

**Lesson Highlights**

- Moroni explains the importance of faith.
- The Lord teaches Moroni that He gives us weakness that we may be humble.
- Moroni records Ether's prophecies concerning the promised land.
- War rages throughout the land. The Jaredite civilization is destroyed.

*A study of this lesson will help us understand the importance of exercising faith, being humble, and heeding the counsel of the prophets.*

**Next Week**

#47 "To Keep Them in the Right Way",

Moroni 1-6

#48 "Come unto Christ"

Moroni 7-8; 10

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**Introduction**

**Mosiah 8:8-9, 12, 19; Mosiah 28:17-19.** The record referred to in these verses is the record of the Jaredites, which was abridged by Moroni in the book of Ether. What effect did hearing this record have on the people of Mosiah?--It caused them to mourn. Consider why you might think it is important for us to read this account.

This lesson discusses the account of the Jaredites from their arrival in the promised land to their complete destruction many generations later. Although the account of their destruction is tragic, we, like the people of Mosiah, can rejoice in the knowledge the record gives us. Today's lesson will remind us of the importance of exercising faith, being humble, and heeding the counsel of the prophets.

**Moroni explained the importance of faith.**

**Ether 6:18** After arriving in the promised land, the Jaredites began to "multiply...and wax strong in the land".

**Ether 6:21-30** When Jared and his brother died, a king was appointed to lead the people. Ether Chapters 7-11 records the succession of righteous and wicked kings, the rise of secret combinations among the people, and the teachings of prophets who were called to preach repentance to the Jaredites.

Ether 12 begins the account of the teachings of Ether, who was one of those prophets.

**Ether 12:3** Ether exhorted the people to believe in God, saying that "by faith all things are fulfilled".

**Ether 12:4** Ether described those who believe in God as "sure and steadfast...always abounding in good works...being led to glorify God" because their souls are anchored in faith and hope.

Think about how faith and hope anchor you. Consider how faith leads to good works that glorify God.

**Ether 12:5** Ether prophesied "great and marvelous things" to the people, but they did not believe him because they could not see them.

Think of times when you or other people have been blessed for following prophetic counsel even when you could not "see" or understand the reasons for the counsel. Share appropriate examples from your experience with your Gospel Doctrine/Sunday School class.

**The Lord taught Moroni that He gives us weakness that we may be humble.**

**Ether 12:23-25** Moroni was concerned about how the Gentiles would receive his record, thinking that they would mock his writing ability and vocabulary.

**Ether 12:26** The Lord responded that fools would mock, but the meek would respond to His grace.

It is important to read Moroni's words "and all scriptures" with meekness so that we may feel and understand by the power of the Spirit.

Moroni recorded that the people would not believe the prophecies of Ether because they could not see them. Moroni then defined faith and gave examples of it.

**Ether 12:6;** see also **Hebrews 11:1; Alma 32:21** Moroni defined faith as "things which are hoped for and not seen".

**Ether 12:6;** see also **Ether 12:29-31; D&C 58:2-4** Consider what it means that we "receive no witness until after the trial of [our] faith".

**Ether 12:7-22** Moroni listed several events that occurred as a result of faith. Events he listed included: the appearance of the Resurrected Lord to their "fathers", the reception of the Mosaic Code by Moses, the giving of the higher law as provided by the Savior, the miraculous deliverance of Alma and Amulek from prison, the reception of the Holy Ghost by converted Lamanites through the efforts of Nephi and Lehi, a miracle among the Lamanites by Ammon and his brethren, and the appearance of Christ to the brother of Jared.

**The Prophet Joseph Smith** taught, "We receive by faith all temporal blessings that we do receive, [and] we in like manner receive by faith all spiritual blessings that we do receive" (Lectures on Faith [1985], 3).

**Ether 12:27** This verse contains the Lord's promise to those who humble themselves and have faith in Him ("Then will I make weak things become strong unto them").

Think of examples of this promise being fulfilled in the scriptures, your life, or the lives of others.

**Ether 12:28-34** Moroni wrote of the importance of faith, hope, and charity. These qualities bring us unto Christ as we apply them to His work on the earth.

