"Seek, and Ye Shall Find"

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**Abstract:** This article shows that the Book of Mormon is a missionary tool that teaches the true character of Jesus Christ. The proper approach to obtaining a testimony of the Book of Mormon is outlined.
Perhaps paramount to his accomplishments was that "through the gift and power of God and the Urim and Thummim" he translated the Book of Mormon into modern English from an ancient unknown language called Reformed Egyptian.

It is of significance to remember that Jesus Christ restored his true gospel and Church on the earth again through the Prophet Joseph Smith. The Lord proclaimed that the gospel and Church would never be taken from the earth again nor given to another people. Because of this divine restoration, the Prophet Joseph was murdered when he was 38 years of age. Thus, he sealed his testimony of that divine restoration with his blood, giving his life for the Savior and his Church, as many of the ancient prophets had done.

The following important statement appears in modern scripture:

"Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus himself, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it. . ." (D&C 135:3)

I bear my testimony that the Prophet Joseph Smith is one of the greatest (if not the greatest) of the prophets, seers, and revelators that the world has known. A study and evaluation of the prophecies he made, the visions and revelations he had, the scriptures he produced, and his numerous mighty works and marvelous accomplishments force this conclusion upon the honest investigator. Joseph Smith shall stand always as superior among God's elect—the noble and great ones whom he selected to be his rulers. Joseph was indeed a prophet, seer, and revelator "great like unto Moses."

In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

“Seek, and Ye Shall Find”

Bernard P. Brockbank

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve

Brothers and sisters, I have had the great honor and privilege of spending the better part of the past nine years in the mission field. Many choice blessings have resulted from this experience. I have had the privilege of meeting and visiting with thousands of religious people from all parts of the world as they visited our Church pavilions at the New York World's Fair and at the Texas World's Fair [HemisFair].

I asked many of these visitors if they believed that they were literally in the image and likeness of God, and almost everyone answered "Yes."

I would like to mention one fine, clean student who visited the pavilion in Texas. He believed in a trinity of God the Eternal Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, that they were all one and the same God, and that they were incomprehensible. I asked him if he believed that Jesus Christ was ever a separate personage from God the Father. He said that he believed they are one and the same God. He asked about our exhibit of the painting that showed the Prophet Joseph Smith in the Sacred Grove, when he claimed that God the Eternal Father and his Son Jesus Christ visited him in the grove. We talked about the vision of Joseph Smith and the personal appearance of the Father and the Son. We read what Joseph Smith said about this marvelous vision.

Joseph Smith said, "I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun. . . . When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!" (Joseph Smith 2:16-17).

We further discussed the profound importance of this divine vision to again witness to all men that the trinity composing the Godhead are separate personages, that they have tangible, personal bodies, and that all mankind is literally in the image and likeness of God. We discussed a number of scriptures showing the appearance of God to Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and all of the ancient prophets. We also talked about the personal life and body of Jesus Christ before and after his death, and about his personal, resurrected body.

He then asked about the Book of Mormon and its purpose and value as a record of scripture. I had him read the following two statements on the first page of the Book of Mormon: "The Book of Mormon . . . is to show unto the remnant of the House of Israel what great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever—And also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations."

He desired to obtain a copy of the Book of Mormon. He was asked to read the book and to pray about it, and we read the following very important promise from the prophet Moroni, who said, "And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true, and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost." (Mor. 10:4)

He said that he would read the book and pray about it.

I met with him again in a few days.
He said, “I have read part of the Book of Mormon and I have prayed about it, but I did not feel that my prayers were answered as promised by the prophet Moroni.”

I mentioned that I had received an answer to my prayers when I asked to know about the Book of Mormon and its value and its origin and its divine purpose. I wonder why God would answer my prayers regarding the divinity of the Book of Mormon and not answer your prayers. I wonder if you prayed to the same God that I prayed to.

You know, there are many religions in this world today and many and varied concepts of God.

Some worship gods of nature. Some worship the sun and other parts of the universe. Some even worship apples and the pleasure of this earth.

Some worship an uncreated and in-comprehensible trinity of gods. Others worship a god without body, parts, or passions.

The Hindus worship and pray to the god of their belief. The Mohammedans worship and pray to the god of their belief.

