

Book No. 1
THE BOOK OF MORMON (B.O.M.)
IN THE LIGHT OF SCIENCE

Extensively Revised and Enlarged
25th Edition, 2004

Formerly named: A Scientist Examines the Book of Mormon

By

Thomas D. S. Key
Ph.D., Sc.D., Ed.D. (Biology)

*This book is dedicated to my two treasured daughters
(Carolyn Key and Martha Key Cummings and Martha's family).*

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My major purpose of this book is to reach out to my good Mormon friends and to present factual information to anyone that may be considering the Mormon faith.

The **major** purpose of the Latter-day Saints' (LDS) is to mimic the King James Version of the Bible to reduce suspicions of The Book of Mormon and to make it acceptable by Christians. It has ZERO unique Mormon doctrines.

There is no financial charge for this book. I encourage you to download as many copies as needed. However, obtaining and publishing these facts has been very expensive. If feasible, any donation would be genuinely appreciated. See addresses at the end of this book or visit my web page: <http://www.tdkey.com>

I would also like to express my appreciation for the assistance of Nancy Shuman (Editor), Colleen Ralson (Cartoons), Darrell Hover (Editor), Rev. Joel Kramer (Genetics), Rev. Ray Comfort (Ten Commandments), Kelly & Rocky Neyland (Polygamy), Nicholas Claxton Productions (Polygamy), Jackie Richardson (Wording), and many other friends (Mormon as well as non-Mormon).

Cartoons by Colleen Ralson

The Book of Mormon in the Light of Science

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* NOTE: *Although the Table of Contents of B.O.M., D&C, and PGP seem to appear almost identical, their contents are very different.*

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT FALSE PROPHETS

Throughout the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith has presented numerous prophecies. **None** of these prophecies have ever been truthful. Below is what the Bible has to say about false prophets even with one error.

Deuteronomy 18:20 “But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, **even that prophet shall die.**”²¹ And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?²² When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”

Deuteronomy 13:8 “Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:⁹ But thou shalt **surely kill him**; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people.¹⁰ And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.”

A Biologist Examines the Book of Mormon



During my agnostic years, I fervently sought the truth among the religions of the world. When studying Mormonism, I prayed sincerely to be shown whether or not the Book of Mormon is true (Moroni 10:4). This present book records answers to my prayers and a few of the many compelling, pertinent, easily documented, scientific research findings.

This book is inspired also by my hearing of so many people being told that their Christianity was in error (e.g., PGP--Joseph Smith: History 1:5-20, etc.), and that they must accept the Book of Mormon and the teachings of Joseph Smith in order to receive God's best.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my many good Mormon friends. It is so refreshing to be around people who will stand up for their convictions. So, it is not at all with malice but with deep love and sincere respect that I point out just a few of the numerous scientific problems in the Book of Mormon. The same kind of thing can also be overwhelmingly shown with the other two Mormon Scriptures: Doctrine and Covenants (D & C) and Pearl of Great Price (PGP).

You have very likely heard some reasons for accepting the Book of Mormon as Scripture. To be absolutely fair and honest, however, it is vital for us to consider all viewpoints. This present study seeks to weigh the Book of Mormon with what is known scientifically. I apologize if I appear to come across as harsh. My intention is always to be truthful but very kind and compassionate.

On many occasions I have asked my good Mormon friends to help me understand how these concepts can be true. Never have any offered real help. PLEASE HELP ME! I definitely welcome any suggestions and criticisms by the reader. Let me know if you feel that I am either mistaken or correct.

MORMON CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIANS

I highly respect what I interpret as the honest, sincere, enthusiastic invitation of Mormon leaders to check their beliefs. **Mormon literature and speeches** abound with interesting quotations such as the following challenges to Christians:

- "...Convince us of our errors of doctrine, if there are any, by reason, by logical arguments, or by the Word of God..." (Apostle Orson Pratt, *The Seer*, 1843, p.15)
- "Both Catholics and Protestants are nothing less than the whore of Babylon whom the Lord denounces by the mouth of John the Revelator." (Apostle Orson Pratt, *The Seer*, 1843, p. 255).
- "If a faith will not bear to be investigated; if its preachers and professors [i.e., those who profess the faith] are afraid to have it examined, their foundation must be very weak." (George A. Smith, First Counselor of Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. XIV p. 216, August, 1871).
- "If Joseph Smith was [sic] a deceiver, who willfully attempted to mislead the people, then he should be exposed; his claim should be refuted, and his doctrine shown to be false. For the doctrine of an imposter cannot be made to harmonize in all particulars with divine truth. If its claims and declarations were built upon fraud and deceit, there would appear many errors and contradictions which would be easy to detect. The doctrines of false teachers will not stand the test when tried by the accepted standards of measurements, the Scriptures." (Apostle and later Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 1, *Doctrine of Salvation*, 1954, p. 188).
- "The false gods of Christendom bear the same names of the true Gods of the Bible. Beyond this, they have little resemblance. They are described in the creeds that the Lord told Joseph Smith were an abomination in his sight." (J.S.-H. 11:19) (Bruce R. McConkie, *A New Witness for the Articles of Faith*, p. 55).

Four more among many similar Quotations are found in:

- Apostle Orson Pratt, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. XVI, pp. 175-176.
- Apostle Bruce R McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 1958, pp.314-315.
- *Pearl of Great Price: Joseph Smith-History 1:19*. (This reference contends that the doctrines of Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians are an abomination in God's sight.)
- "Who founded the Roman Catholic Church? The Devil..." (Apostle Orson Pratt, *The Seer*, 1843. p. 205).

Christians Targeted

Christians are becoming increasingly concerned because Mormonism is one of the fastest growing religions, and in many areas Mormons are converting sixty members from Christian churches for each Mormon who converts to Christian churches!

Christians are also perturbed that on the mission field Mormons generally specifically target Christians, "sheep stealing" 98% or so of their converts to Mormonism are from Christian missions rather than from Animists, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, etc. On the world as a whole, approximately 80% of converts are from Christians.

Although Mormon Scriptures, church leaders, and missionaries repeatedly may attack Christians (especially those who escape from Mormonism) we ourselves must NEVER be guilty of hatred. Let's compassionately respond to their attacks by asking if they have prayed (to use their tactics) about the facts in this book.

There is a sad, dishonest movement today to accuse those who would criticize others as being hateful. Never would I accuse Mormons who often vociferously attack Christianity as hateful. I completely respect their convictions just as I hope they will the convictions of Christians.

NOTE: This present book seeks to give a compassionate scholarly consideration of these worthy Mormon challenges. Ample documentation is readily available in most libraries, museums, and university science departments.

ANATOMICAL PROBLEMS

SCALP REMOVAL: Alma 44:12-20 in B.O.M. reports regarding Zerahemnah that Moroni's soldier smote him "that he took off his scalp and it fell to the earth" (v. 12). It must have been most of Zerahemnah's scalp because the soldier picked it up "and laid it upon the point of his sword" (v. 13), and showed it to the whole multitude (v. 14). It was large enough to frighten the enemy to make a Covenant of peace" (v. 15).

1. It is impossible for a straight sword, with one blow, to remove such a large piece of scalp from a round skull! And no damage to the skull was reported!
2. It is **totally** unrealistic for Zerahemnah merely to be "exceeding wrath", and to continue the battle (v. 16)! Error in B.O.M.
3. When Mormon scholars are faced with the lack of steel swords in the Americas in 74 B.C., they may remind us that Mesoamericans had swordlike weapons made of wood embedded with obsidian rock or flint. But no Mormon prophets recognized Mesoamerica as the habitat of Nephites and Lamanites, and such crude "swords" were **not capable** of such precise functions. Besides, such wood "swords" imbedded with sharp stones could **not make a large smooth cut!**

Steven L. Whittington, Ph.D. (Mormon), Biological Anthropologist, Univ. of Maine: "The evidence acceptable to most Archeologists and Physical Anthropologists from dental traits and mitochondrial DNA is that the origin of people in North, Central, and South America before the coming of Europeans in 1492 were from North Asia and were not Jews."



RESURRECTION BODY: The description of the resurrection body in Alma 40:23 in the Book of Mormon is astounding to say the least. It says that **nothing shall be lost, not even a hair!** In light of the fact that we shed a few scores of body and head hairs every week, and we decommission countless blood, skin, and other cells weekly, it is unrealistic to assert that **all** of these lost parts will be returned to us.

PORES: Amazingly, Mosiah 3:7 in the Book of Mormon says in reference to Jesus' sufferings that "His blood cometh from every pore..." The date is given as 124 B.C., but skin pores were not discovered until after the development of the microscope many centuries later! Scientifically wrong! Jesus was born much after 124 B.C.

INFINITE INTELLIGENCE IN MAN-SIZED BRAIN! Mormonism teaches that God is an exalted man with a *physical* body of flesh and bones, eyes, ears, hands, feet, and even male *sex* organs! He is said to be the size of a normal human male (D and C 130:22; *History of the Church*, Vol. VI, p. 305; P.G.P. Joseph Smith-History 1:171; *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 345-346). On the other hand 1 Nephi 17:39 says that God "ruleth high in the heavens for it is his throne and this earth is his footstool." My Mormon friends explain to me that this passage is obviously figurative since God clearly cannot abide among the stars with His feet on Earth. Figurative? "Figurative of what?" some critics would ask. Mormons actually teach that God was once a man and has never increased in size! One famous quotation is from Lorenzo Snow (Thomas Romney, *The Life of Lorenzo Snow*, p. 46). It is sometimes called the Mormon couplet: "As man is, God once was; as God is, man may be". (See also King Follett Discourse as well as *The Gospel Through the Ages*, 1958, p. 113, by Milton Hunter.)

Yet, Alma 26:35 says that God has "...all **wisdom, and all understanding**; he comprehendeth **all things**..." To "comprehend all things" would be to understand all possible details of all events in the universe, past, present, and future, -- everything about:

algebra	comets	genetics	lizards	radioactivity
anthropology	disease	geography	magnetism	religion
archaeology	economics	geology	medicines	spiders
art	elements	history	music	sports
atoms	engineering	human lives	physics	stars
bacteria	fish	insects	physiology	time
birds	flowers	languages	planets	trees
calculus	frogs	laws	politics	trigonometry
chemistry	fungi	literature	poetry	weather...

The list could go on and on indefinitely. How is it possible for a finite brain **dependent on neurons** in a **human-sized structure** to comprehend “**all wisdom and all understanding**” of all phenomena of all time.

Our human-sized brain is not even capable of simultaneous comprehension of the thousands of complex metabolic pathways in a single cell, its extremely complex membrane and organelle structures, its DNA, the electron clouds of its vast number of atoms, etc., not to mention the incomprehensible complexity of a single plant or animal! And there are many more stars in the heavens than grains of sand on all the shores of all the seas!

“All wisdom, and all understanding” of all things would also certainly include atomic physics that God created. Let’s consider the number of atoms in a mere cubic centimeter of iron. There are 3 steps to calculate this:

- A. Volume (1 cc) x density of iron (7.86) = mass in grams (7.86).
- B. Mass in grams (7.86) divided by average molar mass a.k.a. atomic weight (55.85) = number of moles (0.1407).
- C. Number of moles (0.1407) x Avagadro’s Number (6.023×10^{23}) = number of atoms of iron per cc (8.48×10^{23}).

That is the number of atoms of iron per cubic centimeter and is 848 followed by 21 zeroes! (You don’t want to know how many that is!) Plus those atoms are composed of numerous subatomic particles such as electrons, protons, neutrons, mesons, leptons, neutrinos, quarks, etc.

There is an absolutely incomprehensible number of cubic centimeters of Earth’s mass. The sun is a million times the size of Earth. The sun is an average star, and there are more stars than there are grains of sand on all the shores of all the seas! There are 100 billion (10^{11}) multipolar neurons in just the average sized human brain.

Let me get this straight -- the Book of Mormon would have us believe that God has a typical physical human sized brain that has **all** wisdom, and **all** understanding of **all** things about atomic physics. Can you find this believable?

The Bible is strictly logical. Thus, the fact that God is Omnipresent (Psalm 10:1-14; Jeremiah 23:23-24; etc.) is the basis for His Omniscience (Job 22:12-14; Psalm 139:1-12; etc.). The Bible teaches that God knows everything partly because He is everywhere.

The Bible teaches that Jesus was God before His birth (John 1:1-14; 17:5; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:16-17; etc.). He set aside most of His heavenly abilities when He limited Himself to a mere human body. Thus, He grew in spirit (Greek: rational soul and mental disposition) and 2:40 adds that He grew in wisdom. Matthew 24:36 says that in His human limitations He did not know what the Father knows about the timing of His Second Coming.

SKIN ENGRAVEN IMAGES: Alma 5:19 in B.O.M. describes certain faithful people as “...having the image of God engraved upon your countenances.”

1. Did Alma realize just what he said? This needs further clarification. We never see the faithful with God’s image engraved in grooves or scars on their faces.
2. Leviticus 19:28, 21:5; and Deuteronomy 14:1 **strictly forbid** any such cuttings in the skin.

SPIRITUAL OR PHYSICAL?: Alma 18:26-28 and 22:9-11 call God “the Great **Spirit**,” but D & C 130:22 contradicts this in stating that “the Father has a **body of flesh and bones** as tangible as man’s...”! Contradiction! Amazing.

RACIAL TRAITS: For Anatomical Problems of a racial nature see Anthropological Problems and Genetics Problems.

“**Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.**” Exodus 20:3

ANTHROPOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

Those of us who are familiar with the integrity required in scientific research realize that we must sacrifice preconceived prejudices, hurtful as it makes us feel. We plead with our good Mormon friends to do the same with:

WRITING: The Book of Mormon was supposedly written between 600 B.C. and

421 A.D., except for the book of Ether around 2747 B.C. But there is no evidence that the Native Americans, particularly of northeastern North America (Book of Mormon lands), had anything other than simple pictorial writings at that time. They wrote no books. It is not appropriate to find references to many official records (Helaman 3:15), jot and tittle (3 Nephi 12:18), scroll (Mormon 5:23; 9:2), and Alpha and Omega (3 Nephi 9:18). Mormons respond to these facts by asserting that the Hebrews brought writing skills and books with them. If so, then why is there zero evidence of such? Why was something so valuable as writing not continued? Serious flaw!

CULTURE PROBLEMS: Other cultural problems include references in the Book of Mormon to mammon (3 Nephi 13:24), lawyers and judges as distinct professions in Book of Mormon lands (Alma 10:14, 15; and 3 Nephi 6:1), acre (2 Nephi 15:10), “south - southeast direction” (1 Nephi 16:13), synagogues (3 Nephi 24:2), Gentiles (1 Nephi 13:19), rending of clothes (Alma 46:21), bowels of mercy (Mosiah 15:9), wearing sackcloth and ashes (Mosiah 11:25), salt trodden underfoot (3 Nephi 16:15), etc. Most are examples of the many concepts foreign to Native Americans of that era.

HEART: The Book of Mormon consistently and frequently refers to the “heart” in the sense of mind, understanding, or soul, yet Native American Indians varied in their terminology from lungs, kidneys, stomach, liver, brain, intestines, to heart. A mere three references are to bowels (Mosiah 15:9, Alma 7:12, and 3 Nephi 17:6-7), but absolutely none to the other organs as the seat of the soul! This cannot even begin to approximate Native American Indian customs!

RACIAL DIVISIONS: Astoundingly, 2 Nephi 26:33 divides humanity into “black and white” and “Jew and Gentile” --most unrealistic for the Americas as the Mongoloid race dominated at that time. Native American Indians are obviously neither black nor white, but of the Mongoloid race (tan to brown). Error in B.O.M.!

SKIN CURSE: The Book of Mormon teaches that Native American Indians (Lamanites) originated from Jewish settlers in the Americas who had wandered away from the Lord. 1 Nephi 12:11 says that as the Jews wandered away in unbelief, “they became a dark, and loathsome, and a filthy people.” 1 Nephi 13:15 (1948 edition) praises future Americans as being “white, and exceeding fair and beautiful, like unto my people before they were slain.” But Judean Jews did not have pale skin like most British. They looked much like Arabs. 2 Nephi 5:21, Jacob 3:3-9, and Mormon 5:15-17 say that God cursed the Lamanites (Indians) with a dark skin.

2 Nephi 5:23 and Alma 3:6-10 say that anyone who marries a Lamanite (Indian) “shall be cursed with the same cursing.” If this were true, why do people who are only part Indian not look full Indian (Native American)?

CURSE REMOVAL: 2 Nephi 30:5-7 predicts that when Native American Indians accept the Mormon gospel, that they will again become “a white and delightsome people.” 3 Nephi 2:15 gives supposed examples of this. It of course never happens.

In 1981 the Mormon Church **cleverly altered** their Book of Mormon Scripture to read that the Lamanites will become “pure and delightsome” instead of the original “white and delightsome”! They actually changed their Scripture!

1. However in its many contexts, the Book of Mormon and other Mormon sources are **highly explicit** about the curse of dark skin!
2. Besides, Alma 32:42 clearly distinguishes between “white” and “pure”!

BALDNESS CURSE: 2 Nephi 13:24 says that punishment for sin shall include “instead of well-set hair, baldness,” yet baldness is much more common among Caucasians. See Genetics Problems--Baldness. Error again.

MONGOLOID TRAITS instead of Semitic origin, Native Americans are distinctly primarily of the Mongoloid race (most Asiatics).

1. This is proven by their having straight and black hair, brown eyes, high cheekbones, Mongoloid skin pigmentation, frequent Mongoloid almond-like eye fold, occasional Mongoloid blue spot (variable bluish birthmark), etc.
2. Dark skin, instead of being a curse is a protection against skin cancer, aging, sunburn, etc.
3. And Native American Indians are certainly not innately more filthy, loathsome, or ugly than any other persons!

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: 2 Nephi 26:8 & 30 declare that God does not distinguish between blacks and whites.

1. But PGP Moses 7:8-12 claims that God cursed the Canaanites with black skin. A contradiction!
2. It actually says that Enoch found it useless to try to get Blacks to repent! Race prejudice in PGP!
3. Besides, Mongoloids, not Caucasoids or Negroids, dominated the Americas before European colonialism.

TEARING CLOTHES FOR A COVENANT: Alma 46:21 claims that the faithful ran while “rending their garments in token, or as a covenant, that they would not forsake the Lord their God...”. (Why was the man Alma given a woman’s name?)

1. But Leviticus 21:10 forbids priests from tearing their clothes.
2. Furthermore, all examples in the Bible of tearing one’s clothes were signs of distress, never of the sealing of a covenant!

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

In Christian humility we point out these fatal flaws in the beliefs of those who would aggressively have us believe the Book of Mormon:

PERSONS: Numerous records and artifacts have been found that testify to the existence of major historical characters in the Bible. These include Ahab, Augustus Caesar, Baruch, Caiaphas, Cyrus, Darius, David, Ezra, Herod, Hezekiah, Jesus, Nebuchadnezzar, Nehemiah, Pilate, Priscilla and Aquilla, Solomon, and many others!

By stark contrast, not one shred of archaeological evidence testifies to the existence of **even a single person** uniquely named in the Book of Mormon. WHY if the Book of Mormon is true? Error in B.O.M.!

PLACES: Overwhelming archaeological evidence confirms the identification of numerous places mentioned in the Bible. A tiny portion of these includes Arabia, Asia, Assyria, Athens, Babylon, Bethany, Capernaum, Cappadocia, Corinth, Egypt, Galatia, Galilee, Gaza, Jericho, Jerusalem, Joppa, Judea, Kir, Laodicea, Lebanon, Lybia, Macedonia, Medo-Persia, Nineveh, Philadelphia, Philippi, Rome, Samaria, Sardis, Sidon, Spain, Thyratira, Tyre, and so on for many times more place names.

By contrast not even a single city, locality, country, mountain, river, etc in the Book of Mormon has one whit of archaeological evidence to identify it. WHY? Where are the remains of the many cities of cement of Helaman 3:11?

ARTIFACTS: Things made by people including buildings, dishes, money, ornaments, paintings, sculpture, tools, utensils, weapons, etc. are called “artifacts.” Numerous coins have been found of ancient Athenians, Babylonians, Chinese, Egyptians, Persians, Romans, etc. The same can be said of their buildings, carts, chariots, crafts, forts, musical instruments, mummies and other human remains, pots, records, sculpture, tombs, tools, weapons, etc.

Yet **not even** a single artifact can be identified with assurance as clearly belonging to the Nephites, Lamanites, or Jaredites of the Book of Mormon! Error in B.O.M.!

The only reasonable explanation is that the Book of Mormon is a work of **incredible fiction**.

OTHER: [Hal Hougey in his Archaeology and the Book of Mormon](#) says that many Mormon scholars have understandably found frustration and embarrassment also in that:

1. No Book of Mormon names have ever been found in New World inscriptions.
2. No genuine Hebrew inscriptions have ever been found.
3. No genuine inscriptions have been found in Egyptian or in anything similar to it that could correspond to Joseph Smith’s unique term, “Reformed Egyptian”.
4. No ancient copies of the B.O.M. or portions of it have ever been found. Surely treasured Scripture would have been duplicated many times and preserved!
5. No ancient inscriptions of any kind have ever been found that indicated that the ancients had Hebrew or Christian beliefs. **All are pagan.**

(Read John’s gospel several times all the way through!)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

ASTRONOMICAL PROBLEMS

Christian friend! Mormonism is vastly more aggressive in converting members from Christian churches than Christians are in winning people to Jesus Christ as Savior. My Mormon friends – please help me with this: For years I have wondered how Mormons would explain these astronomical problems.

DAY-NIGHT-DAY OF LIGHT: Helaman 14:3-4 in the Book of Mormon, prophesies that at the birth of Jesus that “there shall be great lights in heaven”, and that the sky shall be so bright that there shall be “no darkness” for one night. That is, there will be a normal day, a bright night resembling a day, followed by a normal day.

1. The Bible makes **no such** claims about Jesus’ birth.
2. Unfortunately for the credibility of the Book of Mormon, although ancient scientists and historians habitually recorded unusual events in the sky (e.g., comets, meteor showers, eclipses, planetary convergences, etc.), this supposed day-night-day of bright light was never recorded by either historians or scientists of the time. I do not wish to be blunt to warm friends but, frankly, it never happened.

THREE DARK DAYS: On the other hand, 1 Nephi 19:10 prophesies three full days of darkness accompanying Jesus’ Crucifixion. 3 Nephi 1:13-19 describes this supposed event after it took place. V. 17 emphasizes that “all the people upon the face of the whole earth from the west to the east, both in the land north and in the land south, were so exceedingly astonished that they fell to the earth.”

1. Surely if this astonishing astronomical event actually did occur, there would have been many records of it. There is not so much as one such!
2. But, Luke 23:44 says that the darkness of Jerusalem itself **only lasted three hours**. PERIOD. Not three days as the Book of Mormon says. Error!
3. Luke says nothing about being worldwide. Some Mormons point out that the Hebrew **eretz** can merely mean the local land. However, it often means the whole planet, e.g. Genesis 1 and 2, Job 26:7, Isaiah 40:22, etc. **3 Nephi 3:17 specifically states “the whole earth”, and the description certainly sounds vast!**
4. Why should the darkness be more devastating in the Americas than in Judea where Jesus was crucified? Error in B.O.M.!

EARTH ROTATION: Helaman 12:15 declares “For surely it is the Earth that moveth and not the sun.”

1. While it is true that the Earth rotates and moves around the Sun, yet the Sun certainly does move in space.
2. And while God is certainly capable of inspiring His prophet to describe facts so clearly centuries before science discovers them, yet this kind of thing is never done this blatantly by Bible prophets.
3. To do so would be to bring ridicule upon God’s Word by the ancients who believed to the contrary rather than being proof to the ancients. (See also Alma 30:44.)
4. Besides, it is most peculiar to find one lone striking scientific fact in this book that is so packed full of gross scientific errors. It sounds as though it were added around 1830 A.D. by Joseph Smith himself or by whoever actually wrote the Book of Mormon.

SON/SUN: Malachi 4:2 in our English Bible refers to the Lord as the “Sun of righteousness,” reminding us of our neighboring star that provides warmth, light, and life support. 3 Nephi 25:2 plagiarizes Malachi, but mistranslates the Hebrew as “Son of Righteousness!” (Please realize that I am sincerely trying to be compassionate, not harsh, to many personal friends revealed so clearly to be in scientific and other errors.)

GREAT LIGHTS: Helaman 14:3-4 predicts that at Jesus’ birth that “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 [sic] day”.

1. The only unusual light in the sky reported in the Bible at Jesus’ birth was the “star” seen by the wise men (Matthew 2:2 and 7).
2. The historians, scientists, and others of that day reported no such things as several bright lights in the sky. Error in B.O.M.!

EARTH SCROLL: Isaiah 34:4 is a prophecy that “the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll.” Various Hebrew scholars interpret Isaiah as meaning that the **heavens** shall shrink or disappear.

1. But Mormon 5:23 plagiarizes and misquotes Isaiah to apply it only to the **EARTH!**
2. Question: Just how can a ball like the Earth “be rolled together as a scroll”?

BOTANICAL PROBLEMS

I urge my Mormon friends to please help me understand how these botanical concepts are acceptable to your faith.

If a Botany professor were to be tolerant of student opinions about which mushrooms are edible and which are deadly, death might result. But if people stake their ETERNAL lives on a purported Scripture that contains errors such as the following, eternal loss results:

CROPS: According to the Book of Mormon, God led Nephi and other faithful Jews to leave the “land of Jerusalem” [sic] to go to the Promised Land of the Americas. We are faced at once with some serious botanical problems, for in 1 Nephi 18:24 (591 B.C.) we read that upon arrival, the Jews planted the **numerous seeds** that they had brought, and that the seeds “**did grow exceedingly**, wherefore we were blessed in **abundance**” in the Americas (see also Ether 2:3). As is well known, the dominant crops of the Near East include barley, beans, dates, figs, grapes (Old World species), leeks, lemons, lentils, lettuce, melons, mustard, olives, onions, oranges, peaches, plums (Old World species), pomegranates, wheat, etc.

Crops from the Americas, e.g. blueberries, cranberries, eggplants, grapes (New World species), peppers, pineapples, plums (New World species), potatoes, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, etc., were unknown in the Old World until modern times. Why are they never mentioned in the Book of Mormon? NEVER.



There is no evidence whatever that any Near Eastern crops ever “did grow exceedingly...in abundance” even in a tiny locality until modern Europeans brought them

to the Americas. They did **not** exist here then. While modern European colonists did find grapes and plums in the Americas, they were distinct from the Old World species, unfortunately for the Book of Mormon story.

It is as inappropriate for the Book of Mormon, which purports to be written almost entirely in and regarding America, to make illustrations known only in Judea as it would be to tell Earthlings illustrations known only to Martians. Furthermore, many of the references actually imply that the Old World plants are definitely found in the Americas!

NOTE: It is irrelevant to appeal to the transporting of plants between the Old and New Worlds before Columbus because:

1. Such plants were most uncommon or nonexistent in the Americas.
2. They were introduced after the Book of Mormon story ended in 421 A.D.
3. They never involved the northeastern area of what became part of the United States which traditional Mormon authorities always declared was where the Nephites and Lamanites existed.

GRAPES: There are no less than seven passages that stress that Native Americans in 600 B.C. to 421 A.D. were familiar with cultivating grapes. These include 1 Nephi 15:15; 2 Nephi 15:1-7; Jacob 5:6; Mosiah 11:15; Alma 13:23; 16:17; and 3 Nephi 24:11.

1. Any of those passages referring to Judea would not be understood by Native Americans. An effective prophet would obviously use illustrations understood by his listeners.
2. Any of those passages speaking of Mesoamerica or South America are irrelevant because neither the Book of Mormon nor other Mormon Scriptures recognize them as inhabited by Lamanites or Nephites.
3. Any of those passages speaking of areas of the northeastern quadrant of North America are not appropriate because Native Americans there generally sought wild grapes. They were not typically noted for raising a lot of grapes.
4. They did not fence or hedge vineyards (contrary to 2 Nephi 15:2 and 5).
5. They were not noted for numerous winepresses (contrary to 2 Nephi 15:2) for grapes or other fruits.
6. There is no evidence that Native Americans in Book of Mormon lands in 600 B.C. to 421 A.D. ever cultivated huge vineyards up to 10 acres each (2 Nephi 15:10)!
7. Juices of various berries and other fruits were fermented resulting in some drunkenness. But the report in this passage is clearly unrealistic and greatly exaggerated for that time and place.
8. There is no evidence that they practiced grape pruning (2 Nephi 15:6).

GRAPE WINE: See Microbiological Problems (Mosiah 11:15) for an error about raising grapes and other fruits for producing abundant wine.

FLAX: 1 Nephi 13:7, Alma 1:29 and 4:6, Helaman 6:13, and Ether 10:24 speak of linen (cloth made from flax). 2 Nephi 26:2 tells of flax cord, but Native Americans had no flax plants or linen cloth at all. Error in B.O.M.!

OTHER PLANTS: Barley is mentioned in Mosiah 9:9 (about 188 B.C.) and Alma 11:7 (about 82 B.C.). Wheat is included in Mosiah 9:9 (about 188 B.C.), 3 Nephi 18:18 (34 A.D.), and possibly included among "grain" in Enos 21 (420 B.C.) and "seeds" in Mosiah 9:9 (about 200 B.C.).

Figs are referred to in 3 Nephi 14:16 (34 A.D.), plagiarizing KJV of Matthew 7:16.

Olives are discussed in 1 Nephi 10:12 & 14; 15:7, 12 & 16 (600-592 B.C.); Jacob 5:3; 6:1 (544-421 B.C.).

Mentioning the above plants is inappropriate in the Book of Mormon as:

1. They did not exist in Book of Mormon territory in 600 B.C. to 421 A.D.
2. Figs and olives cannot tolerate the cold climate of Northeastern United States. Olive trees will not survive below about 10 degrees F (-12 degrees C). Figs are even more cold intolerant.
3. The most edible figs must be pollinated by Smyrna wasps, but they were not introduced from the Old World until colonial times. Native American figs are not nearly as edible.

4. Mormon prophets are obviously more authoritative than church members, and they have consistently indicated that the Nephites and Lamanites inhabited only what is now northeastern United States.
5. These above four crops were introduced by Europeans, not by ancient Jewish settlers.

MULBERRY TREES: Silk is mentioned in 1 Nephi 13:7; Ether 9:17; and 10:24. While mulberry trees are not mentioned in the Book of Mormon, their leaves are the food of silkworm moth larvae.

1. Mulberry trees were not present until introduced to the New World by Hernando Cortez in 1522.
2. The same is true of silkworm moths.
3. Mormon scholars sometimes reply by pointing to Central American plants with silklike fibers, but these are irrelevant when we realize that Mormon prophets **always** pointed to northeastern United States as B.O.M. lands.
4. “The most correct book of any on Earth”, as Joseph Smith called it, should call only true silk made by silkworm moth larvae from mulberry leaves as “silk”. Error.

NEAS AND SHEUM: These are mentioned in Mosiah 9:9 as two food plants that were prominent, and grew in abundance. Yet:

1. If they were so prominent and important, why have they not survived?
2. Why do we not know what they were?
3. To claim that they are ancient names of modern plants is to admit translation errors in “the most correct book of any on earth”!
4. To suggest that one of their names is similar to a name in some non-Hebrew or non-Egyptian Old World language is totally irrelevant and evasive as the people are said to be Hebrews.

GRAFTING: Plant grafting is mentioned in 1 Nephi 15:16 and Jacob 5.

1. There is no evidence whatever that Native Americans knew anything about grafting in 600 B.C. to 421 A.D.
2. An effective speaker must use illustrations familiar to his audience.

PRUNING: This is mentioned twice.

1. 2 Nephi 12:4 frankly **plagiarizes** the KJV of Isaiah 2:4 in saying that the nations “shall beat their spears into pruning hooks.”
2. It is meaningless to use an unfamiliar Old World custom as an illustration or prophecy to New World natives.
3. Native Americans had wooden spears, not iron or steel, and could not make pruning hooks from wooden spears. Obviously!
4. Jacob 5:4, 27, 62, 64 and 6:2 report the pruning of olive trees in the New World. But it would be impossible to prune olive trees as they were not established here until after European colonialism over 22 centuries later!
5. Jacob 5 and 6 also report pruning of grape vines, but grapes were generally sought rather than cultivated in such reportedly large vineyards. Pruning of grapes was **not** a prominent practice, if it ever existed.
6. Modern Mormon prophets consistently place Book of Mormon lands in northeastern North America. This area was **never** noted for significant orchards or vineyards at that time.
7. Pruning hooks had not been developed in Book of Mormon lands prior to European colonialism. Error in B.O.M.!

TILLING: Tilling the ground (i.e., plowing and fertilizing to make plants be much more productive) is reported in Mosiah 9:9 and 23:25 (188-121 B.C.).

1. While inhabitants of the Americas in 600 B.C. to 421 A.D. did some organic fertilizing, they had neither plows nor domestic animals to pull plows! Error.
2. According to Handbook of American Ethnology, all Native American tribes had small gardens. Their farm tools consisted of digging sticks as well as of hoes made from animal scapulae (shoulder blades) or flint. These common tools are never mentioned! Never - Why?
3. To call the scapula hoes “foot plows” as some LDS leaders say is certainly

- stretching the accepted meaning of “plow”!
- The Book of Mormon claims of Old World iron tools are most unrealistic. (See also Technological Problems: Farm Tools.)



PREFORMATIONISM: See Embryological Problems. To describe seed and plant growth as mere “swelling” (Alma 32:28-34 and 33:23) is certainly naive and grossly inaccurate. It clearly reflects the error of preformationism (the long discredited notion, before the discovery of genes, that the entire totality of organs, etc., of the mature organism is contained in miniature in the seed). Error in B.O.M.!

IMPOSSIBLE FRUIT: 1 Nephi 1:1-38 describes Lehi’s vision of a tree with impossible fruit. This story faces several problems:

- It ambles around for 38 verses to tell a story that should take no more than four or five verses at the very most. **Very poor quality.**
- It makes no point or practical application whatsoever. **NONE.**
- It refers to a rod of iron, but no one knew how to make iron rods in 600-592 B.C. in the Americas.
- It describes an impossible nonexistent fruit--one that inspires exceeding joy, has plant tissues that are whiter than anything else (including snow apparently), and is sweeter than anything else Lehi had ever tasted (apparently including the uncommon honey), etc. Very untrue story.

NOTE: I have personally been forced to sacrifice many beloved beliefs at various times in my life. That really hurt. So, I can sympathize with my many Mormon friends in the many irreconcilable conflicts between their Scriptures and proven scientific truths.

(True Biblical Prophets have ZERO errors! If a prophet prophesies falsely, he is not of God.)

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:23-24

CHEMICAL PROBLEMS

If a Chemistry professor fails to warn his students of the dangers of certain chemical reactions, an explosion could result in their being blinded. His intolerance for error is not due to hate, but for the well being of his students. It is for this same reason that I yearn for my friends that have been misled.

STEEL: in B.O.M. is way ahead of its time.

- Steel was unknown in the Americas prior to its introduction by the Europeans, contrary to 1 Nephi 4:9 and 16:18, 2 Nephi 5:15, and Ether 7:9.

2. It is not appropriate to refer to any iron alloy as “most precious steel” as in 1 Nephi 4:9. Steel never existed until after colonialism.
3. All iron alloys prior to the 14th century would be referred to today (or in any correct translation) as wrought iron, **never** “most precious steel”!
4. Steel was never produced anywhere until much later than B.O.M times.
5. Stainless steel was first produced in the early 20th century A. D., not before!
6. 1 Nephi 16:18 asserts that Nephi had a bow “made of fine steel”, but spring steel appropriate for bows is most definitely a modern invention **unknown in ancient America**.
7. Knives used by the Great Aztec civilization were of stone, never metal (Time-Life’s Aztec: Reign of Blood and Splendor). No iron tools or mortar were used with the perfectly fitted heavy stone structures of the Great Inca Civilization (Time-Life’s Incas: Lords of Gold and Glory).

RUST: Alma 24:16 speaks of **burying swords in the earth to keep them bright!**

Mosiah 8:11 refers to rust on the sword blades.

1. Because inhabitants of the New World had not learned how to reach the melting point of iron (1536 degrees C or 2796 degrees F), they could not produce iron from its ores. So they could not possibly be familiar with its rusting. Error in B.O.M.!
2. Burying iron in soil exposes it to both oxygen and water so that rusting takes place in a series of localized concentration cells. Soil holds moisture close to any iron within it, thus speeding rusting, contrary to Alma 24:16!
3. Mormons often sidestep the issue of the fact of the absence of steel swords in ancient America by pointing to their swordlike weapons of wood with embedded sharp stones. But the above two references speak of their preventing rusting. Obviously iron rusts; wood rots! Error in B.O.M.!

ZIFF: Mosiah 11:3 lists ziff among gold, silver, copper, brass, and iron as the metals being taxed. A **correct** translation would identify the proper name for “ziff”. See Geological Problems.

BRASS: The claim of widespread use of the alloy brass (copper and zinc) in pre-colonial America is baseless (2 Nephi 5:15, Omni 14, etc.) (*Encyclopedia Britannica*).

FULLER’S SOAP: 3 Nephi 24:2 says that the Lord will be “like fuller’s soap”! The fuller process refers to bleaching and removing oils from cloth. Traditional fuller’s soap often contains clay and siliceous material, etc.

1. 3 Nephi quotes Malachi 3:2. The date is given as 34 A.D. Malachi was written around 450 B.C., about 150 years after Lehi’s family had already left “the land [sic] of Jerusalem”. There was no known contact with Judea after Malachi was written.
2. 3 Nephi clearly **plagiarizes** the KJV of Malachi 3:2 even though the KJV was translated in 1611 A.D. (16 centuries later!).
3. The Native Americans had no knowledge of fuller’s soap, so mentioning it as an illustration is totally inappropriate. Error in B.O.M.!
4. When we moderns think of soap, we think of a bar, powder, or liquid. What Malachi was speaking of was actually certain cleansing herbs. In fact the ancient Hebrew scholars in their Septuagint translation from Hebrew to Greek around 200 B.C. correctly rendered Malachi’s term as “fuller’s herbs”, and so should the Book of Mormon which Mormons incorrectly insist is far more correct than is the Bible!

GLASSY ROCK: Ether 3:1 says that eight vessels were “molten out of rock... white and clear, even as transparent as glass...”. Problems encountered here include:

1. There is no chemical (natural or artificial) that fits this description out of which any vessels have ever been made. Error in B.O.M.!
2. Who among any people prior to the Tower of Babel (before 2247 B.C.), as the Jaredites supposedly were, would be familiar with glass?
3. Funk and Wagnals Encyclopedia says that glass vessels did not originate much before 1500 B.C. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* is even more conservative.
4. A glassy mineral which has long been known in very limited areas is obsidian. However, it is usually black, but sometimes red, brown, or gray. Rarely it is transparent, but greenish and not clear. But neither obsidian nor any transparent mineral was used for making vessels at that time of history.
5. Obviously, no chemical can possibly be simultaneously white (milk colored) as well as clear (transparent)! Error in B.O.M.!

VAPOR OF SMOKE: 1 Nephi 22:18 and Mormon 8:29 use an erroneous term, “vapor(s) of smoke.”

1. Chemistry and physics texts as well as dictionaries of science consistently identify smoke as tiny solid colloidal particles of burned material suspended in air, but vapor as a gaseous form of a substance normally thought of as a liquid. Typical among many scientific authorities checked are the *Int’l Dictionary of Physics and Electronics*, *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Physics and Mathematics*, *Glossary of Chemical Terms*, and numerous texts of chemistry and physics.
2. There is no scientifically honest reason to resist these clear facts as it is true that every informed high school chemistry and physics student is fully aware that in no way can smoke be called a vapor in proper scientific English.
3. For the Book of Mormon to include these errors in spite of over 4000 corrections since it was published in 1830 are incompatible with Joseph Smith’s repeated assertion that it “is the most correct book of any on earth”!
4. To excuse these errors because the KJV uses the term is irrelevant as the KJV was translated in 1611 A.D. before the scientific advances following the Industrial Revolution of 1760 in England. It was permissible for the English Bible at that time to say “vapor of smoke”, but to leave the term uncorrected when so many other corrections are being made is most strange.

SALT: 3 Nephi 16:15 is said to have been written in A.D. 34, and is plagiarized partly from the KJV of Matthew 5:13. It says “...they shall be as salt that hath lost its savor (flavor), which is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot...”.

1. 3 Nephi is said to have been written in 34 A.D., but amazingly quotes Matthew 5:13 which was written between 50 and 80 A.D.! How so? Something is badly wrong here with B.O.M.!
2. 3 Nephi **plagiarizes** the KJV although the KJV was translated 15 centuries **later!** (See above also.)
3. It is most inappropriate for a book to claim that it was written in the pre-colonial Americas, and to assert that Native Americans **so commonly** used salt (sodium chloride) as a flavoring. Their food is almost always very bland, not generally salted. Food was not commonly salted. A few **rare** communities actually provided salt in trade. The few that ever used it for seasoning got it by evaporating sea water or got it from the few surface salt licks.
4. Native Americans were not noted for commonly throwing it out as they were not noted for its common use. Error in B.O.M.!

SULPHUR: Brimstone is referred to eight times (e.g. Mosiah 3:27). This is an obsolete name for the element sulphur, which is found at the rim of some volcanoes.

1. All these references would be meaningless to almost all Native Americans as they almost never encountered sulphur.
2. The concept of a lake of burning brimstone would be totally beyond their comprehension.
3. Also, they had no essential practical reason to value “brimstone,” even in their very rare encounters.

PLATES OF ORE: Mosiah 21:27 speaks of engraving a record on “plates of ore”. Plates of ore? Really? Plates for engraving are made from metal extracted from ore. Ore is a natural combination of minerals from which metal is extracted. Where can one ever see engraved plates made of ore? My word!

“Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain” Exodus 20:7

ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

Ecology is the science of the relation of organisms to their environment and to each other, and includes behavior, coloration, limiting factors, geographic distribution, etc. to list the ecological problems in the B.O.M.

A fatal ecological microcosm is encountered in Ether 6:4-11 which reports a 344 day ocean trip of the sealed submarine barges to the Americas without ample fresh air, ample fresh water, proper waste disposal, adequate food, etc. Survival would be impossible. What about territoriality, mating, nesting, and other behavioral displays of animals on board?

See Botanical Problems for unrealistic claims that Old World plants were brought here and prospered abundantly, and the total ignoring by the Book of Mormon of plants native to the Americas.

See Geographical Problems for descriptions of Arabian areas as filled with bountiful fruits, honey, and ample forests. Read also of the erroneous descriptions of prominent New World geographic features and strange descriptions of timber shipments.

See Geological Problems for obviously impossible worldwide storms, worldwide lack of rain, numerous tumbling mountains, Wadi Sayq, and a huge “epidemic” of volcanoes.

See Microbiological Problems for attributing “the **cause** of disease to...the nature of the climate (Alma 46:46), ignoring the role of microbes and other organisms in disposing of the stench of carcasses (Alma 16:11 and Ether 14:19-23), serious contamination in the wooden submarine barges (Ether 6:7), etc.

See Physiological Problems for effect of skin pigment (1 Nephi 12:11, etc.), living space (Mormon 6 and Ether 15:2), limited breathing space (Ether 6:7), etc.

See Zoological Problems for numerous Old World animals said to live in the Americas, **totally** ignoring of the New World animals in spite of the claim that the account is supposedly primarily about the Americas. There are serious problems of transporting animals for 344 days in tight wooden submarine barges, ecologically erroneous concepts about snakes, assertions that non-forest animals dwelt in forests, etc.

“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” Exodus 20:8

ECONOMICS PROBLEMS

We must never ever treat people of other religions with disrespect regardless of their actions towards us. With deep concern let’s point out to those who cast aside our Biblical faith these misconceptions:

The heading of Alma 11 says that Nephite coinage is being described, contrary to

Alma 11 and frequent Book of Mormon assertions of coins and advanced metallurgy before 421 A.D. Archaeologists never ever find Indian burial grounds, etc. in Book of Mormon lands containing advanced metal objects -- only a few simple things, e.g. from meteorites, etc. Thus, because of the primitive nature of their economics and technology, Creeks and Blackfoot Indians literally lusted after metal ornaments, tools, weapons, etc. in colonial times. Time-Life's Incas: Lords of Gold and Glory reports that the great Inca civilization valued cloth more than gold!

NOTE: Some Mormon experts respond to the above by saying that Alma 11 nowhere calls the money 'coins', and that may be why archaeologists have found none. They point out that Native Americans typically used for wampum (money) such things as shells, arrowheads, feathers filled with gold dust, woven articles, tools, meteorites, carvings, and various other articles for trade. True, but:

1. Mormon scriptioners obviously considered literal coins to be the proper interpretation by so defining these in the chapter heading to Alma 11.
2. Even if literal coins were not the intended interpretation, the description is obviously referring to monetary denominational values that are the exact equivalent of literal coins. Can anyone come up with a more accurate term than the Mormon scriptioners proposed?
3. The Nephites were supposedly Hebrews, and were well familiar with Hebrew and other coins, so it would be most reasonable to assume that these were literal Hebrew-like coins, and should have Hebrew names! Serious mistake.
4. Alma 11 declares that these units were all made of metal, not shells, feathers, etc. Standardized metal objects for selling imply coins.
5. Some Mormon scholars, when faced with the total absence of archaeological evidence of coins in the New World, claim that "coin" does not appear in the text. But that is just their opinion. The Mormon prophets considered the coins to be literal. Their prophets are the experts.
6. The Hebrews of Judea produced literal coins, and certainly their skills would have been brought along.
7. It is evasive to argue that Native Americans used gold filled quills, seed bead necklaces, small pieces of colored cotton, pieces of tin or copper, shells, cacao, etc. The clear fact is that Alma 11 is describing monetary units, and as such were most impractical for their economy.

See especially Mathematical Problems for further evaluation of Alma 11.

See also: Anthropological, Botanical, Chemical, Geographic, Geological, Microbiological, Physics, Physiological, Technological, and Zoological Problems for additional examples of the numerous Economics Problems in the Book of Mormon.

"Thou shalt not make any graven image" Exodus 20:4

EMBRYOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

PREFORMATIONISM: To describe seed and plant growth simply as mere "swelling" (Alma 32:28-34 and 33:23) is certainly naive, grossly understated, and inaccurate. It clearly reflects the error of preformationism that was popular in the 1830s. Preformationism is the long discredited notion before the discovery of genes and embryonic development, that the entire totality of organs, etc. of the mature plant, animal, or person is contained in miniature in the seed, sperm, or ovum.

It held further that when all species were first created, that the complete bodies of all future generations existed telescoped within each other in vastly reduced size in their reproductive cells. When it came time for them to develop, all that was needed, supposedly, was merely for the bodies and their organs to **swell** in size with **no anatomical development** necessary! The inclusion of this totally disproved theory is in no way consistent with the supposed accuracy of Helaman 12:15 (in reference to Earth's movement)!

REPRODUCTIVE RATE (JACOB): Jacob 3:13 says that "this people... now began to be **numerous...**". Assuming that those leaving Jerusalem for the Americas in 600 B.C. had a very high estimate of 20 young women starting childbearing age, and began

“shelling out babies like peas out of a pod,” could they realistically produce **numerous** offspring in that brief period of time?

Let us give the Jacob account the benefit of the doubt, and make the following **generous assumptions**:

1. That the party leaving for the Americas included 20 young women (which is unrealistically high).
2. That all 20 women were fertile and strove for large families (not at all likely).
3. That each produced 8 children (a **very generous** concession).
4. That all 8 children of each woman survived a normal lifespan, married, and had 8 children each who reached adulthood (also a **very generous** assumption).
5. That a generation is 40 years (a standard assumption).
6. That time span involved is between 56 & 179 years. (Jacob 3:13 estimates the period as between 544 and 421 B.C. They left Jerusalem in 600 B.C.)
7. That the median between 56 and 179 years is 117.5 years, and that we will be **slightly generous** to Jacob and round it off to 120 years, or 3 generations at 40 years each. Then, the population would increase thus:

First Generation: 20 women x 8 children each = 160 children (80 daughters)

Second Generation: 80 women x 8 children each = 640 children (320 daughters)

Third Generation: 320 women x 8 children each = 2560 children (1280 daughters).

But clearly in **no way** could we consider a population of the Americas of 2560 plus survivors of older generations as **NUMEROUS!** That would be merely a **tiny town**. Numerous? No Way! But let's extend our generosity of the 7 above assumptions and add:

Fourth Generation: 1280 x 8 children each = 10,240 children.

Conclusion: By what stretch of the imagination could anyone ever objectively and honestly consider the population of the New World as implied in Jacob (or even of a single town of a mere 10,240) as **NUMEROUS?**

REPRODUCTIVE RATE (OVERALL): The implied reproduction rate in the Book of Mormon is absolutely astronomical. The Nephite story starts in 600 B.C. and extends to 421 A.D. It involves a mere handful of people who supposedly travel from “the land [sic] of Jerusalem” to the Promised Land of the Americas. Every four or five years or so there are devastating wars that kill many thousands of people (Alma 28:2, etc.). For this to be so it would be necessary for each couple to have scores of children and for them to reach maturity in three or so years throughout the supposed Nephite story between 600 B.C. and 421 A.D.! Check it out **honestly** for yourself.

The defense has been made that if, say, Mr. Jones had ten children who each had ten children and so on, then in only ten generations Mr. Jones would have ten billion (10,000,000,000) offspring if all lived. We are told that if you combine this suggestion with a similar reproductive rate for everyone else, your problem is solved! Not quite.

1. This consistent radical reproductive rate has **never ever** happened in any culture on earth. Disease, wars, starvation, droughts, economic depressions, storms, parental choice, parental inability, etc. prevent that.
2. That large figure suggested for Mr. Jones includes the merging of descendants of, say, the Smiths, Roberts, Greens, Rollins, Kellys, Blackburns, Browns, and others.
3. The appeal to the presence of Jaredites and other possible colonizers not mentioned in the Book of Mormon is unrealistic as the account is specifically speaking strictly of wars and reproductive rates involving just the Lamanites and Nephites only. But the Jaredites had died out earlier (Ether 2:5, etc).
4. If the Lamanites had interbred significantly with other races, they would obviously not be distinctly Mongoloid as American Indians clearly are.
5. Faithful Jews resisted marrying Gentiles.
6. Few people in any culture have ten children who live full life spans and commonly produce 10 children each all of whom did the same, etc.
7. The Book of Mormon requires a radically faster reproductive rate than a mere ten children per couple in a matter of every 3 to 6 years or so. Check it out yourself.

BEES, FISH, BIRDS, etc.: See Zoological Problems. Being cooped up in the sealed submarine barges for the 344 day ocean trip (Ether 2:2-3) would severely disturb if not eradicate normal reproductive cycles, and even the very perpetuation of various species.

TERATOLOGY (BIRTH DEFECTS): See below for Genetics Problems – Inbreeding: In close intermarriage there would be an expected distinct increase in birth defects due to forced intermarriage with close relatives.

1. Totally contrary to certain expectations, not one birth defect was reported.
2. Appeals to successful intermarriage following Adam’s and Noah’s times are not applicable to the experiences of the Nephites and Lamanites reported in 1 Nephi 16, 17, and 18 as humans were genetically purer originally.

OX AND COW REPRODUCTION: See Physiological Problems – Cattle. Ether 9:18 and 1 Nephi 18:25 report that oxen and cows are distinct species from cattle [sic], and that oxen reproduce with each other, and that cows reproduce with each other.

1. One does not need to live very close to a farm to know that “oxen” generally refers to castrated bulls and that they cannot breed together. Error!
2. Cows are female cattle and cannot breed together. Error!
3. Furthermore, no domesticated or wild cattle lived in the Americas prior to European colonialism! Error!

MENSTRUAL PROBLEMS: See Physiological Problems - Amazing Amazons. When women expend prolonged physical energy and stress as indicated in 1 Nephi 17:2; 1 Nephi 18; 2 Nephi 5:16; and Ether 15:15, the natural consequences are disrupted menstrual cycles, and resulting blockage of embryonic formation, i.e. no more babies until their bodies are allowed time for recuperation. This is in obvious conflict with the reported extremely high reproduction rate.

CLOSE INBREEDING: Commonly experienced among polygamists is the danger that distinctly increases genetic deformities, e.g. Microcephalics (small heads), fused limbs, liver dysfunction, schizophrenia, additional or missing fingers and toes and many others.

(I realize that you have loyalty to your family, friends, etc., but please realize that, because of his numerous false prophecies, Joseph Smith is not a true Prophet. We need to turn to Biblical Churches and study the Bible!)

GENETICS PROBLEMS

Genetics professors should not cease from correcting the many errors they encounter. With the goal of 100% truthfulness they must be firmly but compassionately opposed to such errors as:

***** VERY IMPORTANT - BE SURE TO READ THIS! *****

MUTATIONS: The account in the Book of Mormon is based on the assumption that the native American Indians are descended primarily from Jewish ancestors – not from other people (1 Nephi 1-13, etc.). Joseph Smith claimed that the Book of Mormon is the most correct book of any on earth (History of the Church, p.461; The Teaching of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.194). He would have done well if he could have studied the genetics of the races.

Thomas W. Murphy, Ph.D., a Mormon chairperson of the Anthropology Dept. at Edmonds Community College in Edmonds, Washington, **after years of research**, concludes: “We (Mormons) are in a dilemma now. Genetics evidence shows quite clearly that American Indians are... not Israelites. **The archaeological evidence shows the Book of Mormon is not true...**”

“Because we (Mormons) gave ‘The Book of Mormon’ the status of the Word of God, we have to change what we meant by ‘The Word of God’...”

Dr. Murphy further states that there is not one source anywhere to validate “any single place, any single person, or any single event” described in the B.O.M. because the supposed Lamanites (American Indians) and Nephites (Whites) described in B.O.M. never existed. There is no linguistic, archaeological, or historical corroboration for B.O.M.

“The account in B.O.M. of the Lamanites and Nephites is basic to Mormonism. If the account is wrong, it has a great fall like Humpty Dumpty. All the King’s horses and all the King’s men cannot put Humpty Dumpty back together again.”

The very title page of B.O.M. states: “...it is an abridgement of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites – Written to the Lamanites who are remnant of the house of Israel.”

Then, the introduction to B.O.M.: “It is a record of God’s dealings with the ancient inhabitants of the Americas... their record gives an account of two great civilizations. One came from Jerusalem in 600 B.C. and afterwards separated into two nations, known as the Nephites and the Lamanites... after thousands of years, all were destroyed except the Lamanites, and they are the principal ancestors of the American Indians.” (The author of this book, Dr. Key, highly recommends that you subscribe to James R. Spencer, Through the Maze, 1-800-871-7120 for fascinating and practical information on Mormonism. He includes some of this in his publications.)

“If the American Indians are not descended from Jews, Mormonism is basically pure fiction!” (Thomas Murphy Ph.D.)

Randall Shortridge, Ph.D. had been a loyal L.D.S. for 25 years. Upon learning of the DNA evidence that the genes of native American Indians are of Asiatic origin, not Jewish, caused him to realize that Mormonism is pure fakery!

Dr. Shortridge continues: “When it comes to DNA fingerprinting, people have to realize how conclusive it is. Given the evidence that we have today, if this were taken into court – a court of law – it would be an open-and-shut case. That’s because the **DNA fingerprinting evidence is unquestionable. American Indians came from Asia!**” (i.e. **They are NOT Jews!**)

Simon Southerton, Ph.D. is a Molecular Biologist from Canberra, Australia. While a Mormon Bishop, Dr. Southerton encountered research on Native American DNA. He was shocked as he had been totally convinced that B.O.M. was correct. After several weeks of struggling, **he finally was forced to leave Mormonism.**

Dr. Southerton reports that L.D.S. leaders resist accepting the proven facts of DNA. He reports that “When General Authorities dedicate temples in Central and South America; they still tell the natives that they are the descendents of the Book of Mormon Lamanites.”

Professor Dennis H. O’Rourke, Ph.D., LDS Anthropologist at the University of Utah, studies DNA of bones of ancient populations. Dr. O’Rourke clearly states: “**All such DNA is Asian!** No research suggests similarities between Native American and Hebrew DNA. The scientific consensus is that **Native Americans come from Asia.**”

David Glenn Smith, Ph.D., Anthropologist at the University of California at Davis is the head at the most authoritative lab in the world specializing in Native American DNA. Dr. Smith insists that there is **no similarity between Native American and Hebrew DNA:** “There is a comprehensive widespread consensus of anthropologists today from all disciplines of anthropology that the **homeland of Native Americans is East Asia.**” (They are not Jews as B.O.M. insist.)

Steven L. Whittington, Ph.D., is even more specific. He is a Bioarcheologist who specializes in Central American Archaeology. He is one of the greatest experts on skeletal DNA research. Dr. Whittington frankly declares “**There are no Hebrew origins for Native Americans. Their origin was northeastern Asia!**”

UNSTABLE GENES: Jacob 5 is a belabored, rambling, earthly story that is supposed to present some sort of spiritual lesson.

1. Verses 55 and 56 say three times “the natural tree had become wild.” Frankly,

genes are not that unstable **in an individual** organism. It takes several generations to revert completely to the wild type (original) genome, not a mere single growing season in a tree. (A genome is all the hereditary traits in a species.)

2. Grafting does **not** change the stock (the part receiving the graft).
3. V. 25 says that part of an olive tree produced “tame” (domestic?) fruit, and that the other part produced wild fruit even though the landlord fertilized the tree the same as the other trees. But phenotypes (genetic expression and physiology) **do not vary like this within a single tree according to fertilizer application!**
4. No other colonizers are ever mentioned in the Book of Mormon, so they are not likely to have been significant.

INBREEDING: Consider the astounding reproductive rate in the Book of Mormon, starting with six or so people in 1 Nephi 1 and 2 in 600 B.C. followed by the split off from them by the Lamanites in 2 Nephi 5 in less than 12-30 years (588-570 B.C.). A few other relatives were added in 1 Nephi 16:7-20; 17:1; and 18:6.

1. This requires an extremely close genetic inbreeding with all of its potential dangers of expressing harmful recessive traits. An appeal to the inbreeding of the offspring of Adam and of Noah is unacceptable because of the genetic purity and lack of harmful mutations early in human existence.
2. An appeal to intermarriage with Jaredites or with colonizers not mentioned in the Book of Mormon is “straining at gnats to swallow a camel”.
3. The Jaredites supposedly died out many centuries earlier. Ether 2:5 confirms that no one else was around where they were. They are never mentioned after the Book of Ether. 1 and 2 Nephi totally ignore the possibility, and devout Jews would resist the possibility of marrying Gentiles.

HYBRIDS: 2 Nephi 5:23 and Alma 3:6-9 say that anyone who marries a Lamanite (American Indian) “shall be cursed with the same curse” (i.e. dark skin). Yet this never occurs because the pure homozygous genes (pair of identical genes from the parents) for the presence of dark skin pigmentation, when crossed with pure homozygous genes for light skin color, are heterozygously (pair of unlike genes) expressed as an intermediate hybrid color. Error in B.O.M.!

GENETIC REVERSION: 2 Nephi 30:5-7 promises that when Lamanites (Native American Indians) convert, that they will be blessed by becoming a “white and delightful people” (original **unaltered** editions). Yet obviously no such remarkable mutations of DNA exist. Never. Not ever.

BALDNESS: 2 Nephi 13:24 plagiarizes Isaiah 3:24-30, etc., and applies it to the New World. Genetically this is inappropriate:

1. Genes for baldness are considerably more common in Caucasoids than in Native Americans and other Mongoloids.
2. Because baldness is a sex influenced trait, being much more commonly expressed in men, the curse is much less found in Native American women.
3. There are no records of mutations for baldness among Native American Indians upon their reported sinfulness. None whatsoever. Error in B.O.M.

HANDEDNESS: Ether 14:2 specifically says that “**every man kept the hilt of the sword in his right hand,**” and yet a distinct minority of Jews and Native American Indians is left-handed!

PREFORMATIONISM: See Embryological Problems (Alma 32:28-34 and 33:23) for an obsolete preformationism concept about plant seeds disproved by genetics and embryological discoveries.

(False cults condemn Biblical Churches). **“Thou shalt not murder.” Exodus 20:13**

GEOGRAPHICAL PROBLEMS

My Mormon friend, you ask Christians to pray about the Book of Mormon. In all fairness we are asking you, please, please, read the following facts in your Book of Mormon, and pray to the True God of the Bible about them:

BOUNTIFUL FRUITS: 1 Nephi 17:5-8ff is an interesting description of an oasis in a sizeable area near the Arabian seashore a “**land** which we called bountiful because of its much fruit and also wild honey.” Actually, oases in Arabia are bountiful in sunshine, heat, certain pests, but not in abundant fruits or timber. There is one on the Arabian Sea branch of the Indian Ocean in western Oman near its border with Yemen that some Mormon researchers propose as the Land of Bountiful in the Arabian peninsula. (See Aston and Aston, *In the Footsteps of Lehi*.) I consulted about this with my brother who used to live in and travel widely in Arabia while in the Air Force. While this oasis would admittedly be the most likely candidate for the “Land of Bountiful”, several insistent difficulties remain:

1. It would be a gross exaggeration to call this small spot a “Land”.
2. This oasis has long been known for its bountiful mosquitoes, scorpions, sand flies, some snakes, rats, wasp, other pests, intense desert heat, bright sun, seasonal drought, seasonal severe storms, etc. **Paradise, it certainly is not!**
3. Bountiful in “much fruit”? It does have some dates and a few other fruits. 1 Nephi 17: 5-8ff lists none. There is certainly no bountiful variety or amount.
4. Bountiful in wild honey? No more than would be expected in such an oasis.
5. If such a paradise really did exist in that very hot, dry general area, it would most certainly be inhabited and well defended against such newcomers. Error in B.O.M.!

ARABIAN FORESTS: 1 Nephi 18:1 indicates that the Jews made a ship from the ample timber of the “Land” [sic] of Bountiful [sic]. The objections above apply here also. Arabia had and has no significant timber forests. Specimen trees are those growing by themselves without much competition, and typically have branches from bottom to their crown. Forest trees generally concentrate their branches near their crown. While the oasis suggested above (see Aston and Aston, *In the Footsteps of Lehi*) does have some significant trees, problems remain:

1. The trees typically resemble specimen trees, not those of a luxurious forest.
2. It would be most unreasonable to assume that the oasis was not inhabited.
3. Certainly the citizens would violently object to having their valuable trees destroyed by strangers!

BRISK WALKING: 1 Nephi 2:4-9 etc., tells of a trip of 3 days (2:6) that Lehi and a few relatives made from Jerusalem to the river [sic] Laman in Arabia. Normally, **healthy** people cannot walk over 25-30 miles a day. But this party included at least two older people (2:9) were loaded down with tents, tools, and provisions needed to take them to the Americas (2:4), without help of horses or other animals, and no miracles.

1. If they went in a **straight** line to the **closest** part of the Red Sea (Gulf of Aqaba), they would have walked 255 miles, averaging 85 miles daily, walking nearly 11 MPH without stopping while loaded down! Impossible!
2. If they had ridden camels, they could have made it to the **closest** point of the Red Sea as Arabian camels can pace at 8-10 mph for 18 hours. However, while Arabs so commonly traveled by camel that they often did not specify camels, the Bible commonly states whether one traveled by horse, donkey, camel, ship, chariot, or walking. These were Jews, not Arabs. The Hebrew implication is that the people walked. Surely they would have established such valuable animals as camels in the Americas. But they did not!
3. Arabia has some intermittent seasonal wadis, but has had no “continually running” abundant river (1 Nephi 2:9) in well over 4,000 years. Not one. This has caused Mormon scholars to look elsewhere in the Arabian peninsula besides this closest point of the Red Sea for this location. However, any other locations would be more distant, making the travel time and drinking water problems even more insurmountable.

(If my church is false, that does not mean that Biblical Churches are false.)

“For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Romans 10:10



SPEEDY OCEAN TRIP: Ether 6:4-11 says that the Jaredites traveled across the ocean to the New World in barges. V. 5 says that they were blown “by a furious wind...towards the promised land.” V. 6 refers to this wind driving them speedily to the Americas as “terrible tempests which were caused by the fierceness of the wind.” V. 8 says “that the wind did never cease to blow towards the promised land...”

1. It does not say how fast these “furious winds” were blowing the barges to the Americas, but if they blew them at only a mere 10 mph for the 5,000 miles from the middle of the Mediterranean Sea to the North American east coast, it would take only 21 days, not the 344 days that v. 11 says! Amazing!
2. In 344 days they could have made the trip 10 times!
3. If it were possible to go around the Earth’s equator of 24,902 miles at a casual 10 mph, it would only require slightly less than 104 days, not 344 days!
4. And, traveling 5,000 miles in 344 days is 14.5 miles per day, hardly a furious speed. **They could have paddled faster than that!**



WRONG WAY OCEAN TRIP: 1 Nephi 1-18 records the lengthy trip Lehi and 20-50 relatives took from “the land of Jerusalem” [sic] to the Promised Land of what Mormon prophets all recognized as northeastern North America. (Cf. also confirmation by 1 Nephi 13). They wandered in the Arabian desert for 8 years (1 Nephi 17, etc.) guided by the divine compass (1 Nephi 16, etc.), and traveled by sea to North America, and settled in what is now northeastern United States.

1. A middle school student of normal intelligence might well wonder “why not travel across the Mediterranean and the Atlantic (about 6,000 statute miles) instead of crossing Arabia, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and North America would be over 18,500 statute miles at the very shortest?! That is over 3 times longer! And this is inspired Scripture?!”
2. The Book of Mormon has them travel 1,500 of those 18,500 miles for 8 years in the devastating Arabian Desert, and build a sturdy ocean sailing ship to cross the longest ocean possible route! When reaching the west coast of North America, they abandon the ship. They then must endure the Rocky Mountains, hazards of the western deserts, wide rivers to cross, the then dense and barely penetrable forests of eastern North America, and the Appalachian Mountains.

A trip across the Atlantic would be less than a third as long and not nearly as dangerous or exhausting. Survival by both people and animals would be greater. Food and water supply would be much less of a problem. Gross error in B.O.M.

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES: Amazingly, the numerous and detailed descriptions of the Americas in the Book of Mormon cannot be correlated with certainty with any distinct geographic features such as the Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, Rockies, Niagara Falls, Grand Canyon, Appalachians, waterfalls, any rivers, bays, prairies, geysers, deserts, plains, swamps, the Great Salt Lake, Andes, peninsulas, etc. Does the reader have any helpful solutions here? Various attempts have been made, of course, but none is satisfactory or conclusive. Many attempts have contradicted Mormon prophets!

SHIPPING OF TIMBER: Helaman 3:10-14 reports much transportation of timber and cement by ships so that temples, synagogues, and other buildings could be built (85-43 B.C.). **However:**

1. If Native Americans built ocean going sailing ships (Alma 63:5-8), why did Europeans not encounter them upon their arrival? Error in B.O.M.!
2. Why did they never travel to Europe?
3. Both North and South America had vast forests at the time so that shipping timber by sea between them would have been ridiculous.



4. Native Americans were limited to crude tools (e.g., no saws, no steel axes, no planes, no screws, no screwdrivers, no nails, etc.), so that construction of **numerous large** cities with timber was **absolutely impossible**.
 5. In desperation some defenders of the Book of Mormon have suggested that these ships were actually rafts with sails that transported those logs. Then why does “the most correct book of any on earth” not say rafts instead of ships? And, how is a raft loaded down with logs supposed to move in the sea or up a river?
 6. Just where are the remains of these many cities of cement? (Helaman 3:7-11). LAND OF JERUSALEM: 1 Nephi 3:10 and 18:24 speak of the “land of Jerusalem”.
1. The Bible never ever uses that expression even though these people were described as Biblically faithful Jews.
 2. Jerusalem is a city in the land of Judea (or Judah).
 3. It is evading the issue to mention that other Gentile cultures might have used this inappropriate term, but these were Jews.

GEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

I would very much appreciate my respected Mormon friends to help me understand the following:

MINERAL ABUNDANCE: 2 Nephi 5:15 claims that the Nephites had iron, copper, brass, steel, gold, silver, and precious ores “in **great abundance**”. While a great abundance of certain metals is concentrated in various local areas, books on mineralogy indicate that there is absolutely **no place on Earth** where an abundance of all these is found in proximity to each other. Thus, in North America:

1. Copper: About 90% of U.S.A. copper deposits are in New Mexico and scattered in other areas of the Rocky Mountains and Great Basin area in western U.S.A. In Canada copper ores may be associated with nickel or with lead and zinc. The latter three metals are never ever “in great abundance” but certainly not in Northeastern USA, which is traditional Mormon land!
2. Silver: The world’s largest silver mine is in Mexico. In the U.S.A. Nevada is best with significant amounts scattered in Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, etc. Silver is never in “great abundance” anywhere. Almost none in Northeastern USA!
3. Gold: It is found only in tiny amounts associated with copper and lead deposits. The best gold deposits in North America are in California, Alaska, parts of Canada, etc., but **nowhere** is gold ever in great abundance. None in Northeastern USA!
4. Iron: The best deposits in North America are in the Great Lakes area with some in Alabama. Tiny amounts of vanadium, tungsten, and certain other metals may be associated with iron. They are never abundant anywhere in the World.
5. Rare in North America: Aluminum, tin, vanadium, tungsten, molybdenum, radium, manganese, etc. None significant in Northeastern USA!
6. Even if true, this supposed abundance of all these metals throughout the Americas could not have been known without modern communication, modern mining, smelting, or transportation. Steel, is not found anywhere. It is produced.

Conclusion: 2 Nephi 2:15 has a huge error because the metals listed are **never** found in abundance all together anywhere on Earth. Not one metal was “in great abundance” in Book of Mormon territory of northeastern United States. Check it out for yourself. Error in B.O.M.

MINERAL ABSENCE: Amazingly, the very next verse, 2 Nephi 5:16 contradicts v. 15 in saying that the temple was “not built of so many precious things, **for they were not to be found upon the land...**”! **Most amazing contradiction!**

1. One cannot have it both ways.

2. And, geologically, v. 16 is erroneous also because different parts of the Americas do indeed have an abundance of a very few ores. They are just not found all together throughout the Americas nor anywhere else on Earth as claimed in 2 Nephi 5:16. Error in B.O.M.!

IRON: Iron could not be used in the Americas before colonial times as claimed in 2 Nephi 5:16, etc. The Native Americans were incapable of producing temperatures high enough to melt limonite, hematite, and other iron ores. The only exception for its use was a limited use of meteoric iron by Aztecs. etc. They treasured it even more than gold.

PRECIOUS ORES: What could “precious ores” (2 Nephi 2:16) possibly be in pre-colonial times? This sounds like an unrealistic addition to the list in v. 15.

DEEP EARTHQUAKES: In reference to earthquakes Helaman 12:11-12 says that God’s Voice causes the whole Earth to shake, “and makes the foundations rock, even to the very center.” This never is recored.

1. Seismological research indicates that the center of the Earth is a very dense liquid while **earthquakes are limited** to the Earth’s crust, the upper 25 miles. While seismic waves can penetrate Earth’s core, there is **never** violent shaking or rocking there whatsoever. NEVER.
2. The ancients did not speak of the “center” of the Earth as it was not generally known to be a ball. Error in B.O.M.

WHITE BUT CLEAR: Ether 3:1 and 6 make an assertion for a nonexistent mineral, one that could be melted easily by primitive means (i.e., by burning wood), and that was simultaneously “white **and** clear, even transparent as glass.” White is milk colored, which contradicts its being clear and transparent as glass. Frankly, **no mineral** has those three simultaneous traits. Check for yourself in mineralogy texts.



WORLDWIDE STORM: 3 Nephi 8:6-18 tells that associated with Jesus’ crucifixion was a devastating storm that affected “**the whole earth**” (v. 12). Then v. 17 reports: “And thus the face of **the whole earth** became deformed, because of the tempests and thunderings, and the lightnings, and quaking of **the earth.**”

1. If such worldwide storms really did occur that destroyed cities, rocks, highways, etc., as reported in verses 6-18ff, then why do geological and archaeological effects not remain at all? They certainly should.
2. You can be very sure that if they had happened, the scientists and historians of that time would have reported them. But, they did not report them. Why not?

TUMBLING MOUNTAINS AND BROKEN UP PLAINS: 1 Nephi 12:4 reports Nephi’s vision of unspeakably frightening widespread devastation... “I saw lightnings, and I heard thunderings, and earthquakes... and I saw the earth and the rocks, that they

rent; and I saw mountains tumbling into pieces; and I saw the plains of the earth, that they were broken up; and many cities...were sunk...and burned with fire...and many did tumble to the earth, because of the quaking thereof.” A review of the many Geology books and periodicals in any university library will reveal fatal problems with 1 Nephi 12:4.

1. 1 Nephi 11 (especially vv. 33-36) and all of 1 Nephi 12 indicate that this worldwide devastation supposedly occurred at the time of Jesus’ crucifixion with other problems up to 421 A.D. Then why are there zero evidences of such vast geological disturbances at that time -- worldwide or even only in the Americas? Error in B.O.M.
2. While plains can be disrupted by faults (cracks), there are no geological sources that indicate such a rapid simultaneous devastating breakup of “the plains of the earth” or even in the Americas.
3. The claim that Nephi saw “mountains tumbling to pieces” is **totally unrealistic!** Mountains can have avalanches or landslides. As impressive as they may be, there is no geological report of “mountains tumbling to pieces” either worldwide or even throughout the Americas. Error in B.O.M.
4. There is a distinct difference between the meanings of avalanche or landslide and “tumbling to pieces”. The first terms refer to slippage of surface rocks and/or snow. “Tumbling to pieces” means that they are totally broken up. In all the 14 courses I had in Earth Sciences through the doctoral level **never once** did any professor or text describe such devastation of **even one mountain** (and certainly not an “epidemic” of many mountains) as “tumbling to pieces”.
5. The claim that “many cities...were sunk...and burned with fire...and many did tumble to the earth, because of the quaking...” as being associated with the vast tumbling apart of many mountains and breakup of the plains of the Earth or even just of the Americas cannot be confirmed by any publications on seismology, archaeology, etc. for 600 B.C. - 421 A.D., or at any time in history. Some cities have sunk, of course, but they certainly are **not** numerous.
6. It is strange that Jesus was crucified in Judea but all this geological devastation was reputed to be primarily in the New World! Weird.

Mormon Response: Some of my Mormon friends commendably attempt to find an example of such devastation in the well known earthquake of August 17, 1957, that struck the Madison River Canyon altering Hebgen Lake (Quake Lake) near West Yellowstone, Montana. I have personally observed that area on two occasions, and have been fascinated with studying geological events since my teens. In consulting with the geologists stationed there, and reading their U.S. Forest Service Publication no. 907, “The Night the Earth Shook”, as well as other materials, I learned:

1. Contrary to the claim that many cities were destroyed only 28 people were killed.
2. The damage is always described by the geologists as a landslide or avalanche, and I never once heard or read it described as “mountains tumbling into pieces”! When I used that expression, I either got looked at strangely, or I heard chuckles. “The most correct book of any on Earth” should have been translated correctly by Joseph Smith.
3. The slide material consisted of prominent boulders (which failed to “tumble into pieces”) as well as many smaller rocks.
4. The most devastated area of the affected range was 3/4 of a mile across and 1 mile wide, and involved a 30-40% slide of rock from that area. The rest of that range tapered on down to below 1-3% less and less for several miles.
5. While this local landslide was certainly impressive, it is infinitesimal in contrast to the grossly exaggerated claim of 1 Nephi 12:4. 60-70% of the worst affected mountain area remained intact!

ABUNDANT RIVER OR INTERMITTENT CREEK: 1 Nephi 2:6-9 speaks of an abundant **Arabian river named Laman** that flows continually into the Red Sea! There has been **no continually flowing** abundant prominent river whatever in Arabia in recorded history. It is merely an intermittent creek (wadi). **That is all.** Error in B.O.M.

HALITE: 3 Nephi 16:15 quotes Matthew 5:13 (**written several years later**) in

referring to salt. Salt as a mineral is called halite. (See Chemical Problems)

1. While it is found in various places in the Americas, Native Americans with few exceptions did not generally use it as a common seasoning before colonial times. Their foods are typically bland.
2. It is not appropriate to use Old World illustrations in the New World.

RAINLESS EARTH: Ether 9:30 speaks of an event when "...there was **no rain upon the face of the earth.**" This is geologically impossible. There is always rain in several places on the earth at all times. Never does an hour go by that there is no precipitation in various places simultaneously on Earth.

Mormons sometimes point out that ERETZ in Hebrew means land rather than the planet Earth.

1. This is often true, but Genesis 1 and 2, Job 26:7, Isaiah 40:22, etc. use ERETZ to mean the entire planet. Check this out.
2. The natural interpretation of Ether 9:30 shows that it refers to the **whole planet.**

NUMEROUS VOLCANOES: See Physics Problems (3 Nephi 8:20-23) for the effects of supposedly huge "epidemic" volcanic eruptions that never occurred.

ZIFF: Mosiah 11:3 lists 'ziff' as one of the metals being taxed. There is no such metal, element, or alloy named ziff. Either "the most correct book of any on earth" is in error or this is a mistranslation. Which is it? What other choice can there be?

BRASS: Mosiah 11:3; 2 Nephi 5:15; Omni 14; Ether 10:23; etc. make claims for widespread occurrence of brass (an alloy of copper and zinc). According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, brass was unknown before Christ with very rare exceptions. The Romans were among the first to use it, and used it in coins in 20 B.C. It was several centuries before brass came into common use. Funk and Wagnalls New Encyclopedia agrees, and says that brass came into common use only about the 16th century AD. Older translations of the Bible using the term "brass" (alloy of copper and zinc) should be corrected to "bronze" (alloy of copper and tin). Either the Book of Mormon is in error or else it is translated incorrectly. What other alternative can there be?

WORLDWIDE DESTRUCTION BY ATMOSPHERIC DISTURBANCE: 3 Nephi 8:6-19 asserts that in a 3 hour period after Jesus' death that: "the face of the **whole earth became deformed, because of the tempests, and the thunderings [sic], and the lightnings [sic], and the quaking of the earth.**" V. 18 claims that these 4 forces "rent in twain" the rocks "upon the face of the **whole earth.**" Problems with this account include:

1. The Gospels make **no claim for worldwide destruction** following the Crucifixion.
2. No scientists or historians (e.g., Josephus) or others at the time reported such universal catastrophe.
3. There is zero evidence of radical geomorphological or physiographic changes in 34 A.D.
4. While tempests and earthquakes do not ever split rocks to this extent or cause such radical surface changes, mere thunderings and lightnings are even much less capable. They are impressive, but never significant in **changing rocks** or rock formations.
5. Lightning causes thundering and **should be listed first.** Error in B.O.M.

IRRESISTIBLE FORCES VERSUS IMMOVEABLE OBJECTS: See Physics Problems. **"Thou shalt not steal." Exodus 20:15**

HISTORICAL AND PROPHECY PROBLEMS

These are commonly found throughout the other topics and are not included here because they would be duplicated. **"Thou shalt not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14**

LINGUISTICS PROBLEMS

I sincerely appreciate the Mormon people and have studied all three of their unique Scriptures in depth many times. However, I am troubled by much of the content, and yearn for some of my readers to help me solve some of the following points:

ARAMAIC LANGUAGE: Anyone familiar with the Jewish religion is very much aware of the fact that devout Jews insist on Hebrew, not any Gentile language, as the proper highest language for their Scriptures. The small portions in Aramaic, in the Minor Prophets, are not regarded as highly. These were put into Aramaic because in the Babylonian captivity Aramaic replaced Hebrew as the common language **of the Jews. This simply was never true of Egyptian in 600 B.C. to 421 A.D.**

EGYPTIAN LANGUAGE: 1 Nephi 1:2 quotes Lehi as asserting that Egyptian was **“the language of my people”** (600 B.C.). Mosiah 1:4ff (130 B.C.) says that Lehi had **“been taught in the language of the Egyptians”**, and that he taught his children and grandchildren **to read God’s Word in Egyptian**. Mormon 9:32 says that the language used in the **sacred writings was Reformed Egyptian** between 600 B.C. and 421 A.D. However, it is well established that in 600 B.C. the Hebrews spoke Hebrew in Judea as their native language. Serious error in B.O.M.!

In consulting with professors of Semitic Languages at the University of California at Berkeley and elsewhere I could find no evidence of **“Reformed Egyptian”** (Mormon 9:32) nor for the claim that the following words are Egyptian or Hebrew: Irreantum (1 Nephi 17:5), Liahona (Alma 37:38), or numerous names unique to the Book of Mormon. Amazingly, in desperation some Mormon scholars have even searched other Near Eastern Gentile languages for some similar words! That is totally irrelevant!

NO HEBREW ORIGINS: John McLaughlin, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics at University of Utah, declares along with numerous other language experts that there is absolutely **no evidence** that any American Indian language has Hebrew roots at all. He reports that of the 800 to 900 languages spoken in North America in the last 300 years there is **not any evidence whatsoever of Hebrew origin!**

John L. Sorenson, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology at B.Y.U., at various times at least in the 1970’s and 1980’s declared that **“the American Indians are obviously not descended from the Hebrews**. Their languages are **not at all related** to Hebrew, and their physical and biological traits are certainly **not Jewish!**” (So, B.O.M. is obviously false!)

STYLE: The literary style of all the books in the Book of Mormon is nearly uniform except for those portions which dishonestly **plagiarize** the KJV of the Bible which was not even translated until 1611 A.D.! This is obviously contrary to what would be expected if they really were written by various authors.

INAPPROPRIATE FOREIGN WORDS: Literary experts have noted the use of words of Greek origin even though there had been no contact with Greek culture. Such Greek words include **“Bible”** (2 Nephi 29:3-10); **“Christ”** (Enos 1:8); **“Epistle”** (Alma 54:4); **“Ezias”** the Greek form of **“Isaiah” found in the very same verse!** (Helaman 8:20); **“Christians”** (Alma 46:16 in 73 B.C.!). The French **“adieu”** is found in Jacob 7:27! The list could go on and on. Errors in B.O.M.!

GRAMMAR/SPELLING: The original 1830 edition had numerous grammatical and spelling errors, necessitating over four thousand corrections, even though Joseph Smith called the 1830 edition **“the most correct book of any on earth”** (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 194)! Thousands of errors -- Absolutely amazing.

IT CAME TO PASS: The Book of Mormon is about the size of the New Testament, but it uses the clause. **“it came to pass”** an exhausting and monotonous 1,297 times while the New Testament uses it only 65 times (almost a twentieth as often!). Mormonism’s tiny Scripture, Pearl of Great Price, uses it 54 times. Thus it would seem obvious that the two Mormon Scriptures had the same author while the Bible was inspired by a different Authorship (the Holy Spirit).

JAREDITE LANGUAGE: The introduction to Ether 1 asserts that **“the language of the Jaredites was not confounded at the tower of Babel.”**

1. However. Genesis 11:9 says that **“the LORD did there confound the languages of all the earth.”** Definite error in B.O.M.

- The sentence just below the title in Ether says that it was translated from “the record of the Jaredites, taken from the 24 plates found by the people of Limhi in the days of King Mosiah.” But as it was an entirely different language unknown to the people of Limhi, **how could they possibly translate it?** We are waiting for an explanation!!!

BAD GRAMMAR: Over 4,000 examples of bad grammar, spelling errors, and even theological teachings have been corrected in “the most correct of any book on earth.” In spite of all this, numerous examples persist including this small sample:

- “more wicked part” (4 Nephi 1:40)
- “more part” (Alma 53:2, etc.)
- “more history part” (2 Nephi 4:14)
- “most capital parts” (Helaman 1:27)
- “dearly beloved us” (Alma 26:9)
- “dearly beloved them” (Alma 27:4)

NOTE: Mormons commonly blame the many thousands of grammatical and other errors on printers’ errors. However, the fact that the printer was turned down a number of times by Joseph Smith in his request to correct the errors has been well documented!

WORDINESS: Jacob 4:1 says “...I cannot write but a little of my words, because of the difficulty of engraving our words upon plates...”. But this is in serious conflict with numerous extremely wordy passages such as 4 Nephi 1:6; 1 Nephi 1:1-3, etc.

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.” Psalm 19:14

MATHEMATICAL PROBLEMS

A Math instructor insists on 100% accuracy with numbers, not out of hatred for students, but because of concern that they succeed in Math skills. In the same way Christians yearn for their Mormon loved ones to succeed Biblically in their relationship with Jesus as Savior and Lord. Consider:

COINAGE: The heading of Alma 11 says that the Nephite coinage is being described. Alma 11:1-22 can be summarized thus:

1 senine of gold = 1 senum of silver = 1 day’s wage for a Judge = 1 measure of barley or other grain.

We obviously cannot be sure of what the value of this coinage would be in today’s American economy. But for purposes of consideration, let’s assume that a typical laborer, like many Americans, averages the equivalent of \$100 a day. Then:

- 1 senine of gold = 1 senum of silver = \$ 100.00
- 1 seon of gold = 2 senines of gold = \$ 200.00
- 1 shum of gold = 2 seons of gold = \$ 400.00
- 1 limna of gold = 1 senine of gold +
- 1 seon (\$200) = 1 shum (\$400) = \$ 700.00
- 1 amner of silver = 2 senums of silver = \$ 200.00
- 1 ezron of silver = 4 senums of silver = \$ 400.00

NOTE: v. 13 is confusing when it say’s “an onti was as great as them all.” If it means as all silver coins, then:

- 1 onti = 1 amnor of silver (\$200) +
- 1 ezron of silver (\$400) = \$ 600.00

If it means all gold and silver coins together, then

- 1 onti = 1 limna of gold (\$700) +
- 1 amnor of silver (\$200) +
- 1 ezron of silver (\$400) = \$1,300.00
- 1 shiblon = 1/2 senum = \$ 50.00
- 1 shilbium = 1/2 shiblon = \$ 25.00
- 1 Leah = 1/2 shiblum = \$ 12.50
- 1 antion of gold = 3 shiblons = \$ 150.00

No matter how much you shift the equivalent value of the standard which is given for 1

senine of gold, several serious problems remain. Thus, to shift the value of one senine of gold as the standard day's wage of a Laborer to \$50, simply divide all other values by two. Problems include:

1. Although numerous ancient Greek, Roman, and other Old World coins have been found, **not a single coin from the Americas** from 600 B.C. to 421 A.D. has ever been found! This is in spite of the asserted vast minerals and large population using metal money. Error in B.O.M.!
2. The names of several of the coins are so similar as to be most confusing, and to cause an awful lot of hard feelings and conflicts. Thus, senine, senum, and seon sound alike, Also, shiblon and shiblum are confusing. Frankly, they sound made up!
3. V.7 says that a senum of silver and a senine of gold are equal to a measure of barley and every kind of grain. It would be very strange indeed for a day's wage to be equal to a "measure" of grain would it not? It would certainly be a very heavy "measure" for a laborer, and particularly for a judge!
4. Barley, wheat, rye, rice, etc., were not raised in the Americas at that time!
5. Remarkably, maize (which modern Americans call "corn") was and is raised here, but was not even mentioned! Several other native grains were raised but were not mentioned either. Another error in B.O.M.
6. Traditionally, people have valued gold much higher than silver, but you will notice that Alma 11 considers them almost the same (unless the silver coins were **considerably** larger). Strangely, one of the most valuable coins was the ezron of silver. This greatly inflated value of silver reflects the interest in silver in the early 1800's, thus giving convincing evidence that the Book of Mormon actually originated at that time!
7. You will note that the smallest coin, the Leah, is worth \$12.50 of modern American money by our proposal based on the value of a senine of gold or a senum of silver as equal to the daily wage of a semiskilled laborer at \$100 U.S. This is obviously **most impractical**.



8. If a Leah (the smallest coin) were worth \$1.00 U.S., the senum silver would be reduced from \$100.00 to \$8.00 U.S., considerably less than a laborer's daily wage, and much less than that of a judge.
9. If the Leah were worth \$0.01 U.S., the senum would be worth \$0.75 U.S. for a

- daily wage! How many judges would be contented with that? Error in B.O.M.
10. There is no flexibility to this supposed system. How would you pay a debt of \$98.27? \$54.13? \$19.56? \$1.68? \$0.14? How would you purchase a sack of tomatoes? A half dozen fruits? A pound of meat? A fish? A pot? Medicine? A squash? A needle? Bread?
 11. V.13 is not clear by saying that “an onti was as great as them all”. Does it mean as great as all preceding silver coins only, or as all preceding gold **and** silver coins? V.10 adds to the confusion when it speaks of all the gold coins!
 12. The larger coin denominations would have very little if any usefulness in what we know of the economy of 600 B.C. to 421 AD.
 13. Alma 11 appears to have no bearing whatsoever on anything else in the Book of Mormon. Nothing at all would be lost if Alma 11 were left out. The information is **never ever used!** Why is it here?
 14. There is no provision for inexpensive daily items such as a fruit, toy, tip, etc.
 15. Why would all the various grains possibly have the same value (v.7)? This is never true and would be an obvious error in ANY culture!
 16. Alma 11:3 says that a day’s wage for a judge is a senine of gold or a senum of silver. By our proposal of the value of a senine of gold at \$100 U.S. for a laborer’s wages, this is far too low for a judge in our American culture. However, in many Native American tribes a chieftain or other leader serving as judge receives no real salary for his services at all.
 17. The Nephites and Lamanites are said to be Hebrews. Then why in the world would they radically change the Hebrew names of their coins? Obviously they were **not really Hebrews!**

I welcome anyone to help solve these seventeen problems. Frankly, Alma 11 sounds made up by an amateur. NOTE: For consideration of the objections of some Mormon scholars that the text of Alma 11 says nothing about the money being coins, see Economic Problems. (**Why does the man, Alma, have a woman’s name?**)

OTHER MATH PROBLEMS: Many of the other problems given in this book involve Mathematical Problems as well. To go into detail with these would be to repeat much of this book. They include such things as travel time from Jerusalem to the sea, travel time to the Americas, astronomical reproductive rates, no deaths among 2,060 seriously wounded, no left-handers in an army, length of darkness associated with Jesus’ crucifixion, return of **all** hairs and other body components to the resurrected body, the hundreds of thousands of people at Hill Cumorah, duration of stench after the battle in Alma 16:1, and many, many very serious other errors in B.O.M.

Mormon 6 tells of hundreds of thousands who were slain. Ether 15:2 says: “nearly two millions” of people were killed, but people back then did not comprehend such terms as “thousands” or “millions”!.!

MICROBIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

Having been a Microbiology Professor for years in various universities and colleges, I became nervous in teaching students how to handle chemicals, Bunsen burners, and pathogens. One careless error could be tragic! Because I have a paternal protective appreciation (never hatred) for my students, I must always be intolerant of gross errors and sloppiness in the lab as well as concepts such as these:

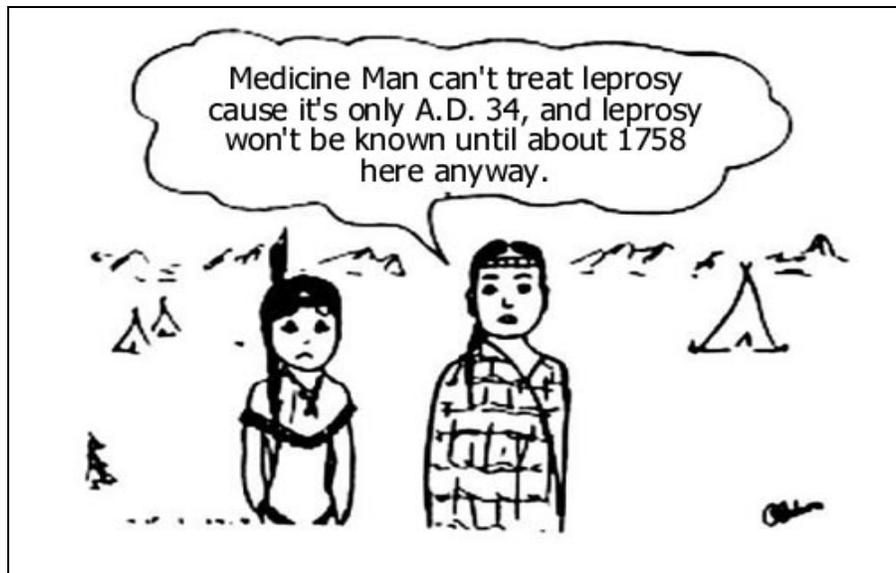
ETIOLOGY (CAUSE OF DISEASE): Alma 46:40 specifically attributes the **cause of disease** to the **nature of the climate,**” instead of to filth, poor diet, heredity, insect vectors, or microorganisms. While climate can **affect the frequency** of certain diseases, e.g., malaria, African sleeping sickness, fungal diseases, parasites, etc., it is certainly erroneous to assert that climate is **the cause** as the Book of Mormon clearly insists.

By stark contrast we note that the Bible fits in amazingly well with the germ concept. Thus Deuteronomy 23:12-14 required that body wastes be buried. Prostitution, adultery, fornication, male and female homosexuality, bestiality, and promiscuity were forbidden (Exodus 20:14; Deut. 23:17, etc.) Monogamy was expected (Genesis 2:24; Deut. 17:17; Ephesians 6; etc).

Animals most likely to spread disease were forbidden as food (Leviticus 11), as were animals found dead (Leviticus 22:8). Raw meat was forbidden (Exodus 12:9). Infectious diseases were to be quarantined (Leviticus 13). Washings were required for cleansing (Leviticus 11, 14, 15, 16, 22, etc). Running water was definitely preferred (Leviticus 14:5-6, 50, 52, etc.).

FOMITES (CONTAMINATED OBJECTS): Ether 6:7 describes the tightly sealed underwater barges the Jaredites traveled in for 344 days to the Americas with numerous animals of many species. With all the wastes, garbage, stale air, lack of sunshine, moisture from breathing, body gases, and inability to wash properly, the probability of serious diseases and death of all during that 344 days is 100%. **Ask any microbiologist.**

LEPROSY: 3 Nephi 17:7 mentions leprosy in 34 A.D., yet the first known case of this Old World disease in the Americas was in 1758. According to *Encyclopedia Britannica*, it may have been introduced as early as one of the trips of Columbus. It is not acceptable to excuse this error by saying that the Biblical use of the term “leprosy” four thousand years earlier includes various fungal diseases. After all, if the Book of Mormon is “the most correct book of any on earth”, as Joseph Smith claimed, it should most certainly use a correct modern term in a correct modern translation, e.g., “infectious diseases.”



CORPSE SPOILAGE: Ether 14:19-23 tells of devastating warfare “throughout all the face of the land” (v. 19). The “**whole face of the land was covered with bodies of the dead**” (v. 21). The bodies of men, women, and children strewn **upon the face of the land** to become a prey to the worms of the flesh (v. 22). V.23 says: “...the scent...went forth upon the face of the land...; wherefore the people became troubled by day and by night, because of the scent thereof.”

1. Honestly, now! With all that bacterial decomposition of millions of bodies “upon the **whole face of the land,**” and all the countless fly maggots (“worms of the flesh”), surely an infinitely greater problem than the mere scent would be certain devastating disease epidemics and constant harassment by flies. **But, interestingly no epidemics or flies were mentioned!**
2. But fly maggots would be joined rapidly by much more obvious animals such as bears, coyotes, wolves, opossums, vultures, crows, etc. They were not even mentioned! Gross error in B.O.M.

MEAT SPOILAGE: Ether 9:30-34 describes a devastating drought and numerous poisonous snakes “**on the face of the earth**” that drove the animals to the south. The people followed the flocks and beasts, “and did devour the carcasses of them which fell by the way, **until they had devoured them all.**”

1. Does something strike you as strange here? With no refrigeration in that warm climate, rapid bacterial decomposition would have rendered all this overwhelming amount of warm meat extremely sickening if not fatal to all who “devoured them all!”
2. If the traditional Mormon prophets, etc., are wrong while certain modern Mormon scholars are correct in suggesting that Mormon lands are primarily in Mesoamerica, the problem of heat spoilage is a more devastating problem for the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon.
3. While the Jaredites were not Hebrews, yet many Bible scholars would still consider it to be a serious problem for the Jaredites to eat animals that had died (read Leviticus 7:24).

