

BOM_013_1_Nephi_13

I would like to begin our study today with a quote from Pres. Ezra Taft Benson. This is from a general conference address in October 1986 [Ensign] and it is called *The Book of Mormon – Keystone of Our Religion*. I would highly recommend that you find this talk, read it and then reread. It again is very applicable to what we are doing with our Book of Mormon studies right now. Pres. Benson in this talk said this:

“There is a power in the book which will begin to flow into your lives the moment you begin a serious study of the book. You will find greater power to resist temptation. You will find the power to avoid deception. You will find the power to stay on the straight and narrow path. Scriptures recall the ‘words of life’, and nowhere is that more true than it is of the Book of Mormon. When you begin to hunger and thirst after those words, you will find life in greater and greater abundance.”

A 2nd quote is by Marion G Romney, who was in the first presidency the church at the time that he said this. You can find this in the May Ensign of 1980 on page 67. Pres. Romney said:

“I feel certain that if, in our homes, parents will read from the Book of Mormon prayerfully and regularly, both by themselves and with her children, the spirit of that great book will come to permeate our homes and all who dwell therein. The spirit of reverence will increase; mutual respect and consideration for each other will grow. The spirit of contention will depart. Parents will counsel their children in greater love and wisdom. Children will be more responsive and submissive to the counsel of their parents. Righteousness will increase. Faith, hope, and charity – the pure love of Christ – will abound in our homes and lives, bringing in their wake peace, joy, and happiness.”

And again from Pres. Benson. This is from a May Ensign 1975 page 65:

“Every Latter-day Saints should make the study of this book a lifetime pursuit. Otherwise he is placing his soul in jeopardy and neglecting that which could give spiritual and intellectual unity to his whole life. There is a difference between a convert who is built on the rock of Christ through the Book of Mormon and stays hold of that iron rod, and one who is not.”

First Nephi chapter 13 verse one.

1 Nephi 13:

[1] And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me, saying: Look! And I looked and beheld many nations and kingdoms.

One of the definitions of the word Gentiles is nations. If you have not listened to the podcast on Gentiles it would be a good thing for you to listen to at this time. In verse 2 Nephi sees many nations and kingdoms.

1 Nephi 13:

[3] And he said unto me: These are the nations and kingdoms of the Gentiles.

There is much of the blood of Israel that is mixed within these Gentile nations and kingdoms as a result of the Assyrian captivity that took place in 721 BC; and the Babylonian captivity that took place in 586 BC; the effects of the Persian Empire; and the Greek empires upon the house of Israel when they were flourishing in the final destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Roman empire and the beginning of the great Jewish Diaspora. As a result of these national influences upon the house of Israel the blood of Israel is now found throughout all of the nations, kingdoms, kindreds and peoples of the earth. In verse 4 it says:

1 Nephi 13:

[4] And it came to pass that I saw among the nations of the Gentiles the formation of a great church.

It is the blood of Israel, mixed within these Gentile nations, that is largely responsible for the formation of this great church. Let's refer back, momentarily, to first Nephi chapter 11 and let's look at verse 35. Here Nephi is receiving the interpretation from the angel concerning the large and spacious building.

1 Nephi 11:

[35] And the multitude of the earth was gathered together; and I beheld that they were in a large and spacious building,

Compare the term multitude of the earth in verse 35 with many nations and kingdoms - the nations and kingdoms of the Gentiles in chapter 13 verses 2 and 3. Now it is among these nations and kingdoms that Nephi sees the formation of this great church in verse 4. Now return back with me again to verse 35 in chapter 11.

*... And the angel of the Lord spake unto me again, saying: Behold the world and the wisdom thereof; (this part right here) yea, behold **the house of Israel hath gathered together to fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb.***

Verse 36.

1 Nephi 11:

[36] And it came to pass that I saw and bear record, that the great and spacious building was the pride of the world; ...

This great and spacious building that is being referred to from Lehi's dream and Nephi's dream is the same great church that Nephi is seen again over in chapter 13. Notice that the destructive influence within this organization is found within the House of Israel. So when we read about the great and abominable church, in first Nephi 13; we need to remember that Nephi was shown that

within the heart of this organization are multitudes who belong to the House of Israel. Now, that's a very important concept to grasp hold of in order to understand some of the things that are going to be revealed to Nephi in chapter 13 and chapter 14. The great and abominable church of the devil is the same as the great and spacious building that Nephi and Lehi saw in vision. We will draw parallel comments to these 2 as we proceed. Verse 5.

1 Nephi 13:

[5] And the angel said unto me: Behold the formation of a church which is most abominable above all other churches, which slayeth the saints of God, yea, and tortureth them and bindeth them down, and yoketh them with a yoke of iron, and bringeth them down into captivity.

Now, we have a tendency when we read the word church to make a comparison with what Nephi's talking about and how we view churches in our day; closest thing that we could come to there would be a synagogue. Synagogues were found among the Nephi-Lamanite peoples in America as they were found among the Jews in the Middle East. Brother McConkie gives us an interesting insight into what the church of the devil is. He said, "*The title Church of the Devil and Great and Abominable Church are used to identify all churches; here we go, or organizations of whatever name or nature whether political, philosophical, educational, economic, social, fraternal, civic or religious which are designed to take men on a course that leads away from God and his laws and thus from salvation in the kingdom of God.*" That is from Mormon Doctrine, 2nd edition, page 137, 138. Anything which takes you away from Christ is the *Great and Abominable Church* of the devil. Verse 6.

