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The Standard Works

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Abstract: The LDS church accepts four separate works as the standard works—the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. These works are authoritative and set forth revelations of God.

error and based on falsehood is of the devil, the father of all such, and must surely fall; but the truth shall endure.

What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same—Doctrine and Covenants 1:38.

J. E. T.

BIRTHDAY OF COUNCIL OF SEVENTY MEMBER

Elder Joseph W. McMurrin, a member of the First Council of the Seventies and President of the California Mission, was born in Tooele, Utah, September 5th, 1858, and now completes the sixty-ninth year of his life. He was first called upon a colonizing mission to Arizona, at the age of seventeen, and since then much of his life has been devoted to active missionary work. He filled two missions in Great Britain, serving more than six years; and he also spent two and one half years as first counselor to the President of the European Mission.

Elder McMurrin was ordained a Seventy in April, 1884, and was set apart as one of the First Council of the Seventies, January 21st, 1898, under the hands of President Anthon H. Lund, at Liverpool, England. The California Mission has had a period of marked progress under his direction.—RICHARD L. EVANS.

THE STANDARD WORKS

THE ACCEPTANCE of a Book of Mormon by the Town Council and Library Committee for use in the Public Library of Salisbury has recently been the subject of widespread Press comment. The writings have been generally fair, many of them referring to "broadminded Salisbury", and making other impartial observations; but it is obvious that many of the writers have an erroneous conception of the status of the Book of Mormon with respect to the other standard works of the Church. This is shown by the fact that the Book of Mormon is repeatedly referred to as the "Mormon Bible."

Those books accepted as the standard works of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are four, namely: The Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. These are authoritative.

The Bible used by this Church is the King James' Translation, commonly referred to as the Authorized Version, generally accepted by the Protestant churches of the world, and any statement to the effect that the Bible is supplanted by the Book of Mormon in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is based on a gross error.

The Book of Mormon is a sacred record of certain righteous people, remnants of the House of Israel, who at different times were guided by the Lord to the American Continent from the Eastern Hemisphere, and who subsequently became a mighty and highly civilized race, but finally dwindled in unbelief and became degraded. The American Indians of the present day are their descendants. A brief record is also included of the Jaredites, a people earlier led west from the Tower of Babel, who later became extinct. The inspired writing was translated by the Prophet Joseph Smith through the power of God, from plates of gold, the title page of which the Prophet rendered thus :

Wherefore, it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites—Written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile—Written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation—Written and sealed up, and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed—To come forth by the gift and power of God unto the interpretation thereof—Sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by way of the Gentile—The interpretation thereof by the gift of God.

An abridgment taken from the Book of Ether also, which is a record of the people of Jared, who were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people, when they were building a tower to get to heaven—Which is to show unto the remnant of the House of Israel what great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever—And also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations—And now, if there are faults they are the mistakes of men; wherefore, condemn not the things of God, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment-seat of Christ.

The Book of Mormon in no instance contradicts the doctrines set forth either within its own covers or in the Bible. On the contrary, each of these two scriptural records corroborates and strengthens the testimony of the other. The last chapter of the western record promises sure knowledge of its truthfulness to all who will read it with a sincere heart and real intent, asking God that they may know, and having faith in Christ. Its genuineness is attested by eleven witnesses, three of whom, Martin Harris, David Whitmer and Oliver Cowdery, were shown the gold plates by an angel of God who bore witness to them of the divine authenticity of the book. Although each of these three later became estranged from the Church, two only returning, they verified their testimonies throughout their lives.

The Doctrine and Covenants, as at present constituted, contains revelations given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, between September 21st, 1823, and July 12th, 1843, for the organization and guidance of the Church, and for the building up of the kingdom

of God in these latter days; and some additions by his successors in the Presidency of the Church are also included. These revelations were compiled into book form by divine commandment.

The Pearl of Great Price contains a selection of revelations, narrations, and translations of Joseph Smith, dealing with varied subjects.

In short, as is stated in the Articles of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

We believe the Bible to be the word of God, as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

In other words, in line with both the letter and the spirit of all scripture, and contrary to the teachings of the churches of men, in the language of the Prophet Amos recorded in the Bible we declare to all the world:

Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

R. L. E.

FROM THE NORTHLAND

MEMBERS of the Church in Oslo and Drammen, Norway, will long remember the goodness of the Lord in enabling President James E. Talmage to visit with them in Norway from August 19th to 23rd, inclusive.

At a Priesthood meeting held on the evening of August 20th, President Talmage appealed to the brethren to miss no opportunity of presenting the Gospel to their unenlightened fellow-workmen and associates so that these will not rise on the day of judgment and say: You knew that the Gospel was restored; you knew the great joy and peace it was giving to you; why did you not make it known to me? I might have been a little obstinate or I might have shown a little ridicule, but you should have overlooked that and persisted in my hearing your message. Now I am deprived of those blessings that you have obtained, and we can no longer associate together.

There was a large attendance at the Sunday School on August 21st, at which President Talmage spoke. He urged parents to be most considerate of the children that the Lord has placed in their care. He said that we did not know but what the spirits of those children were older than those of their parents, and that with proper training they might become mighty in Israel. He admonished parents to live so that every word and act would be worthy of emulation.

There was an attendance of three hundred and ninety-seven at