



22

SAVING REBELLIOUS YOUTH

PROGRESSIVE IDEALOGIES

FOR OUR DAY



LESSON
22

SAVING
REBELLIOUS
YOUTH:
ALMA THE
YOUNGER

“CHURCHES THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND”

“And Alma . . . went from one body to another, preaching unto the people **repentance** and **faith** on the Lord. . . . Therefore, Alma did go forth into the water and **did baptize them**; yea, he did baptize them after the manner he did his brethren in the waters of Mormon; yea, and as many as he did baptize did belong to the church of God; and this because of their belief on the words of Alma. And it came to pass that king Mosiah granted unto Alma that he might **establish churches throughout all the land** of Zarahemla; and gave him power to **ordain priests and teachers** over every church.”

Mosiah 25:15-19

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“MANY CHURCHES” BUT “ONE CHURCH”

“Now this was done because there were **so many people** that they could not all be governed by one teacher; neither could they all hear the word of God in one assembly; Therefore they did assemble themselves together in **different bodies**, being called churches; every church having their priests and their teachers, and every priest **preaching the word according as it was delivered to him by the mouth of Alma**. And thus, notwithstanding there being many churches they were all **one church**, yea, even the church of God; for there was **nothing** preached in all the churches except it were **repentance and faith in God.**”

Mosiah 25:20-22



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CONSTANTLY ASK “WHY?”

“If they saw our day and chose those things which would be of **greatest worth** to us, **is not that how we should study** the Book of Mormon? We should **constantly ask** ourselves, ‘**Why** did the Lord inspire Mormon (or Moroni or Alma) to **include** that in his record? What **lesson** can I learn from that to help me live in **this day** and age?’

“And there is **example after example** of how that question will be answered.”



President Ezra Taft Benson, “The Book of Mormon—Keystone of Our Religion,” October 1986

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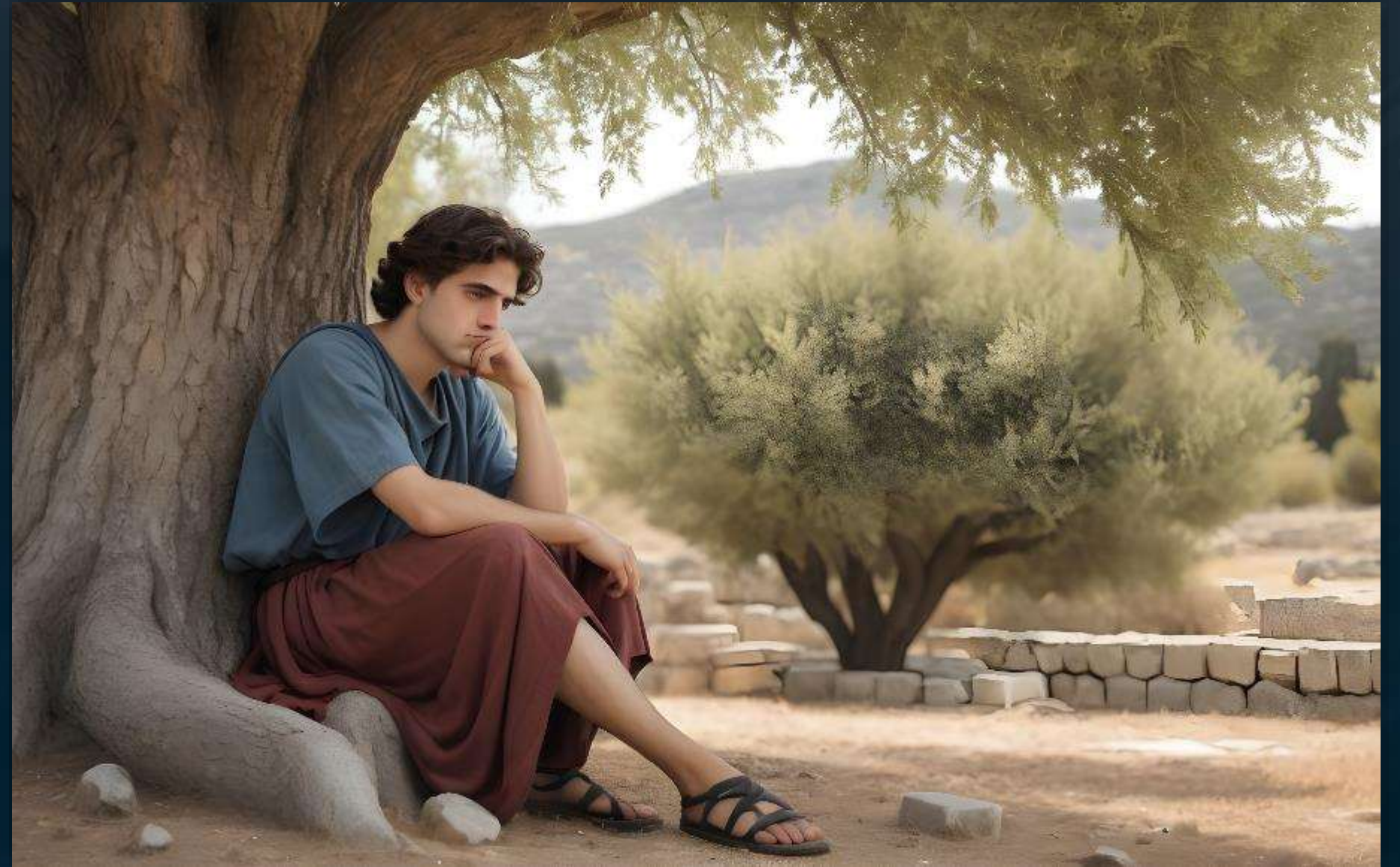
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DISCONNECT WITH THE RISING GENERATION

“Now it came to pass that there were many of the **rising generation** that **could not understand** the words of king Benjamin, being little children at the time he spake unto his people; and they **did not believe the tradition of their fathers.**”

Mosiah 26:1



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WHY DID THE YOUTH STRUGGLE?

“They did **not believe** what had been said concerning the **resurrection** of the dead, neither did they believe concerning the **coming of Christ**.

“And now because of their **unbelief** they could **not understand** the **word of God**; and their hearts were **hardened**.

“And they would not be baptized; neither would they join the church. And they were a separate people as to their faith, and remained so ever after, even in their **carnal and sinful state**; for they **would not call** upon the Lord their God.”

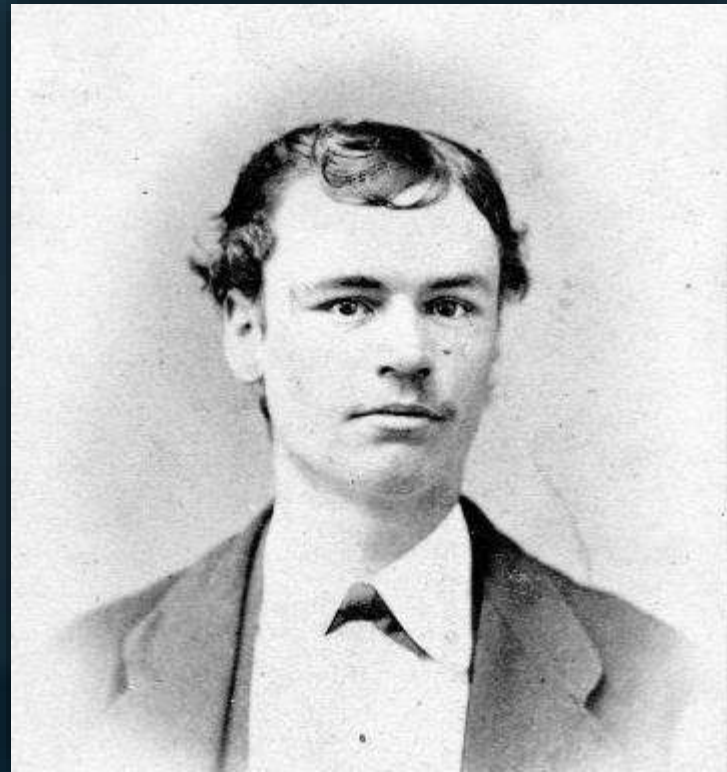
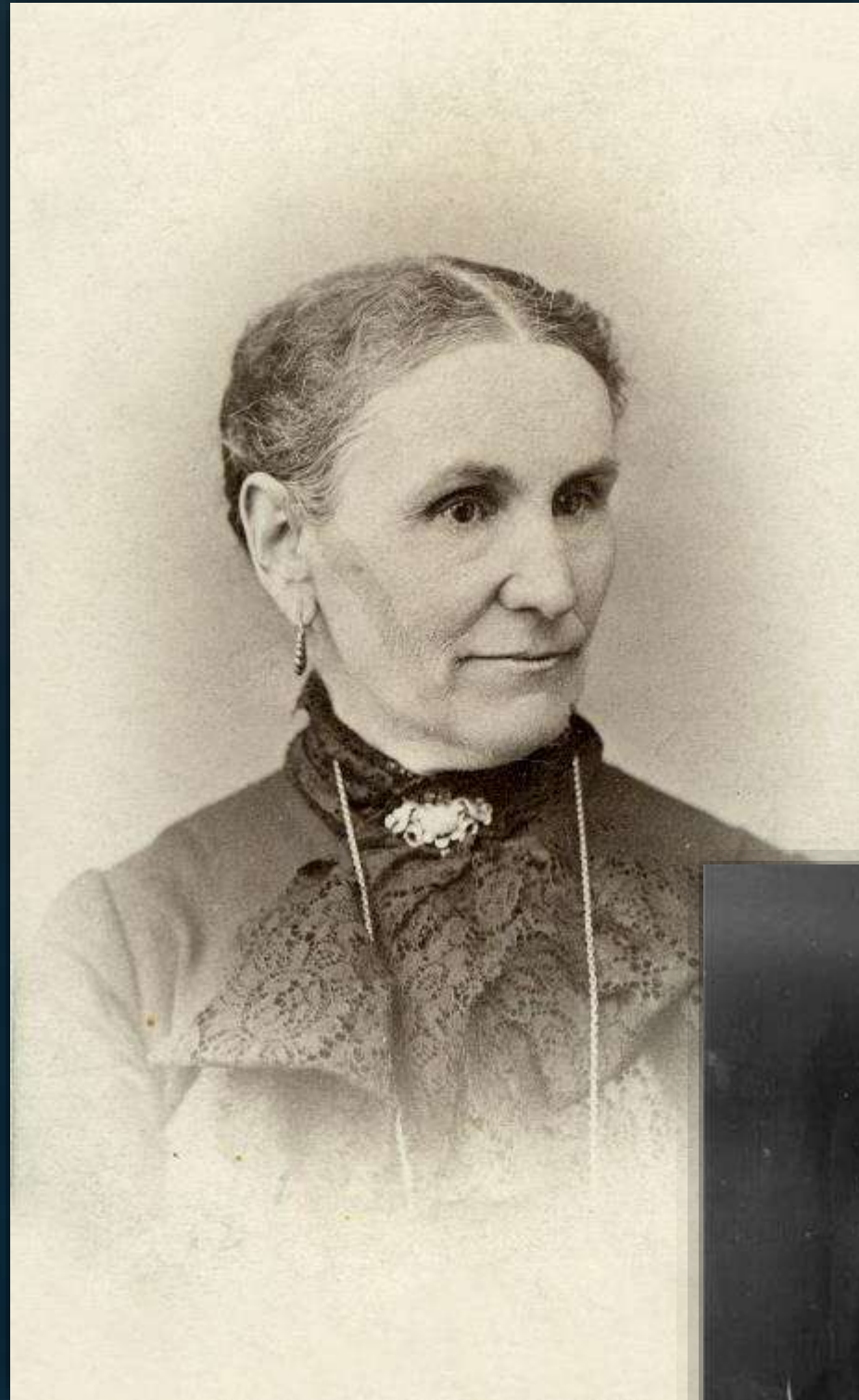
Mosiah 26:2-4

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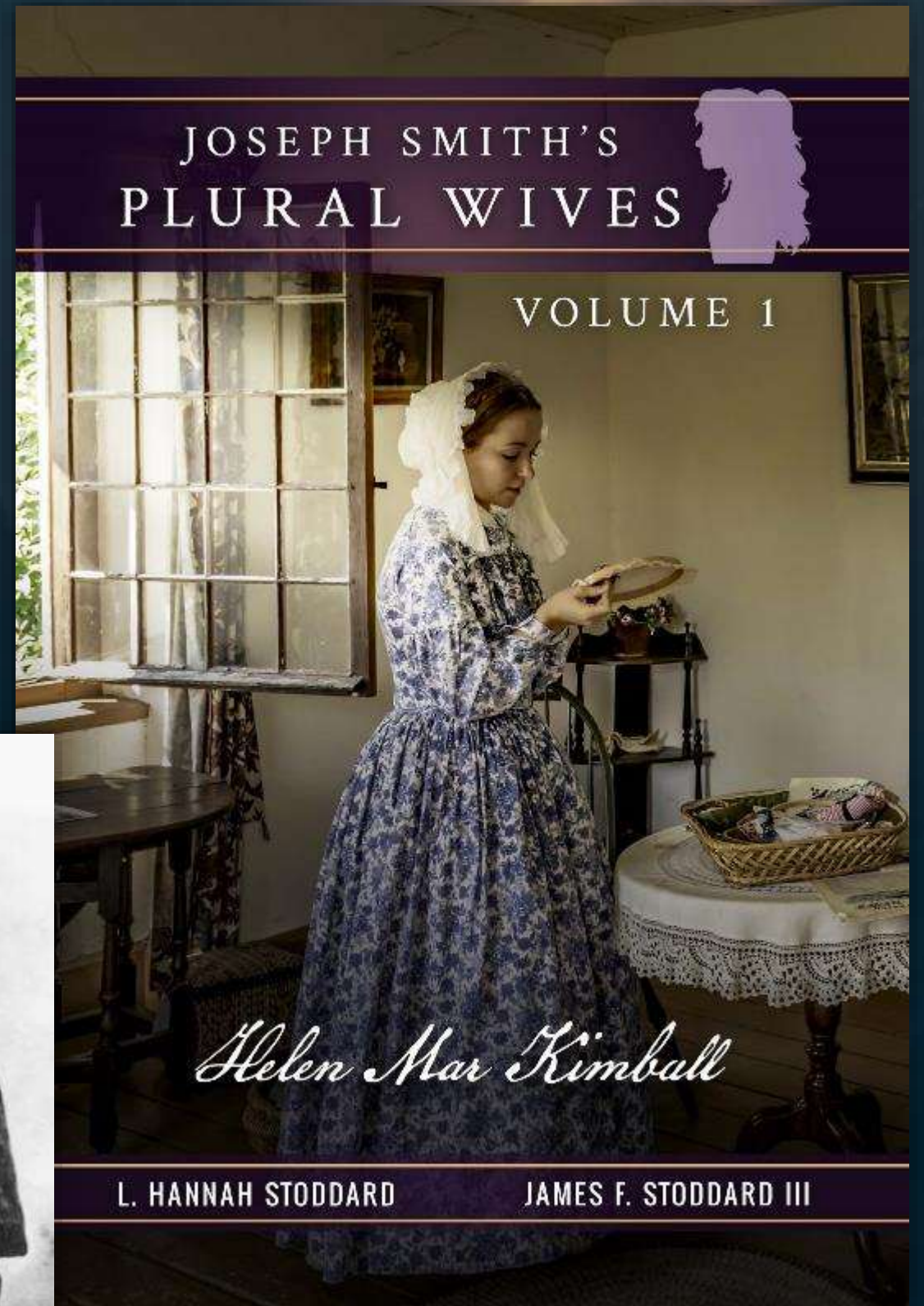
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*Orson F. Whitney, son of Helen Mar Kimball
& member of Quorum of the Twelve*



