

The Book of Mormon and Today's Church

Val Brinkerhoff 12/5/2019 – 8 pages

As each of us wake up, we stand at a fork in the road. Like nearly every major figure in scripture, we must then choose. It is a choice of **who to worship**. This is the battle that has been raging since the very beginning. Satan demanded that Christ worship him (Matt. 4:9). And he did the same with Moses (Moses 1:12). The evil one has been a liar since the very beginning. He has corrupted the pure gospel of the Father and Son continually throughout time, by mixing the things of the world with his form of worship. It has resulted in the religions of men. Cain and Able are two early examples souls who had to choose. Able chose to offer the sacrifice God desired, one patterned after the future atonement of His precious son – the Lamb. Cain chose to offer his own sacrifice in his own way. It featured the works of his hands in the fruits of the field.

Satan wants God's glory and power. The religions of men inspired by him, along with our own pride, have resulted in many forms of worship that replace the fruitful relationship we all can have with the living God. He simply wants our hearts, our love. Men and their systems want "gain" - money, conformity, the honors of men, and the things of the world. Nephi saw our day and how this war over "worship" would succeed in controlling men, mostly by deceiving them and making them slaves to his system – all for the sake of "gain" (1 Ne. 22:23). Satan hates the LORD Jesus and those following Him. He is jealous of Him and the true worship He received, based on the heart or real love. He has succeeded in separating Christ the LORD and His full saving truths from the lives of many good Christian people. The LORD said we cannot serve two masters (Matt. 6:24). Nephi added that there are "save two churches only" – the church of the Lamb and the church of the devil (1 Ne. 14:10). The LORD defines His church differently than do men. These differences are addressed hereafter.

Note the ten things below separating Alma's church of believers in the Book of Mormon with the church many of us have embraced today. Keep in mind that after hearing Abinadi's stirring truths, that Alma left the system put in place by King Noah and his priests. Unlike Noah's father and his pure beliefs, Noah's worship system featured many wives and concubines, building many elaborate buildings, and gainful employment (priestcraft). It meant a comfortable lifestyle for Alma and the priestly class. Alma wanted more, however, and left that lesser system for knowledge of Truth (Christ and His gospel) which came through the teachings of Abinadi.

Lehi and his family left Jerusalem just before it was destroyed because of great wickedness there. God brought them to this land that he might raise up a righteous branch of the house of Israel here. It resulted in the Book of Mormon, a record to God's promises made to many "fathers" (men who sought the LORD and found Him). Brigham Young and others twisted Jacobs words about "righteous seed" on this land to mean raising up many within polygamy. It was a lie based on "sealing" many wives to one man rather than King Benjamin's message of being "sealed" spiritually to Christ as the Father of our salvation in His atonement for us.

Note the differences left and right below, tied to the pure teachings of the Book of Mormon "fathers" and what has resulted 200 years latter. The Book of Mormon was written to the posterity of Lehi (through Joseph of Egypt) and to Jews and Gentiles on this land. The Latter-day Saints on this same Promised Land are "the Gentiles". We are in need of repentance, not some other people.

Book of Mormon Teachings

1. Focus on Christ as the living God, our Redeemer, the *only* name under heaven whereby man can be saved. He is the Word and said, "Repent and come unto me." He is "The Prophet" spoken of 7 times in 1 Nephi 22, "the Holy One of Israel" as addressed by Bible Prophets. His mission was to atone for our sins (see Isaiah 54).

2. King Benjamin, King Mosiah & Alma the High Priest over the whole church said leaders are not to be paid for their preaching, teaching, service, etc. Each worked for

Teachings of the LDS Church Today

Focus on the mortal Prophet, the Twelve & other Leaders who preach Christ and their words in the conference talks and speeches. Members are to look to and follow the Prophet, President of "the corporation sole" (the LDS church was incorporated 1923). This man's words trump the words of all dead prophets.

Salaries and perks are provided to the Church President, the Twelve, the Seventy, Mission Presidents, etc. The church has tax exempt status from the U.S. Federal

their own support. King Noah and His priests sought *the* lives of real prophets to protect their “gain.”

3. Salvation is free and of Christ alone. He is also our Creator, Redeemer, Judge, and King. We confess our sins to Him alone, as He alone paid for our sins with His blood. As Judge he determines whether we receive spiritual gifts, the fiery baptism, the Holy Ghost, Eternal Life, etc.

