

Book Review - A Voice of Warning

Here are some highlights. Comments and questions will be posed occasionally.

Preface

- at war with every creed and craft in Christendom. A storm of persecution, unparalleled in the history of our country. Opinion and guess work in the things of God are worse than useless.

6 - mankind have supposed that direct inspiration by the Holy Ghost was not intended for all ages of the Church.

7 - they started giving private interpretations to the written word, instead of believing the things written [Joseph Smith even started to rewrite parts of the Bible].

10 - the reader should be careful to ascertain what portion has been fulfilled, and what remains to be fulfilled.

15 - a picture of the glory of Babylon.

17 - the division of Rome into eastern and western empires. Various kingdoms of modern Europe, represented by the feet and toes. The reign of these kings, represented by the feet and toes. The kingdom of God set up in the days of Christ or his apostles did not break in pieces any of the kingdoms of the world.

26 - Alexander the Great was the great horn. His kingdom was divided among four of his generals.

30 - during all this time the Gentiles have possessed the land of Canaan. Until the times of the Gentiles should be fulfilled.

31 - preach for hire and divine for money [this is a reference to Catholic and Protestant ministers according to the LDS].

32 - vision of a fallen people; an apostate church full of all manner of abominations. The supernatural gifts of God are always in the Church of Christ.

33 - the power that characterized the ancient church has fled among men [if you read the Book of Acts, they miraculous signs and wonders do not exist in the LDS Church].

- 36 - the Jews are called dispersed. The Ten Tribes are called outcasts. The Ten Tribes have not dwelt in the land of Canaan since they were led captive by Assyria [but the Book of Mormon says that Lehi was a descendant of Manasseh, and he was living in Jerusalem with his family about 600 years before Jesus came and before the Babylonian captivity. The Book of Mormon also teaches that Lehi's daughters married the sons of Ishmael, whom Joseph Smith said was of the tribe of Ephraim. So it is inaccurate to say that none of the Ten Tribes dwelt in the land of Canaan since the Assyrian captivity].
- 38 - the God of heaven is to call men by actual revelation, direct from heaven, and to tell them who Israel is; who the Indians of America are, if they should be of Israel, and also where the Ten Tribes are.
- 39 - the whole train of modern divines professes no revelation later than the Bible, and no direct inspiration or supernatural gift of the Spirit. I [Mr. Pratt] cast them all off and say they have no authority.
- 41 - only revelation can say if aborigines [Indians] of America are the seed of Jacob or not.
- 45 - future destruction to come by fire; it will consume both priests and people from the earth. There is a need for a new covenant, or order to save those that are not to be burned [there are 2 new covenants apparently]. Israel is to be gathered from all nations to the land God gave to their fathers [but the LDS believe America is for the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh].
- 47 - in the thirty-seventh chapter [of Ezekiel], after the vision of the dead, the prophet foretells that the two nations will become one nation upon the mountains of Israel [Mormons use the same chapter 37 to support their teaching that the Book of Mormon is the stick of Joseph and the Bible is the stick of Judah].
- 48 - the battle of Gog will transpire after the return of the Jews.
- 51 - nations will gather against Jerusalem to battle. Armies will encompass the city for three and a half years [not sure how Mr. Pratt figures this out]. Two Jewish prophets will be slain and then rise from the dead [Mr. Pratt accidentally mixes Revelation 11 with Ezekiel 38]. The earth will be delivered from the curse which came by reason of the fall.

52 - Jerusalem comes down from heaven, having been renewed [this seems to give you the impression that it is not built by God but rather is a renewed version of the older one]. Man is destined forever to inherit the same planet upon which he was first created [in LDS theology, the earth will be celestialized and made the abode for celestial beings. Telestials and terrestrials will need to be relocated to some other planet].

53 - the Holy City will be adorned with trees of never fading beauty [Revelation 22:1-2 says, "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations". I am not sure where Mr. Pratt sees the trees].

The wicked will be destroyed from the earth. All but a few shall be burned. The burning more especially applies to the fallen church.

54 - talk of apple tree ... know that summer is nigh at hand [not sure why he does not mention the fig tree instead].

55 - there are individuals in every sect ... who will be gathered out and planted in the new and everlasting covenant.

57 - hear the words of the God who made you. There is a reference to Jesus' words of a hen gathering her chicks [not sure why Jesus is mentioned here because he did not make the spirit children].

58 - after World War II, the League of Nations gave Great Britain a mandate over the Holy Land with a provision that it should be developed as a "Jewish National Home" [the lands of the Book of Mormon are never referred to as "holy" land].

60-61 - the kingdom of God is understood as being His organized government on Earth.

61 - a kingdom needs a) a king, b) commissioned and qualified officers, c) a code of laws and d) subjects [people] who are governed.

62 - after the Twelve Apostles, Jesus sent seventy elders, and another seventy with the same news [sounds like a typo. I don't recall two groups of 70 being sent].

64 - you become a citizen in the kingdom of God through laws of adoption.

- 65 - miraculous signs would follow them that believe [these miracles are not found in the LDS Church's Doctrine and Covenants].
- 66 - the Holy Ghost enables people to speak in other tongues [Latter-day Saints believe, for example, that the Holy Ghost helps people to speak French even though they go to special training courses to learn French or whether they learn outside of school for many months. The LDS Church also believes the devil can speak in tongues]. Knowing things to come constitutes a man a prophet.
- 67 - there are no natural born subjects [citizens] of the kingdom of God, except infants [in LDS theology, children born to parents sealed in a temple are automatically citizens]. When they arrive to the years of accountability, they lose their citizenship in the kingdom unless they are born of water and the Spirit.
- 68 - no one can become a citizen without the law of adoption. Those who unlawfully claim to be citizens are thieves and robbers [in LDS theology, all believers in Jesus outside of the LDS Church are considered thieves and robbers]. Peter, James and John were given the keys of the kingdom [the LDS believe this occurred on the Mount of Transfiguration].
- 70 - after baptism the Holy Ghost would fall upon them, and they would begin to see visions, speak in other tongues, and prophesy [I have never seen a newly baptized Mormon experience this. This did not even happen to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery when they baptized each other]. People grew into an holy temple in the Lord. Preaching, baptism, then Holy Ghost coming with no apparent delay [this is different from the example given of Philip in Samaria on page 71].
- 72 - no mention of the Holy Ghost visiting the Ethiopian eunuch.
- 73 - adopted into the church, thus becoming sons and daughters. Obeying the laws of adoption would not make a man a citizen of the kingdom if the ordinances were done by an unauthorized person [the LDS believe all ordinances done outside of their church are invalid because they are unauthorized].
- 74 - non-authorized persons are punished according to the law of practicing imposition and usurping authority.
- 76 - blessings of citizens of the kingdom include casting out devils, speaking with new languages, and healing the sick [I have met several missionaries in my time. They are supposedly citizens of the kingdom but they cannot cast out devils, speak in new languages, or heal the sick].

78 - the church today ... Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers [the LDS Church has invented new offices today - Seventies, High Priests, and Quorums. They have new names for Evangelists and Pastors].

80 - grow into an holy temple in the Lord.

81-82 - the long expected day when an angel flying through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth [in LDS theology, this is a reference to Revelation 14:6 and it is Moroni. But Moroni did not preach the gospel to "them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people"].

84 - the Lord confounded the languages of Babel and led forth a colony from thence to the western continent which is now called America [in the Book of Mormon, the language of this colony was not confounded]. This colony came in eight vessels. They inhabited America for some 1500 years. They were at length destroyed for their wickedness about 600 years before Christ [the Book of Mormon records that there was only one survivor of all the Jaredites]. A colony of Israelites came from Jerusalem and re-peopled America [it is unclear whether Mormons refer to all of North, Central, and South America or whether they narrow it down to a smaller land mass as we'll soon see].

