

Lesson 32: Signs in America of Jesus Christ's Birth



Purpose

To teach the children that when we have faith, signs can strengthen our testimonies of Jesus Christ.

He Sent His Son

How could the Father tell the world of love and tenderness?
He sent his Son, a newborn babe, with peace and holiness.
How could the Father show the world the pathway we should go?
He sent his Son to walk with men on earth, that we may know.
How could the Father tell the world of sacrifice, of death?
He sent his Son to die for us and rise with living breath.
What does the Father ask of us? What do the scriptures say?
Have faith, have hope, live like his Son, help others on their way.
What does he ask? Live like his Son.

Words: Mabel Jones Gabbott, b. 1910

Music: Michael Finlinson Moody, b. 1941

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Our opening Prayer will be given today by

(Enter Name Here)



**You are going to see some clues about
and event that took place many years
ago..**

**Please raise your hands when you know
what event the clues are describing.**





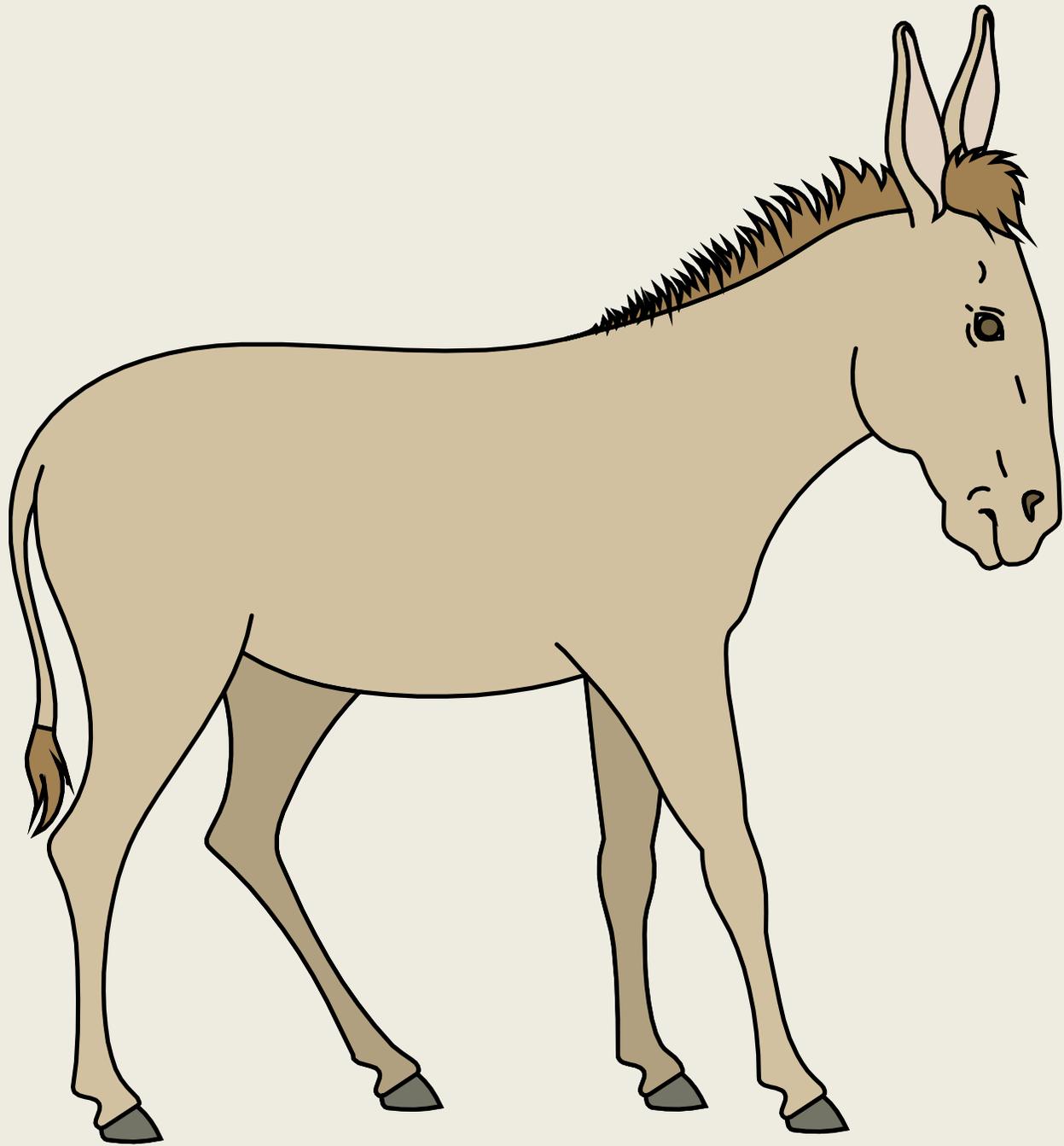
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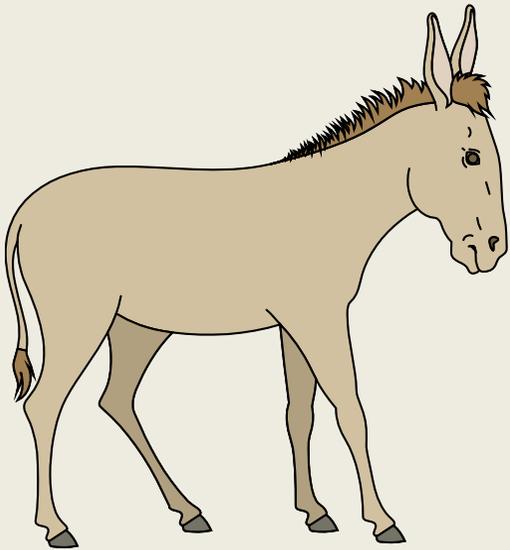
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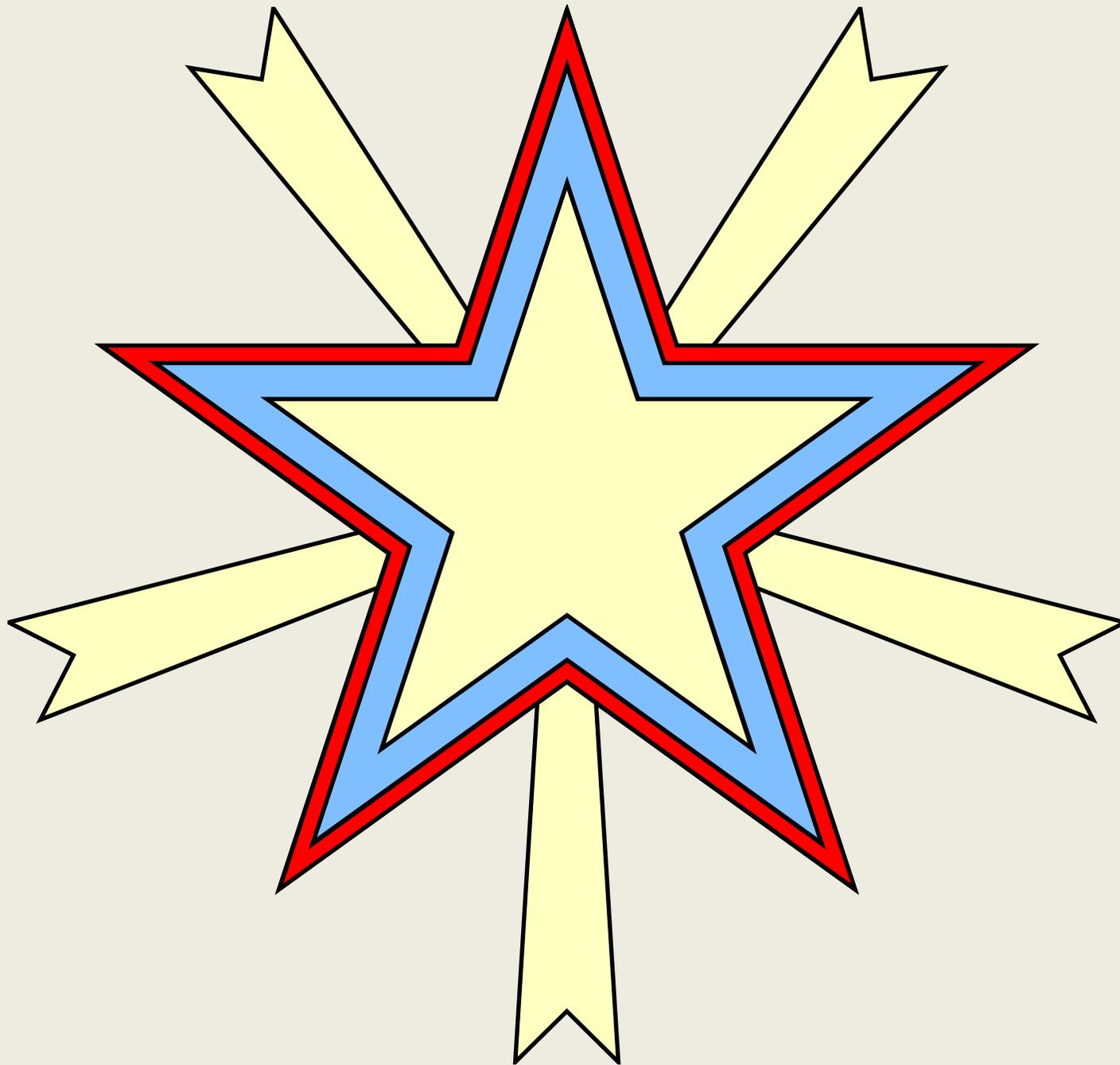


