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# THE REVELATION of The BOOK of MORMON

An Address by ELDER MATHONIAH THOMAS, in The Salt Lake Tabernacle, Sunday, August 3, 1908.

#### (Reported by F. W. Otterstrom.)

friends, I trust that I shall be sustained by the Spirit of the Lord while addressing you this afternoon.

who are present, that which I shall read will not be new, but I trust that the Articles of Faith, which I shall read, will be of interest to those of our friends who are not of our faith. If I can get the Spirit of the Almighty to guide me in my utterances, I desire to speak upon one particular article of faith. These articles of the faith were prepared by Joseph Smith so as to give a succinct statement of what the Latter-day Saints. believe in. They are not long, so I shall not weary you with much read-

"We believe in God, the Eternal Tather, and in His Son Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost, "We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression. "We believe that, through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be sayed by obedience to the have and

"We believe that the first prin-ciples and ordinances of the gospel. "We believe that the first prin-ciples and ordinances of the gospel are: First, faith in the Lord Jesus Choice and area and the second second Christ: second, repentance; third, baptism by immersion for the remis-sion of sins; fourth, laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

"We believe that a man must be called of God by 'prophety, and by the laying on of hands, by those who are in authority to preach the gospel and administer in the ordinances

thereof. "We believe in the same organiza-tion that existed in the primitive church; namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc." Here, perhaps the Latter-day Saints begin to widen in their differ-ences from the faiths of other peo-ples ples.

I may also say that the principles which I have referred to as the "First principles" are sometimes regarded as non-essentials-not, however, by the

principles' are sometimes regarded as non-essentials--not, however, by the Latter-day Saints. "We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc. "We believe the Fible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God. "We believe all that God has re-vealed, all that he does now reveal, and we believe that he will yet re-veal many great and important things pertaining to the kingdom of God. "We believe in the literal gather-ing of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten tribes. That Zion will be built upon this"--the American--"Con-timent. That Christ will reign per-sonally upon the carth, and that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisical glory. "We claim the privilege of worship-ing Almighty God according to the dictates of our conscience, and allow aff men the same privilege, let them worship' how, where, or 'what they "may. "We believe in being subject to

"We believe in being subject to

"We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers and «magis-trates, in obeying, honoring and sus-taining the law." "We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admoni-tion of Paul. We believe all things, we hope all things," we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is any-thing virtuous, lovely, or of good re-port, or praiseworthy, we seek after these things."

My brethren and sisters and riends, I trust that I shall be sus-ained by the Spirit of the Lord while ddressing you this afternoon. To those of the Latter-day Saints them, a skill of darkless and from this degenerate part of that family, which came out of Jerusalem, have come the North American Indiaus. Be-cause of their sins, they degenerated; and if we believe in evolution, if we believe that because men aild women become pure and because their minds become active, evolution is possible to a wonderfully high stage, so must we admit the logic that if men and women become impure and cease mental ac-tivity or spiritual growth that they must degenerate. This did not occur within a year but in many hundreds of years, during which times they have left their marks, manifesting their dif-ferent civilizations, on this land of ours. ours.

WHAT THE BOOK OF MORMON IS.

WHAT THE BOOK OF MORMON IS. This Book of Mormon was written by prophets who were especially called to ecclesiastical office; some of them held civic office; they were all priests, how-ever, holding the priesthood of the Al-mighty, the authority which He had conferred upon His sorvmats; they were His mouthpleces from time to three Further, this book purports that through a branch of the righteous fam-Ny-1 am using the term "righteous" merely for points of distinction, he-cause what had once been a righteous family had grown to be very unight-eaus and sinful, and because of inter-necine strife later they were literally wiped out of existence-came a prophet whost name was Mormon, who wrote an abridgement of the books and of these plates—for these prophet-histor-tins kept records, so this book says, upon plates of gold and upon plates of brass. They maintained and kept invidue this work. Now let me read from the preface of this book. Every book ought to give some excuse for the existence. This, so the prefaciory note says is "The Book of Mormon, an ac-count written by the hand of Mormon upon plates who had of Mormon upon plates who have a first me read from the preface of the book. Every book ought to give some excuse for tis existence. This, so the prefaciory note says is "The Book of Mormon, an ac-count written by the hand of Mormon upon plates when he the gates of Nepht." Nephi, let me explain, was says is "The Book of Mormon, an ac-count written by the hand of Mormon upon plates taken from the plates of Nephi." Nephi, let me explain, was one of the great prophets of this fam-ily under Lehl, which came out from Judea. "Wherefore, it is an abridg-ment of the record of the people of Nephi and also of the Lamanites." To ihose not of the faith, let me say that those who were cursed were called the Lamanites, because they were the descendants of one Laman, the other, became known as the Nephites; the descendants of Nephi; both being sons of Lehl, the patriarch. This book is "written to the House of Israel, and also to Jew and gentile; written by way of commandment and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation. Writ-ten and sealed up, and hid up unto the Lord that it might not be destroyed; of prophecy and of revelation. Writ-ten and sealed up, and hid up unto the Lord, that it 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 the way of gentie, the in-terpretation thereof by the gift of God.

God. "A abridgment taken from the Book of Ether also; which is a record of the people of Jared; who were scat-tered at the time the Lord confounded "We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admoni-tion of Paul, 'We believe all things, we hope all things,' we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is any-thing virtuous, lovely, or of good re-port, or praiseworthy, we seek after these things." Now, if there be any creed this is the creed of the Latter-day Saints; this, in general and in brief, covers the faith of the Latter-day Saints; CHARACTERISTIC BELIEF IN Double content of the provide the DESERET EVENING NEWS SATURDAY SEFTEMBER 20 1908

darkened Egypt. Messages of the past are today found in elay, when arch-aeologists delve into the very sands of ancient time and discover relies of ages past. Is there anything muvel-ous, then, is there anything muvel-ous, then, is there anything muvel-ous, then is there anything muvel-ous, then is there anything muvel-ous, then is there anything musual. Is it out of the common, ordinary way in which things were done, that a man or a set of men should have kept a record here upon this land? Or is it strange that they should have kept such a record upon plate of brass, or plates of gold, or plates of copper? What does it matter how the record was kept, so long as it was kept, pre-served and handed down? This Book of Mormon says that these records, these pages, are copies from records that were inscribed upon plates of brass and plates of gold, that this re-cord is an abridgement taken from those other marvelously large records, containing the dealings of the people among themselves and the dealings of God with them, for hundreds and hun-dreds of years, but the main purpose of it was, according to the story giv-en, that the book itself might convince the honest reader, the thoughtful and pure mind, that Jesus is the Christ; that there has been some purpose in the mind of our heavenjy Father in darkened Egypt. Messages of the past pure mind, that Jesus is the Christ; that there has been some purpose in the mind of our heavenjy Father in permitting His children to be scattered throughout all the world, and, yet, that He should not have one lost, that all should come unto Him who would come unto him; and further, that He would make it possible that they should have the correct law given unto them. Now, since all men could not have / seen Jesus in the flesh, since all men could not have scat at the feet of the won-drous prophets and have learned their not have sai at the feet of the won-drous prophets and have learned their lessons of godliness there, a way was prepared, a suggestion given to the mind of the prophet, so that children yet unborn should know the things that he knew, he wrote them down-some-times on papyrus, as J have said; some-times on stone, sometimes in clay, and times on papyrus, as i nave said; some-times on stone, sometimes in clay, and in this instance upon brass and upon gold. This book purports to speak of a family of Lehi and his righteous can Navet

#### NEPHI'S VISION.

son Nephi.

NEPHI'S VISION. The patriarch of the family growing old in years and being pleased with the way in which his son was acting, threw about him all the power that he could. The Lord loved this boy, Nephi, and he grew in grace before the Al-mighty. On one occasion, he was up in the mountains, before he left tho eastern continent, and a vision was given unto him. An angel came to him and said: "What desirest thou? And I said unto him, to know the in-terpretation thereof," (for he had seen a vision which was not clear to him) "for I spake unto him as 'a man speaketh; for I beheld that he was in the form of a man; yet nevertheless. I knew that it was the Spirit of the Lord; and he spake unto me as a man Lord; and he spake unto me as a man speaketh with another."

"And it came to pass that he said unto me, Look! and I looked as if to look upon him, and I saw him not for he had gone from before my pres-

"And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the great city of Jerusalem and also other cities. And I beheld the city of Mazareth; and in the city of Nazareth I beheld a virgin, and she was exceedingly fair and white. was exceedingly fair and white. "And it came to pass that I saw the heavens open; and an angel came down and stood before me; and he said unto me Nephi what beholdest thou? "And I said unto him, a virgin, most peautiful and fair above all other virgins.

"And he said unto me, Knowest thou the condescension of God? "And I said unto him, I know that He loveth His children: nevertheless, I do not know the meaning of all

