

# AWAKE!

## THE BOOK OF MORMON AND THE BIBLE

How do their doctrines compare?

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## Brazil Sees Red!

Government acts to quench Communist fire

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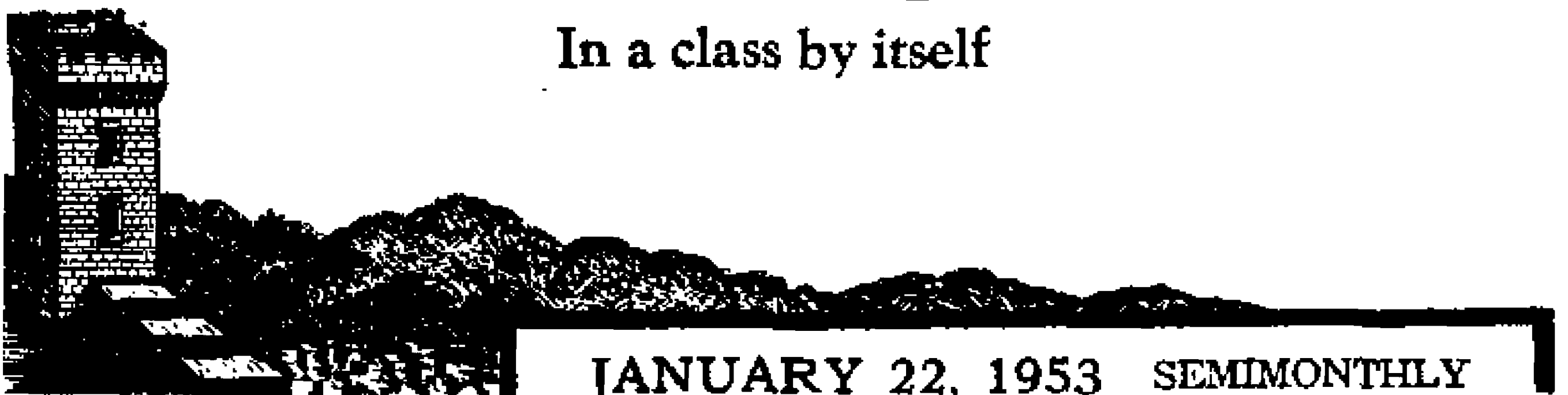
## Traffic in Tots

The blackest market of them all!

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## *The Platypus*

In a class by itself



JANUARY 22, 1953 SEMIMONTHLY

# THE MISSION OF THIS JOURNAL

News sources that are able to keep you awake to the vital issues of our times must be unfettered by censorship and selfish interests. "Awake!" has no fetters. It recognizes facts, faces facts, is free to publish facts. It is not bound by political ambitions or obligations; it is unhampered by advertisers whose toes must not be trodden on; it is unprejudiced by traditional creeds. This journal keeps itself free that it may speak freely to you. But it does not abuse its freedom. It maintains integrity to truth.

"Awake!" uses the regular news channels, but is not dependent on them. Its own correspondents are on all continents, in scores of nations. From the four corners of the earth their uncensored, on-the-scenes reports come to you through these columns. This journal's viewpoint is not narrow, but is international. It is read in many nations, in many languages, by persons of all ages. Through its pages many fields of knowledge pass in review—government, commerce, religion, history, geography, science, social conditions, natural wonders—why, its coverage is as broad as the earth and as high as the heavens.

"Awake!" pledges itself to righteous principles, to exposing hidden foes and subtle dangers, to championing freedom for all, to comforting mourners and strengthening those disheartened by the failures of a delinquent world, reflecting sure hope for the establishment of a righteous New World.

Get acquainted with "Awake!" Keep awake by reading "Awake!"



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# AWAKE!

*"Now it is high time to awake."—Romans 13:11*

Volume XXXIV

Brooklyn, N. Y., January 22, 1953

Number 2

## BRAZIL SEES RED!

By "Awake!" correspondent in Brazil

THE trouble came to a head on August 11 when the price control board of Rio Grande do Sul raised the price of meat in this land of meat plenty. The city of Rio Grande was already excited about the high cost of living, and since the first days of this month Communists had succeeded in leading a strike to protest living costs. The board's decision was the tinder spark that kindled the smoldering fuel.

Next morning, indignant householders milled about the streets. Business houses did not even open their doors for fear of what was coming, in spite of the request of the assistant chief of state police, who had arrived the day before with a strong contingent to reinforce the local police. Skirmishes began here and there between the *populares* and the soldiers. Sixteen Communists were arrested, including an army lieutenant and a lawyer.

At 10:00 a.m. the climax came, when more than 3,000 in a compact mass, deaf to the pleas of civil and military authorities, packed the area in front of the police station and, in mob fashion, demanded the liberation of the prisoners. Firemen turned on the hose, police used tear gas—all to no avail. When they fired some warning shots in the air, the mob reacted and shot back, wounding a doctor. The next moment, the police and soldiers fired right into the crowd and started a general panic,

leaving several dead and many mortally wounded. At 5:00 p.m. they began gathering again, but the army took over city control and patrolled the streets just as if it were a captured town.

The funeral procession the next day was unique in that an army truck led the procession and another followed, while the side streets were patrolled by the local police. Signs appeared inciting the people to raid the large Swift meat-packing plants: "The people know where there is meat. They should go and get it."

In the railroad center of Santa Maria, the *bolchevists* even went so far as to arrest the local mayor and appoint another. He was never installed in office, however, because of military intervention. In Minas Geraes, Red vandalism was practiced against the state and federal tax-collection bureaus. During the recent visit of United States secretary of state, Dean Acheson, to Brazil, school students of the Communist Youth movement timed his arrival in Rio with the releasing of a small pig, to which was attached a tie of stars and stripes and on whose sides were painted "Acheson". Only strong police action kept Communists from impeding Acheson's reception.

### *Anticommunist Crusade*

Incidents like these, breaking forth in far-flung corners of Brazil, have led to the



was picked up in the streets by the Brazilian police. He tried to incite the people against the guards, shouting, "I am a soldier of peace! I am against the Americans who want to enslave our country! That's why I am being imprisoned!" But instead of provoking bystanders to offer resistance in his behalf, it did just the opposite: they all helped to put him into the police jeep that came for him.

Hindering the many arrests of military men was the government's own prosecuting attorney, Amador Cisneiros, who belittled the state's evidence and rejected documents that even the prisoners had identified. Upon investigation, his own Communist connections were revealed and the prosecutor general of courts-martial announced that the cases had been taken out of Cisneiros' hands.

