

THE
BOOK OF MORMON:

AN ACCOUNT WRITTEN BY THE HAND OF MOR-
MON, UPON PLATES TAKEN FROM
THE PLATES OF NEPHI.

Wherefore it is an abridgment of the Record of the People of Nephi; and also of the Lamanites; written to the Lamanites; which are a remnant of the House of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile; written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of Prophecy and of Revelation. Written, and sealed up, and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed; to come forth by the gift and power of God unto the interpretation thereof; sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by the way of Gentile; the interpretation thereof by the gift of God; an abridgment taken from the Book of Ether.

Also, which is a Record of the People of Jared, which were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people when they were building a tower to get to Heaven: which is to shew unto the remnant of the House of Israel how great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever; and also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the CHRIST, the ETERNAL God, manifesting Himself unto all nations. And now if there be fault, it be the mistake of man; wherefore condemn not the things of God, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment seat of CHRIST.

BY JOSEPH SMITH, JUNIOR,
AUTHOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Investigating
the Book of
Mormon

Questions

- **Why** do you want to study the *Book of Mormon*?
- **What** do you want to know about the *Book of Mormon*? Or
- **What questions** do you have about the *Book of Mormon*?
- What is “**Scripture**?”

Scripture in Community of Christ

1. Jesus Christ is the Living Word of God.
2. Indispensable witness of saving, transforming message...entrusted to church.
3. Library of books, speaks in many voices, through authors' humanity.
4. Model of Christ as servant, not to oppress, control, dominate.
5. Not inerrant, anchors us, promotes and nurtures faith

Scripture Affirmations Continued

6. Faith, experience, tradition and scholarship contribute to understanding.
7. By Holy Spirit...[we] grasp what may not have been seen or heard before.
8. Disciples called to grow in knowledge and understanding of scripture.
9. Bible is foundational, Book of Mormon and D&C confirm but do not replace Bible's witness or improve upon it.

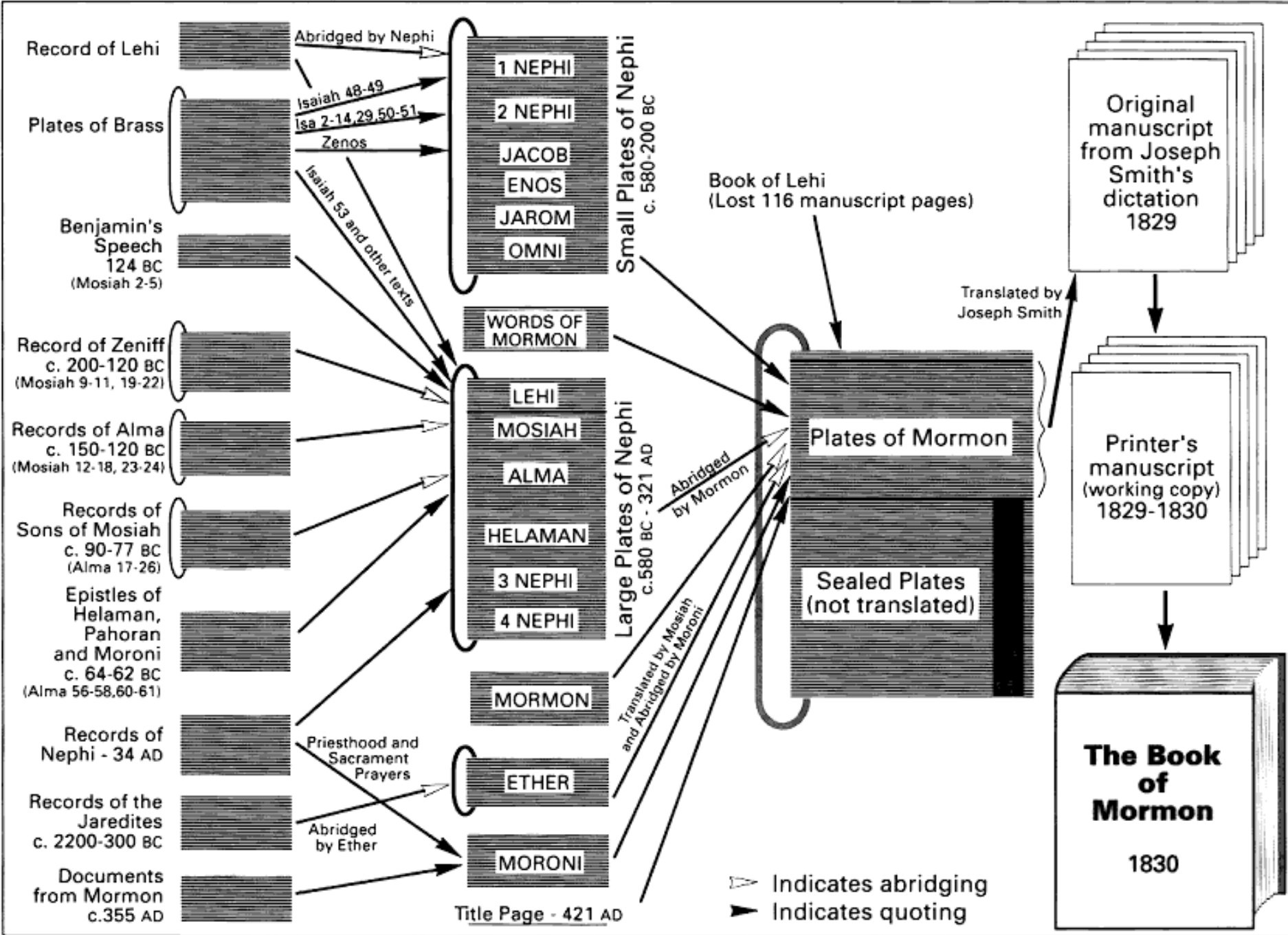
Summary of Affirmations

For our time we shall seek to live and interpret the witness of scripture *by the Spirit, with the community, for the sake of mission, in the name of the Prince of Peace.*

Motto of the Church

“The constitution of our country formed by the fathers of liberty. Peace and good order in society. Love to God, and good will to man. All good and wholesome laws, *virtue and truth about all things*, and aristarchy [that is, severe criticism], live forever! But woe to tyrants, mobs, aristocracy, anarchy, and toryism, and all those who invent or seek out unrighteous and vexatious lawsuits, under the pretext and color of law, or office, either religious or political. Exalt the standard of democracy! Down with that of priestcraft, and let all the people say Amen! that the blood of our fathers may not cry from the ground against us. Sacred is the memory of that blood which bought for us our liberty.”

Joseph Smith, Jr., March 1838





Book of Lehi
(lost)

Abridged by
Nephi in Small Plates

Portions Quoted in
Small Plates

Portions Quoted in
Large Plates (lost)



Plates of Brass
(held by Laban)

Quoted by
Nephi
In Large Plates
(lost)

Five Books of Moses,
Genealogy of Lehi
Plus prophecies of
Zenos* and Isaiah



*Non-biblical prophet



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The Small and Large Plates Of Nephi



Writings of:
Nephi (1 & 2)
Jacob
Enos
Jarom
Omni

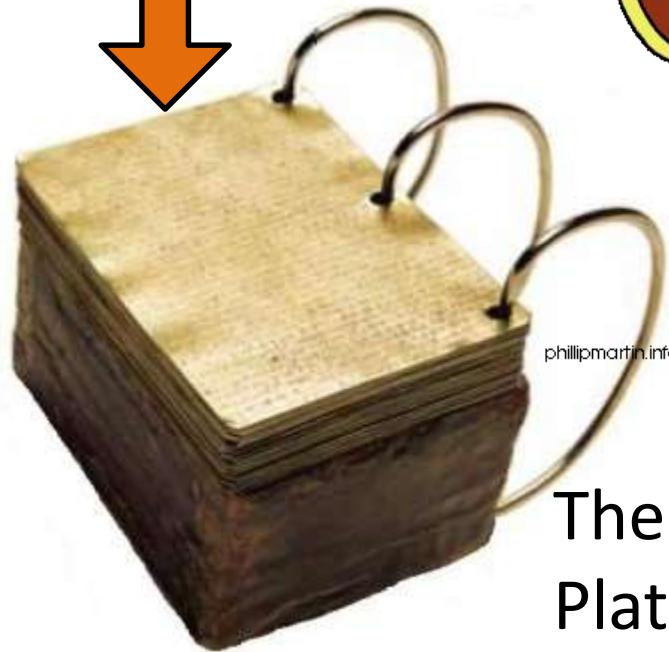
Small Plates Of Nephi



Records of:
Lehi and ??? (lost)
Zeniff (200-120 BC)
Alma (150-120 BC)
Sons of Mosiah (90-77 BC)

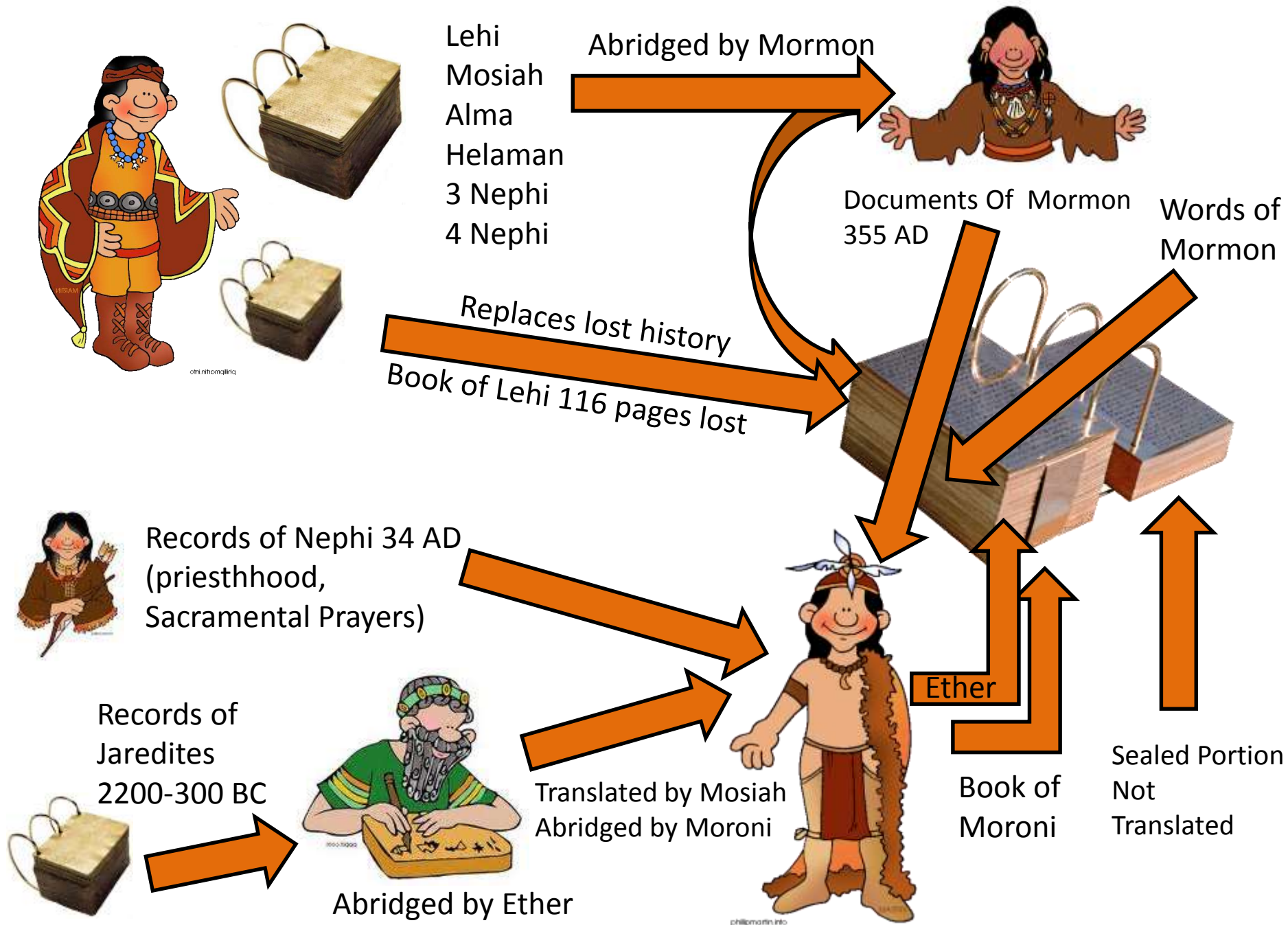
Epistles of:
Helaman, Pahorna and
Moroni (64-62 BC)

Records of:
Nephi (34 AD)



The Large Plates Of Nephi

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Graphic depicts occurrences of top 200 words. The larger the word, the more occurrences within the text.

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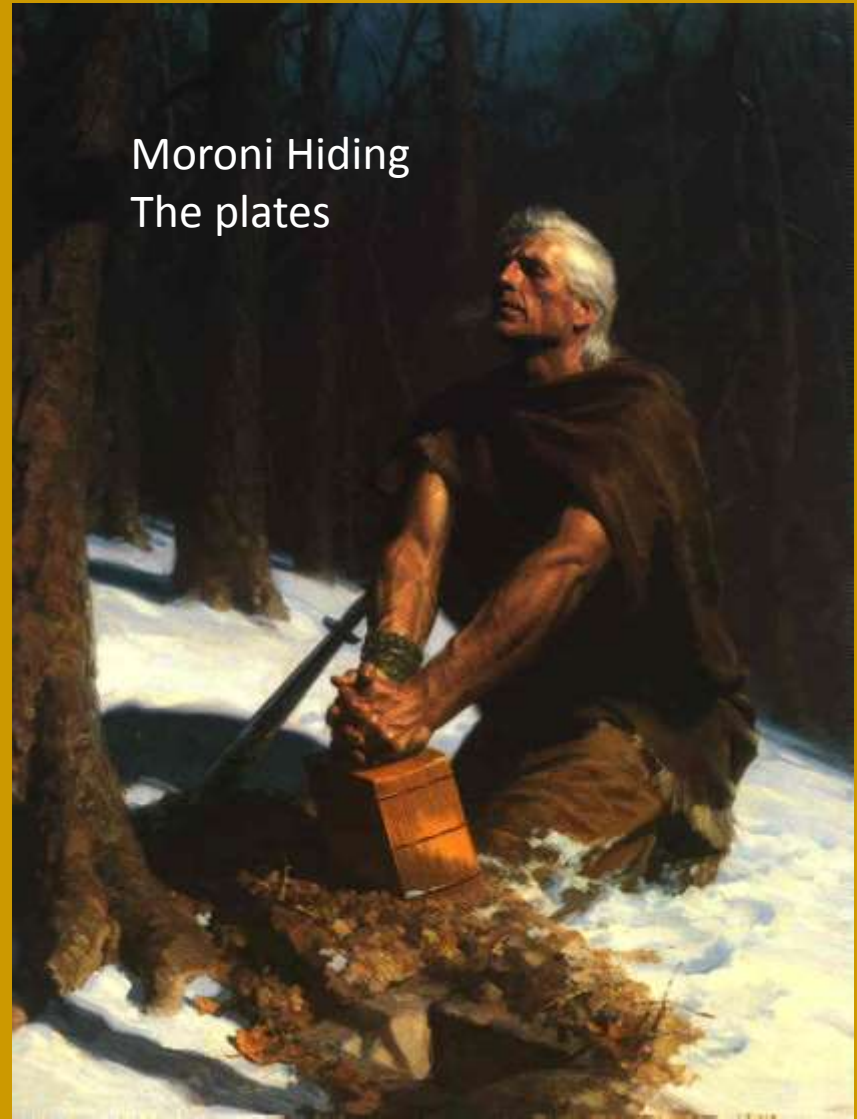
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Purpose of Book of Mormon

- “To the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting Himself unto all nations....”
- Scripture that offers guidance to the church, and to members in making major life decisions.
- Same uses as Bible (study, meditative reading, teaching, preaching).
- To be scripture!

Millions Call it Scripture: The Book of Mormon in the 21st Century by Alan D. Tyree, page 3-4.



Purpose of Book of Mormon

“...the *Book of Mormon* is a document of

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Natha

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Book of

(Comm

Hatch continues, the book offers:

- “Hatch further states: “The single most

- “striking theme in the *Book of Mormon* is
- “that “But woe to the rich, who are rich as to the things of the world. For because they are rich, they despise the poor, and they persecute the meek, and their hearts are upon their treasures; wherefore their treasure is their god. And, behold, their treasure shall perish with them also.”
- “2 Nephi 6:62-64 (LDS 9:30)

auth
ground

Millions Call it Scripture: The Book of Mormon in the 21st Century by Alan D. Tyree, page 4.

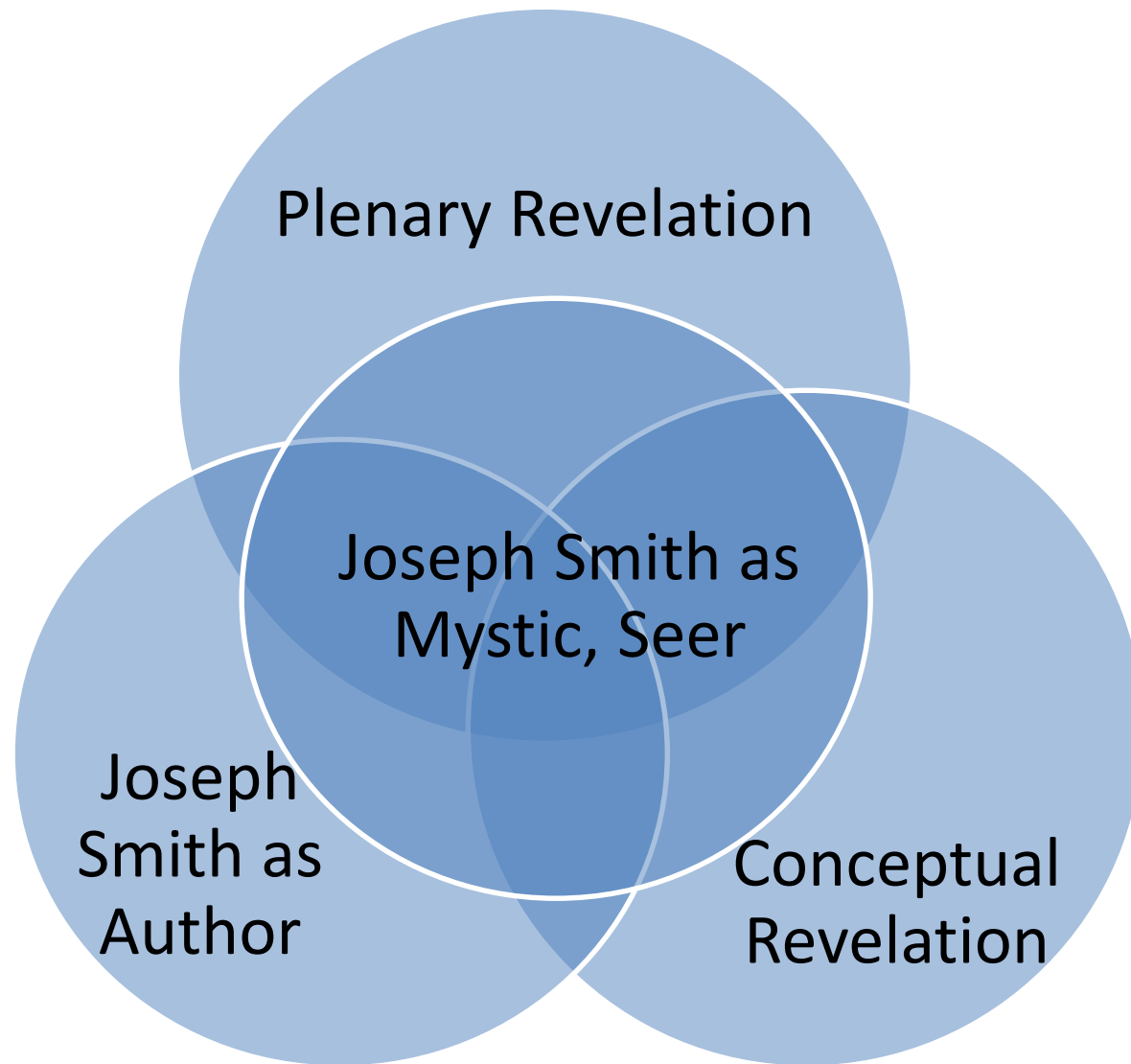
Provenance of the Book of Mormon

That is, what is its origin?

