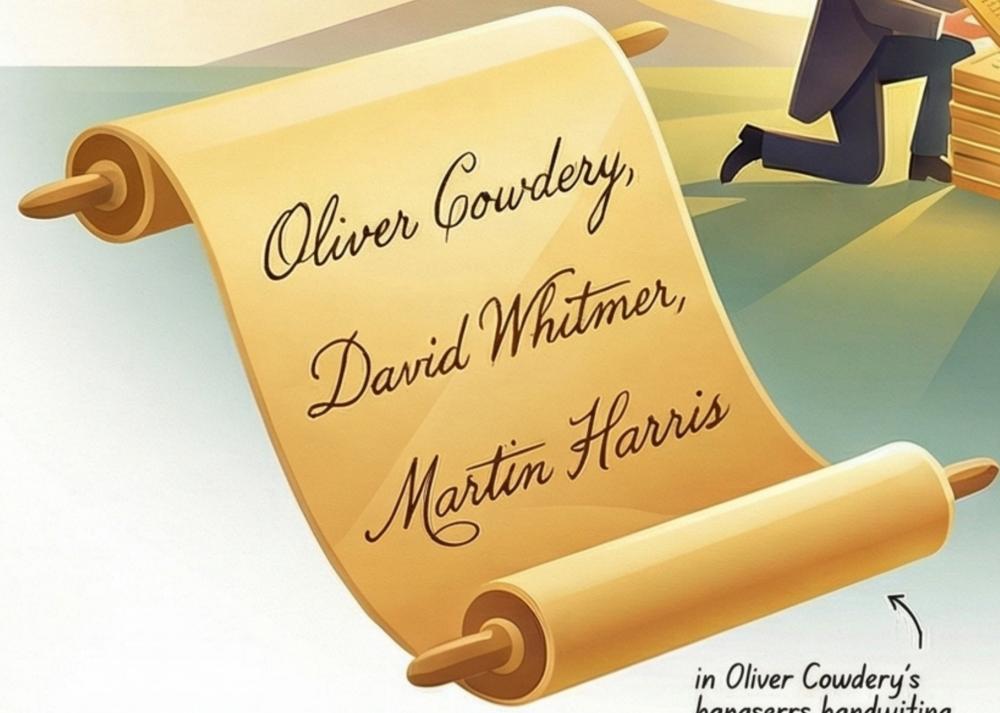


# The Shifting Story of the Three Witnesses

## THE OFFICIAL TESTIMONY: A UNIFIED PHYSICAL EXPERIENCE

**KEY FINDING:**  
An Angel Showed Them Physical Plates.  
Their signed statement says an engel "leid before our eyes that we beheld and saw the plates."

**SUPPORTING FACT:**  
Testimony Used as Foundational Proof.  
The church presents their testimony as a "checkmate" against doubts about Joseph Smith's claims.



## THE CONTRADICTORY EVIDENCE: A FRAGMENTED SPIRITUAL VISION

**KEY FINDING:**  
A "Spiritual" Vision, Not a Physical Event. At least 10 historical accounts quote witnesses saying they saw the plates with "spiritual eyes" or "in a vision."



COMPARISON OF ACCOUNTS		
	<b>The Official Testimony</b>	<b>Contradictory Accounts</b>
<b>Nature of Viewing</b>	"Reheld and saw the plates"	"Saw with spiritual eyes," "in a vision," "an impression"
<b>Location</b>	In the woods	In an open field
<b>What They Saw</b>	Angel and plates	A table, sword, brass plates, and other records

**KEY FINDING:**  
Inconsistent & Changing Stories. Accounts conflict on the location (woods vs. field), date, and what items were actually seen.

**KEY FINDING:**  
Witnesses Followed Other Prophets. All three were excommunicated, and Martin Harris later served as a witness for other men claiming to have plates.

**Context Summary:** The validity of the Book of Mormon often relies on the testimony of three men—Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, and Martin Harris—who signed a statement claiming an angel showed them the golden plates. This infographic contrasts that official testimony with historical accounts that complicate the story.