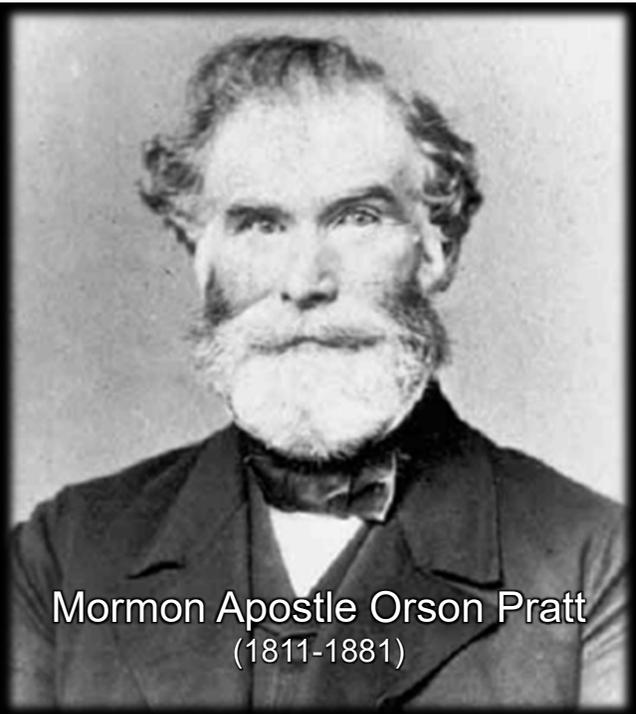


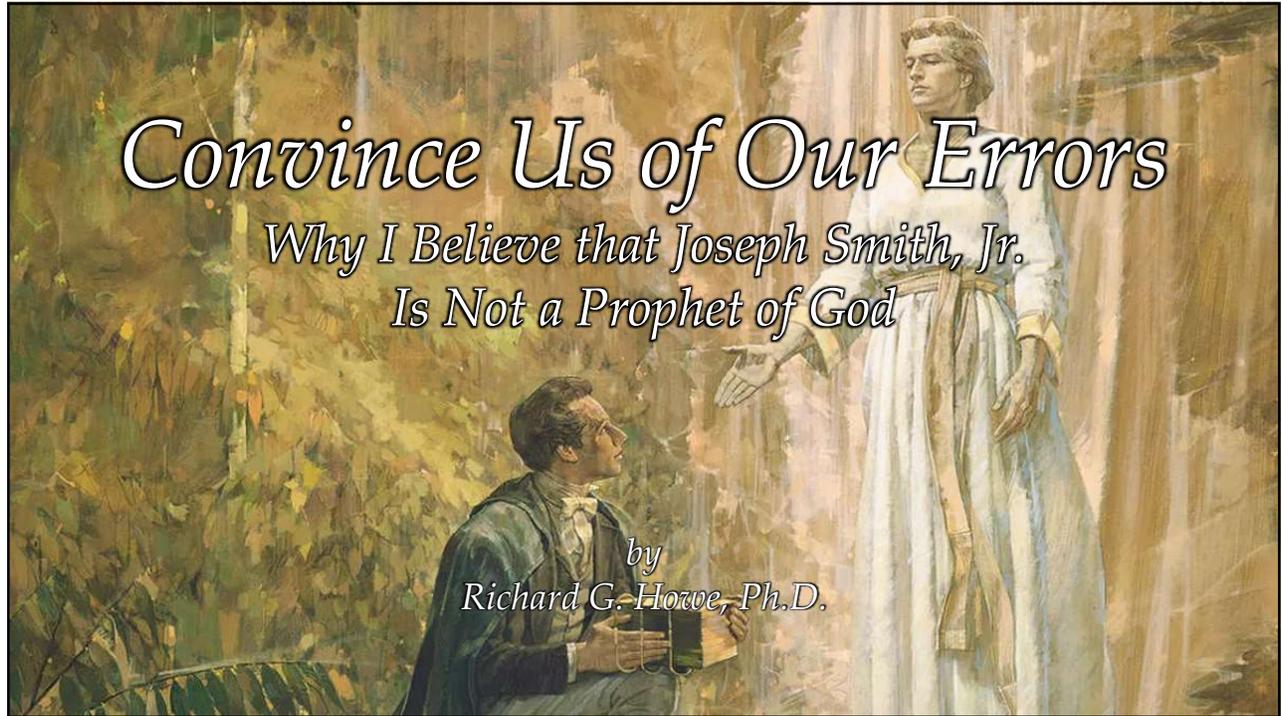
*The Church of Jesus
Christ of
Latter Day Saints*
a.k.a. LDS or the "Mormons"
Pt. 3: Convince Us Of Our Errors
Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.

"...convince us of our errors of doctrine, if we have any, by reason, by logical arguments, or by the word of God, and we will be ever grateful for the information, and you will ever have the pleasing reflection that you have been instruments in the hands of God of redeeming your fellow beings from the darkness which you may see enveloping their minds."

[*The Seer*, Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1853, pp. 15-16]



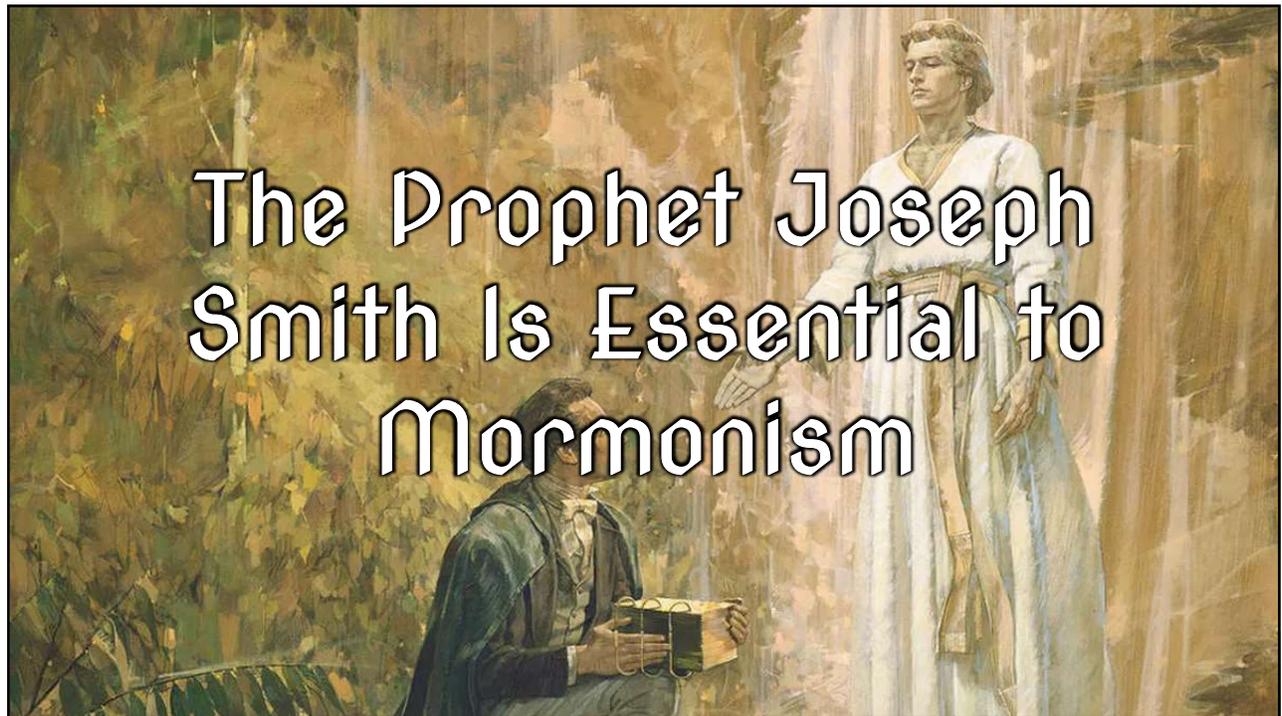
Mormon Apostle Orson Pratt
(1811-1881)



Convince Us of Our Errors

*Why I Believe that Joseph Smith, Jr.
Is Not a Prophet of God*

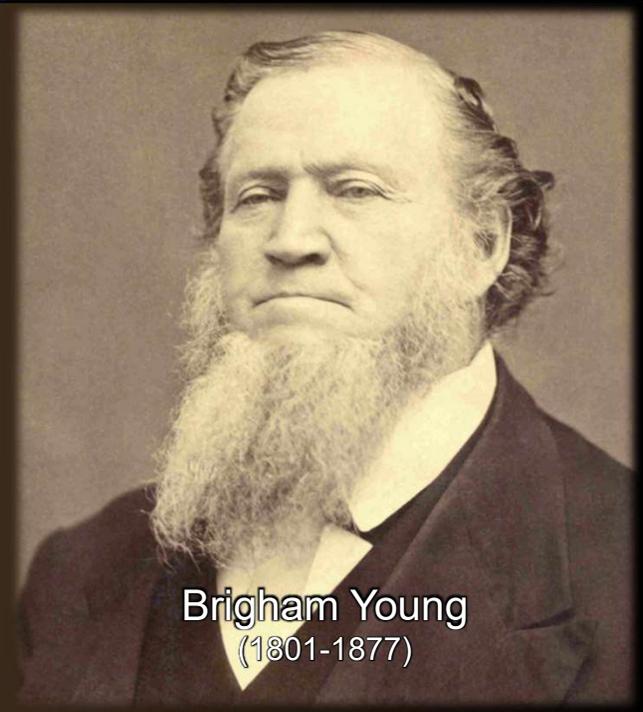
*by
Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.*



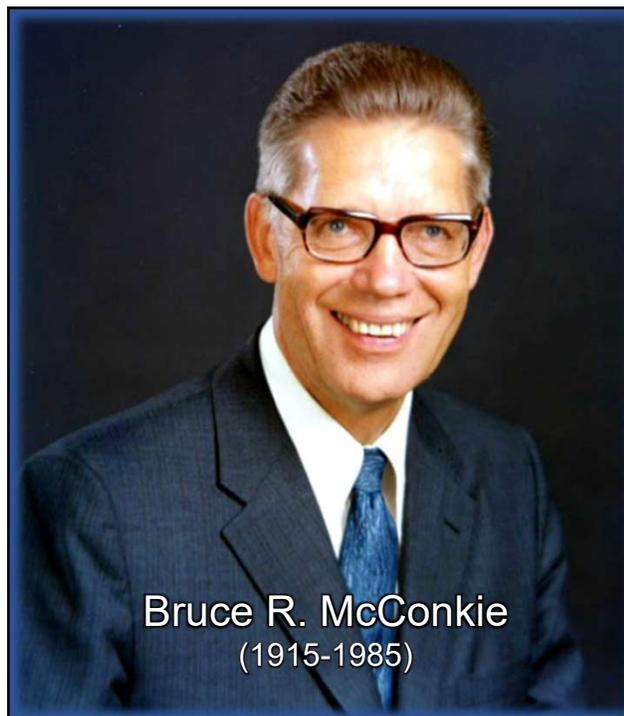
The Prophet Joseph Smith Is Essential to Mormonism

"Every intelligent person under the heavens that does not, when informed, acknowledge that Joseph Smith, Jun., is a Prophet of God, is in darkness, and is opposed to us and to Jesus and his kingdom on the earth."

[*Journal of Discourses* (Liverpool: George Q. Cannon, 1861), 8:223]



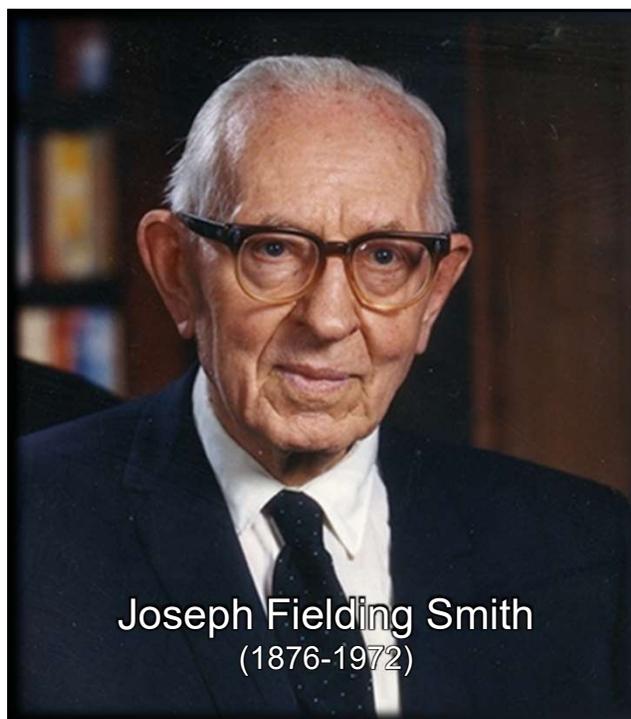
Brigham Young
(1801-1877)



Bruce R. McConkie
(1915-1985)

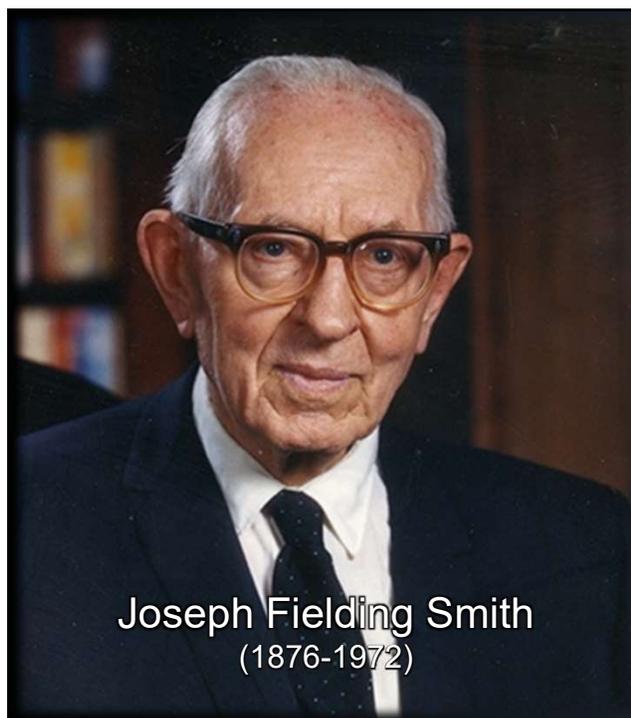
"Since the keys of salvation were restored to the Prophet [Joseph Smith], it is in and through and because of his latter-day mission that the full redemptive power of the Lord has again become available to men."

[Bruce McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 2nd ed. (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1979): s.v. "Joseph Smith the Prophet," 396]



Joseph Fielding Smith
(1876-1972)

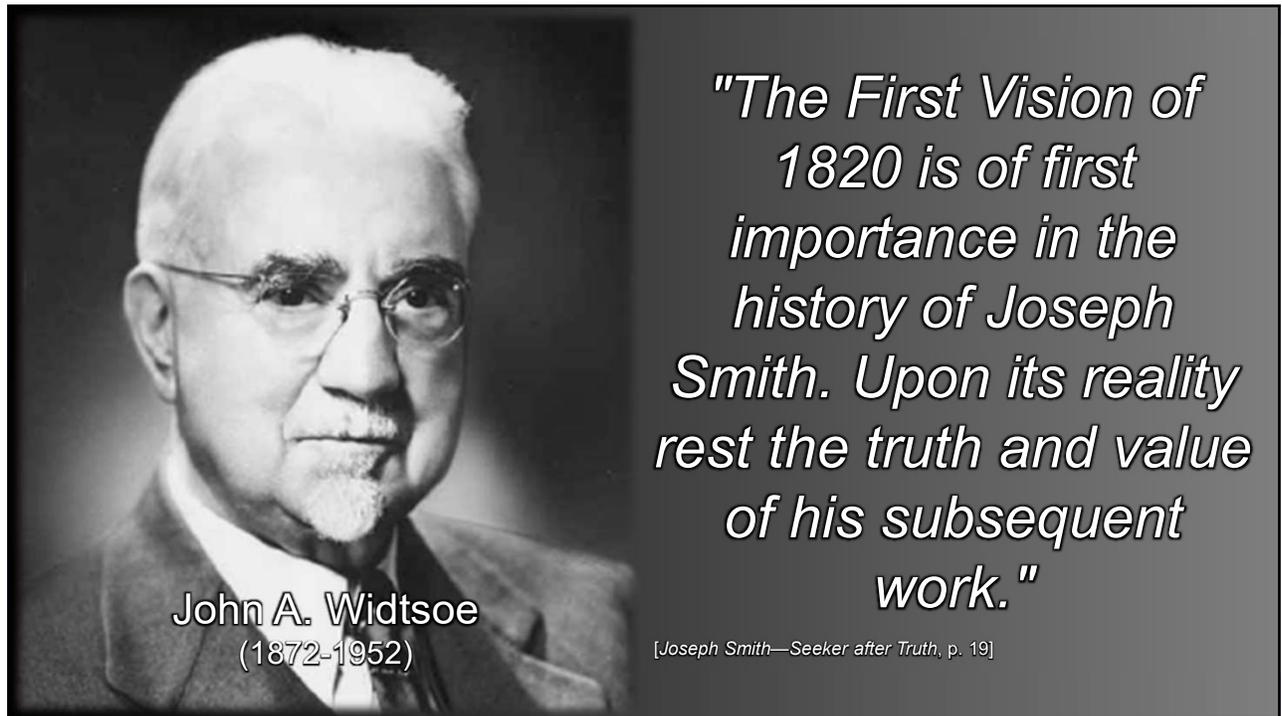
"Mormonism as it is called, must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith. He was either a prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned, or he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen. There is no middle ground. If Joseph Smith was a deceiver who willfully attempted to mislead the people, then he should be exposed; his claims should be refuted, and his doctrines shown to be false,



Joseph Fielding Smith
(1876-1972)

"for the doctrines of an imposter cannot be made to harmonize, in all particulars with divine truth. If his claims and declarations were built on fraud and deceit, there would appear many errors and contradictions, which would be easy to detect. The doctrines of false teachers will not stand the test when tried by the accepted standards of measurement, the scriptures."

[Doctrines of Salvation, 1: 188]





Bruce R. McConkie
(1915-1985)

MORMON DOCTRINE

BRUCE R. McCONKIE

*Abaddon - Abrahamic - Atonement
Cities - Authority in the Ministry
Babylon - Baptism - Book of Mormon
Ceremonies - Chains of Hell - Chances
of God - Day - Day of Burning
Manual - Emperors - Employment
- Faithfulness - Fallen Men - Fe
athering of Israel - Nazareth -
- Holy One - Holy One of Israel*



Bruce R. McConkie
(1915-1985)

*"With this vision
came the call of that
Prophet who, 'save
Jesus only,' was
destined to do more
'for the salvation of
men in this world,
than any other man
that ever lived in it.'
(D. & C. 135:3)"*

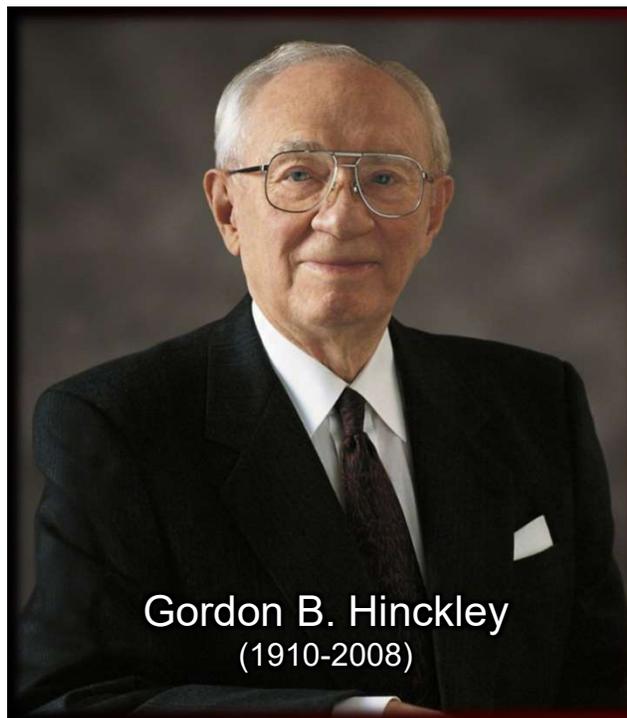
[Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 285.]

"Joseph Smith's first vision, in 1820, wherein he beheld God the Father and Jesus Christ, is one of the most significant religious events in the history of the world. This glorious vision restored the fullness of the gospel to the earth and established a new prophet to lead God's children out of darkness."

[Richard I. Winwood, *Take Heed that Ye Be Not Deceived*, (Salt Lake City: Richard I. Winwood, 1995), 40]



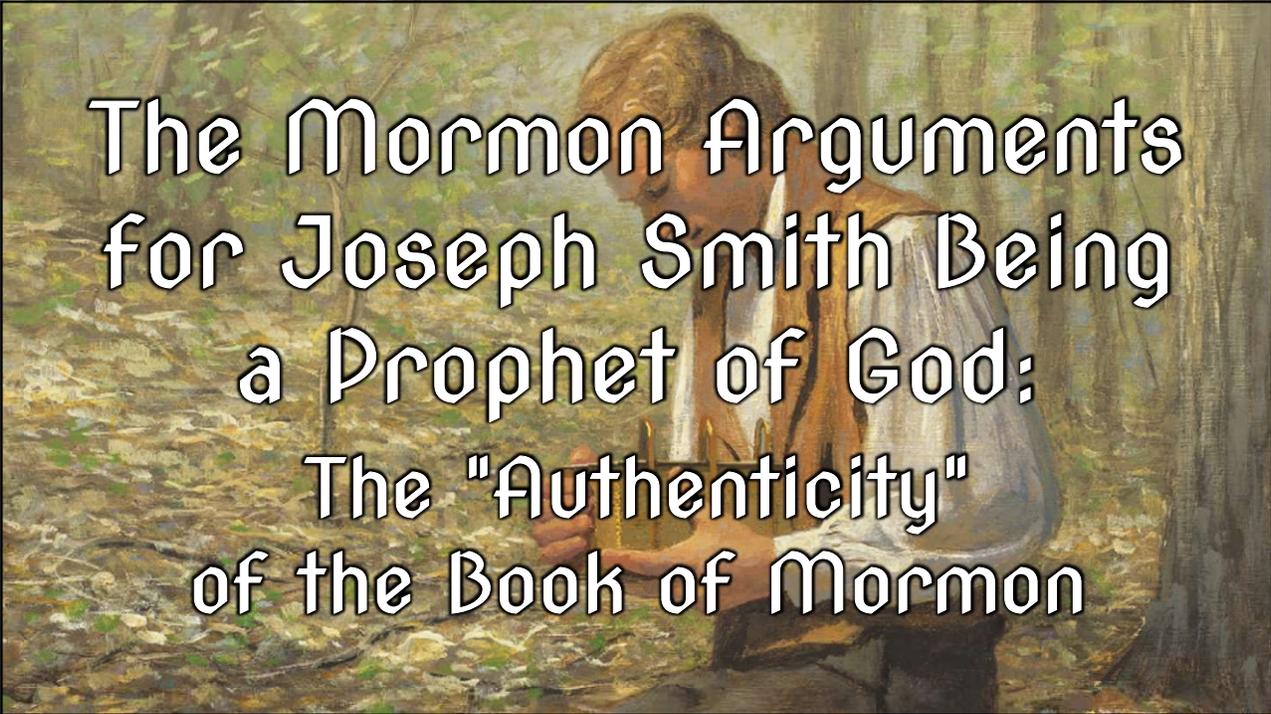
Richard I. Winwood



Gordon B. Hinckley
(1910-2008)

"We declare without equivocation that God the Father and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, appeared in person to the boy Joseph Smith. When I was interviewed by Mike Wallace on the 60 Minutes program, he asked me if I actually believed that. I replied, 'Yes, sir. That's the miracle of it.' That is the way I feel about it. Our whole strength rests on the validity of that vision. It either occurred or it did not occur. If it did not, then this work is a fraud. If it did, then it is the most important and wonderful work under the heavens."

[Gordon B. Hinckley, "The Marvelous Foundation of Our Faith," General Conference Oct. 2002, https://abn.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2002/10/the-marvelous-foundation-of-our-faith?lang=eng&adobe_mc_ref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.churchofjesuschrist.org%2Fstudy%2Fgeneral-conference%2F2002%2F10%2Fthe-marvelous-foundation-of-our-faith%3Flang%3Deng&adobe_mc_sdid=SDID%3D132815A93DFC3C0D-01CC7016D62A1E33%7CMCORGID%3D66C5485451E56AAE0A490D45%2540AdobeOrg%7CTS%3D1652724688, accessed 05/16/22]



The Mormon Arguments
for Joseph Smith Being
a Prophet of God:
The "Authenticity"
of the Book of Mormon

∞ 1 ∞

Mormons claim that Joseph Smith lacked the education and access to information to be able to fabricate a work of the caliber of the Book of Mormon.

1. *No one who lacks the education and access to information like Joseph Smith did would be able to fabricate a work of the caliber of the Book of Mormon.*
2. *But Joseph Smith, Jr. produced the Book of Mormon.*
3. *Therefore, the Book of Mormon was not fabricated.*
4. *Thus, Joseph Smith, Jr. must have done his work by the power of God.*
5. *Anyone who does such work by the power of God is a prophet of God*
6. *Thus, Joseph Smith, Jr. is a prophet of God.*

∞ 2 ∞

Mormons argue that the Book of Mormon was predicted by the Bible.

3

Mormons argue God used Joseph Smith, Jr. to bring forth the Book of Mormon, thus demonstrating that Joseph Smith, Jr. is a prophet of God.

- 1. The one through whom God brought the Book of Mormon to light must be a prophet of God.*
- 2. God brought forth the Book of Mormon through Joseph Smith, Jr.*
- 3. Therefore, Joseph Smith, Jr., is a prophet of God.*

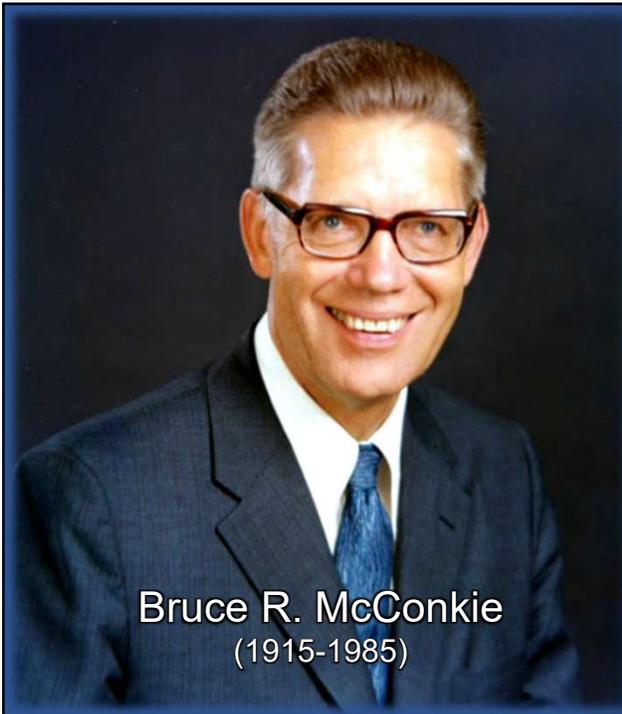
4

Mormons argue archeological evidence does not weigh against the Book of Mormon and, thus, does not weigh against Joseph Smith, Jr being a prophet of God.

