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## Jesus Is the Christ

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**Abstract:** This article unites the Bible and the Book of Mormon in bearing witness that Jesus is the Christ. It gives an examination of the two texts reveals sixteen important facts concerning Christ's mission, including his premortal and antemortal Godhood, his foreordination as the Redeemer, and the predictions of his birth to Mary. The testimony of two witnesses—the Bible and the Book of Mormon—establishes the truth.

# Jesus Is the Christ

Two national histories, separate and distinct, written on opposite hemispheres, unite in circumstantial testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ as the world's Redeemer; and these are embodied in independent volumes of Scripture—The Holy Bible and Book of Mormon.

The evidence of witnesses, whether individuals, coteries or nations, refutes itself if it fails in consistency, mutual support, and agreement in all substantial. The most critical examination of these two compilations of Scripture as to this vital feature is invited.

Among the outstanding facts of profoundest import recorded in the Bible concerning Jesus Christ and His mission are these:

1. His preexistence and antemortal Godship.
2. His foreordination as the Redeemer and Savior of mankind.
3. Predictions of His embodiments in the flesh, as the Son of the Eternal Father and of mortal woman.
4. The fulfilment of these predictions in His birth as Mary's Child.
5. The sending of a forerunner, John the Baptist, to prepare the way for the Lord's public ministry.
6. Christ's earthly life, covering about a third of a century, characterized by beneficent service, by authoritative administration, and by unexceptional example.
7. The establishment of His Church with duly ordained Apostles, who, with other ministers invested with the Holy Priesthood, carried forward the work of salvation after the Lord's departure.
8. The specific and authentic enunciation of the fundamental principles and ordinances of the gospel, by which the way of salvation has been opened to all, and without which none can abide in the kingdom of God, these comprising: (1) Faith in Him as the Son of God and the Redeemer of the world; (2) Repentance of sin; (3) Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; and (4) Bestowal of the Holy Ghost by the authoritative laying on of hands.
9. The Lord's sacrificial and atoning death.
10. His actual resurrection, whereby His spirit was reunited with the crucified body, and He became a glorified and immortalized soul.
11. His ministry as a Resurrected Being among men.
12. His exaltation to the place He had won at the right hand of God the Eternal Father.
13. The general apostasy of mankind from the gospel of Christ bringing about an era of spiritual darkness.

BY DR. JAMES E. TALMAGE,  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE, 1911-1933

14. The restoration of the Holy Priesthood in the latter days, by which the gospel would be again preached in power, and its ordinances administered for the salvation of men.

15. The assurance of our Lord's yet future return to earth, in glory and judgment, to inaugurate the predicted Millennium of peace and righteousness.

16. His eternal status as Judge of both quick and dead, and the eventual Victor over sin and death.

In every particular, even to circumstantial detail, the Scriptures of the West accord with those of the East in their solemn witness to these portentous developments of the divine plan, which has for its purpose "the immortality and eternal life of man." The voice of the continents, the independent testimonies of Judah and Ephraim, the Scriptures of the Jews and those of the Nephites, are heard in tuneful harmony bearing true witness to the world of the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ.

In vindication of the prophets of both East and West, the Holy Priesthood has been restored to the earth in this latter age, and the saving ordinances of the Lord's House are again administered for the salvation of souls. In this glorious restoration, coupled with the miraculous bringing forth of the Book of Mormon, is found rich fulfilment of ancient prophecy; for verily, "Truth has sprung out of the earth, and righteousness has come down from heaven." (See Psalm 85:11.)

Now, in olden times at least two witnesses were required to establish the truth of any important fact; and thus spake the Lord respecting the independent testimony of nations concerning Himself: "Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together, the testimony of the two nations shall run together also.\*\*\* Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible, ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written.\*\*\* For behold, I shall speak unto the Jews, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the Nephites, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the other tribes of the house of Israel, which I have led away, and they shall write it; and I shall speak unto all nations of the earth, and they shall write it.\*\*\* And it shall come to pass that my people which are of the house of Israel, shall be (Continued on page 1112)



## Teaching

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the teacher, as in the movie, being the chief focal point. Just as the actors and actresses can sway the emotions and actions of the audience, so can the teacher sway the thoughts of the students. The classroom, however, need not be darkened nor a floodlight focused on the teacher because, in the ideal class, both the student and the teacher must play important roles. But, just as surely as if the floodlights were upon him, the teacher is under keen

### THE CAROLS

BY JEAN KAY STOCKSETH

*Do you hear?  
The carols come again  
to sing us Christmas,  
and we love these songs  
because they sing of Him,  
that he was born  
and more  
that he does live!  
In all the hours  
of all our days  
he lives.*

*And we love these songs  
because they sing us home.*

scrutiny; and it is the time when unsuspected mannerisms, traits, and attitudes may transform students into either "Christians" or "critics."

