

Why Read the Book of Mormon?

Another Testament of Jesus Christ — Judge for Yourself

You've probably heard things about this book. Maybe you've heard it contradicts the Bible, teaches a "different Jesus," or that Joseph Smith just made it all up.

But have you actually read it? Not cherry-picked random verses out of context, but actually read it?

Before you dismiss it based on what others have told you, consider seeing what it actually says — and what questions it answers that the Bible leaves open. This document will show you direct quotes from the text, evidence that Joseph Smith couldn't have fabricated it, and answers to common objections.

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Part I: 23 Questions the Book of Mormon Answers

The Bible is the word of God. But it doesn't answer every question. Here are 23 questions the Book of Mormon directly addresses — with scripture references so you can read the answers yourself:

1. Does the Bible contain ALL of God's word?

2 Nephi 29:6-10

"Thou fool, that shall say: A Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible... Know ye not that there are more nations than one? Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men... and I bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth?"

"Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word?... **I shall speak unto the Jews and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the Nephites and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the other tribes of the house of Israel...** and they shall write it... And it shall come to pass that the Jews shall have the words of the Nephites, and the Nephites shall have the words of the Jews; and the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the lost tribes of Israel."

2. Who were the "other sheep" Jesus mentioned in John 10:16?

John 10:16 (Bible)

"And **other sheep I have, which are not of this fold:** them also I must bring, and **they shall hear my voice;** and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

Who were these "other sheep"? Not the Gentiles — they heard through apostles, not Christ's voice directly. The Book of Mormon claims to answer this:

3 Nephi 15:21-24

"And verily I say unto you, that **ye are they of whom I said: Other sheep I have which are not of this fold;** them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd... And they understood me not, for they supposed it had been the Gentiles... But behold, **ye have both heard my voice, and seen me;** and ye are my sheep."

3. How can a person KNOW the Book of Mormon is true?

Moroni 10:3-5

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

4. How can a desire to believe develop into strong faith?

Alma 32:27-28

"But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to **an experiment upon my words**, and exercise a particle of faith, yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you... Now, we will compare the word unto a **seed**. Now, if ye give place, that a seed may be planted in your heart, behold, if it be a true seed, or a good seed, if ye do not cast it out by your unbelief... behold, **it will begin to swell within your breasts**; and when you feel these swelling motions, ye will begin to say within yourselves—It must needs be that this is a good seed..."

5. What is the purpose of man's existence?

2 Nephi 2:25

"**Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.**"

6. How can God be both just AND merciful?

Alma 42:15, 22-25

"And now, the plan of mercy could not be brought about except an atonement should be made; therefore **God himself atoneth for the sins of the world, to bring about the plan of mercy, to appease the demands of justice**, that God might be a perfect, just God, and a merciful God also... But there is a law given, and a punishment affixed, and a repentance granted; which repentance, mercy claimeth; otherwise, justice claimeth the creature and executeth the law... And thus **mercy can satisfy the demands of justice, and encircles them in the arms of safety.**"

7. What happens to our spirits at death?

Alma 40:11-14

"Now, concerning the state of the soul between death and the resurrection... The spirits of those who are righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called **paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace**, where they shall rest from all their troubles and from all care, and sorrow. And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of the wicked... shall be cast out into **outer darkness**; there shall be weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth... thus they remain in this state, as well as the righteous in paradise, **until the time of their resurrection.**"

8. How can a person turn weaknesses into strengths?

Ether 12:27

"And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. **I give unto men weakness that they may be humble**; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then **will I make weak things become strong unto them.**"

9. What happened in America when Jesus was born?

3 Nephi 1:15, 19-21

"And it came to pass that the words which came unto Nephi were fulfilled... for behold, at the going down of the sun **there was no darkness**; and the people began to be astonished because there was no darkness when the night came... And it came to pass that there was **no darkness in all that night, but it was as light as though it was mid-day**. And it came to pass that the sun did rise in the morning again... and they knew that it was **the day that the Lord should be born**, because of the sign which had been given."

