

What the Book of Mormon

DOES NOT

Teach

From Community of Christ Website (former RLDS)



God

“We believe in one living God who meets us in the testimony of Israel, is revealed in Jesus Christ, and moves through all creation as the Holy Spirit. **We affirm the Trinity—God who is a community of three persons.**”

From LDS Website



Godhead

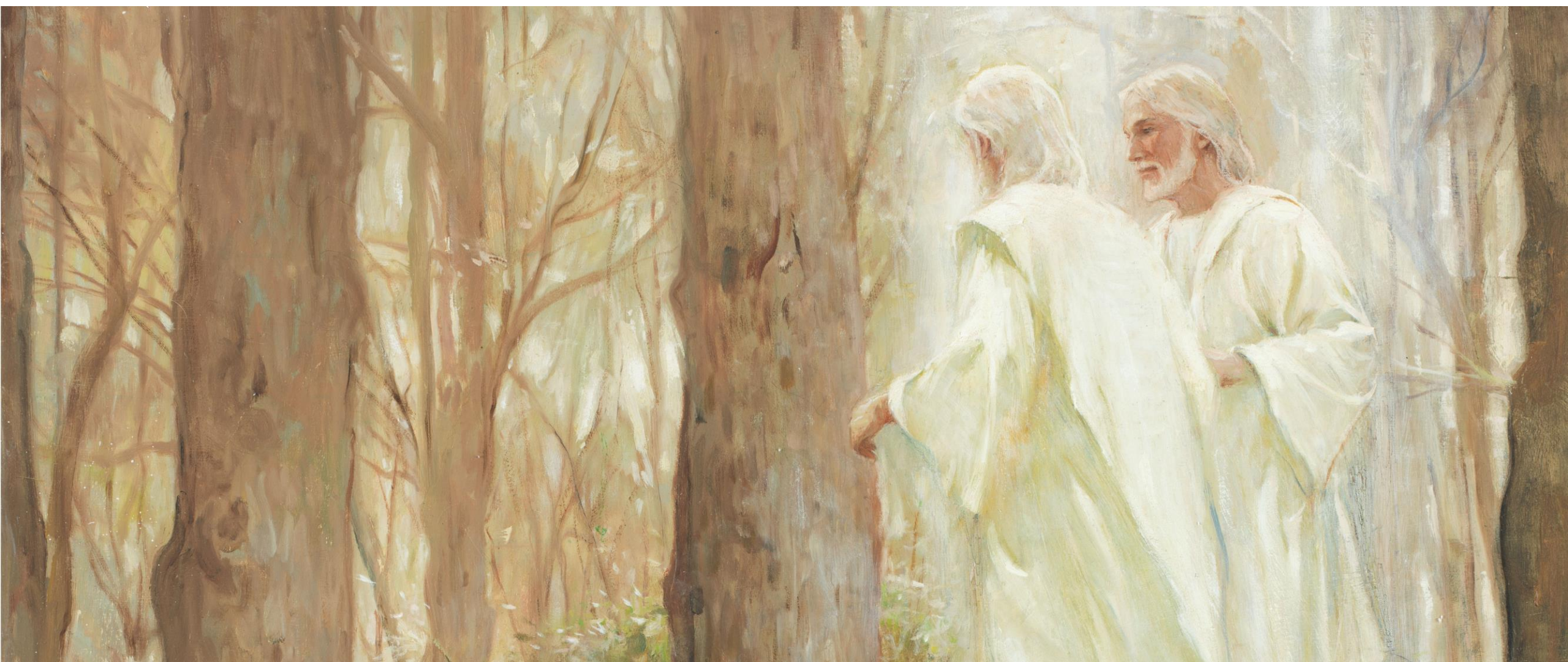
“The Church’s first article of faith states, “We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.”^{[1](#)}

These three beings make up the Godhead.

They preside over this world and all other creations of our Father in Heaven.”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/gospel-topics/godhead?lang=eng>

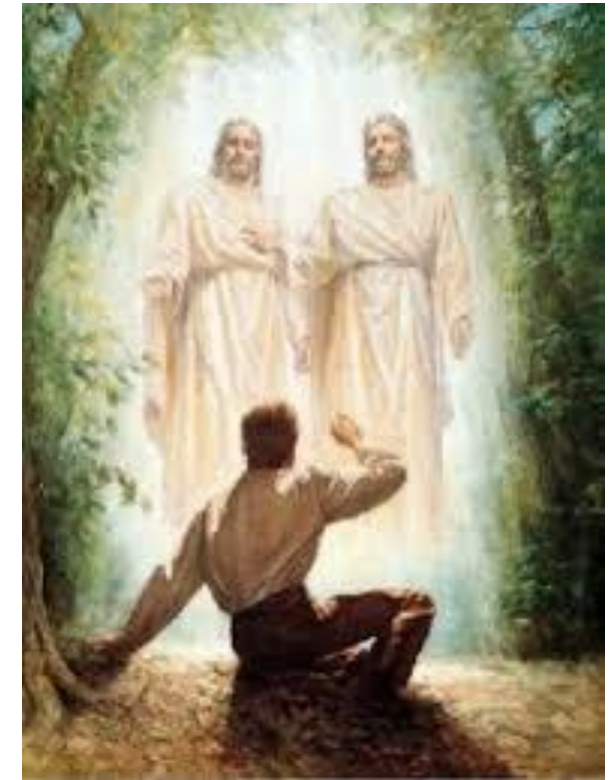
<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/the-first-vision-journey-to-the-sacred-grove?lang=eng>



Two Personages.....It's everywhere



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Vision



<https://theclio.com/entry/6688>

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/sacred-grove>

From Restoration Website

Waldo Avenue Restoration Branch

(819 West Waldo Ave., Independence, MO 64050)

Branch Bylaws

“THE GODHEAD: We believe in God the Eternal Father, and his son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost. We believe that God, the Father, and Christ the Son, are two separate personages.”

<http://www.waldoavenuerestorationbranch.org/bylaws.html>

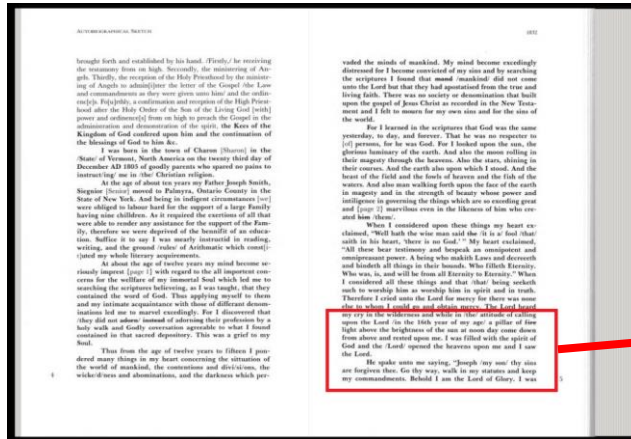
Apparently it didn't happen
this way.

Yet, we write of it,
we sing of it,

We teach our children of two
personages, but Joseph
Smith's diary account names
ONLY ONE.



Joseph Smiths Diary (First Account)



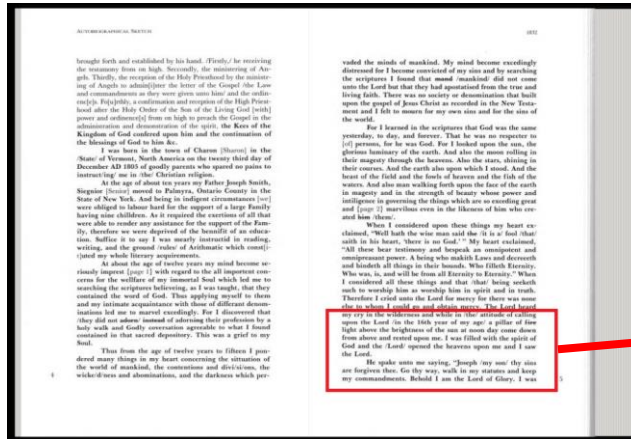
Joseph's original diary only points to ONE personage

Therefore I cried unto the Lord for mercy for there was none else to whom I could go and obtain mercy. The Lord heard my cry in the wilderness and while in /the/ attitude of calling upon the Lord /in the 16th year of my age/ a pillar of fire light above the brightness of the sun at noon day come down from above and rested upon me. I was filled with the spirit of God and the /Lord/ opened the heavens upon me and I saw the Lord.

He spake unto me saying, "Joseph /my son/ thy sins are forgiven thee. Go thy way, walk in my statutes and keep my commandments. Behold I am the Lord of Glory. I was

<https://archive.org/details/AnAmericanProphetsRecordJosephSmith/page/n71/mode/2up>

Joseph Smiths Diary (First Account)



crucified for the world that all those who believe on my name may have Eternal life. /Behold/ the world lieth in sin at this time and none doeth good, no not one. They have turned aside from the gospel and keep not /my/ commandments. They draw near to me with their lips while their hearts are far from me and mine anger is kindling against the inhabitants of the earth to visit them according to th/e/ir ungodliness and to bring to pass that which /hath/ been spoken by the mouth of the prophets and Ap/o/stles. Behold and lo, I come quickly as it [is] written of me, in the cloud /clothed/ in the glory of my Father.”

Joseph's original diary only points to ONE personage

<https://archive.org/details/AnAmericanProphetsRecordJosephSmith/page/n71/mode/2up>

With the Book of Mormon came:

- The Cost of Sin was Infinite. Payment required an INFINITE SACRIFICE.
- God will come to Earth as a Man.
- God would become the sacrifice. Jesus is God
- Men must repent and come to God with Broken Hearts/Contrite Spirits.
- A Simple Priesthood was offered.
- One Salvation-full return to God or full separation.
- Promises Explained through Covenant with Abraham.
- Teaches this life is the time to repent.
- We will be judged by its words (the words of the Book of Mormon)

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After 1830, came:

- 3 Gods
- Jesus is offspring of God
- Enoch Covenant, Enoch City
- Melchizedek Priesthood, Aaronic Priesthood
- Communion taught for Forgiveness
- Prison House Forgiveness after this life.
- Zion by Gathering of Gentiles
- Baptism for the dead
- Multiple Levels of Salvation
- Gentile church will 'rule'
- The idea that the church is 'restored' among Gentiles
- Works determine 'level' of salvation
- Gentile Temples
- Eternal Marriage
- Satan qualified as Savior
- Families populating other worlds
- That God feared going to the cross
- That Zion comes by Enoch City return
- Joseph Smith Holds the Keys to this dispensation
- Joseph Smith will Judge, standing with Peter, James, John.
- A Separation of salvation by not just group, but by congregation

The Book of Mormon teaches

God does not differentiate between Jew and Gentile,

[2 Nephi 12:77](#) For behold I say unto you,
As many of the **Gentiles** as will repent are the covenant people of the Lord;
And as many of the **Jews** as will not repent shall be cast off;
(LDS: [2 Nephi 30:2](#))

...Yet restoration divides congregations (of Gentiles) based on perceived 'authority' whether accepted or rejected.

And this authority stems from a perceived adherence to teachings of Joseph Smith vs the Book of Mormon..

Parley Pratt -JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES, PP 195-196

I have testified and do still testify of the truth of the Book of Mormon—
that it is an inspired record, the history of a branch of the house of
Israel that live in America; that it does contain the fulness of the Gospel
as revealed to them by a crucified and risen Redeemer; and that
wherever it goes and its light is permitted to shine, the Spirit of the
Lord will bear testimony of its truth to every honest heart in all the
world. Wherever that book is candidly perused, the Spirit will bear
record of its truth:

And I bear this testimony this day, that Joseph Smith was and is a
Prophet, Seer, and Revelator—an Apostle holding the keys of this last
dispensation and of the kingdom of God, under Peter, James, and John.

Parley Pratt -JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES, PP 195-196

And not only that he was a Prophet and Apostle of Jesus Christ, and lived and died one, but that he now lives in the spirit world, and holds those same keys to usward and to this whole generation. Also that he will hold those keys to all eternity;

and no power in heaven or on the earth will ever take them from him; for he will continue holding those keys through all eternity, and will stand—yes, again in the flesh upon this earth, as the head of the Latter-day Saints under Jesus Christ, and under Peter, James, and John.

He will hold the keys to judge the generation to whom he was sent, and will judge my brethren that preside over me; and will judge me, together with the Apostles ordained by the word of the Lord through him and under his administration.

“Standing in the flesh under Jesus??”

Where did this come from?

