

## Origin of The Book of Mormon Versus The Inspiration of Scripture

Supernatural Inspiration:	The Book of Mormon:	The Christian Bible:
1. Verbal Inspiration superintended by God who takes responsibility for His own word	Golden plates were reportedly dug up in Palmyra farm in year of 1827. Joseph Smith reported that the plates had reformed Egyptian writing which was copied and later translated into English by means of two stones, called Urim and Thummim.	Every word is equally inspired 2Tim 3:16 "Theopneustos" Writers take no responsibility for the words. 2Peter 1:19-21. Writers state: "Thus saith the Lord..." Writers study their own writings. 1Peter 1:10 - 12 The writers submit to the words as authoritative and unalterable.. Gal. 1:11-12
2. No Plagiarism	At least 27,000 words taken from the KJV of the Bible. Direct quotes from the K.J.V. in Elizabethan English - which create a literary problem. The events recorded on golden plates took place 600 B.C. whereas the K.J.V. did not appear until 1611.	Quotes from contemporary times were given a new context and built into the literature with honesty. "Your own poets have said..." Acts 17:28
3. Completed Canon	After the book of Revelation was completed for over 1700 years Joseph Smith claimed to have a new revelation for the church. How did the church survive before then? To accept this book as revelation and equal with Scripture forces Mormons to break the fundamental rule of the canon of Scripture and add new information, which is irrelevant, unverifiable and in many cases contradictory to the truths of God's word.	The 66 Books of the Bible is a complete revelation. Christ put his stamp on the O.T. books - Luke 24:44 The united witness of the early church confirmed the books of the N.T. Rev. 22:18-19 warns against additions and deletions. The Bible was completed in the days of the apostles (Eph. 2:20) and the apostles were all dead by the end of the first century. With no apostles alive there could be no further revelation to add to Scripture. The Bible has been a completed book since the end of the first century.
4. Providential Preservation	The mysterious golden plates are now non existent. There is no reformed Egyptian language to be found by which scholars can verify the claims of Joseph Smith. Joseph Smith claimed that the brass plates he found contained the writing of the first five books of the Bible and from Lehi (who lived in times of Babel) to Jeremiah they were written in an unknown language - reformed Egyptian. No one knows how the writings were given, to whom, by whom for what purpose and why not preserved?	To further His program among the nations God preserved the Scriptures to be used by all generations. Not a word of the Lord has been lost. Matt. 5:18 It is verifiable by preservation of abundance of copies. Students can still learn the languages of the original Scriptures - Hebrew and Greek. They can check the translation and see the shades of meaning in the mother language. The Bible was given in the common languages of the people - Hebrew and Greek. There is ample literature available in the languages of peoples who lived in those eras. Students of Scripture can presently study the languages of those eras in which the Scriptures were given to ascertain how words were understood by the peoples of those times.
5. Must be Faithfully Translated. Necessary to give peoples of all languages the Word of God	The golden plates are not to be found. Reformed Egyptian is an unknown language. Joseph Smith stated that he translated the book of Mormon using Urim and Thummim - the two stones discovered with the supposed plates. All Mormons are left fully dependent upon the "inspired" English translation made by Joseph Smith. A great many changes have been made in the Book of Mormon in an edition of 1950 when compared with the original 1830 edition Grammatical and doctrinal changes have been made. The Reorganised Church of Mormon - a breakaway group - uses the revised edition of the KJV. The traditional Mormon Church does not use the revised edition, but will not reject Joseph Smith's work or revision on the K.J.V. They find the K.J.V. to be helpful for evangelistic purposes.	Translators need to be skilled in original languages and work in a thorough manner. Bible Societies continue to translate from Greek & Hebrew texts using lexicons, dictionaries etc. Translators follow rules of syntax and grammar to give peoples of other languages the word of God in their own tongue.
6. Historical Agreement	The golden plates discovered by Joseph Smith are not available. They were written in reformed Egyptian. The Book of Mormon is about two waves of migrant peoples from Judaea to Central America (At time of Tower of Babel) and North America (600 B.C.) whose populations were in the millions. There is not a trace of people called Nephites or Lahmanites. There are no remains of cities, homes, artifacts nor records of their writings. Archeologists have found nothing to substantiate the claims of the book of Mormon about these two migrant nations. The book of Mormon is an unverifiable translation from an unknown language - reformed Egyptian with no original copies remaining. Mormons believe the angel Moroni received them back from Joseph Smith	The O.T. Scriptures were given to Israel who became the custodians of the oracles of God. The N.T. was given through the apostles and includes the life and ministry of Christ, the apostles' letters to the early churches. Copies are available in great numbers. Nothing is left to speculation. Places agree Events agree People agree Coinage agree Weights and measures agree Neighbouring dynasties agree

