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Book of Mormon Gems of Truth: Lesson 12

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Abstract: Monthly Book of Mormon lessons for adult women (Relief Society). Each month a verse of Book of Mormon scripture is presented with accompanying quotes from General Authorities and writers of the Church.

We are not informed as to what Lehi said to the sons of Ishmael. To Sam, however, he gave the promise that his seed should inherit the land like unto Nephi's, that his seed should be numbered with the seed of Nephi, and that Sam should be blessed in all his days.

After this great patriarch of The Book of Mormon had blessed and instructed his household "according to the feelings of his heart and the Spirit of the Lord which was in him, he waxed old. And it came

to pass that he died, and was buried" (2 Nephi 4:12).

Questions and Problems

1. Why is the doctrine of free agency superior as a means of developing character to the doctrine of predestination?
2. Why did the Lord create a world in which we have opposites, good and evil, love and hate, etc?
3. What is meant by the statement, "Men are that they might have joy"?
4. What promises were given to the seed of Joseph in Egypt?
5. How, through his instructions, did Lehi show concern for his people?

Visiting Teacher Messages

Book of Mormon Gems of Truth

Lesson 12—"Wo Be Unto Him That Is at Ease in Zion!" (2 Nephi 28:24).

Leone O. Jacobs

For Tuesday, January 6, 1953

Objective: To point out the need for being always on guard against the wiles of Satan.

IF there were any place in the world one would naturally suppose he could be at ease, that place would be in Zion. However, constant vigilance is necessary always, even in Zion, for evil is not banished from the earth. The words of the song by Eliza R. Snow aptly express this thought:

THINK NOT, WHEN YOU
GATHER TO ZION

Think not when you gather to Zion,
Your troubles and trials are through
That nothing but comfort and pleasure
Are waiting in Zion for you:
No, no, 'tis designed as a furnace,
All substance, all textures to try,
To burn all the "wood, hay, and stubble,"
The gold from the dross purify

Think not when you gather to Zion,
The prize and the victory won.
Think not that the warfare is ended,

The work of salvation is done.
No, no; for the dread prince of darkness
A tenfold exertion will make,
When he sees you go to the fountain,
Where freely the truth you may take.

(Hymns, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1950 edition, page 21).

When we are complacent, satisfied with ourselves, that is the time we are most vulnerable to the enticings of Satan. When we are at ease Satan may lull us away "into carnal security," causing us to mistakenly believe all is well. This false sense of security is extremely dangerous. So long as there is any iniquity in Zion, all is not well, and we must not be at ease.

We should take nothing for granted. As parents, we should not take the security and well-being of

our children for granted. To be confident that our children can do no wrong, is to court trouble, for as long as any of us shall live, there are temptations to which we might succumb. Only he that endureth to the end is secure. Our General Authorities are ever counseling parents to know at all times where and with whom their children are.

Certainly we should not take the gospel for granted. The gospel is like a precious but tender plant which must be nurtured and cared for constantly, in order that it may grow and continue to flourish. A knowledge of the gospel does not carry over from one generation to another. Each individual must study and know it for himself.

We cannot rest on the good deeds and characters of honored ancestors. No matter how gloriously our forebears have lived and died, no matter how valiant they have been in the testimony of Jesus, they

cannot add to our spiritual stature. John the Baptist, in speaking to the multitude, said:

Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham (Luke 3:8).

We cannot rest on the laurels of past years of service. Occasionally we hear someone say, "I think I have done my share. All these years I have labored. Now I deserve a rest." As well might we say, "I have eaten all these years, I think that should suffice." Our spirits are in need of constant nourishment just as much as our bodies.

Let us not be deceived nor blinded by the craftiness of men, nor by flattery, nor by false doctrine circulated in our midst. Let us ever be on the watchtower, as it were, on guard against any encroachment of the evil one.

Work Meeting—Home Management

(A Course Recommended for Use by Wards and Branches at Work Meeting)

Lesson 4—Providing Order and Convenience in the Kitchen

Rhea H. Gardner

For Tuesday, January 13, 1953

ORDERLY homes do not just happen. They are the result of careful planning, the cultivation of orderly habits, and the desire by all family members to be orderly.

Planning the Kitchen

Ideally, houses are adapted to the needs of the family. Too often

the family must adapt itself to the house. It is much easier to be orderly when each part of the house is planned for the particular work or activity that is to be carried on there. Much storage space is often wasted because the space is not efficiently planned. Space, particularly in the kitchen, is valuable,