

# NEPHI QUOTING ISAIAH 48 & 49

## In 1,446 BC, the Mosaic Covenant in Exodus 19:

- 5 Now therefore, if ye will **obey** my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be **a peculiar treasure** unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine.
- 6 And he shall be unto me **a kingdom of priests**, and **a holy nation**. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.
- 7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and **laid before their faces all these words** which the Lord commanded him.
- 8 **And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do.**  
And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord.
- 9 And the Lord said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, **that the people may hear when I speak with thee**, and believe thee forever.

## 1 Peter 2:

- 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, **an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.
- 9 But ye are **a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people**; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

## In I Nephi 6:1-6, Nephi stated:

“I, Nephi, did teach my brethren these things . . . I did read unto them that which was written by the prophet **Isaiah**. For **I did liken all scriptures unto us** that it might be for our profit and learning. Wherefore, I spake unto them, saying, Hear ye the words of the prophet, **ye who are a remnant of the house of Israel**, a branch who have been broken off, hear ye the words of the prophet, which were written unto all the house of Israel, and **liken them unto yourselves, that ye may have hope** as well as your brethren, from whom ye have been broken off.”

## ISAIAH 1 to 39

In **Isaiah 1 to 39**, the prophet delivered a message of **condemnation** to Israel and Judah for **two sins**:

- the **broken Mosaic Covenant** they had made at Sinai as well as
- God's justice and a coming **judgment**.

## ISAIAH 40 TO 55

In Isaiah 40, there is **an abrupt change** of focus and subject matter. After spending several chapters talking about **judgment** that would come upon Israel, **Isaiah 40 to 55** focuses on a third point:

**the future hope of Israel's deliverance and restoration, the forgiveness that Yahweh offers to her, and the hope of a latter-day Zion.**

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## Hilkiah the Priest Discovers the Book of Deuteronomy

In II Kings, **Hilkiah the priest** discovered the book of Deuteronomy during the Temple reconstruction. When righteous **King Josiah** read **Deuteronomy** he knew that God's wrath was kindled against them. **He rent his clothes and wept.**

In **II Kings 22:18-20**, King Josiah sent four men to **Hulda the prophetess**, who foretold King Josiah's early demise in 608 BC. Josiah's death would save him from witnessing the fall of Jerusalem years later in 605 to 586 BC. Hulda said:

- 18 But **to the king of Judah** which sent you to inquire of the Lord, thus shall ye say to him, **Thus saith the Lord God of Israel**, As touching the words which thou hast heard;
- 19 **Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the Lord**, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, **and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the Lord.**
- 20 Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and **thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place.** And they [the four men] brought the king word again.

**In 608 BC**, Pharaoh Neco of Egypt was marching his army northward toward **Carchemish**, Syria to join his ally, **Assyria**, in its fight against the Babylonian army. Because righteous King Josiah was an ally of Babylon, Josiah tried to stop the Egyptians at Megiddo. Unfortunately, **King Josiah of Judah was killed at Megiddo**. Pharaoh Neco appointed Josiah's successor, named **Jehoiakim** (birth name: Eliakim) as **a puppet-king of Judah (with Judah paying tribute to Egypt)**.

**In 605 BC**, **Nebuchadnezzar**, the new king of Babylon, defeated Egypt and Assyria for the last time at **the Battle of Carchemish**, decimating their armies. **Egypt and Assyria** were never world powers again. **He then laid siege to Jerusalem**.



## SIX KINGS RULED JUDAH IN THIS ORDER:

- Wicked King **Manasseh**. He reigned 52 years. (Isaiah was a prophet in the last year of Uzziah's reign, then Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah and possibly the first few years of Manasseh's reign. We're not certain how or when Isaiah died.)
- King **Amon** (II Kings 21:19 – After **two years**, Amon's servants assassinated him.)
- Righteous King **Josiah** who destroyed idols and repaired the Temple. Josiah was an ally of Nebuchadnezzar. **In about 608 BC, righteous King Josiah was killed in the Battle of Megiddo by Pharaoh Neco of Egypt when Egypt's army was marching northward to the Battle of Haran and Battle of Carchemish.** For a moment, Josiah's son, **Jehoahaz**, occupied the throne, until Neco arrived in Jerusalem to appoint his puppet-king.
- In II Kings 23:34, Neco killed King Josiah of Judah in the Battle of Megiddo in about 609 or 608 BC. **Jehoahaz** (reigned for **3 months**) until Neco arrived in Jerusalem. **Pharaoh Neco removed him and appointed a puppet-king to replace Josiah, and then Neco was defeated at Carchemish.**
- Wicked puppet-king **Jehoiakim** (reigned **11 years**; appointed by Pharaoh Neco of Egypt in II Kings 23:34). Jehoiakim burned all of Jeremiah's prophecies. This forced Jeremiah & Baruch to recreate all of Jeremiah's prophecies. **Jehoiakim kept changing allegiance between Egypt & Babylon.** Jehoiakim was a son of Josiah.

- King **Jehoiakin** (18 years old. He **reigned 3 months & 10 days** before Nebuchadnezzar deported him – see II Kings 24:6-9). **Nebuchadnezzar then appointed his successor in 597 BC.** Jehoiakin was a son of Jehoiakim (grandson of Josiah).
- Puppet-king **Zedekiah** (21 years old; **appointed by Nebuchadnezzar as puppet-king; reigned 11 years** and then deported in 586 BC by Nebuchadnezzar – II Kings 25:1-7). Zedekiah **changed allegiance** as well. Zedekiah was a son of Josiah, brother of Jehoiakim, uncle to Jehoiakin (but I guess only 3 years older than his nephew, Jehoiakin?)

**The reason Judah was taken into Babylonian captivity: the 52-year reign of wicked King Manasseh of Judah. Nebuchadnezzar & Babylon laid siege to Jerusalem and deported many of its citizens on three different occasions:**

- **605 BC** (Daniel was deported 5 years before Lehi left)
- **597 BC** (Ezekiel was deported 3 years after Lehi left)
- **586 BC** (Jerusalem was destroyed 14 years after Lehi left).

**II Kings 25:3-4:**

**Surely at the commandment of the Lord came this [the 3 deportations of Nebuchadnezzar] upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did. And also for the innocent blood that he shed; for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the Lord would not pardon . . .**

**In 605 BC**, after **Nebuchadnezzar** had won the Battle of Carchemish, **he laid siege to Jerusalem** and **Daniel** was carried into Babylonian exile by Nebuchadnezzar's first deportation.

### Daniel 1:

1 **In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah [605 BC] came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.**

2 And the Lord gave **Jehoiakim** king of Judah into his hand **with part of the vessels of the house of God; which he carried into the land of Shinar . . .**

[NOTE: Actually, **Jehoiakim** died just before **Nebuchadnezzar** got there and left his 18-year old son, **Jehoiakin**, to reign over Judah and endure a three-month siege before he surrendered & was deported],

3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel . . .

6 Now among these were of **the children of Judah**, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

**In 597 BC** (the second siege & deportation)

II Kings 25:6 & 8:

So **Jehoiakim** slept with his fathers; and **Jehoiachin**, his son reigned in his stead . . . **Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months . . . and the king of Babylon** took him in the eighth year of his [father's] reign [597 BC]. And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king's house . . . And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the **princes**, and all the **mighty men of valor**, even **ten thousand captives**, and all the **craftsmen** and smiths; **none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land.**

[**NOTE:** This is the **second deportation**, but archaeologists say that, after three deportations, only **the poorest two-thirds of Judah** remained].

And he carried away **Jehoiachin to Babylon** . . . And the king of Babylon made **Mattaniah** his father's brother **king in his stead**, and **changed his name to Zedekiah**. Zedekiah was **twenty and one years old** when he began to reign, and he **reigned eleven years** in Jerusalem [until 586 BC].

**In 597 BC**, the priest **Ezekiel** was taken into Babylonian exile by Nebuchadnezzar's **second** deportation. He then received his first revelation from God toward the end of 593 or beginning of 592 BC.

### Ezekiel 1:

- 1 Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, **as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar**, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.
- 2 In the fifth day of the month, which was **the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity**.
- 3 The word of the Lord came expressly unto **Ezekiel the priest**, the son of Buzi, **in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar**; and the hand of the Lord was there upon him.

**In 586 BC**, Zedekiah Deported; Jerusalem & Temple Destroyed

### II Kings 25:

- 2 And **the city [Jerusalem]** was besieged unto **the eleventh year of king Zedekiah**.
- 4 . . . the **famine** prevailed in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land.
- 4 And the city was broken up, and **all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate . . . by the king's garden**.

- 5 And the army of the Chaldees pursued after the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him.
- 6 So they took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon . . .
- 7 And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon.

**In 586 BC, Judah as Exiles** by the River in Babylonian Captivity

### **Psalm 137:**

- 1 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.
- 2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.
- 3 For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.
- 4 How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?
- 5 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning.
- 6 If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.

- 7 Remember, O Lord, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, even to the foundation thereof.
- 8 **O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed;** happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.
- 9 **Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.**

## **Lamentations 1** (written by Jeremiah in 627-573 BC):

### **Jeremiah, the Weeping Prophet**

- **Lament** – a passionate grief or sorrow
- **Elegy** – a poem lamenting the dead

*Intro: Jerusalem's grief, her sins, her confessions.*

- 1 **How doth the city [Jerusalem] sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary [paying tribute to Babylon]!**
- 2 **She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks; among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her; all her friends [like Egypt] have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies.**
- 3 **Judah is gone into captivity because of affliction, and because of great servitude; she dwelleth among the heathen, she findeth no rest; all her persecutors overtook her between the straits.**

- 4 **The ways of Zion do mourn, because none come to the solemn feasts; all her gates are desolate; her priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she is in bitterness.**
- 5 Her adversaries are the chief, her enemies prosper; for the Lord hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions; **her children are gone into captivity before the enemy.**
- 6 **And from the daughter of Zion all her beauty is departed;** her princes are become like harts that find no pasture, and they are gone without strength before the pursuer.
- 7 **Jerusalem remembered in the days of her affliction and of her miseries all her pleasant things that she had in the days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the enemy,** and none did help her; the adversaries saw her, and did mock at her sabbaths.
- 8 **Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed; all that honored her despise her,** because they have seen her nakedness; yea, she sigheth, and turneth backward.
- 9 Her filthiness is in her skirts; she remembereth not her last end; therefore she came down wonderfully; she had no comforter. O Lord, behold my affliction; for the enemy hath magnified himself.
- 10 **The adversary hath spread out his hand upon all her pleasant things; for she hath seen that the heathen entered into her sanctuary,** whom thou didst command that they should not enter into thy congregation.

- 11 **All her people sigh, they seek bread**; they have given their pleasant things for meat to relieve the soul; see, O Lord, and consider; for I am become vile.
- 12 Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.
- 13 From above hath he sent fire into my bones, and it prevaieth against them; he hath spread a net for my feet, he hath turned me back; he hath made me desolate and faint all the day.
- 14 The yoke of my transgressions is bound by his hand; they are wreathed, and come up upon my neck; he hath made my strength to fall, the Lord hath delivered me into their hands, from whom I am not able to rise up.
- 15 **The Lord hath trodden under foot all my mighty men in the midst of me; he hath called an assembly against me to crush my young men; the Lord hath trodden the virgin, the daughter of Judah, as in a winepress.**
- 16 **For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water,** because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me; my children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.
- 17 **Zion spreadeth forth her hands, and there is none to comfort her;** the Lord hath commanded concerning Jacob, that his adversaries should be round about him; Jerusalem is as a menstruous woman among them.

- 18 The Lord is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandments; hear, I pray you, all people, and behold my sorrow; my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity.
- 19 **I called for my lovers [like Egypt], but they deceived me;** my priests and mine elders gave up the ghost in the city, while they sought their meat to relieve their souls.
- 20 Behold, O Lord; for I am in distress; my bowels are troubled; mine heart is turned within me; for I have grievously rebelled; abroad the sword bereaveth, at home there is as death.
- 21 **They have heard that I sigh; there is none to comfort me; all mine enemies have heard of my trouble;** they are glad that thou hast done it; thou wilt bring the day that thou hast called, and they shall be like unto me.
- 22 Let all their wickedness come before thee; and do unto them, as thou hast done unto me for all my transgressions; for my sighs are many, and my heart is faint.

## Lamentations 2

*Intro: Jeremiah lamenteth the misery and humiliation of Jerusalem.*

- 21 How hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, and cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and remembered not his footstool in the day of his anger!

- 2 **The Lord hath swallowed up all the habitations of Jacob, and hath not pitied; he hath thrown down in his wrath the strongholds of the daughter of Judah; he hath brought them down to the ground;** he hath polluted the kingdom and the princes thereof.
- 3 He hath cut off in his fierce anger all the horn of Israel; he hath drawn back his right hand from before the enemy, and he burned against Jacob like a flaming fire, which devoureth round about.
- 21 He hath bent his bow like an enemy; he stood with his right hand as an adversary, and slew all that were pleasant to the eye in the tabernacle of the daughter of Zion; he poured out his fury like fire.
- 21 **The Lord was as an enemy [He was on the side of Babylon; Jeremiah even prophesied for them to surrender]; he hath swallowed up Israel,** he hath swallowed up all her palaces; he hath destroyed his strongholds, **and hath increased in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation.**
- 21 **And he hath violently taken away his tabernacle,** as if it were of a garden; he hath destroyed his places of the assembly; the Lord hath caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest.
- 21 The Lord hath cast off his altar, he hath abhorred his sanctuary, he hath given up into the hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces; they have made a noise in the house of the Lord, as in the day of a solemn feast.

21 The Lord hath purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion; he hath stretched out a line, he hath not withdrawn his hand from destroying; therefore he made the rampart and the wall to lament; they languished together.

21 **Her gates are sunk into the ground**; he hath destroyed and broken her bars; her king and **her princes are among the Gentiles**; the law is no more; **her prophets also find no vision from the Lord**.

10 **The elders of the daughter of Zion sit upon the ground, and keep silence; they have cast up dust upon their heads; they have girded themselves with sackcloth; the virgins of Jerusalem hang down their heads to the ground**.

11 **Mine eyes do fail with tears, my bowels are troubled, my liver is poured upon the earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my people; because the children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city**.

12 They say to their mothers, Where is corn and wine? When they swooned as the wounded in the streets of the city, when their soul was poured out into their mothers' bosom.

13 What thing shall I take to witness for thee? What thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? What shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, O virgin daughter of Zion? For thy breach is great like the sea; who can heal thee?

14 Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee; and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment.

15 **All that pass by clap their hands at thee; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying, Is this the city that men call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?**

16 **All thine enemies** have opened their mouth against thee; they hiss and gnash the teeth; **they say, We have swallowed her up**; certainly this is the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen it.

17 The Lord hath done that which he had devised; he hath fulfilled his word that he had commanded in the days of old; he hath thrown down, and hath not pitied; and he hath caused thine enemy to rejoice over thee, he hath set up the horn of thine adversaries.

18 Their heart cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night; give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease.

19 Arise, cry out in the night; in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord; lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.

20 Behold, O Lord, and consider to whom thou hast done this. Shall the women eat their fruit, and children of a span long? Shall the priest and the prophet be slain in the sanctuary of the Lord?

**21 The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets; my virgins and my young men are fallen by the sword;** thou hast slain them in the day of thine anger; thou hast killed, and not pitied.

22 Thou hast called as in a solemn day my terrors round about, so that in the day of the Lord's anger none escaped nor remained; those that I have swaddled and brought up hath mine enemy consumed.

### **Lamentations 3:**

*Intro: Calamities bewailed – God's justice and mercy – Prayer for deliverance.*

**21** I am the man that hath seen affliction by the rod of his wrath.

2 He hath led me, and brought me into darkness, but not into light.

3 Surely against me is he turned; he turneth his hand against me all the day.

**21** My flesh and my skin hath he made old; **he hath broken my bones.**

**21** **He hath builded against me, and compassed me with gall and travail.**

**21** **He hath set me in dark places,** as they that be dead of old.

- 21 He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out; he hath made my chain heavy.**
- 21 Also when I cry and shout, **he shutteth out my prayer.**
- 21 He hath enclosed my ways with hewn stone;** he hath made my paths crooked.
- 10 **He was unto me as a bear lying in wait, and as a lion in secret places.**
- 11 He hath turned aside my ways, and **pulled me in pieces; he hath made me desolate.**
- 12 He hath bent his bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow.
- 13 He hath caused the arrows of his quiver to enter into my reins.
- 14 **I was a derision to all my people;** and their song all the day.
- 15 **He hath filled me with bitterness,** he hath made me drunken with wormwood.
- 16 He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, he hath covered me with ashes.
- 17 And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace; I forgot prosperity.
- 18 And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the Lord;

- 19 Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.
- 20 My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me.
- 21 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.
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Lamentations 3 (continued):

- 22 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.
- 23 They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.
- 24 The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

Hymn: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (words of Jeremiah):

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not.  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy had hath provided.  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

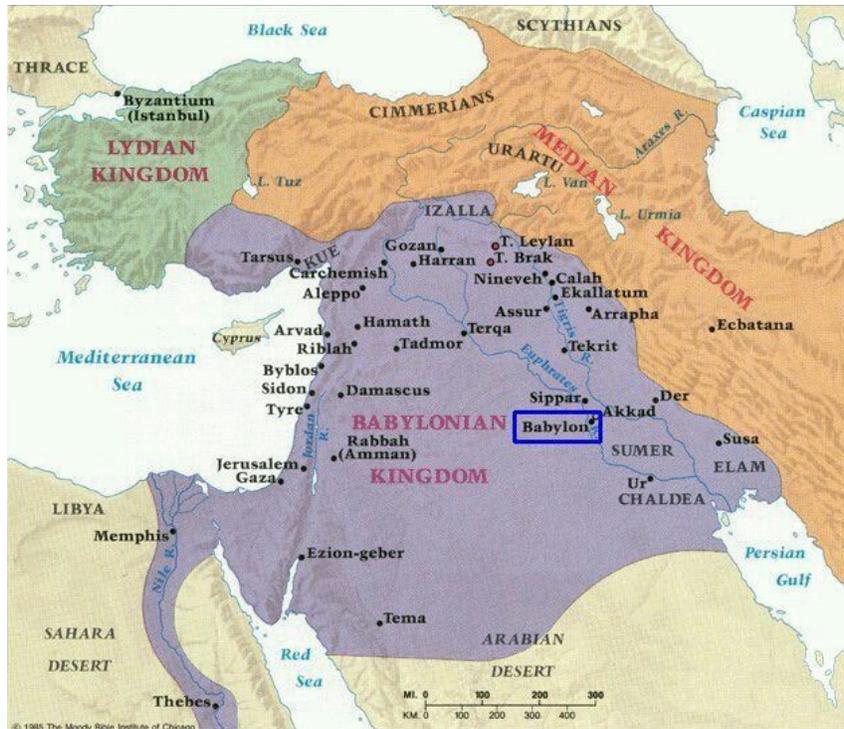
## ISAIAH 40 (returning to 742 to 673 BC: about future events)

In chapter 40, Isaiah begins by **declaring to a future generation (the future Jewish exiles in Babylon) of his chosen people to find comfort in the fact that Israel and Judah's punishment will one day end, the Holy One of Israel will come and God will establish his earthly kingdom:**

**“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,** saith your God.  
**Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,** and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that **her iniquity is pardoned**; for she hath received of the Lord's hand *double* for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God . . . **Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand** . . . Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance . . .”

