

The Purpose of the Book of Mormon

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In the first chapter of the Book of Isaiah, a chosen seer, seeing our day stated that the whole body (the church in the latter-days) is sick, including the head, the heart and the feet (see Isa. 1:6). Mormon and Moroni placed 21 of Isaiah's chapters in the Book of Mormon to highlight our need for repentance, and to reveal a number of mysteries. One of them is the coming forth of a number of latter-day servants to clean things up. Like most of you, I have had the great blessing to be raised up in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We have wonderful scriptures and truths available to us. They bless all who **let them say what they say**, and especially if we then apply their saving truths in our lives by "*doing*". Like other faiths, we have let false teachings and traditions enter in among us. We must be set free in the *truths* that the word of God presents us.

Much of the "doctrine of Christ" was taken out of the Bible by evil and designing men, and in the Book of Mormon, the Lord has returned "*the plain and precious things*" that bring us salvation. One important example is a five-word phrase our Lord repeatedly uses to summarize His mission, while inviting us to receive salvation as His hands. He repeats it many times, saying, "**repent and come unto me**" (D&C 10:67-68; 1 Ne. 10:18-19; 2 Ne. 9:23-24; 28:32; Jacob 1:7; Alma 5:33-34; D&C 93:1; 3 Ne. 9:14, 22, 51; 11:14; 12:19-20, 23-24; 27:5-21; 30:1-2). In the Book of Mormon He refers to His plain and precious teachings with the phrases, "**my doctrine, my gospel, and my church**" in that order. He adds that those who embrace them are founded upon "**my rock,**" and that when the storms come, those who have done so will **not** be swept away when the rains, winds, and floods come.

Feasting upon God's word in the Book of Mormon *and* the Joseph Smith re-translation of the Bible helps us come out of Babylon and be centered on the true and living God, Jesus Christ. He calls the two books together "*the fulness of my scriptures.*" Jesus is "the light and life of the world" (3 Ne. 11:11) and "the fountain of living waters" (Jer. 2:13). Many today are awakening to their awful *unsaved* situation, in this dark world. They recognize that we are surrounded today by men in secret combinations who desire to deceive us for the sake of getting "gain." If we are to receive light and truth and escape the judgments of God, we must remove ourselves from many false traditions and teachings that beset us. Scripture tells us that they originate in "fathers, priests, and kings." Joshua stated that "your *fathers*" (because of their traditions) were led to serve other Gods. He stated, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve...As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:2, 15). Christ said, "And that wicked one cometh and *taketh away light and truth*, through disobedience, from the children of men, and because of the *tradition* of their *fathers*" (D&C 93:39). The fulness of God's word tells us that in addition to "*fathers,*" civil and religious leaders also set traditions, for better or worse. Speaking of people being led astray, Zeniff said, "Yea, and they also became *idolatrous*, because they were deceived by the vain and flattering words of the *king and priests*" (Mos. 11:7).

As we turn to Christ, instead of man, and come out of Babylon, we remove *pride, idolatry, unbelief, and vanity* from our lives, things we didn't even know we had. We can then remove the *condemnation* we have been under for rejecting the fuller blessings available in Christ. He is the **truth** we must come to. He said, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life**" (John 14:6).

The Title Page of the Book of Mormon tells us that its message was written for our Lamanite brothers and sisters, the Jews, and **us** - the Gentiles. Like the Nephites, Lamanites, and Jews of old, **we** the Gentile Saints are in the midst of another *pride cycle*, the last one on this earth, when the Saints in some ways are beginning to falter. The "fulness of the Gentiles" ("the fulness of our wickedness") has come in. The humble ones among us who have centered themselves on Christ, rather than men, churches, and the things of Babylon, will be blessed in the coming storm. Others will be cursed. Many will not survive.

Nephi tells us, "that the house of Israel was compared unto an olive tree, by the Spirit of the Lord which was in our father; and behold are we not broken off from the house of Israel, and *are we not a branch of the house of Israel?* And now, the thing which our father meaneth concerning *the grafting in of the natural branches through the fulness of the Gentiles, is, that in the latter days*, when our seed shall have dwindled in **unbelief**, yea, for the

space of many years, and many generations after the Messiah shall be manifested in body unto the children of men, *then shall the fulness of the gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed*—And at that day shall *the remnant of our seed* know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord; and **then shall they know and come to the knowledge of their forefathers, and also to the knowledge of the gospel of their Redeemer, which was ministered unto their fathers by him; wherefore, they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer and the very points of his doctrine, that they may know how to come unto him and be saved**” (1 Nephi 15:12-14).

In referencing fulfillment of this latter-day prophecy, note the following two unpublished revelations given to the Prophet Joseph Smith. God said. “And thus, if the people of this generation **harden not their hearts**, I will work a **reformation** among them, and I will put down all *lyings, and deceivings, and priestcrafts, and envyings, and strifes, and idolatries, and sorceries, and all manner of iniquities*, and I will establish **my church**, *like unto the church which was taught by my disciples in the days of old*. And now if this generation do harden their hearts against **my word**, behold *I will deliver them up* unto Satan, for he reigneth and hath power at this time, for he hath got great hold upon the hearts of the people of this generation: and not *far from the iniquities of Sodom and Gomorrah*, do they come at this time: and behold *the sword of justice hangeth over their heads*, and if they persist in **the hardness of their hearts** [opposing *the broken heart and contrite spirit* needed to come unto Christ and be saved in the baptism of fire and Holy Ghost experience, see 3 Ne. 9:20; 2 Ne. 31 & 32] *the time cometh that it must fall upon them*. Behold I tell you these things even as I also told the people of the destruction of Jerusalem, and **my word** shall be verified at this time as it hath hitherto been verified...” (Book of Commandments, 4:5-6, Mar. 1829).

“Verily, **condemnation** resteth upon you, who are appointed to lead **my Church**, and to be saviors of men; and also upon the Church. And there must needs be a repentance and a **reformation** among you, in all things, in your examples before the Church and before the world...” (Unpublished Revelation, Kirtland on Dec. 5, 1834, DHC 2:177).

In these two revelations we see the need to be “salt” or “light” to others. We must not become “*salt that has lost its savor*,” or we will be good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men (see D&C 101:39-40). The Lord provided another clear warning to the Saints in D&C 112, where he stated, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and *all flesh has become corrupt before my face*. Behold, vengeance cometh speedily upon the inhabitants of the earth, a day of wrath, a day of burning, a day of desolation, of weeping, of mourning, and of lamentation; and as a whirlwind it shall come upon all the face of the earth, saith the Lord. And upon **my house** shall *it begin, and from my house shall it go forth, saith the Lord*; **First among those among you, saith the Lord, who have professed to know my name and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house, saith the Lord**” (D&C 112:23-26). Our invitation is to *turn* or repent and come to the Lord.

Satan is having his way today and has corrupted many of the things of God in this telestial world. He is the God of it. His corruption is evident in schools and universities, governments, and Christian churches. He has succeeded in infiltrating and corrupting nearly all things here, doing so via the failings of men and secret combinations. Moroni tells us that, “**all churches, yea, even every one, have become polluted**” because of pride (Morm. 8:36). He asks us, those who read the Book of Mormon, “**why have ye polluted the holy church of God? Why are ye ashamed to take upon you the name of Christ?**”

There is need for God’s house to be cleaned, those who have *professed* to **know** God but have not come to **know** Him – the Bridegroom (see JST Matt. 25:10-11). The Lord will do this cleansing work in His time and way. He is the Judge and King over His kingdom and those claiming to be a part of His *doctrine, gospel, and church*. Multiple scriptures tell us that there will yet be a “**full restoration of all things**” (D&C 77:9&14). I have full faith and trust in the Lord to bring it about wisely. Special last-days servants will help in this regard.

At the very beginning of Joseph Smith’s restoration work, Satan came to take away the light in it (see D&C 93:39). The Saints attempted to bring Zion and establish New Jerusalem very early on at Kirtland. They

attempted to live the law of the Celestial Kingdom and Zion, the Law of Consecration (a law of love). Pride and sin entered in instead. Things fell apart thereafter and Zion was not established, nor was New Jerusalem built. God knew it would happen. He saw it. The Saints were not yet ready for the higher law of love and other things.

Like the Israelites gathered at Sinai, both groups were invited to receive the Lord personally, but rejected Him and “the fulness” of His glory. They were thus cursed receiving a lesser law and priesthood (see D&C 84:23-27, 49-59; JST Exodus 34:1-2). “The fulness” was later offered the Saints again at Nauvoo, if they would remain true to the Lord, and center themselves on Him and His gospel. He gave them another sacrifice to make, similar to the Saints at Kirtland. At Nauvoo, a new temple was to be completed in the Lord’s time and way. Instead, the Saints focused on other things and failed to complete it. General wickedness took over instead, with a rejection of the fulness again (3 Ne. 16:10; D&C 124:28; 113:8). It was a rejection of Christ and His teachings, aided by leaders who embracing polygamy and the secrets of Masonry and Danite coercion. Joseph, Hyrum, and Samuel Smith were murdered as a result. Some believe it was an inside job. A secret combination was put in place to get gain, control, and sex (polygamy), the same things inspired of Satan in the first secret combination of scripture (see Moses 5:25-59). The Saints were then cursed and driven out of Nauvoo. It didn’t need to be so (see D&C 124:45).

Polygamy, along with the hidden truths of the Book of Mormon, remained with those who chose to follow Brigham Young westward. The transcripts of the Joseph Smith re-translation of the Bible remained with Emma in Nauvoo, however. There was a new beginning out west in the Rocky Mountains. In time the U.S. government forced the church to give up polygamy. It retained the mission to spread the Book of Mormon message in an extensive missionary program, even though many who share it fail to see its two primary messages. They are: (1) That it be taken to the posterity of Lehi on this land (the Lamanites), that they, the Jews, and the Gentiles, might (2) “**repent and come unto me**” (D&C 10:67-68; 1 Ne. 10:18-19; 2 Ne. 9:23-24; 28:32; Jacob 1:7; Alma 5:33-34; D&C 93:1; 3 Ne. 9:14, 22, 51; 11:14; 12:19-20, 23-24; 27:5-21; 30:1-2). Both of these messages have been buried beneath the weight of conversion to a church and those leading it, rather than to Christ the Lord, our Savior, Judge, and King. Salvation only comes through Him.

Under Pres. Benson, the Saints were effective for a time in “turning” back to the Lord in **repentance** as a people, as well as revisiting the powerful truths found in the Book of Mormon. There were more converts per missionary than any other time before or since. The Book of Mormon, a “voice from the dust” - remains the founding document of our faith, and the source of “the plain and precious truths” bringing us to salvation, but only in Christ the Lord. As we understand and apply its message, we can remove the condemnation upon us, as found in D&C 84 – the Oath and Covenant of the Priesthood, replacing it with *redemption* at the hands of the Lord Jesus. It is **the way**. There is no other way. Let us heed the Lord’s invitation to “**repent**” and “**come unto me**.”