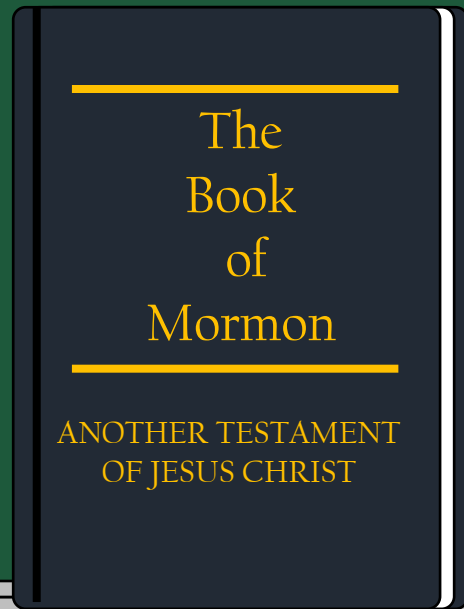
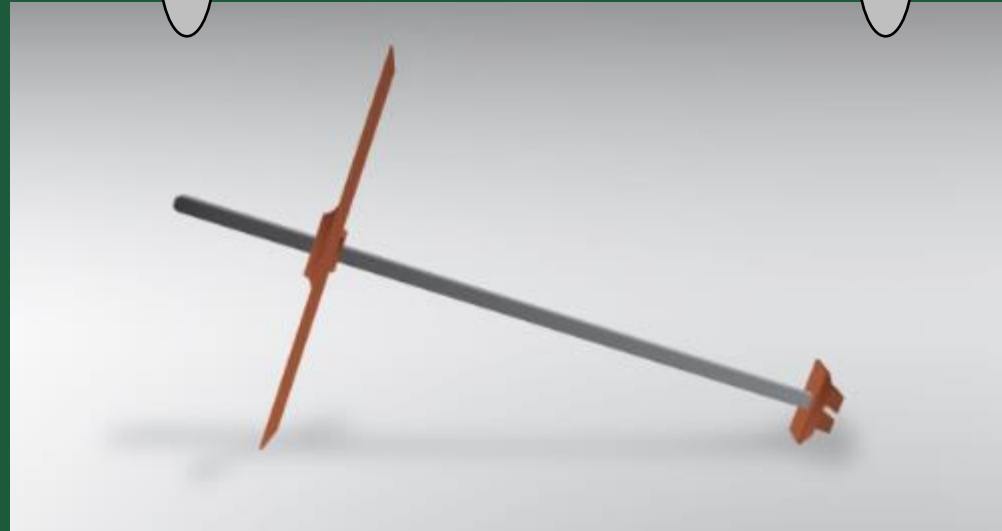


Title Page, Introduction, and Testimonies of the Three and Eight Witnesses

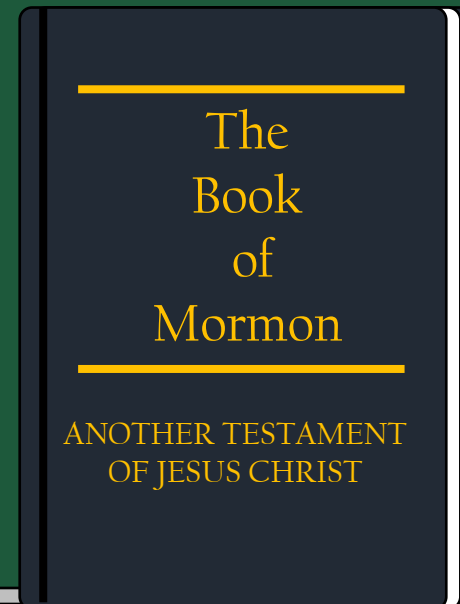




What is the purpose of this tool?

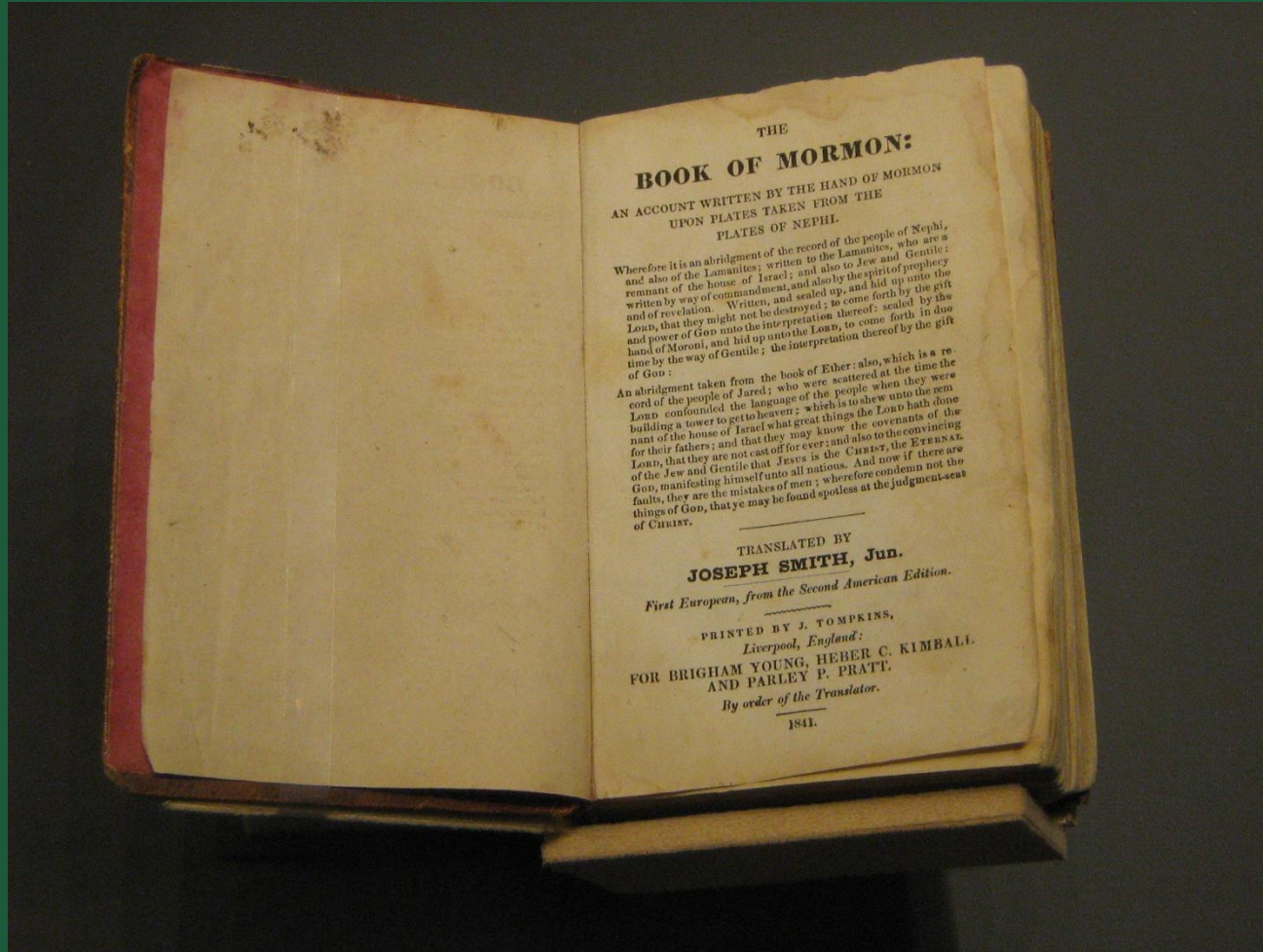
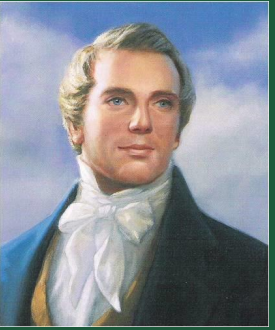
Why does it help to know and understand the purpose of this tool?

How can I share this understanding with others?



How might this relate to understanding the purpose and value of the Book of Mormon?

The Title Page



The Prophet Joseph Smith explained that this page is a literal translation of the words Moroni wrote on the final leaf of the golden plates. (1)

The Book of Mormon was written to convince all people that Jesus is the Christ.

Who was the Book of Mormon written to?

Who is the Book of Mormon about?

Why was the Book of Mormon written?

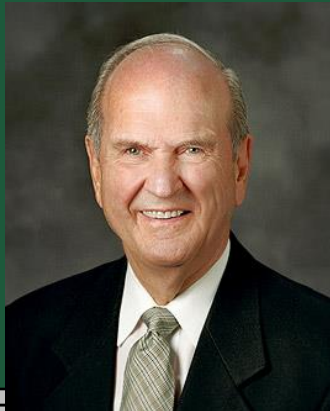


**The Book of Mormon was written to help
gather Israel and convince all people that
Jesus is the Christ.**

Gathering Israel

The Book of Mormon refers often to the covenant that the Lord has made to gather Israel.

[In] the Book of Mormon, you will learn the doctrine of the gathering, truths about Jesus Christ, His Atonement, and the fulness of His gospel not found in the Bible. The Book of Mormon is central to the gathering of Israel. In fact, if there were no Book of Mormon, the promised gathering of Israel would not occur. (4)



The Book of Mormon and Gathering Israel

Covenant with the Lord

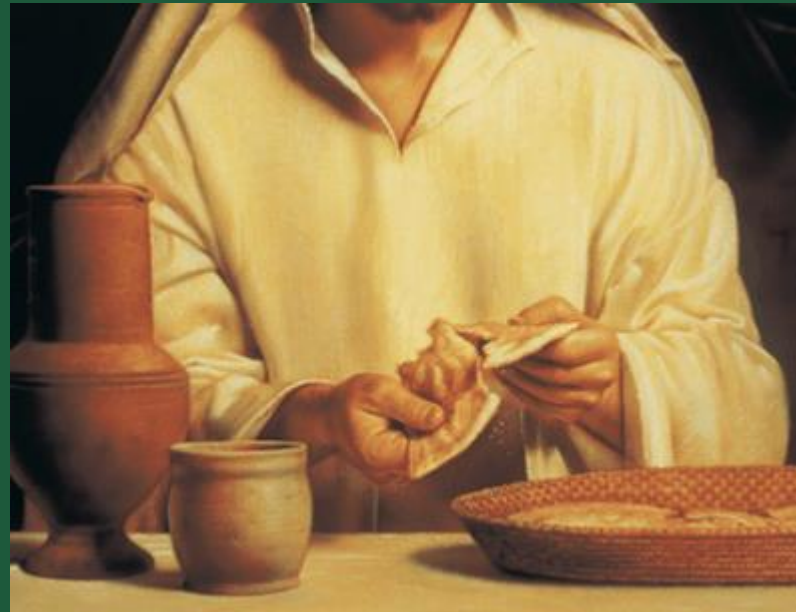
1 Nephi 15:14–18

1 Nephi 22:11–12

2 Nephi 29:14

Mormon 9:36–37

Moroni 10:31



How would your life be different without the Book of Mormon?

