

Preaching the Gospel: Mormonism

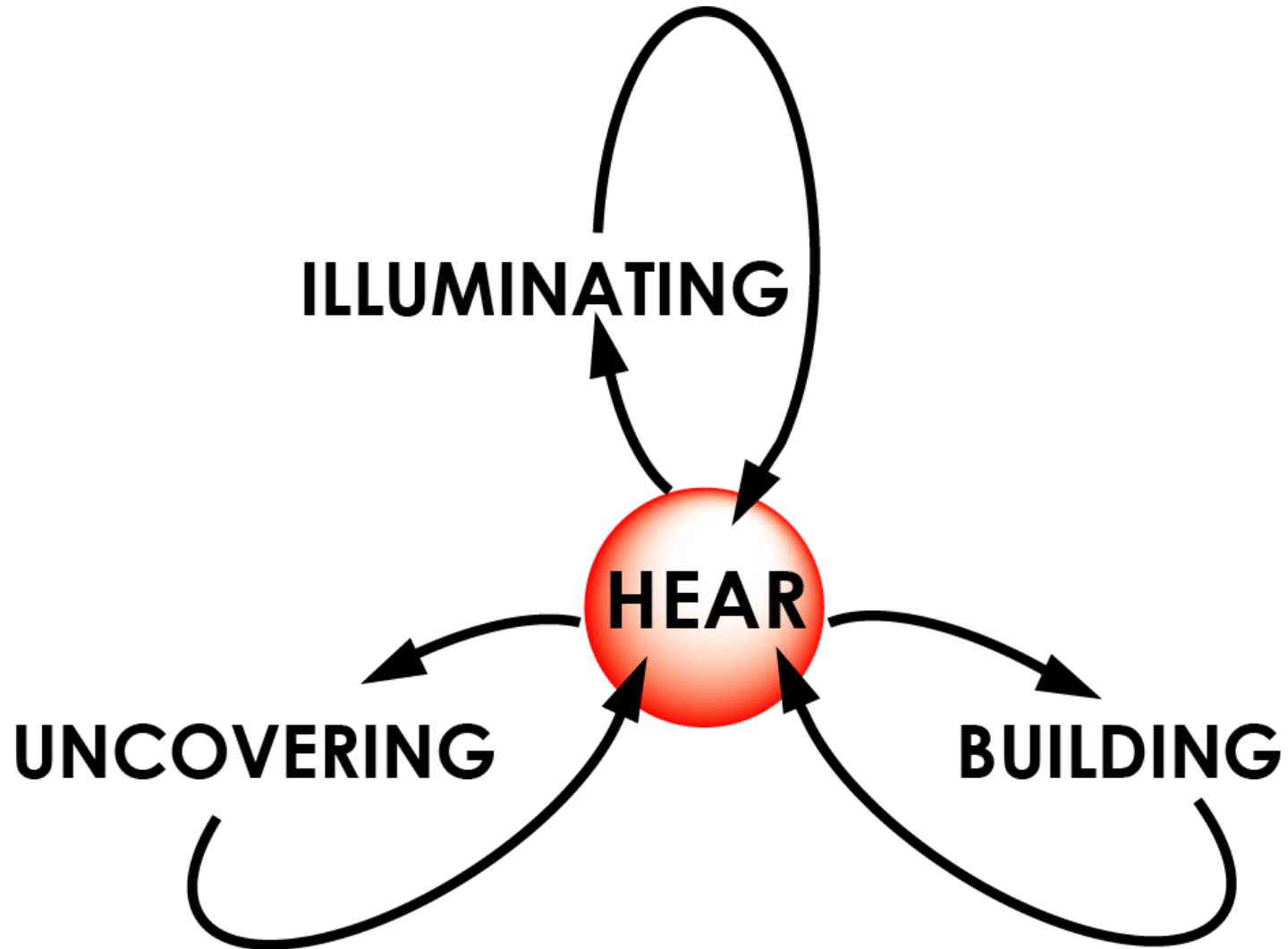
RAYMOND S. LANCE, MD

Gospel to Mormons: Session 2

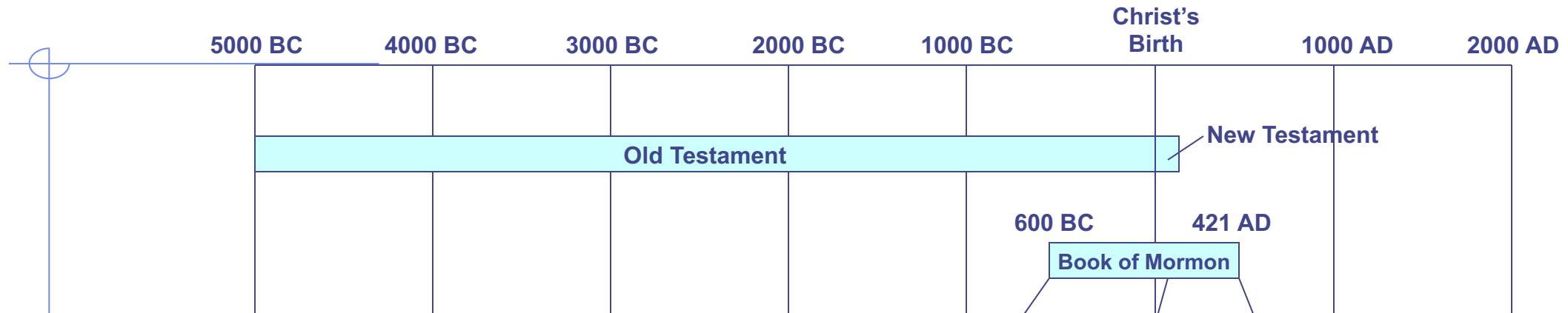
- ◆ Review Book of Mormon and archeological evidence
- ◆ Detailed review of LDS doctrine vs Biblical view
- ◆ Discussion of key LDS assertion of 1st century to 1812 Apostasy

Conversational Evangelism

Four types of conversations we want to have with non-believers



Doctrine: Book of Mormon



- The Book of Mormon serves as a second witness of Jesus Christ.
- The American Indians are the descendents of the people in the Book of Mormon.

Lehi commanded to leave Jerusalem and sail to the Americas.



Christ visits the Americas as a resurrected being after his death.



Last prophet (Moroni) dies.



Contents of Book of Mormon

- ◆ 600 BC - Lehi is told by God to leave Jerusalem before it is destroyed.
- ◆ He and family build a ship and sail across the Pacific to Mexico.
- ◆ Their descendants develop into two nations, the Nephites (good) and Lamanites (bad). A long history of warfare, apostasy and revival follows.



Contents of Book of Mormon

- Jesus comes to Americas & preaches after ministry in Judea.
- 100 years of peace follow.
- Later, The Lamanites defeat the Nephites. Mormon entrusts the history on golden plates to son Moroni, who buries them in upstate NY and dies about AD 400.



Archeology & the Book of Mormon

- ◆ In fact, Book of Mormon names many great cities in the W Hemisphere, archeologists have yet to locate any of them, in stark contrast to the Bible's references to cities.
- ◆ The Smithsonian Institution has a form-letter they send out to inquirers making just this point.



Information from the

National Museum of Natural History

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

Your recent inquiry concerning the Smithsonian Institution's alleged use of the Book of Mormon as a scientific guide has been received in the Smithsonian's Department of Anthropology.

The Book of Mormon is a religious document and not a scientific guide. The Smithsonian Institution has never used it in archeological research and any information that you have received to the contrary is incorrect. Accurate information about the Smithsonian's position is contained in the enclosed "Statement Regarding the Book of Mormon," which was prepared to respond to the numerous inquiries that the Smithsonian receives on this topic.

Because the Smithsonian regards the unauthorized use of its name to disseminate inaccurate information as unlawful, we would appreciate your assistance in providing us with the names of any individuals who are misusing the Smithsonian's name. Please address any correspondence to:

Public Information Officer
Department of Anthropology
National Museum of Natural History
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC 20560

PREPARED BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Archeology & the Book of Mormon

- ◆ In Alma 18:9-10, King Lamoni is pictured as having horses & chariots.
- ◆ The horse is now known to have been extinct in the W Hemisphere for many millennia until it was introduced again by the Spaniards.
- ◆ The wheel also never made it to the W Hemisphere until introduced by Europeans.

Racial Characteristics of Ancient Americans

- ▶ All native peoples of the Americas are dark-skinned
- ▶ Depictions of native peoples in the period artwork shows dark-skinned peoples
 - **No evidence for the “white, and exceedingly fair and delightful.” Nephites**



Book of Mormon Claims

- ▶ Native Americans are descended from Hebrews
 - ▶ “...Written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel..” (*Title Page 1:2*)
 - ▶ “...the Lamanites, and they are the principal ancestors of the American Indians” (*Introduction Preface:1-2*)
 - ▶ “...I speak unto you [Lamanites], ye remnant of the house of Israel; and these are the words which I speak: Know ye that ye are of the house of Israel.” (*Mormon 7:1-2*)
 - ▶ “Which is my word to the Gentile, that soon it may go to the Jew, of whom the Lamanites are a remnant...” (*D&C: Section 19:27*)

DNA Studies on Native American Origins

- ▶ Y-chromosome
- ▶ mtDNA (mitochondrial DNA)
- ▶ Polymorphic Alu insertions
- ▶ Intestinal microbial flora
- ▶ Domesticated animals

Y-Chromosome Studies

- ▶ SNP in DYS199 locus present in all 5 Native American populations and in Siberian Chukchi populations
- ▶ Examination of more than 2,500 Y-chromosomes of wide geographic origin indicated this polymorphism is found only in Native American and Asian populations (not found in African, Australoid, or Caucasian European populations)

Y-Chromosome Studies

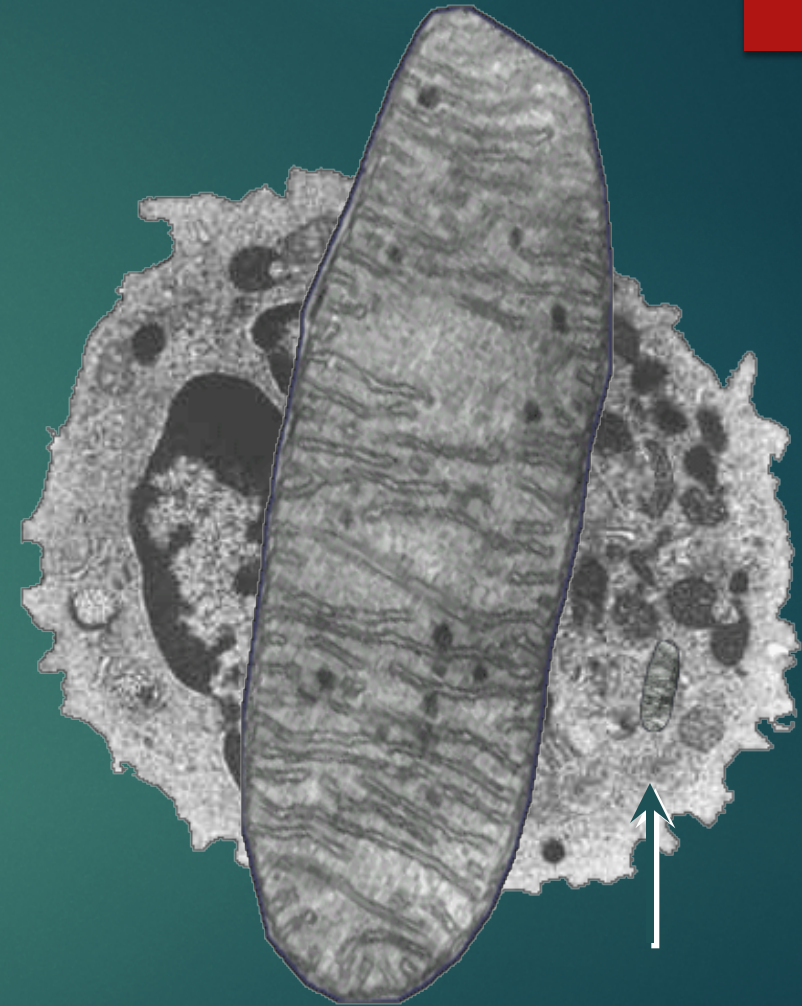
- ▶ Haplotype M3 present in 66% of NA males found in Chukotka peninsula in Siberia
- ▶ Haplotype M45 present in 25% of NA males found in Lower Amur River and Sea of Okhotsk regions of eastern Siberia
- ▶ Haplotype RPS4Y-T present in 5% of NA males found in the Lower Amur River/Sea of Okhotsk region of Siberia

Y-Chromosome Studies

- ▶ Polymorphisms of Native American populations show a gradient of polymorphisms extending from North to South America
- ▶ Such a gradient is expected from an Asian migration through the Bering Strait
- ▶ *Book of Mormon* suggests that a genetic gradient should extend in the opposite direction

