

# The Lost 116 Pages: How a Crisis Revealed the Book of Mormon's Origins



In 1828, Joseph Smith's scribe, Martin Harris, lost the first 116 pages of the Book of Mormon manuscript. The official explanation for not simply re-translating the pages, and the nature of the replacement text, provide a window into the book's creation, revealing numerous problems for its claim of ancient origins.



## THE CRISIS: A FAILURE OF SUPERNATURAL POWER



### The Seer Stone Goes Blind

Joseph's stone, allegedly able to find lost objects, suddenly couldn't locate the physical manuscript.



### A Convenient Excuse for Not Re-Translating

A later revelation claimed wicked men would alter the original manuscript to discredit a new translation.

**"ALL IS LOST!"**  
- Joseph Smith

This panicked reaction suggests an inability to reproduce the text, not just re-translate it.

## THE "SOLUTION": CREATING MORE PROBLEMS



### A New Set of Plates is Invented

The "Small Plates of Nephi," a more "spiritual" record, are introduced to explain the replacement text.



Earlier Prophet



Later Prophet (Replacement Text)

### The Beginning Knows the End

Prophets in the replacement text (written last) know specific details that prophets in the middle of the book don't.



### The "Black Hole" of Information

The replacement text is intentionally vague, avoiding specific names and details for fear of contradiction.