

Joseph Smith's First Vision: The Story Behind the Official Story

Key Contradictions in the Narrative

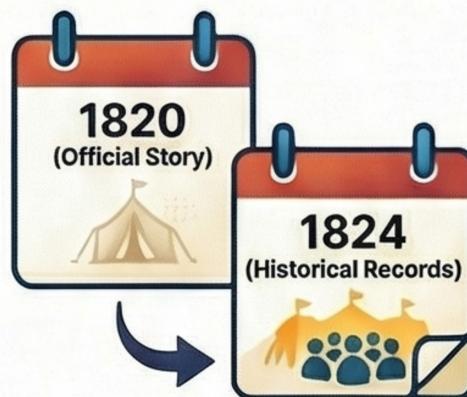


Who Appeared in the Vision? The Accounts Evolve.



A 12-Year Silence on a Foundational Event

No record of the vision exists before 1892—not in journals, newspapers, or family accounts.



The Timeline Doesn't Align with History

The official story cites an 1820 religious revival, but records show major revivals occurred in 1824.



One

"the Lord" (Jesus)

Two

God the Father and Jesus Christ

The earliest handwritten account describes one being, while the official version describes two.

Following the Theological Evolution



The Vision Changed as Joseph Smith's Theology Changed



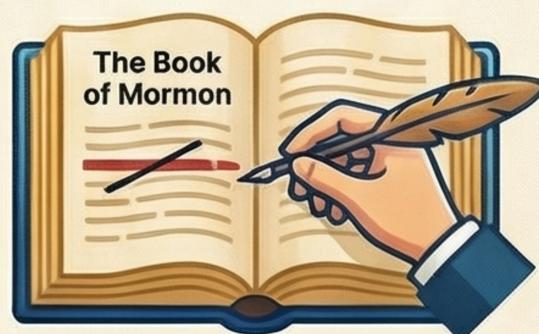
Early Church Teachings

described God and Jesus as one being (a Trinitarian view)

Later Theology

described God and Jesus as separate beings

Scripture Was Altered to Match the New Story



The Book of Mormon

The Book of Mormon was changed in 1837 to portray God and Jesus as separate beings.

The Story Grew Amid Leadership Crises



Major embellishments to the story coincided, suitably coincided with periods when Joseph Smith's authority was challenged.