Understanding Jesus Christ

A title and is the Greek equivalent of the word *Messiah*, which means “the anointed.”

In the premortal existence, Jesus was anointed or chosen by Heavenly Father to be our Savior. (2)

How often does the Book of Mormon mention Jesus Christ?

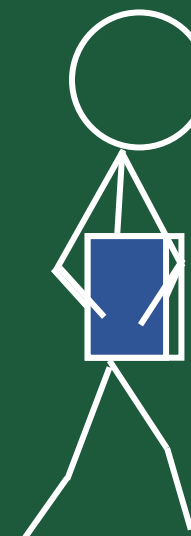


Jared Barnes

You will pore through the passages of this precious book and encounter your beloved Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, on nearly every page. It is estimated that some form of His name is used an average of once every 1.7 verses. (5}



“The honest seeker after truth can gain the testimony that Jesus is the Christ as he prayerfully ponders the inspired words of the Book of Mormon.



J E S U S

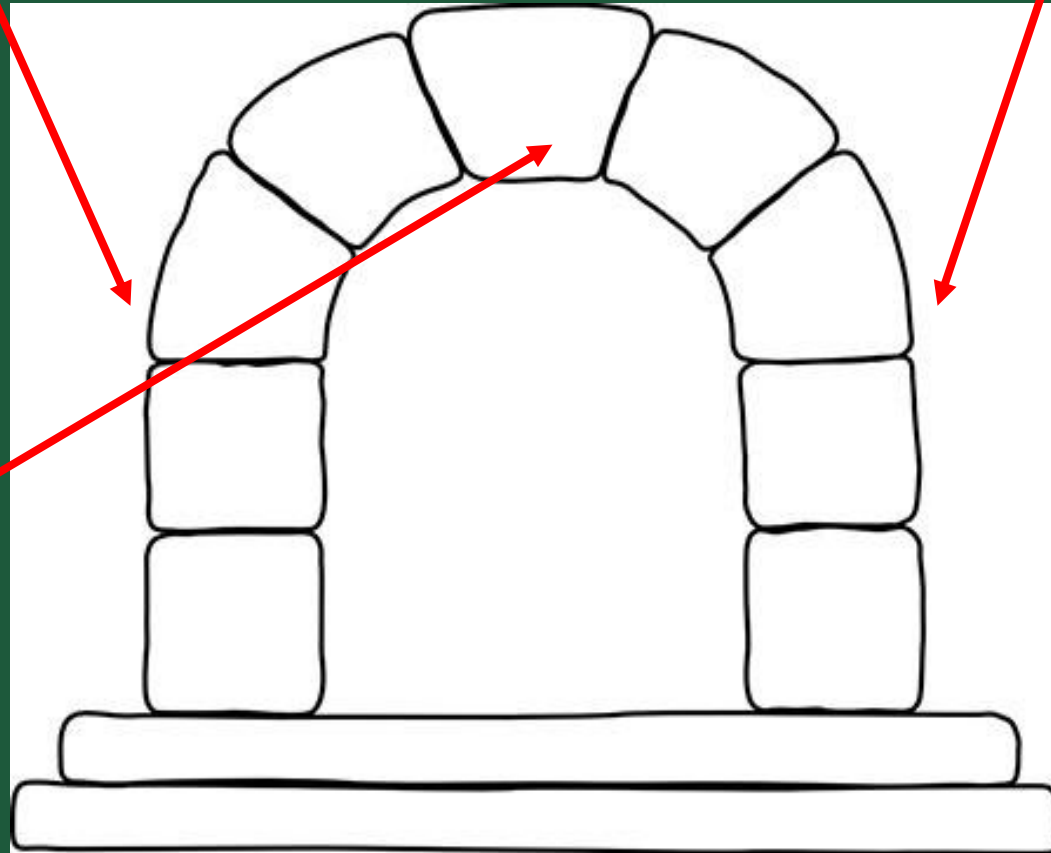
“He is given over one hundred different names in the Book of Mormon. Those names have a particular significance in describing His divine nature.”

“Over one-half of all the verses in the Book of Mormon refer to our Lord. Some form of Christ’s name is mentioned more frequently per verse in the Book of Mormon than even in the New Testament.

The Keystone

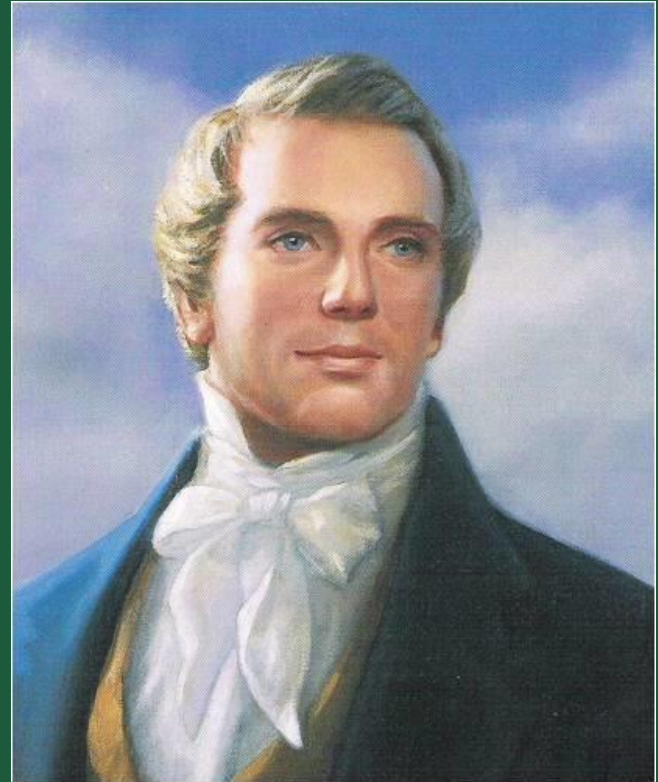
When an arch is constructed, the two sides are built up with external supports to hold them upright.

The space at the top of the arch is carefully measured, and the keystone is cut to fit it exactly.



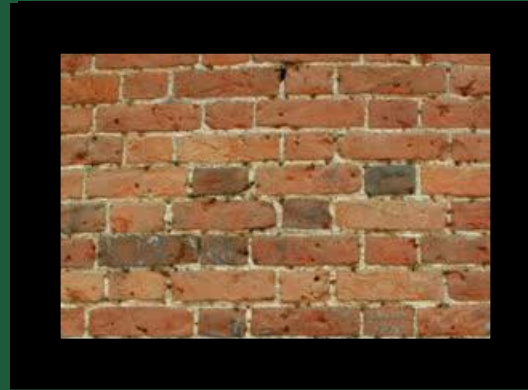
When the keystone is put in place, the arch can stand without supports.

“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.”





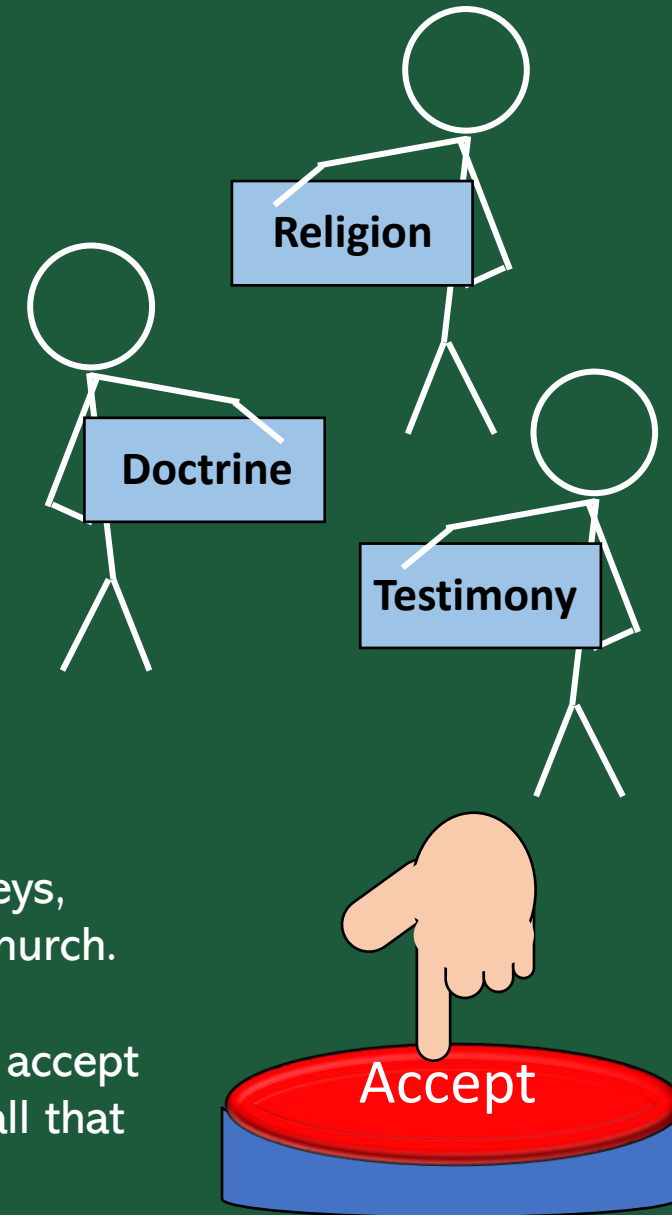
“There are three ways in which the Book of Mormon is the keystone of our religion. It is the keystone in our witness of Christ. It is the keystone of our doctrine. It is the keystone of testimony. ...

