

Faith as the Brother of Jared

Ether 4:1-16

1 And the Lord commanded the *brother of Jared* to go down out of the mount from the presence of the Lord, and *write the things which he had seen*; and *they were forbidden to come unto the children of men until after that he should be lifted up upon the cross*; and for this cause did king Mosiah keep them, that they should not come unto the world until after Christ should show himself unto his people.

2 And after Christ truly had showed himself unto his people he commanded that they should be made manifest.

3 Nephi 26:3-12

3 And [Christ] did expound all things, even from the beginning until the time that he should come in his glory—yea, even all things which should come upon the face of the earth, even until the elements should melt with fervent heat, and the earth should be wrapt together as a scroll, and the heavens and the earth should pass away;

4 And even unto the great and last day, when all people, and all kindreds, and all nations and tongues shall stand before God, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil—

5 If they be good, to the resurrection of everlasting life; and if they be evil, to the resurrection of damnation; being on a parallel, the one on the one hand and the other on the other hand, according to the mercy, and the justice, and the holiness which is in Christ, who was before the world began.

6 And now there cannot be written in this book even a hundredth part of the things which Jesus did truly teach unto the people;

7 But behold the plates of Nephi do contain the more part of the things which he taught the people.

8 And these things have I written, which are a lesser part of the things which he taught the people; and I have written them to the intent that they may be brought again unto this people, from the Gentiles, according to the words which Jesus hath spoken.

9 And when they shall have received this, which is expedient that they should have first, to try their faith, *and if it shall so be that they shall believe these things then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them.*

10 *And if it so be that they will not believe these things, then shall the greater things be withheld from them, unto their condemnation.*

11 Behold, I was about to write them, all which were engraven upon the plates of Nephi, but the Lord forbade it, saying: *I will try the faith of my people.*

12 Therefore I, Mormon, do write the things which have been commanded me of the Lord. And now I, Mormon, make an end of my sayings, and proceed to write the things which have been commanded me.

The brother of Jared saw all and wrote it down. Mosiah came upon it but was commanded to keep them and to not show them forth until after Christ's resurrection. When Christ appeared to the Nephites He revealed it to them, a vision from the beginning of time to the Great and Dreadful Day. That's important to note, this vision goes to the Great and Dreadful Day (and potentially beyond) which is described in great detail in verses 3-5 of 3 Nephi 26. Mormon and Moroni were told that this record, this vision, should not come forth until after people receive the Book of Mormon and show by their faith that they believe it and then the greater things ie. that vision, will be made manifest unto them (the Lord wanted to try the faith of His people, give them a "test", once they passed that test the greater things would be revealed). Mormon was commanded not to write it, Moroni was commanded to write it but to seal it up. This is referred to as the "sealed portion" of the gold plates. I go over 2 Nephi 27 in conjunction with this in great detail in my *Joseph Smith to Return Continued* paper so I will not be doing that here in this paper.

We learn in verse 10 of 3 Nephi 26 that if a generation does not believe then the greater things will be withheld from them unto their condemnation. This is tied directly to

Doctrine and Covenants 105:2

2 Behold, I say unto you, were it not for the transgressions of my people, speaking concerning the church and not individuals, they might have been redeemed even now.

Any generation that would have made themselves worthy would have redeemed and built New Jerusalem and as part of that received these greater things. This is tied directly to

Doctrine and Covenants 84:50-60

50 And by this you may know they are under the bondage of sin, because they come not unto me.

51 For whoso cometh not unto me is under the bondage of sin.

52 And whoso receiveth not my voice is not acquainted with my voice, and is not of me.

53 And by this you may know the righteous from the wicked, and that the whole world groaneth under sin and darkness even now.

54 And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received—

55 Which vanity and unbelief have brought the whole church under condemnation.

56 And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all.

57 And they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written—

58 That they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom; otherwise there remaineth a scourge and judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion.

59 For shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay.

60 Verily, verily, I say unto you who now hear my words, which are my voice, blessed are ye inasmuch as you receive these things;

There is only one way to hear the Lord's voice and that is through reading the scriptures, which is the focus and purpose of this entire paper. Even personal revelation is superseded by revealed revelation and even if one were to receive true personal revelation it can only be received after first hearing Him, heeding His voice, which is reading the words of God and doing them.

“Our right to guidance from Holy Ghost. We have the right to the guidance of the Holy Ghost, **but we cannot have that guidance, if we wilfully refuse to consider the revelations that have been given** to help us to understand and to guide us in the light and truth of the everlasting gospel. **We cannot hope to have that guidance when we refuse to consider these great revelations** which mean so much to us both temporally and spiritually.

Now if we find ourselves in this condition of unbelief or unwillingness to seek for the light and the knowledge which the Lord has placed within our reach, then we are liable or in danger of being deceived by evil spirits, the doctrines of devils, and the teachings of men. And when these false influences are presented before us, we will not have the distinguishing understanding by which we can segregate them and know that they are not of the Lord. And so we may become prey unto the ungodly, to the vicious, to the cunning, to the craftiness of men.”

-Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, p.43

4 Behold, I have written upon these plates the very things which the brother of Jared saw; and there never were greater things made manifest than those which were made manifest unto the brother of Jared.

5 Wherefore the Lord hath commanded me to write them; and I have written them. And he commanded me that I should seal them up; and he also hath commanded that I should seal up the interpretation thereof; wherefore I have sealed up the interpreters, according to the commandment of the Lord.

It's interesting to note that Mormon was commanded not to write these things while Moroni, his son, was actually commanded to write the things and seal them up. Sometimes we are told not to do things and we are told not to do them because it is reserved for another, not because it is some special commandment. Just an interesting side note.

In summary, once again, Moroni transcribes the vision of the brother of Jared in the sealed portion. Once again, if you are looking for points of reference of when we will get it, see *Joseph Smith to Return Continued*. The record contains an account from the creation of the world to the Great and Dreadful Day. Obviously if the record is to hold any value it would have to come forth **before** the Great and Dreadful Day.

Ether 3:25; 4:1–7. The Sealed Portion of the Book of Mormon

Moroni wrote that the brother of Jared (Moriancumer) recorded in his vision all the inhabitants of the earth from beginning to end (see Ether 3:25; see also Ether 2:13). This vision reveals “all things from the foundation of the world unto the end thereof” (2 Nephi 27:10). Moroni explained that “there never were greater things made manifest” than what the brother of Jared saw (Ether 4:4). We know that Moroni sealed a copy of this vision with the plates he delivered to Joseph Smith (see Ether 4:5; 5:1). Moroni further informed us of the conditions the Lord indicated must exist for this sealed portion of the record to come forth. The scriptures indicate we must repent; exercise faith in the Lord, like the brother of Jared did; and become sanctified (see Ether 4:6–7).

6 For the Lord said unto me: They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord.

7 And in that day that they shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are.

“They will not go forth until the day the Gentiles exercise faith in the Lord, like the brother of Jared did; and become sanctified.” This is the entire purpose of this paper, to get members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to understand what it means to have the faith as the brother of Jared. This might be one of the coolest stories in the Book of Mormon (Micah’s opinion!) but I know it is one of the most misunderstood and mistaught stories in the Book of Mormon (not Micah’s opinion).

So let’s go into the story of Jared and his brother before continuing the rest of this chapter. Once we understand the story of the brother of Jared the rest of this chapter will come alive to you. It is also important to note that the story of Jared and his brother is long but what verse 7 is referring to is a specific story/event in the life of Jared and his brother. The placement of Ether 4 is the chiasmus, it is placed directly in the middle of the story of the brother of Jared. In Ether Chapter 1 we learn that Jared and his brother were at the Tower of Babel when the languages were confounded, the Lord preserves their language and they are promised to be led to a choice land. In Ether Chapter 2 the Lord is leading them to the promised choice land, they crossed many waters, built barges as they traveled, until Jared and his brethren came to “that great sea which divideth the lands.” They lived by that seashore for four years at which point in time the Lord came to the brother of Jared and rebuked and chastened him for not remembering to call upon the name of the Lord. The brother of Jared and his brethren repented (you might say they “woke up”) and they once again desired the land of promise, remember that the command was for them to go to the promised land (ie. “build the tower” D&C 101) but they became complacent and felt

comfortable where they were. The Lord then commanded them to build new barges and the Lord gave specific instructions on how they were to be built. After they were built the brother of Jared had more questions for the Lord:

1. How shall we see? (light)
2. How shall we steer? (direction)
3. How shall we breathe?

The Lord answers and says to make sure you have air make holes in the barges and cork them. They then went and did it. So he only got one of the questions answered. Once they had completed putting holes, the brother of Jared once again asked the Lord, how shall we see, how shall we steer? The Lord answers and says that He will personally steer him and his people so he doesn't need to worry about that, but he then turns around and asks the brother of Jared "what would ye do that ye should have light?" A lot of members teach this as though the Lord just got tired of answering questions like "I'll answer this question and I'll answer that question and I'm going to randomly not answer this question." Some members will teach this as the Lord won't answer all of your questions, there are some questions He wants you to figure out on your own, but they don't go into or explain what specifically those questions the Lord won't answer are and how he then expects you to find the answer. The Lord didn't just randomly pick one question not to answer, and the Lord in our lives won't just randomly pick questions not to answer. There is a purpose and a reason behind everything, and the reason for the Lord not answering questions is an extremely specific one.

We learn with the story of Joseph Smith that Joseph had a question, "what of all the sects are right?" but we sometimes omit the most important part of the story, which is what? Joseph had that question and what did he first do? Did he go off into the woods to pray immediately? No, he went to the scriptures. He then after much study came to the realization that this question could not be answered in the scriptures and so then his question turned into, "if the answer isn't in the scriptures, how do I get the truth?" His question changed. He then came across James "if any of you lack wisdom, ask God, who won't get upset at you for asking and He will freely give you the answers". And we know the rest of the story. But yet we teach the story of the brother of Jared as though the brother of Jared asked the Lord a question and the Lord very much did get upset and didn't give the brother of Jared the answer. This is where the heresy of men teach the reasons for this to their condemnation. Men will teach that the Lord wanted Jared to use his own judgment and his own wisdom to figure it out on his own. But is that what we learn with the story of Joseph Smith or any other story in the scriptures? No. To teach man to rely on their own judgment, logic, etc is to teach men to trust in the arm of flesh, and then once you have acquired the arm of flesh go seek the Lord's approval in it. Let me here boldly say this is heresy, this is not why the Lord ever doesn't answer questions. Not only is teaching it this way heresy, it is also insulting to the brother of Jared and his brethren, you're telling me that the Lord thought that the brother of Jared and his brethren were too dumb to figure out "cut a hole in the top and cork it?" That's what you're telling me? If the Lord had said, "what do you think you should do to make sure you have air?" how many answers to that could there be? Can any of you think of another answer then "cut a hole in it" But then the next question would be, "how do I keep water from

coming in?” and once again, how many people can come up with another answer other than “cork it”. This is an extremely basic process “cut a hole, cork it, when you need air uncork it, if water comes in cork it again.” But yet the Lord not only answered the brother of Jared, he answered him very specifically, just like the specific details on how to build the barge. The same thing could be said for “how are we going to steer this?” The only answer, literally, is that “we aren’t going to steer it, it’s impossible, therefore the Lord is going to steer us.” That was literally the only answer, but yet the Lord answered that question (despite it’s obvious answer) in once again great detail.

So then we get to the question of light. Not only is this the most complicated question, the Lord eliminates all of the obvious answers. You can’t put a window in because it will be smashed to bits, neither can you go by fire, etc. Wouldn’t you think this of all three questions deserves the attention of the Lord? The answer is yes, the problem is that the Lord is bound by laws and the Lord bound by those laws (laws of the celestial kingdom) cannot act outside of those laws. And what is the single most important law that is overlooked in this story and at this moment? “We do not have the right to the guidance of the Holy Ghost when we neglect revealed doctrine.” (President Joseph Fielding Smith in the quote provided above but this principle occurs over and over again). We teach this story as though the brother of Jared left this encounter, sat on a rock, put himself in the “thinker” pose and sat there until he came up with an idea. And then once he came up with that idea he presented that idea to the Lord and because he had so much faith he could see the finger of the Lord. But wherein lies the heresy of this teaching? If you teach the story this way in what or in whom was the brother of Jared’s faith centered? His faith would be centered in his own idea and in the Lord’s approval of his idea. That is heresy. The Lord wants us to have faith in Him, not in ourselves and our own ideas.

So what did happen and why didn’t the Lord simply just answer him? Clearly the answer to the brother of Jared’s question had already been answered. So if you are the brother of Jared and you have this wisdom, you know that the Lord doesn’t want you to just sit on a rock and come up with the answer, that’s not how the kingdom of God operates. You know that you need to turn to the scriptures. But what scriptures have taken place that he would have at his disposal at this time? The time period from Adam to shortly after the Tower of Babel? What event took place during that time period? Noah, the ark and the flood. If you were the brother of Jared and you were in this predicament what scriptures and stories would you turn to for an answer? Wouldn’t the story of Noah be the place to start? And wouldn’t the question be, “how did Noah get light?” So let’s read how Noah got light:

Genesis 6:16

16 A window shalt thou make to the ark,...

The very first thing you should notice when reading this is that the grammar doesn’t make sense. Why would you build a window to go to the ark? Wouldn’t you build a window in the ark? So Noah is building something specific, something specific that the Lord at that time is showing Noah how to build. Why didn’t the Lord ask Noah, “what do you want me to do Noah so that you should have light?” He simply told Noah. Why? Because at that time there was no revealed

word on the subject. So what is this “window”? The word in Hebrew that this is translated from is “tsohar” (see footnotes for Genesis 6:16), which “some rabbis believed was a precious stone that shone in the ark.” Are you starting to see what happened here?

The brother of Jared went to the story of Noah, read about this stone that shone, in the scriptures, went and molted stones after their manner and then took the stones to the Lord. And then standing before the Lord the brother of Jared said, “I know that if you touch these stones they will provide light for us as we journey just like you did for Noah.” Now, where was the brother of Jared’s faith centered? The faith of the brother of Jared was centered in the scriptures, the Lord, an understanding that the Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever, and that if the Lord did something for Noah He can do it for me. That is the faith of the brother of Jared. It wasn’t a blind faith, it wasn’t an ignorant faith, it wasn’t faith in the arm of flesh etc, it was not simply believing. It was knowing that the words of God were real and literal, it never entered his mind that this stone that he was reading about with Noah was figurative, he read the story and when he read “stone that shone forth light” he knew that it meant a “stone that shone forth light” and he went and literally made stones of ore and he literally wanted the Lord to touch them and turn them into the same type of stones that he knew Noah had. Once again, this is the faith of the brother of Jared, this is what is required for us today before we get the sealed portion. Having literal faith in the scriptures that we have now. Once again, the first step in that equation is obviously what? We have to know the scriptures. Once we know the scriptures we have to have faith in their literal fulfilments. To make figurative or spiritualize is the veil of unbelief, to believe in them literally and plainly is to have the faith of the brother of Jared.

Has this concept of Ephraim waking up and believing in the literal fulfilment of scriptures again been taught or prophesied of anywhere else? The answer to that is yes, and it is found in Isaiah 51 and I would like to read Brother Hyrum Andrus explaining it,

“In chapter 28 of Isaiah, as he talks about the drunkards of Ephraim, and this isn't drunkards in the sense that they get it from a bottle, it's the kind of drunkenness when it says "they are drunk, but not with strong drink. "They are drunk with the ideals and the zeal and the culture of the Gentile society, and they act on that principle and march by that drum beat. Then speaking of the judgments to come upon Ephraim in that day, in verse 5, he says this: "In that day shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty unto the residue of his people. "Isaiah 51 is a whole chapter devoted to that righteous remnant. Note how he begins: "Hearken unto me, ye that follow after righteousness." This, then, is that righteous remnant. "Look unto the rock from whence ye were hewn, and to the hole of the pit from whence ye are digged." "Go back to your roots. See where you came from. Find out who you were. Find out what the Lord wants you to do. "Look to the rock from whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit from whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham," there's an example." Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you; for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him." Now, this remnant is going to be left alone, they are going to sit in the dust. Many are going to say, "The Lord has forsaken us." What is your consolation? You go back to your roots and you look to Abraham, and you say, "I'm a descendant of Abraham, and the Lord is going to handle me like he did him..."”

Look to the rock from whence ye were hewn, can we not see the powerful symbolism and word association? The brother of Jared looked to Noah, the rock from whence he was hewn, and he believed that Noah literally built an ark, and he believed that the Lord literally showed Noah the process to build and make a literal stone that literally shone forth. The brother of Jared looked to that and said, “the Lord will treat me as He treated Noah.” That faith was perfected and because of that the brother of Jared saw the finger of the Lord and then the Lord could no longer withhold anything from the brother of Jared any longer and that is when he was given the vision and that is why we have Ether Chapter 4.

The reason why the Lord could not answer that question for the brother of Jared was that the answer was already available to him, and when the answer is available to us in the scriptures and we have neglected to read them we do not qualify for additional revelation or the Holy Ghost. After this event the brother of Jared and his brethren entered the promised land. This to me is a clear indicator that the sealed portion of the scriptures will come forth directly before or during the redemption and building of New Jerusalem (ie. the promised land) for in the day that Joseph’s boys wake up, and look to the rock from whence they were hewn, and have faith as the brother of Jared, meaning they believe in the return of Joseph Smith, they believe in the literal redemption of New Jerusalem, they believe in the literal return of the ten tribes, etc, when they wake up, purify their lives, and begin to have that faith, the Lord will no longer be able to withhold us from entering the vineyard, “for shall I, the Lord, suffer that my holy land be polluted?” We will not have the redemption and building of New Jerusalem when we are not worthy of it (ie. when our presence would pollute it). We need to look to the rock from whence we were hewn, Joseph Smith, the words of God, etc and we need to believe.

But what about those who won’t believe? What about those who want to cling to the philosophies and precepts of men? What if you hear the words and you don’t repent because you don’t believe in their literal plainness?

8 And he that will *contend against the word* of the Lord, let him be accursed; and he that shall deny these things, let him be accursed; for unto them will I show no greater things, saith Jesus Christ; for I am he who speaketh.

9 And at my command the heavens are opened and are shut; and at my word the earth shall shake; and at my command the inhabitants thereof shall pass away, even so as by fire.

10 And he that *believeth not my words* believeth not my disciples; and if it so be that I do not speak, judge ye; for ye shall know that it is I that speaketh, at the last day.

11 But he that *believeth these things which I have spoken, him will I visit* with the manifestations of my Spirit,....

What is this point of reference here specifically? This is an important point of reference to know and note:

1 Nephi 14:14

14 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; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory.

President Nelson said that we would live to see this event.

Continuing in Ether:

...and he shall know and bear record. For because of my Spirit he shall know that these things are true; for it persuadeth men to do good.

12 And whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do good is of me; for good cometh of none save it be of me. I am the same that leadeth men to all good; **he that will not believe my words will not believe me**—that I am; and **he that will not believe me will not believe the Father** who sent me. For behold, I am the Father, I am the light, and the life, and the truth of the world.

13 Come unto me, O ye Gentiles, and I will show unto you the greater things, the knowledge which is hid up **because of unbelief**.

14 Come unto me, O ye house of Israel, and it shall be made manifest unto you how great things the Father hath laid up for you, from the foundation of the world; and it hath not come unto you, **because of unbelief**.

The scriptures are written by the power of the Holy Ghost, the Holy Ghost is the mind of God, the words of Christ, Charity, and those who hear it, hear Him. If you don't hear Him, meaning if you don't have the faith of the brother of Jared, you will not be granted this power and you will be shown no greater things. The reason why this (the sealed portion, the redemption of Zion etc) has been withheld from previous generations is due to this unbelief, and this unbelief is synonymous with an inability to hear Him and the veil of unbelief.

So when will this event take place?

15 Behold, when ye shall rend that veil of unbelief which doth cause you to remain in your awful state of wickedness, and hardness of heart, and blindness of mind, then shall the great and marvelous things which have been hid up from the foundation of the world from you—yea, when ye shall call upon the Father in my name, with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, then shall ye know that the Father hath remembered the covenant which he made unto your fathers, O house of Israel.

When ye shall rend that veil of unbelief, when you shall “hear Him”. President Nelson’s continual focus on “hearing Him” is in fact a proof of the time period we are in, for to “hear Him” is to rend the veil of unbelief that will bring forth Joseph Smith who will bring forth the sealed portion, the redemption and building of New Jerusalem will take place etc.

So how does one rend the veil of unbelief?

My experience has been most members don't even know what the veil of darkness or veil of unbelief is. They would be more inclined to confuse it with Lehi's dream of the Tree of Life and

the “mists of darkness”. They would confuse the mists of darkness, which is Satan’s offense, with the veil of darkness/unbelief which is a self-inflicted wound; if members would rid themselves of the veil of darkness/unbelief Satan’s mists of darkness would have no effect on us, that’s the entire point of Lehi’s vision. Those that held to the iron rod, which is the Word of God, were not lost in the mists of darkness. We will learn later that the cause of the self-inflicted wound, which is the veil of unbelief, is caused by neglecting the Word of God, ie. Letting go of the iron rod. So when you think of the veil of unbelief/darkness think “people letting go of the iron rod” (or not reading the scriptures).

Doctrine and Covenants 93:26-32, 36-37, 39-40

“*The Spirit of truth is of God. I am the Spirit of truth*, and John bore record of me, saying: *He received a fulness of truth, yea, even of all truth; And no man receiveth a fulness unless he keepeth his commandments. He that keepeth his commandments receiveth truth and light, until he is glorified in truth and knoweth all things.* Man was also in the beginning with God. *Intelligence, or the light of truth*, was not created or made, neither indeed can be. All truth is independent in that sphere in which God has placed it, to act for itself, as all intelligence also; otherwise there is no existence. Behold, here is the agency of man, and here is the condemnation of man; because that which was from the beginning is plainly manifest unto them, and they receive not *the light*. And every man whose spirit receiveth not *the light* is under condemnation. *The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth. Light and truth forsake that evil one. And that wicked one cometh and taketh away light and truth, through disobedience, from the children of men, and because of the tradition of their fathers. But I have commanded you to bring up your children in light and truth.*”

Doctrine and Covenants 84: 43-49

“And I now give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to *the words of eternal life. For you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God. For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ. And the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit. And every one that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit cometh unto God, even the Father.* And the Father teacheth him of the covenant which he has renewed and confirmed upon you, which is confirmed upon you for your sakes, and not for your sakes only, but for the sake of the whole world.

Doctrine and Covenants 112:22-26

“Inasmuch as they shall humble themselves before me, *and abide in my word, and hearken to the voice of my Spirit.* Verily, verily, I say unto you, *darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt before my face.* Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation; and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord. And upon my house shall it begin, and from my house shall it go forth, saith the Lord; First among those among you, saith the Lord, who have

professed to know my name and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house, saith the Lord.”

The iron rod is the Word of God, holding fast to that iron rod is to hear the voice of the Savior, it is to receive of light and truth. The act of letting go of the iron rod is an act of disobedience, an act of disbelief, for if one actually believed in the Word of God in its literal plainness, if one actually believed in the power of those Words, they would not have let go of it. The act of people letting go of the iron rod and “leaning unto their own understanding” is the veil of unbelief, it is the veil of darkness, and when light and truth leaves the mind due to disobedience, the wicked one comes and fills it with the mists of darkness or in other words, the temptations of the world. For many are called but few are chosen, and why are they not chosen? Because they have let go of the iron rod, they have created a veil of unbelief, and the wicked one has filled their minds and hearts with a love of the vain things of this world, and they don’t learn the lessons they needed to learn for exaltation. The Lord explicitly warns of the consequences of us not accepting the light and truth, and the Lord “verily verily” warned parents of the consequences of not teaching their children.

Once again, in conclusion, letting go of the iron rod (which is there to give us light and truth) denies us the benefits of holding the iron rod, the main one being the ability to “hear Him”, or “to have the guidance of the Holy Ghost”. This condition of “letting go of the rod” IS the veil of unbelief/darkness, and it puts us in a position of vulnerability, vulnerability which is then exploited by “the wicked one” with the temptation of the world (ie. mists of darkness).

Going back to Lehi’s dream generally speaking, the field is the world, those that enter the church by baptism are those who have accepted of the presence of the Son, ie. “the Light of Christ” while those who clung to the iron rod which is the Word of God, His mind, the Holy Ghost, and pressed forward are those who obtain exaltation. If they come not “unto Christ”, unto “the Word”, the “iron rod”, they suffer from the veil of unbelief/darkness. This is made manifest by members feasting on the opinions of men. This is made manifest by members choosing to disregard the scriptures. This is made manifest by people mocking the people of God who are clinging to the Word in its literal plainness. We know that those who practice priestcraft are those who “set themselves up as a light to get gain and praise of the world”, these are people who are suffering from the veil of darkness/unbelief (whether they realize it or not) but who go a step further, they seek to create “alternative paths to the tree and then sell tickets”, meaning, they don’t simply let go of the rod and wander away, they stick around and build “new rods”, rods no longer made of iron but of wood, mud, and clay, and they call out to those holding the rod and claim “no, here is the way which leadeth to the tree!” and once people have let go of the rod and wandered over to their makeshift paths (opinions, spiritualization, figurative interpretations etc) they will charge them money. It isn’t enough for these people to damn themselves, they seek (once again, whether they realize it or not) to damn others and make a living off doing it. There is no other way given, no other Word, no other rod of iron, we can only help people attach themselves to it; as soon as we seek to be the ones actually leading, as soon as we seek to be the light, we have entered the veil of darkness/unbelief and are practicing priestcraft. Hopefully

members, once understanding this, will begin to understand why the Lord views priestcraft as such a damnable offense.

2 Nephi 32: 3-6

“Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you, feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do. Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye cannot understand them it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark. For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way, and ***receive the Holy Ghost***, it will show unto you all things what ye should do. Behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and there will be no more doctrine given until after he shall manifest himself unto you in the flesh...”

I know that the Word of God is the mind of God. I know that the Holy Ghost is also the mind of God. I know that as we have faith in the Lord and His words, we will begin to “hear Him”, and as we begin to hear Him that veil of unbelief/darkness will begin to depart from our minds and the Lord will find faith in the earth, as the brother of Jared, once again. I know as we accept the Holy Ghost it will expand our minds and teach us line upon line precept upon precept until we are full of light and truth and when Christ appears to us in the flesh we shall see Him, for we shall be even as He is, for we shall have arrived at the tree and have partaken of it’s wonderful fruit. Once enough of us are awake, once enough of us have the veil of unbelief/darkness removed, once the scales have fallen from our eyes, and we have the faith as the brother of Jared we will begin to see miracles. The understanding of last-day events and timelines, the revelations of John, I know truth after truth, miracle after miracle will begin to come forth as we begin to once again exercise faith in the Lord as did the Brother of Jared.

16 And then shall my revelations which I have caused to be written by my servant John be unfolded in the eyes of all the people. Remember, when ye see these things, ye shall know that the time is at hand that they shall be made manifest in very deed.

Ether 4:16. The Revelation of John the Revelator

The brother of Jared and Nephi, the son of Lehi, were both given foreknowledge of the book of Revelation found in our present Bible (see also 1 Nephi 14:18-28). The sealed portion of the gold plates evidently describes the same general things, and thus will help us more fully understand John’s revelation (see 2 Nephi 27:7) (BEFORE they begin to take place in actual fact).

I know the time period we are in, and therefore I know that this veil of unbelief/darkness has to start falling away NOW, and that means we have to have faith as the brother of Jared, and if we don’t know what that means, how can we ever emulate it? We can choose to be a part of the fulfillment of these miracles and prophesies in a positive light or a negative light; we can choose to survive the day, or we can choose to do what is required to be exalted in that day. Brothers and sisters these things are at our door, make the choices today while it is yet light, for soon cometh the night of darkness in which no labor can be performed. I share all this with you in the name of Jesus Christ, amen!

Additional References

Ether 12

19 And there were many whose faith was so exceedingly strong, even before Christ came, who could not be kept from within the veil, but truly saw with their eyes the things which they had beheld with an eye of faith, and they were glad.

20 And behold, we have seen in this record that one of these was the brother of Jared; for so great was his faith in God, that when God put forth his finger he could not hide it from the sight of the brother of Jared, because of his word which he had spoken unto him, which word he had obtained by faith.

21 And after the brother of Jared had beheld the finger of the Lord, because of the promise which the brother of Jared had obtained by faith, the Lord could not withhold anything from his sight; wherefore he showed him all things, for he could no longer be kept without the veil.