

# THE FUTURE IS FORETOLD

in the *Book of Mormon*

LESSON

1



FOR OUR DAY

LESSON  
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# FOR OUR DAY SERIES

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# “UNDER CONDEMNATION”

“And your minds in times past have been **darkened** because of unbelief, and because you have treated **lightly** the things you have received—

“Which **vanity** and **unbelief** have brought the **whole church** under **condemnation**.

“And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even **all**.”

*Doctrine & Covenants 84:54-56*

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# THE LORD ASKS US TO REPENT

“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— “

*Doctrine & Covenants 84:57*

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## “GOD IS NOT PLEASED”

“My beloved brethren and sisters, for some years now I have been deeply concerned that we are **not using** the Book of Mormon **as God intends**.

“As I participated in the Mexico City Temple dedication, I received the distinct impression that **God is not pleased** with our neglect of the Book of Mormon.

“In the eighty-fourth section of the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord decreed that the **whole Church was under condemnation**, even all the children of Zion, because of the way they treated the Book of Mormon.”

*President Ezra Taft Benson, “A New Witness for Christ,” October 1984*

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# A CALL TO RETURN

“**Let us not remain** under condemnation, with its **scourge** and **judgment**, by treating lightly this great and marvelous **gift** the Lord has given to us.”

*President Ezra Taft Benson, “The Book of Mormon—Keystone of Our Religion,” October 1986*

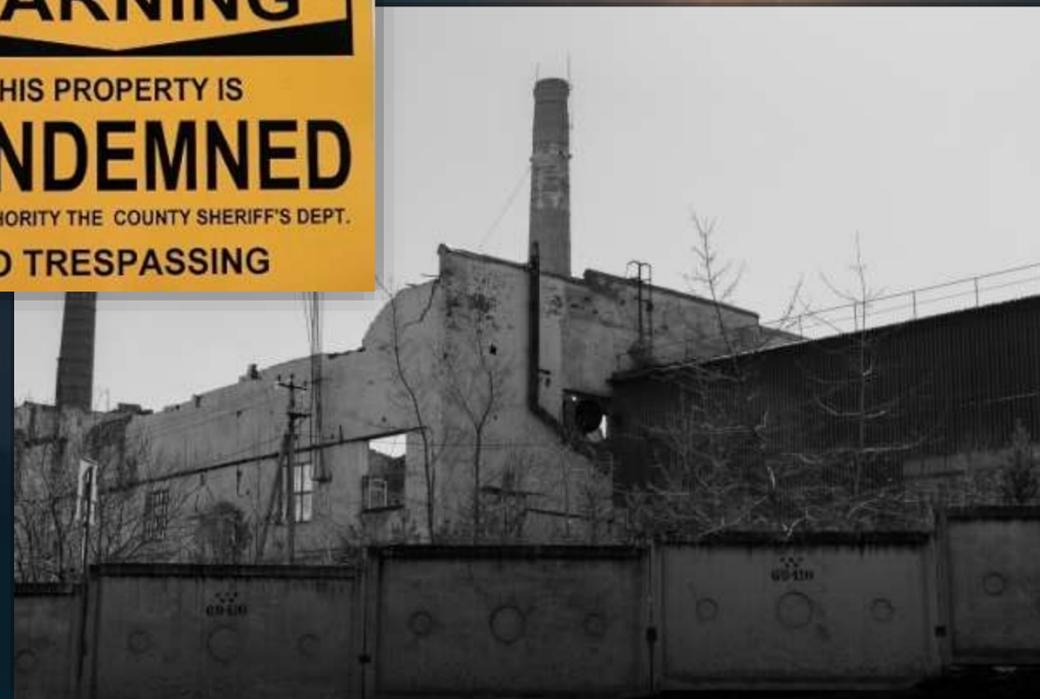
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**WARNING**  
THIS PROPERTY IS  
**CONDEMNED**  
BY THE AUTHORITY THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.  
NO TRESPASSING



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## 3 REASONS FOR STUDYING

1. “The Book of Mormon is the keystone in our witness of Jesus Christ, who is Himself the cornerstone of everything we do. . . . its testimony of the Master is clear, undiluted, and full of power.”
2. “[W]e must make the Book of Mormon a center focus of study [because] it was written for our day. . . . [Mormon] abridged centuries of records, choosing the stories, speeches, and events that would be most helpful to us. . . . in the Book of Mormon we find a pattern for preparing for the Second Coming. . . . we learn how disciples of Christ live in times of war. . . the evil of secret combinations . . . persecution and apostasy . . . how to do missionary work . . . the dangers of materialism . . .”
3. “It helps us draw nearer to God.”