4. Baptize only the accountable (Mosiah 5 & 18 criteria), those with faith in Christ, those who truly repent, those who do His will, keep His commandments, bare the the burdens of others, and bare testimony of Christ in all places and times, with willingness to die for Him. Christ the LORD is the judge of one’s heart.

5. Seek to receive the Baptism of Fire & the Holy Ghost. One must be “born again” in this event to be saved or redeemed by God. Jesus said, “I will baptize you with fire and the the Holy Ghost (3 Ne. 12:1). It is oil in our lamps, the gift or “endowment of power from on high”, giving wise virgins discernment, judgment, guidance, and pure knowledge, including “mysteries” in scripture (JSH 1:74).

6. Polygamy is condemned in the Book of Mormon. The words against it include “wicked, iniquity, whoredoms, abomination, grosser crime” and “cursed”. The Prophet Joseph’s firstborn son, Joseph Smith III was responsible for working with the Federal Government to enact laws with Congressmen to stop the practice and clear his father’s name in connection with the “abomination.”

7. The Book of Mormon peoples used God’s calendar as they had the brass plates of Laban (early books of the Old Testament). After rejection of God on Sinai, the Israelites were given 3 things to help them return to the living God, including (1)the lesser law given Moses, (2) the physical Tabernacle, and (3) the calendar of holy days. All three things pointed to Christ and His future mission of redemption and were put in place to instruct the people on how to return to Him.

8. The Book of Mormon teaches us that works alone are “dead works” without the grace of Christ and His atonement for us. It is through Him and His precious blood that we are made whole (see 2 Ne. 25:23-27).

9. There is little mentioned in the Book of Mormon in reference to “temples”. Instead the focus is Jesus Christ and coming to Him for salvation. Alma the elder left the employ of King Noah who built many fine buildings with the heavy taxes he and his priests placed upon the backs of the people - to fund their buildings and lavish lifestyle. It included wives and concubines. The poor were robbed

Government & thus the church must not go against the law of the land (gay marriage in all states, etc.).

Men determine worthiness for baptism, missions, speaking, ability to go to a temple, forgiveness of sin, excommunication, and more. Full payment of tithes and offerings are part of all worthiness interviews, as is loyalty to leaders and the church.

We baptize children at age 8 after they agree to follow the mortal prophet, pay tithing, & attend meetings. The specific questions to ask them are found in *The Handbook of Instructions* (in possession of leaders only). Men determine worthiness to be baptized via a baptismal interview (by a missionary, Bishop, or other “leader”).

Men provide the ordinance of confirmation after baptism. Many today believe they receive the Holy Ghost then. No official teaching is provided thereafter on being “born again”. Members are taught that the “endowment of power” is a temple ceremony. Only full tithe payers can go to the temple via an interview with a leader who provides a “recommend.”

Polygamy was instituted as a doctrine for exaltation and practiced by mostly church leaders for 40 years under the direction of Brigham Young (the 2nd king or leader, see Jacob 1:15). Leaders were forced to abandon it in 1890. “Lies” and “deception” are the first two words used by the LORD to describe the sins of our day in eight different scriptures provided hereafter.

The 12 holy days (7 annual holy days, 3 Sabbaths, and 2 New Year’s days (Leviticus) were thrown out in the 4th Century by the Roman Emperor Constantine and replaced with new holidays, seen as less “Jewish”, when in fact they are less Christian (Christ-centered), as Pass-over is replaced with Easter, His birth with Christmas, and the true Sabbath on the 7th day (tied to His role as Creator) with Sunday (1st day). The “beast” changed the Bible calendar to lessen Christ (see Dan. 7:25).

Service in the Ward, the Temple, and in ministering will not save anyone. It is coming to know the LORD Jesus Christ through faith, repentance, and the two baptisms (water and fire). He brings salvation in them.

The house of the LORD at Kirtland was built that the Saints “tarry” there to receive “an endowment of power from on high” (the gift and power of the Holy ghost in connection with the baptism of fire). It was the same for the Saints in the New Testament (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5, 8; 2:1-4). Today focus in temples is the dead rather than coming to know the living God. It has

because of it, the people not taught redemption in Christ.

