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Only what's done
For Christ will last.*

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MORMON CHURCH SUPPRESSES BOOK OF COMMANDMENTS

Deseret Book Store Ordered Not to Sell Wilford Wood's Reprint of the Book of Commandments

The following is an account of how the Mormon Church tried to prevent us from obtaining the photocopies necessary for the printing the *Book of Commandments*, and also how the Mormon Church is now trying to suppress Wilford Wood's reprint of it.

About the Book of Commandments

In 1833 the Mormon Church published the revelations that had been given to the Church by Joseph Smith in a book entitled the *Book of Commandments*. However, the Church was unable to print as many of the *Book of Commandments* as they had planned because the printing press was destroyed by a mob. In 1835 the revelations were again printed, and the name of the book was changed to the *Doctrine and Covenants*. New revelations were added, and many of the previous revelations were revised.

The *Book of Commandments* contains 65 of Joseph Smith's revelations and according to a student at Brigham Young University there have been 2,812 words changed, added, or omitted in these same revelations as published in the *Doctrine and Covenants* today. Because of this fact the Mormon Church Historian feared that someone would reprint the *Book of Commandments* and reveal the fact that these changes have been made.

David Whitmer, one of the three witnesses to the Book of Mormon, made this statement concerning the changes that have been made in the revelations:

Some of the revelations as they now appear in the *Book of Doctrine and Covenants* have been changed and added to. Some of the changes being of the greatest importance as the meaning is entirely changed on some very important matters; as if God had changed his mind a few years after he gave the revelations, and after having commanded his servants (as they claim) to print them in the "Book of Commandments;" . . . (Letter written by David Whitmer, published in the *Saints' Herald*, February 5, 1887)

Poorest Reprint

In an article entitled "Mormon Bibliography," published in the *Brigham Young University Studies*, Spring-Summer 1964, Chad J. Flake of the Brigham Young University stated:

Undoubtedly the poorest reprints on Mormon subjects are those printed by the Modern Microfilm Company. Although these seem to be as expensive as any mentioned above, the quality of the printing bears no comparison. An interesting comparison can be made

(Continued on page 2)

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
PROVO, UTAH



CHESTER L. WILKINSON, President

April 11, 1961

Mr. Jerald Tanner
3119 North Fifth West
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Mr. Tanner:

We are unable to send you a photocopy of the *Book of Commandments*. We were supplied this copy by the Church Historian's office for the use of our patrons but not for photoduplication or other forms of publication. Due to the fact that there is manuscript material in this copy, you would need to secure the permission of the Church Historian's Library to have it reproduced, as they own the manuscript copy.

Unfortunately, none of our professional staff, either in the Special Collections or Microfilm area, are on duty on Saturday, and our student assistants are instructed not to make any photocopies. This policy is for their protection, so that they will not be held responsible for copyright violations. I am usually available Monday through Friday from 8 o'clock to 5 o'clock and would be glad to discuss any duplication which you might desire which would not violate ownership rights or stipulations under which we obtained this material.

Yours sincerely,

Chad J. Flake
Special Collections

CJF/aj

Enclosure

A. H. PARRY
MANAGER

DESERET BOOK COMPANY

44 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY 10, UTAH
P. O. BOX 958 — PHONE DAVIS 8-8191

October 16, 1964

W. P. Walters
117 N. Hamilton
Marissa, Illinois

Dear Mr. Walters:

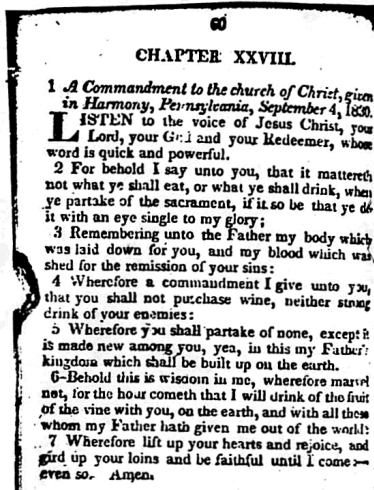
Thank you for your letter ordering "Joseph Smith Begins His Works" Vol 1 & 2 by Wilford Wood. We are sorry to inform you that these two books are no longer available.

We are returning you check along with a price list of our books. May we serve you with some of these fine books?

Sincerely yours,

DESERET BOOK COMPANY

Miss Verna Noble
Paid Order Dept.



DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS -1952 Edition

SECTION 26.

REVELATION given to Joseph Smith the Prophet, Oliver Cowdery, and John Whitmer, at Harmony, Pennsylvania, July, 1830. — Instructions as to immediate duty—Reaffirmation of the principle of common consent in Church affairs.

