

## Section Two: Zeal Without Knowledge

### Chapter Five: The Why, The Key; Priestcraft

(v 1.00)

*And my vineyard has become corrupted every whit; and there is none which doeth good save it be a few; and they err in many instances because of priestcrafts, all having corrupt minds. (D&C 33:4)*

## Preface

**I. The Pyramid of Truth:** There is a reason why that chapter comes before this chapter in The Macro Last-day Timeline- if you don't understand that, you won't be able to build your doctrinal understanding of anything on sure ground, including that of the topic of this chapter. If you don't understand the difference between doctrine and policy, you frankly shouldn't be diving into any doctrinal topic ever- like ever. If you don't understand that difference, there is absolutely no way that you could build a correct functioning definition of any doctrinal term, let alone build anything that can withstand the winds and the rain- we must build upon the rock.

*It is not to be thought that every word spoken by the General Authorities is inspired, or that they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost in everything they read and write. Now you keep that in mind. I don't care what his position is, if he writes something or speaks something that goes beyond anything that you can find in the standard church works... you may immediately say, "Well, that is his own idea." And if he says something that contradicts what is found in the standard church works (I think that is why we call them "standard"—it is the standard measure of all that men teach), you may know by the same token that it is false, regardless of the position of the man who says it.*

- **President Harold B Lee** ("The Place of the Living Prophet, Seer and Revelator," address to Seminaries and Institutes of Religion Personnel, BYU, 8 July 1964, p. 14; Church CES Manual, Living Prophets For A Living Church, 1974, p. 66)

*We would say to the elders, that God has called you to an important office, he has laid upon you an onerous duty, he has called you to an holy calling, even to be the priests of the "most high God," messengers to the nations of the earth; **an upon your diligence, your perseverance and faithfulness, the soundness of the doctrines that you preach, the moral precepts that you advance and practice, and upon the sound principles that you inculcate, hang the destinies of the human family, while you hold that priesthood.***

*You are the men that God has called spread forth his kingdom, he has committed the care of souls to your charge, and when you received this priesthood, you became the legate of heaven, and the great God demands it of you, that you should be faithful, and inasmuch as you are not,*

*you will not be chosen; but it will be said unto you, stand by, and let a more honorable man than thou art take they place, and receive thy crown; **be careful that you teach not for the word of God, the commandments of men, nor the doctrines of men, nor the ordinances of men, inasmuch as you are God's messengers; study the word of God and preach it, and not your opinions, for no man's opinion is worth a straw: advance no principle but what you can prove, for one scriptural proof is worth ten thousand opinions:** we would moreover say, abide by that revelation which says, "preach nothing but repentance to this generation," and leave the further mysteries of the kingdom, till God shall tell you to preach them, which is not now.*

*The horns of the beasts, the toes of the image, the frogs and the beast mentioned by John, are not going to save this generation, for if a man does not become acquainted with the first principles of the gospel, how shall he understand those greater mysteries, which the most wise cannot understand without revelation. These things therefore, have nothing to do with your mission.*

**- Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, John E. Page, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, and George A. Smith** (Times and Seasons, 11 [November 1839]: 13)

This bit of information is crucial to understanding every doctrinal subject, for there will be many words, opinions, etc. shared on doctrinal subjects that are frankly not true, and as President Lee said- “regardless of the position of the man who says it- if it doesn’t square, it is false”. With doctrine things need to be consonant with that which is higher, or it is false; with policy/personal revelation things received need to be consonant with that which is higher or it is false. Since this is a doctrinal topic we will be using that pyramid:

Jesus The Christ > Dispensation Head (Joseph Smith Jr) > Standard Words > Prophets and Apostles with Sustaining Vote

So, once again, if Apostle Joe says “the sky is orange!” and we can point to the standard works which say “the sky is blue!” what do we do? Do we try and make it fit? No... We set it aside as false, and move on... If Apostle Pete says “butterflies come from rainbows” and we cannot find anything in the standard works, the words of Joseph Smith, or the Doctrine and Covenants (Jesus Christ) to validate said claim, likewise, we throw it out as simply that Apostle’s opinion.

Once again, this becomes crucial, because if you are relying entirely on Apostles and modern Prophets to teach you doctrine while you have no functioning understanding of the standard works, the teachings of the prophet Joseph Smith, or the Lord’s personal teachings (i.e., the Doctrine and Covenants) your understanding will be limited and you will not have the distinguishing understanding to know what is “doctrine” and what is simply “opinion” and what may yet be simply “false”... This is why, when we build doctrinal understanding we start with the words of Christ (if there are any), the teachings of the prophet Joseph Smith, and the Standard Works **and then** augment that with a concert of clarity from modern Apostles and Prophets- **not** the other way around... What is provided in this chapter will be just that... So if you happen to find some quote somewhere from some Apostle that contradicts, it will be rightly set aside as their opinion which is false... This is not a statement confirming that such quotes

exist, this is simply a statement once again confirming President Lee's quote above.

## II. Whatever God Requires is Right:

### Happiness the Design of Existence

Happiness is the object and design of our existence; and will be the end thereof, if we pursue the path that leads to it; and this path is virtue, uprightness, faithfulness, holiness, and keeping all the commandments of God. But we cannot keep all the commandments without first knowing them, and we cannot expect to know all, or more than we now know unless we comply with or keep those we have already received. ***That which is wrong under one circumstance, may be, and often is, right under another.***

God said, "Thou shalt not kill;" at another time He said, "Thou shalt utterly destroy." This is the principle on which the government of heaven is conducted—by revelation adapted to the circumstances in which the children of the kingdom are placed. ***Whatever God requires is right, no matter what it is***, although we may not see the reason thereof till long after the events transpire. If we seek first the kingdom of God, all good things will be added. So with Solomon: first he asked wisdom, and God gave it him, and with it every desire of his heart, even things which might be considered abominable to all who understand the order of heaven only in part, ***but which in reality were right because God gave and sanctioned by special revelation.***

**-Joseph Smith Jr** (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith (TPJS), p, 255-256)

Now that we've covered the "doctrinal" side of the equation, let's skip over to the "policy" side of the equation... What is the Lord's command regarding killing?

"Thou shalt not kill"

Would anyone argue that point? God forbid... But what about:

### Deuteronomy 7

1 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;

2 And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; ***thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:***

3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

4 For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

5 But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

If the Lord's command is "thou shalt not kill", then what about these people who the Lord commanded to utterly destroy another group of people? In some cases, down to the man, woman, child, and even the animals! Were these people in err? Were they "sinning" by obeying the Lord's mouthpiece and slaying those people? Once again, God forbid! As Joseph Smith taught, that which is wrong under one circumstance, may be, and often is, right under another when God sanctions by special revelation through the keys, i.e., "policy". When something is sanctioned by special revelation through the keys, i.e., "policy", obedience/compliance to that command is "right", regardless of what the command is- even things that "might be considered abominable to all who understand the order of heaven"...

### III. The "But They're Doing it!" Fallacy:

That army of Israelites just slaughtered that wicked group of people, down to the man, woman, and child... that means that I can kill wicked groups of people down to the man, woman, and child too right? And if you disagree with that, then you are in a state of apostasy because look! The Israelite army and leaders of the church are doing it!

Hopefully everyone can see how absolutely ludicrous such a statement is... how absolutely ungrounded, braindead, and faulty that logic is... Yes, there are cases in which the keys by special revelation sanction certain behavior that otherwise would be considered gross sins! That is true! But only for those people in those specific cases in which the keys have stipulated! Just because the keys spoke and said that Israelite army was to "utterly destroy", does not mean that I can also "utterly destroy" and it is no longer a sin... No... The general command of "thou shalt not kill" still very much applies to me, unless a special stipulation is given to me by the keys!

So when we see Apostles doing things by special command, or giving special exemptions to specific individuals etc. that does not mean that this special exemption now applies broadly to the world or to the church...

Further, are Apostles and Prophets perfect? No... Can an Apostle or Prophet swear, for example? I'm sure it has happened... Now, if I hear an Apostle or Prophet swear, can I then point to that behavior and say, "Well, look! A Prophet or Apostle just swore! That means swearing isn't in fact a sin!" No... Such a claim would be utterly ridiculous to the intelligent mind!

So, just because groups of people are given special exemptions by the keys, that does not mean that this exemption applies to you, and just because you see an Apostle or Prophet do something, does not mean that that act is not in fact a "sin"... If they did not obtain special sanctification, it is still very much a sin even though an Apostle or Prophet did it... They are human like the rest

of us...

## **The Prophetic Picture**

The first thing all members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints needs to wrestle with is figuring out:

1. Is the Book of Mormon true? Do I really believe that the Book of Mormon is true?
2. Did Nephi, Mormon, Moroni etc. really see my day? Do I really believe that?
3. Was the majority of these men's work directed for the benefit of Saints or non-Saints? Do I believe that?

I personally know that the Book of Mormon is true, I know that with a testimony born from the Holy Ghost. I know that these special, gifted prophets were “shown us”, they knew our righteousness and they knew our sins. I also know that this book, which is the keystone to our religion, was written primarily *for the Saints*. The Saints were to be the ones digesting it, the Saints were to be the ones feasting upon its words, the Saints were to use it as a “guidebook” as our prophet recently said. But, every member has to cement this understanding *in their own hearts and in their own minds*, we have to truly “hear Him”- for the Lord is holding the entire Church under condemnation for not doing just that:

### **D&C 84:49-58**

49 And the whole world lieth in sin, and groaneth under darkness and under the bondage of sin.

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.

Every member has to do this because the natural man rationalizes away sin, and the easiest way to rationalize away sin is to point at those on the “outside” and say “they did it!”. The natural man is an enemy to God. Nephi taught that the wicked take the truth to be hard, it makes them hostile because they have no intent on getting better, they have no intent to use the Book of Mormon as an actual guidebook for themselves- they simply use it as a way to judge others outside the church.

If we are using the Book of Mormon as a guidebook for our life and we have a testimony of its authenticity, and foreknowledge of its writers, and its target audience, any sane, rational man of common intelligence or above, is then left to conclude that the warnings in said book, to us the Saints, are what are going to be the problems for Saints leading up to the second coming of the Savior.

But, if these men, these prophets of God, actually saw us, actually saw the problems that would be arising *in the ranks of the Saints*, being taught these things for a lot of members would become a painful process. Because of this, many members begin the process of rationalization and self-justification, almost always starting that process by moving from quantifiable realities to qualitative realities- things that can easily and readily be judged into a perceived gray area... Once this rationalization has taken place, once we have gone hand in hand with Babylon as Brigham Young said we would, we reach the condition President Heber C. Kimball warned of.

## **The Great Sieve**

*[For] the time is coming when we will be mixed up in these now peaceful valleys to that extent that it will be difficult to tell the face of a Saint from the face of an enemy to the people of God. Then, brethren, look out for the great sieve, for there will be a great sifting time, and many will fall; for I say unto you there is a test, a Test, a TEST coming, and who will be able to stand? This church has before it many close places through which it must pass before the work of God is crowned with victory. To meet the difficulties that are coming it will be necessary for you to have knowledge of the truth of this work for yourselves. The difficulties will be of such character that the man or woman who does not possess this personal knowledge or witness will fall. If you have not got the testimony, live right and call upon the Lord and cease not 'till you obtain it. If you do not, you will not stand....*

- **Elder Heber C. Kimball** (May 1868, in Deseret News, 23 May 1931; see also Conference Report, Oct. 1930, p. 58-59; Orson F. Whitney, Life of Heber C. Kimball, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1945, p. 446, Smith, Robert W. and Elisabeth A., Scriptural and Secular Prophecies Pertaining to The Last Days, Ninth Edition, Pyramid Press, SLC, UT, 1947, pp. 134-138; Deseret News, May 23, 1931; W. Cleon Skousen, Prophecy and Modern Times, pp. 31-33, An Army of Elders, May 1868, Heber C. Kimball Reported by his son J. Golden Kimball, CR October 1930, p. 58. See also Prophetic Sayings of Heber C. Kimball to Sister Amanda H. Wilcox)

## **President Nelson**

*Lesson 1: The Home Is the Center of Faith and Worship*

*Often when the Lord warns us about the perils of the last days, He counsels thus: “Stand ye in holy places, and be not moved.”<sup>2</sup> These “holy places” certainly include the Lord’s temples and meetinghouses. But as our ability to gather in these places has been restricted in varying degrees, we have learned that one of the holiest of places on earth is the home—yes, even your home.*

Footnote 2:

### **Doctrine and Covenants 45:31–33**

31 And there shall be men standing in that generation, that shall not pass until they shall see an overflowing scourge; for a desolating sickness shall cover the land.

32 But my disciples shall stand in holy places, and shall not be moved; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices and curse God and die.

33 And there shall be earthquakes also in divers places, and many desolations; yet men will harden their hearts against me, and they will take up the sword, one against another, and they will kill one another.

(What We are Learning and Will Never Forget, April 2021)

"A great sifting time"

How does a sieve work? By pulling only one direction? Or does it work by shaking back and forth...? As part of that self-justification we've already addressed, many view these tests almost entirely as a political "left vs right" spectrum, and that the sifting will simply be "pulling one direction"... However, a sieve needs to go both directions to test if people are acting based off of faith, obedience, etc. or purely political and self-interests... Very few passed or are passing both tests or directions... It's easy to pass one and not the other- it's all fun and games telling others we need to be obedient to things that already align with our political views and our own self-interests, but what about when we need to be obedient to things that don't align with our political views or self-interest? Well, then all of the sudden you have to start making some real choices.

The sieve will go back and forth, back and forth, and only those who have passed the test of obedience in all directions, will be able to abide a Celestial Law and receive exaltation...

But... Knowing that there will be a great sifting time doesn't explain the "why" so many Saints fall short, and it doesn't give us the key to be able to answer that question!

