

REALITY QUEST

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Issue XXVI I

THE BOOK OF MORMON

Through honest research, an open mind, and many hours of contemplation I can make the following claim which I maintain to be the absolute truth about *The Book of Mormon*:

The book is the work of Joseph Smith and some others who believed in what he was trying to do in the religious world. There were no gold plates, Angel Moroni, or Urim and Thummim, i.e., the "seer stones" Joseph Smith reportedly used to translate the gold plates with.

I would never have questioned the integrity of *The Book of Mormon* had I not came across the suppression of truth that the LDS Church perpetuates in order to protect the facts about the origin of the *Book of Abraham* found in the *Pearl of Great Price* of the Mormon scripture. Any honest individual can not deny the fact that the *Book of Abraham* was the work of Joseph Smith. If the matter was taken to a court of law where an unbiased jury of men and women analyzed the facts, there could be no other conclusion but what the overwhelming evidence would show; that Joseph Smith did not get any papyri from ancient mummies which contained the writings of some of the greatest figures in religious history.

For years I tried to hang on to *The Book of Mormon* and its sacredness as one of the greatest literary religious works that could ever be shared with mortal men and women. However, my blindness could not be supported by my intense desire to know truth and reality. Though there are millions who believe in it, the fact remains that there are millions more who believe in the *Koran* (Islam), the *Baghavid Gita* (Hindu), the *Torah* (Jewish), the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*, or more recently, *The Seven Signs*, written and produced by none other than the martyr, David Koresh.

The years will pass, and each sect will believe in what they want and see only what they wish to see. Because of the religious blinders that most will wear, the bigotry that exists between them will continue to produce wars, famines, and all manner of vicissitudes.

When will the human race wake up and remove the blinders that keep them from finding love, tolerance, and true happiness?

There is a logical reason why Joseph Smith did what he did. I have written a book entitled, *Deceived Or Be Deceived*. I hope the work will help the reader understand the human's need to have religion and certain other individual's need to give it to them.

The next few issues of Reality Quest will be taken from my book. It will show how I could have remained deceived or been a deceiver of others myself. After the book, I will outline a comprehensive study of *The Book of Mormon* which will leave the honest reader convinced that there is no other conclusion to be made but that which I have postulated.

I do not want to ridicule one's right to believe in what ever myth they might need to experience their happiness. However, as mentioned at the beginning of "*What I Know*", I do not believe that others should ridicule my beliefs as being "false" when I can prove theirs to be so and they have no shred of evidence that prove that mine are.

In other words, I'm hoping that I can remove the blinders of any honest individual that he or she might help create peace in this world by seeing the whole road and not only the middle which their masters force them to focus on.

I can almost hear the lonely voices of many sages long since buried in the world that they tried so hard to comprehend, "Good-luck, Chris!"

DECEIVED OR BE DECEIVED

CHAPTER ONE

Religious Deception

Since the beginning of time man has feared the unknown. Death was one of these "unknowns" which humans experienced regularly. The death of a relative or friend causes a lot of emotional stress on an individual. Upon experiencing the death of a close acquaintance, it is a natural desire to seek to be comforted. Religions are formed and based on the giving of this comfort.

Most religions are formed according to the general beliefs and cultures of the people who begin them. Religions also disappear when the people and the culture who begin them change or cease to exist. However, most ancient religions never really cease to exist, but merely evolve into their present day counterparts.

Religion is an evolutionary process. As culture changes, so do the religious beliefs and practices of the people. When a culture is changed from its original foundations, so does its religions. A good example of this process is the ancient Egyptian religions which are rarely practiced today. However, there have been many modern religions based on the foundation which these ancient religions built.

The leaders of all religions claim to be chosen by unseen individuals or forces. For want of a better term, the name "God" shall be used in this text to describe these unseen beings who religious followers believe give their power and authority to mortal men and/or women.

Any attempt to uncover the deception of all religions would fill many volumes of written work. Therefore, we shall consider some of the means used by the leaders of a few Christian faiths who hold their followers in subjection. This does not mean that other faiths not mentioned herein use any less deceptive means.

The Christian faith is based on the reverence of a man called Jesus in the English language. Most of the information about Jesus is taken from the *New Testament* of what Christians accept as the *Holy Bible*. Most, if not all, Christian leaders claim that this *Bible* is the "Word of God"-the words of an invisible being to all but a few who make claims of being *his* personally chosen leaders. To determine what deceit has been used to make such an extraordinary claim, it would be wise to examine this claim based on actual facts known. (However, even this examination of fact would prove difficult to accomplish owing to the understanding that there exists very few *true* facts, which are usually second hand hearsay and all that is available for study by the student of truth.)

The Bible begins with five books which have been generally accepted as the books which Moses contributed to this Jewish historical text. Now let's give Moses the benefit of the doubt and assume that he did talk with God. However, an elementary student could figure out that if Moses had actually written these books himself, he would not have referred to himself as "Moses" throughout the text, but he would have used the pronoun "I".

Exodus 2:11 : *"And it came to pass in those days when Moses was grown..."*

Leviticus 11:1 : *"And the Lord spake unto Moses and to Aaron, saying to them,..."*

Numbers 1:1 : *"And the Lord spake unto Moses in the wilderness..."*

The "fact" is, these first five books were written hundreds of years after Moses' death. The Jews kept an oral history of their early beginnings, and as close as any biblical scholar can tell, these oral histories were finally written down sometime during or after the reign of King Solomon.

Who were the actual men who wrote this history, or in other words, the first five books of Moses? They certainly weren't Moses, neither were they God. Therefore, to assume that these books contain the words of God or Moses, is a false misconception. At the time these writers decided to write this oral history, the Jewish faith was in all kind of chaos. This is evident by the later writings of the biblical prophets whose message was nothing less than a chastisement of the wickedness and corruption of the Jewish leaders and those who followed them. In "fact", the sacrificial ordinances which meant so much to the Jews, and eventually the Christians, were condemned profusely by the prophet Isaiah:

"To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of feed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or he goats. When ye come to appear before me, who has required this at your hand, to tread my courts? Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.(Isaiah 1:11-14)

Isaiah goes on to tell the people to forget about their religious ordinances and do good by taking care of the poor and needy- true religious principles. Had the Jews listened to this prophet of God, perhaps they wouldn't have been sacrificing poor, innocent animals at the time when this Jesus began to tell them not to. Who told them to kill the innocent things anyway? Moses certainly couldn't have. During the passing down of the oral history of the Jews, some zealous leader interpolated his own ideas to keep his followers in fear and subjection. To the civilized man it seems ridiculous to believe that the slaughter of innocent animals could "cleanse the sins" and bad behavior of man; and to claim that these sacrifices of innocence were symbolic of the sacrifice of an innocent man for one's sins is another idea a zealous leader made up to keep his followers in subjection. Like Jesus, Isaiah was ignored, but correct.

One of the most startling evidences that the supposed God of the Bible has proved himself unworthy of the respect of mankind is in the great genocide, i.e., the killing of men, women, and children, which he allegedly condoned and commanded.

In Deuteronomy 2:34, it is reported that the followers of this merciless God accomplished the command they were given by their God through their leader, Moses:

"...And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, women, and the little ones, of every city, we left none to remain..."

Throughout the Old Testament such atrocities are commonplace. According to the Bible, the people justified this genocide by thinking of it as "ethnic cleansing" (religious cleansing might be a more appropriate term.)

It is astounding to no end to realize that a civilized society can justify the actions of these ancient peoples and condemn the actions of more recent peoples who did the same thing for the same reasons.

Adolf Hitler can well be described as the "modern-day Moses". His intentions of killing countless "men, women, and little ones", were to cleanse society of those he thought would corrupt the greatness of the German people. Being a Christian, Adolf assumed he was doing his God a service by killing the Jews who had persecuted his Lord. Why was it okay for the God of the Bible and his Moses to perform this mass genocide, and not okay for Hitler?

The Crusades of the Christian armies prove to have had no other purpose than to eliminate those who did not worship the same God as they did. The Moslem wars existed for the same reason. More innocent "men, women, and little ones" have been massacred in the name of religion throughout the history of the human species than for any other cause. And the massacres continue to this day in many parts of the world.

Many great philosophers and thinkers have concluded the same things which have been presented in this book. Thomas Paine, an American Founding Father wrote:

"The most detestable wickedness, the most horrid cruelties, and the greatest miseries that have afflicted the human race have had their origin in this thing called revelation, or revealed religion. It has been the most dishonorable belief against the character of the Divinity, the most destructive to morality and the peace and happiness of man, that ever was propagated since man began to exist. It is better, far better, that we admitted, if it were possible, a thousand devils to roam at large, and to preach publicly the doctrine of devils, if there were any such, than that we permitted one such imposter and monster as Moses, Joshua, Samuel, and the Bible prophets, to come with the pretended word of God in his mouth, and have credit among us..." (Thomas Paine, Age of Reason, Part I, p.6)

"Of all the systems of religion that ever were invented, there is none more derogatory to the Almighty, more unedifying to man, more repugnant to reason, and more contradictory in itself, than this thing called Christianity. (Ibid, p 181)

"To charge the commission of acts upon the Almighty, which, in their own nature, and by every rule of moral justice, are crimes, as all assassination is, and more especially the assassination of infants, is matter of serious concern. The Bible tells us, that those assassinations were done by the express command of God. To believe, therefore, the Bible to be true, we must unbelieve all our belief in the moral justice of

God; for wherein could crying or smiling infants offend? And to read the Bible without horror, we must undo everything that is tender, sympathizing, and benevolent in the heart of man. Speaking for myself, if I had no other evidence that the Bible is fabulous than the sacrifice I must make to believe it to be true, that alone would be sufficient to determine my choice. (Ibid., p 76-77)

It is quite simple to understand how easy it would be for great mistakes to occur in the passing of stories from one generation to another. As children, most of us have played the "Pass It On" game. A sensible sentence is given to one child who whispered it to the next until the last child, who then tells everyone what he or she heard. All most always the original sentence given is so changed that it is very difficult to determine what was really said in the first place. That which is reported in the Old Testament as the writings of Moses could very well be the corrupted thoughts and stories of old Jews who simply heard them around the fire on cold nights from other old Jews who were playing "pass it on".

It is unknown, but many have made their own postulations, where and how the rest of the books in the *Old Testament* came to be. There have been countless explanations by so called scholars, but their disagreements outweigh their truths. However, it is somewhat well known about the formation and history of the *New Testament*.

The *New Testament* is only accepted as authentic and religiously important by the Christian sects. The Jews think the *New Testament* is blasphemous and absurd. When one comes to the knowledge of truth regarding the beginnings of this part of the Christian Bible, they might be apt to agree with the Jews.