1 Nephi 13:

[6] And it came to pass that I beheld this great and abominable church; and I saw the devil that he was the founder of it.

The word abomination means a thing that causes disgust or hatred. Some of the synonyms of abomination are atrocity, disgrace, horror, obscenity, outrage, evil, crime, monstrosity, anathema, and loath. Some there is something in each of us that was introduced in the Garden of Eden, to Adam and Eve, called enmity. **(10:02)** As Satan seeks to deceive and enslave us with the desires of this great and abominable church the Lord said that he would place enmity between us and the seed of the devil. This enmity is a natural loathing within us of things for a dark nature. Enmity is the feeling of being actively opposed or hostile to someone or something. In this case it is an opposition toward the things of darkness and the love and desires of this great and abominable church. It is a great blessing that has been placed in each of God's children to help them in their journey here in the telestial world. Verse 7.

1 Nephi 13:

[7] And I also saw gold, and silver, and silks, and scarlets, and fine-twined linen, and all manner of precious clothing; and I saw many harlots.

It's interesting in another place that we will look at later in the Book of Mormon and also the book of Daniel and the book of Revelations that the great and abominable church is referred to as the Whore of all the earth. We'll talk a little bit about that in the next chapter. Verse 8.

1 Nephi 13:

[8] And the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold the gold, and the silver, and the silks, and the scarlets, and the fine-twined linen, and the precious clothing, and the harlots, are the desires of this great and abominable church.

Verse 9.

1 Nephi 13:

[9] And also for the praise of the world do they destroy the saints of God, and bring them down into captivity.

The slavery and destruction of those who love the Lord and try to keep his commandments in this world has always led to their captivity and murder. Even to this day in certain parts of the world, those who love the Lord and profess his name, as we speak, are being murdered; some even crucified by the hundreds upon crosses by their enemies. Here in the United States of America we see less of that in the persecution against Christians is more verbal abuse than it is physical torture and death, but in other places of the world that is the reality if you profess Christ. The Scriptures seemly indicate that this persecution will increase and result in the deaths of many who love the Lord and profess his name in a future day. Verse 10.

1 Nephi 13:

[10] And it came to pass that I looked and beheld many waters; and they divided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren.

Remember that the seed of my brethren is referring to the Lamanites. Nephi over in chapter 12 is already seeing the destruction of his personal seed, his posterity, in the great battle of Comorah and the wars that came after that battle. So in this verse he is talking about the Lamanites that are divided from the Gentiles by many waters; these many waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Why do I say the Atlantic Ocean? Because in the next verses were going to see that these Gentiles come across that ocean from Western Europe. The nations of the Gentiles in the next verses are going to be coming from such places as Spain, Portugal, France, and Britain. Those especially from the British Isles are from the house of Ephraim. Here again we're going to see the blood of Israel in particular the tribe of Ephraim mixed within these Western Gentile nations that act as a scourge upon the Lamanite tribes, upon the American continent, a remnant of Joseph. Now among these Lamanite remnants is a mixture of Ephraim, Manasseh and Judah. The purpose of the scourging is to prepare the people who have become hardhearted and rebellious motivate them through adversity come back to their great Shepherd. It is fascinating as we see the blood of Israel scattered throughout these tribes that those Gentiles who Jason and scourge the Lamanites in the

Americas have the same tribal blood flowing in their veins and virtually ends up being the blood of Israel chastising and scourging the blood of Israel. Verse 11.

1 Nephi 13:

[11] And it came to pass that the angel said unto me: Behold the wrath of God is upon the seed of thy brethren.

What is this wrath of God that we read about over and over in the Book of Mormon? Let's go over to section 19 for just a moment. This section in the Doctrine and Covenants was given to Joseph Smith as a result of the loss of the hundred and 16 page manuscript of the book of Lehi and the incident with Martin Harris. Let's go to verse 10 and look at just the first sentence.

D&C 19:

[10] For, behold, the mystery of godliness, how great is it! ...

I like to discuss with you a mystery right here concerning what we call the wrath of God. If we were to take a group of Latter-day Saints and ask them what that means; what is the wrath of God? I think you would get interesting and diverse answers to that question. Let's see if we can discern something by a closer study of the Scriptures go to verse. Go to verse 15,

D&C 19:

[15] Therefore I command you to repent—repent, lest I smite you by the rod of my mouth, (and watch this) and by my wrath, and by my anger, and your sufferings be sore—how sore you know not, how exquisite you know not, yea, how hard to bear you know not.

Now in section 19 back, to verse 4,

D&C 19:

[4] And surely every man must repent or suffer, for I, God, am endless.

So, in verse 4, if you don't repent you will suffer. Over in verse 13 the Lord gives a commandment to repent. Verse 15, we just read, repent or be smitten with the rod of the mouth of the Lord and with his wrath. Verse 16,

D&C 19:

*[16] For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would **repent**;*

Verse 17.

