³ then shall the remnants, which shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth, be gathered in from the east ... west, ... south and ... north; and they shall be brought to the knowledge of the Lord their God, who hath redeemed them. (20:12–13)

Spencer W. Kimball: The ‘gathering of Israel’ is effected when the people of the faraway countries accept the gospel and remain in their native lands. The gathering of Israel for Mexicans is in Mexico; in Scandinavia, for those of the northern countries; the gathering place for the Germans is in Germany; and the Polynesians, in the islands; for the Brazilians, in Brazil; for the Argentines, in Argentina (*Ensign*, May 1975, 4).

10. How will the gathering be done?

¹² O house of Israel ... ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fulness of my gospel. (16:12)

⁹ For in that day, for my sake shall the Father work ... a great and a marvelous work among them; and there shall be among them those who will not believe it. ... But ... the life of my servant shall be in my hand; therefore they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them. (21:9–10)

Restoration through Gentiles: Joseph Smith, Book of Mormon
3 fold mission of Church. Fishers of men

11. What is the “fulness of my gospel”?

^{16:10, 12; 20:28, 30} At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fulness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, ... and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, ... deceits, ... mischiefs, ... hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; and if they shall do all those things, and shall reject the fulness of my gospel, behold, ... I will bring the fulness of my gospel from among them. (3 Ne 16:10)

²⁸ When [the Gentiles] shall have received the fulness of my gospel, then if they shall harden their hearts against me I will return their iniquities upon their own heads. (20:28)

³⁰ When the fulness of my gospel shall be preached unto them; And they shall believe in me. (20:30)

What is “the fulness of my gospel” as used in the scriptures?
See 3 Ne 27 13–20; D&C 20:9; 27:5; JS–H 1:34.

Jesus defines his gospel as his birth, life, death, resurrection, his role as judge, and the requirements to enter his kingdom: faith, repentance, baptism, and the Holy Ghost (3 Ne 27 13–20). The Book of Mormon contains the fulness of the gospel (D&C 20:9; 27:5; JS–H 1:34) as defined by Christ. The Bible contained the fulness of the gospel before plain and precious things were taken away (1 Ne 13:24–28).

²³ That the fulness of my gospel might be proclaimed by the weak and the simple unto the ends of the world, and before kings and rulers. (D&C 1:23)

What is “receiving” or “rejecting” the fulness of the gospel?

See D&C 66:2; D&C 20:8–15.

In Aug. 1831, William E. McClellin was baptized. On Oct. 25, 1831 he was ordained a high priest and 4 days later he was blessed “for receiving mine everlasting covenant, even the fulness of my gospel” (D&C 66:2). This was before temple ordinances had been revealed. In 1838, he apostatized/

People may reject the Book of Mormon which contains the fulness before baptism or years after baptism (D&C 20:8–15).

¹⁴ Those who receive [the Book of Mormon] in faith, and work righteousness, shall receive a crown of eternal life; ¹⁵ But those who harden their hearts in unbelief, and reject it, it shall turn to their own condemnation (D&C 20:14–15).

Interpretation of a few LDS writers.

Since the Bible and the Book of Mormon were to come from the Gentiles or non-Jews (1 Ne 13:34–39; 15:13), the LDS church is a Gentile church. A few modern LDS writers believe that the “fulness of the gospel” includes more than what is in the Book of Mormon (e.g., temple ordinances, second comforter) and only those who first accept the fullness of the gospel can reject it. These assumptions lead them to conclude that the LDS church is an abominable church filled with priestcrafts. They then find fault with the church and quote Book of Mormon verses to condemn the church, leaders, and members who do not believe as they do. They consider the LDS church to be like the Jewish church at the time of Christ and themselves like Christ who recognized the role of the priests, but pointed out their errors and hypocrisy. They might even claim to have received the second comforter to get unquestioning disciples.

Such interpretations are examples of how one can add to or take away from the scriptures by changing definitions and reinterpretation. Joseph Smith warned about such people.

Joseph: I will give you one of the Keys of the mysteries of the Kingdom. It is an eternal principle, that has existed with God from all eternity: That man who rises up to condemn others, finding fault with the Church, saying that they are out of the way, while he himself is righteous, then know assuredly, that that man is in the high road to apostasy; and if he does not repent, will apostatize, as God lives. (*TPJS*, 156–57)

12. Who will be as a lion among the sheep? (20:15–17)

¹⁵ If the Gentiles do not repent after the blessing which they shall receive, after they have scattered my people—¹⁶ Then shall ye, who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, go forth among them; and ye shall be in the midst of them who shall be many; and ye shall be among them as a lion among the beasts of the forest, and as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he goeth through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver. ¹⁷ Thy hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off. (20:15–17; also Micah 5:8–9)

House of Jacob refers to all remnants scattered in all lands. (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 2:249–250)

Bruce R. McConkie: “Except for a few who are the humble followers of Christ, the Gentiles will not repent. They will revel in their abominations and sin against the restored gospel, and they will be burned by the brightness of our Lord’s coming while the righteous -- here called the remnant of Jacob -- shall abide the day. And then, in the prophetic imagery, it will be as though the remnant of Israel overthrew their enemies as a young lion among the flocks of sheep.” (*Millennial Messiah*, 248)

13. "I give unto you for a sign" (21:1-7)

¹ That ye may know ... when ... [the gathering] shall be about to take place ... ² I will give unto you for a sign— ... when ... [the Book of Mormon] shall be made known unto the Gentiles that they may know ... concerning this my people who shall be scattered by them; ... ⁴ and ... that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed [descendants], that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled ... with his people, O house of Israel; ⁵ Therefore, when ... [the Book of Mormon] shall come forth from the Gentiles, unto your seed ... ⁷ [so] that thy seed shall begin to know these things—it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the people who are of the house of Israel. (21:1-7)

14. New Jerusalem (21:22-26)

²² If [the Gentiles] will repent ... I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance; And they shall assist my people ... ²³ that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem. ... ²⁵ And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst.

²⁶ And then shall the work of the Father commence ... when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. ... At that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people, yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem. (21:22-26)

"Noting that the gathering of the Jews to Jerusalem and the establishment of the gospel of Jesus Christ among them in this generation were set forth with great plainness in the scriptures, President **Kimball** said, 'Is it not timely that we began to preach to Judah as well as the other tribes?' Pointing out the fact that there are more Jews in the United States than in all the rest of the world, he continued: 'Should we not now increase our effort to reach them? This does *not* mean a mission to Jerusalem in these troubled times, but we could begin to reach out for our Jewish brothers just as we do for all others.'" ("Report of the Regional Representatives Seminar," *Ensign*, May 1975, 120-22)

Bruce R. McConkie: "We do not say that occasional blood descendants of Reuben or Naphtali or others of the other tribal heads shall not return to their Palestinian Zion, or assemble in an American Zion, or find their way into the stakes of Zion in all nations, all before the Second Coming of Christ. Some shall no doubt return to Canaan as true believers and members of the true Church, with the intent and purpose of fulfilling the scriptures and building up the ancient cities of Israel. This may well happen in some small measure, and to it there can be no objection. Great movements have small beginnings, and floods that sweep forth from bursting dams are first forecast when small rivulets trickle from the pent-up reservoirs. But we do say that the great day of the return of the Ten Tribes, the day when the assembling hosts shall fulfill the prophetic promises, shall come after our Lord's return." (*Millennial Messiah*, 323; see also *New Witness*, 521.)"

15. What is the literal gathering of Israel? (21:28; AofF 10)

²⁸ And then shall the work commence, with the Father among all nations in preparing the way whereby his people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance. (21:28)

Nephites: ¹⁶ I should give unto you this land, for your inheritance. (16:16; 20:14)

Jews: ²⁹ I have covenanted with them that I would gather them ... [and] give unto them again the land of their fathers for their inheritance, which is the land of Jerusalem, which is the promised land unto them forever. (20:29)

¹⁰ We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory. (A of F 10)

16. A prophet like unto Moses

²³ I [Jesus] am he of whom Moses spake, saying: A prophet shall the LORD your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And ... every soul who will not hear that prophet shall be cut off from among the people. (3 Ne 20:23; see Deut 18:15-19)

Joseph in Egypt said the Lord would raise up Moses to deliver Israel from physical bondage. He also said one of his descendants (i.e., Joseph Smith) would be "like unto Moses" and deliver people from spiritual bondage (2 Ne 3:9-10; D&C 28:2). The Lord spoke unto Moses "face to face" (Ex 33:11) as he did to Joseph Smith.

The plagues that Moses used to free the people from Egypt are a type of those Christ will use to free his people in these last days before the Millennium.

Plagues of Egypt	Apocalyptic Destruction of Wicked
Waters of Egypt turned to blood. (Ex. 7:20)	Rivers and fountains of waters ... became blood. (Rev. 16:4)
Frogs covered the land of Egypt. (Ex. 8:6)	Three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon. (Rev 16:13)
Plagues of lice and flies. (Ex. 8:17, 24)	God will send forth flies and maggots. (DC 29:8)
All the cattle of Egypt died. (Ex. 9:6)	Desolation upon the cattle and sheep. (Joel 1:15-20)
Plague of boils upon man and beast. (Ex. 9:10)	There fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast. (Rev. 16:2)
Plague of hail and fire (Ex. 9:23)	Men scorched with fire & plague of great hailstones. (Rev. 16:8, 21)
Locusts covered the face of the whole earth. (Ex. 10:14-15)	There came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth. (Rev 9:3-10)
Thick darkness in all the land for three days. (Ex. 10:22)	The sun became black as sackcloth. (Rev. 6:12)
The firstborn males are killed. (Ex. 12:29-30)	The third part of men are killed by fire, smoke, brimstone (Rev 9:18)
Pharaoh's army destroyed by water. (Ex. 14:28)	Saint's enemies destroyed by fire. (1 Ne. 22:17)

17. How do these chapters in 3rd Nephi apply to us?

18. Questions

- Could a 23 year old young man have written this book?
- How do these things apply to me now in my circumstances?
- As I read these chapters, how do I feel?
- Do they invite and entice me to love God, and do good?
- As I read, do I "remember how merciful the Lord hath been, and ponder it in [my] heart" and ask God if it is true?

Conclusion

Leave enough time for conclusion!

Scattering: We live at a time when the prophecies that Israel (the ten tribes), the Jews, and the Lehites will be “scattered among all nations” (1 Ne 22:5; Dt 28:64) have been fulfilled. We are more aware of the scattering of the Jews who were taken captive to Babylon or fled to Egypt after Lehi left Jerusalem and many stayed there. Later, many went to Europe where Hitler killed many of them. When Israel became a nation again, Jews came from Russia, Europe, and many other nations. We are not as aware of how the ten tribes and the Lehites were scattered among all nations after the Lord led them or drove them out of their lands. We know *where* the 10 tribes are (i.e., among all nations); we just don’t know *who* they are.

Gathering: We also live at a time when the prophecies of the gathering are being fulfilled.

We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; ... (Articles of Faith 10)

On 27 March 1836, in the dedicatory prayer of the Kirtland Temple, Joseph Smith prayed that the gathering of the Jews and the redemption of Jerusalem might begin (D&C 109:62–67).

¹¹ Moses appeared before us, and committed unto us the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth, and the leading of the ten tribes from the land of the north. (110:11)

Early Sunday morning, 24 Oct. 1841, Elder Orson Hyde ascended the Mount of Olives and dedicated the land “for the gathering together of Judah’s scattered remnants, according to the predictions of the holy Prophets—for the building up of Jerusalem again ... and for rearing a Temple in honor of [the Lord’s] name.” He also prayed that the Lord would remember the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob forever and “give them this land for an everlasting inheritance” (HC, 4:456).

Some LDS scholars believe Baja was Lehi’s land of inheritance before they were scattered among all nations. They have noted the significant numbers of people who are gathering in Baja.

We also believe in the spiritual gathering of Israel as the gospel is taken to and accepted by those of Israel who are scattered among all nations.

It is the responsibility of prophets to prophesy.
It is our responsibility to help fulfill those prophecies.

May we do our part by seeking to know God’s will daily and by following our own promptings to live and share the gospel.

Quotes

Several notes below were in my notes for lesson 38 but not in the handout. I decided to include them here.

Joseph: That man who rises up to condemn others, finding fault with the Church, saying that they are out of the way, while he himself is righteous, then know assuredly, that that man is in the high road to apostasy; and if he does not repent, will apostatize, as God lives. (TPJS, 156–57)

J. Reuben Clark, Jr.: The ravening wolves are amongst us, from our own membership, and they, more than any others, are clothed in sheep’s clothing, because they wear the habiliments of the priesthood; they are they [who are] distorting the truth. We should be careful of them. (CR, Apr. 1949, 163)

Alonzo Gaskill: “The great plan of happiness ... would not be called the eternal plan of salvation/happiness/redemption/mercy... if its primary effect was the damnation of the vast majority of God’s offspring. ... And the assumption that our mother in heaven would idly sit back and allow such a guaranteed flop to eternally strip her of any interaction with her spirit offspring is equally unfathomable. ... Those of us who shouted for joy ... felt that the odds were in our favor. ... If the Father had informed us that ‘there’s good news and bad news’ ... ‘The good news is there is a Plan, but the bad news is most of you are not going to make it back ...’ surely we would not have felt reason to rejoice.” (*Odds Are You’re Going to Be Exalted*, 17–18)

Bruce R. McConkie: Far more of our Father’s children will be exalted than we think!” ... “Who can count the number of saved beings in eternity? Our God, who is victorious in all battles against the forces of evil, will surely be victorious in the numbers of his children who will be saved. (*Odds*, 21)

Wilford Woodruff & Lorenzo Snow: There will be very few, if any, [in the spirit world] who will not accept the gospel. (*Odds* 37)

Joseph: I told them: ‘I am meek and lowly in heart,’ and will personify Jesus for a moment ... and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Woe unto you, ye doctors; woe unto you, ye lawyers; woe unto you, ye scribes, Pharisees, and hypocrites!’ But you cannot find the place where I ever went that I found fault with their food, their drink, their house, their lodgings; no, never; and this is what is meant by the meekness and lowliness of Jesus. (TPJS, 270, *Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt*, 210–11)

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.

Sources:

- *Odds* = Alonzo L. Gaskill, *Odds Are, You're Going to Be Exalted: Evidence That the Plan of Salvation Works*
- MEE = Kenneth E. Bailey, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*

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 (2nd 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 www.blueletterbible.org/

BAJA model

- Baja = www.achoiceiland.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.poulsen11.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
- 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.
- *MM* = Meridian Magazine, Gospel Doctrine, www.ldsmag.com
- beardall2000.com/gospdoct.shtml;
- www.gospeldoctrine.com