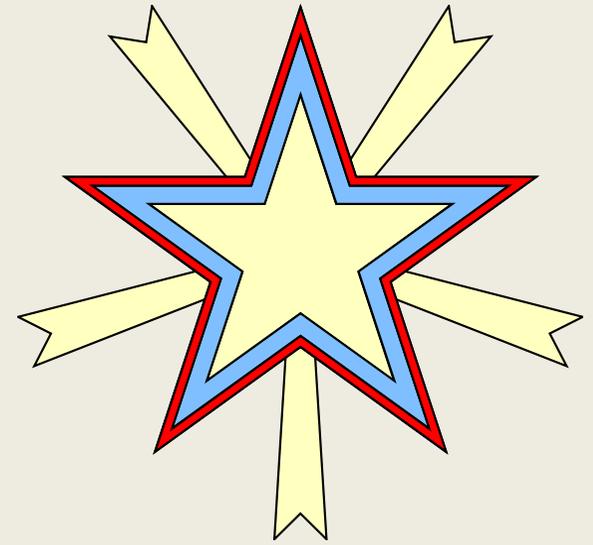




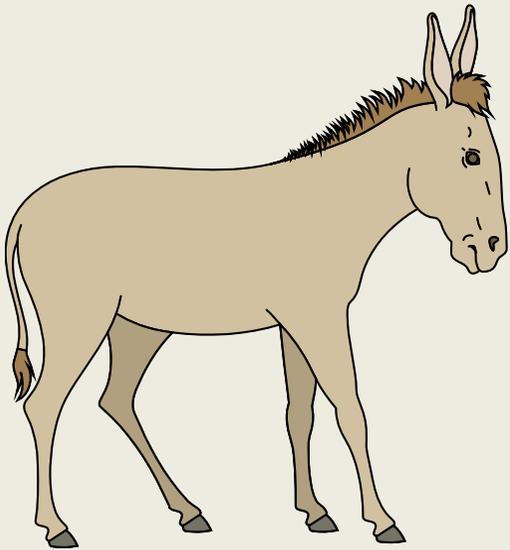
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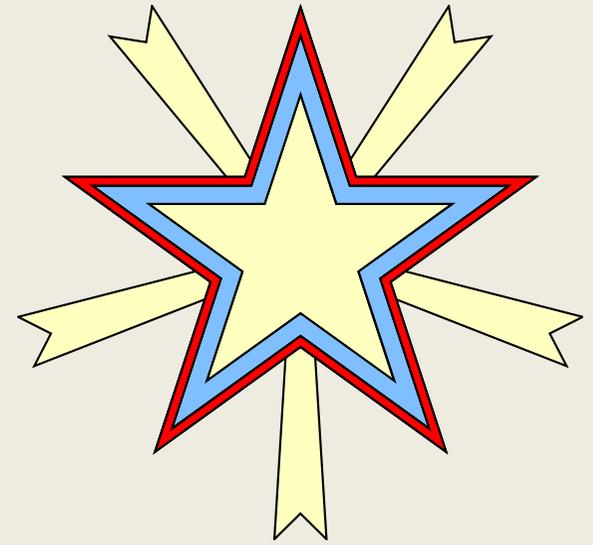




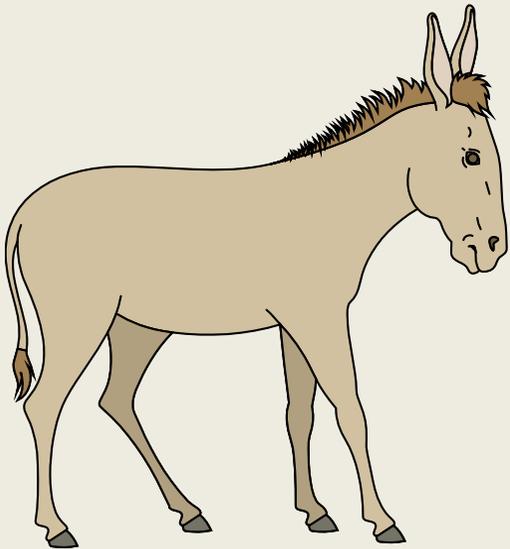
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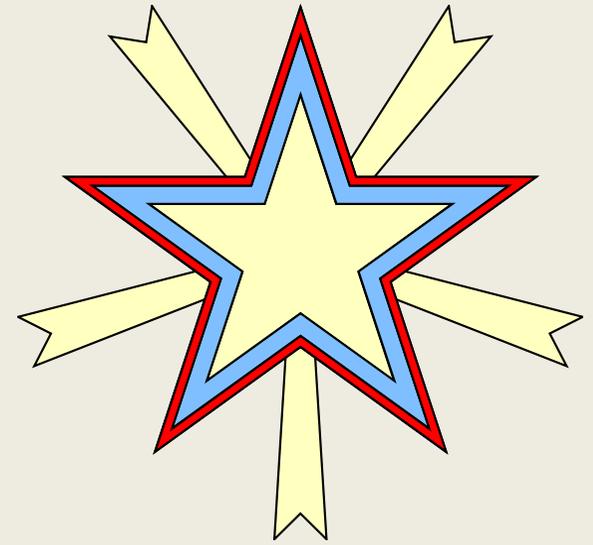




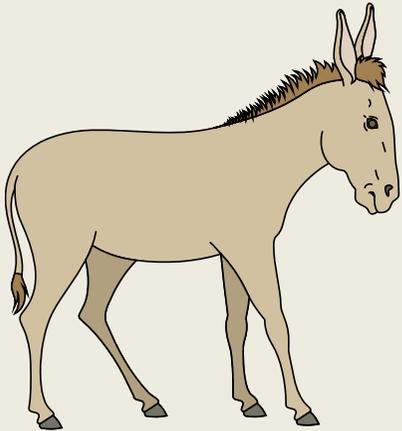
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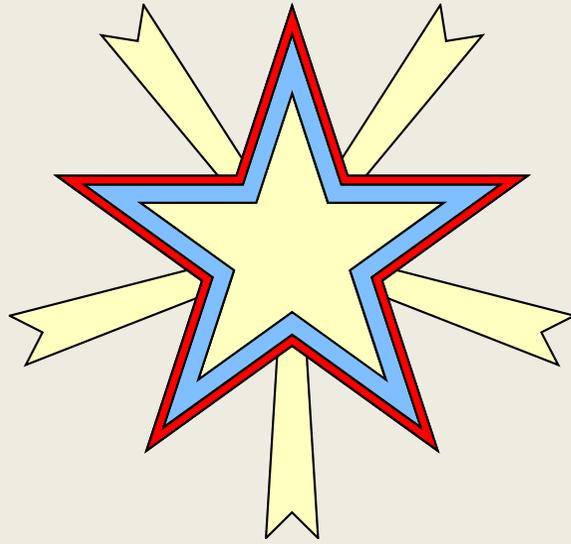




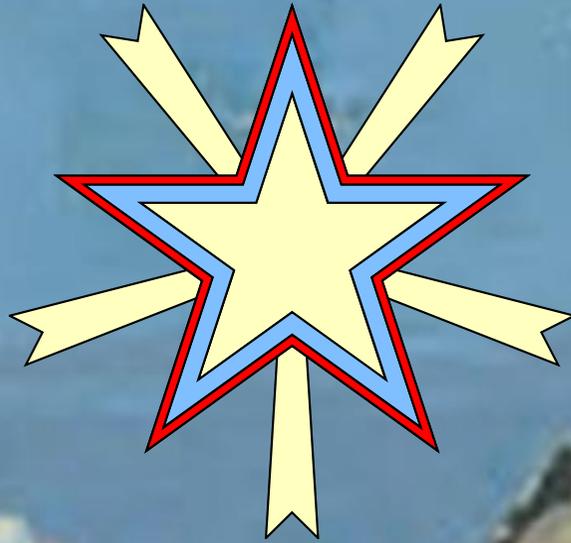


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Today's lesson teaches about a place far from Jerusalem where people watched for the signs of the birth of the Savior and saw a star.



