

THE CHURCH OF
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Defining Sacred Canon: The Standard of Truth

Why The Church of Jesus Christ rejects the Pearl of Great Price—and rests its foundation solely on the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

The Established Standard

Core Principle

God establishes truth through the testimony of two or three witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15).

Scriptural Foundation

Two prophesied records coming together as one in the hand of God to serve as a complete witness of Jesus Christ (Ezekiel 37).

The Plumb Line Test

Any subsequent text must seamlessly harmonize with this completed, unified foundation.

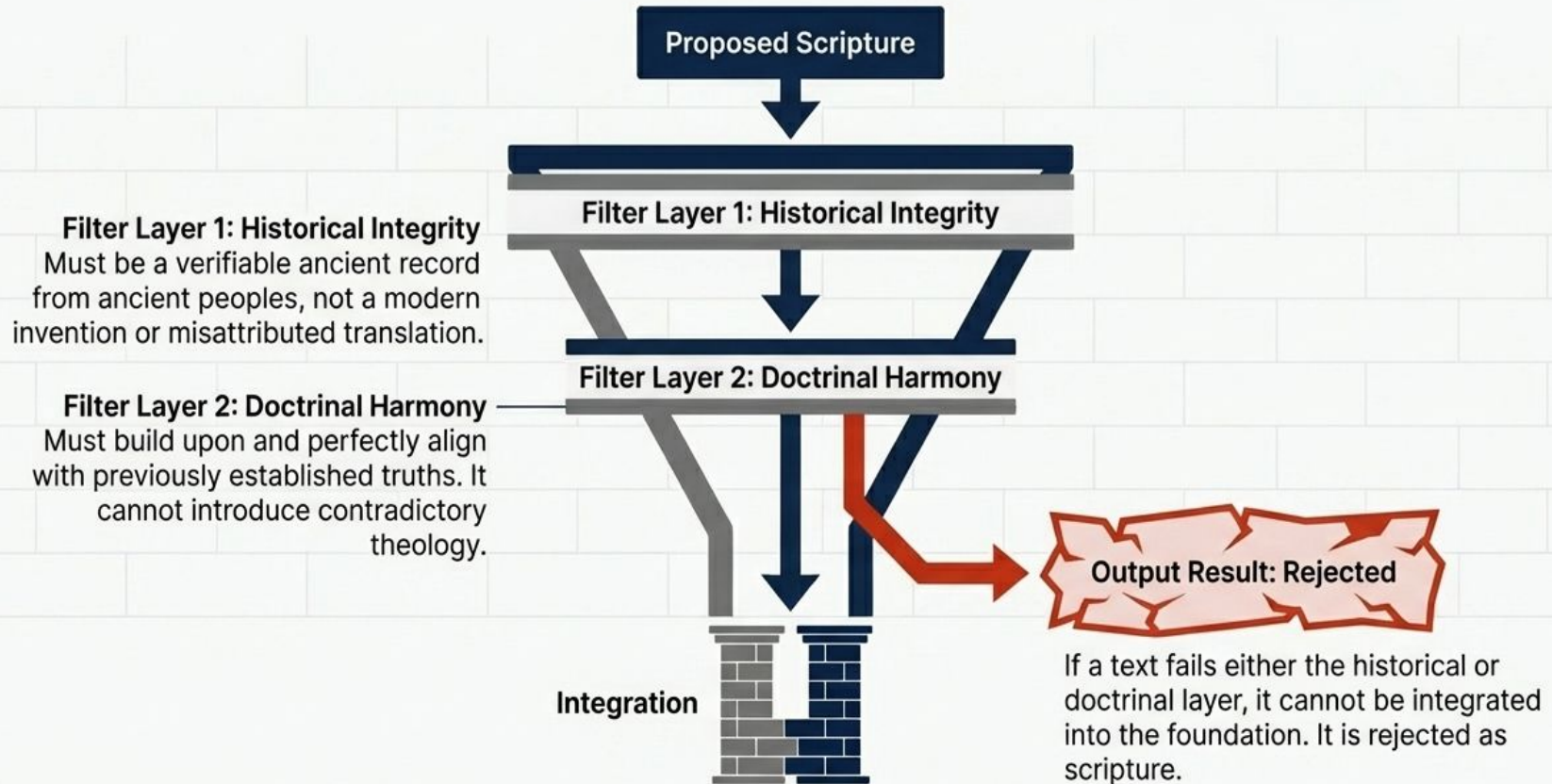


Judah's Record
(The Bible)



Joseph's Record
(The Book of Mormon)

The Framework for Canonical Harmony



The Book of Abraham: A Testable Claim



The Claim (1835 - 1842)

In 1835, Joseph Smith purchases Egyptian papyri from a traveling exhibitor, claiming they contain the writings of the patriarch Abraham. The translation is published in 1842.



