



Type: Magazine Article

---

## Characters and Teachings of the Book of Mormon: Preview of Lessons for 1952-53

Author(s): Leland H. Monson

Source: *Relief Society Magazine*, Vol. 39, No. 6 (June 1952), pp. 410–411

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

---

**Abstract:** The purpose of this year's lessons on The Book of Mormon is to familiarize Relief Society sisters with the narrative, the characters, and the teachings of the first and second books of Nephi. These two books give an account of a second colony that migrated from the Eastern Hemisphere and settled in the land of promise about the time of the demise of the Jaredite civilization, 600 b.c.

---



## *Theology*—Characters and Teachings of The Book of Mormon

Preview of Lessons for 1952-53

*Elder Leland H. Monson*

THE purpose of this year's lessons on The Book of Mormon is to familiarize Relief Society sisters with the narrative, the characters, and the teachings of the first and second books of Nephi. These two books give an account of a second colony that migrated from the Eastern Hemisphere and settled in the land of promise about the time of the demise of the Jaredite civilization, 600 B.C.

These colonists formed a small settlement under the immediate leadership of Lehi, father of six boys, Laman, Lemuel, Sam, Nephi, Jacob, and Joseph. Together with the sons and daughters of Ishmael, and Zoram the servant of Laban, keeper of the Brass Plates, they founded a new civilization in the land of promise.

It was not long after the death of Lehi, however, until the older brothers, Laman and Lemuel, recalcitrant and disobedient from the beginning, renounced the leadership of Nephi. With murder in their hearts, they sought to take Nephi's life.

With the loyal members of the colony, Nephi separated from Laman and Lemuel and their families, and founded a new settlement north

of the original place of disembarkation. Henceforth, two civilizations flourished on the land of promise, the Nephites and the Lamanites.

Nephi laid the foundation of a great civilization, undergirded with a high degree of spirituality. Laman and Lemuel established a people of an idle nature, a people "full of mischief and subtlety."

Like all great history, this account is filled with valuable lessons for us. Studying the principles of their success and their failure, we come to understand what we should undertake and what we should avoid. This record, more than any other we have, teaches us that when a people is righteous it prospers, but when it is unrighteous or wicked it declines.

To the degree that we learn from our reading of this portion of The Book of Mormon the basic concepts which contributed to success, and set about sincerely and vigorously to activate these principles in our lives, in just that proportion will the course be meaningful and profitable to us.

It is the mission of The Book of Mormon to be a new witness of Jesus Christ.

The author feels that he should

repeat the instructions given by the Relief Society general board concerning the use of maps and unauthorized publications:

We advise against the use of any maps dealing with Book of Mormon locations, and against the use of books which are not authorized by the Church as approved by the Church Publications Committee.

In order to fulfill the requirements of the reading program of the theology course on The Book of Mormon, it is necessary to read The Book of Mormon itself. No credit will be given for reading any other account of Book of Mormon incidents.

The titles and objectives for the course of study for the second year are as follows:

Lesson 9. *Preparation for the Journey*

Objective: To show that "if . . . the children of men keep the commandments of God he doth nourish them, and strengthen them, and provide means whereby they can accomplish the thing which he has commanded them" (1 Nephi 17:3).

Lesson 10. *Journey to the Land of Promise*

Objective: The Lord aids those who

keep his commandments to accomplish righteous purposes.

Lesson 11. *The Value of Records*

Objective: To demonstrate the value of records to a people of God.

Lesson 12. *Lehi's Later Exhortations*

Objective: To realize the great concern of Lehi for his people and the necessity of obeying the commandments of prophets.

Lesson 13. *Separation Into Nephites and Lamanites*

Objective: To show the power of righteousness and spirituality in building a great civilization.

Lesson 14. *Nephi*

Objective: To gain an appreciation of the character and teachings of Nephi, and to realize the value to all men in emulating them.

Lesson 15. *Nephi's Predictions, Promises, and Instructions*

Objective: To study Nephi's predictions concerning the Jews, Nephites, Lamanites, and the Gentiles.

Lesson 16. *The Words of Jacob Recorded by Nephi*

Objective: To study the eternal truths taught by Jacob.

## *Visiting Teacher Messages*

### Book of Mormon Gems of Truth

Preview of Lessons for 1952-53

Leone O. Jacobs

THE Visiting Teacher Messages for the year 1952-53 are a continuation of the course "Book of Mormon Gems of Truth." The

scriptural passages for these messages have been taken from the chapters of The Book of Mormon which will be studied in the the-