



Emma as Scribe by Robert T. Pack

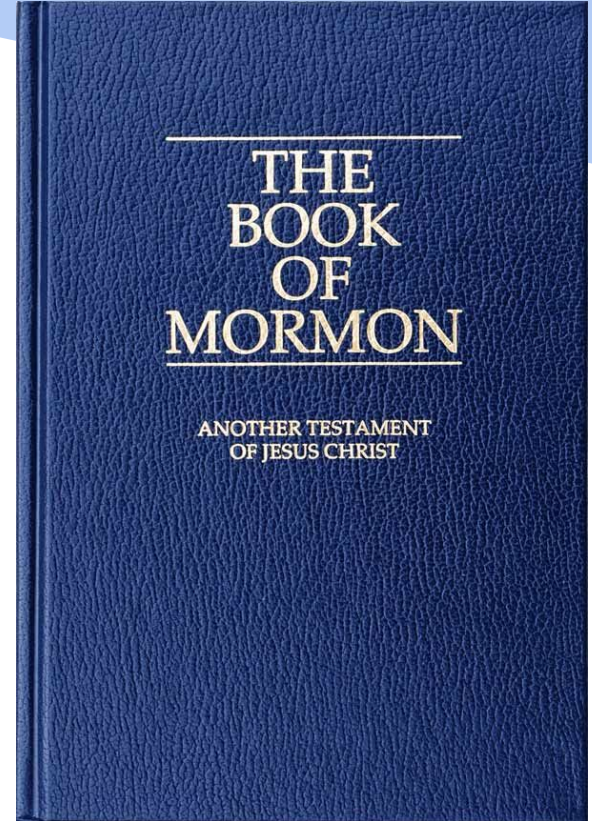
Come, Follow Me

Introductory Pages of the Book of Mormon

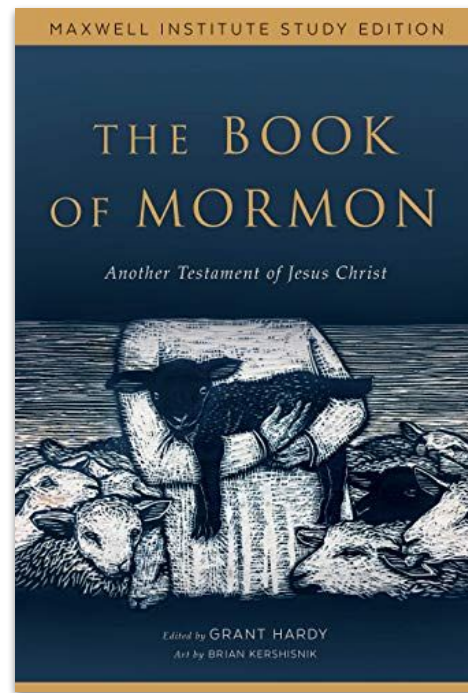
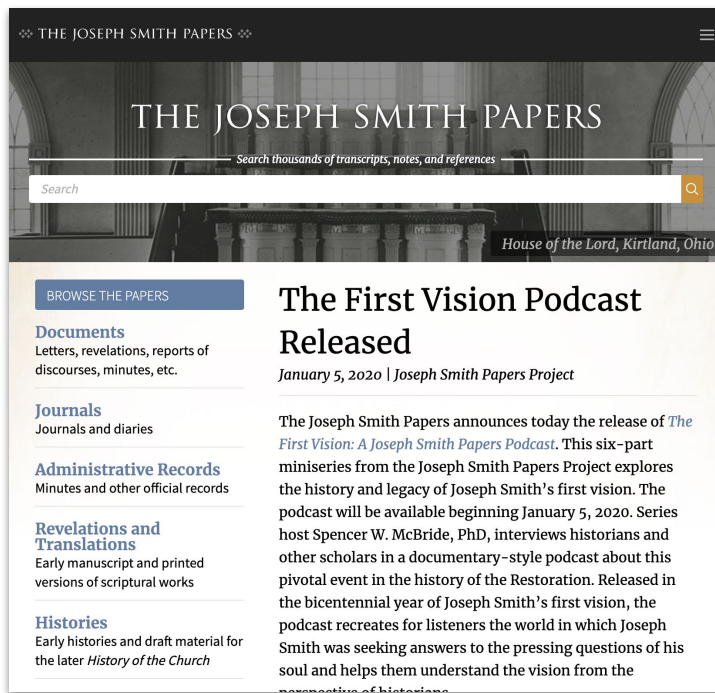
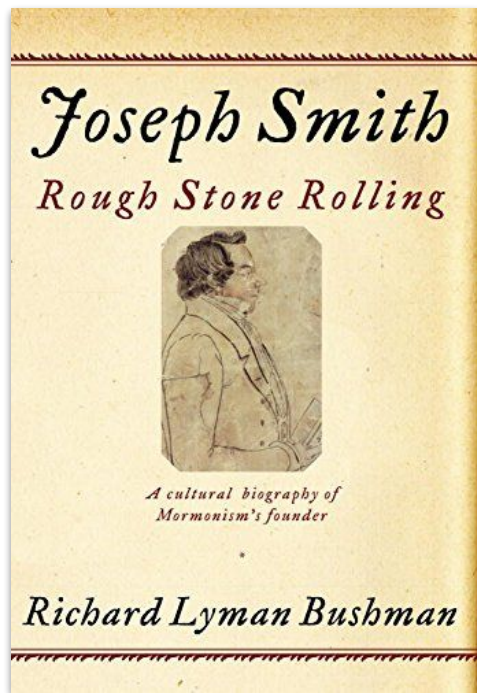
Presentation prepared by Caleb Jones

Overview

- Origins of Book of Mormon
- Title Page
- Eight Witnesses
- Three Witnesses
- Emma Smith's Witness
- Joseph Smith's Witness



New Resources

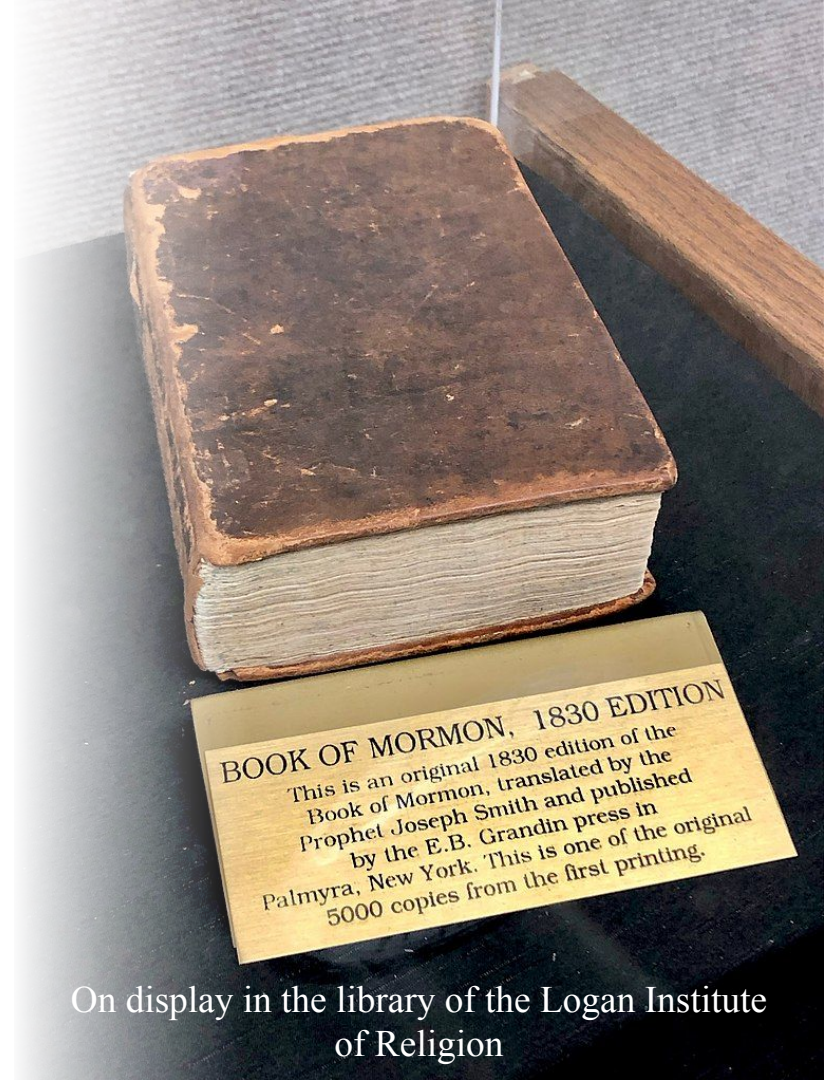
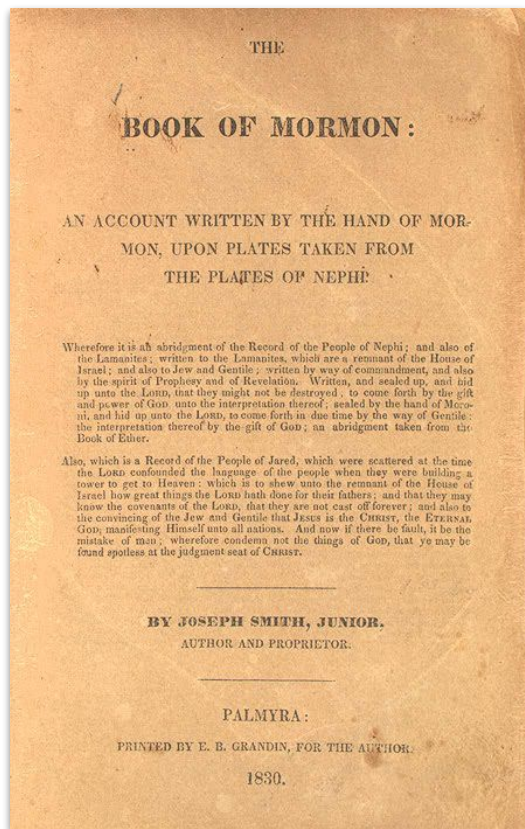




“Joseph’s wife Emma explained that she ‘frequently wrote day after day’ at a small table in their house in Harmony, Pennsylvania. She described Joseph ‘sitting with his face buried in his hat, with the stone in it, and dictating hour after hour with nothing between us.’ According to Emma, the plates ‘often lay on the table without any attempt at concealment, wrapped in a small linen table cloth.’” (Source: Book of Mormon Translation - Gospel Topic Essay)

The Book of Mormon is a account written by the hand
of Mormon upon plates taken from the plates of Nephi whereof it is an abridg-
ment of the record of the People of Nephi & also of the Lamanites written to the Lamanites
which are a remnant of the house of Israel & also to Jew & Gentile written by way of
commandment & also by the spirit of Prophecy & of revelations written & sealed up
which up unto the Lord that they might not be destraid to come forth by the gift &
power of God unto the interpretation thereof sealed by the hand of Moroni & sealed
up unto the Lord to come forth in due time by the way of Gentile the interpretation taken
by the gift of God an abridgment taken from the Book of Ether also which is a re-
cord of the People of Jared which were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the lan-
guage of the People when they were building a tower to get to heaven which is to show unto
the remnant of the house of Israel how great things the Lord hath done for their fathers
& that they may know the covenants