The last colony were descendants of the tribe of Joseph [Lehi and his sons were of the tribe of Manasseh whereas it was taught by Joseph Smith taught they married the daughters of Ishmael, a descendant of Ephraim. There was apparently another colony that came from Jerusalem (the Mulekites)]. The Lamanites became a dark and benighted people, of whom the American Indians are still a remnant.

85 - the Nephite destruction took place about 420 AD. The Hill Cumorah is in New York State. The Lamanites sought to destroy the plates.

89 - works of darkness cannot bring happiness. The Ten Tribes of Israel will be revealed in the north country [north of what? North of America or north of Israel?].

90 - the records were engraved on plates, which had the appearance of gold [were they really gold or did they appear to be gold?]. Contained Reformed Egyptian characters.

91 - Urim and Thummim. People heard that Mr. Smith had discovered sacred records.

- 93 - Dr. Mitchell also sanctioned what Professor Anton had said (Times and Seasons, volume 3, p. 773). Origin of the Indian tribes. Had Mr. Smith been ploughing his farm and found the records, it would have been hailed as one of the greatest discoveries of modern time [if someone found ancient records in Spain and said an alien from outer space showed him the plates, I'm pretty sure scientists would still be interested in examining them].
- 94 - America is a promised land to the seed of Joseph.
- 95 - Jacob conferred on Joseph a much greater land than that of Canaan [this is not correct]. Joseph's blessing was to extend to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. This is somewhere in the central part of America [is this Central America, or the central part of the United States, or the central part of Mexico? Latter-day Saints are purposely vague in defining what the America land-mass is?].
- 96 - the land inheritance was to be on the west of Egypt or Jerusalem [no mention of a north, south, east or west direction is mentioned so it is unclear how the direction of west is chosen]. Almost boundless country secluded from the rest of the world [was it a country, region, or entire continent that was secluded from the rest of the world?]. God revealed himself to the seed of Joseph, or Ephraim, dwelling in America [when I read the Book of Mormon, I did not find any prophets from the line of Ephraim].
- 97 - stick of Ephraim.
- 98 - the Indians of America are of Israel. They are now to a great extent "among the Gentiles", especially in Mexico, Central and South America [I wonder why no mention is made of the United States and Canada]. The Book of Mormon reveals the origin of the American Indians.
- 98-99 - the witnesses handled the plates and were visited by an angel of God. The glory of God shone round them and the voice of God spoke from heaven saying these things were true [I read the testimonies of the 3 and of the 8 witnesses and neither say that the glory of God shone round them].
- 99 - the angel of the Lord came down from heaven again and commissioned men to preach the gospel to every creature [in the New Testament, Jesus commissioned his disciples to preach the gospel to every creature. An angel was not required]. The Holy Ghost fell on them [the Latter-day Saints] and some began to speak in other tongues [this is not mentioned in Doctrine and Covenants]. A person gains his testimony by the signs of healing and speaking his tongues [I have heard the testimony of Mormon missionaries but they never mention any sign of healing, speaking in tongues, or casting our demons].
- 100 - the harvest is over, the summer is ended, and his soul is not saved.

101 - God has sent us [the Mormons] with the truth to prune his vineyard for the last time with a mighty pruning [but Joseph Smith came with a lie that God was once a man who became the Heavenly Father of planet Earth].

106 - if a few characters in Hebrew have been found in the earth in America, written on parchment, then it is just as easy to admit that a whole volume has been found in the earth in America, written on plates, in "Reformed Egyptian" characters [it seems Mr. Pratt got the order right. But let's stay on his illogical thought for a second. It would be like saying that if we found a wooden wheel from a wagon in America, then it is just as easy to admit that a whole spaceship made from metal had been discovered in America too but then an angel took it back to heaven. And this is exactly what Mormons say happened to the gold plates].

