
THE

WITNESS

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The Book of Mormon Foundation

Behold, I Am the light—
I have set an example
before you.

THE
WITNESS

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Through research, publications, seminars and related projects, members of The Book of Mormon Foundation seek to assist in bringing forth the light contained in the Book of Mormon.

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THE BOOK OF MORMON

Restored Covenant Edition

Your personal testimony of the Book of Mormon is simply amazing, but not surprising! One reason we know of this truth is by the overwhelming response from you for the reprint of the Restored Covenant Edition (RCE) of the Book of Mormon. We are excited to share the latest update on the donations and timeline for the reprint.

The overall effort of planning, editing, reviewing and proofing is an intense and detailed process, but many volunteers have come forth to help. Currently, we are in the middle of our latest proofing to ensure everything is as accurate and complete as possible. From the beginning, the printing standard for the RCE is to include, as closely as possible, the words from the original or printer manuscripts of the Book of Mormon. Our goal is to complete the reprint by the end of 2022. We are working hard and hoping to meet that goal.

Our deepest gratitude goes to all who have volunteered and those who have contributed financially. We have now reached \$74,617 towards our financial goal of \$100,000. We especially thank everyone for the prayers asking for the Lord's blessings and direction for this important project. You are all a blessing to the great and marvelous work!

Our hope and desire is for the RCE to be an instrument in the hands of God to bless His people and continue to provide an inspired witness of Jesus Christ to the world.



Baptism and the Return to the Garden

by Rich Rowland

The scriptural record of human history can be simply and accurately described by the following phrase: **From the garden they came, and to the garden they will return.** Most people are familiar with the Genesis account of the creation of Adam and Eve. God formed Adam from the dust and breathed the breath of life into him, and so Adam became a living soul (Genesis 2:8 IV). God then planted a garden eastward in Eden (Genesis 2:10 IV); and there placed Adam. It was in the garden that Eve was, likewise, crafted by the hand of God; created from the rib of Adam. In this garden, God planted the tree of life and caused a river to go out of Eden, to water the garden (Genesis 2:12-13 IV). The garden is portrayed scripturally as the place where God's presence abided. Adam and Eve existed in the presence of God there.

Let's compare the description of mankind's earthly beginning, found in the Old Testament book of Genesis, with mankind's earthly ending found in the New Testament book of Revelation. You might be surprised to learn how closely they resemble one another. In the very last chapter of the Bible, Revelation 22, John the Revelator is shown a vision of the end of days.

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse; but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him; And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign forever and ever. And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true; and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. (Revelation 22:1-6)

From the garden they came, and to the garden they will return.



Notice in both the beginning and the end there is a garden-like setting with a river of water and the tree of life. Most importantly, mankind is living in the very presence of God. This picture of the biography of mankind reminds me of the beginning of Doctrine and Covenants Section 34.

Listen to the voice of the Lord your God, even Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, whose course is one eternal round, the same today as yesterday and forever.

The phrase **From the garden they came and to the garden they will return** shines a fresh light on the words **one eternal round**.

Removed From the Presence of God

Adam and Eve lived in the garden, in the presence of God, until sin entered their hearts. God had given them instruction to eat freely from anything in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan beguiled them, and they ate of the forbidden fruit. Earthly rebellion was born. Likewise, man's separation from God was also born. Having sinned against God, Adam and Eve had to be removed from the garden. Most importantly, they had to be removed from the presence of God. Alma 19 in the Book of Mormon provides a striking description of Adam and Eve's fall from the presence of God.

