



Book of Mormon "Hard Evidence" - Proper Translation

"That there were two stones in silver bows—and these stones, fastened to a breastplate, constituted what is called the Urim and Thummim...

God had prepared them for the purpose of translating the book." *Joseph Smith*

Scripture - Numbers in Red

- 1- "He said there **was a book deposited, written upon gold plates**, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the source from whence they sprang. He also said that the fulness of the everlasting Gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants; Also, **that there were two stones in silver bows—and these stones, fastened to a breastplate, constituted what is called the Urim and Thummim—deposited with the plates; and the possession and use of these stones were what constituted "seers" in ancient or former times; and that God had prepared them for the purpose of translating the book.**" (*Joseph Smith—History 1:34–35*)
- 2- I looked in, and there indeed did I behold the plates, **the Urim and Thummim, and the breastplate, as stated by the messenger**. The box in which they lay was formed by laying stones together in some kind of cement. In the bottom of the box were laid two stones crossways of the box, and on these stones lay the plates and the other things with them.: *JSH 1:52*
- 3- "With the records was found a curious instrument, which the ancients called "Urim and Thummim," which consisted of **two transparent stones set in the rim of a bow fastened to a breast plate**. Through the medium of the Urim and Thummim I translated the record by the gift and power of God." (*History of the Church, 4:537 Wentworth Letter*).
- 4- "I commenced copying the characters off the plates. I copied a considerable number of them, and **by means of the Urim and Thummim I translated some of them**, which I did between the time I arrived at the house of my wife's father, in the month of December, and the February following." *JSH 1:62*
- 5- Joseph Smith said, "**I inquired of the Lord through the Urim and Thummim** and received from him the following." (*Note: See the preface to the Doctrine and Covenants 3,6,7,11,14,15,16,17*) (*History of the Church V.1p.45*)
- 6- "I continued to translate, and he [Oliver Cowdery] to write, with little cessation, during which time **we received several revelations**. A difference of opinion arising between us about the account of John the Apostle, mentioned in the New Testament, as to whether he died or continued to live, **we mutually agreed to settle it by the Urim and Thummim.**" (*History of the Church, 1:35–36.*)
- 7- "**I have, by the aid of the Urim and Thummim. . . , seen those martyrs**. They were honest, devoted followers of Christ, according to the light they possessed. They will be saved." (*Hyrum L. Andrus and Helen Mae Andrus, comps., They Knew the Prophet, p. 85*)
- 8- "After I got through translating the Book of Mormon, **I took up the Bible to read with the Urim and Thummim**. I read the first chapter of Genesis and I saw the things as they were done. I turned over the next and the next, and the whole passed before me like a grand panorama; and so, on chapter after chapter until I read the whole of it. **I saw it all!**" (*As cited in Matthews, Plainer Translation, 25.*) "The Process of Translating the Book of Mormon Joseph Fielding McConkie (Professor of Ancient Scripture, BYU) Craig J. Ostler (Assistant Professor of Church History and Doctrine, BYU)
- 9- "These were days never to be forgotten—to sit under the sound of a voice dictated by the inspiration of heaven, awakened the utmost gratitude of this bosom! Day after day I continued, uninterrupted, **to write from his mouth, as he translated with the Urim and Thummim, or, as the Nephites would have said, 'Interpreters.'** the history or record called 'The Book of Mormon.' *JSH 1:75**
- 10- "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, **by means of the Urim and Thummim, or, as it is called by the book, "holy interpreters."** I beheld with my eyes, and handled with my hands, the gold plates from which it was translated. I also saw with my eyes and handled with my hands the "holy interpreters." The book is true. Sidney Rigdon did not write it; Mr. Spaulding did not write it; I wrote it myself as it fell from the lips of the Prophet." *Restoration of All Things by Joseph Fielding Smith CHAPTER TWELVE, A TESTIMONY AGAINST THE WORLD Address delivered Sunday, August 20, 1944*
- 11- During an 1830 trial **Oliver Cowdery testified under oath, that said, "[Joseph] Smith found with the plates, from which he translated his book, two transparent stones, resembling glass, set in silver bows. That by looking through these, he was able to read in English, the reformed Egyptian characters, which were engraved on the plates."** (*A. W. Benton, "Mormonites," Evangelical Magazine and Gospel Advocate n.s. 2:15 April 9, 101*)
- 12- "**And now he translated them by the means of those two stones which were fastened into the two rims of a bow. . . "** *Mosiah 28:13* "And whosoever has these things is called seer, after the manner of old times." *Mosiah 28:16* "And now, as I said unto you, that after king Mosiah had done these things, he took the plates of brass, and all the things which he had kept, and conferred them upon Alma, who was the son of Alma; yea, **all the records, and also the interpreters, and conferred them upon him**, and commanded him that he should keep and preserve them, and also keep a record of the people, handing them down from one generation to another, even as they had been handed down from the time that Lehi left Jerusalem." *Mosiah 28:20*
- 13- "And now, I will speak unto you concerning those twenty-four plates, that ye keep them, that the mysteries and the works of darkness, and their secret works, or the secret works of those people who have been destroyed, may be made manifest unto this people; yea, all their murders, and robberings, and their plunderings, and all their wickedness and abominations, may be made manifest unto this people; yea, and **that ye preserve these interpreters. . .**" "And now, my son, these interpreters were prepared that the word of God might be fulfilled, which he spake, saying: I will bring forth out of darkness unto light all their secret works and their abominations; and except they repent I will destroy them from off the face of the earth; and I will bring to light all their secrets and abominations, unto every nation that shall hereafter possess the land." *Alma 37:21, 24-25 (The word "Directors" was changed to "Interpreters" in the 1920 version & forward of the Book of Mormon)*
- 14- "He [Moroni] then proceeded and gave a general account of the promises made to the fathers, and also gave a history of the aborigenes of this country, and said they were literal descendants of Abraham. He represented them as once being an enlightned and intelligent people, possessing a correct knowledge of the gospel, and the plan of restoration and redemption. He said this history was written and **deposited not far from that place**, and that it was our brother's privilege, if obedient to the commandments of the Lord, to **obtain and translate the same by the means of the Urim and Thummim, which were deposited for that purpose with the record.**" *Letter IV Oliver Cowdery*
- 15- "And behold, **these two stones [different than the previous 16 stones]** will I give unto thee, and **ye shall seal them up also with the things which ye shall write**. For behold, the language which ye shall write I have confounded; wherefore **I will cause in my own due time that these stones [2stones] shall magnify to the eyes of men these things which ye shall write.**" *Ether 3:23:24 (Parenthesis Added)*
- 16- Wherefore the Lord hath commanded me to write them; and I have written them. And he commanded me that I **should seal them up**; and he also hath commanded that I should **seal up the interpretation thereof; wherefore I have sealed up the interpreters**, according to the commandment of the Lord." *Ether 4:5 (Parenthesis added)*