*President Ezra Taft Benson, “The Book of Mormon—Keystone of Our Religion,” October 1986*

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## “MOST HELPFUL TO US”

“... we must make the Book of Mormon a center focus of study [because] it was **written for our day**. The Nephites **never had the book**; neither did the Lamanites of ancient times. It was meant for **us**. Mormon wrote near the end of the Nephite civilization. Under the inspiration of God, who sees all things from the beginning, he abridged **centuries of records**, choosing the **stories, speeches, and events** that would be **most helpful to us**.”

*President Ezra Taft Benson, “The Book of Mormon—Keystone of Our Religion,” October 1986*

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## “MANY WAGON LOADS”

“Oliver Cowdery went with the Prophet Joseph when he deposited these plates. . . . the angel instructed him to carry them back to the hill Cumorah, which he did. Oliver says that when Joseph and Oliver went there, the hill opened, and they walked into a **cave**, in which there was a **large and spacious room**. . . . They laid the plates on a table; it was a large table that stood in the room. Under this table there was a **pile of plates** as much as **two feet high**, and there were altogether in this room **more plates than probably many wagon loads**; they were **piled up** in the corners and along the walls.”

*Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses 19:38 (June 17, 1877)*

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# CONSTANTLY ASK “WHY?”

“If they saw our day and chose those things which would be of **greatest worth** to us, is not that how we should study the Book of Mormon? We should **constantly ask** ourselves, “**Why** did the Lord inspire Mormon (or Moroni or Alma) to **include** that in his record? What **lesson** can I learn from that to help me live in **this day** and age?”

“And there is **example after example** of how that question will be answered.”

*President Ezra Taft Benson, “The Book of Mormon—Keystone of Our Religion,” October 1986*

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# GOD SAYS HE'LL TELL US!

“Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are **come forth out of the waters of [baptism]**, which swear by the name of the Lord, and make mention of the God of Israel . . . I have **declared** the **former things from the beginning**; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I shewed them; I did them suddenly, and they came to pass. . . . I have even **from the beginning declared** it to thee; **before it came to pass I shewed it thee . . .**”