- 1. Any archeological argument against Joseph Smith, Jr. being a prophet of God can only succeed by archeologically discounting the Book of Mormon.*
- 2. An archeological argument can discount the Book of Mormon only if archeological evidence exists showing that the Book of Mormon is false.*
- 3. There is no archeological evidence showing that the Book of Mormon is false.*
- 4. Therefore, no archeological argument succeeds against Joseph Smith, Jr. being a prophet of God.*

5

***The most important "proof" that
Mormons offer showing that
Joseph Smith, Jr. is a prophet of
God is the subjective test.***



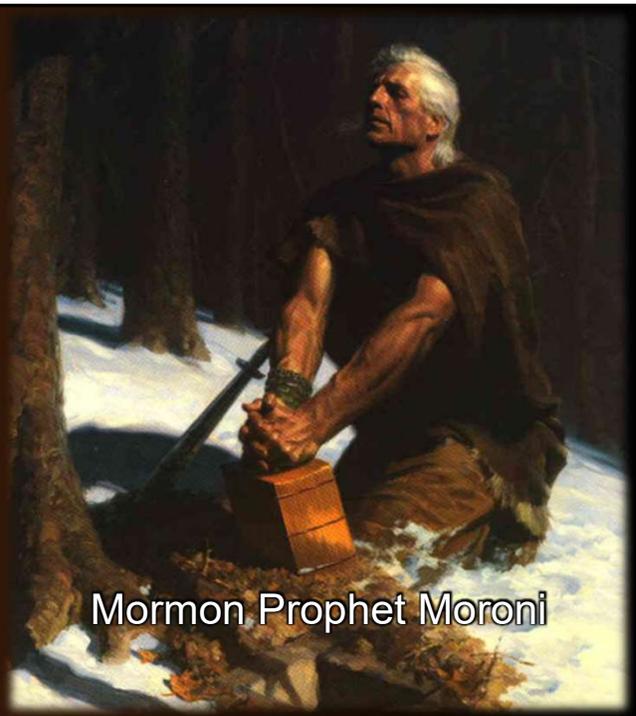
Bruce R. McConkie
(1915-1985)

***"But the great and
conclusive evidence of
the divinity of the Book
of Mormon is the
testimony of the Spirit
to the honest truth
seeker."***

[Bruce McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 2nd ed. (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1979): s.v. "Book of Mormon," 99]

"You can study the book and consider for yourself whether its claims are true. You can then apply this test of truth given by the prophet Moroni: 'And when you shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God ... if these things are not true and he will manifest the truth of it unto you...'"

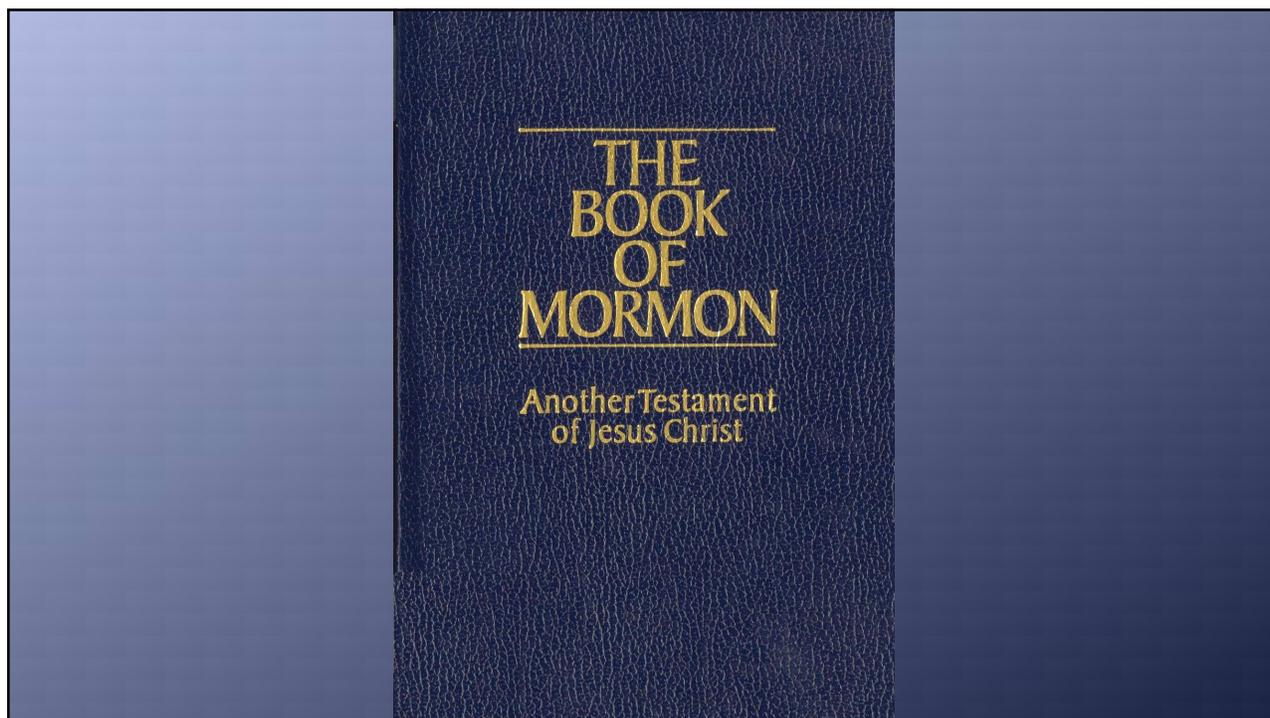
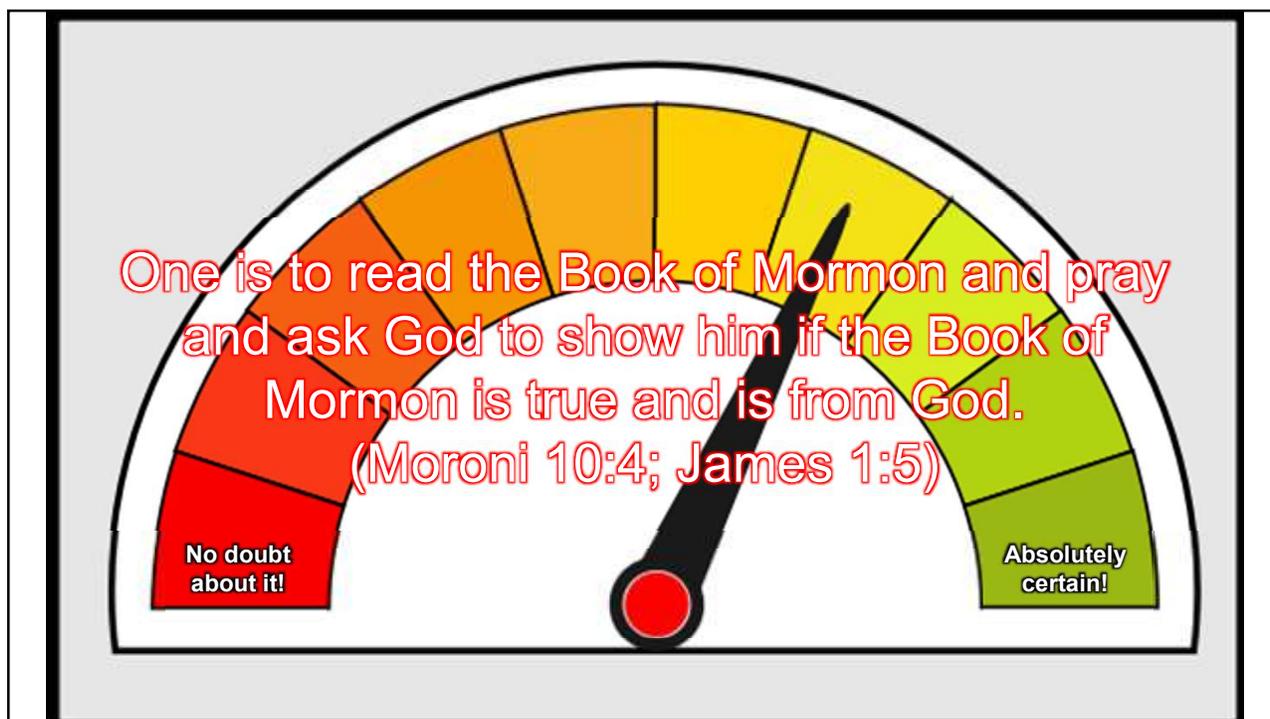
[The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ brochure. The passage cited is Moroni 10:4.]



Mormon Prophet Moroni

No matter what objective evidence is brought against the authenticity of the Book of Mormon, this subjective test always overrides it.

Thus, ultimately, Mormons feel no obligation to try to answer the evidence against Joseph Smith, Jr., the Book of Mormon, any of their other scriptures, or Mormonism itself.



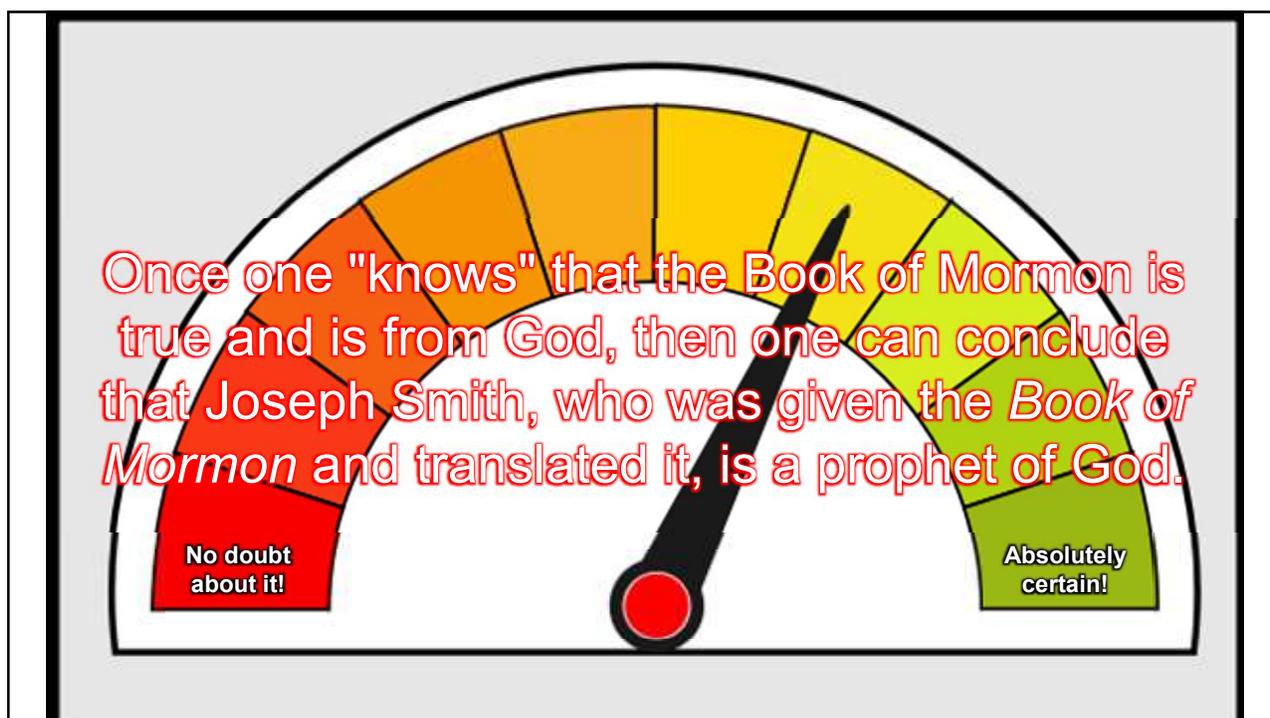
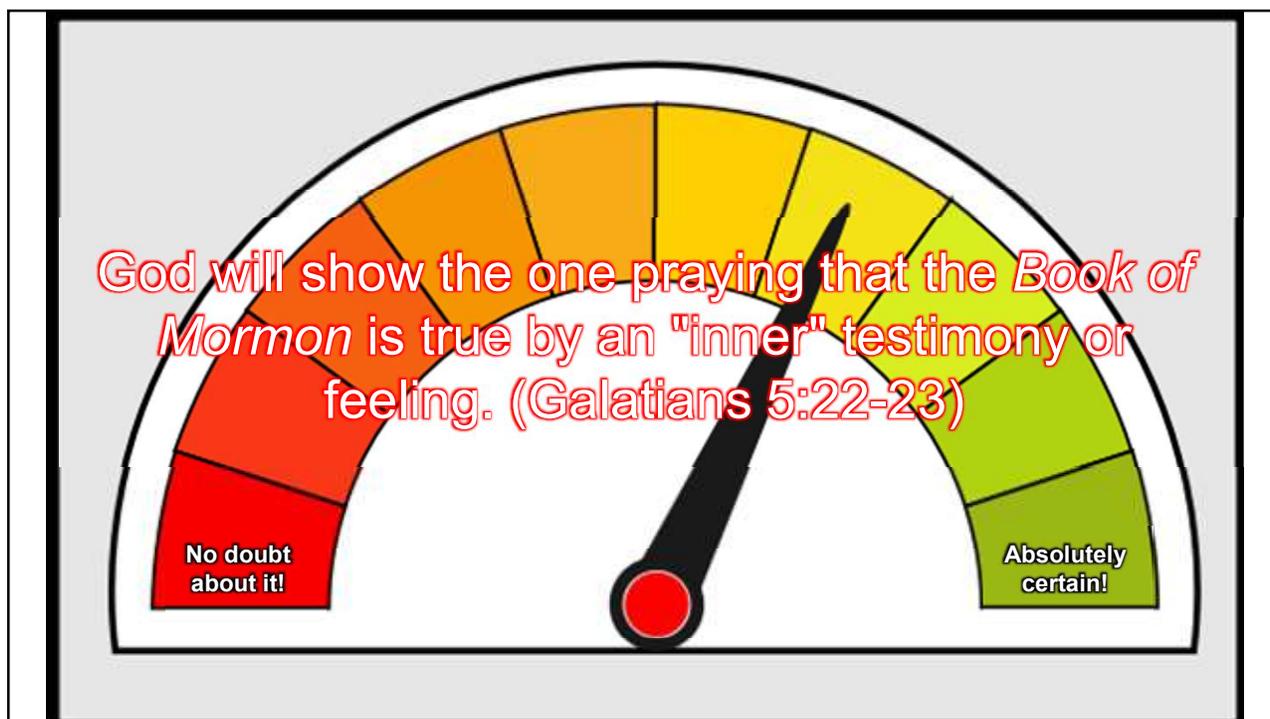
"And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, whith real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Hold Ghost."

Moroni 10:4

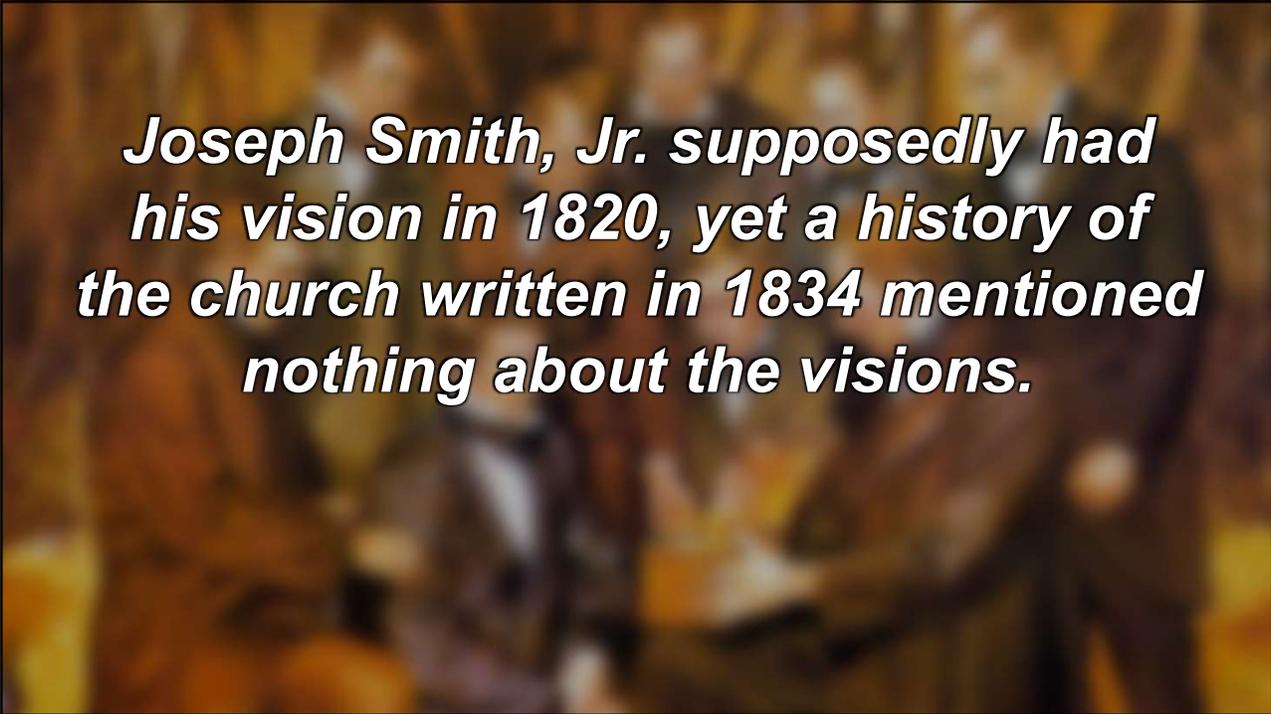
✎ James 1:5 ✎

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

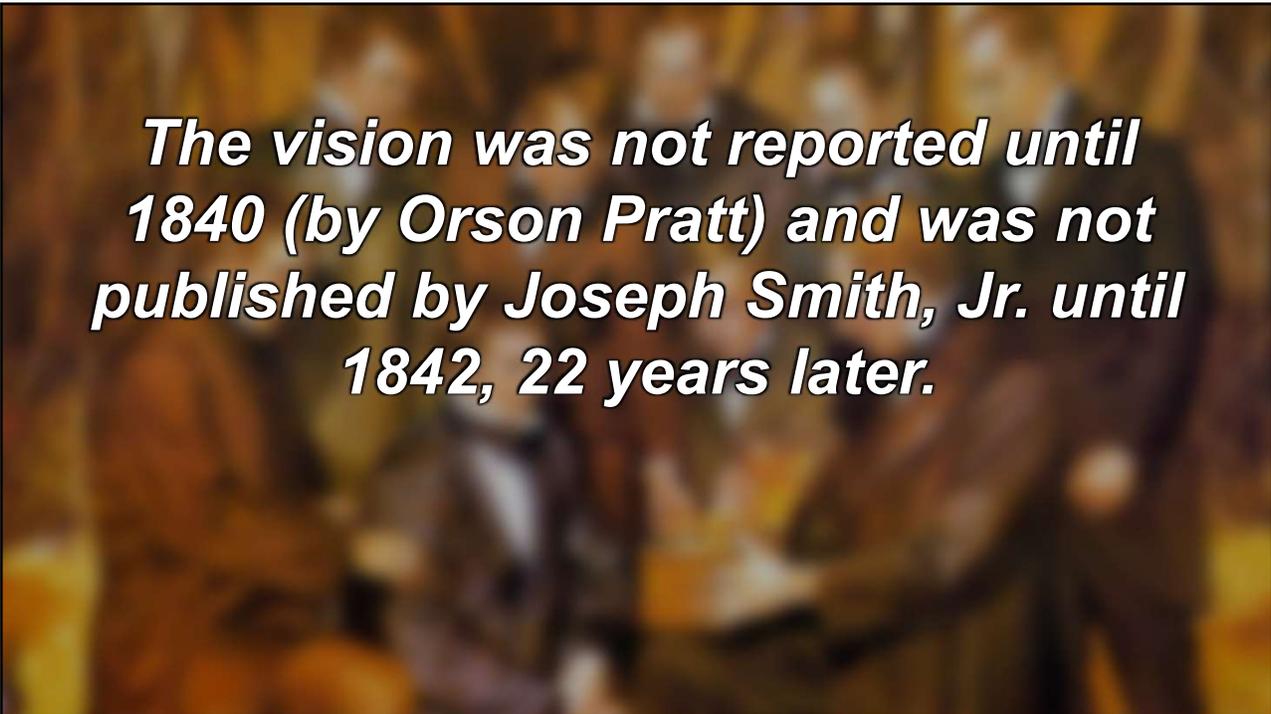








Joseph Smith, Jr. supposedly had his vision in 1820, yet a history of the church written in 1834 mentioned nothing about the visions.



The vision was not reported until 1840 (by Orson Pratt) and was not published by Joseph Smith, Jr. until 1842, 22 years later.

Joseph Smith, Jr. claimed in a revelation in 1832 when he supposedly received the priesthood, that no one could see God without it [D & C 84:21-22], yet he supposedly saw God back in 1820.

An account of the vision (presumably the earliest) is dated 1833.

Another early account, revealed in the autumn of 1966, is located in the back of Book A-1 of the handwritten manuscript of the History of the Church and dated around 1835.

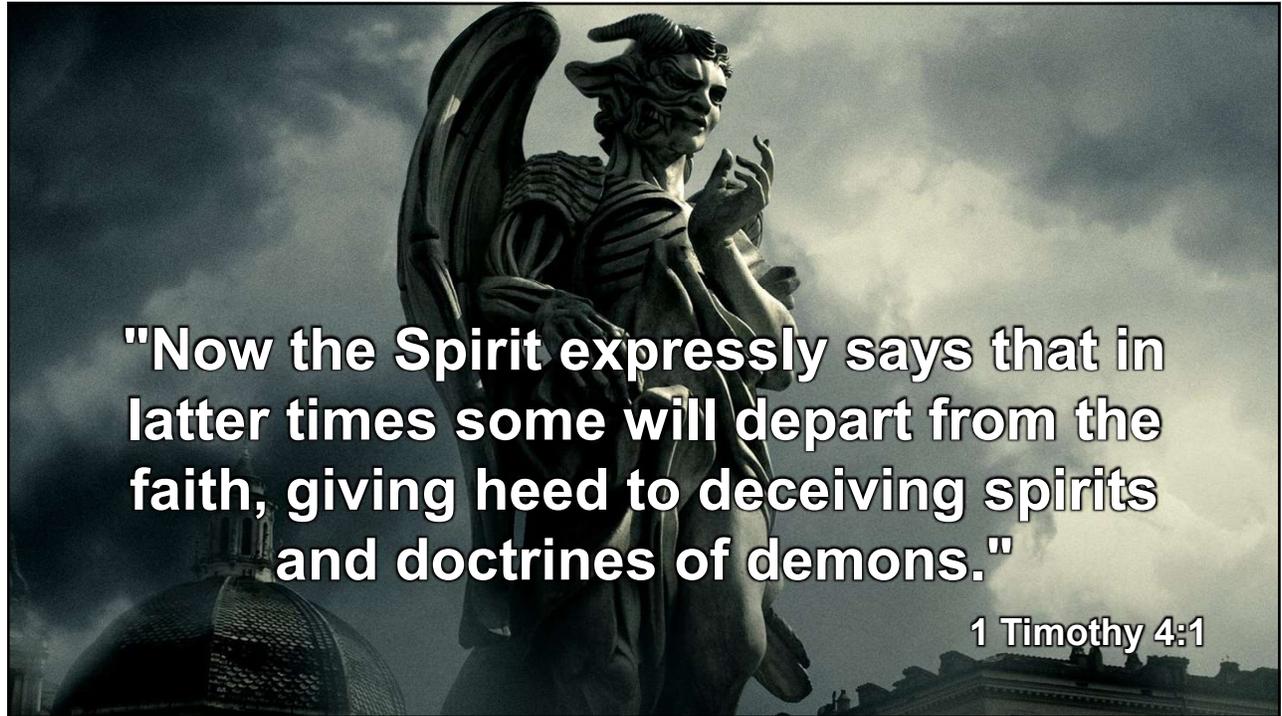
A published account of the 1st vision in the Deseret News Saturday, May 29, 1852, does not mention the Father and Son appearing to Smith, but rather refers to angels visiting him.

The reference to angels was deleted in later printings to make the reference be to the first visitation rather than to the first visitation of angels.

Joseph Smith, Junior's description of these visitations sounds more like Satan who transforms himself into an angel of light.

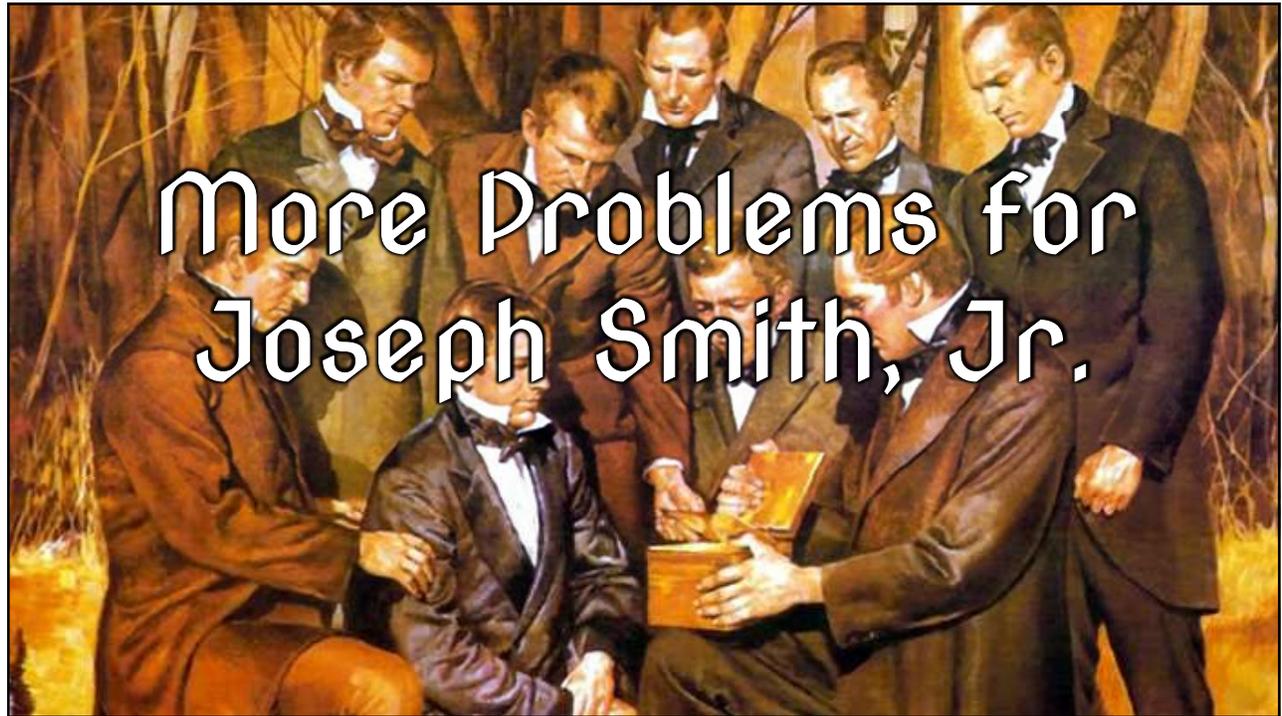


"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works." 2 Corinthians 11:13-15



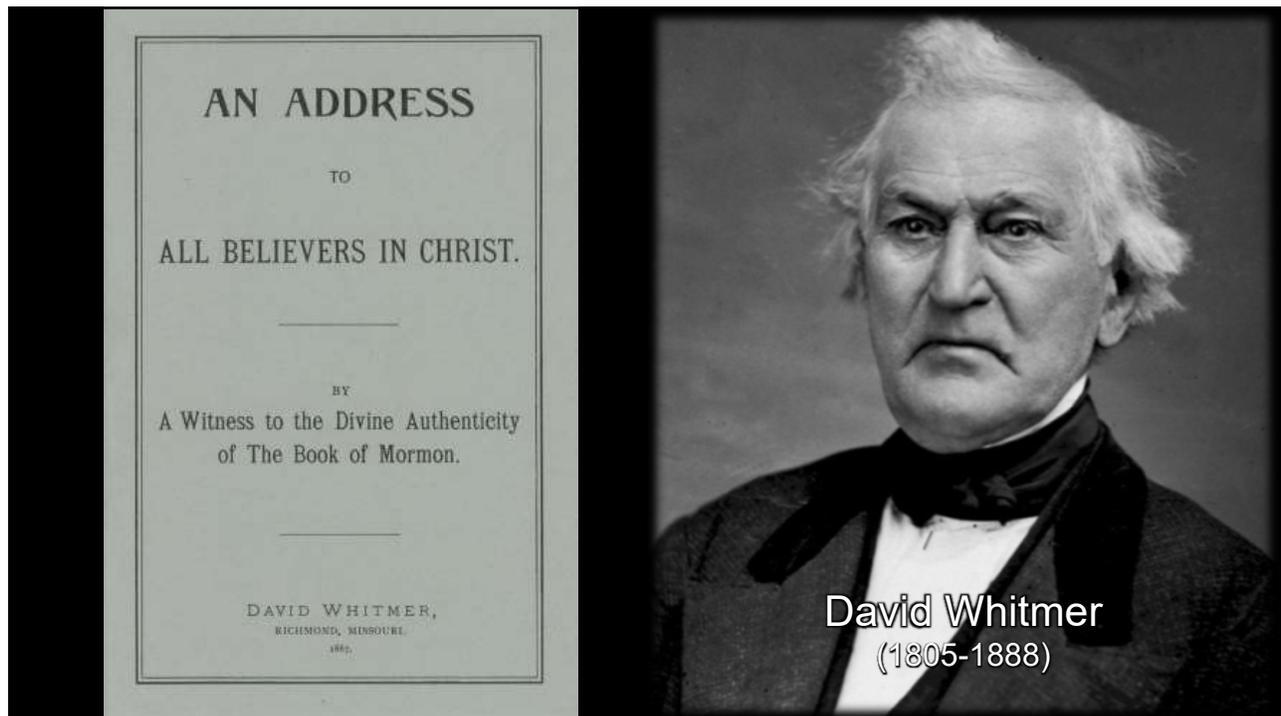
"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."