COPIOUS GRAPE WINES: Mosiah 11:15 indicates that King Noah “...planted vineyards round about the land; and he built winepresses, and therefore he became a winebibber, and also his people.” While Native Americans sought New World varieties of wild grapes, and while they knew how to make fermented beverages from various fruits (e.g., pulque from the agave plant of the amaryllis family), they were never noted for manufacturing such large amounts of wine as indicated by the prominent grape vineyards claimed in Mosiah 11:15. All Native American Indian tribes had some gardens, but there is no evidence at all of their ever having such numerous and huge vineyards (implying grape vineyards) as depicted here.



INFECTION-FREE WOUNDS: Before the importance of sanitation was discovered by Ignaz Semmelweis, Joseph Lister, and other scientists and physicians in the 1800s and before the discovery of antibiotics in the 1900s, many people lived in dread fear of a scratch, cut, bite, puncture, or abrasion. They realized that they could commonly get blood poisoning or other infections and die (Black; Microbiology Principles and Applications). Yet, the Book of Mormon is filled with numerous accounts of thousands of people who were wounded and yet who lived! But there is no awareness expressed about the possibility of infections and death following injury. One such example among many is Alma 57:25 that tells of 2,060 badly wounded soldiers who did not die!

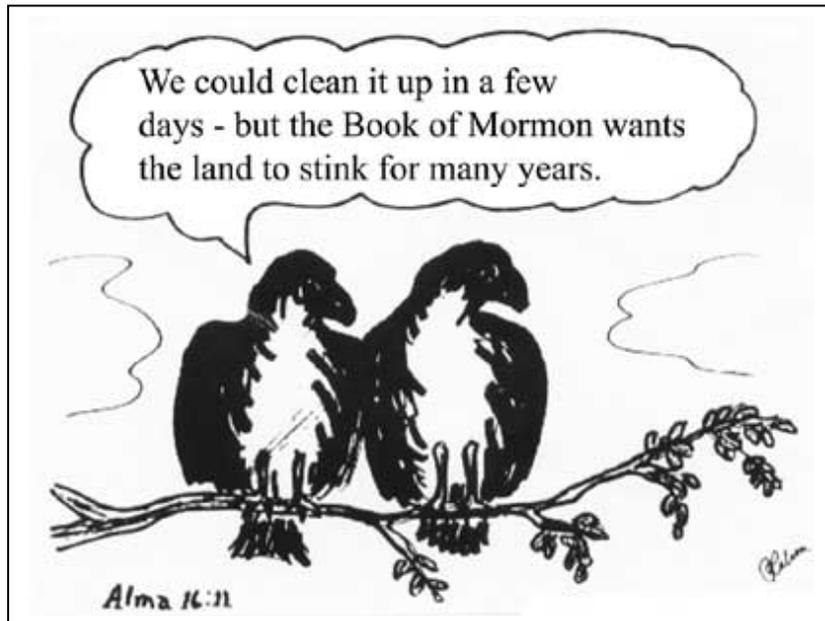
1. No miracle is indicated at all.
2. If God were in control, why did 200 faint, and why was it that “neither was there one soul among them who had not received **many** wounds?” **Gross error.**
3. Countless injuries abound in the Book of Mormon without any reference

whatever to infections or even to the fear of them! This is **totally** unrealistic.

RAW MEAT: 1 Nephi 17:2 claims “and so great were the blessings of the Lord upon us that while we did live upon **raw meat** in the wilderness, our women did give plenty of suck for their children, and were strong, yea, even like unto the men...”. But:

1. Exodus 12:9 **contradicts** this by strictly forbidding eating raw meats.!
2. Rather than promoting good health (even to the point of making women as strong as men!), eating raw meat exposes one to a very real probability of numerous parasites and other diseases!
3. Raw meat is **not** more likely to increase rapidly the milk production than any normal balanced diet, contrary to 1 Nephi 17:2.

YEARS OF STENCH: Alma 16:11 tells us that the stench of those killed in one battle was so strong that “the people did not go in to possess the land of Ammonihah for **many years...**and their lands remained desolate.” Action of lysosomes in the meat, bacteria, fungi, fly maggots, crows, opossums, bears, cougars, coyotes, foxes, wolves, insects, vultures, etc. would require **no more than just a very few weeks at the very most** to dispose of these carcasses and their odors -- certainly **not “many years!”** Meat is devoured and spoiled quickly. Gross error in B.O.M.



(If a Prophet makes even one false prophesy, he is false!)

“Thou shalt not covet.” Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not bear false witness. Exodus 20:16

PHYSICS PROBLEMS

I would really like to hear my fellow scientists who are Mormons explain these concepts:

COMPASS: There are several references in the Book of Mormon, surprisingly, to a **compass** called Liahona. This at once presents us with several problems:

1. Neither history nor science records the existence of true compasses prior to the 13th century A.D., while the report in 1 Nephi 16:10 is dated as 600-592 B.C.!
2. Compass needles are made of **iron**, but 1 Nephi 16:10 says that this one was made of brass! **Brass will not work in a compass as it is not magnetic! PERIOD!**
3. The compass was made of two spindles inside of a ball (1 Nephi 16:10). No explanation is given for how one could see through the metal ball to tell which way the two spindles point!
4. Alma 13:38 says “...our fathers called it Liahona, which is, being interpreted, a compass”. But “compass” is a totally erroneous name for an instrument that does not point to the north pole in the northern hemisphere. This instrument

erroneously called “compass” pointed the way to the more fertile parts of the wilderness (1 Nephi 16:16), could produce written words (1 Nephi 16:26-27, 29), worked according to faith (Alma 37:40), ceased to work when the Lehites were slothful (Alma 37:41-42), etc. This certainly in no way could be considered a **compass**, a device based on the laws of electromagnetism. The correct name should be something like “divine guide” or “director” (as in Mosiah 1:16). But a “compass” it certainly **was not!**

5. Why is this the only time God ever guided anyone with such an unusual mechanical instrument? Why was the use of the “compass” not continued?
6. Why was it necessary to be used in the trip across the ocean (2 Nephi 5:5, etc.) when mariners at the time well understood celestial navigation, as did travelers on land?
7. Although the people were supposedly Hebrews, Liahona is **not Hebrew** (Strong’s Hebrew-Chaldae Lexicon. etc.)

SAIL-LESS BARGES: Ether 6:4-11 speaks of the barges that carried the Jaredites as being blown “toward the Promised Land” of the Americas. But if they were to be pushed by winds, it is only logical that they would use sailing ships instead of mere barges! Sailing ships obviously travel much faster than barges.

SUBMARINE-LIKE BARGES: Ether 6 describes the barges the Jaredites used prior to the Tower of Babel to travel to the Americas with their many flocks, herds, fish, birds, bees, supplies, etc. As the smelting of iron was not possible until many centuries later, these submarine-like barges would have to be made of wood. However, Ether 6:5 describes the furious storms that blasted the wooden barges as well as their being “tossed upon the waves of the sea before the wind.”

6:6 says that “they were many times **buried in the depths of the sea**, because of the mountainous waves which broke upon them, and also the great and terrible tempests which were caused by the fierceness of the wind.” 6:7 speaks of these barges being “buried in the deep.”

It does not require much knowledge of high school physics to realize that no wooden submarine huge enough to carry all those flocks, herds, birds, fish, bees, etc., could withstand even a fraction of all of those forces and pressures against them!

I heard an ex-Navy Lieutenant, Alan Perry, laugh out loud and declared that “this account is the most ridiculous story I have ever heard because wooden barges would be totally crushed by water pressure long before they were buried in the depths of the sea”.

Robert Thomas, a former Navy Seal, said of this story in B.O.M. -- he “had never heard such an erroneous story about wooden barges repeatedly going to the ocean depths even the first time they went under. It is totally made up – an outlandish fable”.

I never met any Navy personnel who respected this erroneous story in the least.

BARGE HOLES: Ether 2:20 says that the Lord instructed Jared to make a hole in the top and **one “in the bottom”** of each barge! Obviously a boat will sink if it has a hole in the bottom (remember the ships torpedoed in World War II?), and even more quickly if it also has a hole in the top. What was the hole “in the **bottom**” for??? Obviously instead of wastes going out, the ocean would rush in and the barge would sink (especially quickly with a hole also in the top). Gross error in B.O.M.!

In desperation for a solution to this physically impossible situation, some have defended Ether 2:20 by saying that “the hole in the bottom may have been used every time the submarine barge was turned upside down in the furious storm. Whichever hole was on top at the time could be opened for fresh air!” This is a lose/lose situation:

1. **Never** once in the history of shipping has there ever been a successful submarine barge with holes on top and bottom for any purposes.
2. Every time this barge full of animals was overturned, fresh water supply

would be lost, wastes would be spread everywhere, human food and animal feed would be messed up and contaminated, the fish on board would be lost, many injuries and deaths would be caused, etc.

3. It is difficult to imagine how holes on wooden barges could be water tight when submerged, but easily opened when emerged. Ether 6:5-7 says that they were submerged “many times” “in the depths of the sea”.
4. Suggestions: Ask any Navy submariner --
 - What would result if his sub were inverted from time to time?
 - How watertight would a wooden sub be if it were submerged even with the two holes battened down?
 - How many flocks, herds, fish, birds, etc. could be put on a submarine? Obvious error in B.O.M.!



TOUGH STEEL: A steel sword cannot remain undamaged if it were to cut another similar steel sword as implied in Alma 44:12. No sword maker will make a sword of defective steel. Besides, steel was **not** made in the Americas in 74 B.C.

DARK OVERCOMES LIGHT: While Luke 23:44 says that there was darkness for three hours at Christ’s crucifixion, 3 Nephi 8:20-23 erroneously exaggerates the Biblical record to three days, and asserts that the darkness was so great that the candles, very dry wood, and torches could not give off light!

1. Why not? Darkness makes light sources appear to be brighter.
2. Some Mormon authorities suggest that volcanic ash may have caused the intense darkness. However, three days of total blackout “upon **all the face of the land**” would have required an **unrealistically enormous number** of devastating volcanic eruptions.
3. The sulfurous stench would have been unbearable as well as **fatal**.
4. Ash would have filled the lungs of people and animals, and suffocated them. Many of them would be buried.
5. Heat of the volcanic ash as well as the sound of the eruption would have been obvious for vast distances.
6. Any “epidemic” of numerous volcanic eruptions this great would obviously have been reported by the ancients, and would have left great geological and archaeological evidences. But no such evidence exists!
7. Besides, 3 Nephi 8:20-23 is very clear in specifically assigning the blocking

of the light to the intensity of the darkness itself, not to volcanic ash, etc.

8. Contrary to 3 Nephi 8:20-23, **darkness cannot quench light as darkness is not matter! Darkness is simply the absence of light.**

DARKNESS AS SUBSTANCE: 1 Nephi 12:4 and 17 refer to “mist(s) of darkness” while 1 Nephi 12:5 and 19:11 speak of “vapor of darkness”. For a book that is thought by many to be inspired, these two terms are strange indeed. Darkness is not a mist or vapor, but **absence of light**. From the context it is obvious that it does not mean merely a fog that happens to come at night. These terms clearly reflect the ancient fallacy that darkness is an entity in itself, rather than absence of light as taught in every physics text dealing with light. Error in B.O.M.

EXTREME WHITE: 1 Nephi 8:11-18 presents an error about light when it describes a supposed fruit as “white to exceed all the whiteness that I had ever seen.” Obviously, snow on a bright day, the sun at noon, the sun’s reflection on the water, white paint, polished white rock, or lightning would be vastly whiter than any plant tissues could ever be. Obvious error.

FUTURE/PAST TIME PROBLEM: Alma 13:1 says “...I would cite [sic] your minds **forward** to the time when the Lord God **gave** these commandments...”.

1. How can you “cite your mind?”
2. How does one go forward into the past? **Most strange.**

STONES MOLTEN FROM ROCK: Ether 3:1 reports that Jared’s brother “did molten out of a rock sixteen small stones”. This is confusing. What actually happened? How does one “molten (melt)” **stones** out of a **rock**? **Weird.**

GARB WEAPON: Helaman 9:6 tells us that the judge was “stabbed...by a garb of secrecy.” Garb is clothing. How can one be stabbed by clothing (secret or otherwise)? How would you stab someone with, say, a shirt? Obvious error in B.O.M.

IRRESISTIBLE FORCES VERSUS IMMOVEABLE OBJECTS: 3 Nephi 8:6-19 claims that following Jesus’ Crucifixion there was terrible destruction for 3 hours. V. 12 asserts: “...the face of the **whole earth became deformed, because of the tempests, and the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the quaking** of the earth.” V. 18 adds that these 4 forces “rent in twain” the rocks “upon the face of the whole earth.”

To a physicist, this story is like the theoretical problem of “what happens if an irresistible force (e.g. thunderings and lightnings) meets an immovable object (e.g. “the face of the **whole earth**” and its rocks). However, the story is flatly contrary to the laws of physics because:

1. Lightning precedes and causes thundering, not the reverse as expressed in this passage! Error in B.O.M.!
2. Lightning is a discharge of atmospheric electricity resulting in a brilliant flash of light. It is generally caused by a discharge of electricity from one cloud to another. But even when it strikes the ground, it **never** causes radical defacing of landforms and general worldwide splitting of rocks! It never devastates even a county-sized area and **rarely, if ever**, splits even a single small rock.
3. Thunder is the loud sound produced when air or clouds are rapidly expanded upon heating by lightning, and then rapidly contracts upon cooling. This atmospheric phenomenon, though loud and impressive, in **no way** is capable of rearranging Earth’s mountains, plains, etc., or causing wholesale splitting of its rocks! No way! Never!

Therefore, it is obvious that the forces of mere thunder and lightning are in no way irresistible to the objects (Earth’s surface and its rocks) that are essentially immovable by them.

REND THE AIR: Ether 15:17 claims that “they did rend the air with their cries, and their howls”. (Air cannot be thus torn.)

See Geological Problems--Worldwide Destruction by Atmospheric Disturbances.

See Chemical Problems--Vapor of Smoke.

(Prophets who misquote Biblical verses are obviously false prophets!)

“Honor thy Father and thy Mother.” Exodus 20:

PHYSIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

Mormonism is primarily dependent upon converting Christian sources for its membership. Rarely does it bother to reach out to Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, etc.

Scientific integrity requires that everyone squarely face these errors:

SHIP CREW: 1 Nephi 18 tells of a ship that Nephi built to travel from an alleged Arabian forest to the Americas. A seaworthy sailing ship must be **at least** 50-80 feet (15.25-24.5 meters) long, an impossibly demanding task for only 6-8 or so men and women plus a few additional relatives in 1 Nephi 16:7-20; 17:1; and 18:6 to build in such a short time.

1. **How could so few move it from dry dock to be launched?**
2. Then while at sea, a sailing ship must have a **bare minimum of a crew** of, at the very least, 12 members, and preferably strong men. Nephi's crew should have been much larger than the one he was reported to have. The crew must include a captain, one at the helm to control the rudder, two or three lookouts (for sail adjusting, danger, checking on alertness of the helmsman, etc.), and at least 3 sail handlers. Other crew must serve as cooks, janitors, repairers, navigator, and replacements (in the event of injury, resignation, sickness, exhaustion, death, etc.). Then, there must be a small number of additional crew for relief at night. The account in 1 Nephi puts a very serious strain on the credibility of the Book of Mormon. (Clipper ships had crews of 24 to 50 men.) Physiologically, Nephi's small crew would necessarily have been muscular wonders of the world!



TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION CREW: 2 Nephi 5:16 says that Nephi built a temple "after the manner of the Temple of Solomon... **the manner of the construction was like unto the temple of Solomon, and the workmanship was exceedingly fine.**" Nephi started planning and building it some time after arriving in the Americas about 589 B.C. (footnote for 1 Nephi 18:23), while the footnote for 2 Nephi 5:16 indicates that the temple was completed before 588 to 570 B.C. That means that this "exceedingly fine" replica of Solomon's Temple was completed in less than 1 year to less than 19 years!

1 Nephi 2 indicates that there were six Jews (male and female) plus a few more in the following passages that made the trip. At the very most there were only 20-50 people.

But 2 Nephi 5 indicates that the party was reduced (by about half) when the Lamanites rebelled. One couple was elderly. A significant number were children. About half were female. Much time had to be spent in obtaining and preparing food, building houses, laundry, sanitation needs, etc.! Essentially impossible!

Steven L. Whittington, Ph.D. is one of the leading experts of the Genetics of people of Central America, the place where many Mormon scholars believe that the Book of Mormon occurred. He states “most of my research has been in the Maya area. I personally have never seen any evidence of Hebrew origin for Native Americans”.

1. 1 Kings 6:2 says that Solomon’s Temple was 60 cubits (90 feet or 27.45 meters) long, 20 cubits (30 feet or 9.15 meters) wide, and 30 cubits (45 feet or 13.725 meters) tall. 1 Kings 6:3 says that the front porch was 20 cubits (30 feet or 9.15 meters) long and 10 cubits (15 feet or 4.58 meters) deep.
2. 1 Kings 6:38 in the Bible reports that it took seven years to build Solomon’s Temple. 1 Kings 5:13-18 tells of 70,000 men who carried stones and logs, 80,000 stone cutters, and 3,300 foremen. The numerous farmers and shepherds who provided food, weavers and seamstresses for the tapestries, cooks, financial supporters, those who cleared and leveled the ground, those who built the stone walls, and other many thousands of helpers are not listed. This is flatly contrary to the description in 1 Nephi.
3. John 2:20 says that it required 46 years to rebuild the less exquisite Jerusalem Temple during Herod’s renovation of it.
4. The problem with 2 Nephi 5:16 summarizes thus:
 - Number of Hebrews arriving with Lehi in America: 20 - 50.
 - Number reduced due to Lamanite rebellion: 10 - 25.
 - Number reduced due to elderly: 8 - 23.
 - Number reduced due to children and babies: 6 - 12.
 - Number reduced due to women: 3 - 6.

The number of available laborers should be reduced further for land clearing, hunting, fishing, farming, house construction, sickness, injury, and other activities!

Then, 2 Nephi 5:16 would have us believe that Lehi’s 3-6 men plus assistance by women built a temple “after the manner of the temple of Solomon, and the workmanship was exceedingly fine!” This crew finished in 1-19 years what required Solomon’s crew of 153,300 laborers plus many thousands of farmers, shepherds, cooks, stone cutters, seamstresses, etc. to build in 7 years, and which took Herod’s thousands of laborers 42 years to renovate! Will wonders never cease?!

5. For Nephi’s tiny crew that split to build such a vast temple would require that **each** of his 3-12 or so laborers be muscular supermen equal to the strength of literally several thousands of Solomon’s skilled laborers! No miracle is appealed to, and the **clear indication** is that Nephi’s tiny crew built it without help from Jaredites (extinct many years earlier, cf. Ether 2:5), Lamanites, or anyone else. Error in B.O.M.!

AMAZING AMAZONS: 1 Nephi 17:2 says that the Nephite “women...were strong, yea, even like unto the men. Ether 15:15 describes a battle involving millions of “... men, women and children being armed with weapons of war..”. Some have suggested that Nephi’s tiny sailing ship crew (1 Nephi 18), the tiny crew that duplicated Solomon’s Temple (2 Nephi 5:16), etc. would have required the assistance of extremely muscular women to assist the unrealistically powerful men.

1 Nephi 17 asserts that because they ate raw meat “our women were strong, yea, even like unto men”. Frankly, all of this necessitates a most vivid imagination. While the muscles of the abdomen and legs of a woman, as well as her endurance, are occasionally comparable with or even superior to that of a man, her upper body musculature and skeleton are almost always distinctly less. The strength of a man’s arms and shoulders are generally about twice that of a woman’s.



WOUNDED SURVIVAL: Alma 57:25 strongly asserts the great **unlikelihood** that all in an army of 2,060 received **many** wounds, yet none died! No miracle is appealed to in spite of such great blood loss, etc.

DARK SKIN: Is dark skin really a curse as the Book of Mormon says (1 Nephi 12:11; 13:15; 2 Nephi 5:21-23; Jacob 3:3-9; Mormon 5:15-17; Alma 3:6-10--especially in 1981 and previously **unaltered** editions)? On the contrary, it is never interpreted by dark skinned peoples as an inferiority or curse unless they have been taught that it is. Physiologically, **dark skin is a blessing** in protecting against sunburn, sunstroke, skin cancer, wrinkling, and loss of youthful elasticity and texture. **In not one physiological way is dark skin a curse!** Not one way! Gross error in B.O.M. Racially hateful!

BEHEADING: Ether 15:30-31 tells that Shiz was beheaded by Coriantumr, and that then “Shiz raised upon his hands and fell, and after that he had struggled for breath, he died.” Obviously, without the brain to control the arms, legs, and breathing, all of this **deliberate purposeful movement** is utterly impossible! In no way does this account resemble the purposeless flopping around that can sometimes occur in decapitation. **Purposeful intelligent movement** like raising up and **deliberately** struggling for breath is determined by the cerebrum which was cut off! However, Mormon scholars sometimes counter such facts with unscientific claims such as:

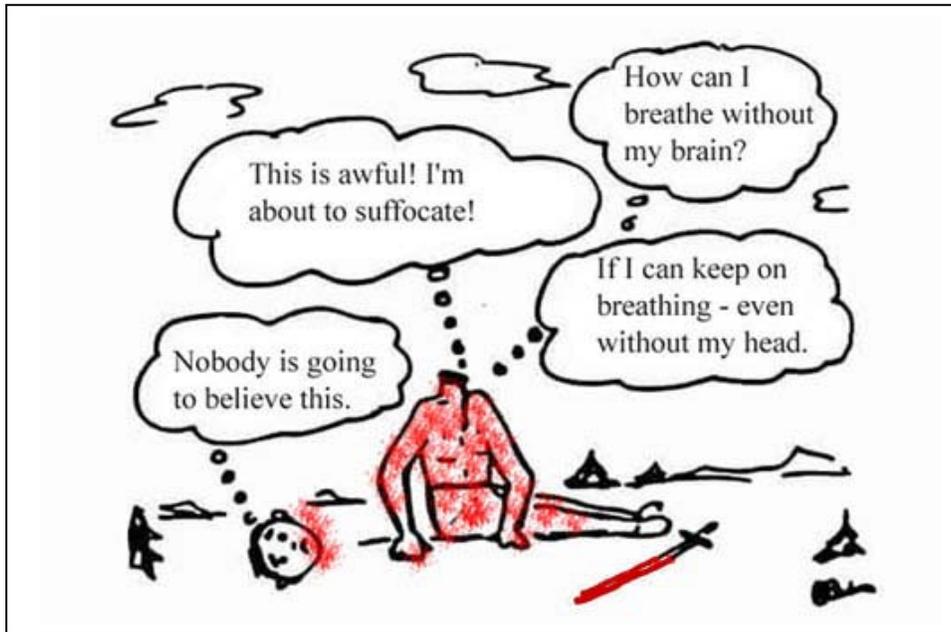
1. Perhaps Coriantumr may have sliced through Shiz’s skull high enough that respiratory and blood pressure centers of the pons and lower brain stem (medulla) might deliberately issue the commands to rise, to struggle to breathe, etc. But this is mere **conjecture**. Coriantumr was seriously exhausted from 3 1/2 days of strenuous battle, and was severely anemic from blood loss. It would be unbelievable enough for him to rise up and slice through the neck of Shiz with a sword heavy enough to lean on, but to **cut through his skull bones** reduces the credibility of this story even more.

In addition, there were no steel swords available in the Americas then, and wooden weapons could not have accomplished this.

2. Mormon scholars occasionally suggest that decapitation of people and animals sometimes does cause the limb muscles to become suddenly rigid. True. However, to suggest that Shiz just happened to have his arms and legs in precisely the right position for him to rise up stretches the imagination to unbelief! Both arms would have to be folded under him while lying on his

stomach. Otherwise, their extending would not make him rise! Think about that honestly. Another error in B.O.M.

3. However, if he had been lying on his folded arms, circulation would have been shut off so that they would not have been able to function. His anemic condition and exhaustion from several days of battle are further barriers to the plausibility of this little story.



4. Mormon scholars sometimes point out that the words, “smote off”, need not mean that Shiz’s head was completely severed by Coriantumr. They draw attention to the Bible in Judges 5:20 in which Jael: “...put her hand to the nail, and her right hand to the workmen’s hammer; and with the hammer she **smote off** his head, when she had pierced and stricken through the temples.”

They suppose that in the King James Version of 1611 A.D. that “smote off” does not necessarily mean that Jael literally severed Sisera’s head. She may have merely pierced and crushed it. They speculate that the Book of Mormon could possibly have the same meaning so that Shiz’s head may not have been literally severed off. But serious problems remain with the Mormon scholars’ attempt at explanation.

A careful examination of Judges 5:20 shows that Jael’s smiting off of Sisera’s head is a **separate event** from piercing his temples. But this is not true of Ether 15:30-31. Shiz’s head was severed at one blow. In 1830 A.D., when the Book of Mormon was translated, “smote off” meant exactly what it does today -- “totally severed!” The “most correct book of any on earth” must use the correct translation for its time!

5. Jael did literally smite off Sisera’s head **after** she pierced it. You recall that David cut off Goliath’s head **after** striking his head with the sling shot (1 Samuel 15:51). And the Philistines cut off King Saul’s head **after** he died (1 Samuel 31:9). That custom is reported in other Bible references as well.
6. Shiz was fallen to the ground because of exhaustion and blood loss. If his arms suddenly became rigid due to reflex stimulation, surely they would extend **outward** unless by some oddity they were both folded double under his body in **precisely the right way to resemble push-ups!!** A serious difficulty here
7. “Coriantumr had leaned upon his sword” (v. 30) for a while before decapitating Shiz. Aside from the fact that **there were no steel swords in the Americas** prior to European colonialism, this claimed sword must have been very heavy for Coriantumr to lean on it. Will wonders never cease?!
8. Some Mormon scholars assert that if Shiz’s head were only 50-60% cut off, that would easily have been enough to permit him to raise up in order to

breathe. Not quite. Please examine any anatomy text showing the central nervous system. The force of any sword thrust through 50-60% of the spinal cord will definitely cause even **much deeper damage**.

9. To sever 50-60% of the muscle control area would destroy **at least** that much function of the arms and respiration. Obviously!
10. While beheading has been performed throughout history, deliberate raising of the body **in order to struggle for breath** has never been observed, and such **deliberate conscious, purposeful behavior** could not occur without the brain. Impossible!
11. Mormon scholars sometimes point out that in Mesoamerica there were swordlike weapons made of wood and obsidian or flint, but these crude weapons **would be even less capable of cutting higher in the skull without damaging Shiz' breathing and muscle control centers!**

BLOODLESS BEHEADING: In 1 Nephi 4:19-21 Nephi beheads Laban and puts on his clothes. Apparently no one noticed anything unusual. But surely Laban would have bled profusely on Nephi's clothes! Was everyone blind? When anyone is beheaded, blood shoots out forcefully all over clothing, etc. It is definitely obvious to all.



SLICING STEEL: Alma 44:12 describes an impossible event of physical strength. It describes one of Moroni's heroic soldiers who had so much strength that he actually cut a wicked enemy's sword blade from its hilt! It is hard enough to chop down a small oak tree with a machete, but to cut off the steel blade of a sword at one whack?! In fact, the wicked Lamanite soldier must also have had superhuman strength in order to keep holding onto the hilt of his sword that was struck with such superhuman force. Obviously any weapons maker is going to make a sword out of sturdy, not defective, steel. **NOTE: There were no steel swords in the Americas prior to European colonialism!**

LIVING SPACE: Mormon 6 tells of hundreds of thousands who were slain in the Battle of Cumorah in 385 A.D. This hill is claimed by Mormon tradition to be located at Manchester, N. Y. This hill is entirely too tiny for thousands of thousands of slain plus the numerous surviving Lamanites to move or even to inhale. In fact, only a tiny fraction of that number could have been involved on this hill. What about sewage disposal, water and food supply, etc?

Some Mormons seriously question the official view of Mormon prophets and authorities because of this serious space problem, and propose that the original Hill Cumorah may have been in Central America. Others try to solve this problem by saying

that the battle was in the general area of Hill Cumorah just as we speak of the Battle of Gettysburg. However, Mormon 6:11 specifically says "...the Lamanites had returned from the top of the Hill Cumorah, the ten thousand of my people who were hewn down, being led in front by me." This is definitely too crowded for the top of that hill.

Long before the Nephites arrived in the Americas we read regarding the Jaredites in Ether 15:2 "...here had been slain two millions of mighty men, and also their wives and their children." That huge battle was also on that hill previously, and is highly unlikely as well. Impossible to have millions in that small of an area.

1. No coins, weapons, etc. have ever been found in either location that have been proposed for Hill Cumorah. That should obviously be conclusive.
2. Inadequate living space renders these accounts unacceptable.

BREATHING AND OTHER PROBLEMS: Ether 6:7 describes the barges that the Jaredites rode in for 344 days from the Old World to the Americas as being sealed so tight that no water could seep in even when they were completely submerged. This raises a very real question of how this many people and animals breathed, survived infection, got rid of body wastes, stored sufficient food and water, and tolerated the stench for these 344 days. **It is totally impossible.**

SLEEPLESS MONTHS: Ether 6:9 actually appears to say that the Jaredites did not sleep for the 344 days in their submarine barges full of herds, flocks, etc.! But, then, how could they sleep with all that stench?! Error in B.O.M.

ANEMIA RECOVERY: Ether 15 tells of a strenuous battle involving millions of men, women, and children soldiers on Hill Cumorah. Verses 17-26 tell of six days of ferocious warfare. V. 27 reports 3 hours of battle, and says that "they fainted with the loss of blood." V. 28 says of those who were weakened from blood loss that shortly "when the men of Coriantumr had received sufficient strength that they could walk, that they were about to flee for their lives...". But without a blood transfusion, how could people who had such a great blood loss possibly receive "sufficient strength that they could walk" and even to flee? Error in B.O.M. Absolutely impossible!

DELAYED AGING: Enos 1:25 reports "that I began to be old, and an hundred and seventy nine years had passed away from the time that our father had left Jerusalem." Please run that one by again! He **began to be old** 179 years after his father left Jerusalem! What kind of vitamins was he taking that delayed his aging?! We would all like to know that! Error in B.O.M.

RESURRECTION OF BENJAMIN: Mosiah 21:28 in the 1830 edition spoke of Benjamin. But back in 6:5 we are told that Benjamin had died. Then in the next edition of "the most correct book ever written" Benjamin was conveniently changed (reincarnated?) to Mosiah! A correction was made of this gross error in "the most correct book"!

PERPETUATION VERSUS DESTRUCTION: 2 Nephi 3:3 says "thy seed shall not utterly be destroyed." This is one of numerous false prophecies because the Nephites were annihilated at Hill Cumorah in 421 A.D. (Mormon 8:2). God changed His mind.

NON-CASUALTY WAR: Alma 56:56 describes a really vicious war in which none was killed! We need that kind! Amazing.

MULTITUDE FEELS JESUS' SCARS: In 3 Nephi 11:14-15 Jesus instructs the multitude to thrust their hands in His side to feel the prints in His hands and feet, and to examine Him with their eyes. Assuming that the multitude consisted of 1,000 people and that each person took only a brief minute to examine His scars visually, and then to touch His side, hands, & feet, they would examine Him at the rate of 60 per hour. If they did so for 8 hours per day with no breaks for water, food, rest, and sanitary purposes, only 480 (hardly a multitude) would examine Him per day. This story sounds made up. Besides, just why would everyone **want** to feel His scars? One minute is a very brief exam!

INFINITE THOUGHTS IN FINITE BRAIN: See Anatomical Problems (Alma 26:35) for a Physiological Problem related to infinite brain functions of a finite sized brain of God.

SCALP REMOVAL: See Anatomical Problems.

HANDEDNESS: See Genetics Problems.

SHOCK: See Psychological Problems under 3 Nephi 1:13-19 for a strange description of a physiological response to emotional shock.

HEART/MIND”: See Anthropological Problems for the use of “heart” and “bowels” for the center of the mind, understanding, or soul.

BRISK WALKING: See Geographical Problems under 1 Nephi 2:4-9 for a Physiological Problem involving extremely fast distance walking.

OTHER PROBLEMS: See also Botanical Problems, Embryological Problems, and Genetics Problems.

NOTE TO CHRISTIANS: Mormons are good at evading the numerous problems they cannot answer. Kindly continue pressing for them to answer those same difficult problems. They are precious souls that need to be rescued from eternal regret! Let’s rescue the perishing! “**Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.**” Exodus 20:3 “**Thou shalt not make any graven image.**” Exodus 20:4 “**Thy shalt not covet.**” Exodus 20:17

PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

My heart weeps for my numerous Mormon friends. How deeply I long for them to turn to Biblical truth from such errors as:

SHOCK: 3 Nephi 1:13-19 reports that there were three days of darkness associated with Jesus’ Crucifixion. V. 17 claims that “**all** the people upon the face of the **whole earth...** were so exceedingly astonished that they fell to the earth.” Now please pause a minute! Would **you** be so utterly shocked if we had three days of darkness that you would fall to the Earth? Hardly. Do you think that to be at **all** rational for **all** adults, teens, children, and toddlers, on earth to do the same? Hardly! Some would travel to try to find out more about the problem, or remain sedentary, or rest, or pray, or be frustrated, or pace around, or get drunk, etc. But very few indeed would be likely to fall to the Earth.

MEN’S PERSONALITIES: It is most interesting to study the Bible (one Book at a time) and to notice the many unique personalities, interests, problems, and accomplishments of its many characters. Thus, Matthew emphasizes forgiveness; Mark emphasizes enthusiasm for Jesus; Luke reveals compassion; John stresses love. Paul is intellectual and concerned. David is deeply devotional. The list could go on and on.

But by striking contrast, the characters in the Book of Mormon are almost always colorless although some are violent. This gives the impression that the whole of the Book of Mormon (except for the parts actually dishonestly **plagiarizing** the KJV) was written by a single narrow-minded author who had very little contact with or awareness of a rich interesting variety of personality types, intelligence levels, roles, emotional traits, habits, viewpoints, interests, skills, etc. **Inaccurate.**

WOMEN’S PERSONALITIES: The Bible describes fascinating personalities of various women: Deborah, Esther, Mary and Martha, Mary Magdalene, Miriam, Naomi, Ruth, and many others.

But the Book of Mormon’s women **are all** insignificant with very flat affects (emotionality) in personalities. They are barely mentioned. What does all of this consistent downplaying of women (except for polygamy) reveal to you about Joseph Smith’s personality (or whoever actually wrote the Book of Mormon)?

ANGER: Is it realistic for Zarahemnah merely to be angered when his scalp got cut off, and for him to continue in battle for several more hours?! (See Alma 44:12-20.)

MENTAL FACULTIES: Mosiah 29:14 refers to “faculties” in reference to Mosiah’s mental abilities. The date is given as 92 B.C., but the concept of mental faculties was not developed until many centuries later. The term is rarely used in modern psychology, and should be corrected.

FLATTERY-CAUSED WAR: Alma 50:35 reports that flattering words caused a battle! Strange behavior. Weird. Would a group of your friends be so irritated over being flattered that you and they would be inspired to kill the flatterers? Totally illogical.

MOURNING TO JOY: 3 Nephi 10:10 reports that **immediately following the horrible destruction** of people and possessions by the earthquakes that the survivors’ “mourning was turned to joy.” Is this realistic? Whom do you know that would ever react like that?

JOSEPH SMITH’S KILLERS: 2 Nephi 3:14 is said to be a prophecy between 588 and 570 B.C. that any who would “seek to destroy him [Joseph Smith] shall be

confounded...”. Webster says that the primary meaning of confounded is “confused.” Like all of the rest of Joseph Smith’s prophecies, **it never happened**. “And it did **not** come to pass.”

SEVERED BRAIN ACTION: See Physiological Problems (Ether 15:30-3 1) for an impossible behavioral response to removal of the cerebrum and continued purposeful actions.

HEART/MIND: See Anthropological Problems for the use of “heart” and “bowels” for mind, soul, or understanding.

(If our religion is proven wrong, we must convert to a true faith in Christ!)

“Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.” Exodus 20:7

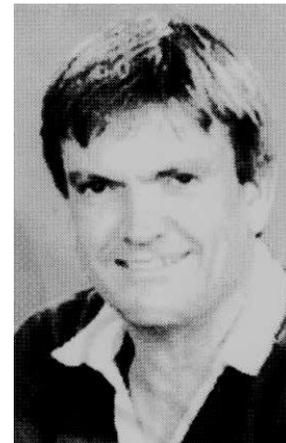
SOCIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS IN GENERAL

Christian friend, how will you respond to Mormons misleading 60 converts from Christian churches for every Mormon who becomes a Christian? Why not kindly point out problems like:

GENERAL INSTITUTIONS: For a book claiming to describe the times between 600 B.C. and 421 A.D., in addition to the Jaredites around 2,247 B.C., the Book of Mormon shows an unrealistic lack of variations in social institutions involving such things as athletics, family, religion, clubs, law enforcement, military, politics, youth, government, charity, occupations, pressure groups, interest groups, etc. Not at all realistic.

JEWISH INSTITUTIONS: On the other hand, even though the first few chapters of the Book of Mormon assert that the people were **devout Jews**, we read nothing about rabbis, Levitical priests, and precious little about vital prominent Jewish institutions such as synagogues or their equivalent, the Tabernacle, the Temple, the Sabbath, Hebrew feasts and fasts, the Passover, etc. There is no Sanhedrin (Jewish Supreme Court) or its equivalent. Almost nothing about the twelve tribes, the Ten Commandments, Hebrew sacrifices, and other concepts reflecting the distinctive sociological characteristics and folkways of Jews is recorded. Thus it is perfectly obvious that the people were **definitely not of Jewish origin!** Definitely an Error in B.O.M.

Simon Southerton, Ph.D. (Mormon) Molecular Biologist, declares “Currently on the available evidence there is nothing to suggest any relationship whatsoever with Israelites” in the Americas prior to Colonial times.



Simon Southerton Ph.D.

SOCIAL CLASSES: Very little is recognized about social classes. In spite of Mormon claims for advanced civilizations in the Americas, educational institutions, physicians, engineers, architects, professors, business men, and many other occupations, etc., are strangely lacking or downplayed. Lawyers and metal workers are emphasized (Alma 10:15, 27. etc.), although Native Americans had neither.

SECRET OATHS AND RITUALS: Mormon Temple rituals are characterized by Masonic secret oaths and covenants in spite of numerous warnings in the Book of Mormon. Thus, Helaman 6:25 forbids “secret oaths and covenants” as they result in destruction of the people. Ether 8:19 declares that “**the Lord worketh not in secret combinations...**”! 1 Nephi 20:16 quotes God as declaring “**I have not spoken in secret; from the beginning...**”. See also 2 Nephi 30:16; Mosiah 8:17; Alma 37:30; 3 Nephi 5:16; Mormon 8:27; Ether 8:24; 10:33; 11:15; 11:22; and others that flatly disapprove of Masonic type anti-Biblical secrecy by believers or others. To top it all off, 3 Nephi 12:34 clearly commands “swear not at all” and vv. 36-37 confirm that, and limit the believer

merely to affirming “yea’ or “nay.” Interestingly, B.O.M. follows the Bible’s forbidding secret oaths and rituals, contrary to anti-Biblical Masonic custom.

PRIESTS: Alma 6:1 reports priests and Alma 5:3 even reports high priests in the church. But the early church had no such Jewish offices! Old Testament priests were always from the tribe of Levi except for Melchizedek, but no Levites came to the Americas in the accounts of the Book of Mormon.

TEMPLES: Alma 16:13 speaks of “temples” (plural) “built after the manner of the Jews.” But orthodox and conservative Jews **never had more than one official temple at a time**, and it always **must** be in Jerusalem! Nowhere else. The Hebrew Temple **never** had baptisms for the dead or eternal marriage ceremonies. It had animal and incense sacrifices! Alma 16:13 is wrong!

Dr. Randall Shortridge, (Mormon) DNA Specialist confirms “The overwhelming evidence **negates...** The Book of Mormon claim that the American Indian represents a genealogical descendant from Israel.” (The Indians knew nothing about Jews!)

TEMPLE FURNITURE: Mosiah 11:11 speaks of seats in the temple for the high priests and others. But the Hebrews had only one official high priest at a time, and the Hebrew Temple had no furniture for sitting down (Exodus 25-40). None.

POLYGAMY: Jacob 2:23-24 condemns the “abominable” sins of David and Solomon of having many wives and concubines. Mosiah 11:1-2 condemns King Noah for such wickedness as having “many wives and concubines”. This agrees with the Bible (Deuteronomy 17:17; 1 Timothy 3:2, 12: etc.) and with D & C 101:4 (1835 ed.) which **prohibit polygamy** as revolting and utterly wicked.

1. Amazingly, D & C 132 **contradicts** the above by **requiring polygamy** as an **everlasting covenant** (v. 19), and as an **absolute requirement** for exaltations to godhood (v. 22).
2. Surprisingly, the LDS church contradicted itself again when LDS President Wilford Woodruff’s Manifesto of 1890 actually **repudiated polygamy!** Contradiction!
3. There are now efforts amongst LDS to legalize same sex marriages in order to make polygamy acceptable again in spite of the 1890 Manifesto.

BLACKS AND THE PRIESTHOOD: The Book of Mormon (but not the Bible) insists that dark skin is a curse (1 Nephi 12:11; 13:15; 2 Nephi 5:21,23; 30:5-7; Jacob 3:3-9; Mormon 5:15-17; Alma 3:6-10; 3 Nephi 2:15; etc., especially in the **older non-altered versions**).

LDS Prophet Brigham Young declared that if the Mormon church were ever to approve intermarriage “with the black race of Cain, that they shall come in with us and be partakers with us of all the blessings God has given to us. On that very day, and from the hour we should do so, the priesthood is taken from this church and kingdom and God leaves us to our fate. The moment we consent to mingle with the seed of Cain, the church must go to destruction, -- we should receive the curse which has been placed upon the seed of Cain, and never more be numbered with the children of Adam who are heirs to the priesthood until that curse be removed.” (Brigham Young Addresses, Feb. 5, 1852, Mad. 1234, Box 48. Folder 3, LDS Archives).

Although 3 Nephi 24:6; Moroni 8:18; and Mormon 9:9-10 insist that **God does not change**, The Official Declaration--2, 1978, contradicted Young’s infallible inspired prediction as well as the Book of Mormon’s declarations that God never changes, and actually opened the priesthood to Blacks! “Oops! There goes the priesthood!” (as one tract says). Mormons cannot account for how Blacks supposedly descended from Cain, but survived the devastating flood in Noah’s time! Wrong again!

“Thy shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.” Exodus 20:7

SOCIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS ABOUT POLYGAMY

Nicholas Claxton Productions, Kelly & Rocky Neyland, etc. donated the following.

Polygamists believe that they need to have at least three wives for each husband. They believe if they do this they will all get to Heaven.

Polygamy is more common in Utah and neighboring states but is found throughout the United States and all other nations. I personally knew of several polygamous families near Mize, Mississippi. In 2004 there were six men with a total of at least eighteen wives (who were well noted for frequently having spats). Although it is illegal in the USA, no one has been prosecuted since about 1960.

The first rule in polygamy is that all wives must totally obey their husbands.

Although the official Mormon church (LDS) theoretically legally banned the practice of polygamy in this world in 1890, many Fundamentalist sects broke off from the LDS church alleging that LDS members left the true teachings of the prophet Joseph Smith. This was reluctantly outlawed so that the state of Utah could be admitted into the USA.

In Utah alone there are 30,000 to 50,000 Fundamentalist split off Mormons who practice polygamy, although there are probably many more. It is kept in secrecy. I know about this from my experience in which a Mormon wife in Nauvoo, IL explained to me that she was looking for several more wives for her husband. She did this so that she and her husband could become gods. She explained that by selecting wives for her husband, they would be more compatible with herself when they go to Heaven. This is in contrast with Fundamentalist Mormons that believe in polygamy here on Earth.

Joseph Smith had 33 wives, while his successor, Brigham Young, had 56 wives. Since there are approximately similar numbers of men and women, this would mean that there could be many men without any wives at all.

In a typical polygamous relationship only one wife will have a legal marriage license while the rest will have only a sealing marriage Church ceremony with no signed papers. This way they feel they avoid legal conflicts.

The polygamist cults claim that they are more true to God's Laws. The husbands totally control their families, money, sex, personal freedom, very vicious prolonged beatings of their children, and often avoid contact with the outside world.

Commonly a man may marry several of his nieces and other closely related women. He may very likely marry girls that are only 8 to 15 years of age or younger.

For more thorough discussion of polygamy see also Sociological Problems about Polygamy in D&C and PGP in the Light of Science.

TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

It is scientifically misleading for a book supposedly written in the Americas between 600 B.C. and 421 A.D. (with Ether and the Jaredites going back to the Tower of Babel around 2247 B.C.) to mention (even if in reference to Judea) the **following unrealistic technologies**:

BOOKS: Scroll (Mormon 5:23; 9:12); many official records (Helaman 3:15); plates for records (Ether 4:4-5; 5:2); etc. **Unrealistic!**

CLOTHING: Silks and fine-twined linen (1 Nephi 13:7-8; Mosiah 10:5; Alma 1:29); sackcloth (Mosiah 11:25); stomacher (2 Nephi 13:24); shoe latchet (2 Nephi 15:27). **Unrealistic!**

CONSTRUCTION: **Numerous** large buildings (Ether 10:5 etc.); **many** highways (Helaman 14:24); forts (Alma 48:8-9; 51:27; etc.); street corners (3 Nephi 13:5); barns (3 Nephi 13:26); cement (Helaman 3:7, 9, 11); synagogues (Alma 26:29); temples (Alma 26:29); prisons (Alma 26:29); cord and ladders (Alma 62:21 and 23); nails (3 Nephi 11:14-15). Some of these did exist in Mesoamerica, but Mormon prophets **all** place Book

of Mormon lands in northeastern North America.

DOMESTIC LABOR: spindles and spinning (Alma 37:40; Helaman 6:13); sackcloth (2 Nephi 13:24); fuller's soap (3 Nephi 24:2); curtains (2 Nephi 22:2); shoe latchet (2 Nephi 15:27); winepresses (Mosiah 11:15); silk (1 Nephi 13:7; Ether 9:17 and 10:24).

FARM TOOLS: plow (Ether 10:29); hoe (Ether 10:25); yoke (1 Nephi 13:5; Alma 5:22); sickles (Alma 26:5); bushel (3 Nephi 12:15); pruning hooks (2 Nephi 12:9); tilling tools (implied in Mosiah 9:9); axe for chopping wood (Alma 5:22); winepress (Mosiah 11:15). There is **not even one** mention of digging sticks or scapula hoes so commonly used by Native Americans! Why Not? Error in B.O.M.

HUNTING: See also "Weapons". In an article, "Rabbit Stick Hunting", published by Choctaw Indians, there is a description of the hunting stick which was used to hunt rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, quails, etc. Amazingly, this very common hunting weapon is unrealistically never mentioned in the Book of Mormon!

ILLUMINATION: 3 Nephi 8:21 mentions candles, torches, and wood fires as the sources of artificial light in Jerusalem. However, their primary source was olive oil lamps. Reference to candles by the American Natives of northeastern North America would be erroneous and out of place and time.

***** VERY IMPORTANT - BE SURE TO READ THIS! *****

INDUSTRY: Ray T. Matheny, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology at Brigham Young University in Utah, referred to iron implement in B.O.M. as "A king-sized problem": "The Book of Mormon talks about ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgical industries. A ferrous industry is a whole system of doing something. It is not just an esoteric process that a few people are involved in, but ferrous industry... means mining iron ores and the processing these ores and casting into iron... This is a process that is very complicated... it also calls for cultural backup to allow such an activity to take place... In my recent reading of the Book of Mormon, I find that iron and steel are mentioned in sufficient context to suggest that there was ferrous industry here..." (Ray T. Matheny, in a speech at Sunstone Symposium 6, "Book of Mormon Archeology, August 25, 1984.)

Dr. Matheny also says in the same source: "You can't refine ore without leaving a bloom of some kind or... impurities that blossom out and float to the top of the ore... and also the flux of limestone or whatever is used to flux the material... [This] blooms off into silicas and indestructible new rock forms. In other words, when you have a ferrous metallurgical industry, you have these evidences of the detritus that is left over. You also have the fuels, you have the furnaces, you have whatever technologies that were there performing these tasks, they leave solid evidence. And they were indestructible things... No evidence has been found in the New World for a ferrous metallurgical industry dating to pre-Columbian times and so this is a king-sized problem it seems to me, for this so-called Book of Mormon archeology. This evidence is absent."

INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY: Jarom 1:8 says that the Nephites "became exceedingly rich in" gold, silver, workmanship of wood, buildings, **machinery**, iron, copper, brass, steel, tools to till the ground, weapons (arrow, quiver, dart, javelin). **Machinery!** The date is assigned as 399 B.C., but the Machine Age and Industrial Revolution did not begin until many centuries later!

1. Mormon scholars attempt to cover this terrible blurb by claiming that "machinery" means "skills". If so, why is it not correctly translated thus?
2. "Workmanship of wood" in the same verse would make "skills" a redundant meaning.
3. The context lists only literal material things, thus proving that the literal interpretation of "machinery" is the intended one (not skills).

4. Javelins are mentioned as weapons, but never existed in the Americas then.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: Harp (2 Nephi 15:12); viol (2 Nephi 15:12); tabret (2 Nephi 15:12); trumpet (3 Nephi 13:2). There is no mention of prominent native American instruments such as tom toms, Indian flutes, conch horns, etc.

TRANSPORTATION: Chariots (Alma 18:12; 20:16; 3 Nephi 21:14); carts and wheels (2 Nephi 15:18,28); compass (Alma 37:38, 44, etc.); “south-southeast direction” (1 Nephi 16:13); large ships of Native Americans (Alma 63:5-8; Helaman 3:10-14); horses (Enos 1:2 1; Alma 18:9-12; 3 Nephi 3:22; Ether 9:19); elephants (Ether 9:19); oxen (Ether 9:18, etc.); donkeys (1 Nephi 18:25). Amazingly, no mention is made of llamas or alpacas which were used in South America. No camels that supposedly were imported survived! Obvious errors in B.O.M.

WEAPONS: Fine steel bow (1 Nephi 16:18); steel swords (Mosiah 8:11; Alma 24:12; Ether 7:9, etc.); scimitars (Alma 2:12); javelin (Alma 51:34); head plate and loin armor (Alma 46:13); breastplates (Mosiah 8:10 and Alma 46:13); strong cords (Alma 26:29); chains (2 Nephi 1:13, 23; 28:19); slings (Alma 2:12); fiery darts (1 Nephi 15:24); battle axe (Enos 1:20; Mormon 6:9). But Native American Indians used non-metal shields, wooden bows, clubs, sticks (including rabbit stick), tomahawks, and traps as weapons. **Why are these never mentioned?**

NOTE: See also most other topics included in this book. For a scientific response to the Mormon scholars who point to few exceptions to the above see Mormon Response at the end of this book.

ZOOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

What would you think of a Zoology professor who did not warn students about how to distinguish between the many helpful snakes and the much less common poisonous snakes? It is eternally more important to help our friends to discern Biblical truth from errors such as:

CLOTHES MOTHS: These are mentioned in 3 Nephi 13:19-20 and 27:32, yet there were no woolen garments for clothes moth larvae to attack as domestic sheep had not yet been introduced!

1. Needless to say, clothes moths had not yet been introduced to the Americas.
2. It would be inappropriate for Native Americans to hear references to such Old World insects as clothes moths.

HONEY BEES: Ether 2:3 explains that Jared and his family captured honey bees which they introduced to the Americas. While various species of Native American honey bees (including stingless honey bees) existed here, none ever produced much honey.

1. The Old World honey bees (with which we in the Americas are familiar today), referred to in Book of Mormon times, were actually **not introduced until European colonialism many centuries later.**
2. How could they keep the bees alive on their ocean trip for nearly 12 months without a supply of fresh air, water, pollen, and nectar? Error in B.O.M.

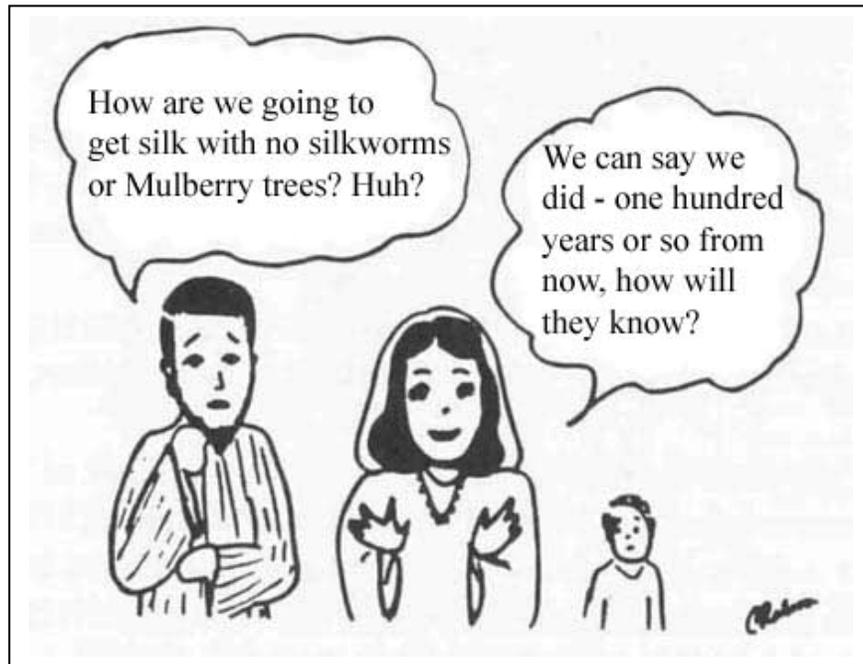
SILKWORM MOTHS: Silk is erroneously mentioned as being produced in the Americas at that time (1 Nephi 13:7; Alma 1:29; Ether 9:17 and 10:24). But silkworm moths had not yet arrived. It was Hernando Cortez who, in 1522, introduced from Spain silkworm moths and the mulberry trees upon which their larvae feed.

Modern Mormon scholars sometimes say that perhaps “silk” referred to certain plant fibers in Mesoamerica. This defense faces several problems:

1. Mormon prophets always placed the lands of the Nephites and Lamanites in northeastern North America, not in Central America.
2. It would be an incorrect translation in “the most correct book of any on Earth” to call plant fibers “silk”. The Bible correctly calls flax fibers “linen”, not silk.
3. It would be more easily understood to use illustrations familiar to the American natives rather than to speak of those from Judea.

(When we find our religion is in error, we must change to a Biblical faith.)

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:9



SMYRNA WASPS: While not mentioned in the Book of Mormon, they are required for pollination of the species of figs mentioned in 3 Nephi 14:16. Yet neither the desirable Mediterranean figs nor their pollinating wasps were introduced to the Americas until the Europeans did so in modern times. The inferior Native American figs did not exist with the Lamanites and Nephites in northeastern North America as declared by all Mormon prophets. See Botanical Problems - Figs.

MOLLUSKS (PEARLS): 3 Nephi 14:16 is **plagiarized** from Matthew 7:6 in the Bible when it says “neither cast ye your pearls before swine. 4 Nephi 1:24 says the Nephites wore fine pearls.

1. For this to be quoted in the Americas is erroneous because no swine existed here before colonial times, and therefore the inhabitants would not know what swine were.
2. Also, it is unrealistic because pearls (although they are sometimes produced by fresh water clams and snails) were not very well known to most people in the New World. In consulting with tribal historians, anthropologists at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan (N.Y.), the Forty Eighth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, the Bulletin of American Ethnology, Hernando de Soto’s Chronicles, and other sources one learns that pearls were definitely **not at all** prominent in the cultures of pre-colonial Native American Indians.
3. Pearl beads and rings could not be made without modern drills or strong glue.
4. To use illustrations from a different continent would not be understood. It would obviously be more appropriate to say “do not cast your shell beads before bears.”
5. Necklaces were commonly made of shells, seeds, etc., but are unrealistically ignored in B.O.M...

FISH: Ether 2:2 indicates that the Jaredites carried live fish to introduce to the Americas while Ether 6:1ff describes the ocean voyage as taking 344 days. This claim raises several serious problems:

Romans 3:10 “As it is written there is none righteous, no, not one: (11) There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. (12) They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. (13) Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:”



1. Where did they get the fresh water replacements to keep those species alive?
2. How did they aerate the aquaria and remove wastes continually for nearly a year?
3. How did they feed them?
4. Why do no Old World fish exist here unless introduced since colonial times?
5. Why would they not accurately believe that the Americas were already amply supplied with their own native fish species?
6. If the Americas were void of fish, why did the Jaredites presume that they must introduce them to **every** lake, pond, and stream throughout the Americas? Impossible!
7. Why are fish of the Americas so distinct from Old World fish?
8. [While North American and the Caribbean islands have numerous species of fishes unknown to the old world, Discover magazine, June 2004, p. 63 reports that South America has the largest number of fish species the world has ever known. There are apparently well over 6,000 species. These are all distinctly different from those B.O.M. asserts were brought by the Jaredites. Interestingly, B.O.M. implies that the Americas had no fish! Not one of the native fish species of the Americas is of European or Asia in origin. Serious error in B.O.M. Obviously the Jaredites could not have brought to South America 6000 fish species as well as thousands more to North America. Impossible.](#)

FIERY FLYING SERPENTS: 1 Nephi 17:41 and 2 Nephi 24:29 refer to the “fiery flying serpent.” This is obviously a takeoff on the KJV of Isaiah 14:29 and 30:6 in the Bible in which the Hebrew actually means “fiery red burning darting snake”, not “fiery spewing flying snake”.

1. While it is permissible for the KJV to use this expression way back in 1611 A.D., it is out of place for Joseph Smith to translate it thus as recently as in 1830 since “flying” today is more likely to mean propelling through the air rather than striking.
2. “Fiery” in the Bible refers to its red color and to a burning symptom of its bite, not to a blaze from its mouth!
3. Besides, Native Americans would know nothing of this Old World snake.

ASPS AND COCKATRICES: These are mentioned in 2 Nephi 2:18; 24:29; and 30:14. Although these quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible in reference to the two Judean poisonous snakes, the quotations are inappropriate as Native Americans would have no idea what they referred to. It would be much more logical to

refer to familiar American vipers such as copperheads, rattlesnakes. and water moccasins.

SNAKE BEHAVIOR: There are some serious problems in the description of the behavior related to poisonous snakes, etc. in Ether 9:30-34 and 10:19-22:

1. The notion that snakes increased as a drought increases is contradicted by the fact that reptiles are particularly sensitive to heat and lack of water, and **die off much faster** than other animals.
2. Even with the large human population of modern America, only about 6 to 20 people die yearly by snake bite. It is certainly not realistic for Ether to claim that numerous people and animals were exterminated by snakes.
3. It is totally unlike sheep for all of them **“on the face of the earth”** (v. 30) to flee in **one direction** from snakes or other enemies. Obviously.
4. It would not be realistic for the sheep to be driven to the south by poisonous snakes as there are much fewer snakes in the north. (This should not be so much of a problem if it happened in parts of South America. But Mormon prophets do not go along with this theory.)
5. Snakes never cooperate with each other in “driving” animals in any direction. Another of the many errors in B.O.M.!
6. It would be impossible for people to have eaten in such few days the countless animals that had been killed by the poisonous snakes. Error in B.O.M.
7. To eat carrion would produce disease and death.
8. Ether 9:30 says (A) that there was a severe drought. (B) Ether 10:21, etc. tells us that the land was densely covered with people, (C) while Ether 10:19 says that the land was covered with forests (D) and their animals. (E) Ether 10:12 speaks of raising much grain. All five obviously cannot simultaneously be true. Five errors here!
9. These five above competing factors simply do not square with the idea of numerous poisonous snakes. Numerous people, dense forests, severe drought, abundant farming, and numerous predatory animals will not allow snakes to become numerous.
10. While the Jaredites supposedly existed before the Tower of Babel, and therefore were not Jews, many theologians would still have difficulty with believing that God would approve of their eating either swine (Leviticus 11:7) or animals that had died in that manner (Exodus 12:9). And this is scripture?
11. Sheep, unlike cattle, cannot normally be driven. They would **normally** scatter instead. Modern shepherders often use well trained dogs to **force** sheep to be driven, but this is not normal for them. Snakes cannot bark at sheep or travel as fast as sheep to drive them as well trained dogs would.
12. The Mormon appeal to Numbers 21:5-9 in the Bible is not valid because of the vast dissimilarities. In Numbers the snake population did not compete with a huge established human population, dense forest, prolific agriculture, numerous predatory animals, and a severe drought. The sheep were not driven in one direction, and the snakes are not described as cooperating with each other. People did not eat the dead animals. It simply did not happen.

DRAGONS: Dragons are referred to in 2 Nephi 8:9, 23:22; Mosiah 20:11; and Alma 43:44. While the first and fourth references appear to be figurative, the second and possibly third references sound very literal. While it is permissible for the 1611 A.D. KJV to use such obsolete terms that have become erroneous in modern usage, by the time Joseph Smith presented us with the Book of Mormon in 1830, the Hebrew word “tannin” should have been correctly translated (depending on the context) as either desert animals, wolf, sea monster, or perhaps more likely as crocodile or snake. (See Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, Unger’s Bible Dictionary, etc.) Serious flaw!

CHICKENS: Domestic chickens are referred to in 3 Nephi 10:4-6, **plagiarizing** the KJV of Matthew 23:37. **Plagiarizing** is most common in B.O.M.

1. 3 Nephi is dated as 34 A.D., but Matthew’s Gospel which it quotes had not even been written yet, and the KJV of it was not translated until 1611 A.D.
2. Only Old World chickens deserve that name.
3. Chickens were unknown in the Americas until colonial times.

4. For a prophet in the Americas to use Judean chickens as an illustration is inappropriate as Native Americans would have no idea what chickens are. Why should he use a near Eastern illustration when he could find many suitable illustrations among familiar Native American species?
5. Some Mormon scholars have suggested that “chicken” could really refer to geese, turkeys, ducks, or other American birds. This is not realistic as these were not commonly domesticated particularly in northeastern North America, and would reveal errors of translation by Joseph Smith!

OTHER BIRDS: Ether 2:2-3 tells that Jared and his family captured “all manner of” birds, (and gathered seeds) which they introduced to North America. This assertion leads us to several insistent problems:

1. How did the Jaredites keep “all manner of birds” alive with ample freshwater and appropriate food: e.g., insects, fruits, seeds, worms, eggs, snakes, lizards, frogs, fish, rodents, etc. for nearly a year? Absolutely impossible!
2. How did they dispose of all those bird wastes in tightly sealed vessels for 344 days? Impossible!
3. Birds require plenty of fresh air and clean water. A sealed vessel would be fatal. Absolutely!
4. Why did none of the “all manner” of Old World birds not survive until colonial times? The only Old World birds now in the Americas were brought here since colonial times, e.g., starling, English sparrow, etc.
5. Birds of the Americas are distinctly different from those of the Old World.
6. Why would the Jaredites assume that the Americas had to have birds introduced?
7. Most birds express strong territorial behavior. How was this handled on the barges?
8. How did they capture all those birds? Impossible!

CATTLE: 1 Nephi 18:25, Ether 9:18-19, etc. contain several very serious problems:

1. Amazingly, they erroneously distinguished between cattle, cows, and oxen as separate species! Serious error in B.O.M.
2. Domestic cattle did not exist in the Americas until Columbus brought them.
3. Lehi’s family is said to have discovered the ox thriving in the Americas. Amazing. Loosely, any animal of the bovine family is sometimes called an ox. There were no such animals native to the Americas that became domesticated. Error in B.O.M.
4. Normally, we mean that an ox is a castrated bull, not a species, and could not possibly reproduce more oxen. Obviously!
5. Cows are asserted to be separate species from cattle and oxen. Cows are female cattle, and need bulls for reproduction. Obviously!
6. Contrary to the claim that they are forest dwellers, cattle require grassland for survival. Error in B.O.M.

HORSES: These are mentioned in 1 Nephi 18:25; Ether 9:19; etc. as native to the Americas.

1. While true that horses did originate here, they did not exist in the Americas at all in Book of Mormon times (600 B.C. - 421 A.D. or back to around 2247 B.C. for the Jaredites.)
2. The original horses were not domesticated, were small, not useful to mankind, and had been extinct for many years before 600 B.C. or even before 3000 B.C. Serious error.
3. They are not forest animals as 1 Nephi claims. They require grasslands; obviously.

DONKEYS: 1 Nephi 18:25; Ether 9:19; etc. assert that asses (donkeys) were found here by the Jaredites and Nephites, and that they were useful for mankind.

1. The problem is that there were no domesticated donkeys here until European colonialism. Obviously B.O.M. is wrong.
2. Donkeys are not beasts of the forest as asserted. They require grasslands.

MILK/BUTTER: Milk is mentioned in 2 Nephi 9:50 and 26:25. Butter is referred to in 2 Nephi 17:15. These quotations from Isaiah 55:1-2 and 7:15 are totally inappropriate because there were no dairy animals in North America before European colonialism. One obviously could not milk Native American mammals, e.g., bison, moose, coyotes, timber wolves, or bears!



SWINE: Swine are mentioned as native to the Americas in Ether 9:18, etc.

1. Many Bible scholars would find the Jaredites' (even though non-Hebrew) relishing of swine as "useful to man" as being a serious problem.
2. Besides, these domesticated "unclean" animals were not introduced until European colonialism. Error in B.O.M.
3. Reference to domestic swine in Judea (3 Nephi 3:7-8 and 14:6) are inappropriate as Native Americans would know nothing about them.
4. Are peccaries swine? Mormon scholars sometimes insist that peccaries are American swine, attempting to show the Book of Mormon to be correct in this one point. Hardly. Peccaries and swine are in very different FAMILIES, and are as distinct as cats are from dogs! Consider a few of their many differences below:

A review of books on zoology will easily reveal that New World peccaries are definitely NOT to be confused with Old World swine (pigs, hogs). The two are obviously very different in ears, tooth shape, tooth number, eyes, head shape, voice, social behavior, gestation (pregnancy) duration, litter size, number of teats, number and characteristics of chromosomes, size, defense behavior, habitat, territoriality, tail, scent glands, toe number, hair texture, hair color, taste of their meat, etc.

In brief, while peccaries and swine are very distantly related, they are no more related than cats are to bears. Therefore, "the most correct book of any on earth" is incorrect as swine did not exist in the Americas in Book of Mormon times. If inspired by God, the correct term should be given. Error in B.O.M.!

DOGS: According to The New Encyclopedia Britannica, European colonists introduced Old World types of dogs to the Americas. The Native American Indians already had at least 20 breeds of New World types of domesticated dogs. Most of these have since disappeared except for the Mexican hairless and the Eskimo dogs. All tribes had domesticated "dogs" of some sort. The Aztecs and Incas ate "dogs", as did others. They were also used for pets, hunting, and guarding.

1. According to Handbook of American Indians (Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin) **there were no TRUE dogs north of Mexico prior to European colonialism.** This presents a very serious problem to the views of Mormon prophets as they stated that Book of Mormon lands are in what is now northeastern North America.
2. Various members of the dog Genus Canis (e.g., wolves, coyotes, foxes, etc.) as well as various domesticated hybrids between them existed throughout the Americas, but no true Old World dogs. If Book of Mormon passages had meant wolves, coyotes, or foxes, “the most correct book of any on earth” should certainly have used those names instead. Thus, Alma 16:10 says that the Lamanites’ “carcasses were mangled by dogs...”. It does not say wolves or coyotes which were obviously the most logical carnivores to do that. Error in B.O.M.
3. In our present study we have seen that the Book of Mormon knows absolutely nothing of distinctly New World species of **any** organisms, including those “dogs” that were unique natives of the Americas. So when it speaks of “dogs”, it is evident that it is referring the Old World dogs that did not even exist here then.
4. 3 Nephi 7:8 says “...like the dog to his vomit” (quoting Proverbs 26:11 and II Peter 2:22), 3 Nephi 14:6 quotes Matthew 7:6 saying “give not that which is holy unto the dogs”. Both Matthew and Peter are quoted by Nephi **several years before they were even written!** Will wonders never cease?!
5. As the references are speaking of Judean dogs, the illustrations should have been taken from familiar American animals instead.
6. The Book of Mormon refers numerous times to animals, but only a mere 3 times to dogs in spite of the fact that dogs are among the most common domesticated animals! This is unrealistic.
7. Of all the numerous animal references in the Book of Mormon (which was supposedly written primarily in the New World), the dog is the only one of the many mentioned that actually existed here then (even though limited to New World kinds)!

SHEEP: These are mentioned in 1 Nephi 22:25, 13:40-41; Alma 5:37-39; Helaman 15:13; 3 Nephi 15:17, 21, 24; and 16:1, 3.

1. Any of those references that may be to sheep in Judea are not valid because the lessons they illustrate would be totally incomprehensible to Native Americans as they never ever encountered domestic sheep prior to European colonialism. Obviously.
2. Unfortunately for the accuracy of the Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 10:16 and 21:12 incorrectly call the lion a beast of the forest that attacks flocks of sheep. But sheep thrive best on grassland, and cannot do well at all in forests. Nor do lions live in the forest!
3. Also, the only Native American sheep are wild mountain sheep primarily of the Rocky Mountains -- not in northeastern USA inhabited by Lamanites and Nephites.
4. The first domesticated sheep were introduced by Columbus many centuries after Book of Mormon times.
5. While the Spanish explorers referred to some Native American mammals by their Spanish word for sheep, **oveja (Spanish pronunciation oveha)**, this certainly should not be done by Joseph Smith whose translation was reportedly directed word-for-word by God. Besides, Mormon prophets and other authorities placed Book of Mormon lands in the northeastern quadrant of the United States, not in Spanish Mesoamerica.

SATYRS: In 2 Nephi 23:21 satyrs are mentioned as literal creatures, not figurative. While it is permissible for the 1611 A.D. KJV of Isaiah 13:32 and 34:13 to use this obsolete term that has since become definitely erroneous in modern usage, by the time Joseph Smith presented us with the Book of Mormon in 1830, the wording should have been correctly translated into modern English as “goats.”

As it now stands, the Book of Mormon is in error as satyrs do not exist as defined in modern English. In modern English, satyr refers to the Greek mythological concept of a forest deity or demigod. Satyrs are usually depicted as part man and part goat noted for riotous merriment and gross immorality. The Book of Mormon desperately needs to be correctly translated.

GOATS: 1 Nephi 19:25 says that both goats and wild goats were found native to the Americas. Enos 21 says that the Nephites raised both goats and wild goats.

1. What is supposed to be the difference between goats and wild goats?
2. How could they raise wild goats with no barbed wire fences?
3. Why are wild goats called “wild” if they have been domesticated?
4. While mountain goats are native from the Yukon to the northern Rocky Mountains, no Native American goats were ever domesticated. Serious errors.
5. No goats were ever raised in the Americas until European colonialism.
6. Besides, technically, so-called mountain goats are more closely related to antelopes than to domestic goats!
7. 2 Nephi 30:12-14 lists the kid (baby goat) along with several distinctly Old World animals: lamb, leopard, lion, cow, asp, and cockatrice. So if this is referring to an event in Judea, it would be lost on Native Americans.
8. If it is about the Americas, it is erroneous because Old World domestic goats did not exist here at the time. Error in B.O.M.

LIONS: in 3 Nephi 20:16 and 21:12. lions are described as “beasts of the forests.”

1. Contrary to popular opinion and the Book of Mormon, while cougars can live in forests, lions do not live in forests or jungles. True lions live in savannahs (grasslands with few scattered trees).
2. Lions never inhabited the Americas; cougars and American panthers, yes - lions, no. The “most correct book” must be translated correctly. The fact that Asiatic and African lions are the ones involved in the Book of Mormon and not cougars or so-called mountain lions is confirmed by 2 Nephi 30:12-14 which includes lions along with the leopard, kid (baby goat), calf, cow, asp, and cockatrice. 3 Nephi 10:16 includes sheep with its mention of the lion. All are Old World animals!
3. To appeal to the Spanish colonists calling jaguars “leones” is evading the issue. Joseph Smith spoke grammatically inaccurate English, not Spanish. He was said to be translating by literal word-for-word dictation from God. Traditional Mormon prophets did not ever place the Book of Mormon story in Spanish Mesoamerica. Serious mistake.

LEOPARD: 2 Nephi 30:12 refers to the leopard, an Old World mammal.

1. As in other cases, if the quotations from Isaiah 11:5-9 are being applied to Judea, they are meaningless to Native Americans of Book of Mormon times.
2. If they are being applied to the Americas, they are in error because leopards are not native to the Americas. This is clearly still another lose-lose situation for the Book of Mormon.
3. “Leopard” could not refer to jaguar as jaguars inhabit Mesoamerica, not Book of Mormon lands.
4. Joseph Smith was said to be translating literally, so this is a literal error.

ELEPHANTS: These are referred to in Ether 9:19: “...there were elephants... which were useful unto man...especially the elephants...”

1. **True** elephants did not exist in the Americas at that time.
2. Although mastodons are in the elephant family, to call them elephants would be something like calling a zebra or donkey a horse just because they are in the horse family. It would be an **inferior translation** in “the most correct book of any on earth”. Mastodons are mastodons, **not** true elephants.
3. Besides, **mastodons had become extinct many centuries before the times of the Jaredites (2247 B.C.)!** B.O.M. is wrong again as usual.
4. They were definitely not ever “useful to man” during Book of Mormon times, contrary to Ether 9:19.

CAMELS: One of the most vital animals to Near Eastern economy was the camel. So, it is inexcusable for it **not to have been mentioned** as one of the useful animals brought over by either the Jaredites or the Nephites. Camels can thrive in the Americas.

CURELOMS AND CUMOMS: These (Ether 9:19) are not identified by Mormon scholars.

1. Yet, it would be most unlikely for such supposedly **very useful** and **common** domestic animals to go extinct. One humorist suggested that they went extinct when they ate all the neas and sheum of Mosiah 9:9 on which they were probably dependent!
2. To suggest that they might have been llamas, alpacas, etc. **is to admit an error** of translation in “the most correct book of any on earth.”
3. Mormon prophets do not ever recognize Mesoamerica (the habitat of llamas, alpacas, etc.) as Book of Mormon land.

CANDLES: These can be made either of bees’ wax, beef tallow, or paraffin, and are referred to in 3 Nephi 8:21.

1. This is unacceptable as Native Americans had scant use of bees’ wax, knew nothing of candle wicks, and did not have beef tallow or paraffin. No candles were used in northeastern North America designated by all Mormon prophets as Mormon lands before European colonial times.
2. References to candles and other things unknown to the natives would mean absolutely nothing to them. Effective illustrations are obviously best taken from sources with which people are familiar.
3. A rare exception that proves the rule is that in a tiny area in Central America a kind of hallucinogenic candle was made that was **limited to pagan religious worship**, not for illumination. But this area was **not** included in Book of Mormon lands.

IGNORED TYPICAL AMERICAN MAMMALS: It is **most unrealistic** to read a book that purports to describe the Americas of 600 B.C. to 421 A.D. as well as back to around 2247 B.C. and to find **absolutely no reference whatever** (none at all!) to typical American mammals, e.g., the alpaca, antelope, armadillo, bat (American species), black bear, beaver, bison, bobcat, chinchilla, cougar (mountain lion), coyote, deer, grizzly bear, jack rabbit, llama, mink, moose, mouse (American species), nutria, opossum, otter, peccary, polar bear, porcupine, prairie dog, raccoon, rat (American species), seal, skunk, squirrel, tapir, wolverine, etc.

The many references to mammals are strictly Old World mammals. It is wrong to apply them to America.

NOTE: While many of the animals in this section on zoology are from Bible quotations by the Book of Mormon, these are totally out of place in a book supposedly written almost entirely in the Americas for inhabitants of the Americas who have never seen those Biblical Old World animals. These names would mean **absolutely nothing** to them. You will notice that most are implied as actually living in the Americas. **Effective illustrations are obviously best taken from sources with which people are familiar.**

(Godly Prophets never condemn Biblical Churches!)

“Thou shalt not steal.” Exodus 20:15 “Thou shalt not bear false witness.” Exodus 20:16

OTHER PROBLEMS

There are numerous plagiarisms of the Bible without any contact whatever with Judea.

There **are so many contradictions** between the Book of Mormon and other Mormon writings. B.O.M., Doctrine & Covenants (D & C), and Pearl of Great Price (PGP) contradict the Bible in many places. Lack of space prohibits a listing of examples of the above problems. **We have only scratched the surface of serious scientific problems in the Book of Mormon.**

“Therefore being justified by Faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1

MORMON RESPONSE

When faced by problems such as these, Mormons make a variety of responses. Some may avoid answering by ignoring them, or saying “that’s your opinion”, or saying “I accept it by faith”. A few become defensive. Those who do try to offer answers commonly do so as follows:

1. **CULTURE CONSIDERATION:** When people of one culture attempt to name animals, plants, and objects of a different language or culture, they commonly apply names (often modified) from their own language. Thus, Spanish explorers called the pecary of Central America a “puerco del monte” (mountain pig), jaguars as “leones”, llamas and their relatives as “ovejas” (sheep), etc. Germans call a bat “fliedermaus” (flying mouse). What many Native American Indians called “maize”, British and modern Americans called “corn.”

Many Mormon scholars excuse the Old World names of plants and animals that the Book of Mormon claims as in the Americas as like that. Thus, when the Book of Mormon speaks of sheep, cattle, horses, and lions as in the Americas, they claim that it really meant llamas, bison, deer, and jaguars, respectively.

That is a heroic theory, but Joseph Smith asserted that his translation of the Book of Mormon was a literal word-for-word correct translation directed by God (PGP--Joseph Smith: History, etc.). The Creator is not distorted by human language, and would put the correct names in “the most correct book of any on earth.” The names would be true names of plants, animals, metals, etc.

2. **MESOAMERICA:** When it is pointed out that many Book of Mormon statements were not true in the places indicated, Mormon scholars often present archaeological evidences that they were true in Central America and neighboring localities.

While seemingly convincing at first, their argument shatters upon examining what all Mormon Presidents, Apostles, and other authorities clearly state. Here are a few of such facts:

History of the Church. Vol. II, pp 79-80. Joseph Smith himself places the Nephites and Lamanites near Jacksonville, Illinois (p. 77), definitely not Mesoamerica (Central America and neighboring areas).

William LaRue, Foundations of Mormonism, reported Joseph Smith as saying that Manti is in Huntsville, Missouri, and is the southernmost boundary of the Nephites.

Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 3, (p. 239-241 referencing Millennial Star, Vol. 16, p. 296) reports that Joseph Smith said that Huntsville, Mo., is the city of Manti. Early authorities did not distinguish between the city of Manti in Missouri and the Land of Manti claimed by some modern scholars as supposedly in Mesoamerica!

Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p. 175: “Both the Nephite and Jaredite civilizations fought their final great wars of extinctions at and near the Hill Cumorah... located between Palmyra and Manchester in the western part of the state of New York. It was here that Moroni hid up the gold plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated.”

D & C 128:20 indicates that Cumorah is in New York.

PGP: JS - H 1:42, 50-54 tells of Joseph Smith’s experience with the gold plates at Hill Cumorah in New York.

Various Mormon maps reflect the convictions and scholarship of church leaders in placing Nephites and Lamanites in the northeastern quadrant of what is now the U.S.A., not in Mesoamerica.

The Teaching Manual of the LDS confirms all of this. Alma 22:32 places all of the New World Civilization in a narrow neck of land 1-1/2 day’s journey across. Typical Mormon maps interpret this in North America, not Mesoamerica.

Hugh Nibley, Since Cumorah, p. 244 confirms this. The Book of Mormon says that the borders of Manti are “most southerly land of Nephites”, (Index, p. 664. Copyright 1981). Lamanites were not far away.

Some Mormons believe that the Land of Cumorah was in Mesoamerica even though Hill Cumorah was in New York. This is definitely not the traditional official

view. It does not fit the Mormon view of making the “land of Jerusalem” associated with the city of Jerusalem. It makes it an impossible problem to transport a few hundred pounds of gold plates of the Book of Mormon from Central America **upstream** up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers by **row boat!** Before the invention of the steamboat, travel for some distance upstream by boat simply was not done. The **currents were too strong!**

3. **COMPATIBILITY WITH KJV:** When faced with problems of wording or with names of plants, animals, and materials of the Old World used in the Book of Mormon by speakers in the New World, Mormons often respond with saying that the King James Version of the Bible uses those terms. They want to use terms familiar to conservative Christians in order to appeal to converts, they explain. But:

The Articles of Faith v. 8 declares “We believe the Bible to be the Word of God so far as it is translated correctly...”. But Mormons insist that the Bible has **numerous** translation errors! So, if they are **honest and sincere**, they should **certainly correct them!**

4. **ERRORS OF PLACE:** To use with Native Americans those concepts that are familiar only to people of Judea makes no sense whatever. Surely it would be more practical to use illustrations with which Native Americans would be familiar. Obviously.

5. **ERRORS OF TIME:** When it is pointed out that the plants and animals of the Book of Mormon did not exist in North America in Book of Mormon times, I have been told “we certainly have them here now.” Others will say “Don’t you know that the horse and elephant families originated in the Americas?” But they died out long before Book of Mormon times. Or they will sometimes point to Old World plants that were introduced before colonial times. But these were typically introduced since 421 A.D.

6. **DEFINITE MAYBE:** Many of Mormon responses are characterized by what has been called “definite maybe”. One commonly sees terms such as “possibly, might well be, perhaps, maybe, may soon be found,” etc. But such optimistic hopefulness is no substitute for hard, cold facts.

7. **THAT’S YOUR OPINION:** Another common Mormon devise when faced with problems they obviously can not answer is to respond to hard evidence contrary to their claims with “That’s your opinion” or “That is just the opinion of that Apostle.” But the same could be said of their own claims.

8. **THAT’S JUST THE PROPHET’S OPINION:** This is astounding and presumptive! Don’t you believe that the prophet’s opinion would be much more valid than that of a mere layperson? The same could be said of their own claims.

9. **“MOST CORRECT BOOK OF ANY ON EARTH”:** When we point out the avalanche of errors in the Book of Mormon in face of Joseph Smith’s claim for its superiority in correctness over any other book, Mormon defenders often respond with, “Oh, but he meant that it is the most correct theologically.”

A. But that is **not what he or other Mormon prophets said!** The original 1830 edition is loaded down with errors of grammar, science, history, theology, contradictions, etc. The over 4,000 and more corrections of “the most correct book” in more recent editions only scratch the surface of errors.

B. It is deceptive and evading the point to say that it is the most correct book merely theologically. If it is wrong, wrong, wrong on literally many thousands of things that we can test scientifically, grammatically, theologically, historically, etc., then why would any honest, intelligent persons ever put blind faith in it on spiritual things that we cannot put under the microscope?!

C. From the standpoint of Mormon theology, the Book of Mormon is the most correct book. Instead, it is woefully incomplete. Crucial Mormon theological concepts that are totally lacking from the Book of Mormon include:

1. That people are gods in embryo.
2. That there is a Mother God in Heaven.
3. That all people began as pre-existent spirits in Heaven (Kolob).
4. That Satan is the spirit brother of Jesus.
5. That Heavenly Father has a human-sized body of flesh and bones.
6. That temple marriage is for eternity.

7. That worthy Mormons can be baptized for the salvation of the dead.
8. That there is a vast plurality of gods.
9. That Heavenly Father had a Father who had a Father and so on.
10. That eternal progression is true: “As man is, God once was; as God is, man may be.” That Heavenly Father is an exalted man.
11. That polygamy is the rule in Heaven. **Very sick!**
12. That polygamy is required on Earth for exaltation to godhood (D & C 132).
13. That the name of Heavenly Father is Elohim.
14. That Heavenly Father had literal physical sexual intercourse with His very own precious daughter, Mary, to produce the infant Jesus! **THIS IS UTTER BLASPHEMY! ABSOLUTELY DISGUSTING! Very sick!**
15. That Hell is only temporary, and is only for the most wicked people and for those who leave Mormonism.
16. That there are 3 distinct levels for Heaven: Terrestrial, Telestial, and Celestial.
17. That the Aaronic priesthood can be offered to men not in the Hebrew tribe of Levi.
18. That the Melchizedek priesthood is a continuing order today.
19. That the communion sacrament can legitimately use water and leavened (yeast) bread.
20. That temple ritual should closely mimic the anti-Biblical Masonic ritual.
21. That the main purposes of the temples are for baptisms for the dead and for marriage for eternity.
22. That the Mormon Church organization is to be as it is today: One Prophet, Twelve Apostles, etc.
23. That eternal status of a woman depends upon her marriage in a temple to a man who becomes a god and who happens to want her resurrected to be one of his several goddess wives.
24. That the faithful must obey the Word of Wisdom in abstaining from alcohol, tobacco, tea, coffee, and soft drinks.
25. That the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only true church.
26. That there can be more than one true temple.
27. For errors about Apostles see PGP Page 28.

ESTABLISHED SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS IN THE BIBLE

Whenever Christians point to an insistent problem in Mormon scriptures, Mormons understandably typically give a knee-jerk response by saying, “But the Bible says something similar to that.” This begs the question.

But when we compare any non-Christian scriptures with the Bible **in its original language**, we find an absolutely **stark contrast**. I was struck with this in my agnostic and skeptic days.

While many may object that some modern philosophical concepts such as the numerous questionable, and constantly changing evolutionary hypotheses do not agree with the Bible (or each other), the following are a few of the numerous established discoveries of modern science that were unknown in Bible times and are found in the Bible, thus proving its unique Divine origin:

1. Air has weight (Job 28:25).
2. Human body is made from soil (Genesis 3:19).
3. Disease prevention (Leviticus 15).
4. Stars are innumerable (Jeremiah 33:22).
5. Stars are not spirits, but impersonal light bearing objects (Hebrew Ma-OWR in Genesis 1, etc.).

6. Earth is round (Isaiah 40:22).
7. At any moment there are different times of day on Earth (Matthew 24:40-42).
8. Earth rests on nothing in space (Job 26:7).
9. Wind cycles (Ecclesiastes 1:6).
10. Water cycles (Ecclesiastes 1:7; Psalm 135:7; Jeremiah 10:13; 51:16).
11. Blood is essential for life (Leviticus 17:10-11).
12. Dietary laws to reduce likelihood of parasitic and other diseases (Leviticus 11).
13. Sanitary sewage disposal (Deuteronomy 23:12-13).
14. Limited animal intelligence (Job 39:17; Psalm 32:9; Job 28:7; Isaiah 1:3).
15. Animal existence ceases at death (Ecclesiastes 3:21 and implied in Acts 4:12).
16. Life did not arise by spontaneous generation, from other planets, or by mere chance (Genesis 1 and 2, etc.).
17. Animals found dead must not be eaten (Leviticus 7:24).
18. Infectious diseases must be quarantined (Leviticus 13).
19. Contaminated clothing must be washed (Leviticus 14:85:11).
20. Promiscuous sex spreads diseases and is forbidden (Exodus 20:14).

These and many other established scientific concepts in the Bible simply could not have been known by natural or scientific means at the time. They **had** to be inspired by the God who created the universe! The Bible contains **not one scientific fallacy** such as those that permeate all of the three unique Mormon scriptures. I say this with all the sympathy and kindness I can muster, and with God's help I came to these conclusions during my skeptic and agnostic struggles for the truth.

CONCLUSION

Thus it will be clearly seen by the honest investigator that God had absolutely ZERO to do with inspiring the Book of Mormon.

I really appreciate and enjoy my many delightful Mormon friends. They have been a real joy! They have given me so much food for thought. I appreciate their challenging me to think. I want so much for them to come to know the **real** Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Jesus **totally** paid for our sins on the Cross.

The above facts in this book can all be **overwhelmingly** confirmed by consulting universities, museums, scientists, or standard works of science. Check them out for yourself.

It is hoped that this book will help Mormons and other seekers after truth, for as Moroni 10:4 well says, "And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are **not** true, and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, He will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost."

Be sure that you pray to the **One True God** of the Bible. Feed on the Bible daily for growth. Seek fellowship in a Biblically sound Christian church.

Dear Mormon--please, please do not put your blind trust in a book that is so demonstrably one of the most **incorrect** books of any on Earth.

As a people, there is much to be admired in you. Blind obedience to provable inaccuracy, inconsistency, and outright untruth is not a part of it.

I plead for open eyes, open ears, open minds, and pure LOGIC. "Seek, and ye shall find"! (Luke 11:9). May the True God richly bless you as you open your minds and spirits to His Truth in the Bible.

Let me assure you that although I may appear on the surface to be critical of the Book of Mormon, that I've tried my absolute level-headed best each of the several times I have read it through to view it positively, always giving it the benefit of any doubt. Upon further investigation I have had to retreat from former opinions about supposed errors.

But we scientists are required to view things sincerely and honestly regardless of our feelings. I hope that my readers will also be objective and honest.

Is “the most correct book of any on earth” more correct than dictionaries or books on arithmetic, algebra, chemistry, mineralogy, musicology, first aid, dendrology, genetics, etc.? It is hard to find even a single page in the Book of Mormon that is not saturated with **many** errors.

Mormon missionaries often ask those who read the Book of Mormon if they have “prayed about its being the Word of God,” and how they “feel about it.” But mere feelings can be deceptive. People of all (even contradictory) religious beliefs pray. Prayer and feelings are not sure enough to be decisive.

As you have seen, the Book of Mormon has **not the slightest shred** of evidence to prove its scientific, historical, or theological accuracy. It is easy to claim that something is true because we believe or feel it is or because some prophet or religious leader tells us it is true in spite of overwhelming factual scientific, historical, and Biblical evidence to the contrary.

In light of the findings in this book and many other sources, we must agree with the many other researchers that the Book of Mormon is **definitely not fact but clearly fiction**. Therefore, its god is fiction. Its Jesus is fiction. Its gospel is fiction. Ask yourself if any book so vastly in error on nearly everything it ever says about science, which is the study of the works of God in nature, could possibly be correct on anything it ever says about theology and the life hereafter.

NOTE: This same kind of thing can also be done with Mormonism’s other two scriptures, its Doctrine and Covenants and its Pearl of Great Price.

MORMON SCRIPTURES SAY THIS ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE!

NOTE: **Nothing** is said in the Book of Mormon about Jesus suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane for our salvation or about our needing to be “worthy” of salvation.

Alma 34:33-35 states emphatically that there is no chance of salvation after death. “...This is the plan of salvation unto all men through the **blood of mine only begotten...**” P.G.P. -- Moses 6:62 “...Salvation was, and is, and is to come, in and **through the atoning blood of Christ...**” Mosiah 3:18

1. OUR URGENT NEED FOR CLEANSING FROM SIN: “For whoso cometh not unto me [Jesus] is under the bondage of sin.” D & C 84:51. See also D & C 1:33; 38:11; 72:6; 82:2; 84:49-53; Alma 13:27
2. BAPTISM AND GOOD WORKS [DEEDS OR RITUALS] ARE UTTERLY USELESS FOR HELPING US TO HEAVEN: “...although a man should be baptized a hundred times it availeth him nothing...neither by your dead works.” D & C 22:2. See also Ether 4:18; 3 Nephi 18:11-13; Moses 6:59-62 [“...by the **blood** ye are sanctified...”].
3. FAILURE TO REPENT RESULTS IN ETERNAL HELL: See Jacob 3:11; Mosiah 3:18; Alma 13:29-30; D & C 104:18; 121:23; Moses 5:15
4. IN ORDER TO GO TO HEAVEN, WE MUST REPENT AND RECEIVE [TRUST IN] JESUS CHRIST AND HIS CRUCIFIXION: “I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was **crucified for the sins of the world, even as many as believe on my name**, that they may become the sons of God...” D & C 35:2 “...there is no other way...whereby man can be **saved only through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ...**” Helaman 5:9
 - “...Jesus was crucified...for the sins of the world...” D & C 21:9
 - “...the great Creator... suffereth himself to become **subject** unto man in the **flesh, and die for all men...!**” 2 Nephi 9:5
 - “And I, Nephi, saw that he was lifted up **upon the cross and slain for the sins of the world.**” 1 Nephi 11:33

See also D & C 46:13; 76:41-42; 27:2; 53:2; 3 Nephi 27:19; Alma 21:9; Mosiah 4:7-8; 16:13; Moses 5:15; Helaman 14:13 18; Moroni 7:41; etc.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE

Please consider prayerfully what the Bible says:

1. WE ARE ALL REBELLIOUS SINNERS WHO CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES BY GOOD DEEDS, RELIGIOUS RITUALS, OR WORTHINESS:
 - a. "...All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags..." Isaiah 64:6
 - b. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23
 - c. "To will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not". Romans 7:18
 - d. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23
 - e. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us..." Titus 3:5

NOTE: Even though the thief on the cross could not be baptized, join the church, or do good deeds or religious rituals, Luke 23:43 notes Jesus as saying "Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise." John 4:2 says "Jesus Himself baptized no one." Does that mean that He saved no one?

2. WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE [UNDESERVED FAVOR OF GOD] THROUGH LIFE-CHANGING FAITH ALONE: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should *not* perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16
 - "Believe [completely trust] on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved". Acts 16:31
 - "...The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from **all** sin." I John 1:7
 - "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9
 - "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us..." Titus 3:5
 - "and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour." Luke 1:47
 - "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10
 - "Verily, verily I say unto you, he that believeth on Me hath everlasting life." John 6:47
 - "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Not of works lest anyone should boast." Ephesians 2:8, 9
 - "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:9

NOTE: Have you followed the Bible's plan of salvation? **We must lay our sins at the cross of Christ!** Be specific about your sins and guilt. Feed on the Bible daily for spiritual growth and live an attitude of praying without ceasing.

JOHN 3:16 – "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

AUTHOR'S TESTIMONY

I bear you my testimony that there is no one true church, that the **Biblical** prophets and apostles are the only true prophets and apostles, and that the Bible is the only true Scripture.

I know from the Bible and from the Holy Spirit's confirming to me that it is not our worthiness that cleanses us, but that we can be cleansed from guilt in the past, defeat in the present, and fears for the future by:

1. **Professing** Jesus Christ's death on the Cross for our sins and guilt.
2. **Possessing** Him in our daily lives by feeding deeply on the Bible and living for Him.

My Mormon friend, if the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price are right and the Bible is wrong, Mormon teachings are that I will still go to a lower level of Heaven. But if the Bible is right and the three Mormon scriptures are wrong, my Mormon friends will suffer terrible everlasting loss. Please, please do realize that there is an eternal and awful Hell to shun and an eternal blessed Heaven to gain through yielding our guilt to the Cross of Jesus Christ.

This is my testimony in the name of Jesus Christ, my own personal Saviour and Lord. Praise His Holy Name! Amen.

The Bible clearly states in the book of Revelation 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. KJV

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT FALSE PROPHETS

Throughout the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith has presented numerous prophesies. **None** of these prophesies have ever been truthful. Below is what the Bible has to say about false prophets even with one error!

Deuteronomy 18:20. "But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, **even that prophet shall die.**"²¹ And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?²² When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."

Deuteronomy 13:8. "Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:⁹ But thou shalt **surely kill him**; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people."¹⁰ And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage."

WHAT SHALL WE THEN DO?

How shall we respond when we honestly realize that the Prophet Joseph Smith made hundreds of prophecies, not one of which came true? Deuteronomy 18:20 and 13:8 instantly condemn to death any prophet with even one error.

Mormons teach that all non-Mormons are in gross error, so that when Mormons discover that Mormonism is filled with countless errors, they typically back away from all religious groups and Scriptures to become agnostics (as the author of this book once was).

That is a most unsatisfactory solution. I urge you to find a Christ centered, Bible believing church. Read the Gospel of John several times through asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ.

Titus 3:5 – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.”

HOW TO CONTACT THE AUTHOR

Feel free to write the author if you have further suggestions, questions, or comments. For further details contact the author. Write to:

Dr. Thomas Key Utah Missions Inc. P.O. Box 348 Marlow, OK 73055-0348 PH: 1-580-658-5631	Dr. Thomas Key Immanuel Baptist Theological Seminary P.O. Box 2667 Peachtree City, Georgia 30269 1-800-IMA-NUEL	Dr. Thomas Key Congregational Methodist Church P.O. Box 9 Florence, MS 39073 1-601-845-8787
	Dr. Thomas Key Grace Gospel Fellowship 2125 Martindale SW Box 9432 Grand Rapids, MI 49509	