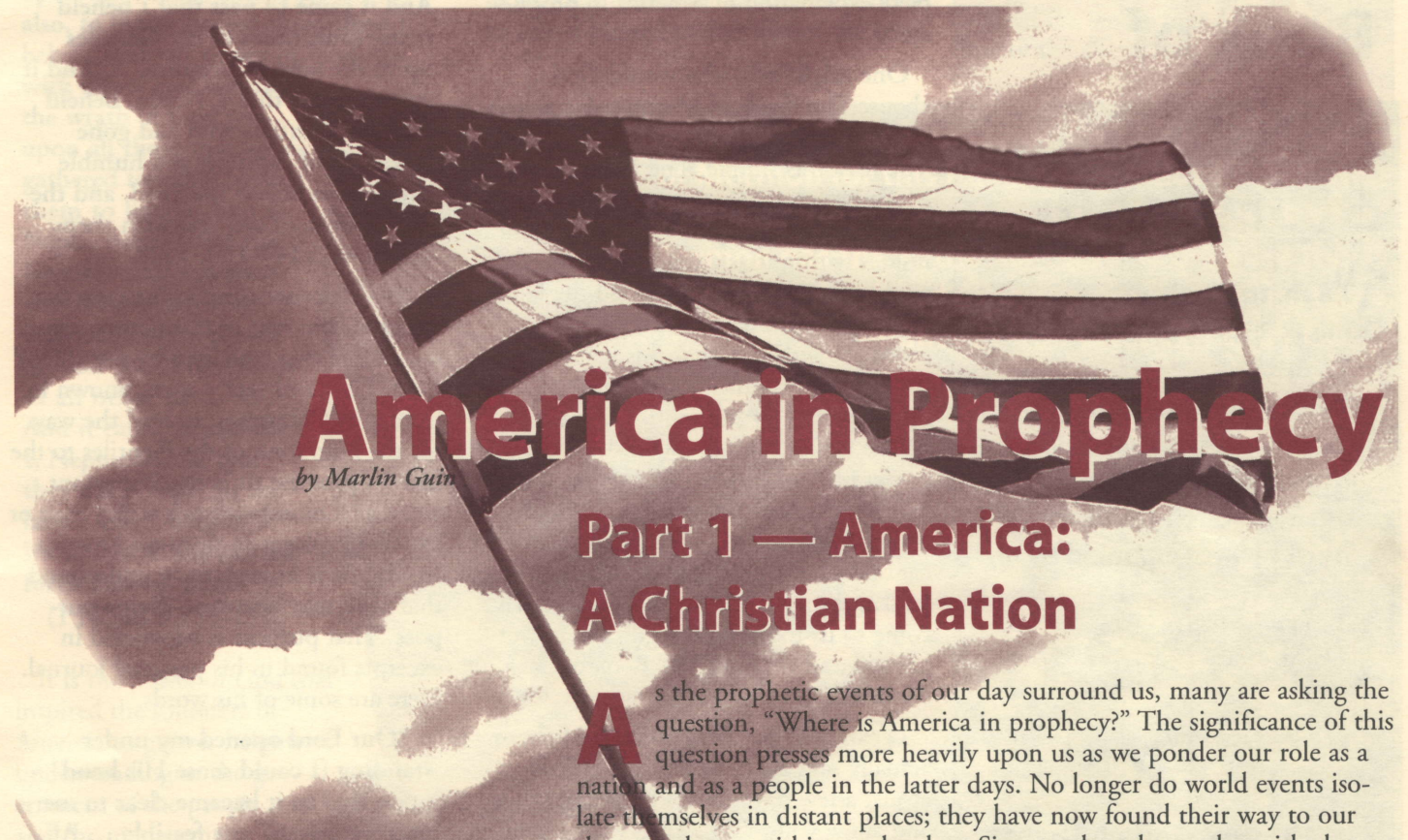


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America in Prophecy

by Marlin Guin

Part 1 — America: A Christian Nation

As the prophetic events of our day surround us, many are asking the question, “Where is America in prophecy?” The significance of this question presses more heavily upon us as we ponder our role as a nation and as a people in the latter days. No longer do world events isolate themselves in distant places; they have now found their way to our shores and even within our borders. Since we have been admonished to know the signs of the times and the signs of the coming of the Son of Man (D&C 68:1h), it is good that we spend time understanding how America influences and participates in the fulfillment of latter day prophecy. The Lord spoke of the importance of this understanding and the purpose for the signs when he stated:

“...Be not troubled, for when all these things shall come to pass, ye may know that the promises which have been made unto you shall be fulfilled.” (D&C 45:5b)

With reasonable research, it is easy to see that contemporary prophecy writers are confronted with a dilemma. That is, how do you explain the basic absence of biblical references to the most powerful nation ever to exist upon the face of the earth? Is there a role for this nation called

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America in the time ahead? There does not seem to be a consensus of opinion or interpretation on this subject. Some writers reference obscure biblical passages and apply various personal perspectives. Others say America does not have a place in end times prophecy because it will decline as a nation and have no significant influence upon the future. It is not my intent to make detailed comment on these biblical interpretations. I will, instead, present The Book of Mormon as the scriptural source that offers a more complete explanation of America in prophecy.

One might ask, why would God choose The Book of Mormon for this fuller explanation rather than the Bible? The reason is simple. The Book of Mormon has the authority to do so because this is Joseph's land and America resides within it as a mighty nation established by God. It is called the land of Joseph because the Lord made a covenant with him that this would be the land of his inheritance. America, upon the face of this land, is a mighty nation because it was established by the power of God. Therefore, the prophets from the seed of Joseph were commanded and empowered to record the significant prophetic events relating to this land and to this nation. This record has come to us today by the gift and power of God and is called The Book of Mormon.

Let us see what The Book of Mormon actually says about America. I will look at just a few passages for time and space and allow you to do some of your own study. First, let us look at 1 Nephi 3. This chapter, one of the longest in The Book of Mormon, is among the most important prophetic sequences found concerning this land and this nation. It is an overview of the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the world within the context of the Nephite prophetic worldview concerning the Jews and Gentiles. It is important to read and understand all of it. For now, I will quote just a few selected verses to focus on the theme of this article in the establishment of America as a Christian nation.