How did the book come into being? How written/translated?

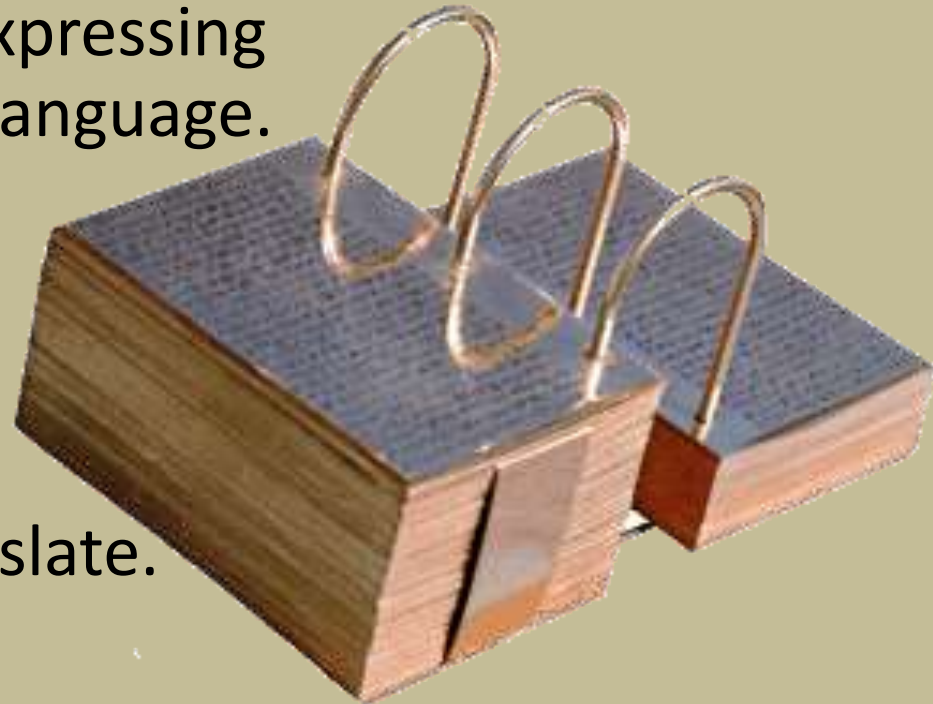
- Plenary Revelation? Provenance: 1. Direct and verbal, word for word
- Conceptual Revelation? history of ownership of work of art or literature
- Human Authorship? God revealed, prophet expressed
- By the extrasensory gifts of a seer or mystic? Written by Joseph Smith Jr., inspired by God
- Artifacts simulated mystic/psychic capabilities of author

Categories of Theories



Translation Requirements

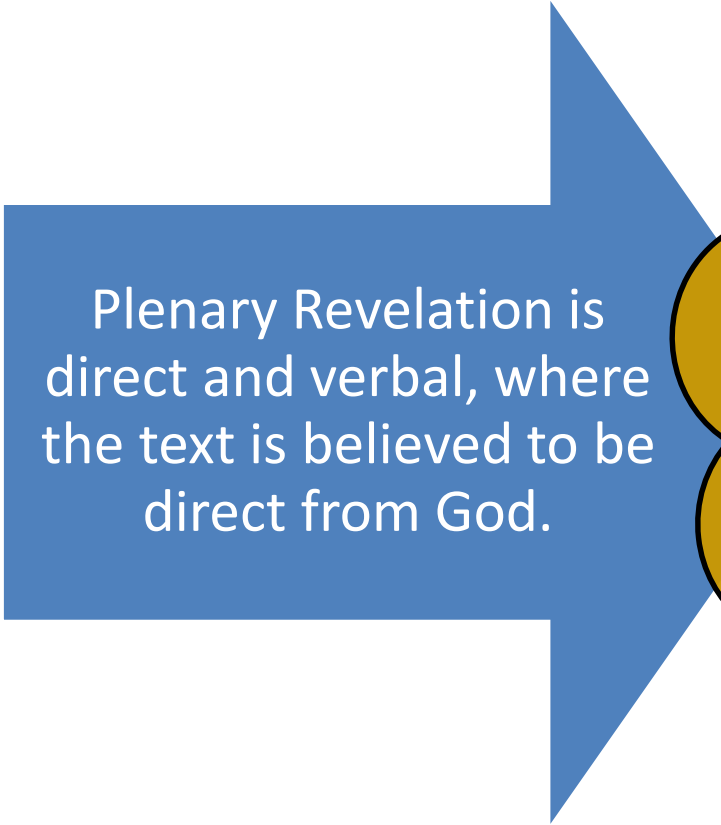
1. Know the original language thoroughly.
2. Know the target language thoroughly.
3. Interpret the meaning of the original text.
4. Find equivalent way of expressing correct meaning in new language.
5. Chose appropriate style in new language for the translation.
6. With correct grammar and syntax faithfully translate.



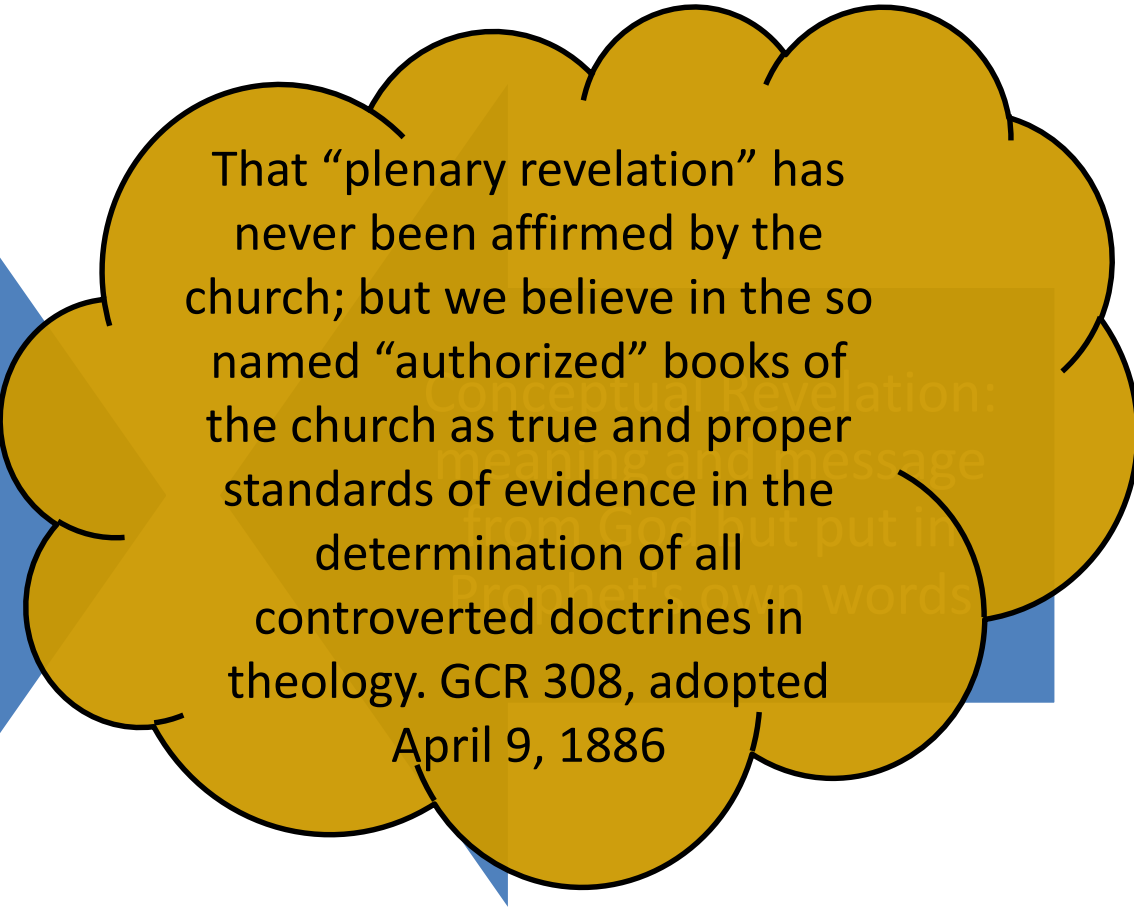
What Did Joseph Jr. Say?

- “*I translated, by the gift and power of God, and caused to be written*” Preface, 1830 *Book of Mormon*
 - “*written* by way of commandment, and *Prophesy and of Revelation....*” Title Page
 - “Written...to come forth by the gift and *interpretation thereof*;...the interpretation *the gift of God.*” Title Page, Book of Mormon
 - “...after having received the record of the servant...might have *power to translate* *God, by the power of God*, the Book of Mormon
 - “By Joseph Smith, Junior, *Author* and *Mormon*
 - “*Translated by* Joseph Smith, Jun.” n.d. *Book of Mormon* (Independence, MO)
- “The Mormon Bible, he said, was communicated to him, direct from Heaven. If there was such a thing on earth, as the author of it, then he (Smith) was the Author; but the idea that he wished to impress was, that he had **penned it as dictated by God.**” (Letter from Matthew Livingston Davis, well-known journalist and friend and biographer of Aaron Burr, to his wife after sermon by Joseph Smith Jr., Washington DC, 6 Feb 1840)

Reorganization Never Endorsed Plenary Revelation



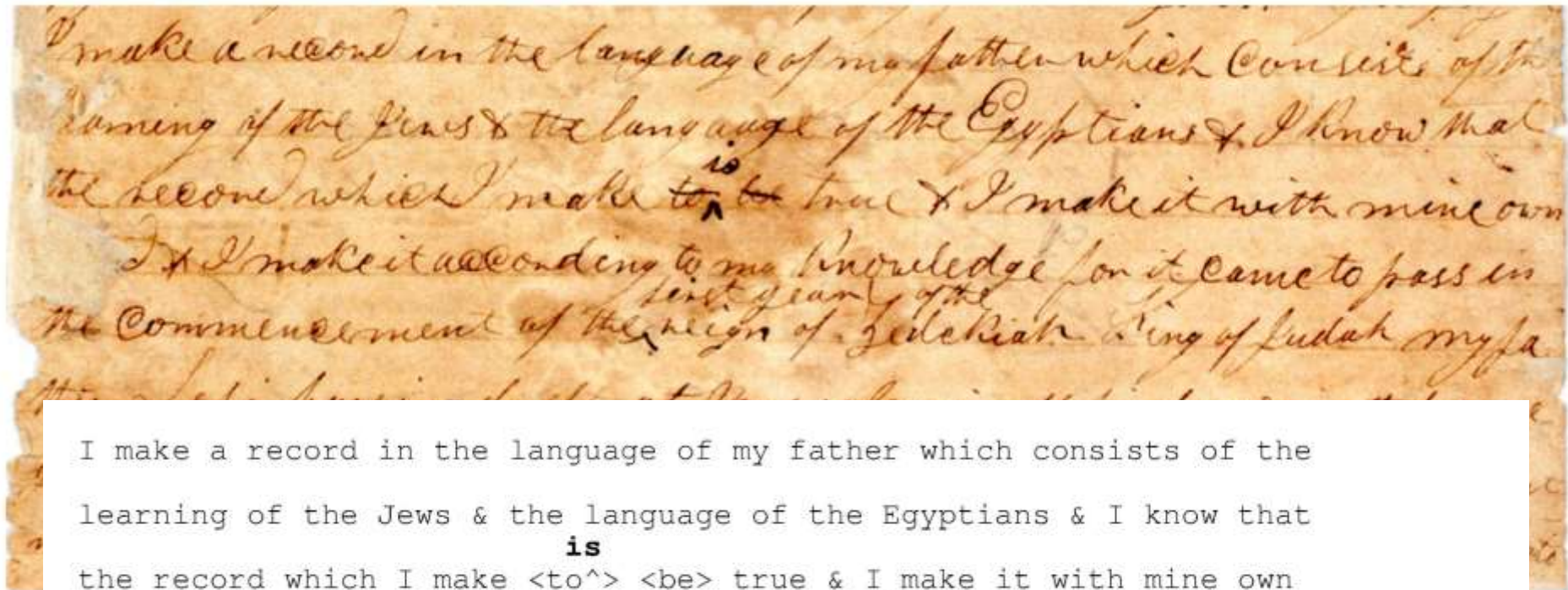
Plenary Revelation is direct and verbal, where the text is believed to be direct from God.



That “plenary revelation” has never been affirmed by the church; but we believe in the so named “authorized” books of the church as true and proper standards of evidence in the determination of all controverted doctrines in theology. GCR 308, adopted April 9, 1886

Plenary vs Conceptual Revelation

First page of Printer's Manuscript

A photograph of a handwritten manuscript on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in a cursive script with dark ink. The handwriting is somewhat slanted and shows signs of being a working draft, with some ink bleeding and irregular spacing. The text is a translation of the first three verses of Jeremiah chapter one. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some minor stains and wear along the edges.

I make a record in the language of my father which consists of the
learning of the Jews & the language of the Egyptians & I know that
the record which I make ^{is} to be true & I make it with mine own
hand & I make it according to my knowledge for it came to pass in
the commencement of the ^{first year} of the reign of Zedekiah King of Judah my fa
ther Lehi haveing dwelt at Jerusalem in all his days & in that same

I make a record in the language of my father which consists of the
learning of the Jews & the language of the Egyptians & I know that
the record which I make ^{is} <to^> <be> true & I make it with mine own
(n)d & I make it according to my knowledge ^P for it came to pass in
HA the commencement of the ^ reign of Zedekiah King of Judah my fa
ther Lehi haveing dwelt at Jerusalem in all his days & in that same
year there came many prophits prophesying unto the people that they must
repent or ^{the} <tha^t> great City Jerusalem must be destroid wherefore it came to

Human Authorship

“To those who accept it, the human authorship theory also provides authentication of the *Book of Mormon* as scripture because it would have been written by a person inspired by God and the Holy Spirit in his writing....the inspiration does not necessarily include the historical setting of the book....”
~ Alan D. Tyree, *Millions Call It Scripture*, page 27.

Joseph Smith has brought together in the Book of Mormon "**every error and almost every truth discussed in New York for the last ten years.**" Alexander Campbell, "The Mormonites," *Millennial Harbinger* 2 (February 1831): page 93.

The Book of Mormon "is with some art adapted to the **known prejudices of a portion of the community.**" Jason Whitman, "The Book of Mormon," Unitarian (Boston) (1 Jan. 1834): page 47.

"There are many **subjects dealt with in the Book of Mormon that were typical concerns of Joseph's own day**, but not typical of ancient America. So it seems that the worldview of the Book of Mormon is that of persons living in nineteenth century North America and not in ancient times." Alan D. Tyree, *Millions Call It Scripture*, (2013) page 74.

"A contemporary reader of the Book of Mormon is drawn into a nineteenth century text, a text that **reveals values and ideas that prevailed in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century.**" Dale Luffman, *The Book of Mormon's Witness to Its First Readers*, (2013) page 62.

"Joseph Smith Jr.'s great success is attributable to his ability to provide **creative responses to the key religious issues** that perplexed people on the American frontier." Mark A. Scherer, *The Journey of a People, Volume 1*, (2013) page 13.

