

THE BOOK OF MORMON - Another Testament of Jesus Christ

8 We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God. (Pearl of Great Price | Articles of Faith 1:8)

A living apostle, Jeffrey R Holland narrates a brief introduction of The Book of Mormon.

<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2011-05-010-book-of-mormon-introduction?lang=eng>

I think one of the most controversial aspect of the restored church and gospel is The Book of Mormon. Christian professors make every effort to discredit The Book of Mormon, ignoring the scriptural references to this additional sacred record of scripture. The most common effort is quoting the following passage in the book of Revelation:

“And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” (Rev. 22:18–19.)

A modern day apostle Howard W Hunter addresses that effort

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1981/04/no-man-shall-add-to-or-take-away?lang=eng>

Following, I will show Biblical references to this sacred record, but first let me summarize the history leading up to, during and after the its writing.

About 600 BC, the prophet Jeremiah and others were warning the people who lived in Jerusalem that their wickedness was going to bring about a destruction of that city and the enslavement of the people. The Bible tells of Jeremiah being imprisoned and of the Babylonians sweeping in about 587 BC and doing just what was warned. You may be familiar with bible stories involving King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar's dealing with the Jewish prophet, Daniel and how Nebuchadnezzar creates a golden image and commands all men to worship it—The Jewish slave boys, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego refuse and are cast into the fiery furnace—God preserves them, and they come forth unharmed. (Old Testament | Daniel 3)

Back to 600 BC, One of the other prophets called by God to warn the people of Jerusalem contemporary with Jeremiah was a prophet named Lehi. He is not mentioned in the Bible because when the people of that city attempted to kill him, the Lord commanded him to leave Jerusalem with his family and that he would be led to a promised land. As they departed Jerusalem, his son, Nephi, also a prophet of God, began to record their history and especially the Lord's dealings with them. They were instructed by the Lord in building a ship upon which they crossed the ocean landing on the Pacific Ocean side of Ancient America, it is believed down where Mexico and Guatemala now join.

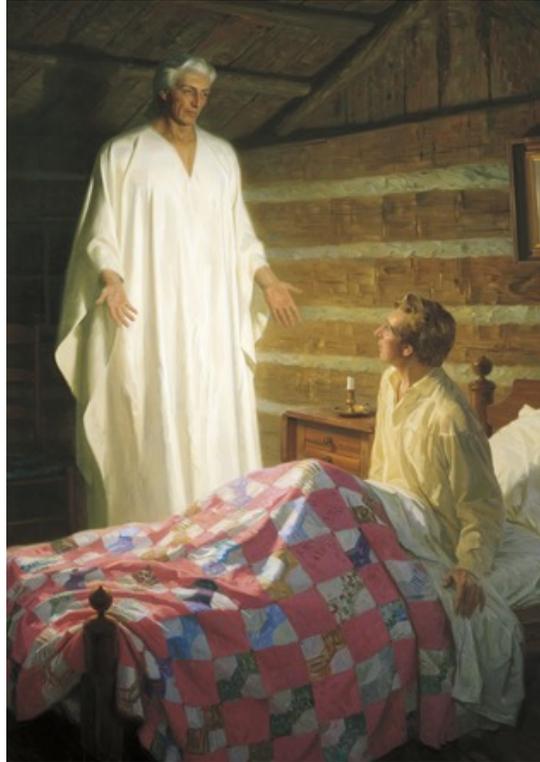
A couple of Nephi's brothers rebelled and there became two separate civilizations of people, one

called Nephites after their prophet leader, Nephi. The others were called Lamanites after the oldest of the rebellious sons and they became a ferocious enemy to the Nephites. There were contentions and wars between the two groups off and on throughout the thousand year history that was recorded. The Lord promised the Nephites that as long as they remained a righteous people they would be divinely blessed and preserved from the destructive forces of their enemies.

The prophets who followed Nephi, who wrote in the record, all prophesied of Jesus Christ for the rest of the 600 years leading up to his birth in Bethlehem. They saw the new star and many signs and wonders at the birth of the Savior and were promised that he would visit them. At the time of the Lord's crucifixion, there was a wholesale upheaval in the land of the Nephites and many wicked were destroyed. A few days, however after his resurrection, Jesus did visit the Nephites and organized his church among them including the calling of twelve disciples whom he ordained with priesthood authority just like the apostles in the Holy Land. There was wonderful peace and prosperity in the land for a few hundred years after the appearance of the Lord, but eventually, pride and evil began to take over the Nephite nation. By the end of the next two hundred years, the wickedness of the Nephites was so intense, that the Lord allowed the Lamanites to completely annihilate them and their record came to an end.

