



Type: Magazine Article

---

## Jesus is the Christ—The Eternal God

Author(s): B.H. Roberts

Source: *Liahona: The Elders' Journal*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (28 April 1931), pp. 29–31

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

---

**Abstract:** Gives the purpose of the Book of Mormon; identifies Jesus Christ as deity and discusses the “Light of Christ.”

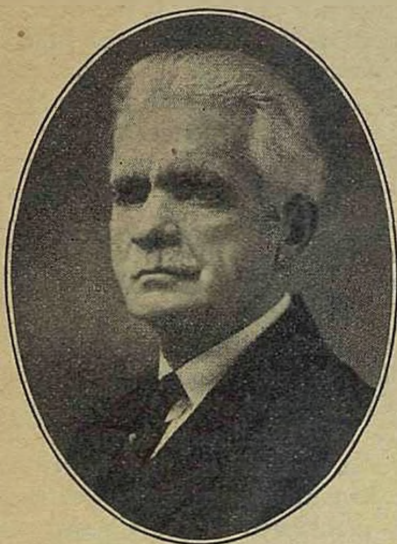
---

## JESUS IS THE CHRIST—THE ETERNAL GOD.

By *Prest. B. H. Roberts, Eastern States Mission.*

(Address delivered at the Sunday afternoon session of the  
M. I. A. Jubilee Conference, June 7, 1925.)

My brethren and sisters, I have to confess to a feeling of uneasiness on arising to take a small part in this great Jubilee conference. Owing to circumstances, I have not had the pleasure of being present in the counsels of the general board, while this Jubilee conference was in process of incubation, and I feel myself somewhat uncertain in regard to what I ought to say, since no subject has been suggested to me, nor do I know at this moment how to fit myself into the general outline that is provided for the var-



*Prest. B. H. Roberts.*

ious sessions of the conference. I have a number of passages of scripture which are more or less floating in my mind, but they are unorganized. As they come up into my consciousness they remind me of stones that one might find that have rolled away from some wall. They are not placed in any order. I might, however, as a means of gathering myself from my confusion, refer to some of them. Here is one that haunts me a little:

“O God, thou hast taught me from my youth, and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and gray-headed, oh God, forsake me not, until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is come.”

A text with a rather suggestive personal element in it, that I do not think I shall elaborate upon, and yet I can't get rid of it, so I have read it to you.

This seems to be a time of testimony, and I think of Jesus the Christ as most clearly of all

prophets setting forth the proper spirit of testimony. It is founded in what he said to Nicodemus, after he had been explaining to that ruler among the Jews some of the mysteries of being born again, and Nicodemus in some astonishment said:

“How can these things be?” Jesus said to him, and very solemnly: “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, we speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen.”

That represents the very spirit of testimony sought by the youth of Israel through our Mutual Improvement associations.

Also this seems to be a time of witnessing to the truth, and I want to refer you to one of these passages that are in my mind, which sets forth the Christ as God's and the truth's chief witness.

When in the presence of Pilate, accused by his nation, the Jews, Pilate seemed to be somewhat perplexed about the claim which was made about the Christ being King of the Jews, and he enquired seriously “Art thou then, a king?” And the Savior replied: “Thou sayest I am a King.” And then he comes to something which to the Christ seemed of more importance, and so in an independent sentence he adds: “To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world; that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice;” and of course is drawn to the Christ by the strength and power of the truth to which the Christ was then, is now, and forever shall be the Chief Witness.

### To All Who Obey.

Another of these passages, unconnected with any organized theme in my mind, is the one which declares that the Christ, though the Son of God, “yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect”—undoubtedly made perfect by that suffering—“he became the author of eternal salvation to all those who obey him.”

There are other such passages which have been haunting me through the morning, and oh that I might have the power to give these and others some organization that would present in increasing emphasis and power, some great lesson that might be of value to the assembled thousands of the youth of Zion.

In connection with these scriptures I have been thinking over these mottoes upon the balcony front of the gallery. The thought passed through my mind that I would like to see them assembled as a sheaf of banners and some spirit of unity given to them. They are, however, somewhat like these passages of scripture that I have been repeating to you. Each seems to stand alone, an independent theme of itself. No arrangement

that seems to be climbing toward a climax; and yet I do observe an increasing importance from the first toward the last, and especially through the last three or four of these, our slogans. Some day I hope it will occur to us to give them something of organization, not so much as chronological order as in the order of their importance, so that we may see in them the growth toward higher and ever higher conceptions of the duties that rest upon the youth of Zion, for this is what our slogans stand for—our duties.

#### The Main Purpose.

One has come to me while thinking of these things that perhaps I might stress a little and make the heart of what I would like to say to you this afternoon, that is, I would like to say a word about what should be the oversoul of all our mottoes, of all our strivings, that which gives vitality to all these slogans and to our whole work. I think I might approach it by reference to the high purpose which President Brigham Young seems to have had when giving these organizations birth. If you generalize his instructions you will find this to be at the heart of them, that the youth of Zion might learn to have faith in God's great latter-day work. That is my interpretation of his main purpose in bringing these organizations into existence. But before you can have faith in God's great latter day work, you must have faith in God himself. Then you see that faith in his great latter-day work would most likely follow as consequence. If I were going to propose a slogan that should be the over-soul of all these slogans, I think I should put it in these words, and make it chief of all, after which all else would be merely commentary. And this would be the slogan:

"We stand for absolute faith in the Eternal God, revealed in Jesus Christ."