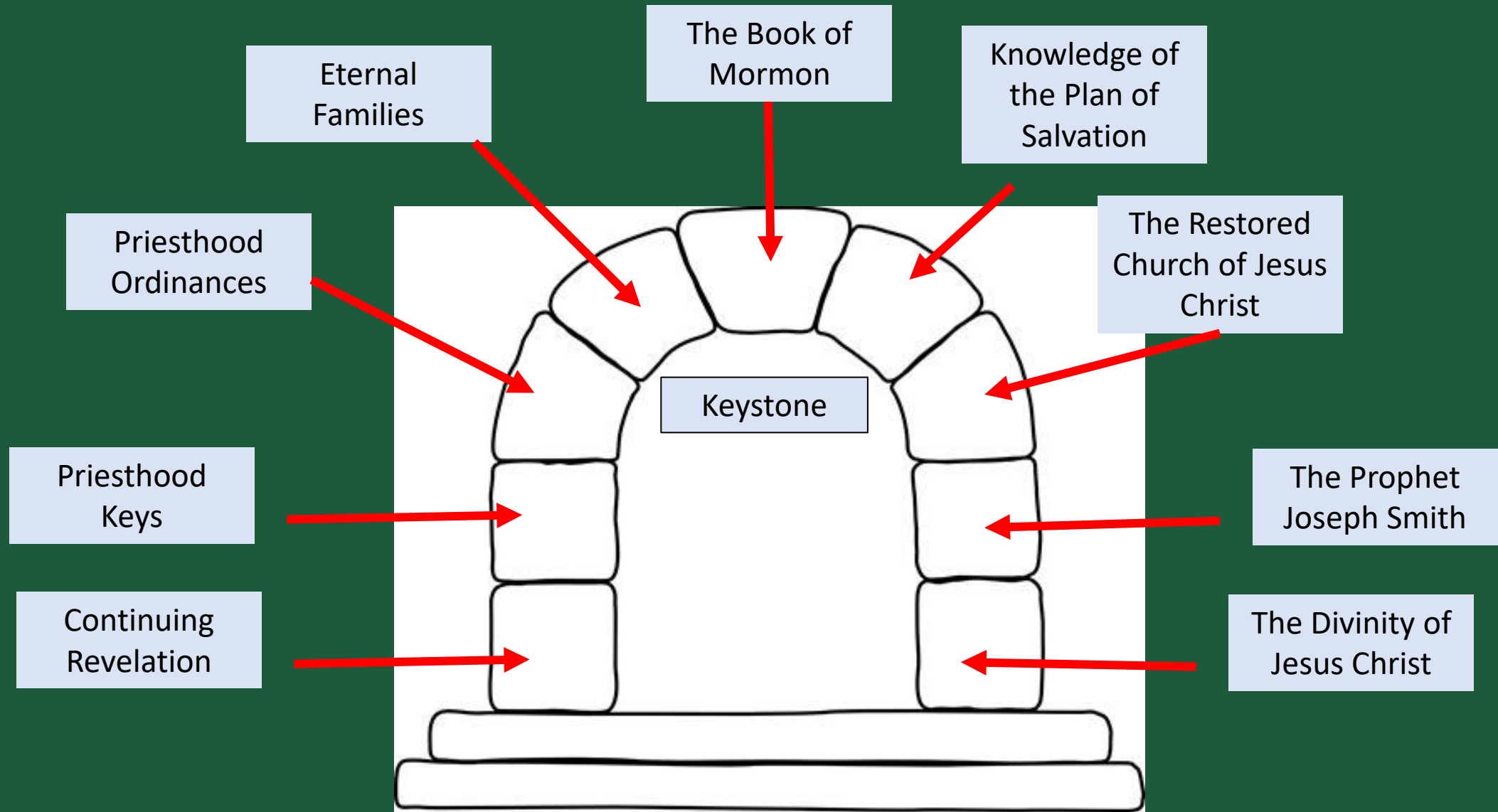


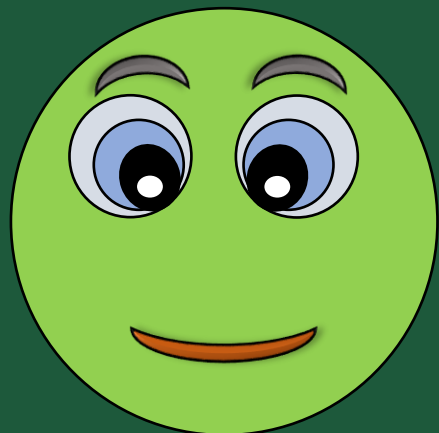
“... Just as the arch crumbles if the keystone is removed, so does all the Church stand or fall with the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon.

The enemies of the Church understand this clearly. This is why they go to such great lengths to try to disprove the Book of Mormon, for if it can be discredited, the Prophet Joseph Smith goes with it.

So does our claim to priesthood keys, and revelation, and the restored Church. But in like manner, if the Book of Mormon be true ... then one must accept the claims of the Restoration and all that accompanies it.”





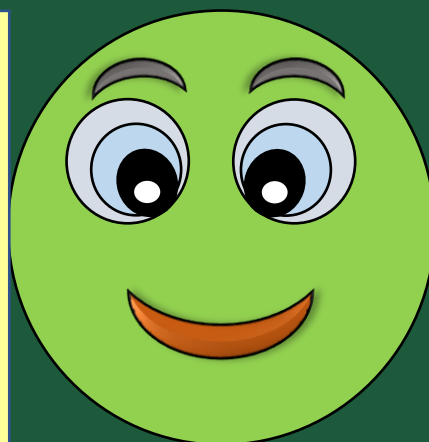


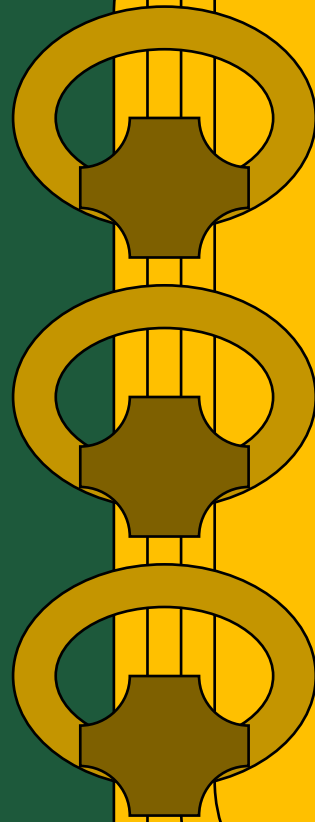
I trust others who
have received their
own personal
testimony and have
assured me that the
Book of Mormon is
true.



I am not sure if I
know the Book of
Mormon is true.

I have received a
witness from the Holy
ghost that the Book of
Mormon is true.

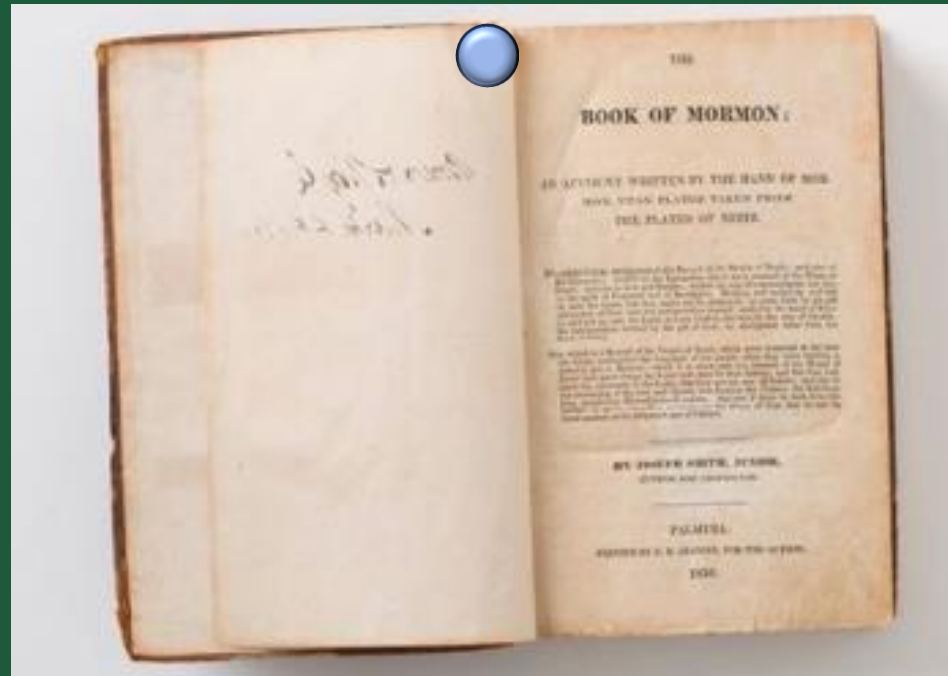




If we know the Book of Mormon is true, then we will also know that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord's kingdom on the earth today.

How do you think Joseph Smith might have felt during each of these events?





Joseph Smith brought forth the Book of Mormon by
the gift and power of God

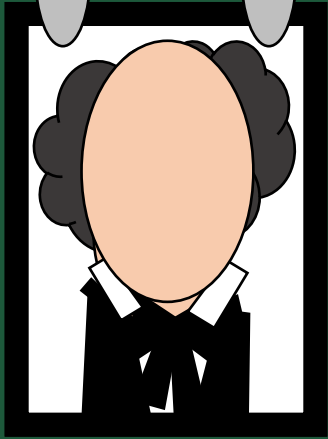
For a time, Joseph Smith was not allowed to show the gold plates to anyone. In fulfillment of prophecy, the Lord eventually revealed to Joseph that additional witnesses would be allowed to see the plates and testify of their reality.

READ

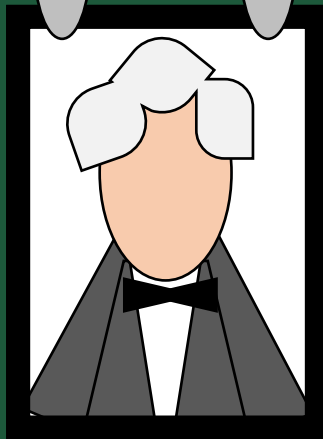
2 Nephi 27:12-14



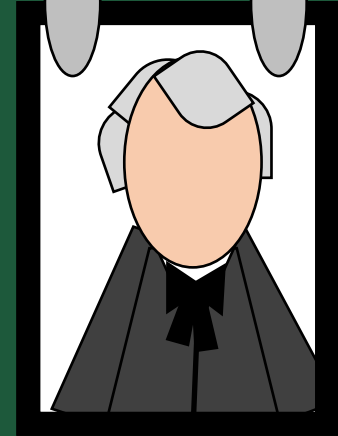
However: the Lord provided multiple witnesses of the plates of the Book of Mormon.



