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NEWSLETTER ~ MARCH/APRIL 2011

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OUR FAITH WILL WORK BY LOVE OR IT WILL NOT WORK AT ALL



FROM CHAR'S DESK

For almost 23 years, Plaza Bible Church has graciously allowed Ex-Mormons for Jesus to use part of their facility to house our Information and Visitors Center. Because of their generosity, we haven't had to pay rent all of these years but, unfortunately, that has now come to an end. The church needs the space that we occupied so we had to find a new office which is no longer rent-free. Nevertheless, we know God promises in His word to supply all of our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil.4:19) so we are putting our complete trust in Him, He has never failed us. Our new Center is located at 1107 E. Chapman Ave. #206, Orange, CA 92866. Our telephone number remains the same, (714)997-3498. Please keep us in your prayers. Thank you.

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~ Jenell's Jots & Tittles ~

**THE BIBLE, PRESERVED
OR PERVERTED?**

I recently read a refreshing article in the January 2011 "Ensign" magazine (an official Mormon publication) by Thomas A. Wayment, an "Associate Professor of Ancient Scripture" at Brigham Young University. He pretty much stated that which most Christians already knew regarding the accuracy and preservation of the New Testament. In part, he wrote:

"The New Testament has the distinction of being the

volume of scripture that preserves the words of individuals who knew Jesus personally or who followed Him shortly after His Resurrection—making the New Testament an invaluable resource to help us come closer to the Savior and gain a glimpse of His mortal ministry....The writings recorded in the Bible and referred to as the New Testament describe, document, and teach about that new covenant between the Lord and His people...Our modern printed editions of the New Testament trace their ancestry to the copies of the Bible made during Constantine's day and therefore back to those individuals who sacrificed their safety to preserve the new covenant of the Lord." (pp. 50-53, my emphasis).

We don't often hear a Mormon share such trust in the preservation and accuracy of the Bible. In fact, in an article regarding creation, this same magazine stated just the opposite several years earlier: "*The creation was twofold—first spiritual, secondly temporal. This truth, also, Moses plainly taught [referring to LDS scripture]—much more plainly than it has come down to us in the imperfect translations of the Bible that are now in use...*" (Feb.2002 "Ensign", p.28, my emphasis).

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ALL GIFTS DONATED TO EMFJ ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED AS WELL AS YOUR PRAYERS FOR THIS MINISTRY ~



As I read Professor Wayment's article, I couldn't help but wonder if he had read the Book of Mormon, and if he had, how he could reconcile what it said with his own findings? In 1 Nephi 13:26-28 we are told that the "great and abominable church" took away from the gospel many parts and covenants which were plain and precious. This was done in order to pervert the ways of the Lord, blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the people, thus producing a corrupted Bible.

Of course Mormonism must cast the Bible in an untrustworthy light, otherwise how could they explain why their strange doctrines and theology are missing from its pages? This effort to discredit the Bible has been around since Mormonism's beginning. One of the first apostles chosen by Joseph Smith stated: "*But the Bible has been robbed of its plainness; many sacred books having been lost, others rejected by the Romish Church, and what few we have left, were copied and re-copied so many times, that it is admitted that almost every verse had been corrupted and mutilated to that degree that scarcely any two of them read alike. The original manuscripts of the books of the Old and New Testaments are nowhere to be found; all we have left are mutilated copies containing an incredible number of contradictory readings. From these, uninspired men have translated by their own human wisdom our present version of the Bible...*" (Orson Pratt, "The Seer", p.213, my emphasis)

It is so sad to see Mormons being robbed of trust in God's precious word. Hopefully more of them will study for themselves, as this BYU professor has done, rather than just blindly believe what their leaders tell them.

