

Fire Refines the Righteous

**Book of Mormon...Again
Adult Study Class
March 3rd, 2024
with Sarah Smith**

Fire Refines the Righteous

This past week's reading: 1 Nephi 6-7

Small Group Discussion

How did it go last week?

***How have we handled our trials from the last
few days?***

Nephi reading from Isaiah's writings

- To more fully persuade them to believe in their Redeemer (vs. 4)
- All scripture for profit and learning

When we talk to someone about scripture/spiritual concepts, are we doing it for these purposes?

- To more fully persuade them to believe in their Redeemer (vs. 4)
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When we talk to someone about scripture/spiritual concepts, are we doing it for these purposes?

- Or to gratify or glorify ourselves, or to prove a point?

- 1 Nephi 6:17 “For behold, I have refined thee; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction”
- vs 21 “The Lord hath loved him; yea, and **he will fulfill his word** which he hath declared by them;”

God assures us of two things:

- Hard times don't necessarily equal punishment- His chosen are often refined through affliction. Just because we have hard times doesn't mean we're being punished. Sometimes God chooses to refine us through affliction.

God assures us of two
things:

- He WILL fulfill His word and
won't abandon us in our trials.

God assures us of
two things:

- Hard times don't necessarily
equal punishment
- He will fulfill His word

He reiterates this in vs. 44-46

“But behold, Zion hath said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me; but he will shew that he hath not.

For can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, **yet will I not forget thee**, O house of Israel.

Behold, **I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands**; thy walls are continually before me.”

Another confirmation found
in Isaiah 44:21

“Remember these, O
Jacob and Israel; for thou
art my servant; I have
formed thee; thou art my
servant; O Israel, thou
shalt not be forgotten of
me.”

