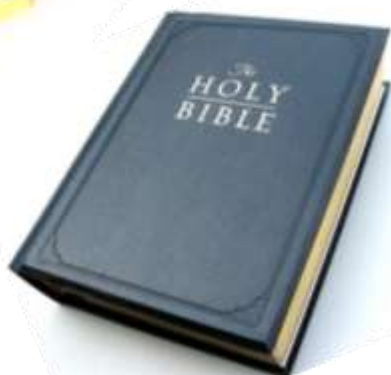
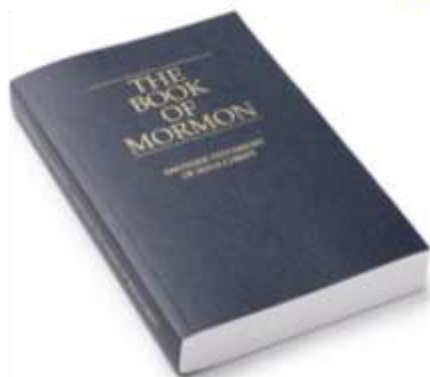


Is The
Book of Mormon
“Another Testament”
Of Jesus Christ?



Gene Frost

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By Gene Frost

The “Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,” headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, is engaged in an extensive advertising campaign to promote their *Book of Mormon*. It is touted as “Another Testament of Jesus Christ,” as is stated on the cover of the 1989 edition of being offered in the advertising promotion. The *Book of Mormon*, according to its “introduction,” “contains, as does *the Bible*, the fullness of the everlasting gospel.”

If, indeed, *the Bible* contains “the fullness of the everlasting gospel,” what more can the *Book of Mormon* add? If it adds nothing, then it is needless.

On the other hand, if the *Book of Mormon* presents “another gospel,” even as it claims to be “another testament,” then it or *the Bible* is not complete, and it differs from the gospel of Christ as revealed in the New Testament. In which case, we must heed the warning of the apostle Paul:

“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)

Any message, claiming to be the gospel of Christ, which was not preached by the apostle Paul and other apostles (who were guided into “all truth,” John 16:13), and not received by those whom they taught, is a distortion of the truth, and all who teach the perversion and all who believe it are accursed of God. This is a serious matter, and one that demands that we examine the claim of the *Book of Mormon*. If the “gospel” of the *Book of Mormon* is the same “gospel” found in *the Bible*, then it is a needless redundancy. If it is not, then more than being needless, it is a perversion of the greatest proportion and most destructive to its adherents.

The reader, as well as the writer of this investigative study, should realize the serious implications involved. We humbly ask all to carefully, even

prayerfully, look at the evidence and with honest conviction to courageously accept whatever conclusions truth demands.

We begin our investigation by examining the claim that the *Book of Mormon* is “Another Testament of Jesus Christ.”

The Testament of Christ

The Bible speaks principally of two covenants, or Testaments. The terms, “covenant” and “testament,” are interchangeable, both being translations of one and the same word in the Greek text: *diatheke*. The first was given through Moses, at Mount Sinai, after Israel was delivered from their bondage in Egypt. The second was from Jesus Christ, the mediator of this new and better covenant.

In Hebrews 8:6-13, the two are distinguished and contrasted. (Space does not allow for a discussion of the contrast.)

“But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should not place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... In that he

saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.”

There is a “first” and a “second” covenant; one is “made old” and the other is “new.” The apostle Paul refers to them as the “two covenants.” (Eph. 4:24) Observe the fact that the first covenant God has *made* “old” (*Palaioo*), i.e. He has abrogated it. “He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.” (Hebrews 10:9) Jesus “took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” (Colossians 2:14). Note that when reference is made to *time*, the covenants are called the “first” and “second,” and that when reference is made to *validity*, they are “old” and “new.”

Both covenants were dedicated by blood. (Heb. 9:15-20) When God gave the first through Moses, “Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words.” (Exodus 24:8) Likewise, the second, the testament of Christ, became “new” (or dedicated) with the blood of Christ: “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” (Matthew 26:28). When the new was dedicated, the first became “old.”

For the testament of Jesus Christ to be valid, “new” or in force, it had to be dedicated by His blood.

“And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the fruits testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.” (Hebrews 9:15-17)

Observe that with the dedication of a new testament, the former is abrogated. There is no such thing as two testaments (or covenants) being in force (or valid) at the same time. And once a covenant is confirmed (*kuroo*, made valid, ratified, made authoritative), there can be no additions, deletions, or changes to it:

“Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; though it be but a man’s covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.” (Galatians 3:15).

The very nature of a testament, which *the Bible* confirms, does not allow “another” to be added so that both are valid at the same time. If Jesus made “another testament,” then His testament revealed in *the Bible*

would be abrogated, invalid. The “new” would have to be dedicated by the shedding of His blood a second time. Therefore, the claim of “another testament of Jesus” is absurd on the very surface. Jesus did not die twice. (Hebrews 9:22-28) The covenant He established with His blood is still *the* “new” testament.

In conversation with personnel in the “Louisville Mission” of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it was admitted that Jesus did not shed blood on the American continent. When we pointed out that Jesus then did not dedicate another testament, the Mormon spokesman explained that what they mean by “another testament” is the testimony of another people (than Israel) on this continent. But “testament” (*diatheke*) and “testimony” (*maturion*) are two different words with two different meanings! Instead of the *Book of Mormon* being “another testament of Jesus Christ,” Mormons mean that the *Book of Mormon* contains “another testimony about Jesus Christ.” It is difficult to think that those responsible for the imprint of this subtitle and those in charge of the advertising promotion do not know the difference between a “Testament” and a “Testimony.” Whether deliberate or in ignorance, to call the *Book of Mormon* “another testament of Jesus Christ” is deceitful.

The Truth About The Testament of Christ

As we have noted, for there to be “another testament of Jesus Christ,” one given after His testament as presented in *The Bible*, the following would be true:

1. It could not be added so as to have two testaments in force at the same time. (Gal. 3:15)
2. Jesus would have had to die, shed His blood, again. (Heb. 9:16, Matt. 26:28)
3. His testament in *the Bible* would be abrogated. (Heb. 8:13)

That such is not the case is further demonstrated by the fact that the message or text of the new testament of *the Bible* is complete, final, and eternal, not admitting of anything further.

The gospel of Christ, as set forth in the new testament, is complete, not needing any addition or another to replace it. It was given by revelation in order that we may have “all things” (all truth) that pertain to our life and godliness, furnishing the Christian completely. (Eph. 3:3-5, 2 Pet. 1:3, John 16:13, 2 Tim. 3:16-17.)

This body of teaching, which we are to believe (Rom. 10:17), has been given “once for all” (*hapax*), i.e. of perpetual validity, not requiring repetition. (Jude 3.)

Jesus’ authority is with the teachings of the apostles until the end (Matt. 28:20). What they taught they received from Him (John 16:13, 1 Cor. 14:37) and is the word by which men will be judged. (Matt. 24:35, John 12:48.)

Obviously, there is no place in God’s eternal purpose for some latter-day revelation, another gospel, or another testament ... or for another Christ, as from time to time men claim to be. All such claims are fraudulent, which fact may also be determined by an examination of the document itself.

The Book of Mormon

That the *Book of Mormon* is not revelation from God may be noted by the fact that (1) it doesn’t claim the perfection that characterizes a work of the Almighty; (2) it contains anachronisms, which contradicts its claim to be an ancient record; (3) it contradicts *the Bible*; and (4) it presents absurd positions.

Not An Accurate Text

The text of *the Bible* was given by inspiration, the very words were taught by the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 2:13.) The apostles and prophets did not record the revelations given them and then immediately have to revise the texts because of the inaccurate sentence structures and selection of words. They do not apologize

for errors that would appear in their writings: there are no errors with God.

Contrast *the Bible* text with the text of the *Book of Mormon*. On the Title-page of the *Book of Mormon*, we are informed:

“And now, if there are faults they are the mistakes of men...”

Within the text the same apology appears time and again:

“Nevertheless, I do not write anything upon plates *save it be that I think* it be sacred. And now, *if I do err*, even did they err of old; not that I would excuse myself because of other men, but *because of the weakness which is in me*, according to the flesh, *I would excuse myself.*” (1 Nephi 19:6; emphasis added.)

“And I know the record which I make to be a just and true record; nevertheless *there are many things which*, according to our language, *we are not able to write.*” (3 Nephi 5:18; emphasis added.)