Mitochondrial DNA

- ▶ Four Native American haplotypes (A-D) found in 50% of native Mongolians
- ▶ NA HVS-1 haplotype found in 50-70% of aboriginal Siberians
- ▶ Genetic studies set the date for the origination of these haplotypes at 20,000 - 30,000 years ago



Polymorphic Alu Insertions

- ▶ Alu family of retroposons is present at an extremely large copy numbers within the chromosomes of the human genome (500,000 copies/genome equivalent)
- ▶ Five polymorphic Alu insertions were examined from 24 Native American populations
- ▶ The comparison showed a close similarity between Chinese and Native American populations

Archeology & the Book of Abraham

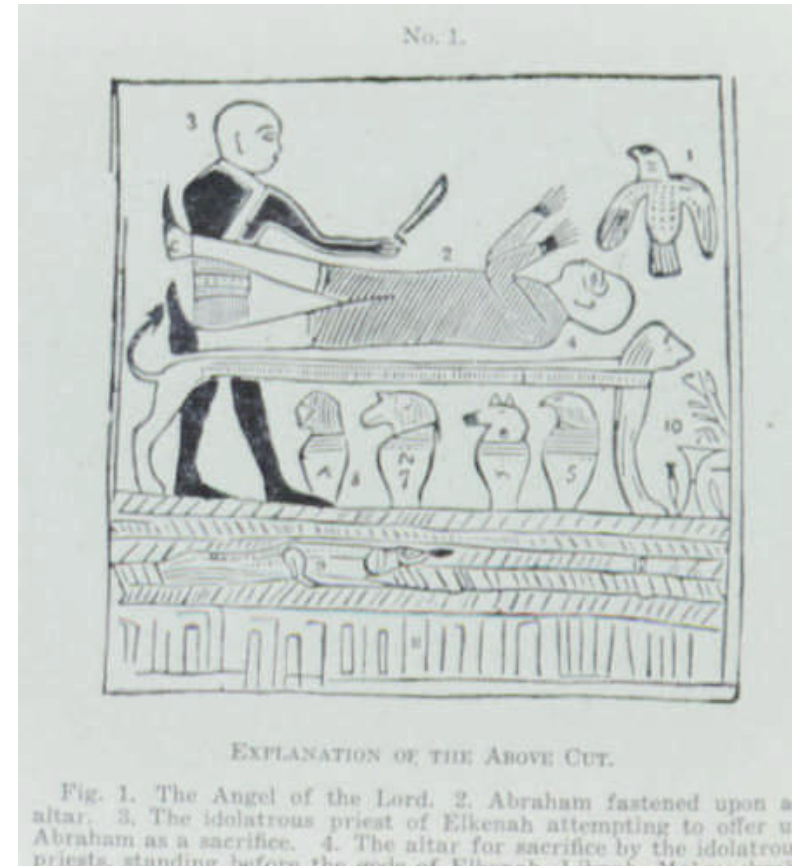
- ◆ One of the major parts of Mormon Scripture is the Pearl of Great Price.
- ◆ This work contains several parts:
 - The Book of Moses – visions revealed to Joseph Smith in December, 1830
 - The Book of Abraham – an ancient Egyptian scroll translated by Smith's miraculous gifts (original Egyptian papyrus discovered in 1967)
 - Extracts from Smith's translation of the Bible and his History
 - The Articles of Faith

History of the Book of Abraham

- ◆ Joseph Smith purchased several Egyptian scrolls from a traveling showman.
- ◆ Smith claimed that he could translate these by his divine powers, and that they told a story about the experiences of Abraham when he was in Egypt.
- ◆ At the time, no one on earth could translate ancient Egyptian.
- ◆ The scrolls disappeared after Smith's death, and were thought to have burnt in the Chicago fire... until 1967.

