

# Teacher's Supplement - A World-Wide Apostasy from the Gospel of Christ

## PROCEDURE

### SECTION 1

#### Motivation/Introduction (10 minutes)

Prior to class: Write on the board:

- Terms and definitions
- "Description of a Church Built on the Rock of Christ" list
- "NEPHITE CHURCH BUILT UPON CHRIST"

#### Terms and Definitions

**Apostasy** → changing the faith

**Doctrine** → a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church

**Gospel** → 1. The teaching or revelation of Christ  
2. The record of Jesus's life and teachings in the first four books of the New Testament

**Pattern** → a model for making things, an example

#### Description of a Church Built on the Rock of Christ

- Bears Christ's name
- All things done in Jesus's name
- Built upon Christ's doctrine
- Works of God evident
- Works of Jesus modeled
- No tolerance for sin
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### NEPHITE CHURCH BUILT UPON CHRIST

#### Lesson Development (20-25 minutes)

#### NEPHITE CHURCH BUILT UPON CHRIST

- Bears Christ's name
  - Formed church of Christ
- All things done in Jesus's name
  - Baptized in Jesus's name
  - Miracles performed in Jesus's name
- Built upon Christ's doctrine
  - Repentance
  - Baptism
  - Reception of Holy Ghost
- Works of God evident
  - Sick healed
  - Dead raised
  - Blind received sight
  - Deaf to hear
  - God blessed and prospered
- Works of Jesus modeled
  - Ordinances
  - Walked after the commandments of Christ
  - Fast and prayed
  - Met together often to pray and teach
- No tolerance for sin
  - Repented of sins
  - Peaceable
  - Fair
  - Equality
  - Given in marriage
  - No envy
  - No whoredoms
  - No riots
  - No lying
  - No murders
  - No sex offenders
  - No robbers

## Section 2

### NEPHITE CHURCH BUILT UPON CHRIST

- Bears Christ's name
  - Formed church of Christ
- All things done in Jesus's name
  - Baptized in Jesus's name
  - Miracles performed in Jesus's name
- Built upon Christ's doctrine
  - Repentance
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  - No robbers

## Lesson Development (20-25 minutes)

### NEPHITE CHURCHES NOT BUILT UPON CHRIST

- Pride
- Inequality
- Formed churches to become rich
- Professed to know Christ, but denied many parts of His gospel
- Tolerated sin in the church
- Gave communion to unbaptized
- Denied Christ
- Persecuted true church of Christ
- Imprisoned Christ's disciples
- Sought to kill Christ's disciples
  - Cast disciples into furnaces of fire
  - Cast disciples into dens of wild beasts
- Strike the people of Jesus
- Rejected and rebelled against the gospel of Christ
- Taught their children not to believe in Christ and to hate the children of God
- Built churches according to their beliefs
- Elaborately decorated their churches
- Wicked people built up secret oaths and combinations of Gadianton
  - Accumulated great wealth
  - Illegal trading

## SECTION 3

### **Suggestions/Scriptures for Further Study/Exploration/Extension of Topic**

#### **Gospel Abandoned and Church Destroyed - Old World**

#### **Motivation/Introduction (10-15 minutes)**

**Prior to class:** Study 1 Nephi 11:34-36 and 13: 1-9, 21-29 and *Member's Guide of The Church of Jesus Christ*, Chapter 2, "History of The Church of Jesus Christ", Section 2.3  
[http://lessons.ripsystem.org/2\\_History\\_approved\\_2017.pdf](http://lessons.ripsystem.org/2_History_approved_2017.pdf)

#### **Lesson Development (20-30 minutes)**

**In class:** We will recall and apply an understanding of warnings of abandonment of Christ's doctrine in the Old World.

- ✓ Lead a discussion on the topic. Tell participants to take notes.

