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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.

**RELIEF SOCIETY***(Continued from page 39)*

Two of his best known hymns are found in the *Songs of Zion*: "Go, Ye Messengers of Heaven," number 239; and "The Seer, Joseph the Seer," number 213.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Read the British Mission history found in the *Millennial Star* of September 20th, 1928, and other issues, and tell what you can of John Taylor's early life.

2. Tell of his journey to Canada and his marriage. (See *Millennial Star* of September 27th, 1928).

3. Study from any other books to which you may have access and tell all you can of his later ministry in the Church.

4. Read (learn if possible) the song: "A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief." Tell of its dramatic use in the life of John Taylor.

5. Give in your own words the message of the hymn: "Go, Ye Messengers of Heaven." Read it to the class and discuss it.

6. In the old hymn book is published in full John Taylor's hymn: "The Seer, Joseph The Seer." Read it and discuss its full meaning. Sing it for a closing hymn.

L. D. W.

**BOOK OF MORMON STUDIES**

For the first lesson in February.

MANY wonderful truths and much history are contained in the book of Helaman, chapters 1 to 6, inclusive. Read and study them. The most important thing recorded in these chapters is one of the most disastrous in all Nephite history—the formation of a secret and most iniquitous, vile, and unholy order—the Gadianton robbers—which spread its deadly fibers to the very heart of the nation, despite all attempts to destroy it.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What were the results of office-seeking after Pahoran's death? Who were the contenders? What are the results of office-seeking generally?

2. Tell the story of Kishkumen. How does the Lord look upon secret orders?

3. How do the references to the building of cement substantiate the claims of the Book of Mormon? (See the next issue of the *Star*.)

4. In chapters 3 and 4 of Helaman, what is given as the chief causes for dissension and lack of peace? What were some of the results?

5. Many great characters of the Book of Mormon relinquished positions of worldly honour and power to preach the Gospel of Christ, among them Nephi, spoken of in Helaman, chapter 5. What parallel has this procedure in our Church to-day?

6. The Book of Mormon often speaks of peace and freedom and prosperity (chapter 6 of Helaman among the number), when the majority of

the people accepted the Gospel of Jesus Christ and obeyed the commandments of the Lord. Does that always happen? Apply it to our present day.

R. L. E.

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### WORD OF WISDOM LESSON (No. 2)

For the third lesson in February.

#### TEMPORAL SALVATION

IT IS NOT our purpose to study the Word of Wisdom paragraph by paragraph, but to emphasize the points most needed to-day for human betterment. Before doing so, however, it will be interesting to note some of the circumstances which led to this law of health being given to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

*The Great Need.* The Saints were struggling to understand and live the new precepts of life and salvation in those early days. Especially was there need of understanding the means whereby the body may be kept as clean as possible for the great purpose of living the Gospel in its fulness. The revelation called "A Word of Wisdom," was given to the Prophet on February 27th, 1833—ninety-six years ago this month.

It was the first Revelation given after the organization of the School of the Prophets. The Elders who were instructed in that school, as a preparation for the ministry, were to be clean. Brigham Young relates the circumstances that occasioned this Revelation. The first school was held in a small room situated over the Prophet Joseph's kitchen, in a house which belonged to Bishop Whitney. The brethren came to that little room, from near and far, to receive instructions. As was customary at that time, some of them smoked and used tobacco in other forms. Often, when the Prophet entered the room, he would find himself in a cloud of tobacco smoke, and the floor was soiled. The Prophet earnestly sought the Lord for guidance in this difficulty, and received this Revelation.

There is, possibly, no Revelation in this volume that has been more frequently commented upon by the Elders in their discourses, or more fully explained. There certainly is none that has received stronger confirmation by scientists. It is a Revelation that deals mainly with the proper mode of living, and the rules given, far in advance of anything suggested by scientists, have been amply sanctioned by undisputed authority on hygienic laws, as soon as these have become known through research. Here, the Prophet deals with a subject that belongs properly to the domain of science, and scientists, therefore, without intention on their part, become witnesses to the fact that Joseph Smith spoke by divine inspiration, when they confirm the truths set forth.\*

*Counsel or Command?* There are those who quibble even to-day as to whether or not the Word of Wisdom was ever intended as a commandment. To those who accept divine guidance any word "given by revelation, showing forth the order and will of

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\**Doctrine and Covenants Commentary*, Page 705.