

THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE

by Robert L. & Rosemary Brown

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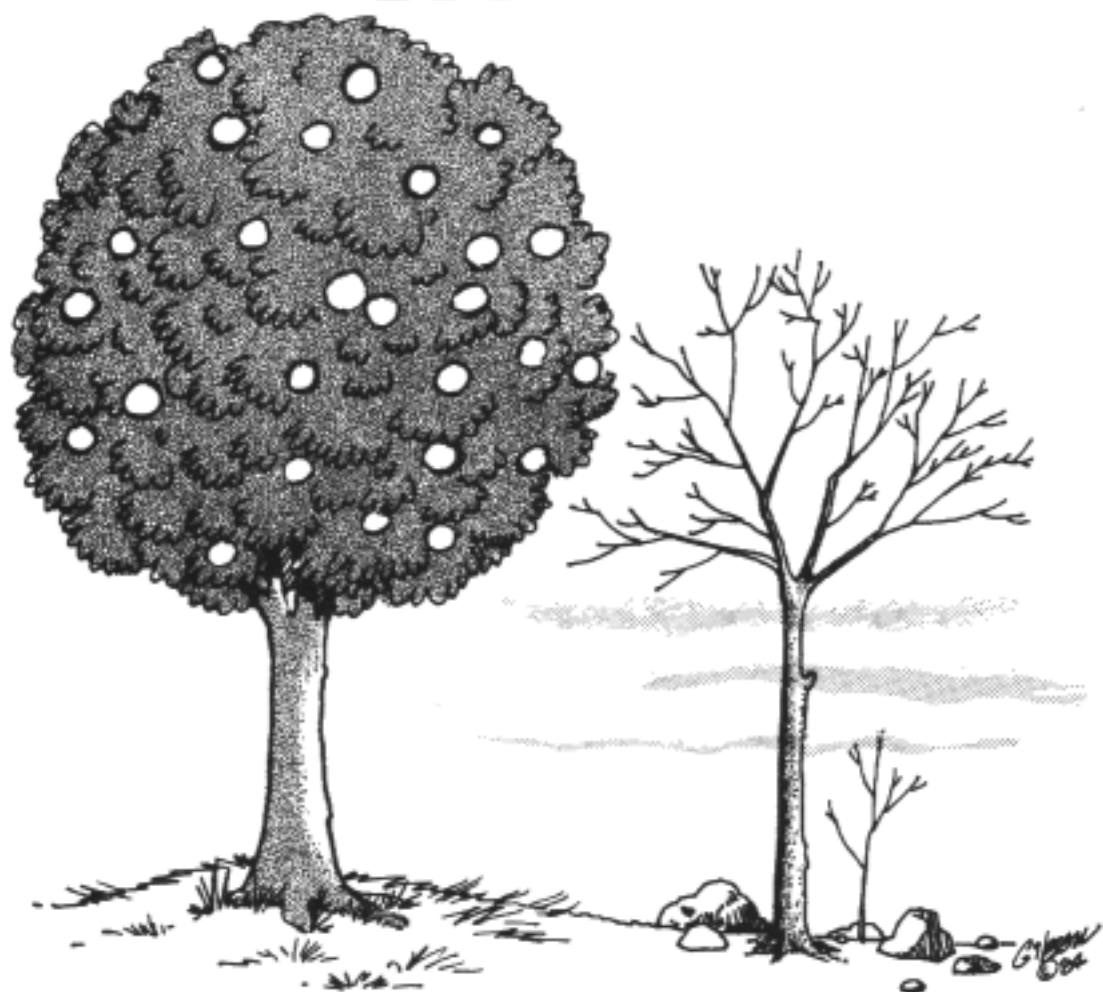


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CHAPTER TEN

DISCERNING TRUTH

BY THEIR FRUITS . . .



. . . YE SHALL KNOW THEM!

OBJECTIVES

- To illustrate the fruits of the anti-Mormon, and the fruits of the LDS Church. They have each had the same time to develop their fruits.
 - To encourage all members of the LDS Church to strengthen their testimonies so they will not be deceived.
 - To encourage the non-LDS to investigate the Church. (We have a lot going for us.)
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CHAPTER TEN DISCERNING TRUTH

PART A — FOR MORMONS ONLY

In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, you have been taught to build your testimony, your own personal testimony, upon the foundation of study, prayer, and faith. The first five chapters of this book have illustrated very clearly why it is so important to have a strong testimony. You have seen how Walter Martin, Wayne Cowdrey, Howard Davis, Donald Scales, and Dee Jay Nelson have made it their goal to destroy your testimony if they could — and they try to destroy it with deceit. Consider this scripture:

MARK 13:22

“For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.”

You have just seen in this book examples of those false prophets that would deceive the elect if they could. Their signs and wonders include false reports from handwriting experts, false degrees, false genealogies, false works (such as joining a church under false pretences), and bearing false witness to build fear and prejudice (such as claiming death threats from the LDS Church when there weren't any, falsely claiming that the LDS Church is trying to take over the economy of the United States, etc.)

As members of the Church, when you were baptized and confirmed a member, hands were laid upon your head and you were given the gift of the Holy Ghost to be a constant companion and guide to bring you closer to Jesus Christ, that you might inherit eternal life — you and your loved ones together as an eternal family. If you lived worthily, you had many choice spiritual experiences to bring you closer to God and His church. Having this background, what would it take to destroy your testimony? Would you have had doubts about the truthfulness of the church because of the statements of either Walter Martin, Howard Davis, Wayne Cowdrey, Donald Scales, or Dee Jay Nelson? Would you be willing to give up what you know because someone has come along with a good line that challenged your beliefs? Does your testimony get little cracks in it when you don't know all the answers?

The conversation between Henry Silver and this author in Chapter 1 took place in September of 1981. That means that the research in this book took almost three years to collect, classify, assemble, and prepare for publication. You surely wouldn't be influenced by either Martin, Davis, Cowdrey, Scales, or Nelson now;

but, if we hadn't done this research and you hadn't read this book and learned of their deception — could they then have created cracks in your testimony? **If so, then you are the one the Lord is talking about when he says the very elect will be deceived.** You will always come across challenges to your testimony that you don't have immediate answers for. The question is — how will that affect your testimony? Some challenges take a little work to answer, some take a lot of work to answer, and conceivably there could be some challenges that you might not ever find the answers to. Does that need to change what you **know** to be true? If you don't **know** yet what the truth is, study the next section.

If your testimony is to stand in these, the last days, then you must fast and pray, study and search, until you have sure knowledge of God and His gospel. Satan is stepping up his pace, and the weak are going to fall. **Will you still be standing?**

PART B — FOR INVESTIGATORS OF THE LDS CHURCH

If you are well read in anti-Mormon literature, have you ever wondered how the Mormon people could be so duped into believing all that their leaders tell them? I'll bet you've been told that the Mormon people just don't know their history and doctrine, and that the LDS Church suppresses its history so the people won't find out about it, etc. Think now, do you have a good friend, neighbor, or co-worker who is a "good" Mormon? Doesn't what you may have heard seem rather contradictory when you see what Mormons are really like? Did you know that these Mormons have the highest per capita education in these United States? Why are there so many outstandingly successful people in the LDS Church? Why do they have such beautiful families? Why are they such good neighbors and citizens?

Matthew 7:17, 18 tells how you can tell a false prophet from a true prophet:

“Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?”

“Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.”

The anti-Mormons have existed as long as the Mormons have. Perhaps it is time to take a look at the fruits of both trees.

FRUITS OF ANTI-MORMONS IN THIS BOOK

- 1. False affidavits (Silver's, Hurlburt's)**
- 2. False genealogies (Wayne Cowdrey, grandson of Oliver Cowdrey; Walter Martin, descendant of Brigham Young).**

3. **False witness (stating Silver said he feared for his life).**
4. **Fear (false death threats).**
5. **Prejudice (result of lies, false witness, etc.).**
6. **Lies (stating Solomon Spaulding wrote the Book of Mormon).**
7. **False works (Wayne Cowdrey joined the LDS Church under false pretences).**
8. **Acts of bitterness (Hurlburt).**
9. **False credentials (Questionable and Fraudulent Ph.D.'s)**
10. **Mockery (Walter Martin referring to the Angel Moroni as "Spaulding")**

Next, we would like to introduce you to some of the "fruits" of the LDS Church.

FRUITS OF THE LDS CHURCH

1. A church guided by prophets and revelation as in earlier dispensations.
2. Eternal families
3. Peace of Mind.
4. Purpose in Life (You will know where you came from, why you are here, and where you are going).
5. Personal growth and development.
6. Church activities and teaching to strengthen the family and home.
7. Outstanding youth programs.
8. Opportunities for growth through service to others.
9. Opportunities for eternal growth and progression.
10. Unpaid ministry.

The missionaries of the LDS Church stand ready to explain the gospel to you — at no obligation. There are only six discussions to acquaint you with the basic doctrines of the LDS Church. Why not find out what Mormons really believe? (Then compare it to what you may have heard about us.)

After the missionaries present their lessons, they will encourage you to pray to your Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, and ask if what they are telling you is true. They will probably quote Moroni 10:4-5 from the Book of Mormon:

“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 into you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.”

“And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.”

It is through the power of prayer, and the witness of the Holy Ghost that we testify to you that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the true church. This knowledge is available to you and can bring great blessings into your life. All those who have devoted their time and energy to bring you this book sincerely hope that you will test and taste the fruit of this tree. (If you want to pleasantly surprise your Mormon friend, tell him/her that you would like to know more about his church — and watch him come alive!)

In this volume of *THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE*, frequent reference has been made to the Book of Mormon; may we close this work by acquainting the reader with this great book.

The Book of Mormon has approximately 525 pages. In order to give you a brief introduction in far fewer pages, we have selected verses throughout the Book of Mormon which we thought would acquaint you with its spirit and content. **Keep in mind that these verses are out of context and, therefore, much of the doctrine of the Book of Mormon and its unique history is missing.**

The Savior has said that we shall live “by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4) The Book of Mormon contains the word of God and has been preserved by Him for our time and for the blessing and guidance of all mankind.

It would be a tragedy to live a lifetime and never read such a book. It would be unfortunate never to explore the pages of a book that offers so much — a book that makes this profound promise:

And when ye shall receive these things (this book), 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 10:4)

In this last section, we will present for the reader:

- **Some background of the Book of Mormon**

- Excerpts from the Book of Mormon.
- Testimonies of the witnesses to the Book of Mormon plates.
- Some evidence of Christ in America.

SOME BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

The Book of Mormon as Sacred Scripture

Like the Bible, the Book of Mormon is sacred Christian scripture, and both are used as such by the LDS Church. Both books include the writings of prophets of God who tell of the significant religious and secular experiences of their day. One part of the Book of Mormon deals with a nation that existed earlier than 2000 B.C. The main part of the Book of Mormon deals with another nation from about 600 B.C. to just beyond 400 A.D.

The Bible contains details of the ministry of Jesus in the Eastern Hemisphere; the Book of Mormon contains details of the ministry of Jesus in the Western Hemisphere, in ancient America.

God Speaks to All Nations

Know ye not that there are more nations than one? Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above and in the earth beneath; and I bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth?

Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together the testimony of the two nations shall run together also.

For I command all men, both in the east and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the islands of the sea, and they shall write the words which I speak unto them; for out of the books which shall be written I will judge the world, every man according to their works, according to that which is written. (2 Nephi 29:7-8, 11)

The Book of Mormon people came to the Western Hemisphere from the land of Jerusalem centuries before the birth of Christ. Warned by a prophet to leave Jerusalem about 600 B.C., immediately before the Babylonian conquest, the small colony built a vessel and crossed the ocean to the western world, acting

under the Lord's guidance. They eventually divided into two great nations. The Book of Mormon records the Lord's dealings with these ancient Israelites, who were the ancestors of the Incas, Aztecs, Mayans, and other civilizations we know of today.

Righteousness and Prosperity

As recorded in the Book of Mormon, when the people obeyed the commandments of God, they prospered both spiritually and temporally. Conversely, when the Savior's teachings were forgotten or ignored, wars and contentions plagued them, blessings were withdrawn, and tragedy resulted. One of these once great nations was literally destroyed by the other, both nations by then having turned away from God and toward wickedness. This final tragedy attests to one of the great messages of the Book of Mormon. When you keep the commandments, you are blessed and you "prosper in the land." (2 Nephi 1:20) This eternal truth applies to both individuals and nations in our time as well as in ancient times.

A Second Witness for Christ

The single most important event recorded in the Book of Mormon is the appearance of the resurrected Savior in ancient America. The resurrected Savior visited the inhabitants of the American continent, preached his gospel, and organized his church among them. Of his appearance, the Book of Mormon records:

And it came to pass that he stretched forth his hand and spake unto the people, saying:

Behold, I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified shall come into the world.

And behold, I am the light and life of the world. (3 Nephi 11:9-11)

The Savior taught the people his gospel and established his church among them before again ascending into heaven. Thus, the book in reality is a second witness for Christ, the Bible being the first. Neither should be considered a substitute for the other. Each is scripture in its own right, and each is evidence of the other's truthfulness. In an era of growing doubt about the Bible's validity and about God's reality, the Book of Mormon has emerged as a supporting witness that God lives, "that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6) and that his Son, Jesus Christ, is truly the Redeemer of mankind and that the Bible is true. Significantly, the joining of these two books of scripture as a dual witness for Jesus Christ was foreseen more than twenty-five centuries ago by Ezekiel, an Old Testament prophet, (see Ezekiel 37:15-19).

Writing The Book of Mormon

The prophets and historians from generation to generation recorded their writings in the Book of Mormon. They were etched on thin pages of metal, in contrast to scrolls of papyrus commonly used in ancient Palestine for the record keeping which led to the Bible as we know it today. Writings on metal pages similar to those of the Book of Mormon have been unearthed in recent years by archaeologists in other parts of the world.

Who was Mormon?

Mormon was a great prophet and military leader in ancient America. He lived about 400 A.D. Mormon was a writer and a historian; one of the major accomplishments of his life was the abridgment of the voluminous writings of earlier prophets. Before he was killed, while leading his people in a great war that destroyed his nation, he entrusted the abridged records to his son, Moroni, who added his own writings and buried the collection in a hill called Cumorah to preserve them for future generations.

From Moroni to Joseph Smith

The records remained in the earth some fourteen centuries, until 1827, when a young man named Joseph Smith was directed to them in what is now western New York State. Joseph Smith was shown the records by a messenger sent from God who identified himself as Moroni — the same person, now resurrected, who had buried the records centuries before. Joseph Smith, with divine assistance, translated them into English. The translation was published in 1830 as the Book of Mormon.

EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK OF MORMON

The Beginning — About 600 B.C.

The Book of Mormon begins about 600 B.C. with an account of Lehi and his wife Sariah, and his four sons, being called (beginning at the eldest) Laman, Lemuel, Sam, and Nephi. The Lord warned Lehi to depart out of the land of Jerusalem. Lehi had been prophesying unto the people concerning their iniquity and warned them that if they didn't repent, Jerusalem would be destroyed. Instead of repenting, they sought to take his life. Lehi and his family departed into the wilderness. After several days, three of the sons of Lehi returned to retrieve the Plates of Laban which was the record of the Jews. The family of Ishmael, then living in Jerusalem, went back with them into the wilderness. After much suffering and affliction, they built a ship and crossed the mighty waters to the Promised Land. The Book of Mormon begins with the record of Nephi, one of the sons of Lehi.

Nephi Begins his Record

I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father; and having seen many afflictions in the course of my days, nevertheless, having been highly favored of the Lord in all my days; yea, having had a great knowledge of the goodness and the mysteries of God, therefore I make a record of my proceedings in my days.

Yea, I make a record in the language of my father, which consists of the learning of the Jews and the language of the Egyptians.

And I know that the record which I make is true; and I make it with mine own hand; and I make it according to my knowledge.

For it came to pass in the commencement of the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah, (my father, Lehi, having dwelt at Jerusalem in all his days), and in that same year there came many prophets, prophesying unto the people that they must repent, or the great city Jerusalem must be destroyed. (1 Nephi 1:1-4)

Lehi Instructs His Sons to Go Back to Jerusalem To Obtain the Brass Plates

And it came to pass that I, Nephi, returned from speaking with the Lord, to the tent of my father.

And it came to pass that he spake unto me, saying: Behold I have dreamed a dream, in which the Lord hath commanded me that thou and thy brethren shall return to Jerusalem.

For behold, Laban hath the record of the Jews and also a genealogy of my forefathers, and they are engraven upon plates of brass.

Wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me that thou and thy brethren should go unto the house of Laban, and seek the records, and bring them down hither into the wilderness. (1 Nephi 3:1-4)

And now, behold thy brothers murmur, saying it is a hard thing which I have required of them; but behold I have not required it of them, but it is a commandment of the Lord.

Therefore go, my son, and thou shalt be favored of the Lord, because thou hast not murmured.

And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them. (1 Nephi 3:5-7)

Laban was Angry and Wouldn't Give Laman the Plates of Brass

And it came to pass that when we had gone up to the land of Jerusalem, I and my brethren did consult one with another.

And we cast lots — who of us should go in unto the house of Laban. And it came to pass that the lot fell upon Laman; and Laman went in unto the house of Laban, and he talked with him as he sat in his house.

And he desired of Laban the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass, which contained the genealogy of my father.

And behold, it came to pass that Laban was angry, and thrust him out from his presence; and he would not that he should have the records. Wherefore, he said unto him Behold thou art a robber, and I will slay thee. (I Nephi 3:10-13)

The Importance of the Plates of Brass

Wherefore, let us be faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord; therefore let us go down to the land of our father's inheritance, for behold he left gold and silver, and all manner of riches. And all this he hath done because of the commandments of the Lord.

For he knew that Jerusalem must be destroyed, because of the wickedness of the people.

For behold, they have rejected the words of the prophets. Wherefore, if my father should dwell in the land after he hath been commanded to flee out of the land, behold, he would also perish. Wherefore, it must needs be that he flee out of the land.

And behold, it is wisdom in God that we should obtain these records, that we may preserve unto our children the language of our fathers;

And also that we may preserve unto them the words which have been spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets, which have been delivered unto them by the spirit and power of God, since the world began, even down unto this present time. (I Nephi 3:16-20)

Strategy to Obtain the Plates of Brass

And it came to pass that we went down to the land of his inheritance, and we did gather together our gold, and our silver, and our precious things.

And after we had gathered these things together, we went up again unto the house of Laban.

And it came to pass that we went in unto Laban, and desired him that he would give unto us the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass, for which we would give unto him our gold, and our silver, and all our precious things.

And it came to pass that when Laban saw our property, and that it was exceedingly great, he did lust after it, insomuch that he thrust us out, and sent his servants to slay us, that he might obtain our property.

And it came to pass that we fled before the servants of Laban, and we were obliged to leave behind our property, and it fell into the hands of Laban. (I Nephi 3:20-26)

Nephi Goes to Laban Laban is Delivered Into His Hands

Now behold, ye know that this is true; and ye also know that an angel hath spoken unto you, wherefore can ye doubt? Let us go up; the Lord is able to deliver us, even as our fathers, and to destroy Laban, even as the Egyptians.

Now when I had spoken these words, they were yet wroth, and did still continue to murmur; nevertheless they did follow me up until we came without the walls of Jerusalem.

And it was by night; and I caused that they should hide themselves without the walls. And after they had hid themselves, I, Nephi, crept into the city and went forth toward the house of Laban.

And I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do.

Nevertheless I went forth, and as I came near unto the house of Laban I beheld a man, and he had fallen to the earth before me, for he was drunken with wine.

And when I came to him I found that it was Laban. (I Nephi 4:3-8)

It is Better that One Man Perish than that a Nation Should Dwindle and Perish in Unbelief

And it came to pass that I was constrained by the Spirit that I should kill Laban; but I said in my heart: Never at any time have I shed the blood of man. And I shrunk and would that I might not slay him.

And the Spirit said unto me again: Behold the Lord hath delivered him into thy hands. Yea, and I also knew that he had sought to take away mine own life; yea, and he would not hearken unto the commandments of the Lord; and he also had taken away our property.

And it came to pass that the Spirit said unto me again: Slay him, for the Lord

hath delivered him into thy hands;

Behold the Lord slayeth the wicked to bring forth his righteous purposes. It is better than one man should perish than that a nation should dwindle and perish in unbelief.

And now, when I, Nephi, had heard these words, I remembered the words of the Lord which he spake unto me in the wilderness, saying that: Inasmuch as thy seed shall keep my commandments, they shall prosper in the land of promise.

Yea, and I also thought that they could not keep the commandments of the Lord according to the law of Moses, save they should have the law.

And I also knew that the law was engraven upon the plates of brass.

And again, I knew that the Lord had delivered Laban into my hands, for this cause — that I might obtain the records according to his commandments. (1 Nephi 4:10-17)

CONTENTS OF THE BRASS PLATES

—The First Five Books of Moses—

—The Record of the Jews From the Beginning to the Time Lehi Left, About 600 B.C.—

—Prophecies of the Holy Prophets—

—Genealogy—

And when we had returned to the tent of my father, behold their joy was full, and my mother was comforted. (1 Nephi 5:7)

And after they had given thanks unto the God of Israel, My father, Lehi, took the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass, and he did search them from the beginning.

And he beheld that they did contain the five books of Moses, which gave an account of the creation of the world, and also of Adam and Eve, who were our first parents:

And also a record of the Jews from the beginning, even down to the commencement of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah;

And also the prophecies of the holy prophets, from the beginning, even down to the commencement of the reign of Zedekiah; and also many prophecies which have been spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah.

And it came to pass that my father, Lehi, also found upon the plates of brass a genealogy of his fathers; wherefore he knew that he was a descendant of Joseph; yea, even that Joseph who was the son of Jacob, who was sold into Egypt, and

who was preserved by the hand of the Lord, that he might preserve his father, Jacob, and all his household from perishing with famine.

And they were also led out of captivity and out of the land of Egypt, by that same God who had preserved them.

And thus my father, Lehi, did discover the genealogy of his fathers. And Laban also was a descendant of Joseph, wherefore he and his fathers had kept the records. (I Nephi 5:10-16)

Lehi Prophecies Concerning the Destruction of Jerusalem by Babylonia

And now I, Nephi, proceed to give an account upon these plates of my proceedings, and my reign and ministry; wherefore, to proceed with mine account, I must speak somewhat of the things of my father, and also of my brethren.

For behold, it came to pass after my father had made an end of speaking the words of his dream, and also of exhorting them to all diligence, he spake unto them concerning the Jews —

That after they should be destroyed, even that great city Jerusalem, and many be carried away captive into Babylon, according to the own due time of the Lord, they should return again, yea, even be brought back out of captivity; and after they should be brought back out of captivity they should possess again the land of their inheritance. (I Nephi 10:1-3)

Lehi Prophecies Concerning the Savior's Birth

Yea, even six hundred years from the time that my father left Jerusalem, a prophet would the Lord God raise up among the Jews — even a Messiah, or, in other words, a Savior of the world.

And he also spoke concerning the prophets, how great a number had testified of these things, concerning this Messiah, of whom he had spoken, or this Redeemer of the world.

Wherefore, all mankind were in a lost and in a fallen state, and ever would be save they should rely on this Redeemer. (I Nephi 10:4-6)

Lehi Prophecies Concerning the Savior's Baptism

And I looked and beheld the Redeemer of the world, of whom my father had spoken; and I also beheld the prophet who should prepare the way before him. And the Lamb of God went forth, and was baptized of him; and after he was

baptized, I beheld the heavens open, and the Holy Ghost came down out of heaven and abode upon him in the form of a dove. (1 Nephi 11:27)

Lehi Prophecies Concerning the Savior's Death

And it came to pass that the angel spoke unto me again, saying: Look! And I looked and beheld the Lamb of God, that he was taken by the people; yea, the son of the everlasting God was judged of the world; and I saw and bear record.

And I, Nephi, saw that he was lifted upon the cross and slain for the sins of the world. (1 Nephi 11:32-33)

Obedience Brings Prosperity

And he hath said that: Inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall prosper in the land; but inasmuch as ye will not keep my commandments ye shall be cut off from my presence. (2 Nephi 1:20)

Freedom of Choice

Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil; for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself. (2 Nephi 2:27)

There Must Needs be Opposition in All Things So Man Could Learn to Act for Himself

And now, my sons, I speak unto you these things for your profit and learning; for there is a God, and he hath created all things, both the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are, both things to act and things to be acted upon.

And to bring about his eternal purposes in the end of man, after he had created our first parents, and the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, and in fine, all things which are created, it must needs be that there was an opposition; even the forbidden fruit in opposition to the tree of life; the one being sweet and the other bitter.

Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other. (2 Nephi 2:14-16)

And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created

must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end.

And they would have had no children; wherefore they would have remained in a state of innocence, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin.

But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things.

Adam fell that men might be, and men are that they might have joy.

And the Messiah cometh in the fulness of time, that he may redeem the children of men from the fall. And because that they are redeemed from the fall they have become free forever, knowing good from evil; to act for themselves and not to be acted upon, save it be by the punishment of the law at the great and last day, according to the commandments which God hath given. (2 Nephi 2:22-26)

For the Lord God hath said that: Inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall prosper in the land; and inasmuch as ye will not keep my commandments ye shall be cut off from my presence. (2 Nephi 4:4)

Psalm of Nephi

And upon these I write the things of my soul, and many of the scriptures which are engraven upon the plates of brass. For my soul delighteth in the scriptures, and my heart pondereth them, and writeth them for the learning and the profit of my children.

Behold, my soul delighteth in the things of the Lord; and my heart pondereth continually upon the things which I have seen and heard.

Nevertheless, notwithstanding the great goodness of the Lord, in showing me his great and marvelous works, my heart exclaimeth: O wretched man that I am! Yea, my heart sorroweth because of my flesh; my soul grieveth because of mine iniquities.

I am encompassed about, because of the temptations and the sins which do so easily beset me.

And when I desire to rejoice, my heart groaneth because of my sins; nevertheless, I know in whom I have trusted.

My God hath been my support; he hath led me through mine afflictions in the wilderness; and he hath preserved me upon the waters of the great deep.

He hath filled me with his love, even unto the consuming of my flesh.

He hath confounded mine enemies, unto the causing of them to quake before me.

Behold, he hath heard my cry by day, and he hath given me knowledge by visions in the nighttime.

And by day have I waxed bold in mighty prayer before him; yea, my voice have I sent up on high; and angels came down and ministered unto me.

And upon the wings of his Spirit hath my body been carried away upon exceedingly high mountains. And mine eyes have beheld great things, yea, even too great for man; therefore I was bidden that I should not write them.

O then, if I have seen so great things, if the Lord in his condescension unto the children of men hath visited men in so much mercy, why should my heart weep and my soul linger in the valley of sorrow, and my flesh waste away, and my strength slacken, because of mine afflictions?

And why should I yield to sin, because of my flesh? Yea, why should I give way to temptations, that the evil one have place in my heart to destroy my peace and afflict my soul? Why am I angry because of mine enemy?

Awake, my soul! No longer droop in sin. Rejoice, O my heart, and give place no more for the enemy of my soul.

Do not anger again because of mine enemies. Do not slacken my strength because of mine afflictions.

Rejoice, O my heart, and cry unto the Lord, and say: O Lord, I will praise thee forever; yea, my soul will rejoice in thee, my God, and the rock of my salvation.

O Lord, wilt thou redeem my soul? Will thou deliver me out of the hands of mine enemies? Will thou make me that I may shake at the appearance of sin?

May the gates of hell be shut continually before me, because that my heart is broken and my spirit is contrite! O Lord, wilt thou not shut the gates of thy righteousness before me, that I may walk in the path of the low valley, that I may be strict in the plain road!

O Lord, wilt thou encircle me around in the robe of thy righteousness! O Lord, wilt thou make a way for mine escape before mine enemies! Wilt thou make my path straight before me! Wilt thou not place a stumbling block in my way — but that thou wouldst clear my way before me, and hedge not up my way, but the ways of mine enemy.

O Lord, I have trusted in thee, and I will trust in thee forever. I will not put my trust in the arm of flesh; for I know that cursed is he that putteth his trust in the arm of flesh. Yea, cursed is he that putteth his trust in man or maketh flesh his arm.

Yea, I know that God will give liberally to him that asketh. Yea, my God will give me, if I ask not amiss; therefore I will lift up my voice unto thee; yea, I will cry unto thee, my God, the rock of my righteousness. Behold, my voice shall

forever ascend up unto thee, my rock and mine everlasting God. Amen. (2 Nephi 4:15-35)

The Atonement of Christ

For as death hath passed upon all men, to fulfill the merciful plan of the great Creator, there must needs be a power of resurrection, and the resurrection must needs come unto man by reason of the fall; and the fall came by reason of transgression; and because man became fallen they were cut off from the presence of the Lord.

Wherefore, it must needs be an infinite atonement — save it should be an infinite atonement this corruption could not put on incorruption. Wherefore, the first judgment which came upon man must needs have remained to an endless duration. And if so, this flesh must have laid down to rot and to crumble to its mother earth, to rise no more.

Learned, Yet Not Wise

But wo unto him that has the law given, yea, that has all the commandments of God, like unto us, and that transgresseth them, and that wasteth the days of his probation, for awful is his state!

O that cunning plan of the evil one! O the vainness, and the frailties, and the foolishness of men! When they are learned they think they are wise, and they hearken not unto the counsel of God, for they set it aside, supposing they know of themselves, wherefore, their wisdom is foolishness and it profiteth them not. And they shall perish.

But to be learned is good if they harken unto the counsels of God. (2 Nephi 9:27-29)

The Birth and Mission of Christ Foreseen

For according to the words of the prophets, the Messiah cometh in six hundred years from the time that my father left Jerusalem; and according to the words of the prophets, and also the word of the angel of God, his name shall be Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (2 Nephi 25:19)

And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things from the beginning; and his mother shall be called Mary. (Mosiah 3:8)

—BETWEEN 559 AND 545 B.C.—
**PROPHECY OF THE COMING FORTH OF THE
BOOK OF MORMON (Literally fulfilled by
Joseph Smith, Martin Harris, Professor Anthon,
3 witnesses, and the 8 witnesses)**

And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall bring forth unto you the words of a book, and they shall be the words of them which have slumbered.

And behold the book shall be sealed; and in the book shall be a revelation from God, from the beginning of the world to the ending thereof.

Wherefore, because of the things which are sealed up, the things which are sealed shall not be delivered in the day of the wickedness and abominations of the people. Wherefore the book shall be kept from them.

But the book shall be delivered unto a man, and he shall deliver the words of the book, which are the words of those who have slumbered in the dust, and he shall deliver these words unto another;

But the words which are sealed he shall not deliver, neither shall he deliver the book. For the book shall be sealed by the power of God, and the revelation which was sealed shall be kept in the book until the own due time of the Lord, that they may come forth; for behold, they reveal all things from the foundation of the world unto the end thereof.

And the day cometh that the words of the book which were sealed shall be read upon the house tops; and they shall be read by the power of Christ; and all things shall be revealed unto the children of men which ever have been among the children of men, and which ever will be even unto the end of the earth.

Wherefore, at that day when the book shall be delivered unto the man of whom I have spoken, the book shall be hid from the eyes of the world, that the eyes of none shall behold it save it be that three witnesses shall behold it, by the power of God, besides him to whom the book shall be delivered; and they shall testify to the truth of the book and the things therein.

And there is none other which shall view it, save it be a few according to the will of God, to bear testimony of his word unto the children of men; for the Lord God hath said that the words of the faithful should speak as if it were from the dead.

Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to bring forth the words of the book; and in the mouth of as many witnesses as seemeth him good will he establish his word; and wo be unto him that rejecteth the word of God!

But behold, it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall say unto him to whom he shall deliver the book: Take these words which are not sealed and deliver them to another, that he may show them unto the learned, saying: Read this, I pray

thee. And the learned shall say: Bring hither the book, and I will read them.

And now, because of the glory of the world and to get gain will they say this, and not for the glory of God:

And the man shall say: I cannot bring the book, for it is sealed.

Then shall the learned say: I cannot read it.

Wherefore it shall come to pass, that the Lord God will deliver again the book and the words thereof to him that is not learned; and the man that is not learned shall say: I am not learned.

Then shall the Lord God say unto him: The learned shall not read them, for they have rejected them, and I am able to do mine own work; wherefore thou shalt read the words which I shall give unto thee.

Wherefore, when thou hast read the words which I have commanded thee, and obtained the witnesses which I have promised unto thee, then shalt thou seal up the book again, and hide it up unto me, that I may preserve the words which thou hast not read, until I shall see fit in mine own wisdom to reveal all things unto the children of men.

For behold, I am God; and I am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and I work not among the children of men save it be according to their faith. (2 Nephi 27:6-23)

And again it shall come to pass that the Lord shall say unto him that shall read the words that shall be delivered him:

Foreasmuch as this people draw near unto me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their hearts far from me, and their fear towards me is taught by the precepts of men —

Therefore, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, yea, a marvelous work and a wonder, for the wisdom of their wise and learned shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid. (2 Nephi 27:24-26)

**The Lord Instructs His People
Line Upon Line, Precept Upon Precept
For the Understanding of Man**

Wo be unto him that shall say: We have received the word of God, and we need no more of the word of God, for we have enough!

For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts; and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; for unto him that receiveth, I will give more; and from them

that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have.

And because my words shall hiss forth — many of the Gentiles shall say: A Bible! A Bible! We have got a Bible, and there cannot be any more Bible. (2 Nephi 28:29-30; 29:3)

But thus saith the Lord God: O fools, they shall have a Bible; and it shall proceed forth from the Jews, mine ancient covenant people. And what thank they the Jews for the Bible which they receive from them? Yea, what do the Gentiles mean? Do they remember the travails, and the labors, and the pains of the Jews, and their diligence unto me, in bringing forth salvation unto the Gentiles?

O ye Gentiles, have ye remembered the Jews, mine ancient covenant people? Nay; but ye have cursed them, and have hated them, and have not sought to recover them. But behold, I will return all these things upon your own heads; for I the Lord have not forgotten my people.

Thou fool, that shall say: A Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible. Have ye obtained a Bible save it were by the Jews?

The Lord Remembers ALL His People

Know ye not that there are more nations than one? Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above and in the earth beneath; and I bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth?

Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together the testimony of the two nations shall run together also.

For behold, I shall speak unto the Jews and they shall write it, and I shall also speak unto the Nephites and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the other tribes of the house of Israel, which I have led away, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto all nations of the earth and they shall write it.

And it shall come to pass that the Jews shall have the words of the Nephites, and the Nephites shall have the words of the Jews; and the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the lost tribes of Israel; and the lost tribes of Israel shall have the words of the Nephites and the Jews.

And it shall come to pass that my people, which are of the house of Israel, shall be gathered home unto the lands of their possessions; and my word also shall be gathered in one. And I will show unto them that fight against my word and

against my people, who are of the house of Israel, that I am God, and that I covenanted with Abraham that I would remember his seed forever. (2 Nephi 29:4-8, 12-14)

The Importance of Baptism

And now, if the Lamb of God, he being holy, should have need to be baptized by water, to fulfil all righteousness, O then, how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized, yea, even by water!

And now, I would ask of you, my beloved brethren, wherein the Lamb of God did fulfil all righteousness in being baptized by water?

Know ye not that he was holy? But notwithstanding he being holy, he showeth unto the children of men that, according to the flesh he humbleth himself before the Father, and witnesseth unto the Father that he would be obedient unto him in keeping his commandments.

Wherefore, after he was baptized with water the Holy Ghost descended upon him in the form of a dove.

And again, it showeth unto the children of men the straitness of the path, and the narrowness of the gate, by which they should enter, he having set the example before them. (2 Nephi 31:5-9)

The Need for the Holy Ghost

And also, the voice of the Son came unto me saying: He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost, like unto me; wherefore, follow me and do the things which ye have seen me do. (2 Nephi 31:12)

For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way, and receive the Holy Ghost, it will show unto you all things what ye should do. (2 Nephi 32:5)

And the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me; and the Father giveth the Holy Ghost unto the children of men, because of me. (3 Nephi 28:11)

And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things. (Moroni 10:5)

How the Holy Ghost is Received

Ye shall call on the Father in my name, in mighty prayer; and after ye have done this ye shall have power that to him upon whom ye shall lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in my name shall ye give it. (Moroni 2:2)

Nephi Admonishes to Pray Always

And now, my beloved brethren, I perceive that ye ponder still in your hearts; and it grieveth me that I must speak concerning this thing. For if ye would hearken unto the Spirit which teacheth a man to pray ye would know that ye must pray; for the evil spirit teacheth not a man to pray, but teacheth him that he must not pray.

But behold, I say unto you that ye must pray always, and not faint; that ye must not perform any thing unto the Lord save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul. (2 Nephi 32:8-9)

King Benjamin Talks About Those Who Knowingly and Wilfully Rebel Against God

And now, I say unto you, my brethren, that after ye have known and have been taught all these things, if ye should transgress and go contrary to that which has been spoken, that ye do withdraw yourselves from the Spirit of the Lord, that it may have no place in you to guide you in wisdom's paths that ye may be blessed, prospered, and preserved —

I say unto you, that the man that doeth this, the same cometh out in open rebellion against God; therefore he listeth to obey the evil spirit, and becometh an enemy to all righteousness; therefore, the Lord has no place in him, for he dwelleth not in unholy temples.

King Benjamin Discusses Hell

Therefore if that man repenteth not, and remaineth and dieth an enemy to God, the demands of divine justice do awaken his immortal soul to a lively sense of his own guilt, which doth cause him to shrink from the presence of the Lord, and doth fill his breast with guilt, and pain, and anguish, which is like an unquenchable fire, whose flame ascendeth up forever and ever.

And now I say unto you, that mercy hath no claim on that man; therefore his final doom is to endure a never-ending torment.

O, all ye old men, and also ye young men, and you little children who can understand my words for I have spoken plainly unto you that ye might understand, I pray that ye should awake to a remembrance of the awful situation of those that have fallen into transgression.

And moreover, I would desire that ye should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For behold, they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual, and if they hold out faithful to the end

they are received into heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of neverending happiness. O remember, remember that these things are true; for the Lord God hath spoken it. (Mosiah 2:36-41)

King Benjamin Instructs the People “Impart of Your Substances to the Poor”

And also, ye yourselves will succor those that stand in need of your succor; ye will administer of your substance unto him that standeth in need, and ye will not suffer that the beggar putteth up his petition to you in vain, and turn him out to perish.

Perhaps thou shalt say: The man has brought upon himself his misery; therefore I will stay my hand, and will not give unto him of my food, nor impart unto him of my substance that he may not suffer, for his punishments are just —

But I say unto you, O man, whosoever doeth this the same hath great cause to repent; and except he repenteth of that which he hath done he perisheth forever, and hath no interest in the kingdom of God.

For behold, are we not all beggars? Do we not all depend upon the same Being, even God, for all the substance which we have, for both food and raiment, and for gold, and for silver, and for all the riches which we have of every kind?

And behold, even at this time, ye have been calling on his name, and begging for a remission of your sins. And has he suffered that ye have begged in vain? Nay; he has poured out his Spirit upon you, and has caused that your hearts should be filled with joy, and has caused that your mouths should be stopped that ye could not find utterance, so exceedingly great was your joy.

And now, if God, who has created you, on whom you are dependent for your lives and for all that ye have and are, doth grant unto you whatsoever ye ask that is right, in faith, believing that ye shall receive, O then, how ye ought to impart of the substance that ye have one to another. (Mosiah 4:16-21)

And if ye judge the man who putteth up his petition to you for your substance that he perish not, and condemn him, how much more just will be your condemnation for withholding your substance, which doth not belong to you but to God, to whom also your life belongeth; and yet ye put up no petition, nor repent of the thing which thou hast done.

I say unto you, wo be unto that man, for his substance shall perish with him; and now, I say these things unto those who are rich as pertaining to the things of this world.

And again, I say unto the poor, ye who have not and yet have sufficient, that ye remain from day to day; I mean all you who deny the beggar, because ye have not;

I would that ye say in your hearts that: I give not because I have not, but if I had I would give.

And now, if ye say this in your hearts ye remain guiltless, otherwise ye are condemned; and your condemnation is just for ye covet that which ye have not received.

And now, for the sake of these things which I have spoken unto you — that is, for the sake of retaining a remission of your sins from day to day, that ye may walk guiltless before God — I would that ye should impart of your substance to the poor, every man according to that which he hath, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and administering to their relief, both spiritually and temporarily, according to their wants. (Mosiah 4:22-26)

—About 121 B.C.—

**Ammon Discovered the People of Limhi. He Learns
of the 24 Jaredite Plates. Ancient Records Can
be Translated by Seers**

Now Ammon said unto him: I can assuredly tell thee, O king, of a man that can translate the records; for he has wherewith that he can look, and translate all records that are of ancient date; and it is a gift from God. And the things are called interpreters, and no man can look in them except he be commanded, lest he should look for that he ought not and he should perish. And whosoever is commanded to look in them, the same is called seer. (Mosiah 8:13)

But a seer can know of things which are past, and also of things which are to come, and by them shall all things be revealed, or, rather, shall secret things be made manifest, and hidden things shall come to light, and things which are not known shall be made known by them, and also things shall be made known by them which otherwise could not be known. (Mosiah 8:17)

**Abinadi is Imprisoned by the People of King Noah
He Teaches Them the 10 Commandments**

And now, ye remember that I said unto you: Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of things which are in heaven above, or which are in the earth beneath, or which are in the water under the earth.

And again: Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generations of them that hate me;

And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work;

But the seventh day, the sabbath of the Lord thy God, thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates;

For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is; wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

And it came to pass that after Abinadi had made an end of these sayings that he said unto them: Have ye taught this people that they should observe to do all these things for to keep these commandments?

I say unto you, Nay; for if ye had, the Lord would not have caused me to come forth and to prophesy evil concerning this people.

And now ye have said that salvation cometh by the law of Moses. I say unto you that it is expedient that ye should keep the law of Moses as yet; but I say unto you that the time shall come when it shall no more be expedient to keep the law of Moses.

And moreover, I say unto you that salvation doth not come by the law alone; and were it not for the atonement, which God himself shall make for the sins and iniquities of his people, that they must unavoidably perish, notwithstanding the law of Moses.

And now I say unto you that it was expedient that there should be a law given to the children of Israel, yea, even a very strict law; for they were a stiffnecked people, quick to do iniquity, and slow to remember the Lord their God;

Therefore there was a law given them, yea, a law of performances and of ordinances, a law which they were to observe strictly from day to day, to keep them in remembrance of God and their duty towards him. (Mosiah 13:12-30)

Abinadi Tells Who Will Take Part in The First Resurrection

And there cometh a resurrection, even a first resurrection; yea, even a resurrection of those that have been, and who are, and who shall be, even until the resurrection of Christ — for so shall he be called.

And now, the resurrection of all the prophets, and all those that have believed in their words, or all those that have kept the commandments of God, shall come forth in the first resurrection; therefore, they are the first resurrection.

They are raised to dwell with God who has redeemed them; thus they have eternal life through Christ, who has broken the bands of death.

And these are those who have part in the first resurrection; and these are they that have died before Christ came, in their ignorance, not having salvation declared unto them. And thus the Lord bringeth about the restoration of these; and they have a part in the first resurrection, or have eternal life, being redeemed by the Lord.

And little children also have eternal life.

But behold, and fear, and tremble before God, for ye ought to tremble; for the Lord redeemeth none such that rebel against him and die in their sins; yea, even all those that have perished in their sins ever since the world began, that have wilfully rebelled against God, that have known the commandments of God, and would not keep them; these are they that have no part in the first resurrection.

Therefore ought ye not to tremble? For salvation cometh to none such; for the Lord hath redeemed none such; yea, neither can the Lord redeem such; for he cannot deny himself; for he cannot deny justice when it has its claim. (Mosiah 15:21-27)

And now, it came to pass that after Abinadi had spoken these words he stretched forth his hand and said: The time shall come when all shall see the salvation of the Lord; when every nation, kindred, tongue, and people shall see eye to eye and shall confess before God that his judgments are just. (Mosiah 16:1)

But remember that he that persists in his own carnal nature, and goes on in the ways of sin and rebellion against God, remaineth in his fallen state and the devil hath all power over him. Therefore he is as though there was no redemption made, being an enemy to God; and also is the devil an enemy to God. (Mosiah 16:5)

And if Christ had not risen from the dead, or have broken the bands of death that the grave should have no victory, and that death should have no sting, there could have been no resurrection.

But there is a resurrection, therefore the grave hath no victory, and the sting of death is swallowed up in Christ. (Mosiah 16:7-8)

Man to be Judged by Their Works

Even this mortal shall put on immortality, and this corruption shall put on incorruption, and shall be brought to stand before the bar of God, to be judged of him according to their works whether they be good or whether they be evil — (Mosiah 16:10)

Alma Ordained Priests

And it came to pass that Alma, having authority from God, ordained priests; even one priest to every fifty of their number did he ordain to preach unto them, and to teach them concerning the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

And he commanded them that they should teach nothing save it were the things which he had taught, and which had been spoken by the mouth of the holy prophets. (Mosiah 18:18-19)

And he commanded them that there should be no contention one with another, but that they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism, having their hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another. (Mosiah 18:21)

Alma Instructs Priests to Labor with Their Own Hands for Their Support

And he also commanded them that the priests whom he had ordained should labor with their own hands for their support. (Mosiah 18:24)

And the priests were not to depend upon the people for their support; but for their labor they were to receive the grace of God that they might wax strong in the Spirit, having the knowledge of God, that they might teach with power and authority from God.

And again Alma commanded that the people of the church should impart of their substance, every one according to that which he had; if he have more abundantly he should impart more abundantly; and of him that had but little, but little should be required; and to him that had not should be given.

And thus they should impart of their substance of their own free will and good desires towards God, and to those priests that stood in need, yea, and to every needy, naked soul.

And this he said unto them, having been commanded of God; and they did walk uprightly before God, imparting to one another both temporally and spiritually according to their needs and their wants. (Mosiah 18:26-29)

And thus they did establish the affairs of the church; and thus they began to have continual peace again, notwithstanding all their persecutions.

—About 90 B.C.—

The Faithful Members of the Church are Blessed

And now, because of the steadiness of the church they began to be exceedingly rich, having abundance of all things whatsoever they stood in need — an abundance of flocks and herds, and fatlings of every kind, and also abundance of grain, and of gold, and of silver, and of precious things, and abundance of silk and fine-twined linen, and all manner of good homely cloth.

And thus, in their prosperous circumstances, they did not send away any who were naked, or that were hungry, or that were athirst, or that were sick, or that had not been nourished; and they did not set their hearts upon riches; therefore they were liberal to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, whether out of the church or in the church, having no respect to persons as to those who stood in need. (Alma 1:28-30)

Alma Testifies of the Truth of His Doctrine

And this is not all. Do ye not suppose that I know of these things myself? Behold, I testify unto you that I do know that these things whereof I have spoken are true. And how do ye suppose that I know of their surety?

Behold, I say unto you they are made known unto me by the Holy Spirit of God. Behold, I have fasted and prayed many days that I might know these things of myself. And now I do know of myself that they are true; for the Lord God hath made them manifest unto me by his Holy Spirit; and this is the spirit of revelation which is in me. (Alma 5:45-46)

I say unto you, that I know of myself that whatsoever I shall say unto you, concerning that which is to come, is true; and I say unto you, that I know that Jesus Christ shall come, yea, the Son, the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace, and mercy, and truth. And behold, it is he that cometh to take away the sins of the world, yea, the sins of every man who steadfastly believeth on his name.

And now I say unto you that this is the order after which I am called, yea, to preach unto my beloved brethren, yea, and every one that dwelleth in the land;

yea, to preach unto all, both old and young, both bond and free, yea, I say unto you the aged, and also the middle aged, and the rising generations; yea, to cry unto them that they must repent and be born again. (Alma 5:48-49)

Alma Teaches About the Covenant of Baptism

Now I say unto you that ye must repent, and be born again; for the Spirit saith if ye are not born again ye cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven; therefore come and be baptized unto repentance, that ye may be washed from your sins, that ye may have faith on the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world, who is mighty to save and to cleanse from all unrighteousness.

Yea, I say unto you come and fear not, and lay aside every sin, which easily doth beset you, which doth bind you down to destruction, yea, come and go forth, and show unto your God that ye are willing to repent of your sins and enter into a covenant with him to keep his commandments, and witness it unto him this day by going into the waters of baptism.

And whosoever doeth this, and keepeth the commandments of God from thenceforth, the same will remember that I say unto him, yea, he will remember that I have said unto him, he shall have eternal life, according to the testimony of the Holy Spirit, which testifieth in me. (Alma 7:14-16)

And now I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive and gentle; easy to be entreated; full of patience and long-suffering; being temperate in all things; being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times; asking for whatsoever things ye stand in need, both spiritual and temporal; always returning thanks unto God for whatsoever things ye do receive. (Alma 7:23)

Alma Teaches the Poor Whose Afflictions Had Humbled Them

Now, as Alma was teaching and speaking unto the people upon the hill Onidah, there came a great multitude unto him, who were those of whom we have been speaking, of whom were poor in heart, because of their poverty as to the things of the world.

And they came unto Alma; and the one who was the foremost among them said unto him: Behold, what shall these my brethren do, for they are despised of all men because of their poverty, yea, and more especially by our priests; for they have cast us out of our synagogues which we have labored abundantly to build with our own hands; and they have cast us out because of our exceeding poverty; and we have no place to worship our God; and behold, what shall we do? (Alma 32:4-5)

And now, because ye are compelled to be humble blessed are ye; for a man

sometimes, if he is compelled to be humble, seeketh repentance; and now surely, whosoever repenteth shall find mercy; and he that findeth mercy and endureth to the end the same shall be saved. (Alma 32:13)

Yea, he that truly humbleth himself, and repenteth of his sins, and endureth to the end, the same shall be blessed — yea, much more blessed than they who are compelled to be humble because of their exceeding poverty. (Alma 32:15)

Prepare Now to Meet God

For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.

And now, as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore, I beseech of you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; for after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed.

Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye cannot say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world. (Alma 32:32-34)

Alma Teaches About Faith

Yea, there are many who do say: If thou wilt show unto us a sign from heaven, then we shall know of a surety; then we shall believe.

Now I ask, is this faith? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for if a man knoweth a thing he hath no cause to believe, for he knoweth it.

And now, how much more cursed is he that knoweth the will of God and doeth it not, than he that only believeth, or only hath cause to believe, and falleth into transgression?

Now of this thing ye must judge. Behold, I say unto you, that it is on the one hand even as it is on the other, and it shall be unto every man according to his work.

And now as I said concerning faith — faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true. (Alma 32:17-21)

Now, as I said concerning faith — that it was not a perfect knowledge — even so it is with my words. Ye cannot know of their surety at first, unto perfection, any more than faith is a perfect knowledge.

But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an experiment upon my words, and exercise a particle of faith, yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words. (Alma 32:26-27)

Alma Tells His Son, Helaman, of His Own Conversion

For I went about with the sons of Mosiah, seeking to destroy the church of God; but behold, God sent his holy angel to stop us by the way.

And behold, he spake unto us, as it were the voice of thunder, and the whole earth did tremble beneath our feet; and we all fell to the earth, for the fear of the Lord came upon us.

But behold, the voice said unto me: Arise. And I arose and stood up, and beheld the angel.

And he said unto me: If thou wilt of thyself be destroyed, seek no more to destroy the church of God.

And it came to pass that I fell to the earth; and it was for the space of three days and three nights that I could not open my mouth, neither had I the use of my limbs.

And the angel spake more things unto me, which were heard by my brethren, but I did not hear them; for when I heard the words — If thou wilt be destroyed of thyself, seek no more to destroy the church of God — I was struck with such great fear and amazement lest perhaps I should be destroyed, that I fell to the earth and I did hear no more.

But I was racked with eternal torment, for my soul was harrowed up to the greatest degree and racked with all my sins.

(Alma feels the pains of hell and a damned soul)

Yea, I did remember all my sins and iniquities, for which I was tormented with the pains of hell; yea, I saw that I had rebelled against my God, and that I had not kept his holy commandments.

Yea, and I had murdered many of his children, or rather led them away unto destruction; yea, and in fine so great had been my iniquities, that the very thought of coming into the presence of my God did rack my soul with inexpressible horror.

Oh, thought I, that I could be banished and become extinct both soul and body, that I might not be brought to stand in the presence of my God, to be judged of my deeds.

And now, for three days and for three nights was I racked, even with the pains of a damned soul.

And it came to pass that as I was thus racked with torment, while I was horrowed up by the memory of my many sins, behold, I remembered also to have heard my father prophesy unto the people concerning the coming of one Jesus Christ, a son of God, to atone for the sins of the world.

Now, as my mind caught hold upon this thought, I cried within my heart: O Jesus, thou Son of God, have mercy on me, who am in the gall of bitterness, and am encircled about by the everlasting chains of death.

Alma receives forgiveness for his sins

And now, behold, when I thought this, I could remember my pains no more; yea, I was harrowed up by the memory of my sins no more.

And oh, what joy, and what marvelous light I did behold, yea, my soul was filled with joy as exceeding as was my pain!

Yea, I say unto you, my son, that there could be nothing so exquisite and so bitter as were my pains. Yea, and again I say unto you, my son, that on the other hand, there can be nothing so exquisite and sweet as was my joy.

Yea, methought I saw, even as our father Lehi saw, God sitting upon his throne, surrounded with numberless concourses of angels, in the attitude of singing and praising their God; yea, and my soul did long to be there.

But behold, my limbs did receive their strength again, and I stood upon my feet, and did manifest unto the people that I had been born of God.

Yea, and from that time even until now, I have labored without ceasing, that I might bring souls unto repentance; that I might bring them to taste of the exceeding joy of which I did taste; that they might also be born of God, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. (Alma 36:6-24)

Life After Death

Now, concerning the state of the soul between death and the resurrection — Behold, it has been made known unto me by an angel, that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body, yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life.

And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of those who are righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles and from all care, and sorrow.

And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of the wicked, yea, who are evil

— for behold, they have no part nor portion of the Spirit of the Lord; for behold, they chose evil works rather than good; therefore the spirit of the devil did enter into them, and take possession of their house — and these shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth, and this because of their own iniquity, being led captive by the will of the devil.

Now this is the state of the souls of the wicked, yea, in darkness, and a state of awful, fearful looking for the fiery indignation of the wrath of God upon them; thus they remain in this state, as well as the righteous in paradise, until the time of their resurrection. (Alma 40:11-14)

A Literal Resurrection

The soul shall be restored to the body, and the body to the soul, yea, and every limb and joint shall be restored to its body; yea, even a hair of the head shall not be lost; but all things shall be restored to their proper and perfect frame.

And now, my son, this is the restoration of which has been spoken by the mouths of the prophets — (Alma 40:23-24)

Alma Teaches of Judgment According to Works

And it is requisite with the justice of God that men should be judged according to their works; and if their works were good in this life, and the desires of their hearts were good, that they should also, at the last day, be restored unto that which is good.

And if their works are evil they shall be restored unto them for evil. Therefore, all things shall be restored to their proper order, every thing to its natural frame — mortality raised to immortality, corruption to incorruption — raised to endless happiness to inherit the kingdom of God, or to endless misery to inherit the kingdom of the devil, the one on one hand, the other on the other —

The one raised to happiness according to his desires of happiness, or good according to his desires of good; and the other to evil according to his desires of evil; for as he has desired to do evil all the day long even so shall he have his reward of evil when the night cometh.

And so it is on the other hand. If he hath repented of his sins, and desired righteousness until the end of his days, even so he shall be rewarded unto righteousness. (Alma 41:3-6)

Divine Guidance Through Prayer

O, remember, my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God.

Yea, and cry unto God for all thy support, yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest let it be in the Lord, yea, let all thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord forever.

Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day. (Alma 37: 35-37)

Alma Speaks to a Wayward Son About “Restoration”

And now behold, my son, do not risk one more offense against your God upon those points of doctrine, which ye have hitherto risked to commit sin.

Do not suppose, because it has been spoken concerning restoration, that ye shall be restored from sin to happiness. Behold, I say unto you, wickedness never was happiness. (Alma 41:9-10)

And now behold, is the meaning of the word restoration to take a thing of a natural state and place it in an unnatural state, or to place it in a state opposite to its nature?

O, my son, this is not the case; but the meaning of the word restoration is to bring back again evil for evil, or carnal for carnal, or devilish for devilish — good for that which is good; righteous for that which is righteous; just for that which is just; merciful for that which is merciful.

Therefore, my son, see that you are merciful unto your brethren; deal justly, judge righteously, and do good continually, and if ye do all these things then shall ye receive your reward; yea, ye shall have mercy restored unto you again, ye shall have justice restored unto you again; ye shall have a righteous judgment restored unto you again; and ye shall have good rewarded unto you again.

For that which ye do send out shall return unto you again, and be restored; therefore, the word restoration more fully condemneth the sinner, and justifieth him not at all. (Alma 41:12-15)

The Sons of Ammon Take up Arms

And now behold, I have somewhat to say concerning the people of Ammon, who, in the beginning, were Lamanites; but by Ammon and his brethren, or rather by the power and word of God, they had been converted unto the Lord; and they had been brought down into the land of Zarahemla, and had ever since been protected by the Nephites.

And because of their oath they had been kept from taking up arms against their brethren; for they had taken an oath that they never would shed blood more; and according to their oath they would have perished; yea, they would have suffered themselves to have fallen into the hands of their brethren, had it not been for the pity and the exceeding love which Ammon and his brethren had for them.

And for this cause they were brought down into the land of Zarahemla; and they ever had been protected by the Nephites.

But it came to pass that when they saw the danger, and the many afflictions and tribulations which the Nephites bore for them, they were moved with compassion and were desirous to take up arms in the defense of their country.

But behold, as they were about to take their weapons of war, they were overpowered by the persuasions of Helaman and his brethren, for they were about to break the oath which they had made.

And Helaman feared lest by so doing they should lose their souls; therefore all those who had entered into this covenant were compelled to behold their brethren wade through their afflictions, in their dangerous circumstances at this time.

But behold, it came to pass they had many sons, who had not entered into a covenant that they would not take their weapons of war to defend themselves against their enemies; therefore they did assemble themselves together at this time, as many as were able to take up arms, and they called themselves Nephites.

And they entered into a covenant to fight for the liberty of the Nephites, yea, to protect the land unto the laying down of their lives; yea, even they covenanted that they never would give up their liberty, but they would fight in all cases to protect the Nephites and themselves from bondage.

Now behold, there were two thousand of those young men, who entered into this covenant and took their weapons of war to defend their country. (Alma 53:10-18)

The Ammonite Youth are Miraculously Preserved

And it came to pass that there were two hundred, out of my two thousand and sixty, who had fainted because of the loss of blood; nevertheless, according to the goodness of God, and to our great astonishment, and also the joy of our whole army, there was not one soul of them who did perish; yea, and neither was there one soul among them who had not received many wounds.

And now, their preservation was astonishing to our whole army, yea, that they should be spared while there was a thousand of our brethren who were slain. And we do justly ascribe it to the miraculous power of God, because of their exceeding faith in that which they had been taught to believe — that there was a just God, and whosoever did not doubt, that they should be preserved by his marvelous

power.

Now this was the faith of these of whom I have spoken; they are young, and their minds are firm, and they do put their trust in God continually. (Alma 57:25-27)

—About 62 B.C.—
**Moroni Complains to Pahoran
of the Government's Neglect of the Armies**

And it came to pass that he wrote again to the governor of the land who was Pahoran, and these are the words which he wrote, saying: Behold, I direct mine epistle to Pahoran, in the city of Zarahemla, who is the chief judge and the governor over the land, and also to all those who have been chosen by this people to govern and manage the affairs of this war. (Alma 60:1)

And now behold, we desire to know the cause of this exceedingly great neglect; yea, we desire to know the cause of your thoughtless state.

Can you think to sit upon your thrones in a state of thoughtless stupor, while your enemies are spreading the work of death around you? Yea, while they are murdering thousands of your brethren —

Yea, even they who have looked up to you for protection, yea, have placed you in a situation that ye might have succored them, yea, ye might have sent armies unto them, to have strengthened them, and have saved thousands of them from falling by the sword.

But behold, this is not all — ye have withheld your provisions from them, insomuch that many have fought and bled out their lives because of their great desires which they had for the welfare of this people; yea, and this they have done when they were about to perish with hunger, because of your exceedingly great neglect towards them. (Alma 60:6-9)

**Pahoran Tells Moroni of the Insurrection and
Rebellion Against the Government**

I, Pahoran, who am the chief governor of this land, do send these words unto Moroni, the chief captain over the army. Behold, I say unto you, Moroni, that I do not joy in your great afflictions, yea, it grieves my soul. (Alma 61:2)

And it is those who have sought to take away the judgment-seat from me that have been the cause of this great iniquity; for they have used great flattery, and they have led away the hearts of many people, which will be the cause of sore affliction among us; they have withheld our provisions, and have daunted our freemen that they have not come unto you.

And behold, they have driven me out before them, and I have fled to the land of Gideon, with as many men as it were possible that I could get. (Alma 61:4-5)

— About 30 B.C. —

**Nephi and Lehi (Named after their Ancestors)
Devote Themselves to Preaching**

And it came to pass that they were taken by an army of the Lamanites and cast into prison; yea, even in that same prison in which Ammon and his brethren were cast by the servants of Limhi.

And after they had been cast into prison many days without food, behold, they went forth into the prison to take them that they might slay them.

And it came to pass that Nephi and Lehi did stand forth and began to speak unto them, saying: Fear not, for behold, it is God that has shown unto you this marvelous thing, in the which is shown unto you that ye cannot lay your hands on us to slay us. (Helaman 5:21-26)

And when they saw that they were encircled about with a pillar of fire, and that it burned them not, their hearts did take courage.

For they saw that the Lamanites durst not lay their hands upon them; neither durst they come near unto them, but stood as if they were struck dumb with amazement.

And it came to pass that Nephi and Lehi did stand forth and began to speak unto them, saying: Fear not, for behold, it is God that has shown unto you this marvelous thing, in the which is shown unto you that ye cannot lay your hands on us to slay us. (Helaman 5:21-26)

And it came to pass that there came a voice as if it were above the cloud of darkness, saying: Repent ye, repent ye, and seek no more to destroy my servants whom I have sent unto you to declare good tidings.

And it came to pass when they heard this voice, and beheld that it was not a voice of thunder, neither was it a voice of great tumultuous noise, but behold, it was a still voice of perfect mildness, as if it had been a whisper, and it did pierce even to the very soul — (Helaman 5:29-30)

— About 5 B.C. —

**Samuel the Lamanite Prophecies Concerning
The Birth and Death of Christ**

And now it came to pass that Samuel, the Lamanite, did prophesy a great many more things which cannot be written.

And behold, he said unto them: Behold, I give unto you a sign; for five years

more cometh, and behold, then cometh the Son of God to redeem all those who shall believe in his name.

And behold, this will I give unto you for a sign at the time of his coming; for behold, there shall be great lights in heaven, insomuch that in the night before he cometh there shall be no darkness, insomuch that it shall appear unto man as if it was day.

Therefore, there shall be one day and a night and a day, as if it were one day and there were no night; and this shall be unto you for a sign; for ye shall know of the rising of the sun and also of its setting; therefore they shall know of a surety that there shall be two days and a night; nevertheless the night shall not be darkened; and it shall be the night before he is born.

And behold, there shall a new star arise, such an one as ye never have beheld; and this also shall be a sign unto you. (Helaman 14:1-5)

But behold, as I said unto you concerning another sign, a sign of his death, behold, in that day that he shall suffer death the sun shall be darkened and refuse to give his light unto you; and also the moon and the stars; and there shall be no light upon the face of this land, even from the time that he shall suffer death, for the space of three days, to the time that he shall rise again from the dead.

Yea, at the time that he shall yield up the ghost there shall be thunderings and lightnings for the space of many hours, and the earth shall shake and tremble; and the rocks which are upon the face of this earth, which are both above the earth and beneath, which ye know at this time are solid, or the more part of it is one solid mass, shall be broken up.

Yea, they shall be rent in twain, and shall ever after be found in seams and in cracks, and in broken fragments upon the face of the whole earth, yea, both above the earth and beneath.

And behold, there shall be great tempests, and there shall be many mountains laid low, like unto a valley, and there shall be many places which are now called valleys which shall become mountains whose height is great.

And many highways shall be broken up, and many cities shall become desolate.

And many graves shall be opened, and shall yield up many of their dead; and many saints shall appear unto many. (Helaman 14:20-25)

—About 30 A.D.— **Many Willfully Rebel Against God**

Now they did not sin ignorantly, for they knew the will of God concerning them, for it had been taught unto them; therefore they did wilfully rebel against God. (3 Nephi 6:18)

— ABOUT 34 A.D. —
**THE RESURRECTED CHRIST APPEARS TO THOSE
ON THE AMERICAN CONTINENT**

(In the darkness the voice of Christ proclaims the destruction of many people and cities for their wickedness. He also proclaims his divinity, announces that the law of Moses is fulfilled, and invites men to come unto him and be saved.) — Summary of 3rd Nephi, Chapter 9.

(There is silence in the land for many hours, the voice of Christ promises to gather his people as a hen gathereth her chickens. The more righteous part of the people had been preserved.) — Summary of 3rd Nephi, Chapter 10.

(Jesus Christ did show himself unto the people of Nephi, as the multitude were gathered together in the land Bountiful, and did minister unto them, and on this wise did he show himself unto them. Comprising chapters 11 to 26 inclusive.) — Summary of 3rd Nephi, Chapter 11.

And now it came to pass that there were a great multitude gathered together, of the people of Nephi, round about the temple which was in the land Bountiful; and they were marveling and wondering one with another, and were showing one to another the great and marvelous change which had taken place.

And they were also conversing about this Jesus Christ, of whom the sign had been given concerning his death.

And it came to pass that while they were thus conversing one with another, they heard a voice as if it came out of heaven; and they cast their eyes round about, for they understood not the voice which they heard; and it was not a harsh voice, neither was it a loud voice; nevertheless, and notwithstanding it being a small voice it did pierce them that did hear to the center, insomuch that there was no part of their frame that it did not cause to quake; yea, it did pierce them to the very soul, and did cause their hearts to burn.

And it came to pass that again they heard the voice, and they understood it not.

And again the third time they did hear the voice, and did open their ears to hear it; and their eyes were towards the sound thereof; and they did look steadfastly towards heaven, from whence the sound came.

And behold, the third time they did understand the voice which they heard; and it said unto them:

Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name — hear ye him.

And it came to pass, as they understood they cast their eyes up again towards heaven; and behold they saw a Man descending out of heaven; and he was clothed in a white robe; and he came down and stood in the midst of them; and the eyes of the whole multitude were turned upon him, and they durst not open their mouths, even one to another; and wist not what it meant, for they thought it was an angel that had appeared to them.

And it came to pass that he stretched forth his hand and spake unto the people, saying:

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.

And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto them saying:

Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world.

And it came to pass that the multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet; and this they did do, going forth one by one until they had all gone forth, and did see with their eyes and did feel with their hands, and did know of a surety and did bear record, that it was he, of whom it was written by the prophets, that should come. (3 Nephi 11:1-15)

Christ Taught the People the Correct Method of Baptism

And the Lord commanded him that he should arise. And he arose and stood before him.

And the Lord said unto him: I give unto you power that ye shall baptize this people when I am again ascended into heaven.

