

NEPHI'S PROPHECY

II NEPHI 11:1-116

NEPHI: ISAIAH'S WORDS WILL BE OF GREAT WORTH IN THE LAST DAYS WHEN MANY OF THE PROPHECIES OF ISAIAH WILL BE FULFILLED.

TWO SECTIONS:

1. II Nephi 11:1-79 – Nephi's prophecy of Christ
2. II Nephi 11:80-160 – Nephi's interpretation of Isaiah 29.

Judgment Oracles Against Neighboring Nations

Isaiah 13 to 23 contain judgment oracles against ten nations. Nephi just got done quoting Isaiah 13 and 14 that blasted Babylon, Assyria and Philistia for their sins. This is difficult for us to follow, but it was also difficult for the Nephites to understand.

Isaiah 13 to 23 is a commentary on Yahweh's sovereignty. Just because other countries are more powerful than tiny Judah does not mean that Judah's God is somehow less powerful. He reigns supreme over, not just Judah, but the entire earth!

Now the words of Isaiah, particularly **Isaiah 7, 8 & 9**, have moved Nephi to give in II Nephi 11 **the most explicit description of Jesus prior to the cross found in all of scripture!** Based on II Nephi 4:51 and Jacob 1:1, **this is given between 560 and 545 BC:**

- 1 Now **I, Nephi**, do speak somewhat **concerning the words which I have written**, which have been spoken by the mouth **of Isaiah**.

Note: Regarding the Nephites [this applies to us as well]:

- They didn't understand the ways of the prophets,
- Their sinful condition distorted their understanding of Isaiah's words.

The reason Nephi goes to such great lengths to give an explicit description of Jesus of Nazareth in II Nephi 11:33-80:

- 2 For behold, **Isaiah** spake many things which were **hard for many of my people to understand**; for they know not concerning **the manner of prophesying among the Jews** [We lack that understanding as well].

- 3 For **I, Nephi**, have *not* taught **them** [my people] **many things** concerning the manner of the Jews; **for their works were works of darkness**, and their doings were doings of abomination. [A second reason we've lost the meaning of Isaiah in our day also]

Note: **Verse 4** is for the benefit of **those who will read Nephi's words later on**: We sometimes get the idea that we are exempt from God's judgments, but **his judgments are over every nation including ours in this day.**

4 Wherefore, **I write unto my people, unto all those that shall receive *hereafter* these things [v. 14 – in the last days]** which I write, that they may know **the judgments of God, that they come upon all nations**, according to the word which he hath spoken.

Note: To fully understand **Isaiah's words:**

1. We must **understand the ways of the Jewish prophets.**
2. We must **purify our lives.**
3. We must have the **spirit of prophecy** (this will cause us to delight in the words of Isaiah).

5 Wherefore hearken, O **my people, which are of the house of Israel**, and give ear unto my words: for because **the words of Isaiah** are not plain unto you, nevertheless, **they are plain unto all those that are filled with the spirit of prophecy.**

6 **But I give unto you a prophecy** [not until verse 12], according to the spirit which is in me; wherefore **I shall prophesy** according to the **plainness** which hath been with me from the time that I came out of Jerusalem with my father.

- 7 For behold, **my soul delighteth in plainness** unto my people, that they may learn;
- 8 Yea, and **my soul delighteth in the words of Isaiah**, for I came out from Jerusalem, and **mine eyes hath beheld the things of the Jews**, and I know that **the Jews do understand the things of the prophets**, and there is none other people that understand the things which were spoken unto the Jews, like unto them, save it be that they are taught after the manner of the things of the Jews.

Note: Regarding what Nephi taught his own people:

- v. 3 – I have not taught my people regarding “the manner of the Jews” (they were works of darkness)
 - v. 9 – I have not taught my children after the manner of the Jews.
 - V. 10 – I *have* made mention unto my children concerning **God’s judgments that have come to pass among the Jews that Isaiah spoke**, but I do not *write* about them in these scriptures.
- 9 But behold, **I, Nephi**, have *not* taught my children after the manner of the Jews; but behold, **I, of myself, have dwelt at Jerusalem, wherefore I know concerning the regions round about;**
[e.g., Nephi knew about Babylon, Assyria and Philistia, described in **Isaiah 13-14.**]

Note: It's important at this point to know which of Isaiah's prophecies had been fulfilled between 560 & 545 BC:

- Isa. 5:6-7 – Judah as the vineyard, but the vineyard will be destroyed.
- Isaiah 5:13: “My people [Israel & Judah] are gone into captivity.”
 - In 722 BC, Assyria deported Israel.
 - In 586 BC, Babylon deported Judah.
- Isaiah 6, after Isaiah said he would go & prophesy, the Lord told him the people would *not* repent when he prophesied. God's judgment would follow.
- In Isa. 7:4-7, the prophet told King Ahaz of Judah, “within 65 years shall Ephriam be broken that it be not a people.” Fulfilled within 13 years in 722 BC.
- In Isa. 7:13-25, a child would be born to a young woman in Ahaz'

day as a sign to Ahaz not to form alliances with anyone.

- In Isa. 8:12-14 – Ahaz, don't form a confederacy with Assyria, but Ahaz did, making Judah a puppet.
- Isa. 9, 10, 11 describe the coming birth of a special child. Isaiah 12 says he will reign in Zion.

10 And I *have* ***made mention*** unto my children concerning the judgments of God, which hath come to pass among the Jews, unto my children, according to **all that which Isaiah hath spoken**, and **I do not write them**.

11 But behold, **I proceed with mine own prophecy**, according to **my plainness**; in the which I know that no man can err;

Note: When Isaiah's prophecies are fulfilled in the last days, we will know it! Think of Isaiah 2, 3 and 4:2-6 for example, that speak of a future Jerusalem that will be "a place of refuge."

12 Nevertheless, **in the days that the prophecies of Isaiah shall be fulfilled, men shall know of a surety, at the times when they shall come to pass.**

13 Wherefore, they are of worth unto the children of men, and **he that supposeth that they are not, unto them will I speak particularly,** and confine the words unto mine own people.

14 **For I know that they [the words of Isaiah] shall be of great worth unto them in the last**

days; for in that day shall they understand them; wherefore, for their good have I written them.

Note: Several generations of Jews will be **destroyed** because of their iniquities. But in every case it will be **foretold** by prophecy.

15 And as one generation hath been destroyed among **the Jews**, because of iniquity, **even so have they been destroyed from generation to generation,** according to their iniquities;

16 And never hath any of them been destroyed, save it were **foretold** them by the prophets of the Lord.

NEPHI:

- Destruction of Jerusalem (586 BC) &
- Return of the exiles (538 BC)

In the New World, after 560 BC, Nephi speaks about the following:

- **Verse 18:** The people back in Jerusalem hardened their hearts, Jerusalem was **destroyed**, and captives were **deported** to Babylon (occurred in 586 BC).
- **Verse 20:** Some of the exiles in Babylon will **return again** to Jerusalem (had not yet happened in Nephi's day, but in history we know this occurred in 538 BC under Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah).

17 Wherefore, it hath been told them concerning the **destruction** which should come upon them, immediately after my father left Jerusalem; [586 BC]

Note: Nephi confirms that **the destruction in Jerusalem in the Old World** has already been done as prophesied about 30 years before this.

18 Nevertheless, **they hardened their hearts; and according to my prophecy, they have been destroyed, save it be those which are carried away captive into Babylon.**

Note: After confirming a past event, Nephi shifts to predictive prophecy.

19 And now **this I speak because of the spirit which is in me.**

20 And notwithstanding they have been carried away, **they shall return again, and possess the land of Jerusalem;** wherefore they shall be restored again to the lands of their inheritance. [538 BC]

NEPHI'S PROPHECY IN II NEPHI 11:21-27:

- Wars & rumors of wars.
- Jesus will come & take on flesh (v. 21) – v. 35 says that will be in 600 BC.
- Jesus will be crucified (v. 22).
- Jesus will rise again (v. 22).
- Jerusalem will be destroyed [70 AD] (v. 24).
- The Jews will be scattered among many nations & scourged (v. 25-26).
- **The Jews will believe in Christ** (v. 27-28 – yet to be fulfilled!!!).

