



Type: Magazine Article

---

## Modern Fulfillment of a Book of Mormon Prophecy

Author(s): Roy W. Doxey

Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 53, No. 11 (November 1950)

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Page(s):879–880, 924

---

**Abstract:** This article discusses a prophecy made by Nephi (2 Nephi 30:3), which states that many Gentiles of the last days will believe the words of the Book of Mormon. The author believes that the great numbers of persons who read and accept the Book of Mormon in this era demonstrate eloquent fulfillment of this prophecy.

# MODERN FULFILMENT OF A BOOK OF MORMON PROPHECY

By Roy W. Doxey

MEMBER, Y.M.M.I.A. GENERAL BOARD  
FORMER PRESIDENT, EASTERN STATES MISSION

IT WOULD be safe to say that every day a non-Latter-day Saint verifies the truth of the Book of Mormon. Latter-day Saint missionaries are witnesses to this fact.

Considerable evidence, internal and external, has been brought to the attention of the world during the past 120 years to substantiate the Book of Mormon. This is important because, among many other things, it bears witness to the truth that there is a life beyond the grave and that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God.

The real test of the book's authenticity to the individual is generally known to all Latter-day Saints. It is the promise of Moroni, who as a prophet-historian of the Nephite nation, predicted that all who should read these sacred scriptures with a sincere heart and pray to know of their truth, would receive an answer to their petition by the power of the Holy Ghost. (Moroni 10:4-5.) But it is not generally known by the membership of the Church that another Nephite prophet centuries before Moroni's time made a prophetic utterance probably just as remarkable and which also confirms the truth of the book. It is this prophecy which is having its daily fulfillment.

Given approximately 550 years before Christ, this prophecy not only includes those who have a knowledge based upon spirit testifying to spirit, but it also embraces another group, those who will believe but who do not necessarily know by the testimony of the Holy Ghost. The Prophet Nephi spoke of the future Book of Mormon in these words:

And now, I would prophesy somewhat more concerning the Jews and the Gentiles. For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written. (II Nephi 30:3.)

NOVEMBER 1950



Considerable evidence, internal and external, has been brought to the attention of the world during the past 120 years to substantiate the Book of Mormon.

The above is a drawing of the Toltec goddess which stood near the Pyramid of the Moon of Teotihuacan, Mexico.

The casual reader might think it of little significance that a man living centuries before the publication of a record should know that his words and those of other prophets would be accepted by many people living in a subsequent era. Such a prediction, however, is not commonplace in the annals of literature, and surely it is not so in sacred literature, either Christian or non-Christian. Is this bold statement made in any one of the books comprising the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments? One would look in vain for such a prophecy there. The nearest approach to such a prediction is in the Koran, the sacred writings of the Mohammedans, and yet very dissimilar in letter and spirit are the numerous statements of condemnation against the unbeliever. It is believed that the Book of Mormon is unique

among the professing books of scripture in this regard. One of its most important characters declares that after the Book of Mormon would be revealed to the world "there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written" in that book. Who are those who have believed or who do believe the Book of Mormon? The following answer to this question was suggested by the late President B. H. Roberts of the First Council of the Seventy:

1. The membership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, both living and dead.
  2. Those who accepted it and afterwards by transgression departed from the Church, but who in the majority of cases continued to assert their faith in the truth of the Book of Mormon.
  3. The people in the many nations into whose language the Book of Mormon
- (Continued on following page)

## MODERN FULFILMENT OF A BOOK OF MORMON PROPHECY

(Continued from preceding page)

has been translated. (Nineteen languages to date and five unpublished.)

4. Those who have believed in the Book of Mormon but who have not accepted baptism in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints because of a lack of courage to make the sacrifices involved in a public profession of their faith. (See John A. Widtsoe and Franklin S. Harris, Jr., *Seven Claims of The Book of Mormon*, p. 166.)

Although one could estimate the number who have received membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, about two million living and dead, it would be virtually impossible to make an estimate of the "many" who believe the Book of Mormon but who have not accepted all of the gospel. It is believed by the writer that the number would doubtless be great, even many more than the number converted in the missions in this dispensation.

A full realization of the everyday fulfilment of Nephi's prophecy came to the attention of the writer while reading letters reporting on the weekly activities of the missionaries laboring in the Eastern States Mission. During one month toward the close of the year 1947, the following unsolicited brief reports from missionaries laboring in the cities of the East, mentioned at the close of each report, were received. These missionaries were not aware that they, together with thousands of other missionaries of the then forty-two missions of the Church, were witnesses of the fulfilment of Nephi's predictions concerning the acceptance of the Book of Mormon in the day when it would be revealed to the world:

A retired railroad engineer has practically finished reading the Book of Mormon we lent him two weeks ago. He purchased it and gave us enough money to buy two more copies of the Book of Mormon to give to others who are interested so that they could enjoy the book as he has.

He believes it's true and knows it so well that he gave us a book review on it the day we returned to see how he was coming along with his reading. This was very encouraging to us and indicated how powerful the Book of Mormon is because of its truth and the evidences for it. (New Castle, Pa.)

This week found my companion and me visiting those people to whom we had lent the Book of Mormon, and we were 880

very much impressed with their attitude toward this wonderful book. One lady told us she knew no man uninspired could write such a book, another expressed how the Book of Mormon cleared up many points that were not clear to her from reading the Holy Bible. (Waynesburg, Pa.)

An investigator made the statement that "it just stands to reason that the Book of Mormon is true." (Warren, Pa.)

