
2 Nephi 30 — Gentile Covenant, Lamanite Delight, and the Millennial Earth — Nephi's Expansion of Isaiah 11

Four-stage gathering — Gentiles in, Lamanites in, Jews in, Millennium inaugurated; Isa. 11:6–9 expanded into the BoM's distinctive Restoration vision, c. 559–545 BC.

The chapter is the BoM's most-comprehensive Restoration-eschatology in compressed form. It takes Isa. 11:6–9 (the peaceable kingdom) and expands it into the BoM's distinctive four-stage gathering — Gentile-conversion-and-Israel-adoption (vv. 1–2); Lamanite-restoration-to-fathers-and-Christ (vv. 3–6); Jewish-Christological-conversion (v. 7); and the Millennial peace expanded (vv. 8–18). The theological center is the universal-covenant-purification of vv. 6–7 — *pure and delightsome* (1840 reading, restored 1981) said of Lamanites and Jews in identical grammar. Covenant by repentance and faith; not by blood, not by pigment.

Ten Insights

- 1. Not more righteous than the Gentiles shall be (v. 1).** *I, Nephi, would not suffer that ye should suppose that ye are more righteous than the Gentiles shall be.* Anti-supersessionist warning addressed to Lehi's seed. Covenant-status is not ethnically inherited. Rom. 11:18 — *boast not against the branches* — in pre-Christian form.
- 2. Covenant by choice — am ha-berit (v. 2).** *As many of the Gentiles as will repent are the covenant people of the Lord; and as many of the Jews as will not repent shall be cast off.* The BoM's clearest pre-fulfillment of Rom. 2:28–29 / Gal. 3:7. Two conditions: repent + believe in his Son. Same conditions as Acts 2:38. Each generation must choose; inherited birth is not inherited covenant.
- 3. Gentile-as-intermediary carrier (v. 3).** *The book... shall come forth... unto the Gentiles... and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed.* Four-stage transmission: BoM → Gentile-Restoration → Gentile believers → Lehite remnant. Same doctrine as 1 Ne. 13:34–42; D&C 28:8.
- 4. Knowledge of the fathers and of Christ (vv. 4–5).** The Lamanite-restoration is two-fold: covenant-genealogical knowledge (how they came out from Jerusalem, that they are descendants of the Jews) AND Christological knowledge (the gospel of Jesus Christ declared among them). The two are inseparable. D&C 49:24 — *the Lamanites shall blossom as the rose.*
- 5. Scales of darkness fall from their eyes (v. 6).** *Their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes.* Damascus-road grammar — Acts 9:18, Paul's conversion. The BoM's impact on the Lamanites is a conversion-event in the same imagery the NT will use of the chief persecutor turned chief apostle.
- 6. Pure and delightsome — not white (v. 6).** *Many generations shall not pass... save they shall be a pure and a delightsome people* (1840 / 1981 restoration). *Tahor* — the priestly purity-noun. Mal. 3:3 — *he shall purify the sons of Levi.* Covenant-purification, not pigment-alteration. The 1981 restoration corrects the long-standing racial misreading.
- 7. The Jews believe in Christ (v. 7).** *The Jews which are scattered also shall begin to believe in Christ... and they shall begin to gather... and shall also become a delightsome people.* Same word *delightsome* as v. 6 — covenant-purification is the same for both groups; same conversion-grammar applies to all peoples. Rom. 11:25–27 / Zech. 12:10 in seed.
- 8. The great division (vv. 9–10).** *He shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth; and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked* (cited from Isa. 11:4). Messianic judgment is verbal, not military. 2 Thes. 2:8 cites the same of antichrist's defeat. *The wicked he will destroy; he will spare his people* — binary judgment of the Day.
- 9. Wolf with the lamb (vv. 12–15).** Isa. 11:6–9 cited in full: *wolf with lamb, leopard with kid, calf with young lion, child plays on the asp's hole. Im-particle = co-dwelling without sameness. The Atonement's cosmic outworking; Edenic curse inverted. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.* Hab. 2:14 echo.
- 10. All things made known; Satan bound (vv. 16–18).** Nephi's Restoration-specific elaboration of Isa. 11. *There is nothing secret save it shall be revealed... there is nothing which is sealed upon the earth save it shall be loosed* — Matt. 10:26's logic in Restoration form. *Satan shall have power over the hearts of the children of men no more, for a long time* (Rev. 20:1–3; D&C 43:31; 101:28). The Millennium's comprehensive disclosure.