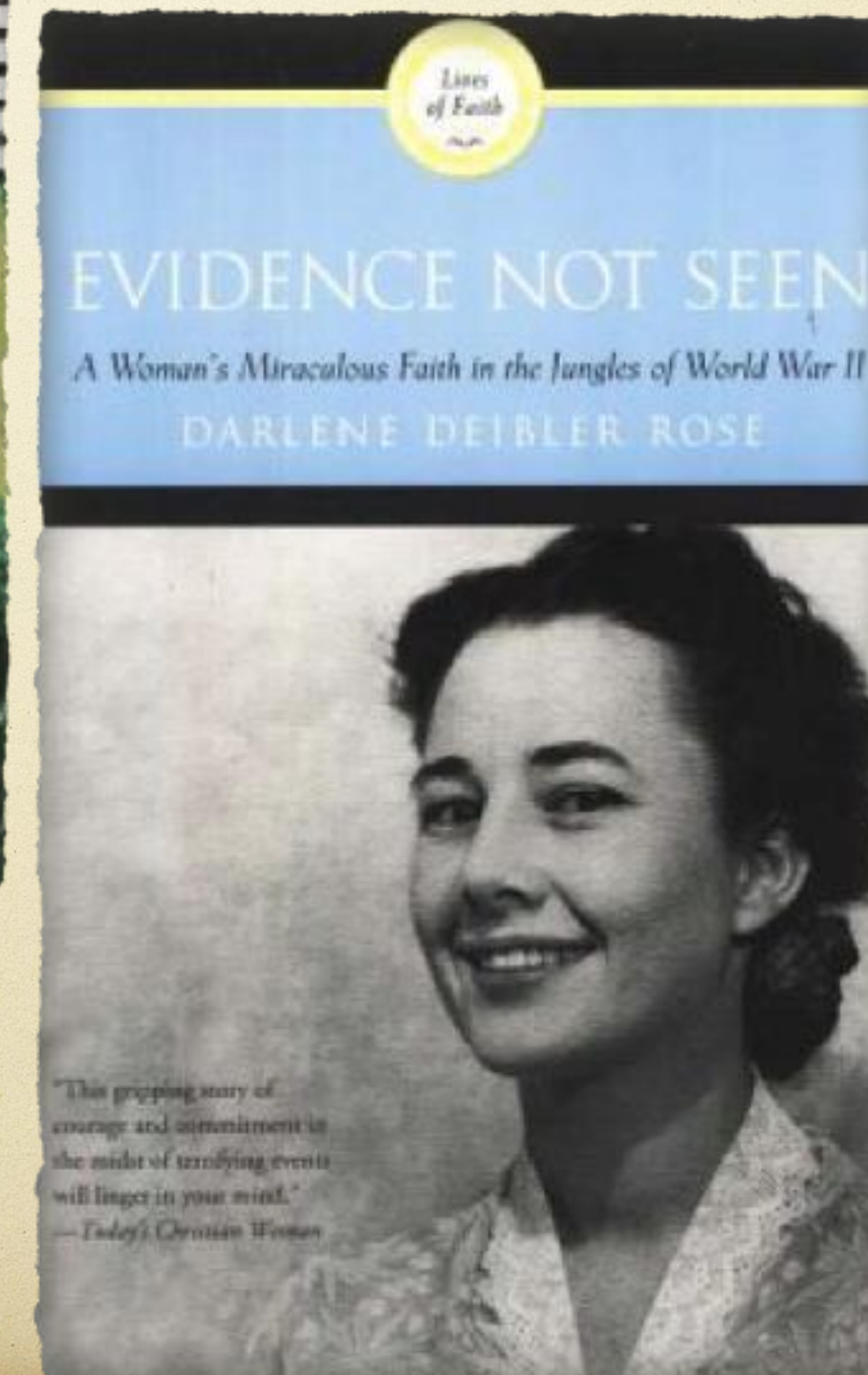
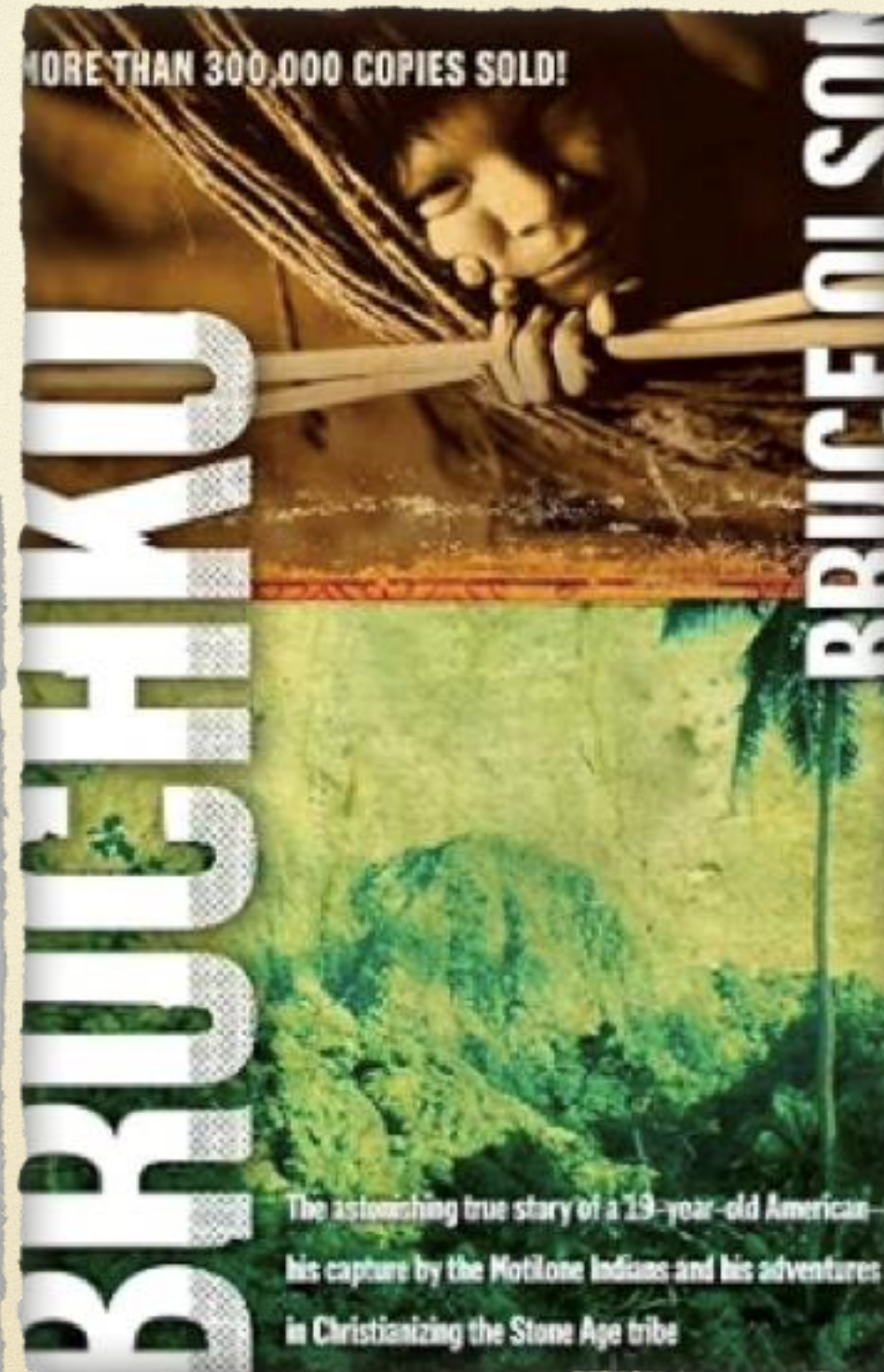
