

3 Ne. 16, 20–21: Scattering & Gathering

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Quotes

- If you want to walk on water, you must get out of the boat.
- Dear Lord, I pray for: **Wisdom**, to understand a man; **Love**, to forgive him; and **Patience**, to deal with his moods. Because, Lord, if I pray for **strength**, I'll just beat him to death.
- Put a smile on your kisser and maybe someone will put a kiss on your smiler!

1. The Law and the Prophets (15:5–10)

⁵ I am he that gave the law, and ... covenanted with my people Israel; therefore, the law in me is fulfilled ... therefore it hath an end. ⁶ Behold, I do not destroy the prophets, for as many as have not been fulfilled in me ... shall all be fulfilled. ... ⁷ I do not destroy that which hath been spoken concerning things ... to come. ⁸ For behold, the covenant ... with my people is not all fulfilled; but the law ... given unto Moses hath an end in me. ⁹ Behold, I am the law, and the light. Look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall ... [receive] eternal life. ... ¹⁰ I have given unto you the commandments; therefore keep my commandments. And this is the law and the prophets, for they truly testified of me.

Law: Gen. 12:3; Deut. 18:15–19

Prophets: **Isaiah** 52, 54 (3 Ne 16; 20; 21); **Micah** 4:12–13; 5:8–15 (3 Ne 20; 21); **Hab.** 1:5 (3 Ne 21); **Mal.** 3–4 (3 Ne 24–25)

¹¹ When the words of Isaiah should be fulfilled—... they are written, ye have them before you, therefore search them (20:11)

Writings: Ruth, 1 Chron.—Song of Solomon, Lam, Daniel.

2. Chapter Outline

- 11: day 1: People see, hear, and touch Christ
- 12–14: Sermon at the Temple
- 15:11—17:1 Jesus talks to 12 disciples not to multitude
- 18:38–39 Jesus ascends at end of day 1
- 19: day 2: baptism, Holy Ghost, ministering of angels, praying
- 20:1 [Jesus] commanded the multitude that they should cease to pray ... that they should not cease to pray in their hearts.
- 20:2–9 Sacrament: Jesus gives bread and wine even though “there had been no bread, neither wine, brought.”
- 20:14–28 Message about the new world
- 20:29–35 Message about the old world
- 20:36–46 Message about both the old and the new world

3. What is the House of Israel? (15:15)

¹⁵ The other tribes of the house of Israel, whom the Father hath led away out of the land. (15:15)

4. Who are “the other tribes”?



5. Who are the other sheep? (15:21–24)

²¹ Ye are they of whom I said: Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. ²² And [the Jews] understood me not, for they supposed it had been the Gentiles ... [who] should be converted through their preaching. ... ²⁴ But ... ye have ... heard my voice, and seen me. (15:21–24)

¹ I have other sheep, which are not of this land, neither of the land of Jerusalem, neither in any parts of that land round about whither I have been to minister. ... ³ I go to show myself unto them. (16:1–3)

6. Who are the Gentiles?

²² [The Jews] understood not that the Gentiles should be converted through their preaching. (15:22)

⁴ These sayings which ye shall write ... shall be manifested unto the Gentiles, that ... the remnant of their seed [the Jews], who shall be scattered ... may be brought to a knowledge of me, their Redeemer. ... ⁶ Blessed are the Gentiles, because of their belief in me. ... ⁸ The Gentiles ... have come forth upon ... this land, and have scattered my people who are of the house of Israel. (16:4–8)

7. Why was the house of Israel scattered?

⁵ [The Jews] shall be scattered forth upon the face of the earth because of their unbelief. (16:5)

8. How was the house of Israel scattered?

9. What is the gathering of the house of Israel?

^{16:12} I will remember my covenant unto you, O house of Israel, and ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fulness of my gospel.

¹² When [the words of Isaiah] shall be fulfilled ... ¹³ then shall the remnants, which shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth, be gathered in from the east ... west, ... south and ... north; and they shall be brought to the knowledge of the Lord their God, who hath redeemed them. (20:12–13)

10. How will the gathering be done?

¹² O house of Israel ... ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fulness of my gospel. (16:12)

⁹ For in that day, for my sake shall the Father work ... a great and a marvelous work among them; and there shall be among them those who will not believe it. ... But ... the life of my servant shall be in my hand; therefore they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them. (21:9–10)

11. What is the “fulness of my gospel”? (16:10, 12; 20:28, 30)

¹⁰ At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fulness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, ... and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, ... deceits, ... mischiefs, ... hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; and if they shall do all those things, and shall reject the fulness of my gospel, behold, ... I will bring the fulness of my gospel from among them. (3 Ne 16:10)

²⁸ When [the Gentiles] shall have received the fulness of my gospel, then if they shall harden their hearts against me I will return their iniquities upon their own heads. (20:28)

³⁰ When the fulness of my gospel shall be preached unto them; And they shall believe in me. (20:30)

What is “the fulness of my gospel” as used in the scriptures?

See 3 Ne 27 13–20; D&C 20:9; 27:5; JS–H 1:34.

What is “receiving” or “rejecting” the fulness of the gospel?

See D&C 66:2; D&C 20:8–15.

