

WHY DO WE NEED THE BOOK OF MORMON?

I. The Book of Mormon is a fulfillment of prophecy - In Isaiah 29: 4, 11-19 it reads:

4 And thou shalt be brought down, *and* shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the ^adust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ^bground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust

11 And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a ^abook that is ^bsealed, which *men* deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it *is* sealed:

12 And the book is delivered to ^ahim that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

13 ¶ Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people ^adraw near *me* with their ^bmouth, and with their lips do ^chonour me, but have ^dremoved their ^eheart far from me, and their ^ffear toward me is taught by the ^gprecept of men:

14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a ^amarvellous ^bwork among this people, *even* a marvellous work and a wonder: for the ^cwisdom of their wise *men* shall ^dperish, and the ^eunderstanding of their ^fprudent *men* shall be hid.

15 Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their ^acounsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who ^bseeth us? and who knoweth us?

16 Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the ^awork say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?

17 *Is* it 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?

18 ¶ And in that ^aday shall the deaf hear the words of the ^bbook, and the ^ceyes of the blind shall see out of ^dobscurity, and out of darkness.

This passage of scripture makes known to us that a book that was sealed would come out of the ground. Moroni, an ancient prophet who lived on the Western Hemisphere buried the record of scripture known as the Book of Mormon around the year A.D. 421. After 1400 years Joseph Smith uncovered the plates in the 1800's. We are also able to recognize that from these verses that the book would come forth by one who was not learned. Joseph Smith had a third grade education. It is plainly and simply written in the Bible about The Book of Mormon coming forth in these days. If further evidence is desired one might reference to these Biblical Prophecy's (Ezekial 37:15-19, Psalms 85:11, Revelation 14:6).

II. While in His earthly ministry, the Savior made this statement, "...other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." (John 10:16) Those sheep that the Savior was referring to were those on the American continent and also those of scattered Israel. Once again as we turn to the Bible we are able to see that "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34) and that He would surely not give His word to only one section of the earth. The Book of Mormon is further evidence that our loving Heavenly Father is just, revealing His Gospel to all of His children.

III. The law of witnesses states, “In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.” (2 Cor 13:1) The Bible and The Book of Mormon are companion volumes of Scripture and both testify and make known unto us who God is, and what our relationship with Him is. “...this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:3) The Book of Mormon is most definitely not a substitute for the Holy Bible; it is simply further evidence that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and Savior of the World. It is exactly as the cover states: Another Testament of Jesus Christ.

IV. The Savior taught this while being tempted by Satan in Matthew chapter 4:4 “Men shall not live by bread alone, but by *every* word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

V. The Bible and Book of Mormon help us understand true and pure doctrine that, throughout the Earth’s history has been distorted or changed. In 2 Nephi 3: 12 it reads – “Wherefore, the fruit of thy (Joseph of Egypt) loins shall write; and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write; and that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins, and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah, shall grow together, unto the confounding of false doctrines and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, and bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days, and also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord.” The Stick of Judah and the Stick of Joseph (Ezekial 37: 15-19) have truly become one in our hands just as the Lord promised. The Book of Mormon and The Bible compliment each other. Further light and truth is shed on passages of the Bible that may have been other wise misinterpreted or not understood. For example in Matt. 3:14-15 it states that Christ was baptized to fulfill all righteousness; The Book of Mormon explains what it means to fulfill all righteousness in 2 Nephi 31: 5-9. The Book of Mormon makes plain and simple of doctrine that has been changed by the arrival of so many different sects and denominations in the world today, namely those of, infant baptism, the trinity, regeneration, repentance, justification, the fall of man, transubstantiation, fasting, penance, church government, and the rights of man. In Ephesians 4:5, it is clear that there is only “One Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

VI. It is essential and vital to our salvation to understand that which was spoken by the Lord in Matt 7:15-20. We are told to beware of false prophets, which come to us in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravening wolves. We will know true prophets by their fruit. The Book of Mormon was translated by the gift and power of God by the Prophet Joseph Smith, and is the fruit by which we may know that He was called of God to be a Prophet, Seer, and Revelator for us as God’s children in these, the last days. I bear my witness and testimony to all who might be reading this that Joseph Smith ushered in the restoration of the fullness of The Gospel foreseen by Prophets of old. We invite all men everywhere to read the Book of Mormon and to ponder in their heart the message it contains, and then to ask God the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ if the book is true. I bear my witness and testimony that the book is true and could never deny the knowledge which I have obtained by the Holy Ghost of which was promised by the Savior to teach us all things and to be a comforter. (John 14:26)

This outline was part of a discussion on Mormonism held at the North Charlottesville church of Christ on January 13, 2008. To access the full discussion go to:

<http://www.uvachurch.com/AFriendlyDiscussionOnMormonism.htm>