

## THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM.

Its Genuineness Established.

BY ELDER GEORGE REYNOLDS.

CHAP. IX.—The System of Astronomy taught by Abraham proven true by recent research. Testimony of Various Authors. Admissions that the Ancients were taught scientific truths by Divine Revelation.

When Joseph Smith enunciated the sublime truths noticed in our last chapter, with regard to the governing powers amidst the starry hosts, no such thoughts were prevalent amongst the students of astronomy. The Herschels had some inkling of the facts, but their ideas were crude and undeveloped. It was not until the Book of Abraham had been published in America, and if we mistake not in England also, that Sir Wm. G. Hamilton, of the Dublin University, advanced the idea that our solar system had a centre round which the sun and all its attendant planets moved. To-day, the scholars in the most radical school of astronomy will only admit that our system has a centre, and that the probabilities are that that centre has a centre also round which it and all its satellites move. Further than this they cannot go. However, the little they do admit, confirms the mighty truths revealed to Abraham of old and Joseph of to-day. On the other hand, the followers of the more conservative schools will simply acknowledge that our solar system has a proper motion of its own, independent of its relative or apparent motions with regard to other stars. They admit that "relative to the general mass of stars, our sun is moving in the direction of the constellation of Hercules." They have come to this conclusion, because they find that the stars in that part of the heavens are continually growing brighter, (thus showing they are coming nearer,) whilst those in exactly the opposite direction are as continually growing more dim. They have also discovered that "there are in the heavens several cases of widely-extended groups of stars, having a common proper motion entirely different from that of the stars around and among them. Such groups they say 'must form connected systems,'—or in other words, are all controlled by one and the same governing planet. It is also admitted that 'the stars in all parts of the heavens move in all directions with all sorts of velocities; but they claim that the distances of the stars from the earth are so immense, and so short a period of time has elapsed since they first began to notice these movements, that they cannot with certainty say whether they are moving in circles or straight lines, it is only by analogy that they reason that they are moving round a centre. So little are some of these observers willing to admit, that Prof. Newcomb, simply allows that 'as our sun is merely one of the stars, and rather a small one too, it may have a proper motion as well as other stars.' The Smithsonian report for 1871, speaking of Herschel, says: The world can afford to wait. Astronomy advances. It may be, in the distant future, that the mysterious centre around which our sun and his worlds revolve, may be detected and afford a solution for other mysteries as well as these. The greatest astronomer is equipped for no more than a Sabbath-day's journey." Another writer remarks, "Madler attempted to show, from an examination of the proper motions of the stars, that the whole stellar universe was revolving around Aleyone, of the Pleiades ('or seven stars') as a centre—a theory; the grandeur of which led to its wide diffusion in popular writing." Mr. Wm. Petrie, of London, writing with regard to this same star says: "Aleyone, a primeval name of the star, means the centre, and has quite recently been discovered to be really the centre round which even our whole solar system, amongst others, revolves."

Short as is this last quotation, it testifies to three things confirmatory of the divine inspiration that gave to the world the Book of Abraham.

1st.—That this solar system has a central or governing sun or planet.

2d.—That this fact was known to the ancients, who gave to this particular star the name of the centre.

3rd.—That in modern times this

truth has only been "quite recently discovered." That is to say, Joseph Smith could not have learned it from living men or modern books, but only through the revelations of God.

Elder Joseph L. Barfoot affords us the following additional particulars with regard to the revolution of the solar system around Aleyone. He states: The entire march of our sun and its system around its centre is 25,868 years. (The period of the precession of the equinoxes.) I believe this to be the period of the solar orbit, and that there is some relation to this period and the sacred cubit (25.025) which may yet be discovered. The change of 50.1" per annum in the appearance of the stars as seen from the earth results from the orbital motion around Kolob or some other large body. This would be a degree in 72 years. Of course the orbit would be immense; the Lord evidently gave the Prophet Joseph an insight into the order of this grand eternal round, which I think is really pictured in the Hypociphalus.

And here let us observe that the world planet as given by Joseph Smith to the suns, in common parlance called fixed stars, is scientifically correct; as a planet is a world that moves or wanders through space, and the common nomenclature of fixed stars is untruthful and scientifically incorrect, as none are absolutely at a standstill or fixed immovably in one place.

Having thus shown that present research and investigation are proving the astronomical truths first given to this generation by that unlearned but heaven-inspired man, the Prophet Joseph Smith, we have next to show that the Egyptians were familiar with them, and that they learned them through the teachings of Abraham. To have done this some fifteen or twenty years ago would have been next to an impossibility; but to-day, through the researches of various talented and earnest men, it can be demonstrated with comparative ease.

But before we attempt to prove that Abraham was actually the instrument used of God to instruct the Egyptians in the mysteries of the starry worlds, we will present a few extracts, from various writers, to manifest that even the scientific world is beginning to admit that the Egyptians obtained their

divine agency or revelation, as it was entirely out of their power in those early post-diluvian days to make such stupendous advances in this science with the instruments and learning then at their disposal, without they received such aid from records, &c., of antediluvian times. Rev. Mr. Mackay, referring to some of the astronomical truths known to the ancient inhabitants of the land of the Pharaohs; states that he believes they were "revealed to man, ages and generations before science had any existence," and strange to say, the truths to which this gentleman refers, have a direct relation to those contained in the Book of Abraham. Mr. Wm. Osborn, in a sketch of the history of ancient Egypt, remarks: "According to Moses, moreover, the age that produced by far the most remarkable of those monuments (the pyramids), was one in which the Almighty had frequent and familiar intercourse with man, as in the case of the patriarchs Abraham, Melchisedek and Job; while the monument itself evinces innumerable evidences of a knowledge and wisdom to which unaided humanity has no where ever attained."

Rev. Mr. Goodsir, from the demonstration of facts akin to the foregoing, remarks: "The conclusion that some men in primeval times were taught by God, for important religious and moral purposes, scientific truths which modern men of science are only now discovering, is maintained on the strength of two lines of evidence—first the freedom of Scripture rightly interpreted from scientific error, and from the religious and moral errors witnessed among the pagans as the result of ignorance and errors in science; and second, the possession by primeval man of such scientific knowledge as we are only now reaching, as demonstrated by the great Pyramid. Certain things render it extremely probable that this knowledge was imparted to the Ethiopians [the Gentiles], (who employed it in constructing the great Pyramid) by servants of God whom He had taught; and though ultimately corrupted and obscured by the pagans,

still it is highly probable that evincing its truth even from the midst of enveloping error, this scientific knowledge continued to stimulate the Egyptian, and afterwards the Greek mind to scientific enquiry. \* \* \* For as there is the clearest evidence that a revelation of religious truth existed in premeval times, and continued to benefit men, even when it became more or less corrupted, so is there as clear evidence that men were premevally instructed in the most important cosmologic and scientific truths. \* \* \* The extreme probability is that a true scientific conception of the Kosmos in general would be at first conveyed to man directly by God, to guard his intelligent and highly-favored child from nature worship."

That God did use Abraham, as stated in his book, to convey astronomical knowledge to the Egyptians is, we think, fully demonstrated by the following:

Josephus (Book I. chap. viii) states that Abraham "communicated to them (the Egyptians) arithmetic, and delivered to them the science of astronomy, for before Abraham came into Egypt they were unacquainted with those parts of learning, for that science came by the Chaldeans into Egypt and from them to the Greeks also."

This is very strong, corroborative testimony, but modern research actually claims to have discovered the year in which Abraham did this. A British text book, entitled Facts and Dates, published in 1870 by the well-known firm of Wm. Blackwood and Sons, of Edinburgh, (we are particular in giving details to show that it proceeds from a reliable and highly respectable firm) in its history of Ancient Egypt, gives the following:

"B. C. 1980. Abraham teaches the King of Egypt the true chronology, after which the inscriptions bear the name of the year and month."

So far as the actual year is concerned we deem it a matter of minor importance so that the fact is acknowledged, and the truth of modern revelation vindicated.

\* Popular Astronomy, 1878, by Professor S. Newcomb, of the U.S. Naval Observatory.  
† Ibid.

To be continued.

## Correspondence.

THISTLE VALLEY,  
January 3, 1879.

Editors Deseret News:

Dear Brethren.—I thought a few lines from this mission might be of interest to your numerous readers. I was called to this mission Dec. 8, 1878. I have been very busy since that time, acting as head teacher, help to President John Spencer, and boss of the work. We have visited all the Lamanites in the valley and most of the white settlers, a good feeling is manifest in most of the brethren and sisters, and the Lamanites in particular are full of faith and good work, they are as easily controlled as any people I ever lived amongst. We have four of them appointed as teachers, two of them visited the southern district with me, and one of them laboring with M. V. Selman in the northern district, one of them being absent. I must say that taking into consideration that they are without education, they are the most apt teachers of the gospel I ever saw.

We have a tithing house erected and nearly completed. President Spencer, M. V. Selman and nine of the Lamanite brethren have been working in the cañon getting out timber to build a meeting house and a school house combined. The Lamanite brethren labored faithfully and felt spirited while at work.

We have meetings on Sundays in the morning and at night and Thursday night meetings, and a good spirit and feeling are in our assemblies.

Good health in general. Weather cold, and enough to do to keep all good Latter-day Saints out of mischief.

Your brother in the gospel,  
C. C. ROWE,  
Per M. V. SELMAN.

When a dog snaps at a fly that has been fooling round him four or five hours and misses it, he feels just like a girl who pours the full tide of her affection over a young man and suddenly discovers that it won't soak in.—[Andrews' Bazar.

PERSONS wishing any information about land matters should address T. C. Bailey, Land Agent, Salt Lake City, who can generally save settlers the expense of a trip to the Land Office. Information free. Inclose stamp. w 20

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## IMPORTANT LETTER

From a Distinguished Physician.

NO single disease has entailed more suffering than Catarrh. The sense of smell, of taste, of sight, of hearing, the human voice, the mind, one or more of these, sometimes all yield to its destructive influence. The poison it distributes throughout the system attacks every vital force, and breaks up the most robust of constitutions. Ignored because but little understood by most physicians, impotently assailed by quacks and charlatans, those suffering from it have little hope to be relieved of it this side of the grave. It is time, then, that the proper treatment of this terrible disease by remedies within the reach of all passed into hands at once competent and trustworthy. The new and hitherto untried method adopted by Dr. Sanford, the preparation of his RADICAL CURE has won my hearty approval. I believe it likely to succeed when all other remedies fail, because it strikes at the root of the disease, viz., the acidified blood, while it treats the ulcerated membrane by direct application to the nasal passages. Its action is based on carefully tested rules, and unless the vital force be too far exhausted, must, in the great majority of cases, effect a cure.

GEO. BEARD, M. D.  
NORSCOTT BLOCK, So. FRAMINGHAM, Oct. 1, 1874.

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Very truly yours, S. D. CALDWIN & CO.  
Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Drugs, Books and Stationery, Washington, Ind., Feb. 23, 1874.

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