



*“Glad Tidings of Great Joy”*  
**Show Notes & Transcripts**

## **Podcast General Description:**

Follow Him: A *Come, Follow Me* Podcast with Hank Smith & John Bytheway

Do you ever feel that preparing for your weekly *Come, Follow Me* lesson falls short? Join hosts Hank Smith and John Bytheway as they interview experts to make your study for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ *Come, Follow Me* course not only enjoyable but original and educational. If you are looking for resources to make your study fresh, faithful, and fun--no matter your age--then join us every Wednesday.

## **Podcast Episode Descriptions**

### **Part 1:**

If you could ask a prophet anything, what would you ask? Sister Sheri Dew reflects on her experiences working with several Church Presidents, how the Lord guides His people to the Covenant Path of Jesus Christ, and the Lord’s warning about rejecting the prophets.

### **Part 2:**

Sister Sheri Dew continues to explore how prophets see around corners, issue warnings, and testify of the Gathering of Israel, and the power of staying on the Covenant Path of Jesus Christ.

# Timecodes:

## Part 1

- 00:00 Part I - Sister Sheri Dew
- 00:47 Sister Dew shares playing basketball with her seminary teacher
- 03:41 Bio of Sheri Dew
- 06:41 *Come, Follow Me Manual*
- 07:49 What would you ask a prophet?
- 10:47 What do we know about Samuel the Lamanite?
- 12:56 Helaman 13:3-6 - Samuel repeats messages to the Nephites
- 14:56 Prophets reveal what the Lord wants specific groups to know and do
- 17:53 Prophets are human but obey the Lord
- 21:01 “The Lord uses the unlikely to accomplish the impossible”
- 25:45 Samuel’s four purposes
- 26:59 Helaman 13:6 - Faith in Christ
- 28:25 The relationship between riches and stoning prophets
- 30:42 The gospel is the greatest news to the world
- 33:15 Helaman 13:7 - Samuel has good news the people won’t receive
- 36:07 Helaman 13:12-27 - Samuel teaches about repentance and hearts
- 38:14 Helaman 13:20-22 - Riches, rejecting prophets,, and forgetting the Lord
- 43:09 Correlations between riches and stoning prophets
- 45:06 Helaman 13:24-35 - Riches will become slippery
- 47:51 What do mocking and stoning prophets look like today?
- 49:45 1 Nephi 11:35 - The House of Israel fight against the Twelve
- 52:52 How to respond to questions about prophetic fallibility?
- 56:00 Will we embrace the wrestle?
- 1:00:34 Who would you trust more than a prophet of the Lord?
- 1:05:37 End of Part 1 - Sister Sheri Dew

## Part 2

- 00:00 Part II– Sister Sheri Dew
- 00:32 Interviewing prophets
- 02:27 Mosiah 2:27 - Seers and the power of faith
- 05:10 President Nelson is an early-adopter
- 08:19 Prophets see around corners
- 10:44 Helaman 13:28 - Prophets preach truth not flattery
- 13:37 President Benson didn’t “tickle our ears”
- 15:11 Helaman 13:27 - Who would you put in charge of your life?
- 16:43 “Prophets in the Land Again”
- 19:17 Helaman 14 - Samuel prophecies about Jesus
- 22:36 Helaman 14:14-15 - Samuel shares a sign of Jesus’s death
- 24:30 Helaman 14:12 - Samuel quotes King Benjamin
- 28:19 3 Nephi 23 - Jesus instructs Samuel’s prophecies be recorded

- 32:07 Gathering of Israel
- 34:36 Helaman 15-Helaman 16:12 - Responses to a prophet
- 35:32 Sister Sheri Dew shares her testimony that prophets preach of Jesus Christ
- 43:17 End of Part II– Sister Sheri Dew

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Sheri Dew is executive vice president and chief content officer of Deseret Management Corporation. She served in the General Presidency of the Relief Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1997-2002 and was a White House delegate to the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. Sheri serves on the national Advisory Council of BYU’s Marriott School of Management. She has authored several books, including the biographies of Ezra Taft Benson and Gordon B. Hinckley. And her most recent book is titled *Insights from a Prophet’s Life: Russell M. Nelson*. Sheri is a native of Ulysses, Kansas and a graduate of Brigham Young University.

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## Helaman 13-16 Part 1

GUEST: SHERI L. DEW



- Hank Smith: 00:00:04 Hello, everyone. Welcome to another episode of followHIM. My name's Hank Smith. I'm your host and I'm here with my co-host, John Bytheway, who I describe as firm and steadfast in the faith. John, that's Helaman 15:8. Now, John, I know there's one name that comes up for these last few chapters of Helaman, and that is Samuel the Lamanite. John, what are you looking forward to?
- John Bytheway: 00:00:30 The thing that's so unique about this is we know there's a time when the Lamanites are righteous and the Nephites are wicked, and that goes back and forth. But this is the only recorded sermon of a Lamanite. What's he going to say? And the prophecies are so specific and so good.
- Hank Smith: 00:00:47 John, we're honored today to be joined by our friend, Sister Sheri Dew. Sheri, as you've looked at these last few chapters of Helaman, what are we going to do today? What do you want our listeners to see?
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:01:00 Great to be with you too. Thanks for the invitation. Let me frame the way I look at these, if I could, with a little experience I had as a sophomore in high school. Picture being raised on a big, big farm in the Midwest, going to a little teeny branch. We didn't have seminary. And one day, it must've been in August, I'm out in the front yard shooting hoops.
- 00:01:24 In drives a car, never seen this car before. A tall lanky guy gets out, and he walks over, and he said, "Are you Sheri?" I said, "Yeah." "Is your dad home?" My dad was the branch president. I said, "No, my dad's not home right now." And he said, "Well, can I play basketball with you?" And I'm looking at this guy going, "Who are you?" And then he said, "I bet I can beat you in a game of horse."
- 00:01:48 And I said, "I'm sure you can't." I'm a cocky, reasonably talented basketball player in the state of Kansas. Really, some skinny guy's going to come and beat me in a game of horse? He whipped me. This guy was, he had been sent out from CES to be

the first home study seminary coordinator for all of Western Kansas. And here he had driven into our yard to meet my dad, the branch president.

00:02:14 He became such a guiding star for me. He was a fabulous, shout-out to seminary teachers, he was a fabulous teacher of the scriptures. I can still remember how he taught certain scriptural accounts and stories. I always loved the scriptures, but I didn't really know what to do with them. Boy, he opened them to me. And I still remember, when we studied Helaman, and the first few chapters of Third Nephi, he said, "You pay attention to these. These are the chapters that are depicting what happened before the Savior came. We'll probably experience the same things before he comes again. These are very relevant to us."

00:02:54 So for me, when I'm reading Helaman, and these first chapters that we'll follow in Third Nephi, I'm thinking, "Okay, what were they experiencing? What can we learn about that?" And some of it you can see happening already.

00:03:07 There's something really crucial in reading the scriptures, not only for what we can learn from ancient prophets, but also to say, "Okay, how does this apply to me?" The context here is really fun to evaluate, in the sense of saying, "What do I see happening in the world today, that we're all dealing with, that actually very much mirrors exactly what was happening to the Nephites and the Lamanites at that time?"

Hank Smith: 00:03:33 I don't think anything could fit better. Just before the Savior comes, we have a prophet in the land.

Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:03:39 Mm-hmm.

Hank Smith: 00:03:41 Now, John, I'm guessing most of our listeners know who Sheri is. But there might be someone who, I don't know, joined the church last week.

John Bytheway: 00:03:49 I love that she told a basketball story. I was at some sort of a Deseret Book planning meeting up in the mountains. Somebody had a football, and I'm out throwing it, and here comes Sheri. And she's like, "Throw me that thing." And Sheri's chucking the football around, and I was like, "Whoa." And she said, "I was all state basketball in Kansas." And I was like, "That is so cool." So I'm really glad you told that story.

	00:04:14	I have a brief bio from the back of the book, <i>Prophets Can See Around Corners</i> , which is relatively new. And one of the reasons we wanted Sheri to be here. Sheri Dew is a native of Ulysses, Kansas, a graduate of Brigham Young University. She's written a number of books, including biographical works on three presidents of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Presidents Russell M. Nelson, Gordon B. Hinckley, and Ezra Taft Benson.
	00:04:42	She served from 1997 to 2002 as Second Counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency and is Executive Vice President and Chief Content Officer of Deseret Management Corporation. And it was Sheri who took a chance on me, back in, Hank, I'm not sure if you were born yet, 1994. And I will always be grateful to my friend Sheri, for coming down and saying, "Who are you? And what else you got?"
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:05:10	Twisted his arm, twisted it really, really hard.
Hank Smith:	00:05:14	John, you've talked about <a href="#">Prophets See Around Corners</a> . I'm looking on Amazon, and I know, John, you're moved by reviews. Listen to a couple of these. Larissa wrote, "Sheri Dew breaks down the reasoning as well as the facts behind the title of this book in a way that is engrossing. You feel as if you're sitting in a room chatting with a dear and brilliant friend. There's so much good information in this book, but you won't feel overwhelmed. Instead, you'll feel uplifted and have a clear understanding of what she presents."
	00:05:44	Maren Checketts, "This is one of the most well-written books I've ever read. I couldn't put it down. Already having a deep love and appreciation for past and living prophets, I can honestly say I'm forever changed after reading this book."
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:05:59	You're not going to read any of the bad ones just to give it balance?
Hank Smith:	00:06:02	There aren't any, to be honest. We hope everyone will go out and get a copy of <i>Prophets See Around Corners</i> .
John Bytheway:	00:06:10	As we read that bio, you could see Sheri's had a rare front row seat being a biographer for three presidents. That's why it's so fascinating, you find out how hard these brethren have worked, how much they have given. We see a talk in Conference, and an article here and there, but Sheri's had an unprecedented view of all this.

Hank Smith:	00:06:33	Excellent. Sheri, I'm going to read from the <a href="#">Come, Follow Me</a> manual, and then we're going to hand the reins over to you. I'm excited to see where we go.
	00:06:41	The title of this week's lesson, Glad Tidings of Great Joy. The lesson begins, by the way in the manual, on September the 9th. That's the opening day of the manual, and that's a significant day for the church. We'll talk about that.
	00:06:54	"The first time Samuel the Lamanite tried to share glad tidings in Zarahemla, he was rejected and cast out by hard-hearted Nephites. You might say it was as if they had built an impenetrable wall around their hearts that prevented them from receiving Samuel's message. Samuel understood the importance of the message he bore and demonstrated faith, by following God's commandment that he should return again and prophesy.
	00:07:19	Like Samuel, we all encounter walls as we prepare the way of the Lord, and strive to follow his prophets. And like Samuel, we too bear witness of Jesus Christ, who surely shall come, and invite all to believe on his name. Not everyone will listen, and some may actively oppose us, but those who believe in this message, with faith in Christ, find that it is truly a message of glad tidings of great joy."
	00:07:44	With that, Sheri, what do you want to do? How do you want to take on these chapters and this topic?
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:07:49	That's a great introduction, Hank, and I want to build on something you just said and something that John said. Sometimes I do have to pinch myself about the privilege I've had of having lots of one-on-one conversations with various Presidents of the church, the kinds of conversations where you pretty much can ask whatever you want to ask.
	00:08:11	Yesterday, I was in a setting where some people were asking me some questions. And one of the questions they asked me was, "If the members of the church could know anything about the prophets, what would you have them know?" Well, that's such a wide-open question, you could go to a million directions. But as a starting point, I wish they would know that when you look back at their lives and study their lives, all of the dots connect. You can see, in retrospect, I doubt they could see it as it was happening, but in retrospect, you can see that the Lord has had them in his care and keeping from day one.

