

1 Nephi 3: 135-256

Know the Plain and Precious Gospel

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1 Nephi 3: 135-138

Who is Speaking?

What is the Setting?

- An angel speaking to Nephi
- Nations and Kingdoms of the Gentiles

1 Nephi 3: 139

What does Nephi see?

- A great church

1 Nephi 3: 140

What kind of Church is this?

- Most abominable above all other churches
- slay the Saints of God
- torture them
- Bind them down, yoke them with an iron yoke
- bring them down into captivity

1 Nephi 3: 141

Who is the Founder of this Church?

- the devil was the foundation of the great and abominable church

1 Nephi 3: 142-143

What are the desires of this church?

- Gold & Silver
- Silks & Scarlets
- Fine twined linen & precious clothing
- Harlots also know as Prostitues-
a person who has sex with
someone in exchange for money

1 Nephi 3: 144

Why do they desire to live this way?

- for the praise of the world

1 Nephi 3: 145-147

Who is this man?

- Gentiles & Nephi's people separated by many waters
- Wrath of God upon Nephi's people
- A certain Man of the Gentiles separated from Nephi's people by many waters
- Spirit of God worked on this man and so he Crossed the many waters to the promised land where Nephi's people live

1 Nephi 3: 148-149

Spirit of God at work

- Then the Spirit of God worked on many other Gentiles
- They escaped captivity in their home land and crossed the many waters to the Promised land

1 Nephi 3: 150-151

Change is coming

- Nephi's people scattered & smitten before the Gentiles that escaped captivity.
- Gentiles prospered & obtained the land for their inheritance
- Why did the Gentiles receive the Promise Land?
 - 1) the wrath of God was upon Nephi's people
 - 2) the Spirit of the Lord was with the Gentiles

1 Nephi 151 continued..

Condition of the heart

- And because they were white, fair and beautiful?....What???
- Not outward appearance, but spiritual state of being.
- Revelations 19:8 white & clean means the righteousness of God, having his Spirit, example given white robes
- Context: white, fair and beautiful as the Nephites used to be before they were slain,
- 1 Nephi 3: 134 before they became a dark & loathsome & filthy people full of idleness & all manners of abomination due to their unbelief.

1 Nephi 3: 152

How did they receive his Spirit?

- The Gentiles that escaped captivity humbled themselves before the Lord
- and the power of the Lord was with them

1 Nephi 3: 153-156

Delivered out of the hands of all nations.

Sound familiar? Revolutionary War?

- The Mother of the Gentiles that had escaped captivity came across the many waters to the promised land
- So their former country men came to battle against them
- The power of God was with the Gentiles that escaped captivity
- The wrath of God was with those who would battle against them, so they lost & the other prospered

1 Nephi 3: 157-162

An important Book: The Bible

- The Gentiles carried a book with them to the promised land
- the Book: proceeded out of the mouth of a Jew
- the Book: is the record of the Jews containing the covenants of the Lord to the house of Israel and prophecies of the holy prophets

1 Nephi 3: 163

The Book & Brass plates similarities

- The Book: it contains records which are similar to what is found on the Brass plates, but not as many
- The Brass Plates were taken from Laban
- 1 Nephi 1: 158-164, The Brass Plates contain:
 - -the 5 books of Moses
 - -the record of the Jews & prophets to the commencement of the reign of Zedekiah king of the Jews
 - -Many prophecies spoken by Jeremiah
 - -the Genealogy of Nephi's fathers

1 Nephi 3: 164-166

The Book

- The Book is of great worth to the Gentiles
- Originally contained the plainness of the Gospel of the Lord of whom the twelve apostles bear record
- Went forth from the Jews to the Gentiles in purity

1 Nephi 3: 167

Problems arise

- After the Book goes to the Gentiles from the Twelve apostles to the Gentiles
- we see the foundation of a great & abominable church as referenced earlier

1 Nephi 3: 168-170

more problems

- The great & abominable church gets their hands on the Book
- They remove many plain & precious parts of the Gospel and many covenants of the Lord
- Why?....so they might pervert the right ways of the Lord,
- blind the eyes & harden the hearts of people

1 Nephi 3: 171-175

The book of the Lamb of God

- After the plain & precious things are taken away, the book goes to all the nations of the Gentiles
- Because these things are taken away from the Gospel: many people do stumble, insomuch that Satan has great power over them
- But God has a plan

1 Nephi 3: 176-183

The plan

- Yes the Gentiles do stumble, but God is with them and will not leave them blind
- God brought Gentiles out of captivity to the Promised Land for a reason
- He used the Gentiles in judgment against Nephi's people, but he won't allow them to destroy all of Nephi's descendants, he still has his covenant with this people
- God will bring back much of his Gospel by his own power. How?

