

Prayers of Blessing for the Healing and the Gathering of the House of Israel

Offered by
Elder Dwight Burford
On the Southern Shore of Lake Victoria,
Mwanza, Tanzania, East Africa
January 17 & 18, 2017

Also Included:

The New Covenant Connection
The Book of Mormon Connection
The "New" Connection
The Orson Hyde Connection
The Land Connection
The Holy Men Connection
Your Reasonable Service

Prepared by
Elder Dwight Burford
Published October 21, 2017

*“We must not wait, for now the time is ours,
And if I wait, another waits for me;
We see the workings of contending powers;
The darkness and the holy light we see.
Then let us render service to the Lord,
And drive those clouds of fear and doubt away,
That we may all rejoice with one accord
Until the dawning of that perfect day.”*

From:

“A Calm and Gentle Quiet Reigns Tonight”

Words by David H. Smith,

Son of the Martyr Joseph Smith, Jr.

Website and Contact Information

This report can also be found on the internet at: <http://www.hisworkmanship.net> or <https://zionsoutpost.org>. The author may be contacted at: dab@hisworkmanship.net.

Contents

- 1. Prayers at Lake Victoria..... 5
 - 1.1. January 17, 2017 Evening Prayer 8
 - 1.2. January 18, 2017 Early Morning Prayer 10
- 2. The New Covenant Connection 15
 - 2.1. From the Psalms:..... 23
 - 2.2. From Isaiah:..... 24
 - 2.3. From Jeremiah: 32
 - 2.4. From Ezekiel: 33
 - 2.5. From Zephaniah: 36
 - 2.6. From Zechariah:..... 36
 - 2.7. From Hosea: 38
- 3. The Book of Mormon Connection..... 39
 - 3.1. The Fullness of the Gospel & the Everlasting Covenant..... 41
 - 3.2. The Lord Shall Set His Hand Again 43
 - 3.3. My Word to the Gentiles 47
 - 3.4. Sign and Signal 49
 - 3.5. The Messenger of the Covenant..... 52
 - 3.6. The Manna of the New Covenant 54
 - 3.6.1. To Try Their Faith 54
 - 3.6.2. The Record of the Stick of Joseph 57
 - 3.6.3. The Word of Life 60
 - 3.6.4. Embrace the Truth, Embrace Jesus Christ..... 66
 - 3.6.5. Beware Concerning Yourselves..... 68
 - 3.6.6. In Summary 74
 - 3.7. He will Manifest Himself..... 74
- 4. The “New” Connection 84
 - 4.1. Daily Bread..... 85
 - 4.2. A New Commandment..... 87
 - 4.3. A New Tongue 88

4.4.	A New Birth	91
4.5.	A New Jerusalem	99
5.	The Orson Hyde Connection	103
6.	The Land Connection	108
7.	The Holy Men Connection.....	112
7.1.	Holy Men That Ye Know Not Of	113
7.2.	A Great and Marvelous Work.....	116
7.3.	The Voice of Warning.....	118
8.	Your Reasonable Service	123
9.	Appendices	129
9.1.	Updates & Summaries.....	129
9.1.1.	October 21, 2016 All Nations North America Update.....	130
9.1.2.	November 10, 2016 Summary of Call to Prayer.....	135
9.1.3.	January 20, 2017 Update.....	138
9.1.4.	February 12, 2017 Update.....	142
9.1.5.	February 13, 2017 Accountability for Ministry Provided.....	154
9.2.	October 24, 1841 Prayer by Orson Hyde.....	157

1. Prayers at Lake Victoria

On the evening of January 17, 2017, I joined four others for prayers on the southern shore of Lake Victoria in Mwanza, Tanzania, East Africa. These four included my wife, Pam Burford, Seventy Frank Frye (both of the United States), Elder James Yogo of Kenya, and Elder Paul Makawiti of Tanzania.

Our purpose for traveling to the southern shore of Lake Victoria in January 2017 was to offer prayers for the healing of the nations, beginning with the healing of the house of Israel. Before arriving at the shore, I had been instructed to offer two specific prayers there. The first was offered the evening of January 17 on the shore of the lake with my four companions of faith. The second was offered early the next morning as the sun rose over the lake. Links to transcripts of these two prayers and voice recordings of selected prayers are provided below. First, some background.

The Lord called me to come to Lake Victoria for prayer on September 21, 2016. At the time the call came, I was three weeks into a forty day fast leading up to a solemn assembly of First Nations peoples in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, on October 7 and 8, 2016.

- See **Section 9.1.1** to read further about this special gathering.

While on business travel, I checked into a hotel room in Oakley, Kansas, the night of September 21. I was led that night to read **Genesis 15**. There, in the closing verses of that chapter, I read of the covenant God had made with Abram (later named Abraham) regarding the land which extended from “the river of Egypt” (the Nile) to “the great river Euphrates.” When in prayer about what I had read, Lake Victoria was shown to me to be the “fountain” of the river of Egypt. I was further shown that, as the source from which this first border (river) of the covenant land flowed, it also served as a representation (as a type and shadow of spiritual things) of the source from which the Lord’s blessings are to flow over these covenant lands beginning at the time appointed. The Lord Himself will be the source of the blessings, and His blessings will flow until they fill the entire land of promise between these two great rivers.

- See **Section 9.1.2** to read about this calling to the shore of Lake Victoria.

Our trip to the southern shore of Lake Victoria turned out to be quite eventful. Pam and I arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, late on Thursday, January 12. The next evening we arrived in Kisumu, Kenya, after a long bus ride. On Saturday, January 14, we visited with Frank Frye and the Book of Mormon translation team; the team had been working steadily on the translation of the Book of Mormon into Swahili since November 2016. After fellowshipping

with the Saints in Kisumu on Sunday morning, we prepared for our trip the next day to Mwanza, Tanzania, via a rental car. During our journey from Kisumu to Mwanza on Monday, January 16, the alternator in our rented vehicle failed, but God got us miraculously to Mwanza. Much of the next day, the 17th, was spent getting the vehicle repaired. Consequently, we had limited time on the beach for prayer later that day.

- See **Section 9.1.3** to read a summary of our travels.

After returning from East Africa, I wrote a more complete account of our travels to the southern shore of Lake Victoria. This more detailed record covered a greater portion of the spiritual aspects of our travels. Its purpose was to bear witness of God's abundant grace and provisions which were given to us to accomplish His will in bringing Him these prayers in this special location. We had come by faith to this land, and there we journeyed by this same faith in Him. We trusted that we had been called to Lake Victoria to keep a divine appointment. On the road back to Kisumu, Kenya, the Lord bore testimony to us that He had indeed delivered us and would yet deliver us. Moreover, He bore witness to me that we had "prevailed," and the prayers offered there were and would be effectual in bringing about the fulfillment of His covenant with Abraham (see Genesis 15).

- See **Section 9.1.4** to read about the Lord's provisions and timing.

While in Kisumu and Nairobi, Kenya, I was asked to bring preaching and teaching ministry. Following my return from Africa, I sent an accounting of my ministry via email to a number of the brethren who have been ministering to the church in Africa over the last number of years.

- See **Section 9.1.5** to read this accounting of my ministry.

During my preparation before coming to East Africa, I had been shown how I was to offer two specific prayers. One was to be offered with my hands upon the waters of the lake. The other was to be journaled while overlooking the lake from a raised vantage point. I had no idea how these could be compatible settings, or how I could accomplish these two distinct prayers. However, I came to the appointed place in faith, believing that the Lord would guide me in the details.

Because much of the day in Mwanza was taken up in repairing the rental vehicle, I became discouraged. When we finally arrived at the lake shore, it was nearly sundown. Thankfully, the Lord provided enough time for me to offer the prayer with my hands upon the waters. However, when the day was finally over without the second prayer being offered, I went to

bed late at night feeling quite low. It appeared to me then that I had missed one of my appointments at the lake.

The next morning, however, I was awakened very early to offer the second prayer. As I prayed, I journaled my requests of the Lord while watching the sun rise on the lake from the raised vantage point of our fourth-floor hotel room. During this time, I was reminded of how the Lord had affirmed to me the previous day that His days begin in the evening and end after the morning, saying “the evening and the morning are the ... day” (see Genesis 1).

I also remembered how I had been told throughout the day prior not to multiply many words while praying at the water’s edge. Now was the time, while journaling in this early morning hour, to pray with more words that included specific requests; and so for over two hours I prayed and journaled a prayer, earnestly seeking the Lord’s blessing for the healing and the gathering of the house of Israel so that all the peoples of the earth might be blessed.

When I concluded this prayer time, the Lord explained to me by His Spirit of truth that it was significant that I had been discouraged the previous day; and, further, that my sorrow had been turned to joy early the next day. This, He showed me, was a parable of how the prayers for healing would be fulfilled through *the new covenant* being fulfilled. We must first pass through a dark night before the rising of the Son upon the earth; and because the Lord is merciful, the night will be shortened, just as my sleep had been cut short that night.

Copies of the prayers are included in the next several pages. It is my firm confidence and testimony that the Lord heard our prayers at the lake and the prayer which I offered early the next morning. Please consider also offering prayers unto the Lord for the healing of the nations, beginning with the healing of the house of Israel. To Him be the glory and honor forever. Amen.

1.1. January 17, 2017 Evening Prayer

Prayer of Blessing for the Healing and the Gathering of the House of Israel

Offered by
Elder Dwight Burford
On the southern shore of Lake Victoria
Mwanza, Tanzania, East Africa

Tuesday, January 17, 2017
7:30 p.m.

O God our Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord our Righteousness, we lay our hands upon this water with the desire for the healing of the nations. We pray that the house of Israel might be healed and that you might bring together Judah and Ephraim. May they be healed, and may the house be blessed and made one, that the people of the nations might know thee, and that they might understand that thou art a God of love and light. And you have called them to be in your own image that you might inhabit them.

Father, I pray unto you this day in the name of Jesus Christ that these waters will be healed, and that they might bring healing. I pray that the Book of Mormon, as thy scriptures, as thy word may be translated, Father, might be free to go unto many people to bring healing into their lives. Father, I ask that the curse might be released; that this land might be released of the curse and that the blessings might come and flow and that thy word might be unto every people a word of peace and of righteousness.

Father, may we remember your covenants. Father, O God, we call upon you in the name of Jesus Christ to fulfill all your covenants. You remember Abraham and give honor to Isaac and Jacob and give honor to the tribes of Israel. And we pray that they might be brought together in peace and in unity whereby the fullness of your gospel might come unto them. Thank you for our brother, Orson Hyde, who prayed over Jerusalem. We join in that prayer as well, and pray, Father, dear Lord, that you would secure thy words.

Continue, Lord, the gathering. Send fishers unto the people of Israel wherever you have scattered them. Bring them back, O Lord, according to the covenants and commandments. Father, bring them into thy covenant lands, the lands of their inheritance, to establish them and prosper them, that they may be blessed and be brought to the knowledge, the very points of your doctrine, that they might know how to come unto you and be saved and might know their Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Father, we thank you for this water, and we pray that it will replenish the lands. And that we pray that this water might give unto the fields the water necessary for the growing of the crops. We pray, Father, likewise your Spirit will now be poured out upon the waters. And, Father, call unto the nations. Father, please heal, we pray, the house of Israel. May they remember you. May a remnant be gathered together and be established in one place.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Witnesses:

Seventy Frank Frye (recorded by)

Elder Paul Makawiti

Elder James Yogo

Sister Pam Burford (transcribed by)

1.2. January 18, 2017 Early Morning Prayer

Prayer of Blessing for the Healing and the Gathering of the House of Israel

Written and offered by
Elder Dwight Burford
Overlooking Lake Victoria
Mwanza, Tanzania, East Africa

Wednesday, January 18, 2017
5:00 a.m.

O thou God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, hear the prayer of your humble servant who has come to the fountain of the River of Egypt to pray at your behest. Blessings and honor come of you, for you are ever blessing and ever blest.

At your command, the heavens and the earth and all that is in them were brought forth to your glory and honor. According to your word, you created every living thing. Now, O Lord, I beseech you, have compassion upon the children of Israel according to your loving kindness and tender mercies.

Bring them forth as a new creation. Gather them now, I pray, according to the New Covenant spoken of by your holy prophets and apostles.

Gather them from out of the countries where you have scattered them.

Gather them unto the lands promised unto Abraham and his seed to fulfill your covenant with your servant, saying, "in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."

Call them forth out of the obscurity and desolation wherein you have scourged and chastened them.

Send fishers to draw them into the covenant lands of their inheritance that they might cast out all detestable things therein, and receive a new spirit with themselves.

Give them, O Lord, God of heaven and earth, a new heart, even one heart. Take away the stony heart, even the evil heart of unbelief, so that they might come forth a righteous and just people who walk in your statutes and keep your ordinances, that they might do them unto your honor and glory.

I beseech you, O God of Israel, bring forth and defer not.

Bring forth your new creation of whom the prophets of old have spoken, wherein they shall be your people and you will be their God.

Gather them in, I pray, that they learn your meek and lowly ways.

Gather them in, O God, that they may know that they are your covenant peoples.

Bring them to the knowledge of the covenants, which you have made with their fathers, that the heart of the fathers may be turned to the children, and the heart of the children may be turned unto their fathers, that the earth may rest, being blessed of you unto the good of your covenant people.

Bring them, O Lord, to the knowledge of their forefathers and of what great things you have done for them in delivering them from captivity.

Bring them to the knowledge of the gospel of their Redeemer, Jesus Christ, which was ministered unto their fathers, in whom they exercised faith in their day, and prayed even that their posterity might know and understand that they had a hope in Jesus Christ.

Bring them forth out of obscurity and darkness into your wondrous light whereby your everlasting light might light up their souls unto filling them with great joy and peace. For in your light they all shall see light; and so may the Light of life, the Light of the world, dawn upon them and they see you, and be saved from the darkness of sin and separation from you.

Bring them, dear Lord, to the knowledge of their Redeemer and the very points of His doctrine that they may know how to come unto Him and be saved in His everlasting kingdom. For then shall they rejoice forevermore and give praise unto you, their everlasting God, the Rock of their salvation. For you are their everlasting portion, their righteousness.

Graft them in, O Lord, into the True Vine that they might be strengthened and nourished with your goodly word, even the bread of life, the Holy One of Israel, the Mighty One who is able to save and establish them in and according to your Word.

Bless them, I pray, with a sure knowledge and testimony of the covenant that is to be fulfilled in these latter days, to bring about their restoration, even as it is written:

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah;

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was a husband unto them, saith the Lord;

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

(Jeremiah 31:31-34)

*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.
And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments and do them.
And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.*

(Ezekiel 36:26-28)

May you set up One Shepherd over them, even Jesus Christ, according to your Word that they may know you, their God, the One true and living God, who has purchased them and made provision for their salvation through the Lamb of heaven.

Come, O Lord, among your peoples. Dwell again in their midst, even in their hearts.

Turn them to the covenants, which you have honorably called them unto, according to your plan for them, to give them peace and health in the lands of their inheritance. For you are the Lord God Omnipotent, who keeps the covenant and mercy to them that love you.

Guide them, O Lord, to the covenant which you have renewed and confirmed in your church in these latter days for the sake of the whole world.

Establish and shine forth the light of your holy city upon the earth. Cause the truth to flow forth that your people might be gathered unto it. Lift your standard against your enemies and the enemies of your peoples.

Place your word in the mouths of your servants, even the word of your Spirit, that they all might speak the truth in love and soberness; and may it never depart from their mouths as heirs of salvation.

Cause your people to arise, O Lord. Cause them to shine by your light in this dark world, that the world may see your glory upon them and come unto your light and live.

May the kings and princes of the earth come to know that you alone are the Lord their Savior, the Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob, for you are the everlasting light of your people.

May your people inherit the land forever as the planting and work of your own hands, that you alone may be glorified.

O Lord, send your fishers, many fishers, to fish for them, I pray. Send hunters, many hunters, to hunt them from every place unto which you have sent them according to your written word:

*Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be said, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;
But, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them; and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.*

Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.

(Jeremiah 16:14-16)

Bring forth their records of remembrance and faith as a consecration unto the Lord, of their devotions and obedience unto your commands.

Call forth your prophets in these latter days to cause your people to blossom in the lands you have given unto them.

Prosper your people, O Lord. Cause them to bring forth the goodly and peaceable fruit of your kingdom that they may dwell therein in harmony and oneness in Jesus Christ their Lord.

May they not fail you and your calling upon them to be one in the unity of your Spirit of light and truth.

May they embrace the truth and look upward.

May the windows of heaven be opened and blessings be showered down upon them.

May an open door be set before them, and may they be led to go therein.

May they trust in the promises and the testimonies you have caused to be preserved for their faith to be in your Word.

May they hear your voice and obey, that they may no longer be confounded by “the confusion of faces” spoken of by Daniel of old.

Free them, O Lord; free them from the bondage of darkness and ignorance of your ways.

Draw them unto yourself.

Gather them under your wings as a hen gathers her chicks.

Give unto them spiritual gifts and insights – through dreams and visions.

Give unto them wisdom and understanding through your Holy Spirit of truth.

Place your hand anew upon them to prosper them.

Take away the curse from off of the land, and bless it for their benefit, wherein they may bring forth the fruit of your Spirit unto you in due season.

O Lord, give unto them your Word which you have preserved and brought forth in these latter days.

Bring forth the testimony and the records of their forefathers. Bring them forth that they may know you and your will for them. Bring forth their records for the healing of the nations, to set in order your body, the church.

Thank you for the promise of these records.

Thank you for your servants in Kenya and Tanzania who are laboring diligently to translate the records of a remnant of Joseph’s posterity through Lehi into the language of their land, in which and from out of which the fountain of the River of Egypt flows (Genesis 15).

Prosper them, Lord, prosper them according to your rich grace and the convincing power of your Spirit of truth.

Send forth the fruit of their labors and devotion unto the lands round about as a witness and testimony of your goodness and your call to them to come unto the fullness of your gospel.

Bless them with the same unity that you brought the Founding Fathers of the United States of America when preparing the Constitution for the liberty of your people.

Send angels now, O Lord, to fulfill the covenants you have made with the children of men. Send them forth to call the children of men to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and in His very name.

Call upon the children of men to repent by your own voice. Call upon them from your ancient records. Call upon them. Prepare them. Send forth the light of the Zion of our God. Prepare your holy city glorious.

For thine is the kingdom and power and glory forever. Amen.

Adden Palace Hotel
Room 402
Airport Road, Mwanza
P.O. Box 1644 - Mwanza, Tanzania
East Africa

2. The New Covenant Connection

In leading us in prayer at the southern shore of Lake Victoria, the Lord more than demonstrated His loving kindness and goodness to us. He again affirmed that He is exactly who He says He is, and He does exactly what He says He will do. His faithful witness to us during our time there greatly encouraged me, and it caused me to trust that He will completely fulfill all His words regarding restoring a remnant of His ancient covenant people, the house of Israel, to Himself by way of the *new covenant* spoken of by the prophets of old. Therefore, while at the southern shore of Lake Victoria, at the southwest corner of this covenant land, I was led to pray over the covenant lands promised to Abraham and his seed. Specifically, I was led to pray that *the new covenant* spoken of by the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel would now be brought to pass.

*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah;***

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was a husband unto them, saith the Lord;

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

*And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, **and I will remember their sin no more.***

(Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely;

And they shall be my people, and I will be their God;

And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me forever, for the good of them, and of their children after them;

***And I will make an everlasting covenant with them,** that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.*

Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.

(Jeremiah 32:37-41)

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments and do them.

And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

(Ezekiel 36:26-28)

*And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, **and bring them into their own land;***

And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all; and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms anymore at all;

Neither shall they defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them; so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

*And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd; **they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.***

And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children forever; and my servant David shall be their prince forever.

Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them forevermore.

*My tabernacle also shall be with them; yea, **I will be their God, and they shall be my people.***

And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them forevermore.

(Ezekiel 37:21-28)

The establishment of this *new covenant* with the Lord's remnant people, which is an *everlasting covenant*, is to be a great blessing to *all nations* in *the last days*.

*And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, **In thee shall all nations be blessed.***

So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

(Galatians 3:8,9)

*God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us, Selah;
That thy way may be known upon the earth, thy saving health among all nations.
Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.
Oh let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and
govern the nations upon earth. Selah.
Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.
Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our God, shall bless us.
God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.*

(Psalm 67:1-7)

*And it shall come to pass in the last days when the mountain of the Lord's house shall be
established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all
nations shall flow unto it;
And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his
paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem;
And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat
their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift
up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.
O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord; yea, come, for ye have all
gone astray, everyone to his wicked ways.*

(Isaiah 2:2-5)

In saying, “Behold, the days come,” in **Jeremiah 31:31**, we are to understand that the Lord has set an appointed timeframe in which He will fulfill His promise to His covenant people. At the appointed time, then, the Lord God has promised to *set his hand the second time to recover the remnant of His people.*

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.
*And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.
The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off;
Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.
But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together; they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.
And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty*

wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dry-shod.

And there shall be a highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

(Isaiah 11:11-16)

From the letter to the Hebrews, we learn the identity of the *mediator* of this *new covenant* which is to be made with *the house of Israel* and *the house of Judah* together. This mediator is Jesus Christ. We further learn that the time it was initiated corresponded with our Lord offering His own life in sacrifice *for the sins of the people*.

Therefore while he [Jesus Christ] was on the earth, he offered for a sacrifice his own life for the sins of the people. Now every priest under the law, must needs offer gifts, or sacrifices, according to the law.

Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle; for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount.

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people;

And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

(Hebrews 8:4-13)

From the prophecies of Joel, we further learn that this *new covenant* was to be brought about in two stages, in a *former* and a *latter rain*, with the former (earlier) rain being *moderate* compared to *the latter rain*.

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil.

And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God that hath dealt wondrously with you; and my people shall never be ashamed.

And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else; and my people shall never be ashamed.

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions;

And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit.

And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come.

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered; for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

(Joel 2:23-32)

As attested to by the Apostle Peter, Joel's prophecy was fulfilled, at least in part, on the day of Pentecost.

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words;

For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy;

And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

*The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood before the great and notable day of the Lord come;
And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*
(Acts 2:14-21)

Many years have passed since Peter spoke on that day of Pentecost. Now is the time for the latter rains to fully come in with the full implementation of *the new covenant* as described in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and elsewhere. How do we know we are in the time of the latter rain? Paul wrote of the timing of the beginning of the *latter rain* by testifying *that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.*

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

And then all Israel shall be saved; as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes; but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief;

Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.

For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?

Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things; to whom be glory forever. Amen.

(Romans 11:25-36)

The *fullness of the Gentiles* had not *come in* during Paul's lifetime. Paul witnessed and even facilitated the initial going forth of the gospel of *the new covenant* to the Gentiles following the day of Pentecost, but he did not witness *the latter rains* in person. Rather, he witnessed and participated in the start of the gospel being preached to the Gentiles.

*And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.
But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.*

Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you; but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord; and as many as believed were ordained unto eternal life.

And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

(Acts 13:44-49)

Now, in these latter days, the fullness of the gospel has been brought to the Gentiles so that both Jew and Gentile might be brought under one covenant and thus under the Lordship of one Shepherd, the Anointed of the Lord, the Messiah, Jesus the Christ, the *mediator* of the *new covenant*.

For there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth;

And the time cometh that He shall manifest Himself unto all nations – both unto the Jews, and also unto the Gentiles;

And after that He hath manifested Himself unto the Jews, and also unto the Gentiles, Then He shall manifest Himself unto the Gentiles, and also unto the Jews;

And the last shall be first, and the first shall be last.

And it shall come to pass that if the Gentiles shall hearken unto the Lamb of God in that day that He shall manifest Himself unto them in word and also in power, in very deed, Unto the taking away of their stumbling blocks, if it so be that they harden not their hearts against the Lamb, And if it so be that they harden not their hearts against the Lamb of God, they shall be numbered among the seed of thy father,

Yea, they shall be numbered among the house of Israel;

And they shall be a blessed people upon the Promised Land forever;

They shall be no more brought down into captivity,

And the house of Israel shall no more be confounded...

(1 Nephi 3:197-205)

Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

...

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that they might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

...

*Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.
And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.
For if the inheritance is of the law, then it is no more of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.
Wherefore then, the law was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made in the law given to Moses, who was ordained by the hand of angels to be a mediator of this first covenant, (the law.)
Now this mediator was not a mediator of the new covenant; but there is one mediator of the new covenant, who is Christ, as it is written in the law concerning the promises made to Abraham and his seed. Now Christ is the mediator of life; for this is the promise which God made unto Abraham.*

...

*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ.
For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.
And if ye are Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*
(Galatians 3:7-29)

These scriptures will be further confirmed by an ever-increasing number of Jews coming to faith in Jesus Christ in these latter days. Remember, the Lord of the harvest is patient to receive the harvest both from the former and the latter rain.

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

(James 5:7)

God is long-suffering toward us because He would that all should come to repentance so that all who are willing may inherit everlasting life. Nevertheless, we need to remember also that the Lord is not *slack* concerning His *promise* and *coming*.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise and coming, as some men count slackness; but long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall shake, and the earth also shall tremble, and the mountains shall melt, and pass away

with a great noise, and the elements shall be filled with fervent heat; the earth also shall be filled, and the corruptible works which are therein shall be burned up.

If then all these things shall be destroyed, what manner of persons ought ye to be in holy conduct and godliness,

Looking unto, and preparing for the day of the coming of the Lord wherein the corruptible things of the heavens being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the mountains shall melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless, if we shall endure, we shall be kept according to his promise. And we look for a new heavens, and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent, that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless;

And account, even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given unto him, hath written unto you, the long-suffering and waiting of our Lord, for salvation.

(II Peter 3:9-15)

We are admonished, therefore, to call upon the Lord in this time of the *latter rain* so He will supply the *showers of rain, to every one grass in the field*; accordingly, I prayed over the covenant lands for the harvest of souls in these latter days.

Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

(Zechariah 10:1)

To more fully appreciate and understand this *new covenant* promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah in Jeremiah 31:31-34, additional selected scripture passages are quoted in the remaining portion of this section. They reveal the purpose, timing, and means of the Lord in bringing His ancient covenant peoples to faith so that He may bring them to dwell safely within their covenant lands according to His covenant with their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Many more scripture passages could be added here, but those quoted are considered sufficient for this purpose. My hope in listing these selected verses is that each one who reads of this work will be encouraged to exercise faith in the Lord's revealed word – to search out this matter more fully through prayer and fasting, through faith and study, through asking, seeking, and knocking. I would encourage you then to call upon the name of the Lord for understanding and direction regarding your place and involvement in the Lord's work in these latter days.

2.1. From the Psalms:

Oh give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the

people.
Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him; talk ye of all his wondrous works.
Glory ye in his holy name; let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.
Seek the Lord, and his strength; seek his face evermore.
Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders and the judgments of his mouth;
O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen.
He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth.
He hath remembered his covenant forever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations.
Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac;
And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant;
Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance;
When they were but a few men in number; yea, very few, and strangers in it.
When they went from one nation to another, from one kingdom to another people;
He suffered no man to do them wrong; yea, he reprov'd kings for their sakes;
Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.
...
For he remembered his holy promise unto Abraham his servant.
And he brought forth his people with joy, and his chosen with gladness;
And gave them the lands of the heathen; and they inherited the labor of the people;
That they might observe his statutes, and keep his laws. Praise ye the Lord.

(Psalm 105:1-15,42-45)

2.2. From Isaiah:

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots;
And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;
And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord; and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears;
But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.
And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.
The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.
And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek; and his rest shall be glorious.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.

But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together; they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.

And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dry-shod.

And there shall be a highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

(Isaiah 11:1-16)

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

(Isaiah 27:12-13)

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.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain;

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field;

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; because the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it; surely the people is grass.

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever.

O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counselor hath taught him?

With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and showed to him the way of understanding?

Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance; behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.

...

Have ye not known? have ye not heard? Hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers? that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in;

That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.

Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown; yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth; and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.

To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number; he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God?

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his

understanding.

*He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.
Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall;
But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with
wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

(Isaiah 40:1-15,21-31)

*Fear not; for I am with thee; I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the
west;*

*I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back; bring my sons from far,
and my daughters from the ends of the earth;*

*Even everyone that is called by my name; for I have created him for my glory, I have
formed him; yea, I have made him.*

Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears.

*Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled; who among
them can declare this, and show us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses,
that they may be justified; or let them hear, and say, It is truth.*

*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.

*I have declared, and have saved, and I have showed, when there was no strange god
among you; therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God.*

*Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand; I will
work, and who shall let it?*

*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, whose cry is in the
ships.*

I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.

*Thus saith the Lord, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters;
Which bringeth forth the chariot and horse, the army and the power; they shall lie down
together, they shall not rise; they are extinct, they are quenched as tow.*

Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.

*Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even
make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.*

*The beast of the field shall honor me, the dragons and the owls; because I give waters in
the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.*

This people have I formed for myself; they shall show forth my praise.

(Isaiah 43:5-21)

*Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen;
Thus saith the Lord that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee;
Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.
For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground; I will pour
my Spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon their offspring;
And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the watercourses.*

(Isaiah 44:1-4)

*But Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation; ye shall not be ashamed
nor confounded world without end.
For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and
made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited; I
am the Lord, and there is none else.
I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth; I said not unto the seed of Jacob,
Seek ye me in vain; I the Lord speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.
Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations;
they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god
that cannot save.
Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together; who hath declared this
from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the Lord? and there is no
god else beside me; a just God, and a Savior; there is none beside me.
Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none
else.
I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not
return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.
Surely shall one say, In the Lord have I righteousness and strength; even to him shall men
come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed.
In the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.*

(Isaiah 45:17-25)

*Listen, O isles, unto me; 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.
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;
And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.
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.
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.*

And he said, 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; I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the Lord that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

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, and their pastures shall be in all high places.

They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them; for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted.

Behold, these shall come from far; and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim.

Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains; for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.

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.

Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.

Thy children shall make haste; thy destroyers and they that made thee waste shall go forth of thee.

Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold; all these gather themselves together, and come to thee. 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 doeth.

For thy waste and thy desolate places, and the land of thy destruction, shall even now be too narrow by reason of the inhabitants, and they that swallowed thee up shall be far away.

The children which thou shalt have, after thou hast lost the other, shall say again in thine ears, The place is too strait for me; give place to me that I may dwell.

Then shalt thou say in thine heart, Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? and who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where had they been?

Thus saith the Lord God, 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. Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? But thus saith the Lord; even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered; 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.

(Isaiah 49:1-26)

Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation; for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people. My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and mine arm shall they trust. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath; for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner; but my salvation shall be forever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished. Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart I have written my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool; but my righteousness shall be forever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

(Isaiah 51:4-8)

Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child; for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord. Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed; neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame; for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood anymore. For thy Maker is thine husband; The Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the Lord hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of

*youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God.
For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.
In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I
have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.
For this is as the waters of Noah unto me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah
should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee,
nor rebuke thee.
For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart
from thee, neither shall the covenant of my people be removed, saith the Lord that hath
mercy on thee.
O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with
fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires.
And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of
pleasant stones.
And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of
thy children.
In righteousness shalt thou be established; thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou
shalt not fear; and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.
Behold, they shall surely gather together against thee, but not by me; whosoever shall
gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.
Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth
an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.
No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise
against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the
Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.*

(Isaiah 54:1-17)

*Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the
Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.
And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
Lift up thine eyes round about, and see; all they gather themselves together, they come to
thee; thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.
Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged;
because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles
shall come unto thee.*

(Isaiah 60:1-5)

*Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the
highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.*

Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord; and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.

(Isaiah 62:10-12)

2.3. From Jeremiah:

Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be said, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

But, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them; and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.

Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.

(Jeremiah 16:14-16)

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

But the Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

(Jeremiah 23:5-8)

For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land; and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up.

And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God; for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

(Jeremiah 24:6,7)

And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Behold, the whirlwind of the Lord goeth forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind; it shall fall with pain upon the head of the wicked.

The fierce anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have

performed the intents of his heart; in the latter days ye shall consider it.

(Jeremiah 30:22-24)

At that same time, saith the Lord will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

(Jeremiah 31:1)

Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely;

And they shall be my people, and I will be their God;

And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me forever, for the good of them, and of their children after them;

And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.

For thus saith the Lord; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised.

(Jeremiah 32:37-42)

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will perform that good thing which I promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

In those days, and at the time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.

In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely, and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our Righteousness.

(Jeremiah 33:14-16)

2.4. From Ezekiel:

Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord God; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.

Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord God; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.

And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the

*stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh;
That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them; and they shall
be my people, and I will be their God.*

*But as for them whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their
abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord God.*

(Ezekiel 11:16-21)

*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away
the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.*

*And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep
my judgments and do them.*

*And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I
will be your God.*

(Ezekiel 36:26-28)

*The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me
down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,*

*And caused me to pass by them round about; and, behold, there were very many in the
open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.*

*And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God,
thou knowest.*

*Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones,
hear the word of the Lord.*

*Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you,
and ye shall live;*

*And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin,
and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord.*

*So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a
shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.*

*And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered
them above, but there was no breath in them.*

*Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind,
Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these
slain, that they may live.*

*So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and
stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.*

*Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they
say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost; we are cut off for our parts.*

*Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I
will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into*

the land of Israel.
And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves.
And shall put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land; then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord.
The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying,
Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick and write upon it, for Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions;
And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.
And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not show us what thou meanest by these?
Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.
And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.
And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land;
And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all; and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms anymore at all;
Neither shall they defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them; so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.
And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd; they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.
And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children forever; and my servant David shall be their prince forever.
Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them forevermore.
My tabernacle also shall be with them; yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them forevermore.

(Ezekiel 37:1-28)

2.5. From Zephaniah:

Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey; for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger; for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent.

From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.

In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me; for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain.

I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord.

The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

The Lord hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy; the King of Israel, even the Lord, is in the midst of thee; thou shalt not see evil any more.

In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not; and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack.

The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden.

Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee; and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.

At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you; for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord.

(Zephaniah 3:8-20)

2.6. From Zechariah:

Again the word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying,

Thus saith the Lord of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous

for her with great fury.
Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain.
Thus saith the Lord of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age.
And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof.
Thus saith the Lord of hosts; If it be marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvelous in mine eyes? saith the Lord of hosts.
Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Behold, I will gather my people from the east country, and from the west country;
And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness.
Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets, which were in the day that the foundation of the house of the Lord of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built.
For before these days there was no hire for man, nor any hire for beast; neither was there any peace to him that went out or came in because of the affliction; for I set all men every one against his neighbor.
But now I will not be unto the residue of this people as in the former days, saith the Lord of hosts.
For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.
And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I gather you, and ye shall be a blessing; fear not, but let your hands be strong.
For thus saith the Lord of hosts; As I thought to punish you, when your fathers provoked me to wrath, saith the Lord of hosts, and I repented not;
So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear ye not.
These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates;
And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbor; and love no false oath; for all these are things that I hate, saith the Lord.

(Zechariah 8:1-17)

Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

...

And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will bring them again to place them; for I have mercy upon them; and they shall be as though I had not cast them off; for I am the Lord their God, and will hear them.
And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine; yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the Lord.
I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: and they shall increase as they have increased.
And I will sow them among the people; and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again.
I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and place shall not be found for them.
And he shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up; and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart away.
And I will strengthen them in the Lord; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the Lord.

(Zechariah 10:1,6-12)

2.7. From Hosea:

Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.
Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land; for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

(Hosea 1:10-11)

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

(Hosea 10:12)

3. The Book of Mormon Connection

I referred to the Book of Mormon directly in the pages I offered up to the Lord on the southern shore of Lake Victoria on January 17 and 18, 2017. The reason for referring to the Book of Mormon in these prayers is straightforward: it is the *new covenant* that was reviewed in the previous section.¹ We see this confirmed directly in D&C 83:8b:

And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation.

*And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and **remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon** and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written, that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom, otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay.*

(D&C 83:8a-8c)

Since this citation for the identity of the Book of Mormon as the *new covenant* comes from latter day revelation, it is instructive to consider what the Lord has revealed in related revelations about the Book of Mormon and His purposes in bringing it forth in these latter days. To illustrate, here are seven reasons and purposes:

- To fulfill the Lord's promises and purposes.

*...and **for this very purpose** are these plates preserved which contain these records, **that the promises of the Lord might be fulfilled**, which he made to his people; and that the Lamanites might come to the knowledge of their fathers, and **that they might know the promises of the Lord**, and that they may believe the gospel and rely upon the merits of Jesus Christ, and be glorified through faith in his name, and that through their repentance they might be saved. Amen.*

(D&C 2:6c-6e)

¹ A detailed discussion on this topic may be found in a series of articles titled, *Why the Book of Mormon is the New Covenant* linked here [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#). For the present post, a brief summary of this unique connection (identity) between the Book of Mormon and the New Covenant is provided below; it comes from Part 3 in the series, which is currently in draft form.

- To grant the requests of the faithful according to their prayers of faith.

And, behold, all the remainder of this work, does contain all those parts of my gospel which my holy prophets, yea, and also my disciples, desired in their prayers, should come forth unto this people.

And I said unto them, that it should be granted unto them according to their faith in their prayers;

yea, and this was their faith, that my gospel which I gave unto them, that they might preach in their days, might come unto their brethren, the Lamanites, and also, all that had become Lamanites, because of their dissensions.

(D&C 3:10c-10e)

- To bring *the fullness* of the Lord's gospel from the Gentiles to the house of Israel that they may come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Behold, I am Jesus Christ the Son of the living God, who created the heavens and the earth; a light which cannot be hid in darkness;

*wherefore, I must bring forth **the fullness of my gospel** from the Gentiles unto the house of Israel.*

(D&C 12:5a,5b)

*...the Book of Mormon ... **contains the truth and the word of God, which is my word to the Gentiles**, that soon it may go to the Jew, of whom the Lamanites are a remnant, that they may believe the gospel, and look not for a Messiah to come who has already come.*

(D&C 18:3b,3c)

- To *prove* that the Holy Scriptures are true and that God still inspires and calls laborers in His vineyard now as in times past.

...to translate the Book of Mormon, which contains a record of a fallen people, and the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, and to the Jews also, which was given by inspiration, and is confirmed to others by the ministering of angels, and is declared unto the world by them, proving to the world that the Holy Scriptures are true, and that God does inspire men and call them to his holy work in this age and generation, as well as in generations of old, thereby showing that he is the same God yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.

(D&C 17:2c-2g)

- For our instruction.

And the Book of Mormon, and the Holy Scriptures, are given of me for your instruction; and the power of my Spirit quickeneth all things; wherefore, be faithful, praying always, having your lamps trimmed and burning, and oil with you, that you may be ready at the coming of the Bridegroom; for, behold, verily, verily I say unto you, that I come quickly; even so. Amen.

(D&C 32:3d,3e)

- For teaching the principles of the Lord's gospel.

*And again, the elders, priests, and teachers of this church shall teach the principles of my gospel which are in the Bible **and the Book of Mormon, in which is the fullness of the gospel**; and they shall observe the covenants and church articles to do them, and these shall be their teachings, as they shall be directed by the Spirit; and the Spirit shall be given unto you by the prayer of faith, and if ye receive not the Spirit ye shall not teach.*

(D&C 42:5a,5b)

- To bring forth fruit meet for the Father's kingdom.

*And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written, **that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom**, otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay.*

(D&C 83:8b,8c)

With these purposes and promises in mind, we will now consider some of the key elements these scriptures include for the purpose of confirming that the Book of Mormon is *the new covenant* spoken of by the prophets of old.

3.1. The Fullness of the Gospel & the Everlasting Covenant

First and foremost, one must recognize and understand that this ancient record of a remnant of the house of Israel contains *the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Holy One of Israel*.

*Behold, this is wisdom in me; wherefore marvel not, for the hour cometh that I will drink of the fruit of the vine with you on the earth, and with Moroni, whom I have sent unto you **to reveal the Book of Mormon, containing the fullness of my everlasting gospel.***

(D&C 26:2a)

*And again, the elders, priests, and teachers of this church shall teach the principles of my gospel which are in the Bible **and the Book of Mormon, in which is the fullness of the gospel.***

(D&C 42:5a)

Next, note how the Lord identified *the fullness of the gospel* as the *covenant* He has sent forth in these latter days to recover His people, the house of Israel.

*Thou shalt preach **the fullness of my gospel** which I have sent forth in these last days; **the covenant** which I have sent forth **to recover** my people, which are of the house of Israel.*

(D&C 39:3e)

Thus, we see that *the fullness of the gospel* which the Book of Mormon contains and represents, i.e. embodies, is in fact *the new covenant* spoken of by the prophets as outlined in the previous section. This is not all. The Lord goes on to equate *the fullness of the gospel* with His *everlasting covenant*.

*Verily I say unto you, Blessed are you for receiving **mine everlasting covenant, even the fullness of my gospel**, sent forth unto the children of men, that they might have life, and be made partakers of the glories, which are to be revealed in the last days, as it was written by the prophets and apostles in days of old.*

(D&C 66:1b)

*And for this cause, that men might be made partakers of the glories which were to be revealed, **the Lord sent forth the fullness of his gospel, his everlasting covenant**, reasoning in plainness and simplicity, to prepare the weak for those things which are coming on the earth;*
*and for the Lord's errand in the day when the weak shall confound the wise, **and the little one become a strong nation**, and two should put their tens of thousands to flight; and by the weak things of the earth, the Lord should thresh the nations by the power of his Spirit.*

(D&C 108:11a,11b)

The *everlasting covenant* spoken of here is the same covenant *which was from the beginning*.

wherefore I say unto you, that I have sent unto you **mine everlasting covenant, even that which was from the beginning**, and that which I have promised I have so fulfilled, and the nations of the earth shall bow to it.

(D&C 49:2d)

Moreover, the Lord directly ties the everlasting covenant *which was from the beginning* directly to the *new covenant*. He makes this connection clear when telling us that He has *renewed this new and everlasting covenant* by sending it forth among us by way of, and through, the instrumentality of the Book of Mormon.

Behold, I say unto you, that all old covenants have I caused to be done away in this thing, and this is a new and everlasting covenant; even that which was from the beginning.

(D&C 20:1a)

*and everyone that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit, cometh unto God, even the Father; and the Father teacheth him **of the covenant which he has renewed and confirmed upon you**, which is confirmed upon you for your sakes, and not for your sakes only, but for the sake of the whole world.*

(D&C 83:7d,7e)

And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation.

*And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and **remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon** and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written, that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom, otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay.*

(D&C 83:8a-8c)

3.2. The Lord Shall Set His Hand Again

In order for us to recognize that the Book of Mormon is the *new covenant*, it is essential that we consider the Lord's promise to set *His hand* a *second time* to recover the house of Israel.

*And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which **shall stand for an ensign** of the*

people; to it shall the Gentiles seek; and his rest shall be glorious.
And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall **set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people**, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.
And he shall **set up an ensign** for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.
The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.

(Isaiah 11:10-13)

Concurrent with the gathering of His people through the instrumentality of His hand is this promise: *Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim*. Ezekiel similarly prophesied concerning the Lord recovering His covenant people Himself, saying that when doing so, He would bring the house of Israel (“the northern kingdom”) and the house of Judah (“the southern kingdom”) back together as *one nation* in their own land so they are no longer divided into two kingdoms *anymore at all*.

*Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take **the stick of Joseph**, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, **and they shall be one in mine hand**.*
And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.
*And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, **and bring them into their own land**;*
*And **I will make them one nation in the land** upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all; **and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms anymore at all**;*
Neither shall they defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them; so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.
*And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd; **they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them**.*
And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children forever; and my servant David shall be their prince forever.

Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them forevermore.

My tabernacle also shall be with them; yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them forevermore.

(Ezekiel 37:19-28)

According to these prophecies, the Book of Mormon, as a *record of the stick of Ephraim*, will be joined with the stick of Judah and become one in the hand of the Lord. (See Sections 3.3 and 3.6.2 for discussions referencing [D&C 18:3b,3c](#) and related scriptures.)

Note further how Isaiah prophesied that the Lord would lift up an *ensign* or *standard* unto the *Gentiles* and a *remnant of His people*. From this prophecy, we understand that this standard will be associated with the Lord's work of gathering the house of Israel into *one nation* by setting *His hand* a second time to recover them, which will occur by the Lord joining the stick of Ephraim to the stick of Judah (the Holy Scriptures of the Bible).

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek; and his rest shall be glorious.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

(Isaiah 11:10-12)

Thus saith the Lord God, 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.

(Isaiah 49:22)

Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.

(Isaiah 62:10)

The words *standard* and *ensign* found in these and similar passages are actually translations of the same Hebrew word, which is [Strong's number 5251, nes](#). A *standard*

may include a flag or banner and is established for a rule, measure, model, declaring sovereignty, or something similar. With this in mind, consider further how the Lord directly equates *His everlasting covenant* to this *standard*.

*Hearken, O ye people of my church, and ye elders, listen together, and hear my voice, while it is called today, and harden not your hearts;
for verily I say unto you that I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the light and the life of the world; a light that shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not.*

I came unto my own, and my own received me not; but unto as many as received me gave I power to do many miracles and to become the sons of God, and even unto them that believed on my name gave I power to obtain eternal life.

And even so I have sent mine everlasting covenant into the world, to be a light to the world, and to be a standard for my people and for the Gentiles to seek to it, and to be a messenger before my face to prepare the way before me.

(D&C 45:2a-2d)

The Lord makes the connection between this *standard* and His *everlasting covenant* even more clear within the pages of the Book of Mormon.

*And I will show unto them that fight against My word, and against My people, which are of the house of Israel, That I Am God and that I covenanted with Abraham, **that I would remember his seed forever.***

(II Nephi 12:74)

*But behold, there shall be many at that day 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 of the house of Israel,***

And also, that I may remember the promises which I have made unto thee, Nephi, and also unto thy father, that I would remember your seed, And that the words of your seed should proceed forth out of My mouth unto your seed.

And My words shall hiss forth unto the ends of the earth for a standard unto My people which are of the house of Israel.

(II Nephi 12:42-44)

The word *hiss*, which is used in this last passage, is worth further examination. This rather archaic term relates directly to the manner in which Lord's promise of lifting up an ensign or standard to His covenant peoples will be fulfilled. In the prophecies of Isaiah, we find another verse which includes the words *ensign* or *standard* together with the word *hiss*.

*And he will lift up an **ensign** to the nations from far, and will **hiss** unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:
None shall be weary nor stumble among them; none shall slumber nor sleep; neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken:
Whose arrows are sharp, and all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs shall be counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind:
Their roaring shall be like a lion, they shall roar like young lions: yea, they shall roar, and lay hold of the prey, and shall carry it away safe, and none shall deliver it.
And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if one look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.*
(Isaiah 5:26-30)

The word translated as **hiss** in this passage is **Strong's number 8319, sharaq**. It is also translated *whistle, pipe* and *to call* in other translations and other verses of scripture. Therefore, we may understand that the use of the word *hiss* used within and with regards to the Book of Mormon represents *a call* to God's people and to the Gentiles to seek to it as the standard the Lord has lifted up in these latter days in preparation of the latter rain. In other words, with the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, the Lord has sent *a call* to the nations. Its emergence in these latter days can be viewed as representing the blowing of a **whistle** to alert the nations that a **standard** has been lifted up for them to draw unto to realize the fulfillment of His promises.

3.3. My Word to the Gentiles

Recognizing that the Book of Mormon *contains the word of God to the Gentiles* is also a critical element in understanding how this unique book *is*, in fact, the *new covenant*.

*...the Book of Mormon ... **contains the truth and the word of God**,
which is my word to the Gentiles, that soon it may go to the Jew, of whom the Lamanites are a remnant, that they may believe the gospel, and look not for a Messiah to come who has already come.*
(D&C 18:3b,3c)

Keeping in mind the information provided in the last section, consider how Isaiah wrote:

*Thus saith the Lord God, 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.*
(Isaiah 49:22)

As shown in the previous sections, the *fullness of the gospel* is everlasting, and it was raised anew in these latter days by the *hand* of the Lord through His bringing forth the Book of Mormon. This the Lord has done to draw *all* men unto Himself according to the everlasting covenant He has made with and confirmed upon us for the benefit of *the whole world*.

And now I give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life; for you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God.

For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ;

*and the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit; and everyone that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit, cometh unto God, even the Father; **and the Father teacheth him of the covenant which he has renewed and confirmed upon you, which is confirmed upon you for your sakes, and not for your sakes only, but for the sake of the whole world.***

(D&C 83:7a-7e)

For behold, my beloved brethren, I say unto you that the Lord God worketh not in darkness; He doeth not anything, save it be for the benefit of the world,

For He loveth the world, even that He layeth down His own life that He may draw all men unto Him;

Wherefore, He commandeth none that they shall not partake of His salvation.

(II Nephi 11:95-97)

In sending forth the fullness of His gospel, even His everlasting covenant into the world, the Lord has revealed a light unto the world, even unto the setting up of a standard for His people. Further, it is meant to be seen by the Gentiles to be a *standard* unto which they are to seek. Plainly stated, the Gentiles are to seek His word.

*And even so **I have sent mine everlasting covenant into the world, to be a light to the world, and to be a standard for my people and for the Gentiles to seek to it, and to be a messenger before my face to prepare the way before me.***

Wherefore come ye unto it; and with him that cometh I will reason as with men in days of old, and I will show unto you my strong reasoning;

wherefore hearken ye together, and let me show it unto you, even my wisdom, the wisdom of him who ye say is the God of Enoch and his brethren, who were separated from the earth, and were received unto myself;

a city reserved until a day of righteousness shall come.

(D&C 45:2d-2g)

3.4. Sign and Signal

Strong's number 5251, *nes*, which has been translated as *standard* and *ensign* in the verses quoted above, may also be translated as *sign* and *signal*. Thus, we may also know that the Book of Mormon is a *sign* or *signal* showing that the time has come for the Lord to fulfill His covenants with the house of Israel. Specifically, the coming forth of the word of the Lord in these latter days to the Gentiles is a *sign* to all that the Lord is already beginning to fulfill His *covenant* with the children of Israel.

Verily, verily I say unto you, all these things shall surely come, even as the Father hath commanded Me;

And then shall this covenant which the Father hath covenanted with His people be fulfilled; And then shall Jerusalem be inhabited again with My people, And it shall be the land of their inheritance.

*And verily I say unto you, I give unto you a **sign** that ye may know the time when these things shall be about to take place, That I shall gather in from their long dispersion My people, O house of Israel, And shall establish again among them My Zion.*

*And behold, this is the thing which I will give unto you for a **sign** – For verily I say unto you, that when these things which I deliver unto you – And which I shall deliver unto you hereafter of Myself and by the power of the Holy Ghost which shall be given unto you of the Father – shall be made known unto the Gentiles,*

that they may know concerning this people which are a remnant of the house of Jacob, And concerning this My people which shall be scattered by them –

Verily, verily I say unto you, when these things shall be made known unto them of the Father, And shall come forth of the Father from them unto you – For it is wisdom in the Father that they should be established in this land

and be set up as a free people by the power of the Father, That these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed, That the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which He hath covenanted with His people, O house of Israel –

Therefore, when these works, and the work which shall be wrought among you hereafter, shall come forth from the Gentiles unto your seed, which shall dwindle in unbelief because of iniquity –

For thus it behooveth the Father that it should come forth from the Gentiles, That He may show forth His power unto the Gentiles for this cause: That the Gentiles – if they will not harden their hearts – That they may repent and come unto Me and be baptized in My name and know of the true points of My doctrine, That they may be numbered among My people, O house of Israel –

And when these things come to pass – that thy seed shall begin to know these things – It shall be a sign unto them that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced, Unto the fulfilling of the covenant which He hath made unto the people which are of the house of Israel.

(III Nephi 9:84-93)

*And now behold I say unto you, that when the Lord shall see fit in His wisdom that these sayings shall come unto the Gentiles according to His word, then ye may know that the covenant which the Father hath made with the children of Israel concerning their restoration to the lands of their inheritance is already beginning to be fulfilled, **And ye may know that** the words of the Lord which have been spoken by the holy prophets shall all be fulfilled; **And ye need not say that** the Lord delays His coming unto the children of Israel, **And ye need not imagine in your hearts that** the words which have been spoken are vain; For behold, the Lord will remember His covenant which He hath made unto His people of the house of Israel.*

(III Nephi 13:54-56)

Note how the Lord promised a *sign* that would *signal* the time in which He would set His hand a second time to recover His people. This *sign* is related directly to His covenant as outlined in the above passages of scripture.

*Wherefore, our father hath not spoken of our seed alone, but also **of all the house of Israel, pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days,** Which **covenant** the Lord made to our father Abraham, saying: In thy Seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. And it came to pass that I, Nephi, spake much unto them concerning these things, Yea, I spake unto them concerning **the restoration of the Jews in the latter days;** And I did rehearse unto them **the words of Isaiah** which spake **concerning the restoration of the Jews, or of the house of Israel;** And after that they were restored, **they should no more be confounded,** neither should they be scattered again.*

(I Nephi 4:28-33)

By using His own hand to recover His people, the Lord promises to condescend to us in our lowly estate and lift us into the joy of His presence. Oh, praise the Lord, all ye nations, for your God has drawn near and He will save and heal all who come to Him with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

Hearken diligently unto me and remember the words which I have spoken, and come unto

the Holy One of Israel
and feast upon that which perisheth not, neither can be corrupted: And let your soul delight
in fatness.

*Behold, my beloved brethren, remember the words of your God – Pray unto Him continually
by day and give thanks unto His holy name by night;*

*Let your hearts rejoice **and behold how great the covenants of the Lord, and how great
His condescensions unto the children of men;***

*And because of His greatness and His grace and mercy, He hath promised unto us that our
seed shall not utterly be destroyed, according to the flesh, but that He would preserve
them; **And in future generations they shall become a righteous branch unto the
house of Israel.***

(II Nephi 6:101-105)

*And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people;
To it shall the Gentiles seek, And His rest shall be glorious.*

***And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set His hand again the
second time to recover the remnant of His people** which shall be left – From Assyria,
and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and
from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.*

***And He shall set up an ensign for the nations, And shall assemble the outcasts of
Israel, And gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of
the earth.***

*The envy of Ephraim also shall depart, And the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off;
Ephraim shall not envy Judah, And Judah shall not vex Ephraim.*

(II Nephi 9:125-128)

*For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob and will yet choose Israel **and set them in their own
land;** And the strangers shall be joined with them, And they shall cleave to the house
of Jacob.*

*And the people shall take them and bring them to their place, yea, from far unto the ends of
the earth; **And they shall return to their lands of promise; And the house of Israel
shall possess them,** And the land of the Lord shall be for servants and handmaids; And
they shall take them captives unto whom they were captives; And they shall rule over
their oppressors.*

*And it shall come to pass that in that day, that the Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow
and from thy fear and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve.*

(II Nephi 10:23-25)

And now this I speak because of the Spirit which is in me;

And notwithstanding that they have been carried away, they shall return again and possess

*the Land of Jerusalem; **Wherefore, they shall be restored again to the lands of their inheritance.***

(II Nephi 11:19,20)

3.5. The Messenger of the Covenant

It is worth noting at this point how the Lord states that the *everlasting covenant* is to be a messenger before His face to prepare the way before Him.

Hearken, O ye people of my church, and ye elders, listen together, and hear my voice, while it is called today, and harden not your hearts;

for verily I say unto you that I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the light and the life of the world; a light that shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not.

I came unto my own, and my own received me not; but unto as many as received me gave I power to do many miracles and to become the sons of God, and even unto them that believed on my name gave I power to obtain eternal life.

And even so I have sent mine everlasting covenant into the world, to be a light to the world, and to be a standard for my people and for the Gentiles to seek to it, and to be a messenger before my face to prepare the way before me.

(D&C 45:2a-2d)

This language is reminiscent of the prophecy given by Malachi:

*Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me; and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, **even the messenger of the covenant**, whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.*

(Malachi 3:1)

It is my current understanding that the Book of Mormon, as a record of God's word, is not just the container of the message. It also serves as the message itself. It serves as a spiritually alive *standard* through the word of God, which God has raised up in these latter days to prepare the way before Him when He comes again into the world. Remember the words of our Lord:

It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

(John 6:63)

I am the Lord; that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to

graven images.

Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them (John 14:29).

Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.

Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit; let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains.

Let them give glory unto the Lord, and declare his praise in the islands.

The Lord shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war; he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies.

I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, and refrained myself; now will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once.

I will make waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbs; and I will make the rivers islands, and I will dry up the pools.

And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known; I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.

These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images, Ye are our gods.

Hear, ye deaf, and look, ye blind, that ye may see.

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.

Thou art a people, seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears to hear, but thou hearest not.

The Lord is not well pleased with such a people, but for his righteousness' sake he will magnify the law and make it honorable.

(Isaiah 42:8-22)

So, is the messenger spoken of by Malachi and Isaiah the same? Is the messenger an individual? Or is this messenger *the everlasting covenant* as stated in D&C 45:2d, which the Lord has set up as an *ensign*, a *standard* unto which the people of the nations are to gather? As you prayerfully consider this connection, I would encourage you to keep in mind the following revelation of the Lord:

Hearken, and lo, a voice as of one sent down from on high, who is mighty and powerful, whose going forth is unto the ends of the earth; yea, whose voice is unto men, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall

the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth; yea, a voice crying, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the supper of the Lamb, make ready for the Bridegroom; pray unto the Lord; call upon his holy name; make known his wonderful works among the people, call upon the Lord, that his kingdom may go forth upon the earth; that the inhabitants thereof may receive it, and be prepared for the days to come, in the which the Son of man shall come down in heaven, clothed in the brightness of his glory, to meet the kingdom of God which is set up on the earth; wherefore, may the kingdom of God go forth, that the kingdom of heaven may come, that thou, O God, may be glorified in heaven, so on earth, that thy enemies may be subdued; for thine is the honor, power, and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

(D&C 65:1a-1f)

3.6. The Manna of the New Covenant

As I was prayerfully considering the various scriptures touching on the fulfillment of the *new covenant* spoken of in [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#) and elsewhere, a unique and compelling thought unfolded to my understanding: the words of the Book of Mormon are the “*daily*” *manna* of the *new covenant* that has been brought forth in *due season* in preparation and fulfillment of the latter rain. The words of the book, like *daily bread*, were brought forth to the house of Israel in these latter days in the day for which they were prepared.

As I studied further on this understanding, it has blossomed significantly, such that this section has been subdivided into interrelated segments to make the amount of information included more manageable. The essential conclusion of what is presented in this subsection is that, just as the manna of old was to be received and used on a daily basis, so have the words of the Book of Mormon been provided by the Lord in this latter *day* to serve His purposes in providing for His people daily as He gathers them in to their covenant land as one nation.

3.6.1. To Try Their Faith

Given such a bold statement, one may ask, “Wait! What about the words (history, covenants, commandments, prophecies, teachings, instruction, doctrine, etc.) contained in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible?” Should not these scriptures also be counted as *manna* (*living bread* from heaven) for the *new covenant*? Absolutely, for as it is written:

Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.

(Psalm 119:89)

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

(Luke 21:33)

*And all scripture given by inspiration of God, is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness;
That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

(II Timothy 3:16,17)

Of all the scriptures which we now have available to us, the Book of Mormon serves a unique role in these latter days, especially in terms of establishing a remnant of God's people in their covenant lands. God designed this book to try His people's faith and the faith of those Gentiles who are to bring this abridged record to the posterity of its authors. If the Lord's people will hear His voice, they will receive the greater portion of His words, which will nourish and strengthen them when coming to the promised lands of their inheritance. Otherwise, the greater portion of His words will be withheld from them unto their condemnation.

And now there cannot be written in this book even an hundredth part of the things which Jesus did truly teach unto the people; But behold, the plates of Nephi do contain the more part of the things which He taught the people;

And these things have I written which are a lesser part of the things which He taught the people, And I have written them to the intent that they may be brought again unto this people from the Gentiles according to the words which Jesus hath spoken.

And when they shall have received this, which is expedient that they should have first to try their faith, And if it should so be that they shall believe these things, Then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them;

And if it so be that they will not believe these things, Then shall the greater things be withheld from them unto their condemnation.

(III Nephi 12:1-4)

Even as John wrote concerning his account of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, so it is with the Book of Mormon records. The ancient authors wrote so that God's covenant people might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and in believing they might have life through His name.

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book;

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

(John 20:30,31)

Therefore, after the trial of their faith, and when they come to believe in Jesus Christ – that He truly is the Lord, the Holy One of Israel – then the house of Israel will be restored to *the lands of their inheritance* while they are *in the flesh upon the earth*.

*Nevertheless, the Lord will be merciful unto them, that **when they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer, they shall be gathered together again to the lands of their inheritance.***

(II Nephi 5:29)

*But behold, thus saith the Lord God: **When the day cometh that they shall believe in Me, that I Am Christ, then have I covenanted with their fathers that they shall be restored in the flesh upon the earth unto the lands of their inheritance.***

And it shall come to pass that they shall be gathered in from their long dispersion – from the isles of the sea, and from the four parts of the earth;

And the nations of the Gentiles shall be great in the eyes of Me, saith God, in carrying them forth to the lands of their inheritance...

(II Nephi 7:12-14)

And when that day shall come that they shall believe in Christ, and worship the Father in His name, with pure hearts and clean hands, and look not forward anymore for another Messiah – and then at that time, the day will come that it must needs be expedient that they should believe these things.

And the Lord will set His hand again the second time to restore His people from their lost and fallen state;

Wherefore, He will proceed to do a marvelous work and a wonder among the children of men.

Wherefore, He shall bring forth His words unto them, which words shall judge them at the last day...

(II Nephi 11:27-30)

Whether or not a given person comes to believe in Jesus Christ and exercises faith in His words, that individual will be judged along with everyone else by these records and by all of the books which the Lord has caused to be written.

For behold, out of the books which have been written, and which shall be written, shall this people be judged, for by them should their works be known unto men.

And behold, all things are written by the Father; Therefore, out of the books which shall be written shall the world be judged.

(III Nephi 13:2,3)

In other words, how each person receives the words of these and the other records which the Lord has preserved and brought forth will serve as the basis for how he or she will be judged. For the words which Jesus Christ speaks are not His words, but they are the words of the Father.

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

And I know that his commandment is life everlasting; whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

(John 12:48-50)

In this subsection, one aspect of how the Book of Mormon is uniquely the *manna* of the *new covenant* has been outlined, that of trying the faith of the Lord's people in preparing a remnant to gather back into the lands of their inheritance. The importance of viewing Jesus Christ's words as the manna God has provided for His people in these latter days will be developed further in the next several segments of this subsection, including how it is to show God's covenant people that they are to live by *every word* of God.

3.6.2. The Record of the Stick of Joseph

Joseph Smith, Jr., was told that Moroni, who was the final author and keeper of these ancient records, was sent to reveal the Book of Mormon to him. Furthermore, Joseph was told that the keys of *the record of the stick of Ephraim* had been committed to Moroni by the Lord (that is, the Ephraim who was the son of Joseph who, in turn, was carried captive into Egypt in the days of the ancient pharaohs).

Behold, this is wisdom in me; wherefore marvel not, for the hour cometh that I will drink of the fruit of the vine with you on the earth, and with Moroni, whom I have sent unto you to reveal the Book of Mormon, containing the fullness of my everlasting gospel; to whom I have committed the keys of the record of the stick of Ephraim ...

(D&C 26:2a,2b)

The *stick of Ephraim* spoken of here appears to refer to the same *stick of Ephraim* spoken of in the prophecies of Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying,
 Moreover, thou son of man, **take thee one stick and write upon it, for Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions; And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.** And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not show us what thou meanest by these?
 Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; **Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.**
 And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.
 And say unto them, **Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land; And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all; and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms anymore at all.**

(Ezekiel 37:15-22)

Furthermore, though not expressly stated, the statements in [D&C 26:2a,2b](#) quoted above appear to indicate that the Book of Mormon is *the record of the stick of Ephraim*. The term *record* could refer to *the greater things* which are mentioned in the Book of Mormon account and are yet to come forth.

Come unto Me, O ye Gentiles! And I will show unto you the greater things, the knowledge which is hid up because of unbelief.
Come unto Me, O ye house of Israel! And it shall be made manifest unto you how great things the Father hath laid up for you from the foundation of the world; And it hath not come unto you because of unbelief.
Behold, when ye shall rend that veil of unbelief which doth cause you to remain in your awful state of wickedness and hardness of heart and blindness of mind, Then shall the great and marvelous things which have been hid up from the foundation of the world from you –
Yea, when ye shall call upon the Father in My name with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, Then shall ye know that the Father hath remembered the covenant which He made unto your fathers, O house of Israel.

(Ether 1:109-112)

What are these *greater things* yet to come forth? They would include at least the brass plates, the full Jaredite record, the sealed portion of the plates, and the other records of Lehi, Nephi, and their posterity. If this is the case, *the record of the stick of Ephraim* could refer to the Book of Mormon as a *record* of these other records. This seems plausible given that Lehi prophesied of how the brass plates themselves would someday *go forth unto all nations, kindreds and tongues and people which were of his seed*.

And it came to pass that my father Lehi also found upon the plates of brass a genealogy of his fathers;

Wherefore, he knew that he was a descendant of Joseph, Yea, even that Joseph which was the son of Jacob which was sold into Egypt and which was preserved by the hand of the Lord, that he might preserve his father Jacob and all his household from perishing with famine; And they were also led out of captivity and out of the Land of Egypt by that same God who had preserved them;

And thus my father Lehi did discover the genealogy of his fathers;

And Laban also was a descendant of Joseph; Wherefore, he and his fathers had kept the records.

*And now when my father saw all these things, **he was filled with the Spirit and began to prophesy concerning his seed, that these plates of brass should go forth unto all nations, kindreds and tongues and people which were of his seed;***

Wherefore, he said that these plates of brass should never perish, neither should they be dimmed anymore by time;

And he prophesied many things concerning his seed.

(I Nephi 1:164-171)

Why would the brass plates be of particular interest? According to Lehi, these plates contained a genealogy which showed him that he was a direct descendent of Joseph (the son of Jacob and Rachel who was carried captive into Egypt). They also contained the prophecies of Joseph by which Lehi and his posterity understood that they were a remnant of the house of Israel through the line of this same Joseph. Moreover, they understood by these prophecies that their posterity would dwindle in unbelief for many generations, but that someday they would receive the records of their ancestors when they exercise faith in their Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Behold, I say unto you that the house of Israel was compared unto an olive tree by the Spirit of the Lord which was in our father.

And behold, are we not broken off from the house of Israel? And are we not a branch of the house of Israel?

And now the thing which our father meaneth concerning the grafting in of the natural branches through the fullness of the Gentiles is that in the latter days when our seed shall

*have dwindled in unbelief, Yea, for the space of many years and many generations after that the Messiah hath manifested Himself in body unto the children of men, **then shall the fullness of the gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed.***

And at that day shall the remnant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord;

And then shall they know and come to the knowledge of their forefathers, and also to the knowledge of the gospel of their Redeemer which was ministered unto their fathers by Him;

Wherefore, they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer and the very points of His doctrine, that they may know how to come unto Him and be saved.

And then at that day will they not rejoice and give praise unto their Everlasting God, their Rock and their Salvation?

Yea, at that day will they not receive strength and nourishment from the True Vine?

Yea, will they not come unto the true fold of God?

Behold, I say unto you, Yea; They shall be numbered again among the house of Israel;

They shall be grafted in, being a natural branch of the olive tree, into the true olive tree.

And this is what our father meaneth.

(I Nephi 4:14-25)

Recall also how the Book of Mormon is an abridgment of the greater library of records spoken of by the various authors of the book.

An account written by the hand of Mormon upon plates taken from the plates of Nephi. Wherefore, it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, And also of the Lamanites.

...

An abridgment taken from the book of Ether also, which is a record of the people of Jared, Which were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people when they were building a tower to get to heaven...

(Title Page of the Book of Mormon)

We may understand, then, that the Book of Mormon – and likely the other *records* it references and draws upon – will be joined with the Old and New Testaments of the Bible to bring the living and abiding word of God to a remnant of Lord's covenant people. For, as it is written, *the stick of Ephraim* and *the stick of Judah* will become one in the Lord's hand.

3.6.3. The Word of Life

Just as God fed the children of Israel with *manna* after leading them out of Egypt by the

hand of His servant Moses, so likewise God is now leading the children of Israel back into the lands of their inheritance by *the great Shepherd of the sheep*, Jesus Christ.

Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

(Isaiah 40:10,11)

I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep.

And the shepherd is not as a hireling, whose own the sheep are not, who seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth the sheep and scattereth them.

For I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

But he who is a hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

...

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me;

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

I and my Father are one.

(John 10:11-18,27-30)

Behold, I say unto you that the Good Shepherd doth call you, Yea, and in His own name He doth call you, which is the name of Christ.

And if ye will not hearken unto the voice of the Good Shepherd, to the name by which ye are called, Behold, ye are not the sheep of the Good Shepherd;

And now if ye are not the sheep of the Good Shepherd, of what fold are ye?

Behold, I say unto you that the devil is your shepherd and ye are of his fold; And now who can deny this?

(Alma 3:62-65)

During their present exodus out of their scattered condition in the world and back into

their lands of inheritance (according to [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)), the Lord is feeding them with living manna, that is, the *Word of Life*. In His own words, Jesus Christ is this *bread of life*, the *true bread of heaven*. Therefore, His words are His *flesh and blood*; for has He not said, "the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye desire to keep my sayings, neither because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves and were filled.

Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of Man hath power to give unto you; for him hath God the Father sealed.

Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? What dost thou work?

Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

*Then Jesus said unto them Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you **the true bread from heaven.***

*For **the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven**, and giveth life unto the world.*

Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

*And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life**; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up in the resurrection of the just at the last day.

The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.

No man can come unto me, except he doeth the will of my Father who hath sent me. And this

is the will of him who hath sent me, that ye receive the Son; for the Father beareth record of him; and he who receiveth the testimony, and doeth the will of him who sent me, I will raise up in the resurrection of the just.

For it is written in the prophets, And these shall all be taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

I am that bread of life.

This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

*But **I am the living bread** which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*

The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up in the resurrection of the just at the last day.

For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

This is that bread which came down from heaven; not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead; he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

...

It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

(John 6:26-58,63)

*Brethren, this is the testimony which we give of that which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, **of the Word of life;***

*(For **the life was manifested**, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, **and was manifested unto us;**)*

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

(I John 1:1-3)

To fully appreciate these points, recall the reason Moses gave for God feeding His people

with manna:

*And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; **that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.***

...

*Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, **that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;***
(Deuteronomy 8:3,16)

The same is true under the *new covenant*. As outlined in the next subsection, God has *manifested His Word of life* in these latter days through the Book of Mormon, which is an abridged record of a branch of the house of Israel. This He has done to again *prove* the people of Israel and to teach them that they are to live by His every word. Moreover, He is teaching them that Jesus Christ is His *every word* which He has sent into the world, such that *whosoever* believes upon Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;
That whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.
For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*
(John 3:14-17)

According to the words of the apostles joined with those of the prophets, Jesus Christ is *the word* that was *made flesh* and *dwelt among us* to fulfill the will of the Father.

*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, **the Word**, and the Holy Ghost; **and these three are one.**
And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood; and these three agree in one.
If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.
He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself; he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.
And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

(I John 5:7-12)

He was born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the same word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John bear witness of him, and cried, saying, This is he of whom I spake; He who cometh after me, is preferred before me; for he was before me.

For in the beginning was the Word, even the Son, who is made flesh, and sent unto us by the will of the Father. *And as many as believe on his name shall receive of his fullness. And of his fullness have all we received, even immortality and eternal life, through his grace.*

(John 1:13-16)

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater;

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

(Isaiah 55:10-13)

Please note, it is of the utmost importance to remember that, when speaking about eating His flesh and drinking His blood, Jesus was talking about Himself as the Word of God. That is, we are to understand that our Lord's eternal provisions for us are, quite literally, His very own words. For He said: *It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.* This is why Nephi, the first author listed in the Book of Mormon, wrote:

Wherefore, I said unto you: Feast upon the words of Christ, For behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.

Wherefore, now after that I have spoken these words, If ye cannot understand them, it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; Wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark.

For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way and receive the

Holy Ghost, it will show unto you all things what ye should do.

(II Nephi 14:4-6)

It is for this purpose that the Lord has sent His words into the world by way of the Book of Mormon to feed His flock as He gathers and leads them to their own lands.

Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

(Isaiah 40:10-11)

3.6.4. Embrace the Truth, Embrace Jesus Christ

When ushering in His work in these latter days, the Lord reiterated the same message He gave when He first brought the house of Israel into the promised land: they shall live by every word which proceeds forth out of the mouth of God. Now, in these latter days, the Lord has sent forth the reminder to all His people to give diligent heed to His words, which are the *words of eternal life*. The reason for doing so both then and now is the same; we *shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God*. If we do, the Lord will lead us to and teach us the covenant which He has renewed in these latter days.

And now I give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life; for you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God.

For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ;

and the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit; and everyone that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit, cometh unto God, even the Father; and the Father teacheth him of the covenant which he has renewed and confirmed upon you, which is confirmed upon you for your sakes, and not for your sakes only, but for the sake of the whole world.

(D&C 83:7a-7e)

In drawing them unto Himself, God's covenant people will be brought to fulfill *the everlasting covenant*, which involves embracing the truth and looking upward:

And this is mine everlasting covenant, that when thy posterity shall embrace the truth, and look upward, then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with

*gladness, and the earth shall tremble with joy;
And the general assembly of the church of the firstborn shall come down out of heaven, and possess the earth, and shall have place until the end come. And this is mine everlasting covenant, which I made with thy father Enoch.
And the bow shall be in the cloud, and I will establish my covenant unto thee, which I have made between me and thee, for every living creature of all flesh that shall be upon the earth.*

(Genesis 9:22-24)

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people;
And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.
For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.
In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.*

(Hebrews 8:10-13)

To embrace the truth is to embrace Jesus Christ, who is *the word of God*. In the words of Jesus:

*... **I am the way, the truth, and the life:** no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also; and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.*

(John 14:6,7)

*Sanctify them through thy truth; **thy word is truth.***

(John 17:17)

Through the many scriptures which contain God's words, we have the testimony that these things are so.

*Brethren, this is the testimony which we give of that which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;
(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)
That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship*

with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

(I John 1:1-3)

And the same word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John 1:14)

To look upward, then, is to seek for the wisdom which is found in Jesus Christ alone.

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

(James 3:13-18)

But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

But unto them who believe, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

(I Corinthians 1:23,24)

Jesus Christ is from above. We, on the other hand, are of the earth and therefore earthly.

He must increase, but I must decrease.

He who cometh from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth; he who cometh from heaven is above all. And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and but few men receive his testimony.

He who hath received his testimony, hath set to his seal that God is true.

(John 3:31-33)

3.6.5. Beware Concerning Yourselves

Embracing God's word as the truth is essential, even vital to our eternal welfare, so much so that He also tells us in **D&C 83:7a-7e** to beware concerning ourselves in giving diligent heed to the words of eternal life which He speaks to us through His Only Begotten Son.

And now I give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life; for you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God.

For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ;
and the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit; and everyone that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit, cometh unto God, even the Father; and the Father teacheth him of the covenant which he has renewed and confirmed upon you, which is confirmed upon you for your sakes, and not for your sakes only, but for the sake of the whole world.

(D&C 83:7a-7e)

What about those who do not give diligent heed to *the words of eternal life*? They risk being brought under condemnation and, ultimately, they can expect to be brought under delusions to the destruction of their souls if they *repent not*. Recall how the Lord declared that the whole church was under condemnation for treating lightly the things they had received regarding the Book of Mormon.

And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation.

And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written, that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom, otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay.

(D&C 83:8a-8c)

Additionally, recall the warning given by Paul in the second chapter of Thessalonians:

Yea, the Lord, even Jesus, whose coming is not until after there cometh a falling away, by the working of Satan with all power, and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie;

That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

(II Thessalonians 2:9-12)

Consider how Paul wrote of those who do not *receive the love of the truth*. Paul is speaking of these latter days. Directly speaking, failing to receive the love of the truth is failing to receive the everlasting covenant, even the fullness of the gospel contained in the Book of Mormon. Because there are people who do not embrace the truth according to the everlasting covenant, there will be those who will perish (cf. [John 3:14-22](#) with [II Peter 3:9-18](#)). They deny themselves of salvation because they do not abide in His truth, the truth of His word. Therefore, God sends them strong delusions. The reason that God sends them such delusions is because God sets the bounds of our habitation.

*God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;
Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;
And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;
That they should seek the Lord, if they are willing to find him, for he is not far from every one of us;
For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*

(Acts 17:24-28)

Whoever is unwilling to abide in God's truth has a place prepared for them that is outside of God's truth, that is, in delusion in outer darkness.

... Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations. I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear; but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.

(Isaiah 66:3b,4)

*Then said he to his servants, The wedding is ready; but they who were bidden were not worthy.
Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.
So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all, as many as they found, both bad and good; and the wedding was furnished with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, **he saw there a man who had not a wedding garment.***

*And he said unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither, not having a wedding garment?
And he was speechless.*

*Then said the king unto his servants, **Bind him hand and foot, and take and cast him away into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.***

(Matthew 22:8-13)

And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying, That Satan whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning;

And he came before me, saying, Behold I, send me, I will be thy Son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore, give me thine honor.

But behold, my beloved Son, which was my beloved and chosen from the beginning, said unto me: Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.

Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him; and also that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten I caused that he should be cast down; and he became Satan.

Yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive, and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice.

(Genesis 3:1-5 IV)

In summary, everyone who does not receive the love of the truth, i.e. those who do not receive the everlasting covenant (see **D&C 66:1b** with **D&C 83:8a-8c**), come under the Lord's condemnation. If they do not repent and turn back to Him in meekness and humility, they will receive at His hand strong delusions in darkness instead of the truth.

Oh, then, all ye children of the house of Israel, turn ye unto the Lord and receive graciously the words of life that the Lord may be gracious unto you, and gather you into one fold into the lands promised to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Seek the Lord while He is near, and He will receive you unto Himself. The Lord will gather your children from every nation back into one land, a land that will blossom to your healing and health, filled with the word of the Lord. He will provide living manna that will guide and grant you wisdom and vision. Receive the good and pleasing word of the Lord and spare not to give Him your devotions and praises. Turn from the path of unbelief taken by those of old and spoken of in **Psalms 78**, and enter into His rest. For He will receive you if you are willing to be obedient to His Spirit of truth, the Holy Ghost your Comforter.

*Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice,
Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness;
When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.*

*Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.
So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.
Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.
But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;
While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke; howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.
But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?
And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?
So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*

(Hebrews 3:7-19)

*Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us by entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.
For unto us was the rest preached, as well as unto them; but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.
For we who have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, If they harden their hearts they shall not enter into my rest; also, I have sworn, If they will not harden their hearts, they shall enter into my rest; although the works of God were prepared, (or finished,) from the foundation of the world.
For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.
And in this place again, If they harden not their hearts they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief;
Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.
For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.
Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of body and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

(Hebrews 4:1-12)

Remember the promises of the Lord and call upon His holy name in mighty prayer and He will hear you, for He is the Holy One of Israel, the Lord your God.

*Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near;
Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

*For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower,
and bread to the eater;*

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.*

(Isaiah 55:6-13)

I am found of them who seek after me, I give unto all them that ask of me; I am not found of them that sought me not, or that inquireth not after me.

(Isaiah 65:1)

*Oh give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the people.
Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him; talk ye of all his wondrous works.*

Glory ye in his holy name; let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.

Seek the Lord, and his strength; seek his face evermore.

Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders and the judgments of his mouth;

O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen.

He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

He hath remembered his covenant forever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations.

Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac;

And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant.

(Psalm 105:1-10)

As for our Redeemer, the Lord of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel.

(Isaiah 47:4)

3.6.6. In Summary

The children of Israel are to feed upon manna in these latter days just as they did when they were led out of Egypt under the hand of God through Moses. In that former time, the Lord fed them with physical manna. This the Lord said He did to show them that they are to live by every *word* that proceeds forth out of His mouth. In other words, manna served as a lesson of the *schoolmaster* (Galatians 3:24-26). It *pointed* them to the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Now, under the *new covenant*, they are to feed on a spiritual manna, even upon His living words, which He said are *spirit* and *life*. The Lord has prepared and revealed His words through the records known as the Book of Mormon, which He has caused to be written and sent forth in these latter days.

This spiritual manna which the Lord has prepared for them was laid up in store beginning many generations and millennia ago now, starting with Moses and continuing on with the prophets who came after him. Though other scriptures will be restored and/or given in their time, two branches stand as unique with regard to the *new covenant* and the restoration of Israel in their covenant lands. These two branches emerged with time – after the house of Israel became divided following the days of Solomon – to be combined in these latter days for the sake of bringing the whole house of Israel back into the land promised to Abraham. Specifically, the words recorded and kept by the house of Judah, called *the stick of Judah*, and the words recorded by a remnant of the line of Joseph, called *the stick of Ephraim*, are being combined in the Lord's *hand* as He sets His *hand* a second time to recover a remnant of the house of Israel. With the combining of these “sticks” into one, these two nations, Judah and Ephraim, will recombine and return into their own land as one nation by being fed and nourished by God's living and abiding Word.

3.7. He will Manifest Himself

In a prior subsection, we read that Moroni holds the keys to the *record* of the stick of Ephraim.

*Behold, this is wisdom in me; wherefore marvel not, for the hour cometh that I will drink of the fruit of the vine with you on the earth, and with **Moroni, whom I have sent unto you to reveal the Book of Mormon, containing the fullness of my everlasting gospel; to whom I have committed the keys of the record of the stick of Ephraim ...***

(D&C 26:2a,2b)

In his abridgement of the book of Ether, this same Moroni tells us the following:

And this [decree] cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness be come, That ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you as the inhabitants of the land hath hitherto done.

*Behold, this is a choice land; And whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage and from captivity and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land which is **Jesus Christ, which hath been manifested by the things which we have written.***

(Ether 1:34,35)

When speaking of the things they have written, it would appear that Moroni is referring not only to the abridgment of their records known as the Book of Mormon or *the record of the stick of Ephraim*, but to their more complete accounting which they kept as well. With this in mind, here is the primary key for understanding the Book of Mormon as *the new covenant*.

Primary Key: Moroni's claim that Jesus Christ *has been manifested* by the words which the authors of the Book of Mormon have written is the primary key to understanding why and how the Book of Mormon is the *new covenant*. Moreover, we are to understand that Jesus Christ chose to reveal or *manifest* Himself, as the Word of God, to His covenant people in these latter days through the *words* of the records of this branch of the house of Israel. In terms from the last subsection, our Lord is in the process of revealing Himself as *the bread of life*, as living *manna*, to those who read these records of Him and His dealings with this remnant. In support of Moroni's statement, additional scriptural references follow.

Nephi, the first author listed in the Book of Mormon, wrote of a vision he had been given in which the Lord showed Him how He would *manifest* Himself to Nephi's posterity as well as to both Jew and Gentile in future generations through the words of their account of Him and His gospel.

Wherefore, after that I have visited them in judgment and smitten them by the hand

of the Gentiles,

*And after that the Gentiles do stumble exceedingly because of the most plain and most precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which hath been kept back by that abominable church which is the mother of harlots, saith the Lamb, Wherefore, I will be merciful unto the Gentiles in that day, saith the Lamb, Inasmuch that **I will bring forth unto them in Mine own power much of My gospel**, which shall be plain and most precious, saith the Lamb.*

For behold, saith the Lamb, I will manifest Myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious;

*And after that thy seed shall be destroyed and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren, **Behold, these things shall be hid up to come forth unto the Gentiles by the gift and power of the Lamb;***

And in them shall be written My gospel, saith the Lamb, and My rock and My salvation;

And blessed are they which shall seek to bring forth My Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;

And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb;

Yea, whoso shall publish peace, that shall publish tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be!