Now we see that the man had become as God, knowing good and evil; and lest he should put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever,

the Lord God placed cherubim and the flaming sword, that he should not partake of the fruit; And thus we see, that there was a time granted unto man, to repent, yea, a probationary time, a time to repent and serve God. For behold, if Adam had put forth his hand immediately, and partook of the tree of life, he would have lived for ever, according to the word of God, having no space for repentance; Yea, and also the word of God would have been void, and the great plan of salvation would have been frustrated. But behold it was appointed unto man to die; therefore as they were cut off from the tree of life, they should be cut off from the face of the earth; and man became lost for ever; yea, they became fallen man. And now we see by this, that our first parents were cut off, both temporally and spiritually, from the presence of the Lord; and thus we see they became subjects to follow after their own will. (Alma 19:83-88)

This one act of rebellion by Adam and Eve cut them, and all mankind after them, off from the presence of God, both temporally and spiritually. That may seem like an extreme price to pay; being lost forever for a bite of fruit. However, it exemplifies how seriously God takes the rebellion of His children. As humans we tend to try and minimize the impact of our rebellion, but sin always has serious consequences.

Before moving on, we need to take note of how Alma concludes his thoughts in verse 88, **thus we see they became subjects to follow after their own will**.



Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

Having willfully chosen to rebel against God, Adam and Eve had to willingly choose to repent so they could return into the presence of God.

Redemption and Repentance

The Genesis record provides us with a picture of the creation of man, as well as the fall of man. The concluding statement of the book of Revelation is that mankind will one day be restored into the presence of God. All other scripture, in one form or another, is an unveiling of God's marvelous plan to redeem mankind from sin, so they can indeed return to the garden and into the presence of God. The Book of Mormon

Having willfully chosen to sinfully rebel against God, man must, likewise, willfully choose to repent and claim the grace and mercy God has so diligently provided.

God's Call to Adam

Having expelled Adam and Eve from the garden, God immediately set to work educating and reclaiming them. In Genesis 4, God commands them to worship the Lord their God; and offer the firstlings of their flocks for an offering unto Him. Adam responds in obedience, probably not understanding the significance of this strange commandment. Because he was obedient, God sent an angel to Adam to give him, and all mankind after him, an explanation of the commandment.

And Adam was obedient unto the commandments of the Lord. And after many days, an angel of the Lord appeared unto Adam, saying, Why dost thou offer sacrifices unto the Lord? And Adam said unto him, I know not, save the Lord commanded me. And then the angel spake, saying, This thing is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father, which is full of grace and truth; Wherefore, thou shalt do all that thou doest, in the name of the Son. And thou shalt repent, and call upon God,

in the name of the Son for evermore. And in that day, the Holy Ghost fell upon Adam, which beareth record of the Father and the Son, saying, I am the Only Begotten of the Father from the beginning, henceforth and forever; that, as thou hast fallen, thou mayest be redeemed, and all mankind, even as many as will. (Genesis 4:6-9)

The plan to redeem Adam and all mankind from the fall had been set in motion. Jesus had already agreed to become the lamb of sacrifice, so the plan could come to fruition. God wanted Adam to know that, through the sacrifice of the Only Begotten Son, the way would be made clear for him and all mankind to come back into His presence. The act of sacrificing to the Lord was intended to point mankind to the great and final sacrifice of Jesus.

describes this as God's plan of redemption. Chapter 19 of Alma and most of 2 Nephi go into wonderful detail about the great lengths God has gone to reclaim man from the fall. We will not delve into this topic here in detail, other than to focus our attention on the perfect atoning sacrifice of Jesus. It is the sacrificial death of Jesus that satisfied the demands of justice and made it possible for God to extend grace and mercy to His wayward children. Alma 19:94 makes it clear that man also has a role to play in being redeemed.

Therefore, according to justice, the plan of redemption could not be brought about, only, on conditions of repentance of men in this probationary state; yea, this preparatory state; for except it were for these conditions, mercy could not take effect except it should destroy the work of justice.



By the Water You Keep the Commandment

The next interaction we find in scripture between God and Adam is found in Genesis 6. It is important to note, this is scripture that was restored by God through His prophet Joseph Smith Jr., and is only found in the Inspired Version of the Bible. After introducing Adam to the importance of sacrifice, God wanted Adam to know he, too, would play a role in the plan of redemption. Continuing in Genesis 6, we read God's instruction to Adam; **hearken unto my voice, and believe, and repent of all thy transgressions, and be baptized.**

But God hath made known unto our fathers, that all men must repent. And he called upon our father Adam, by his own voice, saying, I am God; I made the world, and men before they were in the flesh. And he also said unto him, If thou wilt, turn unto me and hearken unto my voice, and believe, and repent of all thy transgressions, and be baptized, even in water, in the name of mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth, which is Jesus Christ, the only name which shall be given under heaven, whereby salvation shall come unto the children of men; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, asking all things in his name, and whatsoever ye shall ask it shall be given you. (Genesis 6:51-53)

God's direction to Adam continued with a more precise understanding of baptism.

Therefore I give unto you a commandment, to teach these things freely unto your children, saying, that by reason of transgression cometh the fall, which fall bringeth death; and inasmuch as ye were born into the world by water and blood, and the spirit, which I have made, and so become of dust a living soul; Even so ye must be born again, into the kingdom of heaven, of water, and of the Spirit, and be cleansed by blood, even the blood of mine Only Begotten; that ye may be sanctified from all sin; and enjoy the words of eternal life in this world, and eternal life in the world to come; even immortal glory. For, by the water ye keep the commandment; by the Spirit ye are justified; and by the blood ye are sanctified. (Genesis 6:61-63)

Let's take a closer look at the three elements of baptism outlined in verse 63.

For much of the Christian world, baptism is not considered to be a fundamental part of God's plan for mankind. In some cases, it is deemed to be a nonessential formality instituted by organized religion. Christians often speak of being **born again** but reject the need for baptism as a part of that experience. The Inspired Version of the Bible clearly exposes this line of thinking to be out of sync with the word of God. Baptism is a critical part of being born again into the kingdom of heaven. It is more than a "nice thing to do" or even an institutional obligation, it is the commandment of God! In 3 Nephi 12, the words of Jesus confirm the instruction found in the Inspired Version regarding baptism.



Now this is the commandment, Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day. Verily, verily I say unto you, This is my gospel; and ye know the things that ye must do in my church; for the works which ye have seen me do, that shall ye also do; (3 Nephi 12:33-34)

By listening to the voice of God, repenting of the sin in our lives and entering the waters of baptism, we obey the commandment of God and can be born again into the kingdom of heaven.

By the Spirit Ye Are Justified

Genesis 6:62, quoted previously, indicates the need for both the baptism of water and the baptism of the Spirit. It is by this baptism of Spirit that man is justified. Justification is a legal declaration from God that you are innocent of sin. Through this process, man is made right before Him. God, the judge, grants you freedom instead of a death sentence—even though your actions deserve that death sentence. Adam was removed from God’s presence because he willingly



transgressed God’s laws. He had no way, in and of himself, to overcome the demands of justice and would have lived out his life in eternal separation from God. You and I share the same fate as Adam. We have all willingly transgressed the laws of God and, like Adam, have no way to overcome the consequences of our actions. Through God’s plan of redemption, Jesus came to earth and lived a sinless life. Therefore, He and He alone, could offer Himself as an atonement for our sins and thus satisfy the demands of justice.

Chapter 19 of Alma nicely summarizes the consequences of our sin and the amazing work performed by Jesus to appease the demands of justice on our behalf.

And thus we see that all mankind were fallen, and they were in the grasp of justice; yea, the justice of God, which consigned them for ever to be cut off from his presence. And now the plan of mercy could not be brought about, except an atonement should be made; therefore God himself atoneth for the sins of the world, to bring about the plan of mercy, to appease the demands of justice, that God might be a perfect, just God, and a merciful God also. (Alma 19-96-97)

Simply put, individuals become “just”—in other words, innocent before God and ready for a covenant relationship with Him—when they demonstrate sufficient repentance to receive an initial cleansing from sin by the Spirit, thus having had the demands of justice satisfied on their behalf through the Savior’s atoning blood.

