



24

PRIDE WITHIN THE CHURCH

CLEANSING THE INNER VESSEL

FOR OUR DAY



LESSON
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WARS & FAMINE CAUSE AN AWAKENING

“... **wars** and **contentions** were commenced and ended in the fifth year of the reign of the judges. And in one year were thousands and **tens of thousands** of souls sent to the eternal world . . . the people were . . . **greatly afflicted** for the **loss** of their **brethren**, and also for the loss of their **flocks** and **herds**, and also for the loss of their fields of **grain**, which were trodden under foot and destroyed by the Lamanites. And so great were their afflictions that **every soul** had cause to **mourn**; and they believed that it was the **judgments** of God sent upon them because of their **wickedness** and their **abominations**; therefore they were **awakened** to a remembrance of their **duty**.”

Alma 3:25-26, 4:2-3

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SUCCESS LEADS TO PRIDE

“And it came to pass in the eighth year of the reign of the judges, that the **people of the church** began to wax **proud**, because of their exceeding **riches**, and their fine **silks**, and their fine-twined **linen**, and because of their many **flocks** and **herds**, and their **gold** and their **silver**, and all manner of **precious** things, which they had obtained by their **industry**; and in all these things were they lifted up in the pride of their eyes, for they began to wear very costly apparel.”

Alma 4:6

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ARROGANCE & SCORNFUL ATTITUDE

“Now this was the cause of much **affliction** to Alma, yea, and to many of the people whom Alma had consecrated to be teachers, and priests, and elders over the church; yea, many of them were sorely **grieved** for the **wickedness** which they saw had begun to be among their people.

“For they saw and beheld with great **sorrow** that the people of the church began to be lifted up in the **pride** of their eyes, and to **set** their **hearts** upon **riches** and upon the **vain things of the world**, that they began to be **scornful**, one towards another, and they began to **persecute** those that did not believe according to their **own will and pleasure.**”

Alma 4:7-8



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“VAIN THINGS OF THE WORLD” IN OUR DAY

- “There are at least three **dangers** that threaten the Church **within**, and the authorities need to awaken to the fact that the people should be warned unceasingly against them. As I see these, they are **flattery of prominent men in the world**, false educational ideas, and sexual impurity.” (Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, pp. 312-313)
- “Behold, there are many called, but **few** are **chosen**. And why are they not chosen? Because their **hearts** are **set** so much upon the **things of this world**, and aspire to the **honors of men** . . .” (Doctrine and Covenants 121:34-35)



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CHURCH MEMBERS BECOME STUMBLING-BLOCK

“For they saw and beheld with **great sorrow** that the people of the church began to be lifted up in the **pride** of their eyes, and to set their hearts upon **riches** and upon the **vain things of the world**, that they began to be **scornful**, one towards another, and they began to **persecute** those that did not believe according to their own will and pleasure.

“And thus, in this eighth year of the reign of the judges, there began to be great **contentions** among the **people** of the **church**; yea, there were **envyings**, and **strife**, and **malice**, and **persecutions**, and **pride**, even to **exceed** the pride of those who did not belong to the church of God.

“And thus ended the eighth year of the reign of the judges; and the **wickedness of the church was a great stumbling-block** to those who did not belong to the church; and thus the church began to fail in its progress.”

Alma 4:8-10

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LOSING THEIR LIFE FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

“Now this was a great cause for lamentations among the people, while others were **abasing** themselves, **succoring** those who stood in need of their succor, such as **imparting** their **substance** to the **poor** and the **needy**, **feeding** the **hungry**, and **suffering** all manner of **afflictions, for Christ's sake**, who should come according to the spirit of prophecy;

“Looking forward to that day, thus retaining a **remission of their sins**; being filled with **great joy** because of the **resurrection** of the dead, according to the will and power and deliverance of Jesus Christ from the bands of death.”

Alma 4:13-14

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WORD OF GOD = SOLUTION

“... [Alma] **preach[ed]** the **word of God** unto them, to stir them up in **remembrance** of their **duty**, and that he might **pull down, by the word of God**, all the **pride** and **craftiness** and all the **contentions** which were among his people, seeing **no way** that he might **reclaim** them save it were in bearing down in **pure testimony** against them.”

Alma 4:19

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MORMON REFORMATION (1856-57)

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SCOURGES & JUDGMENTS

Book of Mormon

- “. . . **wars** and **contentions** were commenced and ended in the fifth year of the reign of the judges. And in one year were thousands and **tens of thousands** of souls sent to the eternal world . . . the people were . . . **greatly afflicted** for the **loss** of their **brethren**, and also for the loss of their **flocks** and **herds**, and also for the loss of their fields of **grain**, which were trodden under foot and destroyed by the Lamanites. And so great were their afflictions that **every soul** had cause to **mourn**; and they believed that it was the **judgments** of God sent upon them because of their wickedness and their abominations; therefore they were **awakened** to a remembrance of their duty.” (Alma 3:25-26, 4:2-3)

Our Day

- 1855-56 Utah drought & famine: infestation of grasshoppers and crickets, 1/3 cattle die, flour and food supply drops dangerously low
 - “Mormon Reformation”/repentance results
- World War I (1914-1918)
- Great Depression (1929-39)
- Etc. etc. etc.

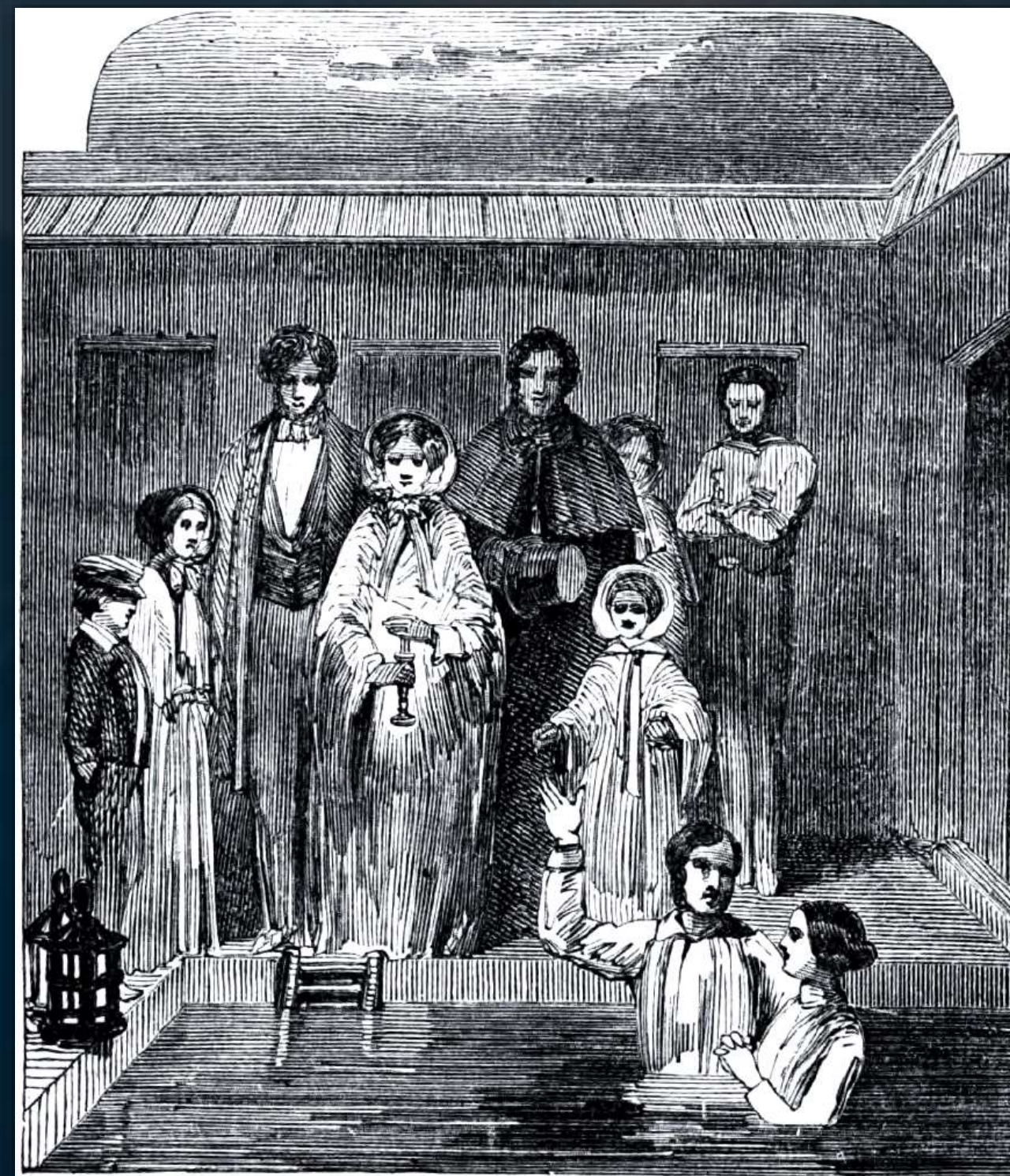
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REBAPTISM

