

## **A SEALED BOOK TO BE REVEALED**

(2 Nephi 11:116-160)

**V116** Nephi resumes the subject from v.88 after the parenthesis of v89-115. All nations upon the earth, both Gentile and Jew, will be filled with iniquity in the last days (see Mormon 4:35-56).

**V117-124** Nephi continues the Isaiah quotation from the preceding chapter (v. 87-88), and quotes Isaiah 29:6-10 staying pretty close to the KJV. The Gentile churches are fighting against Zion so they are left spiritual unfed (v. 117-121). They are staggering about as though they are drunk as a result of their iniquities (v. 122). They have deliberately rejected the prophets of the Lord, so they are spiritually blind (v. 123-124).

**V125-145** The Lord brings the words of the Nephites to the Gentiles in the form of a book (v. 125). The book contains a revelation concerning the earth from the beginning to the end (v. 126), but is sealed up because of the wickedness of the Gentiles (v. 127-128). The book shall be delivered to man (v. 129), but the sealed portion will remain sealed unto the Lord determines (v. 129-130) it is to be made manifest to all people (v. 131-132).

The book will be hidden from the world in general, but three witnesses will be chosen to see the book and testify of its truthfulness (v. 133). A few others will see it, but it will not be made manifest to the world in general (v. 134). The Lord chooses how many witnesses as He pleases, and woe to those who reject his word (v. 135).

However, the Lord will tell the man to whom he gave the book to write the words of the book and deliver them through an agent to a learned man. The learned man will request the book be brought to him (v. 136) so that he might promote himself and become famous (v. 137-138). The agent informs him he cannot because the book is sealed (v. 139), and the learned man responds that he than cannot read it (v. 140).

Thus shall the Lord deliver the words to him that is not learned (v. 141), because the learned of the world reject Him (v. 142). The unlearned man may read the portions of the book that are not sealed. In so doing the Lord will do His own work (v. 143), because He performs miracles among man according to their faith, the same as He ever has (v. 145). Then after the unlearned man reads the unsealed portion, the book will be hidden up again until the time the Lord sees fit to reveal it (v. 144).

**V146-160** Nephi resumes the Isaiah quotation and quotes Isaiah 29:13-24 staying quite close to the KJV. Verse 146 sets the context of the quote by casting it as a conversation between the unlearned man who is to read the book and Lord.

The general message is that just as ancient Israel rebelled against the Lord, so too are the present Gentile churches rebelling against Him. As such, the Lord will do a great and marvelous work among them to confound them (v. 146-157).

The meaning of v. 158-160 changes somewhat in this context as the purpose of bringing forth the Nephite record is to both enlighten the Gentiles who will listen as well as redeem the natural remnant of Israel that is embodied in the latter-day descendants of Lehi (see 1 Nephi 3:176-200).