D&C 19:

*[17] But if they would not **repent** they must suffer even as I;*

Verse 20.

D&C 19:

*[20] Wherefore, I command you again to **repent**,*

These verses indicate that the wrath of God and suffering and being smitten with the rod of his mouth come as a result of our refusing to repent and access that condition. So what is this wrath? Go with me to verse 20 again.

D&C 19:

*[20] Wherefore, I command you again to **repent**, lest I humble you with my almighty power; and that you confess your sins, lest **you suffer these punishments** of which I have spoken, of which in the smallest, yea, even in the least degree (here we go) **you have tasted** (what? suffer these punishments of which I have spoken) *at the time I withdrew my Spirit.**

And then one more time in verse 21,

D&C 19:

[21] And I command you that you preach naught but repentance,

The withdrawal of the Lord's spirit brings on his anger, his wrath, and being smitten with the rod of his mouth, which results in your suffering. The image of God sitting upon a throne, as the ancient Greeks saw him, throwing lightning bolts down to the earth and striking his children because they were disobedient is a false image and helps build up the tradition of the fathers concerning this attribute of God's nature. Go with me to section 88 and let's go to verse 34.

D&C 88:

*[34] And again, verily I say unto you, that which is governed **by law** is also preserved **by law** and perfected and sanctified by the same. (by law)*

Now, the emphasis in this verse is governance, preservation, perfection, and sanctification; all takes place as a result of the eternal law. Verse 35.

D&C 88:

*[35] That which breaketh a law, and abideth not by law, (here we go) **but seeketh to become a law unto itself, and willeth to abide in sin, and altogether abideth in sin, cannot be sanctified by law, neither by mercy, justice, nor judgment. Therefore, they must remain filthy still.***

When God calls his spirit, which is a natural consequence of the violation of laws; **(20:11)** when it says he withdraws his spirit but in reality is happening as a consequence of disobedience causes that spirit to be withdrawn; and when the spirit of light and love and truth is withdrawn then it's opposing elements come into play – darkness, destruction, disorder, chaos, and death. If you reject the invitation to access the condition of repentance than the natural consequence of that decision is *the wrath of God*; which is simply the withdrawal of his spirit of light and life and being replaced by the spirit of darkness and death. Each day in our life we are either gaining or losing light. When you lose light you experience the wrath of God. If you refuse to read the

Book of Mormon, which is a vessel of light and power, then the consequence of that decision is *the wrath of God*; meaning at the light in order and joy and happiness in life but you could've had from this source of truth is lost because you made a decision. The loss of that light being replaced with darkness is the *wrath of God*. Go with me to section 130, and let's look at verse 20 and 21. With these concepts and precepts in mind these verses make so much more sense. Verse 20.

D&C 130:

[20] There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—

And I would insert there also the disobedience of which results in the loss of those blessings or in other words the wrath of God. Verse 21.

D&C 130:

[21] And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated.

And the opposite is true. The disobedience of those laws results in the consequence of the wrath of God is anger, the rod of his mouth and suffering. He doesn't have to directly apply any of that to you as a result of your disobedience. It simply is a natural consequence of eternal law either obedience bringing forth blessings or disobedience resulting in consequences which bring suffering, sorrow and death. Let's go back of verse 11 in first Nephi 13.

1 Nephi 13:

[11] And it came to pass that the angel said unto me: Behold the wrath of God is upon the seed of thy brethren.

What we're going to read about in these verses come as a result of poor decisions, hardheartedness and rebellion on the part of God's children. Verse 12.

1 Nephi 13:

[12] And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; (the Atlantic Ocean) and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land.

We know that this man is Columbus. The date would be 1492 and you can go online and read Columbus's ships log and his personal journals; and is fascinating to read from his own writings how he was wrought upon by the spirit of the Lord which not only gave him direction but also gave him courage and wisdom to withstand and surmount the mutiny that took place on his ships. Now Columbus comes from Spain and from Portugal; and this is Western Europe; and it's

in these nations that the Gentiles a mixture of the blood of Ephraim and other nations is to be found. No historical records have told us the Columbus was not the first European or the first non-native, indigenous man to reach the shores or close to the shores of the New World. Prior to this time there are records that show the Vikings and the Norsemen had come into what we call America prior to Columbus and there's even evidence that Romans and Phoenicians and Egyptians had access these shores long before Columbus. The significant thing about Columbus is that he is a Christian man who has access to the word of God that were going to be looking at here in just a moment and also as directed by the Holy Ghost in his own words in his mission to find the new world. Is this the first time that a Christian Gentile from the great Gentile nations of Western Europe has come across this ocean and open the door for others to come to the great latter-day Promised Land? Verse 13.

1 Nephi 13:

[13] And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters.

This would be our Puritan and pilgrim forefathers that left the religious captivity and persecution that was found in England and in other places of Western Europe; and were guided by the spirit of the Lord to leave those Gentile nations come; come forth out of captivity and into the new Promised Land. Verse 14.

1 Nephi 13:

[14] And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of the Gentiles upon the land of promise;...

