



# Deseret Sunday School Union Leaflets.

## LESSON 31.—THE VISIT OF JESUS TO THE NEPHITES.

PLACE—The Land Bountiful.— TEXT—III. Nephi, 11: 6-17.

6. And behold the third time they did understand the voice which they heard; and it said unto them,

7. Behold my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified<sup>1</sup> my name; hear ye him.

8. And it came to pass as they understood, they cast their eyes up again towards heaven, and behold, they saw a man descending out of heaven;<sup>2</sup> and he was clothed in a white robe, and he came down and stood in the midst of them, and the eyes of the whole multitude were turned upon him, and they durst not open their mouths, even one to another, and wist not what it meant, for they thought it was an angel that had appeared unto them.

9. And it came to pass that he stretched forth his hand and spake unto the people, saying,

10. Behold, I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified shall come into the world;

11. And behold, I am the light and the life of the world;<sup>3</sup> and I have drunk out of that bitter cup<sup>4</sup> which the Father hath given me, and have glorified<sup>1</sup> the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world,<sup>5</sup> in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning.

12. And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words, the whole multitude fell to the earth, for they remembered that it had been prophesied among them that Christ should show himself unto them after his ascension into heaven.<sup>2</sup>

13. And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto them saying,

14. Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth,<sup>6</sup> and have been slain for the sins of the world.<sup>5</sup>

15. And it came to pass that the multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet; and this they did do, going forth one by one, until they had all gone forth, and did see with their eyes, and did feel with their hands, and did know of a surety, and did bear record, that it was he of whom it was written by the prophets that should come.

16. And when they had all gone forth and had witnessed for themselves, they did cry out with one accord, saying,

17. Hosanna! blessed be the name of the Most High God! And they did fall down at the feet of Jesus, and did worship him

<sup>1</sup> III. Nephi, 9: 15. John 14: 13. 17: 4, 5. <sup>2</sup> I. Nephi 12: 6. II. Nephi 26: 1-9. Alma 16: 20. <sup>3</sup> Mosiah 16: 9. Alma 38: 9. III. Nephi 9: 18. 18: 16, 24. <sup>4</sup> Matthew 27: 39, 42. John 18: 11. <sup>5</sup> III. Nephi 9, 21. John 1: 29. <sup>6</sup> I. Nephi 19: 7, 10. II. Nephi 10: 3. Mosiah 3: 5-8. 7: 27.

### LESSON STATEMENT.

After Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven He appeared to the Nephites in fulfillment of the words of a number of their ancient prophets. The people to whom He came were those who had assembled near the temple in the Land Bountiful. They were conversing about the marvelous changes that had taken place on the face of the land by reason of convulsions that occurred at the death of the Savior. While thus engaged they heard a voice from heaven. At first they did not understand it, but the third time they understood that it was the voice of the Father calling upon them to behold His beloved Son. They then cast their eyes toward heaven and beheld a man, clothed in a white robe coming down out of heaven. He announced Himself to be Jesus Christ the Son of God, who was slain for the sins of the world. He then permitted them to feel the prints of the nails in His hands and feet and thrust their hands into His side, that they might be fully satisfied that it was He of whom the prophets had testified. And the people fell at His feet and worshiped Him.

### NOTES.

THE LAND BOUNTIFUL.—The most northern portion of South America, extending from the Isthmus of

Panama southward to the Land of Zarahemla,—a portion of the country we now call New Grenada.

THE NEPHITES.—The descendants of Nephi the fourth son of Lehi, who left Jerusalem 600 years B. C. and came to America. The more righteous portion of his posterity were saved at the time of the convulsions that took place at the death of the Redeemer, and it was to some of these that He appeared.

WHAT WE MAY LEARN FROM THIS LESSON.

1. That the Almighty Father acknowledges Jesus to be His beloved Son, and calls upon all people to hearken unto Him. 2. That Jesus is the life and light of the world. 3. That He had glorified the Father by taking upon Him the sins of the world. 4. That He had submitted to the will of the Father in all things from the beginning. 5. That we all should follow His example that we may glorify God in our lives.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. What is the subject of this lesson? 2. Where had the Nephites assembled? 3. Who were the Nephites? 4. Where was the Land Bountiful? 5. What were the people talking about? 6. Who had been crucified? 7. What did they hear? 8. Whence did it come? 9. How many times did it speak before they understood it? 10. What did it say? 11. Whose voice was it? 12. What did the people see? 13. Who was He? 14. What did He tell them about Himself? 15. How had He glorified the Father? 16. Of what had He drunk? 17. Explain what He meant by that expression? 18. What had He taken upon Him? 19. What did the

multitude do when they heard His words? 20. What did He then tell them to do? 21. What would they know by examining His hands, feet and side? 22. What did the people then cry out? 23. What did they call Jesus? 24. Whom did they worship?

ILLUSTRATIVE PASSAGES.

*Christ the Life and Light of the World.*—In him was life; and life was the light of man.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehendeth it not.—*John 1: 4, 5.*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not.—*John 1: 6—11.*

Then spake Jesus unto them, saying I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.—*John 8: 12.*

As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.—*John 9: 5.*

Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you; for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.—*John 12: 35, 36.*

I am come a light unto the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.—*John 12: 46.*

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.—*1. John 1: 5.*