10. What happened in America when Jesus was crucified?

3 Nephi 8:5-7, 17-19

"And it came to pass in the thirty and fourth year, in the first month, on the fourth day of the month, there arose **a great storm**, such an one as never had been known in all the land. And there was also a great and terrible tempest; and there was **terrible thunder**... And there was **exceeding sharp lightnings**... And it came to pass that there was **thick darkness upon all the face of the land**, insomuch that the inhabitants thereof who had not fallen could feel the vapor of darkness; And there could be no light... neither candles, neither torches... and there was not any light seen, neither fire, nor glimmer, neither the sun, nor the moon, nor the stars, **for so great were the mists of darkness which were upon the face of the land.**"

11. What do we witness by being baptized?

2 Nephi 31:13

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I know that if ye shall follow the Son, with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, **witnessing unto the**

Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism—yea, by following your Lord and your Savior down into the water, according to his word, behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost."

12. Why was Jesus Christ baptized?

2 Nephi 31:5-7

"And now, if the Lamb of God, he being holy, should have need to be baptized by water, to fulfil all righteousness, O then, how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized... I would ask of you, my beloved brethren, wherein the Lamb of God did fulfil all righteousness in being baptized by water? Know ye not that he was holy? But notwithstanding he being holy, **he showeth unto the children of men that, according to the flesh he humbleth himself before the Father, and witnesseth unto the Father that he would be obedient unto him in keeping his commandments.**"

13. What IS the gospel of Jesus Christ?

3 Nephi 27:13-21

"Behold I have given unto you my gospel, and **this is the gospel which I have given unto you—that I came into the world to do the will of my Father**, because my Father sent me. And my Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross; and after that I had been lifted up upon the cross, **that I might draw all men unto me...** And it shall come to pass, that whoso **repenteth and is baptized in my name shall be filled; and if he endureth to the end**, behold, him will I hold guiltless before my Father at that day when I shall stand to judge the world."

14. Why was the Atonement necessary?

2 Nephi 9:7-9

"Wherefore, **it must needs be an infinite atonement—save it should be an infinite atonement this corruption could not put on incorruption.** Wherefore, the first judgment which came upon man must needs have remained to an endless duration. And if so, this flesh must have laid down to rot and to crumble to its mother earth, to rise no more. O the wisdom of God, his mercy and grace! For behold, **if the flesh should rise no more our spirits must become subject to that angel who fell from before the presence of the Eternal God, and became the devil, to rise no more.**"

15. To what extent are men accountable for their choices?

2 Nephi 2:27

"Wherefore, **men are free** according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And **they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death**, according to the captivity and power of the devil."

Helaman 14:30-31

"And now remember, remember, my brethren, that whosoever perisheth, perisheth unto himself; and whosoever doeth iniquity, doeth it unto himself; for behold, **ye are free; ye are permitted to act for yourselves; for behold, God hath given unto you a knowledge and he hath made you free.**"

16. Do little children need repentance and baptism?

Moroni 8:8, 11-12

"Listen to the words of Christ, your Redeemer, your Lord and your God... **Little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin**; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me... And their little children need no repentance, neither baptism. Behold, baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling the commandments unto the remission of sins. But **little children are alive in Christ, even from the foundation of the world.**"

17. Does God always protect the righteous from the unrighteous?

Alma 60:13

"For the Lord suffereth the righteous to be slain that his justice and judgment may come upon the wicked; therefore ye need not suppose that the righteous are lost because they are slain; but behold, **they do enter into the rest of the Lord their God.**"

18. How did a prophet 600 B.C. describe OUR day?

2 Nephi 28:3-9

"For it shall come to pass in that day that **the churches which are built up, and not unto the Lord...** shall contend one with another; and their priests shall contend one with another, and they shall teach with their learning, and deny the Holy Ghost... And they deny the power of God, the Holy One of Israel; and **they say unto the people: Hearken unto us, and hear ye our precept; for behold there is no God today, for the Lord and the Redeemer hath done his work...** Yea, and there shall be many which shall say: **Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die;** and it shall be well with us."

19. What should we pray about?

Alma 34:17-27

"Cry unto him... over the crops of your fields, that ye may prosper in them. **Cry over the flocks of your fields, that they may increase.** But this is not all; ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places, and in your wilderness. Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord, **let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually** for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those who are around you."

20. Why should we not procrastinate repentance?

Alma 34:32-35

"For behold, **this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God;** yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors. And now... **I beseech of you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end;** for after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed."

21. What will our bodies be like in the resurrection?

Alma 40:23

"The soul shall be restored to the body, and the body to the soul; yea, and **every limb and joint shall be restored to its body; yea, even a hair of the head shall not be lost;** but all things shall be restored to their proper and perfect frame."

22. Are we saved by grace, by works, or both?

2 Nephi 25:23

"For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that **it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.**"

Context: "After all we can do" doesn't mean we earn grace by works. The entire chapter (2 Nephi 25) emphasizes that the law of Moses cannot save — only Christ can. "After all we can do" means despite our best efforts, we still fall short and need grace. This is the same message as Ephesians 2:8-9.

23. How can we judge what is good and what is evil?

Moroni 7:16-17

"For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil; wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge; for **every thing which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ...** But whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge **it is of the devil.**"

Part II: How Do We Know Truth? (The "Feelings" Double Standard)

Critics often mock Latter-day Saints for relying on "feelings" to know the Book of Mormon is true. But here's the question:

How do YOU know the Bible is true? How do you know God exists? How do you know Jesus rose from the dead? Did you witness it? Or did you come to believe through faith, prayer, and the witness of the Holy Spirit?

The truth is: **Everyone relies on spiritual witness.** No one has scientific proof that God exists or that Jesus is the Savior. Biblical evidences aren't enough to know God exists or else there wouldn't be any atheists today. We believe because the Spirit testified to us — through prayer, scripture study, and experience.

The Bible itself teaches this:

Luke 24:13-32 (Bible) — The Road to Emmaus

After His resurrection, Jesus walked with two disciples who **didn't recognize Him** — even as He explained the scriptures to them. Only after He broke bread with them "were their eyes opened, and they knew him."

And then they said: "**Did not our heart burn within us**, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"

The disciples knew Jesus through a **burning in their hearts** — the same witness Latter-day Saints describe when testifying of the Book of Mormon.

1 Corinthians 2:11-14 (Bible)

"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so **the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God...** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but **the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.**"

John 16:13 (Bible)

"Howbeit when he, **the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.**"

So when people say "You can't trust feelings" — ask them: **How do they know God is real?** How do they know Jesus is the Christ? If they answer "the Holy Spirit testified to me" — that's exactly what we're describing, they just don't want to admit it.

Part III: Could Joseph Smith Have Made This Up?

The standard skeptical claim is that Joseph Smith invented the Book of Mormon. But consider what that would require:

The Basic Facts

- Joseph Smith was **23 years old** with roughly a **third-grade education**

- He dictated **269,000 words** in approximately **65 working days**
- He used **no notes, no manuscripts, no library**
- He averaged **4,100+ words per day** — in a single, unrehearsed draft

For comparison:

Author	Words per day
J.R.R. Tolkien (Oxford professor)	109
J.K. Rowling (professional author)	293
Stephen King (prolific novelist)	650
Joseph Smith (farm boy)	4,100+

The Impossible Knowledge Problem

But the real problem for skeptics isn't the speed — it's that Joseph Smith knew things he *couldn't* have known. Over and over, he made claims that critics called "anachronisms" (errors proving fraud) — and then archaeology or ancient manuscripts proved him right, decades or even a century later.

Example: Nahom

1 Nephi 16:34 mentions a place called "Nahom" in Arabia where Ishmael was buried. Critics said this proved Joseph made it up — no such place existed.

Then in **1999**, archaeologists found ancient altars in Yemen inscribed with "**NHM**" — the exact location and name Nephi described, dating to 600-700 BC. Joseph couldn't have known this in 1829.

Example: Chiasmus

The Book of Mormon contains extensive use of **chiasmus** — an ancient Hebrew poetic form where phrases are repeated in reverse order (A-B-C-C'-B'-A'). Western scholars didn't recognize this biblical pattern until the **1960s**.