Sometimes a student will be unreasonable in class for no other reason than to learn how his teacher will react; so, teacher, the way you react to difficult situations in the classroom may be the most impressive visual aid the student will remember from the day's lesson. When one accepts the role of a teacher, he takes upon himself a tremendous responsibility and obligation—for teaching is not easy. Most things that are richly rewarding do not come without perseverance and honest effort.

Every teacher, whatever and wherever he may teach, has both the opportunity and the obligation of enlightening and uplifting his students and, for the teacher in this Church, the responsibility is even

greater and of a much more far-reaching nature than for anyone else—for he teaches of "Eternity."

Teacher, as you look into the eyes of students, do you like the personal image you see mirrored there? Do you see a teacher who patiently, yet vibrantly, is giving a message of utmost importance to students who will always be glad they were there? Do you see a teacher who realizes that one of the greatest strengths of the Church comes through its individual teachers who make prayer a part of their preparation? And do you see a reflection of a teacher whose testimony is a priceless reality—a testimony that is unwavering and ready to be shared in humility? Another's testimony grows and receives strength as it is fed the gospel of Jesus Christ. One cannot teach convincingly that which he does not feel or that which his life does not reflect. Someone has said that often religion is *caught* and not *taught*.

The Savior asked Peter three times, as recorded by John, if he loved him; and after this third confession of love, Jesus commanded Peter to feed his sheep. (See John 21:15ff.) As a teacher in this Church, as you love the Lord and obey him, you will be able to teach with such conviction that the individual student becomes important, for he is truly a "child of God."

All teachers in the Church must meet the challenge to create an atmosphere that will cause students to reflect happily, "Teacher, I am here . . . I'm glad I came . . . Please tell me more about the path that leads to eternal life."

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gathered home unto the lands of their possessions; and my word also shall be gathered in one." (2 Nephi 29.)

The theme of this unified anthem of divine ministry is the preparation of the race for the impending advent of the Lord, who shall stand in bodily Presence upon the earth, to subdue wickedness and reign in righteousness in company with all who shall have become His.

## Poinsettia Time

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with a newspaper pinned around them, or a big paper sack slipped down over them. The poinsettia is really a hothouse plant and has to be treated as such—kept warm and out of drafts, in the house, and protected against wind and changes of weather in the summer. However, it is definitely an outdoor plant in its native country of Mexico. I think every flower lover likes to know the origin and history of the flower she grows, and that of the poinsettia is unusually interesting.

Many years ago, in 1825 to be exact, the United States sent as minister to Mexico, Joel Roberts Poin-

### STAR WORDS

BY D. J. ROBERTS

*There is the proven star of faith—  
I have watched its orbit rise.  
I have seen its zenith reached  
In the light in children's eyes.*

*There is the thorn, the plaited crown,  
The streamered sentence too "endure,"  
The wisdom gathered with the tree,  
The wreath of faith green on the door.*

sett, a statesman who was interested in practically everything, including natural history. He saw the plant, the Painted Leaf, or the Mexican Fire Plant, as it was called, growing rank and beautiful in its warm native haunts. He thought it was so lovely that when he returned to the United States in 1829, he called it to the attention of American botanists, who in turn named it poinsettia, (*Poinsettia pulcherina*) in his honor.

It isn't a flower, as most people think, because the flaming red bracts, which look like flower petals are really leaves, and it is for these that the plant is grown.

We think of the poinsettia as the Christmas flower, its bright scarlet hue in direct contrast to a white Christmas like we always dream about.

So now it is Christmas time, poinsettia time, and as we look at the bright glowing decorative poinsettias, let us give thanks to Mr. Joel Poinsett, the man who saw them, loved them, and brought them to the United States for us to enjoy.