Other 19th Century Works Concerning Native Americans and Lost Tribes of Israel

*Journal of a Two-
Months Tour...,*
Charles Beatty,
(London, 1768)

*Jews in America, or
Probabilities that
those Indians are
Judaical...,* Thomas
Thorowgood and John
Eliot (London, 1660)

*A Star in the West; or
a Humble Attempt to
Discover the Long Lost
Tribes of Israel,* Elias
Boudinot (Trenton,
1816)

*A View of the American
Indians, showing them to
be the descendants of the
Ten Tribes of Israel,* Israel
Worsley (London, 1828)

"Manuscript Found"
Unpublished
Manuscript Story,
Solomon Spaulding
(1811)

The Hope of Israel,
Manasseh ben Israel,
Trans. Moses Wall
(London, 1652)

*View of the Hebrews;
or the Tribes of Israel
in America,* Ethan
Smith, (Poultney,
Vermont, 1823)

*Millions Call it
Scripture: The
Book of
Mormon in the
21st Century by
Alan D. Tyree,
page 25*

Parallels: *View of the Hebrews* and *Book of Mormon*

	View of the Hebrews	Book of Mormon
Published	1823, first edition 1825, second edition	1830, first edition
Location	Vermont Poultney, Rutland County Note: Oliver Cowdery, one of the Book of Mormon witnesses , lived in Poultney when View of the Hebrews was published.	Vermont Sharon, Windsor County Note: Windsor County is adjacent to Rutland County.
The destruction of Jerusalem	X	X
The scattering of Israel	X	X
The restoration of the Ten Tribes	X	X
Hebrews leave the Old World for the New World	X	X

Parallels: *View of the Hebrews* and *Book of Mormon*

	View of the Hebrews	Book of Mormon
Religion a motivating factor	X	X
Migrations a long journey	X	X
Encounter "seas" of "many waters"	X	X
The Americas an uninhabited land	X	X
Settlers journey northward	X	X
Encounter a valley of a great river	X	X
A unity of race (Hebrew) settle the land and are the ancestral origin of American Indians	X	X

Parallels: *View of the Hebrews* and *Book of Mormon*

	View of the Hebrews	Book of Mormon
Hebrew the origin of Indian language	X	X
Egyptian hieroglyphics	X	X
Lost Indian records	A set of "yellow leaves" buried in Indian hill. Roberts noted the "leaves" may be gold.	Joseph Smith claims the Book of Mormon is a translation of ancient Indian records from gold plates buried in a hill.
Breastplate, Urim & Thummin	X	X
Prophets, spiritually gifted men transmit generational records	X	X
The Gospel preached in the Americas	X	X

Parallels: *View of the Hebrews* and *Book of Mormon*

	View of the Hebrews	Book of Mormon
Quotes whole chapters of Isaiah	X	X
Messiah visits the Americas	X Quetzalcoatl, the white bearded "Mexican Messiah"	X
Good and bad are a necessary opposition	X	X
Generosity encouraged and pride denounced	X	X
Polygamy denounced	X	X
Idolatry and human sacrifice	X	X
Sacred towers and high places	X	X

Parallels: *View of the Hebrews* and *Book of Mormon*

	View of the Hebrews	Book of Mormon
Hebrews divide into two classes, civilized and barbarous	X	X
Civilized thrive in art, written language, metallurgy, navigation	X	X
Government changes from monarchy to republic	X	X
Civil and ecclesiastical power is united in the same person	X	X
Long wars break out between the civilized and barbarous	X	X
Extensive military fortifications, observations, "watch towers"	X	X

Parallels: *View of the Hebrews* and *Book of Mormon*

	View of the Hebrews	Book of Mormon
Barbarous exterminate the civilized	X	X
Discusses the United States	X	X
Ethan/Ether	Roberts noted: "Ethan is prominently connected with the recording of the matter in the one case, and Ether in the other."	

Source: B. H. Roberts, *Studies of the Book of Mormon*, p.240-242,324-344

Did Ethan Smith's *View of the Hebrews* furnish structural material for Joseph Smith's *Book of Mormon*? It has been pointed out in these pages that there are many things in the former book that might well have suggested many major things in the other. Not a few things merely, one or two, or half dozen, but many; and it is this fact of many things of similarity and the cumulative force of them that makes them so serious a menace to Joseph Smith's story of the Book of Mormon's origin.

B. H. Roberts - Mormon Seventy and LDS church historian, *Studies of the Book of Mormon*, p.240

“If such may have been the fact, that a part of the Ten Tribes came over to America, in the way we have supposed, leaving the cold regions of Assareth behind them in quest of a milder climate, it would be natural to look for tokens of the presence of Jews of some sort, along countries adjacent to the Atlantic. In order to this, we shall here make an extract from an able work: written exclusively on the subject of the Ten Tribes having come from Asia by the way of Bherings Strait, by the Rev. Ethan Smith, Pultney, Vt., who relates as follows....”

Joseph Smith Junior's Reference to
View Of The Hebrews, page 220.

From **THE TIMES AND SEASONS**.
City Of Nauvoo, Wednesday, June 1, 1842.
Volume 3, pages 813-814



A portrait of a man with light brown hair, wearing a dark red coat over a white cravat. The background is a warm, golden-brown color.

Human Authorship

“To those who accept it, the human authorship theory also provides authentication of the *Book of Mormon* as scripture because it would have been written by a person inspired by God and the Holy Spirit in his writing....the inspiration does not necessarily include the historical setting of the book....”

~ Alan D. Tyree, *Millions Call It Scripture*, page 27.

If Human Authorship, What Are Ramifications?

- Set Groundwork for a Prophetic People
- Uneducated Persons Can Understand and Communicate with God
- The Story of Christ Is for All Nations

“The First Vision
and Its Impact,”
Journey of a People
(Scherer) page 52

“The Methodist
Conversion Form,”
*An Insider’s View of
Mormon Origins*
(Palmer) page 99-
105

Preconversion

Revival Gathering
(Mosiah 1:28/2:1)

Conviction

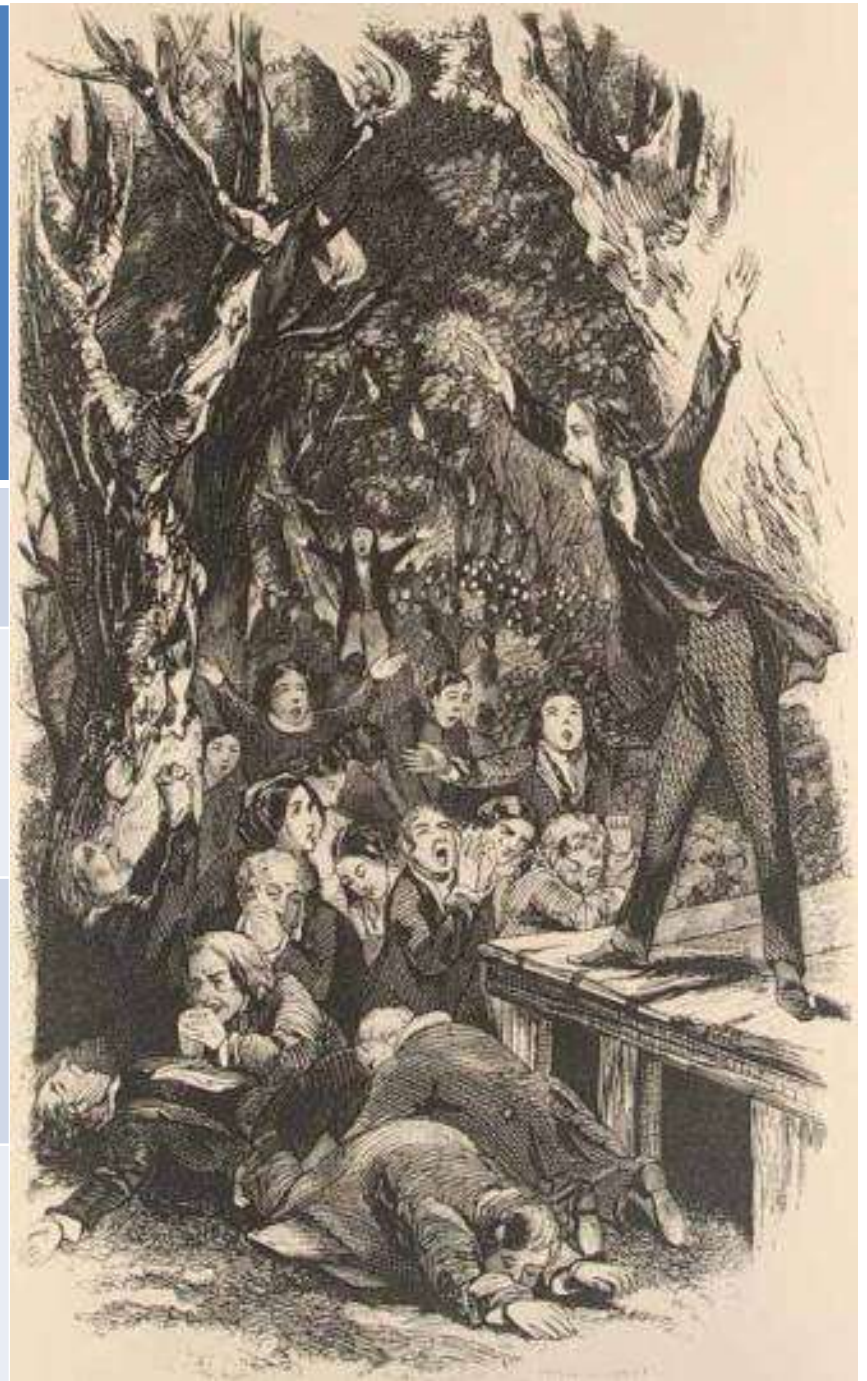
Guilt Ridden Falling
Exercise (Mosiah 2:1-
2/4:1-2a)

Conversion

Petition for Spiritual
Emancipation
(Mosiah 2:3-4/4:2b)

Assurance

Absolution and
Emotional Ecstasy
(Mosiah 2:5-6/4:3)





“This theory of charismatic giftedness suggests that Joseph was blessed with qualities usually associated with supernatural or extrasensory perception, permitting him to use artifacts relating to the *Book of Mormon* in perceiving insights about those who may have previously handled them.”
~ Alan D. Tyree, *Millions Call It Scripture*, page 27.

Translation Details

1823

21 Sept

Vision in bed,
Visited
by Moroni

22 Sept

Smith sees
Interpreters
(Urim &
Thummim)
and plates

1824-26

Annual
visits
to Hill
Cumorah

Dec

Translation
begins using
Urim and
Thummim

22 Sept

Joseph
Receives
the Plates

1827

1828

Feb

Feb

Martin Harris
Shows
Characters to
Prof.
Anthon

April 1828,
Translation of
initial 116 pages
begins with E.
Smith & M.
Harris as
scribes**

June

116 Pages
Lost

Use of Urim and Thummim continues until June 1828 when manuscript is lost

April 7, 1829 Oliver Cowdery as
scribe, translation resumes**

Work finished.
Title page
recorded
Northern
District, NY

11 June

March 1830, copies
offered for sale

Jul

Gift of
Translation
Restored,
Seer Stone
Used

Book of Mormon

*James Lancaster as
quoted by Tyree in
*Millions Call It
Scripture*,
pages 17-18

14 June 1828
Manuscript
Lost, Interpreters
Taken away*

Jan 1833, W. W.
Phelps first wrote in
*The Evening and
Morning Star*
suggesting Urim &
Thummim used in
Translation Process

Translation takes 63
days with Oliver
Cowdery as scribe

12 Apr 1828
Translation begun
using Interpreters*

** Source: *An
Imperfect Book:
What the Book of
Mormon Tells Us
about Itself* by Earl
M. Wunderli,
page 25

July-Aug 1828,
Translation begun
anew using only seer
stone*

Based on *The
Journey of a People*
by Mark Scherer,
Vol. 1, Chapter 6
pages 75, 77, 81, 85-
87.

Sidebar: Class Questions & Answers

How rapidly was the first edition of the *Book of Mormon* sold and did Martin Harris lose his farm when he backed (financially) the printing of the first edition in 1830?

Martin Harris, date unknown,
Ca. 1837



Martin Harris & Printing Debt

- August 5, 1829 Martin Harris mortgaged 240 of his 300 acres to secure payment for printing *Book of Mormon*.
- 1830 Palmyra 1st Edition – 5,000 copies (cost \$3,000)
- Published March 26, 1830
- By March 1831, 151 acres used primarily for wheat production sold to satisfy \$1,300 of the debt owed the NY Life Insurance & Trust Co and Mr. Grandin.¹
- Land bought by Thomas Lackey²

Martin Harris & Printing Debt

- Revelation to Martin Harris to sell farm and pay off printing debt.

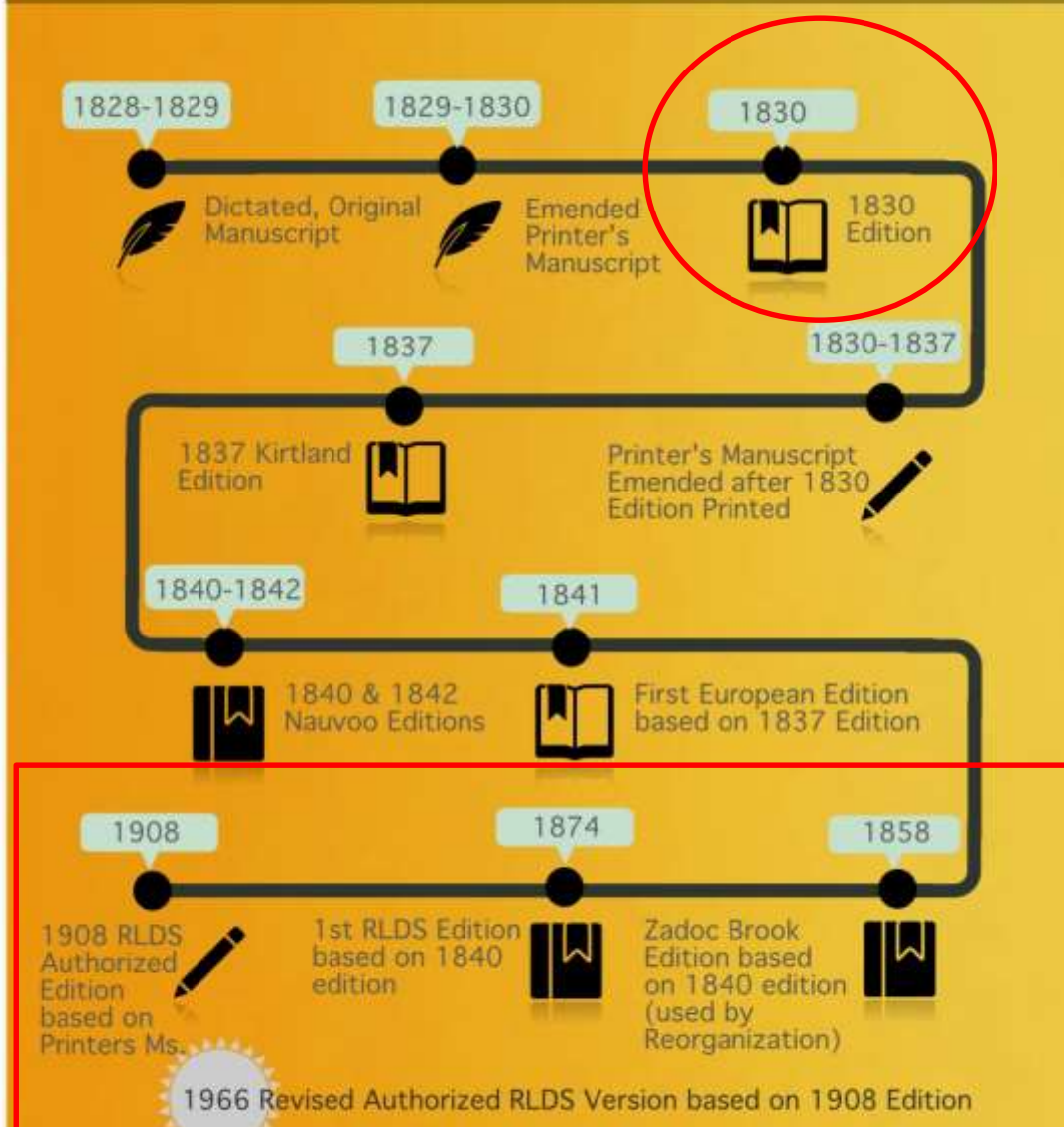
D&C 18:3a “I command thee that thou shalt not covet thine own property, but impart it freely to the printing of the book of Mormon, which contains the truth and the word of God....” 5b-d “And misery thou shalt receive, if thou wilt slight these counsels; Yea, even destruction of thyself and property. Impart a portion of thy property; yea, even part of thy lands, and all save the support of thy family. Pay the debt thou hast contracted with the printer. Release thyself from bondage.”

Subsequent Book of Mormon Editions

- 1837 Kirtland
- 1840 Nauvoo Edition 2,000 copies²
- 1841 First European Edition
- 150 million copies distributed by 2011 (LDS)

Book of Mormon: Manuscript to Book

1828-1966



Key RLDS/
Community of
Christ Editions

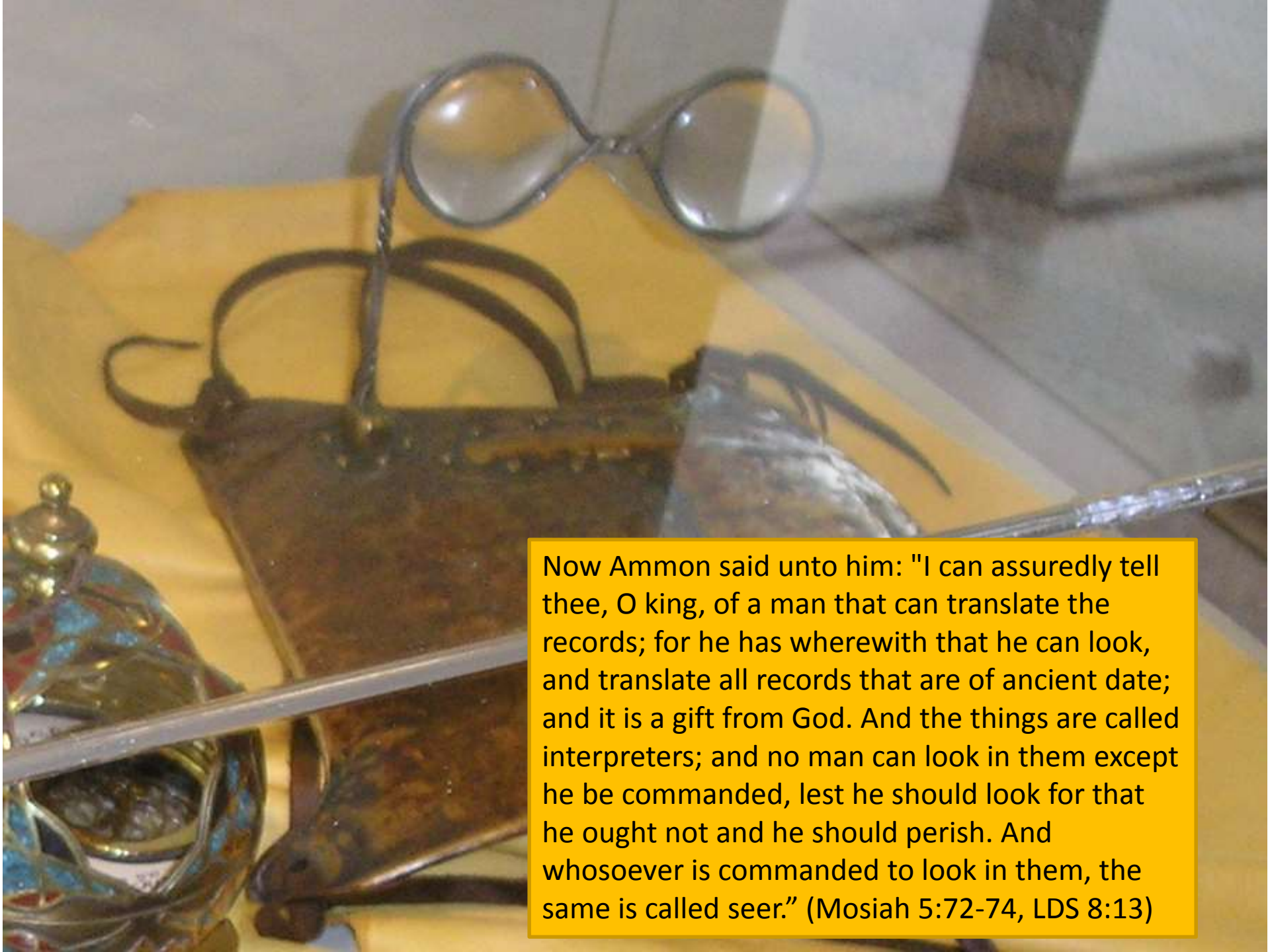
Based on Restoration Scriptures: A Study of Their Textual Development
by Richard P. Howard (Second Edition)

What Happened to the Urim and Thummim?