"And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and

wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land. And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters. And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of the Gentiles upon the land of promise; ... And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord, and the power of the Lord was with them;" (1 Nephi 3:147-149, 152)

This scripture clearly illustrates that the establishment of this nation, upon the face of this land, was by the will of God. The Lord sent a man, known in history as Columbus, to lead the way for the migration of the Gentiles to the land of promise. It is not important whether Columbus was a sinful man or the first explorer to discover America. Instead, it is important to understand that God sent him for a divine purpose. That purpose is supported in excerpts found in his personal journal. Here are some of his words.

"Our Lord opened my understanding (I could sense His hand upon me) so it became clear to me that the voyage was feasible ... All those who heard about my enterprise rejected it with laughter, scoffing at me ... Who doubts that this illumination was from the Holy Spirit? I attest that the Spirit, with marvelous rays of light, consoled me through the holy and sacred Scriptures ... they inflame me with a sense of great urgency ... No one should be afraid to take on any enterprise in the name of our Savior if it is right and if the purpose is purely for His holy service ... And I say that the sign which convinces me that our Lord is hastening in the end of the world is the preaching of the Gospel recently in so many lands."

Even in early conflicts, the Lord

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**June 6, 13, 20, 27 and July 11,
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BMF Learning Center

Children aged preschool

through 5th grade

are invited to attend and

**must be accompanied by an
adult.**

*Be Diligent — Win the Prize
Mosiah 2: 45*

**June 6 Keep His
Commandments**

Mosiah 1:55

**13 Give God All Thanks
and Praise**

Mosiah 1:52

**20 Love and Serve
Each Other**

Mosiah 2:27

**27 Repent Of Your Sins
and Forsake Them**

Mosiah 2:16

**July 11 Call on the Name
of the Lord Daily**

Mosiah 2:21

**18 Have Faith...
Have Joy**

Mosiah 3:5

**25 Become
Children of Christ**

Mosiah 3:68

protected America. God insured its survival against overwhelming odds that many historians and military analysts have described as impossible to achieve. Nephi says this in prophecy and describes this conflict for independence, known in history as the Revolutionary War, as follows:

“And I beheld that their mother Gentiles were gathered together upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them; And I beheld that the power of God was with them; and also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together against them to battle. And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations. And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that they did prosper in the land. And I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them.”

(1 Nephi 3:153-157)

It is the power of God that inspired the founders of America to greater heights of understanding in the government of the people and the management of a nation. The words of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and many other documents of government all point to the presence of heaven and the divine providence upon our country. Inspired words meshed into the fabric of government such as:

“We hold these truths to be self evident...” (*Declaration of Independence*)

“... We mutually pledge to each our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.” (*Declaration of Independence*)

“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union ...” (*Constitution*)

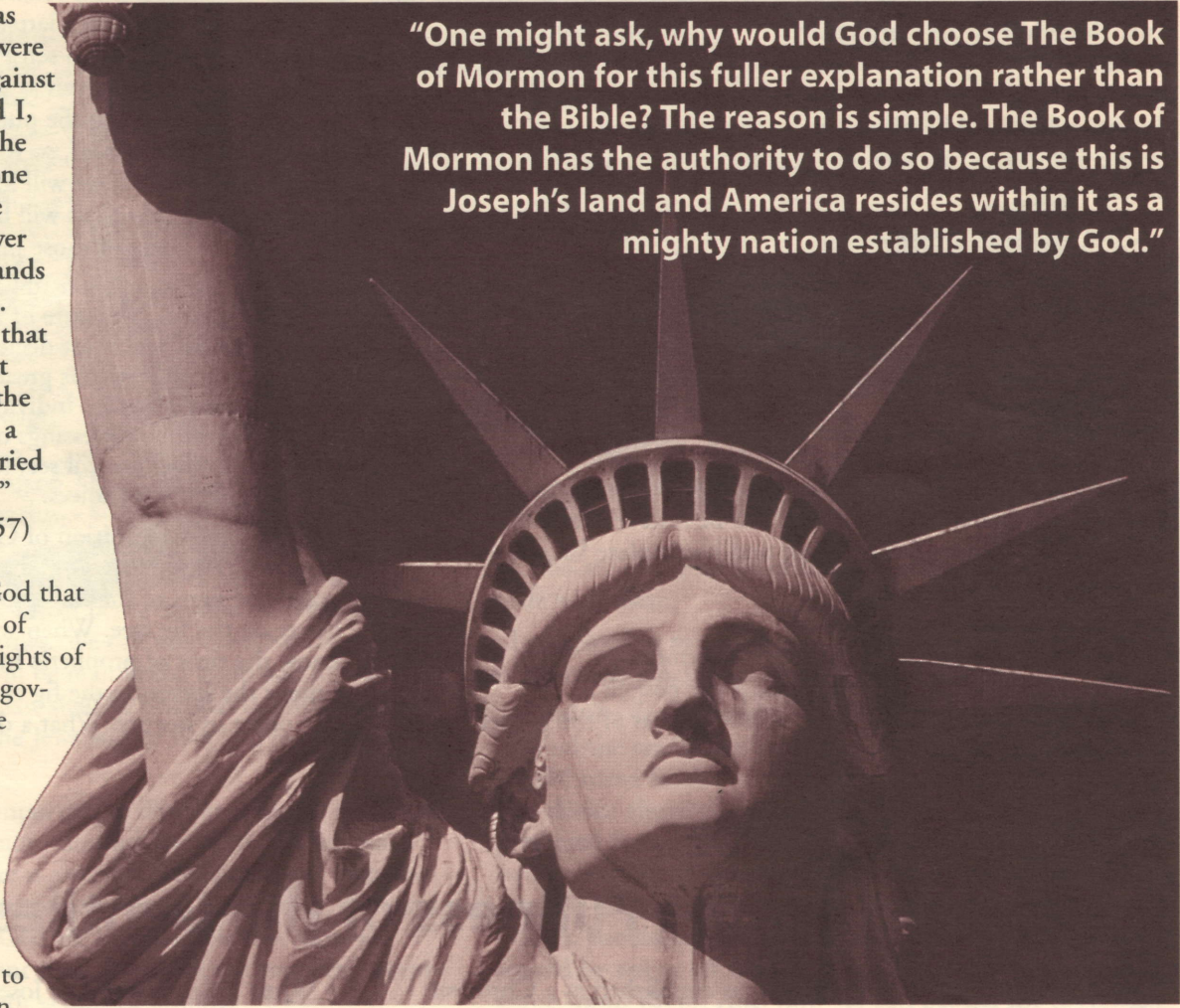
Words revealed from heaven through the Holy Spirit and Christian principles found in the Bible deliver America as a Christian nation born among the Gentiles. Our early history, if visualized and thought upon with any degree of fairness, clearly points to a divine power that has forged the destiny of America into a blessed nation within the land

the world without God and the Bible.” (*George Washington*)