### **The Key**

*"I told the brethren that **the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than***

***by any other book."***

**- Joseph Smith Jr** ( History of the Church, 4:461.)

*"We are to use the Book of Mormon in handling objections to the Church. God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ revealed themselves to Joseph Smith in a marvelous vision. After that glorious event, Joseph Smith told a minister about it. Joseph was surprised to hear the minister say that there were no such things as visions or revelations in these days, that all such things had ceased. (See JS—H 1:21.) This remark symbolizes practically all of the objections that have ever been made against the Church by nonmembers and dissident members alike. Namely, they do not believe that God reveals his will today to the Church through prophets of God. All objections, whether they be on abortion, plural marriage, seventh-day worship, etc., basically hinge on whether Joseph Smith and his successors were and are prophets of God receiving divine revelation. Here, then, is a procedure to handle most objections through the use of the Book of Mormon. First, understand the objection. Second, give the answer from revelation. Third, show how the correctness of the answer really depends on whether or not we have modern revelation through modern prophets. Fourth, explain that whether or not we have modern prophets and revelation really depends on whether the Book of Mormon is true. Therefore, the only problem the objector has to resolve for himself is whether the Book of Mormon is true."*

*"The Book of Mormon is to be used "for a standard unto my people, which are of the house of Israel," the Lord says, and its words "shall hiss forth unto the ends of the earth." (2 Ne. 29:2.) We, the members of the Church, and particularly the missionaries, have to be the "hissers," or the tellers and testifiers, of the Book of Mormon unto the ends of the earth. The Book of Mormon is the great standard we are to use. It shows that Joseph Smith was a prophet. It contains the words of Christ, and its great mission is to bring men to Christ, and all other things are secondary. ... **It is a great sieve.**"*

**-President Ezra Taft Benson** (First Presidency message, The Book of Mormon is the Word of God)

Yes... The Book of Mormon holds the key yet again, not Daniel, or Esdras, or Visions of Glory, or any other book... The Book of Mormon is once again the key to understanding this "why" and being able to answer it. So why, why are so many Saints lost in this sieving time? Why are Saints who should know better lost in the mist of darkness? What is the cause?

## **If the Past is Prologue**

### **2 Nephi 26:3-6**

3 And after the Messiah shall come there shall be signs given unto my people of his birth, and also of his death and resurrection; and great and terrible shall that day be unto the wicked, for they shall perish; and they perish ***because they cast out the prophets***, and the saints, and stone them, and slay them; wherefore the cry of the blood of the saints shall ascend up to God from the ground against them.

4 Wherefore, all those who are proud, and that do wickedly, the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, for they shall be as stubble.



5 And they that kill the prophets, and the saints, the depths of the earth shall swallow them up, saith the Lord of Hosts; and mountains shall cover them, and whirlwinds shall carry them away, and buildings shall fall upon them and crush them to pieces and grind them to powder.

6 And they shall be visited with thunderings, and lightnings, and earthquakes, and all manner of destructions, for the fire of the anger of the Lord shall be kindled against them, and they shall be as stubble, and the day that cometh shall consume them, saith the Lord of Hosts.

So a basic rundown of the points of reference here are:

1. The people reject the prophets and the Saints and stone them and slay them
2. The blood of the Saints cry from the ground
3. The people are visited with thunders and lightnings and earthquakes etc.

So what did this actually look like for the Nephites ~33AD and what else was said about it?

### 3 Nephi 9

1 And it came to pass that there was a voice heard among all the inhabitants of the earth, upon all the face of this land, crying:

2 Wo, wo, wo unto this people; wo unto the inhabitants of the whole earth except they shall repent; for the devil laugheth, and his angels rejoice, because of the slain of the fair sons and daughters of my people; and it is ***because of their iniquity and abominations that they are fallen!***

3 Behold, that great city Zarahemla have I burned with fire, and the inhabitants thereof.

4 And behold, that great city Moroni have I caused to be sunk in the depths of the sea, and the inhabitants thereof to be drowned.

5 And behold, that great city Moronihah have I covered with earth, and the inhabitants thereof, to hide their iniquities and their abominations from before my face, ***that the blood of the prophets and the saints shall not come any more unto me against them.***

6 And behold, the city of Gilgal have I caused to be sunk, and the inhabitants thereof to be buried up in the depths of the earth;

7 Yea, and the city of Onihah and the inhabitants thereof, and the city of Mocom and the inhabitants thereof, and the city of Jerusalem and the inhabitants thereof; and waters have I caused to come up in the stead thereof, to hide their wickedness and abominations from before my face, ***that the blood of the prophets and the saints shall not come up any more unto me against them.***

8 And behold, the city of Gadiandi, and the city of Gadiomnah, and the city of Jacob, and the city of Gimgimno, all these have I caused to be sunk, and made hills and valleys in the places thereof; and the inhabitants thereof have I buried up in the depths of the earth, to hide their wickedness and abominations from before my face, *that the blood of the prophets and the saints should not come up any more unto me against them.*

9 And behold, that great city Jacobugath, which was inhabited by the people of king Jacob, have I caused to be burned with fire because of their sins and their wickedness, which was above all the wickedness of the whole earth, because of their secret murders and combinations; for it was they that did destroy the peace of my people and the government of the land; therefore I did cause them to be burned, to destroy them from before my face, *that the blood of the prophets and the saints should not come up unto me any more against them.*

10 And behold, the city of Laman, and the city of Josh, and the city of Gad, and the city of Kishkumen, have I caused to be burned with fire, and the inhabitants thereof, *because of their wickedness in casting out the prophets, and stoning those whom I did send to declare unto them concerning their wickedness and their abominations.*

11 *And because they did cast them all out, that there were none righteous among them, I did send down fire and destroy them, that their wickedness and abominations might be hid from before my face, that the blood of the prophets and the saints whom I sent among them might not cry unto me from the ground against them.*

So as one can see, Nephi's prophesy, what he saw, was played out literally in its fulfillment. And what about the parallel to our day? Is the past truly prologue?

#### **Revelation 6:9-10**

9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, *dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*

So here we have the blood of the Saints crying from the ground, then continuing we read:

#### **Revelation 6:12-14**

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heavens opened as a scroll is opened when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

### **D&C 88:87-90**

87 For not many days hence and the earth shall tremble and reel to and fro as a drunken man; and the sun shall hide his face, and shall refuse to give light; and the moon shall be bathed in blood; and the stars shall become exceedingly angry, and shall cast themselves down as a fig that falleth from off a fig tree.

88 And after your testimony cometh wrath and indignation upon the people.

89 For after your *testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes*, that shall cause groanings in the midst of her, and men shall fall upon the ground and shall not be able to stand.

90 And also *cometh the testimony of the voice of thunderings, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea heaving themselves beyond their bounds.*

And here we have the people are visited with thunder, lightning, earthquake etc. *after* the testimonies and blood crying from the ground.

So we have clear parallels from when Jesus visited the Nephites to when Jesus will visit us in the Americas, going back to 2 Nephi 26:

### **2 Nephi 26:7-9**

7 O the pain, and the anguish of my soul for the loss of the slain of my people! For I, Nephi, have seen it, and it well nigh consumeth me before the presence of the Lord; but I must cry unto my God: Thy ways are just.

8 But behold, *the righteous that hearken unto the words of the prophets, and destroy them not*, but look forward unto Christ with steadfastness for the signs which are given, notwithstanding all persecution—behold, *they are they which shall not perish.*

9 But the Son of Righteousness shall appear unto them; and he shall heal them, and they shall have peace with him,...

So, once again, the clear divide here is between those who follow the prophet vs those who follow him not, further explaining and shedding light on the actual sieving process, however, we still need to answer the question, “*why* did they not heed the prophets? *Why* is this sieve so successful?!” Let’s keep reading...