By the Blood Ye Are Sanctified

The word sanctified means to set aside for a sacred purpose or to be made holy. Sanctification comes only through the atoning blood of Jesus. When Adam was expelled from the garden of Eden, God commanded him to make sacrifice. Adam was obedient to the word of God, and later, an angel told him **This thing is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father.** Throughout the Old Testament, God instilled this type of sacrifice into the daily lives of His people to

constantly point them to the coming of the Messiah and His atoning sacrifice. While many of the children of Israel struggled to make the connection between the sacrifices and the coming of Jesus, the Book of Mormon people, specifically the children of Nephi, seemed to understand the connection clearly. Moroni completed his writings in the tenth chapter of his book, with an invitation that beautifully summarizes the process of sanctification.

Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God. And again, if ye, by the grace of God, are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot. (Moroni 10:29-30)



Jesus set the Example

Jesus has always been the standard bearer of the true ways of God. In 3 Nephi 8:49, Jesus said, **Behold I am the light; I have set an example for you.** If there is any doubt about the necessity of baptism, we can always look to the example of Jesus. In 2 Nephi, Nephi encouraged his people to follow the example of Christ.

And now, if the Lamb of God, he being holy, should have need to be baptized by water to fulfill all righteousness, O then, how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized, yea, even by water. And now, I would ask of you, my beloved brethren, wherein the Lamb of God did fulfill all righteousness in being baptized by water? Know ye not that he was holy? But notwithstanding he being holy, he sheweth unto the children of men, that according to the flesh, he humbleth himself before the Father, and witnesseth unto the Father that he would be obedient unto him in keeping his commandments; Wherefore, after he was baptized with water, the Holy Ghost descended upon him in the form of a dove. And again: It sheweth unto the children of men the straightness of the path, and the narrowness of the gate, by which they should enter, he having set the example before them. And he said unto the children of men, Follow thou me. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, can we follow Jesus, save we shall be willing to keep the commandments of the Father? And the Father said, Repent ye, repent ye, and be baptized in the name of my beloved Son. (2 Nephi 13:7-14)

*Repent ye, repent ye
and be baptized in
the name of Jesus!*

Baptism is God's Perfect Solution for Sin

From the beginning of time, God knew the sinful desires of mankind would always place them at odds with His perfect will. He also knew our sinful nature couldn't abide in His perfect presence. He knew mankind had no way, in and of themselves, to overcome the consequences of our sin. He knew His laws would be broken, and He knew punishment had to come to the lawbreakers. He knew the demands of justice had to be met, otherwise God would cease to be God. In my human mind, it seems like an unsolvable problem that would leave man forever separated from God. However, God always intended to spend eternity in the garden with His children. God did what only He could do. He sent His perfect Son to redeem the world. Nothing can replace the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, which satisfied the demands of justice and opened the doors for God's grace and mercy to claim mankind. God also wanted mankind to play a role in His plan of redemption. He wanted man to harken unto His words, look to Jesus and be baptized. As Alma once said to the Zoramites, **Blessed is he that believeth in the word of God and is baptized without stubbornness of heart.**



A Spiritual Beach

by Jesse Cochran

And now I proceed with my record; for behold it came to pass that the Lord did bring Jared and his brethren forth even to that great sea which divideth the lands. And as they came to the sea, they pitched their tents; and they called the name of the place Moriancumer; and they dwelt in tents; and dwelt in tents upon the seashore for the space of four years. (Ether 1:36-37)

This may seem an odd scripture to open an article with—just a simple statement describing the logistics of part of the Jaredite journey. Yet, there is a lot of information here that reflects on these people, which has bearing for us today.

The Jaredites had, of course, been present at the Tower of Babel. They had asked to have their families and friends spared the chaos of their language being confused. They had asked to be given a promised land to settle in. They had been blessed in their ability to gather the wealth of their flocks and nature to take with them on their journey. They had been led through the wilderness and over various bodies of water by the cloud of the Lord. And now, after years of travel, they finally found themselves on a comfortable beach where they could rest and relax.

But, of course, one day became one week, which became a month, a year, and then four. So, the question is... why? Based on the general location, they likely stopped in southeast Asia. It was probably a very nice subtropical beach, and it would seem the Jaredites had been quite content with the decision to stay right there. This seems to

be the case, based on God's response after the end of those four years.