1 Timothy 4:1

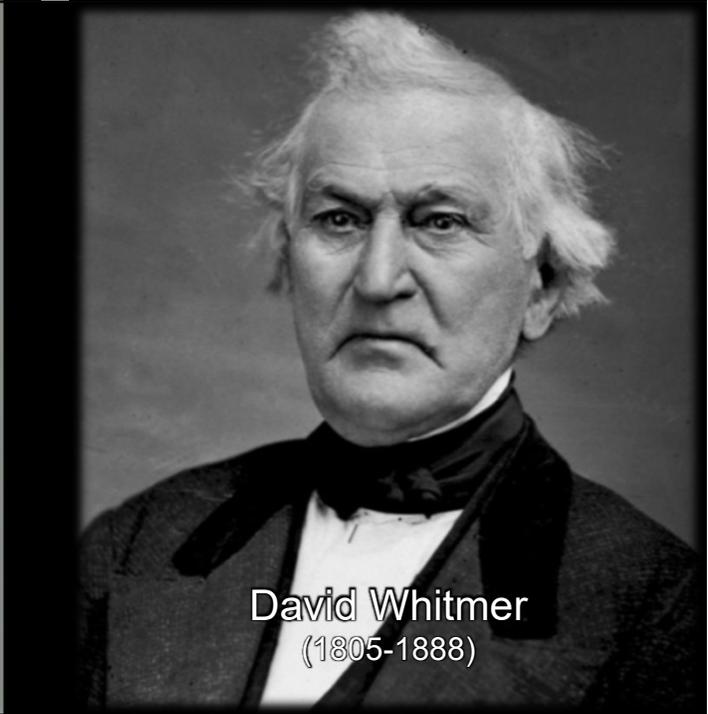


More Problems for Joseph Smith, Jr.

David Whitmer, one of the three "witnesses" to the Book of Mormon testifies about Joseph Smith, Junior's apostasy.



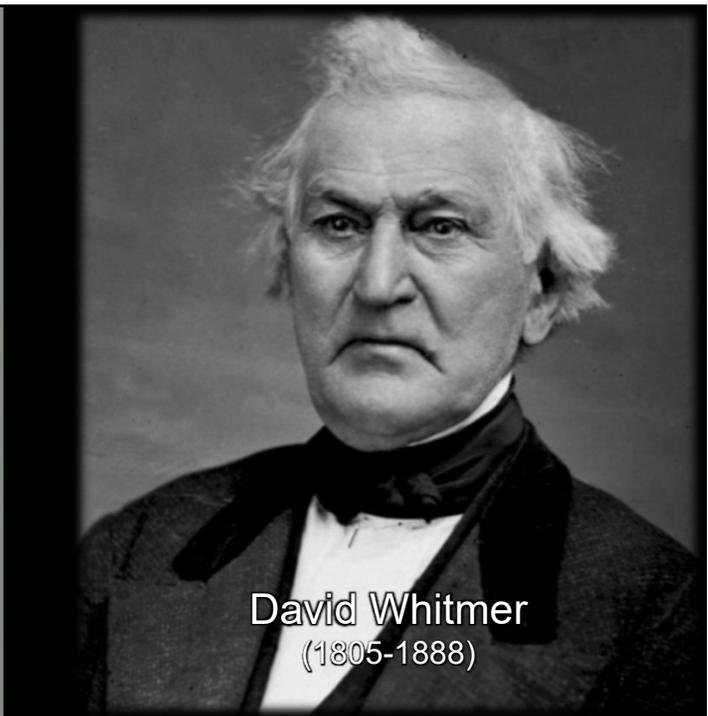
"Then let no man judge hastily as to my authority, lest he judge wrongly and continue in error; but go to God in prayer and fasting, and find out the truth, for the Holy Ghost will guide you into all truth. If you believe my testimony to the Book of Mormon; if you believe that God spake to us three witnesses by his own voice ...



David Whitmer
(1805-1888)

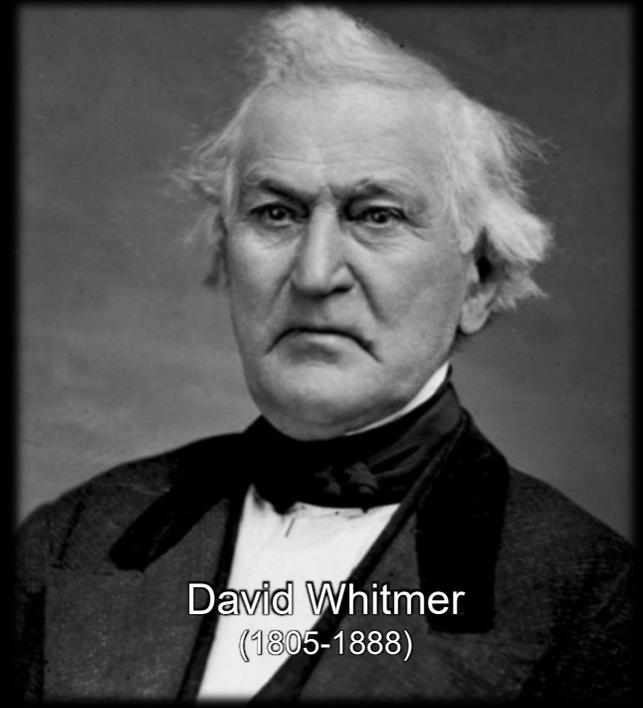
"then I tell you that in June, 1838, God spake to me again by his own voice from the heavens, and told me to 'separate myself from among the Latter Day Saints, for as they sought to do unto me, so should it be done unto them.' In the spring of 1838, the heads of the church and many of the members had gone deep into error and blindness."

[David Whitmer, *An Address to All Believers in Christ by A Witness to the Divine Authenticity of The Book of Mormon* (Richmond, MO: by the author, 1837, reprinted by Pacific Publishing Company, Concord, CA, 1976), 27.]



David Whitmer
(1805-1888)

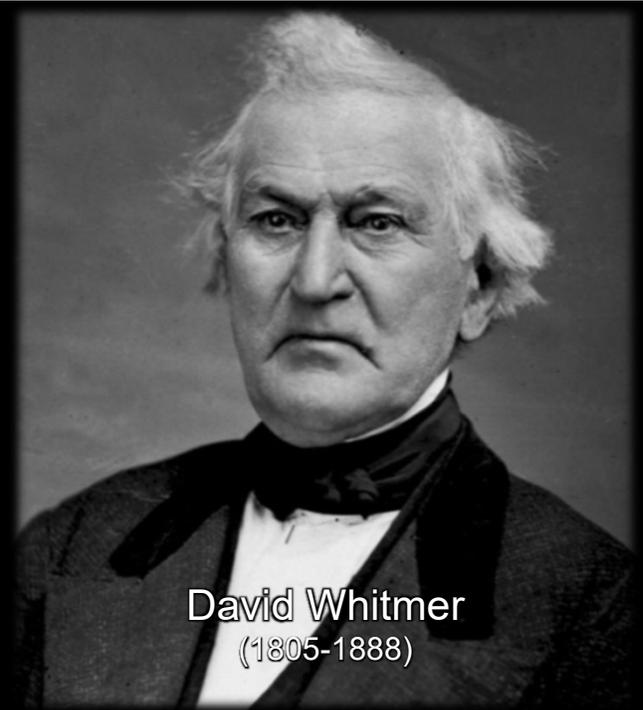
"There is nothing in the New Testament part of either the Bible or Book of Mormon concerning a one-man leader or head to the church. ... And we had no such office [of Prophet Seer and Revelator] in the church in these last days for the first eight months of its existence, until Brother Joseph went into error on April 6, 1830. ..."



David Whitmer
(1805-1888)

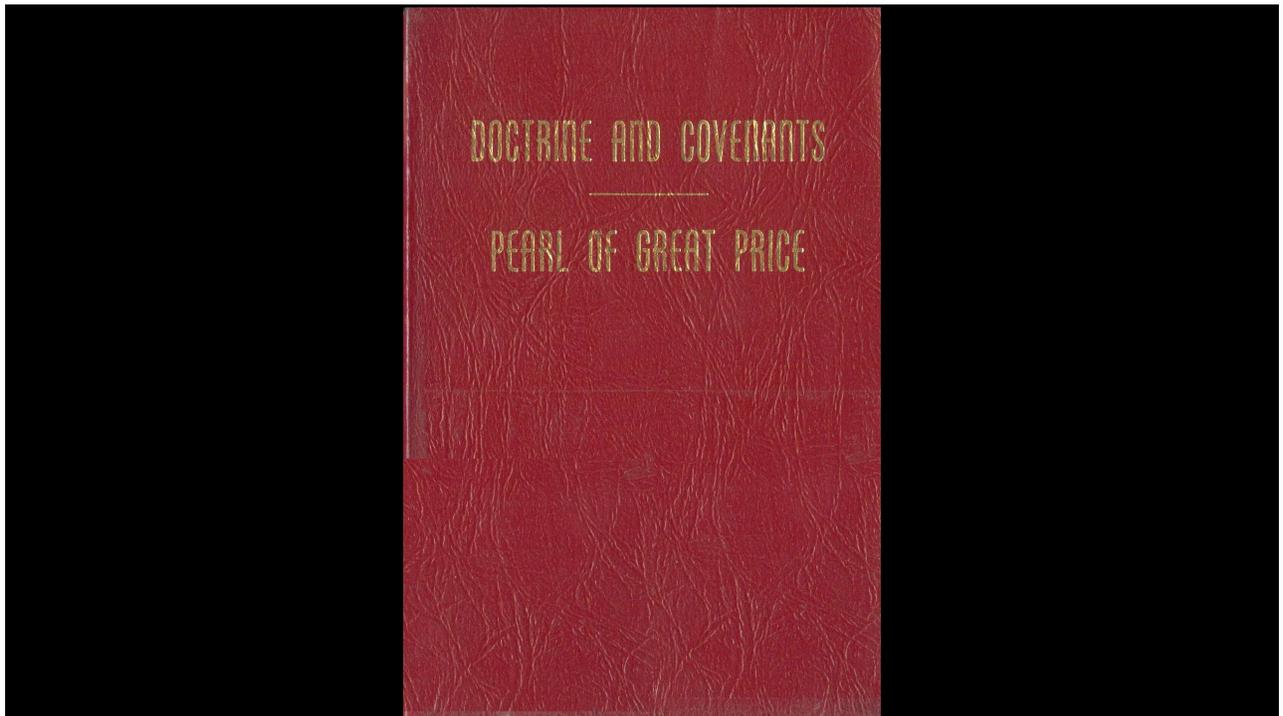
"[The revelations] were changed to mean something entirely different from the way they were first given and printed in the Book of Commandments ..."

[Whitmer, Address, 46.]



David Whitmer
(1805-1888)

***The Fraudulent
Book of Abraham***



THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

A SELECTION FROM THE REVELATIONS,
TRANSLATIONS, AND NARRATIONS OF

JOSEPH SMITH

FIRST PROPHET, SEER AND REVELATOR TO
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF
LATTER-DAY SAINTS

PUBLISHED BY
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, U. S. A.
1974

A FACSIMILE FROM THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM

No. 1.



EXPLANATION OF THE ABOVE CUT.

Fig. 1. The Angel of the Lord. 2. Abraham fastened upon an altar. 3. The idolatrous priest of Elkenah attempting to offer up Abraham as a sacrifice. 4. The altar for sacrifice by the idolatrous priests, standing before the gods of Elkenah, Libnah, Mahmackrah, Korash, and Pharaoh. 5. The idolatrous god of Elkenah. 6. The idolatrous god of Libnah. 7. The idolatrous god of Mahmackrah. 8. The idolatrous god of Korash. 9. The idolatrous god of Pharaoh. 10. Abraham in Egypt. 11. Designed to represent the pillars of heaven, as understood by the Egyptians. 12. Raukoyang, signifying expanse, or the firmament over our heads; but in this case, in relation to this subject, the Egyptians meant it to signify Shaumau, to be high, or the heavens, answering to the Hebrew word, Shaumahyeem.

THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM

TRANSLATED FROM THE PAPYRUS, BY JOSEPH SMITH.

A Translation of some ancient Records, that have fallen into our hands from the catacombs of Egypt. — *The writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus. See History of the Church, vol. 2, pp. 235, 236, 343-351.*

CHAPTER I.

1. In the land of the Chaldeans,* at the residence of my father, I, Abraham, saw that it was needful for me to obtain another place of residence; 2. And, finding there was greater happiness and peace and rest for me, I sought for the blessings of the fathers,^a and the right wherewith I should be ordained^b to administer the same; having been myself a follower of righteousness, desiring also to be one who possessed great knowledge, and to be a greater follower of righteousness, and to possess a greater knowledge, and to be a father of many nations,^c a prince of peace, and desiring to receive instructions, and to keep the commandments of God, I became a rightful heir, a High Priest, holding the right belonging to the fathers.^d

3. It was conferred upon me from the fathers; it came down from the fathers;^e from the beginning of time, yea, even from the foundations of the earth to the present time, even the right of the firstborn, on the first man,^f who is Adam,^g our first father, through the fathers unto me.

4. I sought for mine appointment unto the Priesthood^h according to the appointment of God unto the fathers concerning the seed;ⁱ 5. My fathers having turned from their righteousness, and from the holy commandments which the Lord their God had given unto them, unto the worshiping of the gods of the heathen,^j utterly refused to hearken to my voice;

6. For their hearts were set to do evil, and were wholly turned to the god of Elkenah,^k and the god of Libnah, and the god of Mahmackrah, and the god of Korash, and the god of Pharaoh,^l king of Egypt; 7. Therefore they turned their hearts to the sacrifice of the heathen in offering up their children unto their dumb idols, and hearkened not unto my voice, but endeavored to take away my life^m by the hand of the priest of Elkenah. The priest of Elkenah was also the priest of Pharaoh.ⁿ

8. Now, at this time it was the custom of the priest of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to offer up upon the altar which was built in the land of Chaldea, for the offering unto these strange gods, men, women, and children.

9. And it came to pass that the

ment unto the Priesthood^h according to the appointment of God unto the fathers concerning the seed;ⁱ 5. My fathers having turned from their righteousness, and from the holy commandments which the Lord their God had given unto them, unto the worshiping of the gods of the heathen,^j utterly refused to hearken to my voice;

6. For their hearts were set to do evil, and were wholly turned to the god of Elkenah,^k and the god of Libnah, and the god of Mahmackrah, and the god of Korash, and the god of Pharaoh,^l king of Egypt; 7. Therefore they turned their hearts to the sacrifice of the heathen in offering up their children unto their dumb idols, and hearkened not unto my voice, but endeavored to take away my life^m by the hand of the priest of Elkenah. The priest of Elkenah was also the priest of Pharaoh.ⁿ

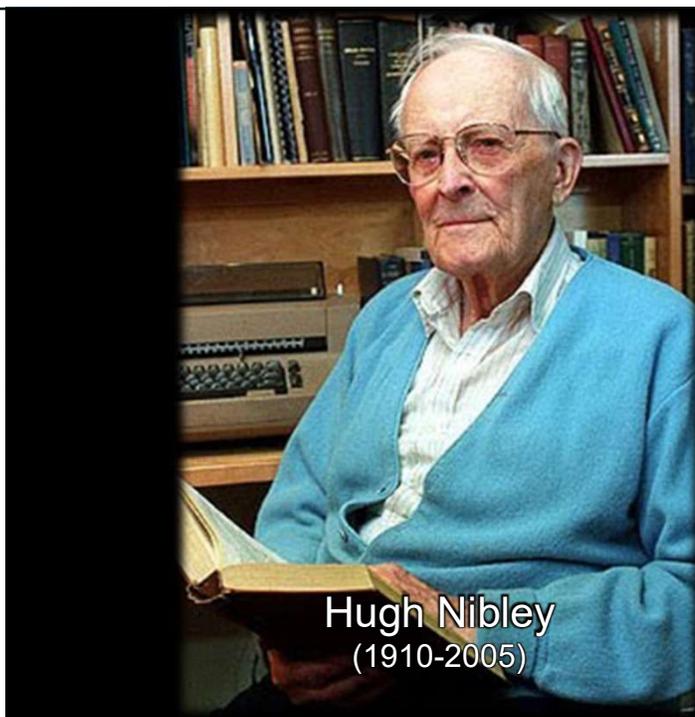
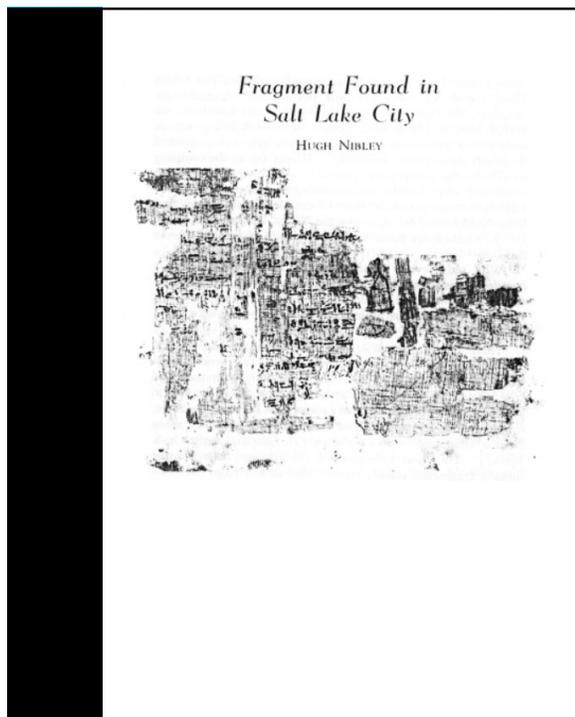
8. Now, at this time it was the custom of the priest of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to offer up upon the altar which was built in the land of Chaldea, for the offering unto these strange gods, men, women, and children.

9. And it came to pass that the



"A collection of pa[p]yrus manuscripts, long believed to have been destroyed in the Chicago fire of 1871 was presented to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ... included in the papyri is a manuscript identified as the original document from which Joseph Smith had copied the drawing which he called 'Facsimile No. 1' and published with the Book of Abraham."

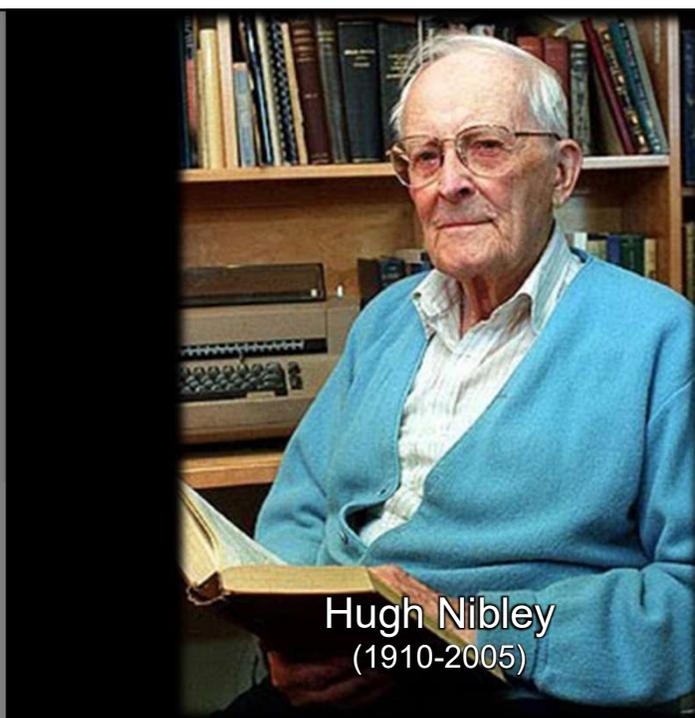
[The *Deseret News*, November 27, 1967]



Hugh Nibley
(1910-2005)

"In his comments on the papyri, Joseph Smith hails them as a welcome confirmation of his own ideas, but never as the source of those ideas. ... The question, then, is whether these present fragments of Egyptian writing give support to Smith's ideas, as he claims they do. We think they do.

[Hugh Nibley, "Fragment Found in Salt Lake City," *Brigham Young University Studies* 8:2 (Winter 1968): n.p., available as pdf at <https://archive.interpreterfoundation.org/nibley/pdf/PartOfGreatPrice/Fragment-Found-in-Salt-Lake-City-BYUS1968-W.pdf>, accessed 05/16/22]



Hugh Nibley
(1910-2005)


 Brigham Young University
 BYU ScholarsArchive

Maxwell Institute Publications

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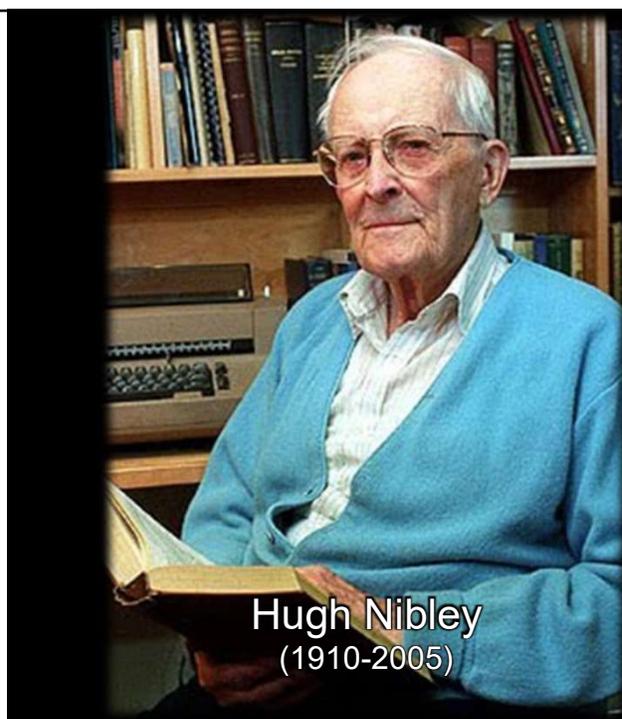
An Approach to the Book of Abraham

Hugh Nibley

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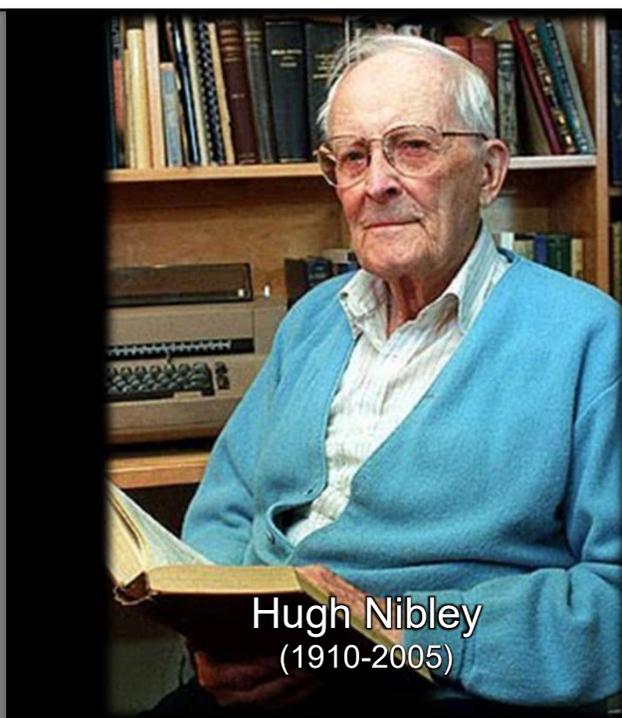
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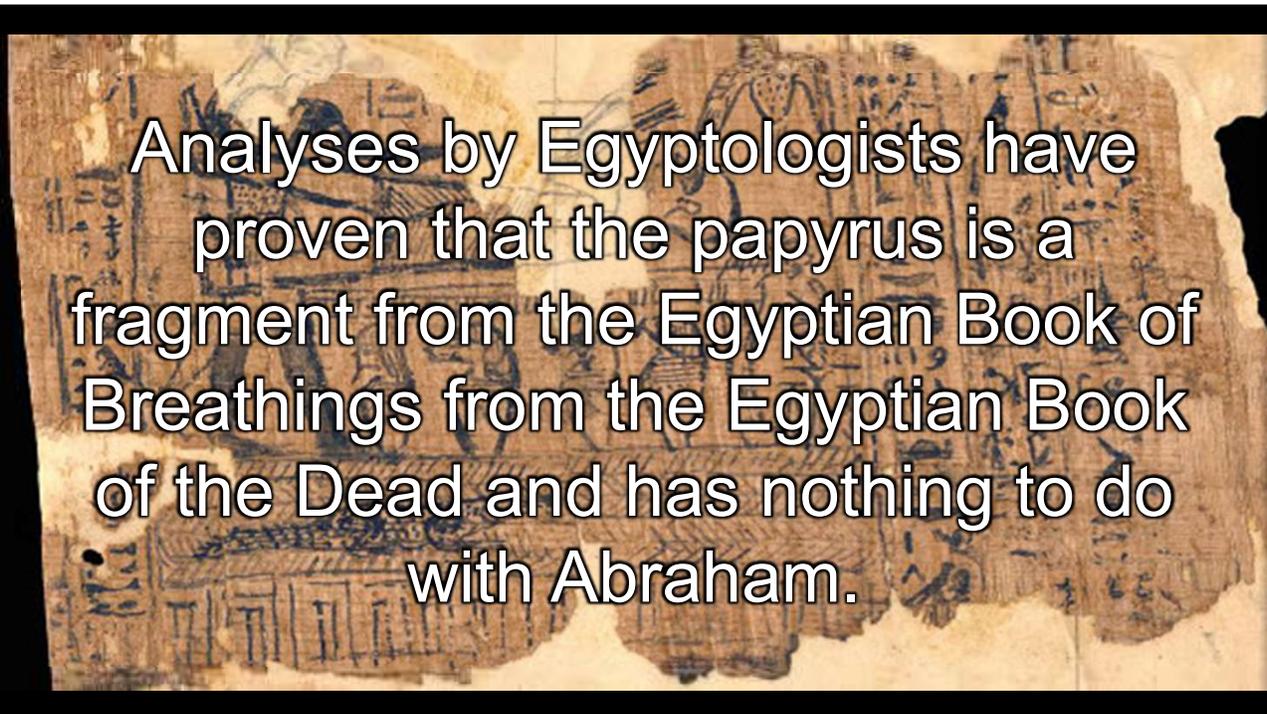
Hugh Nibley
(1910-2005)

"Many Latter-day Saints have not been too happy with the Joseph Smith Papyri, which instead of giving them all the answers only set them to work on a lot of problems with which none of this generation is prepared to deal."