About 400 A.D., or there about, no one really knows exactly when, a Roman government official by the name of Constantine began a reformation among the Christian peoples who lived under his jurisdiction. Constantine did not do this out of love for God, or the Christian. It was simply a political move on his part, owing to the fact that most of his subjects were Christian.

The story goes that Constantine called for a Christian bishop when he was on his death bed. He wanted to be baptized, so that if the Christians were right, he would also be saved. (Another good political move on his part.) When this reformation began, a group of popular, rich Christian leaders got together and decided that the best way to bring the church together was to organize a world wide (catholic) Christian faith and put together some writings which the leaders could read to the people, (because most of the people were illiterate), to keep them in the faith.

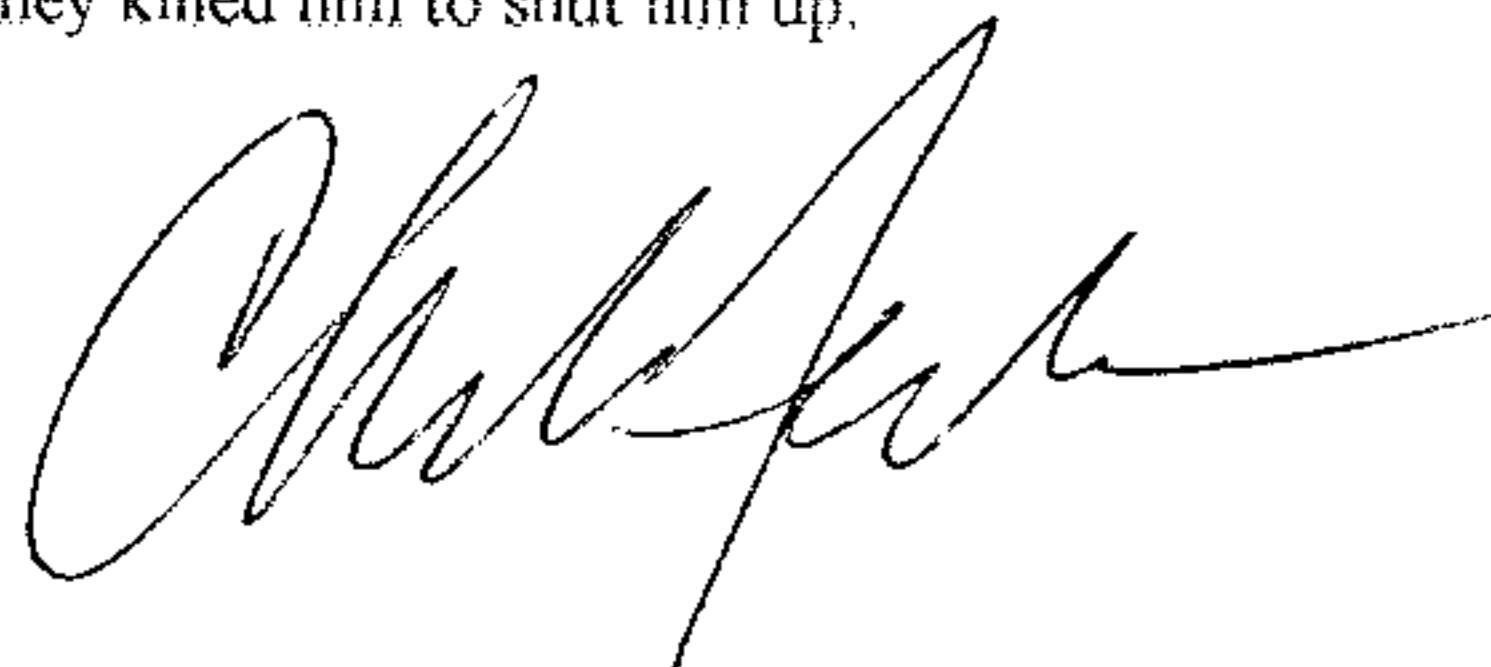
The first part of the New Testament contains what have become known as "*The Gospels*". These books are reported to be eye witness accounts of the life and works of Jesus. The books were suppose to be written about 70 A.D., an estimated 40 years after the presumed death of Jesus. (The reader of the Bible is to assume that the eye-witnesses had incredible memories.) Like all religious writings, no one knows the true circumstances surrounding their (*The Gospels*) beginnings.

It would seem that such important writings would be strongly safeguarded by the newly formed Catholic Church. In "fact", it would appear logical that all the writings of the *New Testament* should receive the same special treatment. Why, therefore, are there not available to the public these original, most sacred writings? Could it be possible that none exist? Or is it possible that if the documents were open to public scrutiny, we would discover that the original documents were written in the same handwriting, and therefore, could not possibly have been written by different authors as the *New Testament* suggests?

The "fact" is, they don't exist; and those that do, were written by the few men who were in charge of the reformation and put the *New Testament* together in the first place.

A intuitive person might ask the question: "If scripture as the word of God was so important, then why are there no writings by Jesus himself?" Could Jesus write? According to the *New Testament*, he was a poor carpenter's son, and it is a known "fact" that very few people were literate at that time, especially those of the lower classes.

Incidentally, but not surprising, the Jewish leaders at that time depended on the ignorance and illiteracy of the people in order to continue their control over them. The scriptures were only read by the members of the Priesthood and only in the appropriate places and at the appointed times. Perhaps had the scriptures been available to all, given that all could read, someone might have uncovered the deception of the "spiritual elite". Alas, it appears that Jesus could read, and he did uncover the corruption of the Jewish church and its leaders. They killed him to shut him up.



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(...continued from last week)

The story of the life of Jesus has proven to be one of the most effective catalysts for modern day religions. As mentioned before, it is interesting to note that nothing at all has ever been discovered which has been written by the man named Jesus. Though countless men, and some women, have taken it upon themselves to be the authority of his life and actions, nothing can be found which has been attributed to the writings of Jesus himself.

The *New Testament* in the *Bible* is not, however, the only source of ancient scripture which contains narratives about the life of Jesus. The *Nag Hammadi* scrolls were discovered and were found to contain a quite different picture about the teachings and actions of this interesting man. Nevertheless, upon their discovery, the world-wide Christian leaders banded together and got most of the documents suppressed. This also happened when the *Dead Sea Scrolls* were discovered in Qumran. However, from that which was released, one is able to determine that there exists many different opinions on the life and works of the man, Jesus of Nazareth, than those presented in *The New Testament*.

During the time that the New Testament was being put together, there were many different sects of Christianity. Some of these sects were unorthodox and claimed that the new Catholic Church which was being formed was corrupt. These fundamentalist groups claimed that the original doctrine and teachings of Jesus Christ had been changed to conform to the ideas and doctrines of the rich and powerful Christian leaders who put themselves up as heads of the Catholic Church. These groups claimed, that when the original apostles were all killed, the church was thrown into chaos and each local Christian leader took upon himself to be God's spokesman on earth, thus creating many different Christian sects. Over time, these unorthodox Christian groups were destroyed by or assimilated into the Catholic Church. Consequently, during the Christian Crusades, so was everyone else who didn't believe in Christianity.

Upon investigation and studying the *Nag Hammadi* scripture, which was the scripture of some of the Gnostic sects of poor Christians who were cast out and rejected by their richer counterparts, and other modern-day religious discoveries, one soon realizes that the stories and ideas presented in the *New Testament* are only the opinions of the men who put it together. It is again interesting to note that none of the books of the *New Testament* can be factually traced to the author whose name they bear. The many arguments which have taken place and are continued by spurious biblical scholars, who disagree according to their personal religious dogmas and biases on exactly who wrote many of the books and when they were actually written, generate more confusion than the intended help they promote.

As mentioned above, it would seem logical that the modern Catholic Church would have in its possession the original writings; and that simply opening them up to public view, would challenge all heresy and false assumptions and put to rest any doubts of the veracity of the *New Testament* accounts. The unveiling of the original documents, if any such really existed, would throw so much doubt upon the veracity of the scriptures and modern day dogma, that the Catholic leaders would be forced to suppress them to keep their Church together.

The suppression and/or changing of original documents is one of the ways in which religious leaders deceive their followers and keep their "sheep" in subjection. The reason why they do this is not bad according to the leaders. As the age of enlightenment proceeds, the morals of society seem to dwindle and the leaders of churches believe they know why. People become too smart to be blindly led without investigation and questioning. Faith has been replaced with reason and the desire to know the truth for oneself. Without the fear of being punished by God for sexual immorality, for example, natural instincts take over and cause the social ills of promiscuity. Because religious leaders know the knowledge of the

truth would cast doubt and controversy on the things which they preach today about so called "sexual sins", they simply take out of reach all things which could cause doubt in their explanations of "God's will" for the sheep which they have supposedly been commissioned to watch over.

A good example of the above deception can be found in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons). In order to be a good member in this church, one must abstain from the use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages. If one is found to use these substances, they can no longer attend temple ceremonies which is the pinnacle of Mormon religious achievement.

When the church was first organized by Joseph Smith Jr. in the 1830s, there was no such "commandment" for church members. The counsel was given to them as a "*Word of Wisdom*", which was subsequently given to them for their own temporal well being and not for disqualification for church ordinances. The history of this church is reportedly taken from the hand written journals of their leader, Joseph Smith. In the original writings of Mr. Smith, the following is found:

(Dated June 1, 1844, shortly before Joseph Smith's death)

"Then went to John P. Greene's and paid him and another brother \$200. Drank a glass of beer at Moessers. Called at William Clayton's..." (Millennial Star, Vol.23, page 720).

In the modern-day History of The Church it reads:

"Then went to John P. Greene's and paid him and another brother \$200. Called at William Clayton's..." (History of the Church Vol.6, pg.424)

The Millennial Star Vol.21, page 283 reads:

"It was reported to me that some of the brethren had been drinking whisky that day in violation of the word of wisdom. I called the brethren in and investigated the case and was satisfied no evil had been done, and gave them a couple of dollars, with the directions to replenish the bottle to stimulate them in the fatigues of their sleepless journey."

In the modern version, the words in bold print have been totally removed.

These are just two of thousands of changes which the modern Mormon Church has made to cover up the truth of the original history and doctrine of their church. (It's ironic that Joseph Smith would be considered a "jack mormon", and wouldn't be allowed into full fellowship of his own church, if he were alive today.)

Besides these historic changes, the Mormon Church continues to keep original documents locked up in vaults where very few have access to them. The leaders of this church know, as did the leaders of the original Catholic Church, that if Mormons really knew the truth behind the history of their doctrine and scriptures, they would loose faith in the teachings which are presented to them in modern times.

