

Purpose: To inspire us to read the prophecies of Isaiah and to help us understand how these prophecies apply in our lives.

†1. Introduction to Isaiah

†2. Bible Dictionary, “[Isaiah](#),” 707

†3. Elder Bruce R. McConkie

†4. Elder Boyd K. Packer in L9 Class Member Study Guide

1. Nephi testifies of Isaiah’s writings and gives keys for understanding them. (Read [2 Nephi 11](#); [25:1-7](#).)

Why did Nephi find Isaiah’s words important for his record?

• (See [1 Nephi 19:23](#); [2 Nephi 11:2-6, 8](#); [25:3](#).)

KEYS given to us by Nephi to understand Isaiah:

Key #1: “Likened all scriptures unto us” (1 Nephi 19:23; see also 2 Nephi 11:2, 8).

†5. Elder Gene R. Cook

Key #2: “Know ... concerning the manner of prophesying among the Jews” ([2 Nephi 25:1](#)).

Key #3: “Know the judgments of God” (2 Nephi 25:3; see also [verse 2 Nephi 25:6](#)).

Key #4: “Know concerning the regions round about [Jerusalem]” (2 Nephi 25:6).

Key #5: Be “filled with the spirit of prophecy” ([2 Nephi 25:4](#)).

What is the spirit of prophecy? (see [Revelation 19:10](#)) **How can we obtain it?**

How can the spirit of prophecy help us understand Isaiah’s teachings about the Savior?

Key #6: We can understand them because we live in the last days. ([2 Nephi 25:8](#))

2. Isaiah sees the latter-day temple and the gathering of Israel. (Read [2 Nephi 12:1-12](#).)

• 2 Ne. 12:2-3 **How does the Salt Lake Temple fulfill a portion of Isaiah’s prophecy here?**

Why do you think Isaiah described the temple as “the mountain of the Lord”?

How can all temples be “mountains” for our worship?

• 2 Ne. 14:6 Isaiah described temples as a “place of refuge” from heat and storms.

What are some examples of spiritual storms that we face in this life?

How can the temple help protect us from these storms?

• 2 Ne. 12:3-5 **How can we help establish the kingdom of God on earth?**

• 2 Ne. 12:7-12 **What are some of the specific sins mentioned?**

How can we avoid these pitfalls and “walk in the light”?

3. Isaiah prophesies that the Lord will raise an ensign and gather Israel.

(Read [2 Nephi 15:26-29](#); [21:12](#).)

• 2 Ne. 15:26; 21:12 Isaiah prophesied that the Lord would “lift up an ensign to the nations”.

“When the angel Moroni appeared to Joseph Smith, he said that chapter 11 of Isaiah (quoted in 2 Ne. 21) was about to be fulfilled (Joseph Smith—History 1:40).” (*Lesson Manual*)

How is the restored gospel of Jesus Christ an ensign to all nations?

What can each of us do to help fulfill this prophecy?

4. Isaiah and Nephi testify of Jesus Christ’s redeeming power. (Read [2 Nephi 16](#); [22](#); [25:19-30](#).)

• 2 Ne. 16 contains Isaiah’s account of a vision in which he saw the Lord.

• 2 Ne. 16:1-4 Isaiah described the setting of his vision.

• 2 Ne. 16:5 **How did Isaiah feel in the presence of the Lord?**

• 2 Ne. 16:6-7 **What is being symbolized here?**

• 2 Ne. 22:1-6 “Isaiah’s description of how all people will praise the Savior during the millennium.” (*LM*)

What “excellent things” has the Savior done for us? †6. Some “Excellent Things”

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

Next Week: Lesson 10: “He Inviteth All to Come unto Him”; 2 Nephi 26 – 30 † •

†1. **Introduction to Isaiah:** “Because he was a seer, Isaiah saw in vision such events as the War in Heaven, the destruction of Jerusalem after the Savior’s death, the battle of Armageddon, and the millennial reign of the Savior.

