

The Book of Mormon Challenge to the World

If one scoffs at the Book of Mormon, in so many words, it is because of a belief that it is a deceiving fraud, formulated through the efforts and talents of a common man. What is produced by one man, can always be duplicated by another man. The challenge the Book of Mormon makes complies with every one of the following conditions, and in order for you to produce a similar record, You must comply with the same conditions.

Here is the CHALLENGE - Who could do it?

1. Write a history of an ancient country covering a period from 2200 B.C. to 400 A.D.. You must remember that very little was known about ancient America in 1830.
2. You would need to be 23 years of age.
3. You have had no more than three years of formal schooling and have spent your life in backwoods farming communities.
4. Your history must be written on the basis of what you now know. There was no library that held the information Joseph needed. There is to be no research of any kind.
5. Your book must contain over 300,000 words in length.
6. Other than a few grammatical corrections, you must have no change in the text. The first edition as you dictate it to your secretary must stand forever.
7. This record is to contain the history of two distinct and separate nations, along with histories of different contemporary nations or groups of people.
8. You must describe their religious, economic, political, and social cultures and institutions. Cover every phase of their society, including the names of their coins.
9. Because many ancient authors contributed to the Book of Mormon, each with his own style, you must change your style of writing many times.
10. Weave into your history the religion of Jesus Christ and the pattern of Christian living, because this book claims that Christ visited America after He was crucified.
11. You must claim that your smooth narrative is not fiction with moral values, but a true and sacred history.
12. Your book must include prophecy, visions, doctrine and exhortation and your record agree meticulously with the Bible or your work will be proven a fraud. Several chapters must be included on the ministry of Christ and everything claimed and every testimony you write in your book about Him must agree absolutely with the New Testament.
13. Many of the facts, claims, ideas and statements given as absolutely true in your writings must disagree with the prevailing beliefs of the world. Some of these worldly beliefs must prove to be opposite of your claims.
14. Included in your narration will be authentic modes of travel; whether or not those ancient people used fire; description of their clothing, crops, mourning customs, industrial abilities, and types of government. You must invent about 280 new names that will stand up under scrutiny through the years as to their proper application and derivation.

15. You will have to use properly, figures of speech, similes, metaphors, narrations, exposition, description oratory, epic lyrics and parables.

16. You must invite the ablest scholars and experts to examine the text with care, realizing that they are the ones who are most competent to expose every flaw in your work.

17. Any future investigations, scientific and historical evidences and archaeological discoveries, must verify its claims and prove detail after detail to be true, for many of the details you put in your history are still buried beneath the soil and many will come forth within the next 100 to 150 years.

18. You must declare your writing to be the word of God and another witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.

19. The book must not contain any absurd, impossible or contradictory statements.

20. Many theories and ideas as to its origin must arise and after discovering and examining the facts, they must fall. You have claimed that your knowledge has come from a divine origin, and this claim continues to stand as the only possible explanation. The strength of this explanation must not decrease as time passes, but actually increases to the point where it becomes the only logical explanation.

21. Call down an angel from heaven in the middle of the day and have him bear testimony to four honest, dignified citizens of your community that the record is the word of God. These witnesses must bear the angel's testimony to the world, not for profit or gain, but under great sacrifice and severe persecution, even to their death beds.

22. Thousands of people including scholars will find its contents worthy of their faith and belief.

23. You must include within the record this promise: "And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, He will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

24. For the next 14 years you must watch those that follow you, your family, and the dearest of your loved ones persecuted, driven time after time from their homes, beaten, tortured, starved, frozen, and even killed. Tens of thousands must undergo the most extreme hardships in your presence just because you claim your writings to be divine in nature.

25. You must gain no wealth for your work, but many times lost; all that you have. Like those that believe you, you must submit yourself to years of vile persecution and then give your own life in a very savage and brutal manner for your testimony concerning your book.

26. Start right now and produce this record which covers 2600 years of history, doing it, not in the peaceful atmosphere of your community, but under the most trying of circumstances including threats upon your life. Please have your book completed, talk a friend into mortgaging his farm to raise the money to have it printed - all in 60 days.

THERE IS ONLY ONE POSSIBLE CONCLUSION THAT CAN BE DRAWN; THE BOOK OF MORMON IS OF DIVINE ORIGIN AND SECOND WITNESS OF JESUS CHRIST. IT DESERVES THE ATTENTION OF EVERY BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST.