

Five Keys to Understanding Isaiah

Key Scripture 2 Nephi 25

Explanation To his faithful followers in the Americas, the Lord gave a commandment to “search these things diligently; for great are the words of Isaiah” (3 Nephi 23:1). That commandment implies that understanding the gospel of Jesus Christ and the words of Isaiah go hand in hand. Unfortunately, many find the writings of Isaiah hard to understand. Nephi may have been aware of this difficulty, for he addresses his latter-day audience specifically in 2 Nephi 25, giving us five keys to help facilitate comprehension of Isaiah’s words. These keys include being filled with the spirit of prophecy, living righteously in the last days, and understanding the geography and rhetorical tradition of the Jews.

Source Donald W. Parry, “Nephi’s Keys to Understanding Isaiah (2 Nephi 25:1–8),” in *Isaiah in the Book of Mormon*, ed. Donald W. Parry and John W. Welch (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1998), 47–65.

Five Keys to Understanding Isaiah

Given in 2 Nephi 25

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| 1 | Understand the “manner of prophesying among the Jews” | 25:1 |
| 2 | Do not do “works of darkness” or “doings of abominations” | 25:2 |
| 3 | Be filled with the spirit of prophecy | 25:4 |
| 4 | Be familiar with regions around Jerusalem | 25:6 |
| 5 | Live during the days that the prophecies of Isaiah are fulfilled | 25:7 |