

<p>LIVE!  From the “<b>Mecca of Mormonism</b>”  SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  This is <u>Heart of the Matter</u>!</p> <p><i>“Where Mormonism Meets Christianity  Face to Face.”</i></p>	<p><i>Show 19 Mormon Mountain Meadows  Massacre – part II  May 12<sup>th</sup> 2009</i></p> <p>And I’m Shawn McCraney, your host.</p>
<p>If you have family or friends who cannot watch the show through one of the many television avenues – including cable, dish, and broadcast – have them go to <a href="http://www.hotm.tv">www.hotm.tv</a> and they can watch the show live through streaming video from anywhere in the world!</p>	
<p>So we welcome our Podcast viewers, our streaming viewers, our YouTube viewers, and those of you who watch on the archives.</p> <p>The Lord has taken this obscure little local program all over the world – we praise His name, and thank you for watching and sharing Heart of the Matter with your friends and family.</p>	
<p>We have a great friend to the ministry, Reed, who is quite aphoristic in his thoughts and delivery.</p> <p>Last week Reed was asked by a member of the Mormon Church if he believed the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God.</p> <p>Reed’s response was a classic. It should be used by everyone. He said:</p> <p><i>“I believe the Book of Mormon to be</i></p>	

<p><i>the Word of God as long as it has been plagiarized correctly.” ☺</i></p> <p>Classic.</p>	
<p>For those of you who don't realize it, the Book of Mormon tells the tale of Jesus coming to the Americas, and the actual gospel of Jesus Christ being here upwards of 600 years before the birth of Christ!</p> <p>Here's ather fantastic insight from a resident Bible student and friend, Brandon P.</p> <p>He sent me this reference and wrote:</p> <p>“Sure puts a damper on the LDS theology about the America's.”</p> <p>What was the passage?</p> <p>Psalms 147:19-20</p> <p><i>“He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. <u>He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them.</u> Praise ye the LORD.”</i></p> <p>Israel ONLY folks - no Nephite nation, No American continent visits. It was Israel only prior to the cross. Then the Lord reached out to other nations.</p>	
<p>If you live in the state of Utah you are well aware that most of the LDS-owned business establishments are closed on Sundays - what the LDS call</p>	

*the Sabbath day.*

As Christians who live in the liberty of Christ and are *dead to the Law*, our position is that if a person or people choose to honor God on a certain day of the week - so be it - I'm sure the Lord is pleased by all things that are done to honor Him.

There are, however, some cautions to consider when a religion suggests that certain rules - like the observance of what they call the Sabbath day - MUST be observed in order for people to be considered righteous.

The first caution to consider is that if a group chooses to attempt to "obey the Sabbath day," they had better not trifle with the meaning of that day or their obedience to it.

You cannot tell God you are going to follow His Law and then change the rules or intentionally dishonor it.

This is why living in grace is so vitally important, refreshing, and liberating to Christians. What grace says is, "I am saved by *Jesus'* ability to have perfectly obeyed and kept the law in my place, since it is obvious that I am not capable of living it. And then as a result of this liberty, I am free from the commands of the law in that I trust that Jesus has saved me and made me righteous before God - not my own righteousness.

And so it is by grace we are saved through our faith in Him who fulfilled the Law on our behalf.

Now, if you want to be judged by your abilities to obey the law, you had better take it freaking seriously.

The Law is God's, it is perfect, and trying to mix the Law and Grace is like trying to mix oil and water.

Paul said:

*"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."*

Now, (beat) the LDS claim - as a religion - that they keep the Sabbath-day holy.

If they are going to make this claim, there can be no messing around with the rules of it.

They either keep His Law, or they don't. They either keep the Sabbath Day Holy based on what He has said is holy, or they don't.

This being said, the day cannot be moved to another day of the week - like from Saturday to Sunday.

Saturday is the Sabbath. Period. But we won't even mention this.

And we won't even talk about the fact that it was a covenant day between God and the Children of Israel . . . Or the fact that if you broke the Sabbath the penalty was death.

Let's just speak of the fact that if you are going to be judged by the Law before God, obedience to Sabbath day observance is *NOT* arbitrary or optional. It **MUST** be kept - perfectly.

Scripture is very clear that if you are going to live by the law, you are going to be judged by the law.

In making a case for grace, Paul said in Romans 2:12 that

“ . . . as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law. ”

Why do I bring this up?

There is an LDS owned restaurant here in Salt Lake City that is never opened on Sunday - which is an outward sign to the watching and waiting world that they are Sabbatarians for God.