- 00:08:49 Now granted, they've had their agency, they've made decisions. How are they going to handle things? Are they going to get an education? What kind of education? Who are they going to marry? How many children do they decide with their wife to have? And on, and on, and on. But you see the Lord as their tutor, and you see them being in the place, in the very hours. One way we could look at that very recently is to say, "Do you think it was just this amazing stroke of luck that when a [worldwide pandemic](#) hit in 2020, that the President of the Church, not just had a medical background, he was a world-famous surgeon who could read all the literature and listen to all of the conversation? Nobody really knew what was happening, but whatever was being produced or discussed, he could immediately understand it, and understand its impact, and surely be in immediate position to have instincts about, Okay, how do we handle this? How does it affect our missionaries, temple attendance, church attendance, and on and on and on?"
- 00:09:52 It's amazing to study their lives, and to watch the Lord tutor them, and get them ready for the hour when they are ordained a prophet, seer, and revelator. And then, if they become President of the Church, the day they become the Senior Apostle. It's an amazing thing.
- 00:10:09 Yes, I think as you study their lives, they look better. They look even better than you hope they will. You can see the Lord's hands. Now in this situation, Samuel the Lamanite, this is one of the dramatic moments of the Book of Mormon. Let's just remind everybody, set the stage. This says the Nephites are in great wickedness, and that the Lamanites observed strictly to keep the commandments of God. And it's just six years until the Savior is born. Hence, a reflection on what my seminary teacher so many years ago said is, "Pay attention to what was happening then, because there are things to learn that will apply today."
- 00:10:47 Into this situation, here comes this Lamanite prophet. What do we know about him? Not much. The Book of Mormon doesn't give us his background, really. We can speculate, where could he have come from? Well, I guess he could have been one of those 8,000 Lamanites converted by Nephi and Lehi in the land of Zarahemla. He could have been one of those. He could have been one of the 300 Lamanites converted after witnessing God save Lehi and Nephi in that prison, the Lamanite prison. So he could have been one of them. He could have been one of those converted by one of the 300 that were converted.

00:11:27 But we don't actually know. We don't know really anything about him. So here he comes. We can only speculate the Nephites didn't know anything about him either. Here this courageous Lamanite prophet comes to Zarahemla to teach the gospel, and we learn that he preaches repentance for many days, and the people don't like it. They cast him out. They do not like hearing about their sins, especially from a Lamanite.

Hank Smith: 00:11:55 A Lamanite.

Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:11:58 Talk about adding insult to injury. He's ready to leave. He said, the cost-benefit ratio here is not great. I'm going to go try another city. The voice of the Lord comes to him and tells him to return and prophesy whatsoever things should come into his heart. I want to say something about that in a second. But let's pause for a minute and say, "How do you think he felt?"

00:12:19 Can't you imagine, he's just thinking, "Oh, seriously? Why am I going back?" Freeze-frame, how many times has the Spirit prompted you to do something you didn't want to do? Or the Spirit told you something you didn't want particularly to hear? I'm trying to think of it in that context, that he's thinking, this is a lost cause, and now he says he's going to prophesy. He's supposed to prophesy whatsoever things come to his heart.

00:12:46 The Spirit tells him to go back. Then Nephites fights won't let him in, so here comes this great dramatic moment when he gets on the wall. Let's read three, four, and five.

Hank Smith: 00:12:56 [Helaman 13:3, 4, 5](#), "But behold, the voice of the Lord came unto him, that he should return again and prophesy unto the people whatsoever things should come into his heart." Real quick, Sheri, I love the way you personalized, or humanized, I guess is the word, Samuel, as if prophets are machines that, "Okay, I'll turn around." But I like, there's Samuel going, "Really? Okay, let's go back."

00:13:23 This is verse four, "And it came to pass they would not suffer that he should enter into the city. Therefore, he went and got upon the wall thereof, and stretched forth his hand, and cried with a loud voice, and prophesied unto the people whatsoever things the Lord put into his heart. And he said unto them, 'Behold, I Samuel, a Lamanite, do speak the words of the Lord which he doth put into my heart. And behold, he hath put it into my heart to say unto this people that the sword of justice hangeth over this people. And 400 years pass not away, save the sword of justice falleth upon this people.'"

Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:13:59	One of the things that's interesting to me in those three verses is, writing is so hard for me, that anytime I think of what it took for them to record anything, when you see repetition, you have to think they must have felt strongly about this. In three verses in a row, it says that he was to teach whatsoever things should come into his heart. Why do you think that repetition? And why do you think it doesn't say, "That he should prophesy whatsoever things came into his mind"? Any thoughts about that?
John Bytheway:	00:14:33	Sure tells us he's being inspired. It's more than intellectual exercise, "Yeah, I think I know what these people need." Instead, it's God is putting something in my heart, and here it comes. It doesn't sound like it's very... What was the <a href="#">Harold B. Lee</a> thing, "Rather than preparing a speech, prepare yourself to speak"? I'm going to say whatever I get here.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:14:56	I love the distinction you've made, because I think it's so true. I absolutely believe this is characteristic of prophets, that this isn't, "Oh, I'm going to give you an intellectual recitation of all the stuff I know about this." They are absolutely trying to, in any setting, they could be talking to a group in Bolivia, or to General Conference, and trying to say, "What does the Lord want me to say at this moment?"
	00:15:20	I wonder if this is one of the clues we get in the Book of Mormon, about how the Spirit speaks to us? If you are ever sitting in a Q&A where a general authority is answering questions, you can be sure somebody's going to say, "I can't tell if I can understand the Spirit. Can you tell me how to do this? How do I know if I'm making up stuff in my head or if I'm actually being inspired?"
	00:15:42	When I look at the repetition three times about prophesying whatsoever things would come into his heart, I think it's a clue in the Book of Mormon, about how the Spirit speaks to us. And it reminds me of this verse in the Doctrine and Covenants, "I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost. Now this is the Spirit of revelation."
	00:16:04	That's an important distinction for us to try to understand, as all of us try to get better at speaking the language of revelation, and that is, I think the Spirit tries to speak to hearts and minds, because you actually can't convince yourself in your mind of something that doesn't feel right in your heart. You can try. You can try to talk yourself into it for days, or weeks, or months, or years. But at some point you have to say, "That doesn't feel right to me."



Hank Smith:	00:16:35	Mind and heart. It'll make sense and it'll feel right.
John Bytheway:	00:16:39	Feel right.
Hank Smith:	00:16:40	As you asked that question, Sheri, I thought of, this is way back in the 1900s. I'm listening to General Conference and <a href="#">President Hinckley</a> said, "Brothers and sisters, I have a confession to make." I sat up, like, hm? And then I still remember it, "Brothers and sisters, I have a confession to make. It is this, I love you." Whatsoever of a thing shall come into his heart. This comes from a caring heart.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:17:08	I love that. I had forgotten about that, but you're saying it makes me remember that moment. Yeah, that was an interesting moment, and a little uncharacteristic of him. That was a little different than he usually expressed himself.
	00:17:22	Right off the bat here, there's a nice message to say, when we talk about learning how to decipher and understand the promptings of the Spirit, how to speak the language of revelation, it's both an intellectual and a heart thing. For me, it is the, does that feel right? That puts the capstone on it. I can reason it out, but if it still doesn't feel right, you go, yeah, I don't know. There's something about that that bugs me. I can't quite pinpoint what bugs me, but it doesn't feel right to me.
	00:17:53	The Spirit tells Samuel, "Go back. Preach." He's preaching what comes into his heart. None of this made sense. In fact, when you think, "Okay, go back to the city." And again, maybe he jumped right on that and said, "Oh, okay, I'm charging back." But a more natural human reaction would be, "Oh wow, I don't even know what to do with that." Then he jumps on the wall and he starts to preach. I tried to think about a current day comparison. One of them might be <a href="#">President Nelson</a> making such a point early in his administration about using the correct name of the church.
	00:18:29	Samuel could have thought, "Okay, this isn't even possible." President Nelson could have thought, "This isn't even possible." In fact, everybody told him it wasn't possible. They say, "Listen, it's too long. We as a church have used Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the Mormon Church, the Mormon Channel. We could go on and on. We've used it too long. We'll lose SEO authority. It'll be gone. Nobody will take us seriously. The name of the church is too long. We'll be mocked, it won't happen." President Nelson says, well, the Lord's made it clear to him that we needed to identify the church as the Lord's church. We just need to do it.

	00:19:09	The chips fall where they may, so to speak, and look at the progress that's been made in just a few years. It's not perfect. Everybody doesn't use the name correctly, but a lot of people do, including friends of other faiths. Organizational names have changed, domain names have changed. There are a legion of stories now about people who have actually been drawn to or open to learning more about the church because it has the Savior's name in it. What Samuel was asked to do didn't look even possible. What President Nelson was asked to do didn't look possible, and they did it.
Hank Smith:	00:19:49	It says in verse two, he was about to return to his own land. So I wonder if prophets get counsel like that and go, "Well, maybe you're right." But the voice of the Lord comes and says, "This is what we're doing." All right, I'll get on that wall. I don't know if the response is going to be great, but I'll get on that wall.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:20:08	Yeah. And think about, how did he even think about that? Well, they won't let me in. I guess I'll get on the wall. How'd he get on the wall?
John Bytheway:	00:20:16	And then in verse four, they would not let him in. They would not suffer, he should enter into the city. So again, you can imagine, "I tried. They won't let me in." But let's see, how else can I do this? Do you know what this reminds me of? This is kind of out there, but four men brought in a bed, a man who was taken with the palsy. And they could not get in because of the press. So they said, "Oh, well.", and went home. Wrong. They said, "Anybody have any ideas? I know let's go on the roof and make a hole in the roof and lower him." And you can imagine the guy with the palsy going, "Uh, I don't think that's a great idea." But they do it. So it was, once the Lord tells you what to do, figure it out. It's kind of a Nephi thing. You broke your bow, what am I going to do? Well, I'll make another one.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:21:01	You know that statement you've heard <a href="#">President Nelson</a> make all the time, which is, "The Lord uses the unlikely to accomplish the impossible." You could say that about those lifting the man with the palsy, you could say that about Samuel. Kind of unlikely. Really? How did he even get on a wall? Surely had guards. What are even the logistics of that? And again, President Nelson and the name of the church, he would say, "The Lord used the unlikely to accomplish the impossible." I think he would use that referring to himself to say, Yeah, it's too late. It's not going to work. Well, actually it is working. It's in the process of working. It'll take many more years, but it's in the process of working.