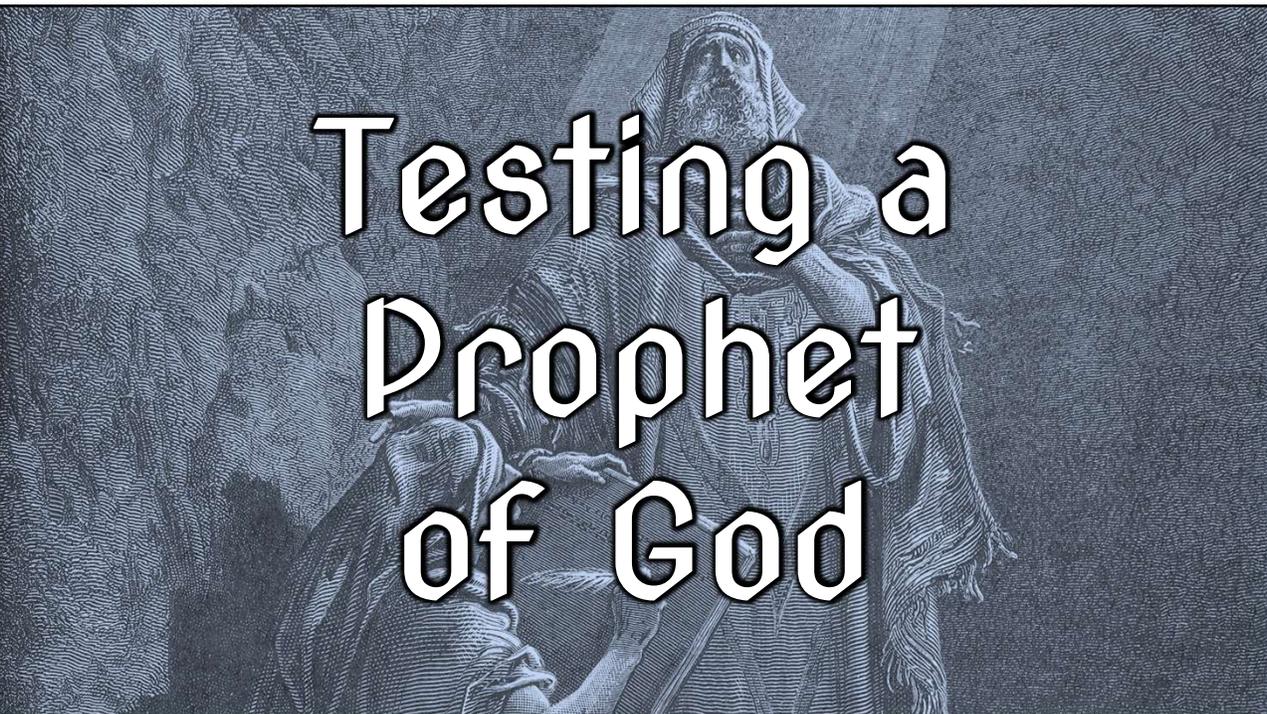
[Hugh Nibley, *An Approach to the Book of Abraham* (2010) Maxwell Institute Publications, 6, p. 594, available as pdf at https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/mi/6/?utm_source=scholarsarchive.byu.edu%2Fmi%2F6&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages, accessed 05/16/22]



Hugh Nibley
(1910-2005)

A fragment of ancient Egyptian papyrus with hieroglyphs and drawings. The text is overlaid on the image.

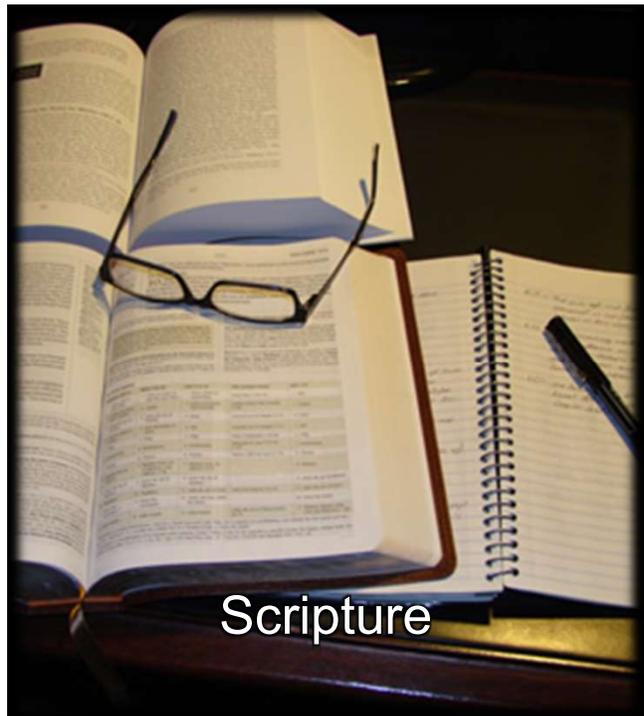
Analyses by Egyptologists have proven that the papyrus is a fragment from the Egyptian Book of Breathing from the Egyptian Book of the Dead and has nothing to do with Abraham.

A black and white illustration of a prophet with a long beard, wearing a robe, standing in a rocky landscape. The text is overlaid on the image.

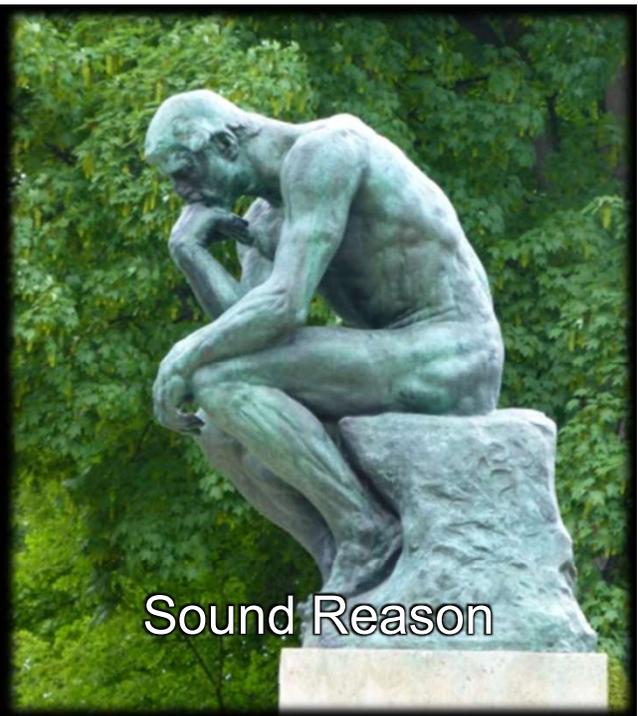
Testing a Prophet of God

☞ 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 ☞

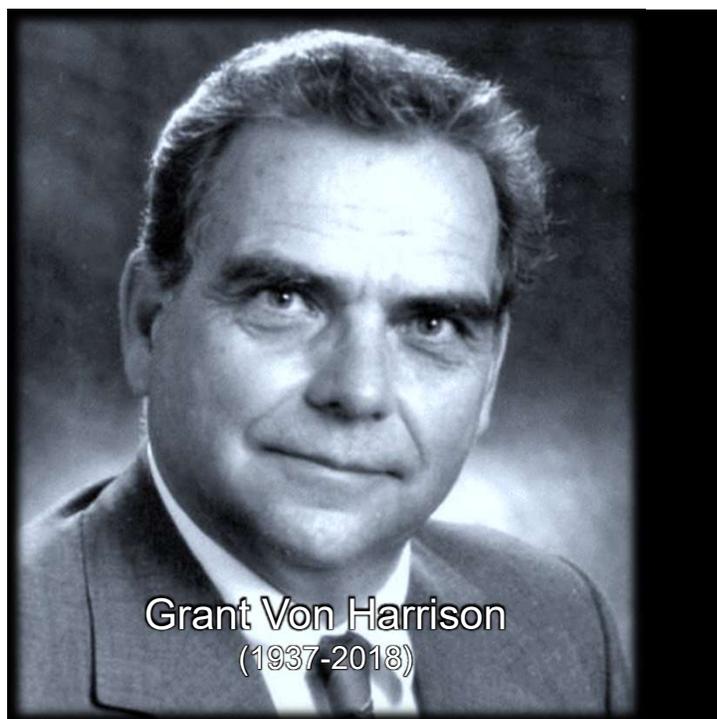
"Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."



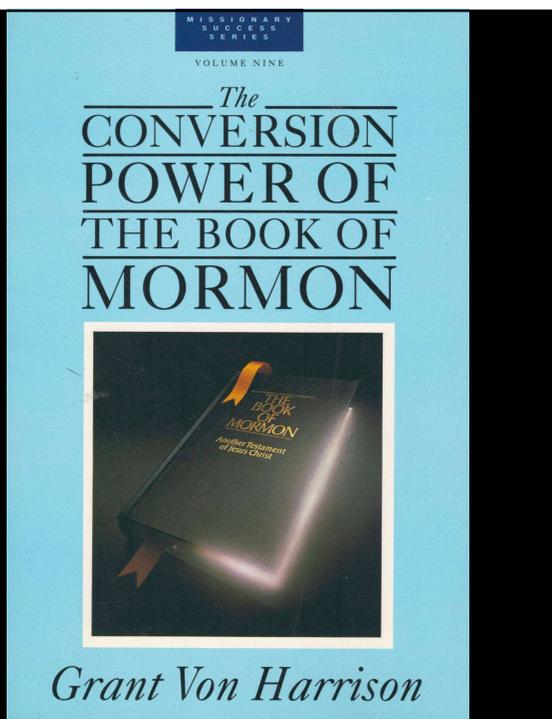
Scripture



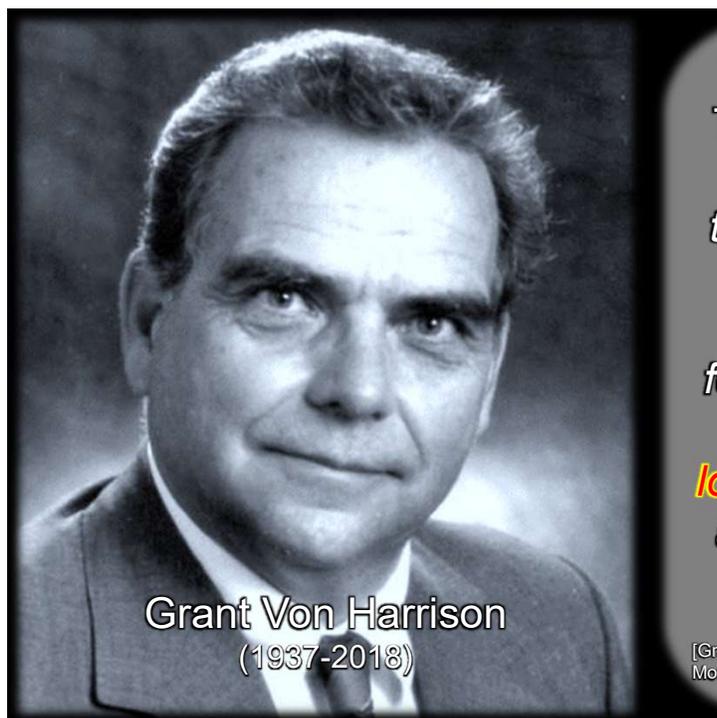
Sound Reason



Grant Von Harrison
(1937-2018)



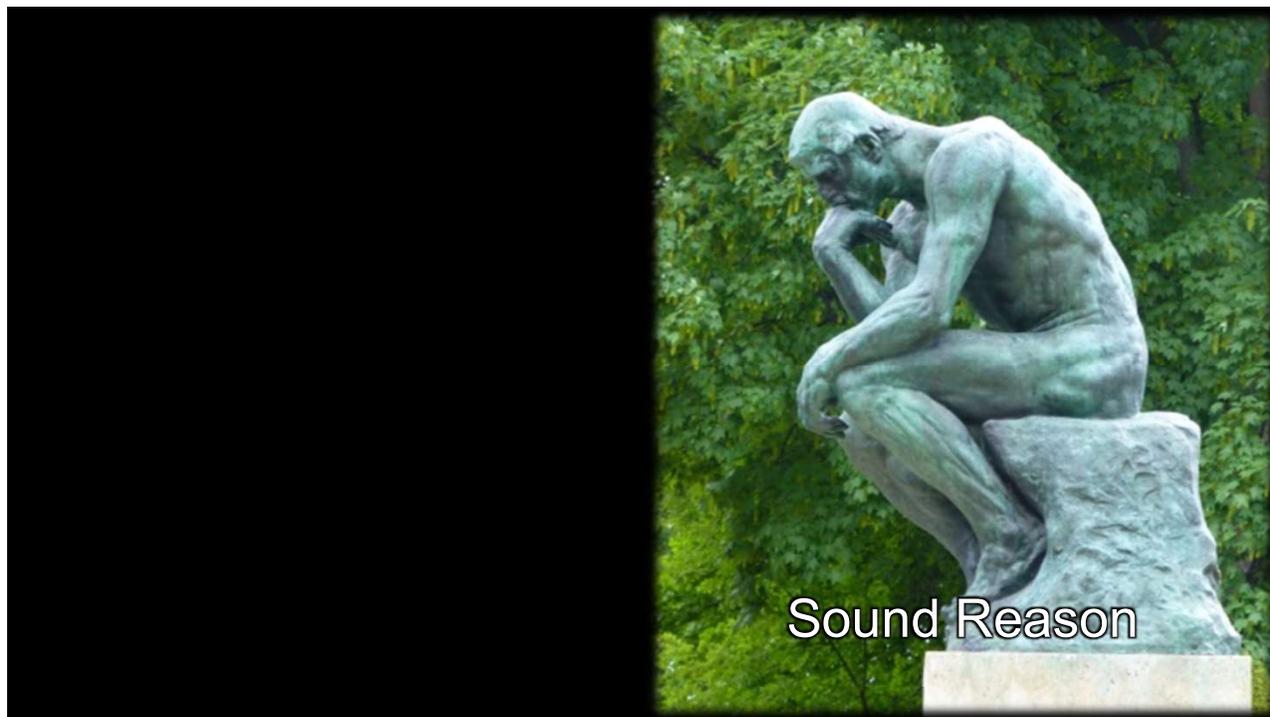
Grant Von Harrison



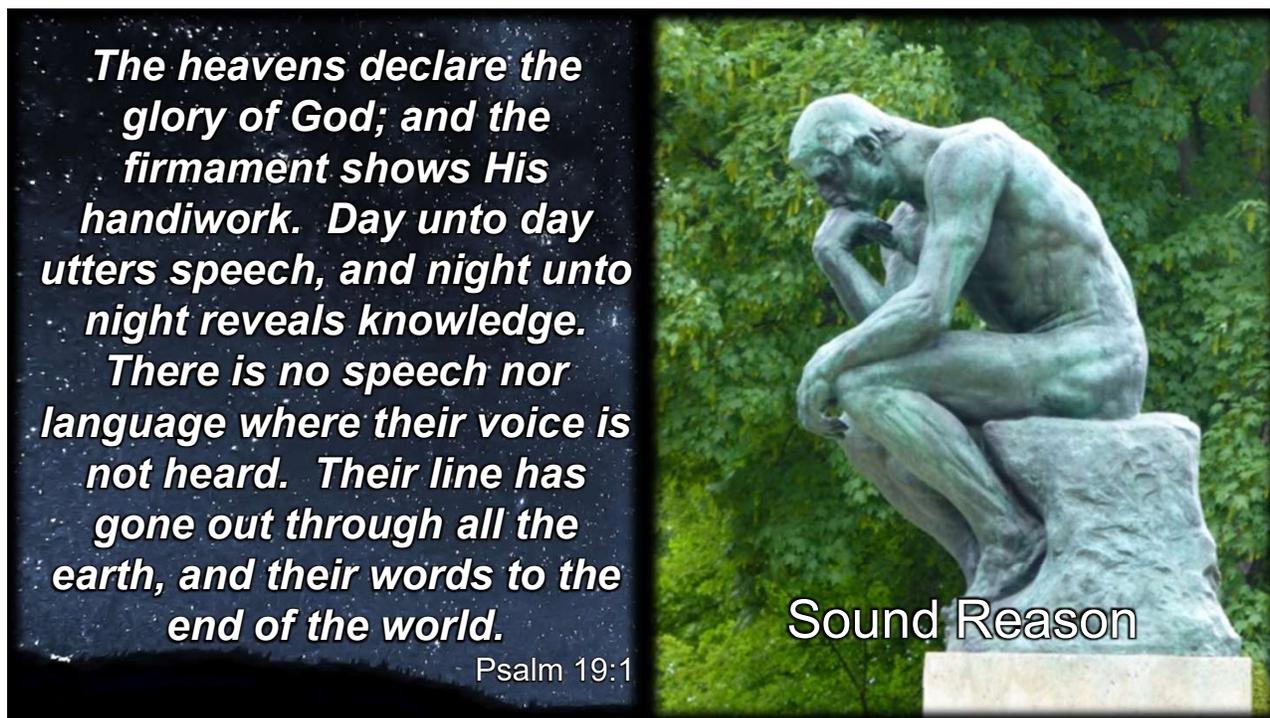
Grant Von Harrison
(1937-2018)

*"When investigators read The Book of Mormon they should ponder the teachings. ... Missionaries should orient their investigators to ask the following questions as they read: Are the teaching **logical and rational**? ... Do I agree **philosophically** with the teachings?"*

[Grant Von Harrison, *The Conversion Power of The Book of Mormon* (Sandy: Sounds of Zion, 1981), 23]



Sound Reason



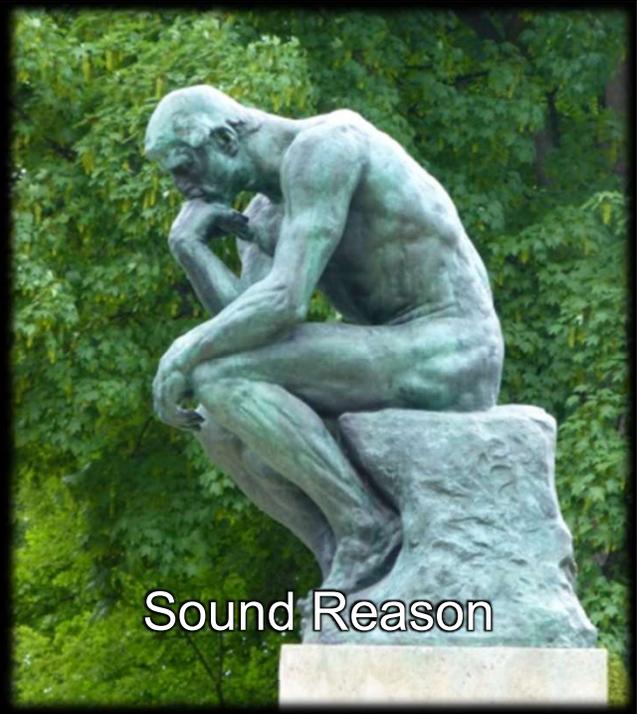
The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Psalm 19:1

Sound Reason

***The heavens
declare His
righteousness,
and all the
peoples see
His glory.***

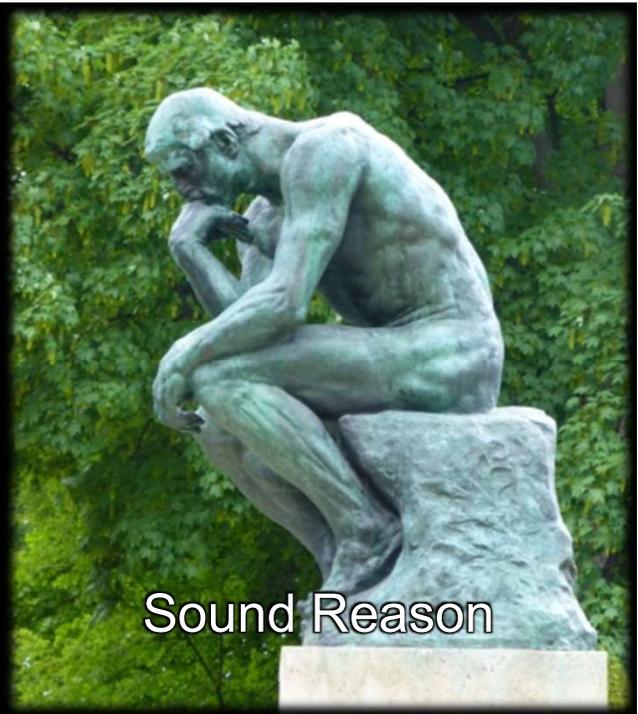
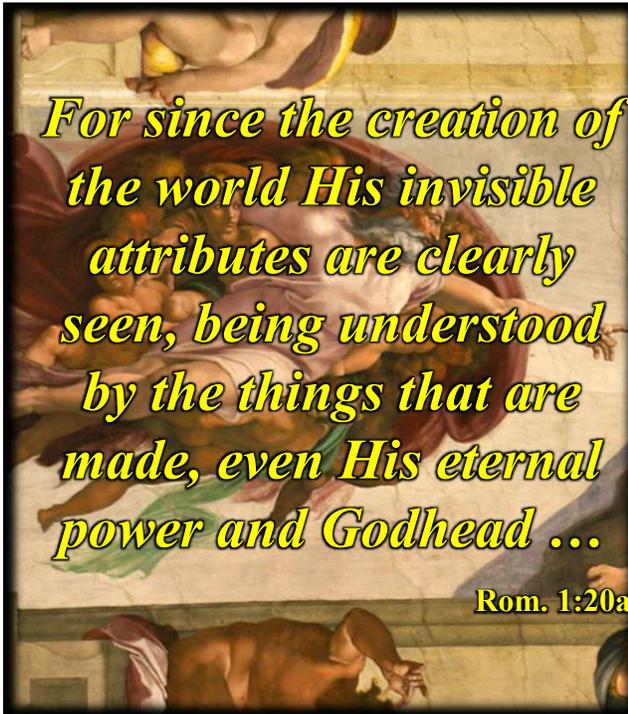
Psalm 97:6



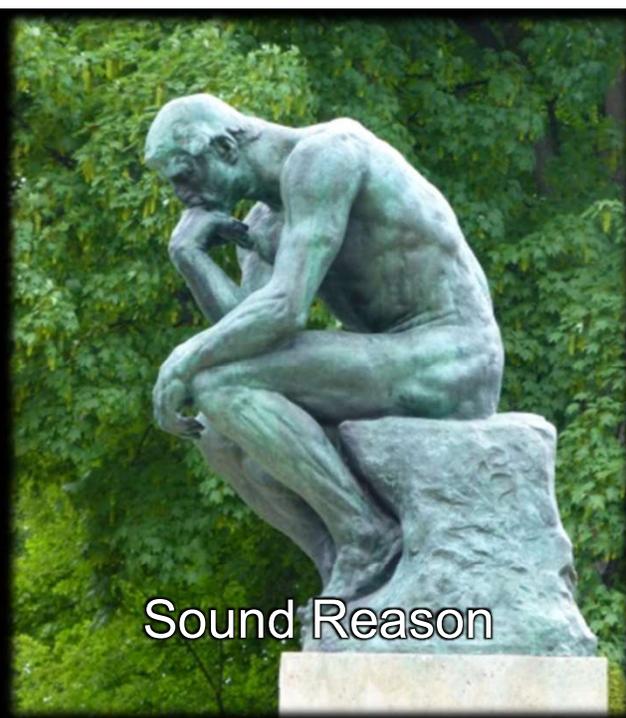
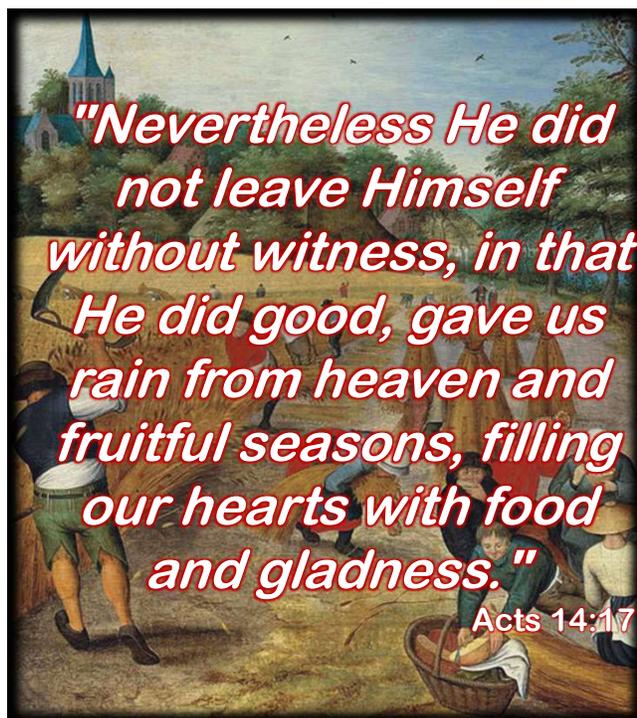
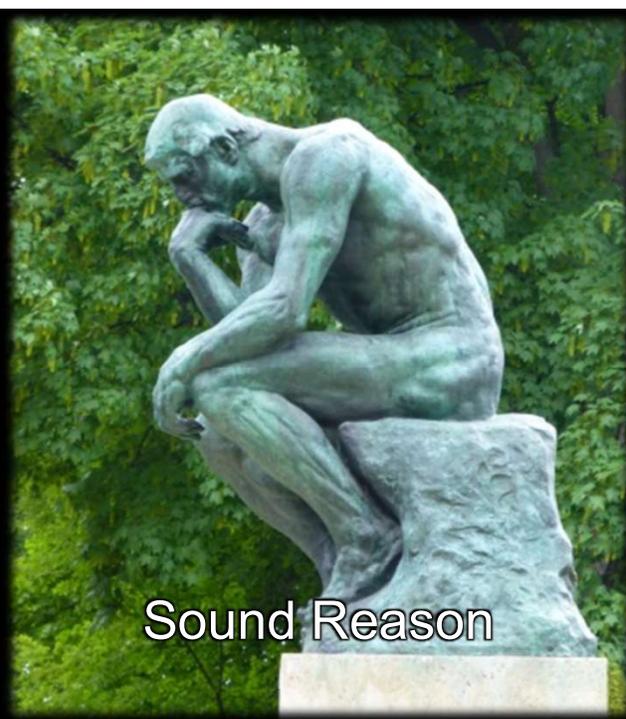
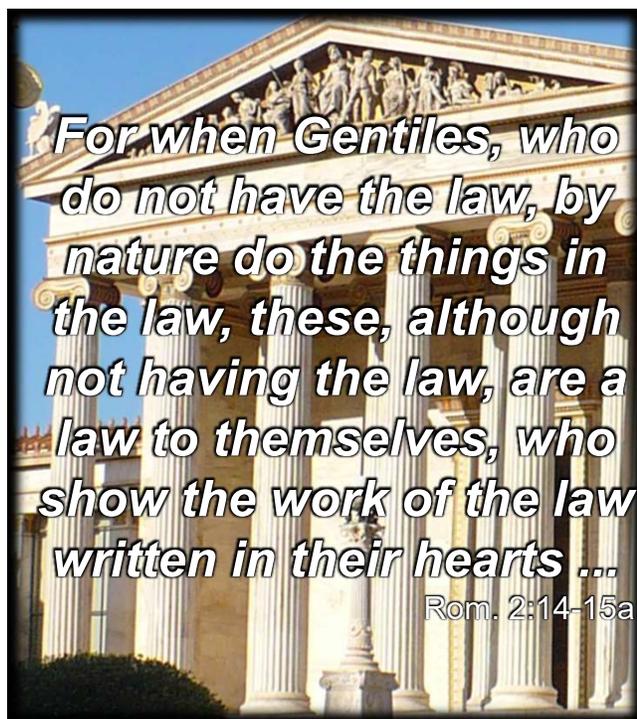
Sound Reason

***For since the creation of
the world His invisible
attributes are clearly
seen, being understood
by the things that are
made, even His eternal
power and Godhead ...***

Rom. 1:20a



Sound Reason





Plato
(428-348 BC)

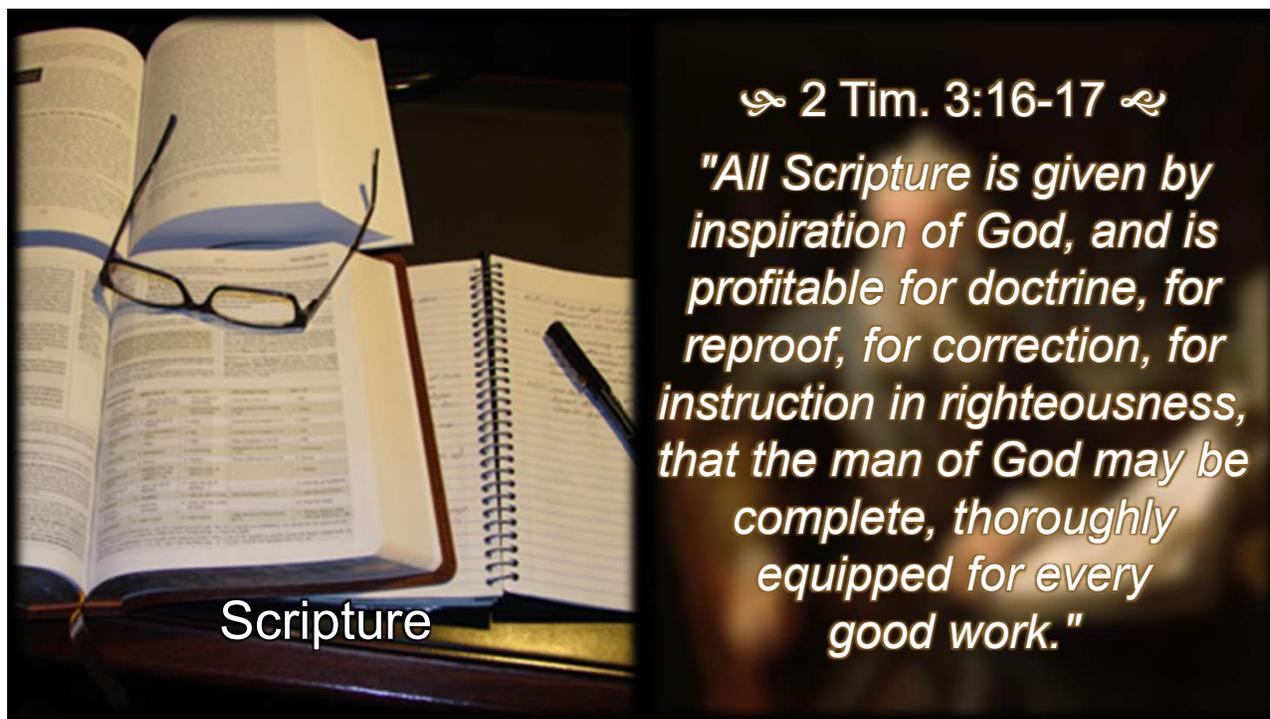
Aristotle
(384-322 BC)

Augustine
(354-430)

Aquinas
(1224/25-1274)

The book cover features a background image of the 'The Thinker' statue by Auguste Rodin, set against a lush green background of trees. The title 'How Theology Needs Philosophy:' is written in a large, white, stylized font. Below it, 'Part 1: Introduction' is written in a smaller, white, serif font. The author's name, 'Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.', is also in a white, serif font. At the bottom, his titles and affiliations are listed in a smaller, white, serif font.

