



Type: Magazine Article

---

## Thou Hast Made Us to Incline to Thee

Author(s): Levi Edgar Young

Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 47, No. 7 (July 1944)

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

Page(s): 426–427, 470–471

---

**Abstract:** This article discusses how religion affects everyday life in aspects like health, marriage, and education.

# THOU HAST MADE US TO *Incline to Thee*

By

**T**HERE is a permanent reality called religion; with spirit and form, with word and life. Without any extraordinary effort, thoughtful men and women can have it, and rejoice in it. It is a reality of the spirit; it is sanctified by the body and spirit of man, for both the spirit and the body constitute the soul of man. This was the teaching of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Religion is related to experience and is something that lies deeply in the souls of men. While it is true that there are today and ever have been many schools of religion, we are concerned with the true relation of man to God, and this we have to learn and accept and employ. It is given to us as the Light, and cannot itself be changed in our hands. In our studies of the Bible and all other sacred books of God, there is a point—an eternal truth—at which, with full consent, our thought begins. We love the superb tones of the primal words: "In the beginning, God." This is the greatest of all certainties, and is more than knowl-

edge, for its home is in the deepest nature of man.

It has been truthfully said by the world's great thinkers that the words found in the first chapter of Genesis are unsurpassed in the literature of man. Human history has no words more eventful than these:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth; . . .

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light, . . .

And God created man in his own image.

\* \* \*

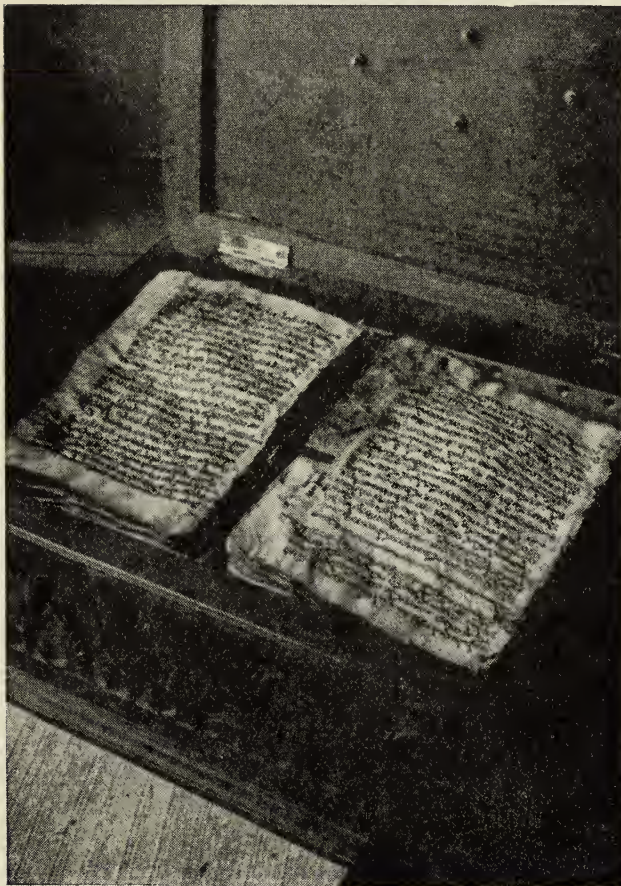
He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. (Eccl. 3:11.)

Few truths could be of more service in bringing man to the right apprehension of himself, and of his place in the universe, in quickening a high respect and regard for his splendid possibilities in character and achievement than that

which at once declares and continually asserts his relation to the eternal. Man is in the image of God, and both his body and spirit are divine. The Greeks saw the beauty of the human form and they declared that it was related to the gods. The eternal truths of Holy Writ demand of every man the recognition of the divinity of the human body—for we are more dependent on physical conditions for our happiness and for our goodness than we realize. Our lives take color from our state of health. "The close connection between mind and body is a solemn fact." Health becomes a duty, and every wilful disobedience to the laws of health is wrong. The keenest brain needs a foundation of health to do its best work. We should therefore put the whole treatment of the body upon a moral basis. The body should be treated sacredly as an integral part of human nature.

