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## Editorial

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**Abstract:** Heber J. Grant writes about reading the Book of Mormon as a boy. Melvin J. Ballard speaks about the book's purpose of being carried to "all nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples."



# E D I T O R

## As I View the Book of Mormon

AS a boy of about fifteen I read, carefully and prayerfully, the Book of Mormon, and there came into my heart an abiding and firm testimony of its divine authenticity. From that day to this its wonderful teachings have been a comfort, a blessing, and a guide to me.

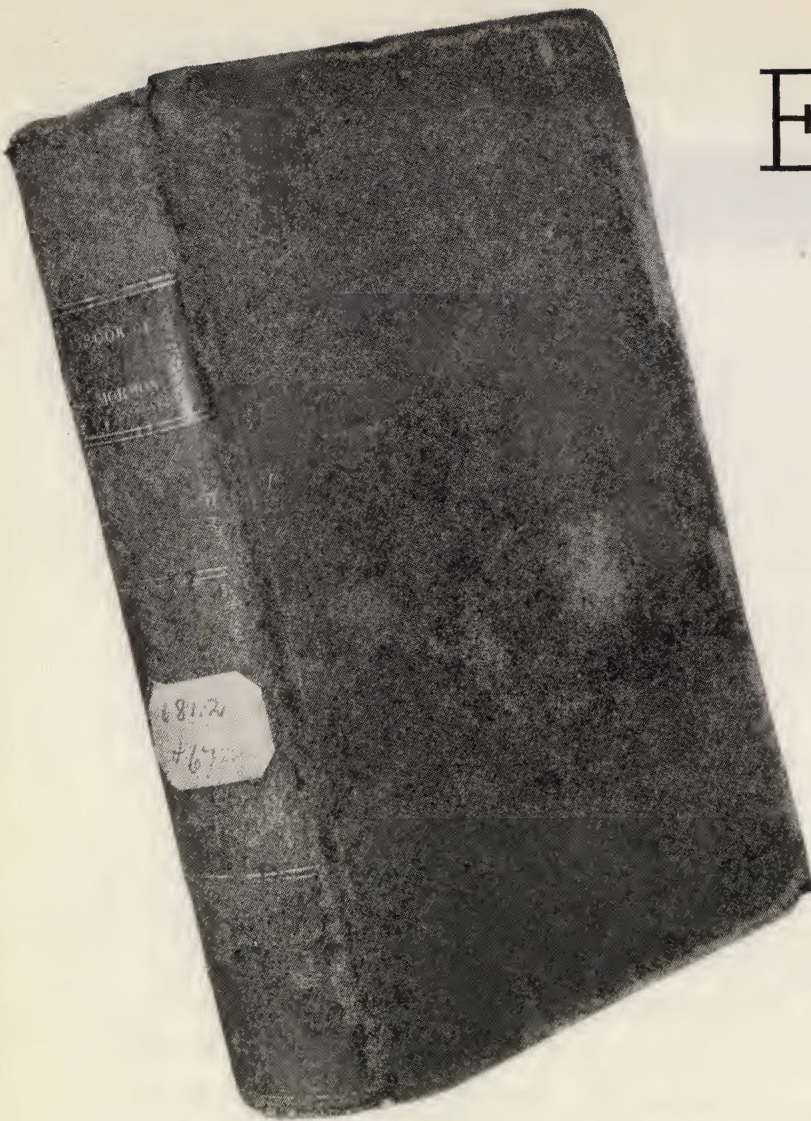
I thank God from the bottom of my heart that I read the life of Nephi in my youth. I fell in love with him then, and his life has influenced mine for good more than that of any other character in ancient history, sacred or profane—save only the Redeemer of the world.

*Heber J. Grant*

## The Mission of the Book of Mormon

THE BOOK OF MORMON has not yet fulfilled the great purpose for which it was originally written. Incidentally, of course, it has brought a knowledge of the dealings of God with that ancient branch of the House of Israel on this American continent to the Church and to the world but the Church is merely a custodian of this sacred book to carry it to its real mission.

The primary purpose for which the Book of Mormon was originally prepared is set forth in Mormon's preface to the book, in which he says that the purpose of writing the book "is to show unto the remnant of the House of Israel what great things the Lord hath done



ABOVE: THE FIRST EDITION OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

BELOW: HOME OF ISAAC HALE, HARMONY, PA., WHERE JOSEPH SMITH TRANSLATED A PART OF THE BOOK OF MORMON—1827-1829



Photo and frame by THE HILL CUMORAH, THE P WOOD FROM THE HILL, P A GIFT TO SUPT. GEOR



# D O C T R I N E

for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever—and also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations.”

In the third section of the book of Doctrine and Covenants the Lord said to the Prophet Joseph Smith that the chief purpose for which the Book of Mormon was written was that the testimony shall go to the knowledge of the Lamanites and other branches of the House of Israel concerning their forefathers (19th verse) “and for this very purpose are these plates preserved which contain these records, that the promises of the Lord might be fulfilled which He made to His people, and that the Lamanites might come to the knowledge of their fathers and that they might know the promises of the Lord and that they may believe the Gospel and rely upon the merits of Jesus Christ and be glorified through faith in His name.”

I recall receiving very distinct impressions both on Fort Peck Reservation in Montana, while preaching to the Indians, and also in my visit among the Indians in South America that there were very many important things the Lord had to do in preparing these people for the reception of the Gospel. Many of those things have already been accomplished and others are under way. In due time the preparation will have been made and then will come the glorious day when this Book is to be carried to the descendants of this branch of the House of Israel and great and wonderful are the promises of the Lord unto them when they do receive it.

*Melvin J. Ballard*

...files as will repent, are the covenant people of the Lord; and as many of the Jews as will not repent, shall be cast off; for the Lord covenanteth with none, save it be with them that repent and believe in his Son, which is the Holy One of Israel. And now, I would prophesy somewhat more concerning the Jews and the Gentiles. For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which are written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed; and then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are a descendant of the Jews. And the Gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them; wherefore, they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers. And then shall they rejoice: for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of God; and their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a white and a delightsome people.

And it shall come to pass that the Jews which are scattered, also shall begin to believe in Christ; and they shall begin to gather in upon the face of the land; and as many as shall believe in Christ, shall also become a delightsome people.

And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall commence his work, among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, to bring about the restoration of his people upon the earth. And with righteousness shall the Lord God judge the poor, and prove with equity, for the neck of the earth. And he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth; and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked: for the time speedily cometh, that the Lord God shall cause a great division among the people; and the wicked will he destroy; and he will spare his people; yea, even if it so be that he must destroy the wicked by fire. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. And then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, and the young lion, and the fating, with the kid; and the calf, and the leopard shall lie down together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child

ABOVE: A PAGE FROM THE FIRST TRANSLATION OF THE BOOK OF MORMON. NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO NUMBERED VERSES

BELOW: BUILDING IN WHICH THE BOOK OF MORMON WAS PUBLISHED



by Wilford Wood. FRAME WAS MADE FROM PICTURE AND FRAME IS BY GEORGE ALBERT SMITH