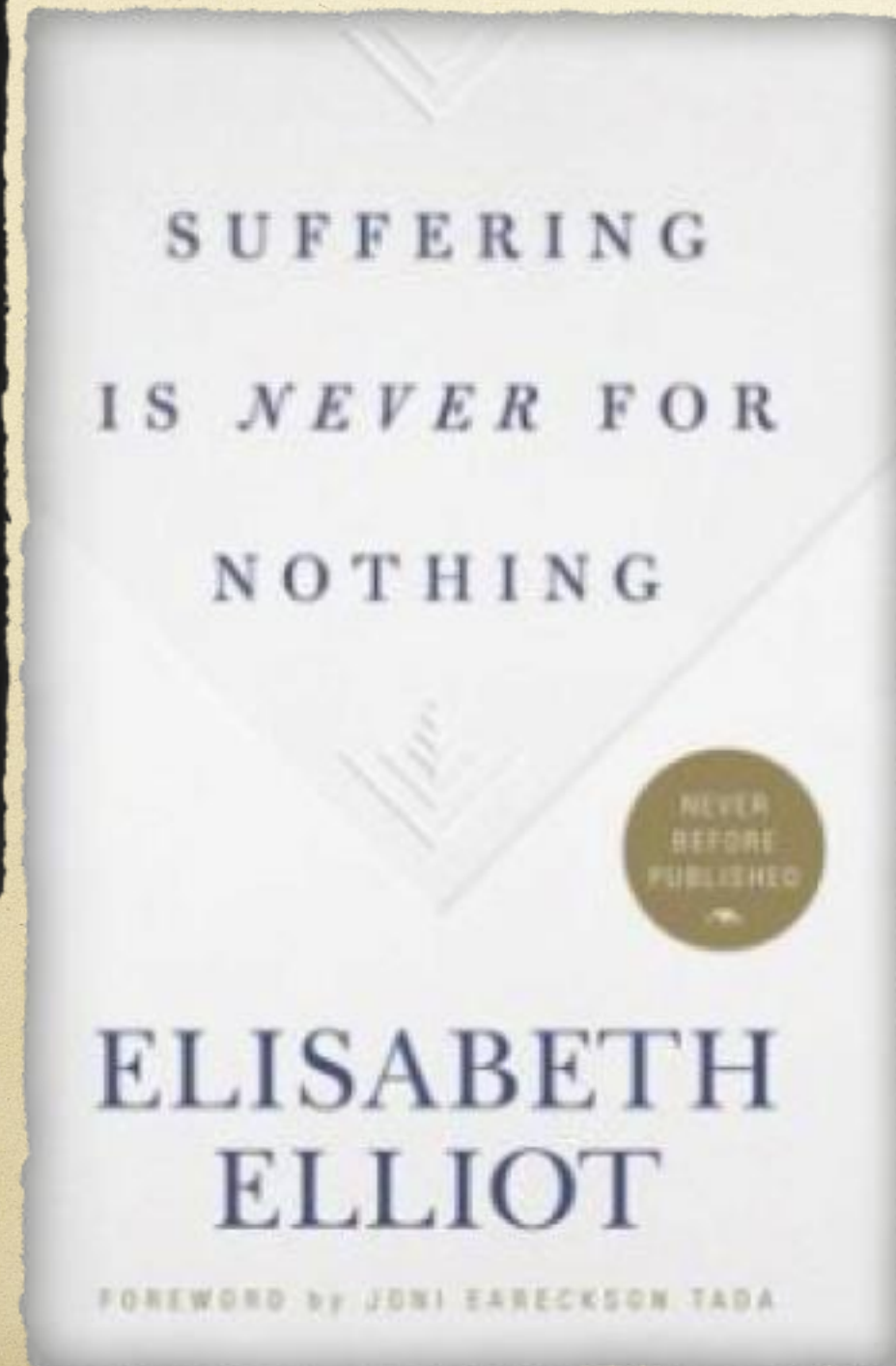
