



Type: Magazine Article

Book of Mormon Studies

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Source: *The Latter-Day Saints' Millennial Star*, Vol. 91, No. 12 (21 March 1929)

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

Page(s): 179–180

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.

your work, that you may be further obedient to those whisperings for your protection and guidance in the Church. I thank the Lord for your faith, and for your prayers for my personal welfare; and in turn I pray God to bless you, that He will continue to bless the authorities of the Church—President Grant and his associates—I know that the Lord has blessed them, for He has blessed me in being associated with them. I am grateful indeed for the prayers and the blessings of my associates in the ministry, and am very grateful for the faith and the prayers of the Saints, for I know that they have prevailed for my blessing. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless this Church, and all those who are working in it, whether at home or in the mission field. I pray the blessings of the Lord upon those who may be disturbed in their feelings and do not know how to decide upon what they ought to do. If they will listen, and then act when the prompting comes, I predict that they will receive comfort and blessings for their relief. May the blessings of the Lord attend us throughout the remainder of this conference, and when we go home may we take with us the advice and counsel and blessings which are given for our benefit, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

RELIEF SOCIETY

BOOK OF MORMON STUDIES

For the first lesson in April

BY UNSYMPATHETIC CRITICS of the Book of Mormon, the third book of Nephi has sometimes been called the "Fifth Gospel." The allusion—implying that it is of the same order as Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, admitting that it is an added testimony of the Saviour—is a happy one, and Latter-day Saints have carried on the allusion for a good purpose.

The chief and avowed purpose of the Book of Mormon is to bear witness to the world that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that He dwelt among men and died that they might live. No other division of the sacred record bears this witness so completely and so effectively as does the third book of Nephi. In this respect, therefore, it is the most important in the Book of Mormon. It is most fitting that the consideration of Third Nephi should commence in April, which is accepted by Latter-day Saints as the birth month and death month of our Lord and Saviour—although we celebrate it on the appointed day with the rest of the world.

To begin with Third Nephi, chapters 1 to 6 should be studied. The depravity of the majority and the faithfulness of the few are noteworthy. The fact that the star marking the Saviour's birth was visible in the Western as well as in the Eastern hemisphere, is a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the world.

It is verified by the legends of the American Indians. It appears that on the American continent the added testimony of three days of light was given also. The activities of Satan in attempting to harden the hearts of the people that they might not believe the signs and wonders is significant. The more nearly a man approaches to God, the more stoutly and cunningly will Satan oppose him and attempt to spread doubt in his mind. Many inquirers have found this to be true when contemplating the accepting of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this day.

QUESTIONS

1. In what respect is Third Nephi the most important section of the Book of Mormon? Why has it sometimes been called the "Fifth Gospel?"
2. Why did Nephi entreat the Lord to know when the sign was to be given? What signs does the Book of Mormon record on the Western hemisphere? Compare these with those that were spoken of in the New Testament.
3. What effect did the signs and wonders have upon the people? Was it lasting? Do honest conversions often come from signs and wonders?
4. What change came upon those Lamanites who lived righteously? Was this according to promise? Cite the promise given to the descendants of Laman.
5. Recount the attempted strategy of Giddianhi, captain of the Gandianton robbers. How was his message treated by Lachoneus, a just and wise governor?
6. What was the outcome of the seige? Are people ever defeated when they are defending homes and families in righteousness? Why?
7. What was secretly done by corrupt judges to many who testified of Christ? What was the outcome?

R. L. E.

WORD OF WISDOM LESSONS (No. 4)

For the third lesson in April

THE EARTH OUR HOME

NOTE: It is easy for "fads" to creep in, and for "food quacks" to give instructions on the vital subject of food and health. On this as all other subjects, we must learn the truth. For that reason these lessons are being based on and held closely to our inspired Word of Wisdom. Also the facts given are in accord with the published statements of the most advanced and reliable British authorities on the science of nutrition, from whom most of the quoted statements are taken. Feeding experiments are constantly being made and new truths are gradually coming to light; but the facts stated here are in full accord with the best scientific information available. This is for your safety and our protection.

The Miracle of Earth Life. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.