



MUSKOGEE INSTITUTE  
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# JACOB, THE PROPHET

JACOB 1-4





## REVIEW

### 2 NEPHI 31-33

The doctrine of Christ leads to eternal life (2 Nephi 31)

The words of Christ and the Holy Ghost teach us what we should do (2 Nephi 32; 33:1-5)

Those who believe in Jesus Christ will also believe the words of Nephi (2 Nephi 33:3-15)

“The ‘doctrine of Christ’ as taught by Nephi in his grand, summational discourse focuses on faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, repentance, baptism by immersion, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end. ... As used in The Book of Mormon, ‘the doctrine of Christ’ is simple and direct. It focuses on the first principles of the gospel exclusively, including an expression of encouragement to endure, to persist, to press on. Indeed, it is in the clarity and simplicity of ‘the doctrine of Christ’ that its impact is found....

The doctrine of Christ is not complicated. It is profoundly, beautifully, single-mindedly clear and complete.”

Elder Jeffrey R Holland, Christ and the New Covenant: the Messianic Message of The Book of Mormon [1997], 49-50, 56)



# REVIEW



## 2 NEPHI 31-33

"Coming unto Christ is not a single event with a fixed point of beginning or ending; rather, it is a process that develops and deepens during a lifetime.

As an initial step in the process, we certainly must obtain knowledge and learn about Jesus and his life, teachings, and ministry. But truly coming unto Him also requires consistent obedience and striving to become like Jesus in our thoughts, motives, communications, and actions.

As we 'press forward' (2 Ne. 31:20) on the pathway of discipleship, we can draw near unto the Savior with the expectation that He will draw near unto us; we can seek Him diligently with the hope that we shall find Him; we can ask with confidence that we shall receive; and we can knock anticipating that the door shall be opened unto us (D&C 88:63)."

What does it mean to press forward?

President David A. Bednar taught that coming unto Christ requires a lifetime of pressing forward in consistent obedience:

("Because We Have Them before Our Eyes," New Era, Apr. 2006, 2)



# REVIEW

## 2 NEPHI 31-33



"If we don't have the word of God or don't cling to and heed the word of God, we will wander off in strange paths and be lost as individuals, as families, and as nations. As with the voices from the dust, the prophets of the Lord cry out to us on earth today: take hold of the scriptures!

Cling to them, walk by them, live by them, rejoice in them, feast on them. Don't nibble. They are 'the power of God unto salvation' (D&C 68:4) that lead us back to our Savior Jesus Christ.

Elder Robert D. Hales, Conference Report, Oct. 2006, 26-27; or Ensign, Nov. 2006, 26-27



# REVIEW



"If the Savior were among us in the flesh today, He would teach us from the scriptures as He taught when He walked upon the earth. ...His words ring out: 'Search the scriptures; for ...they are they which testify of me (John 5:39)-- a testimony borne by the Holy Ghost, for 'by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things' (Moroni 10:5).



What a glorious blessing! For when we want to speak to God, we pray. And when we want Him to speak to us, we search the scriptures; for His words are spoken through His prophets. He will then teach us as we listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit"

## 2 NEPHI 31-33

What are your personal tips for making scripture study meaningful? What successes have you found in Feasting upon the Words of Christ?

# NEPHI'S MINISTRY

## ENDURE TO THE END & ENDURE IT WELL



Coming unto Christ is not a single event with a fixed point of beginning or ending; rather, it is a process that develops and deepens during a lifetime.

I WILL GO AND DO  
(1 Ne 3:7)

I GLORY IN TRUTH; I GLORY IN JESUS  
(2 Ne 33:6)

I MUST OBEY  
(2 Ne 33:15)

I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.

(1 Ne 3:7)

I glory in plainness; I glory in truth; I glory in Jesus, for he hath redeemed my soul from hell.

(2 Ne 33:6)

For thus hath the Lord commanded me, and I must obey.

(2 Ne 33:15)



From "Verse by Verse: The Book of Mormon" Ogden & Skinner

"Jacob was the elder of Lehi's two sons who were born in the wilderness (1 Ne 18:7). He had endured great hardship and suffered much because of Laman and Lemuel (1 Ne 18:19; 2 Ne 2:1-2). Nevertheless, he was highly favored of God, for he enjoyed the visitation of angels and even saw the Lord (2 Ne 10:3; 11:3). He was truly a kindred spirit with his brother Nephi. He stands as a model for us to follow today.