And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, And also the book of the Lamb of God which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew; And I beheld that it came forth from the Gentiles unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren;

*And after it had come forth unto them, I beheld other books which came forth by the power of the Lamb from the Gentiles unto them, **Unto the convincing** of the Gentiles and the remnant of the seed of my brethren, And also to the Jews which were scattered upon all the face of the earth, That the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true.*

*And the angel spake unto me, saying: **These last records which thou hast seen among the Gentiles shall establish the truth of the first**, which are of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, And shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them;*

And shall make known to all kindreds, tongues and people that the Lamb of God is the Eternal Father and the Savior of the world, And that all men must come unto Him or they cannot be saved;

And they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb;

And the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed as well as in the records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb;

Wherefore, they both shall be established in one;

*For there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth;
And the time cometh that **He shall manifest Himself** unto all nations – both unto the Jews,
and also unto the Gentiles;
And after that **He hath manifested Himself** unto the Jews, and also unto the Gentiles, Then
He shall manifest Himself unto the Gentiles, and also unto the Jews;
And the last shall be first, and the first shall be last.
And it shall come to pass that if the Gentiles shall hearken unto the Lamb of God in that day
that **He shall manifest Himself** unto them **in word and also in power, in very deed**,
Unto the taking away of their stumbling blocks, if it so be that they harden not their hearts
against the Lamb, And if it so be that they harden not their hearts against the Lamb of
God, they shall be numbered among the seed of thy father.*

(I Nephi 3:190-201)

First, note the many references in the above passage of scripture to the Lord *manifesting* Himself. This is His affirmed way in which He plans to reveal Himself when establishing the new covenant in these latter days. That is, through this record He will make Himself known to the nations of Israel and to the whole world.

Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I Am God? That I remember one nation like unto another?

Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another.

And when the two nations shall run together, the testimony of the two nations shall run together also;

*And I do this that I may prove unto many that I Am the same yesterday, today and forever,
And that I speak forth My words according to Mine own pleasure.*

(II Nephi 12:59-62)

Secondly, note the wording included near the end of this selected passage of scripture: *And the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb; wherefore, they both shall be established in one.* This statement is essentially the same as that made in the prophecy of Ezekiel regarding *the stick of Judah and the stick of Ephraim becoming one* in the hand of the Lord's servant.

The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying,

Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick and write upon it, for Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions;

And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.

(Ezekiel 37:15-17)

In making this disclosure, Nephi is directly linking the records he and his posterity kept to the gathering of both the house of Israel and the house of Judah in the latter days as described in [Ezekiel 37](#) (see the previous subsections).

Thirdly, another key to understanding this connection between the Book of Mormon and the *new covenant* is to understand that Isaiah testified of how the Lord would set His hand *a second time to recover* His covenant peoples.

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek; and his rest shall be glorious.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

([Isaiah 11:10-12](#))

As stated in a previous section, the Book of Mormon, as a *record of the stick of Ephraim*, will be joined with the stick of Judah and become one in the hand of the Lord. In this next verse, the Lord describes in more detail how He will join these two *sticks*. It will be by setting *Himself*, not just His hand, as second time to recover His people.

For the people of the Lord are they which wait for Him, For they still wait for the coming of the Messiah.

*And behold, according to the words of the prophet, **the Messiah will set Himself again the second time to recover them;***

*Wherefore, **He will manifest Himself** unto them in power and great glory, unto the destruction of their enemies, when that day cometh when they shall believe in Him;*

And none will He destroy that believeth in Him.

And they that believe not in Him shall be destroyed – both by fire and by tempest, and by earthquakes and by bloodsheds, and by pestilence and by famine.

And they shall know that the Lord is God, the Holy One of Israel.

([II Nephi 5:35-40](#))

While the wording in this verse is similar to that in [Isaiah 11:10-12](#), this is a key difference. Instead of saying that the Lord will *set His hand a second time*, the text reads that He will *set Himself a second time*. He will accomplish this by the power of the Holy Ghost. He will reveal Himself as the Word through the words of both *sticks*, but with one voice.

*And as I spake concerning the convincing of the Jews that Jesus is the very Christ, It must needs be that the Gentiles be convinced also that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, **And that He manifesteth Himself unto all they that believe in Him by the power of the Holy Ghost,***

Yea, unto every nation, kindred, tongue and people, working mighty miracles, signs and wonders among the children of men according to their faith.

(II Nephi 11:78,79)

Thus, through bringing to light the abridged record of this branch of the house of Israel, the Lord will bring a remnant of their children to know much more than just their ancestry. They will come to know of the goodness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Because God has set His hand a second time to recover them by bringing these records forth unto them, they will know that they have been and are indeed being blessed by *the hand of God*.

And now I would prophesy somewhat more concerning the Jews and the Gentiles.

For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth and be written unto the Gentiles and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed.

And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us – how that we came out from Jerusalem – And that they are a descendant of the Jews;

And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them; Wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ which was had among their fathers.

*And then shall they rejoice, **for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God;***

And their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; And many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a white and a delightsome people.

*And it shall come to pass that the Jews which are scattered also shall begin to believe in Christ; **And they shall begin to gather in upon the face of the land;***

And as many as shall believe in Christ shall also become a delightsome people.

And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall commence His work among all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, to bring about the restoration of His people upon the earth.

And with righteousness shall the Lord God judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth;

And He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth; And with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked.

(II Nephi 12:79-89)

Nephi's father Lehi also spoke of the Lord manifesting Himself by the Holy Ghost unto the Gentiles when speaking of the gospel being preached among the Lord's covenant people and of the gathering in of the house of Israel.

*And it came to pass that after my father had spoken these words, he spake unto my brethren concerning the gospel which should be preached among the Jews, And also concerning the dwindling of the Jews in unbelief; And after that they had slain the Messiah which should come, And after that He had been slain, He should rise from the dead **and should make Himself manifest by the Holy Ghost unto the Gentiles.***

Yea, even my father spake much concerning the Gentiles, and also concerning the house of Israel – That they should be compared like unto an olive tree whose branches should be broken off and should be scattered upon all the face of the earth; Wherefore, he said it must needs be that we should be led with one accord into the Land of Promise, unto the fulfilling of the word of the Lord that we should be scattered upon all the face of the earth; And after that the house of Israel should be scattered, they should be gathered together again;

Or, in fine, that after the Gentiles had received the fullness of the gospel, the natural branches of the olive tree – or the remnants of the house of Israel – should be grafted in, or come to the knowledge of the true Messiah, their Lord and their Redeemer.

(I Nephi 3:13-19)

In fact, the Lord declared specifically that it would only be through the Holy Ghost that He would reveal Himself to the Gentiles.

And verily I say unto you that ye are they of which I said: Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; Them also I must bring, And they shall hear My voice, And there shall be one fold and one Shepherd –

*And they understood Me not; For they supposed it had been the Gentiles, for they understood not that the Gentiles should be converted through their preaching; And they understood Me not, that I said they shall hear My voice; **And they understood Me not, that the Gentiles should not at any time hear My voice, That I should not manifest Myself unto them, save it were by the Holy Ghost.***

(III Nephi 7:20-22)

In other words, the Lord plans to *manifest* Himself to the Gentiles through the ministration and witness of the Holy Ghost. This is in agreement with His words recorded by John:

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

(John 14:26)

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment;

Of sin, because they believe not on me;

Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and they see me no more;

Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come.

He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.

All things that the Father hath are mine; therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.

(John 16:7-15)

When writing to his brethren, the Lamanites, Moroni includes this promise in the concluding chapter of the Book of Mormon:

And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true;

*And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, **And He will manifest the truth of it unto you by the power of the Holy Ghost; And by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things;***

And whatsoever thing is good, is just and true; Wherefore, nothing that is good denieth the Christ, but acknowledgeth that He is.

(Moroni 10:4-6)

This is consistent with the prophecies of Joseph, who was carried into Egypt as a captive.

And great were the covenants of the Lord which He made unto Joseph. Wherefore, Joseph truly saw our day;

*And he obtained a promise of the Lord that out of the fruit of his loins **the Lord God would raise up a righteous branch unto the house of Israel –***

Not the Messiah, but a branch which was to be broken off, nevertheless, to be remembered in

the covenants of the Lord –

That the Messiah should be made manifest unto them in the latter days in the Spirit of power, unto the bringing of them out of darkness unto light – yea, out of hidden darkness, and out of captivity unto freedom.

(II Nephi 2:6-9)

In the next quote, the Lord specifically instructs the remnant of His people in the Americas to write down His words so that at a future time His people in Jerusalem may learn about them and receive the gospel until the fulfilling of the covenant with the house of Israel.

And I command you that ye shall write these things after that I am gone, That if it so be that My people at Jerusalem – they which have seen Me and been with Me in My ministry – Do not ask the Father in My name that they may receive a knowledge of you by the Holy Ghost, and also of the other tribes which they know not of, That these sayings which ye shall write shall be kept and shalt be manifested unto the Gentiles, that through the fullness of the Gentiles, the remnant of their seed – which shall be scattered forth upon the face of the earth because of their unbelief – may be brought in, or may be brought to a knowledge of Me, their Redeemer; And then will I gather them in from the four quarters of the earth; And then will I fulfill the covenant which the Father hath made unto all the people of the house of Israel.

(III Nephi 7:27-29)

Those who believe their words will be ministered to through the Lord's Spirit.

But he that believeth these things which I have spoken, him will I visit with the manifestations of My Spirit, and he shall know and bear record; For because of My Spirit, he shall know that these things are true, for it persuadeth men to do good; And whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do good is of Me, for good cometh of none, save it be of Me, And I Am the same that leadeth men to all good. He that will not believe My words will not believe Me, that I Am; And he that will not believe Me will not believe the Father which sent Me; For behold, I Am the Father; I Am the light and the life and the truth of the world. Come unto Me, O ye Gentiles! And I will show unto you the greater things, the knowledge which is hid up because of unbelief. Come unto Me, O ye house of Israel! And it shall be made manifest unto you how great things the Father hath laid up for you from the foundation of the world; And it hath not come unto you because of unbelief. Behold, when ye shall rend that veil of unbelief which doth cause you to remain in your

awful state of wickedness and hardness of heart and blindness of mind, Then shall the great and marvelous things which have been hid up from the foundation of the world from you –

Yea, when ye shall call upon the Father in My name with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, then shall ye know that the Father hath remembered the covenant which He made unto your fathers, O house of Israel –

And then shall My revelations which I have caused to be written by My servant John be unfolded in the eyes of all the people –

Remember, when ye see these things, ye shall know that the time is at hand that they shall be made manifest in very deed; Therefore, when ye shall receive this record, ye may know that the work of the Father has commenced upon all the face of the earth.

Therefore, Repent! all ye ends of the earth, and come unto Me! and believe in My gospel! and be baptized in My name! For he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, But he that believeth not shall be damned; And signs shall follow them that believe in My name.

And blessed is he that is found faithful unto My name at the last day, For they shall be lifted up to dwell in the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world;

And behold, it is I that hath spoken it. Amen.

(Ether 1:105-117)

4. The “New” Connection

What exactly did Jeremiah mean when he declared that the Lord would make a “new” covenant with the house of the Lord?

*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make **a new** covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah.*

(Jeremiah 31:31)

The Hebrew word translated as *new* in [this verse](#) is Strong’s Concordance [number 2319](#), *chadash*, which is simply defined as *new*. However, we can gain an even greater appreciation of the message this word conveys by its use in other verses. For example, Jeremiah uses this same word in his book of Lamentations as follows:

*It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are **new every morning**; great is thy faithfulness.*

(Lamentations 3:22,23)

Even though the Lord’s mercies are eternal, in the words of the prophet they are *new* (*chadash*) *every morning*. We should not be surprised at this truth since *the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem*, wrote:

Is there anything whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.

(Ecclesiastes 1:10)

A verse that comes from the book of Job helps us to further grasp its meaning as well. In this verse, *chadash* is translated as *fresh*.

My glory was fresh in me, and my bow was renewed in my hand.

(Job 29:20)

We find further confirmation of this understanding of the word *new* as it is used in [Hebrews 8:8](#), which is a quote of [Jeremiah 31:31](#).

*For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make **a new** covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.*

(Hebrews 8:8)

The Greek word translated as *new* in [this verse](#) is Strong's Concordance [number 2537](#), *kainos*, which is defined as *new, fresh*. This meaning is, in turn consistent with the definition in use in the days in which the Book of Mormon was translated. From an online version of the 1828 Webster's Dictionary we find these selected definitions:

NEW

- Lately introduced to our knowledge; not before known; recently discovered...
- Recently produced by change; as a new life.
- Not habituated; not familiar; unaccustomed.

FRESH

- New; recently grown; as fresh vegetables.
- New; recently made or obtained. We have a fresh supply of goods from the manufactory, or from India; fresh tea; fresh raisins.
- Not impaired by time; not forgotten or obliterated. The story is fresh in my mind; the ideas are fresh in my recollection.
- New; that has lately come or arrived; as fresh news; fresh dispatches.

4.1. Daily Bread

The newness and freshness of the Lord's daily mercies and compassions as Jeremiah described are integral to and a part of the nature of the *new* covenant. Simply put, His covenant is fresh every morning. Although it was from the beginning, it is new each day to those who live under it. Just as manna was rained down upon the children of Israel by God to feed them on a daily basis, so likewise the sure mercies of God's living words will be rained down upon them under the *new covenant*. This is why we read of how the Mediator of the New Covenant taught His disciples to pray, "*Give us this day our daily bread.*"

*Therefore after this manner shall ye pray, saying,
Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And suffer us not to be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

([Matthew 6:9-15](#))

His words are to be given to us fresh each day. Moreover, like the fountain of living water, they are to spring forth within and out from the hearts of His people each day.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive; for the Holy Ghost was promised unto them who believe, after that Jesus was glorified.)

(John 7:37-39)

From this fountain, we draw life giving waters to impart to others, and to give bread to others in due season:

*Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding;
For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.*

She is more precious than rubies; and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honor.

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her; and happy is everyone that retaineth her.

The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

(Proverbs 3:12-20)

The lips of the righteous feed many; but fools die for want of wisdom.

(Proverbs 10:21)

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

(Proverbs 11:30)

The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.

(Proverbs 18:4)

A good man, out of the good treasure of the heart, bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure, bringeth forth evil things.

(Matthew 12:30)

4.2. A New Commandment

Jesus said He had given His disciples a *new* commandment. This is the **same Greek word** translated as *new* in Hebrews 8:8.

A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

(John 13:34,35)

John tells us, however, that this commandment is actually the same one that was from the beginning. Here again, John uses the same Greek word for *new*.

*Brethren, I write **a new commandment unto you, but it is the same commandment which ye had from the beginning.** The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.*

*Again, **a new commandment** I write unto you, **which thing was of old ordained of God;** and is true in him, and in you; because the darkness is past in you, and the true light now shineth.*

(1 John 2:7,8)

Though it was from the beginning, it is new today. That is, it is fresh every day. Those who live in Jesus Christ live in the *newness* of His words, which are spirit and life.

*It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.***

(John 6:63)

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk in newness of life.***

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection;

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

For he that is dead to sin is freed from sin.

*Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him;
Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more
dominion over him.
For in that he died, he died unto sin once; but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.
Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield
yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as
instruments of righteousness unto God.
For in so doing sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under the law, but under
grace.
What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.
**Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to
whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?***
(Romans 6:1-16)

4.3. A New Tongue

Before Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, He instructed His disciples to go into all the earth. With this instruction came a promise that includes believers speaking in *new tongues*.

*And these signs shall follow them that believe;
In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;
They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them;
They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*
(Mark 16:16-19)

This is the same promise given in the Book of Mormon as *the new covenant*.

*Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature; And he that believeth and is
baptized shall be saved, But he that believeth not shall be damned.
And these signs shall follow them that believe – In My name shall they cast out devils; **They
shall speak with new tongues**; They shall take up serpents; And if they drink any deadly
thing, it shall not hurt them; They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.
And whosoever shall believe in My name, doubting nothing, unto him will I confirm all My
words, even unto the ends of the earth.*
(Mormon 4:86-88)

Within this promise lies a great mystery, that of the mystery of the new birth in Jesus Christ. Nephi explains it this way:

*Wherefore my beloved brethren, I know that if ye shall follow the Son with full purpose of heart, **acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God**, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ by baptism, yea, by following your Lord and Savior down into the water according to His word, behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost;*

*Yea, **then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost, and then can ye speak with the tongue of angels** and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel.*

*But behold, my beloved brethren, thus came the voice of the Son unto me, saying: After that ye have repented of your sins, and witnessed unto the Father that ye are willing to keep My commandments by the baptism of water, and have received the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost, **and can speak with a new tongue**, yea, even with the tongue of angels – and after this should deny Me, It would have been better for you that ye had not known Me.*

(II Nephi 13:16-18)

*And now, **how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost?***

Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost, wherefore, they speak the words of Christ.

Wherefore, I said unto you: Feast upon the words of Christ, for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.

Wherefore, now after that I have spoken these words, if ye cannot understand them, it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; Wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark.

For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way and receive the Holy Ghost, it will show unto you all things what ye should do.

(II Nephi 14:3-6)

This is truly a marvelous gift. Yet, did you notice the warning given through Nephi?

...and after this should deny Me, It would have been better for you that ye had not known Me.

(II Nephi 13:18)

Here are several passages of scripture verses that explain this warning:

... Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

For there is nothing covered which shall not be revealed;

neither hid which shall not be known.

*Therefore, whatsoever ye have **spoken in darkness**, shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets, shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.*

(Luke 12:1-3)

And again, ye shall say unto them, Why is it that thou beholdest the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and canst not behold a beam in thine own eye?

And Jesus said unto his disciples, Beholdest thou the Scribes, and the Pharisees, and the Priests, and the Levites? They teach in their synagogues, but do not observe the law, nor the commandments; and all have gone out of the way, and are under sin.

Go thou and say unto them, Why teach ye men the law and the commandments, when ye yourselves are the children of corruption?

Say unto them, Ye hypocrites, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Go ye into the world, saying unto all, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come nigh unto you.

(Matthew 7:4-9)

Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men who receive me and repent; but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven unto men.

And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him; neither in this world; neither in the world to come.

Either make the tree good and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt; for the tree is known by the fruit.

And Jesus said, O ye generation of vipers! how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

A good man, out of the good treasure of the heart, bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure, bringeth forth evil things.

And again I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

(Matthew 12:26-32)

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint, and anise, and cummin; and have omitted the weightier things of the law; judgment, mercy, and faith; these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Ye blind guides, who strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel; who make yourselves appear unto men that ye would not commit the least sin, and yet ye yourselves, transgress the whole law.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup, and of the platter; but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Ye blind Pharisees! Cleanse first the cup and platter within, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but are within full of the bones of the dead, and of all uncleanness.

Even so, ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchers of the righteous,

And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets;

Wherefore, ye are witnesses unto yourselves of your own wickedness, and ye are the children of them who killed the prophets;

And will fill up the measure then of your fathers; for ye, yourselves, kill the prophets like unto your fathers.

Ye serpents, and generation of vipers! How can ye escape the damnation of hell?

(Matthew 23:20-30)

The above discussion would not be complete with considering the promised new birth that lies at the heart of the new covenant. Though somewhat long, this next section may be summed as follows: Jesus Christ testified that we will either be justified or condemned by our words (Matthew 12). Therefore, knowing that none of us can tame his or her own tongue (James 3), God sent His own Word (Son) to dwell within us by the Spirit of His Son (Galatians 4:6). God did this to justify us by having His Word (His Son) become the source of our words. That is, in the new covenant, God replaces our words with His own living and abiding Word, Jesus Christ (see John 1 & 14-17; Galatians 2:20).

4.4. A New Birth²

In Jesus Christ we are born again with a spiritual birth for a specific purpose: to become new *creatures* who dwell in the kingdom of heaven, that is, in *righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost* (II Corinthians 5:17 & John 3:1-22 with Romans 14:17 & Matthew 6:9-16).

² Adapted from: http://www.hisworkmanship.net/answers/#Question-Born_Again

According to Paul, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, through this new birth we are created in Christ Jesus so that we may do the *good works* which God has foreordained for us.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

(Ephesians 2:10)

Therefore, by reviewing scriptures that illustrate God's methods and purposes in the new birth, we can better understand how and when this new birth takes place and matures in our lives.

Peter, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, wrote that we are *born again* (spiritually) by an *incorruptible seed*, which he identified as *the Word of God*.

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren,

See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

(I Peter 1:22,23)

Consider further how in the parable of the sower Jesus likened the word of God to a seed, saying:

Now the parable is this; The seed is the word of God.

(Luke 8:11)

Briefly understood, God's word is to be viewed as a seed that is to be sown within us through preaching, that is, through the hearing of the word of God (I Corinthians 1:21, 2:3-5, 3:6-7, etc.). The sown word, if retained, establishes faith within us.

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

(Romans 10:16)

This is why James, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, encouraged us to receive with meekness the Engrafted Word. James was speaking of Jesus Christ, who is the incarnate Word of God (John 1), the only One who is able to save our souls.

Wherefore lay aside all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness,

And receive with meekness, the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

(James 1:21,22)

Why and how can we be born anew by the Word of God? How exactly does the Word of God, as a *seed*, give us a new birth? How is it possible that the *engrafted word* is able to save our souls? Consider how Jesus Christ testified that we will either be *justified* or *condemned* by our words (Matthew 12). Therefore, knowing that men cannot *tame* their own tongues (James 3), God sent His own Word (Son) to dwell within us by the Spirit of His Son (Galatians 4:6). God did this to justify us by having His Word (His Son) become the source of our words. That is, God is intent on replacing our words with His own living and abiding Word, Jesus Christ (see John 1 & 14-17; Galatians 2:20).

If we *receive with meekness* God's *Engrafted Word* (Jesus Christ), His words will eventually grow to fruition within us, and we will be able to speak words that do not condemn us at the last day. That is, His words, born as the fruit of His Spirit abiding within us, will justify us. As God's indwelling Word, Jesus Christ enables us to speak without offense before God. More importantly, He enables us to speak through faith in His words (Colossians 3:1-16 with Luke 8:11-15). Through this process, Jesus Christ becomes the *abundance* of our hearts, the *wellspring* from which and by which we speak (Isaiah 57:19 & 59:21 with Proverbs 10:21, 15:4, 18:4, 119:1-176, etc.).

I create the fruit of the lips;

*Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him.
But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire
and dirt.*

There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

(Isaiah 57:19-21)

Consequently, when God looks upon those who have been truly born anew through His *incorruptible seed*, God will see His Son, meaning His own Word, issuing forth from within their lives as a fountain of living waters (John 7:37-40).

In the beginning God made every seed such that it brings forth life after its own kind (Genesis 1,2). The *incorruptible seed*, meaning the Word of God, is no different. It, too, brings forth life after its own kind. Thus, if the Word of God is planted as a seed within our lives, it will bring forth ***words of truth***, good words of faith after its own kind – not words born of our old natures, meaning the *thorns* and *thistles* of an evil tongue (Hebrews 6:8 with James 3:6-10). Therefore, if we are truly born anew by the Word of God, we will speak the words of Jesus Christ, but only if we *let* His words dwell in ourselves richly through faith on His name (Colossians 3:16 with Hebrews 3,4).

*But behold, why do ye ponder these things in your hearts?
Do ye not remember that I said unto you that after that ye have received the Holy Ghost, ye
could speak with the tongue of angels?
And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost?
Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost, wherefore, they speak the words of Christ.
Wherefore, I said unto you,
Feast upon the words of Christ, for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye
should do.*

...

*For behold, again I say unto you, that if ye will enter in by the way and receive the Holy
Ghost, it will shew unto you all things what ye should do.*

(II Nephi 14:2-4,6)

Thus, by patiently letting God's Word become the source of our words, we allow His living and abiding Word, Jesus Christ, to become our justification (Psalm 119 with John 1). When God looks upon us in judgment, He will see His own Son in our place; that is, He will see His Word in place of our words (II Corinthians 3-5 with Romans 5-8). Thus, through grafting His Word within us, God provides the way for us to live *through* Jesus (I John 4:9); and in so doing, Jesus becomes our *life* (Colossians 3:1-16 with John 14:6).

Like all seeds, God's Word has life contained within itself (John 5 & 12). God's Word contains all of the information needed to bring forth a new life from within us and then bear forth fruit of the same through us unto the glory of God (Hebrews 11:1 & Matthew 5 with Isaiah 37:31 & I Timothy 4:1-4). God's Word contains the DNA, if you will, of the body of Christ (Romans 1). It contains all of the genetic (spiritual) information or material of the children of God, those who speak the truth by the Spirit of truth (those who are grafted into the True Vine; John 15). Thus, those who hear the word of God, and receive His word such that they allow it to grow within their very souls, are spiritually conceived; and if they continue in the same word of truth, in time they will bring forth an abundance of fruit to the honor and glory of our Heavenly Father (Luke 8 with Galatians 6:7-10).

This process of the new birth begins with God speaking, followed by our hearing the Word of God preached (Romans 10 with I Corinthians 2). Recall Jesus' parable about the *sower* of the word of God:

*And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he
spake by a parable, saying,
A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was
trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.*

And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.

And others fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold.

And when he had said these things, he cried, He who hath ears to hear, let him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?

And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God; but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

Now the parable is this; The seed is the word of God.

That which fell by the wayside are they who hear; and the devil cometh and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

That which fell on the rock are they, who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and they have no root, but for a while believe, and in a time of temptation fall away.

And that which fell among thorns are they, who, when they have heard, go forth and are choked with cares, and riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

But that which fell on the good ground are they, who receive the word in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep what they hear, and bring forth fruit with patience.

For no man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they who enter in may see the light.

For nothing is secret, which shall not be made manifest; neither hid, which shall not be made known, and go abroad.

Take heed therefore how ye hear; for whosoever receiveth, to him shall be given; and whosoever receiveth not from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

(Luke 8:4-18)

As explained in this parable, people respond in four basic ways to the Word of God (cf. Revelation 22:11 with Isaiah 59:21). The first three do not result in the fruit of God's Spirit being born in a person's life (see John 15, Galatians 5 with John 6:28-63). Only the last response bears good fruit.

And, again, beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing; but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Ye shall know them by their fruits; for do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit, is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

(Matthew 7:24-29)

It is only by keeping the Word of God with patience within ourselves for the intent of bearing the fruit of the same that we can know we are born of God. That is, only in bearing God the fruit of His countenance (His Spirit of truth) to His honor as expressed through Jesus Christ may we know that His word is truly abiding within us. All other responses to the Word of God fall short of bringing glory to God. Therefore, in the words of the prophet:

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

(Hosea 10:12)

God's Word, Jesus Christ, became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1). He came so that we might be born of His words, for His words are spirit and they are life (John 6, esp. 6:63). He came to fill us with God's words so we might be cleansed and sanctified by the same.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

(John 15:3)

Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.

(John 17:17)

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any

such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

(Ephesians 5:25-28)

Therefore, the *incorruptible seed* of God's Word (Son) is sown into our hearts by faith. We allow God to plant His Word within us by faith, and we allow His Word by faith to take root within us and bear fruit of the same. As it is written, those who receive Jesus Christ as God's Word of truth receive the power to become God's children.

He [Jesus] came unto his own, and his own received Him not.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God; only to them who believe on his name.

He was born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the same word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John bear witness of him, and cried, saying, This is he of whom I spake; He who cometh after me, is preferred before me; for he was before me.

For in the beginning was the Word, even the Son, who is made flesh, and sent unto us by the will of the Father. And as many as believe on his name shall receive of his fullness. And of his fullness have all we received, even immortality and eternal life, through his grace.

(John 1:11-16)

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

(John 15:4-8)

The way we become *doers* of the *Engrafted Word* begins with feasting upon the words of Christ. By feasting upon His words, we are guided *into all truth* (John 14:26, 16:13). That is, His words will tell us what we should do in all things, which is what it means to be born again – as opposed to living by the dictates of the fleshly desires and carnal impulses of our fallen nature (II Nephi 14:4 with John 6:63).

Similar to the parable of Jesus and the testimony of Peter, Alma admonishes us to **give place** to the Word of God as a seed and to allow it to grow within us through faith.