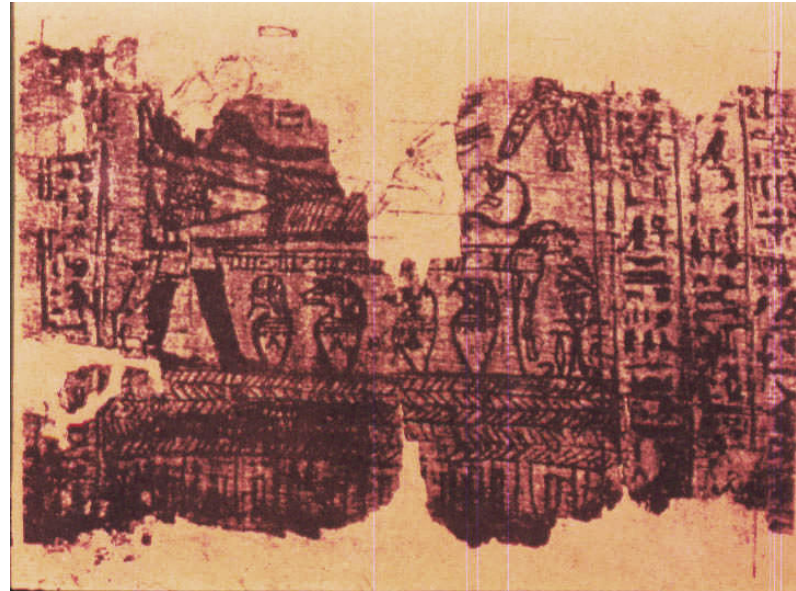
History of the Book of Abraham

- ◆ Smith copied pictures from the scrolls and printed them in his Book of Abraham.
- ◆ These pictures were shown to several archeologists to get their opinion.
- ◆ They said Smith was mistaken about the main picture, and it had been modified.
- ◆ Naturally, Mormons disagreed with this.