Most religious leaders, as well as many intelligent men, believe it is in the best interest of society to organize religions on the faith of mankind so as to better institute moral laws which bring peace. In other words, it is better that the weak minded not know the truth, for perhaps if they did, it would cause them to rebel against instituted authority and chaos would prevail.

Though there are many sincere religious leaders, most leaders bask in their authority over men. It also provides them with financial security, and since religion is suppose to be for the good of all, why not make a living from it? Nevertheless, these leaders will never admit to the facts presented in this book. In fact, if a religious leader found out his or her "sheep" were reading the truth, they would mock them and pronounce certain doom upon their heads for reading this "inspiration of the devil".

Magicians had the same idea, but they called it illusion and misdirection.

CHAPTER TWO

The End Justifies The Means

In order to help others find the truth about their own religion, which in turn, I felt, would better help them understand themselves, I decided to form my own religion in the same way that many before me had.

As I began the formation of my religion, inspiration seemed to flow through every fiber of my body. I soon realized that when ever one focuses strongly on any particular undertaking, he or she acquires extraordinary means to accomplish that which they set out to do. This is the case in athletics, the arts, education, business, and practically anything.

Because I was dealing with the things of God, I assumed I was receiving direct inspiration from Him. Yes, I was receiving revelation. If only prophets of God received these heavenly manifestations called "revelation", then I was a prophet; and what ever I did, God sanctioned. This illusion only lasted a while, until I came back down to earth and realized my "revelation" was coming from my "strong mind", and not from an illusionary God. However, I knew that millions, yea billions, of people were still very much convinced that revelation was real, (I wasn't about to pop anyone's bubble), so I proceeded with my religious formation under the auspices of the "Priesthood of God".

In the first book of *The Book of Mormon*, a holy scripture accepted by Mormons as a second Bible, (The Mormons believe *The Book of Mormon* is more correct than the *Bible*), a story is told about a man named Nephi who is commanded to kill a drunk man, and by deception, steal some plates of brass which were of great worth to Nephi and his family. Nephi justifies his actions because he was doing it for a righteous reason. The "*Spirit of the Lord*" commanded him, and he obeyed.

Likewise, in the early days of the Mormon Church, many members and leaders disobeyed laws of society in order to perform what they believed to be the righteous commands of God. John Taylor, who was the President and prophet of this church for sometime, as well as many other early Mormons, willfully defied the laws of the land for the sake of their religious convictions when they practiced polygamy after society decided it was not proper and established laws forbidding its practice. (It is debatable if society was correct in their opinion and abuse of the constitutional rights of the Mormon people.) Because members of this church are taught that the LDS Church is the only church which is sanctioned by God on earth, then it follows that the leaders of this church are the only ones who truly understand God's will for mankind. Therefore, the laws of God, received by *His* chosen leaders, always supersede those established by ordinary men. Any means which is used under the guidance of the "*Spirit of God*", or instructed by one of his so-called "*prophets*" is always justified as being God's will.

It's quite humorous to note that in the Mormon faith the members believe that God, "*will never allow one of their prophets to mislead us*"; and who told them this: why, one of their prophets, of course.

It is this mentality which many members of this faith, and many other faiths, have used to justify their actions, when the same actions appear wrong to the rest of society. Is it the fault of the member of this sect of faith when he or she thinks they are doing God's will when they deceive, hurt, or even kill others? Or could it not be the fallacy of the religious teachings and examples of their leaders?

It appears to be very dangerous when a religious group sets itself up as the only chosen people of God and indoctrinates its members into believing this with all their hearts. If the members of this group are convinced that they indeed belong to this elite group of humans, then their actions are the only actions sanctioned by God, and therefore, they can do no wrong.

Because the modern day LDS Church seemed corrupt in my eyes, I assumed that they had left the original teachings and dogma of the early church and its leaders, and that I could do as the earlier leaders of the Church had done. (It did seem ironic to me, however, that the early leaders of the Church taught the members to obey the laws of the land, when they openly disobeyed it on numerous occasions.) This perception, or deception, led me to justify any action which I felt "*The Spirit*" had inspired me to do.

My parents and the leaders of my church taught me to read the scriptures and abide by the precepts taught therein. They also praised the courage and actions of the earlier Mormon leaders. Because of my intense study of the scriptures and my investigation into the lives of the early Mormon leaders, I was indoctrinated into thinking that deception was good, as long as its end was good also. (Most "strong minds" swear to this concept.)

I wasn't the only non-fundamentalist modern day church member who believed this way; Paul H. Dunn was a very prolific and respected Mormon General Authority who used deception in order to promulgate what he saw as good principles. He was a very popular writer and orator in the Mormon church. He based a lot of his stories and writings on his experiences as a major league baseball player and a courageous war hero. It was found out that he neither played professional baseball, or saw very much combat duty. He certainly was not the only Christian leader that has done this, but he is one of the few who has been caught.

Many disillusioned Mormons have used the principle of the "end justifies the means", (when God speaks to you through revelation), to do society many wrongs. Aaron LeBaron, the Laffertys, and Adam Swap are just a few examples of violent acts being justified by way of Mormon dogma, i.e., "God commanded me to". To be fair, the LDS Church is not the only organized religion to have problems with

over zealous members. All religions have the same problems, but this author is more familiar with the church I belonged to.

Even though the LDS Church counsels its members to obey the laws of the land, the scriptures which they accept as the word of God, and the examples of early leaders, will always be an acceptable means of justification to do as "*the Spirit commandeth*". Perhaps if the members really knew the truth about their church, its scriptures, and the history behind them, then they might think twice before using them to justify their actions.

Having justified in my mind the use of deception in writing scripture and presenting it as the word of God, I proceeded to produce my "*revelation from the mouth of God*".

CHAPTER THREE

The Book of Joseph

There is no need to explain in detail the accepted history of *The Book of Mormon*. Joseph Smith claimed to have received instructions from an Angel of God to go to a mount, dig up some gold plates, translate them, and give the Angel back the gold plates after he was done. From a very young age, all Latter Day Saints are taught this accepted history. Thousands of Mormon missionaries are currently swarming the globe with the message of *The Book of Mormon* and the prophet, Joseph Smith.

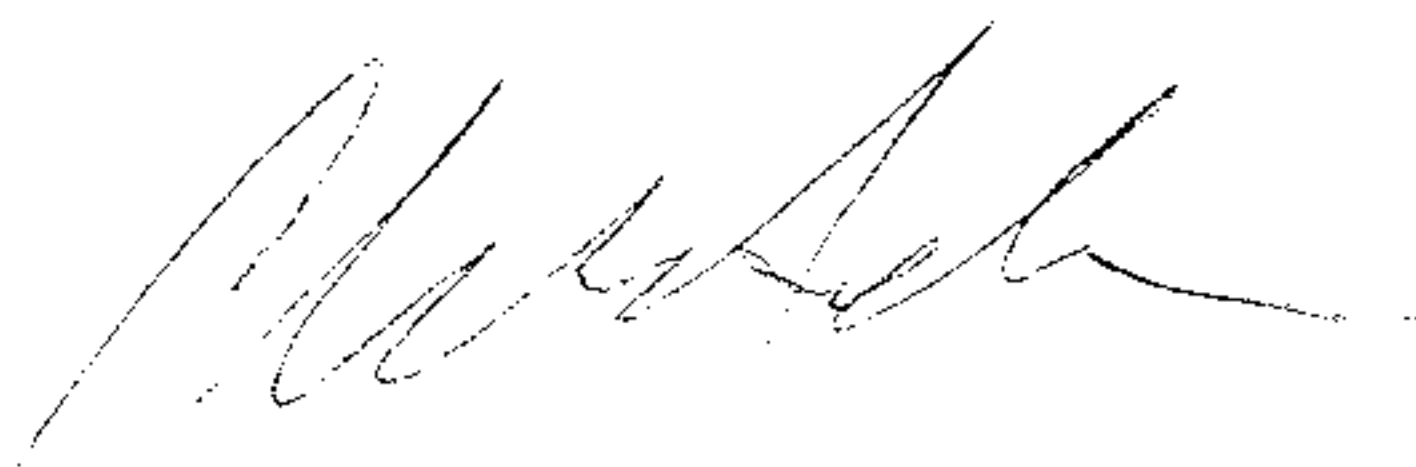
After my disillusionment of the Church, I could not accept any thing I had learned since childhood from church leaders, or my parents, as actual fact. During my investigation of the Church, I came to the conclusion that Joseph Smith, with the help of a selected few, wrote and organized *The Book of Mormon*, *Pearl of Great Price*, and *Doctrine and Covenants*, the canon of scripture for Mormonism. The preceding statement does not come as a surprise to the intellectual world. Many investigations and works have been done which prove my conclusion to be the case. However, these works weren't sufficient proof for me to convince myself that I had been duped for so long.

It's human nature to assume that, "I can't be deceived." It's this pride that blinds so many of us to real truth. When ever I came across a work which was not sanctioned by the Church, I simply would not read it and would automatically cast it off as an attempt by an enemy of the Church to discredit it. Ironically, the same scenario occurred many times when I served as a young Mormon missionary to Buenos Aires, Argentina. It would frustrate me when the people who I asked to read *The Book of Mormon* would cast it off as false, because that's what their religious leaders told them to do. Little did I know, that I had long frustrated myself with the same kind of ignorance.

My search for the truth started after studying and investigating the Mark Hoffman bombing incident. Mr. Hoffman was a well known historical buff who became disillusioned with the Church and used his knowledge and access to church authorities to commit fraud and murder. Mr. Hoffman was well aware of the fact that Joseph Smith made up *The Book of Mormon*, because he researched the truth for many years. Upon investigating his case, I was puzzled as to why he became disillusioned, and why if he was in such a state, did he promote friendships with the high authorities of the Church, and forge documents to help prove the history of the Church to be true? Furthermore, I was far greater confused as to why these church leaders wanted to buy his documents and put them in control of the Church. (How these professed *prophets*, *seers* and *revelators* were deceived was the real question in many people's minds.)

Hoffman's intentions were easy to understand: Money. However, the Church's role in the scam was not so easy to distinguish-until I worked in Church Security. It was during my own investigation that the truth finally unfolded.

The truth is, many church officials, yet there are fewer than most might think, know the truth regarding the coming forth of the LDS canon of scriptures. They know that Joseph Smith was fed up with the hypocrisy and fallacy of the religions in his day. They knew that Joseph was a very bright and intelligent man who was "inspired" to make great religious reforms. He made his case and presented it to the world by writing *The Book of Mormon*. Many Mormons base their testimonies of this book on what have been called, "*the signed testimonies of the witnesses to The Book of Mormon*". Ironically, these same Mormons forget that every single one of these "*witnesses*" left the Church and many openly admitted that J. Smith perpetuated fraud. These devastating testimonies have been conveniently suppressed or categorically denied by the LDS Church.



