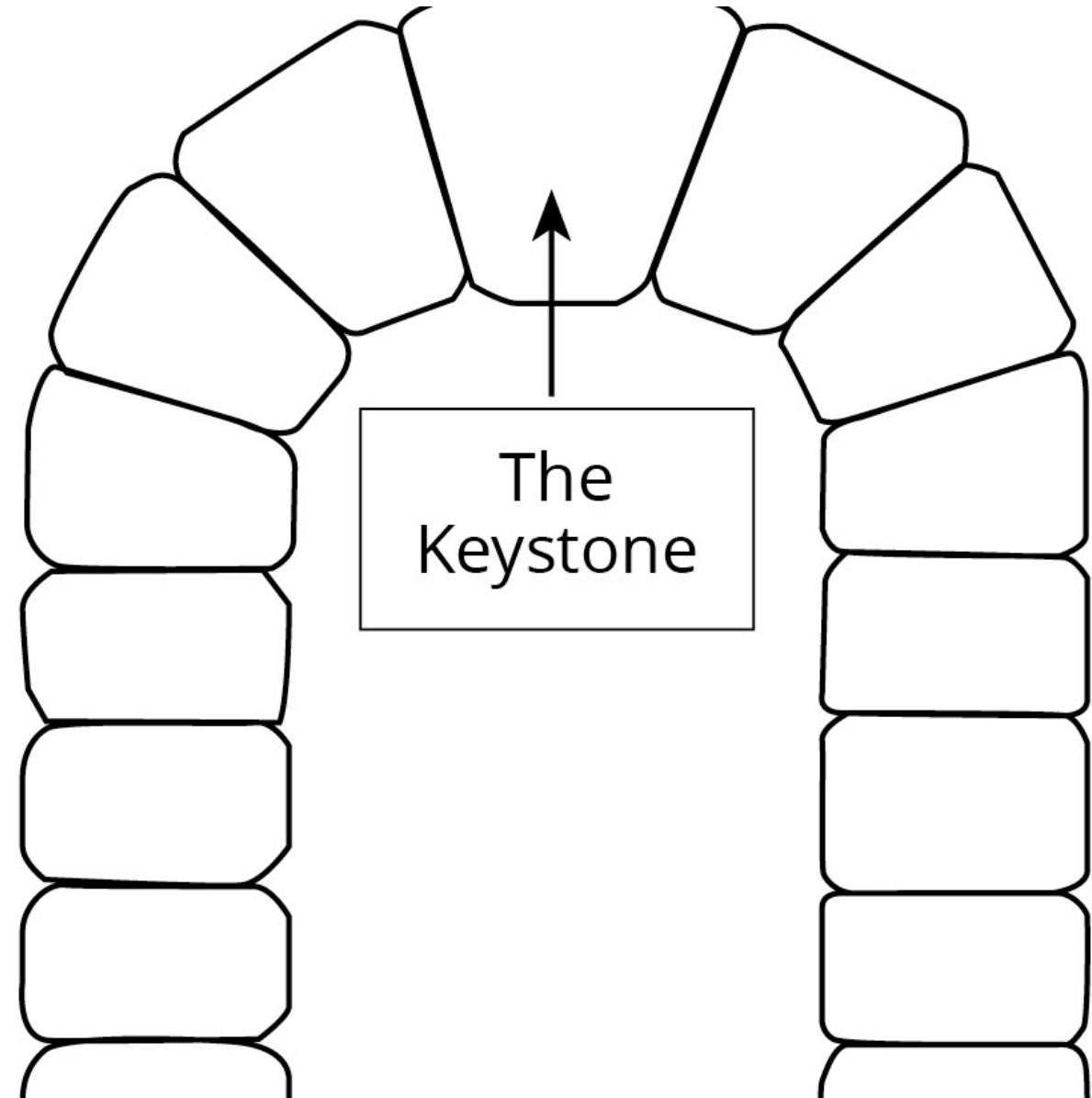

THE BOOK OF MORMON

=

THE KEYSTONE

Elder Eric English
February 2023



“I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.”

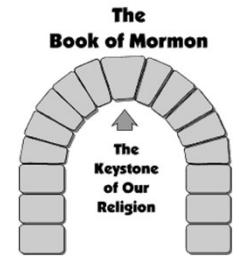
~ Joseph Smith, Jr

The Book of Mormon



AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

- Overview of the class
- Coming forth of the Book of Mormon
- The witnesses and authorship
- The Story – the peoples, lands, travels, languages, and records
- The Test
- The purposes of the Book of Mormon
- The title page of the Book of Mormon



Book of Mormon Reading Challenge

- Sponsored by the Zion's League at OGRB
- Read through the BoM with us in 2023!
- Contact at Pastorate@ogrbo.org

THE PURPOSES

PURPOSES OF THE
BOOK OF
MORMON

3 Approaches - The Purposes of the Book of Mormon

- ①** What does the Title Page say about it
- ②** Walter Weldon's Book
- ③** Pre-Columbian Studies Institute Analysis

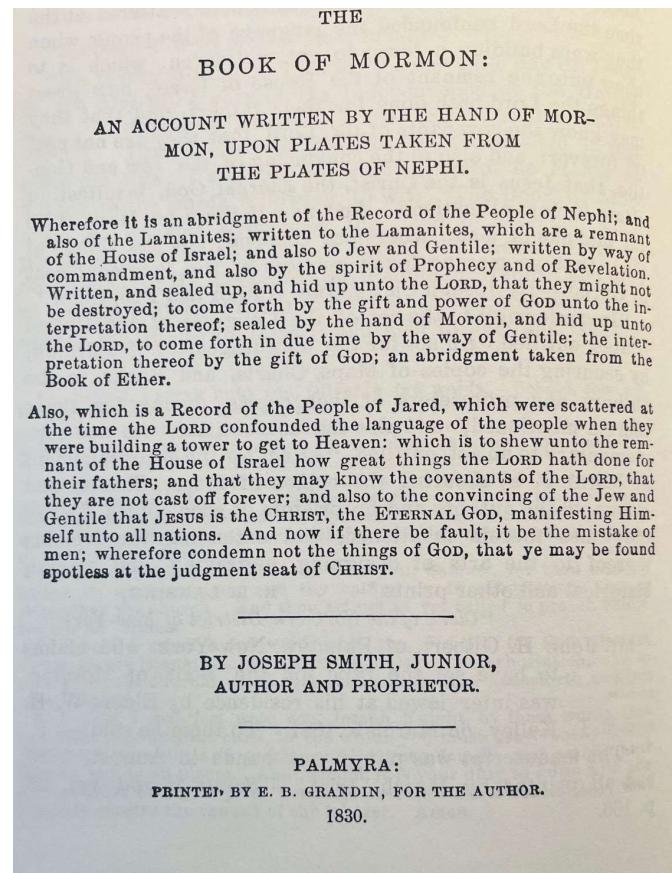
THE TITLE PAGE

PURPOSES OF THE
BOOK OF
MORMON

THE TITLE PAGE AND “AUTHORSHIP”

Ancient
origin

Printed in
every
edition of
the Book of
Mormon



Only printed
in 1830
edition, along
with the
preface

Modern
origin

The Title Page

- Last page of the plates, translated last by Joseph
- A superscription of the book that expressly states the purposes
- Presumably written by Moroni
- Hebrew poetic style found in it – from Shirley Heater

THE TITLE PAGE

THE BOOK OF MORMON An account written by the hand of Mormon upon plates taken from the plates of Nephi.

1 Wherefore, it is an abridgment of the record of the people of Nephi, And also of the Lamanites.

1

2 Written to the Lamanites which are a remnant of the house of Israel, And also to Jew and Gentile.

2

3 Written by way of commandment, And also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation.

4 Written and sealed up and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed, To come forth by the gift and power of God, unto the interpretation thereof; Sealed by the hand of Moroni and hid up unto the Lord, To come forth in due time by the way of Gentile, the interpretation thereof by the gift of God.

THE TITLE PAGE (CONT)

5 An abridgment taken from the book of Ether also, which is a record of the people of Jared, Which were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people when they were building a tower to get to heaven.

6 Which is to show unto the remnant of the house of Israel how great things the Lord hath done for their fathers, And that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever.

7 And also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting Himself unto all nations.

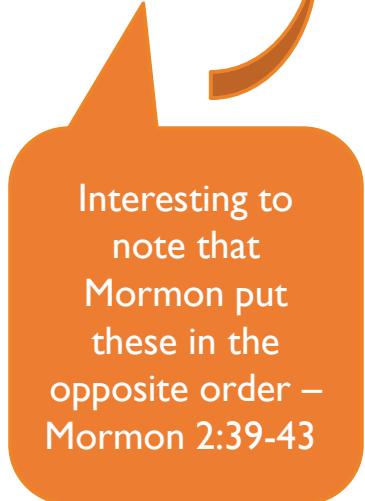
8 And now if there be fault, it be the mistake of men; Wherefore, condemn not the things of God, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment seat of Christ.