Chapter 40 is the introduction to Isaiah 40 to 66, summarizing the major themes of that last section of Isaiah. In Isaiah 41:2-3, the prophet gives the assurance that **Judah's 70 years of Babylonian captivity will come to an end when he raises up a Persian king “from the east”** (Isaiah 41:2):

**Who raised up the righteous man from the east,** called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? He gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow. He pursued them, and passed safely . . . **Who hath done it . . . I the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he.**



# ISAIAH 41

Isaiah 41:1-4:

Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew their strength . . . **Who raised up the righteous man from the east** . . . I the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he . . .

Isaiah 41:8-10, Yahweh continues to speak **words of comfort** to this future generation of Jews who would experience this captivity:

**But, thou, Israel, art my servant**, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend . . . **Thou art my servant**; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. **Fear thou not; for I am with thee**; be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will

uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

## ISAIAH 42

In **Isaiah 42:1-7 (the first servant song about “the special servant”)** and **verses 19-20**, Yahweh gave the assurance that he would **send his servant to Israel & Judah**:

“Behold **my servant**, whom I uphold; mine elect, **in whom my soul delighteth** . . . He shall not fail nor be discouraged, **till he have set judgment in the earth**; and **the isles shall wait for his law** . . . For I will send **my servant** unto you who are blind; yea, a messenger to open the eyes of the blind, and unstop the ears of the deaf. And they shall be made perfect notwithstanding their blindness, if they will hearken unto the messenger, **the Lord’s servant.**”

**NOTE: I Nephi 7:46-7 says, “. . . this prophet of whom Moses spake, was the Holy One of Israel. Wherefore, he shall execute judgment in righteousness . . .”** In other words, the servant described in Isaiah 42 is **Jesus**.

# ISAIAH 43

In Isaiah 43:1 & 5:

“But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, **O Israel, Fear not**; for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine . . . **Fear not: for I am with thee . . .**

In Isaiah 43:10-11:

**Ye are my witnesses**, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that **I am he; before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no savior.**

## *The Future Fall of Babylon*

In Isaiah 43:14, Yahweh gives the assurance that **Babylon, Israel’s future captor and oppressor, will one day fall:**

“Thus saith the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake **I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans . . .**”



Isaiah was speaking between 742 and approximately 673 BC:

**In 539 BC** (150 years after Isaiah), the Medes and Persians defeated Babylon under the leadership of Darius the Mede and a greater King Cyrus of Persia. In fact, liberal scholars find it hard to believe that Isaiah specifically mentions the name of Cyrus in his prophecies many years before Cyrus comes to rule.

## ISAIAH 44 & 45

**Isaiah 44:24 to 48:22 is largely about Cyrus and the future Jewish exiles.**

In Isaiah 44:28, 45:1-6 & 13, the prophet shares a series of declarations that Yahweh will issue, and in this passage **Cyrus is specifically mentioned twice (150 years before he was alive):**

“That saith of **Cyrus**, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure, even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid. Thus saith the Lord to his

anointed, to **Cyrus**, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him . . . **For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name;** I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not know me . . . **I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways; he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives . . .**”

## ISAIAH 46

In Isaiah 46:11, Yahweh once again refers to **his incomparable power** and talks about **his future calling of Cyrus from the east to conquer Babylon:**

**“Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country;** yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.”

### *The Promise of Babylon's Future Defeat*

## ISAIAH 47

In Isaiah 47:1-5 & 11, Yahweh declares again **the fall of the future Babylonian kingdom:**

**“Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground; there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans;** for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate

. . . Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea,  
thy shame shall be seen; I will take vengeance  
. . . Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O  
daughter of the Chaldeans; for **thou shalt no  
more be called, The lady of kingdoms . . .**  
**Therefore shall evil come upon thee;** thou shalt  
now know from whence it riseth; and mischief shall  
fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off;  
and **desolation shall come upon thee suddenly,  
which thou shalt not know.”**

Read about this fall of Babylon in **Daniel 5:22-31:**

And thou his [Nebuchadnezzar's] son, O  
**Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart,**  
though thou knewest all this [what happened to  
his father]. **But hast lifted up thy self against the  
Lord of Heaven; and they have brought the  
vessels of his house before thee,** and thou and thy  
lords, they wives and thy concubines, have drunk  
wine in them; and **thou hast praised the gods of  
silver, and gold, and brass, iron, wood, and  
stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know; and the  
God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are  
all thy ways, hast thou not glorified . . .**

[**MENE:** God has numbered thy kingdom and  
finished it;

**TEKEL:** Thou art weighed in the balances and  
found wanting.

**UPHARSIN:** Thy kingdom is divided, and  
given to the Medes and Persians.]

**. . . In that night [in 539 BC] was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom . . .**

### *Idolatry*

At the same time, **Yahweh calls upon his servant Israel to cease their worship of idols and recognize him as the only true power in the universe.** We see God's anger over Israel's idol worship expressed in Isaiah 40:17-25, Isaiah 42:8, Isaiah 44:8-18, Isaiah 45:5-12 & 22, Isaiah 46:1-9 and 48:11-13.

### **NOTE:**

- In Isaiah's time, **God promised the Jews an eventual end to their future captivity under Babylon.**
- By embracing the gospel, **Nephi's brothers could also experience a release from a different kind of captivity to their own sinful desires** (e.g., wanting to return to Jerusalem).
- **In our day, we too are captive to habits and desires and we sometimes don't even realize it.**

# ISAIAH 48

**We said previously Isaiah 44:24 to 48:22 is largely about Cyrus and the future Jewish exiles.**

**In I Nephi 6:6:8-29, the prophet Nephi quoted Isaiah 48.**

## *Israel's Stubbornness (v. 1-9)*

In Isaiah 48, Yahweh returns to the subject of Israel's idolatry. In Isaiah 48:1 & 4, **Yahweh stops talking to Babylon and turns his attention back to the subject of Israel's stubbornness:**

"Hear ye this, **O house of Jacob**, which are called by the name of Israel . . . and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness . . . Because I knew that **thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass.**"

## NOTE:

- **Think of the brothers of Nephi. Is this not a perfect description of them?**
- **Doesn't this also apply to our lives in this modern age? In times of plenty have we not forgotten the Lord and even at times been belligerent and resistant toward him?**

### ***Furnace of Affliction: God Wants a Purified People (v. 10)***

In **Isaiah 48**, Yahweh distinguishes his power, which is very real, from **the impotence of idols, which are not real at all**. He is still speaking to a future generation of Jews who will live in Babylonian captivity. In Isaiah 48:10, he tells them, **"I have refined thee . . . in the furnace of affliction."**

#### **NOTE:**

- Consider **the people of Lehi** on their lonely trek to a new land. Does this not apply to them as well? That was "a furnace of affliction" as well.
- **Does it not apply to us in our day?** God wants to try us in the furnace of affliction. He wants to refine and purify us. He wants to skim the dross from us and bring forth a purified people.

### ***Cease Worshipping Idols & Give Glory to Me (v. 11-19)***

In **Isaiah 48:11-13**, God calls on Israel to cease its worship of idols and to worship the only true God, the Creator:

**". . . and I will not give my glory to another.  
Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called;  
I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. Mine  
hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth . . ."**

#### **NOTE:**

- In **Isaiah's time**, **Israel** was carried away by Assyria in 722 BC for worshipping idols. One hundred fifty years later,

Judah would be subject to Babylonian deportation in 586 BC, partly because of its idol worship.

- **The brothers of Nephi** had venerated the people of Jerusalem saying it would be impossible for that righteous city to fall.
- **In a modern context**, what idols have **we** worshipped? What dead objects have we venerated?

### ***God Asks Us to Walk in Obedience (v. 18)***

In Isaiah 48:18, Yahweh addressed **Israel's lack of obedience**:

**“Oh that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea. Thy seed also had been as the sand, and the offspring of thy bowels like the gravel thereof . . .”**

#### **NOTE:**

- **Israel** would not obey.
- **The brothers of Nephi** refused to believe in the prophecies of their father Lehi.
- Today, **we** also refuse to follow many of the precepts in scripture.

## ***Judah's Eventual Release From Babylonian Captivity (v. 20)***

Despite the fact that they've failed to give Yahweh glory for his marvelous interventions in the past, in Isaiah 48:20, the prophet tells Judah that they will eventually be released from captivity:

Go ye forth of Babylon, **flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing** declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; **say ye, The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob.**

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# THE BOOK OF MORMON QUOTING ISAIAH

## NEPHI QUOTES ISAIAH 48 & 49

- In I Nephi 6:6:8-29, the prophet Nephi quoted Isaiah 48 (about future exiles).
- In I Nephi 6:31-56, the prophet Nephi quoted Isaiah 49 (about the Servant & Zion).
- In I Nephi 7, Nephi explained how Isaiah 48 & 49 applied to Lehi's descendants.

