

"The founder of Mormonism was a convicted fraudster."

"No genetic evidence that the Israelites migrated to North America."

Atheology

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Other titles include:

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Mormonism is not true

The Founder of Mormonism

Joseph Smith Jr, the founder of Mormonism, was arrested for running a money scam using 'seer stones' (and later convicted and fined) in New York State in 1826. Four years later, he claimed to use 'seer stones' to translate the Book of Mormon. He was a convicted fraudster.



Although this does not conclusively disprove his later claims to being a prophet it makes them very suspect, and must be treated with increased scepticism. Part of the detail of his conviction was due to him being a fake treasure hunter. His later 'discovery' of the gold plates of Mormon are so similar to the scams he was perpetrating earlier also increases our scepticism of his story.

No genetic or archaeological evidence

A heavy burden

The Book of Abraham

The source document, an Egyptian papyrus, claimed by Joseph Smith to be the Book of Abraham was rediscovered in the 20th Century and was verified to be the source document. When handed to Egyptologists for verification they were able to confirm that it had nothing to do with Abraham. The Mormon response was character assassination of the Egyptologists and concealment of the document!

Genetic evidence and human migration

The founding story of Mormonism rests on the claim that ancient Israelites migrated by sea directly to North America. As a result of this the DNA of the Native Americans must show that they are the direct descendants of the ancient Israelites. Tests on DNA show this is not the case. Human migration from its evolutionary origins in Africa, which Mormons deny, shows beyond any reasonable doubt that Native Americans are NOT the direct descendants of ancient Israelites. Humans migrated through central Asia and the Far East before passing through Alaska into the North American continent. The founding story of Mormonism has been falsified; it is not true!

Archaeological evidence

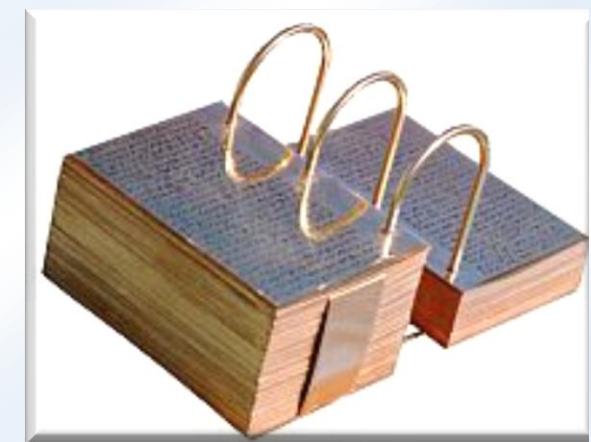
There is no archaeological evidence for much of the foundation story of Mormonism. Reformed Egyptian, the language that Smith claimed the golden plates were written in never existed, they were simply ancient characters from various languages that had been scribbled down and made to look like a language (a 'copy' of the characters was independently examined and declared a hoax). Ancient Egyptian was not deciphered until 11 years after the publication of the Book of Mormon. There is no evidence of other aspects of the Mormon narrative such as the existence of chariots, weapons, and battles fought between the Lamanites and the Nephites. If the final battle was so large and took place in a known location, as claimed, then it would be impossible for some archaeological evidence not to have been found if the battle ever happened. No such evidence has ever been found.

Linguistics

The Book of Mormon contains certain linguistic patterns that are not consistent with the time and location the golden plates were said to have been inscribed, despite obvious attempts to use ancient phrases. Words such as the Americanized name "Sam" and the French word 'adieu' provide evidence that Smith simply made the story up and show no evidence of divine inspiration. In fact the French language did not exist at all at the time when the phrase was allegedly uttered!

The Golden Plates

Apparently the entire Book of Mormon was inscribed onto golden plates in reformed Egyptian characters. However, the Book of Mormon is longer than the New Testament. If it was inscribed onto gold, the plates would be so heavy that they would be very difficult to pick up or move around, let alone place them in a hat, out of which it is claimed the translation took place.



Other sources say that Joseph Smith did not need the plates to translate them, but how could this be done without them? Why would he need to bring them down from the mountains and why did he need the seer stones in the first place? The whole story is not only improbable, but so convoluted it is ridiculous.