

The Calling of Ephraim

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The Blessing of Joseph

Chapters thirty-seven through fifty in the book of Genesis tell the testimony of Joseph who at an early age was despised by his brethren and sold into Egypt as a slave. However, because of Joseph's unwavering faith in God, what seemed like a misfortune was turned unto the salvation of his people, as well as Egypt. In response to Joseph's faithfulness the Lord bestowed upon him a blessing above that of his progenitors, saying, "Joseph is a fruitful bough...His glory is like the *firstling* of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns [*wild bull or animal*]; with them he shall push the people *together* to the ends of the earth; and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh.¹" [Read Jeremiah 31:9]

The great blessing which Joseph received at the hand of his father, Jacob, who was the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham who received the first covenant and promise of the Lord, was not only bestowed upon him but also upon his sons Ephraim and Manasseh. For though Reuben was Jacob's first-born, he was not given the birthright, "Forasmuch as he [Reuben] defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the *sons* of Joseph the son of Israel; and the genealogy is *not* to be reckoned after the birthright. For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the *birthright* was *Joseph's*."²

In temporal terms, a birthright is defined as "any right or privilege, to which a person is entitled by birth, such as an estate descendible by law to an heir, or civil liberty under a free constitution."³ Joseph's birthright however was more than an earthly estate but in particular it was a spiritual blessing as shown through the promise that was passed down from Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. More important than any amount of wealth or land was the covenant which God gave unto Abraham, saying, "In *thee* shall the families of the earth *be blessed*...and as for Ishmael, I have heard thee; behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. *But my covenant* will I establish with Isaac...for in Isaac shall thy seed be called."⁴

After Isaac's firstborn son, Esau, sold his birthright to his brother Jacob, Isaac in due course pronounced a blessing upon Jacob, saying, "And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; and give thee the *blessing of Abraham*, to thee, and to *thy seed with thee*; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham."⁵ The Lord also appeared unto Jacob in a dream, saying, "I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac; the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth; and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south; and *in thee* and *in thy seed* shall *all* the families of the earth *be blessed*. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee

¹ Genesis 49:22 and Deuteronomy 33:17

² 1 Chronicles 5:1-2

³ <http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/birthright>

⁴ Genesis 12:2, 17:26-28, and 21:10

⁵ Genesis 28:3-4

again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.⁶
[Read Genesis 15:9-12]

The promise given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, was not merely a land of inheritance but more importantly it was that all the families of the earth might be blessed through them and their seed. For through their seed would come the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord unto the salvation and eternal life of all men who will repent and covenant with Him in the waters of baptism and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost for a remission of their sins. Jesus said through the prophet Isaiah, "And now, saith the Lord [God] that formed me [Jesus Christ] from the womb to be His servant, to bring Jacob again to Him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, and my God shall be my strength. And He said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel; I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth."⁷ Through the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the Lord God has promised that all men who believe might become joint heirs with Christ and inherit Celestial Glory.

Nevertheless, how might the children of men believe without first receiving a witness of the truth of the Son of God? Thus the Lord God Almighty chose the people of Israel to witness of Him and to be His glory. "Ye [Israel] are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am He; before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no Savior. I have declared, and have saved, and I have showed, when there was no strange god among you; therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God...In the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory."⁸

The same blessing and promise that was given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was also passed unto Joseph and his sons for "Jacob said unto Joseph, When the God of my fathers appeared unto me in Luz, in the land of Canaan; He sware unto me, that He would give unto me, and unto my seed, the land for an everlasting possession. Therefore, O my son, He hath blessed me in raising thee up to be a servant unto me, in saving my house from death; in delivering my people, thy brethren, from famine which was sore in the land; wherefore the God of thy fathers shall bless thee, and the fruit of thy loins [read Ether 6:4-8], that they shall be blessed above thy brethren, and above thy father's house; for thou hast prevailed, and thy father's house hath bowed down unto thee, even as it was shown unto thee, before thou wast sold into Egypt by the hands of thy brethren [read Genesis 37:9-11]; wherefore thy brethren shall bow down unto thee, from generation to generation, unto the fruit of thy loins forever [read DC 108:6]; for thou shalt be a light unto my people, to deliver them in the days of their captivity, from bondage; and to bring salvation unto them, when they are altogether bowed down under sin [read DC 100:3d-4]."⁹

⁶ Genesis 28:13-15

⁷ Isaiah 49:5-6

⁸ Isaiah 43:10-12 and 45:25

⁹ Genesis 48:7-11

After Jacob, who was also surnamed Israel, blessed Joseph; he turned to Joseph's two sons and "stretched out his *right hand*, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his *left hand* upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands *wittingly*; for Manasseh was the firstborn. And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, the Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the *lads*; and let my name be *named on them*, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let *them* grow into a *multitude* in the *midst* of the earth. And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. And Joseph said unto his father, not so, my father; for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. And his father refused, and said, *I know it*, my son, *I know it*; he also shall become a people, and *he also* shall be *great*; but truly his younger brother shall be *greater than he*, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.¹⁰"

Although Ephraim was given the greater blessing, it is imperative to distinguish that *both* Ephraim and Manasseh were blessed and thus they were *both* called to be a light to the people of God, to deliver them from bondage, and to *bring* salvation *to* them through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Together, Joseph's sons were to further witness of the glory of God by bearing record of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and by showing unto the children of men that God chooses the small and weak things of the world to reveal His great power and mighty purposes. For the Lord promised that the ten thousands of Ephraim and the thousands of Manasseh would push the people together to the ends of the earth, or in other words, "righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare; an holy city, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion; a New Jerusalem."¹¹

A Remnant Preserved

The blessing which was given to Ephraim and Manasseh might appear confusing at first glance, as neither tribe was particularly righteous. The tribe of Ephraim, which ruled over the northern Kingdom of Israel following the schism of the unified nation, never brought forth a righteous king. For more than two hundred years, God continued to warn Israel through the prophets to repent and to turn back to Him, saying, "I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me; for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled. They will *not* frame their doings to turn unto their God; for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have *not* known the Lord. And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face; therefore shall Israel and Ephraim *fall in their iniquity*."¹²

In consequence of their transgressions, the capital city of Israel was besieged and overcome by Shalmaneser, the king of Assyria, around 722 B.C., and thus the ten northern tribes were scattered as the Lord promised Moses almost seven hundred years earlier. "But it shall come to pass, if thou [the

¹⁰ Genesis 48:20-25

¹¹ Genesis 7:70

¹² Hosea 5:3-5

twelve tribes of Israel] wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day, that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee...The Lord shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies; thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them; and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth...And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other.¹³”

Although the ten northern tribes were lost to the world, they were not lost to God. It is the Lord’s pattern to preserve unto Himself a remnant who will serve Him in righteousness. “Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb; and even to your old age I am He; and even to hoar [gray] hairs will I carry you; I have made, and *I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.*¹⁴” [Read also Isaiah 65:8-9, 2 Kings 13:23, Micah 7:18-19]. Thus the first book of Chronicles records that not all of Ephraim and Manasseh dwelt in the northern kingdom when it was scattered, for “in Jerusalem dwelt the children of Judah, and of the children of Benjamin, and of the children of Ephraim, and Manasseh.¹⁵” Not only was this true before the fall of Israel but after its fall as well for King Hezekiah, who was the king of Judah, “wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the Lord God of Israel...saying, Ye children of Israel [meaning the northern kingdom], turn again unto the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and He will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria.¹⁶”

Over two hundred years later this same remnant was preserved again as Lehi, who was a descendant of Manasseh [read 1 Nephi 1:164-165 and Alma 8:3], was commanded by God to flee Jerusalem before its destruction at the hands of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. “And it came to pass that the Lord commanded my father [Lehi], even in a dream, that he should take his family and depart into the wilderness. And it came to pass that he was obedient unto the word of the Lord, wherefore he did as the Lord commanded him...And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto me, saying, Blessed art thou Nephi, because of thy faith, for thou hast sought me diligently, with lowliness of heart. And inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper, and shall be led to a land of promise; yea, even a land which I have prepared for you; yea, a land which is choice above all other lands.¹⁷”

The blessing which Jacob bestowed upon Joseph’s sons was therefore preserved by the providence of God, who separated Lehi’s family for His own purpose, for “thus saith the Lord, I have led this people forth out of the land of Jerusalem, by the power of mine arm, that I might raise up unto me a righteous branch from the fruit of the loins of Joseph. Wherefore, I, the Lord God, will not suffer that this people shall do like unto them of old.¹⁸” It was part of God’s plan of redemption that this righteous branch should retain a holy record containing the testimony of Jesus Christ and the covenants of the Lord in

¹³ Deuteronomy 28:15, 25, and 64

¹⁴ Isaiah 46:3-4 and 6

¹⁵ 1 Chronicles 9:3

¹⁶ 2 Chronicles 30:1 and 6

¹⁷ 1 Nephi 1:26-27 and 53-54

¹⁸ Jacob 2:34-35

order that it might one day be brought forth from the dust unto the convincing of men of the Only Begotten Son of God and of His eternal Kingdom. Please read the following testimonies from Jacob, the brother of Nephi, from Mormon, and from Alma the Younger:

Jacob

3:1 Now behold, it came to pass that I, Jacob, having ministered much unto my people, in word, (and I can not write but little of my words, because of the difficulty of engraving our words upon plates), and we know that the things which we write upon plates ***must remain***; **3:2** But whatsoever things we write upon anything save it be upon plates, must perish and vanish away; but we can write a few words upon plates, which will give our children, and also our beloved brethren, a small degree of knowledge concerning us, or concerning their fathers. **3:3** Now in this thing we do rejoice; and we labor diligently to engraven these words upon plates, hoping that our beloved brethren, and our children, will **receive them with thankful hearts**, and look upon them, that they may learn with joy, and not with sorrow, neither with contempt concerning their first parents: **3:4** For, ***for this intent*** have we written these things, that they may know that we knew of Christ, and we had a hope of His glory, many hundred years before His coming, and not only we, ourselves, had a hope of His glory, but also all the holy prophets which were before us. **3:5** Behold, they believed in Christ, and worshipped the Father in His name; and also, we worship the Father in His name.

Words of Mormon

1:4 And now, I speak somewhat concerning that which I have written: for after I had made an abridgment from the plates of Nephi, down to the reign of this King Benjamin, of whom Amaleki spake, **1:5** I searched among the records which had been delivered into my hands, and I found these plates, which contained this small account of the prophets, from Jacob, down to the reign of this King Benjamin: and also many of the words of Nephi.

1:6 And the things which are upon these plates pleasing me, because of the prophecies of the coming of Christ; and my fathers knowing that many of them have been fulfilled; **1:7** Yea, and I also know that as many things as have been prophesied concerning us down to this day, have been fulfilled; and as many as go beyond this day, ***must surely come to pass***; **1:8** Wherefore, I chose these things, to finish my record upon them, which remainder of my record I shall take from the plates of Nephi; and I cannot write the hundredth part of the things of my people. **1:9** But behold, I shall take these plates, which contain these prophesyings and revelations, and put them with the remainder of my record, for they are choice unto me; and I know they will be choice ***unto my brethren***. **1:10** And I do this for ***a wise purpose***; for thus it whispereth me, according to the workings of the Spirit of the Lord which is in me.

1:11 And now, I do not know all things; but the Lord knoweth all things which are to come; wherefore, He worketh in me to do **according to His will**. **1:12** And my prayer to God, is concerning ***my brethren***, that they may once again come to the knowledge of God; yea, the redemption of Christ; that they may once again be a delightsome people. **1:13** And now I,

Mormon, proceed to finish out my record, which I take from the plates of Nephi; and I make it according to the knowledge and the understanding which God has given me.

1:16 And I, Mormon, pray to God that they may be preserved, from this time henceforth. **1:17** And I know that they will be preserved: for there are great things written upon them, out of which my people and their brethren, shall be judged at the great and last day, according to the word of God which is written.

Alma

17:31 And now my son Helaman, I command you that ye take the records which have been entrusted with me; and I also command you that ye keep a record of this people, according as I have done, upon the plates of Nephi, and keep all these things sacred which I have kept, even as I have kept them: for it is for ***a wise purpose*** that they are kept; **17:32** And these plates of brass which contain these engravings, which have the records of the holy scriptures upon them, which have the genealogy of our forefathers, even from the beginning. **17:33** And behold, it has been prophesied by our fathers, that they should be kept and handed down from one generation to another, and be kept and ***preserved*** by the hand of the Lord, until they should go forth unto every nation, kindred, tongue and people, that they shall know of the mysteries contained thereon.

17:34 And now behold, if they are kept, they must retain their brightness; yea, and they will retain their brightness; yea, and also shall all the plates which do contain that which is ***holy writ***. **17:35** Now ye may suppose that this is foolishness in me; but behold I say unto you, that by small and simple things, ***are great things brought to pass***; and small means in many instances, doth confound the wise. **17:36** And the Lord God doth work by means to bring about His great and eternal purposes; and by very small means the Lord doth confound the wise, and bringeth about the ***salvation of many souls***.

17:37 And now, it has hitherto been ***wisdom in God***, that these things should be ***preserved***: for behold, they have enlarged the memory of this people, yea, and ***convinced*** many of the error of their ways, and brought them to the knowledge of their God, unto the salvation of their souls. **17:38** Yea, I say unto you, were it not for these things that these records do contain, which are on these plates, Ammon and his brethren could not have convinced so many thousands of the Lamanites, of the incorrect tradition of their fathers; **17:39** Yea, these records and their words, brought them unto repentance; that is, they brought them to the knowledge of the Lord their God, and to ***rejoice*** in Jesus Christ their Redeemer.

17:40 And who knoweth but what they [the Book of Mormon] will be the means of bringing many thousands of them, yea, and also many thousands of our stiff-necked brethren, the Nephites, who are now hardening their hearts, in sins and iniquities, to the knowledge of their Redeemer. **17:41** Now these mysteries are not yet fully made known unto me; therefore I shall forbear. **17:42** And it may suffice, If I only say, they are preserved for a ***wise purpose***, which

purpose is known unto God: for He doth counsel in wisdom over all His works, and His paths are straight and His course is one eternal round.

Mormon

2:37 And now behold, this I speak unto their seed, and also to the Gentiles, who have care for the house of Israel, that realize and know from whence their blessings come. **2:38** For I know that such will sorrow for the calamity of the house of Israel; yea, they will sorrow for the destruction of this people; they will sorrow that this people had not repented, that they might have been clasped in the arms of Jesus.

2:39 Now these things are written unto the remnant of the house of Jacob; and they are written after this manner, because it is known of God that wickedness will not bring them forth unto them; and they are to be hid up unto the Lord, that they may come forth in his own due time.

2:40 And this is the commandment which I have received; and behold they [the Book of Mormon] shall come forth according to the commandment of the Lord, when He shall see fit, in His wisdom.

2:41 And behold they shall go unto the unbelieving of the Jews; and for this intent shall they go; that they may be persuaded that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God; **2:42** That the Father may bring about, through His most beloved, His great and eternal purpose, in restoring the Jews, or all the house of Israel, to the land of their inheritance, which the Lord their God hath given them, unto the fulfilling of His covenant, **2:43** And also that the seed of this people [Nephites and Lamanites] may more fully believe His gospel, which shall go forth unto them from the Gentiles; **2:44** For this people shall be scattered, and shall become a dark, a filthy, and a loathsome people, beyond the description of that which ever hath been amongst us; yea, even that which hath been among the Lamanites; and this because of their unbelief and idolatry.