REALITY QUEST

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(continued...)

There have been many reformations of religious thought throughout the history of the human race. However, most ancient religions have been lost or assimilated by the major orthodox religions which now exist. How was Joseph Smith suppose to get his points and views across to a people so engulfed in the *Bible* (the word of God), that the very mention of biblical corruption would have got him crucified? - Through inspiration, or revelation, depending on the readers interpretation of the meaning, Joseph found that the only way he could present his views to the world without immediate prejudice, was to present them in a way that the people were accustomed to receiving religious thought, i.e., through the written word of God.

With the help of those who took up his cause and believed in his principles, Joseph Smith presented to the world, *The Book of Mormon*.

This book is not intended to dispute the personal revelation, doctrine, or "inspiration" of Joseph Smith. This author believes some of Smith's views and truths are extraordinary examples of a human's capability to know truth and think for oneself without the necessity of super-education or the teachings of others. This book was written to let the reader know what is possible when a "strong mind" wants to accomplish something he or she believes to be right, whether it is, or not. This book intends to illustrate a way in which deception can be used by a "strong mind" who wishes to influence his fellow beings.

All one needs to do is one's their mind, investigate, and ponder and they will come to the same conclusion about the writings of Joseph Smith, or the writings of any other religious leader. Many have come to this conclusion, but it is sad to report that most members of these religious organizations will never question their own testimonies or the leaders in whom they have placed their trust. Thus being led blindly, will never come to the knowledge of the truth.

Are the leaders who understand this truth wrong in hiding these facts from their members? As stated before, one might argue that it is for the sake of the moral and mental stability of the members that these things remain known only to those who can handle them. If most "weak minded" members found out the truth, they would cast out all moral truth which they have experienced and learned as faithful members, and would be like a "*dog returning to its vomit*". The intelligent leader understands this, and therefore, gives the members that which they can handle for the good of all.

This author also agrees with the above philosophy; for people who lived in 1830. Today is the time in which truth needs to be "*revealed upon the housetops*" for the sake of all. Without truth, society will forever fail. Truth never fails and leaves no questions asked. Nevertheless, truth to one might very well be lies to another.

CHAPTER FOUR

The Book of Christopher

How could I possibly help the orthodox member of the LDS Church understand the truth behind *The Book of Mormon* and the other scriptures? I concluded, that since the process which Joseph Smith used seemed to work for him, why wouldn't it work for me?

The first thing I had to figure out, was how do I explain the reappearance of the Gold Plates from which *The Book of Mormon* was reportedly translated? I knew I could write extraordinary doctrine in the

form of scripture, yet no one would believe it was extraordinary, unless I could convince them that it came from an "extraordinary source". (By the way, I am very unlearned when it comes to secular education, having only graduated from a public high school. Therefore, I knew it would be easy to deny my brain and understanding, as Joseph Smith did, as being the source of what I was about to write.)

Surprisingly, Joseph Smith left me a way to accomplish the task before me. I decided to translate the "sealed portion of the gold plates" which was sealed to come forth at a time when the people were ready to receive them. Upon translating the gold plates, Joseph Smith claimed to have found that two-thirds of the plates were sealed, and that he was instructed that someday he would be commanded to translate this "sealed portion" when the members were ready to receive it. Knowing the things which I had found out through my investigation, I formed my version of the sealed portion in the way in which I felt Joseph Smith would have had he not been killed.

I was astonished at my own ability to write under "inspiration". I knew what I was writing was indeed inspired. Many will claim it was the devil who inspired me, but I don't think I fit the part of a devil when I seek to help my fellowman know truth. Wherever one might think inspiration comes from, I knew I had tapped its channels. (I previously explained what inspiration and revelation really is and where it comes from.)

It only took me about 8 hours to finish the part which is included in this book as "*The Sealed Portion of The Book of Mormon*". As I read and reread the words which I had written, I was astonished.

Now I had to figure out the best way to present the "*SEALED PORTION OF THE BOOK OF MORMON*" to the world. Many ideas went through my head. My first thought was to present it through a radio talk show at KTKK, a local talk-radio station. This station had previously interviewed me about a legal situation I had been involved with. I was told that they were fair and open, and that they would talk about anything. I called up two of the hosts and arranged for a live interview in which they announced that I was going to talk about some controversial LDS subjects. I showed up for the show and it was cancelled because of a minor earthquake which rumbled through the Salt Lake Valley as I was sitting in the studio waiting to proceed with the show. Could God have been warning me to stop that which I was about to do? The hosts got the impression that I thought so, and so I cancelled this way of presenting the information which I had acquired through my investigation and this way of publicity to release my "*Sealed Portion*".

Soon thereafter I learned why my interview with them would have been cut short anyway. The owner of the radio station is one of the "sheep" who can not stand provable facts to be presented against his beliefs. In other words, he is a staunch Mormon. I am sure that as soon as I started making any sense, and the listening audience begin to understand and accept "my truth", he would have discontinued the interview. Since that time, I have challenged his station to have me on, but they refuse to touch the issue. (Ignorance will never cease unless those who claim to be perpetuators of truth and fairness do what they say they do. It's understandable, however, that the media must support the ideas, whether true or not, of those who pay for advertising. Since the whole Utah market evolves around the LDS Church, it leaves no cause to wonder why these important truths about Mormon history are suppressed by the local media; and since the Mormon church is the richest, per capita, religion in the world, and their media stock shares are enormous, their influence is felt worldwide.)

I then decided that it would be much easier for the Mormon people to accept the "*Sealed Portion*" if it came from one who had the "Priesthood of God", and was in a position to receive "revelation" for the Church. I set up a front for this idea by way of a newsletter which I appropriately called, "HOUSETOPS". - Having no money, I decided to set up the local newspaper to help me in the distribution of the newsletter. - In the first issue of "HOUSETOPS", I wrote about different topics of Mormon truth, but the climax of the first issue was the claim that an anonymous General Authority of the LDS Church had received the gold plates from the Angel Moroni, (the same angel who visited J. Smith), and that the sealed portion of the said plates would be presented to the world by him through the newsletter. After considering the legal ramifications which could occur, I decided that I had better find a different way.

Because of the publicity of the cancelled radio show, I was contacted by a group of Mormon Fundamentalists who asked me to come to speak at one of their gatherings. Knowing that the fundamentalists were a renegade Mormon faction who would accept anything which was told them when it was told them *how* they wanted to hear it, and of course, in the name of God, I decided to present the *Sealed Portion* to them to see how they would react. I knew I could not tell them that I was the author, so I presented it to them as if I had copied the information from some of the records which I viewed inside the

secret church vaults, which are kept at the Mormon headquarters in Salt Lake City, while I was acting as a security officer. They took it hook, line, and sinker.

I knew this would be a possible chance to bring the *Sealed Portion* to a group of people who were desperately searching for "further light and knowledge", which they believed, only fundamentalists were worthy to receive. I got to know one of the fundamentalists pretty well. It was this gentleman to whom I revealed the fact that I had written the *Sealed Portion* myself, and to my surprise, he understood. This made me realize that, perhaps, the true seeker of truth will accept truth if they hear it and it is given to them without deception. However, one of his wives (he was a polygamist), was a different matter. All of the sudden, I became a devil, a deceiver who had been commissioned by Satan to destroy the work of God. Since this man was a polygamist and prided himself in the fact that he "ruled" more than one woman, and that one of his wives began to listen to me and became interested in what I had to say, he rejected me like the plague. My planned presentation blew up. But not before I learned that it is possible to teach truth without deception, and that the true seeker, who really wants to know, will find it, understand it, and search for more.

This particular fundamentalist was going to sign an affidavit that he saw the "gold plates" and he was going to be my scribe as I wrote them. He was going to give the false affidavit to let the world know that the "gold plates" were real, believing that God would never allow anyone but his chosen servants to really see and handle the plates. Joseph Smith's friends did the same for him, because they believed strongly in what he was trying to do, i.e., reform corrupt religious perceptions.

In writing this book, I realize that only the true seeker of truth will read it and pursue any contemplation of the things written herein with an open mind. It is not intended to destroy the happiness of anyone. Its purpose is to help those who have questions, find the answers themselves. As I searched for truth without putting my trust in any man (the arm of flesh), I found that I, too, became a prophet, seer, revelator, politician, and lawyer, and was able to know and understand the process which has been used by these leaders for centuries to control the rest of society. The difference between me and them, is that I believe that all men and women have the right to know the truth without payment. It's interesting to note, that allegedly, Buddha, Jesus, and Ghandi, to name a few, thought the same.

These type of people and their teachings threaten the religious, rich, and powerful. If all men and woman knew the things that these three types of people knew, then these elitist groups who want to keep the truth hidden for their own gain, would cease to exist.

CHAPTER FIVE

How I Got The Gold Plates (My Angel Moroni)

As indicated in the previous chapter, I had to come up with a way which would seem extraordinary and logical in explaining how I had received the commission to bring the *Sealed Portion* of the gold plates to the world. The following is my testimony to the world and the way I chose to explain how I got the assignment from God to continue the work of Joseph Smith:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

In the summer of 1987, I was employed as a security officer for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. I was assigned to the Genealogy Library and the Church Museum located downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. It was customary in the Security Department to cross-train in all areas of Church Security. One summer night I was assigned to the Salt Lake Temple. My orders were to make rounds in all areas of the temple and assure its safety.

Prior to this time, I had become disillusioned with the Church because of the great hypocrisy which I experienced being involved with and working for the Church. This disillusionment caused me to do some tremendous soul searching and eventually led me to start investigating the Church to which I had dedicated my life. My investigations led me to many parts of the headquarters of the Church to which no member had access. I was friends with the other security officers, and soon was able to go any where I wanted with the

help of my fellow officers who were sympathetic to my cause. The officers in the security control room would disengage the alarms in the areas to which I wanted to go in search of information. (To protect these individuals, many of which continue to work for the Church, I will give no specific dates or times when the following incident took place.)

During the course of many hours of investigation, I found some very interesting information which convinced me that I knew nothing at all about the Church which I had been taught to love and honor. However, none of the information I uncovered suggested that the leaders of the Church were maliciously misleading the members. On the contrary, I found that these Brethren were doing the best they could in spite of the members which they represented. I soon learned that the Church was not being guided by the Lord or any portion of His Spirit. I was able to obtain the personal notes and thoughts of some very prominent leaders which indicated that the Church had fallen into tremendous wickedness of which the Lord was very displeased.

