



EPIISODE 47

GUEST: B.J. ALLEN

"I Will Bring You Up Again out of the Depths"

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:

What lessons are we to learn from the Jaredite journey? Dr. B.J. Allen examines the challenges the Jaredites face as they travel to the Promised Land and explores the compensatory nature of the Atonement of Jesus.

Part 2:

Dr. BJ Allen continues to analyze the role of prophets in a civilization's stability and the power of faith, hope, and charity amidst trials.

Timecodes:

Part 1:

- 00:00 Part I - Dr. BJ Allen
- 04:30 Bio
- 7:00 *Come, Follow Me Manual* Ether 6-11
- 08:02 The beauty of life when God is in it.
- 13:32 Weakness is an opportunity to come to Christ
- 16:52 Faith journeys
- 20:04 Light for others
- 24:52 Lens of hope and faith on the water
- 29:43 *Trial, Blessing, or Both?* by Hank Smith
- 34:01 Prison temple and Jesus compensates for our weakness
- 38:58 Noah's Ark and the Jaredite barges
- 42:45 Spoiler Alert: Captivity Cometh
- 43:50 Ether 7-Testament to Joseph being a prophet
- 49:05 Ether 7-The Pride Cycle
- 50:01 President Nelson on division
- 56:49 Samuel the Lamanite and polarization of the people
- 57:51 Who do you listen to?
- 58:49 More examples of why the Jaredites fell
- 01:05:36 End of Part I - Dr. BJ Allen

Part 2

- 00:00 Part II - Dr. BJ Allen
- 01:01 A prescription for your sickness
- 01:30 Ether 8 - Secret combinations
- 04:40 Organized evil
- 05:51 "I Testify" by President Ezra Taft Benson
- 07:54 Ether 8-10 - Daughter of Jared
- 10:53 Ether 9:12 - Destruction of the kingdom
- 13:39 How to remain righteous amidst evil
- 16:48 Growth mindset
- 18:20 Remembering and roses
- 22:23 Ether 7 - King Shule
- 24:53 The call for repentance is joyful
- 25:56 Ether 9 - Omer's faithfulness
- 28:07 Ether 10:1-25 - A king's righteousness
- 30:45 The Spirit and technological advancement
- 33:58 Ether 11:1-22 - Prophets and a safe civilization

- 36:40 Ether 11:14 - Ether 12 - “Moron did that which was wicked”
- 37:48 Two major lessons
- 39:01 Commandments lead to greater happiness
- 45:48 End of Part 2 - Dr. BJ Allen

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BJ Allen is an Associate Professor of Marketing at Brigham Young University. He received a Bachelors degree from BYU and a PhD in Business Administration from University of Texas-San Antonio. His primary research areas are in marketing strategy, professional selling, and new product innovation. He is the author of two textbooks and gives sales and marketing training to corporations.

BJ is also the author of the newly released book, *The Compensating Power of Christ*, which is about how Jesus makes right the unfairness of life and how Christ compensates for our personal weaknesses. He lives in Provo, Utah with his wife Angie and their six kids. He is a sports enthusiast, and most weekends, you will find him driving his family around in his awesome mini-van.

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Hank Smith:	00:04	Hello everyone. Welcome to another episode of followHIM. My name's Hank Smith, I'm your host. I'm here with my co-host, John Bytheway, and I describe us as John, tight, like unto a ditch. John, as the kids would say, you and I are tight.
John Bytheway:	00:20	We're tight.
Hank Smith:	00:21	We are looking at the book of Ether again, as we did last week. When you think of Ether 6, this middle chunk, because you have the brother of Jared in the beginning, you have Ether himself at the end, but in this middle area it gets a little blurry for a lot of Latter-day Saints, so what are you thinking of?
John Bytheway:	00:40	Yeah, when we start with Ether 6, we've got this journey, and there's so many journeys throughout these awesome stories in the scriptures, in modern stories like the pioneers and what they learn. But boy, you're right Hank, as soon as they get there, oh boy did they start having some ups and downs. It goes back and forth and it's really fun to see that and then try to draw from it. What do I get from this? That's what I'm looking forward to today.
Hank Smith:	01:06	John. I can see why King Mosiah, when he translated this, thought, "We need to get rid of kings, we need to change away from kings." Because you're right, things go up and down. John, we have a special guest with us, as we do every week, this is Dr. BJ Allen. BJ, as you've looked at these chapters, what are you seeing? Where are we going to go?
Dr. BJ Allen:	01:27	In this week's A Come, Follow Me, we get a real inside scoop into the rise and fall of the Jaredite Nation. There's so much here, so this is about 2000, 3000 years of history we get in the chapters that we're going to follow. I think it's important that we remember, Moroni is not giving a historical account here, it's a spiritual story. He picks and chooses some critical themes. The first one is the critical role of prophets, and this is a theme throughout the whole Book of Mormon, but especially Ether.

We can actually see why this is such an important theme by actually going to the end of the story. Let's go to Ether 11 and let's go to verse 13. It says, "And it came to pass that the people hardened their hearts and would not hearken unto their words, and the prophets mourned and withdrew from among the people."

02:23 The people get so wicked and they stop listening, so the prophets eventually leave, and then we get this story of the Apostasy in verse 21 and 22, "And the Lord God would send or bring forth another people to possess the land by which his power after the manner by which he brought their fathers, and they did reject all the words of the prophets because of their secret society and wicked abominations."

Hank Smith: 02:50 I don't want to ruin it for anyone who hasn't read it yet, but the Jaredite nation, it doesn't work out well, they all get wiped out, and here's why, because they reject the prophets.

Dr. BJ Allen: 02:59 The second big theme we're going to talk about is how beautiful life can be when God is in it, and God blesses us when we follow him, especially as we talk about the Brother of Jared's story, how Christ enables and allows mortals to do wonderful things when we invite Christ into our life. Christ compensates for our weaknesses and difficulties even in difficult times. Along with that, despite the difficulties that we go through in wicked times, we can still live Christ-centered life, so we're going to talk about who some of those people are. And then on the flip side, we're going to talk about how miserable life is when you try and live a life without God, and the Jaredites are a great example of some of the terrible things that happens to you when you try and live a life of greed, and lust, and desire for power, it leads away and makes us miserable.

Hank Smith: 03:56 Wickedness never was happiness. I love it, I'm excited for this BJ. I've noticed that Moroni as an author is I think attempting to do what his father did, which is abridge a history and draw out principles, but you can tell they're different, you can tell these are two different people. So I'm excited to watch how Moroni does this and maybe think of how did Mormon do it and how does Moroni do it differently? John, BJ is new to our show, so I think he needs a John Bytheway introduction.

John Bytheway: 04:30 Yep, hotly printed off my laser printer. Dr. BJ Allen, he's an associate professor of marketing at Brigham Young University, he received a bachelor's degree from BYU and a PhD in Business Administration from the University of Texas San Antonio, and his research areas are in marketing strategy, professional

selling, and new product innovation. He's the author of two textbooks and gives sales and marketing training to corporations. I wanted people to know he's an author of a new book called [The Compensating Power of Christ](#), I've got mine right here, which is about how the Savior makes right the unfairness of life and compensates for our personal weaknesses. He lives in Provo, he and his wife Angie have six children. He's a sports enthusiast, most weekends you'll find him driving his family around in his awesome minivan, I remember those days. Thank you for joining us today, Dr. Allen, welcome.

- Dr. BJ Allen: 05:28 Yes, thank you. I'm super excited to be here. I'm actually really excited to talk about these chapters in Ether because I have a fun family connection, if I can share for a second to these chapters. There's a man in early church history, his name's [Reynolds Cahoon](#). Reynolds is actually my fifth great-grandpa. Those of you may not be familiar, Reynolds is one of Joseph's earliest friends during the Restoration and he's a mission companion to Samuel Smith and he gave Joseph Smith some paper to finish the translation of the Book of Mormon. He had a son, so Reynolds had a son, and he asked Joseph to come bless and name the baby and Joseph named the baby Mahonri Moriancumer. This is what it says in church history, "When he, being Joseph, had finished the blessing, he laid the child on the bed and turning to Elder Cahoon said, 'The name which I've given your son is the name of the brother of Jared. The Lord has just shown it to me.'" We have a Mahonri Moriancumer Cahoon in the family, I grew up all the time learning about him and my family history, so it's really fun to be talking about the real Mahonri Moriancumer today.
- Hank Smith: 06:35 That's fantastic.
- John Bytheway: 06:37 I don't know why, but nobody ever asked him to give a blessing again. I'm just kidding. I don't really know if that's true, I don't think it is. His name is what, could you spell that out for me?
- Hank Smith: 06:48 There was another couple there and they turned around and walked out with their baby. No thanks, we'll go somewhere else.
- John Bytheway: 06:57 Hey, Hyrum, do you want to bless this?
- Hank Smith: 07:00 That's funny. BJ, I am going to read from the [Come, Follow Me](#) manual and then this is John and I's favorite part, we turn the reins over to you and we get to learn. It says, "Hundreds of years after the Jaredites were destroyed, the Nephites

discovered the ruins of an ancient civilization. Among these ruins was a mysterious record, plates of pure gold that were filled with engravings, and the Nephites were desirous beyond measure to read it. Today you have an abridgment of this record and it's called the [Book of Ether](#). When the Nephites read it, they were filled with sorrow to learn of the tragic fall of the Jaredites. Nevertheless, it gave them much knowledge in which they did rejoice. This is all from Book of Mosiah. You too may find sorrowful moments in this book, but you can also rejoice in this gift of knowledge. As Moroni wrote, "It is wisdom in God that these things should be shown unto you, that evil may be done away and that the time may come that Satan may have no power over the hearts of the children of men." Man, these summaries are powerful, so BJ, with that, John and I are ready to learn.

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| Dr. BJ Allen: | 08:02 | All right, let's give the viewer some background and some context to what's happened before this chapter. In Chapter six, we're coming back to the Brother of Jared's story, after there's a couple of chapter breaks where Moroni inserts his teachings. We'll actually see that this is a theme in both Moroni and Mormon's writings, where they stop writing for a little bit and they give us a little bit of an insertion of gospel principles, and I like to think that those principles were sparked by something that they wrote in that story. With that, when I read the Book of Mormon chapters, I like to have a lens by which I'm trying to interpret the story, and one of the lenses I love is to ask myself "What gospel subjects did Mormon or Moroni teach after this story?" What are some maybe things that sparked their interest or gospel principles that they thought about?" In other words, along with asking what can I get out of it, I like asking what did Moroni get out of it? |
| Hank Smith: | 09:05 | That's great. It's those thus we see moments. Maybe there's more than that because they don't just say, thus we see. I like what you're saying here, that when we pause and Moroni says, "Can I say something?" It's probably from what he just read. |
| Dr. BJ Allen: | 09:18 | Yeah, exactly. What gospel principles did Moroni learn from the story? For example, Ether 4 and 5, we get an insertion from Moroni about the coming of Christ, faith, repentance, the three witnesses, the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon, but then we would read Ether 1-3 with that lens. What we're going to do, at least here at the beginning of Ether, we're going to read beginning of Ether and then we'll continue on these sort of 6-11. We're going to look at it through the lens of what Moroni talks about in Ether 12. Ether 12 is Moroni's doctrinal commentary where we learn about faith, and hope, and charity, |

and then we get the beautiful verse in Ether 12:27 about how his grace is sufficient for our weaknesses.

