



There are several basic rules when dealing with a contract  
Since the Bible is God's contract; then these rules will also apply to the Bible and God's Plan of Salvation

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The first rule is that "If it's not in the contract, it does not apply"  
This is why I was trained to read the contract before each claim could be processed  
Analyzing insurance policies taught me how to be a legal analyst

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The second rule is that "No changes to a contract are valid unless all parties agree to these changes in writing"  
The insurance company cannot change the policy without the customer's permission

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The same is true with regards to the client

The person who purchases the insurance cannot change the terms of the policy [contract] without the insurance carrier's permission

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The third rule was that any ambiguity in the contract goes against the party that wrote the contract

That would be the insurance company

Or in our case: God

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The concept is that the party writing the contract has the opportunity to make the terms of the contract as clear as possible

If they do not make the terms clear and there is more than one interpretation; the courts will choose the alternate interpretation

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Now a contract is a legally binding agreement between two or more parties

A contract is controlled by the civil court and any disagreement must be heard in the Civil Court System

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The rule for interpreting a law by the court is that "Every word, every phrase and every provision in the Law is there for a reason and serves a purpose."

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What does this mean in interpreting a Law?

You have to look at every word in the Law.

You have to consider each phrase in the Law

You have to deal with every provision in the Law

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If you fail to do this, then you will come to the wrong interpretation of the Law

If you try to litigate before the court with the wrong interpretation you will lose your case

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Now all of these will apply to the Bible because it is God's contract with the human race

Any document submitted by a Cult, will have to meet this same standard

If it does not meet this standard it is not a valid agreement

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Paul established the same criteria for interpreting the Bible that we have for interpreting a law...

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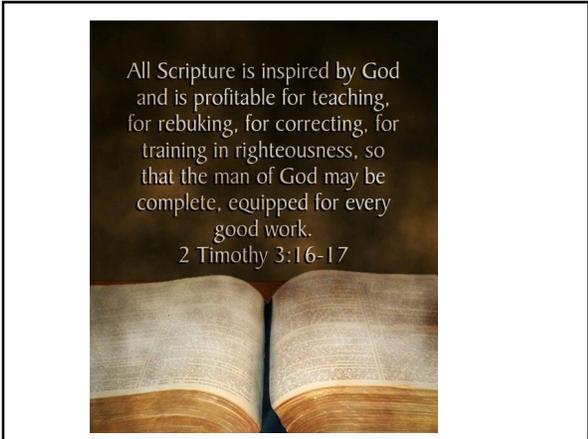
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The Latter Day Church gives the same standard  
It was given by Brigham Young:  
"Take up the Bible, compare the religion of the Latter-Day Saints, and see if it will stand the test."  
[Journal of Discourses (London: Latter-Day Saints Book Deposit 1854- 1856) 16:46]

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The Jehovah's Witnesses also appeal to the Bible to test their beliefs  
II Corinthians 13:5:  
"Examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith; prove your own selves. Know you not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except you be reprobates?"

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So let me start with the Bible  
It claims that it is written by God  
through various men over  
different periods of time and in  
different countries

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Hebrews 1:1 – 2:  
“God, in [different] times and in  
[various] manner spoke in times  
past unto the fathers by the  
prophets  
Has in these last days has spoken  
unto us by His Son...”

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God spoke through men  
throughout the Old Testament  
He spoke through Jesus while  
Jesus was here  
He spoke through the Disciples.  
Paul, James and Jude

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These writings were collected and put to a series of tests



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This means that once God reveals something about Himself, He will never change what He has revealed

He might add additional information to clarify something  
But He will never change the original information

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This means that to test any new revelation from God, we use the older revelation to test the new revelation

If the new revelation is different; then it is not of God

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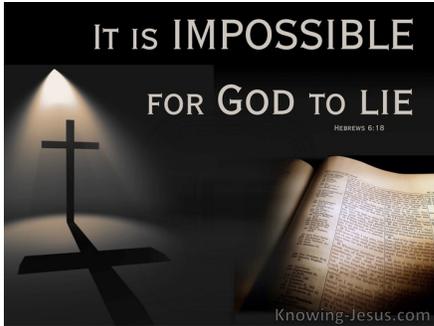
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The New Testament also made an observation about God



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So these early scholars worked with these two truths as their guide:

God does not change;  
God does not lie

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This task first fell to the Jews  
Their Rabbis went through every document someone claimed came from God  
They compared them to the earliest revelations concerning God

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If they contradicted what God had said about Himself, they were rejected

**REJECTED**

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There was also the test of a prophet of God  
They were correct 100% of the time  
Every prophecy they made came true

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If they made a prophecy and it did not come true, their writings were

**REJECTED**

And they were stoned to death

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This standard was carried over into the New Testament

Documents were tested and re-tested

When it came time to translate these documents the greatest care was applied

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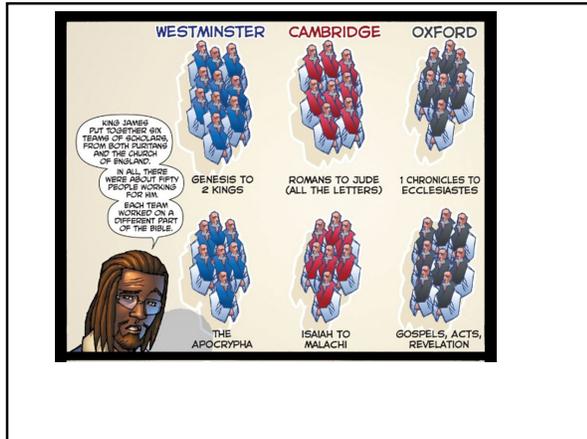
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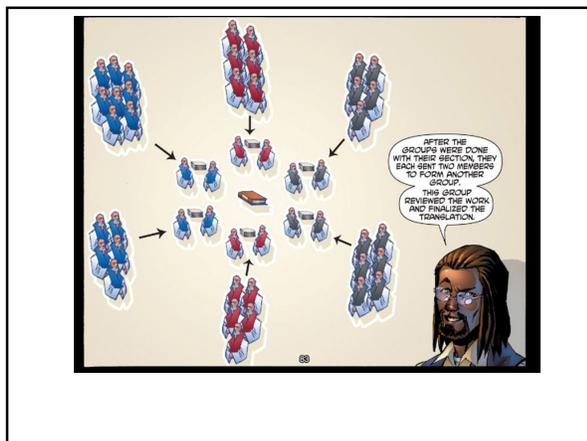
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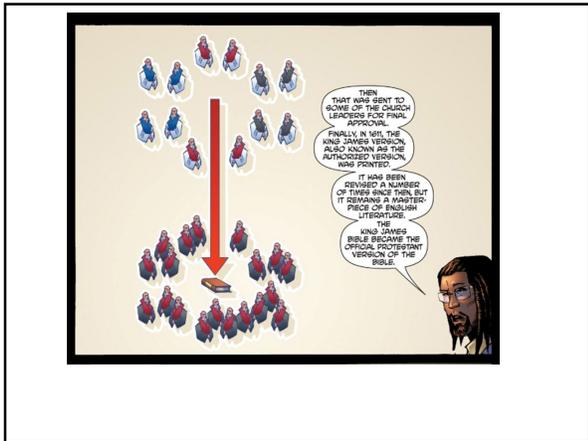
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When we speak of revising the King James Bible, we are talking about additional information that makes the translation of the original text more accurate. This is normally based on new information from archeology or linguistics.

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Although some passages are made easier to understand, the teachings of the King James Bible have never been altered as a result of these revisions.