And it came to pass at the end of four years, that the Lord came again unto the Brother of Jared, and stood in a cloud and talked with him. And for the space of three hours did the Lord talk with the Brother of Jared, and chastened him because he remembered not to call upon the name of the Lord. (Ether 1:38-39)

Being chastened by the Lord for three full hours is no small thing, but there are no *big* sins expressly mentioned. It isn't recorded that they had been worshipping idols or committing any outright evil acts; they simply had not called upon God. It's also not clearly stated why they ceased calling on God, but we can probably make some assumptions based on what we know of human nature.

Until this point, the Jaredites' recorded relationship with God had been one of need. They had needed Him to save them from the confusion of Babel. They had needed Him to lead them through the wilderness. They had needed Him to direct them in building barges to cross the waters. So, upon coming to what may have been a comparatively comfortable seashore, perhaps their needs were met, leaving them with no other impetus to ask for more.

Additionally, they had been traveling for some time and had endured the discomfort of traveling

across waters in small crafts. Crossing the Pacific Ocean in similar vessels, perhaps having to leave some of their acquired herds and possessions behind, may have been a rather fearful and undesirable prospect. Perhaps it was simply easier to leave well enough alone...

Regardless of the causes of their spiritual slothfulness, the Lord points out the seriousness of the situation. After accepting the Brother of Jared's repentance, He makes the following point:

And the Lord said unto him, I will forgive thee and thy brethren of their sins; but thou shalt not sin any more, for ye shall remember that my Spirit will not always strive with man; wherefore if ye will sin until ye are fully ripe, ye shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord. And these are my thoughts upon the land which I shall give you for your inheritance; for it shall be a land choice above all other lands. (Ether 1:41-42)

Of course, we recognize this as the blessing and curse that God placed upon this land. It is reiterated many times to the people of the Book of Mormon. Here, it may seem a bit of an odd leap of logic—forgetting to pray resulting in the complete destruction of a civilization? I am admittedly being

their comfort leads them to become prideful and distanced from God and, eventually, their sins compound to make evil times once more. Each time the cycle repeats, it seems to go faster and reach greater extremes, until finally the pendulum swings past the tipping point, where they are ripened in their iniquity beyond the ability to return. It all starts to fall away with the failure to call on God.

The Lord, of course, knew that this would ultimately be their civilization's fate, but His love for them was also far more personal, too. When the Jaredites first set out on their journey, they didn't just start following the cloud; they actually made a covenant with God.

And it came to pass that Jared spake again unto his brother, saying, Go and inquire of the Lord whether he will drive us out of the land, and if he will drive us out of the land, cry unto him whither we shall go. And who knoweth but the Lord will carry us forth into a land which is choice above all the earth. And if it so be, let us be faithful unto the Lord, that we may receive it for our inheritance. (Ether 1:12-14)

They had struck a deal with God—that if He would take them to the choicest of lands, they would be faithful to Him. Now that they had

**Hard times create strong men. Strong men create good times.
Good times create weak men. Weak men create hard times.**

a bit flippant in that statement, but this warning was sadly not without a basis in reality.

Most of us have probably heard the saying, hard times create strong men. Strong men create good times. Good times create weak men. Weak men create hard times. There is unfortunately no better example of this cycle of civilization than with the peoples of the Book of Mormon. Time and time again, God raises up a great spiritual man in times of evil, he leads the people back to God, the people prosper and become rich and comfortable,

arrived at a place they liked, their promise to be faithful to the Lord seemed to have fallen away. God had not forgotten their agreement, and He is not one to leave His side of a deal unfulfilled.

And the Lord would not suffer that they should stop beyond the sea in the wilderness, but he would that they should come forth even unto the land of promise, which was choice above all other lands, which the Lord God had preserved for a righteous people; (Ether 1:29)

The promise they made to be a righteous people who were faithful unto the Lord required them to view God in a different mindset than they had hitherto; not as a God who would simply meet their needs when asked (a servant, essentially), but as a God who wants a personal daily relationship with His creations. The entire series of events that occurred in their travels had been designed to increase their faith and mold them into a people who would be worthy of the inheritance they were promised.

