

A family of four in historical clothing is gathered around a book in a stone-walled room. A man in a black hat and a woman in a white headscarf are looking at the book, while a woman and a child look on.

6

OVERCOMING THE FALL

Covenant Making By
Righteous Fathers & Mothers

FOR OUR DAY



LESSON
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OVERCOMING
THE FALL:
COVENANT
MAKING BY
RIGHTEOUS
FATHERS &
MOTHERS



LESSON
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OVERCOMING
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COVENANT
MAKING BY
RIGHTEOUS
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MOTHERS



James F. Stoddard III, Joseph Smith Foundation founder



Leah & Isaiah Stoddard

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ADJUSTING IN A NEW SEASON!

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LEHI'S LAST WORDS TO HIS FAMILY

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IF YOU WERE GIVING YOUR LAST WORDS

. . . what would you want your children to know?

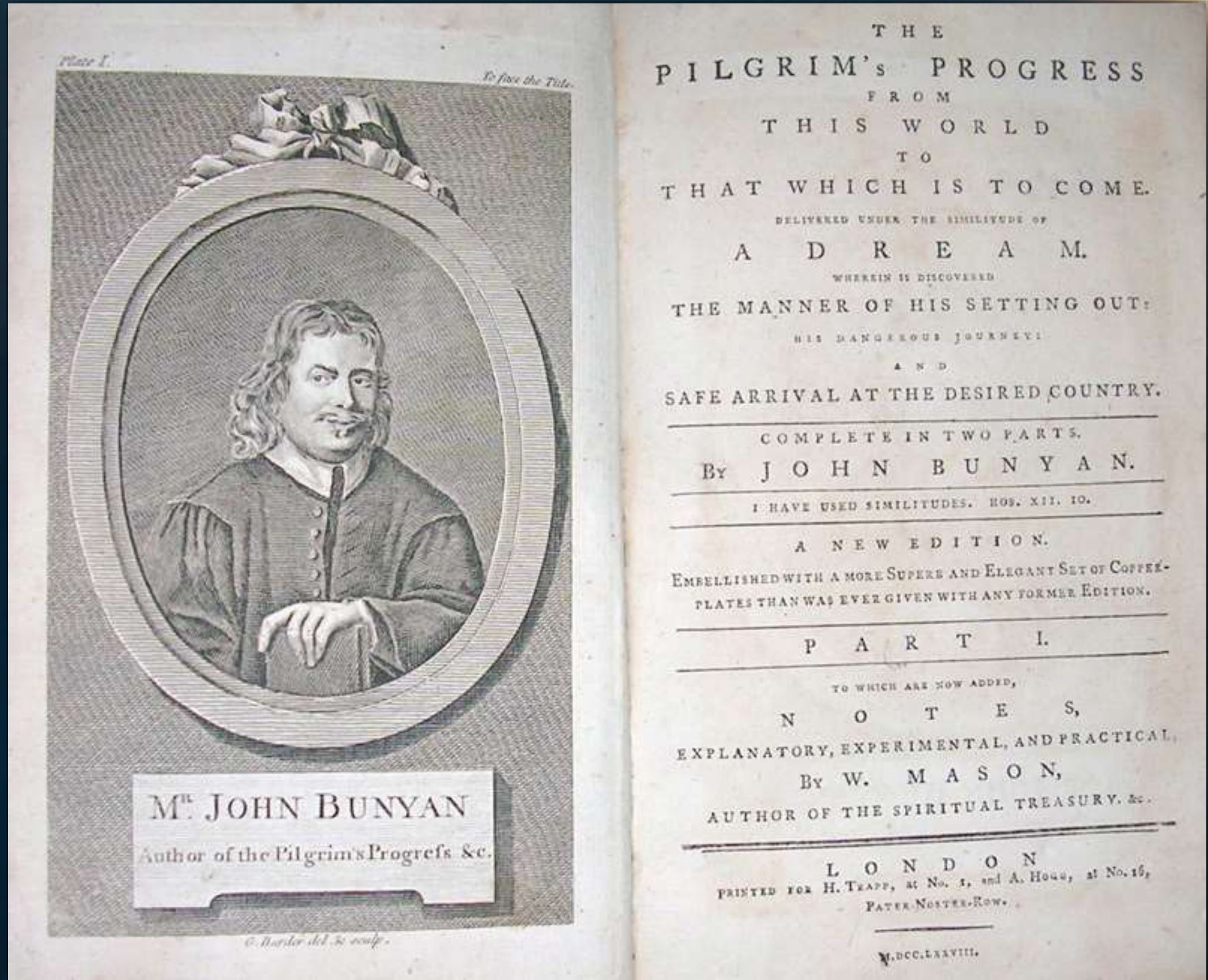
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PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

- Born 1628
- Writer and Puritan preacher
- Fought for liberty in the Parliamentary Army during the English Civil War
- Imprisoned twice
- *The Pilgrim's Progress* has been translated into more than 200 languages, and has never been out of print. At one time, it was second only to the Bible in popularity.



