



## 14. Nephi's Discourse 3 2 Nephi 25–30

“And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins.” (2 Nephi 25:26)

### Hymn 134, “I Believe in Christ” (vv. 1 and 3)

I believe in Christ; he is my King!  
With all my heart to him I'll sing;  
I'll raise my voice in praise and joy,  
In grand amens my tongue employ.  
I believe in Christ; he is God's Son.  
On earth to dwell his soul did come.  
He healed the sick; the dead he raised.  
Good works were his; his name be praised.

I believe in Christ—my Lord, my God!  
My feet he plants on gospel sod.  
I'll worship him with all my might;  
He is the source of truth and light.  
I believe in Christ; he ransoms me.  
From Satan's grasp he sets me free,  
And I shall live with joy and love

in his eternal courts above. (2 Nephi Discourse 3 (2 Nephi 25-30))

2

## Nephi Explains Isaiah's Prophecies

- Nephi's commentary on Isaiah and keys to understanding his prophecies (25:1–8)
- **Message to the Jews** (25:9–20)
- **Message to Lehi's Descendants** (25:21–26:11)
- **Message to the Gentiles and the Latter-days** (26:12–30:18)
  - Christ and the Gentiles (26:12–13)
  - Gentiles Scatter Lehi's Descendants, Their Wickedness (26:14–22)
  - The Lord's Invitation (26:23–33)
  - Apostasy and Restoration (27:1–35)
  - The Last Days and Satan's Success (28:1–32)
  - The Book of Mormon and Other Scripture (29:1–14)
  - Israel Gathered (30:1–18)
- ***In the explanatory section of his discourse, he applies the prophecies of Isaiah first to the Jews, then to the descendants of Lehi, and then to all nations in the latter-days.***
  - *This closely follows the order of "history" in the Apocalypse of Nephi (1 Nephi 11-14—and the order of your Isaiah analyses!)*

10/17/2005

14. Nephi Discourse 3 (2 Nephi 25-30)

3

## Nephi's Keys to Understanding Isaiah

Welch and Welch, chart 84 (packet)

- Understand the manner of prophesying among the Jews (25:1)
- Do not be guilty of "abominations" and "works of darkness" (25:2; conversely, be righteous!)
- Be filled with the spirit of prophecy
  - "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Revelation 19:10)
- Be familiar with the regions about Jerusalem (geography, culture, history; 25:6)
- Live in the days that the prophecies are fulfilled (25:7)

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4

## Message to the Jews (25:9–20)

- First Scattering and Gathering (25:9–11)
- First Mission of Christ (25:12–13)
- Rejection of Christ and the Second Scattering (25:14–16)
- Acceptance of Christ and the Second Gathering (25:17–20; see Isaiah 11:11, 29:14)

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14. Nephi Discourse 3 (2 Nephi 25-30)

5

## Again, the Name-Title of Christ

- “. . . and according to the words of the prophets, and also the word of the angel of God, *his name shall be Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*” (25:19)
- **The angel of God**
  - Is Nephi referring to Jacob’s experience when an angel told him that the Redeemer would be called “Christ?”
  - Did Nephi himself have an experience where an angel told him that the Messiah would be called “Jesus Christ, the Son of God?”
- **The name**
  - *Yeshua Mashiah be El* or something to that effect in Hebrew and presumably on the plates (albeit in “reformed Egyptian” characters)
  - Or did the Nephites come up with a new variant to suggest this more New Testament understanding of the Messiah which Joseph translated in our familiar form?
- **What does this suggest about the importance and revelatory potential of studying, pondering, and praying about the words of Isaiah?**
  - *Both Nephite prophets had clarifying revelations about Jesus Christ as a result!*

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6

## Christ and the Book of Mormon (25:20–23)

### Message to Lehi's Descendants

- **Moses and the Brazen Serpent** (25:20)
  - Should have taught that there was none other besides Christ who could save!
  - “. . . **There is none other name given under heaven save it be this Jesus Christ, of which I have spoken, whereby man can be saved**”
- “Where **for this cause** hath the Lord promised unto me that these things which I write shall be kept and preserved . . .” (25:21)
- Nephite prophets write to bring people to Christ
  - “We labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and our children, to believe in Christ and to be **reconciled** to God . . .” (25:23a)
  - “. . . for we know that it is **by grace** that we are saved, after all we can do” (25:23b)
  - **Reconciliation** and **grace**, the two principles that Jacob taught at the end of his discourse (10:24)

