



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Why study this faith?

Mormon Claims

“I was answered that I must join none [of the Christian churches], for they were all ‘wrong’; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that all those professors were all corrupt; that: ‘they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men”

Why study this faith?

Mormon Claims

“Behold there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; she is the whore of all the earth.” 1 Nephi 14:10

Why study this faith?

Mormon Claims

“The Book of Mormon is a volume of holy scripture comparable to the Bible. . . . Joseph Smith is [Christ’s] revelator and prophet in these last days, and . . . the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord’s Kingdom once again established on earth. . .”

(Introduction to the Book of Mormon)

Why study this faith?

The Growth of the Church

- Over 100 million copies of the Book of Mormon, in 100 languages
- 2000: 11 million members; for the first time, more than 50% are non-English speakers
- 2015: 15.3 million members



149 Temples
Worldwide
Plans for 19 more

The Growth of the Church



Largest missionary-sending organization in the world (74,000)

Why study this faith?

Importance of Doctrine

“Watch your life and doctrine closely.”
I Timothy 4:16

“[An elder] must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.” Titus 1:9

Joseph Smith

1805-1844





Palmyra, New York

Early 19th Century

- Westward expansion (Louisiana Purchase 1803)
- New religious sects (Shakers, Oneida Community)
- Second Great Awakening (Charles Finney, Methodist Circuit riders, Revivals)
- Restoration Movement (Alexander Campbell)

Early 19th Century

- Denominational competition and bickering over doctrinal issues (baptism of infants, mode of baptism, predestination, etc.)
- Superstitious or “magical” worldview (magic peep stones, divination, spirits, etc.)
- Speculation and curiosity about the origin of the Indians. (*A View of the Hebrews*)

