

TODAY BOOK OF MORMON NARRATION

The Book of Mormon is a sure witness that “JESUS is the CHRIST, the ETERNAL GOD.” It “contains... the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ” (D&C 20:9) and came by “the gift and power of God” through Joseph Smith to bring about the restoration of Christ’s church for the last time. It’s coming forth and power brought the priesthood authority to administer eternally exalting ordinances and covenants. Millions of God’s children who have embraced these covenants as a result, are now enabled to help prepare the way for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Moroni, whose writings concluded the extraordinary Book of Mormon some 1600 years ago and hid up the plates from which The Book of Mormon was translated, wrote directly to us in our day. “I am Moroni; and were it possible, I would make all things known unto you. ...The Lord hath shown unto me great and marvelous things concerning that which must ... come, *at that day when these things shall come forth among you*. Behold, I speak unto you as if ye were present, and yet ye are not. But...Jesus Christ hath shown you unto me, and *I know your doing*.” (Mormon 8:12, 34-35)

The Book of Mormon was written for our day. Mormon, Moroni’s father, who was the compiler of that book, was guided by the Spirit to include a small fraction of the nearly 1,000 years history and teachings of his people for our benefit. Mormon said, “... *I do this for a wise purpose; for thus it whispereth me, according to the workings of the Spirit of the Lord which is in me. And now, I do not know all things; but the Lord knoweth all things which are to come; where he worketh in me to do according to his will.*”ⁱ

Mormon and Moroni were Spirit led to incorporate prophecies pertaining to our day as well as specific temporal events in the history of their people that parallel those that they knew would occur in our time. They have given us a guide to help us prepare for the ultimate latter-day coming of Jesus Christ.

The Book of Mormon and how it came to be is integral to preparing the world for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. I believe there is a yet to come discovery of the Nephite records from which it was derived. That this subsequent finding would occur is both implied and stated by Book of Mormon writers from Nephi to Mormon. Please see references at the conclusion of this video.

The vast majority of people living today know little or nothing about the Book of Mormon. I believe that both the transcendent coming forth of that book two hundred years ago and the future expected discovery of the records from which it was taken are necessary for “...the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God...”

Those original records will indisputably substantiate the miracle of the Book of Mormon and, therefore, the divine origin of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They will be irrefutable

evidence of the reality of Jesus Christ and His divinity. All will be able to choose whether to follow Jesus Christ having undeniable knowledge of who He is, and “they will be left without excuse...” (Doctrine and Covenants 88:82) It will fulfill the promise of the Lord that “every man shall hear the fulness of the gospel in his own tongue and in his own language...for the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (Doctrine & Covenants 90:11)

I believe that events prior to the coming of Jesus Christ to the Nephite and Lamanite people that Mormon was directed by the Spirit to include in the *Book of Mormon* are a precursor for our day.

King Mosiah eliminated the government of kings and established a democracy with the public election of judges. Over time, a significant number of the people wanted to have kings and supported unscrupulous would-be dictators to that end. The result was extreme animosity, schisms, polarization, and wars. For example, the would be king, Amlici, had his followers mark their foreheads with red paint to show they were with him, and they sought to make Amlici the king first by not accepting an election of the people that refused him. Then they started an unsuccessful war to install him as king.

Righteousness, order, humility, kindness, and the rule of established law are requirements for peace and spiritual, mental, and emotional prosperity.

Ultimately, the Nephite government collapsed. So-called Gadianton Robbers were the catalyst for that destruction. That designation defines those who desire power and wealth at the expense of everyone else. They are laws unto themselves. Many of their dealings were under the table or in secret and their desire was to control the society that they were part of.

In the United States and throughout the world we are currently experiencing this age-old conflict. Prominent political personalities have emerged that exhibit dictatorial traits even more so than previous leaders, and a king-men mentality seems to have arisen among much of the U.S. population. The Gadianton Robber type is also becoming dominant in our society. One percent of the population in the United States today have 1/3 of the total wealth, and 10% have over 2/3's of the wealth. This small handful of individuals seek to control government at virtually every level. Their motives, for the most part, are Gadianton in nature. Self-serving, power, and wealth. The means are not what is important. It is the ends that dictate most of their actions.

