

Book of Mormon Study

Jarin French

May 11, 2017

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Title Page of the Book of Mormon

Chapter 1

1st Paragraph

“The Book of Mormon: An account written by the hand of Mormon upon plates taken from the plates of Nephi.”

Speaker	Important Characters	Target Audience
Mormon	—	The world

1.1 Definitions

1.2 Principles

- Record keeping

1.3 Comments

Mormon summarized the entirety of Lehi’s descendants’ history, and used the plates that Nephi started (approximately 1000 years previously).

1.4 Additional References

- *None* (yet)

Chapter 2

2nd Paragraph

“Wherefore, it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites – Written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile – Written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation – Written and sealed up, and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed – To come forth by the gift and power of God unto the interpretation thereof – Sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by way of the Gentile – The interpretation thereof by the gift of God.”

Speaker	Important Characters	Target Audience
Mormon	People of Nephi; Lamanites; Jew; Gentile	Lamanites; Jews; Gentiles

2.1 Definitions

Abridge:

- to shorten by omissions while retaining the basic contents
- to reduce or lessen in duration, scope, authority, etc.; diminish; curtail
- to deprive; cut off

2.2 Principles

- *None* (yet)

2.3 Comments

This book was written because of the spirit of prophecy, which as we find in Revelation 19:10 is the testimony of Christ, but it was also written because it was a commandment. This leads to the thought that as we develop a testimony of Christ, we will be commanded to write our own testimony so that others can learn from our own experience.

2.4 Additional References

- Revelation 19:10

Chapter 3

3rd Paragraph

“An abridgment taken from the Book of Ether also, which is a record of the people of Jared, who were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people, when they were building a tower to get to heaven - Which is to shown unto the remnant of the House of Israel what great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever - And also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that JESUS is the CHRIST, the ETERNAL GOD, manifesting himself unto all nations - and now, if there are faults they are the mistakes of men; wherefore, condemn not the things of God, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment-seat of Christ.”

Speaker	Important Characters	Target Audience
Mormon	People of Jared; House of Israel; Jew; Gentile	Lamanites; Jews; Gentiles

3.1 Definitions

Confound:

- to perplex or amaze, especially by sudden disturbance or surprise; bewilder; confuse
- to throw into confusion or disorder
- to thrown into increased confusion or disorder
- to treat or regard erroneously as identical; mix or associate by mistake
- to mingle so that the elements cannot be distinguished or separated
- to damn (used in mild imprecations)
- to contradict or refute

3.2 Principles

- Jesus is the Christ

3.3 Comments

Including the abridgement of the Book of Ether is done to show that God is powerful, and watches out for those that serve Him. Furthermore, this record gives another witness of the importance of the covenants of the Lord - without them, we are cast off forever. The final statement in this paragraph is a warning to those that would find fault with the book. Mormon readily acknowledges that he may have made a mistake, and implores those that read and ponder this book that they learn from his mistakes, rather than condemn the book because of his weakness.

Joseph Smith stated that “The standard of truth has been erected; no unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing; persecutions may rage, mobs may combine, armies may assemble, calumny may defame, but the truth of God will go forth boldly, nobly, and independent, till it has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country, and sounded in every ear, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the Great Jehovah shall say the work is done.” We have a work to do, and this book is the way to do it!

3.4 Additional References

- Mormon 8:17

Chapter 4

4th Paragraph

“Translated by Joseph Smth, Jun.”

Speaker	Important Characters	Target Audience
Joseph Smith Junior	Joseph Smith Junior	The world

4.1 Definitions

Word:

- *Definitions 1-n*

4.2 Principles

- *None* (yet)

4.3 Comments

Joseph Smith Junior was called by God to translate the Book of Mormon - not write it.

4.4 Additional References

- Joseph Smith - History 1:67-68

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