Oliver
Cowdery



David
Witmer



Martin
Harris

Testimony of Three Witnesses

They saw an angel holding the plates and
heard the voice of God

The Three Witnesses never denied their testimony of the Book of Mormon.

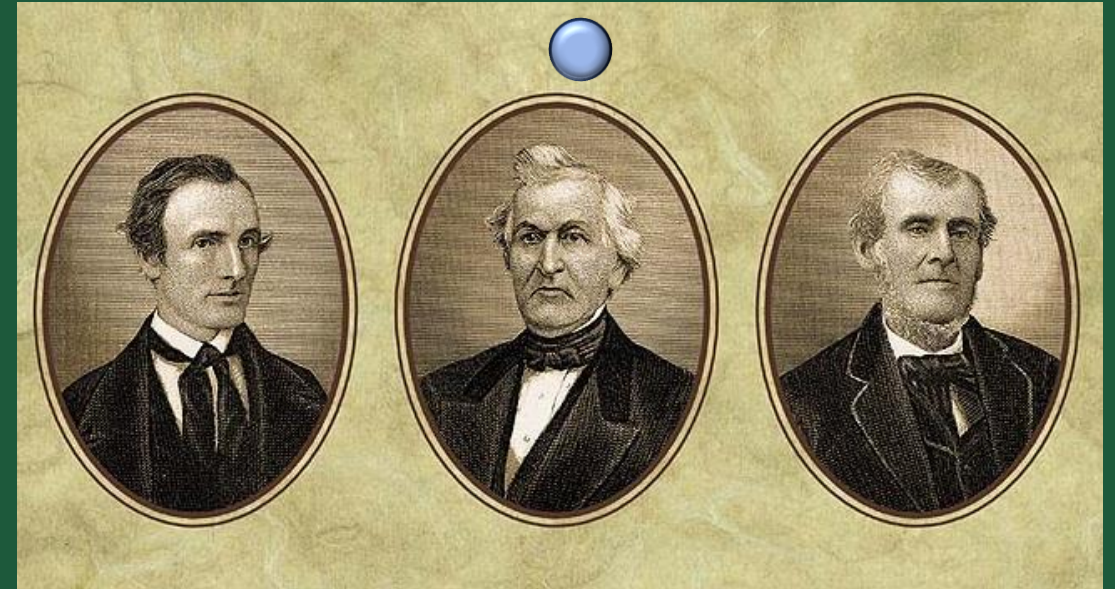
They could not because they knew it was true.

They made sacrifices and faced difficulties beyond what most people ever know.

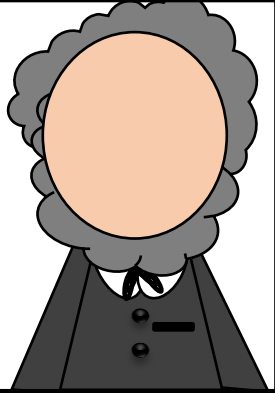
Oliver Cowdery gave the same testimony about the divine origin of the Book of Mormon as he lay dying.

But in the times of trial, they wavered in their faith that Joseph was still God's prophet and that the only way to come unto the Savior was through His restored Church.

That they continued to affirm what they saw and heard in that marvelous experience, during long periods of estrangement from the Church and from Joseph, makes their testimony more powerful. (6)

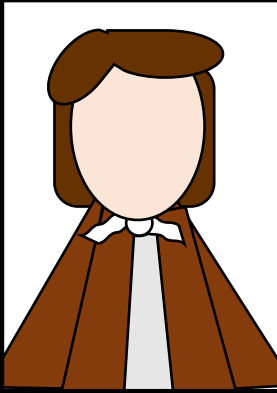


Testimony of Eight Witnesses



Christian
Whitmer

Hyrum
Page



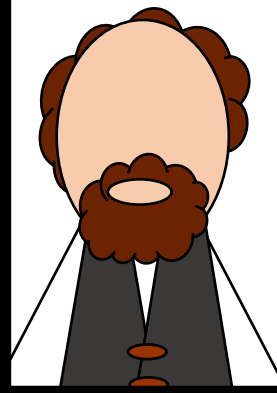
Jacob
Whitmer

Joseph
Smith Sen.



Peter
Whitmer Jun

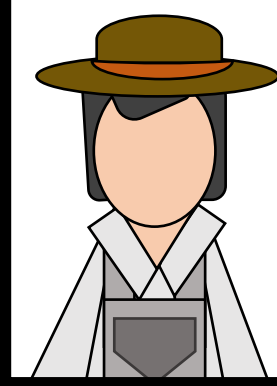
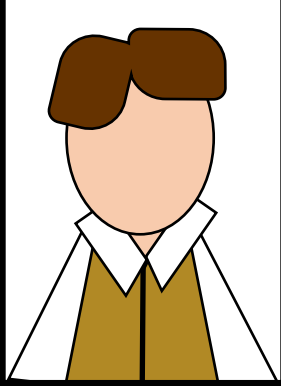
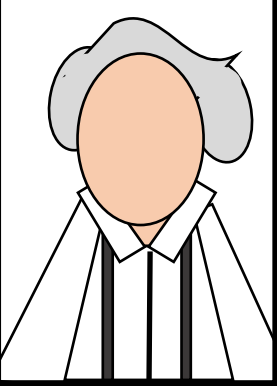
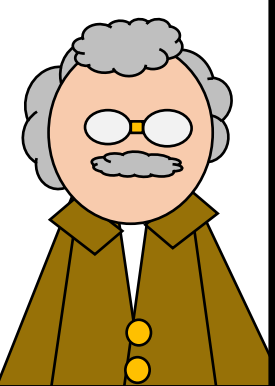
Hyrum Smith



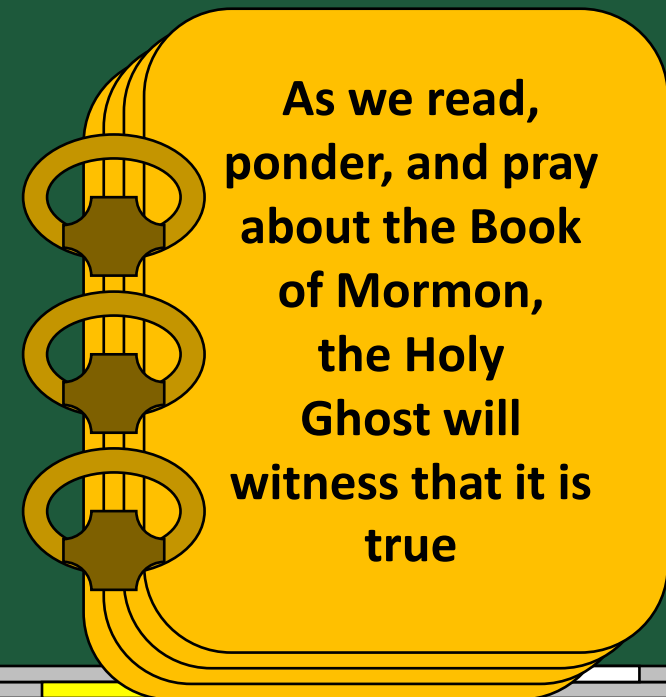
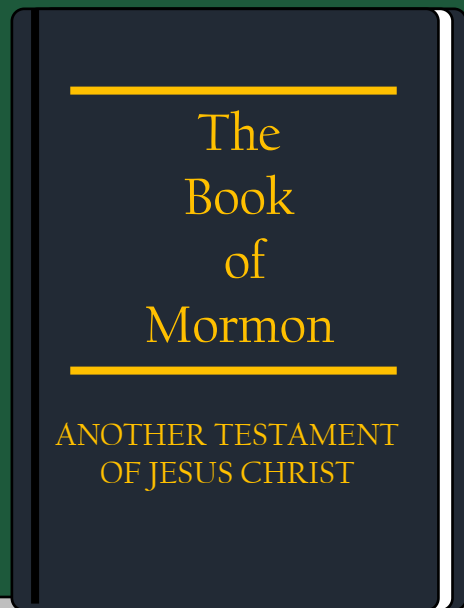
John
Whitmer

Samuel H.
Smith

**They saw and handled the
plates in an ordinary
manner.**



A Testimony of Your Own



Sources:

1. Joseph Smith *History of the Church*, 1:71.
2. Guide to the Scriptures “Messiah”.
3. Ezra Taft Benson, “Come unto Christ,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 83; The Book of Mormon—Keystone of Our Religion,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Oct. 2011, 54, 55).
4. Russell M. Nelson and Wendy W. Nelson, “Hope of Israel [worldwide youth devotional, June 3, 2018],” supplement to the *New Era* and *Ensign*, 13, ChurchofJesusChrist.org.
5. Gary E. Stevenson, “Look to the Book, Look to the Lord,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2016, 47.
6. Henry B. Eyring, “An Enduring Testimony of the Mission of the Prophet Joseph,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2003, 90.

House of Israel refers to descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In addition, the house of Israel includes those who are not actual descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob but have accepted the message of the restored gospel and come into the restored Church through the necessary covenants and ordinances.

Jews originally referred to anyone from the tribe of Judah (one of the twelve tribes of Israel). Writers in the Book of Mormon, however, often used this term to refer to all those who lived in the Southern Kingdom of Judah in Old Testament times (2 Nephi 30:4; 33:8), even though they may have been descendants of other tribes of Israel (Alma 10:3). It also refers to “people who practice the religion, lifestyles, and traditions of Judaism but may or may not be Jewish by birth” (Guide to the Scriptures, “Jews,” scriptures.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

Gentiles means “the nations” (Bible Dictionary, “Gentile”). “Sometimes it designates people of non-Israelite lineage, sometimes people of non-Jewish lineage, and sometimes nations that are without the gospel, even though there may be some Israelite blood among the people. This latter usage is especially characteristic of the word as used in the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants” (Guide to the Scriptures, “Gentiles,” scriptures.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

An **abridgment** is a shortened version of something.

