

BOM_012_1_Nephi_12

On page 662 in your Bible dictionary it talks about election. If you go down to the bottom of page 662, 3 lines up from the bottom it says this: *an election of grace spoken of in D&C 84:98 - 102 and Romans 11:1-5*, this part right here you want to pay attention to, *has reference to one's situation in mortality*. And I want to remember that as we discussed some things today. *That is being born at a time; at a place; and in circumstances where one will come into*, this part right here, *favorable contact with the gospel. This election took place in the pre-mortal existence. Who you were; where you were; what you did; and what you accomplished before you came here gives you an advantage in this world*. That advantage according to the Bible dictionary says, *favorable contact with the gospel*. Truly, those who receive, embrace the gospel in this world are favored of the Lord. And the reason for that favorability has to do with what you did before you came here. This is the meaning of the doctrine of election. We understand that when we say that what we do here in this world will determine an advantage that we have in the world to come. That's in section 130 in the doctrine and covenants. Just back it up one estate go in your pre-mortal estate and what you did there either brings you into this world with an advantage or disadvantage either in favor or in unfavorable conditions. And so it is in the world to come. Now this helps tell you who you really are. When you come into this world the person that you really are that spiritual man or woman is covered with a veil and you forget everything about your previous life, conditions, circumstances and powers.

The point is, brothers and sisters, you are vastly advanced spiritual beings, sons and daughters of heavenly parents, eternal beings of infinite worth. That part of you is your God kind that is spiritual. Remembering the previous podcast we talk that there's a part of you that is God kind and there's a part of you that is mankind. The mankind part is referred to in the Scriptures as the natural man. It is the fallen nature of the Telestial world. It is Satan's nature. It is all of the D's of this estate – depression, discouragement, disillusionment, disorder, death, disease. All of the D's of the Telestial world. They are imprinted upon us through decades of living here and also some of it is passed on to us through our genetic makeup from our ancestry. This fallen nature determines much of what we see, think, feel, hear and do while in this world. It is this nature that the Lord refers to when he says no unclean thing can dwell in my presence. All that you try to do of your own will and power in this world without divine help to reverse this fallen nature and change it is ultimately empty and futile; cannot be changed by anything that you do in and of yourself. Part of your progression in this world is to come to that realization. It is the school of hard knocks. It is the difficult things that we experience. It is this adversity after adversity. It is the tests and trials of this life that hopefully bring us to a point where finally you say, *I can do this by myself*. Heaven rejoices when father, sons and daughters come to this point in their Telestial mortal experience. But even coming to this point is only halfway there. When you come to the point of saying, *I can't do this by myself*, the next part that seals heavens help and begins to immediately transform you is when you say, *help me father – please help me*. It is at this point where the Scripture and Alma 34 verse 31 comes into play,

Alma 34:

31 Yea, I would that ye would come forth and harden not your hearts any longer; for behold, now is the time and the day of your salvation; and therefore, if ye will repent and harden not your hearts, (look at this next word) immediately shall the great plan of redemption be brought about unto you.

