**Mormonism: From God or Man? (4)**

*by Robert H. West*

**It Is From Man If Its Purposes Have Failed**

The Mormons make many wondrous claims as to the exalted purposes of their religious system. We wish to consider two of those purposes in this treatise. Since it is contended that these purposes are divine, if we find that they have failed, this should be ample proof that the Mormon system is not of God, as His purpose never fail.

**MORMONISM WAS TO "WIND UP THE SCENE" BY 1891!**

In Doctrine and Covenants 130:14-16, Joseph Smith wrote the following:

"I was once praying very earnestly to know the time of the coming of the Son of Man, when I heard a voice repeat the following: Joseph, my son, if thou livest until thou art eighty five years old, thou shalt see the face of the Son of Man; therefore let this suffice, and trouble me no more on this matter. I was left thus, without being able to decide whether this coming referred to the beginning of the millennium or to some previous appearing, or whether I should die and thus see his face."

Since Joseph Smith was born in 1805, had he lived to be 85, that would make the, time when Smith was to "see the face of the Son of Man" in the last days of 1890 or sometime in 1891. While there seems to be some doubt in Joseph's mind, at this time, as to what would take place in 1891, a subsequent statement of his, made in February, 1835, clarifies the matter:

. . . and it was the will of God that those who went to Zion, with a determination to lay down their lives, if necessary, should be ordained to the ministry, and go forth to prune the vineyard for the last time, or the coming of the Lord, which was nigh-even fifty-six years should wind up the scene" (History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, edited by B. H. Roberts, Volume IJ, p. 182).

Since the latter statement was made in 1835, fifty-six years from then would have been 1891! But that uneventful year has come and gone, the "scene" has certainly not been "wound up," and Jesus has not come again! Mormon missionaries are still going forth "to prune the vineyard," but this purpose was to be accomplished "for the last time" prior to 1891. Here is a purpose as well as a prophecy of Mormonism which has failed so obviously (See Deuteronomy 18:20-22)!

**MORMONISM WAS TO RESTORE LOST PORTIONS OF THE GOSPEL**

Remember, in 1 Nephi 13:26-28, the Book of Mormon asserts that "many plain and precious parts" of the Bible would be removed. In this same chapter, speaking the Book of Mormon, one of the purposes of that bood is stated in these words:

"And the angel spake unto me, saying: These last records, which thou hast seen among the Gentiles, shall establish the truth of the first, which are of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them . . ." (v. 40).

As we have already shown in a previous section, God gave the promise that His word could not be destroyed, but rather that it would "abide forever" (1 Pet. 1:23-25). Thus, the Mormon purpose stated above is faulty in its beginning, as there is no need to restore that which was to remain, according to God's promise, uncorrupted through the years.

Furthermore, has the Book of Mormon "made known" the plain and precious things which have be taken away from the gospel? Absolutely not! Even Mormon authorities must admit this in their inability to produce these "plain and precious things" removed (against God's promise) from the Bible. Mormon missionaries talk much about the so-called "lost books of the Bible." Yet, where are these books? Certainly not in the Book of Mormon, by the admission of Mormons themselves! If, therefore, neither the "lost books" nor the lost "plain and precious parts of the gospel" has been restored in the Mormon system, obviously another of its self-assigned purposes has failed, thereby proving that the system is from man, not God.

**Mormonism – From God Or Man?**

In this brief examination we have produced evidence that the Bible is complete and uncorrupted and thus a sufficient religious guide for mankind.

1. We have shown that whereas truth cannot contradict truth, the Mormon writings plainly contradict the Bible, a known and recognized source of truth.

2. We have further shown that there are gross contradictions in the Mormon writings themselves.

3. Then we examined two of the purposes of Mormonism as stated in authoritative Mormon literature and found that they have failed.

Mormonism is clearly from man - not from God. The evidence presented here is but a small portion of that which is available which leads irresistibly to the same conclusion.