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people.” (*John Adams*)

“It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded ... by Christians, not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ.” (*Patrick Henry*)

Read the words found in what I call one of the chapters of explanations in



“One might ask, why would God choose The Book of Mormon for this fuller explanation rather than the Bible? The reason is simple. The Book of Mormon has the authority to do so because this is Joseph’s land and America resides within it as a mighty nation established by God.”

of promise — a nation having its most basic foundations firmly resting upon God. Phrases like: “God Bless America”, “In God We Trust” and “One Nation Under God” echo in the halls and institutions of our early republic. Declarations of Christian faith from our early founders reflect these divine principles. Examples such as:

“It is impossible to rightly govern

The Book of Mormon. In 1 Nephi 7, we read a clear description of America! I quote a few verses:

“And it meaneth that the time cometh that after all the house of Israel have been scattered and confounded, that the Lord God will raise up a mighty nation among the Gentiles, yea, even upon the face of this land; And by them shall our

seed be scattered. And after our seed is scattered, the Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among the Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed;" (1 Nephi 7:15-17)

Please read it all, as it explains clearly the relationship of the Jews and Gentiles upon this land. If the role of America is to be understood in light of latter day prophecy, the following truth must first be understood and accepted: God established America as a Christian nation with a divine purpose. Why was this done and why is it important? Let us briefly explore the question.

It is within the boundaries of America that the spiritual health of the Gentiles will be first measured as God judges the Gentiles in the latter days. It can be said that America is the spiritual barometer of the Gentile nations because of the special accountability it has to God for establishing it as a Christian nation. As goes America, so goes the spiritual condition of the Gentiles. Also remembering that when speaking of America in prophecy, we are not talking about just a political entity, but rather a place and a people set apart by God — a spiritual cradle into which will be placed the fulfillment of the events spoken of by the prophets, especially the Nephite prophets and Jesus Christ our Savior.

Once we realize how and why America was established, the prophecies of the latter days found in The Book of Mormon begin to fall into place like a puzzle. We begin to see the perfect reasoning of God to use this mighty nation as a special place for revealing his word for our time. Some of the revealing will be in the form of blessings to the faithful, and others will be in the form of judgments to the rebellious. Some have already happened, some are currently in progress and some are yet to begin. Some will occur individually in the prophetic timeline, and some will occur concurrently. Regardless, all will be fulfilled. Detailed discussion of these events will be reserved for a later time. For now, just for emphasis, a short and incomplete list will follow in no particular order:

- The great and marvelous work;
- The coming forth of The Book of Mormon;
- The sinning of the Gentiles against the gospel;
- The rejection by the Gentiles of the fullness of the gospel;

- The ripening in iniquity of the Gentiles;
- The fullness of the Gentiles;
- The fullness of the gospel will return to the Lamanites;
- The building up of the New Jerusalem called Zion;
- The power of heaven coming down to a covenant people;
- The gathering of the house of Israel;
- and much more....

Does this point to America, the mighty nation among the Gentiles, as a place and people who will participate in the fulfillment of prophecy for our time? I say yes! The importance of seeing the establishment of America as a latter day sign helps move us into the future with a sense of hope, faith and assurance. It does so, even as we remember the scripture above stating the purpose for these signs. That is, be not troubled, so when we see these things come to pass, we will know that the promises the Lord has made to us will be fulfilled. We have already listed some of those promises above.

What a testimony of truth! What a declaration of hope! What a clear picture of the past, present and future! We can and must decide right now to have a place in the midst of this great work. That decision will decisively place us, individually and collectively, within the realm of blessings or judgments in the time ahead. And we will see, in the final analysis, there are only two choices.

The greatest exhibition of God's power the world has ever seen or known lies before us. Jesus compared the signs of the times to the coming forth of leaves on the fig tree. When we see them, we will know the time of prophetic fulfillment is at hand. I believe the leaves on the fig tree are greener than at any point in history. What a day to be alive! †

Part 2 — America: A Standard for the Fullness of the Gentiles

To summarize Part 1, America was established as a Christian nation with a divine purpose. I quote the following paragraph for emphasis:

"It is within the boundaries of America that the spiritual health of the Gentiles will be first measured as God judges the Gentiles in the latter days. It can be said that America is the spiritual barometer of the Gentile nations because of the special accountability it has to God for establishing it as a Christian nation. As goes America, so goes the spiritual condition of the Gentiles. Also remembering that when speaking of America in prophecy, we are not talking about a political entity, but rather a place and a people set apart by God — a spiritual cradle into which will be placed the fulfillment of the events spoken of by the prophets, especially the Nephite prophets and Jesus Christ our Savior."

When Moroni spoke to Joseph Smith Jr. on the evening of September 21, 1823, he made a profound statement that is often overlooked or misunderstood. He said "the fullness of the Gentiles was soon to come in." This is documented in church history.

Moroni was clear that the time was soon for the fulfillment of a prophetic event called the fullness of the Gentiles. This event would complete God's focus in the manifesting of Jesus Christ to the Gentile nations and have the effect of moving the prophetic sequence forward. This prophetic sequence is best described in 1 Nephi 3:198-200.

“And the time cometh that he shall manifest himself unto all nations, both unto the Jews, and also unto the Gentiles; And after he has manifested himself unto the Jews and also unto the Gentiles; then he shall manifest himself unto the Gentiles, and also unto the Jews, And the last shall be first, and the first shall be last.”

We will use the drawing on the following page to visualize the prophetic sequence described in this scripture, so please keep this diagram before you for reference as we study its importance.