That comes from our Book of Mormon, and is part of the preface of that ancient record, but it has always been published upon the title page of the translated work. That preface explains that this record has been brought forth and preserved, that it might lead to the convincing of "the Jews and Gentiles that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations." This is the primary purpose of this American volume of sacred scripture, the Book of Mormon, not to testify merely to the divinity of Christ. That is quite generally conceded, speaking now of Christendom. Being divine is one thing, but being Deity, the Eternal God, is something more than being divine.

#### He Is Deity.

There are and have been men, divine men, God-like men, that is, they have partaken some-

what of the divine nature, but what we want to assert concerning Jesus Christ is that he is Deity, "the Eternal God," the revelation of all that God is or can be—God incarnate; the manifestation of every element of Deity combined in one glorious manifestation, God revealed—God manifested in the flesh through the Christ.

That must be our ground. Jesus Christ is the manifestation of the one God-nature, but in which many personalities may participate. All the great harmonized Intelligences of the universe participate in that God-nature, and from them proceeds forth to fill the immensity of space, that Spirit we call God, even the Spirit of all the harmonized Intelligences of the universe, and bearing the attributes of God. This the light of the sun, and the power by which it was created; this the light of the stars, and the power by which they were created—the creative force or power of the universe; this the world-sustaining force, by which all things are held in balance, a balance so perfect that it meets all the requirements of mathematical certainty, and gives us an orderly cosmos, a universe where reigns eternal law; this the world's vital force, also, which gives life to all things, and is the power by which they subsist; this the intelligence-inspiring power, "the light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world," and beautifully called in our modern revelations, "the Light of Christ," and also "the Light of Truth," and hence the Intelligence-inspiring power of the universe, and richer, and better than all this, the love-manifested power of the world, especially manifested in the Christ. All these are but as rays of Deity, and in Jesus Christ they are gathered into One and revealed to the world as the eternal God.

#### To Triumphant Climax.

Let us hold this vision of God revealed in Jesus Christ as giving vitality to all our slogans, and all the slogans that shall come; and having that, let it become to us as the luminous cross became to the Roman Constantine and his armies, so that we can say, "By this conquer." Conquer self, the world, the flesh, and the devil, and thus lead the cause of Zion in these last days to a triumphant climax. I give you then, as the over-soul of all our slogans:

"We stand for absolute faith in the Eternal God, revealed through Jesus Christ."

There is very much need of giving our associations and the world such a slogan as this; for men are losing touch with this conception of God. They are denying the Lord who bought them. The great prophecy of Saint Peter concerning what would happen among Christians is

being more largely fulfilled in these days than ever before. He says:

"Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

"But there were false prophets among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily will bring in damnable heresies, by reason of which the way of truth shall be evil spoken of, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

"And worship God, who created heaven and earth and the seas and the fountains of water"—Thus calling men back to the worship of God. That would have been no part of his message if the world in the hour of God's judgment were in reality worshipping the true and the living God.

I hope that our banners will increase in their value and in their importance with the passing years. I hope some day, for instance, to find this emblazoned upon our banners—and may God hasten the time of it:

"We stand for the redemption of Zion, the commencement of her chief city, the building of her temple, according to the word of God, in this generation."

I would vote for a slogan of that kind coming from the youth of Zion even though it required us to pledge the full credit power of the Church to achieve it within God's appointed time.

#### Great Spiritual Forces.

Another slogan I would like to see adopted some day would be this:

"We stand for faith in the miraculous, the knowledge and wisdom and power of God wrought into the affairs of men."

That is all the miraculous is, and we must believe in the miraculous if we believe in the accomplishment of God's great purposes in these last days.

So we might go on to point out the glorious things that await the working of our hands, and the faith of our minds. I trust that the second fifty years, that is beginning with us now as an organization, will witness more mighty achievements than we have seen accomplished in the past fifty years. I am quite confident that our achievements during the past fifty years will be dwarfed by the glory of those achievements which will mark the second half of the first century of our existence as an organization. We shall indeed want this over-soul of all our slogans to be our inspiration, to the achievement of the great things that God expects of his modern Israel. Oh that one could have the power to set forth the glory of God and the greatness of his purposes, that we might work into the very

web and woof of our lives those great spiritual forces that can come from the conception of God revealed in Jesus Christ; and then the proceeding forth of the Spirit of God into all the universe, into the immensity of space's depths, until we become conscious of living, moving and having our being in the very presence of God!

#### Spiritual Life.

Then indeed we might be able to worship under some such conception as this:

"Oh thou eternal One, whose presence bright,  
All space doth occupy, all motion guide.  
Thou only God, there is no God beside,  
Being above all being, Mighty One,  
Whom none can comprehend and none explore,  
Who fillest existence with thyself alone,  
Embracing all, supporting, ruling o'er,  
Being whom men call God."

And whom we worship and see revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Oh Lord, rend the veil! Rend it from the top to bottom! Take up thy pavilion, that we may behold this vision of God; then all things else will fall into their proper order, our relationships to thee, and to each other. Grant us this vision, then; give us the inspiration of it, that we may worship thee truly as "Our Father which art in Heaven." Hallowed to us is thy name, may thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give to us the things we daily need, our daily bread, and especially our spiritual bread, which is our spiritual life—union and communion with Thee! Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and suffer us not to be led into temptation, but deliver us from the evil; for in all these things thine is and shall be the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

#### THE BIBLE

U. S. Grant: "Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet-anchor of your liberties; write its precepts in your hearts and practice them in your lives."

Robert E. Lee: "The Bible is a book in comparison with which all others, in my eyes, are of minor importance, and which in all my perplexities and distresses has never failed to give me light and strength."

William Ewart Gladstone: "I have known ninety-five great men of the world in my time; of these eighty-seven were followers of the Bible."

Daniel Webster: "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."