

E these images... Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 210)

LESSON 36: 3 NEPHI 1-7

On the Morrow Come I Into the World

Goal	The Lesson Manual goal is that we should learn to “endure faithfully in times of trial and temptation.” That isn’t a bad lesson, if a big vague. Specifically, these chapters teach the importance of preparation and unity and the dangers of division and inequality, as well as containing other gems and thought provoking points.
Hook	These are dramatic, action filled chapters... the Gadianton Robbers wage war to the point of destroying the Nephites but end up being completely destroyed themselves. The Nephites flourish, but then wickedness leads to the collapse of both Church and government.
Overview	<p>1:1-3 Nephi (Great grandson of Alma the Younger if you are keeping track) disappears</p> <p>1:4-26 Believers threated with death; the signs of Jesus’ birth are fulfilled, reactions</p> <p>1:27-4:29 Wars with Gadianton Robbers (3:1-10 letter from Giddianhi to Lachoneus)</p> <p>4:30-5:6 Nephites rejoice and put an end to the Robbers</p> <p>5:7-5:26 Mormon’s editorial aside</p> <p>6:1-9 Nephite peace and prosperity</p> <p>6:10-30 Inequality and pride lead to collapse of Church and government</p> <p>7:1-14 Nephites break into tribes; Jacob king of Secret Combinations</p> <p>7:15-26 Nephi’s ministry</p>
Main Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs of Jesus Birth (Close reading of 1:1-1:26) Birth of Messiah, pp. 166-167 Raymond Brown suggests March/April 4 BCE as a plausible date for Jesus’ birth • Lessons from the Gadianton War and Collapse of the Nephite Nation: Preparation and Unity • Preparation: 3:22, 25-26; 4:4, 18 (but note the result was terrible despite their best preparations. 4:11) • Unity and hard work (close reading, note language, repetition): 2:11-12; 3:13, 21-25; 4:3. Also see 6:4-5, 7-9 • Disunity: 6:10-14; 7:2-4 <p>http://www.familycare.org/special-interest/if-the-world-were-a-village-of-100-people/ (read this to illustrate, post other links on the blog)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mormon’s autobiographical aside (5:7-26) • Righteousness and wickedness at extremes (Jacob vs. Nephi, overview of 7:9-26) • Power of the devil? (1:22; 2:3 [cf. 1 Peter 5:8]; 6:15-17 [WTH, literally!]; 6:28; 7:5) • These events as a type of the Second Coming (but turn it back to being prepared now so it doesn’t matter when it comes, quality of this life); give some background of Christian expectation every single generation! <p>Elder Richard L. Evans said: “Some of the brethren ... approached [President Wilford Woodruff] and ... inquired of him as to when he felt the end would be—when would be the coming of the Master? These, I think, are not his exact words, but they convey the spirit of his reported reply: ‘I would live</p>

	<p>as if it were to be tomorrow—but I am still planting cherry trees!’ (From 1950 Conference Report, as quoted in Gospel Principles Lesson 48)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And the Gadianton Robbers do seem reminiscent of terrorists we are now dealing with...
Other Comments/ Discussion Starters	<p>Needs of the youth (1:29-30)</p> <p>Gwendolyn Brooks poem ringing in my ears — a poem that he has taken as his rallying cry. It is called "Boy Breaking Glass":</p> <p><i>"I shall create! If not a note, a hole. If not an overture, a desecration."</i></p> <p>http://www.onbeing.org/program/religious-passion-pluralism-and-young/journal/1110</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law of Moses and Christianity (1:24-25) • Lamanites turning white??! (14-16) • Dating (1:1)
Concluding Points	

Actually glanced at the manual “endure faithfully in times of trial and temptation” that is a pretty good lesson

Links and highlights:

http://www.ted.com/talks/robert_wright_on_optimism.html

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/income/default.htm>

<http://povertydata.worldbank.org/poverty/home/>

http://www.wider.unu.edu/research/projects-by-theme/poverty-inequality/en_GB/personal-assets-from-a-global-perspective/

Roughly 30 per cent of world wealth is found in each of North America, Europe, and the rich Asian-Pacific countries. These areas account for virtually all of the world’s top 1 per cent of wealth holders. On an official exchange rate basis India accounts for about a quarter of the adults in the bottom three global wealth deciles while China provides about a third of those in the fourth to eighth deciles. If current growth trends continue, India, China and the transition countries will move up in the global distribution, and the lower deciles will be increasingly dominated by countries in Africa, Latin American and poor parts of the Asian-Pacific region. Thus wealth may continue to be lowest in areas where it is needed the most.

<http://www2.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/power/wealth.html>

<http://www.gfintegrity.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=374>

<http://www.ocpp.org/2008/01/15/food-insecurity-and-hunger-statistics-state/>