

2 Nephi 12-24 > liken the scriptures unto us

Four major themes of Isaiah in the Book of Mormon: (B of M Reference Companion, Largey, p. 341)

1. Repentance and judgments of God
2. God's covenants and promises to the House of Israel
3. Messianic prophesies
4. Key events relating to the Latter-day

2 Nephi 12 > answer the following questions and discuss your responses with your group. **What is the contrast in the chapter?**

1. What refers to Temples in verse 2 - is it the Lord's house or top of the mountains?
2. What value is Isaiah giving the Temple in verse 2? Discuss how do we give it value today in our lives?
3. Verse 3, according to President Hinckley, has reference to General Conference. What connection is there between Temple worship and General Conference?
4. Verse 4 is a metaphor for what time period?
5. The rest of the chapter is a description of the actions of the wicked. What is the Lord's counsel to them and us?

2 Nephi 13 > match the following lines from the chapter from column one to their definitions in column two. We will then read the chapter together and look for things we were warned about in our recent General Conference.

Staff of bread/ stay of water	physical famine and/or loss of spiritual blessings
Thou hast clothing, be our ruler	Judah is so poor clothing qualifies a person to lead
To provoke the eyes of his glory	to defy or anger the Lord
The show of their countenance	sexual sin and pride
Even as Sodom	outward appearance bespeaks their inward guilt
Grind the faces of the poor	oppress the poor – a serious sin under LOM
Daughters of Zion	vain and proud women obsessed with their appearance
Stretched forth necks & wanton eyes...	covenant people of Judah or personification of Jerusalem
Discover their secret parts	metaphor for humiliation
The tinkling ornaments and the veils...	symbol of the vanity and iniquity of the people
Her gates	Jerusalem personified

Question: do you see a connection with latter-day conditions in verses 5, 9, 12, and 14-15?

(13-22) Isaiah 3:24–26. The Fruits of Transgression upon the Daughters of Zion

The prophet contrasts their former beauty with the results of judgment. Because of their wickedness, the beauty, the pride, and the fashion will become tragedy, disaster, and slavery. The girdle in verse 24 was the sash used to fasten the outer clothing. Keil and Delitzsch showed that the "rent" which was to replace it was the rope used to bind slaves. Sackcloth was black goat's hair worn at times of great mourning. The "burning" refers to the branding that often accompanied one's being made a slave. Thus Keil and Delitzsch translated this verse: "And instead of balmy scent there will be moldiness, and instead of the sash, a rope, and instead of artistic ringlets a baldness, and instead of the dress cloak a frock of sackcloth, branding instead of beauty" (*Commentary*, 7:1:147). OT IM p. 141

2 Nephi 14:1 is the final verse of the previous chapter in the Hebrew text and in Joseph Smith's translation of the biblical text of Isaiah. This may have application to Isaiah's time as well as the latter days. (B of M Reference Companion, p. 362)

This phrase, "take away our reproach," suggests that the condition mentioned in verse 1 is caused by the scarcity of men, a result of the devastation of war mentioned in Isaiah 3:25–26. The conditions under which these women would accept this marriage ("eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel") are contrary to the Lord's order of marriage (see Exodus 21:10; D&C 132:58–61). To be unmarried and childless in ancient Israel was a

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disgrace (see Genesis 30:23; Luke 1:25). So terrible would conditions in those times be that women would offer to share a husband with others and expect no material support from him, if they could claim they were married to him. OT IM, p. 141

2 Nephi 14:2-6 > what do the following words have in common with each other?

Branch fruit holy written washed purged

What is the symbolism in verses 5 and 6? See Isaiah 60:19-21

2 Nephi 15 > outline the song of the vineyard in verses 1-7 (See B of M Reference Companion p. 364 for interpretations)

My well beloved >
A very fruitful hill >
Choicest vine >
Wild grapes >
Take away the hedge >
Briers and thorns >
Behold a cry >

List the sins and the consequences of the fruitful hill in verses 8-25. What is the latter day applicability of this chapter as a whole to us?

2 Nephi 16 > in verse 10 what assignment, if any, does Isaiah receive from the Lord?



How does this picture illustrate what is being taught in verses 11- 13? See IM p. 80

Does this chapter have any similarities to Elder Neil L. Andersen's October 2009 Conference talk where he relates what he has been through in the first six months as a new Apostle?

What do we say when a call is offered, an assignment given, or a volunteer asked for?

2 Nephi 17 > group work

Group one > what council was wicked King Ahaz asked to accept and believe?

Group two > was Ahaz really concerned with tempting the Lord? Why or why not? What was the sign?

Group three > what latter day applicability can you see in this chapter?

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Definitions:

17:18 who is the fly and the bee in this verse referring to?

17:20 how complete will the conquest be by the fly and the bee?

17:21-25 what are the conditions of the land after the conquest?

2 Nephi 18-23

- 2 Nephi 18:5-9 > compare the two kinds of water and the symbolism attached in these verses
- 2 Nephi 18:13 > the great message for us today from this chapter. Do you have a favorite verse from this chapter?
- 2 Nephi 18:14. A Sanctuary, “a Stone of Stumbling” of the Twelve Apostles noted the ability of “Immanuel” to both save and condemn: “When the stone of Israel comes, he shall be a sanctuary for the righteous; they shall find peace and safety under the shelter of his gospel; but he shall be a Stone of Stumbling and a Rock of Offense (as also a gin and a snare) to the rebellious and disobedient in Jerusalem and in all Israel. They shall stumble and fall because of him; they shall take offense because of his teachings and be condemned and broken and snared and taken for rejecting them” (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3 vols. [1971–73], 3:292–93). (Think of Elder Holland’s Oct 2009 conference talk.)
- Let’s read 2 Nephi 21 together. Who is this chapter about? Moroni quoted the 11th chapter of Isaiah and said it was about to be fulfilled.
- Let’s read 2 Nephi 24 together. The symbolism refers to what time period? See verse 7.
 - Who are the strangers in verse > their time King Cyrus, our time convert missionaries from all lands who help gather covenant Israel.
 - The king of Babylon in verse 4 is a type for Satan
 - Look how he is treated in the following verses
 - Literal translation of verse 24, “your bed is maggots and your blanket is worms” describes a fallen and disgusting condition for Satan and his followers.
 - Key words to understand and deepen meaning
 - Lucifer
 - Stars of God
 - Mount of the congregation in the sides of the North
 - Narrowly look upon thee
 - Abominable branch

In your opinion, how can this chapter help us today?