
THE

WITNESS

A Quarterly Publication of



The Book of Mormon Foundation



ISSUE 186 / 2024

WITNESS

ISSUE 186/2024

- 3** How the New Covenant Works
by Gary Whiting
- 7** Understanding Our Covenant
by Ray Treat
- 14** Glenn A. Scott, Jr.
- 15** Prophecy Watch

Cover Photo:

That as I have been lifted up by men, even so should men be lifted up by the Father to stand before Me (3 Nephi 12:27)

THE *Book of Mormon* FOUNDATION

The Book of Mormon Foundation is a non-profit corporation composed of individuals who desire to promote The Book of Mormon and its witness of Jesus Christ.

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.

The Book of Mormon Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contributions may be tax deductible. Financial statements are available upon request.

Articles and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the view of The Book of Mormon Foundation.

Unsigned articles are attributable to the Foundation.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Marlin Guin	Dale Godfrey
VICE PRESIDENT Eric English	Dennis Heater
SECRETARY Kathy Keller	Richard Rowland
TREASURER Eldon Anderson	Zachary Wilson
Rebecca Cornish	

OFFICE MANAGER
Sue Manning

WITNESS EDITOR
Linda Guin

Published quarterly by The Book of Mormon Foundation

210 West White Oak • Independence, MO 64050
(816) 461-3722 • www.bomf.org

Foundation email: bmfoundation@live.com
Interns email: bmfinternship@gmail.com

Gift of Remembrance

The God of the land, even Jesus Christ, has granted divine rights and freedoms to those who dwell in this mighty nation. The Declaration of Independence says:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

These rights have been preserved by the Lord and protected by Him. They have been defended by those who have given their ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation, at home and abroad. Abraham Lincoln, in the Gettysburg Address, said:

That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Our hearts stir within us this Memorial Day season, as we remember the fallen heroes. We are saddened as we witness the people of our nation who have forgotten the reasons they died. Some even seek to remove the freedoms for which they died. We see so many today who have no sense of the importance of Memorial Day and the gift of remembrance. O that we would remember and place into our hearts the blessing of living in this promised land, so designated by the hand of the Lord. The Jaredite prophet Ether writes this promise and urgent plea for our day:

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. (Ether 1:35)

How the New Covenant Works

by Gary R. Whiting

While studying the Title Page of the Book of Mormon written by Moroni, I was blessed with some insight which has helped me understand the nature of the New Covenant. It was one of the times when the Lord brings together a variety of insights and scriptures to paint a marvelous picture of His mercy to us through the Book of Mormon. I was reading the first paragraph of Moroni's Title Page:

Wherefore, it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, And also of the Lamanites. Written to the Lamanites which are a remnant of the house of Israel, And also to Jew and Gentile. Written by way of commandment, And also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation. Written and sealed up and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed, To come forth by the gift and power of God, unto the interpretation thereof; Sealed by the hand of Moroni and hid up unto the Lord, To come forth in due time by the way of Gentile, the interpretation thereof by the gift of God. (Title Page 1-4 RCE)

Moroni described the purpose of the record he was completing as an introduction for the reader. In addition to telling why the plates were written and produced, Moroni added a comment on how the plates were preserved and their latter-day revelation. He described that the plates were written at the behest of God and by His power. Once written, the plates were sealed and hidden in the care of the Lord and according to His wisdom. These precautions were instituted to keep the plates intact and safe until the time of the latter days when they were to be called forth from their resting place by the gift and power of God for interpretation.

The process Moroni described agrees with the history we have. We know the plates were written and buried in the ground for a while. We know they were sealed up to the Lord so they could be preserved. The plates were hidden up to the Lord and then were brought back and accessed by Joseph through the power of God. Joseph Smith was empowered by the Lord God to translate the record which became the Book of Mormon we have today.

As I was reading, the words **written, sealed up, hidden, and to come forth** stood out to me. I asked the Lord why these words were pointed out to me. He said, "You know, that is what I do for you." As I became aware of what He was saying, I realized, this is a description of the New Covenant. What is the New Covenant? The key scripture is found in Jeremiah.

