***Study Guide 5***

Unit 3 Day 2: Translation of the Gold Plates and the Printing and Publishing of the Book of Mormon

Abraham 3:1; JSH 1:35, 42, 52, 59

articles 3.2, 3.3

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Instructions: The purpose of the study guide is to direct your course of study of the Foundations of the Restoration, and assist you to focus on important salient points of your reading and study. The study guides are due on Learning Suite each class period by **8:59 am**. Your upload should only include the questions with your answers highlighted in yellow.

**Church History:**

**People (Go to JosephSmithPapers.org and search under Reference and People):**

* Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris, David Whitmer, and E. B. Grandin,

**Places (Look at the Maps in your Scriptures):**

* Harmony, PA; Fayette, NY; and Palmyra, NY

**Abraham 3:1**

1. What were Seer Stones called in Ancient Times?
   1. Urim and Thummim

**JSH 1:35, 42, 52, 59**

1. What else was buried in the Hill Cumorah with the Gold Plates?
   1. Two stones in silver bows fastened to a breastplate- the Urim and Thummim.
2. Besides the Gold Plates, what else was Joseph commanded to refrain from showing people unless specifically chosen by the Lord?
   1. The breastplate with the Urim and Thummim
3. What promise did Angel Moroni make to Joseph Smith if he did everything in his power to protect the Gold Plates? Did that promise come true?
   1. Moroni promised that the plates would be protected
   2. Yes, the promise came true.

**3.4 Book of Mormon Translation**

1. According to this, about how long (subtract the years) did Joseph have to wait to continue translating after the loss of the 116 pages of the manuscript?
   1. About 1 year. It says we began translating them in the spring of 1828, and then resumed translating in the spring of 1829.
2. You are hopefully beginning to see all of the opportunities that existed for mistakes/errors to exist in the first printing of the Book of Mormon, considering what happens from dictation to the printing press? **Explain your thoughts/impressions/feelings on the complexity of the process**, keeping in mind the Book of Mormon has never claimed to be perfect - the title page states “most correct book.”
   1. It sounds like a very complex process. Joseph had to read the characters that appeared on the stone to Oliver, who then wrote them down according to what he heard. Since they translated the book so fast, in only about 3 months, it makes sense that their could be some transcription errors occur. I don’t think God would let doctrinal errors come in, but punctation and grammatical errors seem reasonable.
3. Share your act of service/planned act of service:
   1. I am going to cook dinner for my wife.

**3.3 A Treasured Testament**

1. What else, according to Elder Nelson, did Joseph have to do during the time the Book of Mormon was translated? (The text lists almost 10 things, just list your favorite 4)
   1. Seek employment
   2. Receive the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods
   3. Travel to Colesville
   4. Move to Harmony to achieve Book of Mormon copyright
2. What are the three great doctrinal pillars in God’s eternal plan?
   1. The Creation
   2. The Fall
   3. The Atonement
3. There are MANY different examples of the Book of Mormon’s divinity and accuracy, listed and unlisted. Choose two listed examples that are specifically impactful to you, and briefly explain why they are valuable in your own life.
   1. Joseph Smith was able to translate the Book of Mormon in just about 65 working days. This is evidence to me that he was called of God because I don’t think it would be possible for someone to write such a book in that amount of time, especially without God’s help.
   2. I think the fact that the witnesses to the Book of Mormon translation say that Joseph translated by looking at a seer stone in a hat is strong evidence for the book’s divinity. Although this is a stumbling block to some, if you think about it, it would be very hard for someone to dictate an entire book themselves while looking in a hat. If Joseph had translated the book by having a curtain dividing him from the scribe then we could suspect that maybe Joseph was dictating from a script he already wrote. This is impactful to me because it increases my confidence in Joseph’s claim to being a prophet.