#### **Gospel Abandoned and Church Destroyed - Old World**

- Satan had great power over people.
- After Christ's death, multitudes of people, including the house of Israel, gathered together to fight against the twelve apostles of Christ.
- Satan founded a great and abominable church among the Gentiles that killed, tortured, and imprisoned the saints.
- The book of the lamb of God was desecrated by the great and abominable church.
- \_\_\_\_\_[continue to build outline] \_\_\_\_\_

**Q.** What questions do you have on how and why Christ's gospel and church were abandoned in the Old World?

#### **Review/Assessment (3-5 minutes)**

**Q.** What strategies does Satan employ that cause people to abandon Christ?

#### **Life Application (5-10 minutes)**

**Q.** There is an idiom, "History repeats itself." What might we learn from past apostacies to prevent making the same mistakes?

What does The Church of Jesus Christ have to offer people today?

### **Scripture Texts/ References/ Memory Verses (2 minutes)**

- ✓ Memory verse:

**Acts 20:30**, "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

### **Suggestions/Scriptures for Further Study/Exploration/Extension of Topic**

- **Tactics Satan Uses to Deceive** (2 Nephi 28:3-31)
- Read and discuss 3 Nephi 27:32

[32] But behold, it sorroweth me because of the fourth generation from this generation, for they are led away captive by him even as was the son of perdition; for they will sell me for silver and for gold, and for that which moth doth corrupt and which thieves can break through and steal. And in that day will I visit them, even in turning their works upon their own heads.

**Q.** What is the meaning of "they will sell me for...?"  
**Q.** What is Christ being sold for today?

- Zoramites Perverted the Gospel (Alma 31:1-25)

### **Church Education Online Lessons**

- Restoring the Gospel of Christ
- Following God or Not?
- The Importance of the Written Word of God
- Abinadi Teaches God's Commandments

Key words: depart, apostasy, church, gospel, rock, Nephites, change, faith, Christ

## Description of the Church of Christ among the Nephites 36 A.D. – 200 A.D. – Scriptural Texts

### 4 Nephi

[1] And it came to pass that the thirty and fourth year passed away, and also the thirty and fifth, and behold the disciples of Jesus had formed a church of Christ in all the lands round about. And as many as did come unto them, and did truly repent of their sins, were baptized in the name of Jesus; and they did also receive the Holy Ghost.

[2] And it came to pass in the thirty and sixth year, the people were all converted unto the Lord, upon all the face of the land, both Nephites and Lamanites, and there were no contentions and disputations among them, and every man did deal justly one with another.

[3] And they had all things common among them; therefore there were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free, and partakers of the heavenly gift.

[4] And it came to pass that the thirty and seventh year passed away also, and there still continued to be peace in the land.

[5] And there were great and marvelous works wrought by the disciples of Jesus, insomuch that they did heal the sick, and raise the dead, and cause the lame to walk, and the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear; and all manner of miracles did they work among the children of men; and in nothing did they work miracles save it were in the name of Jesus.

[6] And thus did the thirty and eighth year pass away, and also the thirty and ninth, and forty and first, and the forty and second, yea, even until forty and nine years had passed away, and also the fifty and first, and the fifty and second; yea, and even until fifty and nine years had passed away.

[7] And the Lord did prosper them exceedingly in the land; yea, insomuch that they did build cities again where there had been cities burned.

[9] But there were many cities which had been sunk, and waters came up in the stead thereof; therefore these cities could not be renewed.

[10] And now, behold, it came to pass that the people of Nephi did wax strong, and did multiply exceedingly fast, and became an exceedingly fair and delightsome people.

[11] And they were married, and given in marriage, and were blessed according to the multitude of the promises which the Lord had made unto them.

[12] And they did not walk any more after the performances and ordinances of the law of Moses; but they did walk after the commandments which they had received from their Lord and their God, continuing in fasting and prayer, and in meeting together oft both to pray and to hear the word of the Lord.

[13] And it came to pass that there was no contention among all the people, in all the land; but there were mighty miracles wrought among the disciples of Jesus.

