



*Mormonism Against Itself*  
by Maurice Barnett

-- Part 5 --

Bible Verses Used by  
Mormons Relative to the  
Book of Mormon



Joseph Smith

**In order to lend authority to the Book of Mormon, Mormons refer to several passages in the Bible. They claim these passages foretell the Book of Mormon, Mormon peoples and events. However, their claims are not only mere assertion but in some instances obviously dishonest.**

**GENESIS 11:9**\_\_\_\_\_

“Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.”

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** This passage refers to the coming of the Jaredites to the Americas after the scattering at the tower of Babel.

**ANSWER:**

- 1) Mere speculation. Supposing there were peoples that came to the Americas at that time, and that is just speculation, there is no evidence the “Jaredites” were those people.

**GENESIS 48:16**\_\_\_\_\_

“The angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** The Book of Mormon people, being of the tribe of Manasseh, fulfill this by coming to America, which is in the “midst of the earth,” the center. See any map.

**ANSWER:**

- 1) Note that BOTH Ephraim and Manasseh had this blessing.
- 2) Several places can be called “center” of the earth on a map. It depends on where you look.
- 3) Isaiah 5:8 uses the same phrase, “midst of the earth,” to talk about land grabbers IN PALESTINE, which is where Ephraim and Manasseh were to grow into a multitude!

**GENESIS 49:22**\_\_\_\_\_

“Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well whose branches run over the wall...”

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** The branches are the children of Joseph, and the wall they ran over was the sea. Nahum 3:8 calls the sea a wall. So this refers to the Book of Mormon people coming to the Americas.

**ANSWER:**

- 1) There are two different words for WALL. In Nahum 3:8 it is CHOMA and emphasis is a BARRIER (Gesenius, p. 265). In Genesis 49:22 the word is SHUR and the emphasis is an arrangement of stones to make up a wall (Gesenius, p. 812). Here in Genesis it is the sides of a WELL, not a sea!
- 2) This passage speaks of the richest place to plant a tree, or any other plant - next to water. The term “whose branches run over the wall” only emphasizes the fertility of the place and how prosperous Joseph will be.

### DEUTERONOMY 33:13-17

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“And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath, and for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon, and for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills, and for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren. His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim and they are the thousands of Manasseh.”

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** The children of Joseph came to America where everything was so rich. Only America has such riches.

#### ANSWER:

- 1) There are many other countries that are equally “rich” with this one. However, this statement is speaking of the superior blessings Ephraim and Manasseh would have in Canaan. Joshua 17:14 shows how they received a double portion when the people entered the land, and they were choice portions.

### PSALM 85:11

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“Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.”<sup>f</sup>

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** The “gold plates” of the Book of Mormon were hidden in the ground until they were given to Joseph Smith; hence “truth shall spring out of the earth.”

#### ANSWER:

- 1) This is an exceptionally strained interpretation of the Mormons. This Psalm sets forth what is going to prosper and grow. “Spring out” comes from TSAMACH (Gesenius Lexicon, p. 712), and means “...things which sprout forth from the earth, produce, fruit of the earth...” Truth will sprout forth like the produce of the earth, and will prosper. This is figurative. The context of this Psalm is of blessings that come so that “glory may dwell in our land.”
- 2) James J. Strang claims to have found some plates in the ground and translated them into the Book of The Law Of The Lord. He had some Witnesses, etc. All just like Joseph Smith did with the Book of Mormon. Why would not his work be as much a fulfillment of this Psalm as the Book of Mormon? There is as much evidence for one as the other!

### ISAIAH 16:8

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“For the fields of Heshbon languish and the vine of Sibmah: the lords of the heathen have broken down the principal plants thereof, they are come even unto Jazer, they wandered through the wilderness: her branches are stretched out, they are gone over the sea.”

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** Heshbon was taken by Israel, Numbers 21:25-26, and the branches that are gone over the sea refers to Israelites that came across the ocean to America.

#### ANSWER:

- 1) Israelites are not referred to here at all! By the time of Isaiah's statement here the Moabites were in control of Heshbon. The entire sixteenth chapter is speaking of Moab. Jeremiah 48 also records these same things against Moab.
- 2) Jeremiah 48 refers to the Sea of Jazer. Scholars say a body of water once existed, now dried up, between Jazer and Moab, which fleeing Moabites would have to cross.

### ISAIAH 18:1-3

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“Woe to the land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia: that sendeth ambassadors by the sea, even in vessels of bulrushes upon the waters, saying, Go, ye swift messengers to a nation scattered and peeled, to a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden down, whose land the rivers have spoiled! All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.”

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** North and South America appear like two wings in outline, and are beyond Ethiopia from Palestine. The ensign to be raised was the Book of Mormon that people are to hear.

