

WHAT DOES THE BOOK OF MORMON TEACH?

By Apostle Brian E. McIndoo

A. THE *BOOK OF MORMON* CONTAINS THE STORY OF THREE SEPARATE MIGRATIONS; LED BY GOD FROM THE OLD WORLD TO THE AMERICAS.

1. THE NEPHITES –

- a. From the lineage of Joseph, God led a family from the lineage of Joseph out of Jerusalem before it was destroyed during the reign of King Zedekiah's, which began in 596 B. C.: *see 1Nephi 1: 164,165 (pg. 15) 1Nephi 1:3 (pg. 2)*
- b. In a vision Lehi was warned to take his wife Sarah and their four sons called Laman, Lemuel, Sam and Nephi, along with Ishmael and his family out of Jerusalem; *see 1Nephi 2:7,8 (pg. 16)*
- c. Miraculously, the God led across the wilderness: *see 1Nephi 1:26, 54(pg. 4)*. Across the sea *1Nephi 5:176-178 (pg. 60)*. Unto a Land of Promise, the Americas: *see 1Nephi 5:78-82 (pg. 53)*
- d. They carried the record of record of their people to preserve the language of their fathers and the words of the prophets and the history of their people: *see 1 Nephi 1:82, 83, 159 (pg.8, 15)*
- e. They made a records on metal plates;
 - 1) The Plates of Lehi contained many dreams and visions, prophecies and genealogy: *see 1Nephi 2:1-3, 92 (pg. 16, 23), 1Nephi 5:219 (pg. 63)*.
 - 2) A record was kept on "Large Plates of Nephi," which contained a full account of the Nephite History, an abridgment of Lehi's record, the reign of Kings, the wars and contentions and the appearance of Jesus Christ. This record was handed down form generation to generation, each writer continuing the work of keeping the history: *see 1Nephi 1:17, (pg. 3); 1 Nephi 3:1(pg. 24); 1Nephi 2:93-97 (pg. 23); 1Nephi 5:218, 222 (pg. 63, 64); 2Nephi 3:27 (pg. 92)*. Before the destruction of the Nephite civilization, Mormon abridged the record, adding a few of his own words. He then hides of the plates: *see 4Nephi 1:57-59 (pg. 686), Mormon 1: 44,45 (pg. 691)*. However, he delivered the abridgment of the record to his son Moroni: *see Words of Mormon 1: 4 (pg. 204); 3Nephi 2:92-101(pg. 615); Mormon 2:36 (pg. 699)*
 - 3) A record was kept and passed down from generation to generation on "The Small Plates, also referred to as "The Plates of Jacob." They containing an account of the life and ministry of Nephi, prophecies and instructions from God: *see 2Nephi 3: 28 (pg. 92); Jacob 2:69 (pg. 174); Jarom 1:2 (pg. 197)*. Mormon adds his own words to the Small plates: *see Words of Mormon 1:1:5 (pg. 204)*
- f. A division came between Nephi and his brothers, bringing a curse Laman, his family and those who followed him: *see 1Nephi 3:128-134 (pg. 32); 2Nephi 4:27-41 (pg. 96)*
- g. There began great wars and contentions between the Nephites and the Lamanites: *see Omni 1:14 (pg. 201)*

- h. Throughout time, the Nephite became wicked like unto the Lamanites: *see 4Nephi 1: 44-53 (pg. 685) Mormon 2:12-14 (pg. 696)*
- i. In a great battle at the Land of Cumorah wherein God caused the Nephite to be destroyed because they had turned away from him unto wickedness: *see Mormon 2:1, 3 (pg. 695); Mormon 3:3,10-13 (pg. 702); Mormon 4:1,2, 6-9 (pg. 705)*
- j. Moroni, the last surviving Nephite took the records handed down to him from his father Mormon, added his words them hid them up to be preserved until the day God would bring the forth once again: *see Mormon 4: 2-4 (pg. 704)*

2. THE MULEKITES -

- a. Mulek, from the tribe of Judah and one of the son of King Zedekiah. Mulek apparently was young enough to be called a child and escaped being slain with his brothers when Jerusalem was destroyed: *see Jeremiah 39:1, 2, 6, 7*
- b. Mulek and some of his family were led by the Lord to the Promised land and dwelt in a area called the Land of Zarahemla: *see Helaman 3: 55-57 (pg. 572); Helaman 2:129 (pg. 562),*
- c. The Mulekites where discovered by the Nephites in a land north called the land of Zarahemla: *see Omni 1:23-26.*

