

## Summary Handout

# “Never Has Man Believed in Me As Thou Hast”

Lesson

45

Summary

*Ether 1–6*

**Scripture Summary:** *Moroni abridges the writings of Ether—Ether’s genealogy set forth—The language of the Jaredites is not confounded at the Tower of Babel—The Lord promises to lead them to a choice land and make them a great nation.*

*The Jaredites prepare for their journey to a promised land—It is a choice land whereon men must serve Christ or be swept off—The Lord talks to the brother of Jared for three hours—They build barges—The Lord asks the brother of Jared to propose how the barges shall be lighted.*

*The brother of Jared sees the finger of the Lord as he touches the sixteen stones—Christ shows his spirit body to the brother of Jared—Those who have a perfect knowledge cannot be kept from within the veil—Interpreters are provided to bring the Jaredite record to light.*

*Moroni is commanded to seal up the writings of the brother of Jared—They shall not be revealed until men have faith even as the brother of Jared—Christ commands men to believe his words and those of his disciples—Men are commanded to repent and believe the gospel and be saved.*

*Three witnesses and the work itself shall stand as a testimony of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon.*

*The Jaredite barges are driven by the winds to the promised land—The people praise the Lord for his goodness—Oribah is appointed king over them—Jared and his brother pass away in death.*

**Supplemental Holy Land and Jewish insights:** **True Identity, Humility or Pride?** Coming from the Tower of Babel area, Jared’s identity with the Lord and humility resulted in his language not being confounded. “. . . The building of the tower was an example of man’s extreme pride in his own ability . . . when a builder fell off the tower to his death, the other builders paid no attention, but when a brick fell, they would cry: ‘When shall another come in its place?’ . . .” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

**Semitic Languages:** In spite of the confounding of languages, some patterns of familiarity remain in related languages such as Hebrew, the language of the scriptures. “Hebrew belongs to the family of Semitic languages. Other members of this family are Arabic and Aramaic, and it is assumed that they all evolved from one language which is known as ‘proto-Semitic.’ Among other connected languages were Ugaritic and Akkadian which are extinct. The name ‘Semitic’ was given to the group in 1781 by the scholar A.L. Schloezer because all the languages in it are spoken by peoples included among the sons of Shem listed in Genesis 10:21--29.” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

**Gathering – a Metaphor:** The brother of Jared listened to the Lord as he was told to gather seeds of every kind, gather animals and gather his family. Gathering is a strong metaphor of returning to Heavenly Father’s presence. The gathering of this Jaredite family was to the “north” at Nimrod. I immediately thought of the north of Israel, close to the Syrian border, where an old Crusader fortress called Nimrod’s castle still stands. Nimrod is known locally as a Syrian warlord and hunter. “. . . Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.” (*Genesis 10:9*)

**Sea Stories – Cleansings:** In the accounts of Noah, Jared, Nephi, Jesus and Paul, each ship and tempest story has a lesson of salvation. Noah was led to save righteous life on a sea craft as the earth experienced a great tempest and flooding. The earth was cleansed or in effect, “baptized.” (*Genesis 8:18-20*) Jared’s family experienced a tempest and was delivered and saved. (*Ether 6:6-12*) Jonah went down into the sea, only to come up, saved. Even those who cast him overboard were saved! The Lord used the experience of Jonah as a sign of the atonement. (*Jonah 1:11-16; Matthew 12:39-40*) Nephi’s family also experienced a terrible tempest brought on by their unbelief. Through repentance God also “turned the tide” and saved them. (*1 Nephi 18:20-21*) Jesus saved the Disciples in a tempest. (*Matthew 8:23-25*) Apostle Paul saved the crew of his ship after a violent tempest. (*Acts 27:18-22*)

**Molten Stone - Glass:** The Brother of Jared preparing “stones” for the Lord to touch for light has some Biblical precedence. Glass was made in the Middle East and the Jews often had a role in its development. “The use of glass for ornaments and practical vessels goes back to the third millenium B.C.E. . . produced in Egypt and Mesopotamia . . . in which Jews have often played a major role.” “. . . mention of glass in the Bible occurs in Job 28:17, where it is equated with gold . . . Archaeological excavations have revealed glass objects in Erez Israel from as early as the 14th century B.C.E.” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

**The Brother of Jared Had a Name:** “While residing at Kirtland, Elder Reynolds Cahoon . . . called the Prophet . . . to bless and name the baby. Joseph . . . gave the boy the name of Mahonri Moriancumer. When he had

finished . . . he laid the child on the bed, and turning to Elder Cahoon he said, the name I have given your son is the name of the Brother of Jared; the Lord has just . . . revealed it to me.” (*The Juvenile Instructor* 27/8 [15 April 1892]: 282)

**Worship The Lord, Have Freedom and Liberty:** “The prophet of the Jaredite colony, Mahonri Moriancumer, commonly referred to as the brother of Jared, spoke of this land as a choice land . . . above all other lands. He indicated that those people who live here should worship the God of this land if they were to enjoy the blessings of freedom and liberty and be free from bondage. Otherwise, if they failed, they were to be swept off. And he proclaimed that this is the everlasting decree of God.” (*Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, p.575)

**Faith, Works – The Mahonri Formula:** In reviewing the brother of Jared’s faith and works we see a formula emerging that we should follow. It is called the “Mahonri Formula.” 1. Identify the problem. 2. Consider possible solutions. 3. Make yourself worthy. 4. Develop humility. 5. Make a specific request.

**Turn from Backsliding – It Works!** In spite of backsliding, the Lord recognized the repentance of the Jaredite family and turned toward them. In fact, due to the humble faith of the brother of Jared, the Lord manifested himself to him. Repentance works! Then, as Moses was shown the “ends of the earth” and was able to see the creation, the beginning to the end, so did the brother of Jared. Moroni was also privileged to see this account. As Jared and his brother turned from their backsliding and reflected humility, they were blessed. So shall the Gentiles be blessed as they return from their backsliding and once again reflect humility.

Daniel Rona, born in Israel and living in Jerusalem has authored Old & New Testament and Book of Mormon Supplement Study Materials to be used in conjunction with the weekly LDS Gospel Doctrine Lesson study. NOTE: Three versions of the supplemental study materials are available *FREE* at [www.HolyLandsRevealed.com](http://www.HolyLandsRevealed.com). (Just click “LDS SUPPLEMENTS”)

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