

“Hearken to the Truth and Give Heed unto It”

Lesson
5
Summary

1 Nephi 16–22

Scripture Summary:

The wicked take the truth to be hard—Lehi’s sons marry the daughters of Ishmael—The Liabona guides their course in the wilderness—Messages from the Lord are written on the Liabona from time to time—Ishmael dies; his family murmur because of afflictions. [Between 600 and 592 B.C.]

Nephi is commanded to build a ship—His brethren oppose him—He exhorts them by recounting the history of God’s dealings with Israel—He is filled with the power of God—His brethren are forbidden to touch him, lest they whither as a dried reed. [About 592—591 B.C.]

The ship is finished—The births of Jacob and Joseph are mentioned—The company embarks for the promised land—The sons of Ishmael and their wives join in revelry and rebellion—Nephi is bound, and the ship is driven back by a terrible tempest—Nephi is freed, and by his prayer the storm ceases—They arrive in the promised land. [About 590—589 B.C.]

Nephi makes plates of ore and records the history of his people—The God of Israel shall come six hundred years from the time Lehi left Jerusalem—Nephi tells of His sufferings and crucifixion—The Jews shall be despised and scattered until the latter days, when they will return unto the Lord.

The Lord reveals his purposes to Israel—They have been chosen in the furnace of affliction and are to go forth from Babylon—Compare Isaiah 48.

Messiah shall be a light to the Gentiles and shall free the prisoners—Israel shall be gathered with power in the last days—Kings shall be their nursing fathers—Compare Isaiah 49.

Israel shall be scattered upon all the face of the earth—The gentiles shall nurse and nourish Israel with the gospel in the last days—Israel shall be gathered and saved, and the wicked shall burn as stubble—The kingdom of the devil shall be destroyed, and Satan shall be bound. [Between 588 and 570 B.C.]

Supplemental Holy Land and Jewish insights:

Sea and Storm Stories in the Scriptures: Their meanings and lessons for us, nowadays, have a common connection. Noah is saved by the Lord, Enoch was saved by the Lord, Jonah was saved by the Lord, the Apostles on the Sea of Galilee were saved by the Lord. Nephi was saved by the Lord. Apparently, the lesson is, when “sinking,” if we ask, we will be saved by the Lord.

Technology of Text Recordings: Writing on leather scrolls is the most ancient method. As more space is needed for added texts, additional leather is sewn on to the existing scroll. One of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Isaiah, is about twenty-seven feet long! These scrolls are usually fastened to a stick at each end for better handling, rolling open and shut and for stability in storage. Writing on metal plates required the processing and preparing of sheets of gold, brass or copper. They would be fastened with rings similar to a modern day binder.

Texts Limited by Storage Capacity: It is less likely to be able to simply add a few perfectly sized metal pages after the initial production. That means the scribe must determine approximately what he will include. “And if our plates had been sufficiently large we should have written in Hebrew . . . and if we could have written in Hebrew, behold, ye would have had no imperfection in our record.” (Mormon 9:33) “But whatsoever things we write upon anything save it be upon plates, must perish and vanish away; but we can write a few words upon plates which will give our children, and also our beloved brethren, a small degree of knowledge concerning us, or concerning their fathers.” (Jacob 4:2) Once the scribe had collated his material and completed his transcript, he may have additional space or plates available and could thereby add more information, letters or testimonials. “And now I, Moroni, write a few of the words of my father Mormon, which he spake concerning faith, hope, and charity; for after this manner did he speak unto the people, as he taught them in the synagogue which they had built for the place of worship.” (Moroni 7:1)

Use of Scrolls: There is at least one case of thin metal sheets being fastened together as a scroll found in the Dead Sea Scroll collection. The sheer weight and difficulty in handling this type of text storage limited its use. “In ancient times all books were scrolls. Those used for holy purposes were written on animal skin; others were made from tree bark, parchment and similar materials. The Talmud and Midrash speak often of scroll-books. We read that the high priest on the Day of Atonement read from a scroll during the Temple service and then rolled it up. There is no mention in the Talmud of books with folded pages.” (Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.)

Scroll Discovery spurs Interest in Ancient Writings: “Recently, archaeological discoveries, such as the Dead Sea scrolls, have once again revived Christian interest in the investigation of ancient texts.” (Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.) With the restoration of revelation through living prophets, we can see the use and re-use of prophetic statements as well as prophetic “tools such as the Liahona and the Urim and Thummim.” As the Liahona was described as a “ball,” it could be compared to a visual reminder of power and authority in many past monarchies – the “orb.” The word is still used in modern English denoting knowledge and source of guidance through information. There is an “ORB” online encyclopedia, for example. The Urim and Thummim will be discussed in an upcoming lesson.

Ancient and Modern Events Compared: The prophecies in the Book of Mormon about the scattering and gathering of Israel can be compared to ancient as well as to modern prophecies. A brief comparison of the Orson Hyde Dedicatory Prayer for the Land of Israel given October 24, 1842 with some of the verses from Isaiah 49 (and other references), 1 Nephi 21 and 22 are an example.

Springs of Water: “They shall not hunger nor thirst, neither shall the heat nor the sun smite them; for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.” (1 Nephi 21:10) (Isaiah 49:10)
“... remove the barrenness and sterility of this land, and let springs of living water break forth to water its thirsty soil. Let the vine and olive produce in their strength and the fig-tree bloom and flourish. Let the land become abundantly fruitful when possessed by its rightful heirs; let it again flow with plenty to feed the returning prodigals who come home with a spirit of grace and supplication; upon it let the clouds distil virtue and richness, and let the fields smile with plenty. Let the flocks and the herds greatly increase and multiply upon the mountains and the hills . . .” (Orson Hyde)

Nursing Fathers: “And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers; they shall bow down to thee with their face towards 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.” (1 Nephi 21:23) (Isaiah 49:23) “... and let kings become their nursing fathers, and queens with motherly fondness wipe the tear of sorrow from their eye . . .” (Orson Hyde)

Out of Darkness: “Wherefore, he will bring them again out of captivity, and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance; and they shall be brought out of obscurity and out of darkness; and they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel.” (1 Nephi 22:12) (Isaiah 49:9) “... let Thy great kindness conquer and subdue the unbelief of Thy people. Do Thou take from them their stony heart, and give them a heart of flesh; and may the sun of Thy favor dispel the cold mists of darkness which have beclouded their atmosphere . . .” (Orson Hyde)

Those Against Israel Will Be Cut Off: “For behold, the righteous shall not perish; for the time surely must come that all they who fight against Zion shall be cut off.” (1 Nephi 22:19) (Isaiah 11:13) (Micah 5:6-7) “... Let that nation or that people who shall take an active part in behalf of Abraham's children, and in the raising up of Jerusalem, find favor in Thy sight. Let not their enemies prevail against them, neither let pestilence or famine overcome them, but let the glory of Israel overshadow them, and the power of the Highest protect them; while that nation or kingdom that will not serve Thee in this glorious work must perish, according to Thy word --Yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted . . .” (Orson Hyde)

Daniel Rona, born in Israel and living in Jerusalem has authored Old & New Testament and Book of Mormon Supplement Study Materials to be used in conjunction with the weekly LDS Gospel Doctrine Lesson study. NOTE: Three versions of the supplemental study materials are available *FREE* at www.HolyLandsRevealed.com. (Just click “LDS SUPPLEMENTS”)

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