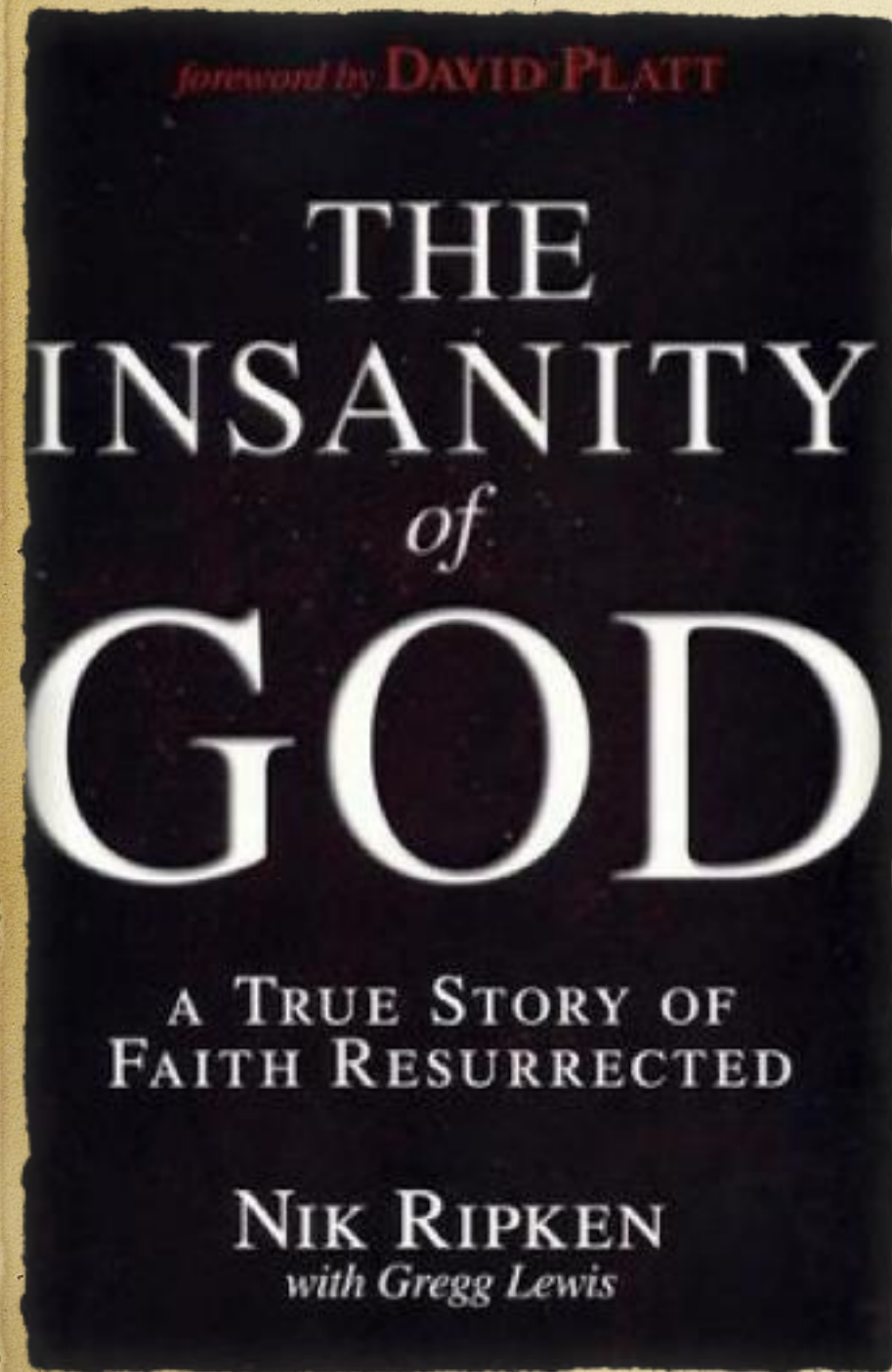
He WILL remember YOU

