

“Continuous Revelation”

(Common Objections)



COMMON OBJECTIONS CONSIDERED

In this booklet three official Mormon positions are given. Also, fourteen common objections are considered. These are objections to the idea that special revelation from God has ceased since the days of the original apostles.

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OFFICIAL MORMON POSITIONS

1) People must believe the Book of Mormon to be saved:

Orson Pratt, one of the original twelve Mormon apostles, wrote the following:

"The nature of the message in the Book of Mormon is such, that if true, no one can possibly be saved and reject it; if false, no one can possibly be saved and receive it. Therefore, every soul in all the world is equally interested in ascertaining its truth and falsity."

(<http://www.utlm.org/images/changingworld/chwp93orsonpratt.gif> → scanned copy of original "Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon," Orson Pratt, p. 1)

2) The Book of Mormon is the most accurate book:

In History of the Church, IV:461, Joseph Smith said the following:

I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts than by any other book.

(Official Mormon Website: http://www.lds.org/ldsorg/v/index.jsp?vgnextoid=2354fccf2b7db010VgnVCM1000004d82620aRCRD&locale=0&sourceId=c47674536cf0c010VgnVCM1000004d82620a____)

This "*most correct of any book on earth*" has undergone at least 2,125 changes since its original edition printed in 1830. This

alone raises questions since the Book of Mormon was supposedly revealed directly, word for word to Joseph Smith.

3) **The Bible is not reliable:**

"We believe the Bible to be the word of God, as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."

(Official Mormon website: http://scriptures.lds.org/en/a_of_f/1/8#8; The Articles of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, History of the Church, Vol. 4, pp. 535-541, article #8)

OBJECTION #1: Isa 29:1-4 ⇒ The "Ariel" prophecy predicts the Book of Mormon.

Isaiah 29:1-4 (NKJV)

1 "Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt!

Add year to year;

Let feasts come around.

2 Yet I will distress Ariel;

There shall be heaviness and sorrow,

And it shall be to Me as Ariel.

3 I will encamp against you all around,

I will lay siege against you with a mound,

And I will raise siegeworks against you.

4 You shall be brought down,

You shall speak out of the ground;

Your speech shall be low, out of the dust;

Your voice shall be like a medium's, out of the ground;

And your speech shall whisper out of the dust.

Mormon Interpretation:

- *"Ariel" is used twice in v1. Therefore two places are under consideration: (a) Jerusalem in Palestine and (b) some place in America inhabited by American Indians.*
- *The second half of v2 says, "IT shall be to Me as Ariel."*
- *The "IT" cannot be Ariel (Jerusalem) itself.*
- *"IT" refers to another nation which shall suffer similar judgments to those which befell Jerusalem.*
- *Therefore Isa 29:1-4 prophesies of American Indians and the Book of Mormon.*

Reply: The official Mormon position is: *"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."* How do Mormons know: (a) This passage is translated correctly and (b) can therefore be trusted?

Mormons cast doubt on the Bible and then use it to try to prove their position.

First: Because *"Ariel"* is spoken twice in v1, this does not mean two different places are under consideration. This is a *"woe"* or lamentation. It is common to repeat a name when lamenting:

- *"O altar, altar!"* (1 Kings 13:2)
- *"O Absalom my son, my son!"* (2 Sam 18:33)
- *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem"* (Mt 23:37)

Second: Jerusalem is being called "*Ariel*" because the Hebrew word for "*altar*" (Arieyl) is derived from the word "*Ariel*." (See Ezk 43:15 where "*Arieyl*" is translated "*altar hearth*" in the NKJV.)

The prophecy against Jerusalem (Isa 29:1-4) was given in 701 BC when the Assyrians, led by Sennacherib (Isa 36), were coming against Jerusalem with intentions of killing the inhabitants and burning the city (kill + burn → like sacrificing on an altar (arieyl)).

NASV

And she shall be like an Ariel to me

NIV

She will be to me like an altar hearth. (NIV
footnote: "The Hebrew for altar hearth sounds like the Hebrew for Ariel.")

