

# Reformed Ministry to Mormons

## The Mountain Meadows Massacre

Most Mormons in Utah and surrounding states have an awareness, albeit usually a vague awareness, of the Mountain Meadows Massacre. However Mormons in other places of the world know nothing of this terrible incident which occurred in the history of the United States. The facts and implications of this crime concerning which you are about to read should lead any honest and objective person to weigh the Mormon religion in the balances of Christian truth and justice and to find it wanting.

In early September 1857 a large company of emigrants were passing through Southern Utah on their way to California when they were set upon by a combined force of around 40 Mormons and several hundred native Indians.

**Apart from the smallest children, over 120 men, women and children were ruthlessly butchered despite being under a flag of truce.**

The property of the settlers was then dispersed between the Mormon militiamen and the Indians. The little children who were spared were taken into Mormon homes and cared for. Later the United States Government provided a fund to gather the children and transport them to relatives in Arkansas and Missouri and to an orphanage in St Louis. At this time Brigham Young, the second Prophet of the Mormon religion, was Governor and absolute ruler over the territories of Utah. Brigham Young's tenure of office as Prophet lasted between 1847 and 1877, which included the period of the entire protracted history of the Mountain Meadows Massacre and its aftermath.

You are invited to consider the following facts, which are beyond dispute and which the Mormon General Authorities dare not contradict:

The little children were spared because they were deemed too young to recognise their assailants and according to Mormon reasoning at the time, were considered innocent of the blood of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

The white assailants were all men of standing in the Mormon religion; all held the Aaronic and Melchisedec priesthoods; there was at least one President and two Bishops who continued in public and ecclesiastical office long after the atrocity. One of the ringleaders, John D. Lee who was an adopted son of Brigham Young, was unanimously elected to office and served as President of the colony of Harmony, Presiding Elder and War Bishop until March 5th, 1864.

The Mormon militiamen belonged to a secret police force known as the Danites, which was first set up with the direct sanction of Prophet Joseph Smith in order to deal with those deemed to be 'enemies' of the Church. They were bound together in mutual support and protection by secret oaths; they were totally loyal to the Prophet and were governed by the Mormon principle of blood atonement.

Even if the evidence is not conclusive that Brigham Young personally ordered the massacre, what is beyond doubt is that he knew the identity of all the assailants and he took them under his personal protection and organised a thorough cover up.

Brigham Young and trusted Lieutenants such as Apostle Heber C. Kimball and Apostle George Smith, through their fanatical and bloodthirsty rhetoric, whipped up the Mormon people into a frenzy against the Federal Government and non-Mormon settlers. This is the backdrop to the massacre.

Brigham Young himself frequently preached the doctrine of blood atonement. Numerous examples can be given. Here is one: "I could refer you to plenty of instances where men have been righteously slain in order to atone for their sins. I have seen scores and hundreds of people for whom there would have been a chance their lives had been taken and their blood spilled on the ground as a smoking incense to the Almighty, but we are now angels to the devil... I have known a great many men who left this Church for whom there is no chance whatever for exaltation, but if their blood had been spilled it would have been better for them. The wickedness and ignorance of the nations forbids this principle being in full force but the time will come when the law of God will be in full force.

**This is loving our neighbour as ourselves; if he needs help, help him; and he wants salvation and it is necessary to spill his blood on the earth in order that he may be saved, spill it."**

*(Excerpt of a sermon delivered by the Prophet in the Tabernacle, February 8, 1857 printed in the Desert News February 18, 1857, also reprinted in the Journal Discourses Vol. 4, pp 219-220.)*

During the reign of Brigham Young there were scores of mysterious killings.

The native Indians were useful allies and pawns in Brigham Young's resistance to the Federal authorities. They were described as his 'battle axe'.

Mormon mentality then and now is total obedience to their leadership and to the General Authorities in particular. Heber C. Kimball preached shortly before the massacre these chilling words: "Learn to do what you are told whether it is right or wrong."

In Cedar City shortly after the massacre the Prophet preached a sermon urging secrecy in the matter. Brigham Young said anyone who betrayed a brother "would die a dog's death and go to hell" and "I must not hear of treachery among my people".

It took 20 years for just one man, John D. Lee, to be prosecuted and punished for the crime, and that only due to the persistence of the Federal investigators.

Brigham Young decided that in order to save himself and the Church he would allow a "scapegoat" to be found and punished. After the first Mormon dominated jury acquitted John D. Lee, Brigham Young consented for the second jury to find him guilty.

**John D. Lee**, just before his execution, gives this testimony concerning Brigham Young and his betrayal.

**"I do not believe everything that is now being taught and practised by Brigham Young. I do not care who hears it... I studied to make this man's will my pleasure for 30 years. See, now what have I come to this day. I have been sacrificed in a cowardly and dastardly manner. I cannot help it. It is my last word. I am now singled out and am sacrificed in this manner. What confidence can I have in such a man? I have none and I don't think my Father in heaven has any."**

Before the massacre the Mormon militiamen met in conference and prayer and concluded that God was with them. They had a burning in their bosom and John D. Lee addressed them saying: "Brethren, we have been sent to perform a duty. It is a duty that we owe God and our Church and people... Our leaders speak with inspired tongues and their words come from the God of heaven."

In his book, "I was a Mormon", Einar Anderson who converted to Christianity writes: "Is it surprising then that men inflamed with a promise that they shall be gods would take into their hands the business of assuming the power to avenge and take the life of those who oppose them?" Anderson goes on to say,

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**We see the twisting, glossing and polishing to which the Mormon hierarchy resorts in order to present their leaders and prophets without human failing... It is such embellishment of the truth, such laxity regarding facts which is a decided factor in the conflict suffered by Mormon youths who seek for knowledge. Intelligent readers of history can find ample proof that the fathers of the Mormon faith, whose authority is claimed to be divine, all too often displayed not only grave error but questionable motives.”**

This is the first of a series of tracts designed to help Mormon people face up to their history and false teachings and to point them to the real Jesus of the Bible. There is an infinitely better way than Mormonism. We urge you to seek the truth in God's Word alone. See yourself as a sinner who is bound for hell and cry out for mercy in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Many Mormons through the years have found the real Lord Jesus and are now Christians.**

God is able to do this in your life also. May God grant it. “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” John 6:37.