So to this time we've had the Spaniards from Spain and Portugal; the conquistadors who come here. We have the pilgrims and the Puritans. We had the door wide open for the immigration of many people from Western Europe who were being held down, enslaved and kept in captivity, physically and spiritually, because of the great and abominable church that is well-organized and functioning within these "civilized nations" of the world. They come here to escape that constrained persecution and to worship according to the dictates of their own conscience. In this period of time in Western Europe there's already been the great Reformation, the spirit of Renaissance where the great reformers such as Tyndale, Huss, Wesley, and Luther. All that has taken place up to this point in history and Lehi's and Nephi's vision. The great Gutenberg is also discovered the printing press and the Bible, word of God, is now being printed in the languages of the people. All of this is taking place between verse 11 and verse 14. Verse 15.

1 Nephi 13:

[15] And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles, and they did prosper and obtain the land for their inheritance; and I beheld that they were white, and exceedingly fair and beautiful, like unto my people before they were slain.

Gives you a little look into the Nephi peoples prior to their destruction and the condition of the descendants of Lehman and Lemuel in first Nephi 12 verse 23,

1 Nephi 12:

[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.

Remember the definition of abominations. Why did the Gentiles prosper in the Promised Land in verse 15? Well the spirit of the Lord was upon them. Why was the spirit of the Lord upon them? They were practicing Christian principles that were now revealed in the written word of God which they had amongst themselves. They had the New Testament. They had the Old Testament. They understood the doctrine of Christ as it was revealed in the Bible and practice those principles in their society which always resulted in prosperity and happiness. Back to verse 14 where talks about the wrath of God being upon the seed of my brethren the Lamanites the Lamanites were scattered before the Gentiles and were smitten. The history of the Native Americans in America and what they suffered at the hands of the Gentiles is a matter of historical record. Much has been written about the suffering, whether it was the Navajos, the Apaches, the Cherokee Trail of Tears, or Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee. All of this represents a fulfillment of the 14th verse of first Nephi 13. Verse 16.

1 Nephi 13:

[16] And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord; and the power of the Lord was with them.

Remember the great promise the Book of Mormon made to Lehi and Nephi **(30:03)** that inasmuch as you keep my commandments you shall prosper in the land. That promise also applies to the Gentiles who come forth out of captivity. They had the Bible; whereas Nephi Lehi had the plates of brass. The Gentiles have the Bible, and as a practice the principles of the promises that are taught in the doctrine of Christ the end result is always going to be prosperity and happiness. This is why it says they prosper in verse 15 and the power of the Lord was with them in verse 16. They have access to the strength of the Lord. Remember we discussed this back in first Nephi chapter 7 verses 17 and 18 – the strength of the Lord. You're going to see that strength come into play among the Gentiles were upon the land of promise as they are now attacked by their mother Gentiles across the Atlantic Ocean. First 17.

Fulfillment of the 14th verse of first Nephi 13. Verse 16.

1 Nephi 13:

[17] And I beheld that their mother Gentiles (England and France and others) were gathered together upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them.

We have now gone through the French and Indian wars. We're now up into the English occupation of the colonies; the Declaration of Independence and the resulting revolutionary war. All of this in verses 16 and 17. Verse 18.

1 Nephi 13:

[18] And I beheld that the power of God was with them (this is the strength of the Lord), *and also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together against them to battle.*

Keep in mind that England and France at this time in the late 1700s and early 1800s were in a state of moral decay. Even though they were Christian nations they had lost the feelings of their Christian heritage and were now corrupt and decadent. This is why the spirit of the Lord did not strive with them but it did with the American colonists and allowed this small nation to miraculously defeat the greatest military powers in the world at that time. Back to verse 18.

1 Nephi 13:

[18] And I beheld that the power of God was with them (this is the strength of the Lord), *and also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together against them to battle.*

England, France, Spain, anybody who combined against the colonists, who love the Lord and sought to keep his commandments and had the strength of God with them, were defeated no matter their strength of numbers. This is a type of things to come. At a future day we will find that the powers of this world will combined against God's people the righteous of the house of Israel. They will be greatly outnumbered and there will be no way for them to survive the conflict without direct intervention from God as we will see later in first Nephi 20 and 21, fire from heaven will come down and consume the enemies of the righteous members of the House of Israel in a coming day. Verse 19.

1 Nephi 13:

[19] And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity (that's our colonist forefathers, the 13 colonies) *were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations.*

So in 9 verses you cover a history that took place in the Promised Land, a period of time from 1492 to 1812, or 320 years. Verse 20.

1 Nephi 13:

[20] And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that they did prosper in the land (the Gentiles); *and I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them.*

[21] And the angel said unto me: Knowest thou the meaning of the book? (Verse)

[23] And he said: Behold it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew. And I, Nephi, beheld it; and he said unto me: The book that thou beholdest is a record of the Jews, ...

