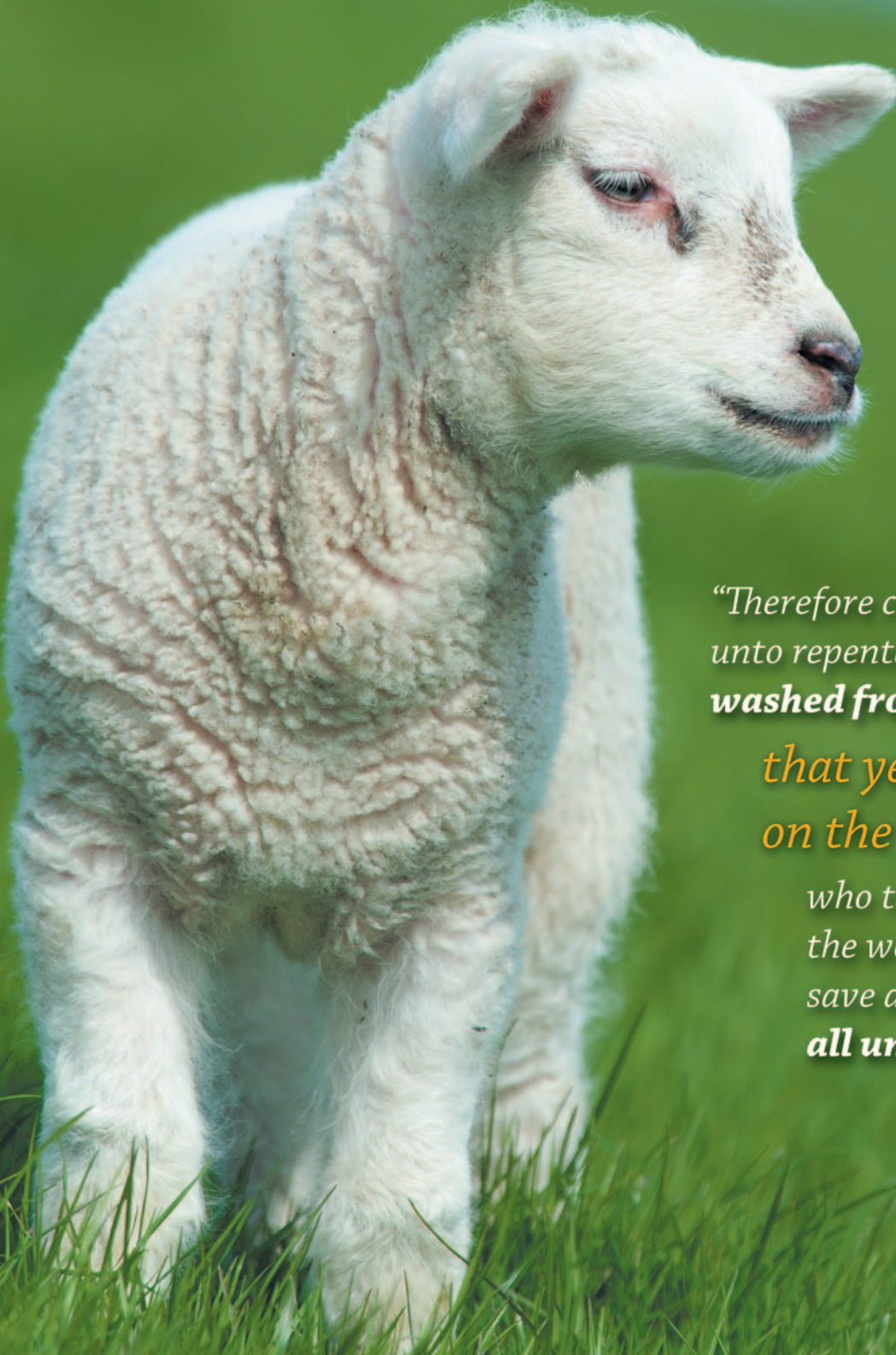




THE WITNESS

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*“Therefore come and be baptized
unto repentance, that ye may be
washed from your sins,*

*that ye may have faith
on the **Lamb of God,***

*who taketh away the sins of
the world, who is mighty to
save and to **cleanse from
all unrighteousness...**”*

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THE Sound OF A Trump

By Marlin Guin

I recently attended a worship service where an elder read from Ezekiel. This experience carried great conviction for me, even though these scriptures have been read many times. It was one of those special moments where the power of the Holy Ghost confirms the word of God and “carrieth it unto the hearts of the children of men.” (2 Nephi 15:1 RLDS) [2 Nephi 33:1 LDS] Ezekiel declared:

Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman; If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. (Ezekiel 33:1-7 IV/KJV)

The watchman's diligence was an important responsibility in ancient Israel. They stood their watch on the tower and blew the trumpet to warn of approaching danger. It could determine the difference between life and death, as they were held accountable for warning the people.

Likewise, the spiritual watchman is called to warn the people concerning the word of God. Their diligence can also make the difference between life and death. Their charge is to blow the trumpet using only the words of the Lord, as they are held accountable for warning the people.

The word “watchman or watchmen” is used four times in the Book of Mormon. All of them are references to the same verse in Isaiah 52:8 (IV/KJV), as quoted by a priest of King Noah (Mosiah 7:78 RLDS) [Mosiah 12:22 LDS], Abinadi (Mosiah 8:67 RLDS) [Mosiah 15:29 LDS] and Jesus Christ (3 Nephi 7:43, 9:70 RLDS) [3 Nephi 16:17, 20:32 LDS]. The Book of Mormon prophets understood their responsibility as spiritual watchmen, and their description of this calling is unique. Examples are:

For I, Jacob, and my brother Joseph, had been consecrated priests, and teachers of this people by the hand of Nephi. And we did magnify our office unto the Lord, taking upon us the responsibility, answering the sins of the people upon our own heads, if we did not teach them the word of God with all diligence; Wherefore, by laboring with our mights, their blood might not come upon our garments; otherwise, their blood would come upon our garments, and we would not be found spotless at the last day. (Jacob 1:18-20 RLDS) [Jacob 1:18-19 LDS]

Therefore, as I said unto you that I had served you, walking with a clear conscience before God, even so I at this time have caused that ye should assemble yourselves together, that I might be found blameless, and that your blood should not come upon me, when I shall stand to be judged of God of the things whereof he hath commanded me concerning you. I say unto you, that I have caused that ye should assemble yourselves together, that I might rid my garments of your blood, at this period of time when I am about to go down to my grave, (Mosiah 1:64-65 RLDS) [Mosiah 2:27-28 LDS]

Nephi, son of Lehi, is one of the great spiritual watchmen in the Book of Mormon. He's a watchman who blew the trumpet for ancient Israel and now blows it for us, as latter day Israel. His inspired words have been sent forth across a thousand years of Book of Mormon history and restored to our dispensation for all remaining generations. They are ancient words that have come to us through sacrifice and the will of the Lord. We'll focus on 1 Nephi 3 because of its prophetic timeline and relevance for our day.

