

In the wilderness, Mormon's huge sword knows who made all the great things that were done and covered them with the wings of the angels, and has their hands been shown in the low mountains with and the word being by an angel of the Lord on the Lord of the Lord shall continue until the world shall be destroyed, and by the abundance of the abundance.

11 That those and were also in the wilderness, and on their heads the crown was placed by the angels, the blood, the sun, were scattered in with and had many like another being scattered in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

12 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

13 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

14 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

15 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

16 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

17 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

18 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

19 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

20 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

21 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

22 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

23 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

24 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

25 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

26 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

27 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

28 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

29 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

30 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

31 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

32 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

33 And there were also many things that were done in the wilderness, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord, and the word of the Lord shall be fulfilled in the words of the Lord.

# Is Racism in Mormonism a Product of Its Time or a Product of Its Foundational Scripture?

An examination of racial teachings in the *Book of Mormon*, *Book of Moses*, and *Book of Abraham*.

# Two Foundational, Yet Separate, Racial Curses

## The Lamanite Curse



**Source:** The Book of Mormon

**Target Group:** Native Americans  
(termed “Lamanites”)

**Doctrine:** A “curse of dark skin” as a mark of divine displeasure, making them “loathsome” to the righteous, white “Nephites.”

## The Curse of Cain & Ham

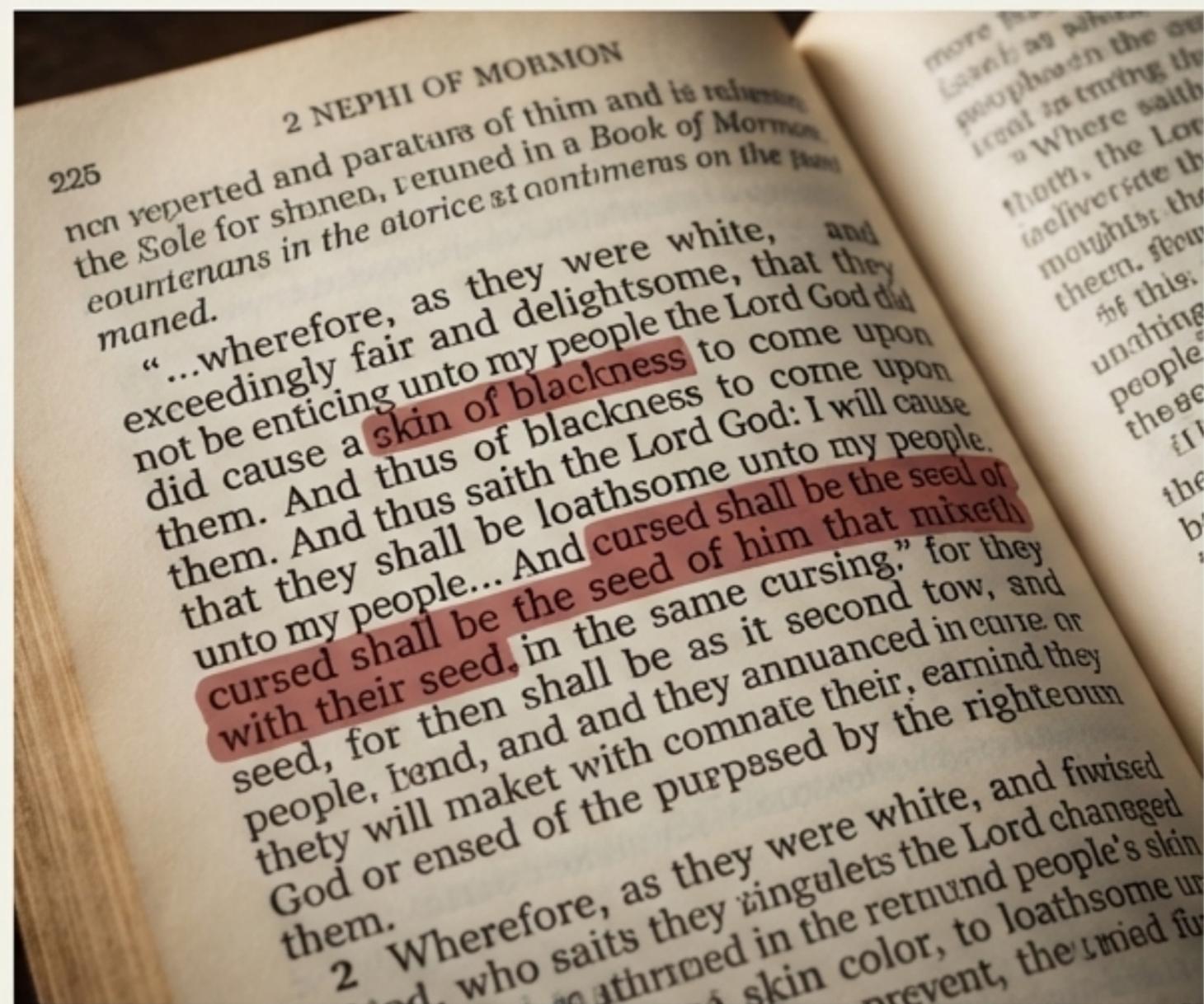


**Source:** The Book of Moses & Book of Abraham (Pearl of Great Price)

**Target Group:** Individuals of Black African descent

**Doctrine:** A lineage-based curse barring them from holding the Priesthood and receiving temple ordinances, essential for exaltation.

