



Type: Magazine Article

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## Lesson XIII. Book of Mormon Prophecies - The Scattering of Israel

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Source: *The Young Woman's Journal*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (January 1921), pp. 41-44

Published by: Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association

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**Abstract:** No abstract available.

## LESSON XIII.

## BOOK OF MORMON PROPHECIES.

(For Tuesday, February 8, or Sunday, February 20.)

## THE SCATTERING OF ISRAEL.

"Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer, as a Christian is?"

This famous Shylock speech in *The Merchant of Venice* has stirred thousands of theatre goers to an appreciation of the real position of the Jew in the world. It suggests a question that is one of the most uniquely interesting in the affairs of mankind. The story of the Jew is a world drama having for its principal characters some of the greatest names in history and having its scenes, many of them most tragic, laid in every great center of civilization.

Claiming to be the chosen children of God, the Jews have practiced in the exclusiveness of isolation a devotion to their Jehovah that has preserved them a distinct people in the face of the greatest of hardships and handicaps.

Branded subsequently as the murderers of Jesus Christ they have become the most despised race in the world.

Always interesting, the Jewish question has of late taken on a new fascination in the developments attendant upon Great Britain's victory over the Turks in the recent world war and the subsequent restoration of the liberties of Palestine to the Jews.

Not only are these events interesting in themselves but they fulfil in such remarkable detail the prophecies of scripture that they are doubly vital—more especially so to Latter-day Saints because they bear such a

testimony to the divinity of the Book of Mormon. Events that are now transpiring are nothing more than Book of Mormon prophecies written large in actuality. Interest naturally centers just now, of course, about those predictions which have to do with the gathering of Israel, but if we are fully to appreciate the gathering we must have in mind as well the dispersion. Let us therefore turn to the prophecies relative to the scattering of Israel and their fulfilment.

"Yea, even my father spake much concerning the Gentiles, and also concerning the house of Israel, that they should be compared like unto an olive tree, whose branches should be broken off, and should be scattered upon all the face of the earth." I Nephi 10:12.

"And as for those who are at Jerusalem, saith the prophet, they shall be scourged by all people, because they crucify the God of Israel, and turn their hearts aside, rejecting signs and wonders, and power and glory of the God of Israel.

"And because they turn their hearts aside, saith the prophet, and have despised the Holy One of Israel, they shall wander in the flesh, and perish, and become a hiss and a by-word, and be hated among all nations." I Nephi 19:13-14.

"Wherefore, the things of which I have read, are things pertaining to things both temporal and spiritual; for it appears that the house of Israel, sooner or later, will be scattered upon all the face of the earth, and also among all nations.

"And behold there are many who are already lost from the knowledge of those who are at Jerusalem. Yea, the more part of all the tribes have been led away; and they are scattered to and fro upon the isles of the sea; and whither they are, none of us knoweth, save that we know that they have been led away.

"And since they have been led away, these things have been prophesied concerning them, and also concerning all those who shall hereafter be scattered and be confounded, because of the Holy One of Israel; for against him will they harden their hearts; wherefore, they shall be scat-

tered among all nations, and shall be hated of all men." I Nephi 22:3, 4, 5.

"But because of priestcrafts and iniquities, they at Jerusalem will stiffen their necks against him, that he be crucified.

"Wherefore, because of their iniquities, destructions, famines, pestilences, and bloodshed, shall come upon them and they who shall not be destroyed, shall be scattered among all nations." II Nephi 10:5, 6.

"And behold it shall come to pass, that after the Messiah hath risen from the dead, and hath manifested himself unto his people, unto as many as will believe on his name, behold, Jerusalem shall be destroyed again; for wo unto them that fight against God and the people of his church.

"Wherefore, the Jews shall be scattered among all nations; yea, and also Babylon shall be destroyed; wherefore, the Jews shall be scattered by other nations." II Nephi 25:14,15.

In these prophetic utterances three major declarations are set forth: first, the Jews shall be scattered; second, they shall harden their hearts against Jesus Christ; and third, they shall become a hiss and a by-word and be hated by all men.

That the Jews have been scattered is just a matter of history. When they revolted under Roman rule 70 A. D., the Roman General Titus, not only subdued them—he utterly destroyed their city so that in fulfillment of biblical prophecy not one stone of the temple was left upon another. The Jews, thereupon fled into Italy, Spain, France, and other countries. From that day to this they have wandered and have been driven from one end of the world to the other. The fate that befell the Jew had already scattered the lost tribes of Israel so that all Israel was adrift in the world.

It is a little difficult to ascertain the whereabouts of all the Jews of today and of course we cannot speak definitely relative to the ten lost tribes but the following distribution as drawn up recently by David Trietsch, a Jewish statistician, is signifi-

cant. If we may take the case of the United States as typical the scattering is wonderfully complete—there is not a state in the union that has not its Jews.

The total Jewish population in the world today is estimated at 15,430,000 distributed according to Trietsch as follows:

Poland .....	3,300,000
Ukraine .....	3,300,000
U. S. ....	3,100,000
Russia .....	900,000
Roumania .....	650,000
Germany .....	540,000
Hungary .....	450,000
Czecho-Slovakia .....	450,000
British Isles .....	300,000
Austria .....	300,000
Lithuania .....	250,000
Jugo Slavia .....	200,000
Africa .....	320,000
France .....	150,000
Arabia .....	130,000
Greece .....	120,000
Holland .....	110,000
Morocco .....	110,000
Argentina .....	100,000
Canada .....	100,000
Turkey .....	100,000
Palestine .....	100,000
Australasia .....	20,000
Other European Countries ....	200,000
Other Asiatic Countries .....	100,000
Other American Countries....	30,000

That the Jews have hardened their hearts against Jesus Christ is equally a matter of record. They crucified Him. What more could they have done while He was with them? And the spirit of the crucifixion characterized their attitude through the centuries that were to follow. That it persisted to the thirteenth century is evidenced in the tragic story of Hugh of Lincoln—a lad crucified by the Jews in mockery of Christ's death. There is some question as to whether the horror of this event was a reality but at any rate it called down upon the Jews of the middle ages an untold vengeance and bloodshed. There must have been an attitude of hatred on their part which

in some measure at least called forth the calamities of the middle ages.

The same attitude is reflected in the actions of Jews within the past half century when they have refused to touch a book in which appeared the name of Jesus and when they arose and left their churches upon the mere mention of His name.

Weinstock in his book "Jesus The Jew" cites a typical case by referring to the old rabbi who gave him his early religious training.

"I recall that upon one occasion, one of the pupils by some chance brought into the religious school a book containing the name of Jesus. I remember how wrought up and excited the rabbi became when he was made aware of its presence in the school room. 'Sacrilege! Sacrilege!' he indignantly cried, and seemed to be afraid to touch it."

"I remember how aroused and impassioned he became while recounting the frightful sufferings and calamities which had been inflicted upon the Jews, for all of which, in his opinion, Jesus was primarily responsible. 'How then,' he concluded, 'can any self-respecting, loyal Jew take into his hand a book containing the name of Jesus? How can the name of Jesus be thought of without connecting it in the mind of the Jew with the centuries of inhuman outrage and persecution heaped upon him by the followers of Jesus?'

One has only to turn to Jewish writings and to Jewish history to find ample proof of the maledictions they have heaped upon the head of Him whom they crucified—Him who in their judgment has been responsible for the fate that has followed them down through the centuries.

If it is true that the Jews have hardened their hearts against the Savior and have been scattered to every corner of the earth, it is equally true that they have become hated—that they have become a hiss and a byword. Witness the classic references in such books as *Ivanhoe*, *the Merchant of Venice*, *the Jew of Malta*, etc. An-

alyze your own feelings toward the question of the Jew. Turn to the history of the Jews in any of the countries from which they have sooner or later been exiled. The account of their sufferings in Poland, Spain, and Russia, particularly in Siberia, will stir any heart to pity. To quote again from the Rabbi in Weinstock's "Jesus the Jew."