"And he said unto me, Behold the virgin whom thou seest, is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner

of the firsh. "And it came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away in the spirit; that she was carried away in the spirit; and after she had been carried away in the spirit for the space of a time, the angel spake unto me, saying, Look! "And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms." Now, this story tells how Nephi in the vision saw this boy grow. The Spirit directed him to look, and he be-held the child Lewis that He crew fo held the child Jesus, that He grew to manhood, that he saw the Spirit of the Lord descend upon Him, that he saw Him go forth among His people to oreach to them, that he saw Him cal Christ, the Savior of the world, rom among the people with whom He abored, twelve other men, and that they went out among men and ied. Then Nephi tells how the preached. vision revealed to him the future sto-ry of his own people, how he saw a land that was wondrous in its beauty and glory and wealth, how his own people grew, his brothers and sisters and his very children, growing and spreading over the face of the land spreading over the face of the land until they became a mighty nation. He saw the children of his own broth-ers, Laman and Lemuel, also growing to be equally powerful, and they had a skin of darkness placed upon them because of their offenses to God. He saw his own people grow in might and power, and then he saw them fall be-cause of their sins. He saw the chil-dren of his brethren grow in power and dren of his brethren grow in power and in their own wickedness and vileness saw them overcome his own de scendants. Then he saw that through his righteous descendants there was preserved in the new land the faith Jesus was to come and be the Savior should the priesthood come. The angel told him to look again, and he beheld the Spirit of the Lord descending upon a man from among the gentiles, and the Spirit of the Lord moved upon him so that he went out upon the many waters unto the land of upon the many waters unto the land of his (Nephi's) brethren. And after this man, upon whom the Spirit of the Lord had moved, had gone out upon the many waters, he saw other gentiles moved upon by the Spirit of God, come out from among their people unto the land of his brethren. He had seen his own people his own descendants acand of his brethren. He had seen his own people, his own descendants, ac-tually annthilated because of their sins. He saw the children of his brethren then meeting with these men, the gentiles on whom the Spirit of the Lord had rested, and he saw the de-scendants of his brethren beaten back from the presence of the gentiles, be-cause the Spirit of the Lord was upon the gentiles. He saw the gentiles grow in the gentiles. He saw the gentiles grow in might; then he saw the mother of these gentiles arise and seek to oppress these people upon this land, and he saw the Spirit of the Lord rest upon the gentiles here, and they were glor-lified in the mind of the heavenly ified in the mind of the heavenly Father, and they were strengthened in their battles, and they overcame the enemics who were seeking to take from them their liberties. Then he saw, and he so describes, that there came forth a book, and this book was the Holy Bible, carried among the people, and the word of the Lord spread among them. Then he saw the rec-ords of his own people, brought forth and magnified unto all the world, for he had actually seen in a panorama the history of his day and for thou-sands of years after his day. This is sands of years after his day. This is what the story tells. This book then tells of other rec-ords, and of other stories, and of other people who actually believed that there was to come a Jesus, a Savior of the world. This, mind you, was be-fore Jesus had been born in the flesh. This was at a time when the Lord had not yet appeared to men in the flesh, but these people upon this con-tinent believed that such a one should

ence which led intelligent minds to discover a wonderful record. Allow me to read from the writings of one Mosiah, a prophet historian who ante-dated Christ, he says: "The things which I shall tell you are made known unto me by an augol are made known unto me by an angel from God"-this, at least my friends,

are made known unto me by an angel from God"—this, at least my friends, bears the carfmarks of the things told in holy writ: and by "holy writ" I mean the Holy Bible—"and he said unto me. Awake: and I awoke, and behold he stood before me. "And he said unto me. Awake, and hear the words which I shall tell thee; for behold, I am come to declars unto you the glad tidings of great Joy." So far, it fits in with similar stories told upon the ancient continent. "For the Lord hath heard thy pray-ers, and hath sent me to declare an-to thee that thou mayest rejoice:"— Now, these are words He spoke to His other prophets upon the eastern continent—"and that thou mayest de-clars unto thy people, that they may also be filled with Joy. "For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant that with power, the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, who was, and is from all eternity to all eternity, shall come down from heaven, among the children of men, and shall

was, and is from all eternity to all eternity, shall come down from heaven, among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay, and shall go forth amongst men, working mighty miracles, such as healing the sick, rais-ing the dead, causing the lame to walk, the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear, and curing all man-ner of diseases:

"And he shall cast out devils, or the evil spirits which dwell in the hearts of the children of men." That is a beautiful explanation— something that you have never seen in the Bible, "And lo, he shall suffer temptations,

and pain of body, hunger, thirst, and fatigue, even more than man can suffer, except it be unto death; for behold, blood cometh from every pore, so great shall be his anguish for the wickedness and the abominations of his people. "And He shall be called Jesus Christ. the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning; and his mother

"And lo, He cometh unto His own, that salvation might come unto the childrer, of men, even through faith on His name; and even after all this, on His name; and even after all this, they shall consider Him a man, and say that he hath a devil, and shall scourge Him, and shall crucify Him. "And He shall rise the third day from the dead; and behold, He stand-eth to judge the world; and behold, all these things are done, that a right-eous judgment might come upon the children of men. "For behold, and also His blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam, who have died, not knowing the will of God concerning them, or who have

of God concerning them, or who have ignorantly sinned."

