



# The Gospel Doctrine Class



Book of Mormon - Lesson 4

The Things Which I Saw

**“For it came to pass after I had desired to know the things that my father had seen, and believing that the Lord was able to make them known unto me, as I sat pondering in mine heart I was caught away in the Spirit of the Lord, yea, into an exceedingly high mountain”**

## 1 Nephi 12–14

*A study of this lesson will help us understand Nephi’s vision of the future and how the warnings and promises in it apply to us today.*

"The great and abominable church is a symbol of apostasy in all its forms. It is a representation of all false doctrine, false worship, and irreligious attitudes. It does not represent any specific church in the world today." (Lesson Manual, p17)

Elder Neal A. Maxwell: "As we encounter the mist-shrouded portions of life's trail, we can grasp the 'iron rod,' for the age has now arrived, which Dostoevsky foresaw when 'Freedom, free thought, and science will lead mankind into such straits and will bring them face to face with such marvels and insolvable mysteries, that some of them, the fierce and rebellious ones, will destroy themselves, and others . . . will destroy one another, while the rest, weak and unhappy. . . will. . . whine `save us from ourselves!'" (A More Excellent Way, p13-14)

President Ezra Taft Benson: "As one looks back upon what we call our history, there is a telling theme which recurs again and again in this drama. It is that God governs in the affairs of this nation." (Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p587)

President Ezra Taft Benson: "Before the gospel could again shine forth its resplendent light, religious and political freedom first had to be restored. This land had been preserved as a continent apart from the religious oppression, tyranny, and intolerance of Europe. In time, emigrants came to the new land and established colonies. By and large, they were a God-fearing people. A war was fought for their independence, and by God's intervention, victory was achieved. (See 1 Nephi 13:16-19.) By that same omnipotent power the Constitution was born (see D&C 101:80), which guaranteed religious and political liberty (see D&C 98:5-8). Only then was the time propitious for the kingdom of

God—that 'stone cut out without hands' to be restored (see Daniel 2:34)." (Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p109)

Elder Neal A. Maxwell: "One unique and powerful doctrine earlier restored through Joseph the Seer was amplified by revelations received in the prison-temple. It provides a special and obvious example of how lost truths can actually become a deprivation and a diversion that constitute a stumbling block (1 Nephi 13:40; 14:1). This doctrine is the truth about the premortal existence of men and women—existence as individual personalities and entities. The general absence of this deep doctrine and this precious perspective has had a profound and inevitable effect upon the way in which many mortals view this life. Indeed, the loss of this doctrine in its plainness and fulness has been a subtle stumbling block to many without their even sensing it." (But for a Small Moment, p69)

President Ezra Taft Benson: "I say to you with all the fervor of my soul: We are sowing the seeds of our own destruction in America and much of the free world today. It is my sober warning to you today that if the trends of the past continue, we will lose that which is as priceless as life itself—our freedom, our liberty, our right to act as free men. It can happen here. It is happening here." (Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p582)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "In this mortal probation our objective is to follow God and flee from Satan, to overcome the world, to put off the natural man and put on Christ, to bridle our passions, to rise above 'the lusts of the flesh and the things of the world,' to refrain from 'all manner of iniquity' (1 Ne. 22:23) -- to crucify the flesh and walk in the Spirit." (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 2:482)

**Next Week’s Reading Assignment**  
1 Nephi 16–22