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NEWSLETTER ~ JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

OUR FAITH WILL WORK BY LOVE OR IT WILL NOT WORK AT ALL



FROM CHAR'S DESK

It is such a blessing to be able to start another year because I always anticipate what wonderful things God has planned for our ministry. I am so grateful for all the Mormon people He is already beginning to draw and we pray He can use EMFJ to help them on their spiritual journey to Him.

It is so hard to be set free from the bondage of a cult but God has given us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor.5:17-18). It is our prayer that everyone who reads our newsletter will bring a friend or relative to the Center where we can show them the love of Jesus. We also have many tracts, books, DVD's, etc. to help them in their quest for truth. May God bless you in a special way as you begin the New Year of 2015 and may He be glorified in each of our lives!

Jenell's Jots & Tittles

THEN AND NOW

Since its beginnings, Mormonism has proclaimed the Bible to be an untrustworthy book. However, we were pleasantly surprised to read in a recent ENSIGN magazine (an "official" LDS publication) the following article entitled "The Dead Sea Scrolls - Window To The Modern Bible". This article stated:

"Most of the scrolls are severely fragmented because of age and exposure to the elements, but scholars have been able to glean a wealth of information about the scribal practices. The scribes' careful and meticulous work indicates a high level of professionalism and competence as they copied and transmitted sacred

texts from one generation to the next...The Dead Sea Scrolls stand as a witness that the Old Testament has been passed down through the centuries with a respectable degree of accuracy..." ("The Ensign", Dec.2014, p.61, my emphasis)

Christians have always tried to share this undeniable fact of the Bible's accuracy with Mormons with little or no success. We wonder if they will believe it now that it comes from their church? And even if they do, what about the vicious lies of the past that they have been brain-washed with? Following is a small sample of this:

"The Bible of the Old World has come to us from the manuscripts of antiquity—manuscripts which passed through the hands of uninspired men who changed many parts to suit their own doctrinal ideas. Deletions were common, and, as it now stands, many plain and precious portions and many covenants of the Lord have been lost. As a consequence, those who rely upon it alone stumble and are confused..." ("The Ensign", Dec.1985, p.55, my emphasis).

(Continued on p.2)

ALL GIFTS DONATED TO EMFJ ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED AS WELL AS YOUR PRAYERS FOR THIS MINISTRY

"Unlike the Bible, which passed through generations of copyists, translators, and corrupt religionists who tampered with the text, the Book of Mormon came from writer to reader in just one inspired step of translation." ("The Ensign", Oct.2011, p.55, my

emphasis).

Now, because of modern technology, access to truth regarding almost any subject can be found at our fingertips. This must cause concern for the LDS leadership so it seems an about-face was in order. However, we wonder what they will do about their own scripture that disagrees with their “Dead Sea Scrolls” article of Dec.14? First Nephi 13:26-28 states:

*“...for behold, they have taken away from the **gospel of the Lamb** many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away. And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord...Wherefore, thou seest that after the book (referring to the Bible as the introduction to this chapter states) hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, **that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God.**” (My emphasis)*

That Book of Mormon scripture was written between 600 and 592 B.C. One might wonder how the “gospel of the Lamb” could be polluted before the Lamb or His gospel were even recorded in the New Testament. Nevertheless, we can see that this BOM scripture tries to discredit the Bible and say it is not to be trusted which again disagrees with the above LDS “Dead Sea Scrolls” article. There is an overwhelming amount of evidence to show that the original teachings of the apostles and prophets of the Bible were preserved. True Christians don’t attack the Bible, they revere it as God’s Word. Jesus said: *“Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.”* (John 17:17).

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Don't use the Bible to win arguments
Use it to win souls
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A RECIPE FOR DECEPTION

1. Mix the following ingredients well:

ONE CHARISMATIC (but false) PROPHET WHO SERVES FALSE GODS -

“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;” (Deut.13:1-2)

ONE ANGEL OF LIGHT (Moroni will do) DELIVERING FALSE SCRIPTURE -

“...for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.” (2 Cor.11:4)

THOUSANDS OF MORMON MISSIONARIES (who will not be up front about their beliefs) -

“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.” (2 Cor.11:13). *“...there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies...”* (2 Pet.2:1)

ONE OF EACH: ANOTHER JESUS, ANOTHER SPIRIT, ANOTHER GOSPEL -

“For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.” (2 Cor.11:4)

ONE GOD MADE IN MAN’S IMAGE -

“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man...” (Rom .1:22-23)

2. Stir and add into the above mixture:

PLENTY OF SEDUCING SPIRITS & DEVILISH DOCTRINES -

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith,

giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;” (1 Tim.4:1)

THE “FLESH & BONE” GOD OF MORMONISM

WHIP INTO SUBMITTING TO BLIND TRUST FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP -

“Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.” (Jer.17:5)

BAKE FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME WITHOUT TESTING -

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)

3. After cooled, sprinkle with:

A FALSE HOPE IN OBTAINING GODHOOD -

“Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath; there is none else.” (Deut.4:39)

YIELDS FIFTEEN MILLION PLUS DECEIVED PEOPLE (caution, may cause eternal damnation)

CITATIONS OF CONCERN (From LDS Leaders)

“If you want to see the light of heaven, if you want to feel the inspiration of Almighty God, if you want to have that feeling within your bosom that your Heavenly Father is guiding you, then follow the prophets of God. When you follow the prophets, you will be in safe territory.” (“The Ensign”, January 2015, p.5).