<p>7. <b>Internal testimony - agreement</b></p>	<p>Only one source is pleaded for the book of Mormon yet contradictions are plentiful within its text.. The book of Mormon disagrees in the main with the Christian Bible, although purported to be additional Scripture. With only Joseph Smith involved in receiving the golden plates and translating from the Urim and Thummim there is no value to his testimony. The three witnesses and the eight witnesses who are referred to in every copy of the book of Mormon claim to have seen the golden plates but the writing was an unknown language and they had no part in their translation from the illusive "reformed Egyptian."</p>	<p>1Peter 1:21 2Tim 3:16 That means that none of the words of the Bible are of human origin. In process of inspiration it was impossible for each author to know the full impact of his writing, yet they were fulfilled in time. Although different writers wrote in different time periods, within different cultures about the Son of God their Messiah, their writings are free from contradiction. Is. 8:20 the Lord commands us to reject any word that is contrary to the truths of Scripture.</p>
<p>8. <b>Authors complement one another</b></p>	<p>The book of Mormon is said to be received by Joseph Smith alone, with one inspired translation again by Joseph Smith, yet it contradicts its statements and the doctrines of the Bible. . There is no united theme of doctrine within the book of Mormon.</p>	<p>The Bible was written by forty authors over a period of 1500 years. Writers in different eras spread over the history of revelation added new information that enhanced the unified doctrines of the Bible. This is a marvel of literary production. It is unquestionable proof for the divine superintendence of God in the inspiration of the Scriptures. The Bible has forty human authors but only one divine Author.</p>
<p>9. <b>Prophecies fulfilled</b></p>	<p>There is no precise prophetic statement that has yet been fulfilled.</p>	<p>Prophecies to do with the first coming of Christ have been fulfilled in so many details down to the time, place and manner of the person Christ would become. Christ's death was prophesied throughout the O.T. Scriptures. See clear examples in Psalm 22 and Is. 53 Prophecies concerning the future of the Jews have been fulfilled with great accuracy.</p>
<p>10. <b>Centred on Christ and Redemption</b></p>	<p>Mormons believe Christ is the son of the Father and Mary by natural generation. To Mormons Christ is the brother of Lucifer. The book of Mormon teaches that the fall of man only affects his actions not his nature. and Christ's death was not a substitutionary sacrifice in the stead of sinners.</p>	<p>"The Old Testament is an account of a NATION. The new Testament is an account of a MAN. The nation was founded and nurtured of God to bring the Man into the world." "Christ, is the centre and heart of the Bible, the centre and heart of history, He is the Centre and heart of our lives. Our eternal destiny is in his hand. Our acceptance, or rejection, of him determines for each of us, eternal glory, or eternal ruin; heaven or hell, one or the other." (Halley's Handbook of Bible) The theme of the Redeemer is seen throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Christ is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.</p>
<p>11. <b>Good News For Sinners</b></p>	<p>Mormons vigorously reject the doctrine of justification by faith. James Talmage, a Mormon teacher, in fact called this a "pernicious doctrine," and stated, "<u>The sectarian dogma of justification by faith alone has exercised an influence for evil.</u>" (Articles of Faith Pg. 479). All men have potential to become gods. Salvation is by keeping the priesthood rites of the Mormon church and keeping the commandments. Mormons teach that the vast majority of the human race will attain to some kind of salvation. However, those who enter into the <i>telestial</i> Kingdom will be found on another earth. They go through the fires of hell during the millenium, but are raised up to be judged according to their works. "<u>They shall be servants of the Most High; but where God and Christ dwell they cannot come. worlds without end</u>" (Doctrine and Covenants 76:112). To become eligible to become as God, by which Mormons mean to be a god, one must obey all the commandments of God. "<u>Very gladly would the Lord give to every one eternal life, but since that blessing can come only on merit - through the faithful performance of duty - only those who are worthy shall receive it. ... To be exalted one must keep the whole law. ... To receive the exaltation of the righteous, in other words eternal life, the commandments of the Lord must be kept in all things</u>" (Joseph Smith - Doctrine of Salvation II, 5,6.).</p>	<p>Salvation by grace and justification by faith alone is the hope of sinners Rom. 5:1. All who trust in the merits of Christ receive the gift of eternal life, enter heaven at death, have part in the the resurrection of the saints and will be brought into God's eternal kingdom where they will reign with their Lord for ever and ever (Rev. 11:15, 22:5). This is the gospel proclaimed by the Lord Jesus - John 3:16, John 10:28. The gospel message is replete with accounts of sinners given full assurance of immediate salvation including the dying thief, who entered heaven on the same day as his conversion. In the parable of labourers called in the eleventh hour the Lord showed how man is saved by divine calling and not the extent of his works. Matt. 20:1 - 16. The prodigal son was restored to his family with full acceptance and full assurance of family union. Luke 15. The apostle Paul in the book of Romans declares that we are saved by the imputed righteousness of Christ and not by works. This is a constant theme of the N.T. Romans 3:20,21,27,28. Gal. 2:16, "<b><i>For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast.</i></b>" Eph. 2:8 To Mormons salvation by grace is out-rightly denied. Thus the Lord is robbed of His glory in the salvation of sinners. Why will they no accept the gift of God?</p>