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Show the Slides

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Discussion Questions

Nephi, the son of Helaman, gave the sacred records and scriptures to his oldest son, Nephi.





The Nephites saw great signs and miracles that prophets had said would happen before Jesus Christ's birth.

But some Nephites said the time for Jesus' birth had already passed.



They mocked those who still believed Samuel the Lamanite's prophecies.

The people who believed in Jesus Christ and in the prophets were sad to think that something might keep the prophecies from being fulfilled.



The people watched faithfully for a night with no darkness, which was the sign that Jesus Christ would be born.





Those who did not believe in Jesus Christ chose a day to kill the believers if the sign had not happened.



Nephi was sad because of the wickedness of those who did not believe in the Savior.

Nephi prayed all day for the people who were going to be killed.



The Lord comforted Nephi and told him that it would not get dark that night



**Jesus would be born the next day
in Bethlehem.**

That night the sun went down, but it did not get dark. The sign of Jesus Christ's birth had come. The people were astonished.





Those who had planned to kill the believers fell down and appeared to be dead.

**They were afraid
because they had
been wicked**



**Now they knew that the Savior would be born and
that the prophets had been right.**



It stayed light all night.

When the sun came up the next morning, the people knew that Jesus Christ would be born that day.

The prophecies had been fulfilled.

A new star appeared in the sky, just as the prophets had said it would.





Satan still tried to get people not to believe the signs they had seen, but most did believe.

Nephi and other Church leaders baptized all those who believed and repented.

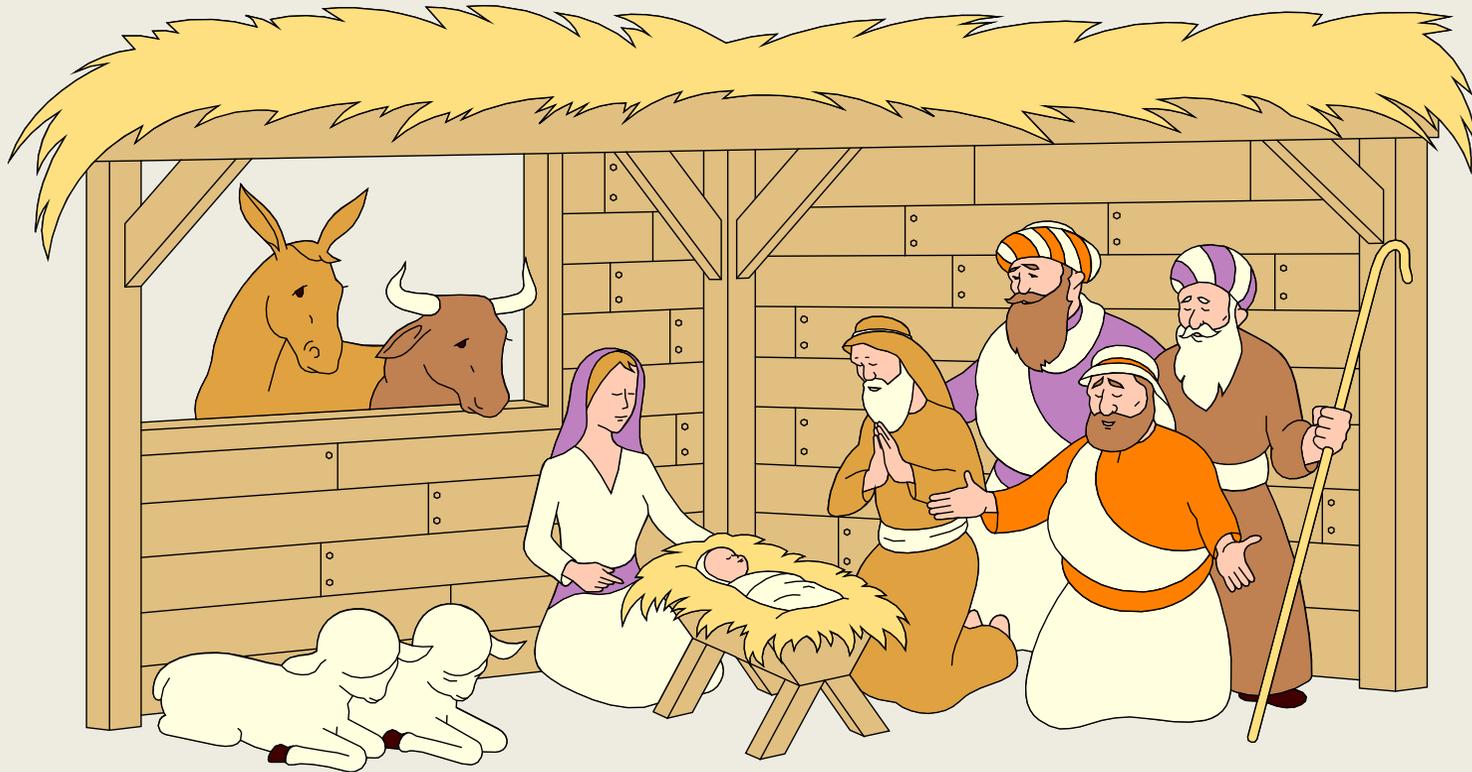


There were glad tidings in the land because the words of the prophets had been fulfilled.



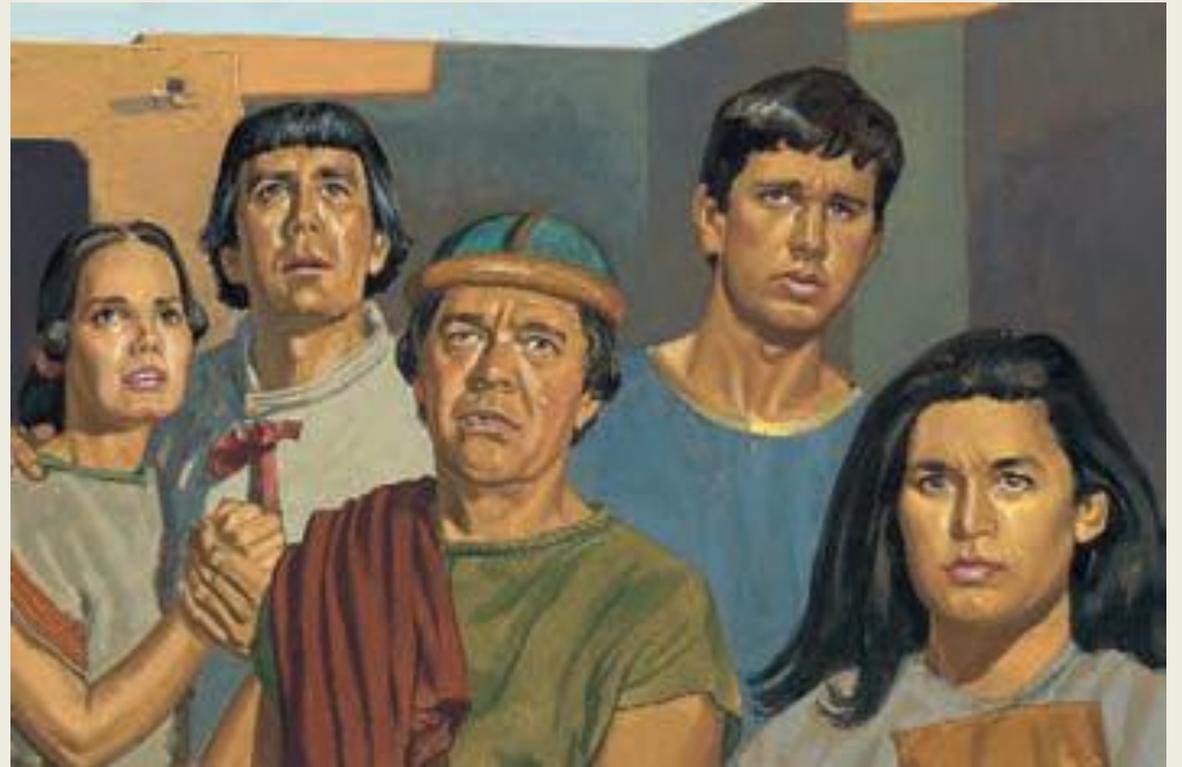
Jesus Christ had been born.