... which contains the covenants of the Lord, which he hath made unto the house of Israel; and it also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets; and it is a record like unto the engravings which are upon the plates of brass, save there are not so many; nevertheless, they contain the covenants of the Lord, which he hath made unto the house of Israel; wherefore, they are of great worth unto the Gentiles. (34:23)

Now that's a real interesting statement because the book that he's seeing is the holy Bible – the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament was not written only by members of the tribe of Judah for example Moses is not a Jew. Moses and Aaron were Levites. There were no Jews prior to Jacob's 4th son Judah and yet we have the writings of Genesis and all of the books of the prophets the majority of whom are not Jewish. The New Testament, however, is different. The New Testament the majority of the apostles of Jesus Christ and the Savior himself are Jews. Now Paul the apostle was from the tribe of Benjamin. For this book proceeding out of the mouth of the Jew could more readily be interpreted through the New Testament than it can then Old Testament. Verse 23.

1 Nephi 13:

[23] And he said: Behold it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew. And I, Nephi, beheld it; and he said unto me: The book that thou beholdest is a record of the Jews, which contains the covenants of the Lord, which he hath made unto the house of Israel; ...

There are several possibilities of how this could be further interpreted as a book coming forth out of the mouth of the Jew. The brass plates of Laban which is a more extensive record of what we call the Old Testament, much larger much more complete, much more extensive than our Old Testament was kept within the kingdom of Judah headquarters in Jerusalem. Even that record was kept by the descendants of Joseph and not Judah; and yet its safe depository was within the kingdom of Judah where the temple of the Lord stood. Another reason is that the Jews over the century have been very diligent at preserving their religious records and the revelations that have passed down to them from all of the prophetic sources. There was a whole group of people among the society of the Jews called the scribes. Part of their job was to handwrite the written records that had been passed down to them and make duplicates of that so that there were more than one or a handful of records available to the people. The Jews have always been a nation of part from all other nations. It's this one attribute that has heat upon them persecution. You can see that displayed in the movie *Fiddler On The Roof*. There very, very exact about preserving their traditions; their way of life; the religious practices and I would put in that the records that have come into their possession that they have been given custody over. They take their stewardship very seriously perhaps more so than any of the other tribes of Israel. Could this also

be another meeting into this book that Nephi sees proceeds forth out of the mouth of a Jew? I give that to you for consideration; back to verse 23.

... which contains the covenants of the Lord, which he hath made unto the house of Israel; and it also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets; and it is a record like unto the engravings which are upon the plates of brass, (this part right here) save there (meaning this book that Nephi sees coming out of the mouth of the Jew the holy Bible) are not so many; nevertheless, they contain the covenants of the Lord, which he hath made unto the house of Israel; wherefore, they are of great worth unto the Gentiles.

This record contains the covenants of the Lord which you have made with the House of Israel also contains many of the prophecies of the holy prophets and it is a record likened to the engravings which are upon the plates of brass say they are not so many as the prophecies and covenants that were on the plates of brass nevertheless they meaning the Bible contain the covenants of the Lord which you have made on the house of Israel wherefore they are of great worth unto the Gentiles

What are these covenants of the Lord? Associated with these covenants are also ordinances, Ordinations and laws. For example the ordinance of baptism with its accompanying law and covenant and the token of that ordinance which is to be submerged completely underwater. This ordinance along with others including the ordinance of receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost were maintained to a degree and found recorded in the holy Bible – covenants, ordinances and ordinations that are of great worth unto the Gentile. Verse 24.

1 Nephi 13:

[24] And the angel of the Lord said unto me: Thou hast beheld that the book proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew; and when it proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew it contained the fulness of the gospel of the Lord, ...

What is the fullness of the gospel? The fullness of the gospel are laws, ordinances, covenants, doctrines, concepts and principles that when followed will redeem a man from the fall and restore him to the presence of God.

... of whom the twelve apostles bear record; and they bear record according to the truth which is in the Lamb of God.

Go with me to Doctrine and Covenants section 20 verses 8 and 9. **(40:03)** Speaking of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon it says,

D&C 20:

[8] And (God) gave him power from on high, by the means which were before prepared, to translate the Book of Mormon;

[9] Which (meaning the Book of Mormon) contains a record of a fallen people, (this part right here) and the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles and to the Jews also;

You can also see reference to this fullness in the Book of Mormon in Doctrine and Covenants 27 verse 5; Doctrine and Covenants 42 verse 12; and Doctrine and Covenants section 135 verse 3. The question is: how does the Book of Mormon contain the fullness of the gospel? If it does not speak of such ordinances such as baptism for the dead or celestial marriage. The Lord defines the gospel of Jesus Christ in Doctrine and Covenants 39 verses 5 and 6.

D&C 39:

[5] And verily, verily, I say unto you, he that receiveth my gospel receiveth me; and he that receiveth not my gospel receiveth not me.

[6] And this is my gospel—repentance and baptism by water, and then cometh the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, even the Comforter, which showeth all things, and teacheth the peaceable things of the kingdom.

Once you been baptized by authority and by immersion for the remission of sins; have repented of your sins and receive the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost then you have access to everything necessary for you to be redeemed from the fall and restored back to the presence of God. The fullness of the Holy Ghost, the gift of the Holy Ghost, which comes and completes the baptismal ordinance, provides you with the fullness of all information necessary for your redemption and exaltation. Go with me to section 121 verse 26 and see what's available to those who receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. Verse 26.

D&C 121:

[26] God shall give unto you knowledge by his Holy Spirit, yea, by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost, that has not been revealed since the world was until now;

See, you don't have to have these things written in books or dispensed through religious institutions. If you have the Gift of the Holy Ghost you have access to everything. Look at verse 27,

D&C 121:

[27] Which our forefathers have awaited with anxious expectation to be revealed in the last times, ... which their minds were pointed to by the angels, as held in reserve for the fulness of their glory;

In the last times in the next 3 or 4 versus it talks about some of that knowledge that can come through the Holy Ghost and in the last part of verse 31, says,

D&C 121:

[31] ... shall be revealed in the days of the dispensation of the fulness of times—

So for the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ comes when you've entered into baptism by water, received the baptism of fire and have the Holy Ghost open to you all knowledge, all truth even that which has not been revealed from before the foundations of the world; does not need to be written in books, canonized in Scripture, nor delivered through the theology of churches and other religious organizations. Verse 25.

1 Nephi 13:

[25] Wherefore, these things go forth from the Jews in purity unto the Gentiles, according to the truth which is in God.

Now this going forth to the Gentiles in purity would begin with Peter's dream at the house of Cornelius in Joppa. This gives us an interesting insight that the adulteration of the Bible really begins in earnest after the ascension of Jesus Christ and during the time when the Christians were being persecuted in the first century A.D. notice again in verse 25, these things go forth from the Jews in purity unto the Gentiles. That's the beginning of the day of the Gentile that begins with Peter and then Paul comes on the scene with his companions in earnest the gospel is taken to the Gentiles. The records that they had at that time were pure and unadulterated at least as compared to what we have in our day. Verse 26,

1 Nephi 13:

[26] And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, (and that would take place somewhere around 5865 A.D.) thou seest the formation of that great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away.

There was no question concerning the mode of baptism among the Jews when John was baptizing in the river Jordan beyond Beth-barah. They understood perfectly that ordinance as it was being performed there. They had no questions. They had no comments with the way John was performing that ordinance. He was baptizing by immersion as one having authority to do so. So the great confusion we see today with just this one ordinance and its associated covenant among the Christian populations of the world did not exist at the time that John was baptizing among the Jews at the beginning of the Lord's ministry. So this adulteration of this one ordinance and its associated covenants takes place sometime after that. It might be interesting for

you to know that baptism by immersion for the remission of sins was practiced all through the Old Testament period, but you will be hard-pressed to find any clear record of that ordinance and its covenant and token in the Old Testament today. Another example of many parts which are plain and precious have been taken away from the gospel of the Lamb and also many covenants of the Lord they have taken away. Let me give you another example of the plain and precious truth that is been taken away. Go with me to 2nd Nephi 25 verse 19. Now According to the dates of the Book of Mormon these words were spoken and written down somewhere between 559 and 545 BC.

2 Nephi 25:

[19] For according to the words of the prophets, the Messiah cometh in six hundred years from the time that my father left Jerusalem; and according to the words of the prophets, and also the word of the angel of God, his name shall be Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Now you can see the Christ was known as the Messiah and the son of God by all of the prophets from Adam on up to this present time in the Book of Mormon and yet you will not find that anywhere in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible. His name was known and spoken of frequently. You can see an example of how this must have been written in the plates of brass and other ancient records before the great and abominable church begins its work of removing and adulterating the Scriptures. Go to verse 26 and 2nd Nephi 25,

2 Nephi 25:

[26] And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, ... (see all her writings contain his name, for what purpose) that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins.

That's an example of the Scriptures prior to the adulteration it takes place to the great and abominable church. Now that's not to say that ancient records were also prostituted and perverted because wherever you have God's word the antichrist is going to remove or adulterate twist or prostituted the word of God to confuse his children, but it seems like it began in earnest after the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, especially with the New Testament. Verse 27, why this adulteration of God's word?

2 Nephi 13:

[27] And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord, that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men.

There is the reason. That is the satanic purpose of perverting God's word – blind eyes of their children and hardened their hearts. Verse 28.

2 Nephi 13:

[28] Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God.

Article of faith number 8:

[8] We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

Now these verses were talking about in first Nephi 13 give meaning to the word *translated correctly*. These scribes and those who kept the records of God anciently as the spirit withdrew from them because of decadence, rebelliousness, and hardheartedness, less and less the light of the Holy Spirit strove with these men, who'd been given these responsibilities concerning these records. And more and more they made mistakes, or interpreted incorrectly (**50:17**) or out of an out with malice of forethought under the inspiration of the devil remove these plain and precious parts. Not all who were involved in the perversion of God's word did so intentionally. Much of it simply happens as we lose the light of the Lord and dwindle in unbelief. 29,

2 Nephi 13:

[29] And after these plain and precious things were taken away it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles; ...

This period of time would involve the Great Renaissance, the Reformation, the Protestant Movement, all of the great reformers and eventually the Bible which was in Latin, not understood by the general population, under the Gutenberg invention of the printing press would now be made available in English and German and later on in other languages to the general population and at that point we can really see that this book goes forth among all the nations of the Gentiles,

...yea, even (verse 29) across the many waters which thou hast seen with the Gentiles which have gone forth out of captivity, thou seest—because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the book, ...