At this point, I began to mention my concerns to my superiors in the Security Department. I was told to either keep quiet, or I would be terminated. I was greatly saddened by the apathy of the leaders and the members of the Church.

While doing my security rounds in the Salt Lake Temple, (the graveyard shift), the following took place.

There is a room on the upper floors of the Temple where only the Twelve Apostles meet. When I entered this room, I noticed that each individual Apostle had a 3'X4' portrait of himself hanging around the gorgeously opulent room in which were found twelve chairs of the highest quality.

I could not hold back my turmoil and anguish any longer. I wept, and I wept bitterly. I fell to my knees and remembered asking God with all my heart if the Brethren whose pictures decorated the walls of this room were his chosen leaders, and what I should do in my disillusionment.

In this great moment of despair, I heard a soft, but firm voice say to me, "Who else would you have me lead this people?" I then looked around the room and it came to my mind the occupation of each of these men; "Of course!" I exclaimed, "A doctor, a lawyer, an insurance man, an businessman." I now realized why the Lord had chosen these men; because they are they which the members want to lead them.

I then proceeded to ask what it is that I should do to improve my doubts of the veracity of the Church. I had no sooner got this thought arranged in my head, than I found it impossible to speak any of the words which I attempted. At that moment a tremendously bright light began to fill the room, and I was very frightened, not knowing if I was to be reprimanded or killed for what I had done.

Before I could think another thought, a personage appeared before me who I immediately recognized as the Prophet, Joseph Smith. (I recognized him not only by how he looked, though I was familiar with the descriptions given of him by the Church, but something spiritual assured me that it was truly him.)

I didn't have the slightest idea of how to react. I simply knelt there astonished. He smiled the kindest smile I had ever seen and said the following to me: "Christopher, don't be afraid, for it is I, Joseph, who you have been taught to honor as a prophet of God."

I guess he could perceive my doubts of his presence, because he reached out his hand, lifted me up, and placed me in one of the chairs which were in the room. He told me that the Lord was well aware of me, and that I demonstrated the faith and strength of few men. He told me that I would perform a tremendous work for my fellowmen, if I remained faithful to the commandments which he was about to give me. At that moment, my grandfather, Joseph Nephi Nemelka, appeared from within the light which still filled the whole room with its brilliance.

I wanted to embrace my grandfather, but was told I could not, for he had not yet received a body which other mortals could feel. He also smiled, and assured me that he was sent to comfort me and help teach me the things I needed to know in order to perform the work of the Lord before me.

I began to cry profusely, knowing that I was a frequent sinner who at many times had broken the commandments of God, and I expressed my fear that I could not do the things which would be required of me. My grandfather told me that I would be taught many things in the near future which would prepare me for the work I was about to do. He said that I would be guided as necessary to bring about this work.

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(...continued...)

Joseph Smith then told me that I was chosen to bring about the sealed portion of the gold plates of Mormon which he did not translate while he was on earth. He explained many things to me about the wickedness of the Saints in his time; and that the Lord saw fit to take him from among them, because they would not hearken to his commands and abide by his teachings. I asked why I had been chosen for this work and what would be required of me. Joseph responded that I was one of the very few who could not be affected by the material things of this world. He told me that I would be tested many times in the future to see if I would be willing to sacrifice all, even my own life if necessary, for the sake of the kingdom of God.

At this point I began to express my doubts and my unworthiness to do such a thing. I was assured by my grandfather that I would have not been chosen unless I could accomplish the work given unto me.

A flash of light appeared directly between me and Joseph Smith; and to my surprise, there were the gold plates of Mormon. I didn't dare touch them, but was instructed to do so by the Prophet. I slowly turned each leaf and was astonished at the preciseness of the writing. As I turned the pages, I thought about how much these plates would be worth. No sooner had I thought these things, than Joseph warned me that this temptation would always be with me as it was with him; that I should cast it out of my mind if it ever came again. As I sat in front of these two spiritual beings, I was embarrassed greatly for what I had thought.

Both of these men were dressed in white robes which covered their whole bodies except for their ankles, wrists, and neck line. The robes were tied by a white sash similar to the sash used in the temple ceremony. They were both very pleasant to look at, and my fear of them was at this point completely gone.

I then received many instructions and was told that I would lose all my friends, family, and close associations before I would be ready to present the *Sealed Portion* to the world. I asked them how this was going to come about; whether I should tell my family and friends, or what.

I was instructed to leave Church Security and give no indication as to why or tell anyone what had taken place. I was not even to tell my wife, for she was to be tested to prove her worthiness to me. I was told that I would travel extensively in preparation to do this work; that I would be known as an apostate of the Church, and that I should allow the Church to do with me as they wished, for their sake. I was told that I would be given many opportunities to meet those who were being prepared at this time to aid me in this work, but I was cautioned to test each one, so as not to be deceived or betrayed by them. I was instructed in many other things which I can not reveal at this time.

I wondered greatly about the condition of the Church and the righteousness of its leaders, seeing as that was the cause for my prayers which led to the heavenly vision. Joseph Smith proceeded to quote me some scripture which he told me to remember and present to the world along with the sealed portion when it was ready to come forth. I asked if I would translate the record myself, or if it would be given to me by someone else. I was told that I could not translate the record, for it was the position and authority of Joseph Smith to do so. He told me that when the time came for the record to come forth, that he would visit me from time to time and give me the translation thereof. I expressed my doubts in that I would be mocked because of my claims; and not having the plates to prove to the world that they exist would greatly hinder the work. Joseph laughed a most sincere laugh and my grandfather smiled profusely. Joseph replied, "Do ye think that your persecutions will be any greater than mine were?" At this I laughed and began to understand.

Three years passed by and I went through some tremendous experiences. Indeed I have been alienated from all my loved ones. I have become totally unattached to all worldly possessions and filial relationships. I was given tremendous wisdom and knowledge, and instructed to do many things which

would help me accomplish the work which I had been given to do. I was put in jail twice, changed my name, and rejected by the Church as an apostate.

At this time I was again visited by Joseph Smith and I began to write down the translation of the sealed portion of the plates of Mormon, given to me by the mouth of the prophet, Joseph Smith.

After this first visit in which I commenced the translation of the sealed portion, I was overcome with tremendous pride and arrogance at the greatness of the things which I had written and the calling I had received. I made some bad mistakes in my arrogance and almost lost my soul in the process. However, the Lord has tremendous patience and mercy, and before long, I was again visited by Joseph Smith and the *Sealed Portion* will finally come the world to all those who are ready and willing to receive it.

The following are the scriptures which Joseph Smith quoted me during our first meeting, which I was told to ponder and remember:

"For they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant; They seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon, the great which shall fall."

(D&C 1:15-16)

"They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, they have all gone astray save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ; nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err because they are taught the precepts of men."

(II Nephi 28:14)

"And I know that ye do walk in the pride of your hearts; and there are none save a few only who do not lift themselves up in the pride of their hearts, unto the wearing of very fine apparel, unto envying, and strifes, and malice, and persecutions, and all manner of iniquities; and your churches, yea, even every one, have become polluted because of the pride of your hearts."

For behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted."

O ye wicked and perverse and stiffnecked people, why have ye built up churches unto yourselves to get gain? Why have ye transfigured the holy word of God, that ye might bring damnation upon your souls? Your churches, yea, even every one, have become polluted because of the pride of your hearts. For behold, ye do love money, and your substance and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted. O ye pollutions, ye hypocrites, ye teachers, who sell yourselves for that which will canker, why have ye polluted the holy church of God? Why are ye ashamed to take upon you the holy name of Christ? Why do ye not think that greater is the value of an endless happiness than that misery which never dies--because of the praise of the world. Why do ye adorn yourselves with that which hath no life, and yet suffer the hungry, and the needy, and the naked, and the sick and the afflicted to pass by you, and notice them not? Yea, why do ye build up your secret abominations to get gain, and cause that the widows should mourn before the Lord, and also the orphans to mourn before the Lord..."

(The Book of Mormon, Mormon, chapter 8, verses 28 - 41)

Thus ends my story which I could have used to present my scripture to the world.

No one would ever know if my statement and experience were true or not. Joseph Smith's claims were just as extravagant. Millions believe his story, and millions more think it's untrue. Myth or no myth, it has proven to be a great catalyst in the lives of many. Just as Joseph's *Book of Mormon* has given a purpose and hope to many peoples, I hoped that my "*Sealed Portion*" would do the same.

CHAPTER SIX

The Sealed Portion of the Gold Plates

TITLE PAGE

THE VISION AND WORDS OF THE BROTHER OF JARED

WRITTEN AND SEALED UP BY MORONI, THE SON OF MORMON

Therefore, these things shall remain sealed and hidden from the eyes of all men except it be those unto whom the Lord shall command. And I, Moroni, have written upon these plates the things which the Brother of Jared saw. And it came to pass that the Lord commanded me that I should seal up these things; that in the day that one shall be found worthy, even one who shall demonstrate faith in the Lord, even as the Brother of Jared did upon the mount; these things shall be delivered unto him with the interpreters thereof. And a commandment I give unto he who shall receive these things, that he shall leave this portion of the plates sealed until the day cometh that he shall receive a commandment of the Lord to translate them. And thou shalt translate these things by the gift and power of God. Therefore, I have sealed up the interpreters according to the commandment of the Lord; that thou wilt be able to translate therewith.

And he that will contend against these things, let him be accursed; and also he that shall deny these things, let him also be accursed; for unto them I will show no greater things, saith the Lord. For in that day that men shall begin to exercise faith in me, even as the Brother of Jared did, then will I manifest unto them these things, even unto the unfolding unto them all my revelations, saith the Lord, even Jesus Christ.

Come unto the God of Israel, O ye Gentiles, and he will show unto you the knowledge which is hid up because of unbelief. Come unto the Lord of Hosts and it shall be made manifest unto you the great things which the Father hath laid up for you from the foundation of the world, and it has not come unto you because of unbelief.

Behold, when ye shall rend that veil of unbelief which causes you to remain in your awful state of wickedness, and hardness of heart, and blindness of mind, then shall the great and marvelous things which have been hidden from the foundation of the world from you, shall be made known unto you. Therefore, when ye shall receive this record of the writings of the Brother of Jared, then shall ye know that the work of the Father has commenced upon the face of all the earth. And if ye shall call upon the Father in the name of Jesus with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, then ye shall know that the Father has remembered the covenants which he has made unto the house of Israel.

TRANSLATED BY JOSEPH SMITH JR.

