

The Scriptures

Mormonism, Lesson Three

Review

- Where did Jesus accomplish forgiveness for our sins?
How does Mormonism answer?
- How does Jesus provide forgiveness of sins?
How do we receive that forgiveness?
- How does Mormonism define “salvation”?
What do Mormons believe they are saved from?

Lesson

Latter-Day Saints (“Mormons”) believe that the Book of Mormon is scripture for Christians just like the Bible is.

I. “The Book of Mormon is a volume of holy scripture **comparable** to the Bible.”

I.A. Why is the Bible “scripture”?

I.A.1. “Scriptures” are **writings** for which God is ultimately the **author**.

All Scripture is **breathed out** by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (2 Tim 3:16).

I.A. Why is the Bible “scripture”?

I.A.1. “Scriptures” are **writings** for which God is ultimately the **author**.

...no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were **carried along** by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21).

I.A. Why is the Bible “scripture”?

I.A.2. “Scripture” in the Bible refers to the **Old Testament**.

I.A.2.a. The Scriptures Jesus explained included “**Moses** and all the **Prophets**.”

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (Luk 24:27)

I.A. Why is the Bible “scripture”?

I.A.2. “Scripture” in the Bible refers to the **Old Testament**.

I.A.2.b. The Old Testament writings “were written down for our **instruction**.”

Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. (1 Cor 10:11)

I.B. The Bible does not talk about “the Bible.”

I.B.1. A library of Christian “classics.”

I.B.1.a. Peter speaks of Paul’s letters as among “the other Scriptures.”

just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. (2 Pet 3:15-16)

I.B. The Bible does not talk about “the Bible.”

I.B.1. A library of Christian “classics.”

I.B.1.b. Not everything written by apostles and prophets “got in.” Colossians 4:16 mentions Paul’s letter to Christians in Laodicea, which he wanted other churches to read.

And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. (Col 4:16)

I.C. The Bible does not talk about any other book of scripture that God is writing through prophets.

I.D. Why do LDS claim the Book of Mormon as “scripture”?

I.D.1. “The Book of Mormon contains God’s words”



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The Book of Mormon contains God’s words

The Book of Mormon contains sacred writings from followers of Jesus. Just like God spoke to Moses and Noah in the Bible, He also spoke to people in the Americas. These men, called prophets,

I.D.1.a. Centuries and many generations of records.

The screenshot displays the official website of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/s...>. The page header features the church's name and a navigation bar with a menu icon, search, globe, and user profile icons. Below the header, the page title "Introduction" is visible. The main content area is titled "INTRODUCTION" and includes the following text:

The Book of Mormon is a volume of holy scripture comparable to the Bible. It is a record of God's dealings with ancient inhabitants of the Americas and contains the fulness of the everlasting gospel.

The book was written by many ancient prophets by the spirit of prophecy and revelation. Their words, written on gold plates, were quoted and abridged by a prophet-historian named Mormon. The record gives an account of two great civilizations. One came from Jerusalem in 600 B.C. and afterward separated into two nations, known as the Nephites and the Lamanites. The other came much earlier when the

On the left side of the text, there is a vertical toolbar with icons for closing, editing, copying, and sharing. On the right side, there is a vertical "Feedback" button.

I.D.1.b. Compiled into one book by a
single copyist.

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the official website of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The page is titled "Introduction" and is labeled as page "vii". The main heading is "INTRODUCTION". The text describes the Book of Mormon as a volume of holy scripture comparable to the Bible, containing the fulness of the everlasting gospel. It states that the book was written by many ancient prophets by the spirit of prophecy and revelation. A portion of the text is underlined: "Their words, written on gold plates, were quoted and abridged by a prophet-historian named Mormon." The text continues: "The record gives an account of two great civilizations. One came from Jerusalem in 600 B.C. and afterward separated into two nations, known as the Nephites and the Lamanites. The other came much earlier when the". The page includes a sidebar with navigation icons (close, edit, copy, share) and a "Feedback" button at the bottom right.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Introduction

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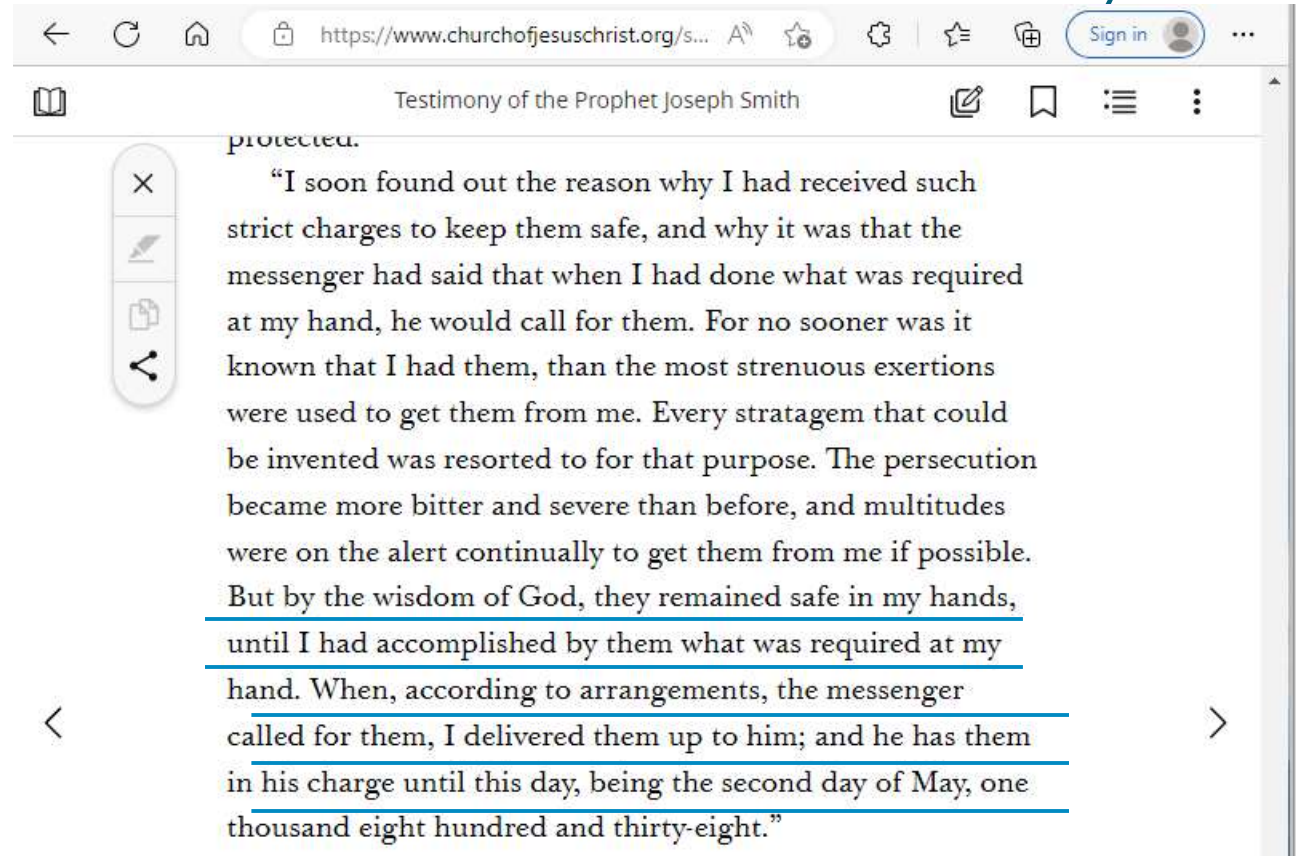
INTRODUCTION

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Feedback

I.D.1.c. Recorded on golden plates, a single copy, that does **not exist** on earth today.



I.D.1.d. Translated by one, young, uneducated man, Joseph Smith, who claims to have done so as a prophet.

“The book was produced in a period of about three months by a twenty-two-year-old man with little formal training or education...a complex work of more than five hundred pages...Under divine instruction and power, Joseph Smith translated it from a set of records given to him by a heavenly messenger,” (Rex Lee, *What Do Mormons Believe?*, 12).

I.D. Why do LDS claim the Book of Mormon as “scripture”?

