

# THE B. OF M. TRUE OR FALSE

I HAVE been a little apprehensive (in publishing these articles on the book of Mormon) that brethren might not have the interest in the subject that I had imagined they would have. However one or two brethren have expressed the opinion that these articles have been helpful and so, fortified by even this slender indication of interest, I propose to print two short further articles on the theme (this month and next month) and then change the subject. Let me also say that I derive no pleasure whatever from censuring the basis of any other person's religious affiliations. When however one considers the thousands upon thousands of good people who are, and have been, duped by the writings in the Book of Mormon and the claims made for it, then the least that one can do is to point out to anyone prepared to listen that the Book of Mormon is a man-made fraud upon the world.

Remembering that Joseph Smith, the alleged author of the book, claimed absolute infallibility for the Book of Mormon (God having directly dictated every single word of it) I draw attention to one or two of the absurdities of the Book of Mormon, historical, prophetic and otherwise. Take, for instance the making of the barges to transport the 'Jaredites' to the new

world (Ether 2:16-18). These barges were not seaworthy and thus unlike Noah's Ark. The barges were in the shape of two dishes, one superimposed upon the other, and were "the length of a tree" in length. We note that they were allegedly built exactly "according to the instructions of the Lord". But what a forgetful Lord. God is presented to us in the Book of Mormon as having forgotten the matter of the ventilation of these barges and the lighting. So Jared's brother had to inform God of His omission, "And behold, O Lord in them there is no light, whither shall we steer? And also shall we perish, for in them we cannot breathe, save it is the air which is in them, therefore we shall perish". So God is informed of the serious deficiencies of His design of the barges. This is quite surprising when we consider that God made the worlds, the earth, man, and the animal kingdoms. However how does God surmount the problem? The Book of Mormon goes on to say. "And the Lord said unto the brother of Jared, behold thou shalt make a hole in the top thereof, and also in the bottom thereof: and when thou shalt suffer for air, thou shalt unstop the hole thereof and receive air. And if it be so that the water come in upon thee, behold thou shalt stop the hole thereof, that ye may not perish in the flood. And it came to pass that the brother of Jared did so, according as the Lord had commanded". If the holes were made to provide ventilation in the barge why we might ask was a hole put in the bottom of the barge. If the cover was removed from the hole in the bottom of the boat would not water come into the vessel? What ventilation would a hole in the bottom of the boat provide? Thus the B. of M. presents God as a rather foolish bungler, which is strange when we remember the good job God made of Noah's Ark.

Not only had God forgotten to put into the barges a means of ventilation but also a means of illumination. It was only after the eight barges had been built 'according to the instructions of the Lord' that the deficiencies were noticed by Jared's brother. When the first glaring mistake in design was noticed, i.e. the lack of a means of ventilation, God had to do a quick re-think and came up with the idea of making a hole in the top and one in the bottom of the boat. No doubt Jared's brother could go along with the decision to make a hole in the top but must have been puzzled by the instruction to make a hole in the bottom (as indeed I am and as many Mormons are if asked to explain it). A hole in the bottom of a boat is usually the classical reason for it sinking without trace. However, according to the Book of Mormon, Jared's brother went along with the idea and made the two holes as recommended. It was then that he noticed that there was no provision for being able to see inside these barges (and when one considers that he had made eight of them one is left wondering why it took him so long to notice that there was no means of lighting inside them). Thus Jared's brother says to God "O Lord I have done even as thou hast commanded me; and I have prepared the vessels for my people, and behold there is no light in them, Behold, O Lord, wilt thou suffer that we should cross this great water in darkness?" It seems as if, at this stage, God is really stumped and has to ask advice from Jared's brother. "And the Lord said unto the brother of Jared; "What will ye that I should do that ye might have light in your vessels?" God doesn't want to put into the barges a window in case it is dashed to pieces and He does not want them to have fires in the barges. So what else could be used? Is God stumped? The brother of Jared is a resourceful fellow, fortunately, and he solves the problem. He goes up into Mount Shelem(?) and "did molten out of a rock sixteen small stones, and they were white, and clear, even as transparent glass" and he then tells God to touch them and make them shine forth in the darkness. God does so and Jared's brother places two in each barge. And so the solution was easy, really, and it is only a pity that God could not have thought of it earlier. Quite a fantastic story is it not and one which, I suggest, doesn't ring true of the God who made the entire universe. One could go farther and describe it as a blasphemous absurdity.

