



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Book of Mormon - Lesson 1

The Keystone of Our Religion

“I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.” (Joseph Smith)

A study of this lesson will help us understand how the Book of Mormon is the keystone of our religion and how abiding by its precepts helps us draw nearer to God.

President Ezra Taft Benson: "Just as the arch crumbles if the keystone is removed, so does all the Church stand or fall with the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon." (Ensign, Nov 1986, p6)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "The Prophet's expression that 'the Book of Mormon is the keystone of our religion' means precisely what it says. The keystone is the central stone in the top of the arch. If that stone is removed, then the arch crumbles, which, in effect means that Mormonism so-called--which actually is the gospel of Christ, restored anew in this day--stands or falls with the truth or falsity of the Book of Mormon." (CR, Apr 1961, pp39-40)

President Ezra Taft Benson: "There are three ways in which the Book of Mormon is the keystone of our religion. It is the keystone in our witness of Christ. It is the keystone of our doctrine. It is the keystone of our testimony." (Ensign, Nov 1986, p5)

President Ezra Taft Benson: "The Lord Himself has stated that the Book of Mormon contains the 'fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ' (D&C 20:9). That does not mean it contains every teaching, every doctrine ever revealed. Rather, it means that in the Book of Mormon we will find the fulness of those doctrines required for our salvation. And they are taught plainly and simply so that even children can learn the ways of salvation and exaltation." (Ensign, Nov 1986, p6)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "Whenever the Lord has established a dispensation by revealing his gospel and by conferring priesthood and keys upon men, he has acted in accordance with the law of witnesses which he himself ordained. This law is: 'In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.' (2 Cor. 13:1; Deut. 17:6; 19:15; Matt. 18:15-16; John 8:12-29.)

"Never does one man stand alone in establishing a new

dispensation of revealed truth, or in carrying the burden of such a message and warning to the world. In every dispensation, from Adam to the present, two or more witnesses have always joined their testimonies, thus leaving their hearts without excuse in the day of judgment should the testimony be rejected" (Mormon Doctrine, p436).

President Ezra Taft Benson: "The Book of Mormon...was written for our day. The Nephites never had the book; neither did the Lamanites of ancient times. It was meant for us... Each of the major writers of the Book of Mormon testified that he wrote for future generations... If they saw our day and chose those things which would be of greatest worth to us, is not that how we should study the Book of Mormon? We should constantly ask ourselves, 'Why did the Lord inspire Mormon (or Moroni or Alma) to include that in his record? What lesson can I learn from that to help me live in this day and age?'" (Ensign, Nov 1986, p6)

President Joseph Fielding Smith: "It seems to me that any member of this Church would never be satisfied until he or she had read the Book of Mormon time and time again, and thoroughly considered it so that he or she could bear witness that it is in very deed a record with the inspiration of the Almighty upon it, and that its history is true....

"...No member of this Church can stand approved in the presence of God who has not seriously and carefully read the Book of Mormon." (Conference Report, Oct 1961)

President Ezra Taft Benson: "It is not just that the Book of Mormon teaches us truth, though it indeed does that. It is not just that the Book of Mormon bears testimony of Christ, though it indeed does that, too. But there is something more. There is a power in the book that will begin to flow into your life the moment you begin a serious study of the book. You will find greater power to resist temptation. You will find the power to avoid deception. You will find the power to stay on the strait and narrow path." (Ensign, Nov 1986, p7)

Next Week's Reading Assignment

1 Nephi 1-7

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