

Is The Book of Mormon a Scam?



This document article is old. I, Bro. Pouliot wrote this not long after I left the Seventh-day Adventist Church. To share my experience about what did I learned about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), commonly known as the Mormon Church. I met several LDS members from their church and visited my apartment. I did learn quite a bit about their beliefs. Before meeting them again, I knew I had to investigate their belief because something isn't right about their so-called Morman book.

After meeting the first LDS acquaintance, I met several more over the years. During many of our discussions, I noticed how often they encouraged me to read their book, *The Book of Mormon*, which they consider an additional book of scripture. However, when I brought up my concerns about their doctrines, they often ignored my questions or refused to address contradictions I found between their teachings and the Bible. That experience motivated me to examine their beliefs more carefully and understand why I disagreed with them.



Earlier, I mentioned that I had never heard of the *Book of Mormon* before meeting LDS members. When they told me about it, I said that no book should be added after the *Book of Revelation*. They then explained the story of Joseph Smith, who claimed to have discovered golden plates written in an ancient language in the early 19th century. According to them, these plates were older than the Bible and originally came from South America. Despite their explanation, I still doubted their story but agreed to read the *Book of Mormon* as a personal study project. After reading it, I concluded that it was not a true revelation.

One of my first assignments from an LDS friend was to read *Mosiah* 18:8–11 in the *Book of Mormon* and compare it with *James* 1:26–27 in the Bible. After doing so, I discovered no connection between the two passages. I wondered if they had given me the wrong assignment. When I first read the *Book of Mormon*, I found its language peculiar—it seemed to mimic the King James Bible very closely. That made me suspicious, so I began examining passages that conflicted with biblical teachings.

I read about a man named Alma and his people, who supposedly fled King Noah and lived in the wilderness around 147–145 B.C. The book claimed these events occurred in South America and that these people were descendants of the tribes of Lehi and Nephi, who had left Jerusalem for the “promised land” in the Americas. None of this was familiar to me, nor was it mentioned anywhere in the Bible. Curious, I looked into the “Waters of Mormon,” which the book located near present-day Lake Erie. When I shared this with LDS members, they seemed unaware of it themselves, which was surprising considering how often they spoke of Mormon teachings.

Later, I studied the *Book of Mormon* stories about ancient battles in upstate New York, where allegedly millions of soldiers were slain. But archaeological evidence doesn't support these claims—no mass graves, weapons, or armor has ever been found in Hill Cumorah. I also learned that the *Book of Mormon* mentioned Jaredites, Nephites, and Lamanites waging wars around 421 A.D., yet again, no historical or physical evidence exists to support these events.

Another confusing aspect was the claim that Nephi's family left Jerusalem during the time of the prophet Daniel and crossed the ocean to America. This contradicts known historical and biblical timelines. The Bible never mentions such groups or migrations, and it's geographically implausible that they traveled such extreme distances during that era.

Additionally, modern DNA evidence shows that Native Americans have ancestry linked primarily to Siberia, not the Middle East. Their migration likely occurred over the Bering land bridge thousands of years ago, not from Jerusalem as claimed in the *Book of Mormon*.

The LDS scripture also mentions animals like cows, oxen, horses, and goats, as well as wheat, existing in the Americas before 1677 A.D.—but no historical or scientific evidence supports that. Horses, for example, were reintroduced by Europeans centuries later.

Finally, I noticed that many verses in the *Book of Mormon* are taken almost word-for-word from the King James Bible, even though it was written centuries later. This raised more doubts about its authenticity. According to LDS claims, the golden plates Joseph Smith translated were later taken to heaven—a story that makes little sense. How could solid gold plates weighing hundreds of pounds simply disappear?

All of this evidence led me to conclude that Joseph Smith was not a true prophet and that the *Book of Mormon* is not divinely inspired. Even the King James Bible has translation issues, but that alone doesn't justify adding or altering scripture. In the end, I believe the teachings of the LDS Church and their scriptures are based on false claims and contradictions with historical and biblical truth.