We can see this prophetic sequence is true by examining scriptural history and comparing it with the drawing from left to right. First, Jesus Christ manifested himself to the Jews in the flesh. Then, as we move to the right, He was manifested unto the Gentiles by the apostles as recorded in the New Testament. Next, we notice an important prophetic word. This word is “then.” It suggests a break in the manifesting of Jesus Christ with authority to the world. We have often called this the apostasy or the dark ages. Moving further right we see Jesus Christ being manifested with authority again unto the Gentiles. We call this the Restoration. Finally, Jesus Christ will be manifested again and for the last time to the Jews. The last shall be first and the first shall be last. In other words, the Jews will be first and last in the sequence.

Notice something important as illustrated by the arrows in the drawing. As you move through the prophetic sequence from left to right, there is always a prophetic event that causes the sequence to move forward to the right. It never does so until the promises of God are kept and his covenants are complete for the current time. I will call the prophetic event that causes the prophetic sequence to move forward a “prophetic trigger.” The prophetic trigger is an event or situation that God has stated in scripture which will cause the current event in the prophetic sequence to end and the next event to begin. This is like a trigger on a rifle. When the trigger is pulled, a reaction will occur. For example, the prophetic trigger that manifested Jesus Christ to the Jews was the coming of the Messiah in the flesh, just as the prophets foretold. The gospel went first to the Jews through Jesus Christ. We should also remember The Book of Mormon tells us the gospel went to all the tribes of Israel and not just the Jews at Jerusalem as Jesus Christ visited each of them. Therefore, in this context, the word “Jews” represents all the tribes of the

house of Israel (1 Nephi 4:27). The next prophetic trigger was the bestowal of authority upon the apostles to take the gospel to the Gentiles. We know this did occur and is written in the New Testament. The falling away of the church was the prophetic trigger that caused the apostasy. The apostasy became the prophetic trigger to cause the gospel to be brought again to the Gentiles. We call this the Restoration, and this brings us to our day.

The next logical question is, “What will be the prophetic trigger God will use to empower the taking of the gospel from the Gentiles back to the Jews?” He tells us, as did Moroni, that it will be a prophetic trigger known in scripture as “the fullness of the Gentiles.” The fullness of the Gentiles is a spiritual condition culminating in a ripening of iniquity. This condition will exist among all the nations of the Gentiles but especially in America as the standard of the Gentiles. This fullness will cause God, for the last time, to recover His people

who are of the house of Israel. It is the covenant He has made with them.

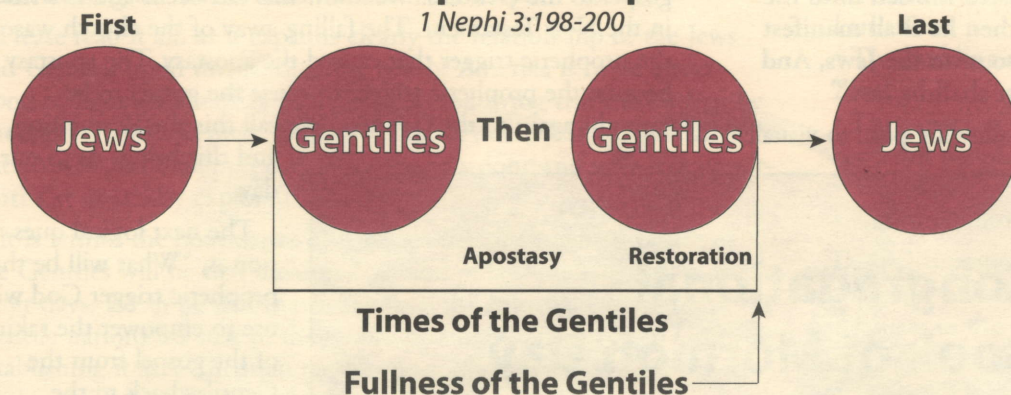
Let us look at some scripture to support this view starting with a rather lengthy quote from Ether 1:29-35.

“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; And he had sworn in his wrath unto the Brother of Jared, that whoso should possess this land of promise, from that time henceforth and forever, should serve him, the true and only God, or they should be swept off when the fullness of his wrath should come upon them. And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fullness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity; for behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God, or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God. And it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land, that they are swept off. And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue

Congregational Book of Mormon Days

Zion's Hope Restoration Branch Levasy, Missouri	Sept. 14
South Crysler Restoration Branch Independence, Missouri	Sept. 28
Independence Restoration Branch Independence, Missouri	Oct. 19
Mt Ayr Restoration Branch Mt. Ayr, Iowa	Oct. 26
Butler Restoration Branch Butler, Missouri	Nov. 23

The Prophetic Sequence



in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done. Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written.”

Notice the many uses of the word “fullness.” It is a spiritual condition that God will measure among the Gentiles. The words “ripened in iniquity” are used to describe it. It is important to note that the Lord is not only speaking to the Gentiles in a general context, but is also speaking to the nation that shall possess the land. In Part 1 of this article, the point was made that the nation which will possess this land of promise is America. It is America that is held especially accountable for the spiritual condition representing the fullness of the Gentiles. It will be America, as the standard of spiritual measurement, we will need to examine to see if this prophetic trigger called the fullness of the Gentiles has occurred. Moroni, in 1823, said that it would be soon. Please remember, there are other fulfilled prophetic signs that point to this event, but we will focus on America for this article.

What can we observe to determine the spiritual condition of America? First, look at the previous scripture from Ether. America, the nation that possesses the land of promise, must serve the God of the land who is Jesus Christ. The reason this is the first test of spirituality for America is because it was established as a Christian nation. Therefore, the Lord’s first expectation for America will be a basic belief in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Has America moved away, in any significant way, from this basic expectation? The answer is a resounding yes! Every aspect of government, judicial process and public life is moving at light speed to reject the right of America to remain a Christian nation. The misunderstood and misinterpreted idea called “separation of church and state” has been twisted into many forms in order to reject Jesus Christ as God. That is why the phrase “God bless America” is generally accepted as patriotic in nature without much thought concerning the

question as to which God is being referenced. Ether makes this perfectly clear. We, in America, must serve the God who is Jesus Christ or we will be swept off when the fullness comes. When God is referenced in respect to America, then the following test should be considered. If the God referenced is not Jesus Christ, then it is not God. It is a false God.

