

THE ANGEL MESSAGE TO BENJAMIN

(Mosiah 1:92-130)

Benjamin now changes his subject entirely away from the transfer in kingship, the first subject he said he would address in verses 15-16, towards the second subject he said he would address in verse 17, their spiritual king. The section is largely composed of a quotation of an angel which visited Benjamin one night (v.94-123), with an append of some comments from the Lord regarding what the angel said (v.124-130).

V92-94

Benjamin announces a change in subject (v.92). He informs the audience what he is about to tell them was in fact delivered to him by an angel of God (v.93-94).

V95-123

The angel gives Benjamin the gospel (v.95), so he can give his people the gospel (v.96). However, this knowledge come with responsibility, and whoever obtains it is no longer blameless (v.122). So, when Benjamin has taught his people, they will no longer be blameless (v.123).

V97-106

This block of text presents the Lord, the Creator of Heaven and Earth (v.97), as condescending to flesh (v. 97-102) and then being exalted again (v.105-106) so that Salvation and Judgment might be achieved for man (v.103-106). His condescension is marked by suffering for man (v.100-101), but also his rejection by man (v.104).

V107-108

The blood of Christ's atonement automatically covers all those who ignorantly sin (v.107), but those who willfully sin will not be covered by the atonement unless they repent (v.108).

V109-121

This block of text indicates the knowledge of Christ is the only means of salvation for man. The Lord sends prophets to testify of Christ (v.109), and gives the people laws (v.110) that are a type of Christ. Yet, the people hardened their hearts and did not see the Law testified of the atonement (v.111-113). The atonement is so fundamental not even babies would be saved without it, because of the Fall (v.114-115). There is no other way to be saved, except through Christ, who is the Lord (v.116). And the atonement is just, such that the baby that dies young does not perish, but the adult who does not humble themselves as a child does perish (v.117-118). The natural, fallen condition of man is carnal and adversarial, and unless the man yields to the Holy Spirit they cannot humble themselves and submit to God (v.119-120). But the time will come when knowledge of Christ will spread to all people (v.121).

V124-130

The quotation from the angel is then followed up by an additional quote from the Lord (v.124). The present quote endorses the preceding one, stating it will stand as a witness, which will separate the righteous from the wicked (v.125-126). If they are evil they will be damned for their actions (v.127) by the indisputable justice of God (v.128). Their punishment will be eternal (v.129-130).

The closing statement is emphatic and rhetorically charged. It is aimed at those who have the gospel, yet rebel against it. One would assume the power and Spirit of the speech is what resulted in the crowd being overwhelmed in the opening verses of the next chapter.

- 1. Identify three statements in the angel's message that show the divinity of Jesus Christ.**
- 2. How does the atonement affect (a) children and (b) those who "ignorantly sinned"?**
- 3. How does someone "put off the natural man"?**