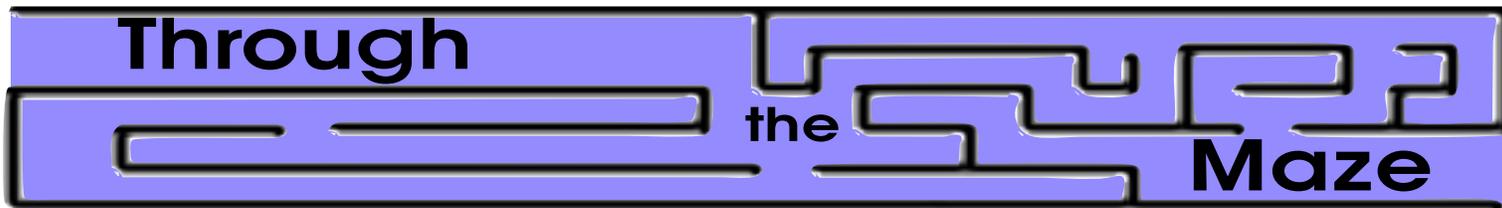


**“Truth without Love is too hard; Love without Truth is too soft”**

**Living Faith Church**



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**New Video**

# **“DNA VS. The Book of Mormon”**

**The Best Thing Since  
The God Makers**

“We [Mormons] are in a dilemma now. Genetic evidence shows quite clearly that American Indians are ... not Israelites. The Archaeological evidence shows the Book of Mormon is not true. ...

Because we gave [the Book of Mormon] the status of the Word of God, we have to change what we mean by ‘the Word of God’...”



**Thomas W. Murphy, a Mormon, chairs the anthropology department at Edmonds Community College, in Edmonds, Washington.**

**T**he Book of Mormon is supposedly about ancient peoples who lived in the Western Hemisphere and eventually became the American Indians, or Native Americans. That is the central theme of the book. It is about the wars, civilization, and religious adventures of the Nephite and Lamanite peoples.

Of course, there were no such people!

As Rixon Smith, a former Mormon missionary (who came to Christ in one of my meetings), and I concluded several years ago, the bottom line of Mormonism is: *There were no Nephites!*

But myths die hard. For decades the Smithsonian Institute has issued a stock letter saying that the Book of Mormon has identified nothing for archaeologists. (Unlike the Bible which has provided countless identifications of ancient people, places and events.)

**Thomas Murphy**, a Mormon archaeologist says there is not one source anywhere to validate “any single place, any single person, or any single event” described in the Book of Mormon. There is no historical, archaeological, or linguistic corroboration for the Book of Mormon. There never will be because the people described in the Book of Mormon never existed and the events described therein never occurred.

Make no mistake, the story of the Nephites and Lamanites is fundamental to **(continued on page 2)**

## (DNA vs. the Book of Mormon)

Mormonism. The title page of the Book of Mormon says:

*...it is an abridgement of the record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites—Written to the Lamanites, who are a remnant of the house of Israel...*

Likewise, the introduction to the Book of Mormon says:

*It is a record of God's dealings with the ancient inhabitants of the Americas...their record gives an account of two great civilizations. One came from Jerusalem in 600 B.C. and afterward separated into two nations, known as the Nephites and the Lamanites...After thousands of years, all were destroyed except the Lamanites, and they are the principal ancestors of the American Indians.*

Most everyone knows the story that the founder of Mormonism, Joseph Smith, told about how he obtained the Book of Mormon. He said he was contacted by an "angel" named Moroni, who had once been a Nephite general. Moroni supposedly had hidden gold plates in a hillside about 400 A.D. and 1,400 years later he appeared to tell Joseph Smith to collect them and translate them "by the gift and power of God," into the book now known as the Book of Mormon—the story of the Nephites and Lamanites, the ancestors of every Native American.

### What does it mean that the American Indians are not descended from Hebrews?

If the American Indians are not descended from Jews who came to America to become the Nephites and Lamanites, Latter-day Saints must admit that Mormonism is a made-up fairy tale!

**Dr. Randall Shortridge** is a former Mormon who viewed the DNA evidence and decided that it required him to leave the Church. "Becoming honest is what

brought me out of the Church," he says in the video "DNA vs. the Book of Mormon." He was a Mormon Church member for 25 years. "We would hold up the Book of Mormon and say 'This is an American history,'" he says. "We taught that the Book of Mormon is literal physical history."

But, of course, it is not history at all.

**Dr. Simon Southerton** — Dr. Southerton is a molecular biologist from Canberra, Australia. He is a former Mormon Bishop. When he stumbled onto the research into Native American DNA he was shocked. "I was totally and utterly convinced that the Book of Mormon was true," he says. "So for several weeks I lived with two completely contradictory beliefs in my brain." He was forced to leave Mormonism when the conflict could

**The Book of Mormon Lamanites were cursed with a skin of blackness, and became idle, full of mischief, and subtlety**

**And he had caused the cursing to come upon [the Lamanites] , yea, even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity...wherefore, as they [had been] white, and exceedingly fair and delightsome...the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them...And because of their cursing which was upon them they did become an idle people, full of mischief and subtlety... (Book of Mormon—II Nephi 5 & 24)**

not be reconciled.

Southerton says Mormon leadership apparently refuses to acknowledge the DNA evidence: "When General Authorities dedicate temples in Central and South America they tell the natives that they are the descendents of the Book of Mormon Lamanites."

### The DNA Evidence is Irrefutable

**Dr. Dennis H. O'Rourke** is an anthropologist at the University of Utah. He studies DNA in ancient (pre-Columbian) populations, extracting DNA from bones of the dead. And that DNA evidence totally destroys the Book of Mormon myth.

O'Rourke is emphatic: "All such DNA is Asian! No research suggests similarities between Native American and He-

brew DNA. The scientific consensus is that Native Americans come from Asia."

**Dr. David Glenn Smith** is an anthropologist at the University of California, Davis. He heads the most respected test lab in the world in the area of Native American DNA. He, too, emphatically states that there is no similarity between Native American and Hebrew DNA:

*"There is a comprehensive widespread, consensus among anthropologists today from all subdisciplines of anthropology that the homeland of Native Americans is East Asia."*

Most emphatic of all, however, is **Dr. Stephen L. Whittington** who is a bio-archaeologist with a focus in [Central American] archaeology. He is one of the most respected authorities in skeletal DNA research. He somberly states, "There are no Hebrew origins for Native Americans. Their origin was Northern Asia!"

### Other scientific disciplines confirm the DNA evidence.

**John McLaughlin** is a linguist at the University of Utah. He reiterates what others have been saying for decades: There is no evidence that any American Indian language has Hebrew roots. He says that of the 800-900 languages spoken on this continent in

the last 300 years there are no indications of Hebrew origins.

Some 20 years ago I quoted another BYU Professor, **John L. Sorenson**, an anthropologist, saying that the American Indians clearly did not descend from Hebrews; the languages of the New World do not have a Hebrew root; and the physical and biological characteristics of the American Indians are not Semitic.

In my book *Have You Witnessed to a Mormon Lately?* (Chosen Books, 1984) I quoted BYU Anthropologist Ray T. Matheny telling BYU students some years ago about the "king-sized problems with the Book of Mormon." Matheny is one of the most respected professors ever at BYU. (See Matheny quotes on page six)

Countless Mormon leaders today are struggling with the problem of how to rec-

oncile what they *know* about the Book of Mormon and what they *feel* about the Church.

This struggle for *faith* against the *facts* of Mormonism is not new. I wrote about it in my popular tract on B. H. Roberts, a Mormon General Authority who, in his youth, wrote books defending the Book of Mormon and, when he was near his death, wrote about his conclusion that the Book of Mormon could not be of divine origin. (See “The Disappointment of B. H. Roberts” tract.)

What *is* new is DNA fingerprinting. This science leaves no wiggle room for those who want to try to separate evidence for the Book of Mormon from myth. Prior to DNA science, arguments against the Book of Mormon came down to *the absence* of evidence. For example, archaeologists pointed out that there were no remains of cities in the Western Hemisphere as described in the Book of Mormon. And no coins, no wheeled vehicles, no steel, no silk, etc. Those arguments were sniffed at with the response: “They are there, we just haven’t found them yet.”

But we actually have tons of bones and millions of people from which to take DNA samples to prove the lineage of the Native Americans. Now we have more evidence than we can ever assemble in one place and *all of it says the same thing: American Indians came from Asia, not Jerusalem.*

Oh, some Mormon holdouts attempt to suggest that maybe the Nephites and Lamanites were just *one of many* ancestral sources for Native Americans. They suggest that the Lamanites may have been just a tiny isolated group, and that *the rest* of the American Indians came from Asia or some other place.

This is the so-called “small, isolated population” argument. It doesn’t hold water. As Thomas

## **“It hasn’t been proved” Mormon President Gordon B. Hinckley**



**Current Mormon President, Seer, and Revelator, Gordon B. Hinckley refuses to believe the DNA evidence. He was asked, during the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics what would happen when DNA evidence proves there is no connection between Israelites and American Indians. His response: “It hasn’t been proved.”**

**Dr. Randall Shortridge doubts that Hinckley really would be ignorant of this research.**

## **White and Delightful Former Mormon President Spencer W. Kimball**



**“I saw a striking contrast in the progress of the Indian people today...The day of the Lamanites is nigh. For years they have been growing delightful, and they are now becoming white and delightful, as they were promised. In this picture of the 20 Lamanite missionaries, 15 of the 20 were as light as Anglos, five were darker but equally delightful. The children in the home placement program in Utah are often lighter than their brothers and sisters in the hogans on the reservation.”**

## **Former Mormon Bishop Dr. Simon Southerton**



**“There was no way I could have spent the remainder of my life in Mormonism...[after I learned of the DNA evidence].”**

**“Thousands of individuals from more than 150 tribes have been tested in North, Central, and South America. They are all of Asian origin: 99.4% are Asian in origin and 0.6% are a mixture from Africa or Europe after [the arrival of ] Columbus.”**

Murphy points out: “The ‘isolated response’ requires us to ignore the Book of Mormon, the Prophets, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.” All of those sources claim that the American Indians are *all* descended from the Lamanites, who were Jews.

Again, Dr. Shortridge says:  
*When it comes to DNA fingerprinting, people have to realize how conclusive it is. Given the evidence that we have today, if this was taken into court—a court of law—it would be an open-and-shut case. That’s because the DNA fingerprinting evidence is unquestionable. American Indians came from Asia!*

Thomas Murphy says:

*If Joseph Smith was being tried for fraud in a court of law today and the DNA evidence was there, the DNA evidence would, in a sense, implicate him of fraud. In other words, the Book of Mormon could not stand up in a court of law today.*

### **The bottom line**

*There were no Nephites!*

What does this mean? Again, Thomas Murphy:

*I think the most difficult problem...is that we have to confront not just the possibility, but the inevitability that Joseph Smith was attempting to deceive people...[for example] when he pretended to have actual [gold] plates... We also know that he was deceptive about his marriage practices, so it’s not just the Book of Mormon... He was sleeping with...teenage...girls and he lied about that in public, so we know he was capable of deception...I don’t know that there is a way out of that problem.*

## (DNA vs. the Book of Mormon)

### Is there a way out?

There is always a way out. It isn't always a *good* way. Take, for example, Mormonism's "Book of Abraham," which is found in *The Pearl of Great Price*, one of the religion's "four standard works" of scripture (along with the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and *The Doctrine and Covenants*). The "Book of Abraham" was created when Joseph Smith, circa 1840, bought some mummies and papyri from a traveling Egyptian side show. Upon examination of the papyri, Smith stated that one of them had been written by the Bible patriarch Abraham. Smith translated it into "The Book of Abraham."

In the 1970s a Jewish scholar found the very papyri Smith had "translated" from (it had Smith's handwriting on it) in a library in New York City. The scholar presented the papyri to the Mormon Church. By then scholars had been reading hieroglyphics for a hundred years.

As it turns out, Smith had translated nothing. The text of the "Book of Abraham" has nothing to do with the writing on Smith's papyri.

You would think that the Mormon Church, caught with such egg on its collective face would admit that the book was a fraud. But no. Mormon apologists went away and thought and thought. Then they came back all smiles and said, "We never said it was a translation" (in spite of the fact that the title page of the "Book of Abraham" says:

*A Translation from the papyrus, by Joseph Smith. A Translation of some ancient Records, that have fallen into our hands from the catacombs of Egypt.—The writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus.*

But the Mormon apologists invented a clever explanation for the so-called translation. As the

whole academic world recognized that Joseph Smith's translation was a fraud, the apologists said, in effect, "Joseph Smith held the papyrus in his hand and had a vision which he wrote down." They now claim he didn't translate the papyrus, it became a sort of point of contact that triggered a vision. A vision he set down as a translation of the papyrus.

## No Evidence of Hebrew DNA Randall Shortridge, Ph.D., Former Mormon



**Biochemist, Associate Professor at State University of New York-Buffalo.**

**Finds no evidence of Hebrew DNA in Native Americans. He categorically states that the DNA of Native Americans is "Asian, not Hebrew."**

**He scoffs at the idea that the Book of Mormon could be saved by "a small, limited geography."**

## "I like the color I am" Larry Echohawk, LDS Pawnee



**"Only one thing I don't understand," he grins. "It [the Book of Mormon] says we'll be white and delightful people some day. I like the color I am. In fact, I don't know any Indian who wants to change."**

**Ensign, Dec. 1975, p. 29**

## One of the Mormon Holdouts Dr. Trent Stephens, Idaho State University



**"I grew up believing the Nephites covered the Western Hemisphere."**

**He has come to believe in the "small, isolated nation" theory.**

So there is always a way out. The Book of Abraham apologists find their way out by changing the "translation" to a "vision." The Book of Mormon apologists find their way out by attempting to make the Lamanites the progenitors of merely a small, isolated tribe, rather than the progenitors of *all* the Native Americans.

### The real irony

The end of the story is stranger than the beginning. Thomas Murphy can call Joseph Smith a deceiver, a despoiler of young virgins, and he can call the Book of Mormon a manufactured fraud, but he cannot escape Mormonism. When the Mormon Church leaders read what Murphy was writing about the Book of Mormon they set out to excommunicate him. Problem is, Murphy doesn't want to be excommunicated. He protested loudly. His friends came to his aid. Candlelight vigils were held in his defense. And the Mormon Church backed down. They put his excommunication on hold.

In a recent interview, Murphy was asked:

*So I do hear you, Thomas Murphy, sort of clinging still to your Mormon heritage, trying to reconcile these things, trying to stay devoted to at least one aspect of your spiritual heritage I guess?*

To which Murphy answered:

*Yes, I, well, even if I wanted to abandon my Mormon heritage I don't think I could, you know? I think I'm a product of a Mormon cultural environment and I will be regardless of whatever my Stake Presidency and High Council decide to do with my membership. I'm a product of that culture and I suppose I could walk away from it. A lot of people are encouraging me to do so but I don't think that I would be able to leave in the sense that it's shaped who I am and I'm comfortable with that. I'm comfortable with being a Latter-day skeptic, if you will.* ■

# Twin Falls, Worland, Spokane, Richland, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan

God is good, His people are the best, and humble people still respond to the preached word.

I have always said the thing I enjoy most about doing meetings is the people I get to meet. When I am on the road and call home I say to Margaretta, “Man, this pastor and his wife are the greatest people...” She interrupts me and says, “Yeah, yeah, I know. They are the sweetest people you have ever met!” That’s because I always seem to feel that way.

I had a great meeting at Twin Falls First Baptist Church. Actually I did three meetings on Sunday for Pastor Andy Boettcher and drove back to Boise after the evening meeting.

Then I loaded up the van and headed for Worland, Wyoming, where I did a Friday night youth meeting (believe it or not). That was at Worland First Baptist Church. Then Saturday and Sunday mornings at the same church (Pastor Fred Smith) and Sunday night at Zion Lutheran. Since Worland is only 30 miles from the town where I was born and raised (Basin) I had two of my cousins and some of their family in the meetings. They gave me the only picture I have ever seen of my father as a young man. Cool!

From there I dove on to Spokane, Washington, to do the Christian Workers Conference with Ed Decker, Eric Barger, and Dr. Stan Fleming. The four of us did a two-hour “Power Session”—a panel discussion with questions from the audience. (A video tape is available of that session—check the order sheet). Each of us did a short presentation and then we fielded questions from the floor. What a blessing to minister with these brothers.

I had a booth at the event (said to be the largest Christian training event in the country) and was able to personally minister to dozens of people. I did a total of four sessions, addressing hundreds of people. One of my topics was “Why Mormonism is not Christian and Why it’s OK to Say That.” Another was “From Enlightenment to Chaos,” tracing the rise of Secularism.

## Jim Spencer’s Speaking Schedule

• **(Most) Every Wednesday Night—Meridian Assembly of God, Meridian, Idaho 7:00 p.m. 1830 N. Linder Rd., Meridian Idaho, 208-888-0063**

• **Friday-Sunday, August 8-10, Port Orchard, WA, Heritage Foursquare Church, 360-731-6715**

• **Thursday-Sunday, August, Camp Maranatha (near Cascade, Idaho), West Side Bible Church Family Camp, 887-4906**

• **Sunday—Wednesday, October 12-15, Port Orchard, WA, Lighthouse Christian Center, 304 Viewcrest Ave., 360-452-8909**

Next, I went to Richland Assembly of God in Richland, Washington with Pastor Micah Smith. I had met Micah years ago when I pastored in Idaho Falls. We met at McDonalds. He was in town raising support for himself and his family who were leaving for the foreign mission field. We spent the afternoon together. More than ten years later, after he had returned to the states to pastor, he turned on the televi-



sion and saw me on Trinity Broadcasting Network. He made a note to contact me, but several *more* years passed before he did. At any rate, we had two great meetings Sunday, paving the way for a three-day seminar in the near future.

Mid-May, I flew to Juneau, Alaska and ministered that evening at Valley Chapel for Pastor Pat Brayton. Then I boarded a ferry and sailed to Sitka. I flopped in the bunk at 1 a.m. and awoke about 10 a.m. as the boat was bumping into the pier and the loudspeaker was ordering us to check out of our cabins.

That night (Monday) I ministered in the downtown convention center. It was a small meeting, but four Mormons came. I had the opportunity to speak to one of them after the meeting and he told me he would read my book, *Beyond Mormonism: An Elder’s Story*, and watch the

video “DNA vs. the Book of Mormon.” I mailed them to him as soon as I got home.

On both Monday and Tuesday, Pastor Bob Benton showed me around town. We had beautiful weather. Sitka is correctly called “The Pearl of the Pacific.” It is beautiful. Hundreds of American eagles fished the waters of Sitka Bay. These giant birds are indeed awe-inspiring. Sitka was the Russian capital of Alaska and is

# Noted BYU Professor Thinks Joseph Smith Made up the Book of Mormon

BYU Professor of Anthropology Ray T. Matheny was nominated to be selected as one of the Top Ten Professors at BYU during the 20th Century. He calls the constant reference in the Book of Mormon to iron implements "a king-sized problem":

*The Book of Mormon talks about ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgical industries. A ferrous industry is a whole system of doing something. It's just not an esoteric process that a few people are involved in, but ferrous industry ... means mining iron ores and then processing these ores and casting [them] into irons.... This is a process that's very complicated ... it also calls for cultural backup to allow such an activity to take place.... In my recent reading of the Book of Mormon, I find that iron and steel are mentioned in sufficient context to suggest that there was a ferrous industry here.... (Ray T. Matheny, Speech at Sunstone Symposium 6, "Book of Mormon Archaeology," Aug. 25, 1984.)*

But Matheny says archaeology proves that there was no iron mining in the Western Hemisphere in the pre-Columbian times. And there is no room for making a mistake about it:

*You can't refine ore without leaving a bloom of some kind or ... impurities that blossom out and float to the top of the ore... and also the flux of limestone or whatever is used to flux the material.... [This] blooms off into silicas and indestructible new rock forms. In other words, when you have a ferrous metallurgical industry, you have these evidences of the detritus that is left over. You also have the fuels, you have the furnaces, you have whatever technologies that were there performing these tasks; they leave solid evidences. And they are indestructible things.... No evidence has been found in the New World for a ferrous metallurgical industry dating to pre-Columbian times. And so this is a king-sized problem, it seems to me, for the so-called Book of Mormon archaeology. This evidence is absent. (ibid)*

The Book of Mormon not only mentions iron, but steel and machinery and scimitars and breastplates and metal engraving (which calls for hardened steel-tipped tools to chase metal). It speaks of gold and silver coinage – no Western-style coins have

ever been found from pre-Columbian America.

The Book of Mormon mentions shipbuilding, sailing, the use of the magnetic compass, wheeled vehicles (drawn by horses), tent manufacture, and linen manufacture. Archaeologists unanimously agree that none of these activities took place in the New World before the arrival of the Spanish colonizers. The Book of Mormon also describes non-Western agricultural products like wheat and barley, flax and vineyards (and wine presses). These are giant archaeological problems. So is the description of domestic animals such as dogs, cows, goats, sheep, horses, asses, oxen, swine, and elephants. In addition, the Book of Mormon uses attending cultural backup words like: pasture, chariot, stable, horned cattle, fowl, lamb, and fatlings.

Matheny concludes that the Book of Mormon terminologies and language are "nineteenth-century literary concepts and cultural experiences one would expect Joseph Smith and his colleagues to experience." In other words, this Brigham Young University professor thinks Joseph Smith made up the Book of Mormon. ■

## (Twin Falls to Ketchikan)

where Secretary of State William H. Seward signed the treaty to buy Alaska from the Russians.

Bob put me on the ferry at noon on Tuesday and I sat on the after-deck until the sun went down. I arrived at Ketchikan at 1 p.m. on Wednesday and ministered for Pastor Kevin Gould at Clover Pass Community Church. Early Thursday morning I flew home. Less than two weeks later (on a Tuesday) I am writing this, preparing to leave again on Saturday to do a week of meetings with Kevin in what he calls "Joshua School." I will preach Sunday a.m. and p.m. and then teach four sessions a day Tuesday through Friday, flying home Saturday.

So the numerous meetings in the second quarter of this year saw a dozen or so people ushered into the Kingdom of God; hundreds of contacts made; I did more than a dozen preaching services; and I gave away boxes and boxes of tapes, books and other literature.

It is indeed a privilege to preach the Gospel. I'm convinced that God will open as many doors as I'm willing to go through. But, I couldn't do any of this without you. People often say to me, "I pray for you every day!" Who is worthy of such a blessing? Surely not me. But as long as I am able and as long as you will send me, I will go.

If you haven't done so recently, ask God what your part should be in all this. Ask Him if you should commit to help fund Through the Maze. ■

## One of Hundreds of Letters That Keep us Going...and Going...and Going...

I am sure you receive many communications and are probably busy, but tonight I found peace that I have been needing. I was not expecting to even visit this site, tonight (or last night, as it is now sometime near dawn). In a nut shell, I am a 21-yr. old Christian who has spent a significant amount of time and sincere effort in reflecting on the LDS church, only to find it is not true.

Although I know it is not true, I struggle, still, with a yearning for the church members. While being repelled in my heart from the doctrines, I am also torn toward the church, simultaneously—though I have concluded NEVER to join it. This is a struggle that I have had no one to confide in about and receive understanding compassion/guidance from...or just empathy. Your writing fed me, tonight, and my heart has been lifted to praise. Thank you. —Deanah