The repentance and the broken heart is when you come to the point where you say, *I can't do this by myself, dear Lord, please help me.* Immediately at that point the great plan of redemption will be brought into play into your life. The Lord will then lead you step-by-step individually and specifically to a place where you can begin the process of having your fallen nature removed and not just remote but more importantly replaced with the divine nature of our heavenly parents in the Lord Jesus Christ; light, love and truth in their perfected fullness. All of this can and is desirable that it should happen in this life while you're still in the mortal world. Why? Because there are great advantages not only to you in this condition but also in your ministering to your brothers and sisters who are struggling with the natural man fallen nature. You then can point them in the direction so that they also can come up and receive the fullness of the gift of the Lord's atonement in this world and that is to have the divine nature of our heavenly parents in the Lord Jesus Christ infused in us through his atonement the great gift of being alive in Christ. Now as we talked about spending sacred time with the Lord Jesus Christ, we talked about learning to be still and then recognizing the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ and other heavenly messengers as they commune with you. Look at the word commune; means to come into unity with you – communion, commune with you. One of the hurdles to overcome in this process is to recognize their voices. We talked in an earlier podcast and invited you to realize that after you have spoken with them and now are waiting for response the first words, thoughts, impressions sentences that come into your mind is them. This is a great key to learn how to commune with the heavenly realm. Trust that it is them. Have faith that it is them. There is a reason why it sounds like your voice. They are communicating with you from the heavenly realm while you were in the fallen world. You have attached to you and ingrained in you patterns of the culture of the Telesstial world. As we mentioned earlier some of these patterns come from decades of your own living here, but there's also much of it that is inherited that comes down to you from your ancestry in genetic patterns. When they speak to you through these filters of the fallen flash and the carnal world your mind interprets their impressions as being your own words. This is as it should be at the beginning of putting off the natural man. **(10:00)** After a while as this culture begins to be put off and slip away those messages will sound less and less like you and your own words and more and more like someone else who's speaking to you. Just trust that this is the process. Your fallen nature acts as a filter to these impressions and they are interpreted through your mind as being your own thoughts and words. Press forward, trust in the Lord and eventually you will see that these are inspirations, impressions and revelations coming from your father and the Lord Jesus Christ and other heavenly beings who have an eternal interest in your welfare. This is a great missing piece; a great key to learning how to communicate with the Savior and

with other angelic ministers. Can I share with you something else that was taught to me by one of my mentor friends? We have within us all kinds of unbeliefs and lies that we have accepted and embraced as truths. As you progress along your path seeking to become more familiar with the voice of the Lord; seeking to have their nature replace your fallen nature; the Lord will identify these lies and false beliefs that are in you and that have been placed in error or that you have inherited through generations of the traditions of the fathers and the false precepts of men. Once you identify these I want to share with you all way working with the Lord how you can loose these false traditions; give them to the Lord and have them replaced by godly truth. I talked to a man this morning who told me that he's always angry. And he talked about how this anger is affecting everything he does and it frustrates him because he doesn't seem to be able to get rid of this anger that seems to be a part of his very being. As we talked about this I helped him realize that this anger is not who he really is. His godly spirit is not anger. And anger is not an attribute of the God kind that is inside you. Anger is a part of the fallen nature of the Telestial world, therefore, it is a deception, a lie and unbelief – for you to say, *I am an angry man. I am always angry. I have always had anger issues.* This is a lie. This is an unbelief that you need to identify and realize that it's a part of the nature and culture of this world. If anger is an attribute of anyone it would be an attribute of Lucifer and those who follow him, but it is definitely not an attribute of a son or a daughter of the most high. Once you come to that point where you've identified this false belief; this embraced a lie; what you do with it then? Well there are all kinds of psychological programs and therapies that you can enter into to help you, but I'd like to present something to you where you go and work in direct companionship, direct concert with the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the great physician and anything that follows us and dogs us in this world can only be permanently removed by him. But then as in other areas it's important that once this negative; this lie; this unbelief is identified and removed through a process working with the Lord Jesus Christ; it's also important that something is replaced in its stead. Where there was darkness and lies and deception and unbelief; we now need to replace those with light and truth and love, faith and complete trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me walk you through a way that I was shown by this mentor friend of mine which is been a great blessing to Margie and I. In a quiet place where there's no phone calls and no interruptions, enter into a prayerful attitude with the Lord Jesus Christ and have him help you identify the unbelief, the lie that is plaguing you and causing disruption and disorder in your life – identify that. Once you've identified that in the case of my friend, *I am an angry man*, that is a false belief, an unbelief and a lie. Put your right hand over your heart; close your eyes and asked the Lord Jesus Christ to remove that unbelief from your heart and place it in your palm; reach forth with your palm upwards with this unbelief in your palm in your hand and give it to the Lord Jesus Christ. Say in your mind whatever the spirit puts there as you go through this process of removing with him. And I want to emphasizes has to be done with him. This is not some Scientology project. This is not some metaphysical approach to removing anger issues. This is accessing the Lord of light, reaching into your heart with his help, identify this pull it out place it in your palm, stretcher hand out and up, visualize him standing there and you hold this out to him