Helen's children (Genevieve, Florence, Elizabeth, Orson, & Helen)



JOSEPH SMITH'S
PLURAL WIVES

VOLUME 1

Helen Mar Kimball

L. HANNAH STODDARD

JAMES F. STODDARD III

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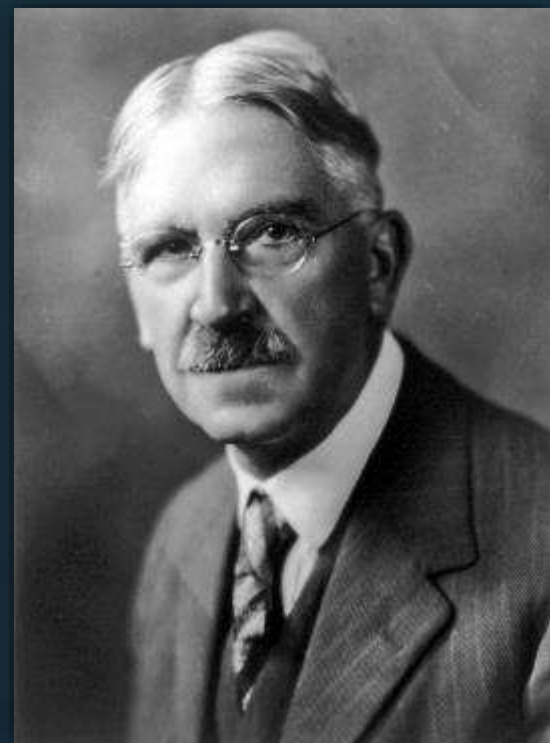


Heber C. Kimball children at a Kimball family reunion, June 14, 1887. Helen is seated in middle row, third from the right.

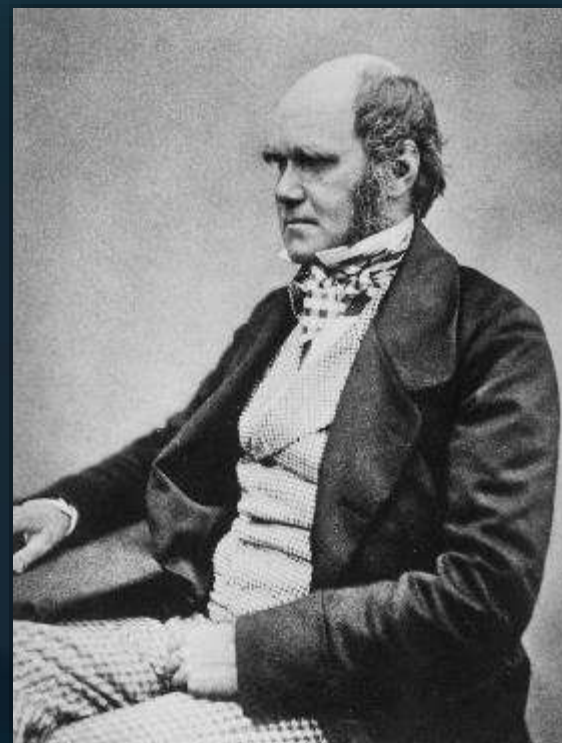


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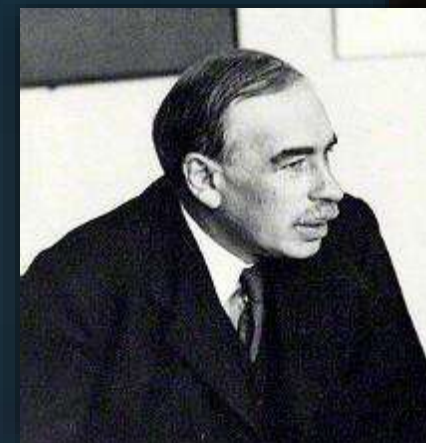
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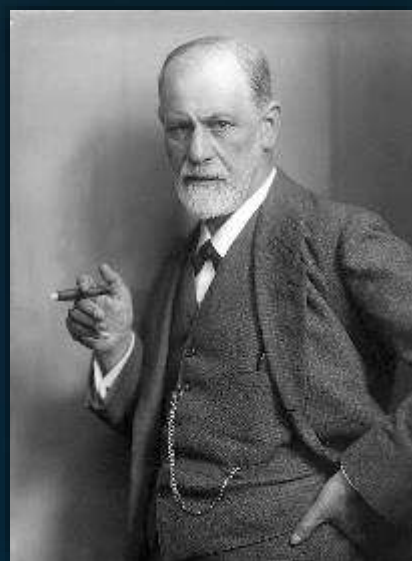
John Dewey (father of modern education)



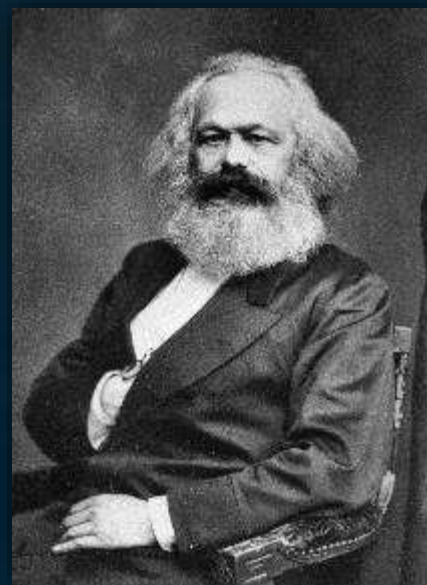
Charles Darwin (father of modern science)



John Keynes (promoter of socialistic economic ideals)



Sigmund Freud (father of modern psychology)



Karl Marx (father of Communism)

PROGRESSIVE IDEOLOGIES SWEEP AMERICA

Secularism, humanism, etc. become popular—and particularly the philosophies of five men, condemned in General Conference by President Ezra Taft Benson.

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WHAT DID THE PROPHETS TEACH ON EDUCATION?

- **Parents** are **responsible** for the education of their children.
- **Scriptures** are the most important **textbooks**, and the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants should be part of the curriculum.
- Only **faithful** Latter-day Saint **teachers** should be hired.
- **No tax money** should be used for education and Latter-day Saints were told to **not support “free”** schools.
- No subjects should be taught without the **spirit** directing the instructor.
- Stake Presidents were instructed to set up at least **one academy per stake**.
- Sadly, roughly **90%** of the pioneers opted for public schools—only 10% accepted the prophetic counsel and supported the Church academies.
- Church academies were **closed** February 24, 1920.

For more information on the teachings of the prophets, see the Joseph Smith Foundation “Education FAQs” or Jack Monnett’s excellent book, “Revealed Educational Principles & the Public Schools”

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“THE LOST GENERATION”

“As Mormonism rounded the bend of the early 20th century, children who had **not known Joseph Smith** or experienced the **pioneer trek** came to adulthood—and many of them began **leaving** the church, earning for themselves the nickname ‘the lost generation.’ These were people who **didn’t experience the miracles** of early Mormonism, nor did they **understand** their **parents’ testimonies** against the gritty reality of the **industrial age**. The old shoe didn’t fit.”

Lisa Torcasso Downing, “Today’s Lost Generation and the Crisis of Trust,” Life Outside The Book of Mormon Belt, February 6, 2019, <https://outsidethebookofmormonbelt.com>.

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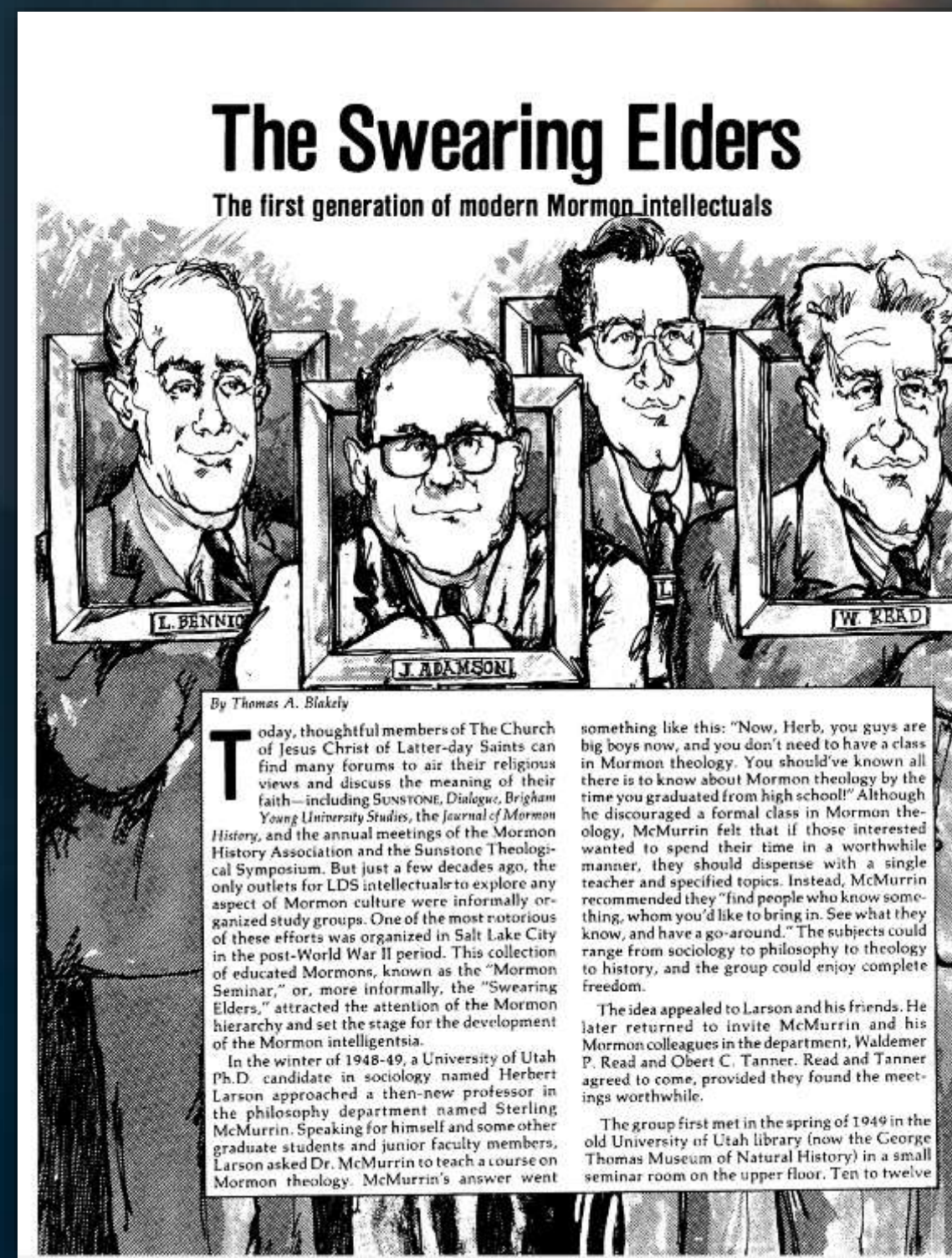


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Sterling McMurrin (left) with Executive Secretary of the National Education Association William G. Carr (center) and President John F. Kennedy, 1962



Article on "The Swearing Elders" by Thomas A. Blakely published in Sunstone magazine.

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Sterling M. McMurrin, 1962



Joseph Fielding Smith, ca. 1942

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NO BELIEF IN FALL & ADAM & EVE

“I just laid my heresies out from start to finish. They didn’t have to ask me many questions, because I said, ‘Well, we might as well start at the beginning with Adam and Eve. I **don’t believe they existed**. I don’t believe there was such a place as the Garden of Eden. I think the whole story is a **cultural myth**. I don’t believe in the fall of man and man’s estrangement from God.”



Sterling M. McMurrin and L. Jackson Newell, Matters of Conscience (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1996), <http://signaturebookslibrary.org/heresies-and-criticism/>

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NO FALL = NO SAVIOR & DIVINITY OF CHRIST

“They just sat there, obviously shocked, and waited to see what would come next. So I went on until I got to the **divinity of Christ**. I **didn't believe** in that either, which must have been a major shock to them. But I pointed out, if you don't believe in the **Fall**, then there's **no point** in believing in a **savior**.”

“But I did say, ‘I don't want you to think that I regard Jesus as just a great teacher. He was a man of enormous spiritual insight.’ I laid it out so there was no mistaking what I meant.”



Sterling M. McMurrin and L. Jackson Newell, Matters of Conscience (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1996), <http://signaturebookslibrary.org/heresies-and-criticism/>

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NO FIRST VISION & BOOK OF MORMON NOT HISTORICAL

“Then Joseph Fielding asked, ‘Well, what about Joseph Smith? What about the **first vision**?’

“Well, I was coming to that, you know. I said, ‘President Smith, my views are essentially naturalistic.’

“He wanted to know what I meant by naturalistic.

“I said, ‘Well, some people believe in evil spirits.’

“‘I do,’ he [Joseph Fielding] said.

“‘I know you do,’ I said, ‘and that’s why I’m taking this example. Let’s assume that someone comes into your outer office and is behaving very strangely. You might go out there and say, “He’s possessed of an evil spirit. Let’s lay our hands on him and cast out the devil.” But I might look at the same man and say, “He’s out of his mind. Let’s get him to a hospital.” The first explanation is supernaturalistic and the second one is naturalistic.’