There was a prophet named Mormon during those terrible times, but the Nephites ignored his warnings and leadership. The Lord commanded him to go through the many records that had been written and to create an abridgement or summary with a focus on the Lord's dealings with them. He was survived by his son, Moroni, also a prophet, who wrote the final chapters in the record, which Mormon had engraved on gold sheets or plates and had bound with rings. (The gold was easily engraved and was not a metal that would corrode.) Moroni also wrote and then hid up the plates and eventually placed them in a cement box near what we now call Palmyra, New York. That is where the Lord led the family of young Joseph Smith, whom God and Christ had appointed from before the world was created to be the prophet of the Restoration.

I trust you viewed the video above of the first visitation of God the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ to the young Joseph Smith. After that first vision, it was nearly three and a half years that passed before he received any further divine direction. It was September 1823 that a heavenly messenger appeared and introduced himself as Moroni, the same who had the last custody of the ancient scriptural record of his people and who had now been sent to make this additional "testimony of Jesus Christ" available to the world.



Joseph was led to the spot where the record had been placed in the cement box and covered by a stone at some point during the fourteen hundred years from the time Moroni had finished his writing. After four years of annual meetings, filled with instructions from Moroni at that spot, he was allowed to take the plates and was commanded to seek the inspiration of the Lord in translating the ancient language into English and to arrange to publish it. The entire process was a divine miracle and The Book of Mormon is now published in hundreds of languages and is accepted by millions as the true word of God as revealed to prophets in Ancient America.

I could go into a lot more detail, but one great point is that three men were appointed special witnesses who were visited by the angel Moroni showing them and letting them handle the plates. It is important to realize that Moroni remained and does now remain the custodian of these records as a portion of them were sealed to be brought forth and published at some future time. Eight others were chosen to handle the plates and witness of their existence. Here are their testimonies:

THE TESTIMONY OF THREE WITNESSES

1 BE IT KNOWN unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come: That we, through the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, have seen the plates which contain this record, which is a record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites, their brethren, and also of the people of Jared, who came from the tower of which hath been spoken. And we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of

God, for his voice hath declared it unto us; wherefore we know of a surety that the work is true. And we also testify that we have seen the engravings which are upon the plates; and they have been shown unto us by the power of God, and not of man. And we declare with words of soberness, that an angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings thereon; and we know that it is by the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, that we beheld and bear record that these things are true. And it is marvelous in our eyes. Nevertheless, the voice of the Lord commanded us that we should bear record of it; wherefore, to be obedient unto the commandments of God, we bear testimony of these things. And we know that if we are faithful in Christ, we shall rid our garments of the blood of all men, and be found spotless before the judgment-seat of Christ, and shall dwell with him eternally in the heavens. And the honor be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, which is one God. Amen.

OLIVER COWDERY
DAVID WHITMER
MARTIN HARRIS

THE TESTIMONY OF EIGHT WITNESSES

1 BE IT KNOWN unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come: That Joseph Smith, Jun., the translator of this work, has shown unto us the plates of which hath been spoken, which have the appearance of gold; and as many of the leaves as the said Smith has translated we did handle with our hands; and we also saw the engravings thereon, all of which has the appearance of ancient work, and of curious workmanship. And this we bear record with words of soberness, that the said Smith has shown unto us, for we have seen and hefted, and know of a surety that the said Smith has got the plates of which we have spoken. And we give our names unto the world, to witness unto the world that which we have seen. And we lie not, God bearing witness of it.

CHRISTIAN WHITMER
HIRAM PAGE
JACOB WHITMER
JOSEPH SMITH, SEN.
PETER WHITMER, JUN.
HYRUM SMITH
JOHN WHITMER
SAMUEL H. SMITH

(Book of Mormon | Preface 3 Witnesses:Heading - 8 Witnesses:1)

Bible References of The Book of Mormon

Passages in the Bible concerning The Book of Mormon do not refer to it by name, but which never-the-less has several references to it.

