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## Magnificent Messages

Author(s): Edna K. Bush

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**Abstract:** Gives references for several "choice passages" in the Book of Mormon, which include sermons, father-to-son talks, letters, missionary experiences, and visits of Jesus Christ. Accompanying chart details compilation of records that made up the plates given to Joseph Smith.

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*The Book of Mormon declares the heavens reopened, prophecies of great judgments to come, points the way to verifying the truth, preaches great gospel sermons. It is a book of . . .*

# MAGNIFICENT MESSAGES

by Edna K. Bush\*

The magnificent message of the Book of Mormon is that the heavens have been reopened in these latter days, that Jesus and other heavenly beings have again visited the earth.

The book carries the startling message that not long after the resurrection of the Savior, He visited the people of the Americas, the ancestors of today's American Indians. This had been long foretold by their prophets, in prophecies of signs which would occur in nature at the birth and the death of Christ, signs which were fulfilled to the letter. During Christ's visits to this group of people, He told them much concerning the future of the land and of events prior to His second coming.

Aware that in the latter days new revelation would be viewed with skepticism, God made provision for the verification of such knowledge. "He that believeth these things which I have spoken, him will I visit with the manifestations of my Spirit" (*Ether* 4:11), said Jesus to the last Book of Mormon writer, Moroni, referring to those readers who would seek corroboration in sincerity.

Persons who have received such a witness strive diligently to share the wondrous message with those who have not as yet received it, not for the purpose of lengthening membership rolls, but to share with friends, families, and acquaintances the joys of which they have tasted. And what are some of these joys? The expansion of the mind, the enlightenment of the understanding, the enlargement of the soul, the decided feeling of spiritual growth. (Read *Alma* 32.)

Occasionally a reader comments, "The Book of Mormon is all about wars!" True, to an extent. We react to the Book of Mormon as we might react to Rorschach's ink-blot test, we detect that with which we have had experience. The unfamiliar escapes our attention. Both preceding and following Book of

(For Course 17, lessons of November 26 and January 7, "Lehi Instructed His Son, Joseph" and "Life and Teachings of Jacob"; for Course 19, lessons of December 17 and January 21 and 28, "True Teachings of Christ Restored" and "Latter-day Contributions to Understanding of God"; for Course 25, lesson of November 26, "Ye Shall Know of the Doctrine"; for Course 27, lesson of December 3, "The Gospel from the Beginning"; to support family home evening lessons 11 and 17; and of general interest.)

\*Edna K. Bush has approximately 100 copies of the Book of Mormon, each of which she has marked for different subjects. She joined the Church in 1951 and has worked in Sunday School, MIA, and Primary, and now serves as a seminary teacher and Relief Society Spiritual Living teacher. She was born in Atlanta, Georgia, where she attended the University of Georgia. She is a member of Falls Church Ward, Potomac Stake, and lives in Arlington, Virginia.

Mormon war accounts are teachings to persons and cities, warning them of troubles should they fail to heed the words of God. There are many choice passages in the book. Check these out:

## Sermons:

Jacob to Nephites .....	2 <i>Nephi</i> 6-10
Jacob to Nephites .....	<i>Jacob</i> 2-3
Benjamin to Nephites .....	<i>Mosiah</i> 2-5
Abinadi to King Noah's people .....	<i>Mosiah</i> 11-17
Alma the Younger at Zarahemla .....	<i>Alma</i> 5
Alma the Younger at Gideon .....	<i>Alma</i> 7
Alma the Younger and Amulek to Zoramites .....	<i>Alma</i> 31-34
Mormon to readers .....	<i>Helaman</i> 12
Samuel the Lamanite at Zarahemla.....	<i>Helaman</i> 13-15
Mormon to Nephites .....	<i>Moroni</i> 7

## Father-to-son Talks:

Lehi to Laman, Lemuel, Sam, Nephi, Jacob, Joseph .....	2 <i>Nephi</i> 1-4
Alma the Younger to Helaman, Shiblon, Corianton .....	<i>Alma</i> 36-42

