

Book Review - Lectures on Faith

Covenant Communications, 2000).

"According to the back cover, they were deemed of such doctrinal worth that they were published in the Latter-day Saint scripture from 1835 - 1921 as the forepart of the Doctrine and Covenants, In fact, these lectures were considered the 'doctrine' while the revelations made up the 'covenants' of that inspired book".

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

Lecture 1

- 2 - are you not dependent on your faith, or belief, for the acquisition of all knowledge, wisdom, and intelligence?
- 3-4 - the mountain Zerin was removed when the brother of Jared spoke in the name of the Lord (see Ether 12:30 - "For the brother of Jared said unto the mountain Zerin, Remove—and it was removed. And if he had not had faith it would not have moved; wherefore thou workest after men have faith") [the Book of Mormon does not explain the circumstances under which this mountain was supposedly moved]. Without faith there is no power. Without power there could be no creation nor existence.
- 5 - faith is defined.
- 7 - faith is the first great governing principle which has power, dominion, and authority over all things.

Lecture 2

- 9 - God is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient, without beginning of days [but Joseph Smith taught Heavenly Father was once a man who became a God]. He is the Father of lights. The works of creation clearly exhibit his eternal Godhead [the Mormon Heavenly Father was not part of a Godhead before he is said to have progressed into a God].
- 11 - at first creation, man enjoyed communion and intercourse with his Maker, without a veil to separate them [Mormons teach that Adam and Eve did not have either misery or joy before the Fall. But you cannot enjoy something or someone without experiencing joy].

12 - though Adam and Eve were cast out from the Garden of Eden, his knowledge of the existence of God was not lost, neither did God cease to manifest his will unto him [but former LDS President David O. McKay taught Adam and Eve lost their memory of their glorious existence in the Garden of Eden after they were expelled].

13 - Adam was commanded to offer the firstlings of his flocks for an offering [the Book of Mormon says in Mosiah 2:3, "And they also took of the firstlings of their flocks, that they might offer sacrifice and burnt offerings according to the law of Moses". There are various types of sacrifices in the Old Testament (burnt, peace, sin, guilt, food and drink) but firstlings were not offered as burnt offerings (Exodus 13:12-15; Numbers 18:17; Deuteronomy 14:23; 15:19-20)].

Satan knew this [God's reaction to Cain's offering] and it pleased him [the Pearl of Great Price, in Moses 5, says "And Cain loved Satan more than God. And Satan commanded him, saying: Make an offering unto the Lord. And in process of time it came to pass that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock, and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel, and to his offering; But unto Cain, and to his offering, he had not respect. Now Satan knew this, and it pleased him. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell". I wonder why the Mormon version of Cain loved Satan more than God?].

14 - Cain would be a fugitive and a vagabond. Satan tempted Cain because of Abel's flocks [but Moses 5:17 says, "Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground" [how did Satan tempt Cain because of Abel's flocks but then tell him to offer a sacrifice of the fruit of the ground? I could find no scripture reference which shows Satan tempted Cain because of Abel's flocks].

Cain was afraid of being slain. The Lord set a mark upon Cain lest any finding him should kill him [did Cain's sons and daughters also get a mark placed upon them by God so they would not be killed too?].

15 - Cain was driven out from the presence of his brethren [in LDS theology, Cain had other brothers and sisters when he killed Abel].

16 - Adam testified unto his descendants of God and his Godhead [the Book of Mormon and Doctrine & Covenants does not mention Adam having this knowledge of Jesus and the Holy Spirit].

17 - Adam died in the 930th year of the world. Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Methuselah, Lamech, and Noah all lived on the earth at the same time. The flood came in the 1656th year (28 too. This is when Methuselah died).

21 - God is omnipotent, without beginning of days [but Joseph Smith taught God is exalted man so he had a beginning of days].

29 - six men lived in the days of Noah (Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Methuselah, Lamech).

Lecture 3

41 - from everlasting to everlasting, you are God [Joseph Smith's God is an exalted man].

41-42 - God is the same, from everlasting to everlasting, the same yesterday, today, and forever [Joseph Smith's God was a man who became a God].

44 - the Latter-day Saints are given the same character of God as former saints [this is not true. Joseph Smith taught God was once a man who became a God and Latter-day Saints teach this God is married to at least one wife. This false teaching was not propagated by the earlier saints].

One must have the correct idea of his character, perfections, and attributes.