The next phase of their journey would prove to be 344 days in cramped submersible craft driven by ocean currents, a feat that would absolutely require the miraculous power of God to daily guide them and ensure their food and fresh water supplies were multiplied to last for nearly an entire year. This challenge could only be met by a people who were spiritually prepared and in daily communion with God. They could not be a people content to sit on a beach and conveniently forget to pray for any further guidance.

Of course, the story continues that the Brother of Jared repented, had an endowment level experience with God, brought the people to righteousness, and led them across the ocean to the promised land. What does this mean for us?

We, too, are a people who have made a covenant with God; a baptismal covenant that we would keep His commandments, and His Spirit would be with us. We, too, are seeking a spiritual promised land in Zion. Just like the Jaredites, the only way to reach that destination is to rise to a spiritual level we have not yet proven capable of attaining.

We live in a world that is obsessed with a **spiritual beach life**. The modern mantras of finding yourself and living out whatever makes you happy reflect a society that has forgotten to call on God, and I could go into the litany of specific examples of the resultant spiritual corruption were this not a finite publication. We truly live at a point where good times have created weak men, and those men are actively creating hard times all around us. Just like the Jaredites and Nephites of old, the pendulum of our cultural spirituality seems to swing further

and faster with each pass. The ultimate result in their societies was secret combinations, leading to corruption and a breakdown in their political systems, increasingly polarized factionalization, war, and destruction. The parallels are blatant.

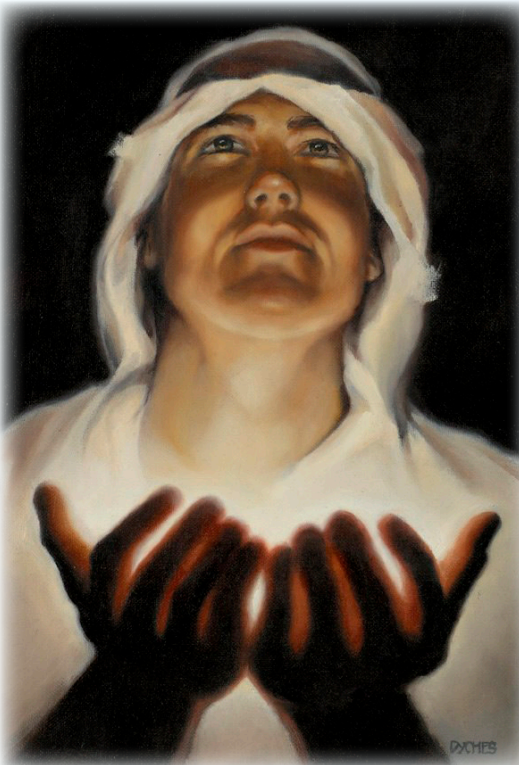
The Church still stands apart from the world, or at least we claim to. We far too often seem to be spiritually stagnant. How many of us have family and friends that we no longer count in our congregations? How often have we ourselves been found in spiritual doldrums? Are we simply going through the motions of church, but not calling on the Spirit? Are we as a church, or more pointedly as individuals who make up the church, sitting on our own **spiritual beaches**,

relaxing, and waiting on God to meet our needs, instead of seeking Him out? I am quite often very happy with my life as it is. I'm regularly unmoved to risk my comfort on this **beach** for a more challenging and difficult expression of God's Spirit in my life.

God wants the same thing for us that He wanted for the Jaredites then—to bring us to a promised land and inheritance in Zion. To attain that grand goal, we must move beyond the ease of our spiritual beach in the center place. We must actively seek that personal relationship with God that the Brother of Jared found on the mountain. Only

with that level of interaction can we know and carry out the will of God and become an example of righteousness—that light upon a hill, that beacon of truth to a world lost in sin, that kingdom of Zion. This is our appointed task, if we are willing... but we cannot build that Zion as long as we are complacent in the comfort of our current blessings. We must strive to seek the Spirit of God, not just when challenges arise, but even in times of ease, for He has a greater land of promise prepared for those who would seek it... and a greater purpose for the ultimate salvation of the world.

