

Colbern Rd. Sunday School

September 15, 2019

The VISION and THE TESTIMONY

Colbern Road Class Notes at:

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What is this story???



#132753058



LEHI'S DREAM.....NEPHI'S VISION

Lehi's Dream (1 Nephi 2) and Nephi's Vision (1 Nephi 3) of the same is perhaps the most widely remembered story of the Book of Mormon.



Brothers ask:

“**What meaneth** the tree which he saw?” ([1 Nephi 4:36](#))



Nephi Explains

[1 Nephi 4:37](#) And I said unto them, It was a representation of the tree of life.

[1 Nephi 3:69](#) And I also beheld that the **tree of life was a representation of the love of God.**



Brothers ask:

“And they said unto me, What meaneth the rod of iron which our father saw, that led to the tree?”

[\(1 Nephi 4:38\)](#)



Nephi Explains

[1 Nephi 4:39-42](#) And I said unto them, that it was the word of God; and whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish; Neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary, overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction.

Yea, I did exhort them with all the energies of my soul, and with all the faculty which I possessed, that they would give heed to the word of God, and remember to keep his commandments always, in all things.



Lehi sees: A Mist of Darkness

1 Nephi 2:67

And it came to pass that there arose a **mist of darkness; yea, even an exceeding great mist of darkness,** insomuch that they who had commenced in the path did lose their way, that they wandered off and were lost.



Nephi Explains: A Mist of Darkness

[1 Nephi 3:125](#)

And **the mists of darkness are the temptations of the devil**, which blindeth the eyes, and hardeneth the hearts of the children of men, and leadeth them away into broad roads, that they may perish, and are lost;



Brothers ask:

“And they said unto me, What meaneth the river of water which our father saw?”

[\(1 Nephi 4:43\)](#)



Nephi Explains

1 Nephi 4:44-48 And I said unto them, that the water which my father saw, was filthiness;

And so much was his mind swallowed up in other things, that he beheld not the filthiness of the water;

And I said unto them, that it was an awful gulf, which separateth the wicked from the tree of life, and also from the saints of God.



Nephi Explains

1 Nephi 4:44-48

And I said unto them, that it was a representation of that awful hell, which the angel said unto me was prepared for the wicked.

And I said unto them that our father also saw, **that the justice of God did also divide the wicked from the righteous;**



BUT...Nephi ALSO Explains

1 Nephi 3:68

And it came to pass that I beheld that the rod of iron, which my father had seen, was the word of God, which led to the fountain of living waters, or to the tree of life; which waters are a representation of the love of God;

The LOVE of God is God's MERCY.



Major Points are Always Remembered

Tree—best fruit ever.

Rod of Iron

Mist of Darkness

River of Water (Lehi)

Great Spacious Building

Multitudes either hold on or are lost.

BUT WHAT DO THEY REALLY MEAN??



Question: Were Lehi and Nephi's Vision the same vision?



The Messenger Asks Nephi a question...

Messenger to Nephi: “What’s on you mind, bud?”

Nephi: “..I want to see what my Father saw.....
...and want to know the Interpretation”

(1 Nephi 3:48 And he said unto me, What desirest thou?
49 And I said unto him, To know the interpretation
thereof)



Nephi is about to get the 3D- IMAX version of Lehi's Dream...

But there is more.....



Here is the KEY POINT

Nephi is TOLD BY THE
MESSENGER to TESTIFY
of Something.

What is it?

The Rod of Iron?

The Tree? The Building?

The Filthy water?



Here is the KEY POINT

1 Nephi 3:44-45

And blessed art thou, Nephi, because thou believest in the Son of the most high God; wherefore, thou shalt behold the things which thou hast desired.

45 And behold, this thing shall be given unto thee for a sign, that after thou hast beheld the tree which bore the fruit which thy father tasted, thou shalt also behold a man descending out of heaven; and him shall ye witness; and after ye have witnessed him, ye shall bear record that it is the Son of God.

Here is the KEY POINT

Nephi is TOLD BY THE MESSENGER to TESTIFY of

.....JESUS CHRIST.

Everything NEPHI is SHOWN is NOW
COMPARED BACK TO THE SAVIOR!

Messenger Asks Nephi:

“Knowest Thou The Condescension of GOD?”

Everything is compared back to JESUS

His CONDESCENSION

He is shown the Savior's birth into OUR world of sin.

