

"Truth without Love is too hard; Love without Truth is too soft"

Through

the

Maze

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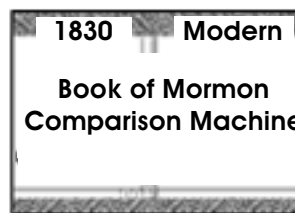
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- Jim's Journal—The Cardinal Accusation
- World Trade Tower and God
- The other 9-11 Atrocity
- Jim's Journal—Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings



email us

Please email us with any typos you see on these pages—Thanks!



Mormon Temple Tour

- Mormonism: Quitting Can Mean Ostracism
- Polygamy Beer
- Child Abuse
- Hinduism
- "Broadly Monotheistic???"



BoM Empire Discovered

SEARCH

Through the Maze: The Web Site

Last month we hit a landmark on our web site: more than three thousand people visited our site. I like to think that is because we have put so much energy into making www.mazeministry.com interesting and easy to navigate. It is a large site containing hundreds of articles, news items, newsletters, pictures, and books. Let me tell you a little about it.

One of the first things you will see is a link to the second of our sites, yulds.com. That site was intended to be read by Mormons who are seeking information. It is not as large as mazeministry.com, but it provides a good, low-key look at what Mormonism teaches and provides alternatives to Mormon doctrine.

From the home page of mazeministry.com you can visit our Mormonism section, our largest department. Here you will find links to nearly one hundred different subjects, including articles on Blood Atonement, Mountain Meadows Massacre, polygamy and women's issues, statistics, startling articles by Mormon leaders, information on how to resign from the Mormon Church, testimonies from former mormons, and much more.

All of our newsletters from the past several years are also cataloged on mazeministry.com. You can view them, print them out, or forward them to a friend.

We also offer, free for the downloading, two entire books, *The Golden Bible*, by M. T. Lamb, and *Wife No. 19*, by Ann-Eliza Young. Both of these books were written more than 100 years ago. We painstakingly typed them into our computer (nearly a thousand pages) and offer them free on the internet. You can also order printed copies of them from us.

Another link on our home page is to our order page where you will find all of

my books and some of my tapes for sale. You can also link to every magazine article I have published throughout the years.

Two major items linked to our home

comments, over the years by Latter-day Saint scholars, with a **map showing actual place names on maps** of the area around Palmyra, New York, where the Book of Mormon originally was published. It is an amazing comparison!

One of my personal favorite sections is "Politically Incorrect!" or "Things that Make Me Cranky." Here I rant on subjects like the story of the "gay evangelical seminary," or the story of the ACLU filing a lawsuit to protest Bible week, or the story of "Rev. Jami Witch," a

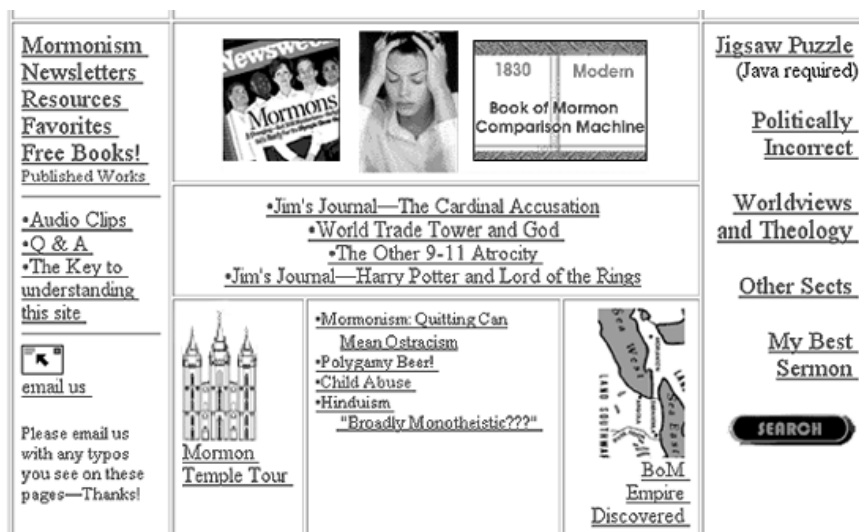
Wiccan "minister" who "serves" as a chaplain to the inmates at a Wisconsin prison. You get the idea.

I also have articles on theology and doctrine, including titles like "What is a Cult?," "Legalism and Hypocrisy," and "Did Jesus Ask Nicodemus to be Baptized?"

This is only a sample of all that is on the web site. The wonderful thing about the web is that I can publish all this material nearly free of charge. There are no paper or mailing costs. Once the material is on the web it is on there basically forever. It can be accessed from anywhere in the world and, most importantly, it can be accessed

anonymously. This is important for people (say in small Utah communities) who do not want the postman to know what they are reading.