1830 Edition of Book of Mormon




Translation Timeline - Events

- **1823** - In September Joseph Smith has vision of angel Moroni in upper room of his home
- **1824-1826** - Joseph sees Moroni each autumn at place where plates rested
- **1827** - Joseph receives plates (September)
- **1827** - Joseph translates some characters (December)
- **1828** - Joseph begins translation with Emma Smith and Martin Harris (April-June)
- **1828** - Martin Harris lost 116 pages (translation stops June - September)
- **1828** - Translation resumes (October)
- **1829** - Translation completes (June)
- **1829** - Oliver Cowdery creates printer's manuscript (August 1829 - January 1830)
- **1830** - Martin Harris mortgages his farm to pay for printing
- **1830** - First edition of Book of Mormon printed



Translation Timeline - Texts

Date	Text
April - June 1828	Book of Lehi (lost), Mosiah ch1-2 (lost), Words of Mormon
October 1828 - March 1829	Mosiah ch3+ (our ch1) 
April 1829	Alma
May 1829	Helaman, 3 Nephi, 4 Nephi, Mormon, Ether, Moroni, Title Page
June 1829	1 Nephi, 2 Nephi, Jacob, Enos, Jarom, Omni

Translation - Seer Stone

“A special stone used for seeing visions and aiding translation. According to a European tradition of folk belief reaching back at least into the middle ages, quartz crystals or other stones could be used to find missing objects or to see other things not visible to the natural eye. This practice accompanied European immigrants to North America and was part of JS’s cultural environment in western New York in the 1820s...”

“Eyewitnesses reported that he also translated using a dark brown seer stone placed in a hat to exclude exterior light and that he used a seer stone for many of his early revelations... In 1830, JS apparently began dictating most of his revelations without the aid of a seer stone.” (Joseph Smith Papers, Glossary - “Seer Stone” - accessed January 2020)

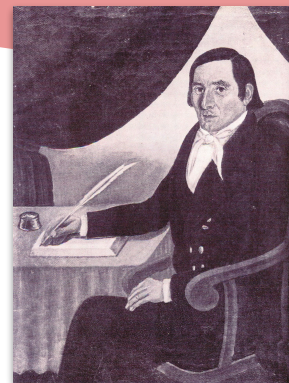


Seer stone associated with Joseph Smith
Photo from Church History Library
(appeared in Oct. 2015 Ensign)

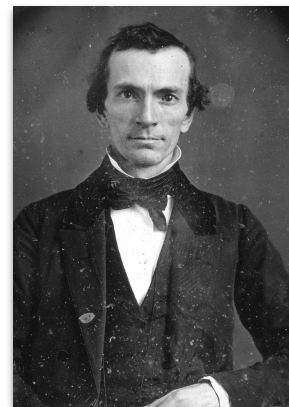
Translation - Methodology

“Now the way he translated was he put the urim and thummim into his hat and Darkened his Eyes then he would take a sentence and it would apper in Brite Roman Letters. Then he would tell the writer and he would write it. Then that would go away the next sentence would Come and so on.” (Joseph Knight Sr.: Reminiscence, 1835–1847)

“These were days never to be forgotten... To sit under the sound of a voice dictated by the inspiration of heaven, awakened the utmost gratitude of this bosom!” (Oliver Cowdery, Latter-day Saints' Messenger and Advocate 1:14, 1834)



Joseph Knight Sr.



Oliver Cowdery

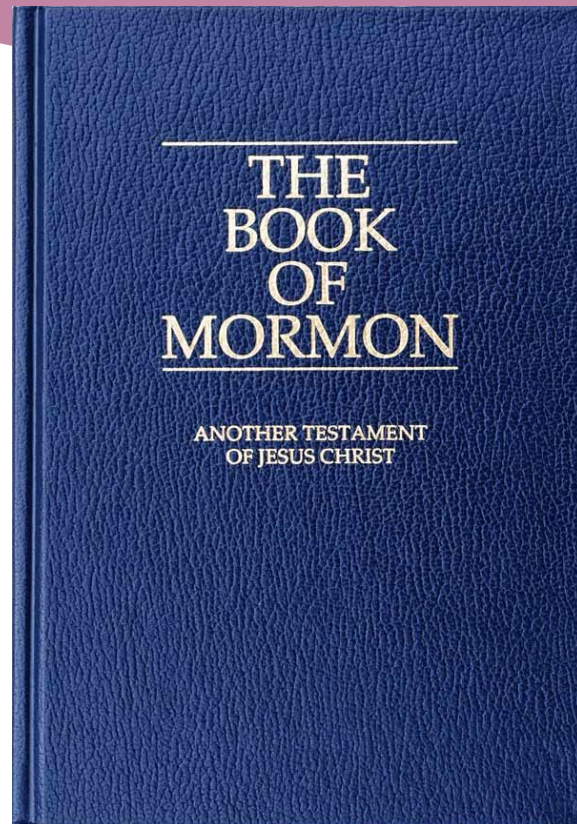
A painting depicting a young woman, Emma, sitting at a wooden table, writing in a book. She is wearing a blue dress with a white apron and a red bow. A young man, Robert, is sitting next to her, looking at a large sheet of paper. He is wearing a white shirt, a brown vest, and a white cravat. The scene is set in a room with a window in the background, a shelf with a blue plate and a white jar, and a broom leaning against the wall. The text "Gift and power of God" is overlaid on the image.

