

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Pt. 1: Organization and Origin

Dr. Richard G. Howe

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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"Mormon" Is Out: Church Releases Statement on How to Refer to the Organization

Contributed by Sarah-Jane Walker, Church News writer

16 AUGUST 2018

A meetinghouse of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Photo by Scott G. Wilmerton, Clearnet News.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints issued the following statement from President Russell M. Nelson on August 16 regarding the name of the Church:

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• Change

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"The Lord has impressed upon my mind the importance of the name He has revealed for His Church, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We have work before us to bring ourselves in harmony with His will. In recent weeks, various Church leaders and departments have initiated the necessary steps to do so. Additional information about this important matter will be made available in the coming months."

The Church has released an updated style guide, which provides direction on how to properly refer to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In the coming months, Church websites and materials will be updated to reflect this direction from President Nelson.

Following is the text from updated style guide:

The official name of the Church is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The full name was given by revelation from God to Joseph Smith in 1838.

- In the first reference, the full name of the Church is preferred: "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."
- When a shortened reference is needed, the terms "the Church" or the "Church of Jesus Christ" are encouraged. The "restored Church of Jesus Christ" is also accurate and encouraged.

- While the term "Mormon Church" has long been publicly applied to the Church as a nickname, it is not an authorized title, and the Church discourages its use. Thus, please avoid using the abbreviation "LDS" or the nickname

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

- Use full name of the Church in first references.
- Avoid using the terms "Mormons" and "LDS Church."
- Refer to members as "Latter-day Saints."

"The Lord has impressed upon my mind the importance of the name He has revealed for His Church, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." —President Russell M. Nelson

RELATED LINKS

- President Nelson in Montreal: We're Correcting—Not Changing—the

"Mormon" as substitutes for the name of the Church, as in "Mormon Church," "LDS Church," or "Church of the Latter-day Saints."

- When referring to Church members, the terms "members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" or "Latter-day Saints" are preferred. We ask that the term "Mormons" not be used.
- "Mormon" is correctly used in proper names such as the Book of Mormon or when used as an adjective in such historical expressions as "Mormon Trail."
- The term "Mormonism" is inaccurate and should not be used. When describing the combination of doctrine, culture, and lifestyle unique to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the term "the restored gospel of Jesus Christ" is accurate and preferred.
- When referring to people or organizations that practice polygamy, it should be stated that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is not affiliated with polygamous groups.

Church's Name

- Read a 1990 talk about the name of the Church by President Russell M. Nelson.
- Read "The Importance of a Name," by President Ballard from 2011.
- Video: Interview with President Nelson.

Elder Nelson then examined the key words in the name of the Church—saints, Latter-day, Jesus Christ, and The Church—offering insights into their sacred significance.

Members of Christ's church are "privileged to participate" in its divine destiny, he concluded. "May we so honor Him who declared, 'Thus shall my church be called ... The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.'"

More recently, then-Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles also encouraged Latter-day Saints to make clear the name by which the Lord Himself has chosen for His church.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints "is the name by which the Lord will call us at the last day. It is the name by which His Church will be distinguished from all others."

"The name the Savior has given to His Church tells us exactly who we are and what we believe," he said.

"We believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior and the Redeemer of the world. He atoned for all who would repent of their sins, and He broke the bands of death and provided the resurrection from the dead. We follow Jesus Christ. And as King Benjamin said to his people, so I reaffirm to all of us today: 'Ye should remember to retain [His] name written always in your hearts' (Mosiah 5:12) ('The Importance of a Name,' Oct. 2011 general conference).

One of President Nelson's prophetic predecessors, President George Albert Smith, spoke in a 1948 October general conference address of the divine significance of the name of the restored Church of Jesus Christ:

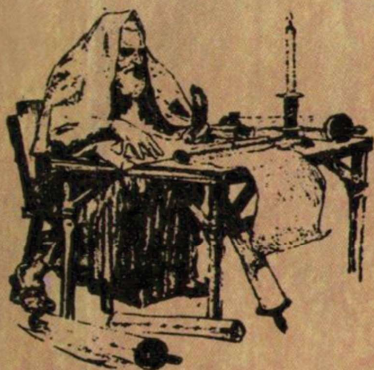
"Brethren and sisters, when you go away from here, you may be associating with various denominations of the world, but remember that there is only one Church in all the world that by divine command bears the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord."

President Nelson has long championed the use of the Church's divinely given name.

More than 28 years ago, then-Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles delivered a general conference address entitled "Thus Shall My Church Be Called."

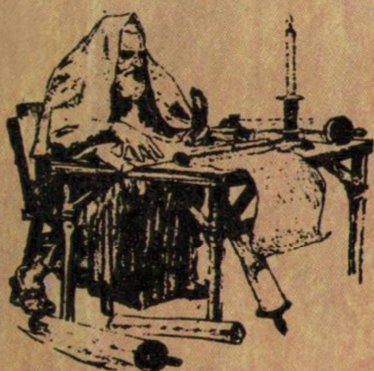
Elder Nelson said to "note carefully the language of the Lord" in Doctrine and Covenants 115:4: "He did not say, 'Thus shall my church be named.' He said, 'Thus shall my church be called.' Years ago, its members were cautioned by the Brethren who wrote: 'We feel that some may be misled by the too frequent use of the term "Mormon Church" (Member-Missionary Class—Instructor's Guide, Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1982, p. 2). Before any other name is considered to be a legitimate substitute, the thoughtful person might reverently consider the feelings of the Heavenly Parent who bestowed that name."





The Falling Away
and Restoration of
the Gospel of
Jesus Christ Foretold

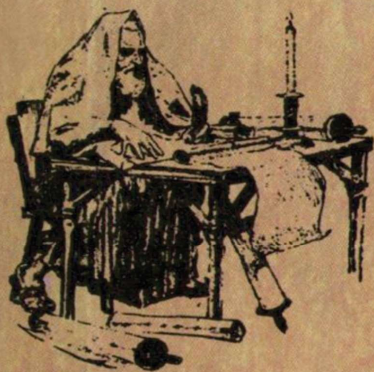
Mormons believe that the Bible predicted a great apostasy (falling away) and that the truths of the gospel were lost.



The Falling Away
and Restoration of
the Gospel of
Jesus Christ Foretold

"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first ..."

2 Thess. 2:3



The Falling Away
and Restoration of
the Gospel of
Jesus Christ Foretold

*According to
Mormonism, "when the
people rejected the
truth and killed the
apostles, God took the
priesthood authority
and the Church from
the earth.*



The Falling Away
and Restoration of
the Gospel of
Jesus Christ Foretold

*"The loss of revelation
through the Church led
to great confusion,
contention, and
incorrect teachings.*



"This falling away from the truth is called the Apostasy."

[The Restoration: Study Guide 3 (Salt Lake City: Corporation of the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1986): 1-2]

The Falling Away
and Restoration of
the Gospel of
Jesus Christ Foretold



In Mormon theology, the priesthood is the authority to act in the name of God for the salvation of men.

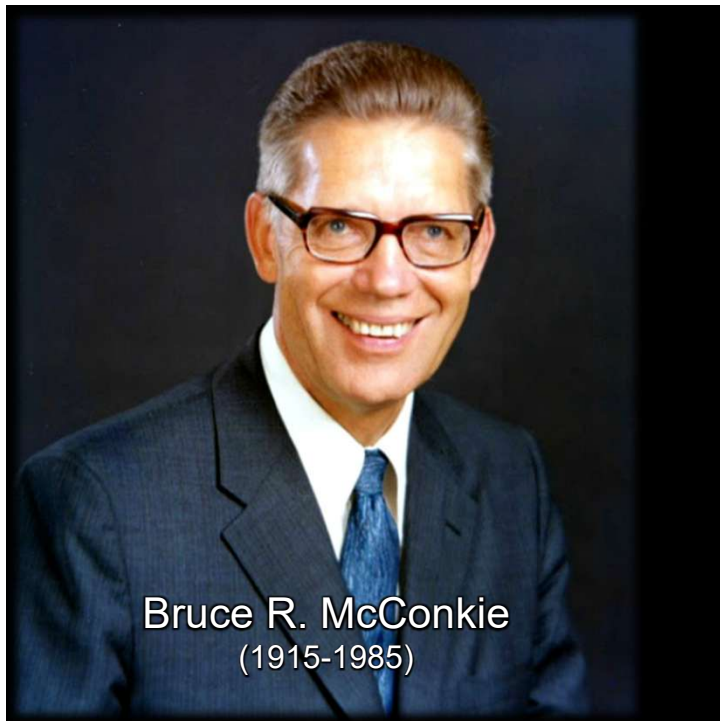


Bruce R. McConkie
(1915-1985)

MORMON DOCTRINE

BRUCE R. McCONKIE

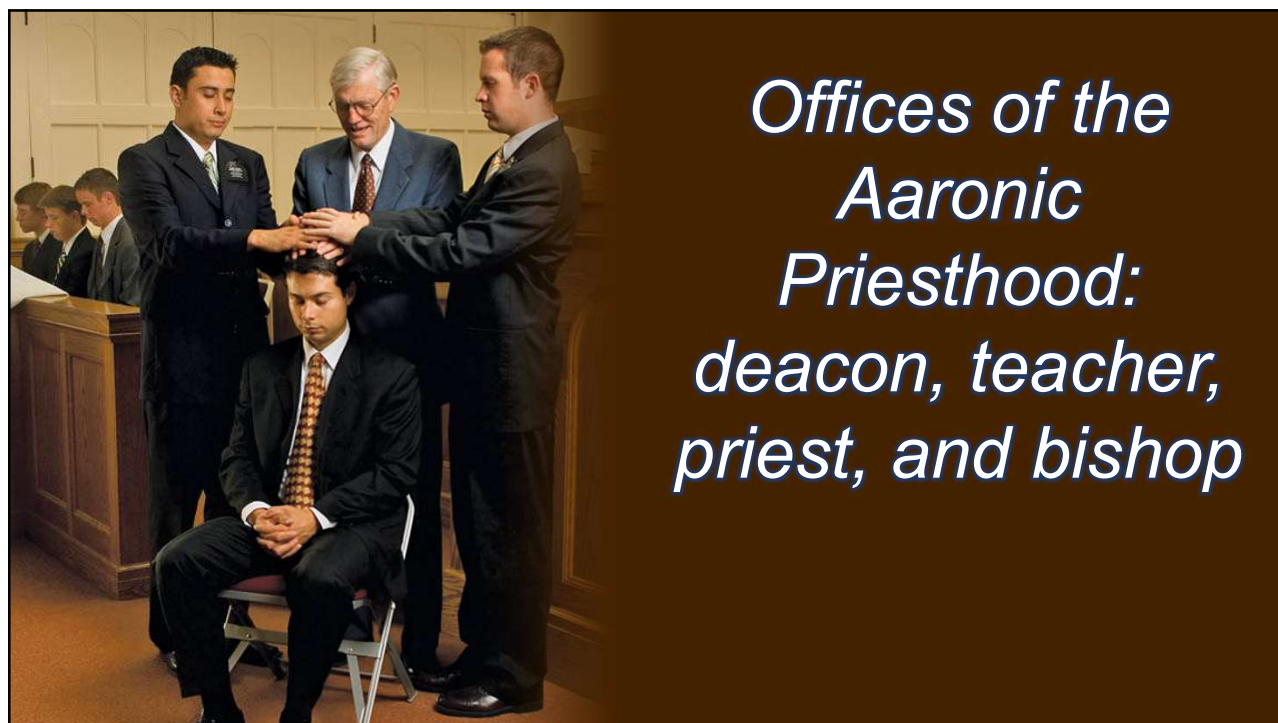
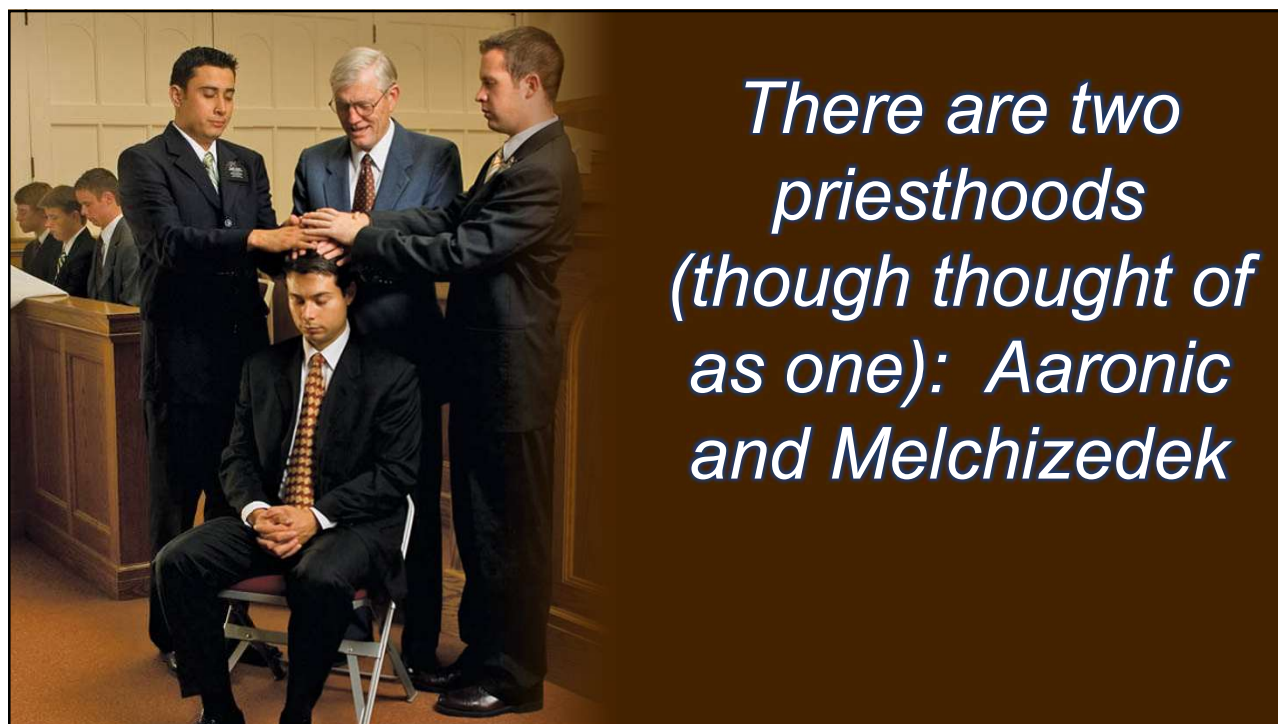
*Abaddon - Abrahamic - Atonement
- Authority in the Ministry
- Babylon - Baptism - Book of Mormon
- Ceremony - Chains of Hell - Chances
- of God - Day - Day of Burning
- Manual - Emperors - Employment
- Faithfulness - Fallen Men - Fe
-athering of Israel - Angelam - E
- Holy One - Holy One of Is*

