

Formatted scripture

The Covenant People Discourse

3 Nephi 15:2–16:20; 20:10–23:5

In 3 Nephi 15, the Savior starts to give a sermon. By the end of chapter 16, He begins quoting Isaiah 52, starting with verse 8. He then stops at verse 10 and looks around. He says to the assembled Nephites, “I perceive that ye are weak, that ye cannot understand all my words,” and decides to end the sermon for now. The next day, He continues with his sermon, but He does not immediately start where He left off—with the Isaiah quote. Instead, He reviews and summarizes some of the previous day’s teachings first (3 Ne. 20:10–35). This document is a side by side comparison to better understand the structure of His summary and introduction on the second day.

Key: The Savior’s words; a prophet’s words; a quote placed out of order to show parallels (16:17).

THE FIRST DAY 3 Ne. 15:2–16:20	THE SECOND DAY REVIEW 3 Ne. 20:10–35
<p>^{15:2}And it came to pass that when Jesus had said these words he perceived that there were some among them who marveled, and wondered what he would concerning the law of Moses; for they understood not the saying that old things had passed away, and that all things had become new. ^{15:3}And he said unto them: Marvel not that I said unto you that old things had passed away, and that all things had become new.</p> <p>^{15:4}Behold, I say unto you that the law is fulfilled that was given unto Moses. ^{15:5}Behold, I am he that gave the law, and I am he who covenanted with my people Israel; therefore, the law in me is fulfilled, for I have come to fulfil the law; therefore it hath an end.</p> <p>^{15:6}Behold, I do not destroy the prophets, for as many as have not been fulfilled in me, verily I say unto you, shall all be fulfilled. ^{15:7}And because I said unto you that old things have passed away, I do not destroy that which hath been spoken concerning things which are to come.</p> <p>^{15:8}For behold, the covenant which I have made with my people is not all fulfilled; but the law which was given unto Moses hath an end in me.</p> <p>^{15:9}Behold, I am the law, and the light. Look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live; for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life.</p> <p>^{15:10}Behold, I have given unto you the commandments; therefore keep my commandments. And this is the law and the prophets, for they truly testified of me.</p> <p>^{15:11}And now it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words, he said unto those twelve whom he had chosen:</p> <p>^{15:12}Ye are my disciples; and ye are a light unto this people, who are a remnant of the house of Joseph.</p> <p>^{15:13}And behold, this is the land of your inheritance; and the Father hath given it unto you.</p> <p>^{15:14}And not at any time hath the Father given me commandment that I should tell it unto your brethren at Jerusalem. ^{15:15}Neither at any time hath the Father given</p>	<p>^{20:10}And it came to pass that when they had all given glory unto Jesus, he said unto them:</p>

me commandment that I should tell unto them concerning the other tribes of the house of Israel, whom the Father hath led away out of the land.

^{15:16}This much did the Father command me, that I should tell unto them: ^{15:17}That other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

^{15:18}And now, because of stiffneckedness and unbelief they understood not my word; therefore I was commanded to say no more of the Father concerning this thing unto them.

^{15:19}But, verily, I say unto you that the **Father hath commanded me**, and I tell it unto you, that ye were separated from among them because of their iniquity; therefore it is because of their iniquity that they know not of you. ^{15:20}And verily, I say unto you again that the other tribes hath the Father separated from them; and it is because of their iniquity that they know not of them. ^{15:21}And verily I say unto you, that ye are they of whom I said: Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

^{15:22}And they understood me not, for they supposed it had been the Gentiles; for they understood not that the Gentiles should be converted through their preaching.

^{15:23}And they understood me not that I said they shall hear my voice; and they understood me not that the Gentiles should not at any time hear my voice—that I should not manifest myself unto them save it were by the Holy Ghost.

