Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_Ian Holm\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ SG Witnesses

Why does the Lord want the world to have three witnesses to the Book of Mormon? Look for five answers in Sections 5 and 17 as well as in 2 Nephi 27:12-14 and Ether 5:1-5. Document and explain what you discover as answers to this question? Thanks.

1. In section 17, it talks about how having witnesses will prevent Joseph from being destroyed. I assume that this means that having witnesses will help him verify that what he says is true, as well as prevent people from doubting/hating him.
2. In second Nephi, it says that the words should be received as if they were from the dead. It would seem that the lord intends that having few witnesses would result in the actual words of the ancient prophets sounding more like their actual words, rather than people paraphrasing them all the time.
3. Section 17 could also be referencing the fact that if Jospeh were to die, or not be able to share the message, there would be someone else could also verify that the gold plates were real. That way there is a bit of a safety net.
4. In Ether, it mentions that the witnesses would be able to help to spread the gospel in the last days. Having more than one witness helps to be able to spread the word to more people, as well as takes away some of the work of translation from of Jospeh.
5. Section 5 talks about how having three witnesses allows the lord to help people know the knowledge of the gospel by the power of the spirit. I think that having more witnesses see the plates would make it harder for people to learn by faith. I think that having a real testimony that you gain for yourself by forming a relationship with God is more personal and significant to you than just seeing definitive proof that the gospel is true.

Questions (2)

1. Why three witnesses specifically? Wouldn’t having more make things easier for the church in the early days?
2. Did the witnesses just see the gold plates, or did they see the other things as well, like the seeing stones, and the angel Moroni?