10:06 Let's keep that lens in mind, faith, hope, charity and how his grace is sufficient. Let's start here in Ether 6, we're going to go verses 2-3, "And it came to pass after the Lord had prepared the stones, which the brother of Jared had carried up into the mount. The brother of Jared came down out of the mount and he put the stones into the vessels which were prepared, one each end thereof, and behold, they did give light unto the vessels. And thus the Lord caused stones to shine in darkness, to give light unto men, women, and children that they might not cross the great waters in darkness." Right off the bat here in Ether 6, we have this beautiful illustration of Christ's power. To me, this is such a salient example of what Moroni teaches in Ether 12:27, which reads, "My grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me. For if they humble themselves before me and have faith in me, then will I make weak things strong unto them."

11:11 This story, we get of brother of Jared, he's trying to figure out how he's going to fill these boats with light. Christ compensates for the weaknesses of the brother of Jared and makes his efforts sufficient. It's the brother of Jared's idea, but God does all the work. God's the one that touches the stones. He's the one that makes them shine. The brother of Jared did the best he could, but he's weak, just like all of us, we're not sufficient on our own. And this is even the way that the brother Jared approaches the situation in Ether 3, where he says, "Hey, don't be angry with your servant because of my weaknesses, this is the best I could do. Can you touch these stones and can you make them light?"

Hank Smith: 11:57 Here's my idea, please light it up.

Dr. BJ Allen: 11:59 Yes, exactly. Here's my idea, this is the best I could do, will you please make my efforts sufficient? This is of the very core of what the Atonement is meant to do. It's almost as if Moroni is trying to point this out in verse three because he says, "The Lord caused the stones to shine in darkness." It wasn't the brother of Jared, it wasn't anyone else, it was the Lord. The brother of Jared comes to the Lord with his weaknesses, but Christ is the one who makes his efforts sufficient. It's such a beautiful example of the way that Christ can compensate us in our life. I think it's worth pointing out here in the story that at least we never see a point in which God's mad at the brother of Jared for not knowing how to give light. He doesn't say, "Really, this is the best you could do? In a few thousand years, they're actually going to invent electricity, this really isn't that hard."

- 12:54 Jesus is not a reluctant Messiah here. He's not looking for ways to be angry at the brother of Jared, he's not looking to say, "Oh, really? This isn't really that great of idea, I'm going to do most of the work." He understands the brother of Jared is doing the best that he can. There's been this quote from Richard G. Scott that I've always loved where he said, "The Lord sees weaknesses different than he does rebellion, whereas the Lord warns that unrepentant rebellion will bring punishment. When the Lord speaks of weakness, it is always with mercy."
- 13:32 Our weaknesses become an opportunity to use the grace of Christ. I love the similarity between Ether 12:27 and in 2 Corinthians where Paul says, speaking of Christ, "My grace is sufficient for thee, my strength is made perfect in weakness." For me, this used to be a really hard principle to understand because me personally, I used to struggle with self-doubt, I used to feel like my own weaknesses made me unfit for God's grace. Maybe if I reached some level of goodness, then God can come into my life. And this principle has been a lot easier for me to adopt as I've had kids. I think of the C. S. Lewis quote that God is easy to please but hard to satisfy. I love my kids, they have a long ways to go to reach their potential, but I appreciate all that they do and I appreciate all that they are. I understand that sometimes their efforts aren't what I'd want them to be, but they're doing their best. He's always compensating us to make our efforts sufficient for the miracles that we seek now. I think that's such a cool story to start off with in light of that lens of, well, what does Moroni pull from the story and what does he teach after?
- Hank Smith: 14:44 That's fantastic. John, help me out here. Joseph Smith said, "You can't properly worship God until you know who he is."
- John Bytheway: 14:52 The kind of being he is.
- Hank Smith: 14:54 Yeah, and we get a glimpse of that in the story of the brother of Jared, that like BJ said, he's kind. He's not looking for ways to hurt me, he's looking for ways to help me.
- John Bytheway: 15:05 We need that reminder constantly. I love that the first vision verified there is a God, but that was just the beginning. What kind of being is he? Oh, then these things start to come out. And we have to be reminded of it because sometimes, like you said BJ, oh, maybe he's mad at me of my weakness. I just loved [Elder Kearon's](#) talk about the motorcycle cop that was turning people away. And how he said, "God's plan is not a plan to keep you out, it's a plan to bring you home." One more reminder, what is God really like? Is he delighting to punish and turn us away? Of

course not. When I see those, I think, yeah, we need that reminder over and over. It's easy to get the wrong idea about what kind of being God is, and the more we have a right idea, like you said, Hank, the more faith and hope we can have in him.

Dr. BJ Allen: 15:58

And it changes our viewpoint to focus less on ourselves and more on the Savior. We stop worrying about everything we're not and start thinking about what the Savior can make us. For example, I once counseled a missionary who was in the field and was trying to decide if he should come home. The root of it was that he didn't feel good enough. All of the talk from mission leaders about what a missionary should be just told him that, "Well, I don't measure up." As I talked to him, it became evident that he was so focused on everything he wasn't, he had lost focus on who Christ was. I counseled him that God's not angry with you that you're not a perfect missionary and stop worrying about everything that you're not and start focusing on what Christ can make you. He called you here, his grace is sufficient for you, and he's going to make you who you need to be as you turn to him.

16:53

Similarly, when I counsel people who are going through a faith crisis and they talk about their doubts, it's almost as if they feel like because they have doubts, they don't really believe like, oh, I used to believe, but now I'm starting to question this, and if there is a God, he must be mad at me because I don't even know if he's there or not. I think it's the opposite. Doubts are not a result of weak faith, they're a result of growing faith. The role of Jesus Christ is to help us to become better. It's like the brother of Jared, I mean if you read the story, he comes to the Lord and he says, "Look, I know I'm weak, but this is the best I can do. Can you touch these stones and make them glow?" God does that. This was a quote from President Nelson a few conferences ago, he said, "He, being Jesus, took upon himself your weaknesses. He paid the compensatory price and provided the power for you to move every mountain you will ever face." That price has been paid and Jesus wants to help you, he wants to light your stones. Even if that's the best idea you can come up with, he wants to help you.

John Bytheway: 18:05

BJ, when you were talking about take your focus off your own weakness and put it on Christ, you know what it reminded me of is we sometimes call it the Psalm of Nephi in 2 Nephi 4 "O, wretched man that I am." But then his focus, "But I know in whom I have trusted. My God has been my support and he have helped me through the wilderness and he has protected me upon the sea..." And all of that, and you see how when his focus

is on Christ, it's like you said, that's where he gained some more faith and confidence, and that is the first principle of the gospel, isn't it, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

- Dr. BJ Allen: 18:42 That's a beautiful example, John.
- Hank Smith: 18:44 John, we've talked about this before, but I'll say it again. There's a reason that repentance is the second principle of the gospel and there's a reason the Lord said, "I want you to take the sacrament every week."
- John Bytheway: 18:54 Every week.
- Hank Smith: 18:56 I can see me saying, "I don't think I'll need it every week. I think I'm going to be pretty solid, maybe four times a year." And he turns around with, "No, let's do this every week." It's a difficult thing to teach BJ, but the Lord has this expectation that in your growing you're going to make mistakes, that's why the second principle of the gospel is repentance and we come back to the sacrament.
- Dr. BJ Allen: 19:17 Beautiful. I want to take maybe a slightly different view on this story with regards to Christ compensating us because I also think it's a beautiful reminder of how Christ helps us offer light to others. I want you to imagine being the brother of Jared and trying to figure out how you're going to light everybody's boats. He feels responsible, right? He's the one that's talking to God, he's the one that's making the boats, at least the one in charge. When he goes to God in the beginning of Ether and asks him for help, you can tell He's not saying, "Hey, I don't want to go in darkness." He's saying, "We don't." Like what can we do? I'm responsible for giving them light, but my abilities aren't that great.
- 20:04 We can liken this to all of us who are trying to offer light to others. Whether that is a parent or a church leader, it's like we may not feel like our efforts are enough. I can't give these youth, I can't give these ward members, I can't give my children the light that they deserve. And that's okay, here in the story we learn that Christ compensates the efforts of the brother of Jared to make his efforts enough to help them, but when I've read this story, it reminded me of the story of feeding the 5,000. When Jesus is teaching the people and it becomes dark and the apostles say, "Hey, we should send these people home." What does Jesus say? He says, "Well, let's feed them." Now, surely Jesus could have just made food out of nowhere, but he asked them, "Well, what do you have?" And they find a boy who has five loaves and two fishes, and then Christ makes that enough.

When you read the story in the New Testament about that, you can tell the apostles, they're really scared almost of we don't have enough to give to these people and I can't do that.

- Hank Smith: 21:17 "What are they among so many?" I think it says,
- Dr. BJ Allen: 21:19 Yes.
- Hank Smith: 21:20 Compared to what I need, what I have is not going to cover it.
- Dr. BJ Allen: 21:24 Don't we feel like that way sometimes as parents or as leaders, I can't give my kids what they deserve, I can't feed them sufficiently? And what we learn from these stories is he doesn't just magnify our own abilities, but he compensates by making our efforts sufficient. This is such a salient example of Ether 12:27. He's making our weaknesses into strengths. I think this is true for parents, but particularly young moms that I talk to who struggle with, how do I teach my kids? How do I do Come, Follow Me? Am I giving them what they need? I like to read 2 Nephi 3:21, "The weakness of their words will I make strong in their faith." You may feel like you're not a great gospel teacher, but the Lord will compensate what you can't do. And we can liken this to anyone with a stewardship who's trying to offer light to others like the brother of Jared. As you turn to Christ, he will make your efforts enough.
- Hank Smith: 22:23 That's awesome. He can turn your two loaves and fish into a banquet, bring what you have, hand it over and say, "Touch it. Touch it, make it work." I've done that so many times as a teacher, prepared a lesson and thought, "This is awful. Light it up. Make it work, please touch it, please have something happen." And so often it does, it goes somewhere and my students say, "That was amazing." Usually and I think, "It wasn't when I got here, it was not that amazing."
- John Bytheway: 22:52 Is it [Newel Whitney](#) who is called to be a bishop? He said, "I don't think I have a bishop in me." There's that same story. Bring what you have, I will multiply it. A lot of times with callings, that's a good way to look at it. Yeah, maybe you don't, but with Christ, He can make it more. I was going to say too, this verse could have been written so matter of fact, "The Lord caused stones to light in the barges." But instead, "... Stones to shine." He didn't even have to say in darkness, it makes sense without in darkness. The Lord caused stones to shine to give light. No, but to shine in darkness, and when I think about a world that's increasingly dark, but this is going to shine in darkness, and then how beautiful to let us know, he's not talking about the ocean trip here, "... To give light unto men,

women and children that they might not cross the great waters in darkness." I mean it sounds like this is more than telling us about a journey, there's another level here.