We are today in many ways in the pre-calamitous destruction phase portrayed in the *Book of Mormon*.

Following the pattern of the collapse of the government prior to the appearance of Jesus Christ in the *Book of Mormon*, I believe the United States will somewhat orderly break apart into small political/cultural/moral/geographic units, and most of the large nations of the world

will follow suit. The extreme polarization, antipathy, and law unto oneself mentality that exists today points to this outcome.

Righteous, Christ-centered people will physically separate from the wickedness of the world gather together which may be the prophesied separation of the wheat (righteous) from the wicked (tares) and defines the selective nature of the “final” destruction..

The *Book of Mormon* and the finding of the records that it was abridged from are key to the prophesied events that will usher in the second coming of Jesus Christ. The “ripe for destruction” wickedness of the people of the world, the United States and the world being divided into what is tantamount to tares and wheat clusters, will lead to the last day prophesied gathering prior to the coming of Christ.

Specifically, I believe the Latter-day Saints and those who choose to be righteous will be gathered into geographic locations for their spiritual, emotional, and physical safety.

Righteous Nephites had already gathered around the temple in Bountiful and were there to see Jesus when He came. They had prepared for His coming by building the temple and separating from the evil of the world. The latter-day gathering of the followers of Jesus Christ began when the Church was established in 1830 and has been in progress since. President Nelson repeatedly called the gathering the most important mission of the Church today. I believe the dissolution of the United States and countries throughout the world will aid in establishing Zion Centers that will be geographic areas of safety for the Saints and others who are seeking to be righteous. I believe these centers will be defined by temples in their midst. Temples are in essence Cities of Zion and that they are beginning to dot the earth is a statement about the length and breadth and urgency of this latter-day gathering of true followers of Jesus Christ. It is the preparing the way for His coming.

A series of devastating destructive events will occur in our time as a result of the non-repentance of the vast majority of people. And, the Savior will appear to the cleansed world. The cataclysmic destruction that will take place just prior to the second appearance of Jesus Christ will be worldwide and I believe will follow the pattern of “natural” forces that destroyed much of the Nephite and Lamanite nations prior to Christ appearing as reported in the *Book of Mormon*. I believe that destruction will be selective in that those in Zion centers will generally be protected. The earth is to be cleansed of those who choose to reject Jesus Christ with full knowledge of the greater truth so that the prophesied righteous millennial era can be **introduced**.

Following Christ’s appearance to those in ancient America, an unprecedented period of Zion righteousness existed among them for generations. Likewise, following Christ’s second coming, the world will for centuries be under His government, a universal City of Zion.

- The records from which the Book of Mormon was derived will be found.
- They will provide an irrefutable witness of Jesus Christ and of the restoration of His gospel, and the world will be left without excuse
- Governments will be dissolved and the separation and gathering of the righteous into Zion centers focused on temples will occur for their spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical protection.
- The world will face unprecedented natural destruction prior to Christ's second coming patterned after the destruction prior to His coming to the Nephite/Lamanite people.
- He will appear and initiate a Zion millennial reign of righteousness.

Throughout the Book of Mormon, the prophets counseled their people that this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God..." (Alma 34:32) and to "prepare the way of the Lord." (Helaman 14:9) In our day, self-preparation and helping to prepare the world for the coming of Christ is a constant theme of latter-day prophet admonitions. The Lord told Joseph that "every one that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit cometh unto god...and the covenant which he has...confirmed upon (us) for our sakes (is) not for (our) sakes only, but for the sake of the whole world." (Doctrine and Covenants 84:47-48). The temples today, like those in the Book of Mormon are key to our preparation. President Nelson's admonition to us was, "the blessings of the temple (are to) help...gather Israel on both sides of the veil. These blessings ...help to prepare a people who will help prepare the world for the Second Coming of the Lord!" (General Conference, October 6, 2024)

We will be prepared and be preparers in every way to come into His presence and to usher in His millennial reign if we choose to make the Book of Mormon and the temple our consummate guide.