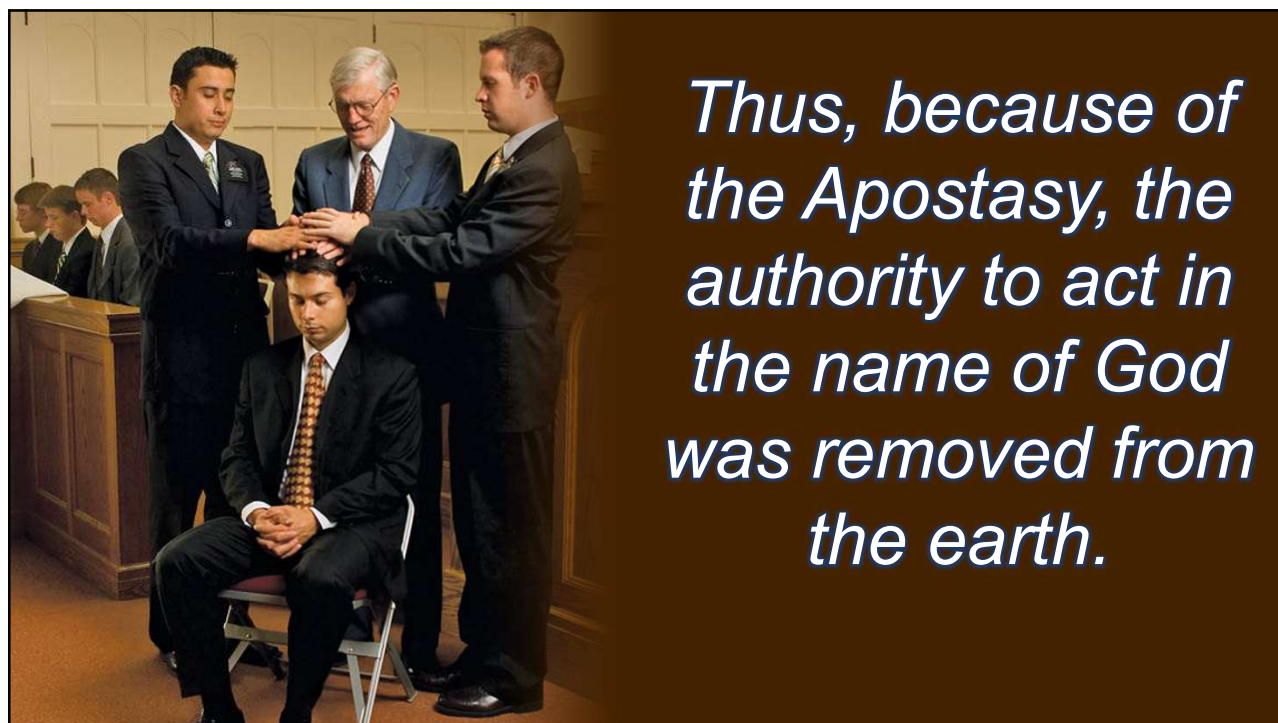


Bruce R. McConkie
(1915-1985)

*"It is the power by which the
gospel is preached; by
which the ordinances of
salvation are performed so
that they will be binding on
earth and in heaven: by
which men are sealed up
unto eternal life, being
assured of the fullness of
the Father's kingdom
hereafter and by which in
due course the Lord will
govern the nations of the
earth and all that pertains
to them."*

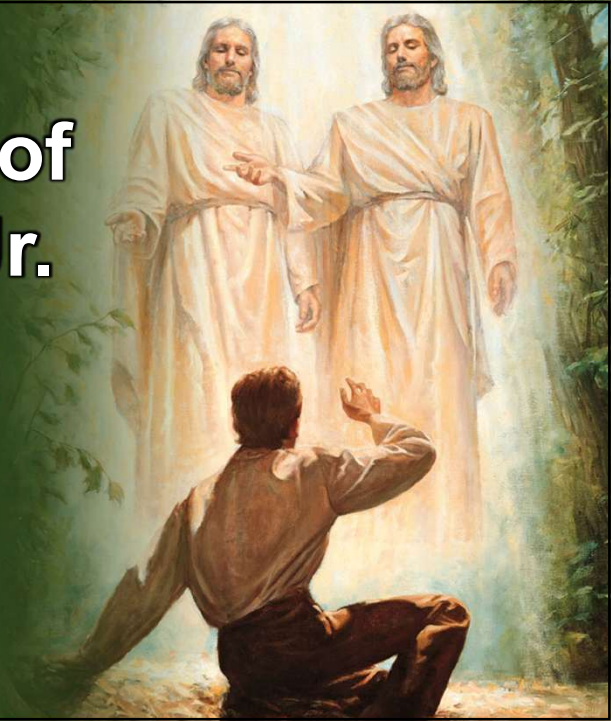
[Bruce McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, q.v.
"Priesthood" p. 594]



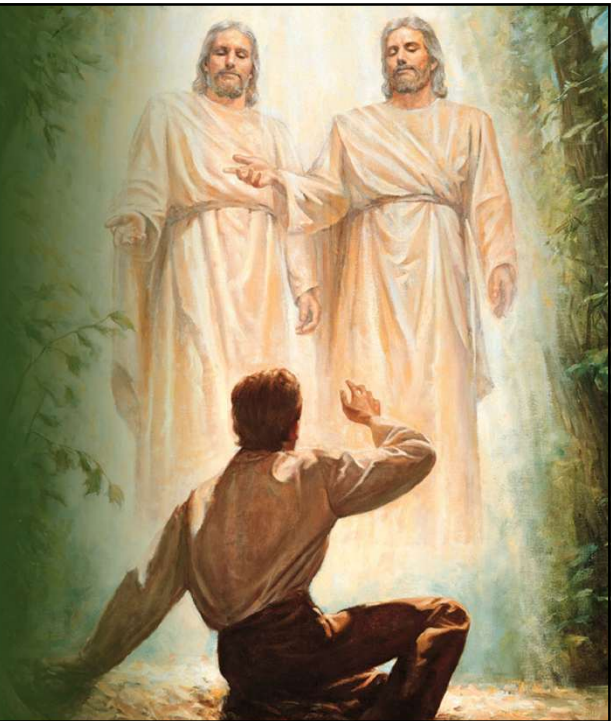




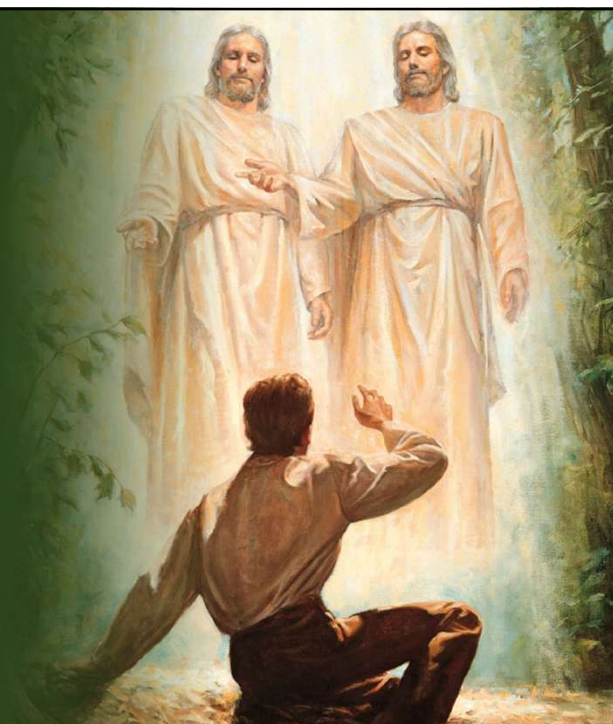
The First Vision of Joseph Smith, Jr. Spring of 1820



*When Smith was 14
years old, he
purportedly observed
many religious revivals
going on.*



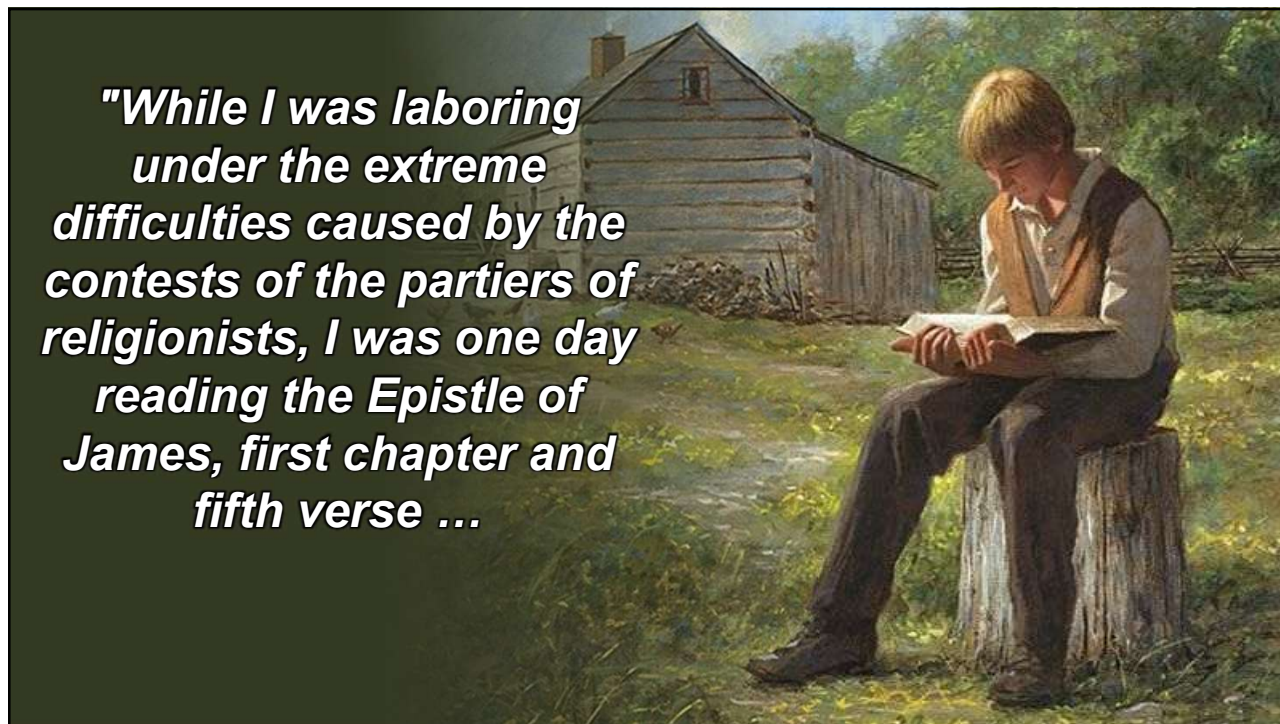
Because of their theological differences from each other, Smith was confused about the various denominations.



"In the midst of this war of words and tumult of opinions, I often said to myself, What is to be done? Who of all these parties are right; or, are they all wrong together? If one of them be right, which is it, and how shall I know it?"



"While I was laboring under the extreme difficulties caused by the contests of the partiers of religionists, I was one day reading the Epistle of James, first chapter and fifth verse ...



