

# **The Truth about Mormonism**

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**The Book of Mormon**

# Preach My Gospel – The Book of Mormon

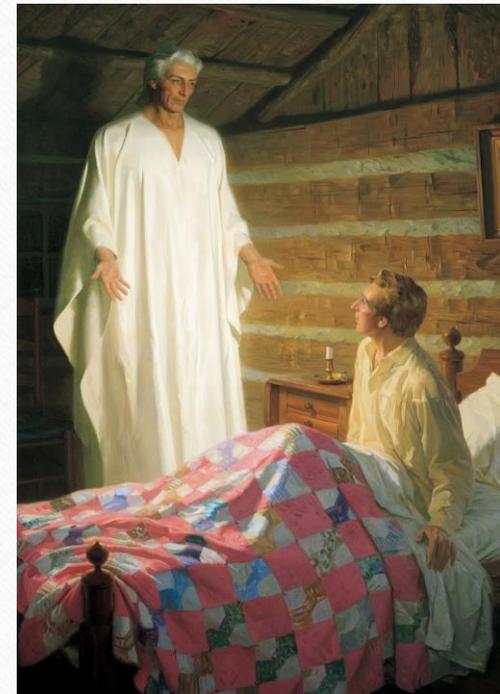
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  - **The Message of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ**
    - God Is Our Loving Heavenly Father
    - God Reveals the Gospel through Prophets in Every Dispensation
    - Jesus Christ’s Earthly Ministry and Atonement
    - The Falling Away
    - The Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Joseph Smith
    - **The Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ**
    - Pray to Know the Truth through the Holy Ghost
  - **Heavenly Father’s Plan of Salvation**
  - **The Gospel of Jesus Christ**
  - **Becoming Lifelong Disciples of Jesus Christ**

# How We Got the Book of Mormon

The Book of Mormon is an ancient volume of holy scripture like the Bible. The Bible is one witness of Jesus Christ, and the Book of Mormon is a second witness of His ministry, His teachings, and His mission as our Savior.

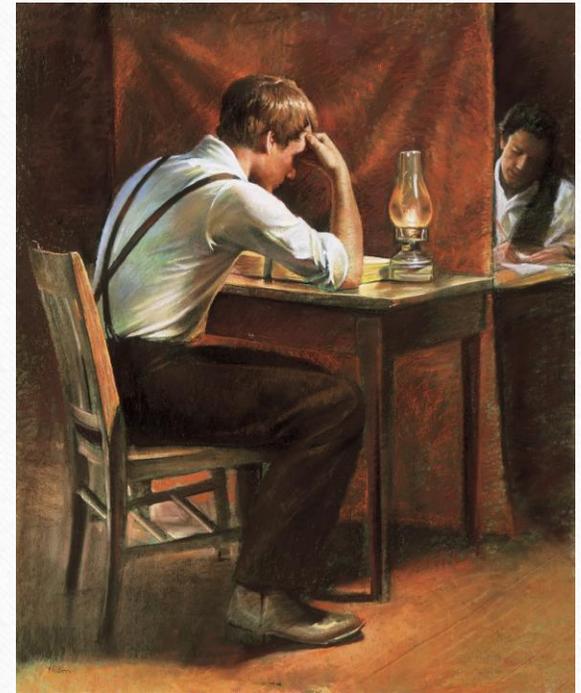
Joseph Smith was directed by a heavenly messenger named Moroni to a hill where an ancient record had been buried for centuries. This record, inscribed on gold plates (thin sheets of metal), contained the writings of prophets about God's dealings with some of the ancient inhabitants of the Americas. Joseph Smith translated this record by the gift and power of God.



# How We Got the Book of Mormon

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The prophets in the Book of Mormon knew about the mission of Jesus Christ and taught His gospel. After Jesus was resurrected, He appeared to these people and ministered personally to them. He taught them and established His Church.



# Better than the Bible!

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“I told the brethren that 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” Joseph Smith, *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, ed. B. H. Roberts, 2nd ed. rev. (Salt Lake City: Deseret News, 1957), 4:461.

