

# *THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE*

by Robert L. & Rosemary Brown

FAIR is pleased to make this online version of Robert L. and Rosemary Brown's classic book available to you, free of charge. We are sure you will appreciate the meticulous research and documentation provided by the Browns in their books.

There are four volumes in this series. Each focuses on a different area of anti-Mormon efforts. If you enjoy this volume, be sure to check out the other volumes also available at the FAIR Web site.

Every effort has been made to ensure that this online version is of the highest quality possible, given the technological limits of online materials. Each page of the original book was scanned by dedicated volunteers and checked for accuracy and legibility.

As you are reading, you may notice that some of the smaller text is "fuzzy" or not entirely readable. This is one of those technological limits—if we had attempted to provide the highest quality download possible, the online files would have been 30 times larger and therefore unmanageable for the average Internet user. Our driving desire was to make this information available to the widest audience possible.

If you are interested in a copy of this book in a higher quality, we suggest purchasing a copy of the actual printed book. The books are not that expensive, and they are a valuable addition to any library. FAIR is the sole authorized distributor of all volumes of *They Lie In Wait To Deceive*. To order, visit our Web site:

<http://www.fair-lds.org>

Not only do you get a classic book that you can take with you (you are no longer bound to the computer), but you help to support FAIR in its mission to bring you apologetic works of unquestioned value.

We hope you enjoy this book, and pray that God will bless you as you sincerely seek His word and will.

## **DISTRIBUTING THIS ONLINE BOOK**

You are free to forward this book to your friends or anyone you feel may benefit by the information it contains. Better still, you can direct your friends to the FAIR Web site where they can download their own copy, along with other information they may find helpful.

You are not free to post this online book on your Web site or store it in any publically accessible storage medium, such as an FTP site. You cannot include this book in any compilation or commercial work without the express written permission of FAIR.

## **ABOUT FAIR**

The Foundation for Apologetic Information & Research (FAIR) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing well-documented answers to criticisms of LDS doctrine, belief and practice. Seeking to assist the lay member and scholar alike to respond to intentional and well-meaning attacks on individual faith, FAIR helps publish articles and books that defend the LDS church, operates a Web site that receives thousands of visitors each day, and sponsors research projects and conferences that provide the LDS scholarly community an outlet for getting information into the hands of the average member. With a 501-C3 tax exempt status from the IRS, FAIR is funded by the generosity of its members and contributors, now grown to more than 1,000.

To learn more about FAIR, visit our Web site:

<http://www.fair-lds.org>

You can also write to us at:

FAIR  
PO Box 1277  
Felton CA, 95018



**CONCLUSION —  
BY JOSEPH C. MUREN**  
(CONVERT TO THE LDS CHURCH)



KING JAMES BIBLE  
BOOK OF MORMON  
PEARL OF GREAT PRICE  
DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS

**OBJECTIVES**

- To encourage the reader to rely on prayer in his/her search for truth.
- To show that doubts, misquotations, and distortions of the truth are the favorite tools of the anti-Mormon propagandists.
- To remind the reader that the LDS church will always encounter criticism and resistance from the adversary, but that truth will always prevail.

**CHAPTER ELEVEN**  
**CONCLUSION — BY JOSEPH C. MUREN**  
**(CONVERT TO THE LDS CHURCH)**

**MY INTRODUCTION TO MORMONISM**

---

In 1953, I was a freshman at San Jose State University, San Jose, California. I was a devout Roman Catholic. On Sundays, our fraternity always held religious discussions downstairs in the fraternity house. One of my friends, who also attended these discussions, was LDS. He and I would go to some of the socials at his ward. At these socials, some people would ask me what I knew about the Mormon church, etc. I really didn't know anything about Mormonism, so I went to our school library. I enjoyed telling my friends that within the year I had read every anti-Mormon book in the University library — the anti-Mormon books dominating the selections available to one desiring to know about the LDS church.

**THE MORMONS I KNEW DIDN'T SEEM THAT BAD**

At this time, I began comparing what I had learned from the anti-Mormon literature to the Mormons I then knew from the school and the socials at the ward. I couldn't see that the Mormons were all that bad. I talked frequently with my priest, who was the Pastor of the Newman Club at San Jose State, and he gave me some pamphlets written by a Bishop of the Catholic Church in Salt Lake City which showed the "errors of Mormonism".