1. Behold, I say unto you that you shall let your time be devoted to the studying of the scriptures, and to preaching, and to confirming the church at Colesville, and to performing your labors on the land, such as is required, until after you shall go

to the west to hold the next conference; and then it shall be made known what you shall do.

2. And all things shall be done by common consent in the church, by much prayer and faith, for all things you shall receive by faith. Amen.

SECTION 27.

REVELATION given to Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Harmony, Pennsylvania, August, 1830. In preparation for a religious service at which the sacrament of bread and wine was to be administered, Joseph set out to procure wine for the occasion. He was met by a heavenly messenger, and received this revelation, the first four paragraphs of which were written at the time, and the remainder in the September following. Water is commonly used instead of wine in the sacramental services of the Church. — Warning against the use of wine of unassured purity in the sacrament—Many ancient prophets named, with whom, as with the latter-day prophets, the Lord promises to partake at a time yet to come—The prior ordination of Joseph Smith, Jun., and Oliver Cowdery to the Apostleship avowed—Encouraging admonition given.

1. Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Lord, your God, and your Redeemer, whose word is quick and powerful.

2. For, behold, I say unto you, that it mattereth not what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink when ye partake of the sacrament, if it so be that ye do it with an eye single to my glory—remembering unto the Father my body which was laid down for you, and my blood which was shed for the remission of your sins.

3. Wherefore, a commandment I give unto you, that you shall not purchase wine, neither strong drink of your enemies:

I give unto you, that you shall not purchase wine neither strong drink of your enemies;

4. Wherefore, you shall partake of none except it is made new among you; yea, in this my Father's kingdom which shall be built up on the earth.

5. Behold, this is wisdom in me; wherefore, marvel not, for the hour cometh that I will drink of the fruit of the vine with you on the earth, and with you to reveal the Book of Mor-

a. see 2u, sec. 20. b. vers. 3, 4, 5. c. 89:4, 5. d. vers. 6-14. Matt. 26:29. Mark 14:25. Luke 22:18.

mon, containing the fulness of my everlasting gospel, to whom I have committed the keys of the record of the stick of Ephraim;

6. And also with Elias, to whom I have committed the keys of bringing to pass the restoration of all things spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began, concerning the last days;

7. And also John the son of Zacharias, which Zacharias he (Elias) visited and gave promise that he should have a son, and his name should be John, and he should be filled with the spirit of Elias;

8. Which John I have sent unto you, my servants, Joseph Smith, Jun., and Oliver Cowdery, to ordain you unto the first priesthood which you have received, that you might be called and ordained even as Aaron;

9. And also Elijah, unto whom I have committed the keys of the power of turning the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers, that the whole earth may not be smitten with a curse;

10. And also with Joseph and Jacob, and Isaac, and Abraham, your fathers, by whom the promises remain;

11. And also with Michael, or Adam, the father of all, the prince of all, the ancient of days;

12. And also with Peter, and James, and John, whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained you and confirmed you to be apostles, and especial wit-

nesses of my name, and bear the keys of your ministry and of the same things which I revealed unto them.

13. Unto whom I have committed the keys of my kingdom, and a dispensation of the gospel for the last times; and for the fulness of times, in the which I will gather together in one all things, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth;

14. And also with all those whom my Father hath given me out of the world.

15. Wherefore, lift up your hearts and rejoice, and gird up your loins, and take upon you my whole armor, that ye may be able to withstand the evil day, having done all, that ye may be able to stand.

16. Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, which I have sent mine angels to commit unto you;

17. Taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked;

18. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of my Spirit, which I will pour out upon you, and my word which I reveal unto you, and be agreed as touching all things whatsoever ye ask of me, and ye shall be caught up, that where I am ye shall be also. Amen.

e. see b, sec. 18. f. Ezek. 37:16-19. 2 Ne. 29:13. Morm. 5:14. Moro. 10:2. Luke 1:13-19. g. ver. 7. 76:100. 77:9, 14. 110:12. Matt. 17:11. h. ver. 8, sec. 13. 84:27, 28. Luke 1:13-19. i. see sec. 2. j. see sec. 2. k. 29:26, 36, 40, 42. 78:16. 84:16. 88:112-115. 107:54, 56. Sec. 116. 128:15, 20, 21. Dan. 7:9-14. 10:13, 21. 12:3. Jude 9. Rev. 12:7. l. see d, sec. 5. m. 64:30, 37. n. 76:166. 77:12. 110:14. 112:30. 124:41. Eph. 1:9, 10. o. 29:11. 84:100. Col. 1:20. p. Eph. 6:13-19. q. vers. 5-14. 128:19-21. Testimony of Three Witnesses, Book of Mormon.