*"The last half of the book of Ether describes the blessings of righteousness and the curses of wickedness. Prophets helped preserve the Jaredites for many years. However, secret combinations eventually led to strife and the overthrow of freedom.*

*"The prophet Ether told King Coriantumr that he and his household would be spared if they would repent. But Coriantumr and his people refused to repent, and the Jaredite nation was completely destroyed."* (Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Manual, ©1991)

## *Gospel Doctrine*

### *Notebook*

Record your thoughts on the teachings and events discussed in this lesson.

- What can you do to show greater gratitude to our Heavenly Father for his bounteous blessings?

**Ether 12:41** Moroni exhorted us to *"seek this Jesus of whom the prophets and apostles have written"*.

Ponder the ways in which you can *"seek Jesus"* today.

### *Moroni recorded Ether's prophecies concerning the promised land.*

**Ether 13:2-12** Ether prophesied about the New Jerusalem and the Old Jerusalem:

a) The Old Jerusalem (*"from whence Lehi [came]"*), will be *"built up again, a holy city unto the Lord"* (Ether 13:5).

This will be done by the descendants of Judah before the Second Coming.

b) Before the Second Coming, *"a new Jerusalem should be built up upon this land [the Americas]"* (Ether 13:6).

c) The New Jerusalem will be a holy city built by a remnant of the house of Joseph (Ether 13:8).

d) The City of Enoch will come down out of heaven and become part of the New Jerusalem (Ether 13:3, 10 ; see also Revelation 21:2, 10). This will occur after the Second Coming.

### *War raged throughout the land. The Jaredite civilization was destroyed.*

**Ether 13:13-14** The people cast Ether out, and he made the remainder of his record while hiding in the cavity of a rock. The people soon became engulfed in wars and secret combinations.

**Ether 13:20-21** During the second year that Ether dwelled in the cavity of a rock, the word of the Lord came to him, instructing him to go and prophesy unto Coriantumr to repent with all his household or else he [Coriantumr] would be destroyed.

**Ether 13:22** Coriantumr responded to Ether's prophecies by refusing to repent and seeking to slay Ether.

**Ether 13:23-15:28** describes continual bloodshed as different groups sought to obtain power. Millions of Jaredites were killed in the battles. Although Coriantumr lost many battles and was wounded several times, he did not die. Near the end of the record, Coriantumr and Shiz gathered all the people together for a final battle. After several days of fighting, only Coriantumr and Shiz remained alive.

### *Conclusion*

The prophecies and promises of Ether, Brigham Young, and others regarding the building of Zion and the eventual establishment of the New Jerusalem have not yet been fulfilled. **Elder Robert D. Hales:** *This promised Zion always seems to be a little beyond our reach. We need to understand that as much virtue can be gained in progressing toward Zion as in dwelling there. It is a process as well as a destination. We approach or withdraw from Zion through the manner in which we conduct our daily dealings, live within our families, whether we pay an honest tithe and generous fast offering, how we seize opportunities to serve and do so diligently. Many are perfected upon the road to Zion who will never see the city in mortality.*" (C.R., April 1986, p. 38)

**Ether 12:41** The Lord promises the grace of the Father and the Son to those who do this.

We need the grace of God and His Son to strengthen our testimonies and keep us on the path to eternal life.

**Ether 13:10-11** Moroni described those who would be worthy to live in these holy cities as those who had made and kept covenants through Christ, becoming members of the house of Israel, and those among the original house of Israel who accepted the Savior.

To be *"washed in the blood of the Lamb"* is to be cleansed from sin through the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

**Ether 15:29-32** The battle finally ended with Shiz being beheaded by Coriantumr.

**Ether 13:20-21** (previously cited) This was a fulfillment of Ether's prophecy that we reviewed a moment ago.

**Ether 15:1-5, 18-19;** see also **Helaman 13:32-33, 38** We learn from the Jaredite record that repenting is essential before we become so deeply involved in sin that we lose the desire and power to escape from the evil in our lives and its consequences upon us and our families.

There are some similarities between the history of the Nephites and the history of the Jaredites because both fell from grace through their bad choices and the downward spiral of sin. Think seriously about what we can learn from the accounts of these two civilizations