

*Mortal Kings of Israel - continued*

- **Solomon**

Upon the completion of the Temple of Solomon, the Ark of the Covenant was placed in the Holy of Holies. For thus the Words of God unto king David was fulfilled, having his son built a House of the Lord. **1 Kings 8:17-21**

Solomon offered the dedicatory prayer upon the House of God. **1 Kings 8:22-54**

Solomon also pronounced blessing upon all Israel. **1 Kings 8:55-61**

After the burnt offerings were accomplished, a great feast was held. And, after the feast the people returned to their tents with joyful hearts. **1 Kings 8:66**

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> time the Lord appeared to Solomon, accepting Solomon's dedicatory prayer for the House of God, and placing Solomon in a covenant with God: **1 Kings 9:3-9**

- The **Lord** said: I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication... I have hallowed this house... to put my name there forever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.
- And if thou wilt walk before me... in integrity of heart, and in uprightness... and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel forever... There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.
- But if ye shall at all turn from following me... and will not keep my commandments and my statutes... but go serve other gods... Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people.

Indeed, the fame of Solomon increased, and so was his treasury. **1 King chapter 10**

- **Solomon's Downfall**

Sadly, indeed, over the process of time Solomon lost the favor of the Lord God. **1 King 11:1-14**

- Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites.
- He had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines: and his wives turned away his heart from following the One True God.
- And Solomon did evil in the sight of God.
  - He built high places for many strange gods.
  - He offered sacrifices to strange gods / idols.

The Lord God was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the God of Israel, which had appeared to him twice. **1 Kings 10:9-13**

- **A Divided Kingdom 1 Kings chapter 11**

Ahijah, a prophet of God, torn into 12 pieces the new garment of Jeroboam (a chosen servant of Solomon):

- Ahijah gave 10 pieces to Jeroboam: representing the 10 tribes of Israel (aka. Northern Kingdom).
- After the death of Solomon, his son Rehoboam was left with 2 tribes (Judah... Southern Kingdom).

**Important FYI:** The tribe of Dan eventually lost its identity - being assimilated into other nations or tribes. Ephraim, the youngest son of Joseph, assumed the tribe of Joseph. And, Manasseh (the older son of Joseph) replaced the tribe of Dan.

The Israel as a people had a very difficult time keeping God's statutes and commandments due to disobedience.

In the **books of Kings and Chronicles** highlighted both the wicked and righteous kings who ruled either the Southern kingdom or the Northern kingdom. Note: Queen Athaliah \* reigned in Judah for 6/7 years in wickedness.

- Successions of Kings (Southern Kingdom – Judah and Benjamin)
  - Rehoboam – reigned in wickedness
  - Abijam – reigned in wickedness
  - Asa – reigned in righteousness
  - Jehoshaphat – reigned in righteousness
  - Jehoram – the son of Jehoshaphat;
  - Ahaziah – son of Jehoram; reigned in wickedness
  - \* Athaliah – a Queen of Judah; reigned in wickedness; **2 Kings 11**
  - Joash (aka Jehoash) – son of Ahaziah, reigned in righteousness
  - Amaziah – reigns in righteousness
  - Uzziah – reigned in righteousness most of his life; he was struck of leprosy
  - Jotham – reigned in righteousness
  - Ahaz – reigned in wickedness
  - Hezekiah – reigned in righteousness
  - Manasseh – reigned in wickedness
  - Amon – reigned in wickedness
  - Josiah – reigned in righteousness
  - Jehoahaz – reigned in wickedness
  - Jehoiakim – reigned in wickedness
  - Jehoiachin – reigned in wickedness; he was carried to Babylon
  - Zedekiah – a vassal king of king Nebuchadnezzar reigned in wickedness; eventually carried to Babylon
  
