

Purpose: To help us earnestly desire to search the words of the prophets.

Gospel Art: [Christ Asks for the Records](#)

1. The Savior quotes some of Isaiah’s prophecies about the house of Israel. ([3 Nephi 22](#); [23:1-5](#))

• 3 Ne. 22:2 “Enlarge the place of thy tent ... [and] lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes”.

What do you think it means to “enlarge the place of thy tent” and “strengthen thy stakes?”

• 3 Ne. 22:4-10 “For thy maker, thy husband, the Lord of Hosts is his name”.

What can this description teach us about the Lord’s devotion to His people?

†1. Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

• 3 Ne. 22:11-17 “O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted! ... I will lay thy stones with fair colors”.

How can these promises give strength to those who are afflicted?

• 3 Ne. 23:1-3 “Yea, a commandment I give unto you that ye search these things diligently”.

What does it mean to search the scriptures instead of merely read them?

†2. “Search, Ponder, and Pray” Children’s Songbook, 109

†3. Elder Henry B. Eyring

†4. Elder Boyd K. Packer

How have you been blessed as you have studied the scriptures?

• 3 Ne. 23:4-5 “Search the prophets, for many there be that testify of these things.”

How have you been strengthened by the testimonies of ancient and modern prophets?

2. The Savior commands the people to add to their records. ([3 Nephi 23:6-14](#); [24 - 25](#))

• 3 Ne. 23:6-14 “How be it that ye have not written this thing, that many saints did arise and appear unto many”.

Why do you think Jesus commanded them to teach the things that He had taught them?

What are some specific ways we could teach the gospel more often and more effectively?

• 3 Ne. 24:1-3 “He commanded them that they should write the words ... the Father had given unto Malachi”.

“Malachi was an Old Testament prophet whose words were not included on the plates of brass because he did not live until nearly 200 years after Lehi left Jerusalem. See Bible Dictionary, “Malachi,” 728.” (*Lesson Manual*)

†5. 3 Nephi 24:2. A Refiner’s Fire and a Fuller’s Soap

• 3 Ne. 24:8-18 “Will a man rob God?” †6. Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

What blessings are promised in these verses to those who pay tithes and offerings?

Have you experienced these blessings?

Why might some believe “it is vain to serve God”?

• 3 Ne. 25:1-6 “The day cometh that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, ... all that do wickedly, shall be stubble”.

What does it mean to be left without root or branch? Consider: *roots* = parents; *branches* = children

“To be united with our roots and branches, we must receive temple ordinances.” (*Lesson Manual*)

3. The Savior expounds all things from the beginning. ([3 Nephi 26](#))

• 3 Ne. 26:1-2 “These scriptures ... the Father commanded that I should give unto you; for it was wisdom in him”.

“*Expound* means to explain carefully and in detail.” (*Lesson Manual*)

Why should we teach the gospel “from the beginning,” as Jesus did?

• 3 Ne. 26:8-9 “These things have I written, which are a lesser part of the things which he taught the people”.

How can we receive “the greater things”?

†7. President Spencer W. Kimball

• 3 Ne. 26: 14, 16 “He did teach and minister unto the children of the multitude ... and he did loose their tongues”.

What do these verses indicate about how the Savior regards children?

• 3 Ne. 26:19-21 “And they taught, and did minister one to another; and they had all things common among them”.

How can we follow their example in our marriages, families, wards, and stakes?

([Book of Mormon Manual – LDS Institute](#) (Religion 121-122). (You can download a free PDF manual.)

Next Week: Lesson 42: “This Is My Gospel”; 3 Nephi 27-30; 4 Nephi; † •

†1. **Elder Jeffrey R. Holland:** “Christ has, on occasion, been rightfully angry with backsliding Israel, but that has always been brief and temporary—a small moment.” Compassion and mercy always return and prevail in a most reassuring way. The mountains and the hills may disappear. The water of the great seas may dry up.... But the Lord’s kindness and peace will never be taken from his covenant people. He has sworn with a heavenly oath that he will not be wroth with them forever” (*Christ and the New Covenant* [1997], 290).

†2. **Search, Ponder, and Pray:** *Children’s Songbook*, 109
I love to read the holy scriptures,
And, every time I do,
I feel the Spirit start to grow within my heart
A testimony that they’re true.

So, prayerfully I’ll read the scriptures
Each day my whole life through.
I’ll come to understand. I’ll heed the Lord’s command
And live as he would have me do.

CHORUS:
Search, ponder, and pray
Are the things that I must do
The Spirit will guide, and, deep inside,
I’ll know the scriptures are true.

†3. **Elder Henry B. Eyring:** The Holy Ghost will guide what we say if we study and ponder the scriptures every day. The words of the scriptures invite the Holy Spirit.... With daily study of the scriptures, we can count on this blessing....

“We treasure the word of God not only by reading the words of the scriptures but by studying them. We may be nourished more by pondering a few words, allowing the Holy Ghost to make them treasures to us, than by passing quickly and superficially over whole chapters of scriptures” (“[Feed My Lambs](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1997, 83-84).

†4. **Elder Boyd K. Packard:** “Isaiah is the most quoted prophet in the New Testament. The Lord Himself quoted Isaiah seven times, the Apostles forty times more. In addition there are ninety partial quotes or paraphrases of Isaiah’s words.

“Isaiah is the most quoted prophet in the Doctrine and Covenants. Sixty-six quotations from thirty-one chapters of Isaiah attest to the singular importance of this great prophet.

“All of this confirms that the Lord had a purpose in preserving Isaiah’s words” (*Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled* [1991], 280).

†5. **3 Nephi 24:2. A Refiner’s Fire and Fuller’s Soap**
“• Malachi employed powerful symbolism by describing the Messiah’s coming ‘like a refiner’s fire, and like a fuller’s soap’ (3 Nephi 24:2). A *refiner* is ‘a man who separates the precious metals from the dross with which in nature they are usually found mixed. Part of the process consists in the application of great heat, in order to bring

the mass into a fluid state, hence the term ‘refiner’s fire’” (Bible Dictionary, ‘Refiner,’ 760).”

“The Savior is like a refiner... ‘And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver’.... (Mal. 3:2-3; 3 Ne. 24:2-3; D.&C. 128:24)’ ...

“A *fuller*’s work was to cleanse garments and whiten them” through the use of soap (Bible Dictionary, ‘Fullers,’ 676). The Atonement of Jesus Christ acts like ‘fuller’s soap’ to cleanse us from our sins and prepare us to stand pure and spotless before the judgment seat.” (in *Book of Mormon Student Manual: Religion 121-122*, 333)

†6. **Elder Jeffrey R. Holland:** “I ... suggest five reasons why all of us, rich or poor, longtime member or newest convert, should faithfully pay our tithes and offerings.

“First, do so for the sake of your children.... Teach your children that many of the blessings of the Church are available to them because you and they give tithes and offerings to the Church...

“Second, pay your tithing to rightfully claim the blessings promised those who do so...

“Third, pay your tithing as a declaration that possession of material goods and the accumulation of worldly wealth are *not* the uppermost goals of your existence...

“Fourth, pay your tithes and offerings out of honesty and integrity because they are God’s rightful due...

“This leads to a fifth reason to pay our tithes and offerings. We should pay them as a personal expression of love to a generous and merciful Father in Heaven. Through His grace, God has dealt bread to the hungry and clothing to the poor. At various times in our lives, that will include all of us, either temporally or spiritually” (“[Like a Watered Garden](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 33-35).

†7. **President Spencer W. Kimball:** “I have had many people ask me through the years, ‘When do you think we will get the balance of the Book of Mormon records?’ And I have said, ‘How many in the congregation would like to read the sealed portion of the plates?’ And almost always there is a 100-percent response. And then I ask the same congregation, ‘How many of you have read the part that has been opened to us? And there are many who have not read the Book of Mormon, the unsealed portion. We are quite often looking for the spectacular, the unobtainable. I have found many people who want to live the higher laws when they do not live the lower laws’” (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball [1982], 531-532).

Recommended Reading:

“[Ten Keys to Understanding Isaiah](#),” Elder Bruce R. McConkie, *Ensign*, Oct. 1973, 78.

“[How Can I Understand Isaiah?](#)” Ryan S. Gardner & David A. Edwards, *New Era*, Mar. 2012, 18-22.

“[Scripture Reading and Revelation](#),” Elder Dallin H. Oaks, *Ensign*, Jan. 1995, 8.

Visit www.stephenmbird.com/library/gospel-doctrine †

Further Enrichment Resources:

3 Nephi 22:2. "Enlarge the place of thy tent"

President Ezra Taft Benson: "The prophets likened latter-day Zion to a great tent encompassing the earth. That tent was supported by cords fastened to stakes. Those stakes, of course, are various geographical organizations spread out over the earth. Presently, Israel is being gathered to the various stakes of Zion...."

