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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.

anticipated by his family a request came from the president of the European Mission that he remain yet another six months. The financial requirement was altogether beyond their ability, and the Bishop of the ward called our attention to the circumstance.

I would not mention such matters as these for any vain-glorious purpose, but in a devout hope that this large problem may some day be solved so that the responsibility of preaching the Gospel may be borne by the membership in general rather than by the heavily burdened individual; so that some day we may place five thousand missionaries in the nations where we now have but half that number, simply because the boys at home and their faithful parents have not the means of supporting them on missions. A survey has revealed the fact that were it not for lack of money we could place three worthy boys out in the field for every one we now have there.

The proper handling of this problem is a prophecy that some day we will have ten thousand missionaries representing the Church among the nations, teaching them the truth God has restored to earth in this Gospel dispensation.

THE DUTY OF THE CHURCH

One of the unmistakable evidences of the existence of the Church of Christ upon the earth is the zeal and courage of the Church in carrying the message of the Gospel to the nations. In the manner in which that responsibility is discharged lies the evidences of divine authority. I rejoice with you this day that from the very beginning of this dispensation the Church has sought to perform its supreme duty in a manner which vindicates its claims to divine authority and a restoration of the truth.

To this end may we consecrate our time, our means, our abilities, as God shall require, I humbly pray, in His Holy Name. Amen.

RELIEF SOCIETY

BOOK OF MORMON STUDIES

For the first lesson in December

WHY were the Nephites exterminated? Why did a few of the Lamanites survive? These are questions that arise in the minds of many readers of the Book of Mormon as they near the end of this most remarkable record. Perhaps the answer may be forthcoming, by inference at least, from the closing chapters of the book. Read Moroni, chapters 7 to 10.

To begin with, at this closing period of Nephite history the names "Nephite" and "Lamanite" were more or less arbitrary designations for those who chose enlightenment and for those who

chose darkness, respectively. These terms have ceased to imply descent from Nephi and Laman in large measure. The Nephites then, had the greater light. More was expected of them. Therefore, greater was their sin and condemnation when they lowered themselves to the same level as their unenlightened brethren. Reason enough for their greater punishment!

So it is with the apostates from the Church to-day—they fall farther when they do fall than those who have never reached to such great height. So shall we as Latter-day Saints be judged by the higher law. Beside other works of scripture and modern revelation, we have the Book of Mormon, in which is contained the fulness of the everlasting Gospel and additional testimonies for the divinity of Jesus Christ—reason enough for continued faithfulness on our part!

The only logical conclusion to the Book of Mormon studies is the conclusion of Moroni: “And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that you would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if you shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

“And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.”

QUESTIONS

1. Summarize Moroni's teachings and views in good and evil works and their sources.
2. What of the baptism of little children? Reason upon this question, using Moroni, chapter 8, as a guide.
3. The Nephites and Lamanites were about equal in their deeds of wickedness in this latter period. Why were the former destroyed and the latter not entirely exterminated?
4. Summarize Moroni's last words to the Lamanites.
5. How may a testimony of the Book of Mormon surely come? Tell of your own experience in this connection.
6. Let each member of the class express her feelings and bear her testimony concerning the Book of Mormon.

R. L. E.

WORD OF WISDOM LESSONS (No. 12)

For the third lesson in December

A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Holiday Feasting: The word “holiday” comes from two words, *holy day*. Is there anything “holy” about the observance of the Christmas Season in most Christian countries? No pagan mass could be celebrated with more show or sense of bodily indulgence than the expression of Christmas cheer in the average home in Christendom.

Where plenty abounds, it is a continuous orgy of feasting and