Nephi: Wars & Jesus' Incarnation

21 But, behold, they shall have **wars, and rumors of wars**; and when the day cometh that **the Only Begotten** of the Father, yea, even the Father of heaven and of earth, **shall manifest himself unto them in the flesh**, behold, **they will reject him**, because of their iniquities, and the hardness of their

hearts, and the stiffness of their necks.

[**Isaiah 9:6** called Jesus “the everlasting Father,” and Nephi here called Jesus “the Father of heaven and earth.”]

Nephi: Jesus’ Crucifixion

- 22 Behold, **they will crucify him,** and **after** he is laid in a **sepulcher for the space of three days, he shall rise from the dead,** with healing in his wings, and all **those who shall *believe*** on his name, **shall be *saved*** in the kingdom of God;
- 23 Wherefore, **my soul delighteth to prophesy concerning him [Jesus], for I have seen his day,** and my heart doth magnify his holy name.

Nephi: Jerusalem Destroyed Again (in 70 AD)

24 And behold, it shall come to pass, that **after the Messiah hath risen from the dead**, and hath manifested himself unto his people, unto as many as will believe on his name, behold, **Jerusalem shall be destroyed again**: for wo unto them that **fight against God and the people of his church**. [70 AD]

Nephi: The Jewish Diaspora & Conversion to Christ

25 Wherefore, **the Jews shall be scattered** among all **nations**; yea, and also **Babylon shall be destroyed**; wherefore, the Jews shall be scattered by other nations;

Note: Prophecy yet to be fulfilled, that the Jews will believe in Christ!

26 And after they have been **scattered**, and the Lord God hath **scourged** them by other nations, **for the space of many generations**, yea, even down from generation to generation **until they shall be persuaded to believe in Christ, the Son of God, and the atonement**, which is **infinite** for all mankind;

27 And **when that day shall come, that they shall believe in Christ**, and worship the Father in his name, with **pure hearts, and clean hands**, and look not forward anymore for another Messiah, then, at that time, the day will come that **it must needs be**

**expedient that they should
believe these things,**

NEPHI'S PROPHECY IN II NEPHI 11:28-37:

The Lord will bring his words to the Jews to convince them of the true Messiah:

- 28 And **the Lord will** set his hand again the second time to **restore his people from their lost and fallen state.**
- 29 Wherefore, he will proceed to do **a marvelous work**, and a wonder among the children of men.
- 30 Wherefore, **he shall bring forth his words unto them**, which words shall judge them at the last day;
- 31 For they shall be given them **for the purpose of convincing them of the true Messiah, who was rejected by them;**

32 And unto the **convincing of them that they need not look forward anymore for a Messiah to come.**

Because there will be numerous false Messiahs, Nephi identifies *exactly* who he is talking about:

- the one who was **rejected by the Jews**
- the one who came **600 years after** Lehi left
- the one who's named **"Jesus Christ, the Son of God"**

33 For there should not any come, save it should be a false Messiah, which should deceive the people:

34 For there is save **one Messiah** spoken of by the prophets, and that Messiah is he who should be rejected of the Jews.

35 For according to the words of the prophets, the Messiah cometh in six hundred years from

**the time that my father left
Jerusalem;**

36 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.**

37 And now my brethren, **I have spoken plain, that ye can not err;**

NEPHI'S PROPHECY IN II NEPHI 11:38-51:

- Just as sure as God lives, we are saved by “Christ alone” (Particularism: Jesus is the only way to salvation)
- Nephi: The Lord promised me that my writings would be preserved for many generations. Joseph’s seed will never perish.
- We are saved by “grace” (v. 44)
- The Mosaic Law was given to convince us to believe in Christ (v. 45)

38 **And as the Lord God liveth,** that brought Israel up out of the land of **Egypt**, and **gave unto Moses power** that he should **heal** the nations, **after they had been bitten by the poisonous serpents**, if they would **cast their eyes unto the serpent** which he did raise up before them, and also gave him power that he should **smite the rock**, and the **water** should come forth;

Note: Nephi begins a “these things” talk in which he says:

- These things are true.
- These things shall be kept & preserved.
- These things will last until the end of world.
- The nations will be judged by these things.

