

GO FORTH AMONG THE LAMANITES, THY BRETHREN, AND ESTABLISH MY WORD

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*And it came to pass that the Lord did visit them [the sons of Mosiah] with His Spirit and said unto them: “Be comforted”; and they were comforted. And the Lord said unto them also; “**Go forth among the Lamanites, thy brethren, and establish My word**; yet ye shall be patient in longsuffering and afflictions, that ye may show forth good examples unto them in Me, and I will make an instrument of thee in My hands unto the salvation of many souls.” (Alma 12:17-19)*

The four sons of Mosiah and their fellow laborers¹ were instruments in the hands of the Lord in bringing many of their brethren, the Lamanites, to *the knowledge of the truth* and unto *repentance* by teaching them *the word of God*.² They labored according to *the spirit of prophecy and the spirit of revelation* for fourteen difficult and trying years among this *hardened and ferocious people*.³ Their hope was to bring the Lamanites to *the knowledge of the Lord and the baseness of the traditions of their fathers* that they might also be brought to rejoice in the Lord their God.⁴

We too are to be instruments in God’s hands in establishing His word and His gospel among the Lamanites.⁵

*And now the thing which our father [Lehi] meaneth concerning **the grafting in of the natural branches through the fullness 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 that the Messiah hath manifested Himself in the body unto the children of men, **then shall the fullness 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. (I Nephi 4:16-19)*

There is more to responding to the call to go forth among the Lamanites than simply going forth, however.⁶ Like the sons of Mosiah and their chosen brethren, we are to go forth among the La-

¹ Mosiah 12:1-13, Alma 12:20,182,183, 13:82 & 14:1,78,79, etc.

² Alma 12:4-7 & 14:78-124

³ Alma 12:5-9,22; cf. Enos 1:30-33

⁴ Mosiah 12:2,3 & Alma 12:14-16 with Alma 17:39

⁵ I Nephi 3:19,190-203, 4:16-19, 7:13-20, II Nephi 7:12-35, 11:81-88, 12:79-99, III Nephi 7:27-39, 9:89-106, 12:2, III Nephi 13:54-14:3, Mormon 2:38-54, 3:18-33, Ether 5:22, etc.

⁶ cf. D&C 2:2b, 9:1b,3a,b, 16:1, 31:1a-e, 42:5b, etc. with D&C 60:1a-2a, 90:4d, 92:1d,e, 3a, 116:2a,b, etc.

manites as brethren according to the covenant God has made with His ancient covenant people, Israel.⁷ Further, our labors to bring the Lamanites to the knowledge of the truth and to rejoice in Jesus Christ is to be accomplished through the same power and authority the sons of Mosiah received from the Lord.⁸

Consider the instruction given to some of the first laborers called in these latter days to go forth among the Lamanites. In a revelation given to Peter Whitmer dated September 1830, Peter was told that Oliver Cowdery had been given *power* to build up the Lord's church among the Lamanites and that he, Peter, was to assist Oliver in this calling along with others.⁹ Peter was also admonished to exercise faith through prayer for their deliverance from the adversity they would face in taking the word of God unto the Lamanites.¹⁰

*Behold, I say unto you, Peter, that you shall take your journey with your brother, Oliver, for the time has come, that it is expedient in me, that you shall open your mouth to declare my gospel; therefore, fear not but give heed unto the words and advice of your brother, which he shall give you. **And be you afflicted in all his afflictions, even lifting up your heart unto me in prayer, and faith, for his and your deliverance; for I have given unto him power to build up my church among the Lamanites; and none have I appointed to be his counselor, over him, in the church, concerning church matters, except it is his brother Joseph Smith, Jr. Wherefore, give heed unto these things, and be diligent in keeping my commandments, and you shall be blessed unto eternal life. Amen.*** (D&C 29:2)

Likewise we must take care to go forth only in the power which the Lord grants us for this cause.¹¹

