



2

FIGHTING FOR SCRIPTURE

Lehi & the
Reformation Martyrs

FOR OUR DAY



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FIGHTING FOR
SCRIPTURE:
LEHI & THE
REFORMATION
MARTYRS

GOD'S OUTLAW: THE STORY OF WILLIAM TYNDALE (1986)



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MARTYRS IN COVENTRY, ENGLAND



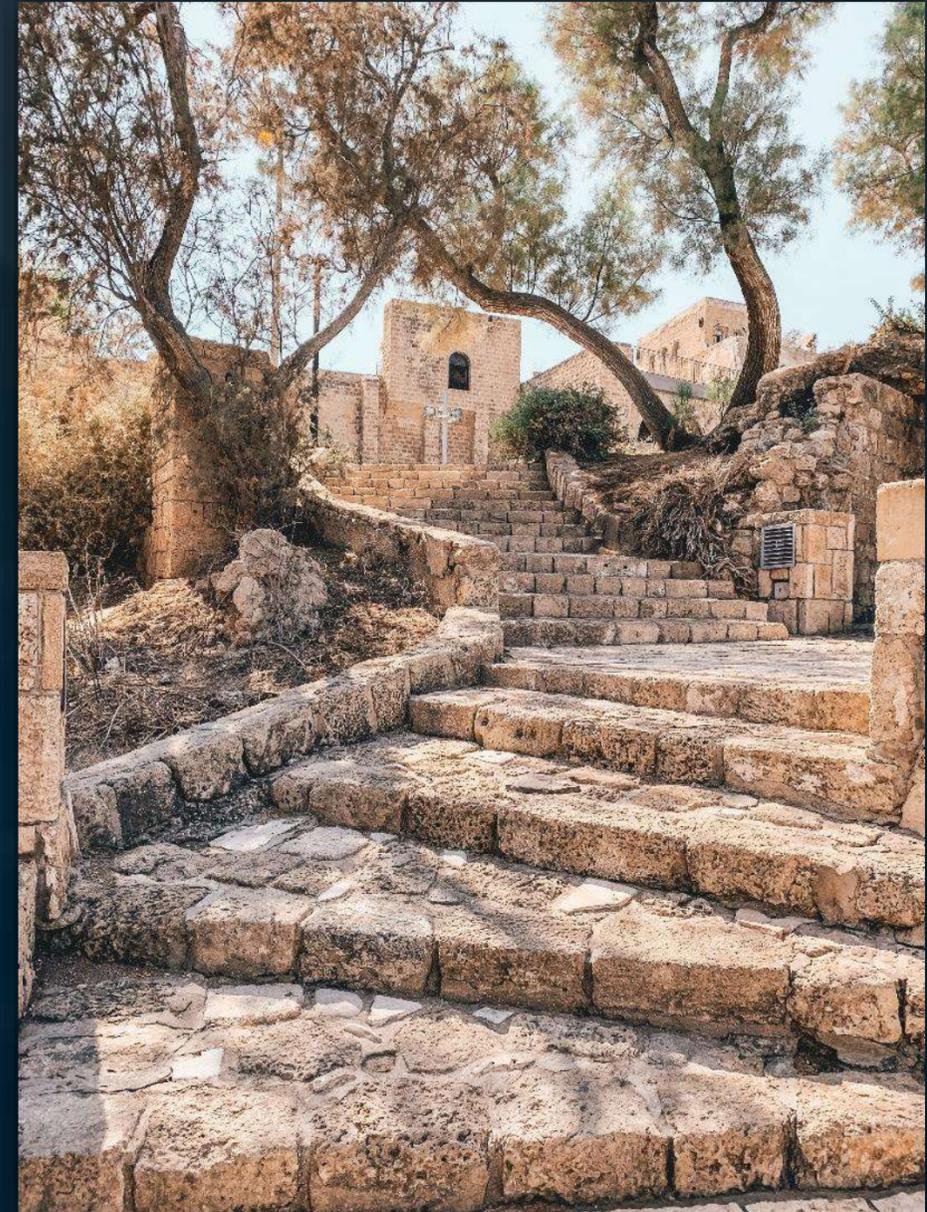
Depiction of similar stories in John Foxe's Acts and Monuments ("Book of Martyrs"), Ninth Edition (1684)

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HOW DOES THE BOOK OF MORMON BEGIN?

- Hypocritical apostate Jewish church
- Jewish religious leaders (such as Laban) lead corrupt lives
- Pure doctrine lost
- Scripture corrupted
- Brass Plates withheld from Lehi & his family
- Nephi & brothers forsake wealth & personal safety to obtain scripture/law
- Lehi is ignorant of Josephite genealogy



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SCRIPTURE CORRUPTED

“How can you say, ‘We are wise, for we have the law of the LORD,’ when actually the lying pen of the scribes has handled it falsely?” (Jeremiah 8:8, NIV)

Historian scholar Charles Torrey argues that Jeremiah is denouncing the religious leaders of his day (priests and scribes) of altering the actual Scriptures with “scribal additions.”



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HOW DOES THE BOOK OF MORMON BEGIN?

