



A CLOUD OF WITNESSES

10 Powerful Witnesses For The Church
of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

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*“Wherefore **seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,” Hebrews 12:1*

Introduction and the Focus of This Guide:

My name is Josh Rossi and I created this guide because I noticed that many are underprepared when hard doctrinal questions are presented online. I got sick of seeing all of these “gotcha” moments against church members just for clicks. Many people are inciting violence against the Church and spewing lies because they don’t understand what we believe. They say we are not Christian, that the Devil has inspired our prophets and our scripture. They mock doctrines that they think are unique to us but are in their own Bibles. Many take lightly and twist the doctrines of God and don’t understand what the scriptures teach. You might not have endless hours to read 500-page books on LDS doctrine and history, and for that reason I made this simple reference guide. I am not a scholar, historian, or egyptologist, just a regular member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I wanted to show that anyone can come to the knowledge of the truth through sincere study and relying on the Holy Ghost.

This guide is scripture, and reference heavy to inspire your own study so that The Spirit can guide you to understanding. It will bring together, in one place, the most powerful witnesses for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

This guide WAS NOT created by ChatGPT. Don't you love how we have to say that now? These points come from from years of study and many conversations with those of other faiths.

How Do We Discover Truth?

God's law of witnesses states:

"...that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established." — **Matthew 18:16**

The head and the heart are witnesses of truth.

As it says in **Doctrine and Covenants 9:8**

"But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right."

Having faith does not come easily to some, and for that reason the Lord said in **Doctrine and Covenants 88:118**

"And as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith."

In this guide, I will show the cloud of witnesses that exist of God's kingdom being restored in these latter days.

1. Witness of a Physical Church Structure

The church that Christ set up when he was on the Earth had a physical structure and was not just a spiritual church that lived in the hearts of people. Below are a list of scriptures from the Old and New Testament that support a physical church structure of the body of Christ.

Amos 3:7 — “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”

Ephesians 2:19 — “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;”

20 — “And **are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;”

Ephesians 4:11 — “**And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets;** and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 — “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”

13 — “**Till we all come in the unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:”

14 — “**That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”

This shows both the purpose of the Church’s structure and how long it is meant to remain in place: “*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man,*” so that we are not “*tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine.*”

Many Christians said that there was no need for apostles and prophets after the death of Peter. Nowhere in scripture does it say

that there is no more need of apostles and prophets. The scriptures actually point to the opposite.

1 Corinthians 12:14–31:

14 — “For the body is not one member, but many.”

15 — “If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?”

21 — “**And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee:** nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.”

27 — “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”

28 — “And God hath set some in the church, **first apostles, secondarily prophets**, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.”

These passages not only discuss spiritual gifts but also the Church’s structure. They compare the body to the structure of the Church and the need for every part of it. Just as the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of thee,” one cannot claim to have miracles and the gift of tongues while denying the need for apostles and prophets.

Ephesians 1:22–23 — The Church is the body of Christ. If the Church structure exists for the perfecting of the Saints as stated in Ephesians 4:11–14, then to gain FULL access to Christ’s Atonement one must be part of that structure. If the structure is man made then it has no authority.

1 Timothy 3:15 — The Church is the pillar and ground of the truth.

Luke 10:1 — Seventy are chosen. These seventy appear to be important. What happened to them after the deaths of the apostles?

Numbers 11:16–17 — God commands Moses to choose seventy elders and promises to place upon them the same Spirit that was upon Moses.

Philippians 1:1 — Mentions bishops, deacons, and members of the Church.

Acts 1:22–26 — After Judas died, Matthias was chosen through revelation, showing that there was a plan for apostolic succession.

Many say that apostles were temporary and had to be witnesses of Christ's life from baptism to his resurrection as this scripture says.

We do agree that these apostles had a special calling to be witnesses of his resurrection but **why then was Paul called as an apostle after Christ's death?** He was chosen afterwards and received public revelation for the church and corrected many congregations. We see that Christ CAN choose other apostles and prophets after the original 12 apostles. Remember that in the last days God will call two more witnesses/prophets to preach in Jerusalem (Revelation 11:3).

Acts 2:1, 42–46 — Members followed the doctrine of the apostles, were of one accord, and worshiped in the temple. The Church of Christ was of one accord. They did not break into sects with their own spiritual leaders. They were guided by the apostles and their doctrine. If groups would have broken off from the church they would have been considered apostate, even if trying to reform the church.

Acts 2:47 — *“...The Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved.”* Salvation came through Christ and through the structure and ordinances of His Church.

Acts 19:2–6 — People who had been baptized by John had not received the Holy Ghost. Paul baptized them again and then gave them the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands. Baptism without properly receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost is only half of the ordinance as shown here.

Acts 8:14–21 — The Holy Ghost did not fall on anyone except those who had been baptized and had hands laid upon them. A man saw Peter and John giving the Holy Ghost and tried to purchase that power. This shows that the Gift of the Holy Ghost came after baptism by water in the name of Jesus Christ and was given by the laying on

of hands by those with authority. Both the baptism of water and the baptism of fire (the Holy Ghost), administered by one in authority, are necessary for salvation.

Even at the day of pentecost when the spirit was poured upon people and they spoke with tongues we see that **the Gift** of the Holy Ghost was only receive after baptism..

Acts 2:38 — Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The question is then...**did the church of Christ in its fullness continue after the apostles**, or did a falling away happen as prophesied? (In later sections we'll cover prophesies of a falling away before Christ's second coming.)

Which church has the truth about what is required for salvation? Does salvation come by just having faith? Does it come by faith and works? Does it come by faith, works and repentance? Or does it come by faith, works, repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands from someone with authority given from God? Do works matter or do they not? These are all questions one must ask when making a decision on which doctrines are true to salvation and which ones aren't.

Conclusion:

These scriptures show that the Church had a physical structure, given for the perfecting of the saints until all come to the unity of the faith and unto a perfect man. That unity did not exist after the deaths of Peter and the apostles, yet most Christian churches today claim that apostles, prophets, and public revelation are no longer necessary. 1 Corinthians 12:14-31 warned against anyone saying that the church

structure did not need apostles and prophets or that they were temporary.

In the book of Acts, we see that authority was required to baptize and to give the gift of the Holy Ghost, and that these ordinances were necessary for salvation. The Church was not merely spiritual—it had a physical, divinely authorized structure. The Holy Ghost did not simply fall upon believers because they believed; they had to be baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost through someone who held authority in the physical Church that Christ established.

Who has God's authority today and adheres to the church structure and doctrines taught in the Bible? There are over 40,000 Christian denominations, and they disagree not over minor doctrines, but over doctrines for salvation. Some say that you can lose your salvation through apostasy, and some say your salvation is guaranteed through grace. Some believe sacraments such as baptism are necessary for salvation and others do not. Many teachings in the Bible, such as church structure, authority, apostles, prophets, revelation, and specific doctrines like baptisms for the dead have been put into the category of "they aren't necessary anymore."

2. Witness of The Great Apostasy in The Scriptures

When we mention The Great Apostasy, we don't mean that every person in the church apostatized. We mean that there was a time of silence where God didn't call prophets, which led to a loss of authority on Earth, which then led to false doctrines creeping in. This section will show evidence in the Bible.

The Spirit Will Not Always Strive with Man:

In speaking of the flood God said:

Genesis 6:3 "And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."

