

# The Book of Mormon in the Bible

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# The Book of Mormon in the Bible

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*And now, my beloved brethren, and also Jew, and all ye ends of the earth, hearken unto these words, and believe in Christ; and if ye believe not in these words, believe in Christ. And if ye shall believe in Christ, ye will believe in these words; for they are the words of Christ, and he hath given them unto me; and they teach all men that they should do good.*

*2 Nephi 15:11-12*

Perhaps the biggest divergence, or separation, from the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the rest of the Christian world, is the belief in the Book of Mormon. The RLDS's belief in the Book of Mormon has naturally caused some confusion for those outside of this faith over the years, and has sparked many questions, such as does the RLDS Church, also referred to as the Restoration, believe in Jesus Christ? Does the Restoration believe in the Bible? Why do they believe in the Book of Mormon? Is there evidence of the Book of Mormon in the Bible?

In the world today, access to information has never been easier through the widespread utilization and accessibility of the internet on various devices, including computers, mobile smartphones, and tablets. Unfortunately, the information found online is not always accurate; thereby it can create half-truths and misunderstandings. Regrettably, many individuals do not perform their own research on a specific topic, but rather rely on the opinions of others as fact instead of looking to the primary source itself. It is our hope and prayer that we will be able to shed some light on the questions stated above in the following section.

## Does the Restoration believe in Jesus Christ

Does the Restoration believe in Jesus Christ is conceivably the most important question when considering the Book of Mormon, as well as the Restoration faith. The shortened and simplified answer is yes, however, we feel that it is important for the reader to gain a somewhat deeper understanding in the core Restoration beliefs. In particular, the Restoration believes in the one and true living God.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, we believe in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again so that the world might have eternal life,<sup>2</sup> and in the Holy Ghost, which is the Comforter and a gift from God that leads us into all truth.<sup>3</sup> [For more information, please read **Chapter Three**.]

Notwithstanding this, we understand that many people are not familiar with the Book of Mormon. Therefore, rather than simply stating that we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, we feel that it is crucial that we allow the Book of Mormon to speak for itself by presenting a list of Scriptures. However, before we do, we would ask the reader to pray over these things in faith believing that you will receive

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<sup>1</sup> Alma 5:12 and John 17:3

<sup>2</sup> John 3:15-17

<sup>3</sup> John 16:13-14 and Genesis 6:64

the truth, as stated in James, chapter one, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, not wavering; for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”<sup>4</sup> In addition, a similar word of wisdom can be found in the Book of Mormon through the prophet Moroni. Please read the following from Moroni 10:2-5:

**10:2** And I seal up these records [the Book of Mormon], after I have spoken a few words by way of exhortation unto you. **10:3** Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam, even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts. **10:4** And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that **ye would ask God, the eternal Father, *in the name of Christ***, if these things are not true; **10:5** And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, ***he will*** manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things.

Further, it is important to understand that God has given mankind a pattern in the way that He reveals Himself, and this He does in order that we will not be deceived, as the Lord said in the third chapter of Malachi, “For I am the Lord, I change not.”<sup>5</sup> Wherefore, mankind can trust that God will not deviate from His patterns. In particular, we read from Genesis, chapter five, that “the gospel began to be preached from the beginning, being declared by holy angels, sent forth from the presence of God; and by his own voice, and by the gift of the Holy Ghost. And thus *all things* were confirmed unto Adam by an holy ordinance; and the gospel preached; and a decree sent forth that it should be in the world *until the end thereof*; and thus it was. Amen.”<sup>6</sup> Therefore, from Genesis we learn that God has preached the gospel of Jesus Christ from the foundation of the world by (1) holy angels, (2) by His own voice, and (3) by the gift of the Holy Ghost. Moreover, we can witness this pattern throughout the Scriptures, as shown in the table below:

Pattern of Ministry	Old Testament	New Testament
<b>By angels</b>	Gen 19:1-20; Psa 91:11-12; Dan 8:15-25; Dan 9:20-23; Zech 1:7-13	Matthew 2:3-8; Mat 3:13 and 19-20; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 1:11-20; Luke 1:26-38
<b>By His own voice</b>	Exo 3:4; Deut 5:4-6 and 23-33; Deut 18:15-19; 1 Sam 3:21; Eze 33:1-9; etc. [God spoke to all of His prophets]	John 3:16-18; John 17:5; Heb 1:1-2
<b>By the gift of the Holy Ghost</b>	Gen 4:9; Jud 3:10; 1 Sam 10:6; 2 Sam 23:2; Psa 51:9-13; Isa 11:1-4; Eze 11:5	Mat 2:1-3; Mat 5:4-5; John 14:16-17 and 26; John 16:13-15; Acts 2:4; 1 Cor 2:10-14

<sup>4</sup> James 1:5-6

<sup>5</sup> Malachi 3:6

<sup>6</sup> Genesis 5:44

From the table above, the reader will notice that God has utilized this pattern of ministry through both the Old and New Testaments. Thus, since we know that God does not change, we can have faith in the Lord that He continues to work in the same manner in our present day [more will be covered on this subject in **Chapter Five**]. Unfortunately, because of our lack of faith, we rarely hear of the first two methods of ministry occurring today. Nonetheless, the Lord often opens the understanding of mankind through the gift of the Holy Ghost, and by the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to discern whether something has truly been given from God or given by some other power, such as by the spirit of man or of the devil.

In the first epistle to the Corinthians, Paul wrote, “Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed; and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.”<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, John wrote that all things that confess Jesus Christ are from God, as we read, “Beloved, *believe not every spirit, but try* the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God; Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh *is of God*; And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God; and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now it *is already* in the world.”<sup>8</sup>

Therefore, if we take the words of Paul and John to heart and experiment with them, we have the promise from the Lord that we will receive the knowledge of the truth [The Holy Ghost is covered in further detail in **Chapter Three**]. We hope that the following Scriptures, which were taken from the Book of Mormon, will help the reader to better understand the Restoration’s beliefs concerning Jesus Christ:

Reference	Scripture
<b>1 Nephi 3:4-8, 25</b>	Yea, even six hundred years from the time that my father left Jerusalem, a prophet would the Lord God raise up among the Jews, <b>even a Messiah</b> ; or, in other words, <b>a Savior of the world</b> . And he also spake concerning the prophets, how great a number had testified of these things, concerning this Messiah, of whom he had spoken, or this <b>Redeemer of the world</b> . Wherefore, all mankind were in a lost and in a fallen state, and ever would be, save they should rely on this Redeemer. And he spake also concerning a prophet [John the Baptist], who should come before the Messiah, to prepare the way of the Lord; Yea, even he should go forth and cry in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord and make his paths straight; And the <b>Son of God was the Messiah who should come</b> ;
<b>2 Nephi 8:7, 9, 11-14</b>	Behold, my soul delighteth in proving unto my people the <b>truth of the coming of Christ</b> : And all things which have been given of God from the beginning of the world, unto man, <b>are the typifying of him</b> . Yea, my soul delighteth in his grace, and his justice, and power, and mercy, in the great and eternal plan of deliverance from death. And my soul delighteth in proving unto my people, that save Christ should come, all men must perish. For if there be no Christ, there be no God; and if there be no God, we are not, for there could have been no creation. But there is

<sup>7</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:3

<sup>8</sup> 1 John 4:1-3

	a God.
<b>2 Nephi 11:39, 43-50</b>	Yea, behold, I say unto you, that as these things are true, and as the Lord God liveth, there is none other name given under heaven, <b>save it be this Jesus Christ</b> of which I have spoken, whereby man can be saved. For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, <b>to believe in Christ</b> , and to be reconciled to God; For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do. And notwithstanding we believe in Christ, we keep the law of Moses, and look forward with steadfastness unto Christ, until the law shall be fulfilled; for, for this end was the law given; Wherefore, the law hath become dead unto us, and we are made <b>alive in Christ, <i>because of our faith</i></b> ; Yet we keep the law because of the commandments; And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophecy 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. 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.
<b>2 Nephi 13:16</b>	Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I know that if ye shall follow the Son with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father, that ye are willing to <b>take upon you the name of Christ</b> , by baptism; yea, by following your Lord and your Savior down into the water, according to his word; behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost;
<b>Jacob 1:6-8</b>	And we also had many revelations, and the spirit of much prophesy; wherefore, we knew of Christ and his kingdom, which should come. Wherefore, we labored diligently among our people, that we might <b>persuade them to come unto Christ</b> , and partake of the goodness of God, that they might enter into his rest, lest by any means he should swear in his wrath they should not enter in, as in the provocation in the days of temptation, while the children of Israel were in the wilderness. Wherefore, we would to God that we could persuade all men not to rebel against God, to provoke him to anger, but that <b><i>all men</i></b> would believe in Christ, and view his death, and suffer his cross, and bear the shame of the world;
<b>Jacob 3:4-5</b>	For, for this intent have we written these things, that they may know that <b><i>we knew of Christ</i></b> , and we had a hope of his glory, many hundred years before his coming, and not only we, ourselves, had a hope of his glory, but also all the holy prophets which were before us. Behold, they believed in Christ, and worshipped the Father in his name; and also, <b>we worship the Father <i>in his name</i></b> .
<b>Enos 1:7-11</b>	And there came a voice unto me saying, Enos, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou shalt be blessed. And I, Enos, knew that God could not lie; wherefore, my guilt was swept away. And I said, Lord, how is it done? And he said unto me, because of <b><i>thy faith in Christ</i></b> , whom thou hast never before heard nor seen. And many years pass away, before he shall manifest himself in the flesh; wherefore, go to, thy faith hath made thee whole.
<b>Mosiah 3:11</b>	There is no other name given, whereby salvation cometh, therefore, I would that ye should <b>take upon you the name of Christ</b> , all you that have entered into the covenant with God, that ye should be obedient unto the end of your lives.
<b>Alma 3:39-42, 48-</b>	I say unto you, Ye will know at that day, that ye can not be saved: for there can no

49, 83-84	<p>man be saved except his garments are washed white: Yea, his garments must be purified until they are cleansed from all stain, through the blood of him of whom it has been spoken by our fathers who should come to <b>redeem his people <u>from</u> their sins</b>. And now I ask of you, my brethren, How will any of you feel, if ye shall stand before the bar of God, having your garments stained with blood, and all manner of filthiness? Behold, what will these things testify against you? Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble? That your garments have been cleansed and made white, through the blood of Christ, who will come to redeem his people from their sins? And I say unto you, that <b><u>I know</u></b> that Jesus Christ shall come; yea, the Son, the only begotten of the Father, full of grace, and mercy, and truth. And behold, it is he that cometh to take away the sins of the world; yea, the sins of every man who steadfastly believeth on his name.</p>
Alma 13:45-47	<p>And Aaron did expound unto him the scriptures, from the creation of Adam, laying the fall of man before him, and their carnal state, and also the plan of redemption, which was prepared from the foundation of the world, through Christ, for all whosoever would believe on his name. And since man had fallen, he could not merit anything of himself; but the sufferings and death of Christ atoneth for their sins, through faith and repentance, etc.: And that he breaketh the bands of death, that the grave shall have no victory, and that the sting of death should be swallowed up in the hopes of glory</p>
Alma 17:66-70	<p>Preach unto them <b>repentance, and faith</b> on the Lord Jesus Christ: teach them to humble themselves, and to be meek and lowly in heart; teach them to withstand every temptation of the devil, with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ; Teach them to never be weary of good works, but to be meek and lowly in heart: for such shall find rest to their souls. O remember my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and cry unto God for all thy support; Yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord <b><u>for ever</u></b>; counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good: Yea, when thou liest down at night, lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou riseth in the morning, let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day.</p>
Helaman 2:74-75	<p>And now my sons, remember, remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that <b><u>ye must</u></b> build your foundation, that when the devil <b><u>shall</u></b> send forth his mighty winds; yea, his shafts in the whirlwind; Yea, when all his hail and his mighty storm shall beat upon you, <b>it shall have no power over you</b>, to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build, they can not fall.</p>
3 Nephi 12:18-19	<p>Have they not read the scriptures, which say, Ye must <b>take upon you the name of Christ</b>, which is my name? for by this name shall ye be called at the last day; and whoso taketh upon him my name, and endureth to the end, the same shall be saved at the last day; Therefore, whatsoever ye shall do, ye shall do it in my name; therefore ye shall call the church in my name; and ye shall call upon the Father in my name, that he will bless the church for my sake; and how be it my church, save</p>

it be called in my name?

**Mormon 3:30-33**

Know ye that ye must come to the knowledge of your fathers, and repent of all your sins and iniquities, and **believe in Jesus Christ**, that he is the Son of God, and that he was slain by the Jews, and by the power of the Father he hath risen again, whereby he hath gained the victory over the grave; and also in him is the sting of death swallowed up. And **he bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead**, whereby man must be raised to stand before his judgment seat. And he hath brought to pass the redemption of the world, whereby he that is found guiltless before him at the judgment day, hath it given unto him to dwell in the presence of God in his kingdom, to sing ceaseless praises with the choirs above, unto the Father, and unto the Son, and unto the Holy Ghost, which are one God [meaning one in purpose], in a state of happiness which hath no end. Therefore repent, and be **baptized in the name of Jesus**, and lay hold upon the gospel of Christ, which shall be set before you, not only in this record, but also in the record which shall come unto the Gentiles from the Jews [the bible], which record shall come from the Gentiles unto you. For behold, this is written for the intent that ye may believe that; and if ye may believe that, ye will believe this also; and if ye believe this, ye will know concerning your fathers, and also the marvelous works which were wrought by the power of God among them; And ye will also know that ye are a remnant of the seed of Jacob; therefore ye are numbered among the people of the first covenant; And if it so be that ye believe in Christ, and are baptized, **first** with water, **then** with fire and with the Holy Ghost, **following the example of our Savior** according to that which he hath commanded us, it shall be well with you in the day of judgment. Amen.