- Successions of Kings (Northern Kingdom – the 10 Tribes of Israel)
  - Jeroboam – did evil before the eyes of God.
  - Nadab – did wicked in Israel
  - Baasha – did wicked in Israel
  - Elah – did wicked in Israel
  - Zimri – did wicked in Israel
  - Omri – did wicked in Israel
  - Ahab – did wicked in Israel; married to Jezebel
  - Ahaziah – son of Ahab, did wicked in Israel
  - Joram (aka Jehoram) – son of Ahab, the brother of Ahaziah; did wicked in Israel
  - Jehu – did wicked in Israel
  - Jehoahaz – did wicked in Israel
  - Jehoash – son of Jehoahaz, did wicked in Israel
  - Jeroboam – son of Jehoash, did wicked in Israel
  - Zachariah – did wicked in Israel
  - Shallum – only ruled for a month; did wicked in Israel
  - Menahem – did wicked in Israel
  - Pekahiah – did wicked in Israel
  - Pekah – did wicked in Israel
  - Hoshea – did wicked in Israel; is subject to Assyrians; the 10 tribes of Israel was removed from the sight of God **1 Kings 17:18**

- Prophets

- Elijah .. 1 Kings 17; 1 Kings 18; 1 Kings 19; 2 Kings 1
- Elisha .. 1 Kings 19: he was anointed by Elijah as Elijah's successor; 2 Kings 2-9,13
- Micaiah .. 1 Kings 22

- Isaiah .. see the book of Isaiah

*He prophesied against the Israel people and their corrupt priests along with their corrupted temple ordinances and wicked traditions. He testified of the people blindly following the corrupt priests.*

*Note: even the Resurrected Christ made a special mention of the greatness of the words of Isaiah. He even gave a commandment to search the Words of Isaiah, for Isaiah testified/prophesied regarding the House of Israel and of the Gentile.*

- Jeremiah .. see the book of Jeremiah

*He proclaimed repentance else the people will be oppressed and the Temple of Solomon will be destroyed. His call for repentance was unheeded, and thus the Temple of Solomon was destroyed by fire, after it being looted by the Babylonian army; and the people were carried to captivity and oppressed.*

*Like every true prophet of God, the call for repentance is fervently pronounced upon every wicked people. The judgment of God is always preceded by a Call for Repentance.*

- Ezekiel .. see the book of Ezekiel
- Daniel .. see the book of Daniel
- Hosea .. see the book of Hosea
- Obadiah .. 1 Kings 18; see the book of Obadiah
- Nahum .. see the book of Nahum
- Haggai .. see the book of Haggai
- Joel .. see the book of Joel
- Jonah .. 2 Kings 14; see the book of Jonah
- Habakkuk .. see the book of Habakkuk
- Zechariah .. see the book Zechariah
- Amos .. see the book of Amos
- Micah .. see the book of Micah
- Zephaniah .. see the book of Zephaniah
- Malachi .. see the book of Malachi

So, it was when the people of God lived wickedly, the people lost the favor and protection from God: they became an oppressed people.

### ***The People of God in the Americas (covering the Mosaic Timeline – prior to Christ's birth)***

It was during the latter part of the days of king Zedekiah, a king of Judah, certain select families were led away (by God) from the land of Jerusalem to the Americas – the land of promise.

Lehi, a high priest of the Aaronic Priesthood in Jerusalem, was commanded by God to depart the land of Jerusalem prior to it being destroyed by the Babylonians under the rule of king Nebuchadnezzar. Lehi was accompanied by his family members comprising of Sarah (his wife) and his sons (Laman, Lemuel, Sam, Nephi), and his 2 daughters. Ishmael's family joined the family of Lehi. Ishmael was accompanied by his wife (Habasha), and his 5 daughters, and 2 sons. Zoram, who became Nephi's friend, was persuaded to take the journey as well. See **1 Nephi 1**

The major prophets in the Americas, during the Mosaic timeline (prior to Christ's birth), included the following:

- Lehi  
In the days of Jeremiah, 2 other prophets – namely, Zenos and Zenock proclaimed repentance upon the wicked priests and the people of Jerusalem, and prophesied of the coming judgment of God if their call for repentance was ignored. They cited the words of Isaiah; they prophesied of the coming and the crucifixion of the Savior Jesus Christ; they prophesied that such wickedness of the priests and the people will be repeated in the latter days. See **Lehi 1-3** [ *echoed by prophet Mormon .. see Lehi 5* ]
- Nephi .. see the book of Nephi
- Jacob .. see the book of Jacob
- Mosiah .. see the book of Mosiah
- Alma .. see the book of Alma
- Helaman .. see the book of Helaman

#### *Excerpts from Lehi 1*

**14 For behold, the prophets did truly testify of the iniquities of the church at Jerusalem. For the people of the church were corrupted by the examples of their leaders who had the priesthood of God but lacked the power thereof, which power can only be exercised through the Holy Spirit; and this Spirit can only be controlled upon the principles of righteousness of him who was anointed to this priesthood. For the leaders were rich and popular men among the people, and had set themselves up above the people, even unto the envying of their positions by the people. And the leaders chose other leaders who were also rich and popular men among them. And in this way, the leaders of the Jewish people assured that all men who were chosen to the Priesthood would be like unto themselves.**

**16 And because the leaders did not believe that they were wicked, they taught the people that God would not speak to the people unless He did so through the channels of the priesthood of Aaron, which was established for this purpose. And the leaders taught the people that no High Priest belonging to the order of Aaron would be allowed by God to deceive the people. And in this way the High Priests assured themselves that the people would not be swayed by a doctrine outside of the church at Jerusalem, nor by other preaching that was not approved by them.**

**21 Oh ye wicked and perverse generation. Why have ye polluted and corrupted the holy church of God? Why have ye led this people in such a way that the wrath of God will soon visit them even unto their own destruction? Behold, I say unto you, that their blood will be required at your hands because of your example and the things that ye have taught them. Nevertheless, their sins will be their own and they will also suffer because of them. But ye shall also suffer with them because ye have set yourselves up as the mouthpiece of God and have lied unto them by telling them that the Lord will not allow you to mislead them.**

**22 Behold, ye know not the words of God, but speak vanity and foolishness unto this people. Ye have taught this people that they should worship the church and the ordinances and the traditions thereof, and yet they deny the Spirit of God that will only dwell with the children of men in righteousness.**

**23 Do ye not remember the words of the prophet, Isaiah? Ye have them before you, yet ye understand them not. Ye hear them, but ye do not hear their true meaning. Ye read them, but ye do not understand that which ye have read, but ye have changed the doctrine of God to conform to your own selfish interests and desires.**

**24 Behold, did not Isaiah say unto this church: Thus saith the Lord, To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? Saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he-goats.**

25 When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

26 Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot abide them; away with them; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

27 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth; they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

28 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

34 And it came to pass that as Lehi heard the words of Zenock, he was filled with great anguish, for he knew that Zenock spoke the truth unto them. For Lehi had known previously that the things that he was doing as a leader of the people were not the things of God. Nevertheless, he did the things that were expected of him by the people, and also those things that the church had instructed him to do.

36 **And it had been a tradition among the Jews, or rather, a commandment of the church, that each member pay a tithe to the church of all their increase. And this tithing was great, and was only used for the purposes of the church.** And also, it was required of the members of the church to give regularly to the benefit of the poor and the needy. Yet, this offering, which the people made to the poor, was only a small part of their increase; the majority of their increase the people kept for themselves and their families, thus being taught by the words and the examples of their leaders.

37 And it did not matter if one man had an increase of a much greater worth than another, for the same offerings were required of them all. Thus the rich were allowed to keep their riches and set themselves up above those who had less than they.

38 And the poor and needy were also required to give a tithe and an offering to others who were poorer than they. This they had been taught was the commandment of God pertaining to the people of His church.

39 And in this manner the church of God justified the division of the rich and the poor—the inequality between those that had much and those that had little.

40 **And Lehi knew of himself how the members of the church had submitted unto the teachings of the church and its doctrines and ordinances and denied the true doctrine of God of which Zenock spoke.**

41 *For Zenock said unto the priests: Know ye not that the ordinances and sacraments, and offerings, and institutions, and traditions of this church are not the gospel of the Lord, but were intended to point a man towards this gospel? And that this gospel was given to us in its pure form by the mouth of the prophet, Moses? Yet, the children of Israel could not abide by this pure gospel, but required signs and symbols, and ordinances, and endowments, to teach them and keep them in remembrance.*

42 And the Lord in his frustration with the children of Israel gave the children of Israel the things which they desired, and commanded Moses to set up the ordinances and endowments of the church, so that the children of Israel would remember him and keep his commandments.

43 Nevertheless, these ordinances and traditions of this church are not the things that the Lord requireth of his people. But he requireth of them righteousness and humility before him.

44 Behold, it mattereth not unto the Lord whether or not a man belongeth to this church, or hath the priesthood of Aaron as ye claim that ye have; for the Lord judgeth a man by his works—the desires of his heart. And if his works are good, then the Lord will accept this man. But if his works are evil, then he shall have no part of the Spirit of God.

45 **And your works are evil before the Lord. For behold, ye do teach this people to respect and worship the church, and the requirements of the church, and teach them not the pure gospel and commandments of God; and the church was established to teach these things symbolically through its ordinances and services. Thus ye deceive this people and have opened the door to their destruction.**

46 Behold, I am not a member of your church, nor do I have the priesthood that ye claim giveth you the power and authority to act in the name of God, so that a man can teach this people His words. Nevertheless, God hath called me through the administrations of His holy angels, and also by the Spirit of God that dwells within me. And by these things ye shall know me, and by my works ye shall judge.

47 Behold, because of the mercy and goodness of the Lord, I was snatched from the bitterness that awaited me if I would have continued to follow the course of life that I was following before I was called to come unto you and testify of your wickedness.

48 For behold, I was rich and popular, like unto yourselves, among those that resided in the city in which I lived. And I was a man who many looked up to and praised for the great things that I had accomplished among them. But all this praise and glory was the praise and glory of men. And the things for which I was praised were the things of this world.

49 And God sent his servant, Zenos, unto me and he met me in my house and spoke unto me about the things of God. And while he spoke to me, I was filled with the Spirit of the Lord, even so much, that I wept bitterly because of my many iniquities and my sins.

50 And after experiencing a bitterness of soul that I had never before felt, I called upon God for a remission of my sins, even upon the Son of God who is to come into the world to save the righteous from the corruptness thereof.

51 And as I called upon the Lord in my agony, I was visited with a gentle and quiet spirit that took away my pain and my anguish and filled my soul with an unspeakable joy that I cannot describe with my own words. And it is this joy that turned my sins from crimson into wool as the prophet Isaiah hath written.

52 And it is because of the Son of God that this mercy was given unto me. For I beheld a vision while in the Spirit that showed unto me the condescension of God, or in other words, the coming of His Son into this world.

**53 And I have seen the coming of the Son of God in vision and have witnessed the mission of the Lord. And He shall come unto this people and show unto them the things that they must do in order to be saved in the kingdom of God. And He shall live among them and preach the word of God unto the Jews who are here at Jerusalem.**

**54 And He shall further witness against this church and its leaders. And the leaders of the church shall rise up against Him and turn the people from Him, contriving all types of lies and falsehoods in order to keep the people from accepting the gospel that He shall teach unto them.**

**55 For the church at Jerusalem will deny that even the Son of God doth not have the authority to preach the word of God, because He doth not have the permission of the church or its authority to do so. Nor will He be given this authority by the laying on of hands by the High Priest of this church. And for this reason shall He be rejected by the Jews.**

**56 And the Lord shall go forth among the people and establish His own truth. And His church shall be established according to the Spirit of God and not according to the commandments and traditions of men.**

57 And He shall call others to a ministry, or to preach the gospel that He shall give unto them, both by His own mouth and by the mouth of His Spirit which He shall leave with them.

