

BOM 023 - 1 Nephi 22

As you study the Book of Mormon and you seek the Lord in prayer to better understand the message of this wonderful book I would ask you, are you also asking for the ministration of angels? Are you asking the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to send to you sacred messengers to minister to you and help you understand this book at a deeper level than you ever have before? We have been encouraged lately by our general authority leaders in general conferences and in other gatherings that we should seek for the ministering of angels in our lives. I believe that we will hear more of this theme as the days unfold into the future. In the book *Biographical Sketches of Joseph Smith the Prophet* by his mother Lucy Mack Smith on pages 84 and 85 mother Smith recorded the following.

“During our evening conversations, Joseph would occasionally give us some of the most amusing recitals that could be imagined. He would describe the ancient inhabitants of this continent their dress, mode of traveling and the animals upon which they rode, their cities, their buildings with every particular; their mode of warfare and also the religious worship. This he would do with as much ease seemingly as if he had spent his whole life among them.” In the church periodical, *Times and Seasons*, written in March 1842 the prophet wrote this as it appears in a letter to John Wentworth.

“I was also informed concerning the aboriginal inhabitants of this country and shown who they were and from whence they came; a brief sketch of their origin, progress, civilization, laws, governments, of their righteousness and iniquity and the blessings of God being finally withdrawn from them as a people was made known unto me. I was also told where there was deposited some plates on which were engraven and abridgment of the records of the ancient prophets that existed on this continent. The angel appeared to me 3 times the same night and unfolded the same things. After having received many visits from angels of God, unfolding the majesty and glory of the events that should transpire in the last days, on the morning of 22 September 1827 the angel of the Lord delivered the records into my hands.”

All of this instruction took place during the 4 years that Joseph was being tutored by the angel Moroni and before he actually removed the plates from the hill Cumorah. Therefore, by the time he began the translation of the Book of Mormon he was already vastly familiar with the history of that book; having been shown all of this by angelic ministration and the visions of the Almighty. I submit, brothers and sisters, we should use this as a pattern for our own study and preparation for the events that are coming up. Surely the mission that Joseph Smith was called undertake required him to have this angelic preparation in advance. The missions that you and I have yet in the future having been highly favored to have been born at this time in the Earth's existence requires great preparation to be made by us. Do you think that our preparation for our missions is any less for us than the preparation that was necessary for Joseph's ministry? As you read the chapters in the Book of Mormon, identify beforehand the characters that you will be reading about. As you kneel down in prayer before reading the book asked the Lord to send these men and these women to you to teach, instruct, give greater understanding, and even visions and manifestations to you that the words of this book might seep deeply into your hearts and bring you nearer to God than any other book that you might read. If the Book of Mormon as is stated in the Keystone statement made by Joseph Smith will bring a man and a woman closer to God by

reading it and abiding by its principals than by any other book, then we should do things differently with this book than we would do with any other book. Asking for and receiving angelic help should be one of those things we should include.

Let me reason together with you for a moment. How many people among the populations of the earth have access to this book of books? Most of the world's population will live and die and never turn the page on the Book of Mormon. So immediately those who have access to the book become a minority in the world's population. Now those who have the Book of Mormon, how many have even had a thought to ask for angels to help them as they read it? Another qualification that diminishes the overall number. Of those who had the thought, how many will actually ask for this ministration? And of those that do ask for and how many actually believe that it will take place? Can you see that the number has become very, very small, not only among the populations of the earth, but within the membership of the church? How interested are these angels in helping us in our mortal soldier even though not a hard-fast rule there appears to be some laws that govern the ministration of angels to mortals. One of those laws is that they have supreme respect for the agency of men and women in this world behind the veil. These ministrations are limited unless we give permission and an invitation for these men and women to come and help us. When such permission is finally given, accompanied by the belief that it will actually take place, what kind of rejoicing must take place in the heavenly realms when that agency activated actually allows the ministration to take place. I testify to you my friends that there is jubilation in heaven when that son or daughter of God exercises their agency in requesting such help and believing that it actually will take place. I also testify that this is a great source of love, understanding, strength and divine help that we have hardly tapped into. My final question to you is: what can it hurt to try it out? Clear away your unbelief; exercise your faith ask, seek, and knock and allow our friends and helpers from the other side of the veil to step forth and become enlisted in our behalf. I have done this and can testify that it works. Every podcast that is recorded is preceded by prayer where I asked our Father in the name of Jesus Christ to send those characters who are listed in the chapters that were going to be discussed to come forth and ministered to me following the pattern established by Joseph Smith. They have and do come and much of what is recorded in these podcasts was unknown to me at the beginning of the recording. May the Lord bless you to do so also.

1 Nephi 22:1. The 22nd chapter of 1 Nephi is an inspired commentary of Nephi concerning the previous 2 chapters that he's taught his family found in our Bible today in Isaiah chapter 48 and chapter 49. Remember that the chapter immediately following any discourse given by the Book of Mormon prophets concerning Isaiah or any other previous prophetic utterance from the plates of brass is always an inspired commentary to the content of their discourse. So, it is with 1 Nephi 22. It's also wise to read the chapter headings and see the material that is written there. This material was written by great scholars and scribes in our day under the direction of the spirit of the Lord to give us concise description of the following chapter material.

