



Books in Review

A CHRISTIAN WOMAN'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING MORMONISM

by Donna Morley

Harvest House Publishers, 240 pages, \$11.95

Mormon missionaries call upon millions of homes annually. And there's a good chance that they've come to your door during the past 12 months. Have you ever faced the Mormon at your door (or perhaps a Mormon neighbor) and been uncertain about what to say to these sincere, but misguided people? For most Christians it can be seen as a frightening encounter.

In *A Christian Woman's Guide to Understanding Mormonism*, author Donna Morley allays those fears as she leads her readers through the first half of the book on a journey into the history, doctrines, and practice of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Morley examines the character of Joseph Smith Jr., with well-documented information from reliable sources. She surveys the various versions of Smith's first-vision account, the purported origins of *The Book of Mormon*, and reviews the teachings of the *Doctrine and Covenants*. The final chapter of the first section examines the third LDS scripture, the *Pearl of Great Price*, and current revelations from the church's leadership.

The second half of her work is titled "Questions to Ask Our Mormon Friends." Questions encompass the sufficiency of Scripture, salvation, God's grace, baptism for the dead, who Jesus is, becoming a god, the Trinity, and heaven. Sections in each chapter in this half include "Looking to the Word" to comprehend what God's Word says. At the end of every chapter is a section called "Thinking It Over," which aids readers to recap the presented information.

Two appendices accent the volume. They are "Helping Our Children Who Have Mormon Friends" and "A Comparison Between Mormonism and the Bible." The latter is a very practical understanding of the different biblical terms as compared to what Mormonism teaches. The last page of the book is a "Mormonism Fact Sheet" with systematic questions to ask Mormons (along with

Scripture responses). Morley suggests laminating the page and keeping it inside your Bible.

Don't be fooled by the title. Morley's is an excellent study on Mormonism, and not just for women — men will benefit equally from this important publication.

—AMG

A TIME OF DEPARTING

by Ray Yungen

Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 175 pages, \$12.95

The New Age is alive and well and may be living at your local church. Ray Yungen issues what he calls "an alert to the church of how and through whom New Age thinking is currently creeping into our pulpits, Sunday school classrooms, prayer groups and Bible studies."

Yungen's volume is a slow but worthwhile read: slow because of the huge amount of documentation and firsthand quotes; worthwhile because it gets right to the information regarding how Eastern mysticism and spirituality is invading the Evangelical Church.

Yungen takes several pages to explain the huge difference between spiritual encounters described in the Bible and in modern pantheism. The latter is creeping into the Church via Roman Catholic contemplative prayer and the writings of M. Scott Peck, Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, Thomas Keating, Basil Pennington, Gerald May, Morton Kelsey, John Main, Matthew Fox, Brennan Manning, Richard Foster, Mike Yaconelli, and others. It is a frightening exposé of the lack of discernment in the churches.

Yungen offers some fresh insights into prophetic passages, and shows how the new contemplative movement and the centering prayer movement are dressed-up Eastern mysticism and are something the Bible warns against.

The book has a handy glossary and index, the latter which makes retrieval of information easy.

Those who think they have read all the latest in regard to the New Age and disguised Buddhism will find *A Time of Departing* a real eye opener that reveals how much has been flying under the radar in Christian bookstores. By all means, get this book.

—GRF

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