When God is finished with the siege which Sennacherib will bring upon the city, Jerusalem will be like an Ariel (altar) – the city will have been sacrificed and brought very low.

Isaiah 29:3 (NKJV)

*3 I will encamp against you all around,
I will lay siege against you with a mound,
And I will raise siegeworks against you.*

See Isa 36-37 for fulfillment of this very prophecy.

When the siege was over, Jerusalem was "*brought very low*" (Isa 29:4). She had nothing to be proud about. She was humbled as one speaking out of the dust (a dirty slave rather than a pompous prince).

People using this passage to "prove" the Book of Mormon was predicted by the Bible are guilty of "begging the question."

Begging the question – *the logical fallacy of assuming in the premise of an argument that which one wishes to prove in the conclusion* (American Heritage)

OBJECTION #2: Isa 29:11-12 ⇨ The "sealed book" = Book of Mormon.

Isaiah 29:11-12 (NKJV)

11 The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed."

12 Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I am not literate."

Mormon interpretation:

- *The "sealed book" = Book of Mormon*
- *This book was delivered to a learned man (Mr. Anthon) who said the one page shown to him was translated correctly. When he asked to see the entire book, he was told it was "sealed" and he said, "I cannot read a sealed book."*
- *This book was also delivered to an unlearned man (Joseph Smith).*
- *Therefore, this prophecy accurately predicts the giving of the Book of Mormon.*

Reply: The official Mormon position is: *"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."* How do Mormons know: (a) This passage is translated correctly and (b) can therefore be trusted?

Mormons cast doubt on the Bible and then use it to try to prove their position.

First: The Mormon interpretation of Isa 29:11-12 contradicts what Isa 29 says:

- The literate man in the prophecy was presented the sealed book and he could not read the book because it was sealed (Isa 29:11).
- Mr. Anthon, the linguist authority of New York, was never presented any book (or plates). He was given a single piece of paper (supposedly) copied from some plates.
- Anthon was told the entire book could not be brought to him because it was *"sealed."*
- This story does not fit the passage.

Again:

- The illiterate man in the prophecy made no effort to read the sealed book (Isa 29:12).
- Joseph Smith is supposedly the illiterate man of this passage.
- But Joseph Smith did read the Book of Mormon.
- This story does not fit the passage.

Second: Notice the very next verse in the prophecy:

Isaiah 29:13 (NKJV)

13 Therefore the Lord said:

"Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths

And honor Me with their lips,

But have removed their hearts far from Me,

And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,

Jesus said this passage of scripture was fulfilled in His day:

Matthew 15:7-9 (NKJV)

7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:

8 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth,

And honor Me with their lips,

But their heart is far from Me.

9 And in vain they worship Me,

Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Jesus said Isaiah was prophesying about the Jews of His (Jesus') day – not someone who lived in New York in 1830.

Third: Isaiah was describing a spiritual stupor (sleep) among the Jews so that both literate and illiterate people dismissed what was written in scripture. The apostle Paul affirms this occurred in the first century:

Romans 11:7-8 (NKJV)

7 *What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and **the rest were blinded.***

8 *Just as it is written:*

*"God has given them **a spirit of stupor**, [Isa 29:10]*

Eyes that they should not see

And ears that they should not hear,

To this very day."

(See also 2 Cor 3:14-15)

The prophecy of Isa 29 has nothing to do with the Book of Mormon.

People using this passage to "prove" the Book of Mormon was predicted by the Bible are guilty of "*begging the question.*"

Begging the question – *the logical fallacy of assuming in the premise of an argument that which one wishes to prove in the conclusion* (American Heritage)

OBJECTION #3: Ezk 37:16-17 ⇨ Two sticks = Bible + Book of Mormon.

Ezekiel 37:16-17 (NKJV)

16 *"As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: '**For Judah** and for the children of Israel, his companions.' Then take another stick and write on it, '**For Joseph**, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel, his companions.'*

17 Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.