[14] And it came to pass that the seventy and first year passed away, and also the seventy and second year, yea, and in fine, till the seventy and ninth year had passed away; yea, even an hundred years had passed away, and the disciples of Jesus, whom he had chosen, had all gone to the paradise of God, save it were the three who should tarry; and there were other disciples ordained in their stead; and also many of that generation had passed away.

[15] And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people.

[16] And there were no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness; and surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God.

[17] There were no robbers, nor murderers, neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of -ites; but they were in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God.

[18] And how blessed were they! For the Lord did bless them in all their doings; yea, even they were blessed and prospered until an hundred and ten years had passed away; and the first generation from Christ had passed away, and there was no contention in all the land.

### Discussion Questions

Q. How did the Nephite's church of Christ demonstrate being built on the Rock of Christ? (Yellow highlight)

Q. How was that church powerful?

Q. In what ways did the Nephite people demonstrate love for God and others?

Q. During this period of time, how did conditions in their society mirror their spiritual state? (blue highlight)

## Warnings Against Departing from the Gospel and Doctrine of Christ - Assignment

Jesus said, "And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock; ...the gates of hell stand open to receive such..." (3 Nephi 11:40)

Jesus also said, "...if it so be that the church is built upon my gospel then will the Father show forth his own works in it. But if it be not built upon my gospel, and is built upon the works of men, or upon the works of the devil, verily I say unto you they have joy in their works for a season, and by and by the end cometh, and they are hewn down and cast into the fire, from whence there is no return. For their works do follow them, for it is because of their works that they are hewn down; therefore remember the things that I have told you." (3 Nephi 27:10-11)

**Q.** What are some terms for passing off a fake as if it were genuine, for example a fake diamond or a fake dollar bill?

**Q:** What difference in value exists between a fake and genuine item?

**Q.** What spirit is behind lies or deception?

**Q.** What is the ultimate consequence for lying and deception?

**Q.** Why is Jesus against those who say they follow Him, but in reality do not?

**Q.** What ending does Jesus promise to churches not built upon His Gospel?

**Q:** Why is it important for people to know truth? To know the true gospel?

## Demise of the Church of Christ 194 A.D.- 301 A.D. – Scriptural Texts

### 4 Nephi

[20] And he kept it eighty and four years, and there was still peace in the land, save it were a small part of the people who had revolted from the church and taken upon them the name of Lamanites; therefore there began to be Lamanites again in the land.

[21] And it came to pass that Amos died also, (and it was an hundred and ninety and four years from the coming of Christ) and his son Amos kept the record in his stead; and he also kept it upon the plates of Nephi; and it was also written in the book of Nephi, which is this book.

[22] And it came to pass that two hundred years had passed away; and the second generation had all passed away save it were a few.

[23] And now I, Mormon, would that ye should know that the people had multiplied, insomuch that they were spread upon all the face of the land, and that they had become exceedingly rich, because of their prosperity in Christ.

[24] And now, in this two hundred and first year there began to be among them those who were lifted up in pride, such as the wearing of costly apparel, and all manner of fine pearls, and of the fine things of the world.

[25] And from that time forth they did have their goods and their substance no more common among them.

[26] And they began to be divided into classes; and they began to build up churches unto themselves to get gain, and began to deny the true church of Christ.

[27] And it came to pass that when two hundred and ten years had passed away there were many churches in the land; yea, there were many churches which professed to know the Christ, and yet they did deny the more parts of his gospel, insomuch that they did receive all manner of wickedness, and did administer that which was sacred unto him to whom it had been forbidden because of unworthiness.

[28] And this church did multiply exceedingly because of iniquity, and because of the power of Satan who did get hold upon their hearts.

[29] And again, there was another church which denied the Christ; and they did persecute the true church of Christ, because of their humility and their belief in Christ; and they did despise them because of the many miracles which were wrought among them.

[30] Therefore they did exercise power and authority over the disciples of Jesus who did tarry with them, and they did cast them into prison; but by the power of the word of God, which was in them, the prisons were rent in twain, and they went forth doing mighty miracles among them.

