

## BOM 014 - 1 Nephi 14

First Nephi chapter 14 verse one; we are now going to be speaking concerning the Gentiles in a more broad way than we did in chapter 13. In the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter were going to be discussing the Gentiles in a global way, generally, and more specific those Gentiles living upon the Book of Mormon the land of promise. I would like to state that even though there is a specific land of promise mentioned in the Book of Mormon, which is the United States of America and this because its future is to have within as heartland the New Jerusalem of the Zion of God. With that said, however, anywhere where the saints of God and those who love the Lord and are trying with all their hard to keep his commandments and statutes; where they dwell; where their feet stand; where their environment is; is a promised land. And the promises spoken in the first 2 verses in chapter 14 are applicable to them. It's much like where the Lord says, *stand ye in holy places*. It's not so much the geography of where you're standing, but who you are the standing there. The Lord is always more interested in the heart of his children and where they reside. So with that in mind let's go to verse one.

### ***1 Nephi 14:***

*[1] And it shall come to pass, that if the Gentiles shall hearken unto the Lamb of God in that day that he shall manifest himself unto them in word, and also in power, in very deed, unto the taking away of their stumbling blocks—*

*[2] And harden not their hearts against the Lamb of God, they shall be numbered among the seed of thy father; yea, they shall be numbered among the house of Israel; and they shall be a blessed people upon the promised land forever; they shall be no more brought down into captivity; and the house of Israel shall no more be confounded.*

The specific way the Book of Mormon in these verses is using the word Gentile is to separate those from the remnant of Lehi's seed that he referred to over and over in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter. These Gentiles have the blood of Israel flowing in their veins, but since this book, especially first and 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi, is addressed to the remnant of Jacob which is identified as Lehi's seed, both a mixture of the Nephi and the Lamanites, these verses more particularly refer to them and anyone who is not a part of that mixture and remnant are considered in these verses as Gentiles. Verses one and 2 represent a great principle that we can learn from in the Book of Mormon. There is a difference between principles of the gospel and doctrines of the gospel. The church has been on a course for the last 10+ years in helping us learn the difference between doctrine and principles. Principles are identified with the use of 2 words **if** and **then**. Even though some principles do not have these words printed within the body of the language it's still inferred and we can train ourselves to look for these. Verse one starts right out when it says, *it shall come to pass that if*; that's the word you not the circle to begin to identify the principles. Principle-based learning is the Zion-based learning. Principles always contained within them statements of promise. Let me give you an example of a doctrine. Jesus Christ is the son of the living God. That is good solid doctrine, but it is not a principal. Now let me take that doctrine and turn it into a principal for you. Jesus

Christ is the son of the living God and if we keep his commandments and obey his voice then we shall obtain eternal life in the celestial kingdom of God. Did you see the principle involved in this statement? Did you see the promise that was there? Did you see that **if – then** stated or inferred? Now with that in mind you can see that verses 1 and 2 have all of the elements of the principle of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Back to verse one. *If the Gentiles shall one hearken unto the Lamb of God in that day.* Now that phrase *in that day* brings it up into our day and into the future. Statements like these *in that day* are helpful to identify which period of time the prophets referring to. Similar statements could be *at that time; in those days* or other similar statements that help us identify a day yet in the future – Usually the latter days in which we live. Look how the Lord, the Lamb of God, manifests himself under the Gentiles in our day. He shall manifest himself under them in *word*. As in all things in the gospel of Jesus Christ there are various levels of meaning to each one of these phrases. One level of being manifested to the Gentiles in word would be like, as was mentioned in first Nephi 13, where the Bible was found amongst them. Another would be through the Holy Ghost, by personal revelation. Could also be the direction and guidance of the Holy Spirit that divine matrix of the light of Christ that interconnects and gives light and life to all things, that is not a person, but is a power and a force that emanates from the throne of God and is used by the Son of God, by our father, by angels to perform their various ministries among the children of men. All of these could be found within this statement that he will manifest himself under the Gentiles in word. Then notice what else is says and also in power; And again various levels of meanings one of the meetings. One of the could be through the restoration of priesthood power in our day where God’s power and authority to act in his behalf is once again conferred upon them bestowed upon his sons as a part of the restoration of the latter-day gospel. Another way that he manifests himself under the Gentiles in power is he gives them the opportunity to enter into covenant relationships with him. Covenants always endow power upon God’s children. A covenant is a way to access God’s power. And the 3<sup>rd</sup> one in very deed. If these 3 things in word, and power, and in very deed represent a sequence of progression and movement upward then in very deed would be coming to a point through his word in his power to where you stand in his presence and behold his face. All of these things available to the Gentiles in our day. Verse 2, *and harden not their hearts.* This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> qualification in order to access the promises coming down in verse 2; and harden not their hearts against the Lamb of God. These are the 2 criteria necessary in this gospel principle, in these 2 verses, to access the wonderful promises that are about to be mentioned. What are they again? Number one, hearken unto the Lamb of God in that day, access his word, power and him in very deed; and number 2, harden not their hearts against the Lamb of God. Did you see those 2 disqualifiers? Again how we harden our heart against Christ? Go with me to Doctrine and Covenants section 29 and let’s look at verse 7.

***D&C 29:***

*[7] And ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect; ...*

This is exactly what first Nephi 14 one and 2 is talking about is the gathering of the elect of God, both of the house of Israel and of the Gentiles, back to verse 7.

*...for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts;*

When the still small voice of the Spirit of the Lord speaks to us and we choose to ignore that or we have not paid the price over enough time to become practiced and perfected in recognizing that voice then we are said to be heartening our hearts against the holy one. (10:01) Go to Alma chapter 13 verse 4.

***Alma 13:***

***[4] And thus they have been called to this holy calling on account of their faith, while others would reject the Spirit of God (here we go) on account of the hardness of their hearts and blindness of their minds, while, if it had not been for this they might have had as great privilege as their brethren.***

Now it's interesting that verse in Alma 13 is talking about the pre-mortal world. So here we can see that one of the reasons for failure to obtain an advantage in the world to come even in that first state is because the spirits of our father in heaven refused and rejected the spirit of God because of the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds. You see that even took place there. It was the primary cause for the deception which led to the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of the host of heaven feeling that a state and not obtaining the advantage. Back to first Nephi 14 verse 2. Here comes the promise. *If we hearken to the voice of the Lamb and if we harden not our hearts against the Lamb then*, inferred here is the then, **then** they shall be, one, here's the blessings, *numbered among the seed of thy father*. Now who was the father this thing spoken of here? Why it is Lehi. Now keep in mind that this promises coming way down into our day, continuing on. *Yea, they shall be numbered among the house of Israel*, continuing, *and they shall be here we go a blessed people upon the Promised Land for ever*. Now this is speaking about the Gentiles, who dwell upon the latter-day Book of Mormon Promised Land, being numbered among the seed of my father; means that through their obedience and humility they obtain the promises extended to Lehi as he received this land for the land of his inheritance for evermore. *And they shall be a blessed people upon the Promised Land for ever*. It is obvious that the full fulfillment of this prophecy is getting the future because the Lamanites, the descendants of Laman and Lemuel, the mixture of Nephi seed, since the battle Comorah, have been anything but blessed upon the promised land forever, but they will be yet in the future day. And I believe this is what Nephi is pointing forward to. *They shall be no more brought down into captivity*. We talked a lot about that captivity and persecution in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of first Nephi. The remnant of the seed of Lehi is going to have a glorious future ahead of them and where they now more or less languish and dwindle in unbelief and you only have to drive through several of the reservations of these descendants of Lehi and see the current state that there in this will not remain so. And I believe we are on the cusp of the birth of a new nation for the sons and daughters of father Lehi. Elder Spencer W. Kimball, of quorum of the 12 apostles, gives the conference report general

conference in October 1950. You can read about this in that conference report pages 63 through 69. In this report he was speaking about the Lamanites and the work among the Lamanites. He quoted a paragraph in the Journal of Discourses written by Wilford Woodruff in 1873. I'd like to share this with you as we study the future of the Lamanites being prophesied here by Nephi in first Nephi chapter 14 verses one and 2.

For long centuries the Lord has said how this chosen people would fall into transgression and how some centuries after Christ they would be so deep in sin they would lose their faith and that certain ones of them will be destroyed. Now brother Woodruff says he knows that these things will be fulfilled. Here's the quote by Brother Woodruff. 'And they will come to pass, as the Lord lives, Zion is bound arise and flourish. The Lamanites will blossom as the rose in the mountains. I am willing to say here that although I believe this when I see the power of the nation destroying them from the face of the earth the fulfillment of that prophecy is perhaps harder for me to believe in any other revelation of God that I have ever read. Elder Kimball said, Brother Woodruff lived in the day when the Lamanites were being destroyed they were the vanishing Americans at that time and they were being persecuted and driven and killed and reservationed about that time of the nation's history. He continues, "It looks as though there would not be enough left to receive the gospel; but notwithstanding this dark picture every word that God has ever said of them will have its fulfillment and they, by and by, will receive the gospel. It will be a day of God's power among them and the nations will be born in a day, Isaiah 66 verse 8. The Chiefs will be filled with the power of God and will receive the gospel. And they will go forth and build the New Jerusalem. And we shall help them. They are branches of the house of Israel, and when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in and the work ceases among them that it will goal in power to the seed of Abraham." This is Journal of Discourses, volume 15, page 282.

Well, brothers and sisters, we are in that day. It is my feeling that the day of the Gentile ended last year and that we are now in the day of Israel and the fulfillment of this prophecy by Pres. Woodruff is about to be manifested among us. Back to verse 2, *and the house of Israel shall no more be confounded*. It's very interesting in the 1828 edition of the Webster dictionary the word confound is defined thus: to mingle and blend different things so that their forms or natures cannot be distinguished; to mix in a mass for crowd so that individuals cannot be distinguished. This is how Lucifer desires to have us lose our identity by mixing us in a cauldron of confusion and disorder. Surely the house of Israel, for hundreds of years, has been confused and disordered as a result of their refusing to hearken unto the voice of the Lord and hardening their hearts. This no more confounded means that that confusion will end. The identities of the house of Israel and the various tribes will be defined through covenant process and blessings given through the patriarchal order. Each will come to know who they are individually, and what their pre-mortal destiny is and how it's to be fulfilled. Let's go to verse 3 in first Nephi 14.

***1 Nephi 14:***

*[3] And that great pit, which hath been digged for them*(meaning the house of Israel and those Gentiles were numbered among them) *by that great and abominable church, which was founded by the devil and his children, that he might lead away the souls of men down to hell—yea, that great pit which hath been digged for the destruction of men shall be filled by those who digged it, unto their utter destruction, saith the Lamb of God; not the destruction of the soul, save it be the casting of it into that hell which hath no end.*

Let's talk about this pit which is dugged by the great and abominable church to confound the house of Israel and to bring them down into captivity. God's people have always been unique, peculiar, and set apart from all of the other nations of the world. If it were not so how could we become a light set on a hill which cannot be hit? To the degree that we seek to become like all the other people, like the children of Israel did in Saul's day, where they said we want to be like all the people and desire to have a king rather than God be their king. They enter into this pit of sameness and they lose their individual identity, their peculiarity, their role as a royal priesthood, and a separate people from the rest of the world. It is so easy for us to want to become like them. Those who made it to the tree of life and saw those in the great and spacious building, the whore of Babylon, pointing their fingers at them, mocking them, and scorning them, turned away from the tree in shame and wandered off and were lost in forbidden paths. They entered into the pit. There is nothing good that can be said about this pit. There is nothing godly about it. It is dark. It is confining. It captivates. It ensnares. It traps you. Nothing good comes from this pit dig to ensnare the people of the Lord. I have sensed that the latter-day Saints in the last decade or so slipping into this pit. They have wanted to be like everybody else. The godly attribute of tolerance has been taken too much to an extreme. Pres. Boyd K. Packer and in a general conference in April 2013 said this about the principle of tolerance.

*Tolerance is a virtue, but like all virtues when exaggerated it transforms itself into a vice. We need to be careful of the tolerance trap so that we are not swallowed up in it. (21:24) The permissiveness afforded by the weakening of the laws of the land to tolerate legalized acts of immorality does not reduce the serious spiritual consequence that is a result of the violation of God's law of chastity.*

I believe that this tolerance trap, that Brother Packer talks about, is a part of the pit that is designed to ensnare the people of the Lord. Another word that can be used subtly to lead us into that pit is the word inclusion. It's a word that we hear used a lot in our Latter-day Saint community. Inclusion is a godly virtue, but like brother Packer said when exaggerated it transforms itself into a vice. We can come to a point where we tolerate and include, to the degree, that we lose the ability to be able to call sin – sin. I am glad to see that we are living in a day, now, where we are not concerned with what the world thinks; how political talking heads talk about the administration of the church and its doctrines and principles; but that we go forward nobly and boldly fearlessly of what the world can say and become again a light set upon a hill that cannot be hid. One of my favorite sayings that points this out is, “if we look so much like them how will they find us?”

The Book of Mormon teaches us these precious truths and warns us of the great snares and pits that are dig by the enemy to ensnare the people of God. Remember the key to avoiding these snares in these traps is simply this *we heeded them not*. Remember also the warning from Lehi's tree of life that *as many as heeded them have fallen away*, First Nephi chapter 8 verse 33 and 34. Verse 4.

### ***1 Nephi 14:***

***4 For behold, this is according to the captivity of the devil, and also according to the justice of God, upon all those who will work wickedness and abomination before him.***

Captivity is a word that is used in many, many times throughout the Book of Mormon. You can see this captivity of the devil mentioned also toward the end of verse 7, *according to the captivity of the devil which I've spoken*. What is this captivity of the devil? How does this happen? How does he capture us? Let's go to 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi chapter 2 verse 29 for a key to understand this concept. This is a great Scripture on the freedom of choice and man's agency to choose liberty and eternal life or to choose captivity and death mentioned in verse 27. Let's look at verse 28.

### ***2 Nephi 2:***

***[28] And now, my sons, I would that ye should look to the great Mediator, and hearken unto his great commandments; and be faithful unto his words, and **choose** eternal life, according to the will of his Holy Spirit;***

Verse 29, watch for the key on how the devil captivates us

***[29] And not choose eternal death, according to the will of the flesh **and the evil which is therein,...*****

Remember our question is how does the devil captivate us? The key to that has to do with *the will of the flesh and the evil which is there in*. That he is our fallen nature. That is the weakness that is in the flesh made up of the elements of this fallen world. When we give in to the tugs and pulls of our fallen nature and choose that direction look what it says in verse 29

***... which giveth the spirit of the devil power to captivate, (us).***

He has no power to bring you into captivity whatsoever unless you yield to the will of the flesh and the evil which is there in. It's that choice to go that direction that gives Satan power to captivate and

***...to bring you down to hell, that he may reign over you in his own kingdom.***

This is another strong reason why we should be seeking, through the power of the atonement of Christ, to have this fallen nature which Nephi describes to hear as the will of the flesh and the evil which is therein; to have that replaced by the divine nature of our holy parents and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the purpose of spending that hour a day in sacred holy time with the Savior so that he can remove the natural man, will of the flesh and the evil which is therein from us through his atonement and replace it with the nature; the light, the truth and love, of our holy parents. The more he is able to replace; the more he is able to infuse this divine essence, the nature of our parents, into us the less and less the devil will have power over us to captivate and bring us down to hell. Escaping the power of the devil and coming to a point where he cannot captivate you, while still in this world, comes as you become alive in Christ and have your liberated physical being infused with your restored spiritual identity and have those 2 become one through the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you see that escaping the power of the devil coming out of the pit, or even avoiding the pit altogether, takes place as your nature is changed? Verse 5.

***1 Nephi 14:***

*[5] And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me, Nephi, saying: Thou hast beheld that if the Gentiles repent it shall be well with them; ...*

Why will be well with them? Because it be included with the remnant of Jacob, be blessed forever upon the Promised Land, be no more brought down into captivity nor confounded as promised in verse 2.

*and thou also knowest concerning the covenants of the Lord unto the house of Israel; and thou also hast heard that whoso repenteth not must perish.*

*[6] Therefore, wo be unto the Gentiles if it so be that they harden their hearts against the Lamb of God.*

*[7] For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other—either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds unto their being brought down into captivity, and also into destruction, both temporally and spiritually, according to the captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken.*

Everything that we've talked about from verses one through 6 is summarized in verse 7. Brother LeGrand Richards wrote a book called [A Marvelous Work and A Wonder](#) in which he referred to the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the restoration of priesthood power, and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon as the fulfillment of that Scripture in Isaiah chapter 29 verse 14. (30:03) truly, all of this was the portion of the fulfillment of that Scripture, but it is my testimony to you that the complete fulfillment of this scripture, the bringing forth of a marvelous work and a wonder among the children of men, will not be fulfilled until the establishment of the great latter-days Zion preparatory to the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of the Lord. We need to move from a preparatory

phase into an everlasting phase. With the recent changes that have been made in the endowment ceremony, perhaps we can see that were moving from Aaronic into Melchizedek, from preparatory and everlasting. Verse 8.

*[8] And it came to pass that when the angel had spoken these words, he said unto me: Rememberest thou the covenants of the Father unto the house of Israel? I said unto him, Yea.*

*[9] And it came to pass that he said unto me: Look, and behold that great and abominable church, which is the mother of abominations, whose founder is the devil.*

Here the Angels going to harken back to the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter in the 26<sup>th</sup> verse where *the great abominable church has taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain embraces and this part and also many covenants of the Lord had they taken away. Remember the purpose of this is to pervert the right ways of the Lord in blind the eyes and heart and hearts the children of men so that in exceeding great number do stumble.* Verse 10.

*[10] And he said unto me: Behold there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth.*

I remember when I was younger and I first read this verse I used to think that the church of the Lamb of God was The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and that all other churches were the churches of the devil. Remember Brother McConkie's definition of the church and the devil is: *any and all organizations that lead a man away from Christ and his saving principles of doctrines and ordinances.* The Church of the Devil here, referred to as a whore, is very, very graphic. Look at verse 11.

*[11] And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the whore of all the earth, and she sat upon many waters; ...*

These waters cannot only refer to geographical areas but more specifically in scriptural meaning it refers to many people. Sat upon many waters and then the next verse,

*...and she had dominion over all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people.*

The many waters and all the earth show that this whore of all the earth is global in scope among all nations, kindreds, tongues and peoples. Why the reference to a whore? The reason is that she sells something that is precious for money. Harkens back to something spoken in a sacred place, *you can have anything in this world for money.* Nothing is sacred where money is involved in the Babylonian kingdoms. This whore of all the earth is a global, secret combination that as Pres. Benson said in October general conference in 1988,

*“I testify that wickedness is rapidly expanding in every segment of our society. It is more highly organized, more cleverly disguised and more powerfully promoted than ever before. Secret combinations (plural) lusting for power again in glory are flourishing. The Secret combination (singular) that seeks to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations and countries is increasing its evil influence and control over America and the entire world.”*

This is the whore of Babylon. This is the great and abominable church. It's not only religious. It's economic. It's geopolitical and it has its tentacles in every aspect of every human being's life that lives upon this earth. Again another quote from Pres. Benson's talk, *I testify*, he said,

*“I testify that is the forces of evil increase under Lucifer's leadership and is the forces of good increase under the leadership of Jesus Christ there will be growing battles between the two until the final confrontation. (This is where we are slower moving into, brothers and sisters, right now) As the issues become clearer and more obvious (and they have never been more obvious and clear and they are now) all mankind will eventually be required to align themselves either with the kingdom of God or the kingdom of the devil. (See these 2 great kingdoms matches first Nephi 14 where he says there are saved to churches only) As these conflicts rage either secretly or openly the righteous will be tested. God's wrath will soon shake the nations of the earth and be poured out upon the wicked without measure, but God will provide strength for the righteous and the means of escape and eventually and finally truth will triumph.”*

Isn't that a great quote? Describes perfectly the day were in right now and what we're facing from this point forward. The church of the Lamb of God is that system of laws, ordinances covenants, doctrine and principles, authorized by our father and his Son Jesus Christ to bring their children back in their presence and to obtain eternal life. To say that the church of the Lamb of God is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints denies the fact that there is a need for this church to be cleansed in a coming day and that there are within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints those who are blasphemous and blasphemed the name of God in the midst of his holy church. If there was an organization that would be referred to as the church of the Lamb of God surely it would be the Church of the Firstborn with its operatives both in the terrestrial and celestial realms and counterparts found upon the earth at any given time. Let's look at verse 12.