10. Book of Mormon prophets address the last-days take over by “secret combinations” better than any other book of scripture, some 84 references to them to get our attention. Their wickedness, secrecy, and blood oaths began with Satan and Cain. The “great and abominable church” has risen up, more powerful than ever.

become an effective distraction from our redemption.

Near the ancient New Year of 2019, all 15 leaders of the LDS church (1st Presidency & 12 Apostles) went to Rome to officially become one with the Jesuit Pope of the Roman Catholic church. President Nelson called him “his Holiness”. Only one is deserving of this name The LORD Jesus Christ. He alone atoned for our sins.

Lies and Deceptions The Book of Mormon was written for the posterity of Joseph of Egypt through Lehi on the Promise Land, along with Jews and Gentiles who will believe its message. Informed wise virgins stand at the crossroads of two choices. Who will we worship?

Who you believe today determines what you believe. I believe God and His precious word in scripture and in answer to prayer, rather than crafty men. The Book of Mormon is an inspired, amazing book, focusing on Christ and His saving truths, along with its opposite - the secret combinations of today that corrupt, pollute, and deceive for the sake of “gain” (1 Ne. 22:23). I believe the Old and the New Testaments have amazing truths for us, but it is the Book of Mormon that restores many of the “plain and precious things” taken from the Bible, things removed by evil and designing men that want to control us for gain today - just like in Book of Mormon times.

The great war over worship that started in heaven continues on the earth today. Satan and those working with him seek to diminish Christ in every way and weaken His gospel of salvation. They want you ignorant and unsaved. Four very effective tools used by them to weaken pure Christianity includes; (1) deception, (2) distraction, (3) division, and (4) depression. The most effective of these is the first one – **lies**. They lead to widespread *deception* and then the other three things. The evil one was a liar from the beginning – because lies work very well, when undiscovered (John 8:44). This is very apparent today in the **lies** spewed out by those fighting light and truth, a battle for the hearts of men.

In addition to the Holy Ghost given to *wise* virgins (as “oil” in their lamps) by God when they baptized by our LORD in His fiery Spirit (3 Ne. 12:1 – being “born again” or “the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost”), God also provides the *wise* and *humble* a number of scriptures to instruct us. Each lists “**lies**” *first* followed by “**deception**” *second* - in addressing the sins of our day. Three of them are from the Book of Mormon. This is a significant clue to how the wicked and the secretive among us control the masses for “gain” (1 Nephi 22:23). The order of these first two words is provided to help “**awaken**” more people to our “*awful situation*” and how they maintain power in various organizations including governments, schools, *and* churches. It is the way of Satan and those in “the order of Mahan” (Moses 5). I recommend watching the following video while it is still available (an even better one was removed by anti-Christan controllers at YouTube on 9/13/2019. It was entitled, *Yabushua Vs. Pope Francis: Who Are You Going to Believe?* See <https://www.worldslastchance.com/videos#play2566>

When Jesus spoke to His most trusted disciples about our day - the last-days, the first thing He said was:

“Take heed that no man deceive you” (Matthew 24:4).

Lies and **deception** are powerful tools to keep us enslaved to those in power. It is easy to control us when we are ignorant of the truth. In the following eight additional scriptures, note how **the LORD** lists “**lies**” and then “**deceptions**” *first* and *second* prior to all other sins in our day. They are apparent in governments, media, schools, *and* churches.

1. And he became Satan, yea even the devil, the father of all **lies**, to **deceive**, and to *blind men*, and to *lead them captive* at his will, even as many as would *not* hearken unto my voice” (Moses 4:4; JST Gen. 3:4-5).

2. “And thus commandeth the Father that **I** should say unto **you**: At that day *when* the Gentiles shall sin against **my gospel**, and shall **reject** *the fullness of my gospel*, and shall be *lifted up* in the **pride** of their *hearts* above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of **lyings**, and of **deceits**, and of *mischiefs*, and all manner of *hypocrisy*, and *murders*, and *priestcrafts*, and *whoredoms*, and of *secret abominations*; and if they shall do all

those things, and shall **reject** *the fullness of my gospel*, behold, saith the Father, **I** will bring *the fullness of my gospel from among them*” (3 Nephi 16:10).