## NEXT WEEK

## JACOB QUOTES ISAIAH:

**ISAIAH 49:22 to 51:2 (Jacob's Sermon is found in II Nephi 5, 6 & 7)**

- In II Nephi 5:17-45, Jacob's sermon quoted & explained Isaiah 49:22-26.
- In II Nephi 5:46-69, Jacob's sermon quoted Isaiah 50.
- In II Nephi 5:70-111, Jacob's sermon quoted Isaiah 51.
- In III Nephi 5:112-114, Jacob's sermon quoted Isaiah 51:1-2.

## **REVIEW**

1. We said earlier that Isaiah 40 introduces a new section in which the prophet begins to speak words of comfort to the future Jewish exiles in Babylonian captivity.
  
2. We also said Isaiah 44:24 to 48:22 is largely about Cyrus and his future release of the Jewish exiles that would occur in 538 BC, which would allow them to rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem.
  
3. In **Isaiah 48**, Yahweh talked about Israel's obstinance and their attributing blessings in their lives to deaf & dumb idols. Therefore, they would experience "a furnace of affliction." But eventually they would be released.
  
4. **Isaiah 49 to 55** is about a special servant of Yahweh & Zion. This special servant:
  - a. who was originally mentioned in 42:1-7,
  - b. was referred to again in 49:1-6.
  - c. He is then mentioned in 50:4-10 and
  - d. 52:13 to 53:12.

**5. Just like there was a change in subject matter in chapter 40, there is a similar break between Isaiah 48 and Isaiah 49:**

- a. **Isaiah 48 – was about Cyrus and the future Jewish exiles.**
  - b. **Isaiah 49 – was about Zion and the special servant who would come after the captivity: Jesus the Messiah.**
-

# ISAIAH 49

**Isaiah 49 to 55 – is about THE SERVANT & ZION.**

**In I Nephi 6:31-56, the prophet Nephi quoted Isaiah 49.**

At this point, Isaiah moves beyond Babylon and Cyrus of Persia, and he begins to address **future events regarding a special servant of Yahweh**. The work of this servant will culminate in the establishment of God's kingdom on earth, **Zion**.

***Who Is the Servant Mentioned in Isaiah 49:3?***

In talking about a “servant,” Isaiah can be confusing. Prior to chapter 49, the prophet talked about two different servants:

- Isaiah referred to **Israel** as the servant race.
- He also referred to an individual who would be **the Messiah** to come.

With each servant song, it sounds like someone other than the prophet appears to be speaking. With each song, the “servant” begins to sound more and more like an **individual Messiah**.

In Isaiah 49, we come to six verses where **this person who is the “servant” speaks in first person**. The confusing part is **verse 3**:

“And said unto me, **Thou art my servant, O Israel**, in whom I will be glorified.”

[Besides this individual person, Israel is also a servant.]

However, if you read the entire poem shown below, in verse 5 the servant speaks of Israel as a third person and says that **part of his mission is to bring Jacob again to the Lord!**

**The four servant songs (which we say are about Jesus the Messiah; the Jews say are about the Jewish people):**

- We previously said that **Isaiah 42:1-7** contains what is called a “servant song.”
- **The second “servant song” is found in Isaiah 49:1-6.**
- The third one is contained in Isaiah 50:4-10, and
- the fourth is in Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12.

## *The Second Servant Song (from the servant's perspective)*

To help us understand Isaiah 48 and 49, let's ask three things:

- Who is the speaker?
- What subject are they talking about?
- What audience are they speaking to?

Keep in mind that, in **Isaiah 40-48**, Yahweh is speaking words of comfort to the future Jewish exiles in Babylon and telling them their captivity would one day end:

- Yahweh is the **speaker**.
  - The **subject** is a future Captivity & Release
  - The **audience** is the future Jewish Exiles in Babylon (1/3 of the three tribes of Judah).
- 

Now, in **Isaiah 49** the special servant of Yahweh is saying, "Listen, O isles unto me." Verses 1-6 are the servant speaking in first person:

- In the first 6 verses, the Special Servant of Yahweh is the **speaker** (in the first six verses).
- The **subject** is a future Special Servant & Zion
- The **audience** appears to have changed to include All 13 Tribes of Israel scattered across the earth!

In Isaiah 49:1-4, the Servant describes his own calling from Yahweh before he was born:

- 1 **Listen, O isles unto me [Is this a broader audience, in other words ALL of Israel?];** and hearken, ye people, from far; **The Lord hath called me from the womb;** from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.
- 2 **And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword;** in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;
- 3 **And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel,** in whom I will be glorified.  
[Note: Jesus in his human form was part of Israel. Yahweh was saying that he would be glorified in Jesus & in Israel, the servant race.]

**NOTE:** To scholars, the underlined words are the part that doesn't fit. Some scholars think "O Israel" was added later, but the Jewish people believe it is correct to say *they* are the "servant." Christian scholars say Jesus was the archetype for the kingdom of Israel (Oakman: Zion in its "individual mode").

4 **Then I said**, I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for naught, and in vain; yet surely my judgment is with the Lord, and my work with my God.

In Isaiah 49:5-6, **the Servant describes his two-part mission** given to him by Yahweh:

- restore Israel, and
- bring salvation to the world (Jews & Gentiles).

5 And now, saith the Lord that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, and my God shall be my strength.

6 And he said,

1. It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to **restore the preserved of Israel**;

[This first part of the servant's mission is a lesser thing than the second part].

2. I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest **be my salvation unto the end of the earth**.

[bring salvation unto the entire world]

In Isaiah 49:7, the servant, Jesus the Messiah, has just finished describing his calling and mission. The chapter continues speaking to all 13 tribes across the earth, but there is a change in the speaker. Even though verse 7 might sound like it could be Jesus speaking, the speaker is actually the Father [Yahweh]:

Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One . . .

## ***The Servant's Calling***

In Isaiah 49:1, this chapter begins with **The servant of Yahweh calling to all the children of Israel (the chosen people) who are scattered across the earth**. In Isaiah 49:1-4, the special servant explains his calling from Yahweh:

**“Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The Lord hath called me from the womb . . . And said unto me, **Thou art my servant, O Israel**, in whom I will be glorified.”**

**NOTE:** I Nephi 7:6-9 tells us, **“the isles of the sea”** refers to **“scattered Israel”** across the world.

**NOTE:**

- **Israel's Calling:** In verse 1, the special servant, Jesus, is calling out to Israel, who has been scattered across the earth. Jesus is speaking in first person and explaining his calling and mission.

- **Lehi's Calling:** In reading chapter 49 to his brothers, Nephi was pointing out that the people of Lehi were not alone. This diaspora was happening with the entire house of Israel, not just Judah, not just Lehi's family, but everyone.
- **Our Calling:** His chosen people were being led to every corner of the earth.

Just like Isaiah 44:21, in Isaiah 49:3 Yahweh calls Israel his servant with these words: **“Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”** (Note: Jews believe the Jewish people are the only servant Yahweh is talking about in all four servant songs).

**In the first two servant songs, the identity of “the special servant” is sometimes confusing.** The first song in Isaiah 42:1-7 sounds very much like it is Jesus. The second song in Isaiah 49:1-6 sounds like it might be Israel, but then the servant speaks about Israel as a separate entity. Then the third and fourth songs make it obvious that **Jesus is really the special servant in these four songs.**

## *The Servant's Mission*

**Even though Israel is referred to as a servant race called by God, Christians believe Jesus was the “special servant” called by God to perform the two-part mission described in verses 5 and 6.**

In **verses 5-6**, the special servant is given **a mission** to perform. God reminds us that it is no small responsibility to be his “servant.” That servant is then called to:

1. **restore Israel, and**

## 2. bring salvation to the world.

Though the Jewish people (49:3: “my servant, O Israel) will play a major role in the latter days, **we believe Isaiah 48 and 49 are foretelling how Jesus the Messiah will be that light to restore the preserved of Israel and be God’s salvation** to the ends of the earth.

In **Isaiah 49:7**, we said there is another transition:

- The **speaker changes** from the servant back to Yahweh.
- The audience is still the 13 tribes scattered across the earth.
- Subject: I think Yahweh might be talking about both Jesus & Israel.

I think verse 7 is talking about **Jesus and Israel** because:

- They were both despised and abhorred by the nations.
- They were both “servants of rulers.”
- They will both cause kings to arise and worship Yahweh.
- They were both “the chosen” of the Lord.

In **Isaiah 49:8** we see that before this restoration of Israel, God will scatter his chosen people across the earth to be influence all the nations of the earth. In verses 8-12, God uses imagery from Moses and the Israelites wandering in the desert. God will:

- “give thee for a covenant of the people,”
- “to establish the earth,”
- “to cause to inherit the **inhabit “desolate heritages.”**

**Isaiah 49:9** explains that God gave Jesus to the world and scattered Israel the servant race in this manner to **free the world**

**from captivity to sin and feed the world with the truth of Christ's gospel:**

- That thou mayest say to the prisoners [of sin], Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Show yourselves.
- They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.

**Isaiah 49:10** tells us these converted believers will not hunger or thirst and “he [Jesus] that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water . . .”