A **remnant** is a remaining part.

Daily Study:
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, even the gripping plague of pornography and other mind-numbing addictions.

Whenever I hear anyone, including myself, say, “I know the Book of Mormon is true,” I want to exclaim, “That’s nice, but it is not enough!” We need to feel, deep in “the inmost part” of our hearts [Alma 13:27], that the Book of Mormon *is* unequivocally the word of God. We must feel it so deeply that we would never want to live even one day without it. (Russell M. Nelson, “The Book of Mormon: What Would Your Life Be Like without It?,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2017, 62–63)

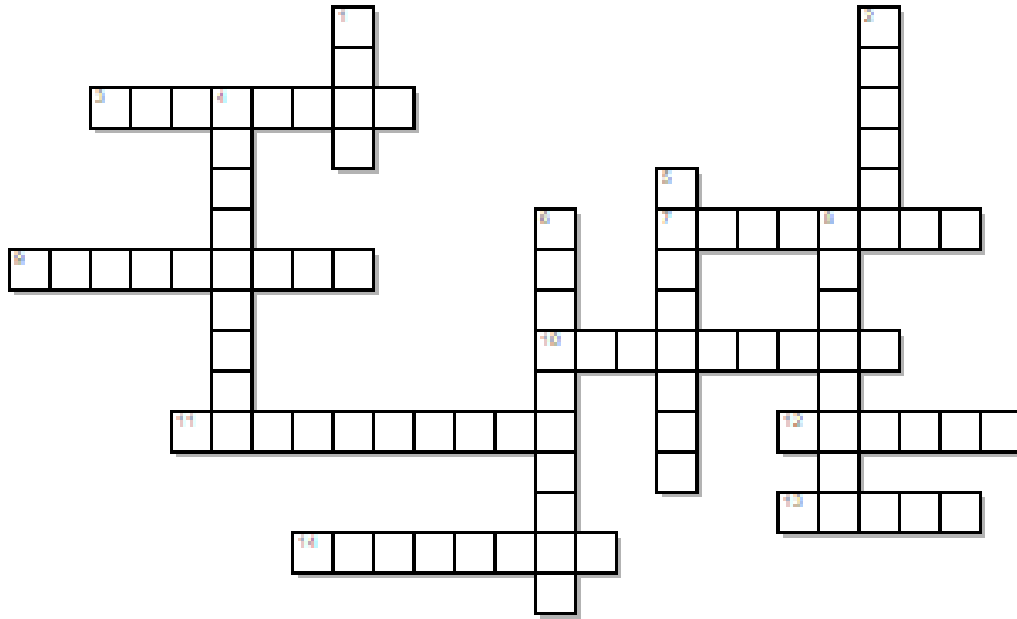
Blessings of Studying the Book of Mormon:
It is not just that the Book of Mormon teaches us truth, though it indeed does that. It is not just that the Book of Mormon bears testimony of Christ, though it indeed does that, too. But there is something more. There is a power in the book which will begin to flow into your lives the moment you begin a serious study of the book. You will find greater power to resist temptation. You will find the power to avoid deception. You will find the power to stay on the strait and narrow path. The scriptures are called “the words of life” [Doctrine and Covenants 84:85], and nowhere is that more true than it is of the Book of Mormon. When you begin to hunger and thirst after those words, you will find life in greater and greater abundance. (Ezra Taft Benson, “The Book of Mormon—Keystone of Our Religion,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 7)

A Challenge:
In order to help the Book of Mormon become the keystone of your testimony, I offer you a challenge. I recently learned that many young people spend an average of seven hours a day looking at TV, computer, and smartphone screens. With this in mind, would you make a small change? Will you replace some of that daily screen time—particularly that devoted to social media, the internet, gaming, or television—with reading the Book of Mormon? If the studies I referred to are accurate, you could easily find time for daily study of the Book of Mormon even if for only 10 minutes a day. And you can study in a way that allows you to enjoy it and understand it—either on your device or in book form. (Gary E. Stevenson, “Look to the Book, Look to the Lord,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2016, 46)

Historical Events:
After Joseph Smith had completed translating the Book of Mormon, he still had to find a publisher. This was not easy. The complexity of this lengthy manuscript and the cost of printing and binding thousands of copies were intimidating. Joseph first approached E. B. Grandin, a Palmyra printer, who refused. He then sought another printer in Palmyra, who also turned him down. He traveled to Rochester, 25 miles (40 km) away, and approached the most prominent publisher in western New York, who also turned him down. Another Rochester publisher was willing, but circumstances made this alternative unacceptable. Weeks had passed, and Joseph must have been bewildered at the opposition to accomplishing his divine mandate. The Lord did not make it easy, but He did make it possible. Joseph’s fifth attempt, a second approach to the Palmyra publisher Grandin, was successful. (Dallin H. Oaks, “Opposition in All Things,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2016, 116)

Translation:
The translation process of the Book of Mormon was also a miracle. This sacred ancient record was not “translated” in the traditional way that scholars would translate ancient texts by learning an ancient language. We ought to look at the process more like a “revelation” with the aid of physical instruments provided by the Lord, as opposed to a “translation” by one with knowledge of languages. Joseph Smith declared that through God’s power he “translated the Book of Mormon from [hieroglyphs], the knowledge of which was lost to the world, in which wonderful event [he] stood alone, an unlearned youth, to combat the worldly wisdom and multiplied ignorance of eighteen centuries, with a new revelation.” The Lord’s help in the translation of the plates—or revelation, so to speak—is also evident when considering the miraculously short time Joseph Smith took to translate them. (Ulisses Soares, “The Coming Forth of the Book of Mormon,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2020, 33)

Names of Jesus



Across

3. One who leads
7. One who negotiates
9. One who comes to save
10. One who guides
11. One who comes
12. One who saves
13. Name of Christ
14. One who forgives

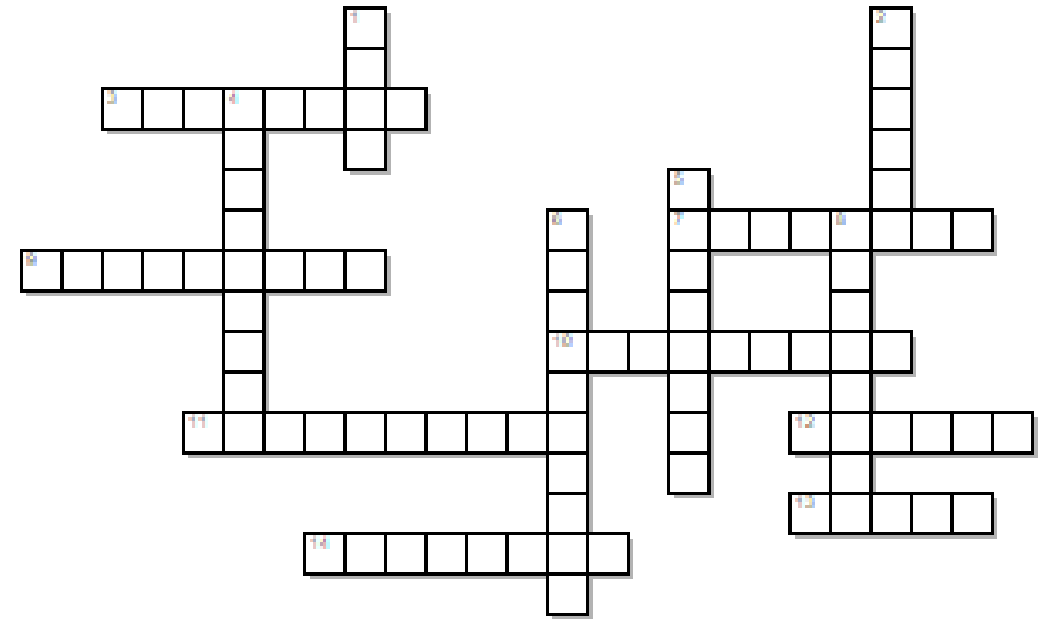
Down

1. Glory of God
2. Anointed One
4. One who protects
5. Meaning "God is with us"
6. One who makes peace
8. One who supports

Word Bank:

Shepherd, Savior, Redeemer, Protector, Peacemaker, Mediator, Lord, Jesus, Emmanuel, Deliverer, Counselor, Christ, Bridegroom, Advocate

Names of Jesus



Across

3. One who leads
7. One who negotiates
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10. One who guides
11. One who comes
12. One who saves
13. Name of Christ
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Down

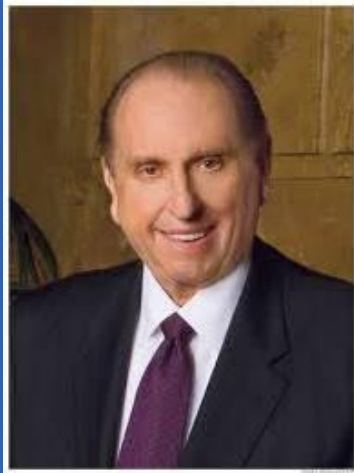
1. Glory of God
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Word Bank:

Shepherd, Savior, Redeemer, Protector, Peacemaker, Mediator, Lord, Jesus, Emmanuel, Deliverer, Counselor, Christ, Bridegroom, Advocate

Acquiring Spiritual Knowledge

To examine doctrinal concepts, questions, and social issues with an eternal perspective, we consider them in the context of the plan of salvation and the teachings of the Savior.



“The goal of gospel teaching... is not to ‘pour information’ into the minds of class members. ... The aim is to inspire the individual to think about, feel about, and then do something about living gospel principles.”

*Pres. Thomas S. Monson

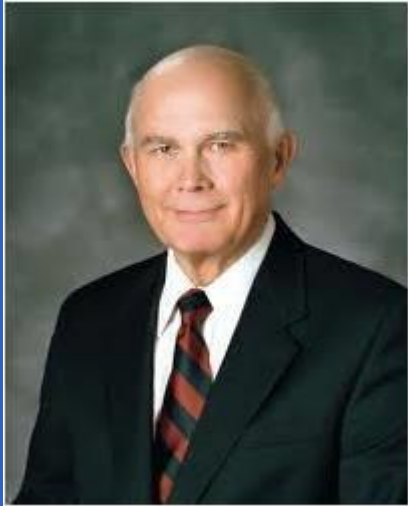
Why Do We Read the Scriptures?