Brazil's foreign ministry was red-faced when Carlos Lacerda, editor of *Tribuna da Imprensa*, published facts and figures on prominent Communists—four consuls, two chargés d'affaires, three home-office functionaries, one code clerk. The government took prompt, though somewhat belated, action to remove these proved Communists.

Also coming in for its share of the Red-hunt was the air force. Many were investigated and some imprisoned for "making adepts, and forgetting their military duty because of the 'miraculous promises' of communism". The chairman of the investigation committee had to be substituted because it was discovered that his superior official was also involved in Communist activity and he would not be able to properly handle the case.

So it appeared that wherever a governmental stone was overturned, the "red bugs" of communism were to be seen scurrying for cover. But the general opinion was that many more stones would have to be overturned before discovering all

the crimson-tinged "comrades" entrenched in Brazilian institutions.

### *Combating the "Scarlet" Fever*

The Anticommunist Crusade has naturally been backed mostly by the Roman Catholic Church, which fears the Red plague the worst. Protestant organizations have also raised their voices so that church members will keep away from the scarlet-measled baby. But in some places of Rio Grande do Sul where large Slavic populations exist it is found that congregations are politically divided. The crusaders are especially worried because some of the Bolshevik-inspired campaigns have really been successful, like the cry raised in all Brazil, "The petroleum is ours," and in which they succeeded in swaying public opinion all over Brazil against the development of Brazil's oil supplies by foreigners. Though Brazil has, according to estimates, a sixth of the world's undeveloped oil reserves, she produces a mere 85,000 barrels a day. She consumes over 100,000 barrels daily, which means she has to import 270 million dollars' worth of petroleum each year. But by arousing the nationalist spirit and backing this campaign, they succeeded in excluding foreign firms.

Also, since the outlawing of the *Partido Comunista*, Brazilian Reds have really carried on a large-scale smear campaign, literally smearing pitch signs and white-paint slogans the length of the coast and the width of the land. Walls, sidewalks, fences have been covered with commie-inspired slogans: "Don't send your sons to Korea!" "Down with the high cost of living!" "Out with the Yankee Imperialists!" "Hail Stalin, the Champion of Peace!" etc. In many places these mottoes are accompanied by the party symbol of hammer and sickle. By getting behind and backing up liberal democratic leaders who are willing to string along with them in order to get

the vote of the masses, the "hammer and sickle" gang has been hard to root out. Many so-called "Christians" have swallowed the party line when told that "Christ was the first Communist worker" and that "the apostles helped organize communism".

So even though illegal, outlawed and underground, they are still gaining disciples, printing newspapers, backing unions, spreading propaganda leaflets and building up strength, especially in the three states of São Paulo, Pernambuco and Rio Grande do Sul, where 80 per cent of Brazil's economy lies concentrated. This has spurred governmental authorities to combat such political gangrene with greater vigor.

Anticommunists are rejoicing to see a rift among party members. Support of Prestes has been split since last February when one of the prominent Communist leaders, José Maria Crispim, ex-federal deputy, was thrown out of the party because of "capitulating to the enemy". Crispim had become very popular in Communist circles and it is believed that he was "excommunicated" by Prestes' followers because of weaning support away from the head man. They are calling Crispim "Titoist", due to his wanting to break away from Russia's direction and organize his own nationalistic brand of communism.

Government agents are trying to catch Russian spies who are operating constantly and cleverly. They do not use any radio stations or coded messages as the nazis did in Brazil during the last war. Too many of these were caught after powerful stations tuned in and traced down their hide-outs. Instead, they come into the country temporarily as sailors, scientists, refugees, etc., and leave instructions from the Kremlin in exchange for reports and documents handed over by local spies.

Right now many military, marine and aeronautical commies are awaiting trial,

while new developments break every day. The latest news at the time of this writing comes through Rio's daily, *Correio da Manhã* of October 4, 1952, showing fifteen military men up for trial and their lawyers attempting futilely to get them tried by a civil jury instead of a military court. *Diário da Noite*, October 7, 1952, reports the uncovering of a Soviet agent, Eugene Moskovin, alias Eugene Lorier, who has been in the employ of Brazilian secret service masquerading as a counter-spy against Communists. And the newspaper *O Globo* of the same date reveals the existence of a secret, camouflaged airport of the Red creed on Calixto, a 400-acre island in the middle of the Rio Grande river, which runs between Minas and São Paulo, in the Communist-infected area of *Triângulo Mineiro*. It is believed to be the central headquarters of the party and federal authorities have already ordered an army investigation of the place. More news will surely follow as Brazil's Red-hunt gathers momentum.

But no human crusade can wipe out political intrigue, ambitious party control, and the basic causes of civil discontent among Brazilians and others of earth's inhabitants. Foolish, haughty men can pick their fighting colors, be it the brown of nazism, the black of fascism, the red of "hammer-and-sickle"-ism, the green of Brazilian integralism, yes, let them pick out all the colors they want to from the rainbow. They will all go down in defeat! Why? It is because of the very colors of the rainbow itself, which represents God's covenant with man for the sanctity of human life. (Genesis 9:6, 12) For breaking this covenant all worldly organizations will soon be wiped out. Jehovah's theocratic enterprise in Christ's hands is surely the only world remedy, and at Armageddon it will be the only one to come through with flying colors, to Jehovah's glory!



# New York, a City in the Sky

**W**HEN it comes to tall buildings, New York unquestionably leads the world. Here seven different goliaths point farther heavenward than other buildings in this nation of skyscrapers, and the Empire State building surpasses its nearest non-Manhattan rival (Cleveland's 52-story Terminal Tower) by fifty stories! New York has thirty-one of the nation's fifty-two buildings forty or more stories high.

Despite this, it is not the height of an individual building that is so impressive, but the average height of all the buildings. Even the slums and tenement houses are five to six stories tall. New housing projects soar far higher. New office buildings average twenty-five stories. It is true that these are not gigantic, but they are tall enough that when the eye becomes accustomed to them even the spectacular ones do not look out of place.

Walking through the streets of New York is not always like walking through a canyon, with terrifying cliffs above, except where some of the world's tallest buildings jut straight up from alley-sized streets laid out by the thrifty Dutch who first owned the city. Alive with activity during business hours, this section is almost totally deserted at night or on week ends. Then the wandering tourist finds that the sheer walls of towering buildings make cavernous, echoing canyons, into which the sun shines only a few hours daily.