The following map, pictures and scriptural passages graphically lays out the fulfilment of the word of the Lord to Ezekiel and their “stick” or record (The Book of Mormon) as distinguished from the “stick” or record of the Jews, (the Bible):

15 ¶ The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

*16 Moreover, thou son of man, **take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions:***

*17 And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.
(Ezekiel 37:15 - 17)*

The Bible is what the Lord refers to Ezekiel as the Stick (scrolls = writings) of Judah, particularly, as it recounts the dealings of the Lord with the royal descendants of Judah such as the kings Solomon, Saul and David in the Old Testament and, of course, the King of Kings, Jesus Christ and his disciples in the New Testament.

Where is the “stick” of Joseph? There is no common explanation among Bible scholars on what is meant by the “stick” upon which is written the scriptural record of Joseph and the “*house of Israel his companions*”. The truth is that there was another writing by the descendants of Joseph which is now combined with the Bible in fulfillment of Ezekiel’s prophecy.

The Christian professors do not acknowledge it, of course, as they would have to give up their professions and accept the message of the restoration of the restored gospel and Church of Jesus Christ, which they have nicknamed “Mormons”.

The map below outlines migration of the The Book of Mormon’s initial prophet, Lehi and his family, who were a **branch of Joseph of Egypt’s descendants**. In the book of Genesis, 49th chapter, Joseph’s father Jacob (Israel), gave prophetic blessing to each of his sons and to Joseph he said:

*22 ¶ Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; **whose branches run over the wall (ocean):***

*26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto **the utmost bound of the everlasting hills**... (Old Testament | Genesis 49:22 & 26)*

It also makes reference to one passage in the Bible that Christian scholars cannot explain correctly:

16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. (John 10:16)

Some mistakenly think the Lord was referring to the Gentiles, but are apparently not aware of what Jesus said:

24 I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (Matthew 15:24)

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to the Israelites who were descendants of Lehi in Ancient America said to them:

21 And verily I say unto you, that ye are they of whom I said: Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

22 And they understood me not, for they supposed it had been the Gentiles; for they understood not that the Gentiles should be converted through their preaching. (Book of Mormon | 3 Nephi 15:21 - 22)

Bible References to the Book of Mormon:

(1) Branch of Joseph to "utmost bound of everlasting hills"

(2) Jesus to visit his "other sheep"

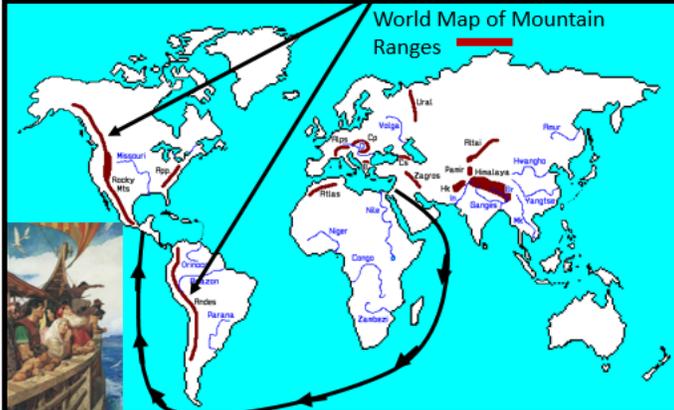
(3) Sticks (records) of Judah (Bible) and Joseph (Book of Mormon)

(1)

(2)

"...other sheep I have, which are not of this fold...and they shall hear my voice; (John 10:16)

"...ye are they of whom I said: Other sheep I have which are not of this fold..." (Book of Mormon | 3 Nephi 15:21)



World Map of Mountain Ranges

"...unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills..."



"Joseph is a fruitful bough... whose branches run over the wall [ocean]...unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills..." (Genesis 49:22 - 26)

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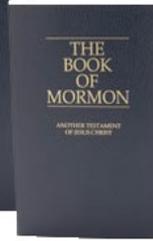
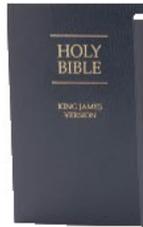


"...take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah [Bible], and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph [Book of Mormon]...join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand." (Ezekiel 37:16)

