

[BKM Lesson 1](#): The Keystone of Our Religion (See L1 [Study Guide](#))

Purpose: To help us understand how the Book of Mormon is the keystone of our religion and how abiding by its precepts helps us draw nearer to God.

1. The Book of Mormon is the keystone of our religion.

- **Introduction**, 6th paragraph. “I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct book ...”
“The keystone of an arch holds the other stones in place and prevents the arch from collapsing.” (*Lesson Manual*)
Why do you think Joseph Smith called the Book of Mormon the keystone of our religion? †1. Pres. Benson
†2. President Ezra Taft Benson

- **Title Page**, 2nd paragraph. Third purpose: **Witness of Christ**, “to convince all people that Jesus is the Christ ...”
- [1 Nephi 13:38-41](#) and [2 Nephi 29:6-9](#). “38 I beheld ... the book of the Lamb of God”. “6 ... we need no more Bible”.
What have you learned about Jesus from the Book of Mormon?
How has the Book of Mormon strengthened your testimony of Jesus Christ? (See E2 in BKM 1 Enrichment.pdf)

In what ways is the Book of Mormon the “keystone of our **doctrine**”?
(See [D&C 10:45-46](#) and [D&C 20:8-12](#).) †3. President Ezra Taft Benson
How has the Book of Mormon increased your understanding of vital gospel doctrines?

Why is the Book of Mormon fundamental to a **testimony** of the restored gospel?
What blessings come to those who receive a testimony of the Book of Mormon and follow its teachings?
What must we do to gain a testimony of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon? (See Moroni 10:3-5.)

2. Many witnesses have testified of the Book of Mormon.

- **The Testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith**.
- The Testimony of Three Witnesses.
- The Testimony of Eight Witnesses.

Why was it important to have witnesses of the gold plates? (See [Ether 5:2-4](#).)
How do you think having additional witnesses helped the Prophet Joseph Smith?
What other witnesses do we have that the Book of Mormon is true?

3. The Book of Mormon was written for our day.

- Read [Mormon 8:34-35](#); [Moroni 1:4](#); [2 Nephi 25:21-22](#); and [2 Nephi 27:22](#).
- Mormon 8:26-41. “No one need say they [the gold plates] shall not come ... for out of the earth they shall come”.
What did Moroni foresee would exist in the world when the Book of Mormon was again brought forth?
†4. World Conditions Awaiting the Book of Mormon
In what ways can the teachings of ancient prophets be a source of help to us?
How might knowing that the Book of Mormon was written for our day influence the way we study it?
†5. President Ezra Taft Benson

4. The Book of Mormon can bring us nearer to God.

- **Introduction**, 6th paragraph.
Precept: “a general rule intended to regulate behavior or thought: *moral precepts* \ *the legal precept of being innocent until proven guilty* \ *children learn far more by example than by precept*.”

What are the consequences to us, individually and as a church? (Ponderize [D&C 84:54-58](#).)
What blessings have come into your life when you have studied and pondered the Book of Mormon regularly?
†6. President Ezra Taft Benson †7. President Ezra Taft Benson

Next Week: L2: “All Things According to His Will”; See L2: [Class Member Study Guide](#).

Read the Institute Book of Mormon Student Manual at: [Book of Mormon Student Manual: Religion 121-122](#). † •

BKM 1 Quotes

†1. **President Ezra Taft Benson:** “Just as the arch crumbles if the keystone is removed, so does all the Church stand or fall with the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon” (“[The Book of Mormon—Keystone of our Religion](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 6.)

†2. **President Ezra Taft Benson:** “There are three ways in which the Book of Mormon is the keystone of our religion. It is the keystone in our **witness of Christ**. It is the keystone of our **doctrine**. It is the keystone of **testimony**” (“[The Book of Mormon—Keystone of our Religion](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 5.)

†3. **President Ezra Taft Benson:** “The Lord Himself has stated that the Book of Mormon contains the ‘fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ’ (D&C 20:9). **That does not mean it contains every teaching, every doctrine ever revealed.** Rather, it means that in the Book of Mormon we will find the fulness of those doctrines required for our salvation. And they are taught plainly and simply so that even children can learn the ways of salvation and exaltation” (“[The Book of Mormon—Keystone of our Religion](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 6.)

†4. **World Conditions Awaiting the Book of Mormon:**

- a. “The power of God shall be denied” (verse 28).
- b. “There shall be great pollutions upon the face of the earth” (verse 31).
- c. People will “lift themselves up in the pride of their hearts” (verse 36).
- d. People will “love money ... more than [they] love the poor and the needy” (verse 37).
- e. People will be “ashamed to take upon [themselves] the name of Christ” (verse 38).

†5. **President Ezra Taft Benson:** “The Book of Mormon ... was written for our day. The Nephites never had the book; neither did the Lamanites of ancient times. It was meant for us. ... Each of the major writers of the Book of Mormon testified that he wrote for future generations. ... If they saw our day and chose those things which would be of greatest worth to us, is not that how we should study the Book of Mormon? We should constantly ask ourselves, ‘Why did the Lord inspire Mormon (or Moroni or Alma) to include that in his record? What lesson can I learn from that to help me live in this day and age?’” (“[The Book of Mormon—Keystone of our Religion](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 6.)

†6. **President Ezra Taft Benson:** “There is a power in the [Book of Mormon] which will begin to flow into your lives The moment you begin a serious study of book. You will find greater power to resist temptation. You will find the power to avoid deception. You will find the power to stay on the strait and narrow path. The scriptures are called ‘the words of life’ (D&C 84:85), and nowhere is that more true than it is of the Book of Mormon. **When you begin to hunger and thirst after**

those words, you will find life in greater and greater abundance” (“[The Book of Mormon—Keystone of our Religion](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 7.)

†7. **President Ezra Taft Benson:** “A ... powerful testimony to the importance of the Book of Mormon is to note where the Lord placed its coming forth in the timetable of the unfolding Restoration. The only thing that preceded it was the First Vision. ...

“Think of that in terms of what it implies. The coming forth of the Book of Mormon preceded the restoration of the priesthood. It was published just a few days before the Church was organized. The Saints were given the Book of Mormon to read before they were given the revelations outlining such great doctrines as the three degrees of glory, celestial marriage, or work for the dead. It came before priesthood quorums and Church organization. **Doesn’t this tell us something about how the Lord views this sacred work?**” (“[The Book of Mormon—Keystone of our Religion](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 4.)

†8. **President Marion G. Romney:** “I feel certain that if, in our homes, parents will read from the Book of Mormon prayerfully and regularly, both by themselves and with their children, the spirit of that great book will come to permeate our homes and all who dwell therein. The spirit of reverence will increase; mutual respect and consideration for each other will grow. The spirit of contention will depart. Parents will counsel their children in greater love and wisdom. Children will be more responsive and submissive to the counsel of their parents. Righteousness will increase. Faith, hope, and charity—the pure love of Christ—will abound in our homes and lives, bringing in their wake peace, joy, and happiness” (“[The Book of Mormon](#),” *Ensign*, May 1980, 67).

Recommended Reading:

1. [BKM 1 Enrichment.pdf](#) contains more quotes and links to articles, blogs, and talks.
2. *Book of Mormon Student Manual: Religion 121-122*, Chapter 1: The Keystone of Our Religion.
3. President Ezra Taft Benson, “[The Book of Mormon—Keystone of our Religion](#),” *Ensign*, Nov. 1986.
4. Boyd K. Packer, “[The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ—Plain and Precious Things](#),” *Ensign*, May 2005, 6-9.

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