Such is not true outside the financial district, however, and in many sections the old (of which New York has an abundance) is being replaced with new glass-enclosed office buildings, modern apartments, and towering housing projects.

Most unusual in design are the U.N. buildings on Manhattan's East Side. The new Secretariat building, a 39-story glass and marble shaft, is the only tall structure in the U.N.'s 17-acre area. Thirty-second in height in the city, it is made spectacular by its extreme narrowness. Its broad 287-foot east and west façades are almost solid glass (six acres of it) and its narrow 72-foot north and south ends



are of solid, windowless, Vermont marble. Not far from the U.N. is the world's second-tallest, the 77-story Chrysler building, near Grand Central station. The third-tallest (which is only 35 feet shorter than Paris' Eiffel Tower) is nearly four miles "downtown" in the financial district. It is the 67-story Cities Service building (60 Wall Tower), which has an over-all height of 950 feet.

Across into Brooklyn from the financial district are the Watch Tower's buildings. The new 10-story Bethel home at 124 Columbia Heights houses the 400-member headquarters' staff, as well as studios for Watchtower radio station WBBR, a beautiful Kingdom Hall, a hospital, a library, administrative offices, a 150-seat dining room and other facilities.

A few blocks away the large, modern nine-story Bible printing plant, in which this magazine was printed, produces books and magazines in tremendous quantities. Here enough books are produced daily to make a stack taller than the Empire State building. Visitors will see the ninth-floor offices, eighth-floor subscription and mailing departments and seventh-floor linotype and composition departments. On the sixth floor they will see seven large rotary presses, the two newest of which can each produce a thousand magazines in two minutes. On lower floors they will see the machine shop, the bindery where printed pages are turned into books, the carpenter shop, the shipping department from which Bible literature goes to all corners of the world, and finally the 525-horsepower Diesel engine that produces the electric power to operate the entire plant.

Not the least of the blessings Jehovah's witnesses will receive at the 1953 world assembly to be held in New York, July 19-26, is the thrill of visiting these buildings and realizing that all that is done in them is to the further honor of Jehovah's name, and that the purpose of these buildings is solely to provide literature they can use in Kingdom preaching.





a 21-year-old girl who had apparently gone into the morbid business of producing her own children for profit. When uncovered by an investigator, the girl was found to be having her second illegitimate child; her first one sold for \$1000! What manner of creature is it that in its bestial and burning desire for easy lucre will *deliberately* produce illegitimate children for sale on the black market?

The magnitude of black-market baby operations is staggering! It is said that in just the one state of New Jersey alone two out of every three adoptions are handled by unapproved agencies or individuals. Three to five babies who need adoptive homes are being born every day in New York city, but only one or two of them will be placed through an authorized agency; the other 60 per cent of the waif tots are surreptitiously shunted into the black market, which is only too eager "to take care of" them. Spotlighting the wide range of tot traffic is the estimate of the executive director of the Child Welfare League of America that in some states questionable practices are found in 80 per cent of the adoptions.

### *The Octopus Incubator*

How are the bulk of the babies obtained? *Mainly from unwed mothers*, college girls, social butterflies; even upper-strata girls furnish a share. Like the grasping tentacles of an octopus, this grotesque market sends out its "feelers", who, through fast work, induce unmarried mothers to sign a renunciation of their unborn children. To stimulate sales, baby brokers pay commissions to other leeches for steering pregnant girls to them and occasionally even insert ads in personal columns to this effect: "Care provided for expectant mother in return for privilege of adopting baby." After the contact has been made, subtle coercion is used: "Maybe you'd better not tell your family—just leave everything to

me." The New York *Daily Mirror* of May 26, 1952, reports the following: "A number of teen-agers . . . allegedly sold their illegitimate babies to the [black market] ring for \$50 and free hospital care at a secret baby farm in Lynn, Mass."

The demand for black-market babies is, in a way, paradoxical; for some people, though repelled by the thought of it, are yet among the very group who, in their dire quest for a tot, will be drawn magnetically to black-market "services". Rings flourish clearly then for the reason any black market thrives: demand is greater than supply. Opined one black marketeer: "There is such a demand for babies. As soon as a girl is two minutes pregnant, there are a dozen people trying to get the baby."

Gone are the days when the public had to be "sold" on the idea of adopting babies. Vividly illustrating this point is the account of a month-old baby found abandoned in Camden, New Jersey. Before the mother could reclaim it, the state had received in four days two hundred adoption requests. Amazingly, in the past ten years the public's appetite for adoptions has quadrupled. Legal child-placement services can no longer cope with the demand. About a million couples in the year 1950 tried to adopt a baby, yet the babies available were only a meager 75,000. According to medical authorities one out of every eight or nine married couples is sterile or unable to have children of their own; consequently, there are about 2,000,000 couples in the child-bearing age and a large percentage of these would like to adopt a baby.

With this exceedingly great demand, it is not at all strange that trafficking in tots prospers. But why cannot the authorized baby bureaus cope with the situation? Consider these other facts: New York city has an average waiting period of 18 months after application is made for legal adop-



# Crime and Corruption

## No Age Limit on Crime

¶ Among the younger members of the safe-cracking profession is 8-year-old Jimmy Valentine, who was arrested with his 15-year-old brother and two other boys 15 and 17, after committing at least nine burglaries in Newark, New Jersey, in June and July. The boys had previous trouble with the police, but nothing like their burglary of the General Ladder company, where they crawled through a small side window, broke through two doors, and the young cracksman fingered open the safe to steal \$500. Jimmy boasted he was able to open safes by "fooling" with the combinations. Overly wise in the ways of the underworld, the 8-year-old disposed of his sneakers so he "couldn't be tracked by his footprints". Jimmy's obvious following of an example shames this world. He did not learn it all by experience!

## Who Is to Blame?

¶ What effect does adult dishonesty have on youth? About 100 students from Stamford and Greenwich, Connecticut, high schools said the average student sees no reason why he should not cheat in school as long as he sees the same being done on a larger scale in government. Last April 8 the youthful forum discussed frankly the prevalence, causes and cures for cheating on school examinations. They believe that 80 per cent cheat often, 10 per cent "as often as they can", and 10 per cent rarely or hardly ever. (To include everybody one student said a nation-wide survey had indicated just one per cent never cheated at all.) Adults pass off the responsibility by speaking of "juvenile" delinquency. Youth throws the blame back. Neither accepts his responsibility. Christian youth could shame such elders, who should themselves set a proper example.