The importance of going forth with the same power and authority the Lord granted unto Oliver and the sons of Mosiah may be punctuated by the account of the seven brothers who sought to cast out an evil spirit in the name of the Lord.¹² These brothers were overpowered by that spirit because they had acted presumptuously. Though they employed the name of Jesus Christ, they did so in vain, not having been given power and authority by our Lord to accomplish this ministry.¹³

How do we receive the necessary power and authority to bring the Lamanites to the knowledge of their Redeemer and His gospel and doctrine?¹⁴ Again, the sons of Mosiah and their brethren are *good examples*, not only to the Lamanites they served, but also to us.¹⁵

Although the sons of Mosiah had once been *the vilest of sinners*, by exercising faith in Jesus Christ *unto repentance*, they became valiant witnesses for their Lord and His gospel (of faith, repentance, baptism, and the reception of the Holy Ghost).¹⁶ We too, then, must first exercise

⁷ I Nephi 4:14-33, II Nephi 12:75-87, III Nephi 9:87-106 & III Nephi 10:1-25 with D&C 38:6a

⁸ cf. D&C 1:1d,2a,5, 5:1c, 10:10a-d, 11:4b, 16:4, 28:1-2, etc. with D&C 42:5 & 63:16

⁹ D&C 29:2 with D&C 27:3a,b & 31:1; see also D&C 6:1-7,13, 8:1,3d,e, 16:3

¹⁰ cf. D&C 29:2c with Alma 16:219-225 & III Nephi 8:50-52

¹¹ cf. Alma 12:27 with I Nephi 6:5, Romans 11:25-12:3 & John 15:1-27

¹² Acts 19:11-18; cf. D&C 50:1-7 & 52:4a-5a, etc.

¹³ cf. D&C 63:15,16 with Romans 10:14-16 & Matthew 7:31-37

¹⁴ cf. I Nephi 4:16-19, D&C 2:6, 3:10b-18 & D&C 27:3,5b-c, 29:2, 31:1 with Romans 10:11-21

¹⁵ cf. Alma 12:19

¹⁶ Mosiah 12:7 & Mosiah 11:203-207 with D&C 39:2b, 53:2b, 66:1a-2a, 68:1f, etc.

faith unto repentance¹⁷ even as they confessed and repented of *all their sins* before going forth to teach others the gospel principles.¹⁸ For, as it is written, no one can accomplish such work in the name of Jesus Christ except he is cleansed of all his sins.¹⁹

*And now it came to pass that according to our record, and we know our record to be true, for behold, it was a just man who did keep the record; for he truly did many miracles in the name of Jesus; and **there was not any man who could do a miracle in the name of Jesus, save he were cleansed every whit from his iniquity.*** (III Nephi 4:1,2)

Behold, it was the faith of Ammon and his brethren, which wrought so great a miracle among the Lamanites; yea, and even all they who wrought miracles, wrought them by faith, even those who were before Christ, and also them who were after. (Ether 5:16)

This is not all. Through much prayer and fasting, the sons of Mosiah became men of sound understanding and obtained *the spirit of prophecy and the spirit of revelation*, so that when they taught the word of God they taught with the *power and authority* which comes only from God.²⁰ They had searched the scriptures diligently to know and understand the word of God. This meant that they not only went forth among the Lamanites in power, but they also went forth in the wisdom of the Lord.²¹ Also, they did not adopt the traditions of the Lamanites, but rather they demonstrated how the traditions handed down through the Nephites were just and true.²² To follow in their footsteps, then, we also must rely upon the scriptures. Because, as it is written, without the scriptures²³ the sons of Mosiah could not have brought so many of the Lamanites unto the Lord.

