

3,913 Changes in the Book of Mormon

The Mormon Historian Joseph Fielding Smith has claimed that there is no truth in the statement that there have been thousands of changes in the Book of Mormon. He was reported as saying the following at the fall conference of 1961:

During the past week or two I have received a number of letters from different parts of the United States written by people, some of whom at least are a little concerned because they have been approached by enemies of the Church and enemies of the Book of Mormon, who had made the statement that there have been one or two or more thousand changes in the Book of Mormon since the first edition was published. Well, of course, **there is no truth in that statement.**

. . . there was **not one thing** in the Book of Mormon or in the second edition or any other edition since that in any way contradicts the first edition, . . .

Now, these **Sons of Belial** who circulate these reports evidently know better. I will not use the word that is in my mind. (*Improvement Era*, December 1961, pages 924-925)

In the book, *Answers to Gospel Questions*, vol. 2, Joseph Fielding Smith made the following statement:

It is astonishing to what length the enemies of the Church will go in order to attempt to prove the Book of Mormon false. . . .

There were bound to be some typographical errors in the first edition, and perhaps an omission of **a word or two**. . . . A careful check of the list of changes submitted by these critics shows there is not one change or addition **that is not in full harmony with the original text**. Changes have been made in punctuation and a few other matters that needed correction, **but never has any alteration or addition changed a single original thought.** (*Answers to Gospel Questions*, vol. 2, pages 199-200)

In a new book which we have just finished printing, *3,913 Changes in the Book of Mormon*, we prove that Joseph Fielding Smith is the man who is not telling the truth. There have been thousands of changes made in the Book of Mormon, and they are not in harmony with the original text. For example, on page 303 of the 1830 edition of the Book of Mormon this statement appears:

. . . yea, I know that he allotteth unto men, **yea, decreeth unto them decrees which are unalterable**, according to their wills, . . .

In the 1964 edition [Alma 29:4] 8 words have been deleted:

. . . yea, I know that he allotteth unto men according to their wills, . . .

In the first edition, page 87, this statement appears:

. . . the mean man boweth down, . . .

In later editions [2 Nephi 12:9] this has been changed to read as follows:

. . . the mean man boweth **not** down, . . .

On page 200 of the first edition of the Book of Mormon we read as follows:

. . . king **Benjamin** had a gift from God, whereby he could interpret such engravings; . . .

In modern editions this has been changed to read:

. . . king **Mosiah** had a gift from God, whereby he could interpret such engravings; . . . (Book of Mormon, Mosiah 21:28)

A change has been made in the First Book of Nephi, evidently in an attempt to strengthen the Mormon claim that baptism was practiced by the people in the Old Testament. This verse is taken from Isaiah 48, and appears as follows in the 1830 edition of the Book of Mormon:

Hearken and hear this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the Lord, . . . (Book of Mormon, 1830 ed., page 52)

In modern editions seven words have been added:

Hearken and hear this, O house of Jacob, who are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, **or out of the waters of baptism**, who swear by the name of the Lord, . . . (Book of Mormon, 1 Nephi 20:1)

Four important changes were made in the second edition of the Book of Mormon concerning the Godhead. One of the most significant changes was made in 1 Nephi 13:40. It was stated in this verse that the purpose of the Nephite records was to make known that Christ is the Eternal Father. In the first edition we read as follows:

. . . These last records, . . . shall make known to all kindreds, tongues, and people, that the Lamb of God is the Eternal Father and the Savior . . . (Book of Mormon, 1830 edition, page 32)

(Continued on page 2)

Bible Study

We are now holding a Bible study in our home at 1350 S. West Temple, every Thursday at 8:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. Remember that Jesus said that a man must be born again:

Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

❖ NEW BOOK ❖

3,913 Changes in the Book of Mormon. This is a photomechanical reprint of the original 1830 edition of the Book of Mormon with all the changes marked. Contains a 16-page introduction by Jerald and Sandra Tanner which proves that the changes are not in harmony with the original text.

Joseph Smith stated that when he and the witnesses went out to pray concerning the Book of Mormon, a voice spoke from heaven telling them that the translation was correct:

. . . we heard a voice from out of the bright light above us, saying, "These plates have been revealed by the power of God, and **they have been translated by the power of God. The translation of them which you have seen is correct**, and I command you to bear record of what you now see and hear." (*History of the Church*, by Joseph Smith, vol. 1, pages 54-55)

In spite of this statement, the Mormon leaders have made thousands of changes in the Book of Mormon. In the preface to *3,913 Changes in the Book of Mormon* we show that some of the changes were made as late as 1920.

