

THE BOOK OF MORMON

Nothing in this church was done until the Book of Mormon came forth, (Ezra Taft Benson, *CR*, October 1986, pg.4)

"Do eternal consequences rest upon our response to this book? Yes, either to our blessing or our condemnation. Every Latter-day Saint should make the study of this book a lifetime pursuit. Otherwise he is placing his soul in jeopardy and neglecting that which could give spiritual and intellectual unity to his whole life." (Ezra Taft Benson, *A Witness and a Warning*, pg.7-8)

"I have noted within the church the difference in discernment, in insight, conviction, and spirit between those who know and love the Book of Mormon and those who do not. That book is a great sifter." (Ezra Taft Benson, *New Era*, May 1975, pg.19)

"No member of this Church can stand approved in the presence of God who has not seriously and carefully read the Book of Mormon." (Joseph Fielding Smith, *CR*, October 1961, pg.18)

"I fear that many of us rush about from day to day taking for granted the holy scriptures. We scramble to honor appointments with physicians, lawyers, and businessmen. Yet we think nothing of postponing interviews with Deity— postponing scripture study. Little wonder we develop anemic souls and lose our direction in living. How much better it would be if we planned and held sacred fifteen or twenty minutes a day for reading the scriptures. Such interviews with Deity would help us recognize his voice and enable us to receive guidance in all our affairs. We must look to God through the scriptures." (Carlos E. Asay, *Ensign*, November 1978, pg. 53-54)

"Often we spend great effort in trying to increase the activity levels in our stakes. We work diligently to raise the percentages of those attending sacrament meetings. We labor to get a higher percentage of our young men on missions. We strive to improve the numbers of those marrying in the temple. All of these are commendable efforts and important to the growth of the kingdom. But when individual members and families immerse themselves in the scriptures regularly and consistently, these other areas of activity will automatically come. Testimonies will increase. Commitment will be strengthened. Families will be fortified. Personal revelation will flow... Success in righteousness, the power to avoid deception and resist temptation, guidance in our souls—these are but a few of the promises the Lord has given to those who will come to His word. Does the Lord promise and not fulfill? Surely if he tells us that these things will come to us if we lay hold upon His word, then the blessings can be ours. And if we do not, then the blessings may be lost. However diligent we may be in other areas, certain blessings are to be found only in the scriptures, only in coming to the word of the Lord and holding fast to it as we make our way through the mists of darkness to the tree of life" (Ezra Taft Benson, *Ensign*, May 1986, pg.81-82)

"Sometimes it seems we take the scriptures too much for granted because we do not fully appreciate how rare a thing it is to possess them, and how blessed we are because we do have them. We seem to have settled so comfortably into our experiences in this world and become so accustomed to hearing the gospel taught among us that is hard for us to imagine it could ever have been otherwise" (Spencer W. Kimball, *Ensign*, September 1976, pg. 2)

"We are not required to prove that the Book of Mormon is true or is an authentic record through external evidences— though there are many. It never has been the case, nor is it so now, that the studies of the learned will prove the Book of Mormon true or false. The origin, preparation, translation, and verification of the truth of the Book of Mormon have all been retained in the hands of the Lord, and the Lord makes no mistakes. You can be assured of that." (Ezra Taft Benson, *Ensign*, May 1987, pg. 83-84)

"We do not have to prove the Book of Mormon is true. The book is its own proof. All we need to do is read it and declare it! The Book of Mormon is not on trial—the people of the world, including the members of the Church, are on trial as to what they will do with this second witness for Christ." (Ezra Taft Benson, *Ensign*, November 1984, pg. 8)

"No man can say that this book (laying his hand on the Bible) is true, is the word of the Lord, is the way, is the guide-board in the path, and a charter by which we may learn the will of God; and at the same time say, that the Book of Mormon is untrue; if he has had the privilege of reading it, or of hearing it read, and learning its doctrines. There is not that person on tile face of the earth who has had the privilege of learning the Gospel of Jesus Christ from these two books, that can say that one is true and the other is false. No Latter-day Saint, no man or woman, can say the Book of Mormon is true, and at the same time say that the Bible is untrue. If one be true, both are; and if one be false, both are false." (Brigham Young, *JD*, 1:38)

"No person can read this book, according to the prescribed pattern, and not know that it is true. No person can read this book, in the way Moroni directed, without getting in his heart the absolute, certain, sure knowledge that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. No person can read this book and learn, of its divinity '... by the power of the Holy Ghost ...' (Moroni 10:5), without knowing that Joseph Smith is a Prophet of God and that this Church, as now constituted, organized, and set up is God's kingdom on earth." (Bruce R. McConkie, *CR*, April 1961, pg. 40)

