The Message of the Joseph Smith Papyri: An Egyptian Endowment

Hugh Nibley

Description

When Hugh Nibley first wrote The Message of the Joseph Smith Papyri, he wrote it for an audience that understood things both Egyptian and Latter-day Saint. It was an audience that at the time did not exist. For the bemused audience that did find the book, many failed to comprehend it. Many of Nibley’s readers have supposed that, like Nibley’s other works, it was designed to be read straight through and have expressed frustration at the difficulty of doing so. Only the first few chapters are designed to be read in this manner. The rest of the book is a commentary on a particular text, Papyrus Louvre N. 3284, which Nibley introduced in his early chapters. If the reader desires to know a bit more about a particular passage in the text, he or she should go to the appropriate place in the commentary.

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ISBN

978-1590385395

Owning Institution

Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship

Publisher

Deseret Book Company

Publication Date

2005

Disciplines

Religion | Religious Education

Recommended Citation


https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/mi/85

Alternatively, Joseph’s study of the papyri may have led to a revelation about key events and teachings in the life of Abraham, much as he had earlier received a revelation about the life of Moses while studying the Bible.