The Brother of Jared used with permission.



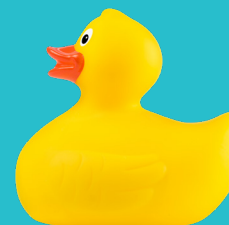
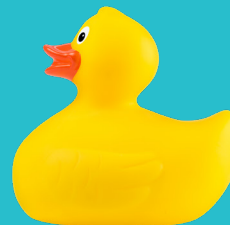
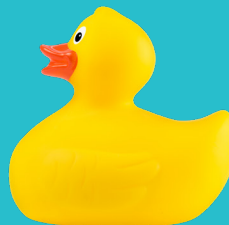
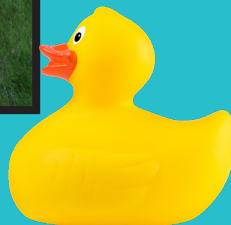
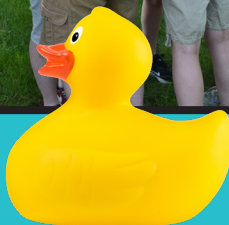
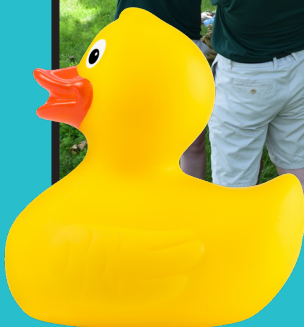
*The Brother of Jared
Illustrated by Emily Dyches Pugmire*



Book of Mormon



I found my time with the 2022 Book of Mormon Foundation Internship a valuable life experience. On Monday through Wednesday each week, we had classes on various topics like apologetics for the Book of Mormon; archaeology, which showed physical evidences of the Book of Mormon; stewardship; learning how to fast and to pray; etc. On Wednesdays, we participated in prayer and fasting services. On Thursdays, we worked on service projects. We volunteered for different local groups, such as Mother's Refuge, Hillcrest Thrift Store and Team Jesus. The service projects gave us the opportunity to be in the service of our fellow beings, as King Benjamin said, and it has been a blessing to see how others have been blessed by our teamwork. The highlight of our program for me was the week-long trip we took to see the church historical sites at Kirtland, Ohio, and Palmyra, New York. Seeing the places where the Book of Mormon came forth and where the church had its roots made our history

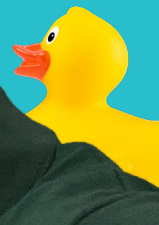
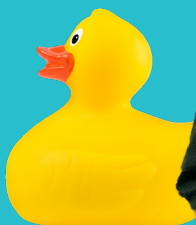
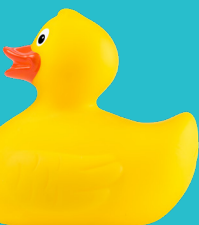


Internship 2022



come alive. One aspect of the Internship that stood out was how we endeavored to spend much time in prayer together. We prayed every single day before and after class, and we also kept a prayer list. At first, I wasn't super comfortable just raising my hand and saying a prayer, even though I know we are commanded to pray "in public as well as in private." (D&C 18:4a) This feeling went along for some time until our church history trip. During the trip, I felt I was more at ease saying prayers in front of people. In addition to improving my prayer life, the Internship has helped me find some wonderful friends who care about the Lord and His gospel. Spending time with these friends and with all the wonderful people we met helped me grow and develop more self-confidence. I hope to continue to grow in the Lord, and I hope to be able to witness to people I meet, whether at school or at work. I love the Book of Mormon and this church.

Naomi Burford



The Worship



Jason Eyerky

One of the many wonderful things about the Book of Mormon is how many forms of witnessing it shows us. As we know from the New Testament, one of our greatest opportunities as Christians is to spread the gospel to all of the world. We read in Matthew 28:18-19, **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always unto the end of the world. Amen.**

With this understanding of our calling, let's talk about two of the greatest examples from the Book of Mormon.