LIFE OF CHRIST TOLD IN PRO-PHECY.

I shall not read more, for this is enough in point. However, this angel, purporting, according to the book, to have spoken to this prophet Mosiah, proceeds to give in detail before time, a story of the life of Christ. He tells and in instances in detail, of the many this of the total before the total before time, things that Jesus is to do. I have told enough, however, to liken the story of Christ given to this man Mosiah, if It be true, to the stories given to Isaiah, when that prophet said that He should be a man of sorrows, that He should be the Lamb of God, and described Him as accurately, we have thought heretofore, as man could be described before he really was man in the flesh; but here in the Book of Mormon is a description which beggars all that has been given before. There is nothing, so far, that should be offensive to one who believes in Jesus; and, beleving in Jesus now, as we do, it is easy to understand why the Almighty desired, before Jesus came in the flesh, that the children of men should be prepared for His coming, Certainly prepared for His coming, Certainly not in the Holy Bible have we any-thing that anticipates the coming of Christ, the Savior of the world, as beautifully and as perfectly as this message of Mosiah given in the Book of Mormon. It is not the only one so spoken of, however; I have selected it merely because it was one riven so spoken of, however, if has one given so many hundreds of years before Christ came; but after this revelation to Mo-siah there were many prophets who spoke of Jesus, who spoke of Him as

these quakings and convulsions of the earth, there came a light, after the very souls of men had been shaken, and a voice out of heaven. The people were gathered together in a place called Bountiful, "a great multitude gathered together," says this history, of the people of Nehi, round about the temple which was in the land Bounti-ful: and they were marveling and won-dering one with another, and were showing one to another the great and marvelous change which had taken place; and they were also conversing about this Jesus Christ, of whom the sign had been given concerning his death. these quakings and convulsions of the death.

CHRIST'S VISIT TO AMERICA.

CHRISTS VISIT TO AMERICA. "And it came to pass that while they were thus conversing one with another, they heard a voice as if it came out of heaven; and they cast their eyes round about, for they understood not the voice which they heard; and it was not a harsh voice; heither was it a loud voice, nevertheless, and notwith-standing it being a small voice, it did pierce them that did hear to the cen-ter, insomuch that there was no part of their frame that it did not cause to quake; yea, it did pierce them to the very soul, and did couse their hearts to burn.

burn. "And it came to pass that again they heard the voice, and they understood it not:

"And again the third time they did

not;
"And again the third time they did hear the volce, and did open thelp ears to hear it, and their eyes were toward the sound thereof; and they did look steadfastly towards heaven, from whence the sound came;
"And behold the third time they did understand the volce which they heard; and it said unto them.
"Behold My beloved Son, in whom I have glorified My name; hear ye Him.
"And it came to pass as they understood, they cast their eyes up again towards heaven; and behold, they saw a man descending out of heaven; and he was clothed in a white robe, and he came down and stood in the mildst of them, and the eyes of the whole multitude were turned upon him, and they durst not open their mouths, even one to another, and wist not what it meant, for they thought it was an angel that had appeared unto them.
"And it came to pass that he stretched forth his hand and spake unto the people, saying."

unto the people, saying, "Behold, I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified shall come into e world; "And behold I am the light and the he

"And behold I am the light and the life of the world; and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning. "And it came to pass that when Je-sus had spoken these words, the whole multitude fell to the earth, for they re-membered that it had been prophesied among them that Christ should show himself unto them after his ascension into heaven.

"And it came to pass that the Lord "And it came to pass that the bord spake unto them saying, "Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world."

for the sins of the world." The record says that it came to pass The record says that it came to pass that, one by one, they went up and touched the wounds in His side; they felt the prints of nails in His hands and in His feet; and they fell down upon their faces and worshiped Him. Time will not permit me to tell all of the wondrous things which are re-corded here. I give you my word and the word of the Latter-day Saints that so far as their reading is concerned the word of the Latter-day samts that so far as their reading is concerned— and some of them, believe me, are very well read—there has not come to them anything so beautiful, and let me be bold enough to say, though it may seem to you to be dogmatic, never has there been put into print a term to marrielous and so wonderful story so marvelous and so wonderful as the coming of Jesus Christ to the Nephite people. No man, whether he be believer of unbeliever, can read this record and not feel his heart grow warm within him; and though he may say within himself: "It may not be true." there rises within his soul a desire that he would to God that he could believe it to be true, for certainly there has never been given to the mind of man a picture so marvel-ous in its beauty, so wonderful in its strength, as that depicted by the Nepinte propnets when JESUS the Christ stood up among them and, with tears streaming down His holy face, did call from among the fathers and mothers their sick and afflicted and heal them with His the fathers. phite prophets when Jesus the Christ mothers their sick and afflicted and heal them with His touch, and pray for them that these His children might be saved, that they might never go astray. Then crowning climax of all, He called out from among them the little children and blessed them heaven and stood about in a hold prayed before; and angels came down from heaven and stood about in a holy phalanx; and while Christ was praying among them, the fathers and mothers saw angels from heaven minstering unto their own flesh and blood, Jesus, spake unto them and commanded them to arise, and speaking unto the Third Nephi, who speaking unto the Third Nephi, Who came forward as the leader of the people and fell down upon his face and kissed the feet of Christ, Jesus said: "Arise, I give you power that ye shall baptize this people when I shall have ascended again into heav-en." And the Lord called others and wide much them Wavnies and Wa fear said unto them likewise, and He gave them power to baptize, and He said unto them: "On this wise shall ye baptize, and there shall be no diswords, and desireth to be baptized in repenteth my name, on this wise shall ye bap-tize them: behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my "And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, "And the Holy Ghost. Amen. "And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water." Then He commanded them that after baptism they should have hands laid upon them, so that they might receive the Holy Ghost, and He told them how they should worship Him, that they should call His Church after His name. Said he "If ye call it after the name of any man, it shall belong to that man, but my Church shall be known after my name." He told them how they should break bread and bless wine in commemoraion of His broken body and His spilt blood. He gave them a prayer, more beautiful than any that man has ever written, how they should pray over the bread, how in the name of the Heavenly Father and in the sacred name of the Son they should call upon thim for blessings upon this bread, that it might be partaken of by all who are pure in heart, that it should not be tak-en by anyone unclean, that it the art, that it should not be tak-en by anyone unclean, that it should be taken in remembrance of Jesus of Nazareth. That the wine should be blessed in like manner to commemorate His blood, in a prayer beautiful in its simplicity, wonderful in its scope as were all things which were beautiful in its simplicity, wonderful in its, scope, as were all things which were done by Christ. And so through all this wonderful tale do the messages of Christ run, told in simplicity, "so that," as Christ said, "there should be no disputations among you." It is not unreasonable to say that Jesus desired this unity, or that He said this to a people upon this continent. Here is what purports to be the word of God---certainly it is pure. Is it unreasonable what purports to be the word of God--certainly it is pure. Is it unreasonable then to say that the Holy Bible, if true in all its parts, if it gave to us all that Christ had given to His servants in Judea, that there would not have been just as much simplicity, directness of thought and form just as much of of thought and form, just as much of purity of doctrine, "pure religion and that he was to do a certain thing take no other.

undefiled" given to the Jews as was given to the Nephites in the Book of Mornion? Do you think that Christ, if He did come to a people upon this continent, would have given them the message more clean, more pure, freer from causes of disputation, than He had given to the people with whom He lived, from whom He came, of whom He was?

lived, from whom He came, of whom He was? This holy book goes on, fur-thermore, to tell the story of Jesus life with them, after His resurrection. For some days he labored with them, teaching them, living with them, pray-ing with them, calling down upon them the spirit of heaven; and He chose from among them 12 special witnesses of His birth, of His labors, His cruefix-tion, of His resurrection, and of His godliness—to man. We are told that the Lord gave to the Nephites wonder-ful spiritual strength, so that they could go out among all the people and bless them. Then, this book says, Jesus ascended again into heaven; but, be-fore He left, He told them that he was going to another people, some of the fore He left, He told them have not the going to another people, some of the lost tribes of Israel who had not yet seen him. There is nothing in the Bible which breathes such a universality of God's law, such a oneness—such a love, an evidence of the spirit of brotherhood newsding God's law.

pervading God's law. Then this book tells further the story Then this book tells further the story of the people who lived after the visit of Jesus, how they lived, how they prayed, how they had faith, and how some of them fell. The Savior said to these people that the deciring which he had given to

The Savior said to these people that the doctrines which he had given to them were the doctrines of His Father, that they were not His own doctrines, but that they were "the doctrines of Him that sent me." So far, at least, there are ear-marks in the Book of Mormon similar to the Holy Bible. Time will not permit further discus-sion of the various pages of the his-tory after this advent, but the story of the book is that many of the peo-ple believed in Jesus, many of them ac-cepted His law; they believed in the

ple believed in Jesus, many of them ac-cepted His law; they believed in the traditions of their fathers; they be-lieved their mothers who had seen the Savior, but afterwards it became again a question of faith, a question of in-tense belief, a question of training, and in many instances the sons and the in many instances the sons and the daughters fell away from the truth, from this gospel which was given by the Savior of the world to their procame a time when, because of their pro-genitors; so that, as I have said, there came a time when, because of their civil wars, one entire branch of the people was eliminated from the earth; but before the last of the ment work but, before the last of the great proph et-historians died, he sealed up these records. Now, it is interesting to know just what he said. The last one, Moroni by name, was the son of the Prophet Mormon, for whom this book is called the Book of Mormon because that prophet abridged the record from

#### all the other records which he had. ADMONITION OF PROPHET MO-

## RONI. "Now I, Moroni, write somewhat as

seemeth me good; and I write unto my brethren, the Lamanites: and I would that they should know that more than four hundred and twenty years of the coming of Christ. "And I seal up these records, after

I have spoken a few words by way of exhortation unto you. "Behold I would exhort you that

when ye shall read these things, if be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men. from the creation of Adam, even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts

"And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, He will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of

"And by the power of the Holy Ghost; "And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things."

STANDS ON ITS OWN RECORD.

Now then, let us close this book, so far as that record is concerned, it stands or falls upon its own message. It has told a story the like of which, you must agree with me, never has been duplicated by man. It certainly has not its replica in any record which was accer given to men or devised by on to men or devised hy

which was described, which 7 shall mention, and then he left him. Th angel came to him a second and a third jime that night. So impressed was he with this vision which he hat seen that he, told his father about it The father said. "That is of God, and you do what this angel has command-ed you." Then he went to a hill not very far distant from where he was living, which was indeed the larges eminence in that part of the country and this angel had directed him, so this boy said, to a certain side of this hill near its summit, and there was dis-closed to him, in a stone chest, covered securely, a certain record. He was told that it was a record; he saw there a number of gotden plates, bound to-gether in book form: he saw there and still the third year, and finally the book formed of gold plates which he had seen, and the story book which was the book formed into his keeping this sound the satory book which was the book formed of gold plates which he had seen, and the story book which was the burden of the angel's song to him some years before. Now, he says that he took these gold plates, for they were gold, beautiful in their form aud filled with wonderfully strange inscriptions to the angel commanded him to take to what agel commanded him to take to the angel commanded him to take to the instrument, in the hands of God in bringing forth a wonderful message is the stone upon which you suffic-or fall. You must either believe—be-come credulous, if you will—believe that Joseph Smith has actually seer an angel, that he actually saw these plates and handled them, and he ac-tually did translate them, or else that he was a most infamous falsifier. Now, once more, let me turn to this book and call your attention to what is known as the testimony of the three witnesses, given just afted the prefatory note. Three men known among their fellows as Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, and Martin Harris, said they saw these plates that they handled them, and that at angel of God stood before them declar-ing that these records contained the gospel of Jesus Christ and were true These men testified that they saw, handled and felt these plates which, they said, were plates of gold; and they they said, were plates of gold; and they saw the angel, heard his voice, and fell a holy influence about him. So far; at least, they testified to what had beer testified by this boy, now a yount man, Joseph Smith. Then there are other eight witnesses who testify that

they saw the engravings, making testimony of 11 men, or, with Joseph Smith, 12 men who said they sav these holy and sacred things. Now Smith, 12 men who said things. Now taking all of 'these statements to-gether, add them to that which the book itself contains, and if you desirt to know, if your hearts are pure, if you seek to know, with real intent then you 'may know whether these 1 men conspired to fool the world and to float a most marvelous conception of religious worship or whether they were, in very deed, honest men. A church was organized April 6, 1830, in the state of New York with Joseph Smith as its first elder and called the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This book of Mormon, with the Holy Bible being the chief books of doctrine. Now, as to the three men, and most of the eight—they afterward! left the Church. These three men who fait said they saw an angel and who as sisted in the translation, and who felt and saw the plates, said afterwards that Joseph Smith was a "fallen pro-phet," that he had gone astray, and they took themselves away from the body of the Church, but they never de-nied, to the day of their death, that they had seen an angel, neither did they deny that this Book of Mormon

### BOOK OF MORMON.

I wish to read again that "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is trans-lated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of lated correctly: we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God." If there is one thing which characterizes the Latter-day Saints apart from the other Christian sects, it is that they believe in the Book of Mormon. It has been variously called the "Golden Bible." "Mormon Bible." "Smith's 'Plates," and a number of other names: but, let me say, its true name is the Book of Mormon. It pur-ports to be a record, written by an-cient prophets, of a people who lived upon this continent, this land of aur own here, of peoples who, this book says, came from the eastern continent at different thes and in different col-onies; one colony having come here about the time of the confusion of tongues, when the people thought to erect a tower so high that it could reach to the very heavens where God lived; and in the division of the fam-ilies, a number of people under the lived: and in the division of the fam-files, a number of people under the leadership of one Jared and his brotn-er, holy men, come to this North Am-eriean continent and grew into a mighty mation. Through its sins and degeneracy, it fell, Another colony came led, out of Jerusalem by one Lehi, about 600 years B. C., through the pewer of the Almighty. They came in another way and landed on what is known as the coast of Chile. They, too, grew and became a mighty people, but because of their sins and the inlouities among their families they divided. A part of these families still main-tified their faith in God, but others.