We feel that all students of Mormonism will want this book because it clearly shows the changes that have been made and the deceptive methods used by the Mormon leaders to cover up these facts. Plastic binding.

Price: \$5.00 — 2 for \$9.00 — 4 for \$15.00 — 10 for \$30.00.

In later editions the words “the Son of” have been added:

... These last records, ... shall make known to all kindreds, tongues, and people, that the Lamb of God is **the Son of** the Eternal Father, and the Savior ... (Book of Mormon, 1 Nephi 13:40)

It is interesting to note that even the signed statement by the eight witnesses to the Book of Mormon has been altered. In the 1830 edition (last page) it read:

... that Joseph Smith, Jr. the **author and proprietor** of this work, has shewn unto us the plates. ...

In the 1964 edition it reads:

... That Joseph Smith, Jun. the **translator** of this work, has shown unto us the plates ...

In the first edition of the Book of Mormon, page 31, the following appears:

... neither will the Lord God suffer that the Gentiles shall forever remain in that **state of awful woundedness** ...

In later editions, [1 Nephi 13:32], this has been changed to read:

Neither will the Lord God suffer that the Gentiles shall forever remain in the **awful state of blindness** ...

On page 260 of the first edition the following statement appears:

Behold, the Scriptures are before you; if ye will **arrest** them, it shall be to your own destruction.

In modern editions, [Alma 13:20], this has been changed to read:

Behold, the scriptures are before you, if ye will **wrest** them it shall be to your own destruction.

A similar mistake is found on page 336 of the first edition:

... some have **arrested** the scriptures, ...

In modern editions, [Alma 41:1], this has been changed to read:

... some have **wrested** the scriptures, ...

We could go on listing the changes, but this should be sufficient to give the reader an idea of what will be found in the book, *3,913 Changes in the Book of Mormon*. This is a book we have spent months in preparing, and we consider it to be one of our largest and most important projects. We feel that this book will of great interest to our readers.

How Long Shall I Give?

“Go break to the needy sweet charity’s bread;

For giving is living,” the angel said.

“And must I be giving again and again?”

My peevish and pitiless answer ran.

“Oh, no,” said the angel, piercing me through,

“Just give till the Master stops giving to you.”

—Anonymous

MESSENGER AND ADVOCATE

This is a photomechanical reprint of the complete (three volume) set of the *Messenger and Advocate* which was printed by the Mormon Church in the years 1834-1837. These books will be of great interest to all students of Mormonism because they deal with a very important period in Mormon history. The printing is clear and readable, and they are bound in black buckram. The price is \$19.50 for the set of three volumes.

MORMONISM—Shadow or Reality?

It may interest our readers to know that we have sold five times more copies of the book, *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?* than any other book we have printed. The response by those who have read the book has been very encouraging.

Myron J. Houghton made the following statement in a review published in the *North Star Baptist*:

For a single book which is comprehensive, effectively presenting and refuting Mormonism, this book is the best yet. (*North Star Baptist*, June-July, 1965 issue, page 26)

The Utah Christian Tract Society made this comment in their newsletter:

This publication by Jerald and Sandra Tanner, who are former Mormons, is by far the **most comprehensive and best documented book on the Mormon system** and contains more authentic material and information than any other book of which we are aware. It has 430 pages plus 87 reproductions of pages from rare, suppressed L.D.S. books, also reproduced letters from Mormon “authorities.” Two Mormon Apostles have threatened lawsuits. This book sells for \$5.00 and is worth every penny of it. For the person who desires a thorough presentation of Mormon history, doctrines and practices, this book is a “must.” (Newsletter for May-June, 1965, vol. 5, number 4, published by the Utah Christian Tract Society)

This comment appeared in the *Utah Evangel*:

There is no better book than Tanner’s *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?* (one of our best sellers). (*Utah Evangel*, vol. 13, number 2, September 1965)

A minister in Utah made the following comment in a letter to us:

I certainly admire your courage and loyalty to the truth in publishing such a book, which, no doubt will be the means of turning many from darkness to light.