*[12] And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few,  
...*

Well that can certainly be used to describe the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints because even with 16 million members and compared with the world population its numbers are few.

*. ...because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters; nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth; ...*

We have members of the church in most nations of the earth but not on all the face of the earth.

*... and their dominions upon the face of the earth were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw.*

The keyword here is *saints*. In a lesser meaning of the word saint signifies a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. That is an entry-level to the word saint. The word saint is tied in with the word sanctified. So, at a higher and deeper level, these saints, who belong to the church of the Lamb of God, are those who are sanctified and sealed up to eternal life; that had her calling elections made sure; obtain the promises of the Lord and belong to the Church of the Firstborn while still living in the flesh on this earth. So, within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, you have a full spectrum of people who claim membership at a higher place in this spectrum; you have men and women, who have come up and obtained precious promises from the Lord and an entrance into the church of the firstborn by having their calling elections made sure and being sealed up to eternal life while still in the flesh. The great and abominable church makes war specifically against this group of people. The whore makes war against all were called the saints of God no matter what level progression their at but would specifically target those who have the greatest influence among their fellow man and whom the Lord has designated to fulfill pre-mortal missions; that will establish Zion; rescue the vulnerable and transition this earth for a telestial hope to terrestrial sphere. Those are the ones that he wants to stop. Look at verse 13 that describes this,

*[13] And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations did gather together multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, (to do what?) to fight against the Lamb of God.*

(40:06) Verse 14.

*[14] And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; (and here we go) and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory.*

In order for a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to fit into that last sentence in verse 14, *armed with righteousness and with the power of God again great glory*, will require you to be above the casual membership and apathetically standing in the church. There, we can see that these verses certainly can apply to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but I deeper and higher level it has to go into the Church of the Firstborn, which comes because of your involvement in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in your temple worship and in the covenants you enter into in sacred places. Even though there may be some I don't know of anyone who belong to the Church and Firstborn that has not been a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Verse 15.

*[15] And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon that great and abominable church, insomuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth.*

There is a dark net created by Lucifer and Satan that interconnects all the wickedness that is found upon the face of this earth. This interconnection allows them to communicate and disperse from higher levels down the lower levels information, combinations, false endowments, keywords, signs and tokens that they use in their dark ordinances to protect each other and to advance their cause. It's interesting that even in the Internet there is something called the dark web. I've never been there but I know people who have; and I know that is a dangerous place to go. All of these verses refer to this giant, global, secret combination that seek to enslave all kindreds, nations, tongues and peoples throughout the world. It is the latter-day culmination of something that began with Cane and has been carried forth, carefully, for all these thousands of years, until it's reached its fruition in our day. Verse 16.

*[16] And as there began to be wars and rumors of wars among all the nations which belonged to the mother of abominations, the angel spake unto me, saying: Behold, the wrath of God is upon the mother of harlots; and behold, thou seest all these things—*

*[17] And when the day cometh that the wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church of all the earth, whose founder is the devil, **then, at that day**, the work of the Father shall commence, in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his covenants, which he hath made to his people who are of the house of Israel.*

The wrath of God is beginning to be poured out upon the mother of harlots. And according to this verse, you should be able to see them the commencement in preparing the way for the fulfilling of the covenants which God is made to the house of Israel. We see that with the changes that are taking place in the church right now. President Nelson has stated many times in his addresses that the gathering of the House of Israel has now commenced in earnest. It is my belief that the day of the Gentile is over and that the day of Israel has dawned. I believe the things that we are witnessing in the great changes that are taking place in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are evidence of that day in which we live. Emphasis now placed in general conference in men obtaining power in their priesthood and not just being ordained to the priesthood. In talks being given by the first presidency concerning the order of Enoch and quoting the holy order Scriptures found in the Joseph Smith translation Genesis 14; President Nelson emphasizing the importance of receiving personal revelation, even going so far to say that if you do not receive it you will not survive the day that's coming. The revelation concerning family centered church supported activities; it is my feeling that all of this is evidence that we are moving back into something very ancient, something very poignant, that is designed to bring us into the presence of God in to see him face-to-face not only individually but as a society - Zion. There is a very interesting Scripture in the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of Moses verse 7 which says this,

