

BOOK OF MORMON

General Board Committee: Alfred C. Rees, Chairman; James L. Barker, Vice Chairman; and Horace H. Cummings

Introduction to Year's Work

It is the hope that this year's study will establish in the minds of our young people a deep respect for the Book of Mormon as an authoritative comprehensive source of information on the gospel plan of salvation.

Lessons this year will be placed, quarterly, in the hands of the class. These leaflets will treat the teachings, exhortations, revelations, and visions of the men who made the history of the Book of Mormon and who were the acknowledged spiritual leaders of the people.

For example, beginning will be had with Lehi. The important truths he uttered will be quoted in the leaflets, and classified under appropriate headings, i. e., faith, obedience, humility, priesthood, etc., etc.

Questions will appear at the end of each lesson, for the purpose of inviting and stimulating discussion on the subjects listed.

By this method of treatment, it is hoped the class will attach to each Nephitic prophet and leader a definite significance, as an authorized interpreter of the principles of the gospel.

Since the lessons are to be given in chronological order, an appropriate setting will be furnished in each case, enabling the class to connect the teachings with the related historical events. Thus, all of Lehi's utterings will be introduced in connection with his great exodus, and the laying of the foundation of the race on a new continent. Samuel's exhortations will come on the eve of the Savior's birth, so that his sayings will have full significance to the class that is thus permitted to know the condition, the time and the attitude of the people when he appeared among them.

Such prophets as Alma, Mosiah, Benjamin and Mormon will be given more attention than some others on account of the outstanding importance and clarity of their teachings.

Four lessons will be devoted to the origin and history of the Book of Mormon; two lessons, to the origin and history of the Bible.

The purpose back of this study is to prove our contention, as given in the 8th article of faith; that we believe the Bible to be the Word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God.

It will be shown that the Book of Mormon has never passed out of the hands of men of God, men who knew the Gospel, and who appreciated the sacred nature of the writings. On the other hand, the Bible comes down to us through many translations and is only a partial account of what otherwise might have been a completely authoritative, clear record of God's dealings with his people over centuries of time.

At the same time, the sacredness of the Bible will be stoutly defended. The teacher is asked to present this comparison between these two sacred books in such manner that the class will maintain their appreciation for the Bible; but will also look upon the Book of Mormon (the text for this year) as being the superior of the two from the standpoint of authority and completeness in its presentation of the Gospel plan.

A prayerful, studious approach to this subject, on the part of the teacher should result in fortifying the boys and girls in this department in their belief in the divinity of the Book of Mormon and in the restoration of the Gospel in these, the last days.

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The lessons this month lay an impressive background for an appreciation of the foresight of the Lord in planning all His great works.

Permit the class to discuss liberally and freely the nature and significance of the vision, the bringing forth of the plates and the translation.

By effective questioning, draw out from the class members what impressions they have respecting the whole history of the plates.

They will be especially interested in the Lord's instructions to Lehi and Nephi; how these prophets knew that they were beginning an historical record that was later to be a powerful means of conversion.

The final lesson of the month is a history of the Old Testament. It is brief but clear. See that the class gets the big point of the lesson; viz., that the Old Testament is not a complete record of all that transpired among the ancient peoples of the Lord. At the same time, impress upon the class that we are deeply appreciative of the material which has survived and has come down to us for our guidance and inspiration.