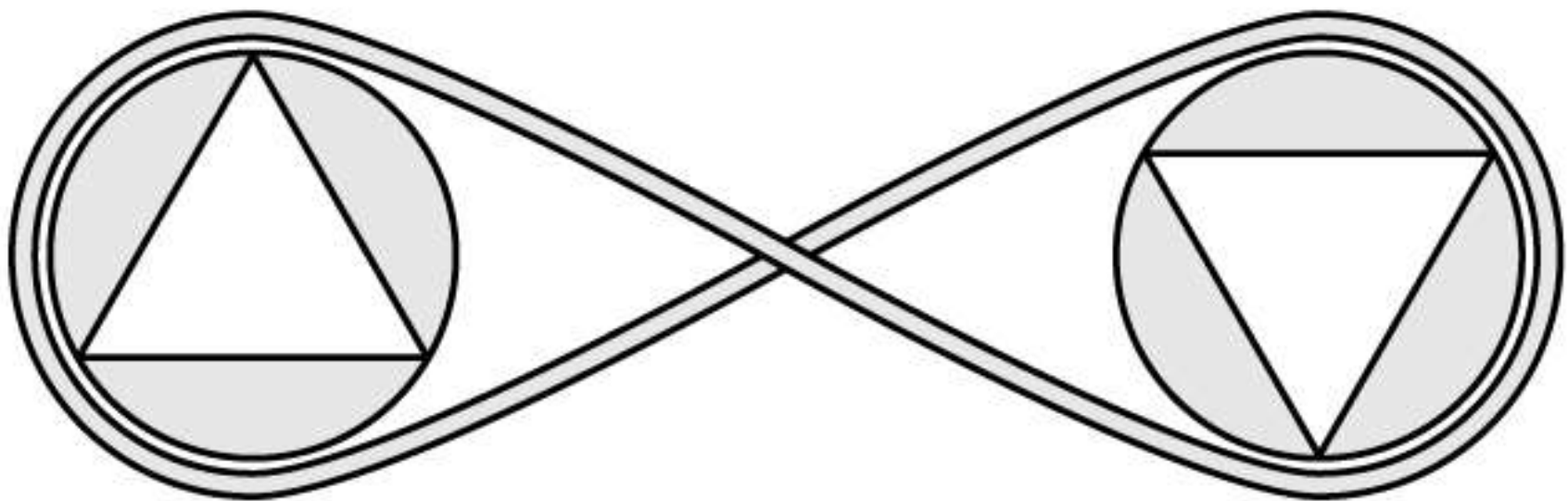
- First, what were the Urim and Thummim?
- Do they appear in the Bible?
- What did they look like?

- Withheld the answer from King Saul (1 Samuel 28:6)
- Only priests could interpret (Deuteronomy 33:8; Ezra 2:63; Nehemiah 7:65)
- In the breastplate (Exodus 28:30; Leviticus 8:8)
- Israelites consult (Judges 1:1; 20:18, 23)
- Eleazar to ask counsel for Joshua, after the judgment of (Numbers 27:21)
- Signifies light and perfection, guilty and innocent, revelation and truth



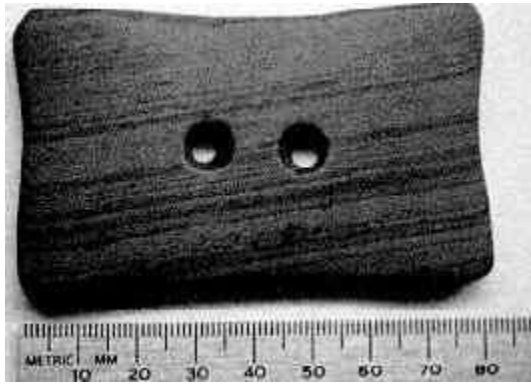


Now Ammon said unto him: "I can assuredly tell thee, O king, of a man that can translate the records; for he has wherewith that he can look, and translate all records that are of ancient date; and it is a gift from God. And the things are called interpreters; and no man can look in them except he be commanded, lest he should look for that he ought not and he should perish. And whosoever is commanded to look in them, the same is called seer." (Mosiah 5:72-74, LDS 8:13)

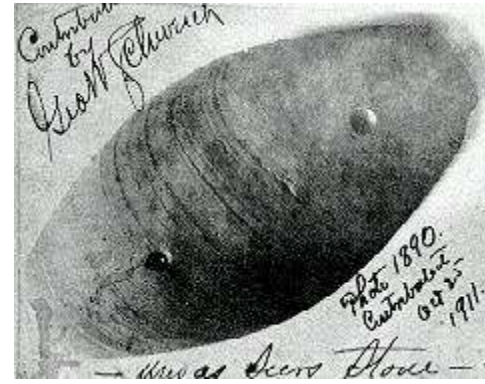


Possible configuration of Joseph Smith's Urim and Thummim based on the description of several witnesses.

"Do not be uneasy, mother, all is right -- see here, I have got a key." I knew not what he meant, but took the article of which he spoke into my hands, and, upon examination, found that it consisted of two smooth three-cornered diamonds set in glass, and the glasses were set in silver bows, which were connected with each other in much the same way as old fashioned spectacles. (*Biographical Sketches of Joseph Smith The Prophet and His Progenitors for Many Generations* by Lucy Smith, His Mother, Lamoni, IA, 1912, page 116)



Jacob Whitmer Seer Stone



David Whitmer Seer Stone



Joseph Smith Jr. Seer Stone

Where's the Urim and Thummin Now?

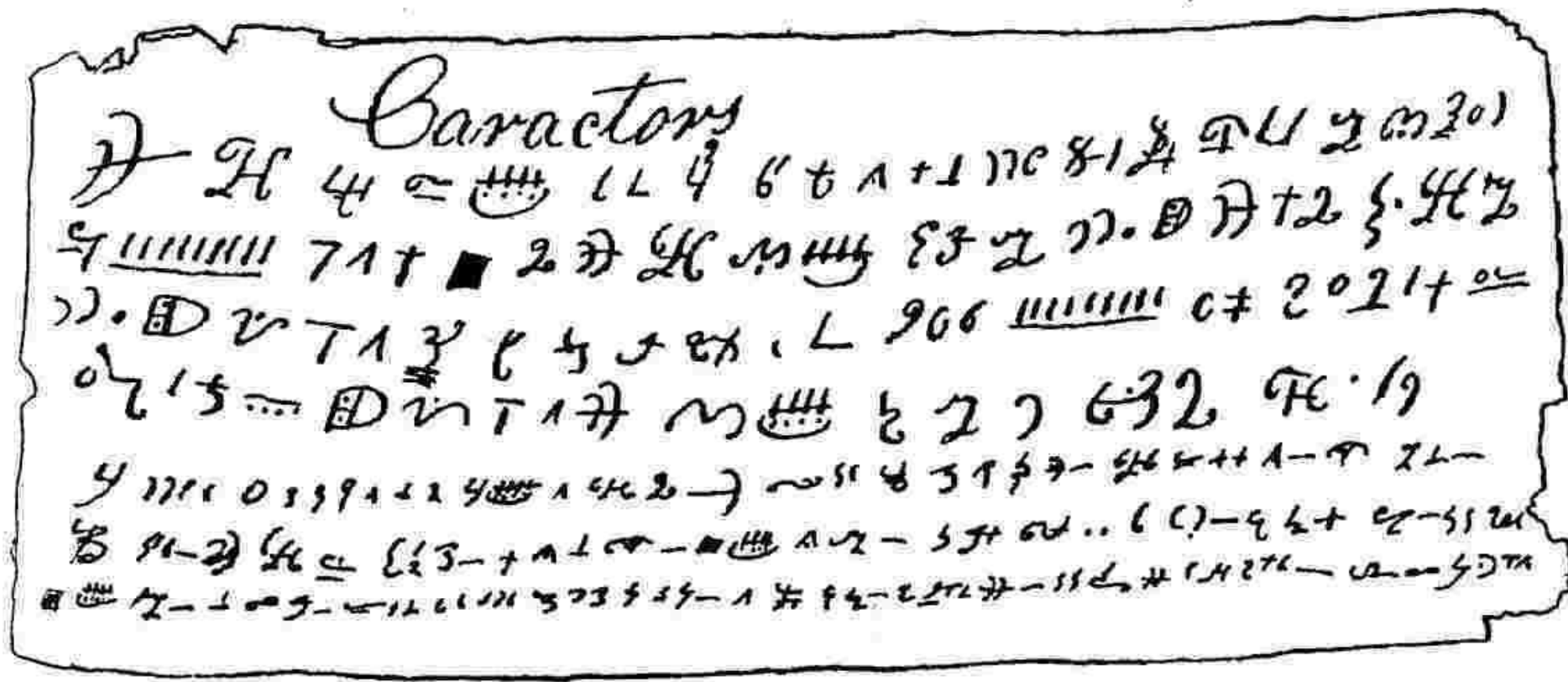
- "As a chastisement for this carelessness, the Urim and Thummim was taken from Smith. But by humbling himself, he again found favor with the Lord and was presented a strange oval shaped, chocolate colored stone, about the size of an egg, but more flat which it was promised should answer the same purpose. With this stone all the present book was translated."
~ 1872 William E. McLellan letter to Joseph Smith III
- "the Prophet possessed a seer stone, by which he was enabled to translate as well as from the Urim and Thummim, and for convenience he used the seer stone."
~ Martin Harris, September 1870

Where's the Urim and Thummin Now?

- "Now the first that my husband translated was translated by the use of Urim and Thummim, and that was the part that Martin Harris lost. After that he used a small stone, not exactly black, but was rather a dark color..." ~ 1870 Emma Smith Bidamon letter
- "I wrote with my own pen the entire Book of Mormon (save a few pages) as it fell from the lips of the Prophet as he translated it by the gift and power of God by means of the Urim and Thummim, or, as it is called by that book, holy interpreters...." 1848 account of Oliver Cowdery statement in Journal of Reuben Miller

Who transcribed the characters shown to Professor Anthon by Martin Harris?

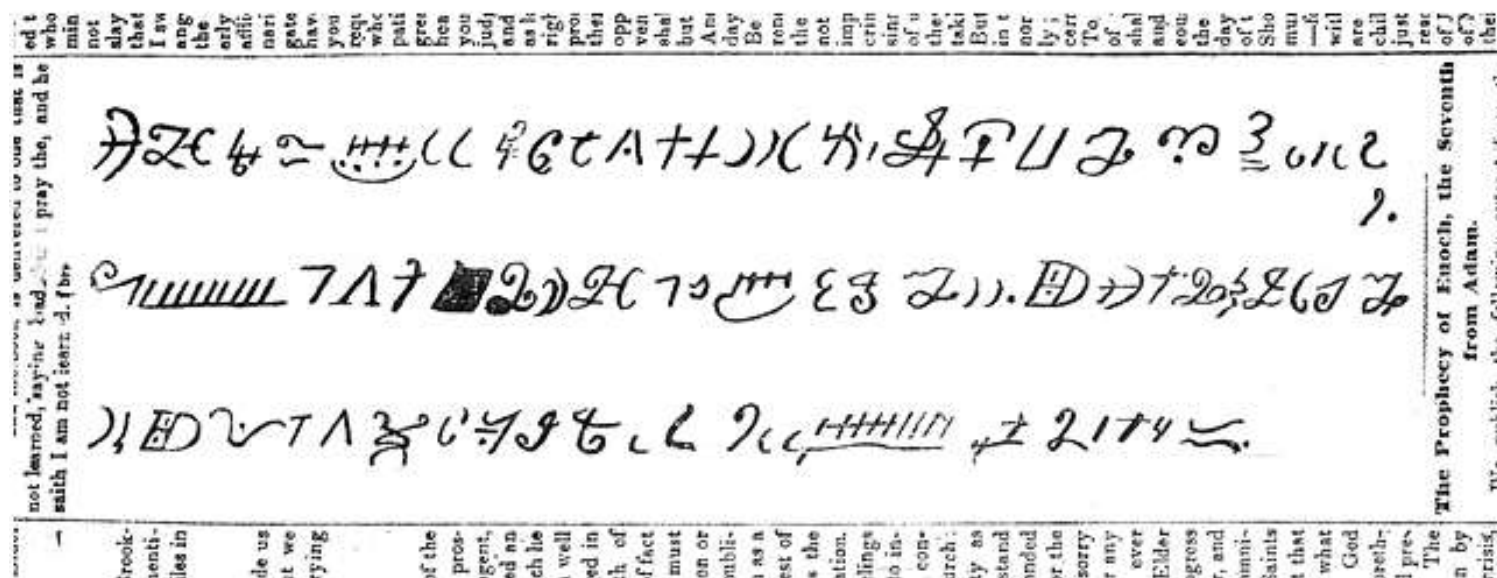
- Joseph Smith?
- Two copies?
- Who wrote "Caractors"?
- What's the whole story?





Top image: file photo for Israel A. Smith's
"The Language of the Book of Mormon" in
the *Saints' Herald* February 28, 1942

Bottom image: Graphic from
the *NY Prophet*
December 21, 1844



“Caractors” Document

- Provenance (ownership) of the fragment
- Is it same document shown to Prof. Anthon?



Now held by Community of Christ Archives.

And 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 unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

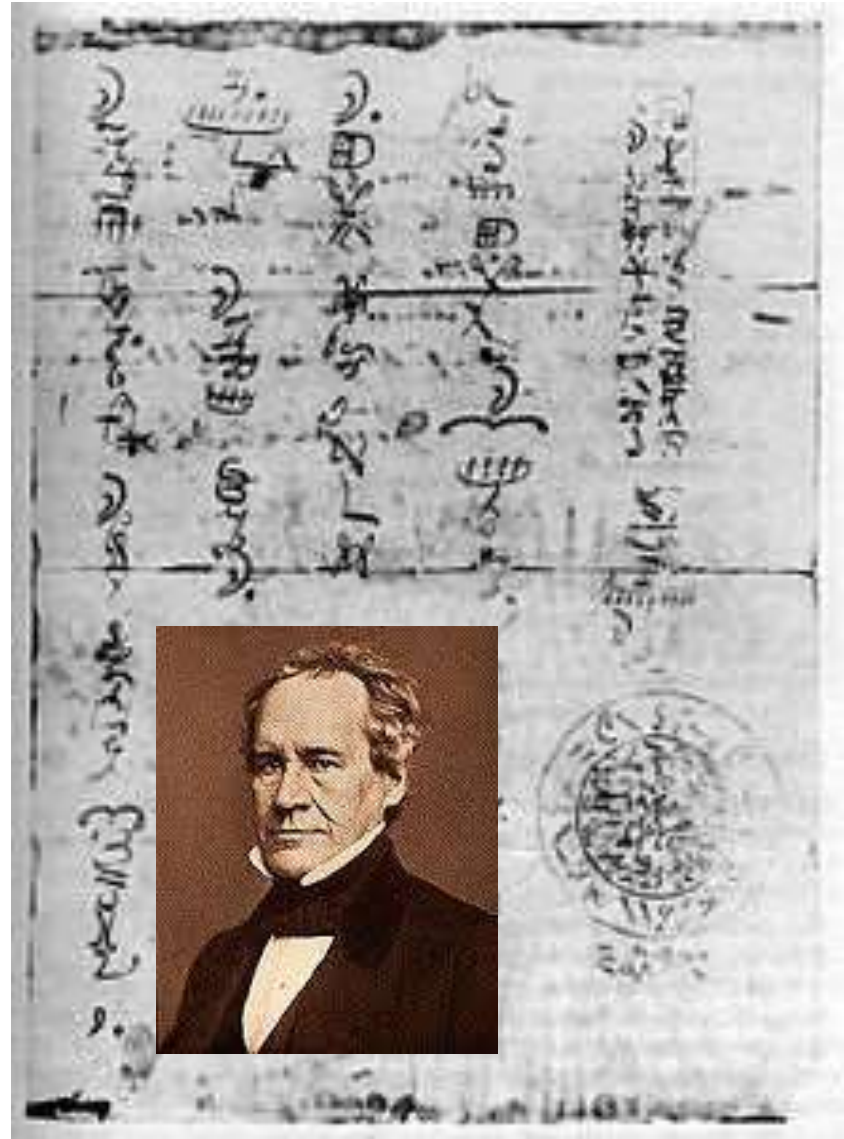
And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

And whatsoever thing is good is just and true; wherefore, nothing that is good denieth the Christ, but acknowledgeth that he is.