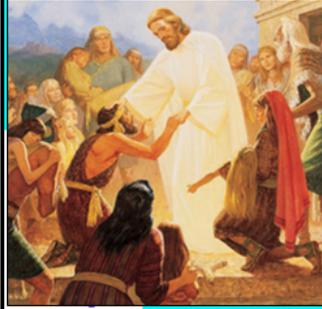
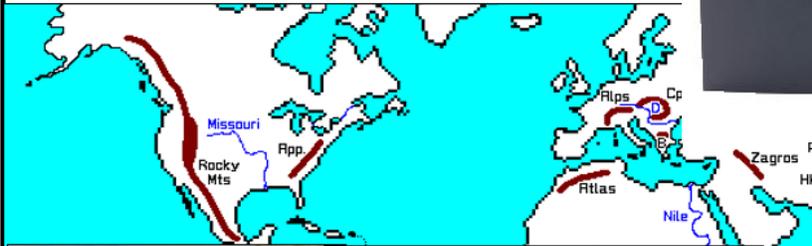
The following are these same passages shown above separated on their own map diagram.

(3)

“I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” (Matthew 15:24)



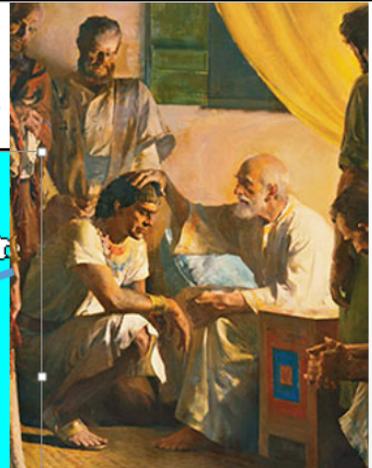
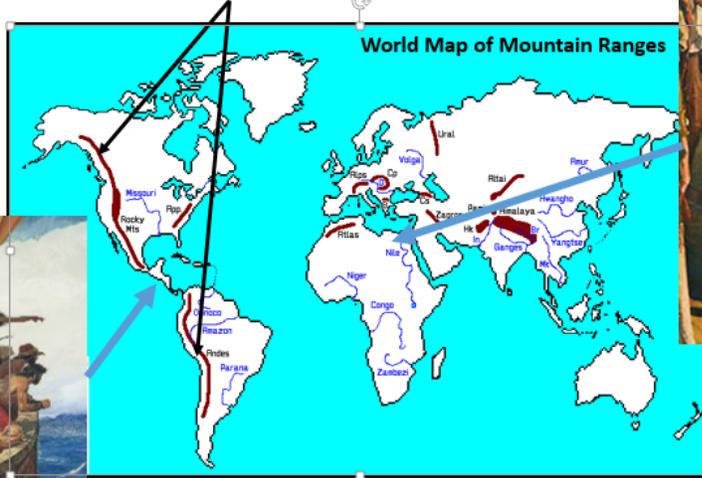
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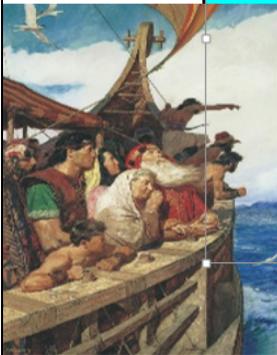
Jesus said to the descendants of Joseph in Ancient America” “...ye are they of whom I said: Other sheep I have which are not of this fold...” (Book of Mormon | 3 Nephi 15:21)

Jesus said to the Jews in the Holy Land: “other sheep I have, which are not of this fold...and they shall hear my voice.... (John 10:16)

“Joseph is a fruitful bough... whose branches run over the wall [ocean]...unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills ...”. (Genesis 49:22 - 26)