**I PASSED OUT ANTI-MORMON LITERATURE**

I used to pass my anti-Mormon pamphlets out at the dances. I also passed them out at their conferences and left them on their cars. My reason for doing this was absolutely sincere — I wanted to save these Latter-day Saints. When an LDS invited me to dinner, which was often, I would say, "You believe your religion is true, but look what these pamphlets say!" I wanted so desperately to show them the errors of their ways and show them the true church of Catholicism. My protesting in this manner, as I look back on it, was because I was becoming very interested in the church and I was fighting hard to support my own position. When I asked questions, I received good answers. After a while, I put the pamphlets away and just didn't pass them out anymore. I continued to read anti-Mormon literature — I just didn't pass it out any more.

## WHY DOES THE MORMON CHURCH BEAR SO MANY TRUTHS?

Discrepancies began to show up. I was impressed with the lives of the LDS that I knew. They were very kind and patient with me as I tried to tell them of the problems with their religion. They were a sincere and honest people. They and their families were happy and secure. Their lives were exemplary. They were highly educated — as examples, Dr. John Walquist was the President of the college at the time and he was a Mormon, and Dr. Bill Siddoway was the Assistant to the President and he was a Mormon. I couldn't understand how the Mormon church could produce so much fruit and be wrong! ("By their fruits ye shall know them.") Over the next few months, although I continued to read all the anti-Mormon material I could get my hands on, I was no longer "out to get the Mormons".

## THE FRUSTRATION OF CONFUSION — WHO IS RIGHT?

After about three years of attending Mass at my church, reading anti-Mormon books, attending LDS church services, and associating with LDS people, I became so frustrated with being half-Catholic and half-Mormon that I finally realized that it was not within my power to determine which church was true, especially by the way I was approaching it. Intellectualism was not giving me the answer because **I didn't know who to believe!** I reached the point where I really wanted to know. My prayers became more profound and sincere in my desire for truth — I had to know. I prayed a lot before, but I had never prayed to know the truth of anything since I always assumed I had it.

## I FOUND TRUTH THROUGH PRAYER

I had been receiving the promptings of the Spirit of the Lord all along in my contact with the LDS church and I received very prominent impressions as soon as I began to ask sincerely and humbly to know the truth. I received the answer to my prayers in a matter of a very few days: "IT IS TRUE — NOW DO YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!"

I joined the church and finished my B.A. and M.A. degrees at San Jose State University, and received my Ph.D. degree in education at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

## THINGS OF THE SPIRIT ARE LEARNED THROUGH THE SPIRIT

I did not understand then, as I do now, that **the things of the Spirit are learned through the Spirit of God**. I thought that you found truth by comparing what one group said in favor of Mormonism and then giving equal time to those who were contrary to the LDS position. Truth, I thought, was adding up who had the most points and that determined who was right; or, accepting the position of the one who could convince you with the best argument or best intellectual gyrations. Even trying to compare each position with the Bible only showed me that even within the literature of the anti-Mormons, they were not always in agreement with each other in regard to a correct interpretation of the Bible on this point or that point. Yes, “holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” in writing the Bible, but where were the “holy men of God” with the same spirit of prophecy to interpret these teachings? Yes, prophets wrote the scriptures — but where were the prophets to interpret them today? There are over 300 Christian denominations in the United States today — each using the Bible and each claiming the Bible speaks for itself. But the mere existence of such an array of churches is evident proof that there is not agreement in many of the essential teachings of the Holy Bible.

My study of the LDS church led me to the most important question that could be asked: **“Is Joseph Smith a prophet of God whom the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ, has called to be His mouthpiece to assure mankind that His word was being properly taught and lived?”**

## THE ROLE OF PRAYER

**I accepted the challenge** of both James and Paul in the Holy Scriptures, i.e., “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” (James 1:5) I began to pray about those claims that Joseph Smith made regarding his part in the restoration of the Gospel. Paul’s counsel that these truths would have to be “spiritually discerned” gave me pattern as I awaited the Lord to respond to my prayers. Oh, how much joy was given me as I learned what Paul meant in I Cor. 2:11 and 14: “... even so the things of God knoweth no man, but (by) the Spirit of God. ... But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” The feelings which came in my soul confirming that those teachings found in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were true, can be described with the words of the Lord, Jesus Christ, when he spoke to Nicodemus (John 3:8), regarding those “feelings” associated with the Lord answering prayers: “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not

tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." It is difficult for me or any other human to describe with the words of this mortal experience, the joy and comfort, the assurance and lack of doubt, the peace and closeness to the Lord, which is sum and parcel of the Lord whispering to his children that that which we have prayed about is correct and of Him. **He, the Savior of the world, said it so simply in John 10:27: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."**