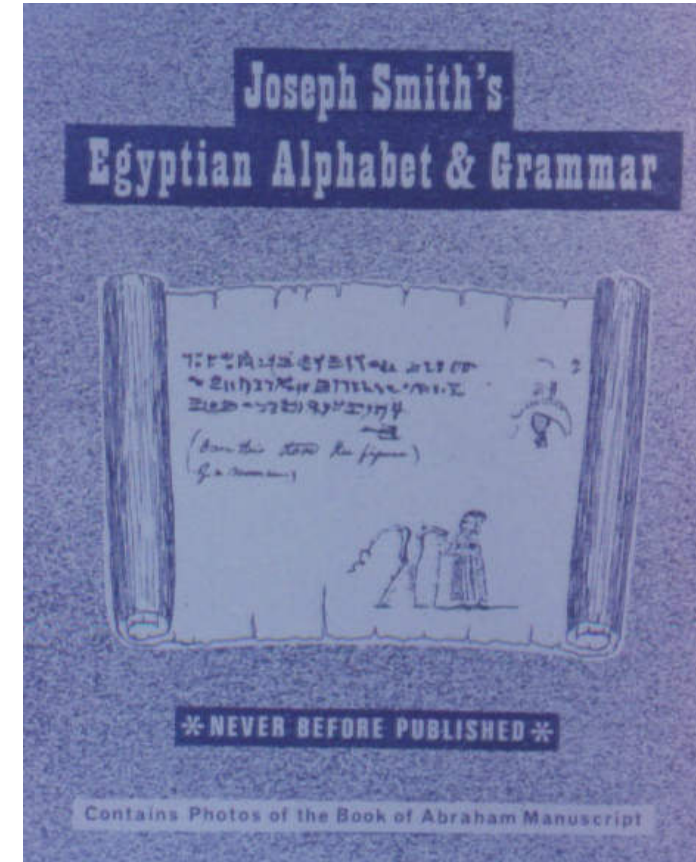
History of the Book of Abraham

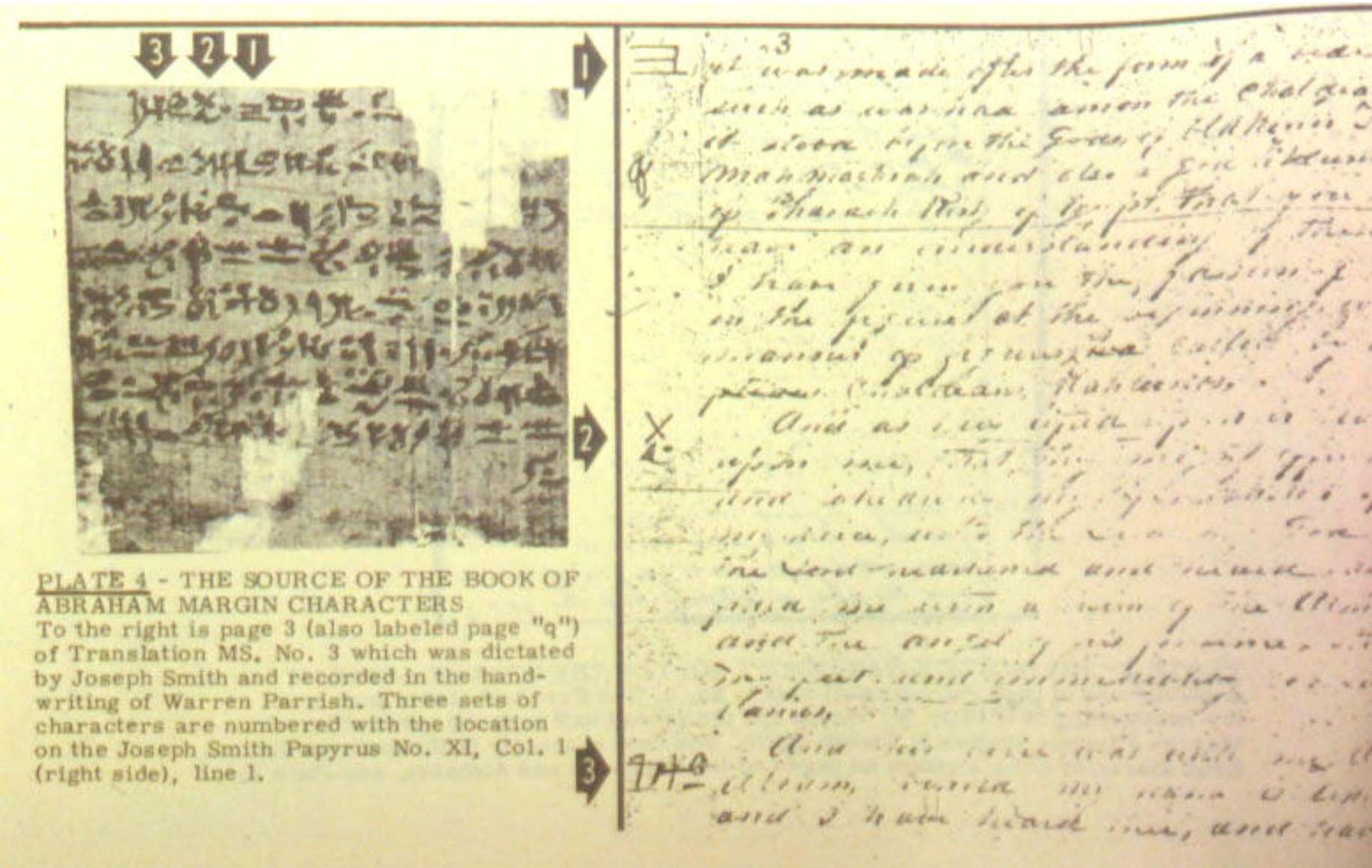
- ◆ In 1967, the scrolls turned up in a NY museum, which gave them back to the Mormon church when this became public.
- ◆ The text of the scrolls has now been translated. They have nothing to do with Abraham!
- ◆ They show the picture has been modified.



History of the Book of Abraham

- ◆ Shortly before the scrolls turned up, the text of Smith's *Egyptian Alphabet & Grammar* was made public.
- ◆ This shows that Smith did not know Egyptian!
- ◆ It also contains samples of text which he had copied from the scrolls, showing how he had translated particular texts.