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| Dr. BJ Allen: | 23:49 | Absolutely, and actually we're going to come back to that verse and talk about how it represents the Savior in just a little bit. John, I love what you said, it's such a beautiful illustration of trying to get us to understand Christ is here to give light to everybody. |
| Hank Smith: | 24:07 | Well, BJ, I really appreciate that concept, brother of Jared is not just thinking, "I need light." There's some pressure of, "I need to provide light, I need to provide some light. I am the bishop, I'm the gospel doctrine teacher, I'm the relief society president and I'm supposed to offer some light. I need you, I can't do this, I don't have the skillset, I'm not a light maker." |
| Dr. BJ Allen: | 24:28 | Exactly, and we learn from the story that Jesus makes your efforts sufficient no matter who you are. To take this even a step further, as a parent, so I have six kids, sometimes I wonder, would my kids be better off if Elder Holland was their dad? Probably. He could probably teach them better than I could or President Nelson was their dad. I'm the bishop of my ward, wonder, do they deserve a better bishop? And the answer to all those questions is yes, they deserve someone better than me. I'm doing the best I can and I just have to rely on the Savior to make my efforts enough because that's what his role is. We're going to go to Ether 6:4-6, and again, we're going to read these through the lens of what gospel principles does Moroni pull from the story? |
| | 25:17 | When we get the interjection in Ether 12, Moroni teaches about faith and hope. Let's look at these verses in terms of faith and hope. Then in verse four, the Jaredites, they go unto the waters and it says, "Commending themselves unto the Lord their God, and it came to pass that the Lord God caused that there should be a furious wind blown up on the face of the waters toward the promised land. And thus they were tossed upon the waves of the sea before the wind and it came to pass that they were many times buried in the depths of the sea because of the mountain waves which broke upon them and also the great and terrible tempest which were caused by the fierceness of the winds." |
| John Bytheway: | 26:01 | It's almost like thanks a lot. |

Dr. BJ Allen:	26:03	Exactly right. They commend themselves unto the Lord's, and commends means to entrust to someone. So they entrust themselves to the Lord and then what do they get in return?
John Bytheway:	26:15	A storm.
Dr. BJ Allen:	26:16	Yes, a big storm. Furious winds tossed, buried, great and terrible. tempest. Does that seem like positive? If that was me, I would've been, "Lord, I just prayed that you would take care of us and now I'm in this giant storm, this doesn't seem like an answer to my prayer."
John Bytheway:	26:36	What thanks do I get for commending myself to you?
Dr. BJ Allen:	26:41	Exactly. Think about it, it must have been a really hard journey. It was about a year that they were in the water, and for a year you're in this giant barge that's your bedroom, your kitchen, your bathroom. You're in there with all your siblings and they're poking you and pulling your hair. You have no idea where you are, you have no control, you have no sail, you have no motor. I have a large family, we travel to the coast of California to go to the beach, it's about 12 hours, and by the time we're there, everyone's about to kill each other. And we got air conditioning and we get to stop at Wendy's when we're hungry. This is what the people ask the Lord, is take care of us, and then they get terrible winds, they're buried, and there's eight different boats.
	27:33	They don't even know where each other are, they don't know if you're safe, if they're okay, but when we read Moroni later, he talks about it in positive terms and actually says that the people did praise the Lord. The reason they were grateful, at least in hindsight, was because they learned that those tumultuous experiences they had were actually what took them to the promised land. Maybe that's how they felt at first, maybe that's only how they felt in hindsight. Christ blessed them, he compensated the difficult things in their life to make them great. I can't help but think of Lehi's teachings in second Nephi that he will consecrate our afflictions for our gain, is they were blessed through the difficult experience and it was actually those very things that helped them accomplish their goal of taking them to the promised land.
John Bytheway:	28:29	There was a sister in my ward, in fact, she was a wonderful relief society president, Sister Marsh, and she gave this talk once called Cursed for Thy sake. Showed that what you think was a trial, this furious wind, was actually what was getting you there. Sister Ardeth Kapp , I found this quotation, she said, "Note that the furious wind never did cease to blow towards

the promised land." And that's what it says in verse eight. "They were driven forth before the wind toward their goal. Once they understood the purpose for the wind and knowing that their vessels were tight," which they made very clear when they designed them, we read further, "They did sing praises unto the Lord." Which is what you said, BJ, I like that idea. This is scary, this furious wind, but this is taking us where we need to go and we got to trust that God is taking us where we need to go.

- Hank Smith: 29:25 Such a powerful principle. All of us could give example after example, after example of something that seemed like a trial, seemed to any of us like this is going to tear me apart, and then as we get through it, we look back and think, if it weren't for that thing, this and this and this would not have happened.
- John Bytheway: 29:43 Hank, I've heard you give that talk before. What is it called?
- Hank Smith: 29:48 [Trial, Blessing, or Both?](#)
- John Bytheway: 29:50 Trial, Blessing, or Both. Now, you talked about President Uchtdorf, right?
- Hank Smith: 29:54 I have it right here, John.
- John Bytheway: 29:56 He couldn't learn German, tell that because I love that story, and I love aviation, and I love Elder Uchtdorf, so tell the story.
- Hank Smith: 30:03 This is back in 2006, which is hard to say back in 2006, that doesn't seem that long ago to me. He says, "Allow me to share with you an experience from my boyhood. When I was 11 years old, my family had to leave East Germany and begin a new life in West Germany. Until my father could get into his original profession as a government employee. My parents operated a laundry business in our little town." Right John, so they go from this middle-class family, they become refugees, I don't think they can speak the language, he's talked about going from Russian to English and how difficult that was for him. He said, "I became the laundry delivery boy. To be able to do that effectively, I needed a bicycle to pull the heavy laundry cart. I always dreamed of owning this nice, sleek, shiny, sporty red bicycle, but there was never enough money. What I got was a heavy, ugly, black workhorse of a bicycle. I delivered laundry on that bike before and after school for a few years."
- 31:00 I like how he says this, he never says he hates the job, he says, "Most of the time I was not overly excited about the bike, the cart or my job." This is the important part of the story.

"Sometimes the cart seemed so heavy and the work so tiring. I thought my lungs would burst. I often had to stop and catch my breath. Nevertheless, I did my part. We desperately needed the income." John, you probably know the source on this, he doesn't say it here in this talk, but when he would take that bike around, he would occasionally stop at the airfield, watch the Americans and the British flying their planes in and out. This is what he says later, "If only I had known back then what I learned many years later. When I was about to be drafted into the military, I decided to volunteer instead and join the Air Force to become a pilot. I loved flying and thought being a pilot would be my thing." I think he got into that, John, I'm not quite sure, but I think it became part of-

John Bytheway: 32:01

He's mentioned that.

Hank Smith: 32:02

Yeah, he's mentioned that just a few times in conference. He said, "To be accepted for the program, I had to pass a number of tests including a strict physical exam. The doctors were concerned by the results and did some tests. They announced, 'You have scars on your lungs, which were an indication of lung disease you had in your teenage years, but obviously you're fine now.' The doctors wondered what kind of treatment had I gone through to heal this disease. Until that day of the examination, I had never known that I had any kind of lung disease. Then it became clear to me that it was the bike. My regular exercise in fresh air as a laundry boy had been the factor in healing from this illness. Without the extra effort of pedaling that bicycle day in and day out, pulling the laundry cart up and down the streets of our town," He says, "I never would've gone on to become a pilot, 747 Air captain..." on and on.

32:59

And then he says this, "We don't always know the details of our future." BJ, you've brought this up. Here comes this storm, I commend myself to God and what do I get? I get this storm. Now later in a different talk a couple of years later, listen to what he says and how he probably learned what he says here back when he had that experience, this is April of 2010. "Often the deep valleys of our present will be understood only by looking back on them from the mountains of our future experience. Often we can't see the Lord's hand in our lives until long after the trial has passed. Often the most difficult times of our lives are essential building blocks that form the foundation of our character and pave the way to future opportunity, understanding and happiness." Thanks for letting me take that time, BJ and John because this to me is a principle that comes up over and over. Joseph of Egypt. All these terrible things happen, but they take him somewhere.

- Dr. BJ Allen: 34:01 When we get some insight into how the Jaredites felt about this, if we go to verse 12, it tells us how they felt when they landed. It says, "And they did land upon the shore of the promised land, and when they had set their feet upon the shores of the promised land, they bowed themselves down upon the face of the land and did humble themselves before the Lord and did shed tears of joy before the Lord because of the multitude of his tender mercies over them." They saw it as a tender mercy, and I love how both of you pointed out different ways in which the terrible tempest of our lives allow us to grow and help us become closer to God. This is similar to what Elder Holland called the prison temple, which I think he adopted from B.H. Roberts and Elder Maxwell as well.
- 34:50 The idea of prison temple comes from the Liberty jail when Joseph Smith was in a terrible prison but had some beautiful revelatory experiences and we get some of the most beautiful Doctrine and Covenant sections. [Elder Holland](#) gave a BYU devotional called Lessons from Liberty Jail, and he points out how those terrible experiences can often turn out to be sacred experiences. He said, "You can have sacred revelatory, profoundly instructive experience with the Lord in the most miserable experiences of your life in the worst settings while enduring the most painful injustices when facing the most insurmountable odds and opposition you've ever faced." Listen to that language. You can go through painful things and they can turn out to be really special. If you don't mind, I want to share a personal experience I had with this. You mentioned at the beginning of my bio I have a PhD in Business Administration from UT San Antonio.
- 35:50 Towards the end of my PhD program, I had a really bad bout with mental health. I was dealing with really bad anxiety, even some depression. Every day was a struggle, hard to get up, it was hard to keep going, it was hard to keep the faith. Then with a lot of help and blessings from my wife, I was able to move on and we moved out after I graduated and I got a job as a business professor. And then I got invited back to UT San Antonio to give a lecture. I was pretty nervous. I was nervous I would get hit with all those negative feelings I had felt. When I went back, actually the opposite happened. I went back to the house I had lived in and I remembered so many prayers I had offered and I went back to my office and remembered all of the dark days, but also the days where I felt God's love. It became really special to me because one of the darkest times of my life became one of the most sacred. That's what I remember when I went there, I remember thinking, "This is a sacred place, this is my prison temple, this is where I came to know God."