#### ANSWER:

- 1) Ezekiel 30:9-12 shows that to reach Ethiopia one had to go by boat. The rivers had to be crossed. The land beyond the rivers of Ethiopia would be Ethiopia.
- 2) The land “beyond the rivers” sent ambassadors by the sea. Where would that be true in regard to the Book of Mormon people sending ambassadors back to the former land?
- 3) The ensign was not the Book of Mormons. Isaiah 11:10 says “And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.” This refers to Jesus; He was the ensign, not the Book of Mormon!

### ISAIAH 29:1-4

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“Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt! add ye year to year; let them kill sacrifices. Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel. And I will camp against thee round about, and will lay siege against thee with a mount, and I will raise forts against thee. And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.”

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** The voice from the dust with a familiar spirit can only mean the Book of Mormon that came out of the ground at Cumorah, and had some of the writings of Jewish prophets, such as Isaiah.

#### ANSWER:

- 1) This section is denouncing Jerusalem and it would be taken low like dust. The “familiar spirit” refers to a DEMON, not some familiar prophet, like Isaiah. I don’t think this helps Mormons very much!

“And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** This is a prophecy fulfilled when Martin Harris took the sample copy of characters from the gold plates to Charles Anthon. The sealed book was the plates, delivered to the learned man, Anthon, who could not read it because it was sealed. It was then taken to the unlearned man, Joseph Smith, who could read it. Hence came the Book of Mormon. This is a specific prophecy of the bringing forth of that book. \_\_\_

- 1) This doesn’t fit the facts; the order is reversed. The gold plates supposedly were brought to Joseph Smith (the unlearned) first, who sent a transcript of the characters and translation to Anthon (the learned), so it is claimed

2) Neither the learned nor the unlearned of Isaiah can read the book. Note the unlearned replies that he is not learned. Nothing is said about his reading it, but rather refusal because he is not learned. Verse 18 *does say who will understand the book*; note -

“And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.”

The learned and unlearned couldn't but the blind and deaf will.

3) The context of these two verses belong to prophecies of events of **FIRST CENTURY PALESTINE**, not 1830 Mormonism! See the specific fulfillment in these passages -

Isaiah 29:10 ——— Romans 11:8  
Isaiah 29:13 ——— Matthew 15:7-9  
Isaiah 29:14 ——— I Corinthians 1:18-19  
Isaiah 29:14 ——— Acts 2:22  
Isaiah 29:18-19 — Matthew 11:4-6

It should be evident the entire section, including verses 11-12, were fulfilled in first century Palestine in the coming of Jesus and the Gospel preached by Him and the apostles then. The Jewish leaders and their followers refused to listen to Jesus and the Gospel. Acts 13:27-29 detail who the learned and unlearned were that would not see nor hear. But the downtrodden, poor, and common people heard him gladly.

#### **ISAIAH 45:8**—————

“Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together: I the Lord have created it.”

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** The Book of Mormon was hidden in the earth, and was brought forth bringing salvation, just as Isaiah says.

#### **ANSWER:**

1) The figure of speech is of righteousness, like rain, comes down, and salvation comes out of the earth like a plant, and righteousness springs up as well. To make this apply to the Book of Mormon is another gross assumption. Why should it apply to the Book of Mormon any more than to James J. Strang's Book? The latter supposedly came in the same way as the Book of Mormon.

#### **JEREMIAH 49:30-33**—————

“Flee, get you far off, dwell deep, O ye inhabitants of Hazer, saith the Lord; for Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath taken counsel against you, and hath conceived a purpose against you. Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care, saith the Lord, which have neither gates nor bars, which dwell alone. And their camels shall be a booty, and the multitude of their cattle a spoil: and I will scatter into all winds them that are in the utmost corners; and I will bring their calamity from all sides thereof, saith the Lord. And; Hazer: shall be a dwelling for dragons, and a desolation for ever: there shall no man abide there, nor any son of man dwell in it.”

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** The Jews were to flee “unto the wealthy nation.” The only nation that answers to this is America and so this is fulfilled in the Book of Mormon people obeying this command in coming to this country.

**ANSWER:**

- 1) The Mormons grossly pervert this passage. It shows how far they will strain the scriptures to find some authority for the Book of Mormon. The Hazor spoken of here was NOT JEWISH but Gentile. Beginning with chapter 46, Jeremiah pronounces God's statements to Gentiles, what was to befall them and what they were to do. Note especially Jeremiah 48:28, the "kingdoms of Hazor, which, Nebuchadrezzar, King of Babylon, shall smite..."
- 2) This could not have been a command of God to Jews to flee to some nation across the sea; See Jeremiah 27:8.
- 3) The "wealthy nation" spoken of was Arabia whose people dwelt in tents, without cities, hence those who "dwelt without care...have neither gates nor bars, which dwell alone," and yet had camels and other booty.

