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## Characters and Teachings of The Book of Mormon: Lesson 46—Prophecies Concerning the Jews, Gentiles, and Lamanites in the Latter Days

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## LESSON DEPARTMENT

### *Theology*—Characters and Teachings of The Book of Mormon

Lesson 46—Prophecies Concerning the Jews, Gentiles, and Lamanites in  
the Latter Days

*Elder Leland H. Monson*

For Tuesday, March 5, 1957

Objective: To show that the prophecies made by Book of Mormon prophets are being fulfilled.

THE Book of Mormon is rather explicit in what it has to say about the Gentiles, the Jews, and the Lamanites. Various prophets looked into the future and wrote concerning these three groups of people.

#### *Concerning the Gentiles*

The Gentiles, according to The Book of Mormon, were to be given the privilege of unveiling this great land of America after it had been hidden from the nations of the world for hundreds of years. Nephi wrote:

And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land. . . .

And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of the Gentiles upon the land

of promise; and I beheld the wrath of God, that it was upon the seed of my brethren; and they were scattered before the Gentiles and were smitten (1 Nephi 13:12, 14).

This quotation undoubtedly refers to the discovery of America by Columbus, and to the fact that many Gentiles would follow in his wake.

Nephi also saw that a great and marvelous work would be accomplished among these Gentiles, for they were to receive the Nephite records (2 Nephi 29:3) and to take the contents to the remnant of the Nephite and Lamanite civilization in the latter days. Nephi wrote:

And it came to pass that the angel of the Lord spake unto me, saying Behold, saith the Lamb of God, after I have visited the remnant of the house of Israel — and this remnant of whom I speak is the seed of thy father—wherefore, after I have visited them in judgment, and smitten them by the hand of the Gentiles and after the Gentiles do stumble exceedingly,

because of the most plain and precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which have been kept back by that abominable church, which is the mother of harlots, saith the Lamb — I will be merciful unto the Gentiles in that day, insomuch that I will bring forth unto them, in mine own power, much of my gospel, which shall be plain and precious, saith the Lamb (1 Nephi 13:34).

Writing again on this same subject, Nephi pointed out:

And after our seed is scattered the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed; wherefore, it is likened unto their being nourished by the Gentiles and being carried in their arms and upon their shoulders (1 Nephi 22:8).

On another occasion, Nephi prophesied that the Gentiles should carry the message of the record to a remnant of his seed:

And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are descendants of the Jews.

And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them . . . (2 Nephi 30:4-5; see also 3 Nephi 26:8).

But it was not the Nephite record alone that the Gentiles were to give to a remnant of Nephi's people, for Nephi saw that the Gentiles would take the Jewish record to a remnant of his seed:

Therefore repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus, and lay hold upon the gospel of Christ, which shall be set before you, not only in this record but also in the record which shall come unto the Gentiles from the Jews, which record shall come from the Gentiles unto you (Mormon 7:8).

And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and

also the book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren (1 Nephi 13:38).

It was further to be the mission of the Gentiles to scatter a remnant of the house of Israel. (See 1 Nephi 15:17; 2 Nephi 10:18.)

The Book of Mormon indicates, too, that there should be a great Gentile nation built upon this land:

And it meaneth that the time cometh that after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land; and by them shall our seed be scattered (1 Nephi 22:7).

But behold, this land, said God, shall be a land of thine inheritance, and the Gentiles shall be blessed upon the land.

And this land shall be a land of liberty unto the Gentiles, and there shall be no kings upon the land, who shall raise up unto the Gentiles (2 Nephi 10:10-11).

A glorious promise is also held out to these Gentiles, for Nephi says:

. . . that if the Gentiles shall hearken unto the Lamb of God in that day that he shall manifest himself unto them in word, and also in power, in very deed, unto the taking away of their stumbling blocks—

And harden not their hearts against the Lamb of God, they shall be numbered among the seed of thy father; yea, they shall be numbered among the house of Israel; and they shall be a blessed people upon the promised land forever . . . (1 Nephi 14:1-2; see also 2 Nephi 30:2).

### *Concerning the Lamanites*

Book of Mormon prophets, interested as they were in these Gentiles, also showed great concern over the

Lamanites. There were periods in the Lamanite history when they were righteous as indicated by the conversions among them by the sons of Mosiah, the preachings of Samuel the Lamanite, and the merging of the Nephite and Lamanite civilizations after the appearance of the Christ when the Nephites and Lamanites had all things in common. (Helaman 6:1). There were more periods, however, when the Lamanites were unrighteous. But we are not concerned with this history here, for we want to know what promises the Lord held out for the Lamanites in the last days.

Just before sealing up his father's record, Moroni wrote a few words to his Lamanite brethren of the future concerning the record the Gentiles would give unto them. He wrote:

. . . and I write unto my brethren, the Lamanites; and I would that they should know that more than four hundred and twenty years have passed away since the sign was given of the coming of Christ.

And I seal up these records, after I have spoken a few words by way of exhortation unto you.

And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye 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 (Moroni 10:1-2, 4).

Moroni further encouraged these Lamanites not to deny the gifts of God—the gift of knowledge, the gift of faith, the gift of healing, the gift of prophecy, and the others. He seems to be pleading with them to accept the gospel in the last days

when it would be presented to them.

Moroni appears to have directed his entire writings in the Book of Moroni to the Lamanites. (See Moroni 1:4.) It was to the Lamanites that he wrote when he discussed the ordinances of the gospel and gave the two prayers for administering the sacrament, the mode of bestowing the Holy Ghost, and the ordination of priests and teachers.

