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Moroni's Farewell

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Moroni's Farewell

In his final chapter, Moroni wrote to us:

3 Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts (Moroni 10:3).

One wonders if this is simply saying that we should remember how kind God has always been, or if Moroni's reference to "the creation of Adam" is a quiet reminder of the ancient Israelite temple drama theme that has permeated his father's writings.

In his final testimony, Moroni reflects, "I declare these things unto the fulfilling of the prophecies"—not that the prophecies will be fulfilled, but that his declaration is fulfilling them. Just as prophets speak by the power of God, but are not confined to speaking projections into the future, so prophecies are words of the prophets spoken by the power of God, but not limited to being about the future.⁹⁴² If one removes the projection into the future of Moroni's word, "prophecies," then the whole passage reads differently. It becomes a review of the sequence of the ancient temple drama.

28 I declare these things unto the fulfilling of the prophecies. And behold, they shall proceed forth out of the mouth of the everlasting God; [God is speaking, so we are listening] and his word shall hiss [whisper⁹⁴³] forth from generation to generation. [It will always be the same.]

29 And God shall show unto you [God is showing, so we are watching], that that which I have written is true.

30 And again I would exhort you that ye would come unto Christ [in the Feast of Tabernacles temple drama, that happened after the coronation ceremony], and lay hold upon every good gift [one does that with one's hand], and touch not the evil

⁹⁴² See 2 Nephi 25 for Nephi's discussion of prophets and prophecies.

⁹⁴³ "Whisper" is the dictionary's synonym for "hiss." The connotation seems to be that it is spoken in a whisper, as is a secret or a mystery.

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gift, nor the unclean thing. [There will always be counterfeits, and they must be left alone.]

31 And awake, and arise from the dust, O Jerusalem; yea, and put on thy beautiful garments, O daughter of Zion; and strengthen thy stakes and enlarge thy borders forever, that thou mayest no more be confounded, that the covenants of the Eternal Father which he hath made unto thee, O house of Israel, may be fulfilled (Moroni 10:28-31).

This is a paraphrase of Isaiah, so it comes from his culture rather than from Moroni's. In the Near Eastern desert, when a man married, he gave his wife a tent, just large enough for the two of them. It was then hers, and she was responsible for it. As her family grew, she made additional flaps for the tent, and added more stakes to secure it. Thus, Moroni's statement may be a reference to family homes—eternal families—“forever”—rather than being about future church units of wards and stakes. The Isaiah passage that Moroni paraphrased is also about God's promise of eternal families. It reads:

2 Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes (Isaiah 54:2).

“Thine habitations” are homes. The tents are the places where families dwell. Moroni continues:

and strengthen thy stakes and enlarge thy borders forever, that thou mayest no more be confounded, that the covenants of the Eternal Father which he hath made unto thee, O house of Israel, may be fulfilled (Moroni 10:31b).

If those words are about the ancient Nephite temple experience, then Moroni's last words are about what one did after one left the ancient temple:

32 Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God.

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33 And again, if ye by the grace of God are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy, without spot (Moroni 10:32-33).

Then, as though to give evidence that what he had recommended was well within the realm of possibility, he concluded with his own testimony:

34 And now I bid unto all, farewell. I soon go to rest in the paradise of God, until my spirit and body shall again reunite, and I am brought forth triumphant through the air, to meet you before the pleasing bar of the great Jehovah, the Eternal Judge of both quick and dead. Amen (Moroni 10:34).