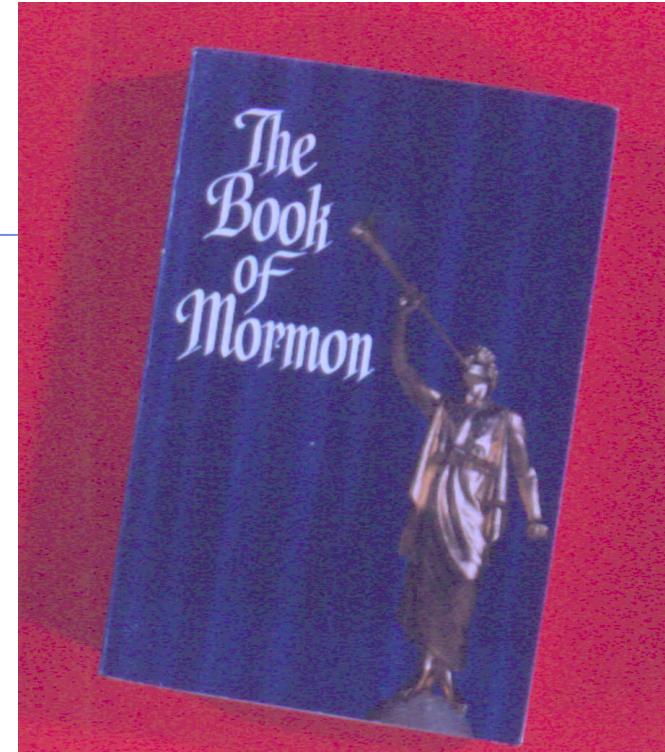




Book of Abraham text cp with Smith's *Alphabet & Grammar*

Mormon Doctrine

The official doctrinal statement of the LDS Church, adopted in 1830, shows where they started — but not where they went. Mormonism developed a good deal during the rest of Smith's life.



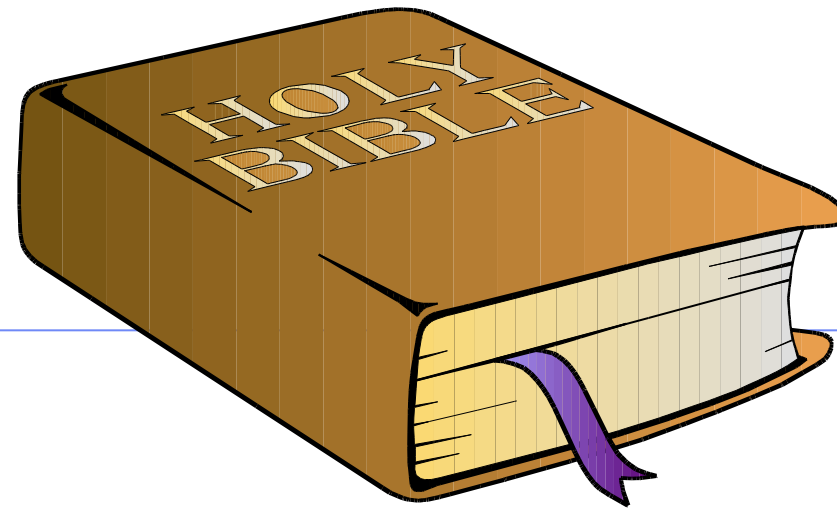
The Articles of Faith – 1830

- ◆ We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.
- ◆ We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.
- ◆ We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.
- ◆ We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are:
 - (1) Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ;
 - (2) Repentance;
 - (3) Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins;
 - (4) Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Articles of Faith – 1830

- ◆ We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, viz., apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc.
- ◆ We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.
- ◆ We believe the Bible to be the Word of God so far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God.
- ◆ We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

Mormon Doctrine Compare To The Bible



Mormonism

Elohim – The Exalted Man

Introduction

The Mormon view of God is one of the more radical departures from the Truth revealed in God's word. Most Mormons hold the following basic beliefs regarding God:

- ◆ He is not the only God
- ◆ God has a physical body
- ◆ He was once a man, but has progressed to Godhood (Lorenzo Snow)
- ◆ He did not create the universe from nothing, but rather from eternally existent matter

Mormonism

Elohim – The Exalted Man

Plurality of Gods

Position documented

- ◆ *"If we should take a million worlds like this and number their particles, we should find that there are more gods than particles of matter in those worlds." --Orson Pratt (Apostle), Journal of Discourses, Vol.2, p.345*

The Truth

- ◆ Isaiah 44:6,8 – There is only one God.

Mormonism

Elohim – The Exalted Man

God Has A Physical Body

Position documented

- ◆ *"That there is a God in heaven who is infinite and eternal; who has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's, and who is in fact a resurrected, glorified, perfected and exalted Man..." --Bruce McConkie (Apostle), The Mortal Messiah, p.21*
- ◆ *"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's..." D&C 130:22*

Mormonism

Elohim – The Exalted Man

God Was Once A Man

Position documented

- ◆ *"It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for certainty the character of God, and to know that we may converse with him as one man converses with another and that 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..." Joseph Smith, Jr., Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 345. Lorenzo Snow, "As man is god once was and as god is man may become."*

Refuted

- ◆ Hosea 11:9 Is not a man
- ◆ Malachi 3:6 "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed."
- ◆ Psalms 90:2 He has always been God

Mormonism

Elohim – The Exalted Man

God Utilized Pre-existent Matter to Create the Earth

Position documented

- ◆ *"God, the supreme Power, cannot conceivably originate matter; he can only organize matter. Neither can he destroy matter; he can only disorganize it...The doctrine that God made the earth or man from nothing becomes, therefore, an absurdity." -- John Widstoe (Apostle), A Rational Theology, p.12*
- ◆ *"The pure principles of element which can never be destroyed; they may be organized and reorganized, but not destroyed. They had no beginning, and can have no end." --Joseph Smith, Jr., Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 350*

Isaiah 43:10-12

¹⁰ “You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord,
“and my servant whom I have chosen,
that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed,
nor shall there be any after me.

