

Quest, of form criticism or other types of literary criticism, or of the importance to the New Testament of archeological and manuscript discoveries since the 1940s. And while there is a cursory discussion of the synoptic problem, the critical implications of that problem are totally ignored in the harmonized "life of Jesus" approach of the commentary. The footnotes lean heavily toward works written at or before midcentury, except where they have been added as an afterthought.

In short, for the most part this book is a museum piece of social gospel, ethical Jesus, turn-of-the-century rationalism. *Sic transit eruditio doctorum.*

— Stephen E. Robinson

*Mormon Redress Petitions:
Documents of the 1833-1838
Missouri Conflict*
edited by Clark V. Johnson
(Bookcraft, 1992)

Ultimately, persecution is personal. The causes may be institutional and the aftermath may blame faceless mobs, but in reality it's people persecuting people. The blows are thrown by flesh and blood, and the hits are losses taken at the most personal levels. No better (or worse) example of this can be found than in the Missouri persecution of the Latter-day Saints, and *Mormon Redress Petitions* assembles a massive collection of all known and existing personal petitions for redress submitted by early LDS Church leaders to the United States government after those atrocities ended in 1838.

Even though the Saints had purchased land, cultivated it into productive farms, and built homes, they were obliged to abandon their property or face certain death. While

imprisoned in a Missouri jail, the Prophet Joseph Smith instructed the Saints to compile written affidavits detailing their losses. These affidavits were organized into at least four separate petitions to the United States government, yet they produced no relief, nor could federal courts be persuaded to hear the case. This book gives a grassroots view of this episode in Mormon history, with statement after statement by the people who experienced these persecutions up close.

This documentation also dispels the notion that the Mormons were expelled from Missouri only because of social, political, and economic reasons, and shows that the dominate reason for Missourian hostility toward the Saints was religion. Account after account tells how the mobsters pressed the Saints to denounce their belief in the Book of Mormon and membership in the Church in exchange for promises of safety. Readers may inspect these original statements and personal narratives, and come to their own conclusions about what happened during this dramatic period in Church history.

— Boley T. Thomas

*Breaking the Cycle
of Compulsive Behavior*
by Martha Nibley Beck
and John C. Beck
(Deseret Book, 1990)

Written to Latter-day Saints who are addicted to compulsive behaviors and to their family members, this work presents a simple and refreshing new paradigm. It describes four steps of a "compulsive cycle" which can be replaced by opposing steps in a "joy cycle." The addictive cycle begins with feelings of isolation, followed by actions of

self-indulgence, followed by feelings of self-hatred, followed by actions of self-concealment, followed by deeper feelings of isolation and so on. The opposing "joy cycle" consists of replacing the negative feelings and actions with self-enhancing counterparts such as feelings of belonging, progressive actions, feelings of self-esteem, and actions of self-disclosure, which lead to greater feelings of belonging.

To bring about change from the negative cycle, those attempting to help the addict are enjoined to focus on the addict's feelings, not on changing actions or behaviors. Three fictionalized representative cases—Ellen, an anorexic; Bill, a drug addict; and Warren, a homosexual addict—are presented in helpful monologues. These three characters reveal their internal struggles to break the cycle of compulsive behaviors. Chapters 7 and 8 are especially full of helpful insight for the loved ones of the behavioral addict and are worthy of serious discussion in the family. While there are no magical panaceas, the authors offer the lay reader doable instructions for change.

—Jonathan M. Chamberlain