

Glad Tidings

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

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Mormon Teaching Fails Three Tests

(Jerry Fite)

A Bible directive is for us to “*prove all things, hold fast that which is good*” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Examining Mormon teaching, we see it failing three tests.

Mormon teaching fails in being a compatible companion to the Bible. In fact, it contradicts God’s revealed truth in various areas. Jesus said, in A.D. 32, “...I will build my church,” pointing yet to a future time (Matthew 16:18). The Book of Mormon states, “...204 souls were baptized in the waters of Mormon...and were called the church of Christ” (Mosiah 18:16-17). According to Mormon teaching, the church was in existence “about B.C. 147,” long before Jesus said He would build His church. Also, the Bible clearly teaches that Jesus was born in “Bethlehem” (Matt.2:1), while the Book of Mormon clearly states that Jesus was to be born “at Jerusalem” (Alma 7:10). Finally, the Bible reveals that “*from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour*” (Matt. 27:45). Instead of darkness being three hours, the Book of Mormon teaches more than once that there should and was “*darkness over the space of three days over the face of the land*” (3 Nephi 8: 3, cf. 1 Nephi 19:10, Helaman 14:20).

Applying the truth of God’s Word, the Book of Mormon fails due to its clear contradictions.

Mormon teaching fails when applying the test of common sense. For example, the Book of Mormon speaks of a first migration of the “Jaredites” to the West Coast of Central America. Eight barges were to be built “*exceeding tight, even that they would hold water like a dish*” (Ether 2:17). The Lord instructs to include “*a hold in the top and also a hole in the bottom.*” When the occupants needed air, they were to “*unstop the hole and receive air.*” And when water was coming in on the passengers, they were “*to stop the hole, that ye may not perish in the flood*” (Ether 2:20).

When you compare these generic “tree length” barges with the distinctive dimensions of Noah’s “ark,” one sees a difference that common sense can grasp. The ark (300 cubits by 50 cubits by 30 cubits) is compatible to the ratios of modern ship building (6 to 1). This ratio helped keep the ark from twisting and capsizing. The dish-like boats driven by the wind cut through the Atlantic, sometime submerging, and after 344 days, all eight arrive

at the same time in Central America. What a story! It fits better with the fanciful story of the flood according to “*The epic of Gilgamesh*” where the boat in the flood is an un-seaworthy perfect cube, “120 cubits” in each direction with “nine decks.” The Bible is compatible with common sense, the Book of Mormon is incredible!

Mormon teaching is also failing DNA testing. Mormons believe Native Americans are descendants of the Hebrews, who were known as the Lamanites and settled in the Americas in 600 B.C. Decades of DNA testing show most of the Native American population descended from a single Non-Hebrew Siberian grouping who crossed over the land bridge, Beringia, once connecting Russia with Alaska. Another prominent grouping indicates an Eastern Asia – Polynesian source. Recently, DNA testing on “The Kennewick Man,” found in the Columbian River in 1996, revealed a specific grouping not found in the Siberian grouping. His DNA “X2a,” a sub group, is not found in the Middle East, and his remains are dated thousands of years before 600 B.C. Concrete evidence for the Native American descending from the Hebrews is still wanting.