Moroni 10:4-6 (LDS and CofC)

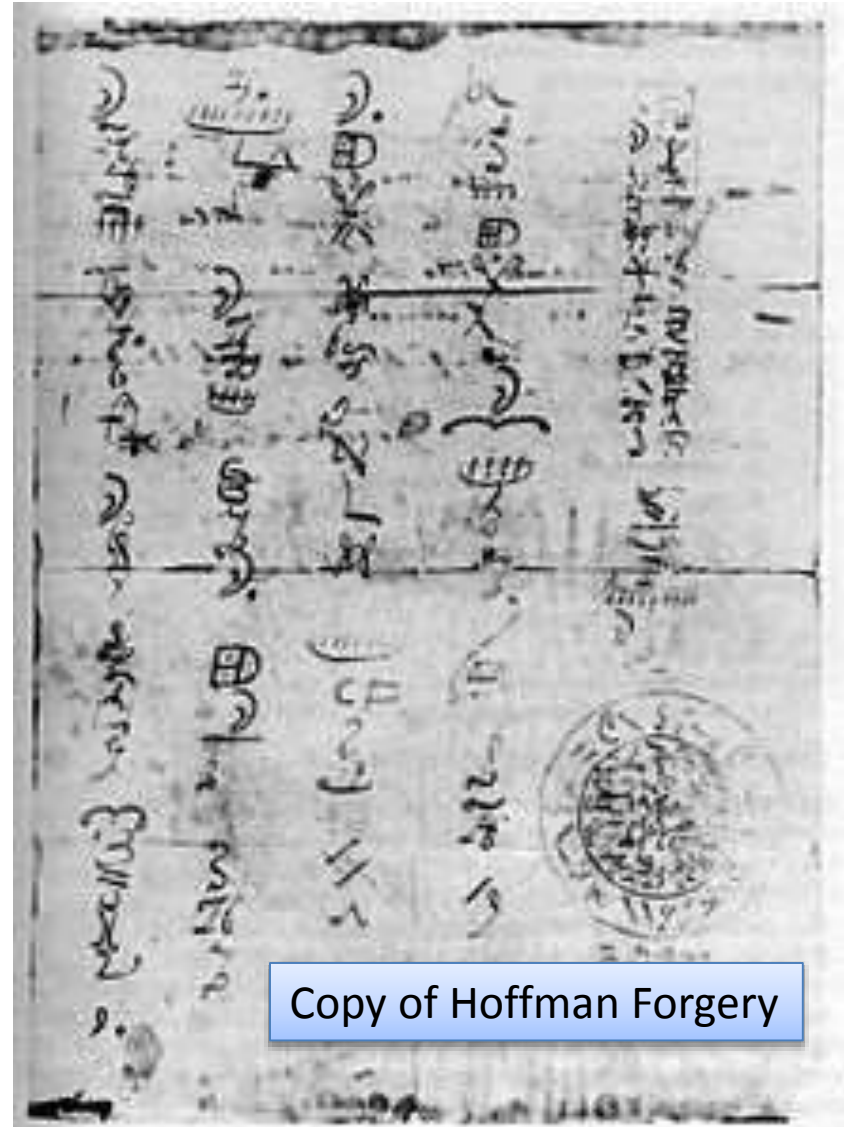
Letters from Prof. Charles Anthon

1841 Letter to New Rochelle, NY
Episcopal Minister: "[Harris]
requested me to give him my
opinion in writing about the paper
which he had shown to me. I did so
without hesitation, partly for the
man's sake, and partly to let the
individual 'behind the curtain' see
that his trick was discovered. The
import of what I wrote was, as far
as I can now recollect, simply this,
that the marks in the paper
appeared to be merely an imitation
of various alphabetical characters,
and had, in my opinion, no meaning
at all connected with them."



Letters from Prof. Charles Anthon

February 17, 1834 letter to E. D. Howe, of Painesville, OH: "This paper, in question, was in fact a singular scrawl. It consisted of all kinds of crooked characters disposed in columns, and had evidently been prepared by some person who had before him at the time a book containing various alphabets. Greek and Hebrew, crosses and flourishes, Roman letters inverted or placed sideways, were arranged in perpendicular columns, and the whole ended in a rude delineation of a circle divided into various compartments,..."

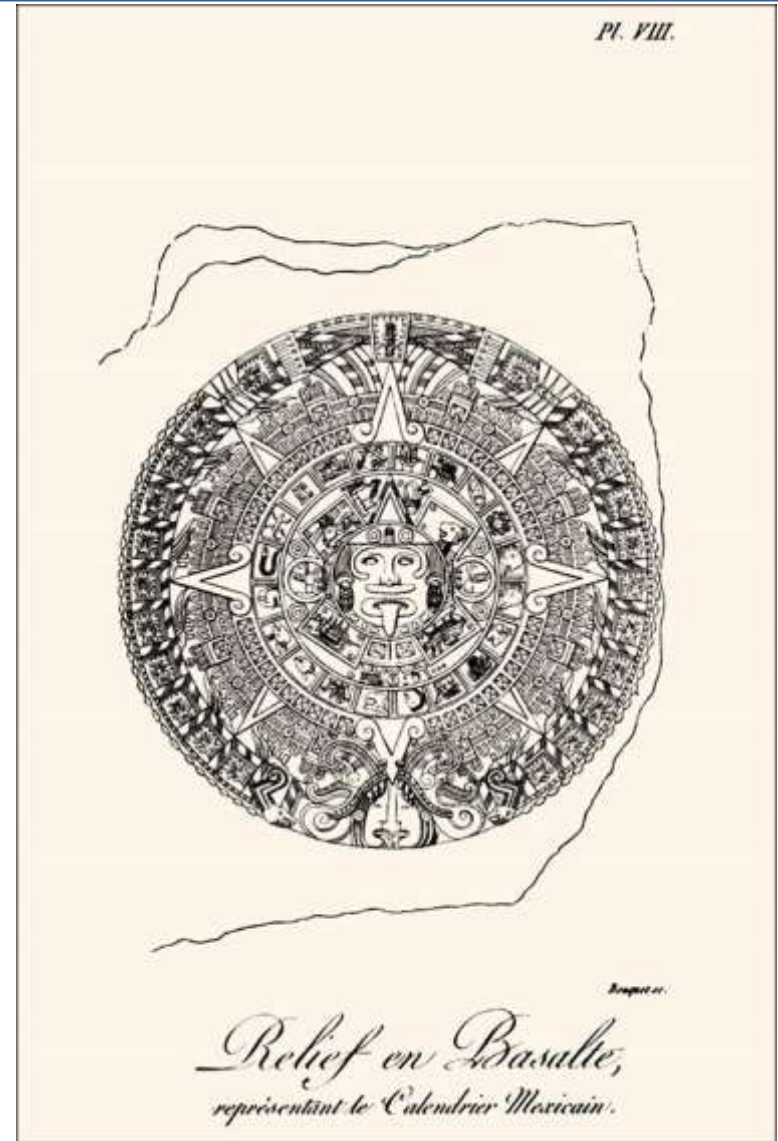


Copy of Hoffman Forgery

Letters from Prof. Charles Anthon

February 17, 1834 letter to E. D. Howe, of Painesville, OH
Continued): "...decked with various strange marks, and evidently copied after the Mexican Calendar given by Humboldt, but copied in such a way as not to betray the source whence it derived."

Humboldt Mexican Calendar



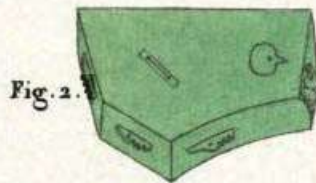
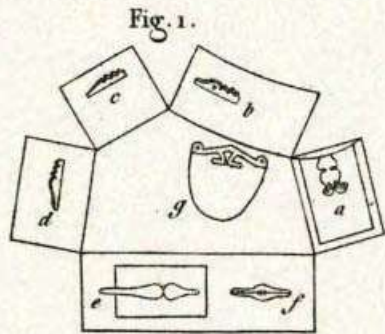
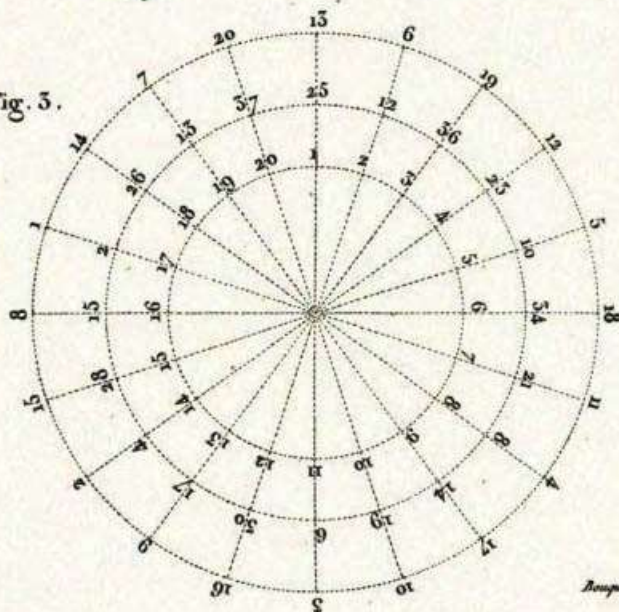


Fig. 4.

1.	Ata.
2.	Bosa.
3.	Mica.
4.	Muhica.
5.	Huca.
6.	Tu.
7.	Cuhapigua.
8.	Suhaza.
9.	Ata.
10.	Uchihica.
20.	Tuctit.

Fig. 3.



Calendrier Lunaire des Muyscas.

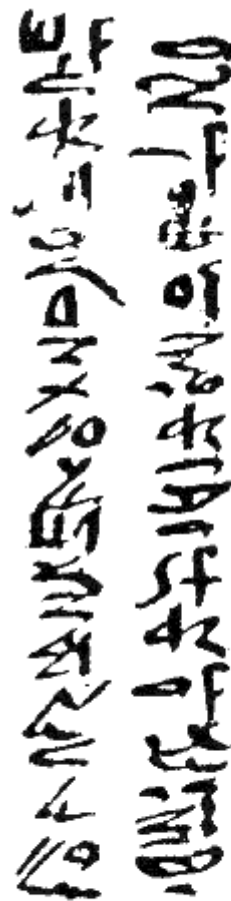
Handwritten text in Muysca script, featuring various symbols and numbers, including a circled '8'.

Handwritten text in Muysca script, featuring various symbols and numbers, including a circled '6' and a circled '7'.

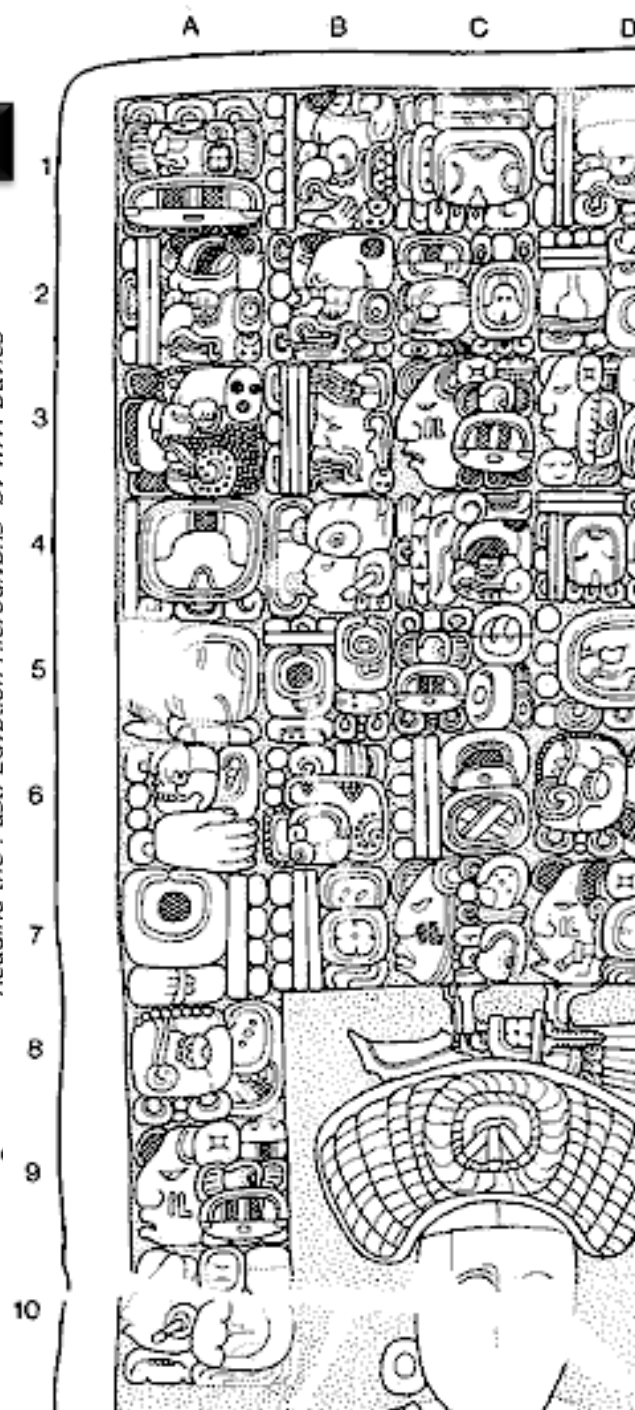
Formal Hieroglyphic



Hieratic (cursive)

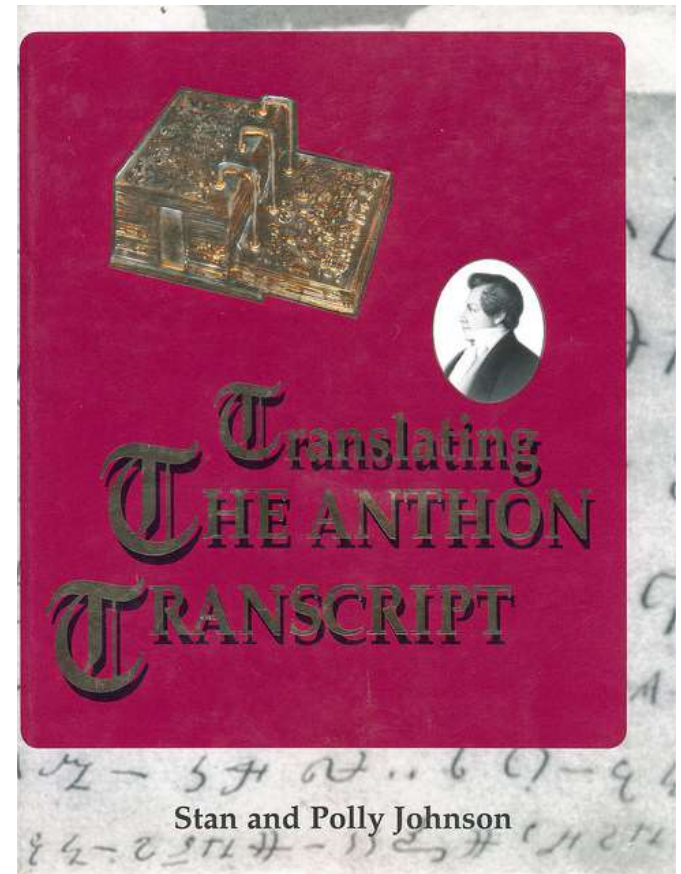


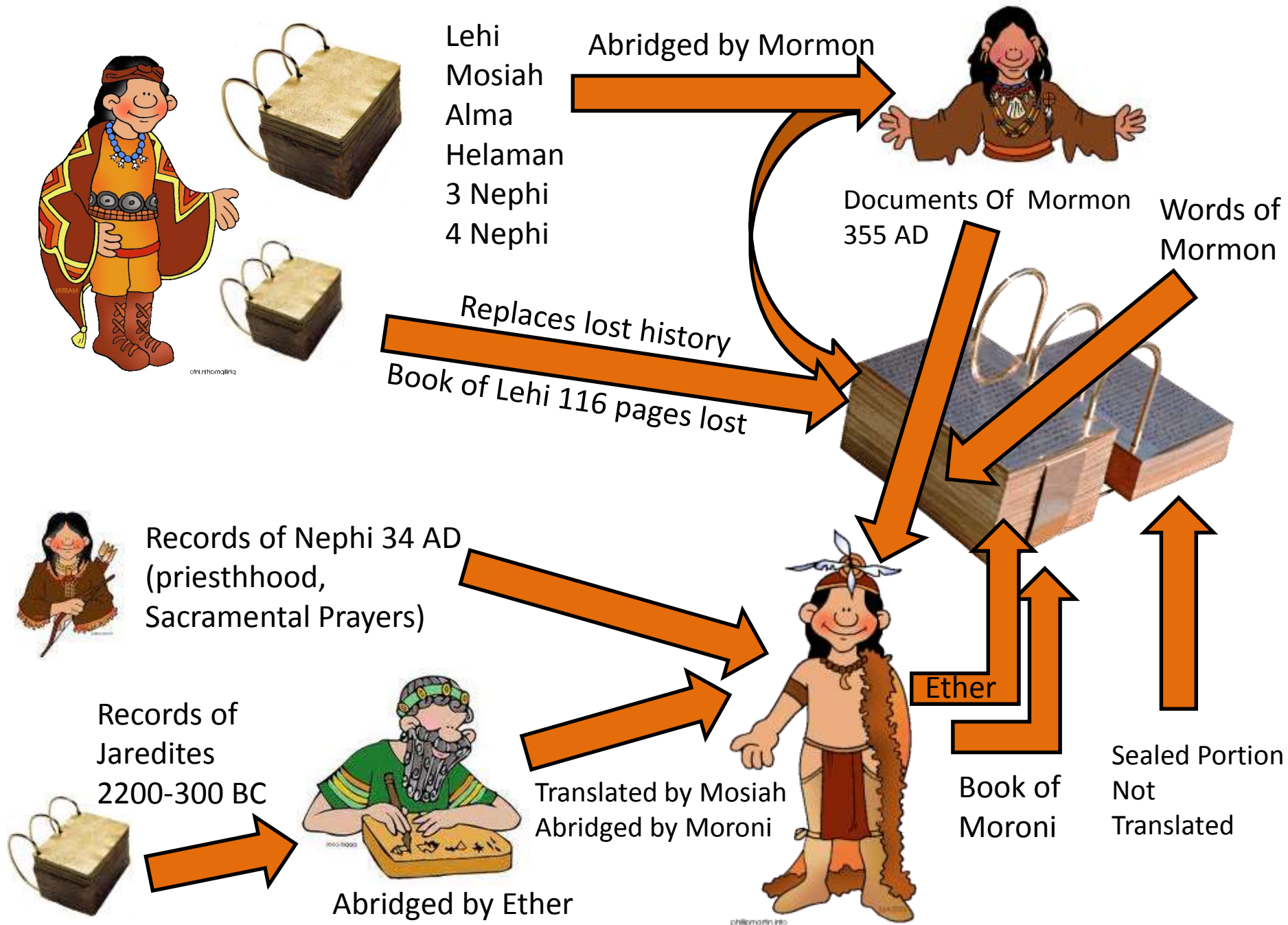
25 Section from a private letter in the hieratic script, written in columns on papyrus. Eleventh Dynasty. New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Has anyone translated the characters presented to Professor Anthon?

- Stan Johnson?
- Portion of Book of Ether?
- “Book of Ether” not on Large or Small Plates
- 116 pages initially translated by Joseph Smith were from Large Plates
- Did Joseph randomly select characters from plates that he’s not translating?





Stan Johnson Bronze Sculpture



The Anthon Transcript (Read right to left):
Copy and Translation by Stan Johnson, July 5, 1994, ©After reproduction of Original copy in the "Improvement Era" January 1942.