One of the early Book of Mormon prophets, Enos, prayed “with many long strugglings” for the Lamanites:

And now behold, this was the desire which I desired of him — that if it should so be, that my people, the Nephites, should fall into transgression, and by any means be destroyed, and the Lamanites should not be destroyed that the Lord God would preserve a record of my people, the Nephites; even if it so be by the power of his holy arm, that it might be brought forth at some future day unto the Lamanites, that, perhaps, they might be brought unto salvation—

And I had faith, and I did cry unto God that he would preserve the records; and he covenanted with me that he would bring them forth unto the Lamanites in his own due time (Enos 13, 16).

Helaman later held forth promises for the Lamanites of the last days. Helaman wrote:

Yea, I say unto you, that in the latter times the promises of the Lord have been extended to our brethren, the Lamanites; and notwithstanding the many afflictions which they shall have, and notwithstanding they shall be driven to and fro upon the face of the earth, and be hunted, and shall be smitten and scattered abroad, having no place for refuge, the Lord shall be merciful unto them.

And this is according to the prophecy, that they shall be brought to the true

knowledge, which is the knowledge of their Redeemer, and their great and true shepherd, and be numbered among his sheep (Helaman 15:12-13).

Mormon also called upon the Lamanites in the last days to repent, as quoted previously:

Therefore repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus, and lay hold upon the gospel of Christ, which shall be set before you, not only in this record but also in the record which shall come unto the Gentiles from the Jews, which record shall come from the Gentiles unto you (Mormon 7:8).

### *Concerning the Jews*

The Book of Mormon prophets also wrote much about the Jews and the promises of the Lord to them in the last days. Lehi brought with him from Jerusalem the brass plates, the record of the Jews. Nephi speaks of making a record “. . . in the language of my father, which consists of the learning of the Jews and the language of the Egyptians” (1 Nephi 1:2).

The Book of Mormon makes it clear that the Jews were responsible for the crucifixion of the Christ (2 Nephi 10:3), and that they would become a hated and despised people.

Nephi wrote:

And as for those who are at Jerusalem, saith the prophet, they shall be scourged by all people, because they crucify the God of Israel, and turn their hearts aside, rejecting signs and wonders, and the power and glory of the God of Israel.

And because they turn their hearts aside, saith the prophet, and have despised the Holy One of Israel, they shall wander in the flesh, and perish, and become a hiss and a by-word, and be hated among all nations (1 Nephi 19:13-14).

Wherefore, the Jews shall be scattered

among all nations; yea, and also Babylon shall be destroyed; wherefore, the Jews shall be scattered by other nations.

And after they have been scattered, and the Lord God hath scourged them by other nations for the space of many generations, yea, even down from generation to generation until they shall be persuaded to believe in Christ, the Son of God, and the atonement, which is infinite for all mankind — and when that day shall come that they shall believe in Christ, and worship the Father in his name, with pure hearts and clean hands, and look not forward any more for another Messiah, then, at that time, the day will come that it must needs be expedient that they should believe these things.

And the Lord will set his hand again the second time to restore his people from their lost and fallen state. Wherefore, he will proceed to do a marvelous work and a wonder among the children of men.

Wherefore, he shall bring forth his words unto them, which words shall judge them at the last day, for they shall be given them for the purpose of convincing them of the true Messiah, who was rejected by them; and unto the convincing of them that they need not look forward any more for a Messiah to come, for there should not any come, save it should be a false Messiah which should deceive the people; for there is save one Messiah spoken of by the prophets, and that Messiah is he who should be rejected of the Jews (2 Nephi 25:15-18).

Nephi knew that in the last days the Jews (as well as the nations of the Gentiles) would become “. . . drunken with iniquity and all manner of abominations” (2 Nephi 27:1). Despite this condition, Nephi also saw that the Nephite record and the record of the lost tribes of Israel would come to the Jews. (See 2 Nephi 29:13.)

Nephi also said:

. . . as many of the Jews as will not repent shall be cast off; for the Lord

covenanteth with none save it be with them that repent and believe in his Son, who is the Holy One of Israel (2 Nephi 30:2).

However, Nephi promised:

And it shall come to pass that the Jews which are scattered also shall begin to believe in Christ; and they shall begin to gather in upon the face of the land; and as many as shall believe in Christ shall also become a delightsome people (2 Nephi 30:7).

Jacob saw the day when the Jews "... because of their iniquities ..." would suffer from destruction, famines, pestilences, and bloodshed; "... and they who shall not be destroyed shall be scattered among all nations" (2 Nephi 10:6). He prophesied, however, that:

... When the day cometh that they shall believe in me, that I am Christ, then have I covenanted with their fathers that they shall be restored in the flesh, upon the earth, unto the lands of their inheritance (2 Nephi 10:7).

Mormon, a later prophet, was interested in seeing that in the last days the Jews:

... the covenant people of the Lord, shall have other witness besides him whom they saw and heard, that Jesus, whom they slew, was the very Christ and the very God (Mormon 3:21).

Mormon knew, of course, that his record would be a witness.

Mormon, cognizant of what the attitude of people would be towards the Jews in the last days, urged us not to glory in persecuting them. He wrote:

... ye need not any longer hiss, nor spurn, nor make game of the Jews, nor any of the remnant of the house of Israel; for behold, the Lord remembereth his covenant unto them, and he will do unto them according to that which he hath sworn (3 Nephi 29:8).

Book of Mormon prophets were solicitous of the future welfare of these groups of people, the Gentiles, Lamanites, and Jews, and wrote to encourage them to accept the gospel in the last days. They promised a rich reward to all who would accept it.

### Questions on the Lesson

1. What are the promises to the Gentiles, if they repent?
2. What are the promises to the Lamanites of the last days?
3. Discuss how the prophecies in The Book of Mormon concerning the Jews are coming to pass?
4. If Book of Mormon prophets were concerned with these people, what is our responsibility?

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