(Given through Christopher M. Nemelka, as received directly from Joseph Smith)

THE VISION OF THE BROTHER OF JARED

The vision which the Brother of Jared saw upon the mount where the Lord manifested himself unto him and commanded him to write the things which were shown unto him. The vision contains the history of man since the beginning; the history since the time of Adam and the fall. These writings have been sealed up and come forth at the appointed time of the Lord; a time in which all things shall be revealed unto the children of men according to their faith, which causeth them to work righteousness. Behold, I, Moroni, have written these things upon these plates which I have made with my own

hands; and I have sealed this part that it may be kept from the eyes of the world until this time. And I say unto all those who shall receive these things, Repent, for the coming of the Lord in his glory is nigh, and all those who reject these things and heed them not, shall be damned. I am Moroni, the son of Mormon, and I finish the commandment the Lord has given unto me.

CHAPTER 1

Moroni writes the things revealed to the Brother of Jared- He testifies that Jesus Christ came to the Nephites- He exhorts all to have faith and obey the commandments of God.

And now I, Moroni, proceed to write the great and marvelous things which the Lord has made manifest unto the Brother of Jared.

2 I write these things according to the commandment of the lord, in the which He has commanded me saying, A commandment I have given unto thee, that thou shalt write the things which I have shown unto the Brother of Jared at the time he presented himself before me and manifested great faith in my name; evensomuch that I could no withhold my spirit from him.

3 And agian, a commandment I give unto thee, that thou shall include these things with the record of my people who are the children of Lehi, who came out of Jerusalem, whose seed is a remnant of the house of Israel.

4 Behold, I have prepared these two stones as interpreters insomuch as I have caused the language of the Jaredites to be confounded. This I have done to hide these things from the eyes of the world. For behold, there are none, save a few only, who have faith enough to behold the things the Brother of Jared saw.

5 For behold, I have shown unto him all the inhabitants of the world which have been, and all those which shall live

upon the earth on which thoustandest. Behold, I could not withhold them from his sight, even unto the ends of the earth.

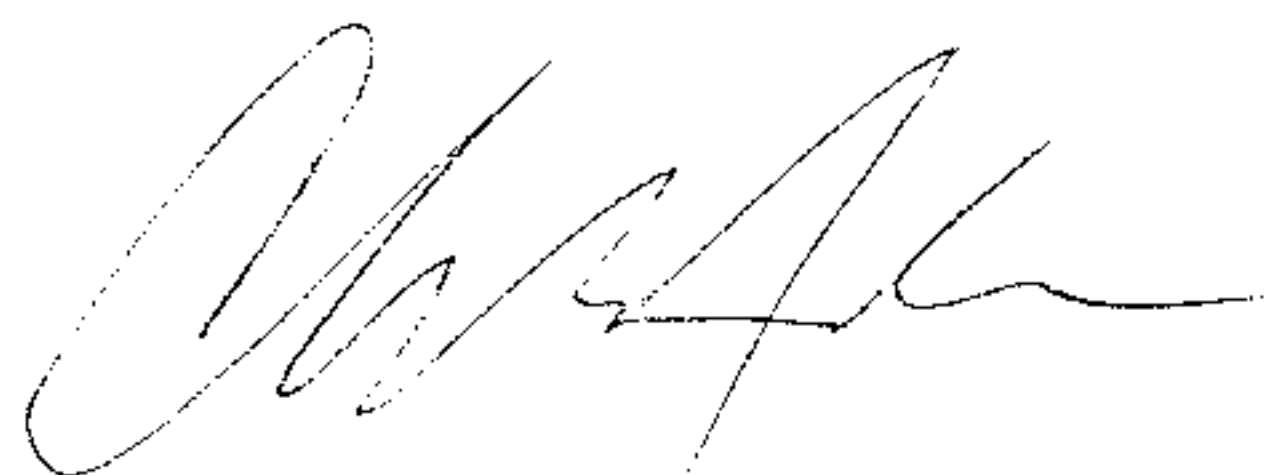
6 For behold, I have covenanted with man from the beginning that if it so be that they exercise faith in me and keep my commandments in all things, believing that I can show unto them the mysteries of godliness, behold, I will come unto them by the power of the Holy Ghost; and He shall teach them whatsoever their hearts desire, if it so be that they ask in righteousness.

7 Nevertheless, thou shalt seal up the words of the Brother of Jared until I have manifested myself in the flesh unto my people.

8 Behold, I Moroni, have written the things which the Lord has commanded me. Upon these plates which I have formed with my own hands, I have given an account of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

9 Behold, I have truly manifested herein that Jesus did come unto his people. Not only did he visit the Jews who were his people at Jerusalem, but behold, he manifested himself unto my fathers according to the promises which he has made unto them; for my fathers were separated from the Jews at Jerusalem through the mercy and for the purposes of the Lord.

10 Therefore, I Moroni, write the words of the Brother of Jared according to the commandment which the Lord has given me. Nevertheless, these things shall be sealed up and will not be given to the



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(...continued...)

children of men with the first part of the record which my father, Mormon, and I have made upon these plates of ore.

11 And it came to pass that the Lord made it known unto me that these things shall be withheld from the children of men until the day that they exercise faith in God and his Son, Jesus Christ, even as the Brother of Jared did; that they also may be sanctified by overcoming the sins and temptations of the world.

12 And inasmuch as they shall do these things, the Lord will make manifest unto them all the things which the Brother of Jared beheld, and all the revelations of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the father of heaven and earth, yea even all things which have been given to the children of men from the foundations of the world.

13 And it shall come to pass that when the people of the Lord begin to exercise this faith of which I have spoken, then shall the Lord reveal these things unto them.

14 And it shall come to pass that when these things shall be revealed unto them, there will be none, save a few only, which shall understand them.

15 And it shall come to pass that they shall mock at these things and contend against the word of the Lord. Behold, thus saith the Lord unto those who shall deny these things, Let him be accursed from hence forth and forever. For they have sealed unto themselves eternal damnation, insomuch that I will show no greater things unto them.

16 But those unto whom I shall reveal these things, shall be laid under strict command that they shall only reveal unto men the words which I shall allow them.

17 And it shall come to pass, that those who shall receive the words of the Brother of Jared and accept them with gladness, and harden not their hearts, to them shall be given the greater

portion of the word until they know the mysteries of God in full.

18 And it shall come to pass that they shall receive a new name, which shall only be known and understood by those who receive it; and they shall become my friends and I will be their God.

19 Now I, Moroni, do plead with my brethren, yea, with all those who shall receive these things who are of the house of Israel, and also those among the Gentiles. Yea, I say unto you, Come unto the Lord, even Jesus the Christ, and He will show unto you the great and marvelous things of God which He has caused to be hidden from the eyes of the world because of wickedness and unbelief.

20 Behold, I say unto you, that when ye begin to rend that veil of unbelief which causes the Spirit of the Lord to withdraw from you, yea, when ye shall cast off the chains of the devil which he has bound you with, then my beloved brethren, shall these great and marvelous things which have been hid from the foundations of the world be made manifested unto you.

21 Oh my beloved brethren, how long will the Lord, our God, allow the earth to lie under such bondage of sin? How long can He remain merciful unto you in your wickedness?

22 My soul is harrowed up in sorrow because of the things which the Brother of Jared has written concerning you. Behold, it is because of your wickedness that the Lord has withheld these things from you; and behold, these same things shall condemn you at the last day.

23 At it shall come to pass in that day, that the books shall be opened, and you shall read of your corruptions and deceptions, and you shall weep and wail and gnash your teeth as you behold the wickedness of your ways and the deceptions of your hearts.

24 Even as the Lord requested of the Father, Oh, that the Lord would allow this bitter cup to pass from before my lips that I might not drink thereof and sorrow. Nevertheless, the Lord has commanded me and I must obey.

25 Behold my beloved brethren, the words of the Brother of Jared are great and marvelous, and if ye mock them, ye mock God. For they are the words of Christ given to all those who call upon his holy name with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

CHAPTER 2

Moroni begins the record of the Brother of Jared-The Brother of Jared is shown the spirit body of Jesus and the kingdoms of the Father.

And now I, Moroni, will proceed with the account of the Brother of Jared, which translation was given to me by the gift and power of God through the Urim and Thummim, which being interpreted is light and perfection.

2 And it came to pass that the Brother of Jared was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord upon the mount called Shamir.

3 And it came to pass that after he had beheld the spirit body of Jesus, the Brother of Jared marvelled exceedingly that his mortal eyes could perceive such things.

4 And it came to pass that the Lord perceived the thoughts of the Brother of Jared and said, Marvel not that this thing has come to pass. For behold, thou canst not see spiritual things with mortal eyes. Nevertheless, I have caused a change to come over thee that thou mightest behold my work and my glory which is the work and glory of my Father whom I serve.

5 And it came to pass that the eyes of his understanding were opened and the Brother of Jared beheld as it were many worlds and kingdoms without end.

6 And it came to pass that the Brother of Jared marvelled and exclaimed, yea his entire soul being filled with the Spirit of God, Oh great God, Lord of all, what are theses worlds which appear to men as the stars in the night sky?

7 And it came to pass that the Lord answered him saying, All these are the kingdoms of my Father and his fathers.

8 For behold, the world upon which thou standest is a creation of my Father, who is the father of my spirit and of thy spirit. Behold, our Father has created many such worlds and the

numbers of his creations are numberless, nevertheless, he knows them and they are his.

9 And it came to pass that the Brother of Jared was taken, as it were, to one of the worlds which he beheld.

10 And it came to pass that this world was like unto the world in which we live. Yea, there were many strange and marvelous buildings, the construction of which he had never before beheld.

11 And it came to pass that the Brother of Jared was overcome by the strangeness of these things insomuch that he inquired of the Lord as to the meaning of the things which he saw.

12 And it came to pass that the Lord answered him saying, Behold, this is the kingdom and the glory of our Father. It was on this world that our Father begot his posterity, yea, the spirits of all mankind which live upon the world on which thou standest, and where our Father learned the mysteries and responsibilities of godhood.

13 It is upon this same world where the mothers of the spirits of men reside with the Father.

CHAPTER 3

The Brother of Jared meets the Father and is overcome by the His spirit- He meets his heavenly Mother and is commanded to obey the commandments of the Lord.

And it came to pass that as the Brother of Jared looked, he beheld many people talking and reasoning one with the other. He beheld their dress that it was of a most exquisite whiteness which exceeded any he had beheld before.

2 And as he pondered on the beauty of the people, he noticed plants and vegetation which grew in the likeness of those upon this earth, nevertheless, they grew spontaneously as if they were compelled to grow without the aid and toil of man.

