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THE BOOK OF MORMON AND INSPIRATION

Use This

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I. INTRODUCTION

In the religious world today there are many books which claim to be inspired. However, it is not good enough to claim inspiration - this must be proved. Certain things would be the case if a treatise is inspired. We will ~~get into~~ ^{consider} these a little later in our paper.

Let us take a look at the book of Mormon, which is supposed to be an inspired book, or writing; if this be true, then all men every- where are subject to it. We agree with "Apostle" Orson Pratt when he said:

"The book of Mormon must be either true or false...If false it is one of the most cunning, wicked, bold, deep-laid impositions ever palmed upon the world; calculated to deceive and ruin millions, who will sincerely receive it as the word of God and will suppose themselves securely built upon the rock of truth until they plunged with their families, into hopeless despair. The nature of the book of Mormon is such that, if true, no one can possibly be saved and reject it; if false, no one can possibly be saved and receive it. (Emphasis mine. - WS). Therefore, every soul in all the world is equally interested in ascertaining its truth or falsity... If, after rigid examination, it be found an imposition, it should be extensively published to the world as such. The evidence and arguments upon which the imposture was detected should be clearly and logically stated, that those who have been sincerely, yet unfortunately, deceived may perceive the nature of the deception, and be reclaimed, and that those who continue to publish the delusion may be exposed and silenced."¹

Mr. Pratt said: (1) If the book of Mormon is false no one can be saved if he receives it; (2) if the book of Mormon is true, that no one can be saved if he rejects it; (3) if the book of Mormon is false that this information should be broadcast far and wide so that all might be reclaimed, who believed in the book of Mormon; (4) that those who publish this material should be exposed.

If the book of Mormon were inspired, it should be perfect. Why?

¹Orson Platt. Introduction to Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon.
pp 124, 125.

Because (1) the plates were inspired; (2) the translation was inspired, therefore, not one word should be wrong, anywhere. The question is: will the book of Mormon live up to its claim? The answer is an emphatic "no!" They have made many revisions within the book of Mormon. Why? It is supposed to be perfect.

The Bible is "Blood bought," Matt. 26:28; it was to be confirmed by miracles, MK. 16:17-20; it has been confirmed by miracles, Heb. 2:1-4. Miracles have ceased, I Cor. 13:8-13. Therefore, there would be no more revelation.

Again, the Bible is covered by the Blood of Jesus. Heb. 9:13-28. We ask, where is the blood that covers the book of Mormon? This book is not Blood covered, therefore, cannot be inspired. Every commandment in the New Testament is covered with the precious Blood of Jesus. But not one commandment in the book of Mormon is Blood covered.

One might argue that not all of Christ's Will has been given; we can see this is false from these verses: Jude 3; 2 Pet. 1:3; Acts 20:27. In view of the aforementioned, all of the Will of God that was/is Blood covered had been revealed. So one of the strongest arguments against the book of Mormon is that the Blood of Jesus does not cover its pages; therefore, cannot be authoritative.

The writer presented the above argument to two Mormons. What was their response? They concluded that the blood of Joseph Smith covered the book of Mormon. This will not do - it takes the Blood of Jesus to forgive sins and to make scriptures (today) authoritative. Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:16,17.

II. MORMON INSPIRATION IMPOSSIBLE

In this section of our paper we want to prove that Mormon Inspiration is (was) impossible. According to the Bible, inspiration comes from God to Christ; from Christ to the Holy Spirit; from the Holy

Spirit to men. John 16:13-15. This being true, we now want to point out why Mormon inspiration is impossible: (1) Their God is not big enough! Here are some quotes from the works of Mormons to show their concept of God:

"Gods, angels and men are all of one species, one race, one great family, widely diffused among the planetary systems, as colonies, kingdoms, nations, etc."²

"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man... It is necessary that we should understand the character and being of God, and how he came to be so; for I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and will take away and do away with the vail so that you may see...