~ Moroni, 421 AD

The Purposes of the Book of Mormon

From the Title Page

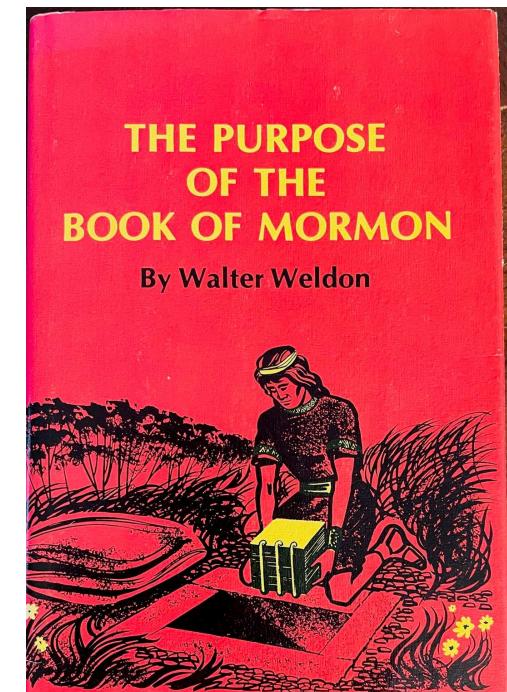
- ① That the descendants of the Lamanites and House of Israel may learn of the covenants of the Lord
- ② To the convincing of Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ
- ③ To manifest Jesus to all nations



Interesting to note that Mormon put these in the opposite order – Mormon 2:39-43

THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

BY: WALTER WELDON



Treasure up the Word

How do you as an individual treasure up the word of God?

“There is only one way – by reading and by study, by hearing the preaching of the word, and by attending Sunday school classes. Your minister cannot do all this for you. You and you alone are given your agency to act for yourself. Your salvation is an individual achievement. An individual is strengthened, encouraged, and helped to achieve salvation by the association of like-minded people.”

~ W. Weldon

THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

Part I – As it relates to the Gentiles of the Promised Land

Part II – As it speaks to the Lamanites

Part III – What the book reveals concerning the Promised Land

A Powerful Personal Testimony by Walter

The Purposes of the Book of Mormon

From W. Weldon

1. Written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel
2. Written to the Gentiles
3. Written to the Jews, to reveal to them and to convince them that Jesus is the Messiah
4. To be another witness that Jesus is the Christ and the Savior of the World
5. To reveal the fullness of the Gospel
6. To be another witness to the Bible
7. To correct false doctrine
8. To reveal the choice promised land
9. To reveal where Zion, the New Jerusalem, shall be
10. To reveal and reconfirm the promises and covenants made to Israel
11. To reveal the history and origins of some of the inhabitants of America
12. To reveal that the purposes of God cannot be frustrated
13. Written to all the house of Israel
14. To reveal the mind, will, and way of the Lord in accomplishing His purposes in the latter days

PSI STUDY ABOUT THE PURPOSES - 2005

BY: LYLE SMITH

A Book of Mormon Report **glyph notes**

PRE-COLUMBIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE • MAY / JUNE 2005 • VOLUME 12 NUMBER 3

Purposes of The Book of Mormon

By Lyle L. Smith

Written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel; and also to the Gentiles . . . and also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations (Title Page of The Book of Mormon).

A few months ago, while visiting the Salas in Tulum, I was invited to teach a class about the Book of Mormon. While trying to decide what topic to cover, I reviewed the material I had with me which was solely from the title page. Through years of the following query, "What have you kept a small concordance. One of the topics listed is "purposes." I thought this would be a good place to begin, and as I felt I could do so straightforward as possible, I would use as much as practicable the words found in the book itself.

The following is a result of that class. The purposes presented below begin with the words of Nephi and continue in chronological sequence. I do not claim that these are the only references to the purposes of the book. I highly recommend that each do his or her own study.

