
Ether 11 — The Prophets Mourned and Withdrew — The Last Slide, and a People Past Hearing

Ether 11: the final generations before the end, the dynastic cycle accelerating toward destruction. Prophets come again and again, crying repentance and warning of a destruction such as never had been upon the earth; the people reject them, kill them, cast them out, until at last the prophets simply mourn and withdraw. Kings rise and fall — Shiblom, whose brother kills the prophets; Seth and Ahah and Ethem and Moron, mostly wicked; secret combinations splitting the kingdom again and again. Through it all the Lord keeps a remnant and sends warning after warning, but the people harden their hearts because of their wicked combinations. The chapter ends at the bottom of the line: Coriantor dwelling in captivity all his days, and the birth of his son Ether — the prophet who will write the record and witness the end. It is the chapter where the warnings run out, the prophets fall silent, and a civilization arrives at the threshold of its self-destruction.

Ether 11 is the chapter of the last slide, where the dynastic cycle that has turned throughout the book finally loses even its upswings and runs only downward toward the end. The pattern is the same — kings righteous and wicked, rebellions, captivities, secret combinations — but the proportion has shifted: the wicked kings now dominate, the righteous interludes shrink, and the prophets, sent again and again, are increasingly rejected and killed until at last they *mourned and withdrew from among the people* (v. 13). That withdrawal of the prophets is the chapter's darkest sign, the same withdrawal that marked the end of the Nephites (Mormon 1:16) — when the prophets stop coming, a people is past saving. The chapter races through the final generations, each more wicked than the last, the kingdom split again and again by the secret combinations, until it arrives at the bottom: Coriantor in lifelong captivity, and the birth of his son Ether, the prophet who will record the destruction. The chapter is the threshold of the end — the last warnings spoken, the last prophets driven out, the civilization poised at the edge of the abyss it will fill in chapters 13–15.

Hebrew Word Studies

navi / *qashah-lev* / *she'ar* (נָבִי / קָשָׁה־לֵב / שְׂאֵר) — **prophet, spokesman, one who speaks for God / hardness of heart / remnant, that which remains vv. 1–13, 13, 23.** Three Hebrew ideas frame the chapter. *Navi* — prophet — is the recurring and finally vanishing figure of the chapter. A *navi* is one who speaks for God, the mouthpiece of the divine word; and the measure of a people, throughout scripture, is how it treats the *navi*. The Jaredites move through the full range of rejection: they reject the *navi'im* (vv. 2, 22), they kill them (v. 5), and at last drive them to *mourn and withdraw* (v. 13). When the *navi* withdraws, the channel of the word closes; a people without a *navi* is a people God has stopped warning. *Qashah-lev* — hardness of heart — is the cause: *the people hardened their hearts* (v. 13). The phrase is the great diagnosis of spiritual deafness in the Hebrew Bible — Pharaoh's hardened heart (Ex. 7:3), the *stiffnecked* people, the heart of stone (Ezek. 36:26). A *qashah-lev* cannot hear the *navi*, and the chapter shows the two together: the hardened heart and the withdrawn prophet, deafness and silence, the people unable to hear and the warning no longer given. *She'ar* — remnant — is the chapter's thread of hope in the dark: through all the destruction, a *she'ar* always survives (Shez out of the famine, the line preserved through captivity), and the chapter ends with the birth of Ether, the *navi* who is himself the surviving *she'ar* of the prophetic line. As in Isaiah's *she'ar yashuv* (a remnant shall return), the *she'ar* is where God's purposes continue when the nation fails — and Ether, born at the bottom of the captivity, is the remnant-prophet through whom the record, and thus the warning, survives the destruction of his people.

From the Chapter's Architecture

```cross-references Ex. 7:3 (Pharaoh's heart hardened — the qashah-lev of v. 13); 1 Sam. 8:18 (the people who demand a king shall cry out... and the Lord will not hear — the captivity ending the line, vv. 18–23); 2 Kgs. 17:13–18 (the Lord testified by all the prophets, yet they would not hear, until he removed them — vv. 1–13); 2 Chron. 36:15–16 (the messengers mocked till there was no remedy — the master parallel to vv. 1–7); Neh. 9:26, 30 (they slew thy prophets... yet many years didst thou forbear — vv. 5, 13); Ps. 74:9 (there is no more any prophet — the withdrawal of v. 13); Prov. 29:1 (he, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy — the hardened people of v. 13); Isa. 6:9–12 (the people made deaf and blind until the land is utterly desolate — vv. 13, 22); Isa. 10:20–22 (the remnant shall return / she'ar yashuv — the remnant-prophet Ether, v. 23); Jer. 7:25–27 (the Lord sent all his servants the prophets, yet they hearkened not — vv. 1–13); Jer. 25:4–11 (the prophets sent and rejected, then the land made desolate — vv. 5–7, 22); Amos 8:11–12 (the famine of hearing the word — the withdrawal of v. 13); Matt. 23:34–37 (the prophets killed and stoned, and the house left desolate — vv. 5, 13); Lk. 11:47–51 (the blood of the prophets required of the generation — vv. 5–7); Acts 7:51–52 (the stiffnecked who killed the prophets — vv. 5, 13); Mormon 1:16–17 (Mormon forbidden to preach to a people past hearing — the withdrawal of the word, v. 13); Ether 2:8–11 (the choice-land decree fulfilled in the replacement prophecy of v. 21); Ether 6:23 (the brother of Jared's warning of captivity — Coriantor's lifelong captivity, v. 23); Ether 13:20–21 (Ether's own prophecy to Coriantumr of replacement and destruction — the fruit of v. 21); Ether 8:22–25 (the combinations that destroy the nation — the secret society of v. 22); D&C 1:14 (those who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants... shall be cut off — vv. 13, 22). ```