

UNIT 2 REVIEW

Rel 121: Introduction to the Book of Mormon 1

(10/18/06, from lectures 9–15 for Quiz 2 and in preparation for Exam 2)

For **identifications**, review the terms below for passive recognition. Make sure that you cannot only identify the person, term, or event, but be able to explain why it is important to the gospel text.

When preparing for **scripture commentary**, be able to explain the original context of the passage (author and situation, not necessarily chapter and verse), and address basic historical questions (when and why was this text written, how did the information in it—from the original source, to the author, through editors and translators—get to us?), literary questions (what kind of writing is the passage, how does it fit into its larger context, and what are its literary aims?), and theological questions (what principles or doctrines does this passage illustrate or teach, and, just as importantly, how does it engage and affect the reader?).

On **essays** (and, to a lesser extent, for the **short answers** on quizzes), try to respond to the question as completely as possible. Begin with a sentence or two for a thesis and then organize it into short paragraphs of three or four sentences for ease of organization and grading (short answers will consist of only four or five sentences or perhaps, in some cases just a list or chart).

Course Objectives

- Increase the student’s knowledge of the Book of Mormon: familiarize him or her with the basic storylines, characters, and concepts in this book of scripture
- Help the student read, discuss, and write about the Book of Mormon as both a source of scriptural knowledge and as a sacred text: become familiar with the process of closely reading and analyzing a scriptural text (the how, what, and why of a selection of text)
- Strengthen individual testimonies of sacred truths, particularly of Jesus Christ and the doctrines of the Restoration.

Names and Terms

TITLE PAGE PURPOSES

Show the great things the Lord did for their (our) fathers

Know the Covenants of the Lord

Convince Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God

AUTHORS AND SOURCES

“Book proceeding forth from the mouth of a Jew”

- Old Testament
- New Testament

Brass Plates and their contents

- Zenos, Zenock, and Neum (clear prophecies)
- Isaiah (symbolic prophecies)

Jacob

- Discourse at the Temple

Lehi

- Record of Lehi
- Final Teachings of

Mormon, Plates of (abridgment)

Nephi

- Large Plates of Nephi

- Small Plates of Nephi
 - › Discourse and Final Teachings of

Reading Strategies

Ask questions, careful reading, prayerful pondering, consider scholarly contributions, pray and ponder again

Read in sections

- avoid proof texting
- pericopes
- structural analyses

Understanding a Text (see graphic on last page)

- hermeneutics
 - › understanding the meaning *then* and the meaning *now*
- establishing the text
 - › autographs or original texts do not survive
- translation
 - › understanding the meaning of the words themselves
- exegesis
 - › properly understanding the *original* meaning
 - › historical questions
 - › literary questions
 - › theological questions
- exposition
 - › understanding the meaning to *current* audiences
 - › “applying the scriptures to ourselves” (see 1 Nephi 19:23)

GENRES

Narratives – “Telling a Story”

- introductions
- transition and summary reports
- editorial digressions and explanations
 - e.g., discussions about plates and records, “and thus we see” passages
- historical narratives

- vision or dream reports
- miracle stories

Discourses – “quotations,” connected speech

- Parables and Allegories
- Some Prayers
- exhortations and fatherly admonition
- midrash (sermons or discourses
 - quoting and explaining scriptural texts; see 2 Nephi 25–30)
- paraphrases, short quotations
- sermons (oral discourses)
- treatises (written discourses)

Dramatic Episodes

- apocalypse

Poetry

- laments
- psalms (esp. praise songs)
- hymns
- prophecies “after the manner of the Jews”
- Some Prayers

PRINCIPLES

Atonement

- healing power of
- saving power of
 - “twin pillars of”
- strengthening and enabling power of

Christ

- name of revealed in the Book of Mormon
- “Old Testament Expectation” versus “New Testament Understanding” of the Messiah

Death (working definition: “separation”)

- temporal/physical
- spiritual

Doctrine

- “official doctrine of the church today,” working definition of
- gospel doctrines

Doctrine of Christ

- faith in Christ, repentance, baptism (the strait gate), gift of the Holy Ghost, and “pressing forward in Christ”

Gathering and Scattering of Israel

- spiritual
- physical/temporal
- of peoples (corporate), of individuals

Gift of the Holy Ghost

- gifts of the Holy Ghost
- sanctification and baptism by fire

Gospel of Christ

- cf. Christology, “the person and work of Jesus”
- definition: see 3 Nephi 27:13–15
- fulness of in the Book of Mormon (see Plan of Salvation below)

Grace

- see powers of the atonement above and cf. healing, saving, and therapeutic grace
- models of: debtor, parable of the bicycle, “come and get a free gift”