1 Nephi 22:

[1] Now it came to pass that after I, Nephi, had read these things which were engraven upon the plates of brass, my brethren came unto me and said unto me: What meaneth these things which ye have read? Behold, are they to be understood according to things which are spiritual, which shall come to pass according to the spirit and not the flesh?

It's a good question to ask ourselves now as Laman and Lemuel and Nephi's brethren and asked him then. There are many things that we see and read and seek to understand and we wonder is this to be taken literally or is it somehow symbolic, spiritually intended. There is a temptation because we cannot understand something to consign it to symbolic statement, a metaphor or an allegory when in reality it may have been intended to be taken literally. We'll see in the next few verses that the statement in the flesh is also referred to as temporal. Temporal meaning temporary, mortal in this world. Verse 2.

[2] And I, Nephi, said unto them: Behold they were manifest unto the prophet by the voice of the Spirit; for by the Spirit are all things made known unto the prophets, which shall come upon the children of men according to the flesh.

One of the areas in our day where we ask similar questions that are being asked in this chapter have to do with your understanding things that take place in the temples of the Lord. We assume or are taught many times by those in authority, that everything in the temple is to be taken symbolically. And so, we go to the temple for years and years looking for something and having an expectation which is not meant at all and then we hinder up our progress in moving forward. Verse 3.

[3] Wherefore, the things of which I have read are things pertaining to things both temporal and spiritual; ...

So, there is the key. Whether you're reading the Scriptures, whether you're attending the temple, you need to know that there are both temporal physical of the flesh and spiritual symbolic meanings in this world. The challenge is to determine which is which. The key is given in verse 2. *Behold they were manifest unto the prophet by the voice of the Spirit;* (here we go, and) *by the Spirit are all things made known unto the prophets* (and for that matter to us) *which shall come upon the children of men according to the flesh.*

One of the methods used by the ancient prophets of the Middle East is to prophesy metaphorically, allegorically, symbolically, in types and shadows, and in likenesses. In the New Testament time many of these kinds of teachings were referred to as parables. It appears that the plates of brass were filled with this type of teaching. If you did not have the spirit of the Lord to help you discern the meanings of these prophecies, it became very difficult to determine whether they were to be understood physically or spiritually. Remember earlier in 1 Nephi 16 when Laman and Lemuel were having difficulties understanding their father's vision of the tree of life and kept asking Nephi for interpretations Nephi simply asked the question: *Have you inquired of the Lord?* And they quickly responded, *We have not for he maketh no such things known unto us.* One of my mentors, early in my journey, said to me after I had inquired concerning one of the deeper doctrines of the gospel, *Have you asked the Lord that question?* And I was incredulous because I had not even thought to do such a thing. Here I had a man who was more knowledgeable than I was and had experiences that I have not had yet, and it would just seem more natural to ask him to explain and being the true messenger that he was he quickly pointed me in the direction of asking the Lord and receiving information through the power of the Holy Ghost. He was so in tune with the spirit that when I ask him one question he said, *I was about to answer that, but the Holy Ghost said I'll take that.* This kind of teaching and guiding is indicative of true messengers from the Father. They will seldom do for you what you can do and

should do for yourselves, but they will always point you in the direction that will guide you further in inquiry and personal revelation. This is why we should never begin any reading from the Book of Mormon unless we first of all pour out our hearts to our holy Father in the name of his son, Jesus Christ, and asked to have our minds and enlightened, our intellects quickened, and our understanding broadened. This I have found to be extremely beneficial as I begin my studies of God's word. Back to verse 3.

*[3] ...for it appears that the house of Israel, sooner or later, will be scattered upon **all** the face of the earth, and also among **all** nations.*

Emphasis on all. Well this was done anciently and the descendants of these scattered mothers and fathers of an earlier day are now found among all the nations of the world. The believing blood of the house of Israel in our day is found, to one degree or another, among all the nations of the earth. Since we have records of some of these nations i.e. the Book of Mormon being a record of a branch broken off from the house of Joseph; the Bible being a record of the Jews; and we are instructed that the 10 tribes will have their own records which they will bring to us in the future day; I know that there are in existence many, many records hidden in the earth; buried and in cave, hidden up by the hand of the Lord through his anointed servants to come forth out of future day to testify that Jesus is the Christ the son of the living God. We mentioned earlier that all nations that God reveals himself to are required to write those revelations down and to record them for future posterity. I believe that as we have read of certain nations like the Jeradites, the Nephites, the Mulekites; being led away by the hand of the Lord to lands of promise there are many other groups who had the same experience. I would not be a bit surprised that when the Jeradites landed upon this land that there were others who had preceded them being brought here by the hand of the Lord. When the Lehi colony comes here, they are contemporary with and exist on the same landmass with the Jeradites for an extended period of time and were unaware of each other's existence. I believe that there were other peoples upon this land that we know not of because we have not obtained their written records. We try to take existing knowledge and understanding and many times are caught into the trap of putting a square peg into a round hole. Again, it is extremely important that we remain open and teachable otherwise we will miss out on great things that the Lord is bringing to pass; especially right now in the day of the dispensation of Israel. Verse 4.

[4] And behold, there are many who are already lost from the knowledge of those who are at Jerusalem....

