



WHO WROTE

Ancient prophets, historians, and leaders engraved their testimonies and history on golden plates. Later, the Prophet Joseph Smith, by the gift and power of God, translated an abridgment of those original plates.

Authors or Sources of the Original Ancient Records

Nephi₁, Jacob, Enos, Jarom, Omni, and others

Mormon

Brass plates of Laban (see 1 Nephi 5:10–14)

Zeniff

Lehi (see 2 Nephi 1:1–4, 11; D&C 3, section introduction); Benjamin (see Omni 1:12–23; Words of Mormon 1:16–18; Mosiah 1–6); Mosiah₂ (see Omni 1:23–25; Mosiah 6:3); Alma the Younger, Sons of Mosiah, Helaman₂, Pahoran, Captain Moroni, Nephi₃, Nephi₄

Mormon

Jaredite records on 24 plates, including the writings of Ether (see Ether 1:1–5)

Moroni

Records That Made Up the Plates

Small plates of Nephi (spiritual records; about 600 B.C. to 130 B.C.)

Words of Mormon (connects the small plates and the abridgment of the large plates of Nephi; see verses 1–18)

Large plates of Nephi (temporal records and religious history; about 130 B.C. to A.D. 321)

Records of Mormon (about A.D. 345 to A.D. 385)

Book of Ether, edited Jaredite records (about 2400 B.C. to 600 B.C.)

Records of Moroni (see Mormon 9:30–37; about A.D. 385 to A.D. 421)



THE BOOK OF MORMON?



On the evening of September 21, 1823, the angel Moroni appeared to young Joseph Smith and told him of the golden plates that would be translated as the Book of Mormon. Four years later, Joseph was able to take the plates in order to translate them (see Joseph Smith—History 1:27–54).



Golden Plates Given to the Prophet Joseph Smith by the Angel Moroni on September 22, 1827



The Book of Mormon

Plates of Mormon
(records compiled and abridged
by Mormon and Moroni)

Title Page*
1 Nephi
2 Nephi
Jacob
Enos
Jarom
Omni
Words of Mormon
Mosiah
Alma
Helaman
3 Nephi
4 Nephi
Mormon
Ether
Moroni

Sealed portion
(not translated)



The original manuscript of the translation was completed in 1829, the printer's manuscript was completed during 1829–30, and the first 5,000 copies of the Book of Mormon were published in 1830.

*Joseph Smith explained, "The title-page of the Book of Mormon is a literal translation, taken from the very last leaf, on the left hand side of the collection or book of plates" (*History of the Church*, 1:71).

Information in this chart was compiled from the preface and the text in the Book of Mormon.



FROM LEFT: PHOTOGRAPH BY IED CLARK; MORMON ABRIDGING THE PLATES, BY TOM LOVELL; THE ANGEL MORONI APPEARS TO JOSEPH SMITH, BY TOM LOVELL; PHOTOGRAPH BY CRAIG DIMOND; MORONI DELIVERING THE GOLDEN PLATES, BY GARY KARP; MAY NOT BE COPIED; PHOTOGRAPH BY EMILY LEISHMAN; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN LUKE