

<p>LIVE! From the Mecca of Mormonism – Salt Lake City, Utah! THIS IS HEART of the Matter!</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Show 46 Nauvoo II November 13th 2007</p> <p>And I’m your host Shawn McCraney.</p>
<p>STREAMING VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENT</p>	
<p>IN-THE-HOUSE</p>	
<p>SHOUT OUTS</p> <p>Are and Jochim from Norway – Andreas prays for you to be spiritually born-again.</p>	<p>Ted H. in Spanish Fork! Sharon A. in Farmington Joseph J. out in Draper Trent and Shauna in Provo David H out in Draper Barbara and Leon Dale and Gerry Joel A Karen B – thank you so very much, my sister.</p>
<p>NEW and IMPROVED Websites are a coming!</p>	<p>All sorts of cool things that will come along with them.</p>
<p>Decembers “Traveling Pastor in the Pub”</p> <p>Logan Utah:</p> <p>When: Monday, December 3rd 2007 Where: The Golden Corral Who: All of you – Christian, LDS, agnostics, whatever! What: Get together, eat, meet and then, we will retire to the:</p> <p>For an open water baptism! Start life anew confessing Jesus.</p>	

<p>We'd love to see you all there.</p>	
<p>KTMW Christmas Open House:</p>	<p>(Watch Video) Love to see you here.</p>
<p>MORMONIPULATION MOMENT</p> <p>Last week we mentioned the recent change in the Book of Mormon introduction.</p> <p>Since then a number of articles and new reports have focused on this change.</p> <p>I want to thank all of you for forwarding me copies of this stuff.</p> <p>Defenders of the faith say that the old introduction was written by one Bruce R. McConkie and was somehow "not scripture" nor should it have been considered the official position of the LDS Church.</p> <p>In other words, the lines that read:</p> <p>"After a thousand years, all were destroyed except the Lamanites, AND THEY ARE THE PRINCIPLE ANCESTORS OF THE AMERICAN INDIANS"</p> <p>should NEVER have been taken seriously, should NEVER have solicited artwork and stories and lessons and teachings about the American Indians, should never have caused Mormon families to adopt Indian Children in the 60's and 70's while assuming they were Lamanites, right?"</p>	

Now Bruce R. McConkie was an apostle of the LDS Church when he penned this introduction. Every apostle is deemed and sustained as a “prophet, seer, and revelator” in the LDS Church, right?

And the official church allowed people to not only believe in these words, but to build an entire system of faith on them. But now, because of recent DNA findings and other pressures, the LDS leadership has “Mormonistically” pulled another fast one, telling the world that McConkies words were not reliable.

And this is the killer to the whole thing:

Very few LDS care!

I’m telling you, somebody could find a signed confession from Joseph Smith that the Book of Mormon was just his creative writing and VERY FEW people will leave the Church or lose their testimony.

Why?

Most LDS are not concerned with knowing truth, they are concerned with feeling good, with belonging to a good cause, with what their families and colleagues think, with their position, and with controlling each other using LDS concepts like “honoring your priesthood” and “following the prophet.”

The truth barely makes the list when it comes to the drivers of a typical LDS believer.

So just understand this: These things – these Mormonistic changes” will not cause anything in the “Body Mormon” to

truly change.

The LDS leadership knows it and they will continue to do as they please to modify history and appear true.

The best we can hope for – save it be a world-wide revolution within Mormonism – is for individual Latter-day Saints to come to the truth of Jesus.

So just keep planting seeds, my friends!

Additionally, the LDS Church has long applied the title, “The Restored Gospel” to itself .

Well hang on to the newest addition in the LDS church’s push to be considered Christian.

They are now calling the Restored Gospel, “Restored Christianity!”

At a recent meeting in Washington DC, apostles Ballard and Cook repeatedly emphasized the Church’s position as “Restored Christianity.”

These guys are no slouches when it comes to PR and the Christian community has to decide if they are going to allow this or if they are going to call them on it?

Mark my words, it won’t be long before the PR machine of Mormonism will have won the world over in this cause because the LDS Church is going to continue to play a major role in media manipulation.

Do a Google search on a major chapter in the Bible and see what comes up – more and more often you will find some kind of

<p>site listed in the first five references that is an LDS source. Telling us what the Bible teaches!</p> <p>I went to a fantastic website called MRQE the other day to read some movie reviews. It's an amazing site full of thousands of film reviews from the nations top film critics.</p> <p>Guess who had an ad right there on the home page, larger than life?</p> <p>That's right, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This is a powerful and one of them most oft visited sites on the internet.</p> <p>I'm not a fear-monger nor full of "hate speech." I'm just saying that with the billions of dollars they have at their fingertips and the ability to manipulate the media, we are only beginning to see "MormonSway here to stay" in the 21st Century.</p>	
<p>Comment on Church recommendations.</p>	
<p>PRAYER PRAYER PRAYER</p>	
<p>"Joseph, Joseph, Joseph."</p> <p>For me, the study of his life has been a remarkable journey into the art of religion making, with an amiable and rambling Joseph utilizing everything within his grasp to convince, control, and lead the hearts of the seeking people of his day.</p> <p>I am not assigning motive - I do not know what drove the man at every stage of his</p>	

religion making – but we can assess his actions, and detail the facts of what he emphasized, de-emphasized, and changed as he moved along the path of his presenting a new religion to the world.

As a young teenager in 1820, Joseph was a mystical shaman who, by honing his craft as a treasure seeker, learned the art of convincing others “*to see what could not be seen,*” and to “*believe in the improbable over the reasonable.*”

In 1829, he presented a book that was supposedly translated from buried golden plates taken from a hill near his home by an ancient American who appeared to him as an angel of light.

He established a Church in 1830, and began to receive spontaneous (and rather convenient) “revelations” which are now contained in the Doctrine and Covenants, a book LDS believers today believe is scripture.

Time and trials brought new and more miraculous claims from the visionary young man, including the recitation of more and more advanced doctrines and predictions, the translation of some Egyptian scrolls into another book the LDS recognized as scripture, and an ability to motivate the masses through a strong millennialist voice.

Everything in Mormonsim between 1830 and 1839 was geared toward preparing the church and its people for the imminent millennial reign of the Lord and to gather the Saints into a separatist place of refuge.

Persecution pushed the Saints out of Kirtland, Ohio and into parts of Missouri, then out of Missouri and into a place where Joseph would put his final handprint on Mormonism while pushing it in an entirely new direction.

Speaking of this new home in Nauvoo, Illinois, LDS author Bushman writes:

“Joseph called the people to gather (in Nauvoo) as vigorously as ever, but in a new spirit,” But, he continues “in 1840-1841, the refuge principle was reduced to a minor theme.”

For Joseph, Nauvoo Illinois provided a new direction, and he shifted from casting “*a zealous prophetic voice of warning*” to presenting the strong and vibrant speech of a land promoter and politician.

Nauvoo, then, became the place where Mormonism first begins to foster and embrace temporal prosperity and political muscle.

Few things pleased Joseph more.

Where earlier revelations and communications were often “the dire voice of warning and the command for the Saints to be “separate from the world,” new public communications were now centered on a positive open-door policy.

A Times and Seasons article read:

“Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Nauvoo, that the Catholics, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Latter-day Saints, Quakers, Episcopalians, Universalists,

Unitarians, Mohammedans, and all other religious sects, and denominations, whatever, shall have free toleration, and equal privileges, in this city."

A letter written by Joseph and littered with this new "prosperity and power" hyperbole was sent abroad which said

"Let the brethren who love the prosperity of Zion, who are anxious that her stakes should be strengthened, and her cords lengthened, and who prefer her prosperity to their chief joy, come, and cast in their lots with us, and cheerfully engage in a work so glorious and sublime, and say with Nehemiah, "we his servants will rise and build."

If you close your eyes and listen, you'll hear Gordon B. Hinckley in every one of those words.

No longer was Joseph pointing to the immediate return of Jesus as the answer to the wanting and troubled Saints, but he had now entered into the newest and final phase of his life by offering the opportunities of ecumenical intercourse and the instant gratification of temporal success to anyone who sought to serve both God and Mammon.

From all of Mormon history, the Church today has built most strongly on Joseph's Nauvoo.

Prior to Nauvoo, Joseph was at one time claiming to receive an almost constant stream of revelations from the Lord, but his mind in the city called beautiful now produced very few revelations of significance.

In fact, while Nauvoo allowed Joseph to restructure and formalize many deep and significant theologies in Mormon doctrine, the actual “thus-saith-the-Lord revelations” Joseph claimed to have received were amazingly contrived!

It is amazing that LDS today can read this stuff and believe in a man who would use God’s name to promote it.

Take Doctrine and Covenants 124, for example.

Here, Joseph seems to make an attempt to command the Saints in Nauvoo to build a hotel – with God as voice.

Now you tell me, as you listen to this, if you can hear Joseph’s revelatory voice sort of just blend into a sort-of ridiculous façade?

Speaking of the Nauvoo hotel investment scheme Joseph has God say:

“And they shall not receive less than fifty dollars a share in that house, and they shall be permitted to receive fifteen thousand dollars from any one man for stock in that house. But they shall not be permitted to receive over fifteen thousand dollars from any one man . . . And if they do appropriate any portion of that stock anywhere else, only in that house, without the consent of the stockholder, and do not repay fourfold for the stock which they appropriate anywhere else, only in that house, THEY SHALL BE ACCURSED, and shall be moved out of their place, SAITH THE LORD GOD; FOR I THE LORD, am GOD, and cannot be mocked in any of these things.

It is really interesting to watch one phase

of Joseph's methods sort of dying while another phase was taking hold.

This was what drove the man - new and exciting things! And when they thinned and ran their course, he was off on another tangent - in the name of God.

In a May 1843 sermon, Joseph said:

"Excitement has become almost the essence of my life, when that dies away, I feel almost lost. When a man is reigned up continually by excitement, he becomes strong, and gains power and knowledge."

This is important to understand about Joseph Smith, because Mormonism today ebbs and flows upon Joseph's fleeting fancies, calling them doctrine, or truths, or eternal principles, when in reality, they were merely one mans attempt to keep himself feeling alive.

Even the Book of Mormon, in the Nauvoo years, seemed to take the shelf.

After Oliver Cowdery apostatized, he took one of the two manuscripts of the Book of Mormon with him. The other Manuscript Joseph decided to bury in the cornerstone of the Nauvoo house, and interrupted the ceremony of laying the stone to run and get the last remaining manuscript.

Ebenezer Robinson was shocked to hear Joseph say, as he scanned through the manuscript to ensure it was intact:

"I have had enough trouble with this thing."

Imagine an ancient scribe saying this about the book of Isaiah, or the Tanack?

In short order, and under this new found focus, Nauvoo grew by leaps and bounds, especially with a missionary force over seas promoting its "bounties and blessings" to the huddled and suffering masses across Western Europe.

1840 saw 200 converts arrive from England. 1200 came in 1841 and 1600 the following year. By 1844 - the year of Joseph's shootout in Carthage jail - it is said over 8,000 men, women, and children were attempting to make the Atlantic crossing.

Joseph always knew how to draw a crowd.

While Nauvoo was known as a clean town - due to some very strict laws against behaviors like vagrancy, idleness, and those unable to give a "good account for themselves" - it also became just as well known as "the community of wives."

The New York Herald reported in May of 1842 that Nauvoo men and women were "*connected in promiscuous intercourse without regard to the holy bonds of matrimony.*"

It was excitement run amok.

If you recall, it was in Nauvoo that the unrestrained Joseph was allowed to finally run free. And it was in these last four years of his life that he picked up the majority of his 33 to 45 extra wives.

Of the other secret, salacious, and questionable activities occurring in Nauvoo, which included the absence of grog houses – except for the bar Joseph managed and controlled himself - a functioning brothel, and the building of a Masonic temple, which, Joseph entered just weeks before providing the Saints with their own revised ceremony - perhaps the most troubling events surrounded Joseph’s drive for, and acquisition of, POWER.

Herein we discover the ultimate sensory experience for the man they called The Prophet – total, uninhibited, unrestrained power.

As noted, there were times in Joseph’s early life that pulling the big con occupied his time. Another phase appears to be an intimate knowledge of the LORD and the ability to speak on His behalf. But Nauvoo brought Joseph to the place all well meaning and/or diabolical self-proclaimed prophets land:

In the cesspools of their own flesh.

Joseph was an enigma. He was kind and attacking, brash and polite, long-suffering and impatient.

He was a mans man.
He was a ladies man.
Children loved him.
Critics hated him.

And he really didn’t seem to give a damn.

Fawn Brodie, in one of the best written biographies on Joseph Smith - No Man Knows My History - says of him:

(READ QUOTE)

Whether as a response to earlier persecutions – some of which was unjustified and extreme and some of which was the result of arrogant Mormon attitudes – or as a means to tout a strongly trained militia, or as a safeguard against Joseph being extradited back to Missouri to face pending charges, by 1842, Nauvoo became the home to one of the most impressive military presences in America at the time.

Now just stop and think about this for a moment.

This military presence was established by the founder of the Mormon religion.

What was their attitude out there in Nauvoo back in the day?

We're they humble seekers of Jesus?
Did they turn the other cheek?
What was their intentions?
Why were they needed and perhaps most importantly, how have the seeds of this political/militaristic bent back in Nauvoo developed and taken hold in Mormonism today?

We will explore these ideas and more next week.

Let's open the phones:
(801) 973-tv20
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Preference of callers –

