

UNTO MY BRETHREN THE LAMANITES

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Now I, Moroni, write somewhat as seemeth me good; and I write unto my brethren the Lamanites... (Moroni 10:1)

Everyone who has been ministered to by the words of Jesus Christ that are contained in the last book of the Book of Mormon has *feasted*² upon words penned especially for the Lamanites.³ Moroni wrote these concluding ten chapters unto his brethren the Lamanites in the hope and assurance *that perhaps* in some future day they would be of *worth* unto them.⁴

Wherefore, I write a few more things, contrary to that which I had supposed – for I had supposed not to have written any more – but I write a few more things that perhaps they may be of worth unto my brethren the Lamanites in some future day, according to the will of the Lord. (Moroni 1:4)

Moroni's record was brought forth according to a prophecy delivered nearly a thousand years before by Nephi, the son of Lehi, unto his brothers, Laman and Lemuel, the forefathers of the Lamanites.

*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)*

¹ Scripture References: The Holy Scriptures, “An Inspired Revision of the Authorized Version” (Herald Publishing House, 1974 Edition, First Printing); The Book of Mormon, Restored Covenant Edition (First Printing, Zarahemla Research Foundation, 1999); The Doctrine and Covenants (Herald Publishing House, 1970 Edition, Second Printing, 1974).

² cf. II Nephi 14:4-6

³ cf. Moroni 1:4 & 10:1-7

⁴ Moroni 1:4 & 10:1

Of particular importance is Moroni's record, which contains the *very points* of Jesus Christ's doctrine by which the Lamanites will come to the knowledge of their Redeemer. These words were written according to the will and power of the Lord to show the Lamanites how to come unto Jesus Christ and be saved in His kingdom.

Moroni's record, along with the rest of the Book of Mormon, is to be brought forth unto the Lamanites by the Gentiles to try their faith. If they believe these records, greater things will be manifest unto them.⁵

*And now there cannot be written in this book even an hundredth part of the things which Jesus did truly teach unto the people; but behold, the plates of Nephi do contain the more part of the things which He taught the people; and these things have I written which are a lesser part of the things which He taught the people, **and I have written them to the intent that they may be brought again unto this people from the Gentiles according to the words which Jesus hath spoken.** And when they shall have received this, which is expedient that they should have first to try their faith, and if it should so be that they shall believe these things, then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them; and if it so be that they will not believe these things, then shall the greater things be withheld from them unto their condemnation. (III Nephi 12:1-4)*

Therefore, we who are of the church established among the peoples of this Gentile nation must take great care not to hinder the Lamanites in receiving *the key of knowledge*, i.e. *the fullness of the scripture*,⁶ brought forth in the Book of Mormon, especially the words of Christ found in the record of Moroni. Rather, we must diligently prepare ourselves to deliver this precious testament unto the remnant of Lehi's peoples.

Testimony

In May of 2004 I began a daily prayerful study of the Book of Mormon for a particular purpose. According to the admonition of Nephi, I began this study for the express purpose of feasting upon the words of Jesus Christ so that His words might show me what I should do in all things.

*Wherefore, I said unto you: **Feast upon the words of Christ, for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.** Wherefore, now after that I have spoken these words, If ye cannot understand them, it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; Wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark. 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. (II Nephi 14:4-6)*

That is, I searched the words of Christ in the light of Christ⁷ for wisdom, in particular the

⁵ cf. III Nephi 12:3,4 & Ether 1:109-117

⁶ Luke 11:53 IV with Matthew 23:10 IV

⁷ cf. Moroni 7:18

wisdom that comes from above, that which is first pure then peaceable.⁸ My specific hopes and petitions included what to do with the Book of Mormon itself and the many promises contained within it.

After reading each night I would lift up my petition unto God for the Lamanites that they would be brought to the knowledge of their Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the very points of His doctrine.⁹ My companion request was for the Gentile church, that we might assist them in building a New Jerusalem upon Joseph's land according to the prophecies of Jesus Christ and His servants.¹⁰ I also prayed in faith that the Book of Mormon might no longer be despised by the peoples of this nation¹¹ and that it might be freed from any association with false and vain traditions and beliefs.¹²

On Sunday, April 15, 2007, in an early morning prayer meeting, after reading the Book of Mormon nearly every evening for close to three years, I was moved to pray a *mighty prayer* in the Spirit of the Lord for the restoration of the Lamanites to the faith of their fathers. During the week prior, the Lord had drawn my thoughts to an admonition given to Peter Whitmer regarding the work of restoration among the Lamanites.

*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, ever 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...** (D&C 29:2a-c)*

This statement of the Lord, that He had given Oliver Cowdery *power* to build up His church among the Lamanites, stood out prominently in my thoughts. Now, during this prayer of faith it was given to me to ask that power might be given again for the express purpose of building up a church unto the Lord among the Lamanites. As I prayed a great assurance came flooding over me, confirming to me that it was God's good pleasure to grant His power anew for this great and marvelous work.

Throughout the following week the Lord ministered many things to me each evening as I prayed and studied from the Book of Mormon. Then on the evening of Saturday, April 21, 2007, the Lord showed me that the book of Moroni had been written according to Nephi's prophecy to his brothers, that in some future day a remnant of their seed would be brought to the knowledge of their Redeemer and the very points of His doctrines.

The next morning, on Sunday April 22, 2007, I was led to prepare a slide presentation covering the things I had been taught since praying the prior Sunday for power to be again granted to build up a church among the Lamanites. Later that morning I gave the presentation to our congregation at the 11 o'clock hour.

Briefly stated, the book of Moroni is the key to establishing the Lord's church among

⁸ James 3:17

⁹ I Nephi 4:19

¹⁰ III Nephi 10:1-4, Ether 6:4-13, etc. with D&C 2:6, 4:1, 11:4, etc.

¹¹ Ether 5:23-29

¹² II Nephi 12:1-31, II Nephi 12:44-74, etc. with I Nephi 2:65-83 & II Timothy 3:1-9, 4:3,4

the Lamanites and among all those who became Lamanites because of their dissensions.¹³ It is the key to unlocking the Lamanites' understanding of the records of their brethren, the Nephites, contained in all the Book of Mormon as well as the records yet to come forth unto the believing and faithful among the seed of Lehi and the Gentiles.¹⁴

The slides have been updated since that Sunday in April of 2007 and are available through the following web link:

http://www.hisworkmanship.net/index_files/StudyLetters/UntoTheLamanites23July08Slides.pdf

As you read through these slides, and more particularly through the book of Moroni itself, please prayerfully consider how you might assist in the work of restoring the Lamanites to the knowledge of their Redeemer and the very points of His doctrine. For the promises are great unto all who will hearken unto the Holy One of Israel, the Redeemer God who has loved us with a great and everlasting love. To Him be all praise and glory forever and ever. Amen.

¹³ cf. D&C 2:6 & 3:10-12 with D&C 29:2c

¹⁴ cf. Moroni 10:1-7 with Luke 11:53