



3

NAVIGATING A
BROKEN WORLD
BY THE **IRON ROD**
FOR OUR DAY

LESSON
3

NAVIGATING
A BROKEN
WORLD: FIND
JOY BY THE
ROD OF IRON



LEHI'S VISION OF THE TREE OF LIFE

1 Nephi 8

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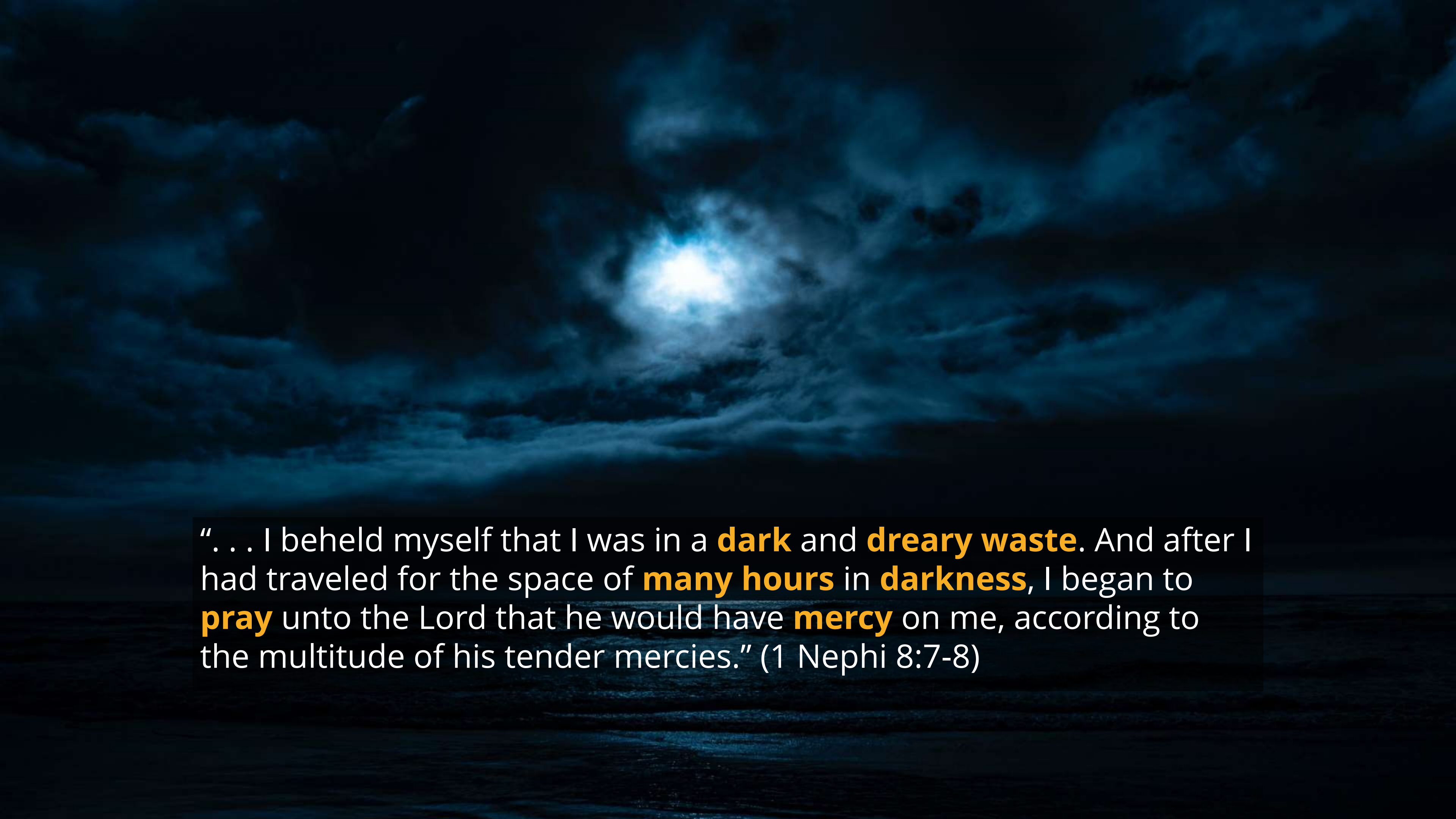
NAVIGATING
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BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

