Type: Book Chapter

A Chronological List of Pertinent Writings on Bible Quotations and Language Uses That Are Part of the Book of Mormon

C. A Chronological List of Pertinent Writings on Bible Quotations and Language Uses That Are Part of the Book of Mormon

In his well-researched book, *Mormons and the Bible*, Harvard-trained Philip L. Barlow, a noted scholar on American religious history, writes the following:

The Bible's broad influence in America from the time of the initial English settlements seems intuitively obvious . . . the scriptures were prominent from the first (see Hath and Noll, eds., The Bible in America). .l . . In 1816, a national organization had formed in order to—as its constitution put it— "claim our place in the age of Bibles." In less than four years the American Bible Society had distributed nearly one hundred thousand copies of the Holy Book. (see Whitney R. Cross, *The Burned-Over District: The Social and Intellectual History of Enthusiastic Religion in Western New York, 1800-1850*, p. 127)

After some further discussion Barlow writes:

All their lives the Smiths were a Bible-believing family in a Bible-believing culture. Into such a family, at the turn of the nineteenth century, Joseph Smith Jr., the future Mormon prophet, was born. . . . He produced more scripture—scripture that at once challenged yet reinforced biblical authority, and that echoed biblical themes, interpreted biblical passages, shared biblical content, corrected biblical errors, filled biblical gaps, was built with biblical language, and restored biblical methods, namely the prophetic process itself.

(Source: Philip L. Barlow, Mormons and the Bible: The Place of the Latter-day Saints in American Religion. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991, p. 3-5, 10-12.)

In view of such conditions, it was not surprising that from the very beginning, questions arose as to the biblical content of the Book of Mormon. Thus, what follows is a chronological list of some pertinent sources that led up to the publication of the Book of Mormon. This will be followed by a chronological list of pertinent sources up to the present that present various claims, both for and against the LDS claims relative to the Bible and the Book of Mormon text.

(year = LDS source)
(year^ = anti-Mormon source)
(*year* = non-LDS scholarly)

Note: On my website (alancminer.com or step-by-step through the Book of Mormon), and the website of Book of Mormon Central, I have compiled a chronological list of most all the pertinent thematic publications (with lengthy excerpts) that were published before 1830 regarding Book of Mormon themes. I have done the same with all the publications after 1830 including explanations and excerpts of their various theoretical views – See "A Chronology of Thought on (1) Indian Origins; (2) Geography; (3) Lehi's Travels; (4) the Mulekites; (5) the Jaredites; (6) Polynesian Origins." In my book, The Liahona: Miracle by Small Means I have also chronicled some of the pertinent history of ocean travel relative to the compass.

(Sources: Bible Quotations)

1769   Revised edition of the King James Version of the Bible.

1775   James Adair, The History of the American Indians. London, 1775.

1811-26 Adam Clarke, *The Holy Bible, Containing the Old and New Testaments: . . . with a Commentary and Critical Notes*. 8 volumes. 1811-1826.

1812-16 Solomon Spaulding, Unpublished Manuscript submitted to the Robert & Joseph Patterson Book and Stationery Store. This Manuscript was apparently published as the "Manuscript Found" or "Manuscript Story," of the Late Rev. Solomon Spaulding . . . (Lamoni, IA: Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1885).
The first Latter-day Saint edition was published as *The "Manuscript Found" : Manuscript Story* (Salt Lake City: Deseret News, 1886).

1816   Elias Boudinot, A Star in the West; or, a Humble Attempt to Discover the Long Lost Ten Tribes of Israel. *Trenton, 1816.*

1823   Ethan Smith, View of the Hebrews; or the Tribes of Israel in America. *Poultney, Vermont: Smith & Shute, 1823.*

1828   Noah Webster, An American Dictionary of the English Language.*1828*

A list of books in the style of the King James Bible (before 1830)

1744   Robert Dodsley ("Nathan Ben Saddi"), The Chronicles of the Kings of England
This is a book on English history written in scriptural style by Robert Dodsley under the pen name "Nathan Ben Saddi".

1755   Benjamin Franklin, A Parable Against Persecution
This is a hoax text composed in scriptural style by Benjamin Franklin.

1796   Richard Snowden, The American Revolution: written in scriptural, or, ancient historical style
This is an account of the American Revolution written in scriptural style by Richard Snowden (1753-1825).

1809   "Eliakim the Scribe," The First Book of Napoleon
This is a history of Napoleon Bonaparte and the Napoleonic Wars written in scriptural style under the pen name "Eliakim the Scribe".

1816-19 Gilbert J. Hunt, *The Late War, Between the United States and Great Britain, From June, 1812, to February, 1815. Written in the Ancient Historical Style*. New York: Daniel D. Smith, 1819.

1822 Roger O'Connor translator?, *The Chronicles of Eri*
This is a collection of purported ancient Irish manuscripts written in scriptural style which detail the history of Ireland, purportedly translated by Roger O'Connor.