Mormon interpretation:

- *The "stick for Judah" = the Bible*
- *The "stick for Joseph" = Joseph Smith's Book of Mormon*
- *"Join them together" = accept both Bible + Book of Mormon*

Reply: The official Mormon position is: *"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."* How do Mormons know: (a) This passage is translated correctly and (b) can therefore be trusted?

Mormons cast doubt on the Bible and then use it to try to prove their position.

The prophecy of Ezk 37 explains itself:

Ezekiel 37:18-22 (NKJV)

18 "And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, 'Will you not show us what you mean by these?' —

*19 say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and **the tribes of Israel**, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the*

*stick of **Judah**, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand."*

20 And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.

21 "Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;

*22 and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; **they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.***

The prophecy was not that two books (Bible + Book of Mormon) would be viewed as one volume.

The prophecy was that two nations (Judah + Israel) would be reunited and viewed as one nation again.

(This passage teaches nothing about the Book of Mormon.)

People using this passage to "*prove*" the Book of Mormon was predicted by the Bible are guilty of "*begging the question.*"

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OBJECTION #4: Amos 3:7 ⇨ If God is still doing things, He must have prophets revealing what He does.

Amos 3:7 (NKJV)

*7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing,
Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the
prophets.*

Mormon Interpretation:

- *As long as God is still alive and doing things, He will always have prophets to reveal what He is doing.*
- *Revelation continues even today.*

Reply: The official Mormon position is: *"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."* How do Mormons know: (a) This passage is translated correctly and (b) can therefore be trusted?

Mormons cast doubt on the Bible and then use it to try to prove their position.

Let's go verse by verse to see what the passage really means.

Amos 3:1 (NKJV)

*1 Hear this word that the LORD has spoken
against you, O children of Israel, against the
whole family which I brought up from the land of
Egypt, saying:*

A punishment (Assyrian Captivity) from God is about to come upon Israel (Northern Kingdom).

- *Amos explains why punishment is deserved.*
- *Amos explains his right to announce the judgment.*

Israel's sinfulness and ingratitude is most inexcusable in view of the blessings God has already given to her: *He brought her up out of Egyptian bondage.*

Amos 3:2 (NKJV)

2 *"You only have I known of all the families of the earth;
Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities."*

Israel had a special relationship with God. He loved her and "*knew*" her in a special way – differently than all other nations.

Because Israel was treated in such a special way, her punishment will be greater.

NOTE: Before pronouncing judgment upon Israel, Amos will establish his right to give such pronouncements.

By a series of comparisons Amos shows all effects have causes and from causes one can infer effects.

Amos 3:3 (NKJV)

3 *Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?*

The "*two*" are God and Amos. Amos announces God's judgment because God is with him.

Amos 3:4 (NKJV)

4 Will a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey?

Will a young lion cry out of his den, if he has caught nothing?

- The lion roars because he has prey in sight.
- Or, the lion roars because he has already caught his prey.

Amos is "roaring" over Israel (pronouncing judgment) because destruction is coming. Israel can do no more about stopping the punishment than prey can stop a lion which is about to pounce.

Amos 3:5 (NKJV)

5 Will a bird fall into a snare on the earth, where there is no trap for it?

Will a snare spring up from the earth, if it has caught nothing at all?

Israel's punishment is certain and deserved.

First: A bird is caught only if a trap has been set for it. Israel set a trap for herself by rebelling against God after all He did for her.

Second: A net thrown over a bird does not rise up and down unless it has caught something. Israel has been caught in disobedience as surely as a bird under a net.

Amos 3:6 (NKJV)

6 If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid?

If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it?

A watchman blows an alarm and people become afraid. Amos sounds an alarm and Israel should fear.

The calamity coming upon Israel is Assyria and the Lord is the cause.

Amos 3:7 (NKJV)

*7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing,
Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the
prophets.*

God does not punish anyone without sending a warning first.

John 13:19 (NKJV)

*19 Now I tell you before it comes, that when it
does come to pass, you may believe that I am
He.*

John 14:29 (NKJV)

*29 "And now I have told you before it comes,
that when it does come to pass, you may
believe.*

Conclusion: Amos 3:7 is not a general statement teaching that everything God does is announcement by a prophet and therefore we will always need prophets to tell us what God is currently doing.