- Lehi risks his life to preach repentance in Jerusalem
- Lehi and his family are forced to flee
- Lord promises to lead Lehi and his family to a “land of promise”
- Wealth and safety are sacrificed to obtain Brass Plates
- Lehi discovers his genealogy and covenants



Liahona, painting by Ken Corbett



“... I beheld myself that I was in a **dark** and **dreary waste**. And after I had traveled for the space of **many hours** in **darkness**, I began to **pray** unto the Lord that he would have **mercy** on me, according to the multitude of his tender mercies.” (1 Nephi 8:7-8)

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3

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FRUIT “MAKE[S] ONE HAPPY”

“And it came to pass that I beheld a tree, whose fruit was desirable to make one happy. And it came to pass that **I did go forth and partake of the fruit thereof**; and I beheld that it was most sweet, above all that I ever before tasted. Yea, and I beheld that the fruit thereof was white, to exceed all the whiteness that I had ever seen.”

1 Nephi 8:10-11

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WE LIVE ON THE MOST WICKED EARTH

“Wherefore, I can stretch forth mine hands and hold all the creations which I have made; and mine eye can pierce them also, and among **all** the workmanship of mine hands there **has not been so great wickedness** as among thy [Enoch] brethren.”

Moses 7:36

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LEHI DESIRES OTHERS TO FIND JOY

“... I began to be **desirous** that my **family** should **partake** of it also; for I knew that it was desirable **above all** other fruit.

“... And I saw **numberless** concourses of people, many of whom were pressing forward, that they might **obtain** the **path** which led unto the tree by which I stood.”

1 Nephi 8:12, 21

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WORLD: FIND
JOY BY THE
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ROD OF IRON IS THE WORD OF GOD

“And they [Nephi’s brothers] said unto me [Nephi]: What meaneth the **rod of iron** which our father saw, that led to the tree?

“And I said unto them that it was the **word of God**; and whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would **never perish; neither** could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary **overpower** them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction.”

1 Nephi 15:23-24

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STRUGGLE TO OBTAIN THE FRUIT

- “. . . there arose a **mist of darkness**; yea, even an exceedingly great mist of darkness . . .” (vs 23)
- “. . . and beheld, on the other side of the river of water, a **great and spacious building** . . .” (vs 26)
- “. . . they did press forward through the mist of darkness, **clinging to the rod of iron**, even until they did come forth and partake of the fruit of the tree.” (vs 24)

1 Nephi 8

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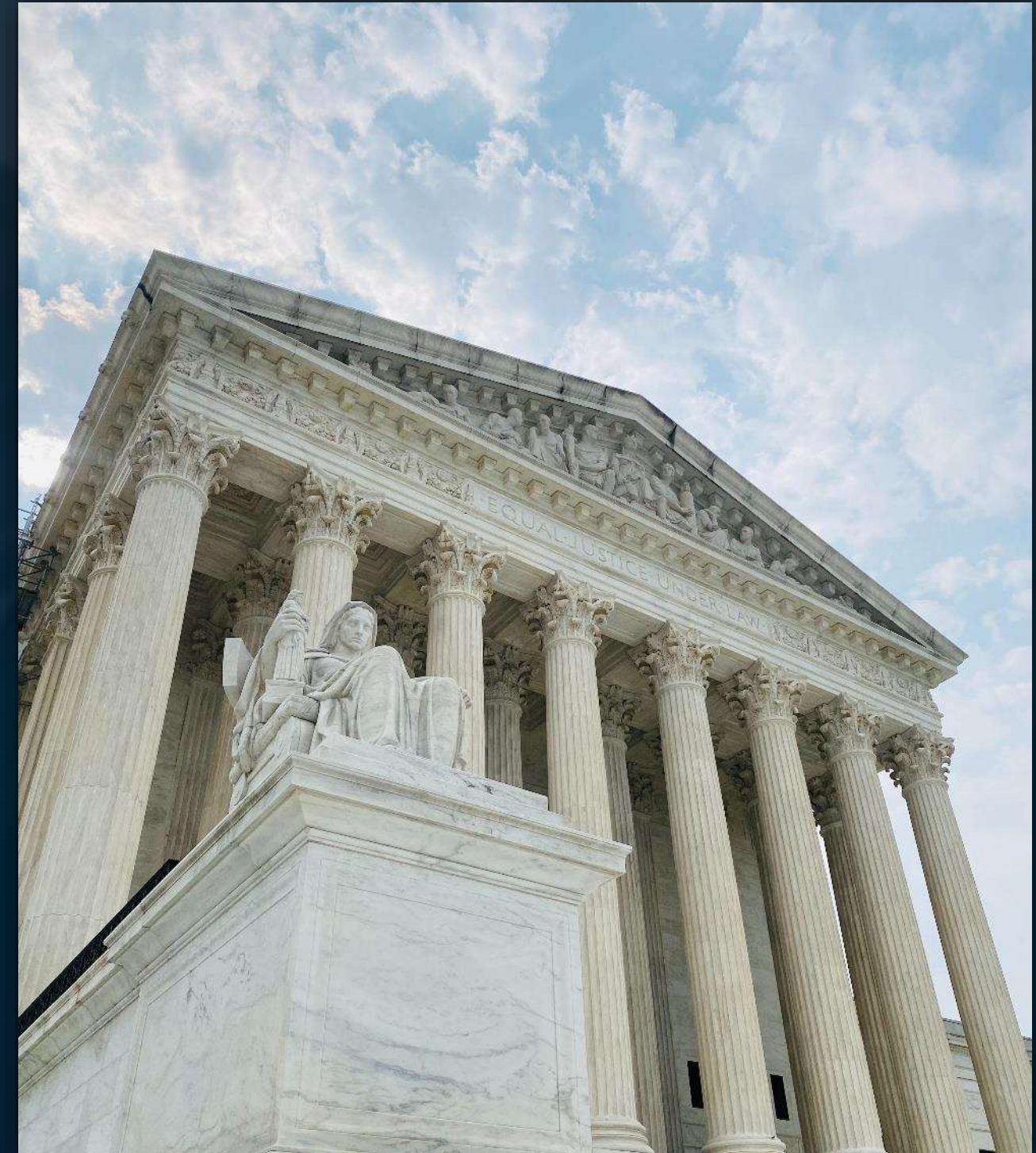
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ENGEL V. VITALE (1962)

- Supreme Court ruled it was **unconstitutional** for state officials to compose a **school prayer** and allow students to be excused for the morning prayer if they chose.
- The following year, school-sponsored **Bible readings** were also ruled unconstitutional.



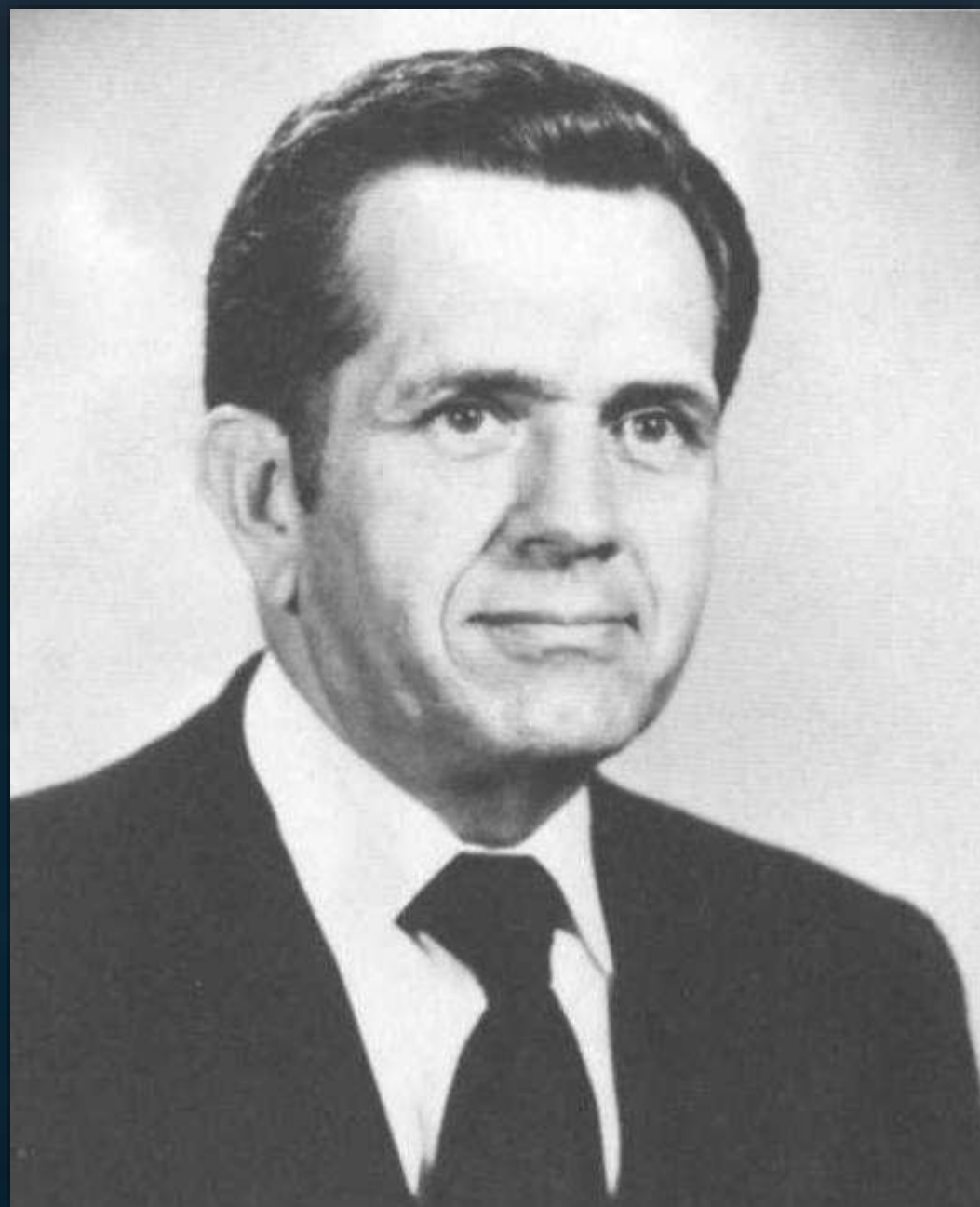
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PRESIDENT MCKAY'S AGITATION



Boyd K. Packer, Charge to the David O. McKay School of Education, December 1996

“Just a year after I had been called as a General Authority, I saw President McKay **very agitated**. I **had not seen him that way before**. We were in a meeting in the temple with all of the General Authorities in October 1962, prior to the general conference. When President McKay came in, he was obviously very **agitated**. When it came his time to speak, he told us that the Supreme Court had made a decision announcing the **prohibition** of **prayer** in the **public schools**.”

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ROD OF IRON

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CUTTING THE CORD IN EDUCATION

“The Supreme Court of the United States has made it **unpatriotic** for public schools to teach your children to **pray**. By making that unconstitutional, the Supreme Court **severs** the **connecting cord** between the public **schools** of the United States and the source of **divine intelligence**, the **Creator** himself. Evidently the Supreme Court misinterprets the true meaning of the First Amendment, and are now **leading** this Christian **nation** down the road to **atheism**.”

David O. McKay, “Parental Responsibility,” Relief Society Magazine, Dec. 1962, p. 878. Also printed in the Church News, June 22, 1963

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A BROKEN
WORLD: FIND
JOY BY THE
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DALLIN H. OAKS' REACTION

"I reasoned that the [school prayer] case was correctly decided," because "I interpreted the school prayer decision to forbid only state-authored and state-required prayers, rather than forbidding school prayers altogether."