- Why was No one in the Book of Mormon was treated this way?
- Why wasn't this said of Lehi or Nephi, or Abraham instead, or Jesus disciples?
- Why did Gentiles quickly shift away from Book of Mormon, creating a context about Joseph Smith that actually never existed.?
- Why?? Joseph had only one gift, to translate the book of Mormon. God used an uneducated man to fulfill this purpose. After that, Joseph's work was done.
- Why did Gentiles build up Joseph: the myth, the legacy, the lineage?

Because they had to make polygamy seem of GOD.

- The only way to perpetuate Polygamy, baptism for the dead, temple cash flow, was to make the person who it came from seem so important, you would never question.
- The only way to do this was to build up Joseph Smith to larger than life.
- This all brings shame to the Book of Mormon, makes Gentiles deny the true God, cause confusion on the real message of God.

Building up Joseph Smith

- Different groups for different reasons
- But (unfortunately) most of the 'conservative' in any group (LDS, RLDS, Restoration) feel allegiance to Joseph Smith is mandatory.
- In restoration, a piousness exists if you seem well acquainted with the life details of Joseph Smith. As if it makes you more spiritual.
- Be careful. Those teachings that came after the Book of Mormon contradict the Book of Mormon.
- Learn what the Book of Mormon teaches and stick to it.

Link at Restored Gospel—
Book of Mormon teaches Jesus IS God.

http://www.restoredgospel.com/PODCASTLINKS/GodTookOnFlesh_Complete.pdf

The Real Presentation of Jesus

- RLDS: Ether 1:62-102
- LDS: [Ether 3:2](#) - [Ether 4:8](#)

Ether 1

62 Now behold, O Lord, and do not be angry with Thy servant because of his weakness before Thee, For we know that Thou art holy and dwellest in the heavens and that we are unworthy before Thee -

Ether 1

63 Because of the fall, our natures have become evil continually - Nevertheless, O Lord, Thou hast given us a commandment that we must call upon Thee, that from Thee we may receive according to our desires.

Ether 1

64 Behold, O Lord, Thou hast smitten us because of our iniquity and hath driven us forth, And for this many years we have been in the wilderness; Nevertheless, Thou hast been merciful unto us.

Ether 1

65 O Lord, look upon me in pity and turn away Thine anger from this Thy people, And suffer not that they shall go forth across this raging deep in darkness, But behold these things which I have molten out of the rock.

Ether 1

66 And I know, O Lord, that Thou hast all power and can do whatsoever Thou wilt for the benefit of man; Therefore, touch these stones, O Lord, with Thy finger and prepare them that they may shine forth in darkness, And they shall shine forth unto us in the vessels which we have prepared, that we may have light while we shall cross the sea;

Ether 1

67 Behold, O Lord, Thou canst do this; We know that
Thou art able to show forth great power which looks
small unto the understanding of men.

Ether 1

68 And it came to pass that when the brother of Jared had said these words, Behold, the Lord stretched forth His hand and touched the stones one by one with His finger;

Ether 1

69 And the veil was taken from off the eyes of the brother of Jared and he saw the finger of the Lord, And it was as the finger of a man - like unto flesh and blood; And the brother of Jared fell down before the Lord, for he was struck with fear.

Ether 1

70 And the Lord saw that the brother of Jared had fallen to the earth, And the Lord said unto him: Arise, why hast thou fallen?

Ether 1

71 And he saith unto the Lord: I saw the finger of the Lord and I feared lest He should smite me, For I knew not that the Lord had flesh and blood.

Ether 1

72 And the Lord said unto him: Because of thy faith thou hast seen that I shall take upon Me flesh and blood; And never has man come before Me with such exceeding faith as thou hast; For were it not so, ye could not have seen My finger - Sawest thou more than this?

Ether 1

73 And he answered: Nay, Lord, show Thyself unto me.

Ether 1

74 And the Lord said unto him: Believest thou the words which I shall speak?

Ether 1

75 And he answered: Yea, Lord, I know that Thou speakest the truth, For Thou art a God of truth and canst not lie.

Ether 1

76 And when he had said these words, Behold, the Lord showed Himself unto him and said: Because thou knowest these things, ye are redeemed from the fall; Therefore, ye are brought back into My presence; Therefore, I show Myself unto you.

