

# Teacher's Supplement - America, the Promised Land

## Lesson Development

### Section 2 (30 minute sessions)

2. Assignments located on following pages.
7. Synopses for Civilizations located on following pages.

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

#### Church Education Lessons

- Righteousness
- Obedience is Better than Sacrifice
- The Jaredites Receive the Promise of a Choice Land
- Lehi Receives a Blessing of a Land of Promise

Lesson Topics to consider:

- The Divine Commission
- Joseph of Egypt
- the Choice Seer

Invite Native Peoples to tell of their history, culture, and religion. Ask the Native elders to share their vision for the future.

Consider inviting individuals involved in the Native works to give testimony of God's power being manifested.

## Assignment Team 1 - People of Jared (Approx. 2200 B.C. – 280 B.C.)

**Ether 1: 38** And it came to pass that Jared spake again unto his brother, saying: Go and inquire of the Lord whether he will drive us out of the land, and if he will drive us out of the land, cry unto him whither we shall go. And who knoweth but the Lord will carry us forth into a land which is choice above all the earth? And if it so be, let us be faithful unto the Lord, that we may receive it for our inheritance.

**Ether 1: 39** And it came to pass that the brother of Jared did cry unto the Lord according to that which had been spoken by the mouth of Jared.

**Ether 1: 40** And it came to pass that the Lord did hear the brother of Jared, and had compassion upon him, and said unto him:

**Ether 1: 41** Go to and gather together thy flocks, both male and female, of every kind; and also of the seed of the earth of every kind; and thy families; and also Jared thy brother and his family; and also thy friends and their families, and the friends of Jared and their families.

**Ether 1:42** And when thou hast done this thou shalt go at the head of them down into the valley which is northward. And there will I meet thee, and I will go before thee into a land which is choice above all the lands of the earth.

**Ether 1:43** And there will I bless thee and thy seed, and raise up unto me of thy seed, and of the seed of thy brother, and they who shall go with thee, a great nation. And there shall be none greater than the nation which I will raise up unto me of thy seed, upon all the face of the earth. And thus I will do unto thee because this long time ye have cried unto me.

**Ether 2:8** And he had sworn in his wrath unto the brother of Jared, that whoso should possess this land of promise, from that time henceforth and forever, should serve him, the true and only God, or they should be swept off when the fullness of his wrath should come upon them.

## Assignment Team 2 - People of Nephi (600 B.C. – 400 A.D.)

**1 Nephi 1:18** Therefore, I would that ye should know, that after the Lord had shown so many marvelous things unto my father, Lehi, yea, concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, behold he went forth among the people, and began to prophesy and to declare unto them concerning the things which he had both seen and heard.

**1 Nephi 1:19** And it came to pass that the Jews did mock him because of the things which he testified of them; for he truly testified of their wickedness and their abominations; and he testified that the things which he saw and heard, and also the things which he read in the book, manifested plainly of the coming of the Messiah, and also the redemption of the world.

**1 Nephi 1: 20** And when the Jews heard these things they were angry with him; yea, even as with the prophets of old, whom they had cast out, and stoned, and slain; and they also sought his life, that they might take it away. But behold, I, Nephi, will show unto you that the tender mercies of the Lord are over all those whom he hath chosen, because of their faith, to make them mighty even unto the power of deliverance.

**1 Nephi 2:1** For behold, it came to pass that the Lord spake unto my father, yea, even in a dream, and said unto him: Blessed art thou Lehi, because of the things which thou hast done; and because thou hast been faithful and declared unto this people the things which I commanded thee, behold, they seek to take away thy life.

**1 Nephi 2:2** And it came to pass that the Lord commanded my father, even in a dream, that he should take his family and depart into the wilderness.

**1 Nephi 2:3** And it came to pass that he was obedient unto the word of the Lord, wherefore he did as the Lord commanded him.

**1 Nephi 2:4** And it came to pass that he departed into the wilderness. And he left his house, and the land of his inheritance, and his gold, and his silver, and his precious things, and took nothing with him, save it were his family, and provisions, and tents, and departed into the wilderness.

