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The Abrahamic Material

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

July 6, 1835

Chandler in Kirtland--Egyptian mummies

On the 3rd of July, Michael H. Chandler came to Kirtland to exhibit some Egyptian mummies. There were four human figures, together with some two or more rolls of papyrus covered with hieroglyphic figures and devices. As Mr. Chandler had been told I could translate them, he brought me some of the characters, and I gave him the interpretation, and like a gentleman, he gave me the following certificate:

Kirtland, July 6, 1835. *Forwarded to [unclear] 6/15*

This is to make known to all who may be desirous, concerning the knowledge of Mr. Joseph Smith, Jun., in deciphering the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic characters in my possession, which I have, in many eminent cities, showed to the most learned; and, from the information that I could ever learn, or meet with, I find that of Mr. Joseph Smith, Jun., to correspond in the most minute matter.

Michael Chandler

Traveling with, and proprietor of,

Egyptian Mummies.

(H.C. II:235)

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The Abrahamic Material

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

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Signed,

Michael H. Chandler

Traveling with, and proprietor of,
Egyptian Mummies.

(Journal History, B1 p. 595-596)

scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

July, 1835

Translation--Abraham/Joseph

Soon after this, some of the Saints at Kirtland purchased the mummies and papyrus, a description of which will appear hereafter, and with W. W. Phelps and Oliver Cowdery as scribes, I commenced the translation of some of the characters of hieroglyphics, and much to our joy found that one of the rolls contained the writings of Abraham, another the writings of Joseph of Egypt, etc.,--a more full account of which will appear in its place, as I proceed to examine or unfold them. Truly we can say, the Lord is beginning to reveal the abundance of peace and truth.

(H.C. II:235-236)

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(B1 p. 596)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Material

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

July, 1835

Alphabet

The remainder of this month, I was continually engaged in translating an alphabet to the Book of Abraham, and arranging a grammar of the Egyptian language as practiced by the ancients.

(H.C. II:238; July 1835)

X The remainder of this month, I was continually engaged in translating an alphabet to the book of Abraham, and arranging a grammar of the Egyptian language as practiced by the ancients.

(B1 p. 597)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writing

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

October 1, 1835

Egyptian Alphabet

October 1--This afternoon I labored on the Egyptian alphabet, in company with Brothers Oliver Cowdery and W. W. Phelps, and during the research, the principles of astronomy as understood by Father Abraham and the ancients unfolded to our understanding, the particulars of which will appear hereafter.

(H.C. II:286; October 1, 1835)

October 1--He stayed at home and labored on the Egyptian alphabet, in company with his Brethern Oliver Cowdery and W. W. Phelps. The system of Astronomy was unfolded.

X (A1 p. 107)

_____, scribe

X October 1--This afternoon I labored on the Egyptian alphabet, in company with Brothers Oliver Cowdery and W. W. Phelps, and during the research, the principles of astronomy as understood by Father Abraham and the ancients unfolded to our understanding, the particulars of which will appear hereafter.

X (B1 p. 622)

_____, scribe

~~in company with his Brethern Oliver Cowdery and W. W. Phelps. The system of Astronomy was unfolded.~~

X (A1 p. 107)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

October 3, 1835

Exhibited ancient records

In the afternoon I waited on most of the Twelve, at my house, and exhibited to them the ancient records, and gave explanations. This day passed off with the blessing of the Lord.

(H.C. II:287; October 3, 1835)

In the afternoon of the same day he waited on the Twelve, most of them at his own house, exhibited to them the ancient records in his possession and gave explanations of the same. This day he observed, passed off with the blessing of the Lord.

X (Al p. 107)

_____, scribe

X | OCT. 3. 1835

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The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

October 7, 1835

Re-commenced Translating

. . .This afternoon I re-commenced translating the ancient records.

(H.C. II:289; October 3, 1835)

. . .This afternoon re-commenced translating the ancient records.

X (B1 p. 628)

_____,scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

October 19, 1835

Exhibited records of Antiquity

Monday, 19--At home. Exhibited the records of antiquity to a number who called to see them.

(H.C. II:290; Oct. 19, 1835)

Monday, 19--He was at home and exhibited the records of antiquity to a number of persons who called to see them.

X (A1 p. 110, #41)

_____,scribe

X Monday, 19--At home. Exhibited the records of antiquity to a number who called to see them.

X (B1 p. 629)

_____,scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

October 24, 1835

Showed Egyptian Records

Saturday, 24.--Mr. Goodrich and wife called to see the ancient Egyptian records, and also Dr. Frederick G. Williams to see the mummies. Brothers Hawkes and Carpenter, from Michigan, visited us and tarried over night.

(H.C. II:291; Oct. 24, 1835)

Saturday, 24.--Mr. Goodrich and his Lady called on him to see the ancient Egyptian Records, and also went to Dr. Frederick G. Williams to see the Mummies. Brothers Hawkes and Carpenter, from Michigan, called and tarried with him over the sabbath.

X (A1 p. 111)

_____,scribe

/ Saturday, 24.--Mr. Goodrich and wife called to see the ancient Egyptian records, and also called Dr. Frederick G. Williams to see the mummies. Brothers Hawkes and Carpenter, from Michigan, visited us and tarried over night.

(B1 p. 62⁹)

_____,scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

October 29, 1835

Warren Parrish becomes Scribe

Thursday, 29--Brother Warren Parrish commenced writing for me, at fifteen dollars per month. I paid him sixteen dollars in advance out of the committee's store. Father and Mother Smith visited us. While we sat writing Bishop Partridge passed our window, just returned from the East. . .

While at the doctor's, Bishop Edward Partridge came in in company with President Phelps. I was much rejoiced to see him. We examined the mummies, returned home, and my scribe commenced writing in my journal a history of my life;

(H.C. II:October 29, 1835)

Thursday, 29--Brother Warren Parrish began to write for him at fifteen dollars per month and received sixteen dollars in advance out of the store, known by the name of the committee store. His Father and Mother Smith visited at his house this day. While we sat writing Bishop Partridge passed our window, just returned from the East. . .

While at the doctor's, Bishop Edward Partridge came in in company with President Phelps. I was much rejoiced to see him. He returned home. and his scribe commenced writing in his journal a history of his life;

X (A1 p.112)

_____, scribe

X Thursday, 29--Brother ^{W.}~~Warren~~ Parrish commenced writing for me, at fifteen dollars per month. I paid him sixteen dollars in advance out of the committee's store. Father and Mother Smith visited us. While we sat writing Bishop Partridge passed our window, just returned from the East. . .

While at the doctor's, Bishop Edward Partridge came in in company with President Phelps. I was much rejoiced to see him. We examined the mummies, returned home, and my scribe commenced writing in my journal a history of my life;

X (B1 pp. 630-631)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

November 14, 1835

"Ancient Records" A revelation to Warren Parrish

Saturday, 14--Thus came the word of the Lord unto me, saying:

Verily thus saith the Lord unto my servant Joseph, concerning my servant Warren Parrish. Behold his sins are forgiven him, because of his desires to do the works of righteousness. Therefore, inasmuch as he will continue to hearken unto my voice, he shall be blessed with wisdom, and with a sound mind, even above his fellows. Behold, it shall come to pass in his day, that he shall see great things show forth themselves unto my people; he shall see much of my ancient records, and shall know of hidden things, and shall be endowed with a knowledge of hidden languages; and if he desire and shall seek it at my hands, he shall be privileged with writing much of my word, as a scribe unto me for the benefit of my people; therefore this shall be his calling until I shall order it otherwise in my wisdom, and it shall be said of him in time to come, Behold Warren, the Lord's scribe for the Lord's Seer, whom He hath appointed in Israel. Therefore, if he will keep my commandments, he shall be lifted up at the last day. Even so. Amen.

(H.C. II:311-312; Nov. 14, 1835)

Saturday, 14--Thus came the word of the Lord unto me, saying:

Verily thus saith the Lord unto my servant Joseph, concerning my servant Warren Parrish. Behold his sins are forgiven him, because of his desires to do the works of righteousness. Therefore, inasmuch as he will continue to hearken unto my voice, he shall be blessed with wisdom, and with a sound mind, even above his fellows. Behold, it shall come to pass in his day, that he shall see great things show forth themselves unto my people; he shall see much of my ancient records, and shall know of hidden things, and shall be endowed with a knowledge of hidden languages; and if he desire and shall seek it at my hand, he shall be privileged with writing much of my word, as a scribe unto me for the benefit of my people; therefore this shall be his calling until I shall order it otherwise in my wisdom, and it shall be said of him in time to come, Behold Warren, the Lord's scribe for the Lord's Seer, whom He hath appointed in Israel. Therefore, if he will keep my commandments, he shall be lifted up at the last day. Even so. Amen.

X (Al pp 128-129)

_____, scribe

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The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

November 14, 1835

"Ancient Records" A revelation to Warren Parrish

Saturday, 14--Thus came the word of the Lord unto me, saying:

Verily thus saith the Lord unto my servant Joseph, concerning my servant Warren Parrish. Behold his sins are forgiven him, because of his desires to do the works of righteousness. Therefore, inasmuch as he will continue to hearken unto my voice, he shall be blessed with wisdom, and with a sound mind, even above his fellows. Behold, it shall come to pass in his day, that he shall see great things show forth themselves unto my people; he shall see much of my ancient records, and shall know of hidden things, and shall be endowed with a knowledge of hidden languages; and if he desire and shall seek it at my hands, he shall be privileged with writing much of my word, as a scribe unto me for the benefit of my people; therefore this shall be his calling until I shall order it otherwise in my wisdom, and it shall be said of him in time to come, Behold Warren, the Lord's scribe for the Lord's Seer, whom He hath appointed in Israel. Therefore, if he will keep my commandments, he shall be lifted up at the last day. Even so. Amen.

X (B1 p. 642)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

November 17, 1835

Alphabet of the Ancient Records

Tuesday 17,--Exhibited the alphabet of the ancient records, to Mr. Holmes, and some others. Went with him to Fredrick G. Williams', to see the mummies.

(H.C. II:316; Nov. 17, 1835)

Tuesday 17,--He exhibited the alphabet of the ancient Egyptian records, to Mr. Holmes, and some others went with him to F. G. Williams', to see the mummies.

X (A1 p. 134)

_____, scribe

Tuesday 17,--Exhibited the alphabet of the ancient records, to Mr. Holmes, and some others. Went with him to Fredrick G. Williams', to see the mummies.

X (B1 p. 654)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

November 19, 1835

Translating Egyptian Records

Thursday, 19--. . .I returned home and spent the day in translating the Egyptian records. A warm and pleasant day.

(H.C. II:318; Nov. 19, 1835)

Thursday, 19--. . .I returned home and spent the day in translating the Egyptian records. The weather is warm and pleasant.

X (A1 p. 135)

_____, scribe

Thursday, 19--. . .I returned home and spent the day in translating the Egyptian records. A warm and pleasant day.

X (B1 p. 655)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

November 23, 1835

Showed the Records

Monday, 23.--Several brethren called to converse with me, and see the records.

(H.C. II:319; Nov. 23, 1835)

Monday, 23.--Several brethren called to converse with him, and see the records.

X (A1 p. 135)

_____, scribe

Monday, 23.--Several brethren called to converse with me, and see the records.

X (B1 p. 656)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

November 24, 1835

Translated some of the Egyptian Records

Tuesday, 24.--In the afternoon we translated some of the Egyptian records.

(H.C. II:320; Nov. 24, 1835)

Tuesday, 24.--In the afternoon he translated some of the ancient manuscripts.

X (A1 p. 135)

_____, scribe

Tuesday, 24.--In the afternoon we translated some of the Egyptian records.

X (B1 p. 656)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

November 25, 1835

Translating

Wednesday, 25.--Spent the day in translating.

(H.C. II:320; Nov. 25, 1835)

Wednesday, 25.--He spent the day in translating.

X (A1 p. 136)

_____, scribe

Wednesday, 25.--Spent the day in translating.

X (B1 p. 656)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

November 26, 1835

Translating Egyptian characters from the Papyrus

Thursday, 26--Spent the day in translating Egyptian characters from papyrus, though severely afflicted with a cold. Robert Rathbone and George Morey arrived from Zion.

(H.C. II:320-321; Nov. 26, 1835)

Thursday, 26--We spent the day in translating Egyptian characters from the papyrus. Our br. at this time is labouring under a severe affliction in consequence of a violent cold.

X (A1 p. 136)

_____,scribe

Thursday, 26--Spent the day in translating Egyptian characters from the papyrus, though severely afflicted with a cold. Robert Rathbone and George Morey arrived from Zion.

X (B1 p. 656)

_____,scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Materials

November 27, 1835

Blessing Given to Warren Parrish

Friday, 27.--. . .Brother Parrish, my scribe, being afflicted with a cold, asked me to lay my hands on him in the name of the Lord. I did so, and in return I asked him to lay his hands on me. We were both relieved.

(H.C. II:321; Nov. 27, 1835)

Friday, 27.--. . .Brother Parrish, his scribe, being indisposed in consequence of having taken a cold, called on Pres. J. Smith Jr. to pray for and to lay his hands on him in the name of the Lord. He did so, and in return Elder Parrish prayed for and laid hands on him. This () kindness was heard and graciously answered upon both of their heads by our Heavenly Father in relieving them from their affliction.

X (A1 p. 136)

_____, scribe

Friday, 27.--. . .Brother Parrish, my scribe, being afflicted with a cold, asked me to lay my hands on him in the name of the Lord. I did so, and in return I asked him to lay his hands on me. We were both relieved.

X (B1 p. 656-657)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

November 30, 1835

Showed Egyptian Records

Monday, 30.--. . .Henry Capron, an old acquaintance from Manchester, New York, called on me. I showed him the Egyptian records.

