

Altering the Text of the Book of Mormon



This tract upholds the Book of Mormon by showing that it teaches an important doctrine which Joseph Smith and the early Mormon Church did not know or understand. This means the Book could not have been a product out of Joseph Smith's own mind as his opponents would like to believe.

THE BOOK TEACHES ONENESS

As we search for truth in the midst of denominational contradictions and confusion, one thing which we can know for certain, is that the Book of Mormon repeatedly and consistently teaches a doctrine known as Oneness.¹ This doctrine teaches that there is no such thing as a "godhead" with two or three entities. Rather, Yahweh,² the god of Israel, the one and only eternal Father, simply presented Himself in a human body, so as to be the New Testament Messiah.

Other Truthseekers publications can help you acquire a better understanding concerning this subject of oneness.³

NOT BY ACCIDENT

Now regardless of whether or not the Oneness doctrine is correct, and regardless of whether the Book of Mormon is true or false, it is not by accident

1 See our tract, The Book of Mormon teaches Oneness.

2 To learn who Yahweh is, consult a good dictionary, or get our tract, The Creator Knows You By Name.

3 2 Are Too Many Gods; A Concept of Oneness; Who is Elohim?; Gen 1:26, Let us make man ...; John 1:1, In the beginning was the word; Some Oneness Prophecies; and A Prophet Like Unto Moses.

that the Book teaches Oneness. The Oneness doctrine being repeated so consistently throughout the Book, is surely the product of the deliberate intent and intelligent understanding of its authors. And its author could not have been Joseph Smith, because we have evidence that he did not understand or teach this Oneness doctrine.

DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ONENESS

Joseph Smith and the early Mormon Church taught their own ideas rather than studying, understanding and teaching

Oneness from the Book of Mormon. A Mormon publication in 1835, Lectures on Faith, shows that they taught the Trinity doctrine. And when printing the second edition of the Book of Mormon in 1837, they altered four verses, trying to make them conform to the belief that the Father and Son are two distinctly separate entities.

THE ALTERATIONS

In the second edition, the words, "the son of" were added in these four altered verses. Looking especially at page 32 of

FIRST EDITION (1830)

earth, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, are true.

And the angel spake unto me, saying: These last records which thou hast seen among the Gentiles, shall establish the truth of the first, which is of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them; and shall make known to all kindreds, tongues, and people, that the Lamb of God is the Eternal Father and the Saviour of the world; and that all men must come unto Him, or they cannot be saved; and they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb; and the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the records of

← This is on page 32 of the first edition. Compare with 1 Nephi 13:40 in modern LDS editions, or 1 Nephi 3:192-193 in RLDS editions.

SECOND EDITION (1837)

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And the angel spake unto me, saying, these last records which thou hast seen among the Gentiles, shall establish the truth of the first, which are of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them; and shall make known to all kindreds, tongues and people, that the Lamb of God is the Son of the eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him, or they cannot be saved; and they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb: and the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the records of the twelve

← These words, "the Son of" were also added in 1837, in LDS 1 Nephi 11:18, 21 & 32 which in RLDS editions, is 1 Nephi 3:58, 62 & 86.

**"the Son of"
was inserted
in four verses
in 1837.**

(Photocopies of originals)

the first edition⁴ (what is now 1 Nephi 13:40 in LDS editions, and 1 Nephi 3:193 in RLDS editions), the statement that, "...the Lamb of God is the Eternal Father...", would not make sense unless you understand the Oneness doctrine! And Joseph Smith had no advantage over anyone else in understanding this. His only advantage was his absolute certainty about how he obtained the Book. When Joseph looked at the four verses without understanding Oneness, they made no sense to him. He probably thought his scribe had omitted some words while writing Joseph's dictations from the seer stone.⁵ Joseph probably innocently but erroneously decided that these four supposed omissions should be corrected by inserting the words, "the son of".

JOSEPH WAS NOT THE AUTHOR

But if Joseph had been the author of the Book in the first place, then he would have known that this Oneness doctrine appears in many other verses throughout the Book, and that these supposed omissions were not really omissions at all; and needed no correcting. History shows that neither the Mormon church nor Joseph Smith believed, understood or taught Oneness. Therefore he could not have been the author of the Book.

Most Mormon denominations esteem their own church doctrine over and above Book of Mormon doctrine, and so they have not corrected these four verses back to the way they were in the original edition.

4 Write to Truthseekers for information about getting a copy of the original 1830 edition.

5 See our tract, Translating the Book of Mormon.