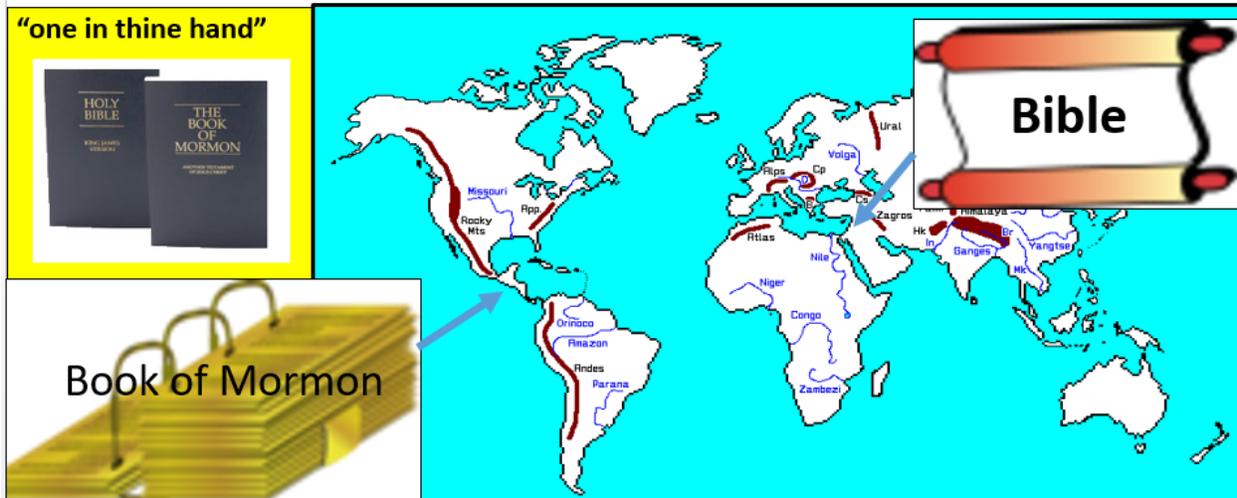


Jacob blessing Joseph



← **Lehi, a descendant of Joseph arriving at the promised land.**

“...take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah [**Bible**], and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph [**Book of Mormon**] ...join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.”
(Ezekiel 37:16)



Isaiah 29

There are other references such as **Isaiah's prophecy** beginning with the destruction of Jerusalem (Ariel) ([my comments in blue](#)).

1 WOE to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt! add ye year to year; let them kill sacrifices.

2 Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel.

This is Isaiah style as he jumps ahead a thousand years and prophecies about the destruction of the Nephites who, surrounded by the Lamanites, built mounds with forts on top in their desperate final battles:

3 And I will camp against thee round about, and will lay siege against thee with a mount, and I will raise forts against thee.



Mounds such as the one shown above are found, not only in Mesoamerica, but in the Ohio Valley. The Nephites, who you will remember had migrated from Jerusalem (Ariel) I submit are those Israelites of which Isaiah prophesied. In the final days of the Nephite nation, their record describes defensive mounds they built in an effort to protect themselves from the attacks of the Lamanites who were set about to annihilate them. They were utterly destroyed about 400 AD and Moroni **put their record in the ground**, a record of the dealings of the Lord with these people for the previous thousand years.

I should note that some believe because of the findings such mounds and other artifacts in Ohio and other Midwestern states that Lehi and his family first came to the eastern part of what we now call the United States. Others show that during great destruction of the Nephites that took place over a two hundred year period, there was a series of retreats over that period these final battles took place in Central America and Southern Mexico where these defensive mounds are also found.. In either case, it is clear to me that the mounds are the ones foreseen by Isaiah.

*4 And thou shalt be brought down, and **shalt speak out of the ground**, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.*

Then Isaiah begins to speak of the great apostasy which is that the true gospel and Church was lost, taken from the wicked world.

It shall even be as when an hungry man dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh, and his soul is empty: or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and, behold, he drinketh; but he awaketh, and, behold, he is faint, and his soul hath appetite: so shall the multitude of all the nations be, that fight against mount Zion.

9 ¶ Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink.

*10 For the **LORD** hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: **the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.***

The vision of all refers here to the writings of the Nephite prophets:

*11 And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a **book that is sealed**, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, **I cannot; for it is sealed:***

12 And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

A transcript of some of the reformed Egyptian characters from the gold plates was shown to a Professor Charles Anthon in New York City, who certified their authenticity. When he asked to see the plates, he was told that part of the record was sealed and could not be shown to him, he tore up the certificate and said: "I cannot read a sealed book." Joseph Smith was the one who was not learned, who translated by revelation, the Book of Mormon.

When the Father and Son appeared to Joseph, he pretty much described the Christian professors of that day in the same language that Isaiah used in this chapter. In the 1820 visitation of God and Christ to the boy, Joseph Smith, Jesus said to Joseph: "...they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof." (*Pearl of Great Price | JS-History 1:19*)

Isaiah continues predicting exactly what Jesus told Joseph:

*13 ¶ Wherefore the Lord said, **Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:***

Isaiah then writes of the restoration of the true gospel and Church organization and of these Christian professors, especially those who are intentionally deceiving the people:

14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.

