

# 3 Ne. 1–7: Birth to Death of Christ

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## Quotes

- If at first you do succeed, it probably wasn't too difficult.
- The only person who likes change is a wet baby.
- Those who rob Peter to pay Paul will have Paul's vote.
- *Golden Rule*: He who owns/controls the gold makes the rules.
- **FEAR = False Expectations Appearing Real**

## Lucky “Guesses”

- If he say unto the earth—Move—[and<sup>1830</sup>] it is moved. (Hel. 12:13; also verses 14, 16–17, 19–21)
- Ancient Israelite laws: Thief= local who steals from neighbor; Robber= outsiders, groups, oath, ransom, attack

## 1. Laws and Government Corrupted (62–70<sup>th</sup>)

<sup>422</sup> [The Nephites] had altered ... the laws of Mosiah ... which the Lord commanded him to give unto the people; and ... their laws had become corrupted ... <sup>5:2</sup> Their laws and their governments were established by the voice of the people, and they who chose evil were more numerous than they who chose good, therefore they were ripening for destruction. (Hel. 4:22, 5:2)

<sup>38</sup> The Nephites did build [the Gadianton robbers] up and support them, beginning at the more wicked part ..., until they had overspread all the land of the Nephites, and had seduced the more part of the righteous until they had come down to believe in their works and partake of their spoils, and to join with them. (6:38)

<sup>39</sup> Thus they did obtain the sole management of the government, insomuch that they did trample under their feet and smite and rend and turn their backs upon the poor and the meek, and the humble followers of God. ... <sup>7:4</sup> Gadianton robbers [filled] the judgment-seats ... <sup>5</sup> Condemning the righteous ...; letting the guilty and the wicked go unpunished because of their money; and moreover to be held in office at the head of government, to rule and do according to their wills, that they might get gain and glory of the world, and ... that they might more easily commit adultery, and steal, and kill, and do according to their own wills. (6:39; 7:4–5)

## 2. Nephi given power (71<sup>st</sup> year) [See TPJS, 150/152]

<sup>3</sup> As [Nephi was] pondering ..., a voice ... [said]: <sup>4</sup> Blessed art thou, ... for I have beheld how thou hast with unweariness declared the word, which I have given unto thee, unto this people. And thou hast not feared them, and hast not sought thine own life, but hast sought my will, and to keep my commandments. <sup>5</sup> And now ... I will make thee mighty in word and in deed, in faith and in works; yea, ... all things shall be done unto thee according to thy word, for thou shalt not ask that which is contrary to my will. ... Ye shall have power over this people, and shall smite the earth with famine, ... pestilence, and destruction, according to the wickedness of this people. ... <sup>11</sup> Now ... I command you, that ye shall go and declare unto this people ... Except ye repent ye shall be smitten ... unto destruction. ... Nephi ... did return ... and began to declare ... the word of the Lord. (10:3–11)

## 3. Nephi uses power: 3 year famine (72–75<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>3</sup>Nephi did cry unto the Lord, saying: <sup>4</sup>O Lord, do not suffer that this people shall be destroyed by the sword; but ... rather let there be a famine ... to stir them up in remembrance of the Lord ... and perhaps they will repent. ... And so it was done. ... [After 3 years]<sup>9</sup> [Nephi] cried again unto the Lord, saying: ... <sup>10</sup>O Lord, behold this people ... have swept away the band of Gadianton ... and ... <sup>15</sup>they have repented. ... <sup>16</sup>And now, O Lord, wilt thou turn away thine anger, and try again if they will serve thee? ... <sup>17</sup>And [in the 76<sup>th</sup> year] ... the Lord ... caused that rain should fall. (11:3–17)

## 4. Prophecy of Samuel the Lamanite (86<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>2</sup>I give unto you a sign; for five years more cometh, and ... then cometh the Son of God. (14:2)

## 5. Prophecy Fulfilled (92<sup>nd</sup> = 1<sup>st</sup> year of star)

<sup>4</sup>In the commencement of the [92<sup>nd</sup>] year [of the judges] ... there began to be greater signs and ... miracles. ... <sup>5</sup>But there were some who began to say that the time was past. ... <sup>6</sup>And they began to rejoice ... saying: ... your joy and your faith ... hath been vain. ... <sup>9</sup>Now ... there was a day set apart by the unbelievers, that all those who believed in those traditions should be put to death except the sign should come to pass. (3 Ne 1:4–9)

## 6. Gadianton Robbers (93<sup>rd</sup> = 2<sup>nd</sup> year)

<sup>27</sup>Gadianton robbers ... dwelt upon the mountains... [and] did commit many murders, and ... <sup>28</sup>in the [94<sup>th</sup>] year they began to increase ... because there were many dissenters of the Nephites. ... <sup>29</sup>The Lamanites ... had many children who did grow up and ... were led away by some who were Zoramites, by their lyings and their flattering words, to join those Gadianton robbers. (1:27–29)