Judgment

Lineages

- Importance and symbolism of
- Judah > David > Messiah
- Levi > Moses
- Joseph
 - o Manasseh > Lehi
 - o Ephraim > Joseph Smith

Opposition

- necessary in all things
- provides opportunity “to act”

Plan of Salvation, components of

- creation
- fall
- redemption from sin
- resurrection from death
- judgment

Pride

- “primary sin of the Book of Mormon”
 - o in a sense the ultimate idolotary

- in riches, wealth
- in learning, man’s knowledge

COVENANTS

Horizontal

Vertical

- with individuals
- with people and nations

Group covenants

- [Noah covenant]
- Abrahamic covenant
- Deuteronomic covenant
- [Davidic covenant]
- Joseph covenants
- Lehi covenant

Individual covenants

- Baptismal
- [Oath and Covenant of the Priesthood: D&C 84:33–40]
- [Temple endowment covenants]
- [Sealing covenants]

Oaths

Priesthood or God-initiated covenants

- ordinances often symbols of

IMPORTANT FIGURES AND CHARACTERS

Abraham

Choice Seer

Comforter

David

Ephraim

Immanuel

Ishmael, sons of

Jacob, son of Isaac (Israel)

Jacob, son of Lehi

Jehovah = God of Israel = premortal Christ

[Jesse, father of David]

Joseph, son of Jacob (in Egypt)

Joseph, son of Lehi

Joseph Smith, Jr., son of Joseph Smith, Sr.

Judah

Laman

- Lehi
 Lemuel
 Levi
 Manasseh
 Moses
 Nephi¹
 Nephi, sisters of
 Rod and Root of Jesse
 Sam
 Stem and Branch of Jesse
 Suffering Servant
 Zoram
- Isaiah in the Book of Mormon
 Isaiah, formula quotation pattern of
 - introduction
 - quotation
 - explanation
 Isaiah, interpretive approach towards
 - acceptance or rejection of the Holy One of Israel
 - making or breaking covenants
 - gathering and scattering
 Isaiah, Nephi's five keys for understanding
 Isaiah, application of
 - original context (Jews and ancient Israel)
 - Lehi's descendants
 - latter-day/final
- Some Significant Pericopes
 - And Impenitent Nation yet God's Faithfulness to Israel (7:1–3)
 - The Servant's Song (7:4–9)
 - The Mountain of the Lord's House (12:1–4)
 - Judgments against the Leaders of Judah (13:1–15)
 - Judgments against the Daughters of Zion (13:16–14:1)
 - Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard (15:1–7)
 - Isaiah's First Vision (16:1–13)
- Sign of Shearjeshub (17:1–9)
 - Birth of Immanuel as a Sign (17:10–15)
 - Sign of Maher-shalal-hashbaz (18:1–4)
 - Promise of the Prince of Peace (19:1–7)
 - Judah's Enemy (Assyria) Is the Lord's Instrument (20:5–11)
 - In the End Assyria, Too, Will Be Judged (20:12–19)
 - The Rod of the Stem of Jesse (21:1–5)
 - Conditions during the Millennium under Messiah's Rule (21:6–10)
 - God Is Israel's Salvation (22:1–6)
 - Prophecy against Babylon (23:1–22)
 - Fall of Gentile kingdoms (24:4–31)
- TERMS AND EXPRESSIONS
 abridgment
 “all things must needs be a compound in one”
 apostolic witness
 “beholding his glory”
 carnal security
 “Christ,” as name-title
 condescension
 “ends of the law”
 enduring to the end
 Eternal Life
 Fall
 false churches
 feasting on the word
 gathering
 Gentiles
 immortality
 Israel
 - ethnic
 - spiritual
 “Jesus Christ, the Son of God,” as name-title
 justification, being justified
 law
 Lamanites

Law of Moses
 mediator, Great Mediator
 Messiah
 metaphor
 midrash
 mortality
 Mountain of the Lord's house
 Nephites
 patriarchal blessing
 - lineage, blessings, cautions and admonitions
 perfect brightness of hope
 "Press forward with steadfastness of Christ . . ."
 poetic use of language, purpose of pride
 probation, probationary estate
 Psalm of Nephi
 priests and teachers
 redemption
 resurrection
 Servant's Song
 "Shall the axe boast itself against him the heweth therewith?"
 social injustice
 spirit of prophecy
 sword of Laban
 temple
 testimony of Jesus
 tongues of angels
words of Christ

EVENTS

Lehi's final teachings
 Nephi's reflection
 Psalm of Nephi
 division of the descendants of Lehi
 Jacob's Discourse
 Nephi's Discourse
 Nephi's final teachings

PLACES

Assyria
 Babylon
 Galilee
 Israel, Kingdom of (Ephraim, Samaria)
 Jerusalem
 Judah, Kingdom of
 Land of First Inheritance
 Nephi, Land of
 Promised Land
 Syria (Damascus)

SYMBOLS

Assyria = ?
 Babylon = ?
 baptism, symbolism of
 beautiful garments
 branch, growing over the wall
 branches, decaying
 brazen serpent
 captivity/bondage
 chains
 Daughters of Zion
 ensign
 fruit
 fruitful bough
 gathering = resurrection (in 2 Nephi 9)
 liberation/forgiveness
 Lucifer (in Isaiah, symbolizes two figures)
 Maher-shalal-hash-baz
 returning remnant
 "rod of my anger"
 roots
 scattering = death (in 2 Nephi 9)
 sealed book
 servant
 Shearjashub
 sleep
 Tree of Life
 unfruitful vineyard
 Zion

Structures

2 Nephi

Lehi's final teachings (1:1-4:12)

Historical and Biographical Material

Nephi's reflection (4:13-35)

The Psalm of Nephi (4:17-35)

Division of the Descendants of Lehi (5:1-26)

The Small Plates of Nephi (5:29-34)

Jacob's Discourse (6:1-10:25)

Jacob's quotation of Isaiah 50-52

Nephi's Discourse (11:8-30:18)

Nephi's quotation of Isaiah 2-14

Nephi teaches from Isaiah

Nephi's final teachings: The Doctrine of Christ (31:1-33:15)

Notable Passages

Review the list in the packet up for 2 Nephi 1–33

(Be able to identify the original context of the passage—author, situation, and how we got the text—as well as its meaning, and its importance for individual application today)

Larger Issues, Potential Short Answer or Essay Questions

- In Lehi's final teachings, he prophesied about the destiny of the promised land. What were the blessings and warnings for his descendants? How do they apply to us today?
- What did Lehi mean when he exhorted his sons to "arise from the dust and be men?" What are the qualities of true man and womanhood, and how can we apply this injunction to our own lives?
- Lehi and Nephi both spoke of "being encircled about in the arms of God's love." What did they mean by this, and in what kind of situations can we have similar experiences?
- In what ways is there "opposition in all things?" Why is this essential for God's plan?
- Describe the pre-fall conditions of Adam and Eve and then compare them with those that obtained after that Fall. Why was the Fall necessary?
- What makes us free to "choose liberty and eternal life?" What must we do to make this choice?
- Discuss the prophecies of Joseph, son of Jacob, which he made concerning his descendants. How did they apply to the descendants of Lehi? How do they apply to us?
- Describe the Psalm of Nephi. What is surprising about this poetic interlude. Why was Nephi inspired to include it?
- What was Jacob's authority for teaching the People of Nephi in his Discourse? What were his reasons? Why does he included two chapters of Isaiah?

- How does Jacob relate the Isaiah passages on the scattering and gathering of Israel to the individual application of the Atonement in the lives of his people and in our lives?
- Discuss Jacob's final plea to his brethren: "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, reconcile yourselves to the will of God, and not to the will of the devil and the flesh; and remember, after ye are reconciled unto God, that it is only in and through the grace of God that ye are saved." (2:24) What is the role of grace in our experience of the Atonement?
- Describe the powers of the Atonement or "graces of Christ."
- Compare and contrast Jacob's Discourse and that of Nephi.
- Who, according to Nephi, were the great witnesses of Christ? Why does he use their words?
- Why does Nephi love and use the words of Isaiah in his teaching and writing?
- Discuss how the Isaiah passages illustrate the scattering and gathering of Israel, both spiritually and temporally, as well as the results of breaking or keeping covenants. What are some of the causes and results of this scattering and gathering?
- According to 2 Nephi 25, what are some of Nephi's keys to understanding Isaiah?
- In 2 Nephi 25–30, what are the different ways that Nephi applies the prophecies of Isaiah (i.e., to what groups and in what time periods)?
- Looking briefly at the history of the Jews, what are the patterns and causes of their scattering and gathering?
- In 2 Nephi 29 the Lord, through Nephi, explains why there are two sets of scriptures that will come forth and actually prepares us for many more. What are the basic principles at work here?
- What is doctrine? What is the Doctrine of Christ? What does Nephi teach about baptism being the strait gate and what must be done afterwards?
- Discuss the significance of Nephi's final teaching regarding "the words of Christ." What does it mean to speak with the tongues of angels? How can we know that Nephi's writings contain the words of Christ?

The Atonement and Grace

The Healing, Redeeming, and Enabling Power of Christ

