

Why Do We Need the Book of Mormon?

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Introduction: How can we know the will of God on anything?

- A. This world has always been filled with false gods and false messages claiming to be from God. **(1 Jn 4:1)**

1 John 4:1 (KJV) ¹Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

- B. My answers have come from examining the life of Jesus Christ. The evidence God provided to establish His identity is how I can know all truth that God reveals. **(Jn 8:32)**

John 8:32 (KJV) ³²And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

1. As a follower of Jesus I will fairly consider evidence a fair-minded person may present.
2. My stand will be from scripture and not my personal feelings or experiences. **(Acts 17:11)**

Acts 17:11 (KJV) ¹¹These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

I. Why do I believe in Jesus Christ?

- A. Jesus was born, lived and died in a specific point in time in a specific place.
1. I am urged to hear the eyewitness testimony of men who saw the Jesus after he had been raised from the dead. **(Acts 2:32; 3:14-15)**

Acts 2:32 (KJV) ³²This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Acts 3:14 through Acts 3:15 (KJV) ¹⁴But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; ¹⁵And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

2. There is the testimony of fulfilled prophecy. **(Lk 24:44)**

Luke 24:44 (KJV) ⁴⁴And he said unto them, *These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.*

3. Jesus is the Son of God and therefore no man can stop His work.

B. Jesus' work of revealing His will was perfect!

1. It was guided by the Holy Spirit and written down. (**Eph 3:3-5; 5:17**)

Ephesians 3:3 through Ephesians 3:5 (KJV) ³How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, ⁴Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) ⁵Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Ephesians 5:17 (KJV) ¹⁷Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.

2. Jesus promised that it would never pass away. (**Mt 24:35**)

Matthew 24:35 (KJV) ³⁵Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

3. Why do I need "another gospel?" (**Gal 1:6-9**)

Galatians 1:6 through Galatians 1:9 (KJV) ⁶I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: ⁷Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

II. Reasons given for the need of the Book of Mormon

- A. A great and abominable church perverted the gospel and changed the Bible.
- B. The gospel is not translated correctly.
- C. God always meant for there to be continuous revelation
- D. We need to know the history of how God worked with the people on this part of the earth.

III. Testing the claims for the Book of Mormon

- A. A great and abominable church perverted the gospel and changed the Bible.
 - 1. Let us compare the assertions and charges of this fallible man to the promises of Jesus. (**Mt 24:35**).

Matthew 24:35 (KJV) ³⁵Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

- 2. The original ancient texts had to be copied by hand in order to be preserved. There are no original manuscripts in existence.
- 3. However, honest scholars can easily determine if the present Bible was transmitted accurately or if there was some conspiracy to later change the text.
 - a. We have at least 5,366 manuscripts of the Greek New Testament in

existence today, in whole or in part, that testify to the accuracy of the New Testament.

- b. There are nearly complete manuscripts that date from 280 to 350 AD and there is a fragment that is dated around 125 AD.
 - c. For the Old Testament we have the Dead Sea Scrolls that were written around 100 BC, which include a complete scroll of the book of Isaiah, along with other ancient manuscripts.¹
 - d. When the text of Isaiah found in the Dead Sea Scrolls was compared to what had previously been the oldest known text of Isaiah (written 900 years later), the two texts matched word for word with only minor variations.⁶
 - e. Jesus read from one of these texts of Isaiah in His ministry and called it scripture (**Luke 4:16-21**)! By doing so He gave His approval for the accuracy and authority of these scrolls produced by copyists.
4. What kind of “errors” are we talking about? The bulk of these differences are in spelling and word order that have absolutely no affect upon the meaning! For example: “**The king Herod**” verses “**Herod the king**” and “**Jerusalem with Him**” versus “**all Jerusalem with Him**”⁷
 5. If some men had developed a conspiracy to deliberately change the text, then there should be numerous examples of major differences in these manuscripts.
 - a. These kinds of differences simply do not exist.
 - b. It would have been impossible for any later conspirators to find all the manuscripts that were spread over several countries and then change them (in some cases parts of scripture were copied and buried with the bodies of Christians!).
- B. The gospel is not translated correctly.
1. Where is the proof?
 2. If I quote from Joseph Smith’s inspired corrected version of the Bible does this objection still hold true?
- C. God always meant for there to be continuous revelation
1. God promised that the sacrifice of Jesus was to be “once for all” in that it would never be added to or repeated. (**Heb 9:26-28**)

Hebrews 9:26 through Hebrews 9:28 (KJV)²⁶For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.²⁷And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:²⁸So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

2. This same powerful promise is made concerning the complete revelation of God’s will being delivered “once for all” (**Jude 3**)

Jude 3 (KJV) ³Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

D. We need to know the history of how God worked with the people on this part of the earth.

1. Is the Book of Mormon really a history?

The Book of Mormon mentions: wheat (**Mosiah 9:9**), horses (**1 Nephi 18:25**), chariots (**Alma 18:9-11; 20:6; 3 Nephi 3:22**), cows (**Enos 21**), elephants (**Ether 9:19**), silk (**Alma 1:29; 4:6; Ether 9:17**), linen (**Mosiah 10:5; Helamon 6:13; Ether 10:24**), money-pieces of gold and silver (**Alma 11:3-20**), steel (**2 Nephi 5:15; Jarom 1:8; Ether 7:9**). None of these items were here before the Spaniards.

1. The next edition of the Book of Mormon will have a word change to accommodate the evidence that contradicts its claims.
2. What a contrast to the Bible! (**Lk 1:1-4**)

IV. Should I follow my feelings and personal experiences to believe that the Book of Mormon is from God?

A. How does my Mormon friends appeal to me to know God's will?

1. My Mormon friends tell me to pray for a direct action from God.

(Moroni 10:4-5)

4 And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. 5 And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

2. They then appeal to feelings and experiences as evidence. **(D.+C. 9:8)**

8 But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right. 9 But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings, but you shall have a stupor of thought that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong; therefore, you cannot write that which is sacred save it be given you from me.

3. They give personal testimony of their private experience.

B. How does God appeal to me to know God's will?

1. Our God always appeals for us to look at what has previously been delivered!
(Gal 1:8; 1 Cor 14:36-37)

Galatians 1:8 (KJV) ⁸But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

1 Corinthians 14:36 through 1 Corinthians 14:37 (KJV) ³⁶What? came the word of

God out from you? or came it unto you only? ³⁷If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

2. Men may persuade us that God told them something different but we must not follow them.
3. Consider the Prophet of **1 Kings 13**
 - a. God gave him plain instructions. (**1 Kings 13:8-9**)

1 Kings 13:8 through 1 Kings 13:9 (KJV) ⁸And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: ⁹For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.

- b. The other man appealed to his “experience” (**1 Kings 13:18**)

1 Kings 13:18 (KJV) ¹⁸He said unto him, I *am* a prophet also as thou *art*; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. *But* he lied unto him.

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Complete audio, PowerPoint and addition resource files will be posted to www.aubeacon.com

Do you have any questions from this study? Please contact me anytime!

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