

JOSEPH SMITH
AS A SCIENTISTBy
Dr. J. A. Widtsoe

THE Latter-day Saints claim for Joseph Smith that he spoke face to face with God. The system of theology introduced by Joseph Smith claims that all moral truth, whether of a moral, intellectual or physical nature, is embraced by it; that correct physical living is just as important as correct spiritual living, and that the truth of physical science is not essentially different from the truths of the so-called theology. If God spoke to Joseph Smith, there can be no reason why we should not find references in the written revelations to Joseph Smith, to any part of human knowledge, God, the organizer of all things, is certainly equal in knowledge to the best of his creatures. Joseph Smith was a poor boy of hum-

ble extraction, living in the back-woods of New York, who received the most meager education and was unlearned in worldly wisdom. It, therefore, would be no reflection on the greatness of the work done by the Prophet if in his works are found no reference to the philosophies of man that are usually taught in quiet academic halls. On the other hand, if reasonable statements of theory and fact, developed by man, are found in the Prophet's published works, it forms an additional testimony to the truthfulness of the work that he inaugurated.

It will come perhaps as a surprise to many, that Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet, had anything to do with modern science. It is true that he was not a scientist in the sense that he studied books on science, or that he performed scientific experiments; but in his works lie clear statements of nearly

all the fundamental laws that form the foundation stones of modern science. Joseph Smith taught that the elements are eternal; that matter was never created and can never be destroyed. This law, known as the law of conservation of matter, is the very foundation stone of modern science. To my knowledge no other prophet has based his system of theology on so secure a foundation. The second fundamental law of science is that the energy in nature has never been created and cannot be destroyed. It can only be changed. For instance, light, heat, electricity and mechanical motion are all various forms of energy. Heat may be changed into light or electricity or some other form, but it cannot by any means be destroyed. This law is known as the law of the conservation of force. Joseph Smith in his philosophy of the universe taught a doctrine precisely the same. He taught that a form of energy, known as intelligence, penetrates the universe; that the universal intelligence had no beginning, and can have no end, and that all of the forces of nature are simply various manifestations of the great force of intelligence. Of course, Joseph Smith speaks of intelligence as the great force of the universe, while scientists speak of light, electricity or gravitation, and do not pretend to say which is the original force. When two names apply to the

same thing, the difference does not affect our ideas concerning any matter. The second fundamental principle of Mormon philosophy is certainly identical with the second great principle of scientific philosophy. Science claims that the forces of nature are made manifest by a universal substance of very refined nature known as the ether. Certain vibrations of the ether we interpret as light; others as heat, and still others as gravitation. The universal ether is everywhere present, even among the ultimate particles of all matter. This may be classed as the third great conception of science. Joseph Smith taught a doctrine precisely similar to this. He claimed that all space and all things in it are filled with the refined medium which he called the Holy Spirit, (something very distinct from the Holy Ghost, the third member of the Godhead.) and he taught that the various natural forces are nothing more than various manifestations of intelligence in this universal Holy Spirit.

The doctrine of the conservation of matter was beginning to be understood among learned men at the time that Joseph Smith stated the corresponding law in Mormon theology. However, it was not until ten years or more after Joseph Smith's enunciation of the principle of the conservation of force that science discovered the same principle.

Similarly the doctrine of the universal ether was not firmly rooted among scientists, until many years after Joseph Smith declared the law a foundation stone in his system of theology. How was the prophet able of his own powers to anticipate worldly science in the statement of such fundamental laws? God revealed it to him and Joseph wrote it for generations to come. In science the great law that binds together the phenomena of living things is the law of evolution. This law teaches that all things are advancing and that progression is a law of nature. More than twenty years before the enunciation of the law of evolution, Joseph Smith stated an almost identical law. It is a well established doctrine in Mormon theology that all things are advancing; that every man who lives properly shall advance in power and knowledge until he may become even as God is now. It is further true that the law of evolution as taught by Joseph, the Prophet, is clearer and further from error than the corresponding law taught by scientific men. Is it not marvelous that the unlearned boy Joseph Smith should anticipate the world in this fundamental law?

Joseph Smith taught early in the thirties of the last century a new system of astronomy. All heavenly bodies are in motion; a certain number of them constitute a system, each of which

revolves about a sun; and further, that these systems, with their suns, in turn revolve about still greater suns. This is continued far into space. Anyone who will read a modern work on astronomy will find that precisely these ideas lie at the foundation of astronomy as developed by modern scientists. Moreover, a brief study of the history of astronomy will convince any one that these ideas had not been suggested at the time that Joseph Smith taught his new system of astronomy. Again, the marvel is, where did the prophet get his information if not from God himself?

In several minor matters, Joseph Smith revealed extraordinary knowledge of minor scientific facts. For example, in the revelation known as the Word of Wisdom, he emphasizes the injury that comes from the drinking of hot drinks such as tea and coffee and explains the uses of tobacco, alcohol and meat. He also classifies the grains and indicates which one is best adapted for various animals. It is strikingly noteworthy that many scientific facts given in the Word of Wisdom were not generally known to the world at the time that the Prophet spoke. Again and again comes the question: How did the unlearned boy Prophet see the visions of nature's truths that have come to patient seekers only after decades of persistent work?

