

The BIBLE and the BOOK OF MORMON - What Is Their Relationship?

by Bruce T. Forbes, 2001

“Behold, I do not bring it to destroy that which they have received, but to build it up.”
D&C 10:52

I like to call the Book of Mormon the "**Bible's Best Friend**", and I think it's a fair analogy. Others like to call the two books missionary companions – that is also a good description. Let me tell you why.

The **Holy Bible** is a record of God's dealings with Mankind from the Creation through the ministry of Christ. It centers on the House of Israel, and it specifically follows the Tribe of **Judah** - the Jews - on through the Birth of Christ and His ministry.

The **Book of Mormon** is a record of God's dealings with a nation raised up on the ancient American continent from two families of the Israelite Tribe of **Joseph** as they were lead away from Jerusalem by God and given their own land of inheritance.

The Book of Mormon does three things:

ONE - it stands as a second witness to the teachings in the Bible,

TWO - it backs up Biblical teachings while putting them in the correct perspective and meaning,

THREE - it builds upon said teachings, further teaching and testifying upon the same themes.

Thus the Book of Mormon helps to establish the truth of the Bible while building upon its foundation with further knowledge and understanding.

These two books complement each other while testifying of the same truths. But while the Holy Bible was written as a record of the past - reminding us of what God has done - and as a "reference" for those who were already within the Covenant and later within the Church of Christ, the Book of Mormon was specifically written to be given to the world in our day as a record of what He has done in the past and as an invitation to come, learn, and follow (and how to do so). It's prophetic writers literally speak to us in our day to help prepare us for His Coming. It's one big, long 'missionary tract' to confirm the truths of the Bible while putting them in a correct perspective and further pointing us towards Christ.

Now, let's read some scriptures on the subject. Grab your Book of Mormon and read each scripture:

1 Nephi 13:20-49 ... the prophet Nephi prayed to receive the same vision his father received earlier - within this vision he sees a vision of the gentile nations who discover the Americas and bring a remnant of Christianity to it, including the Bible; the writings of Nephi's descendants will come forth to help correct erroneous mistakes and interpretations; other books will also come forth

2 Nephi 3:12-13, 18-21 ... This is entire chapter is the prophet Lehi quoting a prophecy made by the Old Testament patriarch Joseph concerning the House of Israel and the tribe of Joseph specifically. In it, he quotes a revelation the Lord gave Joseph, and it speaks firmly about the future of the tribe of Joseph, of which tribe the Book of Mormon people are descendants. Of two future scriptural

records he prophecies and give several reasons why both will come forth:

"Wherefore, the fruit of thy loins [meaning Joseph] 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 [1] the confounding of false doctrines and [2] laying down of contentions, and [3] establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, and [4] bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days, and also [5] to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord. And out of weakness he shall be made strong, in that day when my work shall commence among all my people, unto the restoring thee, O house of Israel, saith the Lord." (2 Nephi 3:12-13; *everything in brackets added by me for ease of understanding*)

"And the Lord said unto me also: I will raise up unto the fruit of thy [Joseph] loins; and I will make for him a spokesman. And I, behold, I will give unto him that he shall write the writing of the fruit of thy loins, unto the fruit of thy loins; and the spokesman of thy loins shall declare it. And the words which he shall write shall be the words which are expedient in my wisdom should go forth unto the fruit of thy loins. And it shall be as if the fruit of thy loins had cried unto them from the dust; for I know their faith. And they shall cry from the dust; yea, even repentance unto their brethren, even after many generations have gone by them. And it shall come to pass that their cry shall go, even according to the simpleness of their words. Because of their faith their words shall proceed forth out of my mouth unto their brethren who are the fruit of thy loins; and the weakness of their words will I make strong in their faith, unto the remembering of my covenant which I made unto thy fathers." (2 Nephi 3:18-21; compare this 'crying from the dust' to 2 Nephi 26:16-17, Isaiah 29:4)

2 NEPHI 27 ... when the Book of Mormon is to come forth; references made to Isaiah 29.

2 NEPHI 28:27-29:14 ... Nephi gives a lengthy discourse on the House of Israel and the Latter-Days ... 'Wo unto him who says - We have received the word of God and need no more'; the Lord speaks to many nations and they all record His word; the testimony of two nations is a witness of God and that He deals with all nations the same; records of the Jews, the Nephites, and the Ten Lost Tribes

NOW... with this understanding, go to the Old Testament and read **EZEKIEL chapter 37**:

Verses 1-14 prophecy of the Lord restoring the House of Israel.

Verses 15-20 speak of **TWO RECORDS** that will be had when the Lord gathers and redeems Israel.

Verses 21-28 continues the restoration of the House of Israel.

These two records will become one in our hand - and one in the Lord's hand! - in the restoration of the House of Israel!