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## Characters and Teachings of The Book of Mormon: Lesson Preview for 1955-56

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**Abstract:** A preview for the 1955-56 lessons of a six-year series of theology lessons that follow a chronological order of the Book of Mormon. Lessons analyze the structure and purposes of the book, the witnesses, its divine origin, the Jaredite nation, Lehi's exodus, and prophecies concerning the Jews, Gentiles and Lamanites. "The Book of Mormon is 'A New Witness for Christ.' "

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found there which can be adapted to Relief Society needs. Also many wards conduct teacher training classes. Untrained Relief Society class leaders could very profitably join those classes where they are available.

There are no new courses of study this year and no new textbooks. Occasionally, suggestions for teaching aids are given in the lessons. However, class leaders are expected to use suggestions given in previous years and plan aids to fit their particular situations in keeping with the standards of Relief Society.

The Deseret Book Company lists in their advertisement in this issue

of the *Magazine* the Relief Society textbooks, and in the past has listed some visual aids. Bound volumes of the *Magazine* are available in wards, branches, and stakes, for use by those workers who do not have the issues of past years.

The proverb says: “. . . with all thy getting get understanding” (Proverbs 4:7). There is no place where this admonition is more fitting than in teaching. The successful class leader understands the needs, desires, and feelings of the members of her class, as well as the subject, and by her thoughtful planning she satisfies her group and herself.

## *Theology*—Characters and Teachings of The Book of Mormon

Preview of Lessons for 1955-56

Elder Leland H. Monson

THE first lesson of this year's course of study gives a review of the Jaredite record and of the Nephite record to the Book of Helaman, and the remaining seven lessons continue the history of the Nephites to the time of Christ's personal ministry among them (Book of Helaman through 3 Nephi, chapter 14).

During the half century immediately preceding the appearance of Christ among the Nephites, there was a period of political and religious disintegration, a time in which the Nephite and Lamanite prophets called the people to repentance. Among these prophets were Helaman, Nephi, and Lehi,

sons of Helaman, and Samuel the Lamanite. This last prophet, a Lamanite, gave to the people the signs which would precede the birth and the signs at the time of the crucifixion of the Savior on the Eastern Hemisphere.

After the remarkable signs were given, Christ did appear to the Nephites. He was introduced to them, as they were gathered around the temple in the land Bountiful, by the Eternal Father who said:

Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name—hear ye him (3 Nephi 11:7).

(Jesus) . . . stretched forth his hand and spake unto the people, saying: Behold,

I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified shall come into the world (3 Nephi 11:9-10).

So as to make assurance of his divinity doubly sure, Jesus invited the group to thrust their hands into his side and to feel the print of the nails in his hands and feet. This the multitude did, after which they said with one accord, "Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Most High God! And they did fall down at the feet of Jesus, and did worship him" (3 Nephi 11:17).

After calling his Twelve Disciples, Jesus instructed them concerning the ordinance of baptism. Then turning to the multitude, he gave them the Sermon on the Mount, which outlines the pattern of life to be followed by anyone who professes a belief in Christianity. It gives to us a means whereby we can bring peace and joy into our lives.

This account of the personal ministry of Christ among the Nephites is indeed "a new witness" that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

The titles and objectives for the lessons to be studied this year are: Lesson 33. *Review—The Book of Mormon* (Book of Ether and 1 Nephi through the Book of Alma)

Objective: To renew our understanding of the lives and teachings of The Book of Mormon prophets.

Lesson 34. *Political and Religious Disintegration* (Helaman, chapters 1-5:5)

Objective: To show how unrighteous desires and acts bring political and religious disintegration, but the Lord is merciful and prospers those who repent.

Lesson 35. *Nephi, Son of Helaman*

(Helaman, chapter 5:5 through chapter 12)

Objective: To show that when we sacrifice and exercise faith in the Lord, he gives us power to accomplish great things.

Lesson 36. *Predictions Concerning the Coming of the Messiah* (Texts as cited in The Bible; Pearl of Great Price; The Book of Mormon)

Objective: To show that the Israelites of the Western Hemisphere as well as those of the Eastern Hemisphere looked forward to the coming of Christ.

Lesson 37. *Samuel the Lamanite* (Helaman, chapters 13-16)

Objective: To point out that signs of the Savior's birth and crucifixion were given to warn the people of impending destruction and call them to repentance.

Lesson 38. *Conditions Among the Nephites in the Days of Nephi the Disciple* (3 Nephi, chapters 1-5:8; chapters 6 and 7)

Objective: To experience with Nephi the signs of the Savior's birth; to witness the partial fulfillment of early prophecy; and to have our faith in the power of the Priesthood increased.

Lesson 39. *Signs of the Crucifixion; the Voice of Jesus Christ Is Heard* (3 Nephi, chapters 8-10)

Objective: To learn of the prophecies concerning the crucifixion and their fulfillment.

Lesson 40. *Christ Among the Nephites* (3 Nephi, chapters 11-14)

Objective: To testify to the appearance to the Nephites of the resurrected Christ; and to comprehend Christ's teachings on baptism; the calling of the Twelve Disciples; and the Sermon on the Mount.