Cross-References

Gen. 12:3 (in thee shall all families be blessed); Lev. 19:18 (love neighbor as self); Deut. 30:6 (Lord shall circumcise thy heart); Ps. 24:3–6 (who shall ascend); Ps. 51:10 (create in me a clean heart — direct background v. 6); Ps. 117 (all nations praise); Isa. 2:2–4 (mountain of Lord); Isa. 4:2–6 (Branch); Isa. 11:1–9 (direct source-text for vv. 9–15); Isa. 25:6–9 (feast); Isa. 35:8 (highway of holiness); Isa. 49:6 (light to Gentiles); Isa. 65:25 (wolf and lamb); Jer. 31:31–34 (new covenant); Ezek. 36:25–27 (clean water, new heart); Ezek. 37:15–28 (two sticks); Joel 2:28–32 (Spirit on all flesh); Hab. 2:14 (earth filled with knowledge — direct parallel v. 15); Zech. 12:10 (look on him whom they pierced); Zech. 13:1 (fountain opened); Mal. 3:1–4 (refiner’s fire — direct background v. 6 “pure”); Mal. 4:1–6 (Day burning as oven); Matt. 4:17 (repent — direct parallel v. 2); Matt. 5:8 (pure in heart); Matt. 10:26 (nothing covered — direct parallel v. 17); Matt. 24:14 (gospel preached in all the world); Matt. 28:18–20 (Great Commission); Lk. 17:21 (kingdom within you); Jn. 4:22 (salvation of the Jews); Jn. 10:16 (other sheep); Acts 2:38 (repent and be baptized); Acts 9:18 (scales fell from Paul — direct parallel v. 6); Acts 10:34–35 (no respecter of persons); Acts 17:30–31 (all men everywhere repent); Rom. 1:16 (Jew first and Gentile); Rom. 2:28–29 (Jew inwardly — direct parallel v. 2); Rom. 11:18 (boast not against branches — direct parallel v. 1); Rom. 11:25–27 (all Israel saved — direct parallel v. 7); Rom. 16:20 (bruise Satan); Gal. 3:7 (children of Abraham by faith — direct parallel v. 2); Gal. 3:29 (Abraham’s seed); Eph. 6:14 (girt about with truth — direct parallel v. 11); 2 Thes. 2:8 (spirit of mouth — direct parallel v. 9); Heb. 8:8–13 (new covenant); Heb. 12:14 (holiness without which no man shall see); 1 Pet. 1:22 (purified your souls); 1 Jn. 3:3 (purifieth himself); Rev. 5:9 (every kindred); Rev. 7:9 (great multitude of all nations); Rev. 14:6 (everlasting gospel to every nation); Rev. 19:11–21 (King of kings); Rev. 20:1–6 (Satan bound — direct parallel v. 18); Rev. 21–22 (new Jerusalem); 1 Ne. 13:34–42 (BoM goes to Gentiles, then to Lehiite remnant — direct parallel vv. 3–5); 1 Ne. 14:1–4 (Gentile hearkening to the Lamb); 1 Ne. 15:13–18 (gathering); 1 Ne. 22:9 (Holy One blesses all kindreds); 2 Ne. 3:11–15 (Joseph’s prophecy of Joseph Smith); 2 Ne. 21–22 (Branch + Song); 2 Ne. 26:33 (all alike unto God); 2 Ne. 29 (Bible and BoM — direct context, paired chapter); 2 Ne. 31–32 (doctrine of Christ — sequel); Jacob 5 (olive tree); Mosiah 4:6–8 (atonement); Alma 5:14 (born again); Alma 7:14 (laid aside their sins); Alma 32:42 (white above all that is white); Hel. 5:9–12 (rock of Redeemer); Hel. 14 (Samuel); 3 Ne. 11 (Christ’s appearance); 3 Ne. 15:14–24 (other sheep); 3 Ne. 17:4 (other sheep); 3 Ne. 20–22 (Christ’s gathering doctrine); 4 Ne. 1:1–23 (peaceable kingdom installment — direct fulfillment of vv. 12–15); Eth. 13:1–12 (New Jerusalem); Moroni 10:32 (perfected in Christ); D&C 1:11 (voice of warning); D&C 28:8 (Lamanites’ future hearing — direct parallel v. 5); D&C 29:7–11 (last days); D&C 43:31 (Satan bound — direct parallel v. 18); D&C 45 (Second Coming); D&C 49:24 (Lamanites blossom as the rose — direct parallel v. 6); D&C 84:54–58 (vanity and unbelief); D&C 101:23–35 (Lord reveals all things — direct parallel vv. 16–17); D&C 109:60–67 (gathering); D&C 110 (Moses delivered keys of gathering); D&C 121:26–33 (mysteries — direct parallel v. 16); D&C 130:18–19 (intelligence); D&C 133:7–14 (gathering); D&C 138 (vision of dead); Moses 7:60–64 (Enoch’s vision of Millennium); Abr. 2:9–11 (Abrahamic covenant); Articles of Faith 9 (continuous revelation); Articles of Faith 10 (literal gathering of Israel — direct parallel vv. 3–7); OD 2 (1978 — priesthood to all worthy male members).

Apocryphal Correlations

Tobit 14:5–7. Latter-day Jerusalem restoration; all nations turn from idols — direct universal-conversion parallel to vv. 7–8.

Sirach 36:1–17. Gathering-prayer — *gather all the tribes of Jacob* — direct Restoration-gathering parallel.

1 Enoch 90:30–38. White-bull eschatology — Gentiles transformed into white bulls — direct vv. 1–8 universal-covenant parallel.

2 Baruch 73–74. Messianic kingdom: *health shall descend in dew; disease shall withdraw* — direct vv. 12–18 Millennial parallel.

4 Ezra 13:32–52. Man-from-the-Sea gathers peaceable multitudes from all nations — direct vv. 8–18 universal-gathering parallel.

Psalms of Solomon 17:21–46. Davidic Messiah gathers from all nations to teach the law — direct vv. 9–11 parallel.

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1–9. Souls of the righteous in the hand of God; refining-fire — direct v. 10’s wicked-destroyed parallel.

Sibylline Oracles 3:710–730. Pre-Christian Jewish apocalyptic: all nations come to seek the Lord — direct vv. 8–18 universal parallel.

1QS (Qumran Community Rule) 4:18–26. Eschatological purification: *God will refine for himself some of mankind* — direct v. 6 *yitharer* parallel.

Hebrew Word Studies

am ha-berit (אִם הַבְּרִית, **people of the covenant**) — v. 2 (reconstruction). Covenant-status is repentance-and-faith-conditional. Same doctrine as Gal. 3:7 — they which are of faith are children of Abraham. Each generation must choose.

tahor (טָהוֹר, **pure / ritually clean**) — v. 6 (“pure and delightsome”). The priestly purity-noun — used of sacrifices, garments, consecrated objects. Ps. 51:10 (*create in me a clean heart*); Mal. 3:3 (*purify the sons of Levi*). Covenant-purification, not pigment-alteration.

shevet pi-v (שֵׁבֶט פִּי-וּ, **rod of his mouth**) — v. 9 (Isa. 11:4 cited). Messianic judgment is verbal, not military. 2 Thes. 2:8 applies this directly to Christ’s defeat of antichrist.

im (עִם, **with — co-dwelling particle**) — v. 12 (Isa. 11:6 cited). Wolf *im* lamb — co-dwelling without sameness. Zion-doctrine in grammatical form (D&C 38:27).

timmale de‘ah (תִּמָּלֵא אֶלְעֵד, **shall be full of knowledge**) — v. 15 (Isa. 11:9 / Hab. 2:14 cited). *De‘ah* = experiential-relational knowledge (not cognitive information). The Millennium’s peace is knowledge-saturated.

asar / patar (אַסַּר / פָּתַר, **bind / loose**) — vv. 17–18 (sealed-then-loosed; Satan’s binding). The Millennium’s comprehensive disclosure plus Rev. 20:1–3’s binding-of-Satan. *Patar* = loosing (Isa. 58:6 / Lk. 4:18 grammar); *asar* = binding.

Personal Application

Three practices. First, honor covenant-by-choice-not-by-blood. Do not assume birth into the Restored Church guarantees covenant-status; each generation must repent and believe for itself (D&C 84:54–58). Be in covenant by repentance and faith, not by inheritance. Second, cultivate covenant-purification (tahor) daily. Each day, name one area of your covenant-life that needs purification — speech, thought, attention, time-allocation — and seek the Lord’s purifying work in it. Ps. 51:10’s create in me a clean heart is the disciple’s daily prayer. Third, live transparently now. Vv. 16–17 promise comprehensive disclosure at the Day — nothing secret shall not be revealed. Do not do today what you would not want revealed at the Millennial disclosure. Live as if the books are already open.