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Next Weeks Lesson: Lesson 9 "My Soul Delighteth in the Words of Isaiah" ([2 Nephi 11-25](#))

Today's Lesson: Lesson 8 "O How Great the Goodness of Our God" ([2 Nephi 6-10](#))

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Through His Atonement, Jesus Christ offers redemption from temporal death and spiritual death. ([2 Nephi 9:1-26](#), [2 Nephi 9:39-54](#))**

[2 Nephi 9](#) contains a discourse by Jacob, one of Nephi's younger brothers, about the Atonement of Jesus Christ, which is the central event in the plan of salvation. To understand the teachings in this chapter, it is helpful to know how Jacob referred to temporal death and spiritual death:

Temporal death is the death of the physical body and the separation of the spirit from the physical body. As a result of the Fall of Adam, all people will die temporally ([2 Nephi 9:6](#)). In [2 Nephi 9](#), Jacob uses the following words and phrases to refer to temporal death: "death" ([verse 6](#)), "the death of the body" ([verse 10](#)), and "the grave" ([verse 11](#)).

Spiritual death is separation from the presence of God. We are all separated from God as a result of the Fall of Adam ([2 Nephi 9:6](#)). We further separate ourselves from God when we sin ([Romans 3:23](#); [Alma 12:16](#); [Helaman 14:18](#)). In [2 Nephi 9](#), Jacob uses the following words and phrases to refer to spiritual death, or separation from God: "shut out from the presence of our God" ([verse 9](#)), "the death of the spirit" ([verse 10](#)), "spiritual death" ([verse 12](#)), "hell" ([verse 12](#)), and "death" ([verse 39](#)).

- A. What did the Savior do to overcome temporal death and spiritual death? (See [2 Nephi 9:5-7](#), [2 Nephi 9:12](#), [2 Nephi 9:21-22](#); see also [Luke 22:44](#); [Mosiah 3:7](#); [D&C 19:16-19](#).)
- B. Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, all people will be resurrected—saved from temporal death ([2 Nephi 9:12-13](#), [2 Nephi 9:22](#)). What would happen to us without the power of Christ's Resurrection? (See [2 Nephi 9:6-9](#)) How does this show that temporal death and spiritual death are an "awful monster"? ([2 Nephi 9:10](#)).
- C. Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, all people will be restored to God's presence to be judged ([2 Nephi 2:10](#); [2 Nephi 9:15](#)). However, not all people will be "saved in the kingdom of God," or permitted to dwell in God's presence forever ([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”? ([2 Nephi 9:18](#), [2 Nephi 9:21](#), [2 Nephi 9:23-24](#), [2 Nephi 9:39](#), [41](#), [2 Nephi 9:50-52](#))

- (1) Believe in Jesus Christ, the Holy One of Israel, and come unto Him ([2 Nephi 9:18](#), [2 Nephi 9:23-24](#), [2 Nephi 9:41](#)). Why is faith in Jesus Christ essential in order to receive all the blessings of His Atonement?
- (2) 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? (See [Matthew 16:24](#), [footnote 24d](#); [3 Nephi 12:29-30](#).) What does it mean to despise the shame of the world? (See [2 Nephi 9:49](#).)
- (3) Hearken to the voice of the Lord ([2 Nephi 9:21](#)). How can we hear the voice of the Lord? (See [D&C 1:38](#); [D&C 18:33-36](#); [D&C 88:66](#).)
- (4) Repent, be baptized, and endure to the end ([2 Nephi 9:23-24](#)).
- (5) Be spiritually minded ([2 Nephi 9:39](#); see also [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?
- (6) “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?
- (7) Remember the words of God ([2 Nephi 9:52](#)). How does remembering God’s words help us receive all the blessings of the Atonement? (See [3 Nephi 15:1](#).)
- (8) 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?

## 2. Certain attitudes and actions prevent us from receiving all the blessings of the Atonement. ([2 Nephi 9:27-38](#))

In addition to speaking of requirements for receiving all the blessings of the Atonement, Jacob spoke of attitudes and actions that prevent us from receiving those blessings.

### A. What are some attitudes and actions that prevent us from receiving all the blessings of the Atonement? ([2 Nephi 9:27-38](#))

- (1) Transgressing the commandments and wasting the days of our probation ([2 Nephi 9:27](#)). In the Book of Mormon, prophets often refer to our life on earth as a “state of probation,” or a time to be tested ([2 Nephi 2:21](#); see also [2](#)

[Nephi 2:30](#); [Mormon 9:28](#)). How might some people waste the days of their probation? (See [2 Nephi 9:38](#); [Alma 34:31-33](#); [Helaman 13:38](#).)

- (2) Placing learning, money, and other idols above God ([2 Nephi 9:28-30](#), [2 Nephi 9:37](#)). How can the pursuit of knowledge and riches keep us from receiving all the blessings of the Atonement? (See [2 Nephi 9:28](#), [2 Nephi 9:30](#), [2 Nephi 9:42](#).) In what situations are learning and riches good? (See [2 Nephi 9:29](#); [Jacob 2:18-19](#).)
- (3) 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?
- (4) 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](#), [Genesis 17:14](#)). With this understanding, what does it mean to be “uncircumcised of heart”?
- (5) Lying and committing murders and whoredoms ([2 Nephi 9:34-36](#)).

### 3. The Lord remembers His covenants with His people. ([2 Nephi 10](#))

- A. Jacob prophesied that the Nephites’ descendants would “perish in the flesh because of unbelief” and that the Jews in Jerusalem would crucify the Savior and be scattered because of their sins ([2 Nephi 10:2-6](#)). What will the Lord do for these people when they believe in Him and repent of their sins? (See [2 Nephi 10:2](#), [2 Nephi 10:7-8](#), [2 Nephi 10:21-22](#); see also [1 Nephi 21:15-16](#); [2 Nephi 9:1-3](#), [2 Nephi 9:53](#); [2 Nephi 30:2](#).) How does this apply to us individually? (See [Mosiah 26:22](#).)

Elder Boyd K. Packer taught: “The discouraging idea that a mistake (or even a series of them) makes it everlastingly too late, does not come from the Lord. He has said that *if* we will repent, not only will He forgive us our transgressions, but He will forget them and remember our sins no more (see [Isaiah 43:25](#); [Hebrews 8:12](#); [Hebrews 10:17](#); [Alma 36:19](#); [D&C 58:42](#))” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1989, 72; or [Ensign, May 1989, 59](#)).



- B. Jacob said that his people should “cheer up [their] hearts” because the Lord remembers His covenant people ([2 Nephi 10:22-23](#)). How can we find comfort in the knowledge that the Lord remembers His covenant people?
- C. As Jacob concluded this address to the people, what did he encourage them to remember? (See [2 Nephi 10:23-24](#).) In what ways do we choose either the way of everlasting death or the way of everlasting life? (See [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”?

#### 4. The gathering of Israel

A. How will Israel be gathered? (See [2 Nephi 10:8-9](#).)

President Ezra Taft Benson taught:

“The responsibility of the seed of Abraham, which we are, is to be missionaries to ‘bear this ministry and Priesthood unto all nations’ ([Abraham 2:9](#)). Moses bestowed upon Joseph Smith in the Kirtland Temple the keys to gather Israel (see [D&C 110:11](#)).

“Now, what is the instrument that God has designed for this gathering? It is the same instrument that is designed to convince the world that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith is His prophet, and that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is true. It is that scripture which is the keystone of our religion” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1987, 107-8; or [Ensign, May 1987, 85](#)).