(H.C. II:322; Nov. 30, 1835)

Monday, 30.--. . .This afternoon Henry Capron called to see him. Henry Capron is an old acquaintance of his from Mancher, New York. He showed him the Ancient records, and explained them to him.

Y (A1 p. 138)

_____,scribe

Monday, 30.--. . .Henry Capron, an old acquaintance from Manchester, New York, called on me. I showed him the Egyptian records.

X (B1 p. 657)

Second copy

_____,scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

December 7, 1835

Records--exhibited and explained

Monday, 7.--This evening a number of brethren called to see the records, which I exhibited and explained.

(H.C. II:326; Dec. 7, 1835)

Thursday, 10--This evening a number of brethren called at Pres. Smiths to see the ancient manuscripts and were much pleased with their interview.

X (A1 p. 145; Dec. 10, 1835)

_____, scribe

Monday, 7--This evening a number of brethren called to see the records, which I exhibited and explained.

X (B1 p. 659)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

December 10, 1835

Records (Egyptian) exhibited

Thursday, 10.--This morning a number of brethren called see the records, (Egyptian) which I exhibited to their satisfaction.

(H.C. II:327-28; Dec. 10, 1835)

Monday, 7.--A number of brethren also called this evening to see the ancient records, which he exhibited and explained to their satisfaction.

X (A1 p. 142)

_____, scribe

Thursday, 10--This morning a number of brethren called see the records, (Egyptian) which I exhibited to their satisfaction.

X (B1 p. 660)

_____, scribe

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

December 12, 1835

Egyptian Records

Saturday, 12--Spent the forenoon in reading. About twelve o'clock a number of young persons called to see Egyptian records. My scribe exhibited them. One of the young ladies who had been examining them, was asked if they had the appearance of antiquity. She observed, with an air of contempt, that they had not. On hearing this, I was surprised at the ignorance she displayed, and I observed to her, that she was an anomaly in creation, for all the wise and learned that had examined them, without hesitation pronounced them ancient. I further remarked, that it was downright wickedness, ignorance, bigotry and superstition had caused her to make to the remark; and that I would put it on record. And I have done so, because it is a fair sample of the prevailing spirit of the times, showing that the victims of priestcraft and superstition would not believe though one should rise from the dead.

(H.C. II:329-330; Dec. 12, 1835)

Saturday, 12--He devoted the morning to reading. At about twelve o'clock a number of young persons called to see Egyptian records. He requested his scribe W. Parrish to exhibit them, he did so. One of the young ladies who had been examining them, was asked by the subject of this _____, if the manuscripts had the appearance of antiquity. To which she replied with an air of contempt, in the negative. On hearing this, he was surprised at the ignorance she manifested and very justly remarked to her, that she was an anomaly in creation, for all the wise and learned that had examined them, without hesitation pronounced them ancient. He further observed that it was downright ignorance, bigotry and superstition and wickedness that caused her to make the remark; and that it was worthy of record, for after generations to _____ because it is a fair specimen of the prevailing spirit of the times, showing that Priestcraft has its victims also in this age like those in ages past, that would not believe though one should rise from the dead.

¹⁴⁵
(Al p. 146)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

December 14, 1835

Egyptian Records

Monday, 14--A number of brethren from New York called to visit me and see the Egyptian records. Also Elder Harris returned from Palmyra, New York, and Brother Francis Eaton of the same place and Sister Harriet Howe called to visit us.

(H.C. II:331; Dec. 14, 1835)

Monday, 14--This morning a number of brethren from New York called to visit him and see the records. Elder Harris is also returned from visiting his family who live in Palmyra, New York, also a Brother Eaton of the same place...Sister Harriet Howe of Pamsville also visited us today.

X (Al p. 147)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Material

December 16, 1835

Exhibited and explained the Egyptian Records

Wednesday, 16--Elders William E. M'Lellin, Brigham Young, and Jared Carter, called and paid me a visit with which I was much gratified. I exhibited and explained the Egyptian records to them, and explained many things concerning the dealing of God with the ancients, and the formation of the planetary system.

(H.C. II:334; Dec. 16, 1835)

Wednesday, 16--Elders M'Lellin, Young, and Carter, called to visit him. He was much pleased with the conversation exhibited and explained the Egyptian records to them, and many things concerning the dealing of God with the ancients, especially the system of Astronomy as taught by Abraham which is contained upon these manuscripts. They were much gratified with this intelligence.

X (Al p. 149)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

December 20, 1835

Sacred Records

Sunday, 20--. . .Brothers Palmer and Taylor called to see me. I showed them the sacred records to their joy and satisfaction. O! may God have mercy upon these men, and keep them in the way of everlasting life, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

(H.C. II:344; Dec. 20, 1835)

Sunday, 20--. . .Brothers Palmer and Taylor called today to see him. To whom he exhibited the sacred records to their joy and satisfaction. O! may God have mercy upon these men, and keep them in the way of everlasting life, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

X(A1 p. 162)

_____,scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

December 22, 1835

Continued Studies

Tuesday, 22--At home. Continued my studies. O may God give me learning even language and endue me with qualifications to magnify His name while I live.

(H.C. II:344; Dec. 22, 1835)

Tuesday, 22--He continued his studies at home. With this he asked, poised in prayer to the Lord to give him learning especially a knowledge of languages and endue me with qualifications to magnify His great and exalted name.

X (Al pp. 162-163)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

December 23, 1835

Exhibited the papyrus

Wednesday, 23--In the forenoon, at home, studying the Greek language. And also waited upon the brethren who came in, and exhibited to them the papyrus.

(H.C. II:344, Dec. 23, 1835)

Wednesday, 23--He spent the forenoon, at home in studying the Greek language. And waiting upon brethren who called to visit him.

X (Al p. 163)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

December 31, 1835

Account of the discovery. Report on the Ancient Records.

Thursday, 31--In the afternoon I attended at the chapel to give directions concerning the upper rooms, and more especially the west room, which I intend occupying for a translating room, which will be prepared this week.

The public mind has been excited of late, by reports which have been circulated concerning certain Egyptian mummies and ancient records, which were purchased by certain gentlemen of Kirtland, last July. It has been said that the purchasers of these antiquities pretend they have the bodies of Abraham, Abimelech, (the king of the Philistines), Joseph, who was sold into Egypt, &c., &c., for the purpose of attracting the attention of the multitude, and gulling the unwary; which is utterly false. Who these ancient inhabitants of Egypt were, I do not at present say. Abraham was buried on his own possession "in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron, the son of Zohah, the Hittite, which is before Mamre," which he purchased of the sons of Heth. Abimelech lived in the same country, and for aught we know, died there; and the children of Israel carried Joseph's bones from Egypt, when they went out under Moses; consequently, these could not have been found in Egypt, in the nineteenth century. The record of Abraham and Joseph, found with the mummies, is beautifully written on papyrus, with black, and a small part red, ink or paint, in perfect preservation. The characters are such as you find upon the coffins of mummies--hieroglyphics, etc.; with many characters of letters like the present (though probably not quite so square) form of the Hebrew without points. The records were obtained from one of the catacombs in Egypt, near the place where once stood the renowned city of Thebes, by the celebrated French traveler, Antonio Lebolo, in the year 1831. He procured license from Mehemet Ali, then Viceroy of Egypt, under the protection of Chevalier Drovetti, the French Consul, in the year 1828, and employed four hundred and thirty-three men, four months and two days (if I understand correctly)--Egyptian or Turkish soldiers [sic], at from four to six cents per diem, each man. He entered the catacomb June 7, 1831, and obtained eleven mummies. There were several hundred mummies in the same catacomb; about one hundred embalmed after the first order, and placed in niches, and two or three hundred after the second and third orders, and laid upon the floor or bottom of the grand cavity. The two

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last orders embalmed were so decayed, that they could not be removed, and only eleven of the first, found in the niches. On his way from Alexandria to Paris, he put in at Trieste, and after ten days' illness, expired. This was in the year 1832. Previous to his decease, he made a will of the whole, to Mr. Michael H. Chandler, (then in Philadelphia, Pa.,) his nephew, whom he supposed to be in Ireland. Accordingly, the whole were sent to Dublin, and Mr. Chandler's friends ordered them to New York, where they were received at the Custom House, in the winter or spring of 1833. In April, of the same year Mr. Chandler paid the duties and took possession of his mummies. Up to this time, they had not been taken out of the coffins, nor the coffins opened. On opening the coffins, he discovered that in connection with two of the bodies, was something rolled up with the same kind of linen, saturated with the same bitumen, which, when examined, proved to be two rolls of papyrus, previously mentioned. Two or three other small peices of papyrus, with astronomical calculations, epitaphs, &c., were found with others of the mummies. When Mr. Chandler discovered that there was something with the mummies, he supposed or hoped it might be some diamonds or valuable metal, and was no little chagrined when he saw his disappointment. "He was immediately told, while yet in the custom house, that there was no man in that city who could translate his roll: but was referred, by the same gentleman, (a stranger) to Mr. Joseph Smith, Jun., who, continued he, possesses some kind of power or gifts, by which he had previously translated similar characters." I was then unknown to Mr. Chandler, neither did he know that such a book or work as the record of the Nephites, had been brought before the public. From New York, he took his collection on to Philadelphia, where he obtained the certificate of the learned^{*}, and from thence came on to Kirtland, as before related, in July. Thus I have given a brief history of the manner in which the writings of the fathers, Abraham and Joseph, have been preserved, and how I came in possession of the same--a correct translation of which I shall give in its proper place.

To show the spirit of the public journals, such as the Philadelphia Saturday Courier, New York Daily Advertiser, Sunday Morning News, and

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Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

the press generally, the past year, towards me and the cause of God, which I have fearlessly espoused, I quote the following, as a specimen of the whole, from M. M. Noah's New York Evening Star: . . .

* The account here given of how the Prophet came into possession of the writings of Abraham, and of Joseph, the son of Jacob, was adapted from an article in the Messenger and Advocate (Volume II, Number 3, page 233, 236, bearing date of December, 1835) signed by Oliver Cowdery. The article is addressed to William Frye, Esq., of Gilead, Calhoun County, Ill. The certificate of the "learned" referred to, is in the body of the article. It seems that Michael H. Chandler, the owner of the Egyptian mummies and the papyrus, exhibited his treasures in Philadelphia, and, while there, obtained the following opinion of several prominent doctors:

"Having examined with considerable attention and deep interest, a number of mummies from the Catacombs, near Thebes, in Egypt, and now exhibiting in the Arcade, we beg leave to recommend them to the observation of the curious inquirer on subjects of a period so long elapsed; probably not less than three thousand years ago. The features of some of these mummies are in perfect expression. The papyrus covered with black or red ink, or paint, in excellent preservation, are very interesting. The undersigned, unsolicited by any person connected by interest with this exhibition, have voluntarily set their names hereunto, for the simple purpose of calling the attention of the public to an interesting collection, not sufficiently known in this city."

John Redman Coxe, M.D.,
Richard Harlan, M.D.,
J. Pancoast, M.D.,
William P. C. Barton, M.D.,
E. F. Rivinus, M.D.,
Samuel G. Morgan, M.D.

"I concur in the above sentiments, concerning the collection of mummies in the Philadelphia Arcade, and consider them highly deserving the attention of the curious."

"W. E. Horner, M.D."

Another paragraph in the article explains how it came about that Mr. Chandler gave the Prophet a certificate, concerning his belief in the Prophet's ability to decipher the Egyptian hieroglyphics of the papyrus--which certificate will be found at page 235, of this volume, under the date of the purchase of the mummies and papyrus by certain persons in Kirtland. From the paragraph referred to, it appears that on the morning that Mr. Chandler first presented his papyrus to the Prophet Joseph Smith, he was shown by the latter, a number of characters which had been copied from the Nephite plates, and found that there were some points of resemblance between some of the Nephite characters and some of the characters on the Egyptian papyrus. Mr. Chandler then asked the Prophet's opinion concerning the antiquity of the Egyptian papyrus, and also requested him to give a translation of the characters. The Prophet gave Mr. Chandler a translation of some few of the Egyptian characters, which agreed with the interpretation given by learned men in other cities, where the mummies and papyrus had been exhibited, whereupon Mr. Chandler gave the Prophet a certificate, stating the fact. (H.C. II:347-351; Dec. 31, 1835)

December 31, 1835

Account of the discovery. Report on the Ancient Records

Thursday, 31--In the afternoon I attended at the chapel to give directions concerning the upper rooms, and more especially the west room, which I intend occupying for a translating room, which will be prepared this week.