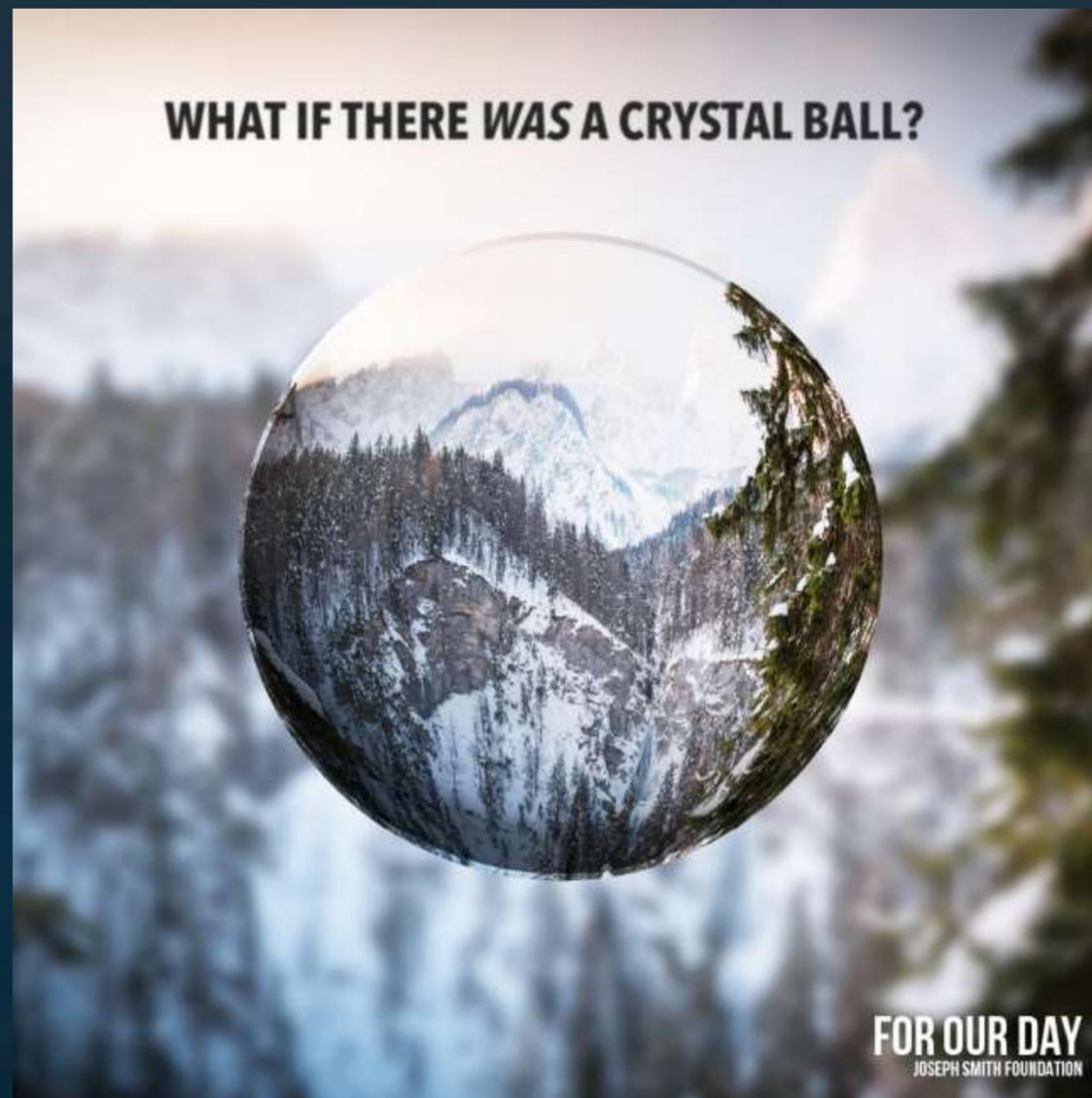
*Isaiah 48:1-5, also 1 Nephi 20:1-5*

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“... and in the book [Book of Mormon + sealed portion] shall be a revelation from God, **from the beginning of the world to the ending thereof.**”