**2 Nephi 1:5** ... we have obtained a land of promise, a land which is choice above all other lands; a land which the Lord God hath covenanted with me should be a land for the inheritance of my seed. Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children forever, and also all those who should be led out of other countries by the hand of the Lord.

**2 Nephi 1:6** Wherefore, I, Lehi, prophesy according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me, that there shall none come into this land save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord.

**2 Nephi 1:7** Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them; wherefore, they shall never be brought down into captivity; if so, it shall be because of iniquity; for if iniquity shall abound cursed shall be the land for their sakes, but unto the righteous it shall be blessed forever.

**2 Nephi 1:8** And behold, it is wisdom that this land should be kept as yet from the knowledge of other nations; for behold, many nations would overrun the land, that there would be no place for an inheritance.

**2 Nephi 1:9** Wherefore, I, Lehi, have obtained a promise, that inasmuch as those whom the Lord God shall bring out of the land of Jerusalem shall keep his commandments, they shall prosper upon the face of this land; and they shall be kept from all other nations, that they may possess this land unto themselves. And if it so be that they shall keep his commandments they shall be blessed upon the face of this land, and there shall be none to molest them, nor to take away the land of their inheritance; and they shall dwell safely forever.

**2 Nephi 1:10** But behold, when the time cometh that they shall dwindle in unbelief, after they have received so great blessings from the hand of the Lord – having a knowledge of the creation of the earth, and all men, knowing the great and marvelous works of the Lord from the creation of the world; having power given them to do all things by faith; having all the commandments from the beginning, and having been brought by his infinite goodness into this precious land of promise --- behold, I say, if the day shall come that they will reject the Holy One of Israel, the true Messiah, their Redeemer and their God, behold, the judgments of Him that is just shall rest upon them.

**2 Nephi 1:11** Yea, He will bring other nations unto them, and He will give unto them power, and He will take away from them the lands of their possessions, and He will cause them to be scattered and smitten.

**2 Nephi 1:12** Yea, as one generation passeth to another there shall be bloodsheds, and great visitations among them;...

## Assignment Team 3 - Gentiles (15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries)

**1Nephi 13:10** And it came to pass that I [Nephi] looked and beheld many waters; and they divided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren.

**1Nephi 13:11** And it came to pass that the angel said unto me: Behold the wrath of God is upon the seed of thy brethren.

**1Nephi 13:12** And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld, the spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land.

**1Nephi 13:13** And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters.

**1Nephi 13:14** And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of the Gentiles upon the land of promise; and I beheld the wrath of God, that it was upon the seed of my brethren; and they were scattered before the Gentiles and were smitten.

**1Nephi 13:15** And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles, and they did prosper and obtain the land for their inheritance; and I beheld that they were white, and exceeding fair, and beautiful, like unto my people before they were slain.

**1Nephi 13:16** And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord; and the power of the Lord was with them.

**1Nephi 13:17** And I beheld that their mother Gentiles were gathered together upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them

**1Nephi 13:18** And I beheld that the power of God was with them, and also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together against them to battle.

**1Nephi 13:19** And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations.

**1Nephi 13:20** And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that they did prosper in the land; and I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them.

**1Nephi 13:23** And he said: Behold it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew. And I, Nephi, beheld it; and he said unto me: The book that thou beholdest is a record of the Jews, which contains the covenants of the Lord, which he hath made unto the house of Israel; and it also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets; and it is a record like unto the engravings which are upon the plates of brass, save there are not so many; nevertheless, they contain the covenants of the Lord, which he hath made unto the house of Israel; wherefore, they are of great worth unto the Gentiles.

## Assignment Team 4 - Gentiles (19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries)

**1 Nephi 22:7** And it meaneth that the time cometh that after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land; and by them shall our seed be scattered.

**1 Nephi 22:8** And after our seed is scattered the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed; wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles and being carried in their arms and upon their shoulders.

