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Book of Mormon Studies

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Abstract: This is a series of articles intended for Relief Society course study. It discusses the importance of the Book of Mormon, its coming forth (i.e., the translation, the witnesses, the publication, Joseph Smith), brief overview of its contents, and explains the text from 1 Nephi 1 through Alma 58. Each article features several questions that are helpful in synthesizing and applying the Book of Mormon to daily life.

heaven, through the exercise of the Holy Priesthood He bestowed upon them.

“As my Father hath sent me,” He declared, “even so send I you.” In First Corinthians, chapter 12, verse 28, we read: “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers.” These, we are told, were placed in the Church for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Were these officers ever to be done away with? No! Not until all have come to a unity of the faith, having obtained a perfect knowledge of the Son of God, even our Lord Jesus Christ.

From the earliest records of God's hand-dealings with His people we learn of the necessity of having His authority among them; how He chose and sent forth servants to proclaim to them His Gospel plan and to reveal His mind and will. He endowed them with divine power—the Priesthood—from on high. God is the same yesterday, to-day and forever. He is no respecter of persons. There is still need of His divine authority upon the earth—there is still a need for those who are commissioned by Him to declare in truth and boldness: “Thus saith the Lord.”

BOOK OF MORMON STUDIES*

ALMA THE YOUNGER, the loving and anxious father of some very human sons, is the personality who speaks in Alma 36 to 42 inclusive, which are the seven chapters to be read for this week. In these chapters Alma, the relentless denouncer of all evil and promoter of all good, appears to be somewhat mellowed—doubtless because of the tender love and compassion he held for his sons and because he was acutely conscious of his own youthful years, and of the anxiety he caused his own worthy father.

Despite all these deterrent considerations, however, Alma fully realized the obligations of parents to children. He did not neglect his duty as a father, but reproved, commended, exhorted and instructed his sons in firmness, but with love.

What sorrow the wayward youth of all ages have caused loving parents! But the beginnings of such sorrow in a majority of cases may be traced to homes void of that essential admixture of firmness and gentleness, of reproof and commendation, of correction and sympathy, of love and common sense. The lesson of Alma's life and ministry may well be studied and applied in every Christian home to-day.

QUESTIONS

1. In chapter 36 Alma tells of bitter torment and sweet joy. What caused his misery? What caused his happiness? How may we apply these principles to our lives?

*Lesson 22 of the Relief Society Course of Study—for use on the second lesson night in November.

2. Name some of the purposes of keeping records, as given in chapter 37. What charges were placed upon Helaman by Alma concerning his stewardship of the sacred records?

3. Recount the practical, everyday instructions given by Alma to Shiblon. Do they hold true for our day? How?

4. Corianton ignored counsel and boasted in his own strength. What was the result of his disregard of counsel? In what light is the sin of unchastity held by Latter-day Saints? See Alma 39:5.

5. What course of rectitude did Alma lay out for Corianton? Was Corianton beyond repentance and forgiveness? Are we ever justified in withholding forgiveness from anyone who is truly repentant?

6. Who shall be resurrected? See Alma 40:4. What, according to Alma's opinion, is the intermediate state of those who have died?

7. Discuss Alma 41:10. Whether in mortality or immortality, will the wicked ever be happy? Can disobedient children of God be restored to righteousness without first repenting and paying the price of their misdeeds?

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Release and Departure: Elder Franklin J. Newman, who has laboured in the Bristol and Leeds Districts, was honourably released on October 1st, 1928, and sailed for his home in America aboard the *Leviathan* from Southampton on October 16th.

Transfers: The following missionaries have been transferred from and to the Districts specified: Kenneth H. Smith, Birmingham to Manchester; Reese R. Parker, Bristol to Scottish; Morris D. Ogden, Leeds to Manchester; Dean R. Merrill, Liverpool to Nottingham; LaMont A. Beutler, Manchester to Bristol; Jesseo C. Nixon, Liverpool to London; Cecil H. Toone, Manchester to Ulster.

Branch Conferences: Of the Accrington Branch, Liverpool District, on Sunday, October 21st. President L'Etrenne Andelin and Elders H. Kenneth Brown, William J. Matheson and Dean R. Merrill discoursed on the "Harvest" theme. A large number of people attended and the day was spent in the spirit of a "Harvest Festival."

Of the Belfast Branch, Ulster District, on Sunday, October 21st. The theme, "The Personality of God", was treated by President Rulon D. Barnes, Elders Lovell A. Youngberg, Rulon S. Satterfield, Edward L. Blacker, Joseph S. Brough and Alvin P. McAllister. Both meetings had a large attendance and musical numbers were rendered at each session.

Of the Sparkbrook Branch, Birmingham District, on Sunday, October 21st. The evening speakers were President Heber J. Matkin, R. LeRoy Fletcher, LeRay Swainston and local Brother William J. Dyson.