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Next Weeks Lesson: Lesson 10 "He Inviteth All to Come unto Him" ([2 Nephi 26-30](#))

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

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

[Mosiah 8:17-18](#). What are seers able to see? Why are seers so important for us?

Because he was a seer, Isaiah saw in vision such events as the War in Heaven, the destruction of Jerusalem after the Savior's death, the battle of Armageddon, and the millennial reign of the Savior.

Many of Isaiah's writings seem difficult to understand because they refer to a wide range of past and future events described in symbolic language. However, we can come to understand them as we make a consistent, prayerful effort to read and study them. This lesson discusses some of Isaiah's most significant writings.

**1. Nephi testifies of Isaiah's writings and gives keys for understanding them. ([2 Nephi 11](#); [2 Nephi 25:1-7](#))**

- A. Why did Nephi find Isaiah's words important for his record? (See [1 Nephi 19:23](#); [2 Nephi 11:2-6](#), [2 Nephi 11:8](#); [2 Nephi 25:3](#).)

WHY NEPHI QUOTED ISAIAH	
<a href="#">1 Nephi 19:23</a>	To "more fully persuade them to believe in the Lord"
<a href="#">2 Nephi 11:2-4</a>	To provide another witness of Jesus Christ
<a href="#">2 Nephi 11:5-6</a> , <a href="#">2 Nephi 11:8</a>	To help us (his readers) rejoice
<a href="#">2 Nephi 25:3</a>	To reveal God's judgments

- B. Why are these reasons important for us today? How can understanding Isaiah's words cause us to rejoice?

Nephi provided several keys that can help us better understand the writings of Isaiah.

Key 1: "Liken all scriptures unto us" ([1 Nephi 19:23](#); see also [2 Nephi 11:2](#), [2](#)

[Nephi 11:8](#)). Many of Isaiah's prophecies deal with events in the latter days. As we watch these prophecies unfold and as we participate in their fulfillment, we can better understand Isaiah's teachings and apply them in our lives. For example, [2 Nephi 15](#) contains Isaiah's prophecy that the Lord will "lift up an ensign to the nations" to gather Israel ([2 Nephi 15:26](#)). This prophecy can help us better understand the importance of sharing the restored gospel—the ensign, or standard, to guide all nations to the Lord.

Key 2: "Know ... concerning the manner of prophesying among the Jews" ([2 Nephi 25:1](#)). Isaiah's prophecies are written in a style that the Jews were accustomed to reading and hearing. We can better understand Isaiah's writings if we remember that he used imagery and symbolism that would have been familiar to Jewish people in his time. For example, in [2 Nephi 12:1-3](#), Isaiah uses the word *mountain* to symbolize a high spiritual place, a place for revelation and closeness with God, such as the temple.

Key 3: "Know the judgments of God" ([2 Nephi 25:3](#); see also verse [2 Nephi 25:6](#)). Isaiah foresaw how the kingdoms of Israel and Judah would suffer because of their wickedness, but he also prophesied that their blessings would be restored when they repented and followed Jesus Christ. From Isaiah's accounts of what happened to Israel and Judah, and from his prophecies of the future restoration of the house of Israel, we can better understand how God works in our lives and how He blesses nations according to their righteousness.

Key 4: "Know concerning the regions round about [Jerusalem]" ([2 Nephi 25:6](#)). Knowing the geography and place-names in Israel helps us better understand Isaiah's prophecies concerning the kingdoms of Israel and Judah and the nations that threatened them. For example, in [2 Nephi 20:28-34](#), Isaiah named the cities the Assyrian army would pass through and how it would be stopped just as it reached Jerusalem. The events happened exactly as he prophesied.

Key 5: Be "filled with the spirit of prophecy" ([2 Nephi 25:4](#)).

- C. What is the spirit of prophecy? (See [Revelation 19:10](#).) How can we obtain it? How can the spirit of prophecy help us understand Isaiah's teachings about the Savior?

## 2. Isaiah sees the latter-day temple and the gathering of Israel. ([2 Nephi 12:1-12](#))

- A. How does the Salt Lake Temple fulfill a portion of Isaiah's prophecy recorded in [2 Nephi 12:2-3](#)? Why do you think Isaiah described the temple as "the mountain of the Lord"? How can all temples be "mountains" for our worship?

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been established in the tops of the mountains and that temples are being built where people can come and learn about the Lord.

