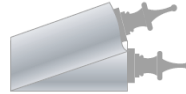




CHURCH EDUCATION

The Holy Bible
The Book of Mormon



'...and they shall become one in thine hand.' Ezekiel 37.17

LESSON TITLE A CHOICE SEER

UNIT 5 - Hope and Restoration

GRADES 10-12 and Adult

HOLY BIBLE

Romans 11:23 "And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again."

THE BOOK OF MORMON

2 Nephi 3:24 "And there shall rise up one mighty among them, who shall do much good, both in word and in deed, being an instrument in the hands of God, with exceeding faith, to work mighty wonders, and do that thing which is great in the sight of God, unto the bringing to pass much restoration unto the house of Israel, and unto the seed of thy brethren."

OBJECTIVES/GOALS

Participants will be able to:

- Describe descriptions of prophets and seers. Jeremiah 1:5, Ezekiel 33:7, 1 Nephi 22:2, 1 Corinthians 14:3, Mosiah 8:13,16,17, Mosiah 28:13,16
- Describe a choice seer's divine work with the house of Israel, 2 Nephi 3.
- Discuss identifying characteristics of a choice seer, 2 Nephi 3.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is a seer? What divine gifts are given to a seer?
- What divine work will a choice seer accomplish? How will this work benefit the house of Israel?
- How will a choice seer be distinguished from other seers?
- How is the Church preparing for the coming of a choice seer? How might you prepare for the coming of a choice seer?

MATERIALS

Holy Bibles and Books of Mormon

White board and marker

Slide Show: [What Is the Role of the Choice Seer](#) Presenter's Notes: Pages 14-19

TEACHER NOTES

1-45- minute lesson

Teacher determines the number of sessions and content to present per session.

To prepare for this lesson, study the scriptural references listed in **OBJECTIVES**.

Q = Teacher asks question

Note: The Church of Jesus Christ uses the Authorized King James Version of The Holy Bible and The Book of Mormon published by The Church

Defintiions:

CHOICE *adj*- describes something carefully selected.

SEER *n* - one who sees

PROCEDURE

IF USING THE SLIDESHOW: Open slideshow link, page 1. Present and discuss slide content. Read or summarize scriptures on slides. Presenter Notes are attached to slides, and may be used at teacher's discretion. In addition, Presenter's Notes are displayed on pages 14-19 of the lesson plan. Scripture Texts: pages 6-13.

IF NOT USING SLIDESHOW: Use the lesson plan to prepare to teach. A whiteboard may be useful for notation. Scripture Texts: pages 6-13.

Motivation/Introduction (5-10 minutes)

Engage participants in a discussion on prophets and seers. Resource: "Prophets and Seers," page 4.

Q: How would you describe a prophet? What are a prophet's divine roles?

Q: From whom does a holy prophet receive direction?

Q: How might one discern between a true or false prophet?

Read and discuss Mosiah 8:13,16,17.

Q: What divine gifts are given to a seer? (prophecy, revelation, translation of languages)

Q: How does one receive the gift of seer? (Given by God. Commanded by God to look into the interpreters)

Q: What differences exist between prophet and seer? (A prophet is a divine calling. A seer is a divine gift. A seer does not have to be a member of the priesthood (e.g. King Mosiah).

Talking Point: The Church of Jesus Christ believes a man will be given the gift of seer in the future.

Goals: Discuss descriptions of prophets and seers. Explain a choice seer's divine work with the House of Israel.

Discuss identifying characteristics of a choice seer.

Lesson Development (35-40 minutes per session)

1. Engage participants in a discussion on the divine work of a choice seer and how this work will benefit the house of Israel.

Read and discuss 2 Nephi 3:7-9, 11,12,18,19,24.

Q: Who is speaking in 2 Nephi 3:1-4 and to whom?

- Lehi is speaking. Lehi is a Hebrew-Israelite/Jew

who escaped Jerusalem in 600 B.C. and arrived in the promised land/Americas around 591 B.C. (1 Nephi 1).

- **Hebrew** - meaning his ancestry is traced back to Abraham.
- **Israelite/Jew** - meaning his ancestor is Jacob/Israel (Abraham's grandson), specifically through Jacob's son Joseph.

- Lehi is speaking to his youngest son, Joseph, who was born in the wilderness during Lehi's journey. Lehi prophesies that his son Joseph's descendants, in the promised land, would never become extinct. (Meaning they exist today)

Q: Why is Lehi's identity with Joseph of Egypt significant?

Lehi personally identifies with Joseph of Egypt to whom God made great promises. Lehi states **these promises extend to himself and to his son Joseph and his descendants**; those living today, (2 Nephi 3:23,24).

Q: Which Joseph is speaking in 2 Nephi 3:7? (Joseph, son of Jacob/Israel, also known as Joseph of Egypt)

Q: What does the Lord reveal to Joseph of Egypt in 2 Nephi 3:7?

