

To Convince All the Ungodly

Prepared by
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To Convince All That Are Ungodly

...Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

(Jude 14,15)

To Convince All the Ungodly

John the Baptist's declaration

Luke 3

- 2 Now in this same year, the word of God came unto **John, the son of Zacharias**, in the wilderness.
- 3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
- 4 As it is written in the book of the prophet Esaias; and these are the words, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, **Prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight.**
- 5 For behold, and lo, he shall come, as it is written in the book of the prophets, to take away the sins of the world, and to bring salvation unto the heathen nations, to gather together those who are lost, who are of the sheepfold of Israel;

To Convince All the Ungodly

John the Baptist's declaration (cont'd)

Luke 3 (cont'd)

- 6 Yea, even the dispersed and afflicted; and also to prepare the way, and make possible the preaching of the gospel unto the Gentiles;
- 7 And to be a light unto all who sit in darkness, unto the uttermost parts of the earth; to bring to pass the resurrection from the dead, and to ascend up on high, to dwell on the right hand of the Father,
- 8 Until the fullness of time, and the law and the testimony shall be sealed, and the keys of the kingdom shall be delivered up again unto the Father;

To Convince All the Ungodly

John the Baptist's declaration (cont'd)

Luke 3 (cont'd)

- 9 To administer justice unto all; to come down in judgment upon all, and to convince all the ungodly of their ungodly deeds, which they have committed; and all this in the day that he shall come;
- 10 For it is a day of power; yea, every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;
- 11 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

That is quite an amazing day's work!

In this lesson we will focus on the word CONVINCE!

To Convince All the Ungodly

Jude

- 14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints,
- 15 To execute judgment upon all, and **to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.**

To Convince All the Ungodly

Questions to Ponder:

- Does the Restoration play a role in the Lord's work of convincing all the ungodly of their sins against Him?
- Do latter day revelations reference and/or constitute a part of the Lord's convincing work?
- Do restored scripture, namely the Book of Mormon, reference and/or constitute a part of this same convincing work?
- If so, how should we respond to the *convincing* message found in both restored (latter day) and revealed scripture?

To Convince All the Ungodly

(Revelation given to Oliver Cowdery April 5, 1829)

D&C 6:5

- a Behold, thou hast a gift, and blessed art thou because of thy gift.
- b Remember it is sacred and cometh from above: and if thou wilt inquire, thou shalt know mysteries which are great and marvelous;
- c therefore, thou shalt exercise thy gift, that thou mayest find out mysteries, that thou mayest **bring many to the knowledge of the truth; yea, convince them of the error of their ways.**

To Convince All the Ungodly

(Revelation given in June 1829 to Oliver Cowdery & David Whitmer)

D&C 16:7

- a And now, after that you have received this, you must keep my commandments in all things;
- b and by your hands I will work **a marvelous work among the children of men, unto the convincing of many of their sins**, that they may come unto repentance, and that they may come unto the kingdom of my Father;
- c wherefore, the blessings which I give unto you are above all things.
- d And after that you have received this, if you keep not my commandments, you can not be saved in the kingdom of my Father.
- e Behold I, Jesus Christ, your Lord and your God, and your Redeemer, by the power of my Spirit, have spoken it. Amen.

To Convince All the Ungodly

(Revelation given August 1832 to John Murdock)

- a And, behold, and lo, I come quickly to judgment, **to convince all of their ungodly deeds which they have committed against me**, as it is written of me in the volume of the book.

To Convince All the Ungodly

Luke 3

Returning to the text from Luke:

... to **convince** all the ungodly of their ungodly deeds, which they have committed... (vs. 9)

Remember, this was the testimony of John the Baptist who was sent to *prepare the way of the Lord*. Note that this same commission is the theme of D&C 65!