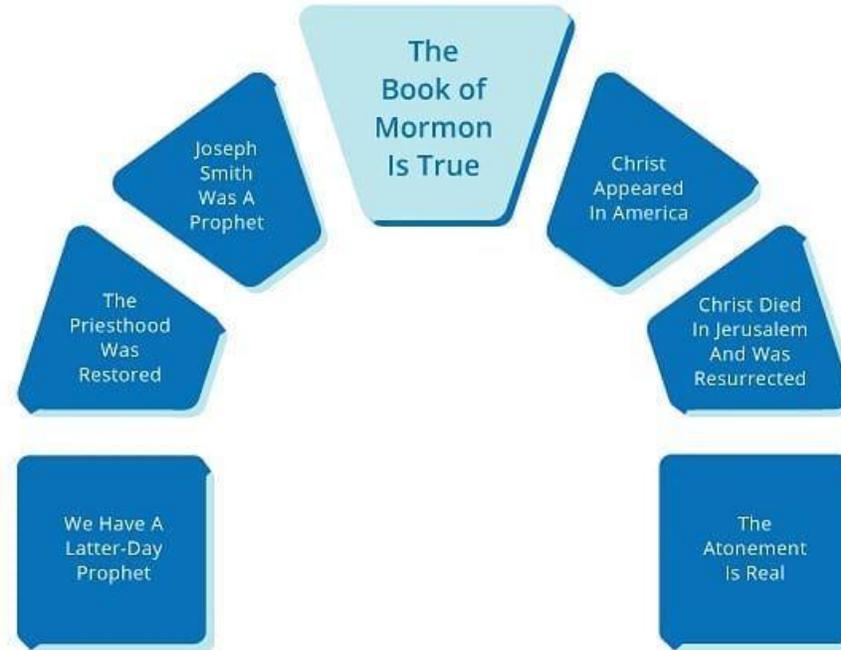
# Book of Mormon above Bible!

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8 We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

***The Articles of Faith***

# The Keystone of Our Religion



"Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:20)

# The Hook...

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To know that the Book of Mormon is the word of God, we need to read it, ponder it, and pray about it. A Book of Mormon prophet promised that God would reveal the truth of the book to us as we pray with a sincere heart, with real intent, and with faith in Christ (see Moroni 10:3–5). Studying the Book of Mormon is essential for enduring conversion.

As we read the Book of Mormon and pray about it, we will learn truths about Jesus Christ that will bless our lives. We will also come to know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God and that the gospel and Church of Jesus Christ have been restored through him.

# Living Prophets Testify of Book of Mormon

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“I promise that as you prayerfully study the Book of Mormon *every day*, you will make better decisions—*every day*. I promise that as you ponder what you study, the windows of heaven will open, and you will receive answers to your own questions and direction for your own life. I promise that as you daily immerse yourself in the Book of Mormon, you can be immunized against the evils of the day” (Russell M. Nelson, “The Book of Mormon: What Would Your Life Be Like without It?” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2017, 62–63).



# Tactics, Techniques and Procedures

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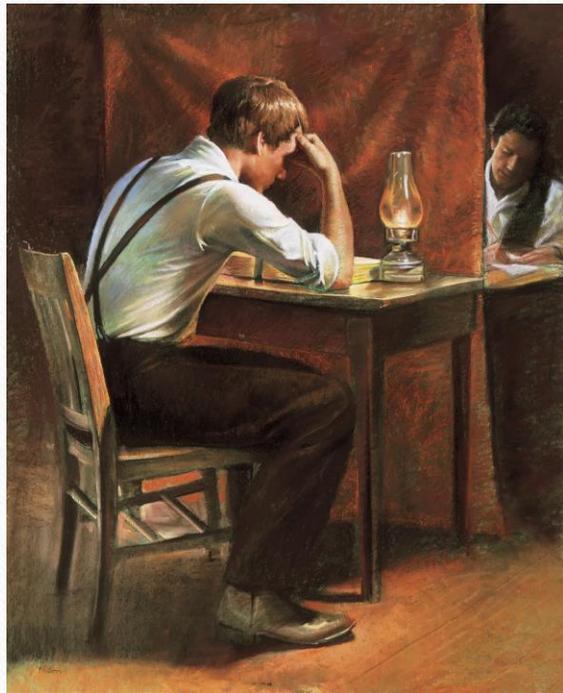
When introducing the Book of Mormon to people, explain that it is a sacred record of God's interactions with some of the people in the ancient Americas for more than a thousand years. From it we can learn much that applies to our lives today.

Explain that the purpose of the Book of Mormon is to convince all people that Jesus is the Christ (see the title page). As its subtitle says, the book is "another testament of Jesus Christ." Promise people that they can come to know their Savior better as they read it.

When you give people a copy of the Book of Mormon, tell them about the spiritual power it has brought into your life. Share one or two passages that are meaningful to you or that might be meaningful to them. In your personal and companion study, the Spirit will help you find verses that can lift and strengthen people.

Encourage people to read from the Book of Mormon every day. As they read it and apply its precepts, they will be blessed and feel closer to God. an come to know their Savior better as they read it.

# Church History



# The Truth?

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# Which is the Truth?

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vs.



# What Happened to Them Thar Plates?

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**60** I soon found out the reason why I had received such strict charges to keep them safe, and why it was that the messenger had said that when I had done what was required at my hand, he would call for them. For no sooner was it known that I had them, than the most strenuous exertions were used to get them from me. Every stratagem that could be invented was resorted to for that purpose. The persecution became more bitter and severe than before, and multitudes were on the alert continually to get them from me if possible. But by the wisdom of God, they remained safe in my hands, until I had accomplished by them what was required at my hand. When, according to arrangements, the messenger called for them, I delivered them up to him; and he has them in his charge until this day, being the second day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.

*Joseph Smith - History*

# What Happened to the Stone Box Containing the Gold Plates?

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Three times [David Whitmer] has been at the Hill Cumorah and seen the casket that contained the tablets and seerstone. Eventually the casket has been washed down to the foot of the hill, but it was to be seen when he last visited the historic place. *Chicago Times* (7 August 1875)

# Prophecy about Book of Mormon?

**Eze 37:15** The word of ~~the LORD~~ Yahweh came to me: 16 “Son of man, take a **stick** and write on it, ‘For Judah, and the people of Israel associated with him’; then take another **stick** and write on it, ‘For Joseph (the **stick** of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with him.’ 17 And join them one to another into one **stick**, that they may become one in your hand. Eze 18 And when your people say to you, ‘Will you not tell us what you mean by these?’ 19 say to them, Thus says the Lord ~~GOD~~ Yahweh: Behold, I am about to take the **stick** of Joseph (that is in the hand of Ephraim) and the tribes of Israel associated with him. And I will join with it the **stick** of Judah, and make them one **stick**, that they may be one in my hand. 20 When the **sticks** on which you write are in your hand before their eyes, 21 then say to them, Thus says the Lord ~~GOD~~ Yahweh: **Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. 22 And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms.** 23 They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. 24 “My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes. 25 They shall dwell in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children shall dwell there forever, and David my servant shall be their prince forever. 26 I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. 27 My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Eze 37:28 Then the nations will know that I am ~~the LORD~~ Yahweh who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.”

# Stick or Scroll?

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“The sticks, of course, are records or books. In ancient Israel records were written upon tablets of wood or scrolls rolled upon sticks. The record of Judah and the record of Ephraim, according to the prophecy, were to become one in our hands. Two events connected with the fulfillment of the prophecy were centered in print shops.”

(Boyd K. Packer, [“Scriptures,”](#) *Ensign*, Nov. 1982, 51).

# When a Stick is just a Stick

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The Hebrew word used in these verses is **עֵץ** 'ets' It literally means tree or wood. Had the prophet wanted to illustrate that it was a book or scroll they would have used **סֵפֶר** 'sepher' book or **מְגִלָּה** 'megillah' scroll. Note also, generally if a prophet is using figurative prophetic language they often use like or as to show that they are using a metaphor. This is not the case in these verses. This was a literal object lesson for those to whom he was conveying the message of the future reunification of the Northern (House of Israel) and Southern (House of Judah) Kingdoms.