The Mormon genealogy of Joseph Smith himself, in contrast with the known facts concerning his ancestry present an insurmountable difficulty to those who believe God was the author of the Book of Mormon. In 2 Nephi 3:6-8, 12, 14, 15 & 18 the old man Lehi relates to his youngest son Joseph that another Joseph (even Joseph Smith of Book of Mormon fame) was to be born of their seed, according to a purported prophecy made by their supposed ancestor Joseph in Egypt (the famous Old Testament Character). Here is the prophecy, - "For

Joseph truly testified saying: A seer shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a choice seer ... Yea Joseph truly said, Thus saith the Lord unto me: A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and he shall be esteemed highly among the fruit of thy loins... And I will make him great in mine eyes; for he shall do my work... Wherefore, the fruit of thy loins (Joseph Smith) Shall write; and the fruit of the loins of Judah (Writers of the bible) shall write; and that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins, and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah, shall grow together, unto the confounding of false doctrines ... And thus prophesied Joseph, saying: Behold, that seer will the Lord bless: and they that seek to destroy him, shall be confounded; for this promise which I have obtained of the Lord of the fruit of my loins, shall be fulfilled. And his name shall be called after me: and it shall be after the name of his father (Joseph Smith senior)...

And the Lord said unto me also, I will raise up unto the fruit of thy loins: and will make him for a spokesman”.

This prophecy plainly relates that Joseph Smith was to be a descendant in the direct line of Joseph of Egypt, through Lehi and his son Joseph. But, according to Mormon 6:5-11; 8:1-4 in A.D. 385 all the Nephites were slain, excepting Moroni, and only the Lamanites remained on the continent of America, the Mormon allegations being that their descendants are the various Indian races. Hence, since Joseph Smith's ancestry cannot be connected with the Nephites, who were supposed to have been destroyed centuries before, it would have to be through the Lamanites – which would make him an Indian, or this prophecy is a failure. We know however, that Joseph Smith was of English ancestry. His mother's biography of him gives the names of his ancestors for six generations back to Robert Smith, who flourished about three hundred years ago in England. How was it possible for Joseph Smith to be a descendant of the Nephites? It must be remembered that this was a literal prophecy with a literal fulfilment in view – Joseph Smith was to be of 'the fruit of the loins of Joseph' which is a very literal concept. The truth is that Joseph in Egypt never ever made any prophecy concerning Joseph Smith of America. Why did this prophecy not reach fulfilment? Mormons must explain why.

The Book of Mormon is alleged to have been compiled and engraved upon golden plates about 1600 years ago, by a man named Mormon with his son Moroni giving to it some finishing touches and in A.D. 20 hiding the plates under a stone on the hill Cumorah, near the site of Palmyra, New York, where these plates were received, under the guidance of the angel Moroni, by Joseph Smith in 1827. This book alleges to be an abridgement of the Nephite records for a period of 1000 years before its compilation by Mormon. Indeed it is claimed that this book is unabridged, and we have it just as it was written by the elder Nephi, his brother Jacob and others after him. If these claims are true it is a very old book, belonging entirely to the ancient past, the first part was written about 2,600 years ago and the remainder written about 1,600 years ago. If therefore there are any words, phrases or forms of expression known to be modern, having no counterparts in any ancient language, or has references to discoveries, facts or concepts unknown to that period in history, then we can be sure that the writer of the Book of Mormon has 'slipped up' and given himself away. In Alma 37:38 we read “And now my son, I have somewhat to say concerning the thing which our fathers call a ball, or director: for our fathers called it Liahona, which is, being interpreted, a compass: and the Lord prepared it”. Absolutely no record or other evidence exists of any people of antiquity ever having such a navigating instrument as 'a compass'.

As I said in last month's article, the Book of Mormon, unlike the Bible, does not bear close examination and I would hate to have to prove that God wrote it. EDITOR.