Study Guide 10:

Unit 6: Additional Restoration Scripture

Introduction to the Pearl of Great Price

Article 6.1 Translation and Historicity of the Book of Abraham

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Instructions: The purpose of the study guide is to direct your course of study of the Foundations of the Restoration, and assist you to focus on important salient points of your reading and study. The study guides are due on Learning Suite each class period by **8:59 am**. Your upload should only include the questions with your answers highlighted in yellow.

**Church History:**

**People (Go to JosephSmithPapers.org and search under Reference and People):**

**Places (Look at the Maps in your Scriptures):**

**Introduction to the Pearl of Great Price**

1. Who compiled the first collection of materials that was referred to as the “Pearl of Great Price” in 1851?
   1. Elder Franklin D. Richards
2. When did the Pearl of Great Price officially become canonized scripture?
   1. October 10, 1880.
3. Before reading, did you know that D&C 137 and 138 used to be in the Pearl of Great Price before being moved over to the Doctrine and Covenants?
   1. No
4. In your own words, give a brief summary of the contents of the Pearl of Great Price
   1. **Selections of the Book of Moses:** 
      * + **Joseph Smiths translation of the first few chapters of Genesis involving the creation.**
   2. **The Book of Abraham:** 
      * + Joseph smiths translation of Egyptian Papyri giving an account of Abraham regarding the creation and astronomy
   3. **Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible – Matthew:**
      * + **Joseph Smiths translation of a chapter in Matthew regarding the events leading up to the second coming.**
   4. **Joseph Smith – History:**
      * + **Joseph Smiths account of his early life, first vision, and events leading up to the restoration of the church.**
   5. **The Articles of Faith:** 
      * + **13 points of the LDS faith written by Joseph Smith that was published in the church newspaper.**

**6.1 The Translation and Historicity of the Book of Abraham**

1. In your own words, what does the Book of Abraham recount?
   1. It recounts the life of Abraham, including his rejection of his fathers Idolatry, covenants made with God, marriage to Sarai, and Journeys to Canaan and Egypt. It also recounts Abraham’s revelation of the creation.
2. When was the Book of Abraham first Published for the Saints to study from, and what was it translated from?
   1. 1842
   2. The book originated with Egyptian papyri
3. In the Bible, God’s covenant with Abraham appears to begin during Abraham’s life. However, what does the Book of Abraham teach about when the covenant began?
   1. Before the foundation of the earth
4. Give your own summary/brief account of the “Origin of the Book of Abraham” section **(Make sure to include names and dates – these will be useful when studying for tests!)**
   1. In the summer of 1835 Michael Chandler entered Kirtland with 4 mummies and multiple Egyptian scrolls to show people for money. A group of latter day saints purchased the antiquities and Joseph Smith found that one of the scrolls contained the writings of Abraham.

**For the following two questions, list the top 2 things that stood out to you as particularly interesting/significant in the “Translation and the Book of Abraham” section:**

1. **Number 1**: None of the characters on the papyrus mentioned Abraham or the events covered in the book of Abraham
2. **Number 2**: We now only have a fraction of the papyri that Joseph had in his possession.
3. Explain in your own words what happened to the papyri fragments after Joseph’s martyrdom:
   1. They were Emma’s property initially after Joseph’s death. Emma later donated the papyri to the Chicago museum, and it was thought that they were destroyed in the Great Chicago fire. In the 1960’s some papyri fragments turned up in the New York museum of natural history.
4. For the fragments of the Papyri that we do have, how would you respond to someone who seems troubled that they do not date back to the time of Abraham?
   1. All biblical records we have today don’t date back to Bible times, but are copies of copies of the original writings. The same thing could’ve easily occurred with the book of Abraham. Also, we don’t have much of the original papyrus so it is likely joseph could’ve translated from other fragments than the ones discovered.
5. At the end of the day, one of the best measures of the authenticity of the Book of Abraham is the fact that the information found within the book fits comfortably into the Ancient World’s history and geography – details that weren’t mentioned in the Bible and simply weren’t known or even discovered in the time-period or geographic location that Joseph Smith and the other Saints lived in. With all of this in mind, **share two of you find to be the most significant/compelling details the Book of Abraham reveals about the Ancient World:**
   1. The book of Abraham mentions God teaching Abraham about the sun, moon, and stars. In another non-biblical Egyptian text that has been discovered, it says that Abraham taught Pharaoh’s court through astronomy. Also, we have discovered evidence of human sacrifice in the Abrahamic era that is similar to the sacrifice mentioned in the book of Abraham.
6. In other words, the best way to gain an appreciation and testimony of the Book of Abraham is to read it and pray about it yourself. Sound familiar? If you have already read from this Book, share some experiences you have had while studying! If you have not yet read it, what are you looking forward to the most when you finally do?
   1. I have not ever read the book of Abraham all the way through, but I look forward to reading it and gaining a witness from the spirit of its authenticity, because no secular evidence can prove or disprove it.