The Reality (1967)

Believed destroyed in the 1871 Chicago Fire, fragments of the original papyri are rediscovered at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Professional Egyptologists unanimously verify the true nature of the source material.

The Verdict of History



Not Abraham.

The texts are common Egyptian funerary texts. No existing papyri suggests otherwise.



Wrong Era.

The material dates to roughly 200 BC, centuries after the patriarch Abraham actually lived.



Wrong Content

The translation reveals a standard guide for the deceased in the afterlife known as the Book of Breathings. It is entirely unrelated to Abraham.





**The Era of
Abraham
~2000 BC**



**The Source
Papyri
~200 BC**

The 1,800-Year Gap

The papyri are portions of the Book of Breathings—a standard Egyptian guide for the deceased in the afterlife, dating centuries after Abraham lived. No existing papyri suggests anything otherwise.

The Doctrinal Collision Matrix

Book of Abraham Doctrine	Biblical / Book of Mormon Foundation
Premortal existence (Spirits living with God before earth)	No Foundation
Kolob cosmology (A star/planet nearest to God's throne)	No Foundation
Noble and great ones (Premortal council chosen for leadership)	No Foundation
Plurality of Gods (Multiple gods involved in creation)	Direct Contradiction

Both Cannot Be True: The Nature of God

The Book of Abraham teaches a plurality of gods creating together.



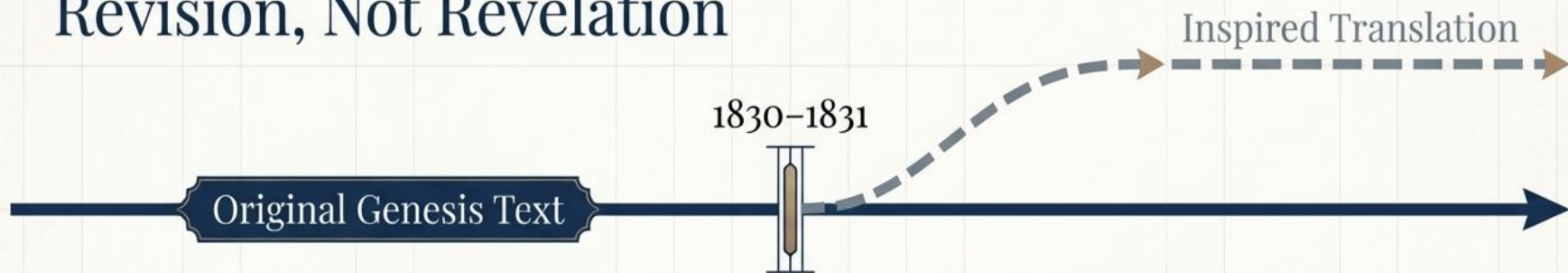
Isaiah 43:10: Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Moroni 8:18: God is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity.

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The Bible and the Book of Mormon teach one God, eternal and unchanging.
We reject the Book of Abraham because it fractures this foundation.

The Book of Moses: Revision, Not Revelation



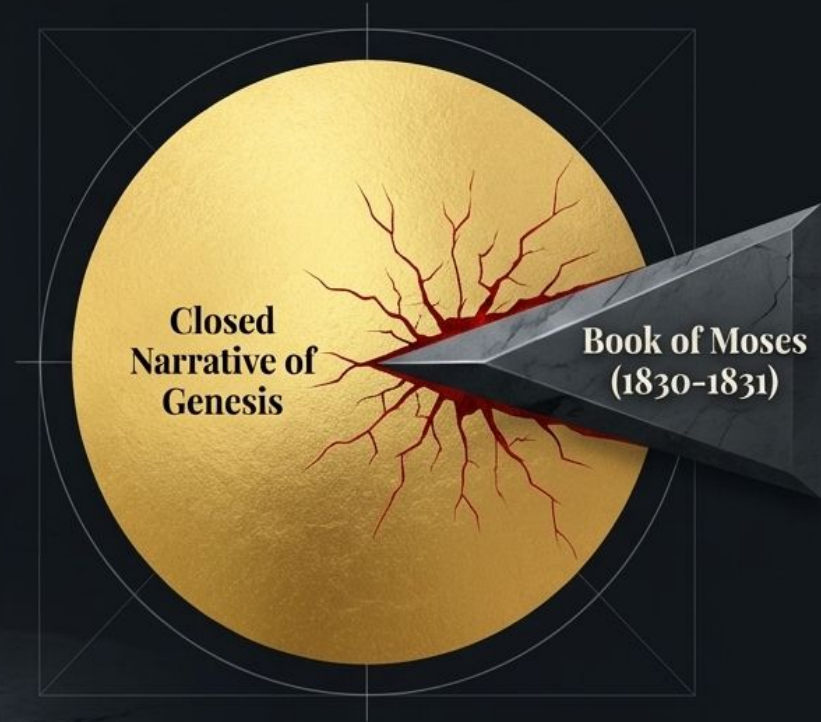
The Book of Moses is not a translation of an ancient document. It is a 19th-century revision of the early chapters of Genesis.

