

Engaging Gospel Doctrine (Episode 215)

LESSON 41: 3 NEPHI 22-26

“He Did Expound All Things Unto Them”

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| Hook | This is a bit tongue in cheek, but in this section Jesus quotes scripture we already have for several chapters and then when he gets to the good stuff, God forbids Mormon to include it! What is up with that? |
| Goal | Set with in a larger goal of understanding the role of scriptures, class members will appreciate God’s love and mercy and how we can follow that divine example. |
| Overview | <p>22=Isaiah 54:1-17 (Divine words of comfort)</p> <p>23:1-5: Jesus endorses Isaiah</p> <p>23:6-14: Jesus corrects Nephite records</p> <p>24=Malachi 3 (Tithing and eschatological justice)</p> <p>25=Malachi 4 (Great and Dreadful day of the Lord)</p> <p>26: Jesus expounds all things, Mormon forbidden to tell us about it, children and infants teach marvelous things</p> |
| Main Points | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God’s mercy after hardship (Close reading of 3 Nephi 22). These are beautiful but unfamiliar verses, really make it heartfelt. Help the class feel and reflect on experiences that were difficult, feelings of loss and hopelessness, and then the restoration of hope and promise. These verses originally referred to the Messianic Era but can apply in other ways as well • Details: 22:2—this is where we get the name “Stakes”. • The idea of an abandoned or unmarried woman is very powerful both in Israelite and LDS culture (more powerful than it should be in our culture!) • Discuss God as husband (powerful symbol found many places in OT) • 8: “everlasting kindness” “chesed” (חֶסֶד), another key term in scripture. Range of rich meanings: obligation between loved ones, loyalty, faithfulness, goodness, graciousness • 8: “mercy”, “racham” (רָחַם) To have love, mercy, take pity, developed from the noun for “womb” which is beautiful.. bit of goddess connection there. • 10: This is loving faithfulness worth emulating. • Scripture and Record Keeping (3 Nephi 23). Jesus corrects Nephi’s records. Talk about the implications of continuing revelation, personal revelation, and open canon. This will be a key point of discussion. What is scripture? What is its purpose? What can we learn from this chapter about journal writing? Family history? Interviews with older members of our family? Can we have personal canons of scripture? Vs. 14. Note that Jesus “expounds all scriptures in one”! What is this unifying key or principle? Fiona Givens—world literature, music, used the term “extra-canonical” which I love. • The best part, we don’t have (close reading of 3 Nephi 26). Note Mormon repeats twice that he was “commanded”... seems he is reluctant |

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| | <p>to not include these teachings!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End times and Tithes and Offerings (3 Nephi 24) Hebrew for “tithe” means “from a tenth” Promised that if they tithe a tenth part of their agricultural produce, they will have agricultural success. The purpose of tithes and offerings were both to sustain the temple and priesthood and also to care for those in need. • Turning our hearts to each other (3 Nephi 25:5, cf. D&C 138:46-48, also JS-H 1:36-39) Obviously important verses! |
| Other Comments/ Discussion Starters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time to talk about Isaiah (chapter 23) • Evidence suggests that Isaiah was written during at least two and probably three different times. The historical events are distinctive enough that we can date these chapters. The different sections are also written in a different style and stage of the Hebrew language, similar to how KJV English differs from how we talk now. Oversimplifying, the breakdowns are as follows: • <u>Isaiah 1-39</u>: These were written by Isaiah son of Amoz before 722 BC (when the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed). The Assyrians are the bad guys and there are clear historical references. • <u>Isaiah 40-55</u>: These seem to have been written by a prophet inspired by Isaiah during the Babylonian captivity after 539. The Babylonians are the bad guys and it presupposes an audience is in Babylon. You know, “Depart ye from Babylon, flee the Chaldeans” and all that. It is worth pointing out that Isaiah 45 refers to Cyrus and is dependent on the “Cyrus cylinder”, a piece of Persian propaganda • <u>Isaiah 56-66</u>: These seem to have been written after 520 when the Jews returned to Judea. • It interesting to note that the Book of Mormon never quotes First and Second Isaiah but never Third Isaiah, not that I think that means anything historically. |
| Concluding Points | |

The Bible in 3 Nephi, Continued

Isaiah 54:1-17≈3 Nephi 22

Additions Deletions Changes

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| 1 Sing, O barren, thou <i>that</i> didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou <i>that</i> didst not travail with child: for more <i>are</i> the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD. | 1 And then shall that which is written come to pass: Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child; for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord. |
| 2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them | 2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them |