And again the Lord called others, and said unto them likewise; and he gave unto them power to baptize. And he said unto them: On this wise shall ye baptize;

and there shall be no disputations among you.

Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words, and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them — Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them.

And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying:

Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water.

And after this manner shall ye baptize in my name; for behold, verily I say unto you, that the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one; and I am in the Father, and the Father in me, and the Father and I are one.

And according as I have commanded you thus shall ye baptize. And there shall be no disputations among you, as there have hitherto been; neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of my doctrine, as there have hitherto been.

For verily, verily I say unto you, he that hath the spirit of contention is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another. (3 Nephi 11:20-29)

Jesus Chooses Twelve

Behold, I have given unto you the commandments; therefore keep my commandments. And this is the law and the prophets, for they truly testified of me.

And now it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words, he said unto those twelve whom he had chosen:

Ye are my disciples; and ye are a light unto this people, who are a remnant of the house of Joseph.

And behold, this is the land of your inheritance; and the Father hath given it unto you.

And not at any time hath the Father given me commandment that I should tell it unto your brethren at Jerusalem.

Neither at any time hath the Father given me commandment that I should tell unto them concerning the other tribes of the house of Israel, whom the Father hath led away out of the land.

This much did the Father command me, that I should tell unto them:

That other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

And now, because of stiffneckedness and unbelief they understood not my word; therefore I was commanded to say no more of the Father concerning this thing unto them.

But, verily, I say unto you that the Father hath commanded me, and I tell it unto you, that ye were separated from among them because of their iniquity; therefore it is because of their iniquity that they know not of you.

And verily, I say unto you again that the other tribes hath the Father separated from them; and it is because of their iniquity that they know not of them.

“Ye are They of Whom I Said: Other Sheep I Have Which are Not of This Fold . . .”

And verily I say unto you, that ye are they of whom I said: Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

And they understood me not, for they supposed it had been the Gentiles; for they understood not that the Gentiles should be converted through their preaching.

And they understood me not that I said they shall hear my voice; and they understood me not that the Gentiles should not at any time hear my voice — that I should not manifest myself unto them save it were by the Holy Ghost.

But behold, ye have both heard my voice, and seen me; and ye are my sheep, and ye are numbered among those whom the Father hath given me. (3 Nephi 15:10-24)

There are Still Other Sheep Jesus Will Visit

And verily, verily, I say unto you that I have other sheep, which are not of this land, neither of the land of Jerusalem, neither in any parts of that land round about whither I have been to minister.

For they of whom I speak are they who have not as yet heard my voice; neither have I at any time manifested myself unto them.

But I have received a commandment of the Father that I shall go unto them, and that they shall hear my voice, and shall be numbered among my sheep, that there may be one fold and one shepherd; therefore I go to show myself unto them. (3 Nephi 16:1-3)

(Jesus institutes the sacrament among the Nephites — They are

commanded to pray always in his name — Those who eat his flesh and drink his blood unworthily are damned — The disciples are given power to confer the Holy Ghost.)—Summary of 3rd Nephi, Chapter 18.

Jesus Commands Them to Name the Church After Him

And the Lord said unto them: Verily, verily, I say unto you, why is it that the people should murmur and dispute because of this thing?

Have they not read the scriptures, which say ye must take upon you the name of Christ, which is my name? For by this name shall ye be called at the last day;

And whoso taketh upon him my name, and endureth to the end, the same shall be saved at the last day.

Therefore, whatsoever ye shall do, ye shall do it in my name; therefore ye shall call the church in my name; and ye shall call upon the Father in my name that he will bless the church for my sake.

And how be it my church save it be called in my name? For if a church be called in Moses' name then it be Moses' church; or if it be called in the name of a man then it be the church of a man; but if it be called in my name then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel. (3 Nephi 27:4-8)

COMMENT — ALL OF 3RD NEPHI IN THE BOOK OF MORMON IS DEVOTED TO THE APPEARANCE OF CHRIST AND HIS TEACHINGS TO THE PEOPLE.

—Between 400 and 421 A.D.— Continuing Revelation From God

And again I speak unto you who deny the revelations of God, and say that they are done away, that there are no revelations, nor prophecies, nor gifts, nor healing, nor speaking of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues;

Behold I say unto you, he that denieth these things knoweth not the gospel of Christ; yea, he has not read the scriptures; if so, he does not understand them.

For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing? (Mormon 9:7-9)

Moroni Writes the Savior's Prayer on the Bread

O God, the Eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to

bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of those who partake of it; that they may eat in remembrance of the body of thy Son, and witness unto thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him, and keep his commandments which he hath given them, that they may always have his Spirit to be with them. Amen. (Moroni 4:3)

Baptism of Little Children Condemned

An epistle of my father Mormon, written to me, Moroni; and it was written unto me soon after my calling to the ministry. And on this wise did he write unto me, saying: (Moroni 8:1)

For, if I have learned the truth, there have been disputations among you concerning the baptism of your little children.

And now, my son, I desire that ye should labor diligently, that this gross error should be removed from among you; for, for this intent I have written this epistle.

For immediately after I had learned these things of you I inquired of the Lord concerning the matter. And the word of the Lord came to me by the power of the Holy Ghost, saying:

Listen to the words of Christ, your Redeemer, your Lord and your God. Behold, I came into the world not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance; the whole need no physician, but they that are sick; wherefore, little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me, that it hath no power over them, and the law of circumcision is done away in me.

And after this manner did the Holy Ghost manifest the word of God unto me; wherefore, my beloved son, I know that it is solemn mockery before God, that ye should baptize little children.

Behold I say unto you that this thing shall ye teach — repentance and baptism unto those who are accountable and capable of committing sin; yea, teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their little children.

And their little children need no repentance, neither baptism. Behold, baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling the commandments unto the remission of sins. (Moroni 8:5-11)

The Second Epistle of Mormon to His Son Moroni

(Both the Nephites and the Lamanites are depraved and degenerate — They torture and murder each other — Mormon prays that grace

and goodness may rest upon Moroni forever.) —Summary of Moroni, Chapter 9.

My beloved son, I write unto you again that ye may know that I am yet alive; but I write somewhat of that which is grievous.

For behold, I have had a sore battle with the Lamanites, in which we did not conquer; and Archeantus has fallen by the sword, and also Luram and Emron; yea, and we have lost a great number of our choice men.

And now behold, my son, I fear lest the Lamanites shall destroy this people; for they do not repent, and Satan stirreth them up continually to anger one with another. (Moroni 9:1-3)

Moroni Writes a Little More Before Sealing Up the Records to Come Forth in the Due Time of the Lord

Now I, Moroni, write somewhat as seemeth me good; 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.

Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts.

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.

And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things. (Moroni 10:1-5)

And now I bid unto all, farewell. I soon go to rest in the paradise of God, until my spirit and body shall again reunite, and I am brought forth triumphant through the air, to meet you before the pleasing bar of the great Jehovah, the Eternal Judge of both quick and dead. Amen. (Moroni 10:34)

TESTIMONIES OF THE WITNESSES TO THE BOOK OF MORMON

The Three Witnesses

BE IT KNOWN unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come. That we, through the grace of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, have seen the plates which contain this record, which is a record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites, their brethren, and also of the people of Jared, who came from the tower of which hath been spoken. And we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of God, for his voice hath declared it unto us; wherefore we know of a surety that the work is true. And we also testify that we have seen the engravings which are upon the plates; and they have been shown unto us by the power of God, and not of man. And we declare with words of soberness, that an angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings thereon; and we know that it is by the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, that we beheld and bear record that these things are true. And it is marvelous in our eyes: Nevertheless, the voice of the Lord commanded us that we should bear record of it; wherefore, to be obedient unto the commandments of God, we bear testimony of these things. And we know that if we are faithful in Christ, we shall rid our garments of the blood of all men, and be found spotless before the judgment seat of Christ, and shall dwell with him eternally in the heavens. And the honor be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, which is one God. Amen.

Oliver Cowdery
David Whitmer
Martin Harris

The above testimony was never revoked, nor even modified by any one of the three witnesses. To the last of their lives they maintained the same solemn declaration of the angelic visit, and of the testimony that had been implanted in their hearts.

Shortly after the witnessing of the plates by the three, eight other people were permitted to see and handle the ancient records. This was in direct fulfillment of the prophecy in 2 Nephi 11:3 that "God sendeth more witnesses," whose testimony would be added to that of the three.

THE EIGHT WITNESSES

BE IT KNOWN unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people unto whom this work shall come: That Joseph Smith, Jun., the translator of this work, has shown unto us the plates of which hath been spoken, which have the appearance of gold; and as many of the leaves as the said Smith has translated we did handle with our hands; and we also saw the engravings thereon, all of which has the appearance of ancient work, and of curious workmanship. And this we bear record with words of soberness, that the said Smith has shown unto us, for we have seen and hefted, and know of a surety that the said Smith has got the plates of which we have spoken. And we give our names unto the world, to witness unto the world that which we have seen. And we lie not, God bearing witness of it.

Christian Whitmer
 Jacob Whitmer
 Peter Whitmer, Jun.
 John Whitmer
 Hiram Page
 Joseph Smith, Sen.
 Hyrum Smith
 Samuel H. Smith

Three of the above eight witnesses died out of the Church, yet not one of the whole number ever was known to deny his testimony concerning the Book of Mormon.

SOME EVIDENCES OF CHRIST IN AMERICA (Non-LDS References Listed)

The Great White God of ancient America still lives! The divine personage that emerges from the discoveries and writings of archaeologists and historians now stands out as an unassailable reality. The mystery that so long veiled the puzzling traditions of the natives is swept aside by newly found but centuries old records that open a widely expanded view of this divinity and his labors in the Western Hemisphere.

There was such a God!

According to the findings of scholars, he came to America long before the time of Columbus.

He taught the ancients his true religion, raised some of their dead, healed many of their sick, taught new and more productive methods

of agriculture, and established a government of equality and peace.

He came suddenly and left suddenly in a supernatural manner.

The ancients regarded him as the Creator, come to earth in bodily form.

Tradition of the White God

Many now readily admit that his teachings were akin to those of the Bible.

And that he promised to return in a second coming is an acknowledged fact, well attested by historical accounts.

The tradition of a White God in ancient America was preserved through generations of Indians from Chili to Alaska, and has been significantly persistent likewise among the Polynesians from Hawaii to New Zealand.

In their main details all such traditions agree. They differ in name and minor details from island to island and from country to country, but the overall outline remains the same — there was a Great White God. He came among their forefathers, ministered for a while, and then left again. Some say he ascended to heaven.

The White God was Known by Many Names

So convincing is the information now available concerning the White God as he appears in the legends of the Aztecs that Paul Herrmann was induced to say in his book *Conquest by Man*:

“Carefully considered this leaves no conclusion open than that the Light God Quetzalcoatl was a real person, that he was neither an invention of Spanish propaganda nor a legendary figment of Indian imagination” (p. 172).

This being, known as Quetzalcoatl in parts of Mexico, primarily in the Cholula area, was known as Votan in Chiapas and Wixeperchocha in Oaxaca, as Gucumatz in Guatemala, as Virococha and Hyustus in Peru, as Sume in Brazil, and as Bochica in Colombia.

To the Peruvians he was also known as Con-tici or Lila-Tici, Tici meaning both Creator and the Light. To the Mayans he was principally known as Kukulcan.

In the Polynesian islands he was Lono, Kana, Kane, or Kon, and sometimes Kanaloa — the Great Light or Great Brightness. He also

was known as Kana-Akea, the Great Progenitor, or Tonga-roa, the god of the ocean sun.