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We crossed being driven forth by mighty winds

We had with us in the tight quarters of our vessel, the light of day as we went forth

Within our chamber below, we were advancing beneath the surface

Our position within our vessel in the water

As we crossed a great sea, we were many times submerged on this course

Our vessel below

Towards

We went forth weighted down

Carrying with us provisions in a holding below

Our chamber surfaced

We were covered over in our position

Surfaced above

Submerged below the surface (Swallowed)

Driven forth by tempestuous winds

Waited to take in air

The people on this course

We had with us air from above in our crossing

We had with us light of day as we submerged beneath the surface

We carried with us

"And it came to pass" (came and passed by)

Great waves encompassed us about on this trail

A fearful voyage upon the water (sea)

Stone of crystal (symbol of light)

The wind (veering or veering)

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1

Course

Many days upon this long journey

Directed our course

The Lord

Surfaced above (came forth above the surface)

The holy land

We went forth to

We crossed, being driven forth by mighty winds

We had with us in the tight quarters of our vessel the light of day as we went forth

Great waves encompassed us about on this course

Many days in the crossing of a great sea

The Lord God

On this fearful course

"And it came to pass" (came and passed by)

Driven forth by tempestuous winds

Our Position

Food in storage being used

We crossed being driven forth by mighty winds

Surfaced above (came forth above the surface)

We went forth to the

Carrying with us to eat (the mouth sign)

We had with us in the tight quarters of our vessel, the light of day as we went forth

"And it came to pass" (came and passed by)

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1

Driven forth by tempestuous winds

In this position

Food in storage being used

They were tossed high upon billows of mountainous waves of the sea

Beneath the surface (held below)

The Lord

In a fearful journey upon the waters (sea)

An opening on top of the chamber

People on this voyage opened up a tight seal

Emerge upon the surface

Our chamber that surrounded us waited to surface above the water

In this position

Towards

We went forth (Going)

Stone of crystal (symbol of light)

A holding below (for our provisions)

Many days upon this long journey

Held

We crossed submerging and surfacing

Our vessel below, descended

Stone of crystal (symbol of light)

Our vessel was afloat and held upon the surface

The people who came on this voyage

Surfaced above (came forth above the surface)

The wind drove us forth through the water (the water opened up to us)

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Stone of crystal (symbol of light)

We stayed on this journey in the sea

The people who came on this voyage

We cried (mouth sign) that we might emerge back upon the surface of the water

A long journey under the water surface

The food in storage being used

The sea opened up and we did emerge beneath billows of mountainous waves

Beneath the surface

In this position

The Lord

We crossed being driven forth by mighty winds

Great waves encompassed us about in this course

As we crossed a great sea we were many times submerged on this course

Our vessel was sealed over us

"And it came to pass" (came and passed by)

The wind

We were held on a fearful voyage (The Lord took control of our course. The wind and the waves obey his will).

We went forth

We had with us, in the tight quarters of our vessel, the light of day as we went forth

In this position

The people who came on this journey

The wind did drive

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Violent winds

Vessels (plural)

Fearful

Stone of crystal (symbol of light)

Air

The Lord

Held on top of the surface

We went before the wind on the face of the water

Held us up, brought us forth

As we crossed a great sea we were many times submerged on this course

The Lord

We had with us in the tight quarters of our vessel the light of day as we went forth

We went forth

The waters were turned back from entering our place

We were kept dry in this position (A ladle, wet)

In our vessel

A constant force was upon us whether we were above or beneath the water

Breathing air

Fearful (doubled to add emphasis)

Cried (the mouth sign) with anguish of spirit

In our course

That the waters broke through

We had with us in the tight quarters of our vessel the light of day, as we went forth

Being driven upon a course by a great force

Crossing over

Covered over in our position

Our course

Our position was within a sealed dome-shaped vessel and was encompassed about by many waters

"And it came to pass" (came and passed by)

Towards

Our course

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1

Sang songs of praises for our unceasingly

We went forth leaning against the wind

We had with us in the tight quarters of our vessel the light of day as we went forth

With his two eyes He directed us by a great force

The Lord

We went before the wind on the face of the water

Within

Vessels (plural)

Surfaced above (came forth)

A fearful wind drove against

The wind

The Lord

A constant force was upon us, whether we were above or beneath the water

Course

We crossed and were held in this course towards

The wind over the water surface

We crossed being driven forth by winds

Breathing (doubled to add emphasis)

We stayed on this journey

We crossed being driven by great winds

See sign 25

We went before the wind on the face of the water

And held beneath the surface (Hidden from view)

This course

We came forth upon great raging waves

We went with the wind

Going towards

Hidden and held below the surface

The Lord

=!!!(L4 66A+L)C8147420030)

CofC ^{Ether} 3:3

Start (This is were the Anthon text begins.)

3. And thus the Lord caused stones (2) to shine in darkness, to give light (2), (7) unto men, women, and children (9), that they might not cross (4) the great waters (3), (22), (4) in darkness (16).

4 3 2 1

*Great waves encom-
passed us about on
this trail* SR Fig. E-2, F-3

SR Fig. C, E

*Stone of crystal
(symbol of
light)* SR Fig. D

*The wind
(veering or
repel)* SR Fig. A

Handwritten symbols and characters at the top of the page, including a stylized face-like symbol on the left and various alphanumeric characters and symbols on the right.

4. And it came to pass (5) that when they had prepared (6) all manner of food (18), (33), (73), (92)...

3:4-5

Handwritten symbols and characters corresponding to the numbered text below, including a large stylized 'C' and various alphanumeric characters and symbols.

13

12

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*Driven forth by
tempestuous winds*
SR Fig. A-3

Their vessel
SR Fig. B

Waited to take in air
SR Fig. P, H-2

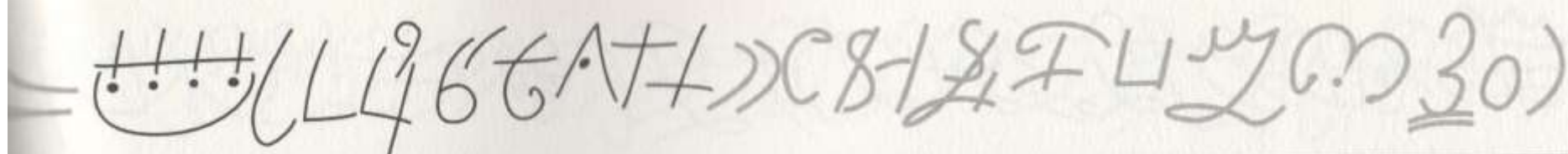
The people on this course
SR Fig. H, K

We had with us air from above in our crossing
SR Fig. P, G-8, H-4

We had with us light of day as we submerged beneath the surface
SR Fig. H-4, 7

We carried with us
SR Fig. H-1, 10

And it came to pass" (came and passed by)
SR Fig. G



(Verse 4 cont.) ...that thereby they might subsist (18), (19), (29), (110) upon the water (3), (22), (51), (69), (85), (106), (107), (113), (152), (163) and also food (33), (73), (92) for their flocks (29), (110) and herds, and whatsoever beast or animal or fowl that they should carry (19) with them—...



22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14

*As we crossed a
great sea, we
were many times
submerged on
this course*

SR Fig. F-1, 9, H-1, J

Towards
SR Fig. H-10

*Our
vessel
below*

SR Fig. S

*We went forth
weighted down
(their provi-
sions went with
them)*

SR Fig. G, Q

*Carrying
with us
provisions
in a hold-
ing below*

SR Fig. S

*Our
vessel
sur-
faced*

SR Fig. S,
H-5

*We were
covered
over in our
position*

SR Fig. F-1, Zzz

*Submerged
below the
surface
(swallowed)*

SR Fig. H-4

Surfaced above

SR Fig. H-5

Entire text is on left – Fragment appears on right

Für alle, die in Zeiten von Tastaturen und Touchscreens der Schreibschrift hinterhertrauern, kommt jetzt eine Lösung von Harald Geisler. Das Schlüsselwort lautet: Sigmund Freud.

*regret what
has an answer*

*Can you decipher the
entire translation
from the fragment?*

Translation Details

1823

21 Sept

Vision in bed,
Visited
by Moroni

22 Sept

Smith sees
Interpreters
(Urim &
Thummim)
and plates

1824-26

Annual
visits
to Hill
Cumorah

Dec

Translation
begins using
Urim and
Thummim

22 Sept

Joseph
Receives
the Plates

1827

1828

Feb

Feb

Martin Harris
Shows
Characters to
Prof.
Anthon

April 1828,
Translation of
initial 116 pages
begins with E.
Smith & M.
Harris as
scribes**

June

116 Pages
Lost

Use of Urim and Thummim continues until June 1828 when manuscript is lost

April 7, 1829 Oliver Cowdery as
scribe, translation resumes**

Work finished.
Title page
recorded
Northern
District, NY

11 June

March 1830, copies
offered for sale

Jul

Gift of
Translation
Restored,
Seer Stone
Used

Book of Mormon

*James Lancaster as
quoted by Tyree in
*Millions Call It
Scripture*,
pages 17-18

14 June 1828
Manuscript
Lost, Interpreters
Taken away*

Jan 1833, W. W.
Phelps first wrote in
*The Evening and
Morning Star*
suggesting Urim &
Thummim used in
Translation Process

Translation takes 63
days with Oliver
Cowdery as scribe

12 Apr 1828
Translation begun
using Interpreters*

** Source: *An
Imperfect Book:
What the Book of
Mormon Tells Us
about Itself* by Earl
M. Wunderli,
page 25

July-Aug 1828,
Translation begun
anew using only seer
stone*

Based on *The
Journey of a People*
by Mark Scherer,
Vol. 1, Chapter 6
pages 75, 77, 81, 85-
87.

1 *A Revelation given to Joseph, in Harmony, Pennsylvania, May, 1829, informing him of the alteration of the Manuscript of the fore part of the book of Mormon.*

NOW, behold I say unto you, that because you delivered up so many writings, which you had power to translate, into the hands of a wicked man, you have lost them, and you are without your gift at the same time, nevertheless it has been restored unto you again: therefore, see that you are faithful and go on unto the finishing of the remainder of the work as you have begun. Do not run faster than you have strength and means provided to translate, but be diligent unto the end, that you may come off conquerer; yea, that you may conquer satan, and those that do uphold his work.

2 Behold they have sought to destroy you; yea, even the man in whom you have trusted, and for this cause I said, that he is a wicked man, for he has sought to take away the things wherewith you have been intrusted; and he has also sought to destroy your gift, and because you have delivered the writings into his hands, behold they have taken them from you: therefore, you have delivered them up; yea, that which was sacred unto wickedness. And behold, satan has put it into their hearts to alter the words which you have caused to be written, or which you have translated, which have gone out of your hands; and behold I say unto you, that because they have altered the words, they read contrary from that which you translated and caused to be written; and on this wise the devil has sought to lay a cunning

by the means
of the Urim
and Thummim,

- Revelation later dated July or August 1828.
- May be combination of two revelations (1828 and 1829).
- Some parts of the text seem to fit an 1828 setting, others 1829, and some both."
- "These texts share lengthy phrases, including some not found in the Bible, and suggest a relationship between this revelation and the third book of Nephi... likely dictated in May 1829."
- Page with date for this revelation is missing from Revelation Book 1.

Dated May 1829 in Book of Commandments, however the preface to D&C section 3 indicates July or August 1828

<http://josephsmithpapers.org/paperSummary/revelation-spring-1829-dc-10#hist-intro>

ESP Gifts as
Seer or Mystic

“This theory of charismatic giftedness suggests that Joseph was blessed with qualities usually associated with supernatural or extrasensory perception, permitting him to use artifacts relating to the *Book of Mormon* in perceiving insights about those who may have previously handled them.”

~ Alan D. Tyree, *Millions Call It Scripture*, page 27.

Question. “Are you sure that he had the plates at the time you were writing for him?”



“The plates often lay on the table without any attempt at concealment, wrapped in a small linen tablecloth, which I had given him to fold them in. I once felt of the plates, as they thus lay on the table, tracing their outline and shape. They seemed to be pliable like thick paper, and would rustle with a metallic sound when the edges were moved by the thumb, as one does sometimes thumb the edges of a book.”

April 30, 1879 **interview of Emma Smith Bidamon** (age 76), a few months before her death, **by her son Joseph Smith III**. Interview occurred 50 years after she served as a scribe in the translation of the Book of Mormon.

Question. "Could not father have dictated the Book of Mormon to you, Oliver Cowdery and the others who wrote for him, after having first written it, or having first read it out of some book?"



Answer. "Joseph Smith [and for the first time she used his name direct, having usually used the words, "your father" or "my husband"] could neither write nor dictate a coherent and well-worded letter, let alone dictate a book like the Book of Mormon. And, though I was an active participant in the scenes that transpired, and was present during the translation of the plates, and had cognizance of things as they transpired, it is marvelous to me, "a marvel and a wonder," as much so as to anyone else."

Question. Mother, what is your belief about the authenticity, or origin, of the Book of Mormon?



Daguerreotype of Emma Smith
taken months after Joseph's Death.

Answer. "My belief is that the Book of Mormon is of divine authenticity - I have not the slightest doubt of it. I am satisfied that no man could have dictated the writing of the manuscripts unless he was inspired; for, when acting as his scribe, your father would dictate to me hour after hour; and when returning after meals, or after interruptions, he could at once begin where he had left off, without either seeing the manuscript or having any portion of it read to him. This was a usual thing for him to do. It would have been improbable that a learned man could do this; and, for one so ignorant and unlearned as he was, it was simply impossible."

Emma Smith - Last Testimony of Emma Smith 1879 Q&A between Emma and Joseph Smith III,
The Saints' Herald 26 (Oct 1879)

...the Lord spake unto me, saying:

Fools mock, but they shall mourn;
and my grace is sufficient for the meek,
that they shall take no advantage of your weakness;
And if men come unto me
I will show unto them their weakness.
I give unto men weakness that they may be humble;
and my grace is sufficient for all men
that humble themselves before me;
for if they humble themselves before me,
and have faith in me,
then will I make weak things become strong unto them.
Behold, I will show unto the Gentiles their weakness
and I will show unto them
that faith, hope and charity
bringeth unto me
the fountain of all righteousness.

Ether 5:27-29/LDS 12:26-28

Sidebar: Dwelling in the Word

Also included in
Poetic Reflections
From the Dust
By Theo Boyd

The Book of Ether

- Record discovered by expedition sent by King Limhi, Mosiah 5:60-68/LDS 8:7-11
- Translated by King Mosiah using Interpreters (Urim and Thummim?), Mosiah 5:72-76/LDS 8:13-16

- Story of Jaredites
- Left Tower of Babel, 3,000-2,500 BCE
- Reign of kings
- Two golden ages
- Repeating cycle of spiritual/economic Prosperity to spiritual/economic poverty

Some Observations

- “In the end, a book’s authority lies less in its origins than in its messages.” Mark D. Thomas, *Digging in Cumorah: Reclaiming Book of Mormon Narratives*, page 1 (1999).
- “Some examiners of the Book of Mormon...consider literary criticism, textual materials, historical foundations, but never use the scriptures functionally in the business of living.... We want to find out what it has to say in its own way...discovering how it can guide, counsel, inspire.... Let’s have the book speak for itself!” Roy A. Cheville, *The Book of Mormon Speaks For Itself*, preface (1971).

Some More Observations

- “The Book of Mormon is first and foremost a narrative composition [with] narrators who serve as major characters themselves...these major narrators/characters (e.g., Mormon, Nephi, Moroni) shape the message....” Dale E. Luffman, *The Book of Mormon’s Witness to it’s First Readers*, page 46 (2013).
- “The narratives of the book...do not provide access to either God or Joseph Smith; everything is mediated by the narrators...this is the underlying logic...from which all interpretation must proceed.” Grant Hardy, *Understanding the Book of Mormon: A Reader’s Guide*, page xix (2010).

A Few Book of Mormon Generalizations

1. It's a long narrative text, 531-588 pages (349?)
2. Awkward, repetitious form of English
3. Imitates style of King James Bible
4. Claims to be history, addresses concerns of disaffected 19th century religious seekers/readers
5. Complicated, convoluted narrative
6. Religious text (with Biblical parallels)
7. As a religious text, literary tragedy
8. Didactic, message is clear
9. Typology employed (type & Shadow)
10. Spiritualized text (temporal and spiritual)
11. Represents itself as a human artifact
12. Evidences 19th Century literary forms
13. Derived from three narrators

Based on
Understanding the Book of Mormon: A Readers Guide by Grant Hardy, summarized in *The Book of Mormon's Witness to Its First Readers* by Dale E. Luffman, page 46-47 (Chapter IV)

Order of Manuscript Dictation

Mosiah 1:1 through end of Moroni	Narrative of Nephi	Words of Mormon
Sequentially dictated manuscript: Mosiah Alma Helaman 3 Nephi 4 Nephi Book of Mormon Ether Moroni.	Sequentially dictated manuscript: 1 Nephi 2 Nephi Jacob Enos Jarom Omni	Bridge between the chronologically first and last segments of the manuscript

“Simply put, the *Book of Mormon* as a literary work (as presently organized) appears to be produced out of chronological order.”
The Book of Mormon’s Witness to Its First Readers, Luffman, page 49.

A Critical Reading of the Book of Mormon

crit·i·cal ***adjective*** \ 'kri-ti-kəl \

: expressing criticism or disapproval

: of or relating to the judgments of critics about books, movies, art, etc.

: using or involving careful judgment about the good and bad parts of something

Biblical Criticism

Historical-Critical Method or Higher Criticism: is a branch of literary criticism that investigates the origins of ancient text in order to understand "the world behind the text."
Looks for external evidence/proofs. Not pejorative!



Lower or Textual Criticism: the close examination of the text to establish their original or "correct" readings (most authoritative text). Looks at internal evidence, considers Bible as sacred text.

“The Book of Mormon has a simple, straightforward view of who wrote the Bible and when, which differs from the scholarly view of the Bible.” ~Earl Wunderli

Given the overriding problem of the brass plates predating the compilation of the Old Testament, it seems Joseph Smith is the more likely candidate for the “hundreds of biblical quotations, expansions, paraphrases, allusions, and verbal echoes” from the King James Version. ~Mark Thomas

The Comparison

Event	Date	Comments
Jaredites leave Tower of Babel with record of creation to time of the tower	2500-2350 BCE	From <i>The Timeline History of Mormonism/JOAP</i>
Tower of Babel built	2357 - 610 BCE	During time of Peleg when earth was divided, Genesis 10:25
Moses leads Israelites in exodus and dies during 40 years in wilderness	1420-1365 BCE	Moses dies before seeing the Promised Land
Deuteronomy originally written	620 BCE	Per modern Biblical scholarship
Lehi & family leave Jerusalem with Brass plates including 5 books of Moses	600 - 598 BCE	1 Nephi 1:150-152/5:6 LDS
Siege of Jerusalem begins	598 BCE	
Cyrus the Great of Persia conquers Babylon	539 BCE	Exiled Jews begin to return to the land of Judah
Ether hides the 24 plates of gold	450 BCE	Ether 13:20-21 LDS
Around this time 5 books of Moses (Pentateuch) compiled, around core of Deuteronomy, not all written by Moses.	400 BCE	See I Nephi 1:159-163/5:11-13 LDS
The Prophets formed	180 BCE	Isaiah through Malachi minus Lamentations

The record of the Jaredites, taken from the twenty-four plates found by the people of Limhi in the days of king Mosiah.

