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In God's Image and Likeness: Ancient and Modern Perspectives on the Book of Moses

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covered in detail in a 350-page book: "A single volume of essays can highlight only a few specific geographical areas and historical moments" (4). However, readers interested in early Mormon history outside of the Intermountain West will find that this book provides unique glimpses into what was happening elsewhere in the world. "The Pacific Basin has been a crucial part of Mormon history for nearly the entire lifespan of the LDS Church" (3), the editors note. The gospel was preached in Australia and Tahiti before the Saints arrived in Utah, and shortly thereafter the work spread to Hawaii.

Proclamation to the People is divided into five sections: the Pacific Basin Frontier, with an introduction surveying the religious history of the entire area; the Americas, which includes essays on San Bernardino, Parley Pratt's mission to Chile, and Pratt's relationship with the San Francisco press; Polynesia, which covers both members and missionaries in Polynesia and the Polynesians who settled Iosepa, Utah; the region known as Australasia, which examines the gathering of Australian Saints and missionary work in New Zealand; and Asia, which describes Mormons' encounters with and perceptions of Asians, both in the Pacific and in Utah.

I especially enjoyed Maffly-Kipp's essay in which she challenges the dominant narrative of mainly "westward movement, of gradual and inexorable discovery of distant things by people from eastern states." She argues that all the movements, "northward from Mexico, southward from Canada, and especially eastward from Asia" (22) "have contributed to our present religious climate" (41).

I also appreciated "The Rise and Decline of Mormon San Bernardino" by Edward Leo Lyman, who explains why "the spirit of cooperation and har-

mony" disappeared and "why the successful Mormon community of San Bernardino disintegrated so rapidly" (51). And those who have served missions may feel more gratitude for the well-defined structure of their missions as they compare their experiences to those in "Mormon Missionary Wives in Nineteenth-century Polynesia." Carol Cornwall Madsen writes that these missionary wives suffered "ambivalence of church leaders toward female participation in the missionary enterprise and ambiguity in articulating their roles" (142). Finally, I found it fascinating to learn that Charles LeGendre, a French-American advisor to the Japanese government, proposed inviting Utah Mormons to colonize Hokkaido, Japan. Sandra C. Taylor writes that LeGendre "had nothing but praise for . . . social and cultural attributes of the Mormons," including polygamy (287).

Readers who are interested in the Pacific Basin or worldwide Church history will find much to enjoy in this volume. *Proclamation to the People* makes a unique contribution in the sense that, until now, most religious studies of this region have examined Catholic and Protestant influences.

—Kimberly Webb Reid

In God's Image and Likeness: Ancient and Modern Perspectives on the Book of Moses, by Jeffrey M. Bradshaw (Salt Lake City: Eborn Publishing, 2010)

Author Jeffrey M. Bradshaw, PhD in cognitive science and a senior research scientist at the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC), has written professionally on various topics in human and machine intelligence, has presented at meetings of the Foundation for Apologetic Information and Research (FAIR), and has published articles on Mormon themes appearing in 2009 and 2010. The central focus of this book is an exegesis of the

“book of Moses, a revelatory expansion of the first chapters of Genesis” and “Joseph Smith’s translation of the early narratives of Genesis” (xxi, xxii).

The core of the book, around which all the other six sections are shaped, is a 476-page commentary by Bradshaw of Moses chapter 1 through chapter 6 verse 12. The intent here is to provide the reader with both the “plain sense” of the scriptural words as well as their context and relevance to modern audiences. The stories of the council in heaven, plan of salvation, Creation, Fall, Garden of Eden, and others found in the Book of Moses are not only explained by the author but also illustrated with extensive excerpts from ancient texts, scholarly research, and explanations by LDS prophets. This is accomplished in three parts: the author’s commentary; 4,599 footnotes and 320 longer “endnotes” at the end of each of the six chapters of commentary; and 274 pages of detailed discussion (“Excursus”) of 55 subjects related to matters raised in the commentary. Following upon and excerpting the work of Hugh Nibley and John M. Lundquist, as well as other scholars, historians, and LDS leaders, the book also illustrates how temple themes are woven into and expand our understanding of the story the Book of Moses tells.

This book also offers useful study aids: thirty-two pages of beautiful color plates of artwork related to the stories of the Book of Moses, an extensive bibliography, an appendix with various LDS documents on the origin of man, and a 103-page “Annotated Bibliography of Ancient Texts Related to the Book of Moses and JST Genesis.” This bibliography lists and briefly describes ancient Near Eastern, Old Testament, Dead Sea Scrolls, Nag Hammadi, Gnostic, Islamic and other texts—so often cited in scholarly research. But for those not constantly working with these texts, this bibliography will be helpful.

At 1,102 pages, this tome is not for the casual reader. It appears to be intended not only as a commentary but also a reference book, amalgamating in one place all the current scholarly and prophetic knowledge concerning the Book of Moses and the doctrinal subjects it treats. This is an ambitious project. Its value to each reader will be determined by careful reading.

—Michael David Olsen

Understanding Same-Sex Attraction: Where to Turn and How to Help, edited by Dennis V. Dahle, A. Dean Byrd, Shirley E. Cox, Doris R. Dant, William C. Duncan, John P. Livingstone, and M. Gawain Wells (Salt Lake City: Foundation for Attraction Research, 2009)

Readers looking for a book that supports the idea of homosexuality being an innate part of one’s identity will not be interested in *Understanding Same-Sex Attraction: Where to Turn and How to Help*. Instead, the authors of this book assert the unpopular opinion, backed by scientific research, that same-sex attraction *can* be lessened or eradicated in those who desire change and are willing to try. Readers who empathize with the Church’s position on homosexuality will likely find hope and useful ideas in this five-hundred-page compilation, authored by professional psychologists and scholars. The book presents three angles on the topic: the doctrinal stance of the Church, current scientific research, and experiences related anonymously by Latter-day Saints who have dealt with same-sex attraction.

Section 1, “Laying the Groundwork,” examines common misconceptions about homosexuality and invites readers to reevaluate what they know. The second section, “Gospel Perspectives,” provides a doctrinal and spiritual foundation for the rest of the book.