45 - one's faith is imperfect and unproductive without these correct beliefs [that is why the Mormon faith is imperfect because they believe and worship a man who they believe became a God. The blame for this falls solely on their prophet Joseph Smith]. God's course is one eternal round.

48 - the character which God has given of himself is uniform in revelations given to the Latter-day Saints and former Saints [this is not true. Joseph Smith taught God was once a man who became a God and Latter-day Saints teach this God is married to at least one wife. These two false teachings are not revelations of God but rather originated with Satan to deceive people. Another popular deception of his is the idea that men and women can become gods and goddesses themselves through a process of exaltation].

Lecture 4

49 - the correct idea of God's nature is necessary to exercise faith in Him and in salvation [Joseph Smith taught the wrong idea of God's nature. He taught Heavenly Father was a man who became God].

51 - God is without iniquity [some Mormons believe it was possible that Heavenly Father sinned when he was a man].

54-55 - the attributes of God are unchangeable. God's attributes and character remain the same [this cannot be said of the Mormon Heavenly Father because he is taught to have been a man who became God].

55 - there are six attributes of God.

Lecture 5

57 - the Father is a personage of spirit. Jesus is a personage of tabernacle, made or fashioned like unto man [but Latter-day Saints teach that Heavenly Mother and Father are personages of flesh and bones, patterned after man and woman]. Jesus showed that it is in the power of man to keep the law and remain also without sin [this is a false teaching. Jesus is the only man to keep the law and remain without sin. Other people cannot do it because they have a sinful, fallen nature].

58 - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit constitute the Godhead. They are one. The Son partakes of the fulness of the Father through the Spirit [I saw no mention of the Holy Spirit being a personage of anything]. The mind of the Father is the Holy Spirit.

59 - there are two personages in the Godhead [this is a false teaching. There are three personages in the Godhead]. The Father is a personage of glory and power.

60 - Jesus is a personage of tabernacle [again no mention of the Holy Spirit being a personage of anything].

62 - Jesus is called the Son because of the flesh [why was Jesus called the Son before he came to earth?].

63 - the mind of the Father and the Son is the Holy Spirit. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit constitute the Godhead [but an earlier teaching says there are only two personages in the Godhead].

Lecture 6

66 - eternal rest is to be a partaker of the glory of God. Do the will of God and partake of God's glory [many Mormons will fail to enter eternal rest because they will have failed to reach God's kingdom and glory].

66-67 - the sacrifice of all things is required for eternal life.

67 - with sacrifice of all things one can obtain the faith necessary to lay hold on eternal life [but a young child can lay hold on eternal life with only simple faith in the atoning work of Jesus Christ].

68 - the student is instructed to commit this lecture to memory.

Lecture 7

69 - when a man works by faith, he works by mental exertion instead of physical force. It is by words.

70 - angels move from place to place by virtue of this power (faith - works by words).

71 - when faith is perfected, they are like him; and because he is saved, they are saved also [Joseph Smith taught Heavenly Father was once a man who became a God. He needed salvation too].

72 - Jesus is a saved being. This is because he is a just and holy being. If he were anything different, he would not be saved [an LDS Church manual teaches Jesus reached a pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God. As explained earlier, the Mormon Heavenly Father was not always a just and holy being because he went through his exaltation process with his wife. In this sense, there was time when both the Mormon Heavenly Mother and Father were not saved].

Salvation consists in glory, power, majesty, authority, and dominion [in this sense, the Mormon Heavenly Mother and Father did not possess salvation before they became Gods].

75 - the glory which the Father and Son have is because they are just and holy beings. If they were lacking in one attribute or perfection which they have, the glory which they have never could be enjoyed by them [at one time, the Mormon Heavenly Mother and Father lacked key attributes so they could not enjoy the glory of exalted beings].

Father gave glory to Jesus. Jesus was like the Father, the great prototype of all saved beings [Mormons do not explain who atoned for the sins of their Heavenly Mother and Father]. To be assimilated into their likeness is to be saved; and to be unlike them is to be destroyed; and on this hinge turns the door of salvation [in this sense many Mormons will not experience salvation].

77 - knowledge implies more than faith. All things that pertain to life and godliness are given through knowledge of God and Jesus Christ. All things which pertain to life and godliness are the effects of faith [unfortunately, people have faith in a false god; for Joseph Smith taught Heavenly Father was once a man who became a God. People who follow Joseph Smith have an incorrect faith of the true God].

The End.