



THE BIBLE VS. THE BOOK OF MORMON

Examining the Gold Plates



Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are taken from the King James Version.

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Preface

Do you believe the Bible and the Book of Mormon teach the same things? Or are you just beginning to read the Book of Mormon and haven't yet checked by comparing it to the Bible?

The Book of Mormon's introduction page says it is "a volume of holy scripture **comparable to the Bible. It is a record of God's dealings with the ancient inhabitants of the Americas and contains, as does the Bible, the fulness of the everlasting gospel.**"

People who read the Book of Mormon and become Latter-day Saints accept it as the word of God, in some cases having even more regard for it than the Bible. The Mormon prophet Joseph Smith once said, "**a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book**" (Preach My Gospel, chapter 5, p. 108).

I have asked some Mormon missionaries just what these precepts are. They usually reply with words such as baptism, repentance and forgiveness. But these precepts are found in the other three canonized books of the LDS faith. However, Joseph Smith said that Book of Mormon precepts would bring you closer to God than any other book. Is his statement true?

Have you ever done a careful examination and comparison of what was supposedly translated from these golden plates? As you study more of the LDS faith, you will soon come to realize that some major LDS Church teachings are not even found in the Book of Mormon (i.e. the Word of Wisdom, Celestial Marriage, the Law of Consecration, baptism for the dead, etc).

This simple fact makes me wonder how someone can really get nearer to God by abiding precepts that are not even there.

While this does pose a problem for the LDS Church today, it does not for believers of historical Christianity. For them the Bible contains all that people need to know in order to be saved and to come nearer to God. The Bible is sufficient for any person claiming to be Christian.

Is the Book of Mormon another Testament?

Ever since 1981 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints began to append the title *Another Testament of Jesus Christ* to the Book of Mormon. It was not there prior to that year. I suspect this was done for marketing reasons (i.e. to make the Book of Mormon appear more credible). This would help it be more accepted.

You may be familiar with the first two testaments – the Old Testament (the sacrifice of animals) and the New Testament (the sacrifice of Jesus). The Old Testament was the Law. The New Testament is about Grace. There is no *another* testament when it really comes down to basics.

"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28).

Latter-day Saints ask you to take a challenge set forth in the Book of Mormon. “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. And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things” (Moroni 10:4-5).

Instead of praying and asking God for a feeling if it is true, trust the biblical counsel – our feelings can deceive us because our hearts are wicked (Jer. 17:9). We should test whether things are true or false.

Have you ever noticed that the Bible *never* asks the reader to pray to know if it is true? This is because the Bible is true, regardless of whether the person believes in it or not.

Since the Book of Mormon makes the claim that it is *comparable* to the Bible, let’s just test the validity of the claim by examining the contents of both books. Is it really a record of historical events or just someone’s attempt at writing a novel and copying some chapters from the Bible?

Were the Nephites and Lamanites actual historical figures? Is the Book of Mormon *really* comparable to the Bible?

In the Garden of Eden, the serpent was able to deceive Eve by making her doubt God’s word. “Did God really say ...?” In this comparative text, let’s discover if you really believe what God says in the Bible or whether you too will be or have been deceived by the devil.

Angel Ministry

Moroni 7:30 – “For behold, they [the angels] are subject unto him, to minister according to the word of his command, showing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind in every form of godliness.”

This does not describe the angelic visitations in the Bible. Do you remember the shepherds tending their sheep at the birth of Christ? Or Gabriel’s visit to Zechariah (Luke 1:18-19)?

Archaeology, Geography, and History

The Book of Mormon is believed to contain actual historical events of people who lived in the Americas but there are no Nephite or Lamanite relics on display in the LDS Museum of Church History. No maps exist in the Book of Mormon depicting the land of America where Lehi supposedly visited. Also, there are no historical records (outside of the Book of Mormon) describing events mentioned therein.

There is much archaeological, historical, and geographical support for the Bible. One can still travel to many places mentioned there.

Apostles

There are no Nephites or Lamanites who are called Apostles in the Book of Mormon. It does however make several references to the 12 Apostles of the Lamb in Israel.

The Mormon Church is said to have 15 living Apostles today.

Babes and children speaking greater things than Jesus

3 Nephi 26:14,16 – “And it came to pass that he did teach and minister unto the children of the multitude of whom hath been spoken, and he did loose their tongues, and **they did speak unto their fathers great and marvelous things, even greater than he had revealed unto the people**; and he loosed their tongues that they could utter. Behold, it came to pass on the morrow that the multitude gathered themselves together, and they both saw and heard these children; yea, **even babes did open their mouths and utter marvelous things**; and the things which they did utter were forbidden that there should not any man write them.”

Jesus spoke the greatest things in the Bible.

Believers of the Bible will believe the Book of Mormon?

In the Introduction of Mormon chapter 7, it states, “Mormon invites the Lamanites of the latter days to believe in Christ, accept his gospel, and be saved—**All who believe the Bible will also believe the Book of Mormon.**”

This is not true. Many who believe the Bible do not believe the Book of Mormon.

Birth of Christ

According to the Book of Mormon the people were given several signs that Jesus was born into the world – great lights in heaven, signs and wonders in heaven and two days without darkness.

Helaman 14:3 – “And behold, this will I give unto you for a sign at the time of his coming; for behold, there shall be **great lights in heaven**, insomuch that **in the night before he cometh there shall be no darkness**, insomuch that it shall appear unto man as if it was day. Therefore, there shall be one day and a night and a day, as if it were one day and there were no night ... and behold this is not all, there shall be **many signs and wonders in heaven**. And it shall come to pass that ye shall all be amazed, and wonder, insomuch that ye shall fall to the earth.”

According to the Bible the people in general were not given a sign. There were neither two days or darkness or two days of light to signify Christ’s birth.

In another passage of the Book of Mormon, the sun went down as normal but it remained as day.

3 Nephi 1:15,19 – “... for behold, **at the going down of the sun there was no darkness**; and the people began to be astonished because there was no darkness when the night came ... And it came to pass that there was no darkness in all that night, but it was as light as though it was mid-day. **And it came to pass that the sun did rise in the morning again, according to its proper order**; and they knew that it was the day that the Lord should be born, because of the sign which had been given.”

The Book of Mormon does not indicate where the light came from when the sun went down that night.

Quite a different sign was given to the shepherds, the wise men, and Mary and Joseph in the Bible.

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. **And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host** praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child” (Luke 2:10-17).

Angels appeared to these shepherds.

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? **for we have seen his star in the east**, and are come to worship him” (Matthew 2:1-2).

One star was a sign to these wise men.

“Behold, **a virgin shall be with child**, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” (Matthew 1:23).

The virgin birth is a sign for Mary and Joseph.

3 Nephi 1:13 – “Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, **and on the morrow come I into the world**, to show unto the world that I will fulfil all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets.”

According to the Bible, Jesus did not pre-announce the day of his actual birth to the Jews. Not even Mary knew.

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, said, “No recounting of the Christmas story is complete without hearing words of an angel sent to prepare the way for His arrival. At the heart of the account of the birth of Jesus Christ is the testimony of angels, as recorded by the Apostles Jesus called and ordained” (The Gifts of Christmas, First Presidency Christmas Devotional, 2011).

This testimony of angels is lacking in the Book of Mormon – its Christmas story is incomplete.

Building the New Jerusalem

3 Nephi 20:22 – “And behold, this people will I establish in **this land**, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it **shall be a New Jerusalem**. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you.”

The land of New Jerusalem then becomes a city.

3 Nephi 21:22-24 – “... I have given **this land for their inheritance**; And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, **that they may build a city**, which shall be called **the New Jerusalem**. And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.”

Ether 13:4, 6 – “Behold, Ether saw the days of Christ, and he spake concerning **a New Jerusalem upon this land** ... And that **a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land**, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, for which things there has been a type.”

This ties in with the tenth Mormon Article of Faith – “We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisaical glory.”

More specifically, Latter-day Saints plan to build their New Jerusalem in the city of Independence, Missouri (Doctrine and Covenants 57:1-4).

The Bible gives an accurate picture of New Jerusalem. God builds the city. It is not on the earth before Jesus returns again. It descends from heaven after the Millennium. “And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Rev. 21:2).

Christians who follow the Bible are not planning to build the New Jerusalem. God builds it.

Ether 13:9-10 – “And then cometh the New Jerusalem; and blessed are they who dwell therein, for it is they whose garments are white through the blood of the Lamb; and they are they who are numbered among the remnant of the seed of Joseph, who were of the house of Israel.”

There are two New Jerusalems in LDS theology, with the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh being preeminent.

Burnt offerings

Mosiah 2:3 – “And they also took of the firstlings of their flocks, that they might offer sacrifice and burnt offerings according to the law of Moses.”

There are various types of sacrifices in the Old Testament (burnt, peace, sin, guilt, food and drink) but firstlings were not offered as burnt offerings (Exodus 13:12-15; Numbers 18:17; Deuteronomy 14:23; 15:19-20).

Called by the order of God

Helaman 8:18 – “Yea, and behold I say unto you, that Abraham not only knew of these things, but there were **many before the days of Abraham who were called by the order of God.**”

According to the Bible, only Melchizedek is mentioned as being a priest of God in or before the days of Abraham.

Captivity into Babylon

1 Nephi 17:43 – “And now, after all these things, the time has come that they have become wicked, yea, nearly unto ripeness; and I know not but they are at this day about to be destroyed; for I know that the day must surely come that they must be destroyed, **save a few only, who shall be led away into captivity.**”

This is a reference to the destruction of the southern kingdom of Judah by the Babylonians (excluding the dispersion of the northern kingdom). But more than just a few were taken captive (2 Kings 24:14-16).

Choosing the twelve disciples

Mormon 3:19 – “... the twelve whom Jesus chose to be his disciples in the land of Jerusalem.”

The Book of Mormon also refers to Jesus being born in the land of Jerusalem (Alma 7:10). There is mention of Jesus choosing the twelve in Luke 6:13. But when you read Luke 5, Jesus is in the land around the Sea of Galilee, not way down south in Jerusalem when he is choosing his disciples. See also Mark chapter 1 and 2.

Chosen people

1 Nephi 20:10 – “For, behold, I have refined thee, I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction”.

The Jews were chosen in the time of Abraham (see Genesis 13:14-15).

Christ came to the most wicked Jews in the world?

2 Nephi 10:3 – “... it must needs be expedient that **Christ ... should come among the Jews, among those who are the more wicked part of the world**; and they shall crucify him—for thus it behooveth our God, and there is none other nation on earth that would crucify their God.”

