

LESSONS FROM THE BROTHER OF JARED AND THE BOOK OF ETHER

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, December 2000

1. Mahonri Moriancumer: the Brother of Jared

A. How do we know his name? From an interesting incident in Church history:

“While residing in Kirtland Elder Reynolds Cahoon had a son born to him. One day when President Joseph Smith was passing his door, he called the Prophet in and asked him to bless and name the baby. Joseph did so and gave the boy the name of *Mahonri Moriancumer*. When he had finished the blessing 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 shown [or revealed] it to me.’ Elder William F. Cahoon . . . heard the Prophet make this statement to his father; and this was the first time the name of the brother of Jared was known in the Church in this dispensation.” (George Reynolds, “*The Jaredites*,” *Juvenile Instructor*, May 1, 1892, p. 282)

B. “The brother of Jared being a large and mighty man, and a man highly favored of the Lord.” [Eth. 1:34] *A comparison: see Abraham 3:22-26: Many of the noble and great ones; these will I make my rulers; thou was chosen before thou wast born. See also Alma 13:3-6.*

C. “I will bless thee and thy seed, and raise up unto me . . . a great nation.” [Eth. 1:43]

2. The Lord’s appearance to the brother of Jared in a cloud

A. “The Lord came down and talked with the brother of Jared; and *he was in a cloud*, and the brother of Jared saw him not.” [Eth. 2:4]. And four years later. [Eth. 2:14]

B. The Lord has often appeared in a cloud; and so has God the Father, upon occasion, as have angels.

1. To Moses and the *children of Israel* while they wandered in the wilderness: Ex. 13:21-22; 14:19-21, 24-26; 16:10-11; 19:9, 16-17; 40:34-38; Deut. 1:33-34; Neh. 9:19-20; Ps. 78:14; Ps. 105:39
2. To *Moses and other leaders*: Upon Mt. Sinai: Ex. 24:15-18; 34:5-6; Deut. 5:22-23. In and by the tabernacle: Ex. 40:34-38; Num. 9:15-19; 9:22-23; 10:11-13, 34; Deut. 31:15; 1 Cor. 10:1-3. At the mercy seat: Lev. 16:2-3, 13-14. To call 70 elders: Num. 11:25-26. To rebuke Aaron and Miriam: Num. 12:5-11. When Israel murmured: 14:14-15; 16:42-43.
3. At the *dedication of Solomon’s Temple*: 1 Kgs. 8:10-12; 2 Chr. 5:13-14.
4. In the *Jerusalem Temple*, as shown in vision to Ezekiel: Ez. 10:4.
5. To *Nephi and Lehi* in a Lamanite prison in the land of Nephi: Hel. 5:28-37, 41-44.
- 6 At the transfiguration of Jesus, *God the Father* came in a cloud to Jesus, Peter, James and John: Mt. 17:5-6; Mk. 9:7; Lk. 9:34-36.
7. When *Jesus ascended into heaven* near Jerusalem, 40 days after resurrection: Acts 1:9.
8. When *Jesus ascended into heaven* from the land *Bountiful*: 3 Ne. 18:38-39.

C. Angels have appeared in clouds:

1. *To Alma* and the Sons of Mosiah: Mos. 27:11.
2. *John the Baptist* conferred the Priesthood of Aaron upon Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery: JS-H 1:68-72.

D. The Lord will appear in a cloud during various future last-days events:

1. *Upon Mt. Zion*, for a defense and for a refuge: Is. 4:5-6; 2 Ne. 14:5-6.
2. When the *New Jerusalem Temple* has been built: D&C 84:5.

3. **Prior to His second coming**, immediately preceding the coming of the seven angels.

Rev. 14:14-16.

4. **When the Saints are resurrected** and caught up to meet Him in a cloud: D&C 45:45; 76:102; 78:21; 109:75.

5. When **He comes in glory** in His second coming: Lk. 21:27; D&C 34:7.

E. Angels and Church leaders will appear in or disappear into clouds:

1. **An angel** “clothed with a cloud” was seen by John in a last-days setting: Rev. 10:1-2.

2. The **two prophets** who will be slain in the streets of Jerusalem will ascend into heaven in a cloud: Rev. 11:12-13.

3. The brother of Jared saw the pre-mortal Jesus [Ether 3:4-19]

A. The Lord touched the stones with his finger. [Eth. 3:6] (*Compare Deut. 9:10 & Ex. 31:18, also Alma 10:2.*)

B. “This body, which ye now behold, is the body of my spirit; and man have I created after the body of my spirit; and even as I appear unto thee to be in the spirit will I appear unto my people in the flesh.” [Eth. 3:16]

C. **Other anti-mortal appearances of Jesus Christ:** [See *Topical Guide: Jesus Christ, Appearances, Ante-mortal*, p. 241.) To: **Adam & Eve:** 3:8-21, Moses 4:13-32; **Enoch:** Moses 7:3-67; **the brother of Jared:** Eth. 3:6-21; **Coriantum:** Eth. 9:22; **Abram** [Abraham] Gen. 12:7, 17:1-22, 18:1-33, Abra. 1:15; 2:6-11; **Isaac:** Ex. 6:3; **Jacob:** Gen. 32:24-30; **Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and 70 elders of Israel:** Ex. 24:9-11; the **people of Israel**, at Horeb: Deut. 5:2-5, 24-26; **Moses:** Ex. 3:1-4:17 [see Jn. 8:58], 33:9-23, Num. 12:6-8, Deut. 34:10, Moses 1:1-9, 25-41; **Isaiah:** Is. 6:1-13 [2 Ne. 16:1-13], Jn. 12:41, 2 Ne. 11:2; **Ezekiel:** Ezek. 1:26-28; **Amos:** Amos 9:1-15; **Lehi:** 1 Ne. 1:5-13; **Nephi:** 1 Ne. 11:1-21; 2 Ne. 11:2; **Jacob:** 2 Ne. 2:4; **King Lamoni:** Al. 19:13.

D. “Because thou knowest these things ye are redeemed from the fall; therefore ye are brought back into my presence; therefore I show these things unto you.” [Eth. 3:13]

E. “Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ.” [Eth. 14]

F. “This body, which ye now behold, is the body of my spirit; and man have I created after the body of my spirit; and even as I appear unto thee to be in the spirit will I appear unto my people in the flesh.” [Eth. 3:16]

4. It is life eternal to know God [and to know the nature of God].

A. “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” [Jn. 17:3] *Christ’s great intercessory prayer on the Mt. of Olives.*

B. “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.” [Jn. 14:9] *Christ to Phillip.*

C. “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; . . . So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” [Gen. 1:26-27]

1. Seth, Adam’s son, was “in his [Adam’s] own likeness, after his image.” [Gen. 5:1-3]

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