This we understand to mean those of the 10 tribes who were led away by Shalmaneser in 721 BC North into the Assyrian Empire. But is restricted only to the northern kingdom or could it mean groups of those who are led away and already lost that date back to an earlier time when Moses led the children of Israel out of Egyptian captivity? I don't believe for one moment that all of the Israelites that were in the land of Goshen and in Egypt it had been there for 400 years left Egypt with Moses and the group that went with him. That's not the pattern. If there is an exodus in our day, in the form of what many refer to as a call out, you think all of those who are asked to leave will? And if that so, what happened to the descendants of those who stayed in Egypt? They are of the house of Israel. Could these also be among those many who are already lost from the knowledge of those who are at Jerusalem? Continue on in verse 4.

[4] ... Yea, the more part of all the tribes have been led away; ...

And by the way this leading the way is by the Lord through his called authorized servants.

[4] ... and they are scattered to and fro upon the isles of the sea; and whither they are none of us knoweth, save that we know that they have been led away.

This leading away can be done by kings, tyrants, dictators and despots. Whether their names are Tiglath Pileaser, Shalmaneser, Nebuchadnezzar or Augustus Caesar; they still operate under the direction of the Lord and nothing takes place with the children of the house of Israel that is not under the control of the God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Verse 5.

[5] And since they have been led away, these things have been prophesied concerning them, and also concerning all those who shall hereafter be scattered ...

Those referred to as being scattered hereafter, spoken by Nephi here, are the Jews at Jerusalem from whence they have left. Their scattering would take place in 586 BC by the Babylonian Empire. And then later in history there would be a future great scattering called the diaspora which would begin in 70 A.D. with the Roman destruction of Jerusalem, the temple of Herod, and the carrying away of the surviving captives by Titus and the 10th Legion.

[4] ...those who shall hereafter be scattered and be confounded,

Middle of verse 5. Remember the confounded means: mixed up, blended, put to shame, in a state of disorder.

[4] ...because of the Holy One of Israel; for against him will they harden their hearts; wherefore, they shall be scattered among all nations and shall be hated of all men.

We talked at length about that in some previous chapters. Verse 6.

*[6] Nevertheless, after they shall be nursed by the Gentiles, and the Lord has lifted up his hand upon the Gentiles and set them up for a standard, and their children have been carried in their arms, (the children of the scattered tribes of Israel carried in the arms and upon the shoulders of the Gentile nursing kings and queens) and their daughters have been carried upon their shoulders, behold these things of which are spoken are **temporal**; (we spoke about that in some detail in chapter 21) for thus are the covenants of the Lord with our fathers; and it meaneth **us** in the days to come, and also all our brethren who are of the house of Israel.*

The **us** there are the Nephite, Lamanite, and Mulekite people's that were broken off and carried over the wall. Verse 7.

[7] And it meaneth that the time cometh that after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, (mixed up, blended) that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land; and by them shall our seed be scattered.

This mighty nation of the Gentiles to be raised up in the latter days is the United States of America. It is the great promised land, spoken over and over in the Book of Mormon. This mighty nation is not Canada; it is not Mexico; is not Central America and it is not South America. It is interesting that the Gentiles of this mighty nation are instrumental in the scattering and confounding of the house of Israel, that branch which finds itself upon this land, a branch from the house of Joseph and yet it is the very establishment of this mighty nation among the Gentiles that will also be the great catalyst for the recovery, for the restoration and the gathering of the house of Israel, not only on this land of the United States of America and her political policies and geopolitical stance among the nations of the world has acted and will yet act in the gathering, restoration, and healing of the house of Israel in the latter days. It is not by chance that the great New Jerusalem design of the latter days will be upon the face of this mighty nation raised up in the last days among the Gentiles. All of this is to the fulfilling of the covenant made by the Father under the house of Israel and have to do with the statement at the bottom of verse 6 where it says, *for thus are the covenants of the Lord with our fathers, and it meaneth us in the days to come, and also all of our brethren who are of the house of Israel.* The temporal gathering of all of these sons and daughters of the house of Israel is tied directly with the formation of the mighty nation among the Gentiles the United States of America and particularly her Constitution. Go with me to section 98 in the Doctrine and Covenants and let's go to verse 4. The nursing mothers, kings, queens, and fathers has to do, in large measure, with this holy document set up among the Gentiles in this favored land in the latter days. Verse 4.

D&C 98:4-6

[4] And now, verily I say unto you concerning the laws of the land, it is my will that my people should observe to do all things whatsoever I command them.

[5] And that law of the land which is constitutional,...

Not all laws of the various lands throughout the world are constitutional. Constitutional law always belongs fully to a government that is a Republic. And look at these laws are intended to do, the middle of verse 5.

*[5] ... supporting that principle of freedom in maintaining rights and privileges, belongs to (catch this) **all mankind**, and is justifiable before me.*

Do you think the Constitution that we have in this country could've been set up anywhere else in the world among any other people? Verse 6.

[6] Therefore, I, the Lord, justify you, and your brethren of my church, in befriending that law which is the constitutional law of the land;

The Constitution of the United States has been exported to many, many countries since it was founded and signed. Those countries throughout the world that enjoying any kind of a measure of freedom and liberty are those countries who have exported the Constitution of the United States and adopted its principles for their own constitutional documents. Going back to 1 Nephi 22:8.