Did God not know how to reveal all things, or was He, too, prevented by some perplexity of the language? Could not the Holy Spirit override the personal weaknesses and inadequacies of the prophets through whom He spoke? In *the Bible* one’s education was no obstacle because it was the Spirit of God who spoke through the prophets. (2 Sam. 23:2.) Obviously, the nature of the text of *the Bible* and the text of the

Book of Mormon are different. They do not have the same ultimate author.

Anachronisms

An anachronism is anything that is or seen to be out of this proper time in history. For example, the word “Christian” was coined in Antioch, in the first century A.D., descriptive of the disciples of Christ:

“And the disciples were called Christians *first* in Antioch.” (Acts 11:26; emphasis added.)

Yet the *Book of Mormon* has people being called “Christians” 73 years before Christ is even born! (Cf. Alma 46:15.) If the *Book of Mormon* is true, the people were not called “Christians” first in Antioch. If *the Bible* is true, and it is, then the *Book of Mormon* is wrong, is not a book of God. Obviously, whoever wrote the *Book of Mormon* wrote after the word “Christian” was coined. This anachronism exposes the book as fraudulent: it was not the record of an ancient people before Christ.

Another anachronism is in reference to the church of Christ. The *Book of Mormon* has the Lord’s church in existence over 150 years before Jesus established it. The *Book of Mormon* states that in 147 B.C.:

“And they were called the church of God, or the church of

Christ, from that time forward. And it came to pass that whosoever was baptized by the power and authority of God was added to his church.” (Mosiah 18:17)

The apostle Paul says that Jesus purchased the church with His own blood. (Acts 20:28.) Yet the *Book of Mormon* has it established without His blood, and many years before He even announced that He would build it. Obviously, whoever wrote the *Book of Mormon* wrote it after *the Bible* was written, and the church was revealed therein. It is a late document and not an ancient one pre-dating *the Bible*. Its claim is therefore fraudulent, being exposed by its anachronisms.

Again, how could Jesus’ teachings be propagated before He taught? His teachings are His doctrine, the same word (*didache*, or *didaskalia*) is translated “doctrine” and “teaching.” How could the teachings of Christ be discussed or even referred to before Jesus taught?

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the *first began to be spoken* by the Lord, and we confirmed unto us by them that heard him...” (Hebrews 2:3; emphasis added.)

Yet, the *Book of Mormon* has the doctrine of Christ taught 500 years before Christ began to teach:

“And now, behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is

none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now, behold, *this is the doctrine of Christ*, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen.” (2 Nephi 32:21.; emphasis added.)

This was supposedly written to a people under the law of God given to Moses. (2 Nephi 5:10) And yet the “only” and “true” teaching of God is the teaching of Christ, before He even begins His teaching. Five hundred years before Christ, the *Book of Mormon* has people “feasting upon the word of Christ,” while keeping the law. Such confusion! This anachronism exposes the *Book of Mormon* as a fraudulent book, obviously written by someone after the coming of Christ. It is not an ancient book.

Contradicts The Bible

The *Book of Mormon* could not have the same ultimate Author as the Bible for the reason that God would not contradict Himself. Yet the *Book of Mormon* contradicts *The Bible*.

The *Book of Mormon* has Jesus born in Jerusalem:

“And behold, *he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem* which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceived

by the power of the Holy Ghost, and shall bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God.” (Alma 7:10; emphasis added.)

In *The Bible*, Micah had foretold that Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah. (Micah 5:2) And so it was:

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem...”

No reasoning that Bethlehem is near Jerusalem can correct this obvious blunder. We can agree that the *Book of Mormon* doesn't miss the distance by much, but it misses the truth by a country mile ... 5 or 6, in fact!

At the crucifixion of Jesus, the *Book of Mormon* says that darkness would cover the earth for three days:

“But behold, as I said unto concerning another sign, a sign of his death, behold, in that day that he shall suffer death *the sun shall be darkened* and shall refuse to give his light unto you; and also the moon and the stars; and there shall be no light upon the face of this land, even from the time that he shall suffer death, *for the space of three days*, to the time that he shall rise again from the dead. ... And he said unto me that while the thunder and the lightening lasted, and the tempest, that these things should be and that *darkness should cover the face of the whole*

earth for the space of three days.” (Heleman 14:20, 27; emphasis added.)