A study guide is provided later in this issue. Take time now to familiarize yourself with the scenes in the study guide and be ready to reference them again as you read this article.

Let's consider the following general areas of study:

- The BIG picture
- You are here → X
- Great things are coming
- Connections to the book of Revelation

The BIG picture: We should never forget the foundational purpose of 1 Nephi 3 is the same as all the scriptures. Though prophetic in nature, this chapter radiates God's greatest desire to give eternal life to all who follow Christ. Some other scriptures making this clear are:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life.

(John 3:16 IV/KJV)

And he cometh into the world that he may save all men, if they will hearken unto his voice;

(2 Nephi 6:45 RLDS) [2 Nephi 9:21 LDS]

and there is no end to my works, neither to my words; for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man.

(D&C 22:23b RLDS)

Notice how this chapter testifies of Jesus Christ! It presents prophetic scenes (see study guide) that reflect the manifesting of Jesus Christ to the world, according to the covenants of God. The following scenes are categorized to provide a visual flow for the manifesting of Jesus Christ to all nations.

Scenes 1-8 *Manifesting Jesus Christ to the Jews* (House of Israel)

Scenes 9-10 *Manifesting Jesus Christ to the Book of Mormon peoples* (House of Israel)

Scene 11 *Manifesting Jesus Christ to the Gentiles* (Apostles to the Gentiles)

Apostasy

Manifesting Jesus Christ to the Gentiles (Restoration)

Scene 12 *Manifesting Jesus Christ to the Jews* (House of Israel)

Scene 13 *Manifesting Jesus Christ through other records, such as the writings of Apostle John.*

It's also important to note, Nephi uses specific verses to summarize the theme of the entire chapter. This means all the scenes are reflections of the summary verses. To illustrate this point, the previous categorized scenes and the following summary verses are highlighted in red for easy comparison. Take time to understand their connection by comparing them to see how their message is essentially the same.

And the time cometh that he shall *manifest himself* unto *all nations*, both unto the *Jews*, and also unto the *Gentiles*; And after he has *manifested himself* unto the *Jews* and also unto the *Gentiles*; then he shall *manifest himself* unto the *Gentiles*, and also unto the *Jews*, And the *last shall be first*, and the *first shall be last*.

(1 Nephi 3:198-200 RLDS) [1 Nephi 13:42 LDS]

You are here → X: Have you ever gone to a mall and looked at the directory to locate a store? Once the store is found, we determine our current location by finding the directory symbol: **You are here → X**. These two points of reference make it possible to see the route we should follow for reaching the desired destination.

This is also true for the scriptures, especially those that provide a directory in the form of prophetic timelines. 1 Nephi 3 is one of the places providing such a directory. We first look for our desired destination and then find our



current location in the timeline: **You are here → X**. We can determine where we are now, how we got here and what lies ahead by using the two points of reference.

Where are we on this directory today? The answer is found near the end of scene 11. Nephi proclaims the time will come when the Lamb of God will work a great and marvelous work among the children of men. We know from latter day revelation that this great and marvelous work has already come forth and will continue until all is fulfilled. It's important to remember, this work is not just an isolated event in 1830, but the powerful movement of God covering a period of time.

The Lord has shown great mercy to the Gentiles because of their being blinded and deceived by the great and abominable church over the centuries since Christ. This is often called apostasy. His mercy has come by restoring the fullness of the gospel through the great and marvelous work.

Our current location on the prophetic timeline is identified by observing the response of the Gentiles to the great and marvelous work. Nephi describes how they have been given the clear choice to accept or reject the fullness of the gospel.

For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men;

(1 Nephi 3:214 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:7 LDS]

Now, behold, a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men.

(D&C 4:1a RLDS) [D&C 4:1 LDS]

A work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other;

Either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds, unto their being brought down into captivity and also unto destruction, both temporally and spiritually, according to the captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken.

(1 Nephi 3:215-216 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:7 LDS]

As we compare national and world events to the prophetic timeline in 1 Nephi 3, we see further evidence of being near the closing of scene 11. We should also remember this is a preparation time for the opening of scene 12. I'll quote some verses from the end of scene 11 and also the words of Jesus Christ to support this view.

And thou also hast heard, that *whoso repenteth not, must perish*; Therefore, wo, be unto the *Gentiles*, if it so be that they *harden their hearts* against the Lamb of God;

(1 Nephi 3:212-213 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:5-6 LDS]

And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you, At that day *when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel*, and shall be lifted up in the *pride* of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be *filled* with *all manner* of *lyings*, and of *deceits*, and of *mischiefs*, and all manner of *hypocrisy*, and *murders*, and *priestcrafts*, and *whoredoms*, and of *secret abominations*;

(3 Nephi 7:34 RLDS) [3 Nephi 16:10 LDS]

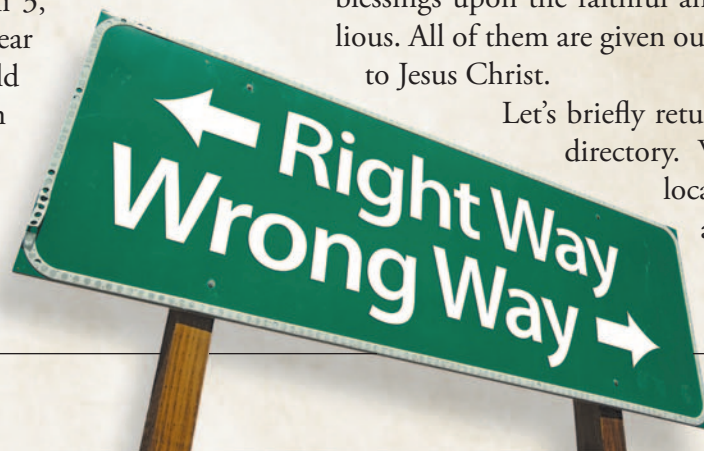
These things probably sound familiar and can be validated each day by watching the news, listening to others or looking out our kitchen window. It's a spiritual condition commonly called "ripening in iniquity." (Ether 1:32, 4:22 RLDS) [Ether 2:9, 9:20 LDS] Today, the Gentiles are rejecting God, just as He said would happen, and the call to repentance is going forth with the sound of the trump. The cry of repentance is always the persistent message of God's watchmen. The Lord has decreed a response from heaven for those who choose to ignore the sound of the trump. We are seeing more and more of those things every day. The Gentiles have rejected the great and marvelous work, culminating in the times of the Gentiles being fulfilled. God is now moving forward to remember His covenants to the House of Israel! The last verse in scene 11 gives this emphasis:

And it came to pass that when the angel had spoken these words, he said unto me, *Remember thou the covenants of the Father unto the house of Israel?*

(1 Nephi 3:217 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:8 LDS]

Great things are coming: Good news! The Lord tells us "great things are to be shown forth unto the children of men." (D&C 34:3d RLDS) [D&C 35:10 LDS] We should remember great things don't necessarily mean things we like or expect. They are great in the sight of God, to bring blessings upon the faithful and judgments upon the rebellious. All of them are given out of love to bring His children to Jesus Christ.

Let's briefly return to our analogy of the mall directory. When we leave our current location (**You are here → X**) and travel to our desired destination (the store), how do we know we are staying on the



right route? At the mall, we see signs, maps and store names along the way that match the directory. We know where we are at any point on the journey, which helps us stay on the right route.

It's the same for our spiritual journey. We see prophetic signs along the way that map to the scriptures. We know where we are at any point on the journey, which helps us stay on the right road.

Nephi has sounded the trump for us to know what lies ahead so we can use them as signs along the way for the journey. These help us to know we're staying on the right road. He has already made it clear we are engaged in a great and marvelous work, the Gentiles have rejected it, the world is ripening in iniquity and God will remember His covenants to the House of Israel. Knowing these things, and their relationships, is important as we look at scene 12 to see more road signs coming at us.

Two churches only: One of the unique claims made by Nephi is the time when there are only two churches. They are the church of the Lamb of God and the church of the devil. Everyone will belong to one or the other. What makes this claim unique are scriptures, church history accounts and simple observations pointing to times when “other churches” exist. Some examples are:

Given about 600 B.C.: And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the foundation of a great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all *other churches*;
(1 Nephi 3:167 RLDS) [1 Nephi 13:26 LDS]

Given about 400 A.D.: Yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be *churches* built up that shall say, Come unto me, and for your money you shall be forgiven of your sins. (Mormon 4:41 RLDS) [Mormon 8:32 LDS]

Given in 1820: My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of *all the sects* was right? that I might know which to join. No sooner therefore did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personage who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right, (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong,)

and which I should join. I was answered that I must *join none of them*, for they were all wrong... (Vision in the Grove – Church History)

Given in 1829: And if you have not faith, hope, and charity, you can do nothing. *Contend against no church*, save it be the church of the Devil. (D&C 16:4d RLDS) [D&C 18:19 LDS]

Today: It's easy to see the existence of “other churches” inside and outside the Restoration.

In scene 12, notice how the scriptures move from a time having “other churches” to only two churches. The “other churches” disappear, because the Lord requires everyone to choose between the two churches. Nephi describes this situation as follows:

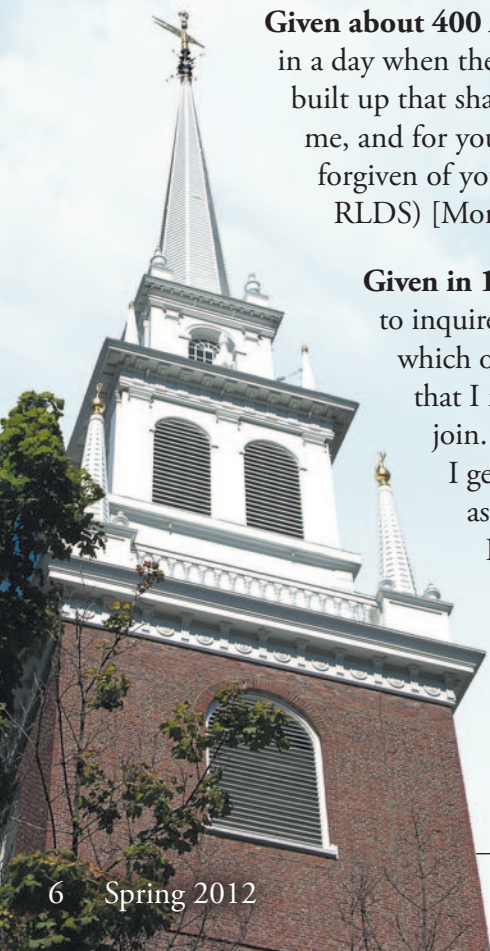
And he said unto me, Behold, there are save *two churches only*: The one is the *church of the Lamb of God*, and the other is the *church of the devil*; Wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; (1 Nephi 3:220-222 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:10 LDS]

For the time speedily cometh, that the Lord God shall cause a *great division* among the people; and the wicked will he destroy; and he will spare his people, yea, even if it so be that he must destroy the wicked by fire.
(2 Nephi 12:90 RLDS) [2 Nephi 30:10 LDS]

Nephi also gives us descriptions of how these two churches are identified. Usually, when someone is asked to identify the church of Christ, the answer is, “the church to which I belong!” Conversely, when someone is asked to identify the church of the devil, the answer may be, “someone else's church!” Therefore, to separate this article from that discussion, we will only examine Nephi's descriptions and not attempt to identify them by an institutional name. I believe this approach is beneficial for our study, because it places emphasis on their characteristics and participation in prophetic events rather than institutions. These characteristics and events will present a clearer picture of contrast between them.