he takes his hands and you put this lie, this darkness, this disturbance, this annoyance, this impediment and stumbling block, this portion of your fallen nature put it into his hand and let him take it from you and dispose of it. Then with your hand still stretched out turn with your palm up and ask him, *O Lord bless me with an attribute of light, love and truth to replace this negative that thou hast taken from me.* In the case of my friend with the anger it may be something like gentleness, meekness, kindness and love. Whatever the Spirit directs. You're working with the Lord here. This is not you alone. You can't do this alone. You are working with him. Take what he inspires. Receive it from him. He places it in your hand. Bring your hand back down place it over your heart and tap your heart 3. Times take a deep breath and exhale and seal this godlike attribute into your heart to replace the dark lie, the disturbance and the annoyance that was there. Thank the Lord for his mercy; praise him for his grace; expressed gratitude for his atonement that makes such things possible. Margie and I have done this and continue to do this. A good time for me to do this is at the end of the day in that hour just before I go to bed where I settle the day with the Lord. This is where I go through my day and anything that I have done that I wished I could have done differently I take that before the Lord and if I can identify because of an event of the day and unbelief or a lie that was hidden inside me I use this process to give this to the Lord have him take it from me and then received from him that attribute that will fill that space and seal it into me. For me, brothers and sisters, this is been a marvelous and a beautiful exercise of working in concert with the great physician the Lord of light and truth. O how this has blessed my life and how it has bless the lives of my family. I give this to you to consider. Take to the Lord as in all things. Find out if there is merit in truth to it. And if you feel impressed, try it and see if it blesses your life.

First Nephi chapter 12. **(20:00)** Before we begin our discussion on first Nephi chapter 12 I would like to ask you to help me in this ministry if you were inclined. You know that we are working to have these podcast lessons on the Book of Mormon translated into Spanish and Portuguese. I would like to invite all who have served missions in Spanish-speaking or Portuguese speaking countries. If you can refer these podcast lessons to those men and women that you worked with in the mission field and put them in touch with the Spanish translation of the Book of Mormon lessons. And as were working on and will soon have the first lessons in Portuguese, give that some thought and if Lord inspires you to do something with that. He will prepare the way for you to accomplish whatever he inspires in your mind and your heart.

First Nephi chapter 12 is a continuation of the vision that Nephi sees that began in chapter 11. It is Nephi's experience with his father's vision seeing the tree of life. I find it interesting that Nephi was receiving much much more than he asked for or that I'm sure he even thought would come in answer to his prayer. This is a true principle. If you're given something by the Lord in answer to your prayer, it is always wise as Elder Richard G. Scott Thomas in the general conference. That once you've receive that portion of what you've requested to stop and ask the Lord, *Lord is there more that you would have me know?* I bet that Nephi asked those questions and I'll bet he kept asking those questions, *Lord is there more;* up until the vision ends and the

Lord says, *yes, there's more but it's not for you to write*. And we will see that. And I think that Nephi was probably experiencing this. He would receive one portion and then he asked, *Lord is there more?* And the Lord would give him more. I found out personally that that is a true pattern of the way the Lord reveals things to his children. Sometimes we ask for one thing and when receive an answer that we just say thank you Lord and go skipping along merrily along our way and we miss out on so much that could have been given. It is also the pattern in 3 Nephi that when Lord appears in the 11th chapter he gave them a lot of information on that first day, but couldn't get them anymore because their minds were not ready to receive it. So in the first part of the next chapter he says, *go to your homes ponder upon the things that I've given you and come tomorrow prepared to receive more*. It was possible that he could spend the whole night. He could have changed their bodies altered time so that what came in 3 separate days with him coming and going. I believe could have been a continual flow of information. I also believe that they could've received much more than they did. I'm grateful for what they did receive. But the pattern is that we shut things off once we've received our expectations and thereby lose what could have been received if we simply asked, *Lord is there more?* Chapter 12 verse one, the angel who was his guide giving him the vision says

1 Nephi 12:

1 And it came to pass that the angel said unto me: Look, and behold thy seed, and also the seed of thy brethren. And I looked and beheld the land of promise; and I beheld multitudes of people, yea, even as it were in number as many as the sand of the sea.