The mind has been excited of late, by reports which have been circulated concerning certain Egyptian mummies and ancient records, which were purchased by certain gentlemen of Kirtland, last July. It has been said that the purchasers of these antiquities pretend they have the bodies of Abraham, Abimelech, the king of the Philistines, Joseph, who was sold into Egypt, &c., &c., for the purpose of attracting the attention of the multitude, and gulling the unwary; which is utterly false. Who these ancient inhabitants of Egypt were, I do not at present say. Abraham was buried on his own possession "in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron, the son of Zohah, the Hittite, which is before Mamre," which he purchased of the sons of Heth. Abimelech lived in the same country, and for aught we know, died there; and the children of Israel carried Joseph's bones from Egypt, when they went out under Moses; consequently, these could not have been found in Egypt, in the nineteenth century. The record of Abraham and Joseph, found with the mummies, is beautifully written on papyrus, with black, and a small part red, ink or paint, in perfect preservation. The characters are such as you find upon the coffins of mummies--hieroglyphics, etc.; with many characters of letters like the present (though probably not quite so square) form of the Hebrew without points. The records were obtained from one of the catacombs in Egypt, near the place where once stood the renowned city of Thebes, by the celebrated French traveler, Antonio Lebolo, in the year 1831. He procured license from Mehemet Ali, then Viceroy of Egypt, under the protection of Chevalier Drovetti, the French Consul, in the year 1828, and employed four hundred and thirty-three men, four months and two days (if I understand correctly)--Egyptian or Turkish soldiers [sic], at from four to six cents per diem, each man. He entered the catacomb June 7,

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

1831, and obtained eleven mummies. There were several hundred mummies in the same catacomb; about one hundred embalmed after the first order, and placed in niches, and two or three hundred after the second and third orders, and laid upon the floor or bottom of the grand cavity. The two last orders embalmed were so decayed, that they could not be removed, and only eleven of the first, found in the niches. On his way from Alexandria to Paris, he put in at Trieste, and after ten days' illness, expired. This was in the year 1832. Previous to his decease, he made a will of the whole, to Mr. Michael H. Chandler, (then in Philadelphia, Pa.,) his nephew, whom he supposed to have been in Ireland. Accordingly, the whole were sent to Dublin, and Mr. Chandler's friends ordered them to New York, where they were received at the Custom House, in the winter or spring of 1833. In April, of the same year Mr. Chandler paid the duties and took possession of his mummies. Up to this time, they had not been taken out of the coffins, nor the coffins opened. On opening the coffins, he discovered that in connection with two of the bodies, was something rolled up with the same kind of linen, saturated with the same bitumen, which, when examined, proved to be two rolls of papyrus, previously mentioned. Two or three other small pieces of papyrus, with astronomical calculations, epitaphs, &c., were found with others of the mummies. When Mr. Chandler discovered that there was something with the mummies, he supposed or hoped it might be some diamonds or valuable metal, and was no little chagrined when he saw his disappointment. "He was immediately told, while yet in the custom house, that there was no man in that city who could translate his roll: but was referred, by the same gentleman, (a stranger), to Mr. Joseph Smith, Jun., who, continued he, possesses some kind of power or gifts, by which he had previously translated similar characters." I was then unknown to Mr. Chandler, neither did he know that such a book or work as the record of the Nephites, had been brought before the public. From New York, he took his collection on to Philadelphia, where he obtained the certificate of the learned^{*}, and from thence came on to Kirtland, as before related, in July. Thus I have given a brief history of the manner in which the writings of the fathers, Abraham and Joseph, have been preserved, and how I came in possession of the same--a correct translation of which I shall give in its proper place.

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

To show the spirit of the public journals, such as the Philadelphia Saturday Courier, New York Daily Advertiser, Sunday Morning News, and the press generally, the past year, towards me and the cause of God, which I have fearlessly espoused, I quote the following, as a specimen of the whole, from M. M. Noah's New York Evening Star:. . .

*The account here given of how the Prophet came into possession of the writings of Abraham, and of Joseph, the son of Jacob, was adapted from an article in the Messenger and Advocate (Volume II, Number 3, page 233, 236, bearing date of December, 1835) signed by Oliver Cowdery. The article is addressed to William Frye, Esq., of Gilead, Calhoun County Ill. The certificate of the "learned" referred to, is in the body of the article. It seems that Michael H. Chandler, the owner of the Egyptian mummies and the papyrus, exhibited his treasures in Philadelphia, and, while there, obtained the following opinion of several prominent doctors:

X (B1 pp 674-676)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

January 12, 1836

Egyptain manuscripts exhibited

Tuesday, 12--. . .This afternoon, a young man called to see the Egyptian manuscripts, which I exhibited.

(H.C. II:364; Jan. 12, 1836)

Tuesday, 12--. . .This afternoon, a young man called to see the Egyptian records and on viewing them he expressed great satisfaction and appeared very anxious to know how to translate them--

X (A1 p. 172)

_____,scribe

Tuesday, 12--. . .This afternoon, a young man called to see the Egyptian manuscripts, which I exhibited.

X (B1 p. 685)

_____,scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

January 30, 1836

Showed the record of Abraham

Saturday, 30--Attended school, as usual, and waited upon several visitors, and showed them the record of Abraham. Mr. Seixas, our Hebrew teacher, examined it with deep interest, and pronounced it to be original beyond all doubt. He is a man of excellent understanding, and has a knowledge of many languages which were spoken by the ancients, and he is an honorable man, so far as I can judge yet.

(H.C. II:388; Jan. 30, 1836)

Saturday, 30--Attended school, as usual, and waited upon several visitors, and showed them the record of Abraham. Mr. Seixas, our Hebrew teacher, examined them with deep interest, and pronounced it to be original beyond all doubt. He is a man of excellent understanding, and has a knowledge of many languages which were spoken by the ancients, and he is an honorable man, so far as I can judge yet.

X(B1 p. 700)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

February 3, 1836

Showed the record of Abraham

Wednesday, 3--. . .Received many visitors, and showed them the Records
of Abraham.

(H.C. II:390-391; Feb. 3, 1836)

Wednesday, 3--. . .Received many visitors, and showed them the Records
of Abraham.

X (B1 p. ⁷⁰¹~~700~~)

_____,scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

February 4, 1836

Request to the Lord to obtain the language

Thursday, 4--. . .We have a great want of books, but are determined to do the best we can. May the Lord help us to obtain this language, that we may read the Scriptures in the language in which they were given.

(H.C. II:391; Feb. 4, 1836)

Thursday, 4--. . .We have a great want of books, but are determined to do the best we can. May the Lord help us to obtain this language, that we may read the Scriptures in the language in which they were given.

X (B1 p. 701)

_____,scribe

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

February 11, 1836

Reading-exhibiting the Egyptian records

Thursday, 11--Spent the afternoon in reading, and in exhibiting the records to those who called to see me, and heaven's blessings have attended me.

(H.C. II:394; Feb. 11, 1836)

Reading-exhibiting the Egyptian records, attended school and read Hebrew in the morning.

Thursday, 11--Spent the afternoon in reading, and in exhibiting the Egyptian records to those who called to see me, and heaven's blessings have attended me.

X(B1 p. 703)

_____,scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

February 16, 1836

Egyptian manuscript

Tuesday, 16--Attended school at the usual hour. Resumed our translating, and made rapid progress. Many called to see the House of the Lord, and the Egyptian manuscript and to visit me.

(H.C. II:396; Feb. 16, 1836)

Tuesday, 16--Attended school at the usual hour. Resumed our translating, and made rapid progress. Many called to see the House of the Lord, and Egyptian manuscripts and to visit me.

X (B1 p. 705)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

February 17, 1836

Exhibit of Egyptian mummies and records

Wednesday, 17--. . .My soul delights in reading the word of the Lord in the original, and I am determined to pursue the study of the languages, until I shall become master of them, if I am permitted to live long enough. At any rate, so long as I do live, I am determined to make this my object; and with the blessing of God, I shall succeed to my satisfaction.

Elder Coe called to make some arrangements about the Egyptian mummies and records. He proposes to hire a room at John Johnson's Inn, and exhibit them there from day to day, at certain hours, that some benefit may be derived from them. I complied with his request, and only observed that they must be managed with prudence and care, especially the manuscripts.

(H.C. II:396; Feb. 17, 1836)

' Wednesday, 17--. . .My soul delights in reading the word of the Lord in the original, and I am determined to pursue the study of the languages, until I shall become master of them, if I am permitted to live long enough. At any rate, so long as I do live, I am determined to make this my object; and with the blessing of God, I shall succeed to my satisfaction.

Elder Coe called to make some arrangements about the Egyptian mummies and records. He proposes to hire a room at John Johnson's Inn, and exhibit them there from day to day, at certain hours, that some benefit may be derived from them. I complied with his request, and only observed that they must be managed with prudence and care, especially the manuscripts.

X (B1 p. 705)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

February 22, 1836

Translating with my scribe

Monday, 22--Spent the afternoon translating with my scribe, Elder
Warren Parrish, at his house.

(H.C. II:398; Feb. 22, 1836)

Monday, 22--Spent the afternoon^{Pm.} translating with my scribe, Elder
W. Parrish, at his house.

X (B1 p. 706)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

November 2, 1837

Monies needed to translate and print records (Egypt)

November 2--The Church in Kirtland voted to sanction the appointment of Brother Phinehas Richards and Reuben Hedlock, by the Presidency, to transact business for the Church in procuring means to translate and print the records taken from the Catacombs of Egypt, then in the Temple.

(H.C. II:520-521; Nov. 2, 1837)

November 5--The Church in Kirtland voted to sanction the appointment of Brother Phinehas Richards and Reuben Hedlock, by the Presidency, to transact business for the Church in procuring means to translate and print the records taken from the Catacombs of Egypt, then in the Temple.

X (B1) ; Nov. 5, 1837)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

May 6, 1838

Instructions--Abraham's writings upon planetary systems

Sunday, May 6--. . .I also gave some instructions in the mysteries of the kingdom of God; such as the history of the planets. Abraham's writings upon the planetary systems, etc.

(H.C. III:27; May 6, 1838)

Sunday, May 6--. . .I also gave some instructions in the mysteries of the kingdom of God; such as the history of the planets; of Abraham's writings upon the planetary systems, etc.

X (B1 p. 794)

_____,scribe

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

May 12, 1838

Payment--translating the ancient records; etc.

Saturday, 12--The Council investigated the matter, and instructed the Bishop to make over to President Joseph Smith, Jun., and Sidney Rigdon, each an eight-acre lot of land from the property of the Church, situated adjacent to the city corporation; also appointed three of their number, viz., George W. Harris, Elias Higbee and Simeon Carter, a committee to confer with said Presidency, and satisfy them for their services the present year; not for preaching, or for receiving the word of God by revelation, neither for instructing the Saints in righteousness, but for services rendered in the printing establishment, in translating the ancient records, etc., etc. Said committee agreed that Presidents Smith and Rigdon should receive \$1,100 each as a just remuneration for their services this year.

(H.C. III:32; May 12, 1838)

Saturday, 12--The Council investigated the matter, and instructed the Bishop to make over to President Joseph Smith, Jun., and Sidney Rigdon, each an eight-acre lot of land from the property of the Church, situated adjacent to the city corporation; also appointed three of their number, viz., George W. Harris, Elias Higbee and Simeon Carter, a committee to confer with said Presidency, and satisfy them for their services the present year; not for preaching, or for receiving the word of God by revelation, neither for instructing the Saints in righteousness; but for services rendered in the printing establishment, in translating the ancient records, etc., etc. Said committee agreed that Presidents Smith and Rigdon should receive _____ each as a just remuneration for their services this year.

X (B1 p. 797)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

June 18, 1840

Payment--translating the ancient records, etc.

. . .That your Memorialist (Joseph Smith) feels it a duty which he owes to God, as well as to the Church, to give his attention more particularly to those things connected with the spiritual welfare of the Saints, (which have now become a great people), so that they may be built up in their most holy faith, and go on to perfection:--That the Church have erected office where he can attend to the affairs of the Church without distraction, he thinks, and verily believes, that the time has now come, when he should devote himself exclusively to those things which relate to the spiritualities of the Church, and commence the work of translating the Egyptian records, the Bible, and wait upon the Lord for such revelations as may be suited to the conditions and circumstances of the Church. And in order that he may be enabled to attend to those things, he prays your honorable body will relieve him from the anxiety and trouble necessarily attendant on business transactions, by appointing some one to take charge of the city plot, and attend to the business transactions which have heretofore rested upon your Memorialist: That should your Honors deem it proper to do so, your Memorialist would respectfully suggest that he would have no means of support whatever, and therefore would request that some one might be appointed to see that all his necessary wants may be provided for, as well as sufficient means or appropriations for a clerk or clerks, which he may require to aid him in his important work.

(H.C. IV:137; June 18, 1840)

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

June 18, 1840

Payment--translating the ancient records, etc.

. . .That your Memorialist (Joseph Smith) feels it a duty which he owes to God, as well as to the church, to give his attention more particularly to those things connected with the spiritual welfare of the Saints, (which have now become a great people), so that they may be built up in their most holy faith, and go on to perfection:--That the Church have erected an office where he can attend to the affairs of the Church without distraction, he thinks, and verily believes, that the time has now come, when he should devote himself exclusively to those things which relate to the spiritualities of the Church, and commence the work of translating the Egyptian records, the Bible, and wait upon the Lord for such revelations as may be suited to the conditions and circumstances of the Church. And in order that he may be enabled to attend to those things, he prays your honorable body will relieve him from the anxiety and trouble necessarily attendant on business transactions, by appointing some one to take charge of the city plot, and attend to the business transactions which have heretofore rested upon your Memorialist: That should your Honors deem it proper to do so, your Memorialist would respectfully suggest that he should have no means of support whatever, and therefore would request that some one might be appointed to see that all his necessary wants may be provided for, as well as sufficient means or appropriations for a clerk or clerks, which he may require to aid him in his important work.

X(C1 p. ~~1062~~-1063)

Manuscript History of the Church

_____, scribe

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

December 11, 1841

Note on journal and history

Since I have been engaged in laying the foundation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I have been prevented in various ways from continuing my journal and history in a manner satisfactory to myself or in justice to the cause. Long imprisonments, vexatious and long-continued law-suits, the treachery of some of my clerks, the death of others, and the poverty of myself and brethren from continued plunder and driving, have prevented my handing down to posterity a connected memorandum of events desirable to all lovers of truth; yet I have continued to keep up a journal in the best manner my circumstances would allow, and dictate for my history from time to time, as I have had opportunity so that the labors and suffering of the first Elders and Saints of this last kingdom might not wholly be lost to the world.

