

further compounds the problem when he asserts: "There is no Greek or Latin upon the plates from which I, through the grace of God, translated the Book of Mormon." (Times and Seasons Vol. 4, p. 194)

Other questions relating to the issue of anachronisms have to be asked. For example, how is it that such names as Sam (1 Nephi 2:5) and Isabel (Alma 39:3) are mentioned in this 'ancient history' when they are post-medieval European/American names? How is it that horses, cows, silk and linen, (see 1 Nephi 18:25, Ether 6:4 & Alma 1:29) are mentioned when there is no archaeological evidence for these and other things referred to in The Book of Mormon prior to the European colonisation of the Americas?

The origins of the American Indians

One of the more startling claims of The Book of Mormon is that the American Indians are close blood relatives of the Jews. Yet both anthropology and DNA science conclusively prove that the American Indians are in fact relatives of the Mongoloid nations of Asia.

Simon Southerton, a former LDS bishop and a molecular biologist writing in Anthropology News February 2003 p. 20, states: "...investigation of mitochondrial DNA of more than 5,500 living native Americans reveals that 99.4% can be traced back to Asia primarily via maternal lineages known as A, B, C, D and X only 0.6% came from Africa or Europe, most likely after 1492. Lineages A through D are only found in Asia... Similarly results from nearly 1,000 paternal lineages substantiate a north-east Asian origin of American Indians." The reader is strongly recommended to obtain a copy of the DVD, DNA and the Book of Mormon where these issues are thoroughly examined.

Summary

The contents of this tract are but a skeleton sample of the vast array of evidence which is available to any honest enquirer concerning the complete unreliability of The Book of Mormon. Far from originating from God, it is rather to be regarded as a very badly written novel and definitely nineteenth century. Mark Twain had the right idea when he famously described the Book of Mormon as "chloroform in print" (Roughing It, chapter 16).

Far from being a prophet of God, Joseph Smith was convicted of fraud in a New York State Court in

1826. He was well known for using occultic, superstitious practices. He was a violent and vain man. He was involved in seducing many women, which he did professing that God had told him to restart the practice of polygamy (which was never the divine pattern of marriage or sanctioned by God). The belief system which he did so much to formulate constitutes a profoundly serious departure from Biblical Christianity.

Perhaps you are a Mormon. Then you are urged not to keep living the Mormon lie, but rather trust in the real Jesus of the Bible. May the Holy Spirit of Truth open your eyes and give you a new heart to receive the things of God. In the Bible you will find all the things which are necessary for your salvation. Why not join with the psalmist as he prays, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." (Psalms 119:18)

Assuming Joseph Smith did not steal the story of The Book of Mormon from someone else, perhaps the only true thing about this book are the words of the original Preface, 1830 edition (since deleted by the embarrassed leadership of the LDS), "BY JOSEPH SMITH, JUNIOR. AUTHOR AND PROPRIETOR".

"...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." (Galatians 1:7-8).

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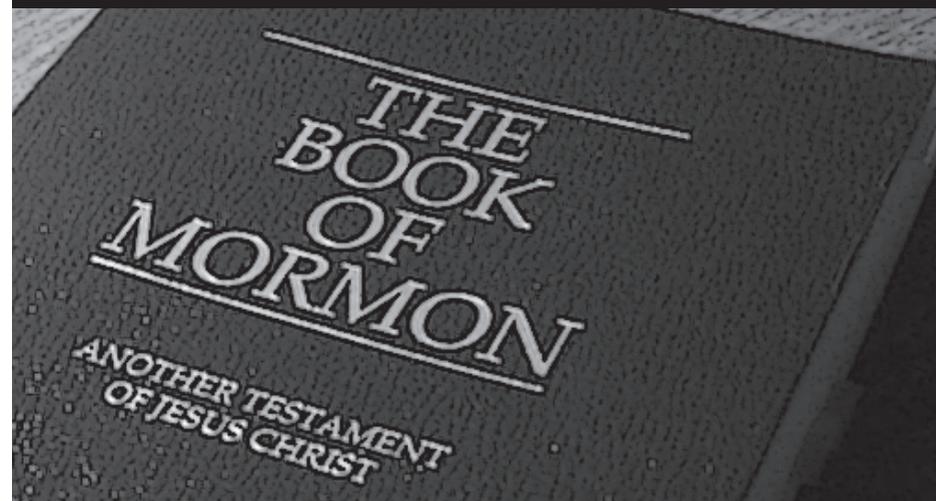
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IS-MORMONISM

Is the Book of Mormon Credible?



