

Why The Book of Mormon is the New Covenant Part 3 – Is Not This Joseph’s Son?

Prepared by
Elder Dwight Burford
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The Lord Shall Set His Hand Again the Second Time

Continuing on from the previous post in this series ([Part 2](#)), we read in the 11th chapter of Isaiah that the Lord promised to set His hand a second time to recover a remnant of His covenant people, 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](#))

The first time the Lord set His hand to recover His people was when He lead them out of bondage in Egypt *with a strong hand* under the leadership of Moses to bring them into the land promised to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (see [Exodus 6](#)).

*And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for **by strength of hand the Lord brought you out** from this place; there shall no leavened bread be eaten.*

This day came ye out in the month Abib.

And it shall be when the Lord shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee, a land flowing with milk and honey, that thou shalt keep this service in this month.

Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the Lord.

Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters.

And thou shalt show thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the Lord did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt.

*And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the Lord's law may be in thy mouth; **for with a strong hand hath the Lord brought thee out of Egypt.***

(Exodus 13:3-9)

Now, this *second time*, the Lord promised to once more set His hand to again bring His covenant people back into this same land, the land promised to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. As a result of this action that will be taken by God, the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel will no longer be in conflict one with the other: *Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.*¹

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 37:19-22)

Note how it is written here that these two nations will not only be at peace with each other as a result of God setting His hand a second time. Ephraim and Judah will become an undivided house and will be established in their own land as one nation.

The Lord Made Not This Covenant (at Horeb) with Our Fathers

When the Lord brought the children of Israel out of Egypt by the *right hand* of Moses, He made a covenant with them in Mount Horeb to prepare them to occupy the land under His lordship (see [Exodus 6](#)). This was not a covenant which He had previously made with their

¹ Note: Ephraim refers to the house of Israel or the northern kingdom; Judah refers to the house of Judah or the southern kingdom. Together, they are the whole house of Israel.

fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But it was a covenant He made specifically with them, that is, with those *who*, in the words of Moses, “*are all of us here alive this day*” (see [Exodus 20:1-26](#) with [II Chronicles 5:7-10](#) & [Jeremiah 34:13,14](#))

And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep and do them.

The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.

The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day.

([Deuteronomy 5:1-3](#))

And the Lord Shall Scatter You Among the Nations

Notwithstanding the promises which God had made to their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying they would **inherit the land forever**, the children of Israel **were warned** in the covenant made at Horeb that if they broke the covenant which God had made with them at Horeb, they would be removed from the land and be *scattered* among the nations with *few left whither the Lord shall lead you*.

Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the Lord thy God hath forbidden thee.

For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.

When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and ye shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt yourselves, and make a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, and shall do evil in the sight of the Lord thy God, to provoke him to anger; I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed.

And the Lord shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the Lord shall lead you.

([Deuteronomy 4:23-27](#))

For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands.

([Deuteronomy 31:29](#))

The people did indeed go on to break the covenant which the Lord had made with them at

Horeb in that generation ([Deuteronomy 5:1-3](#)).

*Then the Lord said unto me, Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, **Hear ye the words of this covenant, and do them. For I earnestly protested unto your fathers in the day that I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even unto this day, rising early and protesting, saying, Obey my voice.***

Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked everyone in the imagination of their evil heart; therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do; but they did them not.

And the Lord said unto me, A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah, and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

*They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them; **the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers.***

Therefore thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.

[\(Jeremiah 11:6-11\)](#)

In consequence of their transgression, the children of Israel were scattered among the nations and, according to the blessings and cursings of the covenant (e.g. [Deuteronomy 28](#)), *few in number were left among the heathen, whither the Lord did lead them* (see [Deuteronomy 4](#) with [Deuteronomy 29](#)). Nevertheless, when the foretold calamity came upon them as a result of their transgression, holy men were raised up among them who recognized their sin and confessed accordingly, seeking earnestly for the repair of the breach between them and God, and thus for the restoration of the house of Israel to their God.

Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee; both I and my father's house have sinned.

We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.

Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations;

But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

[\(Nehemiah 1:6-9\)](#)

*And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;
We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments;
Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.
O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.*

(Daniel 9:4-7)

He that Scattered Israel Will Gather Him

Notwithstanding their failure to keep the covenant made at Horeb, the Lord promised to recover them in due time to Himself and to bring them back into the land given them. Through His prophets, like Jeremiah and Ezekiel, the Lord told His people that He would regather them from their scattered condition as a shepherd gathers a flock of sheep.

