

Gospel Doctrine Sunday School

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Volume 4, Issue 2

Today's Word: smite

Jan. 13, 2008

Are You:

- Heeding the Words of the Current Prophet?
- Being Obedient to the Promptings of the Spirit?

Today's Scriptures

1 Nephi 1-7

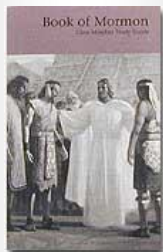
Next Week:

Lesson 3:

"The Vision of the Tree of Life"

1 Nephi 8-11; 12: 15;
16-18

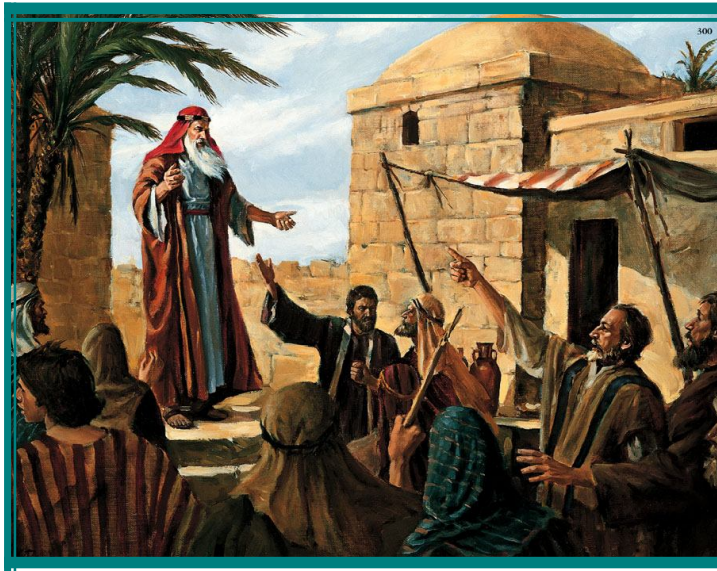
2008 Lessons on The Book of Mormon



If you do not have a Class Member Study Guide by Jan. 13, see Sister Austin.

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Lesson 2: "All Things According to His Will"



Lehi Prophesying to the People of Jerusalem

Questions to Ponder

- What sacrifices have you made to be obedient to the Lord?
- How have you been blessed as you have made such sacrifices?

Being Obedient is Difficult Even for Prophets

"Sometimes it is the very assignment we would avoid that gives us a great blessing.

"Years ago I was on a mission in England. I had been called to labor in the European Mission office in London under President Joseph F. Merrill of the Council of the Twelve, then president of the European Mission. One day three or four of the London papers carried reviews of a reprint of an old book, snide and ugly in tone, indicating that the book was a history of the Mormons. President Merrill said to me, 'I want you to go down to the publisher and protest this.' I looked at him and was about to say, 'Surely not me.' But I meekly said, 'Yes, sir.'

"I do not hesitate to say that I was frightened. I went to my room and felt something as I think Moses must have felt when the Lord asked him to go and see Pharaoh. I offered a prayer. My stomach was churning as I walked over to the Goadge Street station to get the underground train to Fleet Street. I found the office of the president and presented my card to the receptionist. She took it and went into the inner office and soon returned to say that the president was too busy to see me. I replied that I had come five thousand miles and that I would wait. During the next hour she made two or three trips to his office; then finally he invited me in. I shall never forget the picture when I entered. He was smoking a long cigar with a look that seemed to say, 'Don't bother me.'

"I held in my hand the reviews. I do not recall what I said after that. Another power seemed to be speaking through me. At first he was defensive and even belligerent. Then he began to soften. He concluded by promising to do something. Within an hour word went out to every book dealer in England to return the books to the publisher. At great expense he printed and tipped in the front of each volume a statement to the effect that the book was not to be considered as history, but only as fiction, and that no offense was intended against the respected Mormon people. Years later he granted another favor of substantial worth to the Church, and each year until the time of his death I received a Christmas card from him.

"I came to know that when we try in faith to walk in obedience to the requests of the priesthood, the Lord opens the way, even when there appears to be no way.

"I give you my testimony that the happiness of the Latter-day Saints, the peace of the Latter-day Saints, the progress of the Latter-day Saints, the prosperity of the Latter-day Saints, and the eternal salvation and exaltation of this people lie in walking in obedience to the counsels of the priesthood of God. We sing, "We thank thee, O God, for a prophet to guide us in these latter days" (*Hymns*, 1985, no. 19). Let us always follow that guidance" ("If Ye Be Willing and obedient," President Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, July 1995, 2).