*Now, we will **compare the word unto a seed.***

Now, if ye give place that a seed may be planted in your heart,

Behold, if it be a true seed, or a good seed – if ye do not cast it out by your unbelief that ye will resist the Spirit of the Lord –

Behold, it will begin to swell within your breasts;

And when you feel these swelling motions, ye will begin to say within yourselves:

‘It must needs be that this is a good seed, or that the word is good, for it beginneth to enlarge my soul,

Yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding,

Yea, and it beginneth to be delicious to me.’

Now behold, would not this increase your faith?

I say unto you, Yea;

Nevertheless, it hath not grown up to a perfect knowledge.

...

*But if ye will nourish the word –
Yea, nourish the tree as it beginneth to grow, by your faith with great diligence and with
patience – looking forward to the fruit thereof,
And it shall take root;
And behold, it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life!
And because of your diligence and your faith and your patience with the word in nourishing
it, that it may take root in you,
Behold, by and by, ye shall pluck the fruit thereof, which is most precious,
which is sweet above all that is sweet, and which is white above all that is white,
yea, and pure above all that is pure,
And ye shall feast upon this fruit, even until ye are filled that ye hunger not,
neither shall ye thirst;
Then my brethren, ye shall reap the rewards of your faith and your diligence and patience
and longsuffering, waiting for the tree to bring forth fruit unto you.*

(Alma 16:152-155,170-173)

Accordingly, Jesus taught that if we love Him by keeping His words within us, He and His Father will love us and make their abode within us.

*He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me;
And he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest
myself to him.*

...

*If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto
him, and make our abode with him.
He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings;
And the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.*

(John 14:21-24)

*I am the vine, ye are the branches.
He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit;
For without me ye can do nothing.*

(John 15:5)

*Therefore if any man live in Christ, he is a new creature;
Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new,
And receiveth all the things of God, who hath reconciled us to himself in Jesus Christ, and
hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.*

(II Corinthians 5:17,18)

Similarly, He taught His disciples to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:9-16). Why? As it is written, we do not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord are we to live:

*And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness,
To humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep His commandments, or no.
And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know;
That He might make thee know that **man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.***

(Deuteronomy 8:2,3)

In summary, those who are truly born of the Spirit of God bear the fruit of God’s Spirit by the Word of God (Galatians 5:22-26). In the words of Peter, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, we may know that we are born again if we obey the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of one another.

*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren,
See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.
Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.*

(I Peter 1:22,23)

4.5. A New Jerusalem

Ether was shown and bore testimony that *a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph*. Not only this, he saw that *the Jerusalem of old would be built up again a holy city unto the Lord ... unto the house of Israel*.

*Behold, Ether saw the days of Christ; And he spake concerning **a New Jerusalem upon this land** – And he spake also **concerning the house of Israel and the Jerusalem from whence Lehi should come** – After that it should be destroyed, **it should be built up again a holy city unto the Lord;**
Wherefore, it could not be a New Jerusalem, for it had been in a time of old, But it should be built up again and become a holy city of the Lord; And it should be built up **unto the house of Israel** –*

And that a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, for the which things there has been a type – For as Joseph brought his father down into the Land of Egypt, even so he died there;

Wherefore, the Lord brought a remnant of the seed of Joseph out of the Land of Jerusalem, That He might be merciful unto the seed of Joseph, that they should perish not, Even as He was merciful unto the father of Joseph, that he should perish not.

Wherefore, the remnant of the house of Joseph shall be built up upon this land, And it shall be a land of their inheritance; And they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old; And they shall no more be confounded until the end come when the earth shall pass away;

And there shall be a new heaven and a new earth; And they shall be like unto the old, save the old have passed away and all things have become new.

(Ether 6:4-9)

First note how Ether was shown, not only the days of Christ, but many things pertaining to Joseph and his seed on this continent. What an amazing revelation this truly is given the fact that Ether's ancestors had come to this land many years before Joseph was born in the old world, and yet Ether had such a detailed understanding of God's covenants with Joseph and his posterity. I am very much looking forward to receiving all of Ether's records. What marvelous truths they most assuredly contain given his many prophecies and the prophecies of the Brother of Jared preserved so that they might be brought forth in an appointed time to fill the earth with truth.

And the Lord said unto Enoch, As I live, even so will I come in the last days, in the days of wickedness and vengeance, to fulfill the oath which I made unto you concerning the children of Noah.

And the day shall come that the earth shall rest. But before that day the heavens shall be darkened, and a veil of darkness shall cover the earth; and the heavens shall shake, and also the earth.

And great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve; and righteousness will I send down out of heaven, and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men.

And righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare; an holy city, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion; a New Jerusalem.

And the Lord said unto Enoch, Then shalt thou and all thy city meet them there; and we will receive them into our bosom; and they shall see us, and we will fall upon their necks, and they shall fall upon our necks, and we will kiss each other; And there shall be mine abode, and it shall be Zion, which shall come forth out of all the creations which I have made; and for the space of a thousand years shall the earth rest.
(Genesis 7:67-72)

According to the quote above from Ether, the Lord brought a remnant of the house of Joseph (through Lehi) to *Joseph's land* to be merciful unto *the house of Joseph*. In this regard, it is also noteworthy to recall how Joseph was taken into Egypt ahead of the rest of the house of Israel to provide for them in a time of famine and for many generations to follow until the time of Moses. In like manner, a remnant of *the house of Joseph* was brought to this land of Joseph's inheritance to be a blessing to the whole house of Israel in these latter days. This I believe is supported by the following passage from I Nephi:

And it came to pass that my father Lehi also found upon the plates of brass a genealogy of his fathers; Wherefore, he knew that he was a descendant of Joseph, Yea, even that Joseph which was the son of Jacob which was sold into Egypt and which was preserved by the hand of the Lord, that he might preserve his father Jacob and all his household from perishing with famine; And they were also led out of captivity and out of the Land of Egypt by that same God who had preserved them; And thus my father Lehi did discover the genealogy of his fathers; And Laban also was a descendant of Joseph; Wherefore, he and his fathers had kept the records.

(I Nephi 1:164-168)

In other words, God has arranged for the house of Joseph located in this land to be a blessing and support to all of the other tribes of the house of Israel according to the covenants of the Lord. This is the reason that an abridgement of their record (the Book of Mormon) is going to the other nations, revealing the fullness of the gospel and the knowledge of the covenants.

Until recently my focus was on the promises of the Lord regarding the land of Joseph (the Americas). However, the Lord has greatly enlarged my understanding of how all of His covenants are interrelated in the *everlasting covenant* by taking me to the *fountain* of the River of Egypt in January (2017) to offer prayers for the fulfillment of Genesis 15 according to Isaiah 11, II Nephi 11:1-2, etc. I simply had not understood or fully appreciated before then just how the Lord's work of *setting His hand a second time to recover the house of Israel* in fulfillment of the *new covenant* (as outlined in Hebrews 8:8-13 and Jeremiah 31:31-34)

was connected directly to the Book of Mormon, its peoples, and its lands. But now I am confident that we will see the fulfillment of scriptures like the following in short order:

Hearken and hear O ye inhabitants of the earth.

Listen, ye elders of my church together, and hear the voice of the Lord, for he calleth upon all men and he commandeth all men everywhere to repent; for, behold, the Lord God hath sent forth the angel, crying through the midst of heaven, saying:

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths strait, for the hour of his coming is nigh, when the Lamb shall stand upon Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having his father's name written in their foreheads;

wherefore, prepare ye for the coming of the Bridegroom; go ye, go ye out to meet him, for, behold, he shall stand upon the Mount of Olivet, and upon the mighty ocean, even the great deep, and upon the islands of the sea, and upon the land of Zion;

and he shall utter his voice out of Zion, and he shall speak from Jerusalem, and his voice shall be heard among all people, and it shall be a voice as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder, which shall break down the mountains, and the valleys shall not be found;

he shall command the great deep and it shall be driven back into the north countries, and the islands shall become one land, and the land of Jerusalem and the land of Zion shall be turned back into their own place, and the earth shall be like as it was in the days before it was divided.

And the Lord even the Savior shall stand in the midst of his people, and shall reign over all flesh.

(D&C 108:5a-g)

5. The Orson Hyde Connection

On October 5, 2017, I published on the internet the prayers which I had offered at Lake Victoria in January 2017. Two days later, on October 7, the Lord greatly expanded my understanding as to why He called for these two prayers to be offered by faith at this time. Orson Hyde offered a well-documented prayer over the land of Israel on October 24, 1841 (re-printed in **Section 9.2**). One may ask why, then, offer two more prayers many years later? And why were they to be offered in a location far from Jerusalem where Brother Hyde had prayed?

The understanding which I received of the Lord on October 7 was that a particular principle, which is documented in latter-day revelation, was in operation: *Firstly, the rich and the learned, the wise and the noble* were to be brought into the land to prepare it for the ingathering of the nations of Israel; *then shall the poor, the lame, and the blind, and the deaf* be invited in to complete the gathering of a remnant of the house of Israel to the lands of their inheritance. Here is the passage of scripture that I was led to review to learn more of how this principle is being applied to fulfill the *new covenant* spoken of in Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 37.

Remember this which I tell you before, that you may lay it to heart, and receive that which shall follow.

*Behold, verily I say unto you, For this cause I have sent you that you might be obedient, and that your hearts might be prepared to bear testimony of the things which are to come; and also that you might be honored of laying the foundation, and of bearing record of **the land upon which the Zion of God shall stand**; and also that a feast of fat things might be prepared for the poor;*

yea, a feast of fat things, of wine on the lees well refined, that the earth may know that the mouths of the prophets shall not fail; yea, a supper of the house of the Lord, well prepared, unto which all nations shall be invited.

Firstly, the rich and the learned, the wise and the noble; and after that cometh the day of my power;

then shall the poor, the lame, and the blind, and the deaf, come in unto the marriage of the Lamb, and partake of the supper of the Lord, prepared for the great day to come. Behold, I, the Lord, have spoken it.

(D&C 58:3a-3f)

Until now, I only considered how this scripture was to be applied to *the land upon which the Zion of God shall stand*. However, the Lord assured me that all things are being done according to His wisdom for the gathering of the house of Israel to the lands promised to their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

To summarize, Orson Hyde had prayed for the first gathering in which *the rich and the learned, the wise and the noble* were to be gathered back to Jerusalem and the surrounding lands. Now, the Lord had called for prayers of healing and blessing for gathering in those who are to follow, namely *the poor, the lame, and the blind, and the deaf*.

I had not anticipated or even considered these things during my visit to Lake Victoria with my companions in faith. Thankfully, I went there not knowing beforehand all that was to be accomplished. If I had known more than I did, I might have prayed less by faith and more by what I might think I know.

To help me better appreciate His plan for gathering in all the house of Israel according to this principle, the Lord brought to mind something that happened many years ago now. In the mid-1990s, my family and I were visiting a church congregation in the Independence, Missouri, area. After helping our children find their Sunday School classes, my wife Pam and I found our way to the adult class. The teacher seemed to be running a bit late, so we did not miss much. Upon beginning the class, the teacher said he had planned to pick up where the class left off the prior Sunday. They apparently were starting to compare *the parable of the prodigal son* to an Old Testament prophecy. However, the teacher could not seem to remember where to locate this particular prophecy in his hurry to get to the class to get the lesson started. In the very moment he spoke of a prophecy about *the parable of the prodigal son*, the following verses from Isaiah 11 came clearly to my mind.

And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.

(Isaiah 11:12,13)

Being led distinctly to a particular verse somewhat surprised me since the teacher had not even given us a clue about the prophecy he was thinking about except that it was about this parable. So I asked him if he was referring to these verses in Isaiah. He said he was and asked me if I would read the passage aloud, which I did. He then confirmed that this was the passage of scripture for which he had been looking and proceeded to make a comparison with the parable of the prodigal son, which is included in its entirety here:

And he said, A certain man had two sons;

And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods which falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a

*far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.
And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land and he began
to be in want.
And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to
feed swine.
And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks which the swine did eat; and no man
gave unto him.
And when he came to himself he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread
enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!
I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven,
and before thee;
And am no more worthy to be called thy son; make me as one of thy hired servants.
And he arose and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw
him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.
And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no
more worthy to be called thy son.
But the father said unto his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a
ring on his finger, and shoes on his feet;
And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat and be merry;
For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.
And they began to be merry.
Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came, and drew nigh to the house, he heard
music and dancing.
And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant?
And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because
hath he received him safe and sound.
And he was angry, and would not go in; therefore came his father out and entreated him.
And he answering, said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither
transgressed I at any time thy commandment; and thou never gavest me a kid, that I
might make merry with my friends;
But as soon as this thy son was come, who hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast
killed for him the fatted calf.
And he said unto him, Son thou art ever with me; and all that I have is thine.
It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad; for this thy brother was dead, and is
alive again; was lost, and is found.*

(Luke 15:11-32)

Briefly stated, the older son in this parable is Judah. The younger son is Ephraim. While the older son (Judah) worked hard and retained his inheritance, the younger son (Ephraim)

squandered his inheritance and thus became poor.³ However, the father welcomed the return of his younger son after he had lived carelessly in faraway lands for many years. This incensed the older son, especially because the father gave the younger son fine apparel upon his return and had a feast to celebrate their reunion. In the words of the prophecy of Isaiah, Ephraim (the younger son) envied Judah (the older son); and Judah vexed Ephraim. Now, however, the Lord's work of making them one family again has already begun to fulfill *the new covenant*.

On October 7, 2017, the Lord assured me that it is appropriate to apply this parable to the purposes of the prayers offered in 1841 and in 2017. Orson Hyde's prayer prepared the way for Judah as the older brother to return to the lands with his wealth to begin building it up again to be inhabited by all of the house of Israel. Now, after these many intervening years, the time for the younger son's return is here. This, I have been assured, was the reason for the call that I had received to pray for the healing of all of the house of Israel and for their gathering to their own land as one nation.

The house of Judah is now well established in the land of Israel and centered around Jerusalem (which followed Orson Hyde's prayer). With this accomplished, the Lord has now called for the way to be prepared for the house of Ephraim to also be gathered in according to the new covenant spoken of by the prophets.

And now behold, my brethren, as I said unto you that I would prophesy, Behold, this is my prophecy:

That the things which this prophet Zenos spake concerning the house of Israel, in the which he likened them unto a tame olive tree, must surely come to pass;

And in the day that He shall set His hand again the second time to recover His people is the day, yea, even the last time, that the servants of the Lord shall go forth in His power to nourish and prune His vineyard; And after that the end soon cometh.

And how blessed are they who have labored diligently in His vineyard! And how cursed are they which shall be cast out into their own place!

([Jacob 4:1-4](#))

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

And then all Israel shall be saved; as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer,

³ For clarification, although Ephraim was his grandson through his son Joseph, Jacob (Israel) adopted Ephraim as his own son.

*and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob;
For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.
As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes; but as touching the election, they
are beloved for the fathers' sakes.
For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.
For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy
through their unbelief;
Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also
may obtain mercy.
For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.
O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are
his judgments, and his ways past finding out!
For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?
Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?
For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things; to whom be glory forever. Amen.*

(Romans 11:25-36)

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living
sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,
that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is.
For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of
himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God hath
dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

(Romans 12:1-3)

6. The Land Connection

As shown in the foregoing sections, the Book of Mormon is and represents many things. The new covenant is truly the best way to sum up what this incredible book is. Hopefully you noticed a persistent theme, that of a covenant people and their covenant lands. To put it simply, the Book of Mormon is, in essence, a land **deed**. To appreciate this point, it is helpful to consider the meaning of the word “covenant” based on **definitions in use** when the Book of Mormon was translated into English. From an **online 1828 Webster’s Dictionary**, the word *covenant* has the following meanings when used as a noun (emphasis added):

COVENANT, n. [L, **to come; a coming together; a meeting or agreement of minds.**]

1. *A mutual consent or agreement of two or more persons, to do or to forbear some act or thing; a contract; stipulation. **A covenant is created by deed in writing, sealed and executed;** or it may be implied in the contract.*
2. ***A writing containing the terms of agreement or contract between parties; or the clause of agreement in a deed containing the covenant.***
3. *In theology, the covenant of works, is that implied in the commands, prohibitions, and promises of God; the promise of God to man, that man’s perfect obedience should entitle him to happiness. This do, and live; that do, and die.
 - *The covenant of redemption, is the mutual agreement between the Father and Son, respecting the redemption of sinners by Christ.*
 - *The covenant of grace, is that by which God engages to bestow salvation on man, upon the condition that man shall believe in Christ and yield obedience to the terms of the gospel.**
4. *In church affairs, a solemn agreement between the members of a church, that they will walk together according to the precepts of the gospel, in brotherly affection.*

Based on this list of definitions, the Book of Mormon qualifies as a covenant. It is a written document to which are attached certain terms and conditions. For example, Lehi testified that he and his family obtained a land of promise according to a covenant the Lord made with him.

*... we have obtained a land of promise, a land which is choice above all other lands; **A land which the Lord God hath covenanted with me should be a land for the inheritance of my seed.***

Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children for ever;

And also all those who should be led out of other countries, by the hand of the Lord.

Wherefore, I, Lehi, prophesy according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me, that there shall none come into this land, save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord.

*Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring.
And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath
given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them...*

(II Nephi 1:6-12)

In this regard, the Book of Mormon testifies to Lehi's posterity that they are heirs of a covenant land that the Lord promised them. The significance of this fact took on much greater meaning to me when I met with a lawyer, named Ed Faunce, on March 3, 2017. During our conversation that day, Ed related how he had wanted to share the Book of Mormon with a Jewish person who was very close to him, his wife. So, in the early 1980's he labored for four or five years to format the text in a way that accentuated its Jewish roots and the underlying writing styles that better relate its Hebrew poetry, character, and message. The fruit of His labor was realized in part when the Restored Covenant Edition (RCE) of the Book of Mormon was first published in 1999.

As I listened to Brother Ed share about his hopes and his efforts to carefully format the text of the Book of Mormon as we find it now in the RCE, the Lord revealed an amazing understanding about his testimony. Briefly stated, I was shown that the Lord had secured legal counsel to prepare the Book of Mormon as a legal (covenant) document in restoring God's peoples to their covenant lands.

This is not to say in any way that I believe the first edition of the Book of Mormon published in 1830 or the editions that followed did not faithfully present the word of God as intended. I do indeed believe in the veracity of the original and following editions up through and including the 1908 edition. It will be recalled that the original printer's manuscript of the Book of Mormon had no punctuation or versification and that the printer provided the initial formatting in a way typical of the books published in that era. The work Brother Ed undertook was to format and punctuate the text in a way to readily recognize the Hebrew nature of the book. With this careful formatting and punctuation of the text, I find it is more readable and, I firmly believe, it will assist a remnant of the house of Israel to more easily understand the covenants of the Lord.

An excellent example of the RCE's benefit to those who speak a poetic language is the Swahili Book of Mormon translation work. When visiting with the translation team in Kisumu, Kenya, in January 2017, we learned that Swahili is a poetic language. Having the Book of Mormon formatted in a poetic style was, therefore, an invaluable asset to them in their translation work.

What qualified Ed for this task of formatting the text to accentuate its Hebrew nature? Charity, the pure love of Christ. You see, this man undertook the task of preparing a

formatted manuscript out of a love and a desire to bring his Jewish wife and their children to know their Redeemer and the very points of His doctrine. It was not for profit or for recognition. It was for Jesus Christ. Therefore, I have drawn on the RCE text in this report because I have the assurance of the Lord that it is approved of Him for this work of the gathering of His ancient covenant peoples. Remember how it is written:

Now, behold, a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men, therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind, and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day; therefore, if ye have desires to serve God, ye are called to the work, for, behold, the field is white already to harvest, and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perish not, but bringeth salvation to his soul; and faith, hope, charity, and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualifies him for the work. Remember, faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence. Ask and ye shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you. Amen.

(D&C 4:1a-2b)

Also,

He commandeth that there shall be no priestcrafts; For behold, priestcrafts are that men preach and set themselves up for a light unto the world, that they may get gain and praise of the world, But they seek not the welfare of Zion. Behold, the Lord hath forbidden this thing! Wherefore, the Lord God hath given a commandment that all men should have charity, which charity is love; And except they should have charity, they were nothing; Wherefore, if they should have charity, they would not suffer the laborer in Zion to perish; But the laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion, for if they labor for money they shall perish.

(II Nephi 11:106-109)

Before traveling to Africa, Pam and I also met a prayer group who are fervently praying for God's promised work to be accomplished on this covenant land. If I recall their testimony correctly, since mid-2015 they have been assembling on the Temple Lot grounds early each day for prayer and worship of Jesus Christ and for the furtherance of His plans in these latter days. It is my belief that their devotion to daily pray over this covenant land beginning at the Temple Lot are effectual consecrations to the Lord.

We are grateful to this special prayer group for their prayer support. On January 7 and 8

they came to Wichita to worship and pray with us. Then, starting from the time we departed our home on January 11 to when we returned January 23, members of this prayer group took around-the-clock shifts to cover us with prayers while we traveled to and around East Africa. Their expressions of love and devotion toward us and our Lord and His everlasting kingdom of righteousness were indeed a great blessing to us while we traveled and labored there for the Lord. Thank you!

7. The Holy Men Connection

Throughout the generations of the children of men, the Lord has sent His holy prophets to declare His word among them.

*And the Lord God hath sent His holy prophets among all the children of men to declare these things to every kindred, nation and tongue,
That thereby whosoever should believe that Christ should come, the same might receive remission of their sins and rejoice with exceeding great joy, even as though He had already come among them.*

(Mosiah 1:109)

By way of an example, one can look at King Benjamin. He was able to establish peace in the land among the people in his generation by the help of such holy men.

*And there were **many holy men** in the land and **they did speak the word of God with power and with authority**, And they did use much sharpness because of the stiffneckedness of the people –
Wherefore, with the help of these, King Benjamin, by laboring with all the might of his body and the faculty of his whole soul, **and also the prophets, Wherefore, they did once more establish peace in the land.***

(Words of Mormon 1:26,27)

We are told that the same will be true in these latter days among a remnant of God's covenant peoples. Lehi, in referring to the promises of God to Joseph in Egypt, spoke the following words to his youngest son, Joseph.

*Yea, Joseph [in Egypt] truly said: Thus saith the Lord unto me: A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins, And he shall be esteemed highly among the fruit of thy loins. And unto him will I give commandment that he shall do a work for the fruit of thy loins, his brethren, which shall be of great worth unto them, Even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with thy fathers;
And I will give unto him a commandment that he shall do none other work, save the work which I shall command him;*

...

*But a seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins, And unto him will I give power **to bring forth My word unto the seed of thy loins** –
And not to the bringing forth My word only, saith the Lord, **But to the convincing them of My word which shall have already gone forth among them.**
Wherefore, the fruit of thy loins shall write, And the fruit of the loins of Judah*

shall write;
And that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins – And also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah – Shall grow together
Unto the confounding of false doctrines, And laying down of contentions, And establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins,
And bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days,
And also to the knowledge of My covenants, saith the Lord;
And out of weakness he shall be made strong in that day when My work shall commence among all My people, unto the restoring thee, O house of Israel, saith the Lord.
(II Nephi 2:11-13,17-24)

In addition to this seer promised to Joseph's and Lehi's posterity, the Lord has other holy men that He has set apart as instruments in His hands for the express purpose of accomplishing His words in these latter days.

7.1. Holy Men That Ye Know Not Of

The Lord has told us that He has *reserved* unto Himself *holy men that we know not of*.

I, the Lord God, have spoken it; but the hour and the day no man knoweth, neither the angels in heaven, nor shall they know until he comes;
*wherefore I will that all men shall repent, for all are under sin, **except them which I have reserved unto myself, holy men that ye know not of;***
wherefore I say unto you, that I have sent unto you mine everlasting covenant, even that which was from the beginning, and that which I have promised I have so fulfilled, and the nations of the earth shall bow to it...
(D&C 49:2b-2d)

In this section, we will review briefly how these holy men have been reserved for the purpose of *calling men unto repentance* in these latter days, *and to do **the work of the covenants** of the Father which He hath made unto the children of men*. This includes *the new covenant*, now plainly manifest and clearly known to us as the Book of Mormon. Their work takes on special significance when considering the coming forth of these precious records in these latter days to usher in the latter rain (which is designed specifically to fall upon a remnant of the house of Israel before *the great day of the Lord*). In other words, the work that they are reserved for will be carried out according to *the new covenant* which the Father has sent into the world in these latter days.

The three disciples who *tarry* among us, commonly called the three Nephites,⁴ are three such holy men. We know this because it is written of them, “*they will be among the Gentiles and the Gentiles knoweth them not; they will also be among the Jews and the Jews shall know them not.*”

*And it came to pass that when Jesus had spake these words, He touched every one of them with His finger, save it were **the three which were to tarry**; And then He departed.*

...

And now I, Mormon, make an end of speaking concerning these things for a time.

*Behold, I was about to write the names of **those who were never to taste of death**; But the Lord forbade, Therefore, I write them not, **for they are hid from the world**;*

*But behold, I have seen them and they have ministered unto me; **And behold, they will be among the Gentiles and the Gentiles knoweth them not**;*

They will also be among the Jews and the Jews shall know them not.

(III Nephi 13:24,37-40)

These three were set apart, that is, made holy through a marvelous change upon their bodies which prevents Satan from having power over them to tempt them.

Therefore, that they might not taste of death, there was a change wrought upon their bodies that they might not suffer pain nor sorrow, save it were for the sins of the world.

*Now this change was not equal to that which should take place at the last day; But there was a change wrought upon them, insomuch that Satan could have no power over them – that he could not tempt them – And they were sanctified in the flesh, **that they were holy** and that the powers of the earth could not hold them;*

And in this state they were to remain until the judgment day of Christ; And at that day they were to receive a greater change, And to be received into the kingdom of the Father to go no more out, But to dwell with God eternally in the heavens.

(III Nephi 13:51-53)

They, along with others (e.g. III Nephi 13:17-19 with Matthew 16:31 & John 21:20-24), now labor among us to accomplish many *great and marvelous works*. We learn this from the commentary of Mormon found in the 13th chapter of Third Nephi. Moreover, to accomplish His work, the Lord has caused these three who tarry among us to be *as the angels of God*.

And it shall come to pass that when the Lord seeth fit in His wisdom, that they [the three who are to tarry] shall minister unto all the scattered tribes of Israel and unto all nations,

⁴ Please note that they are no longer “ites” but are the children of Christ.

*kindreds, tongues and people, And shall bring out of them unto Jesus many souls, that their desire may be fulfilled, and also because of the convincing power of God which is in them. **And they are as the angels of God, And if they shall pray unto the Father in the name of Jesus, they can show themselves unto whatsoever man it seemeth them good; Therefore, great and marvelous works shall be wrought by them before the great and coming day when all people must surely stand before the judgment seat of Christ; Yea, even among the Gentiles shall there be a great and marvelous work wrought by them before that judgment day.***

(III Nephi 13:41-44)

Being as angels, they have the same calling as the angels of the Lord of Hosts. Mormon, who wrote the passage of scripture quoted above, also plainly listed *the office of the ministry of angels*: 1) *to call men unto repentance*, 2) *to fulfill and to do the work of the covenants of the Father which He hath made unto the children of men*, and 3) *to declare the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of Him*.

*Wherefore, **by the ministering of angels and by every word which proceeded forth out of the mouth of God**, men began to exercise faith in Christ; And thus by faith they did lay hold upon every good thing; And thus it was until the coming of Christ; And after that He came, men also were saved by faith in His name; And by faith they become the sons of God.*

...

For behold, they [angels] are subject unto Him to minister according to the word of His command, Showing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind in every form of godliness;

And the office of their ministry is to call men unto repentance, And to fulfill and to do the work of the covenants of the Father which He hath made unto the children of men, To prepare the way among the children of men by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of Him.

*And by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of men may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts according to the power thereof; **And after this manner bringeth to pass the Father the covenants which He hath made unto the children of men.***

(Moroni 7:24-25,31-34)

Through these means the Lord works to prepare the way for the fulfillment of His covenants through faith on His Word.

And thus the gospel began to be preached from the beginning, being declared by holy angels, sent forth from the presence of God; and by his own voice, and by the gift of the Holy Ghost. And thus all things were confirmed unto Adam by an holy ordinance; and the gospel preached; and a decree sent forth that it should be in the world until the end thereof; and thus it was. Amen.

