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## Lesson XI. Predictions Fulfilled in the Coming of the Savior

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"And when he had done this he wept again.

"And he spake unto the multitude, and saith unto them, behold your little ones.

"And as they looked to behold, they cast their eyes toward heaven, and they saw the heavens open, and they saw angels descending out of heaven as it were, in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about, and they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them."—III Nephi, 17:13-24.

What a wonderful spectacle! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, so touched by the love of His children that "He wept" for joy. What an inspiration to us to serve Him!

#### OUTLINE LESSON X.

The significance of a study of the work of the Savior.

His appearance upon this continent.

His testimony of His divinity.

The Father's proclamation.

Jesus' ministry.

A. The same teachings as given in Palestine.

B. The healing of the sick.

C. The institution of the Sacrament.

D. The proper method of baptism.

E. The gathering of Israel.

F. The blessing of the little children.

#### QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

1. Contrast the coming of the Savior among the Nephites and His nativity among the Jews.

2. Quote passages from the Book of Mormon proving His divinity.

3. Compare the Sermon on the Mount as given in the Holy Land and as given in America.

4. Discuss the proper method of baptism as taught by Jesus Christ.

5. What is His promise relative to the Lost Tribes of Israel?

6. What are the signs which are to precede His second coming?

7. Relate the incident of His blessing little children.

### LESSON XI.

#### Predictions Fulfilled in the Coming of the Savior.

(For Tuesday, January 18, or Sunday, January 23.)

Thus far we have considered the Book of Mormon in its purely literary aspects. We are happy in the thought that for the truths it contains, for the characters it portrays, for the incidents it depicts, it is entitled to a place among the choicest books of all time. But there is still another factor in the greatness of the Book of Mormon. Its prophecies give it a sacredness that can belong only to those books which record the work of the Lord. Surely, fulfilled prophecies give a book a place which few other things could guarantee. The Book of Mormon is the result of revelation and it is full of prophetic utterances, entirely in keeping with the spirit of its coming forth.

As we turn to the prophecies of the Book of Mormon we must be impressed first of all with the number of them that have already been fulfilled and secondly with the explicit detail in which they are set forth. More than sixty major prophecies have been literally fulfilled. So clearly have they come to pass that they inspire an unshakable confidence in those that relate to events that lie ahead of us in the future.

An examination of these prophecies reveals the fact that there are three distinct classes. First of all, there are those predictions which had their fulfillment in the Book of Mormon record itself—those prophecies relative to Nephite his-

tory which were fulfilled in the days before the Nephites were destroyed.

In the second place, there are those prophecies which extend to a date beyond Book of Mormon times but which have been fulfilled since the plates were hidden in Cumorah.

As a third class there are those prophecies which bear upon a time still in the future—prophecies which relate to the second coming of the Son of God and the preparation of the earth for the ushering in of the Millennium.

Let us first turn to those prophecies which center about the Mission of Jesus Christ in the world. The Book of Mormon is rich in its prophetic announcements of the Messiah. Practically every great Nephite prophet predicted the coming of the Master and His life's work. From the beginning, the Christ thought pervades the Book of Mormon record.

Just as the Germans crystalized their patriotic devotion by focusing their ambitions and energy during the past half century upon the bringing to pass of "The Day," so the Nephites centered their religious convictions and hopes in that wonderful promise "The Day" so full of blessing to mankind. It inspires faith to a remarkable degree to see how the Nephites believed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ long before He was born. Alma not only converted his followers to baptism, he led them to delight in the resurrection even though it could become a reality only after the ministry of the Savior in the world.

So completely were the details of Jesus' life set forth in prophecy that the Nephites fairly knew the whole of his life before he was born. Elder George Reynolds in the Dictionary of the Book of

Mormon, has set down these facts showing the remarkable completeness of detail that characterized the prophetic declarations relative to the ministry of the Savior of the world.

"God Himself should come down from heaven among the children of men and should redeem His people.

"He should take upon Him flesh and blood.

"He should be born in the land of Jerusalem, the name given by the Nephites to the land of their forefathers, whence they came.

"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.

"At His birth a new star should appear in the heavens.

"He should be baptized by John at Bethabara, 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, ministering in power and great glory, casting out devils, healing the sick, raising the dead, and performing many mighty miracles.

"He should take upon Him the infirmities of His people.

"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 be judged of the world.

"He should be lifted upon the cross and slain for the sins 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 beforetime passed away, should appear unto the living.

"He should redeem all mankind who would believe on His name."

One of the most interesting of these prophetic utterances is that found in the third chapter of Ether. The Lord having manifested Himself to the brother of Jared, as a spiritual personage, gave the first great promise contained in the Book of Mormon that He would come and dwell among men. This promise given some 2,000 years B. C., is one of the most significant ever given to man.