## Red Graft

¶ Capitalism has no monopoly on graft and corruption. The "people's democracies" of communism are having their own troubles. The August 15 U.S. News & World Report cited complaints directly from the Soviet newspapers *Izvestia* and *Pravda* to show "what it's like to live and work in Soviet Russia". It said, "Complaints of poor work-

manship, inefficiency, thievery appear in Soviet newspapers day after day," revealing "a Soviet Russia humming with graft, bungling and skulduggery". Examples: According to *Izvestia*, when 337,000 rubles' worth of bad raincoats from Comrade Shronkin's Beloomut clothing factory were rejected by a Moscow store, an inspector found "seams crooked, armholes badly fitted, buttonholes dirty. Also belts of discordant colors. Chalk lines and numbers not removed. Eyelets not in color. Stains, loose ends of thread and many other defects".

¶ It further reported that in Kharkov a fluid-drive factory is in trouble, partly because of bad management, and partly because of defective supplies. It said, "*Izvestia's* analysis: Ignorant, irresponsible, un-co-operative managers." Comrade Venzhega aroused *Pravda's* curiosity. He has held five top jobs in five years, has "never even had an elementary education", has made bad mistakes on every job, has often been fired but never out of work. It reported that party officials in Dneprodzerzhinsk shielded those already convicted of black marketing and embezzlement, and said family favoritism was practiced by Comrade Ushurbakiyev, who "is a crook, and has been for years". He illegally sold farm produce, illegally used farm funds, and, according to *Pravda*, his cousin, brother-in-law, uncle and other relatives likewise lined their pockets with graft from the same collective farm.

## Found—an Honest Man!

¶ There is one place in the world, however (if a report in the *San Francisco Examiner* is true), where there is no crime, no contagious disease, no vice, not even a lock on any door. Obviously it is not an ordinary place, but is the tiny 7-square-mile island of Corva in the Azores, one of the most remote in the world. That even an isolated locality with only 600 inhabitants should not fear dishonesty today makes news. It also reminds us that honesty, which is commanded in God's Word, is normal, just as normal as is his command for the sun to rise daily. It is merely because his command has been violated for so long that that which is abnormal has been generally accepted.

# The PLATYPUS

*In a Class by Itself*



EUROPE was skeptical when they first saw it. In fact, they thought it was a joke. Its paradoxical complexities proved puzzling to scientists. Clever fake, the savants would say. It resembled a mammal that was equally at home in water and on the land, something of a fish, fowl, beast and reptile all in one. Scientists were moved to call it *Ornithorhynchus paradoxus*, or bird-bill paradox. Then they switched to *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*, which simply means "creature with a bill like a duck". But the bill is not its only oddity.

The duck-billed platypus, as it is better known (Platypus is from the Greek meaning "flat footed"), has a coat of fur instead of feathers; four webbed feet instead of two; on the hind legs of the male are poison spurs that suggest the fangs of a snake; the female lays and hatches eggs and suckles its young. Ordinary mammals never lay eggs; ordinary birds and reptiles have no milk glands. In this respect, the platypus is out of the ordinary and in a class by itself. It has both.

The *National Geographic Magazine* stated that when a platypus skin was sent to the British Museum from Australia, the home of the mammal, "one of its naturalists fingered the rich fur with the broad bill unbelievably, and was inspired to suggest at first that the bill of a duck had actually been grafted onto the skin of a quadruped!" One can appreciate why the naturalists first doubted the existence of such a mammal

after just a brief description of the creature.

## *A Little Bit of Everything in One*

This amazing animal is about twenty-four inches long and built low to the ground. A thick molelike fur of blackish-brown covers its somewhat depressed ovate body. The platypus has a short, beaverlike tail, but instead of being naked and scaly, as that of a beaver, its tail is covered with long coarse bristlelike hairs that criss-cross each other in all directions. The tail is not used as the beaver's, as a mason's trowel, it simply uses it as a steering oar. Its feet are webbed like a duck's, especially adapted for an amphibious life. It uses the dog-paddle technique when swimming, propelling itself chiefly with its front legs. The hind legs usually trail under the flat tail. The male platypus defends the home against attackers. Its weapon, carefully concealed, consists of a spur on each hind leg, resembling those of a fighting cock. A tiny hollow inside each spur is connected with a poison-secreting gland on the animal's back. When the platypus strikes an attacker with its spur, the wound is instantly filled with poison, precisely like the wound inflicted by a snake.



A case is reported by the *National Geographic Magazine* where "a platypus spurred a strong, healthy man. He was fishing one night and the platypus took the bait. When the fisherman tried to take the animal off the hook, the spurs were jabbed into his arm from both sides. The arm swelled to twice its normal size; one side of the man's body swelled and his temperature became very high. All the symptoms of snake venom were present and it was about seven days before the man recovered". The platypus is the world's only venomous furred creature.

For a snout the platypus has a ducklike bill, the texture of which is like that of India rubber. The base of the bill is supplemented with a membranous ferrulelike structure, which appears to serve the purpose of limiting the distance the beak of the animal is thrust into the mud while searching for food, and at the same time it seems to protect the animal's eyes. Charles H. Holmes stated that "the bill of the platypus, soft as a piece of kid, is one of the most sensitive organs known, since it is used in lieu of eyes in hunting food. When the platypus dives, he draws a flap of skin over eyes and ears and seeks his food with a right and left swinging motion of the head as he goes through the water.

"The vision of the platypus is so directed that it sees little or nothing straight in the front. It looks up at an angle, this fact probably indicating that it has always had to look upward to be on guard against enemies. The animal will swim right into any object in the water. In the rivers, it comes up to breathe every few minutes; it does this silently, hardly disturbing the water."

### ***Builds Nest for Two***

Like humans, these strange mammals group together during the winter months,

but they retire to their burrows, where they live in pairs together with their children. Their home is a long burrow, from twenty to a hundred feet long, dug into the bank of a pool. In order to safeguard itself against its enemies it equips its home not with one but with two entrances, one above and one below the water. This convenient arrangement of front and back doors often proves handy for a quick getaway.