To enlarge our memory

To convince us of error

To bring us knowledge
of Christ

To bring us to repentance



Because of our knowledge of this plan and other truths that God has revealed, we start with different assumptions than those who do not share our knowledge.

As a result, we reach different conclusions on many important subjects that others judge only in terms of their opinions about mortal life. (4)

“Become acquainted with the lessons the scriptures teach. Learn the background and setting of the Master’s parables and the prophets’ admonition. Study them as though they were speaking to you, for such is the truth.”

Pres. Thomas S. Monson

Understanding background and setting of the scriptures



Who is speaking in these verses?

To whom is he or she speaking?

What is happening in this account?

Questions to ask
yourself while
reading the
Scriptures



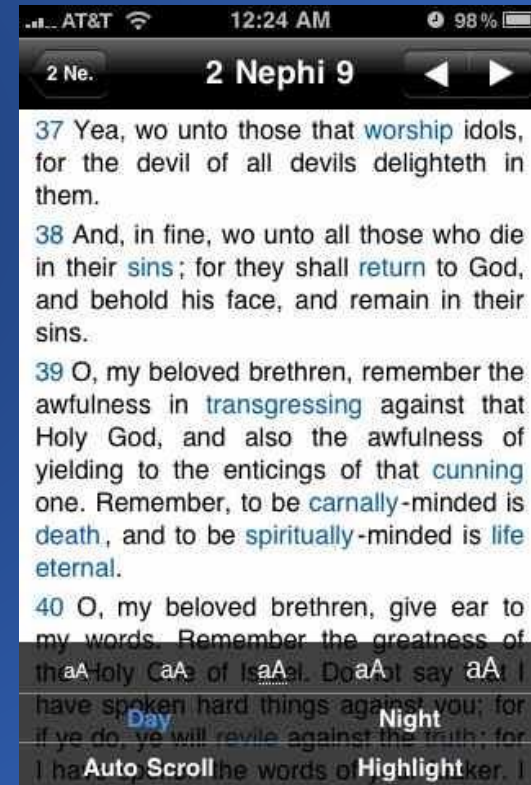
Looking up the meaning of difficult words

Using the footnotes and cross references

Examining the surrounding text

Reading the summaries at the beginnings of the chapter

What do you do to gain a better understanding of the scriptures?



Who is narrating this account?

Who is speaking?

Who is receiving the message?

What has happened before this event?

What miracles occurred after He said that He would stay?

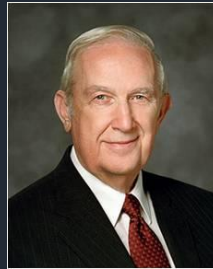
3 Nephi 17:1-10



3 Nephi 8-16 (prior information)

“Principles are concentrated truth, packaged for application to a wide variety of circumstances.”

Elder Richard G. Scott



*Doctrines and principles are eternal, unchanging truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ that provide direction for our lives.

Identifying and understanding doctrines and principles



Direct doctrine in phrases

as

“thus we see”

Or

“therefore”

(Helaman 3:27-29 and Alma 32:16)

What is the message of this story?

What did the writer intend for us to learn from this story?

What truths are taught in this passage of scripture?

Other important questions to ask yourself while reading



Read again
3 Nephi 17:1-10
and ask these
questions

“True doctrine, understood, changes attitudes and behavior. The study of the doctrines of the gospel will improve behavior quicker than a study of behavior will improve behavior. ...that is why we stress so forcefully the study of the doctrines of the gospel”

Pres. Boyd K. Packer

Applying doctrines and principles



Application takes place
when we do something
about the principles we
have learned.

“For behold, again I say unto you
that if ye will enter in by the way,
and receive the Holy Ghost, it will
show unto you all things what ye
should do.” (2 Nephi 32:5)

“And by the power of the Holy
Ghost ye may know the truth of all
things.” (Moroni 10:5)

A Greater Opportunity to Feel the Holy Spirit



Scripture
Mastery

What does the Lord
want me to do with this
knowledge?

What difference can this
make in my life?

What can I start or stop
doing now to live my life
a little better?

How will my life be
better if I do this?

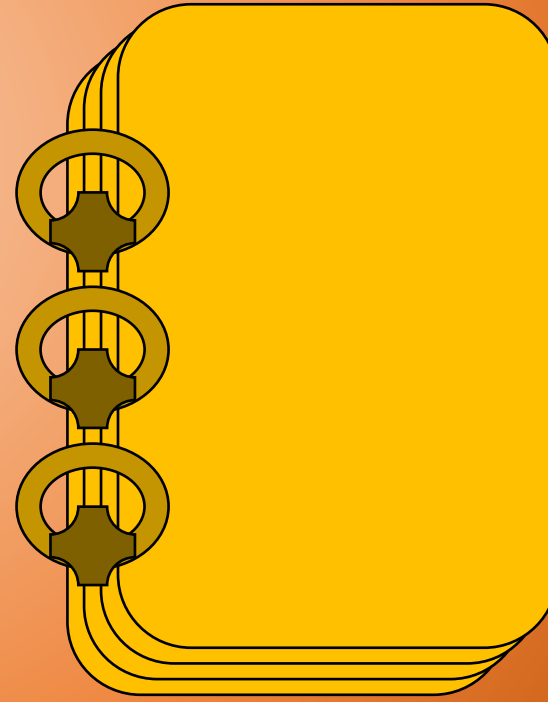
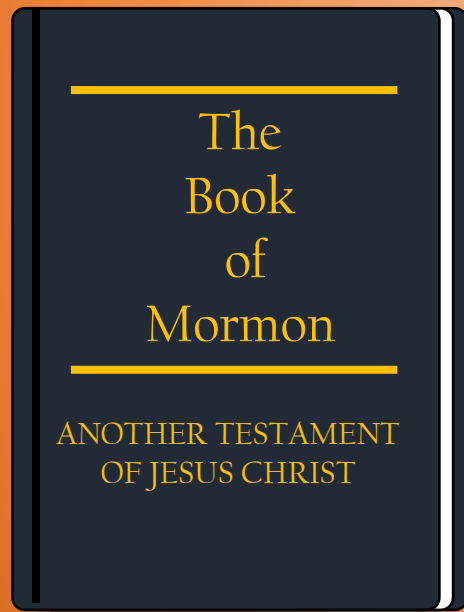
The Importance
of Prayer before,
during, and after
personal
scripture study



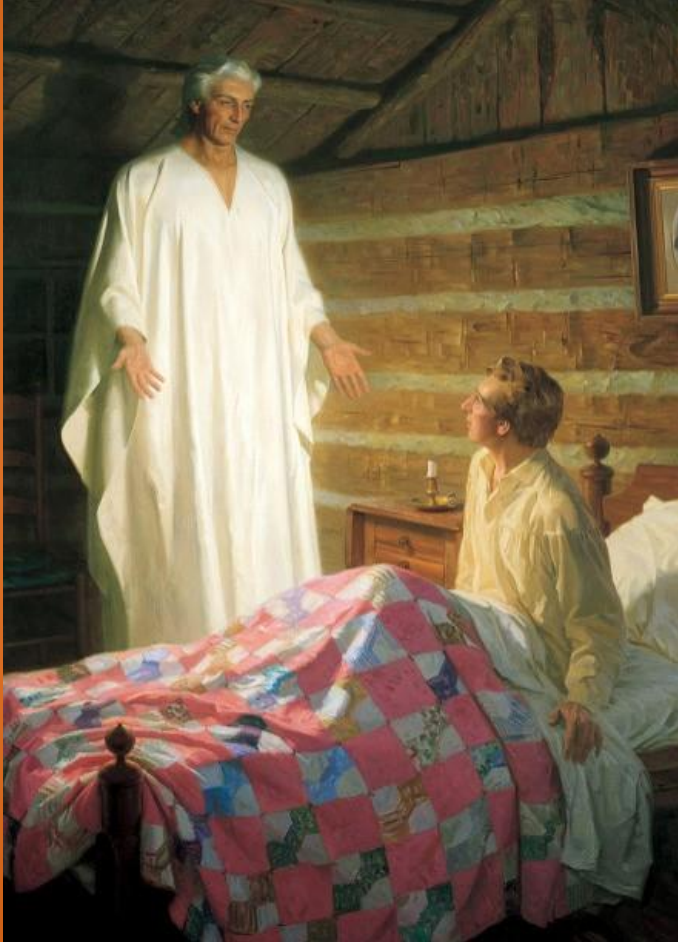
Sources

1. President Thomas S. Monson “Be Your Best Self” Ensign May 2009
2. Elder Richard G. Scott “Acquiring Spiritual Knowledge” Ensign Nov. 1993
3. President Boyd K. Packer “Little Children” Ensign Nov. 1986
4. Dallin H. Oaks, “As He Thinketh in His Heart” [evening with a General Authority, Feb. 8, 2013], broadcasts.ChurchofJesusChrist.org

Overview of the Book of Mormon



A Visit From Angel Moroni



Read:

Joseph Smith History 1:30, 32-35, 42

Read:

Joseph Smith History 1:51-54, 59-60

Joseph Smith was tutored 4 years
by Moroni

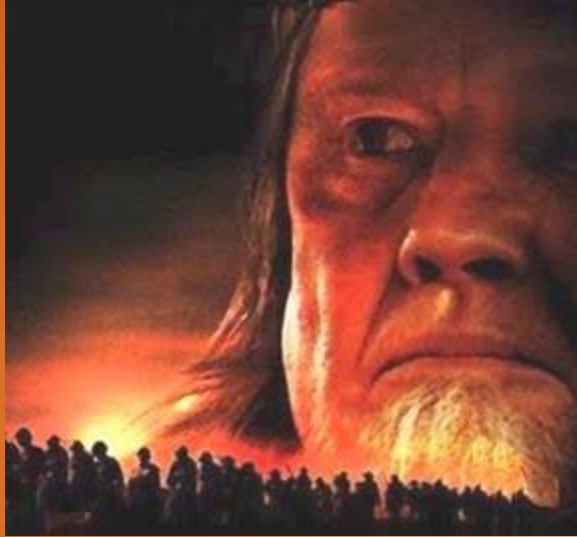
Introduction

A record of God's dealing with ancient inhabitants of the Americas and contains the fulness of the everlasting gospel.