1 Nephi 22:

[8] And after our seed is scattered the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed; wherefore, it is likened unto their (meaning our seed) being nourished by the Gentiles and being carried in their arms and upon their shoulders.

The Constitution of the United States, referred to by prophets as a heavenly banner, is as much a part of the marvelous work among the Gentiles as is the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ. All of these things play together to nourish the house of Israel and to prepare them to be gathered in the great latter-day work and restored, not only to their ancient lands of inherited, but to the God of their fathers, the mighty one of Israel. I would also tell you that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a Gentile church. And that the members of the church in our day are identified among the Gentiles. The podcast we included in the series earlier called the Gentiles explains this in greater detail. If you don't understand that concept of the church of Jesus Christ and its members being identified as Gentiles go back and listen to this podcast once more. To show the fulfillment of this in our day, I would tell you that the church in developing nations could not exist without the children of Ephraim in the Intermountain West of America. The strength of the church in such places as Idaho, Utah, Arizona, and other places where the church has been multi-generational literally carries the church members throughout the world. Whether it's in the perpetual education fund, in humanitarian services, in tithes and offerings; I have learned that without the faithfulness of the children of Ephraim and their fellows within the Intermountain West, the Gentiles stronghold within the boundaries of the everlasting Hills, the church outside of these areas would cease to exist. Those of you have served missions in developing nations know how much money and resources is poured from the church membership within the United States of America and specifically from among those members living in the Intermountain West will testify to this fact. It's likened unto the children of Israel being nourished by the Gentiles, members of the church within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints living within the boundaries of the mighty nation of the Gentiles and being carried in their arms and upon their shoulders. Verse 9.

[9] And it...

That **it** has reference back up to verse 8, the marvelous work which the Lord will proceed to do among the Gentiles.

[9]... shall also be of worth unto the Gentiles; and not only unto the Gentiles but unto all the house of Israel, unto the making known of the covenants of the Father of heaven unto Abraham, saying: In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

There's more to the covenants made to Abraham that we understand on the surface. As we mentioned in the past, the Abrahamic covenant concerns itself with land, posterity, and the blessings of the priesthood and the gospel. Abraham means: *father of many nations*. This is a new name given to Abraham as he became the presiding high priest in the holy patriarchal order. Anciently not only were the seed of his body heirs to all that he had but also any who came into the gospel by baptism and covenant from whatever race, kindreds, or nationality through Abraham's instrumentality were to be numbered among his seed in the earth and also in eternity. Go with me to Abraham 2 and let's go to verse 8.

Abraham 2:8-10

[8] My name is Jehovah, and I know the end from the beginning; therefore my hand shall be over thee. (Here we go - this is the Abrahamic covenant)

[9] And I will make of thee a great nation, ...

The question that came up with Laman and Lemuel to Nephi is that to be understood temporally or spiritually and the answer is both. He's to be a father of nations in this world and in the eternal worlds.

*[9] ...and I will bless thee above measure, and make thy name great among **all nations**, and thou shalt be a blessing unto thy seed after thee, ...*

We'll find out who that seed is; that the literal seed of the body or does it extend out?

[9] ... that in their hands they shall bear this ministry and Priesthood unto all nations;

What ministry? Why it's the same commission and ministry that God has given our great father Abraham. We have the same opportunities and privileges extended to us that were given to him by God. We are the seed of Abraham. Verse 10.

[10] And I will bless them (Abraham's seed) through thy name; (watch this part right here) for as many as receive this Gospel shall be called after thy name, and shall be accounted thy seed, and shall rise up and bless thee, as their father;

This is a little-known aspect of the Abrahamic covenant that builds nations in this world and in eternity. All of these nations have a great presiding head or father. What we have now seen looking back through history in retrospect to what happened to Abraham as a result of these promises are also promises that are afforded to the seed in the latter days and the same thing that happened to Abraham can happen to us through the same processes. Notice in verse 10 that *as many as received this gospel shall be called after thy name*. That's not limited to just the physical seed of Abraham's body but also to all those who are converted to the Lord Jesus Christ through his instrumentality and those who are converted to the Lord and obtain precious promises will rise up and bless Abraham as their father now and more particularly in eternity. Back to verse 9, 1 Nephi 22. These are what is known as *the covenants of the father of heaven unto Abraham*. Verse 10.

[10] And I would, my brethren, that ye should know that all the kindreds of the earth cannot be blessed unless he shall make bare his arm in the eyes of the nations.

How does God make bear his arm in the eyes of the nation? By the ending of a day of apostate darkness and the dawning of the day of restoration light and truth. And with that restoration of light and truth is included the restoration of God's priesthood power and the conferral of that power upon mortal man through authorized servants. This is the way the Lord, among other ways; makes bear his holy arm in the eyes of the nations. Verse 11.

[11] Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations, (watch this, how does he do it?) in bringing about his covenants and his gospel unto those who are of the house of Israel.

The Exodus in the days of Moses, the warning of the Lehi colony to escape from Jerusalem, the leading of the Jeradites away from the great tower into the promised land, the escape of the saints in the meridian of time to Pella in modern-day Transjordan, the exodus of the latter-day Saints out of the United States into Mexican territory, and futures such saving movements, physically and spiritually, will make bear the arm of the Lord in the eyes of the nations; bring about the covenants in his gospel and all those in the house of Israel; and verse 12.