“... I told them, as well, that I **didn’t believe** Joseph Smith had **actually seen God**. . . . Well, we went from there to the **Book of Mormon**, and I assured them that I didn’t believe it was **authentic**.”

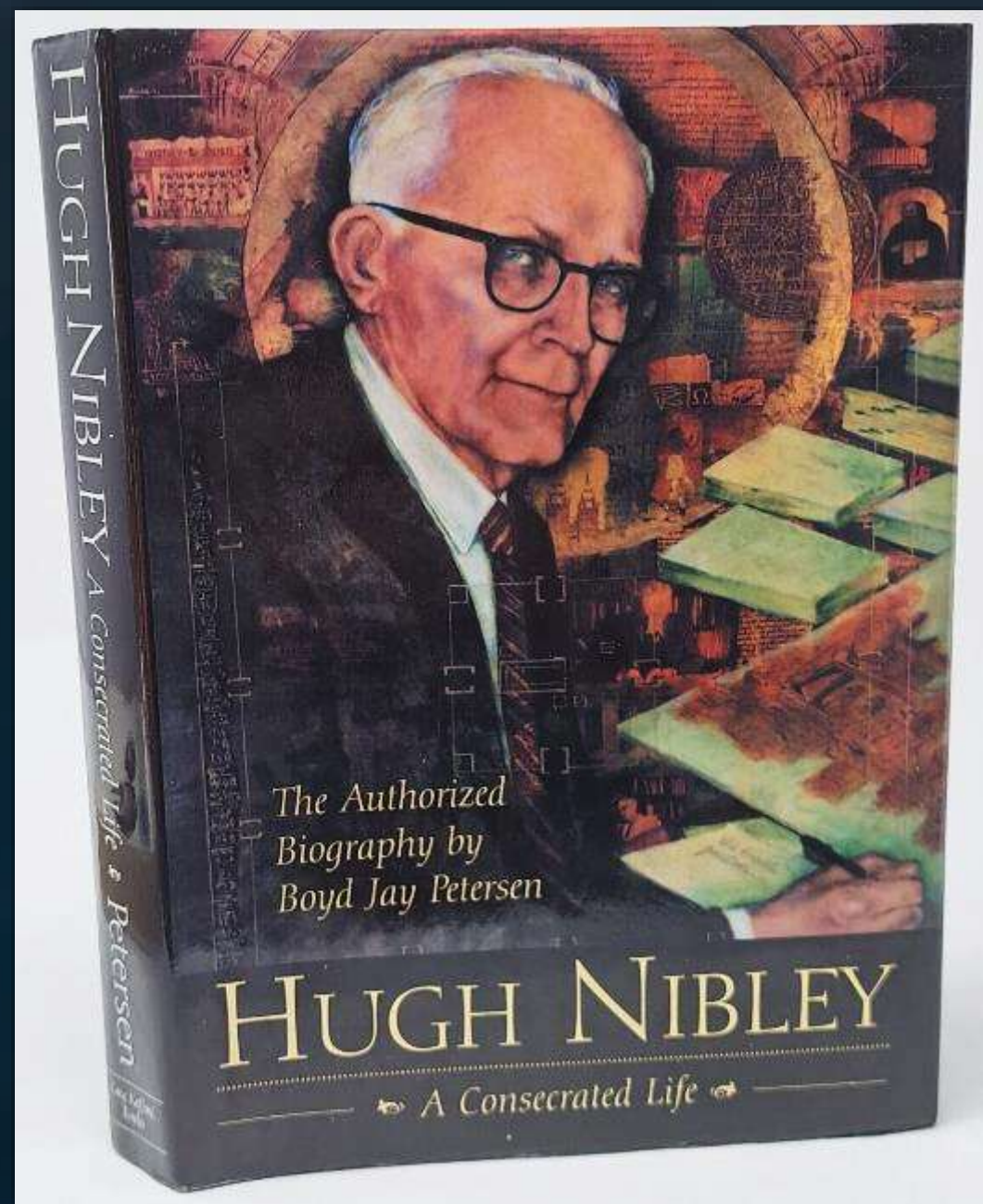
Sterling M. McMurrin and L. Jackson Newell, Matters of Conscience (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1996), <http://signaturebookslibrary.org/heresies-and-criticism/>

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HUGH NIBLEY'S EXPERIENCE



“At some point before his 1955 debate with Sterling McMurrin, Hugh was invited to speak to a meeting at the University of Utah, of the ‘Swearing Elders’—a group of liberal Mormons associated with Utah universities. After giving his presentation, Hugh says they took him aside and told him ‘You’re among friends now, you can say what you really feel about the Book of Mormon.’ Hugh simply bore his testimony that the Book of Mormon is, in fact, a true record of ancient people and that Joseph Smith was a prophet.

“‘Oh, were they mad,’ Hugh states. ‘They were just boiling.’ He recalls one member of the group launching into a harangue about the Book of Mormon and how ‘we have to get rid of it. It’s driving the best minds out of the church! You can’t see it, but with my training, I know it. Joseph Smith was a deceiver, but he was a sly deceiver.’ Hugh was chilled by such reactions: ‘They had a real active hatred of the Book of Mormon.’ These were, for the most part, members of the Church in good standing.”

Boyd J. Petersen, Hugh Nibley: A Consecrated Life (Salt Lake City, UT: Greg Kofford Books, 2002), 160.

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Belief and doubt that “Jesus Christ was literally resurrected from the dead,” by generation

	<i>I am confident and know this is true.</i>	<i>I believe and have faith that this is probably true.</i>	<i>I believe this might be true, but I have my doubts.</i>	<i>I believe this is probably NOT true.</i>	<i>I am confident and know this is NOT true.</i>
Boomer/Silent <i>(ages 54 - 90)</i>	83%	14%	1%	1%	1%
Gen X <i>(ages 38 - 53)</i>	70%	18%	8%	4%	1%
Millennial <i>(ages 22 - 37)</i>	57%	22%	14%	4%	4%

Source: Next Mormons Survey

The Salt Lake Tribune

“Commentary: Gen X Latter-day Saints — the forgotten generation,” January 23, 2019, Jana Riess

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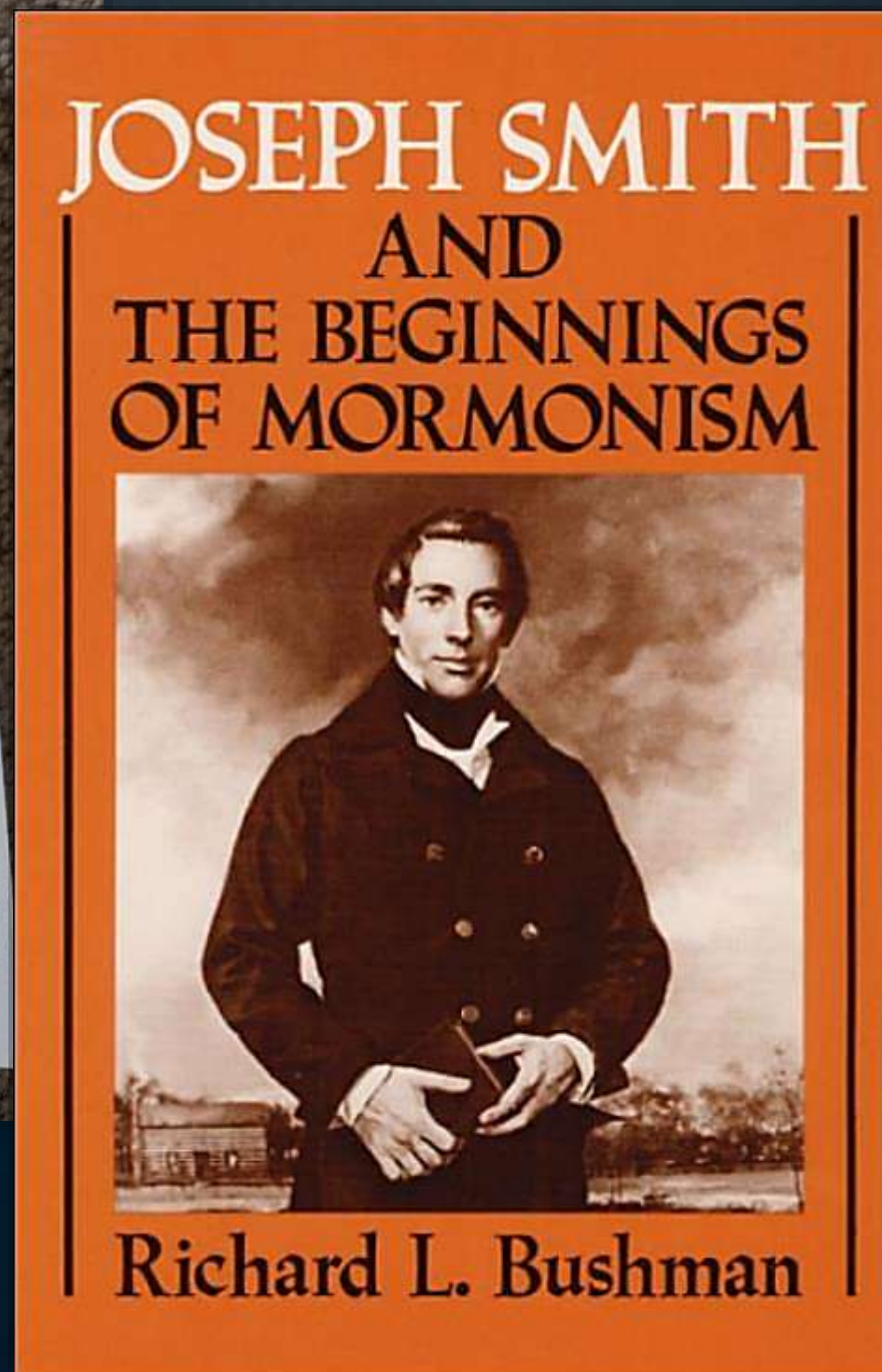
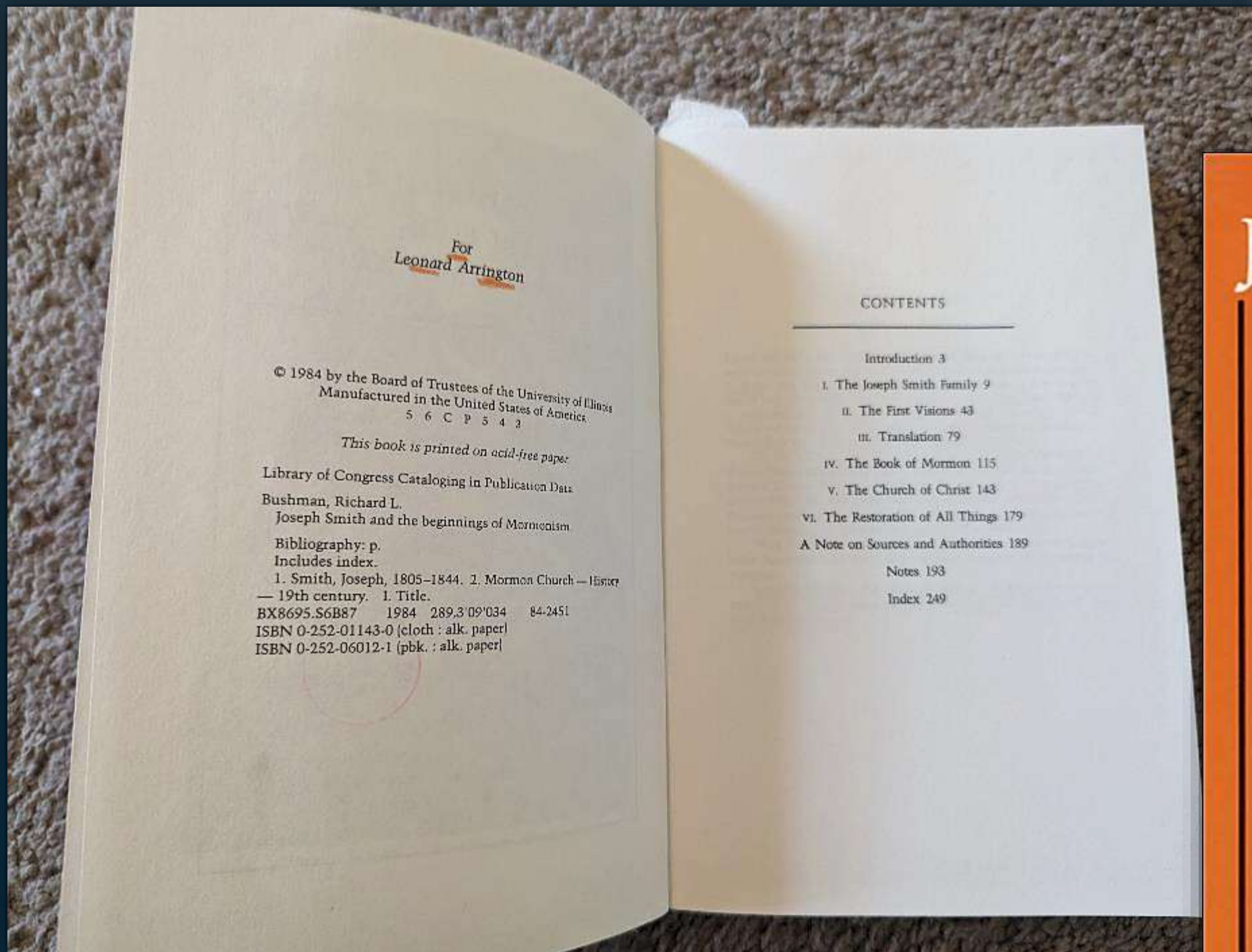
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LEONARD ARRINGTON

- Close friend of Sterling McMurrin
- Described Sterling McMurrin as an “intellectual leade[r] in the Mormon community” and he would be “honored” to be included in that company.
- Church historian from 1972-1982
- Worked at BYU from 1982-1986



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ARRINGTON'S DESCRIPTION OF "THE SWEARING ELDERS"