What happens when God takes His Spirit away from man?

The Priesthood Was Lost:

In Ezra, we read that the priesthood was lost because the children of the priests could not trace their genealogy back to the source of the priesthood.

Ezra 2:61 — "And of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai; which took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name:

62 — "These sought their register *among* those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, **put from the priesthood.**"

"We see that even in Old Testament times the Spirit would not always strive with man, and neither would the priesthood."

The Silence After Malachi:

In **Malachi 4:5**, the great period of silence begins. After Malachi, there are approximately 400 years with no recorded prophetic voice. Malachi prophesies of the Second Coming, and then scripture falls silent.

Some assume that because Malachi's final prophecy speaks of the Second Coming, there was no need for further prophets, scripture, or revelation. In the King James Version of the Bible, the final page reads, "*THE END OF THE PROPHETS.*" Who wrote that? It does not appear in the NIV edition of the Bible. Who decided that God was done speaking?

Judaism teaches that the age of prophets ended with Malachi and that the Canon was closed. They believe God revealed all He intended to reveal and that there would be no more scripture and no more prophets.

Catholics accept the Deuterocanonical books—Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Baruch, and additions to Esther and Daniel—and argue that there was no period of silence after Malachi. Yet even these writings focus mainly on history, not on living prophets who spoke for God and guided His people as Moses and earlier prophets did.

For example, in **1 Maccabees 9:27** written in 100 BC it says, "There was great tribulation in Israel, the like of which had not been since the time prophets ceased to appear among them."

This shows that prophets indeed ceased to appear among the people.

Just because a prophet wasn't called doesn't mean that individuals were not receiving inspired direction during that time.

Because there was no prophet on the Earth with God's authority to guide His Church and receive public revelation, many factions and false ideas arose. Each person was left to interpret past scripture and God's will on their own, even while using the same scriptural Canon.

Such factions included the Pharisees and the Sadducees who had different doctrinal views. When Christ came, men had created traditions around God's religion, which corrupted the true doctrine.

Do you think men, have corrupted the true doctrine of Christ that was taught in ancient times?

Prophecies of a Future Falling Away:

Isaiah 29:10 — “For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.”

Isaiah 29:13 — “...this people draw near *me* with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:”

2 Timothy 4:3–4 — “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”
People will not endure sound doctrine.

Acts 20:29–31 — “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.”

2 Thessalonians 2:3 — “*That day shall not come except there come a falling away first.*” The word falling away used here in is “Apostasia” in Greek. This describes not just personal apostasy, but a widespread falling away.

2 Timothy 3:1 — “This know also, that **in the last days** perilous times shall come.”

2 Timothy 3:5 — “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: From such turn away.”

What critics say: Critics use Mathew 16:18 to say that his church would never fall into apostasy.

Matthew 16:18 — “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

The meaning of the gates of Hell/Hades will not prevail

In some Bible translations, this verse uses the word *Hell*, but in the NIV and in the original Greek it uses **Hades**, which refers to the spirit world—the place of the dead—not the devil’s kingdom.

Scholars often interpret this passage as pointing to Christ’s resurrection, showing that death itself would not prevail against Him. Christ is explaining that He would resurrect and the gates of Hades would no more be able to hold the dead.

Evidence That Apostasy Was Becoming More Widespread:

3 John 1:9–10 — Written near A.D. 100, John describes a leader named Diotrephes who refused to receive the Apostle John and cast faithful members out of the Church:

“Diotrephes... receiveth us not... neither doth he himself receive the brethren... and casteth them out of the church.”

This shows not only personal apostasy, but rebellion against apostolic authority within the Church itself. Imagine, that entire congregation would not have received the revelations that John had for them. Would they have eventually distorted doctrine? Would they still have been considered the true church of Christ if they had distorted doctrines? Would God have accepted their authority to baptize and give The Holy Ghost?

What do LDS believe happened after the death of the apostles?

Doctrine and Covenants 86:1–3 — Teaches that after the apostles “fell asleep,” the Church was driven into the wilderness. This doesn’t mean that every single good person went apostate, but it means that the church, the structure of the body of Christ, was forced into the wilderness. If the church was driven into the wilderness, what church remained, and by what authority were they performing baptisms and giving The Holy Ghost? Would God accept the authority of another church if Christ’s true church was driven into the wilderness? Is there any scripture that states that the church structure needed to change after the death of the apostles?

Conclusion:

Paul and the other apostles constantly corrected congregations through the epistles we read about in the New Testament. The Church could not be left to govern itself without divine authority. It needed traveling authorities apostles and prophets, to interpret doctrine and keep the Church on the straight and narrow path. The idea that God’s church does not need apostles and prophets with divine revelation contradicts the scriptures—specifically **1 Corinthians 12:14–21**, **Ephesians 2:19–22**, and **Ephesians 4:11–14**.

3. Historical Witnesses of a Church-Wide Apostasy

Apostasy in Early Christian Bishops' Writings:

One of the main responsibilities of the Twelve Apostles was to establish congregations by baptizing converts and organizing local churches wherever they went with bishops, priests, teachers, deacons, and evangelists. Below is a partial list of early bishops, drawn from the New Testament and historical records.

- **Titus** — Bishop of Crete
- **Timothy** — Bishop of Ephesus
- **Polycarp** — Bishop of Smyrna
- **Linus, Cletus, Clement** — Bishops of Rome
- **Ignatius** — Bishop of Antioch

This illustrates one of the apostolic commissions found in **Acts 2:38**, where Peter commands the people to repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Ghost. The apostles continually did this in many congregations.

Clement of Rome:

Clement, the second Bishop of Rome (or the third if you follow Catholic tradition), wrote of the apostles' work in establishing bishops. In **1 Clement 42**, he wrote:

*“And thus, preaching through countries and cities, **they appointed the first fruits of their conversion to be bishops and ministers over such as should afterward believe**, having first proved them by the Spirit.”*

A Church Without Apostles:

Imagine being the leader of a new congregation shortly after all the apostles died. You would have the Old Testament, only a few apostolic letters, and partial teachings from Christ. The New Testament did not yet exist.

The church structure that you knew of would be gone. No more traveling authorities, no more divine public revelation or guidance.

Who would you turn to for guidance?

Who did early congregations and bishops turn to for guidance?

Local congregations looked to bishops in Rome and Antioch, where **Peter himself** had selected bishops for local congregations.

If apostles, prophets, and divine revelation were unnecessary, the early bishops would not have continually sought guidance. Yet Corinth turned to Clement of Rome, and Ephesus turned to Ignatius of Antioch, among others to resolve disputes.

Early bishops started writing epistles to correct congregations as Paul did. Paul was divinely appointed and had the authority to correct different congregations while others didn't.

Clement's Letter to Corinth:

Clement explains why he wrote to Corinth in **1 Clement, Chapter 1**:
*"Owing, dear brethren, to the sudden and successive calamitous events which have happened to ourselves, we have been somewhat tardy in turning our attention to the matters concerning **which you consulted us.**"*

By around **A.D. 95**, Clement was already addressing disorder in Corinth, showing that apostasy and confusion had begun.

What was Clement warning against?

Clement warned against removing bishops chosen by the apostles:

1 Clement 44 — “Our apostles also knew, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that there would be strife on account of the office of the episcopate... they appointed those already mentioned, and afterward gave instructions that when these should fall asleep, other approved men should succeed them... We see that you have removed some men of excellent behavior from the ministry, which they fulfilled blamelessly and with honor.”