58 And the gospel that they shall teach shall be the words that they shall hear the Son speak while He dwelleth among them. And they shall add nothing to, nor shall they take anything away from this gospel. **For it is an everlasting gospel, yea, a gospel that was preached before this world was created.**

59 And because of the things that they shall teach, they shall be persecuted and rejected by the Jews at Jerusalem. And they shall be cast out and slain. *Behold, even the Son of God shall be taken up by the leaders of this people and crucified before them.*

#### Excerpts from Lehi 2

21 And it came to pass that Zenos expounded the meaning of the parable unto the High Priests, saying: Behold, in the latter days the church of God shall be like unto this church at Jerusalem. For the Lord will give unto them the pureness of His everlasting gospel and provide for them a way whereby they might be saved in the kingdom of God at the last day.

22 Nevertheless, because of the branches, or in other words, because of the church of God and its supposed greatness, the roots of the tree, which is the pure gospel of God, shall be overcome. The leaders and members of the church of God shall become lofty and prideful, and their desires shall be towards the church and not set upon the gospel, which is the root of the tree, thus the branches overcoming the roots that are good.

23 And they shall be like unto you, and also like unto those who will be at Jerusalem when God sendeth His Son among them. For behold, they shall not understand the gospel that the Son of God, shall preach unto them. **And because of the examples of the leaders of the church of God the people shall harden their hearts towards the gospel and turn their hearts towards the church for their salvation, thus denying the power of the Holy Spirit and its righteousness.**

24 And their hearts and their minds shall be set upon the things of this world and the honors and glories of men. Then shall the words of Isaiah again be fulfilled among them when he spoke unto the house of Israel, saying:

25 Woe unto the wicked for it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

26 As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. **Oh, my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.**

27 The Lord standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people.

28 The Lord will enter into judgment with the ancients of his people, and the princes thereof: for ye have eaten up the vineyard; **the spoil of the poor is in your houses.**

48 *And Lehi pleaded with the other High Priests that no harm should come to these two prophets of God. And he pleaded unto them, saying: What cause have we against these two men? Do they not speak the truth concerning us? Do they not speak unto us of our iniquities and corruption? Know we not that they have been sent by God to preach repentance unto us that we might not experience the pain and anguish of the wrath of God because of our sins?*

49 **Behold, my soul hath been burdened much because of the ways of this church and those things which we teach unto the people. And have we not set ourselves up above the people, even so much that when we walk by them on the street or in the synagogue that they do worship us and bow down before us? How can we not see that these things are an abomination before God and that we are misleading this people to trust more in the church and its leaders than in the gospel that we are supposed to be teaching unto them?**

50 **And have we not taken the money that hath been given to the church, because of the commandment of the Lord regarding the tithing of his people, and have we not used this money to build great synagogues and great temples, yet we suffer that there remain the poor and needy among us? Doth this not bear testimony that we do love our money and our substance, and our fine apparel, and the adorning of our churches, more than we love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted?**

51 **And in our solemn assemblies do we not justify our actions and doings because of the praise of the world? Do we not make concessions to the word of God because we believe that we will be mocked and ridiculed by the pride and ignorance of the world? In fine, do we not change the precepts and doctrines of God, and even the pure ordinances that were given unto us by the prophet, Moses; do we not change them to suit our whims and satisfy the desires of the world that we may be accepted by it?**

52 Behold, my soul is racked with anguish because I know that these things are true, and I also know that these two men are prophets of God who have been sent unto this church to bring us unto repentance so that we might not be destroyed.

### *Excerpts from Lehi 3*

14 **And they mocked Lehi, saying: How can thee, being one man alone, claim that the church of God is corrupt? Dost thou not believe that the Lord hath prospered this church and sanctified it because of its righteousness? Do we not attend regularly to the ordinances and traditions that Moses handed down to us? And we know that Moses was a prophet of God and that he showed us all things that we must do in order to be saved in the kingdom of God at the last day. And do we not do all the things that he hath commanded us?**

15 **And Lehi rebuked them, saying: Know ye not that the Lord suffered Moses to give unto you a lower law because of your wickedness? And this lower law is the law that this church teacheth unto the people.**

16 **For behold, the sacraments and the ordinances and all the rituals thereof are symbols and representations of the pure gospel of the Lord. And the commandments that ye have been given have been given unto you because of your inability to live the higher law, which law is this gospel of which the prophets of old have spoken.**

17 And if there was no law given unto the children of Israel at the time they rebelled against the Lord in the wilderness, then they would have been left unto themselves and they would have never had the opportunity to inherit the promised land.