**Mormon 4:71-72**

Behold, he created Adam; and by Adam came the fall of man. And because of the fall of man, came Jesus Christ,...and because of Jesus Christ came the **redemption of man**. And because of the redemption of man, which came by Jesus Christ, they are **brought back into the presence of the Lord**; yea, this is wherein all men are redeemed, because the death of Christ bringeth to pass the resurrection, which bringeth to pass a redemption from an endless sleep, from which sleep all men shall be awakened by the power of God, when the trump shall sound; And they shall come forth, both small and great, and all shall stand before his bar, being redeemed and loosed from this eternal band of death, which death is a temporal death; And then cometh the judgment of the Holy One upon them; and then cometh the time that he that is filthy, shall be filthy still, and he that is righteous, shall be righteous still; he that is happy, shall be happy still; and he that is unhappy, shall be unhappy still.

**Moroni 10:26-30**

And behold, they shall proceed forth out of the mouth of the everlasting God; and his word shall hiss forth from generation to generation. And **God shall shew unto you**, that that which I have written **is true**. And again I would exhort you, that ye would come unto Christ, and lay hold upon every good gift and touch not the evil gift, nor the unclean thing. Yea, come unto Christ, and **be perfected in him**, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God. And again, if ye, by the grace of God, are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then



are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot.

First, we would like to thank the reader for their patience, for it can be very difficult to limit the beautiful and precious words of God. Second, in order to suitably answer the question, “Does the Restoration believe in Jesus Christ, we have presented the Scriptures above from the Book of Mormon, which especially witnesses of Jesus Christ. In particular, the Book of Mormon declares that Jesus is the Son of God and that He came to the earth in order to redeem all mankind from their sins for those who will believe in His name, who are baptized in His name, who take upon them His name, who worship in His name, and who endure in His name. However, we desire to share one final Scripture from 2 Nephi 15:5-13:

**15:3** But I, Nephi, have written what I have written; and I esteem it as of great worth, and especially unto my people. **15:4** For I pray continually for them by day, and mine eyes water my pillow by night, because of them; and I cry unto my God in faith, and I know that he will hear my cry; and I know that the Lord God will consecrate my prayers, for the gain of my people. **15:5** And the words which I have written in weakness, will he make strong unto them; for it persuadeth them to do good; it maketh known unto them of their fathers; and **it speaketh of Jesus**, and persuadeth them to believe in him, and to endure to the end, which is life eternal. **15:6** And it speaketh *harsh against sin*, according to the plainness of the truth; wherefore, no man will be angry at the words which I have written, save he shall be of the spirit of the devil.

**15:7** I glory in plainness; I glory in truth; I glory in my Jesus, for he hath redeemed my soul from hell. **15:8** I have charity for my people, and great faith in Christ, that I shall meet many souls spotless at his judgment seat. **15:9** I have charity for the Jew: I say Jew, because I mean them from whence I came. I also have charity for the Gentiles. **15:10** But behold, for none of these can I hope, except they shall be reconciled unto Christ, and enter into the narrow gate, and walk in the straight path, which leads to life, and continue in the path until the end of the day of probation.

**15:11** And now, my beloved brethren, and also Jew, and all ye ends of the earth, hearken unto these words, and believe in Christ; and if ye **believe not** in these words, believe in Christ. **15:12** And if ye shall believe in Christ, ye will believe in these words; for they are the words of Christ, and he hath given them unto me; and they teach all men that they should do good.

**15:13** And if they are not the words of Christ, judge ye: for Christ will shew unto you, with power and great glory, that they are his words, at the last day. **15:14** And you and I shall stand face to face before his bar; and ye shall know that I have been commanded of him to write these things, notwithstanding my weakness: **15:15** And I pray the Father in the name of Christ, that many of us, if not all, may be saved in his kingdom, at that great and last day.

Wherefore, the words from the Book of Mormon itself advise the readers that even if they do not believe in this work, believe in Jesus Christ. We would then ask the reader, what work of man or of the devil would ask someone to believe in Jesus Christ?

## Does the Restoration believe in the Bible

In the first chapter of John, we read that the gospel was preached from the beginning, and that the gospel was the word of Jesus Christ. Further we read, “In him (Jesus) was the gospel, and the gospel was the life, and the life was the light of men.” The Restoration believes that the gospel of Jesus Christ testifies that He is the Son of God, who was sent to be the reconciliation for the sins of the world for those who believe on His name, keep His commandments, and love the Lord with all their might, mind, and strength.

The RLDS Church believes that both the Old and the New Testament testify of Jesus Christ and that they are a part of the gospel of Christ. Further, the reader may be surprised to learn that the Book of Mormon also testifies of the Bible, which was also noted above in the Scripture from Mormon, chapter three. Please read the following passage from 1 Nephi 3:157-166:

**3:157** And I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them. **3:158** And the angel said unto me, Knowest thou the meaning of the book? **3:159** And I said unto him, I know not. **3:160** And he said, Behold, it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew; and I, Nephi, beheld it; **3:161** And he said unto me, The book that thou beholdest is a *record of the Jews*, which contains the covenants of the Lord which he hath made unto the house of Israel; **3:162** And it also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets; **3:163** And it is a record like unto the engravings which are upon the plates of brass, save there are not so many; nevertheless, they contain the covenants of the Lord which he hath made unto the house of Israel; **3:164** Wherefore, they are of great worth unto the Gentiles.

**3:165** 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 apostles bear record; and they **bear record according to the truth which is in the Lamb of God**; **3:166** Wherefore, these things go forth from the Jews in purity unto the Gentiles, according to the truth which is in God:

The book that the prophet Nephi saw was more than just a record of the Jews,<sup>9</sup> but it also contained the covenants of the Lord and the prophecies of the holy prophets which God made with the house of Israel, which comprises the Old Testament. Further, Nephi witnessed that the twelve apostles also bore record of the gospel according to the truth which is in Jesus Christ, and we find the record of their works in the New Testament. Hence, the Book of Mormon testifies of Bible.

Furthermore, Nephi witnessed that the record of the Book of Mormon would establish, or in other words confirm, “the truth of the first, which are of the twelve apostles of the lamb,<sup>10</sup>” so that it will

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<sup>9</sup> The Jews are actually comprised of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and a portion of Levi.