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah; Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was a husband unto them, saith the Lord; But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Through the prophet, the Lord said, “I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel.” He describes replacing their stony heart with a fleshy heart and said God will write His law on the new heart. The result is that nobody will have to say to his brother, “know the Lord,” for we will all know the Lord because we will all have the law written on our hearts by the same hand.

This is the first part of what Moroni wrote in the Title Page. The record had to be written before there was something to be cared for. In the New Covenant, the Lord must first write His word on our hearts. The writing allows the rest of the promise to be completed.

Jacob and Nephi advised us to feast on the word of God:

- And come unto the Holy One of Israel and feast upon that which perisheth not, neither can be corrupted: “And let your soul delight in fatness.” (2 Nephi 6:101-102)
- Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ and endure to the end, “Behold,” thus saith the Father, “ye shall have eternal life.” (2 Nephi 13:30)
- Wherefore, I said unto you: Feast upon the words of Christ, For behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do. (2 Nephi 14:4)
- And those which have not been wounded, instead of feasting upon the pleasing word of God, have daggers placed to pierce their souls and wound their delicate minds; (Jacob 2:10)
- O all ye that are pure in heart, Lift up your heads and receive the pleasing word of God and feast upon His love, for ye may if your minds are firm forever. (Jacob 2:50)

We become saturated by the word by feasting on it, and the writing is done through the gift of the Holy Ghost. Jesus told His disciples the Comforter, or Holy Ghost, will teach them all things and apply those words when needed.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:26)



A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the **stony heart** out of your flesh, and I will give you a **heart of flesh**. (Ezekiel 36:26)

This is how the word is written on the hearts of the believers. It bonds the Saints into a single body with the mind of Christ. The Apostle Paul said something similar when writing to the Corinthians:

Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men; Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart.
(2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

When the believer comes to the Father by faith in Christ with full purpose of heart (repentance and obedience with broken hearts and contrite spirits), God does something amazing for us. He wants to get rid of our stony heart, so He breaks it and crushes it through repentance. Jesus washes the rubble away in the waters of baptism and cleanses the believer with His shed blood. Then, God transplants the heart of

Christ into us. The transplanted heart is the fleshy heart onto which He writes His law.

That is the New Covenant. We are written on/in by the power of God to be His living epistles. He does this through the work of the Holy Spirit in us. It is called the record of heaven:

Therefore it is given to abide in you, the record of heaven, the Comforter, the peaceable things of immortal glory, the truth of all things, that which quickeneth all things which maketh alive all things, that which knoweth all things, and hath all power according to wisdom, mercy, truth, justice and judgment. (Genesis 6:64)

When the word is written in the new heart, the Lord seals the word and the new life. We go back to the apostle Paul for this point.

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God. Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts (2 Corinthians 1:20-22).

The Father has set His seal upon us to mark us as His. The gift of the Spirit, which writes the word of God in our hearts, is also the Father's seal on us. He certifies us as His children. It is also our authorization to do all things in the name of Jesus Christ. By it, we have the power (which includes authority, right) to become the sons and daughters of God (John 1:12). By it, we can enter the holy of holies and approach the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). By it, we may ask the Father for the things we need and anticipate they will be given to us (John 16:23-24).

And we are hidden in Christ under the protection of the New Covenant. Turning again to the Testimony of John:

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one. (John 10:27-30)

This is an example of how we are hidden in Christ according to the New Covenant. Jesus testified that all that belong to Him (the covenant elect) will receive eternal life and shall never perish. The Saints are set in a position of safety and refuge under the covenant. Here they find refuge and safety. This is what Psalm 23 describes. It is the covenant protection of the sheep by the Good Shepherd. The New Covenant hides us in Christ, so we will not be destroyed.

And now, if Christ had not come into the world, speaking of things to come as though they had already come, there could have been no redemption; And if Christ had not risen from the dead, or have broken the bands of death that the grave should have no victory and that death should have no sting there could have been no resurrection. But there is a resurrection; Therefore, the grave hath no victory, and the sting of death is swallowed up in Christ. He is the light and the life of the world; Yea, a light that is endless, that can never be darkened; Yea, and also a life which is endless, that there can be no more death. (Mosiah 8:79-82)

This benefit extends from mortality into immortality and brings us to the next aspect of the New Covenant identified in the words of Moroni on the Title Page. We are hidden in Christ in this life, in mortal death, and unto the resurrection. For those of the New Covenant, mortal death is but a period of sleep, as Paul often stated it. When

a person sleeps, sleep is not forever. The person expects to wake up again after the sleep. So it is in the New Covenant.

Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in the which all who are in their graves shall hear his voice. And shall come forth; they who have done good, in the resurrection of the just; and they who have done evil, in the resurrection of the unjust.
(John 5:28-29)

Just as the plates of the Book of Mormon were buried and came forth in the latter days by the gift and power of God, so we also will be raised from the grave when the omnipotent Savior and Redeemer of the children of Adam will appear and declare with His voice, "Come forth!"

This is a brief exposition on the means by which the New Covenant is how we are saved into the everlasting kingdom of heaven. This is briefly described in Moroni's Title Page.

In the Title Page he also said the plates, after they had come forth, would be interpreted by the gift and power of God. It may be proper to understand the judgment bar of Christ as the means, by the power of God, each of us will be interpreted on that day. He will read us and grant us our just and gracious place in eternal glory, according to our works, which is the fruit of what is written in our hearts.

It is **written, sealed up, and hidden** unto, or in, the Lord, **to come forth** again by the gift and power of God. For some of us, that is in the resurrection of the just. For some of us, it will be a change in the twinkling of an eye. But we will all come forth by the gift and power of God at that last day, according to the promise and be rewarded according to the interpretation of our merciful and just Judge.

Did Moroni choose those words to carry this additional understanding about the New Covenant? Or, did he simply write those words according the wisdom and inspiration of the Holy Spirit without an appreciation of all it meant. Either way, I am grateful Moroni wrote it the way he did. I am also grateful for the work of the Holy Spirit writing this understanding on my heart. May this insight be a blessing to you all.

UNDERSTANDING OUR COVENANT

PART OF "THE LEARNING OF THE JEWS"

by Ray Treat

There is a hidden message in the first two verses of the Book of Mormon. The message is to search out **the learning of the Jews**. The key to finding this hidden message is to know that these two verses are a chiasm, which is one form of Hebrew poetry. A chiasm is an inverted parallelism, or in other words, you say something then repeat yourself in reverse order. One advantage of writing chiastically is that you can place special emphasis on the most important point by placing it in the center of the chiasm. Nephi deliberately constructed his chiasm so that **the learning of the Jews** was in the center:

A) knowledge; B) record; C) language; D) **the learning of the Jews**; C') language; B') record; A') knowledge. Nephi is telling us that **the learning of the Jews** is an important key to understanding the Book of Mormon. This should come as no surprise because we already know that **the learning of the Jews** is a key to understanding the Bible. We have just used one area of **the learning of the Jews**—Hebrew poetry—to find a hidden message. Another area in which **the learning of the Jews** greatly enhances our understanding is that of covenant making.

The concept of covenant-making in the ancient world is emerging as one of the most profound and far-reaching topics in all scripture. This is because the making of a covenant is at the heart of the gospel. God has made it possible for us to have a covenant with Him through faith in Jesus Christ who was the sacrificial lamb slain for us. Nephi is correct when he states that only the Jews or those who study their ways understand the things of the Jews. (2 Nephi 11:8) Until we knew about chiasms in the Book of Mormon, we could not fully understand the intent of Nephi's opening statement. In the same way, until we know what a covenant meant to an ancient Hebrew, the true understanding of our covenant will elude us. I have been greatly blessed as I continue to learn more about this subject. It also takes time to **soak in**. I am looking forward to even greater blessings as I fully implement my covenant. Please consider this information very carefully and very prayerfully. If you do this, I know you too will be greatly blessed as the word of God and the Holy Spirit reveal to you the real meaning of the covenant you have with God.

In the account of Nephi and Zoram, we see how seriously the ancient Hebrews took their covenants. After Nephi killed Laban in obtaining the brass plates, he made an oath to Zoram that



Covenants Not
Understood

Zoram could go with them into the wilderness. (1 Nephi 1:136-144) Zoram accepted and made an oath to live with them. Both Zoram and Nephi had much at risk. Zoram had his life at risk; Nephi and his brothers had their lives and the success of their mission at risk. Yet in verse 144, Nephi states in a matter-of-fact way **that when Zoram had made an oath unto us, our fears did cease concerning him.**

In the western world today we do not understand how, in a life-or-death situation such as this, just a few words could bring about complete trust. Obviously, these oaths meant much more to those men than they would to us today. By swearing an oath to each other, Nephi and Zoram had entered into a covenant. What did a covenant mean to them?

