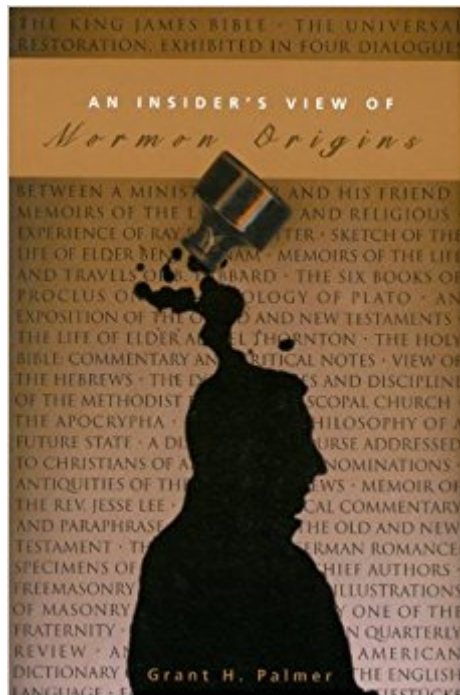


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An Insider's View Of Mormon Origins



Synopsis

Over the past thirty years, an enormous amount of research has been conducted into Mormon origins—Joseph Smith's early life, the Book of Mormon, the prophet's visions, and the restoration of priesthood authority. Longtime LDS educator Grant H. Palmer suggests that most Latter-day Saints remain unaware of the significance of these discoveries, and he gives a brief survey for anyone who has ever wanted to know more about these issues. He finds that much of what we take for granted as literal history has been tailored over the years—slightly modified, added to, one aspect emphasized over another—to the point that the original narratives have been nearly lost. What was experienced as a spiritual or metaphysical event, something from a different dimension, often has been refashioned as if it were a physical, objective occurrence. This is not how the first Saints interpreted these events. Historians who have looked closer at the foundational stories and source documents have restored elements, including a nineteenth-century world view, that have been misunderstood, if not forgotten.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book will be a good addition to your library. -- Association for Mormon Letters, Jeffery Needle

Grant H. Palmer (M.A., American history, Brigham Young University) is a three-time director of LDS Institutes of Religion in California and Utah, a former instructor at the Church College of New Zealand, and an LDS seminary teacher at two Utah locations. He has been active in the Mormon

History Association and on the board of directors of the Salt Lake Legal Defenders Association. He is the author of *An Insider's View of Mormon Origins* and *The Incomparable Jesus*. Now retired, his hobby is pigeon fancying. He has four children and eight grandchildren. He and his wife live in Sandy, Utah.

Excellent and very thorough. Every member of the church should read this book and do their own research on this topic, but this book is a start and a must read for any serious investigator. I highly recommend it!

The author states in the preface that his goal with this book is to increase faith, but it's hard to see exactly where the increase comes into play in regards to the Mormon faith. This book does a pretty good job presenting many of the arguments against the translations of Joseph Smith and leaves the reader questioning if anything that Smith did was actually true. The author presents countless examples of Smith using large portions of the BoM from the bible, King James translation errors and all. He talks about items that Smith faked being able to translate such as the Book of Abraham, the Kinderhook plates, a Greek Psalter. The conclusion seems to want the Mormons to move away from the Joseph Smith stuff and towards more devotion in Jesus Christ alone, perhaps following a more orthodox way towards Jesus is how he wants to increase faith, but the more Mormons do that the more they lose what makes them unique. This is a great book for discussion problems with the authority of the book of Mormon.

Being raised in the mormon church - this was absolutely eye opening. If you're a believing member and don't like to not see historical truths that go against the 'feel good' faith promoting stories in church - then do not read this book. If you're searching for the truth about mormon history, then this is the book for you.

An excellent book on the real history of the I.D.s. Church (not a sanitised version) he holds no punches in telling it as it really happens. There were chapters on subjects that I did not know as a lds church watcher. I can recommend it to a serious member of this cult.

While reading Grant Palmer's book, *An Insider's View of Mormon Origins*, I am more converted than ever before that the "true" religion is the one which brings you closest to God. Whether Joseph Smith either alone or in collusion with others perpetrated a "pious fraud," or whether his central

agenda was to just flat out dupe people for egotistical and/or financial gain, or whether indeed this "new" religion through Joseph Smith's instrumentality is in fact the very same "old" bona fide religion restored to the earth by the true gift and power of God, is not important to me in reference to this book. What is important to me is that after reading this book I am even more at peace with my LDS belief system than I was before. After reading this book I feel much less fettered by the dogmatism of my once hard and fast resolute and stiff beliefs in LDS theology. What is important to me is that my religion be Christ centered and not Joseph Smith centered. If the LDS church is about a religion that has brought me and continues to bring me in communion with my Savior, then I don't have any issues to contend with said church. And when or if this church ceases to fulfill this purpose, then I will look for another one. A past LDS Apostle, Stephen L. Richards said, "...I fear dictatorial dogmatism, rigidity of procedure and intolerance even more than I fear cigarettes, cards, and other devices the adversary may use to nullify faith and kill religion. Fanaticism and bigotry have been the deadly enemies of true religion in the long past. They have made it forbidding, shut it up in cold grey walls of monastery and nunnery, out of sunlight and fragrance of the growing world. They have garbed it in black and then in white, when in truth it is neither black nor white, any more than life is black or white, for religion is life abundant, glowing life, with all its shades, colors and hues, as the children of men reflect in the patterns of their lives the radiance of the Holy Spirit in varying degrees." I am increasingly against fanaticism and bigotry when it comes to truth claims, especially as I have come to realize that truth is a constantly moving target. At the beginning of the book Grant Palmer says, "...my intent is to increase faith, not to diminish it." And at the end of the book he states, "As Latter-day Saints, our religious faith should be based and evaluated by how our spiritual and moral lives are centered in Jesus Christ,...". Does Grant Palmer have issues with his LDS religion's founder, Joseph Smith and his claims? After having read the book, I would conclude that he does. But I don't think Grant Palmer ever threw out the baby with the bath water. He retained his faith in his Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. And if his "intent" was sincerely "to increase faith" it was to be in the province of truth, no matter how much that truth may disturb some people -- the problem lies with them, not with Grant Palmer. It is my hope and prayers that the founding principles of Joseph Smith's credos, i.e., "The glory of God is intelligence," "A man cannot be saved in ignorance," "I teach correct principles and let the people govern themselves," and "Knowledge is what saves a man," will forever be espoused by the LDS membership and top leadership, and that they will not be fearful of that forever "moving target," a target, I might also add, which has a lot to do with the fact that there is far more that we don't know about any history, than what we do or ever will.

Great job Grant. The truth shall set you free. He did a great job without just bashing on Mormonism.
A must read for Mormons

I especially valued his insight into the Golden Pot and a View of the Hebrews. Also pointing out how so much of the Book of Mormon is actually a reflection of events and issues going on in Joseph's day. I am even more now of the mind that Joseph was nothing more than a master remixer, borrowing from other sources as he created Mormonism.

Mr. Palmer has made understanding how Mormonism really works behind the scenes a delightful read.

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