### **2 Nephi 26:10-11**

10 And when [they have rejected the prophets] a speedy destruction cometh unto my people; for, notwithstanding the pains of my soul, I have seen it; wherefore, I know that it shall come to pass; and *they sell themselves for naught*; for, for the reward of their pride and their foolishness they

shall reap destruction; for because they yield unto the devil and choose works of darkness rather than light, therefore they must go down to hell.

11 For the Spirit of the Lord will not always strive with man. And when the Spirit ceaseth to strive with man then cometh speedy destruction, and this grieveth my soul.

So what causes people to harden their hearts against the prophets or in other words to have the veil of unbelief fall upon them, or as Joseph Smith put it, “the veil of stupidity” come upon them, or as Nephi puts “to have the Lord’s Light cease to strive with you”? We finally have our first clue:

*Selling themselves for naught.*

And when that happens the Spirit of the Lord ceases to strive with people. A veil of unbelief or stupidity falls upon their minds and “behold, ere, they are aware, they are left unto themselves to kick against the pricks, to persecute the Saints and to fight against God.” (D&C 121:38)

## **2 Nephi 26:14, 19**

14 But behold, I prophesy unto you concerning the last days; concerning the days when the Lord God shall bring these things forth unto the children of men.

19 And it shall come to pass, that those who have dwindled in unbelief shall be smitten [and scourged] by the hand of the Gentiles.

So Nephi sees what happens to his people and then begins to immediately relate it to us in the last days, and the most important thing would be for him to try to get us to not dwindle in unbelief and reject the prophets during that sifting time that Nephi knows is coming. So Nephi clarifies beyond any reasonable doubt what causes the unbelief, what causes the veil of stupidity, what causes the Light of Christ to no longer dwell with man and ultimately cause the rejection of the prophets, how are they “*selling themselves for naught*”... And he does so in the following verses.

## **What is Priestcraft?**

First I’d ask, “what is a craft?”

### **The Prophet’s Characterization of Himself**

*“I am like a huge, rough stone rolling down from a high mountain; and the only polishing I get is when some corner gets rubbed off by coming in contact with something else, striking with accelerated force against religious bigotry, **priestcraft, lawyer-craft, doctor-craft, lying editors, suborned judges and jurors, and the authority of perjured executives**, backed by mobs, blasphemers, licentious and corrupt men and women—all hell knocking off a corner here and a corner there. Thus I will become a smooth and polished shaft in the quiver of the Almighty, who*

*will give me dominion over all and every one of them, when their refuge of lies shall fail, and their hiding place shall be destroyed, while these smooth-polished stones with which I come in contact become marred.”*

**-Joseph Smith** (TPJS, p.304)

Priestcraft, lawyer-craft, doctor-craft, editors, judges...I could add to the list woodcraft, leathercraft, etc. etc. etc. what is someone's "craft"? Someone's "craft" is their particular skillset in which they "get gain", which is much different vs "service", or "giving milk and honey without money and without price" or "giving freely to all men", etc. etc.

"Gain" is involved in all "crafts"- it is the very reason why people pursue the title "craftsman of [insert here]". As soon as "gain" is involved it becomes a craft, it no longer is a service, it is no longer charity, it has become "mammon" or "an exchange of goods", for mammon is simply the standard Hebrew word for *any kind of financial dealing*- so as soon as there is a financial dealing/exchange it becomes "mammon", it becomes "gain", it becomes "a craft"... (Hugh Nibley, Approaching Zion, Chapter 2)

But we have used enough words from Brother Hugh Nibley and myself, let us turn to The Book of Mormon and read how it describes priestcraft and how it does not describe priestcraft

## **2 Nephi 26:20-22,25-31**

20 And the Gentiles are lifted up in the pride of their eyes, and have stumbled, because of the greatness of their stumbling block, *that they have built up many churches; nevertheless, they put down the power and miracles of God, and preach up unto themselves their own wisdom and their own learning, that they may get gain and grind upon the face of the poor.*

*21 And there are many churches built up [and I would add "and YouTube channels, and Facebook groups, and Come Follow Me programs, etc.] which cause envyings, and strifes, and malice.*

22 And there are also secret combinations, even as in times of old, according to the combinations of the devil, for he is the founder of all these things; yea, the founder of murder, and works of darkness; yea, and he leadeth them by the neck with a flaxen cord, until he bindeth them with his strong cords forever.

25 Behold, doth [the Lord] cry unto any, saying: Depart from me? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; but he saith: Come unto me all ye ends of the earth, *buy milk and honey, without money and without price.*

*26 Behold, hath he commanded any that they should depart out of the synagogues, or out of the houses of worship? Behold, I say unto you, Nay.*

27 *Hath he commanded any that they should not partake of his salvation? Behold I say unto you, Nay; but he hath given it free for all men; and he hath commanded his people that they should persuade all men to repentance.*

28 *Behold, hath the Lord commanded any that they should not partake of his goodness? Behold I say unto you, Nay; but all men are privileged the one like unto the other, and none are forbidden.*

29 *He commandeth that there shall be no priestcrafts; for, behold, priestcrafts are that men preach and set themselves up for a light unto the world, that they may get gain and praise of the world; but they seek not the welfare of Zion.*

30 *Behold, the Lord hath forbidden this thing; wherefore, the Lord God hath given a commandment that all men should have charity, which charity is love. And except they should have charity they were nothing. Wherefore, if they should have charity they would not suffer the laborer in Zion to perish.*

31 *But the laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for money they shall perish.*

### **3 Nephi 13**

19 *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and thieves break through and steal;*

20 *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.*

21 *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

22 *The light of the body is the eye; if, therefore, thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.*

23 *But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If, therefore, the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*

24 *No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. **Ye cannot serve God and Mammon.***

### **1 Nephi 22:23**

23 *For the time speedily shall come that all churches **which are built up to get gain**, and all those who are built up to get power over the flesh, and those who are built up to become popular in the eyes of the world, and those who seek the lusts of the flesh and the things of the world, and to do all manner of iniquity; yea, in fine, all those who belong to the kingdom of the devil are they who need fear, and tremble, and quake; they are those who 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.*

## **Alma 1:12-16**

2 And it came to pass that in the first year of the reign of Alma in the judgment-seat, there was a man brought before him to be judged, a man who was large, and was noted for his much strength.

3 And he had gone about among the people, preaching to them that which he termed to be the word of God, bearing down against the church; declaring unto the people that every priest and teacher ought to become popular; *and they ought not to labor with their hands, but that they ought to be supported by the people.*

4 And he also testified unto the people that all mankind should be saved at the last day, and that they need not fear nor tremble, but that they might lift up their heads and rejoice; for the Lord had created all men, and had also redeemed all men; and, in the end, all men should have eternal life.

5 And it came to pass that he did teach these things so much that many did believe on his words, even so many *that they began to support him and give him money.*

6 And he began to be lifted up in the pride of his heart, *and to wear very costly apparel*, yea, and even began to establish a church after the manner of his preaching.

12 But Alma said unto him: Behold, *this is the first time that priestcraft has been introduced among this people. And behold, thou art not only guilty of priestcraft, but hast endeavored to enforce it by the sword; and were priestcraft to be enforced among this people it would prove their entire destruction.*

16 Nevertheless, *this did not put an end to the spreading of priestcraft through the land; for there were many who loved the vain things of the world*, and they went forth preaching false doctrines; and this they did *for the sake of riches and honor.*

## **Helaman 7:**

18 It is because you have hardened your hearts; yea, ye will not hearken unto the voice of the good shepherd; yea, ye have provoked him to anger against you.

19 And behold, instead of gathering you, except ye will repent, behold, he shall scatter you forth that ye shall become meat for dogs and wild beasts.

20 O, how could you have forgotten your God in the very day that he has delivered you?

21 But behold, *it is to get gain, to be praised of men, yea, and that ye might get gold and silver. And ye have set your hearts upon the riches and the vain things of this world, for the which ye do murder, and plunder, and steal, and bear false witness against your neighbor, and do all manner of iniquity.*

22 And for this cause wo shall come unto you except ye shall repent. For if ye will not repent, behold, this great city, and also all those great cities which are round about, which are in the land of our possession, shall be taken away that ye shall have no place in them; for behold, the Lord will not grant unto you strength, as he has hitherto done, to withstand against your enemies.

### **3 Nephi 27:**

32 But behold, it sorroweth me because of the fourth generation from this generation, for they are led away captive by him even as *was the son of perdition; for they will sell me for silver and for gold, and for that which moth doth corrupt and which thieves can break through and steal.* And in that day will I visit them, even in turning their works upon their own heads.

## **What is Gain?**

### **Doctrine and Covenants 42:**

54 Thou shalt not take thy brother's garment; *thou shalt pay for that which thou shalt receive of thy brother*

### **Doctrine and Covenants 72:**

11 To take an account of the elders as before has been commanded; and to administer to their wants, *who shall pay for that which they receive, inasmuch as they have wherewith to pay*

The term gain refers to the increase in the value of an asset when it is sold. Put simply, a capital gain occurs when you sell an asset for more than what you originally paid for it, there is an "increase" or "gain" obtained.

*"Brethren, we are gathering to this bautiful land, to build up Zion. . . . But since I have been here I perseive the spirit of selfishness, covetousness, exists in the hearts of the saints. . . . Here are those who begin to spread out, buying up all the land they are able to do, . . . .thinking to lay foundations for themselves only, looking to their own individual familys. . . . Now I want to tell you that Zion can not be built up in any such way. I see signs put out, Beer signs, speculative scheems are being introduced. This is the ways of the world -- Babylon indeed, and I tell you in the name of the God of Israel, if there is not repentance, . . . you will be Broken up and scattered from this choice land [sic]."*

- **Joseph Smith Jr** (Edward Stevenson, Life and History of Elder Edward Stevenson (n.d.), 40-41)



## **Practical Examples (Impossible to Confuse or Refute)**

### **Alma 1:**

19 But it came to pass that whosoever did not belong to the church of God began to persecute those that did belong to the church of God, and had taken upon them the name of Christ.

20 Yea, they did persecute them, and afflict them with all manner of words, and this because of their humility; because they were not proud in their own eyes, and ***because they did impart the word of God, one with another, without money and without price.***

5 Now this was a great trial to those that did stand fast in the faith; nevertheless, they were steadfast and immovable in keeping the commandments of God, and they bore with patience the persecution which was heaped upon them.

26 ***And when the priests left their labor to impart the word of God unto the people, the people also left their labors to hear the word of God. And when the priest had imparted unto them the word of God they all returned again diligently unto their labors; and the priest, not esteeming himself above his hearers, for the preacher was no better than the hearer, neither was the teacher any better than the learner; and thus they were all equal, and they did all labor, every man according to his strength.***

27 And they did impart of their substance, every man according to that which he had, to the poor, and the needy, and the sick, and the afflicted; and they did not wear costly apparel, yet they were neat and comely.

### **Alma 35**

3 And it came to pass that after the more popular part of the Zoramites had consulted together concerning the words which had been preached unto them, ***they were angry because of the word, for it did destroy their craft; therefore they would not hearken unto the words.***

### **Alma 30:**

12 And this Anti-Christ, whose name was Korihor, (and the law could have no hold upon him) began to preach unto the people ... And after this manner did he preach, saying:

27 ... [Y]e lead away this people after the foolish traditions of your fathers, and according to your own desires; and ye keep them down, even as it were in bondage, ***that ye may glut yourselves with the labors of their hands***, that they durst not look up with boldness, and that they durst not enjoy their rights and privileges.

28 Yea, they durst not make use of that which is their own lest they should offend their priests, who do yoke them according to their desires, and have brought them to believe, by their traditions and their dreams and their whims and their visions and their pretended mysteries, that they should, if they did not do according to their words, offend some unknown being, who they say is God—a being who never has been seen or known, who never was nor ever will be

31 And he did rise up in great swelling words before Alma, and did revile against the priests and teachers, *accusing them of leading away the people after the silly traditions of their fathers, for the sake of glutting on the labors of the people.*

**Alma 30:**

32 Now Alma said unto him: *Thou knowest that we do not glut ourselves upon the labors of this people; for behold I have labored even from the commencement of the reign of the judges until now, with mine own hands for my support, notwithstanding my many travels round about the land to declare the word of God unto my people.*

33 *And notwithstanding the many labors which I have performed in the church, I have never received so much as even one senine for my labor; neither has any of my brethren, save it were in the judgment-seat; and then we have received only according to law for our time.*

34 *And now, if we do not receive anything for our labors in the church,* what doth it profit us to labor in the church save it were to declare the truth, that we may have rejoicings in the joy of our brethren?

35 *Then why sayest thou that we preach unto this people to get gain, when thou, of thyself, knowest that we receive no gain?*

**Mosiah 18:**

26 *And the priests were not to depend upon the people for their support; but for their labor they were to receive the grace of God, that they might wax strong in the Spirit, having the knowledge of God, that they might teach with power and authority from God.*

**Mosiah 2:**

9 And these are the words which he spake and caused to be written, saying: My brethren, all ye that have assembled yourselves together, you that can hear my words which I shall speak unto you this day; for I have not commanded you to come up hither to trifle with the words which I shall speak, but that you should hearken unto me, and open your ears that ye may hear, and your hearts that ye may understand, and your minds that the mysteries of God may be unfolded to your view.

10 I have not commanded you to come up hither that ye should fear me, or that ye should think that I of myself am more than a mortal man.

11 *But I am like as yourselves,* subject to all manner of infirmities in body and mind; yet I have been chosen by this people, and consecrated by my father, and was suffered by the hand of the Lord that I should be a ruler and a king over this people; and have been kept and preserved by his

matchless power, to serve you with all the might, mind and strength which the Lord hath granted unto me.

**12 *I say unto you that as I have been suffered to spend my days in your service, even up to this time, and have not sought gold nor silver nor any manner of riches of you;***

13 Neither have I suffered that ye should be confined in dungeons, nor that ye should make slaves one of another, nor that ye should murder, or plunder, or steal, or commit adultery; nor even have I suffered that ye should commit any manner of wickedness, and have taught you that ye should keep the commandments of the Lord, in all things which he hath commanded you—

**14 *And even I, myself, have labored with mine own hands that I might serve you, and that ye should not be laden with taxes, and that there should nothing come upon you which was grievous to be borne***—and of all these things which I have spoken, ye yourselves are witnesses this day.