This does not make sense. Any nation that used crucifixion would have used this means to kill Christ. For example, if Rome controlled Japan in those days and Jesus came in the line of the Japanese, then that nation would have crucified him too. As for who was the most wicked people on the earth, the Book of Mormon makes a strong case that it was the Nephites and the Lamanites (see Mormon 4:10-12).

Circumcision

There is only one mention of circumcision in the Book of Mormon – apparently when the Lord is said to have revealed to Moroni that little children inherited the curse of Adam and need to be cleansed (Moroni 8:4-8). The Mormon Jesus says he has done away with the law of circumcision, but there is no observance of males being circumcised in the Book of Mormon before or after the coming of Christ.

The phrase “the whole need no physician but they that are sick” was in response to the Pharisees asking Jesus “why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?” The Book of Mormon uses the phrase surrounding a dispute concerning baptism.

Creation – did God create all things?

Mosiah 5:15 – “Therefore, I would that ye should be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works, that **Christ, the Lord God Omnipotent**, may seal you his, that you may be brought to heaven, that ye may have everlasting salvation and eternal life, through the wisdom, and power, and justice, and mercy of him **who created all things**, in heaven and in earth, **who is God above all**. Amen.”

Christ is the God who created all things. But in Mormon theology Jesus did not create Lucifer and the other spirits.

Creation and the Fall

The Book of Mormon portrays a creation that was deficient.

2 Nephi 2:22-23 – “And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end. And **they would have had no children**; wherefore they would have remained in a state of innocence, **having no joy**, for they knew no misery; **doing no good**, for they knew no sin.”

The Bible says God saw that all the creation was good. But according to the Book of Mormon Adam and Eve had no joy and no ability to reproduce before the Fall.

The Book of Mormon portrays the Fall as a positive thing.

2 Nephi 2:25 – “Adam fell that men might be; and men care, that they might have joy.”

This theme is also repeated in another book in the LDS scripture, the Pearl of Great Price.

Moses 5:10-11 – “Blessed be the name of God, for because of my transgression my eyes are opened, and in this life I shall have joy ... And Eve, his wife, heard all these things and was glad, saying: Were it not for our transgression we never should have had seed, and never should have known good and evil, and the joy of our redemption, and the eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient.”

Notice the word ‘obedient’. Adam and Eve were in fact disobedient.

These same teachings are propagated in the LDS Church’s publication *Gospel Principles*. Both the 1997 and current version (2009) mention great blessings which came about because of the Fall.

God punished Adam and Eve for their disobedience.

Crucifixion of Christ – death and destruction

Severe destruction occurred at the moment of Christ’s death according to the Book of Mormon.

3 Nephi 11:2 – “And they were also conversing about this Jesus Christ, of whom the sign had been given concerning his death” (see also 3 Nephi 8:3).

Darkness persisted for 3 days in various islands across the world and there was an earthquake lasting 3 hours.

1 Nephi 19:10 – “And the God of our fathers, who were bled out of Egypt, out of bondage, and also were preserved in the wilderness by him, yea, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, yieldeth himself, according to the words of the angel, as a man, into the hands of wicked men, to be lifted up, according to the words of Zenock, and to be crucified, according to the words of Neum, and to be buried in a sepulchre, according to the words of Zenos, which he spake concerning the **three days of darkness**, which should be **a sign given of his death unto those who should inhabit the isles of the sea**, more especially given unto those who are of the house of Israel.”

3 Nephi 8:3 – “And the people began to look with great earnestness for the sign which had been given by the prophet Samuel, the Lamanite, yea, for the time that there should be **darkness for the space of three days** over the face of the land.”

Many Book of Mormon cities are reported to have been destroyed.

3 Nephi 8:8-16 – “And the **city of Zarahemla did take fire**. And the **city of Moroni did sink into the depths of the sea, and the inhabitants thereof were drowned**. And the earth was carried up upon the city of Moronihah, that in the place of the city there became a great mountain. And **there was a great and terrible destruction in the land southward**. But behold, **there was a more great and terrible destruction in the land northward** ... And the **highways were broken up**, and the **level roads were spoiled**, and many smooth places became rough. And **many great and notable cities were sunk**, and **many were burned**, and many were shaken till the buildings thereof had fallen to the earth, and **the inhabitants thereof were slain**, and the places were left desolate. And there were some cities which remained; but the damage thereof was exceedingly great, and **there were many in them who were slain**. And there were some who were carried away in the whirlwind; and whither they went no man knoweth, save they know that they were carried away.

3 Nephi 9:19-23 – “And it came to pass that when the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the storm, and the tempest, and the **quakings of the earth** did cease—for behold, **they did last for about the space of three hours**; and it was said by some that the time was greater; nevertheless, all these great and terrible things were done in **about the space of three hours**—and then behold, there was darkness upon the face of the land. And it came to pass that there was **thick darkness upon all the face of the land**, insomuch that the inhabitants thereof who had not fallen **could feel the vapor of darkness**. And there could be no light, because of the darkness, neither candles, neither torches; neither could there be fire kindled with their fine and exceedingly dry wood, so that **there could not be any light at all**. And **there was not any light seen**, neither fire, nor glimmer, **neither the sun, nor the moon, nor the stars**, for so great were the mists of darkness which were upon the face of the land. And it came to pass that it did last for the space of **three days that there was no light seen.**”

About 16 cities are mentioned by name.

Helaman 14:20-25 mentions other signs of Christ’s death. “But behold, as I said unto you concerning **another sign, a sign of his death**, behold, in that day that he shall suffer death the sun shall be darkened and **refuse to give his light** unto you; and **also the moon and the stars**;

and there shall be no light upon the face of this land, even from the time that he shall suffer death, for the space of three days, to the time that he shall rise again from the dead ... there shall be **thunderings and lightnings** for the space of many hours, and the earth shall shake and tremble ... And behold, there shall be **great tempests**, and there shall be **many mountains laid low, like unto a valley**, and there shall be many places which are now called **valleys which shall become mountains**, whose height is great. And **many highways shall be broken up**, and **many cities shall become desolate.**”

Destruction and upheavals in nature did not occur In Israel or surrounding areas. In the Book of Mormon, the temple veil was not rent in twain. In fact, this very important event is not even mentioned. Study Hebrews chapters 9 and 10 for its spiritual significance.

There was one momentary earthquake in the Bible. Darkness lasted for only 3 hours (Luke 23:44). No cities were destroyed and people were not slain.

Do you remember the words of Jesus while he was on the cross?

“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

Do you also remember when a few of his disciples wanted a village destroyed because they had rejected His preaching?

“And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village” (Luke 9:51-56).

Do you notice this major difference between the two Christs in the time surrounding the Atonement?

Crucifixion of Christ – setting a time frame

According to the Book of Mormon, the time of the great destruction began on the fourth day of the first month. The 3 days of darkness was said to be a sign of the crucifixion of Christ.

3 Nephi 8:3, 5 – “And the people began to look with great earnestness for the sign which had been given by the prophet Samuel, the Lamanite, yea, for the time that there should be darkness for the space of three days over the face of the land. And it came to pass in the thirty and fourth year, **in the first month, on the fourth day of the month**, there arose a great storm, such an one as never had been known in all the land.”

What is the significance of this?

Well, Jesus was crucified on the Feast of Passover. On the fourteen day of the first month. “In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord’s Passover” (Leviticus 23:5).

The Book of Mormon author is off by at least ten days.

Even today, after thousands of years, the Jews are meticulous to keep their calendar intact. That the Book of Mormon people were off by ten days shows they were not really descendants of Jacob or it was translated incorrectly. There is no record they were even aware of Passover.

Cursed land

Alma 37:28 – “For behold, there is a curse upon all this land, that destruction shall come upon all those workers of darkness, according to the power of God, when they are fully ripe; therefore I desire that this people might not be destroyed.”

The word ‘curse’ in this passage is linked to Ether 2:7-12, referring to the Jaredites. The Nephites were supposedly led to a land that was cursed. The Israelites, in their exodus out of Egypt, were not led to a land that was cursed.

Weapons and tools disappeared because of this curse.

Ether 14:1 – “And now there began to be a great curse upon all the land because of the iniquity of the people, in which, if a man should lay his tool or his sword upon his shelf, or upon the place whither he would keep it, behold, upon the morrow, he could not find it, so great was the curse upon the land.”

Destruction after apostasy

Helaman 13:9-10 – “And four hundred years shall not pass away before I will cause that they shall be smitten; yea, I will visit them with the sword and with famine and with pestilence. Yea, I will visit them in my fierce anger, and there shall be those of the fourth generation who shall live, of your enemies, to behold your utter destruction; and this shall surely come except ye repent, saith the Lord.”

Some Mormons approximate this Nephite history around 421 A.D. I was not able to find a mention of *pestilence* pertaining to this Book of Mormon account when it was supposed to have occurred. Also, the LDS Church believes the New Testament church fell into total apostasy yet Jesus did not visit the Christians of the Middle East or Europe with utter destruction.

Eating raw meat

1 Nephi 17:2,12 – “And so great were the blessings of the Lord upon us, that while we did live upon **raw meat** in the wilderness ... For the Lord had not hitherto suffered that we should make much fire, as we journeyed in the wilderness; for he said: I will make thy food become sweet, **that ye cook it not**”.

“Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof” (Exodus 12:9).

Enoch and the global flood

According to the Pearl of Great Price, God makes a covenant with Enoch that He would never again destroy the world by water. Enoch also asks God to be merciful with Noah and his seed.

Moses 7:50-51 – “And it came to pass that **Enoch continued his cry unto the Lord**, saying: I ask thee, O Lord, in the name of thine Only Begotten, even Jesus Christ, that thou wilt have mercy upon **Noah and his seed**, that the earth might never more be covered by the floods. And the Lord could not withhold; and he covenanted with Enoch, and sware unto him with an oath, that he would stay the floods; that he would call upon the children of Noah”.

According to the Bible, God makes a covenant with Noah, not with Enoch. Noah does not petition God for mercy for him, his family, or Earth’s wicked inhabitants. The bow in the sky would be a sign or token of this promise (see Genesis 9:8-17).

Eternal Father

Jesus is both the Father and the Son in the Book of Mormon.

Mosiah 15:2-4 – “And because he dwelleth in flesh he shall be called the Son of God ... being the Father and the Son. The Father, because he was conceived by the power of God; and the Son, because of the flesh; thus becoming the Father and Son.”

Ether 3:14 – “Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son ... they shall become my sons and my daughters.”

Ether 4:12 – “... and he that will not believe me will not believe the Father who sent me. For behold, I am the Father.”

