

## Chapter 20

### Fraud, Bombs, and Fallibility

*<Church leaders purchasing the oftentimes-fraudulent documents of Mark Hoffman> (p. 223-29)*

The Thomases mention the Hoffman affair, where the Church acquired a number of the fraudulent works of Mark Hoffman, including the infamous *Salamander Letter*. Surely this is in the book to cast doubt on the prophetic claims of Latter-day Saint leaders. However, if one is to doubt the LDS Church's leaders, one must also cast doubt on Biblical prophets who themselves were victims of fraud. Examples include the case of the unnamed prophet (1 Kings 13), Joshua and the Gibeonites (Joshua 9:3-27) and patriarch Isaac being fooled into giving a blessing to Jacob as opposed to his brother (Genesis 27:12,35). Additionally, in 1 Corinthians 7:6,12,25-28, Paul writes a number of things that made it into the canon, although at these verses he admits he was giving his own views, not divinely-inspired counsel. Prophets and Apostles do not act prophetically in each and every little thing. Further, The way the truth was revealed was much more convincing and effective than if a Church leader had declared that the damaging and "authenticated" documents were fraudulent. Such claims would have been ridiculed and may have even hindered the objective investigation into the possibility of forgery by Hoffmann.

Further, contra the inane comments on page 227, Church leaders have never been embarrassed to cover up anything. Indeed, the Church actually gave the Joseph Smith III blessing to the RLDS Church prior to it being revealed a fraud and has polished the papyri fragments from the New York metropolitan museum in 1967.