Obviously the writer, having read *the Bible*, confused days with hours. *The Bible* says that the darkness was for three hours:

“And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land unto the ninth hour.” (Mark 15:33)

That's close: the *Book of Mormon* is off only 2400 percent.

The *Book of Mormon* has people believing the word of God even before they know of it:

“Therefore, blessed are they who humble themselves without being compelled to be humble; or rather, in other words, *blessed is he that believeth in the word of God*, and is baptized without stubbornness of heart, yea, *without being brought to know the word*, or even compelled to know, *before they will believe.*” (Alma 32:16; emphasis added.)

Amazing. Men are to believe without the knowledge of what to believe. Compare this statement with *The Bible*:

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17).

The *Book of Mormon* has people lost because of the transgression of Adam and Eve:

“For he gave commandment that all men must repent; for he

showed unto all men that they were lost, because of the transgression of their parents." (2 Nephi 2:21)

The *Book of Mormon* teaches a tenet of Calvinism, hereditary depravity, supposedly over 2,000 years before Calvin was born. Another anachronism. *The Bible* refutes both:

"Yet say ye, Why? doth not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son hath done that which is lawful and right, and hath keep all my statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live. The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him." (Ezekiel 18:19-20; emphasis added.)

Obviously, the writer was familiar with the theology of the nineteenth century, but he was not as well versed in the word of God. God did not inspire Nephi to write that one is lost because of the sin of Adam and Eve, and then inspire Ezekiel to deny it. God does not contradict Himself.

Absurdities

The *Book of Mormon* contains many absurdities, which demonstrate human authorship, not divine.

For example, the *Book of Mormon* has one writing on a

"rent" (a hole or gap made by tearing):

"And when Moroni had said these words, he went forth among the people, waving the rent of his garment in the air, that all might see the writing which he had wrote upon the rent, and crying with a loud voice..." (Alma 46:19, in the original version.)

This blunder has been correction in later versions of the *Book of Mormon*. Such revisions number in the hundreds with revisions upon revisions.

A most grievous absurdity taught in the *Book of Mormon* is that sin is a blessing:

"And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end., And they would have had no children; wherefore they would have remained in a stated of innocence, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin. But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy." (2 Nephi 2:22-24.)

No sin: no children, no joy, no good! Really. But, we are told, God worked it out in his wisdom.

Adam sinned! And who was Adam?

“Now hear it, O inhabitants of the earth, Jew and Gentile, saint and sinner. When our Father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body and brought Eve, one of His wives, with him. He helped to make and organize the world. He is Michael the Archangel, Ancient of Days, about whom holy men have written and spoken.” (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. VI, page 50.)

The “Ancient of Days” is God. (Dan. 7:9, 13.) Yes, according to Mormon theology Adam was a God who had to sin in order to partake of their mortality so as to give birth to mortals. (James Talmage, *Articles of Faith*, page 69.) Thus, without the fall, the plan for man would have been frustrated.

“And in that day Adam blessed God and was filled, and began to prophesy concerning all the families of the earth, saying: Blessed be the name of God, for because of my transgression my eyes are opened, and in this life I shall have joy, and again in the flesh I shall see God. And Eve, his wife, heard all these things and was glad, saying: Were it not for our transgression we never should have had seed, and never should have known good and evil, and the joy of our redemption, and the eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient.” (Moses 5:10-11, *Pearl of Great Price*.)

This is the Mormon concept of *progression*. Adam, in a previous life was a man, who became a God; then to people his own world brought one of his wives, Eve, to this earth; they sinned so they could become mortal and give birth to mortals (humans); these humans may then become Gods, who in ages to come may populate their own worlds; and so it continues. And we are told that the *Book of Mormon* is just “another testament of Jesus Christ,” and “contains, *as does The Bible*, the fullness of the everlasting gospel.” Don’t be deceived: they are nothing alike except the *Book of Mormon* imitates the Elizabethan English of the King James Version and quotes copiously from the KJV version.

Conclusion

We could continue with an investigation that could fill volumes. This is just introductory. Yet it is enough to demonstrate that no serious-minded person with any knowledge of *the Bible* could ever accept “another testament of Jesus Christ.” Rather, we have a complete and eternal revelation from God in *The Bible*. What Jesus taught therein shall judge the world in the last day. (John 12:48, 2 Cor. 5:10.)