MORMON CHURCH SUPPRESSES BOOK OF COMMANDMENTS
Deseret Book Store Ordered Not to Sell Wilford Wood’s Reprint of the Book of Commandments

The following is an account of how the Mormon Church tried to prevent us from obtaining the photocopies necessary for the printing the Book of Commandments, and also how the Mormon Church is now trying to suppress Wilford Wood’s reprint of it.

About the Book of Commandments

In 1833 the Mormon Church published the revelations that had been given to the Church by Joseph Smith in a book entitled the Book of Commandments. However, the Church was unable to print as many of the Book of Commandments as they had planned because the printing press was destroyed by a mob. In 1835 the revelations were again printed, and the name of the book was changed to the Doctrine and Covenants. New revelations were added, and many of the previous revelations were revised.

The Book of Commandments contains 65 of Joseph Smith’s revelations and according to a student at Brigham Young University there have been 2,812 words changed, added, or omitted in these same revelations as published in the Doctrine and Covenants today. Because of this fact the Mormon Church Historian feared that someone would reprint the Book of Commandments and reveal the fact that these changes have been made.

David Whitmer, one of the three witnesses to the Book of Mormon, made this statement concerning the changes that have been made in the revelations:

Some of the revelations as they now appear in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants have been changed and added to. Some of the changes being of the greatest importance as the meaning is entirely changed on some very important matters; as if God had changed his mind a few years after he gave the revelations, and after having commanded his servants (as they claim) to print them in the “Book of Commandments”...

(Letter written by David Whitmer, published in the Saints’ Herald, February 5, 1887)

Poorest Reprint

In an article entitled “Mormon Bibliography,” published in the Brigham Young University Studies, Spring-Summer 1964, Chad J. Flake of the Brigham Young University stated:

Undoubtedly the poorest reprints on Mormon subjects are those printed by the Modern Microfilm Company. Although these seem to be as expensive as any mentioned above, the quality of the printing bears no comparison. An interesting comparison can be made

(Continued on page 2)
1. Behold, I say unto you, that you shall let your time be devoted to the studying of the scriptures, and to preaching, and to confirming the church at Clinton, and to performing your labors on the land, such as is required, until after you shall go to the west to hold the next conference; and then it shall be made known what you shall do.

2. And all things shall be done by common consent in the church, by much prayer and faith, for all things you shall receive by faith. Amen.

SECTION 27.

Revelation given to Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Harmony, Pennsylvania, August, 1830. In preparation for a religious service at which the sacrament of bread and wine was to be administered, Joseph set out to procure wine for the occasion. He was met by a heavenly messenger, and received this revelation, the first four paragraphs of which were written at the time, and the remainder in the September following. Water is commonly used instead of wine in the sacramental services of the Church. — Warning against the use of wine unassured purity in the sacrament. Many ancient prophets named, with whom, as with the latter-day prophets, the Lord promises to partake at a time yet to come: — The prior ordination of Joseph Smith, Jun., and Oliver Cowdery to the Apostleship avoided.—Encouraging admonition given.

1. Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Lord, your God, and your Redeemer, whose word is quick and powerful.

2. For, behold, I say unto you, that it mattereth not what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink when ye partake of the sacrament, if it be so that ye do it with an eye single to my glory—remembering unto the Father my body which was laid down for you, and my blood which was shed for the remission of your sins.

3. Wherefore, a commandment was given to reveal the Book of Moses, as it is written in this verse, and this record of the Book of Abraham, and this record of the Book of Enoch, in order to confirm his kingdom which shall be built up on the earth.

4. Behold, this is wisdom in me; wherefore, marvel not, for the hour cometh that I will drink of the fruit of the vine with you on the earth, and with Meren, whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained and confirmed you to be apostles, and especial witnesses.

5. And also with Michael, or with Adam, the father of all the princes of all the kingdom of glory, and with all the princes of all the kingdom of glory, and with the angel who should stand before you, and be arrayed as an angel of God, whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained and confirmed you to be apostles, and especial witnesses.

6. And also with Michael, or with Adam, the father of all the princes of all the kingdom of glory, and with all the angels of all the kingdom of glory, and with the angel who should stand before you, and be arrayed as an angel of God, whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained and confirmed you to be apostles, and especial witnesses.

7. And also with Michael, or with Adam, the father of all the princes of all the kingdom of glory, and with all the angels of all the kingdom of glory, and with the angel who should stand before you, and be arrayed as an angel of God, whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained and confirmed you to be apostles, and especial witnesses.

8. And also with Michael, or with Adam, the father of all the princes of all the kingdom of glory, and with all the angels of all the kingdom of glory, and with the angel who should stand before you, and be arrayed as an angel of God, whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained and confirmed you to be apostles, and especial witnesses.

9. And also with Michael, or with Adam, the father of all the princes of all the kingdom of glory, and with all the angels of all the kingdom of glory, and with the angel who should stand before you, and be arrayed as an angel of God, whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained and confirmed you to be apostles, and especial witnesses.