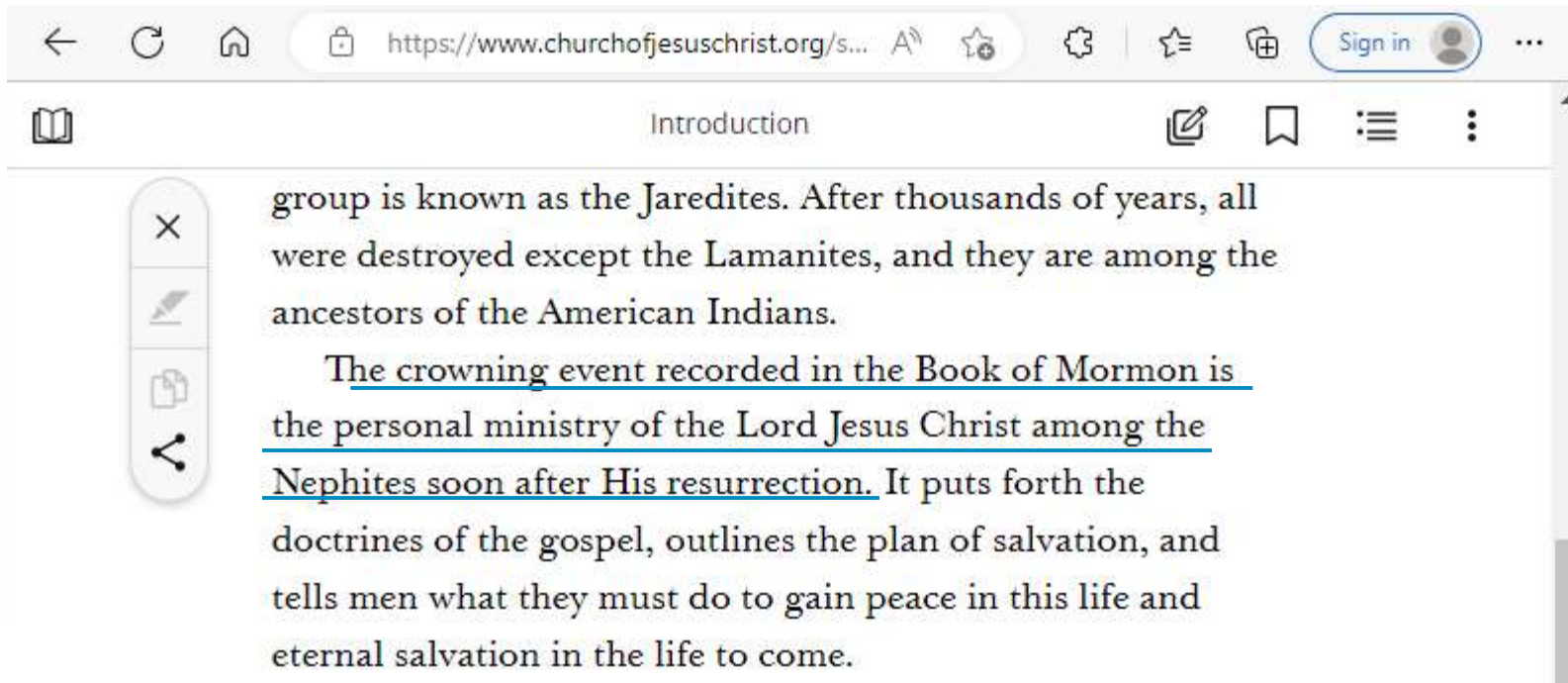
I.D.2. Do these claims show that the Book of Mormon is “like the Bible”? Mark Y or N next to each of the reasons in I.D.1 above.

- Centuries and many generations of records. Y / N
- Compiled into one book by a single copyist. Y / N
- Recorded on golden plates, a single copy, that does not exist on earth today. Y / N
- Translated by one, young, uneducated man, Joseph Smith, who claims to have done so as a prophet. Y / N