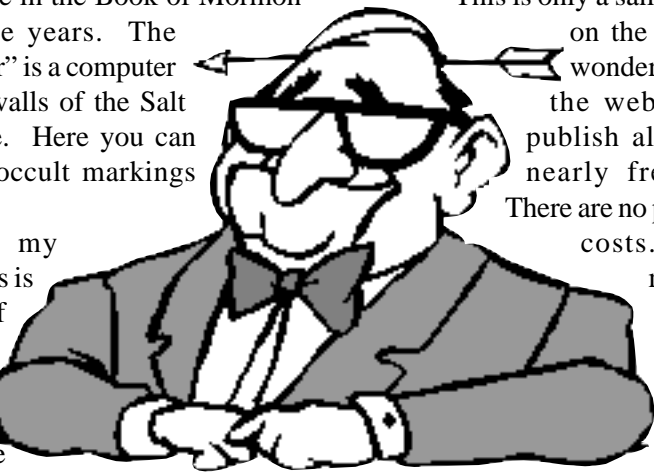
If you have yet to view the web site, surf on over! ■



page are "The 1830 Book of Mormon Comparison Machine" and the "Temple Tour." The comparison machine allows you to view the entire 1830 Book of Mormon side by side with the modern version. I have selected several of the most revealing passages as easy links so you can see some of the most amazing changes made in the Book of Mormon text over the years. The "Temple Tour" is a computer map of the walls of the Salt Lake Temple. Here you can look at the occult markings close up.

One of my favorite pages is "Book of Mormon Lands Discovered!" This page displays the maps from the late

Vernal Holley's *Book of Mormon Authorship: A Closer Look*. Basically, the two maps compare a "proposed map" constructed by Vernal from the internal descriptions of the Book of Mormon and



Things that make me cranky

The Difference Between Obedience and an Obedient Heart

“The multitude of your sacrifices—what are they to me?” says the LORD. “I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—I cannot bear your evil assemblies.

“Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen.” (Is. 1:11-15)

Man’s basic problem is not simply that he commits sin, but that he has a sinful heart. *The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jer 17:9)* Unreconciled man—unsaved man—not only sins, he is steeped in sin. Sin permeates his soul. His wiring is bad. He is twisted—inclined to evil.

If there were a way to bind his sinful nature so that he was restrained from sin, it would not change his nature. Even his obedience would be disobedience, because he would still be disobedient *inside*.

Unregenerate man: his heart—his soul—is like that of leviathan, the monster of Job: *His heart is as firm as a stone; yea, as hard as a piece of millstone. (Job 41:24)* It is not necessary for me to defend this judgement. Anyone who observes human nature with a clear eye will see that sin and selfishness are everywhere present. Wars and rumors of war. Terrorism, torture, serial murder, rape, murder—the cup of man’s wrath is full and running over.

When the prophet Ezekiel, in Old Testament times, examined the conduct of the Israelites he despaired. *Then fell I down*

upon my face, and cried with a loud voice, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel? (Ezek: 11-13)

But God is full of mercy and desires not the death of sinners. (Ezek: 33:11)

He desires to change the heart of the sinner. He said to the despairing Ezekiel: *I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (Ezek. 11:19-20)*

God speaks about the “uncircumcised heart.” (Ezek. 44:7 & 9)

And, He says He: *...will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. (Deut. 30:6)*

The problem with legalism

Legalism—the attempt to please God through obedience—is the greatest hindrance ever conceived by man. Legalism dresses up the outside of the person without changing his heart. It is like taping plastic cherries on a dead cherry tree: from a distance the tree looks good, but close inspection demonstrates it is still dead.

God warns us throughout the Bible that obedient actions without an obedient heart are “a meaningless offering”—“trampling of his courts.”

The Bible books Romans and Galatians must clearly address the impossible task of pleasing God through obedience to the law. *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight...(Rom. 3:20)*

Obedience to law—whether in the Old Testament or the New Testament was never a *means* to heal a person from sin. It is powerless to do so. Hebrews 8:19 tells us the law *made nothing perfect*. Romans 8:3 tells us: *...what the law was*

powerless to do...God did.

What the legalists of the world can’t seem to understand is that the law was not a means to heal mankind; it is simply *the way to tell mankind he needs healed!*

The law is good and perfect and sweeter than honey. (Psm 19: 7-10) The fact that I cannot *live* the law, tells me I need help. It should humble me by revealing my sinfulness and rebellious nature. It is a signpost pointing out the need for a savior. Galatians 3: 24 tells us the law is a “schoolmaster” to bring us to Christ.