**1 Nephi 22:9** And it shall also be of worth unto the Gentiles; and not only unto the Gentiles but unto all the house of Israel, unto the making known of the covenants of the Father of heaven unto Abraham, saying: In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

**1 Nephi 22:10** And I would, my brethren, that ye should know that all the kindreds of the earth cannot be blessed unless He shall make bare His arm in the eyes of the nations.

**1 Nephi 22:11** Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare His arm in the eyes of all the nations, in bringing about His covenants and His gospel unto those who are of the house of Israel.

**1 Nephi 22:12** Wherefore, He will bring them again out of captivity, and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance; and they shall be brought out of obscurity and out of darkness; and they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, The Mighty One of Israel.

**3 Nephi 21:2** And behold, this is the thing which I [Jesus Christ] will give unto you for a sign ---for verily I say unto you that when these things which I declare unto you, and which I shall declare unto you hereafter of myself, and by the power of the Holy Ghost which shall be given unto you of the Father, shall be made known unto the Gentiles that they may know concerning this people who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, and concerning this my people who shall be scattered by them;

**3 Nephi 21:3** Verily, verily, I say unto you, when these things shall be made known unto them of the Father, and shall come forth of the Father, from them unto you;

**3 Nephi 21:4** For it is wisdom in the Father that they [the Gentiles] should be established in this land, and be set up as a free people by the power of the Father, that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed, that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which he hath covenanted with his people, O house of Israel;

**3 Nephi 21:5** Therefore, when these works and the works which shall be wrought among you hereafter shall come forth from the Gentiles, unto your seed which shall dwindle in unbelief because of iniquity;

**3 Nephi 21:6** For thus it behooveth the Father that it should come forth from the Gentiles, that He may show forth his power unto the Gentiles, for this cause that the Gentiles, if they will not harden their hearts, that they may repent and come unto Me and be baptized in My name and know of the true points of My doctrine, that they may be numbered among My people, O house of Israel;

**3 Nephi 21:7** And when these things come to pass that thy seed shall begin to know these things – it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which He hath made unto the people who are of the house of Israel.

**Ether 2: 9** And now, we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise; and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fulness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fulness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity.

**Ether 2:10** For behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God. And it is not until the fulness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off.

**Ether 2:11** And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God --- that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done.

**Ether 2:12** Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ, who hath been manifested by the things which we have written.

## Assignment Team 5 - Gentiles and the Remnant of Jacob (21<sup>st</sup> century - Future)

**1 Nephi 15:13** And now, the thing which our father meaneth concerning the grafting in of the natural branches through the fullness of the Gentiles, is, that in the latter days, when our seed shall have dwindled in unbelief, yea, for the space of many years, and many generations after the Messiah shall be manifested in body unto the children of men, then shall the fullness of the gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed –

**1 Nephi 15:14** And at that day shall the remnant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord; and then shall they know and come to the knowledge of their forefathers, and also to the knowledge of the gospel of their Redeemer, which was ministered unto their fathers by Him; wherefore, they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer and the very points of His doctrine, that they may know how to come unto Him and be saved.

**1 Nephi 15:17** And this is what our father meaneth; and he meaneth that it will not come to pass until after they are scattered by the Gentiles; and He meaneth that it shall come by way of the Gentiles, that the Lord may show His power unto the Gentiles, for the very cause that He shall be rejected of the Jews, or of the house of Israel.

**1 Nephi 15:18** Wherefore, our father hath not spoken of our seed alone, but also of all the house of Israel, pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days; which covenant the Lord made to our father Abraham, saying: In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

**1 Nephi 19:15** Nevertheless, when that day cometh, saith the prophet, that they no more turn aside their hearts against the Holy One of Israel, then will He remember the covenants which He made to their fathers.

**1 Nephi 19:16** Yea, then will He remember the isles of the sea; yea, and all the people who are of the house of Israel, will I gather in, saith the Lord, according to the words of the prophet Zenos, from the four quarters of the earth.