And those things were by and large removed prior to the Gentiles spreading the word of God in the Holy Bible throughout these nations; the plain impresses things were pretty much removed and taken away prior to this spreading forth of this Bible.

...which were plain unto the understanding of the children of men, according to the plainness which is in the Lamb of God— (right here) because of these things which are taken away out of

the gospel of the Lamb, an exceedingly great many do stumble, yea, insomuch that Satan hath great power over them.

Well you can see that with the various Christian denominations all of them have the Bible; all of them contend against each other. All of them interpret the same book differently and all of this because these plain and precious parts of the Bible, including the covenants of the Lord, have been removed and are now subject to the interpretation of men. It's that statement within our LDS theology – the philosophies of men mingled with Scripture. Verse 30,

2 Nephi 13:

[30] Nevertheless, thou beholdest that the Gentiles who have gone forth out of captivity, (that's our Puritan and pilgrim forefathers that left Western Europe to come here for religious freedom) and have been lifted up by the power of God above all other nations, (that's the establishment of the 13 original colonies) upon the face of the land which is choice above all other lands, (the beginnings of the United States of America) which is the land that the Lord God hath covenanted with thy father that his seed should have for the land of their inheritance; (That is a day yet in the future) wherefore, thou seest that the Lord God will not suffer that the Gentiles will utterly destroy the mixture of thy seed, which are among thy brethren.

Now that's very interesting statement right there *the mixture of thy seed*. This is the Nephite people which are mixed among the Lamanite people, these Native American tribes that we find within the boundaries of the United States of America are mixture of Ephraim, Manasseh and Judith. Even though the Nephi people were exterminated in a genocidal war at Comorah and other places, there were some who escaped south that were not killed. I believe those who were not slain but survived the Nephi genocide were absorbed into the Lamanite culture and that Nephi blood was further mixed within the blood of Nephi's brethren - was further mixed within the blood of the seed of Nephi's brethren; and that they are preserved in the land to this very day and will be made known at a future time. We're taught that the Nephi peoples were completely annihilated and yet this verse tells us that there is a mixture of Nephi seed which are among the seed of the Lamanites. Verse 31.

2 Nephi 13:

[31] Neither will he suffer that the Gentiles shall destroy the seed of thy brethren.

The Lamanites and we can see them among us to this day. Verse 32.

2 Nephi 13:

[32] Neither will the Lord God suffer that the Gentiles shall forever remain in that awful state of blindness, which thou beholdest they are in, because of the plain and most precious parts of the

gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back by that abominable church, whose formation thou hast seen.

This statement in verses 31 and 32 that takes place in the early mid to late 1800s and the beginning of the 1900s which encompasses the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has fulfilled verse 32 were the Lord says he will not suffer the Gentiles to remain forever in that awful state of blindness. Truly in the period of time when the Lord is preserving the seed of Laman and Lemuel, and a mixture of the seed of Laman and Lemuel in the seed of Nephi, at that same time the restoration of the gospel, the organization of the church, the restoration of priesthood power and authority, comes forth at that very time to fulfill this prophecy. Verse 33

2 Nephi 13:

[33] Wherefore saith the Lamb of God: I will be merciful unto the Gentiles, unto the visiting of the remnant of the house of Israel in great judgment.

This mercy that is extended unto the Gentiles at the time when the remnant of the House of Israel is in the midst of great judgment is further explained in verse 34. The remnant of the house of Israel in verse 33 is the seed of Lehi, not just the seed of Nephi, but the seed of Lehi that would be the mixture spoken of in verse 30 and the descendants of Laman and Lemuel in verse 31; in other words, the Native American peoples upon the land of promise that are being scourged and smitten by the Gentiles in their midst. How is it that the Lord is going to be merciful to these scourging groups of people who are raising havoc upon the remnant of the House of Israel which is the seed of Lehi? How is it that the Gentiles are going to obtain mercy in the midst of these actions? Well verse 34 explains it.

2 Nephi 13:

[34] And it came to pass that the angel of the Lord spake unto me, saying: Behold, saith the Lamb of God, after I have visited the remnant of the house of Israel (Now here he is going to identify who this) — and this remnant of whom I speak is the seed of thy father (the father here is Lehi) —wherefore, after I have visited them in judgment, and smitten them by the hand of the Gentiles, ...

Which we can see from the time of the Spanish conquistadors up to the battle of Wounded Knee which virtually ended the preeminence of the Native Americans in the United States of America.

...and after the Gentiles do stumble exceedingly...

It's interesting that during this smiting of the seed of Lehi that those who persecuted took captive and murdered the Native American peoples did so with such brutality and such a vengeance that

even though they were all Christians and knew about the Bible, the concepts of forgiveness, and mercy, and love toward your fellow man were all but gone in this period of time when the Native American peoples were being enslaved and brutalized. The book they had in their midst which taught love, forbearance and tolerance certainly wasn't practiced at this time. Why? Because the Gentiles stumble, even though they have the book, they stumble exceedingly and do not understand nor have they internalized the gospel of Jesus Christ written in the book that came forth from the mouth of the Jew. Back to the middle of verse 34,

... because of the most plain and precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back by that abominable church, which is the mother of harlots, saith the Lamb—(this part right here) I will be merciful unto the Gentiles in that day, ...