Think of the law this way. Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments.” (John 14:15). He is not saying, “Keep my commandments and by doing so, you will create love between us.” No, He is saying, “If you keep my commandments, you will demonstrate that you really do love me.”

He doesn’t want us to keep His commandments, he wants us to love Him!

A wife says, “If you love me you will take out the trash.” She doesn’t want you to take out the trash, she wants you to love her. You can sigh, get up, glare at her and take out the trash, but that isn’t what she is after. You are mixing up love with a loving heart. Actually you are mistaking obedience for love. Obedience, without the loving heart, is not even obedience—it is deception. It is scheming, it is hypocrisy.

The law is a way by which we can gauge our hearts. Obeying God is not a means to an end, it is the fruit of a changed heart.

So the cultists and the legalists—the Pharisees of all ages—continue to worship the letter of the law without ever entering into the spirit of the law. The Pharisees are the object of God’s scorn. He calls them “painted gravestones.” (Mat. 23:27) They look good on the outside, but they are rotten inside. ■

Jim,

Last week two missionaries showed up at my door, the second time within four months. My Mormon neighbors moved in this past November, could they be sending these missionaries to my House? Anyway, the first time they came, I sent them away, but this time I invited them into my home. Now they seem to think I want to become a convert! Of course they wanted me to pray about the Book of Mormon, but I told them I did not want to pray about something like that when God has already instructed me that his word is sufficient. They responded with what I was sure they would, Ezekiel 37:16 and Isaiah 29.

The missionary read the complete chapter in Isaiah. I know that in Ezekiel it is talking about the tribes becoming one nation, it is not talking about books. I am not sure why they read the Isaiah chapter except for the part where it talks about voices speaking from the ground (the gold plates were buried in the ground). And in verse 11 the missionaries seem to believe this is referring to when Joseph Smith had his friend take a copy of the (so-called) Egyptian hieroglyphics to someone and have them translated and that person said he was unable to.

My question is why would they cite the whole chapter? Could you give me a more complete explanation of the real meaning of this chapter. I did not want to get into a debate with them at the time because I had to leave and didn't want to get stuck with them for an hour.

I know it doesn't do any good to debate, so I would like to give them my answer and move on. Thank you so much for taking the time to read my e-mails and responding so quickly! I know you must get a lot of mail. P.S the missionaries will be back tomorrow Wed the 17th. Please pray for me!

Teresa,

Teresa,

You seem to be up to speed on Ezekiel

37.

Isaiah 29 is about God's amazement that the Jews could not understand the prophets. Isaiah delivers the prophecy that the Assyrians are going to come upon Jerusalem but at the last moment Jerusalem will be miraculously spared. But the poor Jews couldn't even understand they were going to be set upon by the Assyrians. They couldn't understand any spiritual word to them. They were dumb as posts. So dumb to the things of God, Isaiah says, that when prophecies are brought to them they are "a closed book." (In fact that is where we get the term "closed book.")

As far as the voice "out of the dust:" that refers to how low the enemies of Jerusalem will bring her. They will not be arrogant, they will be so low they could walk under a door without opening it. So low their voice will be coming from their shoes. So low they will be mumbling from the dust.

You are right in guessing that these missionaries are not going to be able to follow this discussion. They are not inclined to hear anything. Doesn't mean you shouldn't try: cast your bread upon the water.

Jim

Hi Jim,

I did cast my bread upon the water and I believe one of the missionaries actually thought about the correct interpretation of Ezk.37:15,16,17. That's one small step in the right direction.

Do Mormons ever mention Jesus Christ in their testimonies. I sat in my neighbors house and listened to a young lady missionary give her testimony. It was all about Joseph Smith, She even became emotional because of what he has done in her life. My heart was crying for her as I sat there and listened. Not once did she mention Jesus and what he has done.

Teresa

Please Do This!

Every year I send thousands of pieces of literature—at no charge—to those who write or email me requesting information. Many of those individuals are writing in response to classified and small display advertisements in local newspapers. Those ads are placed by friends of *Through the Maze* who want to help reach out into their communities.

Please consider running an ad in your paper. Here are a couple of suggestions. Please don't change anything in the ads because, ultimately, I have to be responsible for the wording.

The Book of Mormon: Another Witness for Christ? A Mormon General Authority discovered that the Book of Mormon is *not* divine. For a copy of the pamphlet, "The Disappointment of B. H. Roberts," write:

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"The Disappointment of B. H. Roberts." How one Mormon General Authority and well known author discovered that the Book of Mormon is not Divine.

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