

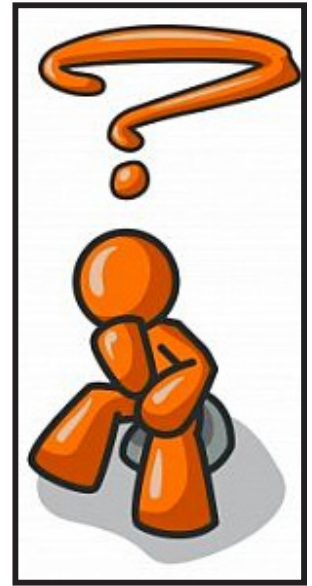
# What About ... The Book of Mormon

BY CLARK BLANCHARD

Allegedly, Joseph Smith translated mysterious golden plates from Palmyra, New York and first published them as the Book of Mormon (BOM) in 1830. Smith is widely quoted as saying, "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 concepts, than by any other book." Along with this, Smith founded Mormonism.

According to the introduction to the Book of Mormon, published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1981: "The record gives an account of two great civilizations. One came (to the Americas) from Jerusalem in 600 B.C., and afterward separated into two great nations, known as the Nephites and the Lamanites. The other came much earlier when the Lord confounded the tongues at the Tower of Babel. This group is known as the Jaredites. After thousands of years, all were destroyed except the Lamanites, and they are the principal ancestors of the American Indians."

**So we see that the BOM is not a book of Mormon doctrine. It's Smith's story of the origin of Native Americans. And on it, hinges the truth or falseness of Smith as a prophet with its linkage to the truth or falseness of Mormonism, in general, which he founded.**



Joseph Fielding Smith, the 10th president of the Mormon church wrote: "Mormonism...must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith. He was either a prophet of God...or he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen. There is no middle ground." Of course, modern Mormons have attempted unsuccessfully to soften the obvious conclusion here with various apologetics for Smith's writings, but the real evidence is overwhelming. Smith is indeed one of the biggest frauds the world has ever seen. There is no middle ground.

First and most important, Smith's primary claim that Native Americans are of Semitic (Hebrew) origin is now known to be entirely false, scientifically. The modern sciences of anthropology, ethnology, linguistics, and genetics clearly affirm that Native Americans are of Mongoloid extraction from eastern Asia. They are not Semites.

In addition to the falseness of Smith's fundamental story about the early Native Americans, the BOM includes a myriad of details that are likewise known to be historically false for the era in question. For example, Smith describes Semites in southern Mexico growing standard European crops such as wheat, barley, rye, olives, and flax. Likewise, they were allegedly raising cows, bulls, calves, flocks, horses, oxen, asses, and even elephants. However, modern anthropology and archaeology have determined that none of this existed in the Americas during that time frame.

Further, Smith described these American Semites as having "an abundance of silk and fine twined linen, and all manner of homely cloth." Silk was first introduced into the Americas by Europeans some fifteen centuries later. Until the Europeans arrived, cloth in general, was very rare.

Smith's descriptions of military operations are strictly European in nature and content. There was nothing like it in the Americas at the time. He even described synagogues and churches built of "many precious things." But Semites, who allegedly left Israel (600 B.C.) prior to the Babylonian Captivity, would have no knowledge of synagogues and certainly not of churches, which first came about some 750 years later. Finally, the BOM frequently quotes from the King James Bible. According to the introduction to the BOM, "In or about the year A.D. 421, Moroni, the last of the Nephite prophet historians, sealed the sacred record and hid it up unto the Lord..." But how could that record, sealed in A.D. 421, quote from the King James Bible which was translated in 1611, some 1190 years later? It couldn't.

I trust that this very brief sampling of the extreme falseness of the Book of Mormon will demonstrate, by linkage through Joseph Smith, the falseness of his alleged revelation of Mormonism. It should also be observed that Smith's falseness here has nothing to do with religious doctrine, but it is claims which are contrary to entirely undisputable historical facts.