

The Book of Abraham: An Impossible Translation

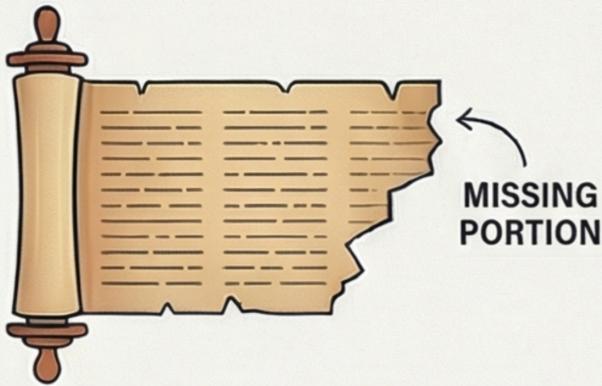
Joseph Smith claimed the Book of Abraham was his translation of ancient Egyptian papyri. Modern Egyptology confirms the surviving papyri are common funerary texts and the translation is incorrect. This infographic examines the two primary theories used to defend the book's authenticity against the evidence.



Theory #1: The "Lost Scroll"

The Claim: A "Lost Scroll" Contained the Real Text

Argues Joseph Smith translated from a portion of papyrus that is now missing.



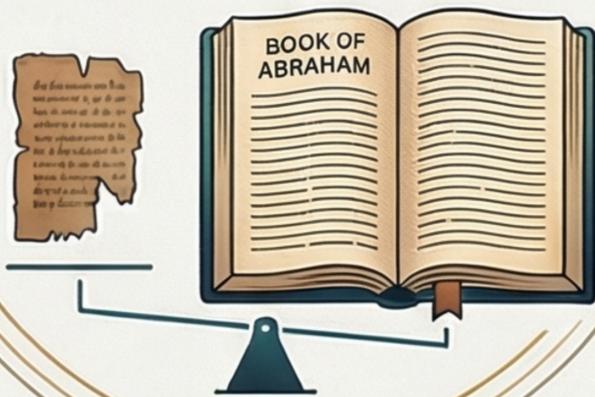
The Rebuttal: Manuscripts Link to Surviving Papyri

Smith's own translation documents match characters sequentially from the papyrus fragments we have today.



The Rebuttal: The Math Doesn't Add Up

Experts calculate the missing section was far too small to contain the Book of Abraham.



Theory #2: The "Catalyst"



The Claim: The Papyri Were a "Catalyst" for Revelation

Suggests the scrolls merely inspired Smith to receive the story directly from God.



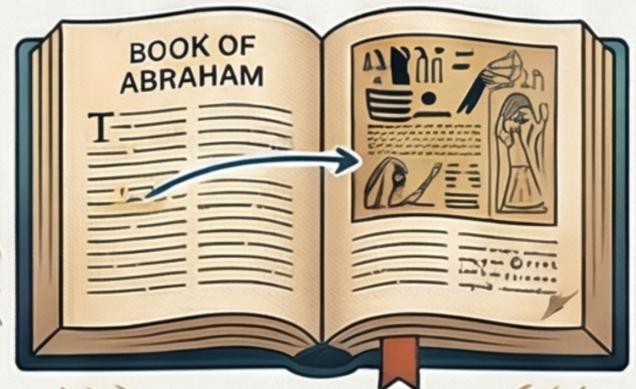
The Rebuttal: Smith Insisted It Was a "Literal Translation"

His personal journals repeatedly use the word "translating" to describe his work on the characters.



The Rebuttal: The Scripture Points Directly to the Scroll

The Book of Abraham text itself refers to the specific illustrations (facsimiles) we possess.



The Apologetic Framework

"Any evidence I find I will try and fit into that paradigm."

– BYU Egyptologist Kerry Muhlestein, explaining his starting assumption that the book is true.