This shows that rebellion and apostasy were already occurring shortly after the apostles' deaths.

Clement mentions something interesting. He says the apostles instructed the bishops to choose approved men to succeed after them. If the apostles knew that they were going to die and the keys and power would go with them, then why did they tell bishops to choose other bishops after them?

Bishops Did Not Claim Apostolic Authority:

Ignatius of Antioch to the Romans in Chapter 4 writes:

“I do not, as Peter and Paul, issue commandments unto you. They were apostles; I am but a condemned man.”

The epistles of Peter and Paul carried divine authority. The writings of Clement, Ignatius, and Polycarp did not. Early bishops continued to write letters, but they had no authority over the whole Church as the apostles had.

Why Not John?

While bishops were seeking help from one another, the Apostle John was still alive and receiving revelation for the seven churches, as stated in **Revelation 1:4**. Why, then, did some bishops not turn to John? Why did some even reject him? Some argue that Peter passed his authority to Linus, making him pope. But this conflicts with the New Testament pattern of Church leadership.

Three bishops served in Rome while John was still alive:

- **Linus** (A.D. 68–80)
- **Cletus** (A.D. 79–92)
- **Clement** (A.D. 88/92–99)

Only one—John—was receiving revelation for the entire Church.

If Rome truly held supreme authority, why was John still receiving revelation for all the churches?

Conclusion:

After the apostles died, prophecy gave way to preaching. Public revelation ceased, authority was fragmented, and confusion followed. The scriptures and historical records show clear evidence that the church struggled to maintain a clear path forward. Congregations were looking for a general authority which they didn't have. The church divided into many parts and decisions that were once made by divine revelation were now being made by earthly councils.

4. Witnesses of Scripture Being Tampered With and Manipulated

Many think that the scriptures are infallible and it would be impossible for someone to add or remove anything from them. Below are a list of scriptures and doctrines that have been added or taken away from the Bible.

1 John 5:7 — This verse exists in the King James Version but not in most other Bibles. It does not appear in the earliest manuscripts, and scholars agree it was added to Latin manuscripts in the fourth or fifth century.

2 Timothy 3:8 — *“Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses...”* This story is referenced in scripture, yet it does not appear in the Old Testament, suggesting the loss of earlier writings.

1 Corinthians 15:29 — *“Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?”* The doctrine and practice of baptism for the dead has puzzled many, yet it was clearly practiced in the early church and has been disregarded as an unnecessary doctrine. For Latter-day Saints, this is one of the most important doctrines that allows the dead who haven’t heard the gospel an opportunity to accept it. **Do you believe God will condemn all those people who died without hearing the gospel?**

Colossians 4:16 — Paul refers to an epistle to the Laodiceans and instructs that it be read, yet we do not have this epistle today.

Clement of Rome — Clement quotes Moses as saying, *“I am but as the smoke of a pot,”*, yet these words do not appear in the Old Testament, Apocrypha, or anywhere else.

John 8:1–11 — The story of the woman taken in adultery is widely regarded by scholars as a later addition and was not part of the earliest manuscripts.

Second Peter — Many scholars believe 2 Peter was written after Peter's death, around A.D. 110. It differs significantly in Greek style from 1 Peter and borrows from Jude. Acts 4:13 suggests Peter was untrained in formal learning, which makes the highly polished Greek of 2 Peter unlikely to be his own.

John 21:25 — “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.”

If so much was left unrecorded, should we assume nothing more was ever revealed?

The name of Joseph's father:

Mathew 1:16 — “And **Jacob** begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.” (Here the name of Joseph's father is Jacob.)

Luke 3:23 — “And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was *the son* of **Heli**.” (Here the name of Joseph's father is Heli.)

The two scriptures above contradict each other showing that the scriptures are not without error.

Revelation 13:18 — The number of the beast appears as 616 in the earliest manuscript (Papyrus 115), while later manuscripts read 666. Irenaeus of Lyons wrote that this difference likely arose from scribal error. This demonstrates how copying errors and misinterpretations can occur, increasing the need for divine guidance.²

2 Peter 2:5 — “And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a **preacher of righteousness**, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;”

The writer of 2 Peter must have had access to an extended Old Testament account of Noah because, in our modern Bible, there is nowhere that Noah preaches righteousness or even warns the people about the flood.

Different Bibles, Different Canons:

- **Ethiopian Orthodox Church** — 81 books
- **Catholic Church** — 73 books
- **Eastern Orthodox Church** — 79 books
- **Protestants** — 66 books
- **Jews (Tanakh)** — 24 books

Many Apocryphal books exist, such as the *Apocalypse of Peter*, The Shepherd of Hermas, the *Gospel of Nicodemus*, 1,2,3 Enoch, and more. Catholics believe that 1 and 2 Maccabees are canon but 3 and 4 are not. The Orthodox Church believe, that 3 and 4 are canon. The Ethiopian Orthodox accept 1 Enoch and a totally different 3 books of Maccabees. Protestants do not include any of Maccabees in their canon.

Who decided which books were inspired and which are not?

Nephi, a prophet in the Book of Mormon, prophecies of our days when confusion over doctrines would be rampant.

2 Nephi 3:12 — “Wherefore, the fruit of thy loins shall write; and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write: and that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins, and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah, **shall grow together, unto the confounding of false doctrines and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, and bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days, and also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord.**”

2 Nephi 29:6-12 —Thou fool, that shall say: **A Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible.** Have ye obtained a Bible save it were by the Jews?

7 Know ye not that there are more nations than one? Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above and in the earth beneath; and I bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the nations of the earth?

8 Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? **Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God,** that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together the testimony of the two nations shall run together also.

9 And I do this that I may prove unto many that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and that I speak forth my words according to mine own pleasure. And because that I have spoken one word ye need not suppose that I cannot speak another; **for my work is not yet finished; neither shall it be until the end of man,** neither from that time henceforth and forever.

10 Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written.

11 For I command all men, both in the east and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the islands of the sea, that they shall write the words which I speak unto them; for out of the books which shall be written I will judge the world, every man according to their works, according to that which is written.

12 For behold, I shall speak unto the Jews and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the Nephites and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the other tribes of the house of Israel, which I have

led away, and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto all nations of the earth and they shall write it.

The Book of Mormon and the Bible confound false doctrines and teach the true gospel of Jesus Christ in it's fulness. Doctrines that were lost or misunderstood are revealed.

Early Christian Testimony:

Tertullian, an early Christian author writing around A.D. 190, spoke of forged writings falsely attributed to Paul but instead were composed by a presbyter in Asia.³

He wrote that there was proof of the Gospel “having become adulterated” and that some groups accepted only certain scriptures and altered them through additions and deletions to suit their own purposes.⁴

He noted that a Christian sect of his day “does not receive certain Scriptures; and whichever of them it does receive, it perverts by means of additions and diminutions, for the accomplishment of it[s] own purpose; and such as it does receive, it receives not in their entirety; but even when it does receive any up to a certain point as entire, it nevertheless perverts even these by the contrivance of diverse interpretations.”⁵

Conclusion:

To say that the scriptures are infallible is to say that man is infallible. To say that the scriptures have been tampered with does not make them false as a whole. To say that no one has ever tampered with or manipulated the scriptures would be a lie. Many will use 2 Timothy 3:16 “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...*” If Timothy means ALL scripture then you need to ask yourself...”**who**

was the ultimate authority that decided what was scripture and what wasn't?

