

## Mormonism and the Twisted Scriptures

In 2 Peter 3:16, the apostle noted that there are indeed things which are “hard to be understood” in God’s Word. He sadly noted in that same verse that there are those who are “unlearned and unstable” who will “wrest” such things “unto their own destruction.” Though these things may sometimes be hard to understand, that does not mean that a true student of God’s word cannot see through such scripture twisting. In the next verse Peter continues and says,

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. (Vs 17)

Some may ask, “Does such happen today? Are there still those who would twist the scriptures seeking to teach a false doctrine?” The sad answer is yes. Surely all have seen the television commercials concerning the Book of Mormon and calling it “Another Testimony of Jesus Christ.” This ad campaign really depicts what the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) want you and I to think (at least at first) — that they are Christians and believe the same as we do. This philosophy is further demonstrated by their tactics at a prospects door. They try to lull the prospect into a sense of ease and security by using Bible passages to guide one to the Book of Mormon, saying there are Bible passages which prophesy of the Book of Mormon. Are they honest in this, or is their use of the

Bible an example of twisting the scriptures of which Peter warns? Let’s examine a couple of the passages they use to try and teach such and see if they are honest in their handling of the Word of God or if they are in fact the false teachers of which we are warned to beware.

### Ezekiel 37:15-20

James Talmage, one of the past “apostles” of the church, wrote in 1899 in reference to this passage, “...the use of the word ‘stick’ as equivalent to ‘book’ in the passage becomes apparent.” He further applies his interpretation to the Book of Mormon which purports to be a record of a people called the Nephites. He says, “...their record or ‘stick’ is as truly represented by the Book of Mormon as is the ‘stick’ of Judah by the Bible” (The Articles of Faith, 276). (See also 2 Nephi 3:10-12 and Doctrine and Covenants 27:5 for other sources of this teaching.) This is the same assertion regarding this passage given by those who visit in your home. But there are some problems to this.

- Verses 20-22 show clearly that God’s message was that the sticks represented the divided nation, Israel and Judah, not books.
- Verses 22-25 identify the land of these events as Israel, the land given to Jacob — NOT the Americas.

But that is not the least of their problems. Remember that Ezekiel was shown TWO sticks. If you are familiar

with Mormonism you will know that they have as their “inspired works” not just the Book of Mormon, but also Doctrine and Covenants and Pearl of Great Price. In fact *if one only had the Book of Mormon he could not find one distinctive teaching of Mormonism at all.* Now the problem is this. If the sticks did represent the Bible and Book of Mormon ... WHERE ARE THE STICKS FOR THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS AND PEARL OF GREAT PRICE? Even if the passage taught what they believe (and it doesn’t), they don’t have enough sticks!

### Isaiah 29:11-12

These verses are used by Mormons in support of the account given in which we are told that Martin Harris took some of the characters from the plates which Joseph Smith had (which were supposedly translated by him into the Book of Mormon) and took them to a man named Professor Anthon. He is said to have corroborated the translation Joseph Smith had done, and then referred to the remainder of the plates (which Harris said he could not bring) and said, “I cannot read a sealed book,” which is supposed to be a fulfillment of Isaiah 29:11 (Joseph Smith 2:63-65). It sounds fantastic doesn’t it! But the context of Isaiah says something far different than that which the Mormon Church would have you believe. In verse 11 we are told that prophesy from God has become “as the words of a book sealed.” Nowhere does he say there is such a literal book, but that the rebellion of the people had blinded their eyes to the word of God

THEN, thus the Word they THEN HAD became “as the words of a book sealed.” But there are other problems with their fantasy ideas of this passage. Professor Anthon is on record as denying the account the Mormon Church sets forth, but if it were true, the account would then demonstrate that it is not a fulfillment of Isaiah’s words and would in fact contradict the Book of Mormon itself. Please note:

- Isaiah’s words in verse 11 say the “learned” man to whom the book was delivered could not read it, *but the Mormon account says he DID read it.* If this account were true it would be in direct contradiction to Isaiah!
- Mormon 9:31-34 states that the record on the gold plates was written in “reformed Egyptian,” a language that “none other people knoweth.” Thus according to Mormon teaching, God had to make special preparation for their translation. *But if the Book of Mormon is true, how then could Professor Anthon verify the translation of the plates written in “reformed Egyptian”?! How did he know the language?! If he did, the Book of Mormon would be wrong — if he didn’t then the account in Joseph Smith 2 is wrong!*

### Conclusion

Is the Book of Mormon prophesied by the Bible? No, not in these passages at least. Nowhere does the Bible state there will be “another testimony of Jesus Christ.” It denies such plainly in

many passages wherein it claims all sufficiency and completeness (Jude 3; 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). But the Bible does speak of the Book of Mormon and any other “latter day scriptures” in another passage:

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:8-9)

As has been said many times, *if the Book of Mormon (and their other works) teach the same thing as the Bible, they are not needed. If they teach anything different (and they do) they stand condemned by the very book they say prophesied of the Book of Mormon.*

It is heartbreaking to think of the millions of precious souls who have been led away with the error of the Mormon Church. It is our prayer that you will look to God’s Word, the Bible which is “the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16). In it alone will you find all you need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

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