

**BOOK OF MORMON
TALKS, BIRTH OFFERING
SERIES. - NO. 4**

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Book of Mormon talks, Birth Offering Series. - No. 4 by Hyrum O. Smith

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HYRUM O. SMITH

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BOOK OF MORMON TALKS

BY ORION

Birth Offering Series.—No. 4

THIRD EDITION

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PREFACE.

IN presenting to the church this the fourth volume of the Birth Offering Series, we feel to express our sense of gratitude for the circumstances which have enabled us to resume publication of this greatly to be desired class of literature, and the earnest wish that ere long this series may number many volumes of choice reading for the children and young people of the church.

Of the value of this present volume to this class of readers, we feel sure that no one who gives it a careful perusal can entertain the slightest doubt, and it is the earnest hope of those having the publishing interests of the church at heart, that its reception will be of a nature so cordial as will enable them speedily to bring out other volumes calculated to acquaint the children with the faith of the church in those years in which the mind is open to receive and retain lasting impression.

Book of Mormon Talks.

NUMBER ONE.

ERNEST.—Papa, Harry, Ethel, Maude, and I would like to have you explain to us about the Book of Mormon. We have, as you know, been attending meeting every night, and we have heard Brother Scott preaching on that subject, but we do not thoroughly understand it; so we have decided to come to you and see if you can explain it to our understanding.

Papa.—I am very glad to have the opportunity, my dear children, to explain the matter to you. What is it that you can not understand, and where shall I begin?

Ernest.—We would like to have you begin by explaining what the book is; what it claims to be, and whether it is a new Bible, and whether it claims to take the place of the Bible or not. Since Brother Scott has been preaching here, our schoolmates who do not belong to the church say that we have the Book of Mormon in the place of the Bible. Of course we know that is not true, but we do not know just how to answer them.

Papa.—Well, I will begin by saying that the Book of Mormon claims to be the history of a people or peoples who once lived on the continent of America, and also contains God's law and will revealed to them. It also relates that Christ came here after his

crucifixion and resurrection, and revealed his gospel to them. There were three colonies or companies of people who came here, all having been led here by God to settle in this land. The first came from the Tower of Babel at the confusion of tongues. You have often read about that in your Bibles. This company multiplied and became a great nation, and built many cities. They lived here about sixteen hundred years, or until about six hundred years before Christ, when through severe fighting they were all, except two men, destroyed. The second company came out from Jerusalem in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah. This second company was led by a man named Lehi, as they were mostly composed of members of his family. These are the ones who wrote the Book of Mormon. What we know of the first company we learn from plates, or records, which were left when they were destroyed, and were found and translated by these people who came after them. The first company landed in Yucatan, as near as we can tell from the Book of Mormon description; the second, on the west coast of South America, in the country which we now call Chili. The third company came out from Jerusalem in the last year, or latter part of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah, and landed on the west coast of Central America. They brought with them one of Zedekiah's sons, named Mulok. They came here just about the time of the destruction of the first company or nation; in fact, they found one of the men that I spoke of that was not killed, and he was with them several months. As to whether the Book of Mormon claims to supersede or take the

place of the Bible, we had better let the book speak for itself. I do not intend to do all the talking and reading during this talk of ours, but I want you all to be interested in this matter, and the best way to keep you interested is to give you something to do. So I shall ask you to do the reading as I shall give you the references. Ernest, you may take the Bible, Harry the Book of Mormon, and I will find something for you girls to read before I get through, and I want you all to watch, and if there is anything at any time you do not understand, you must not hesitate to ask me questions about it. Harry, I will ask you to do the first reading from the Book of Mormon. We will use this large edition, as the print is larger and it is divided up into verses a little more convenient to quote. Read from page 23, verses 125 and 126:

Harry.—"And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles, unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren; and after it had come forth unto them, I beheld other books, which came forth by the power of the Lamb, from the Gentiles unto them, unto the convincing of the Gentiles, and the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the Jews, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, are true. And the angel spake unto me, saying, These last records which thou hast seen among the Gentiles, shall establish the truth of the first, which are of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things

which have been taken away from them; and shall make known to all kindreds, tongues, and people, that the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him or they can not be saved; and they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb: and the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb; wherefore, they both shall be established in one; for there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth; and the time cometh that he shall manifest himself unto all nations, both unto the Jews, and also unto the Gentiles."

Papa.—"The book of the Lamb of God," and "The record of the twelve apostles of the Lamb," in verse 125, refers to the Bible, while "These last records" spoken of in verse 126 is the Book of Mormon. So you see the Book of Mormon does not claim to take the place, but it is to establish the truth, of the Bible, and the two shall become one in God's hands in the converting of the Jews and Gentiles. Now, Harry, you may turn to page 93 and read verse 32, then begin at the 40th and read to the 48th:

Harry.—"And because my words shall hiss forth, many of the Gentiles shall say, A bible, a bible, we have got a bible, and there can not be any more bible. . . . Thou fool, that shall say, A bible, we have got a bible, and we need no more bible. Have ye obtained a bible, save it were by the Jews? Know ye not that there are more nations than one? Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all