To Convince All the Ungodly

D&C 65:1

- a Hearken, and lo, a voice as of one sent down from on high, who is mighty and powerful, whose going forth is unto the ends of the earth; yea, whose voice is unto men, **Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.**
- b The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth;
- c yea, a voice crying, **Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the supper of the Lamb, make ready for the Bridegroom;**

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D&C 65:1 (cont'd)

- d pray unto the Lord; call upon his holy name; make known his wonderful works among the people, call upon the Lord, that his kingdom may go forth upon the earth;
- e that the inhabitants thereof may receive it, and be prepared for the days to come, in the which the Son of man shall come down in heaven, clothed in the brightness of his glory, to meet the kingdom of God which is set up on the earth;
- f wherefore, may the kingdom of God go forth, that the kingdom of heaven may come, that thou, O God, may be glorified in heaven, so on earth, that thy enemies may be subdued; for thine is the honor, power, and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

To Convince All the Ungodly

Question: How important is the Book of Mormon and the latter day revelations to the work of the Lord in these latter days, specifically His work of *convincing all the ungodly* of the sins they have committed against Him?

Consider D&C 83:8

To Convince All the Ungodly

D&C 83:8

Consider a “convincing” lesson from the D&C

- a And your minds in times past have been **darkened** because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under **condemnation**.
- b And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this **condemnation** until they **repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments** which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written,
- c that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom, otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay.

It is vital that we are CONVINCED of the importance of the Book of Mormon and the “former Commandments!”

To Convince All the Ungodly

Consider another “convincing” lesson

D&C 3

16 Behold, this is my doctrine: Whosoever repenteth and **cometh unto me**, the same is my church.

Ether 5

27 ... and if men **come unto me**, I will shew unto them their weakness.

28 I give unto men weakness, that they may be humble; and 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 become strong unto them.

29 Behold, **I will shew unto the Gentiles their weakness**, and I will shew unto them that faith, hope, and charity, bringeth unto me the fountain of all righteousness.

To Convince All the Ungodly

- The above brief review has shown that there is a direct reference to the “convincing” work of Christ in the commandments of latter day revelation
- Next consider references to this important work in the Book of Mormon

To Convince All the Ungodly

The Book of Mormon includes accounts of how different groups of Lehi's posterity were convinced:

- Of the power & authority of God (Mosiah 11:167, Alma 9:10, 29:55, etc.)
- Of the iniquity and baseness of the traditions of the Lamanites (Mosiah 12:2 & Alma 12:15,16 with Alma 13:22, 14:5,31, 17:37,38, Helaman 2:81,115,116, etc.)
- That the Nephites and Lamanites were indeed all brethren (Alma 14:6)
- Of how the wicked were turned away from following an antichrist (Alma 16:74)
- Concerning a proper understanding of the Law of Moses (III Nephi 1:30 with II Nephi 11:40-59)

To Convince All the Ungodly

But The Book of Mormon also includes several statements about the convincing message of Jesus Christ to our day:

- The Bible is true (I Nephi 3:190,191)
- We are free to choose eternal life or eternal death (I Nephi 3:210-216)
- To the Jews, Jesus Christ is the true Messiah (II Nephi 3:27-32)
- To the Gentiles, Jesus Christ is the very Eternal Father of heaven and earth (II Nephi 3:78,79)

To Convince All the Ungodly

The Book of Mormon includes several statements about the convincing message of Jesus Christ

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To Convince All the Ungodly

I Nephi 3

190 And 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;

191 And 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.**

To Convince All the Ungodly

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To Convince All the Ungodly

I Nephi 3

- 210 And it came to pass that **the angel spake unto me, Nephi**, saying, Thou hast beheld that if the **Gentiles repent, it shall be well with them**;
- 211 And **thou also knowest concerning the covenants of the Lord** unto the house of Israel;
- 212 And thou also hast heard, **that whoso repenteth not, must perish**;
- 213 Therefore, wo, be unto the Gentiles, if it so be that they harden their hearts against the Lamb of God;

To Convince All the Ungodly

I Nephi 3

214 For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work **a great and a marvelous work** among the children of men;

215 A work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other;

216 Either **to the convincing of them** unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds, unto their being brought down into captivity and also unto destruction, both temporally and spiritually, according to the captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken.