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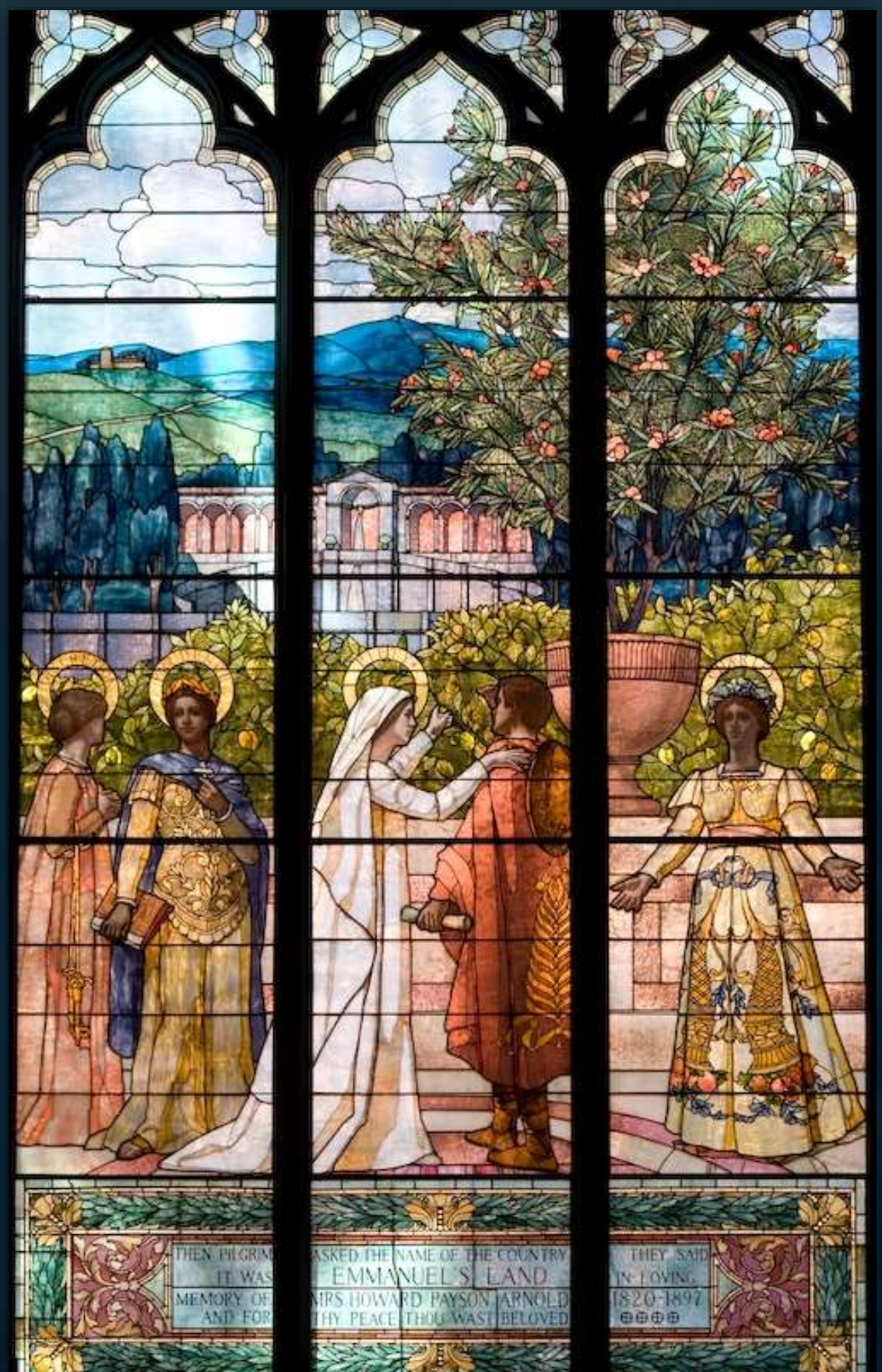
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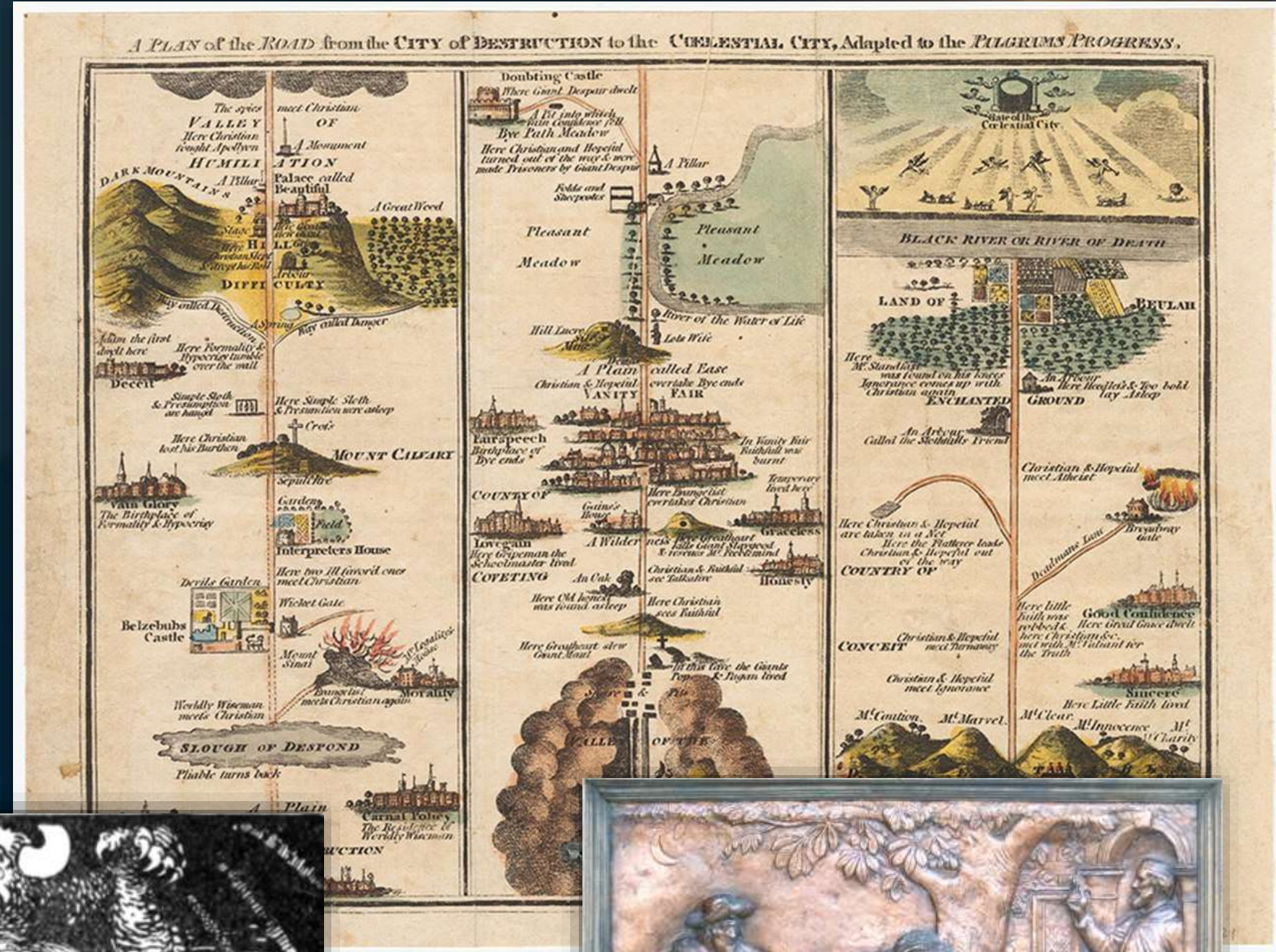


