

Isaiah 1-14/2 Nephi 12-24 TL;DR

In the Book of Mormon Nephi puts these chapters in one lump and then he proceeds to give his inspired commentary, you could say on them, as he wraps up his writing in the Book of Mormon from chapters 25-33. Before I go over some of the most important things in those chapters (2 Nephi 25-33) however, let's take a moment to reflect on what we have learned studying Isaiah 1-14.

1. Desolating sickness: McConkie said, "an overflowing scourge shall cover the earth AND a desolating sickness shall sweep the land." This is taken from D&C 45:31. Isaiah further clarifies, "what will ye do in the day of visitation (scourge)?" AND "what will ye do in the day of the desolation (sickness) which shall come from far?" (2 Nephi 20:3/Isaiah 10:3) So we learn from Isaiah that the sickness originates or will come from outside of Ephraim. I would also point out that Isaiah was familiar with gentile and Jew terminology and he failed to use it here, meaning "far" most assuredly is a reference from Isaiah to heathen nations (non-Christian or Jewish backgrounds). We know, due to the collection of scriptures surrounding this sickness, that it paves the way for the scourge in America. We also learn that the sickness and scourge are to be "vexations, only to understand the report." (Isaiah 28:19) The sickness and scourge are not the 7 angels/vials/plagues to be poured out because those are designed to sweep people (kill) off the land, not just vexations.
2. Overflowing scourge: Another name for this is the Assyrian. The term scourge(d) is used doctrinally almost exclusively as a "whip" and is used contextually by the Lord almost entirely to mean one group of people oppressing or vexing another group of people. The Assyrian or scourge rises in conjunction with or because of the sickness that sweeps the land. These events transpire surrounding the New Jerusalem and thus take place primarily in America. The Assyrian is simply the leader of the group that is doing the scourging- this group we know is an unelected group (Isaiah 10:8/2 Nephi 20:8) and thus are Gadianton robbers. We also learn in Isaiah 14 that the battle of ideas that will be taking place here will be the Assyrian saying we shouldn't lose a single person/a single death is unacceptable whereas the rest of America says freedom/some people will die (this mirrors the war in heaven).
3. The Ensign: We learned that the ensign is Joseph Smith who will be resurrected. The ensign, the root of Jesse, Joseph Smith, my servant are all references to the same person. Joseph Smith was promised certain things, among them being, the installation of celestial law, the translation of the sealed portion of the Book of Mormon (*see Joseph Smith to Return Continued, Faith As the Brother of Jared*), the building of New Jerusalem and the calling home of the ten tribes. None of which Joseph Smith did in life and all of which need to happen as the next steps, therefore Joseph must return at this time. However, the Lord repeatedly said that this servant would be instructed of the Lord at this time and will work "in discretion" or "prudently" (Isaiah 52:13, 3 Nephi 20:43). Which means that the general membership of the church might not be privy to Joseph Smith's return and actions for some time after. Brigham Young confirmed this when he said the same thing,

when Joseph Smith returns the general membership of the church will not know about it for some time (see my paper *Joseph Smith to Return*)

4. Called to Washington: This is the prophet Isaiah going to the king of Israel, this is the leaders of the church (potentially Joseph) going to the leaders of the United States of America. They then tell the leaders of the USA that they should not trust in the arm of flesh but rather the child that is shortly to be born, which is New Jerusalem (Isaiah 7, 2 Nephi 17, “When our brethren in the Quorum of the 12 shall be called to the courts of Washington to give an account of the position of the Latter Day Saints...the world will be in commotion and the Lord will have something to work upon. It will be after this when our Savior and others will make their appearance on the earth among the Latter Day Saints.” -Brigham Young recorded in a letter from Amanda H. Wilcox, March 11 1904). The prophet’s warning to the president of the United States also contains a warning in which he says that once “the child” (New Jerusalem) is born, not 3.5 years will pass before modern alliances are broken, scattered and their wealth taken (Isaiah 8/2 Nephi 18).
5. Celestial Law: Celestial law has to be reinstated, so at the very least we need a people willing to live it. Zion can’t be built by those not living celestial law. Celestial law contains the law of consecration, law of plural marriage etc.
6. Sealed Knowledge: The sealed portion of the Book of Mormon was to be translated by Joseph Smith- this is to happen in conjunction with or before New Jerusalem. Knowledge from this point on will begin to trickle forth as from a dam that has sprung leaks. It is a gradual process until the dam is finally broken and the world is flooded with knowledge. Another important series of events that will transpire regarding revealing of truth is discussed in detail in Alma 37. Joseph Smith will reveal the dark acts of the world; this is most likely what causes the eventual breakup of the alliance between Israel and “the modern day Syria,” after the anointing.
7. Wheat and the Tares: The carcasses being torn in half, the wheat and the tares, the 10 virgins, etc all refer to this same time period in which the church will be purged as members say “we have enough” and that which they already have will be taken from them. Imagine “How would my life be different if my knowledge gained from the Book of Mormon were suddenly taken away?” President Nelson 2019; “The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do (see Doctrine and Covenants 86:1–7)” President Nelson April 2020. We learn from Isaiah that this separation occurs primarily due to people unable or unwilling to accept new knowledge, “the whole staff of bread, the whole stay of water”, which is pride. The implementation of celestial law as well as the new doctrine being revealed will be the primary causes of peoples’ apostasy (ie. pride)
8. Redemption of Zion: We now have a people living the celestial law or at the very least perfectly willing to live celestial law; they march back and redeem Jackson County Missouri where the New Jerusalem is to be built. The Lord tells the church in D&C 105 to purchase the land legally that way when the time comes they will be justified in taking it by force (D&C 105:28-32) if it comes to that. According to Orson Pratt this army will redeem Zion protected by the Lord in the form of a cloud and a flaming fire by night

(History of the Church 2:381, for a more complete reading see D&C 103:15-20 in D&C Manual). Joseph Smith and Michael (Adam) will oversee this building this will begin the series of meetings at Adam-ondi-ahman with the Savior appearing periodically.

9. Return of the 10 Tribes: At this time Joseph Smith calls the 10 tribes home, they are revealed and return as a body. We learn from the story of Joseph being sold into Egypt being “a type” of how things will play out directly before the redemption of Zion as well as the building of New Jerusalem, that Joseph’s brothers (10 tribes) will return 2 years into the 7 years of “famine/tribulation” (Ether 13). When they get to Zion the journey will have been so miraculous that “that it shall no more be said, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north” (Jeremiah 16:14-15). Then will be sung the song “sing thou barren.” They will remain in “Zion” for at least the remainder of the 7 years of “famine/tribulation” and until the Lord sets His foot on the Mount of Olives. The calling and sealing of the 144,000 (12,000 from each tribe) begin at this time, multiple meetings at Adam-ondi-ahman begin to happen.
10. Hunters of Men: also known as “the second time the Lord redeems Israel” (Jeremiah 16:16). The Lord first sent for fishers (the missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints), in that day he will send forth hunters (the 144,000 of the Church of the Firstborn). Their job is to bring as many as they can into the Church of the Firstborn.
11. Day of Tribulation Climax: Also referred to as the yoke or burden of the Assyrian or the wrath of the Dragon. As the New Jerusalem is being built the Assyrian’s influence and power will get “even to the neck”, it will almost surround the city. John the Revelator sees that when the Dragon can’t get the child (New Jerusalem), the Dragon is wroth and goes after soft targets, those he can get- members of the church worldwide who for whatever reason are not in New Jerusalem (see *Understanding Revelation Chapter 12*). During this time period the Daughters of Zion are humbled (Isaiah chapter 3). Despite this, the righteous women will outnumber the righteous men 7:1. There will be many evil alliances made at this time and many anti-Christ (necromancers) will arise that perform great miracles in direct opposition to truth.
12. The Anointing: The 144,000 and the innumerable host as Jesus is crowned (Daniel 7:13-14, Revelation 7). The 7th seal is then opened (Revelation 8:1) and then the sign of the Son of Man appears (D&C 88:91-95). And finally this sign is a countdown until the Great and Dreadful Day (silence in heaven for about half an hour). The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that this sign is the city of Enoch returning for the Great and Dreadful Day. Technically the Millennium begins for the Saints of God at this time for Jesus will be dwelling in the midst of New Jerusalem at this time.
13. Wrath of the Lord: this is when the wrath of the Lord begins to be poured out. He does not go on offense and pour out his plagues, pestilences etc until after the anointing. The Assyrian is broken quickly and the focus changes from the Assyrian to that of Babylon and the world. This is the time period spoken of wherein “if people reject the gospel they will be destroyed both temporally and spiritually” (1 Nephi 14:7). Cities will be made desolate. Much like knowledge, these plagues and pestilences will grow in severity until the Great and Dreadful Day in which all things of a telestial order are destroyed.

14. Time of the Jews: First there was the time of the gentiles, then the time of the gentiles ended (sometime between 1917-67). We are currently as of 2020 still in “the transitional period.” When this day dawns, after the 144,000 are sent off into the world, at this time they will preach only to the “Jews” and scattered Israel- they will no longer preach to gentiles or in gentile countries (this fact makes “gentile countries” the most likely candidate for “modern Syria”). During this time period many of the 144,000 will be called to Old Jerusalem, including the “two prophets.” They will preach in Jerusalem, rebuild the temple and once again offer sacrifices unto the Lord. Converts will be few. The armies of the world seek to destroy Jerusalem but the two prophets of the Lord call down plagues, pestilences etc. and hold off the armies for 3.5 years.
15. Battle of Armageddon: This is also known as the battle in the “valley of decision” where the armies of Gog of Magog unite to destroy Jerusalem. The battle is fought and lost as the two prophets are killed. It will also take place no later than “the child” (Church of the Firstborn, New Jerusalem) reaches the age of accountability which to the Lord is 8 years (Isaiah 7:16, JST Genesis 17:11). Once the two prophets are killed the armies almost immediately take control of the city and horrors befall the city for 3.5 days. Most of the “old guard” tribe of Judah are obliterated at this time.
16. Mount of Olives: also known as the great winepress of the wrath of God, the great day of the Lord’s sacrifice, the Lord’s controversy with the nations, the supper of the great God etc. After 3.5 days, the Lord will set foot on the Mount of Olives, the two prophets who lay dead in the streets will be resurrected, the Mount of Olives will be split in twain, some of the surviving fleeing Jews (most likely being led by members of the 144,000 or those they converted) are confronted by the Savior in the newly created valley where the Savior identifies himself as such. He will then utterly destroy everyone evil there including “the root and branch” (wife and kids). The continents are pushed together after a great worldwide earthquake. The Dead Sea will “become living again.”
17. Old Jerusalem: The Old Testament Manual states that after the above-mentioned catastrophe “the result will be that only 1/6th of the invading army will survive the Lord’s judgment.” Most of Jerusalem’s inhabitants will be slain, the earthquake alone will kill over 7000 people in Jerusalem and 1/10th of the city itself will be destroyed (Revelation 11:13). The manual states that “so great will be the devastation that for 7 years Israel will be able to live off the spoils of war left behind (Ezekiel 39:8-10). It will take 7 months to bury the dead, and thereafter burial teams will search out the remaining bodies in an attempt to cleanse the land (Ezekiel 39:11-16).” It will be at this time that the 10 tribes living in New Jerusalem will return to their ancestral home in Old Jerusalem. (No more ocean!) The city will be rebuilt (the walls, buildings, temple etc), temple work will continue both night and day to prepare the city for the Great and Dreadful Day.
18. The Great and Dreadful Day: This day occurs “about the space of half an hour in heaven” after the opening of the 7th seal. Best interpretation is if one day=1000 years than 30 minutes =21 years or 3 periods of 7. We know that the Great and Dreadful Day won’t occur for at least 7 years after the Mount of Olives because it is prophesied that the people will live off the spoils for 7 years. We also know that the battle in the valley of decision will occur before the child reaches the age of accountability (or at the age of

accountability), which we know is 8 years. This means that the most likely understanding for when the Great and Dreadful Day is to take place is ~14 years from the Battle of Armageddon. During that ~14 years the gospel will be preached to the heathen nations and they will have the chance to either accept or reject the gospel before the Great and Dreadful Day. Other events that occur: the city of Enoch returns at the Great and Dreadful Day and all those who are celestial and have had their temple work done will be caught up (resurrected as applicable) off the earth and will meet the city of Enoch as it comes down (Moses 7:62-63). Then the world will be changed into a terrestrial sphere- all celestial things will be destroyed and the world will be partially rolled back towards the presence of God. The people of God will then go back down to the Earth, the first shall be last and the last shall be first (Ether 13).