## **ANSWERING THE ANTI-MORMON CHARGES**

Although I now knew that the Church of Jesus Christ had been restored and that eternal truths were once again on the face of the earth, what was I to do with the anti-Mormon charges? Over the years as a Bishop, five times a missionary for the LDS church and recently released as Mission President of the Costa Rica, San Jose Mission, which included the countries of Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras, as well as my nineteen years as a religion instructor in various Institutes of Religion at Stanford University, University of Southern California, San Jose State University, and most recently at Weber State College in Utah, I have found that it always takes less time and effort to ask a negative question concerning the gospel or church history than it does to research and report on the answer. The anti-Mormons know that most Latter-day Saints do not have at their fingertips the kinds of resource material to readily answer the charges that they are reading; **their main desire is to leave doubts in the minds of their readers.** Pamphlets, radio programs, etc., all have the same purpose, i.e., to leave doubts and questions that can not be readily answered. One anti-Mormon pamphleteer recently told me that his standing out in the rain for two days handing out anti-Mormon literature to college students at a Utah college was worth it if he could just get one Latter-day Saint to begin doubting.

## **MISQUOTATIONS AND DISTORTIONS**

### **(THE FAVORITE TOOLS OF THE ANTI-MORMON PROPAGANDISTS)**

Might I with complete confidence respond to this approach in saying that I have never read a piece of anti-Mormon literature which was not based on a misquotation or misuse of an historical event or a religious sermon. **THERE ARE ANSWERS TO EVERY ANTI-MORMON CHARGE OR ACCUSATION. THERE ARE EXPLANATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS TO EVERY ANTI-MORMON QUESTION IF YOU ARE SINCERELY LOOKING FOR THE LORD'S ANSWER.**

I don't ask you to accept my reasoning or explanation alone, when one can do exactly what Paul and James so beautifully indicated was the way to receive the more sure word of understanding — through prayer and spiritually discerning what is truth. **To the anti-Mormons who are not looking for answers, no answer is**

**good enough**; or, as the Apostle Paul said it, “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him.” (I Cor. 2:14)

This book has been written to answer some of the criticisms and accusations that Latter-day Saints and their friends have been subjected to over the past few years by so-called “Mormon experts” who have taken upon themselves the calling to explain the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as found in His church. They have only reinforced that delightful saying, that **“One is always down on what he is not up on”**. Many anti-Mormon writers know well that there are answers Latter-day Saints have that perfectly explain and put to rest their most devious objections, but they refuse to use these responses or even to acknowledge them in helping to clarify their man-made objections to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **They want to sow doubt and discord.** They are more concerned with the questions than they are with the answers.

Mankind is looking for **truth** which will bring them the fullness that is in the atonement of Jesus the Christ. At first, the Latter-day Saint religion is for them a “hope”. Upon investigation, that hope develops into the faith which is necessary for salvation. Robert L. Brown, the author of this book, puts to rest the claims of Dee Jay Nelson and shows once again that there are answers. Some answers are easily given and received — others take time to produce because of the deception and cunning of those asking them. **It took about 12 years before Dee Jay Nelson’s deception was exposed** — one can’t help but be reminded of the scripture in Ephesians 4:14 about children **“tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.”**

President Spencer W. Kimball, in the closing address of the April 1981 General Conference of the LDS church, reminded Latter-day Saints and those looking for the “hope” of the Gospel that:

“We are all very much aware, my brothers and sisters, that the world is in turmoil. We are continually being tried and tested as individuals and as a church. There are more trials yet to come, but be not discouraged nor dismayed. Always remember that if this were not the Lord’s work, the adversary would not pay any attention to us. If this church were merely a church of men and women, teaching only the doctrines of men, we would encounter little or no criticism or resistance. But, because this is the Church of Him whose name it bears, we must not be surprised when criticisms or difficulties arise. With faith and good works, the truth will prevail. This is His work. There is none other like it. Let us, therefore, press forward, lengthening our stride, and rejoicing in our blessings and opportunities.