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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.

life. We know that that was a new contribution because even to this day—and it has persisted down through many years—the Christian conception of marriage has been for time and life only. Indeed, the Christian ceremony which has long been used, provides that a man and a woman are united in wedlock “until death do them part.” Now, under the power of the Priesthood which was restored, and with the ordinances as they have been given, wedlock may be entered into not only for time but for all eternity, and a man and a woman who are so bound are entitled to enjoy each other’s association, companionship and love, on into the ages to come; and not only may they enjoy each other’s companionship, but they are likewise permitted to enjoy the continued companionship of their children. Indeed, the new conception of marriage makes children of supreme significance. Homes are not provided merely for the indulgence of the companionship of two people, but under this new idealistic thought homes are provided to fulfil the higher and holy purposes of God in the establishment of His children here in the flesh; and not only for this life, but for all time to come.

NO HEAVEN WITHOUT HOME

I do not know how it may be with you, but with me I have never been able to contemplate a heaven without a home; I have never felt that happiness and real joy could come without the associations that I have had and loved here in this life; nor have I ever felt that my heavenly life could be entirely happy if I were to be deprived of any of the children which God in His mercy has given to me. I have long felt that if there had been no other contribution to human thought and welfare coming from the great latter-day work than this high and exalted conception of the marriage relationship, it would have fully justified the institution of the Church, and the setting up of the great principles and organization which have done so much for the blessing of humanity. . . . Amen.

RELIEF SOCIETY

BOOK OF MORMON STUDIES

For the first lesson in October

CHRONOLOGICALLY the book of Ether should be placed first in the Book of Mormon record. To have it come as the next to the last sub-division makes a decided and confusing break in the narrative. It was so placed as an abridgment by Moroni before he closed his records.

The story of the Jaredites with which the book of Ether deals, was treated in bare outline in one of the first lessons last year; but it is strongly advised that its thirty-one pages be read and con-

sidered for October's lesson this year. The book of Ether is briefly explained on the title page of the Book of Mormon.

Covering the many generations that it does in the thirty-one pages, we cannot hope to get more than a glimpse of Jaredite history. The record is frequently interspersed with the writings of Moroni, its abridger. Like the rest of the Book of Mormon, the book of Ether bears record of the personal attributes of God, of the divinity of Jesus Christ; it teaches the rewards of obedience and the disasters of iniquity; it forcefully stresses the danger and hideousness of secret combinations and works of darkness. It gives us reasons to believe that the Lord has had, and possibly has now, many peoples upon the face of the earth of whom we know nothing, and that He loves and blesses them alike, according to their deeds, and that He ministers and directs all the children of His creation wherever they may be—if they will seek Him.

The closing words of Ether are classic examples of faith and resignation to the will of God. "Whether the Lord will that I be translated, or that I suffer the will of the Lord in the flesh, it mattereth not, if it so be that I am saved in the kingdom of God."

That is all that matters to any of us eventually, and salvation is assured us by our obedience and righteous living.

QUESTIONS

1. What peoples are considered in the book of Ether? Where did they come from? When did they live?

2. How did the record of the Jaredites come into the possession of the Nephites? Why is it so placed in the Book of Mormon? Who abridged the book of Ether?

3. Why did the Jaredites wish to leave the Eastern hemisphere? Briefly tell of their experiences and dealings with the Lord from the time they first petitioned Him until they reached the western continent.

4. What were the results of seeking offices as recorded in chapter eight of the book of Ether? Do you think that office-seeking in the Church today brings the same results in proportion? Discuss.

5. Compare the repeated rising and falling, the periods of peace and periods of war, of the Nephites and the Jaredites.

6. Compare the last days of Moroni with those of the Prophet Ether.

7. Discuss the power of faith, and the purpose of the weaknesses of men, as they are discoursed upon in Ether, chapter twelve.

8. What finally happened to Coriantumr?

R. L. E.

WORD OF WISDOM LESSONS (No. 10)

For the third lesson in October

FOODS THAT DECEIVE

MUCH has been said in these lessons about the function and the different kinds of food that should be eaten for health. Nine lessons have been given from a positive point of view, emphasizing