

## **RELIGIOUS RIVALRY PREDICTED**

(2 Nephi 12:1-41)

This chapter is largely an attack on the Gentile churches. But, Nephi's intent is to show why the words of the book will be of great worth to the Lehite remnant and the other remnants of Israel (v. 2). The book will be of great worth to the natural remnants because the Gentile churches will all be so corrupt, and they will scattered among them.

This section follows a pretty standard OT prophetic pattern of indictment, then judgment, then warning. The first parallel (v. 3-21) characterizes the Gentile churches as eminently human and carnal in nature. However, the second parallel (v. 22-41) makes it plain that Satan is underneath the Gentile churches acting out his part as deceiver.

Introduction (v. 1-2)

A - (v. 3-17) Indictment

B - (v. 18) Judgment

C - (v. 19-21) Warning

A - (v. 22-28) Indictment

B - (v. 29-39) Judgment

C - (v. 40-41) Warning

The indictments contain detailed lists of sins the Gentile churches commit. The Judgment oracles are loaded with emphatic woes cast out upon the unrepentant Gentiles. The warnings close off by informing the Gentiles that the Lord will be merciful and not destroy the Gentiles if they repent.

**V6-8** Many Gentile churches today simply operate by public opinion, making no effort to seek inspiration or even acknowledge the possibility of revelation. They insist the Bible is all there is, and generally ignore it's teachings anyway. Thus, democracy and popular culture replaces theology and the Scriptures.

**V25-30** Nephi makes reference to Zion twice in v. 25 and once in v. 30. Nephi is apparently referring to the Gentile churches. This is shedding greater light on the subject of v. 16. There are humble followers of Christ among the Gentile churches, but many of them are seduced by the devil's deceit.

**V31** "All is well!" the message here of "All is well!" is one given in deceit, as in Helaman 5:38-39. The people sin, and rather than call them to repentance, the false prophet lies to them and tells them they aren't in sin.

**V32-41** These verses explain why a person does not want any more Scripture or revelation from God. Being "built upon a sandy foundation" means you hear the word of God, but do not do the word of God (see Matthew 7:26-27). Naturally, a person who does not do the word of God does not want more of the word of God telling him what to do, as it only condemns him more.