¹¹ I, I am the Lord,
and besides me there is no savior.

¹² I declared and saved and proclaimed,
when there was no strange god among you;
and you are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and I am God.

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Is 43:10–12). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Isaiah 44:24

24 Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer,
who formed you from the womb:

“I am the Lord, who made all things,
who alone stretched out the heavens,
who spread out the earth by myself,

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Is 44:24). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶ Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

“I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.
Let him declare and set it before me,
since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

⁸ Fear not, nor be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
And you are my witnesses!
Is there a God besides me?
There is no Rock; I know not any.”

Isaiah 45:5-7

⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other;
there is no God but me.

I will strengthen you,
though you do not know me,

⁶ so that all may know from the rising of the sun to its setting
that there is no one but me.

I am the Lord, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make success and create disaster;
I am the Lord, who does all these things.

[Christian Standard Bible](#). (2017). (Is 45:5–7). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

One God

- ◆ Deuteronomy 4:35,39: ...the Lord he is God; there is none else beside him.
- ◆ Deuteronomy 6:4: Hear, O Israel: **the LORD thy God is one LORD.**
- ◆ 1 Chronicles 17:20: O Lord, there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee...
- ◆ Isaiah 43:10-11: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior.

God Alone

- Mark 12:29-34: Jesus affirming Deuteronomy
- 1 Cor 8:4-6: there is none other God but one... to us there is but one God.
- 1 Tim 2:5: For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus
- John 17:3: And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.



Mormonism

Elohim – The Exalted Man

Refuted

- ◆ Genesis 1:1
- ◆ Hebrews 11:3
- ◆ Romans 4:17
- ◆ Nehemiah 9:6
- ◆ Romans 11:36
- ◆ I Corinthians 8:6
- ◆ Ephesians 3:9
- ◆ Colossians 1:16
- ◆ Revelation 4:11
- ◆ Isaiah 44:24
- ◆ Psalm 33:6, 9

LDS view of Jesus

◆ Mormon Jesus

- First born son of Elohim
- Brother of Lucifer
- Not equal with the Father
- Atonement provided physical resurrection and immortality
- Atonement limited
 - ◆ Not sufficient for "mortal sins"
- Jesus not substitute but exemplar.

• Biblical Jesus

- Coequal member of Godhood
- Has always existed
- Creator
- Born of Virgin birth
- Atonement once for all sins for all time
- Final Judge

LDS Doctrine of Jesus

Jesus was the spiritual "first born" Son of God in the preexistence. "Every person who was ever born on earth was our spirit brother or sister in heaven. The first spirit born to our heavenly parents was Jesus Christ, so he is literally our elder brother" (Gospel Principles [GP], p. 11). "And now, verily I say unto you, I was in the beginning with the Father, and am the Firstborn" (D&C 93:21). He is also the "only begotten" physical offspring of God by procreation on earth. "Jesus is the only person on earth to be born of a mortal mother and an immortal father.

LDS Doctrine of Jesus

That is why he is called the Only Begotten Son" (GP, p. 64). His atonement (death and resurrection) provides immortality for all people regardless of their faith. "Christ thus overcame physical death. Because of his atonement, everyone born on this earth will be resurrected . . . This condition is called immortality. All people who ever lived will be resurrected, 'both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, both the wicked and the righteous' (The Book of Mormon [BOM], Alma 11:44)" (GP, p. 74). (See GP, pp. 11, 17-19, 61-77.)

Doctrine of Jesus

Biblical Response:

Jesus Christ was the virgin born God incarnate who existed in all time with the Father and Holy Spirit in the eternal Trinity. As a man He possessed two natures -human and divine. He lived a sinless life and willingly died on the cross as a sacrifice for the sin of all humanity. (see John 1:1-18; 8:56-59; Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 1:13-22; Heb.1:3; 13:8)

John 1:1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 1:1–14).
Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

John 8:58

⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 8:57–58). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Matthew 16:13-16

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 16:13–16).
Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.