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Message 22 - "And the Book of Mormon and the Holy Scriptures Are Given of Me for Your Instruction"

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Abstract: The Lord has preserved the scriptures for the inspiration and instruction of his children. This divine preservation is particularly evident in the Book of Mormon. The Nephite prophets tell of the importance of the brass plates and the records they kept. We show appreciation by reading their records.

Visiting Teacher Messages—

Truths to Live By From The Doctrine and Covenants

Message 22—"And The Book of Mormon and the Holy Scriptures Are Given of Me for Your Instruction . . ." (D & C 33:16).

Christine H. Robinson

For Tuesday, March 3, 1960

Objective: To show that only by studying and knowing the scriptures and by putting them into action in our lives can we benefit from the Lord's instructions.

THE Lord has declared that he has preserved the holy scriptures for our inspiration and instruction. A consideration of the marvelous way the scriptures came into being and have been protected throughout history, shows that the Lord's hand has ever been present in their preservation.

The reality of this divine preservation can particularly be seen in the way The Book of Mormon records were written and preserved. When Nephi and his three brothers were sent back to Jerusalem to obtain the brass records in the custody of Laban, they encountered almost insurmountable difficulties. In the face of these obstacles, they were about to abandon the project. Nephi, however, inspired by the Lord, convinced his brothers that they must persevere. He knew that it was wisdom in God that they should obtain these records so that the teachings of the holy prophets could be preserved for this generation and for generations to come. With the Lord's help the brass plates were obtained. The Nephite prophets preserved them and wrote their own history on gold plates, and the entire set of records was miraculously pre-

served to come forth in the latter days as the Lord decreed.

The Book of Mormon records were preserved by inspired men, many of whom did not know specifically why they kept them. Nephi, when he was instructed to make two sets of plates, stated:

. . . the Lord hath commanded me to make these plates for a wise purpose in him, which purpose I know not (1 Nephi 9:5).

One wise purpose was clearly shown when the Prophet Joseph Smith was commanded by the Lord to use the small plates of Nephi in translating the part of the Nephite records lost by Martin Harris. (See D & C 10:38-46.)

The great prophet Mormon, the abridger of The Book of Mormon, who was the custodian of all the records written and handed down by his ancestors, cared for them in full knowledge of their real importance. He knew that by so doing, he was following the instructions of the Lord. (See "The Words of Mormon" 6-7.)

Mormon's son Moroni, who abridged the Book of Ether, also knew that The Book of Mormon

records would be preserved for the instruction of future generations. He said:

. . . out of the earth shall they come, by the hand of the Lord, and none can stay it; and it shall come in a day when it shall be said that miracles are done away; and it shall come even as if one should speak from the dead (Mormon 8:26).

The Prophet Joseph Smith described The Book of Mormon as:

. . . 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 (*D. H. C.* 4:461).

The Bible is a collection of sixty-six books which describe God's dealings with mankind on the Eastern Hemisphere. This great scripture has come to us through many translations, and is the word of God as far as it is translated correctly.

The Pearl of Great Price, another

of our standard scriptures, contains the writings and teachings of Moses as revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and the writings of Abraham which came miraculously into the Prophet's hands and were translated by him with divine help.

The Doctrine and Covenants is our only truly modern scripture. It is a compilation of revelations designed for our guidance and given by the Lord through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Regarding the scriptures, President Wilford Woodruff said:

. . . The Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Book of Doctrine and Covenants contain the words of eternal life unto this generation, and they will rise in judgment against those who reject them (*Journal of Discourses* 22:335).

Truly, the holy scriptures have been given by the Lord for our instruction. Yet, they cannot achieve their purpose to guide us throughout our lives unless we study them and put their teachings into action.

Work Meeting—Physical Safety Factors in the Home

(A Course Recommended for Use by Wards and Branches at Work Meeting)

Discussion 6—Safety Precautions in Medicine and Household Items

Charlotte A. Larsen

For Tuesday, March 8, 1960

Objective: To show the great responsibility of every homemaker to wage an intensified battle against poisons which take a high toll of lives among our children.

THE problem of accidental injury and especially accidental poisoning in infancy and childhood has long been of great concern to professional and lay groups.

We are in a new era with regard to poisons. The danger lies in the thousands of recently developed household items. The committee on toxicology of the American Med-