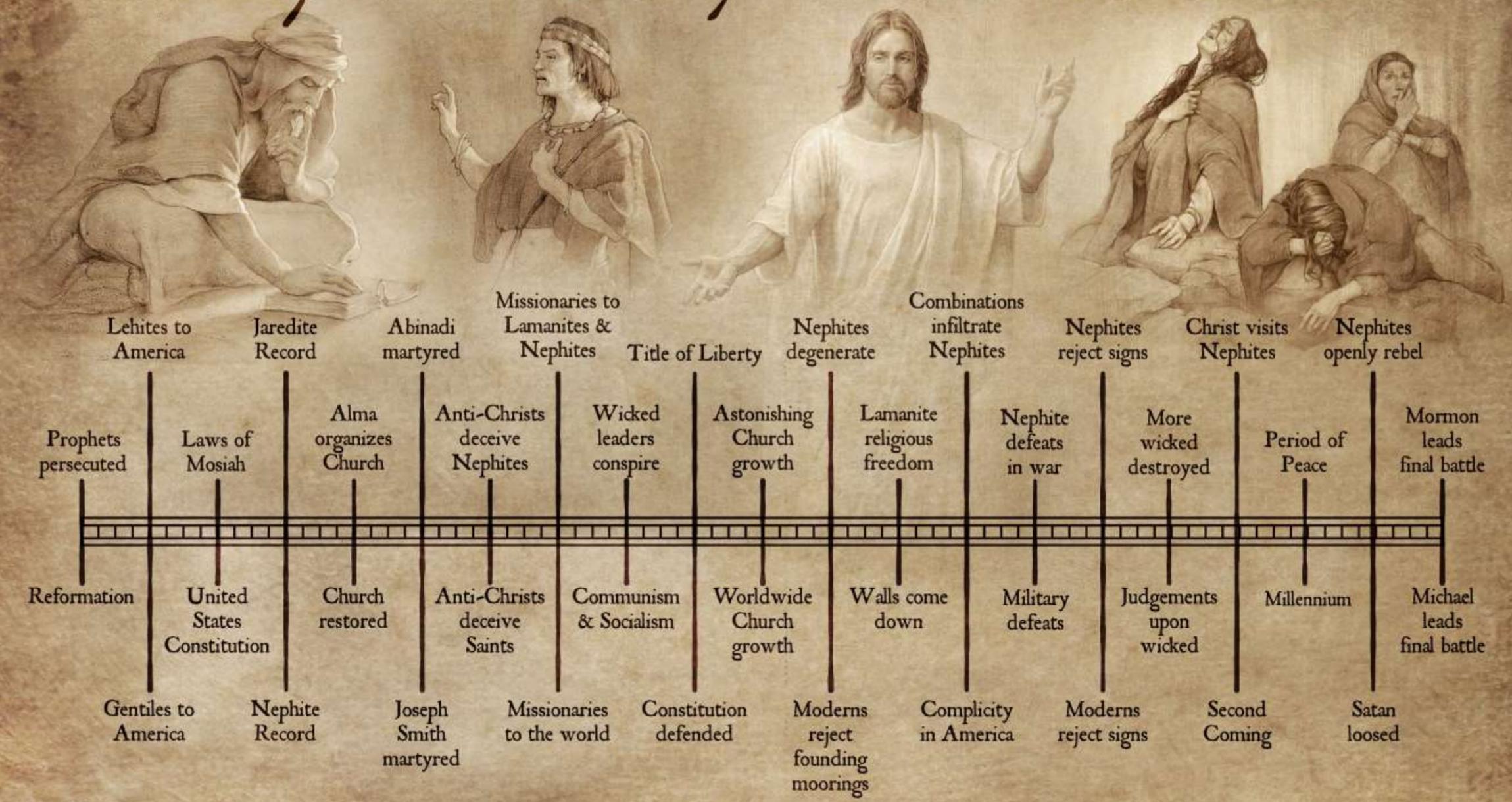
*2 Nephi 27:7*

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# Book of Mormon Prophetic Parallels Timeline



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Art by Joseph F. Brickey  
[www.JosephBrickey.com](http://www.JosephBrickey.com)

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# BETTER THAN DAILY NEWS

“The prophets, particularly of the Book of Mormon, saw our day. You will learn **more** from studying and reading the Book of Mormon (about our **current problems**) than you will by reading the **daily paper** or the slick **magazines**.”

*Ezra Taft Benson, The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p. 62*

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# WHY DID MORMON USE PRECIOUS ROOM TO INCLUDE THESE DETAILS?

- Function and structure of the Nephite republican government
- Correspondence between Captain Moroni and Pahoran
- Mosiah's translation of the Jaredite plates
- Nephite monetary system
- Christian massacre in Ammonihah
- Origin of Gadianton robbers
- War between Gidgiddoni and Giddianhi
- Hagoth

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# AMINADI

“I am Amulek; I am the son of Giddonah, who was the son of Ishmael, who was a descendant of Aminadi; and it was that same Aminadi who interpreted the writing which was upon the wall of the temple, which was written by the finger of God.” (Alma 10:2)

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## NEPHI'S VISION OF THE LAST DAYS (1 NEPHI 11-14)

