

September 21-27
Isaiah 13–14; 22; 24–30; 35
“A Marvelous Work and a Wonder”



State of the World Before the Restoration

Isa 30:8-13

Why do the people refuse to hear “the law of the Lord”?

What happens when people refuse to hear the truth and instead choose “smooth things”?

James E. Faust

"Isaiah spoke of a people who did not care to listen to their prophets and seers, who were urged, 'Say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits.'....

"Many modern professors of human behavior advocate as a cure to an afflicted conscience that we simply ignore the unwanted messages. They suggest that we change the standard to fit the circumstances so that there is no longer a conflict, thus easing the conscience. The followers of the divine Christ cannot subscribe to this evil and perverse philosophy with impunity. For the troubled conscience in conflict with right and wrong, the only permanent help is to change the behavior and follow a repentant path." (CR, Oct 1986)

Truth Restored – The Book of Mormon

Isa 29:1-4

What city is Isaiah referring to when he calls it “Ariel”?

What civilization do you think Isaiah is referring to when he says, “it shall be unto me as Ariel”?

How does the Book of Mormon fulfill Isaiah’s prophecy that a people would speak “out of the ground”?

LeGrand Richards

"I would like to read a little portion, commencing with the first part of the twenty-ninth chapter [of Isaiah], 'Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt!' (Now that was Jerusalem, another name for it.)...

"Isaiah goes from that point on to see the destruction of another great center, and he says this: "And it shall be unto me as Ariel.' In other words, he saw the destruction of another great center like the destruction of Jerusalem. No one in this world could have told where that other center was until the Book of Mormon came forth. Then Isaiah goes forth with what he saw with respect to this other group of people. He said, 'And I will camp against thee round about, and will lay siege against thee with a mount, and I will raise forts against thee.'" (CR, April 1976)

Mark E. Petersen

“An ancient nation which lived in America actually was destroyed suddenly, just as Isaiah foretold. Its population numbered in the millions. These people once had been righteous and had prophets among them who kept a sacred history engraved on metal plates. Before their final destruction, one of their prophets buried that record in the ground in a stone container for safekeeping. Hence, when this book was found, translated, and published in modern times, that early nation literally spoke out of the ground just as Isaiah said it would.” (CR, Oct. 1977)

Truth Restored – The Book of Mormon

Isa 29:10-14

Why was a “marvellous work and a wonder”
needed among the Lord’s people?

Neal A. Maxwell

“The coming forth of the Book of Mormon is a marvelous episode not only in Church history but also in human history. You and I owe many people for their roles in bringing us the Book of Mormon, a book filled with plain and precious salvational truths which came forth by ‘the gift and power of God’ (Book of Mormon title page). Through the labors and sacrifices of many, the ‘marvellous work and a wonder’ foreseen by Isaiah restored vital truths which had been lost to mankind for centuries! We can best express our gratitude by reading and applying the teachings of the Book of Mormon.” (“By the Gift and Power of God,” Ensign, Jan. 1997)

Truth Restored – The Book of Mormon

Isa 29:15-20

What work will the Lord do that will expose those who seek to hide their works in darkness?

Orson Pratt

"Thus they have been distracted and their minds crazed, comparatively speaking; yet they were anxious beyond measure to know the will of God. This book, when it came forth, was to set them in the right track. 'The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord.' In what way? 'Because,' says [Isaiah], 'they who erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they who murmured shall learn doctrine.' However much you may have erred, because you have been taught by the precepts of men... and no voice of inspiration in your midst; however much you may have groped in outer darkness, yet if you have been meek before the Lord, you will come to understanding when this book makes its appearance." (JD 18:155)

Preparing for Christ's Second Coming

Isa 27:6,12

How do these verses describe the gathering and growth of Israel in the latter days?

Bruce R. McConkie

“The Lord’s promise is: ‘Ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel.’

“That is to say—Israel shall be gathered one by one, family by family, unto the stakes of Zion established in all parts of the earth so that the whole earth shall be blessed with the fruits of the gospel.