10/17/2005

14. Nephi Discourse 3 (2 Nephi 25-30)

7

## “It Is by Grace That We Are Saved *After All We Can Do*” (25:23b)

- Redemption from sin is sometimes termed “conditional grace” because it requires faith and repentance, but it is still an amazing gift!
  - **President Packer's Debtor Model**
    - a man owes a debt he cannot pay, a friend intercedes and pays the debt for him, imposing a few requirements in return (representing the principles and ordinances of the gospel)
  - **Brother Robinson's “Parable of the Bicycle” (packet)**
    - a young daughter does everything she can to save for a new bicycle but falls ridiculously short of having enough money; her father takes what she has, pays the large difference, and asks “for a hug and a kiss” in return (representing the love and faith we offer the Savior in return)
  - **Brother Huntsman's “Come and Get a Free Gift”**
    - A friend has a gift of a large check, which he has waiting for you but you need to come and get it (in other words, you need to put yourself in a position to receive it)

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8

## The Graces of Gifts of Christ

- **Resurrection**
  - Free gift to all
- **Redemption from Sin**
  - After faith in Christ and repentance (consider Packer, Robinson, and Huntsman models again)
- **“Strengthening and Enabling Power”**
  - “It is likewise through the grace of the Lord that individuals, **through faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ and repentance of their sins**, receive **strength and assistance to do good works that they otherwise would not be able to maintain if left to their own means**. This grace is an enabling power that allows men and women to lay hold on eternal life and exaltation after they have expended their own best efforts” (Bible Dictionary, 397; see Elder Bednar’s talk, “In the Strength of the Lord”)
- Healing (see Alma 7 later)

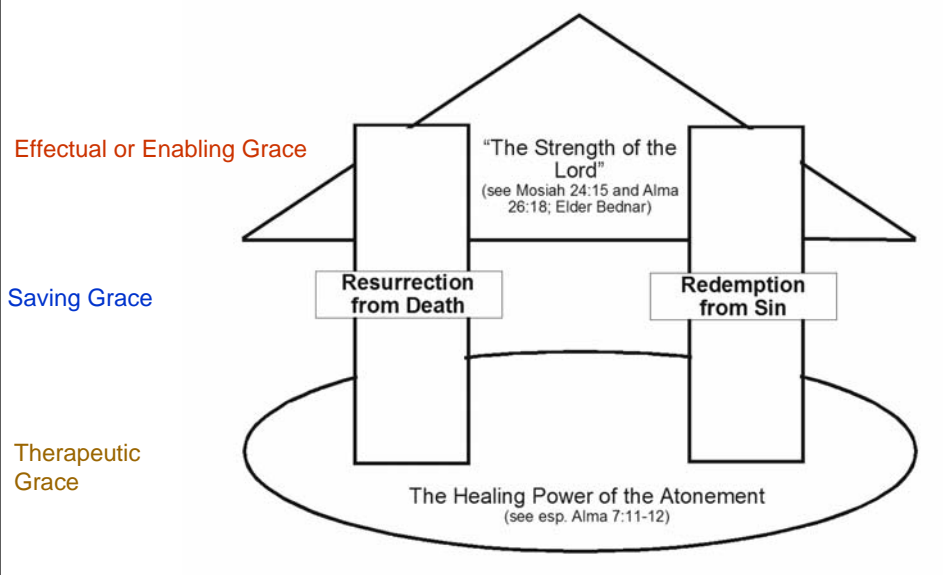
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14. Nephi Discourse 3 (2 Nephi 25-30)

9

## The Atonement and Grace

The Healing, Redeeming, and Enabling Power of Christ



## Christ and the Law of Moses (25:24–30)

### Message to Lehi's Descendants

- “And, notwithstanding we believe in Christ, we keep the law of Moses, and look forward with steadfastness unto Christ, until the law shall be fulfilled . . . **And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins.**” (25:24, 26)
  - “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster (*paidagogos*, slave who led a child to school) to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:24-26)

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11

## Christ and the Nephites (26:1–11)

### Message to Lehi's Descendants

- **Despite Nephi's teachings and writings, many of his descendants would not accept the Savior of the signs of his birth and death**
- Nephi's lament (26:7)
  - **“O the pain, and the anguish of my soul for the loss of the slain of my people!** For I, Nephi, have seen it, and it well nigh consumeth me before the presence of the Lord; but I must cry unto my God: Thy ways are just.”
- Christ's ministry to the Nephites would result in only a temporary “millennial” period
  - “. . .they sell themselves for naught; for, for the reward of their pride and their foolishness they shall reap destruction . . .” (26:10)

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12

## The Gentiles

### Message to the Gentiles and the Latter-days

- Christ and the Gentiles (26:12–13)
  - Just as the Jews must be convinced “that Jesus is the very Christ,” so must the Gentiles
  - Rather than a physical ministry, to the Gentiles *Christ “manifesteth himself unto all those who believe in him, by the power of the Holy Ghost”* (26:13)
- Scattering of the Descendants of Lehi by the Gentiles (26:14–19; Midrash on Isaiah 29:3–5)
  - **Midrash**: “explanation or exposition of the underlying significance of a text,” usually by **quoting a verse or parts of verses and then expanding upon their meaning**
  - *Nephi’s descendants will be smitten and scattered, but their words will be preserved*
- Wickedness of the Gentiles (26:20–22)
  - *After scattering the Lehites, the Gentiles will be lifted up in pride and suffer from wickedness*
    - *False churches, false trust in learning, social injustice, secret combinations . . .*