3. “And **I** will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of **thee**; so will **I** destroy *thy cities*. And it shall come to pass that all **lyings**, and **deceivings**, and *envyings*, and *strifes*, and *priestcrafts*, and *whoredoms*, shall be done away. For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day *whosoever will not repent and come unto my Beloved Son, them will I cut off from among my people*, O house of Israel” (3 Nephi 21:18-20).

4. “Hearken, O ye **Gentiles**, and *hear the words of Jesus Christ*, the Son of the living God, which he hath commanded **me** that **I** should speak concerning **you**, for, behold he commandeth me that **I** should write, saying: **Turn**, *all ye Gentiles, from your wicked ways*; and **repent** of *your evil doings*, of *your lyings* and **deceivings**, and of *your whoredoms*, and of *your secret abominations*, and *your idolatries*, and of *your murders*, and your *priestcrafts*, and *your envyings*, and *your strifes*, and from all *your wickedness and abominations* [changing my doctrine], and **come unto me**, and be baptized in **my name**, that **ye** may receive *a remission of your sins* [by being born again in me] and be filled with **the Holy Ghost** [the endowment of power from on high], that ye may be numbered with **my people** who are of *the house of Israel*” (3 Nephi 30:1-2).

5. “And thus, if the people of *this generation* harden **not** their hearts, **I** will work *a reformation among them*, and **I** will put down all **lyings**, and **deceivings**, and *priestcrafts*, and *envyings*, and *strifes*, and *idolatries*, and *sorceries*, and all manner of *iniquities*, and **I** will establish **my church**, like unto the church which was taught by **my disciples** in the days of old. And now if this generation *do* harden their hearts against **my word**, behold **I** will deliver them up unto Satan, for he reigneth and hath power at this time, for he hath got great hold upon the hearts of the people of *this generation*: and **not far from the iniquities of Sodom and Gomorrah**, do they come at this time: and behold the sword of justice hangeth over **their** heads, and if **they** persist in the hardness of their hearts, the time cometh that it must fall upon **them**” (1833 Book of Commandments, 4:5-6, *removed and replaced with D&C 5:19*).

6. While in Liberty Jail, the Prophet Joseph wrote the following to the Saints: “It is an *imperative duty* that **we** owe to God, to angels, with whom **we** shall be brought to stand, and also to ourselves, to our wives and children, who have been made to bow down with grief, sorrow, and care, under the most damning hand of *murder, tyranny, and oppression*, supported and urged on and upheld by the influence of that spirit which hath so strongly riveted **the creeds of the fathers**, who have **inherited lies**, upon the hearts of the children, and filled the world with *confusion*, and has been growing stronger and stronger, and is now *the very mainspring of all corruption*, and the whole earth groans under the weight of its *iniquity* [passed down *false teachings and traditions* from our “fathers, priests, and kings”]. It is an *iron yoke*, it is *a strong band*; they are the very *handcuffs*, and *chains*, and *shackles*, and *fetters* of hell. Therefore it is an *imperative duty* that **we** owe, not only to our own wives and children, but to the widows and fatherless, whose husbands and fathers have been *murdered* under its *iron hand*; Which dark and blackening deeds are enough to make hell itself shudder, and to stand aghast and pale, and the hands of the very devil to tremble and palsy. And also *it is an imperative duty* that we owe to all the rising generation, and to all the pure in heart—For there are many yet on the earth **among all sects, parties, and denominations, who are blinded by the subtle craftiness of men**, whereby they **lie** in wait to **deceive**, and who *are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it*—Therefore, that **we should waste and wear out our lives in bringing to light all the hidden things of darkness, wherein we know them**; and they are truly manifest from heaven—These should then be attended to with great earnestness. *Let no man count them as small things*; for there is much which lieth in futurity, pertaining to the saints, *which depends upon these things*. You know, brethren, that a very large ship is benefited very much by a very small helm in the time of a storm, by being kept workways with the wind and the waves. Therefore . . . let us cheerfully do all things that lie in our power; and then may we stand still, with the utmost assurance, to see the salvation of God, and for **his arm to be revealed**” (D&C 123:7-17).