	37:06	I love that here in Chapter 6 , it points that out, it points out that the Jaredites realized that they were tender mercies, that they praised God for those experiences.
Hank Smith:	37:18	Wow, that's very touching.
Dr. BJ Allen:	37:22	The only being who can teach you the exact way you need to be taught for your understanding is God. I learned this a few years ago when the church came out with a certain policy. Me personally, I didn't understand it. The ward members who are listening are like, "Wait, Bishop even has questions?" The answer is yes. I'm not perfect and I didn't understand it, but I wanted to. Rather than go read a bunch of stuff on the internet of what people are saying about it. I just remember I offered a really heartfelt prayer and said, "Lord, I don't understand this, but I have faith in your prophets and in your church leaders, help me understand it." And I studied it and I prayed and I did what the Doctrine and Covenants said, and I studied out in my mind. Something magical happened, it was like I was having a companionship study with the Holy Ghost. God taught me the exact way that Dr. BJ Allen needed to be taught to understand it. There was no one who could have taught me like that, at least to some degree, I think that's what he means. In these times of wickedness, in these times of questions, you need the Spirit with you because the Spirit can teach you the exact you need to be taught.
Hank Smith:	38:37	There's a parallel verse to the one we read, Ether 6:17 in Doctrine and Covenants 112:10. I bet both of you could quote it, "Be thou humble and the Lord thy God..."
John Bytheway:	38:49	"Shall lead thee by the hand. Give thee answers to thy prayers."
Hank Smith:	38:54	"Walk humbly before the Lord and you'll be taught from on high."
Dr. BJ Allen:	38:58	I love that, that connection between that and that verse, that's awesome. Before we move on to the end of Chapter 6 and then go on to Chapter 7, I want to point out one other thing. It's worth noting here in Ether 6:7, we get this mention that the barges were tight like unto a dish like the Ark of Noah. I have a friend, a good friend who's an atheist, when we talk about the Bible, one thing he often points out is these outrageous stories in the Bible. Adam and Eve partaking of the fruit, and Noah, and Moses. I love this little mention of the Ark of Noah because the Book of Mormon is a second witness of Bible stories. I think of 1 Nephi 13:40 where it points out that the Book of Mormon as it relates to the Bible has two purposes. It says, "Make known the

plain and precious things which have been taken away," because we know there's some things over the years that were translated or taken away and the Book of Mormon restores those, and "Establish the truth of the first."

	40:06	So here it mentions Noah, a book of scripture that's on another side of the world, another set of prophets saying, "Hey, there really was a man named Noah and he really did build an Ark." And when you think about what other Bible stories or characters, the Book of Mormon is a second witness of for the Bible. Adam and Eve, Moses, Joseph in Egypt, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the Tower of Babel, Christ, John the Baptist, Isaiah we could go on, is that sometimes some of the critiques that the Bible gets, the Book of Mormon is a second witness that those things actually did happen.
Hank Smith:	40:49	So what you're saying is that a Bible-loving person would love the Book of Mormon?
Dr. BJ Allen:	40:56	Exactly. It's a second witness of the stories that are in it.
John Bytheway:	41:00	Guys, why was six afraid of seven? Mormon, 7, 8, 9? That verse says says-
Dr. BJ Allen:	41:07	Oh, I love that.
John Bytheway:	41:07	What you just said, Mormon 7, 8, 9 says, "And this was written for the intent that you believe that. And if you believe that, you'll believe this also." And I love that there's some pretty strong purpose statements of the Book of Mormon on the title page, and every once in a while you get another little secondary purpose thrown in there. "That you may learn to be more wise than we have been." Is another favorite, but I love Mormon 7, 8, 9. This was written for the intent that you believe that, the Bible. And if you believe that, you'll believe this also. Sorry for the dad joke, I caught you off guard.
Dr. BJ Allen:	41:51	I love it.
John Bytheway:	41:51	Why are you saying that right now?
Hank Smith:	41:51	Yeah. Listen, it's always a good time for a John Bytheway dad joke.
Dr. BJ Allen:	41:55	I know.

Hank Smith:	41:55	Well, now you'll remember, now you'll remember it. Can I add something BJ? Frequently, oh, I don't think the flood of Noah was scientifically possible or Jonah in the whale, really, is that scientifically possible? And then I usually follow up with do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus? "Oh yeah, of course." Let's talk about how scientifically possible that is. We're not saying that every Bible story is an absolute literal thing, the literature itself is a genre in its own, you have to learn how to read it, but the idea that we would say, "Well, I don't think the Ark of Noah existed, but I do believe in the resurrection of Jesus." I just don't think we understand the scope of what we mean when we say we believe in the Resurrection.
Dr. BJ Allen:	42:42	I love that, thanks Hank.
Hank Smith:	42:44	What should we do next?
Dr. BJ Allen:	42:45	As we wrap up Ether 6 and go into Ether 7, we are going to read the greatest spoiler of any book. Ether 6:22, Jared's people want a king and they ask the brother of Jared and Jared to anoint a king, and then we get their answer in verse 23, "And now behold, this was grievous unto them and the brother of Jared said unto them, 'Surely this thing leadeth into captivity.'" This is what we're going to see through the rest of the Chapters for Come, Follow Me Ether 7-11, is this thing leadeth to the captivity.
Hank Smith:	43:23	And stop calling me Shirley.
John Bytheway:	43:25	Yeah, that's the dad joke. If you weren't going to say it, I was. And Mahonri said, "Hey, don't call me Shirley." No, we're not having a king.
Dr. BJ Allen:	43:34	This is great. This is like I'm reliving my childhood listening to the John and Hank jokes from the tapes.
Hank Smith:	43:40	Oh, you get to be part of it now.
Dr. BJ Allen:	43:42	I love it.
Hank Smith:	43:42	It's actually a nightmare.
John Bytheway:	43:44	"Surely, this leads to captivity." "Hey, don't call me surely. My name's Mahonri. All right.
Dr. BJ Allen:	43:50	Now let's go to Chapter 7 and the further Chapters, what we're going to ask ourselves is what are we looking for? And

remember, Moroni is not just giving a historical count, he's given a spiritual story, but let's talk a little bit about the high-level overview of the story in general. For the Jaredites, this covers about 2,500 to 3000 years. There's 30 generations, there's 30 to 40 different kings, and about a gajillion wars, civil wars, king overthrows, but one of the things I want to point out here is that the Book of Ether is a fantastic testament to Joseph Smith. Imagine that Joseph Smith really did make up the Book of Mormon, like our critics say, he writes in the earlier chapters about the Nephites and the Nephites have their culture, and their economics. And their monetary systems, and then Joseph Smith has the audacity to write a whole other book about a whole other group of people with their own culture, and the Jaredites are pre-law of Moses, so they have their own religious customs as well.

45:04 It's to me, a cool testament of Joseph Smith. Part of the cultural differences come from maybe the origins of where they came from. [Hugh Nibley](#), who is really one of the pioneers in studying the link between the cultures of Middle East and Asia and the Book of Mormon, he points out that maybe some of the differences between the Nephites and the Jaredites were where they originated from. He suggests that the Nephites came around Africa and ended up on the east coast of America, and then a lot of experts think that the Jaredites started in Mesopotamia and made their way through Asia and then traveled around the world to the west coast of the Americas. Well, he points out that maybe some of the customs in the differences were that the Jaredites were influenced by the people of Asia. For example, we're going to see this really weird custom among the Jaredites, which is they almost never kill kings. You overtake a king and what do you do? You let him live in captivity and he writes, and he lives a life, and he has kids. Again, I think a cool testament to the prophet Joseph Smith and that the Book of Mormon really is a translation of an ancient record.

Hank Smith:	46:12	BJ, we talked about this last week with Doctors Pierce, Pierce squared. If you go to Ether 1, Joseph Smith goes backwards from Ether all the way to Jared.
John Bytheway:	46:25	30 something generations, yeah.
Hank Smith:	46:27	Verse after verse after verse. This is where my kids go, "Really, can we just skip?" He does that in Chapter one, and then Chapters 2-15, he does the exact same list, but in reverse order.
John Bytheway:	46:39	How would you remember all of that.

Hank Smith:	46:40	All the way out. Unbelievable. He goes through and says, okay, now here's the genealogy, now let's go back through and tell the story of each. We don't base our testimony off of these things, but it's incredible to think about.
Dr. BJ Allen:	46:52	It is incredible. Yeah. Thank you for pointing that out.
John Bytheway:	46:55	BJ, one of the things that's really fun to relate about this is the ancient origins of the game of chess and how you treat the king. You don't kill the king in chess, you put him in check. Can I read something from Hugh Nibley because I thought this was so cool? He says, "These insane wars of the Jaredite chiefs ended in the complete annihilation of both sides with kings the last to go. This all seems improbable to us, but two circumstances peculiar to Asiatic, I think that's Asia T-I-C, Asiatic warfare explained why the phenomenon is by no means without parallel. Since every war is strictly a personal contest between kings, the battle must continue until one of the kings falls or is taken, and yet things are so arranged that the king must be very last to fall, the whole army existing for the sole purpose of defending his person. This is clearly seen in the game of chess," quoting Hugh Nibley, "in which all pieces are expendable except the king who can never be taken."
	47:59	Then he quotes a scholar named M. E. Moghadam. "The Shah in chess is not killed and does not die. The game is terminated when the Shah is pressed into a position from which he cannot escape. This is in line with all good traditions of chess playing and back of it, the tradition of capturing the king in war rather than slaying him whenever that could be accomplished." Now, back to Hugh Nibley, "You'll recall the many instances in the book of Ether in which kings were kept in prison for many years but not killed. In the code of medieval chivalry taken over from Central Asia, the person of the king is sacred, all others must perish in his defense." Isn't that interesting that that would be in there? Because like you said, it sounds weird to us, that they don't kill the king, they put him in check.
Dr. BJ Allen:	48:46	I like what Hank said. We don't base our testimonies on these things, but it's pretty cool still.
Hank Smith:	48:52	Yeah, it's fun. It's fun. Dr. Spencer would tell us, "It can't be about the evidence, it has to be about the text." So if he's listening, Joe, we're sorry, we just had to do that, just first.
Dr. BJ Allen:	49:05	As we go through Chapter seven, we're going to see the Jaredites go through this cycle, and it's similar to what President Benson calls The Pride Cycle. They're wicked, the Lord sends

prophets, the prophets are rejected, the people are punished, then they repent, then they're righteous, and then the cycle starts over. When we're looking through the stories of the Jaredites, I think it's such a beautiful example not only that God offers blessings and punishments for keeping his commandments and not keeping them, but also that not keeping commandments brings terrible consequences in a natural way. It's not that God won't let you be happy when you are not obeying the commandments, it's that life won't let you be happy. God knows what will make you happy, God wants us to be happy and he gives us commandments to help us to be happy.

49:57 As we read through the Jaredites, let's remember that and let's look for that what are some of the things that Jaredites do that make them unhappy, and let's look at what led to their downfall and some of the parallels in our days, so that's the way I want to approach Ether 7 and 8 and so on. What are some of the things that led to the downfall and what are their parallels in our days? Let's go to [Ether 7:20-21](#). There's kings, and there's wars, and there's downfalls, and then we get this, it says, "And the country was divided and there were two kingdoms. The kingdom of Shule and the kingdom of Cohor, the son of Noah. And Cohor, the son of Noah, caused that his people should give battle unto Shule in which Shule did beat them and slay Cohor."