# Prophecy about Book of Mormon?

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**Isa 29:10-12** For ~~the LORD~~ Yahweh has poured out upon you a spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes (the prophets), and covered your heads (the seers). 11 And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, “Read this,” he says, “I cannot, for it is sealed.” 12 And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, “Read this,” he says, “I cannot read.”

# Prophecy Fulfilled?

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65 “He then said to me, ‘Let me see that certificate.’ I accordingly took it out of my pocket and gave it to him, when he took it and tore it to pieces, saying that there was no such thing now as ministering of angels, and that if I would bring the plates to him he would translate them. I informed him that part of the plates were sealed, and that I was forbidden to bring them. He replied, ‘I cannot read a sealed book.’ I left him and went to Dr. Mitchell, who sanctioned what Professor Anthon had said respecting both the characters and the translation.” ***Joseph Smith - History***

# Anachronisms in the Book of Mormon

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And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. **3 Nephi 12:41**

But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother shall be in danger of his judgment. And whosoever shall say to his brother, **Raca**, shall be in danger of the council; and whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. **3 Nephi 12:22**

Replacement of the name of Yahweh with ~~The LORD~~

View of the Hebrews by Ethan Smith?

# The Law of Moses is OVER!

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2 And it came to pass that when Jesus had said these words he perceived that there were some among them who marveled, and wondered what he would concerning the law of Moses; for they understood not the saying that old things had passed away, and that all things had become new. 3 And he said unto them: Marvel not that I said unto you that old things had passed away, and that all things had become new. 4 Behold, I say unto you that the law is fulfilled that was given unto Moses. 5 Behold, I am he that gave the law, and I am he who covenanted with my people Israel; therefore, the law in me is fulfilled, for I have come to fulfil the law; therefore it hath an end. 6 Behold, I do not destroy the prophets, for as many as have not been fulfilled in me, verily I say unto you, shall all be fulfilled. 7 And because I said unto you that old things have passed away, I do not destroy that which hath been spoken concerning things which are to come. 8 For behold, the covenant which I have made with my people is not all fulfilled; but the law which was given unto Moses hath an end in me. 9 Behold, I am the law, and the light. Look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live; for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life. 10 Behold, I have given unto you the commandments; therefore keep my commandments. And this is the law and the prophets, for they truly testified of me. **3 Nephi 15:2-10**

# More on the Law...

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25 For, for this end was the law given; wherefore the law hath become dead unto us, and we are made alive in Christ because of our faith; yet we keep the law because of the commandments.

26 And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins. 27 Wherefore, we speak concerning the law that our children may know the deadness of the law; and they, by knowing the deadness of the law, may look forward unto that life which is in Christ, and know for what end the law was given. And after the law is fulfilled in Christ, that they need not harden their hearts against him when the law ought to be done away. **2 Nephi 25:25-27**

Therefore those things which were of old time, which were under the law, in me are all fulfilled. 47 Old things are done away, and all things have become new. **3 Nephi 12:46-47**

# More Law...

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19 And behold, I have given you the law and the commandments of my Father, that ye shall believe in me, and that ye shall repent of your sins, and come unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Behold, ye have the commandments before you, and the law is fulfilled. **3 Nephi 12:19**

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets. I am not come to destroy but to fulfil; 18 For verily I say unto you, one jot nor one tittle hath not passed away from the law, but in me it hath all been fulfilled.

**3 Nephi 12:17-18**

# What the Bible **ACTUALLY** Says

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**Mat 5:17-19** “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

# Why this is Important

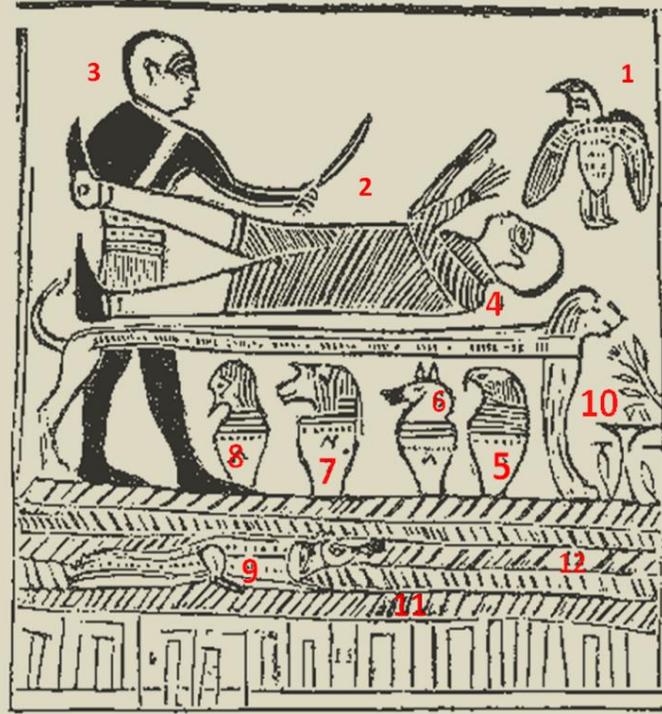
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**Dan\_7:25** He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

# The Book of Abraham

## A common funerary document

Joseph Smith's Interpretation	Translated Correctly? Facsimile #1, Book of Abraham	Modern Egyptological Interpretation
The Angel of the Lord.	1	1 The spirit or "ba" of Hôr (The deceased fellow)
Abraham fastened upon an altar	2	2 The deceased: His name was "Hôr"
The idolatrous priest of Elkenah	3	3 Anubis (see original image, this figure was originally portrayed with the head of a Jackal)
The altar for sacrifice by the idolatrous priests, standing before the gods of Elkenah, Libnah, Mahmackrah, Korash, and Pharaoh.	4	4 A common funereal bier or "lion couch"
The idolatrous god of Elkenah.	5	5
The idolatrous god of Libnah.	6	6 Canopic jars containing the deceased's internal organs.
The idolatrous god of Mahmackrah.	7	7
The idolatrous god of Korash.	8	8
The idolatrous god of Pharaoh.	9	9 This is the god "Horus"
Abraham in Egypt	10	10 A libation table bearing wines, oils, etc. Common in Egypt.
Designed to represent the pillars of heaven, as understood by the Egyptians.	11	11 A palace façade, called a "serekh"
Raukeeyang, 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 hig, or the heavens, answering to the Hebrew word, Shaumahyeen.	12	12 This is just the water that the crocodile swims in.

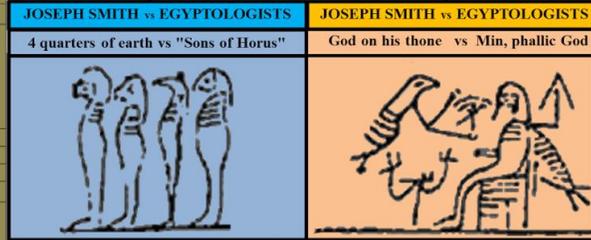
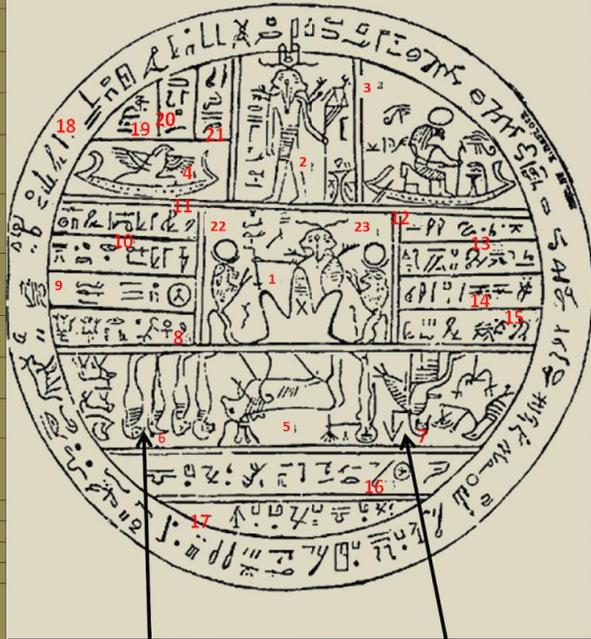


