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FOUNDATION FOR
ANCIENT RESEARCH &
MORMON STUDIES

INSIGHTS

AN ANCIENT WINDOW

"...by study and also by faith." D & C 88:118

MORMONISM AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY: VOLUME 4 OF THE NIBLEY WORKS COVERS TOPICS FROM APOSTASY TO TEMPLES

"This is the best volume yet to appear in the Hugh Nibley Collected Works," say those who have worked on this massive publishing effort. *Mormonism and Early Christianity* continues many of the themes introduced in Volume 3, *The World and the Prophets*, but the subjects here are treated in greater depth and breadth.

This major work has over 430 pages with many pages of invaluable footnotes. Here is Nibley at his best, with some of his most famous articles, such as "The Passing of the Church," and "The Christian Envy of the Temple," both first published in non-Mormon scholarly journals. This volume deals with such topics as baptism for the dead in ancient times and other beliefs common to both the Apostolic and the Restored churches.

As always delving into primary sources, Nibley also explores accounts of Jesus' early childhood, the Savior's elusive but crucial 40-day ministry, the temple, Jerusalem in Christianity, and much more. The volume is technical, scholarly, and detailed. Nevertheless, it will richly reward diligent readers, for its central message is powerful and substantial: that many important doctrines of early Christianity were lost in the Great Apostasy, but have now been restored.

One intriguing topic in this study, which disappeared during the first four centuries but has been restored in this dispensation, is that of Christian prayer circles. Sources indicate that the ritual use of prayer circles dates back to very early times and that Enoch, Abraham, Jesus, the Twelve with their wives, and many others participated in this mode of prayer. For example, Nibley reports that the early Christians placed a "diptych," a "loose-leaf notebook or folded parchment," on the altar during the prayer which contained the names of persons whom those in the circle wished to remember. He further indicates that these diptychs are among the treasures preserved in the oldest churches.

A team of editors, including Todd Compton, Stephen Ricks, John Gee, Brent McNeely, Jack Lyon and John Welch, spent hundreds of hours preparing this volume for press, seeing that each footnote was checked for accuracy and style. The new volume is scheduled for delivery on December 1, 1987. We will do all possible to see that your order, if placed soon, will be delivered in time for Christmas. Use the attached order form or the F.A.R.M.S. Catalog for this and several other shopping ideas.

COST TO RECEIVE

UPDATES CUT IN HALF

For the past three years, new discoveries and advances in Book of Mormon research have been reported in the F.A.R.M.S. monthly Updates. These scholarly, documented, quickly readable reports have been mailed exclusively to researchers, active volunteers, and annual donors of \$100.00 or more. Because increasing the number who receive this service will but marginally increase our costs, we can now offer the Updates to all annual donors of as little as \$50.00.

Beginning in January, 1988, the F.A.R.M.S. Updates will be available to donors of only half the previous amount. Many are willing to give \$50.00 to the Foundation yearly, and to say thanks, the Updates will gladly be mailed, keeping contributors up-to-date on the latest Book of Mormon research. In 1988, when Gospel Doctrine classes will study the Book of Mormon, these reports should be of particular interest. However, from now on only eight Updates will be produced per year; in the other four months all members will receive the quarterly newsletter, *Insights*.

Recent Update topics have included an analysis of kingship in Mosiah 1-6 and Bible lands, the destruction of Ammonihah in light of the Deuteronomic law of apostate cities, chiasmus in Helaman 6, Mesoamericans in pre-Columbian North America, textual consistencies within the Book of Mormon, and a report on a recent working conference on warfare in the Book of Mormon. Those who receive the F.A.R.M.S. Updates find them an effective way to stay accurately informed on new research developments. As with collections from previous years, the 1987 Updates may also be ordered as a set.

The Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies is a nonprofit research and educational organization dedicated to the study of ancient scripture. Your tax-deductible contributions enable F.A.R.M.S. to sponsor and coordinate a wide range of research projects that enhance our understanding of these sacred writings.

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LEHI'S VISION IN 1 NEPHI 1 ANALYZED

The Book of Mormon begins with an account of the vision in which Lehi beheld God seated in the midst of a heavenly congregation. In this experience, Lehi learned of the judgments of God that were about to befall the arrogant and unrighteous city of Jerusalem. Comparing this vision of Lehi's with similar so-called Council Visions had by other prophets near the time of Lehi is the aim of a new paper. In it, John W. Welch documents striking correlations between the Book of Mormon account and the judgment visions of other pre-Exilic Israelite prophets. From these accounts it is concluded that the prophet is being admitted into the council of God, where he hears and sees the deliberations and receives a commission to deliver faithfully the very words of this court's verdict. For a prophet to know the secret confidences of such a council ("sod") appears to be tantamount in the ancient accounts to knowing the mysteries ("sod") of God, the paper explains. This and other Book of Mormon articles will be published soon in the proceedings of the second annual Book of Mormon Symposium sponsored by the BYU Religious Studies Center.