15 Yet, my brethren, I have not done these things that I might boast, neither do I tell these things that thereby I might accuse you; but I tell you these things that ye may know that I can answer a clear conscience before God this day.

**16 *Behold, I say unto you that because I said unto you that I had spent my days in your service, I do not desire to boast, for I have only been in the service of God.***

**17 *And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.***

**18 *Behold, ye have called me your king; and if I, whom ye call your king, do labor to serve you, then ought not ye to labor to serve one another?***

**19 *And behold also, if I, whom ye call your king, who has spent his days in your service, and yet has been in the service of God, do merit any thanks from you, O how you ought to thank your heavenly King!***

20 I say unto you, my brethren, that if you should render all the thanks and praise which your whole soul has power to possess, to that God who has created you, and has kept and preserved you, and has caused that ye should rejoice, and has granted that ye should live in peace one with another—

21 I say unto you that if ye should serve him who has created you from the beginning, and is preserving you from day to day, by lending you breath, that ye may live and move and do according to your own will, and even supporting you from one moment to another—I say, if ye should serve him with all your whole souls yet ye would be unprofitable servants.

## **The Bible: A Second Witness**

## **1 Peter 5:2**

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for **filthy lucre**, but of a ready mind;

## **1 Corinthians 9:16-18**

16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ **without charge**, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

## **Matthew 10:7-10**

7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, **freely give**.

9 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,

10 Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.

## **Modern Testimonies; A Third Witness**

*“The Lord will never come until he has organized his kingdom on the earth, and prepared his people by sending a messenger to prepare the way before him; D&C 45:9 that messenger has come, and the man that delivered it has been slain, namely, Joseph Smith... If the people had read the Scriptures they would [be] looking [and see]... if they had not listened to a set of blind guides, Matt. 23:24 **who have hired out for money to tell them the Scriptures mean something else.**”*

- **Elder Pratt** (JD 3:127, Literal Fulfillment of Prophecy, Etc.)

*“My sense of urgency comes from the fact that I spend all my days now with the scriptures. And the two marks of the Church I see are and have been for a long time these: a reverence for wealth and a contempt for the scriptures. Naturally, the two go hand in hand. We should call attention to the fact that these things we are doing are against the work of the Lord. There is one*

saying of Joseph Smith I think of quite often: “If the heavens seem silent at a time when we desperately need revelation, it is because of covetousness in the Church. God has often sealed up the heavens because of covetousness.” And now the Church isn’t just shot through with covetousness, it is saturated with covetousness. And so the heavens are going to be closed. We’re told we don’t get revelation if we put our trust in money in the bank.”

- **Hugh Nibley** (“Nibley Talks about Contemporary Issues,” 13)

*“I have said this to let my friends know that I am right. As I grow older my heart grows tenderer for you. I am at all times willing to give up every thing that is wrong, for I wish this people to **have a virtuous leader**. I have set your minds at liberty by letting you know **the things of Christ Jesus**. When I shrink not from your defence, **will you throw me away for a new man who slanders you?** I love you for your reception of me. **Have I asked you for your money? No, you know better; I appeal to the poor. I say cursed be that man or woman who says that I have taken of your money ...**”*

- **Joseph Smith Jr** (JS Papers, History, 1838–1856, volume F-1 [1 May 1844–8 August 1844])

### **Doctrine and Covenants 121:**

34 Behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen?

35 **Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world**, and aspire to the honors of men

*“Some may serve for hope of earthly reward. Such a man or woman might serve in Church positions or in private acts of mercy in an effort to achieve prominence or cultivate contacts that would increase income or aid in acquiring wealth. Others might serve in order to obtain worldly honors, prominence, or power.*

*The scriptures have a word for gospel service “for the sake of riches and honor”; it is “priestcraft.” Alma 1:16 Nephi said, “Priestcrafts are that men preach and set themselves up for a light unto the world, that they may get gain and praise of the world; but they seek not the welfare of Zion.” (2 Ne. 26:29) In these latter days, we are commanded to “seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.” (D&C 6:6) Unfortunately, not all who accomplish works under that heading are really intending to build up Zion or strengthen the faith of the people of God. Other motives can be at work.*

*Service that is ostensibly unselfish but is really for the sake of riches or honor surely comes within the Savior’s condemnation of those who “outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ... are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.” Matt. 23:28 Such service earns no gospel reward.”*

-**Elder Dallin H. Oaks** (Why Do We Serve?)

*"Our theory is that a man who cannot sustain himself and also teach others how to sustain themselves is **unfit for a leading position**, and he becomes a drone in the great hive. On that account we compel or require **every minister in this Church to sustain himself**. Jesus said that he who is greatest among you let him be the servant of all, (Matt. 23:11) and we have carried this into effect—the servant of the whole people is the President of the Church. The man who is the greatest servant in a settlement is the President of the settlement, or the Bishop of a ward....By this means the ministry in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is an active one, carrying the blessings of spiritual and temporal salvation into the midst of the people.*

*It has been by the labors of such men that this community has been founded, and this once barren desert changed into a fruitful field (Isa. 29:17) and made to blossom as the rose. (Isa. 35:1) Through the labors of the Apostles, Elders and Bishops of this Church, settlements have been extended to the remotest bounds of the Territory, north, south, east and west. They have been the pioneers in all great labors, **not saying to the people, "Give us of your wealth and substance, we want to be sustained in idleness, that we may rule over you;" but on the contrary they have said, "Come, brethren, let us go and accomplish this labor that God has laid upon us."** They have been the pioneers in all these labors—these Apostles, Presidents, Bishops, Dignitaries, these men who are supposed to fatten on the labors of the people.*

*Instead of doing that, they have been the creators of the wealth that the people now enjoy; they have been the fathers of the people, the people have been the objects of their paternal care from the beginning until today. **I would not give a fig for a leading man who would not act in this capacity; he is worth nothing, and deserves no place in the midst of the people of God. Men to save their fellow men and to be ministers of Jesus Christ must have the spirit of Jesus. His spirit was one of self sacrifice, one that prompted him to go forth and save the people, not to be a burden upon them, not to crush them. That is priestcraft; and wherever that system prevails a system of despicable priestcraft prevails, and God is angry with it and with those who practice it.***

-George Q. Cannon (Tithing, JD 15:145)

## **Priestcraft; Sons of Perdition**

### **Helaman 13:**

24 Yea, wo unto this people, because of this time which has arrived, that ye do cast out the prophets, and do mock them, and cast stones at them, and do slay them, and do all manner of iniquity unto them, even as they did of old time.

Okay, so now we are back to this same theme once again, but I hear one say, "we don't stone the prophets, and throw them out and slay them! And we don't support priestcraft! We simply support financially people we want to hear preach..." Let's keep reading...

### Helaman 13:

25 And now when ye talk, ye say: *If our days had been in the days of our fathers of old, we would not have slain the prophets; we would not have stoned them, and cast them out.*

Wha-oh! Look out! Now the Lord through His prophet is talking directly to you! Let's hear him out...

### Helaman 13:

26 *Behold ye are worse than they*; for as the Lord liveth, if a prophet come among you and declareth unto you the word of the Lord, which testifieth of your sins and iniquities, ye are angry with him, and cast him out and seek all manner of ways to destroy him; yea, you will say that he is a false prophet, and that he is a sinner, and of the devil, because he testifieth that your deeds are evil.