The limits of this article forbid a more extended discussion of the wonderful manner in which the theories of Mormonism and scientific philosophy agree. We can safely assert that the philosophy of Mormonism is founded on rational scientific laws. The world is invited to examine our published books to verify this claim. It is especially remarkable that in the statement of many of these laws Joseph Smith anticipated by many years the statement of corresponding doctrines by the world of science. Every Latter-day Saint should find joy in knowing that his religion rests upon a rational, world-governing laws.

A truth in science must be a truth in theology; also a truth is a truth forever, whether taught by prophet, priest or scientific preacher.

Mormonism is philosophical; and it bears much and long study. We believe in progressive revelation. Some of the coming revelations will no doubt result from the closer consideration that we shall give to the words already revealed by God through Joseph Smith. It should be the aim and desire and the great pleasure of every student of this university to give some time every day to the study of the Gospel, so that its full beauty may be apparent and make his life happier because of the glory it has awakened.

Unfolding of Spring Styles

Yes, Spring is Here, and it brings New Ideas and New Styles in Wearing Apparel—from Head Covering to Footwear. Throughout this entire establishment you will find evidence of its influence in the dainty freshness of the goods and newness of design. Our Cloak Department is replete with the latest creations, and if you want "something different" you will be sure to find it here. Our early exhibit of exclusive Millinery presents some charming examples, and is authoritative of what will be worn this spring. There is always something to interest you, and attract you to the BIG STORE every day, but commencing Monday you will find hundreds of unusual Price Inducements in almost every department. Read every item—there's money to be saved on all. Please Remember—EVERYTHING IS NEW.

SOME OF THE SMALLEST PRICES EVER PUT ON NEW SPRING GOODS.

THREE HOSIERY SPECIALS

We cannot say too much in praise of the Hosiery Stock we carry. It is the best, the very best of every kind, and not a dollar's worth of seconds—everything chosen to meet the requirements of women who want absolutely irreproachable qualities.

No. 1 is a Misses' fine ribbed, black cotton hose, sold regularly at 30c a pair; is made a special for this sale at **20c**

No. 2 is a Misses' black hose, an extra fine gauge of Egyptian pure combed Maco, a 35c hose to be sold as a special during sale at **25c**

No. 3 is for the boys; made of heavy black cotton, reinforced at knee, heel and toe, the biggest value known to the trade at **25c**

ABOUT THE NEW SPRING APPAREL

Every day we receive large consignments of the new Spring Suits, Coats and Waists, which were personally selected by our representatives while in the east. They come from the leading tailoring firms of America, and have that striking air of quality and exclusiveness which is always characteristic of Women's Costumes at Z. C. M. L.

These garments are exhibited in a greater profusion of beautiful styles, offering more opportunities for choice selection and better values than any other showing of similar apparel in this city. This statement will be verified by general inspection and careful comparisons, which we earnestly invite. Everything is priced according to our usual policy of purely legitimate profit—simply asking you to pay for material and labor—the style being yours for the courtesy of buying.

IN THE CLOAK AND SUIT DEPARTMENT.

HANDKERCHIEF, EDGING AND GLOVE SPECIALS.

Three splendid offers in the notions department for one week, commencing Monday morning, March 12. They ought to bring a crowd of eager buyers.

20c to 35c Handkerchiefs, 15c— Hemstitched and embroidered and scalloped embroidered handkerchiefs, worth from 20c to 35c each, special for week 15c.

Edgings at Half Price—A very pretty line of Hamburg Embroidered edgings to be sold at 5c, 7½c, 10c, 12½c, 15c, 20c, 25c and 30c a yard, every one of them worth double these prices.

\$1.35 Pique Gloves, \$1.00—Our regular \$1.35 stock of women's Pique Gloves, in all colors and sizes, will be sold all this week at \$1.00 a pair. This is a most excellent glove for street wear.

Just Received—Beautiful line of 12 and 15 button length Glee Kid Gloves; all sizes in black and white.

TWO SPECIALS IN CHALLIES

For 3 Days Only
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Naturally the choicest of them will be bought up by women who appreciate first choice and exclusiveness, so it isn't wise to leave the choosing until later, when such materials will be in strong demand. Come Monday morning if you can.

65c French Wool Challies at 45c. They have just arrived, and are certainly among the prettiest fabrics we have ever shown—it is a beautifully figured line, worth every cent of regular price, but for these three days you may have them at 45c a yard.

50c Satin Striped Challies at 37½c. A prettier line of Challies were never imported for this market. You will simply be captivated with the dainty effects these goods present. *If you will ever have Challies, you'll save money by purchasing at this extraordinary price of 37½c.

HALF PRICE SALE IN ART DEPT.

For the Whole Week

All Lunch Cloths and Scarfs, in Drawwork, Cluny Lace, Battenburg and White Embroidery offering almost an endless variety of patterns, and in all sizes, will be sold during this sale at JUST HALF THE REGULAR PRICES. And while this offer is announced for one week's selling, if you want good selection, it will pay you to attend early.

Hats

Will Be Trimm'd Free

Free For Three Days Only



COMMENCING MONDAY MORNING
HERE IS THE PROPOSITION.

We have just received several hundred handmade hats, in all the new shapes and colors, made of horsehair braid, chiffon and mauline. They are not "Sale" Hats bought for a special run, but we obtained them at such a price as will allow us to offer them to you at the Bargain Prices of \$2.00 to \$5.00. You can either purchase your trimmings here, or bring your own materials—it will make no difference to our offer—and we will do the work of trimming according to your order. ABSOLUTELY FREE. Remember every shape is new and correct, and don't forget that the offer only holds good for

MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY.

SOME SPECIALS IN BED SPREADS

To take advantage of these offerings you must come Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, when our entire stock of Honey Comb and Marseilles Bed Spreads will be sold at the following remarkable reductions

\$1.00 Spread for ... \$.50	\$1.25 Spread for ... \$1.00	\$1.50 Spread for ... \$1.20
\$1.75 Spread for ... 1.40	\$2.00 Spread for ... 1.60	\$2.50 Spread for ... 2.00
\$3.00 Spread for ... 2.40	\$3.50 Spread for ... 2.80	\$4.00 Spread for ... 3.20
\$4.50 Spread for ... 3.60	\$5.00 Spread for ... 4.00	\$5.50 Spread for ... 4.40
\$6.00 Spread for ... 4.80	\$6.50 Spread for ... 5.20	\$7.00 Spread for ... 5.60

All White Mercerized Waistings, 20% Off. We have the largest and most complete line of White Mercerized Waistings ever shown to the Salt Lake public. Almost every design you can imagine is exhibited, patterns to suit every taste and satisfy every whim. They are sure to be eagerly sought, so it will be wisdom to make choice early. This is a fabric that does not lose its lustre after washing, being highly mercerized it forever retains its silky appearance. Come and get what you want of it at One-Fifth Less than Usual Price.

20c Gapplisse for only 15c a Yard. This is the new fabric so popular for Kimonas and Dressing Sacs. It comes in all colors, with a variety of Oriental designs; noted particularly for their washing qualities. You should have some. Save five cents on each yard by purchasing what you want during this sale.


IN THE STAPLES DEPARTMENT

THE OXFORD SEASON HERE AGAIN

We invite and welcome the searchlight of keen inspection on our Footwear for Men, Women and Children, feeling confident that such will result in the verdict that we have the finest line of shoes ever exhibited in this city, comprising the newest and cleverest ideas of the World's best Shoe makers. There are many good points about the shoes we carry that are not noted in other lines, such points as neat appearance, elegant finish, individuality, perfect style and unquestioned quality.

Some of the Smartest Shoe Styles for Women are the Oxford, Gibson and Christie Ties, in blacks, tans and browns, in the newest and best leathers. Men's Oxfords come in all leathers, patent kid, patent colt, vici, etc., in different shades of tan and brown, as well as in gunmetal and black. The tendency this year is toward the semi-pointed toe, with the straight and medium swing lasts. But "seeing is believing."

So come in NOW and see the New Things for Spring and Summer.



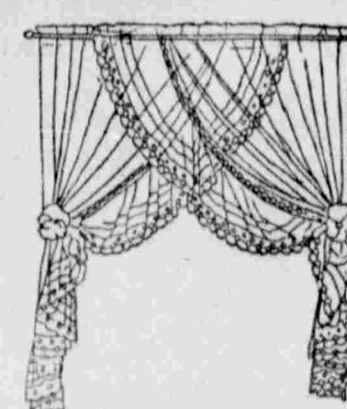

REMNANT CARPET SPECIALS, ONE-THIRD OFF.

We have twenty-five pieces of 22½-inch borders and thirty-five pieces of 27-inch Carpet, in eight to twenty-five yard lengths, which we will place on sale commencing Monday morning. You must be here early for them. They include

Axminsters, Wilton Velvets and Tapestry Brussels.
ALL WILL GO AT 33½ PER CENT REDUCTION.

A Big Lace Curtain Special!

For the next three days we will offer our entire stock of NOVELTY FISH NET CURTAINS at a reduction of 25 per cent. Plain centers with fancy edgings, some with motif in corners; an endless variety of patterns. Regular prices range from \$2.00 to \$10.00 a pair, but during this big Spring Sale they will be marked at **ONE-FOURTH OFF.**



PURE DRUGS.

At our Drug Department,
112-114 South Main Street

You cannot afford to use any but pure, unadulterated drugs. We have them. You should send your prescriptions to the druggist you feel certain will be absolutely honest and careful in filling them. We only employ competent pharmacists for our prescription department.

Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution

HAS THE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE

GROCERIES.

Telephone us your order or call at the store and select the goods. Prompt delivery.

We cater to that trade which wants nothing but the best in groceries. All our stocks are fresh, clean and pure. We have everything you would expect to find in a first-class, up-to-date Grocery Store, and respectfully solicit your trade.