The words following in bold type are my paraphrases of the verses, yet I have tried to use the original verbiage as much as possible. I believe that, not in bold type, is my commentary. I suggest the reader look up the references in his or her own copy and mark them for future study.

Purpose "A"

The first purpose of my intent is that I may persuade man to come unto God and be saved (1 Nephi 2:3-5). It is probably not by chance that Nephi starts with the most far-reaching purpose

of The Book of Mormon. Like the Bible, The Book of Mormon is a record of a small segment of the house of Israel. None would say that it is only for the Jews, but rather all men. Likewise the Nephite record's basic purpose is to all men unto Christ and to be saved.

Purpose "B"

The second purpose, the Gentiles, Lamanites, and the Jews that the records of the twelve apostles are true. To make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them, and to make known to all kinds of tongues, peoples, that the Messiah of God is the son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world. That all men must come unto him and that they cannot be saved (1 Nephi 3:190-194).

The third purpose in the purpose above, the intent or purpose is very broad: it is to make known to all kinds, tongues, and peoples that Christ is the son of God and the Savior of the world. Nephi also gives a more particular purpose here by saying that their intent is to make known the record of Nephi's seed that the record of the prophets and twelve apostles (the Bible) is true. It should be noted that only in the past few years has the Bible been translated into the last of the major Maya languages. How could the Book of Mormon fulfill its purpose when the Maya—who primarily speak Mayan dialects, not Spanish—did not yet have the Bible in their own language?

Purpose "C"

The third purpose of the Mormon shall be given to the Jews who shall be scattered among all nations to convince them of the true Messiah, who was rejected by them, and

Continued on page 2.

The Purposes of the Book of Mormon

#	Purpose	Reference
1	The fullness of my intent is that I may persuade men to come unto God and be saved	I Nephi 2:3-5
2	To convince the Gentiles, Lamanites, and the Jews that the records of the twelve apostles are true. To make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them, and to make known to all kindreds, tongues, and peoples, that the Lamb of God is the son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world. That all men must come unto Him or they cannot be saved.	I Nephi 3:190-194
3	The Book of Mormon shall be given to the Jews who shall be scattered among all nations to convince them of the true Messiah, who was rejected by them, and that according to the words of the prophets, and also the word of the angel of God, his name shall be Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Also they wrote the record to persuade their children and brethren to believe in Christ and be reconciled to God. That their children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins and look forward to that life which is in Christ.	II Nephi 11:25-36; 43-51
4	That the Lord may prove unto many, that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever...	II Nephi 12:62

The Purposes of the Book of Mormon (2)

#	Purpose	Reference
5	Words which we have written upon metal plates which will give our children and brethren a small degree of knowledge concerning us, that they may know that we knew of Christ and had a hope of his glory.	Jacob 3:1-5
6	That our genealogy may be kept , for the intent of being of benefit to our brethren, the Lamanites	Jarom 1:1-2
7	Witnesses that Christ will take upon him the pains and sicknesses of his people, and he will take upon him death that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people. That he suffers according to the flesh that he might take upon him the sins of his people and blot out their transgressions, according to the power of his deliverance.	Alma 5:18-23
8	The Plates of Brass will be preserved to enlarge the memory of the people and convince many of the error of their ways and be brought to the knowledge of God, unto the salvation of their souls	Alma 17:37-40; 48-50
9	And as surely as the Lord liveth will he gather in from the four quarters of the earth all the remnant of the seed of Jacob who are scattered abroad upon all the face of the earth; and they shall know their Redeemer, who is Jesus Christ	III Nephi 2:104-109

The Purposes of the Book of Mormon (3)

#	Purpose	Reference
10	The plates of Nephi will be preserved because they contain the more part of the things which Jesus taught the people	III Nephi 12:1-2
11	The Book of Mormon is written to all the ends of the earth as well as to the twelve tribes of Israel that all may know they must stand before the judgment seat of Christ , yea every soul who belongs to the whole human family of Adam and to be judged of their works, whether they be good or evil, and to be judged whether they believed the Gospel of Christ. And, that the Jews shall have another witness that Jesus is the Christ, the very God	Mormon 1:82-89
12	These things are written to the remnant of the house of Jacob (Israel), to come forth in His (God's) own due time, and to go to the unbelieving of the Jews, that they may be persuaded that Jesus is the Christ , the Son of the living God. And also that the seed of this people (the Lamanites) may more fully believe His gospel , which will come to them from the Gentiles.	Mormon 2:39-43
13	The Book of Mormon is written to the remnant of the house of Israel with the intent that they should believe the record which shall come unto the Gentiles from the Jews (the Bible), as well as The Book of Mormon	Mormon 3:30-33

