

ILLUMINATING  
the *S*ERMON at the  
& TEMPLE  
the *S*ERMON on the  
*M*OUNT

## FARMS Publications

- Teachings of the Book of Mormon  
The Geography of Book of Mormon  
Events: A Source Book  
The Book of Mormon Text Reformatted according to Parallelistic Patterns  
Eldin Ricks's Thorough Concordance of the LDS Standard Works  
A Guide to Publications on the Book of Mormon: A Selected Annotated Bibliography  
Book of Mormon Authorship Revisited: The Evidence for Ancient Origins  
Ancient Scrolls from the Dead Sea: Photographs and Commentary on a Unique Collection of Scrolls  
LDS Perspectives on the Dead Sea Scrolls
- Images of Ancient America:  
Visualizing Book of Mormon Life  
Isaiah in the Book of Mormon  
King Benjamin's Speech: "That Ye May Learn Wisdom"  
Mormons, Scripture, and the Ancient World: Studies in Honor of John L. Sorenson
- Periodicals*  
Insights: A Window on the Ancient World  
FARMS Review of Books  
Journal of Book of Mormon Studies
- Reprint Series*  
Book of Mormon Authorship: New Light on Ancient Origins  
The Doctrine and Covenants by Themes

## Copublished with Deseret Book Company

- An Ancient American Setting for the Book of Mormon  
Warfare in the Book of Mormon  
By Study and Also by Faith: Essays in Honor of Hugh W. Nibley  
The Sermon at the Temple and the Sermon on the Mount  
Rediscovering the Book of Mormon  
Reexploring the Book of Mormon  
Of All Things! Classic Quotations from Hugh Nibley  
The Allegory of the Olive Tree  
Temples of the Ancient World  
Expressions of Faith: Testimonies from LDS Scholars  
Feasting on the Word: The Literary Testimony of the Book of Mormon
- The Collected Works of Hugh Nibley*  
Old Testament and Related Studies  
Enoch the Prophet  
The World and the Prophets  
Mormonism and Early Christianity  
Lehi in the Desert; The World of the Jaredites; There Were Jaredites  
An Approach to the Book of Mormon  
Since Cumorah  
The Prophetic Book of Mormon  
Approaching Zion  
The Ancient State  
Tinkling Cymbals and Sounding Brass  
Temple and Cosmos  
Brother Brigham Challenges the Saints

## Published through Research Press

- Pre-Columbian Contact with the Americas across the Oceans: An Annotated Bibliography  
New World Figurine Project, vol. 1  
A Comprehensive Annotated Book of Mormon Bibliography

ILLUMINATING  
the *S*ERMON at the  
& TEMPLE  
the *S*ERMON on the  
*M*OUNT

An Approach to 3 Nephi II–I8 and Matthew 5–7

---

John W. Welch



Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies  
Provo, Utah

Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies  
at Brigham Young University  
P.O. Box 7113  
University Station  
Provo, Utah 84604

© 1999 by John W. Welch  
All rights reserved  
Printed in the United States of America  
12 11 10 09 08 07                      2 3 4 5 6 7

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Welch, John W. (John Woodland)

    Illuminating : the sermon at the Temple & sermon on the  
mount / John W. Welch

    p. cm.

    Rev. ed. of: The Sermon at the temple and the Sermon on the  
mount. 1990.

    Includes bibliographical references and index.

    ISBN 0-93-489337-3 (pbk. : alk. paper)

    1. Book of Mormon. Nephi, 3rd XI-XVIII—Criticism,  
interpretation, etc. 2. Bible. N.T. Matthew V-VII—Criticism,  
interpretation, etc. 3. Sermon on the mount—Criticism,  
interpretation, etc. I. Welch, John W. (John Woodland) Sermon at  
the temple and the Sermon on the mount. II. Title.

    BX8627 .W357 1998

    289.3'22—dc21

98-35640

CIP

## WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION FOR ANCIENT RESEARCH AND MORMON STUDIES (FARMS)?

The Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies encourages and supports research and publication about the Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ and other ancient scriptures.

FARMS is a nonprofit, tax-exempt educational foundation affiliated with Brigham Young University. Its main research interests in the scriptures include ancient history, language, literature, culture, geography, politics, religion, and law. Although research on such subjects is of secondary importance when compared with the spiritual and eternal messages of the scriptures, solid scholarly research can supply certain kinds of useful information, even if only tentatively, concerning many significant and interesting questions about the ancient backgrounds, origins, composition, and meanings of scripture.

The work of the Foundation rests on the premise that the Book of Mormon and other scriptures were written by prophets of God. Belief in this premise—in the divinity of scripture—is a matter of faith. Religious truths require divine

witness to establish the faith of the believer. While scholarly research cannot replace that witness, such studies may reinforce and encourage individual testimonies by fostering understanding and appreciation of the scriptures. It is hoped that this information will help people to “come unto Christ” (Jacob 1:7) and to understand and take more seriously these ancient witnesses of the atonement of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The Foundation works to make interim and final reports about its research available widely, promptly, and economically, in both scholarly and popular formats. FARMS publishes information about the Book of Mormon and other ancient scripture in the *Insights* newsletter, books and research papers, *FARMS Review of Books*, *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*, *FARMS Occasional Papers*, reprints of published scholarly papers, and videos and audiotapes. FARMS also supports the preparation of the *Collected Works of Hugh Nibley*.

To facilitate the sharing of information, FARMS sponsors lectures, seminars, symposia, firesides, and radio and television broadcasts in which research findings are communicated to working scholars and to anyone interested in faithful, reliable information about the scriptures. Through Research Press, a publishing arm of the Foundation, FARMS publishes materials addressed primarily to working scholars.

For more information about the Foundation and its activities, contact the FARMS office at 1-800-327-6715 or (801) 373-5111.

# CONTENTS

---

## SETTING THE STAGE

- 1 Overview ..... 3
- 2 The Need for a Unifying Interpretation ..... 9

## A SACRED SERMON

- 3 The Temple Context and Unity of  
the Sermon at the Temple ..... 23
- 4 Toward an Understanding of the Sermon  
as an Ancient Temple Text ..... 47
- 5 Some Personal Reflections ..... 115

## FURTHER STUDIES

- 6 The Sermon at the Temple and the  
Sermon on the Mount: The Differences ..... 125
- 7 The Common Israelite Background ..... 151
- 8 Joseph Smith and the Translation of  
the Sermon at the Temple ..... 179
- 9 The Sermon at the Temple and the  
Greek New Testament Manuscripts ..... 199

10	Jesus and the Composition of the Sermon on the Mount .....	211
11	The Sermon in Light of Ritual Studies.....	239
12	Results and Concluding Thoughts .....	251
	Appendix: A Comparison of the Sermon on the Mount and the Sermon at the Temple .....	255
	Index of Passages .....	277
	Subject Index .....	287