1824 Alexander Campbell, *The Third Epistle of Peter, to the Preachers and Rulers of Congregations*. Pittsburgh, PA: Printed for the Publisher by John McFarland, 1824.

1830^ Abner Cole (Obadiah Dogberry Esq. [pseud.]), "The Book of Pukei.—Chap. 1," *The Reflector.* Palmyra, NY., 3d series, no. 5 (12 June1830): 36-37;
"The Book of Pukei—Chap. 2." 3d series, no. 8 (7 July 1830): 60.

(Source: "List of Books in the Style of the King James Bible," Wikipedia; Church Historical Document Corpus.)

_____   **1830**

1831^ Alexander Campbell, Delusions: An Analysis of the Book of Mormon: With an Examination of Its Internal and External Evidences, and a Refutation of Its Pretenses to Divine Authority. Boston: Benjamin H. Green, 1832.

1834^ Eber D. Howe, *Mormonism Unvailed, or, a Faithful Account of That Singular Rise to the Present Time*. Painesville, OH: Printed and Published by the Author, 1834.

1857^ John Hyde, Jr., Chapter IX: "Analysis of Internal Evidences of Book of Mormon." In *Mormonism: Its Leaders and Designs*. New York: W. P. Fetridge & Company, 1857: 210.

1885 Orson Pratt, "The Ancient Prophecies," *Journal of Discourses* 2 (January 7, 1855): 284. Pratt addresses Nephi's "sealed book" prophecy in 2 Nephi 27 (see Isaiah 29).

1882 Robert Patterson , *Who Wrote the Book of Mormon?* L H Everts & Co., 1882

1887^ Rev. M. T. Lamb, *The Golden Bible, or The Book of Mormon. Is It from God?* New York: Ward & Drummond, 1887.

1902^ William Alexander Linn, Chapter XI: "The Mormon Bible: Some of Its Errors and Absurdities." In *The Story of the Mormons: From the Date of their Origin to the Year 1901*. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1902: 89-98.

(Sources: Bible Quotations)

1904   B. H. Roberts, "Bible Quotations in the Book of Mormon and the Reasonableness of
            Nephi's Prophecies." *Improvement Era* 7 (January 1904: 179-96. See also
            Book of Mormon Treasury. Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1959 and 1976: 173-189.

1907   B. H. Roberts, Defe*nse of the Faith and the Saints.* Salt Lake City: Deseret News, 1907.
            Reprinted in 2002
            Part II, "Book of Mormon Controversial Questions":
                    "The Manner of Translation," p. 250
                    "Accounting for Evident Transcriptions of Bible Passages," p. 269
                    "Answering the Questions respecting the 'Manual Theory' of Translating,: p. 273
                    "Correspondence on the Subject of the 'Manual Theory'," p. 293

1909   B. H. Roberts, "The Difficulty of Passages from Isaiah Being Quoted by Nephite Writers,
            that Modern Bible Criticism (Higher Criticism) Holds Were Not Written until the Time
            of the Babylonian Captivity—586-538 B.C., and Not Written by Isaiah at All." In *New
            Witnesses for God*, Volume 3. Salt Lake City: Deseret News, 1909.
            Reprinted as "An Objection to the Book of Mormon Answered." *Improvement Era* 12
            (July 1909): 681-689.

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            568-73.

1926   Sidney B. Sperry, "The Text of Isaiah in the Book of Mormon." Master's thesis, Divinity School,
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            University, 1938

1939   Sidney B. Sperry, "The 'Isaiah Problem" in the Book of Mormon." *Improvement Era 42:*
            (September 1939): 524-525, 564-569.
            (October 1939): 594, 634, 636-637.
            Reprinted in *Our Book of Mormon*. SLC: Stevens and Wallis, 1947, pp. 155-177.
            Reprinted in *The Problems of the Book of Mormon.* SLC: Bookcraft, 1964, pp. 73-97.
            Reprinted in *Answers to the Book of Mormon*. SLC: Bookcraft, 1967.
            Reprinted in *Book of Mormon Compendium*. SLC: Bookcraft, 1968, pp. 493-512.
            Reprinted in *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies* 4/1 (1995): 129-152.

1955   George Reynolds and Janne M. Sjodahl, *Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, edited by Philip C.
              Reynolds. Volumes 1-7. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1955.

1956   J. Reuben Clark, *Why the King James Version?* Salt Lake City: Deseret, 1956.

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              Brigham Young University, 1958.

1959   Brigham H. Roberts, "Bible Quotations in the Book of Mormon." In D.L. Green & M.C. Josephson,
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              Era*. Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1959: 173-189.
              Also "Exchange of letters in 1903." *Improvement Era* 7 (January 1904): 179-196. [FARMS
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1959   Sidney B. Sperry, "The Book of Mormon and Textual Criticism." Book of Mormon Institute,
              BYU, December 5, 1959. Provo: BYU Extension Publications, 1959: 1-8. [FARMS
              Reprint SP-BMT]

1960^   Wesley P. Walters, "Mormonism," *Christianity Today* 5/6 (19 December 1960): 8-10 [228-30];
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