Dallin H. Oaks, Life's Lessons Learned, 2011, Chapter 16 "Assigning Reasons to Revelation"

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3

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FOR OUR DAY

PRESIDENT OAKS' CHANGE OF HEART

“... what I learned from this experience was that my worldly wisdom in writing approvingly of the school prayer case on the ‘facts’ of the decision was just a **small footnote** to history compared with the **vision** of a **prophet** who saw and described the **pernicious effects** of that decision in the years to come. Exercising prophetic vision, President McKay saw that the school prayer case—which I reasoned to be defensible and probably even essential as a ruling on the facts before the Court—would set in motion a chain of legal and public and educational actions that would cause **religion** to be **separated** from **education** and lead to the current **hostility** toward religion that **threatens religious liberty** in our society. For me that was a **powerful learning experience** on the **folly** of trying to understand **prophetic vision** in terms of **worldly wisdom.**”

Dallin H. Oaks, Life's Lessons Learned, 2011, Chapter 16 "Assigning Reasons to Revelation"

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DAVID BARTON & THE CONSEQUENCES OF SEPARATING GOD FROM AMERICAN EDUCATION



Please visit www.WallBuilders.com to learn more about David Barton's work.

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NEW! Updated statistics

AMERICA: TO PRAY OR NOT TO PRAY

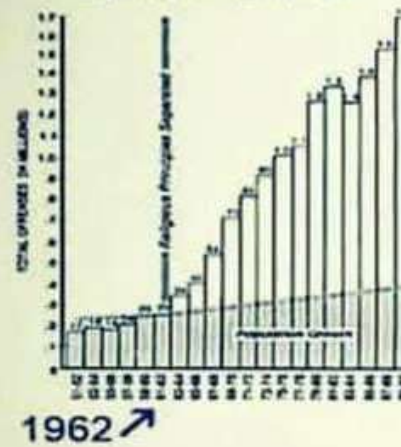


*A statistical look at what
happened when religious principles
were separated from public affairs*

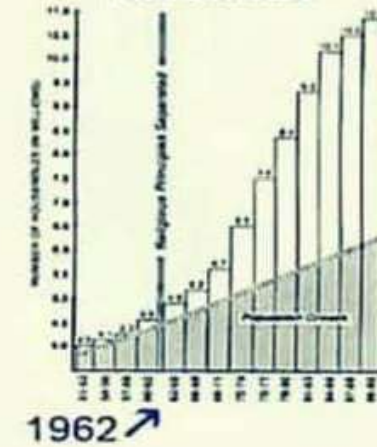
David Barton

In 1962 Prayer Was Removed From Schools How are things since then?

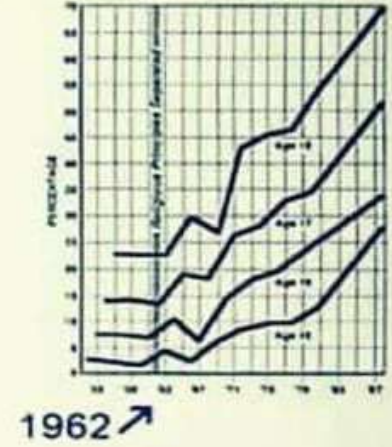
Violent Crime
Number of Offenses



Single Parent
Households



Pre-Marital Sex



Birth Rates for Unwed Girls
Under 15-19 Years Of Age



SAT Scores



(Source) *America: To Pray or Not to Pray* by David Barton
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JOY BY THE
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WILL WE EVER RECOVER?

“... when President [Gordon B.] Hinckley was asked by the Press: ‘What about prayer and meditation in public schools?’

“President Hinckley replied: ‘We took a terrible step **backwards** some years ago. I **don’t know** whether we’ll **recover** from it.’”