7. “**He** [the LORD] that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that **he** might fill all things. And **he** gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers [in scripture and a few sprinkled among us]; For the *perfecting* of the saints [the **wise virgins**], for the *work* of the ministry, for the *edifying* of the body of Christ: Till *we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God*, unto a *perfect man*, unto the measure of the stature of *the fullness of Christ*: That we henceforth be *no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of [false] doctrine, by the sleight of men, and [their] cunning craftiness*, whereby they **lie** in wait to **deceive**” (Ephesians 4:10-14).

In the final *eight* scripture, our LORD has provided a **5-part** scripture instructing **us** on *how* to return to His holy presence. The number 5 is a *covenant* number tied to *life, eternal life, and His “grace”* – symbolized in the **5** nails driven into His body for us. D&C 93:1 addresses **not being deceived by crafty men** among us.

8. “For **they** [1] *that are wise* [virgins – who “*repent and come unto me*”] and [2] have received **the truth** [Jesus Christ as their light *and His words*], and [3] have taken **the Holy Spirit for their guide** [been “born again” in Christ, receiving the gift and power of the Holy Ghost – “*the endowment of power from on high*” to guide them], and [4] have **not been deceived** [by the lies and deceptions of crafty secret combinations surrounding us] – verily I say unto you, [5] **they shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire**, but shall *abide* the day” (D&C 45:57) of God’s return. See also *Moses 4:4*.

God said there are **tares** among the wheat today. They are **wolves** in sheep’s clothing, **men in white** that *deceive* many, leading them into *darkness* – just like the man in white in 1 Nephi 8:5-8. After following him into darkness, Lehi finally turned to God in prayer. He was then delivered by the living God. It is a great lesson for us, one passed over by many and not seen for what it really is. Jeremiah said we have “**inherited lies**” (Jer. 16:19-21) from those all around us (fathers, priests, and kings). Isaiah said that we have made “**lies our refuge**” and thus we have made a “**covenant with death**” rather than the living God (Isa. 28:14-18). Our Redeemer promises eternal life if we will do as He invites us to do, and that is “**repent and come unto me**” (1 Ne. 10:18-19; 2 Ne. 9:23-24; 28:31-32; Jacob 1:7; Alma 5:33-34; Ether 4:7-19; Mor. 7:34; 3 Ne. 9:14, 22, 51; 11:14; 12:19-20, 23-24; 27:5-21; 30:1-2; D&C 10:67-68, 93:1).

Leaders of many Christian organizations today are part of Freemasonry and their *secret blood-oaths*. God saw the insidious control rising up in Joseph Smith’s day. He (God) and Mormon and Moroni saw that **lies, deception, and secrecy** would come to dominate our day. Fortunately we have God’s precious words in *the Book of Mormon, the JST Bible* (specifically *the Book of Moses*), and *the Book of Enoch*, all available to the **wise** virgins. Joseph Smith’s whole mission was to bring forth more of God’s precious words. He was murdered for truth’s sake and can no longer defend himself against the lies told about him (polygamy, masonry, etc.). An angel said his name would be had for good and evil in his very first visit to Joseph in 1823.

How does God Define His Church?

Our word “church” comes from the Greek word “Ecclesia,” which means, “an assembly called together.” It is an group of receptive sheep who recognize and follow God’s voice as the Good Shepherd (John 10). Those of the *religious* spirit seek conformity and sameness, whereas God and the Holy Spirit works with each of us individually to bring us into a personal *relationship* with **Him**. God glories in our individuality, seeking all to come to Him with their own unique gifts and challenges. Collectively, we are the Bride of the Lamb. The marriage symbolism given throughout scripture suggests our need to *know* God, not just know about Him.

(1) **Christ’s Church** Mortal men baptize other men and women into their churches today, but in the church of Christ or the Lamb, it is the LORD Himself who brings people into His church. They are cleansed and purified within it **by Him** through a spiritual baptism (by “fire” or “the Spirit”) and thus become apart of **His church** (the church of the Firstborn or the Lamb). He said, “after that ye are baptized with water, behold, **I will baptize you with fire and the Holy Ghost**” (3 Ne. 9:20, 12:1; Matt. 3:11). No man can imitate or replace this spiritual baptism, as all judgment has been committed into the hands of the Son (John 5:22). **The LORD Jesus baptizing us into His church!** All other churches are those of men. Nephi said, “Behold, there are save **two churches only**; the one is the **church of the Lamb of God**, and the other is **the church of the devil**; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth” (1 Ne. 14:10). The reality of this statement is sobering! See also 1 John 3:9-12, 22-24 and 4:7-10, 18-21. Those following the Master rather than men become His redeemed sons and daughters, “**the blessed**” addressed in His sermon on the mount. They are “**the overcomers** in the world” addressed by John seven times in chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation (vs. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:12, 21 x 2); see also 1 John 5:1-8, 18; 2 John 5-10; Mosiah 5:5-8).

