



Type: Magazine Article

The Book of Abraham - Its Genuineness Established, Chapter XI

Author(s): George Reynolds

Source: *The Latter-Day Saints' Millennial Star*, Vol. XLI, No. 11 (Mar. 17, 1879),
pp. 161–163

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

Abstract: The Sacred Cubit. "One Day to a Cubit." Alcyone—The Sun's Distance. Pyramid References to Astronomical Truths.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS

MILLENNIAL STAR.

“HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD, O YE NATIONS, AND DECLARE IT IN THE ISLES APART, AND SAY, HE THAT SCATTERETH ISRAEL WILL GATHER HIM, AND KEEP HIM, AS A SHEPHERD DOETH HIS FLOCK.”—*Jeremiah xxxi, 10.*

No. 11, Vol. XLI.

Monday, March 17, 1879.

Price One Penny.

THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM—ITS GENUINENESS ESTABLISHED.

BY ELDER GEORGE REYNOLDS.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 148.]

CHAP. XI.

The Sacred Cubit. “One Day to a Cubit.” *Alcyone—The Sun’s Distance. Pyramid References to Astronomical Truths.*

In this chapter it is our desire to draw attention to some of the important truths relating to the earth and the heavens, revealed by God to Abraham (as stated in part in his book), of which the generality of mankind of that and every succeeding age have remained in ignorance, even to the day in which we live, but with which the builders of the Great Pyramid were evidently acquainted. Amongst these and kindred truths, as manifested in the construction of this vast artificial mountain, we may mention the law of planetary and solar motion, the distance of the earth from its centre—the sun, the exact size, shape and density of our terraqueous globe, the precise length of its solar orbit, as also the value of the

sacred cubit as the unit of measurement. Writing on this subject, in a recent number of the *Juvenile Instructor*, Elder Joseph L. Barfoot (Beth) remarks: “There has been a great deal of guess-work heretofore about the use of the Great Pyramid at Geezah. The prevailing opinion was that it had been intended for a tomb for one of the ancient kings of Egypt. Discoveries have recently been made which have led to the inference that it had far more important uses, in fact, that it was an observatory, built upon mathematical principles, and designed to perpetuate, through all succeeding time, a correct knowledge of the heavens and the earth. * * It is found that the measure by which the proportions of the Great Pyramid were determined, is an exact proportional to the axis of the earth itself. This is a very important thing, for it is thus in harmony with natural standards of measure, such as used by Deity. This pyramid standard measure is called the sacred

cubit, as it is found that the standard divinely recognized through Moses, was the same as that of the pyramid. The sacred cubit was the pyramid cubit."

Now, then, with this fact before our eyes, let us turn to the Book of Abraham. The explanation of Fig. 1. of the circular disk, reads thus, "Kolob, signifying the first creation, nearest to the celestial, or the residence of God. First in government, the last pertaining to the measurement of time. *The measurement, according to celestial time; which celestial time signifies one day to a cubit. One day in Kolob is equal to a thousand years, according to the measurement of this earth, which is called by the Egyptians Jah-oh-eh.*"

If we understand the above aright, it means that with the Gods the unit of the measurement of time is one of the days of Kolob, or one thousand of our years, "which celestial time signifies one day to a cubit," or, that as one of Kolob's days is the unit of celestial time, so the cubit is the unit of celestial measurement, by which the size of the worlds are measured when the foundations thereof are laid, by which the distances of the suns and planets are regulated, and all the creations of the Holy Ones controled. That this cubit, which was the unit of measurement of holy things on this earth—the ark of the tabernacle, the Temple, etc., was also the unit of measurement when this earth was created, is further proven by the further following extract from Elder Barfoot's writings: "The sacred cubit is in length rather more than twenty-five (25 025) inches of English measure. *It is one ten-millionth part of the radius of the axis of the earth at the poles;*" that is, it is 10,000,000 sacred cubits from the centre of the earth to either the north or south pole, or 20,000,000 through the earth from pole to pole. Brother Barfoot continues: "No higher or more reliable standard of extreme precision could be given to man than the measure of the polar radius, for all other terrestrial and celestial things relating to the earth are in proportion to this natural standard. So important are the discoveries made recently by means of the sacred cubit, that men

are surprised to think that the uses of the Great Pyramid have been so long concealed." To this remark of our esteemed brother we answer, the Lord had not turned the key; and here we pause for a moment to ask, and ask of all the world, how could Joseph Smith have possibly become acquainted with this great truth if God had not revealed it unto him? This one truth alone, of which all the world was ignorant, of itself in its revelation by him, proves him to have been a Prophet of the Most High God.