(Genesis 5:44,45 IV)

7.2. A Great and Marvelous Work

When revealing His word in these latter days, the Lord spoke of a great and marvelous work that was about to come forth.

A great and marvelous work is about to come forth unto the children of men: behold, I am God, and give heed unto my word, which is quick and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, to the dividing asunder of both joints and marrow: therefore, give heed unto my words.

Behold, the field is white already to harvest, therefore whoso desireth to reap, let him thrust in his sickle with his might, and reap while the day lasts, that he may treasure up for his soul everlasting salvation in the kingdom of God;

yea, whosoever will thrust in his sickle and reap, the same is called of God;

therefore, if you will ask of me you shall receive, if you will knock it shall be opened unto you.

(D&C 6:1a-2c)

These words, “*a great and marvelous work is about to come forth unto the children of men*” clarify for us the work to which the three disciples and others are called. For we read in Mormon’s commentary, *great and marvelous works shall be wrought by them before the great and coming day.*

*And it shall come to pass, when the Lord seeth fit in his wisdom, that **they shall minister unto all the scattered tribes of Israel, and unto all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, and shall bring out of them unto Jesus many souls, that their desire may be fulfilled, and also because of the convincing power of God which is in them;***

And they are as the angels of God, and if they shall pray unto the Father in the name of Jesus, they can shew themselves unto whatsoever man it seemeth them good;

Therefore great and marvelous works shall be wrought by them, before the great and coming day, when all people must surely stand before the judgment seat of Christ;

Yea, even among the Gentiles shall there be a great and marvelous work wrought by them, before that judgment day.

*And if ye had all the scriptures which give an account of **all the marvelous works of Christ**, ye would according to the words of Christ, know that these things must surely come.*

(III Nephi 13:41-45)

These words penned by Mormon lead us to an additional signal that our Lord's work has begun and is being carried out in our day. Not only do we have the Book of Mormon in hand, but we also have the witness that the Lord is doing many great and marvelous things among all peoples. Are we not hearing of amazing accounts of peoples from around the globe, including in the Middle East, being brought unto Jesus Christ through a *convincing* power not of their own? It is my belief and hope that this work in which the three disciples and others are engaged is becoming more and more evident throughout all lands to the glory of the Lord.

*And now behold, I say unto you, that **when the Lord shall see fit, in his wisdom, that these sayings shall come unto the Gentiles, according to his word, then ye may know that the covenant which the Father hath made with the children of Israel, concerning their restoration to the lands of their inheritance, is already beginning to be fulfilled**:*

And ye may know that the words of the Lord, which have been spoken by the holy prophets, shall all be fulfilled; and ye need not say that the Lord delays his coming unto the children of Israel;

And ye need not imagine in your hearts that the words which have been spoken are vain, for behold, the Lord will remember his covenant which he hath made unto his people of the house of Israel.

(III Nephi 13:54-56)

These holy men and their words will be made known by the convincing power of God within them and in their words.

And it shall come to pass that when the Lord seeth fit in His wisdom, That they shall minister unto all the scattered tribes of Israel and unto all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, And shall bring out of them unto Jesus many souls, That their desire may be fulfilled, and also because of the convincing power of God which is in them.

(III Nephi 13:41)

And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, And also the book of the Lamb of God which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew; And I beheld that it came forth from the Gentiles unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren;

And after it had come forth unto them, I beheld other books which came forth by the power of the Lamb from the Gentiles unto them, Unto the convincing of the Gentiles and the remnant of the seed of my brethren, And also to the Jews which were scattered upon all the face of the earth, That the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true.

(I Nephi 3:190,191)

7.3. The Voice of Warning

Mormon continues teaching us about these three *holy men* who tarry among us and what our response should be to their ministry. He begins by telling us that if we had all the scriptures (presumably all the records he had access to as the librarian of the Nephite records of which the Book of Mormon is an abridgement), we would know that all the things which we have been told by way of God's messengers and prophets *must surely come to pass*. Mormon then continues by warning us as follows:

And if ye had all the scriptures which give an account of all the marvelous works of Christ, Ye would, according to the words of Christ, know that these things must surely come to pass;

And wo be unto him that will not hearken unto the words of Jesus, and also to them which He hath chosen and sent among them!

For whoso receiveth not the words of Jesus, and the words of them which He hath sent, receiveth not Him; And therefore, He will not receive them at the last day; And it would be better for them if they had not been born;

For do ye suppose that ye can get rid of the justice of an offended God who hath been trampled under feet of men that thereby salvation might come?

(III Nephi 13:45-48, cf. D&C 39:1a-2b)

The Lord has sent this very same *voice of warning* into the world in these latter days and for this exact purpose.

Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men; yea, verily I say, Hearken ye people from afar, and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together;

for verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape, and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated;

and the rebellious shall be pierced with much sorrow, for their iniquities shall be spoken upon the housetops, and their secret acts shall be revealed;

and the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days, and they shall go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them.

Behold, this is mine authority, and the authority of my servants, and my preface unto the book of my commandments, which I have given them to publish unto you, O inhabitants of the earth;

wherefore fear and tremble, O ye people, for what I the Lord have decreed, in them, shall be fulfilled.

And verily, I say unto you, that they who go forth, bearing these tidings unto the inhabitants of the earth, to them is power given to seal, both on earth and in heaven, the unbelieving and rebellious;

yea, verily, to seal them up unto the day when the wrath of God shall be poured out upon the wicked without measure;

unto the day when the Lord shall come to recompense unto every man according to his work, and measure to every man according to the measure which he has measured to his fellow man.

Wherefore the voice of the Lord is unto the ends of the earth, that all that will hear may hear;

prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh; and the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth; and the arm of the Lord shall be revealed;

and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people;

for they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant; they seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness,

but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall.

(D&C 1:1a-3e)

Tragically, the great majority of the world does not know of, nor understand, nor have they even considered this warning. Only a few have taken it seriously and have tried to live and testify accordingly. As such, in the words of the Lord, *they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant; they seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness.*

Nevertheless, the work of fulfilling the covenants must be accomplished according to the word of God, and through *holy men* the Lord has reserved unto Himself His work in moving

forward according to His timing and purposes.

The works, and the designs, and the purposes of God, cannot be frustrated, neither can they come to naught, for God doth not walk in crooked paths; neither doth he turn to the right hand nor to the left; neither doth he vary from that which he hath said; therefore his paths are straight and his course is one eternal round.

Remember, remember, that it is not the work of God that is frustrated, but the work of men; for although a man may have many revelations, and have power to do many mighty works, yet, if he boast in his own strength, and sets at naught the counsels of God, and follows after the dictates of his own will and carnal desires, he must fall and incur the vengeance of a just God upon him.

(D&C 2:1a-2b)

And we know that all men must repent and believe on the name of Jesus Christ and worship the Father in his name, and endure in faith on his name to the end, or they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God.

And we know that justification through the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is just and true;

and we know, also, that sanctification through the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is just and true, to all those who love and serve God with all their mights, minds, and strength;

but there is a possibility that man may fall from grace and depart from the living God.

Therefore let the church take heed and pray always, lest they fall into temptations; yea, and even let those who are sanctified, take heed also.

(D&C 17:6a-6e)

By bringing forth the Book of Mormon, the Lord has put all creation on notice that His work of recovering His ancient covenant peoples in these latter days is underway and that we must take great care in how we view and handle His work and His words.

And now behold I say unto you, that when the Lord shall see fit in His wisdom that these sayings shall come unto the Gentiles according to His word, Then ye may know that the covenant which the Father hath made with the children of Israel concerning their restoration to the lands of their inheritance is already beginning to be fulfilled,

And ye may know that the words of the Lord which have been spoken by the holy prophets shall all be fulfilled; And ye need not say that the Lord delays His coming unto the children of Israel,

*And ye need not imagine in your hearts that the words which have been spoken are vain;
For behold, the Lord will remember His covenant which He hath made unto His people of
the house of Israel.*

*And when ye shall see these sayings coming forth among you, Then ye need not any longer
spurn at the doings of the Lord; For the sword of His justice is in His right hand, And
behold, at that day, if ye shall spurn at His doings, He will cause it that it shall soon
overtake you.*

*Wo unto him that spurneth at the doings of the Lord! Yea, wo unto him that shall deny the
Christ and His works!*

*Yea, wo unto him that shall deny the revelations of the Lord! And that shall say: "The Lord
no longer worketh by revelations, or by prophecy, or by gifts, or by tongues, or by healings,
or by the power of the Holy Ghost";*

*Yea, and wo unto him that shall say at that day that there can be no miracle wrought by
Jesus Christ, for to get gain! For he that doeth this shall become like unto the son of
perdition for whom there was no mercy, according to the words of Christ.*

*Yea, and ye need not any longer hiss, nor spurn, nor make game of the Jews, nor of any of the
remnant of the house of Israel; For behold, the Lord remembereth His covenant unto them,
And He will do unto them according to that which He hath sworn;*

*Therefore, ye need not suppose that ye can turn the right hand of the Lord unto the left, That
He may not execute judgment unto the fulfilling of the covenant which He hath made unto
the house of Israel.*

(III Nephi 13:54-62)

It is important to see clearly, then, the connection between these holy men and the Lord's work of *fulfilling of the covenant which He hath made unto the house of Israel* in these latter days. How each of us view their great and marvelous works, and whether or not we receive them, will determine our individual eternal welfare. Be careful, then, not to judge rashly in such matters relating to the Lord's covenants and His people, for how each of us judge will be how we are judged by the Lord.

*For behold, the same that judgeth rashly shall be judged rashly again; For according to his
works shall his wages be; Therefore, he that smiteth shall be smitten again of the Lord.*

*Behold what the scriptures saith: Man shall not smite, neither shall he judge; For judgment
is Mine, saith the Lord; And vengeance is Mine also, and I will repay.*

*And he that shall breathe out wrath and strifes against the work of the Lord and against the
covenant people of the Lord, which are the house of Israel, And shall say, We will destroy
the work of the Lord and the Lord will not remember His covenant which He hath made
unto the house of Israel – The same is in danger to be hewn down and cast into the fire;
For the eternal purposes of the Lord shall roll on until all His promises shall be fulfilled.*

Search the prophecies of Isaiah; Behold, I cannot write them.

(Mormon 4:24-27)

Remember, your reward to others is your reward to yourself. As it is written and quoted above, *the Lord shall come to recompense unto every man according to his work, and measure to every man according to the measure which he has measured to his fellow man.* Therefore, take care how you reward others in your daily living. For the day of the Lord is soon to come. In practical terms, it is no further away from you than the remainder of your own lifetime, however long that may be.

And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

For if ye love them only who love you, what reward have you? For sinners also do even the same.

And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what reward have you? For sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great; and ye shall be the children of the Highest; for he is kind unto the unthankful, and to the evil.

Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged; condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned; forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal, it shall be measured to you again.

(Luke 6:32-38)

8. Your Reasonable Service

It is my earnest plea that each person who reads this report will cooperate with the Lord of Hosts and with His hosts the angels, the holy men He has reserved unto Himself, and all those He has commissioned to accomplish His work of restoring the house of Israel in these latter days. They minister among us for the eternal welfare of us all.

Consider anew these words penned by Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, about the restoration of the house of Israel. Consider offering yourself as a living sacrifice to the Holy One of Israel so you may participate in this great and marvelous work.

For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office.

...

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

And then all Israel shall be saved; as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes; but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief;

Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.

For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?

Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things; to whom be glory forever. Amen.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

(Romans 11:13,25 to Romans 12:1)

Cooperate with them in the works they are accomplishing among the scattered peoples of the house of Israel. They are the ones who have **made themselves known unto me** to instruct me and to show me the things found in this report. Pray earnestly for your own

testimony of their mission among us so that you might know the truth of these things by the witness of the Holy Ghost. Put away your sins and all detestable things far from you according to the word of the Lord.

Hearken, O ye Gentiles, And hear the words of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, which He hath commanded me that I should speak concerning you. For behold, He commandeth me that I should write, saying:

Turn, all ye Gentiles, from your wicked ways! And repent of your evil doings – of your lyings and deceivings, and your whoredoms, and of your secret abominations, and your idolatries, and of your murders, and your priestcrafts, and your envyings, and your strifes, and from all your wickedness and abominations –

And come unto Me and be baptized in My name! That ye may receive a remission of your sins and be filled with the Holy Ghost, That ye may be numbered with My people which are of the house of Israel."

(III Nephi 14:1-3)

Awake and come unto Christ and be perfected in Him.

And awake! And arise from the dust, O Jerusalem! Yea, and put on thy beautiful garments, O daughter of Zion! And strengthen thy stakes and enlarge thy borders forever, that thou mayest no more be confounded, That the covenants of the Eternal God which He hath made unto thee, O house of Israel, may be fulfilled.

Yea, come unto Christ and be perfected in Him and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, And if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness and love God with all your might, mind and strength, Then is His grace sufficient for you, that by His grace ye may be perfect in Christ; And if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God. And again, if ye by the grace of God are perfect in Christ and deny not His power, Then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God through the shedding of the blood of Christ, Which is in the covenant of the Father unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot.

(Moroni 10:28-30)

Come and **learn of Him** and of how you may join in in accomplishing this work. Ask, seek, and knock according to the command of the Lord (**Matthew 7:12,13**).

Ask, and it shall be given unto you, Seek, and ye shall find, Knock, and it shall be opened unto you;

For everyone that asketh, receiveth, And he that seeketh, findeth, And to him that knocketh, it shall be opened.

(III Nephi 6:19,20)

But remember, your asking, seeking, and knocking must not come simply of an inquisitive mind. It must come of a hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Just wanting to know the truth is not enough; our motivation must come of a desire to love the truth. It must come of a desire to fully love the Lord with our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Otherwise, the Lord will not open unto us the eternal things of Himself.

*And whoso knocketh, to him will He open; And the wise and the learned and they that are rich, which are puffed up because of their learning and their wisdom and their riches, yea, they are they whom He despiseth;
And save they shall cast these things away and consider themselves fools before God and come down in the depths of humility, He will not open unto them;
But the things of the wise and the prudent shall be hid from them forever, Yea, that happiness which is prepared for the saints.*

(II Nephi 6:83-85)

On the other hand, for those who do love Him our Lord holds in store and begins to reveal by faith the greater gifts until they are filled with His Word, the Lord Jesus Christ.

For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, besides thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him. Thou meetest him that worketh righteousness, and rejoiceth him that remembereth thee in thy ways; in righteousness there is continuance, and such shall be saved.

(Isaiah 64:4,5)

My hope in preparing and sharing this report with you is that it edifies all of the body of Christ.

*Verily I say unto you, He that is ordained of me and sent forth **to preach the word of truth by the Comforter**, in the Spirit of truth, doth he preach it **by the Spirit of truth**, or some other way? and if it be by some other way, it be not of God.*

And again, he that receiveth the word of truth, doth he receive it by the Spirit of truth, or some other way? if it be some other way, it be not of God:

therefore, why is it that ye can not understand and know that he that receiveth the word by the Spirit of truth, receiveth it as it is preached by the Spirit of truth?

Wherefore, he that preacheth and he that receiveth, understandeth one another, and both are edified and rejoice together;

and that which doth not edify, is not of God, and is darkness: that which is of God is light, and he that receiveth light and continueth in God, receiveth more light, and

that light groweth brighter and brighter, until the perfect day.

(D&C 50:5a-6b)

And again, verily I say unto you, my friends, I leave these sayings with you, to ponder in your hearts with this commandment which I give unto you, that ye shall call upon me while I am near;

draw near unto me, and I will draw near unto you;

seek me diligently and ye shall find me;

ask and ye shall receive;

knock and it shall be opened unto you;

whatsoever ye ask the Father in my name it shall be given unto you, that is expedient for you; and if ye ask anything that is not expedient for you, it shall turn unto your condemnation.

*Behold, that which you hear is as the voice of one crying in the wilderness; in the wilderness, because you can not see him: my voice, because **my voice is Spirit; my Spirit is truth: truth abideth and hath no end; and if it be in you it shall abound.***

(D&C 85:16a-17)

*And now I, Nephi, cannot write all the things which were taught among my people, Neither am I mighty in writing, like unto speaking, **For when a man speaketh by the power of the Holy Ghost, the power of the Holy Ghost carrieth it unto the hearts of the children of men.***

But behold, there are many that harden their hearts against the Holy Spirit, that it hath no place in them; Wherefore, they cast many things away which are written and esteem them as things of naught.

But I, Nephi, have written what I have written; And I esteem it as of great worth, and especially unto my people...

(II Nephi 15:1-3)

Moreover, I hope that this report encourages you to prayerfully consider this very significant work and calling. Ask the Lord in faith what your response should be. As you do, remember also that the Lord is able to do His own work in fulfilling the *new covenant*. Did he not cause an *unlearned* young man to read a forgotten ancient language so that he might bring forth the Book of Mormon in these latter days – in the time chosen by God for the latter rain?

*Then shall the Lord God say unto him: The learned shall not read them, for they have rejected them, **And I am able to do Mine own work;** Wherefore, thou shalt read the words which I shall give unto thee;*

Touch not the things which are sealed, For I will bring them forth in Mine own due time, For

*I will show unto the children of men that **I am able to do Mine own work.***

(II Nephi 11:142,143)

So also will He not remember the *new covenant*, to bring His ancient covenant peoples back into the lands of their inheritance?

*Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him; behold, **his reward is with him, and his work before him.***

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

(Isaiah 40:10,11)

Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.

Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion,

*Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, **his reward is with him, and his work before him.***

And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord; and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.

(Isaiah 62:10-12)

Like the prophets and apostles throughout time, let us labor together under the Lord's direction and according to His covenant provisions to bring about His marvelous work and wonder in recovering the house of Israel to Himself. For without Him we can do nothing.

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

(Psalm 127:1)

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

*I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; **for without me ye can do nothing.***

(John 15:1-5)

And now my beloved brethren, I would that ye should come unto Christ, which is the Holy One of Israel, and partake of His salvation and the power of His redemption;

Yea, come unto Him, and offer your whole souls as an offering unto Him, and continue in fasting and praying, and endure to the end; And as the Lord liveth, ye will be saved.

(Omni 1:46,47)

*Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

(Hebrews 13:20,21)

9. Appendices

9.1. Updates & Summaries

- October 21, 2016 All Nations North America Update
- November 10, 2016 Summary of Call to Prayer
- January 20, 2017 Lake Victoria Mission Trip Overview
- February 12, 2017 Update: “God Delivered and Will Yet Deliver”
- February 13, 2017 Accountability for Ministry Provided

9.2. October 24, 1841 Prayer by Orson Hyde

9.1.1. October 21, 2016 All Nations North America Update

Emailed on this date to many friends and family members to bring to their attention to this work and to encourage their prayers for God in these latter days.

Dear Family and Friends,

Upon waking on August 31, 2016, I received a gracious invitation to fast. It was a quiet word of faith accompanied with a peaceable assurance.

Because I had so much work to accomplish that day for my business, I soon found myself focusing on how best to go about getting everything done that I felt pressing upon me. In the distraction of the moment, I fixed my usual humble breakfast for strength for the day and then started in on the day's activities. However, instead of being strengthened by eating, it seemed to take away my strength. In fact, by early afternoon I had to lie down for a moment to rest.

While reclining, the thought came to mind to review some headline news on my iPhone. One headline stood out. It was for an article which included a video link to an invitation to join a gathering of Native Peoples in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, in early October and then again in Washington DC in late October. The main organization calling for the fast is called *All Nations North America*, or *A.N.N.A.* Here is the link to the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sN-LVkJRtmPg>

After watching the video, I noticed these words written below it: "... 40 day fast starts August 31 to Oct. 8." It was August 31. Their fast began that day, the same day I had been called into fasting and prayer! With this realization came a most wondrous assurance affirming that this was a movement of God's Spirit, and I was being called to join them in this fast.

I was both amazed and concerned. I had never fasted that long. Nevertheless, I refused to allow doubt to rob me of the assuring joy I was receiving; instead, I asked the Lord to grant me a fast so that I might join in the A.N.N.A. fast with full purpose of heart and with an eye single to His glory. God was faithful and He welcomed me into the fast.

Immediately, strength was returned to me along with an encouragement to get the word out to as many of God's people as possible about this movement of God. The first email I sent was to my fellow laborers here in our home congregation. I included just the link to the video and a subject line without any explanation. I was given assurance from the Lord that He would bring a confirming witness to my brethren of its significance. That night at our branch prayer meeting, two of these brethren that were present stood and bore testimony of the witness they had received affirming the call to them; and with the witness they received, they too joined in the fast.

Early the next week, while continuing in fasting and prayer, I asked the Lord for further understanding as to why He had called me into this particular fast. My aim was to fully appreciate His call and to fulfill His purpose in calling me to do so. The answer came in the form of an image in my thoughts accompanied by an unmistakable assurance that with this image the Lord was answering my request.

The image that formed in my thoughts was of the morning Jesus rose from the dead. On that wondrous day the first person Jesus met was Mary, whom He had healed. Upon greeting her, Jesus told her to go tell His *brethren* that He was going to His Father and their Father; to His God and their God (cf. John 20:17). What this amazing message meant exactly I did not know, but I was assured I soon would.

During the first seven days of the A.N.N.A. fast, I just drank water. After those first seven days and for the remainder of the 40 days leading up to the weekend of October 8th, I fasted most meals, days, and all weekends with my prayers stayed on the gathering in Tahlequah.

One weekend while fasting, I worked outside all day replacing the trim and 4x8-ft by 5/8-inch thick plywood siding on our 10x12-ft shed. I was finding that the fast had not made me weaker but stronger.

When the time finally arrived for the solemn assembly in Tahlequah, my wife Pam and our daughter Naomi and I drove down to Oklahoma the afternoon of October 7. That evening, we were in awe of the many prayers of intercession offered by Native American women. They impressed me as the kind of mighty prayers which get work done, the kind that move heaven and earth through their faith in Jesus Christ.

At one point that evening, I stood near the stage to video a talk given by Chastity Sandoval, a Native American woman from the Navajo tribe. She was one of the key persons God had moved upon to bring A.N.N.A into existence and to carry its message all over North America to the native peoples of the land.

As Chastity spoke, she conveyed very clearly her love for the Lord and her passion for encouraging and lifting up “All Nations North America” unto Him. Her words of encouragement and counsel were definitely commendable and constructive.

When I finally realized that the majority of individuals we had heard from that evening were women, I asked the Lord where the Native American men were. Immediately the image of Jesus’ commission to Mary that I had received early on in the 40-day fast came to mind. I now understood that as Jesus had done that great day He rose from the dead, He was raising up many Marys among us to go to *His brethren* today – for they are all *His brethren* – and tell them that He lives and to go and meet Him.

Then a most incredible parallel filled my soul. Just as our Lord’s disciples were shut up in a locked

room – afraid of the authorities and of the crowds – when Jesus rose from the grave, so likewise the Native American men are locked in despair and aimlessness – partly because of being beaten down over the years by government authorities, by illness, by substance abuse, by broken families, by the plague of suicide, etc. To these the Lord is now sending word in the same manner that He sent Mary, to lift up the call to His brethren – the message that He lives and He is calling them to meet Him and receive renewed life in Him. He is calling them to trust Him so they might rise unto the newness of life He gives to everyone who receives Him.

The beauty of this message overwhelmed me and caused me to rejoice greatly in the Lord. He is coming again *to set the captives free* (Isaiah 61:1-3 & Luke 4:18,19). Jesus Christ truly does live and ever intercedes *for those who come unto God by Him* (Hebrews 7:24).

The next day, on Saturday the 8th, we again saw a number of women call upon the name of the Lord in mighty prayer and bear witness of God's goodness. Here again I could not deny the tremendous assurance of their calling in Jesus Christ to go to His brethren and bring the marvelous message of how He lives and is arranging to meet them in power and glory.

At one point I felt drawn to go forward and share this testimony with Chastity. Although I wasn't exactly sure what the Lord had in mind by leading me to share it with her, I soon saw that she was standing beside the left end of the stage talking with various people. The nudge came again to go and talk with her. I took a minute to pray and collect my thoughts. Then, as I walked toward the stage, I prayed Chastity might receive the word as God intended. To God's glory, she received it graciously and thanked me for sharing it with her.

As I walked back to where Pam and Naomi were sitting, I felt as if I had met one of the appointments God had set for me at this gathering. While I did not know exactly what would be the outcome of my sharing this testimony with Chastity, there was a satisfying assurance that the Lord would prosper it for His own purposes. At the same time, I was left with an impression that there was at least one more person I needed to share a word with while there.

That same day a number of men also spoke and prayed. We were truly thankful for them calling upon the name of the Lord and for bearing witness of His workings among them. One young man especially caught our attention. He told of the great pain he had had in his life growing up under very difficult circumstances. It was while he attended college at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, that this young man came to know and experience the goodness of Jesus Christ in his life. One thing that stood out to us about him was how he said the Lord impressed upon him that he did not understand God's promises and covenants with His people and that he needed to learn more about them.

Although we looked for this young man throughout the day, we did not see him. Still, an abiding assurance remained with me in my thoughts that I had an appointment with him – to share with him several things the Lord had impressed upon my heart for him. Since Pam, Naomi, and I needed to drive back to Wichita that evening, we finally decided to leave at sundown (at the close of the

day). As we walked under the darkening sky the considerable distance to where the cars were parked, in my heart I began apologizing to the Lord and explaining to Him how I felt I had failed to keep all of my appointments which He had given me that day. I could not shake the feeling that I needed to meet with that young man, even if but for a few minutes. Still, it was getting late and we were going to get home after midnight by leaving as late as we had, so I continued on to the car with my family.

Once we were in the car I offered a prayer of thanksgiving and of blessing upon those who were continuing to meet together. Even though I was thankful for having been there, again it seemed I had missed an appointment by not speaking with that young man. After I started the car, turned on the lights, and put it into gear, Pam asked, "Is that the young man who gave the testimony this morning?" I looked toward where she was indicating. It sure looked like him and he was walking with a young lady in our direction. (Interestingly enough, the young lady's name was Anna, just like the name of the organization and event.)

As they were passing along the right side of our car, Pam lowered her window and asked if he had given a testimony earlier in the day. He said he had, and we began visiting. During the 15 minutes we talked together, I felt led to share with him what I had shared with Chastity earlier in the day – about how the Lord was now sending Native American women in a similar manner to when He sent Mary the day He rose from the grave to go tell His brethren that He was going to His Father and their Father, and to His God and their God.

With a measure of amazement, the young man then said the Lord had called him "Mary" on several occasions, causing him to wonder why the Lord would call him by a woman's name. Now, to his obvious delight, he said that through what I had just shared with him he felt he understood the reason why. The young man went on to explain how he had had a desire to have a testimony of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Coupled with what the Lord had been revealing to him about covenants, etc., the testimony I had been given seemed to provide him with a witness that the resurrection is true and that he can now bear record of it to others.

Throughout the weekend prior to our conversation, the Lord had been impressing upon me that He is lifting up individuals among the Native Americans to take the gospel message to their peoples, in particular, a message of hope that Jesus is their brother and He has not forgotten them. The more we talked together, the more I became convinced this young man was one of these individuals. Like Mary, he is being called to carry to our Lord's brethren the message that Jesus lives and is preparing them to meet Him in power and glory.

We parted in peace with warm wishes expressed toward each other. Then, as we drove away, my hunger for food returned, a hunger I had not known over the past 40 days.

Jesus Christ is returning soon. Although He may wait until what appears to be the last minute, like in our meeting with this young man, He will not be late. And as he showed us that Saturday evening, just because it may appear we have missed our appointments, our Lord is faithful and will guide us

to our appointments if we will but follow Him humbly by listening to His voice.

Now I have a request of each of you who read this testimony. Please consider fasting and praying specifically for the All Tribes DC gathering on the Mall in Washington DC today and on into the days ahead. You can read about their gathering today on the following websites:

<http://alltribesdc.org/>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-national-day-of-prayer-for-first-nations-tickets-27023777847>

<https://www.facebook.com/All-Tribes-DC-1696747487240148/>

Again, it is being held today, Friday, October 21, 2016, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM EDT at the Washington Monument.