Jesus taught he was not the Father – “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you ... That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:44-45).

“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father” (Galatians 4:6).

Eternal Life

Alma 1:4 – “And he also testified unto the people that all mankind should be saved at the last day, and that they need not fear nor tremble, but that they might lift up their heads and rejoice; for the Lord had created all men, and had also redeemed all men; and, in the end, all men should have eternal life.”

Eternal life is defined as exaltation (becoming a God) in LDS theology. See the Mormon publication called “True to the Faith.” “Man has the potential to perpetuate the race, to subdue the earth, to perfect himself and to become as God, omniscient and omnipotent.” (page 2, The Miracle of Forgiveness, Spencer W. Kimball).

Everlasting – is God from everlasting to everlasting?

Moroni 7:22 – “For behold, **God** knowing all things, **being from everlasting to everlasting**, behold, he sent angels to minister unto the children of men, to make manifest concerning the coming of Christ; and in Christ there should come every good thing.”

This would agree with the Bible.

But the Mormon god is taught to have become a god.

“**We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea**, and take away the veil, so that you may see” (Teachings of Joseph Smith, 1938, pp. 345-346).

“When you climb up a ladder, you must begin at the bottom, and ascend step by step, until you arrive at the top; and so it is with the principles of the Gospel—you must begin with the first, and go on until you learn all the principles of exaltation. But it will be a great while after you have passed through the veil [died] before you will have learned them. It is not all to be comprehended in this world; it will be a great work to learn our salvation and exaltation even beyond the grave. **This is the way our Heavenly Father became God.** It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for a certainty the character of God. ... He was once a man like us; ... God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 1938, pp. 345–346, 348; Gospel Principles, 1997, chapter 47, p. 305).

This teaching has been removed from the 2009 version of Gospel Principles.

Mosiah 3:5 – “For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant, that with power, the **Lord Omnipotent** who reigneth, who was, and **is from all eternity to all eternity**, shall come down from heaven among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay, and shall go

forth amongst men, working mighty miracles, such as healing the sick, raising the dead, causing the lame to walk, the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear, and curing all manner of diseases.”

This would accurately describe the biblical Jesus.

But the LDS Church teaches Jesus is the spirit child born to Heavenly Mother and Heavenly Father, who progressed into becoming a God like his father before him.

Fear of joining the church

We find evidence of great fear which prevented some from joining the church (Acts 2:43; 5:5; 11). I cannot find anyone being afraid of joining the church which supposedly existed in the Book of Mormon.

Feast days

There was no Pentecost-type event in the Book of Mormon. Also, there is no mention of the Nephites even knowing about Passover or other Israelite feasts.

First-fruits

Jacob 4:11 – “Wherefore, beloved brethren, be reconciled unto him through the atonement of Christ, his Only Begotten Son, and ye may obtain a resurrection, according to the power of the resurrection which is in Christ, and **be presented as the first-fruits of Christ** unto God, having faith, and obtained a good hope of glory in him **before he manifesteth himself in the flesh.**”

This is incorrect. People could not be presented as the first-fruits before Jesus was manifested in the flesh.

“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming” (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).

Gethsemane

According to the Book of Mormon, Jesus bled from every pore in the Garden of Gethsemane. This is repeated in Doctrine and Covenants 19:18–19.

Mosiah 3:7 – “And lo, he shall suffer temptations ... for behold, blood cometh from every pore”.

The Bible says Jesus was sweating, not bleeding.

“And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground” (Luke 22:44).

Do you see the difference between “his sweat was as it were great drops of blood” and “his blood was as it were great drops of sweat” falling to the ground?

Glory of the Lord

In the Bible, the glory of the Lord brought fear (Luke 2:9). In the Old Testament, the priests could not withstand the appearance of God’s glory in the temple. The ordinary people even saw the glory of the Lord (Exodus 24:17; 40:34-35; Leviticus 9:23-24; Numbers 14:10; 16:9; 1 Kings 8:10-11; 2 Chronicles 5:14; 7:2). The phrase “glory of the Lord” is found about 36 times. It is never found in the Book of Mormon.

Grace or works?

Helaman 12:24 – “And may God grant, in his great fulness, that men might be brought unto repentance and good works, that they might be restored unto **grace for grace, according to their works.**”

Grace is unmerited favor. If you work for it, you have merited it. If by works, it is no more grace (Romans 4:5; 11:6).

2 Nephi 25:23 – “For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that **we are saved, after all we can do.**”

Moroni 10:32 – “Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and **if** ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, **then** is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God.”

Did you notice the “if / then” statement above? If you don’t do everything that is required of you, then Christ’s grace is not sufficient for you.

As we study the teachings of a former LDS President, sin (ungodliness) includes many things:

“Repentance must involve an all-out, total surrender to the program of the Lord. That transgressor is not fully repentant who neglects his tithing, misses his meetings, breaks the Sabbath, fails in his family prayers, does not sustain the authorities of the Church, breaks the Word of Wisdom, does not love the Lord nor his fellowmen ... God cannot forgive unless the

transgressor shows a true repentance which spreads to all areas of his life" (Teachings of Presidents of the Church – Spencer W. Kimball, chapter 4, The Miracle of Forgiveness).

True repentance is conditional on confessing and forsaking past sins (D&C 58:43). Since Latter-day Saints continue to sin, they never forsake their past sins, hence they never truly repent, and therefore do not have the joy of true forgiveness that Jesus provides on the cross. This is why they feel they must strive hard to do their part so they can work for eternal life through their effort.

The Bible teaches we are saved by grace. It is not of works, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9). Salvation is a gift to unworthy sinners whose works are as filthy rags.

“Salvation in its true and full meaning is synonymous with exaltation or eternal life and consists in gaining an inheritance in the highest of the three heavens within the celestial kingdom. With few exceptions this is the salvation of which the scriptures speak" (Religion 275 - Teachings and Doctrine of the Book of Mormon - Teacher Manual, 2016).

Great Commission

According to chapter 33 (Missionary Work) in the 2009 version of Gospel Principles, “The Lord's Church has always been a missionary church. When the Savior lived on the earth, he ordained Apostles and Seventies and gave them the authority and responsibility to preach the gospel. Most of their preaching was to their own people, the Jews (see Matthew 10:5-6). After Jesus was resurrected, he sent Apostles to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. He commanded the Apostles, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).”

The Mormon Jesus did not appoint Apostles and Seventies in the Book of Mormon.

There seems to be only a limited outreach of the Nephites to their local people according to the words of the Mormon Jesus – 3 Nephi 11:41 – “Therefore, go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth.” After 4 generations (400 hundred years), the Nephites would dwindle in unbelief and then the gospel would come forth from the Gentiles unto the remnant of Lehi’s seed (3 Nephi 27:32; 21:2-6). This is not reflective of the church of Christ in the New Testament, which continued to grow.

Greatest men of faith

A man named Moroni, not Jesus, was said to be the greatest threat to the devil.

Alma 48:17 – “Yea, verily, verily I say unto you, if all men had been, and were, and ever would be, like unto Moroni, behold, the very powers of hell would have been shaken forever; yea, the devil would never have power over the hearts of the children of men.”

It is stated that the brother of Jared had the greatest faith (Ether 3:9), was the greatest believer (Ether 3:15), and had the greatest revelations and manifestations (Ether 4:4).

The Book of Mormon seems to go out of its way to make its prophets superior to the biblical heroes of faith.

Greatest nation on earth

Of the Jaredites, Ether 1:43 says, “And there will I bless thee and thy seed, and **raise up** unto me of thy seed, and of the seed of thy brother, and they who shall go with thee, **a great nation**. And **there shall be none greater than the nation which I will raise up unto me of thy seed**, upon all the face of the earth. And thus I will do unto thee because this long time ye have cried unto me.”

Ether 10:28 – “And never could be a people **more blessed than were they, and more prospered by the hand of the Lord**. And they were in a land that was choice above all lands, for the Lord had spoken it.”

The Jaredites were more blessed and prosperous than even the Israelites, yet nothing remains of these people who supposedly existed in America.

Another Mormon prophet, Alma, contradicts who was the most favored – he says it was the Nephite nation.

Alma 9:20 – “Yea, after having been such a highly favored people of the Lord; yea, after having been **favored above every other nation, kindred**, all things made known unto them, according to their desires, and their faith, and prayers, of that which has been, and which is, and which is to come”.

Since God dealt personally with the Jews and no other (Amos 3:2), I would consider Israel as the greatest nation ever.

Joseph and the bloody coat

The Book of Mormon records that Joseph's coat was torn into many pieces by his brothers and that one piece was preserved" (Alma 46:23-24). There is no mention of the blood. It even adds a prophecy from the mouth of Jacob that is not found in biblical manuscripts.

“Yea, let us preserve our liberty as a remnant of Joseph; yea, let us remember the words of Jacob, before his death, for behold, he saw that a part of the remnant of the coat of Joseph **was preserved and had not decayed**. And he said—Even as this remnant of garment of my son hath been preserved, **so shall a remnant of the seed of my son be preserved** by the hand of God, and be taken unto himself, while the remainder of the seed of Joseph shall perish, even as the remnant of his garment.”

The idea that the piece of garment had not decayed makes no sense considering only a short time passed between the pit/sale incident and them informing their father.

In the biblical account, Joseph's brothers do not tear the coat into many pieces. They just stain it with blood. Jacob concluded: "It is my son's coat; a wild animal has devoured him." (Genesis 37:33). So the deception relied mainly on the blood, not on looking at a piece of the coat. The Bible only records Jacob tearing his own clothes in grief (Genesis 37:34).

Judges

Mosiah 29:11 – “Therefore I will be your king the remainder of my days; nevertheless, let us appoint judges, to judge this people according to our law; and we will newly arrange the affairs of this people, for we will appoint wise men to be judges, that will judge this people according to the commandments of God”.

The Book of Mormon seems to go into reverse order of that of the Bible. The judges came before the kings. And in the New Testament, Christians did not organize themselves into the office of judges.

Alma 7:2 – “And even I could not have come now at this time were it not that the judgment-seat hath been a given to another, to reign in my stead”.

Christians in the Bible did not sit on a judgment-seat.

Alma the Younger was the first chief judge in the Book of Mormon, assuming the judgment seat in the first year of the reign of the judges, around 91 B.C. (Alma 1:1-2). This marked the beginning of the judges' era, 509 years after Lehi's departure from Jerusalem (Mosiah 29:46).

Unlike the Old Testament judges (after Joshua), who were military leaders raised by God to deliver Israel from enemies in war and crises, the judges in the Book of Mormon were chosen by the people. The reign of the judges was primarily a civil government, focused on administering justice according to God's laws (Mosiah 29:11, 25-26; Alma 11:1-2).