**3 Nephi 21:8** And when that day shall come, it shall come to pass that kings shall shut their mouths; for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

**3 Nephi 21:9** For in that day, for My sake shall the Father work a work, which shall be a great and a marvelous work among them; and there shall be among them those who will not believe it, although a man shall declare it unto them.

**3 Nephi 21:11** Therefore it shall come to pass that whosoever will not believe in My words, who am Jesus Christ, which the Father shall cause Him to bring forth unto the Gentiles, and shall give unto Him power that He shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles, (it shall be done even as Moses said) they shall be cut off from among My people who are of the covenant.

**3 Nephi 21:12** And My people who are a remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles, yea, in the midst of them as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he go through both treadeth and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

**3 Nephi 21:22** But if they will repent and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come unto the covenant and be numbered among this remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance.

**3 Nephi 21:23** And they [Gentiles] shall assist My people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem.

**3 Nephi 21:24** And then shall they assist My people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.

**3 Nephi 21:25** And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst.

**3 Nephi 21:26** And then shall the work of the Father commence at that day, even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. Verily I say unto you, at that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of My people, yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem.

**3 Nephi 21:27** Yea, the work shall commence among all the dispersed of my people, with the Father, to prepare the way whereby they may come unto Me, that they may call on the Father in my name.

**3 Nephi 21:28** Yea, and then shall the work commence, with the Father, among all nations, in preparing the way whereby his people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance.

**Ether 13:3** And that it was the place of the New Jerusalem, which should come down out of heaven, and the holy sanctuary of the Lord

**Ether 13:6** And that a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph...

**Ether 13:8** ...and they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old; and they shall no more be confounded, until the end come when the earth shall pass away.

**Ether 4:13** Come unto me, O ye Gentiles, and I will show unto you the greater things, the knowledge which is hid up because of unbelief.

**Ether 4:14** Come unto me, O ye house of Israel, and it shall be made manifest unto you how great things the Father hath laid up for you, from the foundation of the world; and it hath not come unto you, because of unbelief.

**Ether 4:15** Behold, when ye shall rend that veil of unbelief which doth cause you to remain in your awful state of wickedness, and hardness of heart, and blindness of mind, then shall the great and marvelous things which have been hid up from the foundation of the world from you – yea, when ye shall call upon the Father in My name, with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, then shall ye know that the Father hath remembered the covenant which He made unto your fathers, O house of Israel.

**Ether 4:18** Therefore, repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto Me [Jesus Christ], and believe in My gospel, and be baptized in My name; for he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned; and signs shall follow them that believe in My name.

## SYNOPSIS OF CIVILIZATIONS IN AMERICAS – Teacher’s Resource

### **People of Jared (approx. 2200 B.C. – 280 B.C.)**

The people of Jared lived during the time of the Tower of Babel approximately 2200 B.C., when the Lord confounded the language of the people and scattered them upon the face of the earth. (Genesis 11:1-9; Ether 1:33)

Jared’s family and friends built and sailed in eight barges over and under the water to the Promised Land which is what we know as the American continents. (Ether 2:16-17, Ether 6:11-12) The original colony of approximately 30 - 60 individuals increased to a population of over 2 million by the end of their civilization which spanned about 1900 years. (Ether 6:14, 16 and 20 and Ether 15:2)

The Jaredites fluctuated between periods of great blessings because of their righteousness and cursing because of gross wickedness. The Jaredites eventually annihilated themselves because of wickedness, secret combinations, bloodshed and wars. One survivor, Coriantumr, remained to discover that other people had arrived in the Promised Land. (Omni 1:21) The decrees of God were fulfilled with the Jaredites.

### **People of Nephi (600 B.C. – 400 A.D.)**

The Book of Mormon covers about a 1000-year period of Nephite history, spanning from 600 B.C. to a little over 400 A.D.

God told Lehi and his family to leave Jerusalem, in the year 600 B.C., saying that He would take them to a land of promise. (1Nephi 2:1-2, 20) Lehi learned that he was a descendant of Jacob through his son Joseph. (1 Nephi 5:14)

They traveled eight years through the wilderness southward and east ward along the Red Sea. (1 Nephi 2:5; 1Nephi 17:4) They lived at the sea shore for a while and built a ship to traverse the waters to the Promised Land. (1 Nephi 18:1-8) Along with them for the journey were the children of Ishmael and the servant of Laban, who was named Zoram.