Who decided what books went in the Catholic Bible, Protestant Bible or Eastern Orthodox Bible? If the answer is a group of men who claim that the heavens were closed, then one needs to discern if that is the correct way that God intended. If the scriptures couldn't be tampered with, then why would John warn about adding or taking away from the book of Revelation in Revelation 22:18-19?

5. Witness of Succession by Man and Not by God in History

The churches that succeeded Christ's original Church continually needed direction. The following councils and events illustrate this dependence on human authority rather than divine revelation:

- **Synods under St. Cyprian (251–256 AD):** Addressed the reconciliation of those who had lapsed and debated whether heretics required re-baptism.
- **Council of Nicaea (325 AD):** Discussed the nature of God and produced the Nicene Creed. The concept of the Trinity was formalized at this council, influenced by Neoplatonism—a Greek philosophical system created by Plotinus (204-270 AD). Neoplatonism focuses on *The One*, the ultimate transcendent reality, from which all existence emanates. The idea of the Trinity, as formulated at Nicaea, is not explicitly found in the Bible. If such a doctrine were to be taught or clarified, it should be done by a prophet receiving revelation from God.
- **Council of Hippo (393 AD):** Confirmed the list of biblical books.

- **Council of Carthage (397 AD):** Confirmed the biblical canon and established rules for church governance.
- **Council of 419 AD:** Adopted the African Code, a comprehensive collection of church canons, and formally challenged papal authority.

Human Authority vs God's Authority:

After the Council of Nicaea, the *Constitutions of the Holy Apostles* warned:

“If any bishop makes use of the rulers of this world, and by their means obtains to be a bishop of the church, let him be deprived and suspended, and all that communicate with him.”

Despite such rules, emperors began appointing popes, showing the danger of a church led by man rather than God:

- **1046 AD:** Roman Emperor Henry III appointed Clement II and later Damasus II (1048 AD) as popes.
- **1400 AD:** Pope Baldassare Cossa, also known as “Pope John XXIII” during the Western Schism, secured the papacy through a loan from the Medici family. Once in office, he made the Medici bank the official bank of the Catholic Church.

Pierre Van Paassen, in his biography of Girolamo Savonarola, wrote: “A world without prophets is a world that knows not its signs. It is like a ship without rudder or compass, floundering about helplessly, aimlessly drifting toward perdition.”

Frances A. Sullivan, a Catholic professor of theology, researched apostolic succession and concluded:

“One conclusion seems obvious: neither the New Testament nor early Christian history offers support for a notion of apostolic succession as an ‘unbroken line of episcopal ordination from Christ through the apostles down through the centuries to the bishops of today.’”⁶

Basically, what he is saying is that nowhere in the New Testament does it say anything about bishops being successors to the apostles in an unbroken line of authority until today.

Apostasy and Denominational Fragmentation:

Man has attempted to reform the Church for centuries, resulting in over 40,000 denominations. After the death of the apostles, churches were built upon **sandy foundations** rather than on the **rock of revelation** as it talks about in Matthew 7:21–27.

The question remains: **how can one know the will of the Father without revelation?** Scripture is only part of the equation. If the scriptures were enough then we would all be ONE in the doctrines of salvation as it says in the scriptures, but instead, the Christian world is fragmented into many denominations that are not clear on what it takes for salvation. Adam received revelation from God before any scripture existed.

As it says in **Doctrine and Covenants 128:11** “For him to whom these keys are given **there is no difficulty in obtaining a knowledge of facts in relation to the salvation of the children of men**, both as well for the dead as for the living.”

What it’s saying is that when the keys of the kingdom are given to a prophet there is no difficulty in receiving revelation that shows **exactly** what is needed for salvation.

So, why is everyone confused about what is required for salvation?

There Was a Need for a Restoration from Heaven, Not a Reformation by Man:

Throughout history, it became evident that a true restoration of God's Church could not come through the efforts of man alone.

John Wesley, founder of Methodism, lamented:

"Christians had turned heathen again and had only a dead form left."⁷

Roger Williams, founder of the first Baptist church in America, said:

"There is no regularly constituted church of Christ on earth, nor any person qualified to administer any church ordinances; nor can there be, until new apostles are sent by the Great Head of the Church, for whose coming I am seeking."⁸

Roger later left his Baptist faith and joined the Seekers. The 17th-Century English Seekers were individuals that believed all existing churches were corrupt and that no true church existed. They awaited new apostles and found no spiritual satisfaction in external forms of religion, such as sacraments or scripture alone.

Thomas Jefferson also recognized this need:

"If the freedom of religion guaranteed to us by the law in theory can ever rise in practice... truth will prevail over fanaticism, and the genuine doctrines of Jesus, so long perverted by pseudo-priests, will again be restored to their original purity... but too late for me to witness." Jefferson died in **1826**, just prior to the Restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.⁹

Conclusion:

If Peter selected a new leader or leaders for the church, then why wasn't it clearly communicated? If it is men who claim that the heavens are closed, then it is a church of men. God's church requires

divine direction through apostles and prophets. It requires God's authority given to man to perform saving ordinances like baptism.

6. Witness of The Restoration Through Bible Prophecy.

Five Connected Prophecies Around The Time of The Destruction of Jerusalem and the Scattering of Israel.

Between the year 750 BC and 600 BC, the 10 tribes of Israel were being scattered. Assyria conquered the northern kingdom in 720-730 BC and Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylon around 605-586 BC. God called multiple prophets to prophecy in that time including Daniel (Babylon), Ezekiel (Babylon), Isaiah (Jerusalem), Jeremiah (Jerusalem), and Lehi (Jerusalem). The timing of their prophecies are significant because as the majority of Israel was about to be scattered they spoke of the restoration of the gospel in the last days and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Previously, these prophecies might have seemed disconnected, but by understanding the connection of the five, you understand that God provided **multiple witnesses** for a prophetic future event, the Restoration of His Kingdom on earth.

The prophet Lehi in the Book of Mormon mentions in **1 Nephi 1:4** "For it came to pass in the commencement of the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah, (my father, Lehi, having dwelt at Jerusalem in all his days); and in that same year there came many prophets, prophesying unto the people that they must repent, or the great city Jerusalem must be destroyed."

The Book of Mormon begins with Lehi prophesying to the people in Jerusalem of their destruction. The people wanted to kill Lehi as it

states in **1 Nephi 1:20** "...and they also sought his life, that they might take it away."

Lehi was told by God to depart into the wilderness where He would guide them to a new promised land. During this time there were three other prophets receiving prophecies that connected to Lehi's departure.

Ezekiel (593-571 BC During Babylonian Captivity)

Ezekiel speaks of writing upon the stick of Judah and the stick of Joseph and them coming together as one. This is in reference to the gathering of Israel as well as the Bible (stick of Judah) and The Book of Mormon (stick of Joseph) becoming one in the last days.

Ezekiel 37:16–17 – "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:"

17 – "And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand."

20 – "And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes."

The two sticks are being written on and combined into one in the hand of the prophet before the eyes of Israel to be able to gather the lost tribes into one. That is exactly what the Bible and Book of Mormon are doing, they are gathering all of Israel into one. This prophecy was written around 593–570 BC, shortly after Lehi left Jerusalem. Lehi discovered he was from the lineage of Joseph from the brass plates and his posterities' writings are from the stick of Ephraim.