## Letters:

Exchange between opposing military leaders .....	<i>Alma</i> 54
Helaman to Moroni on Helaman's brave warriors .....	<i>Alma</i> 56-58
General Moroni to Governor Pahoran .....	<i>Alma</i> 60
Reply from Pahoran to Moroni .....	<i>Alma</i> 61
Mormon to son Moroni on infant baptisms .....	<i>Moroni</i> 8
Mormon to Moroni on fall of the nation.....	<i>Moroni</i> 9

## Missionary Experiences:

Alma the Younger and Amulek in land of Ammonihah .....	<i>Alma</i> 8-14
Ammon, Aaron, and others, among Lamanites .....	<i>Alma</i> 17-26
Nephi and Lehi among the Lamanites.....	<i>Helaman</i> 5

## Visits of Jesus Christ:

To Brother of Jared, Jaredite civilization .....	<i>Ether</i> 1-3
To Nephite nation .....	3 <i>Nephi</i> 11-28

Library File Reference: BOOK OF MORMON.



# Make-up of the Book of Mormon



A part of Mormon's plates was sealed (2 Nephi 27:1-26; Isaiah 29:11-14).

Before the plates were returned to Moroni, they were seen by 11 men in addition to Joseph Smith. (Read testimonies in preface to Book of Mormon.)

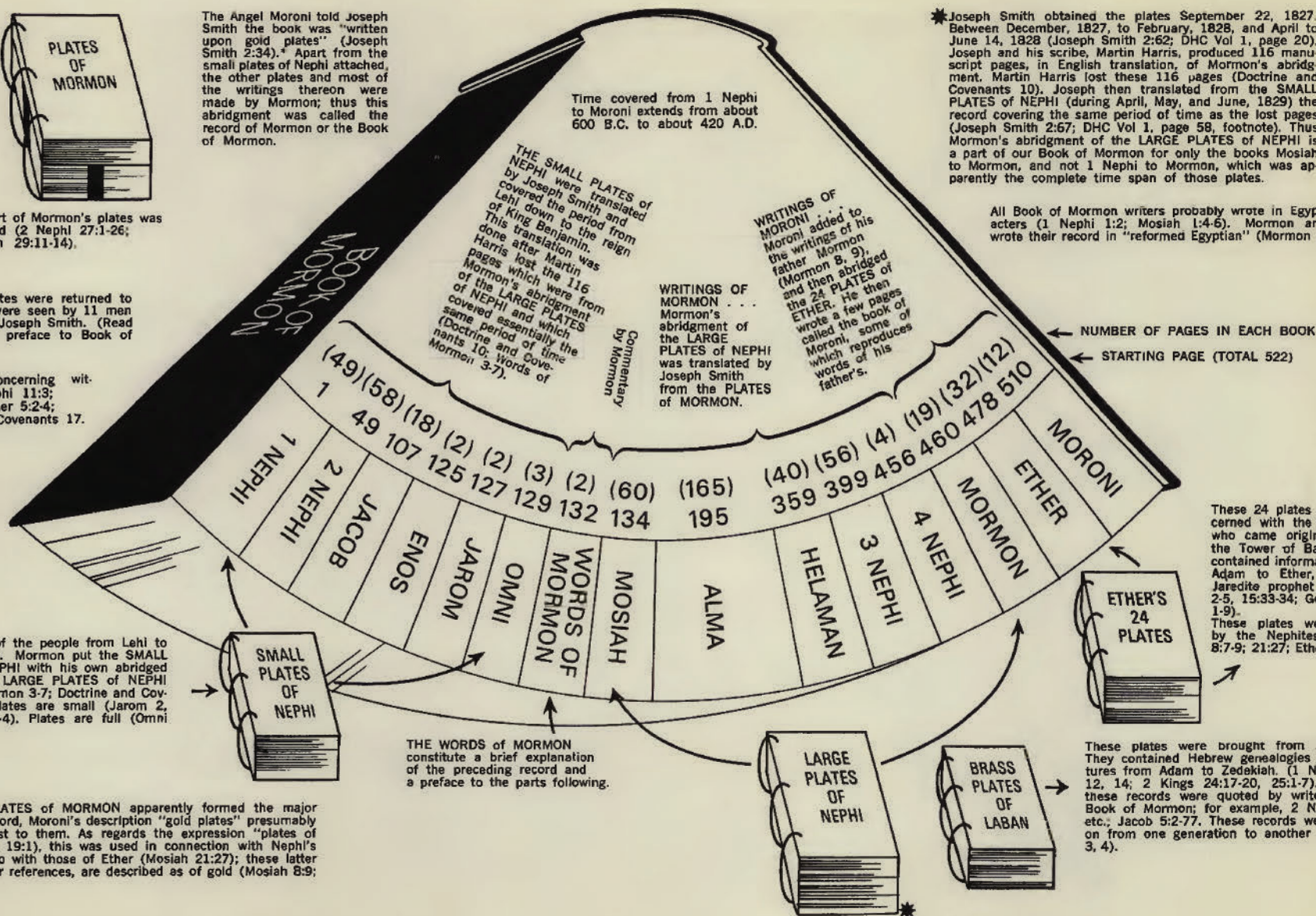
Prophecies concerning witnesses: 2 Nephi 11:3; 27:12, 13; Ether 5:2-4; Doctrine and Covenants 17.