50:41 I want to focus on this phrase at the beginning, "The country was divided." Because this is a theme throughout the Jaredites is that someone else wants to be king and they entice the kingdom to come to them, and there's so much division and contention. I think about the talk by [President Nelson](#), Peacemakers Needed. There's a time where this is relevant. It's to us because we see so much parallels between now and the days of the brother of Jared. This is the quote from President Nelson talk, Peacemakers Needed. "Vulgarity, fault-finding, and evil speaking of others are all too common. Too many pundits, politicians, entertainers and other influencers throw insults constantly. I am greatly concerned that so many people seem to believe it is completely acceptable to condemn, malign and vilify anyone who does not agree with them."

51:40 Why does President Nelson feel so passionate about the division and the things that we see? And to show this, I want to share some stats that demonstrate how people like to vilify other people who don't agree with them. This was a study 2002, the [Pew Research](#), which is a very reputable market research company, they asked people of one political party what they thought of the people of the other political party. I'm not going

to talk about what the political party said because I don't want this to be political, but I think it illustrates how divided people are when someone disagrees with them. They ask people what party they belong to and then they ask them what they thought of the other party. They asked the people the degree to which they felt the other party was close-minded. What is the percent of people who said the other political party was a lot or somewhat close-minded? 83% for one and 69% for the other. They asked the same question with the degree to which you felt the other party was dishonest, 72% and 64%. And the degree to which you felt the other political party was immoral, 72% and 63%.

52:54 This is people you don't even know and it's okay to not agree with other people, that's what makes diversity, that's what makes humanity great, but one of the things that's so concerning is that all these numbers have substantially increased since their last study in 2016. Let's take dishonest for example. In 2016, these percentages were 45% and 42%, and now they're 72% and 63%. How do we remedy this? This example of try to vilify people who don't believe the way that you think. President Nelson said this in that same talk, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we are to be examples of how to interact with others, especially when we have differences of opinion. One of the easiest ways to identify a true follower of Jesus Christ is how compassionately that person treats other people. It's okay, it's okay to disagree. Again, that's what makes diversity and that's what makes us great, but it's not okay to vilify people because they have a different opinion than you do.

54:00 How do we get to the point where we treat people compassionately? At least to some degree, what [President Nelson](#) here is teaching is to see their viewpoint. Again, we don't have to agree with them, but we fight division with compassion. I learned this lesson, this was a few years ago, I was helping a family who was on church welfare. They were a fantastic family going through some hard times, and I would meet with them occasionally to talk about their budget and what we needed to do to help. There was one particular meeting where I met with the husband. He got really angry, he didn't understand why we needed to meet, and he felt I thought he was just accepting handouts and things that weren't true, and as he's talking and being mean to me, my anger inside me is boiling, and I'm like, "I'm here to help you and you're getting mad at me."

54:52 I remember saying a prayer. I said, God, "I feel really angry right now, but I don't want to feel this way, please help me." And

then in an instant, all of a sudden I saw this individual the way that God had saw him. He wasn't trying to be angry, he was going through a really hard time. I saw how compassionately God saw him. In an instant, my whole attitude and emotions changed, and I told him, I said, "Hey, I'm sorry for anything I did that made you feel that way, and that's not how I feel." I apologized to him. And then you know what happened? His demeanor changed and the walls went down and he apologized to me, said, "Hey, I'm going through a really hard time. I'm sorry, I shouldn't have said those things." He was a great man and he became a good friend, a good person going through a bad day, and I learned from that experience that it's okay when people don't agree with you or sometimes that they say something mean to you, but we don't fight division and contention with division contention, we fight division with compassion.

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| Hank Smith: | 56:07 | John, do you remember? I think Alma 60 and 61, that exchange between Captain Moroni and Pahoran is such a lesson. Moroni really, really gives it to Pahoran and Pahoran responds with, "I do not joy in your afflictions, it grieves my soul. In your epistle, you have censured me, but it mattereth not. I am not angry, I rejoice in the greatness of your heart." |
| Dr. BJ Allen: | 56:37 | And how does Moroni react after that? |
| Hank Smith: | 56:41 | They unite. |
| Dr. BJ Allen: | 56:42 | Yeah. Moroni realizes, Hey, actually Pahoran he's a friend and we're going to do this together, I love that. |
| John Bytheway: | 56:49 | I was thinking of the sign of Samuel the Lamanite and how those people that were watching for the sign and it wasn't given, okay, let's set aside a day to put to death those who believed in the sign. What happened to, well, let's just agree to disagree? How do they get to that point where, well, that didn't happen, therefore we have to kill you? That's a frightening end of what you're talking about here, if we allow the way we see people to get harsher and more harsh and more polarizing until you don't have a right to live because you believe this way. Whoa, how did that happen? I love you brought up Moroni and Pahoran because here's a couple of guys that we love that are passionate, and Pahoran responds so beautifully. There was, at the beginning of the reign of the judges, some sort of no law against a man's belief, but somehow when the secret combinations infiltrated, it became to where they could kill people for believing something. Pretty intense. |

Hank Smith:	00:57:51	And one thing, B.J., that I thought of is, for me personally, this happened when Sister Dew came on. She said, "Who are you listening to and what do they want?" John, you could say it better than me. Who else would you listen to? Which talk show host? What influencer would you rather listen to than the prophet? And then she said, "Because all of those people want something from you." I've learned myself to be careful around anyone who needs to keep me angry so they can continue their work. If I can fuel your anger, I can keep you coming back to my platform, or whatever it is. For me, I just have to be careful and watch out for that.
John Bytheway:	00:58:34	I can't remember who our guest was that emphasized how many times it says, "They did stir them up to anger." They had a desired outcome for that. It wasn't good. Watch out for those who are trying to stir you up unto anger.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	00:58:49	Continuing on the same theme of what led to the Jaredites, the fall, we talked about how there was division and contention, and then we get another indication here in Ether 7:23 and also the reign of Shule. "There came many prophets among the people who were sent from the Lord prophesying that the wickedness and idolatry of the people was bringing a curse upon the land and they should be destroyed if they did not repent." That's the second thing, is wickedness and idolatry. Sometimes idolatry literally means idol worship and sometimes in the scriptures it just means they have a love for worldly things, anything besides God. And then we get another indicator in verse 24. "And it came to pass that though people did revile against the prophets and did mock them, and it came to pass that King Shule did execute judgment against all those who did revile against the prophets."
	00:59:48	And this is a theme throughout the whole Book of Mormon, but especially in Ether. The Lord sends prophets to help them. All the prophets want to do is tell the people what God wants them to know and what will make them happy, and people don't like to be told what to do. 'Go. We want to be independent. You want to take away our agency.' We learn through the Book of Ether. It's just foolish to not do what the prophets tell you because the prophets are always right. The Book of Mormon teaches us the prophets are always right and you can disagree with them and you can disobey them, but it's at your own peril. Along with that, listen to this quote from President Packer about how prophets aren't taking away our agency, but they're just trying to help us.

- 01:00:40 "Latter-Day Saints are not obedient because they are compelled to be obedient. They are obedient because they know certain spiritual truths and have decided as an expression of their own individual agency to obey the commandments of God." Now, I love this part. "We are not obedient because we are blind. We are obedient because we can see." We don't follow the prophet simply because we have to out of a sense of duty. It's because we want to. It's because we see how following the prophet blesses us, not just in those big thus saith the Lord moments where we're like, "Oh, the prophet, he's laying down the hammer here. We need to obey him." There's so much blessings in just immersing ourselves in their teachings. I already brought up one earlier, the talk from Elder Holland that I used to listen to every day when I was dealing with mental health.
- 01:01:35 It was my pump up song. I served my mission in Detroit and I was serving in a struggling branch. I read a talk by [Elder Christofferson](#) about conversion, and I said, "This is what I want for my branch." It was like a playbook. We implemented play by play what he said, and it totally changed the trajectory of our branch. I could go on and on with ways that the prophets have helped me, and I would say this is why I feel so passionate about following the prophet, because I can see. I've seen the ways that prophets help us, and I've seen the ways that they've blessed my life as I followed them. But more importantly, when we understand why the Lord sends prophets, the most important reason that we follow the prophet is because prophets bring us to the Savior. They help us understand things about our Savior and about his plan for us.
- 01:02:35 For example, if I think about why I love Joseph Smith, I love studying the prophet's life, but why do I really love Joseph Smith? It's because his teachings bring me closer to the Savior. Because of the things that he restored I understand the plan of salvation better. I understand the role that my Savior plays in my life. Joseph Smith brought me the Book of Mormon where I have beautiful teachings that help me understand the Atonement, like Alma 42, about the law of justice and the law of mercy, and how Christ appeases both laws. I think of Alma 7 where I learn about how Christ took upon Him infirmities.
- 01:03:00 Prophets are the mouthpiece of God. They're anointed by him to lead his church. Part of the reason we follow the prophet is because we love Christ. Hank, you mentioned when Sheri Dew was on the show, one of the things that she says is sustaining the prophet in today's world takes faith. But not faith in them, faith in Jesus Christ, who called them. Doctrine & Covenants section 84. He that receiveth my servants, receiveth me, and he

that receiveth me, receiveth my father. The same way that we receive the Father, if we receive Jesus is the same way that we receive Jesus if we receive his prophets. The prophets are a representation of the Savior. I'm so grateful for our prophets because they help me come to understand my Savior better.



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| John Bytheway: | 00:01 | Welcome to Part Two with Dr. B.J. Allen. The book of Ether , Chapters 6 through 11. |
| Dr. B.J. Allen: | 00:07 | Like you said, there's this pride cycle going on Verse 23, "There came prophets among the people who were sent from the Lord." It could have said, "and the Lord decided, 'I've had it with you people' and sent fire from heaven and consumed them all." That is such an act of mercy if He sends prophets. It's just another invitation to repent. And earlier, I mentioned as a bishop, I try to tell people to read the Book of Mormon and sometimes, the answer I would get would be, "That's a prescription that doesn't fit my sickness" and yet, yes it does. You just mentioned a couple of examples. God will speak to you in that way. When you're studying the words of the prophets. He'll speak to you in a way that you need, whether it's from the Book of Mormon or as you just mentioned, some conference talks. Yeah, I hope when people read this and they keep seeing "and the Lord sent prophets," they're going, "That's a merciful God who does that." |
| Hank Smith: | 01:01 | Yeah. John, I love what you said because we talked earlier about the importance of Revelation and helping us understand the answers to our questions. The Book of Mormon is the antidote to your sickness because the Book of Mormon serves as a catalyst for Revelation. Like President Oaks said, "The Book of Mormon is like our own personal Urim and Thummim." Yeah, if you have a question, read the Book of Mormon. |
| Dr. B.J. Allen: | 01:24 | It connects you to God and then He can talk to you in exactly the way that you need. |
| Hank Smith: | 01:30 | Those are some insights we learned from Ether 7 about what led to the downfall of the Jaredites, so now, let's go to Ether 8. We have the entering of secret combinations. If there's one thing that Mormon and Moroni hate, it's secret combinations. Both of them take time in their chapters to put an insert into this historical summary about how terrible secret combinations |

are. I'd imagine these conversations between Mormon and Moroni around the dinner table about how much they hate secret combinations and Moroni is taking this in from his dad because Moroni says almost the same thing as Mormon says, is that secret combinations led to the downfall of the people.