[12] Wherefore, he will bring them again out of captivity,...

My friends, all of us even living within the great Gentile nation of the latter days the United States of America, are living under a form of captivity, bondage, and slavery. There has been put in place now for many, many years a giant secret combination that Pres. Benson talked about in his talk, *I Testify*, that seeks to enslave all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people and receives much of its power from the political leadership of the United States of America. Go with me to section 103 in the Doctrine and Covenants. Let's go to verse 11.

D&C 103:11-18

[11] But verily I say unto you, I have decreed that your brethren which have been scattered shall return to the lands of their inheritances, and shall build up the waste places of Zion.

This was talking about the persecution and the loss of life and property in Missouri. Verse 12.

[12] For after much tribulation, as I have said unto you in a former commandment, cometh the blessing.

These things that have taken place throughout history are going to take place again. You can look at the historical evidence in detail and see what's happened in detail and specificity taking place in our very day. This is what makes Isaiah so unique is he prophesied under the direction of the Lord in such a way that you can see in our day in detail unfolding what Isaiah prophesied thousands of years ago. This is why the Lord commands us to study Isaiah specifically in our day because what he saw and wrote about, even though coded to the majority, unveils in detail the specifics of the latter-day prophecies. Back to verse 13.

[13] Behold, this is the blessing which I have promised after your tribulations, and the tribulations of your brethren—

Think now beyond Jackson County Missouri and think now in the latter days; into the great tribulations of the house of Israel; including the great battles of the latter days, of World War III, Armageddon, and all the things that have been prophesied. Back to verse 13.

[13] ...your redemption, and the redemption of your brethren, even their restoration to the land of Zion, to be established, no more to be thrown down.

This is where we are at in history right now. This is what we're doing right now. Zion will be, finally and worldwide, established in our day. The house of Israel will be gathered no more to be trodden down and confounded. All of these things that have happened in the past many times will not happen again. Verse 14.

[14] Nevertheless, if they pollute their inheritances they shall be thrown down; for I will not spare them if they pollute their inheritances.

That had not only to do with the early days of the history the church but also has reference into some future happenings. Verse 15.

[15] Behold, I say unto you, the redemption of Zion must needs come by power;

It's not going to happen anymore by the purchase of lands, the exchange of deeds, but will be done by the power of the Lord and through divine intervention. These verses we're reading about in 103 have direct reference to the things that Nephi's talking about. Verse 16.

[16] Therefore, I will raise up unto my people a man, who shall lead them like as Moses led the children of Israel.

There has been much discussion about who this man is. Is it the prophet Joseph Smith returning to the earth for yet a future mission? Is it my servant, David, spoken out through Old Testament Scripture? We will see in a day not too far in the future. Verse 17.

[17] For ye are the children of Israel, and of the seed of Abraham, (This is exactly what Nephi speaking about over here.) *and ye* (you, speaking about us in our day) *must needs be led out of bondage by power, and with a stretched-out arm.*

If you look at your footnote under 17c, you will see this bondage is referred to there as physical. Again, going back to Laman and Lemuel's question, are these things to be understood temporally physically in the flesh or are they spiritually to be discerned. One thing's for sure this delivering out of bondage will be by divine intervention with a stretched-out arm. That is a great atonement symbol showing that only through the atonement of Christ as his arms were stretched out and nailed to the cross; it will be those same pierced hands, those same outstretched arms and their virtue and power that will redeem modern Israel and had no other way. Verse 18. Here we go.

[18] And as your fathers were led at the first, even so shall the redemption of Zion be.

You see the likening of things in the past; things in the present; and things yet to be? Back to 1 Nephi 22:12.

1 Nephi 22:

[12] Wherefore, he will bring them again out of captivity, and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance; and they shall be brought out of obscurity and out of darkness; and they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel.

The giant global combination, that has been put into place now for many thousands of years which finds itself in its most advanced state now, is referred to in our day as the New World Order. The New World Order is nothing new; it's just an old-world order in our day. It controls nations. It controls economies. It enslaves people and populations everywhere. It controls everything that we do know from birth to death; no matter where you live even in the latter-day United States of America. It is true that we enjoy freedoms here that other nations don't, but yet much of what we enjoy is illusionary and deceptive. Verse 13.

[13] And the blood of that great and abominable church, which is the whore of all the earth, ...

This is this order. This satanic global conspiracy that were talking about here; Nephi calls that the *Great and Abominable Church*. John calls it the *Mother of Abominations*, the *Whore of All the Earth*. Both John and Nephi refer to this as a whore. There is no whoredom without money. Money in huge vast amounts has to be included wherever the definitions of whoredom, harlotry and sexual deviation take place. All sexual promiscuity, deviation that takes place is accompanied by vast sums of money that flow into the coffers of this mother of abominations as a result of the death, degradation, and misery of God's children. Back to verse 13.

[13] And the blood of that great and abominable church, which is the whore of all the earth, shall turn upon their own heads; for they shall war among themselves, and the sword of their own hands shall fall upon their own heads, and they shall be drunken with their own blood.

This is a great Book of Mormon phenomenon that you see in all scriptures but is clearly pointed out in the Book of Mormon, referred to as *the wicked who killed the wicked*. Go with me to Mormon 4:5. This is during the great genocidal war that's taking place at the end of Nephite history. Verse 5.

