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## Neglect of the Old Testament

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**Abstract:** This article testifies of the value and significance of the Old Testament.

some idea of Jesus Christ, they have been benefited in a moral point of view, although they have not understood the Gospel.

Q.—Are all the ministers and professors of religion, in this age of the world, under obligation to obey that Gospel, in order to be saved in the kingdom of God?

A.—Yes. “Except a man be born of WATER and of the SPIRIT, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” How, then, can he be saved in it?

Q.—What has Christ said of those who would come into the sheep-fold by climbing up some other way besides the door?

A.—He has pronounced them thieves and robbers.

Q.—At Christ's second coming, what will become of all those ministers and professors, and others who do not obey this Gospel?

A.—“He will come in flaming fire, taking vengeance on all those who know not God AND OBEY NOT THE GOSPEL.”

Q.—How comes it that the Christian world (so called) have been so long without the Gospel in its fulness?

A.—In fulfilment of the word of prophecy, spoken by the prophet Daniel and by the revelator John, “THEY HAVE MADE WAR WITH THE SAINTS, AND OVERCOME THEM;” and in fulfilment of Paul to Timothy, “They have HEAPED TO THEMSELVES TEACHERS, having ITCHING ears; and these have turned their ears from the TRUTH, and they are turned unto fables, and they will not endure SOUND DOCTRINE.”

Q.—How came the Latter-day Saints to understand this Gospel, and to be instruments in restoring it among mankind?

A.—Not for any worth or wisdom

that was in them more than others; but because the time had come for this Gospel of the kingdom to be again restored to the inhabitants of the earth, and to be preached to all nations preparatory to the second coming of Messiah. Therefore the Lord sent forth an Holy Angel to commit the authority of this ministry again unto man, and this in fulfilment of the promises recorded by the ancient prophets and apostles.

Q.—Is it not uncharitable to consider the Christian world all wrong, except such as obey the fulness of the Gospel? and still more so to tell them of it?

A.—No. The man who tells his generation the truth, according to the “law and the testimony,” is more charitable to them than ten thousand men who cry, Peace and safety, and prophecy smooth things, when sudden destruction is near at hand.

Q.—But what will become of all the people who have lived and died since the Gospel was perverted and before it was restored again?

A.—They will be judged according to their works, and according to the light which they enjoyed in their day: and, no doubt many of them will rise up in judgment against this generation, and condemn it; for, had they enjoyed the privileges which we enjoy, they would, no doubt, have gladly embraced the truth in all its fulness. They desired to see the latter-day glory, but died without the sight.

—ED.

#### NEGLECT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

It is a prevailing doctrine, in this age of the world, that people, since the coming of Christ, have little or nothing to do with the Old Testament.

The reason they render is, that Christ

came to fulfil the Old Testament, and, therefore, it is all fulfilled and done away. This is one of the greatest errors of the age; and except mankind can be brought to understanding on this point, and this error done away, it will plunge them into irretrievable ruin, insomuch that they will not understand the day of their visitation and the things that belong to their peace.

Christ did indeed come to fulfil the LAW, and a part of the prophets; but the far greater portion of the prophecies of the Old Testament are yet future as to their fulfilment; and many of them never can be fulfilled until Christ comes again to fulfil them. Hence Peter predicted, in the third chapter of Acts, that "He SHALL send Jesus Christ which before was preached unto you, whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of ALL THINGS which God hath spoken by the mouth of ALL HIS HOLY PROPHETS since the world began." Christ's first coming fulfilled a few of the prophecies, but his second coming will fulfil a far greater number of predictions than his first.

He will come with dyed garments from Bozrah, staining his raiment with the blood of sinners, while he treads them in his anger, and tramples them in his fury. (See Isaiah.)

He will come with fire, and with his chariots, to plead with all flesh, and the slain of the Lord shall be many. (See Isaiah.)

He will suddenly come to his temple; while the day cometh that shall burn as an oven, and all the proud and they that do wickedly shall be as stubble, and be burned up. (See Malachi.)

He will come to smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. (See Isaiah.)

He will come to stand on the Mount of Olives, and deliver his people, the Jews, and destroy their enemies; while the mountain rends beneath his feet, and moves north and south, forming a great valley in the place of the mountain. (See Zechariah.)

He will come, and all the saints with him.

He will come to reign as king over all the earth. (See Zechariah.)

He will come with the clouds of heaven. (See Daniel.)

Now, we would inquire of those who think that Christ fulfilled all at his first coming, what all these predictions mean, and hundreds of others equally important which never had a shadow of fulfilment at his first coming?

We are apt to censure the Jews because they were blind in relation to the prophets referring to his first coming; but are we not, many of us, equally blind in relation to the predictions yet future, which the Jews understand far better than most Christians (so called)?

Will not this blindness upon the Gentiles prevent them from understanding the things that now belong to their peace, and plunge them into as great a destruction as came upon the Jews when they failed to understand the prophets?

Jesus Christ and his Apostles often exhorted the people to search the Scriptures. Now, we would inquire what Scriptures they referred to in these exhortations? We reply, the Old Testament Scriptures, as is evident from the fact, that there was no New Testament written till after Christ had gone to the Father. Indeed the New Testament writings were not all given till some time after the death of Paul and Peter, and most of the Apostles; and they were not compiled into a book called the New Testament

until the second or third century of the Christian era. We would not be understood as doing away the necessity of searching the New Testament, for we consider them both of equal importance now they are given. In fact, the New Testament is as much prophetic as the Old, and they both predict the same things in many instances.

It is for us, then, to give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, "as to a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in our hearts."

"Whatsoever was written before-time was written for our profit and learning, that we, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, might have hope."

#### DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT RECORD IN AMERICA.

According to promise in our prospectus, we shall now proceed to give some information of this important discovery.

Mr. Joseph Smith, jun., a resident of Ontario County, state of New York, North America, was, at the age of about 17 years, visited by a Holy Angel, who informed him that the ancient inhabitants of that continent had written a sacred record of their history, and of the dealings of God with them; and that, being overthrown and destroyed in a terrible war, they had, by the commandment of the Lord, deposited a copy of their records, where they had been preserved for ages; and that the time was now about fulfilled for them to be made known to Gentile and Jew, preparatory to the great restitution of Israel.

The Angel told him where these records were, and when and how he should obtain them. Accordingly, on the 22d day of September, 1827,

Mr. Smith went to a certain hill in Manchester, Ontario County, New York, and there, according to the direction of the Angel, he found the record in the earth, where it had lain for about 1400 years, being deposited there about A. D. 420. The record consisted of a large volume, in the Egyptian language, engraven on plates of gold. The plates were each about 7 by 8 inches in width and length, being about the thickness of common tin. These were filled with engravings on both sides, and a volume of them were bound together like the leaves of a book, and fastened at one edge with three rings running through the whole. The volume was something near six inches in thickness. With this record was found a large breastplate, apparently of copper, such as had been worn for defence; and also a curious instrument, called by the ancients the Urim and Thummim, which consisted of two transparent stones, clear as chrysal, set in the rims of a bow of silver. This was in use, in ancient times, by persons called seers; it was an instrument by the use of which they received revelation of things distant, or of things past or future. By this means, and by the gift of the Almighty, Mr. Smith was enabled to translate the record into the English language, and it was first printed and published in 1830. From that time to the present it has excited much interest in America. Tens of thousands have come to the knowledge of its truth, by angels, by visions, by revelations, by the Holy Ghost, and by the power of God made manifest wherever it is taught and received. Many of these have sealed their testimony with their blood, and thousands more have already suffered for their testimony more than to die, and would not deny its truth if they were now to be burned at