The following video provides some background on this event and the people who have organized it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YVWfYvWD3Q>

The speaker in the video is Dr. Negiel Bigpond, one of the people featured in the first video linked above. In this and the related videos, he speaks of the call to gather for prayer and fasting today for the nation.

When my wife, daughter, and I traveled to Tahlequah, OK, October 7th and 8th my hope had been to see what God was calling us to see there – not what might catch our attention. I personally went there to look beyond my circumstance and to focus on His purposes in gathering these people to that place. This now is my request of you, that you would do the same. Go to God in prayer and fasting, fervently and justly seeking what God is doing and what He is calling you to do. He loves each one of us with an everlasting covenant love. Please don't miss the movements of His Spirit by allowing your thoughts and minds to be distracted by differences in viewpoints, customs, or limitations. Let God be glorified in all His doings. We are living in the day of which the Lord has said He will show us He is *able* to do His own work (cf. Ephesians 3:20 with Hebrews 7:24). The gathering today in DC is not the end of their journey. It is part of the beginning of His movement among His ancient covenant peoples for the healing of the nations.

Blessings to each of you as you seek our heavenly Father's will through faith in Jesus Christ,

Dwight Burford
dpburford@all4liberty.net

9.1.2. November 10, 2016 Summary of Call to Prayer

Summary of call to prayer at the southern shore of the fountain of the river of Egypt.

On August 31st of this year, the Lord called me into fasting and prayer. As the day unfolded, the Lord connected the fast of that day with a 40 day fast called for by a group of Native Americans known as “All Nations North America” or A.N.N.A. (see the attachment for details.)

Then, on September 21st, three weeks into this 40 day fast, the Lord ministered many things to me, one of which was that I was to go to Tanzania. Why Tanzania, I asked? That evening the Lord began to answer me by having me read the 15th Chapter of Genesis. As I read, the Lord drew my attention particularly to the 21st verse. There the scripture provides a record of a covenant involving land which the Lord made with Abram (later called Abraham):

Genesis 15:21 – *And in that same day **the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river Euphrates.***

It was impressed very clearly upon me how the Lord had referred to two great rivers in this verse when referring to the extent of the land He covenanted to give to the seed of Abram. Further, it was impressed upon me by the Lord’s gracious Spirit of truth that the sequence in which He listed the rivers was significant and that the headwaters from which the first of these two rivers flows is also significant as described next.

As I continued to prayerfully study out the matter before the Lord in faith, He led me to understand that I was to offer *a prayer of healing* at the southern end of Lake Victoria as mentioned above. Why Lake Victoria and why the southern end of the lake, I asked? The answers I received to these two questions may be summarized as follows:

- 1) The Lord views Lake Victoria as the “fountain” or headwaters from which *the river of Egypt*, or Nile, flows. That is, the headwaters of the first river listed in the covenant represents the source from which the Lord intended His blessing to flow over the entire covenanted land, all the way *unto the great river Euphrates*.
- 2) From the southern end of the lake, the full extent of *the river of Egypt*, from Lake Victoria onward, is before you, and from there you can look in the general direction in which this river flows northward.

Upon studying out the matter further (according to Luke 8:18), I was told that I was to specifically pray *for the healing of the nations*, which is a phrase that is found in the following verses of scripture.

Revelation 22:1,2 – *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were **for the healing of the nations.***

When praying about the connection between this passage of scripture and the call I had received to pray over *the river of Egypt*, it was explained to me that this river serves as a *type and shadow* of the river spoken of in Revelation 22:2. Further, it was impressed upon me that the leaves on *the tree of life* by the river represent the scriptures which contain God's word. This includes *all scripture* which the Lord has caused to be written by His Spirit of prophecy and revelation over the course of human history (ref. 2 Timothy 3:16,17 with 3 Nephi 12:1-4, 3 Nephi 13:1-3 & Ether 1:1079-119). From this instruction, I more fully understood and appreciated why and how I was to pray for the healing of the nations by and according to the word of the Lord and as testified of by His Spirit of truth.

Later I learned that Frank Frye was going to Kenya to work on the translation of the Book of Mormon into Swahili. The timing of the call to this prayer of healing coinciding with the finishing steps of translation seemed significant, so I contacted Frank. After further prayer and study, it now appears to be an appointment that we are being called to keep together. For with this work, the record of God's ancient covenant peoples which He planted in the Americas is now being made available to bring healing ministry to the peoples of the land which the Lord covenanted to give to Abraham's seed. Said another way, an abridgment of the ancient records which were written on Joseph's land by Joseph's seed (ref. Genesis 49 & 50 with Ether 6:1-12) are now being made available in the covenant lands of the others of Abraham's children, including those who are his children by faith.

Galatians 3:7-9 – *Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, **In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.***

Going back to Genesis, we learn that this covenant was passed down from Abraham through Isaac to Jacob and his posterity.

Genesis 28:3,4 – *And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; **that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.***

With these scriptures, we may understand that the Lord had covenanted the land extending between the two great rivers (the Nile and the Euphrates) to those who are the children of Abraham, including those who are so by faith. Moreover, the purpose of this covenant is *for the healing of the nations* and thus for *the blessing of the nations*, which healing and blessing can come only in and through faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Acts 3:25,26 – *Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.*

Finally, I was taught that *the healing of the nations* is to begin with the healing and gathering of the house of Israel as described in Isaiah 11 and elsewhere in the covenants and prophecies of the Lord. This is where the prayer I have been commissioned to offer comes in. The Lord has ordained that a prayer be offered up over His covenant lands for the welfare of the souls of His covenant peoples.

9.1.3. January 20, 2017 Update

Lake Victoria Mission Trip Overview

Welcome (a common greeting here) from the home of Eric and Pam Odida in Kisumu, Kenya. Thank you for your prayers unto the Lord of hosts on behalf of the mission He assigned us here in East Africa. We are confident that your prayers have been, are, and will yet be effectual for the work of the Lord in healing the nations (cf. Isaiah 2 & Micah 4 with Isaiah 11, Isaiah 59 & 60, etc.).

Our mission to Lake Victoria⁵ in Mwanza, Tanzania, was abundantly blessed and guided by the Lord in so many ways it will take more time to recount them all to you. So for now, here is a very brief summary of some key events to relate the goodness of God in blessing our efforts to be obedient to His calling. My wife Pam is typing up a more detailed account of our journey together to provide a more complete record.

Five of us left the home of the Odidas on the morning of January 16: James Yogo (our driver and translator), Michael Onyiego (also our translator), Frank Frye, and Pam and myself. Michael and James helped us cross the border; then Michael took a taxi back to his home in Kisii, Kenya. In all, it took about three hours to complete the process of crossing the border.

During our drive to Mwanza, the alternator on the rented car wore out. After it failed around 50 kilometers north of Mwanza, our prayers were that we would make it to the city. Due to the three hour delay at the border, we had a late departure from the border. It was well past sundown when the alternator failed, so we were now driving in the dark. We knew the battery would not last long, so we looked for a filling station to get help. We found one about 5 km later in the town of Magu. The mechanics wanted to rebuild the alternator, which would have been another significant delay, and being urged on in the Spirit, we continued our journey against their advice. We eventually arrived just inside the city limits at a filling station where the battery finally ran down. We still had 20 (correction: 15) kilometers to go, however. With Pam's more complete record, we will fill you in on more of the details of how the Lord arranged for us to arrive safely at the hotel we had booked for our stay in Mwanza. Suffice it to say for now, the trip from the filling station to the hotel was coordinated by the Lord through our good brother, Paul Makawiti, who had been waiting for us at the hotel.

⁵ Since first directing me to go to Tanzania on September 21st and 22nd, the Lord gave me to understand that this lake is considered by Him to be the "fountain" from which "the river of Egypt" spoken of in Genesis 15 flows.

I had determined to fast the following day (January 17th), but upon awaking the Lord impressed upon me that this was a day of blessing and joy and that I should eat in observance of the joy of His promised deliverance and restoration spoken of in His Scriptures. We had an abundant witness of assurance from the Comforter that God would provide all that was needed for the day. Still I wondered why we had this delay due to the failed alternator.

When Paul returned to the hotel around lunch time, we visited together in the hotel restaurant. It was the first time I had an opportunity to share with Paul about the call to prayer for healing. So I shared with him about how the Lord used Genesis 15 and the 40 day fast of the A.N.N.A Call to bring us to Lake Victoria that day, and Mwanza in particular, to pray for the healing of the nations.

As we visited, Paul got a call about the car and stepped away. A man sitting nearby soon came over and introduced himself. He said he is a Brigadier General and a medical doctor (we were able to confirm his identity later on the internet). Our visit with him was most special and, in his words, he believed it was a divine appointment. Of the many things we said in our exchange, one of most significance to us was how he said something positive would come of our prayers there. He had observed us praying over our meal and was impressed by our demeanor. He praised God for the constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights and was most gracious and joyous in his countenance. We will provide more on our encounter with this man of God in Pam's record and hopefully in person.

After our visit, I shared with the group how it had just been impressed upon me that God had sent this representative of the country to welcome us and accept/support the purpose of our visit – to pray for healing. Because Paul had returned and also spoken with the General before he had to leave, Paul then added how this man was also a doctor and how it was appropriate that he would welcome our prayers specifically for healing while there. With his witness came a wonderful confirmation of the Spirit of God's goodness in affirming us in the work to which we had been called.

It took most of the day on Tuesday to get the alternator replaced. Nevertheless, we believed the will of the Lord would be done and we would have sufficient time to fulfill His purposes for our gathering there. Five of us gathered for prayers at the water's edge at the southern end of Lake Victoria at sundown on Tuesday, January 17, 2017: Paul Makawiti of Tanzania, James Yogo of Kenya, Frank Frye of the United States, and Pam and Dwight Burford of the United States. Upon arriving at the shore late in the day we were now working under some rather evident constraints. It was getting dark quickly, and just after we arrived at the beach, a man ran over to us to tell us there were dangerous men nearby down the beach from us and that we needed to be very careful there. However, we received reassurance that we would be okay and that we should continue.

As the sun set, I opened with Psalm 105 and a prayer for our gathering. After sharing the purpose of our meeting at the water's edge by referencing a number of scriptures, special prayers were offered by James Yogo in Luo (after reading Nehemiah 1) and Paul Makawiti in Swahili (after reading from Daniel 9). After a few more comments by me, Frank read from Joel 2 and I (Dwight) then prayed for the healing of the nations while kneeling on the shore with my hands upon the water (as I had been shown). We sang two hymns, "*Redeemer of Israel*" and "*Yes, We Trust the Day is Breaking,*" and Frank closed our time together on the beach with prayer. Before leaving, we placed a pile of 12 stones on the beach as a memorial of this gathering and then departed in the dark.

After we returned to the hotel from the shore that evening, I had to admit I was discouraged. We had not accomplished all I had understood was to be accomplished while on this trip. After supper we retired to our rooms for the night. It was now after 12:30 a.m. on January 18 and I was still restless. At 1:12 a.m. I was still awake, trying to understand why we had been delayed and had such limited time at the lake. After drifting off, I was awakened just after 4 a.m. to a vision of Orson Hyde, sitting with pen and paper in hand on the Mount of Olives, praying over Jerusalem for the gathering of the House of Israel. Then I saw myself praying with pencil and paper in hand while looking out my hotel room window as the sun rose over the fountain of the river of Egypt (Lake Victoria). It took a bit to get going, but sometime before 5 a.m. I had begun praying and continued in the same Spirit which teaches us to pray (II Nephi 14:11,12) until sometime after 7 a.m.

Without going into the details here, it was a marvelous experience in the Lord. As I prayed – and wrote elements of the prayer for a record – I received abundant assurance and joy in the Lord for the work I was presently engaged in. Before praying in earnest and writing, I had been confused as to why this prayer had not been accomplished the day before, the day set aside for meeting at the lake. But the Lord soon brought to my memory how He had reminded me on several occasions that "the evening and the morning" constitutes a day in His reckoning. Now, as I had seen that I was to pray at the water's edge before writing, here I was praying over the lake as the sunlight opened upon the lake that day. It was truly an incredibly joyous time. I was told that whatever I asked for would be granted, and the only thing I asked was for the healing of the nations, beginning with the healing of the house of God's covenant peoples according to His promises. That is when I knew I was perfectly in His will – because I had the testimony I had not asked amiss. So, as I did then, I greatly rejoice in the Lord for His wonderful goodness.

Had we not been delayed with the alternator repair the day before and had we not been instructed to eat meals on the 17th we would not have met the General/Doctor who

welcomed and blessed our mission of prayer in his country. Later it was confirmed to me that he had been the person the Lord had shown me in a dream before coming to Africa.

A week before I had received instruction to go to Tanzania on September 21st, 2016, (during the A.N.N.A. Call fast), I had been given a dream in which I saw an athlete who was looking expectantly for someone yet unknown to him and that I was that someone. After crossing the border back into Kenya on the morning of January 18th, this dream was brought to my remembrance. The Lord positively identified the General as the man that I had seen and that I was shown him as a young man to show me how he had waited most of his life for this day. This understanding came with much assurance and joy. Truly, as it is written, some had to have faith before the Lord accomplishes His promises unto the children of men (see Ether 5). In other words, this man was receiving the evidence of the assurance of his hope (Hebrews 11) which he had held for years.

Also, as we crossed the border, the Lord told me that He had delivered us and would deliver us still. With much joy in the Lord, as I confessed these things freely to the others in our car, the Lord concluded the message with the witness that we had “prevailed.”

In closing, just as the day begins in the evening, there will be darkness and perhaps discouragement (as I had) before the day dawns. In other words, it was significant that the prayer at the southern shore of the fountain of the river of Egypt (at the headwaters of the covenant with Abraham – Genesis 15) was in the evening after the sun set. It is also significant that the prayer of gathering and blessing began and then took place as the sun rose over the lake. After it was fulfilled, I could see how my “mourning” had turned to joy. So shall it be in the healing of the nations – the night will be followed by the day. Take heart, brothers and sisters. God is able and willing to fulfill all of His covenants which He has made with His children and is commencing to bring about the new covenant spoken of in Hebrews 8:8-13.

Please continue to pray for us and our safe return to the United States of America beginning tomorrow. We look forward to being reunited with you and sharing in the goodness of God together in the Lord.

With much love in Jesus Christ, blessings to each of you,

Dwight with Pam and Frank

9.1.4. February 12, 2017 Update

“God Delivered and Will Yet Deliver”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Thank you for graciously and faithfully praying for Pam and me while we were in East Africa last month. Upon retiring to bed for our first night's sleep there, the Lord gave me a vision that I understood at the time to be a warning. Now I understand that it was more a witness to me that, although we would face opposition on this trip, this opposition would not prevail against us or against the Lord's will in bringing us to Africa.

The vision and its interpretation and fulfillment are the topic of this letter. Together they stand as a testament to the Lord's greatness in delivering us and providing for us while we were on His errand. So that we may not soon forget His wonderful works, I have taken the time necessary these past two weekends to commit the vision and related testimonies to writing in thanksgiving to our Lord and to His glory.

I am sending this letter to you from Belfast, Ireland. On January 25, just a couple of days after Pam and I returned home from East Africa, I left home again to come to Sheffield, England, to conduct work for my company. Now, before heading home this coming Tuesday, I have some work-related meetings here in Northern Ireland.

Notwithstanding a busy schedule, I have felt the calling to give a more detailed accounting of this particular aspect of our mission last month at the southern shore of Lake Victoria. It is intended to complement the account provided earlier on January 20th. In sharing this detailed account with you, it is my hope that each of you will see just how important and effectual your prayers were in and to the fulfillment of this mission of promise.

As I prayed about how and what all to include when writing down the many verifications of the vision, I was given additional insights and clarity about what I had been shown that first night in Nairobi and just how the Lord had intervened on our behalf over the days that followed so that His will might be accomplished. With these sharpened insights and assurances, the Lord has helped me appreciate more fully the vision He gave me then and how He moved to deliver us from harm and evil while we traveled and worshipped in that distant land. Even now, in looking back over what transpired during our journey last month, I am filled all the more with great joy and thanksgiving to the Lord for His wonderful and perfect ways in caring for the children of His kingdom. So, here are the particulars of the vision as I recall it and understand it at this time.

On the morning of January 11, 2017, shortly after 11 a.m., Pam and I left Wichita aboard our first flight to Africa. We took connecting flights through Chicago, Newark, and Frankfurt before finally landing in Nairobi, Kenya, at around 9:15 p.m. the next day, January 12th. Elder James Yogo, a

member of the church in Nairobi, met us at the Nairobi International Airport and drove us to a humble guest house across the road from his family's home. It was late that evening when we finally retired to bed for the night, and being very tired from the long journey over we looked forward to a good night's rest. So, after securing the mosquito netting around the bed, we said our prayers and good nights.

Upon closing my eyes, a distinct image intruded directly into my thoughts. It was that of a very large bird, which was solid black and shaped like a raven. When I first saw it, this bird was in the act of swooping down onto a set of railroad tracks. That is when its large size first became evident to me. It landed crossways onto the tracks and took hold of both rails in each set of its talons as if they were small sticks.

The intent of the large bird was to land on the tracks and then to lift off again with the rails in its talons for the purpose of ripping them up suddenly and in a manner that would cause irreparable damage.⁶ This is something it apparently supposed it could do rather easily in its fury. However, the bird failed in its attempt to do so, such that when it tried to fly away with the tracks in its claws, it could not because the tracks held firm. After failing to dislodge them, the bird just stood there holding onto them while looking around as if it were studying out the matter.

I noticed how there were full grown trees on either side of the bird that looked half its height, again confirming its large size. Nevertheless and notwithstanding its large size and apparent strength, the bird had been foiled in its intent to dislodge the tracks. With this understanding came the witness that each of the prayers offered on our behalf had been effectual in stopping this beast from fulfilling its intent, that of derailing our mission. We are truly grateful for the prayers of faith in Jesus Christ that were offered up for us and for our mission there to pray for the healing of the nations. As you will see, God graciously heard and honored those prayers.⁷

When the vision first broke upon my thoughts, I had prayed earnestly to the Lord to know the source of the vision, its interpretation, and how to pray in response to what I was being shown. In reply, the

⁶ As I look back on it now, seeing both this bird's intent and its failure to realize its intent caused me some confusion. That is, I could not understand at the time why I saw the tracks being ripped up in one instance and yet saw them not ripped up in the next instance. Now, however, I understand the vision more clearly, especially after we have seen the goodness of the Lord in delivering us from evil during our trip. My hope in making this clarification here – that I was graphically shown both the large bird's intent and then its inability to realize its intent – is that you can appreciate with me just how the will of the Lord prevailed notwithstanding the great opposition that attempted to derail our mission. When I first related this experience to others the next day, I recall placing emphasis on the intent of the large bird and not so much on the fact that it failed to accomplish its intent. This was because the intended destruction of the tracks, which I saw as if it had happened, was what stood out to me due to the graphic nature of that portion of the vision. However, as noted here I was also shown that, notwithstanding the large bird's intent, the tracks would not actually be dislodged. In being shown first how the tracks could have been destroyed had God not intervened, it then made the fact that they were prevented from being destroyed by God's intervention all the more significant.

⁷ The word "region" was used to describe the territory it ruled, giving me the impression that it extended well beyond the city limits of Nairobi, perhaps even on into the surrounding countries.

Lord immediately impressed upon me that the large black bird represented a strong principality and power and that it had been disturbed by our presence and purpose there in its dominion, which I understand covered quite a large area and many peoples.

As I looked closer at the face of the bird, at first it appeared uncertain about who had arrived in its region and why. But because it had been disturbed by the presence of someone alarming to it entering into its domain, it was actively looking around with its keen eyes searching for the location from which it sensed this threat. As it looked around I got the sense that it had discerned our location. So I told Pam we needed to pray together again. I did not tell her what I had been shown because I didn't want to alarm her just as she was drifting off to sleep after such a long journey. Nevertheless, I felt the need to pray earnestly for our safety before we went to sleep, which we did.

When I awoke the next morning, Friday, January 13th, another image came to mind, that of the great bird being subdued. I again prayed over what I had been shown and received assurance from the Lord that we would be protected during our long bus ride from Nairobi to Kisumu later that day. James arranged for a taxi to take us to the airport to get an iPhone SIM card and some local currency to use while we were in East Africa. From there we drove to the bus station, which was located on a very rocky dirt road that ran alongside a long row of small shops. In the middle of the row was the local bus line office. There was a lot of pedestrian and vehicle traffic in the area, and on the other side of the road was a large parking lot.

We were told the bus ride could take between 6 to 8 hours. Given the long journey ahead, I decided to visit the men's room before leaving. Pam asked that I bring back some bottled water for the trip with me. James and I first headed off in search of the men's room, which we were told was at the distant end of the long row of shops. Immediately upon stepping into the facilities, a man started speaking very aggressively to me. Another man, standing nearby with a few others, spoke up saying, "White man, do you know what he is saying? He is saying that he is stabbing you like a lion stabs an animal." This kind of dialogue kept up all the while I was there. I quickly departed to find James who was standing outside the entrance.

The man who had been verbally attacking me followed us. When we finally got to a small shop to buy some bottled water, the man insisted that I buy him a soft drink. James and I continued to ignore him. After purchasing some water, we headed directly to the bus. The man then followed us onto the bus. James had positioned Pam and me in window seats on the left side of the bus so we could see some wildlife as we journeyed. James then sat next to Pam for her protection while I sat behind her.

When this man, who had yelled at me in the bathroom, boarded the bus, I could tell he wanted to sit in the open seat beside me. However, when he got to my row, he looked confused because he apparently was prevented somehow from sitting next to me. If he had, he would have had me trapped against the window. He chose instead to sit down in the seat directly across the aisle from me, talking to me frequently. James addressed him a number of times in Swahili, asking him, he told us later, why he was bothering us, etc. Other passengers were noticeably upset as well and turned to look toward this man because of the disturbance he was creating.

The Lord continued to impress upon me that I must resist this man in the spirit in all of his advances, including his demand that I buy him a soft drink. This I was especially counseled not to do even if it might have made him leave us alone. The reason for resisting his requests, I was shown in the Spirit, was to not agree with him in his request. Otherwise, the Lord showed me, by doing so I would be yielding my will to his and thereby yielding power to him. The Lord used Romans 6:16 and similar scriptures to remind me of the importance of obeying Him and not individuals like this man who demanded things from me. If, on the other hand, the Lord had shown me to buy this man a drink, yes indeed, that is what I should have done. But in the present case, this individual was serving a demonic spirit, which was attempting to find a way to gain some measure of influence over me through any means possible.

Interestingly enough, as this man sat across the aisle from me, he took out a new bottle of soda pop and began drinking from it (in other words, he already had what he was pressing me to buy him). Then he became quiet and turned toward me again. As he did, he looked at me as if he were a lion deliberately looking upon its prey and preparing to press towards it. What he said next I must admit unnerved me a bit. I heard him say my name, "Dwight," in a low and deliberate manner. Then he just looked at me to see my reaction. While praying in the Spirit, I was told again to simply resist him, even though it was evident that the evil presence about him had informed him of my name. He had said my name once earlier before we boarded the bus, but I was not quite sure he actually had said it at the time. Now, it seemed rather evident that he knew my name.

I asked James later if he recalled using my name in the presence of this man, and he confirmed that he hadn't. Neither had Pam used my name within the hearing of this man, yet he clearly spoke it. Later that night in Kisumu I shared the testimony with Eric Odida and asked him if there were any words in Swahili that sounded like my name. He couldn't think of one. So it seemed clear enough to me, at least, that I had become known to the principality and power I had been shown in the vision the night before and that it intended to oppose my efforts to serve the Lord there. Nevertheless, I was confident in the Lord that I had been shown that the enemy would not prevail against us, even though it strained in its attempted to derail our mission.

This man continued disturbing me until he eventually spied Pam. At that point he said something excitedly, which I did not understand, and stood up in the aisle to get a better look at her. I prayed instantly that the Lord would do something. James stood up in front of the man and told him he (James) was going to get someone from the bus line since this man would not stop bothering us.

James then quickly exited the bus and headed back to where the driver and staff were. The man started to panic. He looked to the back of the bus and to the front in what appeared to be an attempt to find some place to hide or a way to escape. He chose to exit through the main door on the left side of the bus as fast as he could, and upon hitting the ground he started running with the bus driver and two others chasing after him. He escaped through the parking lot. Soon after that we were on our way to Kisumu.

All during our encounter with this individual I was reminded of the vision of the large black bird and how I had been shown that it would not prevail against us. It was with this assurance from the Comforter that I had withstood this individual in the Spirit. Later, when we talked about this incident, Pam told me how she had prayed that an angel would sit next to me on the bus so the man who was troubling me could not sit there. Her testimony confirms the fact that although he tried to sit next to me, he couldn't. I was most thankful she had prayed such a specific prayer and that it was answered in the moment needed.

James said he had never seen anything like that before. No one is permitted to board the buses without a ticket. Since James is used to taking the bus between Nairobi and Kisumu, we understood this to be a most unusual event. At first I was concerned that this man was actually a passenger. But at one point he asked someone nearby where the bus was going, which came as a relief to me since it was evident that he did not hold a ticket. If he had, it would have been a much longer trip most definitely, and who knows what he might have tried along the way or when we arrived in Kisumu. But blessed be the name of our God who delivered us and will yet deliver us from the evil of this present world.

There was one other occasion on the bus ride to Kisumu in which I felt the same presence I felt with this individual. We had pulled into a station somewhere along the way. A bus line employee boarded the bus and spoke with the driver. Outside there were many people trying to sell drinks and snacks to people on the bus, but there were few takers. One woman outside the bus started crying out, "Somebody help us!" After a few moments one of the passengers got up and started to head down the steps to open the door so the street vendors could board the bus. But the driver barked out something in Swahili and the passenger slowly retook his seat. I had been praying against the influence of the evil one over us and was indeed grateful that the bus driver was watching and kept the street vendors off of the bus.

The remainder of our trip was uneventful. Pam had shared with James several articles in the *Tidings of Zion* that Frank Frye had written about the translation of the Book of Mormon into Swahili. While Pam and James talked about this special work and he read from the articles, I felt compelled to pull out my father's pocket 1956 hymnal and sing hymns. While I do not know for sure how long I sang, it was a good portion of time as I sang many hymns and a number of them several times. I felt especially led to sing old hymns of promise, of faith and assurance, and of witnessing and sharing the gospel. They greatly buoyed up my soul and I was able to more clearly focus on the mission ahead. Still I wondered what all we might yet experience along the way.

Our bus arrived after dark in Kisumu at a location around the corner from the bus office. A friendly lady offered us a place to sit in her street café while we waited for our ride to the Odida's home. That night, during evening devotions, after Eric asked for testimonies, I shared about the vision the night before and how the Lord had watched over us at the bus station in Nairobi as he promised.

Before going to Africa, there were times in which I felt as if I was already there in the Spirit. This sense came especially when I was in fasting and prayer for the mission. It also came at other times, such as

when I was focused on my professional work. With this sense of being in this covenant land⁸ before I actually stepped foot on it came a growing and abiding sense of the land being freed from a curse that had covered it with spiritual darkness for many generations.⁹ In this earlier vision I had before coming to East Africa, I saw a beautiful light begin to shine over the land, beginning from the southern shore of Lake Victoria and spreading north-northeastward across the land promised to Abram (later called Abraham) in Genesis 15. As this beautiful, purifying light spread over the land, I saw healing spread across the face of the land, extending further with time in the same general direction. It was through this vision that I was granted a specific hope upon which I drew at the time I eventually prayed in faith at the water's edge in Mwanza (cf. Hebrews 11:1).