- God will elevate a man, one of Joseph's descendants, to be a choice seer.
- He will be highly esteemed by Joseph's descendants.
- He will work for the benefit of Joseph's descendants - to bring them to the knowledge of and convince them of the covenants of God with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Joseph's ancestors.)

Points of Interest: *This prophecy given to Joseph of Egypt might be dated roughly between 2258-2368 years from the fall of Adam, which represents the years of Joseph's lifetime (roughly 1742-1632 B.C. if dating Christ's birth at 4000 years from the fall of Adam.) Joseph of Egypt's prophecy was preserved on plates of brass.*

Lehi received the brass plates 600 B.C., roughly 1000 years later, reads Joseph's prophecy and is able to apply this prophecy to his son Joseph when pronouncing a blessing upon him. This illustrates one of the benefits of Lehi bringing the brass plates from Jerusalem to the promised land (Americas) - to gain and preserve knowledge of the promises of God to future generations of the house of Israel.

Q: Who will commission the work of this choice seer, 2 Nephi 3:8? (God)

Q: To whom does the Lord compare this choice seer in greatness, 2 Nephi 3:9? How was Moses great? What did Moses accomplish for the House of Israel? (Delivered from bondage. Delivered God's word, e.g. commandments, statutes, etc. Brought Israelites out of idolatry and into God's way.)

Q: Will the choice seer work alone, 2 Nephi 3:18,19? (God will choose a spokesman from the descendants of Joseph of Egypt to declare the writings of the choice seer to them. Similar to Moses and Aaron)

Q: What of God's word would have already gone forth to Joseph's descendants?

- Joseph's descendants writings (Book of Mormon)
- Judah's descendants writings (Holy Bible)

Talking Points: The Nephites wrote using characters of reformed Egyptian and no other people know their language, Mormon 9:32,34.

The brass plates may have been written in the Egyptian language, Mosiah 1:4. (Hebrew is the primary language used to write the Old Testament. Later O.T. writers used Aramaic. Koine Greek was used for the New Testament).

In addition, the people of Jared wrote using the original language that was not confounded, Ether 1:37, 3:28.

The Book of Mormon is an abridgment of the ancient plates of the Nephites and Jaredites, and also contains writings of Israelite prophets taken from brass plates.

Joseph Smith, Jr., **a Gentile**, was given temporary possession of ancient plates, written in ancient languages, in order to translate and write The Book of Mormon by the gift and power of God. He was commanded to seal up the book and hide it unto the Lord (2 Nephi 27:22).

A choice seer, **Hebrew-Israelite by descent** whose **ancestors lived in the Americas from 591 B.C.**, will also receive possession of ancient writings from which to translate and write. He will not only introduce God's word, but convince Joseph of Egypt's descendants of God's word that had previously been introduced (2 Nephi 3:11,12). The effects of God's power upon him will be amazing:

- Prove false doctrine erroneous
- Stop debates concerning doctrine
- Establishing peace among his descendants
- Gain knowledge of their fathers/ancestors (Jews/House of Israel) and God's covenants applicable to them.

Q: What will be the extent of the work of this choice seer, 2 Nephi 3:24? Will his work be limited to the descendants of Joseph? (His work will bring much restoration unto all the house of Israel)

Talking Points: God has commanded the tribes of the house of Israel to write. As God performs the work of gathering the house of Israel to their promised lands, their writings will also be gathered in one. These great acts of gathering will prove to the nations of the world who God is and that his covenant to Abraham was everlasting, 2 Nephi 29:14.

2. Engage participants in a discussion on identifiable characteristics of a choice seer.

Q: How will this choice seer be recognized or distinguished from other seers?

2 Nephi 3:

- V24. **Descendant of Lehi's son Joseph** (This choice seer is Jew by bloodline: a Hebrew-Israelite whose ancestors lived in the promised land/ Americas from 591 B.C.)
- V15. **Named after Joseph of Egypt and after his father.**
- V8. **Diligent in following God's orders.** (Not Joseph Smith, Jr.)
- V8. **Will not be destroyed by his enemies.** (Not Joseph Smith, Jr.)
- V7. **Esteemed highly among the descendants of Joseph.** (Yet to happen)
- V18. **Will work with a spokesman.** (Not Mosiah, Alma, Helaman, Moroni, nor Joseph Smith, Jr.)
- V7, 11 Brings **knowledge and convinces** Joseph's descendants of God's covenants to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Yet to happen)
- V12 **Brings unity and peace** among Joseph's descendants. (Yet to happen)
- V15. **Successful in bringing salvation unto the house of Israel through acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah and son of God.** (Yet to happen)

3. Discuss remaining Essential Questions.

Key words: hope, restoration, House of Israel, choice seer, prophet

Teacher's Supplement

PROPHETS AND SEERS (Scripture Texts pages 6-13)

Description of a Prophet: Prophets of old were called by God, as we read in His word, to deliver divine messages, warnings, and revelations; primarily to encourage holiness and repentance, and prepare people to believe in Christ who would come at a future time (A divine calling). However, God may also bless an individual with prophecy which is different from a man or woman being used as a prophet or prophetess as illustrated in scripture.

