



You may have heard or said many of the above statements. Do you believe the Bible has been changed since it was originally written? Perhaps you have thought to yourself, "The Bible has been translated so many times and passed through so many hands that it has been corrupted." LDS leaders and writings have certainly taught this idea.

"...behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and precious...there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book..." (1st Nephi 13:26-29)

"I believe the Bible as it read when it came from the pen of the original writers. Ignorant translators, careless transcribers, or designing and corrupt priests have committed many errors." (Joseph Smith, History of the Church, vol. 6, p. 57)

**?** **BIG "what if."** If the Bible has not been corrupted it would mean, 1) we have not lost plain and precious truths, and 2) there would have been no need for a "restoration" as described by the LDS Church. What if the Bible has not been corrupted? What if "plain and precious truths" have not been taken out? What if the evidence demonstrates modern Bibles match the original faithfully? What if???

If you are LDS please consider the following. What would you do if you discovered the Church has been misleading about the Bible being corrupted? Check a box below that represents what you would do.

- Continue to believe it has been corrupted despite evidence to the contrary.
- Do more research because perhaps the Church has been misleading in other areas.
- Leave the LDS Church and find a Bible believing and teaching church.

## Consider God's promises

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." (Matthew 24:35)

"The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever." (Isa. 40:7-8)

How can we know if the above promises have been kept by God? We know He has kept His promises because of archeology and textual criticism. Through various means huge amounts of ancient copies of the Bible have been dug up or found tucked away in forgotten places.

The fact is, we have literally thousands of ancient copies, partial and complete, of the NT dating as early as 25-100 years from the original. In addition to that we have over 2,000 ancient church service books, called lectionaries, which quote the Bible extensively. Also, we have all the writings of the early church fathers who liberally placed Bible verses in their literature. Does this mass of physical evidence reveal preservation or corruption? The reality is it reveals preservation just as God promised.

Certainly, if someone wanted to remove "plain and precious truths" from the Bible they could grab an eraser and a pen and do as they please. However, God in His desire to keep his promise of preservation, made it impossible for those changes to go undetected. With the mass volume of handwritten copies, it should be expected that slips of the pen would happen. However, with the mass of copies we have, those slips of the pen are easily detected and removed.

The LDS church claims "plain and precious truths" have been removed from the Bible. It is often pointed out that we do not have the "original" writings and so we could never really be sure what the original said. It is true we do not have the actual paper and ink they used but this does not mean we don't have the original words. In reality we have 110% of the original. The extra 10% consists of different spelling of words, lines being copied more than once and things like that. It is very important to grasp that no LDS doctrine, described as "lost plain and precious truths," have been discovered in any of the mass of manuscripts.

Follow this train of logical thought. 1) When Joseph Smith made his claims of corruption the oldest copies of the Bible were from around 900 AD. 2) As archeologists find older copies these lost "plain and precious truths" *should* appear in increasing fashion as we get closer to original writing dates. 3) New Testament copies close to the time of original writing should be "loaded" with these "lost truths." 4) If ancient copies don't reveal "lost truths" the LDS position should be abandoned. 5) We do have older copies and they do not contain LDS doctrines.

Compared to other ancient writings the evidence for the Bible is remarkable. Take a look at this chart and be amazed.

Author of work	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Gap	Number of copies
Caesar (Gallic Wars)	100-44 BC	900 AD	1,000 years	10
Plato (Tetralogies)	400 BC	900AD	1,300 years	7
Pliny the Younger (History)	61-113AD	850AD	750 years	7
Thueydides (History)	460-400BC	900AD	1,300 years	8
Herodotus (History)	480-425BC	900AD	1,300 years	8
Sophocius (History)	469-406BC	100AD	600 years	193
Aristotle	384-322	1,100AD	1,400 years	193
Homer (Iliad)	900BC	400AD	1,500 years	643
<b>N.T.</b>	<b>50-95AD</b>	<b>125AD</b>	<b><u>35 years</u></b>	<b><u>&gt;25,000</u></b>
<b>Book of Mormon</b>	<b>Allegedly 600BC-400AD</b>	<b>1830AD</b>	<b>1,400 years</b>	<b><u>0</u></b>

Notice the comparison between the NT and the BOM at the bottom of the chart. We have thousands of ancient copies of the NT and zero for the Book of Mormon. The oldest copy of the BOM is what was published in 1830. It is interesting to note that there are roughly 4,000 visible changes from the 1830 version compared to today and that is in less than 200 years, and in a time after the printing press. In defense of the BOM, most of those changes are spelling and things like that, but not all, some do effect doctrine.

There are some very significant visible changes in LDS scripture that are worthy of note. In the original Doctrine and Covenants (called the Book of Commandments) There is no mention of the LDS priesthoods that are considered so important today. David Whitmer, one of the three witness to the BOM, spoke directly to these changes in LDS scripture and he was not nice about it.



"You have changed the revelations from the way they were first given and as they are today in the Book of Commandments, to support the error of Brother Joseph in taking upon himself the office of Seer to the church. You have changed the revelations to support the error of high priests. You have changed the revelations to support the error of a President of the high priesthood, high counselors, etc. You have altered the revelations to support you in going beyond the plain teachings of Christ in the new covenant part of the Book of Mormon. You have changed and altered the revelations to support the error of publishing those revelations in a book: the errors you are in, revelations have been changed to support and uphold them. You who are now living did not change them, but you who strive to defend these things, are as guilty in the sight of God as those who did change them." (David Whitmer, *An Address to All Believers in Christ*, p. 49)

The claims of "plain and precious truths" being taken out of the Bible cannot be demonstrated by the archeological record. However, the changes in LDS scripture are easily demonstrated by comparing the early editions with the modern. The reality is the Bible is reliable, and the LDS scriptures are not, with regards to changes.

