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MORMONISM.

BY
AN EX-MORMON ELDER.

SHOWING
THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF MORMONISM
AND HOW CONVERTS ARE MADE.

MORMON IDOLATRY.
MORMON SLAVERY.

BLOOD ATONEMENT AS PREACHED BY BRIGHAM YOUNG.

THE CHARACTER OF THE ENDOWMENT HOUSE MYSTERIES.

MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE LAWS, &c., &c.

ALSO

COPY OF A LETTER WRITTEN TO JOHN TAYLOR,
(THE MORMON PRESIDENT,)
GIVING HIS REASONS WHY HE WITHDREW FROM THE MORMON CHURCH.

LIVERPOOL :
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR, 39, UPPER PITT STREET.

1885.

Carrington (who is one of the Mormon Apostles) and others surprised and grieved him very much; but still adhering to Mormonism as true, he went to Salt Lake. Very soon after his arrival there, his eyes began to be opened to the true teachings of Mormonism, and in September, 1884, he formally withdrew from the Mormon Church, by sending an open letter to John Taylor, the Mormon President, of which the following is a copy:—

“SALT LAKE CITY,

“September 24th, 1884.

“TO PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR.

“Sir,—Duty imperatively demands that, as I am about to withdraw from the Church over which you preside, I make known to you, and all whom it may concern, the reasons which have compelled me to take this step. When I joined the Mormon Church, a little over five years ago, I believed implicitly, as I do now, that the Bible was the word of God and the rule of faith, and while the ‘Book of Mormon’ and ‘Doctrine and Covenants’ were referred to as additional revelations, that they nowhere contradicted the Bible, but rather established it.

“Before joining the Church, I became acquainted with Elders Wm. Budge, John Nicholson, Francis Cope, and others. Elder Nicholson, whose preaching chiefly attracted me, preached from the *Bible only*, and almost entirely dwelt on what is known as the first principles, claiming that these principles were what had been introduced by our Saviour and preached by His immediate Apostles; but that men had wandered away from them and had fallen into error, darkness, and superstition. He asserted and quoted largely from the Bible to show that the Gospel in its fullness, purity, and power had been

driven from the earth, but that now it had been again restored. I had heard a great many things about the Mormons that were nothing to their credit, consequently the eminent social qualities and gentlemanly conduct of Elder Cope won my admiration and esteem. I was greatly pleased to find him a monogomist; for while I could not deny that many good men in the past had had more wives than one, I never for one moment assented to the idea that there was any virtue in such a proceeding, or that it merited or would receive any reward. I joined your Church on the 20th day of May, 1879, and during the first two years of my membership I faithfully adhered to it, and would have given my life to defend it. During all this time I never heard of *Adam being God*, never heard of *blood atonement*, never heard of polygamy being *required* of all men before they could attain to the highest glory, never dreamed that Brigham Young or any one else coolly threw the Bible overboard and preached whatever he pleased, and I was bound to receive as the revelations of God. The first thing which caused me to have any doubt was the conduct of Apostle Albert Carrington, who succeeded Wm. Budge as President of the European Mission. Wm. Budge always appeared to me in the light of a most kind, gentlemanly, and truly Christian man. It was not unnatural that I should look for all this in a man who claimed to be a successor of the Twelve Apostles of Christ, and whose speeches and writings were to be received as Scripture.

“Judge of my horror and amazement when I found that he continually used language which I had only heard from the lips of the lowest blackguard, and that his conduct generally was something disgraceful. I saw him myself, in the presence of several hundred witnesses, on board a tugboat in Liverpool, conduct himself so disgracefully with a young girl, then a servant in the Mission-house, that every Elder present held his

head down with shame. I was so disgusted that I almost left the Church then and there. Several of the Elders came to me and assured me that such conduct would not be overlooked, but would be promptly and severely dealt with by the authorities of the Church. I believed this, and shortly afterwards left Liverpool to make my way to Utah, in obedience to the command to gather. I left behind me a dear old mother, friends, associates, companions, country, everything, and with my family came to Salt Lake.