God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did...And you have to learn how to be Gods yourselves."³

"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as a man's; the Son also: but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones - is a personage of spirit."⁴

Please notice the kind of God the Mormons have:

- (1) Not eternal
- (2) Flesh and bones
- (3) Lived on an earth at one time
- (4) Was at one time as we are now
- (5) He came to be God (He had to grow into it)

This kind of God cannot give perfect revelation. Furthermore, this is not the God of the Bible. John 4:23,24; Psalms 90:2.

The Mormons find themselves in an unenviable position: they have made a God out of a man and, therefore, their God and their revelation will not suffice for neither can be perfect.

²Key to Theology, p 23.

³Joseph Smith, Jr., in: Sermon in Nauvoo, April 6, 1844.

⁴Doctrine and Covenants 130:22 (Accepted as inspired by L.D.S.)

(2) Their Christ is not holy enough.

We have already demonstrated the fact thast their God is not big enough to produce Divine revelation. Now, we shall show that their Christ is not holy enough to produce Divine, perfect revelation:

First, their Christ was created.

"As God the Father begat the fleshly body of Jesus, so he, before the world began, begat his spirit. As the body required an earthly mother, so his spirit required a heavenly mother. As God associated in the capacity of a husband with the earthly mother, so likewise he associated in the same capacity with the heavenly one."⁵

According to the Mormons, God is not eternal. Now we see that Christ also is finite. "Apostle" Orson Hyde said, in Sermon 3:

"We say it was Jesus Christ who was married (at Cana to the Marys and Martha) whereby he could see His seed before H was crucified."⁶

Here we see the Mormons involving Jesus Christ in polygamy. Now, the question must be asked: is this right? At this time we will appeal to the book of Mormon:

"But the Word of God burthens me because of your grosser crimes. For behold, Thus saith the Lord: This people begin to wax iniquity; they understand not the scriptures, for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were within concerning David, and Solomon his son. Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord...For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none; for I the Lord God delight in the Chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me...for they shall not commit whoredoms, like unto them of Old."⁷

Here is another quote from the book of Mormon:

"Behold, the Lamanites, your brethren whom ye hate because of their filthiness and the cursing which hath come upon

⁵The Seer, pp 158,159.

⁶Orson Hyde in: Sermon 3.

⁷Jacob 2:33,27,28,31.

their skins are more righteous than you; for they have not forgotten the commandment of the Lord, which was given unto our Fathers - that they should have save it were one wife, and concubines they should have none, and there should be no whoredoms committed among them."⁸

Notice all the condemnations that are placed on one for having more than one wife. Yet, they say Christ had more than one wife. Therefore, He committed whoredom, did that which was abominable in the sight of God - He sinned.

In view of the above, their concept of Christ will not allow Him to be the author of Divine revelation. We continue to look for someone who can give the Mormons their "inspired" revelations.

(3) The Mormons' concept of the Holy Spirit will not allow Divine inspiration.

The Latter Day Saints contend that the Holy Spirit is not a person, but nothing more than matter refined to the highest degree.

We read:

"But the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us."⁹

Note as we read again:

"There is no such thing as immaterial matter. All spirit is matter, but it is more fine or pure, and can only be discerned by purer eyes."¹⁰

The foregoing statements are bad enough, but you have not heard anything yet:

"The Holy Spirit is in a class with magnetism or electricity. He is a Divine fluid, composed of material atoms or particles, or in other words an impersonal energy or cosmic force through which God acts."¹¹

⁸Jacob 3:5

⁹Doctrine and Covenant 130:22,23

¹⁰Doctrine and Covenant 131:7

¹¹Key to Science and Theology, p 29

According to the aforementioned quotes, the following facts can be drawn about the Holy Spirit:

(1) Has not a body of flesh and bones. (Keep in mind that God and Christ do according to the Mormons).

(2) Is a personage of a spirit. (This does not ~~mean~~ ^{MEAN} he is a person as we shall see later).

(3) All spirit is matter, but is more pure and fine.

(4) The Holy Spirit is in a class with magnetism or electricity.

(5) He is a Divine fluid.

(6) He is an impersonal energy or force.

(7) God works through this force.