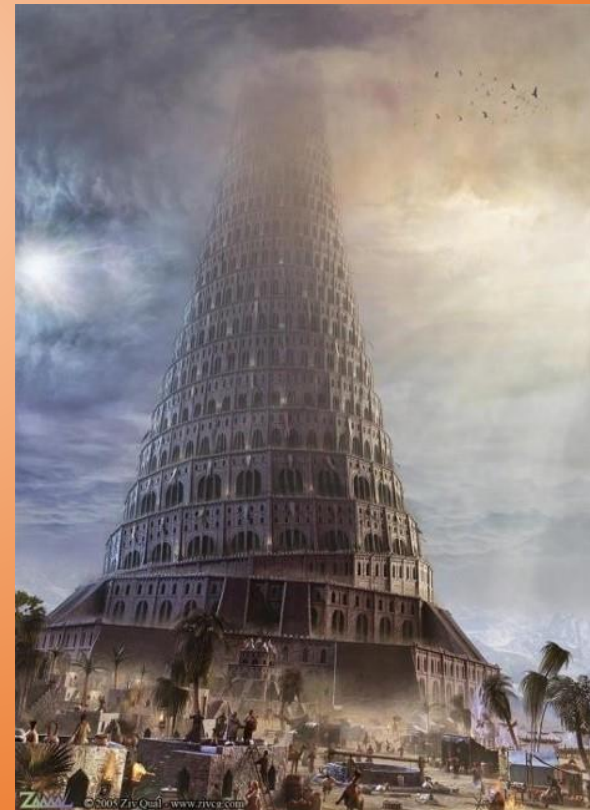
Written by many ancient prophets
by the spirit of prophecy and
revelation.

The Record-Written on Gold Plates



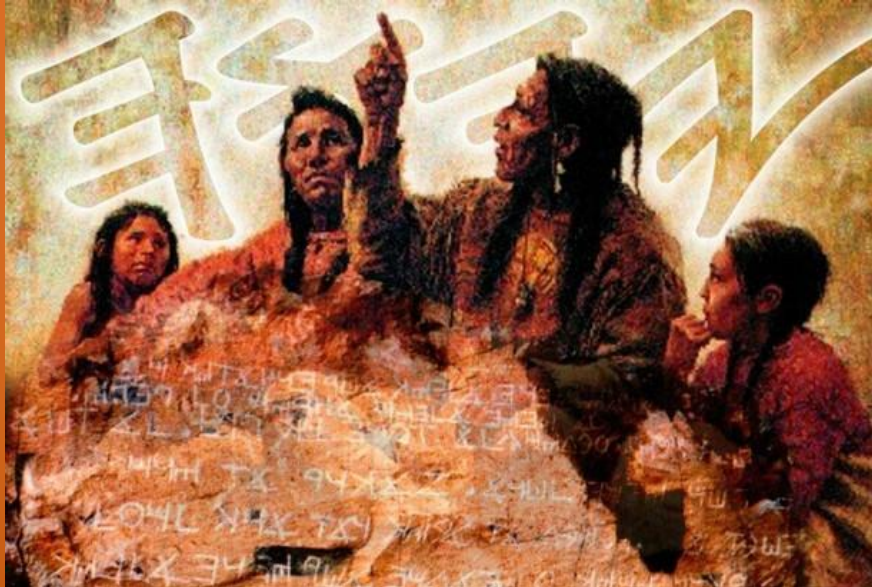
An account of two great
civilizations.
One from Jerusalem in 600 B.C.—
Nephites and Lamanites

Another account of when the Lord
confounded the tongues at the
Tower of Babel.
Jaradites



After Thousands of Years

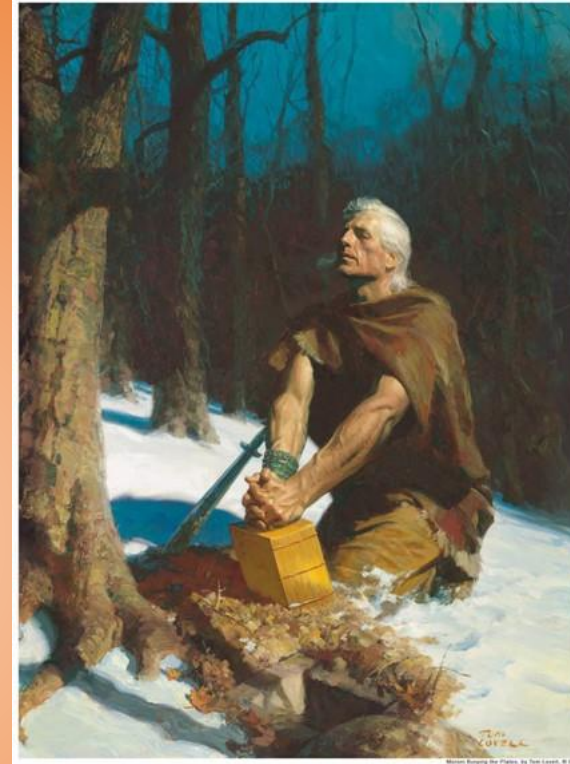
All were destroyed except the
Lamanites



They are among the ancestors
of the American Indians

Delivering

Mormon completes his writing and
delivered his account to his son
Moroni



Moroni hid the plates in the Hill
Cumorah.

Most Correct

“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.”



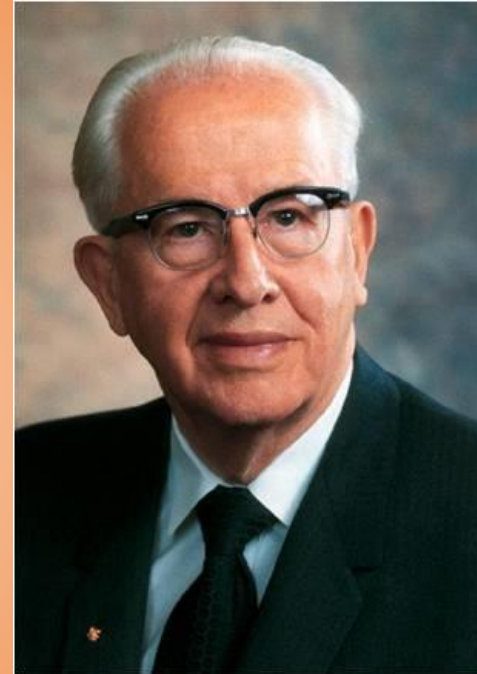
The Book of Mormon contains the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ

“The Lord Himself has stated that 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.

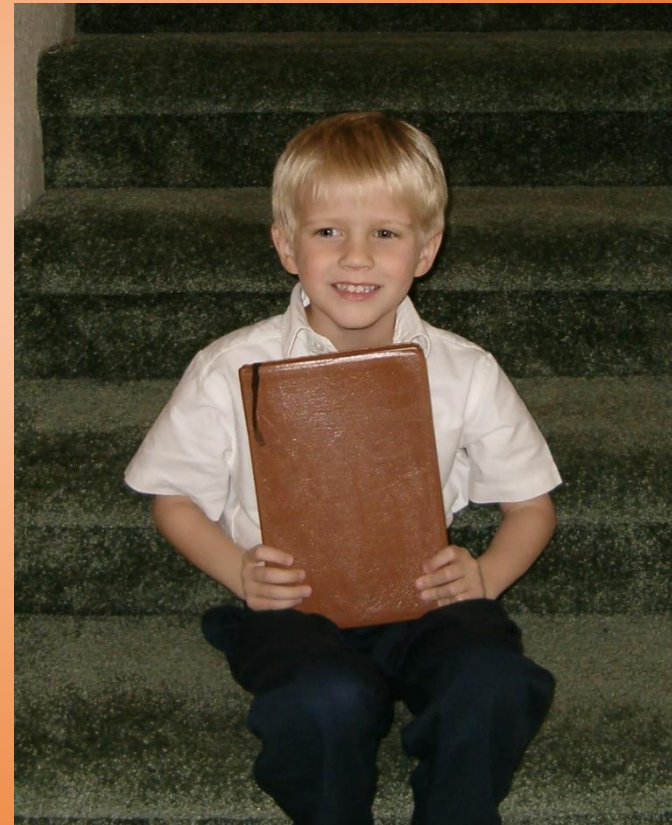
Rather, it means that in the Book of Mormon we will find the fulness of those doctrines required for our salvation.

And they are taught plainly and simply so that even children can learn the ways of salvation and exaltation.”



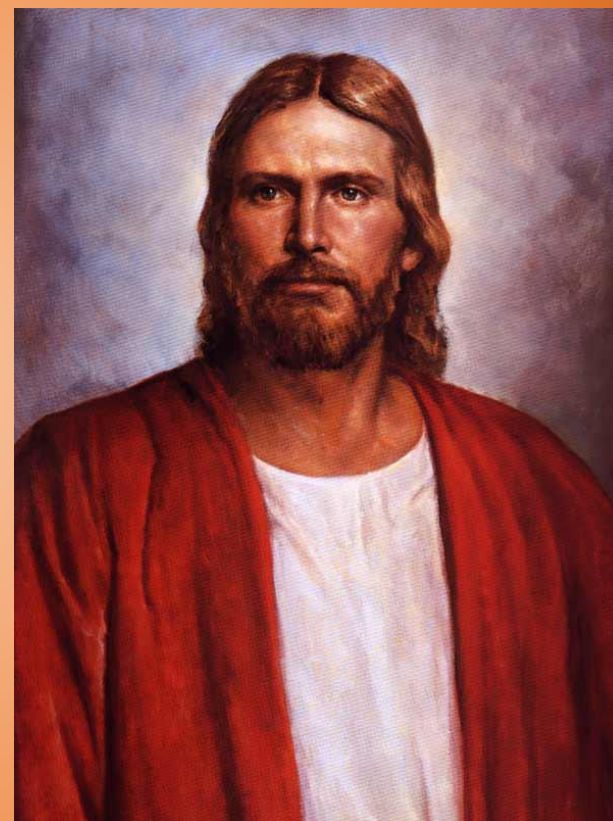
An Invitation To Read the Book of Mormon

Read: Moroni 10:3-5



The Lord's Kingdom

“Those who gain this divine witness from the Holy Spirit will also come to know by the same power that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the World, that Joseph Smith is His revelator and prophet in these last days, and that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord's kingdom once again established on the earth, preparatory to the Second Coming of the Messiah.”