To Convince All the Ungodly

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To Convince All the Ungodly

II Nephi 11

- 27 And when that day shall come, that they shall believe in Christ, and worship the Father in his name, with pure hearts, and clean hands, and look not forward anymore for another Messiah, then, at that time, the day will come that it must needs be expedient that they should believe these things,
- 28 And the Lord will set his hand again the second time to restore his people from their lost and fallen state.

To Convince All the Ungodly

II Nephi 11

- 29 Wherefore, he will proceed to do **a marvelous work, and a wonder** among the children of men.
- 30 Wherefore, he shall bring forth his words unto them, which words shall judge them at the last day;
- 31 For they shall be given them **for the purpose of convincing them of the true Messiah**, who was rejected by them;
- 32 And **unto the convincing of them** that they need not look forward anymore for a Messiah to come,

To Convince All the Ungodly

The Book of Mormon includes several statements about the convincing message of Jesus Christ

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- To the Jews, Jesus Christ is the true Messiah (II Nephi 3:27-32)
- **To the Gentiles, Jesus Christ is the very Eternal Father of heaven and earth (II Nephi 3:78,79)**

To Convince All the Ungodly

II Nephi 11

- 78 And as I spake concerning the convincing of the Jews, that Jesus is the very Christ, it must needs be that the Gentiles be convinced also, that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God; and that he manifesteth himself unto all those who believe in him, by the power of the Holy Ghost;
- 79 Yea, unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, working mighty miracles, signs and wonders, among the children of men, according to their faith.

To Convince All the Ungodly

- Are these convincing truths relevant to us?
- How have they influenced or impacted our lives?
- How should they influence or impact our lives?

To Convince All the Ungodly

II Nephi 11

- 80 But behold, **I prophesy unto you concerning the last days**; concerning the days when the Lord God shall bring these things forth unto the children of men.
- 81 After my seed, and the seed of my brethren shall have dwindled in unbelief, and shall have been smitten by the Gentiles...

Please Note: "The Last Days," occurs when the Lord brings forth the records of the Book of Mormon. These things occur in our day! And, therefore, will impact our lives one way or another!

To Convince All the Ungodly

- Consider two examples of our Lord's convincing ministry found in the Book of Mormon record.
 - the king of the Lamanites (Alma 14:1-30)
 - part of the Lamanites (Helaman 2:110-116)
- It evidences the pattern for the *convincing* ministry the Lord will perform in our day.

To Convince All the Ungodly

Alma 14

- 1 Behold, now it came to pass that the king of the Lamanites sent a proclamation among all his people, that they should not lay their hands on Ammon, or Aaron, or Omner, or Himni, nor neither of their brethren who should go forth preaching the word of God, in whatsoever place they should be, in any part of their land...
- 4 And thus they might go forth and preach the word according to their desires, for the king had been converted unto the Lord, and all his household:

To Convince All the Ungodly

Alma 14 (cont'd)

- 5 Therefore he sent this proclamation throughout the land unto his people, that the word of God might have no obstruction, but that it might go forth throughout all the land, **that his people might be convinced** concerning the wicked traditions of their fathers,
- 6 And **that they might be convinced** that they were all brethren, and that they ought not to murder, nor to plunder, nor to steal, nor to commit adultery, nor to commit any manner of wickedness.

To Convince All the Ungodly

Alma 14 (cont'd)

- 29 Now these are the words which he said unto the people concerning the matter: I thank my God, my beloved people, that our great God has in goodness sent these our brethren, the Nephites, unto us to preach unto us, **and to convince us of the traditions of our wicked fathers.**
- 30 And behold, I thank my great God that he has given us a portion of his Spirit to soften our hearts, that we have opened a correspondence with these brethren, the Nephites;

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Helaman 2

110 And Nephi and Lehi were in the midst of them; yea, they were encircled about; yea, they were as if in the midst of a flaming fire, yet it did harm them not, neither did it take hold upon the walls of the prison; and they were filled with that joy which is unspeakable and full of glory.