How Theology
Needs Philosophy:
Part 1: Introduction
Richard G. Howe, Ph.D.
Provost
Professor of Philosophy and Apologetics
Norman L. Geisler Chair of Christian Apologetics
Southern Evangelical Seminary, Charlotte, NC
Past President, International Society of Christian Apologetics



Scripture

☞ 2 Tim. 3:16-17 ☞

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."



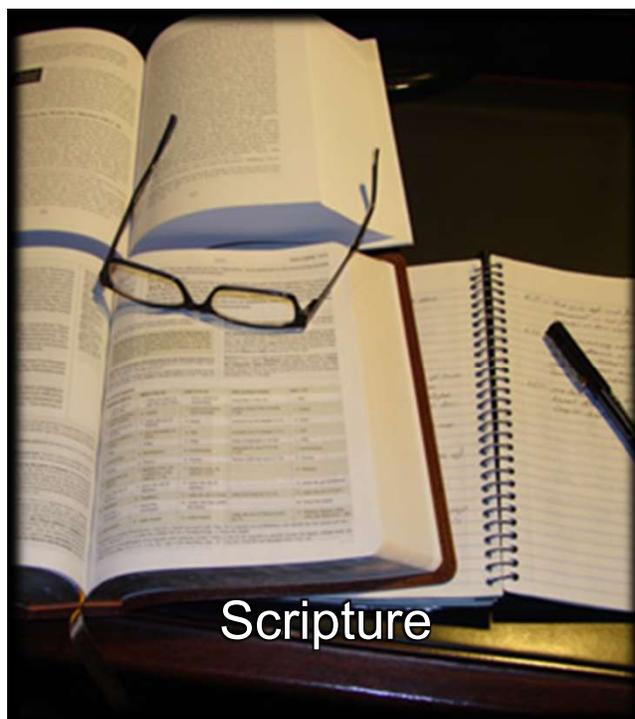
the false apostles

the true apostles

Scripture

☞ 1 John 4:5-6 ☞

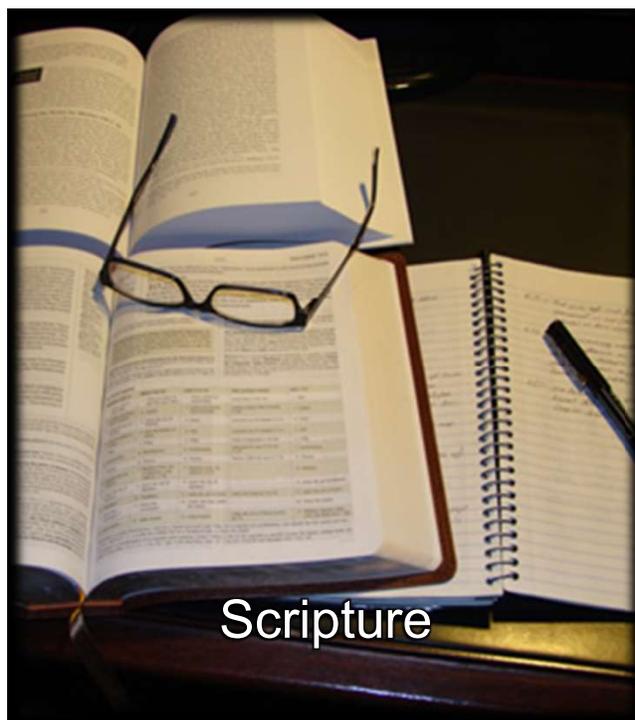
They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.



Scripture

☞ 1 John 4:1-3 ☞

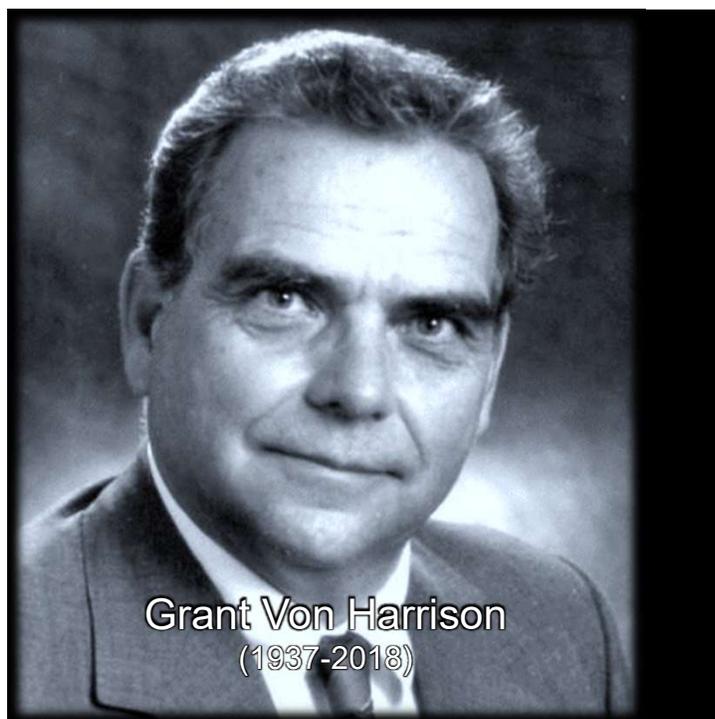
Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God:



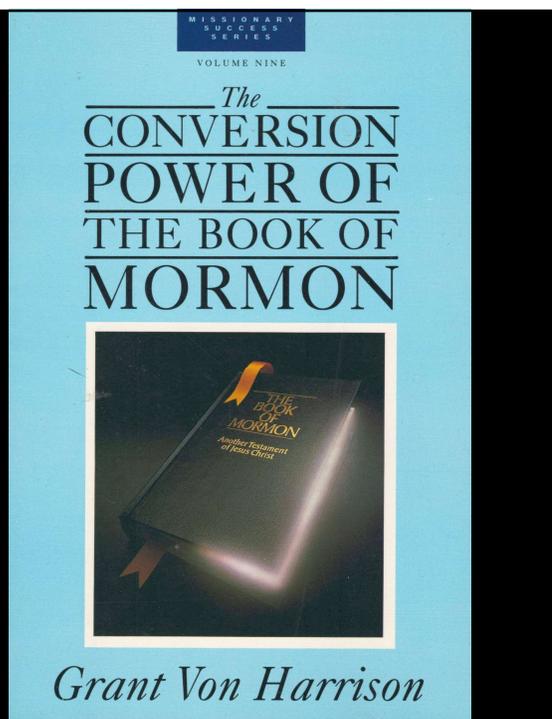
Scripture

☞ 1 John 4:1-3 ☞

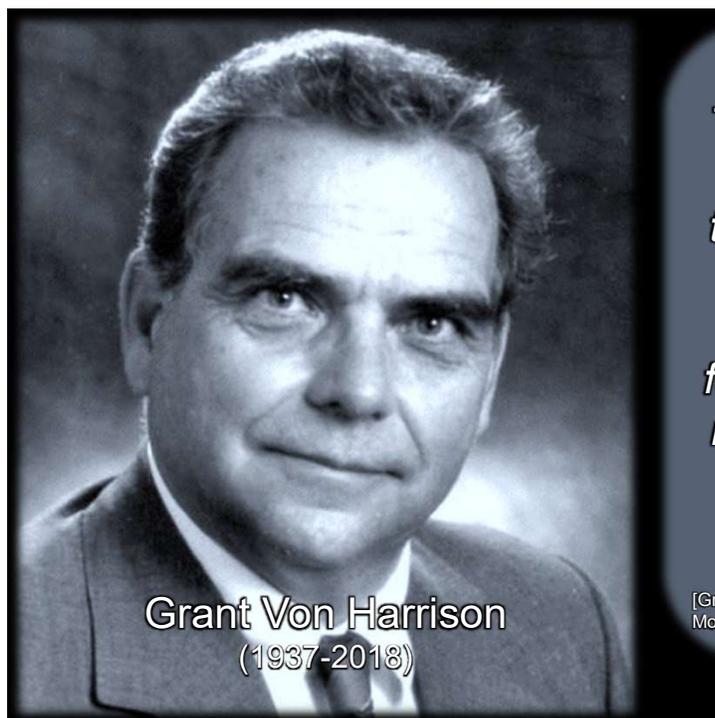
Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.



Grant Von Harrison
(1937-2018)



Grant Von Harrison



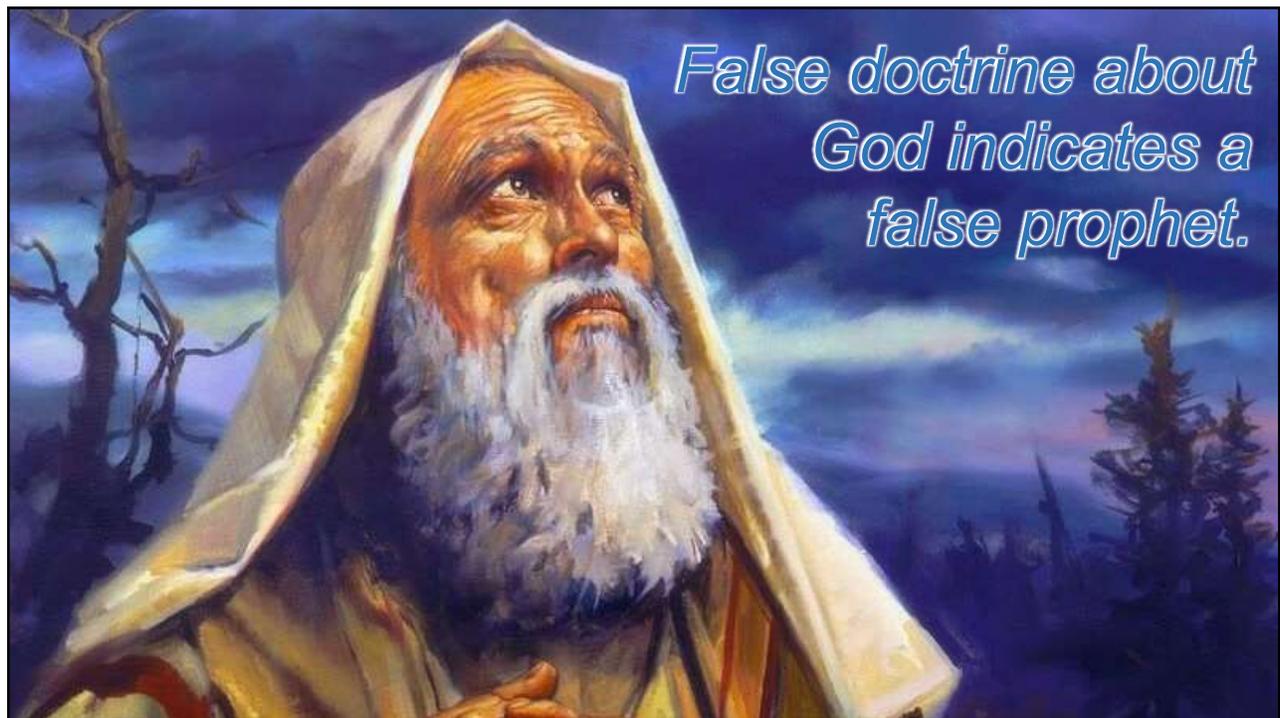
Grant Von Harrison
(1937-2018)

*"When investigators read The Book of Mormon they should ponder the teachings. ... Missionaries should orient their investigators to ask the following questions as they read: ... **Do the teachings correspond with the teachings of the Bible?"**"*

[Grant Von Harrison, *The Conversion Power of The Book of Mormon* (Sandy: Sounds of Zion, 1981), 23]

Grant Von Harrison

***What, then, are the
scriptural tests of
a prophet?***



☞ Deut. 13:1-3 ☞

"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'; which you have not known; 'and let us serve them, you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul."

☞ 2 Peter 2:1-2 ☞

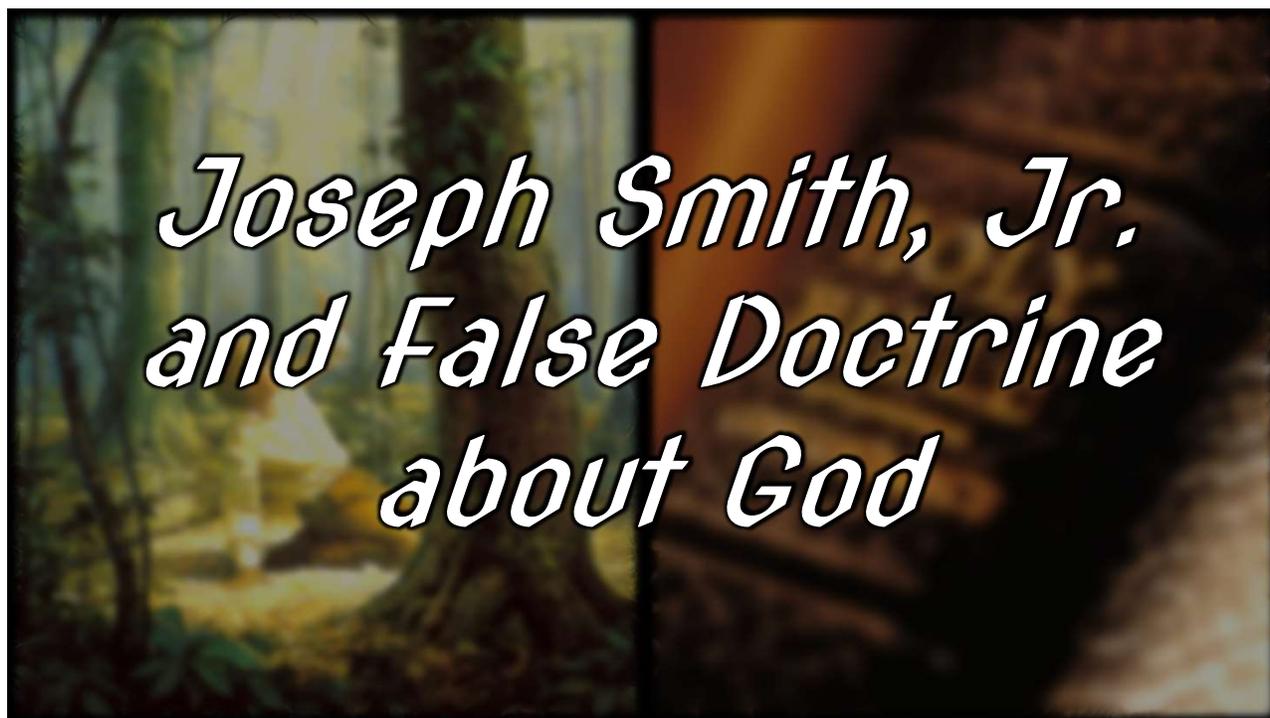
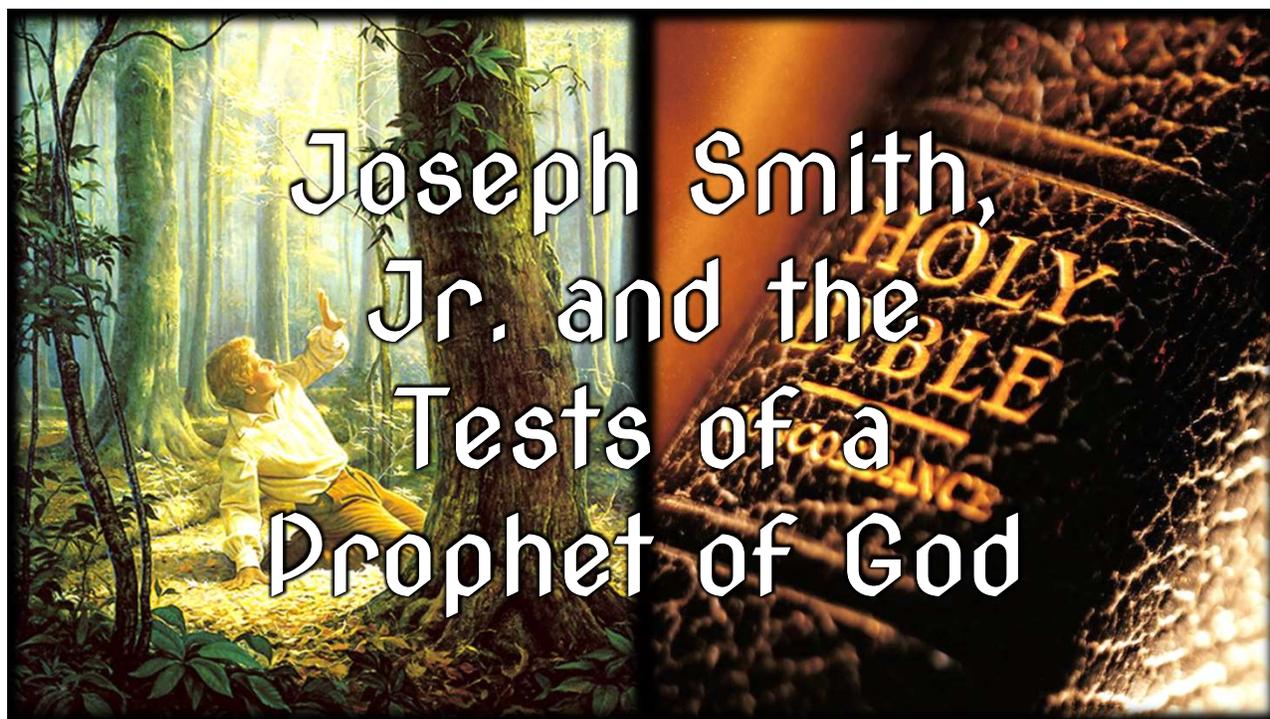
"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed."



*False prophecies
indicate a false
prophet.*

∞ Deut. 18:20-22 ∞

"But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'; when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him."



God's Nature and Attributes

Joseph Smith, Jr.

There are many Gods.

"And they (the Gods) said 'Let there be light' and there was light." (*Pearl of Great Price*, "Book of Abraham" 4:3)

"According to that which was ordained in the midst of the Council of the Eternal God of all other gods before this world was ..." (D. & C. 121:32)

God's Nature and Attributes

Joseph Smith, Jr.

There are many Gods.

"If Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and John discovered that God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father, you may suppose that he had a Father also. Where was there ever a son without a father? And where was there ever a father without first being a son?" (Book of Abraham" 4:3)

Christianity

There is only one God.

Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one!"

Isaiah 43:10 "And understand that I *am* He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me."

God's Nature and Attributes

Joseph Smith, Jr.

God is a physical personage of flesh and bone.

"The Father has a body of flesh, and bones as tangible as man's" (D. & C. 130:22)

Christianity

God is a spirit, without flesh and bone.

John 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Luke 24:39 "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

God's Nature and Attributes

Joseph Smith, Jr.

God was once a mere man.

"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! ... I am going to tell you how God came to be God. Ye have imagined and suppose that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea ... he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did." [*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345-347, as cited in McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, s.v. "Godhood," p. 321)

God and Human Godhood

Joseph Smith, Jr.

Salvation means exaltation to Godhood. It involves faith in the Mormon Christ, baptism, obedience to the teaching of the Mormon church.

"Here, then, is eternal life—to know the only wise and true God; and you have go to learn how to be gods yourselves ... the same as all gods have done before you ...from exaltation to exaltation ... until you arrive at the station of a god." [*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345-347, as cited in McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, s.v., "Godhood," p. 321]

Christianity

Salvation is gaining eternal life whereby we are enabled to be with God forever in heaven. Becoming "like Him" (1 John 3:2) means that we will be made completely holy and righteous as He is, morally not ontologically.

John 14:2-3 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

God and Human Godhood

Joseph Smith, Jr.

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2 Peter 1:3-4 "as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (cf. Hebrews 12:10)

God and Salvation by Grace through Faith

Joseph Smith, Jr.

Works are necessary for salvation.