It was my understanding that the specific prayers I was to offer there were for people like the man who confronted me in the men's room at the bus station in Nairobi and for many others like him. As I was given to understand the situation, this man was but one of the many souls who are oppressed by the darkness cast by the principality and power I was shown in the vision the first night in Nairobi. My hope and prayer is that he will find liberty from the bondage that oppresses him by entering into the New Covenant spoken of in Hebrews 8:8-13.¹⁰

This thought leads into another time along the road in which the Lord delivered us through miraculous means, as related in part in our January 20th report. On the way to Mwanza, Tanzania, on January 16, Frank had asked me to share some testimonies. One was about how the Lord delivered me from oppression soon after my family and I had moved to Wichita in 1989.¹¹ As it was nearing sunset in our drive to Mwanza, I was speaking about the darkness I had experienced in graduate school just prior to moving to Wichita. Frank felt uncomfortable in that moment and asked me to share something more positive. About that time James noted that the alternator on the car appeared to stop working. All four of us in the car became concerned with the situation. I too sensed a presence that was troubling and began to pray earnestly. I also apologized to the others for talking about something that appeared negative. As we drove cautiously, I received assurance, however, that my speaking of being delivered from darkness in my own life was pleasing to God, but it was not pleasing to the prince of darkness that held captive the land through which we were driving. Though this enemy meant what happened to us next for evil, God truly used it for good.¹²

Was it a coincidence that the alternator failed in that moment I was sharing about being delivered and in the same moment when Frank became concerned about something he sensed as negative? I was not quite sure. However, I know that I received a confirming witness and strength to trust that the same power which delivered me back when I first came to Wichita was able and would deliver us out of any adverse situation caused by the alternator failing so many kilometers away from our

⁸ See Genesis 15:22 IV / 15:18 KJV

⁹ This vision was similar to the vision I had been given many years ago now, which is recorded in the booklet titled, "We're Marching to Zion" on <http://www.hisworkmanship.net>

¹⁰ See Isaiah 11 & 59:18-60:22, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 36:1-37:28, etc.

¹¹ See http://www.hisworkmanship.net/index_files/Books/healed/Healed070406P.pdf

¹² cf. Genesis 50:20 with Romans 8:28

destination. Added to this, I was instructed in the Spirit to take courage in that very moment and to trust in the Lord's provisions by continuing to press forward in faith toward fulfilling the will of our heavenly Father. Here is how things turned out as we described the situation in a summary account written and sent out on January 20, 2017.

"During our drive to Mwanza, the alternator on the rented car wore out. After it failed around 50 kilometers north of Mwanza, our prayers were that we would make it to the city. Due to the three hour delay at the border, we had a late departure from the border. It was well past sundown when the alternator failed, so we were now driving in the dark. We knew the battery would not last long, so we looked for a filling station to get help. We found one about 5 km later in the town of Magu. The mechanics wanted to rebuild the alternator, which would have been another significant delay, and being urged on in the Spirit, we continued our journey against their advice. We eventually arrived just inside the city limits at a filling station where the battery finally ran down. We still had 20 kilometers to go, however. With Pam's more complete record, we will fill you in on more of the details of how the Lord arranged for us to arrive safely at the hotel we had booked for our stay in Mwanza. Suffice it to say for now, the trip from the filling station to the hotel was coordinated by the Lord through our good brother, Paul Makawiti, who had been waiting for us at the hotel."

Another time that I specifically felt the Lord's delivering hand during this trip was at the water's edge the evening of the 17th of January. Again from our January 20th account, here is an overview of our time at the beach:

"It took most of the day on Tuesday to get the alternator replaced. Nevertheless, we believed the will of the Lord would be done and we would have sufficient time to fulfill His purposes for our gathering there. Five of us gathered for prayers at the water's edge at the southern end of Lake Victoria at sundown on Tuesday, January 17, 2017: Paul Makawiti of Tanzania, James Yogo of Kenya, Frank Frye of the United States, and Pam and Dwight Burford of the United States. Upon arriving at the shore late in the day we were now working under some rather evident constraints. It was getting dark quickly, and just after we arrived at the beach, a man ran over to us to tell us there were dangerous men nearby down the beach from us and that we needed to be very careful there. However, we received reassurance that we would be okay and that we should continue.

"As the sun set, I opened with Psalm 105 and a prayer for our gathering. After sharing the purpose of our meeting at the water's edge by referencing a number of scriptures, special prayers were offered by James Yogo in Luo (after reading Nehemiah 1) and Paul Makawiti in Swahili (after reading from Daniel 9). After a few more comments by me, Frank read from Joel 2 and I (Dwight) then prayed for the healing of the nations while kneeling on the shore with my hands upon the water (as I had been shown). We sang two hymns, "Redeemer of Israel" and "Yes, We Trust the Day is Breaking," and Frank closed our time together on the beach with prayer. Before leaving, we placed a pile of 12 stones on the beach as a memorial of this gathering and then departed in the dark."

What I would like to additionally point out here is how I felt when I knelt to prayer for the healing of the nations at the water's edge. On several occasions prior to coming to East Africa, I had been shown in the Spirit that I was to place my hands on the water as I prayed. Now, however, several things made it difficult for me to focus on this part of what I had been called to do. As I mentioned to those gathered there, the Lord had instructed me not to mutter many words, so I was earnestly looking for guidance in what I was to pray specifically since my words were to be brief on that occasion. This was a bit perplexing to me because I had also been shown how I was to write a prayer while there, much like the prayer that Orson Hyde wrote while seated on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem in 1841. I did not see how I could fulfill both of these instructions in that moment since the sun was going down quickly. This dilemma was quite distracting to me, yet I somehow felt that I was in the center of God's will for me in that moment.

Other things added to my consternation as well. As noted in the prior account quoted above, upon arriving at the beach that evening a man had run over to us to warn us that there were some very bad men nearby on the beach. At the same time I could see some young men in the opposite direction watching us as well. Added to this was the fact that darkness upon us. Still I felt the assurance God was presiding. When the time came to pray, I took off my shoes and waded in a short ways into the lightly breaking surf. As the waves washed over my hands, my knees started to sink into the sand with the water eroding it around them. A multitude of other thoughts also came flooding into my mind. I had been shown I was to face the north in the general direction in which the river flowed before me, but I didn't know which way was north when I knelt. So I just knelt as I felt led (which was not straight out into the lake, but somewhat toward the shore line as I recall it now). To complicate things even further, my iPhone, wallet, and passport, which were all in the lakeside pockets of my pants, were now getting wet due to the waves which were breaking upon my left leg.

Notwithstanding all of these things, a peace came over me, and I began to pray. Yet I felt at first my words were forced, so I labored in the Spirit to align my words with the assurance of the Comforter, to pray in faith believing that they would be answered. Then a certain realization came over me. I had not fully yielded to the Lord in that situation. All of the distractions I mentioned plus others were still drawing my attention away from the Lord and His calling on me in that moment. So I surrendered to Him and released all the distractions. As I did, a greater measure of peace came flooding over me, and I knew what I was praying was fully acceptable to Him. I do not recall now what I actually prayed. What I remember most is how the Lord was now the only One I was focused upon in that moment. I was now doing this for an audience of One, according to His will. I was all the more assured of this when Paul confirmed that I had been facing north while I prayed when kneeling in the water. What a joy to know I had fulfilled the will of the Lord even in this detail and without knowing I had until Paul testified of it. Oh, what a gracious Lord we have!

Just before going to the water's edge that evening and while on the way there I had mentioned to the others how the Lord impressed upon me the following verse of scripture.

Malachi 3: 16-18 - Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that

feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Having this passage impressed upon me as we were headed to the lake, I thought perhaps that one of the things we were to do while there was to think upon His name by speaking about the many names of our Lord given to us in scripture. Yet our time was so limited at the beach that there was no time to include such a discussion. This too distracted my thoughts while kneeling and praying. However, now, while praying over the writing of this account of our time at the lake, the Lord has shown me that in giving me this scripture He was testifying to us that by our gathering together there we were, in fact, participating in the type of fellowship described by the prophet Malachi. We had regarded the name of the Lord, even the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, by honoring His covenants which He had made with them. We had gathered there according to His will and direction to pray in faith for their fulfillment. With this assurance came the understanding that a book of remembrance had indeed been written as an account of our worship there that evening. All that we had come there to do in observance and obedience was about proclaiming His faithfulness in keeping the covenants He has made with His ancient covenant peoples. In writing these things I have again received the testimony that we pleased the Lord in doing so. It truly was a day of blessing and rejoicing.

What transpired the next morning was also described briefly in our overview dated January 20th and is provided here as the backdrop of a few more words about how God provided for me to offer this second prayer at Lake Victoria.

“After we returned to the hotel from the shore that evening, I had to admit I was discouraged. We had not accomplished all I had understood was to be accomplished while on this trip. After supper we retired to our rooms for the night. It was now after 12:30 a.m. on January 18 and I was still restless. At 1:12 a.m. I was still awake, trying to understand why we had been delayed and had such limited time at the lake. After drifting off, I was awakened just after 4 a.m. to a vision of Orson Hyde sitting with pen and paper in hand on the Mount of Olives and praying over Jerusalem for the gathering of the House of Israel. Then I saw myself praying with pencil and paper in hand while looking out my hotel room window as the sun rose over the fountain of the river of Egypt (Lake Victoria). It took a bit to get going, but sometime before 5 in the morning I had begun praying and continued in the same Spirit which teaches us to pray (Romans 8:26 with Jude 1:20,21 & II Nephi 14:11,12) until sometime after 7 a.m.

“Without going into the details here, it was a marvelous experience in the Lord. As I prayed – and wrote elements of the prayer for a record – I received abundant assurance and joy in the Lord for the work I was presently engaged in. Before praying in earnest and writing, I had been confused as to why this prayer had not been accomplished the day before, the day set aside for meeting at the lake. But the Lord soon brought to my memory how He had reminded me on several occasions that “the evening and the morning” constitutes a day in His reckoning. Now, as I had seen that I

was to pray at the water's edge before writing, here I was praying over the lake as the sunlight opened upon the lake that day. It was truly an incredibly joyous time. I was told that whatever I asked for would be granted, and the only thing I asked was for the healing of the nations, beginning with the healing of the house of God's covenant peoples according to His promises found in His covenants. That is when I knew I was perfectly in His will – because I had the testimony I had not asked amiss. So, as I did then, I greatly rejoice in the Lord for His wonderful goodness.”

As noted in this excerpt from the prior communication, I was quite discouraged at the close of 17th. The day appointed to pray at the lake had ended, and I had not fulfilled all I had been shown I was to do there. Now we would be headed home the next morning, on the 18th. Yet, I had a sense that all things pertaining to the matter were okay; God's will had and would yet be done. I just didn't understand how. Although I rested lightly in the assurance, I have to admit I was still somewhat distracted and discouraged by the way things had turned out that day.

When I awoke early the next morning my heart began to take courage as the Lord opened to my understanding that this was now the time appointed to pray over the lake while making a record of the prayer as the sun arose on the lake. He had told me in the days leading up to arrival in Mwanza that the evening and the morning constitute a day according to His reckoning. Now I could see that both prayers would take place on the same day as He had shown me by the Lord's manner of reckoning.

It was amazing how I felt as I got up and started to arrange a seat and light by which to write. Although I did not want to disturb Pam, who was still sleeping, I knew I needed to write. So I took a lamp that was on a nightstand and moved it to a table by the window. When I plugged it in, the lightbulb just flicked and went off. I got it to flicker a few more times, but it simply would not stay on. So I told the Lord I needed that lamp to work so I could write. I then felt the need just to step away from the light and to take my position looking over the lake, readying myself to begin writing. As I did the light worked as it should and did not flicker or go out the remainder of our time in the room. Perhaps this is something that seems like a small matter, but I had very little sleep and I truly did not need one more thing to distract me and thus detract from my purpose there that morning. Again, in His graciousness, the Lord provided what was needed for His will to be done through a prayer of faith.

Before we traveled to Mwanza I had had no leading as to where we should stay. We had been told it would be best to get a hotel, but we did not have any recommendations. Sunday afternoon before traveling to Tanzania, Pam started checking into places to stay. As she went about looking at available places to stay, the Adden Palace hotel near the airport had good ratings, but it only had a few rooms left. It is my testimony that the Lord led Pam in booking our hotel for our stay in Mwanza, including picking our arrival time at the hotel. She selected 10 to 11 p.m. and we arrived, notwithstanding the alternator failure, within this time frame at 10:05 p.m. There were times the night of the 16th that it looked as if we would not make it to the hotel by midnight, but the fact that we did make it on time is again a testament that the Lord guided Pam in making these arrangements.

Some other notable things occurred regarding our hotel room arrangements. Two of the reservations we made Sunday evening did not show up on the hotel computer until the day after we arrived. When Paul questioned us the night of the 16th about the number of reservations, we assured him we had booked three rooms. But he was told they only showed one room had been reserved. So Paul convinced them to make two additional rooms available to us, which originally were priced much higher than the rate for which we booked the reservations originally. The way the accommodations ended up, Pam and I stayed in the one room they originally had received, which was up on the 4th floor. Frank and James were given the rooms which Paul arranged the night of the 16th, which were much larger rooms but on lower floors and on the other side of the hotel.

Through all of the trials to secure housing for our stay in Mwanza, I am assured that God was able to arrange for me to have a room on their top floor overlooking the lake for the purpose of offering the prayer I was called there to pray. It is all so amazing thinking back on it now. We obviously were not in control of the situation, but we all had a role to play in bringing it about. In the end, as I wrote in the prior overview account, my discouragement was transformed into joy as I watched the hand of the Lord work out the details so that we could fulfill His purpose in our traveling there that day. I especially appreciated the humble and positive demeanor shown forth by the others while we passed through the trials leading up to our time at the lake, especially those of James and Paul in working to get the car fixed in a timely manner. Their help was most appreciated.

Later the morning of the 18th, when leaving Mwanza, I was told in the Spirit that we had an open road before us. As noted in our overview from January 20th, the Lord did indeed bless our passage back to Kisumu in many wonderful ways. I had not told the others at first about this word, but I had to say something after James told us on several occasions as he drove that God was doing something. It was miraculous to all of us how the police at a number of check stations simply looked the other way as we drove by. Again, the word of the Lord was confirmed by the Lord providing for our safe return to the Odida's home.

The greatest affirmation of this which I received during the journey came just as we crossed the border back into Kenya. I was thanking the Lord for His provision when, with great assurance, the Lord brought a sure word of knowledge to me, saying that He had delivered us and would deliver us still. It came with such emphasis that I was compelled to share this message with the others in the very moment in which it was given. It was accompanied with the further assurance that there was a good reason the Lord was being emphatic about delivering us that day. He testified to me that He had indeed moved to deliver us from harm and evil, much of which was unknown to us. Upon confessing these words to the others, I was greeted with the most incredible assurance from His Spirit that there was joy in heaven over the victory which had been secured through our obedience in going to Mwanza. Yes, this was a victory, even the type of victory John describes: "...and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (I John 5:4).

It was a most incredible journey. To have Frank take time away from the translation team and to come with us was a marvelous blessing, one we will always remember with great joy. Our fellowship was rich in the Lord and we look forward to seeing the Lord's work fulfilled which he and the

translation team are now engaged in. The day of the Lord will fully reveal the value of all such undertakings in building up the kingdom of God on earth. To Him be the glory.

I would like to close by thanking James again for the inspired words he spoke to me as we drove back to Kisumu from Mwanza on the 18th. The Lord led James to speak directly to me words of admonition and wisdom. As I recall it now, he said that I need to maintain my focus on the Lord and His work and not allow myself to be distracted by the enemy who arises in opposition to the Lord's work. Among other things, James referred me back to the individual on the bus that day we began our journey to Kisumu from Nairobi to illustrate his message of admonition. Yes, I had to admit I did allow such things to distract me. Now, going forward, I agree that I need to keep my eyes on the Lord and His words. I gladly received James's words of admonition which have been reconfirmed to me by the Spirit of the Lord as I write this letter. Thank you again, James, for your faith in Jesus Christ, for your trust in your Lord and Savior. As you confessed on a number of occasions, truly our Lord did miraculous things during our travels together this past month.

Finally, I feel led to remind all who read and relate the message of this letter to remember, the night and morning constitute a day unto the Lord. Although we must pass through a season of discouragement and perhaps mourning, the day will follow the night and our sorrow will last but for a season. Then it will be replaced with the joy of the Lord. Take heart. The Lord is fulfilling His covenants. Prepare yourselves for the New Covenant spoken of in Hebrews 8:8-12 being fulfilled in your life and the lives of His covenant peoples. Read the letter to the Hebrews, Isaiah, and the other prophets, and especially the Book of Mormon, and ask the Lord what you should do in this special time of the fulfilling of covenants which is now upon us. Ask, seek, and knock. God is faithful and just to hear the prayers of the just who seek His will in all things. He cares for you and will provide for you as you seek His face. Treasure up His words, for they will show you all things which you should do. If you lack wisdom – and only the proud do not think they so lack – call upon the Father in the name of His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Bishop of your soul. He will shepherd you and bring you fully into His kingdom. Trust Him, and in trusting Him, follow Him, for He cares for you.

Hebrews 13:20,21 – Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

To the honor and glory of the Lamb,

Dwight Burford

9.1.5. February 13, 2017 Accountability for Ministry Provided

In mid-February 2017 I sent the following message via email to a number of the brethren who have been ministering to the church in Africa over the last number of years. I did so as an accounting of my teachings while there.

Brethren,

When Pam and I were in Kenya last month, I was asked to teach and preach in Kisumu and Nairobi. I was also asked to address the translation team on a couple of occasions. The thought has persisted that I should make an accounting of what I taught to the people there and to share it with you because of your ongoing ministry to the church in Africa.

One of the impetuses to do so was a comment made by Pam Odida. After I taught and preached in Kisumu the first Sunday we were in Africa, Pam O. told me that a teacher should not ask if there are questions and then, if no one speaks up right away, to just assume there are no questions. She said that the teacher should know that there will be questions and that some of these questions will be asked days, weeks, or longer after the people have had time to think about what they have been taught. As such, she said, those who teach need to be prepared to follow up as questions arise.

So here is a summary of what I taught in case you get asked questions about the ministry I brought to those beloved people of God. First, I was led to begin by teaching according to Ammon's and Aaron's examples when ministering to King Lamoni and his father. This involved starting with the creation. On this topic I focused upon how God created each of us in His own image and likeness. I went on to teach that by God creating each of us in His image, He made us agents of His image and that, as agents of His image, God will hold each of us accountable for what we do in this life with and to His image. In the end, the Lord intends to call each of us before Him to give answer for how we have represented Him and His image in our daily lives.

How we look upon other people is also very important to God because they, too, have been created in His image. Therefore, how we deal with others (e.g. how we treat them and view them), the Lord takes very personally because they too are agents of His image.

Both this and the prior point on representing His image relate directly to why the Lord has represented Himself to be a jealous God and has commanded that we do not worship other images – only His image (the one in which we were created in the likeness of). To worship

another image is to directly belittle and trample under our feet our Lord by valuing or placing other things above Him and His image.

I additionally touched on how the knowledge that all of us have been created in God's image forms the basis by which we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. In other words, our worth comes from God and His intention for us to receive fully and gladly His image and to abide in the same with thanksgiving in glory and honor to His glory and honor. In this way His image forms the basis upon which we can truly love both ourselves and others. Said another way, with this knowledge and focus, we can share His love equally (having a love of God and of all people) because in doing so we acknowledge that we were all created to abide and represent His image. This gives each and all of us not just equal worth, but great and amazing worth.

The message, of course, does not end there because of the need for the redeeming work of Jesus Christ. After being created in God's image, the children of men became fallen and therefore needed to be reborn. In the words of Alma, we are to receive the image of God into our countenances by being born anew; otherwise we will remain in our carnal, sensual, and devilish state, that is, that of the natural man. Now, however, our worth is based upon being the purchased possession of the Lord because of the great and eternal sacrifice offered by Jesus Christ, even by His blood as the Lamb of God. By these means, when we are reborn, we are restored to His image; stated otherwise, His image is restored in us through faith in Jesus Christ. This means that after and because of the fall, our Lord's image does not reside in us inherently (innately), but by faith in the redemption and abiding word of grace from Jesus Christ.

To take this a step further, I outlined for them how mankind had become carnal, sensual, and devilish. The antidote the Lord has prepared for this fallen state, which resulted from the temptation of the devil (which I portrayed as an illness caused by a snake bite), is faith, hope, and charity.

- Faith is the direct antidote for the carnal mind.
 - Faith involves placing trust in God's word over our own judgments, opinions, understandings, etc.
- Hope is the antidote for being sensual.
 - While sensuality wants what it wants right now, hope waits for the promised inheritance of the children of God.
- Charity is the antidote for devilishness.
 - Devilishness accuses and scorns, but charity edifies and thinks more on others than itself.

The second topic I felt led to share about was the principle of *restoration* as spoken of by Alma to his son Corianton and by our Lord to John as recorded in Revelation 22:11. To get a flavor of this line of teaching, I would refer you to several posts on our branch website about the cross and how the Lord draws all people unto Himself by being lifted up upon the cross (cf. John 12 and III Nephi 12).

- [Why Three Glories, Part 3: Called to Glory](#)
- [Why Three Glories, Part 4: The Four Stations around the Cross](#)

Of course I did not go into so much detail as covered in these posts. Nonetheless, these posts provide some context for the general message presented, which is that we all were made for glory, hence the several glories to be revealed in the resurrection spoken of in the scriptures.

- [Why Three Glories, Part 1: Eyes to See & Ears to Hear](#)

I also covered briefly the importance of covenant love by referencing some of the points outlined in the following post:

- [Why Covenant Love](#)

Along with this topic, I discuss the importance of the conditions of repentance and how God provides us with certain settings (venues) into which He calls us to enter and offer to Him the sacrifice He requires of us, namely that of a broken heart and contrite spirit.

Overall I felt as if the Lord blessed the messages to the encouragement and uplift of the people, while also providing sober reminders of our duty before God. My aim was to encourage each of us to walk uprightly before the Lord to the end. I especially labored to help each one remember our calling in Jesus Christ and that is to be even as He as the day of the Lord approaches (I Peter 3:11,12 & III Nephi 13:5 with I John 3:1-3).

God bless as you continue to bring ministry to the peoples of that portion of the vineyard,

Dwight

PS: I'm headed back to the States tomorrow and would appreciate your prayers for this journey.

9.2. October 24, 1841 Prayer by Orson Hyde

In a letter sent from Alexandria, Egypt, November 22, 1841, Elder Orson Hyde wrote the following: "On Sunday morning, October 24, a good while before day, I arose from sleep and went out of the city as soon as the gates were opened, crossed the brook Cedron, and went upon the Mount of Olives, and there in solemn silence, with pen, ink, and paper, just as I saw in the vision offered up the following prayer to him who lives for ever and ever."

Following the prayer, Brother Hyde states: "On the top of Mount Olives I erected a pile of stones as a witness according to the ancient custom. On what was anciently called Mount Zion, where the temple stood, I erected another, and used the rod according to the prediction upon my head." The letter was published in *Times and Seasons*, vol. 3, pp. 739-742. It may also be found in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Church History, Volume 2, Chapter 24, pp 552-556.

"O Thou, who art from everlasting to everlasting, eternally and unchangeably the same, even the God who rules in the heavens above, and controls the destinies of men on the earth, wilt thou not condescend through thine infinite goodness and royal favor to listen to the prayer of thy servant which he this day offers up unto thee in the name of thy holy child Jesus, upon this land where the Sun of Righteousness sat in blood, and thine Anointed One expired!

"Be pleased, O Lord, to forgive all the follies, weaknesses, vanities, and sins of thy servant, and strengthen him to resist all future temptations. Give him prudence and discernment that he may avoid the evil, and a heart to choose the good; give him fortitude to bear up under trying and adverse circumstances, and grace to endure all things for thy name's sake, until the end shall come, when all the saints shall rest in peace.

"Now, O Lord, thy servant has been obedient to the heavenly vision which thou gavest him in his native land; and under the shadow of thine outstretched arm he has safely arrived in this place to dedicate and consecrate this land unto thee, for the gathering together of Judah's scattered remnants, according to the predictions of the holy prophets-for the building up of Jerusalem again after it had been trodden down by the Gentiles so long, and for rearing a temple in honor of thy name. Everlasting thanks be ascribed unto thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast preserved thy servant from the dangers of the seas and from the plague and pestilence which have caused the land to mourn! The violence of man has also been restrained, and thy providential care by night and by day has been exercised over thine unworthy servant. Accept, therefore, O Lord, the tribute of a grateful heart for all past favors, and be pleased to continue thy kindness and mercy towards a needy worm of the dust.

“O thou who didst covenant with Abraham thy friend, and who didst renew that covenant with Isaac, and confirm the same with Jacob with an oath, that thou wouldst not only give them this land for an everlasting inheritance, but that thou wouldst also remember their seed forever! Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, have long since closed their eyes in death, and made the grave their mansion. Their children are scattered and dispersed abroad among the nations of the Gentiles like sheep that have no shepherd, and are still looking forward for the fulfillment of those promises which thou didst make concerning them; and even this land which once poured forth nature’s richest bounty, and flowed, as it were with milk and honey, has, to a certain extent, been smitten with barrenness and sterility since it drank from murderous hands the blood of him who never sinned.

“Grant therefore, O Lord, in the name of thy well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to remove the barrenness and sterility of this land, and let spring of living water break forth to water its thirsty soil. Let the vine and the 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 distill 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; and let thy great kindness conquer and subdue the unbelief of the 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. Incline them to gather in upon this land according to thy word. Let them come like clouds and like doves to their windows. Let the large ships of the nations bring them from the distant isles; and let kings become their nursing fathers, and queens with motherly fondness wipe the tear of sorrow from their eye.

“Thou, O Lord, did once move upon the heart of Cyrus to shew favor unto Jerusalem and her children. Do thou now also be pleased to inspire the hearts of kings and the powers of the earth to look with a friendly eye towards this place, and with a desire to see thy righteous purposes executed in relation thereto. Let them know that it is thy good pleasure to restore the kingdom unto Israel, raise up Jerusalem as its capital, and constitute her people a distinct nation and government, with David thy servant, even a descendant from the loins of ancient David, to be their King.

“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.'

"Though thy servant is now far from his home and the land bedewed with his earliest tear, yet he remembers, O Lord, his friends who are there, and family, whom for thy sake he has left. Though poverty and privation be our earthly lot, yet ah! do thou richly endow us with an inheritance where moth and rust do not corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal.

"The hands that have fed, clothed, or shown favor unto the family of thy servant in his absence, or that shall hereafter do so, let them not lose their reward, but let a special blessing rest upon them, and in thy kingdom let them have an inheritance when thou shall come to be glorified in this society.

"Do thou also look with favor upon all those through whose liberality I have been enabled to come to this land; and in the day when thou shalt reward all people according to their works, let these also not be passed by or forgotten, but in time let them be in readiness to enjoy the glory of those mansions which Jesus has gone to prepare. Particularly do thou bless the stranger in Philadelphia, whom I never saw, but who sent me gold, with a request that I should pray for him in Jerusalem. Now, O Lord, let blessings come upon him from an unexpected quarter, and let his basket be filled, and his storehouse abound with plenty, and let not the good things of the earth be his only portion, but let him be found among those to whom it shall be said, 'Thou hast been faithful over a few things, and I will make thee ruler over many.'

"O my Father in heaven! I now ask thee in the name of Jesus to remember Zion, with all her stakes, and with all her assemblies. She has been grievously afflicted and smitten; she has mourned; she has wept; her enemies have triumphed, and have said, 'Ah, where is thy God?' Her priests and prophets have groaned in chains and fetters within the gloomy walls of prisons, while many were slain, and now sleep in the arms of death. How long, O Lord, shall iniquity triumph, and sin go unpunished?

"Do thou arise in the majesty of thy strength and make bare thine arm in behalf of thy people. Redress their wrongs, and turn their sorrow into joy. Pour the spirit of light and knowledge, grace and wisdom, into the hearts of her prophets, and clothe her priests with salvation. Let light and knowledge march forth through the empire of darkness, and may the honest in heart flow to their standard, and join in the march to go forth to meet the Bridegroom.

“Let a peculiar blessing rest upon the Presidency of thy church, for at them are the arrows of the enemy directed. Be thou to them a sun and a shield their strong tower and hiding place; and in the time of distress or danger be thou near to deliver. Also the Quorum of the Twelve, do thou be pleased to stand by, for thou knowest the obstacles which we have to encounter, the temptations to which we are exposed, and the privations which we must suffer. Give us, therefore, strength according to our day, and help us to bear a faithful testimony of Jesus and his gospel, and to finish with fidelity and honor the work which thou hast given us to do, and then give us a place in thy glorious kingdom. And let this blessing rest upon every faithful officer and member in thy church. And all the glory and honor will we ascribe unto God and the Lamb forever and ever. Amen.”

Notes Page:

Notes Page: