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

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## FROM CHAR'S DESK

Recently we saw God do a wonderful thing for our ministry. Since we moved to our new location, we were outside the perimeters of the Orange Street Fair. Consequently, we had no exposure at the fair for the past three years. However, this year Snow's Auto Center (which is right next door to the Orange Post Office) allowed us use the front of their facility (free of charge) to have a table and display our literature.

Many people, on their way to the fair, stopped by our booth and we had the opportunity to share the true beliefs about Mormonism and to share the wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ. We gave out many of our business cards with our new address and website as many thought Ex-Mormons For Jesus was no longer in existence. Now they know where to go if they need us. God is so good! We pray that next year Snow's will allow us to use this location again. If so, stop by and see us! And, if you are so inclined, stop by Snow's and thank them for their generosity.

## Jenell's Jots & Tittles

### JOSEPH SMITH'S SEER STONE

A Mormon artist's rendition of Joseph Smith translating the Book Of Mormon always shows him leaning over gold plates while a scribe sits nearby (usually with a curtain between him and the scribe). However, it is a well documented fact that Smith often used his seer stone in a hat for the translation

process. A Mormon publication stated: "*The details of this miraculous method of translation are still not fully known. Yet we do have a few precious insights. David Whitmer wrote: 'Joseph Smith would put the seer stone into a hat, and put his face in the hat, drawing it closely around his face to exclude the light; and in the darkness the spiritual light would shine...'*" (the July 1993 "Ensign", p.62)

This is the same chocolate-covered, egg shaped stone Smith used in his money digging efforts. His father-in-law, Isaac Hale, was so angry with Smith that he expressed his opposition in a legal statement (The Isaac Hale Affidavit). In part, it reads: "*I first became acquainted with Joseph Smith, Jr. in November, 1825. He was at that time in the employ of a set of men who were called 'money-diggers' and his occupation was that of seeing, or pretending to see by means of a stone placed in his hat, and his hat closed over his face...The manner in which he pretended to read and interpret [The Book of Mormon], was the same as when he looked for the money-diggers, with the stone in his hat, and his hat over his face, while the Book of Plates were at the same time in the woods!*" (The "Susquehanna Register", May 1, 1834, my emphasis)

While not all Mormons know about Smith's occultic practice of using a "seer stone", their leadership admits they have it in their possession as follows: "*The Urim and Thummim so spoken of, however, was the seer stone which was in the possession of the Prophet Joseph Smith in early days. This seer stone is now in the possession of the Church.*" (Doctrines of Salvation, Vol.3, p.225). And not only is it in their possession,

but they have recently released a photo of it which can be seen on **their own** web site - lds.org.

We can readily understand Mormonism's embarrassment over Joseph's seer stone, but now that it has been fully exposed, we hope they will own up to it and give us a more accurate picture of the translating process, time will tell.

## JOSEPH SMITH *CORRECTS* THE BIBLE

The January 2002 "Ensign" magazine makes the following unbelievable statement: *"After the Prophet Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon, one of the first things the Lord instructed him to do was to make numerous corrections to the Bible. These corrections are called the Joseph Smith Translation (JST)...These changes can often completely alter the meaning of the verse. For example, in Moses' confrontation with Pharaoh, the King James Version says that 'the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh' (Ex.9:12). The JST changes this mistake to 'And Pharaoh hardened his heart, and he hearkened not unto them'".* (pp 58-59, my emphasis)

First of all, God doesn't make **mistakes**. In 2Tim.3:16, we are told that, *"All Scripture is inspired by God [God breathed] and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."* (NAS). Further, the book of Revelation warns: *"I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life..."* (Rev.22:18-19). Mormons try and get around this warning by saying that those scriptures are only speaking of the book of Revelation, but that doesn't help their cause because Joseph Smith made over 80 alterations in that book alone.

It seems as if whenever a section of scripture or a verse didn't make sense to Smith, he took it upon himself to change it. Another example is found in John 1:1 (a verse loved by all Christians). He

changed it to read: *"In the beginning was the gospel preached through the Son. And the gospel was the word, and the word was with the Son, and the Son was with God, and the Son was of God."* And as stated in the first paragraph above, this change **completely** altered the meaning of that verse.

Smith also added about 800 words to the book of Genesis which miraculously included a prophecy about himself! What audacity this man possessed and yet the Mormon people honor and praise him. And one might wonder why Mormons use the KJV of the Bible rather than the one their "prophet" made numerous corrections to, as "the Lord instructed"?

When Satan tried to tempt Jesus, He quoted scripture: *"It is written, man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."* The Bible is our spiritual food, yet Joseph Smith has reduced it to something of his own liking and has robbed his followers of this glorious spiritual feast.

## MORMONISM EXPOSED

It seems as if the internet has become a source of information for Mormons who previously had no inkling as to their church's true history. We hear of Mormons, who in the privacy of their own homes, are researching things like Joseph Smith being married to over 30 women (even some who were married to other men at the time), of Smith using a "seer stone" in a hat to translate the Book of Mormon, blood atonement, Adam God, etc. (see Mormonessays.com website).

While this information has always been verifiable in Mormonism's own records, it is this age of modern technology that is allowing some Mormons to become aware of it for the first time. Of course there are many who are fearful of looking at anything that might damage their "testimony", even when it comes from their *own* church's websites (i.e. lds.org).

It is our prayer that more and more Mormons will come to research the truth of Mormonism's foundation, for it is truth that will make them free (John 8:32)! Please join us in this prayer, thank you!

## THE TEARING OF THE VEIL

I recently watched a video on Facebook where a Christian man in Utah asked various Mormons why God rent (tore) the veil of the temple in two (Matt.27:51). Sadly, not one Mormon could give an answer to this *very* important question.