27 But behold, if a man shall come among you and shall say: Do this, and there is no iniquity; do that and ye shall not suffer; yea, he will say: Walk after *the pride of your own hearts* [i.e. “spirit-o-meters”]; yea, walk after the pride of your eyes, and *do whatsoever your heart desireth*—and if a man shall come among you and say this, ye will receive him, and say that he is a prophet. [or a great teacher, YouTuber, writer, etc.]

28 Yea, ye will lift him up, and ye will give unto him of your substance; ye will give unto him of your gold, and of your silver, and ye will clothe him with costly apparel; and because he speaketh flattering words unto you, and he saith that all is well, then ye will not find fault with him. [Clearly identifying the giving of substance to the person as the key to priestcraft]

29 O ye wicked and ye perverse generation; ye hardened and ye stiffnecked people, how long will ye suppose that the Lord will suffer you? Yea, how long will ye suffer yourselves to be led by foolish and blind guides? Yea, how long will ye choose darkness rather than light?

30 Yea, behold, the anger of the Lord is *already* kindled against you; behold, he hath cursed the land because of your iniquity.

31 And behold, the time cometh that he curseth your riches, that they become slippery, that ye cannot hold them; and in the days of your poverty ye cannot retain them.

32 *And in the days of your poverty ye shall cry unto the Lord; and in vain shall ye cry, for your desolation is already come upon you, and your destruction is made sure; and then shall ye weep and howl in that day, saith the Lord of Hosts.* And then shall ye lament, and say:

33 O that I had repented, and had not killed the prophets, and stoned them, and cast them out. Yea, in that day ye shall say: O that we had remembered the Lord our God in the day that he gave us our riches, and then they would not have become slippery that we should lose them; for behold, our riches are gone from us.

Pay. Close. Attention. Saints of God.

“Ye are *worse* than those who kill the prophets” if ye go about seeking ways to destroy the Prophet/keys, tear them down, belittle them, etc. “ye are *worse* than those who kill the prophets” if ye go about seeking those who will preach unto you flattering words and give them substance, in other words “*do[ing] whatsoever your heart desireth*”... or as the Lord put it in

### **D&C 1:**

16 They seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall.

### **2 Nephi 10:5**

5 But because of *priestcrafts* and iniquities, they at Jerusalem will stiffen their necks against him, *that he be crucified*.

### **3 Nephi 30:2**

2 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, and come unto me, and be baptized in my name, that ye may receive a remission of your sins, and be filled with the Holy Ghost, *that ye may be numbered with my people who are of the house of Israel*.

### **3 Nephi 21:19**

19 And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and *priestcrafts*, and whoredoms, shall be done away.

*“Hear it you Elders of Israel, you Presidents of Stakes, you Bishops and you men in authority, and you Elders everywhere! This is the reason why men have departed from the truth and have apostatized. Hence many are called but few are chosen. No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned; by kindness and pure knowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the soul without hypocrisy and without guile.”*

*This is the reason why so many have stumbled, and I will say still further that unless the elders of Israel realize their position, whether they be presidents of stakes, or whether they be the Twelve, or the First Presidency; or whether they be Bishops, or whether they hold any office of*



*authority in the Church and kingdom of God—no matter what position they may occupy, if they go to work to seek to aggrandise themselves at the expense of the Church and kingdom of God, the Spirit of God will be withdrawn from them and they will be left as others have been left to “kick against the pricks” and to fight against God, and they will find their way to perdition instead of to the celestial kingdom of God.*

- **John Taylor** (“Millennial Star 43 (3 May 1881): 279, 283–85” ; “The Prophets Have Spoken: Volume 1” by Eric D. Bateman)

## **Mosiah 2:**

36 And now, I say unto you, my brethren, that after ye have known and have been taught all these things, if ye should transgress and go contrary to that which has been spoken, that ye do withdraw yourselves from the Spirit of the Lord, that it may have no place in you to guide you in wisdom’s paths that ye may be blessed, prospered, and preserved—

37 I say unto you, that the man that doeth this, the same cometh out in open rebellion against God; therefore he listeth to obey the evil spirit, and becometh an enemy to all righteousness; therefore, the Lord has no place in him, for he dwelleth not in unholy temples.

38 Therefore if that man repenteth not, and remaineth and dieth an enemy to God, the demands of divine justice do awaken his immortal soul to a lively sense of his own guilt, which doth cause him to shrink from the presence of the Lord, and doth fill his breast with guilt, and pain, and anguish, which is like an unquenchable fire, whose flame ascendeth up forever and ever.

39 And now I say unto you, that mercy hath no claim on that man; therefore his final doom is to endure a never-ending torment.

40 O, all ye old men, and also ye young men, and you little children who can understand my words, for I have spoken plainly unto you that ye might understand, I pray that ye should awake to a remembrance of the awful situation of those that have fallen into transgression.

41 And moreover, I would desire that ye should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For behold, they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual; and if they hold out faithful to the end they are received into heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of never-ending happiness. O remember, remember that these things are true; for the Lord God hath spoken it.

## **Spencer W. Kimball**

*"There are those today who seem to take pride in disagreeing with the orthodox teachings of the Church and who present their own opinions which are at variance with the revealed truth. Some may be partially innocent in the matter; others are feeding their own egotism; and some seem to be deliberate. Men may think as they please, but they have no right to impose upon others their unorthodox views. Such persons should realize that their own souls are in jeopardy. The Lord*

*said to us through the Prophet Joseph: ". . . teach the principles of my gospel, which are in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, in the which is the fulness of the gospel. And they shall observe the covenants and church articles to do them, and these shall be their teachings, as they shall be directed by the Spirit. . . . And if ye receive not the Spirit ye shall not teach." (D&C 42:12-14)*

*The great objective of all our work is to build character and increase faith in the lives of those whom we serve. If one cannot accept and teach the program of the Church in an orthodox way without reservations, he should not teach. It would be the part of honor to resign his position. Not only would he be dishonest and deceitful, but he is also actually under condemnation, for the Savior said that it were better that a millstone were hanged about his neck and he be cast into the sea than that he should lead astray doctrinally or betray the cause or give offense, destroying the faith of one of "these little ones" who believe in him. And remember that this means not only the small children, it includes even adults who believe and trust in God...*

*The Savior also said: And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matt. 10:28)*

*In our own Society, the murderer who kills the body is hunted, imprisoned, and executed, but the character who kills the soul by implanting doubt and shattering faith is permitted not only to go free but also is often retained in high places. The body which is killed will rise again in the resurrection with little damage to its eternal welfare, but he whose faith has been shattered may suffer long ages before complete restoration of spiritual stature can be had, if at all."*

**(General Conference, April 1948)**

### **3 Nephi 29:**

4 And when ye shall see these sayings coming forth among you, then ye need not any longer spurn at the doings of the Lord, for the sword of his justice is in his right hand; and behold, at that day, if ye shall spurn at his doings he will cause that it shall soon overtake you.

5 Wo unto him that spurneth at the doings of the Lord; yea, ***wo unto him that shall deny the Christ and his works!***

6 ***Yea, wo unto him that shall deny the revelations of the Lord***, and that shall say the Lord no longer worketh by revelation, or by prophecy, or by gifts, or by tongues, or by healings, or by the power of the Holy Ghost!