The LAMB of God is The Eternal Father (3:62).

THIS IS GRACE.

Now Messenger Asks: "Do You Understand the Tree??"

Everything is compared back to JESUS

His MERCY

See's Jesus heal the multitudes.

Water of Life—A FOUNTAIN LEADING BACK TO THE TREE.

Tree of Life.

His MERCY

Everything is compared back to JESUS

He was JUDGED by His Creation, SLAIN for the world's sins.

3:86 And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me again, saying, Look! And I looked and beheld the Lamb of God, that he was taken by the people; yea, the Everlasting God was judged of the world; and I saw and bear record.

3:87 And I, Nephi, saw that he was lifted up upon the cross, and slain for the sins of the world.

Everything is compared back to JESUS

He Sees the WORLD REJECT the Savior for PRIDE.

3:93 And it came to pass that I saw and bear record, that the great and spacious building was the pride of the world;

3:94 And it fell; and the fall thereof was exceeding great

'Book of Mormon 101' Questions

Q. How many Trees are available at the end of the Rod of Iron?

A. One.

Q. The Tree and the Good Fountain of Living Water leading to the Tree represent what?

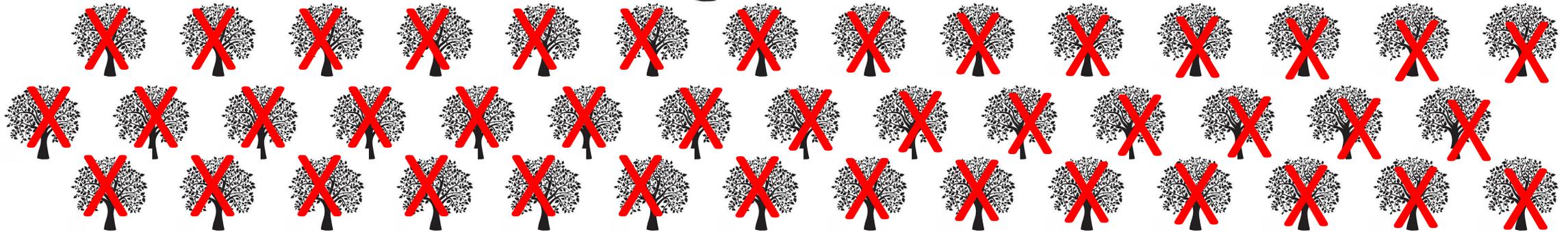
A. The Love, the Mercy of God. But WHAT IS THAT MERCY?

BUT.....

What IF I TOLD THE STORY LIKE THIS....?



ANSWER..we would NEVER tell it like that....
...then WHY do we TELL a similar version in the
Restoration???



QUESTION:

SO...WHERE DOES THIS SCRIPTURE COME FROM?

(i.e. What is its context?)

[1 Nephi 4:61](#)

Wherefore,

the **final state of the souls of men**

is to **dwell in the kingdom of God,**

or to be cast out because of that justice of which I have spoken;

ANSWER:

Nephi's Explanation of the Tree of Life Vision.

1 Nephi 4:61

Wherefore,

the **final state of the souls of men**

is to **dwell in the kingdom of God,**

or to be cast out because of that justice of which I have spoken;

Helaman 2:25-26

Thus we may see that the Lord is merciful unto

all who will in the sincerity of their hearts,

call upon his holy name;

yea, thus we see that the gate of heaven is open unto all,

even to those who will believe on the name of Jesus Christ,

who is the Son of God;

Helaman 2:25-26

Yea, we see that whosoever will **lay hold** upon the **word** of God which is quick and powerful,

which shall divide asunder all the cunning, and the snares, and the wiles of the devil,

and lead the man of Christ in a strait and narrow course across that everlasting gulf of misery which is prepared to engulf the wicked,

Helaman 2:25-26

...and land their souls, yea, their immortal souls,
at the right hand of God, in the kingdom of heaven,
to sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and with Jacob,
and with all our holy fathers,
to go no more out.

Everything is compared back to JESUS

He Sees Jesus' plan to RESTORE The world BACK to HIM,
beginning with a VISIT to JOSEPH's Remnant.

3:112 And I saw the heavens open, and the Lamb of God descending out of heaven; and he came down and shewed himself unto them.

Everything is compared back to JESUS

He Sees Joseph's Remnant in WHITE GARMENTS after Jesus blesses their society.

3:118 And the angel said unto me, Look! And I looked and beheld three generations pass away in righteousness, and their garments were white, even like unto the Lamb of God.

3:119 And the angel said unto me, These are made white in the blood of the Lamb, because of their faith in him.

Everything is compared back to JESUS

LEHI Sees the choices of Laman and Lemuel.

NEPHI is shown the CONSEQUENCE of their decision.

3:122 And the angel said unto me, Behold thy seed, and also the seed of thy brethren.

3:123 And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the people of my seed gathered together in multitudes against the seed of my brethren; and they were gathered together to battle.

3:124 And the angel spake unto me, saying, Behold the fountain of filthy water which thy father saw; yea, even the river of which he spake; and the depths thereof are the depths of hell;

Everything is compared back to JESUS

LEHI Sees the choices of Laman and Lemuel.

NEPHI is shown the CONSEQUENCE of their decision.

3:125 And the mists of darkness are the temptations of the devil, which blindeth the eyes, and hardeneth the hearts of the children of men, and leadeth them away into broad roads, that they may perish, and are lost;

3:126 And the large and spacious building which thy father saw is vain imaginations and the pride of the children of men.

Everything is compared back to JESUS

LEHI Sees the choices of Laman and Lemuel.

NEPHI is shown the CONSEQUENCE of their decision.

3:127 And a great and a terrible gulf divideth them; yea, even the word of the justice of the eternal God, and the Messiah who is the Lamb of God, of whom the Holy Ghost beareth record, from the beginning of the world until this time, and from this time henceforth and for ever.

3:128 And while the angel spake these words, I beheld and saw that the seed of my brethren did contend against my seed, according to the word of the angel;

3:129 And because of the pride of my seed, and the temptations of the devil, I beheld that the seed of my brethren did overpower the people of my seed.

Everything is compared back to JESUS

LEHI Sees the choices of Laman and Lemuel.

NEPHI is shown the CONSEQUENCE of their decision.

3:133 And the angel said unto me, Behold, these shall dwindle in unbelief.

3:134 And it came to pass that I beheld after they had dwindled in unbelief, they became a dark and loathsome, and a filthy people, full of idleness and all manner of abominations.

Everything is compared back to JESUS

NEPHI Sees JESUS PLAN to RECOVER THEM and ALL PEOPLE

3:135 And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me, saying, Look! And I looked and beheld many nations and kingdoms.

3:136 And the angel said unto me, What beholdest thou?

3:137 And I said, I behold many nations and kingdoms.

3:138 And he said unto me, These are the nations and kingdoms of the Gentiles.

Everything is compared back to JESUS

His JUSTICE

See's the gulf that separates the righteous from the wicked.

The SPIRITUAL DEATH, HELL, separating the RIGHTEOUS and the WICKED.

Everything is compared back to JESUS

The FILTHY WATER

The works of MAN which SEPARATE US if they are not washed clean.

Everything is compared back to JESUS

The ATONEMENT

See's the savior crucified by HIS OWN People.

The Infinite and Eternal Sacrifice.

Everything is compared back to JESUS

The TREE'S WHITENESS –EXCEEDING ALL WHITENESS

The Kingdom of GOD, where NO UNCLEAR THING can dwell.