02:18 And then we can actually read in Verse 20 and 21 Moroni's insertion, it says, "And now I, Moroni..." and I love how Moroni does this. He wants us to be clear, "Hey, this is me. I'm talking here. I'm taking a little break from the story "and now I, Moroni, do not write the manner of their oaths and its combinations for it hath been made known unto me that they are had among all people and they are had among the Lamanites and they have caused the destruction of this people of whom I am now speaking and also the destruction of the people of Nephi."

02:55 Both Mormon and Moroni give credit for the downfall of their civilizations to secret combinations. I think it's interesting to think about why. Why did they make this such an emphasis of the Book of Mormon? This is what [President Ezra Taft Benson](#) said, "This most correct book on earth states that the downfall of two great civilizations came as a result of secret conspiracies whose desire to overthrow the freedom of the people. Now, undoubtedly Moroni could have pointed out many factors that led to the destruction of the people, but notice how he singled out the secret combinations just as the church today could point out many threats to peace, prosperity, and the spread of God's word, but has singled out the greatest threat, the godless conspiracy."

03:46 Thinking about how terrible secret combinations are, how do we get rid of these? What's the antidote to evil in our world? What's the antidote to secret combinations? Well, if we go back in the Book of Mormon to Helaman 6:37, he tells us, "and it came to pass that the Lamanites did hunt the band of robbers of Gadianton, and they did preach the word of God among the more wicked part of them insomuch that this band of robbers was utterly destroyed from among the Nephites." What's the antidote? It's the word of God.

Dr. B.J. Allen: 04:25 Shouldn't be a surprise. They sat them down, they plugged in a Hank Smith CD, and they said, "Listen to this" and it solved the problem.

Hank Smith: 04:35 They said, "We'll change. Just stop the torture. We'll change"

Dr. B.J. Allen: 04:40 We have lots of families out there. As a kid, secret combinations, I didn't know what that meant. I thought, "Oh,

yeah." When I went to junior high and they said, "There's your locker and here's your secret combination. Don't tell anybody." I wanted to make sure we talk about what is that and you used the word conspiracy. These are agreements that people make in secret to overthrow, to do crime, to do murders. I mean, it gets really bad. They're conspiracies, secret agreements.

Hank Smith:	05:10	Organized evil. Yeah.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	05:12	Organized evil. It even calls it "a wickedness above the wickedness of the whole earth" because it can be organized. It's like murder sometimes, organized on international scale. Wow. Verse 21, he's Moroni, what he's saying? This brought down the Jaredites. It brought down the Nephites and then Verse 22. Better be careful.
Hank Smith:	05:34	It could be you.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	05:36	Because they'll come among you.
Hank Smith:	05:37	Yeah, and it's not just that they did evil in secret. It's that the whole role of their organization was to take down what was good. It's to overthrow what is godly.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	05:51	And to bring bondage. In the October 1988 General Conference, President Ezra Taft Benson gave what I think might've been his last talk in conference. It was called I Testify and I will never forget it because every paragraph began, "I testify." This one of the last ones. "I testify that wickedness is rapidly expanding in every segment of our society. It is more highly organized, more cleverly disguised, and more powerfully promoted than ever before. Secret combinations, lusting for power, gain, and glory, are flourishing. A secret combination that seeks to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries is increasing its evil influence and control over America and the entire world."
Hank Smith:	06:38	No, that's intense. Yeah.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	06:40	It is so intense.
Hank Smith:	06:41	Moroni then turns to the reader, breaks that fourth wall, and says, "Oh, you reader, this could happen to you and your nation. Wake up to the sense of your situation and make sure this doesn't happen to your land." These groups want to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries to destroy that which is good. You said that BJ, this is the same being who came

after Adam and Eve from the beginning. It's interesting that you have this author turn to the reader and say, "Are you awake?"

- Dr. B.J. Allen: 07:18 I feel sometimes the Book of Mormon is like, "Hi, we're the Nephites. Here's how we destroyed ourselves: pride, wickedness, and secret combinations, and now here's the second witness. Hi, we're the Jaredites. Here's how we destroyed ourselves: pride, wickedness, and secret combinations and this is how you'll destroy yourself." Okay, thanks. Happy book.
- Hank Smith: 07:38 A message from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- John Bytheway: 07:42 Yeah, that would've been a great commercial when we were growing up. Would you like to learn about a book about it tells us how our civilization is going to be destroyed.
- Hank Smith: 07:52 There you go. You can get it for free.
- Dr. BJ Allen: 07:54 I don't want to spend a lot of time here on secret combinations, but it is such a theme in the Book of Mormon. I think we could talk a little bit about how it started. Interestingly, it's actually a young adult who it reintroduces your combinations. It's the daughter of a man named Jared and Jared loses his kingdom, which by the way, he had actually won by rebelling against his father, but then he loses it so his daughter sees that he's sad and she comes to him with a plan that we can read in [Ether 8](#) through 10 and the daughter of Jared being exceedingly expert and seeing the sorrows of her father thought to devise a plan whereby she could redeem the kingdom of her father. Now the daughter of Jared was exceedingly fair and it came to pass that she did talk with her father and said unto him, whereby hath my father so much sorrow.
- 08:47 Hath he not read the records which our fathers brought across the great deep behold, is there not an account concerning them of old that by their secret plans did obtain kingdoms and great glory? It's interesting here to note that she cites a record they had brought with them. It's not maybe even her plan. It's something that she has read and they took with her and then this is the plan she comes up with "and now therefore let my father send for Akish the son of Kimor and behold, I am fair and I will dance before him and I'll please him and he'll desire me to wife. Wherefore if he shall desire of thee that ye shall give unto him, me to wife then shall ye say I will give her if ye will bring unto me the head of my father, the king. I mean this is a very similar thing that plays out with John the Baptist, right? This idea of I'm going to dance before I'm going to please him.

Hank Smith:		This is a very dysfunctional family, by the way.
John Bytheway:	09:50	Yes, these are lovely people.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	09:54	The scenario plays out exactly like she planned. The same thing happens. Akish desires her to wife and Jared says you can have her if you bring me the head of my father. Then Akish brings his friends and administers the secret oaths and combinations. Actually, it was the daughter of Jared and Jared who encouraged Akish to search up these things of old is what the scriptures say, but here's the kicker of the whole story. Akish ends up killing Jared who his wife's father in order to take his throne after Jared had took the throne from his dad. Then he becomes jealous and he puts his son in prison. What does the daughter of Jared get for her evilness and her plans? She gets her father killed, she gets her son put in prison. We get another really good example that breaking the commandments always brings misery.
	10:53	Then what does Akish get for his plans? Well, he eventually gets overthrown by his sons and the war is so bad that in Ether 9:12 it tells us that it lasted for the space of many years. Yea, until the destruction of nearly all the people of the kingdom even all save it worth 30 souls. This is like a mafia movie playing out here. It's a really salient example as the Book of Mormon tells us that wickedness never was happiness is it's not that God won't let you be happy if you break the commandments. It's that by natural consequences. If you break the commandments it leads to misery.
Hank Smith:	11:35	B.J., as you were talking about the destruction that ensued from this organized evil, it just annihilates everybody. Moses 7:26 and he beheld Satan and he had a great chain in his hand and it veiled the whole face of the earth with darkness and he looked up and laughed and his angels rejoiced.
John Bytheway:	12:01	And then God looks down and weeps its poetry. How is it that the heavens weep and shed forth their tears as rain upon the mountains? There's another beautiful lesson about God in there. He is not unaffected by our problem. Enoch saw him weep.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	12:18	And you get a feeling that that scenario that you just read in Moses is exactly what's playing out here. Satan's laughing and God is weeping and why is God sad? Because he just wants our happiness. He's like, I've been trying to tell you over and over again what will make you happy and you choose misery instead.

Hank Smith:		They hate their own blood.
John Bytheway:	12:38	It's the two great commandments. I asked them to choose me their father, but they are without affection and they hate their own blood. That's kind of a gut punch of vision that Moses 7. Look at Ether 8:26 . Wherefore I, Moroni am commanded to write these things that evil may be done away and that the time may come that Satan may have no power upon the hearts of the children of men, but that they may be persuaded to do good continually, that they may come unto the fountain of all righteousness and be saved.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	13:06	That's a theme of the Book of Mormon is the prophets tell us, "Look, we don't want you to focus so much on evil, but we want you to know enough about it so you know how to avoid it and you can recognize when it's coming."
John Bytheway:	13:20	Well put. Yeah.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	13:22	I don't want to spend too much time talking about the wicked.
Hank Smith:	13:26	Now we're that super depressed now, B.J. Thanks a lot.
John Bytheway:	13:31	Thanks for joining us for Follow Him. We'll see you. We're still here. We'll see you next time.
Dr. BJ Allen:	13:39	Let's bring us out of the darkness of talking about evil. Talk about, well, what about the righteous in a time of wickedness? What about the people that we read about in the book of Ether who were righteous at a time when people weren't. And similar to our day have you ever asked yourself why you have to live in such a time of evil? Have you ever felt like Nephi on his tower saying, oh, if I had lived in the days where people did what the prophet said, would it be easier to live in another time when evil and temptation isn't so rampant? This is from Elder Andersen . He gave a BYU devotional and he said this, "as evil increases in the world, there is a compensatory power, an additional spiritual endowment of revelatory gift for the righteous." Think about what that looks like in our day. How many temples do we have? The days of Moses, they had one traveling temple. Think about the rapid growth in the temples being built. We're the only generation with the full Book of Mormon. We're the only generation with the Doctrine & Covenants, the access that we have to temple history.
Hank Smith:		And it is all in my phone.

