

THE BOOK OF MORMON

TRUE OR FALSE

MORMONS claim that the Book of Mormon was 'infallibly translated by the gift and power of God' and that it is therefore infallible and that Mormons, by contrast, can only accept the Bible as the word of God 'insofar as it is correctly translated'. If the Bible can only be accepted by Mormons 'insofar as it is correctly translated' then we assume that they accept all of the Book of Mormon because it is correctly translated. Yet it is full of errors and is not even a complete book. In the original edition of the Book of Mormon (1830) there is a page entitled "Preface" which consists of an explanation from Joseph Smith as to how thieves and rascals stole away 116 pages of the manuscript. This "preface", like many other things, is not to be seen in present editions of the Book of Mormon. Joseph Smith explains in this preface how that God has instructed him not to try and repeat the writing of these stolen 116 pages as it would just cause people to talk. If these 116 pages (and 116 pages is a big chunk of the book) contained words of importance (and most Mormons would reckon that even one word of the Book of Mormon was very important) then we have a Book of Mormon with 116 pages of important matter missing. The real reason for Joseph Smith's failure to reproduce the 116 stolen pages was that he could not. He could not possibly remember what he had written on them and, of course, if he tried to reproduce them and the thieves then produced the original 116, and the words on the pages did not exactly agree, then the fat was in the fire. Thus Joseph Smith stated that God, in a vision, told him not to try and reproduce them. If Joseph Smith had really been God's prophet or Seer then thieves would not have been allowed to prevent the publication of the complete Book of Mormon. It seems very careless of God to allow thieves to steal such a large part of such an important document.

One of the most striking evidences that the Book of Mormon was man-made is revealed in its lengthy quotations from the King James version of the Bible. It is a plain fact that many hundreds of passages in the Book of Mormon are taken straight from the Bible: e.g. large portions of Isaiah, the sermon on the Mount (according to Matthew) several verses from the writings of the apostle Paul, etc. The remarkable thing about these Bible quotations in the Book of Mormon is that they have all been taken from the King James Version. The King James Version, was of course translated by bishops of the Church of England in 1611 which is several centuries after the last part of the original Book of Mormon was supposed to have been written.

Think of it! Here is a book of which the greater part was supposedly written originally in the pure Egyptian language (1 Nephi 1:2) on plates brought by Nephi from the city of Jerusalem 600 years before Christ, later to undergo one transcription, and that by the prophet Mormon into "Reformed Egyptian" (Mormon 9:32) and then in the 19th Century purportedly to be 'infallibly' translated into English through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith by 'the gift and power of God', and Lo and Behold, when the translation is made the text contains large chunks of a version of the Bible made in the seventeenth century from Hebrew and Greek texts, which (in the case of the Hebrew text) had been handed down from generation to generation, copied and recopied hundreds of times. Obviously the man responsible for the writing of the Book of Mormon had the King James Version of the Bible in front of him when he was writing. If we accept the claim that the direct quotations in the Book of Mormon which are exactly the same as the King James Version were 'infallibly translated by the gift and power of God' then we are driven to the conclusion that the bishops of the Church of England infallibly translated these quotations into English from the Hebrew and Greek texts. But the scholarship of the world concurs that these translators were not infallible men and that they did err occasionally in their translation. Everyone, not just Mormons, accept the Bible in so far as it is correctly translated. However the writers of the Book of Mormon made the fatal mistake of including in the Book of Mormon (claimed to be the infallible revelation to Joseph Smith by the gift and power of God) some of the passages in the King James Version which contain some of the mistakes made by the translators. The truth is that the 'author of the Book of Mormon' simply copied into his 'manuscripts' portions (suitable to his purpose and to 'pad out' the book) of the Bible (King James Version). Take for instance Moroni 7:45 where, in reference to God the quotation from 1 Corinthians 13:5 of the King James Version is made, i.e. that God "is not easily provoked". The word 'easily' is not to be found in any Greek manuscript and indeed the word has been dropped in the Revised Version of the New Testament (1881) and from the American Standard Version. Adam Clarke states, "How the word 'easily' got into our translation is hard to say but has nothing in the original to countenance it". Those who wrote the Book of Mormon apparently were unaware of this and by using the word 'easily' betrayed the fact that they simply copied directly from the King James Version. Another similar example is in 3 Nephi 12-14 (Sermon on the Mount Retold) where Mormons would not only have us believe that Christ preached the Sermon on the Mount in America in the year 34 but that He preached it in the language of 1611 (in the language of the King James Version in fact). Not only this, but that He preached it with the known translation inaccuracies included. Thus 'openly' (Matt. 6:4-6 and 'for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory' (Matt.6:13) are now admitted not to be part of the original manuscript and have been omitted from the Revised Version and subsequent translations. These words however appear in the Book of Mormon and, as quotations from the King James Version, prove that the writer of the Book of Mormon did not receive them from God but copied them out of the Bible. There is nothing wrong with copying words from the Bible provided we do not state that we received them directly from God through the Urim and Thummim or from gold plates written in "Reformed Egyptian". Mormons must explain how plates written originally 600 years before Christ could contain the text of the King James version of the Bible (nor written until 1611) including the italic words which interpolated into the text by the translators.

If you receive a visit from the Mormon missionaries ask them to explain this strange circumstance and listen carefully to the explanation. The glaring truth is that the Book of Mormon was concocted by man, not necessarily Joseph Smith, and is a fraud the magnitude of which is incapable of being quantified. The Book of Mormon has absolutely nothing to commend it and those who perpetrate it upon a humanity, already bewildered by false doctrines, will certainly answer to their Makers. Individual Mormons, are in the main, very orderly and courteous people but the Book of Mormon should be treated as a poison. The more one subjects the Bible to the very closest of scrutiny the more is one convinced of its divine origin but the more one subjects the Book of Mormon to similar scrutiny the more clearly is one convinced of human origin. Next issue, God willing, I shall mention some other inconsistencies of the book.

EDITOR.