Pluralism vs. Particularism

Note: Colleges today teach an idea called “pluralism” (that there are many roads to heaven).

Jesus taught about his exclusive nature (This is called “particularism,” & it says there is only one way to heaven).

People today choose to be offended by Jesus’ message & say we’re each just a product of the culture we are raised in.

39 Yea, behold, I say unto you, that **as these things are true, and as the Lord God liveth, there is none other name given under heaven, save it be this Jesus Christ of which I**

**have spoken, whereby man
can be saved. [Particularism]**

Note: This idea that there is salvation in no other person such as Buddha, Muhammad, Moses, etc. is also found in Acts 4:12 and John 10:7-11:

Acts 4:12:

“Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”

John 10:7-11:

“ . . . I am the door of the sheepfold. All that came before me who testified not of me are thieves and robbers . . . I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved . . . I am come that they might have life . . . I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep.”

Note:

- These things shall be kept & preserved.
- Joseph's seed will never perish.

40 Wherefore, **for this cause** hath the Lord God promised unto me that **these things which I write, shall be kept and preserved**, and handed down unto my seed, from generation to generation, that the promise may be fulfilled unto **Joseph** [of Egypt?], that **his seed should never perish** as long as the earth should stand.

41 Wherefore, **these things shall go from generation to generation as long as the earth shall stand**; and they shall go according to the will and pleasure of God;

42 And **the nations which shall possess them** [Nephi's words],

shall be judged of them according to the words which are written;

- 43 For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God;

LABOR TO PERSUADE OUR CHILDREN

Note: We should all labor diligently to persuade our children to:

1. believe in Christ (the ONLY way)

(that he is the Son of God who died to pay the price for my sins that God's justice required),

2. be reconciled to God

(to embrace the correct gospel of faith, repentance, water baptism & enduring to the end).

GRACE

Here, we need to clarify some things about “grace”:

1. **Grace is the desire and power to do God’s will (Jacob 3:7-8, I Cor. 15:10 & Mosiah 9:59).**

Jacob 3:7-8:

“ . . . we have many **revelations**, and the spirit of **prophecy** . . . we truly can **command** in the name of Jesus, and the very **trees** obey us, or the **mountains**, or the **waves of the sea**. Nevertheless, the Lord God showeth us our weakness, that we may know that it is **by his grace**, and his great condescensions unto the children of men, **that we have power to do** these things.”

I Corinthians 15:10:

“But by the grace of God I [Paul] am what I am; and **his grace** which

was bestowed upon me was not in vain; for **I labored** more abundantly than they all; **yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**”

Mosiah 9:59:

“And the priests . . . for their labor they were to receive **the grace of God**, that they might wax strong in the Spirit, having the knowledge of God, **that they might teach with power and authority from God.**”

2. We are saved by “grace alone.” II Nephi 7:42 says:

“And remember after ye are reconciled unto God, that **it is only in and through the grace of God that ye are saved.**”

3. God's grace produces fruit in the form of both:

- Faith, and
- Works

SAVED BY GRACE ALONE

Note: Verse 44 is the most popular verse in chapter 11 & one of the most beloved in the entire B of M. However, many people *mistakenly interpret v. 44.*

44 **For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.**

Note: Is this salvation **by works** (by our own efforts)? Is this salvation that arises partly from **our own efforts** and partly from God's grace?