<sup>10</sup> 1 Nephi 3:192

convince many to believe in Jesus Christ. Nephi also beheld that these records would be brought together “and shall make known to all kindreds, tongues and people, that the Lamb of God is the son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him or they can not be saved; And they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb; and the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb; Wherefore, they shall be established in one; For there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth.<sup>11</sup>”

In addition to the Book of Mormon, the Old Testament also prophesized that separate records of God would be established in one in Ezekiel, chapter thirty-seven. Please read the following passage from Ezekiel 37:15-22:

**37:15** The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, **37:16** Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick and write upon it, for Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions; **37:17** And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.

**37:18** And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not show us what thou meanest by these? **37:19** Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, **and make them one stick**, and they shall be **one in mine hand**.

**37:20** And **the sticks whereon thou writest** shall be in thine hand before their eyes. **37:21** And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land; **37:22** And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all; and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms anymore at all;

It is important to remember that the Scripture above was written in prophecy, as well as in a different culture, meaning that the words used then do not necessarily correlate with our language today. For example, the term stick, as read in this Scripture passage, does not refer to what most people today refer to as sticks, but of an object that someone might write on, which is why the Lord said to Ezekiel, “And the sticks whereon thou writest, shall be in thine hand before their eyes.” In addition, the Book of Mormon helps to clarify further by making the correlation between the word of God and a rod. Thus, when we read from the eleventh chapter of Isaiah, “And He [Jesus Christ] shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the

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<sup>11</sup> 1 Nephi 3:193-197

wicked,<sup>12</sup> we might accurately say, “He shall smite the earth with the word of God,” or in other words, that Jesus will judge the world through the word of God.

Most scholars and theologians agree that the stick of Judah is the Bible. Nonetheless, they tend to disagree on meaning behind the stick of Joseph. Specifically, the Restoration believes that the stick of Joseph is the Book of Mormon, as we find that those who wrote the book were decedents of Joseph, one the twelve sons of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. [More is covered in **Chapter Nineteen**]. Moreover, the prophecy from Ezekiel gives mankind a point of reference in order to be able to know with certainty when this prophecy would come to pass. For immediately following the promise that the sticks would become one, the Lord told Ezekiel that Israel would be united in one kingdom. The restoration of Israel will be mentioned further in section, *Is there evidence of the Book of Mormon in the Bible*.

### Why does the Restoration believe in the Book of Mormon

The Restoration believes in the Book of Mormon for the same reason that they believe in the Bible. In short, the Book of Mormon is a testimony of Jesus Christ in America, and in particular, it does not contradict with the Bible. Instead, it helps to put more of the puzzle pieces together in order to grow our knowledge in the truth that Jesus is the Only Begotten Son of God and that He is the way, the truth, and the life who leads the way to the Eternal Father.

Further, the Book of Mormon is an additional witnessing tool to help bring souls to Christ. We would ask the reader, if one soul was brought to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God because of the Book of Mormon, would not this verify its truth? Moreover, what if it brought thousands of souls to knowledge of the truth? There are many people who would not believe in God at all if it were not for the testimony presented through the Book of Mormon, the writer being one of them.

In fact, the very first page of the Book of Mormon explains that “it is an abridgement of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites...who are a remnant of the house of Israel; written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation...to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations.” Please read the following from Alma 17:32-39:

**17:32** And these plates of brass which contain these engravings, which have the records of the holy scriptures upon them, which have the genealogy of our forefathers, even from the beginning. **17:33** And behold, it has been prophesied by our fathers, that they should be kept and handed down from one generation to another, and be kept and preserved by the hand of the Lord, until they should go forth unto every nation, kindred, tongue and people, that they shall know of the mysteries contained thereon. **17:34** And now behold, if they are kept, they must retain their brightness; yea, and they will retain their brightness; yea, and also shall all the plates which do contain that which is holy writ.

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<sup>12</sup> Isaiah 11:4

**17:35** Now ye may suppose that this is foolishness in me; but behold I say unto you, that by small and simple things, are great things brought to pass; and small means in many instances, doth confound the wise. **17:36** And the Lord God doth work by means to bring about his great and eternal purposes; and by very small means the Lord doth confound the wise, and bringeth about the salvation of many souls.

**17:37** And now, it has hitherto been wisdom in God, that these things should be preserved: for behold, they have enlarged the memory of this people, yea, and convinced many of the error of their ways, and brought them to the knowledge of their God, unto the salvation of their souls.

**17:38** Yea, I say unto you, were it not for these things that these records do contain, which are on these plates, Ammon and his brethren could not have convinced so many thousands of the Lamanites, of the incorrect tradition of their fathers; **17:39** Yea, these records and their words, brought them unto repentance; that is, they brought them to the knowledge of the Lord their God, and to rejoice in Jesus Christ their Redeemer.

At this time the reader may be asking, “Does the Book of Mormon preach a different gospel than the Bible?” The simple answer is no. The Book of Mormon is a different testimony of the same gospel of Jesus Christ. As stated above, the Book of Mormon and the Bible do not contradict one another, but actually support one another in perfect harmony. The following is a list of Restoration beliefs, which is presented by matching scriptures from the Bible and from the Book of Mormon.

<b>Believe in Christ</b>	
John 3:17-18	For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world But that the world through Him might be saved...
Acts 16:30-31	What must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved and thy house
Mosiah 2:10-12 (BOM)	And also, the <b>atonement which has been prepared from the foundation of the world</b> , that thereby salvation might come to him that should <u>put his trust in the Lord</u> , and should be diligent in keeping his commandments, and continue in the faith even unto the end of his life; I mean the life of the mortal body; I say, that this is the man who receiveth salvation, through the atonement which was prepared from the foundation of the world, for all mankind, which ever were, ever since the fall of Adam, or who are or who ever shall be, even unto the end of the world; and this is the means whereby salvation cometh. And there is none other salvation, save this which hath been spoken of; neither are there any conditions whereby man can be saved, except the conditions which I have told you.
<b>Grace</b>	
Ephesians 2:8-10	For by grace are ye saved through faith...and that not of yourselves...it is the gift of God
2 Nephi 11:44 (BOM)	For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do
<b>Baptism</b>	
Mark 16:15	He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned
John 3:5	Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water, and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God
3 Nephi 10:30-31 (BOM)	Therefore give heed to my words;...whosoever will hearken unto my words, and repenteth, and is baptized, the same shall be saved.
<b>Holy Ghost</b>	