If only this was referring to the prophetic word of the Bible instead of the Mormon prophets, we could readily agree with that advice. However, the Bible warns us: *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” (Matt.7:15)*

An article in a Mormon publication stated: *“One foundational gospel truth about the body is the principle that having a physical body is a godlike attribute—you are more like God with a body than without. **Our religion stands virtually alone in believing that God has a tangible body of flesh and bone and that our bodies were literally created in His likeness...**” (July ‘05 “Ensign”, p.14, my emphasis).*

This is a critical topic for Mormons because Joseph Smith claimed that the Father and Son both appeared to him in his “First Vision” experience. If the opposite could be proven (i.e God is Spirit), then Joseph Smith, their founding leader, could not have *seen* Him and would be exposed as a false prophet, thus the foundation of Mormonism crumbles! The Mormon Apostle John A. Widtsoe made this comment: *“The First Vision of 1820 is of first importance in the history of Joseph Smith. **Upon its reality rest the truth and value of his subsequent work.**” (“Joseph Smith—Seeker After Truth”, p.19, my emphasis). And we certainly agree!*

In trying to prove their point, a scripture Mormons like to use is Genesis 1:26: *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”*. They say, “see, man is flesh and bone and we are made in God’s image so it proves God is also flesh and bone”. However, Col.1:15, speaking of Jesus, says: *“Who is the **image** of the **invisible** God...”*. So we see that “image” is not speaking of a physical likeness. Being created in God’s image means that humans share, although imperfectly and finitely, in His communicable attributes (truth, wisdom, love, justice, etc.). Also see Col.3:10 for more insight on this.

Mormons also like to use scriptures such as Ex.33:11: *“And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend...”*. But Moses talking to God “face to face” cannot be taken to mean that God actually has a physical face. In telling of Moses’ great faith, Heb.11:27 tells us:

“...he endured, **as** seeing him who is invisible.” “Face to face” is simply a Hebrew way of indicating that Moses’ contact with God was personal, direct, and intimate (see Num.12:7-8). Ex.33:18-19 also sheds important light on this scripture. In the next verse, Ex.33:20, God said, *Thou canst not see my face; for there shall be **no man** see me, and live.*”. Pretty clear I would say!

There are other places in the Bible where anthropomorphic language metaphorically attributes human characteristics to God (hands, finger, eyes, arm, etc.). However, none of these should be taken literally. Ps.91:4 is a good example of metaphorical language. It speaks of God having “feathers” and “wings”, yet we would not envision Him as a giant bird.

Although God can manifest Himself anyway He chooses, the flesh and bone God the Mormons believe in is not to be found in the Bible. Along with the above scriptures, 1 Tim.1:17 tells us He is invisible. John 1:18, 6:46, 1 Tim.6:16 and 1 John 4:12 also tells us **no man** has seen God. John 4:24 tells us He is Spirit and Luke 24:39 tells us that “a spirit does not have flesh and bone”. Finally, in Matt.16:17, Jesus Himself tells us that the Father is not “flesh”. We hope you will lovingly share this truth with the Mormons you know so that they may come to realize that Joseph Smith was not a true prophet of God and seek the one and only True God of the Bible.

E-MAILS

From J.G. - *“Our son is married to a Mormon and we are afraid he has secretly at least taken the appearance of being one. How can we help both of them turn to and live for Jesus?”*

Our Answer: *“Thanks for contacting our ministry. In our experience, many people do become Mormons through marriage. How long has your son been married? Many who convert to Mormonism are not taught the deeper doctrines of Mormonism right away, and this would be a good time to provide your son with information from a Christian viewpoint so that he can at least make an informed decision.*

Also, keep him and his wife in prayer and encourage them to read the Bible. We have some free resources we can mail you, including a DVD showing the differences between Biblical Christianity and Mormonism...”

From a Mormon: *“I’m sure you get this a lot, but you do realize that the bulk of your “proof” for your position is from documents that are not church doctrine or canonized, right? When McConkie wrote “Mormon Doctrine” he did it as a private citizen and the church asked him to change the title to avoid confusion, such as you seem to be having. Journal of Discourses as well is not canonized doctrine, and in the early days of the church, there was much influx...”*

Our Answer: *“...Are you aware that Brother McConkie documented almost everything in his book from canonized sources? Are you also aware that the Church uses quotes from the Journal of Discourses in their Manuals put out by the Corporation of the President of the LDS Church and also in the official church magazine, The Ensign? I don’t know who told you that these documents are not Church doctrine, but they are deceiving you because the Church uses them!*

Because Mormons have often told me the same thing you said, I called the Anaheim Mission and spoke to a Brother Olson...He said, ‘Sister, I don’t believe you could read anything in Brother McConkie’s book that we don’t believe.’”

_____SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

We hold monthly support group meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Our guest speaker on February 10th will be Elaine Scott who is an ex-Mormon.

There will be a question and answer time after the lesson followed by refreshments. All are welcome – those who have a burden to reach the Mormons, those who want to learn more, those who need support, and the Mormons themselves. The address is 240 W. Chapman Avenue in Orange and we look forward to seeing you there.