II. “...a new and additional witness that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God.”

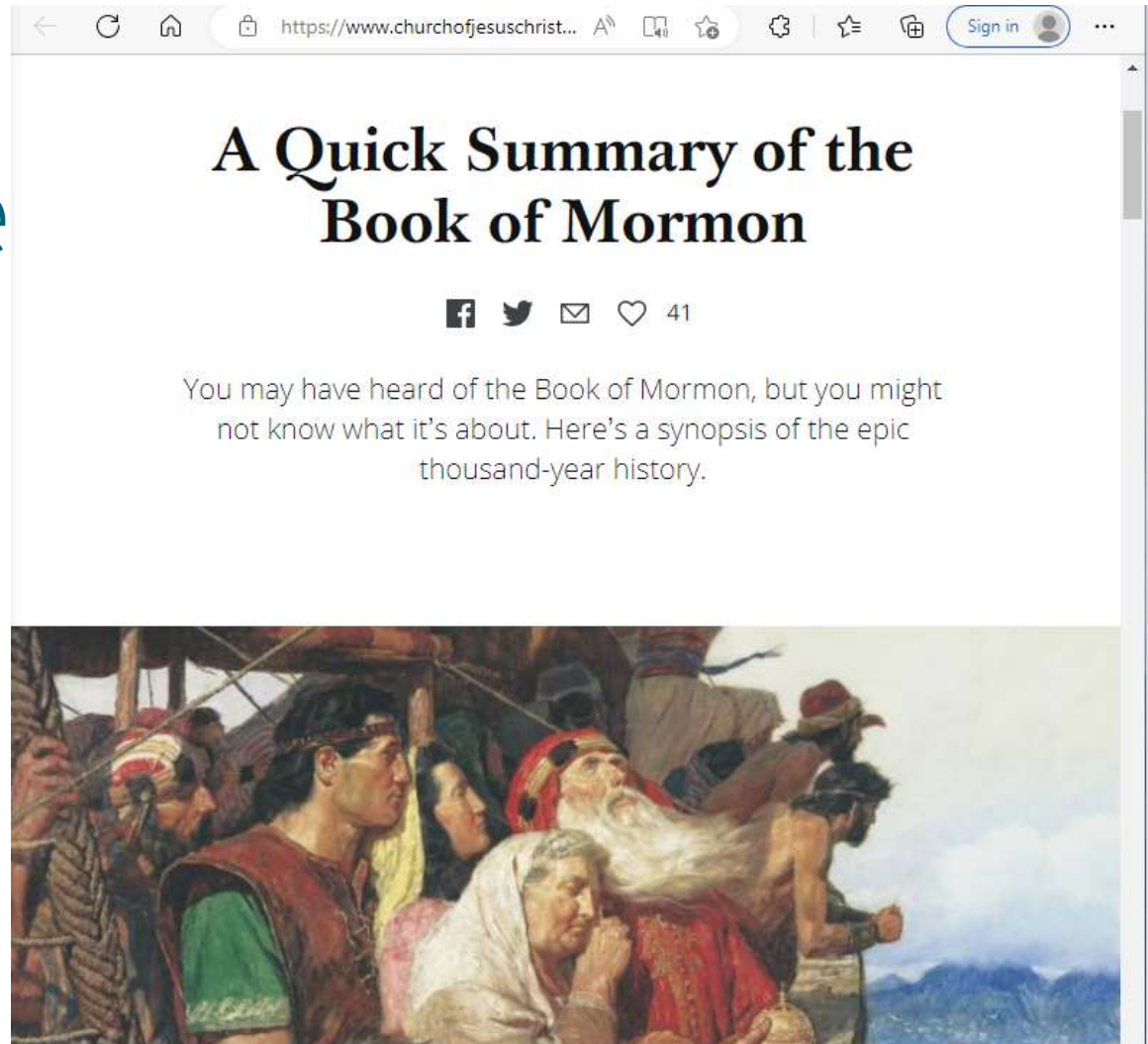
Book of Mormon, Introduction.

II.A. The story is about Jesus visiting the Nephites in the ancient Americas.



II.B. Who were the Nephites?

Go to [A Quick Summary](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/quick-summary)
of the Book of Mormon | Come
Unto Christ (churchofjesuschrist.org)



II.C. Jesus' visit to the Americas.

“Following his **ascension** into heaven, Jesus spent a period of about **forty** days among those people, preaching the gospel, healing the sick, and establishing his church upon the foundation of apostles and prophets. (See 3 Nephi 11-28),” (Lee, *What Do Mormons Believe?*, 17).

“[Jesus' personal ministry in the Book of Mormon] puts forth the doctrines of the **gospel**, outlines the plan of **salvation**, and tells men what they must do to gain peace in this life and eternal salvation in the life to come.” (Book of Mormon, “Introduction.”)

III. “...the Book of Mormon is the most correct of any book.”

Joseph Smith, quoted in Book of Mormon Introduction.

III.A. Why did Jesus need to teach the gospel, etc., when it was already taught by prophets, and people were baptized hundreds of years earlier?

III.B. Why baptizing in Jesus' name hundreds of years before John the Baptist, who did not know the name of Jesus until Jesus' baptism (see John 1:32-34), and even then did not baptize into Jesus' name (see Acts 18:3-5)?

III.C. When could Jesus have visited the America's without it being the “Second Coming”?

On the Second Coming of Jesus, see [Acts 1:9-11](#);
[Matthew 24:27, 30,31](#); and [1 Thessalonians 4:16,17](#).

IV. What do you think about all of this?

IV.A. In light of what we have studied, indicate whether you agree (A) or disagree (D) with the following statements:

IV.A.1. “If Joseph Smith really saw and did the things that he said he saw and did, then the Book of Mormon has to be true.” (Lee, *What?*, 13)

IV.A.2. “If the Book of Mormon is true, then Joseph Smith’s claims are accurate and truthful.” (Lee, *What?*, 13).

IV.B. What does your evaluation of the Book of Mormon mean for Mormonism as a Christian religion? Consider these statements from Mormon authorities about the Book of Mormon:

IV.A.1. “...the Book of Mormon [is] the keystone of our religion,” Joseph Smith, quoted in Book of Mormon, “Introduction.”

IV.A.2. “The authenticity of Mormonism stands or falls with the book from which the Church derives its nickname,” (Lee, *What?*, 13).