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Hypocritical apostate Jewish church | ➔ | 1. Roman Church corrupts Christ's primitive Church |
| 2. Jewish leaders (such as Laban) lead corrupt lives | ➔ | 2. Harlots, wealth & popularity drives religious leaders |
| 3. Pure doctrine lost | ➔ | 3. Pure doctrine lost |
| 4. Scripture corrupted | ➔ | 4. Original Bible altered |
| 5. Brass plates withheld from Lehi and his family | ➔ | 5. Bible is not accessible in common language of the people |
| 6. Nephi & brothers forsake wealth and personal safety to obtain scripture | ➔ | 6. Tyndale, Luther and other reformers sacrifices lives to translate Bible into English |
| 7. Lehi ignorant of Josephite genealogy | ➔ | 7. Saints in Europe have lost their Israelite genealogy & heritage |

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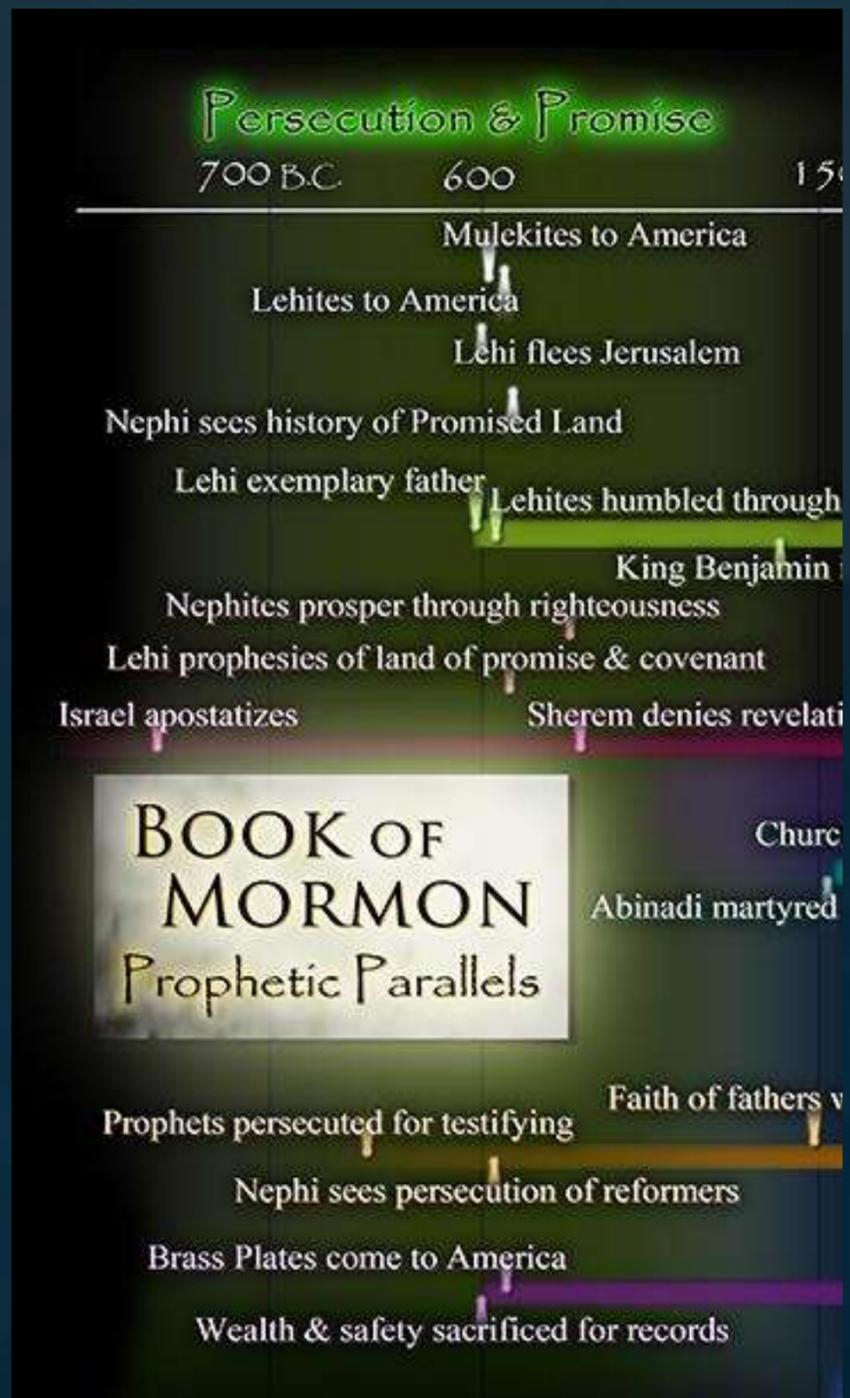
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LEHI'S LIFE IS THREATENED

- “And when the Jews heard these things they were angry with him; yea, even as with the prophets of old, whom they had **cast out**, and **stoned**, and **slain**; and they also **sought his life**, that they might take it away.” (1 Nephi 1:20)
- “. . . the Lord spake unto my father, yea, even in a dream, and said unto him: Blessed art thou Lehi, because of the things which thou hast done; and because thou hast been faithful and declared unto this people the things which I commanded thee, behold, they seek to **take away thy life**.” (1 Nephi 2:1)