^{15:24}But behold, ye have both heard my voice, and seen me; and ye are my sheep, and ye are numbered among those whom the Father hath given me. ^{16:1}And verily, verily, I say unto you that I have other sheep, which are not of this land, neither of the land of Jerusalem, neither in any parts of that land round about whither I have been to minister. ^{16:2}For they of whom I speak are they who have not as yet heard my voice; neither have I at any time manifested myself unto them. ^{16:3}But I have received a commandment of the Father that I shall go unto them, and that they shall hear my voice, and shall be numbered among my sheep, that there may be one fold and one shepherd; therefore I go to show myself unto them.

^{16:17}And then the **words of the prophet Isaiah shall be fulfilled**, which say:

ISRAEL AND THE GENTILES

^{16:4}And I command you that ye shall write these sayings after I am gone, that if it so be that my people at

Behold now I finish the commandment which the **Father hath commanded me** concerning this people, who are a remnant of the house of Israel.

^{20:11}Ye remember that I spake unto you, and said that when the **words of Isaiah should be fulfilled**—behold they are written, ye have them before you, therefore search them—

Jerusalem, they who have seen me and been with me in my ministry, do not ask the Father in my name, that they may receive a knowledge of you by the Holy Ghost, and also of the other tribes whom they know not of, that these sayings which ye shall write shall be kept and shall be manifested unto the Gentiles, that through the **fulness** of the Gentiles, the remnant of **their seed**, who shall be scattered forth upon the face of the earth because of their unbelief, may be brought in, or may be brought to a knowledge of me, their Redeemer.

^{16:5}And then will I **gather** them in from the **four quarters** of the earth; and then will I fulfil the covenant which the Father hath made unto all the people of the house of Israel.

^{16:6}And blessed are the Gentiles, because of their belief in me, in and of the Holy Ghost, which witnesses unto them of me and of the Father. ^{16:7}Behold, because of their belief in me, saith the Father, and because of the unbelief of you, O house of Israel, in the latter day shall the truth come unto the Gentiles, that the fulness of these things shall be made known unto them.

If the Gentiles don't repent

^{16:8}But wo, saith the Father, unto the **unbelieving of the Gentiles**—for notwithstanding they have come forth upon the face of this land, and **have scattered my people** who are of the house of Israel; and my people who are of the house of Israel have been cast out from among them, and have been trodden under feet by them; ^{16:9}And because of the mercies of the Father unto the Gentiles, and also the judgments of the Father upon my people who are of the house of Israel, verily, verily, I say unto you, that after all this, and I have caused my people who are of the house of Israel to be smitten, and to be afflicted, and to be slain, and to be cast out from among them, and to become hated by them, and to become a hiss and a byword among them— ^{16:10}And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you: At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fulness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; and if they shall do all those things, and shall reject the fulness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fulness of my gospel from among them.

^{16:11}And then will I remember my covenant which I

^{20:12}And verily, verily, I say unto you, that when they shall be **fulfilled** then is the fulfilling of the covenant which the Father hath made unto his people, O **house of Israel**.

^{20:13}And then shall the remnants, which shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth, be **gathered** in from the **east and from the west, and from the south and from the north**; and they shall be brought to the knowledge of the Lord their God, who hath redeemed them. ^{20:14}And the Father hath commanded me that I should give unto you this land, for your inheritance.

If the Gentiles don't repent

^{20:15}And I say unto you, that if the **Gentiles do not repent** after the blessing which they shall receive, after they **have scattered my people**—

have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them. ^{16:12}And I will show unto thee, O house of Israel, that the Gentiles shall not have power over you; but I will remember my covenant unto you, O house of Israel, and ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fulness of my gospel.

If the Gentiles repent

^{16:13}But if the Gentiles will repent and return unto me, saith the Father, behold they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel. ^{16:14}And I will not suffer my people, who are of the house of Israel, to go through among them, and tread them down, saith the Father.

If the Gentiles don't repent

^{16:15}But if they will not turn unto me, and hearken unto my voice,

I will suffer them, yea, I will suffer my people, O house of Israel, that they shall go through among them,

and shall **tread them down**,
and they shall be as salt that hath lost its savor,
which is thenceforth good for nothing
but to be **cast out**,

and to be trodden under **foot** of my people,
O house of Israel.

^{16:16}Verily, verily, I say unto you, thus hath the Father commanded me—that I should **give unto this people this land** for their inheritance.

^{20:16}Then shall ye, who are a remnant of the **house of Jacob, go forth among them**;
and ye shall be in the midst of them who shall be many;
and ye shall be among them as a lion among the beasts of the forest,
and as a young lion among the flocks of sheep,
who, if he goeth through both **treadeth down** and
teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.

^{20:17}Thy hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries,
and all thine enemies shall be **cut off**.

^{20:18}And I will gather my people together
as a man gathereth his sheaves into the floor.

^{20:19}For I will make my people with whom the Father hath
covenanted, yea,

I will make thy horn iron,

and I will make thy **hoofs** brass.

And thou shalt beat in pieces many people;
and I will consecrate their gain unto the Lord,
and their substance unto the Lord of the whole
earth.

And behold, I am he who doeth it. ^{20:20}And it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that the sword of my justice shall hang over them at that day; and except they repent it shall fall upon them, saith the Father, yea, even upon all the nations of the Gentiles.

^{20:21}And it shall come to pass that I will establish my people, O house of Israel. ^{20:22}And behold, **this people will I establish in this land**, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a New Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you.

CHRIST FULFILLS PROPHECY

^{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.

^{20:24}Verily I say unto you, yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have testified of me.

^{20:25}And behold, ye are the children of the prophets; and ye are of the house of Israel; and ye are of the covenant which the Father made with your fathers, saying unto Abraham: **And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.** ^{20:26}The Father having raised me up unto you first, and sent me to bless you in turning away every one of you from his iniquities; and this because ye are the children of the covenant—^{20:27}And after that ye were blessed then fulfilleth the Father the covenant which he made with Abraham, saying: **In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed—**unto the pouring out of the Holy Ghost through me upon the Gentiles, which blessing upon the Gentiles shall make them mighty above all, unto the scattering of my people, O house of Israel. ^{20:28}And they shall be a scourge unto the people of this land.

Nevertheless, when they shall have received the fulness of my gospel, then if they shall harden their hearts against me I will return their iniquities upon their own heads, saith the Father. ^{20:29}And I will remember the covenant which I have made with my people; and I have covenanted with them that I would gather them together in mine own due time, that I would give unto them again the land of their fathers for their inheritance, which is the land of Jerusalem, which is the promised land unto them forever, saith the Father.

ISRAEL GATHERED BY ACCEPTING THE GOSPEL

^{20:30}And it shall come to pass that the time cometh, when the fulness of my gospel shall be preached unto them; ^{20:31}And they shall believe in me, that I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and shall pray unto the Father in my name.

^{16:17}And **then** the words of the prophet Isaiah shall be fulfilled, which say:

^{16:18}Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice;
with the voice together shall they sing,
for they shall see eye to eye
when the Lord shall bring again Zion.

^{16:19}Break forth into joy,
sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem;
for the Lord hath comforted his people,
he hath redeemed Jerusalem.

^{16:20}The Lord hath made bare his holy arm
in the eyes of all the nations;

^{20:32}**Then** shall their watchmen lift up their voice,
and with the voice together shall they sing;
for they shall see eye to eye.

^{20:33}Then will the Father gather them together again,
and give unto them Jerusalem
for the land of their inheritance.

^{20:34}Then shall they break forth into joy—
Sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem;
for the Father hath comforted his people,
he hath redeemed Jerusalem.

^{20:35}The Father hath made bare his holy arm
in the eyes of all the nations;

and all the ends of the earth
shall see the salvation of God.

[End of the first day portion]

and all the ends of the earth
shall see the salvation of the Father;
and the Father and I are one.