3. THE JAREDITES –

- a. Led by a man named Jared and his faithful brother referred to as the Brother of Jared, their families and friends, left the great tower at the time the language was confounded (Babel) about 2200 B. C. *see Gen 11:5-9 and Ether 1:7-9 (pg. 715)*
- b. They crossed the land then the ocean in eight barges driven by the winds and currents until they arrived on a promise land; *see Ether 3:6 (pg. 727)*
- c. The Lord provided them a Promised Land, which came with an everlasting decree; they had to serve the God of the land or be swept off, (destroyed); *see Ether 1:29-32.(pg. 717)*
- d. The Jaredite turned away from God and the King Coriantumr refused to listen to the warnings and the call to repentance from the prophet Ether, Thus Jaredite nation was destroyed in a civil war except for one man, Coriantumr; *see Ether 6:72-73 (pg. 756)*
- e. The people of Zarahemla, (the Mulekites), discovered Coriantumr who then lived with them for nine months: *see Omni 1:36-39 (pg.202).*
- f. The Prophet Ether took shelter in a cave where he watched the destruction of his people, and recorded the history of the Jaredites. He hid them up until they would be discovered by the people of Limhi: *see Mosiah 5:62-66 (pg. 232), And the record was translated by a man with a gift, a seer named King Mosiah; see Mosiah 5:68-79 (pg. 232); Mosiah 9:170; 12:14,22 (pg. 292).*
- g. Moroni, the last Nephite had the records of the Jaredites and abridged them before hiding up the to come forth in a future generation as the *Book of Mormon.*

Therefore the Jaredites' story is found at the end of the book with the writings of Moroni; *see Moroni 1:1 (pg. 760.)*

B. IT FULFILLS PROPHECIES CONTAINED IN THE BIBLE

1. The blessing of Joseph
 - a. His land will be blessed: *see Deuteronomy 33:13-16*
 - b. His seed will go across the sea: *see Genesis 49:22: the wall is defined as the sea in Nahum 3:8 Psalms 80:11*
2. A book, a marvelous work and a wonder, will come forth from the tribe of Joseph: *see Isaiah 29: 11-14; Ezekiel 37:16-20*
3. Jesus fulfilled His words
 - a. Found in **John 10:16**, ***“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”*** He was speaking about other sheep of the House of Israel.
 - b. He explains his commission to His disciples, ***“I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”*** **Matthew 15:24** - Others tribes of Israel were scattered among the Gentile nations and upon the islands of the sea. After His resurrection, Jesus visited others of the lost sheep of the house of Israel. The Book of Mormon is a witness to that being fulfilled.
 - c. Jesus testifies it was those in America he was speaking of: *see III Nephi 7:20-26 (pg. 645)*

C. IT IS AN ADDED WITNESS TO THE VALIDITY OF THE HOLY BIBLE. WE ARE TO BELIEVE AND TRUST OUR BIBLES : *see 1Nephi 3:195,196 (pg. 38); Mormon 3:30-32 (pg. 704) 1Nephi 3: 245-252 (pg. 42)*

D. IT FULFILLS SOME OF THE GREAT PURPOSES OF GOD: *SEE 1 NEPHI 2:99-102*

1. The instruction of His people: *see 1 Nephi 5: 224 (pg. 64)*
2. Teaches that Jesus is the Son of the Eternal Father: *see 1 Nephi 3:192-194 (pg. 38)*
3. Confounds false doctrines: *see 2 Nephi 2:19-21 (pg. 88)*
4. Bring the people to a knowledge of the covenants: *see 2 Nephi 2:23 (pg. 88)*
5. They come to a knowledge of their fathers: *see 2 Nephi 2:22 (pg. 88)*
6. Shows forth his power unto Future Generations: *see Alma 17:45 (pg. 438)*

E. IT TEACHES THE GOSPEL ORDINANCES OF JESUS CHRIST.

1. The Same Gospel of Salvation.
 - a. One must believe in Christ: *see John 3:16 / III Nephi 5:34*

- b. One must repent: *see Acts 2:38 / III Nephi 5:40*
- c. One must become as a little child: *see Matthew 18:2-5 / 3Nephi :39, 40*
- d. One must be baptized: *see Mark 16:16 / 3Nephi 5:34*
- e. One must be obedient: *see Matthew 28:20 / III Nephi 5:68*
- f. One must endure to the end: *see Matthew 24:13/ 3 Nephi 7:10*

2. The Same Gospel Ordinances.

- a. Blessing of little children: *see Mark 10:13-16 / 3Nephi 8:23-26*
- b. Healing of the sick: *see James 5:14 / 4Nephi 1:6*
- c. Reception of the Holy Ghost: *see Acts 8:14-17/ Moroni 2:1, 2*
- d. Baptism by immersion: *see Romans 6:3,4 / 3Nephi 5:24-26*
- e. Ordination of the ministry: *see Acts 13:1-3 / Moroni 3:1-3*
- f. The Lord's Supper: *see 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 / 3Nephi 8:30-39*

3. The Same Church Organization.

- a. Founded on Christ, the Rock: *see Matthew 16:15-18 / 3Nephi 5:41*
- b. Named after Christ: *see Romans 16:16 / 3Nephi 12:13*
- c. Based on an unchangeable God: *see Malachi 3:6 / Mormon 4:68*
- d. Christ called Twelve to be her head on earth: *see Luke 6:12-16 / I Nephi 3:78, 88, 165*
- e. Maintained by the gifts of the Holy Spirit: *see 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 / Moroni 10:8-12*