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| stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; | stretch forth the curtains of thy habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes; |
| 3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. | 3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left, and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. |
| 4 Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed; neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. | 4 Fear not, for thou shalt not be ashamed; neither be thou confounded, for thou shalt not be put to shame; for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. (1830 does not have extra passage) |
| 5 For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. | 5 For thy maker, thy husband, the Lord of Hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel—the God of the whole earth shall he be called. |
| 6 For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. | 6 For the Lord hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. |
| 7 For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. | 7 For a small moment have I forsaken thee, but with great mercies will I gather thee. |
| 8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer. | 8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment, but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. |
| 9 For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. | 9 For this, the waters of Noah unto me, for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee. |
| 10 For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee. | 10 For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. |

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| 11 ¶O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, <i>and</i> not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. | 11 O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted! Behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. |
| 12 And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. | 12 And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. |
| 13 And all thy children <i>shall be</i> taught of the LORD; and great <i>shall be</i> the peace of thy children. | 13 And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. |
| 14 In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. | 14 In righteousness shalt thou be established; thou shalt be far from oppression for thou shalt not fear, and from terror for it shall not come near thee. |
| 15 Behold, they shall surely gather together, <i>but</i> not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. | 15 Behold, they shall surely gather together <i>against thee</i> , not by me; whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. |
| 16 Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. | 16 Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. |
| 17 ¶No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue <i>that</i> shall <i>rise</i> against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD. | 17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall <i>revile</i> against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord. |

Malachi 3≈3 Nephi 24

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| | 1 And it came to pass that he commanded them that they should write the words which the Father had given unto Malachi, which he should tell unto them. And it came to pass that after they were written he expounded them. And these are the words which he did tell unto them, saying: Thus said the Father unto |
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| 1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. | Malachi —Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. |
| 2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: | 2 But who may abide the day of his coming, and who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap. |
| 3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. | 3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. |
| 4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years. | 4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years. |
| 5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in <i>his</i> wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger <i>from his right</i> , and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts. | 5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger, and fear not me, saith the Lord of Hosts. |
| 6 For I <i>am</i> the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. | 6 For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. |
| 7 ¶Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept <i>them</i> . Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? | 7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of Hosts. But ye say: Wherein shall we return? |
| 8 ¶Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. | 8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say: Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. |
| 9 Ye <i>are</i> cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, <i>even</i> this whole nation. | 9 Ye are cursed with a curse, for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. |

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| <p>10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that <i>there shall not be room enough to receive it.</i></p> | <p>10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house; and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it.</p> |
| <p>11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.</p> | <p>11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the fields, saith the Lord of Hosts.</p> |
| <p>12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.</p> | <p>12 And all nations shall call you blessed, for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of Hosts.</p> |
| <p>13 ¶Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken <i>so much</i> against thee?</p> | <p>13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say: What have we spoken against thee?</p> |
| <p>14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit <i>is it</i> that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?</p> | <p>14 Ye have said: It is vain to serve God, and what <i>doth it</i> profit that we have kept his ordinances and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of Hosts? (1830 has ordinance)</p> |
| <p>Note: The Hebrew word translated “ordinance” means obligation or duty</p> | |
| <p>15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, <i>they that</i> tempt God are even delivered.</p> | <p>15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.</p> |
| <p>16 ¶Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard <i>it</i>, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.</p> | <p>16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened and heard; and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.</p> |
| <p>17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.</p> | <p>17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.</p> |
| <p>18 Then shall ye return, and discern between</p> | <p>18 Then shall ye return and discern between</p> |

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| the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not. | the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not. |
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Malachi 4~2 Nephi 25

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| 1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. | 1 For behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. |
| 2 ¶But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. | 2 But unto you that fear my name, shall the Son of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth and grow up as calves in the stall. |
| 3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do <i>this</i> , saith the LORD of hosts. | 3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of Hosts. |
| 4 ¶Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, <i>with</i> the statutes and judgments. | 4 Remember ye the law of Moses, my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. |
| 5 ¶Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: | 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord; |
| 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. | 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. |

Note how many changes occur around italicized words (which are usually deleted), a common pattern with Biblical passages paralleled in the Book of Mormon