# The Book of Mormon: A 'Skin of Blackness' as a Divine Curse



- > "...wherefore, as they were white, and exceedingly fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did cause a **skin of blackness** to come upon them. And thus saith the Lord God: I will cause that they shall be **loathsome** unto my people... And **cursed shall be the seed of him that mixeth with their seed**; for they shall be cursed with the same cursing." (2 Nephi 5:21-23)

This passage from the Book of Mormon, claimed by Joseph Smith to be the word of God, establishes the core doctrine: God changed people's skin color to make them physically unattractive and prevent interracial marriage.

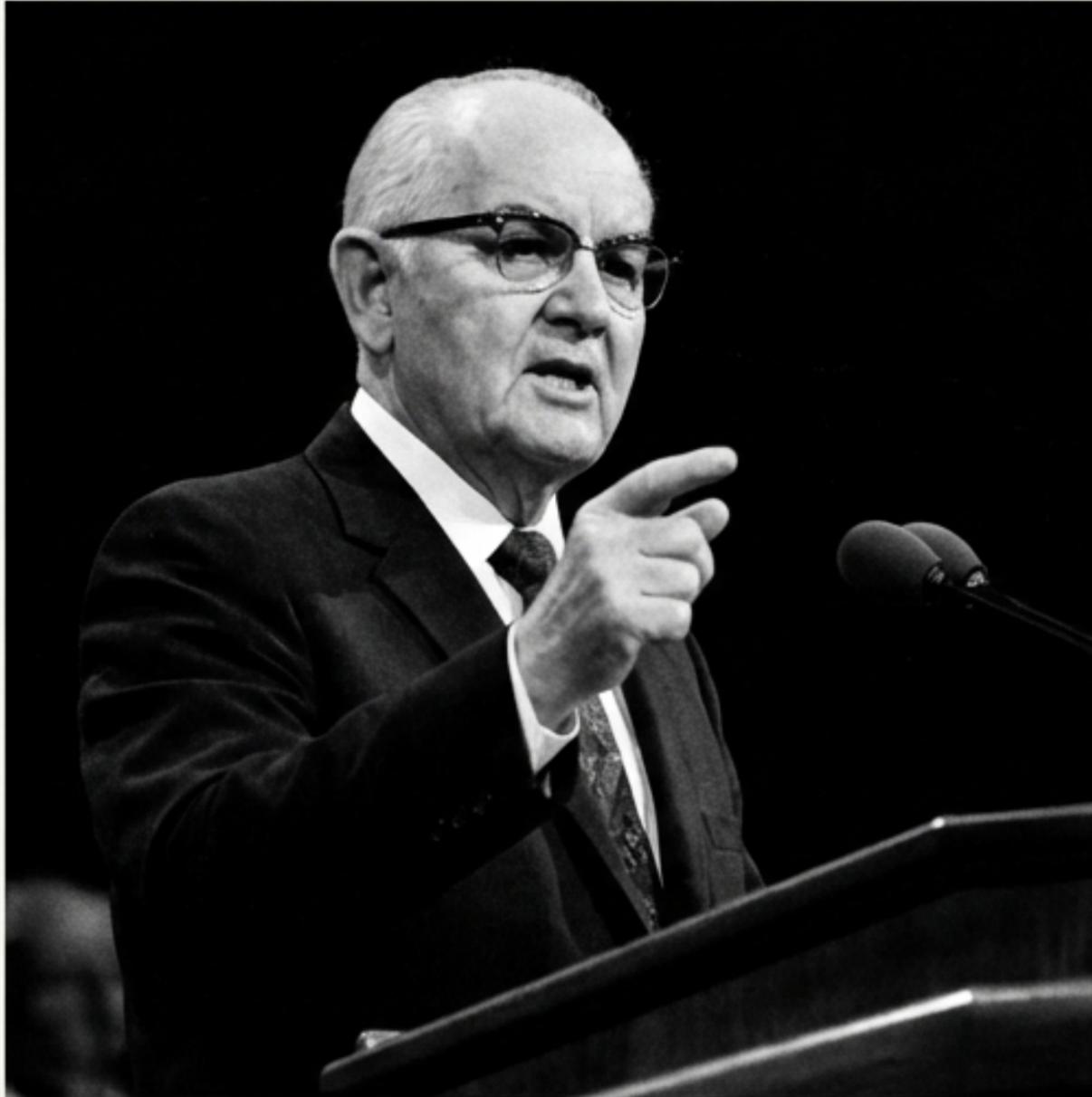
# Scripture Confirms the Curse Was Physical

> “And the **skins of the Lamanites were dark**, according to the mark which was set upon their fathers, which **was a curse upon them** because of their transgression...” (Alma 3:6).

