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Testimonies of Four Witnesses of the Book of Mormon

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Abstract: This article shares the transcriptions of the testimonies of Emma Smith, Martin Harris, Oliver Cowdery, and David Whitmer testifying of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon.



Testimonies of Four Witnesses of the Book of Mormon

The Book of Mormon was written on thin gold plates, hidden in the ground until they were delivered to the Prophet Joseph Smith. Here are testimonies of four individuals who came to know that this book was divinely sent and that the translation was inspired of God.

Emma, wife of the Prophet Joseph Smith:

"My belief is that the Book of Mormon is of divine authenticity—I have not the slightest doubt of it. I am satisfied that no man could have dictated the writing of the manuscripts unless he was inspired; for, when acting as his scribe, your father [Joseph] would dictate to me hour after hour; and when returning after meals, or after interruptions, he would at once begin where he had left off, without either seeing the manuscript or having any portion of it read to him. This was a usual thing for him to do. It would have been improbable that a learned man could do this: and, for one so . . . unlearned as he was, it was simply impossible. . . ." (Joseph Smith III, "Last Testimony of Sister Emma," *Saints' Advocate*, Vol. 2 [October 1879], p. 52.)

Martin Harris:

"I know the Book of Mormon is true. . . . I know that the plates have been translated by the gift and power of God, for his voice declared it unto us; therefore I know of a surety that the work is true. For did I not at one time hold the plates on my knee an hour-and-a-half, whilst in conversation with Joseph. . . . ? Yes, I did. And as many of the plates as Joseph Smith translated I handled with my hands, plate after plate." (*Millennial Star*, Vol. 21, p. 545.)

Oliver Cowdery:

"I wrote, with my own pen, the entire Book of Mormon (save a few pages) as it fell from the lips of the Prophet Joseph Smith, as he translated it by the gift and power of God. . . . It contains the everlasting Gospel, and came forth to the children of men in fulfillment of the revelations." (*Millennial Star*, Vol. 21, p. 544.)

David Whitmer:

"It was in the latter part of June, 1829. Joseph, Oliver Cowdery and myself were together, and the angel showed them to us. . . . They were shown to us in this way: Joseph and Oliver and I were sitting on a log when we were overshadowed by a light more glorious than that of the sun. In the midst of this light . . . appeared a table upon which were many golden plates. . . . I saw them . . . and distinctly heard the voice of the Lord declaring that the records of the plates of the Book of Mormon were translated by the gift and power of God." (*Millennial Star*, Vol. 43, p. 437.)