Amos 3:7 is stating God does not punish Israel (or others) without first giving them warning.

Q: Has God given warning to people of pending judgment? Yes.

Psalms 9:17 (NKJV)

*17 The wicked shall be turned into hell,
And all the nations that forget God.*

Revelation 2:16-17 (NKJV)

*16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and
will fight against them with the sword of My
mouth.*

*17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the
Spirit says to the churches. ...*

- Nations today must look at what God has already done to others and take warning. (Mt 11:21-24)
- Churches must look at what God threatened to others who sinned and take warning (Rev 2:16-17)

The scriptures contain all the warnings God will ever give (2 Tim 3:16-17) and this was done "*once for all time*" (Jude 3).

People using this passage to "*prove*" the Book of Mormon was predicted by the Bible are guilty of "*begging the question*."

Begging the question – *the logical fallacy of assuming in the premise of an argument that which one wishes to prove in the conclusion* (American Heritage)

OBJECTION #5: Mal 3:6 & Heb 13:8 ⇒ God never changes.

Malachi 3:6 (NKJV)

6 *"For I am the LORD, I do not change; ...*

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)

8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

Mormon Interpretation: Since God is always the same, He will continue to have prophets and reveal truth today.

Reply: The official Mormon position is: *"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."* How do Mormons know: (a) This passage is translated correctly and (b) can therefore be trusted?

Mormons cast doubt on the Bible and then use it to try to prove their position.

A person can be the same without repeatedly doing the same thing over and over again.

- God created man from the dust of the earth (Gen 2:7) and He created woman from a rib (Gen 2:21-22), but He will not continue to create people in this manner.
- God destroyed the world with a flood (Gen 7), but He will not continue to destroy the world with a flood (Gen 9:11).
- God caused the sun to stand still on one occasion (Josh 10:14), but He never did this again.

- God sent Jesus to die on the cross for the sins of the world, but He will never do this again (Heb 9:26-28).

God can be the same in His nature without repeatedly performing the same actions over and over again.

OBJECTION #6: Mt 24:24 ⇨ False prophets imply true prophets.

Matthew 24:24 (NKJV)

24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Mormon Interpretation:

- *There are false prophets who should not be listened to.*
- *This implies there are true prophets on the earth who should be listened to.*
- *Therefore, there are still prophets today giving new revelation.*

Reply: The official Mormon position is: *"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."* How do Mormons know: (a) This passage is translated correctly and (b) can therefore be trusted?

Mormons cast doubt on the Bible and then use it to try to prove their position.

First: Notice that Mt 24:24 mentions "*false christs*." Does this imply the true Christ must be alive and walking on earth? No.

Second: The NT envisioned that "*false teachers*" would replace "*false prophets*":

2 Peter 2:1 (NKJV)

*1 But there were also **false prophets** among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, ...*

OBJECTION #7: Jn 10:16 ⇨ The "other sheep" are American Indians receiving the Book of Mormon.

John 10:16 (NKJV)

16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

Mormon Interpretation:

- *The first flock of sheep = Jews in Palestine.*
- *The "other sheep" = American Indians who are (supposedly) the "ten lost tribes of Israel."*
- *Therefore, the Bible predicts the Book of Mormon – which is an account of the "ten lost tribes of Israel."*

Reply: The official Mormon position is: *"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."* How do Mormons know: (a) This passage is translated correctly and (b) can therefore be trusted?

Mormons cast doubt on the Bible and then use it to try to prove their position.

First:

- If the *"flock"* of Jn 10:16 refers to the Jewish nation,
- And if American Indians were actual physical descendants of Abraham,
- And if they kept the same Law of Moses as those in Palestine,
- Then they were already *"of the same flock"* and this passage does nothing to prove the Book of Mormon.

Second: The *"fold"* Jesus first described:

- *"Hear"* His voice (obey – Jn 10:27).
- Follow Him (Jn 10:3-27).
- Enter by the door (Jn 10:9; 3:5).