The Angel Moroni told Joseph Smith the book was "written upon gold plates" (Joseph Smith 2:34).<sup>\*</sup> Apart from the small plates of Nephi attached, the other plates and most of the writings thereon were made by Mormon; thus this abridgment was called the record of Mormon or the Book of Mormon.

Time covered from 1 Nephi to Moroni extends from about 600 B.C. to about 420 A.D.

\*Joseph Smith obtained the plates September 22, 1827. Between December, 1827, to February, 1828, and April to June 14, 1828 (Joseph Smith 2:62; DHC Vol 1, page 20), Joseph and his scribe, Martin Harris, produced 116 manuscript pages, in English translation, of Mormon's abridgment. Martin Harris lost these 116 pages (Doctrine and Covenants 10). Joseph then translated from the SMALL PLATES of NEPHI (during April, May, and June, 1829) the record covering the same period of time as the lost pages (Joseph Smith 2:67; DHC Vol 1, page 58, footnote). Thus Mormon's abridgment of the LARGE PLATES of NEPHI is a part of our Book of Mormon for only the books Mosiah to Mormon, and not 1 Nephi to Mormon, which was apparently the complete time span of those plates.

All Book of Mormon writers probably wrote in Egyptian characters (1 Nephi 1:2; Mosiah 1:4-5). Mormon and Moroni wrote their record in "reformed Egyptian" (Mormon 9:32, 33).



The ministry of the people from Lehi to King Benjamin. Mormon put the SMALL PLATES of NEPHI with his own abridged record of the LARGE PLATES of NEPHI (Words of Mormon 3-7; Doctrine and Covenants 10). Plates are small (Jarom 2, 14; Jacob 1:1-4). Plates are full (Omni 30).

\*Since the PLATES of MORMON apparently formed the major part of the record, Moroni's description "gold plates" presumably applied at least to them. As regards the expression "plates of ore" (1 Nephi 19:1), this was used in connection with Nephi's plates and also with those of Ether (Mosiah 21:27); these latter plates, in other references, are described as of gold (Mosiah 8:9; 28:11).

THE WORDS of MORMON constitute a brief explanation of the preceding record and a preface to the parts following.

These 24 plates were concerned with the Jaredites, who came originally from the Tower of Babel. They contained information from Adam to Ether, the last Jaredite prophet (Ether 1:2-5, 15:33-34; Genesis 11:1-9). These plates were found by the Nephites (Mosiah 8:7-9; 21:27; Ether 1:1, 2).

These plates were brought from Jerusalem. They contained Hebrew genealogies and scriptures from Adam to Zedekiah. (1 Nephi 5:11, 12, 14; 2 Kings 24:17-20, 25:1-7). Parts of these records were quoted by writers in the Book of Mormon; for example, 2 Nephi 6, 7, etc.; Jacob 5:2-77. These records were passed on from one generation to another (Alma 37:3, 4).