Some stumps of trees have been found 80 or 90 feet under ground at Cincinnati. This and other similar discoveries in many other parts of North and South America, such as buried cities, prove there has been a mighty convulsion and revolution not only of nations but of nature. This can be explained by the great destruction before Christ's coming that the Book of Mormon mentions [see 1 Nephi 19:10, 3 Nephi 8:3, 3 Nephi 8:8-16, and 3 Nephi 9:19-23. But this does not prove that archaeology has been the Book of Mormon cities. Don't forget. The Book of Mormon mentions houses of cement (Helaman 3:7-11), smelters for iron and other metals (Ether 10:23, 2 Nephi 5:15), many highways (Helaman 14:24, 3 Nephi 6:8), and shipbuilding (Helaman 3:14). The Nephites and Lamanites were supposedly a very industrialized people and none of the large metallic or cement objects have been found ... but wait ... they found some Hebrew characters on some parchment. Do you see how the Book of Mormon falls?].

117 - at creation there was one ocean and one land. There was no snow or chains of ice. There were no swamps, deserts or vast mountains.

118 - Adam and Eve conversed with God face to face.

119 - Earth was teeming with harmless animals rejoicing all over the plain. The delightful birds were singing. Legions of angels encamped about Adam and joined their glad voices in grateful songs of praise and shouts of joy. Life, joy and love reigned over all His work [this is a humorous picture that Mr. Pratt depicts. In all this singing, joy, and shouts of praises on earth, we find the Mormon version of Adam and Eve with no joy; because they knew no misery. In LDS theology, all earth's creation had joy except for Adam and Eve].

Adam was banished from the presence of his Creator and a veil was drawn between them. He was banished from the Garden of Eden to till the earth [but Adam was put into the garden to "to dress it and to keep it" even before the Fall].

119-120 - Eve's curse was a great multiplicity of sorrow and conception [the LDS book called Gospel Principle calls conception a blessing and not a curse].

120 - The serpent crept away, fearing his head should get the deadly bruise [this is not true]. Man was in fear lest the serpent's fangs should pierce his heel [this is not true. Besides, a snake does not bite your heel]. The lamb yielded his blood on a smoking altar [Jesus shed his blood on the cross].

It repented Noah that God had made man [this is from the Pearl of Great Price. But the Bible says that it had repented God that he had made man]. After the flood, in the days of Peleg, the earth was divided.

121 - priestcraft and false doctrines have greatly tended to lull mankind to sleep.

122 - before the Fall, Adam was a favourite of heaven. The Maker delighted to converse with him [in LDS theology, this delight was one-way because Adam and Eve had no joy before the Fall]. Angels and the spirits of just men made perfect were his companions [I could not find any mention in the scriptures about these Garden of Eden companions]. All things are to be restored to their primitive beauty and excellence [but this would mean that the future state will be like the LDS version of the former primitive beauty and excellence; which was marked by no joy and no procreation. Remember ... their version of Adam and Eve did not have these in the Garden of Eden].

125 - the earth will be restored to the same glorious state; mountains levelled. All continents and islands will be brought together. The wicked will be swept from the earth [but in LDS theology, the glorious state of Adam and Eve involved them being naked and unable to procreate].

126 - animals and humans will feed on vegetable food only. Right after mentioning the future time of humans becoming vegetarian, the quote of Isaiah 65:21-24 (about drinking wine) is given [the Word of Wisdom prevents drinking wine now]. State of happy existence existence. Conversion from mortality to immortality and reign with Jesus on the earth. Restore earth and its inhabitants to that state of perfection in which they first existed [but in LDS theology, Adam and Eve were not in a state of happy existence because they had no joy before the Fall. They were also unable to procreate. This does not sound like perfection].

127 - the same wounds in Christ's body continued to show themselves for a witness, and will continue until he comes again [it is odd that in all the claimed visions of Jesus by the early Latter-day Saints, none of them mention ever witnessing these wounds in his hands, feet, or side].

128 - our resurrected bodies will be clothed with a white robe of fine linen, suitable for immortality to wear.

129-130 - Ezekiel 37:3-4 is all the seed of Israel being resurrected and brought into the land of Israel [some believe this is a reference to the general resurrection of all people].