“God, who alone judges the hearts of men, knows the sincerity and purity of my intentions. I imagined that I had come to the Kingdom of God to help to build it up. What did I find? I found that God—the God of the Bible—is not even worshiped by the Church over which you preside. The God you worship is Adam. Brigham Young teaches. I quote his words:—‘*When our father Adam came into the Garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives, with him. He is our father, and our God, and the ONLY GOD with whom we have to do.*’ At first I could not bring myself to believe that this doctrine was accepted by the Church; but on careful inquiry, I found, to my horror and astonishment, that it was really so. It is true a great many know nothing about it and are simply in ignorance. Those who do know accept it as far more to be relied on than any portion of the Bible, for, say they, the Bible has been translated and copied over and over again, and it may be wrong, but this is the direct teaching of a great prophet. I reject it as abominable and horrible idolatry, and give it as one reason why I cannot remain in your Church.

“Then there is the doctrine of blood atonement (*slaying men and women to atone for their sins*), which to me is simply a doctrine of murder. Brigham Young says:—‘*I could refer you to plenty of instances where men have been righteously slain*

in order to atone for their sins. Again, he says:—‘*I have seen scores and hundreds of people for whom there would have been a chance if their lives had been taken and their blood spilt upon the ground, as a smoking incense to the Almighty.*’ I know of nothing so horrible as this in all the idolatries which have cursed the human race, and it would of itself be a reason more than sufficient for my withdrawal from your Church.

“But there are many more, far too many to mention in this letter; but I will refer to a few.

“As I have shown, Adam is made God, but you do not give him much power, or rather, leave him much, for you do teach that he has given you the power you wield. That, however, matters little: you hold it, and he has parted with it. You teach that if a faithful son of Adam is called behind the veil (dies) and has no priesthood, God (Adam) cannot give him any. He must wait until he gets it from the Earth, where you have all the power. If he has no wife or wives (and you teach that he must have at least three, or he cannot have the highest glory) God (Adam) is utterly unable to help him. You have the keys (power) and he must wait your leisure and pleasure. In fact, you teach that you have the power to make a God ‘who shall pass by the angels and the Gods,’ whereas God can only make an angel (servant), and hardly that, without your permission.

“This, to me, is mockery and silly superstition, and I unhesitatingly reject it. I know numbers of your Church whose sincerity I do not doubt, and who are very good people. But, generally speaking, I never saw so much hypocrisy in my life as I have seen since I came to Salt Lake City. You profess to have a direct revelation from God, commanding you to do no work on Sunday, but you and the people generally are steeped in Sabbath-breaking. Shortly after I arrived in the

city I found the theatre open on Sunday, and a number of members of the Church rehearsing plays which they were going to perform at Conference for money. I found that here, and in other parts of the territory, rehearsals are commonly held in the preaching houses of the Church on Sunday. I found that painters have been sent for by yourself and other leading members of the Church to do work on Sunday; and that the business office of the Church is frequently open all day, and your clerks diligently at work. You profess to abhor drinking, smoking, and swearing. One of the heaviest smokers in the city is John Smith, the patriarch of the whole Church. Members of the Church, in full membership, keep saloons; and the Church organ, the *Deseret News*, opens its columns for the advertisements of the lowest dens in the city; and, so far as bad language is concerned, I say deliberately, I have heard more in Salt Lake City in one year than I heard from all the members of the other churches with whom I have been acquainted in the whole course of my life.

“Joseph F. Smith, during last conference, told the priesthood meeting that to obey the *higher law* they must have at least three living wives at one and the same time, and that anything to the contrary was a “*dammèd lie*.” You yourself, in the Ogden Tabernacle, speaking of what the Gentiles were trying to do, said “Who the *devil cares*.” Surely you do not think I can believe such language from the Holy Spirit of God.

“I now request you to erase my name from your books, and only add in conclusion, that I have no quarrel, no dispute, no misunderstanding with any member of your Church. I leave it from conviction and at the call of duty, well persuaded that I can meet you or any member of the Church over which you preside at the bar of God, and look you in the face before Him as an honest man.

“Yours respectfully,

“SCOTT ANDERSON,”