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Scripture Study Notes

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Review of The God Makers

February 1989 goal

Object

To read and study the information presented about Mormons in the book *The God Makers* by Ed Decker and Dave Hunt using the scriptures and the book *The TRUTH About "The God Makers"* by Gilbert W. Scharffs.

Method

Read chapter in *The God Makers*, highlight passages that seem important to me, make my comments here, and then read the corresponding chapter(s) in *The TRUTH about "The God Makers"* and then add further comments here. I'll also watch the video version of *The God Makers*.

Herein, members of the *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* are referred to as Latter-day Saints (LDS) and the church title abbreviated to LDS church.

Organization

Comments in this section are organized by the corresponding chapter headings and pages numbers in the books *The God Makers* and *The TRUTH about "The God Makers"* which includes the following:

- The Mormon Challenge (7-13) / The Restored Church of Christ (65-73)
- A Fascinating Question (14-21) / A Satisfying Answer (74-76)
- The Pagan Connection (22-33) / The Gospel Returned to the Earth (77-84)
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- Sacred or Secret (132-145) / Stand in the Holy Place (185-205)
- Lying Prophets and Apostles (146-158) / Marriage Can Be for Eternity (206-217)
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- Letter to Gilbert Scharffs

The Mormon Challenge (7-13) / The Restored Church of Christ (65-73)

February 6, 1989

Since this is the first chapter I expected to read about why the book was written and the investigation methods used. Instead what I read was very emotive and negative. This chapter seems to be setting the tone for the rest of the book; that is, the use of words to invoke negative emotions against the *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*.

I guess the first page (page 7) should have clued me into the real intent of the book. The LDS church is:

- compared to the Soviet Union (“The Zion Curtain”)
- protecting its “vast wealth and influence”
- denying people some civil rights
- discriminating against non-Mormons
- creating a heavy “cloud of oppression”
- acting as a “Big Brother”
- always listening and watching—suppressing the freedom of speech and the press

These comments can only invoke anti-church emotions.

- **Freedom of speech and the press:** evidence indicates otherwise.
- **1st amendment:** defendants admitted distributing pornographic materials and were sentenced accordingly.
- **Obedience:** rather than sacrifice (1 Sam 15:22); to be made righteous (Rom 5:19).
- **Rejecting Joseph Smith...Gentiles:** Untrue! Doctrine is that because of Christ everyone, independent of believe in Joseph Smith or Jesus Christ, will receive salvation.
- **Nation within a Nation...:** When Mormons arrived in Utah in 1847 it was not US territory, it belonged to Mexico. Utah became part of the US in 1848, Mormons tried 5 times to become a state; that is, they did not wish to remain a separate nation. Brigham Young pledged his loyalty to the Union. Note also that LDS scripture clearly states that the US constitution is divinely inspired (D&C 98:4-6;101:77-78).
- **Theocratic rule over the US...:** motivation to convert people is not political. There will be theocratic rule by Jesus Christ during the millennium.

- **Same God as Christians...:** LDS do not claim to believe in the same God as modern Christians (or at least that accepted as doctrine by their church; I suspect that most people beliefs are closer to the LDS concept of God). They do not accept the traditional trinitarian interpretation of the Godhead—that there are three Gods in one and that God does not have a body.
 - LDS believe in the same God that Christians prior to AD 325 believed in—a Godhead of three separate beings. The early church fathers Ignatius, Hermes, Justin Martyr, Origen, Athanasius, and others argued that the Godhead consisted of separate Beings (source-*Early Christian Doctrines*, by J. D. N. Kelly).
- **Thoroughly researched and documented:** sweeping generalizations without documentation are made, some footnotes cannot be found and many refer to material which when taken in context means something else, unofficial Mormon sources are quoted, anonymous sources are used.

A Fascinating Question (14-21) / A Satisfying Answer (74-76)

February 9, 1989

- Church easy to get into? One must stop drinking alcohol, tea, coffee, stop smoking, pay tithing and other offerings, attend church, work in the church, keep commandments. My experience has been that much is expected of someone before and after they join the church and it is an ongoing commitment- not just a Sunday commitment. Many may not realize the extent of their commitment when they become church members, once they have been members awhile they may want less church; however, they realize that they believe the doctrines taught in the church and this makes it difficult to leave the church.
- True facts different from those taught by missionaries? Examples?
- Documented evidence? Where is it? Ties to occultism and Satanism? Compared to Hinduism. Actual beliefs?
- Death threats? By whom?
- Church has purchased video copies of film. Shows that they have at least reviewed the film. Maybe they don't think it warrants a response. Did the LDS church sponsor *The TRUTH About "The God Makers"*?
- 1973 Government study? Drug abuse? Divorce rate higher? Child murder rate 5 times the national average?
 - Drug abuse? The authors reference *The Denver Post* article, and *The Denver Post* authors said they were quoting from page 287 of *The Mormon Experience*. The referenced source has been misquoted, what was actually said was that there were no adequate figures to show how drugs were being used by Mormons.
 - For Mormons married in a Mormon temple, divorce rate is 1 in 10 compared to the national average of 1 in 3. Out of 50 states, Utah ranks 41st for murder, 50th for abortion, 46th for Fetal and Infant mortality, 1st for birth rate.
- Belief that man can turn themselves into Gods? Actual belief is that this can't be done without the help of Jesus Christ.

The Pagan Connection (22-33) / The Gospel Returned to the Earth (77-84)

February 12, 1989

- Eternally pregnant? We do not know how bodies for spirits are created, nor is there any church doctrine related to such.
- White skin necessary to become a God? 2 Nephi 30:6. Now says pure instead of white. Reason for change? I personally see a “whiteness” in people who are particularly spiritual. My understanding of scriptures (for example, Exo 34: 29-35 and Ecc 8:1) tell me that what I see is the result of personally purity.
- Can become Gods. Scriptures supporting? Hinduism teachings? Most Christians believe in the ex nihilo idea that God created man and the earth out of nothing. Mormons reject this doctrine and state that man and matter have always existed but not in the same form as at present. Man is progressing, by conscious choice, with the help of God towards Godhood.
 - Scriptures? See Psalms 82:6, John 10:34, 2 Peter 1:4, Acts 17:29, 1 John 3:1, Deut 10:17
 - Many prominent Christian thinkers and leaders have stated that they believed that man could become a God: Feuerbach “God is merely the image of what man can be” Whitman “Divine I am, inside and out” C. S. Lewis “We live in a society of possible gods and goddesses” Thomas Aquinas “...God became man, that man might become God”
 - Hinduism and Mormonism both teach that there is more than one God. However, their concepts of Gods are entirely different. Hindu gods can evil and can also be animals. Also, Hinduism teaches that there is an impersonal force that fills all space called Brahman and that man originally had no identity and was part of Brahman and will eventually merge with Brahman again. Mormonism teaches that man has always been separate from God, and always will be. It seems to me that the traditional Christian concept of God is very similar to the Hindu concept of Brahman. Also note that Mormons do not believe in reincarnation, Hindus do.
- Lucifer and Jesus sexually begotten brothers? No LDS claim as to how spirits are created.
- Mormonism isn’t based on the *Bible* or the *Book of Mormon*?
- Clear connection between Mormon doctrine of preexistence and the theory of evolution? Actual Mormon doctrine is that we would not have progressed to the point were we are without God’s help and that we can’t progress any further without his help. Have any supporters of the theory of

evolution claimed any connection with the Mormon teaching of premortal existence? Scriptures supporting preexistence? See Heb 12:9, John 9:2, Jer 1:5, Num 16:22, Num 27:16.

Up to Godhood (34-48) / We are the Offspring of God (85-89)

February 13, 1989

- Marriage only for this earth life (Matt 22:23-33)? This scripture does not state that marriage is for this life only, it does states that people neither marry nor are given in marriage. This does not mean that marriage or that families cease at death. Indeed from the context of the scripture, one wonders why the Sadducees (who didn't believe in the resurrection anyway) were asking the question; I find myself thinking that Jesus could have said more on the subject, but chose not to.
- Need more than one wife to become a God? Authors quoted Brigham Young; however, on the previous page of the source they quoted said that if it was wrong to have more than one wife then the Lord would reveal it, this occurred in 1890. Also the authors often quote Bruce R. McConkie; they have ignored his statement that plural marriage is not essential to salvation or exaltation.
- Bishops recommending divorce. Actual church guidelines for Bishops states that they should not recommend divorce.
- Mormons don't refer to themselves as Christian but prefer to be called Saints. Elsewhere in the book the authors object to Mormons calling themselves Christian! Saints was the term used by the followers of Christ by early Christians and in the Old Testament (Deut 33:3, Ps 50:5; 89:7; Acts 9:32, 9:41; Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 1:2, 14:33; Eph 1:1; 2:19).
- Blind submission to church authorities? Heber C. Kimball was only partially quoted, earlier he said that he might be wrong-which indicates that he was stating his personal opinion and thus was not church doctrine. Blind obedience is not expected and would certainly go counter to the central LDS doctrine of free agency. Mormons are taught that they are entitled to personal inspiration regarding any utterance of church leaders. They are encouraged to study the scriptures for themselves and pray for direct guidance from God.
- If the *Bible* is the final authority, one might be tempted to worship it instead of God! Most Christians do not rely only on the *Bible*, many Biblical teachings are expanded on by man-made creeds written hundreds of years after the *Bible*. The *Bible* itself makes no claims to infallibility and Christian leaders disagree which version of the *Bible* is best. *Bible* accuracy is subject to translation methods and limitations.
- Joseph Smith will reign with Jesus Christ? The LDS position is that only Jesus will reign.

The Mormon Dilemma (49-62) / Faith Without Works Is Dead (90-105)

February 13-14, 1989

- Accuracy of research done by Jerald and Sandra Tanner? Suppressed Mormon documents?
 - Lawrence Foster, an associate professor of American history at Georgia Institute of Technology, a scholar who is non-Mormon and who has spent a decade in intensive work on Mormonism, has said of the Tanners: until they “are prepared to abide by accepted standards of scholarly behaviour and common courtesy, they can expect little sympathy from serious historians,” and “the Tanners’ own work falls short of history.” Foster also stated, “The Tanners have repeatedly assumed a holier-than-thou stance, refusing to be fair in applying the same debate standard of absolute rectitude which they demand of Mormonism to their own actions, writings, and beliefs.”
 - Often the Tanners have published scholarly works of living individuals without their permission. They are accused of intentionally avoiding sources that would modify or refute their interpretation of Mormon history. For example, for years one of their star sources was Dee Jay Nelson who claimed to be an Egyptologist; he has been shown to a fraud.
 - The Tanners themselves have had to publish retractions; for example, two documents that they and others considered evidence that Oliver Cowdery denying his testimony they admitted lack evidence of being authentic, and that Oliver Cowdery was at Council Bluffs in Iowa in 1848 as LDS accounts state.
- Denial of human weakness because of belief that one is a god-in-embryo? My experience has been that I am more conscious of my sinful nature and my sense of unworthiness to be a Mormon.
- Conflict between Mormonism and science? A good starting point for refuting this contention is to read the book *Science, Saints, & Sense* by R. Kenneth Walter. Also see *The Creation* by Frank B. Salisbury and *The Physics of Immortality* by Frank J. Tipler.
- Desire to be a god is selfish and breeds pride and arrogance and is evil? Is the desire to be Christlike evil? Christ himself commanded us to be perfect just as our Heavenly Father (Matt 5:48) who is God. Christ became perfect (Luke 13:32, Heb 5:9) and commanded us to do likewise. We are commanded to be godlike! If we seek after godhood for power and influence then we will fail. We must seek after godhood in the same manner that Christ did-by serving others. The Greek word “be” in “be ye perfect” is in the future tense, hence “become perfect”.