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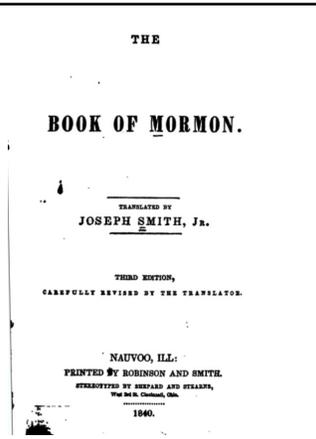
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The translation was the work of one man



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This would be Joseph Smith



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David Whitmer gave the following account:

“Joseph Smith would put the seer stone into a hat, and put his face in the hat, drawing it closely around his face to exclude the light; and in the darkness spiritual light would shine...”

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“...A piece of something resembling parchment would appear, and on that appeared the writing.

One character at a time would appear, and under it was the interpretation in English...”

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“...Brother Joseph would read off the English to Oliver Cowdery, who was his principle scribe, and when it was written down and repeated to Brother Joseph to see if it was correct, then it would disappear, and another character with the interpretation would appear...”

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“...Thus the Book of Mormon was translated by the gift and power of God, and not by any power of man.”

[Dave Whitmer, *An Address to All Believers in Christ*, Concord, CA; Pacific Publishing Company, 1887, page 12]

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This looks nothing like David Whitmer described



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How do we know that he had the Golden Plates and that he performed the actual translating?  
Joseph Smith treated his translation of the Book of Mormon as a legally-binding document

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To document how all of this was done and to give credibility to the work, Joseph Smith had witnesses certify his statements and his work

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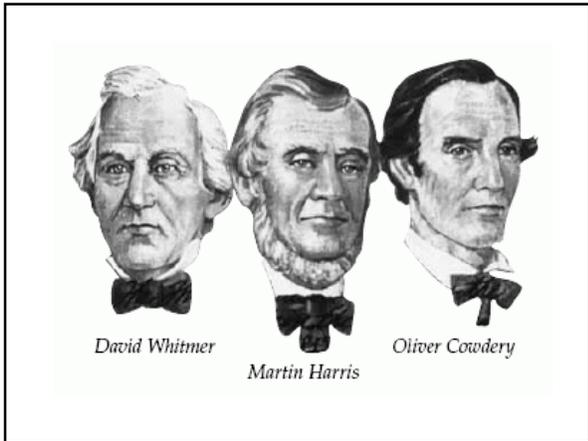
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**THE TESTIMONY OF THREE WITNESSES.**

Be it known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come, that we, through the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, have seen the plates which contain this record, which is a record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites, his brethren, and also of the people of Jared, which came from the tower of which hath been spoken; and we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of God, for his voice hath declared it unto us; wherefore we know of a surety, that the work is true. And we also testify that we have seen the engravings which are upon the plates; and they have been shown unto us by the power of God, and not of man. And we declare with words of soberness, that an Angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings thereon; and we know that it is by the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, that we beheld and bear record that these things are true; and it is marvellous in our eyes: Nevertheless, the voice of the Lord commanded us that we should bear record of it; wherefore, to be obedient unto the commandments of God, we bear testimony of these things.— And we know that if we are faithful in Christ, we shall rid our garments of the blood of all men, and be found spotless before the judgement seat of Christ, and shall dwell with him eternally in the heavens. And the honour be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, which is one God. Amen.

OLIVER COWDERY,  
DAVID WHITMER,  
MARTIN HARRIS.

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If this were submitted to a court of law, then the credibility of Joseph's Smith's statements would be tested and accepted/rejected based upon the credibility of his witnesses

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As an SIU investigator, it would fall to me to interview witnesses and test the credibility of their statements

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“Be it known to all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, unto whom this work shall come, that we through the grace of God the Father, And our Lord Jesus Christ, have seen the plates which contain this record...”