To Convince All the Ungodly

111 And behold the Holy Spirit of God did come down from heaven, and did enter into their hearts, and they were filled as if with fire; and they could speak forth marvelous words.

112 And it came to pass that there came a voice unto them, yea, a pleasant voice, as if it were a whisper, saying, Peace, peace be unto you, because of your faith in my well beloved, who was from the foundation of the world.

To Convince All the Ungodly

113 And now when they heard this, they cast up their eyes as if to behold from whence the voice came; and behold, they saw the heavens open: and angels came down out of heaven, and ministered unto them.

114 And there were about three hundred souls who saw and heard these things; and they were bid to go forth and marvel not, neither should they doubt.

To Convince All the Ungodly

- 115 And it came to pass that they did go forth, and did minister unto the people, declaring throughout all the regions round about, all the things which they had heard and seen, **insomuch that the more part of the Lamanites were convinced of them, *because of the greatness of the evidences which they had received,***
- 116 And as many as were convinced, did lay down their weapons of war, and also their hatred, and the tradition of their fathers.

To Convince All the Ungodly

How about us?

Are we convinced that:

- 1. The Lamb's Book is true (I Nephi 3:190,191)**
- 2. We are free to choose eternal life or eternal death (I Nephi 3:210-216)**
- 3. Jesus Christ is the true Messiah (II Nephi 3:27-32)**
- 4. Jesus Christ is the very Eternal Father of heaven and earth (II Nephi 3:78,79)**

To Convince All the Ungodly

Ether 5

29 Behold, I will shew unto the Gentiles *[convince them of]* their weakness , and I will shew unto them that faith, hope, and charity, bringeth unto me the fountain of all righteousness.

To Convince All the Ungodly

Alma 3:46-60

Mosiah 8:72-76

Ether 5:29

Pride



Carnal

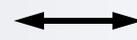


Antidote is Faith

Envy



Sensual

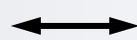


Antidote is Hope

Mocking



Devilish



Antidote is Charity

To Convince All the Ungodly

Alma 3

- 46 And now behold, I say unto you my brethren, If ye have experienced a change of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, Can ye feel so now?
- 47 Have ye walked, keeping yourselves blameless before God?
- 48 Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble?
- 49 That your garments have been cleansed and made white, through the blood of Christ, who will come to redeem his people from their sins?

To Convince All the Ungodly

Alma 3 (cont'd)

- 50 Behold, are ye **stripped of pride**? I say unto you, If ye are not, ye are not prepared to meet God.
- 51 Behold ye must prepare quickly, for the kingdom of heaven is soon at hand, and such an one hath not eternal life.
- 52 Behold, I say, Is there one among you who is not **stripped of envy**?
- 53 I say unto you, that such an one is not prepared, and I would that he should prepare quickly, for the hour is close at hand, and he knoweth not when the time shall come; for such an one is not found guiltless.

To Convince All the Ungodly

Alma 3 (cont'd)

- 54 And again I say unto you, Is there one among you that doth make a **mock** of **his brother**, or that heapeth upon him persecutions?
- 55 Wo unto such an one, for he is not prepared, and the time is at hand that he must repent, or he can not be saved;
- 56 Yea, even wo unto all ye workers of iniquity; repent, repent, for the Lord God hath spoken it.
- 57 Behold, he sendeth an invitation unto all men; for the arms of mercy are extended towards them, and he saith, Repent, and I will receive you;

To Convince All the Ungodly

Alma 3 (cont'd)

- 58 Yea, he saith, Come unto me and ye shall partake of the fruit of the tree of life; yea, ye shall eat and drink of the bread and the waters of life freely;
- 59 Yea, come unto me and bring forth works of righteousness, and ye shall not be hewn down and cast into the fire;
- 60 **For behold, the time is at hand that whosoever bringeth forth not good fruit, or whosoever doeth not the works of righteousness, the same have cause to wail and mourn.**

To Convince All the Ungodly

- Have we been stripped of pride such that we now live by faith?
 - If not, we are not prepared to meet God.
 - Jesus is the one who must prepare us to meet God. If we could prepare ourselves, we would not need Him.
 - Therefore, it is Jesus' work to strip us of pride. He must humble us by handing us our cross and leading us out of sin.