For example, Evangelical Protestants look at "baptism" as something we Restorationists do *by our own works*. Is it? **Is water baptism a work that we do, or is it "a work of God's grace" that he performs in us?**

THE MOSAIC LAW & CHRIST'S GOSPEL

Note: The “**antiquity of the gospel**” is one of the unique aspects of the restored gospel. It is also a major point of contention with Evangelical Protestants who call this **an “anachronism.”**

45 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; for, for this end was the law given;

Note: The Mosaic Law is dead to them, and yet they obey the Law? How is that possible? **The Law doesn't save; but faith in Christ does!**

46 Wherefore, the law hath become **dead** unto us, and **we are made alive** in Christ, because of our **faith;**

47 **Yet we keep the law** because of the commandments;

A RADICAL STATEMENT ABOUT CHRIST

Christ was woven into the very fabric of the Nephites' lives, even prior to the cross. He was the exclusive source of their salvation. **Eternal life does not come from the **Mosaic Law**. It comes from **Christ**. However, the Law points to Christ.**

48 And **we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophecy 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.**

49 Wherefore, we speak concerning the law, **that our children may know the deadness of the law;**

- 50 **And they, by knowing the deadness of the law, may look forward unto that life which is in Christ, and know for what end the law was given.**
- 51 **And after the law is fulfilled in Christ** [at his death & resurrection], that they need not harden their hearts against him, when the law ought to be done away.
(This implies that there will be some resistance when it's time to do away with the Mosaic Law.)

NEPHI'S PROPHECY IN II NEPHI 11:52-57:

Nephi's admonition to his own people to believe in Christ. What makes this chapter stand out from all others is how exactly he describes Jesus in "plainness." II Nephi 11 is **the most explicit description of Jesus Christ prior to his birth** that is found in *any* scripture!

52 And now behold, **my people** [the Nephites], **ye are a stiff-necked people**; wherefore, I have spoken **plain** unto you, **that ye cannot misunderstand.**

53 And **the words which I have spoken, shall stand as a testimony against you**; for they are sufficient to teach any man the right way:

Note: If we deny Christ, we also deny the prophets & the Mosaic Law.

54 For the right way is to **believe in Christ** and **deny him not**; for by denying him, ye also **deny the prophets and the law.**

Note: **Isaiah** had said **“Holy One of Israel”** more than any other prophet: **25 times**. Jeremiah uses that phrase twice.

In **II Nephi 11**, the prophet **Nephi** used these words to describe Jesus:

- **“Christ”** is used 14 times in this chapter!
- **“Messiah”** is mentioned 5 times.
- **“Holy One of Israel”** is used twice.
- **“Jesus Christ”** is mentioned two times in this chapter.
- **“Only Begotten”** is used once.
- **“Son of Righteousness”** is used once.

It's possible that **II Nephi 11 contains the most explicit description of Jesus prior to the cross** in any OT scripture! In an OT context, **that doesn't make sense to other Christians!** Chapter 11 is a *bold* declaration about the clarity that the Nephites had, in an OT context, about Jesus of Nazareth!

55 And now behold I say unto you, that **the right way is to believe in Christ**, and deny him not; and **Christ is the Holy One of Israel:**

Note: Isaiah had repeatedly used the phrase “the Holy One of Israel.”

56 Wherefore **ye must bow down before him, and worship him [Christ] with all your might, mind and strength, and your whole soul**, and if ye do this, ye shall in no wise be cast out.

57 And inasmuch as it shall be expedient, **ye must keep the performances and ordinances of God, until the law shall be fulfilled** which was given unto Moses.

NEPHI'S PROPHECY IN II NEPHI 11:58-79:

Nephi's prophecy regarding the Nephites: Post-mortem appearances of Christ:

58 And after Christ shall have risen from the dead, he shall shew himself unto you, my children, and my beloved brethren;
[show himself to the Nephites]

Obey his words:

59 And the words which he shall speak unto you, shall be the law which ye shall do.

60 For behold, I say unto you, that I have beheld that **many generations** shall pass away, and there shall be **great wars** and contentions among my people.