“Gift and power of God”

Emma as Scribe by Robert T. Pack

Introductory Sections of Book of Mormon

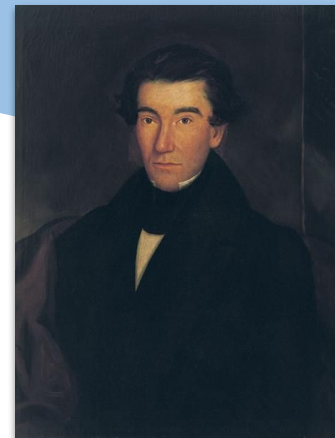
- Title Page
 - Written by Mormon/Moroni (translated by Joseph Smith - May 1829)
- Introduction
 - Church-authored (since 1981 edition)
- Testimony of Three Witnesses
 - (June 28, 1829)
- Testimony of Eight Witnesses
 - (July 2, 1829)
- Testimony of Joseph Smith
 - JS 1838 Personal History (since 1920 edition)
- Brief Explanation about Book of Mormon
 - Church-authored (since 1920 edition)



The Book of Mormon is a account written by the hand
of Mormon upon plates taken from the plates of Nephi whereof it is an abridg-
ment of the record of the People of Nephi & also of the Lamanites written to the Lamanites
which are a remnant of the house of Israel & also to Jew & Gentile written by way of
commandment & also by the spirit of Prophecy & of revelations written & sealed up
by the gift of the Lord that they might not be destraid to come forth by the gift &
power of God unto the interpretation thereof sealed by the hand of Moroni & sealed
up unto the Lord to come forth in due time by the way of Gentile the interpretation taken
by the gift of God an abridgment taken from the Book of Ether also which is a re-
cord of the People of Jared which were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the lan-
guage of the People when they were building a tower to get to heaven which is to show unto
the remnant of the house of Israel how great things the Lord hath done for their fathers
& that they may know the covenants of the Lord

Title Page - Typesetting

The Book of Mormon An account written by the hand of Mormon upon plates taken from the plates of Nephi Wherefore it is an abridgment of the record of the People of Nephi & also of the Lamanites written to the Lamanites which are a remnant of the house of Israel & also to Jew & Gentile written by way of commandment & also by the spirit of Prophecy & of revelation written & sealed up & hid up unto the Lord that they might not be destroyed to come forth by the gift & power of God unto the interpretation thereof sealed by the hand of Moroni & hid up unto the Lord to come forth in due time by the way of Gentile the interpretation thereof by the gift of God an abridgment taken from the Book of Ether also which is a record of the People of Jared which were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the language of the People when they were building a tower to get to heaven which is to shew unto the remnant of the house of Israel how great things the Lord hath done for their fathers & that they may know the covenants of the Lord that they are not cast off forever & also to the convincing of the Jew & Gentile that Jesus is the Christ the Eternal God manifesting himself unto all Nations & now if there be fault it be the mistake of men wherefore condemn not the things of God that ye may be found spotless at the judgment seat of Christ
—By Joseph Smith Juniour, Author & proprietor



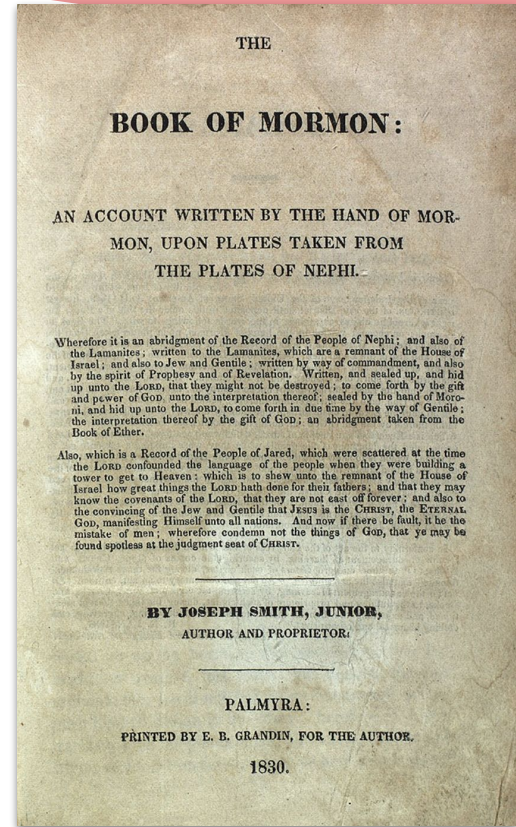
E. B. Grandin

Owner of press that
printed of 1st edition of
Book of Mormon

The manuscript came “on foolscap paper closely written and legible, but not a punctuation mark from beginning to end.” (John H. Gilbert (chief compositor), Memorandum, 8 Sept. 1892)

Title Page - A translation

“I wish to mention here that the title-page of the Book of Mormon is a literal translation, taken from the very last leaf, on the left hand side of the collection or book of plates, which contained the record which has been translated, the language of the whole running the same as all Hebrew writing in general; and that said title page is not by any means a modern composition, either of mine or of any other man who has lived or does live in this generation.” (Joseph Smith - Latter-day Saints Millennial Star, December 1843)



Title Page - Understanding

Who	
What	
Where	
Why	
When	
How	

Title Page - Understanding

Who	By: Mormon (likely most first paragraph), Moroni (likely second paragraph) To: Lamanites, house of Israel, Jew, Gentile, all nations
What	
Where	
Why	
When	
How	

Title Page - Understanding

Who	By: Mormon (likely most first paragraph), Moroni (likely second paragraph) To: Lamanites, house of Israel, Jew, Gentile, all nations
What	Abridgement of records of Nephites, Lamanites, and people of Ether
Where	
Why	
When	
How	

Title Page - Understanding

Who	By: Mormon (likely most first paragraph), Moroni (likely second paragraph) To: Lamanites, house of Israel, Jew, Gentile, all nations
What	Abridgement of records of Nephites, Lamanites, and people of Ether
Where	(doesn't say in title page) - revealed as Americas
Why	
When	
How	

Title Page - Understanding

Who	By: Mormon (likely most first paragraph), Moroni (likely second paragraph) To: Lamanites, house of Israel, Jew, Gentile, all nations
What	Abridgement of records of Nephites, Lamanites, and people of Ether
Where	(doesn't say in title page) - revealed as Americas
Why	Written by way of commandment; to show what great things the Lord hath done, that others may know covenants of Lord, convincing that Jesus is the Christ, know they are not cast off
When	
How	

