

What's the Matter with the Book of Mormon ?

The Book of Mormon is used by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to proselytize people to their church. Until about 1981, the angel Moroni was depicted on the front cover symbolizing the gathering of peoples to their church which they proclaim to be "the only true church".

Then L.D.S. church leaders changed their strategy. Joseph Smith's angelic messenger/visitor, Moroni was removed from the Book of Mormon cover and replaced with the phrase, "Another Testament of Jesus Christ". This change was part of a larger design to create the appearance of the L.D.S. Church as a Christian organization. But don't judge this book by its current cover: the message of the Book of Mormon is not consistent with the "testament of Jesus Christ" found in the *Holy Bible*.

Christians are taught to judge a book by its' *contents*, not its' cover. Paul warned Timothy, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine:" He also warned the Galatians 1: 7, 8; (also in 2 Cor 11: 4),

*"...some will trouble you, and 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."*

Book of Mormon Claims Made by L.D.S. Authorities:

- ❖ The Book of Mormon is comparable to the *Holy Bible*.
- ❖ Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon by the gift and power of God.
- ❖ The Book of Mormon is a true history of God's dealing with a people who came to this, the American continent, before the time of Christ.

Joseph Smith explained the importance of the Book of Mormon:

*"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 its precepts, than by any other book."*¹

*"Take away the Book of Mormon and the revelations, and where is our religion? We have none."*²

Can the Book of Mormon claims stand the test? A careful, objective testing has been done by Truth-In-Love Ministries. For more information and documentation choose the Internet and/or postal address on this flyer.

The Book of Mormon is not comparable to the Holy Bible

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints considers the Book of Mormon to be scripture - one of the "Standard Works" along with the King James Bible, Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price. As a standard, true scripture will always say the same thing. (See 1 Cor. 1: 10; Jer. 36: 32) Mormon Prophet, Joseph Fielding Smith was very emphatic about this, saying, "The Lord's house is a house of order, and one truth never contradicts another." An algebraic formula arrives at the same postulation: T (truth) + E (error) = E (error). Now for a few examples to show how the Book of Mormon mixes truth with error.

Does the Book of Mormon teach the biblical gospel? Check it out . .

- ✓ **How are sins remitted?** Truth - by faith in the blood of Jesus: Moroni 7: 41; 10: 33; 3 Nephi 7: 16; 2 Nephi 31: 17, 18a; 2: 7-9; Helaman 5: 9. Error - by the waters of baptism: 3 Nephi 11; 32 -34; 2 Nephi 9: 23
- ✓ **When are we reconciled to God?** Truth - at the moment of faith: Mosiah 5: 7; Alma 22:14; Moroni 7: 41& 39; 3 Nephi 7: 16. Error - "after all we can do.": 2 Nephi 25: 23; Alma 12: 12 -14

The Book of Mormon is titled "Another Testament of Jesus Christ", If it contained nothing but biblical truth, then we could accept it as yet another testament. Because it contains error, it truly becomes an other (different) testament, one which violates the biblical standard.

Does the Book of Mormon ever agree with the Bible? Yes, but those very passages disagree with Mormon doctrine!! Check it out:

- ✓ God is three in one: Alma 11: 26-29, 44b; 2 Nephi 31: 21
- ✓ God is Spirit: Alma 18: 26, 28a; 22: 9-11
- ✓ God is unchangeable: Moroni 8:18 ; 2 Nephi 27: 23; Mormon 9: 9; ("...the decrees of God are unalterable", Alma 41: 8)
- ✓ Jesus is God: 1 Nephi 19: 10; Ether 2: 12; 2 Nephi 26: 12; 2: 14; Mosiah 5: 15; 7: 27; 15: 1, 2
- ✓ Jesus is eternally existent: Mosiah 3: 5; 4: 2; 1 Nephi 10: 18; Alma 11: 39; 3 Nephi 9: 18
- ✓ We become sons & daughters when we believe: Ether 3: 14; Mos. 7: 25
- ✓ State of the dead is fixed: Mor. 8: 8b ; 3 Nephi 28: 34; Alma 34: 32 - 35
- ✓ God and Jesus - are the same: Alma 11: 38- 39, 44; Mosiah 15: 2 - 4; Ether 3: 14; 4: 12 (This is an unbiblical idea called modalism.)

Does the Book of Mormon agree with itself?