We have already shown that their God (the Mormons') is not the God of the Bible. Therefore, he is not able to work through the Holy Spirit. Thus, no revelation, no inspiration. So, their concept of the Godhead is totally false, making revelation impossible.

(4) Their Prophet is False.

We have proven that the Godhead, in which the Mormons trust, is incapable of giving revelation. Now, we want to show that their prophet is false. At this point, we are only going to give one illustration of this - there are many. We shall give some others in the section entitled "The Bible versus the book of Mormon."

Joseph Smith made this prophesy:

"In this land, which is the land of Missouri, which is the land which I have appointed and consecrated for the gathering of the saints. Wherefore, this is the land Zion...Behold, the place which is now called independence, is the center place and a spot for the temple is lying westward, upon a lot which is not far from a lot which is not far from the court house."¹²

¹²Doctrine and Covenant 57:1-3

Joseph Smith made this prophetic utterance; he said it would happen in that generation. Doc. and ^{TRINE} ~~COV~~^{EVANT} 84:4,5. That generation has come and gone but the temple is in Salt Lake City, Utah; thus, Joseph Smith is a false prophet.

(5) Their Witnesses are Insufficient.

Why does one need a witness to an inspired writing? If God speaking to a man, plus the internal and external evidences, are not enough to prove its authenticity, then what would? How can uninspired men attest to something that is "beyond" them?

Most of the witnesses denied their first testimony; so, there goes their credibility.

None could translate the plates save Joseph Smith; none could understand the plates save Joseph Smith; so, how could one verify that Joseph's work was true or false just by seeing the plates?

Think about this in respect to the translation and the witnesses:

"But the Lord knoweth the things which we have written, and also that none other people knoweth our language; therefore, he hath prepared means for the interpretation thereof."¹³

If no one knew the language, and if it took Divine revelation to translate the plates, then all the human testimony one wants to give would prove nothing.

So, there go the witnesses; the book of Mormon is without any foundation at all.

(6) The Writings of the Mormons Contradict One Another.

We are not going to spend much time on this point. If I can find just one such place, then my point will be established; however, there are many.

¹³Mormon 9:34

In Jacob 2:23,27,28,31, the book of Mormon says that plural marriage is wrong - sinful and abominable in the sight of God. But, in Doctrine and Covenants 132,37,38 it says that David and Solomon did not sin by having many wives.

The book of Mormon says just the opposite about David and Solomon. Both books are supposed to be inspired, thus we can see that they contradict one another. The so-called "inspiration" of the Mormons "goes down the drain."

Let us conclude this section by reviewing why Mormon inspiration is false:

- (1) Their God is not big enough.
- (2) Their Christ is not holy enough.
- (3) The Mormons' concept of the Holy Spirit will not allow Divine inspiration.
- (4) Their prophet is false.
- (5) Their witnesses are insufficient.
- (6) The writings of the Mormons contradict one another.

We could stop right here and Mormonism would have been proven to be false, but we shall reveal much more, which will demonstrate the falsity of Mormonism.

III. THE MORMON BIBLE PREPARES YOU FOR ITS MISTAKES

The Bible is a book given by the inspiration of God.

"All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works."¹⁴

Here, the Bible affirms its inspiration and tells all the good

¹⁴II TIM. 3:16,17

things the Word of God can do for man. Not one time does the Bible apologize or prepare man for its mistakes or insufficiencies; however, the book of Mormon does prepare mankind for all of its mistakes.

Let's point out again the book of Mormon should be perfect because the plates were supposed to be inspired, then Joseph Smith was inspired in translating them; therefore, one ought to have a perfect book:

"Do not murmur my son, for it is wisdom in me that I have dealt with you after this manner. Behold, you have not understood; you have supposed that I would give it unto you, when you took no thought save it was to ask me. But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right. But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings, but you shall have a stupor of thought that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong; therefore, you cannot write that which is sacred save it be given you from me."¹⁵

From the quote above we see that Joseph Smith could write only that which was sacred. However, when we come to the book of Mormon we are prepared for its mistakes. We find this quote in the preface to the book of Mormon:

"And now, if there are faults they are mistakes of men; wherefore condemn not the things of God, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment Seat of Christ."¹⁶

How can one put trust in a book which is supposed to be inspired, when at the very beginning it starts by talking about faults which might be found.