Ether Verse(s)

And now I, Moroni, proceed to give an account of those **ancient inhabitants who were destroyed by the hand of the Lord** upon the face of this north country. And I take mine account from the twenty and four plates which were found by the people of Limhi, which is called the Book of Ether. Ether And as I suppose that the first part of this record, which speaks concerning the creation of the world, and also of Adam, and an account from that time even to the great tower, and whatsoever things transpired among the children of men until that time, is had among the Jews—

Therefore I do not write those things which transpired from the days of Adam until that time; but they are had upon the plates; and whoso findeth them, the same will have power that he may get the full account. Therefore I do not write those things which transpired from the days of Adam until that time; but they are had upon the plates; and whoso findeth them, the same will have power that he may get the full account.

1:1-4/1:1-4 LDS

Do you believe in a God who destroys entire peoples?

Do you believe that Adam and the Tower of Babel existed or were simply stories told to answer:

- “Where did we come from?”
- “Who were our first parents?”
- “Why there is evil in the world?”
- “Why are there different languages spoken?”

From 1 Nephi

Lehi, took the records which were engraven upon the plates of brass, and he did search them from the beginning. And he beheld that they did contain the five books of Moses, which gave an account of the creation of the world, and also of Adam and Eve, who were our first parents;

And also a record of the Jews from the beginning, even down to the commencement of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah

And also the prophecies of the holy prophets, from the beginning, even down to the commencement of the reign of Zedekiah; and also many **prophecies which have been spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah.**

Questions and Comments

(1 Nephi) 1:158-163/ 5:10-13 LDS

- Nephi/Lehi take the records from Laban which include five books of Moses and the Prophets.
- Moroni abridges the plates of Ether but does not include records from Adam to Tower of Babel because available elsewhere (in records of Nephi).
- Chronologically, how can Nephi have the Pentateuch and writings of the Prophets if they were not completed before journey from Jerusalem?

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11 (NIV)

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ² As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. ³ They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.” ⁵ But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building.

⁶ The LORD said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.” ⁸ So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

The Genealogy of Ether	Ether Verse(s)
<p>But behold, I give not the full account, but a part of the account I give, from the tower down until they were destroyed. And on this wise do I give the account. He that wrote this record was Ether, and he was a descendant of Coriantor. Coriantor was the son of Moron. And Moron was the son of Ethem. And Ethem was the son of Ahah. And Ahah was the son of Seth. And Seth was the son of Shiblön. And Shiblön was the son of Com. And Com was the son of Coriantum. And Coriantum was the son of Amnigaddah. And Amnigaddah was the son of Aaron. And Aaron was a descendant of Heth, who was the son of Hearthom. And Hearthom was the son of Lib. And Lib was the son of Kish. And Kish was the son of Corom. And Corom was the son of Levi. And Levi was the son of Kim. And Kim was the son of Morianton. And Morianton was a descendant of Riplakish. And Riplakish was the son of Shez. And Shez was the son of Heth. And Heth was the son of Com. And Com was the son of Coriantum. And Coriantum was the son of Emer. And Emer was the son of Omer. And Omer was the son of Shule.</p>	<p>1:5-6/1:5-30 LDS</p> <p>Why the genealogy of the scribes?</p>

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And Shule was the son of Kib. And Kib was the son of Orihah, who was the son of Jared; Which Jared came forth with his brother and their families, with some others and their families, from the great tower, at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people, and <u>swore in his wrath</u> that they should be scattered upon all the face of the earth; and according to the word of the Lord the people were scattered.</p>	<p>1:6-7/1:31-33 LDS</p> <p>Do you believe in a wrathful God?</p>
<p>And the brother of Jared being a large and mighty man, and a man highly favored of the Lord, Jared, his brother, said unto him: Cry unto the Lord, that he will not confound us that we may not understand our words.</p>	<p>1:8/1:34 LDS</p> <p>Are only certain people <u>eligible</u> to talk to God?</p>
<p>And it came to pass that the brother of Jared did cry unto the Lord, and the Lord had compassion upon Jared; therefore he did not confound the language of Jared; and Jared and his brother were not confounded.</p>	<p>1:9/1:35 LDS</p>

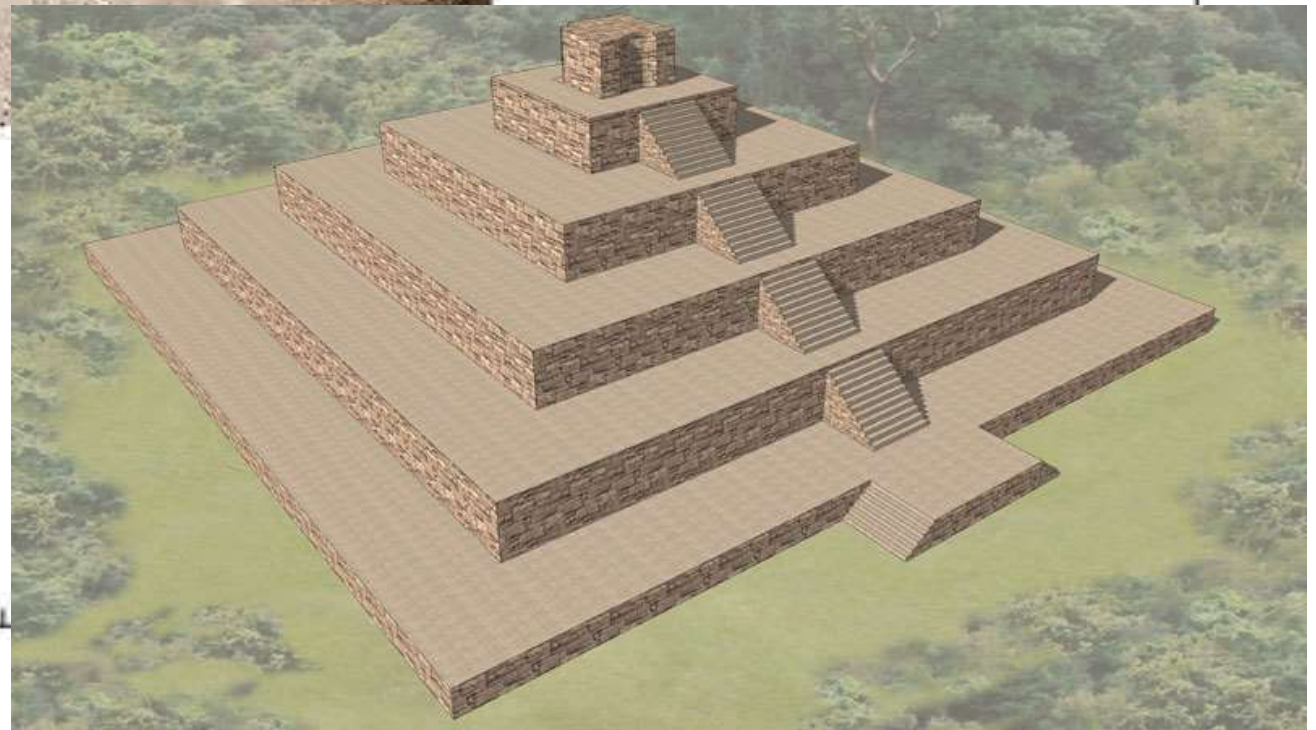
	Ether Verse(s)
<p>Then Jared said to his brother, “Cry again unto the Lord, and it may be <u>that he will turn away his anger</u> from them who are our friends, that he confound not their language.”</p> <p>And it came to pass that the brother of Jared did cry unto the Lord, and the Lord had compassion upon their friends and their families also, that they were not confounded.</p> <p>And it came to pass that Jared spake again unto his brother, saying: Go and inquire of the Lord whether he will drive us out of the land, and if he will drive us out of the land, cry unto him whither we shall go. And who knoweth but the Lord will carry us forth into a land which is choice above all the earth? And if it so be, let us be faithful unto the Lord, that we may receive it for our inheritance.</p> <p>And it came to pass that the brother of Jared did cry unto the Lord according to that which had been spoken by the mouth of Jared.</p>	<p>1:10-15/1:36-39 LDS</p> <p>Does God get angry with us or is this the narrator simply projecting human emotions on God?</p> <p>Does God reward us measure for measure for doing as he desires?</p> <p>Does God reward our friends for our behavior?</p>

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And it came to pass that the Lord did hear the brother of Jared, and had compassion upon him, and said unto him: Go to and gather together thy flocks, both male and female, of every kind; and also of the seed of the earth of every kind; and thy families; and also Jared thy brother and his family; and also thy friends and their families, and the friends of Jared and their families.</p> <p>And when thou hast done this thou shalt go at the head of them down <u>into the valley which is northward</u>. And there will I meet thee, and I will go before thee into a land which is choice above all the lands of the earth.</p> <p>And there will I bless thee and thy seed, and raise up unto me of thy seed, and of the seed of thy brother, and they who shall go with thee, a great nation. <u>And there shall be none greater than the nation which I will raise up unto me of thy seed</u>, upon all the face of the earth. And thus I will do unto thee because this long time ye have cried unto me.</p>	<p>Ether 1:16-21/1:40-43 LDS</p> <p>Was the prophecy in Ether 1:20 (1:43 LDS) fulfilled? Was the prophecy for our time or Jared's? What happened to the Jaredites?</p>

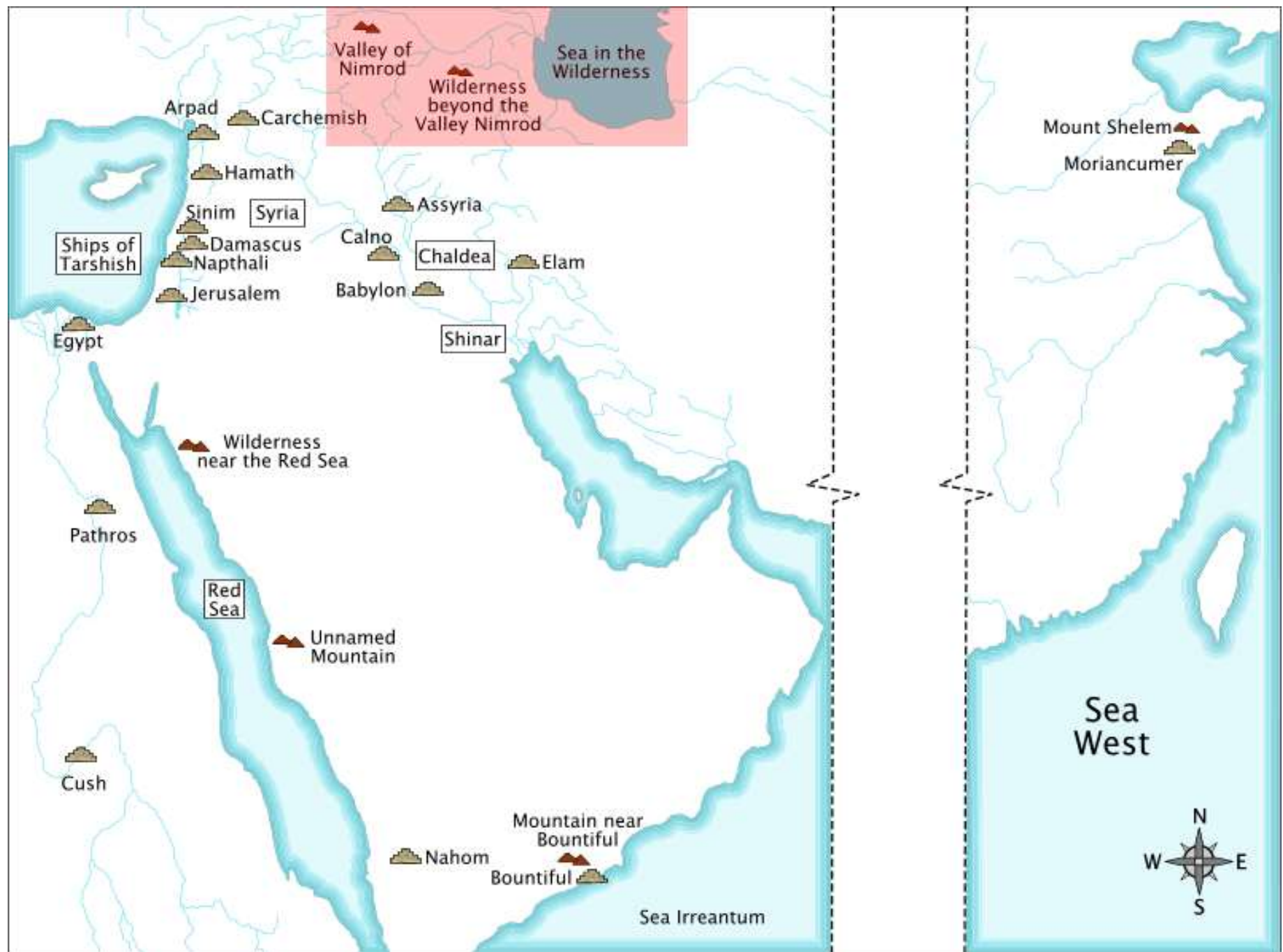
Tell Brak
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	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And it came to pass that Jared and his brother, and their families, and also the friends of Jared and his brother and their families, went down into the valley which was northward, (and the name of the valley was <u>Nimrod</u>, being called after the mighty hunter) with their flocks which they had gathered together, male and female, of every kind.</p> <p>And they did also lay snares and catch <u>fowls of the air</u>; and they did also prepare a vessel, in which they did <u>carry with them the fish of the waters</u>. And they did also carry with them deseret, which, by interpretation, is a <u>honey bee</u>; and thus they did carry with them swarms of bees, and...seeds of every kind.</p> <p>And it came to pass that when they had come down into the valley of Nimrod the Lord came down and talked with the brother of Jared; and <u>he was in a cloud</u>, and the brother of Jared saw him not.</p>	<p>Ether 1:22-24/2:1-3 LDS</p> <p>Why? If they are going to “a land which is choice above all the land of the earth” (Ether 1:18/1:42 LDS), why the need?</p> <p>1:25/2:4 LDS Exodus 13:21 parallel?</p>

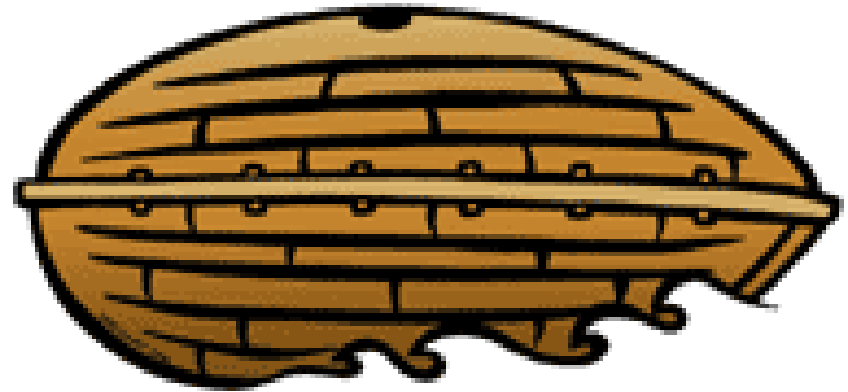
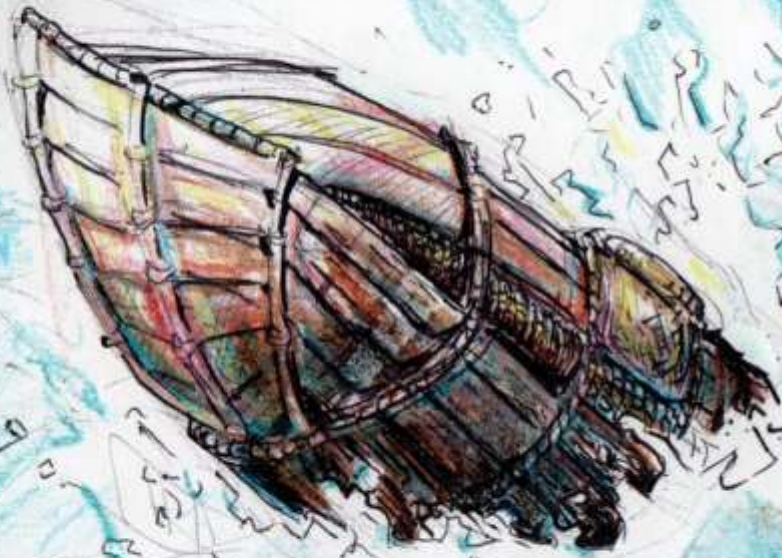
	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And it came to pass that the Lord commanded them that they should go forth into the wilderness, yea, into that quarter where <u>there never had man been</u>. And it came to pass that the Lord did go before them, and did talk with them as he stood in a cloud, and gave directions whither they should travel.</p> <p>And it came to pass that they did travel in the wilderness, and <u>did build barges, in which they did cross many waters</u>, being directed continually by the hand of the Lord. And the Lord would not suffer that they should stop beyond the sea in the wilderness, but he would that they should come forth even unto the land of promise, which was choice above all other lands, which the Lord God had preserved for a righteous people.</p>	<p>1:26-29/2:5-7 LDS</p> <p>If man had covered the face of the earth, necessitating the flood, 8 people exited the ark, how could this be a land never before occupied?</p>

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And <u>he had sworn in his wrath</u> unto the brother of Jared, that whoso should possess this land of promise, from that time henceforth and forever, should serve him, the true and only God, <u>or they should be swept off</u> when the fulness of his wrath should come upon them.</p> <p>And now, we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise; and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fulness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fulness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity.</p> <p>For behold, this is <u>a land which is choice above all other lands</u>; wherefore he that doth possess it shall serve God or shall be swept off; for it is the everlasting decree of God. And it is not until the <u>fulness of iniquity</u> among the children of the land, that they are swept off.</p>	<p>1:30-33/2:8-10 LDS</p> <p>Repeated 3 times! Verses 30, 31, 32</p> <p>If God destroys evil nations, why are there rogue nations in existence today? If this applies to America only...why? What's meant by the "fulness of iniquity?"</p>

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God—that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fulness come, that ye may not bring down the fulness of the wrath of God upon you as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done.</p> <p>Behold, <u>this is a choice land</u>, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ, who hath been manifested by the things which we have written.</p> <p>And now I proceed with my record; for behold, it came to pass that the Lord did bring Jared and his brethren forth even to that great sea which divideth the lands. And as they came to the sea they pitched their tents; and they called the name of the place Moriancumer; and they dwelt in tents, and dwelt in tents upon the seashore for the space of four years.</p>	<p>1:34-37/2:11-13</p> <p>Do you believe this promise? If America is the “choice land” doesn’t that include Mexico, Central America and Canada? Why was America “choice” and not Great Britain, or Iran or Australia or India?</p> <p>Name of the Brother of Jared?</p>

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And it came to pass at the end of four years that the Lord came again unto the brother of Jared, and stood in a cloud and talked with him. And <u>for the space of three hours did the Lord talk with the brother of Jared, and chastened him because he remembered not to call upon the name of the Lord</u>. And the brother of Jared repented of the evil which he had done, and did call upon the name of the Lord for his brethren who were with him.</p> <p>And the Lord said unto him: <u>I will forgive thee and thy brethren of their sins</u>; but thou shalt not sin any more, for ye shall remember that my Spirit will not always strive with man; wherefore, if ye will sin until ye are fully ripe ye shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord. And these are my thoughts upon the land which I shall give you for your inheritance; for it shall be a land choice above all other lands.</p>	<p>1/38-42/2:14-15 LDS</p> <p>Brother of Jared chastised like a child?</p> <p>Why was it necessary to forgive “thee and thy brethren?”</p>

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And the Lord said: Go to work and build, after the manner of barges which ye have hitherto built. And it came to pass that the brother of Jared did go to work, and also his brethren, and built barges after the manner which they had built, according to the instructions of the Lord. And they were small, and they were light upon the water, even like unto the lightness of a fowl upon the water.</p> <p>And they were built after a manner that they were exceedingly tight, even that they would hold water like unto a dish; and the bottom thereof was tight like unto a dish; and the sides thereof were tight like unto a dish; and the ends thereof were peaked; and the top thereof was tight like unto a dish; and the length thereof was the length of a tree; and the door thereof, when it was shut, was tight like unto a dish. And it came to pass that the brother of Jared cried unto the Lord, saying: O Lord, I have performed the work which thou hast commanded me, and I have made the barges according as thou hast directed me.</p>	1:43-47/2:16-18 LDS



Inspiration for Jaredite Vessels?