True Prophets:

- **Called by God (Historically, prior to Christ's ministry):** Jeremiah 1:5, Ezekiel 2:3
- **Directed by the Holy Spirit:** 1 Nephi 22:2
- **Watchmen that warn:** Ezekiel 33:7
- **Exhort, edify, comfort, work of the ministry, perfecting of the saints:** Ephesians 4:11,12

False Prophets:

- **Fate:** Deuteronomy 18:20
- **Discernment:** Deuteronomy 18:21,22

Examples: Prophets called by God (List is not exhaustive)

- **Isaiah:** Isaiah 6:6-8
- **Jeremiah:** Jeremiah 1:4-7,9
- **Ezekiel:** Ezekiel 1:3, 2:1-4
- **John the Baptist:** Luke 7:28
- **Jesus Christ:** 3 Nephi 20:23

Description of a Seer:

- **A divine gift. No greater gift can a man have, 2nd to God:** Mosiah 8:16
- **Translates all records of ancient date** using interpreters (two stones fastened into the two rims of a bow): Mosiah 8:13
- **A revelator and a prophet** - Knows All things (past and future); Reveals secret, hidden, and unknown things: Mosiah 8:16,17
- **Works mighty miracles** through faith; a great benefit to his fellow beings: Ether 8:18

False Seer: A person who looks into the interpreters without being commanded shall perish: Mosiah 8:13

Examples of Seers: (List is not exhaustive)

- **Brother of Jared:** Ether 3:9,24-28
- **Mosiah:** Mosiah 28:13,16
- **Alma the Younger:** Mosiah 28:20, Alma 5:46-48
- **Helaman:** Alma 37:16,21,27,29
- **Moroni:** Ether 1:1,2, 4:4,5
- **Joseph Smith, Jr.:** 2 Nephi 27:1,6,7,20,22

Prophet Descriptions

1 Nephi 22:2: And I, Nephi, said unto them: Behold they were manifest unto the prophet by the voice of the Spirit; for **by the Spirit are all things made known unto the prophets**, which shall come upon the children of men according to the flesh.

Ezekiel 33:7: So thou, O son of man, I have set thee **a watchman** unto the house of Israel; therefore **thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.**

Ephesians 4:11,12: And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the **perfecting of the saints**, for the **work of the ministry**, for the **edifying of the body of Christ**:...

1 Corinthians 14:3: But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to **edification**, and **exhortation**, and **comfort**.

Luke 16:16: **The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.**

False Prophet Description

Deuteronomy 18:20-22

20 But the prophet, **which shall presume to speak a word in my name**, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, **even that prophet shall die.**

21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?

22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, **if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken**, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

Examples of Prophets called by God

Isaiah (Isaiah 6:6-8)

6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, **Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.**

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, **Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.**

Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:4-7,9,10)

4 Then the **word of the LORD came unto me**, saying,

5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and **I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.**

6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for **thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.**

9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, **Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.**

10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:3, 2:1-4)

1:3 The **word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest**, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.

2:1 And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.

2 And **the spirit entered into me** when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.

3 And he said unto me, Son of man, **I send thee to the children of Israel**, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day.

4 For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and **thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD.**

John the Baptist (Luke 7:28) “For I say unto you, Among those that are **born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist**: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

Jesus Christ (3 Nephi 20:23) Behold, I am he of whom Moses spake, saying: **A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up** unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass that every soul who will not hear that prophet shall be cut off from among the people.

Description of a Seer

Mosiah 8:13,16,17

[13] Now Ammon said unto him: I can assuredly tell thee, O king, of a man that can translate the records; for he has wherewith that **he can look, and translate all records that are of ancient date**; and **it is a gift from God**. And the things are called interpreters, and **no man can look in them except he be commanded**, lest he should look for that he ought not and he should perish. And whosoever is commanded to look in them, the same is called seer.

[16] And Ammon said that **a seer is a revelator and a prophet** also; and **a gift which is greater can no man have**, except he should possess the power of God, which no man can; yet a man may have great power given him from God.

[17] But a seer **can know of things which are past, and also of things which are to come**, and **by them shall all things be revealed**, or, rather, **shall secret things be made manifest**, and **hidden things shall come to light**, and **things which are not known shall be made known by them**, and also **things shall be made known by them which otherwise could not be known.**

Examples of Seers

Brother of Jared (Ether 3:9,24-28)

9And the Lord said unto him: Because of thy faith thou hast seen that I shall take upon me flesh and blood; and never has man come before me with such **exceeding faith as thou hast**; for were it not so ye could not have seen my finger. Sawest thou more than this?