One of our investigators said yesterday that he believes that more people will be converted to Christ through the Book of Mormon than through the Bible. A friend of his wants to come with him when he comes to visit our branch. Our investigator's minister is afraid we are going to make a Mormon out of him yet. (Harrisburg, Pa.)

An investigator has been reading the Book of Mormon and has borne to us his testimony of the promise of Moroni and that that is what he is seeking. He has been a very good student of the Bible in the past and seems to understand the scriptures of the Book of Mormon very well. (Erie, Pa.)

Yesterday we went to Mount Morris to visit a woman, and we really had a thrilling experience. The first question she asked us was, "What do I have to do to be baptized?" She told us of her experience of reading the Joseph Smith story and of checking on the references in the

front of the Book of Mormon received from an elder at the county fair here in August. Feeling her prayers would be answered, she knelt in prayer before the Lord and said if this message were true, she wanted to know. She told us of the horrible feeling that came over her which made her feel as if she would die. Then the most indescribable and peaceful feeling came over her, and she knew that the book was true. She tells everyone that she can about the Book of Mormon, and she is trying to convince her mother of the necessity of baptism. Three of her friends are also interested. (Batavia, N. Y.)

We were discussing the gospel when one of our acquaintances of several months said, while holding up the Book of Mormon: "Brethren, this is the truth, and all of these books (other standard works of the Church) are true revelations from God. I am so thankful that you men came to my door last spring." He proceeded to bear a wonderful testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel. He has mentioned several times that he believes this to be the truth, but never so forcefully as this time. (McDonald, Pa.)

The other day we met an ex-army colonel who, during the war, had a number of LDS men serving under him, and he was highly impressed with them. One of the group presented a Book of Mormon to him and he read it quite thoroughly, and he told us he knew the Book of Mormon is true, that such a writing could not be written by mortal man without inspiration. (Johnstown, Pa.)

In tracting we came across two people who are interested in our message, one who had been in contact with the missionaries before the war. When he opened the door, and before my companion could tell him who we were, he had invited us in. We began our discussion by telling him of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon. On asking him what he thought of our message, we were told that the Book of Mormon could not have been written by man alone. He also confessed having read the Book of Mormon but no longer had a copy and asked us if he could obtain one, which, of course, we sold to him. (Plattsburg, N. Y.)

To the foregoing many more similar accounts could be added, but this number was reported in one month. Of these people possibly only two have become members of the Church. Perhaps others will one day become members. It would be incorrect to assume that the ratio of eight to ten, as given here, is the basis for determining the number who "believe the book" but who do not accept the gospel in its fulness. This ratio as well as other evidence may suggest, however, that the number who fulfil Nephi's

(Concluded on page 924)

THE IMPROVEMENT ERA



### BIRD SOLO

By Alma Miller

I don't know the kind  
As I'm not bird-wise,  
But a little brown fellow,  
Diminutive size,  
With a yellow breast  
And a brown-flecked wing  
And a white-ruffed throat  
That was made to sing,  
Heard the Church choir  
From my radio,  
Joined in the singing,  
His voice sweet and low.  
Near my car window,  
His church was a tree,  
And in the stillness  
He worshiped with me.

# For Any Banking Service



## Walker Bank & Trust Company

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
Member Federal Reserve System

## Modern Fulfilment of a Book of Mormon Prophecy

(Concluded from page 880)

prophecy are more than those who come into the Church through baptism.

If one ascribes this prophetic statement to Joseph Smith instead of to Nephi, who lived many centuries before him, it is nevertheless a remarkable utterance. He could not, uninspired of God, predict that which would have its fulfilment in his own life, even amid extreme opposition to the publication of the book, and be more literally fulfilled as time marches on. Joseph Smith of himself was powerless to fulfil this prophecy. The fact that truth bears evidence of itself is the basis for the acceptance of the Book of Mormon. Hundreds of thousands of witnesses have testified to the truths in the Book of Mormon. Some of these may be said to be silent testators who "believe" but who do not go the full way along the way to perfection. These are they who fulfil Nephi's prediction. It is believed that if all the foreign and stake missionaries of this Church were to report the instances of Nephi's prophecy being fulfilled today, whether the person accepted the gospel or not, the number would undoubtedly be very great. The fulfilment of this prophecy is but one of the many ways in which God is verifying his word as spoken by his holy prophets.

## After Ten Years

(Continued from page 878)

them are actively engaged in the service of the Church and are found among its leaders and teachers. They make a constant contribution to the progress of the Church.

Question eleven, "What is your present attitude toward the Church?" These 188 questionnaires show that 180 are enthusiastic for the Church; seven indifferent; one is negative.

Question twelve, "Are you in good health?" One hundred and seventy-eight answered "yes," two said "no," and seven reported "fair."

## NICO-STOP now available AT LOWER PRICE

NICO-STOP, "THE tobacco remedy," mentioned in Dr. Merrill's column in September, is now available at lower price. But the purchase of NICO-STOP in reality is NOT AN EXPENDITURE at all. Rather, IT IS AN INVESTMENT, for where else can a person put the cost of a few smokes and have it earn him \$60 or more per year for the rest of his life?

**STOP SMOKING  
THE EASY WAY . . .**

**. . . GET NICO-STOP!**

**"It doesn't cost — It pays."**

NICO-STOP, Dept. A  
P. O. Box 193  
SAINT HELENA, CALIFORNIA  
Please send further information without cost to me.

Name.....

Street Address.....

City..... State.....

If your druggist doesn't have NICO-STOP, write for FREE information.