

essays), the Nauvoo Temple, doctrinal teachings in Nauvoo, disease and sickness in Nauvoo, the political environment in Illinois in the 1840s, and Zeph. The collection also offers biographical studies of such interesting figures as Almon Babbitt, Joseph Smith III, John C. Bennett, Howard Coray, Martha Coray, and Steven A. Douglas, as well as two papers on Mormon and Jewish topics. Although this volume does not attempt to present a systematic, comprehensive review of the history of the Church in Illinois, it contains many significant resources, including a useful bibliography.

—John W. Welch

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*Nurturing Faith through the Book of Mormon: The 24th Annual Sperry Symposium*, Brigham Young University, 1995 (Deseret Book, 1995)

Seeds sown by Sidney B. Sperry during his forty years of teaching and research at Brigham Young University are still bearing fruit. New generations of scholars, nourished by Dean Sperry's example, are casting their seeds on fresh fields, inviting us all to reap the harvest. All of the authors in this book "are recognized authorities on the Book of Mormon" (vii); Ludlow, Elder Holland, Rasmussen, Matthews, and Millet have each served as deans of religious education, succeeding Sperry.

The 1995 Sperry Symposium, "Nurturing Faith through the Book of Mormon," celebrates the centennial of Sperry's birth. Scholars pay

tribute to Sperry by counseling us to "learn by study and by faith as much as possible about the history, practices, principles, and doctrines found in the scriptures" (xi). In an introductory chapter, Ellis Rasmussen reveals the roots of Sidney Sperry's philosophy as a teacher, a scholar, and a man: "Brother Sperry hoped to deepen the faith of Latter-day Saint students" (xv) and "believed that understanding the historical setting in which each prophet lived and worked" (xxxiii) was vital to understanding their message.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the life-nourishing force that flows through the Book of Mormon and is its most "commanding figure . . . from first chapter to last" (2). Elder Jeffrey Holland invites us all to "'rend the veil of unbelief' in order to behold the revelations—and the Revelation—of God (Ether 4:15)" (24).

Daniel Ludlow thoroughly explores "The Destiny of the House of Israel," using as his tools the "background and experience of the Prophet Joseph Smith . . . [who] understood more about the destiny of the house of Israel—including its origin, history, and prophesied future—than any other person then living upon the earth" (31-32).

According to Robert Matthews, the records written by the Book of Mormon prophets are like preserved fruit that we can enjoy seasons later: "How enjoyable in January to feast on the harvest of the previous August. And how fortunate in the twentieth century to be spiritually fed by the doctrinal discourses of the Savior and the prophets of centuries ago" (89-90).

The results of eating the forbidden fruit—the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and the Atonement—are the subjects of Robert Millet's tender treatment of the plan of salvation as taught in the Book of Mormon. Millet sums up its message: "The plight and the promise, the malady and the medicine, the Fall and the Atonement—that is the burden of the Book of Mormon" (120).

Reflecting Sperry's reliance on both faith and reason, John Welch offers an extensive description of the relationship between intellect and spirit in the context of a person identifying evidence and using it in nurturing faith. The Book of Mormon especially, with its "precision, consistency, validity, vitality, insightfulness, and purposefulness," yields a flow of evidence that "nourishes and enlarges faith" (158).

Each essay in this volume gives readers spiritual and intellectual nutrients to strengthen seeds of faith and produce a harvest of understanding.

—Nancy R. Lund

appeared in a variety of publications that feature Mormon history, including such publications as the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, *Journal of Mormon History*, *Utah Historical Quarterly*, and *Dialogue*.

The authors of these essays represent a broad range of scholarship, religious orientation, academic institutions, and scholarly approaches. These writers are generally recognized as authorities in their fields of academic specialty. Some of the subjects these authors cover include the Nauvoo Charter, the Nauvoo Legion, the press in Nauvoo, religion in Nauvoo, polygamy in Nauvoo, the Martyrdom, and relations between Emma Smith and Brigham Young.

For anyone with any interest in Nauvoo, this book of essays will save time and energy. For one thing, the editors have provided a complete index that gets the reader into relevant material from several articles. The book promises to be a useful tool.

—Donald Q. Cannon

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*Kingdom on the Mississippi Revisited: Nauvoo in Mormon History*, edited by Roger D. Launius and John E. Hallwas (University of Illinois Press, 1996)

This attractive paperback volume is the creation of two well-known scholars of the Nauvoo period. It constitutes a ready reference to a wide range of articles on Nauvoo in the 1840s. The fourteen essays appearing in this volume are all reprints. They originally