After Christ's supposed appearance to the Nephites, the need for judges disappeared as society became unified, with people living in peace and dealing justly with one another (4 Nephi 1:2, 15-16). When pride and divisions returned, wickedness resurfaced, and the terms "Nephites" and "Lamanites" were reintroduced. But the text does not mention the appointment of judges again despite the wars that ensued afterwards (4 Nephi 1:24, 34, 36-37).

The Book of Mormon describes a final, climactic battle at the hill Cumorah, where the Lamanites destroyed the Nephite nation. Mormon gathered the Nephites to Cumorah (Mormon 6:2) and calls it the “last struggle of my people” (Mormon 6:6). After the battle, only 24 were left with Mormon at that moment (Mormon 6:11), and Moroni later says the survivors were hunted

until they were all destroyed (Mormon 8:2–3). Moroni himself survived in hiding because the Lamanites would kill him (Moroni 1:1–2).

The LDS Church taught the hill Cumorah is located in New York State; the site of the two greatest wars in Book of Mormon history.

Hiding treasures unto the Lord

Helaman 13:18-19 – “And it shall come to pass, saith the Lord of Hosts ... that whoso shall **hide up treasures in the earth** shall find them again no more, because of the great curse of the land, save he be a righteous man and shall hide it up unto the Lord. For I will, saith the Lord, that they shall hide up their treasures unto me; and cursed be they who hide not up their treasures unto me; for none hideth up their treasures unto me save it be the righteous; and **he that hideth not up his treasures unto me, cursed is he**, and also the treasure, and none shall redeem it because of the curse of the land.”

This is further alluded to in verses 34-35:

“Behold, we lay a tool here and on the morrow it is gone; and behold, our swords are taken from us in the day we have sought them for battle. Yea, we have hid up our treasures and they have slipped away from us, because of the curse of the land.”

God does not want humans to hide their treasures in the earth for him. He wants us to use them for His glory.

High priests

Alma 46:6, 38 – “Thus they were led away by Amalickiah to dissensions, notwithstanding the preaching of Helaman and his brethren, yea, notwithstanding their exceedingly great care over the church, for **they were high priests over the church**. And **Helaman and the high priests did also maintain order in the church**; yea, even for the space of four years did they have much peace and rejoicing in the church.”

There was no office of “high priest” in the New Testament church. Jesus is our high priest (see Hebrews 4). Additionally, there was only one high priest at a time in the Old Testament. The LDS Church even has quorums of high priests in their structure – which they say is modeled after the ancient church.

Latter-day Saints claim their church is a “restored” church. But the New Testament church did not contain the offices of High Priests, Patriarchs, Seventies, and Quorums. The church that Christ built did not have 15 Apostles either.

Isaiah and the broken branch

1 Nephi 19:23-24 – “And I did read many things unto them which were written in the books of Moses; but that I might more fully persuade them to believe in the Lord their Redeemer I did read unto them that which was written by the prophet Isaiah; for I did liken all scriptures unto us, that it might be for our profit and learning. Wherefore I spake unto them, saying: Hear ye the words of the prophet, ye who are a remnant of the house of Israel, a branch who have been broken off; hear ye the words of the prophet, which were written unto all the house of Israel, and liken them unto yourselves, that ye may have hope as well as your brethren from whom ye have been broken off; for after this manner has the prophet written.”

This is not true. Isaiah did not write about any branch or group of people who would be broken off from Israel and be led to another land. He is writing about Christ in Isaiah 11:1. Neither is Isaiah 60 a reference to a branch meaning the Book of Mormon peoples.

Keys of binding and loosing

In the Book of Mormon the keys to bind and to loose were not given to the 12 Nephite disciples. The keys of this authority are never mentioned.

In the Bible the keys were originally given to Peter (Matthew 16:19) and then to all the disciples (Matt. 18:1-3, 18).

Killing for the scriptures

According to the Book of Mormon, an angel commanded Nephi to slay a person named Laban so he could obtain the plates of brass (containing the Books of Moses and the writing of other prophets).

1 Nephi 4:3, 10, 13 – “... Let us go up; **the Lord is able to deliver us, even as our fathers, and to destroy Laban, even as the Egyptians** ... And it came to pass that **I was constrained by the Spirit that I should kill Laban**; ... Behold the Lord slayeth the wicked to bring forth his righteous purposes. **It is better that one man should perish** than that a nation should dwindle and perish in unbelief.”

These are some strange statements. While there was a miraculous deliverance of the Jews with the destruction of the Egyptians in the Red Sea, there was no miracle in the killing of Laban (for Nephi killed him while he was an unconscious drunk). Second, the Holy Spirit did not command anyone in the Old or New Testaments to kill people so they could obtain the scriptures before they journeyed to another land. Third, the killing of Laban did not prevent the Nephites from dwindling and perishing in unbelief even when the plates of brass were obtained and they supposedly traveled to their promised land.

Can you foresee the New Testament disciples being constrained by the Spirit to kill the holders of any of their scriptures so they could obtain them to keep the commandments and prosper in whatever lands they went to?

Kings

According to the Book of Mormon (Mosiah 2:30 being one example), the appointment of kings was not viewed by the people as sinful. It seems it was a desirous attribute for the Nephites and Lamanites to have. But the people in the Bible understood that having a human king was sinful – a sign of the rejection of God as the true king (1 Samuel 8:1-9; 10:19-22; 12:17-19).

Joy

The Book of Mormon teaches that Adam and Eve did not have joy or misery in the Garden of Eden.

2 Nephi 2:22-25 – “And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end. And they would have had no children; wherefore they would have remained in a state of innocence, **having no joy**, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin ... Adam fell that men might be; and men care, that they might have joy.”

The Bible says that God made the trees pleasant to their eyes and that Eve experienced pleasure before the Fall.

“And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is **pleasant to the sight**, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil” (Genesis 2:9).

“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that **it was pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree to be **desired** to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat” (Genesis 3:6).

The biblical Adam and Eve could experience emotions before the Fall. How else do you think they worshiped God while they lived there?

Land of Canaan before the Jewish conquest

According to the Book of Mormon, God had some dealings with those in the land before the Israelites came.

1 Nephi 17:32-35 – “And after they had crossed the river Jordan he did make them mighty unto the driving [a] out of the children of the land, yea, unto the scattering them to destruction ... **this people [d] had rejected every word of God**, and they were ripe in iniquity ... the Lord did curse the land against them ... and he did bless it unto our fathers unto their obtaining power over it.”

The footnotes [a] and [d] are cross-reference to signify the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and the Jebusites.

“They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises” (Romans 9:4). The Bible does not indicate these seven nations had every word of God.

The Promised Land – lands of inheritance

2 Nephi 1:5 – “But, said he, notwithstanding our afflictions, **we have obtained a land of promise, a land which is choice above all other lands**; a land which the Lord God hath covenanted with me should be **a land for the inheritance of my seed**. Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children forever, and also all those who should be led out of other countries by the hand of the Lord.”

The land of America, where the Nephites came to, was apparently the land of promise for them, not the land of Israel. The Book of Mormon author is not aware of the land inheritance that God made with the descendants of Isaac. The Book of Mormon also talks about lands of inheritance (2 Nephi 10:7-8) while at the same time saying Jerusalem was the land of inheritance for Lehi (1 Nephi 2:4, 11). His son Jacob repeats the same in 2 Nephi 10:20.

Biblically speaking, there is only one land of promise. God’s covenant is with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the land of inheritance is Israel (see Genesis 13:14-15; Ezekiel 34:10; 36:24,28; 39:28; 47:13-14; 48:29 and Joshua 1:1-9 for some examples).

The Book of Mormon author is also not aware that there was no land inheritance for priests (see Ezekiel 44:28). So this would disqualify Nephi, Jacob, Joseph, and others who were supposedly priests.

When the Nephites supposedly entered their promised land they encountered absolutely no people. The sole exception was Coriantumr, the last known survivor of the Jaredite civilization.

When the Jews entered their promised land, they met the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites (Deuteronomy 20:17).

The Promised Land – chosen above all lands

According to the Book of Mormon, the Jaredites (and later the Nephites) are said to have existed upon the best land in the world.

The church's introductory notes to Ether chapter 2 says, "The Jaredites prepare for their journey to a promised land – It is a choice land whereon men must serve Christ or be swept off."

Ether 2:7 – "And the Lord would not suffer that they should stop beyond the sea in the wilderness, but he would that they should come forth even unto **the land of promise, which was choice above all other lands**, which the Lord God had preserved for a righteous people".

Here we see the teaching about another land of promise. This Jaredite land is said to be the best.

Since God only dealt with the nation of Israel, we can safely say that the land of Israel is the land of promise and the choice land above all lands.

2 Nephi 3:2 – "And may the Lord consecrate also unto thee this land, **which is a most precious land**, for thine inheritance and the inheritance of thy seed with thy brethren, for thy security forever, if it so be that ye shall keep the commandments of the Holy One of Israel".

Ezekiel 20:6-7 says, "In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands: Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the Lord your God".

Several hundred years after Nephi, another Mormon prophet named Helaman disagrees with him.

Helaman 7:7-8 – "Oh, that I could have had my days in the days when my father Nephi first came out of **the land of Jerusalem**, that I could have joyed with him in **the promised land**."

But regardless of the Book of Mormon, Israel is the glory of all lands – not America.

The Book of Mormon never says 'America' is the land of promise for the Nephites (of the tribe of Manasseh). In fact, the land inheritance was to be determined by lots and the size of each respective tribe (Numbers 33:54). The land inheritance for Manasseh was already determined to exist on both sides of the Jordan River.

Language in the Book of Mormon

1 Nephi 1:2 – “Yea, I make a record in the language of my father, which consists of the learning of the Jews and the **language of the Egyptians.**”

Mosiah 1:4 – “... our father, Lehi ... for he having been taught in the **language of the Egyptians** therefore he could read these engravings, and **teach them to his children**, that thereby **they could teach them to their children**, and so fulfilling the commandments of God, even down to this present time.”

Why would supposed descendants of the Jews not teach their children in Hebrew instead? Why would they switch to the language of their enemies? The Jews of the Bible wrote in Hebrew and they taught their children in Hebrew. And they did not write on metal plates; they wrote on scrolls.

1 Nephi 3:19 – “And behold, it is wisdom in God that we should obtain **these records**, that we may **preserve unto our children the language of our fathers.**”

The Old and New Testaments do not help Jews and Greeks preserve their language.