24For behold, **the language which ye shall write I have confounded**; wherefore I will cause in my own due time that **these stones shall magnify to the eyes of men these things which ye shall write**. 25And when the Lord had said these words, **he showed unto the brother of Jared all the inhabitants of the earth which had been, and also all that would be**; and he withheld them not from his sight, even unto the ends of the earth. 26For he had said unto him in times before, that if he would believe in him that he could show unto him all things -- it should be shown unto him; therefore **the Lord could not withhold anything from him**, for he knew that the Lord could show him all things. 27And the Lord said unto him: **Write these things and seal them up**; and I will show them in mine own due time unto the children of men. 28And it came to pass that **the Lord commanded him that he should seal up the two stones which he had received**, and show them not, until the Lord should show them unto the children of men.

King Mosiah (Mosiah 28:13,16)

13And now **he translated them by the means of those two stones which were fastened into the two rims of a bow**.

16And **whosoever has these things is called seer**, after the manner of old times.

Alma the Younger (Mosiah 28:20, Alma 5:46-48)

20And now, as I said unto you, that after king Mosiah had done these things, he took the plates of brass, and all the things which he had kept, and **conferred them upon Alma, who was the son of Alma**; yea, all the records, **and also the interpreters**, and conferred them upon him, and commanded him that he should keep and preserve them, and also keep a record of the people, handing them down from one generation to another, even as they had been handed down from the time that Lehi left Jerusalem.

46Behold, I say unto you they are **made known unto me by the Holy Spirit of God**. Behold, I have fasted and prayed many days that I might know these things of myself. And now I do know of myself that they are true; for the Lord God hath made them manifest unto me by his Holy Spirit; and **this is the spirit of revelation which is in me**. 47And moreover, I say unto you that it has thus been revealed unto me, that the words which have been spoken by our fathers are true, even so according to **the spirit of prophecy which is in me**, which is also **by the manifestation of the Spirit of God**. 48I say unto you, that **I know of myself that whatsoever I shall say unto you, concerning that which is to come, is true**; and I say unto you, that I know that Jesus Christ shall come, yea, the Son, the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace, and mercy, and truth. And behold, it is he that cometh to take away the sins of the world, yea, the sins of every man who steadfastly believeth on his name.

Helaman (Alma 37:16,21,27,29)

16 But if ye keep the commandments of God, and **do with these things which are sacred according to that which the Lord doth command you**, (for you must appeal unto the Lord for all things whatsoever ye must do with them) behold, **no power of earth or hell can take them from you**, for God is powerful to the fulfilling of all his words.

21And now, I will speak unto you concerning those twenty-four plates, that ye keep them, that the mysteries and the works of darkness, and their secret works, or the secret works of those people who have been destroyed, may be made manifest unto this people; yea, all their murders, and robbings, and their plunderings, and all their wickedness and abominations, may be made manifest unto this people; yea, and that ye **preserve these interpreters**.

27And now, my son, I command you that ye **retain all their oaths, and their covenants, and their agreements in their secret abominations; yea, and all their signs and their wonders ye shall keep from this people**, that they know them not, lest peradventure they should fall into darkness also and be destroyed.

29Therefore ye shall keep these secret plans of their oaths and their covenants from this people, and **only their wickedness and their murders and their abominations shall ye make known unto them**; and ye shall teach them to abhor such wickedness and abominations and murders; and ye shall also teach them that these people were destroyed on account of their wickedness and abominations and their murders.

Moroni (Ether 1:1,2, 4:4,5)

1And now I, Moroni, proceed to give an account of those ancient inhabitants who were destroyed by the hand of the Lord upon the face of this north country. 2And I take mine account **from the twenty and four plates** which were found by the people of Limhi, which is called **the Book of Ether**.

4Behold, I have written upon these plates the very things which the brother of Jared saw; and there never were greater things made manifest than those which were made manifest unto the brother of Jared. 5Wherefore **the Lord hath commanded me to write them**; and I have written them. And he **commanded me that I should seal them up**; and he also hath **commanded that I should seal up the interpretation thereof**; wherefore I have sealed up the interpreters, according to the commandment of the Lord.

Joseph Smith, Jr. (2 Nephi 27:1,6,7,20,22)

1But, behold, in the last days, or **in the days of the Gentiles** -- yea, behold all the nations of the Gentiles and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land and those who shall be upon other lands, yea, even upon all the lands of the earth, behold, they will be drunken with iniquity and all manner of abominations --

6And it shall come to pass that **the Lord God shall bring forth unto you the words of a book**, and they shall be the words of them which have slumbered.

7And behold **the book shall be sealed**; and **in the book shall be a revelation from God, from the beginning of the world to the ending thereof**.

20Then shall the Lord God say unto him: The learned shall not read them, for they have rejected them, and I am able to do mine own work; wherefore **thou shalt read the words which I shall give unto thee**.

22Wherefore, **when thou hast read the words which I have commanded thee, and obtained the witnesses which I have promised unto thee, then shalt thou seal up the book again**, and hide it up unto me, that I may preserve the words which thou hast not read, until I shall see fit in mine own wisdom to reveal all things unto the children of men.