CITATIONS OF CONCERN (From LDS Leaders)

The Book of Mormon offers ample internal evidence of its divine origins. It is not only a wonder because of the consistency of its history, characters, and cultural details, but, more important, because of the brilliant light it sheds on basic doctrines of the gospel and the plan of salvation. Some of these "plain and precious" (1 Ne.13:34) doctrines are missing or only superficially treated in the Bible. We

would probably not even realize that they are superficially treated if it weren't for the Book of Mormon. We would struggle on with the limited understanding, confusion, and uncertainty that sometimes beset those who rely only on the Bible for doctrine. (Sept. 1997 "Ensign", p.9, my emphasis)

The above statement is mind-boggling for many reasons, however, I will touch on only one. And that is the fact that *none* of Mormonism's most important doctrines are found in the Book of Mormon, let alone having "brilliant light" shed on them! For example, it is silent on baptism for the dead, temple marriage, God being an exalted man of flesh and bones, mother in heaven, pre-existence, three degrees of glory, eternal progression, plurality of gods, etc.

For those of you who are interested, we have an excellent DVD at our Center that addresses some of the other false claims made in the above "Ensign" article. Just call or write and ask for THE BIBLE vs. THE BOOK OF MORMON. A donation of \$10 would be most appreciated, thank you.

LDS TEMPLE CEREMONY... SECRET OR SACRED?

Some time back, an official Mormon publication carried the following article by Gordon B. Hinckley: "*But when it [the temple] is dedicated it becomes the house of the Lord, vested with a character so sacred that only members of the Church in good standing are permitted to enter. It is not a matter of secrecy, it is a matter of sanctity.*" (1974 "Ensign", my emphasis)

If you were to ask any Mormon today why they can't talk about what goes on in their temple ceremonies, they will tell you it is because it is sacred. They will be quick to deny their silence on the subject as having anything to do with secrecy. But as the above quote by President Hinckley points out, this is what they are taught (brainwashed might be a better term) to believe even in the face of facts to the contrary.

If the Mormons want to practice secret rituals and ceremonies that is certainly their right, but why not call

a spade a spade? Why the need to camouflage secrecy in the veil of sanctity? We believe one of the reasons is that if they admitted it was a secret ritual they would be going against the Book of Mormon which says, “*For the Lord worketh not in secret combinations...*” (Ether 8:19, my emphasis). The Book of Mormon, as well as the Bible, also admonishes one not to swear oaths:

“But verily, verily, I say unto you, swear not at all; neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; Nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair black or white; But let your communication be Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever cometh of more than these is evil” (3Nephi 12:34-37; also see the Bible, Matt.5:34-37 & James 5:12).

In spite of these warnings, the temple ceremony is riddled with oath taking which their members are required to swear, along with performing the accompanying signs showing the “penalty” for divulging these various oaths and secrets that are being “entrusted” to them.

Secrecy also shields members from ridicule from *without* and from *within*. We have talked to numerous ex-temple patrons who say that going through the ceremony for the first time was anything ranging from strange to eerie (see “current correspondence” in this newsletter). They say the experience did not come near to what they had been built up to expect but because they were not allowed to discuss it with anyone (including their spouses) they felt something must be wrong with them, not the ceremony (more guilt).

Lastly, seeing as how Joseph Smith “borrowed” their temple ceremony from Freemasonry, it must be kept under raps lest that fact be found out. Yes, there are many reasons for keeping the temple ceremony “secret” but that word does not conjure up the sense of holiness that the word “sacred” does. So in the typical fashion of Mormon “doublethink”, they can be doing one thing while yet believing something entirely different! If you would like more detailed information of the LDS temples, please contact our Center.

RESPONDING TO A “FAMILIAR SPIRIT”

As most of you know, Joseph Smith supposedly received some gold plates (that were later translated into the Book of Mormon) out of the ground in New York. Mormons are taught to view the following scripture as a fulfilled prophecy regarding that event: “*And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.*” (Isa.29:4)

But when read in context, and with a little further study, we can see that this prophecy is being given to “Ariel”, which is a reference to the city of Jerusalem and can not be referring to the coming forth of the Book of Mormon by any stretch of the imagination.