3 And it came to pass that the people came forth and partook of the fruit of the vines and the trees, yea, even all the vegetation produced flowers and fruits which were pleasing to the desires of man.

4 And he beheld the people partaking of this fruit freely, taking only that which they desired to make themselves happy. For behold, the people appeared as though they never hungered, neither did they thirst, or did they lust one towards the

other. They partook of the fruit only to make themselves joyous and fulfill their desires of happiness.

5 And it came to pass that the Brother of Jared continued his description of this world- And I beheld that the moment that one of the fruits was plucked from the vines or from the trees, that another one would immediately begin to grow in the stead thereof, insomuch that the trees and vines were always full of fruit and flowers.

6 And my soul desired that I might also partake of this fruit that my soul might not hunger or thirst.

7 As I approached the people who were partaking of the fruit, I beheld a man among them who was of such familiarity to me that it caused me to be drawn immediately to his presence as a small boy would be drawn to his father.

8 And it came to pass that as the Brother of Jared drew near unto this man of whom he spoke, his heart and soul were filled with an unspeakable love and warmth.

9 And it came to pass that the Brother of Jared continued saying, His radiance filled my entire soul, evensomuch that it did cause me to shrink from his presence. For my tongue seemed bound in that I could not speak. And I did fall to the ground because my limbs could no longer support me; and I became, as it were, a small child who knew not how to move his limbs or use his tongue.

10 And this man reached forth and took me by the hand commanding me to rise. No sooner had I touched his hand, than I immediately received my strength once again and stood before this being.

11 And he spoke unto me saying, My son, from whence comest thou and for what purpose doest thou desirest to speak unto thy father?

12 But I still could not speak, my soul being filled with the spirit which came directly from the soul of my Father. But I did attempt to cry to Jesus that he might assist me in speaking to the Father. For behold, the spirit bore witness unto me that this man was indeed my father and the father of Jesus.

13 And Jesus did appear at my side and spoke unto the Father saying, My Father, this thy son has come to thee to receive the further light and knowledge which thou hast promised unto all those who believe in me and keep my commandments. Yea, all those who come unto thee with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

14 Behold, my Father, I could not restrain him from beholding these things and coming forth unto thee. For he has manifested the faith which the eternal laws require before any of thy creations can behold thee and come into thy presence. He is of the world which thou hast placed in my power. And he is my disciple.

15 And the Father spoke unto Jesus saying, Well done my beloved Son. There are save a few only who have prepared themselves for this moment; and I say unto thee, that never before has such faith been manifested by any of the inhabitants of the earth which I have placed in thy power. Therefore, this, my son, shall know me and thee, for we are one, yea the very Eternal God; and he shall know the things which have been reserved since the beginning for those who belong to our Order, and he shall be one with us.

16 And thou knowest, my Son, that all those who manifest this faith and keep thy commandments shall belong to this same Order, and it is this Order which shall rule and reign forever, worlds without end.

17 Nevertheless, thou shalt command him to keep these things from the rest of my children who reside in thy kingdom, until they, too, repent and work righteousness.

18 Instruct the Brother of Jared to remember the things which he has seen, and also the things which he shall be shown. Command him to write these things and seal them up to come forth at the time appointed for them, yea, even as thou shalt command.

19 And Jesus answered the Father saying, Thy will be done my Father, as it always has and will be done, and the glory be thine forever.

20 And it came to pass that the Father led the Brother of Jared and the Son forth among the people. And the people were exceedingly beautiful and happy, yea, never were there known to be such a happier people.

21 And the Brother of Jared wrote saying, I beheld their beauty and the peace of their souls and I desired to be a part of them.

22 And there were many women among the people, and some men, but there appeared to be more females than here were males.

23 Nevertheless, there was no lasciviousness, coveting, or promiscuous thoughts among them. For all seemed to know all as they are known and see others as they are seen.

24 As I wandered forth among them, I beheld that some of these women greeted the Father with a kind bow, a handclasp, and a tender kiss. I

marvelled greatly at the tenderness the Father had for each one.

25 And I asked the Father, Who are these women who encompass thee with such admiration and love?

26 And the Father stretched forth his hand and brought forth one of the women and placed her before me. And I beheld her beauty and fairness which surpassed that of any woman I had ever known.

27 And her radiance caused my limbs that they did once more lose their strength that they could not support my body.

28 But behold, my Lord, even Jesus Christ, did support me that I did not fall.

29 And the woman spake unto me saying, Behold my son, I am the mother of thy spirit. I am she that provided the materials necessary so that thy Father and my Lord could create thy spirit.

30 And the woman turned to the Father and said, My Lord, my soul is filled with joy because of this, our son, who has proven himself worthy to know us and become one with us. Alas, my soul sorrows for the majority of our children which inhabit the world which thou hast placed in the authority of his elder brother Jesus, the Christ.

31 I pray my Lord, that thou will bless this our son, that he may continue in righteousness and may one day join our Holy Order which has existed from the beginning to bring about the eternal life and happiness of man.

32 And Father looked upon the woman, and He truly loved this woman with all his soul; and the Father answered her saying, My dearly beloved, I also share thy sorrow and anguish because of the wickedness of our children which belong to the kingdom of our eldest Son.

33 Behold, this our son shall assist us in bringing many of our children to repentance that they may also work righteousness and prepare themselves for their inheritance in our eternal worlds.

34 And it came to pass that the spirit mother of the Brother of Jared did embrace her son, and his heart was filled with exceeding great joy. And the woman blessed him saying, Go my son and do the things which the Lord God, has commanded thee to do. And blessed art thou for that which thou art about to see and write unto the children of men.

35 For behold, it shall shine unto them out of the darkness and shall be brought to the

knowledge of the people according to the wisdom and power of God.

36 And now my son, I would that thou shouldest remember to build thy foundation upon the rock of thy redeemer, even Jesus Christ, thy elder brother, a son of God who has been appointed to rule and reign over the kingdom of the Father to which thou belongest.

37 And if thou shalt do these things and obey his words in all things whatsoever he shall command thee, behold, thou shalt receive eternal life; and one day thou shalt return unto me and thy Father, and then thou shalt sorrow no more, but thou shalt know me as I am and we shall share eternal happiness forever.

38 And this, my son, is salvation and eternal life.

39 And now my son, I bid thee farewell that thou mightest go and do the things which have been commanded of thee.

40 And it came to pass that the woman left the Brother of Jared. Nevertheless, her radiance did not leave him for sometime thereafter; for he felt as though he was apart of her and she a part of him.

41 And the Brother of Jared praised and worshipped his eternal Mother as he did his Father.

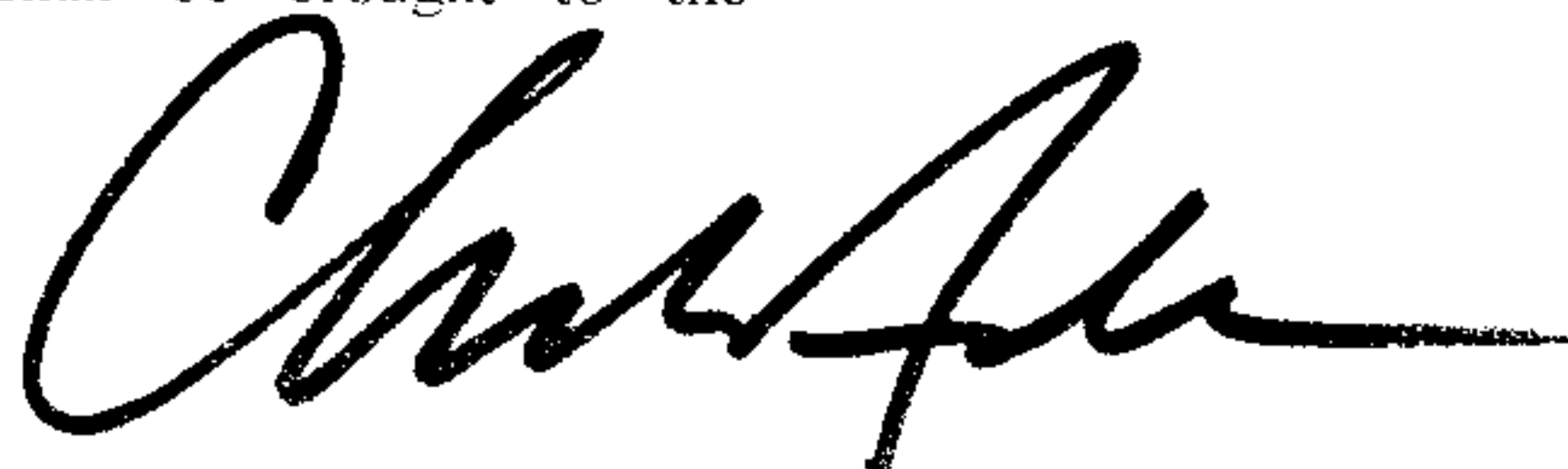
CHAPTER 4

The Brother of Jared sees many worlds and kingdoms of the Father- He receives many mysteries and knowledge because of his faithfulness- His mission is outlined by the Father- He distinguishes between the spirit body and the mortal body.

1 And it came to pass that the Brother of Jared continued on his journey accompanied by the Father and the Son.

2 And it came to pass that they did show unto him many great and marvelous things; And they presented before his eyes many kingdoms and worlds. And the eyes of his understanding were opened, and he understood that the worlds which he was beholding appeared as the stars in the night sky from the earth from whence he came.

3 And it came to pass that Jesus spoke unto him saying, My son, and the Brother of Jared was truly the son of Jesus inasmuch as Jesus was appointed to be the God of this world by the Father; and Jesus said, Thou hast beheld that which no mortal has beheld before.



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THE BOOK OF MORMON ENDS

I could have continued to print the remainder of *The Sealed Portion* which I wrote to prove that one does not have to be "inspired", "called of God", or have any other special talent, except a vivid imagination and a knowledge of what people want to hear, to write what many will accept as scripture, i.e., "the words of God".

However, I do not wish to be rhetorical or boring in my attempt to show off my scriptorial talents, or continue to belittle Joseph Smith. I could be as noble and as popular as Joseph Smith, if I chose to deceive people into thinking so. I believe Joseph Smith had a good purpose in mind when he wrote *The Book of Mormon* and based his new religion on it. He was not a bad man, just creative and egotistical. Just as egotistical as I am, or anyone else for that matter. The difference between us, is that I don't think it accomplishes good in the long run when a lie or deception is perpetuated. Therefore, I feel Joseph Smith's book and his religion will one day prove to be as devastating to the human race as it was fascinating.