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← Nephite History

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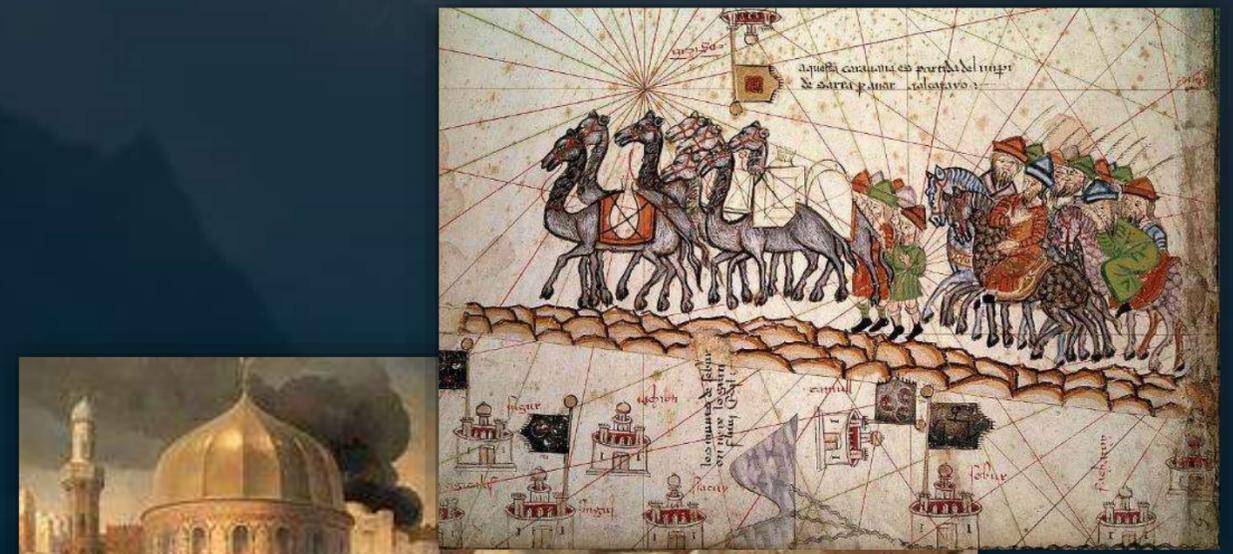
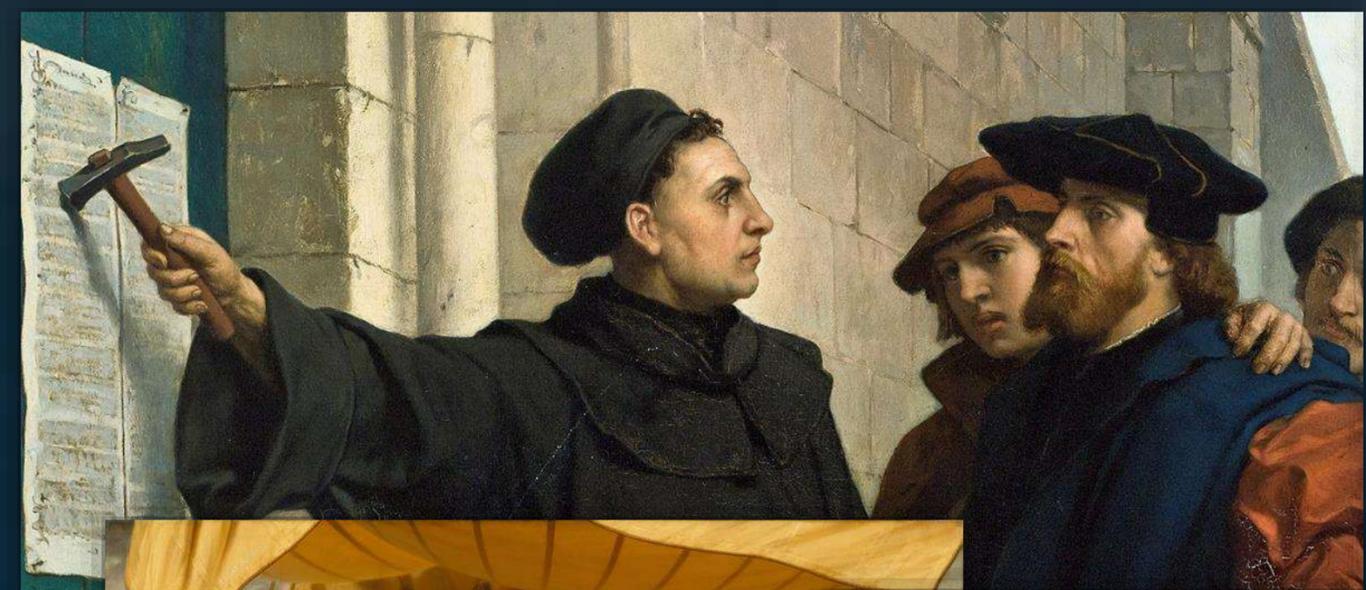
Timelines taken from "For Our Day Model" poster, available at www.JosephSmithFoundation.org

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GOD'S PRIORITIES VS. SECULAR PRIORITIES

What medieval history is *important* from an eternal perspective?

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Qui natus est nobis, et filius datus est nobis, cuius imperium super humeris eius, et vocabitur nomen eius magni consilii angelus.



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NEPHI'S VISION OF THE DARK AGES (1 NEPHI 13)

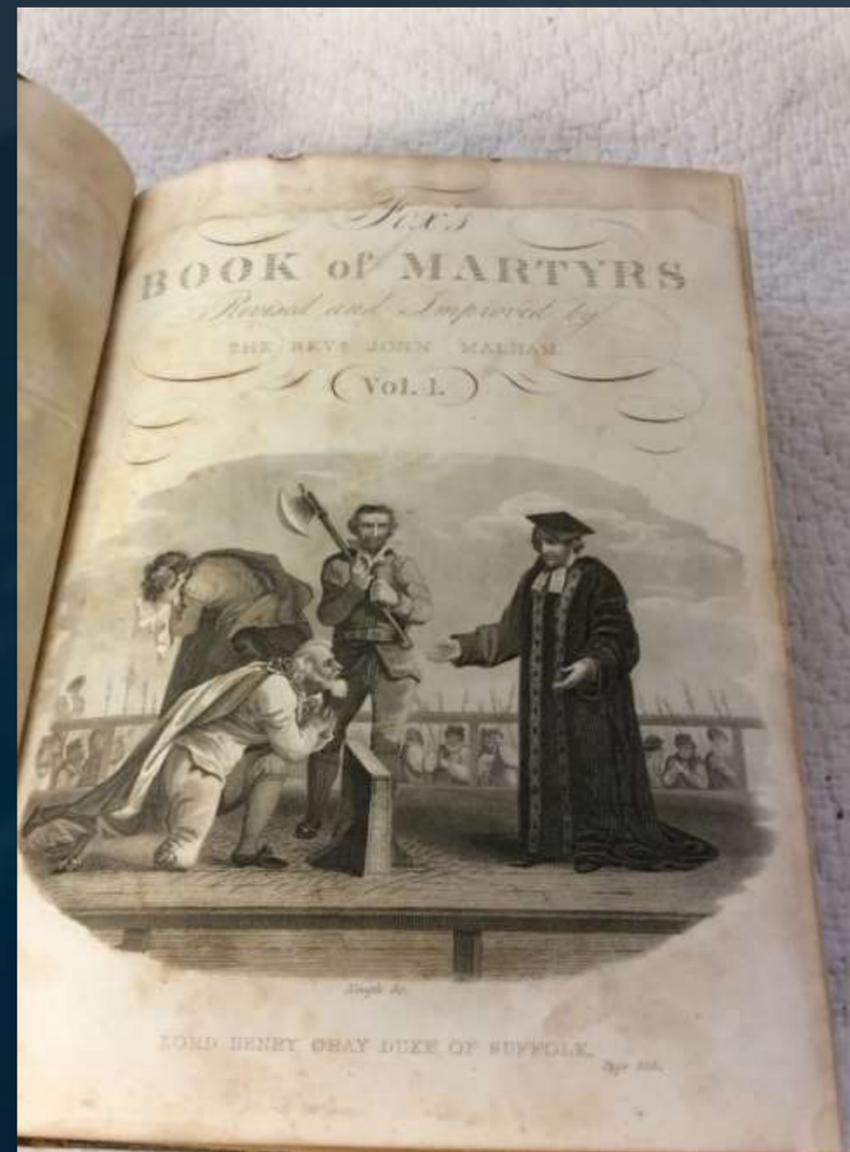
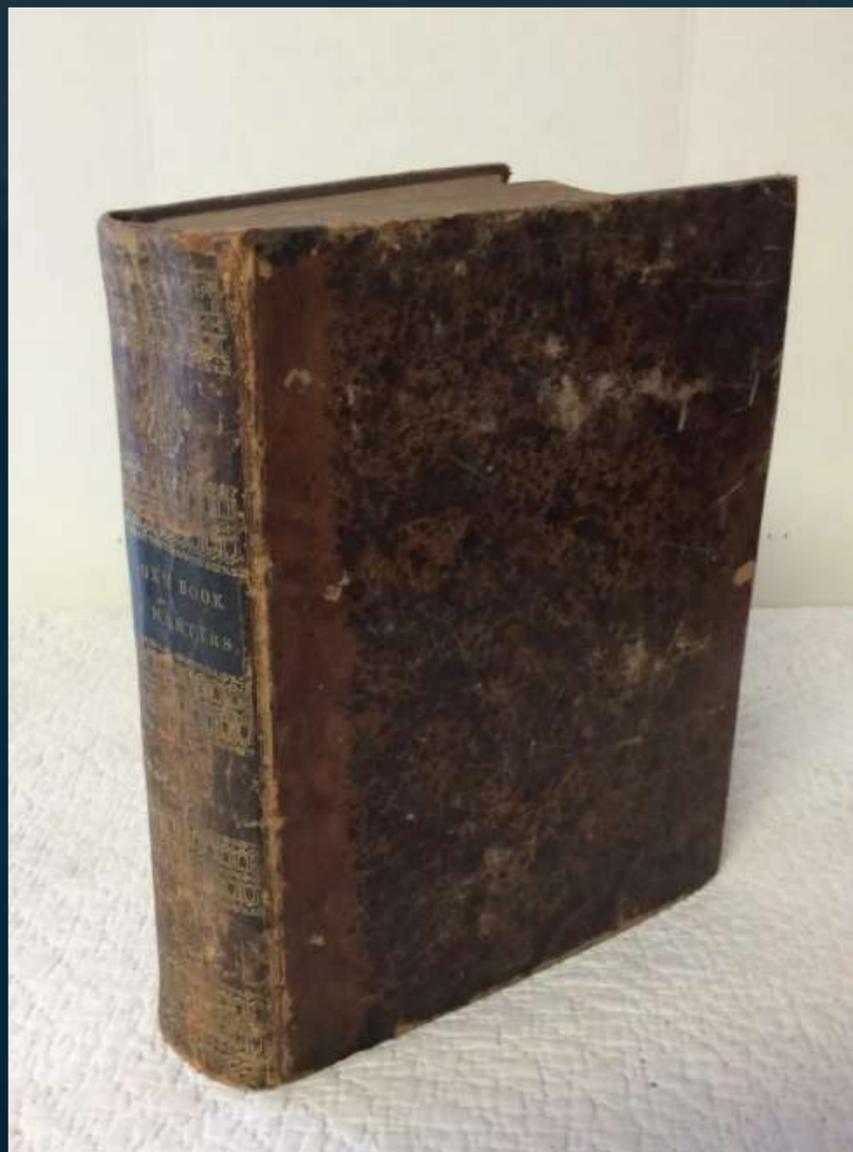
- Most abominable church founded by the devil (vs. 5) or “great and abominable church” (vs. 6)
- Saints **slain** (vs. 5)
- Saints **tortured** (vs. 5)
- Saints **bound** down (vs. 5)
- Saints **yoked** with a yoke of iron (vs. 5)
- Saints brought down into **captivity** (vs. 5)
- Saints **destroyed** (vs. 9)
- Apostates prioritize **wealth** (gold, silver, silks, scarlets, fine linen, precious clothing (vs. 7-8)
- Apostates desire **harlots**/gross immorality (vs. 8)
- “**Out of captivity**” used 5 different times by Nephi in one chapter!

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FOXES' BOOK OF MARTYRS, 1830 EDITION



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REFORMATION MARTYRS “WILL BE SAVED”

“During the Prophet's visit, he came to our house. . . . While looking over our copy of a large **English Book of Martyrs**, he expressed **sympathy** for the Christian martyrs and a **hope** for their salvation. He asked to borrow the book, promising to return it when he should meet us again in Missouri. On returning it he said, ‘I have, by the aid of the **Urim and Thummim**, **seen** those **martyrs**. They were **honest**, **devoted followers of Christ**, according to the light they possessed. They will be **saved**.’”

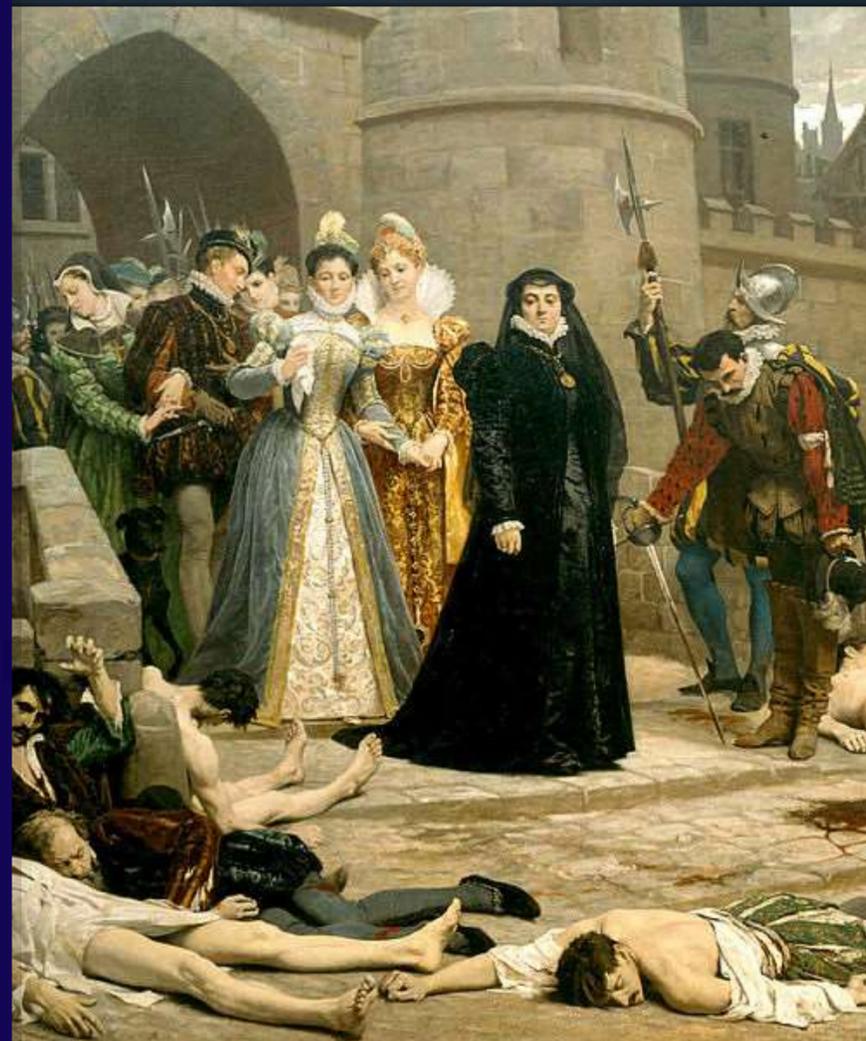
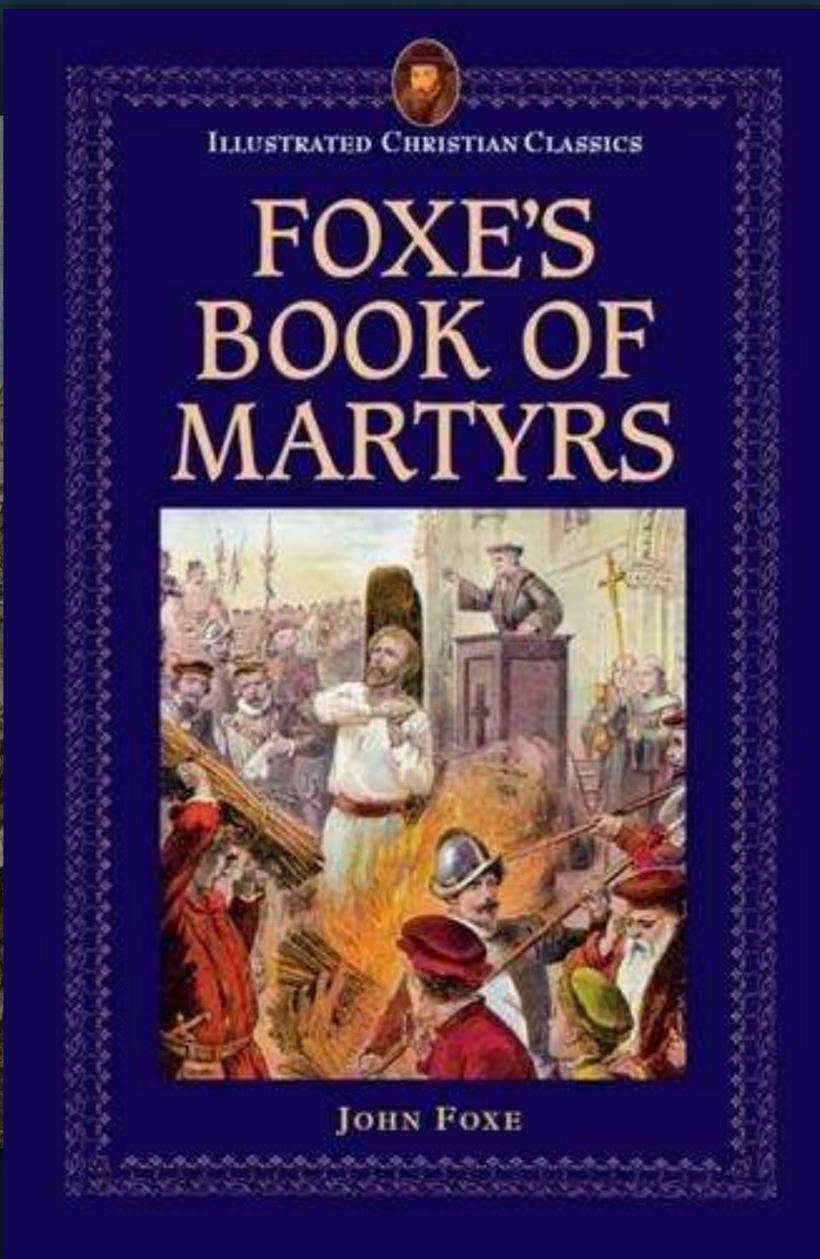
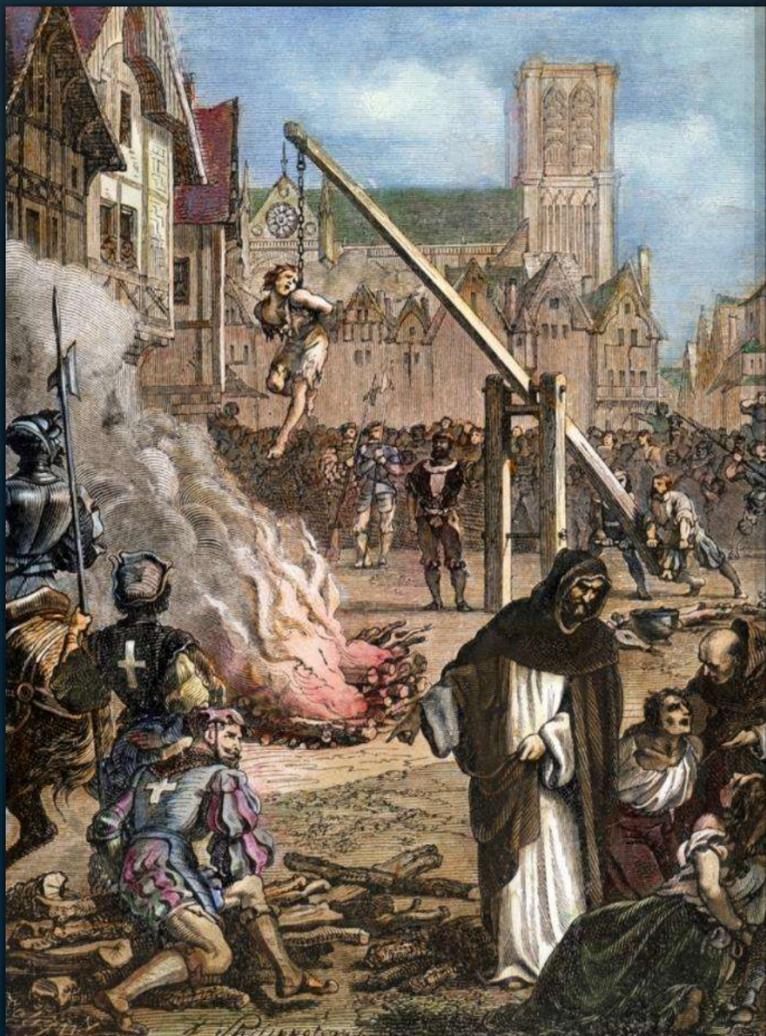
Hyrum Andrus, They Knew the Prophet: Personal Accounts From Over 100 People Who Knew Joseph Smith, pg. 83

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FOXES' BOOK OF MARTYRS, JOHN FOXE



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50 MILLION+ MURDERED

“From the birth of Popery in 606, to the present time [1845], it is estimated by careful and credible historians, that **more than Fifty Millions of the human family**, have been slaughtered for the crime of **heresy** by popish persecutors, an average of more than **forty thousand religious murders** for **every year** of the existence of Popery.”

John Dowling, The History of Romanism, pg. 541

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THE IGNORED & FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST

“Some have computed, that, from the year 1518 to 1548 [30 years], **fifteen million of Protestants** have perished by **war** and the **Inquisition**. This may be overcharged, but certainly the number of them in these thirty years, as well as since is almost incredible. To these we may add **innumerable martyrs**, in ancient, middle, and late ages, in Bohemia, Germany, Holland, France, England, Ireland, and many other parts of Europe, Africa, and Asia.”

Why haven't we heard about this? Why has it been eliminated from our history?

John Wesley, Explanatory Notes on the New Testament, 1755

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FRENCH HUGUENOT MARTYRS

- **~4 million** French Protestant Huguenots, both men and women, were killed in 40 years during the French Wars of Religion (1500s).
- In 1572, King Charles IX of France ordered the massacre of thousands of Huguenot reformers betraying his own recent treaty of peace. This massacre has come to be known as “St. Bartholomew's Eve,” with an estimate of **30 to 70 thousand martyrs**.



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SCOTTISH COVENANTER MARTYRS

The Scottish Covenanters, named for their central belief in following in the **footsteps of ancient Israel** to **make covenants** with God, went through a period so brutal it has been called "**The Killing Times.**" In 18 years, **~18,000 were killed.**



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HAVE WE FORGOTTEN THESE MARTYRS?

- The Spanish Inquisition took the lives of more than **~2 million** victims, including men, women and children.
- One calculation states that **~900,000 Waldensians** were massacred between 1540 and 1570.
- During one crusade against the Albigenses, from 1209-1229, **~1-2 million** murdered.
- **100,000** were executed in the Netherlands by Charles V. The Duke of Alba alone boasted of murdering **18,000** Dutch in 6 years, not including fatalities in war.
- Massacres included *all* ages and genders.

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LATTER-DAY SAINTS HONOR REFORMERS

“In the days of greatest spiritual darkness, when evil raged, **the Lord raised up honorable men**, who rebelled against the tyranny of the dragon and his emissaries who held dominion on the earth, and had subdued in abject slavery the consciences of men.

“**Latter-day Saints pay all honor** to these great and fearless reformers, who **shattered** the **fetters** which bound the religious world. The **Lord** was their **Protector** in this mission, which was fraught with many perils. In that day, however, the time had not come for the restoration of the fulness of the gospel. The work of the reformers was of great importance, but it was a **preparatory work**, and they shall in no wise lose their **well earned reward.**”

Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, 1:175

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THE STORY OF LIBERTY

So you will know **what liberty has cost** . . . And what it's **worth**.

“For much of history humankind has been oppressed. We have suffered religious persecution, the tyranny of cruel monarchs, and suffered untold horrors due to war and famine.

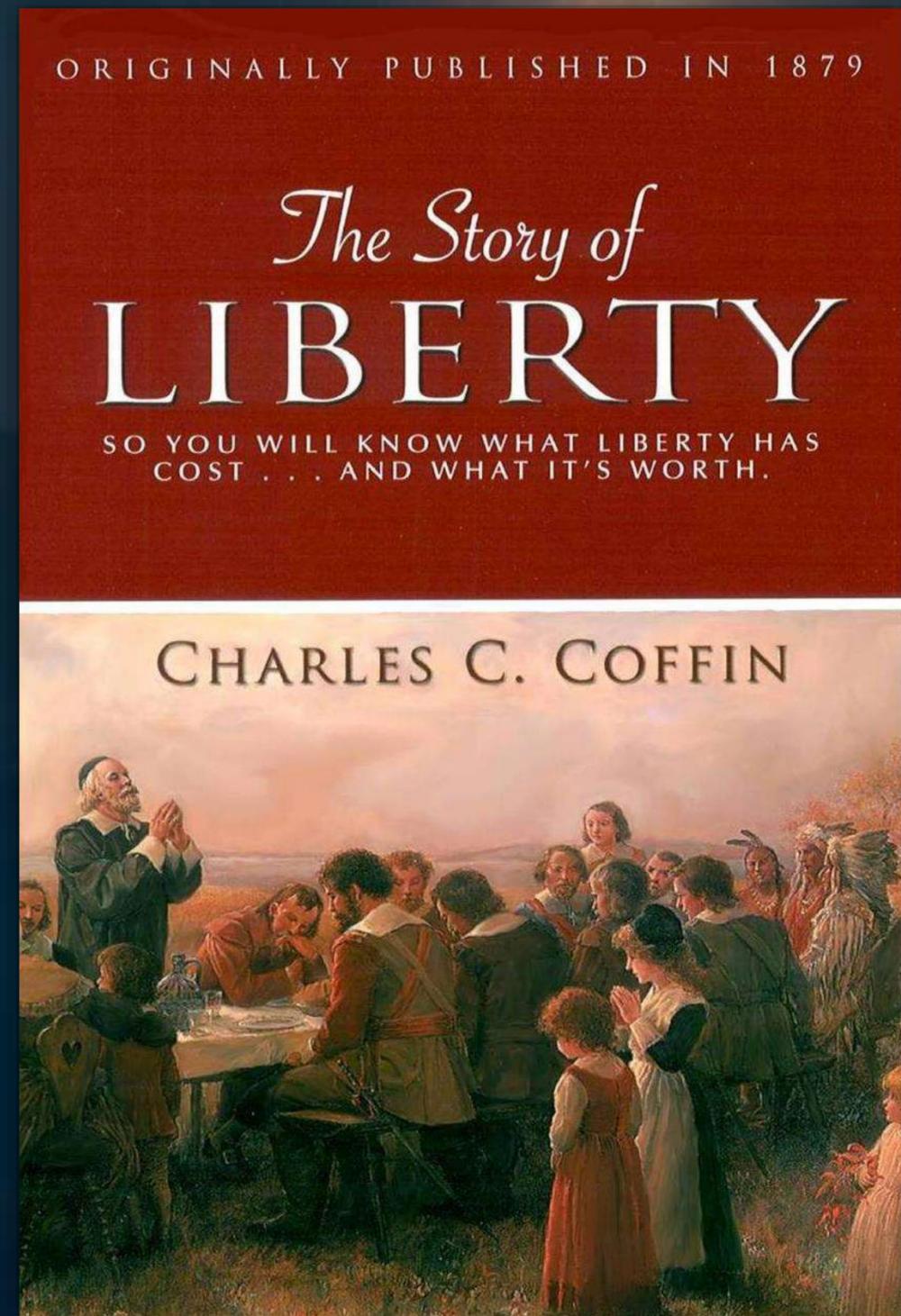
“Yet, the modern world now has greater freedom than ever before.