The church of the Lamb of God

Nephi only uses the “church of the Lamb” or “church of the Lamb of God” for references to the church of Christ. He lists some of its characteristics and participation in prophetic events as follows:

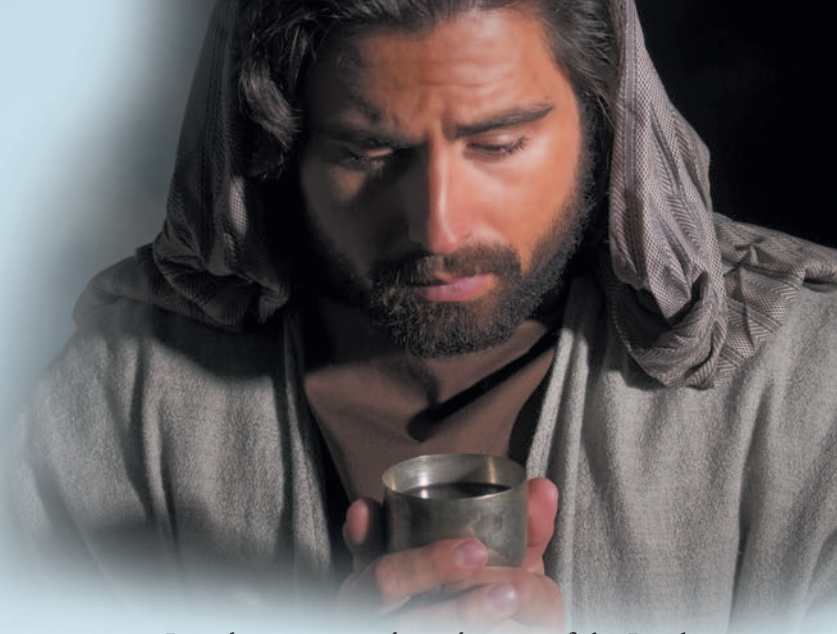


- Its *numbers are few* because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sits on the many waters. (1 Nephi 3:226 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:12 LDS]
- The church of the Lamb, who are the *saints of God*, are *upon all the face of the earth*. (1 Nephi 3:227 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:12 LDS]
- Their *dominions* upon the face of the earth are *small* because of the wickedness of the great whore. (1 Nephi 3:228 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:12 LDS]
- The *power of the Lamb of God descends* upon the *saints of the church* of the Lamb, and upon the *covenant people of the Lord* (all the House of Israel), who are scattered upon all the face of the earth. (1 Nephi 3:230 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:14 LDS]
- They are *armed with righteousness* and with the *power of God* in great glory. It will be *preserved by God*. (1 Nephi 3:231 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:14 LDS]

The church of the devil

Nephi uses the “great and abominable church” for references to the church of the devil. He lists some of its characteristics and participation in prophetic events as follows:

- It's the *mother of abominations*, full of *wickedness*, the *whore* of all the earth, the *mother of harlots* whose *founder is the devil*. (1 Nephi 3:219, 223, 226, 234 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:9, 10, 12, 16 LDS]
- It *persecutes, tortures, binds, yokes, slays and brings into captivity* the saints of God. (1 Nephi 3:140 RLDS) [1 Nephi 13:5 LDS]
- Its *desires* are *wealth* through gold, silver, silks, scarlets, and fine twined linen. (1 Nephi 3:143 RLDS) [1 Nephi 13:8 LDS]
- It *seeks relationships* with *whores* and *lusts of the flesh*. (1 Nephi 3:143 RLDS) [1 Nephi 13:8 LDS]
- It *seeks the praise of the world* to *destroy the saints* of God and *bring them down into captivity*. (1 Nephi 3:144 RLDS) [1 Nephi 13:9 LDS]
- It has *taken away from the gospel* of the Lamb *many parts which are plain and most precious*. (1 Nephi 3:168 RLDS) [1 Nephi 13:26 LDS]



- It *seeks to pervert the right ways* of the Lord; that they might *blind* the eyes and *harden the hearts* of the children of men. (1 Nephi 3:170 RLDS) [1 Nephi 13:27 LDS]
- It has *dominion* over *all the earth*, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people. (1 Nephi 3:225 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:11 LDS]
- It *gathers together* in multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to *fight against the Lamb of God*. (1 Nephi 3:229 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:13 LDS]
- The *wrath of God* was *poured out upon the great and abominable church*, insomuch that there were *wars and rumors of wars* among all the nations and kindreds of the earth. (1 Nephi 3:232 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:15 LDS]
- There are wars and rumors of wars among the *nations that belong to it*. Nations belong to it because national leaders fornicate with her in the form of secret combinations, agreements and associations. It means joining together without a covenant. The only desire between them is their own interests, lusts and satisfaction. (1 Nephi 3:233 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:16 LDS]
- It will be *destroyed by God*. (1 Nephi 3:207 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:3 LDS]

The Lord will not let this world end with confusion about the identity of the two churches. In the end, their identity will be made perfectly clear to everyone. The reference to “great and marvelous work,” near the end of scene 11, describes God’s way of accomplishing this purpose.

Scriptural Bridges between the Bible and the Book of Mormon

The participation of the two churches in future events is enormous! Scene 12 opens the curtain to reveal the intense and diverse interaction between God, the church of the Lamb of God and the church of the devil. It discusses their involvement in the time ahead and their important connection to the restoration of the House of Israel.

The closing verses of scene 12 give “prophetic triggers” in the timeline. The triggers are pulled when:

1. the Gentiles fully ripen in iniquity
2. the wrath of God is poured out upon the great and abominable church

The first is a sign the Father is “remembering” His covenants to the house of Israel, and the second is a sign He is “fulfilling” His covenants to them. The connection and fulfillment of these two “trigger” events is something to watch closely going forward. The related verses read:

And if they shall do all these things, and shall *reject the fullness of my gospel*, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them;

And then will I *remember my covenant* which I have made unto my people, O *house of Israel*, and I will bring my gospel unto them;

(3 Nephi 7:35-36 RLDS) [3 Nephi 16:10-11 LDS]

And *as there began* to be wars and rumors of wars among all the nations which belonged to the mother of abominations, the angel spake unto me, saying,

Behold, the wrath of God is upon the mother of harlots; And behold, thou seest all these things;

And *when the day cometh* that the *wrath of God is poured out* upon the mother of harlots, which is the *great and abominable church* of all the earth, whose foundation is the devil, Then *at that day*, the work of the Father shall *commence*, in *preparing the way* for the *fulfilling of his covenants* which he hath made to his people, who are of the *house of Israel*.

(1 Nephi 3:233-237 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:16-17 LDS]

When these happen, the Father will prepare the work for something amazing! A great missionary endowment will come as the Lord makes bare His arm in the eyes of the nations. All power in heaven and earth will be unleashed to restore His covenant people. Since the House of Israel lives in every nation of the earth, bringing them out of obscurity and to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, will bring the immediate fulfillment of taking the fullness of the gospel to the world. What a testimony of Jesus Christ this will be! In so doing, making bare His arm to the nations will also make the choice clear for every person choosing between the church of the Lamb and the church of the devil. It would be wise to choose the church that has received the power of God, rather than the one that has received His wrath.