What are some other spiritual signs for America concerning the fullness of the

Gentiles? To see these, let us go to the words of Christ found in 3 Nephi 7:34.

“...At that day, when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; “

Notice the spiritual list in the scripture above. Let’s discuss it in detail to see if the signs are true for America. The Lord uses the word “when” because He knows it is going to happen.

When the Gentiles:

- **Sin against my gospel and reject the fullness of the gospel.** Note that these are two separate and distinct phrases. This is important because we first consider America, established as a Christian nation, as the spiritual standard for the Gentiles. America will first sin against the gospel, which is the basic belief in Jesus Christ as Savior. We learned this in 1 Nephi 3 in Part 1 of this article. Secondly, America will reject the fullness of the gospel and has pretty much done so since the Restoration and the coming forth of The Book of Mormon. How many organized religions, not associated with the Restoration, can you name who have officially accepted it as the word of God?

We also must consider churches, groups, organizations and individuals that claim authority through the Restoration but still reject the fullness of the gospel. How is this possible? One way is by the “practical” rejection of The Book of Mormon as the word of God. Practical rejection means to ignore its purpose and message in our personal and corporate lives because of indifference or complacency.

- **Are lifted up in pride above all nations.** The reason the word “Gentiles” is used separately from the phrase “all nations” is because America, as a nation, is the spiritual standard of all the Gentile nations. Our pride and arrogance is unsurpassed for our time as we attribute our success to human intelligence, prosperity and military strength rather

than God's power. This is exactly like the Jaredites and Nephites before they were swept off the land.

- **Filled with all manner of lyings and deception.** The word of a person is no longer a bond that is kept. Handshakes are no longer a contract with any merit. It is common to watch people intentionally lie to get gain and do so with no remorse or thought. Legal contracts are frequently broken with little consequence. The covenants made with God are often broken and reveal how people lie to God. It is easy to see that Satan, the father of lies, has been heavily involved in this spiritual sign.

- **Filled with all manner of mischiefs.** A few years ago, we moved into a new house in a new subdivision. In a short time, we had an angel statue stolen from our yard, the window of our truck broken and the grass damaged by mischievous people. We drive in our cities and see the graffiti running rampant. We see millions of dollars in damage to individuals and businesses as technical experts intentionally create computer viruses with the sole intent of causing harm. We have evolved into a practical joke society.

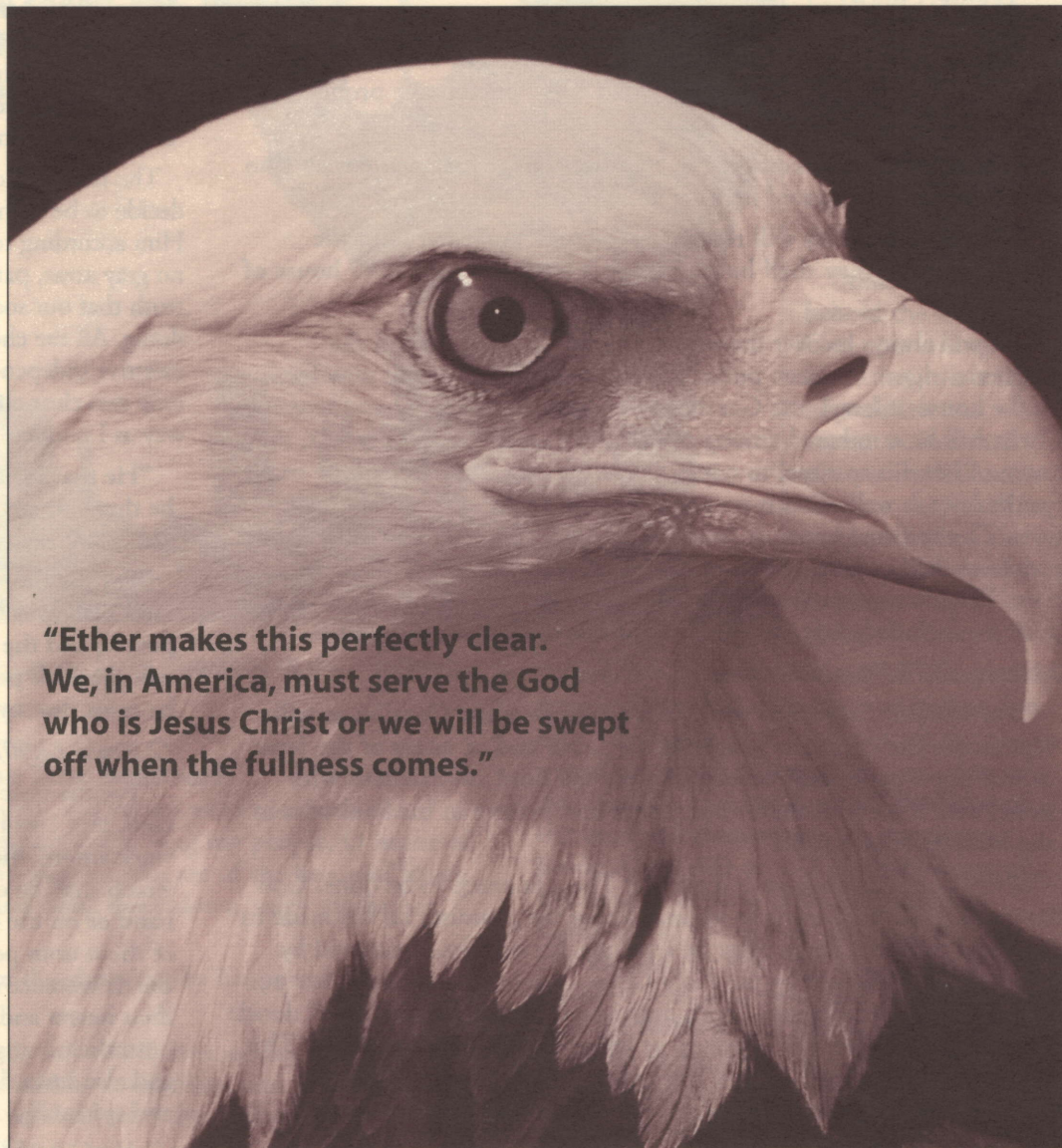
- **Filled with all manner of hypocrisy.** Liars actively practice hypocrisy. They cannot be separated. We do need to remember that hypocrites are not those who sincerely try to do the right thing, make mistakes, and try again. This is a common misunderstanding. Hypocrisy is the intentional lying and deception found when we publicly present the perception of correctness but privately know that we will do our own will. That is why Jesus called the Scribes and Pharisees hypocrites.