Christians know that the Old Testament veil separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple (Ex.26:33). Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies once a year to make atonement for himself and then all the people. This tearing of the veil in the New Testament signified that the way into God's presence was now open to all through a new and living way (Heb.10:19-22), and the fact that it was torn "from top to bottom" showed that it was God's doing, not man's.

In Mormon temples, their "endowment ceremony" climaxes with a "Veil Ceremony" where each patron is tested for his knowledge of the four tokens and their names by a Veil Worker who represent the Lord behind the veil. The "Lord" reaches through an opening in the Veil to take the patron's hand in the various grips (or tokens), and asks him specific questions. His answers must be word-perfect. The culmination of this examination is the name of the Second Token of the Melchizedek Priesthood, the Patriarchal Grip, or Sure Sign of the Nail, which is given to the patron only through the Veil while embracing the "Lord" ("What's Going On In There?" pp.9-10).

Once again, with the tearing of the Old Covenant veil, God showed that we no longer need the Old Covenant temples, priesthood, or sacrifices since Jesus, the Perfect Lamb of God, shed His blood, once for all (Heb.7:27, 10:10), the price has been paid in full, "It is finished" (John 19:30). How our hearts ache for the Mormons who do not understand this and are trying to hang onto the Old Covenant and combine it with the New. Christians, we suggest that you ask your Mormon acquaintances to prayerfully read the book of Hebrews, especially chapters five through ten with an open mind, it is so clear!

END NOTE: In the winter of 1989, audio tapes of the

*actual* Mormon temple ceremonies were being played on several Christian radio programs. We will probably never know what impact these programs had on the leadership of the LDS Church, but during their following General Conference (April 6-8, 1990) all or most of the Mormon temples in the USA were ordered closed for major renovations. However, these "renovations" were not for the buildings themselves, but of the secret rituals performed inside of them. This resulted in some of the more offensive rituals being toned down or removed altogether (including changes in the above mentioned "Veil Ceremony"). For a more detailed explanation of these changes, you can contact us and request the tract "Mormons Temple Rituals Drastically Renovated In Secret".

## CITATIONS OF CONCERN (From LDS Leaders)

The following two excerpts are from Gordon B. Hinckley: "*One of my concerns is that not enough of our people are making the efforts to get a temple recommend, which becomes a symbol of their worthiness and the righteousness of their desires.*" (the December 1995 "Ensign", p.67)

*"I have seen miracles in my time, my brothers and sisters. The greatest miracle of all, I believe, is the transformation that comes into the life of a man or a woman who accepts the restored gospel [Mormonism] of Jesus Christ and tries to live it in his or her life..."* (Ibid)

## FOR A MORMON TO CONSIDER

\* Doctrine & Covenants 68:27 says: "*And their children shall be baptized for the remission of their sins when eight years old...*". However, Moroni 8:8 says: "*...wherefore, little children are whole for they are not capable of committing sin...*". If children have no sins until they are eight years old, why are they baptized at age eight to wash away non-existent sins?

\* The late Apostle Bruce R. McConkie stated: "*Before vicarious ordinances of salvation and exaltation may be performed for those who have died...they must be accurately and properly identified. Hence, genealogical*

research is required..." ("Mormon Doctrine", 1966, p.308). If genealogies are so important, why does the New Testament tell Christians to avoid "endless genealogies"? (1 Tim.1:4, Titus 3:9).

\* Jesus said, "In secret have I said nothing." (John 18:20). Why is much of Mormonism clothed in secrecy?

\* The Bible says, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from **all** sin." (1 John 1:7). So why did Brigham Young say that there are some sins which can be atoned for only by the shedding of ones **own** blood? (See Journal of Discourses, Vol.3, p.247 & Vol.4, pp 49, 53, 54).

\* How did the French word "adieu" get into the Book of Mormon? (See Jacob 7:27)

\* If the Book of Mormon is true, why hasn't a valid geography been established for the book?

## RECENT CORRESPONDENCE

From WA: "I have a very dear friend who is a Mormon and has recently become more vocal about it. He and I have talked about prayer and God in the past and it is often difficult to tell the difference in our beliefs, though I know they are many...I REALLY want for him and his family to know the truth and am not sure exactly what to do from here. It seems that the door has opened for discussion but I want to be informed and not simply offend that which he holds so dear. Any help you can offer would be greatly appreciated!" (T.M.)

From CA: "I was baptized in 2007 as a lds. Through the actions unfortunately of most members I became very suspicious if the church was true. I started to research the history of Joseph Smith intensively and was shocked at what I discovered. I no longer attend church services, my sincere question to you is why do lds members not investigate their church history. All the available evidence indicates Joseph Smith was a fraud..." (F.C.)

From U.S.: "I'm a Mormon recently was baptized (I'm actually Baptist), but I don't believe in it, my wife of 14 years was born into it since her parents and all her family is Mormon, she is forcing me into this belief and when I try to tell her what the Bible says about the Mormon beliefs she freaks out and cries, now she wants a divorce because of the contention, do you guys have any advice? (A.B.)

From CA: "I am familiar with Mormonism, some of my family members are Mormon, I was raised Catholic, but became born again, but recently my oldest son became a Mormon, it was quite a shock to me, because he wasn't raised up in Mormonism, but he had started dating a young lady who is, I want to know how to witness to them, so any and all info is appreciated, and prayer for them both, Thank You." (M.W.)

## SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Our guest speaker for October 13<sup>th</sup> will be Arthur Vanick, author of "Who Really Wrote The Book of Mormon?". Art will be showing a video that will educate non-Mormons on how to witness to their Mormon friends and family.

After the presentation, there will be a question and answer time followed by 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 240 W. Chapman Avenue in Orange and we look forward to seeing you there.

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