- 61 And after the Messiah shall come, there shall be **signs given unto my people** of **his birth**, and also of his death and **resurrection**;
- 62 And **great and terrible shall that day be** unto the wicked; for they shall **perish**;
- 63 And they perish because **they cast out the prophets**, and the saints, and stone them, and slay them;
- 64 Wherefore **the cry of the blood of the saints** shall ascend up to God from the ground, against them.
- 65 Wherefore all **those who are proud, and that do wickedly**, the day that cometh shall **burn them up**, saith the Lord of hosts, for they shall be as stubble;

- 66 And **they that kill the prophets,** and the saints, the depths of **the earth shall swallow them up**, saith the Lord of hosts:
- 67 And **mountains** shall cover them, and **whirlwinds** shall carry them away, and **buildings** shall fall upon them, and crush them to pieces and grind them to powder;
- 68 And they shall be visited with **thunderings**, and **lightnings**, and **earthquakes**, and all manner of destructions;
- 69 For the **fire** of the anger of the **Lord** shall be kindled against them, and they shall be as stubble, and the day that cometh shall **consume them**, saith the Lord of hosts.

- 70 O the pain, and the **anguish of my soul** for the loss of the slain of my people!
- 71 For **I, Nephi, hath 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.**
- 72 But behold, **the righteous**, that hearken unto the words of the prophets, and destroy them not, but **look forward unto Christ with steadfastness for the signs which are given,** notwithstanding all persecutions; behold they are they which **shall not perish.**

Note: **Isaiah 8:16-18** might have prompted Nephi to mention in verse 20 that **the “righteous” are those who look for:**

1. **Christ, &**
2. **his miracles.**

Isaiah 8:16-18:

- 16 Bind up the testimony, seal the law **among my disciples.**
- 17 **And I will wait upon the Lord, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.**
- 18 Behold, I and **the children** [two sons of Isaiah] whom the Lord hath given me [Isaiah] are **for signs and for wonders** in Israel from the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

RETURNING TO II Nephi 11

PROPHECY OF THE GOLDEN AGE

73 But **the Son of Righteousness shall appear unto them** [v.72 – righteous Nephites]; and he shall **heal** them, and they shall have **peace** with him, **until three generations** shall have passed away and many of the **fourth generation** shall have passed away in righteousness.

420 AD

74 And when these things shall have passed away, **a speedy destruction** cometh unto my **people**; for, notwithstanding the pains of my soul, **I have seen it**; wherefore, I know that it shall come to pass;

75 And they sell themselves for nought;
for, for the reward of their **pride**,
and their **foolishness**, they
shall reap **destruction**;

Those who reject the Son of Righteousness will go to Hell:

76 For because **they** yield unto the devil, and **choose works of darkness** rather than light; therefore **they must go down to hell**, for the Spirit of the Lord will not always strive with man.

Even today, the Spirit could cease to strive with man:

77 And **when the Spirit ceaseth to strive with man**, then cometh **speedy destruction**; and this grieveth my soul.

The Gentiles must be convinced Jesus is the Christ:

- 78 And as I spake concerning **the convincing of the Jews**, that **Jesus is the very Christ**, it must needs be that **the Gentiles be convinced also**, that **Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God**; and that he manifesteth himself unto all those who **believe** in him, by the power of the Holy Ghost;
- 79 Yea, unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, working **mighty miracles, signs and wonders**, among the children of men, according to their faith.

THE LAST DAYS: NEPHI BORROWS FROM ISAIAH 29

At this point, Nephi appears to turn his attention:

- away from **Isaiah 13-14** that he just quoted in II Nephi 10.
- toward **Isaiah 29**, that he is about to quote in II Nephi 11:117-160.

In **Isaiah 29:3**, in the 700s BC, there is a prophecy that Jerusalem (Ariel) will endure a siege involving mounds and forts (probably 586 BC).

Verses 80-84 say, after **the descendants of Lehi** “dwindle in unbelief” and are “smitten by the Gentiles,” and after “the siege of mounds and forts” (586 BC?):

- Lehi’s descendants will be brought low.
- Those who dwindled in unbelief will not be forgotten.
- The destroyed will speak out of the ground.

80 But behold, **I prophesy** unto you
concerning the last days;
concerning the days when the Lord
God shall bring these things forth
unto the children of men.