Romans 15:13	Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost
Acts 8:14-17	Now when the Apostles...heard that Samaria had received the word of God (believed) they sent unto them Peter and John...only they were baptized in the name of the Lord (Jesus). Then laid they their hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost
1 Nephi 3:24, 26, 30 (BOM)	And also the things which he spake by the power of the Holy Ghost; which power he received by faith on the Son of God... I, Nephi, was desirous also that I might see, and hear, and know of these things, by the power of the Holy Ghost, which is the gift of God unto all those who diligently seek him, as well in times of old as in the time that he should manifest himself unto the children of men... And the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them by the power of the Holy Ghost, as well in this time as in times of old
2 Nephi 13:15 (BOM)	The voice of the Son came unto me, saying, He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost, like unto me; wherefore, follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do
Moroni 2:1-2 (BOM)	The words of Christ, which he spake unto his disciples, the twelve whom he had chosen, as he laid his hands upon them. And he called them by name, saying, Ye shall call on the Father in my name, in mighty prayer; and after ye have done this, ye shall have power that on him whom ye shall lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; in my name shall ye give it, for thus do mine apostles
<b>Works/Faith</b>	
Titus 1:16	They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate
John 14:12, 14	Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also;...If ye love me, keep my commandments
James 2:14,18,20 (IV 2:14,17,18)	What profit is it my brethren, for a man to say he hath faith and hath not works? <b>Can faith save him?</b> Even so Faith if it have not works is dead, being alone. Therefore wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead and <b>cannot save you?</b>
Matthew 7:31	For the day soon cometh, that man shall come before me to judgment, to be judged according to their works
1 Nephi 4:52 (BOM)	For the day should come that they must be judged of their works yea, even the works which were done by the temporal body in their days of probation
2 Nephi 12:66 (BOM)	For out of the books shall be written, I will judge the world every man according to his work...
Alma 3:31 (BOM)	Do you look forward with an eye of faith...to be judged according to the deeds which have been done in this mortal body?
<b>Gospel</b>	
1 Cor 15:1-4	Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures;
Matthew 24:39	And whoso treasureth up my words, shall not be deceived
1 Nephi 4:39-40 (BOM)	...Whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish; Neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary, overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction
2 Nephi 14:4 (BOM)	Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do
<b>Endure to the End</b>	
Matt 10:22 (IV 10:19)	And ye shall be hated of all the world for my names sake; but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.
2 Nephi 13:21,30	And now my beloved brethren, I know this, that unless a Man shall endure to the end, in following

(BOM)	the example of the Son of the living God, he cannot be saved...Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life.
<b>Hope/Faith</b>	
Hebrews 11:1	Now faith is the assurance of things <b>hoped for</b> , the evidence of things not seen
Moroni 10:15-17 (BOM)	Wherefore, there must be faith; and if there must be faith, there must also be hope; and if there must be hope, there must also be charity; and except ye have charity, ye can in no wise be saved in the kingdom of God; Neither can ye be saved in the kingdom of God, if ye have not faith; neither can ye if ye have no hope; and if ye have no hope, ye must needs be in despair; and despair cometh because of iniquity. And Christ truly said unto our fathers, If ye have faith, ye can do all things which are expedient unto me.
<b>Charity</b>	
1 Cor 13:1-3	And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not Charity, it profited me nothing
1 Peter 4:8	And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves; for charity preventeth a multitude of sins.
Moroni 7:50-52 (BOM)	And if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity, he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity. And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things; wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them.

## Is there evidence of the Book of Mormon in the Bible

A frequently asked question directed toward the Restoration is, "If the Book of Mormon is true, how come the Bible does not make mention of it?" Unfortunately, there is a common misperception that the Holy Bible does not give reference to the Book of Mormon. Nonetheless, there are in fact, many scriptural references to the existence of the Book of Mormon in the Bible. In this subsection, we would like to briefly skim the surface of these evidences.

In order to explain the evidences of the Book of Mormon, it is imperative for the reader to first have a basic understanding of the book itself. As mentioned previously, the Book of Mormon is a testimony of Jesus Christ through the peoples who lived in America, which were a remnant of the house of Israel. The Book of Mormon opens by following the prophet Lehi and his family as they travel from Jerusalem to Central America.

Around 600 BC, Lehi received a revelation from God to preach to the people of Jerusalem that unless they repented, the city would be destroyed. The Lord gave a similar warning to the prophet Jeremiah saying, "O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to *flee out of the midst* of Jerusalem...Hear ye the word of the Lord, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold I will bring evil upon this place...because they have forsaken me...and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies.<sup>13</sup>" Although Lehi did as he was commanded, the people did not

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<sup>13</sup> Jeremiah 6:1 and 19:3-7

repent, but instead threatened to kill him. Therefore, because of his exceeding faith, God commanded Lehi to flee with his family and a few others into the wilderness and to a promised land, which was a choice land above all other lands.

In history, and in the Scriptures, we read that in 598 BC, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon laid siege to the city of Jerusalem, and a year later, he sacked the city, destroying much of it. After which, Nebuchadnezzar carried thousands of Jews, including the prophet Ezekiel, back to Babylon. Please read the following scripture from 2 Kings 25:1-3 and 8-11:<sup>14</sup>

**25:1** And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he, and all his host, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it; and they built forts against it round about. **25:2** And the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah. **25:3** And on the ninth day of the fourth month the famine prevailed in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land.

**25:8** And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which is the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzar-adan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem; **25:9** And he burnt the house of the Lord, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire. **25:10** And all the army of the Chaldees, that were with the captain of the guard, brake down the walls of Jerusalem round about. **25:11** Now the rest of the people that were left in the city, and the fugitives that fell away to the king of Babylon, with the remnant of the multitude, did Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard **carry away**. **25:12** But the captain of the guard left of the poor of the land to be vinedressers and husbandmen.

However, as discussed above, Lehi and his family fled Jerusalem before the siege and destruction of the city, which account is recorded in the second book of Kings, chapter nineteen. “And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Juda shall yet again take root downward, and bear fruit upward. For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape of out mount Zion; the zeal of the Lord of hosts shall do this.”<sup>15</sup>

The reader might say that this is merely one evidence of a remnant of Israel fleeing Jerusalem, how do we know that this people, or any Israelites traveled to other parts of the world? The reader might or might not be surprised to learn that the Lord has talked about the scattering of Israel on numerous occasions. Please read the following scriptures on the scattering of Israel:

Reference	Scripture
<b>Deuteronomy 28:25, 64-65</b>	The Lord shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies; thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them; and <u>shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth</u> . And the Lord shall <b>scatter thee among all people</b> , from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have

<sup>14</sup> For further references please read Jeremiah 34:2-3, and 2 Chronicles 36