- Joseph Smith taught rebaptism for “the remission of sins” and “health.”
- Many Saints were rebaptized in Nauvoo.
- In Utah, rebaptisms were often a sign of renewing covenants. Rebaptisms were also performed before new covenants and ordinances were performed (receiving endowment, marriage, ordination to priesthood, etc.).
- Largely discontinued around the 1910s.



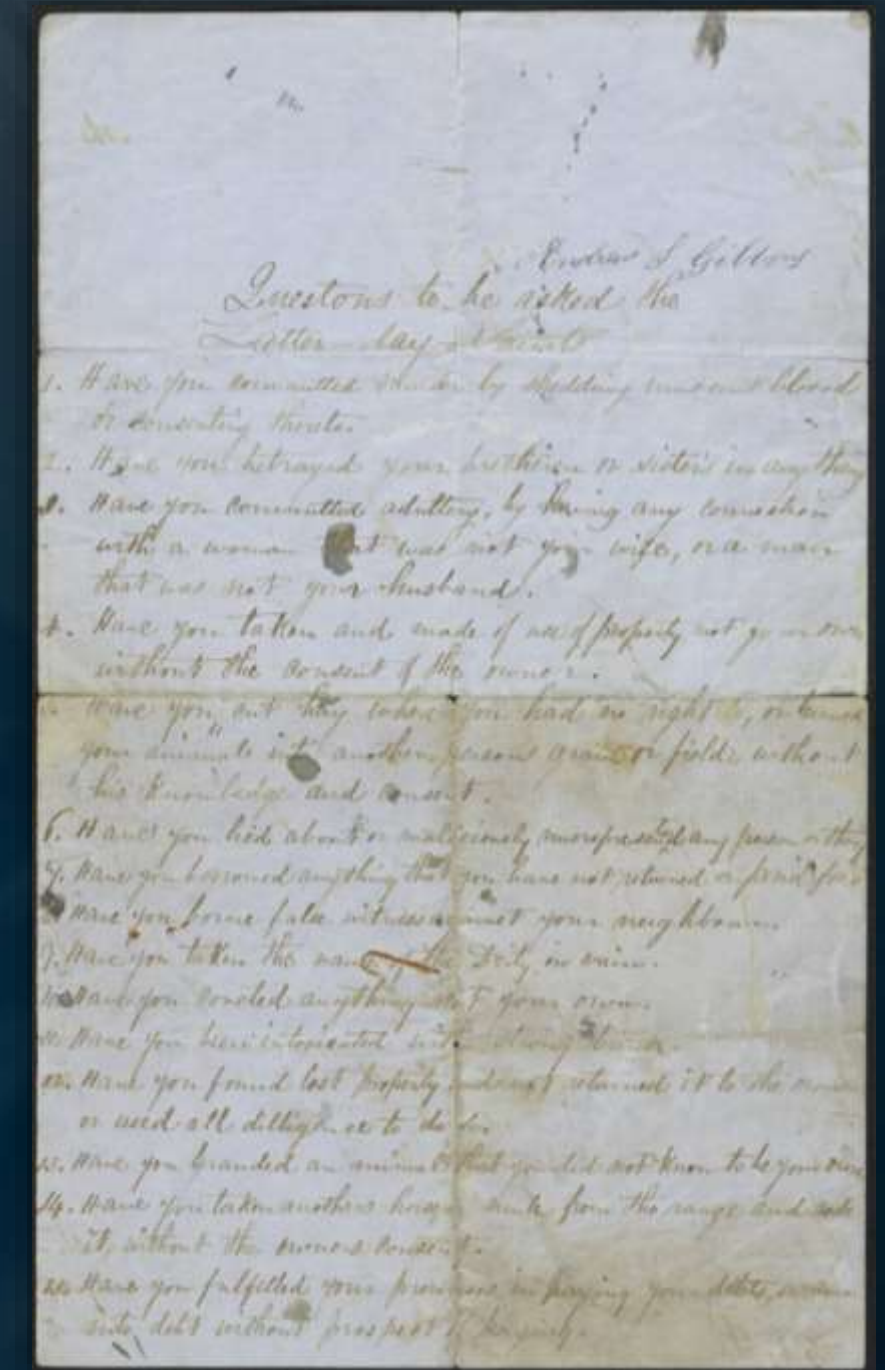
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“QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS”

1. Have you committed murder by shedding innocent blood or consenting thereto?
2. Have you betrayed your brethren or sisters in anything?
3. Have you committed adultery, by having any connection with a woman that was not your wife, or a man that was not your husband?
4. Have you taken and made of use of property not your own without the consent of the owner?
5. Have you cut hay where you had no right to, or turned your animals into another persons grain or field, without his knowledge and consent?
6. Have you lied about or maliciously misrepresented any person or thing?
7. Have you borrowed anything that you have not returned or paid for?
8. Have you born false witness against your neighbor?
9. Have you taken the name of the Deity in vain?
10. Have you coveted anything not your own?
11. Have you been intoxicated with strong drink?



Holograph sheet of questions, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University

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“QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS”