✎ James 1:5 ✎

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

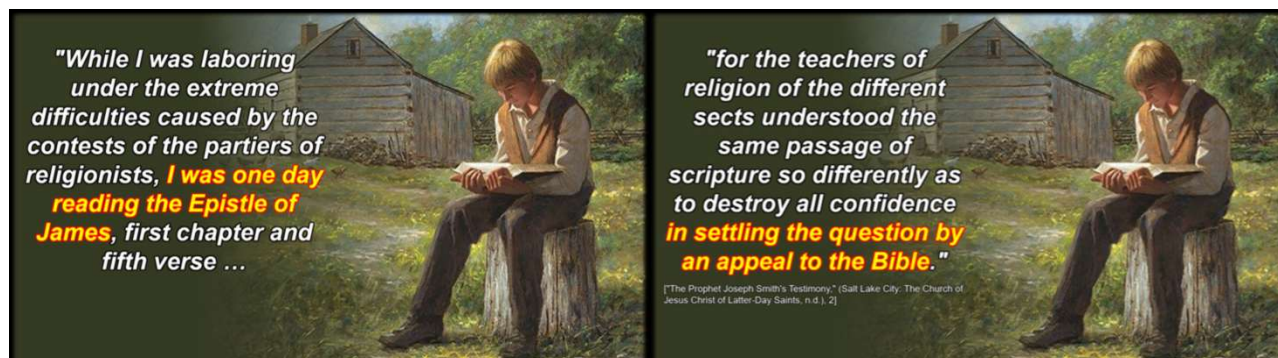


"I reflected on it again and again, knowing that if any person needed wisdom from God, I did; for how to act I did not know, and unless I could get more wisdom that I then had, I would never know ..."



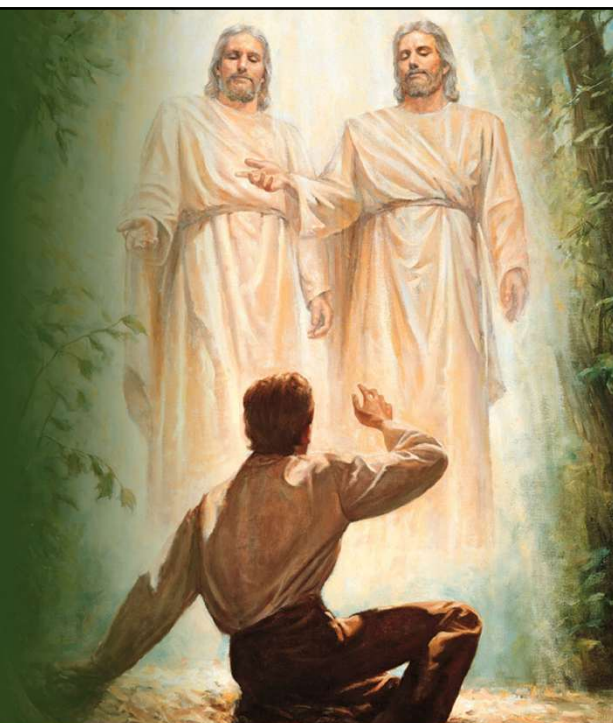
In accordance (supposedly) with James 1:5 Smith prayed about which church to join.



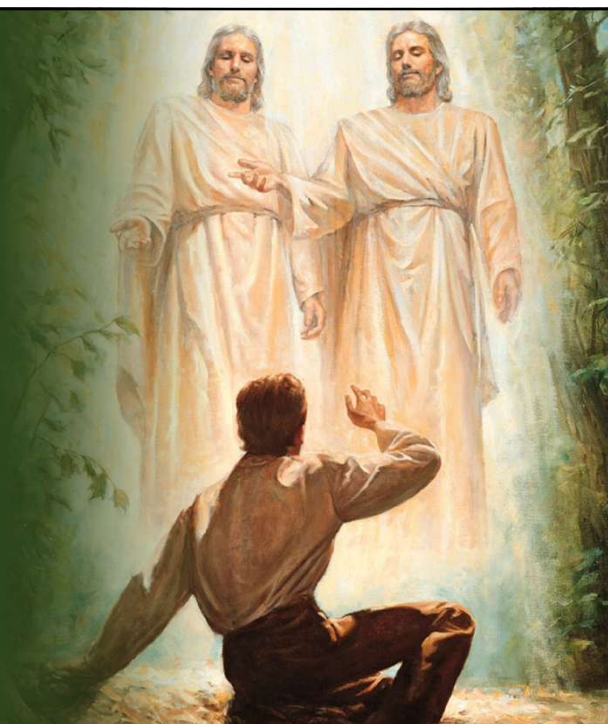


Can you already see a problem with Joseph Smith's thinking here?

On the occasion of his prayer, Smith had a vision of two personages which Smith claimed were the Father and the Son.



*One of the personages
said "This is my
beloved Son, hear
ye him."*

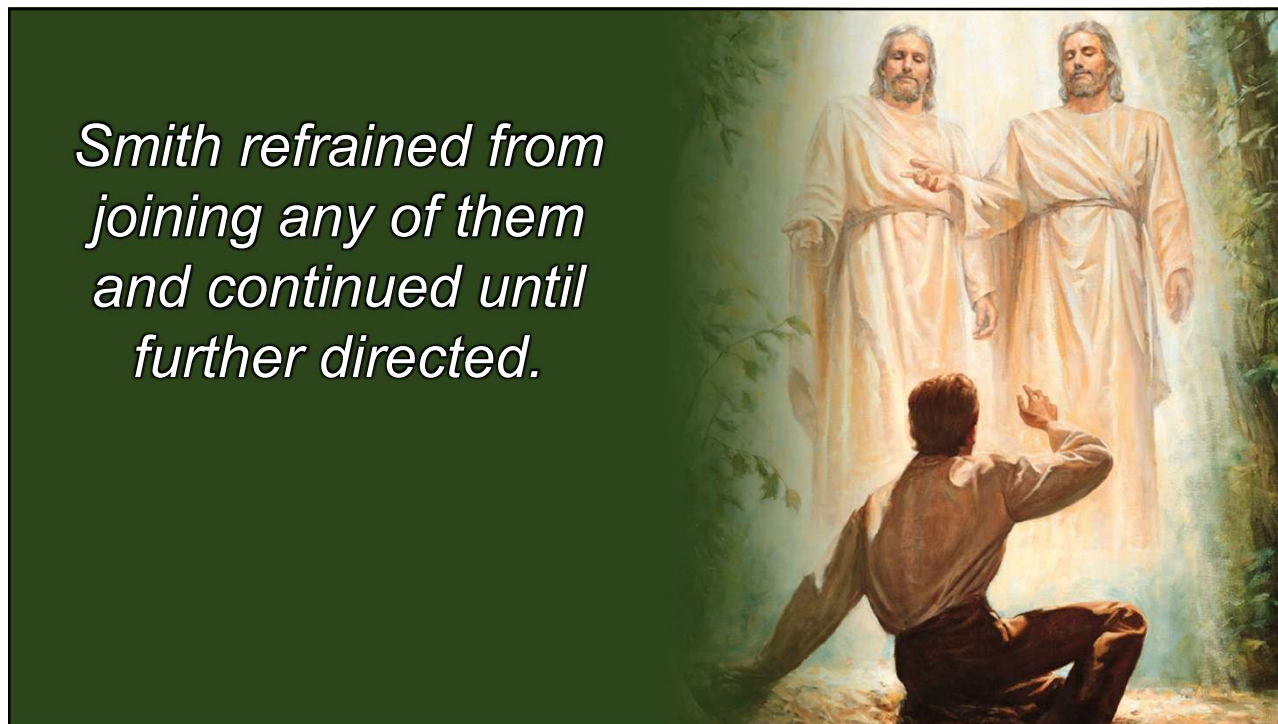


*Smith inquired as to
which religion he
should join.*

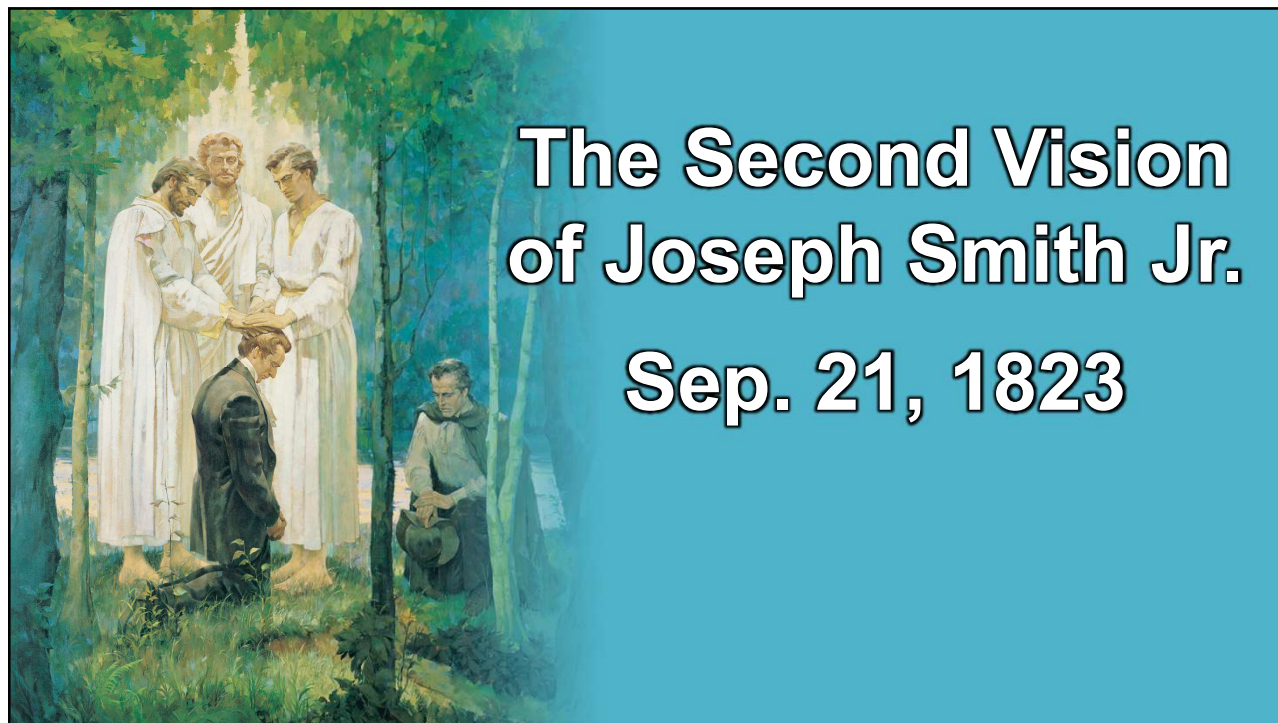
*The personage said,
"Don't join any of these
religions. They are all
wrong and corrupt."*



Smith refrained from joining any of them and continued until further directed.