(H.C. OV:470; Dec. 11, 1841)

Since I have been engaged in laying the foundation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I have been prevented in various ways from continuing my journal and the history in a manner satisfactory to myself or in justice to the cause. Long imprisonments, vexatious and long-continued law-suits, the treachery of some of my clerks, the death of others, and the poverty of myself and brethren from continued plunder and driving, have prevented my handing down to posterity a connected memorandum of events desirable to all lovers of truth; yet I have continued to keep up a journal in the best manner my circumstances would allow, and dictate from my history from time to time, as I have had opportunity. so that the labors and suffering of the first Elders and Saints of this last kingdom might not wholly be lost to the world.

X (C1 p. 1260)
Manuscript History

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

January 5, 1842

". . .keep the sacred writings. . ."

In front of the stairs opens the door to my private office, or where
I keep the sacred writings. . .

(H.C. IV:491; Jan. 5, 1842)

In front of the stairs opens the door to my private office, or where
I keep the sacred writings. . .

"As follows" in addenda book p. 50

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

February 21, 1842

Records of Father Abraham

. . .--let all the different brances of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in all the world, call meetings in their respective places and tithe themselves and send up to this place to the Trustee in Trust, so that his hands may be loosed, and the Temple go on, and other works be done, such as the new translation of the Bible, and the record of Father Abraham published to the world.

(H.C. IV:517; Feb. 21, 1842)

. . .--let all the different branches of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in all the world, call meetings in their respective places and tithe themselves and send up to this place to the Trustee in Trust, so that his hands may be loosed, and the Temple go on, and other works be done, such as the new translation of the Bible, and the record of Father Abraham published to the world.

X (C1 p. 1275, Manuscript History) *L. Page*

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

February 23, 24, 1842

Explanation and instruction of the Book of Abraham

Wednesday, 23--Settled with and paid Brother Chase, and assisted in the counting room in settling with Ebenezer Robinson, visiting the printing office, and gave Reuben Hedlock instruction concerning the cut for the altar and gods in the Records of Abraham, as designed for the Times and Seasons.

Thursday, 24--Engaged in council with the brethren, attended business at the general office. In the afternoon explained the records of Abraham to the recorder. Sisters Marinda, Mary, and others present to hear the explanations.

(H.C. IV:518; Feb. 23, 24, 1842)

Wednesday, 23--Settled with and paid Brother Chase, and assisted in the counting room in settling with Ebenezer Robinson, visiting the printing office, and gave Reuben Hedlock instruction concerning the cut for the altar and gods in the Records of Abraham, as designed for the Times and Seasons.

X (C1 p. 1275)

Thursday, 24--Engaged in council with the brethren, attended business at the general office. In the afternoon explained the records of Abraham to the recorder. Sisters Marinda, Mary, and others present to hear the explanations.

↗ (C1 pp. 1275-1276; Manuscript History)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

March 1, 1842

Book of Abraham. . .

Thursday, March 1, 1842.--During the forenoon I was at my office and the printing office, correcting the first plate or cut of the records of Father Abraham, prepared by Reuben Hedlock, for the Times and Seasons, and in council in my office, in the afternoon; and in the evening with the Twelve and their wives at Elder Woodruff's, at which time I explained many important principles in relation to progressive improvement in the scale of intelligent existence.

I commenced publishing my translations of the Book of Abraham in the Times and Seasons as follows:

(Fac-simile from the Book of Abraham--No. 1 with explanation following.)

(Fac-simile from the Book of Abraham--No. 2 with explanation following.)

(Fac-simile from the Book of Abraham--No. 3 with explanation following.)

THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM

C-1 12 77 -

A Translation of some Ancient Records that have fallen into our hands from the Catacombs of Egypt, purporting to be the writings of Abraham, while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand upon papyrus.

In the land of the Chaldeans, at the residence of my father, I Abraham, saw that it was needful for me to obtain another place of residence, and finding there was greater happiness, and peace and rest for me, I sought for the blessings of the fathers, and the right whereunto I should be ordained to administer the same; having been myself a following righteousness, desiring also to be one who possessed great knowledge, and to be a greater follower of righteousness, and to possess a greater knowledge, and to be a father of many nations, a prince of peace; and desiring to receive instructions and to keep the commandments of God, I became a right-ful heir, a High Priest, holding the right belonging to the fathers; it was conferred upon me from the fathers; it came down from the fathers, from the beginning of time, yea, even from the beginning, or before the foundations of the earth, to the present time, even the right of the first born, or the first man, who is Adam, our first Father, through the fathers, unto me.

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

2. I sought for mine appointment unto the Priesthood according to the appointment of God unto the fathers, concerning the seed. My fathers having turned from their righteousness, and from the holy commandments which the Lord their God had given unto them, unto the worshipping of the gods of the heathen, utterly refused to hearken to my voice; for their hearts were set to do evil, and were wholly turned to the god of Elkenah, and the god of Libnah, and god of Mahmackrah, and the god of Korash, and the god of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, therefore they turned their hearts to the sacrifice of the heathen in offering up their children unto their dumb idols, and hearkened not unto my voice, but endeavored to take away my life by the hand of the priest of Elkenah--the priest of Elkenah was also the priest of Pharaoh.

3. Now at this time it was the custom of the priest of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to offer up upon the altar which was built in the land of Chaldea, for the offering unto these strange gods, men, women and children. And it came to pass that the priest made an offering unto the god of Pharaoh, and also unto the god of Shagreel, even after the manner of the Egyptians. Now the god of Shagreel was the Sun. Even the thank-offering of a child did the priest of Pharaoh offer upon this altar, which stood by the hill called Potiphar's hill, at the head of the plain of Olishem. Now, this priest had offered upon the altar three virgins at one time, who were the daughters of Onitah, one of the royal descent, directly from the loins of Ham. These virgins were offered up because of their virtue; they would not bow down to worship gods of wood, or of stone, therefore they were killed upon this altar, and it was done after the manner of the Egyptians.

4. And it came to pass that the priests laid violence upon me, that they might slay me also, as they did those virgins, upon this altar; and that you may have a knowledge of this altar, I will refer you to the representation at the commencement of this record. It was made after the form of a bedstead, such as was had among the Chaldeans, and it stood before the gods of Elkenah, Libna, Mahmackrah, Korash, and also a god like unto that of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. That you may have an understanding of these gods, I have given you the fashion of them in the figures at the beginning, which manner of the figures is called by the Chaldeans Rahleenos, which signifies hieroglyphics.

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

5. And as they lifted up their hands upon me, that they might offer me up and take away my life, behold I lifted up my voice unto the Lord my God; and the Lord hearkened and heard, and he filled me with a vision of the Almighty, and the angel of his presence stood by me, and immediately unloosed my bands, and his voice was unto me. Abraham! Abraham! behold my name is JEHOVAH, and I have heard thee, and have come down to deliver thee, and to take thee away from thy father's house, from all thy kinsfolk, into a strange land that thou knowest not of, and this because they have turned their hearts away from me to worship the god of Elkenah, and the god of Libnah, and the god of Mahmackrah, and the god of Korash, and the god of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; therefore I have come down to visit them, and to destroy him who hath lifted up his hand against thee, Abraham my son, to take away thy life. Behold I will lead thee by my hand, and I will take thee to put upon thee my name, even the Priesthood of thy father; and my power shall be over thee; as it was with Noah so shall it be with thee, but through thy ministry my name shall be known in the earth for ever, for I am thy God.

6. Behold Potiphar's Hill was in the land of Ur, of Chaldea; and the Lord broke down the altar of Elkenah, and of the gods of the land, and utterly destroyed them, and smote the priest that he died; and there was great mourning in Chaldea, and also in the court of Pharaoh, which Pharaoh signifies king by royal blood. Now this king of Egypt was a descendant from the loins of Ham, and was a partaker of the blood of the Canaanites by birth. From this descent sprang all the Egyptians, and thus the blood of the Canaanites was preserved in the land.

7. The land of Egypt being first discovered by a woman, who was the daughter of Ham, and the daughter of Egyptus, which in the Chaldean, signifies Egypt, which signifies, that which is forbidden. When this woman discovered the land it was under water, who afterwards settled her sons in it: and thus from Ham, sprang that race which preserved the curse in the land. Now the first government of Egypt was established by Pharaoh, the eldest son of Egyptus, the daughter of Ham, and it was after the manner of the government of Ham, which was patriarchal. Pharaoh being a righteous man, established his kingdom and judged his people wisely and justly all his days, seeking earnestly to imitate that order established by the fathers in the first generations, in the days of the first patriarchal [sic]

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

reign, even in the reign of Adam, and also of Noah, his father, who blessed him with the blessings of the earth, and with the blessings of wisdom, but cursed him as pertaining to the Priesthood.

8. Now Pharaoh being of that lineage by which he could not have the right of Priesthood, notwithstanding the Pharaohs would fain claim it from Noah, through Ham, therefore my father was led away by their idolatry; but I shall endeavor hereafter to delineate the chronology, running back from myself to the beginning of the creation, for the records have come into my hands which I hold unto this present time.

9. Now, after the priest of Elkenah was smitten, that he died, there came a fulfillment of those things which were said unto me concerning the land of Chaldea, that there should be a famine in the land. Accordingly a famine prevailed throughout all the land of Chaldea, and my father was sorely tormented because of the famine, and he repented of the evil which he had determined against me to take away my life. But the records of the fathers, even the patriarchs, concerning the right of Priesthood, the Lord my God preserved in mine own hands, therefore a knowledge of the beginning of the creation, and also of the planets, and of the stars, as they were made known unto the fathers, have I kept even unto this day, and I shall endeavor to write some of these things upon this record, for the benefit of my posterity that shall come after me.

10. Now, the Lord God caused the famine to wax sore in the land of Ur, insomuch that Haran, my brother died, but Terah, my father, yet lived in the land of Ur of the Chaldees. And it came to pass that I, Abraham, took Sarai to wife, and Nehor, my brother, took Milcah to wife, who were the daughters of Haran. Now the Lord said unto me, Abraham, get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred and from thy father's house unto a land that I will show thee. Therefore I left the land of Ur, of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and I took Lot, my brother's son, and his wife, and Sarai, my wife, and also my father followed after me, unto the land which we denominated Haran. And the famine abated; and my father tarried in Haran and dwelt there, as there were many flocks in Haran; and my father turned again unto his idolatry, therefore he continued in Haran.

11. But I, Abraham, and Lot, my brother's son, prayed unto the Lord and the Lord appeared unto me, and said unto me, arise and take Lot with

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thee, for I have purposed to take thee away out of Haran, and to make of thee a minister, to bear my name in a strange land which I will give unto thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession, when they hearken to my voice, for I am the Lord thy God; I dwell in heaven, the earth is my footstool; I stretch my hand over the sea, and it obeys my voice; I cause the wind and the fire to be my chariot; I say to the mountains depart hence, and behold they are taken away by a whirlwind in an instant, suddenly. My name is Jehovah, and I know the end from the beginning, therefore, my hand shall be over thee and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee above measure, and make thy name great among all nations, and thou shalt be a blessing unto thy seed after thee, that in their hands they shall bear this ministry and Priesthood unto all nations; and I will bless them through thy name; for as many as receive this Gospel shall be called after thy name, and shall be accounted thy seed, and shall rise up and bless thee, as their father, and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee, and in thee (that is, in thy Priesthood), and in thy seed (that is thy Priesthood), for I give unto thee a promise that this right shall continue in thee, and in thy seed after thee (that is to say, the literal seed, or the seed of the body) shall all the families of the earth be blessed, even with the blessings of the Gospel, which are the blessings of salvations, even of life eternal.

12. Now, after the Lord had withdrawn from speaking to me, and withdrawn his face from me, I said in my heart, thy servant has sought thee earnestly, now I have found thee. Thou didst send thine angel to deliver me from the gods of Elkenah, and I will do well to hearken unto thy voice, therefore let thy servant rise up and depart in peace. So I, Abraham, departed as the Lord had said unto me, and Lot with me, and I, Abraham, was sixty and two years old when I departed out of Haran. And I took Sarai, whom I took to wife when I was in Ur in Chaldea, and Lot, my brother's son, and all our substance that we had gathered, and the souls that we had won in Haran, and came forth in the way to the land of Canaan, and dwelt in tents, as we came on our way: therefore, eternity was our covering, and our rock, and our salvation, as we journeyed from Haran by the way of Jershon, to come to the land of Canaan.

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13. Now I, Abraham, built an altar in the land of Jershon, and made an offering unto the Lord, and prayed that the famine might be turned away from my father's house, that they might not perish; and then we passed from Jershon through the land, unto the place of Sechem. It was situated in the plains of Moreh, and we had already come into the borders of the land of the Canaanites, and I offered sacrifice there in the plains of Moreh, and called on the Lord devoutly, because we had already come into the land of this idolatrous nation. C-1-1280

p 1289 14. And the Lord appeared unto me in answer to my prayers, and said unto me, unto thy seed will I give this land. And I, Abraham, arose from the place of the altar which I had built unto the Lord, and removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched my tent there; Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east; and there I built another altar unto the Lord, and called again upon the name of the Lord. C-1-1289

15. And I, Abraham, journeyed, going on still towards the south; and there was a continuation of a famine in the land and I, Abraham, concluded to go down into Egypt, to sojourn there, for the famine became very grievous. And it came to pass when I was come near to enter into Egypt, the Lord said unto me, behold Sarai, thy wife, is a very fair woman to look upon, therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see her they will say, she is his wife; and they will kill you, but they will save her alive; therefore, see that ye do on this wise, let her say unto the Egyptians she is thy sister, and thy soul shall live. And it came to pass that I, Abraham, told Sarai, my wife, all that the Lord had said unto me; therefore, say unto them, I pray thee, thou art my sister, that it may be well with me for thy sake, and my soul shall live because of thee.