Jesus came into this world to “. . . Fulfil all things which I have made known unto the children of men from the ^cfoundation of the world, and to do the ^dwill, ^eboth ^fof the Father and of the Son—of the Father because of me, and of the Son because of my flesh. . . “ **(3 Nephi 1:14.)**



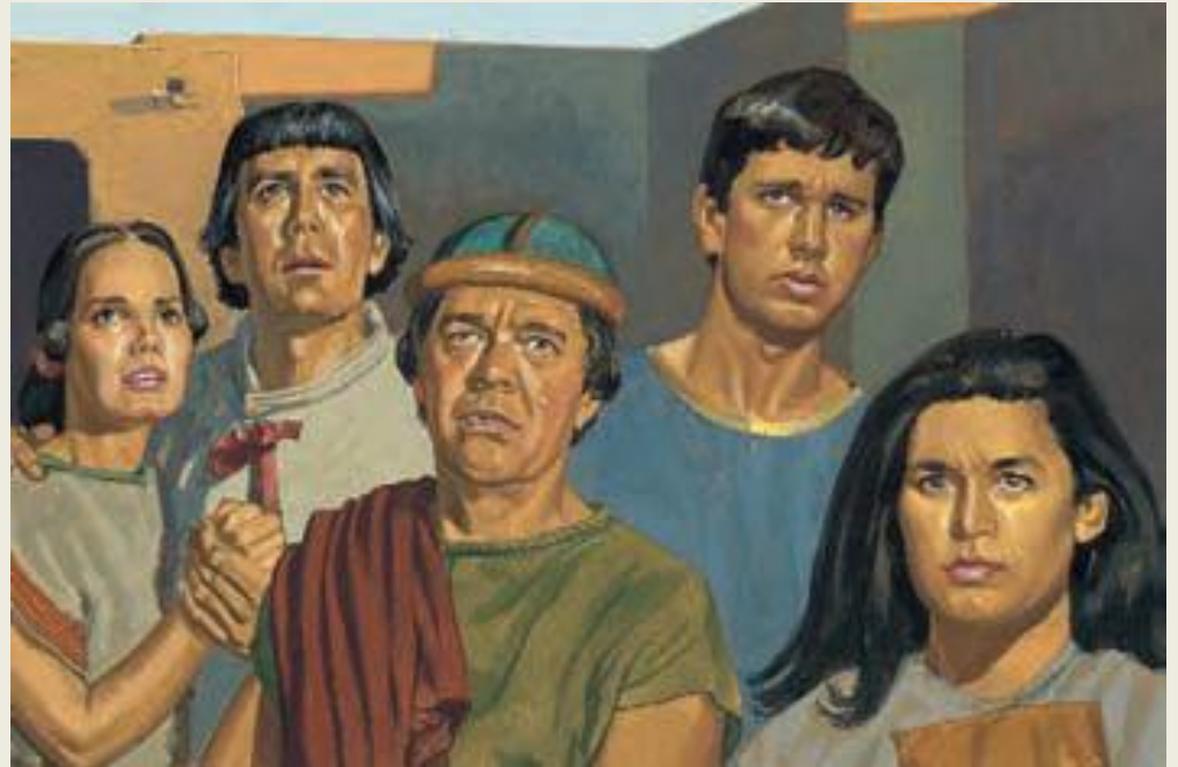
95 years had passed and the people began to forget the signs and wonders they had seen and heard about.

They began to be less and less astonished at the signs and wonders from heaven.



They started to be hard in their hearts and blind in their minds causing their disbelief of all these wonders.

Satan started to possess the hearts of the people again. He blinded their eyes and lead them away from Christ.



As time went by, people began to grow stronger in wickedness and abominations.

They did not believe there should be any more signs or wonders.

Satan worked to lead away the hearts of the people, tempting them and causing them that they would do wicked thing in the land.

The Lamanites who had converted to follow the Lord, united with the Nephites.

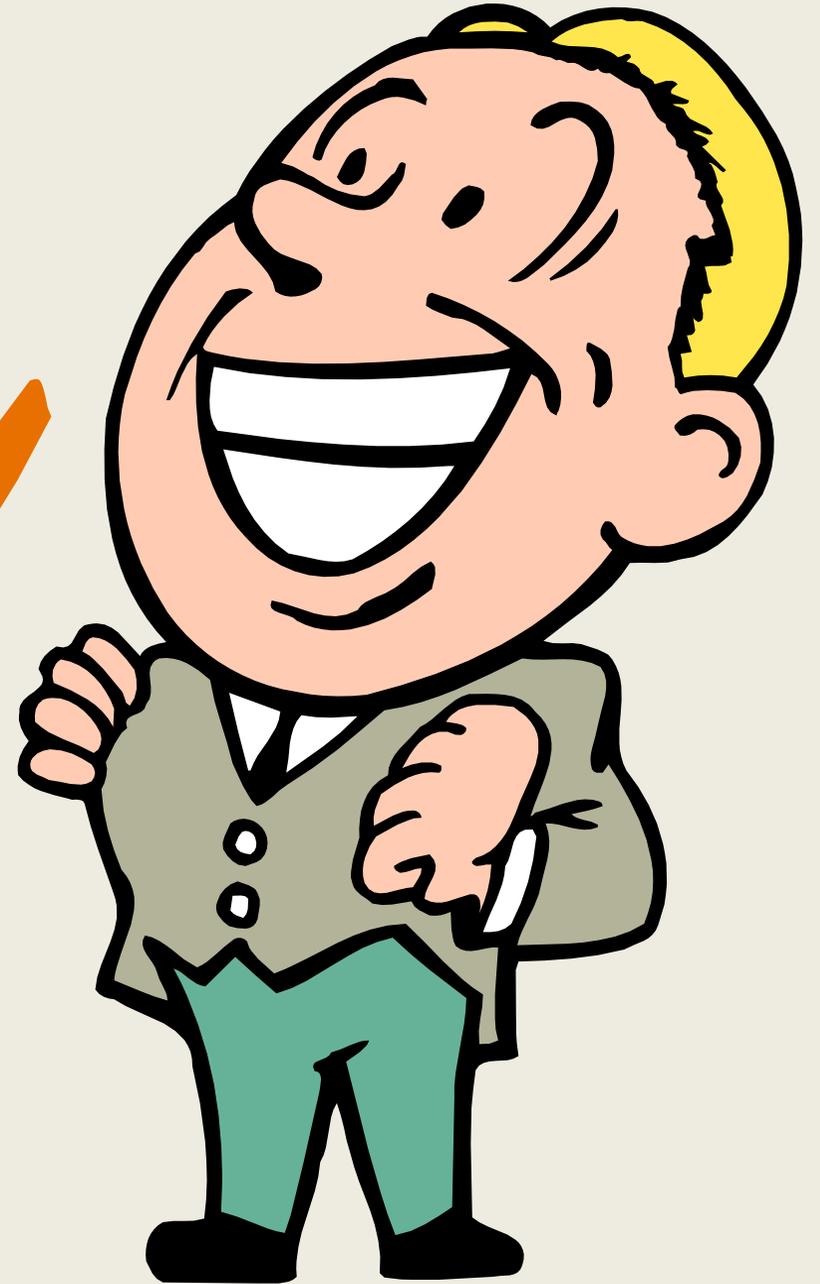
They were forced, for the safety of their lives and the lives of their families, to get weapons, to protect their rights, their religion, and their freedom & Liberty.

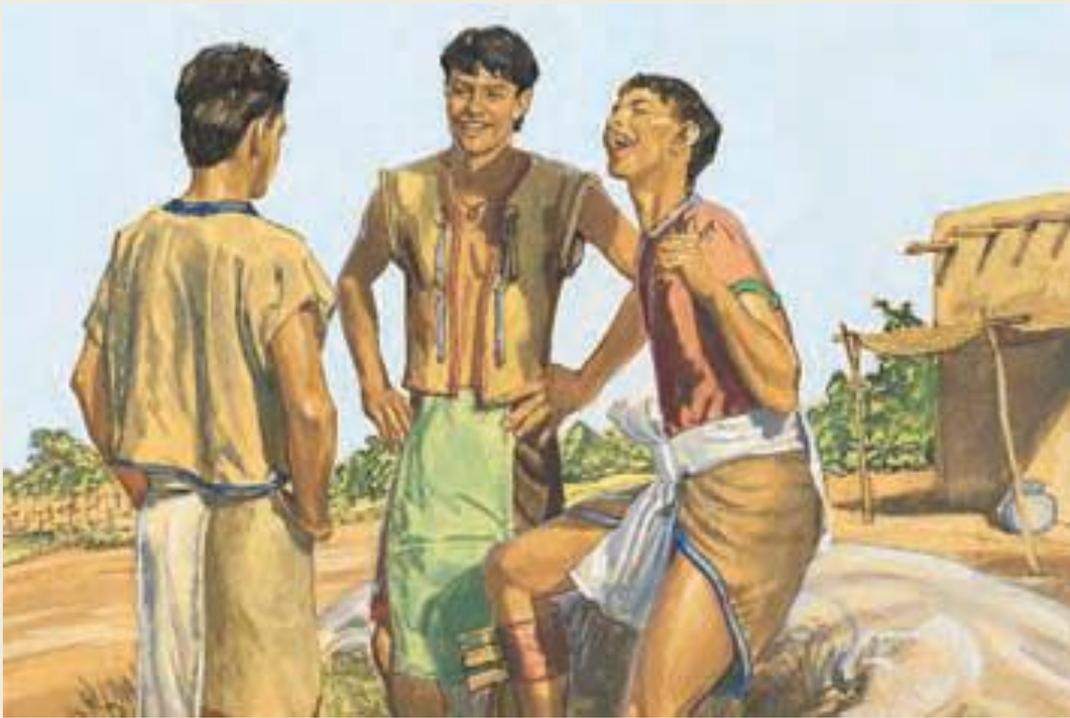
The people of Nephi had gained an advantage over evil.