At the extreme end is a round nest chiefly made up of couch grass stems, leaves, reed flags or rootlets collected from the river banks. The female platypus will seal herself in the burrow for about three weeks. Here she lays two or three eggs and hatches them. The mother does not suckle her young in the manner normal among mammals. She "possesses mammary glands, and when these are excited by the young, milk exudes through the skin to be lapped up by the baby duck-bills as they seek nourishment". The milk actually gathers on the fur and the young suck the fur.

The newly hatched babies are less "than an inch long". Holmes declared that the "early stages of keeping the platypus are extremely difficult, because its nervous system is so highly organized that specimens have been known to die in the hands of their captor when taken out of the river. The difficulty is to induce the platypus to take food". The creature is extremely shy and wary. At the Bronx Zoo, New York, the platypus may be viewed by the public for only an hour. "They can't stand it any longer," said Johnny Blair, an aquarium man. Blair stated that a recording of a description of the platypus which is played at visiting time "can't be too loud", because "that makes them nervous, too". The way a platypus shows its nervousness is by standing on its hind legs and "patting its front feet against the side of the pool".



# The Book of Mormon

Is its modern claim to divine inspiration justified?

“WHEN the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in

the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—*This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!*” Thus said Joseph Smith in *Pearl of Great Price*, page 48. “Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.” Thus said Jehovah God, speaking to Moses at Exodus 33:20.\*

How can this contradiction be reconciled? Why was Joseph Smith not blinded as was Paul who got just a fleeting glimpse of the glory of the true Christ? (Acts 9:3-9) First Timothy 6:16 says the resurrected Christ is one “whom no man hath seen, nor can see”. John 1:18 says, “No man hath seen God at any time.” Did God make an exception for Smith that he did not make for Moses or Paul, or did Smith see an impostor? On the answer hinges all Mormonism, for it is based on Smith’s inspiration; and the answer itself hinges on whether or not the inspiration is in harmony with God’s Word, the Bible, as over a million Latter-day Saints believe. Since those saying “Lord, Lord” and prophesying and doing marvelous works

Religious freedom includes the right to openly discuss doctrine, to show why one cannot agree with another’s doctrine, to seek truth. Truth is not harmed by honest criticism, nor is frank discussion intolerant. It is with this view that we examine claims of divine inspiration, now including “The Book of Mormon”, which was first published in 1830. Members of the Latter-day Saints Church believe its account was translated under inspiration from earlier American records covering the period from 600 B. C. to A. D. 421.

will be known by their fruits and teachings, let us examine Joseph Smith’s inspiration.\*

Latter-day Saints, better

known as Mormons, accept two sources of doctrine. One is present-day and continuous revelation. The other is the written word, including (1) *The Book of Mormon*, (2) *Doctrine and Covenants*, (3) *Pearl of Great Price*, all three revealed principally through Joseph Smith, and (4) the Bible. But if the Bible contradicts Mormon revelations they assume it must be mistranslated.

## Its History

It is claimed that in 1823 heavenly visitations led Joseph Smith to a hill in New York state where he found “hidden plates of gold with engravings thereon”, and translated them through use of the veritable “urim and thummim” of the Bible, which he also found. The engraved plates were in “reformed Egyptian” and were reportedly the record of an ancient God-fearing people who inhabited America. According to McClintock & Strong’s *Cyclopedia*, Volume 6, page 621, the Mormon authority, Orson Pratt, described these records “engraved on plates which had the appearance of gold”, as follows: “Each plate was not far from seven by eight inches in width and length, being not quite as thick as common tin. They were filled on both sides with engravings in Egyptian characters.”

\* Mormons cite Exodus 33:11 to disprove this text, but “face to face” in verse 11 means “intimately”. It does not contradict verse 20. All Israel did not actually observe God’s face, but a similar expression is used regarding it at Deuteronomy 5:1. Another instance is at Genesis 32:30, where it was an angel who talked, not God himself. See *The Watchtower*, August 1, 1951, page 478.

\* Matthew 7:20-22.





thus they would scoff at "God's work". Thus the accuracy of Smith's translation is thrown into serious question. If it were actually "inspired", then surely God could remember what had been given formerly, and if the former had been altered, the skeptics could be exposed and put to rout by the demand being made that they produce the stolen copies (something Smith would not do with the plates) so attention could be called to changes, erasures or different handwriting wherever these changes occurred, thereby vindicating Smith's work. If it were really "God's work" it would not fail, and it is not logical that God's purpose to have this message delivered could be so easily thwarted, nor would the missing part of his Word be so unimportant as Section 10 of *Doctrine and Covenants* (Section 3, Reorganized edition) implies. Only if the "inspiration" were a hoax should this worry Smith.\*

The Mormon "Articles of Faith" in the back of *Pearl of Great Price* and on free cards says: "We believe the Bible to be the word of God, as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God." Certain errors do occur in Bible translations, but not to the extent Mormonism claims. Scholarship is locating and correcting even these. Copies 1,500 and more years old are available and show no appreciable change. Recent discovery of the Isaiah scroll, 1,000 years older than any other reliably dated Hebrew manuscript of Isaiah, proved false the charge that it had

been perverted.\* Yet, "as far as it is translated correctly" applies only to the Bible, not to *The Book of Mormon*. No matter how distasteful to sincere Mormons, this is a weak argument resorted to only when Mormon doctrine contradicts God's Word.

One strong objection inquiring Mormons will discover is that their book closely follows (some say "borrows") many *King James Version* passages: portions of Isaiah, the sermon on the mount, and some of Paul's writings. They might say this shows that the same inspiration was received by compilers of both books, but the argument collapses when *The Book of Mormon* includes the *King James Version's* errors in translation, about which they have so much to say. Yet they attribute these statements, which repeat "errors in translation", to utterances claimed to have been made more than a thousand years before anyone ever saw a copy of the *King James Version Bible*! An outstanding example is 3 Nephi 11:27, 36, which copies the now proved false trinitarian text, 1 John 5:7, that occurs in no Greek manuscript earlier than the fifteenth century! In view of this it is easy to understand why the "Church Section" of the Mormon *Deseret News* (Salt Lake City, Oct. 4, 1952) fired a verbal broadside at those who pointed to *King James'* translators' errors. It said they "cast doubt upon many passages which are sacred to us". It said unquestionably that the *King James Version* "most closely resembles the inspired translation of those passages as they appear in *The Book of Mormon*". But when such passages are proved to have been errors or uninspired additions made long after the apostles' day, then the principle is reversed and it is *The Book of Mormon* that resembles the *King James Version*, and is proved to have copied these errors

\* Mormon critic T. B. H. Stenhouse makes this comment in his book *Rocky Mountain Saints*, page 27: "And thus the sacred volume now actually commences with the book of Nephi, instead of the Book of Mormon as originally intended. In this way was lost that narrative which had been so carefully prepared by an ancient Judeo-American prophet and engraver, under such very trying circumstances: a narrative which, according to Joseph, had been hidden up in the stone box at least twelve hundred years, until finally revealed by the angel of God for the salvation of the human family, and for the preservation of which Joseph had already suffered much persecution."