The testimony of the true Messiah will go to the world through the House of Israel before they can be gathered, as a flood, to the lands of their inheritance. The saints of the church are called to get ready for the restoration of His people and for the gathering of the saints to the New Jerusalem.

yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his Saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city New Jerusalem;

(D&C 83:1b RLDS) [D&C 84:2 LDS]

Today, the watchmen of God are blowing the trumpet to give us a “heads up,” in preparation for the upcoming scenes. They are shouting a warning to all who will hear and respond.

Connections to the book of Revelation: Nephi blows the trump past this chapter into the book of Revelation. One of the Book of Mormon’s great strengths is the scriptural connections it has to other records. These are often called scriptural bridges. We most often think about Isaiah, Malachi and the ministry of Christ as the most common bridges between the Bible and the Book of Mormon. However, 1 Nephi 3 also

provides a bridge to the book of Revelation in scene 13. This makes Revelation a continuation of 1 Nephi 3.

Authorship of Revelation: In modern times, there is an interesting development concerning the authorship of the book of Revelation. We find some disagreement in Christian circles on who actually wrote the book. One example of this controversy is quoted as follows:

More recent methods of scholarship, such as textual criticism, have been influential in suggesting that John the Apostle, John the Evangelist and John of Patmos were three separate individuals. Differences in style, theological content, and familiarity with Greek between the Gospel of John, the epistles of John, and the Revelation are seen by some scholars as indicating three separate authors.¹

Scene 13 clearly identifies Apostle John as the one who will write “the remainder of these things.” (1 Nephi 3:240 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:21 LDS] This wording alone makes a clear connection between the two records.

He will also write about the end of the world, which is in the book proceeding out of the mouth of a Jew. (1 Nephi 3:245 RLDS) [1 Nephi 14:23 LDS] At the time they were written, they were things which were plain and pure, and most precious and easy to the understanding of all men. This doesn't sound like the book of Revelation today! It's one of the most interpreted and speculated books in the Bible with opinions and disagreements abounding everywhere.

Will authorship of the scriptures cause modern critics to discover plain and precious things have been taken away from the gospel of the Lamb? Perhaps the Lord is preparing people for acceptance of the Book of Mormon and the coming forth of further records to restore the plain and precious things.

Conclusion: After evaluating 1 Nephi 3, we see the prophetic events it contains from the past have occurred in the correct prophetic sequence. Also, those it contains occurring today are staying true to the sequence. This gives us every reason to believe those events coming in the future will occur exactly as recorded. Therefore, our faith in the past and present has become knowledge, and our faith and hope for the future grow until they also become knowledge. Nephi, a great Book

of Mormon watchman, passes the ultimate prophecy test with regard to consistency, accuracy and fulfillment.

The closing scenes of this earth will bring the greatest demonstration of God's power ever seen among the children of men. Consequently, the time ahead is a day of convincing and choosing as all things become aligned for the grand finale of the great and marvelous work. The trump will continue to sound long and loud from the watchmen of God and His angels.

for a *trump shall sound*, both long and loud, even as upon Mount Sinai, and all the earth shall quake, and they shall come forth, yea, even the dead which died in me, to receive a crown of righteousness, and to be clothed upon, even as I am, to be with me, that we may be one.

(D&C 28:3c RLDS) [D&C 29:13 LDS]

Like Nephi, the watchmen of God are sounding the trump for our time. Some are known, and others are yet to be known. Do we hear it? If so, what is our response to the sound of the trump? We know the desired destination as it's clearly described by Isaiah and confirmed by Jesus Christ:

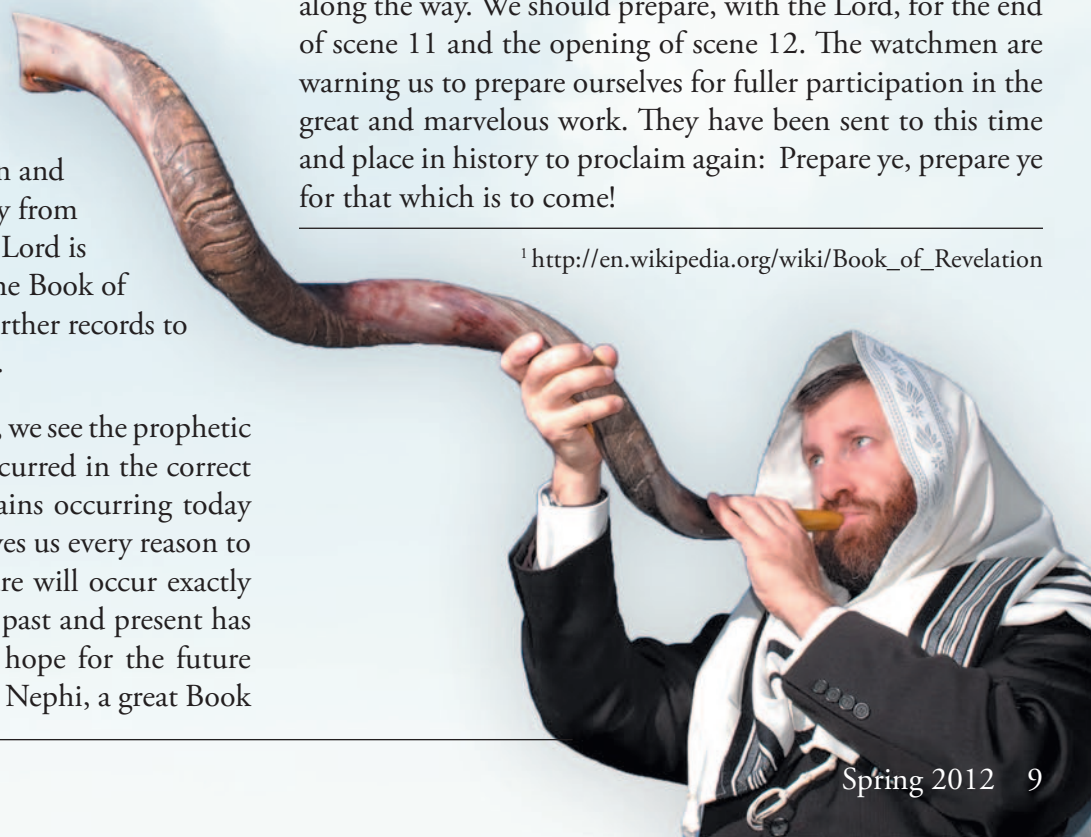
Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion.

