



Type: Magazine Article

The Promise of Peace in the Book of Mormon

Editor(s): Susa Young Gates

Source: *Relief Society Magazine*, Vol. 6, No. 12 (December 1919), pp. 721-723

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

Abstract: No abstract available.

LESSON III.

Book of Mormon Lesson

THIRD WEEK IN JANUARY.

THE PROMISE OF PEACE IN THE BOOK OF MORMON.

“And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plough-shares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (II Nephi 12:4).

“And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; and if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; and whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountain shall they be” (I Nephi, 13:37).

Through such passages, as we have quoted, we are made conscious of the fact that the peoples of this continent had a vision of that peace which is to come, just as the people of Bible lands had a like vision.

A fact often reiterated in these lessons is that God works on natural principles to bring about his righteous purposes in the earth.

Every great cause has its forerunners, its champions, those who make tremendous sacrifices that eventually a great ideal may become a reality. Let us call to mind, for an instant, those who have toiled on and sacrificed for such causes as prohibition and woman suffrage.

When the day of perfect peace shall arrive, no man knows, but that it will come none doubt who have faith in the holy scriptures.

It would seem that there are forces at work in the world today that may mark the beginning of such a blessed culmination. At any rate, many in the seats of the mighty, as well as the more humble walks of life, have exerted their utmost power to bear tidings of peace.

Let us review for a brief paragraph or two some of the efforts that have been made towards the establishment of peace.

The forerunner of the war-like preparations that we have witnessed of late (particularly in Great Britain and the United States), was most intensive work for peace. Men and women were wrought upon in many ways to work for it. Theodore Roosevelt, while yet president of the United States, did much towards negotiating peace between Russia and Japan. Presidents

Taft and Wilson have each in their respective administrations made peace an issue of first importance.

To turn to Great Britain: Edward VI was signalized as the Peace King; Sir Edward Grey, Britain's great foreign secretary, at present minister from Great Britain to the United States, had peace on the lead in his policy of state.

Mr. Edwin Ginn placed much of his large fortune on the altar of peace, financing the work of David Starr Jordan on the lecture platform, and Mrs. Fanny Fern Andrews in the school. Much of the fortunes of Andrew Carnegie and of Henry Ford has been expended for this same purpose.

Nor have women been silent. The International Council of Women, led by Mrs. May Wright Sewall, held annual peace meetings under its auspices, and passed peace resolutions. Every state had its peace committee of influential citizens. The voices of such women as Lady Aberdeen, Jane Addams, Mrs. Philip North-Moore, and Ida Tarbell, have swelled the chorus; and, be it remembered, that the last public utterances of Dr. Anna Howard Shaw was a plea for the establishment of peace.

In considering this subject we must not forget that in the beautiful forest of the Hague stands a palace that is known to all the world as the Peace Palace of the Hague.

The climax of all this effort is a plan for a League of Nations. William Penn, the good Quaker brother, had conceived such a plan many years before. The plan before the world at present was brought into being at the Peace Conference that recently sat in Paris. It has been adopted by the parliaments of three great nations, and is at present being debated by the Senate of the United States.

All this effort must point somewhere. When God inspires men in different lands and in different climes towards the same end it has usually been deeply significant. Are we justified in thinking that the effort put forth for peace will be an exception to this rule?

It will be recalled that two men, one in America and one in France, conceived the idea of the electric telegraph at about the same time. Much to the chagrin of the French, Mr. Morse got his instruments constructed and working before the Frenchman was ready, and that marvelous message, "What hath God wrought?" was flashed around the world.

But the French never forgot it, and gave evidence of their displeasure in a cartoon that appeared in a French paper somewhat later. Morse, the inventor, visited Great Britain, where he received the Maltese Cross from the British government. A French paper published the artist's sketch of Morse with the Cross upon his bosom, and under it placed these words, "In elder days

they placed the thief upon the cross, now they place the cross upon the thief."

One of the very fascinating lines of investigation that any student may carry on, is a line of study that may lead him to discover how frequently in the progress of this world the same idea has suddenly come into being in lands and climes often remote from one another, and in the hearts and brains of persons of different tongues and vastly different modes of life.

QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS.

1. Where in the Bible may the passage of scripture be found saying that they shall beat their swords into plough-shares, etc.?
2. When are we to believe that we shall have a thousand years of peace?
3. Do you think it likely that such a condition could be realized all at once, or must it be of gradual growth?
4. Have the movements for prohibition or suffrage come instantly or have they been of slow growth? Illustrate.
5. Name some persons who have championed suffrage.
6. Name some persons who have championed prohibition.
7. Name some of the prominent advocates of peace in Great Britain and the United States.
8. By what name do we call the peace plan recently presented by the Peace Conference in Paris?
9. What three national parliaments have adopted this plan?
10. At this writing, the United States Senate is still debating the peace plan. When the debate is finished, tell what disposition was made of the plan by the United States Senate.

LESSON IV.

Social Service

HEALTH.

FOURTH WEEK IN JANUARY.

Never in the world's history has the universal interest in health education been so keen as today. In times past adenoids, diseased tonsils, bad teeth, defective eyes, disease of the skin, food values, malnutrition, fresh air, relationship of weight to health, nervous affections, germs, etc., received little, if any attention. The physical condition of the child and of the adult was measured chiefly by his ability to walk or talk. The awakening today is due to several reasons, among which are: (1) the humanitarian