In spite of what they've done to the remnant of the house of Israel Lehi seed, the Lord says I will be merciful unto them. It's like Christ looking down at the Roman soldiers, who have just nailed him to that tree, he looks down and says father forgive them have mercy on them for they know not what they do. **(1:00:02)** This is the same mercy that's going to be extended to the Gentiles, in spite of their brutality to Lehi seed,

...insomuch that I will bring forth unto them, in mine own power, much of my gospel, which shall be plain and precious, saith the Lamb.

This is the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the restoration of priesthood power, the restoration of ordinances, covenants, and additional scripture in the form of the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price that came forth to the Gentiles from among the Gentiles when the church was restored and the church organized.

2 Nephi 13:

[35] For, behold, saith the Lamb: I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, ...

Well you're reading in the Book of Mormon, especially in 3rd Nephi, those things which the Lord manifested unto Nephi seed.

...which shall be plain and precious; and after thy seed shall be destroyed, and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren, behold, these things shall be hid up, (Moroni hiding these records in the hill Comorah) to come forth unto the Gentiles, by the gift and power of the Lamb.

Which it did in 1827. 37,

2 Nephi 13:

[37] And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,...

Now we've moved from the day of the restoration of the gospel, the establishment of the church, and now come up in our day, preparatory to the establishment of the great latter-day Zion

... 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; and whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be.

Verse 38,

2 Nephi 13:

[38] 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, that it came forth from the Gentiles unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren.

This is the Bible given to the Lamanite nations and the mixture of Nephi seed among them to turn them from idolatry to Christianity and prepare them for the greater light of the Book of Mormon. Verse 39.

2 Nephi 13:

[39] And after it (the Bible) had come forth unto them (the Lamanite nations of this country) 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 the Jews who 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.

These other records are the Book of Mormon, the Joseph Smith translation, the Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price, and in our day since the restoration of the church around the 1820s to the 30s, the discovering and coming forth of what's called Pseudepigrapha Works. These are scriptures that were used in the New Testament time that were not canonized into the Bible. They were thrown out by the church fathers and removed. These, interestingly enough, have been found in caves and in other repositories and have been brought forth and are now available to us; such things as the gospel of Thomas; the gospel of Mary; the book of Enoch. These all provide very interesting and informative information about material that was in the book of the Jew in the Meridian that has been lost to us 2000 years later. Verse 40.

2 Nephi 13:

[40] And the angel spake unto me, saying: These last records, (These records in verse 34, these other books which come forth by the power of the Lamb 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 Son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him, or they cannot be saved.

This is going back to the prophecy in Ezekiel 37 where it says the stick of Judah and the stick of Joseph shall become one in thine hand; also fulfills the prophecies and writings of the New Testament prophets and apostles where it says *in the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses shall the truth of all things be established*. Notice the word read there *shall establish the truth of the first* which are of the 12 apostles of the Lamb and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them. The doctrine of baptism in the Book of Mormon clarifies misunderstandings of the doctrine of baptism that are currently in the holy Bible. The doctrine of the Gift of the Holy Ghost, further clarified in the Book of Mormon, establishes the truth of that doctrine which is difficult to understand in the Bible. Verse 41.

2 Nephi 13:

[41] 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.

You can see a major fulfillment of that as you look at the Scriptures that you have in your hands right now; the Old Testament, the New Testament, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price -- all canonized into one Scripture. And the truth of the coming together of these various records is found in the last part of verse 41. It will establish the truth in one for there is one God and one shepherd over all the earth. The last verse.

2 Nephi 13:

[42] And the time cometh that he shall manifest himself unto all nations, both unto the Jews and also unto the Gentiles; and after he has 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.

In the days of Jesus Christ the Jews were the one to receive the doctrine of Christ and his personal ministry. There are several instances where people who were not Jewish approach the Lord and sought to be taught by him. He had some blunt things to say to them and it was only by their faith which exceeded the Jews, among whom he was ministering, that he taught them; but

basically the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ was limited to the Jews the seed of the 4th son of Judah the son of Jacob. So in his ministry the Jews were first. After his ministry it went from the Jews to the Gentiles. That Gentile day, established at the time of Peter and Paul, continued all the way through the dark ages and the gospel of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was restored through Gentiles, Joseph Smith, and in a future day will yet be taken to the Jews and they shall have the record of Joseph and all of the other records that have come forth since the Bible.

Well, brothers and sisters, there's a lot of history in the 13th chapter is going to continue into the 14th chapter. I hope this is helpful to you. As always, I do the best I can with what I've learned; what I believe is true. You need to seek for the confirmation of the Holy Ghost, seek for the guidance and direction of the Lord spirit, the spirit of truth and light, which is in and through all things which giveth light to all things and life and discern for yourself whether anything I presented here has any merit.

May the Lord bless us all in our study of this wonderful book, I pray humbly in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.