If we desire to be Christians and followers of Jesus Christ, we must accept his example, his teachings, and his doctrines.

We must pray to the same God that Jesus Christ prayed to. Many of the gods that are worshiped are from the intellect and minds of men. Through the prophet Jeremiah the Lord said, “Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods?” (Jer. 16:20.)

The apostle Paul said, “...when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.” (Gal. 4:8.) Man-made gods are no gods.

Jesus Christ said, “... this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:3.)

Jesus said to know the only true God and Jesus Christ—not only to know the only true God, but also to know Jesus Christ, whom God has sent.

Then I said to the boy, “Do you remember telling me that you believed that God the Eternal Father and Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost were all one and the same with no separation, and that they were not personal beings, and that believe that you were literally created in the image and likeness of God?”

He remembered.

If you pray to three gods in one god, that is not the same as praying to God the Eternal Father through Jesus Christ. To pray to a god that you are in the image and likeness of is different from praying to an incomp-rehensible three gods in one god.

When you believe that Jesus Christ and God the Eternal Father are one and the same god, you are unable to properly use Jesus Christ as your mediator between you and your Heavenly Father.

Remember the vision of Joseph Smith wherein God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ appeared with separate, personal, glorified bodies. The mediator between you and your Heavenly Father is Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6.)

The apostle Peter said, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12.)

We again read and analyzed the promise made by the prophet Moroni and what one needs to do to receive the divine answer to prayer. In order to receive an answer you must closely follow the prophet Moroni’s counsel. The steps are very important and help to prepare the one praying to receive the witness from his Heavenly Father. The steps are as follows:

Ask God the Eternal Father.

Ask in the name of Jesus Christ.

(Jesus is the mediator.)

Ask the Eternal Father if the teachings in the Book of Mormon are true.

Ask with a sincere heart.

Ask with real intent, with sincere desire to know, having faith in Christ.

Thank you in advance that if you ask the Eternal Father in the name of Jesus Christ, with a sincere heart, with real intent, with faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth unto you by the power of the Holy Ghost.

All three members of the Godhead are separately and individually involved to give this great promise and answer to prayer.

The young man said that he would prepare himself to again ask God in prayer. When we met again he said he had received his answer.

Again I repeat, it is very important that we know the only true God and his Son Jesus Christ. We should all remember the great goal as given by Jesus Christ, who said: “... this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

Brethren and sisters, our great assignment to God’s children, to every nation, individual, tongue, and people, is to teach them about the true and living God, about God the Eternal Father, and about his Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Redeemer.

One of the best ways for every member of this Church to be a missionary and to do as our Prophet David O. McKay has asked is to have a copy or
copies of the Book of Mormon in the
homes of your nonmember friends and
neighbors.

Encourage them to read the Book of
Mormon and to pray about it. You
should read to them the great God-
inspired promise by the prophet Mor-
oni of how they can receive the witness
to the Book of Mormon, and to know
of its divine purpose. Be sure they
follow the steps given in the promise.
This promise needs the testimony and
the help of one who has received the
witness and the answer promised by
the prophet. The Lord said that every-
one that asks receives. Everyone that
seeks shall find, and to everyone that
knocks, it shall be opened unto him.
(See Matt. 7:7-8.)

Brothers and sisters, the world is
hungry and looking for a new witness.
They need the testimony and they
need the strength and they need the
counsel of one who has the testimony
and the witness. The Lord is at the
helm in this great program. It’s the
Lord’s work to bring to pass the im-
ortality and eternal life of man,
but the Lord has placed much of the
responsibility of teaching and helping
his children upon those who have re-
ceived the witness.

The Lord gives a great promise: “I, the
Lord, am bound when ye do what I
say; but when ye do not what I say,
ye have no promise.” (D&C 82:10.)

May we help our Father’s children
to receive the commitments of the Lord
by complying and being obedient to
his great plan and his teachings, I
humbly pray in the name of Jesus
Christ. Amen.

The World Needs Healing

Eldred G. Smith

Patriarch to the Church

There should be no doubt in the
minds of any of us that the world
is not well. It is not dying yet, but it
is sick. It does not have an incurable
disease, for we have a good physician.
The world just needs healing.

