



We can not but think the Lord has a hand in bringing to pass his strange act, and proving the Book of Mormon true in the eyes of all the people. . . . It will be as it ever has been, the world will prove Joseph Smith a true prophet by circumstantial evidence, in experiments, as they did Moses and Elijah.

— *Joseph Smith, 1842*

Joseph Smith on How the Book of Mormon Will Prove Him a True Prophet

Explanation Although proof alone does not create testimonies or convince souls that the Book of Mormon is true, circumstantial evidence does support Joseph Smith's claim that the Book of Mormon is an ancient record written by former inhabitants of the Americas. In this editorial comment, Joseph Smith explained that the Book of Mormon would stand as circumstantial evidence of the validity of his prophetic calling. As Moses and Elijah were proved to be prophets through miracles they performed, so will Joseph Smith be vindicated through evidences for the authenticity of the Book of Mormon.

Sources Joseph Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, comp. Joseph Fielding Smith (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1976), 267; excerpt first printed in *Times and Seasons* 3 (15 Sept. 1842): 922.