(Isaiah 52:8 IV/KJV)

We also know where we are now from the scriptural directory in 1 Nephi 3, which shows us: **You are here → X**. The two points of reference are clearly identified.

The road ahead has been marked with prophetic signs along the way. We should prepare, with the Lord, for the end of scene 11 and the opening of scene 12. The watchmen are warning us to prepare ourselves for fuller participation in the great and marvelous work. They have been sent to this time and place in history to proclaim again: Prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come!

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Revelation



1 Nephi 3

~ Study Guide ~

We can probably all relate to the experience of attending a school play. Most plays have multiple scenes, which require opening and closing curtains or some other transitional method, such as dimming lights or intermissions.

Whatever the method of transition, the purpose is basically the same. They are used so the current scene can be visually ended and a new scene brought before our eyes for consideration. One might say it's a way to "shift our thinking." These transitions allow the play to provide focus on selected subjects, with each scene representing a period of time. When the scenes are evaluated as a whole, the larger picture and message of the play is revealed.

This is also true in our study of 1 Nephi 3. It's one of the longest chapters in The Book of Mormon and can be divided into scenes. Just like a play, these scenes allow specific subjects to be placed before our eyes, with each scene representing a period of time. For 1 Nephi 3, this method of study is beneficial, as the individual scenes come together to create a larger picture or vision of what the Lord is revealing.

This study guide contains only a summary of topics for each scene. They are provided as a quick reference to the general content of each scene. Therefore, you are challenged to further read and study the details of every subject in the chapter. This guide also provides scripture references for each scene's beginning and ending verses.

Generally speaking, 1 Nephi 3 consists of 13 prophetic scenes, representing a period of time from the birth of Christ to the writings of Apostle John in the book of Revelation. As stated by Nephi, we must also consider the book of Revelation as a continuation of the 13th scene. They should be studied together for overall continuity and understanding. The scenes in 1 Nephi 3 help us determine where we are now, how we got here and what lies ahead for this great and marvelous work.

How is a scene defined? A new scene begins when the Spirit or angel says, "**Look.**" At that moment, the prophetic curtain opens, and Nephi often responds with, "**I looked,**" "**I beheld,**" "**I looked and beheld,**" or "**I saw.**" These particular phrases are underlined for emphasis.

Suggested study topics:

1. Study the introductory verses (1 Nephi 3:1-45) before the scenes begin to understand the reasons, explanations and context of Nephi's experience.
2. Study Lehi's vision in 1 Nephi 2. Identify the interpretations of Lehi's vision found in the various scenes, and understand the connection between them.
3. Understand the prophetic and historical events in the chronological sequence of the scenes.
4. Study the book of Revelation and make the connection to 1 Nephi 3.
5. Study 1 Nephi 4 as a follow-up "chapter of explanations," which gives further insight into some important subjects found in 1 Nephi 3.
6. Use a previous study guide from *The Witness*, Number 140, Winter 2011 to enhance your complete study of this chapter.

Scene 1 (v. 46-50): "Spirit said unto me, Look!"

- I looked and beheld a *tree*
- I beheld the Spirit of the Lord in the form of a man

Scene 2 (v. 51-59): "he said unto me, Look!"

- I saw the great city Jerusalem and also other cities
- I beheld the city of Nazareth
- I beheld in the city of Nazareth a virgin
- I saw the heavens open and an angel come down and stood before me
- Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the son of God, after the manner of flesh
- I beheld she was carried away in the Spirit

Scene 3 (v. 60-65): "the angel spake unto me, saying, Look!"

- I beheld the virgin bearing a child in her arms
- Behold the Lamb of God, the Son of the Eternal Father

Scene 4 (v. 66-69): "he said unto me, Look!"

- I beheld the Son of God going forth among the children of men
- I saw many fall down at his feet and worship him
- I beheld the *rod of iron* and the *fountain of living waters*
- I beheld the *tree of life*

Scene 5 (v. 70-79): "the angel said unto me again, Look!"

- I looked and beheld the Redeemer of the world
- I beheld the prophet that should prepare the way before him
- The Lamb of God went forth and was baptized of him
- The heavens open and the Holy Ghost came down out of heaven and abode upon him in the form of a dove
- I beheld that he went forth ministering unto the people in power and great glory
- I beheld that they cast him out from among them
- I also beheld twelve others following him

Scene 6 (v. 80-81): "the angel spake unto me again, saying, Look!"

- I beheld the heavens open again
- I saw angels descending upon the children of men and they did minister unto them
- I beheld the *rod of iron* and the *fountain of living waters*
- I beheld the *tree of life*

Scene 7 (v. 82-85): "he spake unto me again, saying, Look!"

- I beheld the Lamb of God going forth among the children of men
- I beheld multitudes who were sick and afflicted with all manner of diseases, devils and unclean spirits
- They were healed by the power of the Lamb of God and the devils and unclean spirits were cast out

Scene 8 (v. 86-95): "the angel spake unto me again, saying, Look!"

- I beheld the Lamb of God was taken by the people and judged of the world
- I saw he was lifted up upon the cross and slain for the sins of the world
- I saw the multitudes of the earth, gathered together to fight against the apostles of the Lamb
- I beheld they were in a *large and spacious building*
- Behold the world and wisdom thereof
- Behold the house of Israel gathered together to fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb
- The *great and spacious building* is the pride of the world
- And it fell and the fall thereof was exceeding great
- Thus shall be the destruction of all nations, kindreds, and people that shall fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb

Scene 9 (v. 96-117): "the angel said unto me, Look"

- Behold thy seed and the seed of they brethren
- I beheld the land of promise
- I beheld multitudes of people in number as many as the sand of the sea
- I beheld multitudes gathered together in battle, one against another
- I beheld wars, rumors of wars and great slaughters with the sword among my people
- I beheld many generations pass away
- I beheld many cities that I did not number them
- I saw a mist of darkness on the face of the land of promise
- I saw lightnings, heard thunderings and earthquakes, and all manner of tumultuous noises
- I saw the earth and rocks that they rent
- I saw mountains tumbling into pieces
- I saw the plains of the earth, that they were broken up
- I saw many cities, that they were sunk
- I saw many that they were burned with fire
- I saw many that did tumble to the earth, because of the quaking thereof

- I saw the vapor of darkness, that it passed from off the face of the earth
- I saw multitudes who had fallen because of the great and terrible judgments of the Lord
- I saw the heavens open, and the Lamb of God descending out of heaven; and he came down and shewed himself unto them
- I also saw and bear record that the Holy Ghost fell upon twelve others, and they were ordained of God, and chosen
- Behold the twelve disciples of the Lamb
- The ministry of the twelve disciples

Scene 10 (v. 118-134): "the angel said unto me, Look!"