"And when He had said these words, behold, the Lord showed Himself unto Him, and said, Because thou knowest these things, ye are redeemed from the fall; therefore ye are brought back into my presence; therefore I show myself unto you.

"Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son. In me shall all mankind have light, and that eternally, even they who shall believe on my name; and they shall become my sons and my daughters.

"And never have I showed myself unto man whom I have created, for never has man believed in me as thou hast. Seest thou that ye are created after mine own image? Yea, even all men were created in the beginning after mine own image.

"Behold, this body, which ye now behold, is the body of my spirit; and man have I created after the body of my Spirit; and even as I appear unto thee to be in the Spirit, will I appear unto my people in the flesh."—Ether 3:13-16.

Another very striking declaration is that of Lehi uttered six hundred years before the birth of Christ and contained in the tenth chapter of I Nephi. Lehi declared to his people that he had been shown in vision that the Savior should be born; had been shown where and when He should be born; had been shown what His ministry should achieve and what His fate would be. In chapters eleven and twelve the same information is recorded, though in fuller detail, as given to Nephi in answer to his petition that he might be shown the vision of his father.

Further predictions of a similar nature relative to this great event are recorded in II Nephi, chapters 11, 25, 26, and 31.

Benjamin, in that wonderful address which he delivered to his people in Zarahemla, was privileged to enjoy the prophetic spirit of his calling to the extent that he could declare the advent of the Master. Speaking as he did "the words which the Lord God hath commanded me" he declared with great force and power that Jesus should descend out of heaven to minister unto the children of men. It is an inspiration to read his words as continued in the third chapter of Mosiah.

The same testimony is born by Alma and Amulek as contained in their prophetic utterances in the thirty-fourth chapter of Alma.

Reference has already been made in preceding lessons to the prophetic mission of Samuel, the Lamanite. His predictions are so full in their striking detail, however, and are so beautifully fulfilled in the coming of the Savior that we ought here to turn to the predictions, as set forth in the Book of Helaman, chapters 13, 14, and 15.

and to the fulfillment as recorded in III Nephi, chapters 8, 9, and 10.

Surely the coming of the Son of God into the world was a wonderful event and certainly the Book of Mormon records in a most remarkable manner the great predictions of this wonderful event. Little wonder that we cherish this book as a testimony to the divinity of Jesus Christ.

#### OUTLINE LESSON XI.

The effect of prophecy upon faith.  
The three classes of Book of Mormon prophecies.

The completeness with which Jesus' ministry was foretold.

A list of some of the more striking predictions relative to the Savior's

visit to the earth: Ether 3:13-16; I Nephi 10; I Nephi 11, 12; II Nephi 11, 25, 26, 31; Mosiah 3; Alma 34; Helaman 13, 14, 15; III Nephi 8, 9, 10.

#### .. QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS. ..

1. In what sense is prophecy a guarantee of faith?

2. How are Book of Mormon prophecies an evidence of the divinity of the book?

3. In what ways are the predictions relative to the work of the Savior particularly inspiring?

4. Read and comment on the following passages in addition to those listed in this lesson: II Nephi 10:3; Jacob 6:8; Jacob 7:9, 14, 19; Alma 30; Helaman 16:4, 18.

5. Discuss the significance of holding up this thought of the Christ to the people of Nephi.

## Vital Problems of Life.

Advanced Senior Course of Study.

### LESSON X.

#### The Influence of Natural Environment.

In the discussion of this theme, a tendency to consider environment in general should be guarded against, and the work kept within the range of the provisions of the title. Natural environment is furnished first hand by nature, such as climate, topography, vegetation,—including the denizens of the forest, stream, and air.

Trees can not make the same growth, either in size or in fiber on the south side of the hill, that they could on the northern slope. The sable is brown in summer time and white during the winter, and the chameleon takes on the color of whatever object he chooses to rest upon. We shall place emphasis upon the influence of environment upon the human being, and shall first turn our attention to the physical aspect.

**Physical Aspect.** That prominent differences in men arise from contrasting effects of upland and lowland climates is set forth in an article by Professor S. U. Patten, in the "Popular Science Monthly," of March, 1912, page 273:

"An upland race if in a dry region has a purer and more bracing atmosphere and hence does not need so much lung power. Its food is dryer, harder, and more condensed. Along with this comes smaller stomachs, better digestion, and fresher blood. A tall, narrow-chested man comes into being who is in marked contrast with the short barrel man of the lowland region.

"The upland races can not go too far down south without facing extinction, while the lowland races have been unsuccessful in facing the rigor of dry, cold upland. I shall call the pure uplander the long-faced type, and the pure lowlander the round-