Old Testament Covenants

In the Old Testament a covenant was a sacred and binding agreement between two people. God's covenant with Abraham that through his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed is no doubt the best-known covenant in scripture. This covenant was initiated by God and was unconditional. One aspect of this covenant was the promise of inheriting a land:

And the Lord said unto him, I the Lord, brought thee out of Ur, of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. And Abram said, Lord, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? (Genesis 15:13-14)

What did God do to assure Abraham? He made a blood covenant with him. The establishment of this covenant removed any doubt from Abraham's mind. Let's look at the way the ancient Hebrews made covenants.

Steps in a Hebrew Covenant

In his book, *The Miracle of the Scarlet Thread*, Richard Booker outlines the steps ancient Hebrews typically followed in making a covenant. They exchanged robes and belts, cut the covenant, raised their right arms and mingled their blood, exchanged names, made a scar, stated the covenant terms, ate

a memorial meal and planted a memorial tree. Let's examine the significance of each of these steps.

Exchanged Robes

A man's robe was symbolic of all his material possessions. Therefore, by giving his robe, he was pledging everything he had to his covenant brother.

Exchanged Belts

The symbolism of this act is lost to our modern culture because our belts serve a different purpose. The ancient belts were weapons belts. Therefore, the message of giving one's belt was—**all the power I have I now give to you. If necessary, I will defend you to the death.**

Cut the Covenant

The Hebrew word for covenant means to **cut or make an incision**. The two covenant makers cut an animal down the middle and stood between the halves, their backs to each other. They then walked through the sacrifice, made a figure eight and came back to face each other. The dead animal represented self—dying to self and giving up rights to your own life. The figure eight represented a new beginning with the covenant partner until death. This ritual also reminded the covenant partners that if they broke their covenant, they would become food for vultures as was the animal used in this step.

Raised Right Arm and Mixed Blood

The covenant partners then raised their right arms, cut their palms and intermingled their blood, while swearing allegiance to each other. Then, as now, blood represented life; the intermingling represented two lives becoming one life.

Exchanged Names

Each would take the other person's last name and add it to his own. God and Abram exchanged names. God's name in Hebrew is YHWH. So, God took an H from His name and gave it to Abram, changing his name to Abraham. Abraham's wife Sarai was also given an H which changed her name to Sarah. Abraham gave his name to God. That is why He is called the God of Abraham. The next time you see that name in scripture, it will remind you that God made a covenant with Abraham.

Made a Scar

The participants made sure there would be a scar as a remembrance of the covenant. One common practice to ensure scarring was to rub dirt into the cut. If anyone tried to harm a person under covenant, he would simply raise his right arm and show the scar. The enemy then knew that he would also have to fight the man's covenant partner. The scars in the body of Jesus Christ are covenant scars.

Gave the Covenant Terms

The participants recited the terms of the covenant in the presence of witnesses. Because we can, through faith, receive the benefits of the covenant between God and Abraham, we need to be very familiar with the terms of that covenant. Abraham was given a promised land. For the children of Abraham in the last days that promised land is called Zion. If we keep our covenant, our inheritance is Zion; if not then we inherit death, because that is always the punishment for breaking a covenant. This punishment extends for several generations if necessary. In like manner, the blessings of a covenant also extend to one's seed.

Ate a Memorial Meal

The covenant partners then had a meal together to commemorate their covenant. This explains the symbolism of communion—a remembrance of the covenant which we have made with Jesus Christ. Today, when a bride and groom feed the wedding cake to each other, they are acting out a custom which had its origin in the blood covenant.