*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)

Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.

For the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he.

(Jeremiah 31:10,11)

For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be; there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord God.

I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.

(Ezekiel 34:11-16)

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the ploughman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.

And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.

And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.

(Amos 9:13-15)

A New Covenant with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah

In the latter days and after much tribulation will a remnant of the Lord's covenant people be brought back into the land promised to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

*When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, **even in the latter days**, if thou turn to the Lord thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the Lord thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget **the covenant of thy fathers**, which he sware unto them.*

(Deuteronomy 4:30,31)

Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he shall make in the earth in the latter days.

He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire, and saith unto the nations, Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

The Lord of hosts shall be with us, the God of Jacob our refuge. Selah.

(Psalm 46:8-11)

*For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim; **Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days.***

(Hosea 3:4,5)

For this latter day gathering of a remnant of His people, the Lord testified He would make a *new covenant* with them. This latter gathering was not to take place under or according to the old covenant which He made with their fathers at Horeb (Deuteronomy 5).

*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)

As prophesied, this *new covenant* would be a fulfillment of *the everlasting covenant* the Lord made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob many generations before He made the covenant with their children at Horeb ([Genesis 15](#) & [Acts 7](#)).

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.

(Psalm 105:1-11)

The Manna of the New Covenant

As it was in the days of their first exodus from bondage and their entry into the land promised to their fathers, so it will be with the children of Israel in these latter times. They will again be fed with manna from heaven when leaving the nations into which they were scattered so that they might again enter into this same land, but now under *the new covenant* spoken of by the prophets. Because it is a new covenant, they will not be fed with the same manna by which they were fed under the covenant made at Horeb. Nevertheless, that former covenant manna served a very important purpose. It pointed them to the manna of the new covenant. Just as the offering of gifts and sacrifices under the law of Moses was a *shadow* of heavenly things, so also was the old manna a *shadow* of, and patterned after, the heavenly manna by which the children of Israel are to be fed in these latter days under the new covenant.

...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.**

(Hebrews 8:4b,5)

For the law having **a shadow of good things to come**, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices, which they offered continually year by year make the comers thereunto perfect.

(Hebrews 10:1)

The manna they were served under the old covenant was a lesson of the *law* or *schoolmaster* as described by Paul, *the Apostle to the Gentiles*, a *minister of the new testament* (covenant).

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster until Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

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 3:24-29)

Briefly comprehended, in that former day, the Lord fed His people with a physical manna from heaven to point them to the spiritual manna that was to come under *the new covenant*. Moreover, it was given to them to *prove* them, according to the word of Moses, **to do thee good at thy latter end.**²

*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)

² The Lord again intends to prove His people in these latter days (in preparation for the latter rain) by the manna He has rained down upon us according to the New Covenant. See D&C 95:3a-3f with D&C 83:7a-8c.

Thus, we understand that the manna of the old covenant was a representation or shadow of the word of God and the need to live by every word of God. And because the old covenant points us to the new, we can understand that the manna of the new covenant is the very word of God, which is *the bread of life*. The old covenant pointed the children of Israel toward living by *every word* of God that proceeds out of His mouth. Now, under the new covenant, the children of Israel will actually live under the new covenant such that God's living and abiding Word will reside within them by faith.

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 8:7-13)

Jesus is this word. He is every word of God for us. He is the word made flesh who dwelt among us:

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)

With this understanding, now consider anew these words penned by Paul:

*For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, **to be strengthened with
might by his Spirit in the inner man;**
That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in
love,
May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and
height;
And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, **that ye might be filled with all
the fullness of God.**
Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that worketh in us,
Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.
Amen.*

(Ephesians 3:14-21)

This is the word of faith that is to be in the mouths of God's people, even the Word of Life who dwelt among us and is to abide in us.

*But what saith it? **The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart; that is,
the word of faith,** which we preach;
That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus [the incarnate Word of God],**
and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be
saved.
**For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth
confession is made unto salvation.**
For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.
For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek; for the same Lord over all is rich
unto all that call upon him.*

(Romans 10:8-12)

This is why the Lord testifies:

*If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide
with you forever;
Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither
knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.

(John 14:15-18)

Why?

*Now the Lord is that Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into
the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

(II Corinthians 3:17,18)

In words penned by James, as the word of God, the manna of the new covenant is to be engrafted into *the twelve tribes of Israel which are scattered abroad*. His Word, Jesus Christ, is every good and perfect gift that comes to us from above.