[31] Nevertheless, and notwithstanding all these miracles, the people did harden their hearts, and did seek to kill them, even as the Jews at Jerusalem sought to kill Jesus, according to his word.

[32] And they did cast them into furnaces of fire, and they came forth receiving no harm.

[33] And they also cast them into dens of wild beasts, and they did play with the wild beasts even as a child with a lamb; and they did come forth from among them, receiving no harm.

[34] Nevertheless, the people did harden their hearts, for they were led by many priests and false prophets to build up many churches, and to do all manner of iniquity. And they did smite upon the people of Jesus; but the people of Jesus did not smite again. And thus they did dwindle in unbelief and wickedness, from year to year, even until two hundred and thirty years had passed away.

[35] And now it came to pass in this year, yea, in the two hundred and thirty and first year, there was a great division among the people.

[36] And it came to pass that in this year there arose a people who were called the Nephites, and they were true believers in Christ; and among them there were those who were called by the Lamanites -- Jacobites, and Josephites, and Zoramites;

[37] Therefore the true believers in Christ, and the true worshipers of Christ, (among whom were the three disciples of Jesus who should tarry) were called Nephites, and Jacobites, and Josephites, and Zoramites.

[38] And it came to pass that they who rejected the gospel were called Lamanites, and Lemuelites, and Ishmaelites; and they did not dwindle in unbelief, but they did wilfully rebel against the gospel of Christ; and they did teach their children that they should not believe, even as their fathers, from the beginning, did dwindle.

[39] And it was because of the wickedness and abomination of their fathers, even as it was in the beginning. And they were taught to hate the children of God, even as the Lamanites were taught to hate the children of Nephi from the beginning.

[40] And it came to pass that two hundred and forty and four years had passed away, and thus were the affairs of the people. And the more wicked part of the people did wax strong, and became exceedingly more numerous than were the people of God.

[41] And they did still continue to build up churches unto themselves, and adorn them with all manner of precious things. And thus did two hundred and fifty years pass away, and also two hundred and sixty years.

[42] And it came to pass that the wicked part of the people began again to build up the secret oaths and combinations of Gadianton.

[43] And also the people who were called the people of Nephi began to be proud in their hearts, because of their exceeding riches, and become vain like unto their brethren, the Lamanites.

[44] And from this time the disciples began to sorrow for the sins of the world.

[45] And it came to pass that when three hundred years had passed away, both the people of Nephi and the Lamanites had become exceedingly wicked one like unto another.

## 1 Nephi 12

[19] And while the angel spake these words, I beheld and saw that the seed of my brethren did contend against my seed, according to the word of the angel; and because of the pride of my seed, and the temptations of the devil, I beheld that the seed of my brethren did overpower the people of my seed.

[20] And it came to pass that I beheld, and saw the people of the seed of my brethren that they had overcome my seed; and they went forth in multitudes upon the face of the land.

[21] And I saw them gathered together in multitudes; and I saw wars and rumors of wars among them; and in wars and rumors of wars I saw many generations pass away.

[22] And the angel said unto me: Behold these shall dwindle in unbelief.

[23] And it came to pass that I beheld, after they had dwindled in unbelief they became a dark, and loathsome, and a filthy people, full of idleness and all manner of abominations.

## Discussion Questions

Q. Describe the actions and attitudes of the Nephite people whose churches were not built upon the teachings of Christ. (yellow highlights)

Q. Whose nature was depicted in the churches that were not built upon the teachings of Christ? 4 Nephi 1:28

Q. How did the Nephite society in general mirror the spiritual states/conditions of its people?

Q. What eventually happened to the faithful believers in Christ? 4 Nephi 1:43

Q. How long did the descendants of Lehi remain in a state of unbelief? 1 Nephi 12:21

Q. What was society like for the descendants of Lehi after they wasted away in unbelief? 1 Nephi 12:23