

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The translation of the book of mormon

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Three witnesses of the Book of Mormon put their name to the statement that they saw the golden plates from which Joseph Smith, Jr supposedly translated producing the Book of Mormon. They then claim, “*And we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of God*”.

According to two of the Witnesses, David Whitmer and Martin Harris the translation was a miracle. They said that the plates were put in a large hat to exclude light allowing Smith to see the characters. The plates were supposedly written in “Reformed Egyptian”. Joseph Smith would look underneath the Egyptian words and the equivalent English word would appear. Smith would then call the words out to his scribe who would in turn write them down. If written correctly, the words on the line would disappear, and the words on the next line would appear. But if the scribe made a mistake, then the words would remain until the scribe made the proper correction.

According to Mormons then, the translation of the Book of Mormon from the “Egyptian”

plates, were produced by God guiding Smith word by word. This claim has some interesting implications.

If the gift of God and the power of God were guiding Smith to produce the translation, then the translation should not be changed. But this not the case. Jerald and Sandra Tanner have documented over 3, 913 changes in the Book of Mormon since the original 1830 edition. Why make any change, if the original manuscript was infallibly inspired?

While some of the changes were made because of spelling errors in the first edition, others were made to correct contradictions. For example, in the first edition (1830), “king BENJAMIN had a gift from God, whereby he could interpret such engravings...” (Mosiah 21:28). This has been changed to: “king MOSIAH had a gift from God, whereby he could interpret such engravings...”.

Why the change? According to chronology found in the Book of Mormon, king Benjamin should have been dead at this time. Therefore the Mormon Church

leaders felt it best to change the name to Mosiah. Apparently, the Mormon Church leaders today do not believe the claim of the original witnesses, or they would not be willing to change a translation made by God.

The plates, upon which the Book of Mormon was originally written, were buried, according to Mormon doctrine, in A.D. 421. If this is true, how come there are many word for word quotations from the King James Version of the Bible of 1611? It is apparent that Joseph Smith, Jr. copied from the King James Version because even the *italicized* words are copied. These words were added by the translators in 1611 and are italicized to show that the words do not occur in the original manuscripts. They were added to help present the meaning of the original word in the way we speak today. For example, the italicized word, “*easily*” from the King James Version of I Corinthians 13:5 is copied in the text of Moroni 7:45.

Dear Mormons, these and other facts bring in serious question your claims of the date and Divine translation of your book.