A member of the Mormon Church made the following comment in a letter to us:

Perhaps by way of interest, I might mention that I had studied deeply into our history and doctrine before coming upon your materials, ... It’s my opinion that your book, *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?* if widely read by Mormons and Non-Mormons alike, would do more harm to the church than any other volume published in the last 50 to 75 years. It could almost tear the Church apart. Your approach is novel; you’ve used our own history and doctrine, and your quotations are accurate. (Letter from Arizona, dated July 28, 1965)

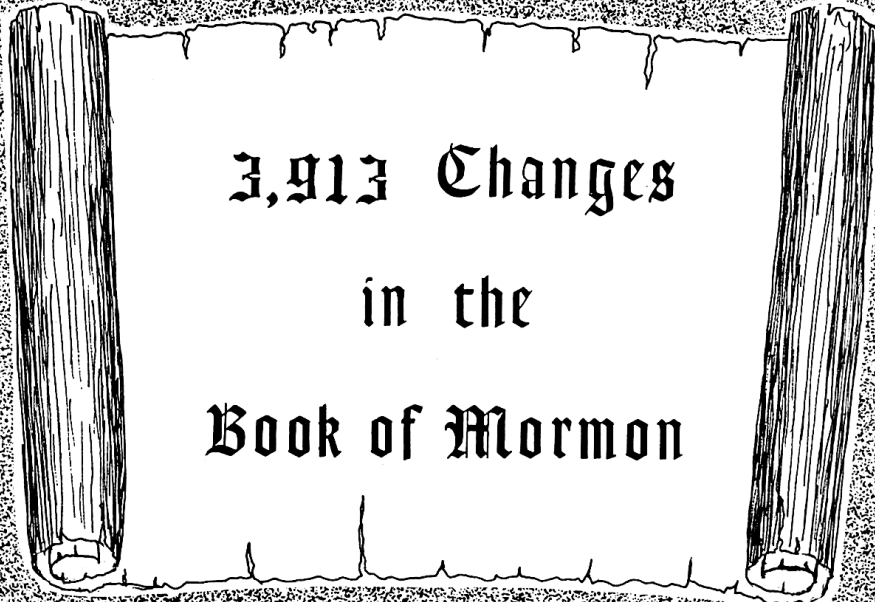
JOSEPH SMITH’S STRANGE ACCOUNT OF THE FIRST VISION

In a letter which we received from California the following statement appeared:

... today we received the two copies of *Strange Account of the First Vision* ... This will surely deal a great blow to the origin of the Mormon system. I just wonder how they will try to “explain it away!”

We feel that this is one of the most important documents which we have printed on Mormonism, and if it were to have a wide circulation we feel that it would surely deal a great blow to the origin of the Mormon system.