- In 1980 Utah was ranked 13th out of 50 states for child abuse? The source quoted also states that there is no evidence that the abusers are active LDS. Also Utah has one of the toughest child abuse reporting laws in the nation.
- Only 70% of Mormons have been to a Mormon temple. This indicates to me that only 30% of Mormons are really committed to their faith and living the standards expected of them. I would be interested in comparing the 30% with the 70%. If 70% of Mormons are not living the way that Mormonism says they should it seems to me that any statistics quoted would be unduly weighted.
- Eternal life by grace without works?
- Only 50% of Mormons active? What are the figures for other churches? Only 25% have been to the temple and half of those don't continue to go.
- Mormons are dishonest in thinking that they can meet the high expectations of themselves? Are the church standards of personal righteousness impossible to meet? Are these high standards wrong? It seems that some people do meet these high expectations, they, then, can't be impossible!
- A woman can never become a god only a goddess! Let's get serious! A goddess is the feminine form of god.
- Mormon women are oppressed and suffer from depression more than is the norm within the states? The article quoted from refers to mostly to people not keeping any religious standard. Also only one LDS and one Catholic example are identified, and in the LDS example the article made it clear that this was not a typical LDS situation. Note also that a question has been added to the LDS temple interview about child and wife abuse.
- 25% of missionaries are abandoning their mission? From church sources the figure is 0.4%
- Only two religions Christianity and Hinduism (paganism); one teaches that we are separated from God by sin, the other that we are not. The basic Mormon dilemma stems from its Hindu roots? One of its tenets (from the Baghavad-Gita) is that Krishna come forth to save the righteous and condemn sinners. Christ came to save sinners. One must be worthy to join Mormon church whereas other churches embraces sinners?
 - Christ came to save sinners is a paraphrase from 1 Tim 1:15, in the same epistle Paul also said "Be rich in good works" (1 Tim 6:18). Also see 1 Tim 2:10, 5:10 and 2 Tim 3:17.
 - Hindus believe in reincarnation so that they have many chances to reach Moksha (perfection). LDS do not believe in reincarnation. It is the non-LDS Christ that only saves Christians.
 - Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism are offshoots of Hinduism. Jews, Moslems, Confucianists. Taoists, Shintoists, and Zoroastrians are not. Jews state that Christianity and Islam are offshoots of Judaism.

Furthermore most scholars do not classify Hinduism as pagan. However, there are certainly some parallels with paganism in Hinduism, Christianity, and Mormonism.

— For an excellent book comparing the various religions and their origins, see *This Age of Confusion* by Alvin R. Dyer.

- A statement made by the Mormon presidency on February 15, 1978 says in part: “The great religious leaders of the world such as Mohammed, Confucius, and the Reformers, as well as philosophers including Socrates, Plato, and others, received a portion of God’s light.” Also refer to 2 Nephi 29:12 and Alma 29:8.
- Mormons are warned against having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? What nonsense! Mormons are constantly encouraged to study, pray, and fast to establish such a personal relationship.

An Astonishing Legacy (63-78) / To Them That Are Dead (106-118)

February 15-16, 1989

- Prophet link between man and God? Only true insofar as things relating the church as a whole.
- Once you are dead you can't be saved? What about people who have never heard the gospel? What about those that lived and died before Christ was born in mortality?
- Most Mormons don't realize that temples are used mainly for saving the dead? This is an outright lie! Death final? See 1 Peter 4:6, 1 Peter 3:18:20.
- *Bible* tells us to avoid genealogies? What about all the genealogies within the *Bible*? (1 Chr 9:1; Matt 1:1-16; Luke 3:23-38). Told to avoid those of Greek mythology and fictitious genealogies that were in circulation because Herod had destroyed the Hebrew records.
- Baptism for the dead? 1 Cor 15:29. Uses the argument that 28 verses uses "we" and then in verse 29 uses "they"; the "they" must be someone other than the "we" referred to in the other verses; the "they" are non-christians (pagans) who practiced baptism for the dead because they believed in life after death. This argument misses the point that Paul is using baptism for the dead as proof that there is a resurrection; it seems illogical to use a pagan practice to illustrate this; unless, of course, the practice was correct.
- Spirit prison? Called Mormon purgatory and compared to the Catholic one but without indulgences. When people die they go to hell or heaven and can not communicate with the living? Except for 1 Sam 28:7-19 and Matt 17:1-9. What about Christ? It is then argued that since this is the case then spirits appearing in a Mormon temple must be demons and communication with them is necromancy (communicating with the dead). Christ uses the term spirit prison in 1 Peter 3:18-19.
- Mentions the many visitations of spirits in Mormon temples, especially of Jesus Christ. Strange that Jesus Christ should appear so often to a people that the authors claim do not worship him! What about appearance of angel to Mary? What about spirit appearances to Jesus whilst he was alive? Matt 17:3. Also see Jud 13:3.
- Mormo is god of ghouls (evil beings-not human-that robbed graves and ate corpses). I find this very interesting, the nickname Mormons was given to the LDS by their enemies, one could then argue that it is they who are inspired by Satan. In Chinese Mormon means 'gates of hell'? Gates into or out of hell?

- Mormons are polytheistic? Mormons worship only one God so by definition they are monotheistic. Since Mormons believe there is more than one God, they could be called henotheistic which is worship of one God without denying the existence of others. See Deut 10:17 and 1 Cor 8:6.
- Mormons teach that Lucifer is not a fallen angel? Another outright lie! The authors know otherwise. See 2 Nephi 9:8, Moses 4:3, and Isaiah 14:12.
- Fig-leaf aprons symbol of priesthood power? Again distortion! What is actually said and done is as quoted in Gen 3:7. Also did not refuse aprons instead God made them some clothes (Gen 3:21).
- Mormons believe that there is no hell? Again an outright lie!

Myths, Zion, Mecca, and Magic (79-98) / A Marvelous Work (119-145)

February 16-18, 1989

- Orson Pratt taught that vegetables and animals have intelligence and are capable of feeling, knowing, and rejoicing. Also that they can evolve into Gods?
- Joseph Smith taught that when a “Gentle” is baptized their blood is replaced with Jewish blood?
- Oliver B. Huntington claimed that Joseph Smith taught that the moon is inhabited by people 6 feet tall, who dress like Quakers, and live a 1000 years?
 - The book quotes from an 1881 journal entry, Huntington would have been about 11 years of age at the time and the indications are that he heard this from someone else. Prophets are still human and not everything they say or do is in their capacity as prophets. If the belief at the time was that moon men existed, it quite possible that Joseph Smith did believe that moon men existed. From the actual historical evidence all that can be said is that we do not know.
 - J. R. Dummelow, a respected commentator on the *Bible*, has described the biblical prophets “...Though purified and ennobled by the influence of His Holy Spirit, these men each their own peculiarities of manner and disposition—each with his own education or want of education—each with his own way of looking at things—each influenced differently from one another by the different experiences and disciplines of his life. Their inspiration did not involve a suspension of their natural faculties; it did not even make them free from earthly passion; it did not make them machines—it left them men.”
 - “Therefore we find their knowledge sometimes no higher than that of their contemporaries...” (J. R. Dummelow, *One Volume Bible Commentary*, page cxxxv).
 - Biblical prophets sometimes made mistakes but that did not detract from them being prophets. Jeremiah prophesied that king Zedekiah would “die in peace” (Jer 34:4-5); his sons were slain, he was blinded, chained, and thrown in prison where he died (Jer 52:10-11). Moses’ pride stopped him from entering the promised land. Aaron made a golden calf. There was contention between Paul and Barnabas and Paul and Peter. Two apostles argued over who should sit on the right hand of Jesus.
- Brigham Young taught that the sun is inhabited? Note that Paul said that he saw an angel standing in the sun (Rev 19:17). The Brigham Young quotation comes from the *Journal of Discourses* which has never been regarded as authoritative by the LDS church. In any case, the actual

quotation says “Do you think it is inhabited? I rather think it is”. Assuming that what was recorded is accurate (and it might not be), he was actually expressing his personal opinion and not speaking as a prophet.

- Hyrum Smith taught that the sun, moon, and the stars were inhabited?
- Joseph Smith Sr blessed Oliver B Huntington in Kirtland, 1837 that he would preach to the inhabitants of the moon. Also, Joseph Smith Sr blessed Lorenzo Snow on Dec 15, 1836 that he would be able to translate himself from one planet to another and go to the moon.
- Joseph Smith thought that Elias and Elijah were separate prophets?
- 11 witnesses didn’t actually feel and hold the gold plates? 8 of the witnesses said “We have seen and hefted...we did handle with our hands... we also saw the engravings...we lie not”. The other three witnesses were shown the plates by an angel. These are two different types of testimony; each with a different purpose.
- Martin Harris claimed to have visited the moon? This was claimed by a bitter anti-LDS writer William Alexander Linn and quoted in *The Story of the Mormons* (New York, 1902, p 35).
- Subjective burning in the bosom. If the authors had ever felt it they would know that it is very real and no more subjective than heartburn is!
- Noah built his ark in North Carolina? The source of this story seems to be Oliver B.Huntington. Three of the four accounts state South not North Carolina and are from articles in the 1890s. This claim is not LDS doctrine.
- Garden of Eden in Jackson County, Missouri. This is LDS doctrine. Why couldn’t the ark have started in the US and ended up after 120 days on the other side of the world? The continents were not divided until the days of Peleg. Why couldn’t Noah’s people have given the names of rivers they knew to those they found in their new area. Why couldn’t the four rivers that flowed out of Eden have been those now known as the Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, and Platte, or other rivers that may have flowed thousands of years ago?
- Joseph Smith passed his authority to his son Joseph Smith III on January 17, 1844? This was a record of blessing not of ordination. Joseph Smith III was never ordained and so never received the authority to become the prophet. However, one could reasonably ask by what authority was the blessing given and was Joseph Smith not being guided by the Holy Ghost, as he ought to have been, in pronouncing such a blessing?
 - It should also be noted that on previous occasions Joseph Smith had also indicated other men or groups of men who might succeed him—Hyrum Smith, Sidney Rigdon, Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, his unborn son David, and on a number of occasions the Council of the Twelve Apostles (see D&C 107, D&C 112:30, D&C124:127-128).

- Dr. Leonard J. Arrington was replaced as church historian because he was too professional and independent?
- There is no archaeological evidence to support the claims of Joseph Smith?
 - John C. Sorenson (chairman of the BYU anthropology department) criticizes a number of amateur archeologists (Dewey and Edith Farnsworth, Jack West, and Paul Cheesman) as naive, harmful, and worse than useless. The authors fail to point out that in the same articles (*Ensign*, Sept. & Oct. 1984) referred to that Sorenson points out many evidences of the *Book of Mormon*; horses, steel, wheels, white-skinned people, metal toys, barley, etc. In Joseph Smith's day this wasn't known.
 - Michael Coe, recognized as an expert archaeologist on pre-Colombian civilization in America by the Smithsonian Institute, has said that nothing has ever been found to prove that the *Book of Mormon* is a historical document. The authors again fail to give the full quotation, Coe also said "Mormon archaeologists over the years have almost unanimously accepted the *Book of Mormon* as an accurate, historical account of the New World peoples between 2000 BC and AD 421". Michael Coe also said in the same article "Not even the best and most advanced research has ever been able to establish on purely archaeological grounds the historical details of the *Bible*, for instance the existence of Jesus Christ". Does this mean that Jesus Christ did not exist?
 - LDS archaeologist Professor Dee F. Green has stated that there are no archaeological finds that support anything in the *Book of Mormon*. Again the authors fail to mention that Green believes that the cultural and historical evidence that has been done is much more impressive than archaeological evidence. It should also be mentioned that some LDS archaeologists feel that they have good evidence for locating many of the *Book of Mormon* sites.
 - Thomas Stuart Ferguson who founded the church-sponsored New World Archaeological Foundation after 25 years came to the conclusion that Joseph Smith was a fraud?
- A number of scientific studies have been made, and are ongoing, on the *Book of Mormon* text. A few examples are given below.
 - Dr. John W. Welch has found chiasmus in the *Book of Mormon*. Chiasmus is a rhetorical device used prevalently in the *Bible* and in other ancient literatures and was unnoticed by modern Western civilization until the mid-nineteenth century. "Since there is no evidence that anyone in America understood chiasmus in 1830 when the *Book of Mormon* was published, the remarkable presence of complex chiasms in the *Book of Mormon* testifies to the ancient origin

of the text” (Noel B Reynolds, ed. *Book of Mormon Authorship*, p 34) *Ensign* article on chiasmus?

- Dr. C Wilfred Griggs has pointed out the striking similarity to the *Book of Mormon* tree of life story and other 6th or 7th century BC texts which have been found in burial sites around the Mediterranean. He concluded that the source of the stories were likely Egyptian (Ibid, page 75).
- Dr. Hugh W Nibley has studied the account of Lehi’s exodus from Jerusalem in light of the Lachish letters discovered in 1935 and found astonishing parallels in form, style, subject matter, and even mention of specific names and events (Ibid, page 103).
- Dr. Eugene England has also compared the Lehi account with recent cultural and geographical findings. The study revealed no contradictions and numerous remarkable correspondences. More than 20 significant geographic details accurately described in the *Book of Mormon* but not known in the 1820s serve as evidence that it is indeed an ancient document, written from firsthand information (Ibid, page 143).
- Dr. Wayne A Larsen and Dr. Alvin C Rencher have conducted a statistical analysis of style in the *Book of Mormon* (Ibid, page 158). Using “wordprint analysis”, a method of determining idiosyncratic subconscious patterns in the writings of any author, they conclude that:
 - the *Book of Mormon* was written by many authors - no *Book of Mormon* passages resemble the writing of any of the commonly suggested 19th century authors.
- Joseph Smith was arrested and found guilty on March 20, 1826 of defrauding Deacon Isaiah Stowell by pretending to use a seer stone to locate buried treasure? For details on Joseph Smith’s involvement in “money digging”, refer to *Joseph Smith and the Beginnings of Mormonism* by Richard L. Bushman, Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1984, pages 71-76. The authors do not mention that Joseph Smith tried to convince Stowell to give up the project. Also note that Stowell didn’t accuse him and some accounts say that Smith was acquitted (see *The Mormon Experience*, page 11). Oliver Cowdery also said that he was acquitted.
- Hill Cumorah is not in New York state! Brigham Young claimed that that a wagon load of gold plates existed in a huge cavern within the hill?
- According to Dr. Reed C Durham (in *No help For the Widow’s Son*, Martin Publishing Co, Nauvoo, Il, 1980 pages 22-25) Joseph Smith used during his life and was wearing at his death a magical Masonic medallion called a Jupiter talisman which carried the sign and image of Jupiter. In astrology, Jupiter is always associated with high positions and getting one’s own way. The purpose of the talisman was to call upon celestial intelligences whose

names were written on the talisman, there were three names written on Joseph Smith's talisman. What were they? See comments on chapter 9 for further information.

The World's Most Perfect Book? (99-115) / Another Testament of Jesus Christ (146-178)

February 19, 1989

- Kinderhook Plates (6 brass plates with writing on them in an unknown language), found in April 1843 were regarded authentic by Joseph Smith? His translation is locked away in the Church archives? The plates were a deliberate hoax. The May 1, 1843 entry in Joseph Smith's journal was probably not written by Joseph Smith but by a later scribe; in those days it was quite common for scribes to add material using the first person form. No original document known to have been written by Joseph Smith contains any reference to the Kinderhook plates. Also Mormon publications for years have stated the possibility that the plates were a fraud (refer to *Ensign*, Aug. 1981, pages 66-74). For a detailed treatment refer to *An Analysis of the Kinderhook Plates* by Dr. Paul R. Cheesman.
- Only supposed to be three witnesses (Ether 5:2-4)? Why was this changed to include a further eight? Eight of the eleven witnesses left the church, only the three Smiths remained? This is untrue, Christian and Peter Whitmer remained until their deaths; Oliver Cowdery and Martin Harris returned after leaving—Cowdery in 1850 and Harris in 1870.
 - The eight, however, never denied what they said they had seen. “Only” has been added by the authors, for the actual quote see D&C5:10-15; the authors also neglected to quote 2 Nephi 27:12-13; the authors also misquote Ether 5:2-4.
 - All eleven witnesses were unstable and unreliable? The available evidence indicates otherwise!
 - Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, and Martin Harris (the three witnesses) all had subsequent visions that convinced them of contrary religious beliefs. Whitmer heard a voice that told him to separate himself from the Mormons. Hiram Page acquired his own seer stone and began receiving revelations often contrary to those of Joseph Smith; Cowdery and Whitmer were led astray by Page.
 - Cowdery was excommunicated from the church for accusing Joseph Smith of adultery. The authors fail to mention that Oliver Cowdery was disgruntled with Joseph Smith for several years but he never denied his testimony and that he was rebaptized in 1850.
 - Harris claimed to have travelled to the moon and saw Jesus standing beside Joseph Smith in a meeting, although no one else, except the prophet, present saw him. The authors are again misquoting their sources.
- James Jesse Strang claimed he found some plates which he translated with the Urim and Thummim; he also had witnesses. All the Mormon witnesses (for a time) except Cowdery, accepted Strang as Joseph Smith's successor

after his death? More than half of the eleven witnesses were dead by this time, so how could they accept him? Also all the remaining ones soon left Strang's movement. John Whitmer wrote, "Strang reigns in the place of Smith the author and proprietor of the *Book of Mormon*."

- Shakers claimed that Jesus Christ made his second appearance in the form of a woman called Ann Lee. Martin Harris joined this group and seems to have remained faithful to it. They also had witnesses, visions, revelations. Again the author are misquoting their sources! Martin Harris was rebaptized into the LDS church at Kirtland in 1842 soon after he joined the Shakers!
- Many examples of occult phenomena in the early church. Started with Joseph Smith's use of a seer-stone, Jupiter talisman, "magic underwear" with occult Masonic markings. It is claimed that these phenomena were demonic in origin as were all Joseph Smith's revelations. Joseph Smith himself admitted that after the gospel was established in Kirtland that many false spirits were introduced and many strange visions were seen.
- So many demonic manifestations that instructions had to be given on how to recognize a devil, angel, or glorified man? Cae quoted when Joseph Smith was ordaining Harvey Whitlock a High Priest, who turned black, his fingers were set like claws, eyes were oval O's, and he was unable to speak? Again the authors are selectively quoting their sources out of context and thereby altering meaning; Joseph Smith identified the occurrence as evil and commanded Satan to leave.
- Heber C Kimball told the saints to keep weapons by their bedside to ward off demons? Again the authors are misquoting! The entire talk was about the coming of Johnston's army coming to Utah to put down a falsely reported LDS uprising. Kimball referred to Johnston as the devil.
- *Book of Mormon* has had over 4000 changes since it was first published. Many changes related to incorrect grammar; for example, use of were instead of was, is instead of are, insertion of a in front of verbs, incorrect use of words like arrested instead of wrested, arriven instead of arrived, fraid instead of afraid, no instead of any. It seems to me that these are the kind of errors I would have expected if Joseph Smith's claims were true, as he only had a very basic education; he was using the colloquial language he knew; for example, "...he found Muloki a preaching", "...they was angry with me". Note that 99% of the original edition of the *Book of Mormon* has not been changed, so 4000 changes seem relatively few.
- B.H.Roberts, Mormon historian and general authority, is quoted as suggesting that Joseph Smith used Ethan Smith's *View of the Hebrews* as a base for the *Book of Mormon*? Yet again the authors are misleading readers by giving only partial information. Elder Roberts was one of the foremost defenders of the LDS faith, he often took on the role of "devil's advocate" to encourage church leaders to find answers to what some of the critics of the *Book of Mormon* were saying. The quoted source was a report

comparing the *Book of Mormon* with *View of the Hebrews*; Roberts in the same source that the report did not represent his conclusions. It was a kind of lawyers brief on one side of a question intended to stimulate discussion. Elder Roberts was criticized for using his “devil’s advocate” approach, but he argued that it was a good experience and “will open your eyes and deepen your understanding”.

- Joseph Smith plagiarized from several books of his day (for example, *View of the Hebrews*) and from the *Bible* (for example, compare Isaiah 2-14 with 2 Nephi 12-24, Isaiah 48-49 with 1 Nephi 20-21, Isaiah 50-51 with 2 Nephi 7-8)?
 - The *View of the Hebrews* was published in 1823 and again in 1825. There is no evidence that Joseph Smith ever read *View of the Hebrews* and even if he did why would he contradicted and ignored it at virtually every turn? (see *View of the Hebrews: An Unparallel, Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies Update*, Oct. 1985 pages 1-2).
 - Note that 93% of the *Book of Mormon* does not contain direct *Bible* quotes. It should also be noted that most biblical similarities are with Isaiah, 433 verses; 199 are word for word, 234 are different. One verse, 2 Nephi 12:16, is not only different but adds the phrase “And upon all the ships of the sea”; this agrees with the Greek (Septuagint) version of the *Bible*, which had not been translated into English at the time of Joseph Smith.
- Inaccuracies quoted: Bees in America in 2000 BC (Ether 2:3)? It is commonly believed that they were first introduced by the Spanish explorers. Jaradites built barges and driven by a furious wind but it still took 344 days to cross the Atlantic (Ether 6:5,8)? At only 3 knots per hour they could have gone around the earth in this time. How about the children of Israel taking 40 years to cross 200 miles?

Pagan Mysteries Restored (116-131) / Original Christian Concepts Returned (179-184)

February 20-21, 1989

- Dr. Reed C. Durham Jr. speech on the close connections between Masonry and Mormonism April 20, 1974. Secret names, penalties, blood oaths, grips, and tokens, as well as Masonic markings inside and outside Mormon Temples: the square, the compass, the beehive, astrological symbols, all-seeing eye of occultism, upside-down five-pointed star. (Reed C. Durham, Jr., *No Help For the Widow's Son*, certified accurate by Mervin B. Hogan, Secretary of the Masonic Research Lodge of Utah in Salt Lake City).
 - Secret Doctrine, identity of God, and the legend of Enoch?
 - Charges that the LDS temple ceremonies are “basically Masonic” are long-standing and difficult to refute, since few persons intimately familiar with both or have the qualifications (including freedom from obligations of confidentiality) to publish an objective comparison.
 - The following statement by an LDS scholar who has been a Mason for 50 years is pertinent: “No Mason-or anyone else-acquainted with the rituals of the Order can honestly claim there is the slightest resemblance of those ordinances or procedures [of the LDS endowment ceremony] to anything presented in a Symbolic Lodge of Free Masonry.” (Mervin B.Hogan, *The Historicity of the Alleged Masonic Influence on Mormonism*, pages 17, 30-31, Jan. 15 1984)
- Angel with Masonic markings? This did not happen!
- Jupiter Talisman? Dr. Durham now states that there is no primary evidence that Joseph Smith ever possessed one and the idea that he ever possessed one is highly questionable.
- First Vision has 9 contradictory versions? See Chapter 15.
- Joseph Smith introduced the temple endowment on Mat 4 1842 just 2 months after being initiated into Masonry? Priesthood was restored in 1829. Church's 1st temple (Kirtland, Ohio) was started in 1833 and dedicated March 27 1836. Almost from the organization of the church, Joseph Smith promised a higher endowment. At the dedication of the Kirtland temple some ordinances were given preparatory to the fuller endowment to come. In Jan. 19 1841, Joseph Smith received a revelation that speaks clearly of the need for a temple in Nauvoo and some of the ordinances to be carried out there (D&C 124:27-42)
- Masonic Enoch legend presented during initiation into Masonry's 13th, 14th, and 21st degrees (source Reed C. Durham, Jr., *No Help For the Widow's Son*), certified accurate by Mervin B. Hogan, Secretary of the Masonic Research Lodge of Utah in Salt Lake City:

- “In the pre-existence, there was a special Secret Doctrine that was given by Deity...to the Earth first to Adam who was to carefully guard this Secret Doctrine because it contained all the Mysteries... including the secret name of God. “Adam then bestowed it upon his son Seth who guarded it very carefully-only among the inner circle of believers-and then it was handed down until it came to Enoch...the central figure of the legend.”
- “It is with Enoch that the remarkable resemblances with Joseph Smith and Mormon history become disconcertingly clear.”
- “Enoch was 25 years old when he received his call and vision and brought forth his secret record. Enoch’s vision was of a hill containing sacred records on which he saw an M. Part of the treasure were gold and brass plates engraved with Egyptian hieroglyphics giving the history of the world and ancient mysteries of God. The treasure also included a metal ball, a priestly breastplate, and the Urim and Thimmim.”
- “Enoch was to recover and preserve for mankind the sacred name of God. Enoch buried the treasure just before the Flood and predicted that an Israelitish descendent would recover it. Enoch placed a stone lid, or slab, over the cavity into the hill. According to the Masonic legend, it was Solomon who discovered the cavern while excavating for the temple at Mount Moriah and that they could obtain it after three unsuccessful attempts.”
- “The treasure was discovered by three faithful Masons, one of them Hiram the Widow’s son was killed by three wicked men who cried “Oh Lord, my God, is there no help for the widow’s son?” This has become a Masonic distress call. The three men were pursued and one of them had his head cut off with his own sword.”
- Just prior to his death Joseph Smith started but never finished “Oh, Lord, my God...”. Joseph Smith often referred to himself in revelation as Enoch claiming that he had been given this name by God.
- Hyrum Smith received the first degrees of Masonry in Mount Moriah Lodge No 112 of Palmyra, New York, at about the same time that Joseph Smith had his first vision and visitations by angels.
- By 1832 the following men, who had all been deeply involved in Masonry, joined the church: W.W.Phelps, Brigham Young, Heber C.Kimball, and Newel K.Whitney. Joseph and Sidney joined Masonry on March 15 1842 and on the following day advanced to the Master Mason Degree.
- Albert Pike, Masonic Grand Commander, in a speech intended for Brethren of the 30th, 31st, and 32nd degrees, has stated that it is Lucifer that is the God of Good and that Adonay (Jehovah) who is the God of evil.

Sacred or Secret (132-145) / Stand in the Holy Place (185-205)

February 23-24, 1989

- In the visitors centre in Salt Lake, there is a bronze statue of Adam and Eve kneeling before an altar. Their offering is fruit, vegetables, wheat. Authors argue that Abel's offering of a lamb was accepted by God but Cain's offering of fruits and vegetables was refused. They then conclude, by implication, that the Mormon Adam and Eve are represented as being the same as Cain.
 - If Cain regarded life as sacred, as the authors suggest, why did he kill Abel. Seems to me that the author's reasoning is a little faulty! Note also that Cain loved Satan more than God (Moses 5:18).
 - The authors fail to mention that a lamb is also present. LDS believe that God was angry with Cain because of his refusal to obey him, not the sacrifice offered (1 Sam 15:22); his obedience to Satan (Moses 5:18) and his subsequent lack of repentance.
 - There are numerous scriptures pointing out that in some circumstances fruit and vegetables were also acceptable to the Lord. See Lev 23:10 and Ex 34:26.
- Crosses are not used by Mormons. The cross symbolizes the death of Christ not his resurrection. Wine is not used because Mormons reject the blood sacrifice of Christ? See D&C 27:2. What an absurd conclusion! Note also that verbal references to the cross were frequent in early Christianity by visual representations became frequent only after AD 327. Wasn't a fish the symbol of early Christians?
- Mormons deny that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and purchased eternal life to be given as a free gift to everyone who receive him by faith (see 2 Nephi 25:23).
 - How can it be a free gift if one must have faith first? Also, what is faith? Could one have faith but not do good works? LDS teaching is more universal than the traditional Christian view, everyone will receive immortality, by grace, not just those who exercise faith in Jesus Christ; all will overcome physical death brought into the world by Adam and Eve. Faith (belief coupled with works) in Jesus Christ is necessary to overcome spiritual death (separation from God).
 - Authors quote Ecc 7:20 to support their viewpoint that works aren't necessary. Again the authors are misleading their readers; the "Preacher" is in fact urging his readers to obey God's laws, see Ecc 8:5 and Ecc 12:13-14. Authors quote Romans 3:28 as proof that man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Paul is actually saying that obedience to the law of Moses is not enough to gain salvation.

Quoted John 1:17 see John 3:21. Quote Romans 3:20 see Romans 2:12-13, Romans 2:6, James 2:26.

- *Bible*-Inspired version. Why can't the present prophet declare that it is complete? Numerous LDS statements make it clear that Joseph Smith did not complete the revision.
- Lucifer's promise to Adam and Eve? Would reach godhood by demonstrating personal worthiness by choosing good over evil. What is missing is that they can't be done without faith in Jesus Christ and hence Lucifer's alleged promise is partially true but is missing a vital element; surely Lucifer is not stupid, what better way to deceive than to tell part of the truth! People recognize truth when they hear it-hence faith comes by hearing the word. Lucifer could not deceive by telling outright lies because people would easily recognize it.
 - What Satan actually said was that they would become as Gods (Gen 3:5). This was the case (Gen 3:22).
 - It is Satan that teaches that effort is not required to receive eternal life. Satan tempted Christ with immediate power and glory, which is similar to immediate salvation and grace (Matt 4:8-10). Satan also offered immediate riches to Judas if he would betray Christ (John 13:27). Satan offered immediate physical gratification (Matt 4:3-4). Satan promised Cain that Abel's flock would immediately be his if he murdered Abel (Moses 5:33,38). Satan promised Eve that she would immediately be as a God (Gen 3:5).
- Why aren't non-Mormons allowed inside Mormon temples? They can before it is dedicated. They can't after because it is dedicated for sacred purposes and anything unworthy would defile sacred ground. Why was Moses instructed to remove his sandals?
- Why must temple ordinances be kept secret?
- Jesus quoted as saying "...in secret have I said nothing..." (John 18:20). Did he repeat everything that he told the apostles to the general populace? Also see Luke 8:17, Matt 13:11, John 16:12, Mark 4:11, Luke 8:10, Rom 11:25, Rom 16:25, Rev 2:17, 1 Cor 2:7, 1 Cor 4:1, 1 Cor 13:2, 1 Cor 15:51, Eph 3:3, Amos 3:7, Matt 17:9
- Scripture complete (Rev 22:18)? See Deut 4:2. Lost scriptures? See Ex 24:4-7, Num 21:14, Josh 10:13, 1 Sam 10:25, 2 Sam 1:18, 1 Kings 11:41, 1 Chr 29:29, 2 Chr 9:29, 2 Chr 12:15, 2 Chr 13:22, 2 Chr 20:34, 2 Chr 33:19, Matt 2:23, 1 Cor 5:9, Eph 3:3-4, Col 4:16, Jude 1:3,14.

Lying Prophets and Apostles (146-158) / Marriage Can Be for Eternity (206-217)

February 25, 1989

- The authors claim that D&C 132 states that you must have more than one wife to reach Godhood? D&C 132 was received on July 12, 1843 but wasn't officially recognized as scripture until 1876 and was not general doctrine until 1852?
- Joseph F. Smith quoted as saying that Godhood can't be reached without the practice of polygamy?
- Latter-Day Saint's *Millennial Star*, vol 40, pages 226-227: "And we...are believers in...plural marriage...as a principle revealed by God, underlying our every hope of salvation...a vital principle in our religion."
 - *Times and Seasons*, Oct. 1 1842, vol 3, pages 939-40: "We are charged with advocating a plurality of wives...Now this is as false as the many other ridiculous charges which are brought against us..."
 - It seems to me that these quotes are saying the opposite! The authors state that both are promoting the same deliberate deception that polygamy would never be allowed among LDS. The authors obviously mean to say *Time and Seasons*.
- Joseph Smith practised polygamy prior to 1843? Joseph Fielding Smith implies that the principle of plural marriage was revealed to Joseph Smith in the presence of Oliver Cowdery, W. W. Phelps, and others in Missouri in July 1831? The evidence indicates that Joseph Smith was practising plural marriage in the 1830s.
- From the quote given by Brigham Young I can't see how the authors reach their conclusion that either he or other leaders had been lying about plural marriage. Note, however, that after Martha Brotherton's death Brigham Young was sealed to her on Aug. 1, 1870.
- Brigham Young quoted as saying that he had 40 wives but that the US couldn't prove it.
- Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and other were practising polygamy long before 1843? Joseph Smith denied right up to his death in 1844 that he had never practised polygamy? D&C 132 says that he already had more than one wife? It is also reported in the diary of Charles Walker that Brigham Young stated that Joseph Smith had received a revelation on plural marriage in 1829.
- On May 26, 1844 Joseph Smith declared in response to a charge that he had six or seven wives: "What a thing for a man to be accused of committing adultery, and having seven wives, when I can only find one." (*History of the Church*, vol 6, page 411). I would say that Joseph Smith is denying that

he had more than one wife. Was this a moment of weakness? Peter denying Christ three times. Abraham introducing Sarah as his sister to save his wife (see Abr 2:22-25).

- Joseph F. Smith in *Historical Record*, page 220 quoted as saying that “Joseph Smith...and his brother Hyrum did practice the doctrine (of polygamy) in their lifetime, and until their death, notwithstanding their seeming denials in the *Times and Seasons*.”
- On February 1, 1844 an Elder Hiram Brown was excommunicated for preaching polygamy and other false doctrines? The evidence seems to indicate that polygamy was being practised by the church leaders so why was Hiram Brown excommunicated?
- In 1842, Joseph Smith tried to seduce the wife of Apostle Orson Pratt, Sarah? She accused him in the presence of Joseph Smith; he denied her claim. Orson Pratt believed his wife and he was cut-off from the church on August 1842. He and his wife returned to the church after the D&C 132 revelation. Sarah never denied her story. Also note that Orson Pratt became the chief spokesman for the church in defence of plural marriage.
- The original D&C 101 was replaced by D&C 132? Wilford Woodruff and Lorenzo Snow testified on the witness stand that they didn't know how, why, or by whom D&C 101 had been removed and replaced by D&C 132 (*Temple Lot Case* pages 309, 320-22).
- Lorenzo Snow admitted that Joseph Smith took his sister as a plural wife before the July 12, 1843 revelation? This would be incest!
- Plural marriage was practised by the biblical leaders Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: Gen 16:1-3, 25:6, 29:21-30, 33:5-7, 37:2, Num 12:1, Deut 21:15-17, 25:5-10, Jud 8:30-31, 12:8-14, 1 Sam 1:1-2, 25:42-43, 27:3, 30:5,8, 2 Sam 2:1-4, 3:2-5, 14-16, 5:13, 12:8, 15:16, 19:5, 20:3. Also see Jacob 2:27-30.
- *The TRUTH About “The God Makers”* response does not satisfy me on the subject of polygamy. It does not address a number of issues raised within *The God Makers*. For example, the excommunication of Hiram Brown, alleged seduction of Orson Pratt's wife Sarah, Lorenzo Snow and Wilford Woodruff court statements with regard to D&C 101, the alleged marriage of Joseph Smith to his sister. I'm also find myself asking “How many wives did Joseph Smith have?” The response does not provide enough details on the actual practice of plural marriage by the early church leaders. Why? Is the author embarrassed with the subject? My suspicion is that he is having the same problems that I am with this whole area and the way the subject was handled by the early church leaders. The responses given to the denials are weak and do not adequately answer the valid accusations raised within *The God Makers*. I don't have problems with the principle of polygamy; however, I do have problems with the idea that it was to be practised by the

select few and with the obvious public denials. I find that the accusations within this chapter are causing me more concerns than any others that I've read thus far.

Another Angel Story (159-176) / Marriage Is Ordained of God (218-238)

February 26-27, 1989

- Angel that led Joseph Smith to the gold plates was called both Moroni and Nephi?
- Polygamy revelation was revealed by another angel according to Joseph F. Smith:
 - “When this principle was revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith, he very naturally shrank, in his feelings, from the responsibilities thereby imposed upon him...”
 - “...it was not until an angel of God, with a drawn sword, stood before him and commanded that he should enter into the practice of that principle, or he should be utterly destroyed...”
- D&C 132 was received mainly to convince Emma Smith that polygamy was from God? Joseph Smith received other revelations of polygamy usually to convince some woman (single or married) that he coveted? Sarah Ann Whitney (who was 17 years old) was married to Joseph Smith on July 27, 1842. Joseph Smith’s letter to Sarah’s father Newel K. Whitney seems strange in two aspects, he invited Sarah and her parents and warned them against Emma. The prophet arranged a “pretended” for time only marriage between Sarah and Joseph C. Kingsbury on April 29, 1843? At the same time Kingsbury was sealed for eternity to his dead wife Caroline.
- According to Jedediah M. Grant in a sermon on February 19, 1854: if Joseph Smith said he wanted your wife you should not resist? In the same sermon Grant asked “Did the Lord actually want Abraham to kill Isaac? Did the Prophet Joseph want every man’s wife he asked for? He did not.” Grant believed that Joseph Smith was testing their faith and obedience.
- Joseph Smith was publicly accused of adultery with Fannie Alger (who had lived in in Joseph Smith’s home since 1835) by Oliver Cowdery in 1837? She is included in the official list of 27 wives. Warren Parrish, Joseph Smith’s private secretary, and Oliver Cowdery tried to persuade Joseph Smith to stop the affair; Cowdery was excommunicated and Parrish lost his job. The reference quoted also says that Joseph Smith revealed the precept of plural wives in 1835 to Oliver Cowdery and others. Oliver Cowdery rushed into the practice of polygamy but had been told by Smith to wait. Cowdery was excommunicated for adultery.
- Joseph Smith had at least 84 wives? The evidence indicates that about half of these were sealed to Joseph Smith after his death. Also, some of the others were sealed for eternity only. The LDS church has published a list of 27.

- Joseph Smith seduced the wives of men sent on missions by him? Example of H. B. Jacobs, whose wife was sealed to Joseph Smith while he was away.
- Joseph Smith demanded the wives of every one of the 12 Mormon apostles. Vilate Kimball, first wife of apostle Heber C. Kimball pleaded to remain with her husband, apostle Kimball asked if his daughter wouldn't do instead, Joseph Smith accepted her.
- All gentile marriages were declared null and void by Joseph Smith?
- Ann Eliza Young quote that one woman had told her that her greatest trial had been in deceiving her husband when Joseph Smith visited her. Also that this was not the only woman who had be seduced under the guise of religion.
 - Ann Eliza Young was an angry divorced wife who made a living giving anti-Mormon lectures. Note that Joseph Smith taught: "Let no man break the laws of the land, for he that keepeth the laws of God hath no need to break the laws of the land" (D&C 58:21).
 - Also note that Federal laws did not prohibit polygamy until the 1860s.
- Joseph Smith did not have sexual relations with all 84 wives, some were only sealed to him?
- Mary Elizabeth Rollins Lightner quote that she was sealed to Joseph Smith by Brigham Young in February 1842 while her husband was travelling. In the same quote, omitted by the authors, she also said that she prayed to God to take away the feeling she had for Joseph Smith for she felt that it was a sin; she also stated that she wouldn't be sealed to him until she had a witness, an angel came and told her to marry Joseph Smith.
- Sarah Pratt quote concerning Joseph Smith: "God does not care if we have a good time, if only other people do not know it...He only introduced a marriage ceremony when he found that he could not get certain women without it...If any woman, like me, opposed his wishes, he used to say: "Be silent, or I shall ruin your character. My character must be sustained in the interest of the Church". The source of this quote is Dr. Wyl's *Mormon Portraits*, pages 61-62 who was, in turn, quoting the *Salt Lake Tribune* which was at the time anti-Mormon.
- Adam, God the Father, and Jesus Christ are polygamists?
- Joseph Smith killed two men and wounded another before he died? Actually wounded three and Joseph was trying to defend himself after the guards had fled, Hyrum was killed, and two of his closest friends were on the verge of being killed.
- Joseph Smith was imprisoned in Carthage jail for ordering the destruction of the *Nauvoo Expositor* which was revealing that polygamy was being practiced by Joseph Smith. Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith both denied the practice to the Nauvoo city council. At the time of his death, Joseph Smith was under indictment by the Carthage Grand Jury for polygamy?

Secrets, Surprises... God-Making (177-193) / If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments (239-251)

February 27, 1989

- Blood of Christ only atones for Adam's sin and brings resurrection to everyone-man and animal. Christ's blood doesn't atone for individual sin? What about repentance then?
- Temple recommend interview! I've never been asked about anti-Mormon literature, and even if I was it would not be grounds for denying a temple recommend. Nor would it be if I drank Coke.
- To think critically of oneself is discouraged! The authors have just gone through a tirade about Mormons being too critical of themselves in expecting to be perfect. Now the opposite charge!
- Macumba cult wear white costumes almost identical to Mormon temple clothing. Note that the Macumbas also use the cross and they worship Mary!

The Great Temple/Priesthood Scam (94-210) / Christ Will Return to His Temple (252-276)

February 28, 1989 March 1, 1989

- When prophet asks us to do something we are expected to obey without thinking. I've come across this mentality myself within the church; I've heard it quoted that if our leaders ask us to do something that we feel is wrong that we should do it anyway and if it is wrong the sin will be upon the head of the leader; this would not stand up in any court.
- Evidence of temples practicing similar ceremonies to those now practised within LDS temples? Essenes?
- Early Christians continued to visit the Jerusalem temple? (Luke 24:53) Why?
- Tabernacle built by Moses and Solomon's temple were the only temples built by the command of God? Archaeological discoveries in Israel indicate there may have been other Jewish temples (at Arad, Megiddo, and Beersheba).
- No evidence of Nephi temples have been found?
- Jesus identification with legend of Quetzalcoatl. LDS believe that Quetzalcoatl might be a remnant of what was once a true belief in Christ. This legend dates from 2000 BC. It began to be represented by a feathered serpent to whom human sacrifices were offered; the Feathered Serpent cult was rampant throughout the America during the *Book of Mormon* period. Note that the *Book of Mormon* also mentions an earlier Christian civilization between 2700 and 2200 BC. However, most scholars date the worship of Quetzalcoatl to the 8th-9th century AD.
- *Entered Apprentice's Handbook* by J.S.M. Ward shows the origin of the serpent on the Masonic apron and the origin of the all- seeing eye, apron, beehive, square and compass, grips, moon, star, sun, and other signs and symbols relating to LDS Aaronic and Melchizedek priesthoods. Serpent regarded as "the Shining One" the Holy Wisdom itself. Serpent on masonic apron represents being encircled by Holy Wisdom. The snake is associated with the Hindu god Shiva the destroyer; depicted by making the sign of a Master Mason (3rd degree?).
 - Many scholars maintain that Quetzalcoatl was a major deity who opposed human sacrifice and taught definite ways of life. He was also associated with death and resurrection.
 - A serpent doesn't always represent Satan. A serpent has been used to represent Christ, as when Moses put a serpent on a pole to show Israel the symbol of Christ's coming atonement (Num 21:8, 1 Nephi 17:41, Alma 33:18-22).

- Only about 30% of Mormons make it to the temple and only 10% continue. Since temple ordinances are necessary to reach the celestial kingdom, this represents a 90% failure rate!
- The Mormon Jesus was conceived in mortality not by a virgin with child of the Holy Ghost but through Elohim coming from Kolob to have sex with Mary and she is one of Elohim's many wives for eternity? LDS belief is as stated in Luke 1:35
- LDS concept of the Godhead is unbiblical and un-Christian. Most LDS not aware of the difference? The authors know this to be untrue; before anyone is baptized they must understand the LDS concept of the Godhead.
- LDS theology ridicules the Trinity? Actually LDS believe in the trinity of purpose not of being.
- LDS Holy Ghost does not have a body and is not married. Hence can't be a God. Jesus Christ was the God of the Old Testament, did he have a body? Yet he was a God. Christ was a God before he was born (Heb 1:2), he had no need to prove himself; this makes his sacrifice even more significant.
- *Lectures on Faith* were part of the D&C in 1835 but were removed in 1921. No mention made of the Holy Ghost. Joseph Smith originally taught that the Holy Ghost was the common mind possessed by Father and Son. Orson Pratt didn't know if the Holy Ghost existed, but if it did it was probably "a living, all- pervading and most wonderful fluid".
- In Masonry there are two priesthoods: the Aaronic and the Melchizedek. During the masonic 19th degree of Grand Pontiff, the initiate swears oaths of secrecy and total obedience and is anointed with oil and these words are said "Be thou a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek".
- There is no record of the Melchizedek priesthood being restored. A series of eight articles, relating to important church historical events, in the *Messenger and Advocate* starting in October 1834 written by Oliver Cowdery in collaboration with Joseph Smith no mention is made of such restoration. Only one priesthood is mentioned. Eight years later, 1842, in *Times and Seasons* a "History of Joseph Smith" mentions two priesthoods.
 - Current research indicates that the restoration was in May-June 1829. Note that we do not have a single date in Christ's or the apostles lives, should we reject Christ because of this?
 - Both Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery stated on May 15, 1829 that Peter, James, and John would confer the Melchizedek Priesthood upon them in due time.
- David Whitmer stated that the revelations had been changed to support the error that Joseph Smith taking upon himself the office of Seer of the Church and to support the error of high priests. The office of high priests was never spoken of until Rigdon joined the church. They had been preaching from August 1829 until June 1831 (when the Melchizedek

Priesthood was introduced during the 4th church conference at Kirtland during June 3-6) with no mention being made of high priests. Also during 1829 Joseph Smith said that an elder was the highest office in the Church (David Whitmer, *An Address to all Believers in Christ*, 1887, pages 35, 49)

- In the 1833 *Book of Commandments* the duties of Elders, Priests, Teachers, and Deacons but there is no mention of Melchizedek Priesthood, High Priesthood, Seventies, High Priests. These words were added to the April 1830 revelation (D&C 27) at a later date making it appear that they were known at that date. Similar additions were also made to D&C 42 and 68.
 - The 1835 edition of the D&C says “John I have sent unto you, my servants, Joseph Smith Jr., and Oliver Cowdery, to ordain you unto the first priesthood which you have received...and also...Peter, and James, and John, whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained you and confirmed you to be apostles...” (D&C 27:8, 12- 13, this appeared as section 50 in the 1835 edition).
 - An 1832 manuscript, much of it in Joseph Smith’s own handwriting makes references to both the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods (*The Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, 1984, by Dean Jessee).
 - The Melchizedek Priesthood must have been restored prior to June 1829 because D&C 18 says that Oliver Cowdery had been called as an apostle.
- At Kirtland in June 1831 Joseph Smith statement “the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood was manifested and conferred for the first time upon several of the elders”. The D&C 107 revelation of 1835 states “the office of an elder comes under the priesthood of Melchizedek”
- Joseph Smith baptizing Oliver Cowdery and then Oliver Cowdery baptizing Joseph Smith. Joseph Smith then conferred the Aaronic Priesthood upon Oliver Cowdery and then Oliver Cowdery conferred the same priesthood upon Joseph Smith. LDS doctrine teaches that you must have the priesthood before you can baptize someone and that you must be baptized before you can receive the priesthood. Why couldn’t the angel baptize and ordain Joseph Smith first, this would make more sense.
 - John the Baptist gave the priesthood keys to both Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery (see Joseph Smith-History 1:68-69 in the *Pearl of Great Price*).
- In 1839, after being excommunicated for accusing Joseph Smith of adultery with Fannie Alger, Oliver Cowdery stated “...I was called to be the Second Elder, and whatever he had of Priesthood (about which I am beginning to doubt) also had I.” After re-joining the church in 1848, Cowdery declared “I was also present when the higher or Melchizedek Priesthood (the second ordination) was conferred by the holy angel from on high” Note, however, that the “angel” was now Peter, James, and John! Also note that the original source said “angels”

A Non-Prophet Organization (211-229) / Apostles and Prophets Should Cont...(277-329)

March 3-8, 1989

- Joseph Smith: “God...will make me to be a god to you in His stead, and the Elders to be mouth to me; and if you don’t like it, you must lump it! The ... inserted by the authors state “made Aaron to be the mouthpiece for the children of Israel and He will make me...”; this shows that Joseph Smith is comparing himself to Aaron. Also he had just finished speaking and was handing over to another speaker who was to speak on his behalf, hence “if you don’t like it, you must lump it”
- No Mormon prophet has a record of fulfilled prophecies? See later notes.
- Mormon prophets don’t receive prophecies? At the dedication of the Washington temple in 1974, President Kimball was asked by a reporter if he still received revelations. President Kimball said, “Indeed I do. Indeed I do.” At the rededication of the Arizona temple in 1975, asked “How do you receive revelations?” his reply was, “I receive them the same way as Moses and the other prophets”
 - Revelations have been received but are not canonized; also it can take some time before a revelation becomes scripture; e.g., Joseph F. Smith revelation recorded in D&C 138 was added in 1974 but was received in 1918. Also Joseph Smith revelation recorded in D&C 137 was added in 1974 but received in 1836.
 - Six volumes of revelations and statements by the first presidency up to 1951 are recorded in *Messages of the First Presidency* by James R.Clark.
- False prophecies of Joseph Smith?
- The first vision. First and only appearance of God the Father and Jesus Christ together? The official account was not published until 1842, 22 years after the event. According to assistant church historian Dr. James B.Allen, during the 1830s no mention was made of the first vision. See *Joseph Smith’s First Vision* by Milton V.Backman. There are primary accounts of the First Vision dating from 1832 and 1835 and there may be earlier ones yet to be discovered.
- In 1832, Joseph Smith received a revelation that stated that one man could see the face of God without the priesthood. Since he didn’t have the priesthood in 1820 how could he see God and live? The authors partially quote from D&C 84:22 and in so doing change the meaning. The actual meaning is that man can’t act in God’s name without the priesthood not that it is necessary for God to make contact with man.

- In 1835 until 1921, in *Lectures on Faith*, Joseph Smith declared God to be a personage of spirit? Also he changed Luke 10:22 to read “that the Son is the Father, and the Father is the Son”?
 - Some LDS leaders and scholars doubt that Joseph Smith was the author of *Lectures on Faith*.
 - John 4:24 says that God is a Spirit and that we must worship Him in spirit; does this mean that we can’t worship God whilst in our bodies!
 - If one looks at the other changes made by Joseph Smith it is obvious that he is stressing the separateness of God and Jesus Christ; e.g., John 9:4, Mark 9:37, Matt 23:9-10, Luke 9:26, John 1:1, 16, 3:36, 5:34, 6:44,65. Note also that some of these revisions were made in the early 1830s which indicate that Joseph Smith was teaching the separateness of God and Jesus Christ long before the authors maintain.
- Apostles and Nicene creeds-what do they actually say? The authors quote parts that are biblical but omit the non biblical parts; for example, “Christ is of one substance with the Father”.
- Joseph Smith joined a Methodist church in Harmony, Pennsylvania in 1828? The authors misquote their first source! The source does not speak about Joseph Smith joining the Methodist church, it actually deals with Joseph Smith attending a Methodist probationary class in Palmyra in 1820 prior to the First Vision. The authors also omit necessary details from their second source, Joseph Smith’s name only appeared on a class-book and after three days Joseph Smith asked for it to be removed.
- There are 9 accounts of the first vision, 8 of them don’t mention God the Father. One version is written in Joseph Smith’s own handwriting sometime in 1832, it makes mention of only Jesus. Note, however, that all accounts except the first mention two personages and that all accounts are very similar. See earlier notes.
 - Compare John 4:2->John 3:22; Acts 9:7->Acts 22:9; Mark 10:37->Matt 20:20-29; Luke 18:35-43->Matt 20:29-34
 - These comparisons reveal different accounts of the same event, should we then reject what is said as false? (11) Until Joseph Fielding Smith, Mormon prophets and apostles testified that the personages that Joseph saw were not the Father and Jesus, but one or more angels? This is a lie and the authors know it! Joseph Fielding Smith was the 10th president of the church from 1970-1972 and there literally hundreds of talks given prior to that period in which the Father and Son were mentioned as the personages seen by Joseph Smith in the First Vision.
 - If the authors erred and meant to say Joseph F.Smith, the 6th LDS President from 1901-1918, the same is still true. The authors seem to be ignoring the published accounts of the first vision in 1840 and 1842.

- In 1850 John Taylor wrote of “two glorious personages” appearing to Joseph Smith in the First Vision. In 1879 John Taylor said “The Lord revealed himself [Joseph Smith] together with his son Jesus, and, pointing to the latter, said: “This is my beloved Son, hear him”. George C. Cannon said in 1883, “The first account we have of the visitation of divine beings in this dispensation, is the account that is given to us by the Prophet Joseph Smith himself, concerning the visit of the Father and the Son”
- Joseph Smith’s statement a few months before his death that he could not be killed for at least 5 years or until the Temple in Zion had been completed? The only source for this is Sarah Scott and her husband who had turned against Joseph Smith. No mention of this “prophecy” appears anywhere else.
 - Joseph Smith was obsessed with destroying the US? He encouraged his followers to murder and plunder those who opposed them? Mormon war of 1838, Smith claimed that they would win; they surrendered in October 1838 to the Missouri State Militia? Actually the church leaders were betrayed (by George M. Hinkle) and captured under the pretense of negotiations.
 - Joseph Smith organized the secret Danite organization whose purpose was to plunder and murder LDS enemies? The evidence indicates that Joseph Smith was not aware of the illegal actions of the Danites. The Danites were founded by Sampson Averd.
 - Joseph Smith and Brigham Young prophecies regarding the overthrow of the US?
 - Oliver B. Huntington statement on Feb. 14, 1835 that Joseph Smith said that Jesus Christ would return within 56 years (no later than Feb. 14, 1891). What is omitted is that Joseph Smith actually said that if he should live to be eight-five (1890) that he would see the face of Christ. Well he died aged 38. (see D&C 130:14-17)
 - Dick Baer, 53 false prophecies of Joseph Smith? According to the response, the 53 prophecies are not false as the authors charge. List of?

The Secret Kingdom (230-243) / Christ's Promised Gospel Restoration Is Here (330-349)

March 8, 1989

- Reporter Jeffrey Kaye states that the Mormon Church wields more economic power more effectively than the state of Israel or the Pope in Rome? This is really a complement!
- Sonia Johnson was excommunicated for opening disagreeing with the church on the ERA? She was excommunicated for publicly urging people to refuse to listen to LDS missionaries, calling church leaders “male misogynists”, and flying anti-Mormon banners over LDS conference sessions.
- Church does not give an accounting for the money it receives from members?
- United order? Totalitarian Theocratic Communism? Does communism allow private ownership and control of property, belief and worship of God? The United Order stressed each of these; a more correct description is “law of consecration”—see Acts 2:44.
- Blood atonement? Some sins, murder and adultery, so serious that Christ's blood doesn't atone for and the transgressors own blood must be shed? The authors imply that Mormons still secretly practice blood atonement!
 - The authors give a partial quote from Bruce R. McConkie *Mormon Doctrine* p.92 but again misrepresent what was actually being said; what is actually be said is that the enemies of the church were saying that church members were engaging in blood atonement and McConkie was saying that these claims were false.
 - Gary Gilmore believed in reincarnation and he had a catholic priest give him last rites and he stated that he chose death by firing squad for non-LDS reasons.
- Council of Fifty? Object political power, leading to world government. The source quoted *Quest for Empire* by Klaus J. Hansen also stated that the council would include prominent community leaders including non-Mormons; it also appears that council members would be elected (see *Joseph Smith and World Government* by Hyrum Andrus). The council was also set up to ensure that the state and church were kept separate.
- Mormonism's leaders have developed an utter contempt for truth! Do I detect some bias here?
- Close ties between the CIA and the Mormon church?
- Removal from the temple ceremonies, sometime after 1930, of actual blood oaths and oath of vengeance?
- Joseph Smith ran for President of the US?

- Connections between the LDS church and the New Age movement?

A Time to Choose (244-263) / Choose Christ and His Apostles (350-377)

March 15-20, 1989

- Brigham Young didn't read the *Bible* for years? Again the authors have taken a quotation out of context! What Brigham Young actually said was that because of his hectic schedule he couldn't find the time to read the *Bible* as he once did and that he was currently studying the *Book of Mormon* and the *Doctrine and Covenants*.
- Brigham Young also stated that some of the twelve apostles believed in reincarnation, denied the existence of God and any value in the death of Jesus Christ for salvation? Again the authors are misleading people; in the same speech, Brigham Young reprimanded two apostles and said they were wrong. Later one apostle was excommunicated for such teachings.
- Missionaries claiming that our God is the same as your God? It's been my experience that most Christians don't believe in the concept of God, and in many cases are not even aware of the concept, taught within their church and when pressed their belief is similar to the LDS concept of God.
- Mormons believe that Joseph Smith is more important than Jesus Christ? I don't know any Mormons who believe this!
- LDS Church reluctant to remove a person's name from church records and will only do so if insisted upon by the member? One only has to ask, in writing, the Bishop to have one's name removed; my former wife did this and her name was removed.
- The spiritual power within Mormonism is very real and strong? Occult bondage?
- Patriarchal blessings are often very specific and sometimes amazingly accurate!
- Church discourages a personal relationship with Jesus Christ! Quote by Bruce R. McConkie that such a relationship will unbalance a person? Elder McConkie was actually urging people to keep in balance in their minds an appreciation of the three personages of the Godhead.
- W. Cleon Skousen set up the Freeman Institute (see Alma 51:6) to protect the US Constitution and is a replacement for the Council of Fifty (whose destiny was to be a global government) in preparation for the return of the United Order? The Freeman Institute is not connected with the LDS Church and is not even closely related to the Council of Fifty. Now called the National Center for Constitutional Studies.
- Mormonism is part of an occult conspiracy? Close links with the Unification Church headed by Korean Messiah Sun Myung Moon. This link involves the Freeman Institute's cooperation in an anticommunist crusade with CAUSA International, a Moonie front organization. Many

religious groups have tried to help Reverend Moon with his legal battles. The real issue to which the LDS church responded was freedom of religion from government intervention, not ecumenism. There is no LDS-Unification Church coalition.

- CAUSA is creating a New Age ecumenism with the affirmation “We affirm that the God of Judaism, Catholicism, Protestantism, the Mormons, the Unification Church and the God of all religions are one and the same”
- The God of the *Bible* created everything out of nothing? Natural laws don't govern God? The word translated as create comes from the word *baurau* which does not mean to create out of nothing, it means to organize.
- Mormonism is in agreement with atheists/humanists/occultists with the doctrine that man's intelligence is co-equal with God himself and that matter and intelligence have always existed. God didn't create but manufactured from existing materials. The Mormon Gods are Ascended Masters.
 - God is omnipotent in the sense that he has the power to reproduce himself and to control his living environment; however, both He and Jesus Christ operate within the framework of eternal laws - not outside law. God is omniscient, meaning he has unlimited knowledge and wisdom (see 2 Nephi 9:20; D&C 38:1-2). God is omnipresent in that his power and influence are everywhere and does not preclude his existence as a personal being.

Letter to Gilbert Scharffs

February 22, 1989

268 Harriet St., Arnprior, Ont., Canada, K7S 2T3

February 22, 1989 Gilbert W.Scharffs, c/o Publishers Press, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Re-*The TRUTH About "The God Makers"*

Dear Brother Scharffs,

I am currently studying *The God Makers* using your book *The TRUTH About "The God Makers"* as a guide. Congratulations on producing a well organized and written book.

I, like you, have come across, and possess, anti-Mormon literature. On a number of occasions Christian friends have asked various questions which I have been unable to answer either to them or to myself. When I've approached other LDS church members they respond with "You shouldn't read that stuff, it will only weaken your testimony"; I find this kind of attitude very frustrating and, needless to say, I did not get my questions answered! Your book is providing a satisfying answer to many of my questions.

It is very refreshing to find an LDS person who just doesn't ignore anti-Mormon charges and who has taken the time to provide a response. I often feel that many Mormons use the "not worthy of comment" as a kind of blinkers so as to avoid questioning their own beliefs; just as many Christians ignore criticism of their beliefs.

Now to something I want. Can you provide me with a copy, or direct me to where I can obtain one, of the April 20, 1974 talk by Reed C. Durham, Jr., *No Help For the Widow's Son*, which talks about the Enoch legend? I find that I'm reading about it second and third hand and I'd like to read the actual talk and check the cross references.

Your sincerely,

(Malcolm W. Graham)

The name of God?

My belief?

“**Jehovah/Yahweh**” is the old testament name for Jesus Christ and “**Elohim**” is the name of his, and our, spiritual father. If this is the case then I would expect to find some indication of such in the Bible. The following summarizes my findings.

Where to start?

It seems logical to me to look at the names used for God within the Bible. Immediately I encountered problems. It seems that there is some confusion about the name used by God! There seems to be two names used: **Yahweh** and **Elohim**. **Yahweh** is translated to “LORD” in capitals in most English Bibles. However, the translation of **Elohim** is more complicated. It seems that **Elohim** is used in different ways: to indicate more than one God, to indicate qualities of God, as a name for God. As a further complication it seems that the Jews pronounce **Yahweh** as **Elohim**!

After comparing various translations, I’ve come to the following tentative conclusions:

- Both the *New International Version Bible* and *The Jerusalem Bible* recognize differences in the use of **Elohim** in a specific case. This case is when the Hebrew word **Shaddai** is used. I am of the opinion that this is the name of our spiritual father.
- The first occurrence that I can find is in Genesis 17:1. The footnote in the *Jerusalem Bible* says that **Shaddai** is an ancient name of God.
- Also see Genesis 35:11, Genesis 43:14, Exodus 6:2-7, Job 5:17; 6:4, 14; 8:3,5; 11:7; 13:3; 15:25; 21:15,20; 22:17,23,25,26; 23:16; 24:1; 27:2,10,11,13; 31:2,35; 32:8; 33:6; 34:10,12; 35:13; 37:23; 40:2.

A digression...

Exodus 6:2-7 is a passage that I have often pondered on. It seems to make more sense if **El Shaddai** is the name of **Yahweh's** father. My understanding is that up to the time of Moses, **Yahweh** appeared as **El Shaddai** (that is, he appeared and acted in the name of his father). A change occurred when Moses was called, **Yahweh** adopted the nation of Israel and told them that he would be their God and from then on he appeared and acted in his own name.

It seems to me that we can refer to **Yahweh** God, **Shaddai** God, the God **Yahweh**, the God **Shaddai**, the Gods **Yahweh** and **Shaddai**.

Are Jesus Christ and Jehovah the same person?

The answer to this question will be provided after answering the following questions:

- Who is our Saviour?
- Who is our Redeemer?
- Who will Judge us?
- Who is the Creator?

My approach will be to list scriptures supporting Jehovah (Yahweh) and then Jesus Christ.

Note: If I remember correctly, I think a version of the content herein was originally published in a pamphlet distributed by the LDS church.

Who is our Saviour?

- **Jehovah:** Isaiah 43:3,11; 45:21; 49:26; Hosea 13:4.
- **Jesus:** Acts 4:10-12; 5:30-31; 13:23; Matt 1:21; Luke 2:11; 1 John 4:14-15.

Who is our Redeemer?

- **Jehovah:** Psalms 49:15; Isaiah 41:14; 43:14-15; 49:26; 54:5.
- **Jesus:** Galatians 3:13, 4:4-5; Rev 5:9; Romans 3:24-25; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14.

Who will Judge us?

- **Jehovah:** Psalms 9:7-8; 50:6; 96:13; 1 Chron 16:33.
- **Jesus:** Isaiah 45:23; John 5:22; Acts 10:42; Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:10-11; Jude 14-15; 2 Cor 5:10; 2 Tim 4:1.

Who is the Creator?

- **Jehovah:** Gen 2:4,7,19.
- **Jesus:** John 1:3, 1:10; Hebrews 1:2.

General

- Also see John 8:58 and Exodus 6:2,3.
- Compare Isaiah 6:8-11 with John 12:40-41.
- Compare Zech 12:10 with John 19:37.

Are the dead conscious?

In the book *Are the Dead Alive Now?* by Victor Paul Wierwille, the core scriptures used to support the thesis that the dead are unconscious are Psalm 146:4 and Ecclesiastes 9:5,10 (see page 5). Rather than analyze all the scriptures quoted, I shall focus on these core scriptures to disprove the basic contention that the dead are unconscious. If further proof is needed, I'm sure that a full evaluation of the other scriptures quoted would support the conclusions found from the analysis of these core scriptures.

A fundamental teaching that is entirely missed in the book is the duality of man and the distinction between spiritual death (separation from God); physical death (separation of the spirit from the body); and resurrected bodies (the eternal reunification of body and spirit). Further study of these points would also show that the dead are conscious.

In the past, I've discussed the use of Psalm 146:4 and Ecclesiastes 9:5,10 to support the contention that dead are unconscious with Jehovah Witnesses. They also contend that when studied in the original languages that these scriptures indicate that the dead are unconscious.

Is this case? To answer this question I read the scriptures in a number of translations and then conducted a word study on the key words. I will show the King James Version of the text and comment on the others.

Abbreviation	Title
NASB	New American Standard Bible
KJV	King James Version
NKJV	New King James Version
NIV	New International Version
RSV	Revised Standard Version
JB	Jerusalem Bible
NEB	New English Bible

4-2 Are the dead conscious?

Abbreviation	Title
NWT	New World Translation
HGKSB	Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible (KJV)
SC	Strong's Concordance
YC	Young's Concordance
VED	Vine's Expository Dictionary

Note: Numbers refer to the SC dictionary and HGKSB lexicon.

Psalm 146:4

“His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his *thoughts perish*.”

The key words are *thoughts* and *perish*. So let's investigate.

- KJV, NASB, and NWT use the word “thoughts”
- NEB uses the word “thinking”
- NKJV, NIV, and RSV use the word “plans”
- JB uses the word “schemes”

Which is correct? Using YC and SC:

- **thoughts:** Hebrew *eshthonoth* whose literal meaning is thoughts (6250, 2803) relating to purpose. So a more correct translation would be “thoughts relating to purpose”; this is a long-winded way of saying “plans.”
- **perish (6):** Hebrew *abad* can be translated as “fail.”

Conclusion

Correctly translated, Psalm 146:4 does not indicate that the dead are unconscious. Because of the distinction drawn between the type of thoughts that cease at death, there is an implicit indication that they are conscious.

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10

5. “For the living *know* that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.”

10. “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might; for there is no *work*, nor *device*, nor *knowledge*, nor *wisdom*, in the grave, wither thou goest.”

All the translations that I've consulted agree very closely with the KJV. So let's look at the key words: **know**, **work**, **device**, **knowledge**, and **wisdom**.

- **know (3045)**: Hebrew *yada* relates to gaining knowledge through the physical senses. Also see 5234, 4069, and VED page 130.
- **work (4639)**: Hebrew *maaseh* relates to making something physical with hands. Also see 6466, 6213, and VED page 293.
- **device (2808)**: Hebrew *cheshbown* relates to planning.
- **knowledge**: Hebrew *daath* means knowledge which is gained (1847) through the physical senses.
- **wisdom (2451)**: Hebrew *chokmah* relates to the gaining of physical skills with hands. Also see 2449, 2450, and VED page 290.

Conclusion

Correctly translated, Ecclesiastes 9:5,10 does not indicate that the dead are unconscious. What is indicated is that the dead can not do what the living can—the gaining of knowledge and skills by the use of the physical senses. Because of the nature of the limitations, the scriptures implicitly indicate that the dead are conscious.

Bearing in mind the context in which the scriptures are presented, what is being stressed is the importance of gaining knowledge and skills by the use of our senses, because when we die we will not be able to gain knowledge and skills in that way. I find myself asking: is that why devils want to inhabit a physical body (any physical body)? That is, to gain knowledge and skills only available when one has physical form?

Scriptures that say that the dead are conscious

A cross reference for Ecclesiastes 9:5 is **Psalm 88:10-12**: “Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise thee? Selah. Shall thy loving kindness be declared in the grave? or thy faithfulness in destruction? Shall thy wonders be known in the dark? and thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?” The fact that these questions are being asked indicates that the dead are conscious. However, the following scriptures answer these questions directly:

- **Ephesians 4:9**: “Now that he ascended, what is it but he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?” Before Jesus was resurrected he spent three days in his spirit body preaching the gospel to the dead.
- **John 5:25-29**: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.” The dead must be conscious in order to hear. Also see John 11:25-26.

- **1 Peter 3:18-20:** “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by (in) the spirit. By which he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;...” This occurred during the three days that Jesus was in the grave and before he ascended to his Father to receive his resurrected body. After preaching to the dead, but before he ascended, he appeared as a spirit to Mary Magdalene and told her not to touch him (see John 20: 17). A resurrected being has a body of flesh and bones but a spirit being does not (see Luke 24: 36-52).
- **1 Peter 4:6:** “For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.”
- **1 Cor 15:29:** “Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?”
- **Luke 16:19-31:** “And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus ...the beggar died...the rich man died...in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torment.”
- **Luke 23:43:** “...Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”
- **Rev 6:9-11:** “...the souls of them that were slain for the word of God...They cried with a loud voice... white robes given unto them...they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants...should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”

Conclusion

The dead can see, suffer, speak, wear clothing, rest. It is reasonable to conclude that the dead are conscious and capable of making choices between good and bad.

Comments on chapters in the Are the Dead Alive Now? book

Philippians 1: 20-23 (see chapter 3)

Paul understands the duality of his being and that he must die (that is, separate his immortal spirit from his mortal body) before he can return to his God. Also see Job 32:8-9; Matthew 14:25-31; Mark 6:49; Luke 8:41-56; Luke 23:46; Acts 7:59; Ecc 12:7; Num 16:22; Acts 17:28-29; Heb 12:9; Luke 24:36-52.

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 (see chapter 4)

The main point of these verses is not whether the spirit is conscious or not but the duality of man. We have both a physical body that is mortal and an immortal spiritual body which was provided for us (by God) prior to our earthly existence (see Gen 2:4-7; Num 16:22-23; Job 1:6; Job 38:4-7; Proverbs 8:22-31; Ecc 12:7; Jer 1:4-5; John 3:13; John 9:1-3; 2 Peter 2:4; Hebrews 12: 9-10; Acts 17:26-29; Titus 1:1-2; Rev 12:7-9).

In addition, how our physical and spiritual bodies will be reunited, after our resurrection, is being determined by our actions during this life and our subsequent assignment to one of three worlds (see 1 Cor 15:35-44). In other words, we are, in effect, building the kind of body that we will be provided with in post-mortality.

Matthew 17:1-9 (see chapter 5)

The original Greek of the key word “appeared” is indeed *optomai*. According to Strong’s definition (3700) it may be translated as *gaze* and literally taken to mean to “to look at something with wide-open eyes, as at something remarkable”. There is no connotation of the experience being viewed with other than their natural eyes; indeed the fact is that their eyes were wide-open is being stressed.

The original Greek of the key word “vision” is *horama* means something gazed at; especially a spectacle and is derived from *horao* which means to stare at and to discern clearly (see SC 3705 and 3708). Within context, the words “appeared” and “vision” mean the same thing—to gaze at something.

The original Greek of the keyword “trance” (from Acts 10:10) is *ekstasis* means a displacement of the mind (see SC 1611). The word “vision” (from Acts 10:17) is used when referring to what was seen in the “trance” and, within context, does not mean the same thing as “trance”. Indeed I think a better translation might be “...wondered what he had discerned while in the trance meant...”

Translated and correctly understood, Matthew 17:1-9 clearly illustrates that at least two dead people (Moses and Elijah) were conscious before the death and resurrection of Jesus. Indeed not only were they conscious, they had bodies, could talk, and could be seen by mortals.

Hebrews 11:5 (see chapter 6)

The original Greek of the key word “translated” is *metatithemi* which means to transfer or transport to a place (see SC 3346). The original Greek of the word “see” is *eido* which means to know or behold (see SC 1492). Correctly translated, this scripture clearly states that Enoch would not know death. However, can we also assume that he did not die? Since we know that it is possible for the mortal body to be changed to an immortal body without having to experience death, I believe that Enoch’s physical body was changed in the twinkling of an eye so that he didn’t experience death (see 1 Cor 15:51-53).

The other arguments are very weak and display a strong bias towards a particular belief system rather than an honest attempt to see what the original language actually says. Indeed there is a bias towards twisting the scriptures to support a particular belief system. From my knowledge and study of other religions, I detect a strong bias towards the Jehovah Witness belief system. For example, the belief that faith only came with Jesus relies on an underpinning

belief and that Jesus and Jehovah are separate beings (see “Are Jesus Christ and Jehovah the same person?” on page 3-1).

Luke 16:19-31 (see chapter 7)

Parables are used to teach truth not lies so to try and denounce the whole passage as simply a parable does nothing to weaken the arguments presented therein. Another facet of a parable is to hide the truth from those who are not ready to accept the truth clothed by the parable.

The main scripture quoted to denounce the obvious meaning of Luke is Ecclesiastes 9:4-6, see “Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10” on page 4-2 for my analysis of this scripture.

Note that Luke 14:14 is also a parable but it is used as truth in support of the author’s argument (notice the shifting emphasis that the author places on the significance of parables throughout the chapter).

John 11:11-14 clearly shows that Lazarus was not sleeping but was dead. Consider this observation, if Lazarus was dead, and thus not conscious, how could he hear Jesus when he was commanded to come forth (see John 11:43)? This scripture clearly supports the contention that the dead can hear and are, therefore, conscious.

Luke 23:42-43 (see chapter 8)

The original Greek of the key word “paradise” is *paradeisos* which means “a place of future happiness” (see SC 3857). Jesus promised the malefactor that he would be with him that day in a place of happiness. Observe that both Jesus and the malefactor died the same day and that in order for them to know that they were together, and happy, then both of them would have to be conscious. Also note that Jesus was not resurrected until he had been dead three days in the grave. How could Jesus be with the malefactor on the same day as his death unless he was conscious the same day that he died? It is reasonable to conclude that both Jesus and the malefactor were conscious after their death.

Notice the convolutions (especially with the placement of “today”) the author goes through to try and twist the scriptures to say something other than what they actually clearly state. All the major translations (except the NWT) offer the same translation of Luke 23:42-43.

Matthew 22:23-32 (see chapter 9)

If the dead are conscious then they are very much alive and God is indeed the God of the living. All temporal marriages cease upon death; however, it is possible for marriage to continue after death (see Ecc 3:14; Matt 16:19, 18:18; Mark 10:9). The marriage must be performed by someone who has the sealing power so that the marriage will be recognized in heaven.

In general, the resurrection refers to the reunification of our physical and spiritual bodies. A spirit can not be touched or eat but a resurrected being can (see John 20:17 and Luke 24:36-52). There is scriptural evidence to support the argument that there are other resurrected beings—before the resurrection of Jesus. Angels are resurrected beings (for example, see Gen 18:1-8, 19:1-3; 1 Kings 19:5-8; Psalm 78:25; Matt 4:11; Luke 1:19; John 20:12; Heb 13:2).

1 Samuel 28:7-25 (see chapter 10)

I agree with the author's interpretation of this scripture. Observe that the vision destroyed all hope of possible repentance and Saul eventually killed himself.

Adventist notes

Source: *His Many Mansions: A Comparison of 13 Major Christian Denominations* by Rulon Howells, World Publishing: New York, 1972.

This study was prompted by a work colleague's recent rejection of Catholicism and his interest in adventism. I gave him a copy of these notes.

History?

- Initially Adventist movement was within existing churches and centered around the belief in a definite time for the 2nd coming of Christ.
- William Miller (1782-1849), a Baptist preacher, predicted the end of the world in 1843.
- From 1844, the term Adventist has been used for teachings related to 2nd coming etc.
- 1844: A few people, formally of the 1st day Adventists began to observe the 7th day of the week as the Sabbath and to preach doctrines which now constitute the distinctive tenets of the 7th day Adventists. In 1860, they were organized under the name 7th day Adventist Denomination.
- 1845: Millerites, also known as 2nd Adventists declared that while the visible 2nd coming would occur that no one knew when.
- Original group adopted name Evangelical Adventists.
- 1861: Advent Christians formed a general association and became separate unit
- 1862: Life and Advent Union and the Age-to-Come Adventists (Churches of God) were organized.
- 1866: Because of a division among 7th day Adventists regarding prophecies of Mrs. Ellen Gould White, the "Church of God" was formed which adhered to general advent doctrine and practice.

Doctrine?

- No formal or written creed but take the Bible (the only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and life) as their rule of faith and practice, believing they were called of God to give the special message due this world and to carry out a program of world evangelization. How are they called of God?
- Law of God binding upon all men
- Christ ministers pardon and forgiveness to all who come to God through him
- 7th day of week-sunset Friday to sunset Saturday is the Sabbath
- Baptism by immersion
- Man not immortal
- At death man is unconscious and sleeps until resurrected
- 2nd coming near and to precede millennium, those living (righteous) will be translated and the righteous dead will arise and go to heaven
- Earth will be place for people of God forever
- Don't use tobacco or alcohol-can be excommunicated for use of
- Separation of church and state
- opposed to "higher criticism"
- washing of feet practiced
- tithing observed
- congregational form of organization (no authority recognized above local church)

Fruitful areas for further investigation

- Don't believe in pre-existence of all men (for example, see Job 1:6; Job 38:4-7; Gen 2:4-7; Num 16:22-23; Ecc 12:7; Pro 8:22-31; Jer 1:4-5; John 3:13; John 9:1-3; 2 Peter 2:4; Heb 12:9-10; Acts 17: 26-27; Acts 17:28-29; Titus 1:1-2; rev 12:7-9; Jude 6; 1 Peter 2:4).
- Life after death—unconscious until resurrection (see "Are the dead conscious?" on page 4-1).
- Authority (Ecclesiastical: for example, see Exo 3:1-10; Exo 18:1-5; Exo 19:5-6; Exo 28:1-3; Exo 28:30; Exo 29:4-7; Exo 30:30; Num 27:18-23; 1 Sam 3; Psa 127:1; Isa 41:8-11; Isa 44:1-8; Jer 1:4-9; Jer 3:14-15; Jer 10:16-17; Jer 14:14-18; Jer 23:32; Jer 16:15-16; Eze 20:33-37; Hosea 14:4-8; Amos 3:7; Mal 3:1-5; Matt 7:13-25; Matt 16:15-19; Matt 18:18; John 10:1-10; John 15:16-19; Mark 3:4; Luke 6:13-16; Heb 2:3; Heb 5:4-10; Heb 6:20; Heb 7:11-12; Gal 1:6-9; 2 Peter 2:1-5; Numers 16; Acts 13:1-3; Acts 1:23-26; Acts 14:23; 1 Tim 2:7; Acts 19:1-6; Acts 19:13-16).

- Nature of God and the trinity (for example, see John 5:17-23; John 5:36-37; mark 1:10-11; Luke 3:21-23; matt 3:15-17; Matt 12:31-32; Matt 28:16-20; John 12:28-29; John 17:1-5; John 17:11-23; john 20:17; acts 7:55-56; 2 Cor 4:4; Col 1:12-15; Heb 1:1-3; John 15:23-24; John 10:30; Acts 2:32-33; acts 10:38; John 17:11-26; Col 2:9-12; John 14:28; matt 26:39; Phil 2:5-6; matt 2:5-6; John 12:49-50; 2 Col 13:14; John 8:42).
- Sabbath day (note importance in scripture of the 1st—firstborn, 1st day of week, 1st commandment, 1st rider, 1st 7 judgements, sets tone etc.). For examples, see Dan 2:20-21; Hosea 2:11; Matt 22:34-40; matt 28:1-18; mark 2:27-28; Luke 6:1-11; Luke 16:16; John 20:1; John 20:19; John 20:26; Acts 13:39; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:1-2; Gal 3:13; Gal 3:24-27; Gal 4:3-10; Eph 1:22; Eph 2:8-22; Col 2:16; Heb 4:7-9; Heb 8:1-13; Heb 10:9; Rev 1:10-20.

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