

# A Prophet Tested: The Kinderhook Plates Hoax

In 1843, six bell-shaped brass plates with characters were presented to Joseph Smith, challenging his claim as a divine translator of ancient records.

1843-1980 | Endorsed as Prophetic Proof

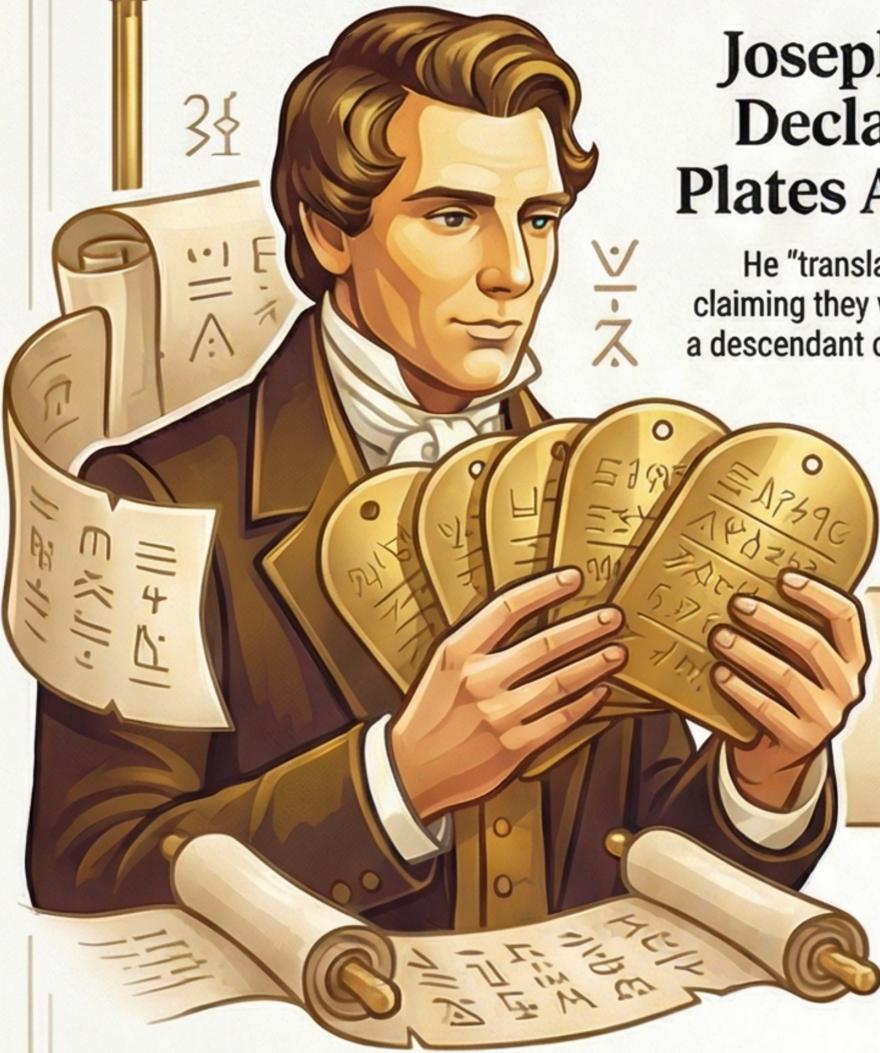
## Joseph Smith Declares the Plates Authentic

He "translated a portion,"  
claiming they were the history of  
a descendant of the biblical Ham.



## The Church Promotes the Plates for 140 Years

Leaders and official publications cited  
the plates as proof of Smith's abilities  
and Book of Mormon authenticity.



"Of ancient  
vintage."

As late as 1979, Apostle Mark  
E. Peterson affirmed this  
belief in a published book.

1980-1981 | Exposed as a Fraud

## Science Confirms the Hoax

In 1980, analysis proved the plates  
were modern brass etched with  
acid, not ancient engravings.

## "No evidence exists that he manifested any further interest."

The Church's official magazine  
completely reversed its stance  
in a 1981 article.

## A Failed Test of Discernment

The episode undermines Smith's  
claim to be a "prophet, seer, and  
revelator" who could discern truth.