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THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS (2019)

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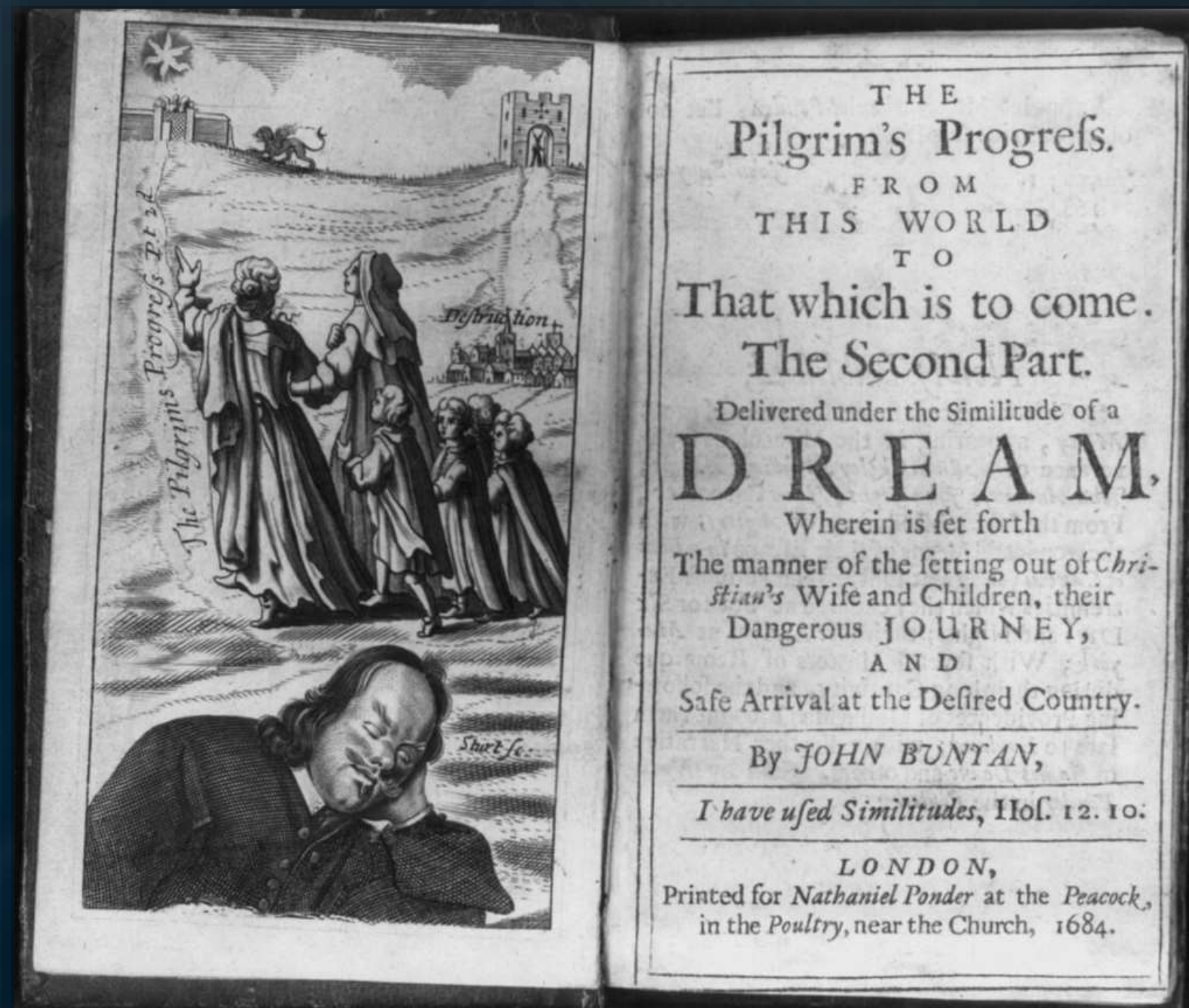
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JOURNEY BEGINS WITH A DREAM

“he [Lehi] returned to his own house at Jerusalem; and he cast himself upon his bed . . . he was **carried away in a vision**, even that he saw the heavens open, and he thought he saw God sitting upon his throne, surrounded with numberless concourses of angels in the attitude of singing and praising their God.”

1 Nephi 1:8



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“CITY OF DESTRUCTION”

“And he [Lehi] **read**, saying: Wo, wo, unto **Jerusalem**, for I have seen thine **abominations**! Yea, and many things did my father read concerning Jerusalem—that it should be **destroyed**, and the inhabitants thereof; many should perish by the sword, and many should be carried away captive into Babylon.”

1 Nephi 1:13

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REJECTED BY FAMILY MEMBERS

“... because of the **stiffneckedness** of Laman and Lemuel; for behold they did **murmur** in **many** things **against** their **father**, because he was a **visionary** man, and had led them out of the land of Jerusalem, to leave the land of their inheritance, and their gold, and their silver, and their precious things, to **perish** in the wilderness. And this they said he had done because of the **foolish imaginations** of his heart.”