COLLECTED BIOGRAPHIES OF BOOK OF MORMON SCHOLARS AVAILABLE

In 1986, the *Ensign* magazine issued a series of articles about prominent LDS Book of Mormon scholars, including B. H. Roberts, George Reynolds, Francis W. Kirkham, Sidney B. Sperry, and Hugh W. Nibley. These articles, which have been available separately, are now combined into a single reprint, together with the final article in that series.

Orson Pratt was "as devoted a student and proponent of the Book of Mormon as any in Church history" writes David J. Whittaker, author of a short paper describing Pratt's contributions to Book of Mormon scholarship and its defense. Whittaker's "Orson Pratt: Early Advocate of the Book of Mormon," briefly tracks Pratt's developing testimony, his service to the kingdom as a mission president, apostle, writer and record keeper, and as editor of the 1879 edition of the Book of Mormon—the one in which the current chapter and verse divisions first appeared. This article individually, or the full collection of reprints in this series, can be ordered on the attached form.

INTEREST IN BOOK OF MORMON WARFARE SPURS RESEARCH

Although it is a prominent Book of Mormon theme, Nephite warfare has yet to be comprehensively examined. To promote such research, F.A.R.M.S. sponsored a working conference Aug. 21-22. Papers dealing with military technology, strategies, fortifications, rituals, and other issues were presented and critiqued. Other topics were identified. Two new papers on war and the Book of Mormon are now available; others will be forthcoming soon.

Bill Hamblin has completed a thorough study of "The Bow and Arrow in the Book of Mormon." This paper covers the military use of bows and arrows particularly in the Near East and in Mesoamerica. The characteristics of Near Eastern steel bows are described in detail, along with the artistic and archaeological evidence of projectile weapons and possible arrow points in the New World. Evidence for bows in Mesoamerica is not yet clear, but Hamblin offers several interpretations which reconcile the archaeological data with the scriptural record.

In an age when a single nuclear clash could destroy 2 billion lives, a knowledge of the scriptural teachings on warfare has never been more vital. Edwin Brown Firmage's study entitled "Violence and the Gospel: The Teachings of the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Book of Mormon," *BYU Studies* (Winter, 1985), explains a number of "religious teachings on force and war as they apply in the nuclear age." Here, the University of Utah law professor draws upon Old Testament prophecy, Jesus' teachings, and Book of Mormon doctrines to demonstrate the unequivocal scriptural decree that "only faith in God can insure well-being, while trust in human military might is idolatry and insures destruction." Firmage compares the Exodus of the Old Testament and the Book of Mormon to show that both peoples viewed their military victories and losses as divine deliverances rather than as feats of strength or accomplishments of strategy. Plus, he reports on the scriptural instance of a society sworn to passive resistance, found only in the Nephite account. From his study of the "just war" paradigm in the Book of Mormon, he identifies criteria by which God justifies a war. Firmage concludes with thought-provoking parallels between the Nephite society and our present one.

A SERVICE TO LDS GOSPEL DOCTRINE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

The 1988 adult Sunday School curriculum will be the Book of Mormon. Free upon request are two lists of resources recommended as helpful background reading for the new curriculum.

The first is a selected list of F.A.R.M.S. reprints and reports, organized according to books in the Book of Mormon to be studied in 1988. This list will help in locating materials relevant to one's scripture study throughout the year. All items on this list can be obtained through F.A.R.M.S. The second list gives information about books now in print that pertain to the Book of Mormon and that could be of value to teacher and student alike. The publications listed are usually available through local LDS book dealers.

The materials on these lists in no way replace the scriptures nor the *Gospel Doctrine Teacher's Supplement*. Rather, they provide supplementary historical, archaeological, cultural, textual, and geographical enrichment which may be useful.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CHIASMUS COMPLETED

John W. Welch, aided by Don Parry and DeeAnn Hofer, has compiled an extensive bibliography of scholarly books and articles dealing with the literary form of chiasmus. Listed are several hundred works from a broad range of sources, most scholarly. Collectively they demonstrate the widespread use of chiasmus in modern biblical studies. Anyone interested in thorough research into this distinctive form of parallel composition will find this bibliography indispensable.