1 Nephi 5:14 – “And it came to pass that my father, Lehi, also found upon the plates of brass a genealogy of his fathers; wherefore he knew that he was a descendant of Joseph;”

In the Book of Mormon, Nephi sees in vision Ezekiel’s prophecy being fulfilled. He sees the book of the Jews (Bible) going forth to his posterity. He then sees other books that come forth to establish the truth of the first. The purpose of these books is to gather scattered Israel.

1 Nephi 13:38 – “And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren.”

39 – “And after it had come forth unto them I beheld other books, which came forth by the power of the Lamb, from the Gentiles unto them, **unto the convincing of the Gentiles and the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the Jews who were scattered upon all the face of the earth**, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true.”

41 – “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 apostles of the Lamb; **wherefore they both shall be established in one; for there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth.**”

Isaiah (740-700 BC Before Assyrian and Babylonian Captivity)

Isaiah predates Daniel, Ezekiel, and Lehi by around 100-140 years during the Assyrian conquest, and speaks of how at a future time a sealed book will open the eyes of the blind and teach true doctrine.

Isaiah 29:10 – “For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers, hath he covered.”

Isaiah 29:11 – “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.”

Isaiah 29:12 – “And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, **I am not learned.**”

Isaiah 29:13 – “Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precepts of men.”

Isaiah 29:14 – “Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.”

Isaiah 29:18–19 – “**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 meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.”

Isaiah 29:24 – “They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, **and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.**”

How the prophecy was fulfilled

Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled when Martin Harris took a few pages of The Book of Mormon writings that they had translated to Charles Anthon, who said the characters were “True” and identified them as

“Egyptian, Chaldaic, Assyriac, and Arabic.” Upon learning that an angel had revealed them, Anthon asked to see the certificate, tore it up, and stated, **"I cannot read a sealed book"** thus fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 29.

Anthon initially gave Harris a certificate certifying the authenticity of the characters, which he later tore up. He later retracted his statement and called the characters a hoax intended to deceive him. We are therefore left with two accounts: Martin Harris's and Charles Anthon's. Whatever Anthon originally told Martin was enough for Martin to return home and mortgage his farm to fund the printing of the Book of Mormon.

Isaiah has another prophecy about a restoration

Isaiah 11:11–12 – “And it shall come to pass **in that day, *that* the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people**, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. **And he shall set up an ensign for the nations**, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”

Isaiah 2:2–3 – “And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.”

The Salt Lake Temple has been an ensign to all people and is literally established “in the top of the mountains” among the Rocky Mountain range. It draws million of people per year from all over the world to visit and to worship.

Jeremiah (605-539 BC During Babylonian Captivity)

Jeremiah also speaks of the Restoration in the last days right before the destruction of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 23: 1 – “Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD.”

2 – “Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the LORD.”

It’s interesting that Jeremiah’s prophecy mentions pastors or shepherds who feed his people but also scatter and destroy them. **How can a pastor feed God’s people but also scatter and destroy them?** Could it be that those who follow Christ are being led away through false doctrines from the many different congregations that exist?

3 – “I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number.”

What “pasture” is God talking about here? How will he take his people that are being taught by corrupt pastors and bring them BACK to their pasture?

4 – “**I will place shepherds over them who will tend them**, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD.”

Why would the Lord need to set up Shepherds over his people in the last days if Christ’s church continued in it’s fullness after his death?

The second half of Jeremiah’s prophecy

5 – “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgement and justice in the earth.”

6 – “In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

7 – “Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;”

8 – “But, The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.”

Daniel (540 BC After Babylonian Captivity)

One of the most powerful prophecies of the Restoration is found in **Daniel 2:31–45**, where King Nebuchadnezzar dreams of a kingdom that will never fall in the last days.

Daniel 2:39 — And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

40 — And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all *things*: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

41 — And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters’ clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

42 — And as the toes of the feet *were* part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

43 — And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

44 — **And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed:** and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Understanding the timing of this prophecy is crucial. Many argue that it was fulfilled at the time of Christ and therefore there was no apostasy and no need for a restoration of His Church. Others claim it will be fulfilled in the Millennium, after Christ returns.

In the dream, King Nebuchadnezzar sees a statue made of different metals. The head is of pure gold, which Daniel explains represents Nebuchadnezzar's mighty kingdom. The chest and arms are of silver, the stomach and thighs of brass, the legs of iron, and finally the feet and ten toes, which are a mixture of iron and clay.

Daniel 2:31 — Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

32 — This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

33 — His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

Daniel explains that each section represents a successive worldly kingdom. Many think that the kingdom that Daniel was talking about was established in the time of Christ. The apostles asked Jesus if the prophecy was being fulfilled during their time and this is how Christ responded:

Acts 1:6 – “When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, **wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**

Acts 1:7 – “And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.”

This response indicates that Daniel’s prophecy was not fulfilled in the time of Christ, but would be fulfilled in God’s timing.

Christ himself, in teaching us how to pray to the father, says in **Mathew 6:10** “**Thy kingdom come**. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.”

What is the timing of the kingdom?

Daniel 2:42 – “And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.”

43 – And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.”

44 – **And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom**, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

Daniel 7 and 8 and Revelation 17 are all part of the same prophecy that explain more precisely the timing. Instead of 10 toes, Daniel is shown a beast with 10 horns. Each of these chapters speak of the same end of days events.

Daniel 7:24 – “And the **ten horns** out of this kingdom are **ten kings** *that* shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.”

Revelation 17:12 – “And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, **which have received no kingdom as yet**; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.”

This connects directly to the 10 toes of iron and clay in Daniel 2:42-43.

The Daniel 2 prophecy is set to happen sometime before Christ's second coming in the time of these 10 kings/kingdoms. It cannot be established during the millennium because that would not be in the days of these earthly kings. His kingdom will be restored on earth sometime after the revelation of John and before the second coming of Christ in the last days. **This is one of the strongest prophecies of the restoration.**

Below you can see the official LDS doctrine in relation to the Daniel 2 prophecy.

Doctrine and Covenants 65:2 — “The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, **as the stone which is cut out of the mountain** without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth.”

Doctrine and Covenants 65:5 — “Call upon the Lord, that his kingdom may go forth upon the earth, that the inhabitants thereof may receive it, and be prepared for the days to come, in the which the Son of Man shall come down in heaven, clothed in the brightness of his glory, **to meet the kingdom of God which is set up on the earth.**”

Christ's kingdom will be set up on earth in preparation for his second coming.

Lehi (600-570 BC During Babylonian Captivity)

In The Book of Mormon, Lehi quotes a prophecy by Joseph in Egypt that is found on the brass plates.

2 Nephi 3:12 – “Wherefore, the fruit of thy loins shall write; and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write; and that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins, and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah, shall grow together, unto the confounding of false doctrines and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, and bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days, and also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord.”

We can see that the 5 prophecies surrounding the destruction of Jerusalem were not random, but there was a pattern to them. As Israel was being scattered, God was giving revelation to his prophets about their gathering in the last days.

Another prophecy of the Book of Mormon

Psalms 85:11 – “Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.” This prophecy aligns with the Book of Mormon, which was hidden and then brought forth from the earth.