*Yea, I say unto you, **were it not for these things that these records do contain, which are on these plates,*** Ammon and his brethren could not have convinced so many thousands of the Lamanites, of the incorrect tradition of their fathers; yea, these records and their words, brought them unto repentance; **that is, they brought them to the knowledge of the Lord their God, and to rejoice in Jesus Christ their Redeemer.** And who knoweth but what they will be the means of bringing many thousands of them, yea, and also many thousands of our stiff-necked brethren, the Nephites, who are now hardening their hearts, in sins and iniquities, to the knowledge of their Redeemer. (Alma 17:38-40)

*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.* (Alma 24:63)

Only through the same diligence unto study and prayer which they exemplified can we expect to likewise be successful.

¹⁷ cf. Ether 5:16 & Mosiah 11:101 with Moroni 6:2 II & Nephi 13:6-32

¹⁸ cf. Mosiah 11:203-207, Mosiah 12:7 & Alma 12:7 with Mosiah 11:120-142, Helaman 5:109,110 & D&C 58:9d

¹⁹ III Nephi 4:2 with John 15:1-17

²⁰ cf. Alma 12:2-5 with D&C 42:5b & II Nephi 11:106

²¹ Alma 12:99 with Alma 14:91,92

²² cf. Alma 14:9 with Alma 1:109- 120

²³ Alma 17:37-40 & Alma 24:63

The pattern²⁴ of their teaching is also an example to us concerning how exactly we should go forth in ministering unto the Lamanites.²⁵ In outlining their ministry on separate occasions to the Lamanite kings, Lamoni and his father, Alma records how Ammon and Aaron each began by addressing their belief in God starting with creation, in particular the creation of Adam and how mankind was created in the image of God. They also explained how the fall of man resulted because of transgression.²⁶ Furthermore, they *expounded unto them the plan of redemption, which was prepared from the foundation of the world, the conditions of repentance*, and how Jesus Christ was to come to atone for the sins of the world. Each *rehearsed and laid before* these kings and their people the records and holy scriptures. They spoke of the prophets and gave an account of their history in coming to Joseph's land.

This pattern of ministry bore much fruit. At the end of their harvest of souls, the sons of Mosiah and their brethren had great reason to rejoice. Thousands of the Lamanites had *been loosed from the pains of hell and had been brought to sing redeeming love*.²⁷ Of King Lamoni it is written, *the light of the glory of God had infused such joy into his soul, even the light of everlasting light was lit up in his soul, that the cloud of darkness was dispelled*.²⁸ In reply to Aaron's ministry, King Lamoni's father declared, "*I will give away all my sins to know thee [the Lord]*," and he sought, along with the peoples of his kingdom who had been converted unto the Lord, a new name which testified of their commitment to follow Him.²⁹

Let us, therefore, go forth according to the pattern provided by the Lord through the lives of the sons of Mosiah and their faithful companions.³⁰ Let us prepare ourselves to go forth among the Lamanites in the timing and strength of the Lord, bearing our testimony and afflictions patiently *to show forth a good example unto them* in Jesus Christ.³¹ A great harvest awaits us, even unto bringing *thousands of souls to repentance*.³²

*And now behold, my brethren, what natural man is there that knoweth these things? I say unto you, there is none that knoweth these things save it be the penitent – yea, he that repenteth, and exerciseth faith, and bringeth forth good works, and prayeth continually without ceasing, unto such it is given to know the mysteries of God; yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things which never have been revealed; yea, and it shall be given unto such to bring thousand of souls to repentance, **even as** it hath been **given** unto us to bring these our brethren to repentance. (Alma 14:102-104)*

²⁴ cf. D&C 52:4b-5b

²⁵ cf. Alma 12:101-120 & Alma 13:38-48 with Mosiah 2:13-17

²⁶ cf. Mosiah 11:166

²⁷ Alma 14:93-95 with Alma 14:7-20

²⁸ Alma 12:132-134

²⁹ Alma 13:53 (cf. Helaman 2:70-75) with Alma 14:17-20,26

³⁰ Mosiah 12:1, Alma 12:20,183, 13:82, 14:1,78,79

³¹ Alma 12:17-19

³² cf. Alma 14:102-104 & Alma 14:111-115 with Alma 12:18-20 & D&C 2:6 & 4:1