(2) **Adding Converts to the Body of Christ** God regularly adds repentant believers into His church Himself, doing so both in and outside of men’s churches today. Acts 2:47 tells us, “The LORD added to the church daily such as should be **saved**.” In other words, those **redeemed** or **saved by Him** and His blood receive **His fiery baptism** which brings them into His church. It is a cleansing event! The churches of men are “built up unto themselves to **get gain**” (see 1 Ne. 22:23) and “**not unto me**” (2 Ne. 28:3; Morm. 8:33; 2 Ne. 26:20-23; D&C 10:46-70). To be part of

God's church we must offer up **the sacrifice He has asked us to make**, that of a "**broken heart and a contrite spirit**" (Psalm 51:17; 3 Ne. 9:20). Men's churches want money, loyalty, and conformity. Those leading them stand between us and God.

God wants our love, the first and great commandment. We are to give it willingly. We are to choose God, and choose to love Him. The only gift we can truly give Him is **our whole heart** and thus our **will**. Each of us must individually give Him our heart in our own way and time. When we finally do so, our sacrifice of a broken heart and a contrite spirit is recognized by Him and accepted. We can then be spiritually renewed in Christ, our hearts made new in Him. With a new heart we have ability – in Christ - to overcome the nagging repeating sins in our life and finally overcome the world, little by little, line upon line, until we are more like Him, without desire to sin. We will continue to sin, but we will have desire to quickly change and repent. This is my experience and that of so many we read about in scripture. Without the blood of Christ and His help, we are nearly powerless to really change. But with Him, there is power to become much more, the sons and daughters of God, heirs of the Father with Christ. Being "born again" in Jesus Christ is the only way there can be peace on earth. It begins with peace and love individually within our individual hearts. It expands then into the family (if we teach others), and into neighborhoods, then cities, and nations. Only those with this change will be admitted into Zion. They are the sheep of the Master's Sheepfold.

The LORD Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He gave His life for the sheep. They know His voice and follow **Him**. Note His words in Ezekiel 34 and other scripture. He is doing most of the work in the last-days as too many false shepherds are using the sheep for their own **gain**. The Prophet Ezekiel tells us that they "*feed not the flock*" but "*feed themselves*." They stamp down the grass, foul the water, and fleece the sheep, even eating the sheep (see Ezek. 34). The LORD said, "**I, even I, will search my sheep** [their hearts], and *seek them out* . . . and will *deliver* them out of all places where they have been *scattered* in the cloudy and dark day . . . **I will feed** them in a good pasture . . . **I will judge** between the fat cattle and between the lean cattle . . . Therefore will **I save my flock** . . . **I the LORD** will be their God . . . **I have broken the bands of their yoke**, and **delivered** them out of the hand of those that *served themselves* of them" (Ezek. 34; see also Jeremiah 23; Isaiah 1 and 28).

Some churches are useful today as preparatory churches. Too many leading them have gain as a priority. Leaders often get in the way of **relationship** with God. Mormon said **all churches** in our day are polluted (Morm. 8:36). Nephi stated, "**all have gone out of the way**" (2 Ne. 28:11). A third book adds that "**all trees in the LORD's vineyard** are corrupt" (Jacob 5:42 and 47). Any believing Christian who "**repents**" and "comes unto the LORD", as stipulated in God's teachings, can become part of **the church of the Lamb** (see D&C 76:54, 67, 71, 94).

(3) **In God's name** A third definition for God's church is given us in 3 Ne. 27:1-12, where Christ said that **His church** is called in **His name**, and it will only be **His church**, "if" - "it is built upon **His gospel**" (the fullness of which is **the two baptisms** along with **His gifting of the Holy Ghost**, see D&C 5:16; 33:11-15; 39:6). They are the "**blessed**" ones who will see and enter heaven (John 3:3-6). They are the **redeemed**. They are immersed in the character and attributes of Godliness. These are evident in "the works of the Father" in the **gifts and fruits of the Spirit**. These **gifts and fruits** are manifestations of God's approval and are listed in 1 Cor. 12, Moroni 10, and D&C 46. The **fruits** of the Spirit are "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23). These things, along with visions, prophecy, healings, angels, etc., **follow real believers in Christ's church**. According to God, the churches of men that are built up to **get gain** have joy in their work "for a season and then cometh the end when they are hewn down and cast into the fire" (3 Ne. 27:11).

When Christ came among those gathered at the city "Bountiful" in the Book of Mormon, we see that He first taught them (1) "the *doctrine* of Christ." He then presented (2) "the fullness of His *gospel*" to them. After these teachings, He then addressed what (3) His *church* was and is. There was order and sequence. Nearly 2000 years latter in 1828 the LORD provided a clear definition of **His church** to those who would latter be part of what has now become the "Mormon" church west, and the Restoration Branches in the Midwest (they also utilize the Book of Mormon along with the full version of the Joseph Smith re-translation of the entire Bible).

The scriptural definitions listed above reveal that God's church is not a financially successful, large corporation, but a community of believers who heed **His** invitation to "**repent and come unto me**." This is the most common definition within two books of scripture held as sacred within Mormonism (1 Ne. 10:18-19; 2 Ne. 9:23-24; 28:31-32; Jacob 1:7; Alma 5:33-34; Ether 4:7-19; Mor. 7:34; 3 Ne. 9:14, 22, 51; 11:14; 12:19-20, 23-24; 27:5-21; 30:1-2; D&C 10:67-68, 93:1). They reveal that it is made up of a "few" humble **followers** ("disciples") who **love the LORD** with

their whole heart. They seek to honor **Him** and do **His** will and commandments (see Mosiah 5:5; D&C 10:56). He has said that those who *don't* “**repent and come unto me**” are “**under the bondage of sin**” (D&C 84:50-51).

Concluding Thoughts

In writing the book, *The Secret Chamber: Spiritual Wifery and the Doctrine of Christ* (www.amazon.com), I choose to believe and trust in God, not in the arm of flesh, and God tells us such are “**cursed**.” I chose to believe the prophets of the Book of Mormon and the Bible, *and* the words of the Smith Family - Joseph, Emma, Lucy Mack, Katherine, Hyrum, Samuel, and William Smith, rather than Brigham Young and those that followed him westward into polygamy and the ways of the world. He was the “second king” or leader (see Jacob’s words in Jacob 1:15). He was much like King Noah. The most truthful early sources are from the Josephites, those choosing to stay behind at Nauvoo, as the “official” Brighamite history has been modified to **deceive** us, just the scriptures on “**lies**” and “**deception**” suggest.

Many *plain* and *precious* things have been hidden away or swept under the rug, all to promote the early pro-polygamy message, *and* to promote an equally wicked and *idolatrous* message – that modern *false* prophets part of “the Great and abominable church” are our *light* - in *priestcraft*! They, rather than God’s precious **word, His word** in both scripture *and* from Him personally in **pure revelation**, are poor substitutes. We can go directly to God for truth. In many instances He is our only source of truth. **He** himself said, “**I am the way, the truth, and the life**” (John 14:6)! As our just Judge, King, and Savior, He said He will *destroy* all secret works of darkness in the last days.

“**I, the Lord, the king of heaven**, will be their **king**, and **I** will be a **light** unto them forever, *that hear my words*” (2 Ne. 10:14, see also 3 Ne. 18:24).

“For the time soon cometh that the fulness of the wrath of **God** shall be poured out upon all the children of men; for he will **not** suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous . . . for thus saith **the prophet**, they shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire . . . all they who fight against Zion shall be *cut off* . . . all those who will **not hear that prophet** shall be *cut off* from among the people . . . And now I, Nephi, declare unto you, that **this prophet** of whom Moses spake was **the Holy One of Israel** . . . For the time speedily shall come that **all churches** which are [1] built up **to get gain**, and all those who [2] are built up to get power over the flesh, and those who [3] are built up to become popular in the eyes of the world, and those who [4] seek the lusts of the flesh and [5] the things of the world, and [6] to do all manner of iniquity; yea, in fine, [7] all those who belong to the kingdom of the devil are they who need fear, and tremble, and quake; they . . . must be brought low in the dust; they are those who must be **consumed as stubble**; and *this is according to the words of the prophet*” (2 Ne. 22, portions of 16-17, 19-21 & 23; see also 1 Ne. 22:13 & 2 Ne. 10:15).