Dr. BJ Allen:		Isn't that amazing? Yeah,
John Bytheway:	14:56	My scriptures
Dr. B.J. Allen:	14:57	And we could go on. The idea here is that yes, we live in a time of wickedness, but we also live in a time of abundant righteousness and Christ has compensated us for living in a fallen and difficult world by offering so many blessings and not only as a church but also as individuals. We can all be blessed individually and overcome these times of wickedness. What I want to do is talk about some of those individuals and what they did to come closer to God. I actually want to go back to Ether 6 and I want to introduce a man named Uriah. This is in Ether 6 verse 30 and it came to pass that Uriah did walk humbly before the Lord and did remember how great things the Lord had done for his father and also taught his people how great things the Lord had done for their fathers.
	15:53	There's that word humbly, which we talked about earlier and did remember how great things the Lord had done. This is a theme throughout the Book of Mormon, but especially through the book of Ether. Three of the six chapters mentioned some version of He remembered what the Lord had done. It's almost as if God knows that we're mortal. We're not always going to feel faithful all the time, we change in the moment our emotions change and he's saying, look, remember when you're going through a hard time, remember how I helped you through that other time. When you forget how you feel spiritually, remember that other spiritual time that I gave you. About this remembering that there's this quote from C.S Lewis . He says, "Faith is the art of holding onto things in spite of your changing moods." Through some of my research, I've learned some of the psychological benefits of remembering.
	16:48	I do organizational training sometimes for companies. One of the things I'll talk about is this concept of mindset like having a growth mindset, having a mindset that gets you through difficult experiences and has courage to take on challenges and one of the things I share is this insight from the Pacific Institute , which is an organizational consulting agency. They call it the flick back flick up technique and what it means is when you go through a difficult time, so you could be given a big presentation to your boss or a talk in church and you're really nervous is you flick back to a past situation where you succeeded or in other words you force yourself to remember, you visualize yourself doing it and you cultivate those positive feelings. I did it before I can do it again, and then you flick up to the present situation and you extrapolate those feelings to how

you feel now and it's a really powerful psychological mechanism to force yourself to remember to give yourself those feelings now. I remember I went through something difficult. I can do that now. I used to feel faithful, I can feel faithful now. Sometimes in our difficult situations, whether that's a trial or testimony or whatever, we're told to remember, especially when it feels difficult to remember because the Lord wants to come into our lives and he wants us to remember the great things that he's done.

- Hank Smith: 18:20 BJ, I'm so glad that you brought this up because I have kept a little story from [Sterling W. Sill](#) in my back pocket and I've never been able to use it and I can use it now. This was a BYU devotional back in the seventies, John, you were probably there. He says this, "the philosophy of excellence was demonstrated by the artist Whistler", capital W, not a Whistler but Whistler "who once painted a tiny picture of a spray of roses. The artistry was magnificent. Never before it seemed had the art of man been able to execute quite so deftly a reproduction of the art of nature. The picture was the envy of the artists who saw it, the despair of the collectors who yearned to buy it, but the artist refused steadfastly to sell it. Why? Well, this is the artist. 'Whenever I feel that my hand has lost its cunning.
- 19:15 Whenever I doubt my ability, I look at that picture of those roses and say to myself, you painted that your hand drew it. Your imagination conceived the colors. Your skill put the roses on the canvas. Then I know what I have done, I can do again. hang on the walls of your mind, the memory of your successes. Take counsel of your strength, not your weaknesses. Think of the good jobs you have done. Think of the times when you rose above your average level of performance and carried out an idea or a dream or desire for which you had deeply longed. Hang these pictures on the walls of your mind and look at them as you travel the roadway of life." Isn't that great?
- Dr. B.J. Allen: 19:58 What a fantastic example of the importance of remembering. Remember what great things the Lord has done through you. Remember the great things you've done. We can gain confidence in ourselves and in the Lord through remembering the past. I want to talk about another reason in the scriptures that we're told to remember and I want to introduce this by reading a quote from [Elder Bednar](#) that he gave in a recent conference address. He said, "I pray the Holy Ghost will enlighten each of us as we consider a higher and holier dimension of stillness in our lives. An inner spiritual stillness of the soul that enables us to know and remember that God is our

Heavenly Father and we are his children and Jesus Christ is our Savior.” This is the type of remembering that talked about in Psalms that says, be still and know that I am God.

20:54 So often in this church we talk about doing all the things we should be doing which is important. Maybe we talk less about just being in a state of stillness and meditation and remembering what does it say in the sacrament prayer to bless and sanctify this bread to all the souls of those who partake of it, that they may do it in remembrance and then later we promise to always remember him. Maybe we don't talk as much as we should about remembering. I think of the primary song, search, ponder and pray. Sometimes when I'm giving counsel to people, I forget about the ponder part. I just say, oh, pray to read your scriptures, but maybe we need to spend a little bit more time remembering Helaman 5 “and now my sons. Remember, remember that it is upon the rock of our redeemer who is Christ that son of God that you must build your foundation” and then later in Helaman we get this interesting contrast from Samuel, the Lamanite ye do not remember the Lord your God in the things with which he has blessed you but ye do always remember your riches.

22:13 It's almost as if the scriptures are using the word remember to mean what do you focus on? What do you think about when no one's around and in this account in Ether we learn that remembering God is crucial to our spiritual development. Continuing on this theme of what are some of the people in the account of Ether who are righteous? Now let's go to Ether seven. We're going to talk about Shul. He's righteous but he has a rough go with some wars and contention. He actually loses a portion of his kingdom. He's almost put to death. It really would have been easy for him to say, God, I was righteous and look at all these bad things that happened to me. I lost my kingdom. I've almost put to death I've been in captivity, but instead we get this account in [Ether 7](#):23 through 25 and also in the reign of Shul there came prophets among the people who were sent from the Lord prophesying the wickedness and idolatry of the people was bringing a curse upon the land and they should be destroyed if they did not repent and it came to pass that the people did revile against the prophets and did mock them.

23:34 And it came to pass that king Shul did execute judgment against all those who did revile against the prophets. Rather than turn away from God because of his difficulties. What does he do? He protects the prophets. Wow. Then later on we get what the reward is for that. In verses 26 and 27, we're going to read about what the reward is for protecting the prophets. The

people listen and they repent and then in verse 26, and because the people did repent of their iniquities and idolatries, the Lord did spare them and they began to prosper again in the land and it came to pass that Shul begat sons and daughters in his old age and there was no more wars in the days of Shul. What is his reward for protecting the prophets and being righteous? A time of peace and a time of prosperity. Again, here we learn what's the natural consequences of being righteous, peace and happiness and times of prosperity.

Hank Smith: It's almost like repentance is a great idea.

Dr. BJ Allen: Yes. To quote one of the missionaries who just gave a farewell talk of my word, repentance is what the good people do.

Hank Smith: 24:53 That's true. BJ, I have a little second witness here for what you taught us with Shul. This is [Elder Christofferson](#), he says "the prophecies and philosophies of the world." He's talking about Nehor and Korihor, "seem appealing because they give us license to indulge any appetite or desire without concern for consequence. By using these teachings we can rationalize and justify anything. When prophets come crying repentance, it throws cold water on the party, but in reality the prophetic call should be received with joy. Without repentance, there's no progress or improvement. Pretending there is no sin does not lessen its burden and pain. Suffering for sin does not by itself change anything for the better." And this is just beautiful. "Only repentance leads to the sunlit uplands of a better life." That's exactly what you said there times six. The sunlit uplands of a better life. That's what prophets want for us.

Dr. B.J. Allen: 25:56 There's one more individual that I want to talk about that we can learn a little bit from in terms of being righteous in times of wickedness and that is a man named Omer. This is Ether nine. Omer is actually the father of Jared who we had just talked about, so it was Jared's daughter who danced and brought secret combinations. Omer was the king before Jared had convinced Akish to kill Jared's father, which was Omer. Omer was actually warned in a dream to leave. Omer was never actually killed and later on he actually received his throne again, but similar to what we just discussed with Shul, he went through a really difficult time and it would've been really easy for him to walk away or to say, no, God, I'm not leaving. Even though you gave me a dream telling me that I should, but when he does obey God, he's actually miraculously given his throne again through some really strange twists and events that seem really heavenly sent.

	26:55	Then after Omer, we have this span of peace and joy through a good number of kings. Scholars think it's about 200 years of peace. I want to point that out because sometimes we're really hard on the Jaredites, but 200 years is a long time. That's about the time between us and the first vision and think about how many wars have we had between the first vision and now, and the Jaredites went that long with peace and why was it? Their leaders were righteous and they listened to the prophets and they did the things that God asked them to.
Hank Smith:	27:32	That is interesting. We generalize the Jaredites into this well secret combinations and they were destroyed, but there's some righteous people here who are bringing out lots of these periods of peace. That's great.
John Bytheway:	27:45	Omer has a son named Emer and it tells us that Emer saw the son of Righteousness, so it sounds like he had an appearance.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	27:54	Yeah. Isn't that cool and all we get is that little line that he saw the son of Righteousness. It's almost as if Moroni's, wait a second, I got to mention this. This is really cool.
John Bytheway:	28:05	I got to tell you this part. Yeah.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	28:07	Now let's go into Ether 10 . What we're going to do in Ether 10 is talk about how civilizations are blessed when they do the things that God wants them to.
John Bytheway:	28:16	Here's the italics of chapter 10. One king succeeds another. Some of the kings are righteous, others are wicked. When righteousness prevails, the people are blessed and prospered by the Lord. It just sounds like this is what we've been reading the whole time in the book of Ether.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	28:34	Yes. Well, that's actually all I want to talk about it.
John Bytheway:	28:40	He's saying right out what you have been saying, "when the kings are righteous, righteousness prevails and the people are blessed. When they're not, they aren't." Next chapter, right? Moving on.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	28:49	Yes. Yeah. Have I told this story before?
Hank Smith:		I feel like I've read this chapter.
John Bytheway:	28:53	Like deja vu all over again. Yeah.

Hank Smith:		The pride cycle.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	28:56	What I think is special about Ether 10 is we get an amazing insight into how great civilization can be when we're righteous together. Not just spiritual blessings but economic blessings. Again, natural consequences of doing what God wants. Verse 22 and they were exceedingly industrious and they did buy and sell and traffic one with another that they might get gain. Again, it's important to understand in context what we're reading about right now is one of those times of peace and righteousness and when we have that not only are individuals blessed by God but also economies are blessed financially. You have a time of peace, you have free trade, us business professors, we love scriptures like this. It shows us that when you're righteous, the Lord blesses not only individuals but also countries and economies as a whole.
Hank Smith:	29:54	They're living the Jaredite dream. This is every family can get their own barge.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	30:00	No. Yeah, you're right. This continues on in verse 23 and they did work all manner of ore and they did make gold and silver and iron and brass and all manner of metals and they did dig it out of the earth. Wherefore, they did cast up mighty heaps of earth to get ore of gold and a silver and iron and copper and they did work all manner of fine work. So they were blessed. They were blessed not just mentally and spiritually but physically. The Lord fine-tuned their skills to help them do the things that they wanted to do. Then we get this really cool insight into verse 25. They did make all manner of tools to till the earth, both to plow and to sow, to reap into hoe and also to thrash. As a business professor, I'm going to say that they're blessed with insight into technological advancements that made their work easier and more efficient.
	30:56	One of my main areas of research is a new product development in innovation. When you study innovation over the history of mankind, there has been more innovation in the last 200 years from 1800 to now compared to the beginning of mankind up until that point, that's called the age of innovation. Around 1800 you have the industrial age and then from that innovation just exploded as a member of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I can see a correlation between early 1800 and the rapid source of innovation, the Spirit of the Lord has been unleashed. We have the gift of the Holy Ghost and we have the light of Christ and when that comes into civilizations, innovation happens. The Lord opens up our minds and we're able to do things that we weren't able to do before.

Hank Smith:	31:51	Never could a people be more blessed than they were. prospered by the hand of the Lord in this choice land.
John Bytheway:	31:59	Do you know what this reminded me of when you use that word industrious In Verse 22, I remembered that 2 Nephi 4, Lehi dies. Nephi gives his psalm and in 2 Nephi 5 he says to his people, we got to go. They go and in 2 Nephi 5:17 it says, "it came to pass that I Nephi did cause my people to be industrious and to labor with their hands" and I think of the alternative. I caused my people to relax for a while, man, this has been rough, but instead this is important to be industrious and to labor with their hands and oh that verse 25, I love that because it's actually a sequence. You plow first, then you sow, then you reap. I love that agriculture tech there in verse 25, plow, sow, reap, hoe and I was hoping there would be something that would rhyme again, thrash and go like that.
Hank Smith:	33:00	Have you heard this quote from President Monson ? It is wonderful. It's one of my favorites. I think he was taking another quote and kind of adapting it. He said, "God left the world unfinished for man for us to work our skill on. He left electricity in the cloud, the oil in the earth, the rivers unbridged, the forests unfeld, cities unbuilt. God gives to us the challenge of raw materials, not the ease of finished things. He leaves the pictures unpainted, the music unsung, the problems unsolved that we might know the joy and glory of creation." That fits with Ether 10, doesn't it?
John Bytheway:	33:37	That's awesome. Yeah,
Dr. B.J. Allen:	33:40	That is really cool. The Lord blesses us with not just increasing our capacity spiritually but also mentally and physically. It makes us better in all ways.
Hank Smith:	33:50	I have a feeling, B.J., this isn't going to last.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	33:54	Hank, you're a prophet.
John Bytheway:	33:55	Some kings are righteous, others are wicked.
Dr. B.J. Allen:	33:58	Yes. As we wrap up Ether 11, we're going to learn about the prophecy of their downfall. I want to contrast that to the story we learned here at the end of a man named Com. This is an Ether 11: 1 through 3, "and there came also in the days of Com many prophets and prophesied of destruction of that great people, except they should repent and turn unto the Lord and forsake their murders and wickedness and it came to pass that

the prophets were rejected by the people and they fled to Com for protection, for the people sought to destroy them and they prophesied unto Com many things and he was blessed in all the remainder of his days."

- 34:44 I just love this idea of being a protector of the prophets. Even if you're like Com and you're the last person on earth who's going to believe them, you can protect them and independent of anyone else, you can know that the prophets are sent from God and what do the prophets do? They ministered unto Com, they prophesied things even though it was just him. The prophets still gave the message
- Hank Smith: 35:11 And we can do that today. What a great application. We can protect the prophets in our own way.
- Dr. B.J. Allen: 35:17 Then we get the contrast of the rest of the people rejecting the prophets, which eventually led to the end of their civilization. Ether 11:20 through 22 "and in the days of Coriantor there came many prophets and prophesied of great and marvelous things and cried repentance unto the people and except they should repent the Lord God would execute judgment against them to their utter destruction." If they had obeyed the prophets, how different would the story have turned out? Then we get the rest of the story in verse 21 "and the Lord God would send or bring forth another people to possess the land by his power after the manner by which he brought their fathers and they did reject all the words of the prophets because of their secret society and wicked abominations." What happens to the Jaredites? Their whole civilization gets destroyed. Then in just a little bit we're going to have the Nephites come to the land of promise and take over because the Jaredites rejected the prophets and didn't do what God asked him to do. Wonderful.
- Hank Smith: 36:32 What is it [Elder Holland](#) said, All God has to work with is imperfect people.
- Dr. B.J. Allen: 36:36 Yes, it must be terribly frustrating for him.
- Hank Smith: 36:40 Just reading about it is frustrating.
- John Bytheway: Then we get verse 23 and it came to pass. Coriantor begat, Ether, so here comes the man for whom this book is named. We went so rapidly, didn't we? Through all those generations.
- John Bytheway: 36:57 Now the rest of the book of Ether is Ether talking about what he sees and observes. It's fun to see what did he just abridge and

now what is he going to say about what he just abridged and that's a lot of [Ether 12](#).

- Hank Smith: 37:12 What lessons did he see that I have my boys, I have four teenage boys and I have them memorize Ether 11:14. The last few words “and moron did that which was wicked before the Lord” just in case.
- John Bytheway: 37:32 And now we know the etymology of that.
- Hank Smith: 37:35 Should I do something wicked? Remember the verse you memorized?
- John Bytheway: 37:39 Paint that one on your wall, put it in vinyl.
- Hank Smith: Someone put it on a T-shirt and send it to us. That'd be funny. BJ, how do we want to wrap this up?
- Dr. B.J. Allen: 37:48 I'd want to end with where we started talking about the major lessons we learned from the Jaredites. What are we supposed to pull from these stories of roughly 2000, 3000 years. Number one, obey the prophets and keep the commandments and be intentional on how we follow the prophet. [President Eyring](#) said this, “every time in my life when I have chosen to delay following inspired counsel or decided that I was an exception, I came to know that I had put myself in harm's way. Every time that I have listened to the council of Prophets, felt it confirmed in prayer and then followed it, I have found that I move toward safety.” But one of the things we learned from the Jaredites is we are not exceptions to the things the prophets ask us to do. When we listen to the prophets in general conference. Rather than thinking to ourselves, oh, I wonder if he's talking to me or maybe I'm an exception to this council, we should be very intentional on how we follow the prophet and rather ask ourselves, how can I apply this?
- 39:01 Along with that, we learned from the Jaredites that God doesn't arbitrarily make up rules and commandments. He wants us to be happy and if we keep the commandments it leads to greater spiritual happiness but also temporal happiness. Reminding the reader of the lens by which we talked about, we would read through these chapters the lens of what does Moroni want us to get out of these stories and how does this typify Christ? We learned at the beginning that Christ can compensate us in many ways even through difficult and wicked times. If we have faith and hope. He can bless us with spiritual capacities. He can help us beyond our own and no matter where you feel you are in

your life in regards to faith or obedience or anything you want to do better, Christ's grace is sufficient for you. You are enough because Christ is enough.

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| Hank Smith: | 39:53 | We've come full circle. BJ, thank you for walking us through these chapters. It says, way back when we started, the Lord caused stones to shine in darkness to give light. You can see that throughout these chapters there's so many dark things happening, but occasionally you have someone who chooses to be a light to light up this dark society. We of course, want to be that way. In our own world. We want to be lights that shine in darkness, the ones that the Lord has touched and said, light up. John, what a great day. |
| John Bytheway: | 40:28 | Yeah, I love the journey getting there. Everything we've learned once we got there, I love this idea. No monster of the sea can break you. You'll come out on top again because you have the light continually. It's beautiful stuff in here. |
| Hank Smith: | 40:44 | It really is. When we're consuming media that says, "Well, if the prophet's wrong, here's what you do. If you don't agree with the prophet, here's what you can do." Be careful around that kind of thing as the Book of Ether shows us. If you lay aside the prophets, they did reject all the words of the prophets. Things don't go well. B.J., thanks for your time. |
| Dr. B.J. Allen: | 41:10 | Thank you so much for having me. It was so fun to be with you guys. |
| Hank Smith: | 41:14 | Kris Allen, if you're still out there listening, you've done really well. We do not doubt his mother knew it. |
| Dr. B.J. Allen: | 41:21 | I love you, mom. |
| Hank Smith: | 41:22 | That's beautiful. That'll be a great final note. With that, we want to thank Dr. B.J. Allen for joining us on FollowHIM today. We want to thank our executive producer Shannon Sorensen, our sponsors David and Verla Sorensen, and every episode we remember our founder Steve Sorensen. We hope you'll join us next week. We've got another lesson in the book of Ether on FollowHIM. |
| | 41:47 | Before you skip to the next episode, I have some important information. This episode's transcript and show notes are available on our website. That's Followhime.co 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, our Facebook and Instagram accounts have videos and extras you won't find anywhere else. If you'd like to know how you can help us, if you could subscribe to rate, review and comment on the podcast, that will make us easier to find. Of course, none of this could happen without our incredible production crew. David Perry, Lisa Spice, Jamie Neilson, Will Stoughton, Krystal Roberts, Ariel Cuadra and Annabelle Sorensen.

President Russell M. Nelson:

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

I'LL FLY WITH YOU ANYWHERE!



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| Hank Smith: | 00:02 | Hello everyone. Welcome to followHIM Favorites. John and I are sharing a single story to go with this week's Come, Follow Me lesson. John, we are in Ether 6-11 this week, I know you have a great story you're excited about. |
| John Bytheway: | 00:17 | When they get in those little barges, it says at the end of verse 4 of Ether 6, "Commending themselves unto the Lord their God." It was just like, okay, we're strapping inside. |
| Hank Smith: | 00:30 | They get in the boats and put their seatbelts on and say, "Okay, Lord." |
| John Bytheway: | 00:35 | Yeah, "I'm trusting you." Years ago, you know this Hank, I love airplanes, and I compiled, I didn't write them at all, I compiled stories of LDS pilots, and this one pilot's name was Ken Swain. He was a 737 pilot. You've flown on 737s. As they were coming into approach in Buffalo he had this feeling, "I'm going to come in a little bit faster." So he came in instead of 160 miles an hour, he came in at about 185. He also thought, "I'm going to be a little bit higher." And I won't give you all the details, I just have to tell you that he just got this feeling, "I'm going to come in a little higher and a little fast." Well, they actually have technology now that can let you know about this. Have you ever heard of a wind shear? |
| Hank Smith: | 01:18 | Is that wind going across? |
| John Bytheway: | 01:20 | Down or whatever. Just a violent wind. He said, "I'm coming in. I'm a little high. I'm a little fast. My co-pilot looked at me and said, 'You're never going to get this on the ground.'" He said, "We're coming over this tollway," I think at Buffalo suddenly they hit a wind shear. It pushed them down pretty far. But he had extra altitude, he had extra speed, and he was able to put it down on the runway a little hard. He pulled off the taxiway and his co-pilot looked at him and gave us the title of the chapter, he said, "I'll fly with you anywhere." |

	01:59	And the cool part about this was I was up at Heber Valley Camp. You've been up there before, Hank. One time there was a young women's camp there, and I got to go speak, and this guy walks over and he's cooking up a storm at the Coleman stove there and he says, "Hey, I'm Ken Swain." I'd only had emails from him before, but I met this pilot. When you get into an airplane, you're commending your hands into the life of those pilots. You got to trust them. I'd fly with this guy anywhere. If the Lord's going to take us, we'll fly with him anywhere, so we can commend ourselves unto him.
Hank Smith:	02:31	Can you see them getting out of the barges a year later? Brother of Jared looks up and says, "I'll sail with you anywhere."
John Bytheway:	02:38	Anywhere.
Hank Smith:	02:39	That was amazing.
John Bytheway:	02:40	Perfect.
Hank Smith:	02:42	Yeah. Well, we hope you'll join us on our full podcast. It's called followHIM, you can get it wherever you get your podcasts. We're with Dr. BJ Allen this week, and he is a lot of fun as he walks us through these chapters. Come join us over there, and then come back here, we'll do another followHIM Favorites.