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SAMUEL THE LAMANITE

That Ye Might Believe

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Edited by Charles Swift

The Book of Mormon Academy 

ABOUT THE EDITOR

CHARLES SWIFT grew up in Montpelier, Idaho. From 1968 to 1970 he served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Central States Mission. Upon graduation from Brigham Young University, he taught English in Japan and then joined the US Army, where he was trained as a Russian linguist. After ten years of active duty, he earned a PhD in the history and philosophy of science from Indiana University. He taught for eight years in the history department of BYU-Hawaii and then for seventeen years in the philosophy department of BYU. After his retirement in 2016, David and his wife, Janet, served a Church mission in Germany. They are the parents of six children and seventeen grandchildren.

PROVO, UTAH, AND SALT LAKE CITY— This third volume by the Book of Mormon Academy at Brigham Young University is a study of the sermon of Samuel the Lamanite by means of four analytical lenses.

The first, a prophetic lens, discusses the roles of prophets, the prophetic promise of “prolonged days,” and Samuel’s prophecies.

The second lens is pedagogical, providing readers with a greater understanding of how to teach the sermon.

Readers who take advantage of the third lens, which is cultural-theological, will discover a useful framework for comprehending the ethics of wealth in the sermon, witness how Samuel stands up to Nephite discrimination, and benefit from a detailed reading of the sermon that will enable them grasp how spiritual death divides both Christ and human beings.

Lastly, the fourth set of lenses, literary in nature, assists the reader in

recognizing a newly identified type-scene, traces possible sources Samuel may have relied on, explores sources Mormon may have turned to as he abridged the work, and studies parallels between the ancient sermon and a form of early American speech known as the “jeremiad.”

Samuel the Lamanite: That Ye Might Believe was edited by Charles Swift and copublished by the Religious Studies Center at Brigham Young University and Deseret Book. Visit rsc.byu.edu/book/samuel-lamanite for more information.

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MEDIA CONTACT

For more information, please contact

Project Editor: Don Brugger

Marketing: Brent Nordgren

Social Media: Devan Jensen

801-422-1526, don_brugger@byu.edu

801-422-3293, brent_nordgren@byu.edu

801-422-9304, devan_jensen@byu.edu



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