Mormon 4:5

[5] But behold the judgments of God will overtake the wicked and it is by the wicked that the wicked are punished for it is the wicked that stir up the hearts of the children of men unto bloodshed.

Go with me to section 63 let's look at verse 32.

D&C 63:32-34

[32] I, the Lord, am angry with the wicked; I am holding my Spirit from the inhabitants of the earth.

Do you see that withdrawing of the spirit? That withdrawal of the spirit always precedes what the Book of Mormon calls the wrath of God. Look at verse 33.

[33] I have sworn in my wrath, and decreed wars upon the face of the earth, (here we go) and the wicked shall slay the wicked, and fear shall come upon every man;

And notices sobering comment in verse 34.

[34] And the saints also shall hardly escape; (but notice the promise here in verse 34) nevertheless, I, the Lord, am with them, and will come down in heaven from the presence of my Father and consume the wicked with unquenchable fire.

Now let's go over to 1 Nephi 22 and continue in verse 14. Why is it that the wicked turn against themselves; they war among themselves; the sword of their own hands falls upon their own heads and their drunken with their own blood. The answer to that is in verse 14.

1 Nephi 22:

[14] And every nation which shall war against thee, O house of Israel, (look here) shall be turned one against another, (do you see that implosion? Their imploding upon each other) and they shall fall into the pit which they digged to ensnare the people of the Lord. (and this) And all that fight against Zion shall be destroyed, and that great whore, who hath perverted the right ways of the Lord, yea, that great and abominable church, shall tumble to the dust and great shall be the fall of it.

The trigger that causes this implosion is the attack of the great and abominable church upon the saints of the most high God. Well, brothers and sisters, this implosion will not happen as long as the church and the saints of the church strive to be like the rest of the world. This will only happen as our direction become such to be a peculiar people, a royal priesthood, and be separate and distinct and apart from the great Babylonian whore of the latter-day. It is my testimony, that under the leadership of Pres. Russell M. Nelson, we are moving towards that particular royal priesthood status among the nation to become more than we ever have been before a light upon a hill which cannot be hid. That bright light of truth and love and life will paint a target upon those who enlist in the cause of Zion. Let it be so. Go to your hymnbook, hymn number 43, *Zion Stands With Hills Surrounded*.

Zion stands with hill surrounded—

Zion, kept by pow'r divine.

All her foes shall be confounded,

Though the world in arms combine.

Happy Zion, Happy Zion,

What a favored lot is thine!

Ev'ry human tie may perish,

Friend to friend unfaithful prove,

Mothers cease their own to cherish,

Heav'n and earth at last remove.

But no changes, But no changes

Can attend Jehovah's love.

In the furnace God may prove thee,

Thence to bring thee forth more bright,

But can never cease to love thee;

Thou art precious in his sight.

God is with thee, God is with thee;

Thou shalt triumph in his might.

Verses 15 through 17 are interesting because they are not found in the Isaiah text anywhere in Isaiah 49. These are 3 verses that were found upon the plates of brass but apparently had been removed as 1 Nephi 13 tells as much as been removed to cause a great stumbling in the latter days. Nephi quoting off the plates of brass, verse 15.

[15] For behold, saith the prophet,...

It appears that the prophet most quoted by Nephi from the plates of brass is the prophet Zenos.

[15] ... the time cometh speedily that Satan shall have no more power over the hearts of the children of men; for the day soon cometh that all the proud and they who do wickedly shall be as stubble; and the day cometh that they must be burned.

[16] For the time soon cometh that the fulness of the wrath of God shall be poured out upon all the children of men; for he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous.

[17] Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it so be that the fulness of his wrath must come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, they shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire.

If you want to see how this overlays, you can place these verses directly after the last verse in chapter 49 and before the first verse in chapter 50. It's easy for me to see why these verses would be taken away by evil and conspiring man because they shed tremendous light on a latter-day scenario. We're now moving into a prophecy by Zenos contained upon the plates of brass and included in Nephi's commentary here concerning the beginning of the great millennial reign. I might say that those who have looked for chapter 22 to be a commentary on Isaiah 48 and 50 or 1 Nephi 20 and 21 cannot find in those 2 chapters all of the things that Nephi is mentioning here in his commentary in chapter 22. That's because Nephi is mentioning much more than what is written and he's interpreting upon the Isaiah prophecies from the plates of brass. Included in chapter 22 are all the experiences and elements of Nephi's visions, angelic ministrations, and experiences upon high mountaintops that he includes in chapter 22 that go beyond his interpretation of the 2 Isaiah chapters mentioned. Back to verse 15.

[15] ... the time cometh speedily that Satan shall have no more power over the hearts of the children of men, for the day soon cometh that all the proud and they who do wickedly shall be as stubble; and the day cometh that they must be burned.

This is the destruction of everything that is telestial element. Whether it be humans, animal, lands, or any of the elements of the telestial earth will pass away by fire as the earth is cleansed and renewed to receive its paradisiacal, terrestrial, 3rd estate millennial glory. Verse 16.

[16] For the time soon cometh that the fulness of the wrath of God shall be poured out upon all the children of men;...