"We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel." (Joseph Smith, Article 3 of *The Articles of Faith of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*)

Christianity

Salvation is a gift and cannot be earned by works. All that is necessary is belief in the gospel.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

God and Salvation by Grace through Faith

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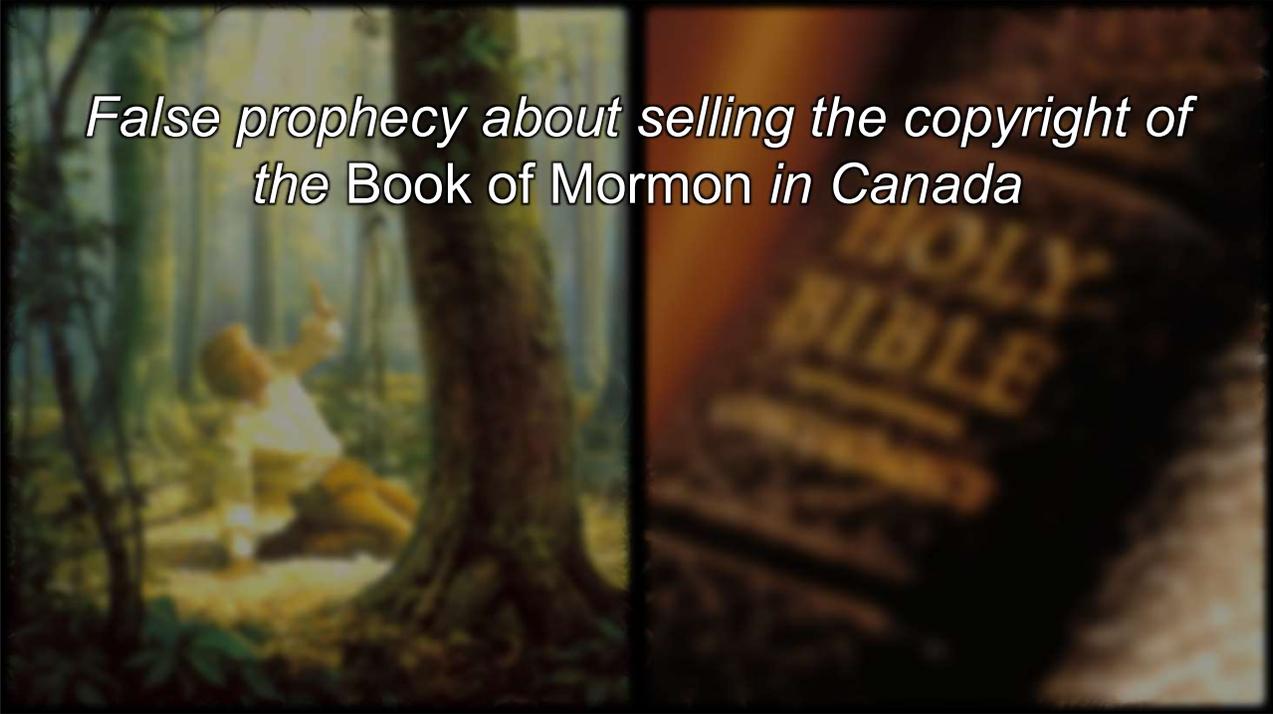
Christianity

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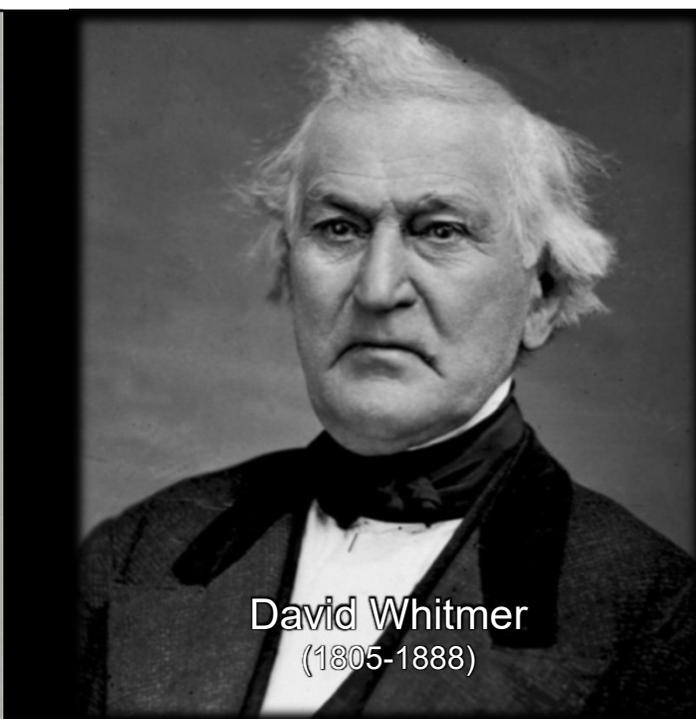
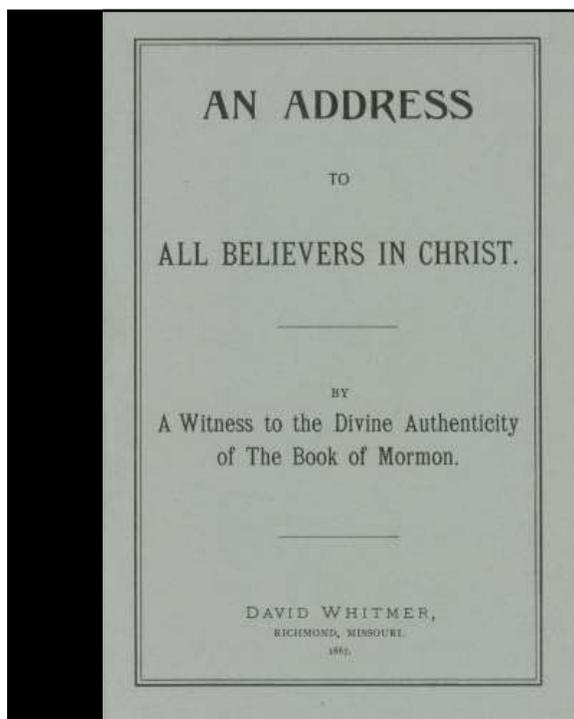
Romans 4:4-5 "Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness"



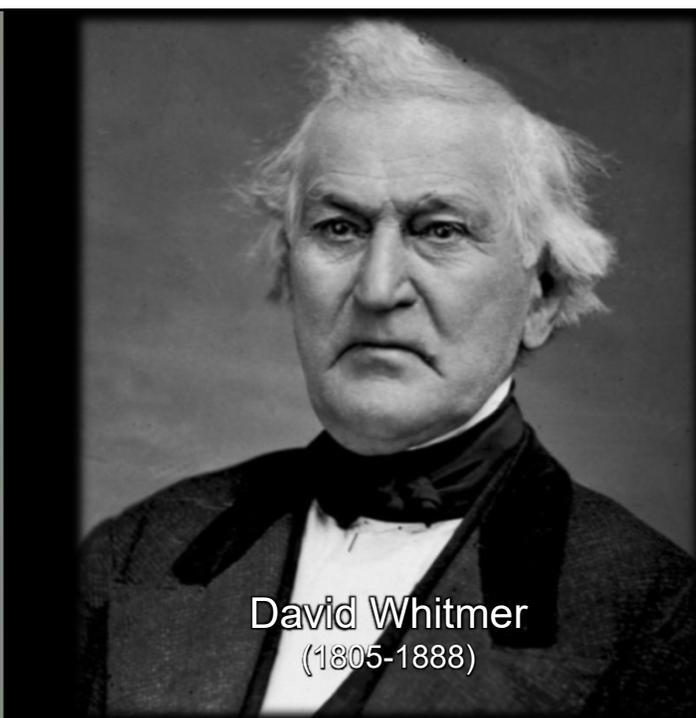
*Joseph Smith, Jr.
and False Prophecies*



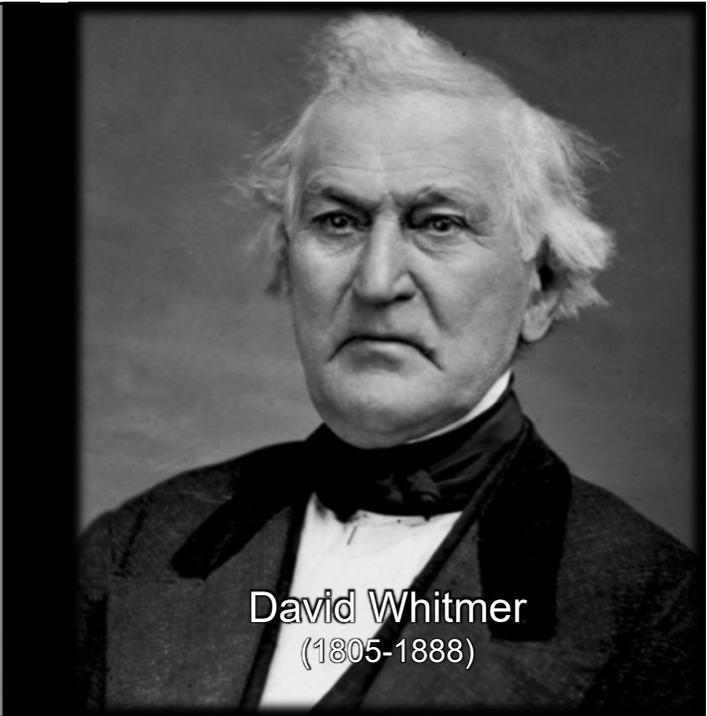
*False prophecy about selling the copyright of
the Book of Mormon in Canada*



"Brother Hyrum said it had been suggested to him that some of the brethren might go to Toronto, Canada, and sell the copy-right of the Book of Mormon for considerable money... . Joseph concluded to do so. ... Joseph looked into the hat in which he placed the stone, and received a revelation that some of the brethren should go to Toronto, Canada, and that they would sell the copy-right of the Book of Mormon.



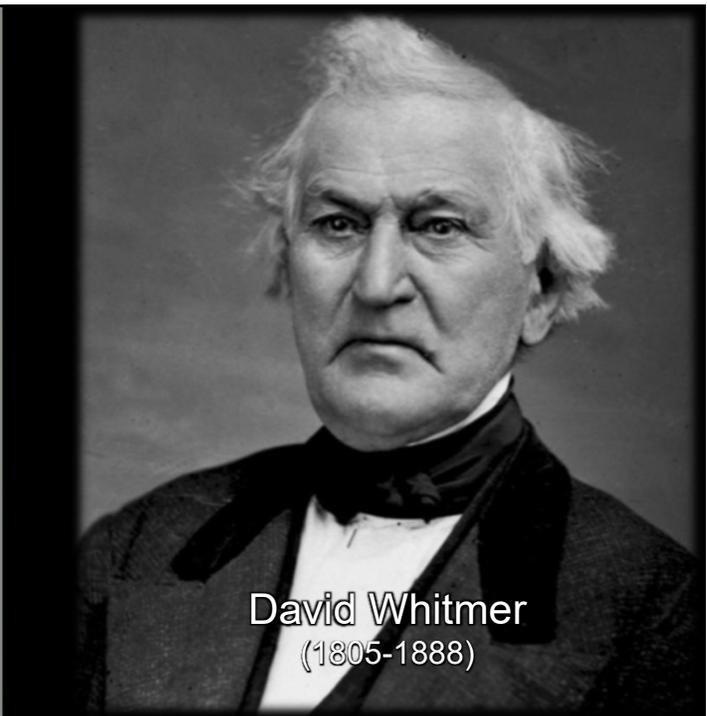
"Hiram page [sic] and Oliver Cowdery went to Toronto on this mission, but they failed entirely to sell the copy-right, returning with out any money. Joseph was at my father's house when they returned. I was there also, and am an eye witness to these facts. ... We were all in great trouble; and we asked Joseph how it was that he had received a revelation from the Lord for some brethren to go to Toronto and sell the copy-right,



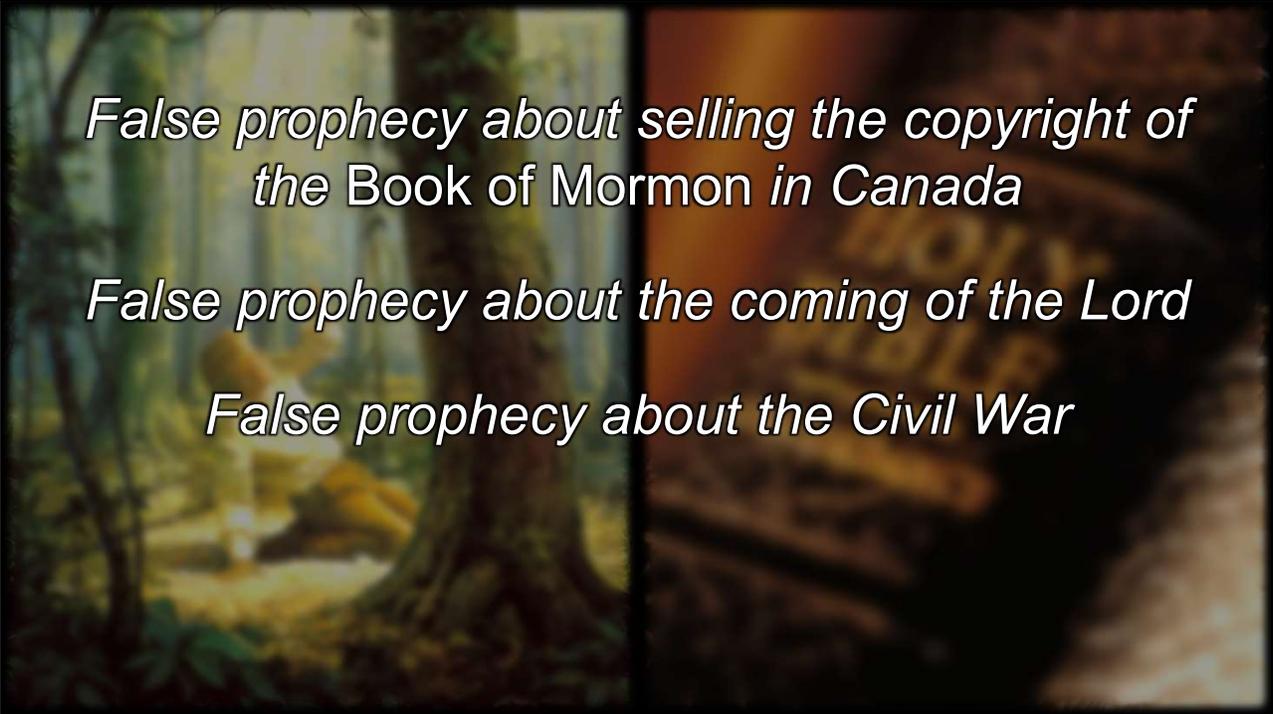
David Whitmer
(1805-1888)

"and the brethren had utterly failed in their undertaking. Joseph did not know how it was, so he enquired of the Lord about it, and behold the following revelation came through the stone: 'Some revelations are of God: some revelations are of men: and some revelations are of the devil.' "

[David Whitmer, *An Address to All Believers in Christ*, 31]



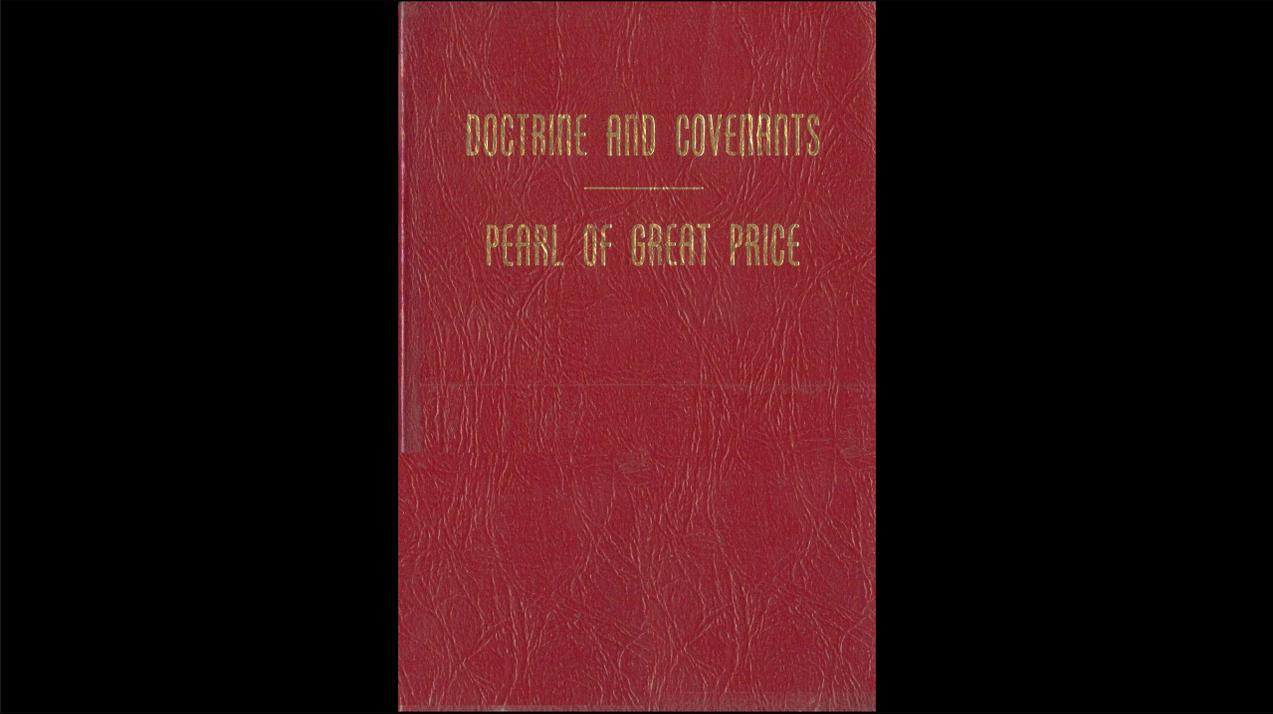
David Whitmer
(1805-1888)



*False prophecy about selling the copyright of
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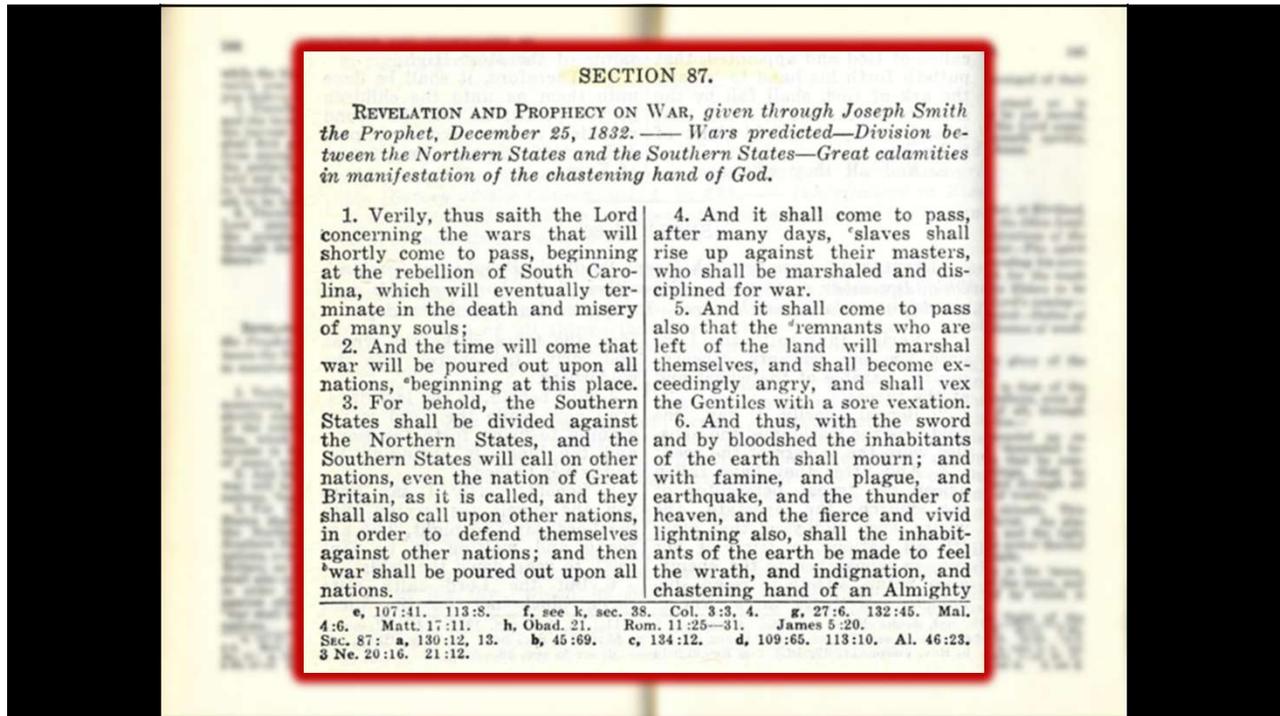
False prophecy about the coming of the Lord

False prophecy about the Civil War



DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS

PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

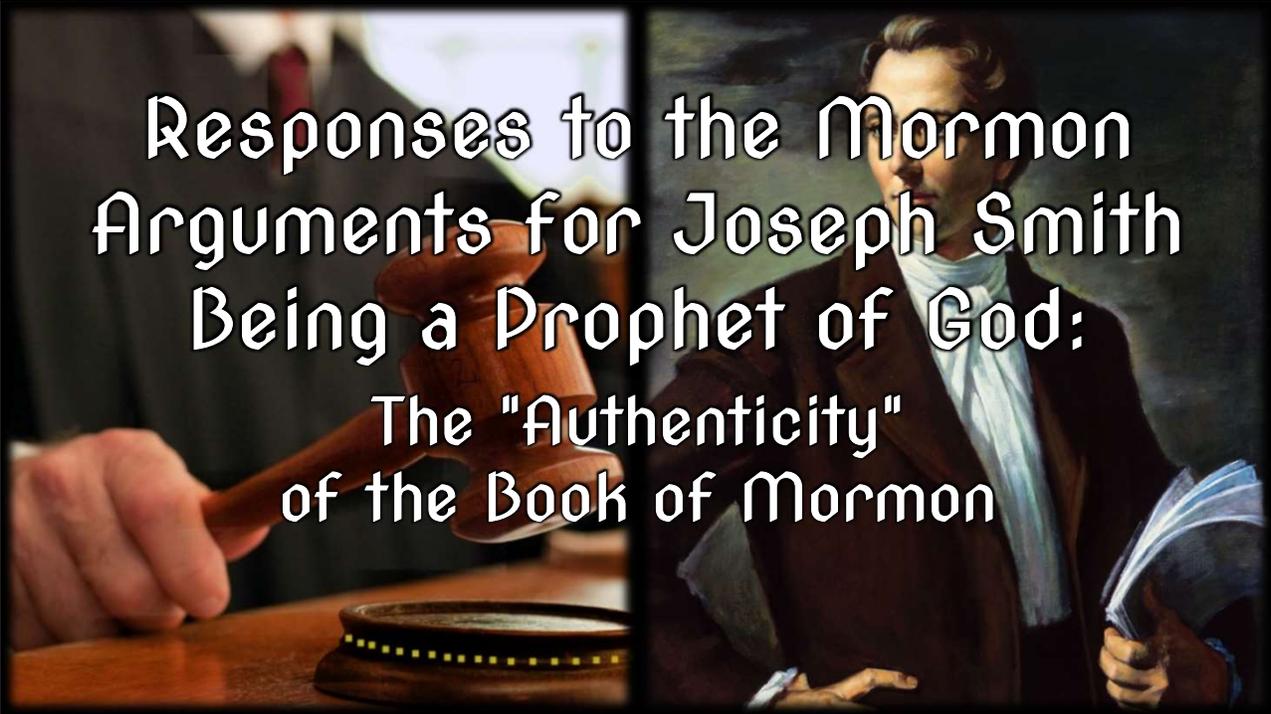


False prophecy about selling the copyright of the Book of Mormon in Canada

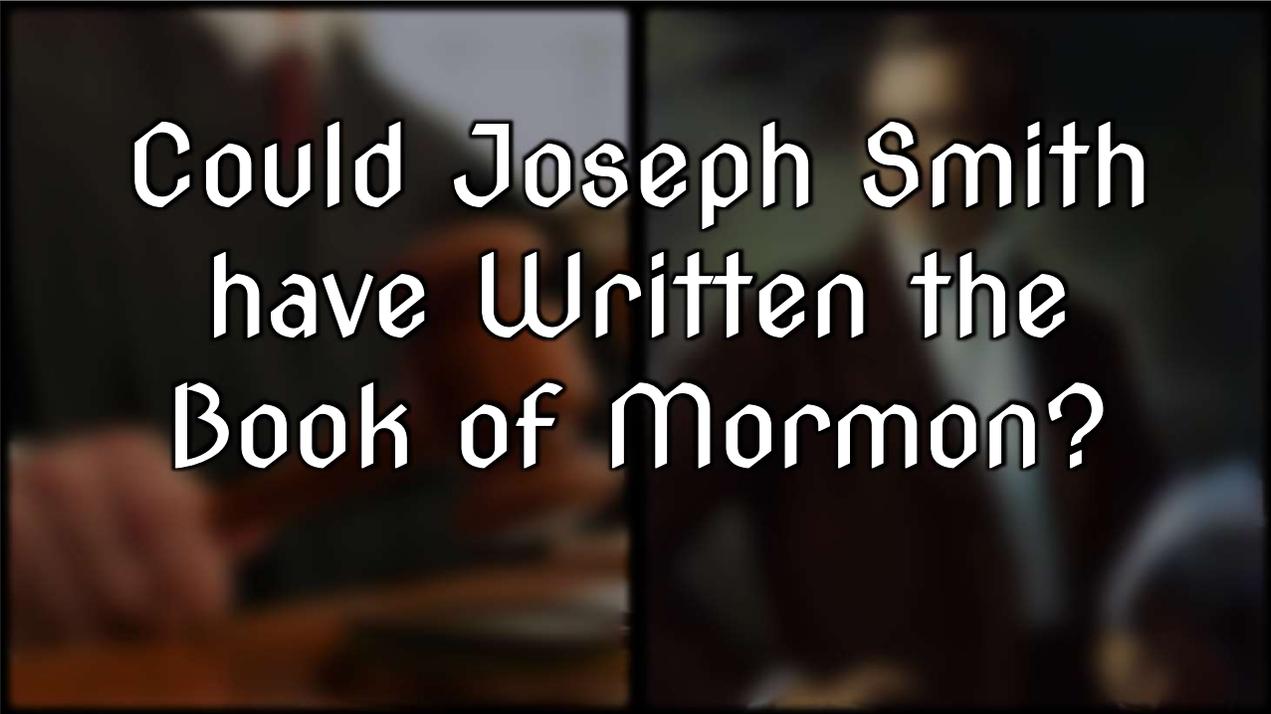
False prophecy about the coming of the Lord

False prophecy about the Civil War

False prophecies testified to by David Whitmer.



Responses to the Mormon
Arguments for Joseph Smith
Being a Prophet of God:
The "Authenticity"
of the Book of Mormon



Could Joseph Smith
have Written the
Book of Mormon?

Mormons claim that Joseph Smith lacked the education and access to information to be able to fabricate a work of the caliber of the Book of Mormon.

Responses from Mormonthink.com

1. *First, the translation of the Book of Mormon did not take place in less than three months; it spanned a time period of over a year and Joseph may have been working on the text for years before the date reported as when he started.⁴*
2. *Second, the "most correct of any book on earth" has undergone more than 3,000 textual and grammatical corrections.⁵ Some of these corrections included significant changes in doctrine.*
3. *Third, a large portion of the Book of Mormon simply quotes the Bible, including translation errors unique to the King James Version.*

4. <http://www.mormonthink.com/josephweb.htm#ref4> "Coming Forth of the Book of Mormon and the Restoration of the Priesthood," Church History in the Fulness of Times Student Manual, (2003), p52-66, accessed 05/16/22.

5. <http://www.mormonthink.com/josephweb.htm#ref5> "Understanding Textual changes in the Book of Mormon," by George Horton, Ensign December 1983, accessed 05/16/22.

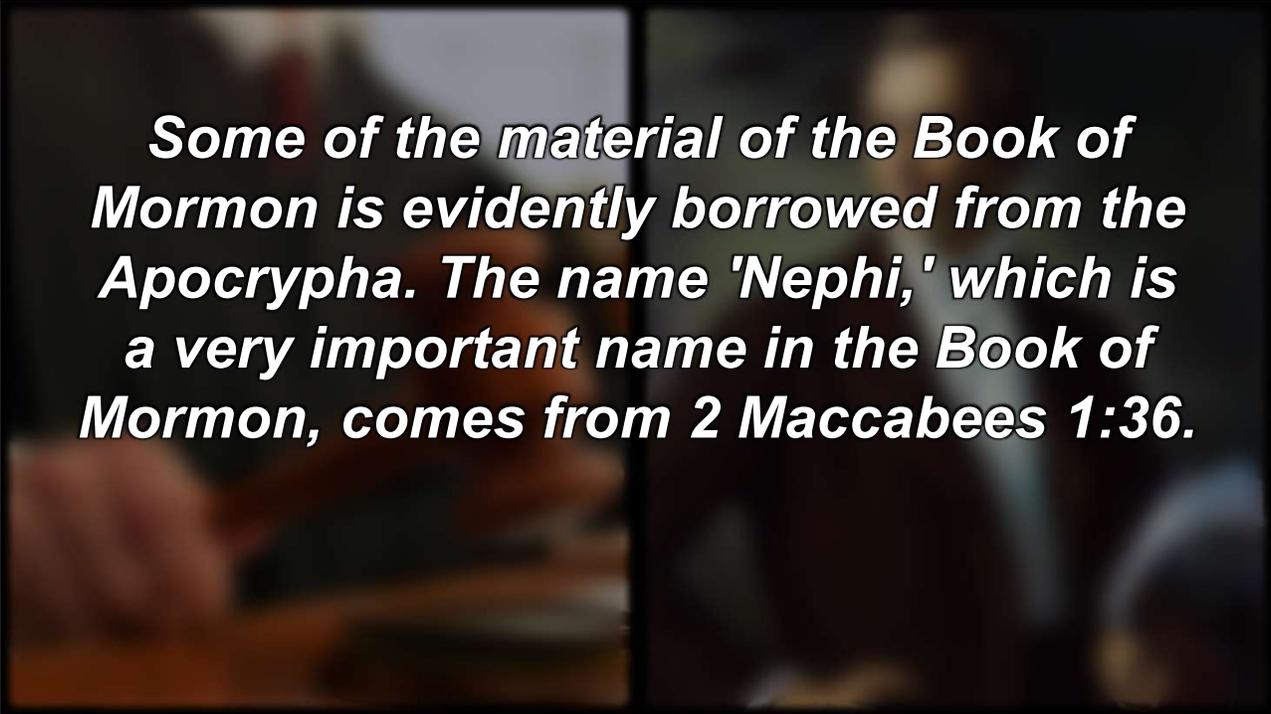
Responses from Mormonthink.com

4. *Fourth, stories in the Book of Mormon directly parallel stories from Joseph's life, such as his father's dream of the tree of life when Joseph was five years old.⁶*
5. *Fifth, the Book of Mormon is no more complicated than other works of fiction, such as Tolkien's Lord of the Rings and related works. Finally, the ideas in the Book of Mormon bear strong parallels to ideas popular in New England at the time and several other books.*
6. *Sixth, Joseph may have had help.*

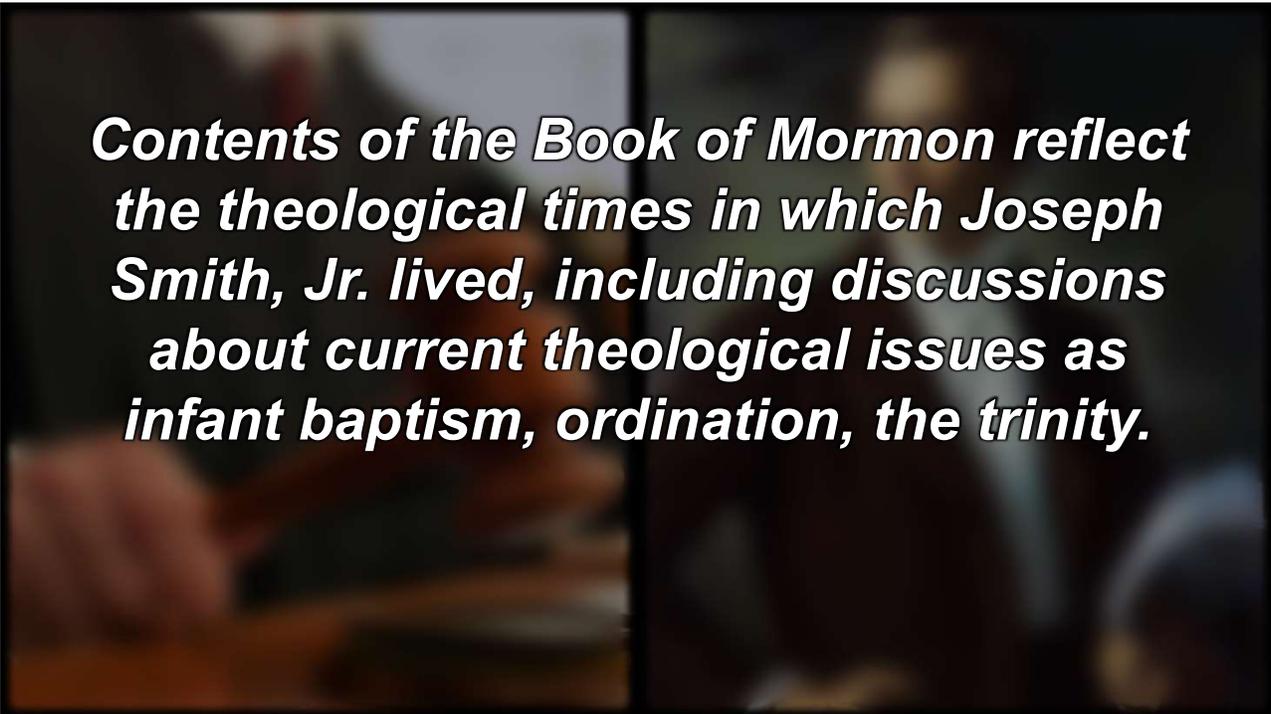
<http://www.mormonthink.com/josephweb.htm>

[6] <http://www.mormonthink.com/josephweb.htm#ref6> "Parents of the Prophet," Chapter Two: Joseph Smith's New England Heritage, Church History In The Fulness Of Times Student Manual, (2003), 15–27, accessed 05/16/22.