during the hard times

There are many stories about God's people suffering, particularly in service to Him.

Because of their difficulties, they were able to minister to many many more people than if their stories didn't have "bite". They also received assurance that God was with them during those times.

He WILL remember YOU
during the hard times



He WILL remember YOU

during the hard times

1 Nephi 5:199 “Nevertheless,
I did look unto my God, and I
did ***praise him*** all the day
long; and I ***did not murmur***
against the Lord because of
mine afflictions.”

What are your thoughts about
the following questions?

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- Do we find ourselves ***avoiding trials*** at all costs?
- Do we pray for ***safety*** over ***God's will***?
- Do we **murmur** when we are facing a **struggle**, instead of thinking big picture?

- Do we find ourselves ***avoiding trials*** at all costs?

Of course we don't want trials, and we don't have to seek them out to prove how holy we are.

- Do we pray for ***safety over God's will?***

There's nothing wrong with praying for safety. But being a witness for Christ, being in God's will, seems to be the thing we should most focus on.

- Do we ***murmur*** when we are facing a ***struggle***, instead of thinking big picture?

Some of the discussion from last week was surrounded around the idea that we choose our own path over God's instruction/commandments. The road we see looks easier or better so we take it, but in the long run it's ALWAYS worse (physically/spiritually) than doing what God wants.

There will be hardships following
God's ways

(Matthew 5:13, Matthew 6:25)

but it will ALWAYS be better than
another option

Why do bad things happen
to good people?

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Mark 10:16 “And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? None is good but one, that is God.”

Why do bad things happen to
righteous people?

Why do bad things happen to
righteous people?

- We are being further refined in the furnace of affliction *and/or*
- To bring us closer to God

Other assurances found in chapter 6

- **verse 25- Keeping the commandments brings peace**
- **verse 53- Those that wait (serve with diligence) for the Lord won't be ashamed (Isaiah 40:31)**

1 Nephi 7:5

‣ **“Wherefore, the things of which I have read, are things pertaining to things both temporal and spiritual”**

- The house of Israel will be or have already been lost and scattered on the face of the earth (6-10)
- More people of Israel will continue to be scattered because they turn their hearts against God- which includes Nephi's people (11-14)
- God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles

‣ God will do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which will be of great worth to Nephi's seed AND to the Gentiles (17-20)

WHAT MARVELOUS WORK IS THAT? (vs 22)

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WHAT MARVELOUS WORK IS THAT? (vs 22)

His covenants and His Gospel

- The great and abominable church will turn upon their own heads (26)
- Every nation that wars against Israel shall fall by their own devices (28-30)
- The great and abominable church which *perverts the right ways of the Lord* shall fall and become dust (31)

- SATAN will have no more power over the hearts of the children of men. (32)——— WHEN IS THAT GOING TO HAPPEN?!?
- The proud and wicked will be as stubble and will be burned, because God will not allow the wicked to destroy the righteous (34-36)
- The righteous (maybe us?) don't need to fear, we will be saved, even if by fire (37). Righteous will not perish (41)

1 Nephi 7:50-53 “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;

They are those who must be consumed as stubble:”

- The righteous will be gathered as sheep, and numbered by Him. (55-57)
- ONE FOLD; ONE SHEPHERD (58)
- Because of their righteousness, Satan will have no power (60)
- Nephi reiterates that these things will happen in the flesh and assures us they are true (63, 66)
- Those who repent and keep the commandments will dwell in safety and be saved at the last day (64, 67, 69)

We can be assured that though the fires that refine us might be tough, God's promises WILL come to pass. He will see us through.

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*"O let me ne'er forget, that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet. This is my Father's world, the battle is not
done, Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be
one"*