Concerning the witnesses of the Book of Mormon, Elder Sterling W. Sill declared: "I said to my friend, 'If you were on trial for your life and you had this kind of testimony out against you, you wouldn't have a chance. This kind of testimony where eleven men say they saw and they heard and they know would be accepted in any

court of law, either human or divine.' And I patted him on the leg again and said, 'Now my friend, I think you have great abilities, but if you understand this testimony then I don't think you have enough courage to disbelieve in the Book of Mormon.... And I would say about anyone in this assembly who understands this testimony that he would not dare disbelieve the Book of Mormon or disobey its counsel" (Sterling W. Sill, "*Mormon and Moroni*," Salt Lake Institute of Religion Devotional (October 26, 1973), pg. 8-9)

"...[the] challenge is not to prove that the Book of Mormon is true but to prove to God that [you] are true. When [you] do this, [you] will know that the book is true. And when [you] prove that [you] will do what it says, God will tell [you] more. You remember, the book puts it this way: 3 Nephi 26:9-11.

Over and over again you will have the experience, as you read the Book of Mormon, that before God will give you light, he will ask if you have already believed what he has given you. As you prove the Book of Mormon..., you will realize it is not arguments you read. It is not even great examples or wonderful moving stories. Those will help, and they will hold [your] attention...But [you]...will prove the Book of Mormon, as [you] will prove all scripture, by...saying, 'I believe it is true; I will try it.' Once [you] have proved [yourself] to God. then the proof will come to [you] because [you]

will see the spiritual fruit... I bear you my testimony that the book is written in such a way that [you] will feel there are principles [you] should try...As you read it, you...will know some things you should do. As you do them, you will have greater light given to you because you will have proved that you believe. I bear testimony that however much you have learned from the Book of Mormon before, you should read it again and prove it. Prove it by proving yourself. Do the things you feel impressed to do and you will find things in it that you have never seen before." (Elder Henry B. Eyring, "*The Book of Mormon Will Change Your Life*," 1990 CES Symposium, pg. 4-5)

"...I had a conversation with another would-be censor of our sacred books. He accosted me on the street with the question: 'Bishop Whitney, do you believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God?' 'I certainly do,' said I. 'Well, can't God speak grammatically?' 'Of course he can.' 'Then why was this grammatical error left in the Book of Mormon?'— and he quoted it. 'Do you really want to know?' 'Yes,' he said. 'Well, I think that was left mere just to keep you out of the Church.' He seemed surprised: 'Doesn't God want me in his Church?' 'No,' I said; 'he only wants honest seekers after truth; and if you think more of a grammatical error than you do of your soul's salvation, you are not fit for the kingdom of heaven, and the Lord doesn't want you.'" (Orson F. Whitney, *CR*, April 1926, pg.35)

BLESSINGS IN READING YOUR SCRIPTURES

Compiled by: Scott L. Read

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- More Peace 2- More Truth 3- More Happiness 4- More Commitment 5- More Righteousness 6- More Abundance of Life 7- More Personal Revelation 8- More Effective Missionaries 9- More Guidance in Our Daily Lives 10- Greater Joy 11- Greater Hope 12- Greater Love 13- Greater Faith 14- Greater Wisdom 15- Greater Charity 16- Greater Humility 17- Greater Reverence 18- Greater Obedience 19- Greater Prosperity 20- Greater Testimonies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 - Greater Family Strength 22- Greater Power to do Good 23- Greater Measure of Spirit 24- Greater Amount of Converts 25- Greater Healing of the Soul 26- Greater Respect & Consideration 27- Greater Relationship With Christ 28- Greater Understanding of Scriptures 29- Greater Ability to Avoid Materialism 30- Greater Resistance to Temptation & Evil 31 - Greater Ability to Conform to Gospel Laws 32- Greater Understanding of Priesthood Duties 33- Greater Understanding of the Full Gospel Plan 34- Greater Ability to Stay on the Strait & Narrow 35- Greater Judgment Between Christ and Anti-Christ 36- Less Contention 37- Less False Doctrine 38- Less Deception From the Teachings of Men 39- Removal of Our Condemnation 40- A Blessing Hitherto Unknown |
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Sources: (Benson, Ensign-May 1986 p. 78, 81-82; Benson, Ensign-November 1986 p. 8; Benson, Ensign- November 1986 p. 79; Benson, Ensign-Mission Presidents' Seminar, June 25, 1986; Hinckley, Ensign-November 1979 p. 9; Romney, Ensign-May 1980 p. 67