## **NOTE:**

- **Israel**, the servant race will inhabit remote locations across the globe to bring light to those places.
- **The people of Lehi also inhabited remote locations** that, as God's servants, **they might bless the earth.** This is part of the five-part blessing God gave to the fathers: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob-Israel.
- **This is also our calling today:** to bless the families of the earth by feeding them with the gospel and by establishing Zion.

In **Isaiah 49:8-12**, uses imagery from Moses to **compare “the Servant” to Moses.**

In **Isaiah 49:13**, Isaiah calls for Israel to **shout for joy** at the salvation that Yahweh will bring “for he will have mercy upon his afflicted.”

### ***God Will Not Forget His People***

**In Isaiah 49:14, a personified Zion cries out to God.**

**Isaiah 49:14 to Isaiah 50:3 is ISAIAH’S RESPONSE TO 48:14 that Yahweh has forsaken her.**

Suddenly in **Isaiah 49:14**, a conversation begins between a personified Zion and Yahweh. In verse 14, Zion says:

**The Lord has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me. [Isn’t this how Zion often feels today?]**

In verse 15, Yahweh responds:

**15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, *they* may forget, yet will *I* not forget thee.**

**16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands . . .**

In **Isaiah 49:14-16**, Yahweh promises that, despite how far away they may be, **he will not forget his people** for they are engraved “upon the palms of my hands.”

## NOTE:

- The **brothers of Nephi** needed to know that God had not forgotten them.
- In our day, **we need to know that God has not forgotten us.**

### *The Land Where Israel Dwells Will Become Heavily Populated*

- In **Isaiah 49:19-20**, we learn that these desolate places where the children of Israel dwell will, at some point, become **too narrow for them to remain.**
- In **Isaiah 49:22**, God tells his servant Israel that, when that occurs, **he will send the Gentiles to assist Israel.**
- **First Nephi 7:15-18** indicates that **the Gentiles will even bring the gospel** to descendants of the people of Lehi.
- In **Isaiah 49:25**, the **promised people** of Israel who were in captivity **will be freed and delivered** from oppression. See also 1 Nephi 7:22-25.

## NOTE:

- **The desolate places will one day become too crowded** for God's servant **Israel** to remain.
- In like manner, **Lehi's descendants** would become so populous that they would be inclined to move.
- As I Nephi 7:15-18 promises, **we** should be those Gentiles who would bring the gospel to Lehi's descendants.

# REVIEW OF I NEPHI 6

In the first few verses:

- 1 . . . **I, Nephi did teach my brethren** these things.
- 2 . . . I did read many things to them, which were engraven upon **the plates of brass, that they might know concerning the doings of the Lord in other lands**, among people of old.
- 3 And I did read many things unto them, which were written in **the book of Moses**.
- 4 But **that I might more fully persuade them to believe in the Lord their Redeemer, I did read unto them that which was written by the prophet Isaiah**.
- 5 For **I did liken all scriptures unto us** that it might be for our profit and learning.
- 6 . . . hear ye the words of the prophet, which were **written unto all the house of Israel**, and liken them unto yourselves, **that ye may have hope** . . .

**I Nephi 6:29** – after **Isaiah** prophesies in verse 27 that the Babylonians would come, **Nephi adds**,

“ . . . **He hath done all this and greater also.**”

In other words, **God is the author, the initiator, of this Babylonian invasion.**

In verse 30, **Nephi also adds** this to the words of Isaiah:

“And again: Hearken, O ye house of Israel, **all ye that are broken off and are driven out, because of the wickedness of the pastors of my people**, yea, all ye that are **broken off**, that are **scattered abroad**, who are of my people, O **house of Israel.**”

[**Question:** Was this in the plates of brass, or did Nephi simply add it?]

**NOTE:** Here Nephi tells us that the Babylonian captivity occurred because of “**the wickedness of the pastors of my people . . . who are broken off . . . scattered abroad . . . of the house of Israel.**”

## **REVIEW:**

WE PREVIOUSLY SAID THAT ISAIAH 48 & 49 ARE EACH PART OF **TWO DIFFERENT SECTIONS** IN THE BOOK OF ISAIAH:

- In **Isaiah 48**, Yahweh talked about:
  - Yahweh is speaking to the future Jewish exiles about Judah's obstinance and their attributing blessings in their lives to deaf & dumb idols.
  - Therefore, they would experience "a furnace of affliction" (Babylonian captivity).
  - But eventually they would be released.
- **Isaiah 49** is about a special servant of Yahweh and Zion.
  - In chapter 49, the audience is all 13 tribes of Israel scattered across the earth.

- In the first six verses, the **speaker is the special servant** of Yahweh talking about two things he received from Yahweh:

### **1. Mission**

### **2. Calling**

- In verse 7, **the speaker is Yahweh** talking to the scattered 13 tribes across the earth about “his Holy One.”
- In verse 8, Yahweh is still talking to scattered Israel and telling them they will inhabit **“the desolate heritages.”**
- In verse 14, **Zion** cries out that **God has forsaken her and forgotten about her.**
- In verses 15-26, Yahweh tells Zion **he will never forget her!**

# I NEPHI 7

## I NEPHI 7:1-5

Nephi has just finished reading Isaiah 48 and 49 to his brothers in one continuous reading. **The brothers then ask him two questions:**

“. . . after I, Nephi, had read these things which were engraven upon the plates of brass, my brethren came unto me and said unto me,

1. What **meaneth** these things which ye have read?
2. Behold, **are they to be understood according to the things which are spiritual**, which shall come to pass according to the spirit and not the flesh?”

In **I Nephi 7:3-5**, Nephi answered the **second question** first by explaining that these things he read about in Isaiah 48 & 49 **were both spiritual and temporal**.

Then in **I Nephi 7:6-70**, Nephi then answered the **first question**.

## **I NEPHI 7:6-25 – The Scattering & Gathering of Israel, the United States, They Shall Know Jesus is Lord:**

### ***Israel Will Be Scattered***

**I Nephi 7:6-9 -- Israel will be scattered among all nations and hated by all people.**

“For it appears that the house of Israel, sooner or later, will be scattered upon all the face of the earth, and also among all nations. And behold there are many who are already lost from the knowledge of those who are at Jerusalem. Yea, the more part of all the tribes have been led away [Assyria deported the ten northern tribes of Israel to the east in 722 BC and this might possibly include Babylon in 586 BC]. And they are scattered to and fro upon the isles of the sea. And whither they are, none of us knoweth, save that we know that they have been led away.”

**NOTE:** So “the isles of the sea” in Isaiah 49:1 seems to refer to all 13 tribes of “scattered Israel” across the world.

In **Isaiah 49:7** there is another transition in which:

- **Speaker:** Yahweh is *now* speaking,
- **Audience:** He continues to talk to all 13 tribes (like the servant just did)
- **Subject:** In verse 7, he talks about “His Holy One,” or **Jesus who would be hated and then worshipped.**

## In Verses 8-12:

**Speaker & Audience:** Then in **verses 8-12**, there is NO change in speaker or audience. Yahweh is still speaking to scattered Israel.

**Change in Subject:** Yahweh stops talking about “his Holy One” and **speaks about Israel, his servant race**. There are many who are already lost – the more part of the tribes have been led away. They are scattered upon the isles of the sea:

- **Isaiah 49:1** -- The special servant of God declares, “Listen, **O isles** unto me; and hearken, ye people, **from far** . . .” [Note: Scattered Israel is the audience throughout]
- **Isaiah 49:8-12** – “Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee and in a day of salvation have I helped thee; and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, **to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages.** That thou mayest say to the **prisoners**, Go forth; to **them that are in darkness**, Show yourselves. They shall feed in the ways . . . he that hath mercy on them shall lead them. Behold, **these shall come from far** . . .” [Note: It appears that scattered Israel is to take the gospel to foreign lands to be a blessing to the earth]

## ***Israel Will Be Nursed & Carried by the Gentiles***

**I Nephi 7:13-14 -- God's people will be nursed by the Gentiles and carried in their arms (In v. 13-14 – Nephi clarifies that this means the Gentiles will nurse and carry **Lehi's descendants**).**

- **Isaiah 49:22-23** – “. . . Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people; **and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders**. And kings shall be thy **nursing fathers**, and their queens thy **nursing mothers**; they shall bow down to thee with their faces toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the Lord; for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.”
- **I Nephi 7:13** – makes this same reference, that the Gentiles will nurse and carry scattered Israel, it says, “. . . these things are temporal: for thus are the covenants of the Lord with our fathers.”
- **I Nephi 7:14**: “And it [verse 13] meaneth **us** in the days to come, **and also all our brethren** who are of the house of Israel.”

## **A Mighty Nation On the American Continent Will Scatter Lehi's Seed**

**1 Nephi 7:15-16** – After Israel has been scattered and confounded, the Lord will then raise up **a mighty nation** on the American continent. **That nation will scatter Lehi's seed.**

- **1 Nephi 7:15-16:** “. . . after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, that the Lord God will raise up **a mighty nation among the Gentiles**, yea, even upon the face of this land. And **by them shall our seed be scattered.**”
- **Isaiah 49:22-23** – “Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, **I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard** to the people . . . **they shall bow down to thee** with their faces toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet . . .”

## **God Will Perform a “Marvelous Work” Among the Gentiles**

**1 Nephi 7:17** – ***After Israel is scattered***, the Lord will proceed to do **a marvelous work among the Gentiles**, which will be of **great worth to Lehi's descendants**. This marvelous work “is likened unto” Lehi's descendants being nourished and carried by the Gentiles. **It shall make known the promises to the fathers and the gospel**, blessing all the families of the earth.