A photograph of Chapter 28 of the *Book of Commandments*; also a photograph of the same revelation, published as section 27 of the *Doctrine and Covenants*. Notice that over 400 words which are underlined have been added to the revelation as it appears in the *Doctrine and Covenants*.

of two editions of the *Book of Commandments*. The first, published by Wilford Wood under the title *Joseph Smith Begins His Work*, v. 2, is an excellent reprint. The second published at approximately the same time by the Modern Microfilm Company, has pages which are completely unreadable. (*Brigham Young University Studies*, Spring-Summer 1964, page 242)

Because of this statement by Mr. Flake we feel that we should explain several things concerning the printing of the *Book of Commandments*. Actually at the time the *Book of Commandments* was reprinted there was no such company as the Modern Microfilm Co. In 1961 we had the Woodruff Printing Co. (a very capable printing establishment) reprint the *Book of Commandments* by the photo-offset method. The first 41 pages were from photocopies we obtained from the Brigham Young University, and the remaining pages were from photocopies taken from a microfilm made at the Yale University.

Now, it is true that some of the first 41 pages obtained from the Brigham Young University are not readable, as Mr. Flake has stated, however, he would have done well to explain why this is the case.

Actually, the Mormon Church did its best to keep us from reproducing this book. Mr. Flake was working in Special Collections at the Brigham Young University at the time this book was printed and is well acquainted with the facts.

Not To Be Reproduced

We are informed that the Mormon Church Historian's Office in Salt Lake City owns at least three copies of the *Book of Commandments*. They apparently had Wilford Woodruff's copy microfilmed and sent a positive copy to the Brigham Young University Library. (Wilford Woodruff was the fourth President of the Mormon Church.) Before giving this microfilm to the Brigham Young University they apparently made them promise that they would not make photocopies of it. This is obvious from a letter written from Chad J. Flake to Pauline Hancock on April 12, 1961. In this letter Mr. Flake stated:

The Wilford Woodruff copy of the *Book of Commandments* is at the Church Historian's office in Salt Lake City. They allowed us to receive a copy of the film for the use of our students; however, it was with the stipulation that any reproduction would have to come through their office. (Letter from Chad J. Flake, dated April 12, 1961)

It is very obvious from this letter that the Mormon Church leaders did not want the *Book of Commandments* to be reprinted. Actually, the copyright had expired on this book and there was no reason why it could not be reproduced.

In a letter dated April 11, 1961, Chad J. Flake stated that the student assistants were instructed not to make photocopies on Saturdays:

Unfortunately, none of our professional staff, either in the Special Collections or Microfilm area, are on duty on Saturday; and our student assistants are instructed not to make any photocopies. (Letter dated April 11, 1961)

We visited the Brigham Young University on a Saturday prior to the time Chad J. Flake wrote this letter. If the student assistant had received the instructions that Mr. Flake speaks of, he broke the rules because he made photocopies of the first 41 pages of the *Book of Commandments* for us. He apparently did not realize the importance of what he was copying, for he asked us why we wanted photocopies of that old book.

When the Church Historian's Office found out that we had obtained these photographs, they immediately sent word to the Brigham Young University to keep us from obtaining any more photocopies of these rare documents. Consequently, when we wrote to the Brigham Young University asking for the remaining pages of the *Book of Commandments*, Chad J. Flake answered as follows:

We are unable to send you a photocopy of the *Book of Commandments*. We were supplied this copy by the Church Historian's office for the use of our patrons but not for photoduplication or other forms of publication. (Letter by Chad J. Flake, dated April 11, 1961, see page 1)

We appealed to William E. Berrett (Vice Administrator of the Brigham Young University), and he wrote directly to the Church Historian's Office. In a letter dated May 5, 1961, he wrote a letter to us in which he stated that the Church Historian's Office would "not permit" photocopies to be made of the *Book of Commandments* (see *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?* page 70). On June 1, 1961, we wrote directly to Joseph Fielding Smith, the Church Historian, and he answered as follows:

Private records are sacred to the individual. Copies of the *Book of Commandments* are rare. Perhaps you could obtain a copy from some book collector.

Of course, Mr. Smith knew that we would not be able to obtain an original as it would cost thousands of dollars.

The Church Historian's Office could have provided us with nice clear photocopies, however, they were unwilling to help in any way and did everything they could to prevent the publication of the *Book of Commandments*.

Wilford Wood's Reprint

Wilford Wood (this name should not be confused with the name Wilford Woodruff) has also published the *Book of Commandments* and the first edition of the *Doctrine and Covenants* (under the title of *Joseph Smith Begins His Work*, vol. 2) by the photo-offset method, and as Mr. Flake says, it is an excellent reprint. He has also reproduced the first edition of the Book of Mormon, under the title of *Joseph Smith Begins His Work*, vol. 1.

A few months after our reprint of the *Book of Commandments* came out, Wilford Wood published his reprint of the *Book of Commandments*.

The Mormon Church was apparently not as worried about his reprint as they were about ours, for the Deseret Press (the Church press) did the printing, and it was advertised in the Salt

Lake papers. We tried to advertise our copy but were refused permission. One of the employees at the newspaper agency told us that the reason the book could not be advertised was that the preface we included in the front of the book was "too controversial." He indicated the preface was controversial because it told that the revelations had been changed and that the Mormon Church had suppressed the *Book of Commandments*.

Since Wilford Wood's reprint did not tell that the revelations had been changed, the Church did not try to suppress his book at that time. Instead they promoted it and allowed him to display his original copy of the *Book of Commandments* in the window of the Deseret Book Store (that is the Church book store). The leaders of the Mormon Church evidently felt that by using this reverse psychology they could make the Mormon people believe that they were glad that the *Book of Commandments* had been reprinted. Since Mr. Wood's reprint did not tell the revelations had been changed, the Church leaders evidently felt that they were safe as long as members of the Church did not compare it with present editions of the *Doctrine and Covenants*. It appears, however, that members of the Church did compare the two editions and found that many changes had been made. On October 9, 1964, a man reported to us that the Deseret Book Store had refused to sell him copies of *Joseph Smith Begins His Work*, vols. 1 and 2. On October 10, 1964, Sandra Tanner went to the Deseret Book Store and asked the clerk concerning these books. The clerk, supposing she was a Mormon, said, "President David O. McKay won't let us sell that anymore." The clerk went on to say, "We've had several people leave the Church because of those books. The priest and ministers of the other churches are using these books to confuse people. Because of the confusion we can't sell them anymore. President McKay has taken them out of circulation."

On October 13, 1964, Wesley P. Walters (a minister in Illinois) wrote to the Deseret Book Store requesting copies of *Joseph Smith Begins His Work*, vols. 1 and 2. He had been recommending these books to libraries throughout the nation. He had informed the librarians that they could buy these books at the Deseret Book, but when he wrote to them himself they answered, "these two books are no longer available." (See a photograph of this letter on page 1.) This letter would lead a person to believe that these books are out of print, however, this is not the case.

As we stated before, the Deseret Press (that is the Church press) did the printing on these books, however, Bookcraft distributes them. Since the Mormon Church does not own Bookcraft they will not be able to stop the circulation of these books at other stores besides the Deseret Book Store unless Wilford Wood gives his consent, or unless they buy them all up. The Modern Microfilm Co. will continue to sell them as long as they are available.

First Vision

The Mormon Church claims that in 1820, when Joseph Smith was 14 or 15 years old, that he was visited by God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. The evidence indicates, however, that this

story was made up at some later date. Joseph Smith did not publish the story until 1842, some 22 years after it was supposed to have occurred. The "first published consecutive account of the origin of the Church" (published in 1834-5) contained nothing concerning a vision in 1820. This account was written under the "personal supervision" of Joseph Smith, and stated that it was only an angel that appeared to Joseph Smith in 1823 when he was 17 years old. No mention is made of a vision prior to this. In our book, *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?* we show that even Joseph Smith's own brother did not accept the story that God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith in 1820 (see pages 124-125).

Recently Wesley P. Walters has drawn our attention to a sermon by William Smith given June 8, 1884. In this sermon he claims that it was only an angel that appeared when Joseph Smith was 18 years old. He stated:

It will be remembered that just before the angel appeared to Joseph, there was an unusual revival in the neighborhood. . . . My mother attended those meetings, and being much concerned about the spiritual welfare of the family, she persuaded them to attend the meetings. Finally my mother, one sister, my brothers Samuel and Hyrum became Presbyterians. Joseph and myself did not join; I had not sown all my wild oats. . . . it was at the suggestion of the Rev. M____, that my brother asked of God. He said, "Ask of God." . . . Accordingly he went and bowed in prayer to God. While he was engaged in prayer, he saw a pillar of fire descending. Saw it reach the top of the trees. He was overcome, became unconscious, did not know how long he remained in this condition, but when he came to himself, the great light was about him, and he was told by the personage whom he saw descend with the light, not to join any of the churches. . . . You should remember Joseph was but about eighteen years old at this time, too young to be a deceiver. (*The Saints' Herald*, vol. 31, no. 40, page 643)

Dr. Hugh Nibley, of the Brigham Young University, makes this comment concerning William Smith:

If William Smith and Oliver Cowdery give confusing accounts of the first vision, we must remember that the Prophet knew from the first that those men were not to be trusted with too much information. . . . Were such men to be trusted with a full account of the first vision before it was officially given to the world? (*Improvement Era*, November 1961, pages 868-869)

It certainly seems strange that Joseph Smith could not trust his own brother with an account of the First Vision, if such a vision really occurred.

SHADOW or REALITY?

The following are comments we have received in the mail concerning our book, *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?*

Your work on "Mormonism Shadow or Reality" reflects research worthy of a Thesis for PhD—Congratulations.(Letter from California)

I have enjoyed reading your new book & enclosed is a check for 10 copies & I hope you have a great sale for them. . . . I feel this book ought to get into the hands of the people. It answers the questions they need to know. (Letter from Wyoming)

I have received the book. . . . It is a marvelous edition. (Letter from California)

We have had the joy of pointing a man to Christ . . . He was about to be baptised into Mormon Church & had been well indoctrinated but said he wanted to be sure! Your book proved invaluable. Better than ALL the others together, he said!! (Letter from Ireland)

If you are interested in a copy of *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?* the price is \$5.00 (\$4.50 if ordered before November 15).

T.V.

Jesus once asked:

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will give him a stone?

Or if he ask a fish, will give him a serpent? (Matthew 7:9-10)

It would appear that in America today that many parents are giving their children stones instead of bread. The following appeared in the *Salt Lake Tribune* for Monday, October 26, 1964:

A still-secret report charges there is a conclusive link between crime and violence in television shows and juvenile delinquency, it was learned Sunday.

The report has been signed by a majority of the Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency headed by Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.). . . . the subcommittee reported it found "on the basis of expert testimony and impressive research evidence, that a relationship has been conclusively established between televised crime and violence and antisocial attitudes and behavior among juvenile viewers."

In another section of the report, the subcommittee said in its view, "The excessive amount of televised crime, violence and brutality can and does contribute to the development of attitudes and actions in many young people which pave the way for delinquent behavior." (*Salt Lake Tribune*, October 26, 1964)

Psalm 82:3

"Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy."

Orphans

Jesus said:

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: . . . Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? . . .

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. (Matthew 25:35-40)

Nearly five years ago we heard of an organization called World Vision. We have found that it is a non-profit organization with orphanages in 19 countries caring for more than 20,000 orphans. Each orphan has a sponsor who contributes \$10 a month for his support (food, clothing, home, schooling, etc.). Since Korea alone has an estimated 50,000 orphans one can see the great need for more sponsors.

It certainly has been a blessing to us to help some of these sweet little ones who would never have known a home or decent food without the wonderful work of World Vision. We feel they are doing a tremendous job. World Vision has recently built a children hospital in Seoul, Korea, with room for 150 sick children. They also help operate a children's wing of the Presbyterian Hospital in Taegu and other facilities throughout the country. (World Vision is a non-denominational missionary endeavor.)

Each sponsor can exchange letters with his child (the letters are translated into English before they are forwarded to the sponsor). We would like to share with you a few comments from the letters we have received.

An orphan boy, Lee Han Kook, writes:

I received your birthday gift of \$1.00 with all my heart and bought 1 pair of underwear with the money. When I wear these underwear, I feel as if you hug me tightly with both of your arms. I was over-whelmed by your love and shed tears.

In another letter he writes:

I was so happy to receive your card . . . I will work diligently like an ox and will try to be a mild boy like a rabbit. I suppose you will be glad, if I become such a boy.

Of his family he says:

My mother and father are not living. I wandered about the streets until I was brought to this home through the police.

He, like so many others, would have had no hope for a happy future without the help of such groups as World Vision.

If anyone is interested in knowing more about World Vision they can write—

World Vision
Box 0
Pasadena, California

NEW BOOKS

Brigham's Destroying Angel. Photomechanical reprint of 1904 edition of Bill Hickman's confessions. Price: \$3.00

Mountain Meadows Massacre, by Josiah F. Gibbs. Photomechanical reprint of 1910 edition. Price: \$1.50

John Whitmer's History. Written by one of the eight witnesses to the Book of Mormon. Very revealing. Price: \$1.50

View of the Hebrews, by Ethan Smith. Photo reprint of 1825 edition - also the parallels by B. H. Roberts. Price: \$4.00

Why Egyptologists Reject the Book of Abraham. Reprint of articles by F. S. Spalding and S. Mercer. Price: \$1.50

(10% off on above prices until November 15)