Title Page - Understanding

Who	By: Mormon (likely most first paragraph), Moroni (likely second paragraph) To: Lamanites, house of Israel, Jew, Gentile, all nations
What	Abridgement of records of Nephites, Lamanites, and people of Ether
Where	(doesn't say in title page) - revealed as Americas
Why	Written by way of commandment; to show what great things the Lord hath done, that others may know covenants of Lord, convincing that Jesus is the Christ, know they are not cast off
When	Ancient, to come forth in due time by Gentiles
How	

Title Page - Understanding

Who	By: Mormon (likely most first paragraph), Moroni (likely second paragraph) To: Lamanites, house of Israel, Jew, Gentile, all nations
What	Abridgement of records of Nephites, Lamanites, and people of Ether
Where	(doesn't say in title page) - revealed as Americas
Why	Written by way of commandment; to show what great things the Lord hath done, that others may know covenants of Lord, convincing that Jesus is the Christ, know they are not cast off
When	Ancient, to come forth in due time by Gentiles
How	Written by spirit of prophecy, by revelation; translated/interpreted by gift and power of God

“... if there are faults ...”

“And now, if there are faults they are the mistakes of men; wherefore, condemn not the things of God” (Title Page - Mormon/Moroni)



“Faults”, “Mistakes”, “Weakness”, and “Failings”

Book of Mormon

“If there are **faults** they are the **mistakes** of men; wherefore, condemn not the things of God”

(Title Page - Mormon/Moroni)

Doctrine & Covenants

“these commandments are of me, and were given unto my servants in their **weakness**, after the manner of their language”

(D&C 1:24)

Bible

“Charity never **faileth**: but whether there be prophecies, they shall **fail**... For we know in part, and we prophesy in part... For now we see through a glass, darkly”

(1 Corinthians 13:8-9, 12)

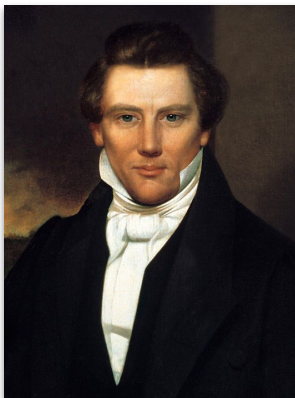
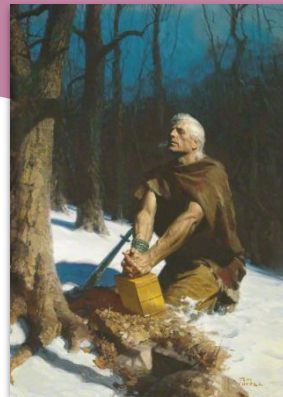
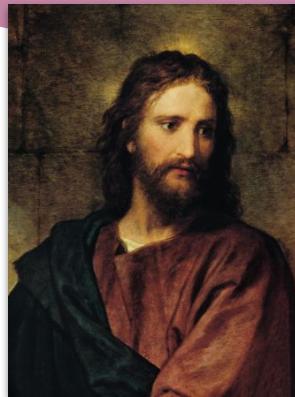
Interpreting/Applying Scripture

Jesus tells us to “hang all the law and the prophets” on the two great commandments: love God and love thy neighbor as thyself (Mat. 22:37-40).

Moroni said anything that inspires us to do good and believe in Christ comes from Christ (Moroni 7:14-16).

Joseph Smith taught about the limits of priesthood authority (Doctrine and Covenants 121:36-37, 41-42).

John said that we must overcome ignorance and fear and put love first as God has (1 John 4:18-19).

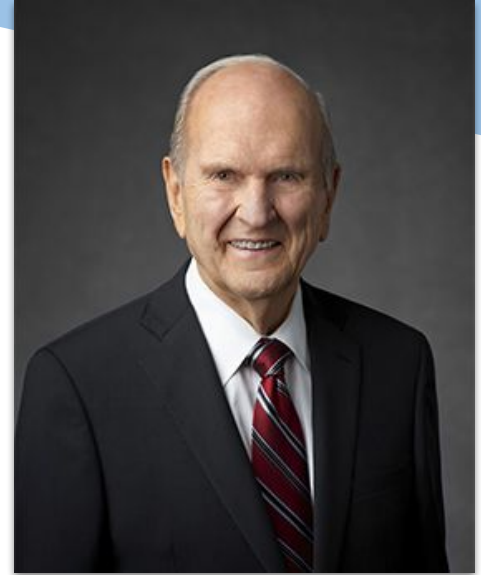


Personal Revelation

“In coming days, it will not be possible to survive spiritually without the guiding, directing, comforting, and constant influence of the Holy Ghost...”

“I urge you to stretch beyond your current spiritual ability to receive personal revelation”

“My beloved brothers and sisters, I plead with you to increase your spiritual capacity to receive revelation.”



Pres. Russell M. Nelson

April 2018 General Conference
“Revelation for the Church,
Revelation for Our Lives”

The Testimony of Three witnesses

Be it known unto ^{all} nations kindreds tongues & people unto whom this work shall come that we through the grace of God the Father & our Lord Jesus Christ have seen the plates which contain this record which is a record of the people of Joseph & also of the Lamanites his brethren & also of the people of Jared who came from the tower of Babel. We have been spoken & we also know that they have been translated by the gift & power of God. For his voice hath declared it unto us wherefore we know of a surety that the work is true & we also testify that we have seen the engravings which are upon the plates & they have been shewn unto us by the power of God & not of man & we declare with words of soberness that an angel of God came down from Heaven & he brought & laid before our eyes that we beheld & saw the plates & the engravings thereon & we know that it is by the grace of God the Father & our Lord Jesus Christ that we beheld & have record that these things are true & it is marvellous 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 & we know that if we are faithful in Christ we shall rid our garments of the blood of all men & be found spotless before the judgements seat of Christ & shall dwell with him Eternally in the Heavens & the honor be to the Father & to the Son & to the Holy Ghost

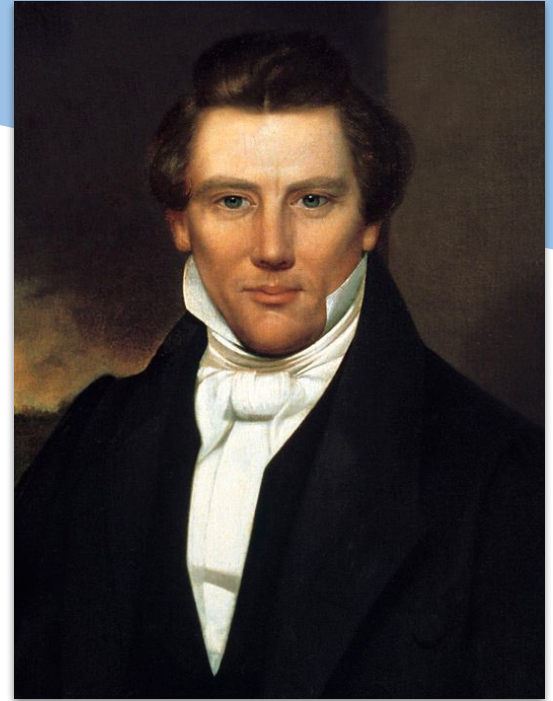
Testimony of the Three
Witnesses - Printer's
Manuscript (August 1829 -
January 1830)

Describing event on June 28,
1829

which is one God. Amen.
Oliver Cowdery
David Whitmer
Martin Harris

“I was relieved of a burden...”

“They have seen an angel who has testified to them and they will have to bear witness to the truth of what I have said, for now they know for themselves, that I do not go about to deceive the people, and I feel as if I was relieved of a burden which was almost too heavy for me to bear, and it rejoices my soul, that I am not any longer to be entirely alone in the world.” (Lucy Mack Smith - “Biographical Sketches of Joseph Smith”, 1853 - pg 139)



Joseph Smith

June 28, 1829
(reported by Lucy Mack Smith)

And also the testimony of eight witnesses
Be it known unto all Nations kindreds tongues & people unto whom this work shall come
that Joseph Smith jun. the author & proprietor of this work has shewn unto us the plates
of which hath been spoken which have the appearance of gold & as many of the ^{leaves} ~~leaves~~
as the said Smith has translated ~~us~~ ^{we} did handle with our hands & we also saw
the engravings thereon all of which has the appearance of ancient work & of curious
workmanship & this ^{we} ~~we~~ bear record with words of soberness that the said Smith has
shewn unto us for we have seen & hefted & know of a surety that the said Smith has
got the plates of which we have spoken & we give our names unto the world to wit-
ness unto the world that which we have seen & we lie not God bearing witness of it

Christian Whitmer
Jacob Whitmer
Peter Whitmer jun.
John Whitmer
Hiram Page
Joseph Smith sen.
Hyrum Smith
Samuel H. Smith

Testimony of the Eight
Witnesses - Printer's
Manuscript (August
1829 - January 1830)

Describing event on
July 2, 1829

Testimony of Emma Smith

The Saints' Herald.

Official Paper of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

"I SAW ANOTHER ANGEL, & HE HAD THE EVERLASTING COVENANT TO PREPARE TO THEM THAT DWELL ON THE EARTH."—HAYDO,
 "FEAR GOD, AND GIVE GLORY TO HIM, FOR THE HOUR OF HIS JUDGMENT IS COME."—ISA. 14: 6-7.
 "HAPPY THEY THAT TUNE THEIR VOICES TO THE LORD, FOR HE WILL ANSWER THEM."—PS. 134: 3.
 "HARKEN TO THE WORD OF THE LORD, FOR THERE SHALL NOT ANY MAN AMONG YOU HAVE SAID HE HAS ONE WIFE."—DOOR
 OF MORMON; JACOB 2: 6.

Vol. 26.—Whole No. 637. PLANO, ILLINOIS, OCTOBER 1, 1870. No. 19.

LAST TESTIMONY OF SISTER EMMA.

In a conversation held in the Herald Office during the early days of the present year, between Bishop Rogers, Elders W. W. Blais II. A. Robbins and a few others, leading minds in the Church, it was thought advisable to secure from Mother Bidamon, (Sister Emma Smith), her testimony upon certain points upon which various opinions existed; and to do this, it was decided to present her a few prominent questions, which were penned and agreed upon, the answers to which might, so far as she was concerned, settle the difference of opinion. In accordance with this understanding the Senior Editor of the HERALD visited Nauvoo, in February last, arriving on the 4th and remaining until the 10th. Sister Emma answered the questions freely and in the presence of her husband, Major Lewis C. Bidamon, who was generally present in their sitting room where the conversation took place. We were more particular in this, because it had been frequently stated to us: "Ask your mother, she knows." "Why don't you ask your mother; she does not deny these things." "You do not dare to ask your mother!"

Our thought was, that if we had lacked courage to ask her, because we feared her answers she might give, we would put aside that fear; and, whatever the worst might be, we would hear it. The result is given below: It having been decided to give the statements to the readers of the HERALD, in view of the death of Sister Emma having occurred so soon after she made them, thus giving them the character of a last testimony.

It is intended to incorporate these questions and answers in the forthcoming history of the Reorganization.

We apologized to our mother for putting the questions respecting polygamy and plural wives, as we felt we ought to do.

Question.—Who performed the marriage ceremony for Joseph Smith and Emma Hale? When? Where?

Answer.—I was married at South Hales bridge, New York; at the house of Squire Turbell, by him, when I was in my 22d or 23d year.

We here suggested that Mother Smith's history gave the date of the marriage as January 10th, 1827. To this she replied:—

"I think the date correct. My certificate of marriage was lost many years ago, in some of the searches we were forced to make.