1 Nephi 1:11

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Stone relief depicting Christian being rejected by his wife and children in The Pilgrim's Progress

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BOOK REVEALS DESTRUCTION & HOPE TO ESCAPE

“... and the first came and stood before my father, and gave unto him a **book**, and bade him that he should **read**. . . . he truly testified of their **wickedness** and their **abominations**; and he testified that the things which he saw and heard, and also the things which he read in the **book**, manifested plainly of the coming of a **Messiah**, and also the **redemption of the world**.”

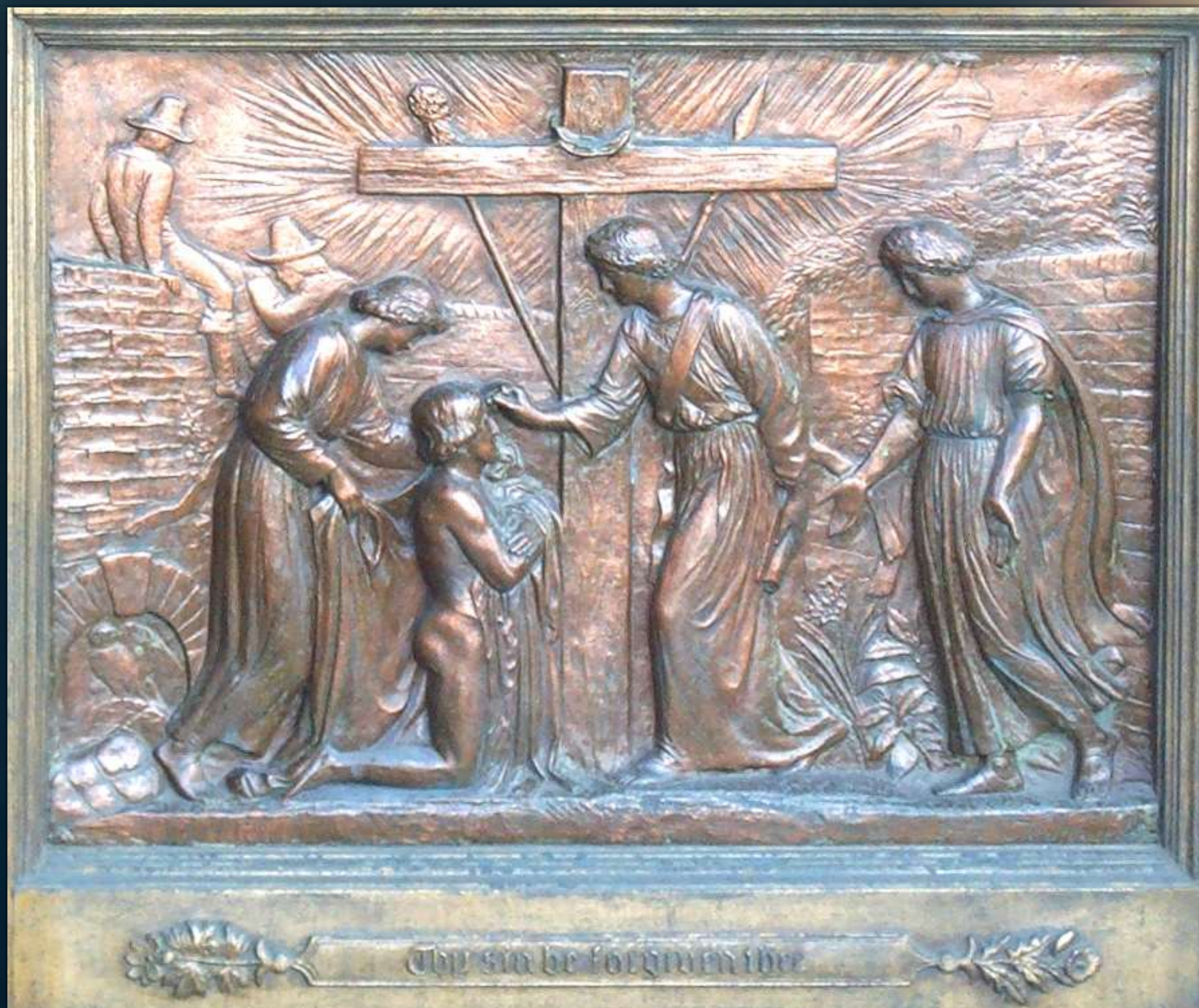
1 Nephi 1:11, 19

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Christian being washed of all his sins, given new garments, and sealed on his forehead by three angels.

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LEHITES

1. Apostate church/leaders
2. Sacrifice and risks required to gain Brass Plates
3. Filled with desire to obtain a new land/inheritance
4. Drawn to Moses and covenants of ancient Israel
5. Extreme hardship and danger in wilderness and during sea voyage
6. Nephite nation founded on scripture

RIGHTEOUS REFORMERS

1. Great apostasy and false creeds
2. Suffering and death to obtain the Bible
3. Felt called to come to America to establish a “New Jerusalem”
4. Covenants, Moses, Abraham, and House of Israel are central themes
5. Only a few willing to make the sacrifices to come to America because of life-threatening risks
6. Early communities in America founded on scripture

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LEHI WAS REDEEMED

“But behold, the Lord hath **redeemed** my soul from hell; I have **beheld** his **glory**, and I am **encircled** about **eternally** in the arms of his **love**.”

2 Nephi 1:15

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HOW DID THEY SUCCEED?

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FOR OUR DAY

WHERE DO WE TURN FOR PARENTING ADVICE?