The Image, Personality, and Mission of the White God

What did he look like, this Great White God?

He was frequently described as a tall white man, bearded and with blue eyes. He wore loose, flowing robes. He came from the heavens and went back to the heavens.

He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, cured the lame, and raised some of the dead. He taught a better life, telling the people to do unto others as they would be done by, to love their neighbors as themselves, and to always show kindness and charity.

He seemed to be a person of great authority and unmeasured kindness. He had power to make hills into plains and plains into high mountains. He could bring fountains of water from the solid rock.

In addition to giving them rules on how to live peacefully together, he urged them to greater learning, and also taught them improved methods of agriculture.

The White God Promised to Return

One of the remarkable things about his coming was that he appeared after a period of darkness in all the land, during which the people had prayed for a return of the sun. While the darkness yet prevailed, "they suffered great hardship . . . and . . . made great prayers and vows to those they held to be their gods, imploring of them the light that had failed." After the light had returned, then came a "white man, of large stature, whose air and person aroused great respect and veneration . . . And when they saw his power, they called him the Maker of all things, their Beginning, Father of the sun." (See Pedro de Cieza de Leon, *The Incas*, trans. by Harriet de Onis, pp. 27-28.)

This personage, as he taught his religion, also urged the people to build great temples for worship. As he left them, he promised his second coming, which caused the natives to look for his return even as the Jews look for their promised Messiah. (See Pierre Honore, *In Quest of the White God*, pp. 16-17.)

Spanish Conquistadores were hailed as the White God returned

Due to the anxiousness with which they were awaiting the return of this White God, the natives mistakenly supposed that with the arrival of the Spaniards in America, this promise was fulfilled (see Honore, p. 17). A similar event took place in the Hawaiian Islands with the arrival of Captain James Cook. These historical events serve to strengthen the evidence supporting the reality of the White God.

When the Spanish Conquistadores reached South America, one of Pizarro's lieutenants strode ashore wearing his helmet and breastplate and carrying a shining musket. He made an impressive appearance.

Natives on the shore watched him in amazement. He was a white man! As Pedro de Candia strode toward them, they knelt before him and began to say "Viracocha, Viracocha." It puzzled the gallant Pedro. The natives drew nearer, surrounding him. Somewhat fearful himself, he fired his gun into the air, expecting to frighten the natives away. But they did not move, instead they whispered, "Ilia Tiki, Ilia Tiki," meaning "the god of lightning." The Indians thought he was their returning white god Viracocha, and that with his gun he controlled both thunder and lightning (See Paul Herrmann, *Conquest by Man*, pp. 181-82.)

Cortez was hailed as the White God returned

Hernando Cortez was likewise believed to be the returning White God as he came to Mexico in 1520. When the coastal natives saw that he was white, a leader among his men, and that he came in a large ship with white sails, they conjectured that the Great White God had arrived.

Montezuma, the Aztec ruler, remembered that when he was crowned as emperor, the priests of the Aztec cult reminded him, "This is not your throne . . . it is only lent to you and will one day be returned to the one to whom it is due" (Honore, p. 66.)

Montezuma made plans to greet Cortez with all the respect he owed to the White God whom his Aztec religion had taught him to expect. Precious gifts were brought to Cortez, the riches of the realm were opened to him. He was honored as a deity indeed. (See William H. Prescott, *History of the Conquest of Mexico*.)

Captain Cook was hailed as the White God returned

When Captain James Cook sailed into the peaceful waters of the Hawaiian Islands, he too was mistaken for the White God. The natives there, like their relatives in America, had long expected the second coming of their Great White God.

Seeing Captain Cook, a white man of high command, sailing in a large ship with great white sails such as the natives had never before seen, the Hawaiians received and worshipped him as their long looked-for golden-haired god Lono.

Remarkably, Captain Cook had landed during the *makahiki* festival, the celebration that kept alive the tradition of the white god Lono. King Kaleniopuu welcomed him and his party, and the native priests led him with high ceremony to the great stone truncated pyramid that was Lono's temple. In amazement, the redoubtable British explorer accepted their obeisance, quite willing to receive any honors they were willing to bestow upon him. (See J.C. Beaglehole, *The Life of Captain Cook*, pp. 648-60.)

SAHAGUN, AN EARLY CATHOLIC MISSIONARY, DESCRIBES THE WHITE GOD OF THE AMERICAN INDIANS AND HIS TEACHINGS

Sahagun and other early Catholic missionaries and writers reported on the legends, myths, and beliefs of the American Indians. Among their writings about the fair God Quetzalcoatl, that appeared anciently to the Indians, they report that "He is represented as the son of the all-father by a virgin, arriving full grown from the North, when departing he promised to return some day and take up once more his beneficent rule, left the teaching concerning the cross, taught concerning the flood, Eve, baptism by immersion, confession to God, belief in a hell and the devil, celebration of the memory of their dead, fast, the organization of priestly hierarchy, the giving of the first fruits to the gods (tithing?), and belief in the destruction of the world by evil spirits. He it was who was believed to have gone away, not to die, for he was immortal, but to dwell in the distant east, whence in the fullness of time he would return."

*Source: Charles S. Brandon, RELIGIOUS ASPECTS OF THE CONQUEST OF MEXICO,
Duke University Press, 1930, pp. 30-39.*

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE BOOK, TITLE OF THE LORDS OF TOTONICAPAN

TITLE OF THE LORDS OF TOTONICAPAN is a book based upon an Indian document written in the Quiche language of Guatemala, apparently in 1554, and contains a brief history of that ancient American people from their legendary origins to after 1550. In 1554, after many years of war had weakened the Quiche nation, their liberty was lost and their power destroyed by the Conquest. The last kings and dignitaries wrote this account, preserved by tradition, of their ancestors, who had "come from the other part of the sea, from Civan-Tulan, on the confines of Babylon."

In 1834, the Indians of the village of Totonicapan — the Chimekenha of the Quiches — applied to the provincial governor requesting the services of the priest of Sacapulas, Dionisio Jose Chonay, to translate their document into Spanish. Father Chonay translated their document, and the tribe presented the original manuscript and the translation to the judge of the local court, requesting that "two intelligent men" examine it and pass on the accuracy of the Spanish version.

The Book of Mormon was first published in 1830. After passing through several hands, the document contained in TITLE OF THE LORDS OF TOTONICAPAN was first published in Spanish and French in 1885. A summary, probably by the translator, is presented before the translated document. Although the problems of preserving oral traditions have changed many names and events, there is still enough threads of truth left in the document to recognize similarities to the Book of Mormon. Before you read this summary of this early Indian document, recall some of what you have read in this chapter concerning the Book of Mormon.

Lehi and his family left Jerusalem about 600 B.C., warned by the Lord that Jerusalem was going to **be destroyed and the people carried captive by Babylon**. Therefore, their history taken with them to the American Continent would only be up to this captivity by Babylonia.

After they had obtained the plates of brass from Laban, Lehi found them to contain, among other things their genealogy (**the posterity of Adam**), and **the first five books of Moses — which would include the creation of the world, Adam and Eve, etc.**

The Book of Mormon people knew they were of the Tribe of Joseph of the **Kingdom of Israel**.

It might be well to note that it is an assumption on the part of the translator that Shalmaneser had anything to do with their emigration — There is no mention of his name in the Indian document.

FOR THE COMPLETE STORY OF THE ARRIVAL,
TEACHINGS, AND DEPARTURE OF THE GREAT WHITE GOD
OF ANCIENT AMERICA, JESUS THE CHRIST, THE SAVIOR
OF ALL MANKIND —

READ THE BOOK OF MORMON

Letter from the Translator

Señor Don Santiago Solórzano, Governor of the Department,
Sacapulas, September 14, 1834.

Honorable Lord of my attention and deepest respect:

By this date I have been able to finish the commission you made me in your letter of August 21. I should have liked to serve you and the interested parties in two or three days; but despite this desire I have spent three entire weeks, because of the difficulty of understanding a thing so full of words or terms that are no longer used and of things we do not know. I hope that it will be of some use to the interested parties, and that you will have the goodness to overlook and correct the defects.

I hope that your health is perfect, and that you may command your most obedient servant and chaplain who respectfully kisses your hand.

Dionisio José Chomey

Translation of the attached manuscript, written in the Quiché language by those who signed it in the year 1554, in accordance with the tradition held by their ancestors.

This said manuscript consists of thirty-one quarto pages; but translation of the first pages is omitted because they are on the creation of the world, of Adam, the Earthly Para-

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Letter from the Translator

dise in which Eve was deceived not by a serpent but by Lucifer himself, as an Angel of Light. It deals with the posterity of Adam, following in every respect the same order as in Genesis and the sacred books as far as the captivity of Babylon. The manuscript assumes that the three great Quiché nations with which it particularly deals are descendants of the Ten Tribes of the Kingdom of Israel, whom Shalmaneser reduced to perpetual captivity and who, finding themselves on the border of Assyria, resolved to emigrate.

In this version the spelling and order of words of the original have been followed as far as possible.

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Source:

Title of the Lords of Totonicapan, P. 166-167.

IN SUMMARY

In this chapter we have presented the fruits of the anti-Mormons and some of the fruits of the LDS Church. We extend an invitation to you to investigate our church. Its fruits are very appealing, which is the reason why the anti-Mormons discussed in this book have worked so hard to influence you against the church. They don't want you to investigate it. **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the true church of Him whose name it bears. That is why its enemies must use lies and all the other tactics of deceit discussed in this book to fight it.**

Have you ever read the New Testament and tried to piece together what Christ's church was like then? The true church today must be the same as Christ's church then. So, what was it like?

We would like to propose seventeen points from the King James version that identified the true church: His church today will have all of these.

1. Christ organized the Church (Eph. 4:11-14)
2. The true church must bear the name of Jesus Christ. (Eph. 5:23)
3. The true church must have a foundation of Apostles and Prophets. (Eph. 2:19-21)
4. The true church must have the same organization as Christ's Church. (Eph. 4:11-14)
5. The true church must claim divine authority. (Heb. 5:4-10)
6. The true church must have no paid ministry. (Micah 3:10-11, I Peter 5:2)
7. The true church must baptize by immersion. (Matt. 3:13-16)
8. The true church must bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands. (Acts 8:14-17)
9. The true church must practice divine healing. (Mark 3:14-15)
10. The true church must teach that God and Jesus Christ are separate and distinct individuals. (John 17:11 and John 20:17)
11. The true church must teach that God and Jesus Christ have bodies of flesh and bone. (Luke 24:36-39 and Acts 1:9-11)
12. The officers must be called by God. (Heb. 5:4, Exodus 28:1, Exodus 40:13-16)
13. The true church must claim revelation from God. (Amos 3:7)
14. The true church must be a missionary church. (Matt. 28:19-20)

15. The true church must be a restored church. (Acts 3:19-21)
16. The true church must practice baptism for the dead. (I Cor. 15:16 and 29)
17. By their fruits ye shall know them. (Matt. 7:20)

WHY ARE THESE THINGS IMPORTANT? HEBREWS 13:8

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

Would you like to know more about the LDS Church and its beliefs?

For more information, contact any Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in your telephone directory, or write to:

Robert L. Brown

P.O. Box 2671

Mesa, Arizona 85204

and your request will be directed to the nearest mission.

You may also order additional books from the above address. You may note that most libraries have an anti-Mormon section. Why not order an extra book and donate it to the library?