"55 years after Lehi's colony left Jerusalem, Nephi instructed his brother Jacob (born ca 595BC) to continue inscribing on the small plates of Nephi the things he considered precious-- sacred preachings, prophecies, and revelations. The central theme and purpose of the small plates was to focus on Christ for the sake of God's people."



# 1-TO COME UNTO CHRIST

Vs. 1-4: Passing the stewardship and the kingdom

Vs. 5-8: Jacob's apparent love & tenderness for his people; A watchman for their spiritual welfare

✦ — When have stories in the scriptures provided you some extra perspective and wisdom? — ✦

Have you borne the Savior's cross and endured mistreatment because of the gospel of Jesus Christ, or even because of your calling in the church?

Vs. 19: Magnifying their callings so they would not be held accountable for souls having gone astray due to any neglect on their part.

Can you imagine witnessing this moment? For 55 years, Nephi spent years preparing, inscribing upon, and protecting these and all the plates. Now the time has come for him to pass them into the capable hands of his younger brother, Jacob. As the new steward, Nephi impressed upon Jacob the importance of keeping these plates not for history of their society but for the sacred revelations and teachings which testify of Christ.

Read Vs. 4-10

# HE WILL MAGNIFY YOU

## JACOB 1:19

Just as God called you and will guide you, He will magnify you. You will need that magnification. Your calling will surely bring opposition. You are in the Master's service. You are His representative. Eternal lives depend on you. He faced opposition, and He said that facing opposition would be the lot of those He called.

The forces arrayed against you will try not only to frustrate your work but to bring *you* down. The Apostle Paul described it this way: 'For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world.'

There will be times when you will feel overwhelmed. One of the ways you will be attacked is with the feeling that you are inadequate. Well, you are inadequate to answer a call to represent God with only your own power. But you have access to more than your natural capacities, and you do not work alone.

Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley, April 1989 General Conference



— HE CHOSE YOU —





# 2-SELF GLORIFICATION

## JACOB 2:12-21

At its core, pride is a sin of comparison, for though it usually begins with 'Look how wonderful I am and what great things I have done,' it always seems to end with 'Therefore, I am better than you.'...  
"... This is the sin of 'Thank God I am more special than you.' At its core is the desire to be admired or envied. It is the sin of self-glorification."

Pres. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, October 2010 General Conference

"I pay tribute to all of you, to all who do so much and care so deeply and labor with "the intent to do good." So many are so generous. I know that some of you are struggling to make ends meet in your own lives and still you find something to share. As King Benjamin cautioned his people, it is not intended that we run faster than we have strength and all things should be done in order (Mosiah 4:27). I love you and your Heavenly Father loves you for all you are trying to do."

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, April 1996 General Conference



### "Before Ye Seek for Riches"

Jacob taught, God does not condemn the wealthy for their riches. Instead, any condemnation comes from their pride or misuse of their abundance (Jacob 2:13-14). Some of the people of Nephi chose riches rather than God as the center of their lives. Their search for wealth led them to persecute their brethren rather than assist them.

### Read 17-19

Charity is the answer these Nephites needed. If the Nephites felt love for their brethren and thought of them like they care about their own well-being (vs17), they would not want to elevate themselves above them. Their desire would be to lift them, not persecute them. Without charity for their brethren, their riches became a weapon they used against them, rather than a tool to help them.

What do these verses teach you about charity?

This is why we must seek the kingdom of God before we seek for riches (vs18). Then their hearts will be set right, and they would use their riches to help their brethren (vs19).

The true challenge is to overcome the natural man inside of us and to achieve verse 21, which is to care about others the way the Savior cares about them, to see that "one being is as precious... as the other."

# SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD

What seek ye first? What do you cherish as the dominant, the uppermost thought in your mind? What this is will largely determine your destiny. ...You may win in this world almost anything for which you strive. If you work for wealth, you can get it, but before you make it an end in itself, take a look at those men who have sacrificed all to the accomplishment of this purpose, at those who have desired wealth for the sake of wealth itself. Gold does not corrupt man; it is in the motive of acquiring that gold that corruption occurs”

(President David O. McKay, Treasures of Life (1962), 174-75).

Write a large sum on the board.

What would you do if you had this much money to spend in one day?

What are some of the spiritual dangers that threaten us if we seek wealth more than we seek righteousness?

Why do you think pride and misuse of wealth can lead us to treat others unkindly? How can pride destroy people's souls?