12. Who will be as a lion among the sheep? (20:15–17)

¹⁵ If the Gentiles do not repent after the blessing which they shall receive, after they have scattered my people—¹⁶ Then shall ye, who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, go forth among them; and ye shall be in the midst of them who shall be many; and ye shall be among them as a lion among the beasts of the forest, and as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he goeth through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver. ¹⁷ Thy hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off. (20:15–17; also Micah 5:8–9)

13. “I give unto you for a sign” (21:1–7)

¹ That ye may know ... when ... [the gathering] shall be about to take place ... ² I will give unto you for a sign— ... when ... [the Book of Mormon] shall be made known unto the Gentiles that they may know ... concerning this my people who shall be scattered by them; ... ⁴ and ... that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed [descendants], that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled ... with his people, O house of Israel; ⁵ Therefore, when ... [the Book of Mormon] shall come forth from the Gentiles, unto your seed ... ⁷ [so] that thy seed shall begin to know these things—it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the people who are of the house of Israel. (21:1–7)

14. New Jerusalem (21:22–26)

²² If [the Gentiles] will repent ... I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance; And they shall assist my people ... ²³ that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem. ... ²⁵ And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst.

²⁶ And then shall the work of the Father commence ... when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. ... At that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people, yea, even the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem. (21:22–26)

15. What is the literal gathering of Israel? (21:28; AofF 10)

²⁸ And then shall the work commence, with the Father among all nations in preparing the way whereby his people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance. (21:28)

Nephites: ¹⁶ I should give unto you this land, for your inheritance. (16:16; 20:14)

Jews: ²⁹ I have covenanted with them that I would gather them ... [and] give unto them again the land of their fathers for their inheritance, which is the land of Jerusalem, which is the promised land unto them forever. (20:29)

16. A prophet like unto Moses

²³ I [Jesus] am he of whom Moses spake, saying: A prophet shall the LORD your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And ... every soul who will not hear that prophet shall be cut off from among the people. (3 Ne 20:23; see Deut 18:15–19)

Plagues of Egypt	Apocalyptic Destruction of Wicked
Waters of Egypt turned to blood. (Ex. 7:20)	Rivers and fountains of waters ... became blood. (Rev. 16:4)
Frogs covered the land of Egypt. (Ex. 8:6)	Three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon. (Rev 16:13)

Plagues of lice and flies. (Ex. 8:17, 24)	God will send forth flies and maggots. (DC 29:8)
All the cattle of Egypt died. (Ex. 9:6)	Desolation upon the cattle and sheep. (Joel 1:15-20)
Plague of boils upon man and beast. (Ex. 9:10)	There fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast. (Rev. 16:2)
Plague of hail and fire (Ex. 9:23)	Men scorched with fire & plague of great hailstones. (Rev. 16:8, 21)
Locusts covered the face of the whole earth. (Ex. 10:14-15)	There came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth. (Rev 9:3-10)
Thick darkness in all the land for three days. (Ex. 10:22)	The sun became black as sackcloth. (Rev. 6:12)
The firstborn males are killed. (Ex. 12:29-30)	The third part of men are killed by fire, smoke, brimstone (Rev 9:18)
Pharaoh’s army destroyed by water. (Ex. 14:28)	Saint’s enemies destroyed by fire. (1 Ne. 22:17)

17. How do these chapters in 3rd Nephi apply to us?

Quotes

Joseph: That man who rises up to condemn others, finding fault with the Church, saying that they are out of the way, while he himself is righteous, then know assuredly, that that man is in the high road to apostasy; and if he does not repent, will apostatize, as God lives. (TPJS, 156–57)

J. Reuben Clark, Jr.: The ravening wolves are amongst us, from our own membership, and they, more than any others, are clothed in sheep's clothing, because they wear the habiliments of the priesthood; they are they [who are] distorting the truth. We should be careful of them. (CR, Apr. 1949, 163)

Alonzo Gaskill: “The great plan of happiness ... would not be called the eternal plan of salvation/happiness/redemption/mercy... if its primary effect was the damnation of the vast majority of God’s offspring. ... And the assumption that our mother in heaven would idly sit back and allow such a guaranteed flop to eternally strip her of any interaction with her spirit offspring is equally unfathomable. ... Those of us who shouted for joy ... felt that the odds were in our favor. ... If the Father had informed us that ‘there’s good news and bad news’ ... ‘The good news is there is a Plan, but the bad news is most of you are not going to make it back ...’ surely we would not have felt reason to rejoice.” (Odds Are You’re Going to Be Exalted, 17–18)

Bruce R. McConkie: Far more of our Father’s children will be exalted than we think!” ... “Who can count the number of saved beings in eternity? Our God, who is victorious in all battles against the forces of evil, will surely be victorious in the numbers of his children who will be saved. (Odds, 21)

Wilford Woodruff & Lorenzo Snow: There will be very few, if any, [in the spirit world] who will not accept the gospel. (Odds 37)

Joseph: I told them: ‘I am meek and lowly in heart,’ and will personify Jesus for a moment ... and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Woe unto you, ye doctors; woe unto you, ye lawyers; woe unto you, ye scribes, Pharisees, and hypocrites!’ But you cannot find the place where I ever went that I found fault with their food, their drink, their house, their lodgings; no, never; and this is what is meant by the meekness and lowliness of Jesus. (TPJS, 270, Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt, 210-11)