## 7. People Forget (96<sup>th</sup> = 5<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>1</sup>The people began to forget those signs ... and began to be ... less astonished at a sign ... 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—<sup>2</sup> Imagining up some vain thing ... that it was wrought by men and by the power of the devil. ... <sup>3</sup> And ... the people began to wax strong in wickedness. (2:1–3)

## 8. Wars, Contentions, Terrorists (13<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>11</sup> The Gadianton robbers ... spread so much death ... throughout the land, that ... <sup>12</sup> all the Lamanites who had become converted unto the Lord did unite with ... the Nephites, and were compelled, for the safety of their lives and their [families], to take up arms against those Gadianton robbers. (2:11–12)

## 9. Giddianhi's epistle (16<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>10</sup> Deliver up your lands and your possessions, without the shedding of blood, that ... my people may recover their rights and government, who have dissented away from you because of your wickedness in retaining from them their rights of government, and except ye do this, I will avenge their wrongs. (3:10)

## 10. Lachoneus gathers people (17<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>12</sup> Lachoneus, the governor, was a just man, and could not be frightened by the demands and the threatenings of a robber; therefore ... <sup>13</sup> He sent a proclamation among all the people, that they should gather together their [families], ... flocks ... herds, and all their substance, ... unto one place. <sup>14</sup> And he caused that fortifications should be built. ... <sup>15</sup> Yea, he said: ... except ye repent ... and cry unto the Lord, ye will in no wise be delivered out of the hands of those Gadianton robbers. (3:12–15)

## 11. People want to attack robbers (17<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>19</sup> It was the custom among all the Nephites to appoint for their chief captains, ... some one that had the spirit of revelation and also prophecy; therefore, this Gidgiddoni was a great prophet ..., as also was the chief judge. <sup>20</sup> Now the people said unto Gidgiddoni: Pray unto the Lord, and let us go up upon the mountains and into the wilderness, that we may fall upon the robbers and destroy them in their own lands. <sup>21</sup> But Gidgiddoni saith ...: The Lord forbid; for if we should go up against them the Lord would deliver us into their hands; therefore we will prepare ourselves in the center of our lands, and we will gather all our armies together, and ... we will wait till they shall come against us; therefore as the Lord liveth, if we do this he will deliver them into our hands. (3:19–21)

## 12. Robbers surrounded as they retreat (22<sup>nd</sup> year)

<sup>27</sup> Many thousands ... [became] prisoners and the remainder ... were slain. And their leader, Zemnarihah, was ... hanged upon a tree ... until he was dead. And ... they did fell the tree to the earth, and did cry with a loud voice, saying: <sup>29</sup> May the Lord preserve his people in righteousness ..., that they may cause to be felled to the earth all who shall seek to slay them because of power and secret combinations, even as this man hath been felled to the earth. <sup>30</sup> And they did rejoice and ... did break forth, all as one, in singing, and praising their God for the great thing which he had done for them, in preserving them from falling into the hands of their enemies. (4:27–30)

<sup>4</sup> They did cast their prisoners into prison, and did cause the word of God to be preached unto them; and as many as would repent of their sins and enter into a covenant that they would murder no more were set at liberty. <sup>5</sup> But ... [those] who did not enter into a covenant ... were condemned and punished. (5:4)

## 13. Mormon's Comment

<sup>12</sup> I am called Mormon, being called after the land of Mormon. ... <sup>13</sup> I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. ... <sup>20</sup> I am ... a pure descendant of Lehi. ... <sup>22</sup> And insomuch as the children of Lehi have kept his commandments he hath blessed them and prospered them according to his word. (5:12–22; See also Morm. 1:5; 8:13.)

## 14. Peace and Prosperity (26–28<sup>th</sup> years)

<sup>4</sup> There was great order in the land; and they had formed their laws according to equity and justice. <sup>5</sup> And now there was nothing in all the land to hinder the people from prospering continually, except they should fall into transgression. (6:4–6)

## 15. Pride, Ranks, Persecution (29<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>10</sup> There began to be some disputings among the people; and some were lifted up unto pride and boastings because of their exceedingly great riches, yea, even unto great persecutions; <sup>11</sup> For there were many merchants ..., lawyers, and ... officers. <sup>12</sup> And the people began to be distinguished by ranks, according to their riches and their chances for learning. (6:10–12)

## 16. Responses to persecution (29<sup>th</sup> year)

<sup>13</sup> Some did return railing for railing, while others would receive railing and persecution and all manner of afflictions, and would not turn and revile again, but were humble and penitent before God. <sup>14</sup> And thus there became a great inequality ... insomuch that in the thirtieth year the church was broken up in all the land save it were among a few of the Lamanites. ... <sup>15</sup> Now the cause of this iniquity ... was this—Satan had great power, unto the stirring up of the people to do all manner of iniquity, and to the puffing them up with pride, tempting them to seek for power, and authority, and riches, and the vain things of the world. (6:13–15)