A prophecy about the restoration of Priesthood power

Malachi 4:5–6 – “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:” John the Baptist was said to have come in the spirit and power of Elijah at the time of Christ, but he was not the prophet Elijah. This prophecy was partially fulfilled in John, but is also speaking of a physical return of Elijah the prophet who would come. On April 3, 1836, Elijah the prophet appeared to Joseph Smith in the Kirtland Temple to restore the sealing keys to “turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers.

Prophecies of the Restoration in the New Testament:

Below we see that the New Testament apostles continued to prophecy of a day of restitution.

Acts 3:20 – “And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:”

21 – “Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”

Ephesians 1:10 – “That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him.”

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,”

Many claim that there are no more prophets and that the heavens are closed. They argue that we were left with all that we need in the scriptures and that Christ’s Church continued in its fullness. If Christ’s Church truly continued in its fullness after the deaths of the apostles and we already received all that was necessary, then why does an angel come to proclaim the everlasting gospel in the last days (Revelation 14:6)? This prophecy was fulfilled by the angel Moroni as part of the Restoration of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Another powerful witness of the Restoration is the prophecy that God will call two prophets to prophesy before His coming. Why would God send two prophets to prophesy in Jerusalem if the age of prophets were over and the heavens were closed?

Revelation 11:3 – “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.”

Conclusion:

The restoration of God's church has been prophesied in the Old and New Testament. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is the kingdom of God that Christ established in the last days. It is the kingdom that will never fall. It is the stone that is cut without hands that will destroy all earthly kingdoms. It is the kingdom that has communion with God the Father and Christ and receives ongoing revelation through living prophets and apostles. The restitution of all things has been prophesied and is being fulfilled. The Book of Mormon is part of the restoration and was prophesied by Isaiah and Ezekiel. It is the stick of Joseph that combines with the stick of Judah.

7. Book of Mormon Witnesses

The Book of Mormon came forth by the power of God to get rid of false doctrines and become one with the Bible as prophesied. One can know the truth of The Book of Mormon by reading it and praying to know it's truth. The Holy Ghost will reveal the truth of the book to the humble seeker as promised by the prophet Moroni.

Moroni 10:3 — “Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts.”

4 — “And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real

intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.”

5 — “And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.”

Witnesses of The Book of Mormon help us to believe that it is a true book. Many saw the plates and touched them and testified of their truth. Below you will find the testimonies of the eleven witnesses of The Book of Mormon plates.

Three witnesses saw an angel and the golden plates and heard the voice of God testify that the Book was true. All three witnesses left the Church and only two returned to the Church, yet none ever denied their testimony. Martin Harris consistently affirmed seeing the plates and the angel by telling people as clear as they see that tree in front of them he saw the angel of God and as clear as they hear his voice he heard the voice of God. David Whitmer, even after leaving the Church, never denied his testimony; his gravestone reads: “The record of the Jews and the record of the Nephites are one.” Below is their official testimony...

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, their brethren, and also of the people of Jared, who 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 marvelous 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 judgment-seat of Christ, and shall dwell with him eternally in the heavens. And the honor be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, which is one God. Amen.

*Oliver Cowdery
David Whitmer
Martin Harris*

Eight witnesses physically witnessed the plates. They held the plates, felt their weight, and saw the characters engraved on them and testified of what they saw. The plates weighed approximately 50 lbs and were made of an alloy, not pure gold or else they would have weighted 3 times as much. Below is their official testimony...

Be it known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come: That Joseph Smith, Jun., the translator of this work, has shown 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 shown 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, Jun.
John Whitmer
Hiram Page
Joseph Smith, Sen.
Hyrum Smith
Samuel H. Smith

Joseph Smith's Testimony:

"On the evening of the ... twenty-first of September [1823] ... I betook myself to prayer and supplication to Almighty God. ...

"While I was thus in the act of calling upon God, I discovered a light appearing in my room, which continued to increase until the room was lighter than at noonday, when immediately a personage appeared at my bedside, standing in the air, for his feet did not touch the floor.

"He had on a loose robe of most exquisite whiteness. It was a whiteness beyond anything earthly I had ever seen; nor do I believe that any earthly thing could be made to appear so exceedingly white and brilliant. His hands were naked, and his arms also, a little above the wrist; so, also, were his feet naked, as were his legs, a little above the ankles. His head and neck were also bare. I could discover that he had no other clothing on but this robe, as it was open, so that I could see into his bosom.

"Not only was his robe exceedingly white, but his whole person was glorious beyond description, and his countenance truly like lightning. The room was exceedingly light, but not so very bright as immediately around his person. When I first looked upon him, I was afraid; but the fear soon left me.

"He called me by name, and said unto me that he was a messenger sent from the presence of God to me, and that his name was Moroni; that God had a work for me to do; and that my name should be had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds, and tongues, or that it should be both good and evil spoken of among all people.

"He said there was a book deposited, written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the

source from whence they sprang. He also said that the fulness of the everlasting Gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants;

“Also, that there were two stones in silver bows—and these stones, fastened to a breastplate, constituted what is called the Urim and Thummim—deposited with the plates; and the possession and use of these stones were what constituted ‘seers’ in ancient or former times; and that God had prepared them for the purpose of translating the book. ...

“Again, he told me, that when I got those plates of which he had spoken—for the time that they should be obtained was not yet fulfilled—I should not show them to any person; neither the breastplate with the Urim and Thummim; only to those to whom I should be commanded to show them; if I did I should be destroyed. While he was conversing with me about the plates, the vision was opened to my mind that I could see the place where the plates were deposited, and that so clearly and distinctly that I knew the place again when I visited it.

“After this communication, I saw the light in the room begin to gather immediately around the person of him who had been speaking to me, and it continued to do so until the room was again left dark, except just around him; when, instantly I saw, as it were, a conduit open right up into heaven, and he ascended till he entirely disappeared, and the room was left as it had been before this heavenly light had made its appearance.

“I lay musing on the singularity of the scene, and marveling greatly at what had been told to me by this extraordinary messenger; when, in the midst of my meditation, I suddenly discovered that my room was again beginning to get lighted, and in an instant, as it were, the same heavenly messenger was again by my bedside.

“He commenced, and again related the very same things which he had done at his first visit, without the least variation; which having done, he informed me of great judgments which were coming upon the earth, with great desolations by famine, sword, and pestilence; and that these grievous judgments would come on the earth in this generation. Having related these things, he again ascended as he had done before.

“By this time, so deep were the impressions made on my mind, that sleep had fled from my eyes, and I lay overwhelmed in astonishment at what I had both seen and heard. But what was my surprise when again I beheld the same messenger at my bedside, and heard him rehearse or repeat over again to me the same things as before; and added a caution to me, telling me that Satan would try to tempt me (in consequence of the indigent circumstances of my father’s family), to get the plates for the purpose of getting rich. This he forbade me, saying that I must have no other object in view in getting the plates but to glorify God, and must not be influenced by any other motive than that of building his kingdom; otherwise I could not get them.

“After this third visit, he again ascended into heaven as before, and I was again left to ponder on the strangeness of what I had just experienced; when almost immediately after the heavenly messenger had ascended from me for the third time, the cock crowed, and I found that day was approaching, so that our interviews must have occupied the whole of that night.