A year later, the people of Nephi were conquered by evil,
because of the wickedness they had become.

This left the people of Nephi in a state of many afflictions, and
the sword of destruction was hanging over them, insomuch as
they were about to be struck down by it.

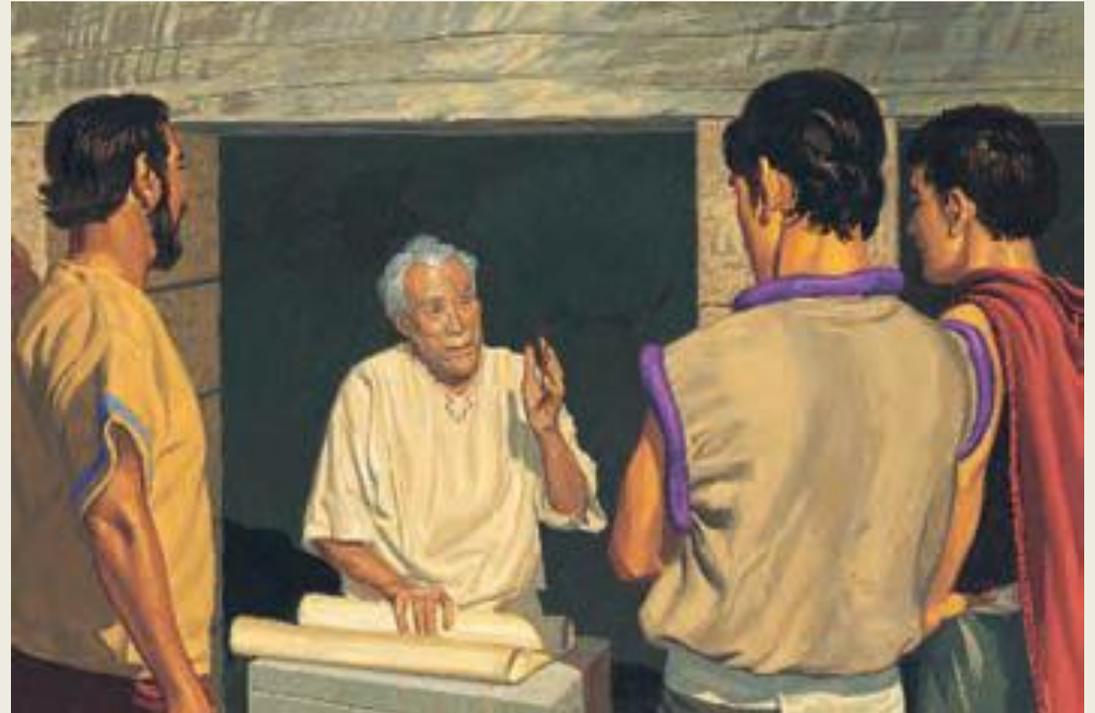
**Discussion
Time**





**What were some of the people saying about Samuel the Lamanite's prophecies?
([3 Nephi 1:5–6](#))**

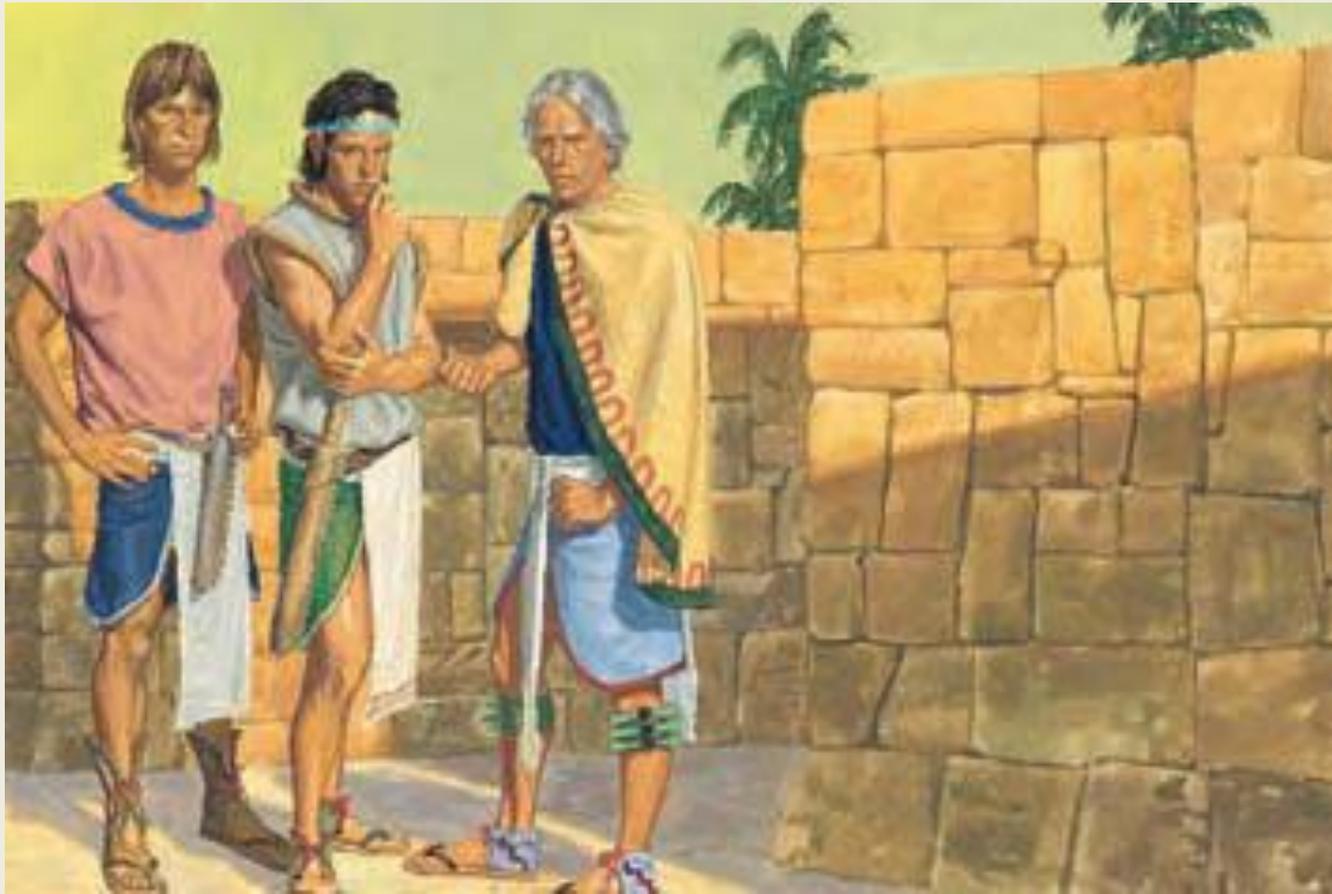
**How did the believers react to the unbelievers?
([3 Nephi 1:7.](#))**



What sign were they looking for? ([3 Nephi 1:8.](#))



What does their steadfastness teach us about their faith?



