

"Comparing Biblical Truth to Latter-day Revelation"

FEELINGS OF THE HEART

BY ANDY POLAND, GENERAL MANAGER

As another September 11th has come and gone I am surprised how that day has a different meaning to me as a former Mormon. Rather than thinking of terrorists I think of the Mountain Meadows Massacre in which Mormons killed 120 men, women, and children on September 11th 1857. It seems so strange to think that Mormons who have such high moral standards would ever commit such a barbaric act.

Why did they do it? There are several conditions that exist within the Mormon culture that contributed to the massacre of the Fancher wagon train. The first condition that contributed to the killing was the Mormons personal testimony. The Mormons involved in this killing believed in their prophets because they had prayed to know if God had called them as prophets. No one decided that Joseph Smith was a true prophet by comparing his teachings to the Bible. They "knew" he was a prophet because of a good peaceful feeling they believed was from God. The desire to serve the prophet was viewed as serving God himself. So strong was the people's connection to Joseph Smith that in the temple ceremony after the death of Joseph, each Latter-day Saint took an oath to avenge the death of the prophet.

The second condition that contributed to the massacre occurred just before the Fancher party traveled through Salt Lake City. Brigham Young had given an order to all of the saints not to sell any goods to the gentiles. (Non-LDS are considered gentiles by Mormons. But that's another story.) Brigham believed that the Federal government was sending troops to take over the territory and he did not want the saints to help any spies among the gentiles. Part of the Fancher's travel plans included buying supplies along the way to reduce the amount needed to

carry. Mormons have alleged that when the Fancher party found that they could not buy the supplies they needed at any price, their anger gave way to comments saying that one of their guns was used to kill the prophet Joseph Smith. Such a statement, if it is true, combined with the church's suspicion of spies helped lead to the massacre at Mountain Meadows.

How could people who knew it was wrong to kill be led to kill others? It was because feelings of the heart led the Mormons to decide what was true. When I was a Mormon I determined leading from God and deception from the devil by *how I felt*. The LDS church taught me that if I felt good, it came from God and if I felt bad, then it came from the devil. If we take some time to think that statement out, we find that it cannot be true. If the devil's ways feel bad, would anyone want to follow him? I do not know very many people that wake up, feel something is bad and then want to do it. So there must be times when the devil's ways feel good or else no one would be deceived by him. On the other hand, God's ways do not always feel good either. When Jonah was told by God to warn the people of Nineveh, he felt terrible about the idea and ran away from the command of God (See Jonah chapter 1). Think about that – Jonah did not feel good about the command of God.

If we look to the Bible to test what comes from God we find that God warns us *not* to listen to our feelings. In Jeremiah we read: "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure" (Jeremiah 17:9a). In Proverbs we read: "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool" (Proverbs 28:26a). God has given us his scriptures to test the prophets and apostles. There are three

tests within the Bible that show us how to know what is from God.

1) Deuteronomy 18:19-22 tells us if a man that claims to be a prophet gives a sign that does not come to pass then that man is not a prophet of God. (God knows everything that happens and does not make mistakes.)

2) Deuteronomy 13:1-5 tells us that if a man claims to be a prophet and performs a miracle that comes to pass but teaches us to follow other gods instead of the God of Abraham then that man is a false prophet.

3) 1 John 4:6 teaches that if a man claims to know God but does not listen to the prophets and apostles of old then that man does not have the spirit of truth in him.

The Mountain Meadows massacre occurred because the Latter-day Saints followed their feelings rather than the word of God. In the book of Romans we are told: "Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but give place unto the wrath of God: for it is written, vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompence, saith the Lord" (Romans 12:19). This scripture did not enter into the minds of the Mormons who took oaths to avenge the blood of the prophet Joseph Smith. They were too busy following the feelings of their hearts and killing those they believed were their enemies.

Regrettably, following the feelings of the heart is still a problem among Mormon people today. Every decision within Mormonism is prefaced by a prayer to God asking for him to lead them with a good peaceful feeling. Eventually, those feelings will lie to them and lead them away from the word of God. My prayer is that God will open the eyes of those who are still following their hearts and

FEELINGS OF THE HEART

(Continued from page 1)

lead them into the word of God and the truth. Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them by the truth, your word is truth" (John 17:17).