The reference to a *familiar spirit* in that verse is also seen by Mormons as a good thing (e.g. familiar like its supposed counterpart, the Bible). However, a little closer examination of scripture shows something quite the opposite! In reading Lev.20:6, 27, Deut.18:9-12 and Isa.8:19, we can see that anyone or anything that has a familiar spirit is a medium, one who is on friendly terms with demons and is an abomination to the Lord.

Yet in view of the evidence, it is not difficult to acknowledge that a “familiar spirit” **does** accompany the Book of Mormon. You see, many Mormons testify that in their reading of the same, they received some kind of manifestation, such as a burning in the bosom (D&C 9:8), but they mistakenly believe this to be of the Holy Spirit rather than a “familiar spirit” because they do not know how to “*test the spirits to see whether they are from God*” (1 John 4:1 NAS).

We have conversed with many Mormons who may know that Mormonism is a false religious system but still won’t/can’t break away because of a “testimony” they have received of the Book of Mormon. The following article gives an example of Mormonism’s indoctrination into this mind set and the early age they are subjected to it:

*“Youth of all ages, even infants, can and do respond to the **distinctive spirit** of the Book of Mormon. Children may not understand all of the words and stories, but they certainly **can feel the “familiar spirit” described by Isaiah (Isaiah 29:4; see also 2 Nephi 26:16)...**”* (May 2010 “Ensign”, p.42, my emphasis).

In 2Tim.2:15 we are told to study and accurately handle the word of God, which obviously Mormonism has failed to do in its interpretation of Isa.29:4. One last scripture that is quite pertinent to this topic is found in 1Tim.4:1: *“But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to **deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.**”* Please join us in prayer, that our Mormon acquaintance’s will heed this warning and be set free from the influence and bondage of the enemy!

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE

“I was in the LDS Church for over 30 years. One day I was at the library and saw the Tanners Shadow or Reality book. And I wanted to check out what they had to say. I was shocked to hear that J.S. [Joseph Smith] translated the B.O.M. with a peep stone in a hat. And the most shocking thing to me was that he was a freemason. When I went to the Washington D.C. temple to get my endowments. And the man said if anyone wants to leave do so know (sic), I got really scared. Why would he say that? Anyway I couldn’t believe that Satan was in a film in the temple. And after we did the hand shakes I will call them I had to pray and ask Jesus if he really required that of us. It seem (sic) like I was joining some kind of cult. I was scared I almost ran out of there several times but my molly

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Mormon sister was next to me and she seemed to be fine. The Bishop asked me when I was being interview [ed] if I belonged to any organization or things like that. And [then] to find out that the “prophet” was a freemason and they do those handshakes. I felt soooo betrayed....I quite (sic) the Mormon church, my question is should I get Babtized (sic) again.. I want to be Babtized (sic) into the Father and Son and Holy Ghost, not any church persay (sic) as I believe that Jesus taught us a way of life. Thank you for any help you can give me. D_____

Dear D_____, we received your E-Mail and understand exactly how you felt when you went through the temple ceremony. It is not of God! We feel it would be very helpful for you to be baptized in a Bible-believing Church in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the Triune God. This breaks all bondage to the Mormon Church and frees you from any Satanic stronghold. It is so wonderful to be FREE! God bless you in a special way and may you live your life for Him. We know it is hard to believe in any church after being deceived by Mormonism but it is important to fellowship with true believers. Ask God to lead you a church that loves Jesus and, in turn, loves you. In His Love, Charlotte Pardee, Director

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. These gatherings include a mini-lesson, testimony of an ex-Mormon, a question and answer time, and refreshments. All are welcome - those who have a burden to reach the Mormons, those who want to learn more, those who need support, and the Mormons themselves. The address is 226 W. Chapman Ave. In Orange and we look forward to seeing you there.