This *"fold"* was the *"little flock"* of disciples to whom the kingdom was promised (Lk 12:32).

The Jewish nation was not the *"flock"* under consideration in Jn 10:16. They rejected Jesus and crucified Him (Jn 19:15-16).

The *"flock"* refers to obedient disciples of the Lord. (Lk 12:32).

There were other sheep who were *"not of this fold"* yet. That is, there were others who would obey soon and be brought into the same fold.

Acts 18:8-10 (NKJV)

8 Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.

9 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent;

10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for ***I have many people in this city.***"

There were "*many people*" in Corinth who had not yet obeyed, but eventually they would. When they obeyed, they would be added to the fold (church).

Jn 10:16 does nothing to prove the Book of Mormon.

People using this passage to "*prove*" the Book of Mormon was predicted by the Bible are guilty of "*begging the question.*"

Begging the question – *the logical fallacy of assuming in the premise of an argument that which one wishes to prove in the conclusion* (American Heritage)

OBJECTION #8: Acts 1:15-26 ⇒ When apostles died, others were chosen to replace them.

Acts 1:26 (NKJV)

26 And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Mormon Interpretation:

- *This passage demonstrates that when one apostle (Judas) dies, there must be a replacement chosen in order that there might always be twelve living apostles.*
- *The Mormon church is the only right church because it is the only church with twelve living apostles.*
- *Having living apostles implies continuous revelation.*

Reply: The official Mormon position is: *"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."* How do Mormons know: (a) This passage is translated correctly and (b) can therefore be trusted?

Mormons cast doubt on the Bible and then use it to try to prove their position.

First: When Matthias was chosen to replace Judas, there was written scripture (Ps 109:8) stating a replacement should be chosen for him.

This was a unique case. There is no scripture stating every apostle must be replaced when he dies.

Second: Judas did not cease being an apostle because he died. He ceased being an apostle because he sinned:

Acts 1:24-25 (NKJV)

24 And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen

25 to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."

Judas fell from the apostleship "by transgression," not by death.

Third: The replacement for Judas had to meet two qualifications:

Acts 1:21-22 (NKJV)

21 "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

22 beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

The man replacing Judas:

- Had to have accompanied all the other apostles beginning from the baptism of John till Jesus ascended.
- Had to be an eyewitness of the resurrected Christ.

No one today meets these qualifications. No one living today has seen the risen Lord with their eyes.

1 Corinthians 15:8 (NKJV)

8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

Paul says he was the last person to have seen the risen Christ.

- Paul said he was the last one to see the resurrected Lord in the flesh (1 Cor 15:8).
- No one in scripture saw the resurrected Lord in the flesh after Paul. (John saw the Lord in visions (Rev 1:10ff), but not a physical appearance of the Lord.)
- All truth was delivered to the apostles (Jn 16:13).
- All truth was delivered "*once for all*" (Jude 3).
- All truth was written down for future generations (Eph 3:3-5; Col 4:16; 2 Pet 1:12-15) in order that men might know "*how to behave*" (2 Tim 3:15) and that they might believe and "*have life in His name*" (Jn 20:30-31).
- Therefore, 1 Cor 15:8 stands – Paul was the last one to have seen the risen Lord in the flesh.

Paul was not the thirteenth apostle.

There were twelve apostles to Israel:

Acts 6:2 (NKJV)

*2 Then **the twelve** summoned the multitude ...*

1 Corinthians 15:5 (NKJV)

*5 ... He was seen ... by **the twelve**.*

Revelation 21:14 (NKJV)

14 ... the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

These twelve were "*judging the twelve tribes of Israel*":

Matthew 19:28 (NKJV)

*28 So Jesus said to [the apostles], "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, **you who have followed Me** will also sit on **twelve thrones**, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

Here are the twelve who "*accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us*" (Acts 1:21-22). These were the twelve apostles to Israel (the circumcision).

Paul, an apostle to the Gentiles not to Israel. He was different than the other apostles.