16. And I, Abraham, had the Urim and Thummim, which the Lord my God had given unto me, in Ur of the Chaldees; and I saw the stars, that they were very great, and that one of them was nearest unto the throne of God: and there were many great ones which were near unto it; and the Lord said unto me, these are the governing ones; and the name of the great one is Kolob, because it is near unto me; for I am the Lord the God. I have set this one to govern all those which belong to the same order as that upon which thou standest. And the Lord said unto me, by the Urim and Thummim, that Kolob was after the manner of the Lord, according

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to its times and seasons in the revolutions thereof, that one revolution was a day unto the Lord, after His manner of reckoning, it being one thousand years according to the time appointed unto that whereon thou standest; this is the reckoning of the Lord's time, according to the reckoning of Kolob.

17. And the Lord said unto me, the planet which is the lesser light lesser than that which is to rule the day, even the night, is above, or greater than that upon which thou standest in point of reckoning, for it moveth in order more slow; this is in order, because it standeth above the earth upon which thou standest, therefore the reckoning of its time is not so many as to its number of days, and of months and of years. And the Lord said unto me, Now Abraham, these two facts exist, behold thine eyes see it; it is given unto thee to know the times of reckoning, and the set time, yea, the set time of the earth upon which thou standest, and the set time of the greater light, which is set to rule the day, and the set time of the lesser light, which is set to rule the night.

18. Now the set time of the lesser light, is a longer time as to its reckoning than the reckoning of the time of the earth upon which thou standest; and where these two facts exist, there shall be another fact above them; that is, there shall be another planet whose reckoning of time shall be longer still; and thus there shall be the reckoning of the time of one planet above another, until thou come nigh unto Kolob, which Kolob is after the reckoning of the Lord's time; which Kolob is set nigh unto the throne of God, to govern all those planets which belong to the same order as that upon which thou standest. And it is given unto thee to know the set time of all the stars, that are set to give light, until thou come near unto the throne of God.

19. Thus I, Abraham, talked with the Lord face to face, as one man talketh with another; and He told me of the works which His hands had made; and He said unto me, My son, my son, (and His hand was stretched out), behold, I will show you all these. And He put His hand upon mine eyes, and I saw those things which His hands had made, which were many; and they multiplied before mine eyes, and I could not see the end thereof, and He said unto me this is Shinehah which is the sun. And He said unto me, KoKob, which is star. And He said unto me, Olea, which is the moon. And He said unto me, Kokaubeam, which signifies stars, or all the

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great lights which were in the firmament of heaven. And it was in the night time when the Lord spake these words unto me. I will multiply thee and thy seed after thee, like unto these; and if thou canst count the number of sands so shall be the number of thy seeds.

20. And the Lord said unto me, Abraham, I show these things unto thee, before ye go into Egypt, that ye may declare all these words. If two things exist, and there be one above the other, there shall be greater things above them; therefore kolob is the greatest of all the Kokaubeam that thou hast seen, because it is nearest unto me; now if there be two things one above the other, and the moon be above the earth, then it may be that a planet, or a star may exist above it, (and there is nothing that the Lord thy God shall take in His heart to do, but what He will do it;) howbeit that He made the greater star; as, also, if there be two spirits and one shall be more intelligent than the other, yet these two spirits, notwithstanding one is more intelligent than the other have no beginning, they existed before; they shall have no end, they shall exist after, for they are gnolaum or eternal.

21. And the Lord said unto me, these two facts do exist, that there are two spirits, one being more intelligent than the other, there shall be another more intelligent than they: I am the Lord thy God, I am more intelligent than they all. The Lord thy God sent His angel to deliver thee from the hands of the priest of Elkenah. I dwell in the midst of them all; I, now, therefore, have come down unto thee, to deliver unto thee the works which my hands have made, wherein my wisdom excelleth them all, for I rule in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath, in all wisdom and prudence, over all the intelligences thine eyes have seen from the beginning; I came down in the beginning in the midst of all the intelligences thou hast seen.

22. Now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones, and God saw those souls that: they were good, and He stood in the midst of them, and He said, These I will make my rulers; for He stood among these that were spirits, and he saw that they were good; and He said unto me, Abraham, thou art one of them, thou wast chosen before thou wast born. And there stood one among them that was like unto God, and he said unto those who were with Him, We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials,

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and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell; and we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them; and they who keep their first estate, shall be added upon; and they who keep not their first estate shall not have glory in the same kingdom with those who keep their first estate; and they who keep their second estate, shall have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever.

23. And the Lord said: Whom shall I send? And one answered like unto the Sons of Man: Here am I, send me. And another answered and said: Here am I, send me. And the Lord said: I will send the first. And the second was angry, and kept not his first estate, and at that day many followed after him. And then the Lord said: Let us go down; and they went down at the beginning, and they (that is, the Gods), organized and formed the heavens and the earth. And the earth, after it was formed was empty and desolate; because they had not formed anything but the earth; and darkness reigned upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of the Gods was brooding upon the face of the waters.

24. And they (the Gods), said: Let there be light, and there was light. And they the Gods, comprehended the light for it was bright; and they divided the light, or caused it to be divided from the darkness, and the Gods called the light day, and the darkness they called night. And it came to pass that from morning until the evening they called day; and this was the first, or the beginning of that which they called day and night.

25. And the Gods also said: Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters and it shall divide the waters from the waters. And the Gods ordered the expanse, so that it divided the waters which were under the expanse, from the waters which were above the expanse, and it was so, even as they ordered. And the Gods called the expanse heaven. And it came to pass that it was from evening until morning that they called night; and it came to pass that it was from morning until evening that they called day; and this was the second time that they called night and day.

26. And the Gods ordered, saying: Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the earth come up dry, and it was so, as they ordered; and the Gods pronounced the dry land earth

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and the gathering together of the waters, pronounced they great waters; and the Gods saw that they were obeyed. And the Gods said: Let us prepare the earth to bring forth grass; the herb yielding seed; the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed in itself yieldeth its own likeness upon the earth; and it was so, even as they ordered. And the Gods organized the earth to bring forth grass from its own seed, and the herb to bring forth herb from its own seed, yielding seed after his kind, and the earth to bring forth the tree from its own seed, yielding fruit whose seed could only bring forth the same, in itself after his kind; and the Gods saw that they were obeyed. And it came to pass that they numbered the days: from the evening until the morning they called night. And it came to pass from the morning until the evening they called day; and it was the third time.

27. And the Gods organized the lights in the expanse of the heavens and caused them to divide the day from the night; and organized them to be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and for years and organized them to be for lights in the expanse of the heaven, to give light upon the earth; and it was so. And the Gods organized the two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night, with the lesser light they set the stars, also; and the Gods set them in the expanse of the heavens, to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to cause to divide the light from darkness. And the Gods watched those things which they had ordered, until they obeyed. And it came to pass that it was from evening until morning that it was night; and it came to pass that it was from morning until evening that it was day; and it was the fourth time.

28. And the Gods said, Let us prepare the waters to bring forth abundantly the moving creatures that have life; and the fowl that they may fly above the earth, in the open expanse of heaven. And the Gods prepared the waters that they might bring forth great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters were to bring forth abundantly after their kind; and every winged fowl after their kind; and the Gods saw that they would be obeyed, and that their plan was good. And the Gods said, We will bless them and cause them to be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, or great waters; and cause the fowl to multiply in the earth. And it came to pass that it was from

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evening until morning that they called night; and it came to pass that it was from morning until eveing that they called day; and it was the fifth time.

29. And the Gods prepared the earth to bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping things, and beasts of the earth after their kind; and it was so as they had said. And the Gods organized the earth to bring forth the beasts after their kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after its kind; and the Gods saw they would obey. And the Gods took counsel among themselves, and said: Let us go down and form man in our image, after our likeness, and we will give them dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing, that creepeth upon the earth. So the Gods went down to organize man in their own image, in the image of the Gods, to form they him male and female, to form they them; and the Gods said, We will cause them to be fruitful, and multiply and replenish the earth, and subdue it, and to have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And the Gods said, Behold, we will give them every herb bearing seed that shall come upon the face of all the earth, and every tree which shall have fruit upon it, yea the fruit of the tree, yielding seed to them we will give it, it shall be for their meat; and to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, behold we will give them life, and also we will give to them every green herb for meat, and all these things shall be thus organized. And the Gods said, We will do everything that we have said, and organize them; and behold, they shall be very obedient. And it came to pass that it was from evening until morning that they called night; and it came to pass that it was from morning until evening that they called day, and they numbered the sixth time.

30. And thus we will finish the heavens and earth, and all the hosts of them. And the Gods said among themselves, On the seventh time, we will end our work, which we have counseled; and we will rest on the seventh time from all our work which we have counseled. And the Gods concluded upon the seventh time, because that on the seventh time they would rest from all their works, which they, the Gods, counseled among themselves to form, and sanctified it. And thus were their

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decisions, at the time that they counseled among themselves to form the heavens and the earth. And the Gods came down and formed these, the generations of the heavens and of the earth and the heavens according to all that which they had said, concerning every plant of the field, before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field, before it grew; for the Gods had not caused it to rain upon the earth, when they counseled to do them; and had not formed a man to till the ground; but there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. And the Gods formed man from the dust of the ground, and took his spirit, that is the man's spirit, and put it into him, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

31. And the Gods planted a garden, eastward in Eden, and there they put the man, whose spirit they had put into the body, which they had formed. And out of the ground made the Gods to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also, in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. There was a river running out of Eden, to water the garden, and from thence it was parted and became into four heads. And the Gods took the man and put him in the garden of Eden, to dress it and keep it; and the Gods commanded the man, saying: Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat, but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the time that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die. Now I, Abraham, saw that it was after the Lord's time, which was after the time of Kolob; for as yet, the Gods had not appointed unto Adam his reckoning.

32. And the Gods said, Let us make an helpmeet for the man, for it is not good that the man should be alone, therefore we will form an helpmeet for him. And the Gods caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam; and he slept, and they took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in the stead thereof, and of the rib which the Gods had taken from man, formed they a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said this was bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh, now she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man; therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleve unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not

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ashamed. And out of the ground the Gods formed every beast of the field and every fowl of the air, and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them, and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that should be the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, to the fowl of the air, to every beast of the field; and for Adam, there was found an helpmeet for him. 1294 / Mar 15

⁺The Book of Abraham was first published in the Times and Seasons in two numbers, Vol. III, Nos. 9 and 10, March 1 and March 15, 1842, respectively. In this form it was copied into the Prophet's history with the several historical items which occurred between the dates of the publication of the two parts, and in this form is found in the Millennial Star, Vol. XIX, pp. 100-103 and 164-168; but it is now thought proper to publish the Book of Abraham entire without dividing it into two articles as in the above name periodical.

It is important to note also that the Book of Abaham [sic] was published in the Times and Seasons when the Prophet was responsible editor of the periodical (he announces his editorial responsibility in No. 9 of Vol. III, p. 710). Attention is called to this fact, in passing, because it is contended on the part of some, that the doctrine of the plurality of divine personages, as now understood by the Church, was not a doctrine taught by Joseph Smith; whereas it is a doctrine of the book of Abraham, as will be seen by reference to it, published by him in a periodical of which he was the responsible editor; and, moreover, the Book of Abraham was often referred to by the Prophet in approving terms.

(H.C. IV:519f-534; 1 March 1842)

~~C-1 p. 1277 -~~

Translation of the Book of Abraham written by his own hand upon papyrus and found in the Catacombs of Egypt.

* In the land of Chaldeans, at the residence of my fathers, I, Abraham, saw, that it was needful for me to obtain another place of residence, and seeing there was greater happiness and peace and rest for me, I sought for the blessings of the fathers, and right whereunto I should be ordained to administer the same: Having been a follower of righteousness; desiring to be one who possessed great Knowledge; a greater follower of righteousness; a possessor of great knowledge; a father of many nations; a prince of peace; one who keeps the commandments of God; a rightful heir; a high priest, holding the right belonging to the fathers, from the beginning of time; even from the beginning, or before the foundations of the earth, down to the present time; even the right of the first born, or the first man, who is Adam, our first Father, through the fathers, unto me.

**I sought for mine appointment unto the Priesthood according to the appointment of God unto the fathers, concerning the seed:

my fathers having turned from their righteousness, and from the holy commandments which the Lord their God had given unto them, unto the worshipping of the gods of the heathen.

Utterly refused to hearken to my voice for their hearts were set to do evil, and were wholly turned to the god Elkkener and the god of Libnah, and the god of Mahmackrah and the god of Koash and the god of Pharaoh King of Egypt, therefore they turned their hearts to the sacrifice of the heathen in offering up their children unto these dumb Idols, and hearkened not unto my voice, but endeavored to take away my life by the hand of the priest of Elkkener The priest of Elkkener was also the priest of Pharaoh, now at this time it was the custom of the priest of Pharaoh the King of Egypt to offer up upon the altar which was built in the land of Chaldea, for the offering unto these strange gods, both men women and children and it came to pass that the priest made an offering unto the god of Pharaoh, and also unto the god of Shagreel, even after the manner of the Egyptians.

* Written by W. W. Phelps

** Warren Parrish begins writing

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(Now the god of Shagreel was the Sun) even a thank offering of a child did the priest of Pharaoh offer upon the altar which stood by the hill called Potiphers hill at the head of the plain of Olishem.

Now, this priest had offered upon the altar three-virgins at one time who were the daughters of Onitah, one of the royal descent directly from the loins of Ham; These virgins were offered up because of their virtue, they would not bow down to worship gods of wood or of stone, therefore they were killed upon this altar.

And it was done after the manner of the Egyptians, and it came to pass; that the priests laid violence upon me, that they might slay me also, as they did those virgins, upon this altar, and that you may have a knowledge of this altar, I will refer you to the representation at the commencement of this record.