First, we have Ammon and the sons of Mosiah: After a complicated past, given that they all worked against the church for many years, it took divine intervention to get these men on the right path. But after they submitted to the will of the Father, they became some of the strongest missionaries. After some time, they came together to pray that the Lord would use them to take the gospel to their enemies, the Lamanites. From Alma 12:17-18: **And it came to pass that the Lord did visit them with His Spirit and said unto them: "Be comforted"; And they were comforted. And the Lord said unto them also: "Go forth among the Lamanites, thy brethren, and establish my word. So, they went to do as they were told.**



Naomi Burford

Now, Ammon took a very unique path to accomplish this task. He went to the king of the Lamanites, and as we read in Alma 12:36-37, Ammon told him, **"I will be thy servant"; Therefore, Ammon became a servant to King Lamoni. And it came to pass that he was set among other servants to watch the flocks of Lamoni according to the custom of the Lamanites. After this, Ammon risked his life to defend the king's sheep from bandits, trusting in God to keep His promise with Mosiah that He would deliver his sons out of their hands. (Alma 12:50)**



Allison Hopper

When the king heard about this, he was so amazed and fearful. After having more conversations in which God showed His power, the king's heart was changed. From there, Ammon and King Lamoni shared the gospel with the Lamanite people. **And it came to pass that there were many that did believe in their words; And as many as did believe were baptized; And they became a righteous people and they did establish a church among them; And thus the work of the Lord did commenced among the Lamanites; Thus the Lord did begin to pour out His Spirit upon them. And we see that His arm is extended to all people who will repent and believe on His name. (Alma 12:178-180)**



Jessica Tandy



Peyton Anderson

Second, we look at Abinadi: As we read from the book of Mosiah, Abinadi was led through a much different outcome in his spreading of the Gospel. He was preaching and prophesying to the Nephites of the coming of Christ. In Mosiah 8:28-31 we read, **And now Abinadi saith unto them: “I would that ye should understand that God Himself shall come down among the children of men and shall redeem His people; And because He dwelleth in flesh, He shall be called the Son of God; And having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, being the Father and the Son—The Father, because he was conceived by the power of God, and the Son, because of the flesh, thus becoming the Father and Son, And They are one God, yea, the Very Eternal Father of heaven and earth.**

“And after all this, and after working many mighty miracles among the children of men, He shall be led, yea, even as Isaiah said— ‘As a sheep before the shearer is dumb, so he opened not his mouth’— Yea, even so he shall be led, crucified and slain, the flesh becoming subject even unto death, The will of the Son being swallowed up in the will of the Father. (Mosiah 8:33-34) Abinadi’s words caused much hatred within the priests of the king and King Noah himself. So, they decided to put him to death. Abinadi never saw the outcome of his works. One of the most wonderful things that came from his efforts, other than many powerful words from his preaching, was how God used his sacrifice to change the heart of a young priest named Alma. And Alma went on to be a great instrument for God to use. He preached, taught, and baptized, bringing many souls to follow Christ and becoming a leader of the church at that time.



Naomi Alaniz

As we talk about these two very different stories, it brings to our attention the fact that the journey of being a Christ follower isn’t always going to be what we expect. But God has a place for every one of us in His plan. Your role might be to be an Ammon; to be a humble servant; to be willing to put your life in God’s hands and risk it all to do His work. Trust Him. You never know where or how He will use you. Your role might be to be an Alma; to go out to preach repentance and to teach others of the good news of Christ and His sacrifice; or to be a leader who directs others to dedicate their life to God and His work. Or, you might be called to be an Abinadi. You might never see the fruit of your labor in this life and simply plant seeds. You might even be called to pay the ultimate price and give your life for this great cause. The important thing to remember is that God will bless you to fulfill His purposes, unto life or death.



Amber Hund

Whatever your role is, please spend time in prayer, fasting and study for His guidance in how to fulfill it. Just remember, we have been given the amazing news that Jesus Christ has paid the debt for our sins! We can have eternal life with Him and the Father if we keep His commandments. Let us go from here to spread the news to everyone who will listen. How could we keep it to ourselves?

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always unto the end of the world. Amen.(Matthew 28:18-19)



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