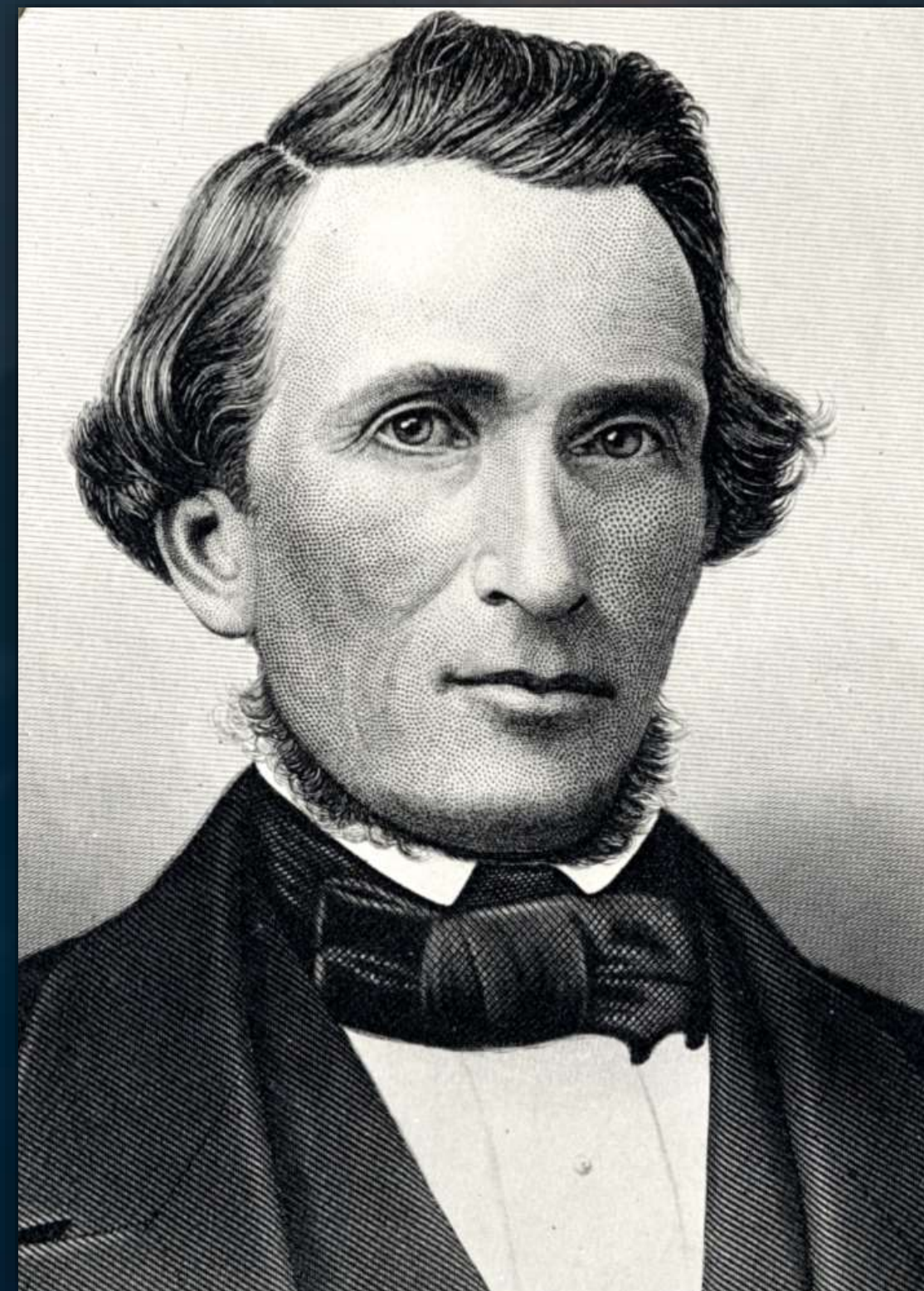
12. Have you found lost property and not returned it to the owner or used all diligence to do so?
13. Have you branded an animal that you did not know to be your own?
14. Have you taken another horse or mule from the range and rode it, without the owner's consent?
15. Have you fulfilled your promises in paying your debts, or run into debt without prospect of paying?
16. Have you taken water to irrigate, when it belonged to another person at the time you used it?
17. Do you pay your tithing promptly?
18. Do you teach your family the gospel of salvation?
19. Do you speak against your brethren, or against any principle taught in the Bible, Book of Mormon, Book of Doctrine and Covenants, Revelations given through Joseph Smith the Prophet and the Presidency of the Church as now organized?
20. Do you pray in your family night and morning and attend to secret prayer?
21. Do you wash your body and have your family do so, as often as health and cleanliness require and circumstances will permit?
22. Do you labor six days and rest, or go to the house of worship on the seventh?
23. Do you and your family attend ward meetings?
24. Do you preside over your household as a servant of God and is your family subject to you?
25. Have you labored diligently and earned faithfully the wages paid you by your employees?
26. Do you oppress the hireling in his wages?
27. Have you taken up and converted any stray animal to your own use, or in any manner appropriated one to your benefit with accounting therefor to the proper authorities?

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JEDIDIAH M. GRANT

- Participated in Zion's Camp as a teenager
- Among the first missionaries to go to Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia
- Member of the First Council of the Seventy
- Served as President of the Seventy
- Served in First Presidency, 1854-56
- Father of Heber J. Grant, 7th President of the Church



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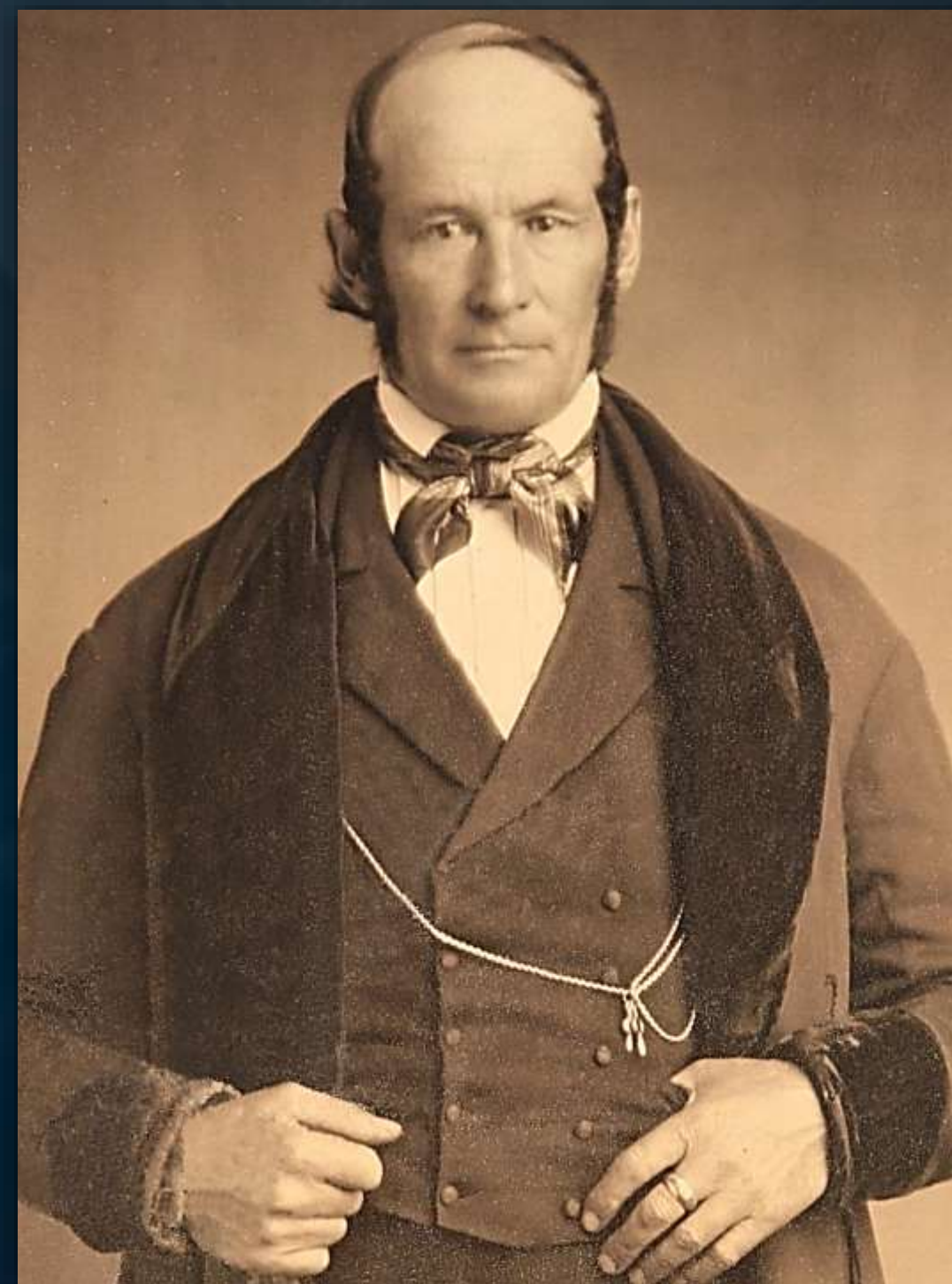
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HEBER C. KIMBALL VISITS JEDIDIAH GRANT

“I went to see him one day last week, and he reached out his hand and shook hands with me; he could not speak, but he shook hands warmly with me. I felt for him, and wanted to raise him up, and to have him stay and help us whip the devils and bring to pass righteousness. Why? Because he was **valiant**, and I loved him. He was a great help to us, and you would be, if you were as valiant as he was, which you can be through **faithfulness** and **obedience**.”

Heber C. Kimball, Journal of Discourses 4:135-138

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“I HAVE BEEN INTO THE SPIRIT WORLD”

“I laid my hands upon him and blessed him, and asked God to strengthen his lungs that he might be easier, and in two or three minutes he raised himself up and talked for about an hour as busily as he could, telling me what he had seen and what he understood . . . He said to me, brother Heber, I have **been into the spirit world** two nights in succession, and, of all the dreads that ever came across me, the worst was to have to again return to my body, though I had to do it. But O, says he, the **order** and **government** that were there!”

Heber C. Kimball, Journal of Discourses 4:135-138

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REUNITED WITH HIS DAUGHTER

“He saw the **righteous** gathered together in the spirit world, and there were no wicked spirits among them. He saw his wife; she was the first person that came to him. He saw many that he knew, but did not have conversation with any except his wife Caroline. She came to him, and he said that she looked **beautiful** and had their **little child**, that **died** on the **Plains**, in her arms, and said, ‘Mr. Grant, here is little Margaret; you know that the wolves ate her up, but it did not hurt her; **here she is all right.**’”

Heber C. Kimball, Journal of Discourses 4:135-138

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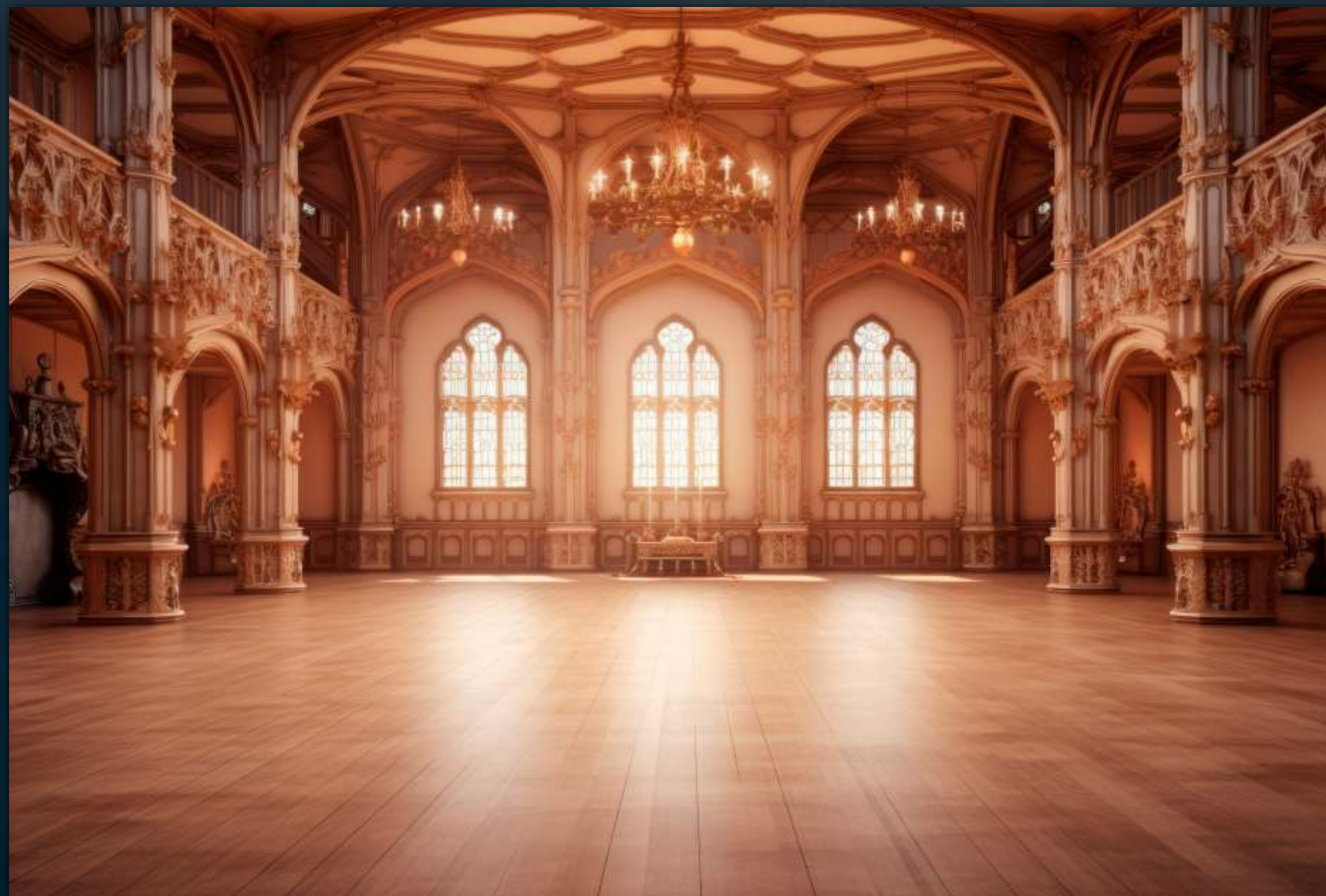


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ARCHITECTURE IN THE SPIRIT WORLD

“He also spoke of the **buildings** he saw there, remarking that the Lord gave Solomon wisdom and poured gold and silver into his hands that he might display his skill and ability, and said that the temple erected by Solomon was **much inferior** to the **most ordinary buildings** he saw in the spirit world.”



Heber C. Kimball, Journal of Discourses 4:135-138

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EXQUISITE GARDENS

“In regard to gardens, says brother Grant, ‘I have seen good gardens on this earth, but I **never saw any to compare** with those that were there. I saw flowers of **numerous** kinds, and some with from **fifty to a hundred different colored flowers** growing upon one stalk.’ We have many kinds of flowers on the earth, and I suppose those very articles came from heaven, or they would not be here.”

Heber C. Kimball, Journal of Discourses 4:135-138

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“THEY WILL NOT BELIEVE ME”

“After mentioning the things that he had seen, he spoke of how much he **disliked** to **return** and resume his body, after having seen the **beauty** and **glory** of the spirit world, where the righteous spirits are gathered together. . . .

“He said that after he came back he could look upon his family and see the spirit that was in them, and the **darkness** that was in them; and that he conversed with them about the Gospel, and what they should do, and they replied, ‘Well, brother Grant, **perhaps it is so, and perhaps it is not,**’ and said that was the state of this people, to a great extent, for many are full of darkness and **will not believe me.**”

