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Moroni Spoke Also to Us

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Abstract: Discusses Moroni's closing words in the Book of Mormon (Moroni 10:1, 10:24). Discusses the admonitions and promises he left for those who read the Book of Mormon.



MORONI BIDS FAREWELL TO A ONCE GREAT NATION

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In the powerful truths which he declared as he bade farewell to a once great nation . . .

MORONI SPOKE ALSO TO US

by Leland H. Monson

Moroni closed the Book of Mormon on a high note. He bade farewell to the Lamanites (Moroni 10:1), and he spoke "unto all the ends of the earth." (Moroni 10:24.) Both of these messages are instructive for us today.

(For Course 9, lesson of July 21, "A Latter-day Saint Believes in Prophecy"; for Course 17, lessons of August 18 and 25, "Moroni Discusses Principles and Ordinances" and "Moroni's Farewell"; for Course 19, lesson of July 21, "Latter-day Saint Contributions to Scripture"; for Course 25, lessons of July 21 and August 18, "With Sincere Heart and Real Intent" and "Not of the World"; for Course 27, lessons of June 9 and August 25, "A Purity of Love" and "The Road to Exaltation"; to support family home evening lessons 41 and 44; and of general interest.)

Moroni issued a clarion call for us to heed: a call to cultivate faith in Christ and to exercise the gifts of God by the power of the Holy Ghost. His final message makes us aware that the gospel is a *power* as well as a code of morals.

Moroni encourages people to follow the path leading to perfection. He taught that we should "love God with all . . . [our] might, mind and strength." (Moroni 10:32.) Like John the Beloved, he knew that to love God meant to keep his commandments. (John 14:21, 23.) But he also knew that to perfect himself, man must rely upon the grace of God; a good man can be perfected and walk into the presence of God only through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. (Moroni 10:32.)

This great general and prophet taught the Lamanites of future generations what he teaches us, that we can know of the truth of the Book of Mormon. In answer to the question, "How can I know whether the Book of Mormon is true?" he exhorted: "Ask God the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ,

if these things are not true." He promised that if we would "ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ," he would "manifest the truth of it unto . . . [us], by the power of the Holy Ghost." (Moroni 10:4.)

To Moroni the Holy Ghost was a genuine power in the life of a sincere believer. The Holy Ghost, he knew, had the power to illuminate the human mind, to lead men into all truth. (See also John 16:13.) It is a truth-giving power. As Elder James E. Talmage said:

*The special office of the Holy Ghost is to enlighten and ennoble the mind. . . .*¹

But Moroni was aware of other gifts of the Holy Ghost. He calls upon men to exercise these gifts and to profit from their habitual activity. His message concerning these gifts of the Holy Ghost is clear and incisive. He wrote:

For behold, to one is given by the Spirit of God, that he may teach the word of wisdom;

And to another, that he may teach the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

And to another, exceeding great faith; and to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

And again, to another, that he may work mighty miracles;

And again, to another, that he may prophesy concerning all things;

And again, to another, the beholding of angels and ministering spirits;

And again, to another, all kinds of tongues;

And again, to another, the interpretation of languages and of divers kinds of tongues. (Moroni 10:9-16.)

Moroni noted that these gifts "come unto every man severally, according as he will." They come, Moroni said, "by the Spirit of Christ." (Moroni 10:17.) Here, the term "Spirit of Christ" refers to the Holy Ghost, for the Holy Ghost is responsible for these gifts.²

Moroni recognized that every good gift has its ultimate source in Christ, and urged us to surrender our will to Him, to leave the unclean thing and accept His good gifts to us. (See Moroni 10:30.)

Moroni recognized love as the great saving principle. In stressing this principle of love, he administered to one of the great needs of our time.

And except ye have charity ye can in nowise

¹James E. Talmage, *Articles of Faith: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1925; page 167.

²See James E. Talmage, *Articles of Faith*, page 167. See also Acts 19:6.

be saved in the kingdom of God. . . . (Moroni 10:21.)

This comment is strikingly similar to Jesus' answer to the lawyer when he asked, "Which is the great commandment in the law?"

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (Matthew 22:37-39.)

In his letters to the Romans and the Galatians Paul said that it is possible to fulfill the whole law of Christ with the principle of love. (See Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:14, 15.) In his first letter to the Corinthians he classified love as superior to all other gifts. He gave us what we now call the three cardinal virtues of Christianity—faith, hope, and charity (love)—and then said, "but the greatest of these is charity." (1 Corinthians 13:13.)

However, it is not only this one cardinal virtue of Christianity that Moroni stressed. He also urged us to cultivate faith and hope.

Faith in Christ, he knew, was a prerequisite to the reception of the Holy Ghost and to the spiritual gifts which follow. To him, faith was a principle of power, and he wanted us to have this great power as a means of perfecting ourselves.

Moroni learned from his father, Mormon, that "without faith there cannot be any hope." (Moroni 7:42.) Mormon defined for Moroni and for the world the ends for which we should hope:

. . . Behold I say unto you that ye shall have hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal. . . . (Moroni 7:41.)

When Moroni encouraged us to have hope, he was speaking about hope in the resurrection and in the power of the atonement to give us forgiveness of all sins on conditions of repentance. The core of Moroni's message to the Lamanites and to all the ends of the earth is adequately summed up in his final appeal:

. . . Come unto Christ, and lay hold upon every good gift, and touch not the evil gift, nor the unclean thing. (Moroni 10:30.)

What a high note with which to close a great book!

Library File Reference: BOOK OF MORMON—STUDY.