

# An Address to Book of Mormon Believers

by Shirley Heater

This country is no longer viewed as a Christian nation, with conditions continuing to deteriorate, both in this land and in the world at large. Are the two related? It would seem so. God's instructions to His people in 2 Chronicles to heal the land are: humility, prayer, seeking the face of God and repentance; and also, relevant for us, remembering the new covenant, both the Book of Mormon and the Bible. (D&C 83:8a-b RLDS) [D&C 84:54-57 LDS]

To my knowledge, we still remain under condemnation, even though in recent decades, we've seen many new insights relating to the Book of Mormon: its Hebrew nature including over 20 forms of poetry, mirror image archaeology, and a growing, deeper spiritual understanding. But its potential has hardly been scratched! The Scriptures tell us that God is going to do a new thing, which we believe directly relates to the Book of Mormon, as well as other records which are waiting to come forth—God's special gift for these last days. The time is ripe for the message of hope as the whole world "lieth in sin and groaneth under darkness." (D&C 83:7:f-i RLDS) [D&C 49-53 LDS]

What is the desire of your heart? What sacrifice are you willing to make? I'm reminded that Jesus said you cannot put new wine in old bottles—as the new wine expands, old bottles will burst because they have become dry and have lost their elasticity. Spiritually, we can equate this to a hardened heart and unbelief, conditions that contribute to condemnation and the world groaning in sin. We must cast off the old, our hearts softened so that we may be filled with the "new wine." Our purpose and vision here at The Book of Mormon Foundation is repentance in action—to not treat the Scriptures lightly and share that positive voice for scriptural harmony which is the message in both the Bible and Book of Mormon—to direct our eyes toward the Savior, and prepare for the coming breakthrough. We may be small, but we are mindful that it was David who slew Goliath! May we join our voices together with others as we prepare for the coming harvest in these last days.

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