1 Nephi 3: 184-186

The BOM

- The Lord will manifest himself to Nephi's descendants and they will write many things which He shall minister to them
- After Nephi's people are destroyed & dwindle in unbelief, the record will be hid up and come forth unto the Gentiles
- The record will have the Gospel of the Lamb, his rock, his salvation

1 Nephi 3: 188-189

the Promise

- Blessed are those who seek to bring forth my Zion at that day
- for they will have the gift & power of the Holy Ghost
- And if they will endure to the end they shall be lifted up at the last day and be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb

1 Nephi 3: 190-191

full circle

- The Gentiles bring the Bible to Nephi's descendants
- Other books also came forth by the power of the Lamb from the Gentiles unto them
- to convince the Gentiles, Nephi's people & the Jews that the records of the prophets & of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true

1 Nephi 3: 192-193

Purpose

- The last records which come from the Gentiles will establish the truth of the twelve apostles and make known the plain & precious things which have been taken away from them.
- And to make known to all people: the lamb of God is the son of the Eternal Father & the Savior of the World and that all men must come to him or they can not be saved.

1 Nephi 3: 193 note

Saved from what?

- Saved from sin
- What is sin? Sin separates us from God: from Knowing, understanding & loving God as we should
- To save us from being separated from him
- “All men must come to him or they can not be saved”

1 Nephi 3: 194-197

Word up

- They must come to him according to his words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb
- Where do we find his word?
- The words of the Lamb will be found two places:
- 1) the records of Nephi's descendants=
BOM
- 2) the records of the twelve apostles= the Bible
- The two shall be established in one, for there is one God & one shepherd over all the earth

1 Nephi 3: 198-202

the 1st will be last & the last will be 1st

- The time comes that the Lamb of God will manifest himself to all nations Jews and Gentiles
- First the Jews then the Gentiles & after the Gentiles then the Jews
- If the Gentiles will hearken unto him in that day, He will manifest himself in word, in power, in very deed unto taking away their stumbling blocks & harden not their hearts against him; they will be joined & numbered with the house of Israel

1 Nephi 3: 203-209

Blessings to the Gentiles

- They will be blessed on the promised land for ever
- no more be brought down into captivity
- The house of Israel will no more be confounded
- The great pit that had been dug for the destruction of men will be filled with those who digged it, who are those of the great & abominable church, the devil & his children

1 Nephi 3: 210-213

Repentance necessary choice

- If the Gentiles will repent, it shall be well with them
- You know the covenants of the Lord, those who do not repent, must perish
- woe be to the Gentiles if they harden their hearts against the Lamb of God
- Repent= to turn back to God, to turn away from a life without knowing and/or without trusting God

1 Nephi 3: 214-216

Choices

- The Lord will work a great & marvelous work among the children of men
- It shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other
- Either to convincing them to peace & Life Eternal
- Or deliver them to the hardness of their hearts & the blindness of their minds, to be brought down into captivity & destruction both temporally & spiritually according to the captivity of the Devil

1 Nephi 3: 217-223

2 Churches

- There are two Churches:
- 1) The church of the Lamb of God
- 2) The church of the devil
- If you don't belong to the church of the Lamb, then you belong to the church of the Devil, the great & abominable church, the mother of all abominations, the whore of all the Earth

1 Nephi 3: 224-228

Compare/contrast

- The great & abominable church sat upon many waters, had dominion over all the earth
- The church of Lamb of God, who were the Saints of God, its numbers were few, but had place all over the world
- The church of the Lamb was so small because of the wickedness & abominations of the great & abominable church

1 Nephi 3: 229-234

Battle

- The great & abominable church gathered together among the nations of the Gentiles to fight against the Lamb of God
- The power of the Lamb of God descended onto the Saints and the covenanted people of the Lord, who were scattered all over the earth
- They were armed with righteousness & the power of God in great glory
- The wrath of God poured out onto the great & abominable church insomuch that there were wars & rumors of wars among all the nations.

1 Nephi 3: 235-237

God's work

- When God's wrath is poured out on the great & abominable church (wars & rumors of wars amongst the nations who belong to that church),
- then the work of the Lord will commence to fulfill his covenants with the people of the house of Israel

1 Nephi 3: 238-256

Book of Revelations

- Nephi is shown more future events concerning the end of the world, but he is told not to write them
- Because John of the twelve apostles was also shown these future events and he will write them down in the book that proceeded out of the mouth of a Jew which the Gentiles carry= the Bible
- Also other people have been shown these events and have written them down, but they are sealed up to come in purity, in the own due time of the Lord
- That is the end of what Nephi could share while carried away in the Spirit