\* See "Suhtly Discrediting God's Word", *The Watchtower*, July 1, 1952; also, "Isaiah Speaks Again," *Asmode!* January 22, 1950.





tion where a quotation begins, but modern translators show more clearly what was written on each stick. *An American Translation* and others enclose "Of Judah and the children of Israel associated with him" and "Of Joseph and all the house of Israel associated with him" in quotation marks. They are the words that were written on the sticks, which were not books at all. Wielding a stick indicates having power, authority, leadership. These sticks were emblems of the nationhood of Judah and the tribes that had joined with it, and of the nationhood of Ephraim and associated tribes which formed the kingdom of Israel. Because of Ephraim's unfaithfulness separate nationhood, as represented by the "stick", was joined with the stick of Judah to become one, as the split ten-tribe and two-tribe national groups again united following the restoration from Babylonish captivity in 537 B. C. The prophecy has nothing to do with books or America, but concerns the restoration.

The second text, Revelation 14:6, says: "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." This, explain the Mormons, is the angel Moroni, who presumably told Smith where the plates were buried. But that does not fit the text either. Moroni did not tell every nation about the plates, nor did he point to inspired writings within other lands, nor has even *The Book of Mormon* been provided for these people. In well over 100 years it has been translated into only twenty-five languages—eleven less than the number of languages for each issue of the *Watchtower* magazine. Note that the text gives no hint that this applies to any book; it makes no reference to *The Book of Mormon*. Instead, it deals with the preaching earth-wide of the everlasting gospel, which was already re-

corded in Jehovah God's Word, the Bible.

The third text, John 10:16, describes the other sheep who are the "great multitude" of the fourth text, Revelation 7:9, 10. They were *other* sheep in contrast with the 144,000 heavenly sheep discussed earlier in Revelation 7. Neither applies solely to Americans.\*

The final text, Psalm 85:11, must be taken completely out of context and resorted to in desperation. "Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven." Truth springing out of earth, they say, is *The Book of Mormon* buried on plates in the earth. Actually, this is in poetic language describing the Kingdom blessings to come. If it is to be taken literally, then righteousness and peace have sense organs, for the preceding verse says they kissed, and there will be some bruised heads when the "skies pour down righteousness". (Isaiah 45:8) Ridiculous? Of course it is, but so is application of Psalm 85:11 to *The Book of Mormon*.

Hence, despite these claims to the contrary, *The Book of Mormon* is not referred to in the Bible. Then does it establish its own truth through teaching reliable doctrine? No, as evidenced by its many contradictions of the Bible.

### *Soul, Stake, New Jerusalem*

An example is Alma 42:9: "The soul could never die." The Bible says plainly: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Ezekiel 18:20) Which is true, the Bible or *The Book of Mormon*? This is not just a case of "mistranslation", because other texts show the soul can die, be killed or destroyed. (Psalm 78:50; Acts 3:23; James 5:20; Revelation 16:3; Matthew 10:28) The tradition that the soul cannot die is a demon-inspired pagan doctrine that has

\* See "This Means Everlasting Life", chapter 23; "Let God Be True" (2nd edition), chapters 22, 25.



things, and was evilly, though subtly, attempting to deny the ransom! Second Peter 2:1 warns: "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction." When it comes to choosing between the Bible and *The Book of Mormon* on this matter, we choose to accept the Bible's statements about Christ's having given up his right to human life as the ransom. We hope sincere Mormons will do likewise. It is not a matter with which to deal lightly!

How do *The Book of Mormon* and the Bible correspond regarding the "lost tribes of the house of Israel"? The Mormon book says that when Jesus visited America (the instance above mentioned) he said: "I go unto the Father, and also to show myself unto the lost tribes of Israel, for they are not lost unto the Father." (3 Nephi 17:4) There has been an amazing confusion over these "lost tribes", but what does the Bible say? It says that Jesus commanded: "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matthew 10:6) Where? Some other country? No; Jesus did not send them out of Palestine to find these lost ones. Paul said that John had preached "to all the people of Israel". (Acts 13:24) Where? Right within Palestine. Before Agrippa Paul said: "Now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers: unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come." (Acts 26:6, 7) Ezra and Nehemiah show that in 537 B. C. faithful representative ones of all the twelve tribes returned to Jerusalem in unity, and these made up the

nation of Israel. Hence in Jesus' day the "lost tribes" were right in Palestine. Lost? Many tribal members were lost spiritually, but certainly the tribes were not lost geographically.\*

### *Facing Up to the Contradictions*

One inspiration from God cannot contradict another. He established pure religion, though it has been rejected by most of the world. He has one pure truth, not different revelations for different places, and he does not need "other books" to supplement the truth recorded in his one Book, the Bible, and especially not when those other books contradict what is written in his Word. He has not let that standard for pure worship be destroyed, though many unsuccessful attempts have been made to do so. Not being able to destroy it, the demons have put forth other "inspired" books to replace it. Millions have accepted Mohammed and his visions, have believed and died in the faith of Buddha or Confucius, or other religions; many of whom have had visions and revelations, gifts and miraculous powers which deceived and kept the followers of these religions from pure worship. *The Book of Mormon* joins them when it contradicts correctly translated Sacred Scripture on at least the soul, the stake, the New Jerusalem, the return of Jesus and the ten tribes of Israel's northern kingdom.

\* See *The Watchtower*, August 1, 1946, pages 228-230.

[*"The Holy Scriptures Translated and Corrected by the Spirit of Revelation by Joseph Smith, Jr., the Seer"* is published by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and is quoted, but not thoroughly accepted by the Utah group. Although verse numbers may occasionally differ, all Bible texts cited in the two preceding articles are found in both the standard versions and this "corrected" Bible except Exodus 33:20, John 1:18 and 1 Timothy 6:16. Smith's additions to these imply that some could actually see God. There is no evidence that Biblical originals supported this view.]

*To the law and to the testimony: if they speak  
not according to this word, it is because  
there is no light in them.—Isaiah 8:20.*



## Mormonism's New Doctrines

**M**EMBERS of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, more commonly known as Mormons, accept their religion in sincerity, believe it was divinely inspired, and have a background of persecution that prompts a natural added resentment toward any criticism. It is not our purpose to ridicule, question intelligence, industriousness, sincerity, or works of charity, all of which they have in good measure, but rather to encourage an investigation of doctrine; not just a search for supporting arguments, but an actual examination of evidence to discover what really is true.

A Mormon booklet, *Temple Square*, says, on page 24, that Joseph Smith and the Latter-day Saints' purpose "is the bringing of men and women to a knowledge of the eternal truth that Jesus is the Christ, the Redeemer and Savior of the world". Obviously, to be properly discharged, that noble aim must be in harmony with Paul's warning: "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:8) Mormons believe their doctrine is in harmony with that warning, that they *have no new doctrine, only a restoration* of what has been lost since the apostles declared this good news.

But they do have further doctrines. They teach, for example, that Adam existed in heaven before he came to earth, and that Eve was one of his heavenly wives. Brigham Young said, in *Journal of Discourses* (Vol. 1, page 50): "When our

father Adam came into the Garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives, with him." Yet the Bible does not say that man lived in spirit form before he sinned and that he became physical only as a result of that sin, as does Mormonism. Genesis 1 and 2 do not tell of two separate creations, the first in the spirit and the second in the flesh, as Mormonism claims, but these are two accounts of the same creation. The first account deals with creation in general; the second deals with it more specifically concerning man, who was created from the dust of the earth but in God's image, since he was superior to other forms of earthly life, and had a measure of wisdom, justice, love and power, as did his heavenly Creator. —Genesis 2:7; 1:27.

To support their doctrine that men, all men, existed in heaven before they came to earth, they refer to Jeremiah's being known of God and ordained (or in modern language, appointed) before he was born. However, this is not proof of pre-existence. Rather it is an obvious reference to a special instance of God's foreknowledge and ability to foresee the future and to specify that a certain individual would do a certain work, and could be set aside, ordained or appointed for it. They refer to the disciples' asking Jesus if a man born blind sinned before birth, and say this shows a different life before being born on earth. Jesus denied this; so does Romans 9:11. Doubtless these disciples were contaminated by the Pharisee and pagan







says he did, but that it has been stopped and is now a dead issue. Their opponents charge they "still hold to a belief in the divinity of the doctrine while renouncing its *practice*", and, "It is not a dead issue, nor can it be so long as their book of *Doctrine and Covenants* goes into all parts of the world bearing an alleged revelation which sets forth polygamy . . . as the will of heaven and says that those who reject this document will be damned."\*

Section 132 of the Utah Church's *Doctrine and Covenants* contains this revelation, though the church has outlawed its present practice. The "revelation", however, remains in direct contradiction of the Scriptural principle of "one wife" for the Christian overseer. (1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6) They cite the principle of polygamy practiced in early times as proof God instituted it, even saying God commanded Abraham to take Hagar. Did he? No! Read Genesis 16:1-3 and see if God commanded it or if it was Sarai's idea!† They say God approved it. God did not condemn it because it had not been specifically forbidden until Christ's time, but God did not command it at any time! It is interesting to note that not Hagar's son, who did multiply considerably, but Sarah's son Isaac received Jehovah's blessing to be a forefather of His chosen people.

### *Tithes, Trinity, Caesar's Laws*

Both groups demand the tithe. The apostles showed the law had been fulfilled and was no longer binding, therefore abolishing the tithe commandment.‡

Both churches teach the trinity, believing Ether 3:14 in *The Book of Mormon*, which has Christ say: "I am the Father and the Son," in direct contradiction of

Jesus' statement: "My Father is greater than I."—John 14:28.\*

Both accept the statement in their *Doctrine and Covenants* (Utah 58:21; Reorganized 58:5), "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." Is this Mormon "revelation" right, or is the Bible's principle correct that when men's laws and God's commands clash, "We ought to obey God rather than men"?—Acts 5:29; 4:19, 20.

### *Revelations About What, from Where?*

New doctrines through these new "revelations" provide a further difficulty. Convenient revelations "of God and not of man" have gone so far as to tell one individual, Martin Harris, to impart his property to the printing of *The Book of Mormon*, and "pay the debt thou hast contracted with the printer". (*Doctrine and Covenants*, Utah 19:34, 35; Reorganized 18:5) These "revelations" even ordered the building of a boardinghouse for Smith to live in.—Utah 124:23, 56; Reorganized 107:9, 18.

Perhaps one of the most embarrassing of such "revelations" commanded the building of a temple in Nauvoo, Illinois. According to it God not only listed the names of some who should buy shares in the temple, and specified a \$50 minimum, but said: "If you do not these things at the end of the appointment, ye shall be rejected as a church, with your dead, saith the Lord your God."—*Doctrine and Covenants*, Utah 124:31, 32; Reorganized 107:10, 11.

Now, in line with this "revelation", the Reorganized group claims that the temple was not finished by the group that went to Utah, so they say God rejected them. Joseph F. Smith, former president of the Utah group, retorted that, while the build-

\* *Differences That Persist*, pages 16, 22.

† The supposed "revelation" in the Utah *Doctrine and Covenants* (132:34) gets this somewhat backward, when it says: "God commanded Abraham, and Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham to wife."

‡ See *The Watchtower*, April 15, 1951, page 246.

\* See "*Let God Be True*" (2nd edition), chapter IX.

ing "may not have been 'finished completely'" "the Lord, thank heaven, is not as technical and peevish as men are, or woe be unto all of us." However, it is not that "the Lord" is free and easy with those who decide not to follow his directions, but that when unexpected difficulty prevents completely fulfilling a "revelation", the "revelators" must either explain it away or accuse "the Lord" of not having meant it in the first place. It is the authenticity of such "commandment" that is open to question, not "the Lord's" standards of obedience.

A major example of such "revelation" is Joseph Smith's translation into English of an Egyptian "lost book" supposedly written by Abraham and now included in Smith's *Pearl of Great Price*. An *Analysis of the Book of Mormon*, page 2, makes this defense of Smith's translation: "Figure three on plate two consists of a man with a dog's head sitting on a throne, holding a staff in his hand, with a disc above his head. Joseph Smith said this was 'God sitting upon his throne, clothed with power and authority.' Those who contradicted him said it was Horus-Ra. But who was Horus-Ra? The Book of the Dead, accredited by all Egyptologists, contains several hymns of praise to Ra, among them the following: . . . 'Homage to thee, O thou lord of right and truth, the only one, the

lord of eternity and creator of everlastingness. I have come unto thee, O my lord Ra.' (Vol. 2, page 481)."