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Ache they would be also by indicates to those who suffer from this distressing complaint: but form nately their goodness does not end here, and those who once try them will not these little pills will able in so many ways that they will not be wil-ling to do without them. But after all sick head



Is the bare of so many lives that here is where others do not. Datter's Little Liver Pills are very small and very easy to take. One or two pills under a dose, They are strictly vegetable and do not gripe or purge, but by their gentle action please all who



This, then, is the purpose of this

book. I shall not, at present, discuss whether or not it was rightfully re-ceived; we can take up the channels by which it was introduced to modern which it was introduced to modern times later; but the book itself car-ries its own message, for it says upon the face of it that it is chiefly to show to those who have descended from these true and mighty men that they are not cast off forever, and that God hath not forgotten them, but that His have use to be with them and His Spirit laws are to be with them and His Spirit about them, and that they might know that Jesus is the Christ, the eternal God; that is the purpose of it.

God; that is the purpose of it. There could be no greater mission given to any man or book or message, whatsoever it might be or wheresoever it might go, than to establish in the minds and the souls of men the fact that this man Jesus of Nazareth was a holy man, was the Son of God, was the Christ, the Savior of the world, and the eternal God. There can be nothing more wonderful or marvelous than this; indeed, it is the burden of our life's song, to so live that we can feel and know that there is a hereafter, that there is a heaven, that there is an act-ual. living, eternal Father, and that there is a Son whom men have known as Jesus the Christ. This holy writ which we call the Bible, this compilation of messages given anciently to other peoples, on the eastern continent, gathered together at different times, frequently by uninspired men who, to suit the vagarles of their own minds or their own purposes, whatsoever they may be or may have been, gave the book to the world, as they desired it should be. We cannot now say that the Bible, in its present form, is the whole of the world of God which was given to the ancient peoples, though it given to the ancient peoples, though it testifies of Jesus Christ and says that The is, in very deed, the Son of God. The Book is not complete. The whole record tells, within its sacred pages, of many other books, equally valuable with those which we have, which con-tained messages from the Almighty, given through His servants the prophets. What of those books? What of the methods of translation? What of the so-called errors and mistakes which have crept in in the reading of these messages for hundreds of years past? Men today, wise men, same men, good men, shudder at the thought of taking all of the Holy Bible as the

absolute word of God. Shall you, then, be shocked if the Latter-day Saint says that he believes the Bible to be the word of God only so far as it is translated correctly?

cand the thirteenth, or the fourteenth, or the fifteenth?

GOD'S MESSAGES TO MAN-HOW WRITTEN.

What of these messages which have been given to men for these thousands of years? for we verily believe that the Lord has always spoken to His people, "through the mouths of His servants, the prophets;" and these prophets in many hundreds of instances, in thoumany numerous of instances, in thou-sands of instances, no doubt, have re-corded the things which were given to them by the Almighty; and no doubt they have been treasured. Sometimes they were afterwards destroyed as in other instances they were buried;

translated correctly? Manifestly in the translations many errors have crept in, when books were gathered together, in the selection of messages, in the choosing of this word or the choosing of that word. Who gave these men, anciently, the author-ity to select one book and discard two, to bind together a dozen books and dis-eard the thriteauth or the fourteenth

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PROPHECIES OF JESUS.

Mind you, this is the story which the book itself gives, a story which is purported to have been told more than 2,000 years ago, and was written upon plates of brass and upon plates of gold, and brought forth, according to the profatory note which I read, by the Spirit of God, or if it may please you work you have say it was beauch

the Christ, the Savior of the world, the Man who was to come to fulfil a righteous judgment, who was to live among His fellows, to be mocked and scourged by them and, in the end, cru-cified. The book says, furthermore, that when Jesus was to come there should be a sign given unto the people. A sign was given, so this book says. Time will not permit me to give in detail these signs, but when Jesus actually came, there were men upon this continent, according to the story given, who knew that Christ had come, for their prophets before them had said, "These shall be the signs," and when these signs were given unto them Hey knew at last that Jesus had come However, this was solely a matter of faith, for even if Jesus had come, He had not yet come to them, but he had come to His own family as it were, in Judea. He had come to the race from which He immediately sprung; He descended from the loins of David. He was the Man, then, who, if He were the Christ, was on the eastern conti-nent performing His miracles, beyond the pale of their vision; so they lived in faith for 33 years more, and then, as their prophets had told them, there should be a series of mighty changes; there should be wonderful signs given unto them; the heavens should weep; the very earth should tremble and quake. One day, the unbe-lievers and believers allke were startled with the convulsions of nature; city after city was engulfed; town after town was buried by vol-canic eruption, valleys raised to moun-tains, mountains rent in twain, the the pale of their vision; so they lived was engulfed, covered, buried forever, was engulfed, covered, burled forever. There was a space of three days when darkness prevalled, when nothing could burn, when life seemed a bur-den; men's hearts failed them, they dared not stir for fear of death; wife mourned the loss of husband, husband mourned the loss of wife; both the loss of children; children grieved the loss of parents; fathers and mothers were separated. But after three days of

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when upon the face of this earth. There is nothing like unto it anywhere in existence, nor has there been, so far as the peculiar coming forth of this book is concerned. The book itself says, to whomsoever it shall come, to the Lagrangies to the Jew io the genthe Lamanites, to the Jew, to the gen tile, that if ye read it and ask God, with a pure heart and desire to know, with real intent, ye shall know by the Holy Ghost if these things be true. Holy Gnost if these things be true. Then, if that be the test, certainly no argument of mine could convince you, since it must require the Spirit of the Almighty to enlighten your minds.

FIRST MODERN REVELATION.

Joseph Smith was once asked how

this thing came about; how he be-came author of this book; this young man was an American, and was now llying in New York; his family were good citizens, honored and respected in the communities in which they lived, So, to give a somewhat connected story of the coming forth of the book, he said that as a boy, between fourteen and fifteen years of age, he was led by religious impulse into certain of the religious gatherings with which his people were surrounded. He was in doubt as to which of these many sects he should join—and there were many then and many now—and the more he became a student of the conditions, as a boy, the more alarmed and worried he became. He read the Bible and it read from the same source and yet differ so widely in the interpretation. He came to one part in the Bible, in the Epistle of James, in which James said: "If any man lack wisdom let him ask of God who giveth to all men liberat-

ly and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." So this boy safd—and let us take the story as he gives it, adding nothing to it, taking nothing from it—he said that he had never prayed vocally before; he had never heard bis own voice in prayer but heard his own voice in prayer, but that he did kneel down in a secret

that he did kneel down in a secret place in the woods. Now, this boy said he prayed aloud for the first time in his life, and he asked the Almighty to show him which of all these sects, that were wairing among themselves, was true, and to which one he should give his and to which one he should give his allegiance. Then, as he tells it, a vision came to him. He saw a light coming from heaven, and in this vision coming from heaven, and in this vision he saw a holy personage standing in the light, turning to another personage accompanying the first, and said: "This is my beloved Son; hear ye Him." He told it just as he said it occurred. This story brought down upon him calumny and, apparently, shame. Many people were ready to decry his message; they said he lied; they said he was possessed; they said he could not be trusted; that the boy was crazy; that he was everything hur he could not be trusted; that the boy was crazy; that he was everything but clean, and they would not believe him. They made the life of a fifteen year-old-boy a terrible burden to him, and, as he tells it in his own words, as Paul said that he had seen a vision. and though they disbelieved him, yet he said, "I cannot deny I have seen the Christ;" so this boy Joseph Smith said: "I have seen a vision, and whether they believe it or whether they deny it. I cannot deny it for I know it, and I know that God knows it, and I know that God knows that I know it, and I will not deny it." BOOK OF MORMON REVEAUED

BOOK OF MORMON REVEALED.

Subsequently he said that he had seen another vision; this time an angel appeared to him and delivered to him a wonderful message, telling him that

was true; and one of them, after-wards, in the practise of his profes-sion, one day in court while conduct-ing a case, was ridiculed because of his connection with the story of the angel and the gold plates. This man, oliver Cowdery, then testified again there, while he was in the depths of what seemed to him to be his degredation, because of his separation from his brethren, that he did see the an-gel, that he did see the plates, that the record therein contained was true, that he knew it because God had revealed it to him to him.

#### BELIEF IN NEW REVELATION.

If Gcd revealed His truths to any man in the days past, why may He not have revealed them to this man Cowhave revealed them to this man Cow-dery, to this man Harris, or Whitmer, or to this boy Joseph Smith? Again, we come to one of the articles of faith which I have read to you this after-noon, that "we believe in all that God has revealed, in all that he does now reveal, and we believe that he will yet reveal many things pertaining to the kingdom of God." We believe in the basic principle of revelation: we the kingdom of God." We believe in the basic principle of revelation; we believe that it is just as easy for God, in this dispensation—if He be God, if He be our Father, if He be the Father of our spirits-to turn His heart it. love to mankind in the twentieth cen-tury as it was for Him to have done it in the days of Adam. We believe that if He did have a Son whom He called His "Beloved Son" and sent Him upon the earth who afterwards, gave His revelations to His chosen servants

His revelations to His chosen servants, in the meridian of time, we say that it is just as easy, just as natural, for that to be done today. Now, my brethren and sisters and friends. I have told you briefly what the Book of Mormon purports to be within itself. I have told you within itself. I have told you



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