We now turn to some of the peculiarities of the Great Pyramid, to which passing reference has before been made, gleaning our information from the writings of Petrie, Osburn, Smyth, Mackay, and others. We would observe, however, that our space prevents us from giving any but the more prominent references.

1st. For parts cosmocally and symbolically significant the metric standard of the Great Pyramid is the sacred cubit, exactly one ten-millionth of the earth's polar radius, the only natural standard of both unique and extreme precision; a standard of divine origination, primeval, and preserved in the least disturbed line of Abraham's family (the Arabs) to the present day. (Mr. Wm. Petrie.)

Does not this testimony almost word for word confirm the statements of the Book of Abraham?

2nd. The direction of the strait entrance passage, inclining at 26° 20' into the north side of the pyramid, was such that at the reputed date of its establishment* this direction was that of the primeval pole star, then at its lower culmination, while Alcyone (the centre of or governing planet, which controls our solar system,) then near the celestial equator, was at its upper culmination, or on the same meridian at midnight of the autumnal equinox. This definite combination cannot recur for 25,898 years; it marked the date of the pyramid and of the year of the Pleiades," a commencement of a natural chronologic era, traditions of which have remained

* B.C. 2,170, or exactly 4,000 years before 1830, the date of the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ in this dispensation.

in most times and countries, or to put it in another shape, "The meridian of the primeval pole star became rigidly stationary on Alcyone at the date of the Great Pyramid, after which it commenced to retrograde."

3rd. A thousand billion times the pyramid's weight, carefully computed, is the mass of the whole earth, namely, six thousand and fifty trillions of British tons.

4th. The annual circuit of the earth—that is one year—is represented by the length of the base circuit of the pyramid, and each day of twenty-four hours by four cubits. Or each day of our year is represented by *one cubit* on each of the four sides of the pyramid, each side representing in its whole length one year of this earth. Or *one day to a cubit*, as stated in the Book of Abraham. Can any one explain to us why the pyramids were so built that *one cubit* should represent *one day* exactly, if Abraham did not teach this to them, and if he did, then we have called the pyramids to bear witness to the truth of his book, which they most assuredly do, and at the same time to the truth of its translation by the Prophet Joseph Smith. Napoleon Bonaparte, when he gathered his armies in Egypt, pointing to the pyramids, told his legions that forty centuries looked down upon them. We have also called these mighty monuments of the past to bear record to the unity of revealed truth. Admit the above to be facts, and how is it possible to deny that Joseph Smith received his wisdom from a divine source, and consequently was a Prophet of God.

Mr. Mackay, writing (1870) on Facts in Astronomy, states that the Great Pyramid has been "investigated and explored as no other monument, ancient and modern, ever was; and the indefatigable explorers have been rewarded with an abundant harvest of the most brilliant discoveries. One of these, discovered by Mr. Petrie, is the clear indication that the

architect of this pyramid knew the mean distance of the sun from the earth with an exactitude to which modern science never approached till within the last seven years. * *

The best lineal and angular measurements have been combined by W. Petrie, who shows therefrom that the original height of the Great Pyramid from the pavement to its base, was 486.25 British feet, this multiplied by the ninth power of ten—i. e. 1,000,000,000, gives a result of 92,093,000 British miles for the mean distance of the sun. The latest collective result of science reckons the probable truth to be between 91,970,000, and 92,150,000, while the Great Pyramid gives 92,093,000 miles,† being completely within these minimum uncertainties of science." This, by other references, has been proven to have been no accident, but intended by the builders, as it constitutes but a small part of the evidence discovered in this direction.

Here, then, we have evidence that the ancient Egyptians had a knowledge of the true distance from the sun. That they obtained this knowledge only by divine light is evidenced by the abortive attempts of other ancient investigators to determine this question. For instance, in the days of Herodotus, (B. C. 500) it was thought that the sun was distant only some eight or ten miles; fifty years later it was estimated by Anaxagoras at 1,800; 150 years later, 5,300,000 was the computed distance; 1900 years later, Kepler calculated the distance at 26,400,000 miles; in A. D. 1750, the supposed distance was increased to 81,650,000, and so, from the dawn of creation until now, uninspired men have been groping after this truth, and even to-day they are not entirely satisfied that the exact measurement has been obtained.

† The most recent scientific estimate of the sun's distance from the earth actually places it within 270 miles of the exact pyramid figures.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Rage and frenzy will pull down more in half an hour, than prudence, deliberation and foresight can build up in a hundred years.