“So how did this rise of liberty occur?

“Charles Carleton Coffin’s fascinating work *The Story of Liberty* charts this remarkable progress.”

Description from Amazon

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LESS THAN 200 YRS AGO!

“I **need not** here refer to the history of the **Waldenses**, and **Albigenses**, and **Huguenots** . . . for their history is well known.”

John Taylor, The Government of God (1852), pg. 16

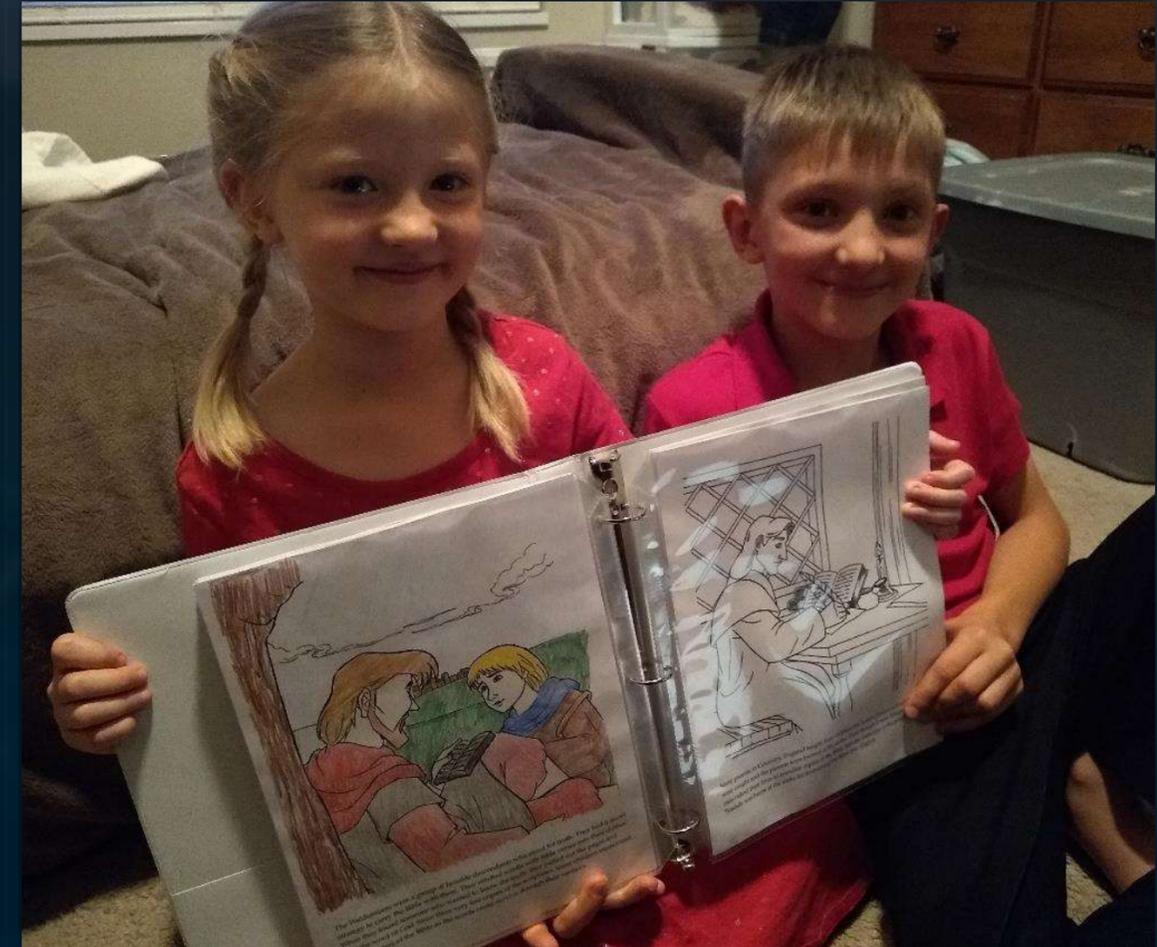
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TEACHING THE REFORMATION TO KIDS!



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HANDS-ON LEARNING! WATCHING MOVIES & DRESSING IN COSTUME!



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SCRIPTURE IS WORTH ANY COST!





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