The fullness of the wrath of God is the complete consumption of everything that is telestial and that cannot make the transition to terrestrial.

[16] ... for he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous.

There will be martyrs in the day to come. Not all of the righteous will survive the coming days of cleansing and transitioning, but the reward of the martyr is life eternal and inheritance in the celestial kingdom of God. Verse 17.

[17] Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power,...

We mentioned before that the preservation of the house of Israel in a coming day will take place by divine intervention.

[17] ... even if it so be that the fulness of his wrath must come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, they shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire.

There have been times in the past and will be many more times in the future where the enemies of the house of Israel will be consumed by heavenly fire. Those among this rescued redeemed group will have power to call down fire from heaven and consume the enemies of the children of God. This you will see. This is your lot to witness this great manifestation of God's power. I testify to you that the miracles of redemption and rescue, that we read about in the Scriptures performed in the past, will be nothing compared to those events that will be manifest in a coming day. The collapse of Babylon, as John says in Revelations, in one day and one hour will necessitate divine intervention. It will happen so completely and so quickly that those who merchandised with the whore will stand afar off with their mouths agape in wonder at how such a thing that took thousands of years to put in place could be destroyed as it were in one day and one hour. The medium of fire will be one of the main elements in this destruction of the beast kingdom. Fire not only being a destroyer but also a refiner and purifier. Verse 18.

*[18] Behold, my brethren, I say unto you, that these things must shortly come; yea, even blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke must come; and it must needs be upon the face of **this earth**; and it cometh unto men according to the flesh if it so be that they will harden their hearts against the Holy One of Israel.*

Interesting statement about *this earth*. It appears that this earth is a redeeming earth and that the great atoning Savior of the world was sent to this earth so that redemption might take place for all who live upon her face and any and all others who look towards this Savior for redemption. The blood and fire and vapors of smoke that come upon the face of the earth purify and cleanse our earth mother as a planet as much as they do the inhabitants who dwell upon her face. Our earth mother fulfills the measure of her creation and is extremely obedient to her creators. Verse 19.

[19] For behold, the righteous shall not perish; for the time surely must come that all they who fight against Zion shall be cut off.

I want you to notice the promises that are made multiple times here. At the end of verse 16 the Lord says, *he will not suffer the wicked to destroy the righteous*; about three fourths of the way down in verse 17, *the righteous need not fear for they shall be saved even if it's so be by fire*; and in verse 19, again, *the righteous shall not perish; for the time surely must come that all they who fight against Zion shall be cut off*. The only way that any of us who have a destiny to pass

through these coming days can do so without fear, especially amidst the terrible calamitous events that we all know are prophesied to take place, is to become completely converted to the Lord Jesus Christ and be sealed to him; thereby, having his nature of fearlessness, courage, and divine hope become our nature. One of the reasons for translation in the latter days is for those who are blessed with this gift to be able to pass through these events of blood and fire and vapor of smoke and not be distracted by them. The need to have this change of translation upon those who are foreordained to it in order to fulfill their missions in the coming day was on my mind on the morning of Sunday, December 30 at 6 AM while I was seeking to converse with the Lord through the veil. May I share with you the following?

This morning while conversing with the Lord the thought was placed in my mind asked the following question, "Is the process of translation the same for all persons?" I did not have in mind to inquire into anything at this time concerning translation, but the Lord felt that I needed to have this information at this particular moment. I was taught the following. The process of translation is common to all in that all involved have the physical death suspended and proceed from telestial you flesh to terrestrial flesh without that experience. This process not only includes the physical aspect of translation, but also spiritual, emotional, mental and psychological aspects as well. Each person is completely unique from any other person and the process of translation in these areas is as varied as is the individual son or daughter. For example, the 3 disciples were told that they would not sorrow anymore except for the sins of the world. Sorrowing is an emotional experience. They needed to be changed in order to not be distracted by the experiences of their individual ministries. The missions that his elect will be called to fulfill in the coming day will place them in the most disturbing, disgusting circumstances of sexual deviation, warfare disease, plague, pestilence, death, and chaos; and they will need to be translated in these different aspects of our total being in order to fulfill their missions and not be distracted by the environment. Back to 1 Nephi chapter 22:20.

[20] And the Lord will surely prepare a way for his people, unto the fulfilling of the words of Moses, which he spake, saying: A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass that all those who will not hear that prophet shall be cut off from among the people.

This is the most frequently quoted messianic Scripture in all of the written canon. Who is this prophet that Moses speaks of? The answer to that is given by Nephi in verse 21.

[21] And now I, Nephi, declare unto you, that this prophet of whom Moses spake was the Holy One of Israel; (the Holy One of Israel is the Lord Jesus Christ) wherefore, he shall execute judgment in righteousness.

And here we go, one more time, the promise made concerning the righteous. Verse 22.

[22] And the righteous need not fear, for they are those who shall not be confounded. (There's that word again) But it is the kingdom of the devil, which shall be built up among the children of men, which kingdom is established among them which are in the flesh—

Drawing comparison that the righteous need not fear because they will not be confounded, but it is the kingdom of the devil that needs to fear. Verse 23.

[23] For the time speedily shall come that all churches which are built up to get gain, and all those who are built up to get power over the flesh, and those who are built up to become popular in the eyes of the world, and those who seek the lusts of the flesh and the things of the world, and to do all manner of iniquity; yea, in fine, all those who belong to the kingdom of the devil are they who need fear, and tremble, and quake; they are those who must be brought low in the dust; ...

This being brought that low takes place when the fullness of the wrath of God is upon them.

[23] ... they are those who must be consumed as stubble; and this is according to the words of the prophet.

The word stubble has reference to wheat fields and other kinds of commercial grains that once the fruit of these grains or plants is harvested; any of the stock that is unnecessary is cut low to the ground and put into a pile to be consumed by fire or hauled off. The low-lying stocks that still protrude from the ground connected to the roots which are beneath the ground are referred to as stubble. To clear the ground, this stubble was also burned with fire so that nothing remained from the surface of the ground up of the original plant. And then the roots were plowed into the ground and used as compost for future plantings. This reference to stubble shows that everything is removed, so to the visual eye; nothing of the original crop remains. 24.

[24] And the time cometh speedily that the righteous must be led up as calves of the stall, ...

This is a direct reference now to the millennial reign. Calves outside of the stall and sheep outside of the sheepfold are in jeopardy of predators who can pick off these unprotected sheep and calves. The stall and the sheepfold act as a protective barrier that makes it easier for the shepherd or those watching over the calves to keep an eye on them and to protect them more fully. Back to verse 24.

[24] ...and the Holy One of Israel must reign in dominion, and might, and power, and great glory.

Again, referencing the coming millennial reign. 25.

[25] And he gathereth his children from the four quarters of the earth; ...

That has been going on in our day since the restoration of the gospel through the day of the Gentile. A gathering that now is represented by 16 million members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. But the gathering he had to take place with an outstretched arm and with power will make what's happened to this point seem insignificant and small.

[25] ... and he numbereth his sheep, and they know him; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd; ...

That's harkening back to John chapter 10.

[25] ... and he shall feed his sheep, and in him they shall find pasture.

Great metaphor referring to the millennial thousand-year reign. Verse 26.

*[26] And because of the **righteousness** of his people, Satan has no power; ...*

During the majority of the thousand-year reign of Christ upon the terrestrial earth Satan will be bound. That binding takes place because of priesthood seals that are placed upon him and also because the righteousness of his people. He can have no effect upon these sheep because their hearts are so closely knit and dear to the heart of the shepherd. Back to verse 26.

[26] ...wherefore, he (Satan) cannot be loosed for the space of many years; for he hath no power over the hearts of the people, ...

That is through the majority of the millennium and only toward the end of the millennium is he allowed to have power again over the hearts. This power will be given him because at that time the people will choose to allow that to happen. Their choices will set him free one more time for the final confrontation in a terrestrial unveiled estate.

[26] ... for they dwell in righteousness, and the Holy One of Israel reigneth.

Verse 27.

[27] And now behold, I, Nephi, say unto you that all these things must come according to the flesh.

Verse 28.

[28] But, behold, (that behold comes because of the statement in verse 27) all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people shall dwell safely in the Holy One of Israel if it so be that they will repent.

There are those of us alive on the earth who will pass through all of these things that Nephi has spoken have in his first book. You will transition from death into life or will transition over death without experiencing that portal into life in the millennial reign. You will live throughout the thousand-year millennial reign. This 3rd estate is necessary for all of God's children. You cannot go from step 2 to step 4, or in other words you cannot go from a Telestial world to a Celestial world and skip the experiences and the lessons required in the 3rd millennial terrestrial estate. How that is to happen for all of God's children is one of the great mysteries of godliness, but it must happen. All of God's children must experience a millennial terrestrial 3rd estate. Verse 29.

[29] And now I, Nephi, make an end; for I durst not speak further as yet concerning these things.

He knew much much more. Remember that he sought everything to the end of the world and was about to write it all but was told by the Lord, No, because those things had been reserved for John to write the remainder of the things concerning the end of the world, but Nephi saw them all. He is a witness. There is nothing that John saw that Nephi has not beheld. Verse 30.

[30] Wherefore, my brethren, I would that ye should consider that the things which have been written upon the plates of brass are true; ...

Don't you look forward to having the transcripts of the plates of brass in the future day to be able to read those things that we in our studies here have only had a glimpse of?

[30] ...and they testify that a man must be obedient to the commandments of God.

Verse 31.

[31] Wherefore, ye need not suppose that I and my father are the only ones that have testified, and also taught them. ...

You and I will join that throng of testifiers in the future day as the plates of brass are brought forth to testify that Jesus is the Christ and that he's shown himself to all nations of the earth and that the written records of these manifestations will join the records of the plates of brass and others yet to come forth in the near future.

[31] ...Wherefore, if ye shall be obedient to the commandments, and endure to the end, ye shall be saved at the last day. And thus it is. Amen.

Interesting that amen put into another form is the same as *and thus it is*, or *may it be so*. And so, Nephi ends his chapter with a double amen; and thus it is, amen, sealing these words forever as his testimony to those that will read them now and in the day to come. And in so we end the chapters of 1 Nephi. I pray that these have been a blessing to you as they have been to me. May our father and his beloved son continue to bless us in our study of this marvelous book. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.

References:

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1 Nephi 22

D&C 98:4-6

Abraham 2:8-10

D&C 103:11-18

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D&C 63:32-34

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