

Restoration Truth Case: 1-Session Field Guide

High-pressure version for Protestant dialogue | Numbers + quotes + consistency tests

THE FORCED CHOICE

Claim: If Joseph Smith was "obviously" a fraud, critics must show a full mechanism for pace + process + witnesses + prophecy + correspondence.
Not enough: slogans like "farm-boy fiction" or "Satan did it" with no model.

NON-NEGOTIABLE MATH

Book of Mormon baseline: ~269,510 words.
Common LDS working window: ~60-65 days.
Outputs:
60 days: 4,492/day
65 days: 4,146/day
85-day max calendar: 3,171/day

| Scenario | Words | Days | Rate |
|---------------------|---------|------|-----------|
| Working model A | 269,510 | 60 | 4,492/day |
| Working model B | 269,510 | 65 | 4,146/day |
| Critic-friendly max | 269,510 | 85 | 3,171/day |

PROCESS QUOTES (HIGH IMPACT)

Emma Smith: "dictate to me hour after hour" ... "without either seeing the manuscript or having any portion of it read."

Oliver Cowdery: "These were days never to be forgotten" ... "Day after day ... to write from his mouth."

Use line: Speed alone proves nothing. Speed + continuity + output structure creates the pressure.

WITNESS DURABILITY

Facts:

- Three and Eight Witness statements were in the 1830 publication.
- Major relational/institutional conflict later occurred.
- Core witness affirmations still persisted.

David Whitmer: "I have never at any time denied that testimony."

PROPHECY CASE (D&C 87)

1832 text: war "beginning at the rebellion of South Carolina."
1861 context: Civil War outbreak tied to South Carolina (Fort Sumter).

Best critic response: Nullification made this politically imaginable.

Best LDS response: That may explain part, not the cumulative predictive weight.

COULDN'T-HAVE-KNOWN RANKING

| Lane | Value | How to use |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Production compression | High | Lead with hard numbers |
| Witness durability | High | Use persistence under conflict |
| Civil War prophecy | High | Probabilistic, not absolute |
| Nahom / NHM | Moderate+ | Convergence, not one-hit proof |
| Mahaway / Mahijah | Moderate | Specific but bounded |
| Chiasmus | Moderate | Filtered examples only |

SCRIPTURE REBUTTAL CARDS

Rev 22: warning against corrupting that prophecy; canon closure requires extra argument.

Gal 1: LDS still proclaim Christ's atonement/resurrection; dispute is authority/restoration.

Deut 18: apply one prophecy standard to Bible and Joseph, not two.

Sola scriptura claim: does not automatically solve authority transmission.

THE "SATAN DID IT" TEST

Test by scripture, not labels:

- 1) Matthew 12 (divided kingdom)
- 2) Matthew 7 (fruits)
- 3) 1 John 4 (Christ confession)

If the model explains every outcome equally, it has no explanatory power.

CROSS-EX QUESTIONS

- What exact standard are you using against Joseph?
- Do you apply it equally to biblical prophecy complexities?
- Are you proving canon closure, or presupposing it?
- What full mechanism explains pace + process + witnesses?
- Can your satanic model pass Matthew 12 / Matthew 7 / 1 John 4 coherently?

30-SECOND CLOSE

You can reject LDS claims. But "obvious fraud" is weak if you cannot explain the full profile. Read the Book of Mormon in full, pray, then keep studying evidence with one consistent standard.

CORE SOURCES

BYU Studies timing: byustudies.byu.edu/article/timing-the-translation-of-the-book-of-mormon-days-and-hours-never-to-be-forgotten/

Scripture Central rapid translation: scripturecentral.org/evidence/book-of-mormon-evidence-rapid-translation

RSC process account: rsc.byu.edu/vol-4-no-2-2003/coming-forth-book-mormon

RSC civil war study: rsc.byu.edu/civil-war-saints/have-we-not-had-prophet-among-us-joseph-smiths-civil-war-prophecy

FAIR Deut 18: fairlatterdaysaints.org/answers/

Question: Does_Joseph_Smith_fail_the_%22prophetic_test%22_found_in_Deuteronomy_18%3F

Nahom: scripturecentral.org/evidence/book-of-mormon-evidence-nahom

Interpreter Mahaway: journal.interpreterfoundation.org/where-did-the-names-mahaway-and-mahujah-come-from-one-possible-explanation/