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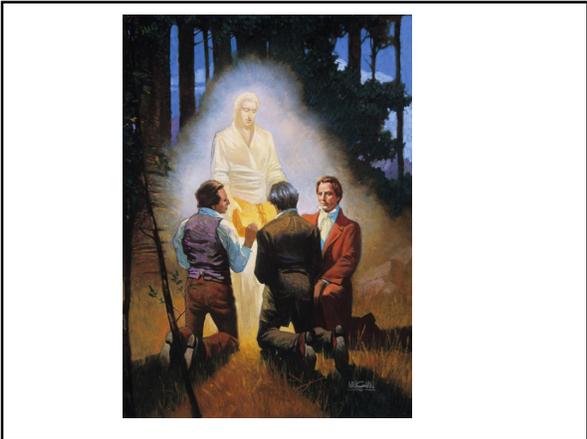
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Let's start with this opening statement.  
What did they say when asked about seeing the Golden Plates.

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With regards to Martin Harris, he later testified that they never saw the actual plates. What they were shown was an object that might be the plates, but it was covered with a cloth.

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From his statement, it seems that it was Joseph Smith who showed them the object covered by a cloth, and not an Angel. According to Martin Harris, Joseph Smith told them that if they saw the plates they would be struck dead. Martin Harris later left the Mormon faith.

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We have just had one of the three witnesses recant his testimony. His testimony does not confirm what was said in the document.

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David Whitmer did not collaborate the account of Martin Harris, but his testimony does not collaborate the declaration. He claimed that they saw the Golden Plates in their mind. Of interest, David Whitmer also left the Mormon Church.

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Oliver Cowdery never made any public statement concerning the document. However, it was reported that he told his law partner that it was all a hoax. Oliver Cowdery also left the Mormon Church.

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I would be surprised to find all three of them walking away from the Mormon faith if all three knew that it was through membership in the Mormon Church that they could attain Godhood.

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If all three believed this; then not one of them would walk away. For a witness to walk away from this opportunity, strongly suggests that not one of them actually believed Godhood was possible.

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All three of the witnesses who testified as to the authenticity of the Golden Plates, the Angel, the engravings; and Joseph Smith ability to translate them were excommunicated from the Latter Day Church.

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Joseph Smith is quoted as having said of them and others:  
“Such characters...as John Whitmer, David Whitmer, Oliver Cowdery and Martin Harris are too mean to mention, and we had liked to have forgotten them.”

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As a fraud investigator, if all witnesses recant their testimony  
And the person claiming their testimony denounces them  
You have to question the original claim  
That original claim has zero credibility

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But Joseph still had a back up document

He had others who were reported to have testified on his behalf...

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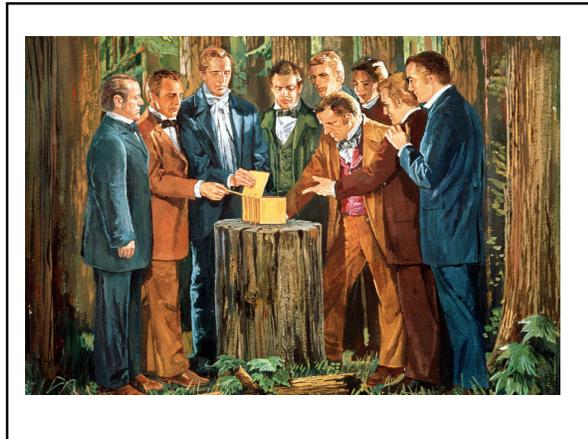
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**AND ALSO THE TESTIMONY OF EIGHT WITNESSES.**

Be it known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come, that Joseph Smith, Jr. the Author and Proprietor of this work, has shewn unto us the plates of which hath been spoken, which have the appearance of gold; and as many of the leaves as the said Smith has translated, we did handle with our hands; and we also saw the engravings thereon, all of which has the appearance of ancient work, and of curious workmanship. And this we bear record, with words of soberness, that the said Smith has shewn unto us, for we have seen and hefted, and know of a surety, that the said Smith has got the plates of which we have spoken. And we give our names unto the world, to witness unto the world that which we have seen: and we lie not, God bearing witness of it.