“Many of Isaiah’s writings seem difficult to understand because they refer to a wide range of past and future events described in symbolic language. However, we can come to understand them as we make a consistent, prayerful effort to read and study them. This lesson discusses some of Isaiah’s most significant writings.” (*Lesson Manual*)

†2. **Bible Dictionary, “Isaiah” 707:** “**Isaiah.** *The Lord is salvation.* Son of Amoz, a prophet in Jerusalem during 40 years, 740-701 B.C. He had great religious and political influence during the reign of Hezekiah, whose chief advisor he was. Tradition states that he was “sawn asunder” during the reign of Manasseh; for that reason he is often represented in art holding a saw.

“Isaiah is the most quoted of all the prophets, being more frequently quoted by Jesus, Paul, Peter, and John (in his Revelation) than any other O.T. prophet. Likewise the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants quote from Isaiah more than from any other prophet. The Lord told the Nephites that “great are the words of Isaiah,” and that all things Isaiah spoke of the house of Israel and of the gentiles would be fulfilled ([3 Ne. 23:1-3](#)).

(Read more at Bible Dictionary, “[Isaiah](#)” 707)

†3. **Elder Bruce R. McConkie:** “It just may be that my salvation (and yours also!) does in fact depend upon our ability to understand the writings of Isaiah as fully and truly as Nephi understood them.” (“[Ten Keys to Understanding Isaiah](#),” *Ensign*, Oct. 1973, 78)

†4. **Elder Boyd K. Packer:** “The Book of Mormon is a book of scripture. It is another testament of Jesus Christ. It is written in the biblical language, the language of the prophets...

“You will not read many pages into it until you catch the cadence of that language and the narrative will be easy to understand...

“Then, just as you settle in to move comfortably along, you will meet a barrier. The style of the language changes to Old Testament prophecy style. For, interspersed in the narrative, are chapters reciting the prophecies of the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. They loom like a barrier, like a roadblock or a checkpoint beyond which the casual reader, one with idle curiosity, generally will not go.

“You, too, may be tempted to stop there, but do not do it! Do not stop reading! Move forward through those difficult-to-understand chapters of Old Testament prophecy, even if you understand very little of it. Move

on, if all you do is skim and merely glean an impression here and there. Move on, if all you do is look at the words....

“The Lord had a purpose in preserving the prophecies of Isaiah in the Book of Mormon, notwithstanding they become a barrier to the casual reader.

“Those who never beyond the Isaiah chapters miss the personal treasures to be gathered along the way” (“[The Things of My Soul](#),” *Ensign*, May 1986, 61; cited in the *Class Member Study Guide*)

†5. **Elder Gene R. Cook:** “It is absolutely essential to apply the scriptures to yourself... [when] we’re searching to apply them to our own hearts is when they really come alive... If you really want to come unto the Lord, if you really want to draw close to Him and find out who He is, how He works, how He thinks, what He counts to be important and what He doesn’t, you’ll find it in the scriptures.” (*LDS Church News, Deseret News*, Nov. 19, 1988)

†6. **Some “Excellent Things”:** 1. The Lord will wash away sin. “he will wash away the filth of the daughters of Zion.” (2 Ne. 14:4) 2. He will restore his gospel. “lift up an ensign to the nations.” (2 Ne. 15:26) 3. He gives us the light of the mission of Christ: “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light” (2 Ne. 19:2) 4. He gives us joy. “Thou hast ... increased the joy they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest” (2 Ne. 19:3) 5. He will lift our burdens: “For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden” (2 Ne. 19:4) 6. He will judge us righteously. “... But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek . . .” (2 Ne. 21:3,4) 7. He will gather his people. “... the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people . . .” (2 Ne. 21:11) 8. He will be our strength, a refuge, a “covert from storm and from rain.” (2 Ne. 22:2; 14:6) 9. He will give us living water. “. . . with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.” (2 Ne. 22:3) 10. He will end the influence of the wicked. “The Lord hath broken the staff of the wicked” (2 Ne. 24:5) 11. He will give rest to the earth. “The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet; they break forth into singing.” (2 Ne. 24:7)

Recommended Reading:

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

Chiasmus:

John W. Welch, “[A Book You Can Respect](#),” *Ensign*, Sept. 1977, 45-58.

[Book of Mormon Manual – LDS Institute](#)

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