Planted a Memorial Tree

The participants would plant a tree and sprinkle it with the blood of the sacrifice. If there were no witnesses to the covenant, they would pile up some stones and sprinkle some blood on them so that the stones became a witness that they had made a covenant. That is why Jesus said that if the people did not praise God on Palm Sunday, the stones themselves would have cried out in witness of what was occurring. (Luke 19:39)

Now that we have had an introduction to a Hebrew covenant let us see if this information will help us to better understand the word of God. Let's apply our new knowledge to the story of Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan. We will start the story in 1 Samuel:

Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle. (1 Samuel 18:3-4)

We now know that the reason Jonathan gave his robe and his weapons to David was because that was part of the way a covenant was made. If the words **made a covenant** had been left out, we would still know that Jonathan and David had made a covenant because of the rituals they followed.

It is important in the story of Mephibosheth that we notice that King Saul, Jonathan's father, became jealous of David and tried to kill him because he feared David would take the kingdom away from him.

And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled; and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth. (2 Samuel 4:4)

Here we are told how Mephibosheth became lame. Why was the nurse fleeing? She had heard that Saul and Jonathan were dead, and it was clear to her that David would be the king. Since King Saul had poisoned the minds of his household (except Jonathan) against David, the nurse naturally assumed that as soon as David took over, he would kill all of Saul's family; therefore, she fled with Mephibosheth. Apparently, she did not know about the covenant between David and Jonathan.

And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake? (2 Samuel 9:1)



Mephibosheth

David wanted to bless Saul's family because of the covenant he had with Jonathan. The covenant was still in force even though Jonathan was dead. All this time the nurse had been hiding Mephibosheth because she feared for his life. Mephibosheth was found and brought before King David:

And David said unto him, Fear not; for I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually. And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am? (2 Samuel 9:7-8)

Even after David told Mephibosheth what he was going to do for him, Mephibosheth was incapable of understanding. He still thought he was going to be killed. He had been living a miserable existence in hiding without a knowledge of the covenant he had with the king. The message should not be lost on us. We are like poor Mephibosheth. We have a covenant with God but are not taking advantage of it because we do not know anything about it. We can clearly see from the story of Mephibosheth how an understanding of the ancient Hebrew covenant helps us to understand the word of God.



Origin of the Blood Covenant

The blood covenant, however, did not begin with Abraham. We are told in Revelation 13:8 about the **Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**. From this reference we learn that the blood covenant was in effect from the beginning. Adam was taught that the sacrifices he was told to make were a **similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father**. (Genesis 4:7) Since the covenant we make with God through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins is central to God's plan for the redemption of mankind, we can expect that Satan would try to defeat the covenant by perverting it. As we know, Satan deceived Cain. Also, in Genesis 5:35-38 we are told that Lamech entered into a covenant with Satan, which resulted in him murdering Irad, who had also made a covenant with Satan. Irad had

broken the evil covenant by revealing it to the sons of Adam. The penalty for breaking a blood covenant was (and still is) death, whether the covenant was an evil covenant or a holy covenant.

We must realize that the only way we will be able to survive in the final days is by having a covenant with God. Those who wish to follow Satan will already have made their covenant through which they will receive whatever power Satan has. Their primary goal will then be the destruction of the rest of mankind. Only those who have a covenant with God will be able to stand in such a day. These people will have all the power they need from God to withstand and overcome wickedness. We call this power the endowment.



The Significance of Our Covenant

We all know that baptism means we have made a covenant with God. This is clearly stated in these two Book of Mormon verses:

Now, I say unto you, if this be the desire of your hearts, What have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord, As a witness before him that ye have entered into a covenant with Him that ye will serve him and keep his commandments, that He may pour out His Spirit more abundantly upon you? (Mosiah 9:41)

Yea, come and go forth and show unto your God that ye are willing to repent of your sins and enter into a covenant with Him to keep His commandments, And witness it unto Him this day by going into the waters of baptism; (Alma 5:27)

Everyone who is baptized recognizes that he has made a covenant. In this respect we are unlike Mephibosheth, who did not know he had a covenant with the king. Yet, if we who are baptized do not understand the significance of our covenant, we are like Mephibosheth in that we are not able to enjoy the benefits of having a covenant with the King. I believe most of us fit this second category. We use the word **covenant** but do not yet fully

understand the meaning of the word. It is as if we are groveling on the floor, satisfied with the crumbs from the Master's table, when we should be seated as invited guests enjoying the feast. Malachi points out that we do not understand our covenant and are therefore not making use of it in our daily lives.

Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers? (Malachi 2:10)

According to some, backbiting is one of the most widespread sins among this people. Passing on rumors (most of which are false) seems to be one of our favorite pastimes. If we understood the type of relationship God wants each of us to have with each other as a result of our covenant with Him, we would not participate in any activity that would harm a brother or sister in any way.



*The Covenant
Dispels Doubt*

If the Lord has blessed us as a people as much as He has in spite of our lack of understanding of our covenant, then how much more do we have to look forward to as we improve our response to that covenant!

One thing we can look forward to as we establish the covenant more firmly in our lives is that our doubts will begin to diminish until all doubt is removed about the word of God, including the promises made to the covenant people. Nephi reminds us that God always remembers His covenants:

Behold, He loved our fathers, And He covenanted with them, yea, even Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, And He remembered the covenants which He had made; (1 Nephi 5:132)

Jacob agrees:

For the Lord God will fulfill His covenants which He has made unto his children; And for this cause the prophet has written these things: (2 Nephi 5:32)

Doubt and faith are opposites. If all doubt is removed then we would be living a life of faith to its fullest extent. Fear would also disappear since fear and faith are also opposites. The hope of such a great blessing alone should inspire us to learn more about this covenant we say we have.



*The Covenant
Brings Power*

As we establish the covenant more firmly in our lives, we can look forward to greater spiritual power.

And blessed are they which shall seek to bring forth My Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost (1 Nephi 3:187)

The following scripture establishes that it is the people of the covenant who will receive the power mentioned in the above scripture. D&C 83:17a tells us that Zion will be established because of the covenant made with the fathers:

The Lord hath brought again Zion: The Lord hath redeemed his people, Israel, According to the election of grace, Which was brought to pass by the faith And covenant of their fathers.

The power of the Holy Ghost does not necessarily come at the same time as the gift. At the present time there are very few of us, if any, who have the kind of power to which Nephi refers. In addition to the examples of spiritual power in Nephi's life, we get a clue about Nephi's definition of power from his brother Jacob:

Wherefore, we search the prophets, And we have many revelations and the spirit of prophecy, And having all these witnesses, we obtain a hope, And our faith becometh unshaken, insomuch that we truly can command in the name of Jesus, and the very trees obey us, or the mountains, or the waves of the sea; (Jacob 3:7)



Notice that Jacob says that **our faith becometh unshaken**. This kind of faith does not leave any room for doubt. This is the kind of faith that Abraham demonstrated when he obeyed God's instructions to take Isaac up to the mountain to offer him as a sacrifice. In Genesis 22:6, he told his servants that he and Isaac would return. Abraham could say this because there was no doubt in his mind that he would return with Isaac. He knew because of his covenant that God would preserve Isaac, even to the extent of resurrecting him on the spot if necessary. Abraham would not have taken **the knife to slay his son** (Genesis 22:12) if there had been any doubt whatsoever in his mind. Abraham's faith was unshaken. As a result, he became the father of the house of Israel.

Zion will be established for the purpose of gathering the latter day house of Israel together according to the covenant. We are told that after the remnant are brought to a knowledge of their Redeemer:

And then will I gather them in from the four quarters of the earth; And then will I fulfill the covenant which the Father hath made unto all the people of the house of Israel. (3 Nephi 7:29)

This gathering of the house of Israel is also called the restoration of the house of Israel. Only those who are part of the spiritual house of Israel through faith in Jesus Christ will be part of Zion as we can see from the following:

For behold I say unto you, 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, which is the Holy One of Israel. (2 Nephi 12:77-78)

These are those who will have the spiritual power.

If we establish the covenant fully in our lives we will exchange names just as Abraham did and we will take upon us the name of Jesus Christ and be called the children of Christ:

And we are willing to enter into a covenant with our God, to do His will and to be obedient to His commandments in all things that He shall command us all the remainder of our days, That we may not bring upon ourselves a never - ending torment, as has been spoken by the angel, That we may not drink out of the cup of the wrath of God. And now, these are the words which King Benjamin desired of them and therefore he said unto them: Ye have spoken the words that I desired, And the covenant which ye have made is a righteous covenant. And now, because of the covenant which ye have made, Ye shall be called the children of Christ, His sons, and His daughters. (Mosiah 3:6-8)

Jesus also took our name upon Him and became known as the Son of Man. When we take His name we become **children of Christ**. This is a very important title and carries with it all of the benefits of the covenant. I would recommend that we all make a list from the scriptures of the attributes of

Son of Man



the children of Christ to assist us to better establish the covenant in our lives. Studying this list should convince us all, if we have not been convinced thus far, that we have not yet fully established the covenant in our lives.