Covenants: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob

Abraham's Covenant (Genesis 17:1,2,4,6-8)

1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; **walk before me, and be thou perfect.**
2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and **will multiply thee exceedingly.**
4 As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be **a father of many nations.**
6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an **everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.**
8 And **I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.**

Isaac's Covenant (Genesis 26:3-5)

3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and **I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father;** 4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; 5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

Jacob's Covenant (Genesis 28:13-15)

13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: **the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;** 14 And **thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.** 15 And, behold, **I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.**

Jacob's Name Changed to Israel (Genesis 32:9,10)

9 And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and blessed him. 10 And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: **thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name:** and he called his name Israel.

A Choice Seer

2 Nephi 3:1-9,11,12,14,15,18,19,23,24

1And now I speak unto you, Joseph, my last-born. Thou wast born in the wilderness of mine afflictions; yea, in the days of my greatest sorrow did thy mother bear thee. 2And may the Lord consecrate also unto thee this land, which is a most precious land, for thine inheritance and the inheritance of thy seed with thy brethren, for thy security forever, if it so be that ye shall keep the commandments of the Holy One of Israel. 3And now, Joseph, my last-born, whom I have brought out of the wilderness of mine afflictions, may the Lord bless thee forever, for **thy seed shall not utterly be destroyed**. 4For behold, thou art the fruit of my loins; and I am a descendant of Joseph who was carried captive into Egypt. And great were the covenants of the Lord which he made unto Joseph. 5Wherefore, Joseph truly saw our day. And he obtained a promise of the Lord, that out of the fruit of his loins the Lord God would raise up a righteous branch unto the house of Israel; not the Messiah, but a branch which was to be broken off, nevertheless, to be remembered in the covenants of the Lord that the Messiah should be made manifest unto them in the latter days, in the spirit of power, unto the bringing of them out of darkness unto light -- yea, out of hidden darkness and out of captivity unto freedom. 6For Joseph truly testified, saying: A seer shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a choice seer unto the fruit of my loins. 7Yea, Joseph truly said: Thus saith the Lord unto me: **A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and he shall be esteemed highly among the fruit of thy loins**. And unto him will I give commandment that he shall do a work for the fruit of thy loins, his brethren, which shall be of great worth unto them, even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with thy fathers. 8And I will give unto him a commandment that he shall do none other work, save the work which I shall command him. And I will make him great in mine eyes; for he shall do my work. 9And he shall be great like unto Moses, whom I have said I would raise up unto you, to deliver my people, O house of Israel.

11But a seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and unto **him will I give power to bring forth my word unto the seed of thy loins** -- and not to the bringing forth my word only, saith the Lord, but **to the convincing them of my word**, which shall have already gone forth among them. 12Wherefore, the fruit of thy loins shall write; and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write; and that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins, and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah, shall grow together, unto the confounding of false doctrines and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, and bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days, and also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord.

14And thus prophesied Joseph, saying: Behold, that seer will the Lord bless; and **they that seek to destroy him shall be confounded**; for this promise, which I have obtained of the Lord, of the fruit of my loins, shall be fulfilled. Behold, I am sure of the fulfilling of this promise; 15And **his name shall be called after me; and it shall be after the name of his father**. And he shall be like unto me; for the thing, which the Lord shall bring forth by his hand, **by the power of the Lord shall bring my people unto salvation**.

18And the Lord said unto me also: I will raise up **unto the fruit of thy loins**; and I will make for him **a spokesman**. And I, behold, I will give unto him that he shall write the writing of the fruit of thy loins, unto the fruit of thy loins; and the spokesman of thy loins shall declare it. 19And the words which he shall write shall be the words which are expedient in my wisdom should go forth unto the

fruit of thy loins. And it shall be as if the fruit of thy loins had cried unto them from the dust; for I know their faith

23Wherefore, **because of this covenant thou art blessed; for thy seed shall not be destroyed**, for they shall hearken unto the words of the book. 24And **there shall rise up one mighty among them, who shall do much good, both in word and in deed**, being an instrument in the hands of God, with exceeding faith, to work mighty wonders, and do that thing which is great in the sight of God, unto the bringing to pass much restoration unto the house of Israel, and unto the seed of thy brethren.

2 Nephi 29:13,14

13And it shall come to pass that the Jews shall have the words of the Nephites, and the Nephites shall have the words of the Jews; and the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the lost tribes of Israel; and the lost tribes of Israel shall have the words of the Nephites and the Jews. 14And it shall come to pass that my people, which are of the house of Israel, shall be gathered home unto the lands of their possessions; and my word also shall be gathered in one. And I will show unto them that fight against my word and against my people, who are of the house of Israel, that I am God, and that I covenanted with Abraham that I would remember his seed forever.