CHRISTIAN WHITMER,  
JACOB WHITMER,  
PETER WHITMER, Jr.  
JOHN WHITMER,  
HIRAM PAGE,  
JOSEPH SMITH, Sen.  
HYRUM SMITH,  
SAMUEL H. SMITH.

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Now let me make a comment here  
When you submit a statement  
before a court of law  
You are required to sign the  
document under penalty of perjury  
in order for the statement to be  
valid  
You have to date it and note the  
county in which it was signed

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If you look at the testimony of the  
Three Witnesses  
And if you look at the statement  
of the Eight Witnesses  
These statements do not have an  
actual signature

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What you have is a typeset  
document with names printed at  
the bottom of the page  
If this were a court of law, neither  
of these documents would qualify  
as a statement  
None are actually signed by the  
persons named there

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The reason the courts require a statement be made under penalty of perjury

And required the person making the statement provide a “wet signature”

Is to prove that these people actually made the statement

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Anyone can type up a statement And type someone’s name to it To make it say anything they want that person to say

This is why we need signatures to prove these people agree with the document and claim to have made these statements

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Another area we investigate in a fraud case is the relationship between the main person and those who are making claims about that person or the business

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We are looking for unbiased witnesses  
 These are witnesses not connected to the business  
 Or would not benefit from that business  
 Consider the following chart...

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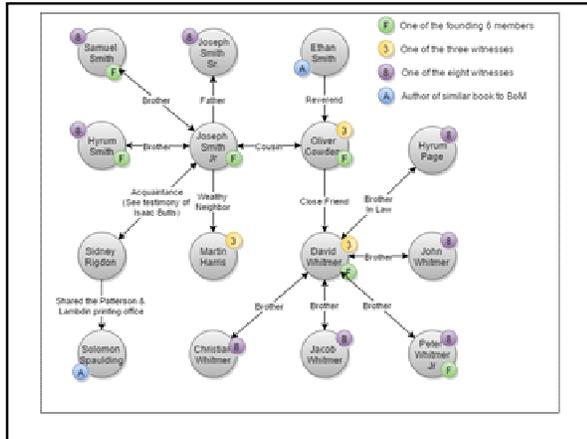
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So Joseph Smith listed eleven men as witnesses that he could call upon to prove that what he was saying was true  
 Three would not confirm his claim  
 They left the Mormon Church  
 And Joseph Smith personally discredited them

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The other eight were all connected to Joseph Smith or had financial investments in the Mormon Church

But what do we know about these eight men?

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Jacob Whitmer left the “*church*” in 1838.

John Whitmer was excommunicated in 1838.

Hiram Page left the “*church*” in 1838.

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Christian Whitmer died 1835 – three years later his family left or was excommunicated.

Peter Whitmer, Jr. died 1836 two years before his family left or was excommunicated.

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In other words, all the witnesses,  
except the father to Joseph  
Smith, Jr., and Joseph Smith's  
brother left the Church  
Those who left the Church were  
excommunicated

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There is no unbiased witness to  
collaborate Joseph Smith's claims  
to:  
The Golden Plates,  
The Urim or Thummim  
The Angel Moroni

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To substantiate his claims, Joseph  
Smith will now need to produce:  
The Golden Plates  
The Urim and Thummin; or  
The Angel Moroni

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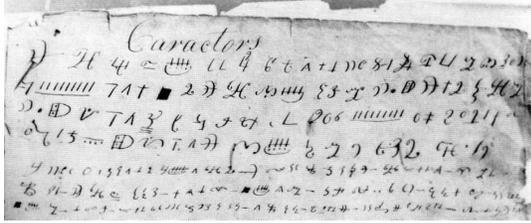
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To this end, there is the Anton Transcript



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Joseph Smith is reported to have written down symbols that he claimed were samples of Reformed Egyptian  
This is the language the Golden Plates were written in  
It was reported to compress a lot of information in each character

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Joseph Smith sent Martin Harris with this example to Charles Anton of Columbia University  
According to a statement, written by Joseph Smith for Martin Harris to sign...