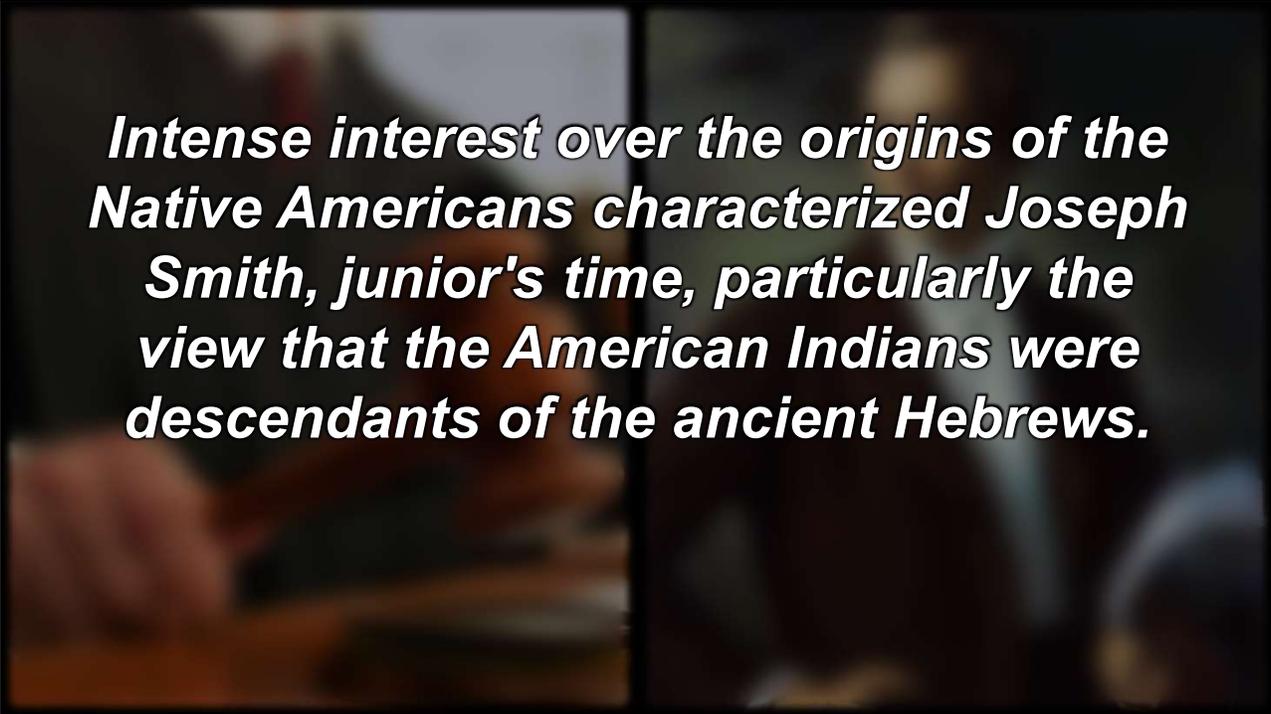
***Others in Joseph Smith, Junior's day
did similar works.***



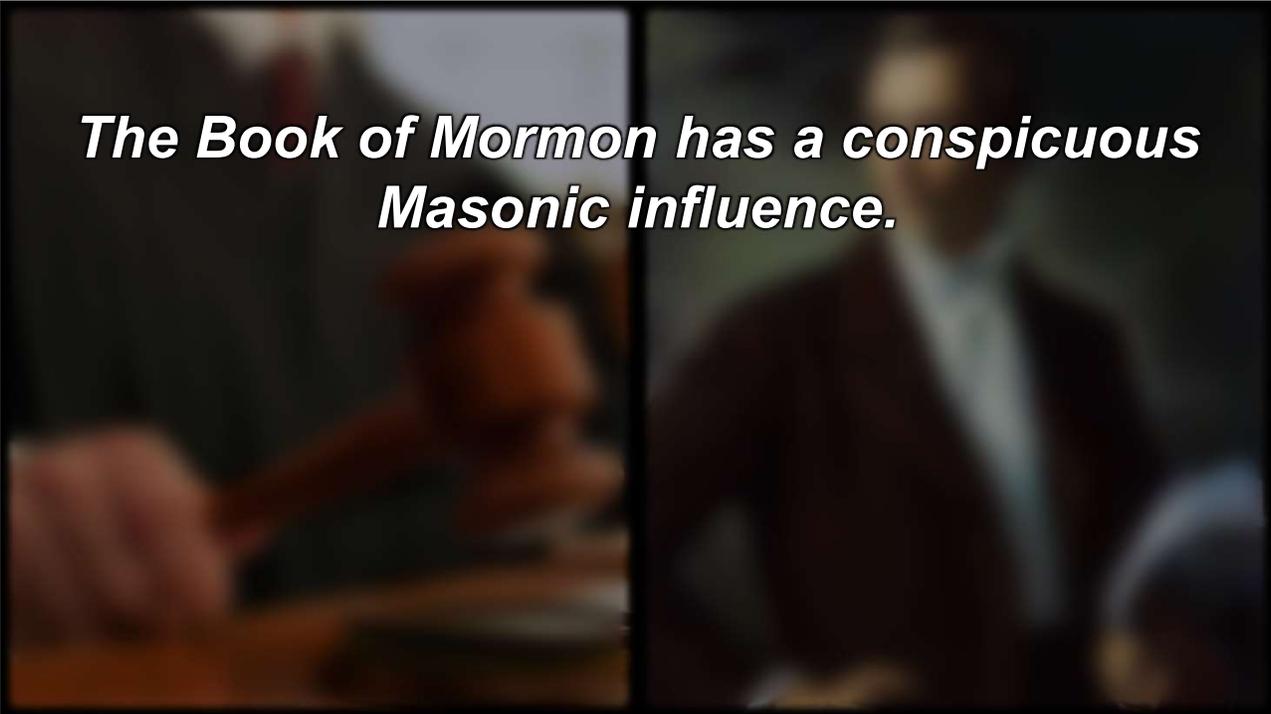
Some of the material of the Book of Mormon is evidently borrowed from the Apocrypha. The name 'Nephi,' which is a very important name in the Book of Mormon, comes from 2 Maccabees 1:36.



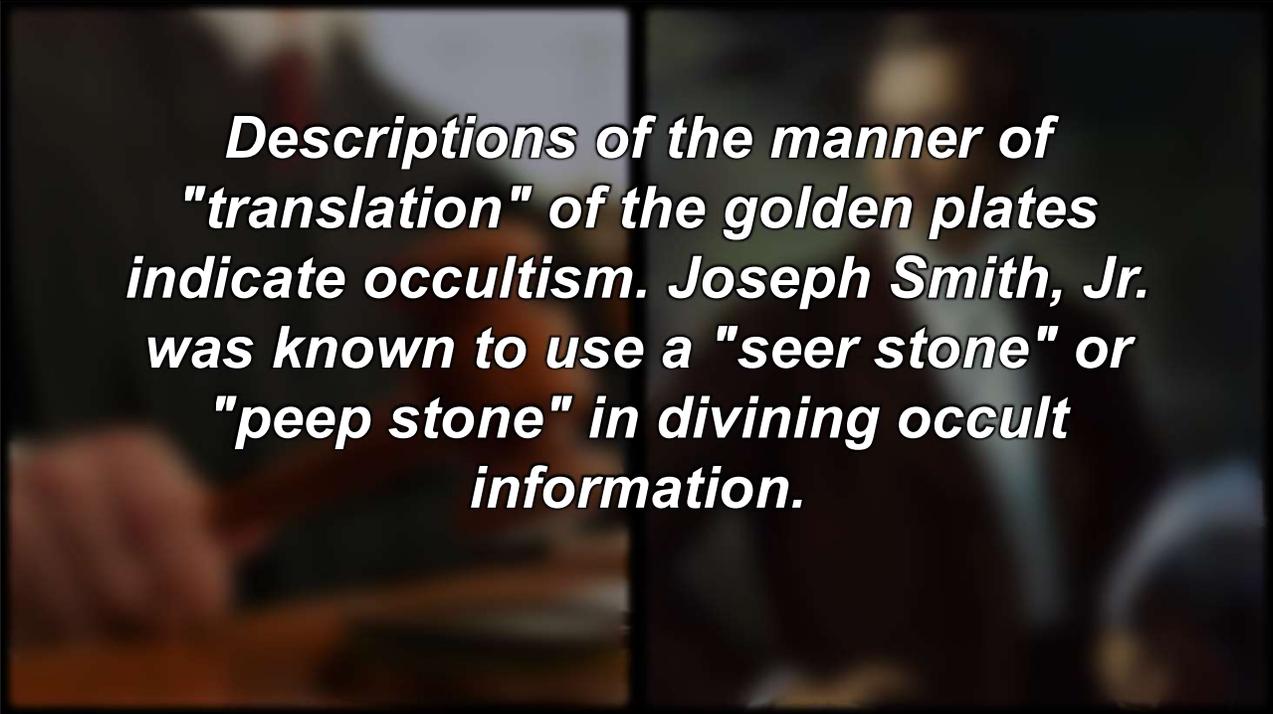
Contents of the Book of Mormon reflect the theological times in which Joseph Smith, Jr. lived, including discussions about current theological issues as infant baptism, ordination, the trinity.



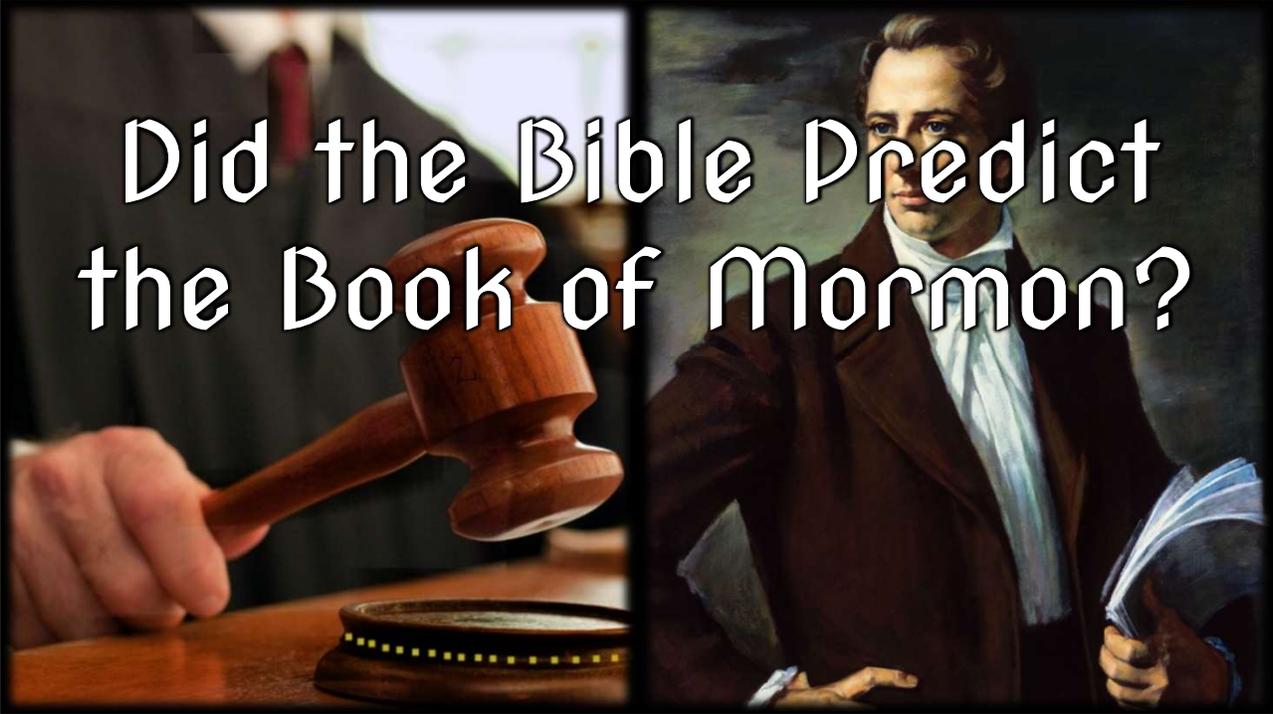
Intense interest over the origins of the Native Americans characterized Joseph Smith, junior's time, particularly the view that the American Indians were descendants of the ancient Hebrews.



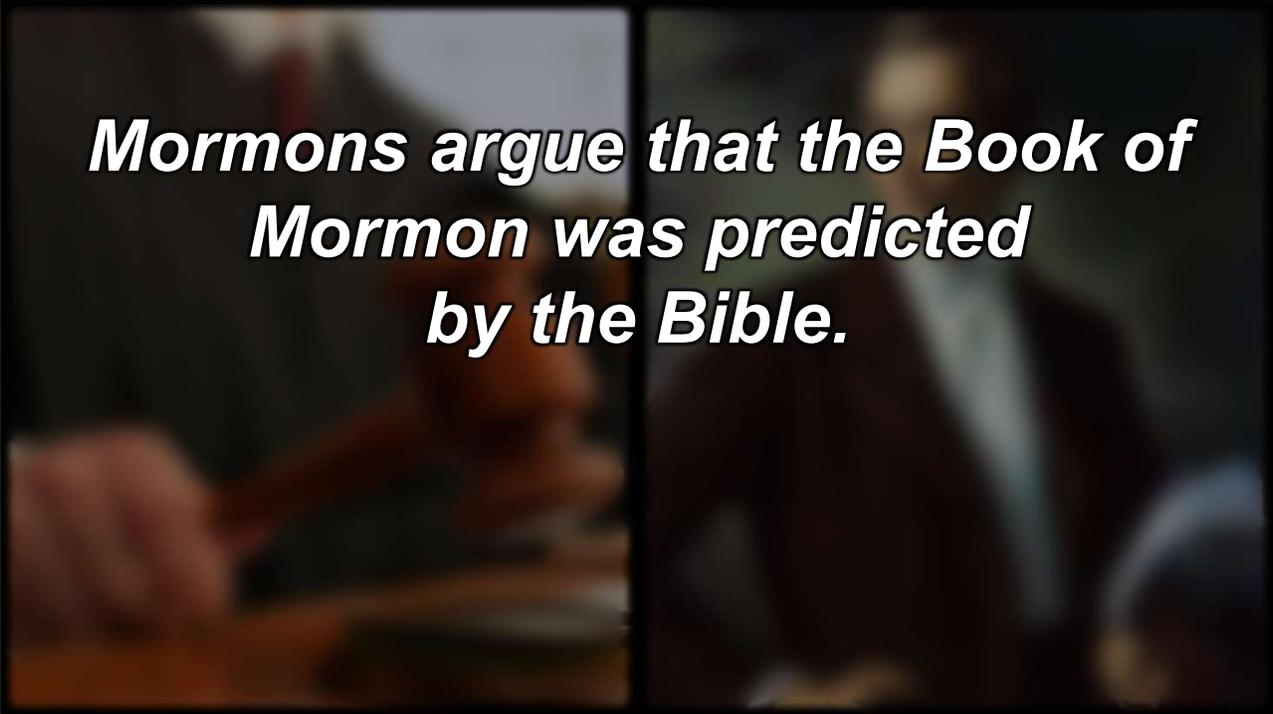
The Book of Mormon has a conspicuous Masonic influence.



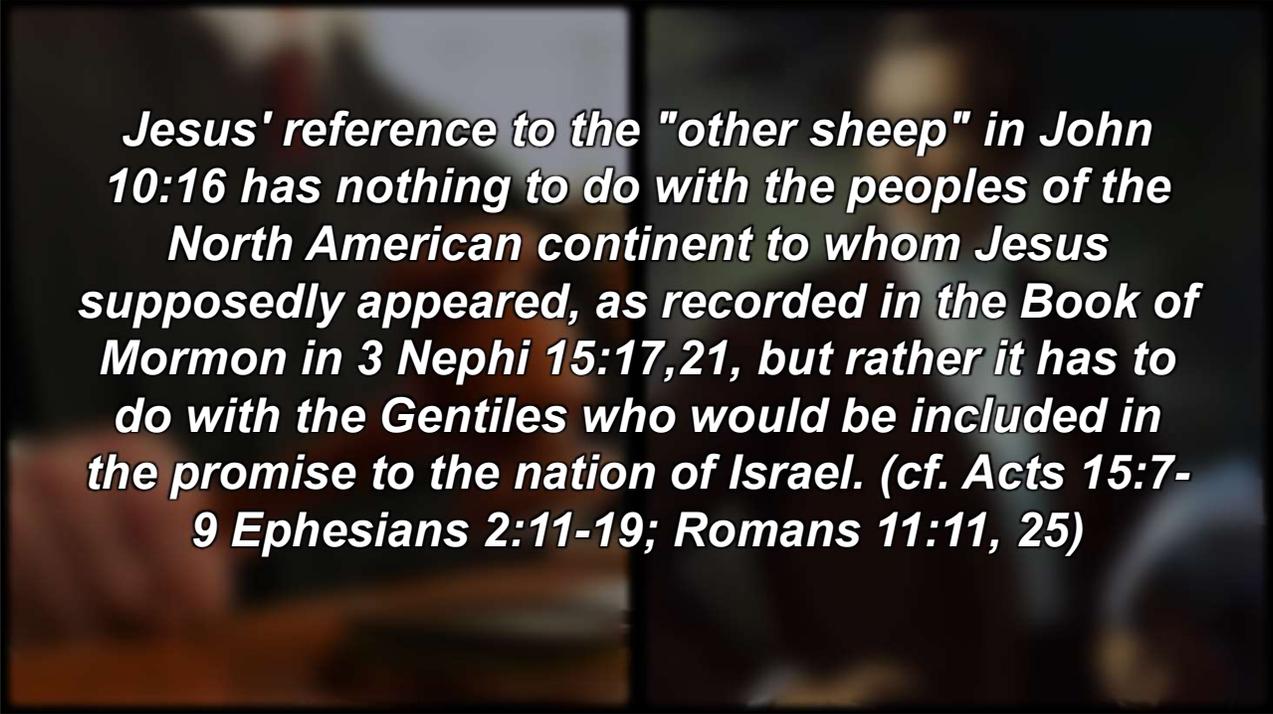
Descriptions of the manner of "translation" of the golden plates indicate occultism. Joseph Smith, Jr. was known to use a "seer stone" or "peep stone" in divining occult information.



Did the Bible Predict
the Book of Mormon?



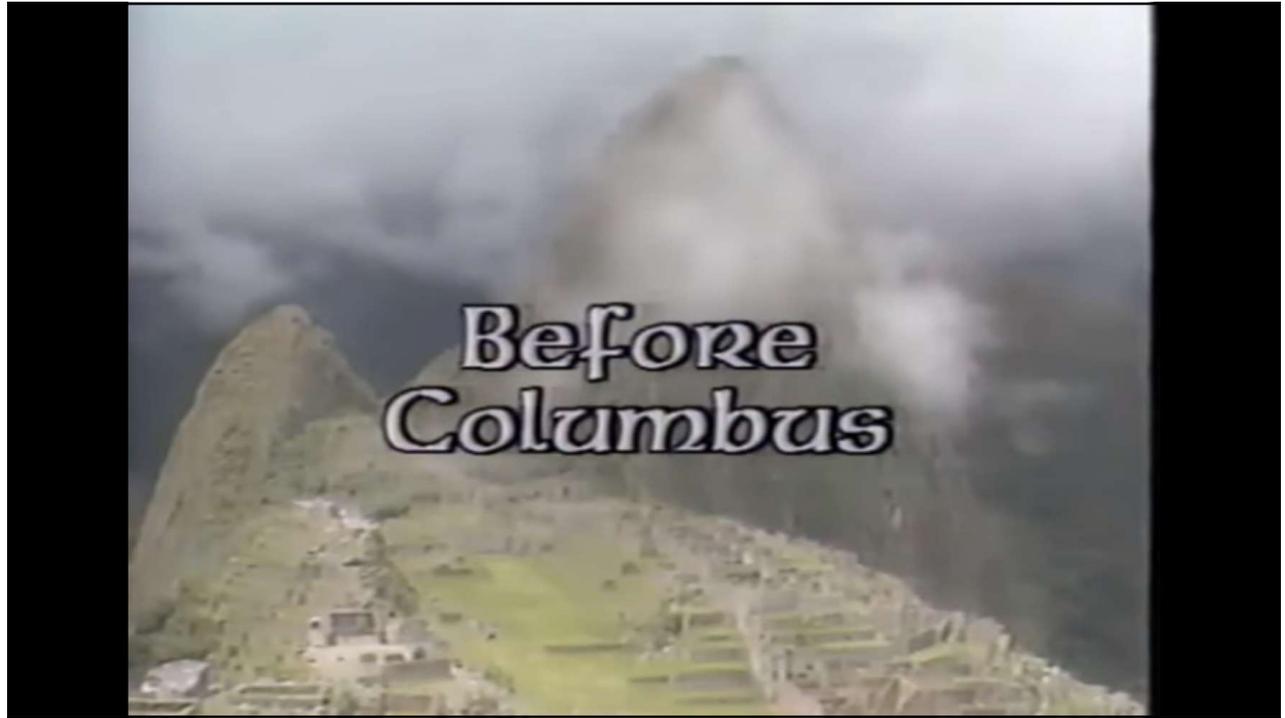
Mormons argue that the Book of Mormon was predicted by the Bible.



Jesus' reference to the "other sheep" in John 10:16 has nothing to do with the peoples of the North American continent to whom Jesus supposedly appeared, as recorded in the Book of Mormon in 3 Nephi 15:17,21, but rather it has to do with the Gentiles who would be included in the promise to the nation of Israel. (cf. Acts 15:7-9 Ephesians 2:11-19; Romans 11:11, 25)

The "stick of Judah" and the "stick of Joseph" (Ezekiel 37:15-22) has nothing to do with the Bible and the Book of Mormon. The context of these verses clearly indicates that this was a promise of God to reunite the divided kingdom of Israel into one nation.

**Does Archeology
Confirm the
Book of Mormon?**



Archeological evidence militates against the authenticity of the Book of Mormon as is evidenced by the document from the Smithsonian Institution.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

Your recent inquiry concerning the Book of Mormon has been received in the Smithsonian Department of Anthropology.

The Book of Mormon is a religious document and not a scientific guide. The Smithsonian Institution does not use it in any way in archeological research. Because the Smithsonian Institution receives many inquiries in this regard and in connection with Mormon statements about the origin and relationships of the American Indian, we have prepared a "Statement Regarding the Book of Mormon," a copy of which is enclosed for your information.

Department of Anthropology

Enclosure

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
Office of Anthropology
Washington, D.C. 20560

STATEMENT REGARDING THE BOOK OF MORMON

The Smithsonian Institution has received hundreds of inquiries in recent years regarding the use of the Book of Mormon as a guide to archeological researches. Answers to questions most commonly asked are as follows:

1. The Smithsonian Institution has never used the Book of Mormon in any way as a scientific guide. Smithsonian archeologists see no connection between the archeology of the New World and the subject matter of the Book.
2. The physical type of the American Indian is basically Mongoloid, being most closely related to that of the peoples of eastern, central, and northern Asia. Archeological evidence indicates that the ancestors of the present Indians came into the New World—probably over a land bridge known to have existed in the Bering Strait region during the Last Ice Age—in a continuing series of small migrations beginning about 30,000 years ago.
3. Present evidence indicates that the first people to reach this continent from the East were the Norsemen who arrived in the northeastern part of North America around A.D. 1000. There is nothing to show that they reached Mexico or Central America.
4. There is increasing evidence of the spread of cultural traits to Mesoamerica and the northwestern coast of South America across the Pacific, beginning several thousand years before the Christian era. However, these appear to be the result of accidental voyages originating in eastern and southern Asia and show no relationship to ancient Egyptian or Hebrew cultures.
5. We know of no authentic cases of ancient Egyptian or Hebrew writing having been found in the New World. Reports of findings of Egyptian influence in the Mexican and Central American areas have been published in newspapers and magazines from time to time, but thus far no reputable Egyptologist has been able to discover any relationship between Mexican remains and those in Egypt.
6. There are two copies of the Book of Mormon (and part of a third copy) in the United States National Museum, and another copy

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
Office of Anthropology
Washington, D.C. 20560

STATEMENT REGARDING THE BOOK OF MORMON

The Smithsonian Institution has received hundreds of inquiries in recent years regarding the use of the Book of Mormon as a guide to archeological researches. Answers to questions most commonly asked are as follows:

1. The Smithsonian Institution has never used the Book of Mormon in any way as a scientific guide. Smithsonian archeologists see no connection between the archeology of the New World and the subject matter of the Book.
2. The physical type of the American Indian is basically Mongoloid, being most closely related to that of the peoples of eastern, central, and northeastern Asia. Archeological evidence indicates that the ancestors of the present Indians came into the New World--probably over a land bridge known to have existed in the Bering Strait region during the last Ice Age--in a continuing series of small migrations beginning about 30,000 years ago.
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was sent by the Smithsonian library to the Library of Congress for deposit. Two of these were gift copies, and one was received by transfer from another government agency. One or two members of the staff have personal copies that were presented to them by Mormons.