Gentiles Bring Books Unto the Remnant of Nephi's Brothers' Descendants

1 Nephi 13:38-42 (Proof: Joseph Smith, Jr. was Gentile, and not a Choice Seer)

38And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it **came forth from the Gentiles unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren**. 39And after it had come forth unto them I beheld **other books, which came forth by the power of the Lamb, from the Gentiles unto them**, unto the convincing of the Gentiles and the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the Jews who were scattered upon all the face of the earth, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true. 40And the angel spake unto me, saying: These last records, which thou hast seen **among the Gentiles**, shall establish the truth of the first, which are of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them; and shall make known to all kindreds, tongues, and people, that the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him, or they cannot be saved. 41And they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb; and the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb; wherefore they both shall be established in one; for there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth. 42And the time cometh that he shall manifest himself unto all nations, both unto the Jews and also unto the Gentiles; and after he has manifested himself unto the Jews and also unto the Gentiles, then he shall manifest himself unto the Gentiles and also unto the Jews, and the last shall be first, and the first shall be last.

Ancient Records/Writings

Mormon 9:32, 34

32And now, behold, we have written this record according to our knowledge, in the **characters which are called among us the reformed Egyptian**, being handed down and altered by us, according to our manner of speech. 33And if our plates had been sufficiently large we should have written in Hebrew; but the Hebrew hath been altered by us also; and if we could have written in Hebrew, behold, ye would have had no imperfection in our record. 34But the Lord knoweth the things which we have written, and also that **none other people knoweth our language**; and because that none other people knoweth our language, therefore **he hath prepared means for the interpretation thereof**.

Ether 1:36,37

36Then Jared said unto his brother: Cry again unto the Lord, and it may be that he will turn away his anger from them who are our friends, that he confound not their language. 37And it came to pass that the brother of Jared did cry unto the Lord, and the Lord had compassion upon their friends and their families also, that **they were not confounded**.

Ether 3:27,28

27And the Lord said unto him: **Write these things and seal them up**; and I will show them in mine own due time unto the children of men. 28And it came to pass that the Lord commanded him that he should **seal up the two stones which he had received**, and show them not, until the Lord should show them unto the children of men.

Ether 4:4-6

4Behold, I have written upon these plates the very things which the brother of Jared saw; and there **never were greater things made manifest than those which were made manifest unto the brother of Jared**. 5Wherefore the Lord hath commanded me to write them; and I have written them. And he commanded me that I should seal them up; and he also hath commanded that I should seal up the interpretation thereof; wherefore I have sealed up the interpreters, according to the commandment of the Lord. 6For the Lord said unto me: **They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord**.

Slide Show Presenter's Notes

Slide 1: Note to Teacher: Inform participants of the Lesson Title, Goals, and Essential Questions. Present the questions at the bottom of the note page.

LESSON TITLE: **A CHOICE SEER**

OBJECTIVES/GOALS

Participants will be able to:

- Discuss descriptions of prophets and seers. Mosiah 8:13,16,17, Mosiah 28:13,16
- Describe a choice seer's divine work with the house of Israel, 2 Nephi 3.
- Discuss identifying characteristics of a choice seer.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS (By the end of the lesson, participants should be able to answer these questions)

- What is a seer? What divine gifts are given to a seer?
- What divine work will a choice seer accomplish? How will this work benefit the house of Israel?
- How will a choice seer be distinguished from other seers?
- How is the Church preparing for the coming of a choice seer? How might you prepare for the coming of a choice seer?

Q: What is the meaning of seer? How would you define it?

Q: How would you define choice?

TERMS DEFINED

- **CHOICE** *adj*- describes something carefully selected.
- **SEER** *n* - one who sees

(Motivation/Introduction 5-10 minutes) Resource: "Prophets and Seers", page 4.

Slide 2: Prophet or Seer - What is the difference?

Q: How would you describe a prophet? What are a prophet's divine roles? From whom does a holy prophet receive direction?

Q: What divine powers does a seer have? How is one authorized to be a seer?

Q: What differences exist between a prophet and a seer?

Talking Points: Prophets of old were called directly by God as we read in His word (not of man, not ordained in a church, but directly by God). God may also bless an individual with prophecy which is different from a man or woman being used as a prophet or prophetess as illustrated in scripture.

A seer is a divine gift. A seer does not have to be a member of the priesthood (e.g. King Mosiah). The Church of Jesus Christ believes the gift of seer will be bestowed upon someone in the future.