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Charles Anton is reported to have given a glowing recommendation that this was the most perfect example of Reformed Egyptian he had ever seen

This is strange as Reformed Egyptian is unknown to the scholar world outside of the Latter Day Church

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The statement went on to note that when Charles Anton heard that this was connected to an angelic manifestation, he took back his glowing recommendation and destroyed it

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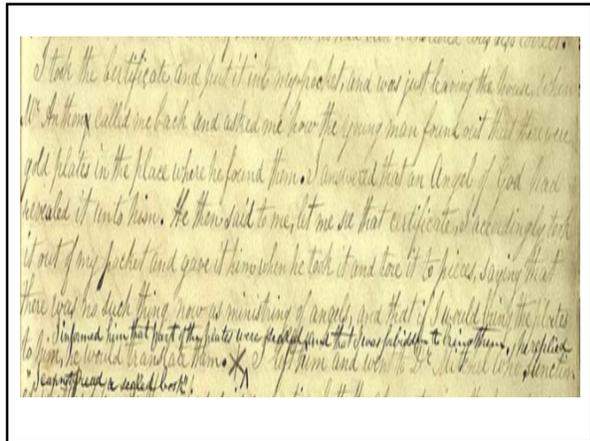
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This is why Joseph Smith wrote this statement of what really happened and had Martin Harris sign it

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When Charles Anton heard of this statement, he issued his own statement denouncing the writings as a scam

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According to a statement from Charles Anton, he claims he told Martin Harris it was a hoax. He has stated publicly that he never made any such endorsement.

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According to Martin Harris' statement written by Joseph Smith, Jr., Martin Harris then took the characters to a physician in New York who claims to have authenticated the Reformed Egyptian and the translations.

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How a medical physician could be an expert in an unknown language called Reformed Egyptian still needs to be settled.

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According to Joseph Smith, the angel Moroni came and took possession of the Golden Plates and the Urim and Thummin  
He was unable to produce any credible proof to support his claims

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The title page of the Book of Mormon notes that the book as being revised by Joseph Smith  
If Joseph Smith was no longer in possession of the Golden Plates or the Urim and Thummin; how is this even possible?

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Let's consider The Book of Abraham...  
The Book of Abraham is a work produced between 1835 and 1842 by Joseph Smith based, he said, on Egyptian papyri purchased from a traveling mummy exhibition.

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According to Smith, the book was "a translation of some ancient records purporting to be the writings of Abraham, while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus."

Is it a translation, or written by Abraham's own hand?

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*"Written by his own hand..."*

Do we have a sample of Abraham's handwriting for comparison?

This would make the papyrus five thousand years old

It would be older than Moses

This would be the only oldest, original manuscript from that time

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*"A translation of some ancient writings..."*

What was the original language?

Who translated it?

How do we know it is an accurate translation?

Where is the proof?

It cannot be both...

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Smith said the papyri described Abraham's early life, his travels to Canaan and Egypt, and his vision of the cosmos and its creation. Sections of this book recreated the exact scenario as the Genesis Chapter One and Two accounts Except that God became "Gods."

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As Abraham is reported by Jewish manuscripts to believe in a single God and not multiple Gods this difference is important This difference in translations is vital and needs authentication What was the original word "in Abraham's own hand"? How do we test the translation?

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Without collaborating documents there is not way to test Smith's translation Its validity becomes highly suspect... Yet the work was canonized in 1880, by The LDS as part of its Pearl of Great Price. If only we had the original papyrus...

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But the original papyri was believed lost in the Chicago Fire  
However, years later it was discovered in the Metropolitan Museum in New York in 1966, and returned to the Latter Day Church  
We can now put it to the test

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The translation of these documents was assigned to Dee Jay Nelson, a recognized Egyptologist, and a respected member of the Mormon Church.

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Nelson discovered that the papyri were part of an Egyptian book called, *The Book of Breathing* – a collection of prayers buried in tombs.  
How did the Church respond?  
The Church denounced Nelson, and he left the Church, taking his wife and daughter with him.

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We also have to ask how Joseph Smith was able to translate the papyri since he was not trained in Egyptian Hieroglyphics  
There was no Urim or Thummin in his possession at this time  
That's how he translated the Golden Plates

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So our investigation fails to provide any evidence/proof to support the claims of Joseph Smith concerning:  
The Golden Plates  
The Urim and Thummin  
The Angel Moroni  
The Book of Mormon; or  
The Book of Abraham

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So we have to ask, "Is there any other theory regarding the origin of the Book of Mormon?"  
Believe it or not, there is...

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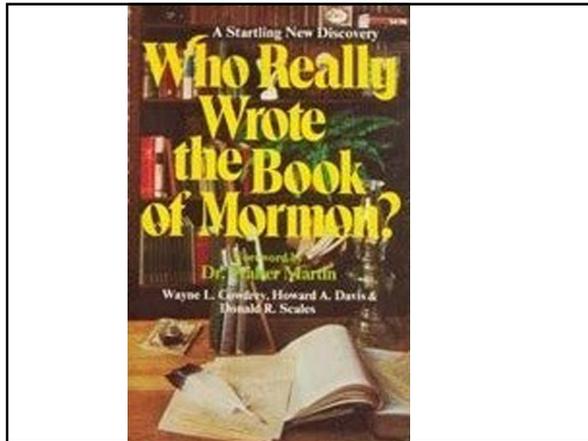
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This book conducted a detailed research into a theory that the original book of Mormon was a manuscript written by Solomon Spalding.

Several of the statements references were from a 1834 publication by E. D. Howe

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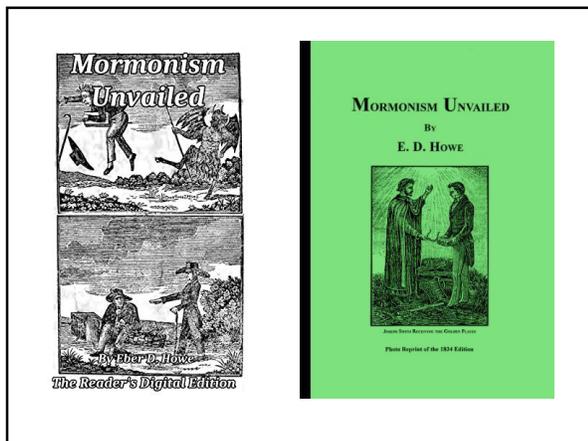
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E. D. Howe was the publisher of the *Painesville Telegraph* a newspaper in Painesville Ohio  
He started his newspaper in 1822  
In 1834 he investigated claims by family and friends of Solomon Spalding that the Book of Mormon was Spalding's missing manuscript

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Solomon Spaulding was a minister who was disabled and spent years writing a fictional work explaining how the Native American burial mounds in their area came to be.

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He had hoped to publish this manuscript as a way of providing for his family  
The manuscript eventually ended up in the office of Patterson and Lambdin Printing

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It remained there several years while Spaulding tried to raise money to pay for the printing of his book

An associate of the Patterson Lambdin Printing Office was Sidney Rigdon

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Sidney Rigdon became an associate of Joseph Smith Jr. The "*Who Really Wrote The Book Of Mormon*" relied on several newspaper articles and interviews at the time the Book of Mormon was published as well as Howe's book

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Solomon Spaulding's manuscript disappeared from the Patterson Lambdin Printing Office

After Solomon Spaulding passed away, the Book of Mormon was printed

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The family of Solomon Spaulding charged Joseph Smith of stealing the manuscript and altering it into the Book of Mormon

The names of the races, people and places in the Book of Mormon were the fictional names Spaulding created

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The authors actually found pages preserved by Joseph Smith and labeled as an unknown scribe who copied the Book of Mormon  
When the pages' handwriting was compare to another manuscript by Spaulding, the writing was the same person

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The Mormon Church has attacked the Solomon Spaulding claims as well as the *Mormonism Unveiled* book and claim that the theories are no longer believed  
It all depends on who you ask...

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Now there is a major difference between denouncing and refuting  
Denouncing is when you refuse to believe what the other party has said  
Refuting is when you present evidence to prove that the statements are not true

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The Latter Day Saints have denounced the theory  
They have tried to attack the character of those who made the statement  
But they are unable to present any evidence to support their position

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In a court of law, until the other party can refute the statement – and not simply denounce it – the statement is considered true by the court  
Saying something is not so does not make it not so

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So if, as according to Joseph Fielding Smith, the entire Mormon faith rests on the credibility of Joseph Smith, the Mormon faith fails the test

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The only witnesses changed their testimony, recanted, left the Church or were excommunicated  
The three witnesses to the plates, the angel, the ordination of the priesthood were all personally discredited by Joseph Smith, himself

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There is no proof of the Golden Plates  
There is no proof of the Urim and Thummin  
The Book of Abraham is not what he claimed it to be

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Without even going into the teachings of the Latter Day Church, the documents that the Latter Day Church is based on are sorely lacking

As a contract submitted to a court of law; they would not hold up as valid

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Now let us shift our focus from the Latter Day Saints to the contract being offered by the Jehovah's Witnesses...

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The Jehovah's Witnesses did not go back to the original manuscripts of Greek and Hebrew.

They took the King James Bible and changed various verses to comply with what they believed.

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This would not hold up in a court of law as a valid legal document  
It was altered without the written permission of the original author – God.

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So looking just at the documents, we find that the Bible was vetted and tested as it was assembled  
It complied with what God originally revealed concerning Himself

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Despite being written by forty authors over 1,500 – 2,000 it speaks with one voice  
The message is consistent  
There are internal and external proofs that show its message had to come from a supernatural source

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Prophecy is detailed and accurate  
each and every time

There are Bible Codes that could  
not have been added on purpose  
by the authors

Copies of document were  
preserved to prove the originals  
were not altered or changed

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When we compare this level of  
testing and credibility on the part  
of the Bible to the lack of  
evidence and proof on the part of  
the Book of Mormon and the  
obvious alterations to create the  
New World Translations we must  
reject both documents due to lack  
of credibility

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Let me refer to our previous  
presentation last year on The  
Case for Truth from our  
Apologetics modular...

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THE THREE TYPES OF FAITH:

There is the Unreasonable Faith:  
We believe in something in spite  
of the evidence

There is the Blind Faith: in which  
we believe in something when  
there is no evidence...

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Then there is Forensic Faith: This is  
when we believe in something  
because of the evidence.

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FORENSIC FAITH:

“We hold a forensic belief when we  
believe something because it is  
the most reasonable inference  
from evidence even though we  
may still have some unanswered  
questions.”

(J. Warner Wallace,  
Forensic Faith page 60)

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Faith in the Book of Mormon and in the New World Translation would fall under Unreasonable Faith

There is more evidence proving it is wrong than there is supporting it

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Faith in the Book of Mormon and the New World Translation cannot even qualify as a Blind Faith

It is not that there is no evidence to support it

There is actually evidence refuting it

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Faith in the Bible would fall under Forensic Faith

Given the evidence surrounding the Bible, it is the most reasonable conclusion from the evidence available

Even though we might still have some questions

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# QUESTIONS



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