	00:21:39	I like what you said, John. Yeah, the Lord speaks, and that is a characteristic of prophets. The Lord speaks, they do it. They figure out how to do it. I whine about it and mope around about it until I finally convinced myself, "Come on, Sheri, get with the program here." But I think we don't see that. I think we see a more immediate response when it comes to prophets.
John Bytheway:	00:22:02	I saw a video in <a href="#">Book of Mormon Central</a> , which was fascinating to me. Somebody said to me, "Hey, you better be careful because in 400 years..." I would be going, "Well, I'm not going to be alive. What do I care?"
Hank Smith:	00:22:13	400 years.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:22:14	Yeah.
John Bytheway:	00:22:15	One school of thought is, they're thinking about them as a people. And that hits them personally because it's them as a people. That's one school of thought. Another is the word baktun, is a word that means 400 years. The word hotun means five years. And that's coming up and that was on Book of Mormon Central. So in one baktun, the sword of justice is going to fall upon this people.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:22:40	Interesting.
Hank Smith:	00:22:41	Yeah. That's cool, John.
John Bytheway:	00:22:43	Why would you care about something 400 years later?
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:22:46	Yeah, I've wondered the same thing. It doesn't feel like a big threat. Samuel, his prophecies are pretty stark. He's going to get pretty direct here. But you could say to yourself, "Yeah, well I'm going to die in 30 years, so I'm not worrying about that." One of the things these early verses, I think underscore is again, just thinking about what Samuel did. The Lord's ways aren't man's ways. We hear that phrase all the time, but we shouldn't gloss over it like it's a slogan or something. It also means today that a prophet's ways are not always what everyone on Facebook thinks it should be. I mean, can you imagine what YouTube influencers, they would've been howling at Samuel up on the wall. Some were howling at President Nelson and making fun of him when there were those who said something to this effect that, "Why are we making such a big deal about the name of the church? Why are we spending so much time and energy and money? Why does this keep coming up?" And the Lord's ways are not man's ways.

Hank Smith:	00:23:48	That's back to the unlikely accomplishes the impossible. How do you know that the name of the church won't have significant impact in the future? I have a tendency to think the Lord knows what he's doing. And he will use something like that that may be unlikely to do something great. A small and simple thing.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:24:08	Sometimes when I'm talking to someone who is just not sure they are buying the whole notion of prophets. Because they didn't like that prophet seer and revelator said this or that or this or that. We can say more about that in a minute when we read some of these verses about prophets. If you believe the Lord is actually speaking to his prophet, and again, everybody doesn't believe that. But if you buy that and you don't like something a prophet said, what I will say to somebody is, well, do you think the Lord is smarter than you are? Sometimes that will catch somebody up short a little bit to say, "Well, yeah, of course I think that the Lord Jesus Christ or God, the Father, of course they're smarter." Okay, if you think they're actually smarter than you are and they're sure smarter than I am, the thing is to say, "Do you believe the linkage between God, the Father and his son, Jesus Christ and the prophet?" That's the question. Do you really believe they're being led and directed?
	00:25:06	And that's what each one of us have to get a testimony of in our own hearts. You can hear a million talks about that from the pulpit, and you can reason it through the best you can and lay a foundation for prophets. But the Spirit has to tell you, and by the way, the Spirit will. In my view, I think that is a prayer that gets answered pretty fast. Meaning if someone is intent on knowing if a prophet is a prophet. Was Joseph Smith, a prophet? Is President Nelson a prophet? I think that's a prayer that will get answered. You might have to work at it for a little bit, but I think the Spirit is eager to confirm that truth.
	00:25:45	Back to Samuel. He's now going to make some pretty strong prophecies. And his message appears to have about four purposes. I'd love for you two to jump in, if you think I've missed something here. Number one, he wants the Nephites to know what's going to happen to them, the judgments of God, if you will, if they don't repent. He wants them to know how to repent, the conditions of repentance, what that means. Then he's going to teach them that Jesus Christ is coming. He's going to come. And he wants to tell them the signs of his coming. He's also going to tell them the signs of what happens when he atones. His prophecies are amazing. Is there anything that doesn't fit in one of those general areas?

John Bytheway:	00:26:30	I had a friend who asked me, "So, you've been teaching a Book of Mormon class?" Yeah. "How long have you been doing that?" And I told him and he said, it was a great question, "What one thing has stood out to you?" One of those great inquisitive questions. This is what I told him, and it took me a day. The next time I saw him, I said, "Do you know what stood out to me? First principles." And today, I would say the doctrine of Christ.
	00:26:59	Look in verse six there, "Nothing will save this people, save it be repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ." If you do that <a href="#">Elder Bednar</a> recommendation, take another Book of Mormon, a new one, and look for faith in Christ and repentance. It's astonishing how often the doctrine of Christ shows up over and over again. He's telling him right at first, "This will save the people before the prophecies." Faith in Christ and repentance. And today, I think we're hearing it more characterized as the doctrine of Christ. Would you say that's true?
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:27:32	I think we're understanding what the doctrine of Christ is better than we have before.
John Bytheway:	00:27:37	Yeah. I know Preach My Gospel talks about it a lot more. It's basically some article of faith number four.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:27:45	Absolutely.
Hank Smith:	00:27:46	I'm using the old paper copy of the scriptures and I've highlighted the word repent or repentance or repenteth in yellow. And it is everywhere, going down. This is the message of Samuel, repent. I like your four main highlights there, Sheri. One that stood out to me that's really not a main one, but is kind of under those, is the danger of treasure. They have become obsessed with money and riches and things. And he says, "You don't remember the Lord, but wow, you remember your money."
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:28:25	We ought to talk about that for a second because I hadn't noticed this before. But this time, going through these chapters, it's interesting to see in connection between riches and stoning prophets. And I had never thought about it in that context. But maybe before we do, let's review for everyone following along in their scriptures and maybe in their Come, Follow Me manual, some of what Samuel had to say, because his prophecies were stark. I mean, think about it. He says, "Okay, the sword of justice hangs over the Nephites, that in 400 years." And there is that time thing to say, "Well, how much do I care about that?" But in 400 years, the sword's going to fall. Heavy destruction awaits

them. Repeatedly, to your point, Hank, the only thing that will save them is repentance and faith.

00:29:19 And he says more than once that an angel has told them all of this, and that all of these things are glad tidings. That he was sent here to the Nephites to express these glad tidings, which sound like really fierce warnings. How do you figure that out, that this is really going to be bad on you? And these are happy tidings, glad tidings? How do you think about that?

John Bytheway: 00:29:42 I went through the Book of Mormon once looking for glad tidings because I wanted to see how often it was referring to Christmas or the birth of Christ, because that's a phrase we get in Luke. Actually, Luke says, "Good tidings of great joy.", but other places say, glad tidings. I'm intrigued with the idea that gospel also means good news and that tidings just means news. It almost always is positive news in the scriptures.

00:30:09 The thing that I loved about it was understood correctly, the gospel is the greatest news possible. There's hope, there's redemption, there's salvation. This should be the happiest message we could possibly have. That's glad tidings. And oddly, people don't accept it. Maybe because it requires repentance or change. Those are my thoughts. When Alma talked to Corianton, he said, "You were supposed to be out declaring glad tidings." So, it comes up in lots of places.

Hank Smith: 00:30:42 I was just reading earlier this week. It was me and my boys. As we went verse by verse, he's pretty harsh at times to these people in Zarahemla. The things that he says. In fact, one of my boys commented, "He's kind of mean." And then right at the very end, he said, almost to verse 60 turns it around to a, isn't this wonderful moment. "I say into you that the good shepherd is calling after you. If you'll hearken unto his voice, he will bring you into his fold. You are his sheep. He wants you." "He's pursuing you", as Elder Kearon might say. "Come and be baptized unto repentance that you may be partakers of the fruit of the tree of life." It seems that this message of condemnation is, "Look at the way you're headed. This is awful. But isn't it good news that you can turn this around right now? Isn't that good news? Aren't you happy that you don't have to end up this way?"

Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:31:44 You've hit on a nerve of something I've thought about a lot in the last little while, when we hear some of the senior leaders being soundly criticized because of some of the things that they teach. And some of the recent criticism sounds like this, "Why do you have to keep telling us there's three degrees of glory?"

Don't we all get the trophy because we are all on the soccer team? Why should there be these delineations between celestial, terrestrial, and telestial? Why are you asking us, President Nelson, to think celestial? Come on. Why do we have to think about it that way?" And of course, there are those who love that talk. And then it's those that are bugged by it.

00:32:22 And I've found myself thinking, and this goes to what you just said, Hank, "Well, would you rather, he didn't tell you?" Would you rather get to the other side of the veil and find out the plan and how the Lord laid it out? And at that point, wouldn't you be saying, 'I sure wish somebody had told me the plan and the requirements and what's expected.'" And you may not like the plan and you may not like the requirements or what's expected. But I think a prophet, when he's declaring as Samuel is, what the deal is, he's doing what prophets do. And that is they lead people to Christ and they teach the truth and they talk about the father's plan. They talk about the doctrine of Christ, which is all of fulfillment and how we fulfill and can succeed in the Father's plan.

Hank Smith: 00:33:15 Yeah. Look at verse seven. "I have good news for you and you don't want it."

Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:33:20 Yeah.

John Bytheway: 00:33:23 Ye would not receive my glad tidings. Yeah.

Hank Smith: 00:33:26 Yeah. "I have blessings for you." It's almost as if he's speaking for the Lord here. "I have blessings for you, you just don't want them. You won't receive them."

John Bytheway: 00:33:36 I like what [Elder Jeffrey, R. Holland](#) said, "Repentance is perhaps the most hopeful word in the whole entire Christian vocabulary." The fact that we can repent, that's glad tidings right there. The fact that we can turn and that we can turn throughout our lives. That it's not a one-time thing, but we can keep course correcting, to use an aviation example. An airliner is off course most of the time, but it keeps turning back on course.

Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:34:04 Mm-hmm. I love that too. Hank, you said something a minute ago that made me think about this series of verses in the 88th section of the Doctrine and Covenants where we learn about the celestial, terrestrial, and telestial kingdom and where then comes this chilling verse, and it's what you just said about verse seven. It said, "They shall return again to their own place to

enjoy that which they are willing to receive because they were not willing to enjoy that which they might have received. For what does it profit a man if a gift is bestowed upon him and he receive not the gift? Behold he rejoices not in that which is given unto him, neither rejoices in him who is the giver of the gift."

00:34:46 Hank is what you just said. I offered you these glad tidings, you said, "Yeah, no thanks. Not interested." Now back to repentance on what you quoted from President Holland can I add to that this statement from [President Nelson](#)? This is from April of 2022. "Please do not fear or delay repenting. Satan delights in your misery. Cut it short. Cast his influence out of your life. Start today to experience the joy of putting off the natural man. The Savior loves us always, but especially when we repent." That's quite a statement.

00:35:26 If you feel you have strayed off the covenant path too far or too long and have no way to return, that simply is not true. From President Holland to President Nelson, some pretty strong encouragement about repenting. Because as we go back to Samuel, the bottom line is, he predicts all these horrible things, a sword of justice and the hardness of the hearts of the people and the fierce anger the Lord has towards them and that he'll visit them in fierce anger and you just think, what would fierce anger from the Lord look like? That sounds like not a very fun day. But the remedy is repentance. It's repentance.

Hank Smith: 00:36:07 You brought up Samuel said, "I'm going to speak what's in my heart." And then for the rest of 13 he talks about their hearts. Verse 12. "Your hearts are hardened against me." Verse 20, "Your hearts are upon riches." Happens again in 21. "Your hearts are not drawn to the Lord." That's 22. You walk after the pride of your heart in verse 27. Got their attention with, "The Lord has put some things in my heart to talk to you about your heart."