This is not new in the world. There
have been problems and crises off and
on from the very beginning of mor-
tality. The scriptures are replete with
references concerning similar condi-
tions. The Lord has, from the very
beginning, given man warnings and
promises. Should the scriptures fall
open at almost any place, they would
very likely reveal the remedy for all
problems, even present-day conditions.

Adam and Eve were admonished to
revert and be obedient to God’s com-
mand. Yet, by the time of Noah the
world was so sick, God had to destroy
all except Noah and those with him.

Then in the latter part of Israel’s
wanderings in the wilderness, Moses,
having been told he was not to see the
promised land, declared to all
Israel the following warning and
promise.

“But if from thence thou shalt seek
the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him,
if thou seek him with all thy heart and
with all thy soul.

“When thou art in tribulation, and
all these things are come upon thee,
even in the latter days”—Are these not
the latter days? Are we not Israel?
Then he is talking to us; yes, to us
here in 1968—“if thou turn to the Lord
thy God, and shall be obedient unto
his voice;”—Does not the voice of
the Lord come to us from his Prophet?

“For the Lord thy God is a merci-
ful God; he will not forsake thee,
neither destroy thee, nor forget the
covenant of thy fathers which he spake
unto them.” (Deut. 4:20-31.)

Open the scriptures to another his-
torical occasion: the dedicatory services
of Solomon’s temple.

This was a great sacrificial ordinance.
Solomon offered a sacrifice of 2,000
oxen and 12,000 sheep. This was a
seven-day dedicatory service. Then
the Lord answered Solomon’s prayer. Note
here the application to our time:

The Lord said to Solomon:

“If my people, which are called by
my name [Are these not the members
of the Church of Jesus Christ?], shall
humble themselves, and pray, and seek
my face, and turn from their wicked
ways; then will I hear from heaven,
and will forgive their sin, and will heal
their land.” (2 Chron. 7:14.)

Is there any doubt that our land
needs healing? Christ in Jerusalem,
seeking the lost sheep and the lost
shepherd, said:

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that
killseth the prophets, and stonest them
which are sent unto thee, how often
would I have gathered thy children
together, even as a hen gathereth her
chickens under her wings, and ye
would not!” (Matt. 23:37.)

Turn to the Book of Mormon. This
is a record of continual ups and downs
of the people. With righteousness,
there was peace and prosperity. When
they became wicked and sinful, there
was war, destruction, famine.

Following the great destruction of
the more wicked on this hemisphere
at the time of the crucifixion of Christ,
the voice of the Lord was heard to
declare:

“Yea, verily I say unto you, if ye will
come unto me ye shall have eternal
life. Behold, mine arm of mercy is
extended towards you, and whosoever
will come, him will I receive; and
blessed are those who come unto me.

“Behold, I have come unto the world
to bring redemption unto the world,
to save the world from sin.

“Therefore, whoso repenteth and
cometh unto me as a little child, him
will I receive, for of such is the king-
dom of God. Behold, for such I have
laid down my life, and have taken it
up again; therefore repent, and come
unto me ye ends of the earth, and he
saved.” (3 Ne. 9:14, 21-22.)

“. . . how oft will I gather you as a
hen gathereth her chickens under her
wings, if ye will repent and return
unto me with full purpose of heart.”
(3 Ne. 10:6.)

Here the Lord says, “Ye ends of
the earth.” Does that not mean us? This
was not just to those who heard his
voice. For this purpose it was recorded
and preserved down through the cen-
turies and brought forth by the instru-
mentality of God through his servant,
the Prophet Joseph Smith, for us of
this day. The promise here is only to
those who repent and do his will,—yes,
the promise of eternal life. This means
exaltation. He will save the world in
that all will be resurrected, but only
those who come unto him and do his
will shall receive eternal life.

Do you believe this? I believe it! I
know it, just as I know that God lives,
and that Jesus is the Christ, the Son
of the living God. I know that his
kingdom has been restored to earth
in these the latter days through the
Prophet Joseph Smith.

If we will heed the word of the Lord
through his servant and Prophet today,
President David O. McKay, the Lord
shall heal our land; he shall give us
eternal life. I so testify in the name of
Jesus Christ. Amen.