Ether 1

77 Behold, I Am He which was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem My people;
Behold, I Am Jesus Christ, I Am the Father and the Son;

Ether 1

78 In Me shall all mankind have life and that eternally, even they which shall believe on My name, And they shall become My sons and My daughters;

Ether 1

79 And never hath I showed Myself unto man whom I have created, For never hath man believed in Me as thou hast.

Ether 1

80 Seest thou that ye are created after Mine own image? Yea, even all men were created in the beginning after Mine own image;

Ether 1

81 Behold, this body which ye now behold is the body of My Spirit; And man have I created after the body of My Spirit; And even as I appear unto thee to be in the Spirit, will I appear unto My people in the flesh.

Ether 1

82 And now as I, Moroni, said I could not make a full account of these things which are written, Therefore, it sufficeth me to say that Jesus showed Himself unto this man in the Spirit, even after the manner and in the likeness of the same body, even as He showed Himself unto the Nephites;

Ether 1

83 And He ministered unto him, even as He ministered unto the Nephites; And all this that this man knew that He was God, because of the many great works which the Lord had showed unto him;

Ether 1

84 And because of the knowledge of this man, he could not be kept from beholding within the veil; And he saw the finger of Jesus which when he saw, he fell with fear, for he knew that it was the finger of the Lord;

Ether 1

85 And he had faith no longer, for he knew, nothing doubting; Wherefore, having this perfect knowledge of God, he could not be kept from beholding within the veil; Therefore, he saw Jesus, And He did minister unto him.

Ether 1

86 And it came to pass that the Lord said unto the brother of Jared: Behold, thou shalt not suffer these things which ye have seen and heard to go forth unto the world until the time cometh that I shall glorify My name in the flesh; Wherefore, ye shall treasure up the things which ye have seen and heard and show it to no man.

Ether 1

87 And behold, when ye shall come unto Me, ye shall write them and shall seal them up, that no one can interpret them, For ye shall write them in a language that they cannot be read;

Ether 1

88 And behold, these two stones will I give unto thee,
And ye shall seal them up also with the things which
ye shall write;

Ether 1

89 For behold, the language which ye shall write, I have confounded; Wherefore, I will cause in Mine own due time that these stones shall magnify to the eyes of men these things which ye shall write.

Ether 1

90 And when the Lord had said these words, the Lord showed unto the brother of Jared all the inhabitants of the earth which had been, and also all that would be; And the Lord withheld them not from his sight, even unto the ends of the earth;

Ether 1

91 For the Lord had said unto him in times before that if he would believe in Him that He could show unto him all things, it should be shown unto him; Therefore, the Lord could not withhold anything from him, for he knew that the Lord could show him all things.

Ether 1

92 And the Lord said unto him: Write these things and seal them up, And I will show them in Mine own due time unto the children of men.

Ether 1

93 And it came to pass that the Lord commanded him that he should seal up the two stones which he had received and show them not until the Lord should show them unto the children of men.

Ether 1

94 And the Lord commanded the brother of Jared to go down out of the mount from the presence of the Lord and write the things which he had seen; And they were forbidden to come unto the children of men until after that He should be lifted up upon the cross;

Ether 1

95 And for this cause did King Benjamin keep them,
that they should not come unto the world until after
Christ should show Himself unto His people;

Ether 1

96 And after that Christ truly had showed Himself unto His people, He commanded that they should be made manifest.

Ether 1

97 And now, after that they have all dwindled in
unbelief, And there is none, save it be the Lamanites,
And they have rejected the gospel of Christ;
Therefore, I am commanded that I should hide them
up again in the earth.

Ether 1

98 Behold, I have written upon these plates the very things which the brother of Jared saw; And there never was greater things made manifest than that which was made manifest unto the brother of Jared; Wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me to write them, And I have written them.

Ether 1

99 And He commanded me that I should seal them up, And He also hath commanded that I should seal up the interpretation thereof; Wherefore, I have sealed up the interpreters according to the commandment of the Lord.

Ether 1

100 For the Lord saith unto me: They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity and become clean before the Lord;

Ether 1

101 And in that day that they shall exercise faith in Me, saith the Lord, even as the brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in Me, Then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all My revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth and all things that in them is.

Ether 1

102 And he that will contend against the word of the Lord, let him be accursed; And he that shall deny these things, let him be accursed; For unto them will I show no greater things, saith Jesus Christ, for I Am He which speaketh.