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## The Completeness and Detail of Prophecy Concerning Christ as Set Forth in the Book of Mormon

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# Guide Lessons.

## LESSON I.

### Theology and Testimony.

FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.

#### THE COMPLETENESS AND DETAIL OF PROPHECY CONCERNING CHRIST AS SET FORTH IN THE BOOK OF MORMON.

History reached its pivotal point in the coming of Christ. Those who lived before this advent looked forward to his coming in the meridian of times. Those of us born today, to employ the words of a well known English poet, "look before and after." We look before to the time when Christ did come, we are looking after his first advent to the time when he will come.

Many beautiful passages are found in the Bible prophetic of the coming of Christ, but the Book of Mormon appears to excel in plainness and minuteness of detail.

Many of these details have been brought together by the author of the *Story of the Book of Mormon*, and from his collaboration we use those best suited to our purpose.

For it is written in the sacred book that he, Christ, should be born in the land of Jerusalem. His mother's name should be Mary, she should be a virgin of the city of Nazareth; very fair and beautiful—a precious and chosen vessel.

She should be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost. He should be called Jesus Christ the Son of God and at his birth a new star should appear in the heavens.

He should be baptized by John at Betharaba, beyond Jordan. John should testify that he had baptized the Lamb of God, who should take away the sins of the world. After his baptism the Holy Ghost should come down upon Him out of heaven, and abide upon him in the form of a dove. He should call twelve men as his special witnesses, to minister in his name.

He should go forth among the people administering in power and great glory, casting out devils, healing the sick, raising the dead, and performing many mighty miracles.

He should suffer temptation, pain of body, hunger, thirst and fatigue: blood should come from every pore of his body by reason of his anguish because of the abominations of his people.

He should be cast out and rejected by the Jews; be taken and scourged, and judged of the world. He should be buried in a sepulchre, where he should remain three days.

After he was slain he should rise from the dead and should make himself manifest by the Holy Ghost unto the Gentiles.

He should lay down his life according to the flesh and take it up again by the power of the Spirit, that he might bring to pass the resurrection of the dead, being the first that should rise.

At his resurrection many graves should be opened and should yield up their dead, and many of the Saints who had before time passed away should appear unto the living.

Here we have a veritable biographical sketch some of it written nearly six hundred years before the thing occurred. It could only be a product of inspiration for no one drawing from him imagination would ever say that the mother should be a virgin. Not even in the realm of fiction should we expect such a statement, much less in that which assumed to be sacred history. It would be the very acme of the absurd, anywhere outside the realm of Greek and Roman mythology where we do find stories of beings half mortal and half god.

Again, how perfectly unnatural, judged from a human standpoint, it would be to say that the Virgin should be born in Nazareth, that obscure city of despised Galilee. Equally striking from another point of view are the details in relation to his death, for the death of Christ followed the Roman customs and not the Jewish and no one could know the manner of his death, except it were revealed by the Lord.

To the class of persons who believe that prophecy is always vague, set forth in such a fashion that anyone of two or more meanings might be acceptable in its interpretation, such detailed prophecy as we find in the Book of Mormon must be astounding. Jacob tells us why the Jews lost their plainness of speech. (Jacob 4:14.)

And now, to turn to the second coming of Christ. The book of Doctrine and Covenants also goes into detail in relation to his second coming. It tells us:

“For I,” meaning Christ, “will reveal myself from heaven with power and great glory, with all the hosts thereof, and dwell in righteousness with men on earth a thousand years, and the wicked shall not stand.

“And again, verily, verily, I say unto you, and it hath gone forth in a firm degree, by the will of the Father, that mine apostles, the Twelve, which were with me in my ministry at Jerusalem, shall stand at my right hand at the day of my coming in a pillar of fire, being clothed with robes of righteousness with crowns upon their heads in glory, even as I am, to judge the

whole house of Israel, even as many as have loved me and kept my commandments and none else; "For a trumpet shall sound, both long and loud, even as upon Mt. Sinai, and all the earth shall quake, and they shall come forth; yea, even the dead which died in me, to receive a crown of righteousness, and to be clothed upon, even as I am, to be with me, that we may be one.

"But behold I say unto you, that before this great day shall come, the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall be turned into blood, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and there shall be greater signs in heaven above, and in the earth beneath;

"And there shall be a great hail storm sent forth to destroy the crops of the earth;

"And it shall come to pass that because of the wickedness of the world, that I will take vengeance upon the wicked, for they will not repent, for the cup of mine indignation is full; for behold my blood shall not cleanse them, if they hear me not."

No doubt every word that is found within the holy scriptures, concerning the second coming of Christ, will be as literally fulfilled in the due time of the Lord as the words that were written concerning his first coming.

One interesting sidelight on the vision of Nephi concerning the Virgin Mary was given by the lecturer Mme. Lydia Von Finklestein Mountford, who was a student of the Book of Mormon. "No one," she exclaimed, "but an oriental scholar would know that the Virgin could be designated by her costume. It is only the orientals who know virgins, wives, widows and nameless women by their dress."

"And it came to pass that I saw the heavens open; and an angel came down and stood before me; and he said unto me, Nephi, what beholdest thou?

"And I said unto him, a virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins."  
—I Nephi 11:14-15.

#### QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS.

1. Show how prophecy that is full of details as to names and places would be impossible, save through one inspired of the Lord.

2. Show how prophecy in detail completely upsets the arguments of people who assert that prophecy is vague, and that its meaning may be met in several ways.

3. Why may the prophecies concerning Christ as recorded in the Book of Mormon be regarded as a veritable biography?

4. Relate some prophecies found in scripture that pertain to the Second coming of Christ.

5. Have some member of the class read section 45 of the book of Doctrine and Covenants, beginning with paragraph 26 and including paragraph 53.



6. Are any of these prophecies, concerning Christ's second coming, already fulfilled?

## LESSON II.

### Work and Business.

SECOND WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.

## LESSON III.

### Genealogy.

THIRD WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.

#### WELSH SURNAMES.

*Outlines For Class Leader.*

Origin.

Tribal relations.

Proper names followed usual customs. Surnames very recent and most are surnames.

#### LESSON STATEMENT.

The origin of the Welsh people rests in the mists of antiquity. They are a branch of the Keltic race and in some characteristics they resemble the Scotch and the Irish, but while they have much of the wit which is common to the Irish race it is tempered with something of the taciturnity of their cousins, the Highland Scotch. They are rather a silent people, not boisterous like the Irish, but they do resemble them in the haughty pride which is natural to a Welshman, while no one is so clannish as are the Welsh people..

There are numerous witty stories about the Welshman's ideas concerning the antiquity of his race and their pride of birth. They would interpret the nursery rhyme to read "Paddy was a Welshman, and Paddy was a Chief." While on a visit to England sometime since we were shown a very long Welsh pedigree. One-third of the way down the line from the earliest ancestors was written: "About this time Father Adam was born." The history of the Welsh people is found in every general history and many of our Welsh people are familiar with their own beginnings.

The custom of giving children proper names followed closely that of surrounding tribes and peoples. When Caesar invaded Britain he found a people governed by their Druids and bards. The Druids were the priests while the bards were poets and genealogists. The bards would sit for hours and recite over the