1 Corinthians 15:8 (NKJV)

8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

Paul's was not an apostleship to Israel (the twelve). His was an apostleship to the Gentiles:

Romans 11:13 (NKJV)

*13 For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as **I am an apostle to the Gentiles**, I magnify my ministry,*

Galatians 1:16 (NKJV)

16 ... that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, ...

Galatians 2:7-9 (NKJV)

7 But on the contrary, when they saw that **the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me**, as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter

8 (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in **me toward the Gentiles**),

9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that **we should go to the Gentiles** and they to the circumcised.

Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV)

8 ...I should preach among the Gentiles ...

Conclusion:

- There were 12 apostles for Israel from the beginning.
- Judas fell from the apostleship by transgression, not death.
- Ps 109:8 stated "*another shall take his place.*"
- When the other apostles died, they did not cease being apostles.
- The 12 apostles were apostles to Israel.
- Paul was an apostle to Gentiles.
- The words of the apostles were written down for future generations to follow.
- These apostles still function thru the words they left behind.

OBJECTION #9: Eph 2:20 ⇨ The church is built on prophets and apostles.

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

20 [The church has] been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

Mormon Interpretation:

- *The church is built upon apostles and prophets.*
- *If there are no more apostles or prophets on earth, there can be no church.*
- *Therefore, there will always be apostles and prophets living on earth with new revelation.*

Reply: The official Mormon position is: "*We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.*" How do Mormons know: (a) This passage is translated correctly and (b) can therefore be trusted?

Mormons cast doubt on the Bible and then use it to try to prove their position.

First: The church is also built on Jesus Christ (Eph 2:20). Does Jesus have to be alive on the earth to serve as the "*chief cornerstone*"? No.

Second: When scripture says the church is "*built upon*" Jesus, it means the church is based on what Jesus taught. The church can be based upon what Jesus taught because He left His written word to guide future generations.

2 Peter 1:12-15 (NKJV)

12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

The apostle Peter wrote his epistle so that after he died the church could remember what it was taught verbally while Peter was alive.

John 20:30-31 (NKJV)

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Enough was written in scripture in order for men to believe and be saved and in order for the church to carry on in the absence of living apostles and prophets.

OBJECTION #10: 2 Th 2:3 ⇒ The church apostatized.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NKJV)

*3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless **the falling away** comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,*

Mormon Interpretation:

- *The Lord's church completely apostatized.*
- *In order for the church to be restored, new revelation had to be given thru a prophet.*

Reply: The official Mormon position is: "*We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.*" How do Mormons know: (a) This passage is translated correctly and (b) can therefore be trusted?

Mormons cast doubt on the Bible and then use it to try to prove their position.

First: A general apostasy did occur. A total apostasy cannot be proven. God's people (church), though few in number, have always existed.

The lack of historical records only demonstrates the Lord's church became so insignificant and small that historians did not bother to write about it. This does not prove the church ceased existing.

Daniel 2:44 (NKJV)

44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Hebrews 12:28 (NKJV)

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, ...

Luke 1:33 (NKJV)

33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Second: The "*kingdom of God*" is the church (Mt 16:18-19). When men became members of the church (Acts 2:47) they also became members of the "*kingdom*" (Col 1:13; Rev 1:9) because the kingdom is the church.

- The "*seed of the kingdom*" is the word of God (Lk 8:11).
- When seed is planted, it reproduces "*after its kind*" (Gen 1:11-12).
- Therefore, if the word (seed) is preached (planted) it will produce a church (kingdom) identical to the original church of the Lord. (See also 1 Cor 3:6).
- Since the word of God is the "*seed of the kingdom*" (Lk 8:11), and since the word of God cannot be destroyed or corrupted (1 Pet 1:23-25), the kingdom will always exist, at the very least, in seed form.

OBJECTION #11: Ja 1:5 ⇨ Just pray to God and He will tell you if the Book of Mormon is true or not.

James 1:5 (NKJV)

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Mormon Interpretation:

- *This passage teaches God will **reveal** to sincere people things they need to know.*
- *Therefore, revelation continues even to this day.*
- *Prayer, then, is how one can know for certain if the Book of Mormon is true.*

Reply: The official Mormon position is: "*We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.*" How do Mormons know: (a) This passage is translated correctly and (b) can therefore be trusted?