NEW VERSION OF SCRIPTURE INDEX ANNOUNCED

Last summer, a *Scripture Index of F.A.R.M.S. Reprints and Preliminary Reports (CAM-87)* was introduced. It lists every scripture by chapter and verse that is mentioned in F.A.R.M.S. materials. The index is now available in a second format.

The original index organizes scripture references in the F.A.R.M.S. materials according to 18 subject groupings. All these entries in the new format have been merged into a single, consolidated list. This new index facilitates searching for all instances of a given scripture, while the previous format works best in organizing references pertinent to areas of research interest. Both formats are now obtainable.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New procedures have been introduced to standardize the review process for F.A.R.M.S.' publications. The Evaluation Committee, one of three standing units directing the Foundation's activities, has instituted a more formal system of judging each paper submitted for issuance under F.A.R.M.S. auspices. An evaluation editor, currently John Sorenson, and a dozen respected researchers constitute an evaluation board. Where necessary, they will be aided by the specialized knowledge of a panel of more than 100 others.

Papers meeting the normal criteria for professional publication will appear in a new series, *F.A.R.M.S. Papers*; each of these provides a substantial, peer-reviewed contribution to knowledge and will be permanently available for purchase at cost from the Foundation. Less finished papers deemed worth circulating will appear as *F.A.R.M.S. Preliminary Reports/Working Papers*; these will be offered to F.A.R.M.S. members for a two-year period and then will be dropped from the list. The assumption is that within that period *Preliminary Reports* will have been final-

ized to qualify as *F.A.R.M.S. Papers* or to appear in other outlets. A third group, *F.A.R.M.S. Study Aids*, will offer valuable helps for students in F.A.R.M.S.' area of concern, such as indexes, bibliographies, maps, or printouts which are not scholarly papers, yet deserve to be available on a long-term basis. *F.A.R.M.S. Reprints* will continue to provide valuable articles that have been issued elsewhere.

The evaluation editor and board welcome all submissions of well-prepared papers for their consideration that pertain to F.A.R.M.S.' interests.

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Catalog Number	Author and Title	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
N-4	Nibley, Hugh W., <i>Mormonism and Early Christianity</i> (SLC: Deseret and F.A.R.M.S., 1987), ISBN 0-87579-127-1, 430 pp.		\$16.95	
CAM-87	Campbell, Lester E., "Scripture Index of F.A.R.M.S. Reprints and Preliminary Reports by Categories" (1987), 240 pp.		\$6.00	
CAM-87a	Campbell, Lester E., "Consolidated Scripture Index of F.A.R.M.S. Reprints and Preliminary Reports" (1987), 240 pp.		\$6.00	
ENS-86	"Six Book of Mormon Scholars" (<i>Ensign</i>), 27 pp.		\$1.50	
FIR-85	Firmage, Edwin B., "Violence and the Gospel," (<i>BYU Studies</i>), 23 pp.		\$1.00	
HAM-87	Hamblin, William, "The Bow and Arrow in the Book of Mormon," 50 pp.		\$2.75	
STF-87	F.A.R.M.S. Staff, "Updates for 1987," 12 pp.		\$.75	
STF-88a	"Selected Book of Mormon Books in Print, 1988."		1-Free	
STF-88b	"Gospel Doctrine Suggested Resource List, 1988."		1-Free	
WEL-86c	Welch, John W., "The Calling of a Prophet: An Analysis of the Call of Lehi in 1 Nephi 1," 28 pp.		\$1.50	
WEL-87c	Welch, John W., "Chiasmus Bibliography," 14 pp.		\$.75	
WHI-84	Whittaker, David J., "Orson Pratt: Early Advocate of the Book of Mormon," 3 pp.		\$.50	

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Below are the names of those who gave \$100.00 or more in 1987 to further Book of Mormon research and its dissemination. To most, the donations were made at considerable sacrifice; many people gave well above \$100.00. We are always mindful of your dedication, and we continue our pledge to use every contributed dollar as effectively as possible. As a non-profit, low-budget organization, we do everything we can to keep costs down.

These donations, along with numerous volunteered services and smaller contributions, have made possible this year the reprinting of three more volumes of Hugh Nibley's Collected Works. The money has supported several other research projects, such as the compilation and publication of the *Comprehensive Bibliography of the Book of Mormon and the Scripture Index of F.A.R.M.S. Reprints and Preliminary Reports*, as well as the completion of the three-volume *Book of Mormon Critical Text*. Also, a number of taping, research, and distribution projects have been made possible. We thank you and request your continued support: Rock Armstrong - Fountain Valley, CA

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