You would think, by all appearances, that they do this to honor of keeping their doors closed on Sunday for God, right?

Well Sunday, I drove passed this restaurant and there was a sign outside that said:

“Open for Mother's day!”

Now think about this:

What the sign was really saying, my friends, if taken in context of the Law and Sabbath day observances, was

<p>“Mother’s or Mother’s day is MORE IMPORTANT to us that God and His Law!”</p> <p>Do you get this seriousness of this?</p> <p>Bottom line: If a people are going to attempt to live by the Law, they had better do it exactly as it is laid out and let NOTHING come between their obedience to it because you can’t mess with God – that is why He sent His Son.</p> <p>I prefer the grace and liberty found in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.</p>	
<p>And with that, let’s have a prayer.</p>	<p>PRAYER</p>
<p>Since the middle of March we have been talking about life in the Utah Territory under Brigham Young.</p> <p>The environment we’ve been discussing certainly contributed to the butchering of over 120 innocent people who were traveling to California in the Fancher train from Arkansas.</p> <p>Last week we laid out two contributing factors to the Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre.</p> <p>The first was Parley P. Pratt being murdered in Arkansas. If you recall he was hunted down and killed by a man whose wife Pratt married.</p> <p>The second situation was the United States Government sending 2500 troops in to Utah to remove Brigham</p>	

<p>Young as governor and restore law and order.</p> <p>As the Fancher train moved across the plains, a number of other factors were also in place that would certainly contribute to the events at Mountain Meadows.</p> <p>We'll cover these factors tonight.</p> <p>Then next week we'll give a thumbnail chronology of the Fancher Party's journey through Utah, and the following week we'll describe the Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre itself.</p> <p>Finally, we'll wrap up with what the LDS response has been to the Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre and some conclusions I think need to be consider from the whole ordeal.</p>	
<p>Now there is one circumstance that I believe is foundational to not just the Mountain Meadows massacre, but to all the strange and seemingly aberrant murders in the state. In fact, I believe this singular event is foundational to the overall spirit that operates within Mormonism today.</p> <p>We need to step back to the time when Brigham Young assumed leadership of the Church once Joseph was killed.</p> <p>He found himself very uncertain as to his ability to fill Joseph Smith's shoes as a "prophet."</p> <p>No wonder. Where Joseph Smith claimed to have received revelation on</p>	

nearly every subject under the sun – and then some – Brigham was lacking in the ability to spout:

“Thus Saith the Lord.”

“Feelings” and what the LDS call “the Spirit” have always played a major role in the religious experience of the Mormons.

Upon meeting Joseph Smith, Brigham Young said he “*FELT his spirit to mingle with Joseph’s as two drops of water,*” and later, he said it was like “*fire in his bones.*”

John Taylor, said that an “*electric current ran up his arm*” when he shook hands with Joseph for the first time.

Well, when Brigham found himself uncertain about his abilities to prophesy by the “*spereet,*” he was greatly concerned. I mean, Brigham had never had a face to face experience with God – what was he to do with all these people calling him a prophet?

LDS author Bagley writes that the answer came for Brigham on the morning of February 17<sup>th</sup> 1847.

Young was very ill and with fever at the time and had an epiphany of sorts.

He said he was taken to the “*world of spirits*” where “*Joseph and Hyrum was.*”

In this spirit world Brigham found Joseph sitting near a bright window. Young kissed Joseph on both cheeks

and asked him:

*“Why we could not be together as we once was?”*

The spirit of Smith reassured him that *“they should not be together now.”*

Then the dead prophet answered Brigham’s most serious concern:

How to be a prophet?

In light of the Bible, what Brigham said Joseph said to him is frankly terrifying no matter how you slice it because he told him that:

*“The mind of man MUST be open to receive all spirits in order to be prepared to receive the spirit of the Lord.”*

Following this advice, Joseph Smith supposedly showed Brigham Young a sweeping vision of the plan of salvation.

Later, Young told his apostles to remember this dream, for it was *“a vision of God and was revealed through the spirit of Joseph.”*

I’m sure it was.

This experience gave Brigham the confidence to lead the Saints from that point forward. Nevertheless, he never really embraced the title of “prophet, like unto Moses,” saying later:

*“I don’t profess to be such a prophet*

*as were Joseph Smith and Daniel.  
But I am a Yankee Guesser."*

How's that self-description for a man people trusted as their spiritual leader and king:

"A Yankee Guesser who was willing to receive all spirits."

Scary shnit.

Within the august advice of the Bible, this is a recipe for pure evil.

The Bible is emphatically clear to avoid "*familiar spirits, enchanting spirits,*" and the like.

We are warned NOT to entertain such spirits.

And yet the spirit of Joseph told Brigham he must be open to ALL of them?!

I would suggest this receptivity to all spirits was actually a major factor that helped move many of the Mormons in southern Utah to butcher those 120 or so innocent men, women, and children.

Another major factor was the LDS teaching that "*revenge needed to be taken for the death of Joseph Smith*" and for their "*being persecuted and driven from the United States by angry mobs.*"

NOT turning the other cheek, friends.  
NOT returning good for evil.

REVENGE.

On his way to Carthage jail, Joseph Smith said in one of the last recorded statements we know he made:

*"If they take my life I shall die and innocent man, AND MY BLOOD SHALL CRY FROM THE GROUND FOR VENGEANCE."*

Prior to leaving Nauvoo Illinois in 1845, Brigham Young added an element to the sacred temple endowment itself - probably while entertaining some strange spirit - which he called the "*Oath of Vengeance.*"

**Does that sound Christian?** "Oath of Vengeance?"

Temple initiates, dresses in white and in a state of seeking the "speret" would make a sacred pledge before God that said:

*"I will pray, and never cease to pray, and never cease to importune high heaven, to avenge the blood of the Prophet on this nation, and will teach this to my children, and my children's children, unto the third and fourth generations."*

Bagley writes that once the Latter-day Saints were in their new mountain home, they:

*"never forgot they were refugees: they nurtured their bitterness,*

*savored their isolation, and longed for the Lord to avenge their suffering."*

Time will not permit a recitation of all the quotes from faithful Mormon people who prayerfully waited upon the "day for the Lord" to "heap vengeance upon the heads of the people of the United States" but let me tell you, revenge was a prevailing attitude in the Utah Territory.

This is not the history of a Christian people, my friends!

Now I want you to remove Mormonism from this picture and bring the situation into a modern and reduced context.

Imagine, for a minute, that there is a single man who, because he was considered strange and possibly dangerous, is driven out of his hometown of Las Vegas by people who did not trust nor understand him.

All would agree that what happened to him was unfortunate and unfair - but life works this way.

All of us have experience injustice, being misunderstood, even violent attack. But Jesus commands us to forgive right?

So let's say this man is residing out in the desert somewhere. And over the years he does not turn to the Lord for peace and understanding and forgiveness, but instead concocts some ideas that revenge needs to be taken.

<p>That blood needs to be shed. Lives lost.</p> <p>Then one day a family gets lost on vacation and drives their little family van into this mans remote area.</p> <p>Now, ask yourself, "What would you think of him and his actions - no matter what his reasons were - if the guy pirated the family van, then systematically butchered the husband, the wife, and all the children over eight years of age while they pleaded for mercy?</p> <p>Would you think He was following CHRISTIAN ideals or some other speret?</p> <p>Would anything he experienced justify his actions on an innocent family?</p> <p>And then, what would you think of his religious views if he was a leader in a church in the community and actually prayed before, during, and after the butchering?</p> <p>This is exactly the context of the Mormon Mountain Meadows Massacre.</p> <p>Don't let the time, era, distance, and situation cloud the fact that shedding innocent blood is never justified - ever!</p>	
<p>All of these factors we have been discussing - Pratt's death, to the invading federal government, the LDS attitude for revenge, the vitriolic</p>	

<p>speeches by Young, and the fanatical spiritual reformation imposed by the brethren - contributed greatly to what LDS historian D Michael Quinn called a "culture of violence" among the Saints in Utah.</p> <p>Add in the fact that the Fancher train was well to do and traveling through an impoverished land, that they came from Arkansas, and that their cattle would feed on grass-land Mormons believed belonged to them, and you have got the makings of a bloody disaster.</p> <p>Which we'll continue talking about next week.</p> <p>Let's open up the phone lines:</p> <p>(801) 973-TV20 (801) 973-8820</p>	
<p>SPOT SPOT SPOT</p>	
<p>Received an email from a man who lives in the UK we'll call "C."</p> <p>He writes: (see email)</p> <p>Then respond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• His time - never too soon, never too late.</li> <li>• Walk by faith. Trust in Him.</li> </ul> <p>Some are radical experiences, others</p>	

uneventful but there and growing.	