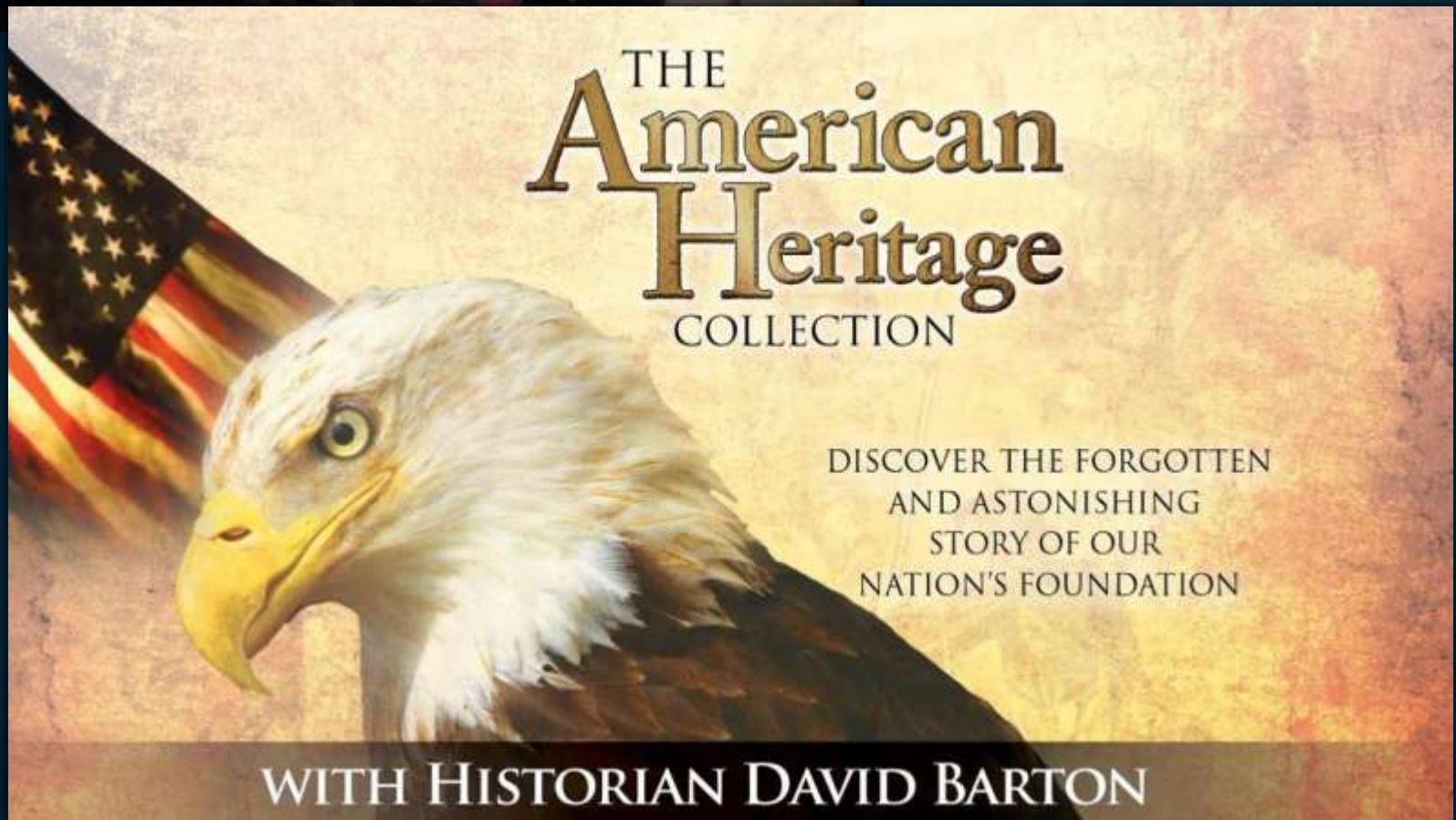
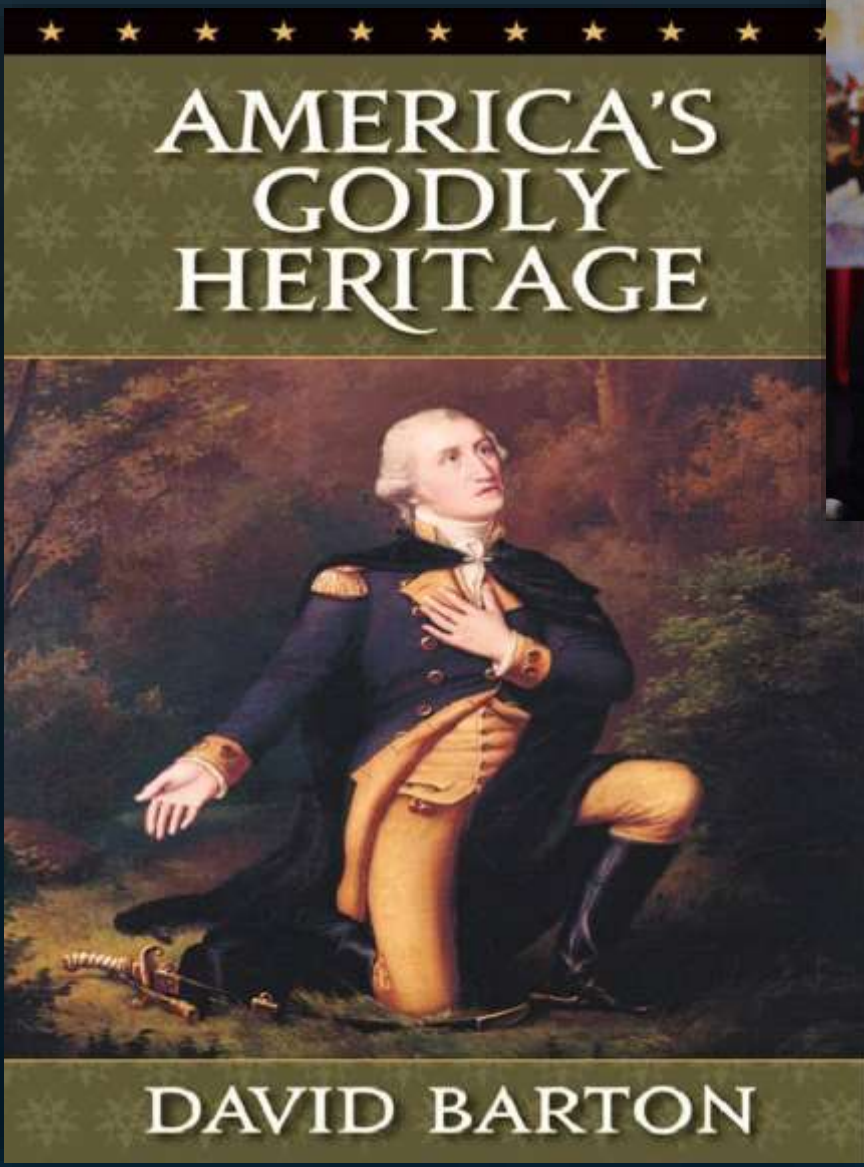
Gordon B. Hinckley, Speech to National Press Club, Q&A Session, March 8, 2000 (as quoted by Meridian Magazine, Saints Seek Solutions to the Education Dilemma — Part 4, August 4, 2004)