John Bytheway: 00:36:39 And it sounds like his words are not getting down into their hearts, they're stopping at the mind. A hardened heart is rejecting it. Who are you to come and tell us we're doing something wrong?

Hank Smith: 00:36:49 I had a friend this last week, Hillary, we were chatting and she said, "I used to struggle a little bit with what prophets said." Sometimes I'd go, ooh. I'd bristle at that. And then one day I just decided like you said Sheri, they know what they're talking about so I'm going to follow. No matter what it is I'm going to



follow. And that's repenting right there. That little shift in thinking. That is repenting.

- Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:37:16 I love that example because repentance doesn't have to be this big thing sitting in front of the bishop. Usually it isn't a big thing sitting in front of the bishop. Thank heavens we have bishops and stake presidents when we need their help to repent. Thank heavens. What a gift. I have assumed, I don't pretend to know, but I have assumed that one of the reasons President Nelson has repeatedly talked about repenting and repenting daily is so it can be those kinds of little shifts.
- Hank Smith: 00:37:48 That little moment of, okay.
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:37:51 Of recognition. Let's go back to what we were talking about a minute ago about riches. Because Samuel, he's talking about their hard hearts and the things that are causing them to resist his teachings or the teachings of the Lord that he's trying to teach. But then he comes with this one about love of riches. Maybe we should just read 20, 21 and 22.
- John Bytheway: 00:38:14 Okay. [Helaman 13:20](#). "And the day shall come that they shall hide up their treasures because they have set their hearts upon riches. And because they have set their hearts upon their riches and will hide up their treasures when they shall flee before their enemies, because they will not hide them up unto me, cursed be they and also their treasures, and in that day shall they be smitten, saith the Lord."
- Hank Smith: 00:38:39 This is verse 21. "Behold ye the people of this great city and hearken unto my words, yea hearken unto the words which the Lord saith for behold, he saith that ye are cursed because of your riches. And also are your riches cursed because you have set your hearts upon them and have not hearkened unto the words of him who gave them unto you."
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:39:02 Now verse 22. "You do not remember the Lord your God and the things with which he hath blessed you, but ye do always remember your riches. Not to thank the Lord your God for them. Yea, your hearts are not drawn out unto the Lord, but they do swell with great pride unto boasting and unto great swelling, envying, strifes, malice, persecutions and murders and all matter of iniquities."
- 00:39:27 This is the first time I ever actually linked ... because it talks about it before and after this passage on prophets that we're coming to. It links riches and stoning prophets. What do you

think they have to do with each other? And with these verses about riches, what grabs you, especially as you think about our world today? Love to know what you both think.

- Hank Smith: 00:39:50 My first thought here, Sheri, is the parable of the sower where the Savior says, "The seed falls among good but the weeds choke it." And what does he say the weeds are? Well, one of them is the deceitfulness of riches. It chokes the Word. I have a testimony, I have good soil, but this love of money is choking out my testimony. It's hardening my heart. I don't know if either of you have read Lord of the Rings, but I turn into this Gollum creature who wants to protect my money. I will spurn at anything that gets close to my riches.
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:40:28 I like that. John, anything to add?
- John Bytheway: 00:40:31 I like that just a few chapters ago in Helaman 5:12, which we all know, we're told to make Christ our foundation, to build our hearts, to set our hearts on Christ and it seems when people do that, verse 22 says, it's the Lord that blessed them with the riches, but then they seem to want to change real estate. Oh, now let's build our hearts on our riches instead of on Christ.
- Hank Smith: 00:40:58 Yeah.
- John Bytheway: 00:41:00 Suddenly they relocate, which is strange. Hank, I love what you said about the parable of the sower. I heard about this book somewhere and I went and found it. It was called [Money for Nothing](#) about people who won the lottery and roughly half of the chapters people said they had won a million dollars and they said, "This is the worst thing that's ever happened to me."
- 00:41:21 A lot of them said, "I made some investments, they went bad. I spend my life with lawyers and lawsuits now." And that's perhaps one way to think of how riches can be deceitful. If I had that, everything would be fine. And at the same time I know people and we know people who have been blessed abundantly, but they are still built on Christ. I know it's possible. He's telling them, "Remember that God gave you that." There was a church news editorial that quoted a [Canadian Red Cross](#) brochure and this is what it said.
- 00:41:56 "If you have food in your fridge, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of the world. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million people who will not survive this week. If you have never experienced the danger

of battle, the agony of imprisonment or torture or the horrible pangs of starvation, you are luckier than 500 million people alive and suffering. If you can read this message, you are more fortunate than 3 billion people in the world who cannot read at all."

00:42:34 I like these verses. They sound like Thanksgiving verses almost, because they're not remembering the Lord who blessed them with the riches and I feel like gratitude is kind of a twin with humility, because when you realize that those things came from blessings, that you didn't do that yourself, that the Lord blessed you with that, gratitude and humility are like twins. They've left that behind now. They've set their hearts on their riches. Sheri, I'm fascinated with a new thought. Riches comes down to stoning the prophets or it seems to lead to that.

Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:43:09 It was a new thought for me and a new linking for me. Both of you actually were going where I landed as I thought about it. I flipped back in my mind to Korihor. And you remember how he's saying that, "Well, every man fares according to the management of the creature." What these verses are saying to me is, look, if you have wealth or high intellect or fame or celebrity or a claim of some kind, you can be tempted to think, "Well, I'm just one of the gifted ones. How lucky am I?"

00:43:44 In that sense, you're not thinking, God gave me everything I have. Everything whether it's a physical asset or it's my health or it's opportunity or it's people who have mentored me or helped me or whatever. That all came from him. It's flipping to me between, "No, no, no, I did this all myself." Pounding on the chest. As opposed to, "I'm so grateful for these gifts God has given me and what does he want me to do with them?"

00:44:18 As you go back to the Nephites, we can imagine now if you think about their frame of mind, if it is, "Look, we have fared well because we're just smarter than the rest. We're just more talented than the rest. We're just more clever than the rest." Then you could be really annoyed by a prophet that is exposing your sins.

Hank Smith: 00:44:36 That's very Zoramite, isn't it?

Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:44:38 Totally.

John Bytheway: 00:44:38 Yeah.

Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:44:39 Chosen.

John Bytheway:	00:44:41	Rameumptom.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:44:41	Exactly. To me, what we're coming to now in chapter 13, there's so many great passages of scripture about prophets, but this is probably the most compelling, maybe, because of the way Samuel calls them out.
John Bytheway:	00:44:55	Yeah.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:44:55	About how they treat the prophets. Even though it's a long passage, I think we should read it, or wonder if we could, like 24 through 29. What if we each took two verses?
Hank Smith:	00:45:06	You got it. <a href="#">Helaman 13:24</a> , "Yea, wo unto this people because of this time which has arrived that you do cast out the prophets and do mock them and cast stones at them and do slay them and do all manner of iniquity unto them even as they did of old time. And now when ye talk, you say, if our days had been in the days of our fathers of old, we would not have slain the prophets. We would not have stoned them and cast them out."
John Bytheway:	00:45:30	"Behold ye are worse than they for as the Lord liveth, if a prophet come among you and declareth unto you the word of the Lord, which testifieth of your sins and iniquities, ye are angry with him and cast him out and seek all manner of ways to destroy him. Yea, you will say that he is a false prophet and that he is a sinner and of the devil because he testifieth that your deeds are evil. But behold, if a man come among you and shall say, do this, and there is no iniquity, do that, and you shall not suffer. Yea, he will say, walk after the pride of your own hearts. Yea, walk after the pride of your eyes and do whatsoever your heart desireth. If a man shall come among you and say this, you will receive him and say that he is a prophet."
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:46:17	I mean is he calling them out or what? "Yea, you will lift him up. You will give unto him of your substance. You will give unto him of your gold and your silver. You will clothe him with costly apparel and because he speaketh flattering words unto you and he saith that all is well, you will not find fault with him. Oh, ye wicked and ye perverse generation, ye hardened and ye stiff-necked people. How long will ye suppose that the Lord will suffer you? Yea, how long will ye suffer yourselves to be led by foolish and blind guides? How long will ye choose darkness rather than light?" Now there's a sermon.
John Bytheway:	00:46:59	So good.

Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:46:59	Wow.
John Bytheway:	00:47:00	It is so latter days. In verse 27, I'm so glad I got to read that Sheri. Thank you for asking me to read that one. "Behold, if a man shall come among you and say," I have in my margin influencers, if an influencer comes and says, do this, do that, do whatever you want, you'll say, wow, that's so wise. That person's a prophet.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:47:25	The whole influencer thing is so interesting. Now it's part of our vocabulary.
Hank Smith:	00:47:30	It is.
John Bytheway:	00:47:30	Yeah.
Hank Smith:	00:47:30	Yeah.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:47:31	That we say, okay, you can amass huge audiences because of all the technology that we all benefit from, but man, when influencers actually become the people you're listening to above and beyond anyone else, I'm saying, who are you going to listen to?
Hank Smith:	00:47:48	It's very Nehor doctrine, isn't it?
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:47:50	Yeah.
Hank Smith:	00:47:51	Priests and teachers ought to become popular. The most popular doctrine should be true. That should be our test.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:47:59	There's a statement. We ought to cross-stitch that and put it on the wall.
Hank Smith:	00:48:03	Yeah.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:48:04	What does mocking and casting out and stoning the prophets look like today?
Hank Smith:	00:48:09	Yeah. The word internet comes right up in my mind. You can stone a prophet online and you can have much more influence among your friends and your family than you could have in the past.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:48:22	Yeah.

John Bytheway:	00:48:23	You can say things when you're behind a screen name that you might never really say. It is making it, if we're not careful, a little easier to be rude. We're going to hide behind a screen name and say horrible, malicious things, and that's the world that we live in. That's why I read this and I think this is so latter-day, 400 years, a couple of thousand years. This is where you're going to be.
Hank Smith:	00:48:48	I call it the great and spacious Reddit with my students. Where they mock and point their fingers.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:48:57	Yeah, you nailed that one. Boy, there's so many examples we could all quote, but I mentioned a little bit ago a brief reference to <a href="#">President Nelson's</a> talk Think Celestial. That came across to me as a, gee, think about where you want to end up and how do you get where you want to end up. And yet there was a fair amount of pushback from those who say, "Why do we always have to talk about that?"
	00:49:21	You think about <a href="#">President Oaks</a> speaking on the Constitution in General Conference. Do you remember some of the backlash about that? Constitution of the country that is the headquarters of the church that houses the headquarters of the church and yet there are those who said, "Oh, why are we talking about The Constitution when this is an international church? Why do we care about the US Constitution?" It's <a href="#">President Holland</a> giving a talk at BYU, three years ago, that was about the mission of BYU, and being blasted for different parts of the talk. Yes, we could go through a whole lot of examples, but it's kind of easy today to stone a prophet.
	00:49:59	You don't actually have to go outside and pick up a rock. You can sit and say, "Boy, I didn't like that. I'm going to tell you I didn't like it and I'm going to tell it for all the world to see who wants to see it with the hope that maybe I can engender other people to my point of view." It's a different kind of stoning when you think about it, because you're actually trying to gather someone to your point of view and gather a bigger audience to have the same point of view.
Hank Smith:	00:50:28	Yeah. I want to silence that voice. That's what a stoning is.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	00:50:33	I happened to be reading the other day, once again, the Nephi's vision of our day when he wanted to see what his father had seen and this kind of thing should not surprise us probably. It may discourage us a little, but it shouldn't surprise us, because do you remember that in his vision of our day when he's asked

to see the vision his father had seen and then he saw a whole lot more ... this is 1 Nephi 11:35. It says,

- Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:51:00 "A multitude of the Earth was gathered together, and I beheld that they were in a large and spacious building, likened to the building which my father saw, and the angel of the Lord spake unto me again saying, "Behold the world and the wisdom thereof. Yea, behold the House of Israel hath gathered together to fight against the 12 Apostles of the Lamb." He saw it happening. And when we say, "Well, who's the house of Israel?" President Nelson said it includes all who have made covenants with the Lord and who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. He says, "This includes the faithful Gentiles who have been grafted into the covenant family of Abraham." But one of the things, of course, that we see happening today and want to try to help with is that the adversary can be pretty effective in some cases in deceiving some of even God's most valiant covenant children, convincing them to fight against or oppose or criticize those who have been given all priesthood keys, meaning the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve. But it probably shouldn't surprise us, because even Nephi saw it, that this would come.
- John Bytheway: 00:52:15 It's the end. Yea, the House of Israel. The House of Israel hath gathered. I remember Joseph McConkie pointing that out to us once, and we all went, "Wait. What? The house of Israel is fighting against the Twelve?"
- Hank Smith: 00:52:29 Against the Apostles, yeah.
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:52:32 Goes back to that verse about choosing darkness rather than light, and this is a strong passage about those who oppose prophets, as I think we see. I mean, we see it everywhere. You see it throughout the book of Ether. You see it everywhere. But maybe we could talk for a minute about one of the narratives that we hear today, and one of the narratives is, well, are prophets perfect? Because I think they've made mistakes in the past. If they're not perfect, why should I listen to them? I know you two have had that question probably countless times from students. How do you respond when they say, "Yeah, but are they perfect? And what if they've made mistakes before? That means they could be making mistakes now. So, I think I'll pick and choose which parts that they say that I'll listen to." How do you handle this as you're teaching, in particular, young adults?
- John Bytheway: 00:53:29 I love the story in Matthew 14 of Jesus walking on water and then Peter walking on water. But then when Peter saw the wind boisterous, he began to sink. There's a beautiful [Elder Holland](#)

quote where he says, "While his eyes were upon the Lord, the spray could drench his hair, could toss his robes, but all was well. He was coming to Christ. It was only when he removed his glance from the Savior, only then did he begin to sink." And I think of the other things we can look at, and one place is, why don't you guys write a preface to the book of Commandments? And the Lord, he says ... Because we're supposed to keep our eyes on Christ, right? He starts out section 67, "Your eyes have been upon Joseph, and his imperfections you have known, and his language you have known, but look at the revelations. There is no imperfection in them. And if you follow them, you will see me."

00:54:27 You're looking at the wrong things. If you want to find imperfections, big revelation, you will. But you're looking at the wrong things. That is one thing I like to share. The other is, it's not looking at the servants of the Lord, but who is the Lord of those servants? Who are they trying to follow? Peter began to sink only when he took his eyes off Christ. The thing that we've all noticed is that Jesus was constantly correcting Peter. Was there anybody who got corrected that much? The question was not, was Peter perfect? The question was, who was teaching and tutoring Peter?

Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:55:13 That goes back to what I said in the very beginning, that it's fascinating to look in hindsight at a prophet's life and see who's been teaching him and now who's leading him in his ministry.

John Bytheway: 00:55:26 That's what I like to look at. Of course, they're not perfect, but who are they looking to and who's tutoring them? You've probably seen [The Fighting Preacher](#). The part that touched me so much is when these young missionaries knock on the door on their way home and they introduce themselves, "This is Elder Crawford Gates, and this is Elder Gordon Hinckley. And you see this young Gordon B. Hinckley in the Sacred Grove. I love that part, because I think about, look at these experiences he was having that brought him to where he was.

Hank Smith: 00:56:00 Sheri I love this question. You're the one who wrote the talk on [Embrace the Wrestle](#), and this is an important wrestling that everyone has to have. I love this thought from Brigham Young. He said, "I admitted in my feelings and knew all the time that Joseph was a human being and subject to err. It was none of my business to look after his faults. It was not for me to question whether Joseph was dictated by the Lord at all times and under all circumstances or not. He was called of God, God dictated him, and if He had a mind to leave him to himself and let him



commit an error, that was no business of mine." I like that attitude.

00:56:39 I usually say to a student is it's really easy to pick on and bully someone who is dead. They're not here to defend themselves. It's easy to go through and pick out things they said, and I can take it out of context. And then lastly, I love the story of Nephi when he breaks his bow and Lehi murmurs, and what does Nephi do? He supports him more, not less. If Nephi sees ... He's the one who wrote the story. He sees Lehi, what Nephi sees as a mistake. But then he goes to Lehi and says, "Where should I go to obtain food?" If I really think a prophet has made a mistake, it's my chance to support them more, not less.

Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:57:26 I like that a lot. This narrative that we sometimes hear today, are prophet's perfect, to me is the wrong question.

John Bytheway: 00:57:33 Right? Are they led by Christ? Who's leading them? Who are they trying to follow?

Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:57:38 Right. I wonder if we have a misperception about what a prophet is, and maybe it goes back to some statements that we've quoted forever. So, one of those would be this one from Wilford Woodruff. We could probably all quote it from heart. "The Lord will never permit me or any other man who stands as president of this church to lead you astray. If I were to attempt that, the Lord would remove me out of my place." I wonder if a statement like that has been interpreted to mean sometimes that prophets never make mistakes. But President Woodruff didn't actually say that. I can't think of a single time when any prophet has claimed perfection. You've got Mormon and Moroni talking about if there's any imperfections in this record, it's us. It's not the Lord. It's not God.

00:58:34 [President Jeffrey R. Holland](#) very recently in his social media post wrote this. He said, "Except for Jesus, there have been no flawless performances on this earthly journey we are pursuing." Bottom line is, are prophets perfect? No. Jesus Christ is the only perfect being who's walked the earth. But to me, again, that's the wrong question. We all know this statement. I've got to read it from then [Elder Holland](#) because I just think it's a classic. "Brothers and sisters, this is a divine work in process with the manifestations and blessings of it abounding in every direction. So, please don't hyperventilate if from time to time issues arise that need to be examined, understood, and resolved. They do, and they will. In this church, what we know will always trump what we do not know. And remember, in this world, everyone is

to walk by faith, except in the case of His only perfect begotten son, imperfect people are all God has ever had to work with.

00:59:36 That must be terribly frustrating to Him, but He deals with it. So should we." And when you see imperfection, remember that the limitation is not in the divinity of the work, which matches [Joseph Smith's](#) statement, "I never said I was perfect, but there is no error in the revelations which I have taught." That's what you said earlier, John. No, I don't think prophets are perfect. They, too, are having a mortal experience. I ask you, who would you rather trust? Can you think of a celebrity, a Nobel Prize winner, a scholar, an expert, a journalist? Remember in the days ... well, you're too young. When I was growing up, Walter Cronkite was voted the most trusted person in America. We can't even fathom that today, that a journalist would be voted the most trusted person in America.

01:00:34 But can you think of a journalist, an influencer, a blogger, a chairman of the board, a president of a country? Can you think of anybody you would trust more than a prophet, a prophet of God who has been prepared by God and is being directed in this church by the Lord Jesus Christ whose church it is? I think about this over and over, and I think, "Okay, is there a more important voice of authority in my life than a prophet of God?" And I can't come up with anyone. And it's not that I love everything they say. Sometimes I have to think about something for a while to figure out how it works in my life, but I can't light upon any voice of authority that is more sound, is more inspired, is more directed, is more wanting to help me.

01:01:37 What's in it for prophets? They're not getting famous. They're certainly not getting rich. They're working their hearts out until their bodies collapse. They're aging on stage. My goodness. The current first presidency, President Nelson, is days away from turning 100. President Oaks just turned 92. I think President Eyring is 91. These men are going to the office every day. It's astonishing to think about.

Hank Smith: 01:02:06 And Sheri, the Lord has also provided us with a prophet who counsels with 14 other prophets. Who else would you rather trust?

Sis. Sheri Dew: 01:02:17 15 men who've been given all the keys of the priesthood, whose job is to help us find the rod, hold onto the rod, with the hope that if we keep holding on, we'll get to the tree and we'll partake of the fruits of the atonement of Jesus Christ who will help us keep, little by little, trying to get better and overcome the natural man and the natural woman. That's what they're

trying to do, help us find the rod and hang onto it. Which leads us to Christ. That's their motive. Again, think of any politician. What's their motive? They want your vote. Anybody trying to sell you something is trying to sell you something. Even influencers are trying to amass an audience so they can make money off of it. What other group of leaders, if you will, have a more pure motive? I can't come upon any, and I have felt that what President Woodruff is saying is that a prophet is not going to be allowed to lead the church down a side canyon that ends up being where the Lord doesn't ultimately want the church.

- Hank Smith: 01:03:28 Into apostasy. Two things, Sheri. One, you knew President Hinckley personally. Wasn't he in the office the week he passed away?
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 01:03:39 Mm-hmm.
- Hank Smith: 01:03:41 He was working, I think you told me, on Wednesday?
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 01:03:44 I'm pretty sure that he worked on Wednesday and then he died Sunday.
- Hank Smith: 01:03:49 97 years old.
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 01:03:51 And just working his heart out. And President Nelson is a hundred years old and going to the office every day, and it looks, from all the signs that we see, that there's plenty of decisions still being made. It's only been, what? Two or three weeks since we learned that BYU is going to add a [medical school](#)? That's not a little decision. That's a huge decision. When I went to the Temple this week, I was delighted with some revisions to experience some refinements in the endowment. Loved them. Yeah, those are pretty crucial decisions being made with a first presidency who amongst them have almost 300 years of living.
- Hank Smith: 01:04:33 Coming up in part two of this episode.
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 01:04:36 I had an interesting experience many years ago. I was a young member of Barbara Winder's Relief Society General Board. This will really date me. I was in my early, early 30s, and I was called to her board, and I went with her on an assignment. I think she could see that she had called somebody really young who needed some individual tutoring.



## Helaman 13-16 Part 2

GUEST: SHERI L. DEW



- John Bytheway: 00:01 Keep listening for part two with Sheri Dew: Helaman, Chapter 13 through 16.
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 00:07 It reminds me of something that Mike Wallace said when he interviewed President Hinckley for 60 Minutes. You'll remember one of the questions he asked him, and I don't remember President Hinckley's perfect response, but I know the essence of it. He said, "Now, you're an old man and the leaders of the church are old men." And President Hinckley just says, "Isn't that great that we could benefit from the wisdom and from the experience of people who've lived a long time?"
- 00:32 And I had the chance to interview Mike Wallace a couple of times because of President Hinckley's biography. He was wowed by [President Hinckley](#). He even said to me, "I've interviewed so many people in my life, Sheri." And he said, "I've really never had an experience quite like the one I had with Gordon Hinckley," is what he called him. And I said, "Well, tell me what you mean by that." And one of the things he said was, "Do you realize he did everything that he said he would do?" And apparently that was unusual to go interview somebody who did everything they said they would do.
- 01:10 The most interesting comment he made, or at least it struck me in a powerful way, was when after I had finished the second interview with him, I said to him, "Now, Mr. Wallace," and these interviews were just over the phone. He wouldn't have been able to pick me out of a lineup. I said, "Mr. Wallace, I'm assuming you would like to review how I'm going to quote you in President Hinckley's biography, and I would be happy to let you see how I'm going to quote you." And he said this. Now, here's this seasoned, hardened journalist who had been around the world a billion times, and he said, "Sheri, that won't be necessary. I trust you."
- 01:52 Okay, now think about it, again, couldn't have picked me out of a lineup, never had met me. Only talked to me because

President Hinckley asked him if he would. His statement was a comment about the experience he had had with President Hinckley. He trusted him and assumed if I was writing his biography, he could trust me too. Amazing, amazing some of these kinds of interactions that ... And he learned in a couple of interviews, "This is a man I can trust. I may not believe with his religion, I may not agree with his religion, but I can trust him."

