

Building Bridges Series III

Tentative Schedule

1. 10/17 God
2. 10/24 Jesus
3. 10/31 The Church of Jesus Christ
4. 11/7 **Video: Bible vs. the Book of Mormon**
5. 11/14 Reliability of Scripture
6. 11/28 Salvation, Grace & Atonement
7. 12/5 Heaven
8. 12/12 The Priesthoods & “Authority”
9. 12/19 Prophet, Bishop & Pastor
10. 1/2 Faith vs. Works
11. 1/9 Video: Lost Book of Abraham
12. 1/16 The Temple - Purpose & Role

The Heart of the Series

1 Peter 3:15–16 - But sanctify (Gk/*hagiazō*=hallow) the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense (Gk/*apologia*) to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness (mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit), and fear; (that they might reject the message due to the messenger) **16** having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Bible vs. The Book of Mormon

Is the BOM is comparable to the Bible?

The Bible Storyline

- * Geographical description
- * David, Solomon, 1st Temple, Israel & Judah destroyed 586 BC
- * Returned, built 2nd temple
- * New Testament opens with Temple, Jerusalem, Roman Government...

The BOM Storyline

- * Jaredites migrated to the New World around the time of the Tower of Babel
- * Thousands of years later, Jaredites destroyed themselves in a huge battle at the Hill Cumorah, where around 2 million people died.
- * Jewish family migrated to Americas around 600 B.C.
- * Father Lehi, righteous son, Nephi, grew a white skinned people called Nephites
- * Rebellious sons Laman & Lemuel fathered the Lamanite nation, cursed with dark skin due to rebelliousness
- * AD 34 – Jesus Christ visited the Nephites and Lamanites living in the Americas following His death/resurrection, brought centuries of peace between the nations
- * Lamanites destroyed the Nephites down to one man, Moroni
- * 1400 years later Moroni appears as an angel to Joseph Smith telling him of a book of gold plates that was an account of the former inhabitants of this continent
- * BOM published in 1830 BC
- * Bible is a historical book of the old world, the BOM is a historical book of the Americas

Are They Historical?

BOM

- * Hill Cumorah, described to the location where the great battles were fought, owned by LDS church, Visitors Center, Statue of Moroni, Pageant, declared to be an official ancient BOM historical site
- * Because a “narrow neck of land” is described in the BOM, it is generally believed the setting for the BOM is Mesoamerica
- * Early BOM contained pictures of early Mayan ruins implying the connection

- * Artwork often used to depict these BOM scenes contain Mayan architecture and themes (As in the Hill Cumorah Pageant)

Geography

Does the Geography Match the Biblical Account?

- * Judean Wilderness, Mt. Hermon, Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Dead Sea,
- * Valley, Cities, Hills all match the Bible.

Does the Geography Match the BOM Account?

- * No Maps in the BOM because they can't match it to anywhere in the world!
- * No LDS maps match, and do not exist anywhere on earth
- * LDS Church takes no official stance on the geography of the BOM

Peoples & Empires

Bible

- * Jews still exist today in Israel and in the nations of exile
- * All the Empires in the Bible are provable – Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Hellenist (Greek), Roman, British...
- * How do you know the Romans existed – they left large roads, coins, written records
- * All the Empires in the Bible are clearly visible in the New World.

BOM

- * Jaredite civilization in the book of Ether are promised they will become the greatest civilization/nation in the world.
- * No traces anywhere in the world!
- * Footnotes in the BOM state the Jaredite nation was replaced by the Nephite nation shortly after 600 BC
- * Nephites built large machinery, lived in large cities,
- * Lamanites are said to have annihilated the Nephite nation around 400 AD
- * Lamanites are the only ones that survived, becoming the “principle ancestors of the American Indians.”
- * Canaanites may be missing from world population today, but there are many archeological and historical writings that prove their existence.
- * Philistines have been proven to exist archeologically
- * Could all three civilizations existed without leaving a trace of evidence?
- * They leave their temples, houses, tombs, destruction

Cities

Bible

- * Hazor, Megiddo, Beth Shean, Jerusalem, Shiloh, Arad, Beersheba, Jericho, they all exist!
- * How do we know the names of all these places – continual existence of people

BOM

- * Fortified Cities in BOM – Nephi, Manti, Bountiful...30 major cities in BOM
- * (Zarahemla, Major capital of Nephites from about 200 B.C. to A.D. 200)
- * None of the cities of the BOM exist in Mesoamerica or
- * Anthropology Class prove Bible correct, BOM wrong

Flora & Fauna

- * Bible – Plants, trees, crops, are all accurate; Animals still exist today, did exist
- * 1 Nephi 8:25 – Cow, ox, ass, horse, goat
- * 2 Nephi 12:7 – land full of horses
- * BOM artwork depicts horses used to pull chariots in battle
- * Mosiah 9:9 – Began to till the ground with seeds of wheat & barley
- * Ether 9:19 - Elephants
- * Horses not existing in American Indian history until 1677
- * Riding horses into battle in the America's could not have occurred

Metallurgy & Writing

BOM

- * Nephites & Jaredites are said to have processed ores, worked with many kinds of metal.
- * 1 Nephi 18:25 – Nephi's family found all manner of ore, both of gold, and of silver, and of copper.”
- * BOM states that there was steel in the new world
- * No smelting evidence exists, no metal in the Mayan Empire
- * 1 Nephi 19 – Nephi makes plates of ore and records the history of his people
- * Helaman 3:15 – many books and many record of many kinds, kept by the Nephites
- * Nephites were record keeping civilization – yet No trace of any writings
- * 600 AD – 400 BC

Bible

- * Oldest Biblical verses ever found – 2 silver scripts Numbers 6:24-26, 7th Century BC
- * Qumran – Dead Sea Scrolls – every book in OT, except Ester, found 200-100 BC
- * Greek N.T. - around 5,500 start only decades after
- * BOM – No writing at all, scriptures or ANY records, that were supposed to have been real as of 400 AD
- * Mormon 9:32 – Language used in ancient America by the Nephites was called Reformed Egyptian
- * Reformed Egyptian – is a fictional language, never existed

Coins

- * Bible – NT – In time of Jesus - Roman coins of copper
- * Alma 11 Chapter Heading – Nephite coinage set forth
- * No coins found from ancient America times, not till the Europeans came
- * Impossible to have civilizations exist with NO evidence of coinage

Warfare

- * Bible – Describes Battles & Wars; Assyrian & Babylonian Arrowheads
- * BOM – Lamanite extermination of the Nephites took place – around 400 AD
- * No archeological evidence
- * Bible – Battle of Masada – 900 people besieged by Romans – excavated
- * No civilization
- * Ether 15 – Massive war, 2 million mighty men and wives and children
- * No swords, arrowheads, skeletal remains
- * Mormon 8:2 – Nephites hunted by the Lamanites until all destroyed, when added all up, at least 230,000 people
- * If there were battles of that size there would have to have evidence
- * In Israel when they find a Biblical archeological site, they excavate it, why not the Hill Cumorah? Would not find anything.

Temples

Bible

- * Western wall (Wailing – 2, 200 years old) Built by Herod The Great, destroyed by Titus in 70 AD
- * Pile of stones next to the Temple
- * 2 Nephi 5:16 – I, Nephi, did build a temple; and I did construct it after the manner of the temple of Solomon.
- * Jews are literally not allowed to build a temple anywhere in the world except on

the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

- * BOM states that Lehi was a descendant of Joseph
- * 2 Nephi 5 – Lehi appoints his two sons as priests to serve in the temple
- * All priests who serve in the temple are literal descendants of Aaron
- * Appointing of priests that were not descendants of Aaron was expressly forbidden.

Historical Figures

Bible

- * Inscription describing David's existence
- * Daniel, Isaiah, Malachi, Ezra – extra biblical writing evidence of their existence
- * NT – describe High Priest – have extra biblical evidence of them
- * Paul

BOM

- * States it was written by prophets
- * No evidence any of the writers, prophets, of the BOM

Bible

- * Jesus – a real historical figure written of by Jews and other cultures

BOM

- * No evidence of his visitation in 34 AD
- * No evidence of a massive conversion to Christianity described in BOM

Weighing the Evidence

- * Bible is archeological sound
- * Smithsonian has used the Bible as a resource for archeology, BOM never
- * No evidence of a culture around 600 BC
- * If you don't find some things, not a problem – If you don't find the whole civilization or civilizations, the chance that the BOM is true is Zero.
- * BOM – Factually wrong, it gets the wrong plants, animals, technology, languages and culture

Are They Scripture?

“I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.” (History of the Church, 4:461.)

- * BOM has many factual mistakes – Example - Jesus was to be born in Jerusalem

* (We will cover this extensively in the next teaching in the series – The Reliability of Scripture.)

Conclusion from the Video

The main question to answer at the end of the comparison of the Bible and Book of Mormon is: Is the Story or Historical Account Accurate?

Below is a summary of the information presented in the video.

At the end you can make an educated/informed choice, which is true, and which is false...

	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Bible</u>	<u>BOM</u>
	The Storyline	True/False	True/False
1.	Historically Accurate	Yes	No
2.	Geographically Accurate	Yes	No
3.	People/Empires Accurate	Yes	No
4.	Cities Match/Evidence	Yes	No
5.	Flower & Fauna Accurate	Yes	No
6.	Metallurgy/Writings Evidence	Yes	No
7.	Manuscript Evidence	Yes	No
8.	Coins Evidence	Yes	No
9.	Warfare Evidence	Yes	No
10.	Temple Accurate/Evidence	Yes	No
11.	Historical Figures Evidence	Yes	No
12.	Jesus Christ	Yes	No

So based on the evidence of the 12 criteria above, go to the top and circle which Storyline/Historical Account is true and which is false.