



Type: Magazine Article

"Truth Will Prevail"

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Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 60, No. 6 (June 1957)

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

Page(s): 408–409

Abstract: This article states that, in spite of an “avalanche of abuse and ridicule,” the Book of Mormon stands true and powerful. The Book of Mormon reveals many truths, the purposes of God, and the results of wrong doing; it also emphasizes the sanctity of the commandments, proclaims the deity of Christ, and confirms the teachings of the Holy Ghost.

from us. We must not relinquish our hold upon them or slacken our efforts to try to persuade, as long as life shall last.

Finally, our leaders say that because of the fashions of the day our young people are persuaded to marry out of the Church. They desire a so-called church wedding with much pomp and ceremony, some because they prefer a sort of semi-nudity in their social life that is not permitted in those who have obeyed the basic requirements of the temple which counsel as to modesty in dress. Careless mothers who permit even in childhood or babyhood nudity or semi-nudity in dress are but sowing the seeds of disregard for standards of modesty which if taught and adhered to in her growing up years will prepare a daughter for entrance into the holy and sacred ordinances of the Lord.

I listened to a young lad I was interviewing for a mission in Canada, and as I talked to him to inquire whether he had kept himself morally clean, he smiled, this handsome, fine son, and replied, "I will have to tell you what my mother told me. She said, 'Son, no mother can raise a fine son without the aid of a pure, sweet girl to help her. Be sure, then, Son, you choose the right kind of girl companion.'" He said, "I have done that, and I am clean, as my mother has counseled me to be."

Our boys overseas have looked forward to the day when they could come home and marry sweet, clean girls.

Some time ago, I wrote something to the mothers of the Church about preparing their daughters to enter the temple:

In this day, the fashions, the sham, the pretenses, and the glamour of the world have badly distorted the holy concept of home and marriage, and even the marriage ceremony itself. Blessed is the wise mother who paints a living picture to her daughter of a sacred scene in an exquisite, heavenly sealing room where, shut out from all that is worldly, and in the presence of parents and intimate family friends, a beautiful, youthful bride and groom clasp hands across a holy altar. Thank God for that mother who shows her daughter that here, nearest to heaven on earth, heart communes with heart, in a mutuality of love that begins a oneness which defies the ravages of hardship, heartaches, or disappointments to destroy, and supplies the greatest stimulus for life's highest attainments! (*Relief Society Magazine*, June 1955, p. 351.)

And now may I close with one more incident. I was attending a stake conference where a mother was asked to speak of the joys that had now come since she and her husband had together been to the temple. She said when they were married he was a fine, honorable man, but he had some habits that did not permit him to hold the priesthood. He said, "If you will join me in a civil marriage, I promise you I will get in shape, and I will get a recommend and take you to the temple." He was like the man who said he knew

he could stop smoking because he had done it a thousand times.

So he tried all through these years but had never been successful. Before he was ready, they had five lovely girls in their family. But now somebody touched the heart of this man; he was given the priesthood and a recommend; and they went to the temple. She described the going to the temple and what it meant, and how finally they came into that most beautiful of all the rooms in the temple, and as they knelt at the altar, their five little girls dressed in beautiful white dresses came in and took their places around the altar, and there a man of God pronounced them a family for eternity.

Her story was impressively told and

touched every heart. Then she leaned over the pulpit. Sitting right down in the front seat was her husband. She looked down at him, and for that moment she seemed to forget that there was anybody else in the room but just the two of them. She said to him, "Daddy, I don't know how to tell you how the girls and I feel about what you have done for us. I guess all we can say is, Daddy, thanks from the bottom of our hearts, because except for you, the girls and I would never have a chance to be a family together in the celestial kingdom. Thank God for you, Daddy, and for what you have done for us."

Oh, that every father-heart in this whole Church could hear the cry of that mother-heart, and before it is too late, prepare himself to go and to enter into this sacred ordinance, for which I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

"Truth Will Prevail"

by Alma Sonne

ASSISTANT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

IN THIS POSITION, brethren and sisters, one always becomes conscious of his limitations. The other day I read in a local newspaper about a sarcastic lawyer who was making it pretty rough for the witness. The lawyer said, "Did you see the accident?" The witness replied, "Yes, sir."

"How far away were you?" The witness said, "Oh, about thirty feet."

"Well, how far can you see anyway?"

He said, "I do not know, but in the morning when I wake up I can see the sun, and they tell me it is about ninety million miles away."

I shall always appreciate the fact that the missionaries of the Church found my grandparents in faraway Scandinavia. That circumstance accounts for my greatest blessing in this life. As a result, I have grown up in the Church among God's people in these valleys of the mountains. From my earliest recollections, I was taught faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the promises and the predictions of holy prophets. I recall that I was very young when I first heard the story of the restoration and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. I believed it then as I believe it now. I knew then as I know now that my grandparents had not been misled.

As a young man doing missionary work over in England, I became the private secretary to President Charles W. Penrose and to President Rudger Clawson. From them I learned many things which confirmed my belief and strengthened my testimony. Since then I have examined the claims of Joseph Smith, the Prophet. I have weighed

and tested every doctrine and every teaching of the Church. I have compared them with the teachings of other churches. The gospel message as revealed through the latter-day Prophet is complete and soul-satisfying. It is the power of God unto salvation.

I know this, and I testify to you that I do know it. No alterations and no far-fetched explanations have been necessary. The original declarations made by Joseph still stand. They cannot and have not been changed to satisfy the whims of critics, either in the Church or out of the Church.

In the year 1829 the Book of Mormon appeared. It was received with an avalanche of abuse and ridicule. It was repudiated and cast aside as being unworthy of study and serious consideration. But, my brethren and sisters, the tide is turning. It is turning with marvelous rapidity in these, our days. Thinking men are beginning to regard it as a powerful book with a great message. It has had wide distribution. Many translations have been made. It reveals God's purposes with respect to man's sojourn in mortality. It brings to light the results of skepticism and wrongdoing. It emphasizes the sanctity and durability of divine commandments in directing men in this striving for God's favors and blessing. It confirms the teachings of the Holy Bible, and proclaims the deityship of Jesus Christ, the resurrection, and the atonement wrought out on Calvary.

There is much controversy in these modern times even among so-called Christian leaders concerning these religious fundamentals. Once they were regarded as the rock foundation of the

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Christian religion. The coming forth of the Book of Mormon is a part of the "marvelous work and a wonder," proclaimed and prophesied by Isaiah, the great prophet. The spirit of the book convinces a sincere reader of its divine origin. The book is not a product of man's genius or man's learning. It is a revelation from Almighty God.

It is a message to the modern world from an ancient race who went down because they failed to live to the light which God had given them. But the teachings of the Book of Mormon are timely. They fit into our lives today as we live amid conditions around us. They come as a warning to those who are inclined to trifle with the injunctions of an overruling providence. The sacred volume is also a continuing and compelling testimony of the divine calling of Joseph Smith, the Prophet. As with the Book of Mormon, so with the revelations contained in the Doctrine and Covenants. They furnish a solid foundation for the exercise of faith and the development of spirituality.

These scriptural productions confirm and clarify the ancient scriptures known as the Old and New Testaments. As an example I read from the thirty-seventh chapter of Ezekiel:

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. (Ezek. 37:16-17.)

Biblical scholars have failed to offer a satisfactory explanation of this prophetic utterance. Where is the stick of Joseph, also called the stick of Ephraim? How shall this stick, or book, be joined with the stick of Judah, or the Bible? How can these sticks become one in the hands of God for the enlightenment of humanity? The Book of Mormon answers these questions. It is the only answer. The Book of Mormon, as you know, is a powerful witness. It is a builder of faith. It is a converter of souls to the truth, and the Book of Mormon is true, and truth will triumph even against strong and determined opposition.

As a boy I attended a little chapel on the walls of which appeared in bold lettering these words: "Truth Will Prevail." I often read it. Everybody read it. They had to. It was there before their eyes. It was like a battle cry in those days of opposition and persecution. Truth will eventually break in pieces all the substitutes which confuse and bewilder a faithless and an unrepentant world. I recall the words often repeated by Elder Orson F. Whitney,

Truth is truth where'er 'tis found
On Christian or on heathen ground.

I am also reminded of the poem which has taken a place in the classics of our literature.

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Then say, what is truth? 'Tis the last and the first,
For the limits of time it steps o'er.
Though the heavens depart and the earth's fountains burst,
Truth, the sum of existence, will weather the worst,
Eternal, unchanged, evermore.

—John Jaques

Now, in conclusion, may I read Carlyle's statement:

Fight on, through dark fortune, and through bright. The Cause thou fightest for so far as it is true, no further, but pre-

cisely so far, is very sure of victory. The falsehood of it alone will be conquered, will be abolished, as it should be, but the truth of it is a part of Nature's own laws, co-operates with the world's eternal tendencies and cannot be conquered.

I testify that Mormonism, so-called, is true; that it is the power of God unto salvation; that it is the same gospel which Peter and Paul preached, and which was taught by the Savior of men. May we remember it, and may we adhere to its saving principles, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Sorrowing People

by President Levi Edgar Young

PRESIDENT OF THE FIRST COUNCIL OF THE SEVENTY

PRESIDENT MCKAY and Counselors: my brethren and sisters: I should like to say something about a people whom we all know and respect. I refer to the Jewish race who today are suffering in their native land of Palestine because of peoples who are determined to drive them from their homes—homes that have belonged to them from the far distant ages. In every period of the world's history, the Jewish people have stood for the brotherhood of mankind and have recognized that God gave the world its first children who came from heaven. From the days of Abraham, the Jews have maintained their identity as have no other people in history. They have remained one race in blood, instinct, and faith in one Supreme Being. They still follow the words of the Prophet Jeremiah when he addressed the Jewish captives in Babylon:

Build ye houses and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them;
And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it [his blessings] . . . ye shall have peace. (Jer. 29:5, 7.)

What great help the Jews of all ages have given to the divine principles of life! Levinger in his *History of the Jews* tells us that Columbus had with him on his first voyage, five Jews, including the man who first stepped on American soil. When they reached the first little island, the interpreter, who was a Jew, was the first man to write a description of the land. In the chronological writings of Padre Claudio Clemente is preserved a form of prayer said to have been used by Columbus on Friday morning, October 12, as he stepped on the land of the New World. The prayer was used by Cortez, Balboa, and Pizarro in their discoveries.

Columbus declared in one of his letters to the king and queen of Spain that he was the "agent in the hand of God to go forth upon the mighty deep." According to Washington Irving, Columbus, when he set foot on the island of San Salvador, uttered the following prayer, which has been translated from the Latin:

O God, our Father, eternal and omnipotent, creator of heaven and earth and sea, we glorify Thy Holy name, praise Thy majesty, whom we serve in all humility, we give unto Thy Holy protection this new part of the world.

Jews continued coming to America, but they were poor lowly immigrants, and their suffering was something terrible. And yet, the Jews were ever ready to help in times of distress. During the American Revolution, the "great majority of the Jews in the thirteen colonies were ardent in the cause of Liberty. Jews were elected to the Continental Congress." And many of them in every colony advanced all the money they had to help the American army. The man who did more, however, than any other Jew, was Haym Salomon, a wealthy Jew who lived in Philadelphia. Haym Salomon was a native of Poland. He was liberally educated, and his family was very cultured. Robert Morris writes in his journal:

I sent to Haym Salomon and desired in every way to have him raise funds for the army. The men were starving everywhere.

Haym Salomon responded. He first gave money to the starving soldiers and then to such men as Jefferson, Washington, and James Madison. At the close of the war, he had given all he had, \$700,000, and within a few months, it is said, Salomon died of starvation. The

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