

Book of Mormon 41  
He Did Expound All Things unto Them  
(3 Nephi 22-26)  
By Lenet Hadley Read

(Here is inspirational background and evidences supporting the Book of Mormon)

I. We have some precious things in the Book of Mormon not included in the New Testament.

A. After Jesus' resurrection, He spent forty (40) days teaching His disciples at Galilee. We have very little record of what He taught them.

B. In the Book of Mormon we have a fuller record of what He taught after His resurrection. As He had the same love for all of His sheep, and would be leaving them with the same heavy responsibilities, many of His teachings were surely the same.

C. Even then, Nephi tells us "**And now there cannot be written in this book even a hundredth part of the things which Jesus did truly teach unto the people.... And these things which I have written ... are a lesser part of the things which he taught the people.**

D. Nevertheless, we can rejoice that we now have a better record.

II. Also, by examining both testaments, we can get even a fuller picture.

A. To the Nephites, **He expounded on all things from the beginning.**

1. From the New Testament we gain a little bit of insight into the approach He must have used in both lands.

2. That is, He likely did not just review past religious history, but **He taught them the spiritual significance of that history.**

B. We can believe this because His major message to the disciples on the road to Emmaus was, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken; Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he **expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself**" (Luke 24:27).

This means He showed his disciples how all the history of the past was prophetic of Him. He likely did this with the Nephites as well.

1. We know this was His approach in teaching all the disciples, for after He was gone, His disciples usually taught from the Old Testament, teaching how Jesus had fulfilled all its similitudes and its prophecies.

2. There are several examples of Jesus disciples teaching how the OT had foretold of Christ (The Acts 3: 18; 8:26-39; Ch. 7, Hebrews, are some).

D. We also know that Jesus did indeed teach the Nephites that the Mosaic Law, which had taught of Him, was now done away, and that all things had become new.

1. And now they were given new tokens and forms of ritual which were clearly related to Christ and to His salvation (such as the sacrament). Most of the Jews had not understood the connection between the Mosaic Law and its witnesses of the Savior.

E. Thus we see that expounding upon all things from the beginning, He did not just reiterate what had happened, **but told them their spiritual significance in relation to Him, His Salvation, and His Kingdom.**

III. He expounded on the blessings He would give to Israel in the last days --- so that they might have comfort; and that we in the Latter-days might know our mission!

A. He verified that Israel was like a bride; He Himself was the Bridegroom (22:1, 4-8).

B. He told them that Israel of old, had, like a woman, become widowed, or barren; but in Our Days, though once cut off, she (we) would be highly fruitful due to the re-gathering (v.1)

1. This had to bring comfort to the Nephites. For among the many things He told them was that their descendants would fall away and lose the gospel, but...

2. **In the latter-days their descendants would become righteous again, and do marvelous works in the name of Christ.**

3. And we can see our great responsibility to bring those descendants unto Christ.

IV. After expounding on the scriptures they possessed, Jesus added to their scriptures (3 Ne. 23:7-13).

A. For one, He asked them to record Samuel the Lamanite's prophecies (23:9-13).

B. An important reason for recording these scriptures was that the prophecies had been fulfilled.

1. Knowing of that fulfillment would build faith that the prophecies spoken by prophets of other times will also be fulfilled.

C. Jesus also gave additional scriptures to the Nephites (23:6; 24' 26:2).

1. This apparently occurred in the Old World too, for the New Testament refers to certain scriptures which are not in our current Bible, such as prophecies from Enoch (See Jude, 1:14).

V. In particular, He revealed to them the prophecies of Malachi --- **which verifies the Nephites were given Temple rites!** (3 Nephi 24-26).

A. This is likely the "most precious part" which was not recorded at all in the Bible or even in detail in the Book of Mormon. But the latter gives wider "glimpses."

B. He quotes Malachi's promise that the Lord at His Return will "suddenly come to His temple" which verifies **there would be a Temple in the last days, contrary to general Christian opinion that Christ did away with the need for temples.**

C. While there are many important things in the writings of Malachi, one of the most essential is the promise of the coming of Elijah and that "he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and heart of the children to their fathers lest I come and smite the earth with a curse" (3 Ne. 15:6).

D. ***The major purpose of teaching the Nephites about Elijah's role had to be in preparation for temple rites in their own times. For why else would he teach them about ordinances meaningless to their lives.***

1. There would be little use for Christ to teach them of "turning the hearts of the children to their fathers" unless He intended to give them the temple ordinances by which they could accomplish these very things themselves.

E. Furthermore, He repeats Malachi's prophecy that "the sons of Levi will offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." It is understood that this is an offering of doing the work for one's deceased dead. This also shows this work was made known and performed among the Nephites.

VI. There is indeed a growing body of evidence that the Native Americans in North America had indeed received temple covenants.

A. The evidence shows they possessed temple knowledge similar to our days.

B. One missionary who worked among the Hopis and continued his friendship with them afterwards, was finally permitted to film their most sacred rituals. Their leaders feared that as their elders continued to pass away, it would be lost. He testified that there were strong similarities to our temple rituals.

C. Other evidence shows that so strong were Temple signs, that those who came from Europe and knew the signs of Masonry began to wonder how the Indians could have learned Masonry. [There are some similarities there too].

D. However, Dr. Hugh Nibley and others have demonstrated the signs used by the Masons are corruptions of temple rituals passed down through the ages.

E. Furthermore, Dr. Nibley, writing about this very thing said, "Thousands of American Indians and Pacific Islanders, including many of the greatest chiefs and wise men, have become Mormons in their time, and engaged in the work of the Temple. They have been quick to detect the often surprising parallels between the rites of the Temple and the traditions and practices of their own tribes -- though those have been guarded with the greatest secrecy. Far from being disaffected by this discovery, **these devoted workers have rejoiced that at last they could understand the real meaning of what they had inherited from their fathers, corroded as it was by time and overlaid with thick deposits of legend and folklore.** Among the first to engage in the Latter-day Temple work were many members of the Masons, a society that is not, and does not profess to be, a religion, but whose rites present unmistakable parallels to those of the Temple. Yet, like the Indians, those men experienced only an expansion of knowledge" ("What Is a Temple?" Truman G. Madsen, ed., *The Temple in Antiquity*, (p. 32). (Emphasis added)

VII. It is comforting and wondrous to know that the Book of Mormon does indeed include the **fullness of the Gospel** as promised, ("Introduction," paragraph 1), although we are only given brief glimpses of some of it. These teachings assure us that the fullness of the gospel was given to the ancient Nephites, and that they were blessed with these choice blessings as we are today.

A. This is shown in particular by Jesus' teachings in 3 Nephi.

B. There are physical evidences that the Native Americans did indeed know temple patterns, as is shown in the many sites they built which show them: these are consistent patterns of circles and squares joined together. These are used today in Latter-day Temples to signify "where Heaven meets earth." The square signifies earth, and the circle signifies Heaven. The final circles never have exits, only entrances from the squares.

C. **They did understand this very concept. This is verified in the Northeastern Cayuga language which has a word which means exactly that. It is the word "Gaoyahdeo" and it means "where heaven meets earth."**

D. There may be similar evidences of such Temple patterns and rites in Mesoamerica and South America, for we believe Jesus Christ visited all these lands, and likely taught them all the same truths. But I am not yet familiar with them. But we can see from this, **they were very dominant in North America.**