10/17/2005

14. Nephi Discourse 3 (2 Nephi 25-30)

13

## The Lord Does Not Work in Darkness

### His Commandments and Invitation (26:23–33)

- “I say unto you that the Lord God worketh not in darkness. *He doeth not anything save it be for the benefit of the world; for he loveth the world, even that he layeth down his own life that he may draw all men unto him.* Wherefore, he commandeth none that they shall not partake of his salvation.” (26:23–24)
- What does he command?
  - Does not command that any depart or not partake of salvation
  - Does command that men should not
    - **Practice priestcraft** (26:29 defines as preaching to set oneself up as a light and to get gain and praise)
    - **Murder, steal, take the Lord’s name in vain, envy, commit whoredoms, etc.** (26:32)
- What invitation does he give?
  - *“he inviteth . . . all to come unto him and partake of his goodness; and he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; and he remembereth the heathen; and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile.”*

10/17/2005

14. Nephi Discourse 3 (2 Nephi 25-30)

14

## Apostasy and Restoration (27:1–35)

### Message to the Gentiles and the Latter-days

- Darkness for Those Who Fight Against Zion (27:1–5; Midrash on Isaiah 29:6–10)
- A Sealed Book (27:6–23; Midrash on Isaiah 29:1–12, words of Isaiah in *italics*)
  - “And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall bring forth unto you *the words of a book*, and they shall be the words of them which have slumbered. And behold the book *shall be sealed*; and in the book shall be a revelation from God, from the beginning of the world to the ending thereof.” (27:6-7)
  - “But the book shall be delivered unto a man, and he shall *deliver* the words of the book, which are the words of those who have slumbered in the dust, and he shall deliver these words unto another; But the words which are sealed he shall not deliver, neither shall he deliver the book. . . .” (27:9-10)
  - “Take these words which are not sealed and deliver them to another, that he may show them *unto the learned, saying: Read this, I pray thee*. And the learned *shall say*: Bring hither the book, and I will read them. And the man shall say: *I cannot bring the book, for it is sealed*. Then shall the learned say: I cannot read it.” (27:15b, 17-18)
    - Fulfilled with Martin Harris and the Charles Anton experience!
    - *How else can the words of the Lord be sealed?*
- Isaiah 29:13–24 (27:13–35): The Lord Knows Man’s Works and Will Judge Them

10/17/2005

14. Nephi Discourse 3 (2 Nephi 25-30)

15

## The Last Days and Satan’s Success (28:1–32)

### Message to the Gentiles and the Latter-days

- False Churches (28:1–14)
  - Deny power of God
  - Deny miracles
  - “Eat, drink, and be merry . . .” (don’t forget to dig a pit for your neighbor!)
  - Persecutions
  - Pride and sexual immorality
- Pride (28:15–18)
  - *Not just within false churches*
  - The wise and the learned singled out . . .
- Satan rages, misleads, and destroys (28:19–23)
  - Pacifies and lulls into “carnal security”
  - “All is well in Zion!” (28:24-25)
- Woes and judgments pronounced (28:24–32)

10/17/2005

14. Nephi Discourse 3 (2 Nephi 25-30)

16

## The Book of Mormon and Other Scripture (29:1–14)

Thou fool, that shall say: A Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible. Have ye obtained a Bible save it were by the Jews? . . . Know ye not that there are more nations than one? **Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men**, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above and in the earth beneath; and I **bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth?** . . . For I command all men, both in the east and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the islands of the sea, that they shall write the words which I speak unto them; for out of the books which shall be written I will judge the world, every man according to their works, according to that which is written.” (29:5-6, 11)

And it shall come to pass that **the Jews shall have the words of the Nephites**, and **the Nephites shall have the words of the Jews**; and the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the lost tribes of Israel; and the lost tribes of Israel shall have the words of the Nephites and the Jews.  
(29:13)

10/17/2005

14. Nephi Discourse 3 (2 Nephi 25-30)

17

## Israel Gathered (30:1–18)

- Jews and Gentiles Gathered through Christ (30:1–8)
  - “. . . **as many of the Gentiles as will repent are the covenant people of the Lord**; and **as many of the Jews as will not repent shall be cast off**; for the Lord covenanteth with none save it be with them that repent and believe in his Son, who is the Holy One of Israel.” (30:2)
- The Messianic Age (30:9–15 = Isaiah 11:4–9)
- All things will be made known (30:16–18)
  - “There is nothing which is secret save it shall be revealed; there is no work of darkness save it shall be made manifest in the light . . . all things which have been revealed unto the children of men shall at that day be revealed; and Satan shall have power over the hearts of the children of men no more, for a long time” (30:17–28)

10/17/2005

14. Nephi Discourse 3 (2 Nephi 25-30)

18