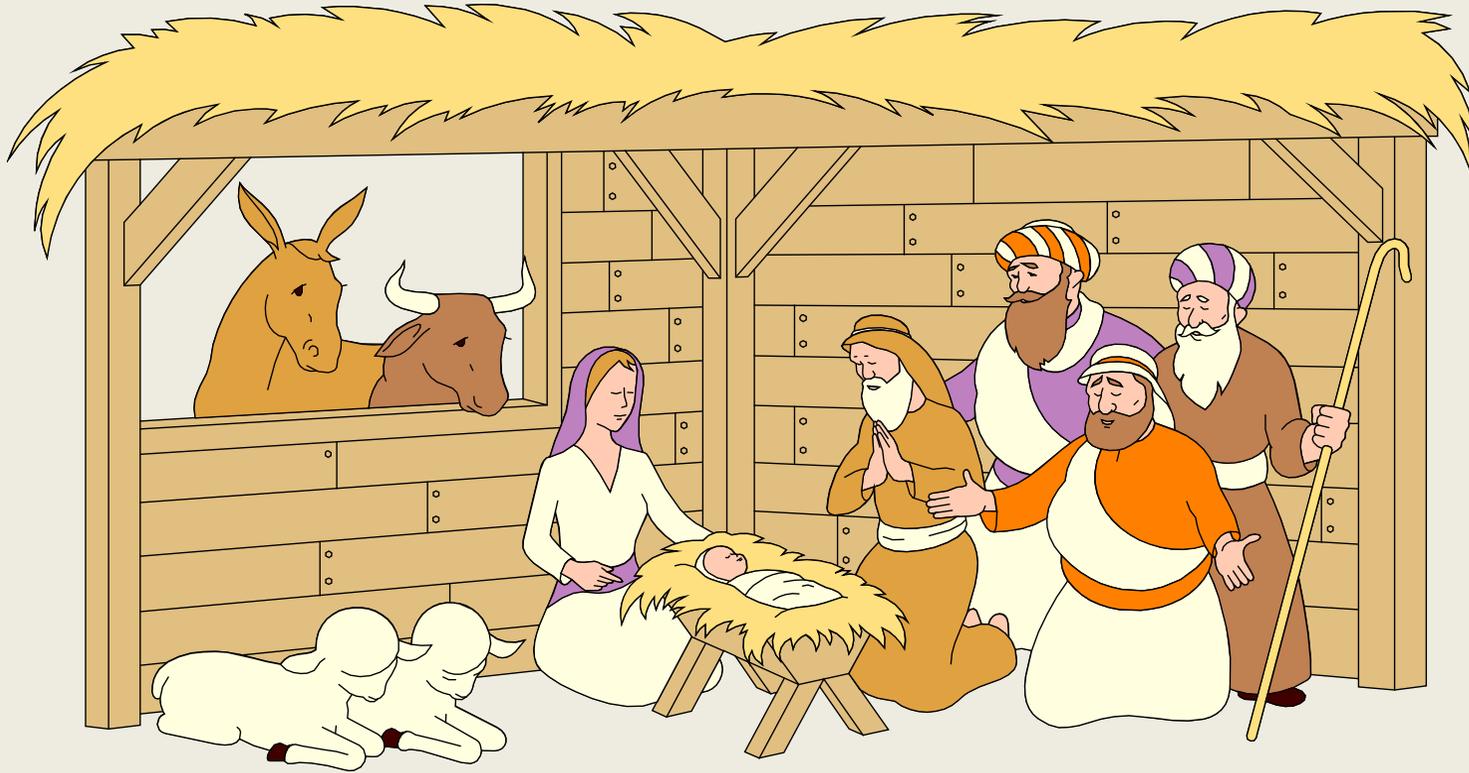
**What threat did the unbelievers make to those who believed?
([3 Nephi 1:9.](#))**

Why do you think some people get angry with those who believe in God?

•What did Nephi do when he saw the wickedness of the people? (3 Nephi 1:12.)



What was the answer to Nephi's prayer?
(3 Nephi 1:13–14.)



**Why did Jesus Christ say he was coming into the world?
([3 Nephi 1:14.](#))**

How was the prophecy fulfilled? ([3 Nephi 1:15, 19.](#))



Why were the unbelievers so afraid when they saw the signs that the prophecy was fulfilled? ([3 Nephi 1:18.](#))



How would you have felt if you had been there?

**What sign did the Nephites
see that was also seen in
Bethlehem?
([3 Nephi 1:21.](#))**



What did Satan do to try to keep the people from believing the signs? ([3 Nephi 1:22.](#))



**How did the people
show their belief in
the Lord?**

(3 Nephi 1:22–23.)



**How did the people
show their belief in
the Lord?**

(3 Nephi 1:22–23.)

What happened that caused the people's faith and righteousness to decrease? ([3 Nephi 1:29–30](#).)

Why is it important to follow the righteous example and teachings of our parents?

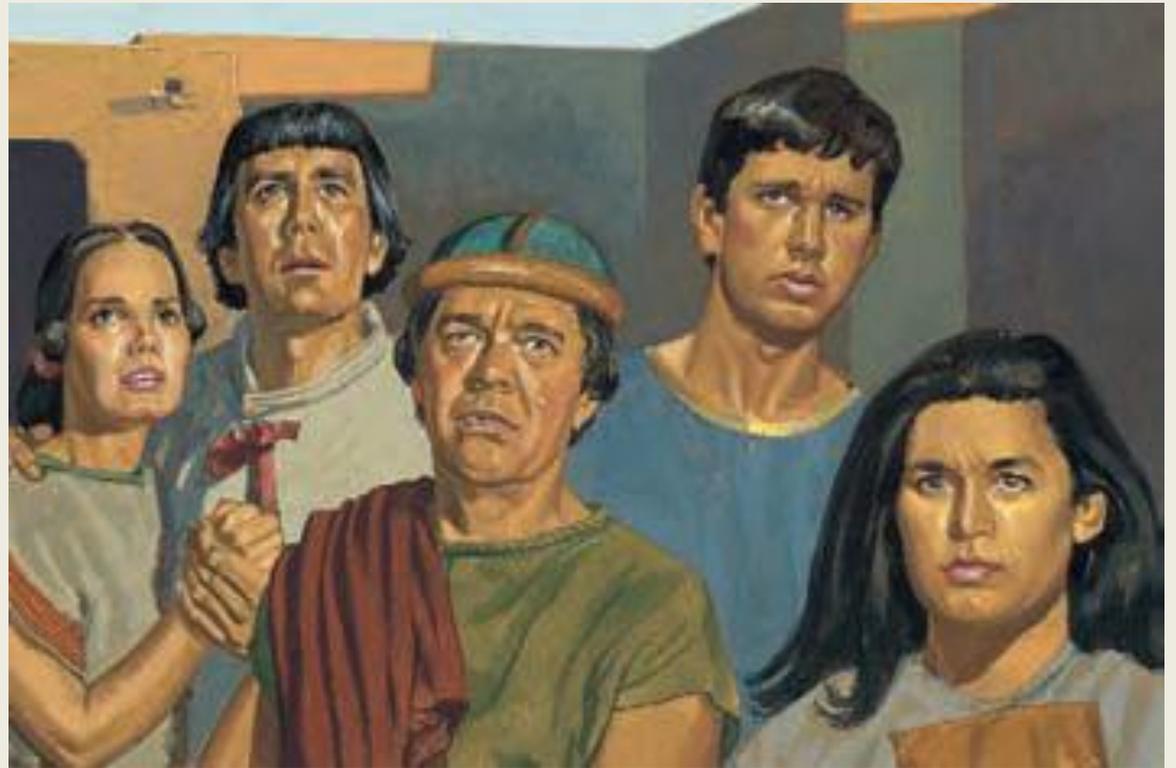
How have you been blessed by obeying your parents?



What was the attitude of the people toward the many signs they saw? ([3 Nephi 2:1–2.](#))

What can we learn about the strength of testimonies that are based on signs?

What can we do to strengthen our testimonies?

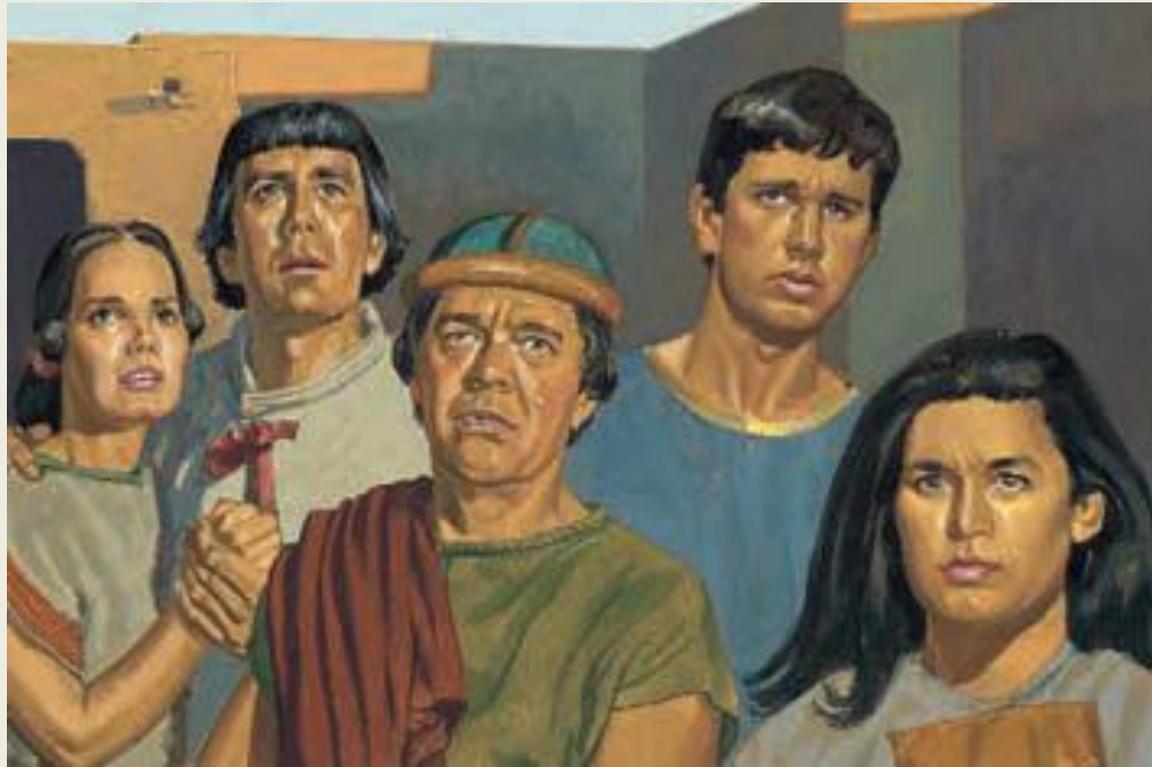


**What were the results of the Nephites' unbelief?
([3 Nephi 2:3, 11.](#))**

**What did the righteous Nephites and Lamanites
do to protect themselves? ([3 Nephi 2:12.](#))**

**How does being with other Church members and
worshiping Heavenly Father help us grow stronger?**

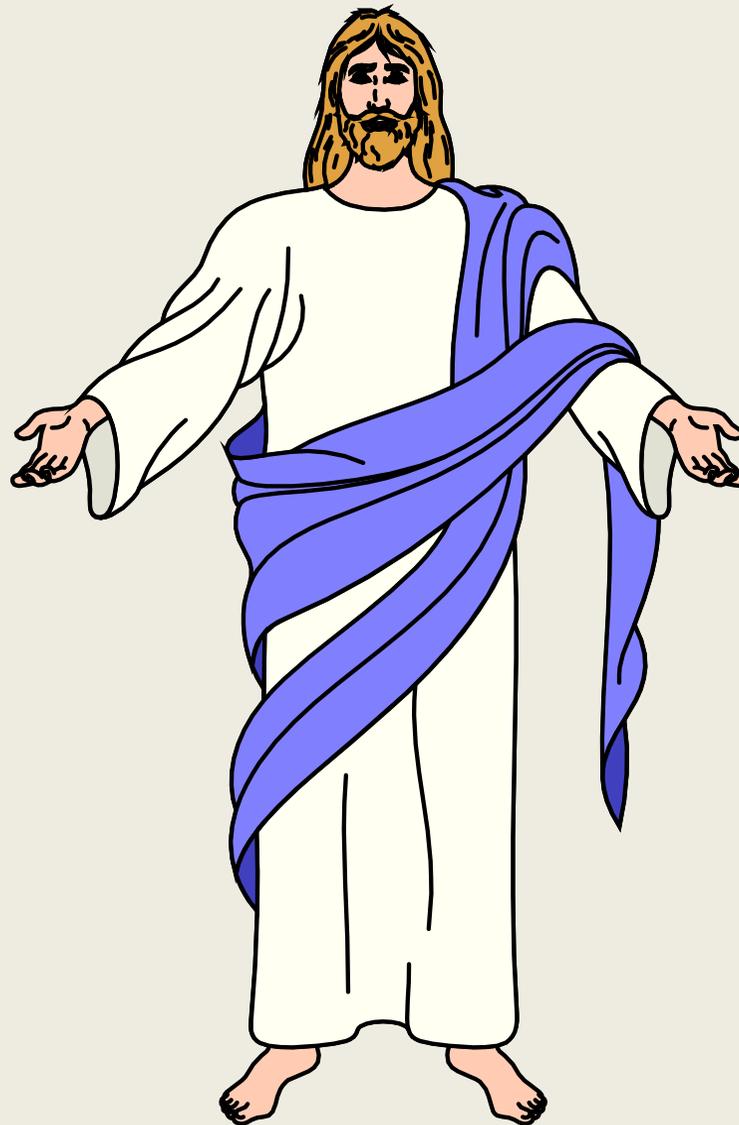
What finally happened to the people because of their wickedness? ([3 Nephi 2:17–19.](#))





How do you know that the prophecies of Jesus Christ's second coming will be fulfilled? ([3 Nephi 1:20](#).)

**What do you
think the world
will be like when
Jesus Christ
comes again?**



**What kind of a
person do you
want to be when
he comes?**

What can we do now to prepare for the Second Coming?



Enrichment Activities

Can you name any unfaithful people we learned about in past lessons who asked for or saw signs.

If you can't think of any, you can refer to the hints below

What effect did signs have on their testimonies.

Hint 1. ([1 Nephi 3:28–31](#))

[Answer 1](#)

Hint 2. ([Jacob 7:13–20](#))

[Answer 2.](#)

Hint 3. ([Alma 30:43–56](#))

[Answer 3.](#)

[Continue](#)

28 And it came to pass that Laman was angry with me, and also with my father; and also was Lemuel, for he hearkened unto the words of Laman. Wherefore Laman and Lemuel did speak many ^ahard words unto us, their younger brothers, and they did smite us even with a rod.

29 And it came to pass as they smote us with a rod, behold, an ^aangel of the Lord came and stood before them, and he spake unto them, saying: Why do ye smite your younger brother with a rod? Know ye not that the Lord hath chosen him to be a ^bruler over you, and this because of your iniquities? Behold ye shall go up to Jerusalem again, and the Lord will ^cdeliver Laban into your hands.

30 And after the ^aangel had spoken unto us, he departed.

31 And after the angel had departed, Laman and Lemuel again began to ^amurmur, saying: How is it possible that the Lord will deliver Laban into our hands? Behold, he is a mighty man, and he can command fifty, yea, even he can slay fifty; then why not us?



An angel appeared and told **Laman and Lemuel** to stop. He said the Lord would help them get the plates. He also said Nephi would become a leader over his brothers.

13 And it came to pass that he said unto me: Show me a ^asign by this power of the Holy Ghost, in the which ye know so much.

14 And I said unto him: What am I that I should ^atempt God to show unto thee a sign in the thing which thou knowest to be ^btrue? Yet thou wilt deny it, because thou art of the ^cdevil. Nevertheless, not my will be done; but if God shall smite thee, let that be a ^dsign unto thee that he has power, both in heaven and in earth; and also, that Christ shall come. And thy will, O Lord, be done, and not mine.

15 And it came to pass that when I, Jacob, had spoken these words, the power of the Lord came upon him, insomuch that he fell to the earth. And it came to pass that he was nourished for the space of many days.

16 And it came to pass that he said unto the people: Gather together on the morrow, for I shall die; wherefore, I desire to speak unto the people before I shall die.

17 And it came to pass that on the morrow the multitude were gathered together; and he spake plainly unto them and denied the things which he had taught them, and confessed the Christ, and the power of the Holy Ghost, and the ministering of angels.

18 And he spake plainly unto them, that he had been ^adeceived by the power of the ^bdevil. And he spake of hell, and of ^ceternity, and of eternal ^dpunishment.

19 And he said: I ^afear lest I have committed the ^bunpardonable sin, for I have lied unto God; for I denied the Christ, and said that I believed the scriptures; and they truly testify of him. And because I have thus lied unto God I greatly fear lest my case shall be ^cawful; but I confess unto God.

20 And it came to pass that when he had said these words he could say no more, and he ^agave up the ^bghost.



Sherem asked to see a sign. He wanted Jacob to prove there is a God. He wanted to see a miracle.

43 And now Korihor said unto Alma: If thou wilt show me a ^asign, that I may be convinced that there is a God, yea, show unto me that he hath power, and then will I be convinced of the truth of thy words.

44 But Alma said unto him: Thou hast had signs enough; will ye tempt your God? Will ye say, Show unto me a sign, when ye have the testimony of ^aall these thy brethren, and also all the holy prophets? The scriptures are laid before thee, yea, and all things denote there is a God; yea, even the ^bearth, and ^call things that are upon the face of it, yea, and its ^dmotion, yea, and also all the ^eplanets which move in their regular form do witness that there is a Supreme Creator.

45 And yet do ye go about, leading away the hearts of this people, testifying unto them there is no God? And yet will ye deny against all these ^awitnesses? And he said: Yea, I will deny, except ye shall show me a sign.

46 And now it came to pass that Alma said unto him: Behold, I am grieved because of the hardness of your heart, yea, that ye will still resist the spirit of the truth, that thy soul may be destroyed.

47 But behold, it is ^abetter that thy soul should be ^blost than that thou shouldst be the means of bringing many souls down to destruction, by thy lying and by thy flattering words; therefore if thou shalt deny again, behold God shall smite thee, that thou shalt become dumb, that thou shalt never open thy mouth any more, that thou shalt not deceive this people any more.

48 Now Korihor said unto him: I do not deny the existence of a God, but I do not believe that there is a God; and I say also, that ye do not know that there is a God; and except ye show me a sign, I will not believe.