"... Stakes are a defense for the Saints from enemies both seen and unseen. The defense is direction provided through priesthood channels that strengthens testimony and promotes family solidarity and individual righteousness" ("[Strengthen Thy Stakes](#)," *Ensign*, Jan. 1991, 2, 4).

3 Nephi 22:17. "No Weapon That Is Formed against Thee Shall Prosper"

President Gordon B. Hinckley: "As surely as this is the work of the Lord, there will be opposition. There will be those, perhaps not a few, who with the sophistry of beguiling words and clever design will spread doubt and seek to undermine the foundation on which this cause is established. They will have their brief day in the sun. They may have for a brief season the plaudits of the doubters and the skeptics and the critics. But they will fade and be forgotten as have their kind in the past."

"Meanwhile, we shall go forward, regardless of their criticism, aware of but undeterred by their statements and actions" ("[God Is at the Helm](#)," *Ensign*, May 1994, 60).

3 Nephi 23:1-5. Search the Scriptures

President Gordon B. Hinckley: "I am grateful for the emphasis on reading the scriptures. I hope that for you this will become something far more enjoyable than a duty; that, rather, it will become a love affair with the word of God. I promise you that as you read, your minds will be enlightened and your spirits will be lifted. At first it may seem tedious, but that will change into a wondrous experience with thoughts and words of things divine" ("[The Light within You](#)," *Ensign*, May 1995, 99).

Elder Dallin H. Oaks: "Because we believe that scripture reading can help us receive revelation, we are encouraged to read the scriptures again and again..."

"Similarly, what a scripture in the Book of Mormon meant to me when I first read it at age sixteen is not conclusive upon me as I read it at age sixty. With the benefit of my life's experiences and with my greater familiarity with revelation, I can learn things that were not available to me yesterday by reading the scriptures today."

"Another reason for repeated reading of the scriptures is that many of the prophecies and doctrinal passages in the scriptures have multiple meanings..."

The book of Isaiah contains numerous prophecies that seem to have multiple fulfillments. One seems to involve the people of Isaiah's day or the circumstances of the next generation. Another meaning, often symbolic, seems to refer to events in the meridian of time, when Jerusalem was destroyed and her people scattered after the crucifixion of

the Son of God. Still another meaning or fulfillment of the same prophecy seems to relate to the events attending the Second Coming of the Savior... As Nephi says, the words of Isaiah 'are plain unto all those that are filled with the spirit of prophecy' (2 Ne. 25:4)." ("[Scripture Reading and Revelation](#)," *Ensign*, Jan. 1995, 8)

3 Nephi 24:8-12. Tithes and Offerings

President Harold B. Lee: "The promise following obedience to this principle is that the windows of heaven would be open and blessings would be poured out that we would hardly be able to contain. The opening of the windows of heaven, of course, means revelation from God to him who is willing thus to sacrifice" (*The Teachings of Harold B. Lee*, ed. Clyde J. Williams [1996], 206).

President Heber J. Grant: "I bear witness—and I know that the witness I bear is true—that the men and the women who have been absolutely honest with God, who have paid their tithing ... God has given them wisdom whereby they have been able to utilize the remaining nine-tenths, and it has been of greater value to them, and they have accomplished more with it than they would if they had not been honest with the Lord" (in *Conference Report*, Apr. 1912, 30).

3 Nephi 25:5-6. Elijah Shall Turn Hearts

The Prophet Joseph Smith: "The word *turn* here [in Malachi 4:5-6] should be translated *bind*, or seal. But what is the object of this important mission? Or how is it to be fulfilled? The keys are to be delivered, the spirit of Elijah is to come, the Gospel is to be established, the Saints of God gathered, Zion built up, and the Saints to come up as saviors on Mount Zion."

"But how are they to become saviors on Mount Zion? By building their temples, erecting their baptismal fonts, and going forth and receiving all the ordinances, baptisms, confirmations, washings, anointings, ordinations and sealing powers upon their heads, in behalf of all their progenitors who are dead, and redeem them that they may come forth in the first resurrection and be exalted to thrones of glory with them; and herein is the chain that binds the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers, which fulfills the mission of Elijah" (*History of the Church*, 6:184).