- Birth and death of the Son of God
- Nephite civilization history and demise
- Great Apostasy in Europe & Dark Ages
- Martyrdom and persecution of righteous Christians in Europe
- Reformation (William Tyndale, Martin Luther, etc.)
- American Colonization (Pilgrims, Puritans, Covenanters, Huguenots, etc.)
- American War for Independence
- Establishment of U.S. Constitution
- Restoration of the Gospel
- Coming forth of the Book of Mormon

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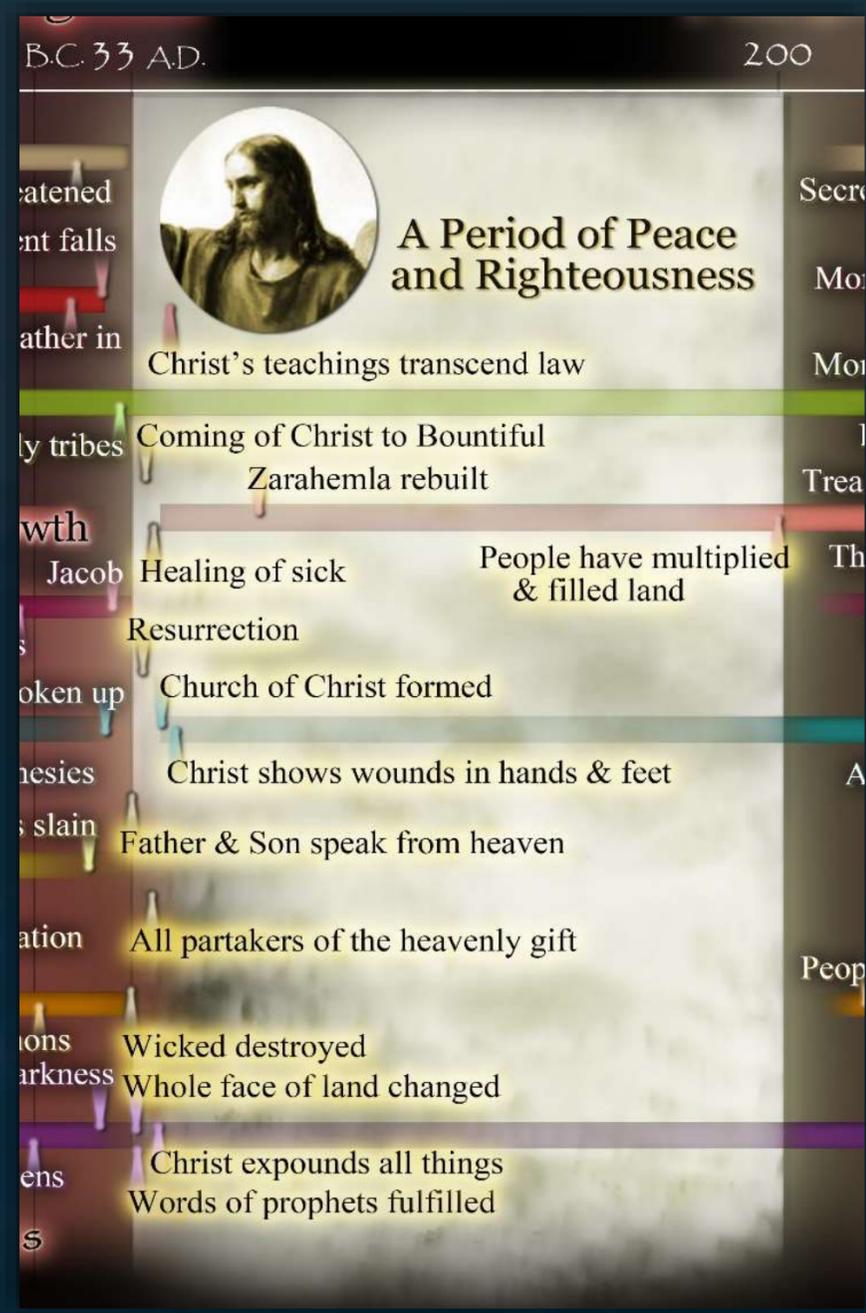
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# HOW TO SELECT PARALLEL EVENTS