- I looked and beheld three generations pass away in righteousness
- I also saw many of the fourth generation, who passed away in righteousness
- I saw the multitudes of the earth gathered together
- I looked and beheld the people of my seed gathered together in multitudes against the seed of my brethren
- Behold the *fountain of filthy water* which thy father saw; yea, even the *river* of which he spake; and the depths thereof are the depths of hell
- And the *mists of darkness* are the temptations of the devil, which blindeth the eyes, and hardeneth the hearts of the children of men, and leadeth them away into *broad roads*, that they may perish, and are lost
- And the *large and spacious building* which thy father saw is vain imaginations and the pride of the children of men
- And a *great and a terrible gulf* divideth them; yea, even the word of the justice of the eternal God, and the Messiah who is the Lamb of God
- I beheld and saw that the seed of my brethren did contend against my seed
- I beheld that the seed of my brethren did overpower the people of my seed
- I beheld and saw the people of the seed of my brethren, that they had overcome my seed
- I saw them gathered together in multitudes
- I saw wars and rumors of wars among them; and in wars, and rumors of wars, I saw many generations pass away
- I beheld after they had dwindled in unbelief, they became a dark and loathsome, and a filthy people, full of idleness and all manner of abominations

Scene 11 (v. 135-218): "the angel spake unto me, saying, Look!"

- I beheld many nations and kingdoms of the Gentiles
- I saw among the nations of the Gentiles the foundation of a great church

- Behold the foundation of a church, which is most abominable above all other churches
- I beheld this great and abominable church; and I saw the devil that he was the foundation of it
- I also saw gold and silver, and silks, and scarlets, and fine twined linen, and all manner of precious clothing; and I saw many harlots
- I looked and beheld many waters; and they divided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren
- I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles
- I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man and he went forth unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land.
- I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters
- I beheld the wrath of God that it was upon the seed of my brethren; and they were scattered before the Gentiles, and were smitten
- I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles; that they did prosper, and obtain the land for their inheritance
- I beheld that they were white, and exceeding fair and beautiful, like unto my people before they were slain
- I beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord, and the power of the Lord was with them
- I beheld that their mother Gentiles were gathered together upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them
- I beheld that the power of God was with them; and also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together against them to battle
- I beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations
- I beheld that they did prosper in the land
- I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them
- Behold, it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew; and I, Nephi, beheld it
- The book that thou beholdest is a record of the Jews, which contains the covenants of the Lord which he hath made unto the house of Israel
- Thou hast beheld that the book proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew; and when it proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew it contained the plainness of the gospel of the Lord
- And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the foundation of a great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches
- Taking away parts of the gospel and covenants from the record
- Reasons for taking away parts of the gospel and the covenants from the record
- The book, record of the Jews, goes to the nations of the Gentiles
- The Gentiles stumble exceedingly because of the plain and precious things being removed from the record of the Jews
- The Lord will be merciful to the Gentiles because of their stumbling
- The Lord will manifest himself unto the seed of Lehi and they shall write it
- The Lord will bring the gospel to the Gentiles through the record of Lehi's seed (The Book of Mormon)
- I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles, unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren
- I beheld other books which came forth by the power of the Lamb, from the Gentiles unto them, unto the convincing of the Gentiles, and the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the Jews, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true
- All the records will testify of Christ and establish the truth of one another
- Christ will manifest himself to the world (Jews, Gentiles then Gentiles, Jews)
- The believing Gentiles are numbered among the House of Israel
- The call to repentance
- The Lord will work a great and marvelous work to convince everyone one way or another

Scene 12 (v. 219-237): "he said unto me, Look"

- Remembering the covenants of God unto the House of Israel
- There are two churches only. Two choices only. A day of choosing for everyone.
- The dominions of the church of the devil and the church of Christ in the world.
- The Power of God descending on the saints of the church of the Lamb and the covenant people of the Lord
- Nations that belong to the great and abominable church
- Wrath of God is poured out upon the great and abominable church and all nations belonging to it
- Pouring out of the wrath of God is a prophetic trigger causing God to remember again His covenant to the House of Israel

Scene 13 (v. 238-256): "the angel spake unto me, saying, Look!"

- Apostle John will finish the record
- All things sealed will come forth in purity

Winter Retreat 2012



Book of Mormon Internship Renewal 2012

After six weeks of intensive work through study, service, and worship, the members of the internship have become bonded to each other in a special way. It is long enough and intense enough to bring this newly formed group together in a bond of love and servitude.

Members of this unique team learn about each of their fellow interns and a lot about themselves. It is an opportunity for reaching out to each other and, more importantly, to others, with a fresh testimony of how God works in their lives and the validity of the Book of Mormon. The opportunity to be a servant is a growing experience, as well as an important ministry to others. One of the last things we do at the end of the internship is write down what direction we would like to see our lives take, what concerns we would like fellow team members to pray for, and to seek to reach out to someone who appears in need of a friend.

When the internship comes to a close, it leaves a great void in the lives of those so intensely involved. Contacts continue, but it's not the same when you are not joining together daily. In January, the Book of Mormon Foundation sponsors a Book of Mormon Retreat, where a renewal service brings the team back together. At this service, the team addresses what they wrote down and speaks to those items. The group renews their support of prayers and continued efforts to testify of how the Lord has blessed them. It's a renewal of our resolve to take the Book of Mormon to all those who would receive it and testify of the promise it gives for those seeking a relationship with God.

From the Internship, those of like faith have established an opportunity of holding together an alumni of servanthood and a purpose-driven desire to share the Book of Mormon.