Joseph Smith's Interpretation available @ [lds.org/scriptures/pgp/abr/fac-1](https://lds.org/scriptures/pgp/abr/fac-1)  
 Modern Egyptological Interpretation compiled @ [bookofabraham.com/boamathie/BOA\\_6.html](https://bookofabraham.com/boamathie/BOA_6.html)  
 LDS apologist explanation @ [en.fairmormon.org/Book\\_of\\_Abraham/Joseph\\_Smith\\_Papyri/Facsimiles/Facsimile\\_1](https://en.fairmormon.org/Book_of_Abraham/Joseph_Smith_Papyri/Facsimiles/Facsimile_1)

# The Book of Abraham

Hypocephalus; a funerary amulet

Joseph Smith's Interpretation	Translated Correctly? Facsimile #2, Book of Abraham	Modern Egyptological Interpretation
Kolob, The residence of God	1	1 The god Khnumu.
Stands next to Kolob	2	2 "Amun-Re", god with two faces representing rising & setting sun.
God sitting on his throne, clothed with power and authority	3	3 "Horus-Re" riding in his boat
Raukeyang; also the number 1,000; The measuring of time of Oliblish	4	4 Represents Sokar, not a number
Enish-go-on-dosh; a governing planet	5	5 Cow of Hathor, behind which stands a uzat-headed goddess holding a sacred tree.
Represents this earth in it's four quarters	6	6 The four (4) sons of Horus, they can represent the four cardinal points of earth
God sitting on his throne, revealing through the heavens the grand Key-words of the Priesthood	7	7 The god "Min", an ithyphallic god; that is, a sexually aroused male deity.
Contains writings that can only be revealed in the temple.	8	8 "grant that the soul of Osiris Shechonk may live."
Ought not to be revealed at the present time.	9	9 "the netherworld (below the earth) and his great waters"
	10	10 "O might god, lord of heaven and earth"
	11	11 "O god of the sleeping ones from the time of creation" (Read in order 11, 10, 9, 8)
	12	12 "near" and "wrap"
	13	13 "which made by"
	14	14 "breathings"
	15	15 "this book"
	16	16 "and may this soul and its possessor never be desecrated in the netherworld"
Will be given in the own due time of the Lord	17	17 "May this tomb never be desecrated"
	18	18 "I am Djabyt in the house of Benben in Heliopolis, so exalted and glorious. [I am] copulating bull without equal. [I am] that mighty god in the house of Benben of Heliopolis... that might god..."
	19	19 "You shall be as that god, the Busirian"
	20	20 Writing: "The name of this mighty god"
	21	21 Figures 22,23; Baboons are adoring souls of that realm
No Annotation Given	22	22
	23	23



Joseph Smith's Interpretation available @ [lds.org/scriptures/pgp/abr/fac-2](https://lds.org/scriptures/pgp/abr/fac-2)  
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 LDS apologist explanation @ [en.farmormon.org/Book\\_of\\_Abraham/Joseph\\_Smith\\_Papyri](https://en.farmormon.org/Book_of_Abraham/Joseph_Smith_Papyri)

# The Kinderhook Plates



# Church History

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"I insert fac-similes of the six brass plates found near Kinderhook... I have translated a portion of them, and find they contain the history of the person with whom they were found. He was a descendant of Ham, through the loins of Pharaoh, King of Egypt, and that he received his Kingdom from the ruler of heaven and earth." ([History of the Church, pg 372](#))

# The Joseph Smith Translation

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Haley Wilson hits a few of the key points about how Joseph Smith used Adam Clarke's work in the JST. Wilson says that "just speaking in terms of direct engagement, he plagiarized Clarke about thirty times in his New Testament translation and a little less in the Old Testament, but there's about ten parallels fifteen direct parallels in the Old Testament. There's a lot, and these aren't just like one word here and there - these were whole sentences."

**[ldsdiscussions.com](http://ldsdiscussions.com)**

# Another Gospel?

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**Gal 1:6 - 9** I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

# Preach My Gospel – Pray to Know Truth?

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