

Come Follow Me Podcast
Elo Viz production
Week 9
2 Nephi 11-19

I do not profess to be an expert on all things Isaiah. In fact I confess that most of the time I really don't understand what he is talking about. There are however several books about Isaiah and the meaning of his teachings. One of them that I have really enjoyed is called the Book of Mormon made easy written by David Ridges. He does a fantastic job talking about what the Isaiah chapters mean.

<https://amzn.to/48ew0q8>

Luckily for me, we get one short chapter that comes just before the Isaiah chapters in this week's reading, and it so happens to be one of my favorites. Chapter 11 is when Nephi acknowledges his brother Jacob's writings and transitions from Jacob to Isaiah. But listen to the gem he slips in right at the beginning:

“2 And now I, Nephi, write **more** of the words of **Isaiah**, for my soul delighteth in his words. For I will liken his words unto my people, and I will send them forth unto all my children, for he verily **saw** my **Redeemer**, even as I have seen him.

3 And my brother, **Jacob**, also has **seen** him as I have seen him; wherefore, I will send their words forth unto my children to prove unto them that my words are true.

Wherefore, by the words of **three**, God hath said, I will establish my word.”

(2 Nephi 11:2-3)

I don't know how much more plain Nephi could have been in telling us about this relationship that Jacob, Isaiah, and Nephi had with the Savior.

-They saw Him. They saw Jesus Christ in this mortal tabernacle, when they lived on this earth.

Now before you brush that aside and say: Oh, that only happens to prophets. Let me show you some doctrine that goes along with this teaching.

John 14:16 says:

“16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter**, that he may **abide** with you for ever;

17 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

What Jesus is speaking about here is the Gift of the Holy Ghost. This is the first comforter we receive after baptism. And the Holy Spirit can, and should be our constant companion. In this

life we are taught to learn to understand and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit. He will guide and direct you. This is what we have been focusing on this year. Our ability to receive personal revelation. To be able to recognize when our minds are enlightened and pure intelligence flows into our souls and we then understand the will of God in our lives. This comes from seeking and learning diligently. But, after this statement Jesus transitions to talk about something different. Look at the next verse, verse 17

“18 I will not leave you **comfortless**: I will **come** to you.”

Then 21:

“21 He that hath my commandments, and **keepeth** them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be **loved** of my Father, and I will love him, and will **manifest** myself to him.”

This event, this experience is one of the crowning moments of a mortal's life, and it has a name it is called the second Comforter. The Holy Spirit is the first comforter and then a person that has His commandments and keepeth them, can then receive the second Comforter, a personal manifestation of Jesus Christ.

This is what the prophet Joseph Smith said about this

“When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve Him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and his election made sure, then it will be his privilege to receive the other Comforter, which the Lord hath promised the Saints, as is recorded in the testimony of St. John.”

<http://boap.org/LDS/Joseph-Smith/Teachings/T3.html>

Eighteen months after the church was organized the Lord said this, this in Doctrine and Covenants section 67:

“10 And again, verily I say unto you that it is your privilege, and a **promise** I give unto you that have been ordained unto this ministry, that inasmuch as you **strip** yourselves from **jealousies** and **fears**, and **humble** yourselves before me, for ye are not sufficiently humble, the **veil** shall be rent and you shall **see** me and know that I am” (D&C 67:10)

I would think that this would sound familiar to you. For those that have been to the temple we learn all the things that are required for passing through the veil. And in the end of the endowment we symbolically enter into the presents of the Lord. This is the whole purpose of the endowment is to teach us what we can do in this life to see the face of God and live.

If we continue to read we find out how this happens:

“not with the carnal neither natural mind, but with the spiritual.

11 For no **man** has seen God at any time in the flesh, except quickened by the Spirit of God.

12 Neither can any **natural man** abide the presence of God, neither after the carnal mind.

13 Ye are not able to abide the presence of God now, neither the ministering of angels; wherefore, **continue** in patience until ye are **perfected**.” (D&C 67:10-13)

Remember “Perfected” means not to be perfect in auctions, but it more fully represents completeness. So it should more clearly read: Continue in patience until you are complete”

This event that we are discussing is not like you walk into a room and... opp, there is Jesus standing there. This is more like the experience of Moses when he was transfigured or changed in order that he could stand in the presence of God. This could also be a dream or a vision. It will be however God intends it to be for you.

In his book The Mortal Messiah, Bruce R, McConkie said this: “After the true saints receive and enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost. After they know how to attune themselves to the voice of the Spirit. After they mature spiritually, so they can see visions, work miracles, and entertain angels, after they make their calling and election sure, and prove themselves worthy of every trust, after all this and more: It becomes their right and privilege to see the Lord and commune with Him face to face. Revelations, vision, angelic visitations, the rending of the Heavens, and appearances among men of the Lord Himself, all these things are for the faithful, they are not reserved for apostles and prophets only. God is no respecter of persons. They are not reserved for one age only, or for a select lineage of people. We are all our Fathers children, all men are welcome “and he **inviteth** them **all** to **come** unto him and partake of his goodness; and he **denieth** none that come unto him, black and white, **bond** and free, male and female; and he remembereth the **heathen**; and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile.” (2 Nephi 26:33)

<https://amzn.to/3uwySB4>

This is so important that our faith is based on truth. That we don't look at this opportunity as something to be obtained only by the Prophets and Apostles. But this can be a blessing in your life, and in this life.

Let's look at one more scripture. Doctrine and Covenants section 76 starting in verse 22
“22 And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the **testimony**, last of all, which we give of him: That he **lives!**

23 For we **saw** him, even on the **right hand** of **God**; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the **Only Begotten** of the Father—

24 That by **him**, and through him, and of him, the **worlds** are and were created, and the **inhabitants** thereof are begotten **sons** and daughters unto God.” (D&C 76:22-24)

They then went on to see this wonderful vision, and Joseph said what is recorded in this section is not even a one hundredth part of what they saw. Because of the greatness of the things they saw in this vision they were forbidden to write them. But listen to what he says at the very end: “113 This is the end of the vision which we saw, which we were commanded to write while we were yet in the Spirit.

114 But **great** and marvelous are the works of the Lord, and the **mysteries** of his kingdom which he showed unto us, which surpass all understanding in glory, and in might, and in dominion;

115 Which he commanded us we should not write while we were yet in the Spirit, and are not **lawful** for man to utter;

116 Neither is man **capable** to make them known, for they are only to be **seen** and **understood** by the power of the Holy Spirit, which God bestows on those who **love** him, and purify themselves before him;

117 To whom he grants this privilege of **seeing** and knowing for themselves;

118 That through the power and manifestation of the Spirit, while in the flesh, they may be able to **bear** his **presence** in the world of glory.” (D&C 76: 113-118)

For the “true saints”, God is preparing His people that in this life they may see and know Him. A sure witness that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior and redeemer of the world. I have had the privilege of knowing faithful men and women that have had this special witness, this audience with the Savior in this life. You can tell who they are by the witness they bare of Him. It's different, It is not your average testimony. You can feel that it is so much deeper.

I believe that those that bear in patients the crosses of the world, who seek His face and strive to keep His commandments will one day know Him, see Him, and bear witness of Him, just as Nephi, Jacob and Isaiah.

I pray that you and I will one day be as they are. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.