- Hank Smith: 02:27 One of my favorite verses about prophets is Mosiah 8:18, where Ammon, not the missionary Ammon, but Ammon the Mulekite, is teaching Limhi about seers. And it's very simple. He says, "Thus, God has provided a means, a way that man through faith might work mighty miracles. And he becometh a great benefit to his fellow beings." And I think of the prophets, of the last four Presidents of the church, five, President Benson, President Hunter, President Hinckley especially, President Monson,
- 03:03 And President Nelson have all been a great benefit to me. That was my teenage years, my late teens, early 20s. And I talk about President Hinckley, the way my mom talked about President McKay almost as a grandfather. I can't express how important President Hinckley was and is to my life today. Everything I am now, he had an impact on. I can think of specific talks that altered my trajectory.
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 03:37 Hank, I'm glad you brought that up. I think we should read what came before in Mosiah 8, what you just read. The definition of a seer. When you read this definition, again, you say, "Who would you rather listen to than a seer?" So, we're in [Mosiah 8](#), and we're going to do 15 through 18. Maybe I'll skip around a little bit. "A seer is greater than a prophet. A seer is a revelator and a prophet also. A gift which is greater can no man have except he should possess the power of God, which no man can. Yet a man may have great power given to him from God."
- 04:17 Now listen to this definition, "But a seer can know of things which are past and also of things which are to come. And by them shall all things be revealed, or rather shall secret things be made manifest, and hidden things shall come to light, and things which are not known shall be made known by them. And also things shall be made known by them which otherwise could not be known."
- 04:43 I've related this story before with the permission of Elder Brent H. Nielson of the 70. Until the beginning of August. He was in the presidency of the 70, and he's now an Emeritus 70. He's given me permission to tell this story, and President Nelson's given me permission to tell it too. And maybe it's worth

rehearsing, because it absolutely puts a spotlight on what this definition of a seer says a seer can do.

- 05:10 Elder Nielson was the executive director of the missionary department in 2014. And Elder, then Elder Russell M. Nelson, was the chair of the Missionary Executive Council. The Missionary Executive Council, or MEC, directs the affairs of missionary work and directs the missionary department. I heard Elder Nielson tell this story in a sacrament meeting.
- 05:37 He said that one day Elder Nelson walked in and held up his ... In 2014, make note of the date. He walks in and holds up his smartphone. President Nelson, by the way, is a classic early adopter. He's an innovator, he's an early adopter, and he's very, very technologically astute to this day. He walks in and holds up his smartphone and he says, "We need to put one of these in the hands of every missionary." And can you imagine the discussion that ensued? "Oh, wait a minute. They'll call home. They'll call their girlfriends and boyfriends, they'll get in trouble. They'll watch stuff online that they shouldn't watch, da-da-da, da-da." And it was quite a debate for apparently quite a long time as Elder Nielson describes this.
- 06:22 And he says, but they decided to start to test it, to test some iPads or iPhones in a few missions. Yep, sure enough, every problem they had predicted happened. Every one. But they learned and they adapted and they figured out and talked about how will we help the missionaries not go onto sites they shouldn't go onto? How will we help them modulate their phone calls? How will we help them? So the test continued. And little by little more and more missionaries and more and more missions were given smartphones.
- 06:57 Now, fast-forward to January of 2020. Now it's [President Russell M. Nelson](#), who authorized every missionary worldwide to have a smartphone. 60 days later, COVID hits. Elder Nielson said he was worried sick, again, as the Executive Director of the missionary department, he was worried sick that missionary work would come to a total and screeching halt. And it's true. Many missionaries came home, and those in the field were largely confined to their apartments. But then he says, "However, the missionaries still in the field had smartphones and they got creative." He said, "In 2020, we still had 125,000 convert baptisms." And then he made this statement, Elder Nielson did, "I quickly learned that the Lord had prepared us for this day. Prophets see around corners." That's where that phrase came from.

- 07:55 And I think that we should be careful how we talk about this. I don't think he's suggesting, and I'm certainly not suggesting that prophets have some magical ability to see everything that's coming. I don't think they do. He is suggesting that prophets can see things we can't yet see, and that in a line upon line way of revelation, they do see things we don't see.
- 08:19 When President Hinckley went to Hong Kong in 1996 to dedicate that temple, everybody in Hong Kong was wondering what's going to happen next year in 1997 when the government of Hong Kong reverts to Beijing, they're no longer governed by Great Britain? I was sitting in the back of a chapel in Hong Kong when President Hinckley was talking to a chapel full of missionaries, and they asked him a question, "What's going to change? Will anything change next year with the government changing?" And President Hinckley said, "We don't know, but we're going to go forward with faith. And we know the Lord's going to lead us, and we're dedicating a temple this week, and we're going to go forward with faith." I don't think prophets seeing around corners says they can see everything coming. I do think they see things before we see them, and they can see trends. I do think they can, and sometimes I think they do see around a corner, and that's why they're a prophet. That's the very definition of a seer we read in Mosiah 8. What do you two think?
- Hank Smith: 09:24 Well, I know my friend, John Bytheway, loves to speak about the watchman in the tower. He can't see everything, but he can sure see it before you can.
- John Bytheway: 09:35 Yeah, the watchman looks down with his old-fashioned wooden binoculars and says, "Behold, danger approacheth. Two o'clock, prepare thyself." And they look up and say, "We don't see any danger." And he says, "Well, of course you don't. You're on frame of picket maintenance. I'm a seer. I'm on the tower. I can see." It's Ezekiel 3:17 where that phrase comes from. "I've given thee to be a watchman unto Israel. Hear the word from me, and then give it to them." We get this synonym for a prophet, a watchman on a tower because they can see things coming. I like that Hank. They don't see everything, but they can see what's coming.
- Hank Smith: 10:14 Sheri, when a student comes to me with the struggle that we talked about earlier, I frequently tell them the Article of Faith Nine has not been rescinded. We believe in what God has revealed, all that he does now reveal, and we believe he will yet reveal many great and important things. I said, "No one's ever stood up and said, 'Well, all the great and important things are

out. We're now going to do good and trivial.' No, there's so much more to come." And President Nelson has shown that.

Sis. Sheri Dew: 10:44 Absolutely. If we look at everything that's happened in the last six years, it's pretty extraordinary. I still remember that when he became president of the church in 2018, that there were several national news reports. One of them came from the [Associated Press](#).

Sis. Sheri Dew: 11:00 I thought it was funny at the time, but it really looks hilarious now when they said, "Well, this is an aging gentleman and we don't see anything changing in the church." Verse 28, back in [Helaman 13](#), this bears having a brief mention. We need to get to chapter 14 because the prophecies about the Savior is so important, so we need to get there before we run out of steam. Look at what we see here. "'Yea, ye will lift him up and ye will give unto him of your substance. Ye will give unto him of your gold and of your silver, and ye will clothe him with costly apparel and because he speaketh flattering words unto you and he saith that all is well, then ye will not find fault with him.'" We read that a minute ago, but I thought it might bear repeating because granted, I've been involved with words in my life.

11:46 We care a lot about words. My goodness, we were printing words when Joseph was running from mobs and we're printing them in the millennial star in England and we lugged a printing press across the plains so that we could keep printing, which is how the Deseret News started being reprinted again along with many, many other things. We care about words. I've been fascinated for years about a recurring pattern in the book of Mormon talking about flattery. If you look at the description of every single anti-Christ, Korihor, Amalickiah, Sherem, Alma, the younger before he repented and so on and so forth. Every time it talks about the power of language they use to deceive the people and lead them away, and almost every time it uses the word flattery.

12:35 Going back to our framing about what can we learn from Samuel the Lamanite that is very applicable today. Wow, what is flattery? It's saying what people want to hear. That's what it is. How often do we get caught up today with trying to figure out, okay, what's even true? We're in the middle of a really tough political cycle. It's hard to know from anybody what is true. And Jacob actually taught, this is in [Jacob seven](#), that flattery is designed to overthrow the doctrine of Christ. That flattery draws its power from the power of the devil. That is Jacob chapter seven verses two and four. That catches my attention for us to be careful about not immediately



succumbing to the flattering words we may want to hear, and that's an interesting contrast because prophets don't always say what we want to hear.

13:37 President Benson used to have a phrase that he would use from time to time and I think it's actually very charming. He would say, "I have not come here to tickle your ears." Isn't that a great phrase? It reminds me of what King Benjamin said. "I have not commanded you to come up hither to trifle, which the words which I shall speak." Now, let me quote something from [Elder Christofferson](#) if I could. He said this in 2021, "Our day is a replay of Book of Mormon history in which charismatic figures pursue unrighteous dominion over others, celebrate sexual license and promote accumulating wealth as the object of our existence."

14:20 The best the anything but Christ crowd can offer is the unfounded claim that sin does not exist or that if it exists, it ultimately has no consequences. But I can't see that argument getting much traction at the final judgment. I point out flattery as a really important thing. It's a tool of the adversary. The adversary knows how powerful language is, that flattery is a tool of the adversary and when Jacob says it's designed to the doctrine of Christ because it draws its power from the power of the devil, wow, that's a heads up

Hank Smith: 15:00 Flattery, the etymology is giving a pleasing but false impression to. Deceitful praise.

John Bytheway: 15:11 I'm looking at [Helaman 13:27](#) that we already read and he doesn't use the word flattery, but that's what it is, telling people what they want to hear. Walk after the pride of your heart. Walk after the pride of your eyes. Do whatsoever your heart desires. That's flattery. Do whatever you want. Verse 28, "Because he speaketh flattering words unto you." When you are saying that, it made me think here are people trying to find faults with living prophets, have they looked at the lives of the other options out there? In fact, Sheri, after having read Prophets See around Corners and hearing you teach before, the one thing I wanted you to do is what you did.

15:55 Who else would you rather put in charge of your life? And you went through that list? Name, anybody. CEO, journalist, athlete, influencer, actress. I go, what other options are out there that you'd rather have in charge? That's why I love the word disciple. I would just want to be a disciple of Christ because that is the best option we've got. The prophets have never said they were

perfect. The question is, who are the prophets trying to follow and who is leading them? They're being led by Christ.