Law of Moses

Ether 12:11 – “Wherefore, by faith was the law of Moses given.”

The Israelites were in open rebellion at the time the law was being given to Moses.

Leaving Jerusalem

Many prophets came and testified that Jerusalem would be destroyed.

1 Nephi 1:4 – “For it came to pass in the commencement of the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah, (my father, Lehi, having dwelt at Jerusalem in all his days); and in that same year **there came many prophets**, prophesying unto the people that they must repent, or **the great city Jerusalem must be destroyed.**”

To my knowledge of the Bible, God did not send many prophets to warn Jerusalem about its pending destruction by the Babylonians.

In addition to the many prophets mentioned above in the Book of Mormon, Lehi also joined in warning the inhabitants.

1 Nephi 1:18 – “Therefore, I would that ye should know, that after the Lord had shown so many marvelous things unto my father, Lehi, yea, concerning **the destruction of Jerusalem**, behold he

went forth among the people, and began to prophesy and to declare unto them concerning the things which he had both seen and heard.”

Lehi is warned to leave Jerusalem.

1 Nephi 2:1-2 – “For behold, it came to pass that the Lord spake unto my father, yea, even in a dream, and said unto him: Blessed art thou Lehi, because of the things which thou hast done; and because thou hast been faithful and declared unto this people the things which I commanded thee, behold, they seek to take away thy life. And it came to pass that **the Lord commanded my father, even in a dream**, that he should take his family and depart into the wilderness.” This is repeated again in 1 Nephi 17:44.

The Book of Mormon discusses an exodus out of Jerusalem with Lehi’s group and later with Mulek’s group. The Bible does not mention any form of an exodus out of Israel – neither when the northern part goes into Assyrian captivity or when the remaining part goes into Babylonian captivity.

God’s plan was for the Israelites to go into Babylonian captivity. Not even Daniel or Ezekiel escape. Let’s examine some key passages in the Bible to show that there was no exodus to freedom instead of being taken captive to Babylon.

“And afterward, saith the Lord, I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah, and his servants, and the people, and such as are left in this city from the pestilence, from the sword, and from the famine, into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those that seek their life: and he shall smite them with the edge of the sword; he shall not spare them, neither have pity, nor have mercy. And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death. He that abideth in this city shall die by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth out, and falleth to the Chaldeans that besiege you, he shall live, and his life shall be unto him for a prey.” (Jer. 21:7-9).

“Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good” (Jer. 24:5).

See also Jeremiah 27:8-20, 29:4-19 and 38:2.

Lineage of the priesthood / priesthood of believers

1 Nephi 18:7 – “And now, my father had begat two sons in the wilderness; the elder was called Jacob and the younger Joseph” (circa 590 B.C.)

2 Nephi 5:26 – “And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did consecrate Jacob and Joseph, that **they should be priests** and teachers over the land of my people.”

Jacob and Joseph were descendants of Lehi through Manasseh (Alma 10:3). But only the tribe of Levi held the priesthood in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, this has changed to the royal priesthood of believers (1 Peter 2:5, 9). There is no priesthood of believers in the Book of Mormon.

Mary, the mother of Jesus

1 Nephi 11:13, 15 – “And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the great city of Jerusalem, and also other cities. And I beheld the city of Nazareth; and in the city of Nazareth I beheld a virgin, and she was exceedingly fair and white ... And I said unto him: A virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins.”

As an Israelite, Mary was not exceedingly white in skin tone. Also, the statement conveys the belief Mary was chosen for her outward beauty instead of her inner qualities. The Bible describes her as highly favored of the Lord and blessed among women, not the most beautiful of all virgins in the world.

The Book of Mormon also describes the Gentiles as being “exceedingly fair and beautiful, like unto my people [the Nephites] before they were slain” (1 Nephi 13:15).

Multiple scriptures

The Book of Mormon teaches there are many more scriptures than just the Book of Mormon and the Bible (2 Nephi 29:7-13; Mosiah 3:13). All the Ten Tribes recorded their own scriptures too. In some future time, all the tribes will share their scriptures with the others.

The Bible teaches God knew only Israel as a nation – the scriptures came only through them (Amos 3:2). There is no scripture outside of the Bible that came from other countries.

Naming the disciples

Alma 46:15 – “And those who did belong to the church were faithful; yea, all those who were true believers in Christ took upon them, gladly, the name of Christ, **or Christians as they were called**, because of their belief in Christ who should come.”

These people were called “Christians” at least 70 years before the birth of Christ. But the disciples were first called “Christians” in Antioch – after Christ's resurrection (Acts 11:26).

One God or more?

2 Nephi 31:21 – “And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is **one God**, without end. Amen.”

Alma 11:44 – “Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is **one Eternal God.**”

The Bible agrees with this too.

“Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me” (Isaiah 43:10).

“Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God” (Isaiah 44:6).

But Joseph Smith taught contrary to this.

“If Abraham reasoned thus - If Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and John discovered that God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father, you may suppose that He had a Father also.” “Hence if Jesus had a Father, can we not believe that He had a Father also? I despise the idea of being scared to death at such a doctrine, for the Bible is full of it” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pp. 386-387).

Well, the Bible is not full of this false teaching.

Joseph Smith taught, “Many men say there is one God; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are only one God! I say that is a strange God anyhow - three in one, and one in three!... He would be a wonderfully big God - he would be a giant or a monster” (Joseph Smith - History of the Church of Latter-day Saints, volume 6, p. 476). “I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and that the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage and a Spirit: and these three constitute three distinct personages and three Gods” (Teachings of Presidents of the Church - Joseph Smith, 2008, pp. 41-42).

Joseph Smith’s Trinity is 3 Gods, not 1 God.

Also, despite what the prophet Isaiah says, Mormons believe they can be formed into deities.

Overthrowing Christ's church

Mosiah 27:13 – “Nevertheless he cried again, saying: Alma, arise and stand forth, for why persecutest thou the church of God? For the Lord hath said: This is my church, and I will establish it; and **nothing shall overthrow it, save it is the transgression of my people**”.

This is against the teaching of the Bible. The gates of hell would never prevail against Christ's church.

Parting of the Red Sea

1 Nephi 4:2 – “Therefore let us go up; let us be strong like unto Moses; for **he truly spake unto the waters of the Red Sea and they divided** hither and thither, and our fathers came through”.

Later in the Book of Mormon, we find another depiction.

Helaman 8:11 – “... have ye not read that God gave power unto one man, even Moses, **to smite upon the waters of the Red Sea, and they parted hither and thither ...**”

According to the Bible, Moses did not speak to the Red Sea or smite the waters to divide it (see Exodus 14:15-16, 21).

Passing away – can God's eternal word pass away?

2 Nephi 9:16 – “And assuredly, as the Lord liveth, for the Lord God hath spoken it, and it is **his eternal word, which cannot pass away.**”

But earlier the Book of Mormon said that a great and abominable church (the church of the devil) removed important parts of God's Word.

1 Nephi 13:26-27 – “And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the formation of **that great and abominable church**, which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, **they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts** which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away. And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord, that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men.”

Prison earthquake

According to the Bible, Paul and Silas were in prison unjustly. They prayed and sang praises to God and suddenly there was a great earthquake. No one was killed (Acts 16:25-28). No judgment fell upon the very magistrates who beat them (verses 36-37).

The Book of Mormon has a similar story but with a different twist. All who smote Alma and Amulek (the chief priest, lawyers, priests and the teachers) were slain in the earthquake. It appears even all the other prisoners likewise perished. Only two people survived (Alma 14:26-29).

Precious lands and cursed lands

1 Nephi 17:38 – “**And he leadeth away the righteous into precious lands, and the wicked he destroyeth, and curseth the land unto them for their sakes.**”

Apart from the record of Abraham being led to Canaan and the Jewish exodus from Egypt, there is no indication that the God of the Bible leads righteous people into precious (or preferred) lands. A clear archaeological record for the Nephites and Jaredites is absent. In the Old Testament, the unrighteous Jews were led into Babylonian captivity and then God led them back to Israel. In the New Testament, Jesus told his disciples to go into all nations to preach the gospel. That is why missionaries are even led to lands that are very hostile to the Christian message.

Plates – difficulty writing upon them

Jacob 4:1 – “Now behold, it came to pass that I, Jacob, having ministered much unto my people in word, (and **I cannot write but a little of my words, because of the difficulty of engraving our words upon plates**) and we know that the things which we write upon plates must remain.”

This is most questionable when you read such verses like 4 Nephi 1:6 and the many chapters plagiarized from the book of Isaiah.

4 Nephi 1:6 – “And thus did the thirty and eighth year pass away, and also the thirty and ninth, and forty and first, and the forty and second, yea, even until forty and nine years had passed away, and also the fifty and first, and the fifty and second; yea, and even until fifty and nine years had passed away.”

Besides, the Old and New Testament authors did not write on plates of brass or gold.

Procreation

According to the Book of Mormon, Adam and Eve had to disobey God so they could have children.

2 Nephi 2:23-25 – “And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end. And **they would have had no children**; wherefore they would have remained in a state of innocence, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin. But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. **Adam fell that men might be**; and men are, that they might have joy.”

Apparently the animals and plants already had the ability to procreate before the Fall.

“Then He created the animals—fish, cattle, insects, and birds of all kinds. These animals had the ability to reproduce their own kind” (Gospel Principles, 2009, p. 24)

There is no biblical teaching that Adam and Eve had to disobey one commandment in order to obey another. God wants people to obey Him. The devil wants people to disobey Him.

Adam’s transgression was a sinful act. It brought sin and death into the world (Gen. 3:16-19; Rom. 5:12; 8:20-21).

Redemption – how long did the people know about it?

Helaman 8:16-18 – “And now behold, Moses did not only testify of these things, but also all the holy prophets, from his days even to the days of Abraham. Yea, and behold, Abraham saw of his coming, and was filled with gladness and did rejoice. Yea, and behold I say unto you, that Abraham not only knew of these things, but there were many before the days of Abraham who were called by the border of God; yea, even after the order of his Son; and this that it should be shown unto the people, **a great many thousand years before his coming**, that even redemption should come unto them.”

There was not a great many thousand years between Adam and Jesus.

Sabbath day

Mosiah 18:23 – “And he commanded them that they should observe the sabbath day, and keep it holy, and also every day they should give thanks to the Lord their God.”

The New Testament church never commanded the saints to observe the Sabbath day.

Salvation – saved from sin

Alma 11:37 – “And I say unto you again that he cannot save them in their sins; ... ye cannot be saved in your sins.”

The Bible paints a completely opposite picture.

