

DNA Proves the Book of Mormon False!

On a regular basis I do web searches to see if the Church is in the news. I get an interesting variety of articles, generally from Utah news sources. However, yesterday a headline very similar to the title of this article showed up in a California newspaper. I am familiar with the study, done two or three years ago, which found no indication of Israelite DNA among American Indians nor Polynesians. It has been much ballyhooed by opponents of the church as a blow against the Book of Mormon. This article was a grand review of all the arguments, along with some disenchanted Lamanites among the Mormons they had found who were willing to go on record saying that they realized the Church was all a lie. All in all it was a very poorly thought out, but vicious attack on the Church.

Late in the article they quoted some individual as saying that the true believers would disregard this study, since in matters of faith people don't depend on reason. As ever, I was struck by the smugness of people who have disproved something that millions of others know to be true.

This has caused me some reflection on this particular issue. Yes, it offends me to see people attack eternal truths. I am interested that apparently people think the Book of Mormon is no more than the history of the American Indians' ancestors. I am also impressed with their unwillingness to learn from history.

The Book of Mormon was originally dismissed as a plagiarism of Spaulding's book. Although that theory was pretty desperate to begin with, it is interesting how it has persisted even after the rediscovery of the Spaulding manuscript. As recently as the late 70's when the publisher's manuscript of the Book of Mormon was recovered from a cornerstone (I think in Nauvoo) some people pointed to about 17 pages of the manuscript for whom the scribe was unknown, claiming that those pages were in Spaulding's writing, as if that somehow disproved the Book of Mormon.

Since then others have tried to assign authorship of the Book of Mormon to Sidney Rigdon or others who associated with the Prophet Joseph Smith in the early days of the church. Some have pointed to the Isaiah chapters and the Sermon on the Mount, either because they disapprove of Nephi quoting chapters that have since been "proved" not to have been written by Isaiah, or because they think Joseph Smith

carelessly copied errors from the New Testament that are not found in the older manuscripts.

Ultimately, all such attacks despair of people like me who refuse to listen to reason and continue to believe in something so patently ridiculous as a modern revelation from God. In spite of (because of?) all of their learning, they are still unable to cope with truth. I do not have an answer for every attack on the Book of Mormon. I cannot reconcile archaeological discoveries with the text of the Book. All I know is that as I read it I have found truths far more profound than any of the historical facts which the various parties claim to have proved or disproved. I personally am not familiar with a lot of the textual research and so forth that has been carried out for and against the Book of Mormon. But I know that I have received a personal witness of the truth of the Book of Mormon, and it seems unwise to me to try to go against that evidence.

In fact, we are presented with conflicting evidence on a great number of things in our lives. Is the United States the author of all evil in the world, or a great country with divine promise? It depends to some extent on your point of view and who you want to believe. Are their truly subatomic particles with “charm” and “strangeness”? I have no way of telling except for the claims of some physicists. Was JFK killed by a lone assassin, or a plot by the CIA? I have no way of determining the ultimate truth of those questions. So I use my best judgment and deal with related issues to the best of my understanding.

And so it is with issues of faith. I don't know how to reconcile all the evidence, but there is one piece of evidence that I cannot deny, so I do the best I can to deal with all of it, and trust that someday all will be made known.

So it is probably redundant, but you may ask, “Do you believe the Book of Mormon?” I respond heartily in the affirmative. There is far too much evidence in its favor – most of it contained within its covers – to dismiss it for trivial reasons. Anybody who is willing to ignore it because of trendy “scientific” arguments doesn't understand that the book is not primarily a history, but a revelation from God to man. My life is richer, my understanding of the atonement is fuller, and my devotion to the Savior is deeper because of the Book of Mormon. I cannot argue with those evidences. Following the invitation of Moroni I have prayed about the book, and not just on one occasion but on many many occasions I have felt the sweet witness of the Holy Ghost that it is

the word of God. I may never be able to prove the veracity of the Book of Mormon to anyone else, but I know it for myself beyond doubt. I hope that no one will be shaken in their faith because of the disputations of men, but that they will trust in God and wait for his time in making plain the truth of all things. God is the author of all science, and he expects us to be responsible in how we use it. The correct use of science is not to attack faith, but to learn more about ourselves and our universe. I make my living based on science, but I see no reason why that should dissuade me from faith in the living Christ, and in his Eternal Father.

If anyone who has serious doubts about the Book of Mormon has read this far, I would invite you to read the book yourself, instead of trusting someone else's analysis. See what the book really says, not what opponents claim it says. Ponder its words, practice its precepts, then you can judge for yourself of its worth. I have no fear of presenting the book for anyone's review, because it stands by God's power. I know it; you can too.