- Sis. Sheri Dew: 16:26 I totally love that, John, because yeah, who are they being led by, and going back to what we said earlier, who have they been prepared by? Watch the preparation that the Lord has led them through for the moment when they're leading us.
- John Bytheway: 16:43 Hank, I loved what you said about the prophet conferring with the room full of other prophets, seers and revelators, and I think about that group and I know Elder Holland said something about that group and I think you have it. Could you share that?
- Hank Smith: 16:58 Yeah. This talk is called [Prophets in the Land Again](#), October, 2006. A great talk to go listen to this week. He says, "As the least of those who have been sustained by you to witness the guidance of this church firsthand, I say with all the fervor of my soul that never in my personal or professional life have I ever associated with any group who are so in touch, who knows so profoundly the issues facing us, who look so deeply into the old, stay so open to the new and weigh so carefully, thoughtfully, and prayerfully everything in between.
- 17:39 I testify that the grasp this body of men and women have of moral and societal issues exceeds that of any think tank or brain trust or comparable endeavor of which I know anywhere on the earth. I bear personal witness of how thoroughly good they are, of how hard they work, and how humbly they live. It is no trivial matter for this church to declare to the world prophecy, seership and revelation, but we do declare it. It is true light shining in a dark world and it shines from these proceedings." He knows how to say it.
- John Bytheway: 18:14 Boy, that's so good.
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 18:16 That is so powerful. I literally have made lists of people trying to think of, is there anybody I really would trust more to give me counsel for my life? I can't come up with anybody and I've made long lists many, many times, sometimes on a long flight. Okay, think of anybody you can think of Sheri. It doesn't happen. I want to read this statement from [President Hinckley](#) if I could. He said it this way, "We have only the Lord's agenda. There are those who criticize when we issue a statement of counsel or warning, please know that our pleadings are not motivated by any selfish desire. Please know that our warnings are not without substance and reason. Please know that the decisions to speak out on various matters are not reached without deliberation, discussion, and prayer. Please know that our only

ambition is to help each of you with your problems, your struggles, your families, your lives."

Hank Smith: 19:15

All right, let's move to [14](#).

Sis. Sheri Dew: 19:17

When we read these chapters in Helaman, my goodness, this piece on prophets is so powerful, but that's not the end of Samuel's incredibly persuasive teaching. Let's go to chapter 14 because it's a remarkable chapter. Heretofore, Samuel has been prophesying in a large measure about the Nephites. Here's what's going to happen if you don't repent. Now he begins to prophesy about Christ and he does it with amazing detail and great specificity. He tells the Nephites, the Savior's going to be born in five years. How often are we allowed to know timing? Now actually, the Nephites have been told this for a long time when he's going to come, but he's saying in five years, he's really going to come. There'll be great lights in the heaven. There'll be a day and a night and a day with no darkness, a new star, signs and wonders. "It shall come to pass," this is 14 verse seven, "that ye shall all be amazed and wonder insomuch that ye shall fall to the earth."

20:22

Samuel repeats that the angel has commanded him to prophesy these things and to cry repentance. So again, he's either prophesying what comes into his heart or what the angel is saying. Then he starts to teach them about Christ and the father's plan. He repeats that the Nephites are angry with him. He is after all speaking from the top of a wall. How did somebody not go up to the top of the wall and just yank him down? This is not a quick sermon. He's talking about the Savior who's going to come that he will die. That salvation may come, that the Savior's death will bring about the resurrection and redeem all mankind from the first death.

21:01

It says, "But behold, the resurrection of Christ redeemeth mankind, yea, even all mankind and bringeth them back into the presence of the Lord." And then he says, "But those who don't repent will be hewn down and cast into the fire and there cometh upon them, again, a spiritual death, a second death for they are cut off again as to things pertaining to righteousness." What do you think we are to make, Hank and John, of this teaching? The combination of prophesying about the Savior's birth followed by a discussion essentially of the plan of salvation? How does this strike you?

Hank Smith: 21:41

I wonder in Helaman 13, if he's got someone's attention, there's somebody who's thinking, I do need to repent. And now 14, here's how you can repent and why you can repent. The coming

of Jesus Christ, the son of God, the Father of heaven and earth. If you'll believe on His name and repent that maybe there's someone who, he got their attention at 13 and he's now following up with 14.

- Sis. Sheri Dew: 22:08 Wouldn't it be fun to know if a crowd had gathered helmets and shields and breastplates on, come and yank him down before he had time to give a pretty long sermon, maybe a crowd had gathered, he's going to keep going because what do prophets do? They testify of Christ. This is how you grab onto the rod and hold onto the rod until you get to the tree and partake of the atonement of Jesus Christ.
- John Bytheway: 22:36 I love the question, why would this discussion of the plan of salvation come afterwards? The whole idea of a God, a divine being that would die when He says in verse 14, "I give unto you a sign of His death." And then verse 15, "For behold, He must die that salvation may come." And then gives this explanation of why a redeemer comes to suffer for our sins. It reminds me of [Elder Ahmad Corbitt's](#) talk where someone asked him, "Well, why would He have to die?" And he said, I gave a different answer than I thought. I had to explain like this of a substitutionary atonement. He would suffer and die for our sins, but that's to bring us back into the presence of God.
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 23:21 Clearly Samuel is absolutely trying to in fairly concise language, teach the plan of salvation and the plan always called for a savior. The Savior is the central point of the plan of salvation, which is why the Savior is the central point of the temple, which has to be, I'm assuming, why [President Nelson](#) keeps saying, "Please go to the temple. Please spend as much time in the temple as you can." Because it's all about Jesus Christ. And it feels like in kind of a nutshell, he's trying to tell the people who will listen and maybe it's because he knows he won't have much time on the wall. He's trying to tell them this is the plan and the Savior's at the heart of the plan. Isn't it God the Father who determined that the Savior would be the central piece of His plan, that we would need a savior to help us, strengthen us, allow us to repent, help us have strength we do not have on our own. We would have to have a savior.
- Hank Smith: 24:30 Our friend [John Hilton III](#), has pointed out in an article he wrote entitled Samuel's Nephite Sources, and in Helaman 14:12, "That also you might know of the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of Heaven and Earth, the creator of all things from the beginning." That is a direct quote, 21 words from King Benjamin. We can at least see in this example that he had read some of these past prophets. We can put a link in our show

notes to the entire article. It gives us a little insight to where did he get this information about Christ? Revelation and also he's reading past prophets and I think that's something prophets do, Sheri, they study the words of those who preceded them.

- Sis. Sheri Dew: 25:16 Absolutely and they build upon each other. They're consistent with each other and they build upon each other. What Samuel then does is after he has told them about the Savior's birth, he then prophesies the events surrounding the Savior's death. That the sun, the moon, and the stars refuse to give light for three days. And again, these are not your ordinary prophecies. These are very, very detailed and specific.
- Hank Smith: 25:45 Right. This isn't very vague. You're going to know.
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 25:49 Yeah, this isn't just a prophecy about you need to be good boys and girls. This is no, the sun, the moon and the stars are not going to give light. They're going to refuse to give light for three days. There's going to be thundering and lightning for many hours. The earth will shake and tremble. The solid mass of the earth will be broken up. There will be tempests and mountains laid low, valleys that become mountains, highways broken up, cities left desolate. I mean it's very specific. Graves will open and yield many of the dead and many saints shall appear unto many. The darkness is going to cover the face of the whole earth for three days. Then Samuel tells them the purpose of these signs, here are the signs and here's why there's going to be signs. This is [14:29](#), "To the intent that whosoever will believe might be saved and that whosoever will not believe, a righteous judgment might come upon them."
- 26:50 That's a very interesting distinction. Some of you are going to believe and this is going to save you and those of you who don't believe and therefore any judgment will be righteous. Then Samuel makes a stunning... We could probably call it an indictment. "Whosoever perisheth, perisheth unto himself and whosoever doeth iniquity, doeth it unto himself. For behold, ye are free, ye are permitted to act for yourselves. For behold, God hath given unto you a knowledge and He hath made you free." How do you think we begin to quantify all we learn in this one sermon from Samuel the Lamanite to the Nephites, it's now Samuel the Lamanite trying to get through to the hardhearted Nephites while he's standing on a wall. I want to pair that with a different question. Why do you think Mormon included Samuel the Lamanite in his compilation of the Book of Mormon? We don't see him any other time.
- Hank Smith: 28:01 Comes on the scene and then off pretty quickly.

Sis. Sheri Dew:	28:04	Yeah, it's enter stage right and leave stage left and boom. Why do you think he did that? Why did he edit Samuel in when a whole lot of others didn't make it into the Book of Mormon?
Hank Smith:	28:19	I don't know if this is where you're headed Sheri, but one thing for me is skipping ahead to Third Nephi, 23, the Lord says, "Nephi, can I see the records you've kept?" And Nephi brings them out and he says, this is 3 Nephi 23:9. "I commanded my servant Samuel the Lamanite that he should testify unto this people. Was it not so?" And verse 10, "Yes Lord, Samuel did prophesy according to thy words." Verse 11, "How be it that you have not written this thing." And he talks specifically about Samuel's prophecy in verse 25, "The grave shall be opened." I wonder if Mormon sees the Third Nephi 23 records, that whatever he used to create in 3 Nephi 23, and he thought, all right, this one must be important. The Lord himself brought it up. And my favorite part of this is, "And it came to pass that Nephi remembered that this thing had not been written." Actually, I was just about to do that, right?
John Bytheway:	29:21	Like Sheri said, this prophecy, it's so big, it's so grandiose, it's astronomical. Is it impossible to fake. How do you trick somebody into darkness for three days everywhere?
Hank Smith:	29:36	A night without darkness.
John Bytheway:	29:38	Yeah, it is so big. I also love anything about light is fascinating to me in the scriptures. The birth of Christ is all these signs of light and the death of Christ is all these signs of darkness. When Jesus comes in <a href="#">Third Nephi 11</a> , first things out of his mouth, "I am Jesus Christ whom the prophets testified shall come into the world and behold, I am the light and the life." I wonder if there was a collective, "Oh, we get it." Because boy, when God does an object lesson, watch out, you can only imagine three days of darkness. And then when he comes, his first metaphor about himself is I'm the light of the world because they've figured out how hard it is to go through life when it's totally dark.
Sis. Sheri Dew:	30:29	I've wondered a couple of things as I've thought about why would Mormon and Moroni as the editors, why would they have included it? He gets plopped into the middle of the storyline and then taken out and on we go.
John Bytheway:	30:42	And then he's gone.
Hank Smith:	30:43	He's our Lamanite prophet. As you said when we began. This is different than any other prophet so far in the Book of Mormon.