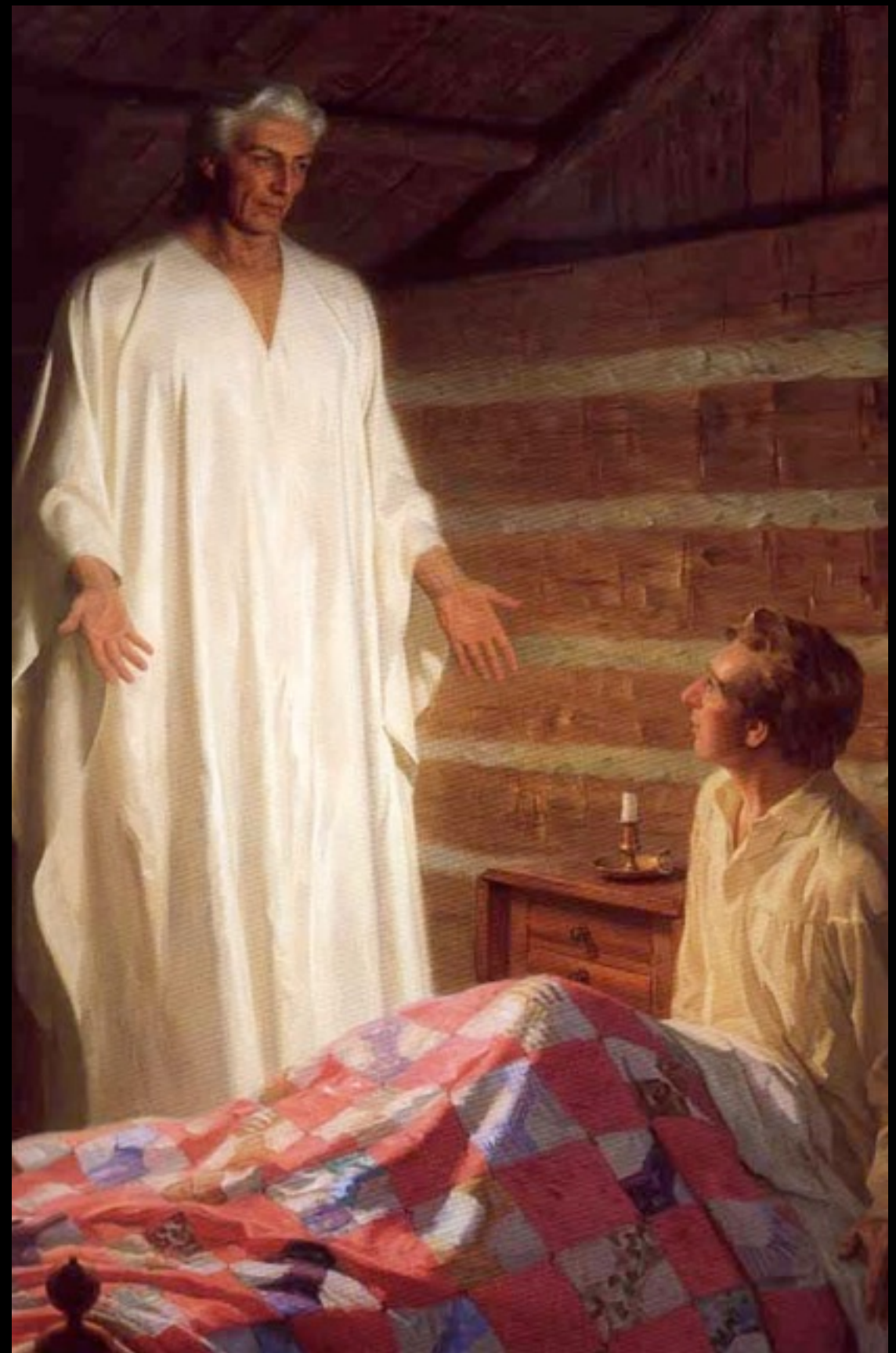
“First Vision” 1820





The Sacred Grove

Visitation by the Angel Moroni 1823





"HILL CUMORAH"

The "Hill Cumorah"

Near Palmyra, New York



Model of Golden Plates



STICK OF JOSEPH.
 TAKEN FROM THE
HAND OF EPHRAIM.
 A CORRECT COPY
 OF THE CHARACTERS TAKEN FROM THE PLATES THE
BOOK OF MORMON!!

Was translated from—the same that was taken to Professor Anthon of New York, by
 Martin Harris, in the year 1827 in fulfillment of Isaiah 29:12, 13.

"The vision of all is become unto you as the vision of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot for it is sealed: And the Book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned."

7206 2 444 460A+4X 7154 FLI 7 70 3 412
 1.

"Truth shall spring out of the earth."—Psalms 84—11.

4111111 7117 12) 24 70 11 43 2 11. 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

"I have written to Elisha the great king of Syria."—Isaiah 6—12.

11 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

"Thus saith the Lord God, Behold I will take the Stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.—Ezekiel 37: 19.

"The Lord hath said, 'I will take the Stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.'—Ezekiel 37: 19.

Broadside used in the early days of the Church to publicize the Book of Mormon reproduces the characters Joseph Smith copied from the plates. The broadside was printed in gold letters on black paper. (Church Archives)

BOOK OF MORMON!!

Was translated from—the same that was taken to Professor Anthon of New York, by
Martin Harris, in the year 1827, in fulfillment of Isaiah 29.11, 12.

"The vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot, for it is sealed: And the Book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned."

And he said unto me, Write, for the words are true, and they shall bring forth fruit in you. And he said unto me, Write, for the words are true, and they shall bring forth fruit in you.

"Truth shall spring out of the earth."—Psalm 85—11.

And he said unto me, Write, for the words are true, and they shall bring forth fruit in you. And he said unto me, Write, for the words are true, and they shall bring forth fruit in you.