The Lord God has been merciful unto the seed of Joseph and has preserved by His own hand a righteous branch not only to fulfill His covenant that all of the nations of the earth should be blessed through Abraham, but also because of Joseph's steadfast faith. "For as Joseph brought his father down into the land of Egypt, even so he died there; wherefore the Lord brought a remnant of the seed of Joseph out of the land of Jerusalem, that He might be merciful unto the seed of Joseph, that they should perish not, even as He was merciful unto the father of Joseph, that he should perish not; wherefore the remnant of the house of Joseph shall be built up upon this land; and it shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old; and they shall no more be confounded, until the end come, when the earth shall pass away.¹⁹"

Restoration

Although the blessing and covenant of God was passed from Abraham to Isaac, to Jacob, and then to the entire house of Israel, the Lord especially chose Joseph and his seed to do a mighty work and a wonder among the children of men. They were called not to be the light and salvation of men, as this was

¹⁹ Ether 6:6-8

Christ, but instead they were chosen to bring the light of the Gospel for the salvation of men as Jacob blessed Joseph and his sons, saying, “for thou shalt be a light unto my people, to deliver them in the days of their captivity, from bondage; and to bring salvation unto them, when they are altogether bowed down under sin.²⁰”

There have been many instances throughout the history of the world where mankind has become disobedient to the commandments of God and thus apostatized from teachings of the Lord. Before each apostasy however the Lord has always given a warning to the people for “surely the Lord God will do nothing, until He revealeth the secret unto His servants the prophets.²¹” The Lord commanded numerous prophets such as Isaiah, Micah, and Amos to warn the people of Judah and Israel before the coming famine, “not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.²²” [Read also Isaiah 29:25-30, Isaiah 59, Isaiah 60:1-2, Micah 3:6-7.] God also warned the Church in Jerusalem through the apostle Paul, that it too would encounter a falling away. “Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled by letter, except ye receive it from us; neither by spirit, nor by word, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means; for there shall come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.²³”

Notwithstanding the disobedience of the children of men, the Lord God Almighty had already established the plan of redemption from the foundation of the world. For God chooses the plain and simple things to confound the mighty and strong, and He promised Joseph that out of the fruit of his loins, “the Lord God will raise up a righteous branch...and it shall come to pass that they [Israel] shall be scattered again; and a branch [Lehi or Manasseh] shall be broken off, and shall be carried into a far country; nevertheless they shall be remembered in the covenants of the Lord, when the Messiah cometh; for He shall be made manifest unto them in the latter days, in the Spirit of power; and shall bring them out of darkness into light; out of hidden darkness, and out of captivity unto freedom.²⁴”

The third book of Nephi records the fulfillment of this prophecy, as the Lord Jesus Christ visited the more righteous remnant of the Lamanites and Nephites who survived the great destruction while He was on the cross, teaching them the same principles of the Kingdom of God which He had taught the disciples in Jerusalem. And this so that the Book of Mormon would stand as a second witness that Jesus is the Christ. “Yea, behold, I say unto you, that as these things [the prophecies and words of the Book of Mormon] are true, and as the Lord God liveth, there is none other name given under heaven, save it be this Jesus Christ of which I have spoken, whereby man can be saved. Wherefore, for this cause hath the Lord God promised unto me that these things which I write, shall be kept and preserved, and handed

²⁰ Genesis 48:7-11

²¹ Amos 3:7

²² Amos 8:11

²³ 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

²⁴ Genesis 50:24-25

down unto my seed, from generation to generation, that the promise may be *fulfilled unto Joseph*, that his seed should never perish as long as the earth should stand.²⁵ Please read from 2 Nephi 12:55-74:

12:55 Know ye not that there are more nations than one? **12:56** Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath; **12:57** And I bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth? **12:58** Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? **12:59** Know ye not that the testimony of ***two*** nations is a witness unto you that ***I am God***, that I remember one nation ***like unto another***?

12:60 Wherefore, I speak the ***same words*** unto one nation like unto another. **12:61** And when the two nations shall run together, the testimony of the two nations shall run together also. **12:62** And I do this that I may prove unto many, that I am the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever; and that I speak forth my words according to mine own pleasure. **12:63** And because that I have spoken one word, ye need not suppose that I can not speak another; for my work is not yet finished; neither shall it be, until the end of man; neither from that time hence forth and for ever.

12:64 Wherefore, because that ye have a bible, ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written: **12:65** For I command ***all*** men, both in the east, and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the islands of the sea, that they ***shall write*** the words which I speak unto them: **12:66** For out of the books which shall be written, I will judge the world, every man according to his works, according to that which is written.

12:67 For behold, I shall speak unto the Jews, and they shall write it: **12:68** And I shall also speak unto the Nephites, and they shall write it; **12:69** And I shall also speak unto the ***other*** tribes of the house of Israel, which I have led away, and they shall write it; **12:70** And I shall also speak unto all nations of the earth, and they shall write it. **12:71** And it shall come to pass that the Jews shall have the words of the Nephites, and the Nephites shall have the words of the Jews: **12:72** And the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the lost tribes of Israel; and the lost tribes of Israel shall have the words of the Nephites and the Jews.

12:73 And it shall come to pass that my people which are of the house of Israel, shall be gathered home unto the lands of their possessions; and my word also shall be gathered ***in one***. **12:74** And I will shew unto them that fight against my word and against my people, who are of the house of Israel, that I am God, and that I ***covenanted with Abraham***, that I would remember his seed for ever.

While Manasseh was set aside to be a righteous branch and to record the testimony of Jesus Christ so that the words of God might come forth to the convincing of both Jew and Gentile, it is important to inquire of Ephraim's blessing. For Jacob told Joseph that Manasseh "*also* shall become a people, and he

²⁵ 2 Nephi 11:39-40

also shall be *great*; but truly his younger brother [Ephraim] shall be *greater than he*, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.²⁶ In Lehi's final words to his youngest son, who was also named Joseph, he expounded upon the promise obtained by Joseph of Egypt in the book of Genesis concerning a choice seer of the Lord. Please read 2 Nephi 2:1-50 [read also Genesis 50:24-34]:

2:1 And now I [Lehi] speak unto you, Joseph, my last born. **2:2** Thou wast born in the wilderness of mine afflictions; yea, in the days of my greatest sorrow did thy mother bear thee. **2:3** And may the Lord consecrate also unto thee this land, which is a most precious land, for thine inheritance and the *inheritance of thy seed* [Manasseh] with thy brethren, for thy security for ever, *if* it so be that ye shall keep the commandments of the Holy One of Israel.

2:4 And now, Joseph, my last born, whom I have brought out of the wilderness of mine afflictions, may the Lord bless thee for ever, for thy seed shall not utterly be destroyed. **2:5** For behold, thou art the fruit of my loins; and I am a *descendant of Joseph*, who was carried captive into Egypt. **2:6** And great were the covenants of the Lord, which He made unto Joseph; wherefore, Joseph truly saw our day. **2:7** And he obtained a promise of the Lord, that out of the fruit of his loins, the Lord God would raise up a *righteous branch* unto the house of Israel; **2:8** Not the Messiah, but a branch which was to be broken off; nevertheless, to be remembered in the covenants of the Lord, **2:9** That the Messiah should be *made* manifest unto them in the **latter days**, in the *spirit of power*, unto the bringing of them out of darkness *unto light*; yea, out of hidden darkness and out of captivity *unto freedom*. **2:10** For *Joseph* truly testified, saying: A seer shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a choice seer unto the fruit of *my* loins.

2:11 Yea, *Joseph* truly said, Thus saith the Lord unto me: *A choice seer* will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and he shall be esteemed highly among the fruit of thy loins. **2:12** And unto him will I give commandment, that he shall do a work *for* the fruit of thy loins, his brethren, which shall be of great worth unto them, even to the bringing of them to the *knowledge* of the covenants which I have made with thy fathers.

2:13 And I will give unto him a commandment, that he shall do none other work save the work which I shall command him. **2:14** And I will make him great in mine eyes: for he shall do my work. **2:15** And he shall be great *like unto* Moses, whom I have said I would raise up unto you [Israel], to deliver my people, *O house of Israel*. **2:16** And Moses will I raise up, to deliver thy people out of the land of Egypt. **2:17** But a seer will I raise up out of the fruit of *thy loins*; and unto him will I give power to bring forth my word unto the seed of thy loins; **2:18** And not to the bringing forth my word *only*, saith the Lord, but to *the convincing* them of my word, which shall have *already* gone forth among them.

2:19 Wherefore, the fruit of thy loins shall write; and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write; **2:20** And that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins, and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah, *shall grow together*, [read Ezekiel 37:15-28] **2:21** Unto the confounding of false doctrines, and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among

²⁶ Genesis 48:25

the fruit of thy loins, **2:22** And bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days; **2:23** And also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord. **2:24** And out of weakness he shall be made strong [read DC 1:4-5], in that day when my work shall commence among all my people, unto the restoring thee, O house of Israel, saith the Lord.

2:25 And thus prophesied **Joseph**, saying: Behold, that seer [Joseph Smith, Jr.] will the Lord bless; **2:26** And they that seek to destroy him, shall be confounded [DC 3]: **2:27** For this promise, of which I have obtained of the Lord, of the fruit of thy loins, **shall be fulfilled**. **2:28** Behold, I am sure of the fulfilling of this promise. **2:29** And his name shall be called after me [Joseph]; and it shall be after the name of his father [Joseph]. **2:30** And he shall be like unto me; for the thing which the Lord shall bring forth by his hand, by the power of the Lord shall bring my people **unto salvation**; **2:31** Yea, thus prophesied Joseph, I am sure of this thing, even as I am sure of the promise of Moses: for the Lord hath said unto me, I will preserve thy seed for ever.

2:38 And the words which he [Joseph Smith, Jr.] shall write, shall be the words which are **expedient in my wisdom** should go forth unto the fruit of thy loins. **2:39** And it shall be as if the fruit of thy loins had cried unto them from the dust; for I know their faith. **2:40** And they shall cry from the dust; yea, even repentance unto their brethren, even after many generations have gone by them. **2:41** And it shall come to pass that their cry shall go, even according to the simpleness of their words. **2:42** Because of their faith, their words shall proceed forth out of my mouth unto their brethren, who are the fruit of thy loins; **2:43** And the weakness of their words will I make strong in their faith, unto the remembering of my covenant which I made unto thy fathers.

2:44 And now, behold, my son Joseph [Lehi's son], after this manner did my father of old prophesy. **2:45** Wherefore, because of this covenant thou art blessed: for thy seed shall not be destroyed, for they shall **hearken** unto the words of the book. **2:46** And there shall raise up **one mighty** among **them**, who shall do much good, both in word and in deed, being **an instrument** in the hands of God, with exceeding faith. **2:47** To work mighty wonders, and do that thing which is great in the sight of God, unto the bringing to pass **much restoration** unto the house of Israel, and unto the seed of thy brethren.

2:48 And now, blessed art thou, Joseph [Lehi's son]. **2:49** Behold, thou are little; wherefore, hearken unto the words of thy brother Nephi, and it shall be done unto thee, even according to the words which I have spoken. **2:50** Remember the words of thy dying father. Amen.

The Lord promised Joseph of Egypt that out of the fruit of his loins a choice seer would God raise up who would bring forth the record of Joseph's seed so that the testimony of the Lord Jesus would come unto them in the latter days to bring them out of darkness and captivity unto light and freedom. The Lord promised to give this choice seer power and authority to bring together the record of Joseph and the record of Judah to the confounding of false doctrines and to bring the seed of Joseph to the knowledge of the covenants which God gave unto their fathers so that He might bring His people unto salvation, just as Jacob promised Joseph and his sons in Genesis.

Through His servants the prophets, the Lord promised the children of Israel that He would bring forth a record both from Joseph and from Judah. For God told Ezekiel to take “one stick and write upon it, for *Judah*, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, for *Joseph*, the stick of *Ephraim*, and for all the house of Israel his companions; and join them one to another into *one stick*; and they shall become *one* in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not show us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the *stick of Joseph*, which is in the *hand* of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them *one stick*, and they shall be *one* in mine hand.²⁷”

The Lord allowed Ezekiel to witness that the stick of Joseph, which in part is the record of Manasseh, or in other words the Book of Mormon, would come forth through the *hand* of Ephraim. God also showed Isaiah that the Lord would bring forth the words of a book which would speak out of the ground and whisper out of the dust. “And behold, the book shall be sealed; and in the book shall be a revelation from God, from the beginning of the world to the ending thereof. Wherefore because of the things which are sealed up, the things which are sealed shall not be delivered in the day of the wickedness and abominations of the people. Wherefore, the book shall be kept from them. But the book shall be delivered unto *a man*...And the day cometh, that the words of the book which were sealed shall be read upon the housetops; and they shall be read *by the power of Christ*; and all things shall be revealed unto the children of men which ever have been among the children of men, and which ever will be, even unto the end of the earth.²⁸”

The man to whom the book should be delivered is the same choice seer foretold by Lehi that should bear the name of Joseph of Egypt and also be named after his own father. The man is Joseph Smith, Jr., a prophet of God who was raised up to translate the Book of Mormon and to restore the Church of Jesus Christ in these the latter days. It is also through Joseph Smith, Jr. and his seed that the latter day saints have received the revelations of God as recorded in the Doctrine and Covenants, which is also a portion of the stick of Joseph and contains both the everlasting covenant and the cause of Zion. Please read from Isaiah 29:17-32:

29:17 Wherefore, at that day when the book shall be delivered unto the man [Joseph Smith, Jr.] of whom I have spoken, the book shall be hid from the eyes of the world, that the eyes of none shall behold it, save it be that **three witnesses** [Martin Harris, Oliver Cowdery, and David Whitmer] shall behold it by the power of God, besides him [Joseph Smith, Jr.] to whom the book shall be delivered; and they shall testify to the truth of the book and the things therein. **29:18** And there is none other which shall view it, save it be **a few** [the eight witnesses] according to the will of God, to bear testimony of his word unto the children of men; for the Lord God hath said, that the words of the faithful should speak as it were from the dead. **29:19** Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to bring forth the words of the book; and in the mouth of as many

²⁷ Ezekiel 37:16-19

²⁸ Isaiah 29:12-14 and 16

witnesses as seemeth him good will he establish his word; and woe be unto him that rejecteth the word of God.

29:20 But, behold, it shall come to pass, that the Lord God shall say unto him [Joseph Smith, Jr] to whom he shall deliver the book, Take these words which are not sealed and deliver them to another [Martin Harris], that he may show them unto the **learned** [Professor Antoine], saying, Read this, I pray thee. **29:21** And the learned shall say, Bring hither the book and I will read them; and now because of the glory of the world, and to get gain will they say this, and not for the glory of God. And the man [Martin Harris] shall say, I cannot bring the book for it is sealed. Then shall the learned say, I cannot read it.

29:22 Wherefore it shall come to pass, that the Lord God will deliver again the book and the words thereof to him [Joseph Smith, Jr] that is not learned; and the man that is not learned shall say, I am not learned. Then shall the Lord God say unto him, The learned shall not read them, for they have rejected them, and I am able to do mine ***own work***; wherefore thou shalt read the words which I shall give unto thee. **29:23** Touch not the things which are sealed, for I will bring them forth ***in mine own due time***; for I will show unto the children of men that I am able to do mine own work. **29:24** Wherefore, when thou hast read the words which I have commanded thee, and obtained the witnesses which I have promised unto thee, then shalt thou seal up the book again, and hide it up unto me, that I may preserve the words which thou hast not read ***until*** I shall see fit in mine own wisdom to reveal all things unto the children of men. **29:25** For behold, I am God; and I am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that I am the ***same*** yesterday, today, and forever; and I work not among the children of men, save it be according to their faith.

29:26 And again it shall come to pass, that the Lord shall say unto him [Joseph Smith, Jr] that shall read the words that shall be delivered him, Forasmuch as this people draw near unto me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their hearts far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precepts of men, therefore I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people; yea, a marvelous work and a wonder; for the wisdom of their wise and learned shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid. **29:27** And woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord. And their works are in the dark; and they say, Who seeth us and who knoweth us? And they also say, Surely, your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay. **29:28** But behold, I will show unto them, saith the Lord of hosts, that I know all their works. For, shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?

29:29 But behold, saith the Lord of hosts, I will show unto the children of men, that it is ***not yet a very little while***, and Lebanon shall be turned into a ***fruitful field***; and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest. **29:30** And ***in that day*** shall the deaf hear the words of the book; and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness; and the meek also shall increase, and their joy shall be in the Lord; and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

29:31 For, assuredly as the Lord liveth, they shall see that the terrible one is brought to naught, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off, and they that make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of naught.

29:32 Therefore, thus saith the Lord who redeemed Abraham concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob ***shall not now be ashamed***, neither shall his ***face now wax pale***,²⁹ but when he seeth his children, the work of my hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel. They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.

Though the blessing of Manasseh was truly great, the richer blessing was bestowed upon Ephraim for the record of Manasseh was to come forth *through* the hand of Ephraim not only to restore the Nephites and Lamanites to the knowledge of their Redeemer, but also to bring the Gospel of salvation and the promise of Zion unto the Gentiles. It is through this great and marvelous work that all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. For through Judah, Christ was born, and through Joseph, the testimony of Jesus will roll forth unto the confounding of false doctrines, the laying down of contentions, and the establishment of peace in righteousness. For through the fullness of the everlasting Gospel comes the promise of Zion, which is the Kingdom of God on earth, and thus the face of Jacob will no longer wax pale but will be made alive in the testimony of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Calling of Ephraim

The Lord told Joseph Smith, Jr., “Behold, there shall be a record kept among you, and in it thou shalt be called *a seer*, a translator, a prophet, an apostle of Jesus Christ, an elder of the church through the will of God the Father, and the grace of your Lord Jesus Christ; being inspired of the Holy Ghost *to lay the foundation thereof*, and to build it up unto the most holy faith; which church was organized and established, in the year of your Lord eighteen hundred and thirty, in the fourth month, and on the sixth day of the month, which is called April. Wherefore, meaning the church, thou shalt give heed unto all his words, and commandments, which he shall give unto you, as he receiveth them, walking in all holiness before me; for his word ye shall receive, as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith; for by *doing* these things, the gates of hell shall not prevail against you; yea, and the Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness from before you, and cause the heavens to shake for your good, and His name's glory. For thus saith the Lord God, him have I inspired *to move* the cause of Zion in mighty power for good; and his diligence I know, and his prayers I have heard.”³⁰

The blessing bestowed upon the tribe of Ephraim was not only to restore the fullness of the Gospel through the Book of Mormon but also to restore the Church and to lay its foundation so that the cause of Zion might be moved forward among the children of men. And this the Lord accomplished in Joseph Smith, Jr. who organized the Church in 1830 and brought many hidden principles of the doctrine of

²⁹ [Helaman 3:101...shall look pale, even as if death had come upon him]

³⁰ DC 19:1-2d

Christ to light through the power and authority of God. The Lord spoke to His Church through Joseph, giving them forty-seven revelations on Zion between 1829 and 1842 with perhaps the most important revelation concerning the everlasting covenant. “And even so I have sent mine *everlasting covenant* into the world, to be a light to the world, and to be a standard for my people and for the *Gentiles to seek to it*, and to be a messenger before my face to *prepare the way before me*.³¹”

In the everlasting covenant, the Lord promised that when His people should keep the commandments, embrace the truth, and look upward, “then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness, and the earth shall tremble with joy; and the general assembly of the Church of the Firstborn [Jesus Christ] shall come down out of heaven and possess the earth, and shall have place until the end come. And this is mine everlasting covenant, which I made with thy father Enoch.³²” Until the restoration of the Book of Mormon and the Church of Jesus Christ however, the everlasting covenant was lost to the world because of disobedience and unbelief. Nonetheless, the Lord has forewarned that with great light comes greater responsibility “and he who sins against the greater light shall receive the greater condemnation.³³”

God therefore commanded the Church not to take lightly the things which He has placed into their hands by the power of His Spirit and inasmuch as the Church has been unfaithful to the covenant, the whole Church has come under condemnation. “And your minds in times past have been darkened because of *unbelief*, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation. And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, *even all*; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written, that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom, otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay.³⁴”

“Wherefore, as ye are agents, and ye are on the Lord's errand; and whatever ye do according to the will of the Lord, is the Lord's business, and He hath set you to provide for His Saints in these last days, that they may obtain an inheritance in the land of Zion, and, behold, I, the Lord, declare unto you, and my words are sure and shall not fail, that they shall obtain it; but all things must come to pass in their time; wherefore be not weary in well-doing, for ye are *laying the foundation* of a great work. And out of *small things* proceedeth that which is *great*. Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days; and the rebellious shall be cut off out of the land of Zion, and shall be sent away, and shall not inherit the land; for, verily, I say that the rebellious are not of the blood of Ephraim, wherefore they shall be plucked out.³⁵”

³¹ DC 45:2d

³² Genesis 9:22-23

³³ DC 81:1c

³⁴ DC 83:8

³⁵ DC 64:6b-7b

Through the restoration of the Church by the hand of Ephraim, God has laid a great responsibility upon His sons and daughters to preserve the testimony of Jesus Christ which is contained in the fullness of the Gospel, which can only be accomplished by seeking first the Kingdom of God and establishing His righteousness [read DC 84:3]. It is crucial to understand that those who have covenanted with our Heavenly Father in the waters of baptism and have received the Holy Ghost have been adopted into the house of Israel, and in particular, the tribe of Ephraim. “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye are Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.³⁶” And with that adoption comes the blessing and the responsibility that was placed upon Ephraim, which is to move the cause of Zion forward and to assist in the fulfilling of the covenants of God with the promise that if the Church would be faithful, God would cause the heavens to shake for their good.

Within the fullness of His Gospel, the Lord God has not only made promises with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but with the Gentiles as well so that in them the world might know that He is God and that there is none else. In particular God has promised that the sacred things contained within the Book of Mormon would be brought forth from the Gentiles unto the tribes of Israel because of Israel's fall and disobedience. Paul admonished the Romans however, saying, “I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid; but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them is the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; *how much more their fullness?*...For if the casting away of them is the reconciling of the world, what shall the restoring of them be, but life from the dead?³⁷” Through Israel and the Gentiles, God has worked to proclaim the Gospel of His Only Begotten Son and to establish His Kingdom upon the earth, even Zion. For God is not a respecter of persons and unless He calls all men, He cannot choose any man. Thus the Lord has never ceased to declare the Gospel of salvation to the children of men, whether it is by the house of Israel or the Gentiles. The following Scriptures enlighten God's eternal purposes for all men, both Israel and Gentile, bond and free, through the Book of Mormon.

1 Nephi 3:184-189 and 201-209

3:184 For behold, saith the Lamb, I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious; **3:185** And after thy seed shall be destroyed and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren; behold, these things shall be hid up, to ***come forth unto the Gentiles*** by the gift and power of the Lamb; **3:186** And in them shall be written my gospel, saith the Lamb, and my rock and my salvation; **3:187** And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they ***shall*** have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; **3:188** And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; **3:189** And whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how ***beautiful*** upon the mountains shall they be.

³⁶ Galatians 3:27-29

³⁷ Romans 11:11-12 and 15

3:201 And it shall come to pass, that if the Gentiles shall hearken unto the Lamb of God in that day that he shall manifest himself unto them *in word*, and also *in power*, in very deed, unto the taking away of their stumbling-blocks, and harden not their hearts against the Lamb of God, they shall be numbered among the seed of thy father; **3:202** Yea, they shall be numbered *among the house of Israel*; **3:203** And they shall be a blessed people upon the promised land for ever; **3:204** They shall be no more brought down into captivity; **3:205** And the house of Israel shall no more be confounded; **3:206** And that great pit which hath been digged for them by that great and abominable church, which was founded by the devil and his children, that he might lead away the souls of men down to hell; **3:207** Yea, that great pit which hath been digged for the destruction of men, shall be filled by those who digged it, unto their utter destruction, saith the Lamb of God; **3:208** Not the destruction of the soul, save it be the casting of it into that hell which hath no end; **3:209** For behold, this is according to the captivity of the devil, and also according to the justice of God, upon all those who will work wickedness and abomination before him.

1 Nephi 4:8 and 14-33

4:8 And they [Laman and Lemuel] said, Behold, we can not understand the words which our father hath spoken concerning the natural branches of the olive tree, and also concerning the Gentiles...**4:14** Behold, I [Nephi] say unto you, that the house of Israel was compared unto an olive tree, by the Spirit of the Lord which was in our fathers; **4:15** And behold, are we not broken off from the house of Israel; and are we not a branch of the house of Israel?

4:16 And now, the thing which our father meaneth concerning the grafting in of the natural branches through the fullness of the Gentiles, is, that in the latter days, when our seed shall have dwindled in unbelief, yea, for the space of many years and many generations, after the Messiah shall be manifested in body unto the children of men, then shall the fullness of the gospel of the Messiah *come unto the Gentiles*, and from the Gentiles unto *the remnant of our seed*; **4:17** And at that day shall the remnant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the *covenant people of the Lord*; **4:18** And then shall they know and come to the knowledge of their forefathers, and also to the knowledge of the gospel of their Redeemer, which was ministered unto their fathers by him; **4:19** Wherefore, they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer, and the very points of his doctrine, that they may know how to come unto Him and be saved.

4:20 And then at that day, will they not rejoice and give praise unto their everlasting God, their rock and their salvation? **4:21** Yea, at that day, will they not receive the strength and nourishment from the true vine? **4:22** Yea, will they not come unto the true fold of God? **4:23** Behold, I say unto you, Yea: they shall be remembered again among the house of Israel; **4:24** They shall be grafted in, being a natural branch of the olive tree, into the true olive tree; **4:25** And this is what our father meaneth; **4:26** And he meaneth that it will not come to pass, until after they are scattered by the Gentiles; **4:27** And he meaneth that *it shall come by way of the Gentiles*, that the Lord may shew his power unto the Gentiles, for the very cause that he shall be rejected of the Jews, or of the house of Israel: **4:28** Wherefore, our father hath not spoken of

our seed alone, but also of all the house of Israel, pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days; **4:29 Which covenant the Lord made to our father Abraham**, saying, In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

4:30 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, spake much unto them concerning these things; **4:31** Yea, I spake unto them concerning the restoration of the Jews, in the latter days; **4:32** And I did rehearse unto them the words of Isaiah, who spake concerning the restoration of the Jews, or of the house of Israel; **4:33** And after they were restored, they should no more be confounded, neither should they be scattered again.

1 Nephi 7:17-25

7:17 And after our seed is scattered, the Lord God will proceed to do a *marvelous work among the Gentiles*, which shall be of great worth unto our seed; **7:18** Wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles, and being carried in their arms, and upon their shoulders. **7:19** And it shall also be of worth unto the Gentiles: **7:20** And not only unto the Gentiles, but unto all the house of Israel, unto the *making known of the covenants of the Father of heaven unto Abraham*, saying, In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

7:21 And I would, my brethren, that ye should know that all the kindreds of the earth can not be blessed unless He shall make bare His arm in the eyes of the nations. **7:22** Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare His arm in the eyes of all the nations, in bringing about *His covenants and His gospel, unto* those who are of the house of Israel. **7:23** Wherefore, He will bring them again out of captivity, and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance; **7:24** And they shall be brought out of obscurity, and out of darkness; **7:25** And they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, the mighty one of Israel.

2 Nephi 12:79-86

12:79 And now, I would prophesy somewhat more concerning the Jews and the Gentiles. **12:80** For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written *unto the Gentiles*, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed.

12:81 And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are descendants of the Jews. **12:82** And the *gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them*; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers. **12:83** And then shall they rejoice; for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God; **12:84** And their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes: and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a white and a delightsome people.

12:85 And it shall come to pass that the Jews which are scattered, also shall begin to believe in Christ: and they shall begin to gather in upon the face of the land; **12:86** And as many as shall believe in Christ, shall also become a delightsome people. **12:87** And it shall come to pass that

the Lord God shall commence His work, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, to bring about the restoration of His people upon the earth.

The Lord admonished the Church in the Eighty-third Section of the Doctrine and Covenants not to treat lightly the things which they had received and to remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments, not only to say, but to do according to that which God had written. And this for a wise purpose in Him so that through the fall of the house of Israel the Gentiles might receive the Gospel message and bear record of the Holy Messiah to Israel in the latter days. Thus God will make bear his holy arm before all nations by bringing about the restoration of His people and by fulfilling all of His word. Truly all of the nations of the earth shall be blessed through the seed of Abraham. It is therefore the calling of Ephraim to restore their brethren, and thereby the world, “to the knowledge of their Redeemer, and the very points of His doctrine, that they may know how to come unto Him and be saved.³⁸”

The Lord promised Isaiah and Ezekiel, as well as the Nephites and Lamanites, that the work of the Father would commence at the time that He should bring forth the Book of Mormon from the dust. For the coming forth of the Book of Mormon would not only usher in the former and latter rains as promised in the twenty-ninth chapter of Isaiah, but it would also be a sign unto the world that God would begin to “set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left...and He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.³⁹” The Lord God shall restore His people to the land of their inheritance in order to show the world that He alone is God and so that the world might no longer spurn His covenants and promises but instead turn unto Him and believe in Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God who is full of mercy, grace, and truth. Please read the following Scriptures as given by Jesus concerning the gathering and fulfilling of the Lord’s promises through the restoration of His Church and the Book of Mormon.

3 Nephi 7:34-45

7:34 And thus commandeth the Father that I [Jesus Christ] should say unto you, At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; **7:35** And if they shall do all these things, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them; **7:36** And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them; **7:37** And I will shew unto thee, O house of Israel, that the Gentiles shall not have power over you, but I will remember my covenant unto you, O house of Israel, and ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fullness of my gospel.

³⁸ 1 Nephi 4:19

³⁹ Isaiah 11:11-12

7:38 But if the Gentiles will repent, and return unto me, saith the Father, behold, they shall be ***numbered*** among my people, O house of Israel; **7:39** And I will not suffer my people, who are of the house of Israel, to go through among them, and tread them down, saith the Father. **7:40** But if they will not turn unto me, and hearken unto my voice, I will suffer them, yea, I will suffer my people, O house of Israel, that they shall go through among them, and shall tread them down, **7:41** And they shall be as salt that hath ***lost its savor***, which is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of my people, O house of Israel.

7:42 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Thus hath the Father commanded me, that I should give unto this people [Nephites and Lamanites] ***this land*** for their inheritance. **7:43** And when the words of the prophet Isaiah⁴⁰ shall be fulfilled, which say, Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing, for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall ***bring again Zion***. **7:44** Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord hath comforted his people, He hath redeemed Jerusalem. **7:45** The Lord hath made bare His holy arm in the eyes of ***all*** the nations; and ***all*** the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God.

3 Nephi 9:46-106

9:46 And it came to pass that when they had all given glory unto Jesus, He said unto them, Behold, now I finish the commandment which the Father hath commanded me concerning this people who are a remnant of the house of Israel. **9:47** Ye remember that I spake unto you, and said that when the words of Isaiah should be fulfilled, behold they are written, ye have them before you; therefore search them.⁴¹

9:48 And verily, verily I say unto you, that when they shall be fulfilled, then is the ***fulfilling of the covenant*** which the Father hath made unto His people. **9:49** O house of Israel, and then shall the remnants which shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth, ***be gathered*** in from the east, and from the west, and from the south, and from the north; and they shall be brought to the knowledge of the Lord their God, who hath redeemed them.

9:50 And the Father hath commanded me that I should give unto you ***this land***, for your inheritance. **9:51** And I say unto you, that if the Gentiles do not repent, after the blessing which they shall receive, after they have ***scattered*** my people, then shall ye who are a ***remnant of the house of Jacob***, go forth among them; **9:52** And ye shall be in the midst of them, who shall be many; and ye shall be among them, as a lion among the beasts of the forests, and as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he goeth through, both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver. **9:53** Thy hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.

9:54 And I will gather my people together, as a man gathereth his sheaves into the floor, for I will make my people with whom the Father ***hath covenanted***, yea, I will make thy horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass. **9:55** And thou shalt beat in pieces many people; and I will

⁴⁰ Isaiah 52:8-10

⁴¹ 3 Nephi 7:42-45

consecrate their gain unto the Lord, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth. And behold, I am He who doeth it. [Read Micah 4:13 and Deuteronomy 33:17] **9:56** And it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that the sword of my justice shall hang over them at that day; and except they repent, it shall fall upon them, saith the Father, yea, even upon all the nations of the Gentiles.

9:57 And it shall come to pass that I will establish my people, O house of Israel. **9:58** And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a new Jerusalem. **9:59** And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you.

9:60 Behold, I am He of whom Moses spake, saying, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me, him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. **9:61** And it shall come to pass that every soul who will not hear that prophet, shall be cut off from among the people.⁴² **9:62** Verily, I say unto you, Yea; and all the prophets from Samuel, and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have testified of me.

9:63 And behold ye are the children of the prophets; and ye are of the house of Israel; and ye are of the covenant which the Father made with your fathers, saying unto **Abraham**, And in thy seed, shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed; **9:64** The Father having raised me up unto you first, and sent me to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities; and this because ye are the children of the covenant. **9:65** And after that ye were blessed, then fulfilleth the Father the covenant which He made with Abraham, saying, In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed, unto the pouring out of the Holy Ghost through me upon the Gentiles, which blessing upon the Gentiles, shall make them mighty above all, unto the scattering of my people, O house of Israel: and they shall be a scourge unto the people of this land.

9:66 Nevertheless, when they shall have received the fullness of my gospel, then if they shall harden their hearts against me, I will return their iniquities upon their own heads, saith the Father. **9:67** And I will remember the covenant which I have made with my people, and I have covenanted with them, that I would gather them together in mine own due time; **9:68** That I would give unto them again the land of their fathers, for their inheritance, which is the land of Jerusalem, which is the promised land unto them for ever, saith the Father.

9:69 And it shall come to pass that the time cometh, when the fullness of my gospel shall be preached unto them, and they shall believe in me, that I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and shall pray unto the Father in my name. **9:70** Then shall their watchmen lift up their voices; and with the voice together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye. **9:71** Then will the Father gather them together again, and give unto them Jerusalem for the land of their inheritance. **9:72** Then shall they break forth into joy -- sing together ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Father hath comforted His people, He hath redeemed Jerusalem. **9:73** The Father hath made bare His

⁴² Deuteronomy 18:15-19

holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of the Father; and the Father and I are one.

9:74 *And then* shall be brought to pass that which is written, Awake, awake again, and put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city, for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. **9:75** Shake thyself from the dust; arise, sit down, O Jerusalem; loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion. **9:76** For thus saith the Lord, Ye have sold yourselves for naught; and ye shall be redeemed without money.⁴³

9:77 Verily, verily, I say unto you, that my people shall know my name; yea, in that day they shall know that *I am He that doth speak*. **9:78** And then shall they say, How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings unto them, that publisheth peace: that bringeth good tidings unto them of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!⁴⁴

9:79 And then shall a cry go forth, Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch not that which is unclean; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord. **9:80** For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the Lord will go before you; and the God of Israel shall be your rearward. **9:81** Behold, *my servant* shall deal prudently, He shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. **9:82** As many were astonished at thee; (his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men,) **9:83** So shall He sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at Him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.⁴⁵

9:84 Verily, verily, I say unto you, All these things shall surely come, even as the Father hath *commanded me*. **9:85** Then shall this covenant which the Father hath covenanted with his people, *be fulfilled*; and then shall Jerusalem be inhabited again with my people, and it shall be the land of their inheritance. **9:86** And verily, I say unto you, *I give unto you a sign*, that ye may know the time when these things shall be about to take place, that I shall gather in from their long dispersion, my people, O house of Israel, and shall establish again among them my Zion.

9:87 And behold, this is the thing which I will give unto you *for a sign*, for verily I say unto you, that when these things which I declare unto you, and which I shall declare unto you hereafter *of myself*, and by the power of the Holy Ghost, which shall be given unto you of the Father, *shall be made known unto the Gentiles*, **9:88** That they may know concerning this people who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, and concerning this my people who shall be scattered by them; **9:89** Verily, verily, I say unto you, When these things shall be made known unto them of the Father, and shall come forth of the Father, *from them unto you*, for it is wisdom in the Father that they should be established in this land, **9:90** And be set up as a free people by the power of

⁴³ Isaiah 52:1-3

⁴⁴ Isaiah 52:6-7

⁴⁵ Isaiah 52:11-15

the Father, that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed, that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which He hath covenanted with His people, O house of Israel; **9:91** Therefore, when these works, and the work which shall be wrought among you hereafter, shall come forth from the Gentiles unto your seed, which shall dwindle in unbelief because of iniquity; **9:92** For thus it behooveth the Father that it should come forth from the Gentiles, that He **may shew forth his power unto the Gentiles**, for this cause, that the Gentiles, if they will not harden their hearts, that they may repent and come unto me, and be baptized in my name, and know of the true points of my doctrine, that they may be numbered among my people, O house of Israel: **9:93** And when these things come to pass, that thy seed shall begin to know these things, it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath **already commenced** unto the fulfilling of the covenant which He hath made unto the people who are of the house of Israel.

9:94 And when that day shall come, it shall come to pass that kings shall shut their mouths; for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider. **9:95** For in that day, for my sake shall the Father work a work, which shall be a great and a marvelous work among them; and there shall be among them who will not believe it, although a man shall declare it unto them. **9:96** But behold, the life of my servant shall be in my hand; therefore they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them. **9:97** Yet I will heal him, for I will shew unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil.

9:98 Therefore it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not believe in my words, who am Jesus Christ, whom the Father shall cause him to bring forth unto the Gentiles, and shall give unto him power that he [Joseph Smith, Jr.] shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles, (it shall be done even as Moses said,) they shall be cut off from among my people who are of the covenant; **9:99** And my people who are a remnant of Jacob, shall be among the Gentiles, yea, in the midst of them, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he go through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver. **9:100** Their hand shall be lifted up upon their adversaries, and all their enemies shall be cut off.

9:101 Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles, except they repent, for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots, and I will cut off the cities of thy land and throw down all thy strongholds; **9:102** And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy hand, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers: **9:103** Thy graven images I will also cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands; **9:104** And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities.

9:105 And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and priestcrafts and whoredoms, shall be done away. **9:106** For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day, whosoever will not repent and come unto my beloved Son, them will I cut off from among my people, O house of Israel, and I will execute vengeance and fury upon them, even as upon the heathen, such as they have not heard.

3 Nephi 13:54-62

13:54 And now behold, I [Jesus Christ] say unto you, that when the Lord shall see fit, in His wisdom, that these sayings shall come unto the Gentiles, according to His word, then ye may know that the covenant which the Father hath made with the children of Israel, **concerning their restoration** to the lands of their inheritance, is **already** beginning to be fulfilled; **13:55** And ye may know that the words of the Lord, which have been spoken by the holy prophets, **shall all be fulfilled**; and ye need not say that the Lord delays His coming unto the children of Israel; **13:56** And ye need not imagine in your hearts that the words which have been spoken are vain, for behold, the Lord **will remember His covenant** which He hath made unto His people of the house of Israel.

13:57 And when ye shall see these sayings coming forth among you, then ye need not any longer **spurn** at the doings of the Lord, for the sword of His justice is in his right hand, and behold at that day, if ye shall **spurn** at His doings, He will cause that it shall **soon overtake you**.

13:58 Wo unto him that spurneth at the doings of the Lord; yea, wo unto him that shall deny the Christ and His works; **13:59** Yea, wo unto him that shall deny the revelations of the Lord, and that shall say, The Lord no longer worketh by revelation, or by prophecy, or by gifts, or by tongues, or by healings, or by the power of the Holy Ghost; **13:60** Yea, and wo unto him that shall say at that day, that there can be no miracle wrought by Jesus Christ, to get gain; for he that doeth this, shall become like unto the son of perdition, for whom there was no mercy, according to the word of Christ.

13:61 Yea, and ye need not any longer hiss, nor spurn, **nor make game of the Jews, nor any of the remnant of the house of Israel**, for behold the Lord remembereth His covenant unto them, and He will do unto them according to that which He hath sworn; **13:62** Therefore ye **need not** suppose that ye can turn the right hand of the Lord unto the left, that He may **not** execute judgment unto the fulfilling of the covenant which He hath made unto the house of Israel.

The Lord has shown forth His great power unto the Gentiles through the Book of Mormon and the restoration of His Church that they might know the true points of the doctrine of Christ and be numbered among the house of Israel and thereby become adopted in as the children of the covenant. It is through the hand of Ephraim that God has commenced His great and marvelous work so that all of the nations of the earth which will believe in God and His Christ might be blessed. The calling of Ephraim therefore is to bear record of the Son of God that the Lord might bring His Gospel to all the house of Israel, which can only be accomplished by the building of the Kingdom of God and the establishment of Zion

The Blessing of Ephraim

Through the restored Church of Jesus Christ, many people have been adopted into the Kingdom of God and have inherited the promises of Israel. With this adoption however comes a great responsibility for latter day Israel to take upon them the name of the Son of God and to seek to establish the cause of Zion so that the covenants of the Lord might be fulfilled. God bestowed upon Ephraim, and thereby the

Church, the blessing to be a light unto His people and to bring the message of salvation unto them when they are altogether bowed down under sin. Such a blessing cannot be accomplished simply because mankind desires it, but can only be done through the will of God and the endowment of the Holy Ghost. For it matters not what a man might do for the Lord, but rather what a man will allow the Lord to do through him. Jesus said, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing."⁴⁶

It is only through the grace of the Almighty God that the saints today have a knowledge of the fullness of the Gospel, which knowledge was granted not because the saints are greater than any people, but so that the Lord might show forth His own power unto the children of men. Thus the Lord God calls upon men in these the latter days to be His people and to seek to do His will so that every word that proceeds forth from the mouth of God might be accomplished and fulfilled. The high and holy calling of the Church of Jesus Christ is to be a faithful bride, pure and white keeping itself wholly for the Lord. In so doing God has promised to make His sons and daughters an instrument in His hands to assist Him in bringing all of the house of Israel to the knowledge of the truth. God, and not man, will do the work for God has said, "Behold, I do not require at their [the elders and the Church] hands to fight the battles of Zion; for, as I said in a former commandment, even so will I fulfill, I will fight your battles."⁴⁷

While God will truly put His Church in order and establish His Zion, it is the calling and responsibility of Ephraim and the Church to sanctify themselves before the Lord so that the cause of Zion might move forward for good. "And again, this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come."⁴⁸ How can there be a witness of the light and love of God without a people who are of one heart and one mind in Christ Jesus? How can the Gospel of the Kingdom be truly manifested without a people who will live without any manner of contention because of the love of God which dwells in their hearts? In order for Zion to be redeemed, each son and daughter of God must first come unto Christ and surrender all in order that He might give man all that He is. For only in the Lord Jesus is the perfect man to be found and the collective of this perfect man is Zion. Please read the following Scriptures concerning the work of Zion as it relates to both the house of Israel and Gentile.

3 Nephi 10:1-8

10:1 But if they [the Gentiles] will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall **come in unto the covenant**, and be numbered among **this** the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall **assist my people**, the remnant of Jacob; **10:2** And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem; **10:3** **And then** shall they **assist my people** that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem. **10:4** **And then** shall the

⁴⁶ John 15:4-5

⁴⁷ DC 102:3f

⁴⁸ Matthew 24:32

power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst, ***and then*** shall the work of the Father commence, at that day even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people.

10:5 Verily, I say unto you, At that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people; yea, even the tribes which ***have been lost***, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem. **10:6** Yea, the work shall commence among ***all*** the dispersed of my people, with the Father, to prepare the way whereby they may come unto me, that they may call on the Father in my name; **10:7** Yea, and then shall the work commence, with the Father, ***among all nations***, in preparing the way whereby His people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance. **10:8** And they shall go out from all nations; and they shall not go out in haste, nor go by flight; for I will go before them, saith the Father, and I will be their rearward. And then shall that which is written come to pass.

Ether 6:4-10

6:4 Behold, Ether saw the days of Christ, and he spake concerning a New Jerusalem upon this land; and he spake also concerning the house of Israel, and the Jerusalem from whence Lehi should come; after it should be destroyed, it should be built up again a holy city unto the Lord; **6:5** Wherefore it could not be a New Jerusalem, for it had been in a time of old, but it should be built up again, and become a holy city of the Lord: and it should be built up unto the house of Israel; **6:6** And that a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land, unto ***the remnant of the seed of Joseph***, for which things there has been ***a type***; for as Joseph brought his father down into the land of Egypt, even so he died there; **6:7** Wherefore the Lord brought a remnant of the seed of Joseph out of the land of Jerusalem, that he might be ***merciful*** unto the seed of Joseph, that they should ***perish not***, even as He was merciful unto the father of Joseph, that he should perish not; [read Alma 21:54-60] **6:8** Wherefore the remnant of the house of Joseph shall be built up upon this land; and it shall be a land of their inheritance; and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old; and they shall no more be confounded, until the end come, when the earth shall pass away.

6:9 And there shall be a new heaven and a new earth; and they shall be like unto the old, save the old have passed away, and all things have become new. **6:10** And then cometh the New Jerusalem; and blessed are they who dwell therein, for it is they whose garments are ***white*** through the blood of the lamb; and they are they who are ***numbered among the remnant of the seed of Joseph***, who were of the house of Israel.

As adopted children of the covenant and of the remnant of the seed of Joseph, it is the calling of those Gentiles who will take upon them the name of Christ to assist, or to work with, the house of Israel in building up a holy city unto the Lord. Through the testimony of Christ which must live in the hearts of the Church, a highway shall be cast up in the midst of the earth which will prepare the way for the tribes of Israel to return unto their Redeemer. For this highway shall be a light unto the covenant people of the Lord and will bring them to the knowledge of the truth, that God is and that He has not forsaken Israel.

Therefore “they who are in the north countries [the lost tribes] shall come in remembrance before the Lord, and their prophets shall hear His voice, and shall no longer stay themselves, and they shall smite the rocks, and the ice shall flow down at their presence. And an highway [read Isaiah 35:1-10] shall be cast up in the midst of the great deep. Their enemies shall become a prey unto them, and in the barren deserts there shall come forth pools of living water; and the parched ground shall no longer be a thirsty land. And they shall bring forth their rich treasures unto the children of Ephraim my servants. And the boundaries of the everlasting hills shall tremble at their presence. And then shall they fall down and be crowned with glory, even in Zion, by the hands of the servants of the Lord, even the children of Ephraim; and they shall be filled with songs of everlasting joy. Behold, this is the blessing of the everlasting God upon the tribes of Israel, and the richer blessing upon the head of Ephraim and his fellows. And they also of the tribe of Judah, after their pain, shall be sanctified in holiness before the Lord to dwell in His presence day and night for ever and ever.⁴⁹”

Through the record of the Book of Mormon which contains the testimony of Christ and the fullness of the Gospel, the Lord God has bestowed a great blessing upon Manasseh and an even greater and richer blessing upon Ephraim and his fellows. The Book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ through the hand of Ephraim is truly a great and marvelous work, for by these things God has testified of Himself, of His Son, and of His eternal plan of salvation. Thus through these things which bear record of the Almighty God and His Only Begotten Son will all of the families of the earth be blessed because of the seed of Abraham. Nevertheless, in order for the children of Ephraim to fulfill their calling they must wait upon the Lord, “for as the eyes of servants look upon the hand of their masters...so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God.⁵⁰”

“And now remember...that God has entrusted you with these things, which are sacred, which He has kept sacred, and also which He will keep and preserve for a wise purpose in Him, that He may shew forth His power unto future generations. And now behold, I tell you by the spirit of prophecy, that if ye transgress the commandments of God, behold, these things which are sacred, shall be taken away from you by the power of God, and ye shall be delivered up unto Satan, that he may sift you as chaff before the wind; but if ye keep the commandments of God, and do with these things which are sacred, according to that which the Lord doth command you (for you must appeal unto the Lord for all things whatsoever ye must do with them), behold no power of earth or hell can take them from you, for God is powerful to the fulfilling of all His words: for He will fulfill all His promises which He shall make unto you, for He has fulfilled His promises which He has made unto our fathers.⁵¹”

⁴⁹ DC 108:6

⁵⁰ Psalms 123:2

⁵¹ Alma 17:45-48