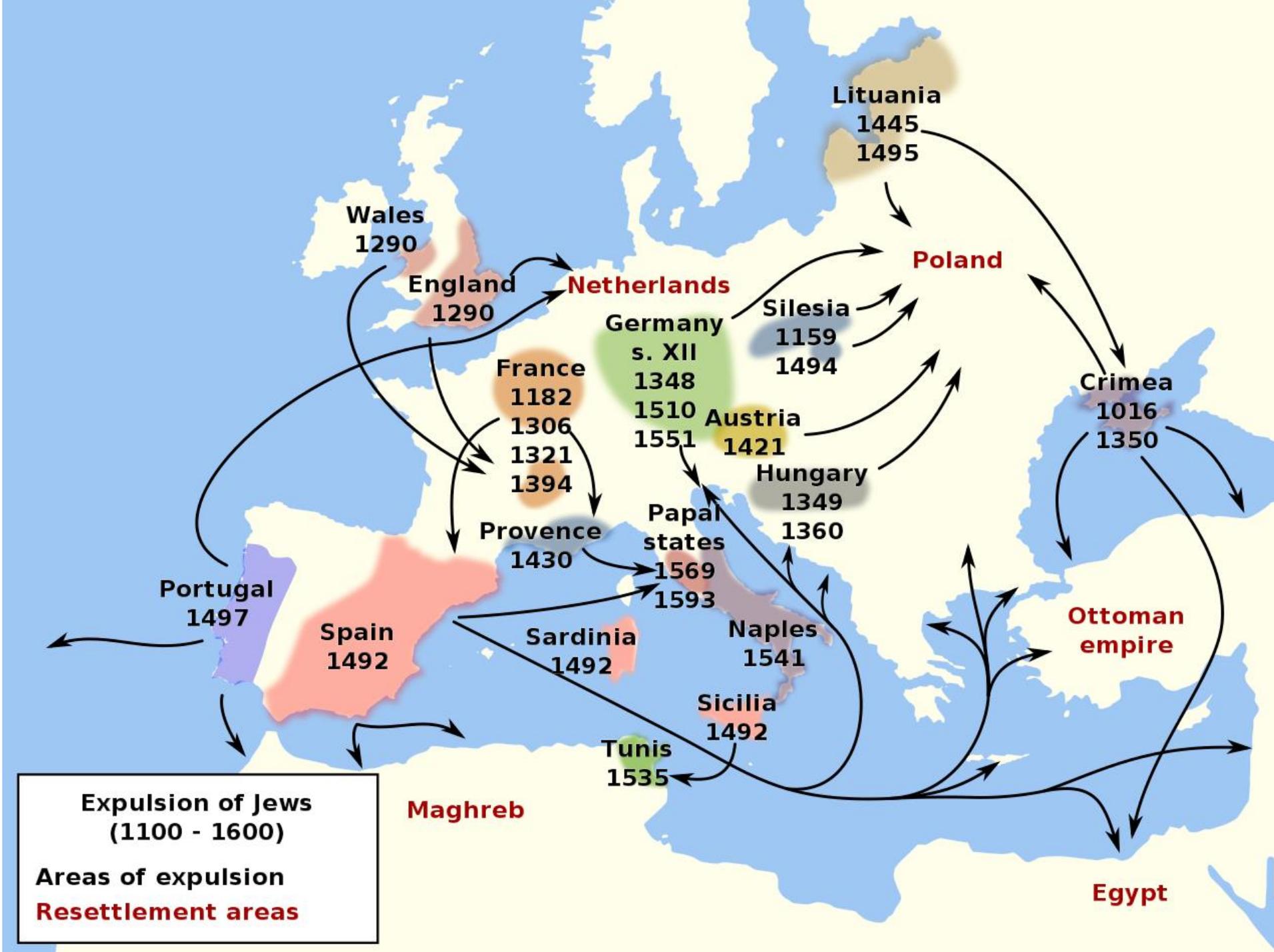
Everything is compared back to JESUS

The TREE'S WHITENESS –EXCEEDING ALL WHITENESS

The Kingdom of GOD, where NO UNCLEAR THING can dwell.

ONE KINGDOM, where SPIRITUALLY CLEANSED MAN RETURNS,

EXPERIENCING THE FULL LOVE AND PRESENCE OF THE FATHER.



Jews Expelled

- FRANCE – 12th-14th centuries
- HUNGARY- 1360
- AUSTRIA 1421
- SPAIN 1492
- SICILY 1493
- PORTUGAL 1496
- PAPAL STATES 1569
- VIENNA 1669
- HAITI 1683
- GERMANY/AUST 1740-90'S

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Who Ordered Expulsion?

- PHILLIP II
- LOUIS I
- ALBERT II
- FERDINAND/ISABELLA
- FERDINAND/ISABELLA
- MAXIMILLIAN I
- POPE PIUS V
- LEOPOLD 1, 'HOLY' ROMAN EMP.
- LOUIS XIV
- JOSEPH II, MARIA THERESA

Who was really behind this?

1 Nephi 3

137 And I said: "I behold many nations and kingdoms."

138 And he saith unto me: "These are the nations and kingdoms of the Gentiles."

139 And it came to pass that I saw among the nations of the Gentiles the formation of a great church;

140 And the angel said unto me: "Behold the formation of a church which is most abominable above all other churches, Which slayeth the saints of God, yea, and tortureth them, and bindeth them down, and yoketh them with a yoke of iron, and bringeth them down into captivity."

Who was really behind this?