<sup>15</sup> 2 Kings 19:30-31



	known, even wood and stone. And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest; but the Lord shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind;
<b>Isaiah 26:15</b>	Thou hast increased the nation, O Lord, thou hast increased the nation; thou art glorified; <b>thou hadst removed it far unto all the ends of the earth.</b>
<b>Jeremiah 24:9-10</b>	And I will deliver them to <b>be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth</b> for their hurt, to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse, in all places whither I shall drive them. And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, till they be consumed from off the land that I gave unto them and to their fathers.
<b>Amos 9:9</b>	For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.
<b>Luke 21:23</b>	And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be <b>led away captive into all nations</b> ; and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Jesus himself said in John, chapter ten, “As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And *other sheep I have*, which are not of this fold [meaning the Jews]; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.<sup>16</sup>” We believe firmly that the escaped remnant of the house of Israel is indeed a portion of the other sheep. We ask the reader, how could God be a just and merciful God if, after scattering the house of Israelites, He did not give them the opportunity to learn of Jesus Christ, for we read “there is no respect of persons with God.<sup>17</sup>” Do we believe that God only smiled upon Palestine and then turned His back on the rest of the world, or do we believe that we have the entire testimony of Jesus Christ? In John, chapter twenty-one, “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the *world itself could not contain* the books that should be written.<sup>18</sup>”

The Old Testament gives further witness of the Book of Mormon in the blessing of Joseph, the son of Jacob, and his seed, Ephraim and Manasseh. This is of particular importance because we read in the Book of Mormon that Lehi and his family were descendants of Joseph. “And it came to pass that my father Lehi also found upon the plates of brass a genealogy of his fathers; Wherefore he knew that he was a *descendant of Joseph*; yea, even that Joseph who was the son of Jacob, who was sold into Egypt, and who was preserved by the hand of the Lord, that he might preserve his father Jacob and all his household from perishing with famine.<sup>19</sup>”

Moreover, Jesus also told the peoples of the Book of Mormon that they were descendants of Joseph, for we read, “And now it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words, he said unto those twelve whom he had chosen, Ye are my disciples; and ye are a light unto this people, who are a remnant of the house of Joseph. And behold, this is the land of your inheritance; and the Father hath given it unto

<sup>16</sup> John 10:15-16

<sup>17</sup> Romans 2:11

<sup>18</sup> John 21:25

<sup>19</sup> 1 Nephi 1:164-165

you.<sup>20</sup> In particular, the land of inheritance that Jesus said was given to the people of the Book of Mormon is the same land which was promised to Joseph in the forty-ninth chapter of Genesis, the thirty-third chapter of Deuteronomy, and the eightieth Psalm:

**49:1** And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days. **49:2** Gather yourselves together, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father...**49:22** Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; **whose branches run over the wall**;...**49:26** The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills; they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.

**33:1** And this is the blessing, where-with Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death...**33:13** And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath, **33:14** And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon, **33:15** And for the chief things of the ancient mountain, and for the precious things of the lasting hills, **33:16** And for the precious things of the earth and fullness thereof, and for the goodwill of him that dwelt in the bush; let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was **separated** from his brethren. **33:17** His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns; with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth; and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh.

**80:1** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubim, shine forth. **80:2** Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh<sup>21</sup> stir up thy strength, and come and save us. **80:8** Thou hast **brought a vine** out of Egypt; thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it. **80:9** Thou preparest room before it, and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land. **80:10** The hills were covered with the shadow of it, and the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedars. **80:11** She **sent out her boughs unto the sea, and her branches unto the river**. **80:14** Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and behold, and **visit this vine**; **80:15** And the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted, and the branch that thou madest strong for thyself. **80:17** Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man whom thou madest strong for thyself.

It is important to understand that when reading prophecy and revelation, the Lord utilizes physical objects, such as a vine and branches, in order to explain spiritual truths. For example, we know that Israel is sometimes referred to as a vine or branch of the olive tree, which we find in the second chapter of Jeremiah and the eleventh chapter of Romans.

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<sup>20</sup> 3 Nephi 7:13-14

<sup>21</sup> Alma 8:1-3 and Ether 6:8

Thus, through the Scriptures referenced above, we discover that the Lord God promised that the fruit of Joseph's seed would become fruitful and would spread over the wall and across the sea and river, or in other words, that Joseph's seed would multiply and would be taken to another land filled with lasting hills. The Restoration believes that these Scriptures are talking of Lehi's family traveling to the promised land, which is in America, and the foretelling that Jesus Christ would visit them there. Again, we believe that the Book of Mormon is a testimony of Jesus Christ visiting the remnant of the house of Israel which had escaped the destruction of Jerusalem. Please read the following from Alma 14:126-128 of the Book of Mormon:

**14:126** Yea, blessed is the name of my God, who has been mindful of this people, who are a branch of the tree of Israel, and has been lost from its body, in a strange land; yea, I say, blessed be the name of my God, who has been mindful of us wanderers in a strange land. **14:127** Now my brethren, we see that God is mindful of *every people*, in whatsoever land they may be in; yea, he numbereth his people, and his bowels of mercy are over *all the earth*. **14:128** Now this is my joy, and my great thanksgiving; yea, and I will give thanks unto my God for ever. Amen.

Furthermore, just as the Book of Mormon testifies of the Bible, the Bible also testifies of the Book of Mormon. In Isaiah, chapter twenty-nine, Isaiah prophesied that Jerusalem would be encompassed about in a siege and that Israel would be scattered. This is what historians call the Babylonian Captivity, which was referred to earlier in the second book of Kings. However, the reader will also find the Babylonian Captivity in the second book of Chronicles, chapter thirty-six, and Jeremiah, chapters twenty-five, twenty-nine, and thirty-four. Please read the following selection from Isaiah 29:4, 11-12, 14, and 32:

**29:4** And she [Israel] shall be brought down, and shall speak out of the ground and her speech shall be low out of the dust; and her voice shall be as of one that hath a familiar spirit out of the ground, and her speech shall whisper *out of the dust*. **29:11** And it shall come to pass, that the Lord God shall bring forth unto you the *words of a book*; and they shall be the words of them which have slumbered. **29:12** And behold, the book shall be *sealed*; and in the book shall be a **revelation from God**, from the beginning of the world to the ending thereof.

**29:14** But the book shall be delivered unto a man, and he shall deliver the words of the book, which are the words of those who have *slumbered in the dust*; and he shall deliver these words unto another, but the words that are sealed he shall not deliver, neither shall he deliver the book. **29:32** Therefore, thus saith the Lord who redeemed Abraham concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face *now wax pale*; but when he seeth his children, the work of my hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel. They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.