**EZEKIEL 37:15-22**

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"The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou *meanest* by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which *is* in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, *even* with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all."

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** The two "sticks" refer to the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Books were written on scrolls and rolled upon sticks, so that is the meaning of "sticks" in this passage; they mean "scrolls" or "books." The stick of Judah was the Bible, and the stick of Ephraim was the Book of Mormon. So, this is a prophecy that foretells the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon.

**ANSWER:**

- 1) This is an oft quoted section of scriptures used to legitimize the Book of Mormon.
- 2) Ezekiel is speaking of the return of the Jews from Babylonian captivity. They will come again into their own land. Judah and Ephraim will then become one nation, no longer divided into two kingdoms, and will have one king over them. The two "sticks" represented the joining of the two into one nation. Note the context.
- 3) Hebrew has a word for "scroll" and a word for "stick." Ezekiel uses the word for "stick." Gesenius Hebrew Lexicon, p. 646, defines the word as "wood, specially of a wooden post, stake, gibbet." It was a rod, branch or staff, etc. NEVER A SCROLL, OR BOOK. Book of Mormon was supposedly written on metal plates, not on a scroll - doesn't fit!
- 4) As far as being destined for greatness was concerned, God rejected Ephraim and chose Judah, as per Psalms 78:67-68. Mormons place emphasis on Ephraim.
- 5) Nephite record couldn't be fulfillment of any "stick of Ephraim" seeing the Nephites were descendants of Manasseh, and not Ephraim, according to Alma 10:2-31

### **MALACHI 3:1-3**

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“Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap. And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.”

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** This refers to the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and the conferring of the Aaronic Priesthood on Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery.

#### **ANSWER:**

- 1) This was fulfilled in the first century with the coming of John the Baptist in Palestine. This is CLEARLY the fact from Matthew 11:10-14, Mark 1:1-4, Luke 3:4-5; the latter two passages from Isaiah, but still on the same subject. How can one take a prophecy that so clearly is stated as fulfilled in first century Palestine, and insist it refers to Smith and Cowdery, etc?
- 2) The phrase, “But who may abide the day of his coming?” is claimed to not have fulfillment in the first century, for they could abide him. Mormons say it must be yet future, so there are many “comings” of Jesus. But this phrase is a question, the answer being that the righteous could accept that day of his coming, the wicked could not.

### **JOHN 10:16**

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“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.”

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** As in 3 Nephi 15:21-16:5 it refers to the Nephites in the Americas as well as the lost ten tribes. It does not refer to the Gentiles.

#### **ANSWER:**

- 1) We ask, with Alma 5:39 - “And now if ye are not the sheep of the good shepherd, of what fold are ye? Behold, I say unto you, that the devil is your shepherd, and ye are of his fold; and now who can deny this? Behold, I say unto you, whosoever denieth this is a liar and a child of the devil.” If the Gentiles cannot be sheep of the good shepherd, even though they are saved in Christ, of what fold are they? This passage presents only the one fold of Christ or that of the devil. The Mormon rendition is speculation on John 10:16, and the statement of 3 Nephi 15 is error concocted by Smith.
- 2) Ephesians 2:13-14, speaking of Jew and Gentile - “But now, in Christ Jesus, ye who sometime were afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.” The Gentiles who would respond to the Gospel, though different from the Jew, would unite with the Jews in one fold, with one Shepherd, Christ.

### **II CORINTHIANS 13:1**

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“...In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.”

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** There were three witnesses to the Book of Mormon, as well as other witnesses, thus establishing the Book of Mormon.

**ANSWER:**

- 1) There are “witnesses” to all sorts of things, but it does not prove a thing to be true. James J. Strang had some “witnesses” testimony printed at the front of his Book Of The Law Of The Lord, just like the Book of Mormon. Why will not Mormons accept Strang’s Book?

**II TIMOTHY 3:16-17**\_\_\_\_\_

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** The Book of Mormon is scripture inspired of God and therefore necessary to our perfection.

**ANSWER:**

- 1) They assume the thing to be proven, that the Book of Mormon is inspired of God. They have to prove THAT first.

**REVELATION 14:6**\_\_\_\_\_

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation and kindred, and tongue, and people.”

**MORMON ARGUMENT:** An angel gave the plates to Joseph Smith that contained the full gospel to be preached. This prophesies of that.

**ANSWER:**

- 1) Another assumption. To claim connection here does not prove it. Notice the next verse of the chapter.. The words of the Angel in verse 7 were never uttered to Joseph Smith in any claimed appearance to him.