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# AN APPEAL TO THE INDIAN



HAVE YOU READ IT?

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It is a  
It wields a  
Answers a

} GREAT {

Book  
Power  
Question

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## The Book of Mormon

The only book on earth which answers the Great Question of the *origin of the Indian, and his future destiny*. It astounds the man who "hath said in his heart, there is no God." It baffles the skeptic. It lifts up a standard for faith in God, and witnesseth that Jesus is the Christ.

All Educated Indian People Should Become  
Familiar With the Claims of the  
Book of Mormon

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It is of vast importance to the Indians, giving their genealogy as a branch of one of the "tribes of Israel"; date of their migration to America; chief events of their history during a period of over one thousand years; dealings of almighty God with them, etc. It is a book for intelligent people, students, thinkers, and contains valuable information for the most casual reader.

Price postpaid, 50 cents. Address.  
Herald Publishing House,  
Lamoni, Iowa.



ELDER JAMES E. YATES.

Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

## What We Believe

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 men may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.

We believe that these ordinances are: First, Faith in God and the Lord Jesus Christ; Second, Repentance; Third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; Fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost; Fifth, We believe in the Resurrection of the Body; that the dead in Christ will rise first, and the rest of the dead will not live again until the thousand years are expired; Sixth, We believe in the doctrine of Eternal Judgment, which provides that men shall be judged, rewarded, or punished, according to the degree of good, or evil, they shall have done.

We believe that a man must be called of God, and ordained by the laying on of hands of those who are in authority, to entitle him to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.

We believe in the same kind of organization that existed in the primitive church, viz: Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists, etc.

We believe that in the Bible is contained the word of God, so far as it is translated correctly. We believe that the canon of scripture is not full, but that God, by His Spirit, will continue to reveal His word to man until the end of time.

We believe in the powers and gifts of the Everlasting Gospel, viz: The gift of faith, discerning of spirits, prophecy, revelation, healing, visions, tongues and the interpretation of tongues, wisdom, charity, brotherly love, etc.

We believe that marriage is ordained of God; and that the law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock, for either man or woman, except in cases where the contract of marriage is broken by death or transgression.

We believe that the doctrines of a plurality and a community of wives are heresies, and are opposed to the law of God.

We believe that the religion of Jesus Christ, as taught in the New Testament Scriptures, will, if its precepts are accepted and obeyed, make men and women better in the domestic circle, and better citizens of town, county and state, and consequently better fitted for the change which cometh at death.

We believe that men should worship God in "Spirit and in truth"; and that such worship does not require a violation of the constitutional law of the land.



MR. JAMES R. MURIE.

Synopsis of  
The Book of Mormon

By Elder James Yates

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Introduction by Mr. James R. Murie,

an accomplished scholar of the Pawnee Tribe of Indians, and a thorough gentleman:

“My acquaintance with Mr. Yates began in the year 1906. Since that time I have acted as interpreter for him in much of his public preaching to the Pawnee Tribe, and I cheerfully recommend him to my kinsmen, or any others to whom this may come, as a Christian gentleman, and a man who is deeply interested in the welfare of the Indian people.

“The church which Mr. Yates represents is not the Mormon church, but is opposed to all such corrupt doctrine as polygamy. JAMES R. MURIE.”

# Characters

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What is the Book of Mormon? It is the religious history of ancient America. It is the only book claiming authenticity for its history of the origin of the American Indians. It is a witness from the Western Continent that Jesus is the Christ. Its purpose is to convince Jew and Gentile that Jesus is indeed the Messiah. It was written by a number of ancient historians among the early civilizations which inhabited this continent prior to its discovery by Columbus, and was abridged by one of their number by the name of Mormon,—hence was called the Book of Mormon.

It *does not* teach polygamy, but condemns it in strong terms. It was originally written upon metallic plates which were preserved in the earth, and were translated into the English language by the gift and power of God. It teaches that a colony came to America from the Tower of Babel,—so does the Bible. (See Genesis 11: 8.) It also claims that a portion of the tribes of Israel came here,—so does the Bible. (See Ezekiel 34: 6, 12, 31.)

Now for the benefit of the reader who believes the Bible; but who is wise enough to be ever watchful for deception, and looks with some suspicion upon the claims made for the Book of Mormon, let us notice a few parallels:

There are two dangerous points to guard against deception. If we fortify one point, and neglect the other, we are still in danger. One dangerous point is that men are liable to accept some fraud as being genuine; and the other, they are *just as liable to reject something genuine as being a fraud*. The Jews were caught in the latter trap when they rejected

Christ as being an impostor, and thought they were safe in clinging to the law of Moses.

No man who rejects the claims of the Book of Mormon without giving it a hearing is safe against deception. He only has *one point guarded*. Such a one assumes that what he has learned is the apex of all truth, and he fortifies his mind against the entrance of more truth, and is thus open to *the very character of deception* which hath wrought the greatest havoc among men in all the history of the world.

Now for the parallels between the Bible and the Book of Mormon: According to the Book of Mormon, God leads a people by inspired directions. In Bible history, he did the same with the Israelites, showing that this is the Lord's way of doing things when he desires to people or repeople a certain land. So the Book of Mormon is consistent in that point. They were directed by visions and dreams. In Bible history it is the same. The Book of Mormon people were commanded to keep their records for the benefit of their posterity. The same is true of the people of the Bible. They inscribed their history upon imperishable material. Moses wrote the sacred writings upon tables of stone. The ancient languages of the Book of Mormon people were translated by means of an instrument prepared of the Lord for that purpose called the Urim and Thummin, or interpreter. The prophets in Bible times used the same instruments for similar purposes. (See 1 Samuel 28: 6; Numbers 27: 21; Eoxodus 28: 30; Deuteronomy 33: 8.)

