



Type: Magazine Article

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## The Book of Mormon a Witness for the Christ

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Source: *Liahona: The Elders' Journal*, Vol. 27, No. 2 (9 July 1929), p. 48

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

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**Abstract:** The Book of Mormon gives the account of the resurrected Christ visiting and teaching the ancient inhabitants of the western world. The purpose of the Book of Mormon is to convince both Jew and gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God.

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## The Book of Mormon a Witness for the Christ.

The all-important matter connected with the Book of Mormon is the fact that it gives an account of the visit of the resurrected Christ to the ancient inhabitants of the western world. It also gives an account of the Christ teaching the Gospel to men of the western world, and founding a Church among them, which ministered the Gospel to the salvation of many through several generations.

The manner of the appearing of the Christ to the former inhabitants of America was on this wise: During the crucifixion of the Christ in Judea, and the period of his body lying in the tomb, America, in fulfilment of predictions of inspired prophets among the people, was visited by dire calamities of storm and tempest and earthquakes, followed by three days of intense and continuous darkness. Following these calamities, as a company of survivors in a land called Bountiful were viewing and commenting upon the great changes wrought by tempest and earthquakes, and were speaking of the Christ, of whose death and resurrection these terrible disturbances in nature had been a sign, according to their prophets, they were thrilled by hearing a voice vibrate through the air. At first they understood not what was said, but the third time they heard it they understood, for it said:

“Behold my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name—hear him.”

Then out of the expanse of heaven they beheld a man descending. He was clothed with a white robe; he came down and stood in the midst of them and said:

“Behold, I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified shall come into the world: And behold, I am the light and the life of the world; and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning. And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words, the whole multitude fell to the earth, for they remembered that it had been prophesied among them that Christ should show himself unto them after his ascension into heaven” (III Nephi, Ch. 11:10, 11, 12).

The visitation of the Christ to this people was attended by the calling of twelve disciples to found a church, and to teach the Gospel; the ordinances of which, together with the law of righteousness, which ever attends upon the Gospel, were expounded. The Sermon on the Mount, first delivered in Judea, was repeated in substance, and all the ordinances of the Church of God were established for the salvation of the people.

Righteousness prevailed through several generations, then came the period of spiritual and moral declension which resulted in the barbarism in which the American race was found at the advent of the Europeans in the western world, 1492.

Thus in this New Dispensation, in which God is speaking, was brought forth a New Witness for God and the Christ; a New Witness to the great truth that salvation is of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, “the Lord Omnipotent” (Book of Mormon, Mosiah, 3-17 id. 5:8 and 2nd Nephi 25:20).

It was for the purpose of convincing “the Jew and the Gentile, that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God,” that the Book of Mormon was written, sealed up and preserved from destruction, and brought forth in these last days.

This book, so strong a witness for the divinity of Jesus Christ, is equally strong as a witness for the Gospel—God’s plan for the salvation of men: “I say unto you,” one of the prophets of the book is represented as saying, “that there shall be no other name given, nor any other way, nor means, whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent. . . . Salvation was and is, and is to come, in and through the atoning blood of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent” (Mosiah 3:17, 18).—*From a recent brochure by Elder B. H. Roberts.*