Quote

Video



# 3- JACOB SPEAKS BOLDLY

JACOB 2:22-26, 31-35, 3:1-2

The Lord gives a pretty detailed explanation of his feelings about sexual sins. He knows the sorrow and pain that it causes and he hears the cries of his children and will not tolerate it. There will be a “sore curse, even unto destruction” (v33) if people remain in their immorality.

\*The Lord led his people to the Promised Land and He intends for them to be a “righteous branch” (vs25-26)

“And now a few words to the pure in heart: Even though your hearts have been wounded, ‘lift up your heads’ and ‘look unto God,’ and ‘he will console you’ as you ‘feast upon his love.’ You can do this ‘if your minds are firm.’ Firmness of mind is a heavenly attribute. It may also be described with words such as dependability, reliability, trustworthiness, steadfastness, unwaveringness, soundness, stability, and constancy. The scriptures are clear that the Lord values this divine attribute of firmness.

Verse by Verse: The Book of Mormon, Ogden & Skinner



"Many hearts died, pierced with deep wounds"

Vs 35 says they need to stop believing they are better than the Lamanites and being puffed up in pride because even the Lamanites know better

Note: polygamy is not prevalent in the church today, but pornography is rampant. Throughout the many talks which leaders give, they refer to Jacob's teachings in these chapters.



# TEACH BY EXAMPLE

JACOB 3:10



"I think some parents may not understand that even when they feel secure in their own minds regarding matters of personal testimony, they can nevertheless make that faith too difficult for their children to detect. We can be reasonable active, meeting-going Latter-day Saints, but if we do not live lives of gospel integrity and convey to our children powerful, heartfelt convictions regarding the truthfulness of the Restoration and the divine guidance of the Church from the First Vision to this very hour, then those children may, to our regret but not surprise, turn out not to be visibly active, meeting-going Latter-day Saints or sometimes anything close to it...

To lead a child (or anyone else!), even inadvertently, away from faithfulness, away from loyalty and bedrock belief simply because we want to be clever or independent is license no parent nor any other person has ever been given.

Live the gospel as conspicuously as you can. Keep the covenants your children know you have made. Give priesthood blessings. And bear your testimony! Don't just assume your children will somehow get the drift of your beliefs on their own."

(Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, Conference Report, April 2003, 91-92; Ensign, May 2003, 86)

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# RISE ABOVE YOUR TRIALS

## JACOB 3:3-11

"Doubt is spiritual poison. Questioning is fine; by asking questions we get answers (though not all answers, just what the Lord, in his wisdom, allows for now). But doubt is the opposite of what we need: faith. There is a powerful scriptural concept here: being firm of mind (Jacob 3:2; Moroni 7:30). Mormon wrote about 'doubting nothing.' He said, 'Doubt not, but be believing' (Mormon 9:21, 27). And the Lord added, 'Look unto me in every thought; doubt not' (D&C 6:36). We all have to grow firmer and firmer in the faith, nothing doubting.

Verse by Verse: The Book of Mormon, Ogden & Skinner



Jacob remained tender and thoughtful of those who suffered at the expense of loved ones who would not follow the Lord's commandments. (Tenderness from his own trials with a tumultuous family)

He reminded the wounded and weary in heart that even though things were difficult, difficult enough that it would cause them to struggle in Spirit, they Must Not Doubt.

# 4-GOD KNOWS BEST

JACOB 4:9-10



Sometimes you may feel to complain to the Lord about a challenge that has come into your life through no fault of your own. Jacob taught, “Seek not to counsel the Lord, but to take counsel from his hand. For behold, ye yourselves know that he counseleth in wisdom, and in justice, and in great mercy, over all his works” (Jacob 4:10).

God knows what is best for us. Although we may not understand why we experience some things now, in His timetable we will know and be grateful.

Elder Richard G. Scott, October 1999 General Conference



# SEEK NOT TO COUNSEL THE LORD JACOB 4:10-11



“Now I do not think that many members of the Church consciously urge the persuasions of men or their own counsel instead of heeding the Lord’s. However, when we do not keep ourselves advised as to what the counsel of the Lord is, we are prone to substitute our own counsel for His. As a matter of fact, there is nothing else we can do but follow our own counsel when we do not know the Lord’s instructions”

(Marion G. Romney, “Seek not to Counsel the Lord,” Ensign, Aug. 1985, 5)