

As incredible as it may seem, LDS publications bear testimony that Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon Church, and Brigham Young, second Prophet of the Church, taught the moon was inhabited.

In an 1892 LDS publication under the heading "THE INHABITANTS OF THE MOON," this interesting information is given by Oliver B. Huntington:

"Nearly all the great discoveries of men in the last half century have, in one way or another, either directly or indirectly contributed to prove Joseph Smith to be a Prophet:

"As far back as 1837, I know that he said the moon was inhabited by men and women the same as this earth, and that they lived to a greater age than we do -- that they live generally to near the age of 1000 years.

"He described the men as averaging near six feet in height, and dressing quite uniformly in something near the Quaker style. (*The Young Woman's Journal*, published by the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations of Zion, 1892, vol. 3, p. 263)

OUR SUNDAY CHAPTER.

THE INHABITANTS OF THE MOON.

O. B. HUNTINGTON.

ASTRONOMERS and philosophers have, from time almost immemorial until very recently, asserted that the moon was uninhabited, that it had no atmosphere, etc. But recent discoveries, through the means of powerful telescopes, have given scientists a doubt or two upon the old theory.

Nearly all the great discoveries of men in the last half century have, in

one way or another, either directly or indirectly, contributed to prove Joseph Smith to be a Prophet.

As far back as 1837, I know that he said the moon was inhabited by men and women the same as this earth, and that they lived to a greater age than we do—that they live generally to near the age of a 1000 years.

He described the men as averaging near six feet in height, and dressing quite uniformly in something near the Quaker style.

Above is a photograph from the lower portion of LDS publication, *The Young Woman's Journal*, p. 263. Notice that O.B. Huntington stated he knew Joseph Smith said the moon was inhabited.

Not only did Joseph Smith say the "moon is inhabited," but he claimed a personal visitation by God the Father and Jesus Christ, Peter, James, John, and numerous other "glorious personages" from heaven.

Latter-day Saints believe he produced 3 new volumes of scripture plus a revision of the Bible totaling over 800 pages given by direct revelation or translated by the gift and power of God! (see *Deseret News*, Church Section, July 18, 1970, p. 14)

Mormon scripture boasts:

"Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of

men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it..." (*Doctrine and Covenants* 135:3)

Either Joseph Smith was the greatest prophet who ever lived, or he had a tremendous imagination and was a deceiver from the beginning.

Although Joseph Smith made some fantastic claims during his lifetime, there is much evidence besides his claim about the inhabitants of the moon to support the fact that he had a vivid imagination and deliberately attempted to deceive the people.

THE KINDERHOOK PLATES

In 1843, 6 brass, bell shaped plates were found in a mound in Kinderhook, Illinois and given to Joseph Smith.

According to the *History of the Church*, Joseph Smith claimed to translate a portion of them:

"I have translated a portion of them, and find they contain the history of the person with whom they were found. He was a descendant of Ham, through the loins of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and that he received his kingdom from the Ruler of heaven and earth. (*History of the Church*, vol. 5, p. 372)

W. Fugate later admitted that the plates were forgeries made by himself and two other men to trick Joseph Smith. (see Fugate's letter printed in the LDS publication, *Improvement Era*, Sept. 1962)

For many years all 6 plates had been lost. Then in 1962 the official Mormon publication, the *Improvement Era*, announced that one of the original Kinderhook plates had been rediscovered.

Welby W. Ricks, who was President of the BYU Archaeological Society, had this to say:

"A recent rediscovery of one of the Kinderhook plates which was examined by Joseph Smith, Jun., reaffirms his prophetic calling

"This much remains. Joseph Smith, Jun., stands as a true prophet and translator of ancient records by divine means and all the world is invited to investigate the truth which has sprung out of the earth not only of the Kinderhook plates, but of the *Book of Mormon* as well." (*Improvement Era*, Sept. 1962)

Unfortunately for the Mormon position, the plate was proven a fraud. In 1980, permission was granted to make some very sophisticated, analytical destructive tests of the Kinderhook plate. The results were printed in the official Church publication, *The Ensign*, August 1981:

"A recent electronic and chemical analysis of a metal plate (one of six original plates) brought in 1843 to the Prophet Joseph Smith in Nauvoo, Illinois, appears to solve a previously unanswered question in Church history, helping to further evidence that the plate is what its producers later said it was -- a nineteenth century attempt to lure Joseph Smith into making a translation of ancient-looking characters that had been etched into the plates

"The conclusion, therefore, is that the Chicago plate is indeed

one of the original Kinderhook plates, which now fairly well evidences them to be faked antiquities." (pp. 66 and 70)

The following is a photograph of one of the Kinderhook plates. Compare with the facsimiles in the *History of the Church*, vol. 5, p. 376.



Since the Kinderhook plate proves Joseph Smith a fraud and demonstrates his willful desire to deceive his people, Mormon apologists have reverted to attacking the accuracy of the *History of the Church* rather than admit Joseph Smith a fraud.

Although the *History of the Church* is considered "the most accurate history in all the world" (see *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 2, page 199), the source for the entry in Joseph Smith's History concerning the translation of a portion of the plates, was not written by Joseph Smith, but rather comes from William Clayton's personal diary which has been changed to read as if Joseph Smith actually wrote it.

