

Authority of Scriptures

Mormon Doctrine

Book of Mormon

During the later part of the 4th century A.D., Mormon, a prophet general, made a compilation and abridgement of the records of the people of Lehi, a Jew who led a colony of his family and friends from Jerusalem to their American promised land in 600 B.C.. Mormon's sons Moroni added a few words of his own to the record and also abridged, in very brief form, the records of a nation of Jaredites who had migrated to America at the time of the confusion of tongues when the tower of Babel was built. He records of these two great peoples, preserved on the Gold Plates, were translated by Joseph Smith and are known as the Book of Mormon. (Mormon Doctrine, pg 98)

To Moroni the Lord gave the privilege and power to bring to light the Book of Mormon. Following his mortal Nephite ministry, he died and went to paradise of God. (Moro 10:34) Then in modern times as a resurrected being,...he came to the Prophet and revealed the Book of Mormon. (Mormon Doctrine pg 514)

...he has brought forth the Book of Mormon, which he translated by the gift and power of God...has sent the fullness of the everlasting gospel, which it contained... (D&C 135:3)

I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book. (Joseph Smith, History of the Church, Vol 4, pg 461)

Doctrine & Covenants

That volume of latter-day scripture which contains selections from the revelations given to Joseph Smith and his successors in the Presidency of the Church is called the Doctrine and Covenants...The power of the Holy Spirit was manifest in the receipt of all of these revelations...Perhaps no other book is of such great worth to the saints as the Doctrine and Covenants. It is their book, the voice of God in their day. (Mormon Doctrine, pg 206)

Pearl of Great Price

(Contains Book of Moses, Book of Abraham, Writings of Joseph Smith, Articles of Faith)

According to our Lord's parable, the kingdom of heaven – that is, the kingdom of God on earth, or in other words The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – is the *pearl of great price*.

Bible

We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it has been accurately translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God. (Articles of Faith 8)

The Test of Truth

When ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it to you by the power of the Holy Ghost. (Book of Mormon, Moro. 10:4)

Biblical Doctrine

Book of Mormon

Galatians 1:6-9 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. (KJV)

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Book of Mormon Errors

Alma 7:10 And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin...

Bible

Micah 5:2 But thou, **Bethlehem** Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Matthew 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

The Introduction to the Book of Mormon Admits Textual Errors

“About this edition: Some minor errors in the text have been perpetuated in past editions of the Book of Mormon. This edition contains corrections that seem appropriate to bring the material into conformity with the prepublication manuscripts and earlier editions edited by the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Changes (Why if they were translated by power of Holy Spirit?)

1 Nephi 11:18, 21, 32;– the words “the Son of” added in 1837

Mosiah 21:28 – King Benjamin changed to Mosiah (Name change necessary since it would be apparent that King Benjamin would have been dead, as **Mosiah 6:5** reads, “And King Benjamin lived three years and he died.”)

It is Another Testament (Gospel)

Read the cover and then compare that to Gal 1:6-9!

2007 Change – Due to Conflicting DNA Evidence

“The book's current introduction, added by the late LDS apostle, Bruce R. McConkie in 1981, includes this statement: "After thousands of years, all were destroyed except the Lamanites, and they are the principal ancestors of the American Indians."

The new version, seen first in Doubleday's revised edition, reads, "After thousands of years, all were destroyed except the Lamanites, and they are among the ancestors of the American Indians." (Salt Lake Tribune, November 8, 2007)

No Archeological Verification

No Book of Mormon cities have ever been located, no Book of Mormon person, place, nation, or name has ever been found, no Book of Mormon artifacts, no Book of Mormon inscriptions, no Book of Mormon gold plates... (The Facts On the Mormon Church, pg. 39)

Is there scientific proof authenticating the Book of Mormon?

(Transcript of an interview of Elder M. Russell Ballard, member of the Quorum of the Twelve, dated Oct 2, 2007)

I don't believe that's how people will ever come to know whether or not the Book of Mormon is the word of God. I remember an experience that I had as mission president some years ago when I presided over the affairs of the Church in Eastern Canada. I met with about 30 different ministers of different religions and then I let them ask me questions and the very first question I was asked was by a fine minister who said, “Mr. Ballard, if you just give us the gold plates and let us see that they exist, then we would know that the Book of Mormon is true.” And I looked at him and I said, “Father, you know better than that. You're a man of the cloth. You know that God has never revealed religious truth to the heart and soul of a man or a woman except by the power of the spirit. Now you could have those plates, you could turn the pages, you could look at it, you could hold it, and you wouldn't know any more after that experience whether or not the book is true than you would have before. My question to you; have you ever read the Book of Mormon?” And he said, “No, I haven't.” That's how people will come to know whether or not the Book of Mormon is true. You will not get to know it by trying to prove it archeologically or by DNA or by anything else in my judgment. Just pick it up and read it and pray about it and you will come to know religious truth is always confirmed by what you feel and that's the way Heavenly Father answers prayers. (<http://newsroom.lds.org/ldsnewsroom/eng/news-releases-stories/transcript-of-interview-with-elder-m-russell-ballard>)

“Mormon history is often viewed in terms of how sacred history can be reconciled with the empirical demands of secular history. It is often asked, for example, how the Church can reconcile the authenticity of the Book of Mormon with the absence of archeological proof. This difficulty is inherent in all religious history and illustrates how spiritual matters are best verified by spiritual means. For example, the Jewish belief in the reality of the Exodus is not dependent on archeological evidence, but rests

on faith. At a time when many religions are pressured to treat their sacred histories as myths, the Latter-day Saints on the contrary embrace their history as a literal expression of their faith.”