In answer to a suggestion by us that she might mistake about who married her and herself, and that it was rumored that it was Sidney Rigdon, or a Presbyterian clergyman, she stated:—

"It was not Sidney Rigdon, for I did not see him for years after that. It was not a Presbyterian clergyman. I was visiting at Mr. Stowell's, who lived in Bainbridge, and saw your father there. I had no intention of marrying when I left home; but, during my visit at Mr. Stowell's, your father visited me there. My folks were bitterly opposed to him; and, being importuned by your father, aided by Mr. Stowell, who urged me to marry him, and, preferring to marry him to any other man I knew, I acquiesced. We went to acquire Terbell's and were married. Afterwards, when father found that I was married, he sent for me. The account in Mother Smith's History is substantially correct as to date and place. Your father bought your uncle Jew's (Hale) place, off father's farm, and we lived there till the Book of Mormon was translated; and then published. I was not in Palmyra long.

Q. How many children did you lose, mother, before I was born?

A. There were three. I buried one in Pennsylvania, and a pair of twins in Ohio.

Q. Who were the twins that died?

A. They were not named.

Q. Who were the twins whom you took to raise?

A. I lost twins. Mrs. Murdock had twins and died. Mrs. Murdock came to me and asked me to take them, and I took the babes. Joseph died at eleven months. They were both sick when your father was mobbed. The mob who tarred and feathered him, left the door open when they went out with him, the child raged and died. Jella lived, though weaker than the boy.

Q. When did you first know Sidney Rigdon? Where?

A. I was residing at father Whitmer's, when I first saw Sidney Rigdon. I think he came there.

Q. Was this before or after the publication of the Book of Mormon?

A. The Book of Mormon had been translated and published some time before. Parley P. Pratt had visited with the Church before I knew Sidney Rigdon, or heard of him. At the time the Book of Mormon was translated there was no church organized, and Rigdon did not become acquainted with Joseph and me till after the Church was established in 1830. How long after that I do not know, but it was some time.

Q. Who were scribes for father when translating the Book of Mormon?

A. Myself, Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris, and my brother, Reuben Hale.

Q. Was Alma Hale one?

A. I think not. He may have written some; but if he did, I do not remember it.

Q. What about the revelation on Polygamy? Did Joseph Smith have anything like it? What of spiritual wifery?

A. There was no revelation on either polygamy, or spiritual wives. There were some rumors of something of the sort, of which I asked my husband. He assured me that all there was of it was, that, in a chat about plural wives, he had said, "Well, such a system might possibly be, if everybody was agreed to it, and would behave as they should; but they would not; and, besides, it was contrary to the will of heaven."

No such thing as polygamy, or spiritual wifery, was taught, publicly or privately, before my husband's death, that I have now, or ever had any knowledge of.

Q. Did he not have other wives than yourself?

A. He had no other wife but me; nor did he to my knowledge ever have.

Q. Did he not hold marital relations with women other than yourself?

A. He did not have improper relations with any woman that ever came to my knowledge.

Q. Was there nothing about spiritual wives that you remember?

A. At one time my husband came to me and asked me if I had heard certain rumors about spiritual marriage, or anything of the kind; and assured me that if I had, that they were without foundation; that there was no such doctrine, and never should be with his knowledge, or consent. I know that he had no other wife or wives than myself, in any sense, either spiritual or otherwise.

Q. What of the truth of Mormonism?

A. I know Mormonism to be the truth; and believe the Church to have been established by divine direction. I have complete faith in it. In writing for your father I frequently wrote day after day, often sitting at the table close by him, he sitting with his face buried in his hat, with the stone in it, and dictating hour after hour with nothing between us.

Q. Had he not a book or manuscript from which he read, or dictated to you?

A. He had neither manuscript nor book to read from.

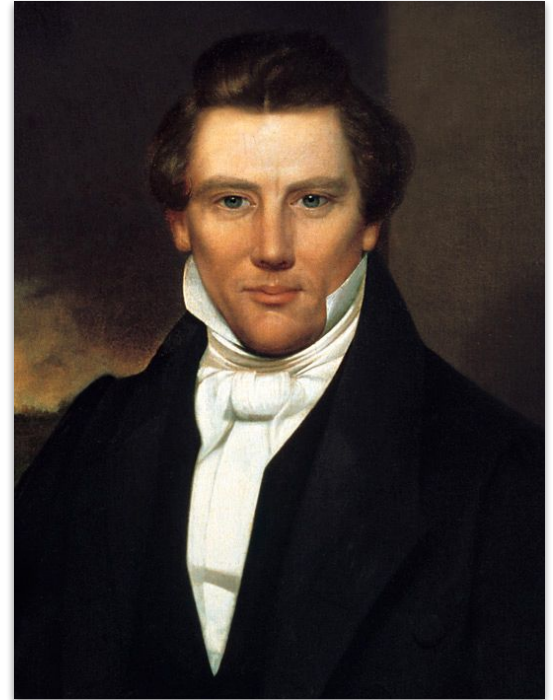


Interviewed by her son, Joseph Smith III (1879)

Most correct book... Fullness of gospel

“The Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.” (History of the Church, 4:461 - 28 November 1841)

“[contains] the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ” (D&C 20:9 - 1829-1830)