- The Book of Mormon gives **specific instruction** on how to save family.
- “Undoubtedly Sariah cooperated with Lehi, but it was the **father** who **called** his **family together** to teach them righteousness. . . . Put father back at the head of the family. Ah! This is the **foundation** of true family life.” (Spencer W. Kimball, General Conference, April 1965)
- Lehi’s visions and dreams were Nephi’s visions and dreams. Nephi’s goals were Lehi’s goals.
- “I, Nephi, having been born of **goodly** parents, **THEREFORE** I was **taught** somewhat in **ALL** the **learning** of my **father** . . .” (1 Nephi 1:1)
- Lehi’s example of teaching and disciplining his sons is a model for father’s today. **Copy him!**

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CREDENCE THEY GAVE TO THEIR FATHERS

“... It was human testimony and **human testimony only**, that **excited** this **enquiry**, in the first instance in their minds—it was the **credence they gave to the testimony of their fathers**—this testimony having aroused their minds to enquire after the knowledge of God, the enquiry frequently terminated, indeed **always** terminated, when rightly pursued, in the **most glorious discoveries**, and **eternal certainty.**”

Lectures on Faith 2:55

Slide copied from “[Simplifying Isaiah, Part 1 of 5](#)”

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DIVINE PATTERN OF FATHERS & SONS

- Nephi & Lehi
- Enos & Jacob
- Sons of Mosiah & Mosiah
- Alma the Younger & Alma the Elder
- Stripling Warriors & biological fathers support army/Helaman acts as father figure during war
- Helaman, Corianton, Shiblon & Alma the Younger
- Nephi, Lehi & Helaman
- Moroni & Mormon



Slide copied from "[Simplifying Isaiah, Part 1 of 5](#)"

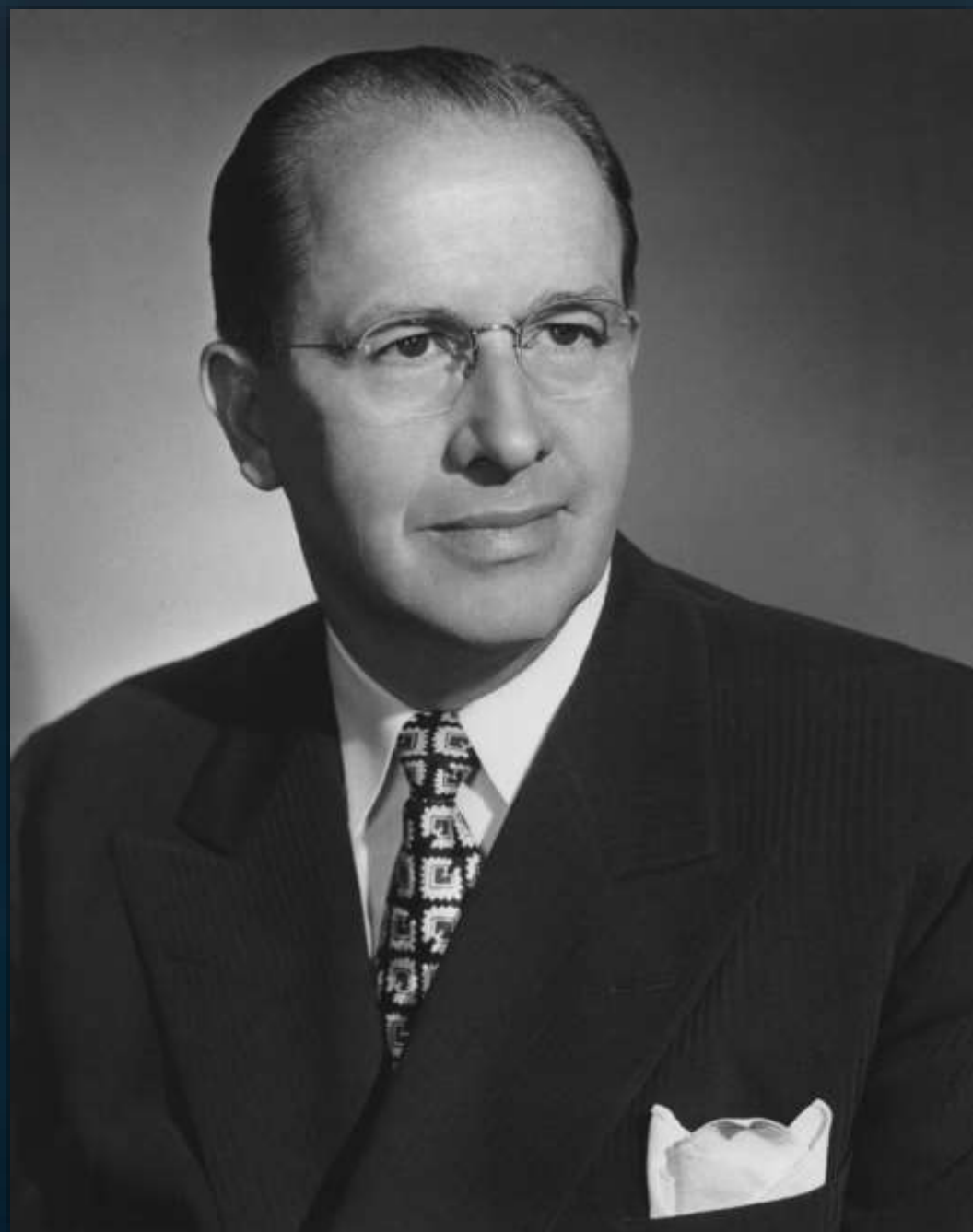
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WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF OUR SUFFERING?



“Why did **righteous fathers** in the Book of Mormon go to so much **trouble** to teach their sons the **word of God**? King Benjamin said it was to fulfill the commandments of God. (See Mosiah 1:4) He further stated that were it not for their having the brass plates which contained the commandments, they would have “suffered in ignorance.” (Mosiah 1:3) **Could the lack of teaching the scriptures in our homes be a source of our suffering in ignorance today?**”

Ezra Taft Benson, “Worthy Fathers, Worthy Sons,” General Conference, October 1985

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DO NOT WAIT UNTIL MISSION!

“... At what age do we begin teaching our sons these gospel truths? Alma taught his son Helaman while he was in his **youth**. (See Alma 36:3) Our youth **ought not to wait** until the mission field to get a **grasp** of the **scriptures** and a **closeness** to the **Lord**. Lehi said that his son Jacob beheld the **glory of the Lord in his youth**. (See 2 Nephi 2:4) Imagine what would happen to missionary work if we sent out **that kind of young men.**”



Ezra Taft Benson, “Worthy Fathers, Worthy Sons,” General Conference, October 1985

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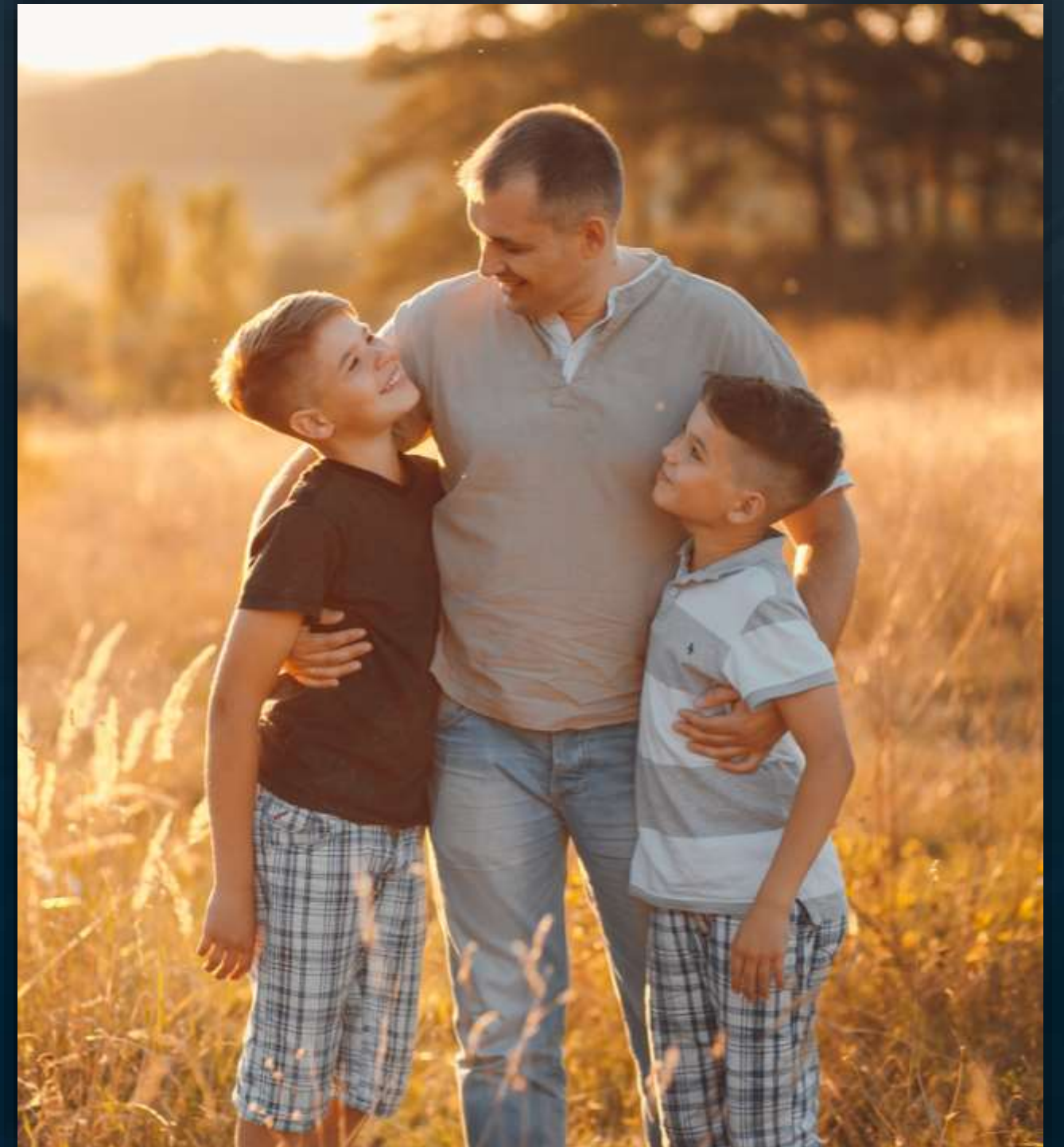
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“MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY”

“... In summary, the Book of Mormon, which is the **most correct book on earth**, demonstrates that the **major** responsibility for **teaching our sons** the great **plan** of the Eternal Father—the Fall, rebirth, Atonement, Resurrection, Judgment, eternal life—**rests with fathers**. It should be done **individually** as well as in the **family**. It should be preached and discussed so our children will know the commandments. It should be done from their **youth up**—and **often**.”



Ezra Taft Benson, “Worthy Fathers, Worthy Sons,” General Conference, October 1985

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THE NEPHITE FATHERS ARE OUR EXAMPLE!

They have the answers!