No! Check out how its' prophets contradict themselves and each other:

- ✓ Three witnesses only: 2 Nephi 27: 12, 13a. However many ...: v.14
- ✓ The magic tradition is forbidden: Alma 1: 32; 3: 8;37: 21; 2 Nephi 12: 6; 3 Nephi 21: 16; Mormon 1: 19; 2: 10; Helaman 16: 21. Magic is practiced: 2 Nephi 26: 16; 18: 19; Ether 3: 24
- ✓ Two prophets teach two different means of grace in the same discourse: First they say through faith - Moroni 8: 23, 24a; Alma 11: 40. Then they say through works - Moroni 8: 25; Alma 11: 41
- ✓ The seed of Nephi's brother Joseph "shall *not* utterly be destroyed": 2 Nephi 3: 3; 6:17. The Nephites were "*all* destroyed": Mormon 8: 2, 3

Joseph Smith's "gift and power" is in accordance with the magic tradition



The Book of Mormon teaches that Joseph of Egypt prophesied of the latter-day saying, "A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and he shall be esteemed highly.

... he shall do a work ... which shall be of great worth" (2 Nephi 3: 7)

Verse 15 qualifies Joseph Smith as that seer, "And his name shall be called after me; and it shall be after the name of his father."

According to *Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith History*, this "work of great worth" is the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Here, we learn of yearly visits from an angel as Joseph Smith relates, "He called me by name, and said unto me that he was a messenger from the presence of God to me, and that his name was Moroni; that God had a work for me to do; and that my name should be had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds, and tongues,... He said there was a book deposited, written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the source from whence they sprang." (verses 33 & 34a) The Mormon Church attests that Smith fulfilled his "divine mission" in obtaining and translating this record.

Notice that the angel told Joseph, "(his) name should be had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds, and tongues". Why would Joseph Smith's name create such a sharp dividing line? Mormons believe that God spoke to Joseph, therefore their "restoration of the gospel" represents that which is good. From the L.D.S. perspective, those who oppose it are "evil", playing into the hands of Satan. If the first assumption (God spoke) is in error, then this line of reasoning turns upside down. To get to the truth, there is no need to question whether or not he spoke with angels. The question is whether or not his angels came from God or from the evil supernatural realm.

The key to this question lies in Joseph Smith's true history. But historically, the leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have directed their record keepers to include only the facts which result in a "faith-promoting history". What part of the historical record would be damaging to the faith of their people? Graduate students of Brigham Young University in Provo, UT discovered volumes of just such material in the early 1970's when the vault of the First Presidency was briefly opened for their perusal. The information which emerged, along with that of secular scholars pursuing other sources, was very damaging. The foundations of Mormonism were no longer hidden. Historians were now using words like "magic practices, divination, glass-looker, occult, hermetic tradition" - all too horrifically incomprehensible for Mormons who have been fed on the faith-promoting history. Mormons are taught that those who attempt to undo Joseph's work are agents of the devil. But with the Joseph Smith story in its proper historical context, the evidences of magic/ occult practices at the very foundation create a very different reality.

✓ Check it out. Access documentation through the addresses on page 4.

The Book of Mormon cannot be verified as a true history

Latter-day Saints commonly refer to the Book of Mormon as a history. Leaders explain, "Like the Bible, the Book of Mormon was written by prophets of the Lord. They lived in ancient Palestine and ancient America. The Book of Mormon is a history of God's dealings with these people who lived in America long before Columbus sailed from Europe."³

Through time, historians have systematically recorded and analyzed all known evidences pertaining to the people who have inhabited the Americas. They have constructed a history of the peoples by utilizing the following types of data:

Anthropological evidence	Archaeological evidence
Bibliographical evidence	Geographical evidence

The Book of Mormon title page identifies its own record as "an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi" and "a record of the people of Jared". The records are considered to be both "sacred" and "general histories" of Jewish people who originated in Jerusalem and the "great tower" (Babel) respectively. The records date from about BC 600 to AD 421.

Is there any evidence that the American Indian could have come from the Middle-East in the Book of Mormon time frame? Experts who study the evidences say "No!" The peoples who inhabited the Americas have been here far longer. Their language stocks and cultures are much too diversified to have developed in such a short period of time. Their physical characteristics are Mongoloid. To add further complications, there is absolutely no physical evidence of their large population: not one city, coin, river or any other definitive evidence has ever been located.

Secular historians are not the only ones who have expressed concern about Book of Mormon claims. Mormon apologist Apostle, B.H. Roberts was so distressed to find historical problems, that he took them before the General Authorities in 1922. Roberts died knowing there were no acceptable answers to his questions.

✓ Check it out. Access documentation through the addresses below:

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¹ History of the Church, Vol. 4, p. 461

² Documented History of the Church, Vol. 11, p. 52

³ *"What of the Book of Mormon?"*, a tract by the First Presidency, 1982