Another Mormon elder, George Reynolds, asked: "What great difference is there in the idea? and how did Joseph Smith know that it represented God (call him by what typical name you like) if not by revelation?" The difference, however, is not insignificant. If Smith's source of inspiration called Ra "God", then it brands itself pagan. Ra was a god of demonism, one of the pagan gods defied by Jehovah with the plagues against Egypt, an Egyptian sun god; and sun worship was forbidden to God's servants.—Deuteronomy 4:15-19; 17:3-5; 2 Kings 23:11; Ezekiel 8:15-17.

The difference between Jehovah and Ra is the difference between truth and falsehood, between true worship and devil worship. No matter how distasteful this may seem to sincere

Mormons, when their books and doctrines contradict the Bible, it is not due to the few Biblical mistranslations which scholarship is locating and correcting, but to Mormon "inspirations" subtly joining the host of other false revelations coming from the one source that seeks every possible

means (even an appearance of Christianity) to replace, discredit or abolish the all-sufficient standard for pure worship, the Bible.



The part of the "Facsimile from the Book of Abraham", which Joseph Smith said represents "God, sitting upon his throne, clothed with power and authority; with a crown of eternal light upon his head". —"Pearl of Great Price," page 34.

\* *Origin of the "Reorganized" Church*, page 38.

Should people change convictions when evidence warrants? Yes. . . . Most people have strong convictions, but are either ashamed or unwilling to change them. They constantly look for proof that they are right, instead of looking for evidence as to whether they are right or wrong.—"Let's Explore Your Mind,"

New York *Daily Mirror*, May 23, 1952.





atomic bombs, but also atomic rockets and guided missiles that can be used in combat whenever desired.

#### Worst Crash

◆ It was December 17, 1903, that the Wright brothers made their historic first flight. Three days and forty-nine years later another long-to-be-remembered flight occurred. A C-124 Globemaster transport, as big as a five-room house, took off from Moses Lake, Washington, on a training flight for San Antonio, Texas, with more than 100 hitchhiking service men aboard. Within sight of the runway it plunged to earth and burst into flames, killing 86 of the total of 116 aboard—the worst death toll in aviation history. Previous record: 80 at Cardiff, Wales, in 1950. This brought the total killed in military crashes around the North Pacific rim in six weeks to about 300.

#### Sign of the Times?

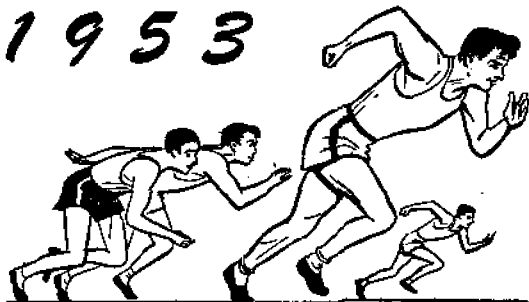
◆ The New York Times reported that at a December meeting of the American Dental Association Dr. Thomas E. J. Shannahan reported a marked increase in bruxism—the habit of unconsciously gnashing and grinding the teeth—under the stress of modern living and world tensions.

#### Graft—Widely Accepted!

◆ Graft is neither a capitalist nor a Communist monopoly. The U.S., Russia and Canada have been involved in recent scandals. The New York crime commission uncovered such plums as testimony (12/9) that union officials got \$70,000 graft for unloading Russian furs in New York after a false strike threat. In Russia, *Pravda* and other Kremlin publications described swindlers fleecing peasants, factory managers padding production figures and

the stealing of public property. *Izvestia* charged (12/18) that more than 30 million rubles (\$7.5 million) in thefts and embezzlements occurred in fisheries and consumers' cooperatives in one Eastern territory, and said the regional prosecutor even aided the criminals. In Canada the House of Commons heard (12/15) that in the Petawawa military camp horses were listed on the payroll as laborers, that many rolls of linoleum, 18,000 bags of cement and even two freight-car loads of pulpwood had disappeared. Although Prime Minister St. Laurent warned that this was not a condemnation of the entire army, it further shows the extent of graft and corruption today—conditions far different from those commanded by God in his Word, and far different from the ones that will soon prevail in his new world.

1953



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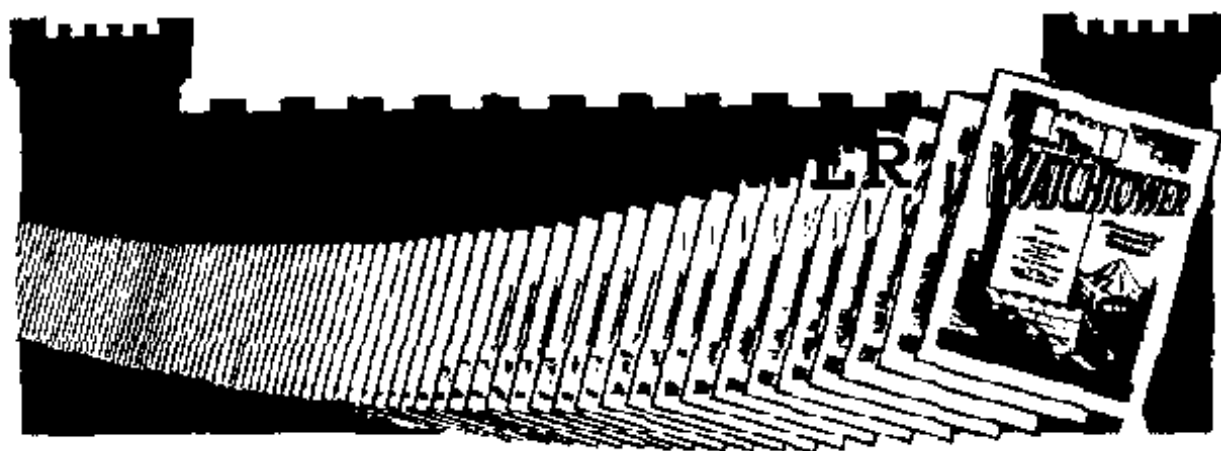
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