“I shortly after arose from my bed, and, as usual, went to the necessary labors of the day; but, in attempting to work as at other times, I found my strength so exhausted as to render me entirely unable. My father, who was laboring along with me, discovered something to be wrong with me, and told me to go home. I started with the intention of going to the house; but, in attempting to cross the fence out of the field where we were, my strength entirely failed me, and I fell helpless on the ground, and for a time was quite unconscious of anything.

“The first thing that I can recollect was a voice speaking unto me, calling me by name. I looked up, and beheld the same messenger standing over my head, surrounded by light as before. He then again related unto me all that he had related to me the previous night, and commanded me to go to my father and tell him of the vision and commandments which I had received.

“I obeyed; I returned to my father in the field, and rehearsed the whole matter to him. He replied to me that it was of God, and told me to go and do as commanded by the messenger. I left the field, and went to the place where the messenger had told me the plates were

deposited; and owing to the distinctness of the vision which I had had concerning it, I knew the place the instant that I arrived there.

“Convenient to the village of Manchester, Ontario county, New York, stands a hill of considerable size, and the most elevated of any in the neighborhood. On the west side of this hill, not far from the top, under a stone of considerable size, lay the plates, deposited in a stone box. This stone was thick and rounding in the middle on the upper side, and thinner towards the edges, so that the middle part of it was visible above the ground, but the edge all around was covered with earth.

“Having removed the earth, I obtained a lever, which I got fixed under the edge of the stone, and with a little exertion raised it up. I looked in, and there indeed did I behold the plates, the Urim and Thummim, and the breastplate, as stated by the messenger. The box in which they lay was formed by laying stones together in some kind of cement. In the bottom of the box were laid two stones crossways of the box, and on these stones lay the plates and the other things with them.

“I made an attempt to take them out, but was forbidden by the messenger, and was again informed that the time for bringing them forth had not yet arrived, neither would it, until four years from that time; but he told me that I should come to that place precisely in one year from that time, and that he would there meet with me, and that I should continue to do so until the time should come for obtaining the plates.

“Accordingly, as I had been commanded, I went at the end of each year, and at each time I found the same messenger there, and received instruction and intelligence from him at each of our interviews, respecting what the Lord was going to do, and how and in what manner his kingdom was to be conducted in the last days. ...

“At length the time arrived for obtaining the plates, the Urim and Thummim, and the breastplate. On the twenty-second day of September, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, having gone as usual at the end of another year to the place where they were deposited, the same heavenly messenger delivered them up to me with this charge: that I should be responsible for them; that if I should let them go carelessly, or through any neglect of mine, I should be cut

off; but that if I would use all my endeavors to preserve them, until he, the messenger, should call for them, they should be protected.

“I soon found out the reason why I had received such strict charges to keep them safe, and why it was that the messenger had said that when I had done what was required at my hand, he would call for them. For no sooner was it known that I had them, than the most strenuous exertions were used to get them from me. Every stratagem that could be invented was resorted to for that purpose. The persecution became more bitter and severe than before, and multitudes were on the alert continually to get them from me if possible. But by the wisdom of God, they remained safe in my hands, until I had accomplished by them what was required at my hand. When, according to arrangements, the messenger called for them, I delivered them up to him; and he has them in his charge until this day, being the second day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.”

Conclusion:

The witnesses of The Book of Mormon show evidence of actual plates and angelic visitations that cannot be explained away. Even though some of the witnesses left the church and later came back they never denied their testimony of the Book of Mormon even up until the day they died. You simply do not testify of a lie on your death bed, which makes their testimony even more powerful. They had plenty of opportunity, to deny their testimony while outside of the church, but they did not.

8. Witnesses of Joseph Smith's Prophetic Ability

D&C 76: Joseph Smith received the revelation of the eternities alongside Sidney Rigdon. Both saw the same vision and confirmed its details with each other. This process continued for hours. Philo Dibble and eleven others witnessed Joseph and Sydney receiving the vision and described Joseph's face as having a bright, translucent glow.¹⁰

D&C 84, 88, 51: There were multiple witnesses who attended each of these revelations. Joseph often invited multiple brethren to witness the revelations God gave. Orson Pratt described Joseph's face during revelation as "exceedingly white, and seemed to shine."¹¹

Many saw Joseph Smith's countenance change during revelation, similar to Moses on Mount Sinai:

Exodus 34:30–35 – Moses' face shone after speaking with God, so he veiled it.

Mary Elizabeth Lightner (age 13) – Joseph's face "outshone the candle...as though a searchlight was inside his face shining through every pore."¹²

Heber C. Kimball – Joseph's countenance was "as white as the whitest thing you ever saw."¹³

Brigham Young – "Those who were acquainted with him knew when the Spirit of revelation was upon him, for his countenance wore an expression peculiar to himself while under the influence. He preached by the Spirit of revelation, and taught in his council by it, and those who were acquainted with him could discover it at once, for at such times there was a peculiar clearness and transparency in his face."¹⁴

Zebedee Coltrin – Described Joseph being **so full of the glory of God** that his face could not be looked upon; "the house was filled with the same glory."¹⁵

Conclusion:

The fact that many people at different times witnessed Joseph Smith's revelatory power is a witness of his divine election from God. The fruits of the revelations given to him are even more proof of their divine origin. I'm not a master of the dark arts, but **I highly doubt that the devil would want us worshiping Christ as the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price teach us to.** The Book of Mormon testifies of Christ's divinity and it mentions his name 3,925 times. The Bible, in comparison, mentions the name of Christ only 569 times. It doesn't mean that we should believe the Bible less, but it does mean that we should be paying a lot more attention to the Book of Mormon.

9. Witness of The Book of Enoch and Book of Moses

The Book of Moses was received through revelation between 1830-1831 as an inspired revision of the King James Bible, revealing new text and doctrines. In it there is a story of Enoch the prophet, which is strikingly similar to the story in the books of Enoch. Joseph Smith would not have had access to the books of Enoch referenced below because they were either translated 90+ years later into English or because they hadn't yet been discovered.

I am but a lad:

Moses 6:31 – “And when Enoch had heard these words, he bowed himself to the earth, before the Lord, and spake before the Lord, saying: Why is it that I have found favor in thy sight, and **am but a**

lad, and all the people hate me; for I am slow of speech; wherefore am I thy servant?”

The word **lad** is a very interesting word to use for Enoch who is 65 years old at the time. This coincides with the book of 3 Enoch which was translated into English in 1928, almost 100 years after the Book of Moses was translated.

3 Enoch 4:9–10 – “Immediately they went forth toward me and prostrated themselves before me and said: ‘Blessed are you, and blessed are your parents, for your creator has favored you.’ And **because I was the youngest among them and a ‘lad’** amongst them with respect to days, months, and years, **therefore they called me ‘lad.’**”

The name and role of Mahijah:

Moses 6:40 – “And there came a man unto him, whose name was **Mahijah**, and said unto him: Tell us plainly who thou art, and from whence thou comest?”

Connection to The Book of Giants:

20. ... [... Thereupon] all the gibborim [and monsters] grew afraid
21. and called **Mahaway**. He came to the assembly [of the monsters] and the gibborim **and they sent him to Enoch**
22. [and they delib]erated and said to him: ‘Go ...’⁷
23. ‘He will tell [y]ou the interpretation of the dreams and everyone will be appeased.’¹⁷

In English translations, the Book of Giants renders the name as “Mahawai,” believed to correspond to the same original Aramaic name (**MHWY**).