^{20:36}And then shall be brought to pass that which is
written:

Awake, awake again, and put on thy strength,
O Zion;

put on thy beautiful garments,
O Jerusalem, the holy city,

for henceforth there shall no more come into thee
the uncircumcised and the unclean.

^{20:37}Shake thyself from the dust; arise, sit down,
O Jerusalem;

loose thyself from the bands of thy neck,
O captive daughter of Zion.

^{20:38}For thus saith the Lord:

Ye have sold yourselves for naught,
and ye shall be redeemed without money.

^{20:39}Verily, verily, I say unto you, that
my people shall know my name;

yea, in that day
they shall know that I am he that doth speak.

^{20:40}And then shall they say:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him
that bringeth good tidings unto them,
that publisheth peace;
that bringeth good tidings unto them of good,
that publisheth salvation;
that saith unto Zion: Thy God reigneth!

^{20:41}And then shall a cry go forth:

Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence,
touch not that which is unclean;

go ye out of the midst of her;

be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.

^{20:42}For ye shall not go out with haste nor go by flight;
for the Lord will go before you,

and the God of Israel shall be your rearward.

^{20:43}Behold, my servant shall deal prudently;

he shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

^{20:44}As many were astonished at thee—

his visage was so marred, more than any man,
and his form more than the sons of men—

^{20:45}So shall he sprinkle many nations;

the kings shall shut their mouths at him,
for that which had not been told them shall they see;
and that which they had not heard shall they
consider.

^{20:46}Verily, verily, I say unto you, all these things
shall surely come, even as the Father hath commanded
me. Then shall this covenant which the Father hath
covenanted with his people be fulfilled; and then shall
Jerusalem be inhabited again with my people, and it
shall be the land of their inheritance.

At this point, chapter 21 commences, and the Savior goes on with the rest of His sermon.

SOME THINGS I LEARNED BY DOING THIS COMPARISON

One of the interesting things was to note which parts from day 1 He skips over on day 2 (omission), and which things He adds on day 2 (addition). As an example of omission, on day 2 He skips over the description of the Gentiles' wickedness He gave in 16:8–12. As an example of addition, He quotes Micah 5:8–9 and 4:12–13. This addition suddenly makes clear that on the first day (in 16:15) He is actually loosely paraphrasing those prophecies. (I don't know yet what significant insights might be found by studying His paraphrasing, but *you* can do that; this is just a preliminary comparison. Go to work on it!)

Another interesting addition is the statement in 20:13. On day 1, the Lord says He would gather Israel in the last days (16:5). On day 2, He clarifies what that means by adding, "Then shall the remnants . . . be gathered in . . . ; and they shall be *brought to the knowledge of the Lord their God.*" In other words, the most important aspect of the gathering of Israel is conversion to the restored gospel and baptism into the Lord's true church, not just the physical gathering to ancient homelands. The Savior confirms this teaching again by another addition unique to day 2: "I have covenanted with them that I would *gather them* together in mine own due time. . . And it shall come to pass that the time cometh, when the fulness of *my gospel shall be preached unto them; And they shall believe in me*, that I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (20:29–31).

The most significant addition, as I see it, is 20:23–31, in which the Savior explains that "all the prophets . . . have testified of me" (20:24). As I understand it, this is His "Understanding Prophecy 101" crash course. It seems that when He started quoting Isaiah on day 1, He acknowledged that, as Nephi said, "Isaiah spake many things which were hard for many of [the Nephites] to understand; for they know not concerning the manner of prophesying among the Jews" (2 Ne. 25:1). Being so far removed from that culture in space and time, the Nephites weren't prepared yet to understand the prophecies the Savior wanted to expound on. His way of preparing them to understand the prophecies seems to be His addition of 20:23–31 on day 2. That makes it an interesting passage to study, in my mind, because it would contain the most important keys we should use to understand holy prophecies.