IV MORMON BIBLE DOES NOT ENCOURAGE AN INVESTIGATION

The Bible says, "Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good." I Thess. 5:21. It also says, "try the spirits to see if they be of "God,"

¹⁵Doctrine and Covenants 9:6-9

¹⁶Book of Mormon

I John 4:1. The Bereans were commended for searching the scriptures. Acts 17:11.

Joseph Smith first realized that most people would affirm they "already have a Bible."

"Thou fool that shall say: A Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible...wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused not to be written."¹⁷

Why one confronts the Mormons and begs for proof of the inspiration of the book of Mormon, they have none; their standard for inspiration is totally subjective.

"And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost."¹⁸

This standard is strictly subjective. Plus, we have shown, given their concept of the Godhead, that God, Christ, nor the Holy Spirit would be able to do the above.

Shall we check the writing of Ellen G. White, Charles Taze Russell or Mary Baker Eddy the same way? We could never come to any conclusions approaching the problem that way. In our next section we want to deal with the problem, "How do we test a book to see if it is inspired?"

V. HOW DO WE TEST A BOOK TO SEE IF IT IS INSPIRED?

What will, or will not, prove a book or writing to be inspired?

¹⁷ 2 Nephi 29:6,10

¹⁸ Moroni 10:4

Surely there are some tests to which we could subject any piece of literature to determine if it is of Divine origin! Otherwise, we would be in a mass sea of confusion concerning any treatise claiming to be of Divine origin.

Here is the only argument which will prove inspiration for any writing: we will make this argument in respect to the Bible:

1. If it is the case that the Bible possesses property "A", property "B", property "C"...property "Z" (where the total situation involved in having such properties makes it clear that the Bible is beyond mere human production) then the Bible is the Word of God.

2. It is the case that the Bible possesses property "A", property "B", property "C"....property "Z".

3. Conclusion: Therefore, the Bible is the Word of God.¹⁹

Notice, from this argument that a writing must contain properties (A-Z) which would prove Divine origin. What are these properties? Here are a few:

- "1. It would have to be capable of being understood.
2. It would have to be consistent with itself - that is, not self-contradictory.
3. It would have to be consistent with known facts from the various fields of learning, such as Archaeology, Science, Reason (Historical), and other.
4. It would have to be consistent with its claim to be a supernatural revelation - that is, show undoubted marks of its supernatural origin such as prophecy,
5. It would have to be adapted to man's spiritual and religious needs.
6. It would have to survive the most energetic and sustained attacks against its accuracy, integrity of text, and existence.
7. It would have to promote a high code of ethics.
8. It would undoubtedly attain a supreme position among literary products.
9. It would claim universal authority among all nations."²⁰

¹⁹Thomas Warren. The Bible is God's Word -The Basic Argument For This Claim. In: Harding Graduate School Lectures, 1971, pp 17,18.

²⁰Jim McGuiggan. Quoted by Bert Thompson in: Christian Apologetics and Christian Evidences. p 47.

We have already demonstrated how the book of Mormon has failed many of these already. We shall point out in the next section of our paper how it (book of Mormon) will fail many more, thus proving it to be from men and not from God!

VI. BIBLE VERSUS THE BOOK OF MORMON

1. Bethlehem Versus Jerusalem.

Where was the Christ born? The prophets said that He would be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:1,2. The New Testament says He was born in Bethlehem. Matt. 2:1,5,6; however, the book of Mormon missed this simple truth by saying that "Jesus was born in Jerusalem." Alma 7:10.

Thus, the historical accuracy of the book of Mormon is distorted; we might say that "the credibility of that book was demolished by the manger."

