

Book of Mormon 48
Come Unto Christ
(Moroni 7-8, 10)
By Lenet Hadley Read

(Here is inspirational background and evidences supporting the Book of Mormon)

I. Mormon's letters to Moroni helped prepare for the future Restoration (Moroni 7).

A. First, Mormon warns men **not to judge that which is good as something evil.**

B. "... the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil; wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge; for everything which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; whereby ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of God" (Moroni 7:16).

C. The Book of Mormon records *would come forth* to the world. So men are warned to beware that they do not judge them as evil when they **are of the greatest good.** For the **great message of the Book of Mormon is "Come unto Christ."**

II. Mormon reminded men that it was the ministering of angels and the word of God by prophets of old that prepared the world for Christ's first coming.

A. "Wherefore, **by the ministering of angels,** and by every word which proceeded forth out of the mouth of God, men began to exercise faith in Christ..." (Moroni 7:25).

B. Thus the **world should not be surprised when Moroni and other angels come forth in the Latter-days to help bring forth these records and necessary priesthood keys.**

1. "...neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men. For behold, they are subject unto him, to minister according to the word of his command" (Moroni 7:30).

C. God will first send angels "to them of strong faith and a firm mind in every form of godliness ... who are the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of him" (Moroni 7:30-1).

D. Thus he prepares men to expect a prophet, Joseph Smith, who would serve as the chosen vessel in the last days.

a. Through that prophet, "The Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of man may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts, according to the power thereof; and after this manner bringeth to pass the Father, the covenants which he hath made unto the children of men" (Moroni 7:32).

b. An angel, Moroni, would bring the Book of Mormon to Joseph Smith. Joseph would then call all men to repentance, and eventually would restore God's ancient covenants to bless men.

III. **If miracles have ceased, it is only due to man's loss of faith.** And if this is so "... awful is the state of man, for they are as though there had been no redemption made" (Moroni 7:38).

A. This is a strong statement. If men have truly lost their faith in miracles, then they are no longer redeemed.

IV. The Apostasy in both hemispheres had taken such an awful turn that men believed in a God who would condemn children to Hell though they had no opportunity for baptism, and though God Himself controlled the process.

A. We know from history that the need for baptism of infants became a chief doctrine in later Christianity; those who were not baptized were believed to be cast into Hell.

B. That doctrine apparently then and in the future would also influence the West. "Behold I say unto you, that he that supposeth that little children need baptism is in the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity" (Moroni 8:14).

C. For God is a God of Love, **as He Himself testified.**

1. "And I am filled with charity, which is everlasting love; wherefore, all children are alike unto me; wherefore, I love little children with a perfect love; and they are all alike and partakers of salvationWo be unto them that shall pervert the ways of the Lord after this manner" (Moroni 8:17).

D. Understanding these things, we can see why God the Father in the First Vision said, in **spite of the many good people who were Christians**, "that **their creeds were an abomination** in his sight" (JS-History 1:19). (Emphasis added)

V. Both Mormon and Moroni speak profoundly of Charity, which is the very essence of God.

A. Mormon tells us we must have charity "for [a man] if he have not charity is nothing."

B. He adds other significant insights "and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him." He also tells how to obtain this most needful gift.

1. "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart**, that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of His Son, Jesus Christ; that ye may become the sons of God; that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is; that we may have this hope; that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen." (Moroni 7:48).

C. Moroni adds "Except ye have charity ye can in nowise be saved in the kingdom of God" (Moroni 10:21).

D. He also warns that if the gifts of God do not exist on the earth, "That if the day cometh that the power and gifts of God shall be done away among you, it shall be because of unbelief. And wo be unto the children of men if this be the case; for there shall be none that doeth good among you, no not one" (Moroni 10:24-25).

VI. Moroni makes a powerful plea to Come Unto Christ

A. Moroni reminds men of how God has prepared all things for their salvation.

1. "Behold I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things... 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**" (Moroni 10:3)

B. And then he gives us that beautiful challenge to simply ask God, in faith, concerning the Book of Mormon, which will lead one to Christ. And God will manifest the truth to us (Moroni 10:4).

C. He pleads earnestly, "And again I would exhort you that ye would come unto Christ, and lay hold upon every good gift, and touch not the evil gift, nor the unclean thing. And awake, and arise from the dust, O Jerusalem; yea, and put on thy beautiful garments, O daughter of Zion; and strengthen thy stakes and enlarge thy borders forever, that thou mayest no more be confounded, that the covenants of the Eternal Father which he hath made unto thee, O house of Israel, may be fulfilled.

Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness." And eventually he promises that God will show us the way to "become perfect without spot." (Moroni 10:33).

VII. Moroni's final testimony has special power because it is a "near-death" testimony.

A. It is most fitting that Moroni ends the Book of Mormon with such a testimony as he anticipates his soon-to-come-death.

B. "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).

VIII. Dying or Near Death Testimonies are prevalent in the Book of Mormon and they give it much of its power.

A. **The final words of a dying person are so significant they are given special attention in our laws.** In fact, from the time of the Middle Ages, special recognition is given because of strong feeling, "one who believes in God would not want to die with a lie on their lips."

Because of this belief, dying words are even admitted as "evidence" in court, even though ordinarily they would be considered hearsay. Since the person has died, they cannot take an oath to speak "the truth and nothing but the truth." They cannot be cross examined. Nor can the penalty of perjury be used as threat to elicit truth. **Nevertheless, statements made by a dying person are allowed because it is felt the "sense of impending death is presumed to remove all temptation to falsehood."** And the Book of Mormon is full of such witnesses.

B. Lehi set the pattern of near death testimony by closing his life with powerful words of warning, knowing his death drew near. His words carry great weight, particularly when he concludes, "I have spoken these...words unto you all, my sons, in **the last days of my probation;** ... And I have none other object save it be the everlasting welfare of your souls. Amen." (2 Nephi 2:30). (Emphasis added)

C. Nephi leaves one of the most powerful by saying, "...I... have written what I have written, and I esteem it as of great worth, and especially unto my people. For I pray continually for them by day, and mine eyes water my pillow by night....

"And now, my beloved brethren... and all ye ends of the earth, hearken unto these words and believe in Christ;...And if they are not the words of Christ, judge ye --- for Christ will show unto you, with power and great glory, that they are his words...; and you and I shall stand face to face before his bar; and ye shall know that I have been commanded of him to write these things.... Farewell until that great day shall come.... Amen." (2 Nephi 33:3, 10, 11, 13).

The stark reality of the judgment which Nephi sees is sobering. And when he weeps for our welfare because of that Eternal judgment, our souls are pierced.

D. Enos' near death testimony also rings with resounding spiritual hope. "...I have declared [truth] all my days, and have rejoiced in it above that of the world. And **I soon go to the place of my rest,** which is with my Redeemer; for I know that in him I shall rest. And I rejoice in the day when my mortal shall put on immortality, and shall stand before him; then shall I see his face with pleasure, and he will say unto me: Come unto me, ye blessed... Amen." (Enos 1:26-7).

E. So now, at the very end, Moroni buries the golden plates with his lonely, soon-to-come death in mind, which also radiates great power. “Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; . . . 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: 32, 34).

As all these prophets bore their testimonies nearing death, they did so **because they clearly see the reality of Death and Judgment**. Their minds and hearts are turned to focus on the weighty matters of Eternity. They know these greater realities loom powerfully beyond the foolish distractions of our lives.

And someday we must face those greater realities too.