- **Filled with all manner of murders.** The Department of Justice reports there are about 20,000 violent murders in America each year. However, we must consider also that there are between 1 to 2 million abortions each year in America depending on the source. According to the World Health Organization, there are about 40 million abortions each year in the world. There have been about 40 million abortions in America since Roe vs Wade.

- **Filled with all manner of priestcrafts.** The Book of Mormon tells us that priest-

crafts are what men set themselves up for a light unto the world (2 Nephi 11:106). In other words, follow me. Observe the number of new groups that arise from splits and dissensions. The leaders of these are often priesthood men who gather followers based on personal beliefs and interpretations in order to gain power. It seems to be a never-ending process. Another aspect of the definition is providing ministry for money (Alma 1:8,17). One only has to turn on the television and radio to observe this form of priestcraft.

- **Filled with all manner of whoredoms.** In his article entitled "Ethics and Religion," Mike McManus presents this summary of his research: "What's the legacy of America's 'sexual revolution?'" from 1960 to 2000, the number of couples cohabiting has soared from 430,000 to 5 million, and the number of babies born out of wedlock jumped from 224,000 to 1,350,000, from 5 to 33 percent of births." Homosexuality, premarital sex and a host of other unchristian sexual habits have permeated our society. The rapid spread of a modern plague called AIDS is another physical indicator of this spiritual sign.



**"Ether makes this perfectly clear.
We, in America, must serve the God
who is Jesus Christ or we will be swept
off when the fullness comes."**

• Filled with all manner of secret abominations. Think of the scandals in corporate America as one example. No need to elaborate.

Whenever I teach this verse (3 Nephi 7:34), there is often at least one person who asks why we would dwell on such negative things. The answer is simple. We need to allow the signs to point to the purpose for which they are given. Otherwise, there is no reason for them to exist. God does not waste His time filling scripture with meaningless information. The signs tell us where we are in the prophetic sequence. In other words, when these signs are fulfilled, prepare yourselves for what God will do next. God wants His people to be aware and involved in what He is doing. Since we know where we are in the prophetic sequence, we understand that it is the Jews who will now be remembered by God. In America, this will occur among the Lamanites, and then all of the house of Israel. Let us quote Jesus in 3 Nephi 7:35 to make the point.

“And if they shall do all these things, and shall reject the fullness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fullness of my gospel from among them; And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them; And I will shew unto thee, O house of Israel, that the Gentiles shall not have power over you, but I will remember my covenant unto you, O house of Israel, and ye shall come unto the knowledge of the fullness of my gospel.”

There we have it. The power of God is shifting. The fullness of the Gentiles will be the prophetic trigger that will complete the prophetic sequence. I believe this trigger has been pulled.

At the same time, remember there is always hope for the Gentiles who repent because we are told in 3 Nephi 7:38 the following:

“But if the Gentiles will repent, and return unto me, saith the Father, behold, they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel;”

God will always recover those who will listen. Even though the prophetic trigger has been pulled and the power of God will now focus on the house of Israel, the Gentiles who will believe, repent and return to Christ will be numbered among the house of Israel. In this context, the house of Israel is spiritual in nature. This spiritual standard will be true for the Jews as well. God is no respecter of persons in spiritual expectations. The spiritual house of Israel, in the latter days, will be the covenant people of the Lord, regardless of the physical lineage from which we are born. Whether we are Jew or Gentile, our response to God will determine if we are included. A good reference for this basic truth is found in 2 Nephi 12:77-78 which states:

“For behold, I say unto you, That as many of the Gentiles 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, who is the Holy One of Israel.”

Where does this leave us as a people? There is much to be done. God has given us all these signs so we may know the promises he has made to us will be fulfilled. There must be a people, for our time, prepared by covenant and endowed by the Holy Ghost to accomplish the higher purposes of God. Our decision, both individually and collectively, will decide if we are the recipients of blessings or judgments in the time ahead. This will be the subject for Part 3 of this article — America: A Place of Blessings and Judgments. May the Lord bless your desire to serve. †

Part 3 — America: A Place of Blessings and Judgments

To summarize this article thus far, America was established as a Christian nation with a divine purpose. This bestowed upon it the role of being a standard of spiritual measurement for fulfilling the times of the Gentiles. I quote the closing paragraph from Part 2 for emphasis:

“Where does this leave us as a people? There is much to be done. God has given us all these signs so we may know the promises He has made to us will be fulfilled. There must be a people, for our time, prepared by covenant and endowed by the Holy Ghost to accomplish the higher purposes of God. Our decision, both individually and collectively, will decide if we are the recipients of blessings or judgments in the time ahead...”

The time will come when each person must decide to be with Jesus Christ or to be against Him according to His definition. There will be no gray areas, partial truths, or the spinning of truth that our society has become so skilled at doing. All the choices we now claim, with such assertive independence, will be condensed into only two clear choices. The scriptures say it this way as I quote:

“He that is not with me, is against me; and he that gathereth not with me, scattereth.”
(*Luke 11:24*)

“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.”
(*2 Nephi 12:90*)

“For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; A work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other; Either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds, unto their being brought down into captivity and also unto destruction, both temporally and spiritually...”