*James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, **to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad**, greeting.*

...

Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

*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 1:1,16-22)

Do you recall the parable of the sower?

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 8:11-18)

It is by this very Seed, the Word of God that we are born again.

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.

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away;

But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

(I Peter 1:22-25)

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.*

(Galatians 3:16,17)

This heavenly manna and the way in which it was presented to the children of Israel pointed them to God's living Word of God, Jesus Christ, – not as a parable, but as an eternal truth – who is in very fact *the bread of heaven*. It pointed them to the Shepherd who would feed them.

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)

To summarize to this point, 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 promised the children of Israel to bring them back into the lands of their inheritance by the hand of *the great Shepherd of the sheep*, Jesus Christ.

*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)

Now, under the *new covenant*, they are to feed on the spiritual manna of God's 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.

*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)

O Ye Dry Bones, Hear the Word of the Lord

This spiritual manna which the Lord has prepared for the house of Israel in the latter days was laid up in store – in the written word – 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. They will 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* to bring the whole house of Israel to life. They will be one in the Lord's hand so that He might set 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.

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, prophesy, 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)

My Father Giveth You the True Bread from Heaven

During this, 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 beginning to feed them with this living manna, the *Word of Life*. In His own words, Jesus Christ is this *bread of life*, the *true bread of heaven*. We know His words are His *flesh and blood*, for did He not say, “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)

And the Same Word was Made Flesh and Dwelt Among Us

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; for this new manna is like the manna of old in that it is something *that they knew not* (Deuteronomy 8:3,16). By this means, 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)

The Words That I Speak Unto You, They are Spirit, and They are Life

Please note, it is of the utmost importance to remember, when speaking about eating His flesh and drinking His blood, that 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.

(John 6:63)

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)

This is why it is also written:

Therefore I give unto you a commandment, to teach these things freely unto your children, saying, that by reason of transgression cometh the fall, which fall bringeth death; and inasmuch as ye were born into the world by water and blood, and the spirit, which I have made, and so become of dust a living soul;

*Even so ye must be born again, into the kingdom of heaven, of water, and of the Spirit, **and be cleansed by blood, even the blood of mine Only Begotten; that ye may be sanctified from all sin; and enjoy the words of eternal life in this world, and eternal life in the world to come; even immortal glory.***

(Genesis 6:61,62)

For this purpose the Lord has sent His words into the world by way of the Book of Mormon. It is 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)

How Great the Importance to Make These Things Known

In specific terms, the Book of Mormon was brought forth so a remnant of the house of Israel might come to know the Lord their Redeemer and the very points of His doctrine so they might know how to come unto Him and be saved.

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.

And he meaneth that it will not come to pass until after that they are scattered by the Gentiles;

And he meaneth that it shall come by way of the Gentiles, that the Lord may show His power unto the Gentiles for the very cause that He shall be rejected of the Jews, or of the house of Israel.

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.*

(I Nephi 4:16-29)

Relying Alone Upon the Merits of Christ

By bringing this revelation to light for them, the Lord will teach the house of Israel to rely solely upon the *merits* of Jesus Christ as the Word of God – to live by His every word – and in so believing and trusting in His Word, they will come to hear His voice and be gathered together into His one true fold, the body of Christ in whom His law is written upon their hearts.

Wherefore, redemption cometh in and through the Holy Messiah, For He is full of grace

and truth;

Behold, He offereth Himself a sacrifice for sin to answer the ends of the law unto all those which have a broken heart and a contrite spirit, And unto none else can the ends of the law be answered.

Wherefore, how great the importance to make these things known unto the inhabitants of the earth, That they may know that there is no flesh that can dwell in the presence of God, save it be through the merits and mercy and grace of the Holy Messiah,

Which layeth down His life, according to the flesh, and taketh it again, by the power of the Spirit,

That He may bring to pass the resurrection of the dead, being the first that should rise.

Wherefore, He is the firstfruits unto God, inasmuch as He shall make intercession for all the children of men;

And they that believe in Him shall be saved.

(II Nephi 1:71-77)

And now my beloved brethren, after that ye have got into this strait and narrow path, I would ask if all is done.

*Behold, I say unto you, Nay; For ye have not come thus far save it were by the word of Christ, with unshaken faith in Him, **Relying wholly upon the merits of Him who is mighty to save.***

Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, Having a perfect brightness of hope and a love of God and of all men.

Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ and endure to the end, Behold, thus saith the Father, ye shall have eternal life.

And now behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way, And there is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God.

And now behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, And the only and true doctrine of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God without end. Amen.

(II Nephi 13:27-32)

And if ye believe on His name, ye will repent of all your sins, that thereby ye may have remission of them through His merits.

(Helaman 5:67)

And none were received unto baptism, save they took upon them the name of Christ, having a determination to serve Him unto the end.

And after that they had been received unto baptism and were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, they were numbered among the people of

*the church of Christ;
And their names were taken that they might be remembered and nourished by the good word of God to keep them in the right way – To keep them continually watchful unto prayer, relying alone upon the merits of Christ who was the author and the finisher of their faith.*

(Moroni 6:3-5)

Is Not This Joseph's Son

Jesus' coming into the world as the son of Joseph the carpenter serves as an important lesson to Israel and to all the world today. Those around Him supposed that Jesus was the son of Joseph, a descendant of David.

*Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also came unto John; and being baptized of him, and praying, the heaven was opened;
And the Holy Ghost descended, in bodily shape like a dove, upon him; and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son, in thee I am well pleased.
And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, having lived with his father, **being, as was supposed of the world, the son of Joseph**, who was from the loins of ... David...*

(Luke 3:28-30,38)

Even those whom He taught in the synagogue asked, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

*And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit, into Galilee.
And there went out a fame of him through all the region round about;
And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all who believed on his name.
And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and as his custom was he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.
And there was delivered unto him, the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and the recovering of sight to the blind; to set at liberty them that are bruised;
To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.
And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and he sat down.
And the eyes of all those who were in the synagogue, were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears.
And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. **And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?***

(Luke 4:13-21)

While Joseph the carpenter was to take care of Jesus while He grew to the age of His ministry, so likewise, Joseph Smith, Jr., was to care for this precious book until it was brought forth unto the world. Just as Joseph did not bring forth Jesus Christ as his son, neither did Joseph Smith, Jr., bring forth the Book of Mormon by his own intellect or understanding. Rather, the Book of Mormon was birthed by the gift and power of God. It emerged into the world, heralded by angels, to the unlearned and weak in terms of the world just as Jesus' birth was announced to the world.

Wherefore, it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, And also of the Lamanites.

Written to the Lamanites which are a remnant of the house of Israel, And also to Jew and Gentile.

Written by way of commandment, And also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation.

*Written and sealed up and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed, **To come forth by the gift and power of God, unto the interpretation thereof**; Sealed by the hand of Moroni and hid up unto the Lord, To come forth in due time by the way of Gentile, the interpretation thereof by the gift of God.*

(Title Page of the Book of Mormon)

This relationship between Joseph the carpenter and his son Jesus serves to point the house of Israel to the relationship between Joseph Smith, Jr., and the Book of Mormon. It points them to Jesus Christ and that He has come as the living manna, the word of God, to feed them and guide them back into their own land as one nation under the new covenant.

When Jesus taught that He is the bread of life which had come down from heaven, the people asked, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How then, they asked, could Jesus say He had come from heaven?"

*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?

(John 6:35-42)

Once again, the word of God has come down from heaven as living manna upon which they may feast and receive wisdom to live by. How will they know for sure this is true? How can they come to have confidence that their Messiah has indeed come as every word of God foreshadowed by the manna their fathers ate in the wilderness when led by Moses into the land?

He will Manifest Himself

In his abridgement of the book of Ether, Moroni testifies to 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)

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*. We can understand by these words 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. With the advent of the Book of Mormon, our Lord is in the process of revealing Himself as *the bread of life*, even as living *manna*, to those who read these records of Him and His dealings with this remnant.

It will be helpful to expound further on this mystery of God. 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, Insomuch 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 tribes 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)

The Book of Mormon, as a *record of the stick of Ephraim* (see [D&C 26:2a,2b](#) with [Ezekiel 37:15-22](#)), 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, a 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](#), a key difference should

be noted. 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 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 only through the Holy Ghost would He 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 ministrations 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)

Can Any Good Come Out of Nazareth?

Some have questioned the veracity of the Book of Mormon because of the place from which it reportedly came: out of the dust of the earth (where it had been stored for many years). Some claim it cannot be true because they say no archeological evidence exists, at least in their view or according to their knowledge. Much could be given in answer to these questions and has, but just consider for a moment a comparison of the time when Jesus called His disciples. He called Philip, who in turn found Nathanael and called him to come and see for himself. Nathanael asked, “*Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?*”

The day following, Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

Now Philip was at Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

*And Nathanael said unto him, **Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?** Philip*

said unto him, Come and see.
Jesus saw Nathanael coming unto him, and said of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!
Nathanael said unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answering said unto him, Before Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.
Nathanael answered and said unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.
Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? Thou shalt see greater things than these.
And he said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

(John 1:43-51)

Even good people, in which there is no guile, have asked, can anything good come out of the ground and from a farm boy? Remember that Jesus was first presented to the world it was in a manger in Bethlehem. Remember further the type of men and women whom He called to follow and serve Him. Can you see a parallel? Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Why should anyone expect Him to change the delivery of His words? Who will receive His report of Himself? Even if it is not many, the Lord promises to gather a remnant of the children of Abraham unto Himself by faith and in the land promised unto Abraham and his posterity after him.

He was Despised and Rejected of Men

Could the Word of God be *manifested* in the words of such a book as the Book of Mormon and yet be readily received in these latter days by the house of Israel? Recall how it is written in Isaiah's report that our Lord would come into world as the Lamb of God to redeem mankind, and yet He would be despised and rejected of men.

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?
For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground; he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.
He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord

*hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.
He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.
He was taken from prison and from judgment; and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people was he stricken.
And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.
Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief; when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.
He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied; by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.
Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

(Isaiah 53:1-12)

Would it be surprising, then, for God's Word to again be despised and rejected at the time the Lord sets His hand a second time to recover them into the promised land? The response of many of the house of Israel to manna the first time they were brought into the land foreshadows how many will respond to being fed by the spiritual manna of the new covenant.

*Now ye know that Moses was commanded of the Lord to do that great work;
And ye know that by his word the waters of the Red Sea were divided hither and thither and they passed through on dry ground.
But ye know that the Egyptians were drowned in the Red Sea, which were the armies of Pharaoh.
And ye also know that they were fed with manna in the wilderness.
Yea, and ye also know that Moses, by his word, according to the power of God which was in him, smote the rock and there came forth water that the children of Israel might quench their thirst.
And notwithstanding they being led – The Lord their God, their Redeemer, going before them, leading them by day, and giving light unto them by night, and doing all things for them which were expedient for man to receive – They hardened their hearts, and blinded their minds, and reviled against Moses, and against the true and living God.*

(1 Nephi 5:107-112)

Though some balked at the manna by which they were fed in the desert, yet a remnant was brought into the land. Similarly, when a remnant no longer turns aside from the word of the Lord in these latter days, but gladly receive His words, they will likewise be gathered to their covenant lands.

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.

And he meaneth that it will not come to pass until after that they are scattered by the Gentiles;

And he meaneth that it shall come by way of the Gentiles, that the Lord may show His power unto the Gentiles for the very cause that He shall be rejected of the Jews, or of the house of Israel.

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.*

(I Nephi 4:16-29)

By manifesting Himself through the records of a remnant of the house of Israel in these latter days, though He has been rejected and maligned of men, nevertheless, He will turn their hearts back again to their fathers according to His lovingkindness.

*For the things which some men esteem to be of great worth, both to the body and soul,
others set at naught and trample under their feet;
Yea, even the very God of Israel do men trample under their feet;
I say trample under their feet, but I would speak in other words –
They do set Him at naught and hearken not to the voice of His counsels.
And behold, He cometh, according to the words of the angel, in six hundred years from the
time my father left Jerusalem.
And the world, because of their iniquity, shall judge Him to be a thing of naught;
Wherefore, they scourge Him, and He suffereth it; And they smite Him, and He
suffereth it;
Yea, they spit upon Him, and He suffereth it – Because of His lovingkindness and His
longsuffering toward the children of men.
And the God of our fathers, which were led out of Egypt out of bondage, and also were
preserved in the wilderness by Him,
Yea, the God of Abraham and of Isaac and the God of Jacob yieldeth Himself, according to
the words of the angel, as a man into the hands of wicked men, To be lifted up, according
to the words of Zenoch,
And to be crucified, according to the words of Neum,
And to be buried in a sepulcher, according to the words of Zenos which he spake
concerning the three days of darkness,
Which should be a sign given of His death unto them who should inhabit the isles of the
sea,
More especially given unto them which are of the house of Israel.
For thus spake the prophet: The Lord God surely shall visit all the house of Israel eat that
day –
Some with His voice, because of their righteousness, unto their great joy and salvation,
And others with the thunderings and the lightnings of His power – by tempest, by fire, and
by smoke and vapor of darkness, and by the opening of the earth, and by mountains
which shall be carried up.
And all these things must surely come, saith the prophet Zenos;
And the rocks of the earth must rend;
And because of the groanings of the earth, many of the kings of the isles of the sea shall be
wrought upon by the Spirit of God to exclaim, The God of nature suffers!
And as for they which are at Jerusalem, saith the prophet, they shall be scourged by all
people, saith the prophet, because they crucified the God of Israel and turned their
hearts aside, rejecting signs and wonders and power and glory of the God of Israel.*

And because they have turned their hearts aside, saith the prophet, and have despised the Holy One of Israel, they shall wander in the flesh and perish, And become a hiss and a byword and be hated among all nations.

Nevertheless, when that day cometh, saith the prophet, that they no more turn aside their hearts against the Holy One of Israel, Then will He remember the covenants which He made to their fathers;

Yea, then will He remember the isles of the sea;

Yea, and all the people which are of the house of Israel will I gather in, saith the Lord, according to the words of the prophet Zenos, from the four quarters of the earth.

Yea, and all the earth shall see the salvation of the Lord, saith the prophet;

Every nation, kindred, tongue and people shall be blessed.

(I Nephi 5:232-257)

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

And now it came to pass that when Jesus had told these things, He expounded them unto the multitude, And He did expound all things unto them, both great and small;

And He saith: These scriptures which ye had not with you, the Father commanded that I should give unto you, For it was wisdom in Him that they should be given unto future generations.

(III Nephi 11:26-29)

This Condemnation Resteth Upon the Children of Zion, Even All

Consider how it is written that the *whole church* is under condemnation in latter days with regard to the *new covenant* and 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)

Even as Isaiah foretold, the Suffering Servant is yet rejected of men to their own ruin. Nevertheless, when they embrace the truth and look upward, then the heavens will shake with joy, and the everlasting covenant will come in fully upon the inhabitants of the earth. For the word of God is truth, and Jesus Christ is the Word of God. When will there be a remnant who will embrace Him and look unto Him for the wisdom which comes from above, which is first of all pure? Those who will embrace Him will be made pure and become the Lord's people, for as it is written, this is Zion, the pure in heart.

A Body Thou Hast Prepared for Me

Just as it was when Jesus atoned for our sins, so it is now. That is to say, the Word was given a body, specifically a book by which and through which He is manifesting Himself to the world. When speaking of coming into the world as a Lamb, our Lord, **through David**, said:

*Wherefore, when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but **a body hast thou prepared me;***

In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will, O God.

Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

*By which will we are sanctified through **the offering once of the body of Jesus Christ.***

(Hebrews 10:5-10)

This book was specially prepared by a remnant of the house of Joseph, who was carried captive into Egypt. When writing of these things, Lehi testified that his own son named Joseph was blest because his posterity would "hearken to the words of the book" that would be brought forth in these latter days. These prophecies are contained in Lehi's blessing upon the head of his son Joseph just prior to Lehi's death – see **II Nephi 2:1-50**.

There have been many commentaries and much speculation about this blessing. For the sake of addressing the subject of this post, only a few germane points will be made here.

- 1) No person can or should be held forth as a rival to Jesus as we see the day approaching of His coming. This includes the one prophesied to come of Joseph's

lineage through Lehi's son.

- 2) Jesus Christ, as the manifest word of God, was born of Joseph's lineage by way of the Book of Mormon.
- 3) The prophecy that our Lord would be marred in carrying out the restoration of the house of Israel has and is being fulfilled by the marring of His name and word through the marring and maligning of the Book of Mormon. Stated another way, Jesus Christ is the *marred* servant and that marring has come through the abuse and misuse the Book of Mormon has suffered: see [III Nephi 9:96,97](#) with [D&C 3:9a-9d](#).
- 4) Through the words of the Book of Mormon, which are spirit and truth, the Lord will convince many of the truth of the gospel and bring them to a knowledge of the covenants He has made with the house of Israel.
- 5) Its advent marks the beginning of the fulfillment of the new covenant.

These things are spoken of plainly in [III Nephi 9](#) where Jesus tells us plainly that He is the prophet Moses pointed us to and that we are not to look for another Messiah.

And it shall come to pass that I will establish My people, O house of Israel.

And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob, And it shall be a New Jerusalem.

And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people, Yea, even I will be in the midst of you.

Behold, I Am He of whom Moses spake, saying: A Prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren like unto me; Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever He shall say unto you.

And it shall come to pass that every soul which will not hear that Prophet, shall be cut off from among the people.

Verily I say unto you – Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have testified of Me –

And behold, ye are the children of the prophets; And ye are of the house of Israel; And ye are of the covenant which the Father made with your fathers, saying unto Abraham: And in thy Seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed –

The Father having raised Me up unto you first and sent Me to bless you in turning away every one of you from his iniquities, And this because ye are the children of the covenant. And after that ye were blessed, then fulfilleth the Father the covenant which He made with Abraham saying: In thy Seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed, Unto the pouring out of the Holy Ghost through Me upon the Gentiles, Which blessing upon the Gentiles shall make them mighty above all, Unto the scattering of My people, O house of Israel; And they shall be a scourge unto the people of this land.

Nevertheless, when they shall have received the fullness of My gospel, then if they shall harden their hearts against Me, I will return their iniquities upon their own heads,

saith the Father;
And I will remember the covenant which I have made with My people, And I have
covenanted with them that I would gather them together in Mine own due time,
That I would give unto them again the land of their fathers for their inheritance, Which is
the Land of Jerusalem, which is the Promised Land unto them forever, saith the Father.
And it shall come to pass that the time cometh when the fullness of My gospel be preached
unto them, And they shall believe in Me, that I Am Jesus Christ, the Son of God, And shall
pray unto the Father in My name.
Then shall their watchmen lift up their voice, And with the voice together shall they sing;
For they shall see eye to eye.
Then will the Father gather them together again, And give unto them Jerusalem for the
land of their inheritance.
Then shall they break forth into joy! Sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem! For the
Father hath comforted His people, He hath redeemed Jerusalem.
The Father hath made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of
the earth shall see the salvation of the Father; And the Father and I are one.
And then shall be brought to pass that which is written: Awake! awake again, and put on
thy strength, O Zion! Put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For
henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.
Shake thyself from the dust – arise! Sit down, O Jerusalem! Loose thyself from the bands of
thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion!
For thus saith the Lord: Ye have sold yourselves for naught; And ye shall be redeemed
without money.
Verily, verily I say unto you that My people shall know My name – Yea, in that day they
shall know that I Am He that doth speak.
And then shall they say, How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of Him that
bringeth good tidings unto them, That publisheth peace, That bringeth good tidings unto
them of good, That publisheth salvation, That saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!
And then shall a cry go forth, Depart ye! Depart ye! Go ye out from thence. Touch not that
which is unclean; Go ye out of the midst of her; Be ye clean that bear the vessels
of the Lord.
For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight; For the Lord will go before you, And the
God of Israel shall be your rearward.
Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently – He shall be exalted and extolled
and be very high.
As many were astonished at thee; His visage was so marred – more than any man,
And His form more than the sons of men;
So shall He sprinkle many nations. The kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For that
which had not been told them shall they see, And that which they had not heard shall
they consider.

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.

And when that day shall come, it shall come to pass that kings shall shut their mouths, For that which had not been told them, shall they see, And that which they had not heard, shall they consider;

For in that day, for My sake shall the Father work a work which shall be a great and a marvelous work among them; And there shall be among them which will not believe it, although a man shall declare it unto them.

But behold, the life of My servant shall be in My hand; Therefore, they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them,

Yet I will heal him, for I will show unto them that My wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil [NOTE: compare these words directly with D&C 3:9a-9d].

Therefore, it shall come to pass that whosoever will not believe in My words – which am Jesus Christ – Which the Father shall cause him to bring forth unto the Gentiles, And shall give unto him power that he shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles – it shall be done even as Moses said – They shall be cut off from among My people which are of the covenant.

And My people which are a remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles, Yea, in the midst of them, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, Who, if he go through, both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, And none can deliver.

Their hand shall be lifted up upon their adversaries, And all their enemies shall be cut off.

(III Nephi 9:57-100)

With these words we can see how the Messiah, as the Word of God, was also *born* of Joseph. We know He was born of Judah as found in the prophecies and records of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. The Messiah also then was born of the line of Joseph, Judah's brother, by the Word again being made flesh and dwelling among us. This time He has done so in the special form of a book, a record of a small, remnant branch of His covenant people. That is to say, the Lord prepared a *body* for the revelation of Himself to the world. Just as a body was prepared of Judah for the offering of sacrifice for our Lord, so likewise was a record kept and preserved by the line of Joseph so the spiritual words of Christ might be alive and vibrant to all His people. Briefly stated, the Book of Mormon was prepared by a remnant of the house of Israel for the Lord to manifest Himself to all His ancient covenant peoples.