Since William Clayton was Joseph Smith's personal scribe and in constant contact with him, he would certainly have known what Smith believed about the Kinderhook plates.

This evidence not only demonstrates Joseph Smith translated "bogus plates," but the Church's own History (supposedly written by Joseph Smith) is proven fraudulent.

THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM

In 1835 Joseph Smith obtained some Egyptian papyri along with several mummies. From these Egyptian writings Smith claimed to translate what is now considered as scripture by Mormons, the *Book of Abraham*. Since the whole method of translating Egyptian was still in its infant stages, Smith obviously felt safe in making the fantastic claim that this papyri contained the "writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, called the *Book of Abraham*, written by his own hand, upon papyrus." (see introduction to the *Book of Abraham* in the *Pearl of Great Price*)

Mormons believed that this translation would completely vindicate Joseph's claims about the *Book of Mormon* and his divine ability to translate unknown languages, especially since the *Book of Mormon* is supposed to be translated from "Reformed Egyptian."

Although the original Egyptian text was lost for many years, its rediscovery was announced in the Mormon owned newspaper, the *Deseret News* on Nov. 27, 1967:

"NEW YORK -- A collection of papyrus manuscripts, long believed to have been destroyed in the Chicago fire of 1871 was presented to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints here Monday by the Metropolitan Museum of Art..." (page 1)

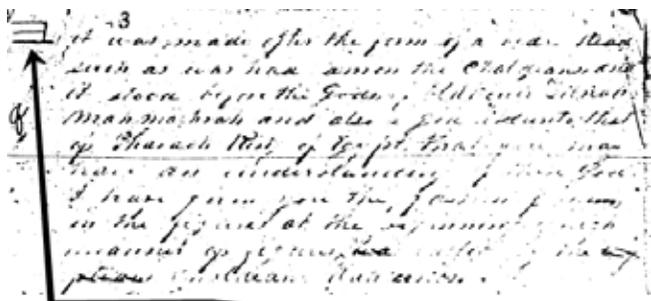
Shortly after receiving the papyri some of the top Egyptologists in the world (men like Dr. Klaus Baer of the University of Chicago and Professor Richard Parker, Chairman of the department of Egyptology at Brown University) examined these documents and confirmed the fact that the papyri is common Egyptian funeral literature having nothing to do with Abraham or his religion!

This Egyptian "*Book of the Dead*," known also as the "*Book of Breathings*," is totally pagan in nature. It includes spells and incantations believed by the Egyptians to help the deceased through his perilous journey in the after life.

One of the fragments given the Church in 1967 contains the very portion of the text that Joseph Smith used as a basis for his translation of the Book of Abraham. The identification of this fragment is brought about by the handwritten manuscript located in the Church Archives which includes the Egyptian characters copied from this fragment in a column on the left and on the right is the translation.

Egyptologists have translated the text which Smith thought was the *Book of Abraham* and find it doesn't contain any information about Abraham or his religion, but rather it identifies the name of the corpse and his mother as well as directions for burying the mummy. (For Professor Richard Parker's translation see *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, Summer 1968, p. 98)

Truly Joseph Smith had no idea what the Egyptian said which casts serious doubt upon the *Book of Mormon* as well as Smith's claim to be a prophet of God.



From this single character Joseph Smith translated 76 words which include 7 personal names!

This is a photograph of a portion of the right side of the original fragment of papyrus from which Joseph Smith translated the Boof of Abraham.

An example of Joseph's tremendous imagination and total ignorance of the Egyptian language can be demonstrated by his translation of part of an Egyptian word meaning "lake" or "pool." This Egyptian character resembles a capital "E" facing backwards. From this single character Joseph Smith translated 76 words which include 7 personal names!

The preceding image is a reduced photocopy of this portion of a restricted Church document which is the handwritten manuscript for Abraham 1:13-14. Notice the Egyptian character on the left with Joseph Smith's translation on the right.

CONCLUSION

Not only does the evidence presented demonstrate that Joseph Smith "wilfully attempted to mislead the people," but in the case of the *Book of Abraham*; Abraham receives the blame for Smith's own distorted theology on the false teaching of the plurality of Gods. (see LDS scripture, *The Pearl of Great Price*, Abraham chapters 4 & 5)

The Bible describes a false prophet and leaders who teach lies and the danger in following them:

"... the prophet that teacheth lies, he is the tail. For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed." (Isaiah 9:15, 16)

Fortunately we do have a faithful, trustworthy record of God's dealing with man and His desire for our lives. This record is called the Bible.

Even in Old Testament times we see God's prophets proclaiming the coming of the Messiah who would take upon Himself our sins:

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed... and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5, 6)

The New Testament reveals the Messiah Who will save His people from their sins by Grace through Faith alone.

If this tract has been a blessing to you or you have questions or comments, please write:

Challenge
MINISTRIES

P.O. Box 20195
El Cajon, California 92021

Visit our web sites at:
www.challengemin.org
www.fishersofmen.us



Men on the Moon



Kinderhook Plates

Book of Abraham

