



Type: Magazine Article

The Uniting of the Scriptures

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Source: *The Latter-Day Saints' Millennial Star*, Vol. 101, No. 26 (29 June 1939)

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

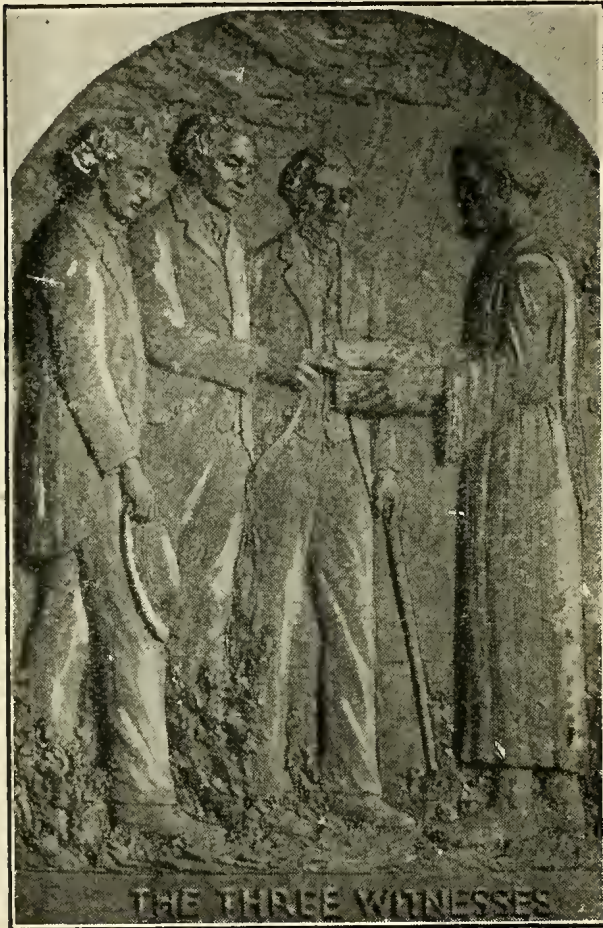
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Abstract: This article is an address quoting Moroni's title page, the testimony of the Three Witnesses, Ezekiel 37:15-20, 1 Nephi 29:8, Nephi's vision of the latter days, and various prophecies about the Jews. McConkie exhorts listeners to repent and serve God. He shows how the Book of Mormon and other latter-day scriptures complement the Bible and provide the fullness of the gospel.

The Uniting Of The Scriptures

By ELDER OSCAR W. McCONKIE

UPON the flyleaf of the Book of Mormon is written: "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 prophesy 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."



Plaque on The Hill Cumorah Monument

Here are a few lines of the testimony of the three witnesses to this record:

"And we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of God, for his voice hath declared it unto us; wherefore we know of a surety that the work is true. And we also testify that we have seen the engravings which are upon the plates; and they have been shown unto us by God, and not of man. And we declare with words of soberness, that an angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings thereon; and we know that it is by the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, that we beheld and bear record that these things are true." Then the three witnesses signed their names, after giving further testimony of the divinity of this record. We have other witnesses who saw the plates and who examined the characters thereon. By the gift and power of God it was made manifest to eight other witnesses, and they have also given us their witness as to the truthfulness of the record.

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Now, two of these three original witnesses were excommuni-

cated from the Church. They found themselves out of harmony with the leaders. Some of the eight witnesses also found themselves out of harmony at times, with the leadership of the Church. But at no time did any of them ever deny the testimony which they had given that God had shown unto them this record, and that He had made it manifest unto them through the Holy Ghost and also by His own voice, and by the voice of angels from on high.

We have been told that there was a conspiracy among these men, and that they had become so depraved as to be willing to join in the commission of high crime. But conspiracy is buttressed upon deceit and falsehood and fraud and cannot endure the light of truth. Those who have charged these men with a conspiracy have paid a high intellectual tribute to them, because never at any time in all the history of the world has there been a group of men so intellectual and so powerful as to effect such a momentous conspiracy upon mankind and have it endure. The light of truth when thrown upon conspiracy always reveals the falsehood of it, and the fraud of it, but all the wisdom of men has not been able to find one error in the Nephite record; has not been able to point to one falsehood in the Book of Mormon, or to one falsehood in the testimony that these men gave of it. So I say that it is a high tribute that has been paid to these men, to charge that they could work so great a fraud as has been claimed that they did work upon all the intellectuality of all the world. Such a thing has never been done before and cannot be done at this time.

I want to read to you also the testimony of Ezekiel:

"The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying,
"Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes." (Ez. 37: 15-20)

This is a very plain declaration of the uniting of the holy scriptures as they were kept and recorded upon the eastern hemisphere, the Jewish records, with the holy scriptures as they were kept and recorded on the western hemisphere, the Book of Mormon.

Relative to the testimony of these two nations. Nephi had the following to say:

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Q: Was the manifesto, which discontinued the practice of plural marriage, a revelation from God?