Behold, I Am He that Gave the Law

According to the terms of the covenant the Lord made with the house of Israel at Mount Horeb, they were scattered for breaking the covenant. Moreover, they would be *left few in number among the heathen* wherever the Lord led them.

And the Lord shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the Lord shall lead you.

(Deuteronomy 4:27)

The Book of Mormon provides us with the history of **the ministry and prophecies** of one of these small groups of the house of Israel that the Lord led away. According to these **abridged** records, the Lord led them to the Americas where they grew in numbers and built many cities. Then, as also promised, the Lord Jesus Christ visited them **after His ascension**

into heaven, confirming to them that they were indeed a branch of the house of Joseph, which is of the house of Israel.

*And now it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words, He said unto those twelve whom He had chosen: Ye are My disciples and ye are a light unto **this people, which are a remnant of the house of Joseph;***

*And behold, this is the land of your inheritance and the Father hath given it unto you; And not at any time hath the Father given Me commandment that I should tell it unto your brethren at Jerusalem, Neither at any time hath the Father given Me commandment that I should tell unto them **concerning the other tribes of the house of Israel which the Father hath led away out of the land.***

This much did the Father command Me that I should tell unto them – That 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.

(III Nephi 7:13-16)

In testifying of His covenants with them, Jesus Christ told this remnant of His covenant people that He was the one who actually gave the law in the day Moses led them out of Egypt. Moreover, our Lord testified that the law was fulfilled in Him in His work of atoning for our sins on the cross.

And it came to pass that when Jesus had said these words, He perceived that there were some among them which marveled and wondered what He would concerning the law of Moses, For they understood not the saying that old things had passed away and that all things had become new;

And He saith unto them: Marvel not that I said unto you that old things had passed away and that all things had become new –

Behold, I say unto you that the law is fulfilled that was given unto Moses;

Behold, I Am He that gave the law, And I Am He which covenanted with My people Israel; Therefore, the law in Me is fulfilled, For I have come to fulfill the law, Therefore, it hath an end.

Behold, I do not destroy the prophets, For as many as have not been fulfilled in Me, verily I say unto you, shall all be fulfilled;

And because I said unto you that old things hath passed away, I do not destroy that which hath been spoken concerning things which are to come;

For behold, the covenants which I have made with My people is not all fulfilled, But the law which was given unto Moses hath an end in Me.

Behold, I Am the law and the light; Look unto Me and endure to the end and ye shall live, For unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life.

Behold, I have given unto you the commandments, Therefore, keep My commandments –

And this is the law and the prophets, for they truly testify of Me.

(III Nephi 7:3-12)

In other words, Jesus is the law that is to be written in the hearts of the house of Ephraim and the house of Judah as the prophets prophesied.

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)

This is how they will all know Him.

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.

...

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 10:13-15,27-30)

Doth This Offend You?

To conclude, consider Jesus' question to His disciples, "Doth this offend you also?"

When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

*What and if ye shall see the Son of Man ascend up where he was before?
It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you,
they are spirit, and they are life.
But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they
were that believed not, and who should betray him.
And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except he doeth the
will of my Father who hath sent me.
From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.
Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?
Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of
eternal life.
And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.*

(John 6:61-69)

Remember the people who sought to make Him their king because He fed them loaves and fishes by multiplying a small basket presented by a boy. Remember also how He told the people that unless they ate His flesh and blood there was no life in them (ref. also [Deuteronomy 8:3,16](#)). Finally recall how many people were offended by the manner of His speech and, therefore, left off following Him. They did not all leave Him, however. In the words of Peter, to whom would they go? Jesus has the words of life. You can find these same words within the pages of the Book of Mormon, even if you are tempted to be offended by the manner of their coming forth and presentation. Nevertheless, call upon the Lord in humility and He promises to manifest Himself unto you by His Spirit, but only if you will ask in sincerity of heart that you might enter into the new covenant. For He is the sole mediator of this precious covenant. He loves you, even to the laying down of His life for you that He might gather you back unto Himself so you might be His people, the sheep of His pasture, and that He might be your God.

*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.***

(John 6:43-48)