15 Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?

Isaiah then closes this chapter referencing the "book" which is the way that fallen branch of the House of Israel, the branch of Joseph "speaks out of the ground" and would be The Book of Mormon, "Another Testament of Jesus Christ", writings of prophets who dwelt in another nation to whom he ministered who witnessed of his divinity and saving grace, THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL that John promised to be **delivered by an angel in the latter days:**

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. (Revelation 14:6 - 7)

Isaiah finishes:

18 ¶ And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness. (Old Testament | Isaiah 29:1 - 18)

Evidences of The Book of Mormon:

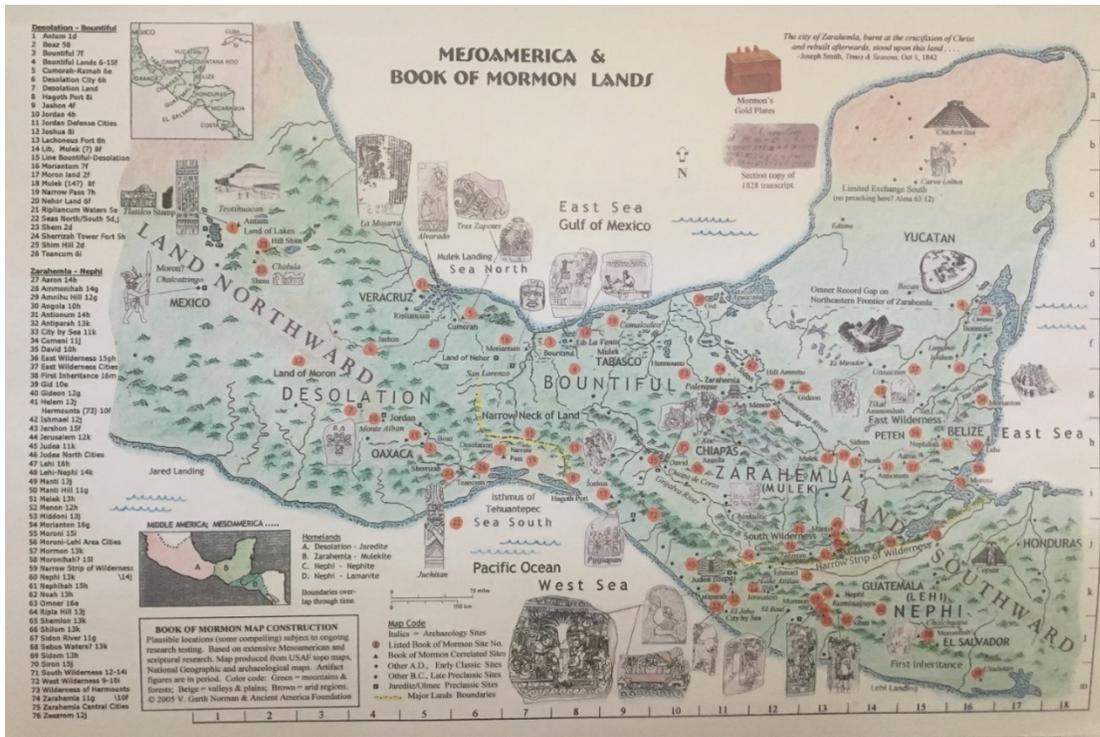
Geographical and Historical Evidences

About **ten years after the Book of Mormon was published**, an explorer named John Lloy Stephens, published a book entitled “Incidents of Travel in Central America” in which he lays out the geography that correlates with the descriptions of such in The Book of Mormon. After Joseph had studied the book, he stated in the publication called The Times and Seasons that this was the very land that was inhabited by the Book of Mormon people. He mentioned specifically the narrow neck of land to the south where the Panama Canal is now and in the northern part of the Yucatan. Even until recent times there has been relatively little known about the ruins and geographical layout of that part of the world, but since, as extensive study and research has been done, it has become very evident that the specific geographical layout of this area corresponds exactly with the descriptions of such in The Book of Mormon. When Joseph Smith translated the ancient record in 1829, he certainly had no knowledge of this geographical information.

Only in recent years have we begun to discover evidence of huge civilizations previously buried beneath the jungles of Meso-America. Just this last year, Fox news featured a laser camera discovery of a city in northern Guatemala that was over twenty miles wide or the equivalent of our Los Angeles. It is becoming clear, now, that the largest civilizations anciently were in the western hemisphere. And so, I ask: “Why would not God reach out to them as much as he did his children in the old world?”

Garth Norman, an Archeologist and Historian, has spent over 50 years studying the ruins, the time lines and mapping this area and though others have promoted different theories as to where the Book of Mormon people dwelled, Garth’s work, his maps of Mesoamerica **clearly outline numerous evidences of the authenticity of** this ancient record of scripture.

Below is a picture of a map that was developed by Dr. Garth Norman. The descriptions of the geography in The Book of Mormon - Alma 22:27-34 for example, corresponds with that of the area now comprising Southern Mexico and Northern Guatemala; the closeness of the eastern and western seas, the narrow necks of land to the north and to the south of that specific location; the rivers, the strip of mountain or “wilderness” that runs between the two seas and other such identifying features.



32 And now, it was only the distance of a day and a half's journey for a Nephite, on the line Bountiful and the land Desolation, from the east to the west sea; and thus the land of Nephi and the land of Zarahemla were nearly surrounded by water, there being a small neck of land between the land northward and the land southward.

(Alma 22:32)



Archeological Evidences

Besides Dr. Norman's publications, other books have been written revealing evidences supporting the validity of the Book of Mormon by archeological findings in the areas he found to be the habitation of its people. **Though none of these findings offer what some would call absolute proof**, I personally am satisfied that the many evidences that do exist definitely substantiate the existence and traditions of the Book of Mormon people.

One significant example is the use of the Cubit which was the unit of measure mentioned in describing the dimensions of Noah's Ark and in the building of the Temple of Solomon in the ancient Holy Land and which is also now found to be that used in the pyramids and temples and other structures that are being discovered in Mesoamerica.

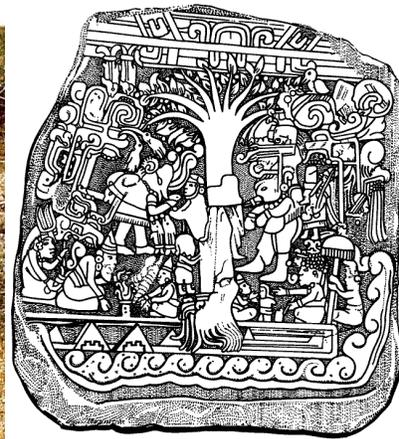
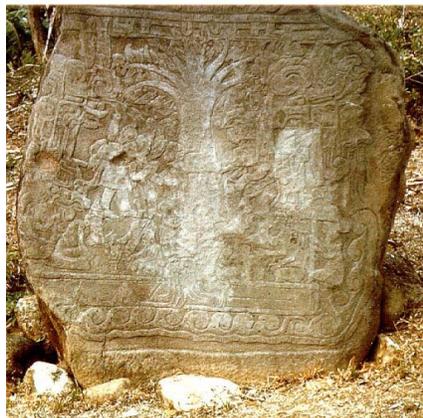


“The Cubit Connection” is the title of Dr. Norman's recent book

15 The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. (Genesis 6:15)

17. And the house, that is, the temple before it, was forty

Another significant example is a large stone object discovered in Mexico near the Guatemalan border that is an accurate depiction of the **Tree of life**, called the Lehi Stone because it so clearly depicts the vision or dream of Lehi recorded in the 8th chapter of the Book of Mormon, (1 Nephi 8th Chapter) The details in the four foot high stone depict the tree, Lehi and his family, deity, the filthy river of water and other symbolic representations noted in the dream or vision.



Tree of Life photo

Sketch of the photo

Below is a photo of one of the many pyramids in Mexico, Central and South America, which I believe to be the habitation of the Book of Mormon people. To me it is perfectly logical to believe that those who built these pyramids were descendants of those who built similar structures in Egypt prior to the exodus to the Holy Land which was led by Moses. The Book of Mormon people came from the Holy Land after the exodus. To me, the use of the cubit as the unit of measurement is a clear proof that these people came from the Middle East as The Book of Mormon relates.



KUKULKAN PYRAMID at Chichen Itza on Mexico's Yucatan

Like any other such artifact or archeological structure, these do not nor cannot convince anyone who is otherwise not inclined to believe.