**The Second Vision
of Joseph Smith Jr.
Sep. 21, 1823**

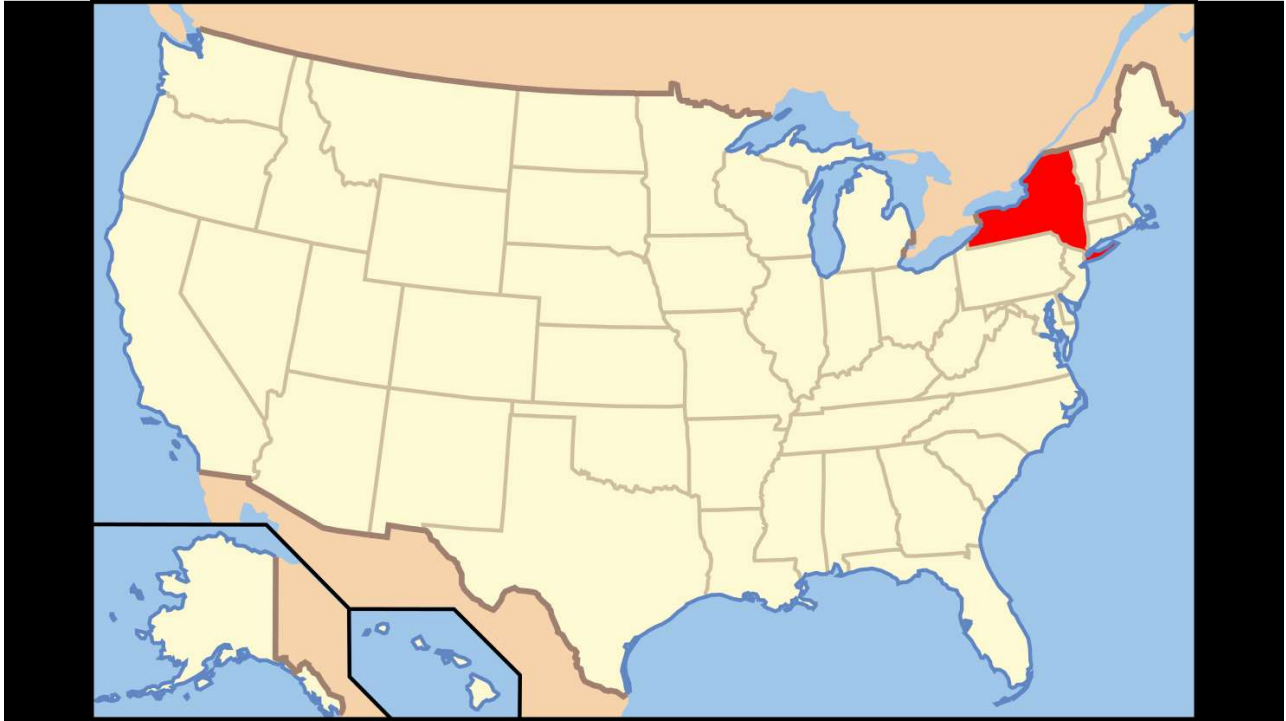




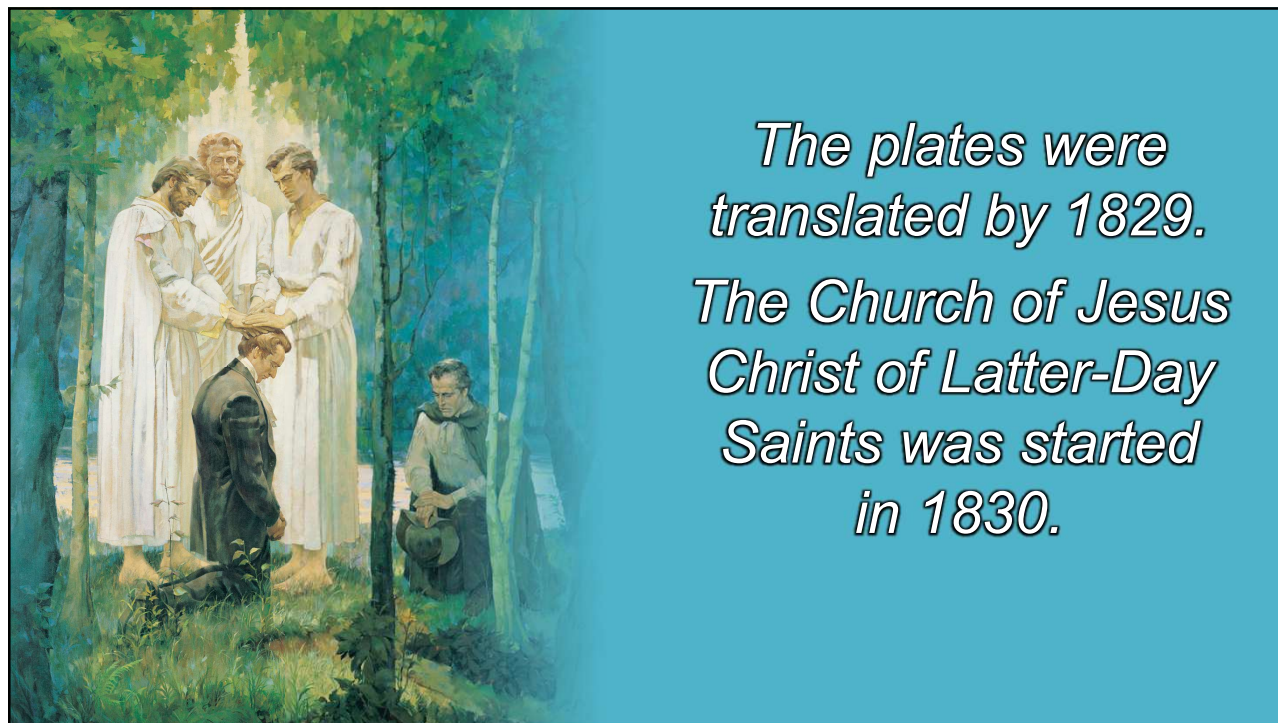
Moroni (the last prophet of the Book of Mormon) appeared from the dead and told of a book written upon golden plates.



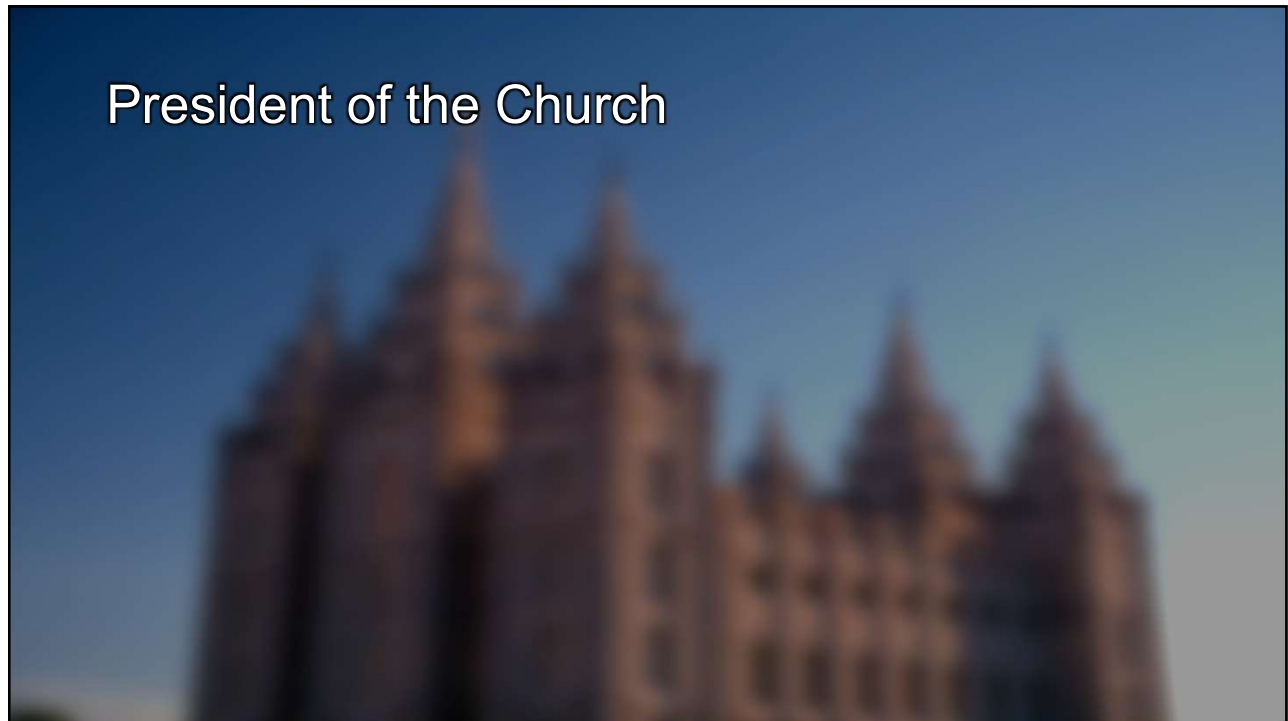
Smith received the plates in 1827 which were buried in a hill called Cumorah in New York State.



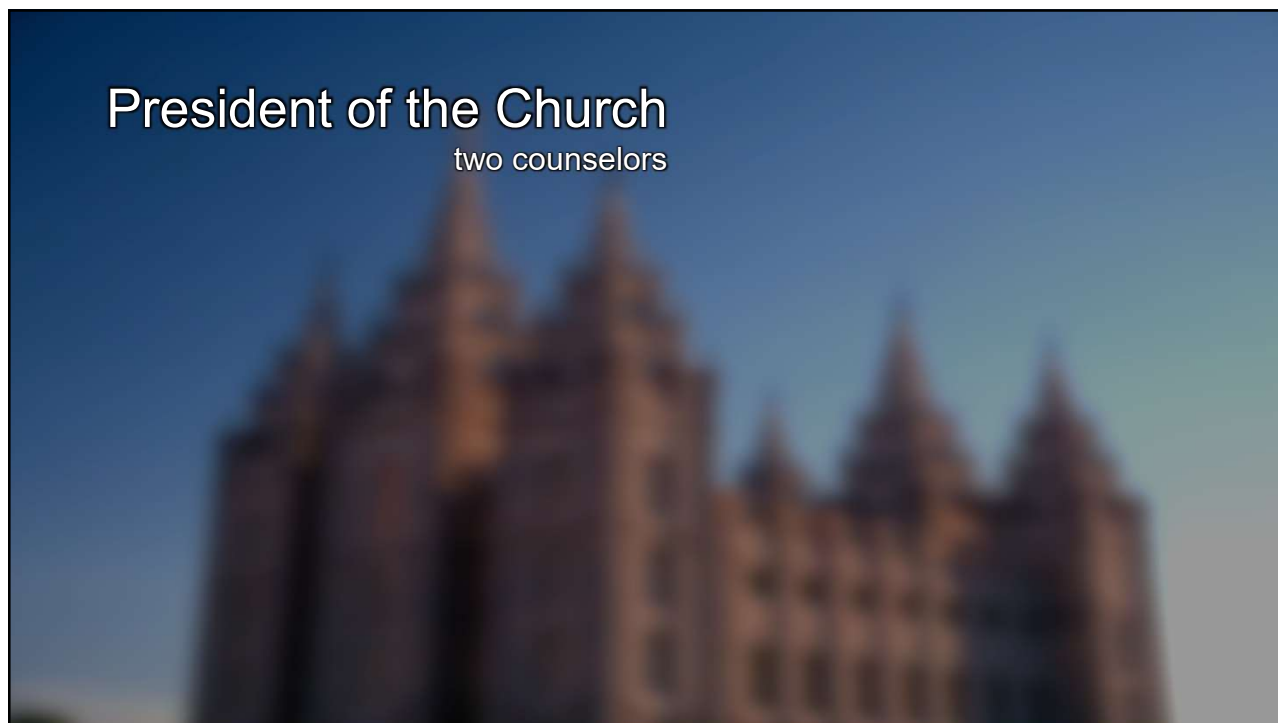
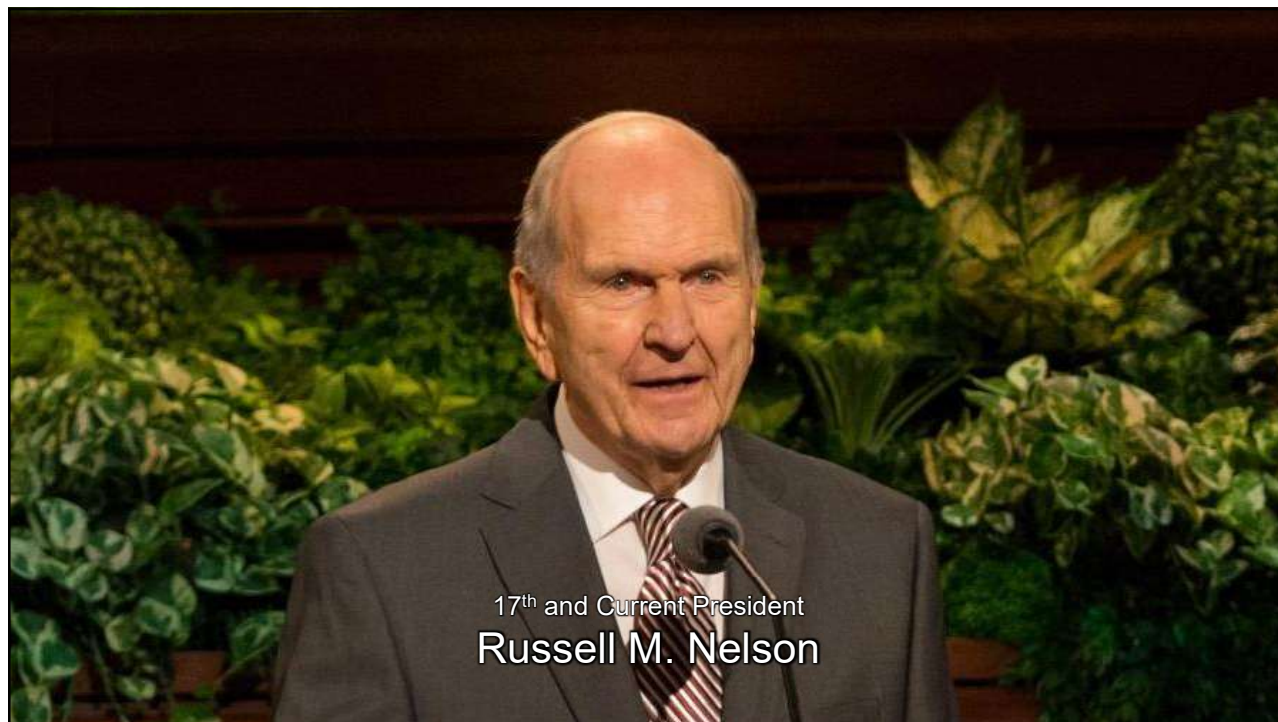


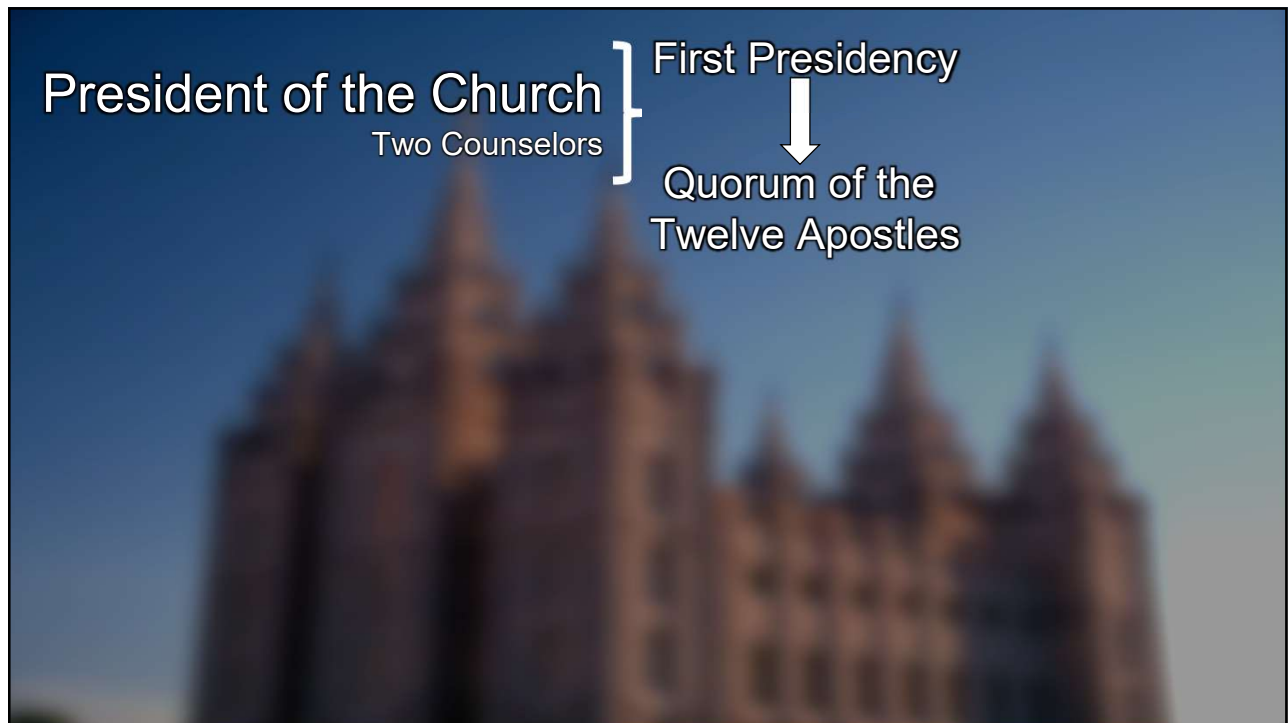


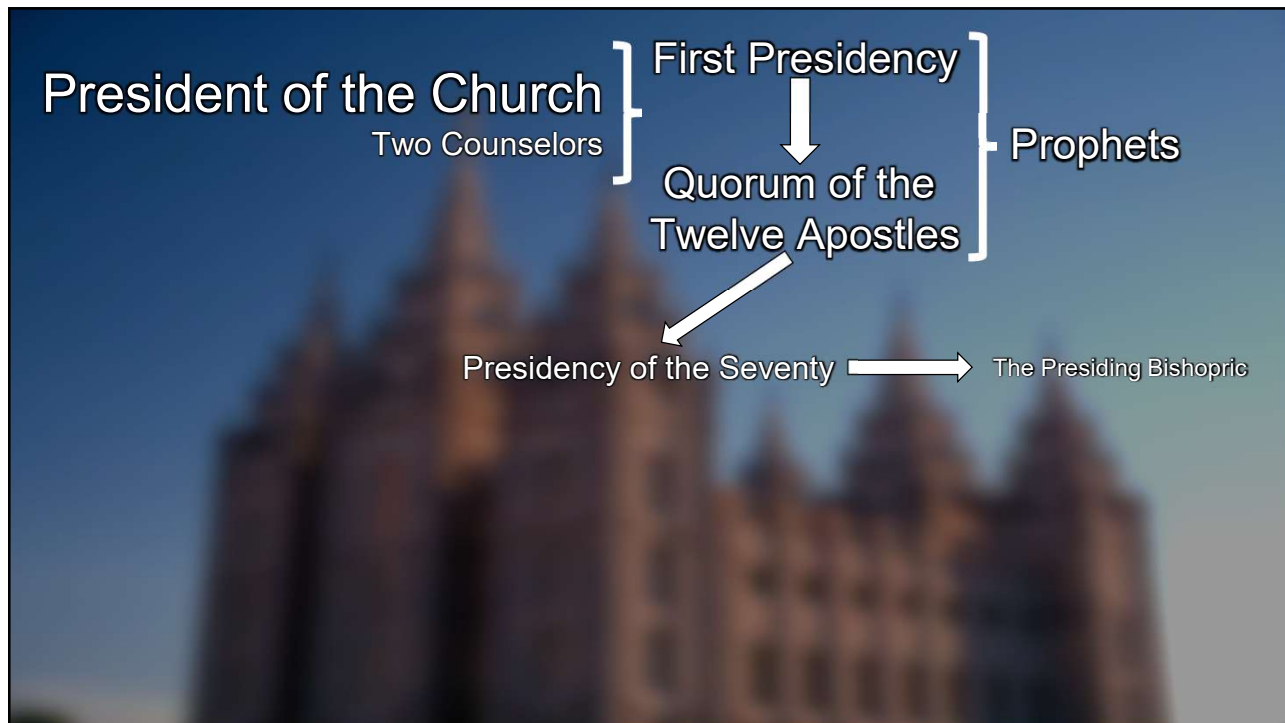
The plates were translated by 1829. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was started in 1830.

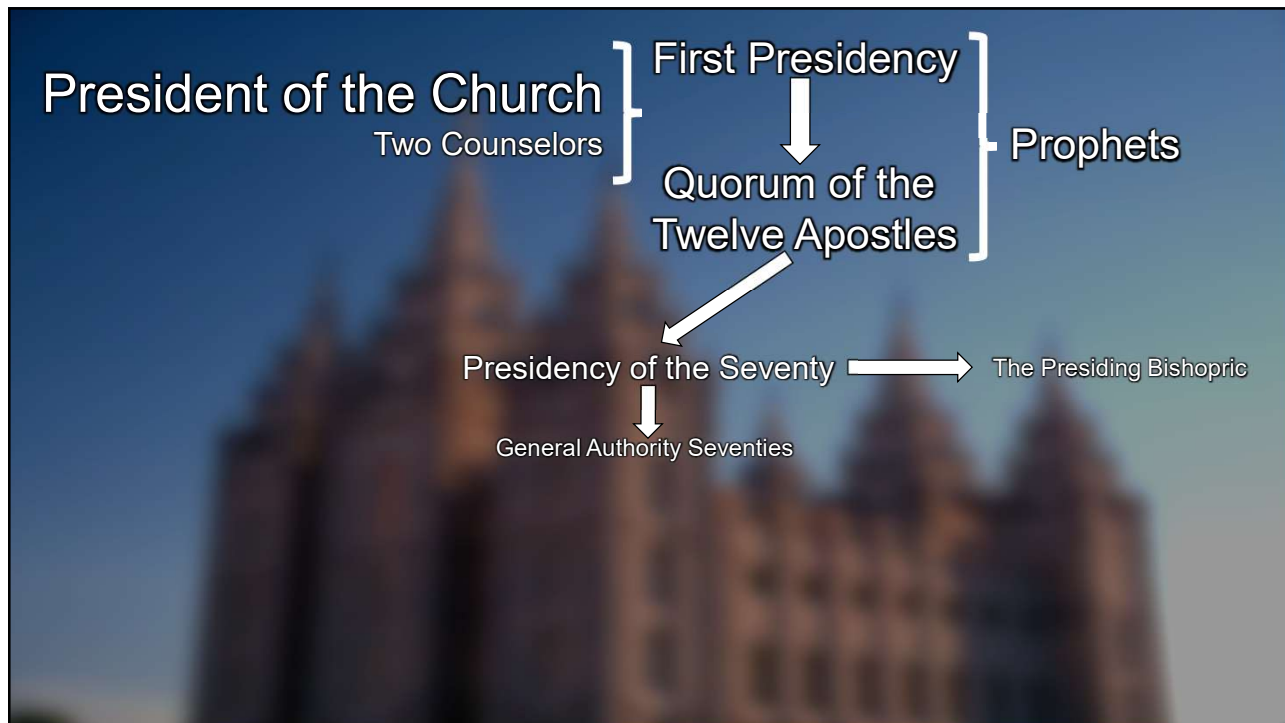


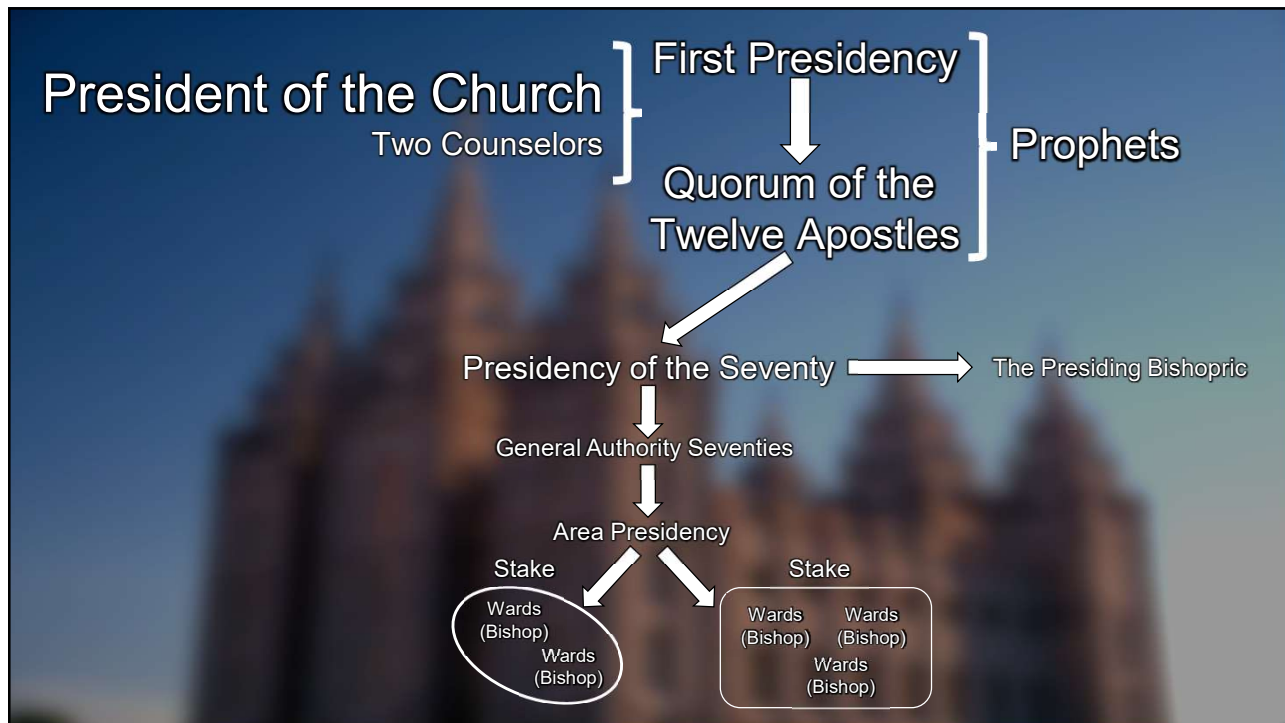


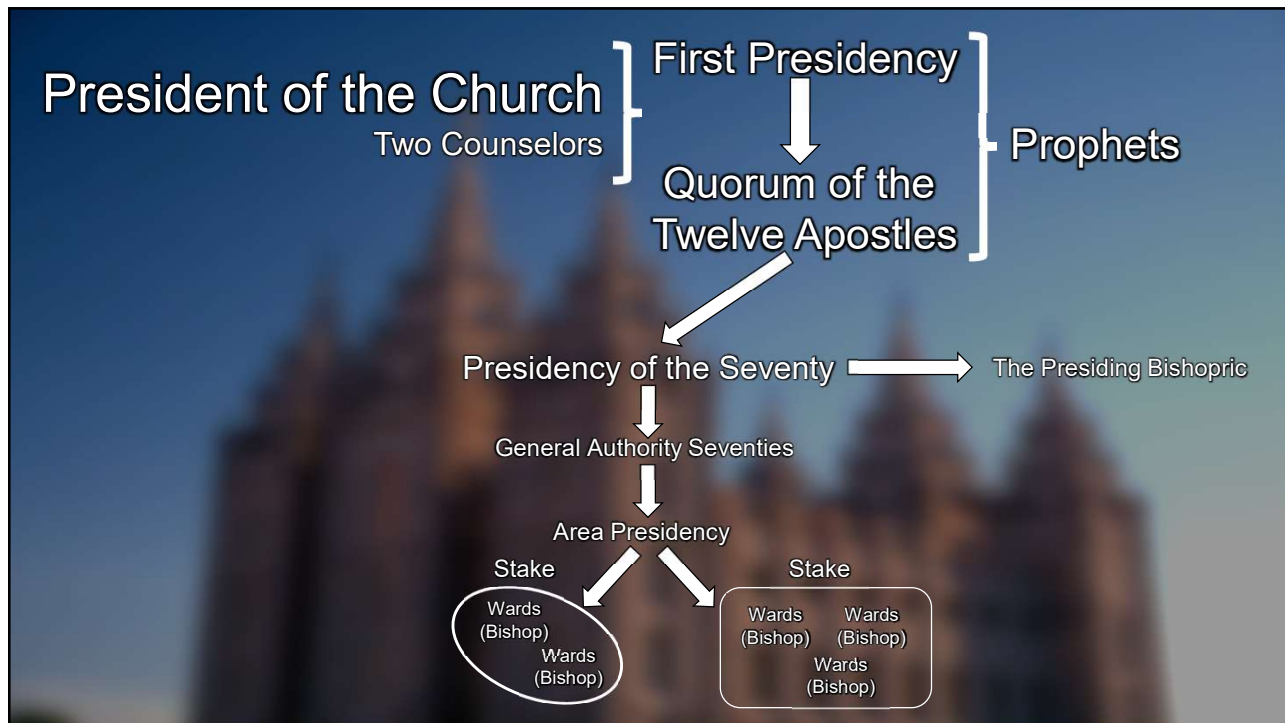
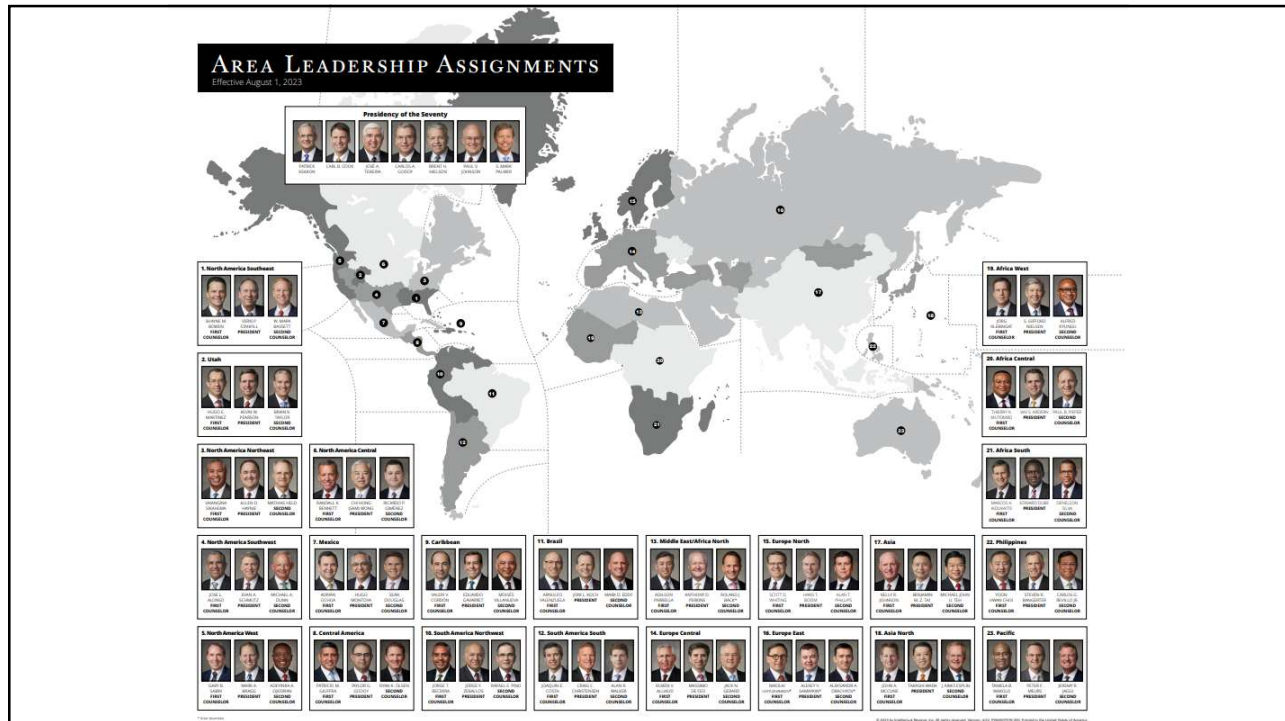


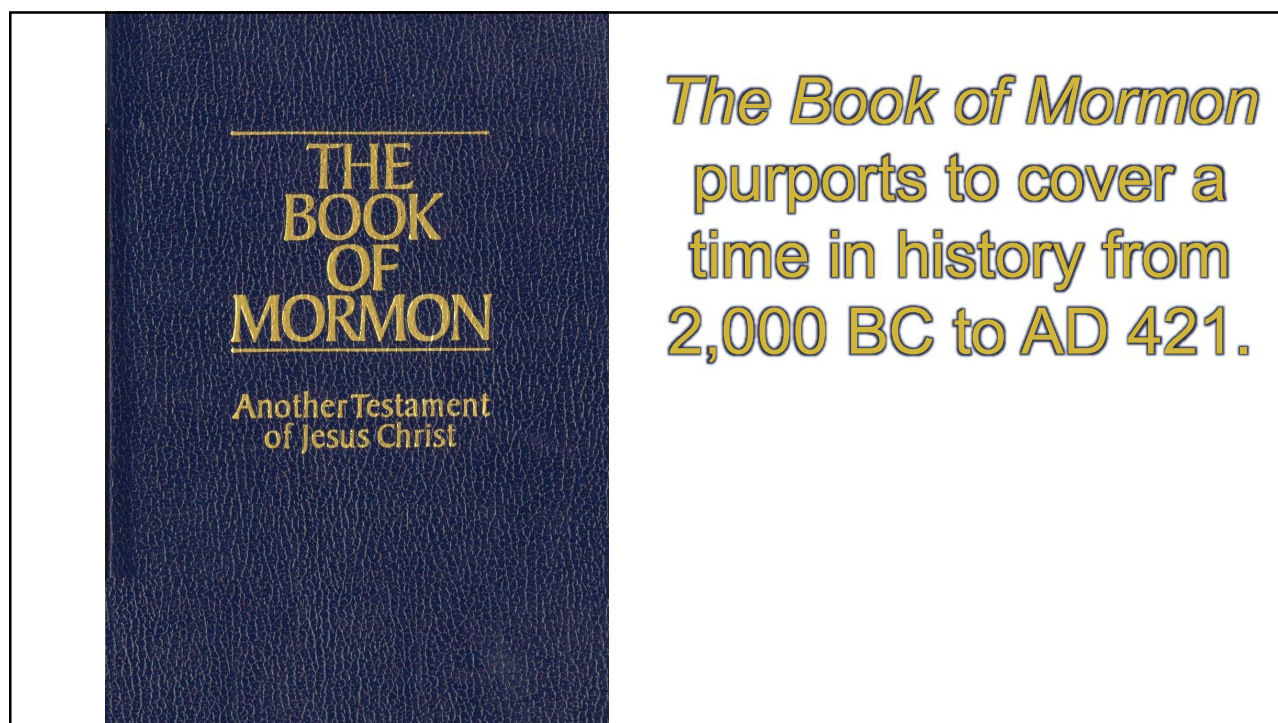
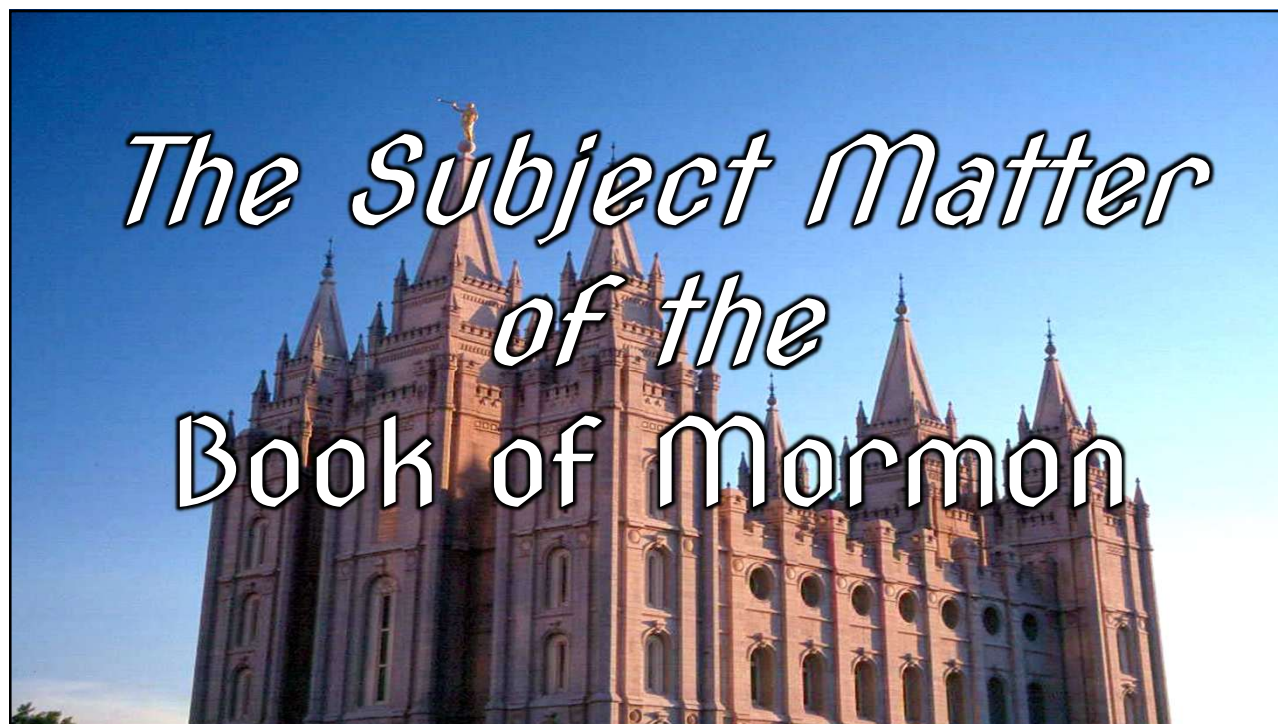


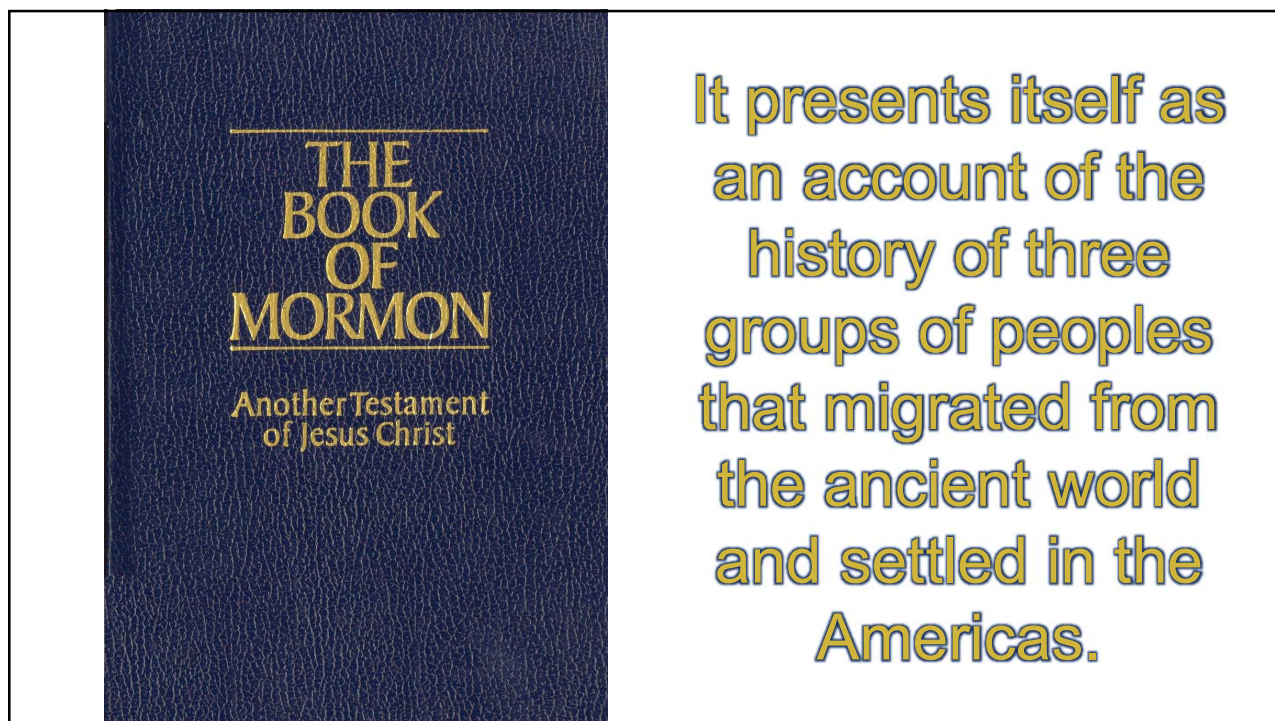




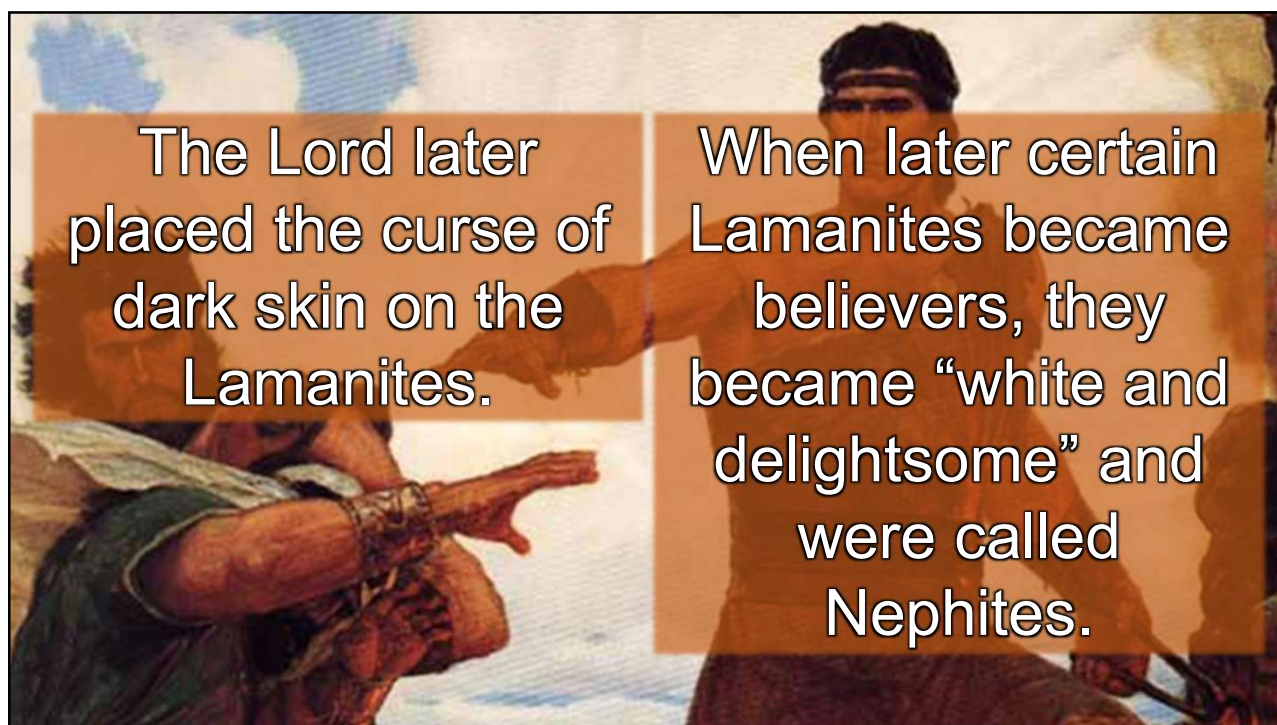
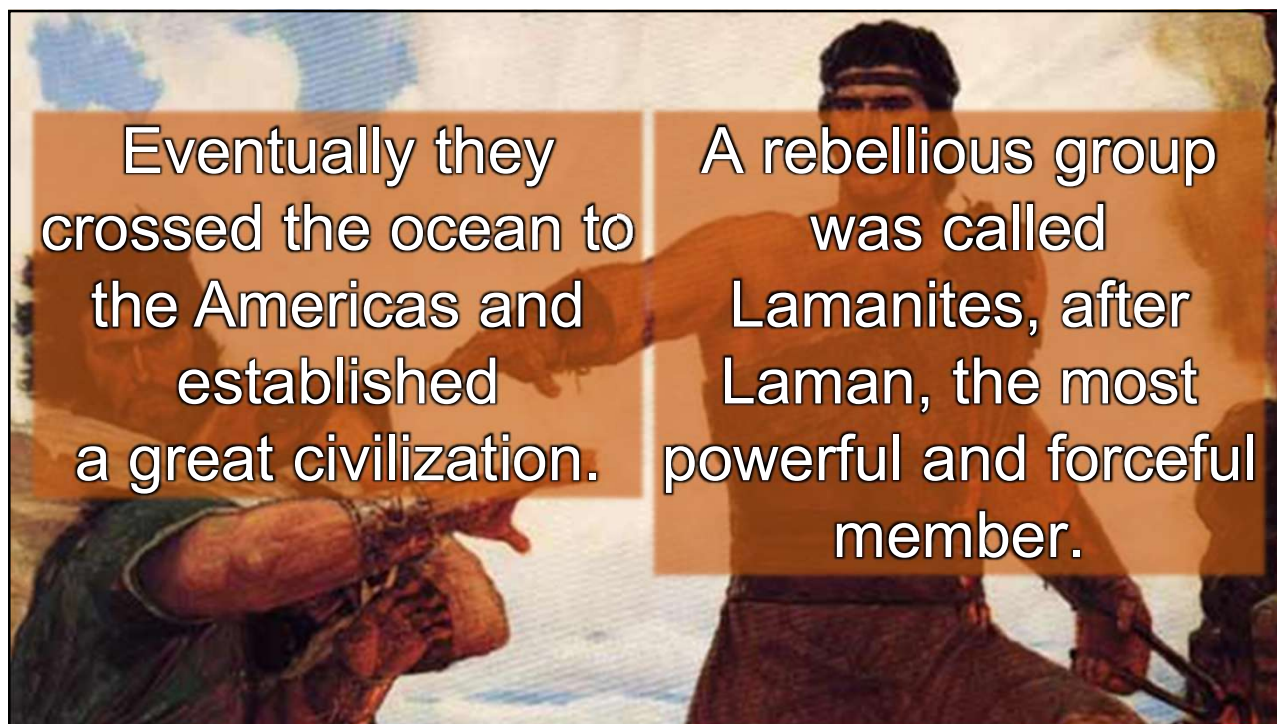














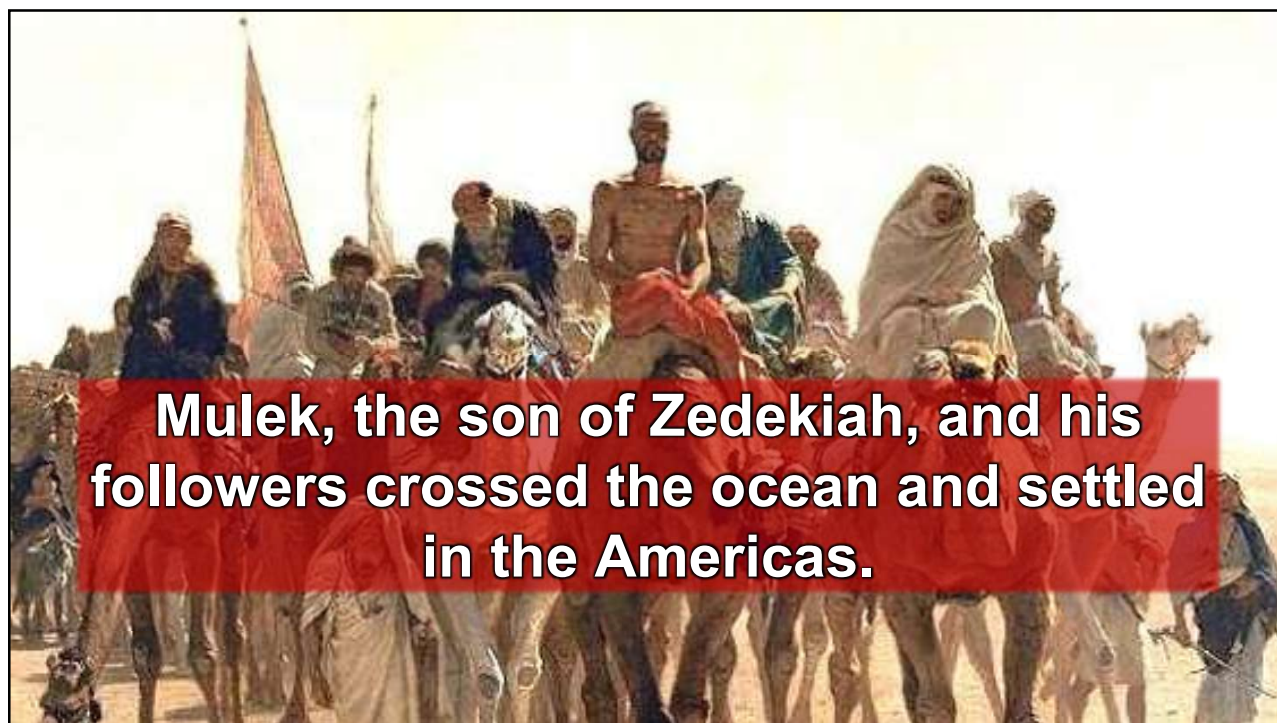
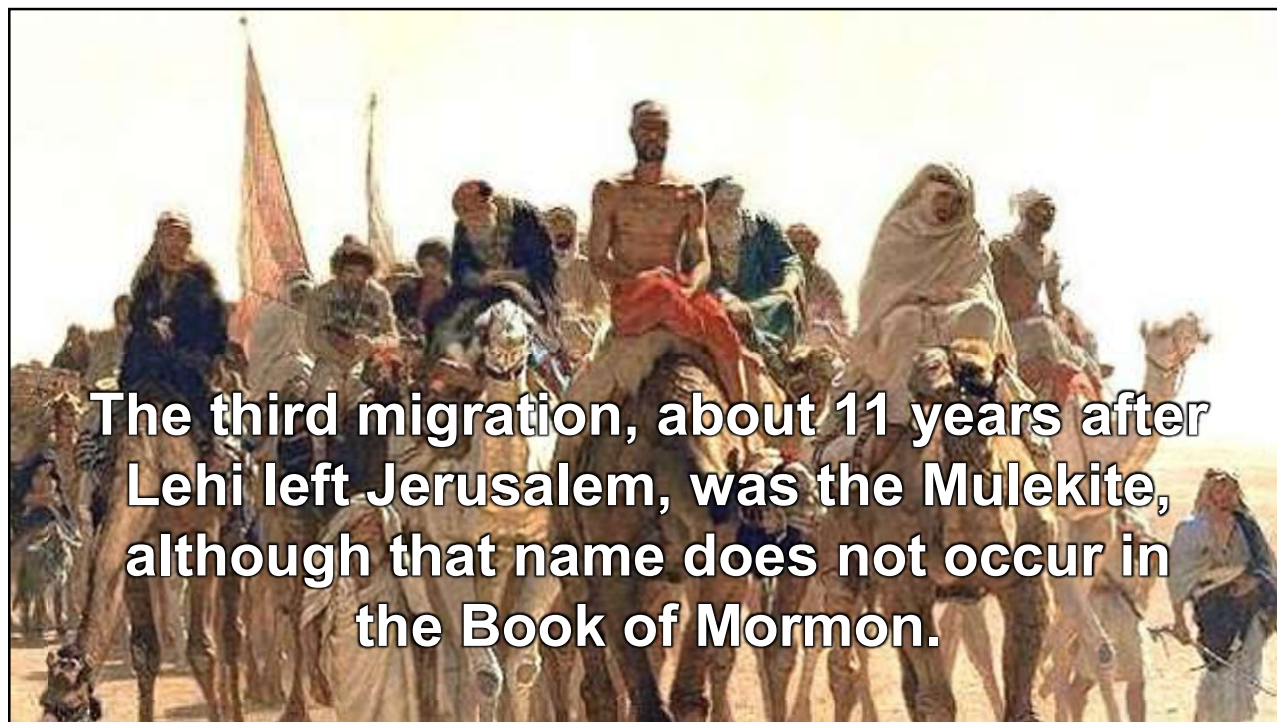
Throughout their history, there were times when the Lamanites were more faithful than the Nephites.

As a result of their corruption, the Nephites were eventually destroyed by war.



Some Nephites survived and mixed with the Lamanites (and, later, another group called the Mulekites).

The remnant has become what we now know as the American Indians.





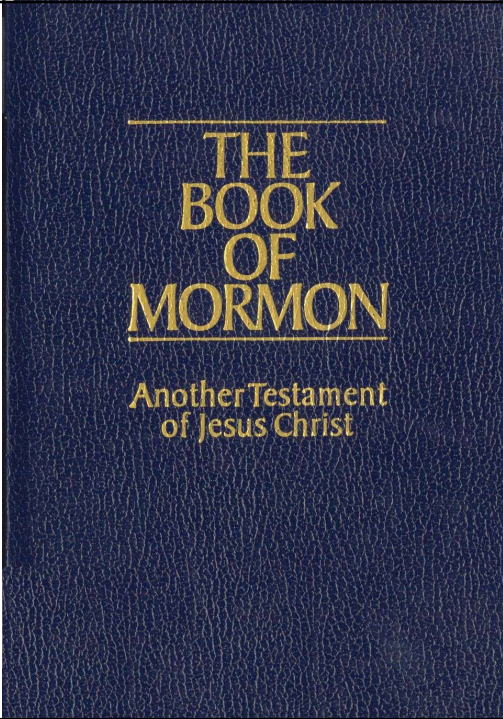
The people of Mulek eventually merged with the Nephites/Lamanite and are what we now know as the American Indians.

<p>THE BOOK OF MORMON</p> <p>Another Testament of Jesus Christ</p>	<p>While Mormons claim that <i>The Book of Mormon</i> contains the fullness of the everlasting gospel, virtually none of the distinctive doctrines of Mormonism (i.e., doctrines that distinguish Mormonism from Christianity) are found in the book.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Most of the distinctive doctrines of Mormonism come from Joseph Smith's other writings—the *Doctrine and Covenants* and the *Pearl of Great Price*.

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS
PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

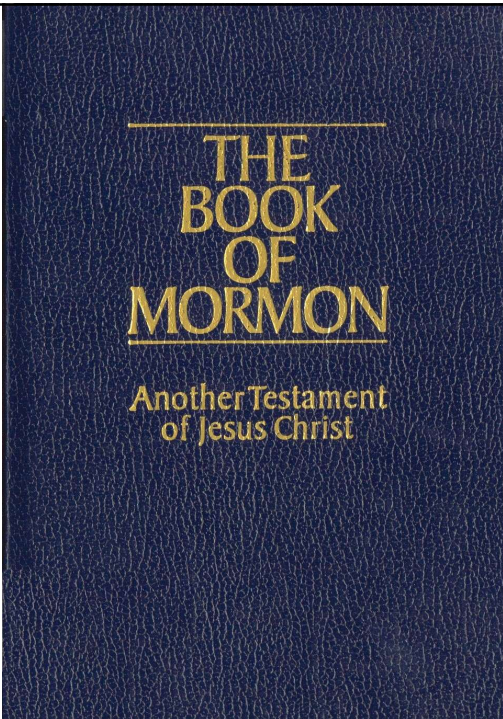
How the Book of Mormon Got to Us Today

The image shows the front cover of the Book of Mormon. The cover is dark blue with a pebbled texture. The title 'THE BOOK OF MORMON' is printed in gold, serif, all-caps font, centered and flanked by thin horizontal lines. Below the title, the subtitle 'Another Testament of Jesus Christ' is printed in a smaller, gold, sans-serif font.

**THE
BOOK
OF
MORMON**

Another Testament
of Jesus Christ

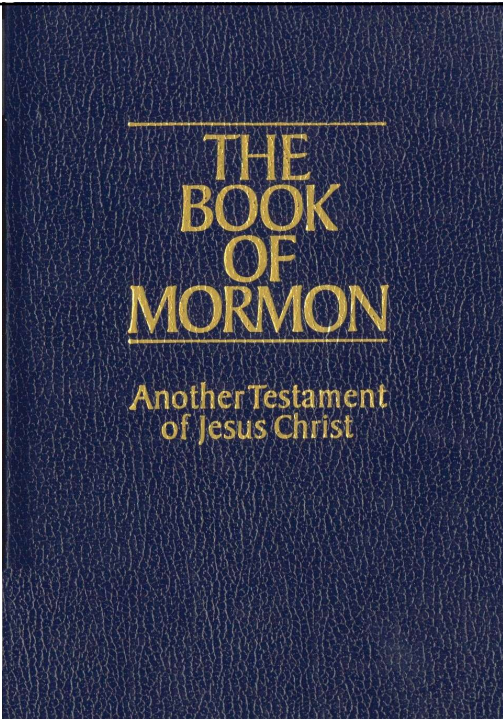
The history of the events of the Book of Mormon was written by many ancient prophets.

The image shows the front cover of the Book of Mormon, identical to the one above. It features the title 'THE BOOK OF MORMON' in gold, serif, all-caps font, centered and flanked by thin horizontal lines. Below the title, the subtitle 'Another Testament of Jesus Christ' is printed in a smaller, gold, sans-serif font.

**THE
BOOK
OF
MORMON**

Another Testament
of Jesus Christ

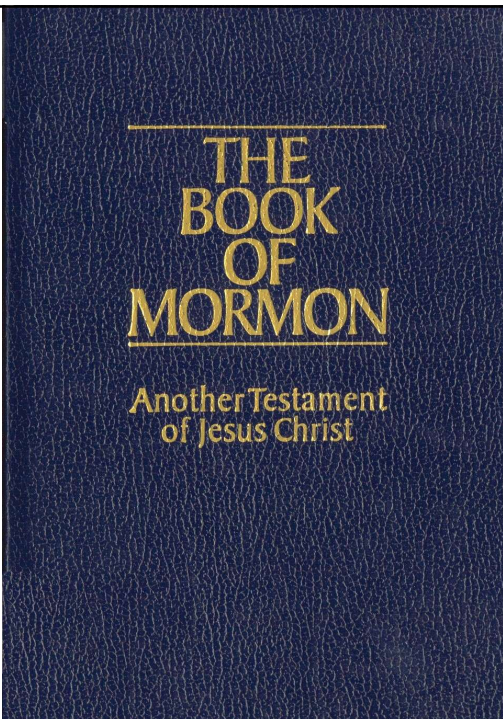
They kept their records on metal plates and handed them down from one generation to the next.

The image shows the front cover of the Book of Mormon. The cover is dark blue with a pebbled texture. The title "THE BOOK OF MORMON" is printed in gold, serif, all-caps font, centered and flanked by thin horizontal lines above and below. Below the title, the subtitle "Another Testament of Jesus Christ" is printed in a smaller, gold, sans-serif font.

**THE
BOOK
OF
MORMON**

Another Testament
of Jesus Christ

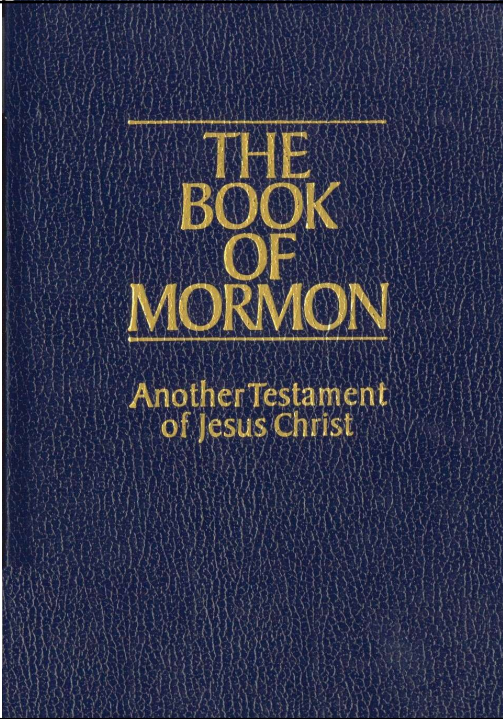
During the latter part of the 4th century AD, one of the prophets, named Mormon, abridged the major portion of the plates.

The image shows the front cover of the Book of Mormon, identical to the one above. The cover is dark blue with a pebbled texture. The title "THE BOOK OF MORMON" is printed in gold, serif, all-caps font, centered and flanked by thin horizontal lines above and below. Below the title, the subtitle "Another Testament of Jesus Christ" is printed in a smaller, gold, sans-serif font.

**THE
BOOK
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MORMON**

Another Testament
of Jesus Christ

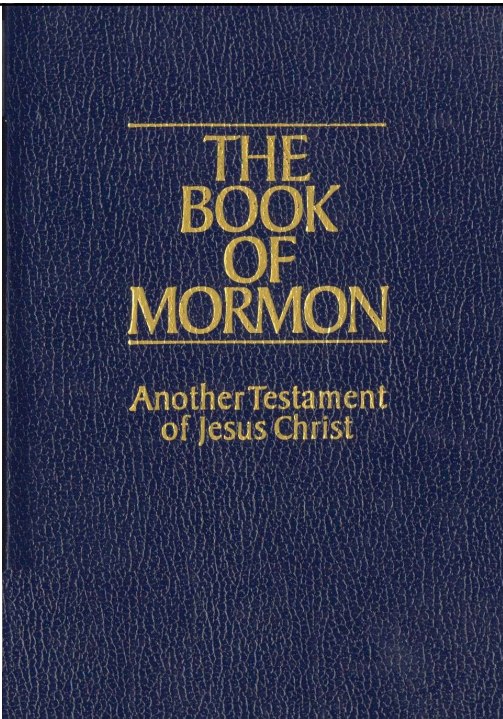
Mormon's son, Moroni, added his own words and abridged other portions of the ancient records.

The image shows the front cover of the Book of Mormon. The cover is dark blue with a textured, leather-like appearance. The title "THE BOOK OF MORMON" is printed in gold, serif, all-caps font, centered on the cover. Below the title, the subtitle "Another Testament of Jesus Christ" is printed in a smaller, gold, serif font. The cover is framed by a thin black border.

**THE
BOOK
OF
MORMON**

Another Testament
of Jesus Christ

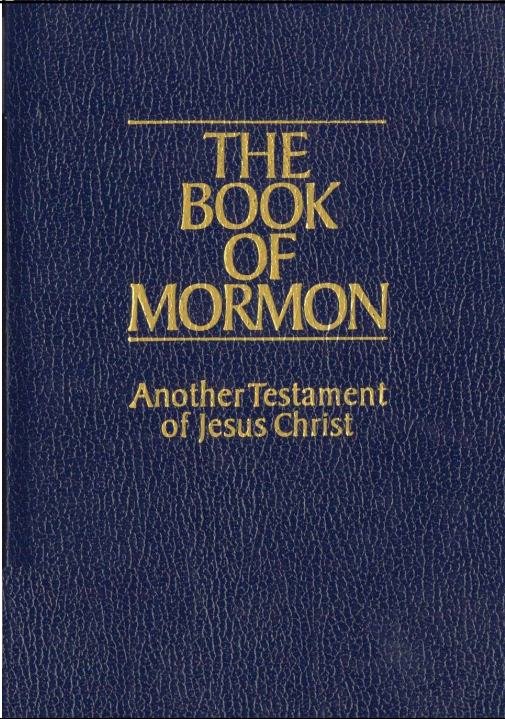
Mormon's son,
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ancient records.

The image shows the front cover of the Book of Mormon, identical to the one above. It features the same dark blue textured cover with the gold title "THE BOOK OF MORMON" and subtitle "Another Testament of Jesus Christ".

**THE
BOOK
OF
MORMON**

Another Testament
of Jesus Christ

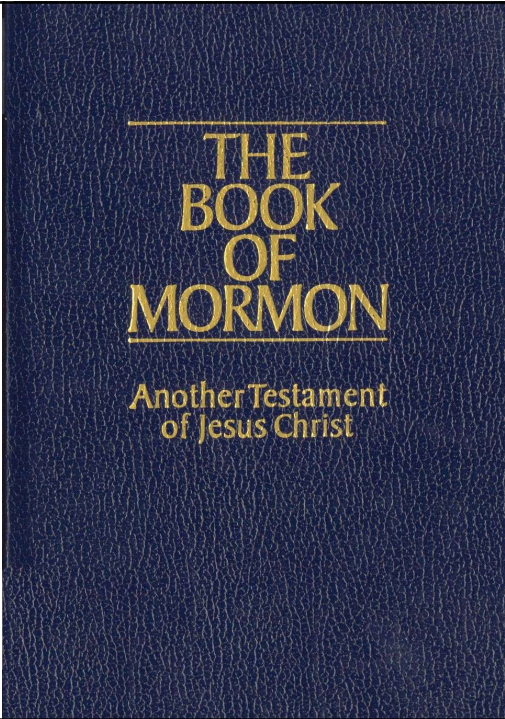
Mormon was one of
the last prophets to
write on the Book of
Mormon plates.

The image shows the front cover of a blue, textured book. The title 'THE BOOK OF MORMON' is printed in gold, serif, all-caps font, centered on the cover. Below the title, the subtitle 'Another Testament of Jesus Christ' is printed in a smaller, gold, sans-serif font. The cover has a vertical white strip on the left side.

THE
BOOK
OF
MORMON

Another Testament
of Jesus Christ

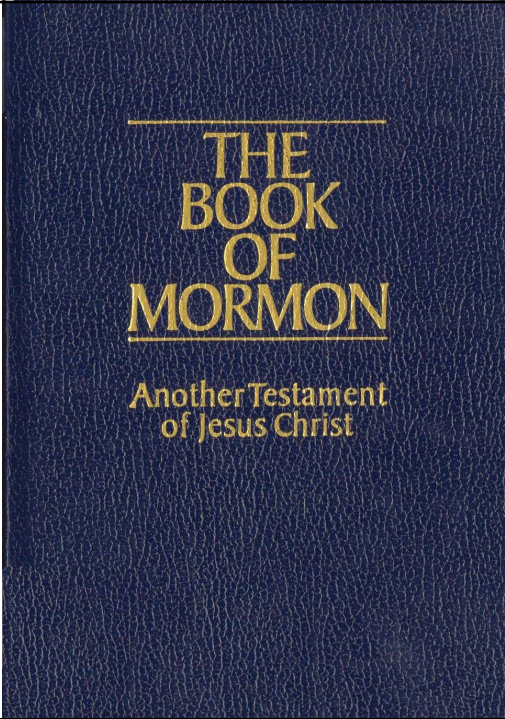
The Book of Mormon was named for him because of the major roles he played as writer and as abridger of the plates.

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THE
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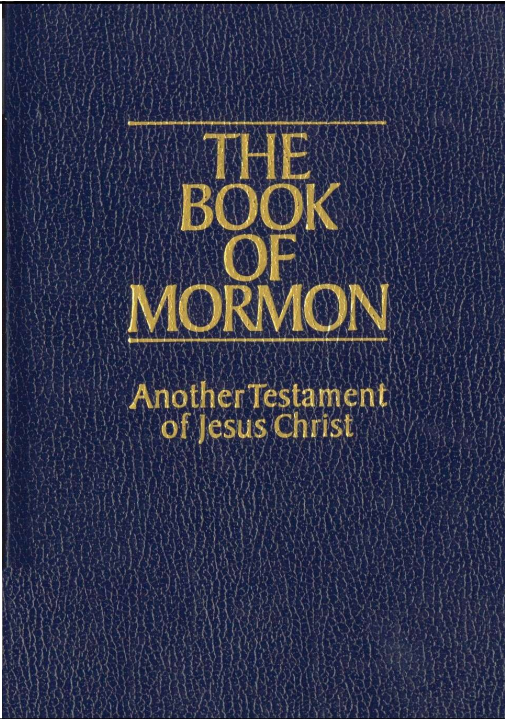
Moroni (d. 421) buried the plates in the hill Cumorah in what is now up-state New York.

The image shows the front cover of the Book of Mormon. The cover is dark blue with a pebbled texture. The title "THE BOOK OF MORMON" is printed in gold, serif, all-caps font, centered and flanked by horizontal lines above and below. Below the title, the subtitle "Another Testament of Jesus Christ" is printed in a smaller, gold, sans-serif font.

THE
BOOK
OF
MORMON

Another Testament
of Jesus Christ

In 1827, Moroni, as a resurrected being, appeared to Joseph Smith, Jr. and eventually led Smith to where the plates were buried.

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THE
BOOK
OF
MORMON

Another Testament
of Jesus Christ

Joseph Smith Jr. translated the plates from "reformed Egyptian" into English.