2. Name Christian.

In Alma 46:15 people are called Christians. "The book of Mormon has them having already taken the name Christian 73 years before Christ was born, 106 years before He died and some 116 years before the Bible says the disciples were first called Christian, Acts 11:26."²¹

So, the book of Mormon is wrong again, proving it is not inspired!

3. Baptism For The Dead.

The book of Mormon teaches that man must prepare for eternity in this life. Alma 34:32-35; Alma 42:10,13. Then, they turn around and baptize people for the dead! Why? If all preparation is to be done in this life, then why baptize anyone in the place of another who has already died?

²¹John Waddey, Searching the Scriptures. J. C. Chonte Publications, Winona, Mississippi, 1974, p 171.

We might put it this way: If baptism for the dead is a true doctrine, then the book of Mormon is false; Alma 34:32-35. If the book of Mormon is true, then baptism for the dead is a false doctrine. Either way, Mormonism is proven to be false; and the book of Mormon proven to be uninspired!

4. Plural Marriages.

We have covered this already under another point. They condemn plural marriage in Jacob 2:23,27,28,31; 3:5. However, they come along in another of their "inspired" books and condemn it, "Doctrine and Covenants", 132:37.

It doesn't take a Solomon to see that something is wrong - two so-called inspired works contradicting one another. This, again, proves the book of Mormon to be a fraud!

5. Sin Brings Joy.

Did you know that there would be no joy without sin? Who says? The book of Mormon! Can you believe such a thing? This is taught in 2 Nephi 2:22-25 and Pearl of Great Price. Moses 5:10,11. Compare those writings with what the Bible says in Gen. 1:28; 3:24; Rom. 5:12; I Cor. 15:22. How far will people go in the "opposite direction" to try to hold on to false writings?

6. Mixture of Dates of Men.

The Mormons claim that the Doctrine and Covenants is also inspired. In that writing they mix up historical men such as Jethro, Caleb, Elihu, God, Esaias. 84:6-13. Some of these men are hundreds of years out of their time. This is the kind of "inspiration" that gave them the book of Mormon!

7. The Lord's Supper.

Paul condemned the brethren at Corinth for making a common meal out of the Lord's Supper. I Cor. 11:18-34. But the book of Mormon has

Jesus making a meal out of it. 3 Nephi 18:1-9. The book of Mormon keeps failing every test of inspiration!

8. Smith Versus Peter.

Peter, on the day of Pentecost, said Joel's prophecy was fulfilled. Joseph Smith said Joel's prophecy was to be fulfilled soon. (Keep in mind that Smith wrote 1800 years after Simon Peter's statement).

Where did Smith make such an untrue statement? It was in Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith, 2:41. Keep in mind, this is their so-called inspired translation of the book of Mormon.

9. Smith Versus John.

John made it plain that the Lord didn't say he would live unto the second coming of Christ. John 21:21-23. Smith got this all "fouled up" and has John living to the second coming. Doc. and Cov. 7:1-3; 3 Nephi 28:4-17.

You can see that Joseph Smith has made one mistake after another, which should prove to ~~any~~ honest person that Smith was not inspired, thus making the book of Mormon a big fraud! Plus, keep in mind that we have dealt with only a few of the many mistakes he made.

VII. CONCLUSION

Mr. Platt said, "we should examine and then expose, if we find the book of Mormon to be false." We have found it to be false without the shadow of a doubt! And intend to give a lifetime exposing it and other so-called inspired works.

The Bible is the only work which will pass the test of inspiration; it deals with all of the important issues such as:

- (1) Reveals the character of God.
- (2) Reveals man's origin.
- (3) Reveals origin of evil.

(4) Reveals man's purpose on earth.

(5) Reveals man's destiny.

What else do we need to know? Nothing!

The book of Mormon, or no other so-called, inspired writing can tell us anything about living the good life! 2 Pet. 1:3.

They are condemned for being additions. Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18, 19; Deut. 4:2. May God help us always to hold to His Word which is all that we need! Rom. 1:16; John 15:3; Acts 20:32; Psa. 19:7; Heb. 4:12; James 1:21; I Pet. 1:22-25.

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