130 - Abraham looked for a city whose maker and builder is God.

131 - Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Jesus will administer bread and wine to the whole multitude. All of them are clothed in clean, white, fine linen. The Holy City. Twelve gates. Last chapter of Ezekiel.

132 - there will also be a city called Zion (Isaiah 54:11-17).

134 - the city is to be built in the last days.

134-135 - the time to build Zion before the second coming of Christ is referenced in Psalm 102:13-32.

135 - when the city is built, the Lord will appear in his glory. If the city is never built, then the Lord will never come. The Book of Ether speaks of this New Jerusalem [it will be a harsh blow to the Mormon faith when Jesus returns before they ever start to build their city in Missouri. I suspect the LDS First Presidency is very afraid that they have yet to announce the start of this city, as it could lead to a false prophecy - also dealing a harsh blow. They seem to be caught between a rock and a hard place].

136 - Ether 6:1 teaches America is a chosen land above every other land [the word America is not found in Ether]. A new Jerusalem will be built in America, to the remnant of Joseph, like unto, or after a pattern similar to the old Jerusalem in the land of Canaan; and the old Jerusalem will be rebuilt at the same time [this is a little confusing. Does the current Jerusalem get destroyed in the future and then the LDS First Presidency will then announce the start of building of both cities? Where does Mr. Pratt get the idea that the building happens at the same time?

137 - these two cities and their inhabitants will be caught up to heaven. Then they will be changed and made new and they will descend upon the new earth [in LDS theology, this would make three cities caught up to heaven. The first was the city of Enoch. Don't forget about the New Jerusalem that is built by God. That adds up to four cities].

The remnant of Joseph and those gathered among them will inherit the New Jerusalem. And the remainder of all the tribes of Israel gathered from the north countries will inherit the other [the reference for this is found in Ether 13:10-11].

138 - Zion and Jerusalem will be built up in the last days and they will continue during the Millennium. John has given a description of them as they will be after their final change, when they will come down from God out of heaven and rest upon the new earth [this is a false teaching. Revelation 21;22:1-7 mentions only one city. Also, it does not mention a renewed old Jerusalem or the City of Enoch. Only New Jerusalem is mentioned - the city built by God].

Ether has given us a sketch of them. The New Jerusalem in America (which is inhabited by the remnant of Joseph and those gathered with him), and the old Jerusalem (which is inhabited by the house of Israel, gathered from the north countries). The gathering is clearly predicted in the Book of Mormon to be at the place before appointed [this idea of gathering was prevalent in the early LDS Church. But now she teaches that all lands are to be places of gathering. We'll see if this changes if the LDS President ever decides to commence building their city in Missouri. The bad news is that a competing sect already has their own temple there].

139 - awful destruction awaits the Gentiles except they repent.

140 - reference to Indian mournful chant, red men, white men, scattered remnant, and Great Spirit.

141 - the land of Canaan was given to Israel, Arabia to Ishmael, and America to the remnant of Joseph [that is how Latter-day Saints interpret one passage in the Bible].

142 - gospel written by Nephi, Mormon, Moroni or Alma are on par with the gospels written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Those who reject 'no light' are under no condemnation. The mercy of God hath claim upon them. Men had direct revelation, for Adam, Cain, and Abel talked with the Lord.

145 - the spirit of God wrought upon Columbus, and by it he discovered America (1 Nephi 13) [this is also referenced in the October 1992 edition of Ensign, "Columbus and the Hand of God". Verses 12 and 15 in Nephi's passage says, And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land ... And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles, and they did prosper and obtain the land for their inheritance; and I beheld that they were white, and exceedingly fair and beautiful, like unto my people before they were slain".

I can understand the Nephites were white because the Mormon god had put a curse of dark skin on the Lamanites, but I'm pretty sure Columbus and the Gentiles which came on his ship were not white].

146 - people are saved or condemned according as they receive or reject the testimony of messengers.

THE END