

THE SAVIOR'S THREE MAJOR SERMONS IN 3 NEPHI

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BYU Ed. Week '08

3 COVENANT THEME SERMONS

- ◆ 'Sermon on the Mount' at Bountiful for baptized followers (3 Ne 12-14; compare Matt 5-7, Luke 6) 1st day
- ◆ Law & Covenant Discourse highlighting Jesus' fulfillments (3 Ne 15:1 - 17:4; see John 10) 1st day
- ◆ Covenant People Discourse with latter-day signs & promises (3 Ne 20:10 - 23:5; see Isa 52,54) 2nd day

2 KEY COVENANT SIGNS

- The Book of Mormon is to come forth from the Gentiles to the Lamanites who would "begin to know these things" found in the Savior's teachings of 3 Nephi. (3 Ne 21:1-7, esp. v. 7; 29:1)
- As a part of the gathering of the covenant righteous to Zion, powerful remnants of Israel will be gathered to the various lands of their inheritance. (3 Ne 16:5,15-16; 20:14-16,19,22,29; 21:1,11-12,22-28; see Jer 16:14-15)

1 COVENANT PROMISE

- ! THE FATHER WILL FULFILL ALL COVENANT PROMISES which He gave to Abraham! (3 Ne 16:5,17; 20:12, 25, 46; 21:7, 26-29; 22:1; 23:1-5)

Sermon at Bountiful <The 'Sermon on the Mount' in America

The Constitution of Christianity & A Guide to Celestial Living

A. Audience = baptized, covenant followers & esp. (3 Ne 12:1-2; JST Matt 5:2-8)

B. Beatitudes = "blessings" for those who believe and follow (12:3-12; Luke 6:20-26)

Pre-condition: Blessed are these Saints -- Divine Promise: they shall --

1. the repentant & baptized (D&C 35:4-6) visited with fire & the H.G.
2. the poor in spirit [who come unto the kingdom of heaven (D&C 51:17-20)]
3. they that mourn (D&C 95:7; 39:6) be comforted
4. the meek (D&C 19:23, 30, 38) inherit the earth
5. they who hunger & thirst after righteousness [shall be filled with the Holy Ghost] (D&C 114:21)
6. the merciful (D&C 54:10, 3, 6; 61:2) obtain mercy
7. the pure in heart (D&C 97:21; 100:16-17; 101:16-18) see God
8. the peacemakers (D&C 98:4-18) led the children of God
9. they who are persecuted for my name [shall inherit the kingdom of heaven] (D&C 101:5; 35:38)

C. Covenant symbols = salt of the earth (& Ne 12:13-16; D&C 100:39-40; 103:9-10)

D. Discipleship obligations = rising above worldly & Mosaic laws to God's celestial law (12:17-47; Luke 6:27-36)

→ destroying/knowing/living & teaching the law of God (cf Matt 5:19-20; ✓JST Matt 5:21!) (17-20)

→ murdering/tolerating/reconciling with one's adversaries (21-26)

→ adultery/lusting/cleansing one's physical & sexual appetites (✓JST Matt 5:34) (27-30)

→ casting out/divorcing/keeping (if possible) one's spouse (31-32)

→ swearing & threats/oaths & bonds/simple words & covenant (33-37) promises

→ vengeance/justice/mercy (✓JST Luke 6:29-30) (38-42)

→ hating others/hating enemies & loving neighbors/loving others (even enemies) (43-47)

(Note the celestial-worldly/terrestrial-Mosaic/celestial-heavenly levels in the examples listed above.)

E. Excellence rewarded = becoming perfect (complete) (12:48; ✓JST 1 Nephi 13:1-2) & Ch

F. Facets of saintly life = which audience to serve -- God or mortals (3 Ne 13:1-24)

almsgiving, prayer, forgiving others, fasting, treasures, mammon

(Prayer elements: address, praise, thank, confess/repent, petition, commit, c

G. General instructions for the Twelve = put yourself completely (13:25-34) God's ha

they are sent forth to teach & build God's kingdom and He will go before

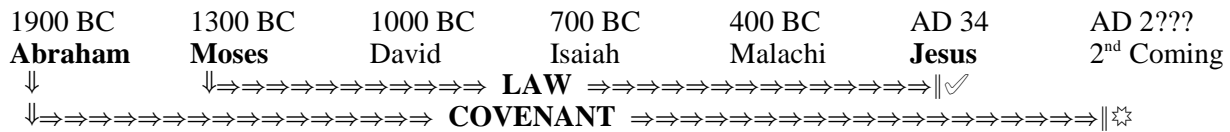
H. Human and godly relationships (3 Ne 14:1-27)

→ Judge righteous judgment = beams & slivers in the eyes (vv 1-5; ✓JST Matt 7:

- Keep God's mysteries sacred = avoid pearls before swine (v 6; ✓JST Matt 7:9-11)
 - God grants gifts = ask and you will receive (vv 7-11; ✓JST Matt 7:12-17)
 - Golden rule = doing good unto others (v 12; Luke 6:31)
 - Two gates & two ways = it's not going to be easy to return to the Father
 - Testing one's character = judging good & bad trees and good & bad people
 - Building upon the Rock = doing God's word prepares us for the storms
- Postscripts -- 3 Ne 15:1 & Matt. 7:28-29 (cf ✓JST 7:28): Remember and do these things a

Law and Covenant Discourse

- Foundation** – False fulfillment of the Mosaic law (3 Ne 1:24-25)
 – Christ's declarations of the law's fulfillment (3 Ne 9:17; 12:18-19, 46-47)
- Framework** – “Old things had passed away, and all things had become new” (3 Ne 15:1-3)
 – Mosaic law is now fulfilled, but the covenant with the house of Israel (1- numberless posterity, 2- special land, 3- a blessing to all nations) is not yet all fulfilled (3 Ne 15:4-8)
 – Christ is the law; He commands us to keep His commandments (3 Ne 15:9-10)



- Discourse** – Remnants of the house of Israel are to hear Christ's voice so there can be one fold and one shepherd (3 Ne 15:11 - 16:3; cf John 10)
 – Nephite records (the Book of Mormon) to preserve a knowledge about various remnants of Israel (3 Ne 16:4; cf Jacob 5)
 – Christ promises to gather the scattered remnants of Israel and to fulfill the Father's covenant with the house of Israel (3 Ne 16:5)
 – Promises and warnings to the Gentiles (3 Ne 16:6-10)
 – Covenant promises to the house of Israel (3 Ne 16:11-16)
 – Prophecies of Isaiah (52:8-10) to be fulfilled; Jesus to go to lost tribes (3 Ne 16:17 - 17:4)

Covenant People Discourse

Chiastic Outline

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|----|---|---------------|
| A | ➤ The Father and Son work together | 3 Ne. 20:10 |
| B | ➤ <i>Isaiah's words are written, therefore search them</i> | 11 |
| C | ➤ <i>Isaiah's words and the Father's covenant with Israel will be fulfilled!!</i> | * 12 |
| D | ➤ Scattered Israel to be gathered | 13 |
| E | ➤ America an inheritance for the Lamanites | 14 |
| F | ➤ Gentiles to repent & receive blessings (Micah 4:12-13; 5:8-9) | * 15-20 |
| G | ➤ The Lord's covenant with Moses, Gentiles, etc. | ***** 21-29 |
| H | ➤ <i>Gospel preached and Zion established; the marred servant (Isa 52)</i> | 30-44 |
| I | ➤ <i>Kings shall be speechless (Isa 52:15)</i> | 45 |
| J | ➤ Covenant and work of the Father | ** 20:46 |
| K | ➤ A key sign to be given when things are “about to take place” | 3 Ne 21:1 |
| L | ➤ Gentiles learn of scattered Israel | 2 |
| M | ➤ These things (B. of M.) to come from Gentiles to you | 3 |
| >N | ➤ The sign of the covenant | ** 3 Ne 21:4< |
| M' | ➤ These works to come from Gentiles to Lamanites | 5 |
| L' | ➤ Some Gentiles to be with Israel | 6 |
| K' | ➤ Sign, as Lamanites begin to know Book of Mormon, that work “hath commenced” | 7 |
| J' | ➤ Work and covenant of the Father | * 7 |
| I' | ➤ <i>Kings shall be speechless (Isa 52:15)</i> | 8 |
| H' | ➤ <i>A great and marvelous work; the marred servant (Isa 52:14)</i> | 9-10 |
| G' | ➤ Moses, the Gentiles and covenant Israel | * 11 |
| F' | ➤ Unrepentant Gentiles will be cut down (Micah 5:8-14) | 12-21 |
| E' | ➤ America an inheritance for the righteous | * 22-23 |

D'	⇒	Gentiles to help in the gathering of Israel	24-25
C'	⇒	Father's work with his people	26-27
A'	⇒	The Father and Son work together	21:28-29
B'	⇒	<i>Isaiah's portrayal of Zion (Isaiah 54); search his words!</i>	3 Ne 22; 23:1-3
PS	⇒	Christ's command to heed these things and be saved.	3 Ne 23:4-5

* = The fifteen specific "COVENANT" references in this sermon.

NOTE: Isaiah passages are shown in *italics*.