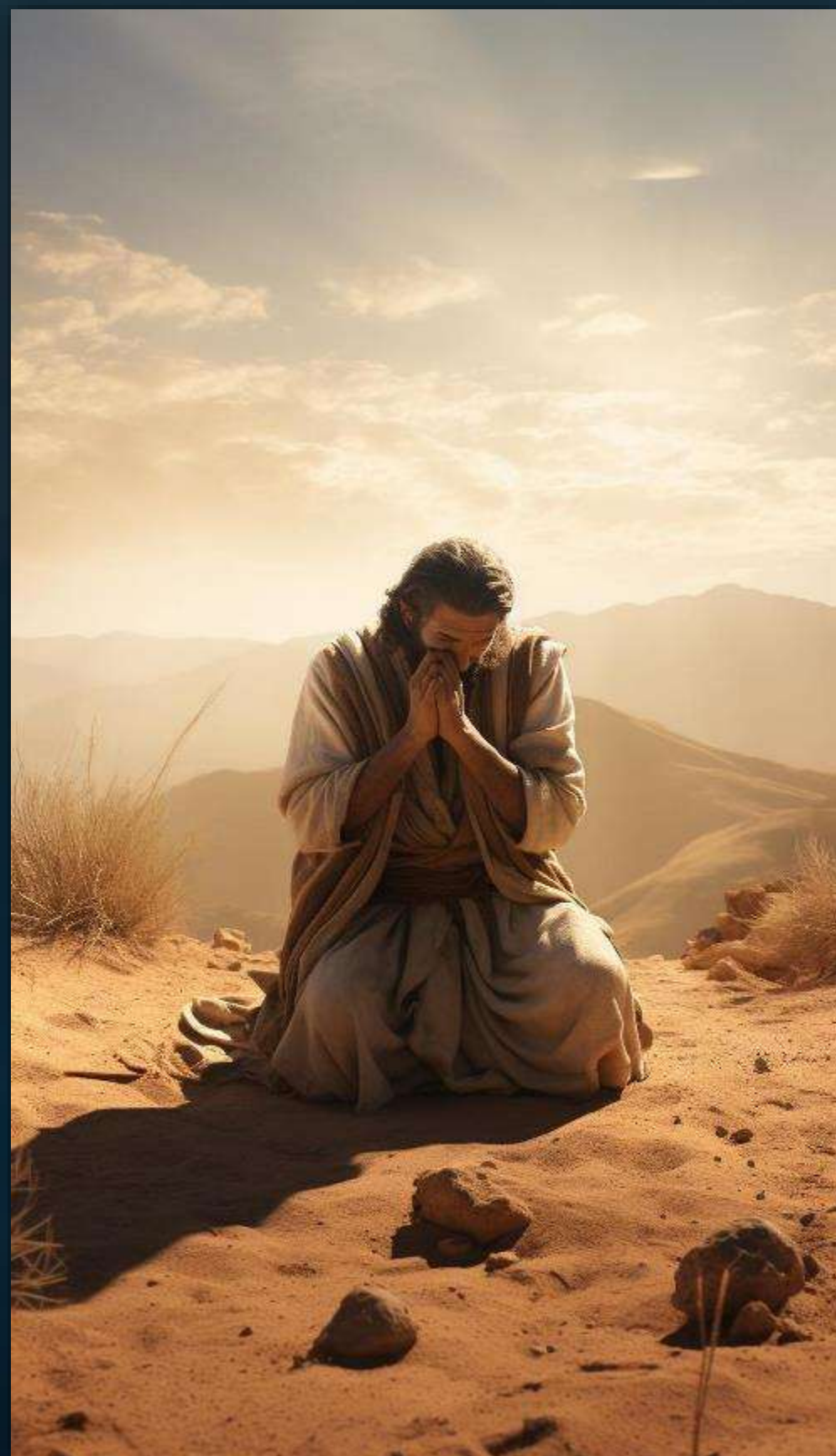
- Leonard Arrington "attended many meetings of this group [the Swearing Elders], and I suppose would be regarded as a member of it." He enjoyed the "intellectual side to Mormonism" and took "pleasure in learning more about it." Arrington recalled that the Swearing Elders would meet to espouse "certainly unorthodox" theology, "gossip, relate new stories, study aspects of Mormonism and criticize church authorities."
- "... I did not see this group as anti-mormon or anti-gospel or anti-religion in any sense. To me, the discussions provided intellectual support for our traditional beliefs and practices. To say this another way—and it may sound incredible—my own testimony was bolstered as the result of attending these sessions."

Quotations are from the personal writings and diary of Leonard Arrington. See Faith Crisis 1: We Were NOT Betrayed! for full documentation and sources.

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**MOSIAH 26: THE LORD TEACHES
ALMA HOW TO REGULATE THE CHURCH
& HANDLE EXCOMMUNICATION**

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CONFLICTING IDEOLOGIES

- Darwinian Evolution and the Gospel are compatible.
- The teachings of the presidents on virtue and chastity are harmful. President Spencer W. Kimball specifically is ridiculed.
- Church doctrine and scripture is demeaning to women. The temple endowment is sexist.
- The standard works and revelations of Joseph Smith are riddled with errors.
- The teachings of the presidents on the Constitution and liberty are outdated and false.
- Past miracles are discredited as “folklore” (e.g. Miracle of the Gulls, etc.).
- Joseph Smith was a flawed man with weak character. The traditional narrative celebrating his greatness is false.

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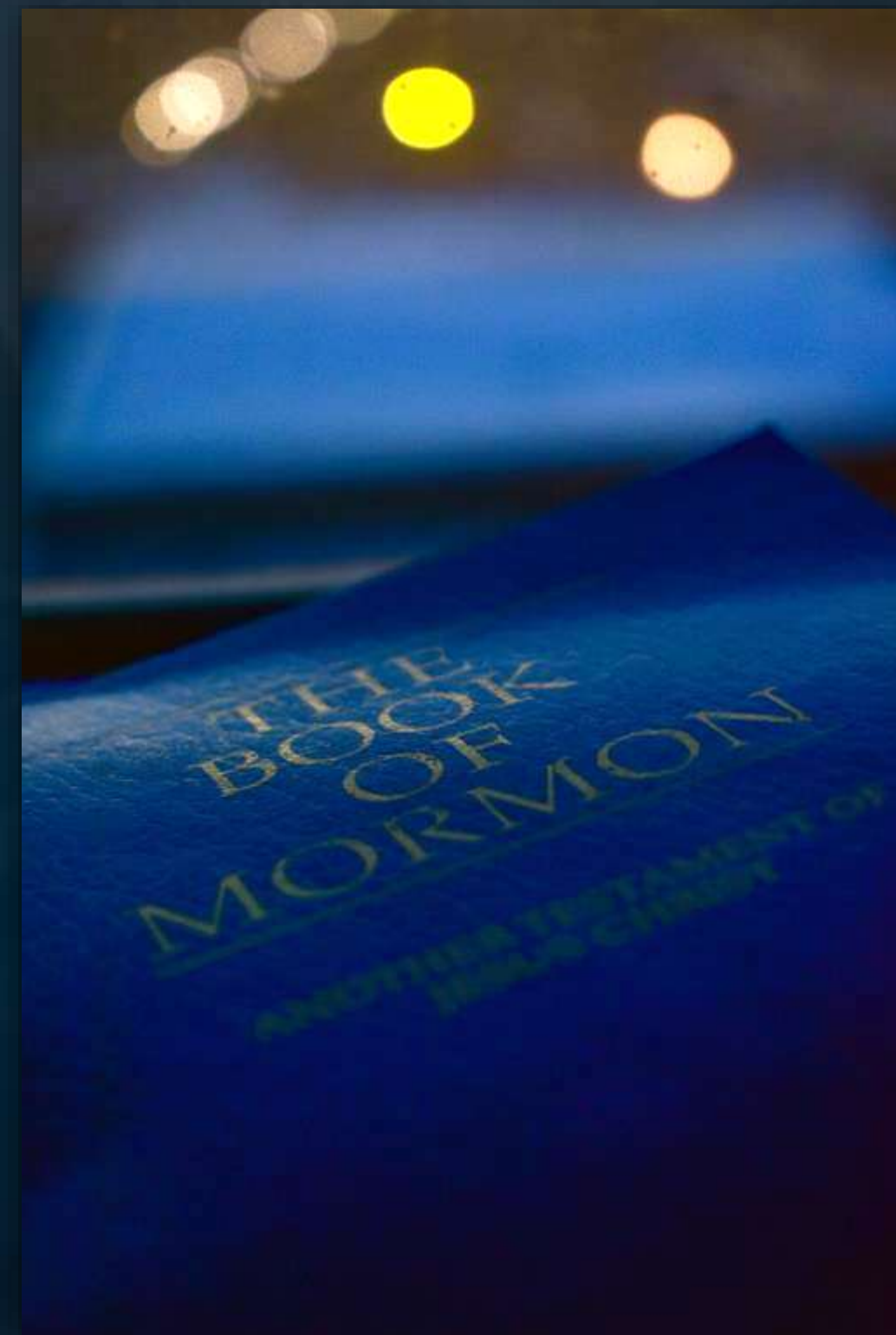
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ARE WE USING THE BOOK OF MORMON?

“We have not been using the Book of Mormon as we should. Our homes are **not** as **strong** unless we are using it to bring our children to Christ. Our **families** may be **corrupted** by worldly trends and teachings unless we know how to **use** the book to expose and combat the falsehoods in **socialism**, organic **evolution**, **rationalism**, **humanism**, and so forth.”

Ezra Taft Benson, Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson (Salt Lake City, Utah: Bookcraft, 1988), 60-61,

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NEW NAME FOR
B. Y. ACADEMY.

Trustees Decide That It Shall Be
Called the Brigham Young
University.

CHANGE TO BE MADE SOON.

Present Title Does Not Reflect the Ac-
tual Work of the Institution—
New Buildings.



BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
(ESTABLISHED IN 1903,
RENAMED FROM BRIGHAM YOUNG ACADEMY)

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TRANSFORMING THE TEACHER'S COLLEGE

“George H. Brimhall . . . determined to establish a recognized teachers college. He had hired three professors: one with a master’s degree from Harvard, one with a doctorate from Cornell, and the other with a doctorate from Chicago. They hoped to transform the college into a full-fledged university.”

Boyd K. Packer, “Snow White Birds,” BYU Annual University Conference address, August 29, 1995

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George H. Brimhall

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A NEW SECULAR APPROACH TO EDUCATION

“They determined that **practicality** and **religion**, which had characterized the school, must now **give way** to more intellectual and scientific **philosophies**.

“The professors held that ‘the fundamentals of religion could and must be investigated by extending the [empirical] method into the spiritual realm,’ and they ‘considered **evolution** to be a **basic, spiritual principle** through which the divinity in nature expressed itself.’ The faculty **sided** with the **new professors** and the students rallied to them.”

Boyd K. Packer, “Snow White Birds,” BYU Annual University Conference address, August 29, 1995

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WHAT WERE THE PROFESSORS TEACHING?

- 1. The teachers were following the “**higher criticism**” . . . treating the **Bible** as “a collection of **myths, folk-lore**, dramas, literary productions, history and **some** inspiration.”
- 2. They rejected the **flood**, the **confusion of tongues**, the **miracle** of the **Red Sea**, and the **temptation** of **Christ** as real phenomena.
- 3. They said John the Revelator was **not translated** but died in the year A.D. 96.
- 4. “The theory of **evolution** is treated as a **demonstrated law** and their applications of it to gospel truths give rise to many **curious** and **conflicting explanations** of **scripture**.”
- 5. “They believed **sinners** should be pitied and enlightened rather than blamed or punished,” and they believed that “we should **never agree**. God never made two things alike. Only by taking different views of a thing can its real truth be seen.”
- 6. . . .
- 7. “**all truths change** as we change. **Nothing is fixed or reliable.**”
- 8. “visions and revelations are **mental suggestions**. The objective reality of the presence of the Father and the Son, in Joseph Smith’s **first vision**, is **questioned**.”



Boyd K. Packer, “Snow White Birds,” BYU Annual University Conference address, August 29, 1995

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PROTECT YOUNG FROM ERRORS OF PARENTS

“Superintendent Cummings concluded his report by saying that the professors ‘seem to feel that they have a **mission** to **protect** the **young** from the **errors** of their **parents**.’ President Brimhall himself defended the professors—that is, until some students ‘frankly told him they had **quit praying** because they learned in school there was **no real God to hear them**.”

Boyd K. Packer, “Snow White Birds,” BYU Annual University Conference address, August 29, 1995

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PRESIDENT BRIMHALL'S DREAM

"He saw several of the BYU professors standing around a peculiar machine on the campus. When one of them touched a spring a **baited fish hook** attached to a long thin wire rose rapidly into the air. . . .

"Casting his eyes around the sky he [President Brimhall] discovered a flock of **snow-white birds** circling among the clouds and disporting themselves in the sky, seemingly very happy. Presently one of them, seeing the bait on the hook, darted toward it and grabbed it. Instantly one of the professors on the ground touched a spring in the machine, and the bird was rapidly **hauled down** to the earth."

Boyd K. Packer, "Snow White Birds," BYU Annual University Conference address, August 29, 1995

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PRESIDENT BRIMHALL'S DREAM

“On reaching the ground the bird proved to be a **BYU student**, clad in an **ancient Greek costume**, and was directed to join a group of other students who had been brought down in a similar manner. Brother Brimhall walked over to them, and noticing that all of them looked very **sad, discouraged** and **downcast**, he asked them:

“Why, students, what on earth makes you so sad and downhearted?”

“Alas, we can **never fly again!**” they replied with a sigh and a sad shake of the head.

“Their **Greek philosophy had tied them to the earth.** They could believe only what they could demonstrate in the laboratory. Their prayers could go no higher than the ceiling. They could see no heaven—no hereafter.”

Boyd K. Packer, “Snow White Birds,” BYU Annual University Conference address, August 29, 1995

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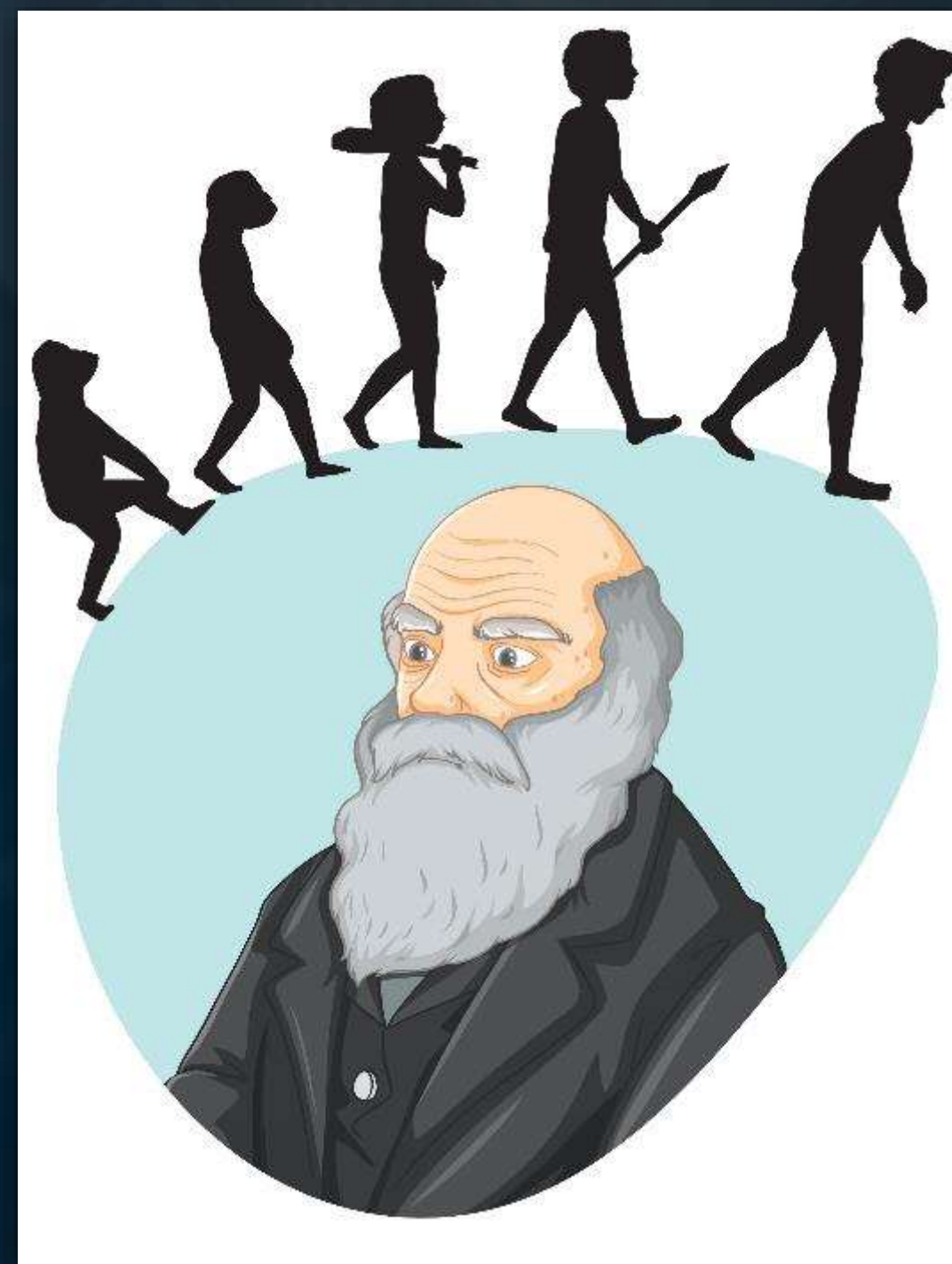
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EVOLUTION & HIGHER CRITICISM REMOVED

“Recently there was some **trouble** . . . in one of the leading Church schools—the training college of the **Brigham Young University**—where three of the professors advanced **certain theories on evolution** as applied to the **origin of man**, and certain opinions on ‘**higher criticism**,’ as conclusive and demonstrated truths. This was done although it is well known that evolution and the ‘higher criticism’ . . . are in **conflict on some matters with the scriptures**, including some **modern revelation** . . .”

Joseph F. Smith, “Theory and Divine Revelation”, Editor’s Table., Improvement Era, 1911, Vol. Xiv. April, 1911. No. 6

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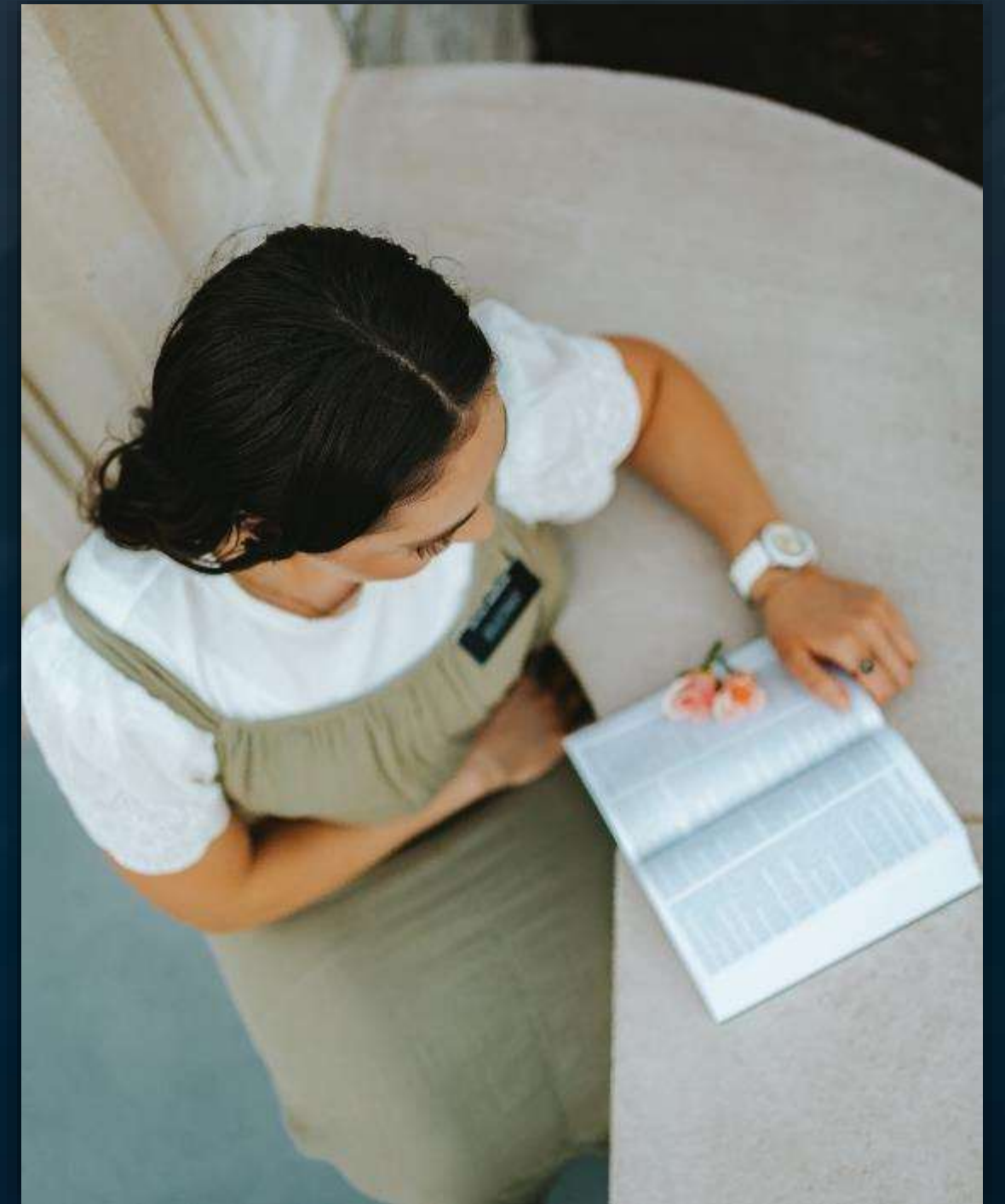
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WHY WERE THE PROFESSORS FIRED?

“The Church, on the contrary, holds to the **definite authority of divine revelation** which must be the **standard**; and that, as **so-called ‘science’** has changed from age to age in its deductions, and as divine revelation is truth, and must **abide forever**, views as to the lesser should conform to the positive statements of the greater; and, further, that in institutions founded by the Church for the teaching of theology, as well as other branches of education, its instructors **must be in harmony** in their teachings with its principles and doctrines . . . as teachers in a Church school they could not be given opportunity to inculcate theories that were **out of harmony** with the **recognized doctrines of the Church**, and hence [they were] required to refrain from so doing . . .”

Joseph F. Smith, “Theory and Divine Revelation”, Editor’s Table., Improvement Era, 1911, Vol. Xiv. April, 1911. No. 6

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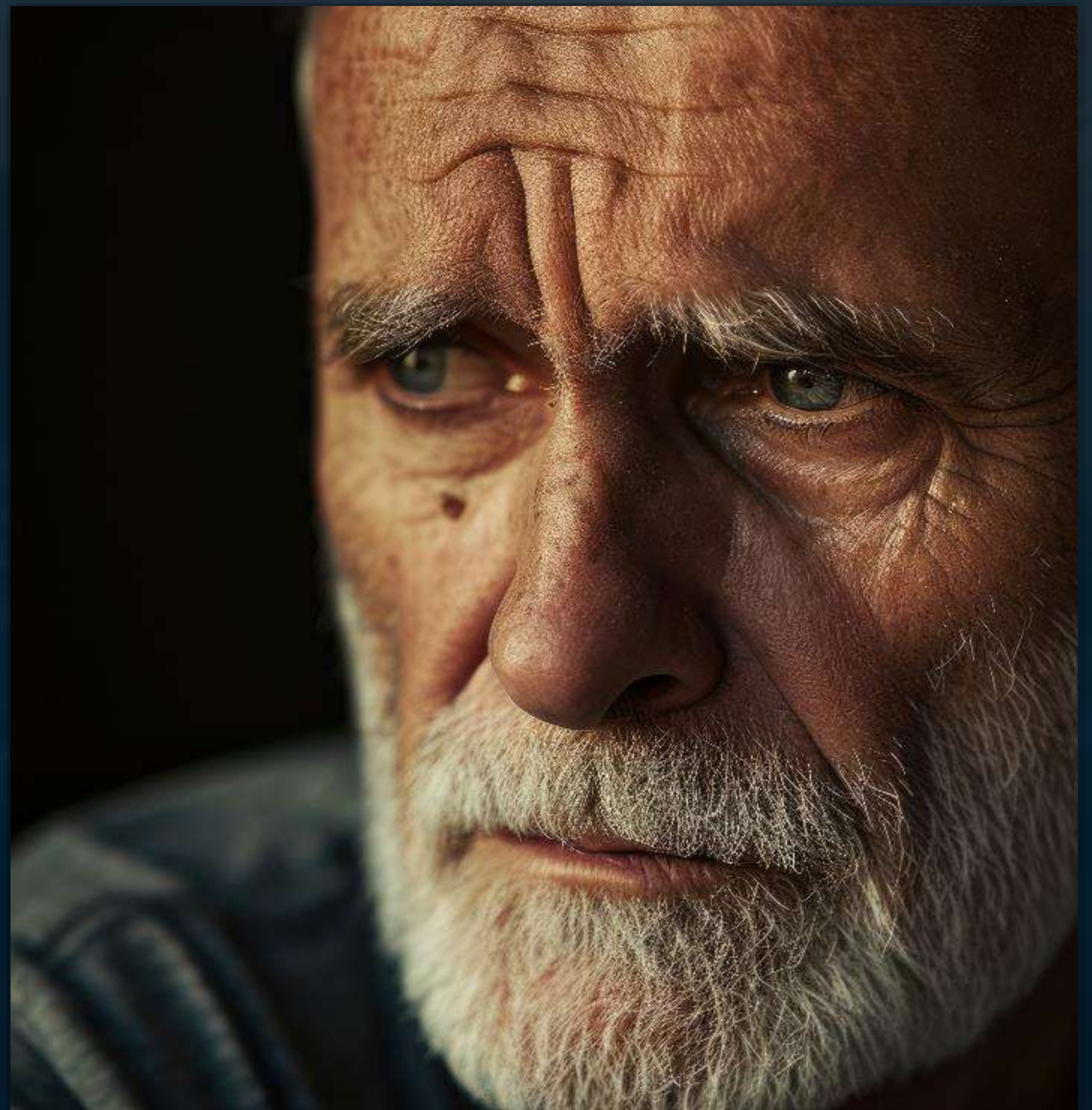
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BURDENS CARRIED FOR YEARS

“And now to Sunday, January 8, 1956. President David O. McKay came to Brigham City to dedicate a chapel built for students of the Intermountain Indian School. I stood next to him to introduce those who came forward to shake his hand.

“A very old man, a stranger to me, came forward on the arm of his daughter. He had come some distance to speak to President McKay. It was impossible for me not to hear their conversation. He gave President McKay his name and said that many years ago he had taught at BYU. President McKay said, ‘Yes, I know who you are.’ Tears came as the old man spoke **sorrowfully about the burden he had carried for years**. President McKay was very tender in consoling him. ‘I know your heart,’ he said. That old man was one of the three professors who had been hired by President Brimhall in 1910.”

Boyd K. Packer, “Snow White Birds,” BYU Annual University Conference address, August 29, 1995



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SAVING
REBELLIOUS
YOUTH:
ALMA THE
YOUNGER

FOR OUR DAY

DO OUR YOUTH HAVE THEIR LADDER AGAINST THE RIGHT TREE?

“If students are going to **partake** of the fruit that is ‘desirable to make one happy,’ yea, ‘desirable above all other fruit,’ which Lehi saw in his vision, they had better have their ladder leaning against the **right tree**. And they had better **hold** onto the **iron rod** while they are **working** their way **toward** it.”

Boyd K. Packer, “Snow White Birds,” BYU Annual University Conference address, August 29, 1995

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SAVING REBELLIOUS YOUTH

REAL SOLUTIONS

FOR OUR DAY



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YOUTH:
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YOUNGER



SIN STEMS FROM FALSE IDEOLOGY

Actions reflect beliefs.

LESSON
22

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YOUNGER

ALMA'S SON DESTROYING HIS FATHER'S WORK

“Now the **sons of Mosiah** were numbered among the unbelievers; and also one of the **sons of Alma** was numbered among them, he being called Alma, after his father; nevertheless, he became a **very wicked** and an **idolatrous** man. And he was a man of **many words**, and did speak much **flattery** to the people; therefore he **led many** of the people to do after the manner of his **iniquities.**”

Mosiah 27:8

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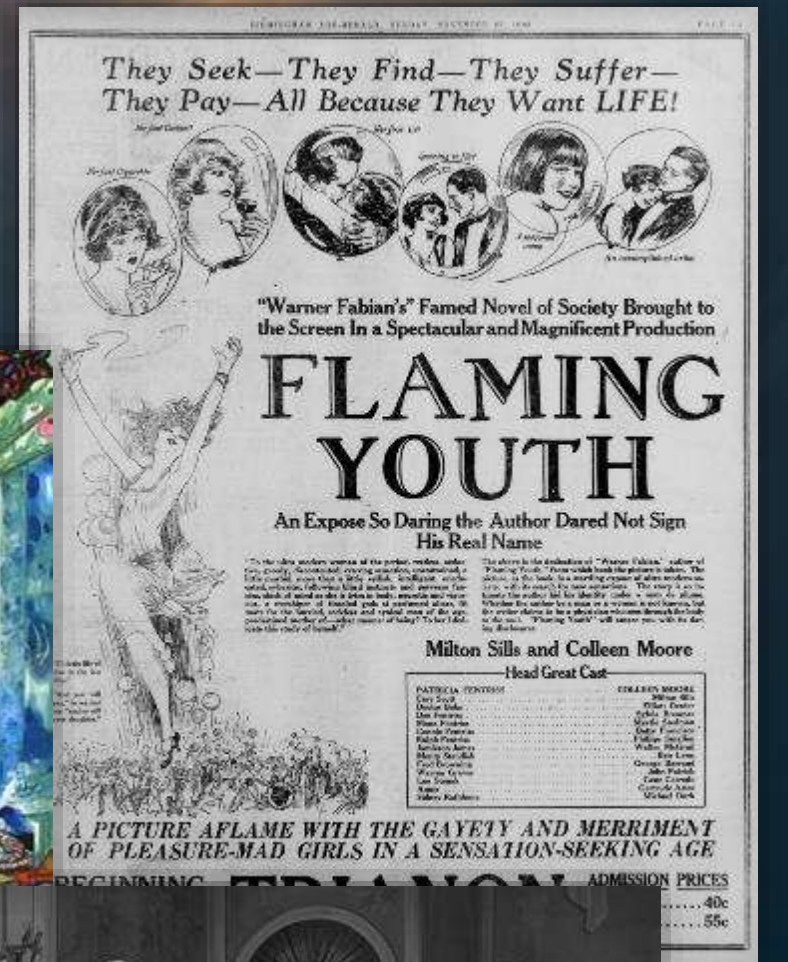


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DEGENERATION OF STANDARDS

- Rise in organized crime
- Illegal alcohol consumption
- “the average American in the 1920s became more enamored of wealth and everyday luxurie”
- New “loose” music to encourage rebellion
- Literature with more explicit content
- Modern “dating”/disregard protective courtship boundaries
- Changes in popular dance and art
- Immodest dress and fashion
- Psychology increasingly accepted
- Whether you agree with the changes or not, the **cultural shift** is historical fact. What are the fruits?



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**# 1: PROPHETS ARE GIVEN STRICT
TEACHINGS & STANDARDS FOR MORALITY.
THEY ARE ALSO TAUGHT BY REVELATION
HOW TO HANDLE EXCOMMUNICATION, ETC.**

LESSON
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PROPHETS TAKE UNPOPULAR STANCES

- 1903 — Joseph F. Smith advises ban on raffling, games involving chance, and “excessive card playing.” Church authorities asked not attend “card parties.”
- 1916 — Joseph F. Smith makes anti-birth control statement in the *Relief Society Magazine*. (Similar views expressed by many other presidents.)
- 1951 — Spencer W. Kimball causes a stir at BYU during a devotional (“A Style of Our Own”) on modest dress standards (advocating no strapless dresses, etc.)
- 1965 — David O. McKay advises BYU students to eliminate “electronic bands,” “stomp dances,” and music with a “loud beat.”
- 1969 — Spencer W. Kimball publishes *The Miracle of Forgiveness* to help members with repentance.
- Etc. etc. etc.

LESSON
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YOUTH:
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YOUNGER

FOR OUR DAY

LORD ANSWERS PRAYERS & “MUCH FAITH”

“And again, the angel said: Behold, the **Lord hath heard** the **prayers** of his **people**, and also the prayers of his **servant, Alma**, who is thy **father**; for he has prayed with **much faith** concerning thee that thou mightest be brought to the **knowledge** of the **truth**; therefore, for this purpose have I come to convince thee of the power and authority of God, that the prayers of his servants might be **answered according to their faith**.

“And now behold, can ye dispute the power of God? For behold, doth not my voice shake the earth? And can ye not also behold me before you? And I am sent from God.”

Mosiah 27:14-15

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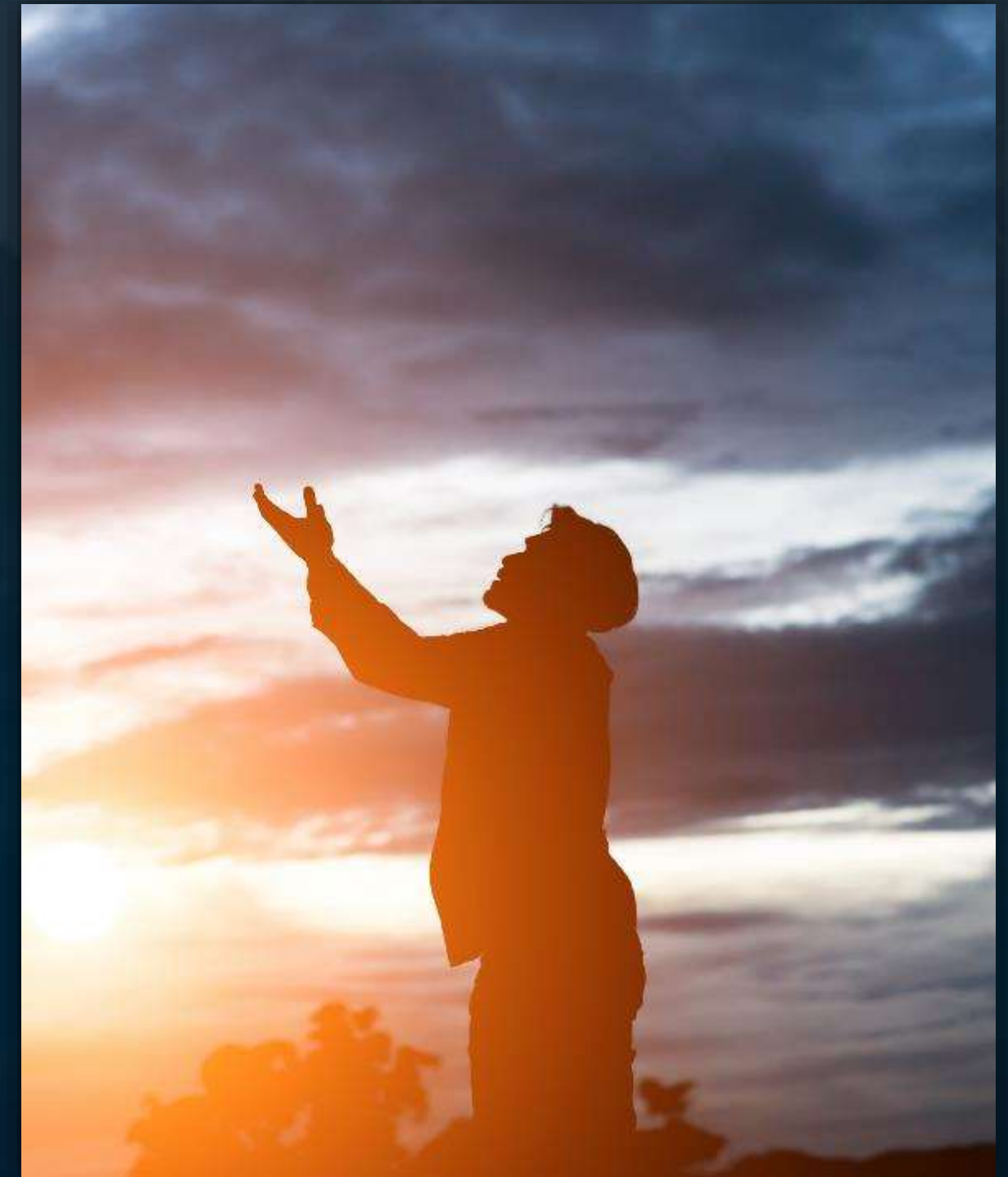
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FATHER RECEIVES HIS CALLING & ELECTION

“And it came to pass that after he had poured out his whole soul to God, the voice of the Lord came to him, saying . . . **blessed** art thou because thou hast **established** a **church** among this people; and they shall be established, and they shall be my people. . . . And because thou hast **inquired** of me concerning the **transgressor**, thou art blessed. Thou art my servant; and I **covenant with thee** that thou shalt **have eternal life**; and thou shalt **serve me** and go forth in my name, and shalt **gather** together my sheep.”

Mosiah 26:14-20

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ALL “MUST BE BORN AGAIN”

“And the Lord said unto me: Marvel not that **all mankind**, yea, men and women, all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, **must** be **born** again; yea, born of God, **changed** from their **carnal** and **fallen** state, to a state of **righteousness**, being redeemed of God, becoming his sons and daughters; And thus they become **new creatures**; and unless they do this, they can in **nowise inherit** the kingdom of God.”

Mosiah 27:25-26

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AN ENTIRE REVOLUTION OF THE INNER MAN

“President McKay said that Christ called for ‘an **entire revolution**’ of Nicodemus’ ‘inner man.’ His manner of **thinking, feeling,** and **acting** with reference to spiritual things would have to undergo a **fundamental** and **permanent change.**’ (In Conference Report, Apr. 1960, p. 26.)

“... Those who had been born of God after hearing King Benjamin’s address had a mighty change in their hearts. They had ‘**no more disposition to do evil,** but to do good continually.’ (Mosiah 5:2; see also Mosiah 5:7.)”

President Ezra Taft Benson, “Born of God,” October 1985

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IS IT POSSIBLE TO LIVE LIKE CHRIST??

“To **be like the Savior**—what a challenge for any person! He is a member of the Godhead. He is the Savior and Redeemer. He was perfect in every aspect of His life. There was no flaw nor failing in Him. **Is it possible** for us . . . to be even as He is? The answer is **yes**. Not only can we, but that is **our charge, our responsibility**. He would **not give** us that **commandment** if He did not **mean** for **us** to **do** it.”

President Ezra Taft Benson, “Godly Characteristics of the Master,” October 1986



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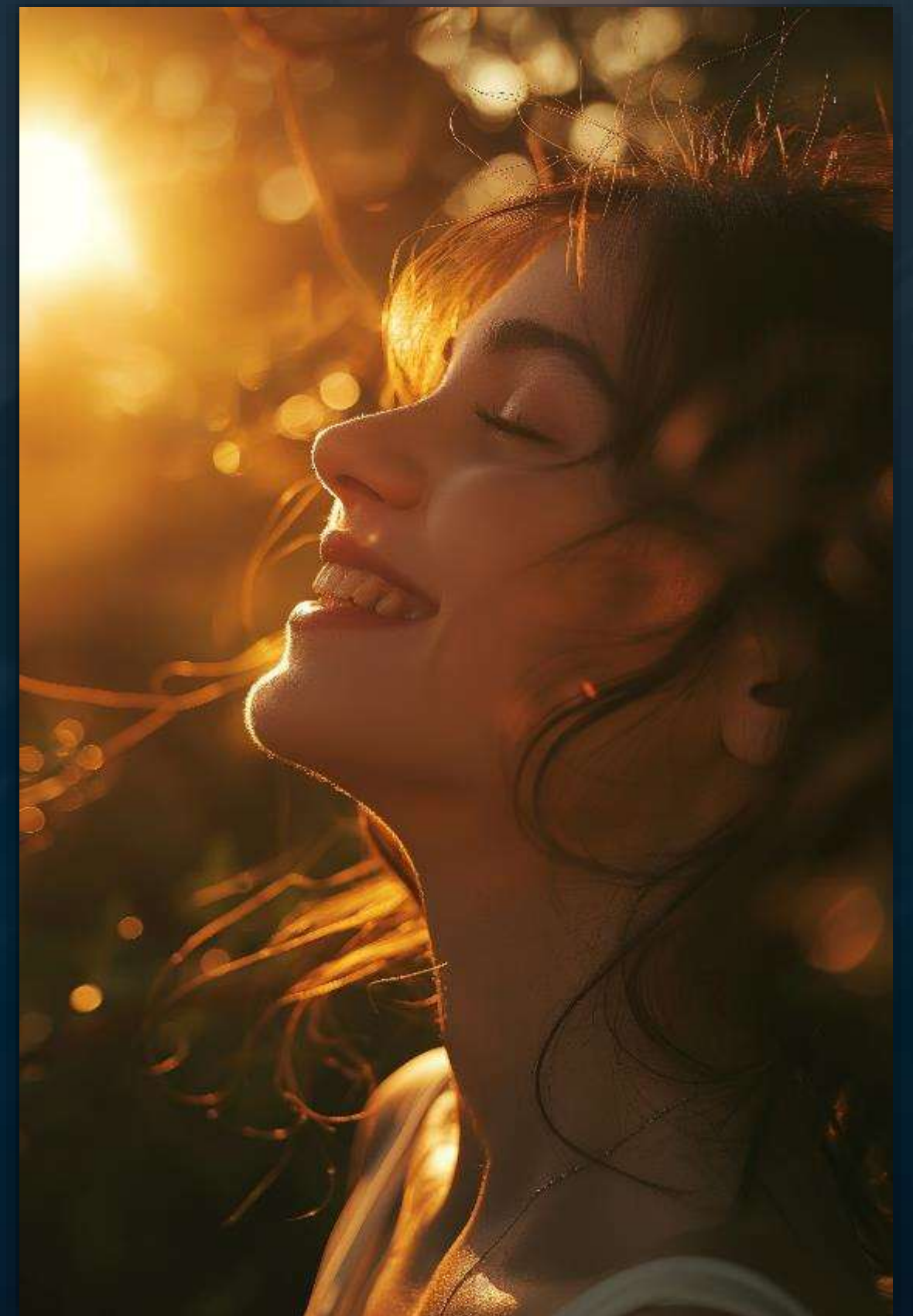
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A NEW BIRTH

“The spiritual birth comes after the natural birth. It is to **die** as pertaining to **worldliness** and **carnality** and to become a new creature by the power of the Spirit. It is to begin a **new life**, a life in which we **bridle** our **passions** and **control** our **appetites**, a life of **righteousness**, a **spiritual** life. Whereas we were in a **deep abyss** of **darkness**, now we are **alive** in **Christ** and bask in the shining rays of his everlasting light. Such is the **new birth** the second birth, the birth into the household of Christ.”

Bruce R. McConkie, A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, p. 282.

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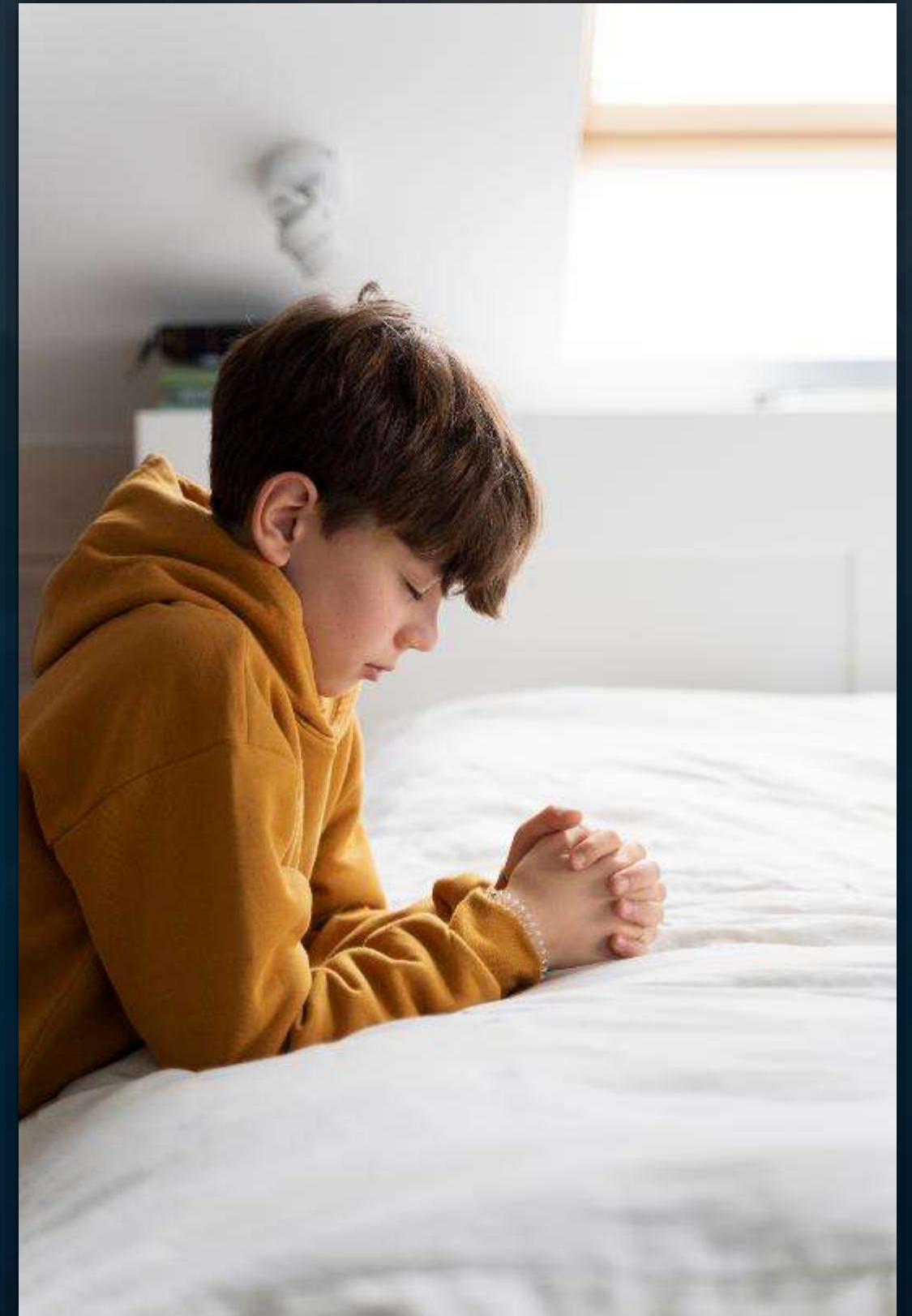
ARE YOU BORN OF GOD?

“Their will is **swallowed** up in **his will**. (See John 5:30.) They do **always** those things that please the Lord. (See John 8:29.) Not only would they die for the Lord, but, more important, they want to **live for Him**.

“Enter their **homes**, and the **pictures** on their walls, the **books** on their shelves, the **music** in the air, their **words** and **acts** reveal them as **Christians**. They stand as **witnesses** of God at **all times**, and in all **things**, and in all **places**. (See Mosiah 18:9.)”

President Ezra Taft Benson, “Born of God,” October 1985

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FOR OUR DAY

SAVED FROM PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL SLUMS

“The Lord works from the **inside out**. The world works from the outside in. The world would take people out of the slums. Christ takes the **slums out of people**, and then they **take themselves out of the slums**. The world would mold men by changing their environment. Christ **changes men**, who **then change their environment**. The world would shape human behavior, but Christ can **change human nature**.”

President Ezra Taft Benson, “Born of God,” October 1985

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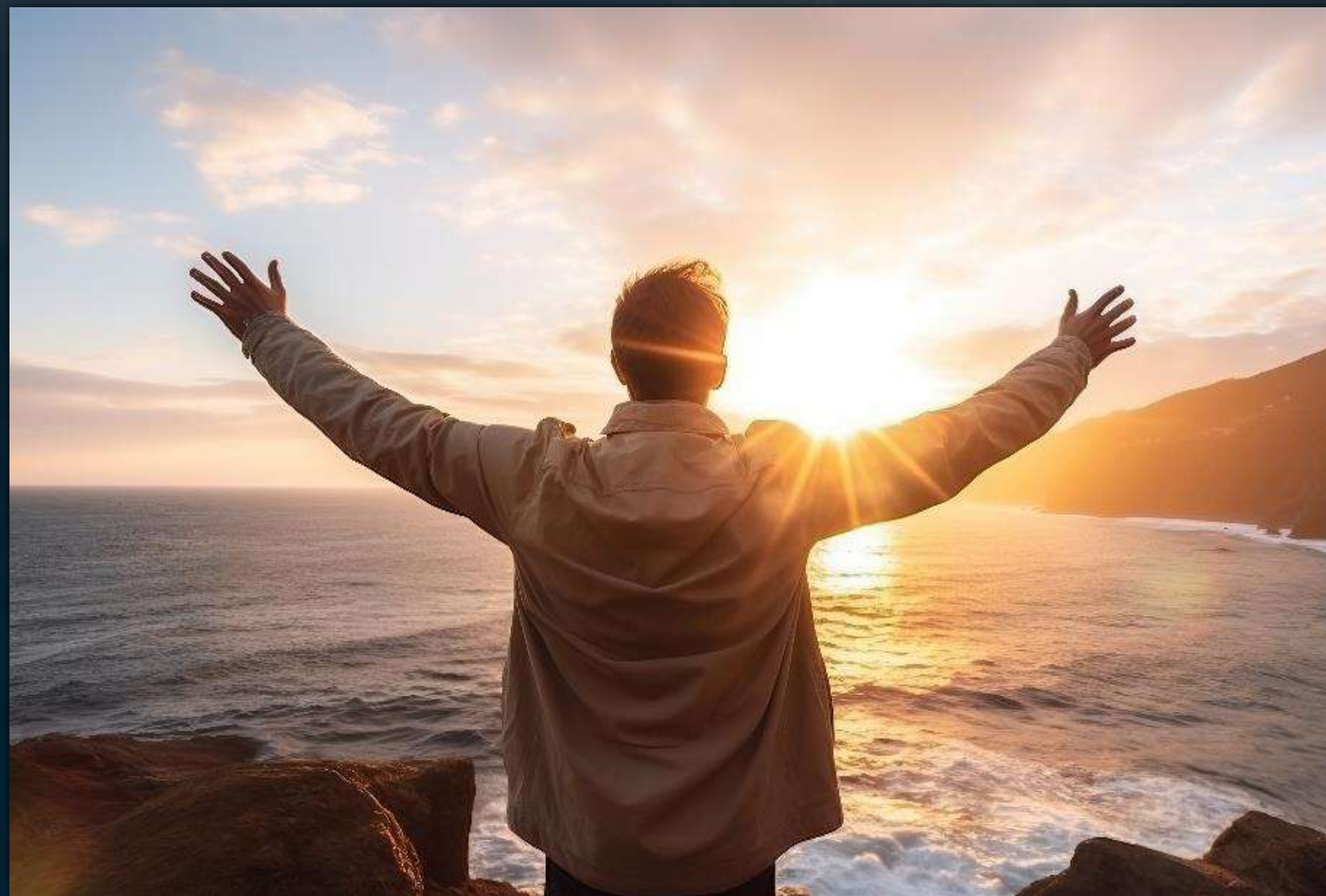
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MUST SEE ENORMOUS CHANGE IN FUTURE!

“You do **change human nature**, your own human nature, **if** you **surrender** it to Christ. Human nature has been changed in the past. Human nature **must** be changed on an **enormous scale** in the future, unless the world is to be **drowned** in its own **blood**. And **only Christ can change it.**”



President Ezra Taft Benson, “Born of God,” October 1985

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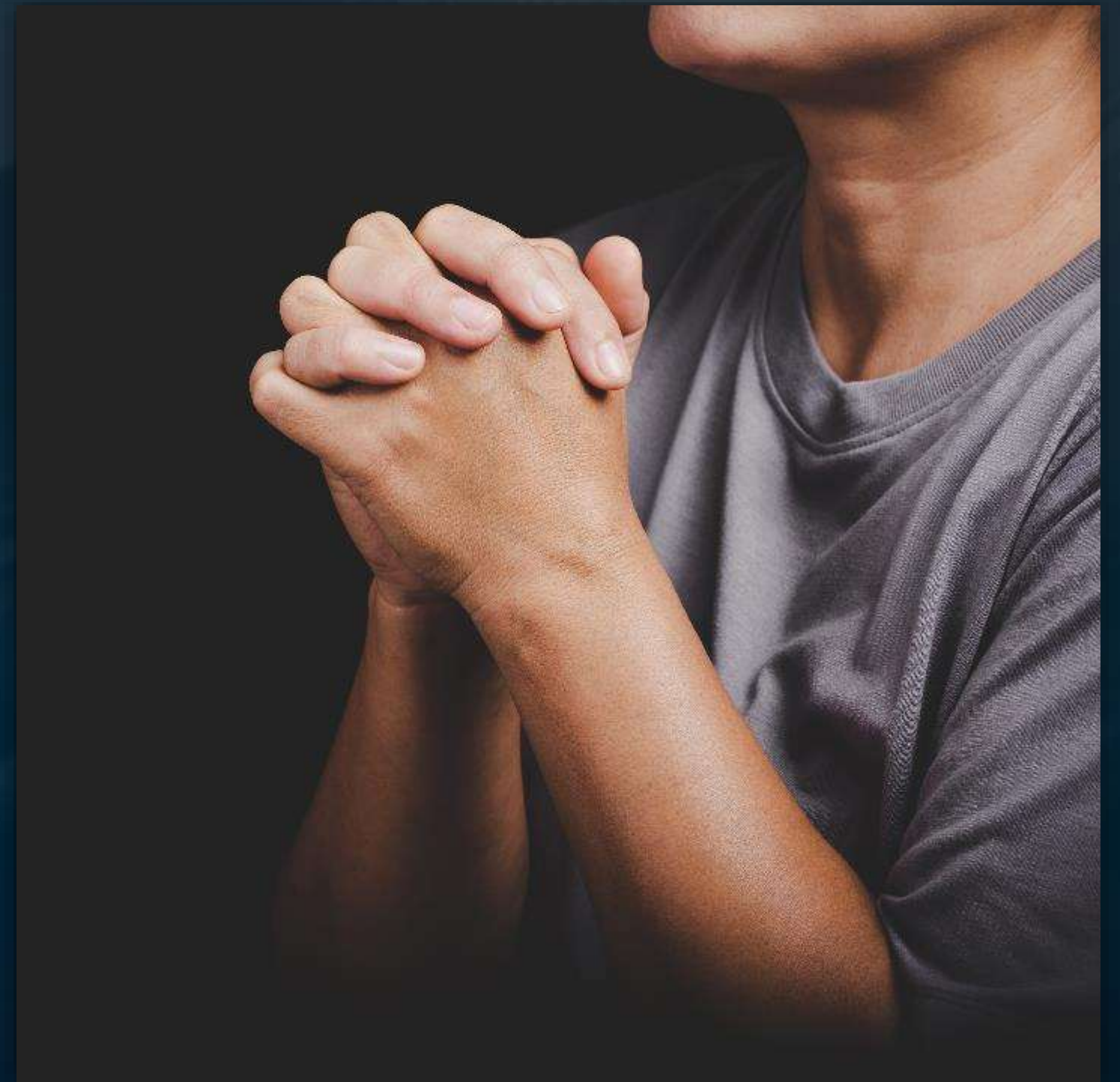
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DO YOU HAVE THIS ASSURANCE?

“I am satisfied that **no man** can **live faithfully** according to the requirements of heaven without having the **testimony** of the Spirit that they are **born of God**; but if they do not live so, they have **no such assurance**, for the Lord is under no obligation to give them the witness of the Spirit, but if they live **as He requires them He will fulfill** unto them His **promise**.”

Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, 12:169

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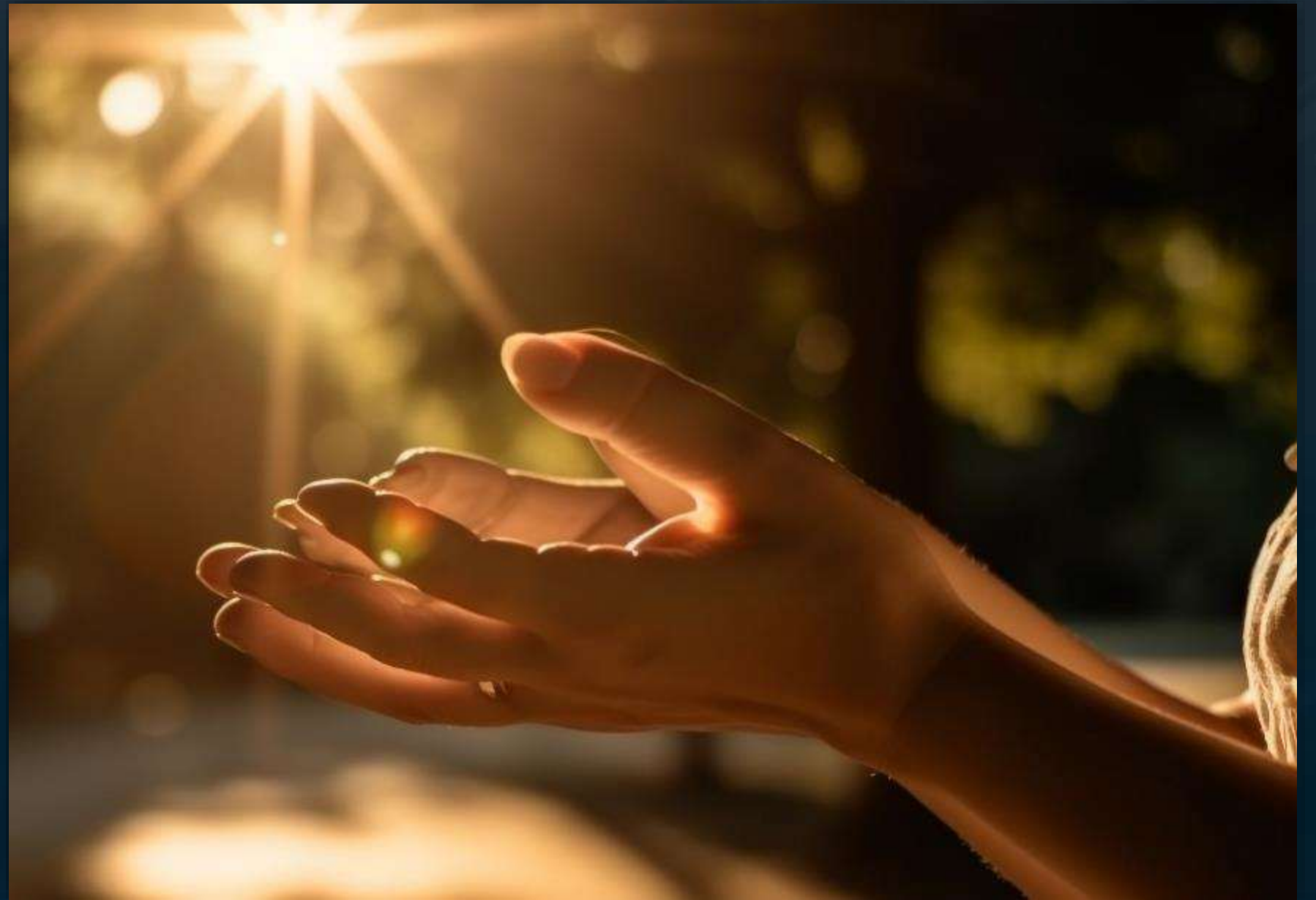
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ALMA'S CONVERSION HELPED SAVE OTHERS

“And he caused that the priests should assemble themselves together; and they began to **fast**, and to **pray** to the Lord their God that he would open the mouth of Alma, that he might speak, and also that his limbs might receive their strength—that the **eyes of the people might be opened to see and know of the goodness and glory of God.**”

Mosiah 27:22



LESSON
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“REMEMBER THE CAPTIVITY OF FATHERS”

“Now I say unto thee: Go, and **remember** the **captivity** of thy **fathers** in the land of Helam, and in the land of Nephi; and remember how great things he has **done** for **them**; for they were in **bondage**, and he has **delivered** them.”



Mosiah 27:16

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DO YOUR CHILDREN KNOW
YOUR PERSONAL CONVERSION STORY?

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DO OUR YOUTH KNOW THE **MIRACLES OF**
THE PAST? HAVE WE HONORED THE **FOREFATHERS?**

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ALMA & BRETHREN IMMEDIATELY FOCUS OUT!

“And now it came to pass that Alma began from **this time forward** to **teach** the people, and those who were with Alma at the time the angel appeared unto them, **traveling** round about through all the land, **publishing** to all the people the things which they had **heard** and **seen**, and **preaching** the **word** of God in **much tribulation**, being greatly **persecuted** by those who were unbelievers, being smitten by many of them.

“But **notwithstanding** all this, they did impart much **consolation** to the **church**, confirming their faith, and **exhorting** them with **long-suffering** and much **travail** to **keep** the **commandments** of God.”

Mosiah 27:32-33

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GREAT ANXIETY TO TEACH & SAVE OTHERS

“Now they were desirous that salvation should be declared to every creature, for they **could not bear** that **any** human **soul** should **perish**; yea, even the very **thoughts** that any soul should endure endless torment did cause them to **quake** and **tremble**.”

Mosiah 28:3

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FOR OUR DAY

OUR CHILDREN MUST BE INVOLVED!

“We **cannot** make a permanent difference in the lives of people unless we **involve** them in **serving** others so that they can **grow** themselves. . . . We will **never save** people by just having them **sit idly** by **being good**. We have to get them involved in **doing good**. Therein is their safety, to become involved in some phase of activity all up and down the line, from the **youngest** child to the **oldest** person. To the extent that we can **involve** them and help in their activities, we will **build faith** within them. Then only can we keep that kind of **strength** that is **necessary** to **withstand** the **buffetings** that are around them.”



*Harold B. Lee, The Teachings of Harold B. Lee
(Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1996), 180.*

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NEPHITES MOCKED MISSIONARIES

“Now do ye remember, my brethren, that we said unto our brethren in the land of Zarahemla, we go up to the land of Nephi, to preach unto our brethren, the Lamanites, and they **laughed** us to **scorn**?

“For they said unto us: Do ye **suppose** that ye can **bring** the **Lamanites** to the knowledge of the **truth**? Do ye **suppose** that ye can convince the Lamanites of the incorrectness of the traditions of their fathers, as stiffnecked a people as they are; whose hearts delight in the shedding of blood; whose days have been spent in the grossest iniquity; whose ways have been the ways of a transgressor from the beginning? Now my brethren, ye remember that this was their language.

“And moreover they did say: Let us **take up arms against** them, that we **destroy** them and their **iniquity** out of the land, lest they overrun us and destroy us.”

Alma 26:23-25

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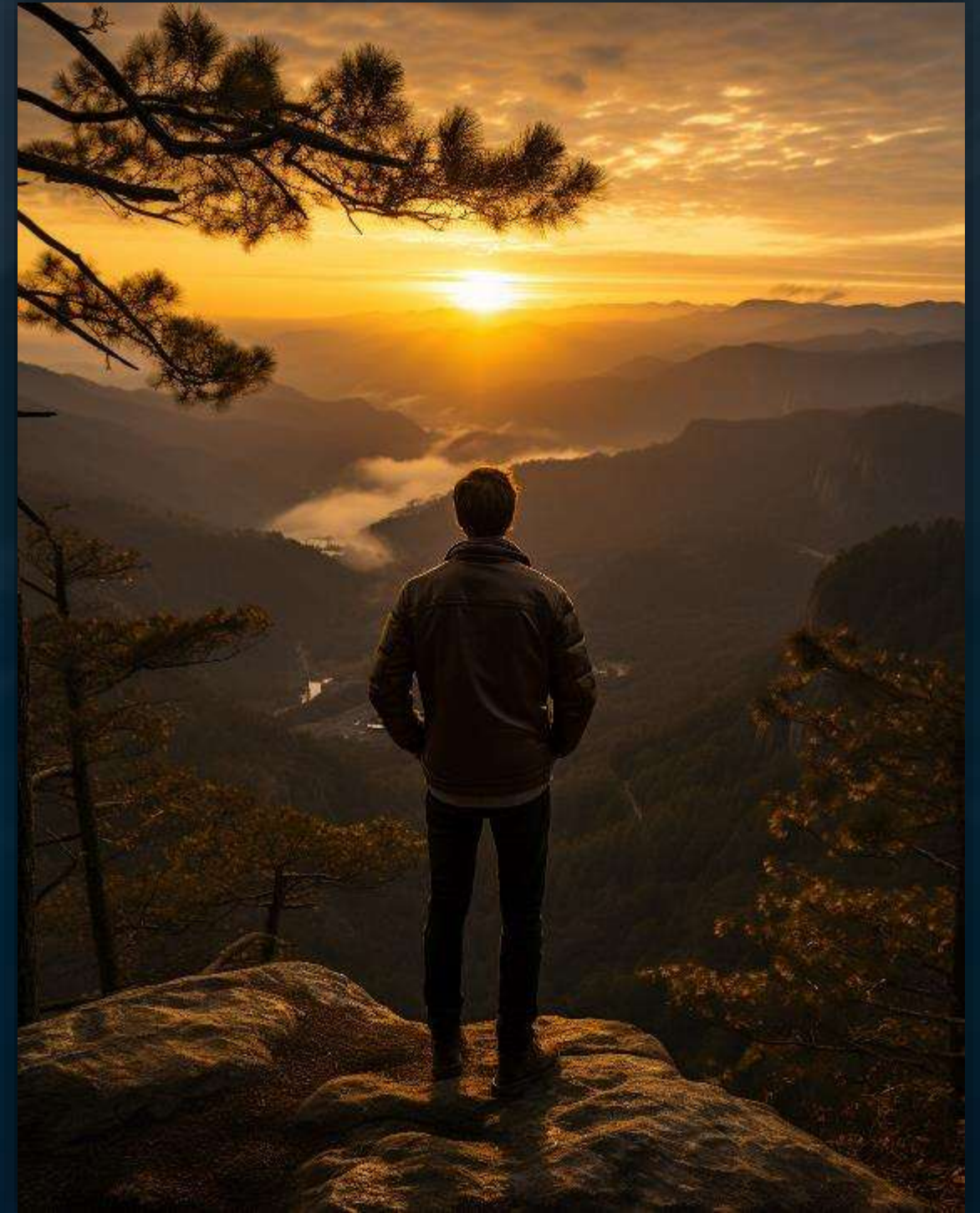
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CHANGED MEN CHANGE THE WORLD

“... Yes, Christ changes men, and **changed men** can **change the world**. Men changed for Christ will be **captained** by Christ. Like Paul they will be asking, ‘Lord, **what wilt thou have me to do?**’ (Acts 9:6.) ... men captained by Christ will be **consumed** in Christ. To paraphrase President Harold B. Lee, **they set fire in others because they are on fire.**”

President Ezra Taft Benson, “Born of God,” October 1985

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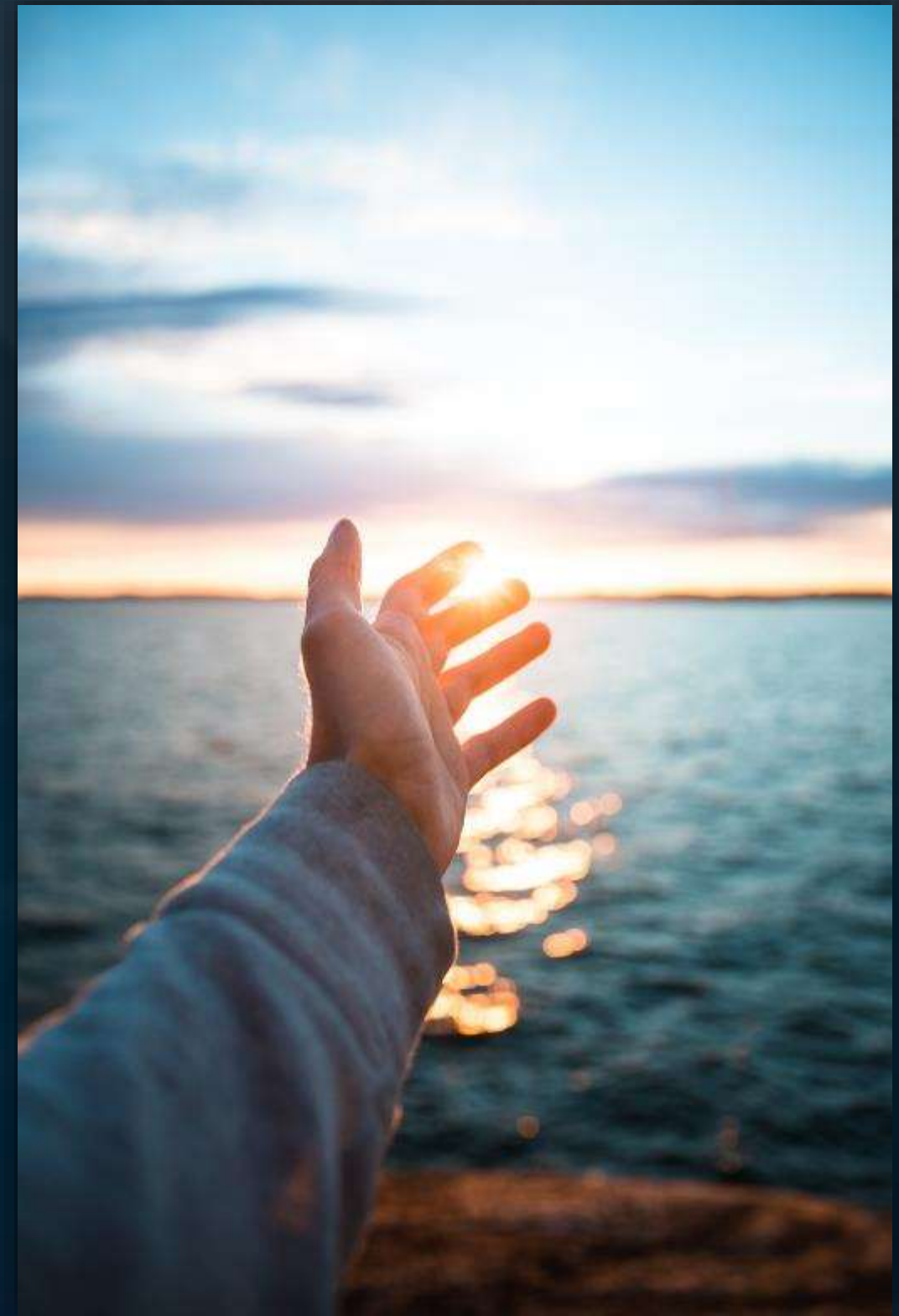
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“NEVER DID FALL AWAY”

“And as sure as the Lord liveth, so sure as **many** as **believed**, or as many as were brought to the knowledge of the truth, through the **preaching of Ammon and his brethren**, according to the spirit of **revelation** and of **prophecy**, and the **power** of God working **miracles** in them—yea, I say unto you, as the Lord liveth, as many of the Lamanites as believed in their preaching, and were **converted** unto the Lord, **never did fall away.**”

Alma 23:6

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