In the Scripture above, the Lord once again utilized physical understandings such as out of the dust, slumbered in the dust, and waxed pale to explain spiritual truths. For the Book of Mormon was written by those who have slumbered in the dust, meaning passed away. Hence, their testimony of Jesus Christ

is as one which speaks from out of the dust. Further, if the reader will look again to Isaiah, chapter twenty-nine, and the prophecy of the sealed book, we read, "But behold, saith the Lord of hosts, I will show unto the children of men, that it is not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field; and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest. And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness."<sup>22</sup>

It is important to understand that the deaf and blind referred to by Isaiah are not those who literally cannot hear or cannot see, but those who are deaf and blind to the knowledge of God. Remember that Jesus told the disciples that He spoke in parables not so people could understand Him, but so that those who would not hearken to His words would not understand Him, which was a great mercy, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required; and to whom the Lord has committed much, of him will men ask the more."<sup>23</sup> Please read the following from Matthew 13:8-15 and Isaiah 42:18-21:

**13:8** Then the disciples came and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? **13:9** He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them ***it is not given***. **13:10** For whosoever receiveth, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance; **13:11** But whosoever continueth not to receive, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. **13:12** Therefore speak I to them in parables; because they, seeing, see not; and hearing, they hear not; ***neither do they understand***.

**13:13** And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias concerning them, which saith, **13:14** For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should **understand with their hearts**, and should be converted, and I should heal them. **13:15** But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear. And blessed are you because these things are come unto you, that **you might understand them**.

**42:18** Hear, ye deaf, and look, ye blind, that ye may see. **42:19** For I will send my servant unto you who are blind; yea, a messenger to open the eyes of the blind, and unstop the ears of the deaf; **42:20** And they shall be made perfect notwithstanding their blindness, if they will hearken unto the messenger, the Lord's servant. **42:21** Thou art a people, seeing many things, but thou ***observest not***; opening the ears to hear, but thou ***hearest not***.

When reading prophecy, it is crucial to understand that God often gives us a point of reference so that we can know either when the prophecy is supposed to take place, or when it is supposed to end. For example, if we were to tell the reader to walk one hundred paces from a tree and stand there, does the reader think that they could find the spot? Of course not, for what direction from the tree is the reader supposed to travel, and from which tree is the reader supposed to walk from? Therefore, the Lord gives us a point of reference so that we might better understand and comprehend revelation.

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<sup>22</sup> Isaiah 29:28-29

<sup>23</sup> Luke 12:57

Specifically, the prophecy from the twenty-ninth chapter of Isaiah presents to mankind a point of reference in order for us to know when this revelation will take place. Again, we read, “But behold, saith the Lord of hosts, I will show unto the children of men, that *it is not yet a very little while*, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field; and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest.” In Scripture, we read that the Lord provided the children of Israel with former and latter rains in their due season so that “thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.”<sup>24</sup> However, in the third and fifth chapters of Jeremiah, we read that because of the wickedness of the people the Lord stopped the rains and turned the fruitful fields of Lebanon into a desert. “And thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and wickedness. Therefore thy showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.”<sup>25</sup>

History explains that Lebanon remained a desert for centuries until the former and latter rains returned early in the nineteenth century. The people there developed a way to irrigate the land, which caused it to become a fruitful land once again. The following is an excerpt from an article published in the *National Tribune* in 1889, Mr. F. G. Carpenter said:

*At the present the Jews are coming here by the hundreds...a half century ago [1839] there were only 32 Jewish families in all Jerusalem, and the number in Palestine was only 3,000. Now [1889] there are nearly 50,000 in the Holy Land.*

In 1830, there were very few Jews in Palestine, and the country itself was desolate. However, by 1889, there were 50,000 Jews, and another 61,541 returned in 1935. The restoration of the Jews involved more than just people, but it involved the land as well. An old encyclopedia gives us the situation in Palestine in the early part of the eighteenth century:<sup>26</sup>

*Eighteen centuries of war, ruin, and neglect have passed over it. Its valleys have been cropped for ages without the least attempt at fertilization. Its terrace walls have been allowed to crumble, and its soil has washed down its ravines, leaving the hillsides rocky and sterile. Its trees have been cut down and never replaced. Its fields have been desolate. Its structures pillaged and all its improvements ruthlessly destroyed. A land of ruins without man or beast. Everywhere, on plain or mountain, in rocky desert, or on beetling cliff the spoiler's hand has rested – McClintock and Strong's Encyclopedia, Article on Palestine.*

Interestingly, the Book of Mormon was published in 1830 and at that time Palestine was still an unproductive wilderness. However, something in the land began to change shortly thereafter. Please read the following from a book published in 1935, Mr. George T. B. Davis stated:<sup>27</sup>

*The change that has taken place in Palestine...is almost unbelievable, and well nigh beggars description. Swamp lands have been reclaimed, and have given place to waving fields of grain. Sandy wastes have been turned into beautiful orange groves. Desert places have been turned*

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<sup>24</sup> Deuteronomy 11:14

<sup>25</sup> Jeremiah 3:2-3

<sup>26</sup> Roy Weldon, *Other Sheep*, Price Publishing Company (1954), 80

<sup>27</sup> Ibid, 81

*into a veritable garden of Eden. Indeed it is quite probable that such a sudden change from a waste wilderness to a land blossoming as the rose has never before been witnessed in the history of the world.*<sup>28</sup>

The point of reference given in the prophecy found in Isaiah, chapter twenty-nine, was that not long after the sealed book came forth, Lebanon would again become a fruitful field. Through both the Scriptures and history, we know that at some point the former and latter rains ceased and did not return until the early 1800's. Moreover, we know that the first copies of the Book of Mormon were printed in 1830. We would ask the reader, what other sealed book came forth during this time frame, which marked the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy? The answer is none. Therefore, the Restoration believes that this sealed book from scattered Israel must be here because the sign given of its coming forth has occurred. Here is a list of scriptural references of the existence of the Book of Mormon:

<b>Captivity of Judah in Babylon</b>	2 Kings 24:11-14; 2 Kings 25:1-3, 9, 12; Jeremiah 25:11; Jeremiah 29:10; Jeremiah 34:2-3; Ezekiel 12:13; 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-2; Ezra 2; Isaiah 44:28; Isaiah 45:1-3
<b>Scattering of Israel</b>	Deuteronomy 28:25; 64-65; Jeremiah 24:9-10; Amos 9:9; Micah 3:12; Luke 21:23; 1 Nephi 5:251-252; 1 Nephi 7:6-7; 11-12;
<b>Restoration of Israel</b>	Isaiah 11:11-12; Jeremiah 30:3; 2 Nephi 11:28; 2 Nephi 12:42; 3 Nephi 2:107, 109
<b>The Book of Mormon</b>	Isaiah 29:4, 11-12, 17-18 (KJ); Ezekiel 37:15-22

## Why do we need another witness of Jesus Christ

In addition to the questions already presented, many people ask is why do we need another witness of Jesus Christ, and does not the Bible tell us that we are to not to add to nor take away from the Scriptures? In response to the first question, we would ask the reader, why would someone not want another testimony of Jesus Christ? This might be equivalent to a hungry and thirsty man stating, "I do not want any more food nor any more water."