Here are some facts concerning *The Book of Mormon*:

-When the book was first published, there were over 3,500 grammatical and other errors which had to be corrected in subsequent publications. If God had given J. Smith the ability to translate the gold plates through the Urim and Thummim, then this God was a poor speller and had no command of the English language at all. Mormons will claim that the Lord misspelled a few words here and there, and blew it grammatically to throw off Satan and his followers who didn't have the faith to accept it, or they justify the "holy mistakes" on the frailties of the scribe. This argument might hold some water, except that some of the changes were doctrinal.

Fact: Joseph Smith wrote the book with the help of Martin Harris, Oliver Cowdery, and Emma Smith, and possibly others which are not mentioned in the orthodox Mormon history. Though the modern Mormon church will never admit to the fact that all the supposable "*Witnesses to The Book of Mormon*" rescinded their testimonies, honest research proves it. The LDS Church has its members believing that none of these men rescinded their testimonies. This is simply an undeterminable fact which has no facts to back it up, but remains an illusory hope for Mormons. However, what Mormons can not dispute is that all of the witnesses left the LDS Church and turned on Joseph Smith. If these men had actually seen gold plates, which would have been one of the greatest discoveries in the history of the world, and also saw angels, why would they rebel? When I was ready to spring my scripture on the fundamentalist Mormon realm, I was promised by a very intellectual and sincere fundamentalist man who promised me that he would give his testimony to the world of the fact that he had been shown the gold plates by me, if that was the will of the Lord and what would help others accept God's word. Yes, what a fool believes, he sees and shares with others, so that he or she can convince others that they are not foolish.

Fact: When Smith died, all those who were privy to the beginnings of the Church and the formation of the Book of Mormon went one way, and the gullible members who were looking for a charismatic leader like the one they lost, went West with the seductively charismatic Brigham Young. Hence, there are the two major Mormon faiths, i.e., The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the orthodox Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Fact: Most of the stories in *The Book of Mormon* can be found in other texts of literary writings from the early 19th century. The wars discussed, which take up much of the Book of Mormon text, can be found precisely as they are used by Joseph Smith in a study of the Christian Crusades.

For example: In November of 1095, Pope Urban called an assembly of Christians to discuss their religion and their dedication to Christ and his word. When the people came to hear Pope Urban, there was not enough room for all the people, so the Pope commanded that a tower be built upon which he could stand and be heard by all the people. Even then, all the people could not hear his voice, so he caused his words to be written and sent out among the people not in the reach of his voice. In Mosiah of *The Book of Mormon*, the king known as Benjamin did the same exact thing.

"For the multitude being so great that king Benjamin could not teach them all within the walls of the temple, therefore he caused a tower to be erected, that thereby his people might hear the words which he should speak unto them."

"And it came to pass that he began to speak to his people from the tower; and they could not all hear his words because of the greatness of the multitude; therefore he caused that the words which he spake should be written and sent forth among those that were not under the sound of his voice, that they might also receive his words."

(*The Book of Mormon*, Mosiah chapter 2, verses 7 & 8)

Pope Urban told the Crusaders to take upon them the name of Christ, and stand firm in their Lord so that they would triumph over their enemies. The Crusaders were very moved by the words of Pope Urban, and thus began the Christian Crusades. King Benjamin of *The Book of Mormon* story had the same effect on his people.

(Perhaps Pope Urban had a copy of *The Book of Mormon* account in 1095? However, it is much more likely that Joseph Smith had a copy of the actions of Pope Urban and the beginnings of the Crusades when he put together his text in the late 1820s.)

During the Crusades, The legendary Bohemond waged a battle for Antioch in the year 1098, in which, at night, rope ladders were let down inside the walls of the city, so that the people inside the city could arm themselves and conquer it the next morning. This battle sounds familiar to students of *The Book of Mormon*, because there is a very similar scenario which took place during one of the Nephite/Lamanite battles. (See Alma chapter 65, verses 16-22)

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out where Joseph Smith got almost every incident of *The Book of Mormon* text. He was well read on many things. Though he is praised for coming up with *The Book of Mormon* without much education, one should stop and reconsider when one takes into account the amount of time he spent reading whatever he could get his hands on at the time. A little research and study proves that *The Book of Mormon* text is a plagiarized fairy tale which was well written by an extraordinary thinker.

Why don't modern, supposedly intelligent Mormons see this fact? They don't want to see it. Humans can close their minds and intellect to the most provable logic in order to protect their egos. This is the case in many families where the parent declares with conviction, "My kid doesn't use drugs, or have sex!" Right! What a fool believes, he sees. The wise man has the power to lead these fools in any direction he or she desires.

Though I respect all human beings as my fellowmen and women, (and can love them in spite of any respect I might have for them,) I have no respect for anyone of any religion who blindly follows their faith, never considering that they might be wrong. Yet, these same zealots will continually mock and ridicule someone like me for opening my mind and using it for what it was intended for, not what others intend for it.

There are many facts which I could present which would prove logically that *The Book of Mormon* is not what it is presented as being. However, no matter how reasonably logically the proof may be, ignorant Mormons will continue to testify about the truthfulness of their scriptures because of their emotional faith, and nothing will cause them to waiver. Faith is the opposite of intellect and reason.

I said in my very first issue of *Reality Quest*: "I have concluded that I must find the truth for myself. To do this properly, I must reject everything which I study and learn from others as 'real truth' and establish my own. It is quite a challenge to do this without offending my fellow beings with whom I share this small planet. Everyone has his or her own opinion; and everyone thinks they are right. It is rare for me to encounter a person who does not think their opinions are right. Nevertheless, because of my search, I have been alienated from those who call themselves my family. Most of my family is of the

opinion that I am "not playing with a full deck of cards". All I can say to them is, "You don't need a full deck of cards to win the hand. All one needs are the right cards."

I eventually discarded all things which I had been taught by my parents and others to accept by faith. Doing this, I knew I would lose the filial relationships which existed between us. I made the sacrifice of these relationships to improve my chances of finding "real truth". Having rid my mind of all faith, I was able to finally realize what faith really was. (Better yet, I was able to finally have my own understanding of what faith is to me.) Faith is simply the easy way out for the human species. (I say human species, because we are the only animals on earth who exercise any type of faith.) When we can not explain something, or the explanation is not understood to our satisfaction, we accept what ever it is we can't understand by faith. Therefore, faith appears to be more for children and the ignorant rather than for an intelligent being.

I once accepted the fact that if there was a God, he was God because he was much more powerful and knowledgeable than me. It was taught to me that we have the potential to become like God and know and do the things which he does. Well, having thrown this doctrine out the window with the rest of the things I had ignorantly accepted on faith, I came to the understanding that perhaps whoever came up with this idea could have been on the right track. I came to this conclusion by realizing that the more I learn and understand, the more "real" power I have over my own life. Therefore, I realized that there is tremendous power in knowledge. However, I learned that faith is not knowledge, it is faith. Since it is assumed that God is omniscient, or all knowledgeable, then it is safe to assume that he has no faith. If God has no faith, then it is not one of his attributes. If it is not one of his attributes and he created us in his "own image", then it should not be one of our attributes. Using this method of reasoning, I realized that it is knowledge I must pursue and not faith.

Faith is essential for the ignorant who depend on it to bring them the hope they need to make it through the non-understandable reason for our existence. Faith is necessary to help a human through the pain and sorrow of death, which in itself is inexplicable. Faith is necessary to help the complacent justify their complacency. Faith helps the bad be good, and the good continue to be good. (For these it is easier to obey a commandment based on faith rather than finding out why the commandment was given. "Because God says!" is much easier to digest than because if we do such and such, it causes certain problems.)

Faith is a term which meaning is found inside each person who possesses it. It is a great help to most, but a great hindrance in the pursuit of truth. "

In a court of law, I have no doubt I could convince an unbiased jury that *The Book of Mormon* is not what Mormons accept it as. Faith is the only thing Mormons have to back up their testimonies of the book's divinity. It is this faith that keeps many Mormons locked up in the dogma which blinds their eyes and hardens their hearts. I will fail to prove to anyone that they are wrong and misled. One must first, desire to know and understand the truth, admit that they don't have it, (For how can someone search for something they think they have?), and then with honesty and integrity search for the truth. More than likely, the truth will never be known to the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There is so much emotion bound up in the windings of the human psyche, that a grain of truth, like a grain of sand in a pocket watch, can cause those windings to come unraveled.

I end my discussion of *The Book of Mormon* by giving testimony, just as strong as the testimony of faith given by most Mormons, except mine is a testimony of reason, that the book is not what it appears to be. It was created by J. Smith in the same way I created my *Sealed Portion*. Though it gives a sense of order and hope to a frail human stuck in the "Twilight Zone" of life, the bigotry and arrogance it has caused its adherents, outweighs the good it has caused. Like the fanatic followers of the Koran, who would fight to the death against anyone who speaks ill of their "holy book", the Mormons could soon place death sentences on all those who oppose their sacred text. (They all ready have in the sense that if one rejects their scriptures, and does not repent, they will be burnt at the second coming of their Lord, and receive the second *death*, which they believe to be a spiritual death which happens to all those who refuse to accept their gospel.) When this happens, I will have no desire to stay among a people who can let a myth destroy the peace of another.

I have seen the affects of religious fanaticism caused by *The Book of Mormon* in my own life and the lives of those who call themselves my family. I write this text for them, so that perhaps they might open

their eyes and minds a little and start accepting and loving others based on being human, and not on being a member of their little, elite centered group.

Alas, my written words are like the whippoorwill's song sung underneath a busy freeway overpass; sung with love and hope, yet unheard by those who drive along life's busy freeway never slowing down to hear the graceful tune.

Please my children, hear my plea,
It isn't much, but listen to me.
Faith in something that's unsure,
Will lead your soul to the ignorant's door.

Inside us all God's placed a seed,
One that will grow when we're in need.
The seed of truth which cannot grow,
With the water of what fools know.

Search for the light that all plants crave,
Don't give up the search until the grave.
And then what ever lies beyond,
Will harvest the fruit that you have spawned.

This light cannot be found in a book,
For there are many who have looked and looked.
It can't be found in what others say,
It can't be found in the orthodox way.

Light exists without man's help,
It's found in the inner regions of the self.

Chris M. Nemelka-1994

HOW I GOT BEHIND

I got behind on my newsletter, because I have been involved in a service project aimed at a homeless mother and her six children I met. It is quite an experience, and will be discussed in length in another issue of *Reality Quest*.

However, I sometimes wonder if those who have interested themselves in my thoughts really care. Oh well, it's a good incentive to think they do, so I'll continue for now.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris M. Nemelka", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.