What must have that of been like to look at little colony that he's part of which number probably less than 50 and see from that little colony of vision where his posterity would fill the land of promise and be as numberless as the sands of the sea. Remember the Abrahamic promise that one of the elements of the Abraham a promise is posterity. And Lehi and his colony now are seeing the realization of the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The promises of land; the promises of posterity; and the promises of the gospel and priesthood. Verse 2,

2 And it came to pass that I beheld multitudes gathered together to battle, one against the other; and I beheld wars, and rumors of wars, and great slaughters with the sword among my people.

Now this is not was coming with the Gentiles. This is intertribal conflict and warfare between Lamanites and Nephites. Verse 3,

3 And it came to pass that I beheld many generations pass away, after the manner of wars and contentions in the land; and I beheld many cities, yea, even that I did not number them.

You can get a feel for these wars and contentions as you read the Alma chapters; what we referred to as the war chapters. Verse 4,

4 And it came to pass that I saw a mist (notice it's singular) of darkness on the face of the land of promise; and I saw lightnings, and I heard thunderings, and earthquakes, and all manner of tumultuous noises; and I saw the earth and the rocks, that they rent; and I saw mountains tumbling into pieces; and I saw the plains of the earth, that they were broken up; and I saw many cities that they were sunk; and I saw many that they were burned with fire; and I saw many that did tumble to the earth, because of the quaking thereof.

Now this is a vision that in reality takes place over in 3rd Nephi chapter 8. That great destruction that took place in the Americas at the time of the Lord's death. It is also a template for the destruction that will take place yet in our future as the Lord cleanses the earth, transitions her from Telestial, lost and fallen state; to Terrestrial, Zion and redeemed state. These are the birth pains that Jesus spoke of when he said, *these things would come upon that generation as a woman in travail*. We can expect that these kinds of things mentioned in verse 4 will increase. The birth pains; the labor pains will increase significantly up and until the birth of the Zion child actually takes place.

5 And it came to pass after I saw these things, I saw the vapor of darkness, that it passed from off the face of the earth; ...

That's the 3 days and 3 nights of darkness you can read about in 3 Nephi where things were so dark and they could not kindle a fire even with their fine kindling

... and behold, I saw multitudes who had not fallen because of the great and terrible judgments of the Lord.

6 And I saw the heavens open, and the Lamb of God descending out of heaven; and he came down and showed himself unto them.

7 And I also saw and bear record that the Holy Ghost fell upon twelve others; and they were ordained of God, and chosen.

8 And the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold the twelve disciples of the Lamb, who are chosen to minister unto thy seed.

So in 8 verses that we have here in chapter 12, Nephi sees a vision that covers almost 600 years. I know there are many of you who are listening to this podcast have seen visions of what's coming; have seen visions of the end of the earth; have seen visions of the establishment and coming forth of Zion and of the 2nd coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. I know some of you seen visions of the millennial world. I know one man who seen a vision of his home that he has in the millennial world where he and his family reside. Truly we are living in a day where the sons and daughters of God the eternal Father becoming blessed with dreams and visions and manifestations. Holy angels are coming down among the children of men in our day as they have never done before. Translated beings from the city of Enoch are ministering to us in this world preparing those of Zion in the Telestial world to meet those of the Zion in the terrestrial world when the Zion from above comes down and meets the Zion from below and we fall upon each

other's necks and kiss one another. This is the day that we're in. What a huge blessing it is, brothers and sisters, for us to be living in this time. And 2019 is looking to be epic as we see the hand of the Lord working among the nations and preparing the world for transition into a terrestrial level. Praise their names. Let us show gratitude and adoration and praise to them all the day long. O Lord help us to be filled with gratitude; to thee Holy Father and to our beloved mother in heaven and to the Lord Jesus Christ and all the heavenly hosts who are working with us to prepare for this great day. Verse 9,

9 And he said unto me: Thou rememberest the twelve apostles of the Lamb? (This is the 12 who were with Jesus in his ministry in Israel) Behold they are they who shall judge the twelve tribes of Israel; wherefore, the twelve ministers of thy seed (those who were chosen by Jesus when he appeared in the land Bountiful) shall be judged of them; (them the 12 apostles of Jesus's ministry) for ye are of the house of Israel.

This is an organized system of judging. Verse 10,

10 And these twelve ministers whom thou beholdest shall judge thy seed. And, behold, they are righteous forever; for because of their faith in the Lamb of God their garments are made white in his blood.

I want you notice the word *made white*; not become white or are white. They are *made white* in his blood. Let's go over to Alma 13 verse 12 for just a moment. Verse 12 says speaking of those who are sanctified in the holy order of the priesthood,

Alma 13:

12 Now they, after being sanctified by the Holy Ghost, having their garments (here we go) made white, being pure and spotless before God, could not look upon sin save it were with abhorrence; and there were many, exceedingly great many, who were (here we go) made pure and entered into the rest of the Lord their God.

There are so many verses in all of the Scriptures; there are many references throughout all of the Scriptures that talk about this phenomenon of being *made pure* or *made white*. It's seems to indicate that is not something that you can accomplish in and of yourself. That we do what we can so that we can gain experience, knowledge, understanding and wisdom through our efforts, but ultimately purity being made white, being sanctified, be redeemed all of these things that we desire to accomplish cannot be done in any way by ourselves. This is illustrated further in the 15th chapter of the Gospel of John. If you look at verses one through 5 you get a feeling of our total dependency upon the Lord Jesus Christ to achieve and become or even be made into something and bring forth fruit. It is the parable of the vine. Verse 5, I am going to skip down. You should read the whole thing.

John 15:

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit (this part here): for without me ye can do nothing.

I tell you, brothers and sisters, that is absolute truth. Without the Lord Jesus Christ we can achieve nothing. Back verse Nephi 12 verse 11,

1 Nephi 12:

*11 And the angel said unto me: Look! And I looked, and beheld three generations pass away in righteousness; and their garments were white even like unto the Lamb of God. And the angel said unto me: These are (Here we go again) **made white** in the blood of the Lamb, because of their faith in him.*

This is a great paradox. In this world one of the worst stains that you can receive in your clothing or in anything else is a bloodstain. It takes a lot of effort to remove a bloodstain. And yet paradoxically it is the very blood that causes our garments to be spotless and sustained free. Only the Savior's blood can make us pure white and holy. Verse 12,

12 And I, Nephi, also saw many of the fourth generation who passed away in righteousness.

Now in the Book of Mormon history you are in 4th Nephi, verse 13,

13 And it came to pass that I saw the multitudes of the earth gathered together.

14 And the angel said unto me: Behold thy seed, and also the seed of thy brethren.

15 And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the people of my seed gathered together in multitudes against the seed of my brethren; and they were gathered together to battle.

This is the final genocidal conflict of Camorra at the end of the Book of Mormon. Verse 16,

16 And the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold the fountain of filthy water which thy father saw; yea, even the river of which he spake; and the depths thereof are the depths of hell.

Remember good definition of hell is to find yourself at some future time because of rebellion and because of hardhearted missing a place of restriction, a place where you could have accomplished more but now find yourself restrained and restricted; blocked; damned if you will like a Beaver dam – dams up the flow of the water, the water still flows but there's a restriction there. This is a great definition of hell. Remember all that we do in this estate is to give us an advantage in the world to come. Verse 17,

17 And the mists of darkness are the temptations of the devil, which blindeth the eyes, and hardeneth the hearts of the children of men, and leadeth them away into broad roads, that they perish and are lost.

The mists of darkness are tied inseparately with the fallen nature of the Telestial world. We escape these mists or lift them from off of us or pass through them as we put off the natural man

and have the culture and nature of darkness replaced by the culture and nature of light, love and truth. Verse 18,

18 And the large and spacious building, which thy father saw, is vain imaginations and the pride of the children of men. And a great and a terrible gulf divideth them; yea, even the word of the justice of the Eternal God, and the Messiah who is the Lamb of God, of whom the Holy Ghost beareth record, from the beginning of the world until this time, and from this time henceforth and forever.