49 Now Alma said unto him: This will I give unto thee for a sign, that thou shalt be ^astruck dumb, according to my words; and I say, that in the name of God, ye shall be struck dumb, that ye shall no more have utterance.

50 Now when Alma had said these words, Korihor was struck dumb, that he could not have utterance, according to the words of Alma.

51 And now when the chief judge saw this, he put forth his hand and wrote unto Korihor, saying: Art thou convinced of the power of God? In whom did ye desire that Alma should show forth his sign? Would ye that he should afflict others, to show unto thee a sign? Behold, he has showed unto you a sign; and now will ye dispute more?

52 And Korihor put forth his hand and wrote, saying: I know that I am dumb, for I cannot speak; and I know that nothing save it were the ^apower of God could bring this upon me; yea, and I always ^bknew that there was a God.

53 But behold, the devil hath ^adeceived me; for he ^bappeared unto me in the ^cform of an angel, and said unto me: Go and reclaim this people, for they have all gone astray after an unknown God. And he said unto me: There is ^dno God; yea, and he taught me that which I should say. And I have taught his words; and I taught them because they were pleasing unto the ^ecarnal mind; and I taught them, even until I had much success, insomuch that I verily believed that they were true; and for this cause I withstood the truth, even until I have brought this great ^fcurse upon me.

54 Now when he had said this, he besought that Alma should pray unto God, that the ^acurse might be taken from him.

55 But Alma said unto him: If this curse should be taken from thee thou wouldst again lead away the hearts of this people; therefore, it shall be unto thee even as the Lord will.

56 And it came to pass that the curse was not taken off of Korihor; but he was ^acast out, and went about from house to house begging for his food.



Korihor wanted Alma to perform a miracle to prove there is a God. Korihor said he would believe in God if he saw a sign of God's power.

[Return](#)

Imagine if you can, that you are home teachers

Imagine how would you teach your families to stay strong in their testimony of Jesus.



Have you imagined this? (yes or no)

Who would like to volunteer to show us how you would do it?

Who can memories 3 Nephi 1:20?

**20 And it had come to pass,
yea, all things, every whit,
according to the words of the
prophets.**

How does this apply to our lives?

Let's memorize the tenth article of faith.

10 We believe in the literal ^agathering of Israel and in the restoration of the ^bTen Tribes; that ^cZion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will ^dreign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be ^erenewed and receive its ^fparadisiacal ^gglory.

Testimony

I want to bear my testimony that Heavenly Father will fulfill all the prophecies that have been made.

You need to live righteous lives, to be prepared to meet the Savior when he comes again.

Our closing Prayer will be given by

(Enter Name Here)



THE END

3 Nephi 1:5–6

- 5 But there were some who began to say that the time was past for the words to be fulfilled, which were ^aspoken by Samuel, the Lamanite.
- 6 And they began to ^arejoice over their brethren, saying: Behold the time is past, and the words of Samuel are not fulfilled; therefore, your joy and your faith concerning this thing hath been vain.

3 Nephi 1:7

- 7 And it came to pass that they did make a great uproar throughout the land; and the people who believed began to be very sorrowful, lest by any means those things which had been spoken might not come to pass.

3 Nephi 1:8

- 8 But behold, they did watch steadfastly for ^athat day and that night and that day which should be as one day as if there were no night, that they might know that their faith had not been vain.

3 Nephi 1:9

- 9 Now it came to pass that there was a day set apart by the ^aunbelievers, that all those who believed in those traditions should be ^bput to death except the ^csign should come to pass, which had been given by Samuel the prophet.

3 Nephi 1:12

- 12 And it came to pass that he cried mightily unto the Lord ^aall that day; and behold, the ^bvoice of the Lord came unto him, saying:

3 Nephi 1:13–14

- 13 Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the ^asign be given, and on the ^bmorrow come I into the world, to show unto the world that I will fulfil all that which I have caused to be ^cspoken by the mouth of my holy prophets.
- 14 Behold, I ^acome unto my own, to ^bfulfil all things which I have made known unto the children of men from the ^cfoundation of the world, and to do the ^dwill, ^eboth ^fof the Father and of the Son—of the Father because of me, and of the Son because of my flesh. And behold, the time is at hand, and this night shall the sign be given.

3 Nephi 1:14

- 14 Behold, I ^acome unto my own, to ^bfulfil all things which I have made known unto the children of men from the ^cfoundation of the world, and to do the ^dwill, ^eboth ^fof the Father and of the Son—of the Father because of me, and of the Son because of my flesh. And behold, the time is at hand, and this night shall the sign be given.

3 Nephi 1:15, 19

- 15 And it came to pass that the words which came unto Nephi were fulfilled, according as they had been spoken; for behold, at the going down of the ^asun there was ^bno darkness; and the people began to be astonished because there was no darkness when the night came.
- 19 And it came to pass that there was no darkness in all that night, but it was as light as though it was mid-day. And it came to pass that the sun did rise in the morning again, according to its proper order; and they knew that it was the day that the Lord should be ^aborn, because of the ^bsign which had been given.

3 Nephi 1:18

- 18 For they knew that the prophets had testified of these things for many years, and that the sign which had been given was already at hand; and they began to fear because of their iniquity and their unbelief.

3 Nephi 1:21

- 21 And it came to pass also that a new ^astar did appear, according to the word.

3 Nephi 1:22

- 22 And it came to pass that from this time forth there began to be ^alyings sent forth among the people, by Satan, to harden their hearts, to the intent that they might not believe in those ^bsigns and wonders which they had seen; but notwithstanding these lyings and deceivings the ^cmore part of the people did believe, and were converted unto the Lord.

3 Nephi 1:22–23

- 22 And it came to pass that from this time forth there began to be ^alyings sent forth among the people, by Satan, to harden their hearts, to the intent that they might not believe in those ^bsigns and wonders which they had seen; but notwithstanding these lyings and deceivings the ^cmore part of the people did believe, and were converted unto the Lord.
- 23 And it came to pass that Nephi went forth among the people, and also many others, baptizing unto repentance, in the which there was a great ^aremission of sins. And thus the people began again to have peace in the land.

3 Nephi 1:29–30

- 29 And there was also a cause of much sorrow among the Lamanites; for behold, they had many children who did grow up and began to wax strong in years, that they became for themselves, and were ^aled away by some who were ^bZoramites, by their lyings and their flattering words, to join those Gadianton robbers.
- 30 And thus were the Lamanites afflicted also, and began to decrease as to their faith and righteousness, because of the wickedness of the ^arising generation.

3 Nephi 2:1–2

- 1 AND it came to pass that thus passed away the ^{*}ninety and fifth year also, and the people began to forget those ^asigns and wonders which they had heard, and began to be less and less astonished at a sign or a wonder from heaven, insomuch that they began to be hard in their hearts, and blind in their minds, and began to disbelieve all which they had heard and seen—
- 2 ^aImagining up some vain thing in their hearts, that it was wrought by men and by the power of the devil, to lead away and ^bdeceive the hearts of the people; and thus did Satan get possession of the hearts of the people again, insomuch that he did blind their eyes and lead them away to believe that the doctrine of Christ was a ^cfoolish and a vain thing.

3 Nephi 2:3, 11

- 3 And it came to pass that the people began to wax strong in wickedness and abominations; and they did not believe that there should be any more signs or wonders given; and Satan did ^ago about, leading away the hearts of the people, tempting them and causing them that they should do great wickedness in the land.
- 11 And it came to pass in the ^{*}thirteenth year there began to be wars and contentions throughout all the land; for the ^aGadianton robbers had become so ^bnumerous, and did slay so many of the people, and did lay waste so many cities, and did spread so much death and carnage throughout the land, that it became expedient that all the people, both the Nephites and the Lamanites, should take up arms against them.

3 Nephi 2:12

- 12 Therefore, all the Lamanites who had become converted unto the Lord did unite with their brethren, the Nephites, and were compelled, for the ^asafety of their lives and their women and their children, to take up arms against those Gadianton robbers, yea, and also to maintain their rights, and the privileges of their church and of their worship, and their freedom and their ^bliberty.

3 Nephi 2:17–19

- 17 And it came to pass in the commencement of the fourteenth year, the war between the robbers and the people of Nephi did continue and did become exceedingly sore; nevertheless, the people of Nephi did gain some advantage of the robbers, insomuch that they did drive them back out of their lands into the mountains and into their secret places.
- 18 And thus ended the fourteenth year. And in the *fifteenth year they did come forth against the people of Nephi; and because of the wickedness of the people of Nephi, and their many contentions and dissensions, the Gadianton robbers did gain many advantages over them.
- 19 And thus ended the fifteenth year, and thus were the people in a state of many afflictions; and the ^asword of destruction did hang over them, insomuch that they were about to be smitten down by it, and this because of their iniquity.

3 Nephi 1:20

- 20 And it had come to pass, yea, all things, every whit, according to the words of the prophets.

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