Slide 3: Past Prophets and Seers. (Lists are not exhaustive)

Q: Do you agree or disagree with the names listed? (Be prepared to facilitate a discussion)

Examples: Prophets of God

- **Isaiah:** Isaiah 6:6-8
- **Jeremiah:** Jeremiah 1:4-7,9
- **Ezekiel:** Ezekiel 1:3, 2:1-4
- **John the Baptist:** Luke 7:28
- **Jesus Christ:** 3 Nephi 20:23

Examples of Seers:

- **Brother of Jared:** Ether 3:9,24-28
- **Mosiah:** Mosiah 28:13,16
- **Alma the Younger:** Mosiah 28:20, Alma 5:46-48
- **Helaman:** Alma 37:16,21,27,29
- **Moroni:** Ether 1:1,2, 4:4,5
- **Joseph Smith, Jr.:** 2 Nephi 27:1,6,7,20,22

(Lesson Development 35-40 minutes) Note to Teacher: It is not intended that the text on the slides be read in entirety. Identify text to read/summarize, e.g. text relating to your Talking Points.

Slide 4: Chart of the Choice Seers Lineage

- **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel)** are **ancestors** of the House of Israel.
- The **twelve sons of Jacob (Israel)** and their descendants are referred to as the **House of Israel**.
- **Jacob's 11th son - Joseph:**
 - Age 17 years - betrayed by his brothers.
 - Sold and taken to Egypt; lived remainder of his life.
 - Married an Egyptian woman; two sons: Manasseh and Ephraim.
 - All of Joseph's family moved to Egypt; lived there over 400 years.
 - God gave Joseph prophecies:
 - **Prophesied that one of his descendants would be a deliverer who would do a great work for his people.**
 - This descendant would have the gift of seer: referred to as a "choice seer" by God.
- Lehi is a Hebrew-Israelite/Jew.
 - **Hebrew** - meaning his ancestry is traced back to Abraham.
 - **Israelite/Jew** - meaning his ancestor is Jacob/Israel (Abraham's grandson), specifically through Jacob's son Joseph.
 - 600 B.C. lived in Jerusalem.
 - God instructed Lehi's family to leave their home and He would take them to a promised land which we call the Americas (North, Central, South).
 - On their journey, Lehi's wife gives birth to two sons, Jacob and Joseph.
 - The family arrives in the promised land around 591 B.C. (1 Nephi 1).
 - **Lehi's son Joseph is an ancestor to the choice seer prophesied about by Joseph of Egypt.**

Slide 5: What is the choice seers lineage?

Q: Who is speaking in 2 Nephi 3:3,4 and to whom? Why is Lehi's identity with Joseph of Egypt significant?

- Lehi is speaking to his youngest son, Joseph. Lehi prophesied that his **son Joseph's descendants, in the Americas, will never become extinct**. (Meaning they exist today)
- Lehi personally identifies with Joseph of Egypt to whom God made great promises. Lehi states these promises extend to himself and to his son, Joseph, and his descendants; those living today.

Q: What does the Lord reveal to Joseph of Egypt in 2 Nephi 3:7?

- God will elevate a man, one of Joseph's descendants, to be a choice seer.
- This man will be highly esteemed by Joseph's descendants.

Points of Interest: *The prophecy given to Joseph of Egypt might be dated roughly between 2258-2368 years from the fall of Adam, which represents the years of Joseph's lifetime (roughly 1742-1632 B.C. if dating Christ's birth at 4000 years from the fall of Adam.) **Joseph of Egypt's prophecy was preserved on plates of brass.***

*Lehi received the brass plates 600 B.C., roughly 1000 years later, reads Joseph's prophecy and is able to apply this prophecy to his son Joseph when pronouncing a blessing upon him. This illustrates one of the **benefits of Lehi bringing the brass plates** from Jerusalem to the promised land (Americas) - **to gain and preserve knowledge of the promises of God for his day and future generations.***

Slide 6: What is his lineage? cont'd. 2 Nephi 3:22-25

Talking Points: The choice seer's lineage can be traced from Joseph of Egypt, to Lehi of Jerusalem, to Lehi's son, Joseph, in the promised land. The choice seer will be of **Hebrew-Israelite descent with origins in the Americas** from 591 B.C. (Lehi's arrival in the promised land).

Slide 7: By Whom is he commissioned?

Q: Who will commission the work of this choice seer, 2 Nephi 3:8? (God)

Talking Point: The Lord compares the greatness of the choice seer's work to Moses', 2 Nephi 3:9.

Slide 8: Great Like Unto Moses

Q: How was Moses great? What did Moses accomplish for the House of Israel? (Deliverance from Egypt/bondage and idolatry. Delivered God's word, e.g. commandments, statutes, etc. Brought Israelites out of idolatry and into God's way.)

Talking Point: A choice seer will deliver his people from spiritual darkness, restoring them to the light of God.

Slide 9: His Divine Commission 2 Nephi 3:7,11

2 Nephi 3:7

Q: What is one act of restoration that the choice seer will accomplish? (bring Joseph's descendants to knowledge of covenants of their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob)

Q: In general, what are the terms of God's covenants with Joseph's forefathers?

Talking Points: God made **everlasting** covenants with Joseph's forefathers: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/Israel.

God promised that He would:

- **Multiply them exceedingly**, They would become fathers of many nations of people
- Give them **lands for inheritance** - Canaan. Americas (Lehi)
- **Be a God to them** - provide, protect, bless

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants portion of the covenants was to walk before God: obey His voice, keep His charge, commandments, statutes, and laws.