The Theological Problem:
It introduces new theological ideas **inconsistent with the original text.** If God intended to clarify His word with these significant doctrines, why were they omitted from both the Bible and the Book of Mormon?

Book of Moses: Revision, Not Revelation

- **The Context:** Produced between 1830–1831 as part of an “inspired translation” of the Bible. It is not a translation of an ancient document.
- **The Theological Flaw:** The Bible and Book of Mormon already tell the complete story of creation, the fall, and God’s purposes. The Book of Moses acts as a wedge, introducing new doctrines inconsistent with the original text.
- **The Question:** If God intended to clarify His word, why introduce new doctrines found in neither established record?

The Revision Wedge



Doctrine Alignment Matrix

Doctrine	The Standard (Bible/BoM)	The Claim (PoGP)	Alignment Status
Nature of God	One eternal, unchanging God	Plurality of gods	✗ Contradicts
Origins	Earthly creation	Premortal existence & Kolob	✗ Unreferenced
Textual Source	Prophesied Ancient Records	19th Century Funerary Text	✗ Fails Scrutiny

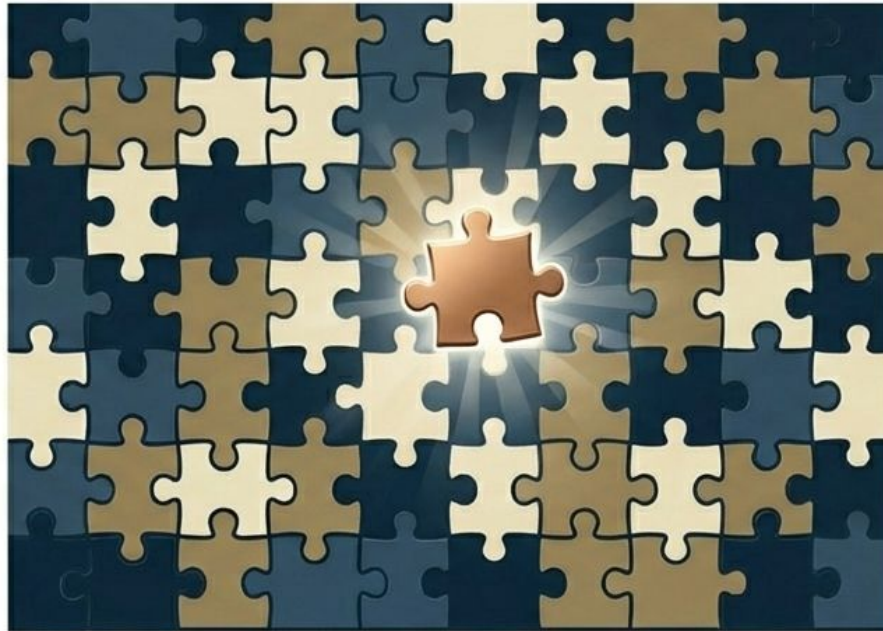
Takeaway: In The Church of Jesus Christ, scripture must build upon scripture. It must be harmonious and supportive.

The Governing Principle of Revelation

“I am the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Mormon 9:9

When a doctrine depends entirely on a single source that fails historical scrutiny, and that doctrine contradicts the rest of scripture, the honest conclusion is that it was never part of God's word.



The Unifying Rule: Therefore, whatever God brings forth in the future will absolutely harmonize with the Bible and the Book of Mormon. It will snap perfectly into the existing puzzle, never introducing new doctrines that undermine the established foundation.