*Moses 6:*

*[7] Now this same Priesthood, which was in the beginning, shall be in the end of the world also.*

This verse seems to be isolated from the verses that proceed it and from the verses that follow. It's just a single statement found, a prophecy, by Adam concerning his day and the end of the world. Are we moving back into that priesthood order which was in the beginning and will be in the end of the world also? Remember that the covenants of the Father which He has made unto his people are the house of Israel are found in 3 general groups. They had to do with lands of inheritance, not only physical lands upon this earth but the ultimate land of inheritance is in the celestial world in the presence of the Father and the Son. Another element of the covenants of the fathers make the house of Israel has to do with posterity; not only in this world and having seed in the physical world but also being able to have posterity and children in an after the resurrection of the dead. And the 3<sup>rd</sup> element has to do with priesthood and the blessings and ordinances of the gospel; not only in this world but in the world to come to have an everlasting priesthood to accompany your innumerable seed and the celestial inheritance. Verse 18

***1 Nephi 14:***

*[18] And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me, saying: Look!*

*[19] And I looked and beheld a man, and he was dressed in a white robe.*

*[20] And the angel said unto me: Behold one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

Keep in mind this is written 600 to 592 BC.

*[21] Behold, he shall see and write the remainder of these things; yea, and also many things which have been.*

*[22] And he shall also write concerning the end of the world.*

*[23] Wherefore, the things which he shall write are just and true; and behold they are written in the book which thou beheld proceeding out of the mouth of the Jew; and at the time they proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, or, at the time the book proceeded out of the mouth of the Jew, the things which were written were plain and pure, and most precious and easy to the understanding of all men.*

Well, this apostle that Nephi seeing here as we go over the pages identified as John the Revelator and the things that he writes concerning the end of the world are in his book called the Revelation of John. We have that in our currently canonized holy Bible. Verse 24.

*[24] And behold, the things which this apostle of the Lamb shall write are many things which thou hast seen; and behold, the remainder shalt thou see.*

So everything that John the regulator sees and wrote about in his writings was also seen by Nephi. Verse 25.

*[25] But the things which thou shalt see hereafter thou shalt not write; for the Lord God hath ordained the apostle of the Lamb of God that he should write them.*

*[26] And also others who have been, to them hath he shown all things, and they have written them; and they are sealed up to come forth in their purity, according to the truth which is in the Lamb, in the own due time of the Lord, unto the house of Israel.*

*[27] And I, Nephi, heard and bear record, that the name of the apostle of the Lamb was John, according to the word of the angel.*

See many holy men and women have seen this vision that Nephi sees here. I know of some who have seen these very same things and they were able to see them because they sought to see them in faith and it was according to the will of the Lord that it should be manifest. Remember that Nephi is upon and exceeding high mountain as he is seeing all of these things. Look at verse 30.

*[30] And now I make an end of speaking concerning the things which I saw while I was carried away in the Spirit; and if all the things which I saw are not written, the things which I have written are true. And thus it is. Amen.*

Brother Maxwell intimated that it was on this mountain that Nephi received his endowment blessings that are administered in the temples of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. (50:09) Look verse 28.

*[28] And behold, I, Nephi, am **forbidden** that I should write the remainder of the things which I saw and heard; wherefore the things which I have written sufficeth me; and I have written but a small part of the things which I saw.*

*[29] And I bear record that I saw the things which my father saw, and the angel of the Lord did make them known unto me.*

Not only did he see the things that John the Revelator saw but he may also have received his endowment blessings under the hand of the Lord or his authorized servants.

Well, brothers and sisters, been good to be with you again. We now finished with vision of Nephi which is centered upon the vision and dream of his father Lehi of the tree of life. What marvelous information we are blessed to have from these writings and the sacred Book of Mormon. May the Lord bless us with the spirit of prophecy and revelation, with the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit, and with the companionship of the Holy Ghost, and ministering angels as we continue to study the Book of Mormon another Testament of Jesus Christ. I pray in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen