



The Stick of Joseph: another Testament of Jesus Christ

O How Great the Goodness of Our God

Lesson 8

INTRODUCTION

Look at the pictures and think about what Jesus Christ has done for you.

Volunteers will read these verses aloud: (2 Nephi 6:17; 7:2; 8:3-6, 12). Look for words in the verses that refer to things the Savior does for us.

THROUGH HIS ATONEMENT, JESUS CHRIST OFFERS REDEMPTION FROM TEMPORAL DEATH AND SPIRITUAL DEATH. (2 Nephi 9:1-26, 39-54.)

- What did the Savior do to overcome temporal death and spiritual death? (2 Nephi 9:5-7, 12, 21-22; Luke 22:44; Mosiah 3:7; D&C 19:16-19.)
- What makes it possible for all people to be resurrected—saved from temporal death? (2 Nephi 9:12-13, 22).
- What would happen to us without the power of Christ's Resurrection? (2 Nephi 9:6-9.)
- How does this show that temporal death and spiritual death are an "awful monster"? (2 Nephi 9:10).
- (2 Nephi 9:23; Mormon 7:7). According to Jacob, what are some of the things we must do to be "saved in the kingdom of God"? (READ 2 NEPHI 9:18, 21, 23-24, 39, 41, 50-52 TO FIND ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTION.)
 - a. Believe in Jesus Christ, the Holy One of Israel, and come unto Him (2 Nephi 9:18, 23-24, 41). Why is faith in Jesus Christ essential in order to receive all the blessings of His Atonement?
 - b. Endure the crosses of the world and despise the shame of the world (2 Nephi 9:18). What does it mean to endure the crosses of the world? (Matthew 16:24d, footnote 24d; 3 Nephi 12:29-30.)
=> What does it mean to despise the shame of the world? (2 Nephi 9:49.)
 - c. Hearken to the voice of the Lord (2 Nephi 9:21). How can we hear the voice of the Lord? (D&C 1:38; 18:33-36; 88:66.)
 - d. Repent, be baptized, and endure to the end (2 Nephi 9:23-24). How do we endure to the end?
 - e. Be spiritually minded (2 Nephi 9:39; Romans 8:5-8). What does it mean to you to be spiritually minded?

=>How does being spiritually minded lead to "life eternal"?

=>What does it mean to be carnally minded?

=>How does being carnally minded lead to spiritual death?

=>What can we do to become more spiritually minded?

- f. "Feast upon that which perisheth not" (2 Nephi 9:50-51). What are some things that never perish?
=>How can we "feast" on these things?
- g. Remember the words of God (2 Nephi 9:52). How does remembering God's words help us receive all the blessings of the Atonement? (3 Nephi 15:1.)
- h. Pray continually and give thanks (2 Nephi 9:52). How has praying and expressing gratitude to our Heavenly Father helped you draw nearer to Him and His Son?

CERTAIN ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS PREVENT US FROM RECEIVING ALL THE BLESSINGS OF THE ATONEMENT. (2 Nephi 9:27-38)

- What are some attitudes and actions that prevent us from receiving all the blessings of the Atonement? (READ 2 NEPHI 9:27-38 TO FIND ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTION.)
 - a. Transgressing the commandments and wasting the days of our probation (2 Nephi 9:27). In the Book of Mormon, as what did prophets often refer to our life on earth? (2 Nephi 2:21; 2 Nephi 2:30; Mormon 9:28).
=>How might some people waste the days of their probation? (2 Nephi 9:38; Alma 34:31-33; Helaman 13:38.)
 - b. Placing learning, money, and other idols above God (2 Nephi 9:28-30, 37). How can the pursuit of knowledge and riches keep us from receiving all the blessings of the Atonement? (2 Nephi 9:28, 30, 42.)
=>In what situations are learning and riches good? (2 Nephi 9:29; Jacob 2:18-19.)
 - c. Being spiritually deaf and blind (2 Nephi 9:31-32). What does it mean to be spiritually deaf and blind?
=>How can we open our ears and eyes to the truths of the gospel?
 - d. Being "uncircumcised of heart" (2 Nephi 9:33). In ancient Israel, a man who was uncircumcised was breaking a covenant with God (Genesis 17:11, 14). With this understanding, what does it mean to be "uncircumcised of heart"?

- a. Lying and committing murders and whoredoms (2 Nephi 9:34-36). How will the Lord treat those spend their life Lying and committing murders and whoredoms?

THE LORD REMEMBERS HIS COVENANTS WITH HIS PEOPLE. (2 Nephi 10)

- What did Jacob prophesy about the Nephites' descendants? (2 Nephi 10:2-6)
- What two things did Jacob prophesy about the Jews in Jerusalem? (2 Nephi 10:2-6).
- What will the Lord do for these people when they believe in Him and repent of their sins? (2 Nephi 10:2, 7-8, 21-22; 1 Nephi 21:15-16; 2 Nephi 9:1-3, 53; 30:2.)
- How does this apply to us individually? (Mosiah 26:22.)
- About what did Jacob tell his people they should "cheer up [their] hearts"? (2 Nephi 10:22-23).
- How can we find comfort in the knowledge that the Lord remembers His covenant people?
- As Jacob concluded this address to the people, what did he encourage them to remember? (2 Nephi 10:23-24.)
- In what ways do we choose either the way of everlasting death or the way of everlasting life? (2 Nephi 2:26-27.)
- What does it mean to be reconciled to the will of God?
- Why is it important to remember that "it is only through the grace of God that [we] are saved"?

THE GATHERING OF ISRAEL

- How will Israel be gathered? (2 Nephi 10:8-9.)

HYMN "Reverently and Meekly Now"

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, may God raise you from death by the power of the resurrection, and also from everlasting death by the power of the atonement, that ye may be received into the eternal kingdom of God, that ye may praise him through grace divine. Amen. (2 Nephi 10:25.)

We should all express our gratitude daily to the Lord in prayer and by our actions for the Atonement of Jesus Christ, and I encourage you to "choose ... the way of eternal life" (2 Nephi 10:23).