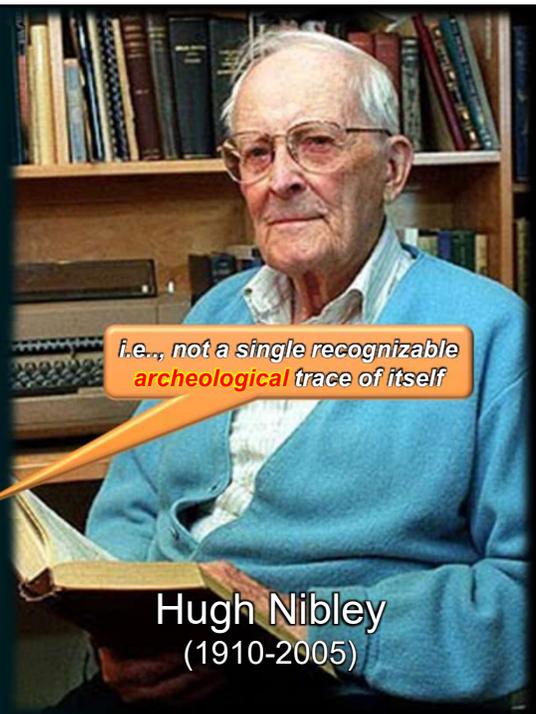
Suggested Reading

- Coe, Michael D.
1962. Mexico. 245 pp., 75 pls., 32 figs., 8 maps, 1 table. Frederick A. Praeger, New York (Ancient Peoples and Places Series, vol. 29). (A well-written and authoritative summary of Mexican archeology.)
- Jennings, Jesse D., and Norbeck, Edward.
1963. Prehistoric Man in the New World. 633 pp., illus. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. (The most recent and thorough survey of New World archeology, written by leading American archeologists.)
- Ferguson, Thomas S.
1958. One Fold and One Shepherd. 408 pp., illus. Books of California, San Francisco. (A book presenting the Mormon point of view.)
- Hunter, Milton R., and Ferguson, Thomas S.
1959. Ancient America and the Book of Mormon. 450 pp., 53 figs., Kolob Book Co., Oakland, California. (Another book presenting the Mormon point of view.)
- MacGowan, Kenneth, and Hester, Joseph A., Jr.
1962. Early Man in the New World. Rev. ed. 333 pp., illus. Anchor Books, Doubleday & Co., Garden City, New Jersey. (The Natural History Library). (Good general reading; also provides some Old World background.)
- Morley, Sylvanus G.
1956. The ancient Maya. 494 pp., 102 pls., 57 figs. (3rd ed., rev. by George W. Brainerd.) Stanford University Press, Stanford, California (Maya history: origin of their civilization, its rise, first florescence, first decline, renaissance and final decline, Spanish conquest.)
- Thompson, J. Eric.
1954. The rise and fall of Maya civilization. 287 pp., 24 pls., 20 figs., map. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. (An important account of Maya civilization based upon archeological discoveries.)

That there is no archeological evidence supporting the Book of Mormon is frankly admitted by some Mormon archeologists.

*"We should not be surprised at the lack of ruins in America in general. Actually the scarcity of identifiable remains in the Old World is even more impressive. In view of the nature of their civilization one should not be puzzled if **the Nephites had left us no ruins at all**. People underestimate the capacity of things to disappear, and do not realize that the ancients almost never built of stone. Many a great civilization which has left a notable mark in history and literature has left behind **not a single recognizable trace of itself**. We must stop looking for the wrong things."*

[http://www.achoiceand.com/book_of_mormon_geography/Archeology.pdf (accessed 05/16/22)]

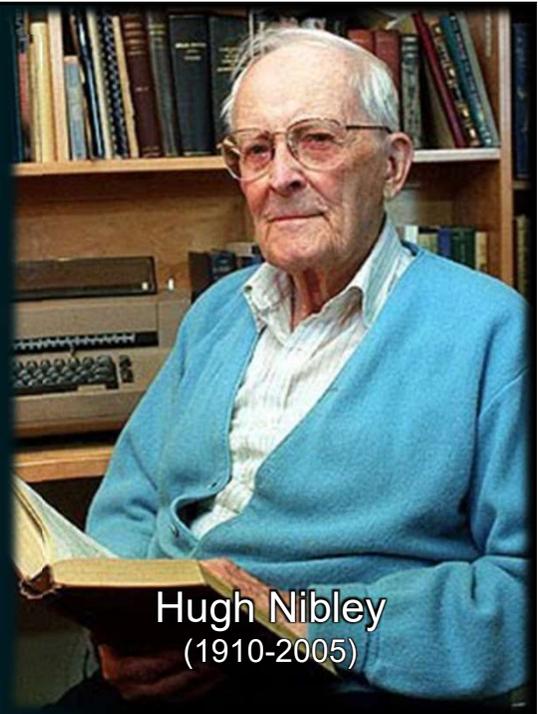


i.e., not a single recognizable archeological trace of itself

Hugh Nibley
(1910-2005)

"There is certainly no shortage of ruins on this continent, but until some one object has been definitely identified as either Nephite or Jaredite it is dangerous to start drawing any conclusions. ... The search must go on, but conclusions should wait.

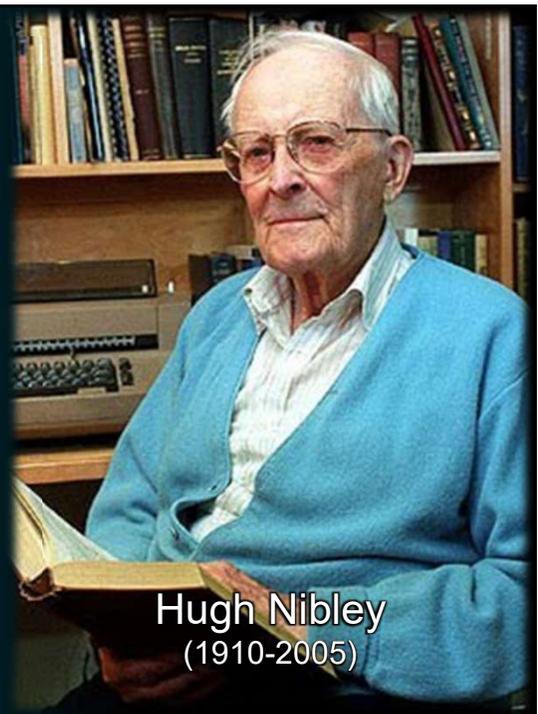
[http://www.achoiceiland.com/book_of_mormon_geography/Archeology.pdf (accessed 04/28/22)]



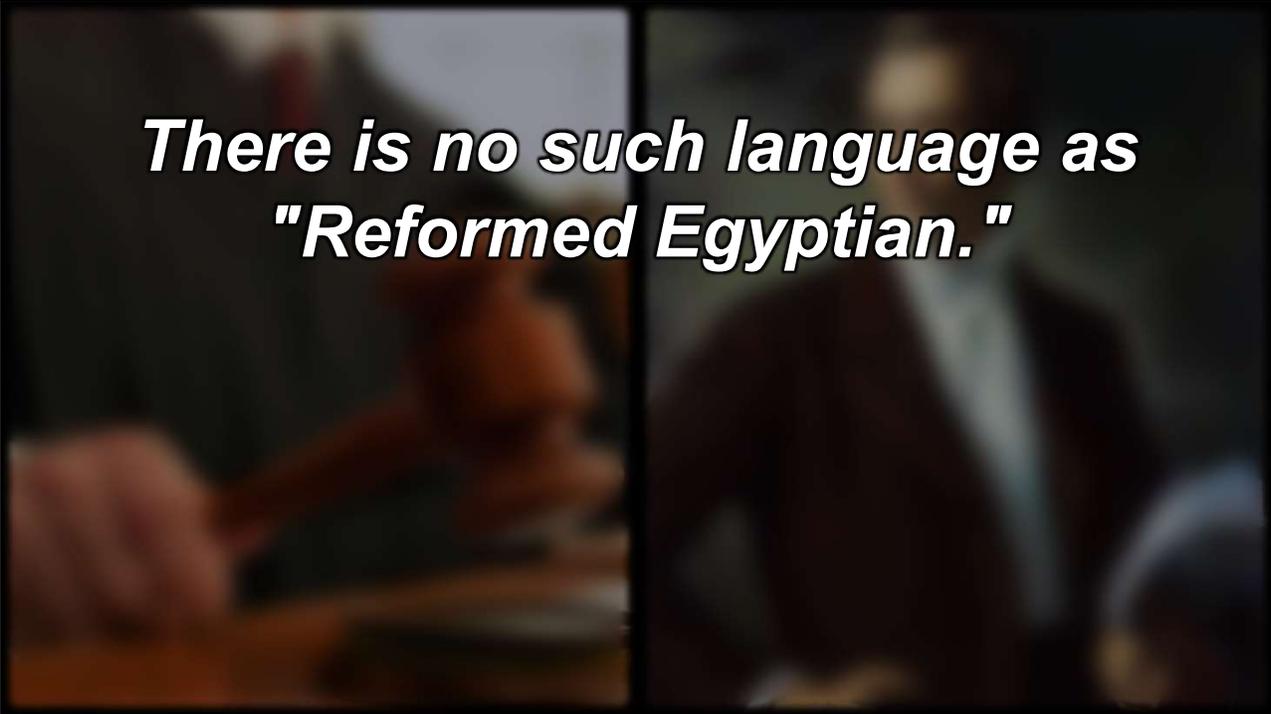
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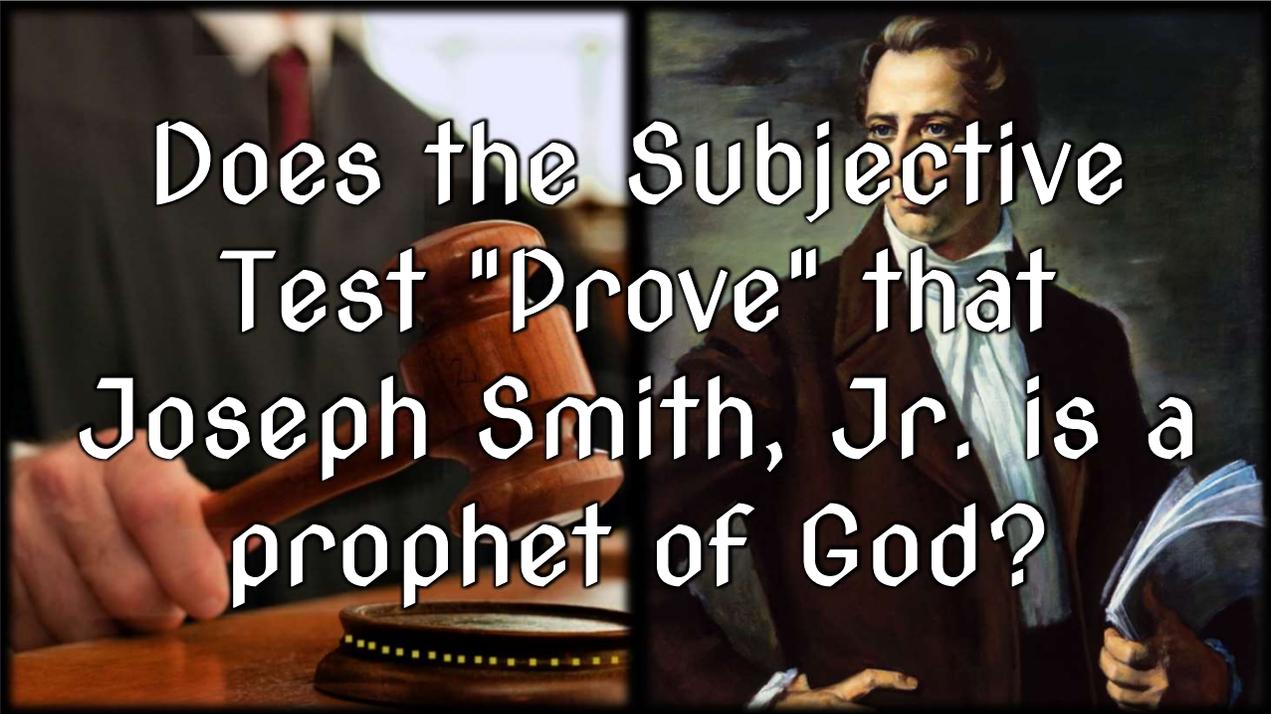
[http://www.achoiceiland.com/book_of_mormon_geography/Archeology.pdf (accessed 05/16/22)]



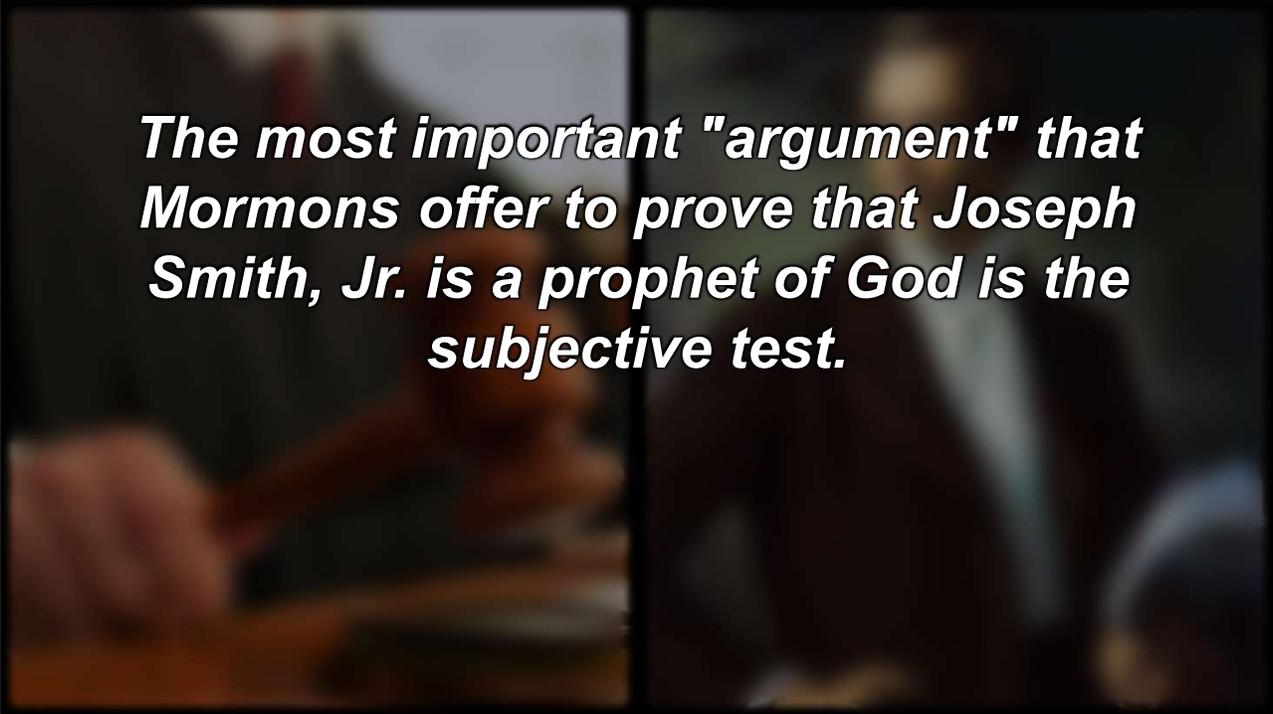
Hugh Nibley
(1910-2005)



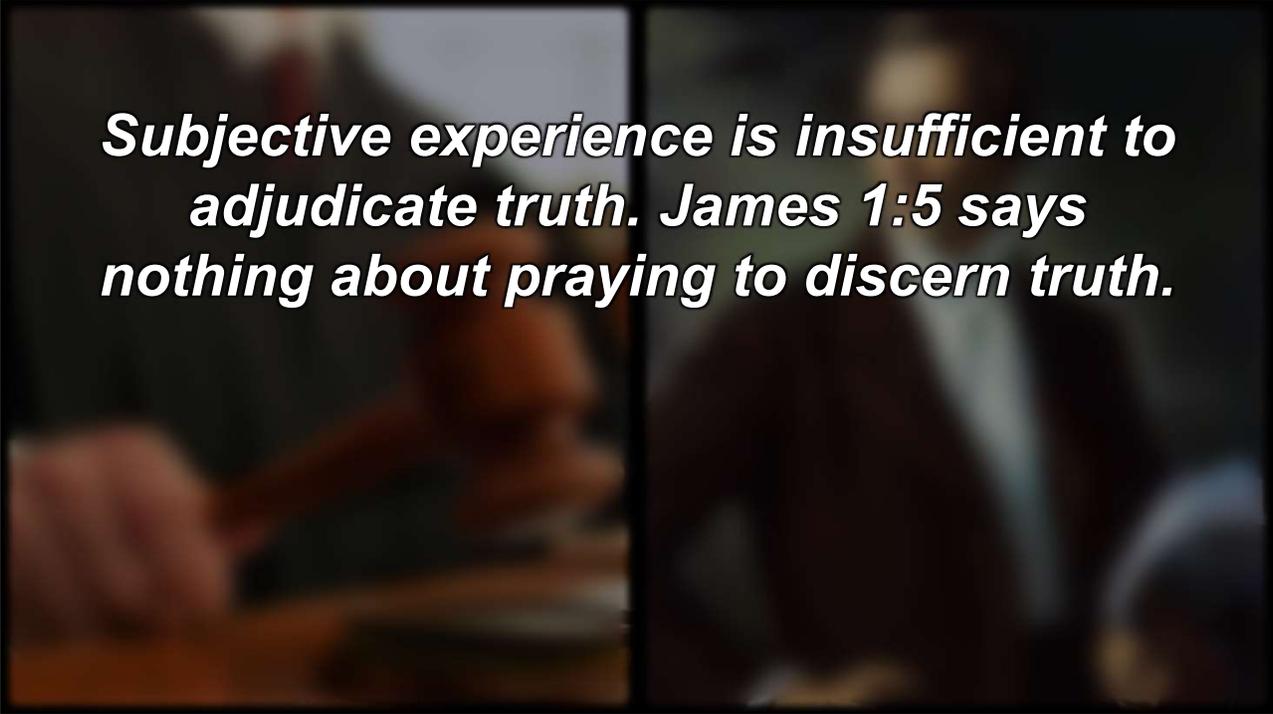
*There is no such language as
"Reformed Egyptian."*



Does the Subjective
Test "Prove" that
Joseph Smith, Jr. is a
prophet of God?

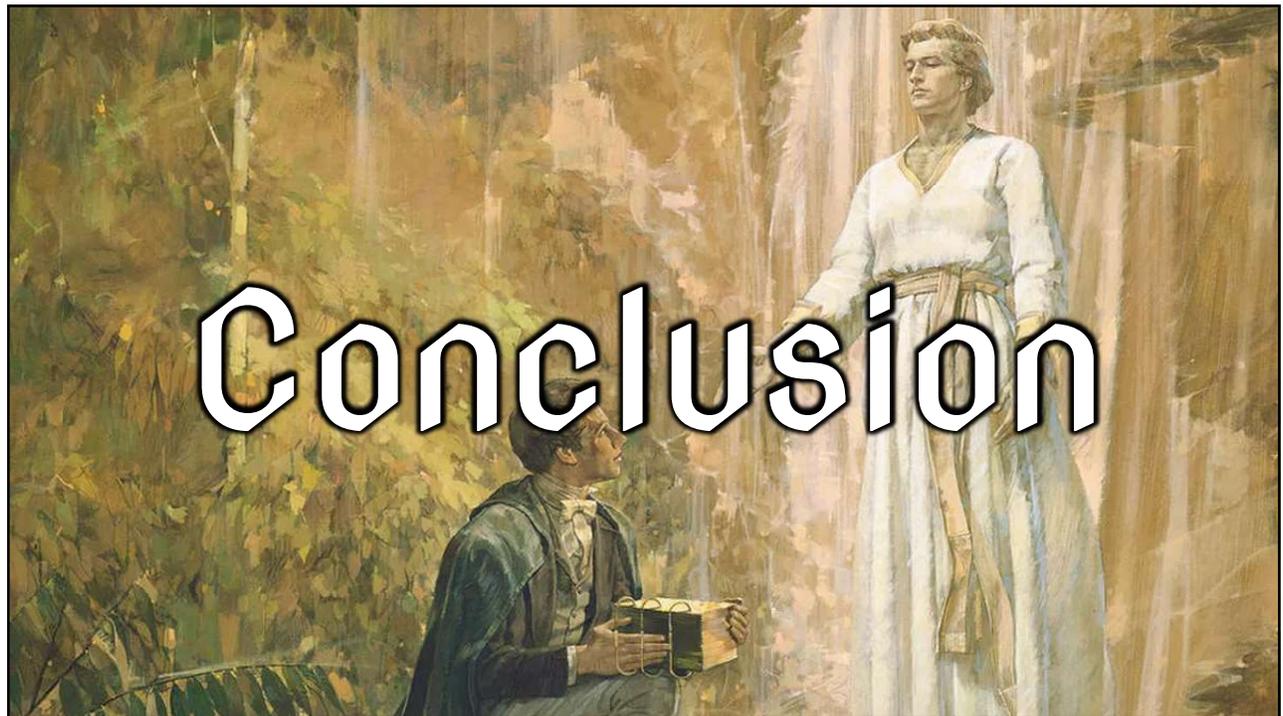


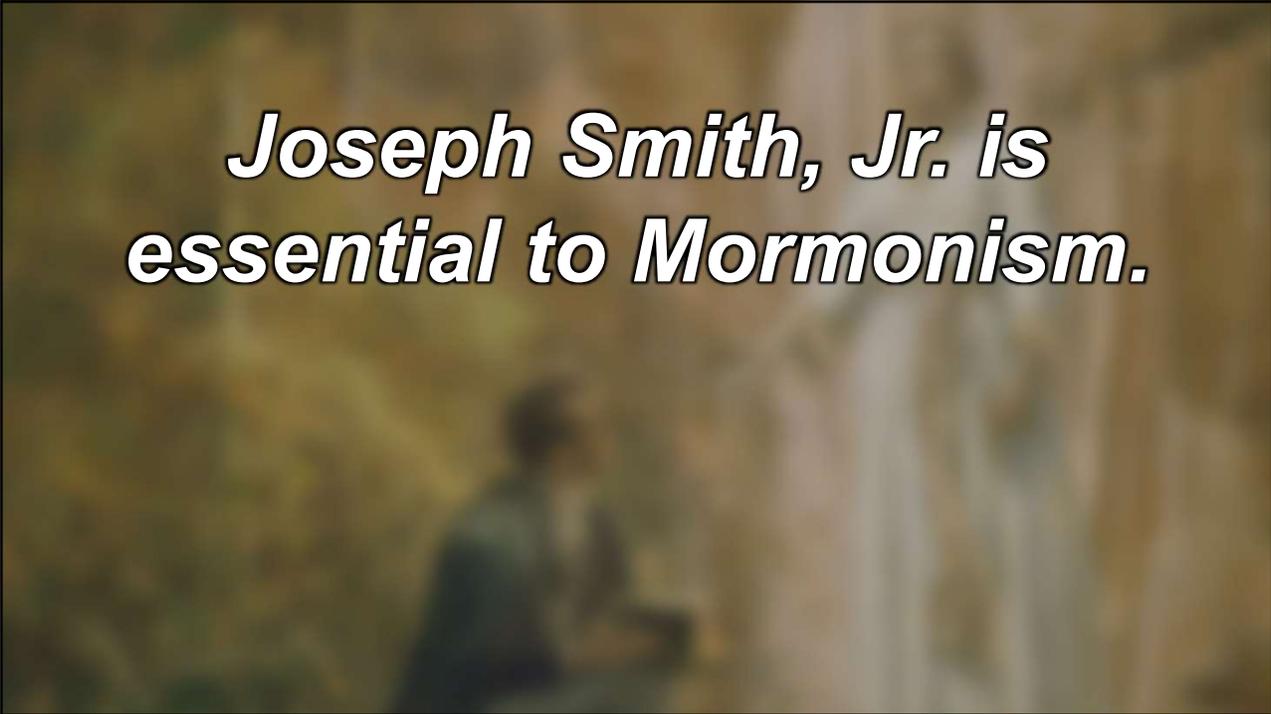
The most important "argument" that Mormons offer to prove that Joseph Smith, Jr. is a prophet of God is the subjective test.



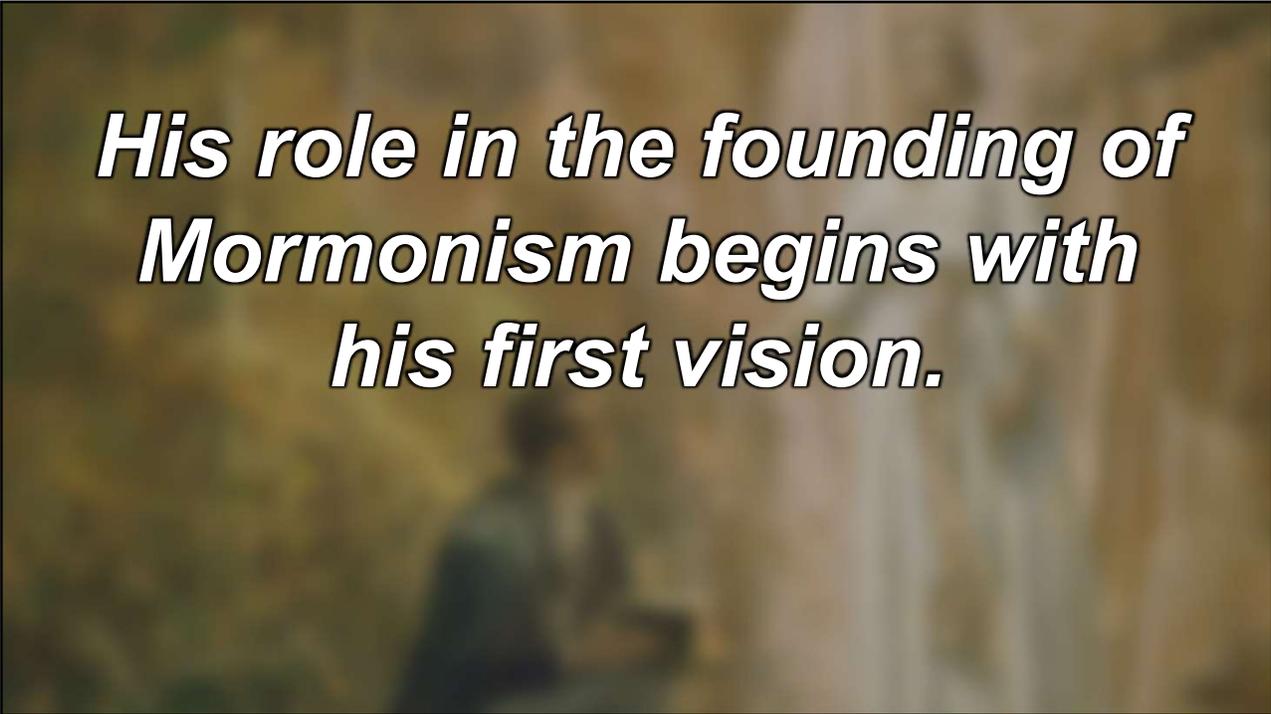
Subjective experience is insufficient to adjudicate truth. James 1:5 says nothing about praying to discern truth.

As argued above, the proper tests of a prophet of God have to do with his doctrine and predictions.





***Joseph Smith, Jr. is
essential to Mormonism.***



***His role in the founding of
Mormonism begins with
his first vision.***

Mormons defend that Joseph Smith, Jr. is a prophet of God by arguing for the authenticity of the Book of Mormon.

Joseph Smith, Jr. fails the tests for being a prophet of God.