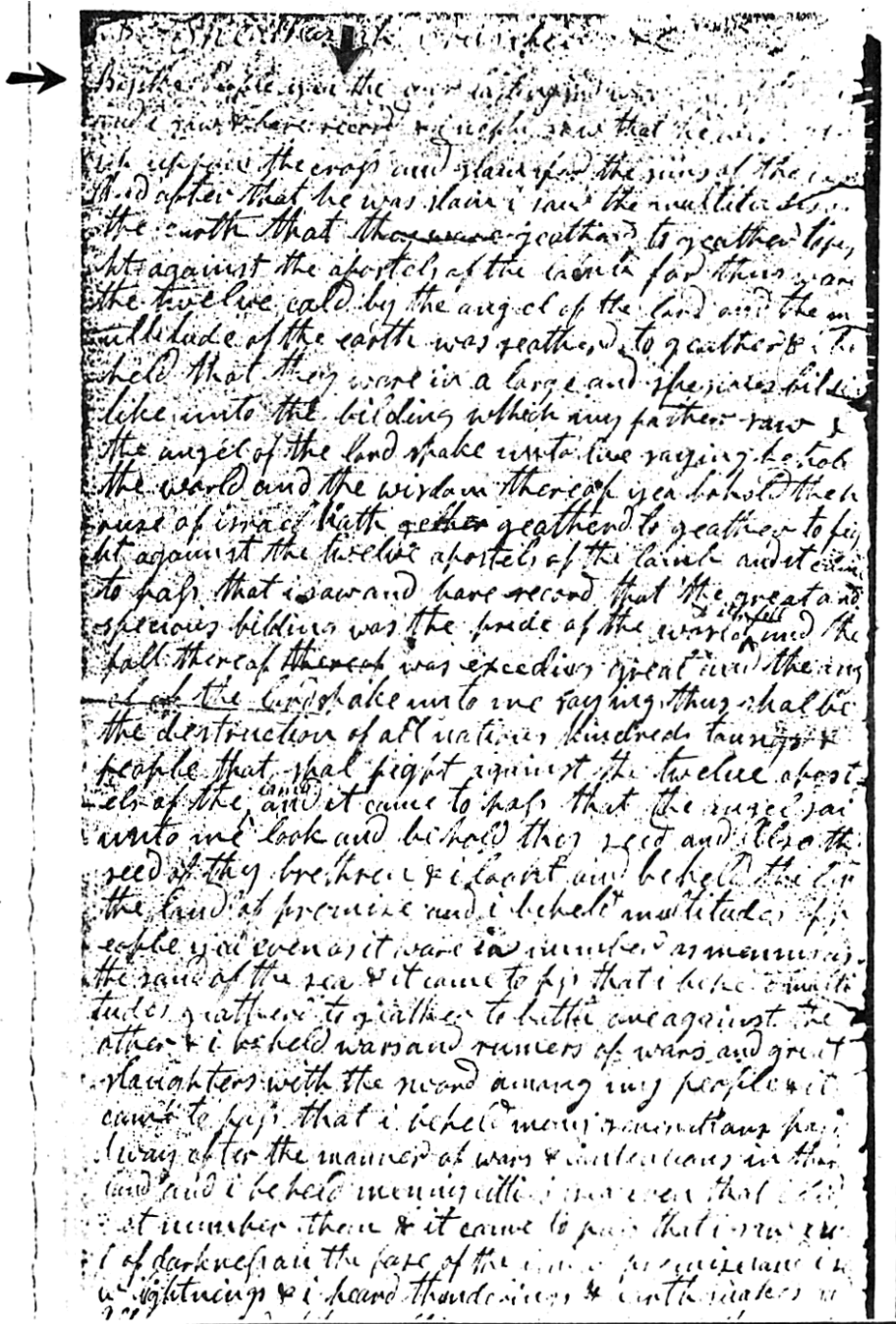
The price of this book is \$1.50. The quantity prices are as follows: 3 for \$4.00 — 5 for \$6.00 — 10 for \$9.00.



**3,913 Changes
in the
Book of Mormon**

**A Photo Reprint of the Original 1830 Edition of
The Book of Mormon With all the Changes Marked**

By Jerald & Sandra Tanner



On page 26 of the first edition of the Book of Mormon these words appear: "... by the people; yea, the Everlasting God, was ..." In modern editions of the Book of Mormon this has been changed to read: "... by the people; yea, **the Son of** the everlasting God was ..." (Book of Mormon, 1964 ed., 1 Nephi 11:32). Notice that the words "the Son of" have been added into the middle of this verse.

The photograph above is taken from the original handwritten manuscript of the Book of Mormon, which is in the Church Historian's Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. The arrow to the side points to the line in which the words in question appear. These words read as follows: "... By the people yea the ever lasting God was ..." Notice that the words "the Son of" do not appear. The arrow above points to the place where the words "the Son of" would have to be inserted to bring the manuscript into conformity with the 1964 edition of the Book of Mormon. Since these words do not appear in the manuscript, this proves that the Mormon leaders have deliberately changed the Book of Mormon. This photograph also proves that the Church Historian Joseph Fielding Smith has deceived his people concerning the changes in the Book of Mormon, for in his book, *Answers to Gospel Questions*, vol. 2, he made the following statement: "A careful check of the list of changes submitted by these critics shows there is not one change or addition **that is not in full harmony with the original text**. Changes have been made in punctuation and a few other matters that needed correction, **but never has any alteration or addition changed a single original thought**" (*Answers to Gospel Questions*, vol. 2, page 200). The photograph above proves that Joseph Fielding Smith's statement is absolutely untrue.

While this photograph is not too readable, a clear and readable photocopy is owned by Wilford Wood, who helped in obtaining the manuscript for the Mormon Church.