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Let Us Reason Together: Essays in Honor of the Life's Work of Robert L. Millet

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William W. Phelps's contributions to understanding Church history, the First Vision, the Articles of Faith, Joseph Smith's translation of the Bible, the evaluation of doctrine, the development of LDS temples and temple ordinances, and the sustaining of Church leaders as seers, revelators, and prophets.

A helpful contribution found in the volume is an essay by Alexander L. Baugh, an expert on the Mormon experience in Missouri, that explores the Adam-ondi-Ahman revelation, found in Doctrine and Covenants 116 (157–88). World religion professor Andrew C. Reed examines early Mormon interests in Judaism in another essay (225–44), and Anthony R. Sweat, Michael Hubbard MacKay, and Gerit J. Dirkmaat—assistant professors of Church history and doctrine at BYU—provide a helpful model for evaluating and classifying LDS doctrine (23–44). The symposium's keynote address, by LDS scholar Robert L. Millet, is the first selection featured in the volume and is a clear, beautiful, and inspiring discussion of Joseph Smith's role in the Restoration of the gospel (1–22).

Created with Church curriculum in mind, this volume is directly for “teachers and students as they study and teach key events and doctrines of the Restoration” (vii). However, any who wish to deepen their study and understanding of the Restoration will find this collection valuable.

—Richard Neitzel Holzapfel

J. Spencer Fluhman and Brent L. Top, eds., *Let Us Reason Together: Essays in Honor of the Life's Work of Robert L. Millet* (Provo, Utah: BYU Religious Studies Center, 2016)

Let Us Reason Together is a Festschrift honoring the work of Robert L. Millet, a renowned scholar and former dean of

Religious Education at Brigham Young University. The volume covers a variety of disciplines and subjects, representative of the breadth of Millet's corpus, which comprises over sixty publications on a variety of topics. *Let Us Reason Together* is likewise broad in its coverage, though its title and articles particularly highlight one of Millet's most notable accomplishments: his work reaching out to members of Christian traditions outside his own LDS faith. This is noticeable in the fact that some of the articles in the book were written by adherents of other faiths, including Cory B. Willson and Richard J. Mauw. Millet's interfaith work is also highlighted by the strong thread of comparative Christianity found throughout the articles.

The book is divided into three sections, each emphasizing a main theme in Millet's writings: doctrine, scriptures, and Christianity. The essays in the section on doctrine delve into deep doctrine for a brief moment but never stray too far from discussions of core LDS beliefs. The section on scriptures analyzes a range of topics, from a single scriptural word to a collection of scriptures. The last section comprises mostly essays on comparative Christianity.

Among its contents, *Let Us Reason Together* features an analysis from Shon D. Hopkin of grace in relation to the degrees of heavenly glory (329–56) as well as fine observations from Daniel K Judd on Martin Luther's history (311–28). Mauw's essay diplomatically discusses differing theological views on the nature of God (231–38), and a deep consideration of the LDS concept of intelligences is offered by Camille Fronk Olson (4–9). An article by Dennis L. Okholm considers how to define Christianity, troubles the traditional models of defining a religion as Christian, and suggests a new way of determining

whether or not a sect is part of Christianity (357–70). Other offerings in the book include an essay from Richard E. Bennett on the importance of historicity in religion (81–94) and an analysis from John W. Welch of one of Jesus’s lesser-studied parables (97–116). The volume also features works from a number of other contributors, including Brian D. Birch, Craig L. Blomberg, Richard O. Cowan, Larry E. Dahl, Megan Hansen, J. B. Haws, Paul Y. Hoskisson, Kerry Muhlestein, Lloyd D. Newell, Dana M. Pike, Andrew C. Skinner, Stephen O. Smoot, and Brent L. Top.

Let Us Reason Together is particularly useful for Christians desiring to understand LDS beliefs and for Latter-day Saints who want to improve their ability to converse with other Christians. With its comparative analyses, interfaith explanations, kind critiques, diverse viewpoints, and questions, this collection of articles not only honors Millet’s legacy, but also contributes to discussions on a variety of religious, doctrinal, and interfaith topics. Its messages invite readers to join the conversation as fellow Christians, rather than as members of competing theological camps.

—Austin A. Tracy

William P. MacKinnon, ed., *At Sword’s Point, Part 1: A Documentary History of the Utah War to 1858*, and *Part 2: A Documentary History of the Utah War, 1858–1859*, vols. 10 and 11 of *Kingdom in the West: The Mormons and the American Frontier*, ed. Will Bagley and David L. Bigler (Norman, Okla.: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 2008, 2016)

Using six decades of research, historian William MacKinnon has created a masterful two-volume documentary history of the Utah War. In creating this helpful collection, he did not reprint

documents that were overly long or readily available from other sources. The two volumes tell “the story of the Utah War’s origins, prosecution, and impact” and highlight “a crucial crisis in the history of the Mormon people” (part 1, 12).

In part 1, MacKinnon describes “an escalating series of incidents” involving “virtually every aspect of federal-Mormon interface: the quality of mail service; the jurisdiction of county, territorial, and federal courts; the evenhandedness of criminal justice; [and] Indian relations” (part 1, 43). He identifies the territorial resolution of January 6, 1857, as a pivotal moment; the resolution declared, “We will not tamely submit to being abused by the Government Officials, here in this Territory; they shall not come here to corrupt our community, set at defiance our laws, trample upon the rights of the people, [and] stir up the Indians” (part 1, 71). Secretary of the Interior Jacob Thompson called the resolution “a declaration of war” (part 1, 102).

In part 2, MacKinnon documents Kit Carson’s claims that Mormons tried to persuade Colorado Utes to join forces with them; the US Army’s exploration to see if the Colorado River could become a supply route; and Brigham Young’s proposal for a “Standing Army of Israel” (part 2, 67). MacKinnon discusses US senator Sam Houston’s support of the Mormons and Utah Territory Supreme Court chief justice Delana R. Eckels’s attempts to “poke the bee hive” by prosecuting polygamy (part 2, 385). The book offers ample evidence that the territorial governor Alfred Cumming was more articulate and politically adept than earlier historians have given him credit for. The illuminating analysis of the Utah War in the “Conclusions” section is alone worth the price of the volume.