The Purposes of the Book of Mormon (4) – The Covenant

#	Purpose	Reference
1	Lamanites are of the house of Israel and part of the covenant	I Nephi 4:17
2	Lord made a covenant with Abraham	I Nephi 4:29
3	Gentiles repent and adopted as covenant people of the Lord	II Nephi 12:77
4	Individual covenant we each make with God	Alma 5:27
5	God's covenant to gather the house of Israel	III Nephi 7:29
6	God's covenant to bring the gospel to the house of Israel	III Nephi 7:36
7	Covenant to the house of Israel to restore them	III Nephi 9:63
8	Our personal covenant with God through grace, forgiveness, sanctification	Moroni 10:30

There are 91 appearances of the word 'covenant' in The Book of Mormon

THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK OF MORMON IN 2 WORDS – **JESUS CHRIST**



Jesus Knocking at the Door, by Del Parson, © 1983 IRI

THE PURPOSE PRINCIPLE

WHAT'S IN THE
BOOK OF
MORMON IS
THERE ON
PURPOSE

The Purpose Principle

- **What's in the book is there for a purpose**
 - How do we know? Because the major writers told us so (Nephi, Mormon, Moroni)
- Important to always ask the question when studying the BoM – **why is this included?**
- “Written by way of commandment, And also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation” ~ Moroni, Title Page

Divine Control over the BoM Content

Writer	Instruction	Subject	Reference
Nephi	Leave out	“the remainder of the things which I saw”	I Nephi 3:252
Nephi	Put in	“the ministry, and the prophecies, the more plain and precious parts of them”	I Nephi 5:223
Mormon	Put in	The small plates of Nephi	Words of Mormon 1:9-10
Mormon	Put in	“the things which have been commanded me of the Lord”	III Nephi 12:5
Mormon	Leave out	The rest of the words of Jesus	III Nephi 12:5
Moroni	Put in	The sealed portion	Ether 1:98
Moroni	Put in	“the words which were commanded me, according to my memory”	Ether 2:1
Moroni	Put in	Information about the secret combinations	Ether 3:80-102
Moroni	Leave out	The rest of the prophecies of Ether	Ether 6:14

* Recent Book of Mormon Developments, Volume 2 pg 172

The Book of Mormon is the Key to our Future!

1. Because it is the **key to the Gospel**
 - I Nephi 3:165-186
2. Because it is the **key to additional scripture**
 - Book of Remembrance – Gen 6:5,47; Ether 3:80
 - Plates of Brass – I Nephi 1:158-168
 - Sealed portion – Ether 1:84-101
3. Because it is the **key to Zion** – Ether 6:3-8
4. Because it is the **key to restoration of the House of Israel**
 - Parable of Zenos - Jacob 3:30-153
5. Because it is the **key to MORE of Jesus Christ** – III Nephi 5-13
6. Because it is the **key to prophecy of the end times and Jesus' return**



CLASS SOURCES

WHAT MATERIAL
ARE WE USING
FOR OUR
DISCUSSIONS

What are we drawing our material from?

Overview material

- RLDS Church History volume 1, first ~100 pages
- Book of Mormon Overview, 3rd Edition
- An Introduction to the Book of Mormon, Thelona Stevens
- www.bomf.org
- Various online sources – RLDS, LDS, and General
 - Used for corroboration but not as primary sources

What are we drawing our material from?

Book of Mormon Study

- The Book of Mormon itself – 1908 and RCE editions

Other good sources

- Peoples, Places, and Prophecies - Verneil Simmons
- Voices from the Dust - Glenn Scott
- Book of Mormon Deeps - Weldon and Butterworth
- Recent Book of Mormon Developments, Vol 2 - ZRF/BoMF
- Criticisms of the Book of Mormon Answered - Weldon and Butterworth

Sources – Primary vs Secondary

- Difference between them
- Why important to remember
- We should give more credence to more reliable sources
- Remember that the purposes of the BoM dictate what God wanted included vs not
- The purposes and context of other books drive the perspective they espouse (ie, RLDS perspective vs LDS perspective vs non-BoM believer perspective, etc.)
- In whom do we trust? **We have no greater authority than Jesus Christ**