We see that the Aramaic name of Mahijah/Mahujah (**MHWY**) and what the Book of Giants references Mahaway (**MHWY**) make the two a more than likely perfect match.

Dr. John C. Reeves, a respected specialist in Second Temple Judaism and Enochic literature (and **not** a Latter-day Saint) said:

“The name Mahijah is an apparent cognate (from the same original word or root) of Mahawai, the name of the Book of Giants figure who functions as Enoch’s interlocutor (a person who takes part in a dialogue). The presence of this otherwise unattested name in the Book of Moses is striking.”¹⁸

Salvatore Cirillo (Non-LDS, scholar) said:

“The name Mahawai in the Book of Giants and the names Mahujah and Mahijah in the Book of Moses represent the strongest similarity between the Latter-day Saint revelations on Enoch and the pseudepigraphal books of Enoch (specifically the Book of Giants).”¹⁹

Joseph Smith would not have had access to either account of the Enoch story. The fact that each story contains characters, details, and wording that match is amazing.

Noah Preaching Baptism and the Holy Ghost:

One of the reasons the Book of Moses is so important is that it reveals a doctrine that would force many to rethink certain core beliefs. The Book of Moses contains one of the most significant revelations that appears to have been removed from the Bible: baptism in the name of Jesus Christ and receiving the Holy Ghost before the New Testament era.

If you compare Moses 8 and Genesis 6, they tell the same story, but the Genesis account leaves out the important detail that Noah preached repentance to the people.

Moses 8:23 – “And it came to pass that Noah continued his preaching unto the people, saying: Hearken, and give heed unto my words;”

24 – “Believe and repent of your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, even as our fathers, and ye shall receive the Holy Ghost, that ye may have all things made manifest; and if ye do not this, the floods will come in upon you; nevertheless they hearkened not.”

Nowhere in the Old Testament do we find Noah warning or even preaching to the people. The only reference we have to Noah preaching is in **2 Peter 2:5**, which says:

“And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, **a preacher of righteousness**, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.”

Either Peter himself or the writer of 2 Peter must have had access to a biblical account that we do not have, or he received revelation about an account that was not included. The Bible story of Noah has either been tampered with or lost.

Why is Noah’s preaching left out of the Old Testament?

Perhaps it is because it would challenge many current Christian and Jewish beliefs. What we understand from Moses 8 is that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The scriptures in Moses 8 would cause much of Christianity to question their doctrinal foundation. Entire doctrines about Christ would have to be rethought. The possibility of a restoration of His Church would have to be considered. Certain Bible passages and prophecies would be better understood. You could say that about many apocryphal books, though. If certain apocryphal doctrines were accepted, they could even destroy Christianity.

What is the difference between apocryphal texts and the Book of Moses? The Book of Moses has one of the greatest claims in history surrounding it: that a prophet of God has been called in our day to receive, through revelation, doctrines pertaining to salvation that were lost anciently.

Conclusion:

Many see Christ as the climax of revelation. They see Him as fulfilling every law ever given and having no more revelation to give. Noah's preaching of baptism in the name of Jesus Christ and receiving the Holy Ghost means that Christ did not institute those ordinances for the first time at His coming but instead restored them.

Evidence of Joseph Smith's prophetic ability exists in the revelation of the Book of Moses. The teachings in the book point to the need for a restoration of God's church and reveal truths that clarify Christ's doctrine.

10. Witnesses see Christ in Kirtland, Ohio (1831–1833)

One of the strongest evidences we have of the restoration is that Christ himself appeared to many leaders to confirm that the work of the restoration was underway just as Christ showed himself to his apostles after his resurrection.

Christ's Visitations to Joseph Smith and Others:

Joseph Smith – **"I saw Jesus."**²⁰

Sidney Rigdon – **"We saw Christ and conversed with Christ."**²¹

Lyman Wight – **"Saw the face of the Savior."**²²

Harvey Whitlock – **Testified of seeing Jesus at age 22.**²³

John Murdock – **"I beheld the face of the Lord."**²⁴

*“In one of those meetings the Prophet (Joseph Smith) told us, if we could humble ourselves before God, and exercise strong faith, we should see the face of the Lord. And about midday, the visions of my mind were opened, and the eyes of my understanding were enlightened, and I saw the form of a man, most lovely! The visage of his face was sound and fair as the sun. He was covered from the neck to the feet with a loose garment, pure white, whiter than any garment I have ever seen before...**it left on my mind the impression of love, for months**, that I never before felt, to that degree.”²⁵*

Zebedee Coltrin – “I saw Him.”

He testified: “At one of those meetings after the organization of the school (of the prophets)...when we were all together, Joseph having given instructions, and while engaged in silent prayer, kneeling,...each one praying in silent, no one whispering above his breath, [I saw] a personage...Joseph asked if we saw him. I saw him and supposed the others did, and Joseph answered that is Jesus, the Son of God, our elder brother.”²⁶

Oliver Cowdery – “We saw the Lord and heard the voice of Jehovah.”²⁷

Martin Harris – “The Lord appeared unto me.”²⁸

Lorenzo Snow 1898 “He actually saw the Savior...and talked with Him face to face.”

Allie Young Pond his granddaughter recounts:

“One evening while I was visiting Grandpa Snow in his room in the Salt Lake Temple,...I was walking several steps ahead of Grandpa when he stopped me and said: ‘Wait a moment, Allie, I want to tell you something...It was right here that the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to me..He stood right here, about three feet above the floor. It looked

as though He stood on a plate of solid gold.’ “Grandpa told what a glorious personage the Savior is and described His hands, feet, countenance, and beautiful white robes, all of which were of such a glory of whiteness and brightness that he could hardly gaze upon Him...’I want you to remember that this is the testimony of your Grandfather, that he told you with his own lips that he actually saw the Savior, here in the temple, and talked with Him face to face.”²⁹

Signs and Wonders at Early Baptisms in Kirtland:

The first recorded baptisms of the Church took place in 1831 at the Chagrin River. Philo Dibble recorded,

“There were many signs and wonders seen in the heavens above and in the earth beneath...A pillar of light was seen every evening for more than a month hovering over the place where we did our baptizing.”³⁰

Conclusion:

Mathew 7:20 – “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”

It’s undeniable that the LDS faith produces good fruits. Latter-day Saints are among the longest living, fulfilled, family-centered, volunteer communities in the world.

Christ’s post-resurrection appearances validated His divinity; similarly, He appeared to Joseph Smith and others as evidence of the restored Church on Earth. These multiple witnesses provide a cloud of testimony. As Doctrine and Covenants 9:8 instructs...

"But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right."

If this guide has sparked your interest, then your next read is The Book of Mormon. I'll leave with the words of Nephi the prophet in reference to the words he wrote in the Book of Mormon.

2 Nephi 33:10-12

10 – “And now, my beloved brethren, and also Jew, and all ye ends of the earth, hearken unto these words and believe in Christ; and if ye believe not in these words believe in Christ. And if ye shall believe in Christ ye will believe in these words, for they are the words of Christ, and he hath given them unto me; and they teach all men that they should do good.”

11 – “And if they are not the words of Christ, judge ye—for Christ will show unto you, with power and great glory, that they are his words, at the last day; and you and I shall stand face to face before his bar; and ye shall know that I have been commanded of him to write these things, notwithstanding my weakness.”

12 – “And I pray the Father in the name of Christ that many of us, if not all, may be saved in his kingdom at that great and last day.”

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