It was made after the form of a bedstead such as was had among the Chaldeans, and it stood before the gods of Elkkener Libnah Mahmackrah and also a god like unto that of Pharaoh, King of Egypt that you may have an understanding of these gods, I have given you the fashion of them in the figures at the beginning, which manner of the figures is called by the Chaldeans Rahleenos.

And as they lifted up their hands upon me, that they might offer me up and take away my life, behold I lifted up my voice unto the Lord my God, and the Lord hearkened and heard, and he filled me with a vision of the Almighty and the angel of his presence stood by my feet and immediately unloosed my bands.

And his voice was unto me. Abram, Abram, behold my name is JEHOVAH, and I have heard thee, and have come down to deliver thee, and to take thee away from thy fathers house, and from all thy kinsfolk, into a strange land, which thou knowest not of, and ~~from all~~ this because they have turned their hearts away from me, to worship the god of Elkkener, and the god of Libnah, and the god of Mahmackrah, and the god of Pharaoh, King of Egypt; therefore I have come down to visit them, and to destroy him who hath lifted up his hand against thee, Abram my son to take away thy life; behold I will lead thee by my hand, and I will take thee to put upon thee my name, even the priesthood of thy fathers; and my power shall be over thee as it was with Noah, so shall it be with thee, that through thy ministry my name shall be known in the earth forever, for I am thy God.

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Behold Potiphars Hill was in the land of Ur, of Chaldea, and the Lord broke down the altar of Elkkener, and of ~~the~~ the gods of the land, and utterly destroyed them, and smote the priest that he died and there was great mourning in Chaldea, and also in the court of Pharaoh, which Pharaoh signifies King by royal blood.

Now this King of Egypt was a descendant from the loins of Ham, and was a partaker of the blood of the Canaanites by birth; from this descent sprang all the Egyptians, and thus the blood of the Canaanites was preserved in the land.

The land of Egypt being first discovered by a woman, who was the daughter of Ham, and the daughter of Zeptah, which in the Chaldean, signifies Egypt, which signifies that which is forbidden. When this woman discovered the land it was under water, who after settled her sons in int, and thus from Ham, sprang that race which preserved the curse in the land.

Now the first government of Egypt was established by Pharaoh, the eldest son of Egyptes, the daughter of Ham, and it was after the manner of ~~the~~ the government of Ham, which was patriarchal, Pharaoh being a righteous man established his kingdom and judged his people wisely and justly all his days, seeking earnestly to imitate that order established by the fathers in the first generations, in the days of the first partriarchal reign; even in the reign of Adam, and also of Noah, his father, who blessed him with the blessings of the earth and with blessings of wisdom, but cursed him as pertaining to the priesthood.

Now Pharaoh being of that lineage by which he could not have the right of priesthood, notwithstanding, the Pharaoh's would fain claim it from Noah, through ham, therefore my father was led away by their idolatry, but I shall endeavor hereafter to delineate the chronology, running back from myself to the beginning of the creation, for the records have come into my hands which I hold unto this present time.

Now, after the priest of Elkkener was smitten that he died there came a fulfillment of those things which were spoken unto me, concerning the land of Chaldea that there should be a famine in the land, and accordingly a famine prevailed throughout all the land of Chaldea, and my father was sorely tormented,

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because of the famine, and he repented of the evil which he had determined against me, to take away my life, but the recordss of the fathers, even the patriarch's, concerning the right of priesthood, the Lord my God preserved in mine own hands.

Therefore a knowledge of the beginning of the creation, and also of the planets and of the stars, as it was made known unto the fathers, have I kept even unto this day:

And I shall endeavor to write some of these things upon this record, for the benefit of my posterity that shall come after me.

Now, the Lord God caused the famine to wax sore in the land of Ur, insomuch that Haran my brother died, but Terah, my father, yet lived, in the land of Ur of the chaldees, and it came to pass that I Abram took Sarai to wife and Nehor my brother, took Milcah to wife who were the daughters of Haran.

Now the Lord said unto me Abram get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy fathers house, unto a land that I will show thee, therefore I left the land of Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan and I took Lot my brother's son, and his wife, and Sarai my wife, and also my father followed after me, unto the land which we denominated Haran and the famine abated, and my father tarried in Haran and dwelt there, as there were many flocks in Haran, and my father turned again unto his idolatry, therefore he continued in Haran.

But I Abram and Lot my brothers son, prayed unto the Lord, and the Lord appeared unto me, and said unto me, arise and take Lot with thee, for I have purposed to take thee away out of Haran, and to make of thee a minister to bear my name ~~unto a~~ ~~(?)~~ ~~(?)~~ ~~(?)~~ ~~I will give~~ in a strange land which I will give unto thy seed after thee, for an ~~et~~ ~~(?)~~ ~~more at~~ everlasting possession, ~~if~~ when they hearken to my voice.

For I am the Lord thy God, I dwell in heaven, the earth is my footstool, I stretch my hand over the sea, and it obeys my voice I cause the wind and the fire to be my chariot, I say to the mountains depart hence and behold they are taken away by a whirlwind in an instant suddenly, my name is Jehovah, and I know ~~the beginning~~ the end from the beginning, therefore my hand shall be over thee, and I will make of thee a great nation and I will bless thee, above measure, and make thy name great among all nations.

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And thou shalt be a blessing unto thy seed after thee, that in their hands they shall bear this ministry and priesthood unto all nations, and I will bless them, through thy name, for as many as receive this gospel ~~in~~ shall be called after thy name, and shall be accounted thy seed, and shall rise up and bless thee, as unto their father, and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee, and in thee ~~and-in~~ (that is, in thy Priesthood.), and in thy seed (that is thy Priesthood), for I give unto thee a promise that this right shall continue in thee, and in thy seed after thee (that is to say, the literal seed, or the seed of the body,) shall all the families of the earth be blessed, even with the blessings of the Gospel, which are the blessing of salvations, even of life eternal.

Now, after the Lord had withdrawn from speaking to me and withdrawn his face from me I said in my heart thy servant has sought thee earnestly, now I have found thee, Thou didst send thine angel to deliver me from the gods of Elkkener, and I will do well to hearken unto thy voice, therefore let thy servant arise up and depart in peace so I Abram departed, as the Lord had said unto me, and Lot with me, and I Abram was sixty and two years old when I departed out of Haran.

And I took Sarai, whom I took to ~~to-wife-in-Ur-of-Chaldea~~ wife when I was in Ur, in Chaldea; and Lot my brothers son, and all our substance that we had gathered, and the souls that we had won in Haran and came forth in the way to the land of Canaan, and dwelt in tents, as we came on our way: therefore eternity was our covering, and our rock, and our salvation, as we journeyed from Haran by the way of Jershon, to come to the land of Canaan.

Now I Abram, built an altar unto the Lord, in the land of Jershon, and made an offering unto the Lord and prayed that the famine, might be turned away from my fathers house that they might not perish; and then we passed from Jershon through the land unto the place of Sechem it was situated in the plains of Moreh, and we had already come into the ~~land~~ borders of the land of the Canaanites, and offered sacrifice there, in the plains of Moreh and called on the Lord devoutly because we had already come into the land of this idolitrous nation.

sign of the fifth degree of the ~~first~~ second part

I sought for mine ~~the~~ appointment --(?)--(?)- unto the priesthood according to the appointment of God unto the fathers conce(r)ning the seed

my fathers having turned from their righteousness and from the holy commandments which the Lord their God had given unto them unto the worshiping of the Gods of the he(a)thens utterly refused to hearken to my voice for their hearts were set to do evil and were wholly turned to the God of Elk-Kiner and the god of Libnah and the God of Mah-mack rah and the God of Pharoah King of Egypt therefore they turned their hearts to the sacrifice of the heathens in offering up their children unto their dumb Idols and hearkened not unto my voice but endeavored to take away my life by the hand of the priest of Elk-Kiner

The priest of Elk-Keeneh was also the priest of Pharaoh, now at this time it was the custom of the priest of Pharaoh the King of Egypt to offer up upon the alter which was built in the land of Chaldea for the offering unto these strange gods both men, women and (c)hildren And it came to pass that the priest made an offering unto the god of Pharaoh and also unto the god of Shagreel even after the manner of the Egyptians now the god of Shag-reel was the Sun even a thank offering of a child did the priest of Pharaoh offer upon the alter which stood by the hill called Potiphers hill at the head of the plain of Olishem

Now this priest had offered upon this alter three virgins at one time who were the daughters of Onitah one of the ~~(?)-(?)~~ royal descent directly from the loins of Ham these virgins were offered up because of their virtue they would not bow down to worship gods of wood, or of stone therefore they were killed upon this alter

And it was done after the manner of the Egyptians and it came to pass that the priests laid violence upon me that they might slay me also, as they did those virgins

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

upon this alter, and that you might have knowl

edge of this alter I will refer you to the representation that is at the commencement of this record

It was made after the form of a bedsted such as was had among the Chaldeans and it stood before the gods of Elk Keen Libnah Mah Mack rah and also a god like unto that of Pharaoh King of Egypt

that you may have an understanding of these gods I have given you the fashion of them in the figures at the beginning which manner of figures is called by the Chaldians Rahlee nos

And as they lifted up their hands upon me that they might offer me up ~~and~~ and take away my life behold I lifted up my voice unto the Lord my God; and the lord hearkened and heard and he filled me with a vision of the Almighty and the angel of his presence stood by my feet and immediately loosed my bands

And his voice was unto me Abram Abram Behold my name is Jehovah and I have heard thee and have come down to deliver thee and to take thee away from thy fathers house, and from all thy kinsfolks into a strange land which thou knowest not of, and this because ~~their-hearts are-turned~~ they have turned their hearts away from me to worship the god of Elk kee-nah and the god of Libnah and of Mah mach-rah and the god of Pharaoh King of Egypt. Therefore I have come down to visit them, and to destroy him who hath lifted up an hand against thee. Abram my son to ? take away thy life. Behold I will lead thee by my hand and I will take thee, to put upon thee my name even the priesthood of thy father, and my power shall be over thee; as it was with Noah so shall it be with thee that through thy ministry my name shall be known in the earth forever, for I am thy God Behold Potiphar hill was in the land of Ur of Chaldea and the Lord broke down the alter of Elk Kee nah and of the gods of the lands and utterly destroyed their gods of the land

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

and smote the priest that he died and there ?
great morning in Chaldea and also in the
court of Pharaoh which Pharaoh signifies King by
royal blood. Now this King of Egypt was
a descendent from the loins of Ham and was a
partaker of the blood of the cananiteess by birth:
From this de(s)cent sprang all the Egyptians
and thus the blood of the cananites was preserved
in the land.

The land of Egypt being first discovered by a woman, who
was the daughter of Ham; and the daughter of Zep-tah
which in the Chaldee signifies Egypt, which signifies that
which is forbidden. When this woman discovered the land
it was under water, who after settled her sons in it:
And thus from Ham sprang that race which preserved
the curse in the land.

Now the first government of Egypt, was established by Pharaoh
the eldest son of Egyptes the daughter of Ham; and it was
after the manner of the government of Ham, which was
Patriarchal. Pharaoh being a righteous man establish-
ed his kingdom, and judged his people wisely and
justly all his days, seeking earnestly to imitate that
order established by the fathers in the first generation
in the days of the first Patriarchal reign, even in
the reign of Adam. And also Noah his father, -?---?---?-
-----?-----?-----? who blessed him with the blessings of
the earth and ef with the blessings of wisdom, but
cursed him as pertaining to the priesthood.

Now Pharaoh being of that lineage by which he could not
have the right of priesthood: notwithstanding the Pharaohs
would fain claim it from Noah through Ham: Therefore
my father was led away by their idolitry: but I shall
endeavor hereafter to delliniate the chronology running
back from myself to the begining of the creation, for
the records have come into my hands which I hold
unto this present time

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

Now after the priest of Elk Kee nah was smitten that he died there came a fulfilment of those things which were spoken unto me concerning the land of Chaldea, that there should be a famine in the land; and accordingly a famine prevailed through out all the land of Chaldea: And my father was sorely tormented because of the famine, and he repented of the evil which he had determined against me, to take away my life: But the records of the fathers even the patriarchs concerning the right of priesthood the lord my God preserved in mine own hand: Therefore a knowledge of the beginning of creation and also of the planets, and of the stars, as it was made known unto the fathers, have I kept even unto this day.

And I shall endeavor to write some of these things, upon this record, for the benefit of my posterity that shalt come after me

Now the Lord God caused the famine to was soar in the land of Ur insomuch that Haran my brother died: but Terah my father yet lived in the land of Ur of the Chaldees. And it came to pass; that I Abram took Sarai to wife and Nehor my brother took Melkah to wife

Who was the daughter of ? ron
Now the lord had said unto me Abram get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred even from thy fathers house, unto a land that I will shew thee: Therefore I left the land of Ur of the Chaldees to go into the land of Canaan; and I took Lot my brothers son, and his wife, and Sarai my wife; and also my father followed after me into the land which we denominated Haran. And the famine abated, and my father tarried in Haran and dwelt there, as there were many flocks in Haran; And my father turned again unto his idolitry: Therefore he continued in Haran

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

Now the Lord had said unto (me?) Abram ____?____ get thee
out of thy country and from thy Kindred and from thy
fathers house unto a land that I will show thee Therefor(e) I left
the land of Ur of the chaldees to go into the land of Canaan and I took Lot
my bro son and his wife and Sarai my wife and also my father followed
me into the land which we denominated Haran and the famine
abated, and my father tarried in Haran and dwelt there as there were
many flocks in Haran: and my father turned again unto his idolitry

Therefore he continued in Haran but I Abram ____?____
and Lot my brothers son prayed unto the Lord, and the Lord appeared

Manuscript #2, 4p., ca. 1837

Abraham 1:4-2:6

Handwriting of W. W. Phelps

Sign of the fifth degree of the ~~first~~ second part
I sought for mine appointment where
~~unto~~ unto the priesthood accordin(g)
to the appointment of God unto
the fathers concerning the seed
my fathers having turned from their
righteousness and from the holy
commandments which the Lord
their God had given unto them
unto the worshiping of the gods
of the heathens
utterly refused to hearken to my
voice for their hearts were set to do
evil and were wholly turned to the
God of Elk Kener and the god of
Libnah and the god of Mah
machrah and the god of Phara
oh King of Egypt.

Therefore they turned their hearts
to the sacrafice of the heathens
in offering up their children unto
these dumb Idols and harkened
not unto my voice, but endev
oured to take away my life by
the hand of the priest of Elk Kener
The priest of Elk Kener was also the prie
st of Pharaoh now at this time it
was the custom of the priest of Pharao
the King of Egypt to offer up upon the
altar which was built in the land
of Chaldea for the offering unto these
strange gods both men women and
children and it came to pass that the
priest made an offering unto the god

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

of Pharaoh and also unto the god of Shagreel, even after the manner of the Egyptians.

Now the god of Shagreel was the sun, even a thank offering of a child did the priest of Pharaoh offer upon the altar which stood by the hill called Potiphers hill at the head of the plain of Olishem now this priest had offered upon this altar three virgins at one time who were the daughters of Onitah, one of the ~~segritus~~ (?) royal descent directly from the loins of Ham, these virgins were offered up because of their virtue they would not bow down to worship gods of wood or of stone, therefore they were Killed upon this altar and it was done after the manner of the Egyptians and it came to pass that the priests laid violence upon me, that they might slay me also, as they did those virgins upon this altar, and that you might have a knowledge of this altar, I will refer you to the representations, ~~that-is-lying-before-you~~ at the commencement of this record it was made after the form of a bedstead such as was had amon(g) the Chaldeans, and it stood before the Gods of Elk Kener Libnah Mahmachrah and also a god like unto that of Pharaoh King of Egypt, that you may have an understanding of these gods I have given you the fassion of them, in the figures at the beginning, which manner of figures is ~~wa~~ called by the Egyptians Chaldeans Rahleenos.

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

And as they lifted up their hands
upon me that they might offer me up,
and take away my life, behold I lifted up
my voice unto the Lord my God, and
the Lord hearkened and heard, and he
filled me with a vision of the Almighty
and the angel of his presence stood by
my feet and immediately loosed my
bands.

And his voice was unto me Abram,
Abram, behold my name is Jehovah,
and I have heard thee, and have come
down to deliver thee, and to take thee away
from thy fathers house, and from all thy
Kinsfolks, into a strange land, which
thou knowest not of, and this because
~~their-hearts-are-turn-~~ they have turned
their hearts away from me, to worship
the god of Elk Kener, and the god of Libn
ah and of Mah mach rah and the god
of Pharaoh King of Egypt; therefore I have
come down to visit them and to destroy him
who hath lifted up his hand against thee
Abram my son to take away thy life; behold
I will lead thee by my hand, and I
will take thee, to put upon thee my name
even the priesthood of thy Father, ~~and-my~~
and my power shall be over thee as it was
with Noah so shall it be with thee, that
through thy ministry my name shall be
known in the earth forever; for I am thy
God.

Behold Potiphers hill was in the land of
Ur of Chaldea, and the Lord broke down
the altar of Elk Kiner, and of the gods of the
land, and utterly destroyed them, and
smote the priest that he died and there

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

was great mourning in Chaldea, and also in the court of Pharaoh which Pharaoh, signifies King by royal blood. Now this King of Egypt was a descendant from the loins of Ham, and was a partaker of the blood of the canaanites, by birth from this descent sprang all the Egyptians, and thus the blood of the canaanites was preserved in the land.

The land of Egypt being first discovered by a woman, who was the daughter of Ham and the daughter of Zeptah, which in the Chaldea, signifies Egypt, which signifies that which is forbidden. When this woman discovered the land, it was under water, who after settled her sons in it; and thus from Ham sprang that race which preserved the curse in the land.

Now the first government of Egypt was established by Pharaoh, the Eldest son of Egyptes, the daughter of Ham, and it was after the manner of government of Ham which was patriarchal, Pharaoh being a righteous man established his Kingdom and judged his people wisely and justly all his days, seeking earnestly to imitate that order established by the fathers in the first generations, in the days of the first patriarchal reign even in the reign of Adam; and also Noah his father, ~~for-as-in(?)--his-days~~ who blessed him with the blessings of the earth and with the blessings of wisdom but cursed him as pertaining to the priesthood.

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

Now Pharaoh being of that lineage, by which he could not have the right of priesthood, notwithstanding the Pharaohs would feign claim it from Noah through Ham, therefore my father was led away, by their Idolitry but I shall endeavor here after to delineate the chronology running back from myself to the beginning of the creation: for the records have come into my hands which I hold unto this present time.

Now after the priest of Elk Kiner was smitten that he died there came a fulfillment of those things which were spoken unto me concerning the land of Chaldaea, that there should be a famine in the land, and accordingly a famine prevailed throughout all the land of Chaldea, and my father was sorely tormented, because of the famine, and he repented of the evil which he had determined against me, to take away my life, but the records of the fathers, even the patriarch's, concerning the right of priesthood the Lord my God preserved in mine own hands, therefore a Knowledge of the beginning of creation, and also of the planets and of the stars, as it was made known unto the fathers, have I kept even unto this day.

And I shall endeavour to write some of these things upon this record, for the benefit of my posterity that shall come after me.

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

Now the Lord God caused the famine to wax sore in the land of Ur, in-
somuch that Haran my brother died,
but Terah my father yet lived in the
land of Ur of the chaldeas. And it
came to pass that I Abram took Sarai
to wife and Nahor, my brother, took Mil-
cah to wife.

Who was the daughter of Haran.

Manuscript #3, ca. 1837

Abraham 1:4-2:2

Handwriting of Warren Parrish

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

p. 1

A Translation of Some ancient Records that have fallen into our hands, from the Catacombs of Egypt, purporting to be the writings of Abraham, while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand upon papyrus.

THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM

In the Land of the Chaldeans, at the Residence of my father, I, Abraham, saw that it was needful for me to obtain another place of Residence and ~~seeing~~ finding there was greater happiness and peace & Rest for me, I sought for the blessings of the fathers & the Right whereunto I should be ordained to administer the same; having been myself a follower of Righteous, desiring also to be one who possessed great knowledge, and to be a greater follower of Righteous and to possess a greater knowledge,

p. 2

& to be a father of many nations, a prince of peace; and desiring to receive instructions and to keep the commandments of God, I became a rightful heir, a high priest, holding the right belonging to the fathers, it was conferred upon me from the fathers, it came down from the fathers, from the beginning of Time, yea, even from the beginning, or before the foundations of the earth, to the present time, even the right of the first born, on the the first man, who is Adam or first father through the father unto me. I sought for mine appointment (unto the Priesthood) according to the the appointment (~~unto the Priesthood, according unto the~~) of God unto the fathers concerning the seed, my fathers having turned from their Righteousness & from the Holy commandments which the Lord their God had given unto them, unto the

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worshipping of the Gods of the heathens, utterly refused to hearken to my voice, for their hearts were set to do evil & were wholly turned to the God of Elkenah & the God of Libnah & the God of Mahmackrah, & the God of Koash & the God of Pharaoh King of Egypt, therefore they turned their hearts to the sacrifice of the heathens in offering up their children unto their dumb Idols & hearkened not unto my voice but

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

endeavored to take away my life by the hand of the priest of Elkenah; The Priest of Elkenah was also the priest of Pharaoh, ~~not~~ now at this time it was the custom of the priest of Pharaoh the King of Egypt to offer up upon the altar which was built in the land of Chaldea, for the offering unto these strange Gods, both men women & children. And it came to pass the priest made an offering unto the God of Pharaoh

p. 4 (missing--Abraham 1:9b to 12a)

p. 5

refer you to the representation at the commencement of this Record. It was made after the form of a bedsted, such as was had among the Chaldeans, and it stood before the Gods of Elkenah, Libnah, Mahmackrah, Korash and also a God like unto that of Pharaoh King of Egypt, that you may have an understanding of there Gods I have given you the fashion of them in the figure, at the beginning, which manner of the figure is called by the Chaldeans Rahlenos; And as they lifted up their hands upon me, that they might offer me up & take away my life, behold I lifted up my voice unto the Lord my God; & the Lord hearkened & heard, & he filled me with ~~the~~ a vision of the almighty & the angel of his presence stood by ~~my-feet~~ me, & immediately unloosed my bands, & his voice was unto me Abram; Abram; behold, my name

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is Jehovah, & I have heard thee, & have come down to deliver thee & to take thee away from thy fathers house & from all thy kinsfolk, into a strange land, which thou knowest not of, & this because they have turned their hearts away from me, to worship the God of Elkenah, & the God of Libnah, and the God of Mahmackrah, & the God of Korash, & the God of Pharaoh King of Egypt; therefore I have come down to visit them, & to destroy him who hath lifted up his hand against thee, Abram, my son, to take away thy life; Behold I will lead thee by my hand, & I will take thee, to put upon thee my name, even the Priesthood of thy father; & my power shall be over thee; as it was with Noah so shall it be with thee; that through thy ministry my name shall be known in the earth forever, for I am thy God.

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Behold Potiphers Hill was in the Land of Ur, of Chaldea; and the Lord broke down the altar of Elkenah, & of the Gods of the Land, and utterly destroyed them, & smote the Priest that he died, & there was great mourning in

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

Chaldea, and also in the court of Pharaoh; which Pharaoh signifies King by Royal blood, Now this King of Egypt was a descendant from the loins of ~~adam~~ Ham, & was partaker of the blood of the canaanites by birth. From this descent sprang all the Egyptians, & thus the blood of the canaanites was ~~prevesed~~ preserved in the land. The land of Egypt being first discovered by a woman, who was the daughter of Ham, & the daughter of ~~Zeptah~~ Egyptah Egyptus which signifies, that which is forbidden. When this woman discovered the land it was under water,

p. 8

who after wards settled her sons in it, & thus, from ~~Adam~~ Ham sprang that race which preserved the curse in the land, Now the first government of Egypt was established by Pharaoh, the Eldest son of ~~Egyptah~~ Egyptus, the daughter of Ham, & it was after the manner of the Government of Ham, which was Patriarchal. Pharaoh, being a Righteous man, established his kingdom & judged his people wisely & justly all his days, seeking earnestly to imitate that order established by the fathers in the first generations, in the days of the first Patriarchal Reign, even in the reign of adam, & also Noah his father, who blessed him with the blessings of the earth & with the blessings of wisdom, but cursed him as pertaining to the Priesthood. Now Pharaoh being of that lineage, by which he could not have the right of Priesthood, notwithstanding the Pharaoh would fain claim it from Noah,

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through Ham, therefore my father was led away by their idolatry; but I shall endeavor, hereafter to delineate the chronolgy running back from myself to the beginning of the creation, for the Records have come into my hands which I hold unto this present time. Now after the Priest of Elkenah was smitten, that he died, there came a fulfillment of those things which ~~were~~ were said ~~spoken~~ unto me concerning the Land of Chaldea, that there should be a famine in the land. Accordingly a famine prevailed throughout all the land of Cahldea, & my father was sorely tormented because of the famine, & he repented of the evil which he had determined against me, to take away my life; But the records of the fathers, even the Patriarchs, concerning the right of Priesthood, the Lord my God preserved in myine own hand, therefore a knowledge

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

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of the beginning of the creations, & also of the Planets, & of the stars as they were made known unto the fathers, have I kept even unto this day, & I shall endeavor to write some of these things upon this Record, for the benefit of my posterity that shall come after me. Now the Lord God caused the famine to wax sore in the land of Ur, insomuch that Haran my brother died, but Terah my father, yet lived in the land of Ur, of the Chaldees. And it came to pass that I, Abram, took Sarai to wife, and Nehor my Brother took Milcah to wife who was the daughter of Haran. Now the Lord had said unto me, Abram, get thee out of thy country, & from thy kindred, & from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee; Therefore I left the land of Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of canaan; & I took Lot my ~~fathers~~- Brothers Son, & his wife, & Sarai my wife, & also my father followed after me, unto the Land which we denominated Haran. And the famine

p. 11

abated, & my father tarried in Haran & dwell there as there were many flocks in Haran, & my father turned again unto his Idolatry, therefore he continued in Haran; But I, Abram, & Lot my Brothers son prayed unto the Lord, & the Lord appeared unto me, & said unto me, arise, & take Lot with thee, for I have purposed to take thee away out of Haran, & to make of thee a minister to bear my name in a strange land; which I will give unto thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession, when they harken to my voice, for I am the Lord thy God; I dwell in heaven, the earth is my footstool, I stretch my hand over the Sea & it obeys my voice, I cause the wind & the fire to be my chariot, I say to the mountains depart ~~heanee~~ hence, & behold they are taken away, by a whirlwind, in an instant suddenly.--My name is Jehovah,

p. 12

& I know the end from the begining, therefore my hand shall be over thee, & I will make of thee a great nation, & I will bless thee above measure & make thy name great among all nations, & thou shall be a blessing in unto thy seed after thee that In their hands they shall bear this ministry & Priesthood unto all nations, & I will them through thy name, for as many as receive this gospel shall be called after thy name, & shall be accounted

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thy seed, & shall rise up and bless thee, as unto their father, & I will bless them that bless thee & curse them that curse thee & in thee thee; (that is in thy Priesthood) & in thy seed, (that is thy Priesthood) for I give unto thee a promise that this right shall continue in thee & in thy seed after thee (that is to say the literal seed, or the seed of thy body) shall all the families of the earth be blessed even with the blessings of the

p. 13

gospel, which are the blessings of salvation even of life eternal. Now after the Lord had withdrawn from speaking ~~with~~ to me, & withdrawn his face from me, I said in mine heart thy servant has sought thee earnestly, now I have found thee.

Thou didst send thine angel to deliver me from the gods of Elkenah, & I will do well to hearken unto thy voice, therefore let thy servant rise up and depart in peace. So I, Abram, departed as the Lord had said unto me, & Lot with me, & I Abram was 6 & 2 years old when I departed out of Haran. And I took Sarai, whom I took to wife when I was in Ur, in Chaldea, & Lot my brothers Son, & all our substance that we had gathered, & the souls that we had won in Haran, & came forth in the way to the land of canaan, & dwelt in tents

p. 14

as we came on way; therefore Eternity was our covering; & our rock & our salvation as we journeyed from Haran by the way of Jershon, to come to the land of canaan. (P. 12) Now I, Abram, built an altear unto the Lord in the land of Jershon, & made an offering unto the Lord, & prayed that the famine might be turned away from my fathers's house, that they might not perish; & then we passed from Jershon through the Land unto the place of Sechem. It was situated in the plains of Moreh, & we had already come into the borders of the land of the Canaanites, & I offered sacrifice there in the plains of Moresh, & called on the Lord devoutly because we had already come into the Land of this Idolatrous nation

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

p. 7

they shall exist after, for they are ~~immortal~~ of Gnolaum, or Eternal. (P. 21) Now the Lord said unto me, these 2 facts do exist, that there are 2 spirits one being more inteliget than the other. ~~do-exist~~ there shall be another more intelligent than they: I am the Lord thy God I am more inteligent than they all The Lord thy god sent his angel to deliver thee from the hands of the Prist of Elkenah. he ~~who~~ I dwelleth in the midst of them all; I, now, therefore, have come down unto thee, to declare unto thee the works, which my hands have made, wherein my wisdom excelleth them all, for I ruleth in the heavens above, & in the earth beneath, in all wisdom & purdence, over all the inteligences thine eyes have seen from the beginning; I came down in the beginning in the midst of all the intelligence thou hast seen. (P. 22) Now the Lord had shown unto me,

p. 8

Abraham, the inteligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these were many of the noble & great ones, and God saw these souls that they were good, & he stood in the midst of them, and he said, there, I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits, & he said that th(e)y were good; & he said unto me, Abraham, thou art one of them, thou art chosen before thou wast born, & there stood one among ~~when~~ them that was like unto God, & he said unto those, who ~~wh~~ were with him, we will go down, ~~there~~ for there is space there, & we will take of these materials & we will make an Earth whereon these may dwell; & we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them; & they, who keep their first estate, shall be added upon;

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

A fac-Similee from the Book of Abraham--

Explanation of the above cut.

- Fig Fig 1. The Angel of the Lord.
- " 2. Abraham, fastened upon an altar.
- " 3. The Idolatrous Priest of Elkenah attempting to offer up Abraham as a sacrifice.
- " 4. The Altar for sacrifice by the Idolatrous Priests standings before the God of Elkenah & Libnah & Mahmackrah, Korash & Phoraoh.
- " 5. The Idolatrous God of Elkenah
- " 6. The Idolatrous God of Libnah
- " 7. The " " " Mahmackrah.
- " 8. The " " " Korash.
- " 9. The " God of Phoraoh.
- " 10. Abraham in Egypt
- " 11. Designed to represent the pillars of heaven as understood by the Egyptians.
- " 12. Raukeeyagang. Signifying expanse or the firmament over our heads; but in this case, in relation to this subject, the Egyptians meant it to signify Shaumau, to be high, ~~heaven~~ or the heavens; answering to the Hebrew word, Shaumahyeem.

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

Cut 2

- No. 1. Kolob, signifying the first creation, nearest to the celestial, or the residence of God. First in Government, the last pertaining to the measurement of time. The measurement according to celestial time; which, celestial time, signifies one day to a cubit. One day, in Kolob, is equal to a thousand years, according to the measurement of this earth, which is called by the Egyptians Jah-oh-eh.
- No. 2. Stands next to Kolob, called by the Egyptians Oliblish, which is the next grand governing creation, nearer to the celestial or the place where God resides, holding the key of power also, pertaining to other planets; as revealed to from God ~~from~~ to Abraham, as he offered (unreadable word crossed out) Sacrifice upon an altar, which he had built unto the Lord.
- No. 3. Is made to represent God, sitting upon this throne, clothed with power & authority; with a crown of Eternal light upon his head; representing, also, the grand Key words of the Holy Priesthood, as revealed to Adam in the Garden of Eden, as also to Seth; Noah, Melechisedek, Abraham & all to whom the priesthood was revealed.
- No. 4. answers to the hebrew work raukeeyang, signifying expanse, or the firmament of the heavens; also, a numerical figure, in Egyptian, signifying 1000; answering to the measuring of the time of Oliblish, which is equal with Kolob in its revolution & in its measuring of ~~time~~ time.

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

- No. 5. is called by the Egyptians Enish-go-on-dosh;
that is, one of the governing planets, also, &
is said by the Egyptians to be Sun, & to
borrow its light from Kolob through the
medium of ~~Kaevanrash~~ Kae-e-vanrash,
which is the grand Key, or in other words,
the Governing power, which governes 15 other
fixed planets or stars, as also ~~Fleese~~ Floeese or the
moon, the earth and the sun in their
annual revolutions, this planet receives
its ~~power~~ power though the medium of Kli-flos-
-is-es, or Hah-ko-kau-beam, the stars represented
by numbers 22, & 23, receiving light from the
revolutions of Kolob.
- No. 6 Represents this earth in its four quarters.
- No. 7. Represents God sitting upon his throne,
revealing, through the heavens, the grand
Key words of the Priesthood; as; also, the sign
of the Holy Ghost unto Abraham, in the form
of a dove.
- No. 8 contains writing that cannot now be revealed
unto the world, but is to be had in the Holy
Temple of God.
- No. 9. ought not to be revealed at the present time.
- No. 10. Also.--
- No. 11. Also. If the world can find out these numbers,
so mite it be, Amen.
- No. 12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

No. 21

" 22 will be given in the own due time of
the Lord.

The above translation is given as far as we
have any right to give, at the present time.

Manuscript #4, 1841, 18

Abraham 1:1 to 3:26

Handwriting of Willard Richards

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

March 2, 1842

Times and Seasons Editor

Wednesday, March 2--I read the proof of the Times and Seasons, as editor for the first time, No. 9, Vol. III, in which is the commencement of the Book of Abraham; paid taxes to Mr. Bagby, in the general business office, for county and state purposes, but refused to pay the taxes in the city and town of Commerce, as the demand was illegal, there being no such place known in law, the city and town of Commerce having been included in the city plot of Nauvoo, but continued by our enemies on the tax list for the purpose of getting more money from the Saints; I commenced a settlement with Gilbert Granger on the estate (Kirtland) of his father Oliver Granger; and continued in my office till nine in the evening, having received a visit from General Dudley of Connecticut.

(H.C. IV:542; March 2, 1842)

Wednesday, March 2--I read the proof of the Times and Seasons, as editor for the first time, No. 9, Vol. III, in which is the commencement of the Book of Abraham; paid taxes to Mr. Bagby, in the general business office, for county and state purposes, but refused to pay the taxes in the city and town of Commerce, as the demand was illegal, there being no such place known in law, the city and town of Commerce having been included in the city plot of Nauvoo, but continued by our enemies on the tax list for the purpose of getting more money from the Saints; I commenced a settlement with Gilbert Granger on the estate (Kirtland) of his father Oliver Granger; and continued in my office till nine in the evening, having received a visit from General Dudley of Connecticut.

X (C1 p. 1286)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

March 4, 1842

Exhibiting the Book of Abraham

Friday, 4--At my office exhibiting the Book of Abraham in the original to Brother Reuben Hedlock, so that he might take the size of the several plates or cuts, and prepare the blocks for the Times and Seasons; and also gave instruction concerning the arrangement of the writing on the large cut, illustrating the principles of astronomy, with other general business.

(H.C. IV:543; March 4, 1842)

Friday, 4--At my office exhibiting the Book of Abraham in the original to Brother Reuben Hedlock, so that he might take the size of the several plates or cuts, and prepare the blocks for the Times and Seasons; and also gave instruction concerning the arrangement of the writing on the large cut, illustrating the principles of astronomy, with other general business.

X (Cl p. 1286)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

March 8,9, 1842

Translating--Book of Abraham

Tuesday, 8--Recommenced translating from the Records of Abraham for the tenth number of the Times and Seasons, and was engaged at my office day and evening.

Wednesday, 9--Examining copy for the Times and Seasons, presented by Messrs. Taylor and Bennett, and a variety of other business in my office in the morning; in the afternoon continued the translation of the Book of Abraham, called at Bishop Knight's and Mr. Davis', with the recorder, and continued translating and revising, and reading letters in the evening Sister Emma being present in the office.

(H.C. IV:548; March 8, 9, 1842)

Tuesday, 8--Recommenced translating from the Records of Abraham for the tenth number of the Times and Seasons, and was engaged at my office day and evening.

X (C1 p. 1286)

(See addenda book p. 60)

Wednesday, 9--Examining copy for the Times and Seasons, presented by Messrs. Taylor and Bennett, and a variety of other business in my office in the morning; in the afternoon continued the translation of the Book of Abraham, called at Bishop Knight's and Mr. Davis', with the recorder, and continued translating and revising, and reading letters in the evening Sister Emma being present in the office.

X (C1 p. 1287)

_____,scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

March 9, 1842

Letter to Edward Hunter

. . .I am now very busily engaged in translating, and therefore cannot give as much time to public matters as I could wish, but will nevertheless do what I can to forward your affairs. I will send you a memorandum of such goods as will suit this market.

(H.C. IV:549; March 9, 1842)

. . .I am now very busily engaged in translating, and therefore cannot give as much time to public matters as I could wish, but will nevertheless do what I can to forward your affairs. I will send you a memorandum of such goods as will suit this market.

(see Addenda book p. 60)

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

March 11, 1842

Responsibility for Times and Seasons

The paper commences my editorial career; I alone stand responsible for it, and shall do for all papers (i.e. Nos. of the Times and Seasons,) having my signature henceforward. I am not responsible for the publication or arrangement of the former paper; the matter did not come under my supervision.

Joseph Smith

(H.C. IV:551; March 11, 1842)

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

May 4, 1842

Council with the Brethren

Wednesday, 4--I spent the day in the upper part of the store, that is in my private office (so called because in that room I keep my sacred writings, translate ancient records, and receive revelations) and in my general business office, or lodge room (that is where the Masonic fraternity meet occasionally, for want of a better place) in council with General James Adams, of Springfield, Patriarch Hyrum Smith, Bishops Newel K. Whitney and George Miller, and President. . .

(H.C. V:1; May 4, 1842)

Wednesday, 4--I spent the day in the upper part of the store, that is in my private office (so called because in that room I keep my sacred writings, translated ancient records, and receive revelations) and in my general business office, or lodge room (that is where the Masonic fraternity meet occasionally, for want of a better place) in council with General James Adams, of Springfield, Patriarch Hyrum Smith, Bishops Newel K. Whitney and George Miller, and President. . .

X (Cl p. 1328)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

May 16, 1842

Fac-simile from the Book of Abraham

Monday, 16--. . .I published in this day's Times and Seasons the following fac-simile from the Book of Abraham.

* The fac-simile referred to will be found on page 523 of Vol. IV of this History, where it is published in connection with an explanation of the various figures on the plate and preceding the Prophet's translation of the Book of Abraham, taken from the Times and Seasons.

(H.C. V:11; May 16, 1842)

Monday, 16--In the afternoon at the printing office in council with Brothers Young, Kimball and Richards, and others. I published in this day's Times and Seasons a fac-simile from the Book of Abraham.* No. 3

Fac-simile #3 (followed by Explanations)

✓ (C1 p. 1333)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

November 15, 1843

Grammar of the Egyptian language

P.M. At the office. Suggested the idea of preparing a grammar of the Egyptian language.

(H.C. VI:70; November 15, 1843)

P.M. At the office. Suggested the idea of preparing a grammar of the Egyptian language.

✓ (E1 p. 1779)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

June 16, 1844

Abraham concerning God the Father

. . .I learned a testimony concerning Abraham, and he reasoned concerning the God of heaven. . .

If Abraham reasoned thus--If Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and John discovered that God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father, you may suppose that He had a Father also. Where was there ever a son without a father? And where was there ever a father without first being a son? Whenever did a tree or anything spring into existence without a progenitor? And everything comes in this way. Paul says that which is earthly is in the likeness of that which is heavenly. Hence if Jesus had a Father, can we not believe that He had a Father also? I despise the idea of being scared to death at such a doctrine, for the Bible is full of it.

(H.C. VI:476; June, 1844)

. . .I learned a testimony concerning Abraham, and he reasoned concerning the God of heaven. . .

If Abraham reasoned thus--If Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and John discovered that God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father, you may suppose that He had a Father also. Where was there ever a son without a father? And where was there ever a father without first being a son? Whenever did a tree or anything spring into existence without a progenitor? And everything comes in this way. Paul says that which is earthly is in the likeness of that which is heavenly. Hence if Jesus had a Father, can we not believe that He had a Father also? I despise the idea of being scared to death at such a doctrine, for the Bible is full of it.

X (F1 p. 103; June 1844)

_____, scribe

The Abrahamic Writings

Quotations from Original Journals and Printed Sources

The beginning of a small book

Valuable discovery of hidden [sic] records what have been obtained
from the ancient bearing of the Egyptians.

Joseph Smith, Jun.

(Egyptian Manuscript #6, handwriting of
Joseph Smith.)

_____, scribe