"He told them how the Jews had been made outcasts and wanderers over the face of the earth; how, for hundreds of years, they had been robbed and pillaged, tortured and plundered; how their beards had been torn from their roots, their teeth drawn from their jaws, their bodies cast into foul dungeons; how, time and again, they had been put on the rack, subjected to the thumbscrew and burned at the stake, all, all, on account of Jesus."

It is hard to believe that a liberty loving country such as England should turn the Jews from her shores. She not only did that but in 1290 expelled them from her realm. France followed her example in 1394 as did Spain in 1492 and Portugal in 1495. Russia's banishment of the Jew into the frozen wastes of Siberia, there to starve, freeze, or be murdered, is perhaps the saddest chapter in Jewish history. To the reader who will turn to such volumes as Abraham's "Jewish Life in the Middle Ages," White's "The Modern Jew," or even the encyclopedia, there can be no doubt that the Jew literally has become a "hiss and a by-word."

Despite all these things the Jews have persisted. More than 15,000,000 of them, without a national home, have preserved an independence and solidarity that is the wonder of the world. They still are the Lord's people and will be redeemed in His own due time, which from the predictions to be considered in the following lesson, is manifestly near at hand.

## OUTLINE—LESSON THIRTEEN.

The question of the Jew.

Recent events have added to its significance.

Book of Mormon Prophecies relative to the scattering.

The fulfillment:

A. The scattering.

B. The attitude toward Jesus.

C. The attitude of the world toward the Jew.

The preservation of the Jew that the Lord's purposes might be accomplished.

## QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

1. What is the general attitude of your acquaintances towards Jews?

2. How do you explain that attitude?

3. Discuss each of the prophecies from the Book of Mormon relative to the scattering of Judah.

4. Compare these predictions with such prophecies as contained in the following references:

Leviticus 26:33; Deuteronomy 4:27; Deuteronomy 28:63; Jeremiah 12:14, 15; Jeremiah 29:16, 17, 18; Amos 9:9; Luke 21:24; Ezekiel 20:23, 24; Zachariah 7:14.

## LESSON XIV.

## BOOK OF MORMON PROPHECIES.

(For Tuesday, February 15, or Sunday, February 27.)

## ISRAEL TO BE RESTORED.

The following newspaper clipping is only typical of scores of articles announcing the restoration of Jerusalem and Palestine as the home of the Jew.

"JEWS IN AMERICA URGED TO HELP IN ZIONIST MOVEMENT."

"Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 25.—An appeal for the co-operation of all Jews in America toward converting Palestine into a 'true Jewish homeland' was made here today by Julian W. Mack, president of the Zionist Organization of America, in an address opening the 23rd annual convention of the organization.

"Mr. Mack declared that the time for theoretical propaganda in favor of the principles of Zionism had ended with the creation of a free Jewish state in the Holyland, under the guarantee of a British mandate—that it is a definite and concrete problem now, the upbuilding of the Jewish homeland."

What a fulfillment of prophecy! The Lord veritably seems to have stretched forth His hand to gather Israel in. Surely "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform." Only a few years ago the Turk refused to the Jews the privileges in Palestine that would enable

them to establish a national home. Six hundred years ago England drove the Jew out of England as undesirable in the realm. Now England has broken the power of the Turk and has opened the door to the Holy Land bidding the Jew enter and realize the dream of centuries.

The prophecies in the Book of Mormon relative to the re-establishment of the Jews in Palestine are particularly explicit on two points. In the first place, the Jews are to turn to Jesus—they are to believe in him; in the second place, they are to be gathered back to the land of their fathers.

Space will not allow of a full quotation here of all the prophecies in the Book of Mormon relative to this matter, but the following ones are significantly typical.

"Nevertheless, when that day cometh, saith the prophet, that they no more turn aside their hearts against the Holy One of Israel, then will he remember the covenants which he made to their fathers.

"Yea, then will he remember the isles of the sea; yea, and all the people who are of the house of Israel, will I gather in, saith the Lord, according to the words of the prophet Zenos, from the four quarters of the earth." I Nephi 19: 15, 16.