 **Purpose of the Book of Mormon:
Establish The Covenant**

One of the main purposes of the Book of Mormon is the restoration of the house of Israel, or in other words, establishing the covenant in the hearts of the house of Israel. One way to demonstrate that establishing the covenant is a primary purpose of the Book of Mormon is to point out that it begins and ends with the covenant. In the Title Page we read:

Which is to show unto the remnant of the house of Israel how great things the Lord hath done for their fathers, And that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever. (Title Page 6)

And then before Moroni's farewell, we read:

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 10:30)

If we make proper use of the concept of the covenant according to the **learning of the Jews** as taught in the Book of Mormon and the other scriptures, then we will not only receive greater blessings now but we will also be in a position to receive more scripture including additional information about the covenants. Lehi tells us:

I am a descendant of Joseph which was carried captive into Egypt; And great were the covenants of the Lord which He made unto Joseph. Wherefore, Joseph truly saw our day; (2 Nephi 2:5-6)

Lehi obtained this information from the plates of brass which we do not yet have. These plates along with all the other records, which are part of what we call Mormon's library, will be available to those who make proper use of the record we have now—the Book of Mormon (see 3 Nephi 12:1-5).

In view of all the benefits of establishing the covenant in our lives more fully let us like Nephi delight in the covenants of the Lord. (2 Nephi 8:10) We are told in Psalms 1:2 that if we delight in something we will think about it constantly. Let's start thinking more about our covenant. Perhaps the Lord will grant us further enlightenment that we might better understand that all He has is ours if we will keep our part of the covenant by giving all that we have unto Him.

Attributes of the Children of God

They have a knowledge of:

the goodness of God. Mosiah 2:8-9, 20

and His matchless power. Mosiah 2:9

and His wisdom. Mosiah 2:9

and His patience. Mosiah 2:9

and His longsuffering towards the

children of men. Mosiah 2:9, 20

and the atonement which has been

prepared from the foundation of the world.

Mosiah 2:10

They believe:

in God. Mosiah 2:13-14

that He is. Mosiah 2:13

that He created all things both in

heaven and in earth. Mosiah 2:13

that He has all wisdom and all power,

both in heaven and in earth. Mosiah 2:14

that man doth not comprehend all

things which the Lord can comprehend.

Mosiah 2:15

that they must repent of their sins and

forsake them. Mosiah 2:16

and humble themselves before God.

Mosiah 2:16

and ask in sincerity of heart that He

will forgive them. Mosiah 2:16

For additional attributes, go to our website:

bomf.org → publications →

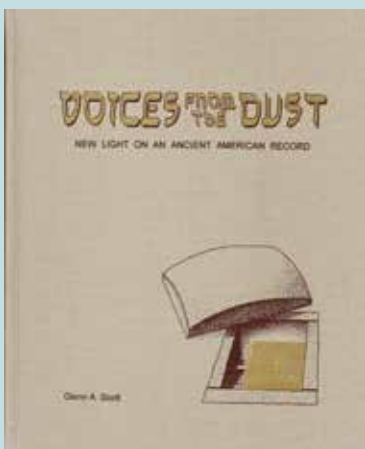
Zarahemla Record → Issue 24-26.

Glenn A. Scott, Jr.

August 17, 1918-January 24, 2024

Glenn A Scott Jr., one of four children, was born at home in Kansas City in 1918. He lived to be the oldest member of his family at 105. He graduated from Graceland University in 1939, where he met his wife of 74 years, P. Bernice Scott. While he never shared any divine testimony of the truth of the Book of Mormon, he believed it was true. He taught his three sons that it was true, and none of us have ever questioned that. Glenn taught Book of Mormon Sunday School classes wherever he attended church. When finishing a class, he would seek another congregation in which to teach another class.