7 ***Yea, and wo unto him that shall say at that day, to get gain, that there can be no miracle wrought by Jesus Christ; for he that doeth this shall become like unto the son of perdition, for whom there was no mercy, according to the word of Christ!***

8 Yea, and ye need not any longer hiss, nor spurn, nor make game of the Jews, nor any of the remnant of the house of Israel; ***for behold, the Lord remembereth his covenant unto them, and he will do unto them according to that which he hath sworn.***

*9 Therefore ye need not suppose that ye can turn the right hand of the Lord unto the left, that he may not execute judgment unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the house of Israel.*

### **Matthew 18:5–10. A Warning Not to Offend Little Ones**

Though Jesus was speaking to leaders of His day when He issued a stern warning not to offend little ones, the message recorded in Matthew 18:5–10 applies to all of us (see D&C 50:40–41 for a broader definition of “little children”). We must not cause anyone seeking greater understanding of the gospel plan to stumble in their faith, nor should we do anything to block their progress toward eternal life. Elder Bruce R. McConkie taught about this warning:

*“Few crimes are as gross and wicked as that of teaching false doctrine and leading souls away from God and salvation. ... If eternal joy is the reward given those who teach the truth and bring souls to salvation, shall not those who teach false doctrines and lead souls to damnation receive as their reward eternal remorse? (D. & C. 18:10–16.)*

*“...It is better to die and be denied the blessings of continued mortal existence than to live and lead souls from the truth, thereby gaining eternal damnation for oneself”*

(Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:420).

### **Do Not Betray the Brethren**

*“O ye Twelve! and all Saints! profit by this important Key--that in all your trials, troubles, temptations, afflictions, bonds, imprisonments and death, see to it, that you do not betray heaven; that you do not betray Jesus Christ; that you do not betray the brethren; that you do not betray the revelations of God, whether in Bible, Book of Mormon, or Doctrine and Covenants, or any other that ever was or ever will be given and revealed unto man in this world or that which is to come. Yea, in all your kicking and flounderings, see to it that you do not this thing, lest innocent blood be found upon your skirts, and you go down to hell. All other sins are not to be compared to sinning against the Holy Ghost, and proving a traitor to the brethren.”*

-Joseph Smith Jr (TPJS, p.156)

### **Doctrine and Covenants 132:**

27 The blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, which shall not be forgiven in the world nor out of the world, *is in that ye commit murder wherein ye shed innocent blood, and assent unto my death, after ye have received my new and everlasting covenant*, saith the Lord God; and he that abideth not this law can in nowise enter into my glory, but shall be damned, saith the Lord.

(New and everlasting covenant = sealed in the temple)

### **Alma 36:**

14 Yea, and *I had murdered many of his children, or rather led them away unto destruction*; yea, and in fine so great had been my iniquities, that the very thought of coming into the presence of my God did rack my soul with inexpressible horror.

### **Alma 39:**

3 And this is not all, my son. Thou didst do that which was grievous unto me; for thou didst forsake the ministry, and did go over into the land of Siron among the borders of the Lamanites, after the harlot Isabel.

4 Yea, she did steal away the hearts of many; but this was no excuse for thee, my son. Thou shouldst have tended to the ministry wherewith thou wast entrusted.

5 Know ye not, my son, that these things are an abomination in the sight of the Lord; yea, most abominable above all sins *save it be the shedding of innocent blood or denying the Holy Ghost?*

### **The Forgiveness of Sins**

*“All sins shall be forgiven, except the sin against the Holy Ghost; for Jesus will save all except the sons of perdition. What must a man do to commit the unpardonable sin? He must receive the Holy Ghost, have the heavens opened unto him, and know God, and then sin against Him. After a man has sinned against the Holy Ghost, there is no repentance for him. ... and from that time he begins to be an enemy. This is the case with many apostates of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.*

*When a man begins to be an enemy to this work, he hunts me, he seeks to kill me, and never ceases to thirst for my blood. He gets the spirit of the devil—the same spirit that they had who crucified the Lord of Life—the same spirit that sins against the Holy Ghost. You cannot save such persons; you cannot bring them to repentance; they make open war, like the devil, and awful is the consequence.*

*I advise all of you to be careful what you do, or you may by-and-by find out that you have been deceived. Stay yourselves; do not give way; don't make any hasty moves, you may be saved.*

*The best men bring forth the best works. The man who tells you words of life is the man who can save you. I warn you against all evil characters who sin against the Holy Ghost; for there is no redemption for them in this world nor in the world to come.”*

**-Joseph Smith (TPJS, p.358)**

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that preach for gain and whom preach against "the Lord remembering his covenant unto them, and the Lord doing unto them according to that which he hath sworn." will become Sons of Perdition... Period...

### **Doctrine and Covenants 101:**

16 Therefore, let your hearts be comforted concerning Zion; for all flesh is in mine hands; be still and know that I am God.

17 Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered.

18 They that remain, and are pure in heart, shall return, and come to their inheritances, they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy, to build up the waste places of Zion—

19 *And all these things that the prophets might be fulfilled.*

20 *And, behold, there is none other place appointed than that which I have appointed; neither shall there be any other place appointed than that which I have appointed* , for the work of the gathering of my saints

This isn't a "small deal", this is an extremely important deal... A matter for which one could become a Son of Perdition over... thus speaks The Book of Mormon as clear as words can be...

### **Exceptions to the Doctrine (Not “Policy”)**

*“What is the rule of interpretation [of scripture]? Just no interpretation at all. Understand it precisely as it reads.”*

- **Joseph Smith Jr** (TPJS, p.276)

Is there a single instance in the entire Book of Mormon where it says that it is ok to get paid to preach the word of God? No, not a single case. Is there a single case in the Book of Mormon where the preachers of God’s church esteemed themselves to be above or better than other members requirement to labor with their own hands for their own support? No, not a single case. If we were to interpret the scriptures literally and plainly, as they are to be interpreted, what are the irrefutable proofs when using God’s word as the arbiter?

**Any time** anyone preaches the word of God, teaches the word of God, stands as a witness for God, etc. etc. for gain, that is priestcraft. That is the very act of turning the things of God into an act of Mammon. There was no exception for King Benjamin, there is no exception for you, barring a special exception from the keys of God. Period.

*“A false principle, a false theory, whether in mechanism or philosophy, requires much argument and superior talent to sustain it, but when the truth is presented it commends itself to the understanding of the people so readily that it requires no great amount of learning to substantiate it, nor much skill to declare it to the honest who want truth, and it remains firm and sound.”*

-**President Brigham Young** (delivered in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday Afternoon, May 6, 1877, after Addresses by Elders Orson Pratt and Geo. Q. Cannon)

### **For Thy Sake, Cast Not Me Out**

*“They have cast an obnoxious young lightweight (a very minor devil) to the role of the Evil One while the one most qualified to play it prefers to take the part of a dignified, upright, mature, and often charming gentleman. It was clever to put a pathetic, long-haired, dirty, neurotic, mixed-up, idealistic, sex-hungry fool in the role of the heavy while an actor of infinitely greater skill and experience takes the highly respectable part of the archpillar of society.”*

- **Hugh Nibley** (Approaching Zion Chapter 2)