2 Nephi 3:11

Q: What other work will a choice seer accomplish? (Convince)

Q: How will the power of God be evident in this choice seer? (Convincing power)

Q: What of God's word would have already gone forth to Joseph's descendants, 2 Nephi 3:11? (Bible and Book of Mormon, other?)

Slide 10: His Divine Commission, cont'd. 2 Nephi 3:18,19

Q: Will the choice seer work alone, 2 Nephi 3:18,19? (God will choose a spokesman from the descendants of Joseph of Egypt to declare the writings of the choice seer to them. Similar to Moses and Aaron)

Talking Points: The choice seer will translate and write portions from the ancient plates of the Nephites, according to God's command.

Slide 11: Ancient Records/Writings

Talking Points: The choice seer will be given the ability to translate writings/records. The Book of Mormon creates awareness of ancient records/writings (see bullet points) however the details associated with when, where, who, etc. remains unclear.

- **Jaredites' Gold Plates:** Ether 1:37, 3:28, 4:4-6
- **Nephites' Gold Plates:** Mormon 9:32
- **Other Books:** 1 Nephi 13:38-40

Joseph Smith, Jr., a Gentile, was given the gift of seer. He was given temporary possession of ancient records, with ancient writings, in order to translate and transcribe The Book of Mormon by the gift and power of God. He was commanded to seal up the book (ancient records) and hide it unto the Lord (2 Nephi 27:22).

A **choice seer** will be of **Hebrew-Israelite** descent.

As God performs the work of gathering the house of Israel to their promised lands, their writings will also be gathered in one. These great acts of gathering **will prove** to the nations of the world who God is and that his covenant to Abraham was everlasting, 2 Nephi 29:14.

Slide 12: Language of the Nephites and Jaredites (Mormon 9:32,34, Ether 1:37)

Talking Points: The Nephite and Jaredite languages are unknown to other people. The Jaredites spoke the original language.

Descriptions:

- **Jaredites' Gold Plates:** Never were greater things made manifest than those which were made manifest unto the brother of Jared (sealed records). (Ether 1:37, 3:28, 4:4-6)
- **Nephites' Gold Plates:** written in reformed Egyptian (Mormon 9:32)
- **Other Books:** Delivered by the Gentiles to the descendants of Nephi that will convince the Gentiles, the House of Joseph, and all Jews of the truth of the records of the prophets and the apostle of Christ (1 Nephi 13:38-40)

Slides 13: How great will his work be? 2 Nephi 3:11, 24

2 Nephi 3:11 Talking Points: A choice seer will not only introduce God's word, but convince Joseph of Egypt's descendants of God's word that had previously been introduced. The effects of God's power upon him will be amazing:

- Prove false doctrine erroneous
- Stop debates concerning doctrine
- Establish peace among Joseph's descendants
- Gain knowledge of their fathers/ancestors (Jews/House of Israel) and God's covenants applicable to them

2 Nephi 3:24

Q: What will be the extent of the work of this choice seer? Will his work be limited to the descendants of Joseph, 2 Nephi 3:24? (His work will bring much restoration unto all the house of Israel)

Slide 14: Gathering in One

Read and discuss slide.

Slides 15: How will he be distinguished from other seers? 2 Nephi 3:8-24

Talking Point: Descriptions about a choice seer, found in God's word, will allow people to recognize him.

2 Nephi 3:

- V24. **Descendant of Lehi's son Joseph** (a Jew by bloodline: a Hebrew-Israelite whose ancestors lived in the promised land/ Americas from 591 B.C.)
- V15. **Named after Joseph of Egypt and after his father.**
- V8. **Diligent in following God's orders.**
- V8. **Will not be destroyed by his enemies.**
- V7. **Esteemed highly among the descendants of Joseph.** (Yet to happen)
- V18. **Will work with a spokesman.**
- V7,11 **Brings knowledge and convinces of God's covenants to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob** (Yet to happen)
- V12 **His work will bring unity and peace among Joseph's descendants** (Yet to happen)
- V15. **Successful in bringing salvation unto the house of Israel through acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah and son of God.** (Yet to happen)

Slides 16: How will he be distinguished from other seers? 2 Nephi 3: 7,11,12,15,18

Talking Point: His work will bring unity and peace among the house of Joseph and salvation to the house of Israel.

2 Nephi 3:

- V7. **Esteemed highly among the descendants of Joseph.** (Yet to happen)
- V18. **Will work with a spokesman.**
- V7,11 **Brings knowledge and convinces of God's covenants to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob** (Yet to happen)
- V12 **His work will bring unity and peace among Joseph's descendants** (Yet to happen)
- V15. **Successful in bringing salvation unto the house of Israel through acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah and son of God.** (Yet to happen)

Slide 17: Application

Address questions on slide.