

ARE MORMON SCRIPTURES OK?

Have you ever wondered where the expression “OK” came from? In 1840 a man named Martin Van Buren ran for President of the USA. Van Buren was born in the town of “Kinderhook,” in New York State, his supporters had a nick-name for Van Buren and even formed a club which was called by that same nick-name.

That nick-name was “**Old Kinderhook.**” His supporters would indicate their allegiance to him with statements such as “Van Buren for President, OK!” (OK being short for “Old Kinderhook”). The “OK” has stuck and became part of everyday language worldwide.

In another town by the same name, Kinderhook, Illinois, an event took place which was reported in a local Newspaper called “The Quincy Whig.” The news item then reprinted on May 1, 1843 in the **Mormon owned newspaper**, “Times and Seasons.”

The report told of a young man named Robert Wiley who dreamed there was a hidden treasure buried in a mound near the town. Having had this dream on three successive nights he decided to dig at that place, just to set his mind at rest; about ten or twelve of the townsmen went with him to help. (*Times and Seasons*, vol. 4, pp. 186-187)

After digging for a while they discovered six brass, bell shaped plated upon which strange characters were engraved. Two of the men present were Mormon elders, one of these men, named Sharp, leaped for joy at the find and

exclaimed that “it would go to prove the authenticity of the Book of Mormon.”

Since no one present could read the strange hieroglyphics the Mormons suggested that plates be sent to the town of Nauvoo where their prophet, Joseph Smith, would be able to translate them, this was done. Joseph Smith had facsimiles made, the plates were then returned to Robert Wiley in Kinderhook.

Exactly one year later Joseph Smith recorded:

“Monday May 1. I insert facsimiles of the six brass plates found near Kinderhook... **I have translated a portion of them**, and find they contain the history of the person with whom they were found. He was a descendent of Ham, through the loins of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and that he received his kingdom from the Ruler of heaven and earth.” (History of the Church, vol. 5, p. 372)

Within two months Joseph Smith was dead; shot during a gunfight with a mob whilst being held in Carthage Jail (a gun having been smuggled in to Joseph).*

Had Joseph Smith not died, the Mormon church would, most likely, now have a book of scripture based on the Kinderhook plates.

These plates, it was later revealed, were a hoax, conceived, and executed, by three men.

Robert Wiley (who claimed to have had the dream), Wilbourn Fugate and Bridge Whitton had read a “prophecy” by a Mormon apostle, the “prophecy” claimed that “truth is yet to spring out of the earth.” They decided to make it come true - as a joke.

Whitton cut the plates into the bell shape while Fugate and Wiley engraved them by using Nitric acid and beeswax, the characters they engraved were copied from the lid of a Chinese tea chest.

The plates were fixed together with an iron ring then embedded in a mixture of pieces of iron, lead, and Nitric acid, they were then buried at the spot Wiley was going to dream about.

When the plates were “discovered” the nitric acid mixture had done its work; the plates were encrusted in a ball of rust and the iron ring easily disintegrated, thereby giving the impression of great age.

The two Mormon elders present, Sharp and Marsh, suggested their Prophet as the translator; the rest we know, Joseph Smith “translated” a portion of the plates before his death.

Only one plate survives to this day, the other five being lost during the American Civil War.

Joseph Smith proclaimed these plates to be authentic. He was wrong!

We also know that the source material for the Book of Abraham is not what Joseph Smith claimed.

A portion of the Egyptian papyri from which Joseph “translated” the Pearl of Great Price, were re-discovered in 1967 in a New York museum. They are now known to be nothing more than from the Egyptian “**Book of Breathings**”, a sort of “passport” for the dead to use in the afterlife.

If Smith could get the above two wrong we must ask, “what about the source of the other Mormon scriptures and revelations?”

How can a Mormon, who has accepted every word spoken by Joseph Smith as truth, know for certain that they are not part of the “many” Jesus’ spoken of in Matthew 24:11? They cannot!

Ask yourself: If Joseph Smith had been a **true** prophet of God, how could he have made these mistakes?

For a long time Mormon leaders tried to defend their prophet and refused to believe the story that the plates were a fraud; however in 1965 George M. Lawrence, a **Mormon** physicist, was allowed to conduct some non-destructive tests on the remaining plate, in his report he said the following:

“The dimensions, tolerances, composition and workmanship are consistent with the facilities of an 1843 blacksmith shop and with the fraud stories of the original participants.”

(“Report of a Physical Study of the Kinderhook Plate Number 5.” by George M. Lawrence)

Mr. Lawrence submitted his study to Brigham Young University Archaeological Society - they did not print it. Need I mention that BYU is a Mormon University? Since Mr. Lawrence’s test, other qualified Mormon scholars have run tests on the plate and agree with Mr. Lawrence.

A Prophet who makes a false translation of a false artifact is clearly a false Prophet.

In view of the biblical teaching that the office of Prophet is a thing of the past, Hebrews 1:1) the last man to hold that office being John the Baptist, Matthew 11:13; Luke 16:16) it should be obvious that anyone who claims to hold the office of Prophet, **must** be a false Prophet.

The Lord Jesus said:

“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”
(Matthew 24:11)

*the Mormon people are told that Joseph smith went “like a lamb to the slaughter.” This image of him helps to bolster, in the minds of his followers, the impression that he, like Christ, voluntarily gave his life for his Church.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Joseph Smith was being held in jail charged with treason, with him were his brother Hyrum, Fredrick D Williams and John Taylor (who became the third Mormon Prophet).

Hyrum had a single shot pistol and Joseph had a “six-shooter” which Elder Cyrus H. Wheelock had smuggled into the jail. When the mob were coming up the stairs to the room in which the prisoners were held, Joseph opened the door a little and fired his weapon repeatedly into them killing a least two and wounding one other.

When I visited Slat Lake City, Utah in the year 1999, I saw both these guns displayed in the Joseph Smith Museum on Temple Square.

The account of the events as I have given them was recorded by John Taylor, who became the third Mormon Prophet, and remember, he was there when the events happened.

(see History of the church vol. 7, p. 100,102-103)