Let's talk about those vain imaginations and the pride of the children of men up there at the beginning of verse 18. There's another paradox that has to do with this world in comparison with the world to come. Those who would be kings and priests in the world to come must be servants in this world. Those who would be kings in this world, unrighteous dominion, will and up servants in the world to come. Go with me to section 132 in the Doctrine and Covenants, verse 16 speaks about those in eternity who could have had more but for one reason or another because of rebellion or hardhearted or as Joseph Smith says, *they set up stakes*, which means boundaries and parameters, *and said, I will not go beyond this*. Look at verse 16 the bottom of verse 16 says that

D&C 132:

16 Therefore, when they are out of the world they neither marry nor are given in marriage; but are appointed angels in heaven, which angels are ministering servants, to minister for those who are worthy of a far more, and an exceeding, and an eternal weight of glory.

It's in this world where we practice the law of the gospel as revealed to us in the Telesstial world. The law of the gospel is simply a law that teaches us to get along with our fellow brothers and sisters. It's embodied in the Sermon on the Mount and in the Sermon at the Temple in 3rd Nephi. If you can't get along with your fellow man in this world, how can you expect to live laws covenants and ordinances that pertains to Zion which is Terrestrial in nature? Hence, the law of the gospel has an important place in our Telesstial experience. Read again the Sermon on the Mount and the sermon at Bountiful and you'll see that is centered upon your interactions with your brothers and sisters while in this world. The Doctrine and Covenants gives us 2 great disqualifiers that are part of the pride in the vain imaginations of the children of men. Go to section 121. This is a well-known Scripture starting in verse 34 that says,

D&C 121:

34 Behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen?

Here to disqualifiers this is a part of the pride in the vain imaginations of the children of men verse 35,

35 Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, (that's number one) and aspire to the honors of men, that they do not learn this one lesson—

Now this lesson has to do with the law of the gospel and living in the Telestial world and that is this, verse 36,

*36 That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled **only upon the principles of righteousness.***

These principles of righteousness are the opposite of the vain imaginations and the pride of the world this represented in the great and spacious building. Verse 37,

*37 That they may be conferred upon us, it is true; but when we undertake to **cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold, the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man.***

One of these is to cover up your sins; another one is to gratify your pride and vain ambition. See there we go, o harkens right back to first Nephi chapter 12. Another one, to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men in any degree of unrighteousness. (40:00) when all this happens, the authority of the priesthood is withdrawn from that man. The spirit of the Lord is withdrawn from that woman and when that happens, they are left, verse 38,

38 Behold, ere he is aware, he is left unto himself, to kick against the pricks, to persecute the saints, and to fight against God.

Verse 39 gives us another of the vain imaginations and pride of this world. We see this everywhere if you been employed in the corporate world, the Telestial world; where you've worked for another person who has employed you and pays your salary; you more often than not have bumped up against this in verse 39,

*39 We have learned by sad experience that it is the nature and disposition of almost all men, (And I would put in their women to) **as soon as they get a little authority, as they suppose, they will immediately begin to exercise unrighteous dominion.***

40 Hence many are called, but few are chosen.

Now there's all of the lies, unbelief; hardheartedness; sins and transgressions, that are contained within the phrase *the vain imaginations and the pride of the world*. What we want to do is replace those through the atonement of Christ with verse 41 where a list of the attributes of godliness are listed. Look what these attributes are:

*41 No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned;
42 By kindness, and pure knowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the soul without hypocrisy, and without guile—*

Well, brothers and sisters, that's modern revelation that gives us insight into what Nephi seeing in the great and spacious building that represents the vain imaginations and the pride of the world. Back to first Nephi 12 verse 19,

1 Nephi 12:

19 And while the angel spake these words, I beheld and saw that the seed of my brethren did contend against my seed, according to the word of the angel; and because of the pride of my seed, and the temptations of the devil, I beheld that the seed of my brethren did overpower the people of my seed.