81 **After my seed**, and the seed of my brethren shall have **dwindled in unbelief**, and shall have been **smitten by the Gentiles;**

82 Yea, after the Lord God shall have camped against them [my brethren] round about, and shall have **laid siege against them with a mount, and raised forts against them;**

83 And after they shall have been **brought down low in the dust**, even that they are not, yet the **words** of the righteous shall be written, and the **prayers** of the faithful shall be heard, and **all those who have dwindled in unbelief, shall not be forgotten;**

THE DESTROYED WILL SPEAK OUT OF THE GROUND

Note: In verses 83-84, **Nephi quotes Isaiah 29:4 (IV)**, but in a different order here.

84 For **those who shall be destroyed shall speak unto them out of the ground**, and **their speech shall be low out of the dust**, and their voice shall be as one that hath **a familiar spirit**;

85 For the Lord God will give unto him [Who does this singular male pronoun refer to? the destroyed? Joseph Smith, Jr?] power, that he may **whisper** concerning them, even as it were out of the ground; and **their** [plural pronoun] **speech shall whisper out of the dust.**

Note: This same prophecy was given by Moroni in **Mormon 4:27-28** about the prayers of dead saints ascending to God:

“Search the prophecies of Isaiah. Behold, I cannot write them. Yea, behold I say unto you, that those saints who have gone before me, who have possessed this land, shall cry; yea, even from the dust will they cry unto the Lord; and **as the Lord liveth he will remember the covenant which he hath made with them.”**

Note: Nephi borrows the imagery of a “sealed book” spoken of in **Isaiah 29:11-12 (IV)**.

86 For thus saith the Lord God: They shall write the things which shall be done among them, and they shall be **written and sealed up in a book**, and those who have **dwindled in *unbelief shall not have them*** [the words in the book], for they seek to destroy the things of God;
[So perhaps we can use this verse to help interpret Isaiah 29:11-12]

Note: Second half of v. 87 & v. 88 is taken from **Isaiah 29:5.**

87 Wherefore, as those who have been destroyed, have been **destroyed speedily:** and the multitude of their terrible ones shall be **as chaff** that passeth away.

88 Yea, thus saith the Lord God: It shall be **at an instant, suddenly.**

89 And it shall come to pass, that **those who have dwindled in unbelief,** shall be **smitten** by the hand of the Gentiles.

THE GENTILES WILL BUILD MANY CHURCHES

90 And **the Gentiles** are lifted up in the **pride** of their eyes, and have stumbled, **because of the greatness of their stumbling block, that they have built up many churches;**

91 Nevertheless **they put down the power and the miracles of God,** and preach up unto themselves, their *own* wisdom, and their *own* learning, **that they may get gain,** and grind upon the face of the poor;

In **Mormon 4:34-36:**

“And it [the prayers of dead saints] shall come **in a day when it shall be said that miracles are done away;** and it shall come even as if one should

speaking from the dead . . . when the blood of the saints shall cry unto the Lord . . . **when the power of God shall be denied**, and **churches** become defiled, and shall be **lifted up in the pride** of their hearts; yea, even in a day when the leaders of churches, and teachers, in the pride of their hearts, **even to the envying of them who belong to their churches.**”

Returning to II Nephi 11:

92 And there are **many churches** built up which **cause envyings, and strifes, and malice;**

SATAN’S WAY

93 And there are also **secret combinations**, even as in times of old, according to the combinations of **the devil**, for he is **the foundation of all these things**; yea, the foundation of murder, and works of darkness;

94 Yea, and **he [the devil]**
leadeth them [churches] by
the neck with a flaxen cord, until
he bindeth them with his strong
cords for ever.

GOD'S WAY: UNLIMITED ATONEMENT

95 For behold, my beloved brethren,
I say unto you, that **the Lord**
God worketh not in darkness.

Note: The Lord God will lay down his
life in order to draw ALL people
unto him – called “unlimited
atonement.”

96 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.