1 Nephi 3

141 And it came to pass that I beheld this great and abominable church;
And I saw the devil, that he was the founder of it;

142 And I also saw gold and silver and silks and scarlets and fine-twined
linen and all manner of precious clothing; And I saw many harlots.

143 And the angel spake unto me, saying: "Behold, the gold and the silver
and the silks and the scarlets and the fine-twined linen and the precious
clothing and the harlots are the desires of this great and abominable
church;

144 And also for the praise of the world do they destroy the saints of God
and bring them down into captivity."

1939.....pre-WWII

Hitler's 'Concordat'

Signed with Catholic Church to Support.

At war outset, most Italians assumed national alliance would be with the western 'Allies.' Confused when the nation of Italy aligned with Third Reich.

WWII

Is it any wonder that Hitler aligned TEN NATIONS to the Third Reich that were also the SAME NATIONS as the ORIGINAL ROMAN EMPIRE?

The most Fateful Day in Jewish History... Tisha B'Av

On this day...

- First Temple built by King Solomon was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 587 BCE
- Second Temple built by Ezra and Nehemiah was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD
- Romans crushed Bar Kokhba's revolt, destroyed the city of Betar, killing 500,000 Jews
- Turnus Rufus plowed the site of the Temple in Jerusalem and the surrounding area, in 135 CE

The most Fateful Day in Jewish History... Tisha B'Av

On or Near this day...

- The First Crusade officially commenced on August 15, 1096 (Av 24, AM 4856), killing 10,000 Jews in its first month
- Jews were expelled from England 1290
- Jews were expelled from France 1306
- Expelled from Spain 1492
- August 2, 1941 (Av 9, AM 5701), SS commander Heinrich Himmler formally announces "The Final Solution."
- Most religious communities use Tisha B'Av to mourn its 6,000,000 Jewish victims,

The most Fateful Day in Jewish History... Tisha B'Av

Largest Expulsion of Jews...and something else happens...

August, 1492. Over 200,000 Jews exiled by Edict from Ferdinand and Isabella.

Jews boarding ships at Port Palos de la Frontera.

Within the same 24 hours, from the same port.....

3 Boats...



3 Boats...

Columbus records.....“After the Spanish monarchs had expelled all the Jews from all their kingdoms and lands, they commissioned me to undertake the voyage to India with a equipped fleet.”

The scheduled date of sailing, August 2, was also the deadline for Jewish departure. Scores of vessels, with thousands of Jews packed into their holds, congested Palos de la Frontera, the maritime inlet of the Gulf of Cadiz.

Here, too, Columbus gathered his fleet of three little caravels.



3 Boats...

Within the same 24 hour period, the same harbour where Jews being exiled; Columbus sets sail.

...from The Light and The Glory

Most Americans are unaware that some of the Pilgrims and Puritans came to the new world as missionaries to bring the gospel to the unreached.

So also the story of Columbus taught in our schools has been warped to eliminate any understanding of the spiritual motivation that led him and others to risk everything for the sake of their mission.

...from The Light and The Glory

"At this time I have seen and put in study to look into all the Scriptures which the Lord has opened to my understanding.

"It was the Lord who put into my mind (I could feel His hand upon me) the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies.

All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me.
There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit,
because He comforted me with rays of marvelous inspiration from the
Holy Scriptures...

...from The Light and The Glory

"I am a most unworthy sinner, but I have cried out to the Lord for grace and mercy, and they have covered me completely.

I have found the sweetest consolation since I made it my whole purpose to enjoy His marvelous presence.

For the execution of the journey to the Indies, I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics or maps. It is simply the fulfillment of what Isaiah had prophesied...

"The Lord made me a messenger of the new heavens and the new earth of which Isaiah speaks and St. John in the book of the Revelation. And He showed me the place where to find it..."

...from The Light and The Glory

"No one should fear to undertake any task in the name of our Saviour, if it is just and if the intention is purely for His holy service.

The working out of all things has been assigned to each person by our Lord, but it all happens according to His sovereign will, even though He gives advice.

He lacks nothing that is in the power of men to give Him. Oh, what a gracious Lord, who desires that people should perform for Him those things for which He holds Himself responsible!

Day and night, moment by moment, everyone should express their most devoted gratitude to Him."

...from The Light and The Glory

This was central to Columbus's view of himself.

In his journal he would quote passages from Isaiah that meant so much to him:

"Listen to me O coastlands, and hearken, you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name...I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth" Isaiah 49:1, 6.

