

The IRON ROD

OUR CHARGE AS MISSIONARIES IS TO -- TEACH AND TESTIFY OF CHRIST AND THE RESTORATION AND, INVITE ALL TO COME AND BE BAPTIZED UNTO REPENTANCE THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE PARTAKERS OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREE OF LIFE.

JUNE 1991

President's Message

Mission to Zoramites - A Latter-day Application of Alma 31-35

Introduction: "The Book of Mormon was written for our day. Each of the major writers of the Book of Mormon testified that he wrote for future generations. If they saw our day and chose those things which would be of greatest worth to us, is not that how we should study the Book of Mormon? We should constantly ask ourselves, "Why did the Lord inspire Mormon (or Moroni or Alma) to include that in his record? What lesson can I learn from that to help me in this day and age?" (Pres. Benson)

Chapter 31: Doctrine of Zoramites -- a composite of many of today's false beliefs: God is a spirit (v. 15); No Christ (v. 16); False concept of election (v. 17); Set prayers (v. 15-18); Prayed and worshipped only at Church once a week (v. 23, 32:11); Full of pride and materialism (v. 24-28)

- Alma prayed for the missionaries and the people to be taught (v. 30-35).
- Missionaries set apart, filled with the Holy Spirit, and given strength (v. 36-38).

Chapter 32: Taught people in their homes, churches, and streets (v. 1); After much labor, began to have success among the poor and humble (v. 2-4); Spent time teaching those who were humble and prepared (v. 6-26)

- Alma Compared the word to a seed and proposed an experiment to plant the gospel seed in their hearts (v. 27-28).
- As the seed begins to grow they know it is a good seed, they feel the Spirit and are converted. Their knowledge is perfect in that one thing, that the gospel is true. (v. 28-34).
- Seed is planted and people exercise faith as they take the discussions and make the commitments given in those discussions. As they keep their commitments they repent and are eligible for baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- After baptism there is much left to know and do (v.35-36). Must nourish the word with faith, diligence and patience (v. 37-43).
- Faith, repentance, baptism is the gate and as we endure to the end the Holy Ghost shows the way to eternal life.

This is the doctrine of Christ (2 Nephi32:5-6).

Chapter 33: Wanted to know how to plant the seed or how to begin to exercise faith (v.1); Told to pray and study scriptures and prophets, all of them testify of Christ (v. 2-21); Mission and atoning sacrifice of the Savior is the Gospel or the word to be planted (v. 22-23; 3 Nephi 27:13-21).

Chapter 34: Amulek reaffirmed his companion's testimony that the word is in Christ (v. 1-7), adds personal witness and teaching on the atonement (v. 8-16), we are to pray for mercy and all of our needs (v. 17-27).

- After receiving a witness of the Spirit must act by repenting and take the name of Christ through baptism (v. 30-38).

Chapter 35: Many Zoramites were brought to repentance (v. 6, 14)

Latter-day Application: The word of God in our day is found in the Book of Mormon. President Benson said, "Combined with the Spirit of the Lord, the Book of Mormon is the greatest single tool which God has given us to convert the world. If we are to have the harvest of souls that He expects, then we must use the instrument which God has designed for that task -- the Book of Mormon."

- We, as well as our investigators are to apply Moroni 10:3-4 and "sup from its pages" (President Benson). This is the experiment for our day. The Book of Mormon contains the seed to be planted in our hearts.
- This will bring the same results described in Alma 32:27-34 and they will know the Book of Mormon is true. Then it follows that they will also have a testimony that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith is his prophet and that the Church is true.
- The study and application of the Book of Mormon is a life long pursuit which, if done with diligence, faith and patience, will bring forth a tree springing up unto everlasting life and we shall feast on its fruit and be filled (Alma 32:41-43).

With Love,

President Lunt
Sister Lunt

President and Sister Lunt