- **1 Nephi 7:17-20** – “And **after our seed is scattered**, the Lord God will proceed to do **a marvelous work** among the Gentiles, which

shall be of great worth unto our seed. Wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles, and being carried in their arms, and upon their shoulders. And it shall also be of worth unto the Gentiles. And not only unto the Gentiles, but unto all the house of Israel, unto the making known of the covenants of the Father of heaven unto Abraham, saying, In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.”

Kings  
Nations  
Earth blessed  
Land  
Descendants

- **Isaiah 29:26 (IV) – When it reaches the point that men have removed their hearts far from the Lord and their fear is taught by the precepts of men, “therefore I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people . . . the wisdom of their wise and learned shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid.”**
- **II Nephi 12:42 – “. . . when I shall proceed to do a marvelous work among them, that I may remember my covenants which I have made unto the children of men, that I may set my hand again the second time to recover my people, which are the house of Israel.”**

- **D & C 4:1a** – Now [February 1829] behold, **a marvelous work** is about to come forth among the children of men.
- **D & C 16:7b** – “and **by your hands I will work a marvelous work** among the children of men, unto the **convincing of many of their sins**, that they may come unto repentance, and **that they may come unto the kingdom** of my Father.”

## **God’s Power Manifest: The Earth Blessed**

**I Nephi 7:21-22 – The kindreds of the earth cannot be blessed unless God “makes bare his arm in the eyes of all nations.”**

God will do this in order to “bring about his covenants and his gospel, unto those who are of the house of Israel.” [See II Nephi 2:22]

- **Isaiah 49:25-26** – “. . . **for the mighty God shall deliver his covenant people**. For thus saith the Lord, I will contend with them that contend with thee, and **I will save thy children**. And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine; and **all flesh shall know that I the Lord am thy Savior and thy Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.**”
- **Genesis 12:1-2** – “Now, the Lord had said unto Abram . . . And I will make of thee a great nation . . . and **in thee shall the families of the earth be blessed.**”

- **Ether 6:6-12** – “And that **a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land**, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph – Wherefore the Lord brought a remnant of the seed of Joseph out of the land of Jerusalem . . . and **they shall build up a holy city** unto the Lord . . . a new heaven and a new earth . . . And then cometh the New Jerusalem . . . they are they who are numbered among **the remnant of the seed of Joseph, who were of the house of Israel** . . . And they are they who were **scattered and gathered in** from the four quarters of the earth, and from the north countries, **and are partakers of the fulfilling of the covenant which God made with their father Abraham.**”

## ***Israel Shall Be Gathered & Know Jesus Is Their Savior***

Then all Israel will be **gathered together** and brought out of obscurity, and **they shall know the Lord is their Savior**, the mighty one of Israel.

- **Isaiah 49:12** – Behold, **these shall come from far**; and, lo, these **from the north and from the west** . . . Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and **break forth into singing**, O mountains; for the Lord has comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.”

- **D & C 108:6a-e** – “**And they who are in the north countries shall come** in remembrance before the Lord . . . **And an highway shall be cast up in the midst of the great deep . . . in the barren deserts there shall come forth pools of living water**; and the parched ground shall no longer be a thirsty land . . . **And then shall they fall down and be crowned with glory, even in Zion, by the hands of the servants of the Lord, even the children of Ephraim**, and they shall be filled with songs of everlasting joy.
  
- **Isaiah 48:20-22** – In this passage Isaiah uses imagery from the Exodus to describe Judah’s return from Babylon to Jerusalem in 538 BC: **“Go ye forth out of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob. And they [Israel under Moses] thirsted not when he led them through the deserts; he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them; he clave the rock also, and the waters gushed.”**

## **Nations War Until Abominable Church Tumbles to the Dust**

**I Nephi 7:26-31 – The great and abominable church, the whore of the earth, and every nation will war against one another and against the house of Israel. The abominable church will tumble to the dust.**

- **I Nephi 3:171 – introduces “the great and abominable church” that takes away plain and precious things from the book of the Lamb of God.**
- **I Nephi 3:179 – As a result of removing those truths, the great and abominable church causes man to be in a state of blindness.**
- **I Nephi 3:183 – After they have been blinded by removing parts of the gospel, the Lord will be merciful to the Gentiles and restore the plain and precious parts of the gospel.**
- **I Nephi 3:232 – When there are wars and rumors of wars among all nations, God will pour out his wrath upon the great and abominable church.**

## **God Will Pour Out His Wrath to Preserve the Righteous**

**I Nephi 7:32-42** – To preserve the righteous, **God will pour out “the fullness of the wrath of God” upon the children of men. He will preserve the righteous** by his power. Everyone who fights against Zion will be cut off.

- **II Nephi 5:33** – “Wherefore, they that fight against Zion and the covenant people of the Lord, shall lick up the dust of their feet.”
- **II Nephi 11:118** – “And all the nations that fight against Zion, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision.”

## **Jesus Will Administer Judgment (Fulfilling Moses’ Words)**

**I Nephi 7:43-48** – The Lord will fulfill Deuteronomy 18:15 in which Jesus will come. **Jesus will execute judgment in righteousness** (v. 47). The righteous don’t need to fear this.

**I Nephi 7:46-7:**

“. . . this prophet of whom Moses spake, was **the Holy One of Israel**. Wherefore, he shall execute judgment in righteousness . . .”  
[See Isaiah 42:1-7 above]

Other passages that support this:

- **Deuteronomy 18:15-18** -- **The Lord will raise up a Prophet from the midst of thee**, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken. The Lord said, “**I will put my**

**words in his mouth**; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.”

- **Isaiah 49:1-2** – “. . . the Lord hath called me from the womb . . . **And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword**; I the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; **in his quiver hath he hid me.**”
- **Isaiah 49:8** – “Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have **I heard thee**, and in a day of salvation have **I helped thee**; and **I will preserve thee** . . .

## **Churches Built to Get Gain, Power, Popularity Will Fall**

**I Nephi 7:49-53 – The kingdom of the devil will be built up among the children of men. This kingdom consists of churches that are built up to get gain, power, popularity, that seek the lusts of the flesh, and do all manner of iniquity. Those who belong to the kingdom of the devil need to fear and tremble. They are the ones who will be brought low.**

**I Nephi 7:50-54 [best description of “the great & abominable church”]:**

“For the time speedily shall come, that all **churches** which are built up **to get gain**, and to those who are built up **to get power** over the flesh, and those who are built up **to become popular** in the eyes of the world, and those **who seek the lusts of the flesh and the things of the world, and to do all manner of iniquity . . .** they who need fear, and tremble, and quake . . . who must be brought low in the dust . . . who must be consumed as stubble. **And this is according to the words of the prophet.**”

- **Isaiah 48:22** – “There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked.”

## ***Nephi Is Simply Conveying the Words of the Prophet***

**I Nephi 7:54** – Toward the end of I Nephi 7, Nephi explains to his brothers the above statements are **“according to the words of the prophet.”**

**NOTE: I was not able to tie everything Nephi said in chapter 7 to an item in Isaiah 48 or 49.** However, in I Nephi 7:54, Nephi seemed to be saying that what he said was an outgrowth from Isaiah’s words. However, it seems pretty clear that Nephi’s explanation in chapter 7 is not merely **an explanation of Isaiah 48 and 49.**

**However, Nephi’s explanation is much more detailed. It appears Nephi expanded on Isaiah’s thoughts and gave a much fuller explanation of events,** perhaps the same events Isaiah was describing or perhaps *additional* related events.

**I NEPHI 7:55-64** – **Jesus Will Reign & Gather His Children; Satan Will Be Bound; The Righteous Will Dwell Safely:**

### **Jesus Will Reign in Glory**

**I Nephi 7:55** – The Holy One of Israel will reign in dominion, might, power and glory:

“. . . and **the Holy One of Israel must reign** in dominion, and might, and power, and great glory.

- **Isaiah 49:18** – “As I live, saith the Lord, thou shalt surely clothe thee with them all, as with

an ornament, and bind them on thee, as a **bride** [Israel] doeth.”

## **Jesus Will Gather His Children**

**I Nephi 7:56-61** – He will **gather his children** from the four quarters of the earth.

And **he gathereth his children** from the four quarters of the earth . . .

- **Isaiah 49:18** – “Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold; all these **gather** themselves together, and come to thee.”

## **Jesus Will Number His Sheep**

**I Nephi 7:57-59** – He will **number his sheep** and there will be **one fold**. He will **feed his sheep**.

**he numbereth his sheep . . . And there shall be one fold and one shepherd . . .**

- **Isaiah 49:9** – “That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Show yourselves. **They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.**”

## **Satan Will Have No Power**

I Nephi 7:60-62 – Satan will have no power (he will not be loosed for many years).

“And because of the righteousness of his people, Satan has no power. Wherefore, he cannot be loosed for the space of many years.”

- **Revelation 20:2** – And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.
- **D & C 43:7c** – “. . . for the great millennial, which I have spoken by the mouth of my servants, shall come; for Satan shall be bound; and **when he is loosed again, he shall only reign for a little season**, and then cometh the end of the earth.
- **D & C 85:35b** – “. . . and Satan shall be bound, that old serpent, who is the Devil, and shall not be loosed for the space of a thousand years.”

## **Those Who Repent Will Dwell Safely With Jesus**

I Nephi 7:63-64 – Those who repent will dwell in safety with the Holy One of Israel (v. 64).

### **I NEPHI 7:67-70:**

In his conclusion to this chapter, Nephi says:

- The things written on **the plates of brass are true**. They testify that we must be obedient (v. 67).
- In reading this, it is obvious that **Lehi and Nephi were not the only witnesses** of these things (v. 68).
- Not only must you be obedient, but **you must endure to the end in order to be saved at the last day** (v. 69-70).

## **TWO LEADERS APPOINTED BY GOD: CYRUS IN 538 BC & TRUMAN IN 1945 AD**

In **ISAIAH 48** – 150 years before Cyrus was alive, the prophet **Isaiah** predicted that a man named **Cyrus** would one day free the Judean exiles and rebuild Jerusalem.

**NOTE:** The Jews began to return to Jerusalem in 538 BC, and the temple was rebuilt by 516 BC. (Ezra 6:15 says it was finished **in the sixth year of King “Darius.”** I assume that was “Darius I” who began his reign in 522 BC).

**II Chronicles 36:22-23 (closing the book of Chronicles) says:**

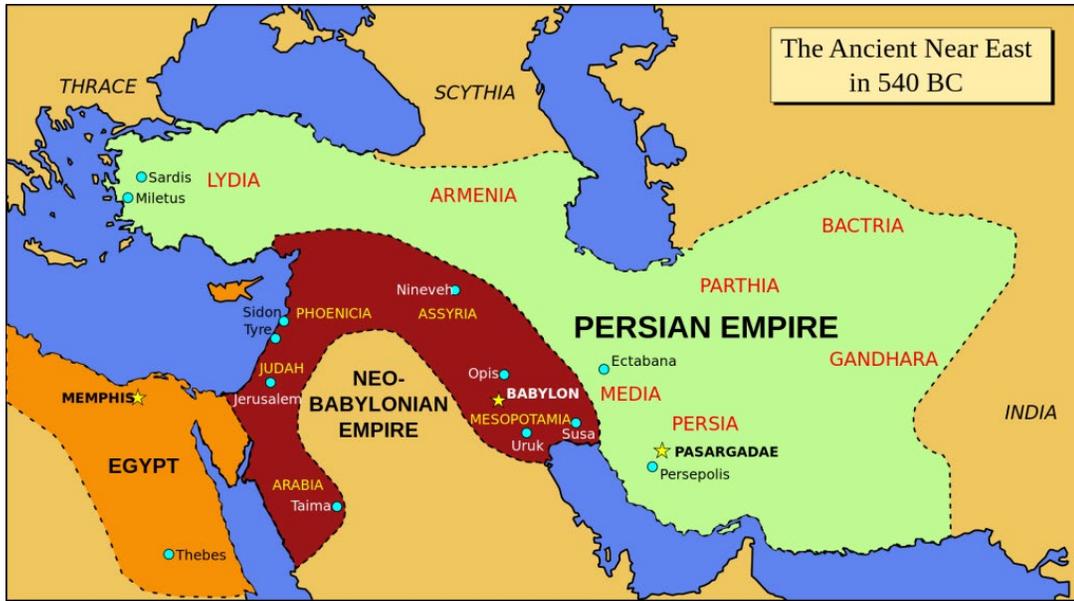
**22** Now in the first year of **Cyrus** king of Persia, that the word of the Lord spoken by the mouth of **Jeremiah** might be accomplished, **the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,**

**23** Thus saith **Cyrus** king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and **he hath charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his**

people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up [added wording in Ezra 1].

## **Ezra 1 (starting the book of Ezra right under Chronicles – repeats the message on the same page):**

- 1 Now in the first year of **Cyrus** king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled [the only different word in the text], **the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation** throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,
- 2 Thus saith **Cyrus** king of Persia, The Lord **God** of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and **he hath charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.**
- 3 **Who is there among you of all his people?** his God be with him, and **let him go up to Jerusalem, which is Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.**



## Amos 9:14-15 (possibly speaking of 1948):

- 14 And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.
- 15 And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.

**Article in Jerusalem Post in 2022:**  
**In 1949, the chief rabbi of Israel declared**  
**Truman to be a modern-day “Cyrus.”**

## **Harry Truman, Bible-believing president, enabled 'Exodus' 75 years ago**

Opinion: The president believed "I am Cyrus. I am Cyrus."

By RISTO HUVILA

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US president Harry Truman receives a Menorah from Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, as Abba Eban looks on, 1951  
(photo credit: FRITZ COHEN/GPO)

The Jewish Passover is celebrated to commemorate the liberation of the Israelites from Egypt. The people of Israel had been slaves to Pharaohs for

400 years, after which God's promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:13-16) was fulfilled under Moses around 1300 BC.

The Bible describes **two other exoduses**:

- **the return of the Jews from the Babylonian captivity to the land of Israel, made possible by King Cyrus**, and the construction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem around 515 BC (2 Chron. 36:22-23, Ezra 1:1-4).
- The third Exodus, also spoken of in the Bible, is **the return of the Jewish people to their own land, from which they will no longer be removed. The prophet predicts this return in Amos 9:14-15:**

*I will bring my people Israel back from exile.  
They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them.  
They will plant vineyards and drink their wine;  
they will make gardens and eat their fruit.  
I will plant Israel in their own land,  
never again to be uprooted  
from the land I have given them,  
says the Lord your God.*

Whereas **Moses played the key role in the first exodus and King Cyrus in the second, the third was coordinated under the 33rd President of the United States, [Harry S. Truman](#)**, who took office exactly 75 years ago, on **April 12, 1945**.

That day was a turning point for both Truman and the Jewish nation, as it began a process that freed Jews from nearly 2,000 years of exile and slavery in Nazi Germany, **also fulfilling Amos' prophecy of Jewish [permanent settlement in the land of Israel](#)**.

Associated with this promise of God is one of the most interesting verses in the Bible (**Jer. 32:41**), which is, in fact, the only passage in the canonized Bible **when God says He is doing something "with all his heart"**:

I will rejoice in doing them good and **will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.**



## MODERN EXODUS STARTS

**April 12, 1945 was a pivotal day that changed Truman's life permanently.** He had been leading the discussion in the Senate as the vice president, when after the session **he received a call from Roosevelt's assistant Steve Early asking Truman to come to the White House immediately.** Truman was escorted to Mrs. Roosevelt's room on the second floor of the White House. **Truman wrote in his diary:**

*Mrs. Roosevelt and Steve Early and Colonel and Mrs. Boettiger [Roosevelt's daughter] were there – **Mrs. Roosevelt put her arm around my shoulder and said, "The President is dead."** That was the first inkling I had of the seriousness of the situation.*

I then asked them what I could do, and she said – "What can we do for you?" ...

*I was very much shocked. I'm not easily shocked but was certainly shocked when I was told of the president's death and **the weight of the government had fallen on my shoulders.***

*I did not know what reaction the country would have to the death of a man whom they all practically worshipped. I was worried about the reaction of the Armed Forces. I did not know what effect the situation would have on the war effort, price control, war production and everything that entered into the emergency that then existed.*

*I knew the president had a great many meetings with Churchill and Stalin. I was not familiar with any of these things and it was really something to think about but I decided the best thing to do was to go home and get as much rest as possible and face the music.*

**Truman, shocked by the situation, was sworn in with a completely packed Oval Office at the White House at 7:09 p.m., only 2 hours and 24 minutes after Roosevelt's death.** The only Bible that was found in the middle of this hectic situation was the one in the desk drawer of Howell Crim, the White House chief usher: an inexpensive version of a Gideon Bible with bright red page borders. Truman fretted afterwards that had he known, he would have brought his grandfather's Bible, which he kept in his office, at the White House. **The next day, Truman met the press representatives in the hallways of Congress, and the first thing he said to them was:**

**"Boys, if you ever pray, pray for me now.** I don't know if you fellows ever had a load of hay fall on you, but when they told me yesterday what had happened, I felt like the moon, the stars and all the planets had fallen on me."

From that moment on began **a turning point in world history that led to the birth of the State of Israel only three years later on May 14, 1948.** **Harry Truman and Bible prophecy played a central role in this process.**



ISRAEL'S FIRST president Chaim Weizmann presents US president Harry Truman with a Torah in 1948. (Credit: COURTESY HARRY S. TRUMAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM)

## THE PRESIDENT AND THE PROPHECY

To Harry Truman, the Bible, prayer and faith meant a great deal, and they were seen and heard in almost everything he said or wrote. Truman said that he had twice read the Bible from cover to cover before the age of 12, and there he found role models for his own life in the heroes of both the Old and New Testament. Due to the time he spent in the Bible and Sunday School, Truman was able to recite several verses by heart even in his old age. He made no secret of his faith and the truth of the Bible. The Ten Commandments received by Moses and the Sermon on the Mount by Jesus formed a moral compass for him by which he steered his life and politics, first for 10 years as a senator and then 8 years as president.

**Without awareness and understanding of Truman's life-long solid, personal relationship with the Bible**, his actions, as they relate to the establishment of the State of Israel, seem to have been mere political exploits. Many **political historians** have interpreted his Palestine policy as having been just one way among others to fish for the votes of Jewish Americans and to get them to write checks for his future campaigns, but closer examination of Truman's life does not support that notion.