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LAND OF ADAM, JOSEPH & LEHI

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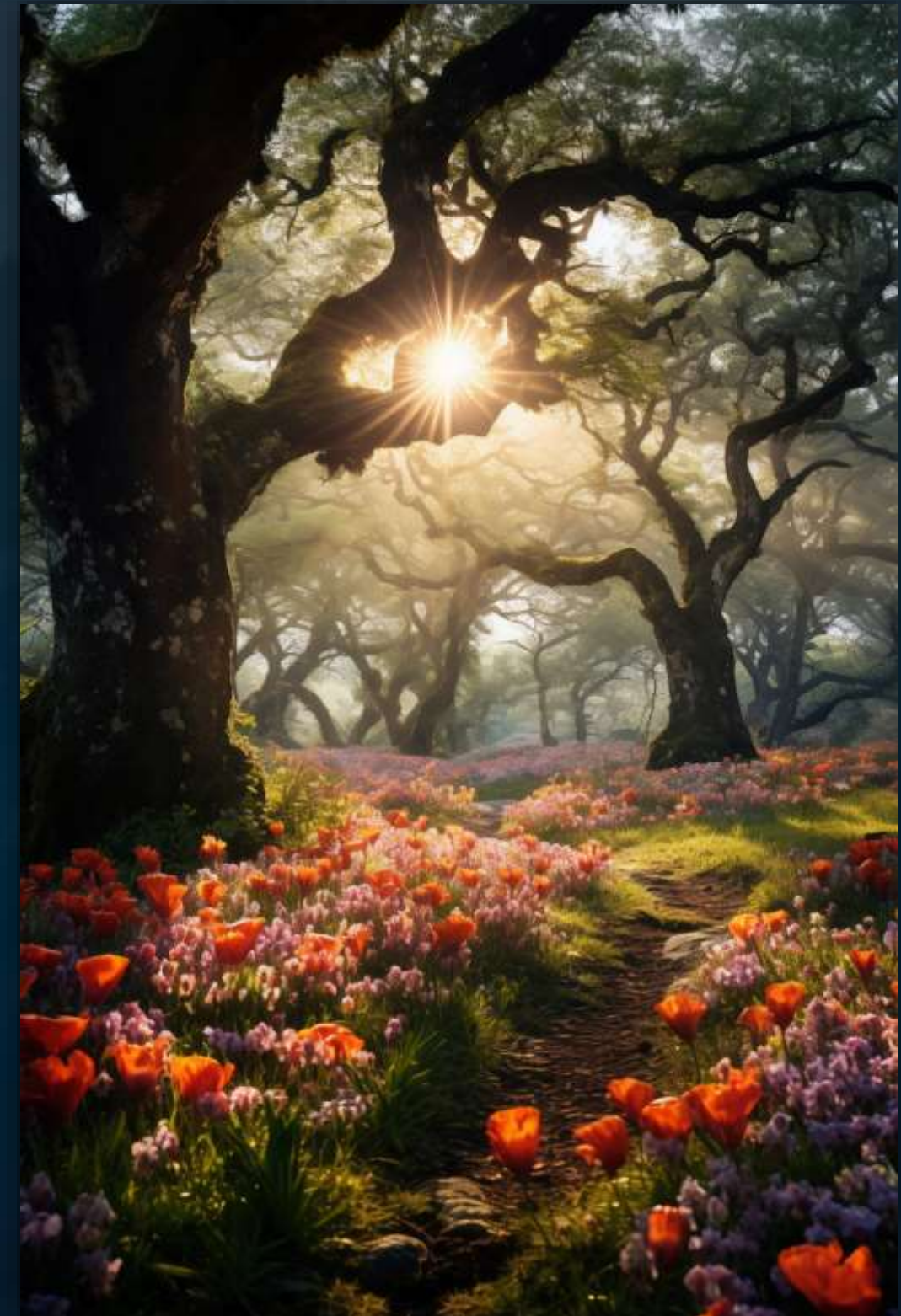
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GARDEN OF EDEN IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

“The spot chosen for the **garden of Eden** was **Jackson County**, in the State of Missouri, where **Independence** now stands; it was occupied in the morn of creation by Adam and his associates who came with him for the express purpose of peopling this earth.”

*Heber C. Kimball, Journal of Discourses 10:235
Slide copied from [“Simplifying Isaiah, Part 1 of 5”](#)*

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ADAM'S HOMELAND IN MISSOURI

“... President Young said **Joseph the Prophet** told me that the **Garden of Eden** was in **Jackson Co Missouri**, and when **Adam** was **driven out** of the Garden of Eden, he went about 40 miles to the place which we named **Adam-ondi-Ahman**, and there built an altar of stone & offered sacrifice.”



*Wilford Woodruff, Journal entry dated 30 March 1879, spelling corrected
Slide copied from "[Simplifying Isaiah, Part 1 of 5](#)"*

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COVENANTS TO THE FATHERS

- Adam
- Enoch
- Noah
- Abraham
- Jacob/Israel
- Joseph of Egypt
- Lehi
- Nephi
- and *many* more!



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LEHI OBTAINS LAND

“But, said he, notwithstanding our afflictions, we have **obtained a land of promise**, a land which is **choice above all other lands**; a land which the Lord God hath **covenanted with me** should be a land for the **inheritance of my seed**. Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto **me**, and **to my children forever**, and also **all** those who should be **led** out of other countries by the **hand of the Lord**.”

2 Nephi 1:5

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RIGHTEOUS COLONISTS OBTAIN LAND

“And I beheld the **Spirit of the Lord**, that it was **upon** the Gentiles, and they did prosper and **obtain the land for their inheritance**; and I beheld that they were white, and exceedingly fair and beautiful, like unto my people before they were slain.

“And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did **humble** themselves **before** the **Lord**; and the **power of the Lord was with them.**”

1 Nephi 13:15-16

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“LAND OF LIBERTY”

“Wherefore, I, **Lehi, prophesy** according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me, that there shall none come into this land save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord.

“Wherefore, this **land** is **consecrated** unto him whom he shall bring. And if it so be that they shall **serve** him according to the **commandments** which he hath given, it shall be a **land of liberty** unto them; wherefore, they shall never be brought down into captivity; if so, it shall be because of iniquity; for if **iniquity** shall abound **cursed** shall be the **land** for their sakes, but unto the **righteous** it shall be **blessed** forever.”

2 Nephi 1:6-7

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TRIBULATION & AFFLICTION

“And now, Jacob, I speak unto you: Thou art my firstborn in the days of my **tribulation** in the wilderness. And behold, in thy childhood thou hast suffered **afflictions** and **much sorrow**, because of the rudeness of thy brethren.

“Nevertheless, Jacob, my firstborn in the wilderness, thou **knowest** the **greatness** of God; and he shall **consecrate thine afflictions for thy gain**.

“... For it must needs be, that there is an **opposition** in all things. If not so, my firstborn in the wilderness, **righteousness** could **not** be **brought** to pass, neither wickedness, neither holiness nor misery, neither good nor bad.”

2 Nephi 2:1-2, 11

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“SAME SACRIFICE”

“It is in **vain** for persons to fancy to themselves that they are **heirs** with those, or can be heirs with them, who have offered their **all** in sacrifice, and by **this means** obtained **faith** in God and **favor** with him so as to obtain eternal life, unless they in **like manner** offer unto him the **same sacrifice** and **through** that **offering obtain** the **knowledge** that they are **accepted** of him.”