- 97 Wherefore, **he commandeth none that they shall *not* partake of his salvation.**
- 98 Behold, **doth he cry unto any, saying, *Depart* from me?**
- 99 Behold, **I say unto you, Nay;** but he saith, ***Come* unto me** all ye ends of the earth, buy milk and honey, without money and without price.
- 100 Behold, **hath he commanded any that they should depart** out of the synagogues, or out of the houses of worship?
- 101 Behold, I say unto you, **Nay.**
- 102 **Hath he commanded any that they should not partake of his salvation?**

103 Behold, I say unto you, **Nay**; but **he hath given it free for *all* men**; and **he hath commanded his people that they should persuade *all* men to repentance.**

104 Behold, **hath the Lord commanded any that they should *not* partake of his goodness?**

105 Behold, I say unto you, **Nay**; but **all men are privileged the one like unto the other, and none are forbidden.**

THERE SHALL BE NO “PRIESTCRAFT”

106 He commandeth that there shall be **no priestcrafts**; for, behold, **priestcrafts are** that men preach and **set themselves up for a light unto the world, that they**

may get gain, and praise of
the world; but **they seek not
the welfare of Zion.**

Note: The Lord forbids that men should
use their ministerial office to get
gain and praise & seek not the
welfare of Zion (priestcraft).

107 Behold, **the Lord hath
forbidden this thing;**
wherefore, the Lord God hath given
**a commandment, that all
men should have charity,**
which charity is love.

108 And except they should have
charity, they were nothing:
wherefore, **if they should
have charity, they would
not suffer the laborer in
Zion to perish.**

109 But the laborer in Zion shall **labor for Zion**; for if they **labor for money**, they shall perish.

DISOBEDIENCE THAT IMPERILS THE SOUL

110 And, again, **the Lord God hath commanded that men should not murder**; that they should not **lie**; that they should not **steal**; that they should not **take the name of the Lord their God in vain**; that they should not **envy**; that they should not have **malice**; that they should not **contend** one with another; that they should not commit **whoredoms**; and that they should do none of these things;

111 For **whoso doeth them shall perish**; for none of these iniquities come of the Lord; for he

doeth that which is good among
the children of men;

112 And he doeth nothing save it be
plain unto the children of men;

THE EQUALITY OF ALL & UNLIMITED ATONEMENT

113 And **he inviteth them *all* to
come unto him**, and partake of
his goodness;

114 And **he denieth *none* that
come unto him, black and
white, bond and free, male
and female;**

115 And he remembereth the heathen,
and **all are alike unto God,
both Jew and Gentile.**

IN THE LAST DAYS

116 But behold, **in the last days**, or in the days of the Gentiles; yea, behold **all the nations of the Gentiles, and also the Jews**, both those who shall come upon *this* land, and those who shall be upon *other* lands; yea, even upon all the lands of the earth; behold, **they will be drunken with iniquity, and all manner of abominations;**

Note: Nephi adds wording “and when that day shall come” and then quotes **Isaiah 29:6!**

117 **And when that day shall come** [added by Nephi, not in IV or KJV], **they shall be visited of the Lord of hosts**, with **thunder** and with **earthquake**, and with a **great noise**, and with **storm** and with

tempest, and with the flame of
devouring **fire**;

In **Mormon 4:28-43**, the dead saints will begin to cry
from the ground in a day when:

- it shall be said that **miracles** are done away (Mormon 4:34),
- the **power of God** shall be denied (v. 4:36),
- **churches become defiled**, and shall be lifted up in the **pride** of their hearts (v. 4:36).
- there are fires, tempests, vapors of smoke, wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, great pollutions, murders, robbing, lying, deceiving, whoredoms, churches built to get gain, **transfiguring of the word of God** (v. 4:37-43).

NOTE: II NEPHI 11:117-160 IS IN A SEPARATE LESSON & DIFFERENT DOCUMENT BECAUSE NEPHI BEGINS TO QUOTE ISAIAH 29.

READ THIS WEEK:

**II Nephi 11:117-160 &
Isaiah 29 (KJV & IV)**