

UNIT 2 REVIEW

Rel 121: Introduction to the Book of Mormon 1

(10/28/05, from lectures 9–18, 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 Enos

Omni

Amaron (*not* Ammaron of 4 Ne 1:47, Mormon 1:2–4)

[Chemish]

[Abinadom]

Amaleki

Mormon

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

- 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
- historical scenes (e.g., Jacob’s encounter with Sherem)

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

Chastity

- working two-fold definition 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
 - Manasseh > Lehi
 - 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”
 - in a sense the ultimate idolatry
- 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

Amaleki

Amaron

Benjamin

Choice Seer
 Comforter
 David
 Enos
 Ephraim
 Immanuel
 Ishmael, sons of
 Jacob, son of Isaac (Israel)
 Jacob, son of Lehi
 Jarom
 Jehovah = God of Israel = premortal Christ
 [Jesse, father of David]
 Joseph, son of Jacob (in Egypt)
 Joseph, son of Lehi
 Joseph Smith, son of Joseph Smith, Sr.
 Judah
 Laman
 Lehi
 Lemuel
 Levi
 Manasseh
 Moses
 Mosiah¹ (Mosiah the elder)
 Mulek
 Nephi¹
 Nephi, sisters of
 Omni
 Rod and Root of Jesse
 Sam
 Sherem
 Stem and Branch of Jesse
 Suffering Servant
 Zarahemla
 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
adieu
 "all things must needs be a compound in one"
 anti-Christ

- two meanings of "anti"

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 vs. Christ (OT vs. NT understanding)
 metaphor
 midrash
 mortality
 Mountain of the Lord’s house
 Nephites
 patriarchal blessing

- lineage, blessings, cautions and admonitions

 People of Zarahemla (“Mulekites”)
 perfect brightness of hope
 plural marriage, unauthorized
 “Press forward with steadfastness of Christ . . .”
 poetic use of language, purpose of
 pride
 probation, probationary estate
 Psalm of Nephi
 priests and teachers

redemption
 resurrection
 seer
 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
 Verification

- of the Lords’ promises (sc. Jarom)
- of the Lord’s warnings (sc. Omni)

 whoredoms
words of Christ

EVENTS

apostasy

- Jewish
- Christian

 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
 Jacob’s Sermon at the Temple
 Jacob’s Discourse on God and Israel

- Allegory of the Olive Tree

 Enos’ wrestle and conversion
 prosperity (Book of Jarmon) followed by collapse (Book of Omni) of the Nephites in the Land of Nephi
 wars with the Lamanites
 flight of Mosiah¹ and the righteous
 discovery of the People of Zarahemla
 reign of Benjamin
 Millennium, prophecies about

PLACES

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

SYMBOLS

Assyria = ?
 Babylon = ?
 baptism, symbolism of
 beautiful garments
 branch, growing over the wall
 branches, decaying
 brazen serpent
 captivity/bondage
 chains
 Daughters of Zion
 ensign

fruitful bough
 gathering = resurrection (in 2 Nephi 9)
 liberation/forgiveness
 Lucifer (in Isaiah, symbolizes two figures)
 Maher-shalal-hash-baz
 Master of the Vineyard
 olive tree, allegory of
 - tame olive tree
 - wild olive tree
 - roots
 - fruit
 - transplanting and grafting branches
 - “long time(s)”
 returning remnant
 “rod of my anger”
 roots
 scattering = death (in 2 Nephi 9)
 sealed book
 servant
 Shearjashub
 sleep
 “speaking with the tongues of angels”
 Tree of Life
 unfruitful vineyard
 Zion

Structures2 Nephi

Lehi’s final teachings (1:1–4:12; creation–fall–redemption; lineages; the latter-day work)

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, sermon; God’s covenants with Israel; the role of the Messiah)

Jacob’s quotation of Isaiah 50–52

Nephi’s Discourse (11:8–30:18, treatise)

Nephi’s quotation of Isaiah 2–14 (proving the coming of Christ, illustrating the covenants made to the fathers; gathering and scattering, their causes, etc.)

Nephi teaches from Isaiah (messages to the Jews, descendants of Lehi, and the latter-days)

Nephi’s final teachings (31:1–33:15; The Doctrine of Christ, guidance of the spirit, the words of Christ and Nephi’s farewell)

Jacob**Introductory chapter** (1:1–19)**Sermon at the Temple** (2:1–3:14; dangers of pride and riches; the sin of sexual immorality)**Discourse on God’s relationship with Israel** (4:1–6:13)

Introduction: Prophets and Prophecy (4:4–18)

Quotation: Zenos’ Allegory of the Olive Tree (5:1–77)

Interpretation: Jacob’s Meditation on Zenos’ Allegory (6:1–13)

Encounter with Sherem (7:1–23)**Struggles with the Lamanites** (7:24–25)**Jacob’s farewell** (7:16–27)Enos

Enos’ Conversion (narrative, 1:2–8)

The Results of Enos’ Conversion (1:9–18)

Nephite and Lamanite struggles (1:19–24)

Enos’ farewell (direct address, 1:25–27)

Jarom

Jarom’s Introduction (1:1–2)

Precarious Nephite Prosperity (1:3–12)

Historical Summary (1:13)

Continuity of Record-keeping (1:14–15)

Omni

Record of Omni (1:1–3)

“I of myself am a wicked man . . .”

Warfare with the Lamanites (1:3b)

Record of Amaron (1:4–8)

Destruction of wicked Nephites (1:4–7)

Record of Chemish (1:9)

Record of Abinadom (1:10–11)

No new revelation or prophecy known (1:11)

Record of Amaleki (1:12–30)

The Flight of Mosiah and the Righteous from the Land of Nephi (1:12–13)

Discovery of the People of Zarahemla (1:14–19)

Reign of King Benjamin (1:23–25)

Notable Passages

Review the list in the packet up for 2 Nephi—Words of Mormon

(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?
- 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 are different possible meanings of the Doctrine of Christ? Which one is suggested by

the Doctrine of Christ as discussed by Nephi in 2 Nephi 31 and how does it relate to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

- 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?
- Consider the structure of the book of 2 Nephi. What are the major themes and principles taught in these sections, and how does the way Nephi organized them emphasize them
- How did Jacob magnify his calling? Why was it difficult for him to address the sins of his people?
- How is pride the cause of many other sins, including the type of sexual immorality of which the people of Jacob were guilty?
- How did Jacob reassure those who were not guilty or who had been hurt terribly by the sins of others?
- Summarize the symbolism of the Allegory of the Olive Tree. What different historical events are illustrated by this allegory?
- Describe the anti-Christ Sherem. How did he represent both kinds of anti-Christ, and what similar situations exist today?
- Why was Jacob's farewell so melancholy?
- Describe the wrestle that Enoch had before the Lord. How did he obtain forgiveness, and what were his desires after this experience?
- What do the short books of Jarom and Omni tell us about the Nephite civilization?
 - ▶ Verification of Prophetic Promises: Prosperity Depends upon Obedience to the Lord's Commandments
 - ▶ Realization of Prophetic Warnings
- What are the Words of Mormon? What purpose does this section accomplish?

Graphic Illustrating Aspects of the Atonement/the Graces of Christ