Heber C. Kimball, Journal of Discourses 4:135-138

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THE **SAMUEL**
PRINCIPLE AND
CLEANSING THE
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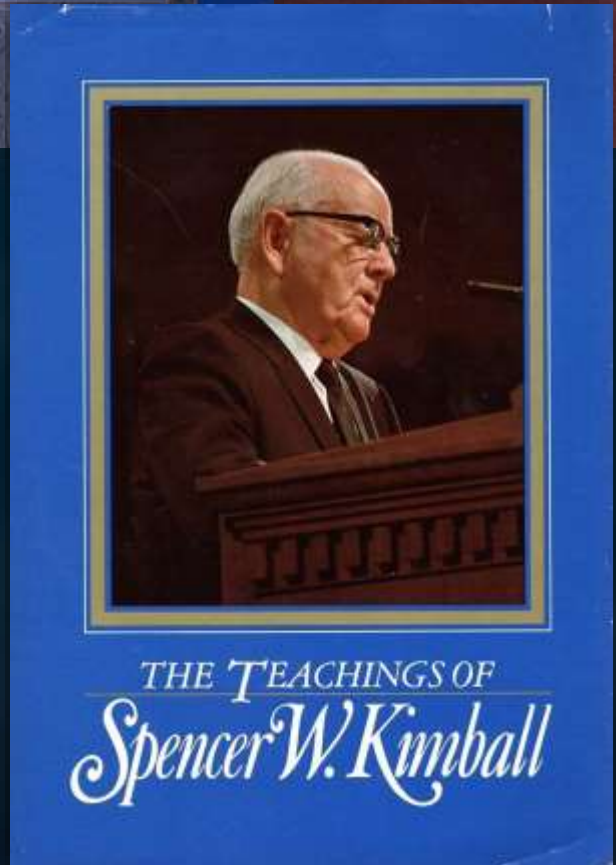
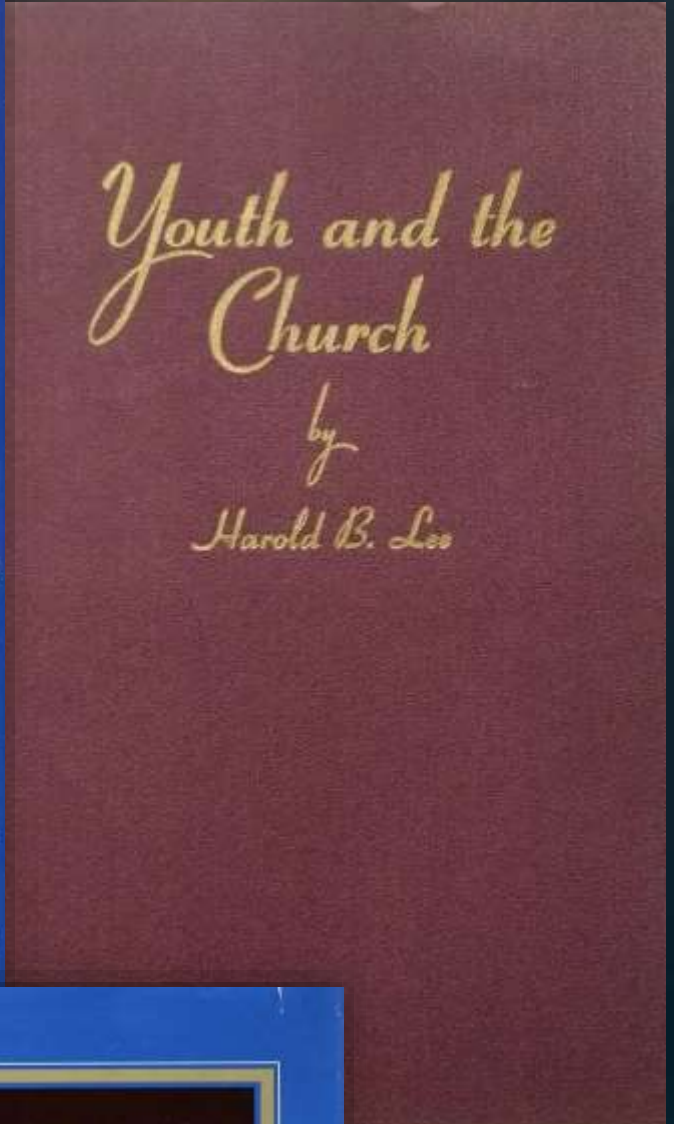
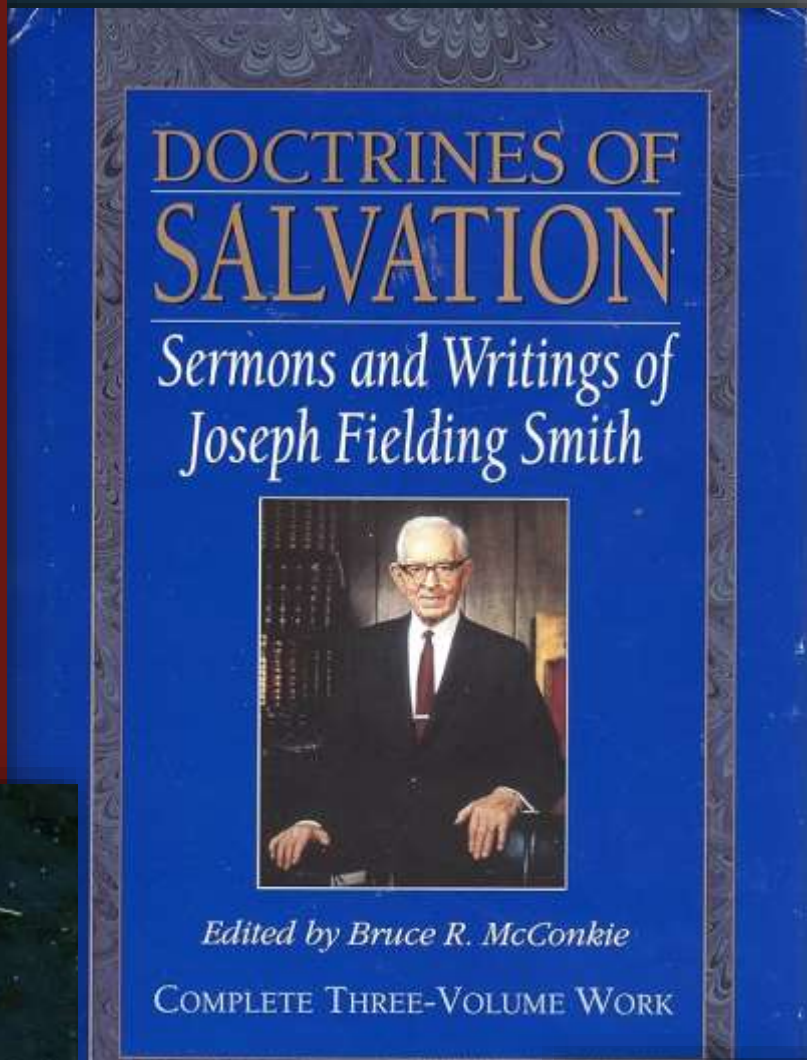
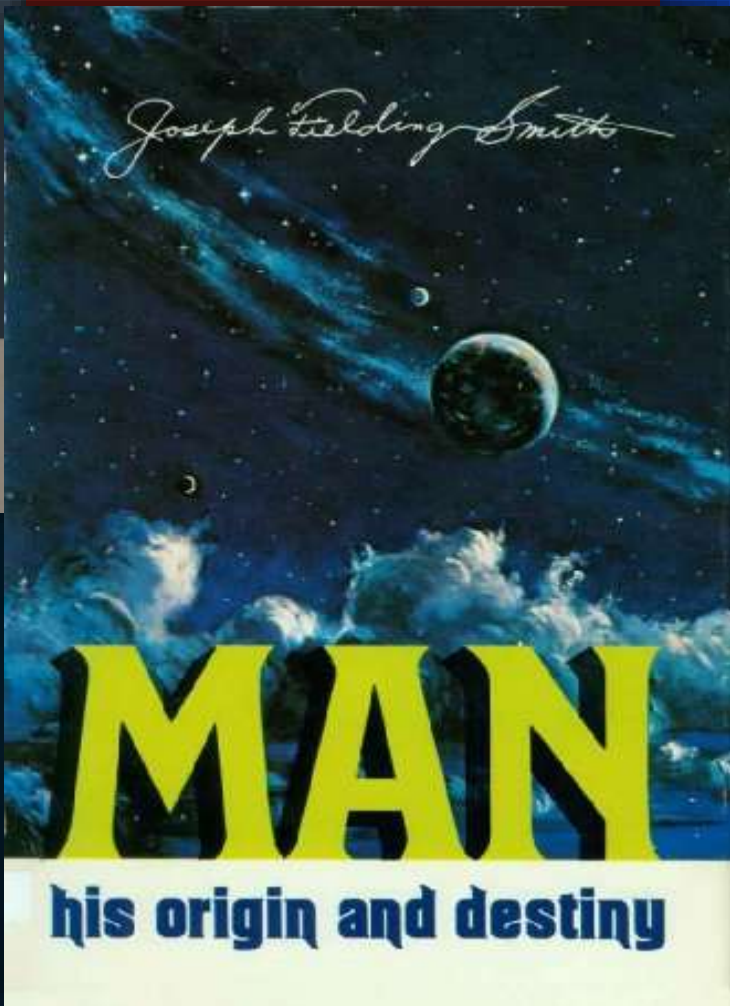
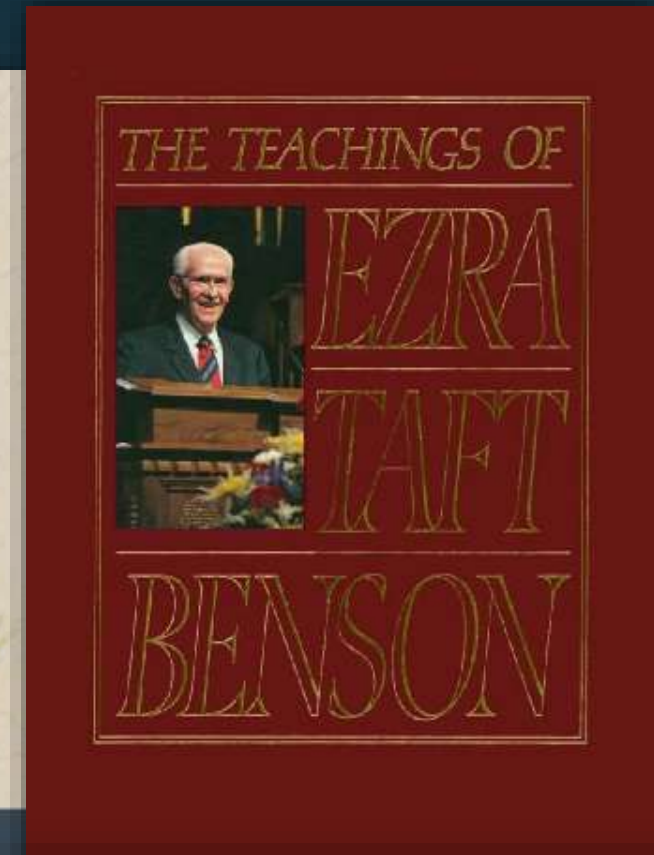
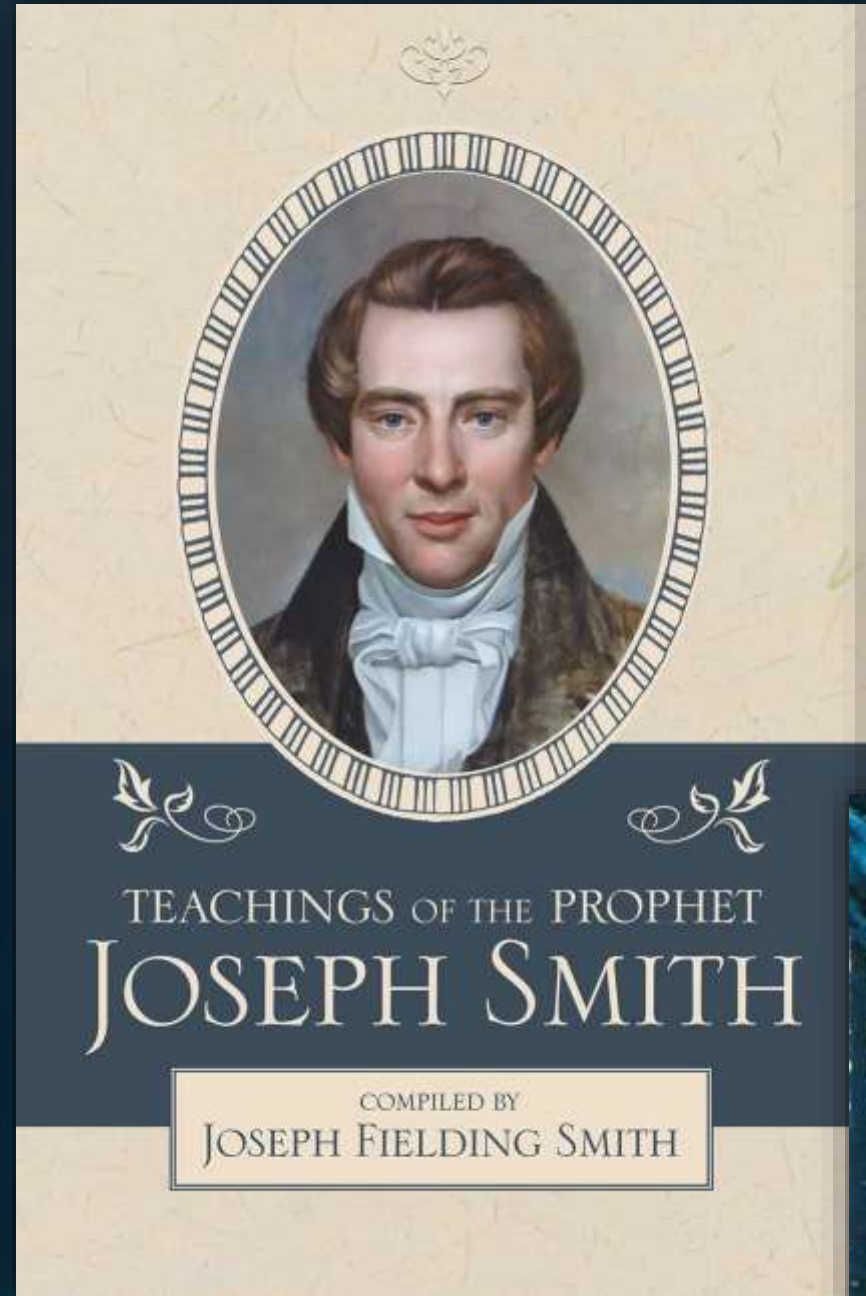
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“THE LESSER PORTION OF THE WORD”

“... he that will **not harden** his heart, to him is given the **greater portion** of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God until he know them in full. And they that will **harden** their **hearts**, to them is given the **lesser portion of the word** until they know **nothing** concerning his mysteries.”

Alma 12:10-11

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LORD GIVES PEOPLE THEIR DESIRES

“And the Lord said unto Samuel, **Hearken unto the voice of the people** in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but **they have rejected me**, that I should not reign over them. . . . And the Lord said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and **make them a king.**”

1 Samuel 8:7, 22



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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 SAINTS REJECTED IT”

“Pres. [Joseph F.] Smith . . . said [plural marriage] was **taken away** from the people—**like the law of consecration**—because the **saints rejected it**, and neither would be restored **until there is a people prepared to live them**. Anyone should beware that casts slurs upon the birth of those born under this covenant. Also that men who will not appreciate their wives and children and provide for them will lose them.”



Joseph F. Smith, Salt Lake Temple dedication, John Mills Whitaker Journal, box 123: Topical Files, Va-Wh (1825-2002), University of Utah, Special Collections; See also W. H. Smart Diary, 1901-1902 book, (7/28/1901), 94.

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ROCK “MUSIC HAS INVADED OUR CHURCH”

“Have you been listening to the music that many young folks are hearing today? Some of it is nerve-jamming in nature and much of it has been deliberately designed to promote revolution, dope, immorality, and a gap between parent and child. And some of **this music has invaded our Church cultural halls**. Have you noticed some of **our Church dances** lately? Have they been praiseworthy, lovely, and of good report? ‘I doubt,’ said President David O. McKay, ‘whether it is possible to dance most of the **prevalent fad dances** in a manner to meet LDS standards.’”



Ezra Taft Benson, The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1988), 325.

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HAVE WE “POLLUTED THE HOLY CHURCH OF GOD”?

“**Youth leaders, are you holding aloft our standards**, or have you **compromised** them for the lowest common denominator in order to appease the **deceived or vile within the Church**? Are the dances and music in your cultural halls virtuous, lovely, praiseworthy, and of good report, or do they represent a modern Sodom with short skirts, **loud, beat**, strobe lights, and darkness? . . .

“Have we, as Moroni warned, ‘**polluted the holy church of God**’? The auxiliaries of the Church are to be a **help, not a hindrance**, to parents and the priesthood as they strive to lead their families back to God. . . .

“Today because some **parents have refused to become informed** and then **stand up** and inform their children, **they are witnessing the gradual physical and spiritual destruction of their posterity**. If we would become like God, knowing good and evil, then we had best find out what is undermining us, how to avoid it, and what we can do about it.”

Ezra Taft Benson, God, Family, Country: Our Three Great Loyalties (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1974), 229.

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THE “SAMUEL PRINCIPLE”

“God **has to work** through mortals of **varying degrees** of spiritual progress. Sometimes he **temporarily grants** to men their **unwise requests** in order that they might **learn** from their own sad experiences. Some refer to this as the ‘**Samuel principle**.’ The children of Israel wanted a king, like all the nations. The prophet Samuel was displeased and prayed to the Lord about it. The Lord responded by saying to Samuel, ‘They have not rejected thee, but **they have rejected me**, that I should not reign over them.’ The Lord told Samuel to warn the people of the consequences if they had a king. Samuel gave them the warning, but they still insisted on their king. So **God gave them a king** and **let them suffer.**”

Ezra Taft Benson, “Jesus Christ—Gifts and Expectations,” BYU Devotional, December 10, 1974.

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LEARNING THE HARD WAY

“They **learned the hard way**. God wanted it to be **otherwise**, but within certain bounds he grants unto men according to their desires. Bad experiences are an expensive school that only fools keep going to.

“Sometimes in our attempts to **mimic the world**, contrary to the prophet’s counsel, we run after the world’s false **educational, political, musical, and dress** ideas. New **worldly standards take over**, a gradual breakdown occurs, and finally, after **much suffering**, a humble people are **ready** to be taught once again a **higher law**.”



Ezra Taft Benson, “Jesus Christ—Gifts and Expectations,” BYU Devotional, December 10, 1974.

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HOW DO RIGHTEOUS LIVE IN A WICKED WORLD?

“Now, during all this gradual lowering of standards, the righteous should be living up to the **highest personal standards they can**—**not forcing** those standards on others but **preparing** for and **awaiting** a better day which **surely** must come. This leads me to another principle: that a leader cannot lead without followers. If better standards are to be observed, **there must be a better people** to do it. . . . **Only a Zion people can bring in a Zion society.**”

*Ezra Taft Benson, “Jesus Christ—Gifts and Expectations,”
BYU Devotional, December 10, 1974.*

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PRODUCTION CODE ADMINISTRATION GOES INTO OPERATION ON JULY 1

Amplified Studio Relations Committee Will Direct New Deal in Moral Supervision of Hollywood's Film Output

With the adoption of plans intended to expand and fortify the industry's methods of self-regulation, adjustments aimed to meet the issue raised by the campaign of protest have been effected.

The critical situation of the last few weeks has been met by steps to make effective the Production Code adopted some years ago. The Legion of Decency movement and its standards will continue, but with an expectation that henceforward the code-controlled products of the screen, by appropriate precautions of the industry, will meet the standards of the Legion and its followers.

Administration Starts July 1

The Production Code Administration, which is a fortified reincarnation of the Studio Relations department of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc., begins to function July 1 on the industry's revised plan of self-regulation.

The director of the new PCA is Joseph I. Breen, who has been the Hollywood assistant to Will Hays, in charge of studio relations since last December 1.

Mr. Breen will have augmented staff and facilities and his findings with respect to

dioceses of the country, has been waging a campaign of protest against the destructive moral influence of evil motion pictures. There has been no wish to harm nor destroy the motion picture business, but the evil character of portions of many motion pictures and the low standards of some motion pictures have forced the bishops to take direct and aggressive action in safeguarding the moral well-being of their people.

"These recent activities against motion pictures which offend decency and morality were launched only after years of vain hope that the producers of these pictures would realize the harm being done and take positive steps to correct the trend. The committee is not hostile to the entertainment business; in fact, it recognizes entertainment as a virtual necessity in modern life, but such entertainment must be of a wholesome character, and to that objective the committee has earnestly addressed its efforts.

"The Legion of Decency, whose members pledge themselves not to patronize theatres showing offensive films, has gathered to its banner many thousands of adherents wherever it has been introduced. Plans are being developed to extend its membership to every town and city in the United States and to invite all persons in sympathy with its purpose to lend their support.

Cite Curtailed Patronage

"The committee has been informed that, through the loyal cooperation of our Catholic people, together with a widespread response on the part of many others who believe that

National Committee Approved at Meeting of Catholic Hierarchy; 'Council of Legion of Decency' Is Indorsed

to the code administration, which administration is to be... In the past... tioned ineffect...

"The final... of the motion... organized indi... board of direc... The court of... any disputes... studios' and... be this board... "The Epis... favor the ren... industry to d... issuing only... conform with... The committe... code if given... terially and co... acter of scree... disposed to le... ation to these... achieve the p...

tent of the Code appear in two parts— first, a working abstract of the Code which has been widely accepted as the complete Code, and, second, the Code proper, which has been referred to as "Reasons Supporting a Code".

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. No picture shall be produced which will lower the moral standards of those who see it. Hence the sympathy of the audience should never be thrown to the side of crime, wrongdoing, evil or sin.
2. Correct standards of life, subject only to the requirements of drama and entertainment, shall be presented.
3. Law, natural or human, shall not be ridiculed, nor shall sympathy be created for its violation.

PARTICULAR APPLICATIONS

CRIMES AGAINST THE LAW

1. Pictures shall not be produced which depict... (text partially obscured)
2. Pictures shall not be produced which depict... (text partially obscured)
3. Pictures shall not be produced which depict... (text partially obscured)

TEXT OF THE PRODUCTION CODE

August 11, 1934 MOTION PICTURE HERALD 11

stimulate the lower and baser element.

3. **Seduction or rape**
 - a. They should never be more than suggested, and only when essential for the plot, and even then never shown by explicit method.
 - b. They are never the proper subject for comedy.
4. **Sex perversion** or any inference to it is forbidden.
5. **White slavery** shall not be treated.
6. **Miscegenation** (sex relationships between the white and black races) is forbidden.
7. **Sex hygiene** and venereal diseases are not subjects for motion pictures.
8. Scenes of **actual child birth**, in fact or in silhouette, are never to be presented.
9. **Children's sex organs** are never to be exposed.

VULGARITY

1. Pictures shall not be produced which depict... (text partially obscured)
2. Pictures shall not be produced which depict... (text partially obscured)
3. Pictures shall not be produced which depict... (text partially obscured)

LOCATIONS

1. Pictures shall not be produced which depict... (text partially obscured)
2. Pictures shall not be produced which depict... (text partially obscured)
3. Pictures shall not be produced which depict... (text partially obscured)

"HAYS CODE" / MOTION PICTURE PRODUCTION CODE (1934-1968)

LESSON
24

PRIDE
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FOR OUR DAY

HOW FAR HAVE WE FALLEN TODAY?

- 1. No picture shall be produced which will lower the moral standards of those who see it. Hence the sympathy of the audience should never be thrown to the side of crime, wrongdoing, evil or sin. . . .
- 3. **Law**, natural or human, shall **not be ridiculed**, nor shall sympathy be created for its violation. . . .
- Murder, a. The technique of **murder** must be presented in a way that will not **inspire imitation**. . . . c. **Revenge** in modern times shall not be justified.
- Methods of Crime . . . a. **Theft, robbery**, safe-cracking, and dynamiting of trains, mines, buildings, etc., should not be detailed in method. . . . 4. The use of **liquor** in American life, when not required by the plot or for proper characterization will not be shown. . . .
- Sex, The sanctity of the institution of **marriage** and the **home** shall be **upheld**. Pictures shall not infer that low forms of sex relationship are the accepted or common thing.
- 1. Adultery, **sometimes** necessary plot material, must **not** be **explicitly** treated, or **justified**, or presented **attractively**.
- 2. Scenes of Passion, a. They should **not** be **introduced** when not **essential** to the plot. b. Excessive and lustful kissing, lustful embraces, suggestive postures and gestures, are **not to be shown**. c. In general passion should so be treated that these scenes **do not stimulate** the lower and baser element.

The Motion Picture Production Code of 1930

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HOW DO MOVIES COMPARE TODAY?

- 3. Seduction or Rape, a. They should **never** be **more than suggested**, and **only** when essential for the plot, and even then never shown by explicit method. b. They are **never** the proper subject for **comedy**. . . .
- Vulgarity, The treatment of low, disgusting, unpleasant, **though not necessarily evil**, subjects should be subject always to the dictates of **good taste** and a regard for the sensibilities of the audience.
- Obscenity, **Obscenity** in word, gesture, reference, song, joke, or by suggestion (even when likely to be understood only by part of the audience) is **forbidden**.
- Profanity, Pointed **profanity** (this includes the words, God, Lord, Jesus, Christ—unless used reverently—Hell, S.O.B. damn, Gawd), or every other profane or vulgar expression, however used, is **forbidden**. . . .
- Undressing scenes should be **avoided**, and never used save where essential to the plot. . . .
- Dances, 1. Dances **suggesting** or representing **sexual** actions or indecent passion are **forbidden**. 2. Dances which emphasize indecent movements are to be regarded as **obscene**.
- Religion, 1. No film or episode may throw **ridicule** on **any** religious **faith**. 2. **Ministers** of religion in their character as ministers of religion should **not** be **used** as **comic** characters or as **villains**. . . .
- The treatment of **bedrooms** must be governed by good taste and delicacy.

The Motion Picture Production Code of 1930

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WHAT IS THE BOOK OF MORMON MESSAGE?

We are **FALLEN** & we have **REJECTED** God.
We need to become **CHANGE** & become **CLEAN!**

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HOW DID ALMA REFORM CHURCH? REBIRTH

- Rather than dead **form** of religion, he teaches we must be **born again** to **overcome** the effects of the **Fall** and the **natural man**.
- The Fall and **rebirth** from that Fall are central.
- We must be **continually renewed** and **progressively changed** until we **become like Jesus Christ** and receive His image in our countenance.
- **Regeneration** through the Atonement and the Spirit of the Lord is the **very heart of the Gospel** for active members and all others.



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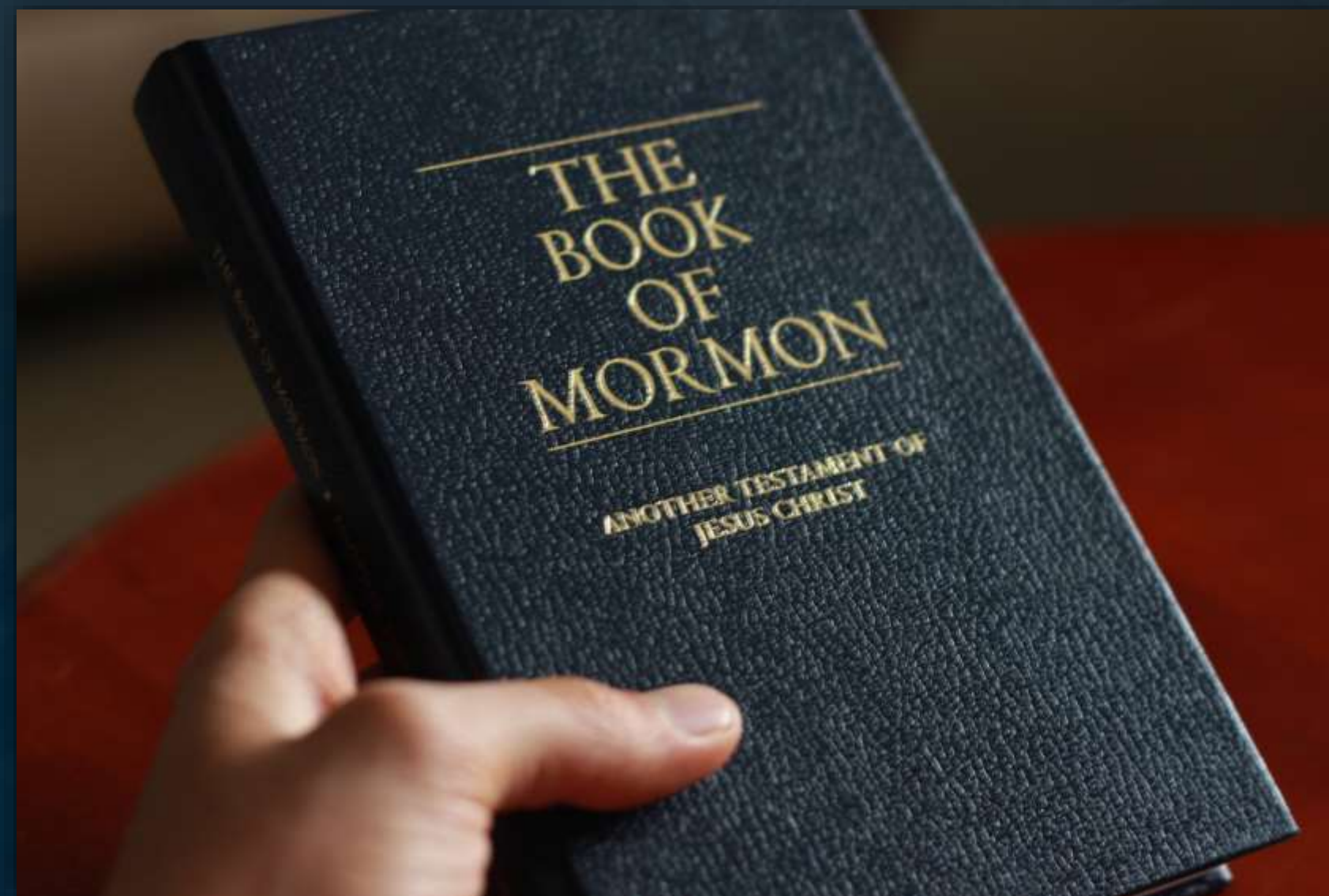
ARE WE USING THE MESSAGE & METHODS?

“I am **deeply concerned** about what we are doing to teach the Saints at **all** levels the gospel of Jesus Christ as **completely** and authoritatively as do the **Book of Mormon** and the **Doctrine and Covenants**. By this I mean teaching the ‘great plan of the Eternal God,’ to use the words of Amulek (Alma 34:9).

“**Are we using** the **messages** and the **method** of teaching found in the Book of Mormon and other scriptures of the Restoration to teach this great plan of the Eternal God?”

Ezra Taft Benson, “The Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants,” April 1987 General Conference

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WHY DO YOU EVEN NEED CHRIST?

“... Just as a man does **not really desire food until he is hungry**, so he does **not desire** the **salvation** of Christ until he knows **why** he needs Christ. **No one** adequately and properly knows why he needs Christ **until** he understands and accepts the doctrine of the **Fall** and **its effect upon all mankind**. And no other book in the world explains this vital doctrine nearly as well as the Book of Mormon.”



Ezra Taft Benson, “The Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants,” April 1987 General Conference

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ARE WE ACCEPTING THE FALL & REDEMPTION?

“Brethren and sisters, we all need to take a **careful inventory** of our performance and also the performance of those over whom we preside to be **sure** that we are **teaching** the ‘**great plan** of the Eternal God’ to the Saints.

“Are we **accepting** and **teaching** what the revelations tell us about the **Creation, Adam and the fall of man,** and **redemption** from that fall through the atonement of Christ?”

Ezra Taft Benson, “The Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants,” April 1987 General Conference

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WHAT DOES REDEMPTION MEAN TO US?

“Do we **frequently review** the crucial **questions** which Alma asks the members of the Church in the fifth chapter of Alma in the Book of Mormon?

“Do we **understand** and are we **effective** in teaching and preaching the Atonement? What **personal meaning** does the Lord’s suffering in Gethsemane and on Calvary have for each of us?

“What does **redemption from the Fall mean** to us? In the words of Alma, do we **‘sing** the song of redeeming love’? (Alma 5:26).”



Ezra Taft Benson, “The Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants,” April 1987 General Conference

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WHAT IS THE CATALYST FOR SPIRITUAL REBIRTH?

- **Hearing** the **word** of God preached by worthy messengers or reading the word of God in scripture.
- **Acting** upon those words is the **answer** to the world's problems.
- The Book of Mormon points out that the **word** of God was made **liberal to all**. All had **access** to the word.
- As the scriptures become the **foundation** of a nation, **progress** and **advancements** in civilization ensue.
- As the word of God is **removed** from a society, **degeneration** is the inevitable consequence.

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EVERYONE HAD ACCESS TO WORD OF GOD



“Now I would that ye should understand that the **word of God** was **liberal unto all**, that **none** were **deprived** of the privilege of assembling themselves together to **hear** the **word** of God.”

Alma 6:5-6

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