Sis. Sheri Dew:	30:52	I've wondered, did they include him because of his very specific articulate prophecy about the Savior?
John Bytheway:	30:59	Was he an unlikely source maybe?
Sis. Sheri Dew:	31:02	Sounds different. Sometimes when you hear it differently, it sounds different. Is it because we see a prophet preaching in very difficult conditions and still having impact? We know there were those, and it says, "There are even many who heard Samuel preach, who did repent and were baptized." Now the more part of the people didn't believe, but that would be like today, the more part of the people don't believe, but many believe. We see a prophet preaching in very difficult adverse conditions, and yet people believed and they heard a prophet's voice and they repented and were baptized. Is it because we see somewhat of one culture being sent to influence that of another culture? I like that message too. I think that's really powerful. But when all is said and done, to me it's a very compelling reason to study his prophecy is that we're seeing a prophet prophesy and testify right before the Savior came in the Meridian of time.
	32:07	Well, the application for us should be powerful to say, what can we learn from these verses about what the people were doing, about what this prophet taught and tried to bring about and how could it help us as we prepare for the second coming? <a href="#">President Nelson</a> has said again and again that the most important thing taking place on earth today is the gathering of Israel. I love something he said when he described what the gathering means because you can think about the gathering of Israel and think, I don't even know how to get my head around that, and I certainly can't figure out where I fit into it.
John Bytheway:	32:47	Or an eleven-year-old. You're going to tell eleven-year-olds that are now coming into young women's or becoming a deacon. And the way he said it was so, "Oh, okay, I get that."
Sis. Sheri Dew:	33:00	When he said, "Anytime you help anyone step onto the covenant path or take steps along the covenant path, you're helping gather Israel." An eleven-year-old, to your point, John, can grab onto that and can say, "Oh, I can do that. I can invite my friend to primary. I can be nice to my brother. I'm gathering Israel." There is something really profound in trying to learn from the past and say, "How can I inform our today so that we can better help in the Gathering and we can better prepare for what lies ahead of us because the Savior is going to come again and all of us should be in a mode of preparation." I think these

teachings of Samuel, the Lamanite, are particularly appropriate and meaningful for those of us living in 2024.

- Hank Smith: 33:57 Yeah, you've shown us in 13 and 14 something I've never seen, which is 13. Let me get your attention. 14. Now that I have your attention, let me point you to the light, and that's a true prophet right there. I need to get your attention now that I will point you to him. Every prophet that we've talked about today points us to Christ.
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 34:21 I like how you summarized that. In 15 and 16, and we've spent most of the time on 13 and 14, but in 15 and 16 there are other gems for sure, but that's exactly what he's doing.
- Hank Smith: 34:36 I would say 15 and 16 are look at all the different responses to a prophet.
- John Bytheway: 34:40 Little bit of aftermath. Yeah.
- Hank Smith: 34:42 Yeah. You have arguments against him and you have some repenting, following the commandments. If someone wanted to, they could just walk through 15 and 16 and list all the potential responses you'll see to a prophet.
- John Bytheway: 34:56 Look at [16 verse 12](#), for example. "There was but little alteration in the affairs of the people. Save it were the people began to be more hardened in iniquity." Which is sad. It reminds me of Peter on the day of Pentecost. There's like, four reactions. He gives this amazing sermon in Acts 2. Some were amazed, some were perplexed, some mocked, some believed. I told my kids when they went on missions, you can expect an assortment of those.
- Hank Smith: 35:32 Sheri, we know we only have you for a couple more minutes. If I'm a listener at home, I've been following along in our chapters here, what do you hope for me? I have General Conference coming up here in less than a month. I have a prophet who's turned a hundred years old.
- Sis. Sheri Dew: 35:49 President Russell M. Nelson is a prophet. Prepare for General Conference in a very intentional way, expecting to have questions answered. And even ask the Lord if it would be possible for you to have another witness of the Spirit that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints truly is led by a prophet of God and actually 15 prophets, seers and revelators. If you don't know, if you can quite believe that, there are things that prophets have said that disturb you, that upset you, that you just can't find it in your heart to believe at this point, I



would invite you to very seriously approach the Lord and ask him to guide you in your feelings, in your heart and in your mind, and seek to have a witness of the spirit that there is a prophet on the earth. I had an interesting experience many years ago.

36:54 I was a young member of Barbara Winder's Relief Society General Board. This will really date me. I was in my early, early thirties and I was called to her board and I went with her on an assignment. I think she could see that she had called somebody really young who needed some individual tutoring, and she took me with her on a weekend trip to the Bay Area. We stayed that weekend with the Oakland Stake Relief Society president who told me this story. She said that every morning she went walking with some of her neighborhood friends, none of them Latter-day Saints, and they just had great conversations as they walked through the hills of Oakland, and that one of their friends, she called her her deep-thinking friend. And she said, "Invariably, if there was a lull in the conversation, this friend would bring up some big issue. How are we going to solve crime and how are we going to solve all these different things? And she would bring up a big issue."

Hank Smith: 37:53 World hunger.

Sis. Sheri Dew: 37:55 Yeah, world hunger. And she said one morning, it just so happened that when she went to the corner where they met to walk, it was just her and the deep-thinking friend. None of the others were there that morning. They start off on their walk and after a little bit, this friend turned to her and said, "Can I tell you about something I've been thinking about?" She said, "I know you're a religious woman. Have you read the Bible?" "Yes, I've read the Bible." She said, "Well, I've been reading the Bible. I've decided that the answer to all of our big problems, you know what we need? We need a prophet like they had in the Bible." This Stake Relief Society president said to Sister Winder and to me, she said, "I thought to myself, 'Oh my gosh, how do I even respond to this?'" So she took a big gulp and she said, "Well, actually we have a prophet."

38:43 This was in the days when President Ezra Taft Benson was the president. She said, "His name is Ezra Taft Benson. He lives in Salt Lake City, and I can tell you where and when you can listen to him." She said this woman was bowled over by the notion that there was such a thing as a prophet, and I would say there's so many things in this complicated era in which we're living that can bring a feeling of anxiety and fear and worry. The greatest security we have, the greatest safety blanket any of us have is a

prophet. So to those who don't yet believe we have a prophet, I would invite them to ask, get on their knees however many times it takes to say, "Lord, I want to believe. Help me thou mine unbelief," because when you really believe that you have the anchor of a prophet on this earth, it changes the way you look at the world.

39:39 I would invite anybody listening to either reconfirm or to seek to know if we're led by prophets because it is a literal game changer. I know, I absolutely know we have prophets, and I can tell you from experience that the closer you look at them and their lives, the more it's clear that we do have prophets and that God has been the one preparing them to lead us. I know that's true.

Hank Smith: 40:13 Sheri, thank you for spending your time with us today. John, these chapters have changed for me.

John Bytheway: 40:20 Yeah, an appreciation for our living prophets too. I've heard you say it, Hank, before. Look at the prophets in the scriptures. They did not have easy lives. Who has an easy life anywhere in the scriptures? Sheri shared with us some of those that they don't have easy lives either.

Hank Smith: 40:41 I'm excited for General Conference to listen to what the Lord puts into the hearts of the prophets. Speak the words of the Lord, which he doth put into my heart. Sheri, thank you.

Sis. Sheri Dew: 40:53 My pleasure. Thank you so much for the opportunity.

Hank Smith: 40:56 Yeah, we have loved having you here on followHIM. With that, we want to thank Sister Sheri Dew for spending her time with us. We want to thank our executive producer, Shannon Sorensen. Thank you, Shannon. Our sponsors, David and Verla Sorensen, and every episode we remember our founder, Steve Sorensen. We hope you'll join us next week. We're starting a new book, 3rd Nephi, on followHIM. Before you skip to the next episode, I have some important information. This episode's transcript and show notes are available on our website, followhim.co. That's followhim. co.

41:32 On our website, you'll also find our two free books, Finding Jesus Christ in the Old Testament and Finding Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Both books are full of short and powerful quotes and insights. From all our episodes from the Old and New Testaments. The digital copies of these books are absolutely free. You can watch the podcast on YouTube. Also,

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President Russell M. Nelson: 42:17

Whatever questions or problems you have, the answer is always found in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Turn to him. Follow him.

## HOUDINI HORSE



- Hank Smith: 00:02 Hello, my friends. Welcome to followHIM Favorites. This is where John and I share a single story to go with each week's lesson. John, we're in Helaman 13 through 16 today, and I have a story for you. This set of chapters is all about Samuel the Lamanite, and at one point he says this, he's talking to the wicked Nephites. "You have sought all your days for what you could not obtain. You have sought for happiness in iniquity," or in sin, which thing doesn't exist he basically says. It's contrary to the nature of God. And then later on he says, If you're going to perish, you're going to perish unto yourself. This is how this works. You're free. You can act for yourselves, but just know that you can choose life or death, and it made me think of a story about David O. McKay's horse named Dandy.
- 00:52 This is what David O. McKay said about Dandy. He said, "I once owned and had great pleasure in training a well-bred colt named Dandy. He had a good disposition, a clean rounded eye, well proportioned." That's what I think when I think of my pet. "He was well proportioned under the saddle." So when he was riding him, he said, "He was willing and responsive and cooperative." He said, "He and my dog, Scotty, were real companions. He had confidence in me that he would not be injured, but" and this is the important part here, John, "Dandy resented restraint. Can I say that again? Dandy resented restraint," which means he didn't like fences and he didn't like ropes. He said, "He would nibble at his tie rope until he was free. He wouldn't run away. He just wanted to be free. Thinking that other horses felt the same, he would untie their ropes." So he comes over, you probably don't want this, do you?
- John Bytheway: 01:49 We're breaking out tonight, Lefty.
- Hank Smith: 01:52 I don't want to go. He hated to be confined to a pasture. He would hunt the fences for where there was smooth wire, and then he would paw the wire carefully until he could step over to freedom. He said, "More than once my neighbors were kind enough to put him back. He learned to push the gate open." He said, "Sometimes this damage was expensive, but I admired his

intelligence and ingenuity." He said, "But his curiosity kept getting him into trouble. Once on the highway, he was hit by an automobile." I would think the automobile was hit by Dandy.

- John Bytheway: 02:26 Yeah, no kidding. A horse.
- Hank Smith: 02:27 It injured the horse and injured the driver a little bit. He said, "I just could not keep him restrained." And then he said one day, and I think he knew the day would come. It's very sad. He said, "Dandy found an unlatched gate, took a horse with him and went over to visit a neighbor's field. They went in an old storage shed. Dandy's curiosity prompted him to push the door open, and just as he thought, there was a sack of grain, what a find, but what a tragedy. The grain was actually poisoned. It was bait for rodents."
- John Bytheway: 03:03 Oh, man.
- Hank Smith: 03:05 And within just a few minutes, Dandy and his companion were in spasmodic pain and shortly both were dead. He gets kind of frustrated as you might, and he said, "Oh, that horse could not understand that that fence was there to protect it, not to restrain it." He said, "So many of our youth are like this. They're not bad. They don't intend to do wrong. They're full of life and curiosity. They don't see that the commandments the Lord has given us are meant to protect us."
- 03:35 We can go back to Samuel here, John, and he says, "You have sought for happiness on the other side of the fence, on the other side of the commandments, and they don't exist."
- John Bytheway: 03:46 I read a book years ago called, I think it was called The Worth of the Soul by Steven Cramer. It's got to be 20 or 25 years ago, but he had some really bad temptations and habits that he was dealing with. Felt like Satan whispered to him and said, "Listen, give into all these temptations, and you'll enjoy all the happiness of which you are capable." He bought into that for a while. It said, "It seemed so logical," and eventually he said, it was such a great moment as I'm reading it, "I discovered you cannot find happiness outside the plan of happiness." Oh, well put. If you're living the plan of misery, probably you're not going to find happiness there, and that's Samuel the Lamanite saying, "You sought for happiness in doing iniquity."
- Hank Smith: 04:33 Doesn't work that way. Don't be Dandy. Be Brother Cramer. That's the lesson from today. Come join us on our full podcast. It's called followHIM. You can get it wherever you get your

podcast. We are with Sheri Dew. Sister Sheri Dew through these chapters, and if you've ever heard Sheri speak or teach, she's out of this world. She's so wonderful. Then come back here next week, we'll do another followHIM Favorites.