Likewise, according to Elder Jensen, “the greatest piece of Church history that we have is Joseph Smith's story. It's scripture, and it's history, and it's the foundation, really, for everything that we have and we are, and it's beautifully clear and simple.” (<http://newsroom.lds.org/ldsnewsroom/eng/commentary/approaching-mormon-history>)

Smithsonian Institute Statement on the Book of Mormon

Doctrine & Covenants

False Prophecy - City/Temple to be built in Missouri

Verily, this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation. For verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill this house. (D&C 84:4-5)

Orson Pratt: “I hope, this because God promised in the year 1832 that we should, before this generation then living has passed away, return and build up the City of Zion in Jackson County...The Latter-day Saints just as much expect to receive a fulfillment of that promise during the generation that was in existence in 1832 as hey expect that the sun will rise and set tomorrow. Why? Because God can not lie. He will fulfill all his promises. He has spoken, it must come to pass.” (Journal of Discourses 13:362)

*** To this day there is no such city or temple!**

Book of Abraham

THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM

TRANSLATED FROM THE PAPYRUS, BY JOSEPH SMITH

A Translation of some ancient Records, that have fallen into our hands from the catacombs of Egypt. – The writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus. See History of the Church, vol. 2, pp.235, 236, 348-351

(Book of Abraham – Introduction)

*** Review the errors based on accurate translation of a common Egyptian Death Scroll!**

The Bible Alone is Truth

Psalm 119:142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.

Psalm 119:151 You are near, O Lord, And all Your commandments are truth.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Inerrancy Defined

* To know that the Bible is reliable is to know that all of what it teaches is reliable.

* “Inerrancy means that when all the facts are known, the Scriptures (Bible) in their original autographs and properly interpreted will be shown to be wholly true in everything they affirm, whether that has to do with doctrine or morality or with social physical, or life sciences.”

* Inerrancy means that Scripture does not affirm (teach/state/record) anything that is contrary to fact. (The Bible, God’s Word or Man’s? pg 6)

Reasons Why You can Believe the Bible is True

1. Prophetic Accuracy

* Bible has a 100% prophecy accuracy rate!!!

* Prophecies 100’s years in advance by Name – 1 Kings predicted King Josiah by name 300 years prior, Isaiah prophesied Persian King Cyrus by name 120 years prior, Micah prophesied Bethlehem as the birth place of the Messiah 700 years in advance.

* Messianic Prophecies – especially those he couldn’t control as in his birth place, hometown, being betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver, be scourged, crucified, pierced with a sword, buried in new tomb...

* Mathematical Probabilities – Jesus alone, fulfilling 8 prophecies has been confirmed at a conservative chance of 1 in 10¹⁷.

2. Manuscript Evidence

* By using the 5,000+ manuscripts you can ensure you have an accurate translation (textual integrity).

* No other document of the ancient period is as accurately preserved as the New Testament, based on timeframe & quantity of manuscripts.

* Prior to the Dead Sea Scrolls found in 1947, the oldest manuscripts of the Old Testament were written around 900 A.D., but they date at a minimum 200 B.C.

* “Original Document Argument” – We don’t have the original document so we don’t know if it is true. Neither do we have the original gold plates, writings of Mohammed, or of many secular classics such as Homer’s Odyssey & the Illiad,

3. Archeological Evidence

- * Every archeological discovery proves the truth of the Bible.
- * Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 – Minimum 200 B.C.
- * By 1958 over 25,000 sites from the Bible had been confirmed
- * Overwhelming Archeological Artifacts such as in British Museum
- * “Time after time the most positive assertions of a skeptical criticism have been disproved by archeological discovery, events and personages that were confidently pronounced to be mythical have been shown to be historical...the Hittites, Pontius Pilate...

4. Extra-Biblical Evidence

- * Evidence from outside the Bible. There are 36,000 known quotes of the New Testament from 100-300 A.D.
- * No modern day history book contradicts Biblical historicity

5. Scientific Accuracy or “Prevision” – Telling of unknown scientific facts prior to man’s knowledge of them

Earth Suspended in Space - Job 26:7 He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.

Sun Rotates in Space - Psalm 19:4-6 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, And rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Ocean Currents - Psalm 8:8 The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas. **Isaiah 43:16** Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea And a path through the mighty waters,

Things Seen Made by Things Not Seen - Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

6. Harmony of the Scriptures - 66 Individual Books, written by 40+ Authors, Over 1,500 years – without any contradictions!

7. Lack of a Single Proven Error & Indestructibility - despite innumerable critical examinations of biblical data by both skeptics and believers for 2,000 plus years and attempts do destroy it, it is still here!

The Test of Truth

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. (We believe the same One who is able to keep the gates (power) of Hell from prevailing against His church is also able to keep Satan from corrupting/destroying His word.

Recommended Resources:

- * **Introduction to your Bible** – Explains how we got the Bible we have today.
- * **The Facts On The Mormon Church** by John Ankerberg & John Weldon
- * **The Facts On Why You Can Believe The Bible** by John Ankerberg & John Weldon
- * **Halley’s Bible Handbook** by Dr. Henry H. Halley– For archeological facts and “How we got the Bible.”
- * **Evidence that Demands a Verdict** by Josh McDowell - Apologetics
- * **More than a Carpenter** by Josh McDowell – Reader’s Digest Version
- * **The Bible – God’s Word or Man’s** by Brian Brodersen
- * **The Bible vs The Book of Mormon Video** by Living Hope Ministries
- * **DNA vs The Book of Mormon Video** by Living Hope Ministries
- * **Mere Christianity** by C.S. Lewis - apologetics
- * **The Case For Christ** by Lee Strobel
- * **The Bible in the British Museum** by T.C. Mitchell
- * **Through the British Museum – with the Bible** by Brian Edwards & Clive Anderson