**T**HE Apostle Paul had been speaking to the Corinthians and admonishing them to remember that their bodies were the temples of the Holy Ghost and then he adds: "Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's." There is something in man's bodily constitution that symbolizes his divine origin. The human frame in its delicate proportions is the most beautiful of all natural objects. There is a sacredness to it, derived from its association with the spirit, whose fit abode it is, and the physical body is more profoundly connected with the invisible world than is any other thing in nature. The revealed truth given to the Prophet Joseph Smith that the spirit and body constitute the soul of man finds ready acceptance by the Latter-day Saints.

There is a close connection between the laws of health and the principles of morality. A truly healthy man with cleanness of blood, a clear brain, and healthy tastes will keep free from evils; the body should be treated sacredly as an integral part of human nature. Every act of intemperance of whatever sort; every sin against the physical constitution; every wilful neglect of the laws of health and moral life injures self and prevents one from living right. Herbert Spencer in his book on education says: "Few seem conscious that there is such a thing as physical morality. If bodily transgression is vicious, so breaches of the laws of health are physical sins." The knowing of what is good to eat and drink, and living by that



ONE OF THE  
OLDEST BIBLE  
MANUSCRIPTS IN  
EXISTENCE—  
IN THE  
SINAI  
MONASTERY

Photograph by  
Underwood &  
Underwood

## PRESIDENT LEVI EDGAR YOUNG

OF THE FIRST COUNCIL OF THE SEVENTY

knowledge brings about a state of mind and a spiritual glow which are essential to high living.

**M**ANY of the Indian tribes of America have a fine conception of the importance of the body and its health and strength. Charles Eastman, a full-blooded Sioux Indian, writes in his book, *The Soul of the Indian*:

The moment that man conceived of a perfect body, supple, symmetrical, graceful, and enduring—in that moment he laid the foundation of a moral life. There was aroused in him as a child, a high ideal of manly strength and beauty, the attainment of which depends upon strict temperance in eating, together with severe and persistent exercise.

With what beauty of word does St. John the Divine write of the Savior in description of his personality: "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:14.) The perfect body was a part of Christ's glory.