## 17. Prophets sent, killed. Government destroyed (30<sup>th</sup>)

<sup>20</sup> And there began to be men inspired from heaven and sent forth, ... testifying boldly of the sins and iniquities of the people, and ... concerning ... the resurrection of Christ. ... <sup>21</sup> Now there were many of the people who were exceedingly angry ... and those ... were chiefly the chief judges, ... high priests and lawyers. ... <sup>23</sup> Many of those who testified of ... Christ ... were taken and put to death secretly by the judges. ... <sup>27</sup> Those judges ... and ... almost all the lawyers and the high priests, ... did combine against the people of the Lord, and enter into a covenant to destroy them, and to deliver those who were guilty of murder from the grasp of justice. ... <sup>7:1</sup> [And they] did murder the chief judge. ... <sup>2</sup> And the people ... did separate one from another into tribes, every man according to his family and his kindred and friends; and thus they did destroy the government. (6:20 — 7:2)

## 18. Nephi preaches and performs miracles (31–33<sup>rd</sup>)

<sup>15</sup> Nephi ... began to testify. ... <sup>18</sup> And ... they were angry with him, ... because he had greater power than they, for it were not possible that they could disbelieve his words, for so great was his faith on the Lord Jesus Christ that angels did minister unto him daily. <sup>19</sup> And in the name of Jesus did he cast out devils and unclean spirits; and even his brother did he raise from the dead, after he had been stoned ... by the people. <sup>20</sup> And the people saw it ... and were angry with him because of his power. <sup>21</sup> And ... there were but few who were converted. (7:15–19)

## 19. Timeline of key events from 92 BC to AD 33.

Year	Events
509=1	Kings replaced with judges, people vote Mos 29
1–4	Nehor, priestcrafts, pride, excommunication, church prosperity, wickedness increases Alma 1
5–7	Amlici wants to be king, lost election, war 2–3
8–16	Pride, Alma resigns and preaches, peace 4–30
17–19	Korihor; Helaman; Amalickiah runs for king; members believed flattery; Moroni and title of liberty <sup>30–46</sup>
20–24	Amalickiah, deceit and murder → Lamanite king, 'media' stirs up to anger, lose war; Nephites: peace, fortify <sup>47–50</sup>
25–31	Wars, king-men lose election, support Lamanites <sup>51–62</sup>
32–39	Fortify borders, peace, migrations; dissenters → war <sup>62–63</sup>
40	Paanchi loses election, rebels, killed; Kishkumen kills <sup>H 1</sup>
41–53	Gadianton robbers flee. Peace, prosperity, pride <sup>2–3</sup>
54–61	Civil war, rebels stir up Lamanites, war, lose ½ lands <sup>4</sup>
62	Laws of Mosiah corrupted. Nephi resigns, preaches, imprisoned. Lamanites converted, return land <sup>5</sup>
63–67	Peace, prosperity, pride, wickedness <sup>6</sup>
68–70	Gadianton's elected, sole management of government <sup>6–9</sup>
71–79	Nephi empowered, 3 year famine, repent, prosper <sup>10–11</sup>
80–85	Gadianton terrorists, wickedness <sup>11–12</sup>
86–91	Samuel the Lamanite, majority wicked, great signs <sup>13–16</sup>
92=1	Sign of Christ's birth, believers saved, repent, peace <sup>3 Ne 1</sup>
2–15	Gadianton robbers and wickedness increase, war <sup>1–2</sup>
16–21	Lachoneus gathers people, fortifies, repent, war <sup>3–4</sup>
21–28	Righteous, peace, prosperity <sup>5–6</sup>
29	Contention, pride, ranks, boasting, wickedness <sup>6</sup>
30	Judges kill prophets, destroy government, tribes <sup>6–7</sup>
31–33	Nephi preaches with power, miracles, few repent <sup>7</sup>
1/4/34	Great storm, destruction, darkness, all hear voice <sup>8–10</sup>
/34	Christ appeared and taught people at the temple <sup>11–28</sup>

## 20. Questions

- Could a 23 year old man have written the Book of Mormon?
- How do these things apply to me now in my circumstances?
- Are these things true? (read, remember, ponder, ask sincerely)
- As I read these chapters, how do I feel?
- Do they invite and entice me to love God, believe in Christ, and do good?

## Quotes

**Ezra Taft Benson:** In the Book of Mormon we find a pattern for preparing for the Second Coming. A major portion of the book centers on the few decades just prior to Christ's coming to America. By careful study of that time period, we can determine why some were destroyed in the terrible judgments that preceded His coming and what brought others to stand at the temple ... and thrust their hands into the wounds of His hands and feet. ... Can anyone doubt that this book was meant for us and that in it we find great power, great comfort, and great protection?" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 6–7).