

## SYLVIA'S CORNER

### IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

In the eighth Article of Faith Mormons claim the Bible to be the Word of God insofar as it is translated correctly. On the other hand, their standard works, the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price, are accepted in their entirety even though they were written in the 1800's in English.

We might want to ask ourselves why, if their books are so correct, are there 3913 changes in the Book of Mormon alone? When I was taking the Missionary lessons and investigating the Mormon Church, I was told that the Bible was written by men. They said that it had been passed down through the generations, thus altering the text.

Wait a minute! There are no original ancient texts but we do have ancient texts-- even if they're not the first. There are actually 14,000 manuscripts of the Bible. And thanks to the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, we now have a duplication of the manuscript of the book of Isaiah that is 99 2/3% the same as the Bible version.

I questioned those missionaries about adding to the Bible by using other Mormon standard works. I cited a scripture verse in the Book of Revelation 22:18, which says that the plagues from that book would come upon anyone who adds to it. That's when they told me that this statement referred to the book of Revelation only. Actually, I found out that they were right on that one. (However Joseph Smith added to this book also in the Inspired version.)

I found out later that there are other verses that talk about adding to God's Word in both the Old and New Testament. For instance, in Deuteronomy 4:2 it says "Ye shall not add to the Word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you. This is repeated in Deuteronomy 12:32." Then in Ecclesiastes 3:14 it says, "I know that whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever - nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it: and God doeth it that men should fear before him."

Let's go back again to look at the Mormon statement - insofar as it is translated correctly. We should be asking the question, translated by whom? The prophet? The Church leaders?

In Mormon Doctrine p. 650, Bruce R McConkie states that "the Spirit is giving direct and daily revelation to

the presiding Brethren." We need to ask: what spirit they are talking about. The Bible tells us to test the spirits in 1 John 4:1.

Joseph F. Smith, the 6th President of the Mormon Church, was interviewed once by a Senator Dubois. In that interview, he claimed never to have received revelations from God. So who, we must ask ourselves, translates the scriptures correctly for Mormons? Prophets? Leaders?

Well, our God has something to say about that! In 1 Cor 14:37 it reads, "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord." Think about it! This disqualifies Mormon leaders already. Remember, they say that the Bible is written by men and needs to be translated correctly. God is saying that the Words written in the Bible are the commandments of the Lord and the prophet or spiritual leader to acknowledge that. Let's ask ourselves if Mormon leaders match up!

In the Amplified Bible -- a Bible which is true to the Hebrew and Greek -- it says in verse 38 of I Corinthians. "But if anyone disregards or does not recognize { that it is a command of the Lord }, he is disregarded and not recognized. { He is one whom God knows not }" Again in John 10:35, Jesus says that "the scripture cannot be broken."

In I Corinthians 4:6, it cautions us "not to think of men beyond that which is written." That tells us that man's word should not be accepted if it goes against what is written in the Bible. That passage goes on to say, "that no one of you be puffed up for one against another." That would be pride! In 2 Timothy 3:16 it says that all scripture (meaning the Bible, because Mormon books hadn't been written yet) is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Here's more proof that we don't need prophets to interpret scripture. In Hebrews 1:1 it reads, "God who at sundry times and divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things by whom also he made the worlds"

See, He speaks to us through the record of His Son now. That's the Bible. We don't need prophets to interpret what is written. In I Peter 1:25, it reads, "But the Word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." Just think! It endureth forever. In regard to the Bible we must not pick and choose anything, nor should we believe anything that is not in this book. If it does not line up with the Bible, throw it out! It's our standard by which we should

judge everything a so-called leader says or writes. It is our measuring stick!

This is confirmed in 2 Peter 1:20. There, it says "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." In the next verse, verse 21, it reads, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." So there you have it. The Bible always has the answers. Next time someone tells you that the Bible has errors, ask them to show you one. And if they tell you that the Bible needs to be translated correctly, show them these scriptures. The answers are always there.