Earlier, we read that Jesus told the disciples, "For whosoever receiveth, to him shall be given, and he shall have *more abundance*; But whosoever continueth not to receive, from him shall be *taken away* even that he hath."<sup>29</sup> Even one of the first and foremost protestant leaders, John Robinson, said before the pilgrims sailed for America in 1620, "**I charge you before God...that you follow me no further than you have seen me follow the Lord Jesus Christ. If God reveals anything to you by any other instrument of His, be as ready to receive it as you were to receive any truth by my ministry, for I am verily persuaded the Lord hath more truth yet to break forth out of His Holy Word.**" The following Scripture passage is taken from the Book of Mormon in 2 Nephi 12:35-38 and 53-63:

**12:35** Wo be unto him that shall say, We have received the word of God, and we need no more of the word of God, **for we have enough.** **12:36** For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little:

<sup>28</sup> George T. B. Davis, *Rebuilding Palestine According to Prophecy*, page 16

<sup>29</sup> Matthew 13:10-11

**12:37** And blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; **12:38** For unto him that receiveth, I will give more: and from them that shall say, We have enough, shall be taken away even that which they have.

**12:53**...that shall say, A bible, we have got a bible, and we need no more bible. **12:54** Have ye obtained a bible save it were by the Jews? **12:55** Know ye not that there are more nations than one? **12:56** Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, ***have created all men***, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath; **12:57** And I bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth?

**12:58** Wherefore murmur ye, because that **ye shall receive more of my word**? **12:59** Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? **12:60** Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. **12:61** And when the two nations shall run together, the testimony of the two nations shall run together also. **12:62** And I do this that I may prove unto many, that I am the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever; and that I speak forth my words according to ***mine own pleasure***. **12:63** And because that I have spoken one word, ye need not suppose that I can not speak another; for my work is not yet finished; neither shall it be, until the end of man; neither from that time hence forth and for ever.

As stated above, there are many people who ask does not the Bible command us to not add to nor take away from the Scriptures? The answer is yes, the Scriptures do tell us to not add to nor take away from the word of God. In particular, we are commanded not to change the doctrine of Jesus Christ. In Revelation, chapter twenty-two, we read, "For I testify unto every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book; And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifies these things saith, Surely I come quickly; Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. THE END OF THE NEW TESTAMENT."<sup>30</sup> Please read the following taken from Argil Reynold's study book on Revelation, Argil is an elder in the Restoration:

*[Verses 18 & 19] are constantly used by many churches to try to prove that God has done his work and no one can add anything to what he has done. And they would be right in saying this because **man** cannot add to or take from that which God has caused to be written. However, it is not written that **God** can not, or will not, add to or take away from the book. Notice the following:*

*[Deuteronomy 4:2] You shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish aught from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.*

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<sup>30</sup> Revelation 22:18-20

*[Deuteronomy 12:32] What thing soever I command you, observe to do it; you shall not add thereto, nor diminish from it.*

*When [Verses 18 & 19] above are quoted in order to prove that Joseph Smith was a false prophet, they are really exonerating him and condemning their own church, for:*

*[Proverbs 30:5-6] Every word of God is pure; he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. [6] Add not unto his words, lest he reprove you, and you be found a liar.*

*[Ecclesiastes 3:14-15] I know that, whatsoever God does, it shall be forever; nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it; and God does it, that men should fear before him. [15] That which has been is now; and that which is to be has already been, and God requires that which is past.*

*Are these scriptures not saying the same thing as the last four verses of the Book of Revelation? If the arguments of other churches are true, then they must tear everything out of their Bible from the book of Ecclesiastes to the end of the Book of Revelation.*

*Now, here is a bit of information which will make all of this inconsequential. These last four verses were not in the earlier manuscripts from which the Book of Revelation was translated. Scholars say that they were added by an overzealous scribe to protect the book. Some bibles today are omitting these verses, just as numerous books were omitted from the King James translation.*

## **Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon**

At this time, the reader might be curious to learn a little not only about the Book of Mormon, but of the man who translated the plates of brass, Joseph Smith, Jr., who took the words from the epistle of James to heart and went into a grove in Manchester, New York to pray. The question in Joseph's heart was simply which church should he join, as the Second Great Awakening was occurring during this time period. In particular, there were three prevalent denominations within Manchester, the Methodists, the Presbyterians, and the Baptists. Even within Joseph's own family there was division on which church to join. Therefore, Joseph sought divine direction from God.

While praying, the Lord spoke to Joseph and commanded him to join none of the churches, for they were all wrong, saying, "they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; they teach for doctrine the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof."<sup>31</sup> From thence, Joseph received direct instruction from an angel of the Lord, who taught Joseph many truths contained in the Old Testament, and directed him to the place where he would find the brass plates. Joseph eventually translated these plates through means given by God into what is known as the Book of Mormon.

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<sup>31</sup> Other examples of such a revelation include Moses and the burning bush, and Paul on his way to Damascus



## Conclusion

We hope that we have adequately addressed the questions stated above, and helped the reader to learn more about the Book of Mormon and the reason why that the Restoration believes in it. Through this chapter, the reader has learned that the Restoration does believe in Jesus Christ and the Bible, and has learned how the Book of Mormon is supportive of the Bible, instead of being contradictory.

Again, it is our hope and prayer that reader might gain a greater knowledge of these things, and might seek the truth for him or herself in prayer and study. Lastly, we wish to propose a question to the reader. Do you believe that God is a God of justice? If so, how could God be a God of justice if only one group of people, in one part of the world, received the knowledge of Jesus Christ?

Reference	Scripture
John 3:16-17	For <b>God so loved the world</b> , that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish; but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that <b>the world through him might be saved</b> .
Acts 10:34-35	Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is <b>no respecter of persons</b> ; But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, <b>is accepted</b> with him.
Romans 8:32	He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up <b>for us all</b> , how shall he not with him also <b>freely</b> give us all things?
Alma 19:21-27	And now...I would say somewhat unto you concerning the coming of Christ. Behold, I say unto you, that it is he that surely shall come, to take away the sins of the world; yea, he cometh to declare glad tidings of salvation unto his people...And now I will ease your mind somewhat on this subject. Behold, you marvel why these things should be known so long beforehand. Behold, I say unto you, Is not a soul at this time <b>as precious unto God</b> , as a soul will be at the time of his coming? Is it not as necessary that the plan of redemption should be made known unto this people, as well as unto their children? Is it not as easy at this time, for the Lord to send his angel to declare these glad tidings unto us, as unto our children; or as after the time of his coming?
DC 16:3c-d	Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God; for, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that <b>all men</b> might repent and come unto him. And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him on conditions of repentance.

Thank you and God bless.