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3

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WORLD: FIND
JOY BY THE
ROD OF IRON

AMERICA'S GODLY HERITAGE (DAVID BARTON)



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WORLD: FIND
JOY BY THE
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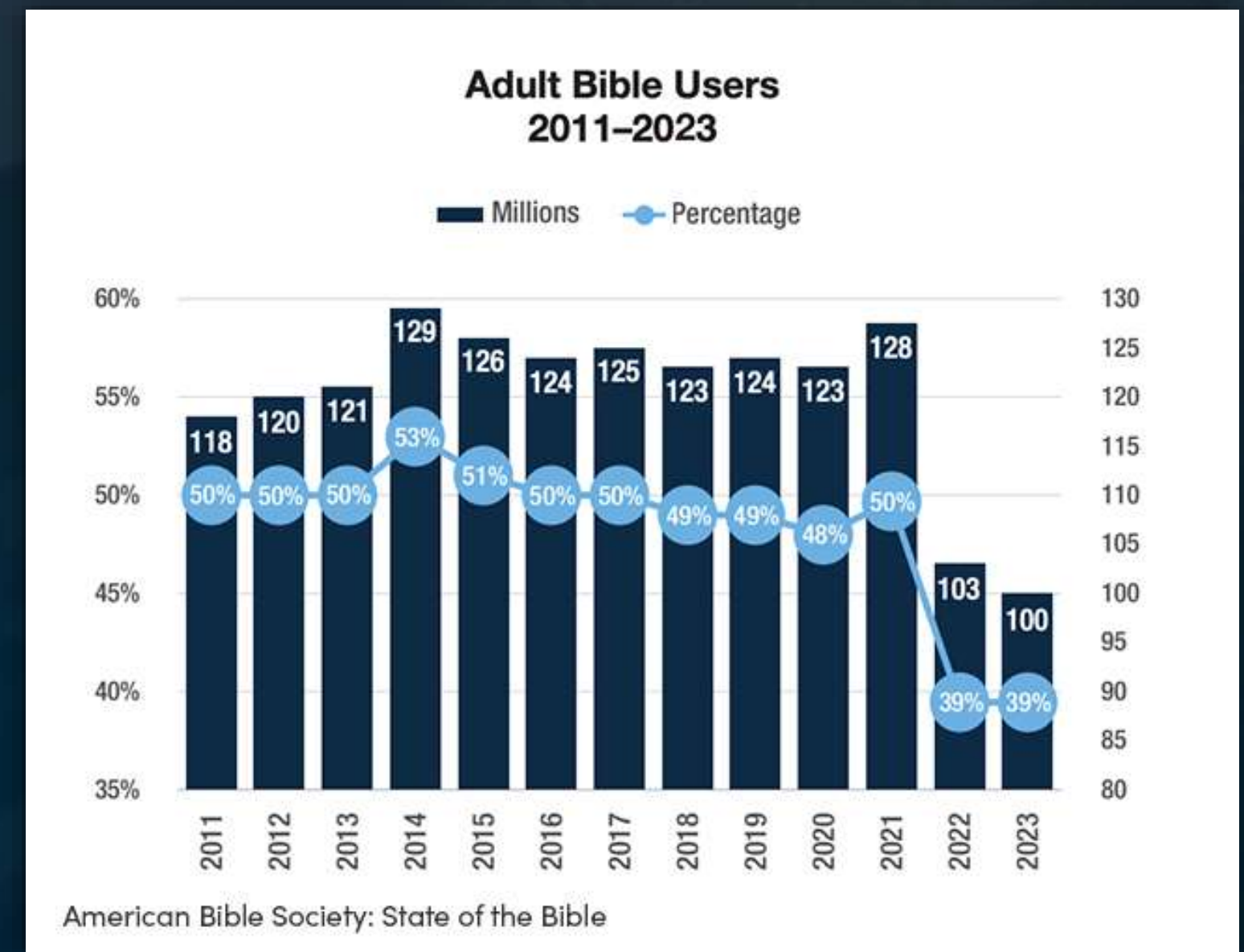
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WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR REJECTING SCRIPTURE IN AMERICA?

“... we noticed an **unprecedented drop** in the percentage of Bible Users in the United States [those who use the Bible at least 3–4 times each year on their own]. In every study since 2018, Bible Users have accounted for between 47 and 49 percent of American adults; however, the 2022 data showed a **10-percent decrease** from the same time in 2021. That means nearly **26 million Americans reduced or stopped** their interaction with Scripture in the past year.”

State of the Bible Study 2022

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WORLD: FIND
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BIGGEST PROTEST IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY | CHINA UNCENSORED, YOUTUBE

Watch on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLktzP3hle0>

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3

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WORLD: FIND
JOY BY THE
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FOR OUR DAY

JOSEPH SMITH'S TEACHINGS ON WOMEN'S ROLES

“The female part of community are apt to be contracted in their views. You must not be contracted, but you must be liberal in your feelings. Let this Society [Relief Society] teach how to act towards husbands to treat them with mildness and affection. When a man is borne down with trouble— when he is perplex'd; if he can meet a smile, an argument— if he can meet with mildness, it will calm down his soul and soothe his feelings. When the mind is going to despair, it needs a solace.

“... When you go home never give a cross word, but let kindness, charity and love, crown your works henceforward.

“... commended them for their zeal but said sometimes their zeal was not according to knowledge”

Nauvoo Relief Society Minute Book

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A BROKEN
WORLD: FIND
JOY BY THE
ROD OF IRON

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RESTORING ISRAEL BACK TO THE TREE OF LIFE

“Yea, even my father [Lehi] spake much concerning the Gentiles, and also concerning the **house of Israel**, that they should be compared like unto an olive tree, whose branches should be **broken off** and should be **scattered** upon **all** the face of the earth.

“. . . And after the house of Israel should be **scattered** they should be **gathered together again**; or, in fine, after the Gentiles had received the **fulness of the Gospel**, the natural branches of the olive tree, or the remnants of the house of Israel, should be **grafted in**, or come to the **knowledge of the true Messiah**, their Lord and their Redeemer.”

1 Nephi 10:12, 14

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