“*...they who are not for me are against me*, saith our God” (2 Ne. 10:16).

Russel M. Nelson, now President of the LDS Church said in the October 2014 General Conference:

“Our sustaining of prophets is a personal commitment that we will do our utmost to uphold **their prophetic priorities**. *Our sustaining* is an **oath**-like indication that we recognize their calling as a prophet *to be legitimate* and **binding upon us**” (Russell M. Nelson, Sustaining the Prophets, Oct. 2014, General Conference Address).

I prefer to be led by and bound to **the Prophet – the Holy One of Israel** - spoken of in the Old Testament that would come to deliver the humble and meek, the LORD Jesus Christ. He is our Savior and King. Alma said the wicked will be “sealed” to Satan and bound by him (Alma 34:35), like the secret blood oaths once a part of the LDS temple endowment (removed in 1995). When we sing the song, “*Follow the Prophet*,” **the LORD Jesus** is the one we are to *hear* and *obey* as “**The Prophet**.” The sheep know their shepherd. In 1 Nephi 22, **Christ** is listed there *seven times* with *this title*. According to Nephi and Moses in this chapter, “**the Prophet**” is “**the Holy One of Israel**” (1 Ne. 22:21). The honors of men, control, money, power, etc., (“*gain*”) is the substitute focus of men in 1 Nephi 22.

Our covenant in “**the New and Everlasting Covenant**” (JST Gen. 9:21, Mosiah 5:5, 8, 18:10; 1 Ne. 22:20; 2 Ne. 1:13, 9:21, 10:24, 32:3, 6 & endnote 31) **is with Christ – to do His will** – and as our only **head** (see Mosiah 5:8; Eph. 1:22, 4:15, 5:23). We are **cursed** in following weak, vain men in place of **Him**, those who lift themselves up as a false light in priestcraft and idolatry before us (3 Ne. 26:29; 3 Ne. 18:24). Wise virgins are sealed to Christ the LORD

as their **head** (Mosiah 5:15). He alone performed the atonement for us. He alone saves us. Crafty men **lie** and **deceive** for their **gain**. As “**The Prophet**,” Jesus said **all churches** “**built up to get gain**” (see 1 Ne. 22:23, 28:3; 2 Ne. 26:20-23; Morm. 8:33; Book of Commandments, 4:5-6 1833; D&C 10:46-70) “**shall be as stubble**.” His judgment is near. The great and abominable church will be destroyed by the LORD.

Addressing our day, Nephi said those leading corrupt churches “**hide their counsels** from the Lord; and *their works shall be in the dark*” . . . “they have **all gone out of the way** . . . **their churches** have become **corrupted**” (2 Ne. 28:3-22). Mormon added, “**your churches, yea, even every one, have become polluted** . . . ye do love money . . . more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted . . . ye hypocrites . . . why have **ye polluted** the holy church of God? Why are **ye ashamed** to take upon you **the name of Christ?**” (Morm. 8:36-38).

I pray that each of you as a *wise* virgin may have the courage, wisdom, and strength to be on the LORD’s side - “to stand as witnesses of **God** [Jesus Christ and the Father who sent Him] at **all times** and in **all things**, and in **all places** that ye may be in, **even until death**, that ye may be **redeemed** of God, and be numbered with those of the first resurrection, that ye may have eternal life” (Mosiah 18:9). This is the only saving pathway, the only fork in the road that leads to the living God and eternal life. Relatively few are on it. Wise ones like Abraham and Sarah, Joseph sold into Egypt, and Paul and John of the Bible chose correctly. Lehi, Nephi, Jacob and others in the Book of Mormon placed themselves on this path too. They tasted of the fruit of the Tree of Life. It is God’s love. He offers it to you and I too. May you be blessed to find **Him**.

For more on this topic see *Idolatry Our Number One Sin* and the book, *The Secret Chamber: Spiritual Wifery and the Doctrine of Christ* (Amazon).