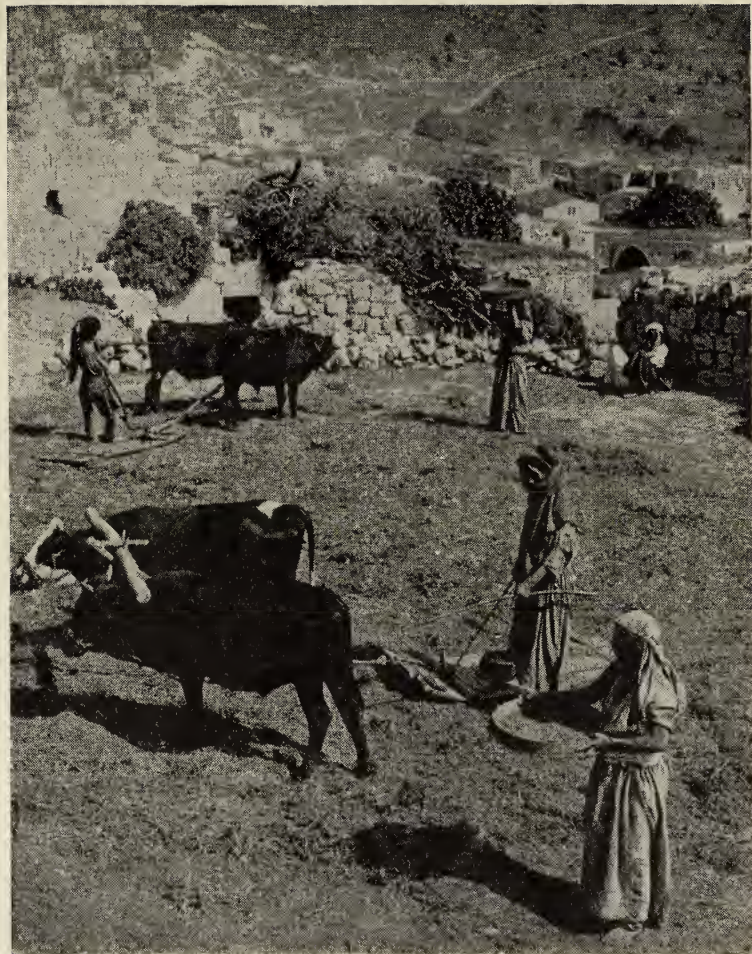
### HOME LIFE IN THE BIBLE

**A**MONG the many secondary books that will interest the student of the Holy Bible are Dr. Neil's *Life in the Holy Land* and Mrs. A. T. Roberson's *Ministry of Women*. They are interesting as they give many ideas concerning home life in the Bible. Marriage was a sacred thing in ancient Israel and the many descriptions of the love between man and wife become fine lessons for the youth of all time. Read how Isaac brought the beautiful Rebekah into his mother, Sarah's, tent . . . and he loved her; and was comforted after his mother's death. Jacob and Rachel loved each other with deep devotion for "Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed unto him a few days for the love he had for her." Mothers taught their children the "ways of the Lord," and we read in Proverbs 31:28 how "Her children arise up, and call her blessed." When the law was offered to Israel at Sinai, the women, according to many Jewish writers, were the first to pledge obedience. We know that the early expositors of the law declared that man and woman were equal before the statutes. The authority for this state-

ment is derived from two Biblical passages: "Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land." (Ex. 20:12.) A later passage in Leviticus reads: "Ye shall fear and reverence, every man, his mother, and his father." In the reversal of the words "father" and "mother" in this second injunction was to establish equality . . . neither the father nor the mother was to take precedence one of the other. The reason why Jewish life has survived oppression and persecution through the ages is because it has been deeply rooted in law. The eminent scholar, George Foot Moore, formerly professor of Semitics at Harvard University tells us in his *Judaism in the First Centuries of the Christian Era*—that the "Legal status of women under Jewish law compares to its advantage with that of contemporary civilizations and represents a development of the Biblical legislation consistently favorable to woman." (Vol. II, p. 127.)

When the Jews settled in Rome after the Roman conquest of Palestine, Jewish women organized into groups in the Jewish communities to render aid to the fatherless and those in want. The description of their duties is found in the Rabbinic Code:

Feed the hungry and give the thirsty to drink.



A THRESHING SCENE IN THE HILLS OF GALILEE IN PALESTINE, THE WOMEN WINNOWING

—Photograph by Underwood & Underwood

Clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless.

Visit the sick, bury the dead and comfort the mourner.

Support the widow and instruct the fatherless.

Ransom the captive.

Make garments for the orphan and provide for the betrothed maiden.

Legend throws this code back to the first Hebrew, Abram, to whom it was revealed as a prevision of the principles that would underlie the law which was to be the heritage of his posterity. The record of this revelation in the book of Exodus, according to Professor George Foot Moore, discloses the basis of Hebrew law. Moses received the law direct from God, yet he had to descend to his people, and present it to them. In the assembly at the foot of the mountain were men, women, and children. These all lived under the law, and all pledged their assent, exclaiming: "We hear and we obey!" The commandment was ratified by the voice of the people. Community and home life as described in Exodus and Deuteronomy make it plain that children were taught the principles of Jewish law. "Children are an heritage of the Lord" says the 127th Psalm, and

(Continued on page 470)



## Destiny Date

Tuesday, June 6, 1944, joins in history other dates in the destiny of America and a free world. It is a day which recalls other dates: April 6, 1917 . . . November 11, 1918 . . . December 7, 1941.

Since 1871, The Salt Lake Tribune has helped record history in the making. In World War II, it continues this service with a news coverage equal to that of any newspaper in the world. The complete facilities of Associated Press, United Press, International News Service, New York Times Foreign Service, Overseas News Service all are available to you through the columns of The Salt Lake Tribune.

The Salt Lake Tribune awaits history's next dates of destiny: The end of war with Germany, the end of war with Japan. As those days approach, your Salt Lake Tribune continues its complete, accurate presentation of history in the making.



## APOSTATE FACTIONS

(Concluded from page 468)  
after his departure from Beaver Island, in these bold words:

The reason is that he has not enough priesthood and authority and the spirit of God with him to make the devil mad. He is fanning the same blaze of persecution against the Saints that have moved west, that Tom Sharp and the mob did against Joseph and Hyrum. Mr. Strang has a spirit of revenge and a perfect hatred against all who are opposed to him in his mad career. He is not only unchristian in his conduct, but perfectly abusive, and would sacrifice the innocent and unoffending upon the altar of public opinion to the Moloch of his ambition. He is in possession of the same spirit that crucified the Lord of glory, and the same spirit that has influenced all the other apostates since the first organization of this Church, and the same spirit that put the dagger to Joseph and Hyrum's hearts.<sup>2</sup>

George A. Smith said of Strang and others like him:

After the death of Joseph a number of men appeared, professing to be revelators; the most noted of them, I believe, was James J. Strang. . . . Charles Thompson, Gladden Bishop, George J. Adams and others arose until prophets for awhile were at a discount! But all these vanished into thin air; their names were forgotten and their pretensions are unknown, unless some of us happen to think and tell of them.<sup>4</sup>

In 1847, the *Quincy Whig*, though bitterly prejudiced against all Mormons, said the following of Mr. Strang:

In view of all these matters we have a prediction to make, and we ask the readers to mark it—particularly those editors who have regarded the doings of the people of

<sup>2</sup>Reuben Miller, *James J. Strang, Weighed in the Balance of Truth and Found Wanting*, 16  
<sup>4</sup>*Journal History*, January 10, 1858

Hancock with such a holy terror. It is this—*That in five years' time the Mormons will be driven from Wisconsin root and branch!* Mark it! We do not claim to be a prophet or a son of a prophet, but we see in the foolhardy career of these miserable dupes and knaves, and the action of other citizens towards them, an inevitable tendency to such a result.<sup>5</sup>

Within nine years this prediction was fulfilled. Two of Mr. Strang's disciples shot him on June 16, and on July 9, 1856, he expired. His colony died almost as suddenly. Within a short time his disciples left the island and fled to the states where they looked for some other leaders to arise and hold them together as an opposing force to Brigham Young and the pioneers in the West.

In 1936 there were four branches of the Strangite Church with a membership of 123,<sup>6</sup> who regarded him as the true successor of Joseph Smith. There are not enough members in any one community to hold regular meetings or maintain an organization. No president or king now holds the kingly office Mr. Strang had assumed.<sup>7</sup> No animal sacrifices are burned on their altars, such as were done on Beaver Island; no priest receives revelations to guide them, yet they look forward to the return of the Lord before their few scattered members pass away. They eagerly look forward for the "one mighty and strong" who will lead them before the second coming of the Lord.

(Next Installment: *George J. Adams—A Branch Transplanted to Palestine*)

<sup>5</sup>*Quincy Whig*, February 3, 1847

<sup>6</sup>*Religious Bodies*, II, Bureau of the Census, p. 836

<sup>7</sup>Quaife's book, *Kingdom of St. James* (1930 ed., p. 182), says that a presiding elder was ordained in 1923—apparently today the highest office.

## THOU HAST MADE US TO INCLINE TO THEE

(Continued from page 427)  
in the book of Deuteronomy, we find the following eloquent words:

And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons. (Deut. 4:8-9.)

FROM a careful reading of the books of Ezekiel, Ezra, and Nehemiah, we find that education was undertaken by the officers of the government in Palestine upon the return of the exiles from Babylon. Concerning the position of women, Mr. Ismar J. Peritz in his article entitled, "Woman in the Ancient Hebrew Cult" (*Journal of Biblical Literature*), writes:

The Hebrews in the earlier periods of their history, exhibit no tendency to discriminate between man and woman so far as participation in religious practices.

Many passages reveal the love and tenderness in which wife and mother

were held. A loving wife is declared to be the gift of God, and a worthy woman is more precious than rubies. The following extract from the Proverbs contains the most complete formulation of the ancient Hebrew ideal of womanhood:

Who can find a virtuous woman?  
For her price is far above rubies.

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her,  
So that he shall have no need of spoil.

She will do him good and not evil  
All the days of her life.

She seeketh wool, and flax,  
And worketh willingly with her hands.

She is like the merchants' ships;  
She bringeth her food from afar.

She riseth also while it is yet night,  
And giveth meat to her household,  
And a portion to her maidens.

\* \* \*

She layeth her hands to the spindle,  
And her hands hold the distaff.

## THOU HAST MADE US TO INCLINE TO THEE

She stretcheth out her hand to the poor;  
Yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the  
needy.

\* \* \*

Strength and honour are her clothing;  
And she shall rejoice in time to come.

She openeth her mouth with wisdom;  
And in her tongue is the law of kindness.

She looketh well to the ways of her house-  
hold,  
And eateth not the bread of idleness.

Her children arise up, and call her blessed;  
Her husband also, and he praiseth her.

Many daughters have done virtuously,  
But thou excellest them all.

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain:  
But a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall  
be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands;  
And let her own works praise her in the  
gates.

(Proverbs 31:10-15, 19-20, 25-31.)

## THE EDITOR'S PAGE

(Concluded from page 425)

historic Lion House. After dinner we went over to the temple and did temple work. We believe in marriage for eternity and baptism for the dead, by the living acting as proxies for their kindred dead. We were occupying three different rooms in the temple, having sealings for eternity performed for our dead. We had 1,516 children sealed by proxy to their parents on my birthday.

My own records were unbalanced like those of most members of the Church—the women's work being four thousand ahead of the men. For a number of years I have only employed men, so that now the record has been evened up, enabling us to perform the necessary sealing ordinances.

I include here the latest report of Mrs. Grace R. Reynolds, who has done my record and research work for the last twelve years:

Family groups .....	13,714
Duplicate of pedigree charts.....	232

Number of persons identified Decem- ber 31, 1943 .....	71,212
---	--------

Ordinances recorded:	
Baptisms .....	59,873
Endowments .....	59,873
Sealing, wives to husbands .....	11,199
Sealing, children to parents .....	41,565

Total ordinances .....	172,510
------------------------	---------

During recent years I miss more than I can tell the happy family association in the house of the Lord. I am grateful to my Father in heaven that the way has been opened to obtain names of my departed kin, and that he awakened in me the desire and the will to do my individual duty in carrying forward the work in his holy temples.

May the spirit of temple work abound in the hearts of the Saints and may the brethren of the priesthood realize their responsibility and take full advantage of their opportunity to participate in this most important mission.

## EVIDENCES AND RECONCILIATIONS

(Concluded from page 445)

pelled to select the word of nearest meaning. This has been done by the translators of the New Testament, but each translator has used his own judgment as to the meaning intended, and, therefore, the translations vary, usually in minor matters.

All this brings to our attention the danger of depending on one text in the study of the scriptures. One should read the context carefully; and seek out other places where the subject in hand is discussed. Then, the true, or more exact meaning, may be seen through the mist of the translator's efforts. And, it is equally valuable to compare various translations, for each one may furnish some clue to a more complete understanding of the original meaning.

In the case of the New Testament, the difficulties of securing a dependable translation are many. The manuscripts in our possession from which the translations must be made, are not the original ones—the originals are long since lost—but probably copies of copies by hand, before the coming of the printing press. Such copies contain unavoidable errors, missing words or wrong words, characteristic of hand copying. Besides,

copyists had the opportunity, and, no doubt, often took it to correct the text, thus corrupt it, whenever they thought it proper to do so.

All these and other difficulties inherent in the task of translation, justify the eighth article of the faith of the Church:

We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly.

Joseph Smith, the Prophet, said:

I believe the Bible as it read when it came from the pen of the original writers. Ignorant translators, careless transcribers, or designing and corrupt priests have committed many errors. (*Teachings*, p. 327.)

However, despite errors that may have crept into it, the message of the Bible is consistent from beginning to end. It teaches the way to life and salvation. It remains the greatest book on earth. Read intelligently, it does not deceive, but leads men into the light of truth. And, the King James translation has not yet been surpassed.

(For further study consult Smythe, *How We Got Our Bible*; and James Gall, *An Interpreting Concordance of the New Testament*.)—J. A. W.

## TO SPEED OUR BOYS HOME . . .



Produce and Conserve—  
Share and Play Square  
with FOOD!

FOOD IS one of our mightiest weapons of war. Grow your own, help on farms or in processing plants. Buy only what you need, kill black markets by buying only with ration stamps, and pay no more than ceiling prices. When eating out, whether in our popular Coffee Shop, or in the Starlite Gardens, or at any restaurant, help share America's food supply by ordering only what you can eat, and eating all that you order.

★

FOOD—A Vital War Weapon!



## HOTEL UTAH

GUY TOOMBES, Managing Director

★ ★ ★ ★ ★