(*1 Nephi 3:214-216*)

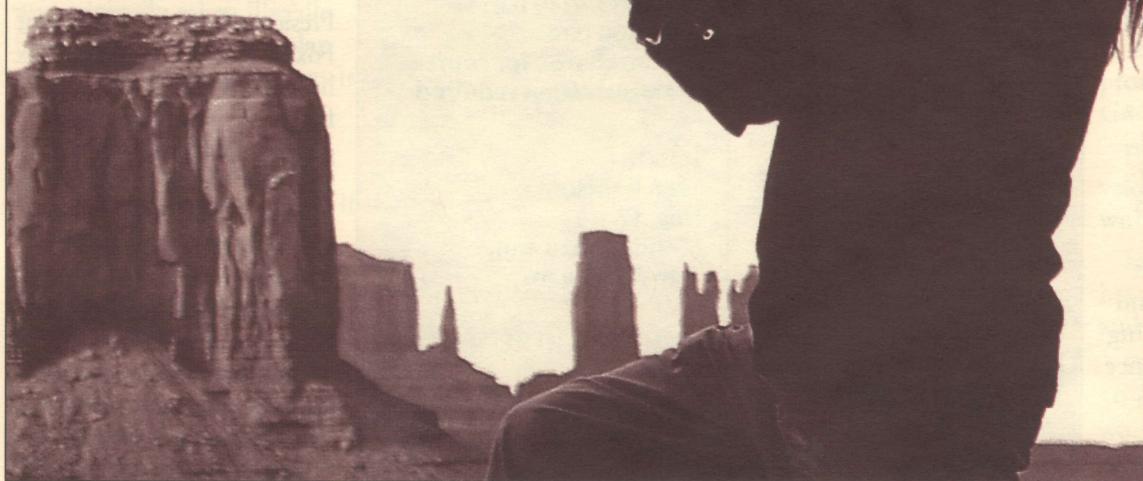
“...Behold, there are save two churches only: The one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil;”
(1 Nephi 3:220-221)

“... And Zion cannot be built up unless it is by the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom, otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself;” (D&C 102:2c)

We could go on and on with more examples.

In America, as this choice becomes more apparent with each passing day, there will be physical and spiritual expressions of the blessings and judgments of God that run individually and concurrently. Two groups of people, representing this great division, each will include true believers or unbelievers, but not both. These two groups, who will be the recipients

“Jesus Christ, in his prophecies of the latter days found in 3 Nephi 7:40-41, tells us the house of Israel will be empowered to go through the unbelieving Gentiles as a young lion among the sheep. For America, this especially includes the Lamanites as a part of the house of Israel.”



of the blessings and judgments, can be easily identified in the following scriptures.

Group 1 - Blessings for the True Believers

“But if the Gentiles will repent, and return unto me, saith the Father, behold, they shall be numbered among my people, O house of Israel; And I will not suffer my people, who are of the house of Israel, to go through among them, and tread them down, saith the Father.”
(3 Nephi 7:38-39)

“Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power...”
(1 Nephi 7:36)

“Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ...” (Ether 1:35)

“And it shall come to pass, among the wicked, that every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor, must needs flee unto Zion for safety.” (D&C 45:13a)

Group 2 - Judgments for the Unbelievers

“But if they will not turn unto me, and hearken unto my voice, I will suffer them, yea, I will suffer my people O house of Israel, that they shall go through among them, and shall tread them down. And they

shall be as salt that hath lost its savor, which is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of my people, O house of Israel.”

(3 Nephi 7:40-41)

“... All they who fight against Zion, shall be cut off ... Wherefore, he shall execute judgment in righteousness;”

(1 Nephi 7:42,47)

“And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them.” (Ether 1:31)

“Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles, except they repent, for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots, and I will cut off the cities of thy land and throw down all thy strongholds; And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy hand, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers; Thy graven images I will also cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands; And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities.”

(3 Nephi 9:101-104)

Prophetic Signs for America

Are there any prophetic signs from the past, present or future that will illustrate the bestowal of blessings and judgments upon America? I want to state what is factual and try to avoid speculation. I prefer to cover the judgments first, because it allows us to easily see how and why God has provided a means to preserve the faithful. So please don't become quickly discouraged or concerned, but rather wait until the end of the article so you can see the perfect balance in the choice before us. Let us look at some of the signs.

Signs of Judgments for America

Jesus Christ, in his prophecies of the latter days found in 3 Nephi 7:40-41, tells us the house of Israel will be empowered to go through the unbelieving Gentiles as a young lion among the sheep. For America, this especially includes the Lamanites as a part of the house of Israel. Generally speaking, many Book of Mormon scholars acknowledge that the Lamanites are some subset of the American Indian and Hispanic cultures. Assuming this is correct, what evidence is there that the above prophecy is occurring as Jesus said it would? Let's look at these judgments in no particular order.

Definition: Treading down means to overcome, subdue and obtain victory over an opponent or enemy.

How will the Lamanites be able to come among and tread down the unbelieving Gentiles in America?

Fact: John Henderson, in "Secrets of the Last Sunrise," states there are about 371 treaties with the American Indians that have been broken by the government.

This has generated numerous lawsuits still pending in the courts over rights of land ownership, national sovereignty, etc. The final decisions of these cases will determine who are the rightful owners of property, etc. You can imagine the effect this would have as it ripples through our nation. It would represent a huge, maybe even the largest, transfer of physical, financial, and influential wealth. Who knows what the courts will do these days, especially if the Lord wills it? How many years ago was it when we thought the courts, including the Supreme Court, would never allow abortion, eliminate prayer from school, or remove references of God from public life?

Fact: The immigration from Mexico over the last few decades has escalated at an alarming rate. It is becoming a major topic of discussion in Washington. It is a high priority of discussion between President Bush and President Fox of Mexico. President Fox has openly stated his support for much more legal immigration, and President Bush has been one of the most supportive U.S. Presidents of this policy in recent memory. Already, there are hundreds of thousands of illegal Hispanics coming across the border each year and the number is growing. Research sources vary from about 300,000 to 500,000 annually. Keep in mind these numbers represent only those identified and not those who successfully make the journey undetected. There are currently about 35 million in the United States and 40 million expected by the year 2010. Who knows how many actually reside here when considering both legal and illegal immigrants? According to the 2000 census, for the first time in history, the Hispanic population is the largest minority in America. Hispanics currently control the majority vote in

Fall Class Schedule

Teaching The Book of Mormon

Les Putnam
Sept. 4, 11, 18 & 25
Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.
to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.
to 7:30 p.m.
\$10.00 charge for course
preregistration required

Recent Book of Mormon Developments

Gaylord Shaw
Oct. 2
Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
to 8:30 p.m.

Spanish 2
Gary Metzger
Sept. 8 to Nov. 10
Mondays, 6:00 p.m.
to 7:30 p.m.
\$10.00 charge for course
preregistration required

Isaiah in the Book of Mormon

Ray Treat
Oct. 9, 16, 23, & 30
Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.
to 8:30 p.m.