And you can see that the extinction of the Nephi civilization at the end of the Book of Mormon. How often this has happened. This is not just reserved for this remnant of Joseph upon the Promised Land but literally every civilization; every culture from Adam up to the present has gone through this cycle. And if they don't repent and are redeemed, and none of them have been thus far, but we will see that process become a society wide and worldwide accomplishment in our day for Zion will come for this time and will fill the whole earth. But the cycle in the past has always been according to the things that Nephi sees in this vision in the 12th chapter. Verse 21,

21 And I saw them gathered together in multitudes; and I saw wars and rumors of wars among them; ...

This is among Lamanites now, who survived upon the Land.

...and in wars and rumors of wars I saw many generations pass away.

What we have of the written history of the indigenous peoples of lived upon this earth is a warfare and a contention amongst themselves that has been endless. Murder and brutality, false traditions, cultures that delight in the shedding of blood were the hearts of one tribe one group of people are cold towards their brethren. You can see that also at work today among Jew and Arab; among Israelis and Palestinians. Is the same cycle, nothing has changed. And until this earth is

lifted from its present Telestial position to a greater place of the light; to where the darkness that covers the earth and gross darkness the minds of men is once and for all dispelled until that happens; the cycle will continue to repeat itself endlessly in this world. Verse 22,

22 And the angel said unto me: Behold these shall dwindle in unbelief.

When you have the Gentile explorers and you have the descendants of Ephraim among the Gentiles, one more time among this remnant of Jacob and find them in their condition it truly is pitiful. They lost any enlightenment that they had. Some of the Plains Indians were more enlightened. But if you look at the poor Indians that were around the St. George area, as Jacob Hamblin and Brigham Young's colonization moved into that area, the Paiute, the Sakwitha and some of those that you find in the southern deserts of Utah and over in the Nevada. You can certainly see how they had dwindled in unbelief and become almost Stone Age. Their ancestors were not always like that. Verse 23,

23 And it came to pass that I beheld, after they had dwindled in unbelief they became a dark, and loathsome, and a filthy people, full of idleness and all manner of abominations.

I think the story of my grandmother and grandfather that lived up in Payson, Utah. They were the Barkers and Hancocks up in that country. And during the Black Hawk war and when the Utes were raising havoc through chief Black Hawk and other Ute chiefs through the Mormon settlements south of Salt Lake. That my grandfather, Ike Hancock, learn to speak the Ute tongue and he was used as an interpreter in a lot of the conflicts that took place down in the Payson, Santaquin, Genoa, Goshen, Salem, Spanish Fork area. At one time he was out working with some of the brethren and my grandmother had some fresh pies that she had baked and had left in the windowsill to cool. Well I don't know if this Indian in his wife happened to come by at that time or if they smelled the pies, but they came by and ask if they could have some of those pies. And my grandmother who, with her husband, were friendly to and the Indians referred to them as their friends gave them this time they went off eating this pie. Sometime later as my grandmother went outside as this window where the pie was sitting, she saw something sitting on the sill. When she went looked at it, it looked like a crude type of pie. And she realized that this Indians that had taken one of her pies, out of affection to her had brought a pie made with their own hands. When she and Grandpa Ike cut the pipe open it was filled full of those black Mormon crickets – cricket tie. These Indians ate insects; had degraded down to such as state that truly with the loss of the spirit of the Lord they have become a dark a loathsome and a filthy people full of idleness and all manner of abominations.

May the Lord bless us as we continue to seek after him and develop a close personal relationship with our Father and with our beloved Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. They are so loving and anxious for us to come to them so that they can lift the veil of unbelief, restore our true identity

and bestow upon us the mysteries of the universe. Continue to pray, brothers and sisters. Don't be discouraged look back over the last week. Look back over the last month. Look over the last 6 months and behold the workings and power of the Lord in your life. We need to stand where we are and look back to see his hand at work in our life. Truly it is a marvelous thing to behold. God bless us all to continue in this path. May the Book of Mormon continue to inspire and bring you nearer to God. I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our dear friend and master. Amen.