THE BOOK OF MORMON

"...The Son of God cometh upon the face of the earth... he shall be born of Mary at Jerusalem..." *Alma 7:9, 10*

THE BIBLE

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king..." *Matthew 2:1*

CHRISTIAN

?

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

After what he claimed were a series of divine and angelic visitations in 1830 a young man by the name of Joseph Smith published writings called The Book of Mormon which he claimed was in effect a supplement and “comparable” to the Bible. Joseph Smith asserted that the writings of The Book of Mormon constitute “a record of God’s dealings with the ancient inhabitants of the Americas”. These were “. . . two great civilizations. One came from Jerusalem in 600BC and afterward separated into two nations known as the Nephites and the Lamanites. The other came much earlier when the Lord confounded the tongues at the Tower of Babel. This group is known as the Jaredites. After thousands of years, all were destroyed except the Lamanites and they are the principal ancestors of the American Indians.” (Introduction, The Book of Mormon, 1987 edi-

“The Smithsonian Institute has never used it in archaeological research and has found no archaeological evidence to support its claims.”

Statement on The Book of Mormon, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute 2004.)

tion.) In this ‘history’ Christ is meant to have appeared in the American continent shortly after His death and resurrection in Jerusalem. The Book of Mormon and the claims of Joseph Smith are the foundation of the Mormon religion also known as ‘The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints’.

You are invited to consider some of the evidence and matters arising therefrom which relate to The Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith and the Mormon organisation. If The Book of Mormon and its contents and the life and teaching of Joseph Smith are exposed as being fraudulent the only inevitable conclusion is that Mormons are in an utterly false system and are in great peril of their souls.

Nothing new under the sun

The sort of claim which Joseph Smith made that he had received a new revelation from God is not by

any means unique in history. A number of significant groups in history have made similar claims, namely that God has given an extra and indeed a better revelation to that of the Bible. Mention for example can be made of the various writings of the Gnostics in the second century; Mohammed and the Koran in the seventh century; the writings of Mary Baker Eddy and the Christian Scientists in the nineteenth century; and the Divine Principle of the Moonies in the twentieth century. Other examples could be given. Interestingly, Joseph Smith has often been likened to a modern day Mohammed. Followers of Mormonism frequently see the growth of their organisation as a vindication of The Book of Mormon. Yet compared to Islam Mormonism with its claimed 12½ million members is tiny. In the 1950s L. Ron Hubbard founded the Scientology Church. After about 50 years Scientologists say they have 8 million members. In recent years there has been some rigorous examination of Mormon statistics concerning its claimed growth. All the evidence points to the Mormon organisation failing to hold on to its converts. For example, in the United Kingdom the Mormons claim nearly 200,000 members, yet the attendance at their meeting places at any given Lord’s Day is well below 40,000.

Reformed Egyptian?

Joseph Smith asserted that the original Book of Mormon had been written in the Reformed Egyptian script on metal plates and buried on the hill Cumorah situated in upstate New York. Leaving aside inevitable questions such as ‘Where are the original plates?’, and the glaring contrast with the method that God employed in the giving of the inspired scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the crucial question, namely, ‘What is Reformed Egyptian?’ must be addressed. Hebrew and Greek were and are living languages. The truth is that the Mormons cannot produce one written syllable of Reformed Egyptian, let alone something more substantial. However there is an abundance of material written in ancient Egyptian which scholars can examine. Even if the assumption was made that Reformed Egyptian resembled ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, it is simply not credible to

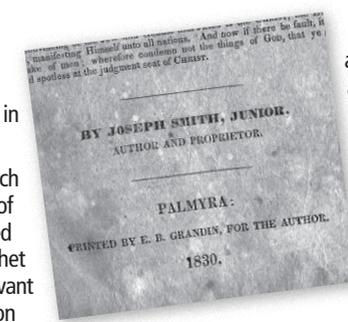
think that the most high and holy God would have committed His truth in a script which was replete in idolatrous symbols.

After Nephi the first character which we are introduced to in The Book of Mormon is Lehi who was supposed to be contemporary with the prophet Jeremiah. Yet God through His servant Jeremiah condemns any association with and turning to Egypt for help. The divine refrain against Egypt can be summed up with these words from Jeremiah 2:18: “And now what hast thou to do in the way of Egypt. . .” and 2:36 “Why gaddest thou about so much to change thy way? thou also shalt be ashamed of Egypt, as thou wast ashamed of Assyria.” In reality God never gave part of His Word in Reformed Egyptian and this language is a complete fiction.

Blatant plagiarisms

The Book of Mormon is full of quotations from the King James Version of the Bible. Joseph Smith is supposed to have translated infallibly the Reformed Egyptian into English with the help of something resembling a pair of spectacles which he called the Urim and the Thummim. How is it that Smith ends up with whole portions of the Bible which are verbatim from the King James translation, including words which are italicised? The italicised words were never in the original languages and were employed by the translators in order to give the sense in the receptor language. More than 18 chapters of the prophecy of Isaiah alone are found in The Book of Mormon. The limited space of this tract could not begin to enumerate the words, phrases and sentences

appearing in The Book of Mormon which clearly have been borrowed from the King James translation. The total of instances comes to many hundreds. Appropriately, Jerald and Sandra Tanner in their definitive critique of The Book of Mormon in Mormonism: Shadow or Reality quote from Mark Twain who said in Roughing It, page 110, concerning The Book of Mormon, “It seems to be merely a prosy detail of imaginary history, with the Old Testament for a model; followed by a tedious plagiarism of the New Testament. The



Title page from an 1830 edition

author laboured to give his words and phrases the quaint, old fashioned sound and structure of our King James translation of the Scripture; and the result is a mongrel – half modern gibberish. . .”

Glaring anachronisms

The misplacing in time of events, animals and names as well as quotations from the Bible throughout The Book of Mormon clearly places this book chronologically far later than the period it is alleged to describe. Again quoting from Mormonism: Shadow or Reality, page 74: “. . . the Nephites were not supposed to have had the books of the New Testament because they were written hundreds of years after they left Jerusalem. Nevertheless we find many New Testament verses and parts of verses throughout the Book of Mormon”. Here are a few out of scores of examples which can be given:

“The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Compare with 1 Nephi 10:10.

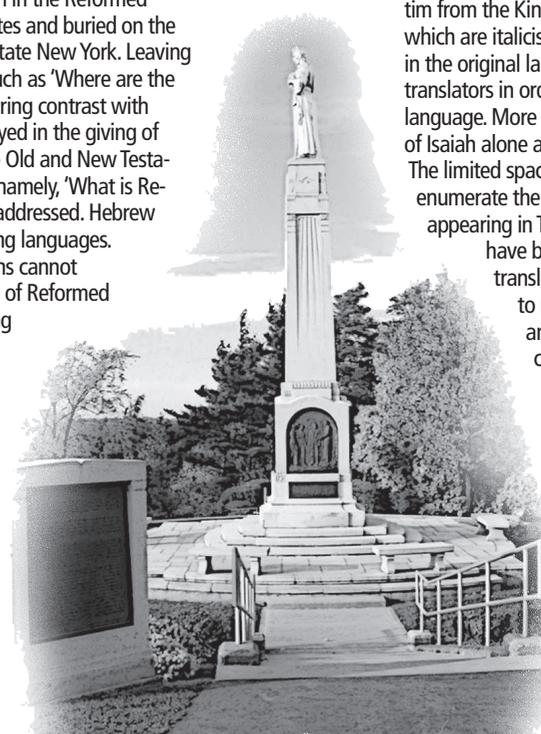
“The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts” (Romans 5:5). Compare with 1 Nephi 11:22.

“Wars and rumours of wars” (Matthew 24:6). Compare with 1 Nephi 12:2.

“Tidings of great joy” (Luke 2:10). Compare with 1 Nephi 13:37.

“There are over a hundred quotations from the New Testament in the first two books of Nephi alone and these two books were supposed to have been written between 600 and 545BC.” (Mormonism: Shadow or Reality, p. 79)

In 3 Nephi 9:18 we have these words: “I am the light and life of the world. I am Alpha and Omega. The beginning and the end.” Jerald and Sandra Tanner commenting on this say the following: “The Greek language was used throughout the Roman Empire at the time of Christ; therefore, the New Testament was written in Greek and the words Alpha and Omega (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet) were well understood. The Nephites however left 600 years before the time of Christ and therefore could not have been familiar with these words. If Jesus had told the Nephites He was Alpha and Omega it would have absolutely no meaning to them.” Joseph Smith



Monument erected at Hill Cumorah, marking the location of Smith’s alleged discovery of the golden plates