...Columbus first landing

...Columbus then christened the island, "San Salvador" --Holy Savior-- and prayed:

"O Lord, Almighty and everlasting God, by Thy Holy Word Thou hast created the heaven, and the earth, and the sea; blessed and glorified be Thy Name, and praised be Thy Majesty, which hath deigned to use us, Thy humble servants, that Thy holy Name may be proclaimed in this second part of the earth."

Nephi Foretells in Vision...

1 Nephi 3

147 And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles which were separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters;

And I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man,

And he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren which were in the Promised Land.

Columbus

Would initiate western world exploration of the land of Joseph's inheritance, and the nation to whom Joseph's word would be restored, Eventually restoring the very exiled Jews back to the lands of their inheritance, and more importantly, back to the Savior, The Messiah, The Holy One of Israel. Jesus

Two Churches

How would God save people to his church and then re-classify them to a station in eternity away from him?

Zoramite Doctrine

Alma 16

91 Holy God, we believe that thou hast separated us from our brethren; and we do not believe in the tradition of our brethren, which was handed down to them by the childishness of their fathers; but we believe that thou hast elected us to be thy holy children;

92 And also thou hast made it known unto us that there shall be no Christ; but thou are the same, yesterday, to-day, and for ever; and thou hast elected us, that we shall be saved, whilst all around us are elected to be cast by thy wrath down to hell; for the which holiness, O God, we thank thee;

...94 And again we thank thee, O God, that we are a chosen and a holy people. Amen.

Two Churches

Notice the (prophetic resurgence) of the source of evil fighting against God's people, against Zion.

Who does Nephi describe in the vision? The SAME whore of all the earth.

But now, ALL people of the world are either aligned with one or the other.

Two Churches

1 NEPHI 3

213 Therefore, wo, be unto the Gentiles, if it so be that they harden their hearts against the Lamb of God;

214 For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men;

215 A work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other;

Two Churches

1 NEPHI 3

216 Either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds, unto their being brought down into captivity and also unto destruction, both temporally and spiritually, according to the captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken.

217 And it came to pass that when the angel had spoken these words, he said unto me, Remember thou the covenants of the Father unto the house of Israel?

Two Churches

1 NEPHI 3

218 I said unto him, Yea.

219 And it came to pass that he said unto me, Look and behold that great and abominable church, which is the mother of abominations, whose founder is the devil.

220 And he said unto me, Behold, there are save two churches only:

Two Churches

1 NEPHI 3

221 The one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil;

222 Wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations;

223 And she is the whore of all the earth.

Two Churches

1 NEPHI 3

224 And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the whore of all the earth, and she sat upon many waters;

225 And she had dominion over all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues and people.

Two Churches

1 NEPHI 3

226 And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters;

227 Nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth;

228 And their dominions upon the face of the earth were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw.

Two Churches

1 NEPHI 3

229 And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations did gather together in multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to fight against the Lamb of God.

230 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth;

231 And they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory.

Two Churches

1 NEPHI 3

232 And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon the great and abominable church, insomuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth,

233 And as there began to be wars and rumors of wars among all the nations which belonged to the mother of abominations, the angel spake unto me, saying,

234 Behold, the wrath of God is upon the mother of harlots;

235 And behold, thou seest all these things;

236 And when the day cometh that the wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church of all the earth, whose founder is the devil,

Two Churches

1 NEPHI 3

237 Then at that day, the work of the Father shall commence, in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his covenants which he hath made to his people, who are of the house of Israel.

NEPHI EXPLAINS TO HIS BROTHERS IN THE SAME CONVERSATION.....REGATHERING.

The Love of God is manifest in

- Visiting Nephi's People in Person
- Witnessing to the Gentile Nations by the Power of the Holy Ghost
- Restoring Nephite (remnant) to a Knowledge of Him
- Establishing a Holy City as the beginning of the Great Regathering—the SECOND TIME the Lord 'SETS FORTH' his hand
- SEEKING HIS PEOPLE WITH A VENGEANCE.

NEPHI EXPLAINS TO HIS BROTHERS IN THE
SAME CONVERSATION.....REGATHERING.

IF the VERY people who crucified and rejected him have a GREAT
PROMISE to be FOUND by HIM,
to be PERSONALLY LOVED by HIM,
then how about anyone else who calls on HIM?