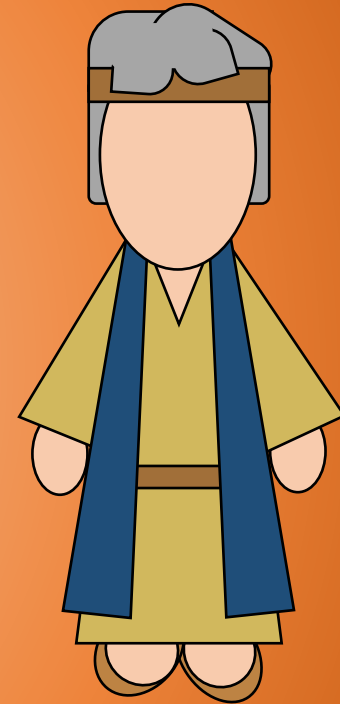
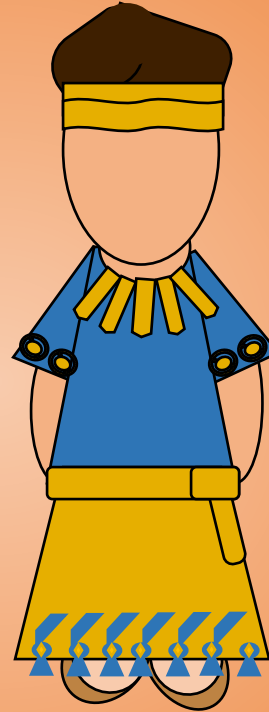
The Record Keepers

1 Nephi 6:4–6

2 Nephi 25:23, 26

Words of Mormon 1:4–8

Mormon 8:1, 34–35

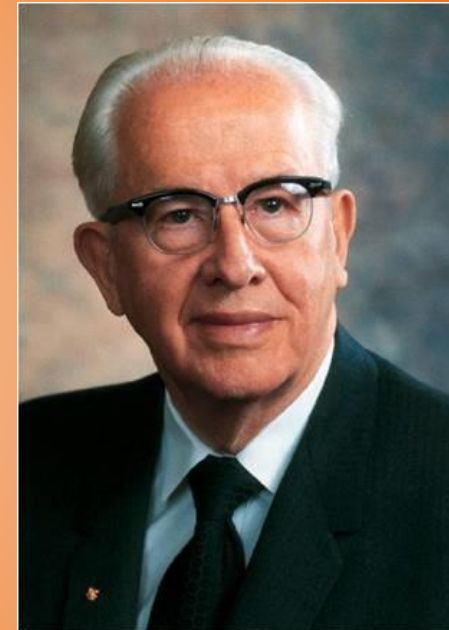


“Each of the major writers of the Book of Mormon testified that he wrote for future generations. ... (2)

“If they saw our day, and chose those things which would be of greatest worth to us, is not that how we should study the Book of Mormon?

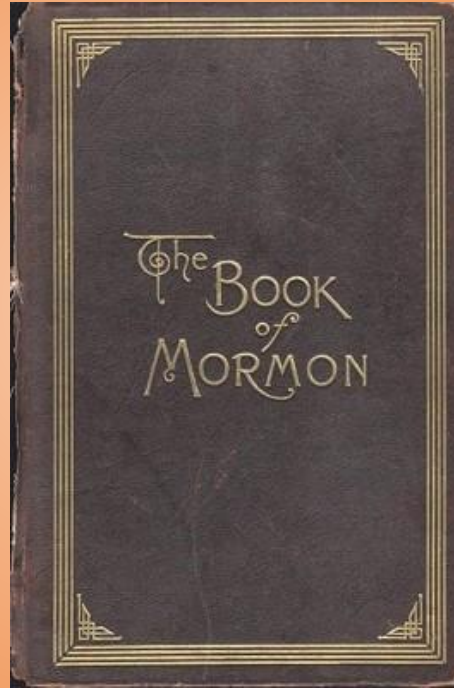
We should constantly ask ourselves, ‘Why did the Lord inspire Mormon (or Moroni or Alma) to include that in his record?

What lesson can I learn from that to help me live in this day and age?’”



Sources:

1. Joseph Smith *History of the Church*, 4:461
2. Ezra T. Benson ("The Book of Mormon—Keystone of Our Religion," *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 6).
3. Introduction to the Book of Mormon

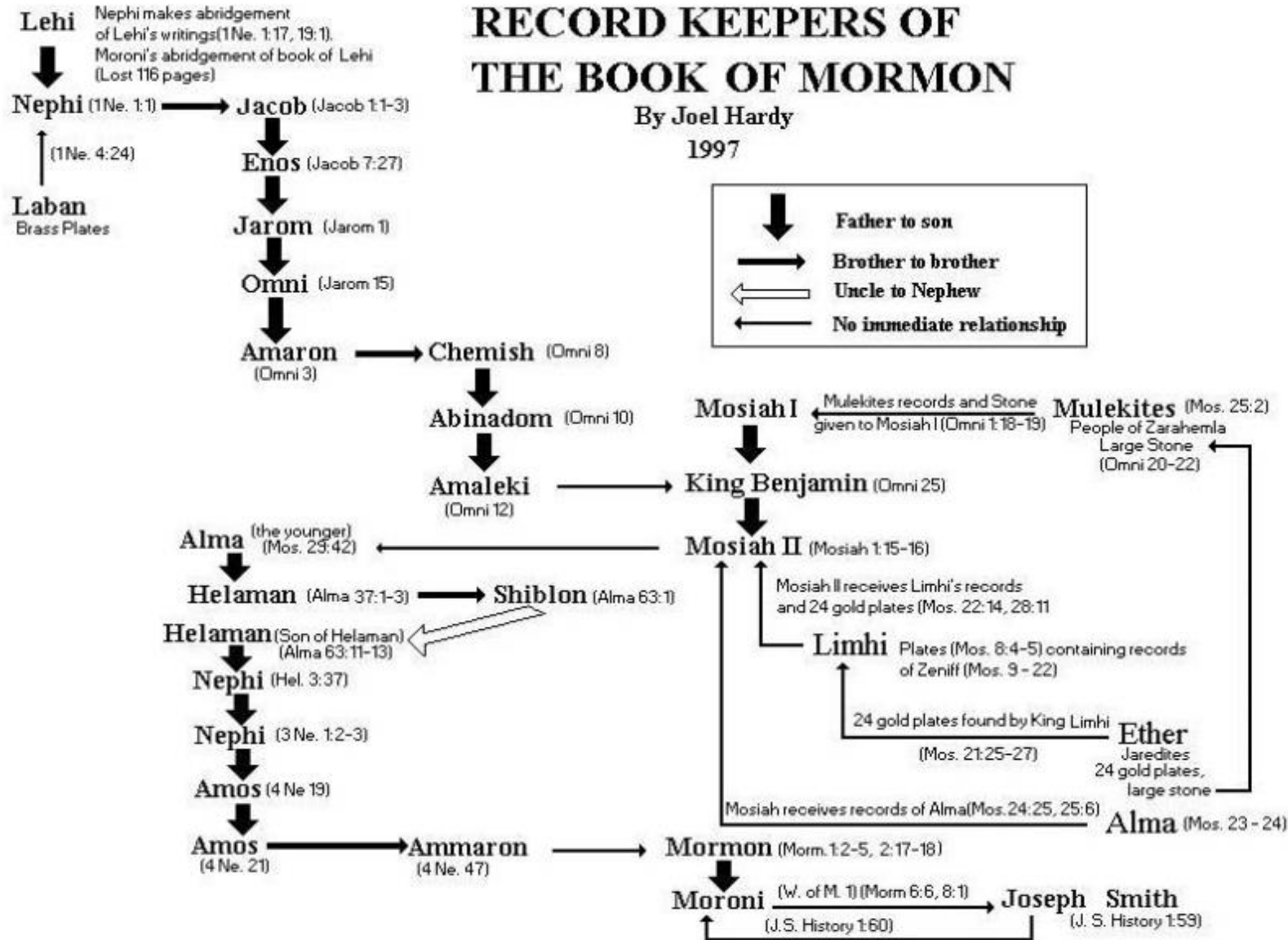


The Book of Mormon contains answers to life's most meaningful questions.

Is there a God?	Alma 30:37-44
Can I know God?	Alma 22:18
Does God care about me?	3 Nephi 13:26-32
How can I resist temptation and sin?	Helaman 5:12
What is the purpose of life?	Alma 34:32-34
Is there life after death?	Alma 40:11-12, 21-23
How can I find peace and joy and be happy?	Mosiah 2:41; 4:2-3; Alma 41:10
How can my family be happier and more united?	Mosiah 4:14-15
How can I judge between right and wrong?	Moroni 7:16-17
Why does God allow evil and suffering to occur?	2 Nephi 2:1-2, 11-16, 22-27; Alma 14:9-11; 60:13

RECORD KEEPERS OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

By Joel Hardy
1997



Printing of the book, An Introduction:

The Book of Mormon was first printed and sold in the Grandin Building located in downtown Palmyra, New York. After translating the golden plates, Joseph Smith "agreed with Mr. Egbert B. Grandin to print five thousand copies"¹ of the Book of Mormon. Publication of the book was financed by Martin Harris, a family friend who mortgaged part of his farm to guarantee the \$3,000 printing cost.

In mid-August 1829, the Prophet Joseph, with Martin Harris, Oliver Cowdery, Hyrum Smith, Joseph Smith Sr., and several others gathered around Grandin's press to print and inspect a proof sheet. Joseph declared the work was "excellent," and printing of the book began.² The Book of Mormon was first offered for sale in Grandin's bookstore on March 26, 1830, as another witness of the divinity and mission of Jesus Christ. It also provides tangible evidence of the prophetic calling of Joseph Smith.

The Church purchased the Grandin Building in 1978 and opened it as a historic site several years later. At the conclusion of extensive restoration in 1998, the building was dedicated as the Book of Mormon Historic Publication Site.

<https://history.lds.org/article/historic-sites/new-york/book-of-mormon-publication-site-palmyra?lang=eng>