The Warning of Proverbs



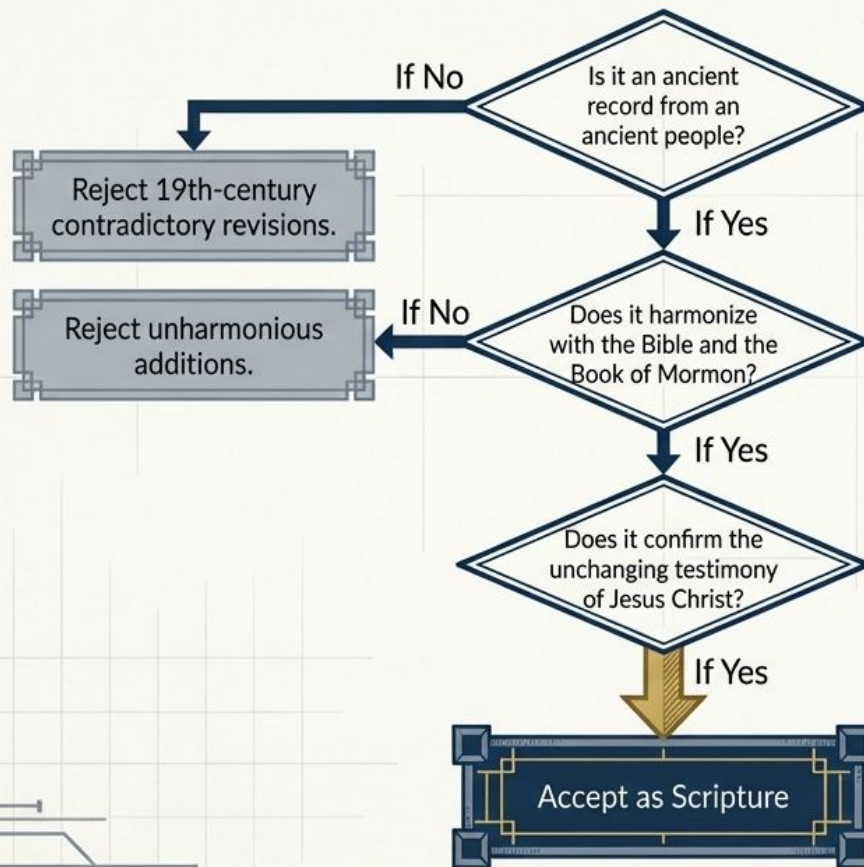
Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.



— Proverbs 30:5-6

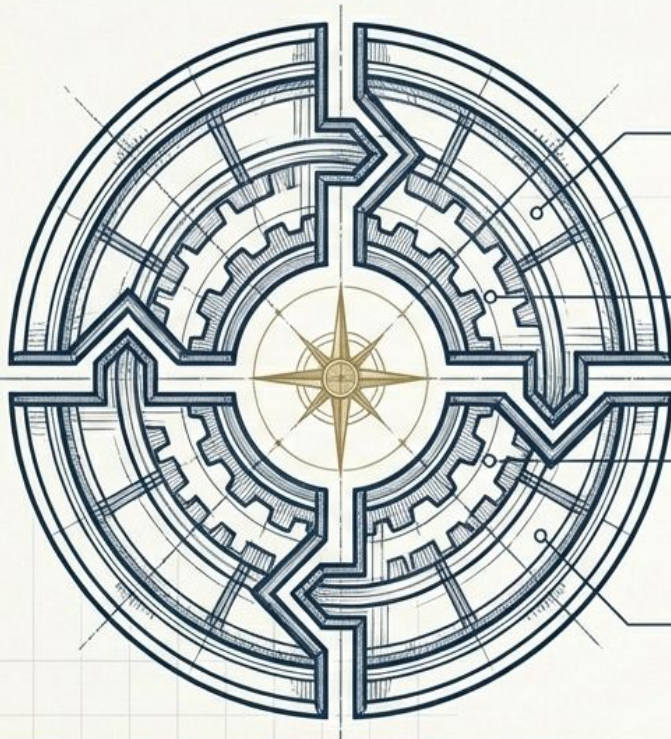
The pattern of scripture is confirmation. The Book of Moses crosses the line from clarification into unharmonious theological addition, warranting its rejection.

The Filter for Future Truth



Whatever God brings forth in the future will not introduce a different God, a different doctrine, or a different gospel.

A Complete Canon: Do We Lose Anything?



Creation, Fall, and God's plan of redemption

The Sinless Messiah, Atonement, Resurrection, and Judgment (3 Nephi 27)

The Doctrine of Christ: Faith, Repentance, Baptism, Holy Ghost (3 Nephi 11)

One Eternal and Unchanging God

Scripture furnishes everything needed for salvation (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Concepts unique to the Pearl of Great Price (Kolob, plural gods, premortal rankings) are explicitly required nowhere else in scripture.

A Necessary Honesty: Future Records



Sealed records yet to come forth

The Prophecies

Scripture prophesies additional records (John 21:25, 2 Nephi 29, Ether 4:4-7).

The Requirement

They must be ancient records from ancient peoples, not 19th-century revelations offering personal theologies.

When sealed records do come forth, they will confirm the testimony of Jesus Christ. They will not introduce a different God, a different doctrine, or a different gospel.

The Unshakable Foundation

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We believe that the New Testament scriptures
contain a true description of that Church...
and that no principle or doctrine inconsistent
therewith ought to be practiced...

— Article 4: Faith & Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ

Restoration means to bring something back to its original form. The Bible and the Book of Mormon form a complete witness. They stand on solid ground. We reject personal theologies accepted as modern revelation, and root our foundation exclusively in Jesus Christ and His words.