10. And also with Michael, or with Adam, the father of all the princes of all the kingdom of glory, and with all the angels of all the kingdom of glory, and with the angel who should stand before you, and be arrayed as an angel of God, whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained and confirmed you to be apostles, and especial witnesses.

11. And also with Michael, or with Adam, the father of all the princes of all the kingdom of glory, and with all the angels of all the kingdom of glory, and with the angel who should stand before you, and be arrayed as an angel of God, whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained and confirmed you to be apostles, and especial witnesses.

12. And also with Michael, or with Adam, the father of all the princes of all the kingdom of glory, and with all the angels of all the kingdom of glory, and with the angel who should stand before you, and be arrayed as an angel of God, whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained and confirmed you to be apostles, and especial witnesses.
of two editions of the *Book of Commandments*. The first, published by Wilford Wood under the title *Joseph Smith Begins His Work*, v. 2, is an excellent reprint. The second published at approximately the same time by the Modern Microfilm Company, has pages which are completely unreadable. (*Brigham Young University Studies*, Spring-Summer 1964, page 242)

Because of this statement by Mr. Flake we feel that we should explain several things concerning the printing of the *Book of Commandments*. Actually at the time the *Book of Commandments* was reprinted there was no such company as the Modern Microfilm Co. In 1961 we had the Woodruff Printing Co. (a very capable printing establishment) reprint the *Book of Commandments* by the photo-offset method. The first 41 pages were from photocopies we obtained from the Brigham Young University, and the remaining pages were from photocopies taken from a microfilm made at the Yale University.

Now, it is true that some of the first 41 pages obtained from the Brigham Young University are not readable, as Mr. Flake has stated, however, he would have done well to explain why this is the case.

Actually, the Mormon Church did its best to keep us from reproducing this book. Mr. Flake was working in Special Collections at the Brigham Young University at the time this book was printed and is well acquainted with the facts.

**Not To Be Reproduced**

We are informed that the Mormon Church Historian’s Office in Salt Lake City owns at least three copies of the *Book of Commandments*. They apparently had Wilford Woodruff’s copy microfilmed and sent a positive copy to the Brigham Young University Library. (Wilford Woodruff was the fourth President of the Mormon Church.) Before giving this microfilm to the Brigham Young University they apparently made them promise that they would not make photocopies of it. This is obvious from a letter written from Chad J. Flake that the Church Historian’s Office would “not permit” photocopies to be made of the *Book of Commandments* (see Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?, page 70). On June 1, 1961, we wrote directly to Joseph Fielding Smith, the Church Historian, and he answered as follows:

> Private records are sacred to the individual. Copies of the *Book of Commandments* are rare. Perhaps you could obtain a copy from some book collector.

Of course, Mr. Smith knew that we would not be able to obtain an original as it would cost thousands of dollars.

The Church Historian’s Office could have provided us with nice clear photocopies, however, they were unwilling to help in any way and did everything they could to prevent the publication of the *Book of Commandments*.

**Wilford Wood’s Reprint**

Wilford Wood (this name should not be confused with the name Wilford Woodruff) has also published the *Book of Commandments* and the first edition of the *Doctrine and Covenants* (under the title of *Joseph Smith Begins His Work*, vol. 2) by the photo-offset method, and as Mr. Flake says, it is an excellent reprint. He has also reproduced the first edition of the Book of Mormon, under the title of *Joseph Smith Begins His Work*, vol. 1.

A few months after our reprint of the *Book of Commandments* came out, Wilford Wood published his reprint of the *Book of Commandments*.

The Mormon Church was apparently not as worried about his reprint as they were about ours, for the Deseret Press (the Church press) did the printing, and it was advertised in the Salt Lake papers. We tried to advertise our copy but were refused permission. One of the employees at the newspaper agency told us that the reason the book could not be advertised was that the preface we included in the front of the book was “too controversial.” He indicated the preface was controversial because it told that the revelations had been changed and that the Mormon Church had suppressed the *Book of Commandments*.

Since Wilford Wood’s reprint did not tell that the revelations had been changed, the Church did not try to suppress his book at that time. Instead they promoted it and allowed him to display his original copy of the *Book of Commandments* in the window of the Deseret Book Store (that is the Church book store). The leaders of the Mormon Church evidently felt that by using this reverse psychology they could make the Mormon people believe that they were glad that the *Book of Commandments* had been reprinted. Since Mr. Wood’s reprint did not tell the revelations had been changed, the Church leaders evidently felt that they were safe as long as members of the Church did not compare it with present editions of the *Doctrine and Covenants*. It appears, however, that members of the Church did compare the two editions and found that many changes had been made. On October 9, 1964, a man reported to us that the Deseret Book Store had refused to sell him copies of *Joseph Smith Begins His Work*, vols. 1 and 2. On October 10, 1964, Sandra Tanner went to the Deseret Book Store and asked the clerk concerning these books. The clerk, supposing she was a Mormon, said, “President David O. McKay won’t let us sell that anymore.” The clerk went on to say, “We’ve had several people leave the Church because of those books. The priest and ministers of the other churches are using these books to confuse people. Because of the confusion we can’t sell them anymore. President McKay has taken them out of circulation.”

On October 13, 1964, Wesley P. Walters (a minister in Illinois) wrote to the Deseret Book Store requesting copies of *Joseph Smith Begins His Work*, vols. 1 and 2. He had been recommending these books to libraries throughout the nation. He had informed the librarians that they could buy these books at the Deseret Book, but when he wrote to them himself they answered, “these two books are no longer available.” (See a photograph of this letter on page 1.) This letter would lead a person to believe that these books are out of print, however, this is not the case.

As we stated before, the Deseret Press (that is the Church press) did the printing on these books, however, Bookcraft distributes them. Since the Mormon Church does not own Bookcraft they will not be able to stop the circulation of these books at other stores besides the Deseret Book Store unless Wilford Wood gives his consent, or unless they buy them all up. The Modern Microfilm Co. will continue to sell them as long as they are available.

**First Vision**

The Mormon Church claims that in 1820, when Joseph Smith was 14 or 15 years old, that he was visited by God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. The evidence indicates, however, that this
I have enjoyed reading your new book & enclosed is a check for 10 copies & I hope you have a great sale for them. . . . I feel this book ought to get into the hands of the people. It answers the questions they need to know. (Letter from Wyoming)

I have received the book. . . . It is a marvelous edition. (Letter from California)

We have had the joy of pointing a man to Christ . . . He was about to be baptized into Mormon Church & had been well indoctrinated but said he wanted to be sure! Your book proved invaluable. Better than ALL the others together, he said!! (Letter from Ireland)

If you are interested in a copy of Mormonism—Shadow or Reality? the price is $5.00 ($4.50 if ordered before November 15).

T.V.

Jesus once asked:

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will give him a serpent? (Matthew 7:9-10)

It would appear that in America today that many parents are giving their children stones instead of bread. The following appeared in the Salt Lake Tribune for Monday, October 26, 1964:

A still-secret report charges there is a conclusive link between crime and violence in television shows and juvenile delinquency, it was learned Sunday.

The report has been signed by a majority of the Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency headed by Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) . . . the subcommittee reported it found “on the basis of expert testimony and impressive research evidence, that a relationship has been conclusively established between televised crime and violence and antisocial attitudes and behavior among juvenile viewers.”

In another section of the report, the subcommittee said in its view, “The excessive amount of televised crime, violence and brutality can and does contribute to the development of attitudes and actions in many young people which pave the way for delinquent behavior.” (Salt Lake Tribune, October 26, 1964)

Psalm 82:3

“Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.”

Orphans

Jesus said:

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: . . . Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? . . . And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. (Matthew 25:35-40)

Nearly five years ago we heard of an organization called World Vision. We have found that it is a non-profit organization with orphanages in 19 countries caring for more than 20,000 orphans. Each orphan has a sponsor who contributes $10 a month for his support (food, clothing, home, schooling, etc.). Since Korea alone has an estimated 50,000 orphans one can see the great need for more sponsors.

It certainly has been a blessing to us to help some of these sweet little ones who would never have known a home or decent food without the wonderful work of World Vision. We feel they are doing a tremendous job. World Vision has recently built a children hospital in Seoul, Korea, with room for 150 sick children. They also help operate a children’s wing of the Presbyterian Hospital in Taegu and other facilities throughout the country. (World Vision is a non-denominational missionary endeavor.)

Each sponsor can exchange letters with his child (the letters are translated into English before they are forwarded to the sponsor). We would like to share with you a few comments from the letters we have received.

An orphan boy, Lee Han Kook, writes:

I received your birthday gift of $1.00 with all my heart and bought 1 pair of underwear with the money. When I wear these underwear, I feel as if you hug me tightly with both of your arms. I was over-whelmed by your love and shed tears.

In another letter he writes:

I was so happy to receive your card . . . I will work diligently like a ox and will try to be a mild boy like a rabbit. I suppose you will be glad, if I become such a boy.

Of his family he says:

My mother and father are not living. I wandered about the streets until I was brought to this home through the police.

He, like so many others, would have had no hope for a happy future without the help of such groups as World Vision. If anyone is interested in knowing more about World Vision they can write—

World Vision
Box 0
Pasadena, California

NEW BOOKS

Brigham’s Destroying Angel. Photomechanical reprint of 1904 edition of Bill Hickman’s confessions. Price: $3.00


John Whittier’s History. Written by one of the eight witnesses to the Book of Mormon. Very revealing. Price: $1.50

View of the Hebrews, by Ethan Smith. Photo reprint of 1825 edition - also the parallels by B. H. Roberts. Price: $4.00


(10% off on above prices until November 15)