Romans 5:6-8 (ESV) – “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Satan’s deception

Mosiah 16:3 – “... and **the devil ... that did beguile our first parents**, which was the cause of their fall; which was the cause of all mankind becoming carnal, sensual, devilish, knowing evil from good, subjecting themselves to the devil.” (2 Nephi 9:9 and Ether 8:25).

The serpent beguiled Eve, not Adam (2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:14).

Secret murder of Abel

Helaman 6:27 – “Yea, that same being who did plot with Cain, that if he would murder his brother Abel it should not be known unto the world. And **he did plot with Cain and his followers** from that time forth”.

According to the Bible, Satan did not plot with Cain and his followers to keep the future murder of Abel a secret. Notice how the Book of Mormon also says there were other children of Adam and Eve before Abel was killed.

Seed of Abraham

1 Nephi 15:18 – “Wherefore, our father hath **not** spoken of **our seed alone**, but also of **all the house of Israel**, pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days; which **covenant the Lord made to our father Abraham, saying: In thy seed** shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.”

Do you see the context? Nephi's teaching is that the “seed” points to the literal descendants of Abraham. But the true teaching is that Abraham’s seed is Jesus Christ, in whom all the kindreds of the earth would be blessed – “**Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ**” (Galatians 3:16).

Shame

Jacob 1:8 – “Wherefore, we would to God that we could persuade all men not to rebel against God .. but that all men would ... suffer his cross and bear the shame of the world.”

The Bible does not teach we are to bear the shame of the world.

Sign of a covenant

Alma 46:11-22 describe a series of events that happened to Moroni and to the Christians (who were considered priesthood holders).

“And it came to pass that when Moroni had proclaimed these words, behold, the people came running together with their armor girded about their loins, **rending their garments in token, or as a covenant**, that they would not forsake the Lord their God; or, in other words, if they should transgress the commandments of God, or fall into transgression, and be ashamed to take upon them the name of Christ, the Lord should rend them even as **they had rent their garments**. Now this was the covenant which they made, and they cast their garments at the feet of Moroni, saying: **We covenant with our God**, that we shall be destroyed, even as our brethren in the land northward, if we shall fall into transgression; yea, he may cast us at the feet of our enemies, even as we have cast our garments at thy feet to be trodden under foot, if we shall fall into transgression.”

In Leviticus 21:10, high priests were forbidden from tearing their garments. Tearing one's garment was an act showing grief or sorrow – not the sealing of a covenant.

Sins – dying in them

2 Nephi 9:38 – “And, in fine, wo unto **all those who die in their sins**; for they **shall return to God**, and behold his face, **and remain in their sins**.”

This contradicts the Mormon practice of baptizing for the dead.

Skin – changing colors

3 Nephi 2:14-15 – “And it came to pass that those Lamanites who had united with the Nephites were numbered among the Nephites; And their curse was taken from them, and **their skin became white like unto the Nephites**.”

The theme is repeated earlier in the Book of Mormon:

Alma 23:18 – “And they [the Anti-Nephi-Lehies] began to be a very industrious people; yea, and they were friendly with the Nephites; therefore, they did open a correspondence with them, and **the curse of God** did no more follow them.”

The ‘curse’ of this passage is linked to 3 Nephi 2:14-15.

White people did not become dark and dark people did not become white in the Bible when their spiritual condition changed. Neither does this happen today.

The early Book of Mormon, in 2 Nephi 30:6, read as “...their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a **white** and a delightsome people.” In 1981, the LDS Church decided to change the word “white” to “pure.”

At the October 1960 LDS Church Conference, Spencer W. Kimball utilized 2 Nephi 30:6 when he stated how the Indians “are fast becoming a **white** and delightsome people.” He said, “The [Indian] children in the home placement program in Utah are often lighter than their brothers and sisters in the hogans on the reservation” (Improvement Era, December 1960, pp. 922-3).

During the same message Kimball referred to a 16-year-old Indian girl who was both LDS and “several shades lighter than her parents...” He went on to say, “These young members of the Church are changing to whiteness and to delightsomeness. One white elder jokingly said that he and his companion were donating blood regularly to the hospital in the hope that the process might be accelerated.”

Sons of God

3 Nephi 9:16-17 – “I came unto my own, and my own received me not. And the scriptures concerning my coming are fulfilled. And as many as have received me, to them have I given **to become the sons of God**; and even so will I to as many as shall believe on my name, for behold, by me redemption cometh, and in me is the law of Moses fulfilled.”

Latter-day Saints believe they are the procreated sons of Heavenly Mother and Father before coming to faith in Christ.

Support for the priests

Mosiah 18:26 – “And **the priests were not to depend upon the people for their support**; but for their labor they were to receive the grace of God, that they might wax strong in the Spirit, having the knowledge of God, that they might teach with power and authority from God.”

This disagrees with the Old Testament priestly system. The Aaronic priests received portions of what was given by the people.

Temples

Mosiah 2:1 – “And it came to pass that after Mosiah had done as his father had commanded him, and had made a proclamation throughout all the land, that the people gathered themselves together throughout all the land, **that they might go up to the temple** to hear the words which king Benjamin should speak unto them.

Alma 16:13 – “And Alma and Amulek went forth preaching repentance to the people in **their temples**, and in their sanctuaries, and also in their synagogues, which were built after the manner of the Jews.”

God would never command the Jews to build another temple, for there was only one Ark of the Covenant for one Holy of Holies. There was only one temple throughout biblical history in the place God chose.

The Book of Mormon author did not understand that Jerusalem and the temple is the chosen place where God placed his name (1 Kings 8:29, 44-48). There was no Book of Mormon city where God chose to put his name.

“And the Lord said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually” (1 Kings 9:3).

This idea is totally foreign in the Book of Mormon.

The concept of people praying toward the temple is missing (1 Kings 8:35).

The enemies of the Nephites are never recorded as destroying temples in the Book of Mormon.

The glory of the Lord never came to the temples supposedly built by the Nephites (1 Kings 8:10-11; 2 Chron. 7:2).

The New Testament truth that people are now the temple of God is also lost on the Book of Mormon author.

The temple veil

The Book of Mormon author is not aware of the spiritual significance of the tearing of the temple veil in Jerusalem. In fact, there is no mention of it at all.

Mormons today still erect a veil in their temples in order to approach God with signs and tokens borrowed from Freemasonry.

Tithing

The Book of Mormon mentions “tithes” only twice (Alma 13:15; 3 Nephi 24:8, 10). One is a reference to Abraham and the other is a quote from Malachi.

Apart from that, there is no indication that the Nephites tithed.

Tower of Babel

In the Introduction of Ether chapter 1, it states, “**The language of the Jaredites is not confounded at the Tower of Babel.**”

Genesis 11:9 states the Lord did confound the language of all the earth.

Helaman 6:28 – “And also it is that same being who put it into the hearts of the people to a build a tower **sufficiently high that they might get to heaven**” (Genesis 11:4; Ether 1:3; Omni 1:22; Mosiah 28:17).

The Book of Mormon author omits mention of the city (Genesis 11:4-5).

Transgression – Adam’s fall and the Fall Of Man

Mosiah 3:11 – “For behold, and also **his blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam**, who have died not knowing the will of God concerning them, or who have ignorantly sinned.”

This statement contradicts the LDS Article of Faith that says men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam’s transgression. Why else would Christ have to atone for those who have fallen by Adam’s transgression?

Two nations

2 Nephi 29:8 – “Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together the testimony of the two nations shall run together also.”

If you read the context of the chapter, the author is trying to show that the testimony of the Nephite nation (the Book of Mormon) and the testimony of the Jewish nation (the Bible) shall run together (agree with each other). LDS theology also teaches Ezekiel’s two sticks represent the Book of Mormon and the Bible.

Ezekiel is talking about the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel. He is not talking about the Book of Mormon, the Bible, or some people living on the American continent.

“Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: And **join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one** in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: **And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel;** and one king shall be king to them all: and **they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more** at all.”

Latter-day Saints have assigned Ezekiel’s words to their own prophetic interpretation.

Unleavened bread

There is no mention of using either unleavened or leavened bread in the Book of Mormon.

Using the term “Christ”

2 Nephi 10:3 – “Wherefore, as I said unto you, it must needs be expedient that **Christ** – for in the last night the angel spake unto me that this **should be his name** – should come among **the Jews, among those who are the more wicked part of the world;** and they shall crucify him—for thus it behooveth our God, and **there is none other nation on earth that would crucify their God.**”

A few things about this passage.

- a. Christ is a title, not a name.
- b. Jesus did not come among those who were the more wicked part of the world.
- c. The Book of Mormon says the Nephites were the most wicked, not the Jews (Mormon 4:10-12).
- d. Every nation would crucify Jesus if he had come to them instead of Israel.

Vanishing words

Jacob 4:2 – “**But whatsoever things we write upon anything save it be upon plates must perish and vanish away.**”

The Dead Sea Scrolls and fragments of Old and New Testament manuscripts refute this.

Water from the rock

1 Nephi 17:29 – “Yea, and ye also know that Moses, by his word according to the power of God which was in him, **smote the rock, and there came forth water**, that the children of Israel might quench their thirst”.

The word “smote” is linked to 1 Nephi 20:21 and 2 Nephi 25:20. The Book of Mormon author does not realize that it was this sin which kept Moses out of the Promised Land. In these three references, the Book of Mormon author views this as a positive act. See Numbers 20:8-12 for a clear explanation from the Bible.

Water baptism

In the Book of Mormon there is a recorded account of Alma baptizing himself and Helam at the same time (Mosiah 18:14-15). Nephi also went into the water alone and baptized himself (3 Nephi 19:11-12). It is unclear why Nephi needed to be baptized twice. He was already preaching the gospel and ordaining people before Jesus supposedly came to America (3 Nephi 7:25). He had to already have been baptized at least once to perform these roles.

Then, after Nephi was baptized, he baptizes the other 11 disciples again (3 Nephi 19:12-13). Remember that the Book of Mormon says a functional church existed prior to his supposed appearance to the Americas. Since the Book of Mormon says that the more righteous people were spared death and destruction, it's easy to see that they are referring to baptized members of a church. So it is unclear why the 12 had to be baptized again and for them in turn to baptize the multitude after Jesus departed (3 Nephi 11:21). You figure they were already baptized members of the church too.

The biblical mode is that one person baptizes another. The Jews were symbolically baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea (1 Corinthians 10:2).

Also, Jesus did not tell us to wait to baptize people until he ascended into heaven.

In the Book of Mormon, people needed to be worthy to be baptized.