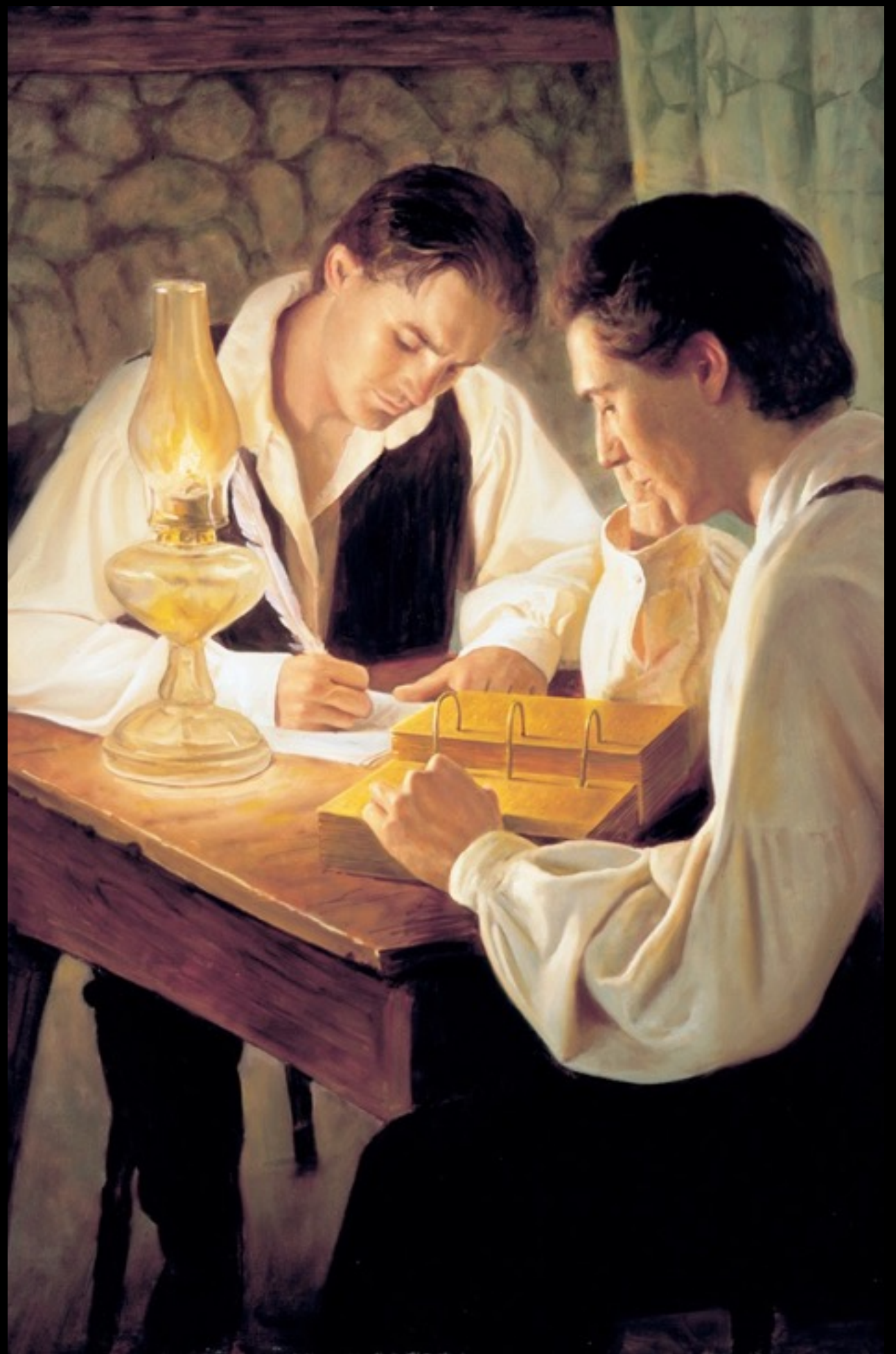
"I have written to you the words of the Lord, which are true, and they shall bring forth fruit in you."—Isaiah 5—12.

And he said unto me, Write, for the words are true, and they shall bring forth fruit in you. And he said unto me, Write, for the words are true, and they shall bring forth fruit in you.

