

Seven Reasons to Study and Read Isaiah

1. The only book by name that Jesus Christ has commanded study of. 3 Nephi 23:1 - "And now, behold, I say unto you, that ye ought to search *these things*. Yea, a commandment I give unto you that ye search these things diligently; for great are the words of Isaiah."

2. Isaiah touches upon all things. 3 Nephi 23:2-3 - "For surely he spake as touching *all things* concerning my people which are of the house of Israel; therefore it must needs be that he must speak also to the Gentiles. And all things that he spake *have been and shall be*, even according to the words which he spake."

3. Isaiah is a type for Christ. Isaiah 8:18 - "Behold, I and die children whom the LORD hath given me *are* for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion."

- Isaiah (Hebrew) and Jesus (Greek) mean the same thing 'Jehovah Saves' (Isaiah 8:18a)

4. Isaiah saw the Lord. 2 Nephi 11:2-3 - "And now I, Nephi, write more of the words of Isaiah, for my soul delighteth in his words. For I will liken his words unto my people, and I will send them forth unto all my children, for he verily saw my

Redeemer, even as I have seen him. And my brother, Jacob, also has seen him as I have seen him; wherefore, I will send their words forth unto my children to prove unto them that my words are true. Wherefore, by the words of three, God hath said, I will establish my word. Nevertheless, God sendeth more witnesses, and he proveth all his words."

5. Isaiah is the most quoted Old Testament prophet. BD101 - The following chapters from the Book of Isaiah are quoted in full in the Book of Mormon: Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54.

6. "There was not a greater prophet in all Israel than Isaiah... He is the prototype, pattern, and model for all prophets." (Bruce R. McConkie, *Ensign*, October 1973, pg. 78; Bruce R. McConkie; Monte Nyman and Charles Tate, *Joseph Smith Translation: The Restoration of Plain and Precious Things*, pg. 17)

7. "It just may be that my salvation (and yours) does in fact depend upon our ability to understand the writings of Isaiah as fully and truly as Nephi understood them." (Bruce R. McConkie, *Ensign*, October 1973, pg. 78)

Nephi's Five Ways to Better Understand Isaiah (2 Nephi 25:1-5)

1. Understand the manner of prophesying among the Jews. 2 Nephi 25:1 - "Now I, Nephi, do speak somewhat concerning the words which I have written, which have been spoken by the mouth of Isaiah. For behold, Isaiah spake many things which were hard for many of my people to understand; *they know not concerning the manner of prophesying among the Jews.*"

2. Filled with the spirit of prophecy. 2 Nephi 25:4 - "Wherefore, hearken, O my people, which are of the house of Israel, and give ear unto my words; for because the words of Isaiah are not plain unto you, nevertheless they are plain unto all those that are *filled with the spirit of prophecy*. But I give unto you a prophecy, according to the spirit which is in me; wherefore I shall prophesy according to the plainness which hath been with me from the time that I came out from Jerusalem with my father; for behold, my soul delighteth in plainness unto my people, that they may learn." The spirit of Prophecy is a testimony of Jesus Christ.

- Revelation 19:10-"And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: *for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*"

3. Know the places and areas that Isaiah is talking about. 2 Nephi 25:6 - "But behold, I, Nephi, have not taught my children after the manner of the Jews; but behold, I, of myself, have dwelt at Jerusalem, wherefore I *know concerning the regions round about*; and I have made mention unto my children

concerning the judgments of God, which hath come to pass among the Jews, unto my children, according to all that which Isaiah hath spoken, and I do not write them."

- There are 106 *different* places mentioned in Isaiah.

4. Know the judgments of God. 2 Nephi 25:6 - "But behold, I, Nephi, have not taught my children after the manner of the Jews; but behold, I, of myself, have dwelt at Jerusalem, wherefore I know concerning the regions round about; and I have made mention unto my children *concerning the judgments of God*, which hath come to pass among the Jews, unto my children, according to all that which Isaiah hath spoken, and I do not write them."

- Judgments (Hebrew) Ordinances

5. Fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies in the Last Days. 2 Nephi 25:7 - "But behold, I proceed with mine own prophecy, according to my plainness; in the which I know that no man can err; *nevertheless, in the days that the prophecies of Isaiah shall be fulfilled men shall know of a surety, at the times when they shall come to pass.*"

- There are 1,135 *future* tense verbs used in Isaiah. In D&C Section 1, there are 21 footnotes that refer back to Isaiah.