Mormons cast doubt on the Bible and then use it to try to prove their position.

First: Neither Jesus nor an apostle nor any prophet ever taught people to pray in order to know whether a book was actually from God.

Here are the tests which are to be administered:

- 1) **Does the prophet give prophecies which actually occur?** If he does not do this, he is not a true prophet (Dt 18:20-22).
- a) The prophecy must be far enough in advance to be more than just a "lucky guess."
 - b) The prophecy must contain enough detail so that when it comes to pass there is no doubt as to its fulfillment.
 - c) The fulfillment of the prophecy must be outside the prophet's ability to influence the outcome.
 - d) The prophecy cannot contradict previous revelations from God.
 - e) The prophecy cannot directly or indirectly lead men away from the one God revealed to Israel.
- 2) **Does the prophet lead people away from the true God revealed in Moses' writings?** If he does this, he is not a true prophet (Dt 13:1-3).
- 3) **Does the prophet agree with other true prophets?** If he does not agree, he is not a true prophet (Jer 26:17-19).
- 4) **Is the prophet a holy man?** If he is not holy, he is not a true prophet (2 Pet 1:21).
- 5) **Does the prophet try to enrich himself?** If he does this, he is not a true prophet (Mt 10:8).
- 6) **Does the prophet validate new revelation with miracles?** If he does not do this, he is not a true prophet (Mk 16:20).

Second: The Mormon application of Ja 1:5 confuses wisdom with knowledge.

- *Knowledge – the obtaining of facts thru study.*
- *Wisdom – the ability to choose the best possible goal and to choose the best possible means of reaching that goal.*

Wisdom is the application of knowledge.

[Wisdom] is not specific answers to specific questions, but rather a quality of the heart and mind, an ability to discern the best from the better and to apply the general to the specific. It is a skill, not a bit of information. As a skill it grows and increases with study and exercise and experience, and with God's help. By applying it we become more and more confident that our decisions are good ones, but we should not expect it to guarantee infallibility. Even a skilled basketball player sometimes misses a shot, and a skilled typist sometimes hits the wrong key. And even a wise person sometimes makes a bad decision. But we continue to develop and sharpen the skill of wisdom, trusting that God is helping us to become better at the craft of decision making. (Jack Cottrell, God The Ruler, pp. 324-325).

A prayer for wisdom is not a prayer for information (revelation). James 1:5 is not given in scripture in order for men to know whether the Book of Mormon (or any other book) is from God.

OBJECTION #12: Rev 14:6-7 ⇒ The angel with the "everlasting gospel."

Revelation 14:6-7 (NKJV)

6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth — to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people —

7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

Mormon Interpretation:

- *The church fell completely away in apostasy.*
- *This passage describes the gospel being restored to the earth.*
- *It must be restored by an angel.*
- *The angel was Moroni and he appeared to Joseph Smith in 1830.*

Reply: The official Mormon position is: *"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."* How do Mormons know: (a) This passage is translated correctly and (b) can therefore be trusted?

Mormons cast doubt on the Bible and then use it to try to prove their position.

Many assumptions are being made without any proof:

- That a total apostasy occurred and there was not one single faithful church on earth anywhere.
- That the gospel completely perished from the earth.
- That the angel was the angel Moroni.
- That the "everlasting gospel" was the Book of Mormon.

First: If the gospel in the hand of the angel was the "everlasting gospel," why did it need to be "restored"?

The Bible teaches clearly that the word of God would never perish:

Matthew 24:35 (NKJV)

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

1 Peter 1:23-25 (NKJV)

23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

24 because

"All flesh is as grass,

And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass.

The grass withers,

And its flower falls away,

*25 But **the word of the LORD endures forever.**"*

Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Second: The church would never perish:

Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Daniel 2:44 (NKJV)

*44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and **it shall stand forever.***

Hebrews 12:28 (NKJV)

*28 Therefore, since we are receiving **a kingdom which cannot be shaken**, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*

Third: The things contained in the Book of Mormon constitute a different gospel than what was revealed by the apostles.