He spent years collecting and reading books and magazine articles regarding the history and culture of Mesoamerica. He wrote three editions of the book, *Voices from the Dust*. He collected over 400 books on the subject, along with two three-



foot drawers full of clippings

and articles from all sources. He was a proud member and past board member of the Book of Mormon Foundation, formerly known as the Foundation for Research on Ancient America. At age 64, he took early retirement and went back to school and earned a degree majoring in archaeology at the University of Kansas. This added to his knowledge gained from 13 trips to Mexico to study Mayan archaeology.

Until he reached 100, he was preparing to write the fourth edition of his book, with all the newest developments since his third edition, written ten years earlier. In preparation for the fourth edition, he reviewed 85 books and prepared 600 pages of handwritten notes. However, when he reached 100, he said he had written enough, and he put down his pen. Those notes, books, magazines and files have been donated to the Book of Mormon Foundation for anyone who wants to take up the pen where he left off.



PROPHECY WATCH

We now live in a time when the daily news is saturated with things that contribute to the fulfillment of the signs of the times and the prophecies of the last days. At least for those who are familiar with the scriptures and have not ignored the word of the Lord that speaks of these things.

It isn't like the signs of the times have only just begun, because many of them have been occurring for a long time. What makes our day unique, is what is called the sign of convergence, where the signs are coming together at the same time with greater frequency and intensity.

Sometimes people ask why prophecy is important. There are many reasons but we will list only seven of them from an article entitled: *7 Reasons You Should Study Bible Prophecy* by Britt Gillette:

1) Prophecy Points to Jesus

The Book of Revelation says all prophecy points to Jesus (Revelation 19:10). In fact, Jesus Himself said He came to fulfill the law and the prophets (Matthew 5:17).

2) Jesus Demands We Watch

If the study of bible prophecy is “a distraction from God’s work,” then why does Jesus demand it? That’s right. Jesus doesn’t simply suggest we study bible prophecy. He commands us to study it. After all, He commands us to “stay alert” and to “keep watch” (Mark 13:33,35).

3) Prophecy Proves the Bible is God’s Word

Long ago, God issued a challenge. He said, “Who else can tell the beginning from the end” (Isaiah 41:21-24)? God proclaims He alone can do so. Only God can reveal what is going to happen before it happens (Isaiah 46:10).

4) Prophecy is a Powerful Evangelistic Tool

In the first century, bible prophecy was the primary tool for spreading the Gospel. As an example, Peter cited the Messianic prophecies as clear proof Jesus was the long awaited Messiah (Acts 2:14-42). His speech led three thousand people to give their lives to Jesus.

5) Prophecy Encourages Holy Living

If you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, you know He could return at any moment. And if you know He can return at any moment, it encourages holy living.

6) Prophecy Gives Specific Blessings

Some Christians avoid reading the Book of Revelation. They might find it frightening or difficult to understand. But remember, it’s the revelation of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:1). It’s not the revelation of John. It’s not the creation of ancient men. It’s a message from Jesus.

7) Prophecy Reveals the Season of the Lord’s Return

While we can’t know the day or the hour of His return (Matthew 24:36), we can know the season of His return. Jesus, Moses, and the prophets told us what signs to look for. And Jesus says when you see all those signs converging you can know His return is very near (Matthew 24:33).

Bible prophecy should provide you with hope and encouragement. Let it enrich your life. For the whole purpose of prophecy is to glorify Jesus (Revelation 19:10).

We can apply these same principles to all the Restoration scriptures. Perhaps even more so since they contain so many more prophecies of the latter days. Let us be diligent and watchful for the signs of the times and the signs of the coming of the Son of man and be ready to hearken unto His voice.

And it shall come to pass that he that feareth me shall be looking forth for the great day of the Lord to come, even for the signs of the coming of the Son of man; (D&C 45:6a)

And unto you it shall be given to know the signs of the times, and the signs of the coming of the Son of man; (D&C 68:1h)

The Book of Mormon Foundation
210 West White Oak
Independence, MO 64050

Change Service Requested

Non Profit Org
US. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 1016

BMF welcomed Rachel Miller's 7th grade class from CPRS. Using the Book of Mormon Overview, they were able to break the codes to unlock a treasure of candy bars.