The people of Nephi faced much opposition in trying to establish righteousness in the Promised Land. Early on, the brothers, Laman and Lemuel, were antagonistic to Nephi and his followers. The family eventually split into Nephites and Lamanites, which terms eventually came to represent believers and non- believers. (2 Nephi 5)

Other Jews were led out of Jerusalem close to the same time that Lehi left. The Book of Mormon reveals the identity of

another group of people who also left Jerusalem circa 589 B.C. and traveled to the Promised Land. (Omni 1:15, 16) One individual was named Mulek, who was the son of Zedekiah from the lineage of Judah. (Helaman 8:21) The Nephites discovered them in the land of Zarahemla. They were called the people of Zarahemla. This group of people banded together with Mosiah, the first, and became part of the people of Nephi. (Omni 1:19, Mosiah 25:13)

During the Nephite civilization, kingdoms were established, and wars were fought to preserve liberty and freedom. Eventually, a democratic form of government was established upon the land of promise.

The church of Christ, which was established in America at that time, withstood many attacks by those who would try to overthrow it. Many righteous men fought in defense of their liberty, their religious freedom, and their God. The Nephite people had a great knowledge of and belief in the God of the land, Jesus Christ. Their democracy was eventually overthrown and diminished into decentralized bands of familial tribes. (3 Nephi 7:2, 3, 11)

A great destruction occurred upon the land of promise which coincided with the death of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem. (3 Nephi 8) Days following, Christ appeared unto the surviving Nephites, showing them the nail prints and scars upon His body. (3 Nephi 11:13-17) He healed their sick, called twelve disciples to lead His Church, who baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and administered the ordinances of God. (3 Nephi 11:18-41; 3 Nephi 19:4) Hundreds of years passed, with the Nephites living in a peaceful existence in the Promised Land. (4 Nephi)

Eventually sin and pride overtook them and unbelief set in. (4 Nephi 1:24; Mormon 8:6-7) the Lamanites annihilated The Nephite nation, except for one survivor. (4 Nephi 8:7) The Lamanites were preserved by the will of God, which was also the desire and prayer of the faithful Nephites, so that they would learn the plan of salvation one day. (Enos 1:13)

Around 420 A.D., the lone Nephite survivor, Moroni, buried the gold plates (religious and historical accounts of the Nephites) in the ground for safe keeping, because the Lamanites would have destroyed them. (Mormon 8:14)

For over one thousand years the Lamanite people, who were a remnant of the house of Jacob, dwindled in unbelief upon the Promised Land, before the first Gentile appeared.



This 1000+ year period also coincides with the apostasy from the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, and in part with the Dark Ages (Early Middle Ages) of the Roman Empire (approx. 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> centuries).

### **Historical Perspective of the Gentiles (15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

[This period correlates with the Renaissance Period of Western Europe (1450-1600) and the Reformation movement]

These scriptures address Nephi's vision, where he viewed future events upon the land of promise.

Christopher Columbus made four voyages from Spain to the Americas between 1492-1504, exploring the islands of the Caribbean and the Eastern coasts of Central and South America, which were his first encounter with the Native People or the remnant of Jacob and their first encounter with a Gentile. Columbus desired to spread Christianity to all people of the world. Nephi saw that it was the Spirit of God that led Columbus to make these voyages. Columbus in his own diaries attested to the inspiration of God leading him. (1 Nephi 13:12)

The mechanical mass production of the Bible occurred in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century by Johann Gutenberg. Prior to his invention, every book in Europe had to be copied by hand which made them expensive. Because of mass production, this made the Bible more accessible to people.

The King James version of the Bible was printed in 1611.

The Reformation movement began with Martin Luther's challenge of Roman Catholic beliefs and the authority of the pope. His views gained wide support in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century and beyond. Once Christian unity in Western Europe was breached, other Protestant groups emerged, such as: the Anglican Church and the Calvinists. The Puritans brought Calvinist beliefs to America in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. One of the benefits of the protestant movement was the translation of the Bible from Latin into languages that ordinary people could understand.

Pilgrims that sailed from England to America were reformists seeking religious freedom. In 1620, the Puritans founded Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. The neighboring Native Peoples helped the Pilgrims survive their first year in the Promised Land. The Pilgrims and Natives celebrated the first Thanksgiving together in 1621. (1 Nephi 13:13) Pilgrims brought with them the Bible, which contained the covenants and prophecies of God. Christianity was again brought to the remnant of Jacob by the Gentiles. (1 Nephi 13:20-23)

The Revolutionary War, 1775-1783, was fought between Great Britain and its 13 American colonies. The American victory resulted in the independence of the colonies. Over time, many Gentiles traveled to America. This new country was founded upon the principles of freedom and liberty. (1 Nephi 13:17, 18)

During the reformation period, many denominations of Christianity emerged. Nephi was shown that many Gentiles stumbled in their interpretation of the Bible and the doctrine and ordinances of Christ because the plainness of the Gospel was removed from the records of the Jews, when it went from the hands of the Jews into the hands of the Gentiles, by the great and abominable church. (1 Nephi 13:5-9; 24-29)

As the Gentile population grew, it encroached upon Native Peoples' land. The government of the Gentile people forced Native Peoples into smaller sections of land called reservations. The remnant of Jacob found themselves being scattered, smitten, and overrun by Gentiles. Many wars and battles were fought between Native Peoples and Gentiles. The blessings of God were upon the Gentile people in the Promised Land and it became their land of inheritance. (1 Nephi 13: 14-16)

### **Gentiles (19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries)**

The U.S.A. embodied liberty and freedom for its citizens. Many people came to America seeking freedom of worship. The various beliefs created confusion and strife in some communities to the point of contending over which denomination had the true religion. One young man, Joseph Smith, Jr., witnessed this in his community. In his sincerity, he prayed to God to show him the way to serve Him.

One day, while Joseph was praying, he saw a vision of Jesus Christ and he heard a voice say to him, "This is my beloved Son, Hear ye Him." The voice told him to join none of the existing religions. Joseph had subsequent experiences in which a heavenly messenger visited him on several occasions, preparing him for the great work that God would have him to do - restoring the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

In 1827, a heavenly messenger, named Moroni, delivered ancient plates that had been buried in the ground for many centuries, to Joseph Smith, Jr., so that he could translate the reformed Egyptian characters into English (Moroni 10:1-4). The translation of these records was published as *The Book of Mormon*.

God was merciful unto the Gentiles in the Promised Land, by bringing much of the plain and precious parts of His Gospel

unto them through the writings of the Nephite people (1 Nephi 13:23 – 29, 34). The Book of Mormon contained plain and precious truths of Christ's gospel and covenants to Israel which restored more knowledge. Joseph Smith, Jr. established The Church of Jesus Christ in 1830.

The Divine Commission of The Church of Jesus Christ is to restore knowledge to Native Peoples (Remnant of the house of Jacob), informing them of their heritage (Covenant between God and Abraham), the knowledge their forefathers had of salvation through repentance and belief on Jesus Christ, God's Son, and of God's intent to restore their promised lands. (Mormon 7)

The decrees of God upon the Promised Land apply to the Gentiles as well. The blessings of God are promised to the righteous and curses are promised to the wicked.(Ether 8:23)

### **Gentiles and Remnant of Jacob (21<sup>st</sup> century - Future)**

The believing Gentiles will preach the true doctrine of Jesus Christ throughout the Promised Land and the world. Those of Israel who believe will come to the Promised Land (gathering of the tribes of Israel). A condition of righteousness will exist on the Promised Land. Believing Jews and Gentiles will labor, as partners, to build a Holy City – the New Jerusalem. Jesus Christ will appear in this Holy City. There will be a reign of peace on earth which is termed Zion.