A: The manifesto, issued in 1890 and adopted by the Church in conference assembled, was not a revelation but was a statement drawn up by the leaders of the Church, based upon a revelation from God given to President Wilford Woodruff. The Church has not repudiated the principle of plural marriage but, in obedience to a divine commandment, has suspended its operation.

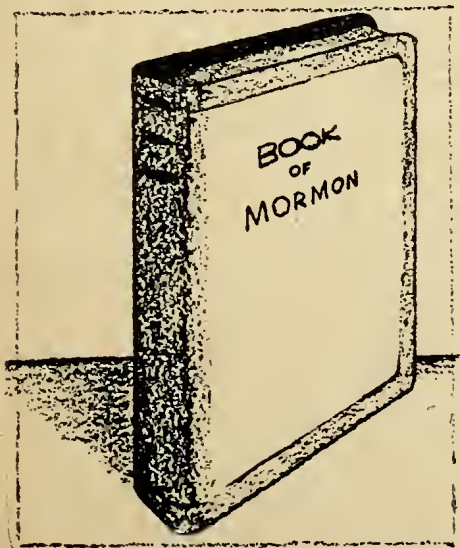
Q: What are some of the scientific truths which were taught by the Prophet Joseph Smith?

A: Although Joseph Smith was not a scientist, through the inspiration of the Lord he was able to give to the world many truths of a scientific nature. He taught that matter and energy are indestructible. He suggested the presence of a universal ether which controlled the operation of all natural phenomena. He called it the Holy Spirit. He taught that all heavenly bodies are in motion, that they move in great clusters or systems, and that many of them are inhabited by beings like ourselves. He taught that spirit was matter of a refined nature, and that man's spiritual body was organized long before his earthly body. He taught the injurious effects of alcohol and tobacco and other stimulants long before physicians and bio-chemists were ready to agree with him. In all his teachings, he was ahead of his times, and even today the scientific and religious world cannot fully grasp the truth and sublimity of these teachings. Truly one must declare, "He was a prophet of God."

THE UNITING OF THE SCRIPTURES

(Continued from page 407)

"Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak . . . unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together the testimony of the two nations shall run together also . . . 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 more to be written." (II Nephi 29: 8-10)



It is recorded in the 13th chapter of First Nephi, the 38th verse: "And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew that it came forth from the Gentiles unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren." That was the Jewish Bible. And then in the 39th verse: "And after it had come forth unto them I beheld other books, which came forth by the power of the Lamb, from the Gentiles unto them, unto the convincing of the Gentiles and the remnant of the seed of

my brethren, and also the Jews who were scattered upon all the face of the earth, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true."

These other books that have gone forth to these people, after the Gentiles took to them the holy scriptures from Jerusalem, are the volumes of scripture that God has given to this people in these last days, among which are the Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price and the Book of Mormon. They have gone forth to the remnant of the seed of Lehi, and to Jew and Gentile, as a testimony that Jesus is in very deed the Christ, the great Eternal God, and for that purpose were they preserved, and for that purpose did God send His commissioned servants amongst these people, to bear witness unto them of that great truth, without a knowledge of which salvation cannot come to them, neither to Jew nor to Gentile, nor to the remnant of the house of Lehi. There must be a knowledge of the Christ in order to have salvation, and these sacred scriptures God has preserved that men might have a knowledge of Him, and they are a witness unto all men that He is in very deed the great and Eternal God, and they are convincing unto all men who are earnest seekers for the truth. They are a witness unto the whole world of that great fact and are convincing to men who are ready and willing to accept truth wherever it may be found.

It is our testimony to all the world that the fulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been revealed unto man; that the heavens have been opened; that God spoke to Joseph Smith in our own dispensation and commissioned him, and charged him with the responsibility of giving to the world the truth relative to God, and the true story of God. And all men who accept that story, and who accept Christ as the Great and Eternal God, and who are willing to abide by His law, and who receive His word in their hearts, and who write it upon their countenances, they shall find rest and peace and eternal life, if they endure unto the end of their days.

But men must repent of their sins. They must forsake wickedness. They must seek God and his righteousness. They must desire the Holy Ghost. They must seek to retain it after they get it, that it might cleanse them and sanctify their bodies, that they might gain eternal life. And therein is the mercy of God, that He will save men from their sins if they will turn away from them. Whether it be Jew or Gentile, if they will repent of their sins; if they will come unto God, and if they will evidence their repentance by accepting all the doctrines and ordinances of the Church, they will be saved. And the Church of Jesus Christ is God's Church, which has been established by the Lord in these last days as a medium for carrying on the Lord's work. Hence, if they will repent of their sins, and will evidence that repentance by accepting the doctrines and the ordinances that God has given unto the Church, which are given by revelation and are free to all men who are willing to accept them in humility, and in contriteness, with a determination to serve God, it shall be well with them.