1. Scriptural visions of our day (especially from the Book of Mormon)
2. Teachings of latter-day prophets
3. Signs of the Times

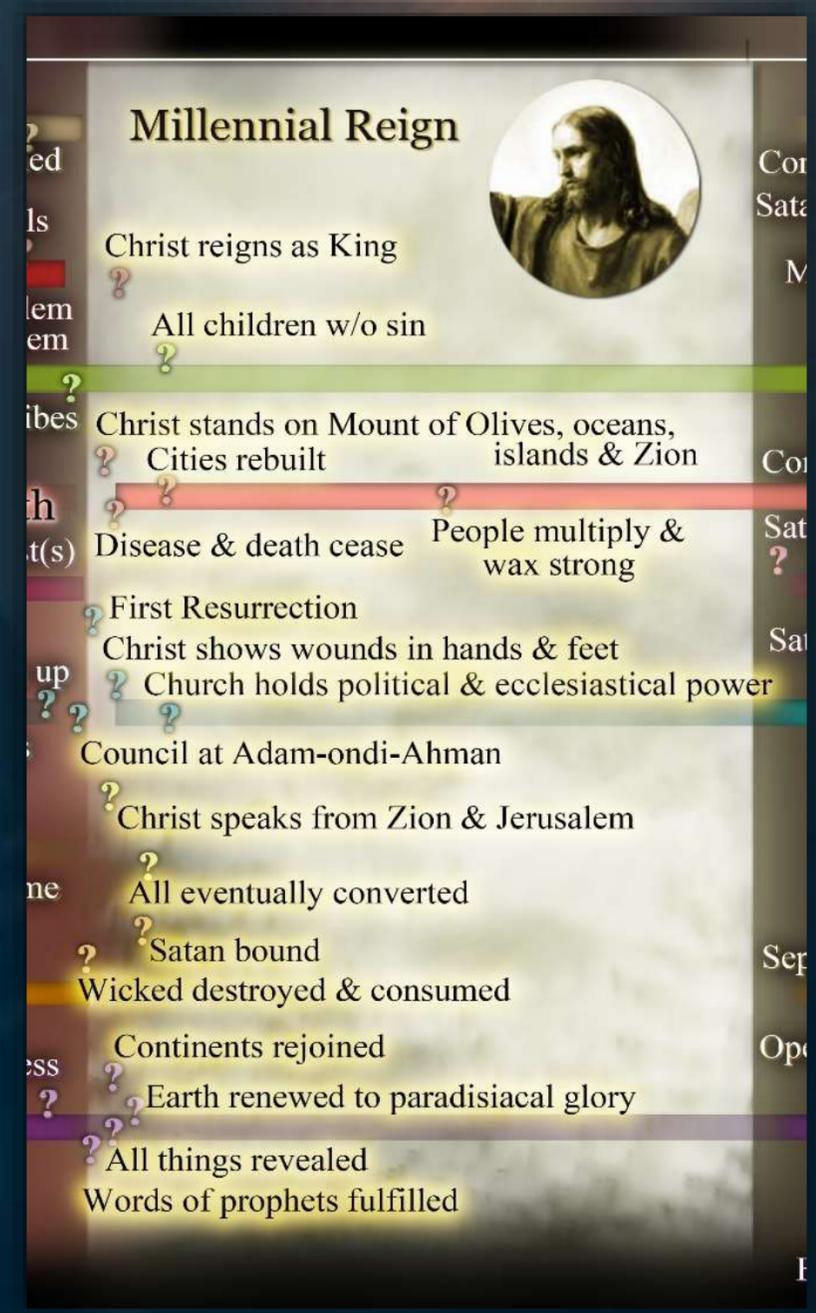
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← Nephite History

Our Day →



Timelines taken from "For Our Day Model" poster, available at [www.JosephSmithFoundation.org](http://www.JosephSmithFoundation.org)

A person is silhouetted against a bright sunrise on a mountain peak. The background is a dark blue gradient with a large, faint map of the world overlaid. The text "BEGIN THE QUEST!" is centered in a bold, yellow font.

**BEGIN THE QUEST!**

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