

Come Follow Me Podcast
Elo Viz Production
Week 36
Helaman 7-12

In these chapters Nephi, the son of Helaman continues his mission. After such an amazing experience with the lamanites that we talked about last week. He goes to the land northward and they “did reject all his words”. Being devastated, he returns home. After all that Nephi has gone through in this next event something incredible comes into his life. To paraphrase the story very quickly: he's praying on his garden tower, obviously making a scene as he pours out his heart to God, and the people gather together. He is then taken to be judged. He prophesied that the chief judge is dead, then they think he's in on. Then he prophesies again that it was the chief judge's brother and he tells them exactly how to get a confession. The people are divided between those who believe and support Nephi, and those who don't. They begin to fight, even to kill one another by the sword. This is where it gets really good, Helaman chapter 10 starting in verse 2 it says:

“2 And it came to pass that Nephi went his way towards his own house, **pondering** upon the things which the Lord had shown unto him.

3 And it came to pass as he was thus pondering—being much cast down because of the wickedness of the people of the Nephites, their secret works of darkness, and their murderings, and their plunderings, and all manner of iniquities—and it came to pass as he was thus pondering in his heart, behold, a **voice** came unto him saying:

4 **Blessed** art thou, Nephi, for those things which thou hast done; for I have beheld how thou hast with **unwearyingness** declared the word, which I have given unto thee, unto this people. And thou hast not feared them, and hast not sought thine **own life**, but hast sought my **will**, and to keep my commandments.

5 And now, because thou hast done this with such unwearyingness, behold, I will bless thee forever; and I will make thee mighty in word and in deed, in faith and in works; yea, even that **all** things shall be **done** unto thee according to thy **word**, for thou shalt **not** ask that which is contrary to my will.”

After all that Nephi had experienced, all the Miracles he performed, prophecies he has prophesied, at this moment Nephi received the sealing power. Now some of you might be asking what is the sealing power? Perhaps you haven't heard of this before. this great power is explained in the next few verses, verses 6 through 11:

“6 Behold, thou art Nephi, and I am God. Behold, I declare it unto thee in the presence of mine angels, that ye shall have power over this people, and shall smite the earth with **famine**, and with pestilence, and destruction, according to the wickedness of this people.

7 Behold, I give unto you **power**, that whatsoever ye shall **seal** on earth shall be sealed in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven; and thus shall ye have power among this people.

8 And thus, if ye shall say unto this temple it shall be rent in twain, it shall be done.

9 And if ye shall say unto this **mountain**, Be thou cast down and become smooth, it shall be done.

10 And behold, if ye shall say that God shall smite this people, it shall come to pass.

11 And now behold, I command you, that ye shall go and declare unto this people, that thus saith the Lord God, who is the Almighty: Except ye repent ye shall be smitten, even unto **destruction**.”

That's a pretty incredible blessing if you ask me. But please don't misunderstand this sealing power. It is not going to be highlighted in the next Marvel movie, it's not some superpower that induces pride and vanity. No, this is the exact opposite, it is reserved for only the most humble. In fact, a few amazing things take place after Nephi receives this incredible blessing. He goes out preaching to the hostile Nephites and in verse 16 and 17 of chapter 10 it says:

“16 But behold, the power of God was with him, and they could not take him to cast him into prison, for he was taken by the Spirit and **conveyed** away out of the midst of them.”

remember Christ did this as well one time that we know of.

“17 And it came to pass that thus he did go forth in the Spirit, from multitude to multitude, declaring the word of God, even until he had declared it unto them all, or sent it forth among all the people.”

In chapter 11 the people become so wicked that Nephi commands a famine to fall upon them but pay attention to how he does it. chapter 11 verse 4 through 5:

“4 O Lord, do not suffer that this people shall be destroyed by the sword; but O Lord, rather **let** there be a **famine** in the land, to stir them up in remembrance of the Lord their God, and perhaps they will repent and turn unto thee.

5 And so it was done, according to the words of Nephi. And there was a great famine upon the land, among all the people of Nephi. And thus in the seventy and fourth year the famine did continue, and the work of destruction did cease by the sword but became sore by famine.”

Nephi prays... that's how he activates this great sealing power, with a humble prayer. This is the first hint of the importance of the use of this power. The second is after the famine takes hold the people finally, finally humble themselves and repent and this takes three years. They beg Nephi to remove this curse from them. Listen closely to Nephi's prayer to remove the famine. This is found in Chapter 11 verses 10-16:

10 O Lord, behold this people repenteth; and they have swept away the band of Gadianton from amongst them insomuch that they have become extinct, and they have concealed their secret plans in the earth.

11 Now, O Lord, because of this their humility wilt thou turn away thine anger, and let thine anger be appeased in the destruction of those wicked men whom thou hast already destroyed.

12 O Lord, wilt thou turn away thine anger, yea, thy fierce anger, and cause that this famine may cease in this land.

13 O Lord, wilt thou hearken unto me, and cause that it may be done according to my words, and send forth [rain](#) upon the face of the earth, that she may bring forth her fruit, and her grain in the season of grain.

14 O Lord, thou didst hearken unto [my words](#) when I said, Let there be a famine, that the pestilence of the sword might cease; and I know that thou wilt, even at this time, hearken unto my words, for thou saidst that: If this people repent I will spare them.

15 Yea, O Lord, and thou seest that they have repented, because of the famine and the pestilence and destruction which has come unto them.

16 And now, O Lord, wilt thou turn away thine anger, and try again if they will serve thee? And if so, O Lord, thou canst bless them according to thy words which thou hast said.”

notice that he does not command God or the elements. He says nothing about his sealing power God gave him. His prayer is humble and contrite, a prayer of Faith with absolute confidence that God is listening and more importantly that God is more wise than him. Which is why he prays in the 75th year of reign of the judges and in verse 17 it's not until the 76th year of the reign of the judges does God send forth rain and remove the famine, one year later. it doesn't tell us what happened during that year but it does tell us that they no longer sought to take away Nephi's life. But esteemed him as a great prophet, having authority given unto him from God, that's in verse 18. A miraculous event, short lived because a few years later they turn to wickedness again but miraculous nonetheless

So, what can we learn from this? The most obvious one being that God sends us trials, famines, challenges so we turn to him and humble ourselves. The second is what we learn from Nephi's example: God hears and answers the prayers of the truly penitent, the humble and the meek. If we are praying for things and events to elevate ourselves, we will be found wanting. But if we pray to understand His will and we are willing to submit to it whatever that may be, He is ready

and willing to give us all that he has. It all starts with humbly realizing that our “dust of the earth” type standing, to our all-powerful Father. This is what he asks of you, and this is what he asks of me. This isn't easy because our natural man instinctively pushes us with pride, and requires us to boast in ourselves to tell everyone how great we are. This is not what God asks of us. God asked us to give the glory to Him, and when we do that is when the miracles occurred. That is when His hand is seen in your life. When you are humble, meek and willing to submit to all things which the Lord sees fit to inflict on each of us.

May we do this with faith in Him, and may His miracles be Manifest. This is my humble prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.