Some great resources on the Mountain Meadows massacre can be found in the movie, *September Dawn* (which can be found at your local video store) and the book, *The Confessions of John D. Lee* reprinted by Utah Lighthouse Ministries available at Concerned Christians.

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY AT CONCERNED CHRISTIANS

If you would like to be a part of the team helping Mormons understand God's word or if you are a Mormon that would like to learn what Christians believe about the Bible, this class is for you. This "life transformation group" led by Steve Webb is meeting every Tuesday from 7—9 p.m. and beginning with a study of Psalms. Come and join in!



DVD DISTRIBUTION

The next door-to-door distribution of the DVD, *Jesus Christ / Joseph Smith* will be on Saturday, November 7th at 9:00 a.m. Again the location will be neighborhood areas near the site of the proposed new Mormon temple. Meet at the Walmart parking lot, Loop 202 and Williams Field Road. Call the office at (480) 833-2537 for more details about how you can help with this project.



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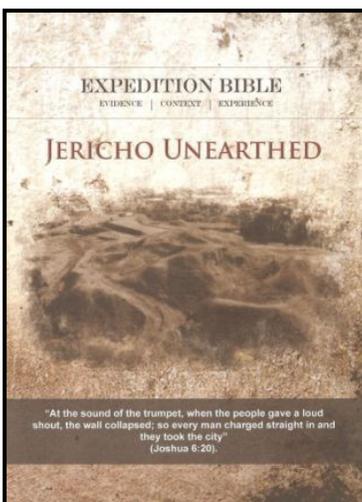


CONCERNED CHRISTIANS RADIO PROGRAM

The program is called, *Out of Mormonism* where you will hear testimonies of ex-Mormon Christians, and much more. Outside the Phoenix area? You can go online to www.familyvaluesradio.net and click the flashing, red "ON AIR" (upper left-hand corner) to listen to the streaming audio of our pre-recorded broadcast. Listen anytime to our podcasts: www.outofmormonism.com; or just go to our website for details: www.concernedchristians.com.



MONDAYS AT 4:00 PM



Jericho Unearthed by Expedition Bible*

A NEW DVD / Reviewed by Bob Betts

By the producers of *The Bible vs. the Book of Mormon*, *DNA vs. the Book of Mormon* and *The Jesus Tomb Exposed*.

For more than fifty years, scholars have raised doubt about the historical accuracy of the Bible, using Jericho as a cornerstone. Imagine the implication of the battle of Jericho being disproven. The Bible would be viewed as untrustworthy. This wonderful, 34-minute documentary provides definitive archaeological evidence for the accuracy of the biblical story of the God-ordained destruction of the ancient city of Jericho. Order price is \$10.00 plus shipping and handling.

*Expedition Bible is a new and growing documentary series produced from the land of Israel covering a diversity of topics in thirty minute episodes that defend and establish the reliability and authority of the Bible.

From the Mailbag



The CROSS

Dear Andy,

I want to tell you how much I appreciate your weekly radio interviews with former Mormons. These, along with newsletter and other resources provided by Concerned Christians, have been a tremendous help when speaking with Mormon missionaries. I will pray for the Lord to continue to bless your ministry, for strength and perseverance for the entire staff at CC, and for those who are making the very difficult transition out of the LDS church. Thank you for all you do!

Vacaville, CA

Dear Concerned Christians,

Your organization is one I greatly support, as I said before, I have many Mormon friends that I love & care for so deeply. It's hard to believe there is hope for them. So I appreciate you guys reaching out to our Mormon friends. Thank you again!

Federal Way, WA

Dear friends at Concerned Christians,

I very much enjoyed Andy Poland's column in the most recent newsletter. I felt it was a wonderful explanation of forgiveness of sins and the difference of being saved by grace and the Mormon view.

Mesa, AZ

Dear Concerned Christians,

I am writing first of all to say thank you! I am a converted Christian of 6 years now. My boyfriend, now husband for over 6 years, used a lot of your materials in helping to teach me the truth. He said he even came up in person to talk to Jim and Judy for some encouragement and help. I am so thankful to your organization, and to our Lord for showing me the truth. And thank you to my husband for sticking by my side through the tough road it was for me to leave Mormonism. When my husband

heard of your difficulty financially he said that if it wasn't for your material and guidance from the Robertsons, he doesn't know if "we" would be "us." He asked me to start contributing to Concerned Christians monthly. We would like to pledge to you to give (\$xx.xx) a month. Thank you for reaching out to those who are lost. May God bless your efforts in spreading his wonderful news. Enclosed is our first pledge.

Huachuca, AZ

Concerned Christians,

Thank you for sending me your newsletter. I'm praying for the Concerned Christians Ministry and all who are involved in it, and that many Mormons will come to the light of our Savior Jesus Christ. God bless you all.

Albany, OR

Dear Concerned Ones,

Thank you for your vital ministry. I enjoy your newsletter and it's such a reminder to pray for my friends who are in bondage.

P.S. I heard Judy speak several years ago at the Lutheran Church in Tomball, TX.

Tomball, TX

Dear Concerned Christians,

Thank you for the encouragement & information all these years. I have never been a Mormon but after hearing Jim & Judy 5 years ago, Mormons have been on my heart since. Your "The CROSS" newsletter has been an invaluable tool in equipping my family to be able to understand and with God's help reach our Mormon acquaintances. Please accept this small contribution to your ministry and know that we are praying for you and LDS daily. Thank you very much! God bless!

Spring Green, WI

Dear Concerned Christians,

Being a Mormon myself 59 years of my life and thanks to my sister [name withheld] of Mesa, AZ who had Jim Robertson help and since Dec. 4, 1996 of that glorious moment, 13 years later wanting more and more of God, and study His word constantly have been Blessed many times over by God. I know how important your Ministry is, in reaching out and helping Mormons. Hope this will help to get you on your feet again. Really enjoy The CROSS reading the same experiences from others I had leaving Mormonism. I hope to stay on your Mailing list. God Bless and many regards.

Sturgis, SD

Dear Concerned Christians,

May God continue to bless your ministry to those who are trapped in the clutches of false teaching. Your newsletter is a blessing to me and a valuable tool as I try to understand and minister to my LDS friends. In Him,

Gilbert, AZ

Concerned Christians,

God's continued blessings to you, as you share the "true word" with those who need to hear.

Wilmar, MN

Ex-Mormon Contacts for Support:

In the Phoenix area—North, East or West Valley— you can find the support you need. The Concerned Christians office in Mesa has regular support group meetings on Thursday nights. Contact our office at 480-833-2537 for directions, and for information on support in the West Valley—Glendale/Peoria area and North Phoenix.

Note: The Mesa meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays.



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Inside this issue:	Page
◇ Feelings of the Heart	1
◇ <i>Jericho Unearthed</i> —New DVD Review ◇ Bible Study at CC in Mesa ◇ Door-to-door DVD distribution ◇ Out of Mormonism on Christian Radio KXXT 1010	2
◇ From The Mailbag	3
◇ Amazing Quotes from LDS Church Leaders	4



AMAZING QUOTES from LDS Church Leaders:

“As the policies and procedures of the Church are refined by continuing revelation and inspiration, there are those who become disturbed by any changes. Some literally hunt for situations where earlier Church leaders or members made statements which are not in complete harmony with our understanding and practices today. The mind-set of some is that anything coming from an earlier time must be more correct.”

Merrill Oaks, *The Living Prophet: Our Source of Pure Doctrine*, Nov. 1998 *Ensign*

BIBLICAL RESPONSE:

Mormonism teaches that the writings of the earlier prophets of the Bible, or even the dead prophets within Mormonism have no say over the living prophets within Mormonism; however, the Apostle Paul espouses in the book of Galatians that even if he himself taught something different than the gospel he gave them, then Paul or anyone else should be *condemned and not followed*. “But if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!” (Galatians 1:8).



We thank God every time we think of you, for through you—God has richly provided for our needs. We know that the past year has been very difficult for many. Yet, so many of you responded when we mentioned our need for financial help in the last *CROSS* newsletter. We praise God that he continues to provide so that those lost in Mormonism may be led to a personal relationship with him. “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine ... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”
 (2 Corinthians 9:11)