

THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE

by Robert L. & Rosemary Brown

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FAIR
PO Box 1277
Felton CA, 95018



that we nevertheless be no more
children tossed to and fro, and carried
about with every wind of doctrine
by the sleight of men and

cunning craftiness
whereby . . .

THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE"

(Eph. 4:14)

VOLUME II

ROBERT L. &
ROSEMARY
BROWN



The amazing story of how
"Dr." Walter Martin, Wayne Cowdrey,
Howard Davis, and Donald Scales, and other
professional anti-Mormons work to obstruct
and distort the truth

FRONT COVER: The facsimile on the left was written by the Unknown Scribe. The facsimile on the right was written by Solomon Spaulding.

THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE

“A Study of Anti-Mormon Deception”

Volume II

By Robert L. and Rosemary Brown

Editor: Barbara Ellsworth

Art Director: Gail Gibson

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P.O. Box 267
Mesa, AZ 85204

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PREFACE

The purpose of this book is to expose many of the untruths and deliberate misrepresentations of a major segment of the anti-Mormon movement; specifically, to answer charges by Wayne Cowdrey, Howard Davis, and Donald Scales in their anti-Mormon production entitled, WHO REALLY WROTE THE BOOK OF MORMON? Mormons and non-Mormons alike need to be aware of the tactics used by the adversary . . . “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive.” (Eph. 4:14)

There are those who make it their profession to attack the religious beliefs of others. As long as they are supported in this endeavor, they will continue in that profession. Because of the rapid growth of the LDS Church, these alarmed “ministers” have taken it upon themselves to interpret the doctrines of the LDS Church. Naturally, much of their interpretation is biased and false. Armed with false information and deliberate deception, they set themselves up as authorities on Mormonism. Such is the case with the subjects of this book — Walter Martin, Wayne Cowdrey, Howard Davis, Donald Scales and Dee Jay Nelson. We can find a false or misleading statement on nearly every page of their book, WHO REALLY WROTE THE BOOK OF MORMON? If we attempted to answer every such statement, obviously this book would be too lengthy and some of it redundant. So, we have taken some of the more important and obvious deceit to answer in this book. Our series of books are entitled THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE, and deceit is the issue we have addressed.

When the missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) preach the gospel, they do so at their own expense, on their own time, as a labor of love. When they teach the gospel, they ask their investigators to pray continually to their Heavenly Father to verify that what they are being taught is true. Because of the success of the LDS Church, many alarmed ministers preach that prayer is not a reliable guide to truth, that Mormon missionaries should not be allowed into your home, that you should not read Mormon literature, etc. etc. **They apparently feel that ignorance is the best defense against Mormonism.** Wayne Cowdrey, Howard Davis, and Donald Scales go even further in their book, WHO REALLY WROTE THE BOOK OF MORMON? They added biased and false information designed to spread fear and prejudice among their listeners at the expense of the LDS church.

Chapters 1 - 5 of this book, Vol. 2, THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE, evaluates the statements and credentials of Walter Martin, Wayne Cowdrey, Howard Davis, Donald Scales, and Dee Jay Nelson. We are concerned with this aspect of deceit because we want you to know what kind of men they are. It is almost impossible to keep up with those who, for reasons of their own, elect to

deceive. It takes thousands of dollars, not to mention all the time and energy expended, to research their statements and credentials. It takes little effort to spread deceit, but it takes a lot of effort to track it down. For this reason, we have attempted to get at the very foundation of such deceit and present it to you in all its forms. If Martin, Cowdrey, Davis and Scales are indeed practicing deceit to further their own selfish purposes, it would seem that **a wise and prudent person would judge their words and deeds accordingly**. How much trust and confidence are you willing to place in one who fabricates and deceives? As our Savior, Jesus Christ, said, "Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; **but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit**" (Matt. 7:17). Think about it!

Chapters 6 - 10 contain information designed to inform the reader concerning the Book of Mormon and the Solomon Spaulding manuscript — The journey of Spaulding's manuscript from its creation to Oberlin, Ohio, where it is today; Philastus Hurlburt's attempts to save the Spaulding/Book of Mormon theory by incriminating Sidney Rigdon; The reasons why the vast majority of the vocal anti-Mormons of today discount the Spaulding/Book of Mormon theory; The absolutely unbiased computer word-print analyses that show as many as 20 different authors of the Book of Mormon, all of which have word-prints distinctly different from Solomon Spaulding or Ethan Smith, author of VIEWS OF THE HEBREWS; and the Hurlburts of Today . . . those anti-Mormons who will use any manner of deception to recreate a Spaulding/Book of Mormon connection.

After reading this book, you will understand the deceptive tactics used by this segment of anti-Mormon "ministers." Those who have helped to compile and publish this book wish to leave our firm testimonies with you that we know you are a child of God; He loves you, and He will hear and answer your prayers. That you may not be deceived is our prayer and the end to which this book was written.

**Robert L. Brown
Rosemary Brown
Barbara Ellsworth
Gail Gibson**

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to “. . . all the pure in heart — For there are many yet on the earth among all sects, parties, and denominations, who are blinded by the subtle craftiness of men, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, and who are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it.” (Doctrine & Covenants 123:11-12)

These authors wish to thank all their friends who have offered moral and financial support in helping to publish this book. We wish to especially thank — Dr. Robert L. Hamson, authority on Computer Word Prints, for writing Chapter 9; James C. Rogers, Jr. for the proofreading; Grace Soper for managing our store in our absence; Gail Gibson for the graphics; Barbara Ellsworth for the editing and putting it all together; Michelle and Curtis Bond and Saara Werner for the index. Many thanks to their mates and families for their understanding and long-suffering. And most of all, we give our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our Heavenly Father, his son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost for their inspiration and guidance. It is through their help, that we were able to effectively gather the needed information, compile it, and publish this book.

These authors would like to make it clear that we did all the research on our own. We are not spokesmen for the LDS Church, nor were we “commissioned” by them to do this work. Our lives have been so richly blessed through our membership in His Church— we feel it an honor to be able to defend it.

**Robert L. Brown
Rosemary Brown**

You will note as you read this book, that the techniques used by the anti-Mormons 150 years ago were exactly the same deceitful tactics used by the “professional” anti-Mormons of today. Matthew’s words are so appropriate:

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire,

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Matthew 7:15 - 20

INTRODUCTION

**THE RESURRECTION OF THE
SOLOMON SPAULDING/
BOOK OF MORMON THEORY**

In the early days of the LDS Church, Solomon Spaulding (sometimes spelled Spalding), a congregational minister of the time of Joseph Smith who wrote a romance about the early Indians, had been suggested by the enemies of the LDS Church as the real author of the Book of Mormon. That argument suffered a severe setback when in 1834 the original Spaulding manuscript was found in an old trunk. Well, it was then suggested that since Spaulding's **Manuscript Found** was obviously not like the Book of Mormon in any way, perhaps there was another manuscript — a second manuscript — somewhere that is the real basis of the Book of Mormon. It was pure speculation again. When a second manuscript failed to appear, real attempts to make a connection between Spaulding and the Book of Mormon died from lack of interest.

That the Spaulding theory has not found its final resting place became clear when the *Los Angeles Times* on June 25, 1977, announced that three California researchers, Wayne Cowdrey, Howard Davis, and Donald Scales, had found evidence that Solomon Spaulding had written a portion of the original Book of Mormon manuscript and that handwriting experts had substantiated their conclusion. The implication of this announcement was that if Spaulding (who died in 1816) wrote part of the Book of Mormon manuscript (translated in 1829-1830), Joseph Smith could not have translated it from ancient records by the gift and power of God, as he claimed. If the three researchers could prove their theory, you can see that it would certainly be powerful evidence against The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons). It would be welcomed by all who make it their profession to attack this Church.

The three researchers have written a book based on this speculated Spaulding/Book of Mormon connection. The book from which former Spaulding advocates received much of their material was one of the first anti-Mormon publications titled **MORMONISM UNVEILED** by E.D. Howe in 1834. It would not seem likely that these "three researchers" could create much interest in their book by using the same old material. On the top of the front cover of their book, **WHO REALLY WROTE THE BOOK OF MORMON?**, you read the words — "**A Startling New Discovery.**" Let's examine their "Startling new discovery."

A STARTLING NEW DISCOVERY

As Howard A. Davis, one of the "three researchers," was reading an anti-Mormon publication written by Jerald and Sandra Tanner, he claimed that he

noticed a copy of an original hand-written document that represented one of the 12 pages of I Nephi in the Book of Mormon. The original is in the archives of the LDS Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, and is labeled "The Unknown Scribe" because the scribe has not been identified. (The Book of Mormon was dictated by Joseph Smith to various scribes. There are 12 pages written by a scribe which has not yet been positively identified.) When Davis studied the copy, he thought that the penmanship resembled that of Solomon Spaulding. A sample of Spaulding's penmanship is available from the original hand-written pages of **Manuscript Found** (also referred to as Manuscript Story) that has been in the possession of Oberlin College in Ohio since 1884. **If the penmanship of the "Unknown Scribe" of the 12 pages of I Nephi of the Book of Mormon would match the penmanship of Solomon Spaulding in his work written about 1812 known as the Manuscript Found, indeed the researchers would have a "startling new discovery."** However, as you will see, their attempt to create this connection as reported in **WHO REALLY WROTE THE BOOK OF MORMON?** is riddled with falsehoods, misrepresentations, fabrication, false genealogies, and other deceit.