How did an uneducated farm boy in 1829 write sophisticated Hebrew poetry that scholars wouldn't identify for another 130 years?

Example: Cement

Helaman 3:7-11 describes ancient Americans building with **cement**. Critics mocked this for decades — "Native Americans didn't have cement!"

Then archaeologists discovered extensive **cement construction** in ancient Mesoamerica, dating to exactly the time period the Book of Mormon describes. Joseph couldn't have known this in 1829.

Example: Ancient Enoch Texts

Joseph wrote extensive material about the prophet Enoch in 1830. The Bible gives Enoch only 4 verses. Critics said Joseph invented it all.

Then scholars translated ancient texts (Ethiopian Enoch 1838, Old Slavonic Enoch 1896, Hebrew Enoch 1896) — and Joseph's Enoch material matched ancient traditions he couldn't have accessed. These texts weren't available in English for **8 to 66 years** after Joseph published.

The Question

Which requires more faith to believe?

- 1. That a barely educated 23-year-old orchestrated the most sophisticated theological fraud in history, somehow predicting dozens of archaeological and manuscript discoveries 50-200 years in advance, then died defending his story, OR*
- 2. That God called a prophet?*

Part IV: Common Objections Answered

Objection: "2 Nephi 25:23 teaches works salvation!"

The Claim: "It is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do" means you have to earn salvation through works first.

The Context: Read the whole chapter. Nephi is explaining that the *law of Moses cannot save* — only Christ can. He's writing to Jews who thought keeping the law was enough.

The phrase "after all we can do" means: **despite** our best efforts, we still fall short and need grace. It's the same message as Romans 3:20 — "by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified."

Other Book of Mormon verses make this crystal clear:

2 Nephi 10:24 — "It is **only in and through the grace of God** that ye are saved."

Mosiah 3:17 — "There shall be **no other name given nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come** unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ."

Moroni 10:32 — "His **grace is sufficient** for you."

Objection: "Baptism isn't necessary for salvation!"

The Claim: Teaching that baptism is necessary for salvation is "adding works" to the gospel.

But Jesus said:

John 3:5 (Bible)

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**"

Mark 16:16 (Bible)

"He that believeth **and is baptized** shall be saved."

1 Peter 3:21 (Bible)

"**Baptism doth also now save us.**"

The Book of Mormon doesn't add anything the Bible doesn't already teach.

Objection: "Adding to Scripture!" (Revelation 22:18)

The Claim: Revelation 22:18 says not to add to Scripture, so the Book of Mormon is condemned.

The Problem: That verse refers to the *book of Revelation*, which isn't even the last chronological book in the Bible and doesn't refer to the entire Bible:

Revelation 22:18

"If any man shall add unto **these things**" — referring to "the words of the prophecy of **this book**" (the Revelation of John).

Deuteronomy 4:2 contains similar language: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you." But that was written *before* Psalms, Isaiah, the Gospels, and Revelation itself. If "don't add" meant no more Scripture ever, we wouldn't have most of the Bible.

Objection: "Another gospel!" (Galatians 1:8)

The Claim: The Book of Mormon is "another gospel" cursed by Paul.

If the church had a dollar for every time someone said this it would have a billion dollars... oh wait. Just **read it and see**. The Book of Mormon teaches:

- Salvation through Jesus Christ alone (Mosiah 3:17)
- We are saved by grace (2 Nephi 10:24)
- Faith in Christ (Moroni 7:26)
- Repentance (Alma 34:15-17)
- The Resurrection (Alma 40-41)

That's not "another gospel" — it's the *same* gospel as the New Testament. Another *witness* of the same message.

The Invitation

We're not asking you to leave your church. We're not asking you to abandon your Bible.

We're asking you to **read another book that testifies of Jesus Christ** — and then ask God what He thinks about it.

Moroni 10:4-5

"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.**"

The Promise

Don't take our word for it. Don't take your pastor's word for it.

Read it. Pray about it. Ask God.

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice."

— Jesus Christ (John 10:16)

The Book of Mormon is available free at churchofjesuschrist.org or through the **Book of Mormon** app.