which he carried up into the top of the
mount. He went there with an object in
view; the object was to get the Lord to
touch the stones that they might shine
forth in darkness in the eight vessels
(which had been built to convey him and
his brother across the great waters), one
to be placed at each end of each of the
vessels. It would naturally increase the
faith of the brother of Jared, to believe
it possible that he might see the fin-
ger of the Lord. He was going to pray
that God would touch the stones, the
same as we pray for the Lord to put
forth his finger and touch the particles
of oil, when we dedicate it, for sacred
purposes. If we pray in faith, we must
suppose that the finger touches the oil.
And Jared prayed in faith. He did not
know but what it might be his privilege
to see his finger. He did see it; it ap-
peared to him like the finger of a man,
like unto flesh and blood. But his faith
was too great for his nervous system;
for when he saw the finger of the Lord,
he fell to the earth through fear. And
the Lord looked unto him and asked him
why he had fallen. He answered and
said, "I saw the finger of the Lord, and
I feared lest he should smite me; for I
knew not that the Lord had flesh and
blood." He did not know but what his im-
perfections were so great, that the Lord
would smite him; but he was commanded
to arise. The Lord then asked him,
"Sawest thou more than this?" And he
answered: "Nay; Lord, show thyself unto
me." Here was a prayer that extended a
little further. The Lord wanted to see
what amount of faith he had, and he
put another question to him, "Believest
thou the words which I shall speak?" And
he answered, "Yea, Lord, I know that
 thou speakest the truth, for thou art a
God of truth, and canst not lie." And
when the brother of Jared had mani-
fested his faith, the Lord condescended
to show his whole personage to him, and
said, "Seest thou that ye are created af-
ter mine own image? Behold, this body,
which ye now behold, is the body of my
spirit; and man have I created after the
body of my spirit."

Here the pre-existence of man was
taught in the Book of Mormon. All men
in the beginning were created after the
image of this body which he was then
shewing. All the human family that then
existing, and that would exist in future
time upon the earth, were created in
the beginning, after the image of that
body; that is, that body which he showed
was not a body of flesh and bones, but a
pure spiritual body, organized out of pure
spiritual substance, filled with light and
truth. He informed this great man of
God, that he was prepared, from before
the foundation of the world, to redeem
his people. "Behold," says he, "I am Jesus
Christ. I am the Father and the Son. In
me shall all mankind have life, and that
eternally, even they who shall believe on
my name."

Here, then, was a great deal of infor-
mation given to us, concerning the for-
mation of the human spirit, the forma-
tion of men—the formation of their per-
sons, and their individualities, before the
foundation of this world.

It was after this was given, and the
Book of Mormon was published, that
the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints arose. But the Lord, thinking
that we had not sufficient understand-
ing of this pre-existence, began to tell
us (in the month of June, 1830, only
a few months after the organization of
the Church) more about these things.