"And said the Lord God, Behold I will take the Scepter of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel shall be gathered to him, and will put them with him, even with the scepter of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand."—Jeremiah 37: 19.

"This Indian once had 'Sacred Book' like the white man have, but it was hid in the ground, since then Indian no more reveal against his enemies."—An aged Indian of the Stockbridge tribe.

Translated by
“the Power of
God”





Mormon church releases photos of 'seer stone' used by founder Joseph Smith

By **PEGGY FLETCHER STACK** | The Salt Lake Tribune [CONNECT](#)

First Published Aug 04 2015 07:57AM • Last Updated Sep 13 2015 03:22 pm



A picture of a smooth, brown, egg-sized rock is shown in the printer's manuscript of the Book of Mormon following a news conference Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2015, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Church History Library, in Salt Lake City. The Mormon church for the first time is publishing photos of a small sacred stone it believes founder Joseph Smith used to help translate the story that became the basis of the religion. The Mormon church is taking another step in its push to be more transparent, and is releasing more historical documents that shed light on how Joseph Smith formed the religion. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

First Edition Book of Mormon

Published, 1830

THE BOOK OF MORMON:

AN ACCOUNT WRITTEN BY THE HAND OF MOR-
MON, UPON PLATES TAKEN FROM
THE PLATES OF NEPHI.

Wherefore it is an abridgment of the Record of the People of Nephi; and also of the Lamanites; written to the Lamanites, which are a remnant of the House of Israel; and also to Jew and Gentile; written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of Prophecy and of Revelation. Written, and sealed up, and hid up unto the Lord, that they might not be destroyed; to come forth by the gift and power of God unto the interpretation thereof; sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by the way of Gentile; the interpretation thereof by the gift of God; an abridgment taken from the Book of Ether.

Also, which is a Record of the People of Jared, which were scattered at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people when they were building a tower to get to Heaven; which is to show unto the remnant of the House of Israel how great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever; and also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the CHRIST, the ETERNAL God, manifesting Himself unto all nations. And now if there be fault, it be the mistake of man; wherefore condemn not the things of God, that ye may be found spotless at the judgment seat of Christ.

BY JOSEPH SMITH, JUNIOR,
AUTHOR AND PROPRIETOR.

PALMYRA:

PRINTED BY E. B. GRANDIN, FOR THE AUTHOR.

1830.

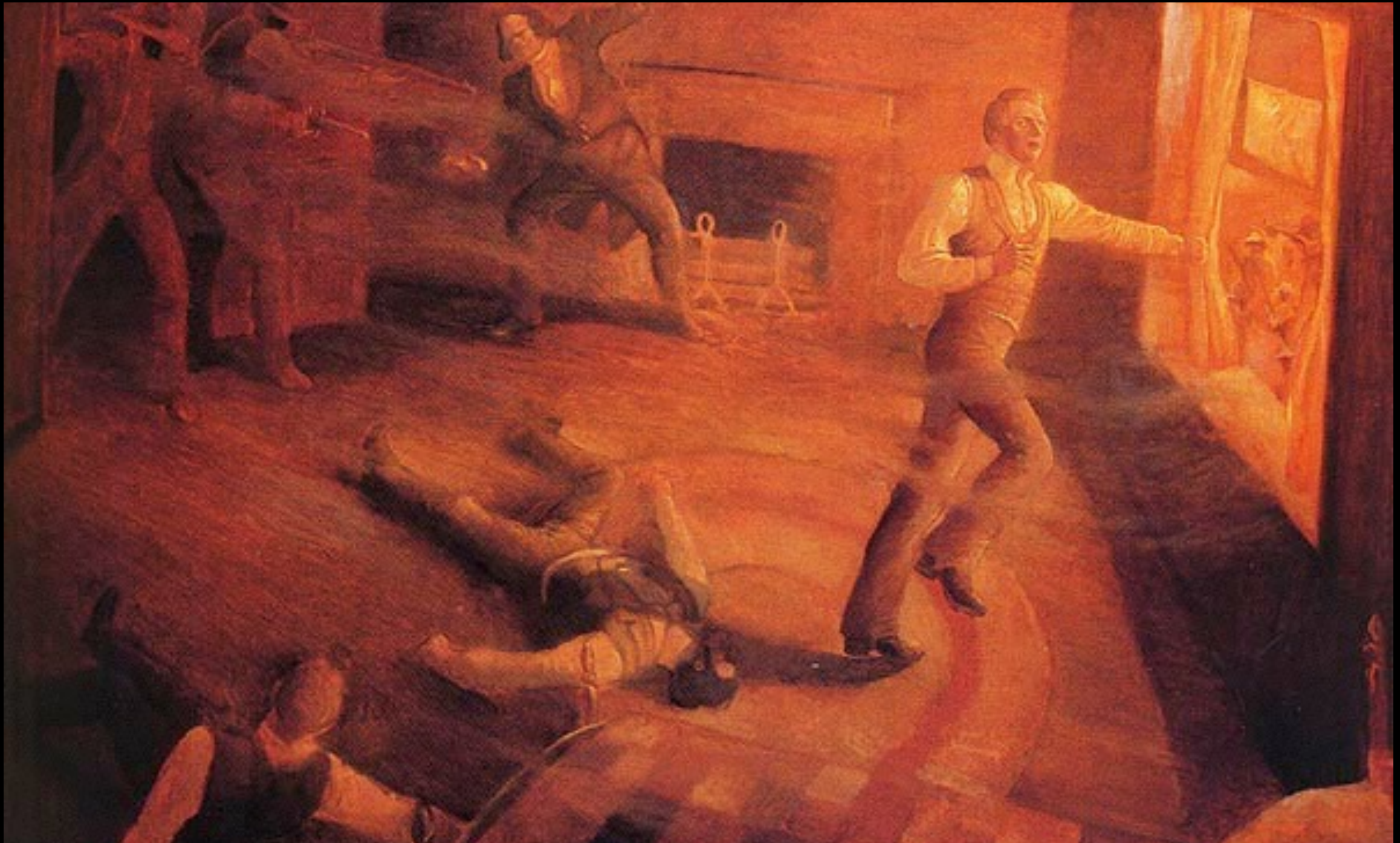
Overview of History

- 1830 Book of Mormon founded, Church established.
- 1831 Church moved to Kirtland, Ohio
- 1835 Book of Abraham papyrus acquired
- 1838 Church moved to Jackson Co., MO

Overview of History

- 1839 Church moved to Nauvoo, IL
- 1839-1844 Period of membership growth and doctrinal development.
- 1844 Death of Joseph Smith

Overview of History



Death of Joseph Smith 1844

Overview of History

- 1844 Church division over leadership of the community
- 1845 Westward migration
- 1847 Founding of Salt Lake City in the Utah territory. “This is the place.”

Overview of History

- 1890 President Wilson ends polygamy
- 1978 President Kimball opens priesthood to blacks
- 2000 Membership reaches 11 million, with 50% outside of the United States

Key Truth Claims

A. Apostasy of earliest Christianity

- Loss of priesthood authority
- Corruption/Loss of doctrine
- Corruption/Loss of Biblical text

Key Truth Claims

- B. Restoration under Joseph Smith
- C. Continuing revelation
- D. Living Prophets & Apostles
- E. Families can be together forever.

Self Perception

- A. Christians....but not traditional
- B. The “one true Church”
- C. Doing God’s work; hardworking
- D. Persecuted and misunderstood

Scriptures

- Book of Mormon
- Doctrines and Covenants
- Pearl of Great Price
- The Bible

The Book of Mormon





Jesus Christ visits the Americas



"HILL CUMORAH"

The last great battle—
at the Hill Cumorah

Moroni buries
the plates



Scriptures

- Book of Mormon
- Doctrines and Covenants
- Pearl of Great Price
- The Bible