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BOOK NOTES

Susan Easton Black and Andrew C. Skinner, eds. *Joseph: Exploring the Life and Ministry of the Prophet*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2005. xiii + 448 pp., with bibliography and index. \$23.95.

In this edited volume, thirty-three Latter-day Saint scholars examine the life and mission of Joseph Smith in thirty-nine essays. Enhanced by artwork from numerous artists, these essays are organized in a generally chronological fashion to inform readers how various events prepared Joseph for his greatest trials and accomplishments. The companion DVD, available separately, features six episodes, currently being aired on television, highlighting different eras from Joseph's life. In reflecting on the recent bicentennial year of the Prophet Joseph Smith's birth, readers can gain insights into the scriptural prophecies that foretold Joseph Smith's mission and even his name as well as the circumstances of the Smith family that drew them to the area of New York where Moroni had buried his sacred record. Further topics include continuing revelations to the Prophet, the outward persecutions and internal struggles of the fledgling church, and the martyrdom of Joseph and his brother Hyrum. This book is intended to nourish testimonies of Joseph's works as a prophet and of the truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ.