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Nibley Lecture Series Presentations Available Online

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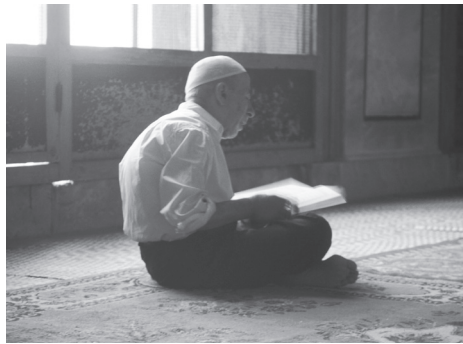
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deliberate misrepresentation by Jesus's followers. According to Abd al-Jabbar, these followers (Peter



Reading the Qur'an in a mosque in Syria.

and Paul, among others) were responsible for the corruption of the pure Islamic message of Jesus, as well as for characterizing him as the Son of God who had died for the sins of the world and been resurrected. These were claims, argues Abd al-Jabbar, that Jesus himself as a true prophet of Islam never would have made and deeds that he did not perform. He was a great prophet, but not divine, not an atoning savior of the world. So says Abd al-Jabbar, and so he endeavors to convince his reader, marshaling evidence—or what he claims to be evidence—from a variety of sources, including the Bible, religious rituals, and Christian miracle accounts. By any fair account, Abd al-Jabbar's historical attack on Christianity is far from compelling, undermined as it is by his own misuse of source material and outright misrepresentation of New Testament teachings. The degree to which his argument and his use of his sources is (un)per-

suasive may perhaps best be measured by the fact that it is being introduced to a modern audience by devout Christians who obviously do not feel threatened by its content. Gabriel Said Reynolds, at the University of Notre Dame, has expertly rendered this work into English with many helpful scholarly aids, while the Arabic text itself has been carefully edited and prepared for publication by Father Samir Khalil Samir at the University of Saint Joseph, in Lebanon.

If Abd al-Jabbar's attempt to use Christianity's own sources against itself seems to fall short, however, his work is nevertheless fascinating for the wealth of information it contains about the ideological contours of tenth-century Baghdad, including perspectives on Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, and several sects within Islam itself, in addition to Christianity. It is evidence of a time when people who had fundamental disagreements over basic spiritual truths nevertheless lived together in an atmosphere of not just tolerance but cooperation and mutual help as they forged what remains one of the greatest civilizations on record. ♦

By D. Morgan Davis
Director, Middle Eastern Texts Initiative

Nibley Lecture Series Presentations Available Online

The lecture series "The Work of Hugh W. Nibley: On the 100th Anniversary of His Birth" concluded in April. The videos of each lecture are currently being prepared for availability on our Web site. Presently, video of four of the lectures can be accessed through the Upcoming Events section of the Maxwell Institute home page (maxwellinstitute.byu.edu).

Videos of Richard Bushman's lecture, "Nibley and Joseph Smith," Robert Millet's lecture, "Nibley and the Church," Daniel C. Peterson's lecture, "Nibley as Apologist," and Zina N. Petersen's lecture, "Nibley's Early Education," are now available.

An introduction to the series and an overview of Nibley's work by Paul Y. Hoskisson are available at the beginning of Bushman's video.

In addition, transcripts of the lecture by Marilyn Arnold, "'Words, Words, Words': Hugh Nibley on the Book of Mormon," and the lecture by C. Wilfred Griggs, "Hugh Nibley, Mentor to the Saints," are also available on the Web page.

The lectures were sponsored by the Laura F. Willes Center for Book of Mormon Studies, the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies, the College of Religious Education, and the Harold B. Lee Library. Presenters explored the scholarship and scope of Hugh Nibley's work. ♦