Moroni 6:1 – “**And now I speak concerning baptism. Behold, elders, priests, and teachers were baptized; and they were not baptized save they brought forth fruit meet that they were worthy of it.**”

The Bible says we must repent and then be baptized. We are not worthy to receive it.

Moroni 8:14-16,21 – “Behold I say unto you, that he that supposeth that little children need baptism is in the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity ... Wo be unto them that shall pervert the ways of the Lord after this manner, for they shall perish except they repent. Wo unto such, for they are in danger of death, hell, and an endless torment.”

The Book of Mormon teaches Roman Catholics will be in hell because they baptize little children.

Writing on the plates

Mormon 9:33-34 – “And if our plates had been **sufficiently large we should have written in Hebrew**; but the Hebrew hath been altered by us also; and if we could have written in Hebrew, behold, ye would have had no imperfection in our record. But the Lord knoweth the things which we have written, and also that none other people knoweth our language; and because that none other people knoweth our language, therefore he hath prepared a means for the interpretation thereof.”

Think for a moment. Why would the Lord allow the writing of the Old and New Testaments in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek? Why did he not want it written in a totally foreign language which would then require supposedly miraculous powers to translate it?

Why would he allow parts of the Old and New Testaments to remain intact instead of removing the record after compilation back to heaven? Were there imperfections in Greek, Aramaic, and Latin too? Why did Mormon think that Hebrew characters would necessarily consume more space on the plates? Did he not understand that you can write the characters in whatever size you want? If you had small plates, you write the Hebrew characters in a smaller font. If the plates were large, you could write the Hebrew characters in a larger font. Even children do the same today when you give them a piece of paper. They consider the size of the paper and then write or draw accordingly.

Ether 3:22 – “And behold, when ye shall come unto me, ye shall write them and shall seal them up, that no one can interpret them; for **ye shall write them in a language that they cannot be read.**”

This is contrary to what God did in the Bible.

Zedekiah's seed

According to the Book of Mormon, Mulek was the only surviving son of King Zedekiah of Jerusalem. He and his group are also said to have intermarried the population of Nephites and Lamanites.

Helaman 8:21 – “And now will you dispute that Jerusalem was destroyed? Will ye say that the sons of Zedekiah were not slain, **all except it were Mulek**? Yea, and do ye not behold that the seed of Zedekiah are with us, and they were driven out of the land of Jerusalem? But behold, this is not all.”

Biblically speaking, none of the sons of Zedekiah remained alive (2 Kings 25:7; Jeremiah 39:6).

Visiting the Americas – the supposed encounter with Jesus

A significant portion of 3 Nephi is devoted to describing the supposed visit of Jesus Christ to America.

Let's look at some interesting aspects.

The soon return after the ascension

“... soon after the ascension of Christ into heaven he did truly manifest himself unto them” (3 Nephi 10:19). It is said that a great multitude had gathered at the temple in the land Bountiful (3 Nephi 11:1).

Jesus stayed in Israel for 40 days after his resurrection.

Kissing the feet of Jesus

The first to bow down and kiss the feet of Jesus was Nephi – “And **Nephi** arose and went forth, and bowed himself before the Lord and **did kiss his feet**” (3 Nephi 11:19). Later on, it was many more – “And they did all, both they who had been healed and they who were whole, bow down at his feet, and did worship him; and **as many as could come for the multitude did kiss his feet, insomuch that they did bathe his feet with their tears**” (3 Nephi 17:10).

In the Bible there was only one woman who did this (Luke 7:45). Jesus washed his disciples' feet but they did not wash his feet.

Blessed after seeing

3 Nephi 12:1 – “... therefore **blessed are ye if ye shall believe in me** and be baptized, **after that ye have seen me** and know that I am.”

This is a strange statement from the Mormon Jesus. Being blessed after seeing Him is not being blessed for faith. The Jesus of the Bible said we are blessed if we believe without seeing (John 20:29).

Commemorating the Last Supper

3 Nephi 18:3-5 – “And when the disciples had come with bread and wine, he took of the bread and brake and blessed it; and he gave unto the Disciples and commanded that they should eat. **And when they had eaten and were filled**, he commanded that **they should give unto the multitude**. And when **the multitude had eaten and were filled**, he said unto the Disciples: Behold there **shall one be ordained among you, and to him will I give power that he shall break bread and bless it and give it unto the people of my church**, unto all those who shall believe and be baptized in my name.”

3 Nephi 18:8-9 – “And it came to pass that when he said these words, he commanded his disciples that they should **take of the wine** of the cup and drink of it, and that they should also give unto the multitude that they might drink of it. And it came to pass that they did so, and **did drink of it and were filled; and they gave unto the multitude, and they did drink, and they were filled.**”

The commemoration of the Last Supper according to the Bible was for the 12 disciples, not the multitude. During the Sermon on the Mount, the disciples were not served first when he fed the multitudes. The purpose of the Last Supper was not to fill the physical need of hunger or thirst. The disciples did not have their fill of the wine and then pass it on to the next person. It was for a memorial.

The Book of Mormon combines the Sermon on the Mount with much wine drinking (while omitting the Passover Lamb) when commemorating the Last Supper. After the Mormon Jesus supposedly ascended back to heaven, I could not find any occurrence when the Nephites met in homes to commemorate the Lord’s Supper as the New Testament saints did.

According to the Bible, one person was not ordained to break the bread and then distribute it to the church. The LDS Church does not follow this method today. There is no power given to any Book of Mormon person to bless the wine and then distribute it.

3 Nephi 20:6-7 – “Now, there had been no bread, neither wine, brought by the disciples, neither by the multitude; But he truly gave unto them bread to eat, and also wine to drink.”

This appears to be the second time Jesus commemorates the sacrament. Like the last time, the disciples eat and drink first and then the multitude is fed. But unlike the first, there is no bread

and wine on hand this time. Jesus just makes it appear. The word ‘gave’ is linked to John 6:14 – “Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.”

Eating flesh and drinking blood

3 Nephi 18:29 – “For whoso eateth and drinketh my flesh and blood unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to his soul; therefore if ye know that man is unworthy to eat and drink of my flesh and blood ye shall forbid him.”

There is no record of these Nephites ever balking at the suggestion of Jesus or asking if he really meant eating his literal flesh or drinking his literal blood.

Promise of the Comforter

John 14:16-18 – “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

The Book of Mormon Jesus never promises to send the Comforter to the Nephites.

Sermon on the Mount

3 Nephi 13 is copied almost verbatim from the Bible (Matthew 6).

But if you look closely at the Book of Mormon version, Jesus speaks to the multitude (verses 1-24) and then switches to speaking to the Twelve (verses 25-34). Afterwards he returns and speaks again to the multitude (3 Nephi 14:1-27).

But according to the Bible, Jesus did not alternate speaking to his disciples and then to the rest of the multitude in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matthew 4:25 - 7:29).

The cloud and the ascension of Christ

In the Book of Mormon, a cloud comes to obscure the sight of the people.

3 Nephi 18:38-39 – “And it came to pass that when Jesus had touched them all, there came a cloud and overshadowed the multitude that they could not see Jesus. And while they were overshadowed he departed from them and ascended into heaven.”

The next verse says, “And while they were overshadowed he departed from them and ascended into heaven. And the disciples saw and did bear record that he ascended again into heaven.”

The Bible says differently.

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel” (Acts 1:9-10).

In the Book of Mormon Jesus made his ascension in the midst of the multitude (3 Nephi 19:1). In the Bible Jesus made his ascension in the midst of what appeared to be a smaller gathering.

No men in white apparel came to the 12 Nephite disciples.

Baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire

“And it came to pass that **Nephi went down into the water and was baptized**. And he came up out of the water and began to baptize. And **he baptized all those whom Jesus had chosen**. And it came to pass **when they were all baptized and had come up out of the water, the Holy Ghost did fall upon them, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost and with fire**. And behold, they were encircled about as if it were by fire; and it came down from heaven, and the multitude did witness it, and did bear record; and **angels did come down out of heaven and did minister unto them**” (3 Nephi 19:11-13).

A few things to note here.

- a. Nephi baptized himself (Jesus did not come until verse 15).
- b. Angels came down from heaven.
- c. Only 12 were baptized with the Holy Ghost.
- d. No one spoke in tongues.

In the Bible, it was about 120 people. They all spoke in tongues. No angels came down from heaven. A person cannot baptize himself. This happened on a Jewish feast day – Pentecost.

We also discover the Lamanites were baptized by fire and the Holy Ghost but they were not aware of it (3 Nephi 9:20). Those in the New Testament were aware of it.

It is unclear why Nephi and the multitudes were baptized again. Prior to Jesus supposedly returning to America, Nephi was already baptizing the people – and it was the more righteous of the people who had survived the destruction surrounding the arrival of Christ. So, supposedly, there was already a functioning church at the time.

Jesus heals the multitude

3 Nephi 17:7-10 – **“Have ye any that are sick among you? Bring them hither. Have ye any that are lame, or blind, or halt, or maimed, or leprous, or that are withered, or that are deaf, or that are afflicted in any manner? Bring them hither and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you; my bowels are filled with mercy.”**

The biblical Jesus did not have to ask people to bring their sick unto him. It seems the Nephites were not aware that Jesus healed people; otherwise they would have brought all the ones who were still suffering from the massive destruction that occurred before his supposed coming to them.

Nephite disciples become whiter than snow

The twelve disciples turned white, whiter than anything on earth.

“And it came to pass that Jesus blessed them as they did pray unto him; and his countenance did smile upon them, and the light of his countenance did shine upon them, and behold they were as white as the countenance and also the garments of Jesus; and behold the whiteness thereof did exceed all the whiteness, yea, even there could be nothing upon earth so white as the whiteness thereof” (3 Nephi 19:25).

The word “white” in the Book of Mormon is said to be a reference to “TG Transfiguration.”

“And when Jesus had spoken these words he came again unto his disciples; and behold they did pray steadfastly, without ceasing, unto him; and he did smile upon them again; and behold they were white, even as Jesus” (3 Nephi 19:30).

The word “white” here is said to be a reference to “Matthew 17:2 – “And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.”

No such thing happened in the Bible. The faces of the 120 did not shine as the sun, neither was their clothing white as the light.

The faith of 12 Nephite disciples vs. the 12 Jewish Apostles

The Book of Mormon says the faith of the 12 Nephite disciples was greater than the faith of any Jew, even greater than the 12 Apostles. These 12 Nephite disciples are also said to have heard and seen greater things.

“And it came to pass that when Jesus had made an end of praying he came again to the disciples, and said unto them: So great faith have I never seen among all the Jews; wherefore I could not show unto them so great miracles, because of their unbelief. Verily I say unto you, there are

none of them that have seen so great things as ye have seen; neither have they heard so great things as ye have heard” (3 Nephi 19:35-36).

The biblical records say more of what Jesus said and the miracles he performed than the Book of Mormon (and all other extra LDS scriptures combined). Up to this point in the Book of Mormon, Jesus had only performed the miracle of healing. The Bible records many more miracles. The Jewish disciples in Israel spent about three years with Jesus before his crucifixion and forty days with Jesus after his resurrection. They saw many more great miracles and heard many more great teachings.

It seems the Book of Mormon author wanted to give preeminence to the twelve Nephite disciples for an ulterior motive. The author was unaware that it would be the Apostles in Jerusalem whose names would be written on the foundation of the biblical New Jerusalem, not the twelve Nephites.

It is odd that the Book of Mormon author degrades the 12 apostles in Jerusalem for their unbelief when you consider he also states that the 12 Nephite disciples (with all the rest that survived) endured 3 days of darkness before Jesus is reported to have arrived in America.

Believers and unbelievers in Israel did not suffer through 3 days of darkness. Maybe the Book of Mormon author was a little confused with the account of those in Egypt.

Additionally, the 12 Nephite disciples did not have the great faith as the Book of Mormon author writes. They did not believe that Jesus had appeared to them until they all put their hand in his side and felt the nail prints in his hands (3 Nephi 11:14-16).

According to the Bible this only applied to Thomas. And it is never recorded that he actually went to touch Jesus. He immediately believed when Jesus spoke the words.

Power and authority

Only the 12 Nephite disciples were given power and authority to baptize. Mormon females are not allowed to baptize anyone because they are believed to be lacking authority from God.

“And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words unto Nephi, and to those who had been called, (now the number of them who had been called, and received power and authority to baptize, was twelve)” (3 Nephi 12:1).

In the New Testament, Jesus gives this authority to all male and female believers. All believers are servants of God. They belong to the royal priesthood of believers that Peter wrote about.

Unlike the special seventy that Jesus appointed in Israel (Luke 10), the Nephite disciples were not given power and authority over devils.

Matthew 10:1 says, “And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction”. Jesus, in his supposed visit to the Nephites, did not give them this authority.

Unto whom was Jesus raised up first?

The Book of Mormon author seems to believe that Jesus was first up first unto the Nephites in America.

“And behold, ye are the children of the prophets; and ye are of the house of Israel; and ye are of the covenant which the Father made with your fathers, saying unto Abraham: And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. **The Father having raised me up unto you first**, and sent me to bless you in turning away every one of you from his iniquities; and this because ye are the children of the covenant” (3 Nephi 20:25:26).

Jesus was raised up *first and only once* unto the Jews in Israel. He remained with them 40 days and then ascended into heaven.

Visiting the Lost Tribes

3 Nephi 16:1, 3 – “... I have other sheep, which are not of this land, neither of the land of Jerusalem, neither in any parts of that land round about whither I have been to minister. But I have received a commandment of the Father that I shall go unto them ... that there may be one fold and one shepherd; therefore I go to show myself unto them.”

The Jesus of the Bible is not depicted as visiting the dispersed Israelites.

No knowledge of the other tribes

3 Nephi 15:19 – “... ye were separated from among them because of their iniquity; therefore **it is because of their iniquity that they know not of you**. And verily, I say unto you again that the other tribes hath the Father separated from them; and it is because of their iniquity that they know not of them.”

The sin of the disciples in Jerusalem is the cause of them not knowing about the Nephites. But strangely enough, the incredible iniquity of the Nephites does not prevent them from knowing of the disciples in Jerusalem.

Were the lost tribes led away out of Jerusalem?

The Book of Mormon Jesus says, “Verily I say unto you, at that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of my people, yea, even **the tribes which have been lost, which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem**” (3 Nephi 26).

It seems the Book of Mormon author was not aware that the Northern Kingdom of Israel went into Assyrian captivity. The lost tribes were not led out of Jerusalem.

Only sinless people could perform miracles?

3 Nephi 8:1 – “And now it came to pass that according to our record, and we know our record to be true, for behold, it was a just man who did keep the record—for he truly did many miracles in the name of Jesus; and **there was not any man who could do a miracle in the name of Jesus save he were cleansed every whit from his iniquity.**”

Supposedly Nephi was one of these sinless men. He is said to have raised up his brother Timothy from the dead (3 Nephi 19:4).

Comparing the 12 Nephite disciples with the 12 disciples in Jerusalem

According to the Bible, all the 12 original disciples died or were killed.

The Book of Mormon teaches that 9 of the disciples remained alive until they were 72 years old and that 3 unnamed disciples would never die. They would remain on earth with the Apostle John (of the New Testament) to preach the gospel and to bring souls unto Christ until he returns in glory.

Of the 9:

3 Nephi 28:28:2-3 – “And it came to pass when Jesus had said these words, he spake unto his disciples, one by one, saying unto them: What is it that ye desire of me, after that I am gone to the Father? And they all spake, save it were three, saying: We desire that after we have lived unto the age of man, that our ministry, wherein thou hast called us, may have an end, that we may speedily come unto thee in thy kingdom. And he said unto them: Blessed are ye because ye desired this thing of me; therefore, **after that ye are seventy and two years old ye shall come unto me in my kingdom; and with me ye shall find rest.**”

Of the 3:

3 Nephi 28:4-9 – “And when he had spoken unto them, he turned himself unto the three, and said unto them: What will ye that I should do unto you, when I am gone unto the Father? And they sorrowed in their hearts, for they durst not speak unto him the thing which they desired. And he said unto them: **Behold, I know your thoughts, and ye have desired the thing which *John, my beloved, who was with me in my ministry, before that I was lifted up by the Jews, desired of me.*** Therefore, more blessed are ye, for **ye shall never taste of death**; but ye shall live to behold all the doings of the Father unto the children of men, even until all things shall be fulfilled according to the will of the Father, when I shall come in my glory with the powers of heaven. And ye shall never endure the pains of death; but when I shall come in my glory ye shall

be changed in the twinkling of an eye from mortality to immortality; and then shall ye be blessed in the kingdom of my Father. And again, ye shall not have pain while **ye shall dwell in the flesh**, neither sorrow save it be for the sins of the world; and all this will I do because of the thing which ye have desired of me, for **ye have desired that ye might bring the souls of men unto me, while the world shall stand.**”

A few things are wrong with this.

- a. In the Book of Mormon, “John” is referenced to “b. John 21:21-23, Doctrine and Covenants 7:3.”

Joseph Smith and other people have misinterpreted the teaching of the Bible. Jesus did not say John would not die. It was the people who thought he would remain alive until Jesus comes.

“Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, **If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?**” (John 21:21-23).

Joseph Smith made an error in his revelation. Have you also misinterpreted the Bible?

- b. According to LDS teachings, this makes a total of 4 people who would live until Jesus returns again, preaching the gospel and bringing souls unto God. This totally contradicts another LDS teaching – there was a total apostasy from the time of the apostles’ deaths until 1830. The 1997 edition of Gospel Principles even says, “Because of the persecution, surviving Apostles could not meet to choose and ordain men to replace those who were dead. Eventually, local priesthood leaders were the only ones who had authority to direct the scattered branches of the Church. The perfect organization of the Church no longer existed, and confusion resulted. More and more error crept into Church doctrine, and soon **the destruction of the Church was complete**. The period of time when the true Church no longer existed on earth is called the Great Apostasy” (chapter 16).

It’s impossible to consider that the destruction of the church was complete if the Book of Mormon has these 4 individuals bringing souls into the church.

Re-establishing the Kingdom

Believe it or not, the 12 Nephite disciples did not ask Jesus when he would restore the kingdom to Israel or when his Second Coming would be.

These people were supposed to be Israelites right?

Judging the tribes of Israel

The Book of Mormon Jesus says the 12 Nephite disciples would judge their people.

3 Nephi 27:27 – “And know ye that **ye shall be judges of this people**, according to the judgment which I shall give unto you, which shall be just. Therefore, what manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am.”

But the 1997 edition of Gospel Principles says, “President John Taylor said **the First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles in our own dispensation would also judge us** (see The Mediation and Atonement, p. 157)” (p. 296).

No. Jesus said the disciples would judge the twelve tribes of Israel (Luke 22:30).

Casting out demons

There is only one passage which mentions demons being cast out of people before Jesus is said to have visited the Nephites (3 Nephi 7:19, 22). But I could not find any occurrences after Jesus supposedly visited and gave the twelve Nephite disciples authority to baptize.

Period of no apostasy and much prosperity

4 Nephi 1:22-23 – “And it came to pass that **two hundred years had passed away**; and the second generation had all passed away save it were a few. And now I, Mormon, would that ye should know that the people had multiplied, insomuch that they were spread upon all the face of the land, and that **they had become exceedingly rich**, because of their prosperity in Christ. And now, in this two hundred and first year there began to be among them those who were lifted up in pride, such as the wearing of costly apparel, and all manner of fine pearls, and of the fine things of the world.”

According to the Bible many of the saints were poor, even imprisoned.

There was some apostasy even during the life of the Apostles Peter and Paul.

Enduring to the end

The Book of Mormon says those who endure to the end inherit eternal life. I can agree with that.

3 Nephi 15:9 – “Behold, I am the law, and the light. Look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live; for **unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life.**”

Those who do not inherit eternal life are cast into the fire, to return no more.

3 Nephi 27:17 – “**And he that endureth not unto the end, the same is he that is also hewn down and cast into the fire, from whence they can no more return,** because of the justice of the Father.”

Unfortunately there is a huge problem with this. Current LDS teaching says that eternal life means exaltation – living life as a God. “**Exaltation is eternal life, the kind of life God lives. He lives in great glory. He is perfect. He possesses all knowledge and all wisdom. He is the Father of spirit children. He is a creator. We can become like our Heavenly Father. This is exaltation**” (Gospel Principles, chapter 47, 1997).

Therefore, those who do not become gods (who don’t inherit eternal life) are said to go to the fire, no more to return, according to the Book of Mormon. But current LDS theology has some people going into the Terrestrial kingdom, the Telestial kingdom, and the two lower divisions of the Celestial kingdom.

Only married people inherit eternal life in LDS theology.

Contrast this with the words of Jesus – “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:14-15).

Marriage is not a requirement for eternal life.

Conclusion

It seems obvious that the spirit behind the Book of Mormon is not the same spirit behind the Bible.

Is the Book of Mormon *really* comparable to the Bible?

Now you can make an informed decision for yourself.