Deeper analysis of the president's belief and political actions elicits very different conclusions, and, in fact, **his policies and decisions, with regard to the return of the Jews to Palestine, were drawn directly from a biblical basis.**

Israel's first Ambassador to the United States Eliahu Elath and Chief Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog came to the White House on May 10, 1949 to meet Truman and to express their gratitude for the president's actions, which had enabled the foundation of the State of Israel. Truman was interested in hearing **the chief rabbi's views** on what had taken place, to which he replied,

**“God put you in your mother’s womb so that you could be the instrument to bring about the rebirth of Israel after 2,000 years. A similar mission had once been imposed upon the head of another great country, King Cyrus of Persia, who had also been given the task of helping to redeem the Jews from their dispersion and restoring them to the land of their forefathers.”**

The Rabbi then opened the Bible and read **the words of King Cyrus** from the **Book of Ezra**:

*This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:  
The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah.*

The rabbi continued:

**“You were given the task once fulfilled by the mighty king of Persia,**  
and that he too, like Cyrus, would

occupy a place of honor in the annals of the Jewish people.”

**According to Elath, on hearing these words, Truman rose from his chair and, with great emotion, tears glistening in his eyes, he turned to the chief rabbi and asked him if his actions, on behalf of the Jewish people, were, indeed, to be interpreted thusly. Was the hand of the Almighty involved in the matter?**

According to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on July 14, 1949, **the chief rabbi** summarized the meeting with Truman by stating that Truman was a “wonderful, straightforward man who not only appreciated the Jewish vision of moral principles, but knows the Bible as well and respects the Jewish written laws.”

When Truman and his friend Eddie Jacobson later visited the New York Jewish Theological Seminary, Jacobson said in his speech that he would present them with a man who helped establish the State of Israel, but **Truman quickly interrupted this by shouting “What do you mean, ‘helped to create?’ I am Cyrus. I am Cyrus.”**

**Alfred Lilienthal, an opponent of Truman's Palestine policy** who worked for the US State Department and participated in the UN founding conference in San Francisco before he moved to be the lawyer for the **anti-Zionist** American Council for Judaism in Washington, **stated his view on Truman's motivation for acknowledging the State of Israel:**

**"Truman was a biblical fundamentalist who constantly pointed to Deuteronomy 1:8 to justify his actions: See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land the Lord swore he would give to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—and to their descendants after them."**

**Clark Clifford**, who worked as the President's special adviser in 1946-1950, thought back to **Truman's motives** in the Israeli question during interview with C-SPAN on July 28, 1991: "There was language in Deuteronomy, he said, in which the Bible promised the Jews. The language went something like, 'The day will come when you will be led into the land of your fathers and it shall become your own.' **He believed that he was going to do**

**everything he could to help them get their homeland.**

Clifford told in an interview with Richard Holbrook, the former US Deputy Secretary of State, in 1988 that **Truman had shared his thoughts with him on the prophecies of the Old Testament concerning the return of the Jews to the Promised Land.**

Clifford, who considered himself an amateur when it came to the Bible, remembered exchanging verses with the president. **One of the most impressive verses was the first verses of the 34th chapter in Deuteronomy:**

*Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar.*

According to Clifford, you could take an old Bible map and see in it **the borders of present-day Israel.**

## GOD IS FAITHFUL

Truman is, perhaps, the most unlikely president of the United States ever, but **his amazing role in the birth of the State of Israel speaks volumes about the careful planning of the Almighty in carrying out his plans.** God is faithful to His promises, both to individuals and nations.

According to the Bible, everything has its ordained time, and one of the most confusing details about World War II was that **the world was ruled by two strong-willed statesmen from 1933 to 1945:**

- Adolf **Hitler** and
- Franklin Delano **Roosevelt**.

Both of them faced **premature and sudden death** in April 1945. Roosevelt died of a massive brain hemorrhage at the age of 63 on April 12, and **Hitler committed suicide** on April 30 at the age of 56.

King Solomon writes the book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-8):

*There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,*

*a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.*

*The text contains excerpts from Risto Huvila's book "The Miracle of Israel and President Truman" (2018).*

**NOTE:** Moab was SE of Israel. **Mt. Nebo** (summit called "Mt. Pisgah") is 2700 feet high, 20 miles east of Jericho and 10 miles east of the Jordan River.

### **Deut. 34:**

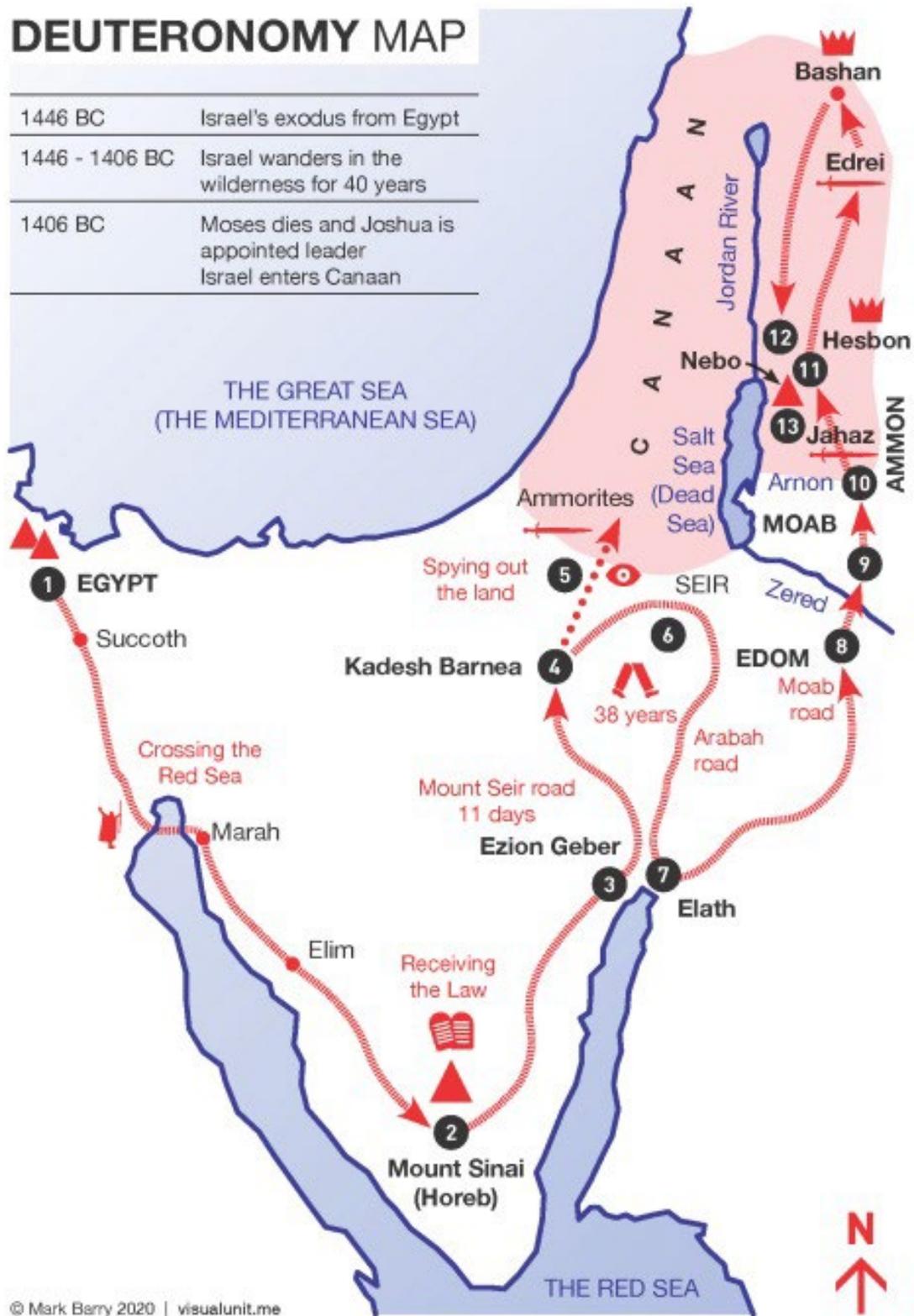
- begins at the northern extreme with Gilead to the north, but east of the Jordan River.
- Then Moses looks even further north to the city of Dan, north of the Sea of Galilee.
- Next, Naphtali on the NW side of the Sea of Galilee.

- Then the land of Ephraim and Manasseh in the center of what would become the northern nation of Israel.
- Directly south of that, Judah (west of the Dead Sea). Judah's territory extended to the western sea (Mediterranean Sea) and Negev desert (south of Judah).
- Finally, Moses saw the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. Jericho was in the lower Jordan Valley west of the Jordan River, about 10 miles west of the Dead Sea (close to where the Israelites would cross under Joshua).
- The place called Zoar was in the SE end of the Dead Sea.



# DEUTERONOMY MAP

1446 BC	Israel's exodus from Egypt
1446 - 1406 BC	Israel wanders in the wilderness for 40 years
1406 BC	Moses dies and Joshua is appointed leader Israel enters Canaan



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**NEXT WEEK:** We will start to discuss II Nephi 5 where Jacob quotes Isaiah:

- In **II Nephi 5:17-45**, Jacob's sermon quoted & explained Isaiah 49:22-26.
- In **II Nephi 5:46-69**, Jacob's sermon quoted Isaiah 50.
- In **II Nephi 5:70-111**, Jacob's sermon quoted Isaiah 51.
- In **III Nephi 5:112-114**, Jacob's sermon quoted Isaiah 51:1-2.