Lectures on Faith #6

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WITHOUT SACRIFICE, NO FAITH & ETERNAL LIFE

“Those, then, who make the **sacrifice** will have the **testimony** that their **course** is **pleasing** in the sight of **God**. And those who have this testimony will have faith to lay hold on **eternal life** and will be enabled, through faith, to **endure** unto the end and receive the **crown** that is laid up for them that love the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“But those who do **not make the sacrifice cannot enjoy this faith**, because men are **dependent** upon this sacrifice in order to obtain this faith. Therefore, they **cannot** lay hold upon **eternal life**, because the revelations of God do **not** guarantee unto them the **authority** so to do; and without this guarantee faith **could not exist.**”

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“MANY AFFLICTIONS” TO BE HIGHLY FAVORED

“I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father; and having seen **many afflictions** in the course of my **days**, nevertheless, having been **highly favored** of the Lord in **all** my days; yea, having had a **great knowledge** of the **goodness** and the **mysteries** of God, therefore I make a record of my proceedings in my days.”

1 Nephi 1:1



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LEAD BY EXAMPLE

“**Good fathers teach** their sons, and **good sons listen** and **obey**. Teaching is done by **precept** and **example**, and by word and deed. A good **model** is the best teacher. Therefore, a father’s first responsibility is to set the proper **example**. . . .”

Ezra Taft Benson, “Worthy Fathers, Worthy Sons,” General Conference, October 1985

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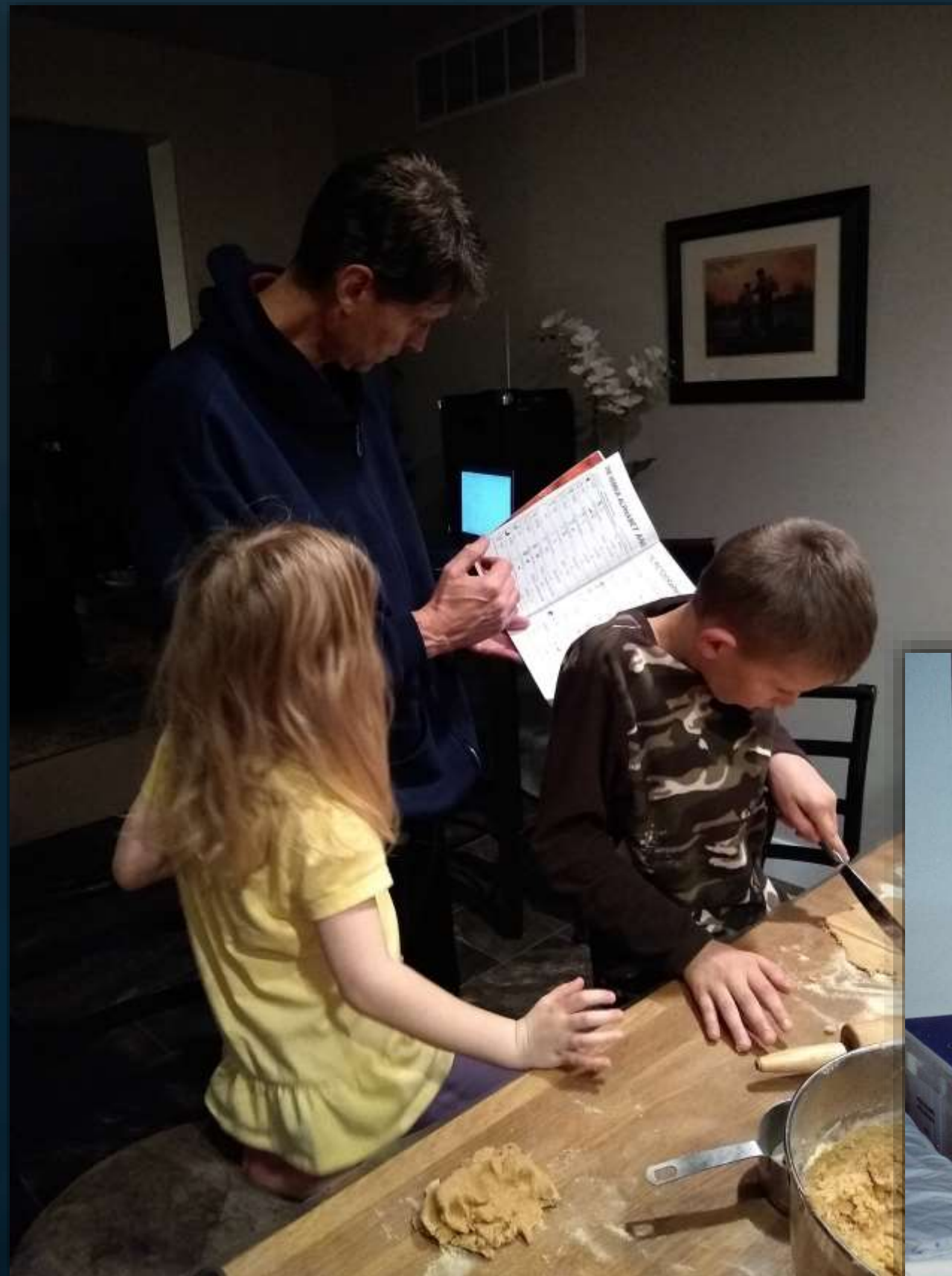
Making "watermelon faces"



Filming a scene for the documentary "Nephites in Europe"

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Building a flagpole for Joseph's birthday



Working together on a Joseph Smith Foundation project as a family

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*"... I had desired to know the things
that my father had seen . . ."* (1 Nephi 11:1)

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TAKE UP THE TORCH & CARRY ON THE LEGACY!

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“I HAVE CHOSEN THE GOOD PART”

“I have spoken these few words unto you all, my sons, in the last days of my probation; and I have **chosen the good part**, according to the words of the prophet. And I have **none other object** save it be the **everlasting welfare** of your **souls**. Amen.”

2 Nephi 2:30

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