

Samuel Bradshaw

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### **The Savior of the World Visits His People in the Americas**

Six hundred years before the birth of Christ, a man named Lehi fled with his family out of Jerusalem. Led by the Lord, Lehi and those who went with him arrived in a promised land, on what is now the American continent. Lehi and his company were not the only people led to this land, but they are the main group of people described in the Book of Mormon. Soon after their arrival in the promised land, the people of Lehi divided into two groups: the Nephites, led by the righteous prophet Nephi, and the Lamanites, led by a man named Laman. There were times of peace and prosperity, and times of war and destruction.

By the time just before Christ's birth in Jerusalem, the more part of the Nephites had become wicked, and the Lamanites had become the more righteous people, and remembered the commandments of the Lord. The Lord sent a Lamanite prophet named Samuel to warn the Nephites of their wickedness and to prophesy of signs of the birth and death of the Messiah. Five years later, Christ was born and the signs were given as Samuel the Lamanite had prophesied. But among the people in the Americas, a secret band of robbers began to have great power and sought to overthrow the government of the Nephites. The Lamanites and Nephites humbled themselves before the Lord and fought off the robbers. The righteous among the Lamanites joined the Nephites. Soon pride and divisions again brought forth great contention and disorder. The government was overthrown and the people were in chaos.

On the other side of the world, Jesus was crucified. As Samuel the Lamanite had foretold, there came a great storm that rent the rocks in twain and changed the face of the land. All of the

wicked were destroyed, leaving only the more righteous people who called themselves Nephites. For three days the land was in complete darkness. Then a voice spoke to the Nephites. The voice spoke of the destruction of cities and the wickedness of the people. “Behold, I am Jesus Christ the Son of God,” the voice said. The voice was that of the Messiah, the Savior of the world. He announced the fulfillment of the law of Moses and invited everyone who still lived to come unto Him. After many hours, the voice spoke again, offering to gather them and nourish them. As the morning came, the darkness ended and the people were filled with joy and thanksgiving.

Many people gathered to Bountiful, where the temple was. They were conversing about Jesus, when they heard a voice that pierced them to the center and caused their hearts to burn. As they turned their ears and eyes towards heaven, they understood the words. God the Father announced His Son: “Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name – hear ye him.”

Then He appeared, descending out of heaven: Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He stood among the multitude. At first the people didn’t understand who He was, or what they should do. But then Jesus stretched forth His hands and told them who He was. He explained that He had taken upon Him the sins of the world, as the prophets had testified. Everyone fell to the earth. Jesus invited them forward one by one, and asked them to feel His wounds, that they would know that He was their Savior and that He had been slain for their sins.

Jesus chose twelve disciples and gave them the authority to baptize, telling everyone to heed the disciples and be baptized. He told the people that contention is of the devil and should not exist among them. Then he gave the Beatitudes, and explained His higher law, which superseded the law of Moses. He told them not to be self-righteous or hypocritical when giving alms, saying prayers, or fasting. He counseled them to seek treasures in heaven and to not worry

about temporal riches. Jesus told the people to not judge unrighteously, telling them to do the same to others as they would like to have done unto them. He warned them of false prophets and told them to do the will of the Father. Christ explained how God loves His people everywhere and how everyone is a part of His plan. Then he asked them to ponder what He has taught. He was about to leave, but the people wanted Him to stay.

Jesus healed all of the sick and afflicted. He was troubled because of the wickedness of the house of Israel, and prayed for them. Then He blessed the children, one by one. He instituted the Sacrament and told the people them to pray always, to avoid temptation. To the disciples He gave the power to give the Holy Ghost. Then He departed.

On the second day, more people had been gathered. The disciples prayed to have the Holy Ghost. They taught the gathered people all that Jesus had taught them, and baptized them. Then Jesus came to them again. Everyone prayed to Jesus, as He prayed to the Father. Jesus again administered the Sacrament. He taught the words of Isaiah and Malachi and expounded everything.

On the third day, Jesus explained that the church should be called in His name. He taught that He came to do the will of the Father. He commanded us to be even as He is. Then He blessed his twelve disciples and asks them what they desire to be given. Nine of them were promised an inheritance in the kingdom of heaven. Three of the disciples asked to be able to live and bring souls unto Christ until He came again. They were translated. This concluded Jesus' personal ministry among the Nephites.

The Nephites were greatly blessed because of Christ's visit. They knew that Jesus was their Savior. One by one, they had felt His wounds. They listened to His words. Doubtless, it was a life-changing experience (to understate it). They now had a new law to live by, which was

harder in many ways than the previous law. They lived together in righteousness for a long time after Christ's ministry. Reading this account gives me a glimpse of the love that Jesus Christ has for me, personally. By reading it, I can gain understanding and increase my own testimony, that Jesus Christ is my Savior. It also emphasizes the importance of baptism, the Holy Ghost, and the Sacrament, as well as the authority needed to administer those ordinances.