	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And behold, O Lord, in them there is no light; whither shall we steer? And also we shall perish, for in them we cannot breathe, save it is the air which is in them; therefore we shall perish. And the Lord said unto the brother of Jared: Behold, thou shalt make a hole in the top, and also in the bottom; and when thou shalt suffer for air thou shalt unstop the hole and receive air. And if it be so that the water come in upon thee, behold, ye shall stop the hole, that ye may not perish in the flood. And it came to pass that the brother of Jared did so, according as the Lord had commanded.</p> <p>And he cried again unto the Lord saying: O Lord, behold I have done even as thou hast commanded me; and I have prepared the vessels for my people, and behold there is no light in them. Behold, O Lord, wilt thou suffer that we shall cross this great water in darkness?</p>	1:48-54/2:19-22 LDS

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And the Lord said unto the brother of Jared: What will ye that I should do that ye may have light in your vessels? For behold, ye cannot have windows, for they will be dashed in pieces; neither shall ye take fire with you, for ye shall not go by the light of fire. For behold, ye shall be as a whale in the midst of the sea; for the mountain waves shall dash upon you.</p> <p>Nevertheless, I will bring you up again out of the depths of the sea; for the winds have gone forth out of my mouth, and also the rains and the floods have I sent forth. Ether 2:25 25 And behold, I prepare you against these things; for ye cannot cross this great deep save I prepare you against the waves of the sea, and the winds which have gone forth, and the floods which shall come. Therefore what will ye that I should prepare for you that ye may have light when ye are swallowed up in the depths of the sea?</p>	1:55-59/2:23-25 LDS

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And it came to pass that the brother of Jared, (now the number of the vessels which had been prepared was eight) went forth unto the mount, which they called the mount Shelem, because of its exceeding height, and <u>did molten out of a rock sixteen small stones</u>; and they were white and clear, even as transparent glass; and he did carry them in his hands upon the top of the mount, and cried again unto the Lord, saying:</p> <p>O Lord, thou hast said that we must be encompassed about by the floods. Now behold, O Lord, and do not be angry with thy servant because of his weakness before thee; for we know that thou art holy and dwellest in the heavens, and that we are unworthy before thee; <u>because of the fall our natures have become evil continually</u>; nevertheless, O Lord, thou hast given us a commandment that we must call upon thee, that from thee we may receive according to our desires.</p>	1:60-63/3:1-2 LDS

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>Behold, O Lord, thou hast smitten us because of our iniquity, and hast driven us forth, and for these many years we have been in the wilderness; nevertheless, thou hast been merciful unto us. O Lord, look upon me in pity, and turn away thine anger from this thy people, and suffer not that they shall go forth across this raging deep in darkness; but behold these things which I have molten out of the rock.</p> <p>And I know, O Lord, that thou hast all power, and can do whatsoever thou wilt for the benefit of man; <u>therefore touch these stones, O Lord, with thy finger, and prepare them that they may shine forth in darkness</u>; and they shall shine forth unto us in the vessels which we have prepared, that we may have light while we shall cross the sea.</p> <p>Behold, O Lord, thou canst do this. We know that thou art able to show forth great power, which looks small unto the understanding of men.</p>	<p>1:64-67/3:3-5 LDS</p> <p>Finger of God, parallels Exodus 31:18</p>

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And it came to pass that when the brother of Jared had said these words, behold, the Lord stretched forth his hand and touched the stones one by one with his finger. And the veil was taken from off the eyes of the brother of Jared, and he saw the finger of the Lord; and it was as the finger of a man, like unto flesh and blood; and the brother of Jared fell down before the Lord, for he was struck with fear.</p>	1:68-74/3:6-11 LDS
<p>And the Lord saw that the brother of Jared had fallen to the earth; and the Lord said unto him: Arise, why hast thou fallen? And he saith unto the Lord: 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. And the Lord said unto him: Because of thy faith thou hast seen that I shall take upon me flesh and blood; and never has man come before me with such exceeding faith as thou hast; for were it not so ye could not have seen my finger. Sawest thou more than this? And he answered: Nay; Lord, show thyself unto me. And the Lord said unto him: Believest thou the words which I shall speak?</p>	<p>Parallel's nakedness of Noah, seen first by Ham and covered by Shem and Japeth, Genesis 9:21-23</p>

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And he [Brother of Jared] answered: Yea, Lord, I know that thou speakest the truth, for thou art a God of truth, and canst not lie. And when he had said these words, behold, the Lord showed himself unto him, and said: Because thou knowest these things ye are redeemed from the fall; therefore ye are brought back into my presence; therefore I show myself unto you. Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, 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; and they shall become my sons and my daughters.</p> <p>And <u>never have I showed myself unto man</u> whom I have created, for never has man believed in me as thou hast. Seest thou that ye are created after mine own image? Yea, even all men were created in the beginning after 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; and <u>even as I appear unto thee to be in the spirit will I appear unto my people in the flesh.</u></p>	<p>1:75-81/3:12-16 LDS</p> <p>What about Adam and Eve? What about Abraham? Didn't they walk and talk with God?</p> <p>Does this mean the image in which all "men" were created would resemble someone of Middle Easterner or Palestinian descent?</p>

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And now, as I, Moroni, said I could not make a full account of these things which are written therefore it sufficeth me to say that Jesus showed himself unto this man in the spirit, even after the manner and in the likeness of the same body even as he showed himself unto the Nephites.</p> <p>And he ministered unto him even as he ministered unto the Nephites; and all this, that this man might know that he was God, because of the many great works which the Lord had showed unto him. And because of the knowledge of this man he could not be kept from beholding within the veil; and he saw the finger of Jesus, which, when he saw, he fell with fear; for he knew that it was the finger of the Lord; and <u>he had faith no longer, for he knew, nothing doubting.</u> Wherefore, having this perfect knowledge of God, he could not be kept from within the veil; therefore he saw Jesus; and he did minister unto him.</p>	1:82-85/3:17-20 LDS

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And it came to pass that the Lord said unto the brother of Jared: Behold, thou shalt not suffer these things which ye have seen and heard to go forth unto the world, until the time cometh that I shall glorify my name in the flesh; wherefore, <u>ye shall treasure up the things</u> which ye have seen and heard, and show it to no man.</p>	1:86-89/3:21-24 LDS
<p>And behold, when ye shall come unto me, ye shall write them and shall seal them up, that no one can interpret them; for ye shall write them in a language that they cannot be read. And behold, <u>these two stones</u> will I give unto thee, and <u>ye shall seal them up also with the things which ye shall write</u>.</p>	Urim and Thummim? Interpreters? How did King Mosiah come to have them?
<p>For behold, <u>the language which ye shall write I have confounded</u>; wherefore I will cause in my own due time that these stones shall magnify to the eyes of men these things which ye shall write.</p>	The language of Adam? Pre-Tower of Babel?

Reference from Mosiah, Ammon tells of King Mosiah's ability to translate Plates of Ether, based on having Interpreters

Verse(s)

Now Ammon said unto him: I can assuredly tell thee, O king, of a man that can translate the records; for he has wherewith that he can look, and translate all records that are of ancient date; and it is a gift from God. And the things are called interpreters, and no man can look in them except he be commanded, lest he should look for that he ought not and he should perish. And whosoever is commanded to look in them, the same is called seer.

Mosiah 5:72-74/8:13
LDS

Appear to be the same interpreters?

Ether writes: I have sealed up the interpreters, according to the commandment of the Lord.

Ether 1:99/4:5 LDS

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And when the Lord had said these words, he showed unto the brother of Jared <u>all the inhabitants of the earth which had been, and also all that would be</u>; and he withheld them not from his sight, even unto the ends of the earth. For he had said unto him in times before, that if he would believe in him that he could show unto him all things—it should be shown unto him; therefore the Lord could not withhold anything from him, for he knew that the Lord could show him all things. And the Lord said unto him: Write these things and seal them up; and I will show them in mine own due time unto the children of men.</p> <p>And it came to pass that the Lord commanded him that he should seal up the two stones which he had received, and show them not, until the Lord should show them unto the children of men.</p>	1:90-93/3:25-28 LDS

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And the Lord commanded the brother of Jared to go down out of the mount from the presence of the Lord, and write the things which he had seen; and they were forbidden to come unto the children of men until after that he should be lifted up upon the cross; and for this cause did King Mosiah keep them, that <u>they</u> should not come unto the world until after Christ should show himself unto his people.</p> <p>And after Christ truly had showed himself unto his people he commanded that they should be made manifest. And now, after that, they have all dwindled in unbelief; and there is none save it be the Lamanites, and they have rejected the gospel of Christ; therefore I am commanded that I should hide them up again in the earth.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Moroni writes that he must seal them up...</p>	<p>Ether 1:94-97/4:1-3 LDS</p> <p>Appear to be the same interpreters?</p> <p>Ether writes: I have sealed up the interpreters, according to the commandment of the Lord. 1:99/4:5 LDS</p> <p>What does <u>they</u> refer to? Ether's record? The interpreters?</p>

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>Behold, I have written upon these plates the very things which the brother of Jared saw; and there never were greater things made manifest than those which were made manifest unto the brother of Jared. Wherefore the Lord hath commanded me to write them; and I have written them. And he commanded me that I should seal them up; and he also hath commanded that I should seal up the interpretation thereof; wherefore <u>I have sealed up the interpreters</u>, according to the commandment of the Lord. For the Lord said unto me: They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord.</p> <p>And in that day that they shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the <u>unfolding unto them all my revelations</u>, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are.</p>	<p>1:98-101/4:4-7 LDS</p> <p>What has Moroni sealed? In what day and era did the “Gentiles...repent ...and become clean?”</p>

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And he that will contend against the word of the Lord, let him be accursed; and he that shall deny these things, let him be accursed; for unto them will I show no greater things, saith Jesus Christ; for I am he who speaketh. And at my command the heavens are opened and are shut; and at my word the earth shall shake; and at my command the inhabitants thereof shall pass away, even so as by fire. And he that believeth not my words believeth not my disciples; and if it so be that I do not speak, judge ye; for ye shall know that it is I that speaketh, at the last day.</p> <p>But he that believeth these things which I have spoken, him will I visit with the manifestations of my Spirit, and he shall know and bear record. For because of my Spirit he shall know that these things are true; for it persuadeth men to do good. And whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do good is of me; for good cometh of none save it be of me.</p>	1:102-106/4:8-12 LDS

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>I am the same that leadeth men to all good; he that will not believe my words will not believe me—that I am; and he that will not believe me will not believe the Father who sent me. For behold, I am the Father, I am the light, and the life, and the truth of the world.</p>	1:107-112/3:12-15 LDS
<p>Come unto me, O ye Gentiles, and I will show unto you the greater things, the knowledge which is hid up because of unbelief. Come unto me, O ye house of Israel, and it shall be made manifest unto you how great things the Father hath laid up for you, from the foundation of the world; and it hath not come unto you, because of unbelief. Behold, when ye shall rend that veil of unbelief which doth cause you to remain in your awful state of wickedness, and hardness of heart, and blindness of mind, then shall the great and marvelous things which have been hid up from the foundation of the world from you—yea, when ye shall call upon the Father in my name, with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, then shall ye know that the Father hath remembered the covenant which he made unto your fathers, O house of Israel.</p>	<p>Christ? God speaking to all ages? Abridged by Moroni? Ether?</p>

	Ether Verse(s)
<p>And then shall my revelations which I have caused to be written by <u>my servant John</u> be unfolded in the eyes of all the people. Remember, when ye see these things, ye shall know that the time is at hand that they shall be made manifest in very deed. Therefore, when ye shall receive this record ye may know that the work of the Father has commenced upon all the face of the land.</p> <p>Therefore, repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me, and believe in my gospel, and be baptized in my name; for he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned; and signs shall follow them that believe in my name.</p> <p>And blessed is he that is found faithful unto my name at the last day, for he shall be lifted up to dwell in the kingdom prepared for him from the foundation of the world. And behold it is I that hath spoken it. Amen.</p>	<p>1:113-117/4:16-19 LDS</p> <p>Pre-knowledge of John? Written CE 70 (early date) or CE 95-96 (late date)?</p>

Finding	Verses	Source
21 complete chapters of Isaiah plus portions of others appear in the Book of Mormon		<i>The Journey of a People</i> by Mark Scherer, page 93, footnote 36
Many portions taken from what scholars refer to as “Second Isaiah” and written decades after departure of Nephi/Lehi		JOAP page 93, footnote 36
	Mosiah 7:77-80/ 12:21-24 LDS and 8:67-69/15:29-31 LDS	Isaiah 52-54
	III Nephi 7:43- 45/16:18-20, 9:70-83/20:32-45 and 10:9- 25/22:1-17	Isaiah 52-54

And it came to pass that they formed a secret combination, even as they of old; which combination is most abominable and wicked above all, in the sight of God; For the Lord worketh not in secret combinations, neither doth he will that man should shed blood, but in all things hath forbidden it, from the beginning of man.

And whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations, to get power and gain, until they shall spread over the nation, behold, they shall be destroyed; for the Lord will not suffer that the blood of his saints, which shall be shed by them, shall always cry unto him from the ground for vengeance upon them and yet he avenge them not.

Ether 3:92-93, 95/LDS 8:18-19, 22

“Plain and Precious” Truths removed, *Witness* by Luffman, page 57.





Deism Defined

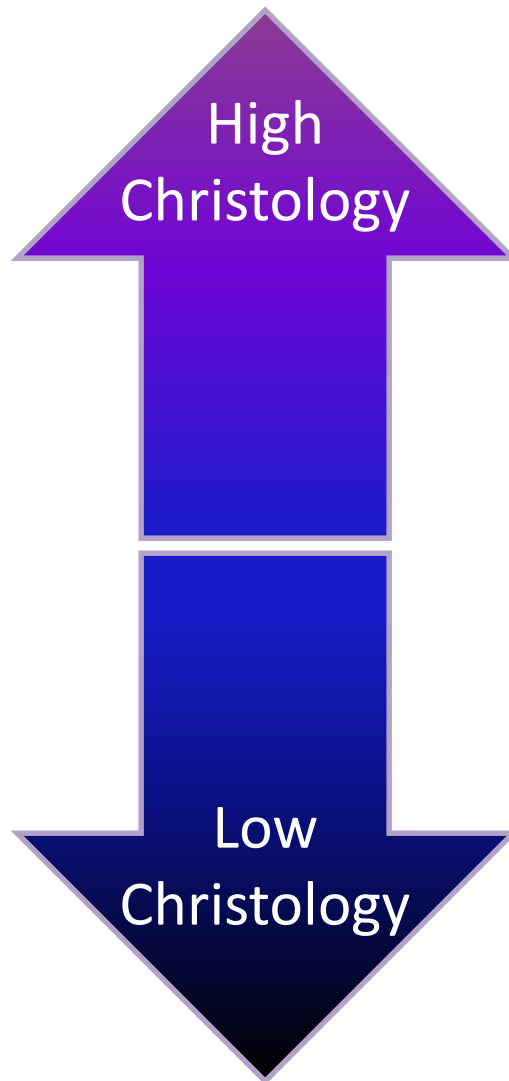
Deism is a theological position concerning the relationship between "the Creator" and the natural world. Deistic viewpoints emerged during the scientific revolution of 17th-century Europe and came to exert a powerful influence during the eighteenth century enlightenment. Deism stood between the narrow dogmatism of the period and skepticism. Though deists rejected atheism, they often were called "atheists" by more traditional theists. There were a number of different forms in the 17th and 18th century. In England, deism included a range of people from anti-Christian to un-Christian theists.

Deism holds that God does not intervene with the functioning of the natural world in any way, allowing it to run according to the laws of nature. For Deists, human beings can only know God via reason and the observation of nature, but not by revelation or supernatural manifestations (such as miracles) – phenomena which Deists regard with caution if not skepticism. Deism does not ascribe any specific qualities to a deity beyond non-intervention. Deism is related to naturalism because it credits the formation of life and the universe to a higher power, using only natural processes. Deism may also include a spiritual element, involving experiences of God and nature.

What's Needed

Christ the divine
Savior, God, and
Messiah

Jesus the model,
teacher, and
compassionate guide



Nature of Persons

Pessimistic view of
human capacity for
good; human nature
is selfish, rebellious,
and unrepentant

Optimistic view of
human capacity for
good; human nature
leans toward caring and
sharing if properly
guided (born innocent,
desire to learn and grow)