Amy Friend

About a week before the Book of Mormon Retreat, I was having some struggles and feeling very frustrated with myself spiritually. I was falling short in several areas that I had been aiming to improve. I had been given so much, and yet I was not being the servant I so desperately wanted to be. I also had not been diligent with keeping my dedicated prayer time in the morning. One day, I began to realize how much I was missing a deep intimacy with my Savior. I felt an emptiness in my heart that I had been trying to fill with other things. I was





also unsure of where exactly I stood with God. Was he as frustrated with me as I was? I was in the kitchen doing chores, and I wondered to myself, “What is the one thing God would say to me if He was speaking with me face to face?” So I asked him. I continued putting away dishes. Then I thought of a recent sermon where God had told someone, “You asked me a question; aren’t you going to wait for the answer?” I knew then that I needed to stop, be still, and give my full attention to God. I went into my room, knelt down, and listened intently. I heard nothing. And then I began to pour my heart out. I cried out to God about what I was feeling, about all of my frustrations and failures. That is when he responded. And you know what he said to me? “My grace is sufficient for you.”

Right after this experience, I felt a nudging that I needed to write down what happened and remember it. I did not really plan on sharing it. The next weekend, during the Book of Mormon retreat, I felt like I needed to share the experience with the interns during our renewal service. So I did. Then, the next morning (Sunday), everyone filtered into the dining hall for our final service. When morning worship began with that scripture on grace, I got goosebumps from God’s coordinating skills. They proceeded to have a discussion about grace that hit the nail on the head. I felt the Lord leading me to share my experience with everyone. When time was given for us to share our testimonies, I was able to volunteer.

We can’t be good enough on our own. To say otherwise would be to forget the sacrifice of Jesus. He died for us, and He is our only hope for salvation. We have to give our whole selves to him in order to receive this gift of redemption. We must give our all to obey his voice. And yet, he said, “if ye should serve him with all your whole soul, yet ye would be unprofitable servants.” (Mosiah 1:54) What he requires from us is our heart and all we have to give. We must keep our repentance fresh. After that, his grace covers us. **His grace is sufficient.**

Jeff Ohmer

One of the things I prayed for toward the end of the internship was to be a stronger witness to people at school and that I would be able to share about the Book of Mormon with at least one person.

This school year, I was able to invite a friend to come to church. He spent the weekend with my family, and I shared with him about the church and gave him a Book of Mormon. He was not the only one. I have been given three or four opportunities to share with people about my beliefs at school. I thank the Lord for those opportunities and for the internship, which taught me techniques on sharing.





Lauren Dillon

I had been looking forward to the retreat for weeks and, when the time came for me to drive back from school, I was antsy with excitement. I had a few errands to run before I left Saint Joseph, where I go to school, and I should have known things were going too smoothly for it to last long. I had a flat tire a few days before, so I figured I would just get it patched at Walmart before the retreat. Unfortunately, they told me they couldn't fix it because it wasn't just one puncture, so I needed to buy a new tire. I hadn't been planning on that being the case, so I wasn't prepared with money to pay for it. I ended up spending money that I didn't have just because I was determined to go to the retreat. When I stopped by my house before heading to the campgrounds, my mom handed me an envelope from my school, and my paycheck from before Christmas break was inside! And wouldn't you know it; the check was for the exact amount of money I needed to cover the deficit in my bank account! God really took care of me that weekend, and He still continues to do so.

Savannah Etter

Early in my teens, I received a memorable testimony of Jesus Christ. Since then, I knew that the next step would be to seek a testimony of our church and the Book of Mormon. I loved going to church camps and feeling God's Spirit, but I desired a reason to know that the Restoration Church was true. I found the answer in the Book of Mormon Internship. I thought that we would be learning completely about the Book of Mormon, but there is so much more! I sat through fascinating classes on many different subjects like prayer, God's Spirit, witnessing, and so much more. But the classes that stood out to me were the classes on the evidences of the Book of Mormon. I learned that there are so many evidences of the Book of Mormon—I learned that there are more evidences of the Book of Mormon than there are of the Bible. One of the classes was called, "Things Joseph Smith Couldn't Have Known." This was especially an eye-opener for me. There were things discussed that even Oliver Cowdery, who was educated, couldn't have known—things that nobody of that time knew. Another class that stood out to me was the class on witnessing. My eyes were opened on the differences between most churches of this day and our own Restoration Gospel. So many scriptures in the Bible support the gospel of repentance, baptism, and enduring to the end. Since then, I have noticed many of my Christian friends striving to live Godly lives, despite their belief that living righteously is not required to be saved. I have come to believe that God is working with people outside of the church, and I have good friends who are Christians whose beliefs are very similar to my own. I certainly hope that my actions and words may be a positive witness of our church. So now, I have a testimony of the Book of Mormon and our church, and I have already been able to share about the Restoration movement with a few in a more knowledgeable way. I am so grateful that I was able to be part of the Book of Mormon Internship last year. It was definitely a pinnacle in my life.

Aaron Thomas

In the summer of 2011, I had the opportunity to be part of the Book of Mormon Internship. I had a lot of doubts about how a group of people, who come from diverse backgrounds in the church, could come together and be one for a few days, much less six weeks. From the very start of the internship, there was an overwhelming sense of unity and brotherhood. All of the classes, programs, and activities were structured in such a way that we were able to continually focus on Christ. About half way through the program, I realized one of the greatest things the internship was doing for



me was enabling me to see my brothers and sisters the way Christ wanted me to see them; not as a part of one organization or viewpoint, but as a gift from God.

When we are all focused on Christ, the little things don't matter anymore. When we strive to serve and follow Him, we are all of one heart and one mind, even if we don't realize it yet. After the internship was over, I began to wonder if the Zion relationship the interns and I shared could stand the test of time.

At the end of January, I had the opportunity to see all of the interns again at the Book of Mormon Retreat. At the renewal service, I became overwhelmed by the sense of love that we had for each other. I cannot wait for the Kingdom of God to come, if that is what it feels like. The biggest thing the Book of Mormon Internship did for me, was give me the tools, the desire, and the support structure necessary to build His kingdom.

Jamie Spencer

I had the opportunity, along with many others, to attend the Book of Mormon Retreat. The weekend was filled with fun times and great fellowship from seeing friends I don't normally see, as well as attending great classes.

Each of the speakers spoke from the heart, giving a bit of themselves through a life story or something they are good at that hits home with its object lesson. I really appreciated their honesty as they shared how to overcome different obstacles and have the Lord's peace with us always.

One of my favorite parts of the weekend was the renewal service with the interns from last year. It was so great to see everyone again, and the fellowship and service we had shared, felt like we'd never left! I realized a couple of things the day of the renewal service. I realized if people truly work together toward a common goal, with the focus on each other and their goal and becoming one heart and one mind, it can really happen! I think it happens, with small groups such as the internship, more frequently than we realize. This weekend gave me hope that Zion can and will be back on earth one day.

