



Type: Magazine Article

---

## Melchizedek Priesthood for a Spiritual Awakening ... Read the Book of Mormon

Editor(s): David O. McKay and Richard L. Evans

Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 64, No. 10 (October 1961)

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

Page(s): 756–757

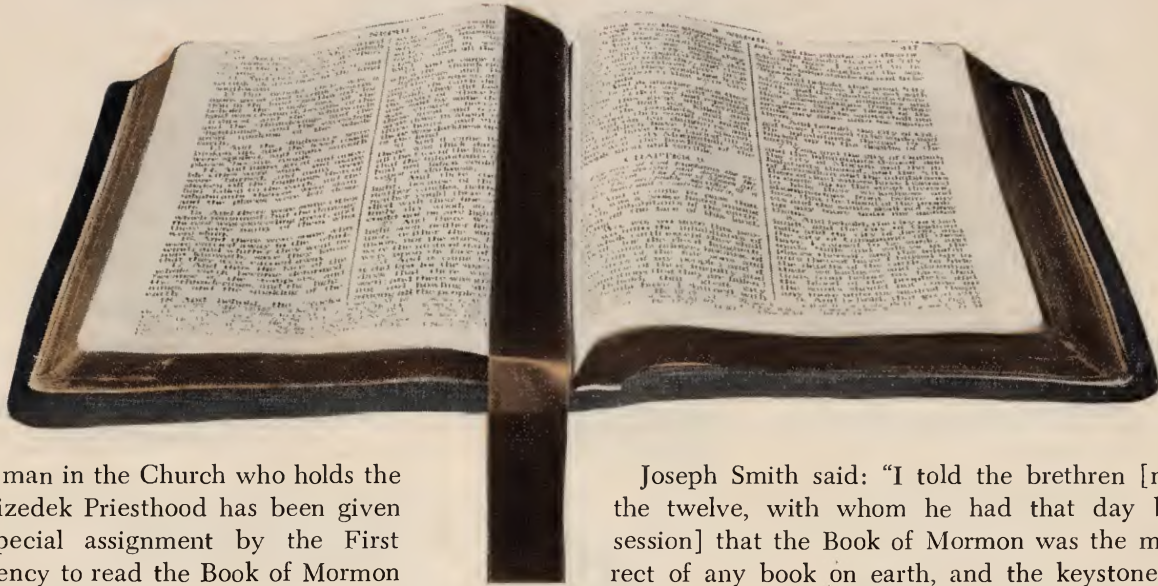
---

**Abstract:** This article tells of the assignment, given to every Melchizedek Priesthood holder, to read the Book of Mormon during the year 1961.



## MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD

*for a spiritual awakening*



Every man in the Church who holds the Melchizedek Priesthood has been given the special assignment by the First Presidency to read the Book of Mormon during 1961.

There are no exceptions. Every brother holding the Higher Priesthood is included. General Authorities head the list, then come stake and quorum officers, and finally all quorum members. And it does not matter how many times each brother has read or studied the Book of Mormon in the past; the present assignment is to read it during 1961.

Lesson work for this year in the Melchizedek Priesthood quorums centers around this reading assignment. At the priesthood leadership meetings held in connection with stake conferences during the third quarter of 1961, the General Authority in attendance (or if there was no visitor, then the stake president) made a check to determine—quorum by quorum—how many brethren were current in their reading.

Next year, 1962, as already announced, the Melchizedek Priesthood quorums are going to study the doctrines of the Book of Mormon.

Thus, this year and next provide an opportunity for a great spiritual awakening among priesthood brethren through a searching and sincere study of this great volume of latter-day scripture.

Joseph Smith said: "I told the brethren [meaning the twelve, with whom he had that day been in session] that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book." (*History of the Church*, vol. 4, p. 461, Nov. 28, 1841.)

What every faithful priesthood holder desires is to grow in grace; to increase in spirituality; to walk in the light; to abide in the truth; to have the companionship of the Spirit of the Lord—or, in effect, as the Prophet phrased it, to get near to God. And as far as the written word is concerned, the Book of Mormon is the perfect path toward attaining nearness to the Lord.

Brethren who read the Book of Mormon with the proper spirit grow in faith and a knowledge of the gospel. They get firm testimonies of the divinity of this great latter-day work. They come to know for themselves that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that Joseph Smith was called of God to usher in this final dispensation, that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as now organized and constituted, is the kingdom of God on earth.

Brethren who partake of the spirit of the Book of Mormon are in harmony with the programs of the Church. They sustain and support their church leaders. They are led to keep the commandments of

... *Read  
The  
Book of  
Mormon*

God and to live by every word that comes from the mouth of Deity. Reading the Book of Mormon leads to righteousness, peace, and salvation.

To get full value out of the present organized plan of Book of Mormon reading and study, it is hoped that stake and quorum officers will carry out a program of encouragement and check-up where all holders of the Higher Priesthood are concerned. As part of such a program, and as a means of creating interest in the study of the Book of Mormon, quorum members might well be asked to find Book of Mormon answers to such problems and doctrines as the following:

1. Who is delivered from death, hell, the devil, and endless torment, and in what does this deliverance consist? (2 Nephi 9.)
2. Can you define and identify what is meant by "priestcrafts"? (2 Nephi 26:29.)
3. Since Christ was guilty of no sin, why was he baptized? What is meant by fulfilling all righteousness? (2 Nephi 31.)
4. Can you identify the peoples involved in the allegory of the tame and wild olive tree which Zenos gave? (Jacob 5.)
5. Are you familiar with a great gospel sermon on the atonement of Christ which was preached by an angel from heaven? (Mosiah 3.)
6. Who are the sons and daughters of Jesus Christ? (Mosiah 5:7.)
7. Which is greater, a seer or a prophet? (Mosiah 8:13-18.)
8. What are the terms and conditions of the covenant of baptism? (Mosiah 18:8-10.)
9. Can you summarize the doctrine of being born again? (Mosiah 27:24-31; Alma 5.)
10. Where do our spirits go at death? (Alma 40.)
11. What is meant by the restoration that is to take place at the time of resurrection? (Alma 41:12-15.)
12. How do we distinguish between those who shall receive mercy and those destined to gain justice? (Alma 42.)
13. When will the Lord fulfil his covenants to the house of Israel? (3 Nephi 21.)
14. How can we best define the gospel and the plan of salvation? (3 Nephi 27.)
15. Whence came "sorceries, and witchcrafts, and magics"? (Mormon 1:19.)
16. Do we believe in Christ unless we believe his words? (Ether 4:10-12.)
17. Can you summarize the arguments against infant baptism? (Moroni 8.)
18. Have you put Moroni's promise to the test so that you know for yourself by personal revelation whether the Book of Mormon is true? (Moroni 10:4-5.)