“His work includes the building up of Zion in the last days. He has commissioned us to do that work for him. The foundations of Zion have already been laid.... When she is perfected, it will be as it was with Zion of old—the Lord will come and dwell with his people.”

(CR, April 1977)

Preparing for Christ's Second Coming

Isa 30:28-30

What does “the mountain of the Lord” represent in this passage?

Janette Hales Beckham

“Just as the early pioneers sacrificed to make their way to the Rocky Mountains, modern pioneers... are also on the trail to a mountain—'the mountain of the Lord's house.' That's the way the prophet Isaiah referred to latter-day temples, where we make sacred covenants with our Heavenly Father. It is the most important destination we have here on earth.” (CR, April 1997)

Preparing for Christ's Second Coming

Isa 13:2-5

Preparing for Christ's Second Coming

Isa 27:1-6

What does the Lord promise to those who labor in His vineyard and strive to establish Zion?

Wilford Woodruff

“Chapter after chapter [Isaiah] goes on to declare that Zion's strength is in the Lord Almighty; and his strength is with her because of her faithfulness and integrity. If the elders of Israel had the vision of their minds opened to see Zion in her beauty and glory, they would have no time to sin or do evil; but they would rise up in the strength of the Lord God of Israel and accomplish all that he requires at their hands. Zion is yet in her weakness, but the little one shall become thousands, and the small one a great nation.” (JD, 11:248)

Preparing for Christ's Second Coming

Isa 28:10-13

How do we come to know the things of God
and understand His will?

Charles W. Penrose

"This everlasting Gospel which we have received is the tree of life that shall flourish forever. And the same power which has revealed faith, repentance, baptism, and the laying on of hands, and the holy Priesthood, and has made known unto us the plan for the redemption of the living and the dead,.... and has inspired us to our works up to the present time, is still ready to communicate line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, that we may be ready for every emergency, prepared for every event in the work of our God as it rolls forward on the earth."

(JD, 22:68)

Preparing for Christ's Second Coming

Isa 30:18-21

What does the Lord provide to help us stay on the path toward Him?

Marion D. Hanks

“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.’

“We have the same promise, that if we will listen to the law of the Lord, if we will see through the eyes of the seer, if we will hear the words of the prophets when they testify to us right things, if we will listen to the oracles-past and present-to wise teachers, humble parents, honest friends; if we will listen to the voice of the Spirit, to the still, small voice, then we will learn the right way and to walk in it.” (BYU Speeches of the Year - 1964, pg. 5)

Destruction of the Wicked

Isa 24:1-6

Why are the earth and its inhabitants defiled?

Joseph Fielding Smith

“It is because of the breaking of covenants, especially the new and everlasting covenant - which is the fulness of the Gospel as it has been revealed - that the world is to be consumed by fire and few men left. Since this punishment is to come at the time of the cleansing of the earth when Christ comes again, should not Latter-day Saints take heed unto themselves? We have been given the new and everlasting covenant, and all who are guilty of this offense will aid in bringing to pass this destruction in which they will find themselves swept from the earth when the great and dreadful day of the Lord shall come.” (The Progress of Man, pg. 488 – 489)

Destruction of the Wicked

Isa 13:1,6-11

What does the Lord say the wicked have done to bring His judgment upon them?

Orson Pratt

"The Old Testament speaks of the day of the Lord, when the sun will be darkened, when the moon and the stars will refuse to shine, when the Lord will punish the wicked for their wickedness, when sinners will be swept from the face of the earth, and when there will be none but the righteous left.... But very few, however, of the inhabitants of our globe have taken into consideration the great preparatory work for this grand change; they have not searched the Scriptures in regard to how this work is to be accomplished, and who the persons will be who will be ready and prepared to abide that day."

(JD, 17:307)

Christ's Millennial Reign

Isa 35:5-10

How will the Lord's reign transform the earth and the lives of its inhabitants?

Christ's Millennial Reign

Isa 25:6-9

What blessings does the Lord have in store for His people during His earthly reign?

Revelation 21:4

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Christ's Millennial Reign

Isa 26:1-4

Next Week:

September 28–October 4

Isaiah 40–49

“Comfort Ye My People”