- B. Isaiah described temples as a “place of refuge” from heat and storms ([2 Nephi 14:6](#)). What are some examples of spiritual storms that we face in this life? How can the temple help protect us from these storms?
- C. How can we as Latter-day Saints help establish the kingdom of God on earth, as described in [2 Nephi 12:3-5](#)? (See [D&C 133:7-14](#).)
- D. Isaiah exhorted the house of Jacob to “walk in the light of the Lord” instead of “all [going] astray, every one to his wicked ways” ([2 Nephi 12:5](#)). What are some of the specific sins mentioned in [2 Nephi 12:7-12](#)? How are these sins still prevalent today? How can we avoid these pitfalls and “walk in the light”?
- 3. Isaiah prophesies that the Lord will raise an ensign and gather Israel. ([2 Nephi 15:26-29](#); [2 Nephi 21:12](#))**
- A. Isaiah prophesied that the Lord would “lift up an ensign to the nations” ([2 Nephi 15:26](#); see also [2 Nephi 21:12](#)). What is an ensign? What did Isaiah say would happen when this ensign was raised? (See [2 Nephi 15:26-29](#).)
- B. When the angel Moroni appeared to Joseph Smith, he said that chapter 11 of Isaiah (quoted in [2 Nephi 21](#)) was about to be fulfilled ([Joseph Smith—History 1:40](#)). How is the restored gospel of Jesus Christ an ensign to all nations? (See [D&C 64:41-43](#); [D&C 105:39](#); [D&C 115:4-6](#).)
- C. How is the prophecy that nations will be “gather[ed] together” being fulfilled today? (See [2 Nephi 21:12](#).) What can each of us do to help fulfill this prophecy?
- 4. Isaiah and Nephi testify of Jesus Christ’s redeeming power. ([2 Nephi 16](#); [2 Nephi 22](#); [2 Nephi 25:19-30](#))**
- A. [2 Nephi 16](#) contains Isaiah’s account of a vision in which he saw the Lord. How did Isaiah describe the setting of the vision? (See [2 Nephi 16:1-4](#).) How did Isaiah feel in the presence of the Lord? (See [2 Nephi 16:5](#).)
- B. What was symbolized by the angel touching Isaiah’s lips with the burning coal? (See [2 Nephi 16:6-7](#).) How did Isaiah respond when he heard the voice of the Lord? (See [2 Nephi 16:8](#).) In what other scriptural account have you seen similar language used? (See [Abraham 3:27](#).) When might we need to give a similar response to the Lord?
- C. [2 Nephi 22:1-6](#). These verses contain Isaiah’s description of how all people will praise the Savior during the Millennium. What impresses you about these verses? What “excellent things” ([2 Nephi 22:5](#)) has the Savior done for us?
- D. [2 Nephi 25:19-30](#). What impresses you about Nephi’s testimony? How can we, like Nephi, “labor diligently ... to persuade our children ... to believe in Christ”? ([2 Nephi 25:23](#); see also verse [2 Nephi 25:26](#)).

- E. Nephi taught that “it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do” ([2 Nephi 25:23](#)). What does this statement teach about the relationship between the grace of Jesus Christ and our works? (See [2 Nephi 10:24-25](#); [D&C 20:29-31](#).) How does this statement give you encouragement to do the best you can?
- F. [2 Nephi 25:29](#). What might you do this week to comply more fully with Nephi’s exhortation to worship the Lord “with all your might, mind, and strength, and your whole soul”?

The Savior gave His approval of Isaiah’s teachings in this single statement: “Yea, a commandment I give unto you that ye search these things diligently; for great are the words of Isaiah” ([3 Nephi 23:1](#)).

## 5. Calling “evil good, and good evil” ([2 Nephi 15:20](#))

- A. In what ways might we, like ancient Israel, make the mistake of calling “evil good, and good evil”? ([2 Nephi 15:20](#)). How can we be sure that we recognize good and evil for what they really are? (See [Moroni 7:12-17](#).)

## 6. How the Book of Mormon increases our understanding of Isaiah

The Book of Mormon is one of the greatest guides to help us understand the writings of Isaiah. The following are some ways the Book of Mormon helps us understand Isaiah.

- A. The Book of Mormon quotes, either in their entirety or in part, 22 of the 66 chapters in the book of Isaiah, and it contains additional commentary about those chapters. Because the Book of Mormon prophets lived near the time of Isaiah, their commentaries can help us understand his teachings.
- B. The writings of Isaiah that are quoted in the Book of Mormon include words, phrases, and explanations that do not appear in any other copies of the book of Isaiah.
- C. The world’s oldest known copy of Isaiah was discovered among the Dead Sea Scrolls. The “Isaiah scroll” dates back to 200 B.C. (Bible Dictionary, “Dead Sea Scrolls,” 654). However, the chapters of Isaiah in the Book of Mormon date back to the time of Nephi, approximately 600 B.C. Joseph Smith’s translation of the Book of Mormon provided the world with a copy of Isaiah’s writings that predates the Dead Sea Scrolls by 400 years.
- D. Because the tone of the first 33 chapters of Isaiah differs from the last 33 chapters, many people believe that the book of Isaiah was written by two different people. The Book of Mormon quotes from both the first and last half of Isaiah and identifies Isaiah as the author, thus bearing witness of and authenticating his writings.