Galatians 1:8 (NKJV)

*8 But even if we, **or an angel from heaven**, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.*

Rev 14:6-7 does not prove the Book of Mormon came from God.

People using this passage to "prove" the Book of Mormon was predicted by the Bible are guilty of "begging the question."

Begging the question – *the logical fallacy of assuming in the premise of an argument that which one wishes to prove in the conclusion* (American Heritage)

OBJECTION #13: Rev 19:10 ⇨ We must have living prophets in order to testify of Jesus.

Revelation 19:10 (NKJV)

*10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For **the** testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

Mormon Interpretation:

- *In order for sinners to be converted, they must hear "testimony" about Jesus.*
- *In order for testimony to be given, there must be prophets giving prophecies.*
- *Therefore, as long as there are sinners who need to be converted, there will always be prophets giving prophecies (new revelation).*

Reply: The official Mormon position is: *"We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."* How do Mormons know: (a) This passage is translated correctly and (b) can therefore be trusted?

Mormons cast doubt on the Bible and then use it to try to prove their position.

First: The prophets of the Bible still speak to men thru the words which they left behind in writing:

Luke 16:29-31 (NKJV)

29 Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'

30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

John 5:39 (NKJV)

39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

John 20:30-31 (NKJV)

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

1 Timothy 3:15 (NKJV)

15 ... if I am delayed, **I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Second: If the spoken word of prophets is the only effective and authoritative way prophets may speak to men:

- *The scriptures become completely worthless.*
- *The Book of Mormon itself is worthless by this reasoning.*

OBJECTION #14: Lost books of the Bible.

Mormon Interpretation:

- *The Bible itself mentions books we do not have today.*

Num 21:14 – the book of the wars of the LORD

Josh 10:13 – the book of Jasher

1 Kings 11:41 – the book of the acts of Solomon

1 Ch 29:29 – the book of Samuel the seer, the book of Nathan the prophet, and the book of Gad the seer

2 Ch 9:29 – book of Nathan the prophet, the prophecy of Ahijah, and the visions of Iddo the seer

2 Ch 20:34 – the book of Jehu

- *The Bible, then, does not contain all revelation.*
- *Since the Bible doesn't contain all revelation, God still reveals things to men today.*

Reply: Those making this argument are not true believers in the word. They claim to be believers of the word but:

- Claim the Bible is not translated correctly.
- Claim parts of the Bible have been lost.
- Claim parts of the Bible have been corrupted.
- Tell people the Bible alone is not sufficient.

Such claims are not from people who believe the Bible.

Consider the following points:

- *Some of these books mentioned may be different names for books we already have.*

For example, the "*Book of Nathan the prophet*" may be a reference to the book of 2 Samuel – inasmuch as we do not know who wrote 2 Samuel.

- ***Some of these books mentioned are not necessarily inspired books.***

These "lost books" could be merely references to uninspired books that existed in those days which the writer referred his readers to for more information.

In order to prove an inspired book of the Bible has been lost, it must first be shown these "lost books" were inspired to begin with.

- ***Some of these books may be smaller books that have been incorporated into larger books which we do have.***

For example, in Mt 1:1 speaks of "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ" and then the genealogy of Jesus is given. Here we find a smaller "book" (consisting of genealogies) on the inside of a larger book (Matthew's gospel). If this occurred, there are no "*lost books*" of the Bible.

In order to have a case, it must be shown that:

- *The books in question were not alternate names of books we already possess.*
- *These books were inspired books to begin with.*
- *That none of these were smaller books that were incorporated into larger books.*

- *The information contained in the these "lost books" is not elsewhere recorded in books which we do have.*

Until those points are proven there is no proof that some of the inspired books of the Bible have been lost.

Furthermore, God Himself declared He would protect His word from corruption:

1 Peter 1:23-25 (NKJV)

*23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but **incorruptible**, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,*

24 because

"All flesh is as grass,

And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass.

The grass withers,

And its flower falls away,

*25 But **the word of the LORD endures forever.**"*

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