18 And it was this law that brought peace among them and suffered them to live one with another without violence and without all manner of wickedness that would surely have led to their destruction.

19 But behold, *this law that was given unto the children of Israel was a law of ordinances and sacrifice that they might not forget the Lord their God who had led them forth to the land of promise.*

20 And these laws and ordinances were types and portents of those things that would come to pass in eternity. *And it is this eternal law that ye cannot understand. Yea, I say unto you, that this eternal law is the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, even he who shall come into the world, and the only way whereby man might be saved in the eternal kingdom of God.* **And ye do not understand this gospel because ye have hardened your hearts against the Spirit of the Lord, which teacheth this pure gospel.**

21 *And this church and all churches that the Lord suffereth to be built up on this earth to turn the hearts of the children of men towards him, are not this gospel, nor do they represent this gospel. But they are set up among men to point them towards this eternal gospel, which is the only gospel of eternal salvation.*



22 **And it shall come to pass that the Lord himself shall come down amongst His people in the flesh and teach this eternal gospel unto them. And they shall reject him and kill him because they do not understand His gospel, and this they do because they do not have the Holy Spirit with them.**

23 And the Lord hath sent many prophets unto us to preach repentance and prepare us to meet the Lord and hear His gospel, whether in this flesh, or as a spirit when we die.

30 *For behold, the Lord had warned Lehi in a dream that he should take his family and flee into the wilderness. And Lehi was promised that if he would keep the commandments of God in all things, he would be blessed; and also his wife and his children would be saved.*

#### **Excerpts from Lehi 5**

18 **And now I, Mormon, write the things which I have learned from the vision of Lehi, and also from the Spirit who giveth understanding unto all those who obey the commandments of God and honor Him. And the Lord hath commanded me to write somewhat concerning the end of the world and the condition of the world as it hath been presented to Lehi in this glorious vision.**

19 For behold, I have seen the beginning and the end of the world, having been shown these things and having understood these things by the gift and power of the Holy Spirit. And there are many things that I am forbidden to write, because the Lord shall try the faith of men and give understanding only to those who keep his commandments and have faith in him.

21 **Behold, I have seen the great wickedness of the last days in which the Lord will set again a rod of iron and establish the path of righteousness that will lead his children to happiness. I have seen the majority of the children of men pursue the wealth and pride of the world more than they seek the Lord and his righteousness.**

22 And because of the deceptions of Satan and his angels, the children of men know not that they are disobeying the commandments of God and wandering in forbidden paths. The mists of darkness are great and cause most of the children of men to lose their way. And those that come unto the tree of life and partake of the fruit thereof are misled by the precepts and pride of men, even until they discard the fruit that will assure them of their happiness.

23 **Behold, the Savior of the world came to the Jews, and also to my fathers, the Nephites, and gave unto them the rod of iron and this straight and narrow path that they should follow, which is His gospel. And this gospel will cause all those who eat thereof to rejoice exceedingly. Nevertheless, the church of God in the last days hath become corrupt; yea, the leaders thereof and the condition thereof are like unto the church at Jerusalem at the time that our father Lehi was commanded to leave that great city and go into the wilderness.**

24 *And like the Jews of old, the members of the church of God put their trust in men and deny the literal gospel of Jesus Christ that he gave unto them in a like manner as he gave it unto the Jews and also unto the Nephites. In fine, the members think they are righteous because they are following the counsel of their leaders and performing the ordinances and commandments of the church.*

25 Oh, my beloved brothers and sisters, do ye not understand that it is because of your wickedness that ye have ordinances and commandments given unto you by the church? Do ye not see the turmoil and strife in your lives because ye follow not the gospel of Jesus Christ? Why do ye dress yourselves in costly apparel and mock and ridicule those who are really the humble followers of Christ? Why do ye think money and the pursuit thereof is more important than the gentle commands that the Savior hath given unto you by way of his gospel?

