

## Objections to the Book of Mormon

Significant changes have been made to the *Book of Mormon* since its original 1830 publication. See *3,913 Changes in the Book of Mormon* [TT], by Jerald and Sandra Tanner, as well as the F.A.R.M.S. publication, *Book of Mormon Critical Text: A Tool for Scholarly Reference* (3 vols).

There are scientific difficulties with the *Book of Mormon*, as well as parallels with printed works (e.g. *View of the Hebrews*), ideas, and superstitions of the time. Some of these difficulties include conflicts with scientific conclusions on Native American origins: the *Book of Mormon* assumes the Hebrew origins hypothesis, where as science now follows the Bering Land Bridge emigration theory, as one of several methods for emigration to the Americas over 30-50 thousand years; Native American language relationships required thousands of years of development, yet the *Book of Mormon* indicates a common language up to 400 CE (see B. H. Roberts's *Studies of the Book of Mormon* [Mad85]); a seeming lack of relationship of native American languages with Hebrew (or Egyptian) languages; a contradiction with iron, horses, silk, wheat, oxen, cows, sheep, and pigs mentioned in the *Book of Mormon* that were not present in the Americas at the time purported by the *Book of Mormon*; DNA studies that point to an East Indian origin for Native Americans, not Hebrew, consistent with the Bering Land Bridge theory; and finally a lack of archaeological evidence that can be tied directly to the *Book of Mormon* (see the studies of Thomas Stuart Ferguson).

*The Origins of the Book of Mormon* [Per00], by David Persuitte, similar to misgivings documented by B. H. Roberts, point out such significant parallels in the ideas of the book *View of the Hebrews*, plus its availability to Joseph Smith, that it seems clear that Joseph Smith used this book to get some of his ideas on the *Book of Mormon*. Also, affidavits from *Mormonism Unveiled*, and the testimonies of Emma Smith, Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris, and David Whitmer as to his methods of translation (using seer stones in a hat, instead of looking at gold plates that most likely didn't exist), seem to make it clear that Joseph Smith wrote the *Book of Mormon*, instead of translating it. Finally, another book of important research showing further the hand of Joseph Smith in the writing of the *Book of Mormon* is *Joseph Smith's Plagiarism of the Bible* by Jerald and Sandra Tanner [TT1].

### References

- [Mad85] Brigham D. Madsen, 1985, *Studies of the Book of Mormon*, Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- [Per00] David Persuitte, 2000, *Joseph Smith and the Origins of The Book of Mormon*, Second Edition, McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 325 pages.
- [TT] Jerald D. Tanner, Sandra M. Tanner, 1996, *3,913 Changes in the Book of Mormon*, Utah Lighthouse Ministry.
- [TT1] Jerald D. Tanner, Sandra M. Tanner, 2010, *Joseph Smith's Plagiarism of the Bible in the Book of Mormon*, Utah Lighthouse Ministry, 255 pages.