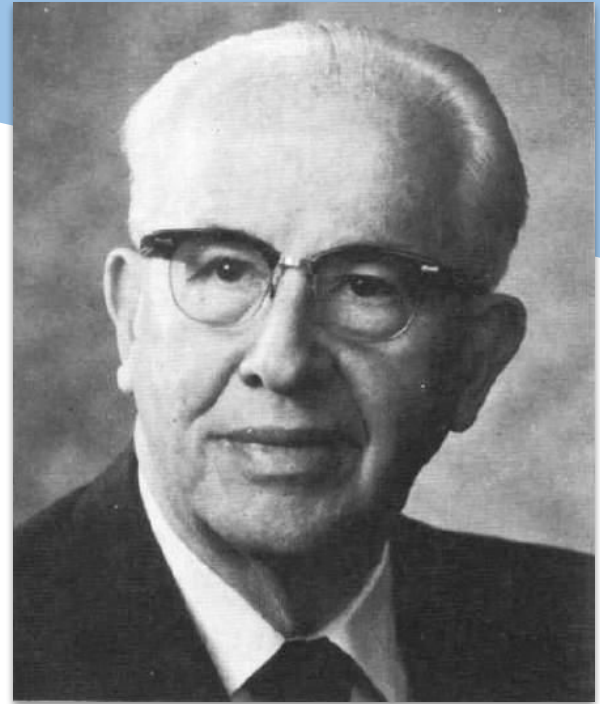
Joseph Smith



What is the fullness of the gospel?

Fullness of Gospel - Pres. Benson

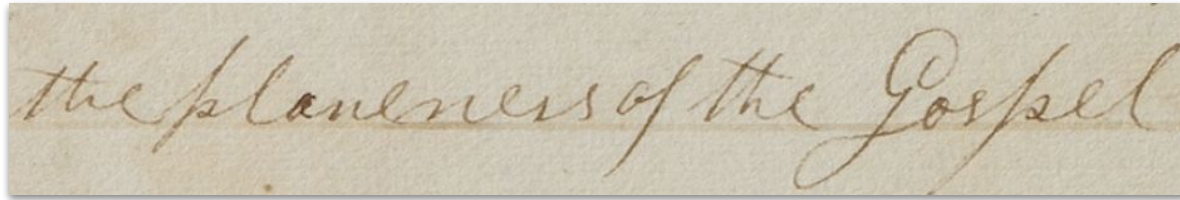
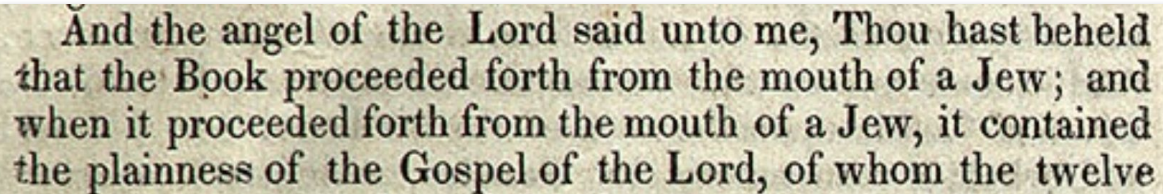
"The Book of Mormon contains the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ (D&C 20:9). That does not mean it contains every teaching, every doctrine ever revealed. Rather, it means that in the Book of Mormon we will find the fulness of those doctrines required for our salvation. And they are taught plainly and simply so that even children can learn the ways of salvation and exaltation" (A Witness and a Warning. Salt Lake City, 1988 - pg. 18-19)



Pres. Ezra Taft Benson

Fullness (“Plainness”) of Gospel - Nephi

“Thou hast beheld that the book proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew; and when it proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew **it contained the fulness (planeness) of the gospel of the Lord**, of whom the twelve apostles bear record; and they bear record according to the truth which is in the Lamb of God.” (1 Ne. 13:24).

A photograph of a handwritten manuscript on aged, yellowed paper. The text, written in a cursive script, reads "the plainness of the Gospel".A photograph of a printed text block from the 1830 edition of the Book of Mormon. The text is in a black, serif font and reads: "And the angel of the Lord said unto me, Thou hast beheld that the Book proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew; and when it proceeded forth from the mouth of a Jew, it contained the plainness of the Gospel of the Lord, of whom the twelve".

Printer's manuscript & 1830 edition for 1 Ne 13:24

Changed to “fulness” in 1981 Edition

See: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1981/10/the-church-publishes-a-new-triple-combination>



What is the fullness/plainness of the gospel?



Who is the fullness/plainness of the gospel?

Fullness/Plainness of Gospel - Christ

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth... And **of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.**” (John 1:14, 16)



Russian Orthodox icon of
John the apostle

Fullness/Plainness of Gospel - Christ

Doctrine and Covenants 93:12-20



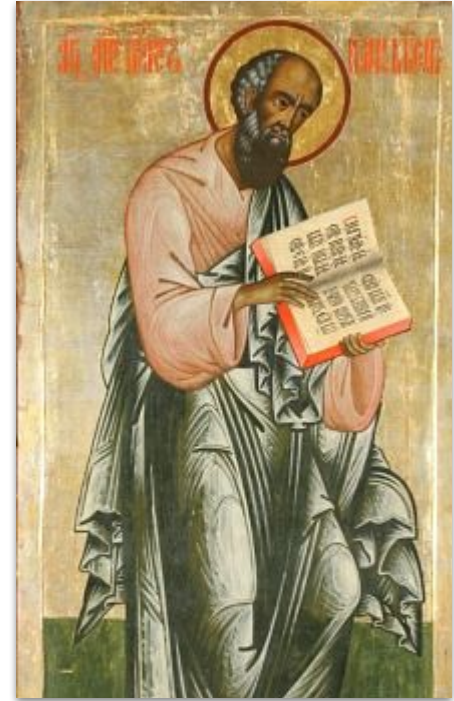
Russian Orthodox icon of
John the apostle

Fullness/Plainness of Gospel - Christ

Doctrine and Covenants 93:12-20

19 I give unto you these sayings that you may understand and know **how to worship**, and know **what you worship**, that you may come unto the Father in my name, and in due time **receive of his fulness**.

20 For if you **keep my commandments you shall receive of his fulness**, and be glorified in me as I am in the Father; therefore, I say unto you, **you shall receive grace for grace**.



Russian Orthodox icon of
John the apostle