26 *My soul is burdened at this time because I know your fate. I have seen the frustration and turmoil in your hearts as ye try to live according to the commandments of God that are given unto you, which commandments are not of God, but of your church, or in other words, of the leaders of your church.*

27 Behold, ye have the record of the Jews, and ye will also have this record, which the Lord hath commanded to be written as a second testament of his gospel. **And now that ye have these two testimonies of the words of Christ, why are ye so blind that ye will not see?** Yea, what were the words that the Lord spake to my fathers, the Nephites? Were they not the same words that he spake unto the Jews at Jerusalem?

28 *Oh my beloved brothers and sisters, read his words. Ponder his gospel and pray for understanding. Your church meetings, your ordinances, your genealogies, your tithes, your offerings, your temples, your churches, your rituals, and your prayers are not sanctioned by the Lord or His Spirit, because all of these things cause you to reject and deny the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Read the words of Isaiah that the prophet Zenock spoke unto the Jews at Jerusalem and liken them unto yourselves, for your plight is much worse than theirs.*

29 **And now, I, Mormon, do prophesy unto you in the name of the Lord, even Jesus Christ, that these things that I write to you at this time shall be withheld from you until there be found some who are righteous enough to read and understand them.**

30 *For behold, the Lord hath shown me that these things shall be withheld from the children of men because of wickedness. Nevertheless, much of my abridgment of the plates of Nephi will be translated and given unto the world. But these words of prophecy will be taken because of wickedness, and will not be given unto the children of men until the church of God hath become like unto the large and spacious building of which Lehi hath spoken in his vision.*

31 **And at that time, these things shall come forth as a testament against the church of God and its wickedness. And when these things that have been withheld come forth, the righteous of the church shall have these things and understand them and leave that great and spacious building and **grasp to the rod of iron** that will lead them to the fruit of the tree of happiness.**

32 *Behold, it hath been shown unto me that there are many in the church of God that shall deny these things and claim that they are not the words of God, but the words of the devil to deceive the people of the church. And this they will say because these things shall not come by way of the church of the last days, but shall come by another way that the Lord shall prepare.*

33 **And when ye receive these things, I would ask you to ponder them carefully and pray for the Spirit to bear witness of their truthfulness.** Compare these words to the words of Jesus Christ, even those that He gave unto the Jews at Jerusalem and also unto the Nephites, who are my ancestors, and who also have denied them and cast them aside causing their own destruction.

36 **The church of Jesus Christ should teach his gospel and only those things that he taught when he was ministering unto the people. Anything other than these things is not of his gospel, but is of the precepts and commandments of men.**

### *Warning to the LDS Community and to other Professing Christians, including the non-Christians*

The pure Gospel of Jesus Christ is taught by the Great Redeemer Jesus Christ in person, as recorded in *Matthew chapters 5-6-7, 3 Nephi chapters 12-13-14-15, and The Rod of Iron chapters 1-2-3.*

All other commandments, purported to be essential to salvation, e.g. Tithing, Temple Ordinances of any kind, Genealogies & Baptism for the Salvation of the dead people who have left mortality, Sealings of Family Units, Following the False commandments-precepts-traditions-ordinances-teachings of the arms-of-flesh, are not of the True God. Moreover, those who exact fees (any form of payments... Tithing, etc.) to secure Salvation in God's kingdoms are teaching Falsehood – such vendors of salvation: prophets-seers-revelators, priests, popes, rabbis, clergies are all followers of the great deceiver – Lucifer.

The Great Savior Jesus Christ summarized the Pure Gospel – the very Eternal Law of Heaven: Love God and Love others as Thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. *Mark 12:29-31; Rod of Iron 1:18*

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