Legends



Cortez and Montezuma at Mexican Temple

Quetzalcoatl - ““He's that Feathered Serpent of Ancient Mexico"...symbolizing [a bearded, white God] that was suppose to return from the East to reclaim his power, but the Indians [and Montezuma] mistook [the Spanish Conqueror], Cortez for him instead'.” <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~anthclub/quetzalcoatl/quetzal.htm>



Temple of Quetzacoatl

Linguistic Evidences

To me some of the most compelling evidence of the validity of the Book of Mormon relates to the obvious Mid-Eastern linguistics (words and writing styles) embedded throughout this ancient record.

Quoting from an article: Mounting Evidence for the Book of Mormon by Daniel C. Peterson: *“The Book of Mormon claims to have been written in “reformed Egyptian” (Book of Mormon, Mormon 9:32). Most who have studied the subject conclude that this signifies writing the Hebrew language in modified Egyptian characters. In recent years, we have learned that several ancient documents were written in precisely that fashion*

The name of Lehi’s wife, Sariah, previously unknown outside the Book of Mormon, has been found in ancient Jewish documents from Egypt. Likewise, the nonbiblical name Nephi belongs to the very time and place of the first Book of Mormon figure who bears it. The imagery in Nephi’s

vision is deeply rooted in ancient Near Eastern symbolism with which Joseph Smith could not have been familiar. Moreover, its predictions are strikingly accurate.

One example of which I am aware is in the Book of Mormon, the honey bee is called **deseret**. The Mormon Pioneers first named the state Deseret and the beehive is still the symbol of the State of Utah. That this was the actual term of the bee in the ancient Arabic languages has only recently been discovered by language experts. There is no way that Joseph Smith could have known this in the 1830's, as far as I know, it was not known then by anyone. This is a simple example, but it is a strong evidence.

There are other literary styles that only relatively recently, have been found to be common in The Book of Mormon with ancient writings of the Middle East.

The most prominent of these ancient Middle Eastern styles of writing is called Chiasmus. It is defined as the figure of speech in which two or more phrases are presented, then presented again in reverse order to make a larger point. To diagram a simple chiasmus, the phrases are often labelled A B C D C B A.

<https://rsc.byu.edu/archived/book-mormon-authorship-new-light-ancient-origins/2-chiasmus-book-mormon>

It is used often in The Book of Mormon and I ask, "How could have Joseph Smith happened to include this style of writing in 1829 when it was not even known of at that time nor for some time later?"

Culture of Indigenous Native Mayans

Kevin Doman, with his wife, Michele, who are currently presiding over the mission in Chiapas, Mexico, are serving among a large population (approximately one and a half million) of indigenous natives who retreated to the mountains and the Spanish influence when they invaded Mexico. They have their own language and most do not speak nor understand Spanish. These people are pretty much pure Mayans and whom we claim are direct descendants of the Lamanites who inhabited that land in Book of Mormon times. Some of these people who have learned Spanish and who have been able to read The Book of Mormon, report that it reflects their culture, similar names, places and other cultural similarities. To me, this is an important evidence of the validity of this ancient record.

The Book of Mormon was published in 1829

Taking all of these evidences together and considering how much of this was not known in 1829 and in addition seeing the consistency of complicated threads of intricate details that all seamlessly fit throughout the over 500 pages covering over 1000 years, I submit that there is really no possible way that a 21 year old modestly educated Joseph Smith nor anyone else, for that matter, could have concocted The Book of Mormon.

Spiritual Evidence

I bolded and put in blue this heading, because it is the most important, the most sure and convincing evidence of the truth of The Book of Mormon. It is put forth in Moroni's simple promise in the very last chapter:

3 Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts.

4 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.

*5 And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.
(Book of Mormon | Moroni 10:3 - 5)*

Since early in my life, I have been committed to learning the truth and doing my best to apply it in the way I have lived and taught my family. Though I have fallen way short, I have felt the undeniable power of the Holy Ghost and have learned firsthand it is real. That personal divine revelation has powerfully confirmed to me that The Book of Mormon is a true record of scripture and that Joseph Smith translated it by the gift and power of God. I have studied it as well as the Bible throughout my life and I have felt many times that quiet but powerful and undeniable conviction that can only come from the Comforter, the Holy Ghost. I know The Book of Mormon is true.