Spanish 3
Gary Metzger
Sept. 8 to Nov. 10
Mondays, 7:30 p.m.
to 9:00 p.m.
\$10.00 charge for course
preregistration required

Requirements for Receiving the Holy Ghost

Barb Wilkinson
Nov. 6, 13 & 20
Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.
to 8:30 p.m.

Idols
Jean Robison
Nov. 17
Monday, 9:30 a.m.
to 11:00 a.m.

Spanish 1

Gary Metzger
Sept. 9 to Nov. 11

Our Commitment to Christ
Jean Robison
Nov. 24
Monday, 9:30 a.m.
to 11:00 a.m.

Daytime Classes

Kim Augenstein
Monday mornings, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Where is God in Your Daily Schedule?Sept. 8
Forgive us our Trespases as We Forgive
Those Who Trespass Against UsSept. 15
When Ye Are in the Service
of Your Fellow BeingsSept. 22
Love — with All Your Heart, Mind,
and StrengthSept. 29

many precincts of California, New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas. For a quick and unofficial poll, just go buy a hamburger at some fast food restaurants and observe the ethnic background of the employees. Jesus Christ said the Lamanites, as part of the house of Israel, would go forth among the Gentiles. What do you think?

Fact: There is an interesting article, written by syndicated columnist Joseph Farah, called "America's Palestinians." The author has identified organizations of Hispanics in the southwest who have the intent to rally the votes necessary to secede states, like California, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas from the union and create a sovereign Hispanic state called Republica del Norte, with Los Angeles as the capital. One of these organizations is called La Raza (literally, "The Race"). You may remember that it was the seceding of South Carolina from the union that triggered the beginning of our own Civil War. They believe the land was originally taken illegally from Mexico, and they plan to use our democracy to get it back. Therefore, they relate their cause as similar to the Palestinians of the Middle East. One must assume that if democracy does not work, then other forms of influence may be explored up to and including violence.

Fact: Terrorism has officially reached our borders. With it has come the potential of WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction). A new cabinet position called the Department of Homeland Security has been created for protection. Our standing images and the works of our hands have already been attacked, just as Jesus stated in 3 Nephi 9:103.

Fact: Our economy is a roller coaster ride. Most Americans, along with the experts in such areas, basically agree that the economic mistakes of the past can never happen again because we have used our intelligence to fix them and implement financial protections. The unbelieving Gentiles always demonstrate this kind of pride and arrogance as a primary spiritual attribute.

and much more...

We have been considering facts surrounding the judgments God will bestow upon the unbelievers. If we are true

believers, then these facts should not trouble us. There is a place of refuge and safety that God will raise up to deliver his people from these judgments. It is called Zion, the New Jerusalem, and the power of heaven will come down to reside there. How can such a place be necessary if the judgments never come? The answer is, they cannot! The status quo of today must and will move aside to make room for the prophetic word of God to be fulfilled. This has always been true in history and will continue to be true until the end. It

is a mistake of gigantic proportions to assume that everything around us will remain the same in light of latter day prophecy.

Signs of Blessings for America

Now let's look at a few facts concerning the blessings for America, in no particular order.

Fact: America was established as a Christian nation and remains free as a land of liberty.

Fact: America, in its history, has been blessed with prosperity and power from God.

Fact: The great and marvelous work has come forth within it.

Fact: The Book of Mormon has come forth by the gift and power of God within it.

Fact: There are now about 10 million people in the world who believe The Book of Mormon is the word of God. About 5 million of them are in America.

Fact: There are now about 3 million Lamanites (using the definition above) in the world who believe The Book of Mormon is the word of God. Only a few of them are in America. There will be more coming.

Fact: Zion, the New Jerusalem, has not been built. It will be established.

Fact: The covenant people of the Lord (as God defines it), speaking collectively and not individually, cannot be uniquely identified. They will be raised up.

Fact: Book of Mormon believers remain in a scattered condition. They will be gathered.

Fact: The power of heaven, at the spiritual level described by Jesus Christ, has not come down to a collective people

Wish List

- Window blinds, intern room door.....\$239
- Window blind, small office window.....\$117
- Window blinds(2), main room.....\$95 ea.
- PA system.....\$500
- Digital video camera w/tripod.....\$800
- Flatbed scanner.....\$300
- Paint and repair Learning Center roof\$700
- Paint Learning Center exterior.....\$500
- Vacuum cleaner.....\$250

Book of Mormon Day for Kids 2003

sponsored by
The Book of Mormon Foundation

When: Saturday, August 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: South Chrysler Restoration Branch

Who: Kids ages first through 6th grade

Cost: \$5.00 per child or \$10.00 per family

**Please pre-register by August 11.
Registrations will be accepted the day of the event.**

within our scope of observation. It will come down.

Fact: The believing Lamanites have not gathered to the New Jerusalem in significant numbers. They will come.

and much more...

The Witness

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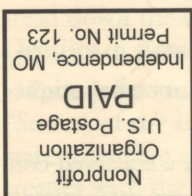
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Through research, publications, seminars and related projects, members of BMF seek to assist in bringing forth the light contained in The Book of Mormon.

A contribution to The Book of Mormon Foundation is tax deductible. Financials are available upon request.

One can perceive the silence that must be falling over us as we read these facts. I hope it makes us seriously think as a people. It seems the judgments upon the unbelievers are moving faster than the coming forth of a covenant people. This does not mean that God's work is frustrated. We can be assured His promises will all be fulfilled. Instead, it challenges us and makes us wonder who will step forward to be the people of God for our time. There are many blessings waiting to come forth to such a people. There are also many judgments waiting to come forth to the rebellious.

The decision is before us. Are we true believers or unbelievers? This question goes far beyond being solely a member of an institution or organization. It goes far beyond what we declare ourselves to be or whether we can trace our ancestry through a particular historical path. Instead, it is all about who we really are in the eyes of God that will identify us as the recipients of blessings or judgments in the time ahead. Which are you? May the Lord bless your desire to know and understand these things. There is much that depends on our decision. In closing, it is my desire to express a personal prayer for this nation that I love. In the name of Jesus Christ, God bless America! †



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