The Book of Mormon claims that God is the father

of all nations and that he reveals himself to all who seek him in the right way. The Bible teaches the same. (See Acts 17: 26, 27.) Some Bible believers seem to think that God had forgotten about all of the nations of the world except a few in the vicinity of a little part of the earth's surface called Palestine; or that if God had remembered them, and revealed himself to them, it would be very unsafe for us to learn anything about any part except that pertaining to Palestine. In other words, some think it not orthodox to admit that the allwise God ever gave a revelation which is not contained in the Bible. May the Lord deliver us from such narrow traditions! The Bible says that a branch of God's fragrant, chosen vine (or people of Israel) went "over the sea." It was the vine of Sibmah; *sibmah* meaning fragrant. (See Isaiah 16: 8.) The Book of Mormon tells of *their trip* "over the sea." The Bible says it was to be Joseph's tribe who were to go over the "wall," or sea, as Isaiah calls it. (Genesis 49: 22.) The Book of Mormon says it was of Manasseh, a son of Joseph that the first Israelite colony was formed who *did come over the sea*. The Bible says Joseph's land was to be a choice land and of note for many products, including rich mineral deposits,— "chief things of the ancient mountains." (See Deuteronomy 33: 13-17.) The Book of Mormon says that Joseph's posterity found a land of that description—with all manner of ore in abundance, this side of the ocean. A sealed book was to come forth. (Isaiah 29: 11, 12, 18.) The Book of Mormon is that book. It was sealed. Something was to speak from the dust and out of the ground. (Isaiah 29: 4.) The Book of Mormon was taken *out of the ground*

in "Joseph's land"—America. The Bible says there was to be a "stick" or book of Judah and a "stick" or book of Joseph. (Ezekiel 37: 15, 21.)

The Bible is a Book of the Jews ("Judah"). The Book of Mormon is the "stick" or book of "Joseph" who was to go "over the sea." The Bible says the "book is delivered to him that is not learned," and the "words of a book" were delivered to one that was learned. (Isaiah 29: 11, 12.) This prediction had a marked fulfillment in the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Young Joseph Smith was very illiterate at the time. Mr. Smith transcribed some of the words of the book, and sent them to Professor Anthon, a learned linguist of New York, and asked him to read them. The Professor said he could not "read a sealed book."

Then the Lord said he would proceed to perform a marvel by taking a hand in the matter himself. He said it would be "a marvelous work and a wonder." (Isaiah 29: 14.) The Book of Mormon has never ceased to be a *marvel* and a source of *wonder*, both to its friends and its enemies. And, kind reader, if you have read this little treatise carefully, you are wondering at this moment. We who know of its truth still stand in wonder at the marvelous workings of the Lord, in bringing to pass his purposes. We must now forbear to multiply evidences in support of the book, which evidences from the Bible, from archæology, and from the contents of the book itself, are almost inexhaustible, and address a few words more especially

TO THE INDIAN PEOPLE.

This is *your* opportunity. You are of the lineage

of the tribes of Israel, whom the Lord has sworn he would not utterly cast off nor destroy. All the prophets have declared that God would bring *your* people into favor with him in the last days of the world, and to a knowledge of their fathers and of the true religion. That time is *now*, if you will hear His voice. The Book of Mormon is particularly *your* book, because it is the *only history in the world* that gives *the origin of your own people*, and because your future as a nation is outlined within it. This church is *your church*. The people called Saints are *your people*, because the honest-hearted and most noble and good among you are to be saints and members of the church of Jesus Christ, when once you have found out the *whole truth* about the Book of Mormon, and the church of Jesus Christ, as it has been reorganized again since wicked men had caused it to be broken and scattered.

Your forefathers have done wrong in the past, which wrongdoing led them away from the knowledge of God, and of the true way to worship him, and their enemies began to prevail against them. Thus, your people were led into many follies until they became a wild and a savage people; you can not help that now, but you can learn by reading of their mistakes to do better than they did. And while you are getting many good things from the manners, education, and customs, and general progress of the white man, let us warn you not to be fooled into accepting some old dry forms of the white man's religion. For there is a large supply of the worthless variety of religion on hand among the whites as well as some of the superstitions of the Indians. It

will pay you to be careful and not apply to the "blind leaders of the blind," when you are seeking the church of Christ.

Some preachers tell the people to join just any church which suits them best. Christ only recognized *one church* as his, when here. He told the people to beware of the doctrine of other churches, which were then called scribes, etc. There was one church which Paul had been a member of before he learned about the true church; they were called Pharisees, and Christ said to beware of their doctrine. (Matthew 16: 12.)

There are Pharisee churches now under different names; and no true minister of Christ will advise people to just join any of them which suits their fancy, this would be like mixing poison and offering a choice. So you must "prove all things and hold fast to that which is good." Send and get this Book of Mormon. Read it for yourself, and see whether it is good or bad. Do not take somebody else's word for it, for if you do, you are liable to be deceived. For there are people in the world who seemingly would tell an untruth about the Latter Day Saint Church or the Book of Mormon with as great a relish as a buzzard devours his carrion. You must know for yourself; therefore, read the Book; it will be the best spent fifty cents you ever invested in your life. Here is a golden opportunity open to you, my dear Lamanite brother, do not pass it by without grasping the opportunity. The Lord is ready and ever waiting for men of your own blood to raise the banner of this restored gospel among your own people. The appeal is for brave, courageous, and noble

men to come to the front in the interest of the spiritual progress of the Indian race. God can qualify the willing. Are you the man?

This tract is published by the Herald Publishing House, Lamoni, Iowa. Those who may wish to secure books and periodicals representing the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints should write to the Herald Publishing House for complete catalogue of publications.