To Convince All the Ungodly

- Have we been stripped of envy such that we now live by a saving hope? (Romans 8:24,25)
 - Do we now have the hope to be like Jesus? If we do, we purify ourselves and thus become citizens of His kingdom (I John 3:1-3 & Moroni 7:53 with D&C 94:5c)
 - Do we have the assurance of this hope that we please God? (cf. Hebrews 11:1)

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- Do we no longer mock or accuse others such that we now live by charity?
 - Have we been born again by the incorruptible seed, the Word of God, such that we now love each other even as Jesus has loved us? (I Peter 1:22,23)
 - If so, let us now love fervently with the pure love of Christ, charity. (I Peter 1:22,23 with Moroni 7:49-53)

To Convince All the Ungodly

Have we been convinced that
Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God?

- 78 And as I spake concerning the convincing of the Jews, that Jesus is the very Christ, it must needs be that the Gentiles be convinced also, that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God; and that he manifesteth himself unto all those who believe in him, by the power of the Holy Ghost;
- 79 Yea, unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, working mighty miracles, signs and wonders, among the children of men, according to their faith.

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II Nephi 8

- 13 For if there be no Christ, there be no God; and if there be no God, we are not, for there could have been no creation.
- 14 But **there is a God, and he is Christ**; and he cometh in the fullness of his own time.

To Convince All the Ungodly

**Have we been convinced of our weakness
and eternal and everlasting need for Jesus Christ?**

Ether 5:29 – Behold, I will shew unto the Gentiles their weakness, and I will shew unto them that faith, hope, and charity, bringeth unto me the fountain of all righteousness.

**Have we been convinced of our sins,
our errant traditions and false doctrines;
of all our ungodly deeds which we have committed
against the Lord?**

To Convince All the Ungodly

Alma 3

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- 51 **Behold ye must prepare quickly, for the kingdom of heaven is soon at hand, and such an one hath not eternal life.**
- 52 Behold, I say, Is there one among you who is not stripped of envy?
- 53 I say unto you, that such an one is not prepared, and I would that **he should prepare quickly, for the hour is close at hand, and he knoweth not when the time shall come; for such an one is not found guiltless.**

To Convince All the Ungodly

Romans 11

- 21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.
- 22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God; on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, **if thou continue in his goodness;** otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.
- 23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in; for God is able to graft them again.

To Convince All the Ungodly

- 24 For if thou wast cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wast grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree; how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?
- 25 For **I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant** of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

To Convince All the Ungodly

Romans 11 (cont'd)

- 26 And then all Israel shall be saved; as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob;
- 27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.
- 28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes; but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.
- 29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.
- 30 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief;
- 31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.

To Convince All the Ungodly

- 32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.
- 33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!
- 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?
- 35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?
- 36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things; to whom be glory forever. Amen.

But this is not where Paul's words end on this subject. We must continue reading on into the 12th chapter to understand the full context of his message.

To Convince All the Ungodly

Romans 12

- 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
- 2 And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God is.
- 3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly that he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Are we sufficiently convinced to go forth according to the great commission to share the convincing word of God?

To Convince All the Ungodly

Alma 14

102 And now behold, my brethren, what natural man is there, that knoweth these things? I say unto you, there is none that knoweth these things, save it be the penitent;

103 Yea, he that repenteth and exerciseth faith, and bringeth forth good works, and prayeth continually without ceasing: unto such it is given to know the mysteries of God; yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things which never have been revealed;

104 Yea, and it shall be given unto such, to bring thousands of souls to repentance, even as it has been given unto us to bring these our brethren to repentance.

**With such a great promise,
Let us go forth in the strength and purpose of our Lord!**