> “Behold, the Lamanites your brethren, whom ye hate because of their filthiness and the **cursing which hath come their skins...**” (Jacob 3:5).

*Multiple passages explicitly link the “curse” o” directly to “skins.” The text makes no distinction; the dark skin is presented as either the curse itself or its inseparable, physical sign.*

# Prophets Taught that Righteousness Could Literally Make Skin “White and Delightful”



“The day of the Lamanites is nigh. For years they have been growing delightful, and they are now **becoming white and delightful**... The children in the home placement program in Utah are often **lighter than their brothers and sisters**... I saw a striking contrast in the progress of the Indian people today... the 16-year-old daughter was present... **she was several shades lighter than her parents**... One white Elder jokingly said that he and his companion were donating blood regularly... in the hope that the process might be accelerated.”

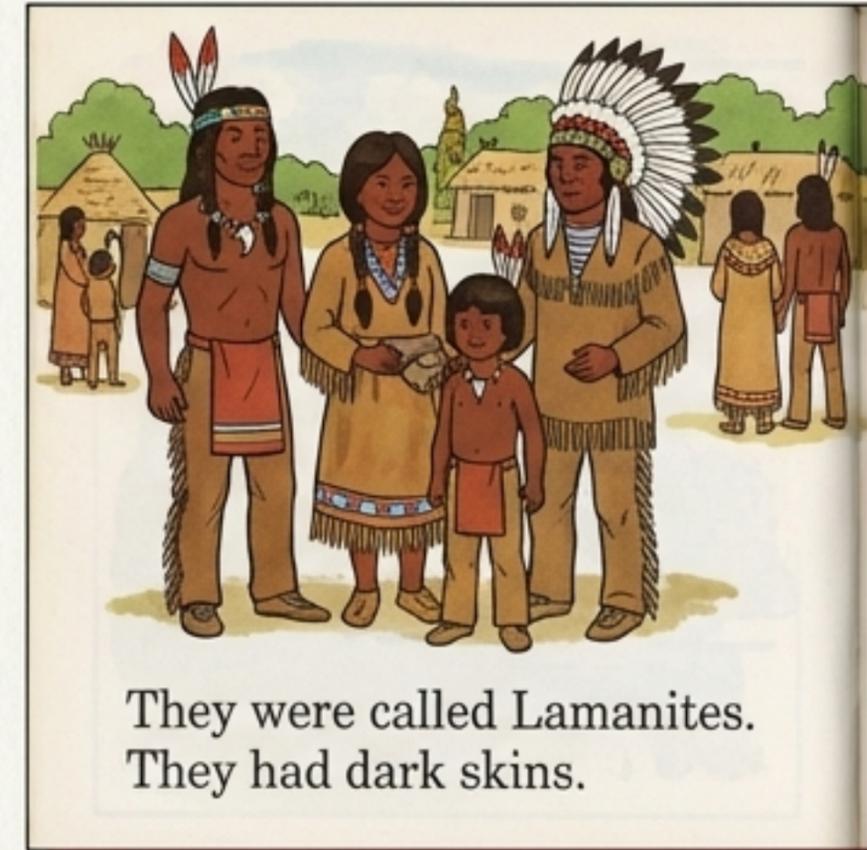
– President Spencer W. Kimball,  
General Conference, October 1960

# The Doctrine Was Visualized and Taught for Generations

Official Church Art (c. 20th Century)



Children's Book Illustration (c. 1970s)



Official, church-approved art and children's literature consistently depicted Lamanites as dark-skinned Native Americans. This was not artistic interpretation; it was a visual representation of established doctrine approved by church leaders.

# The Human Cost: Internalized Racism and Self-Loathing

The doctrine that dark skin was a curse to be overcome created intense psychological pressure on Native American members. They were taught that their righteousness would be visibly manifest through a lightening of their skin.

## Case Study: Sarah Newcomb

As a Native American youth in the church, Sarah Newcomb felt immense pressure to fulfill the prophecy. She would actively avoid the sun, wearing long sleeves in the summer to prevent her skin from darkening. She even went so far as to rub lemon juice on her skin, hoping it would make her lighter and appear more righteous to her white Mormon counterparts.



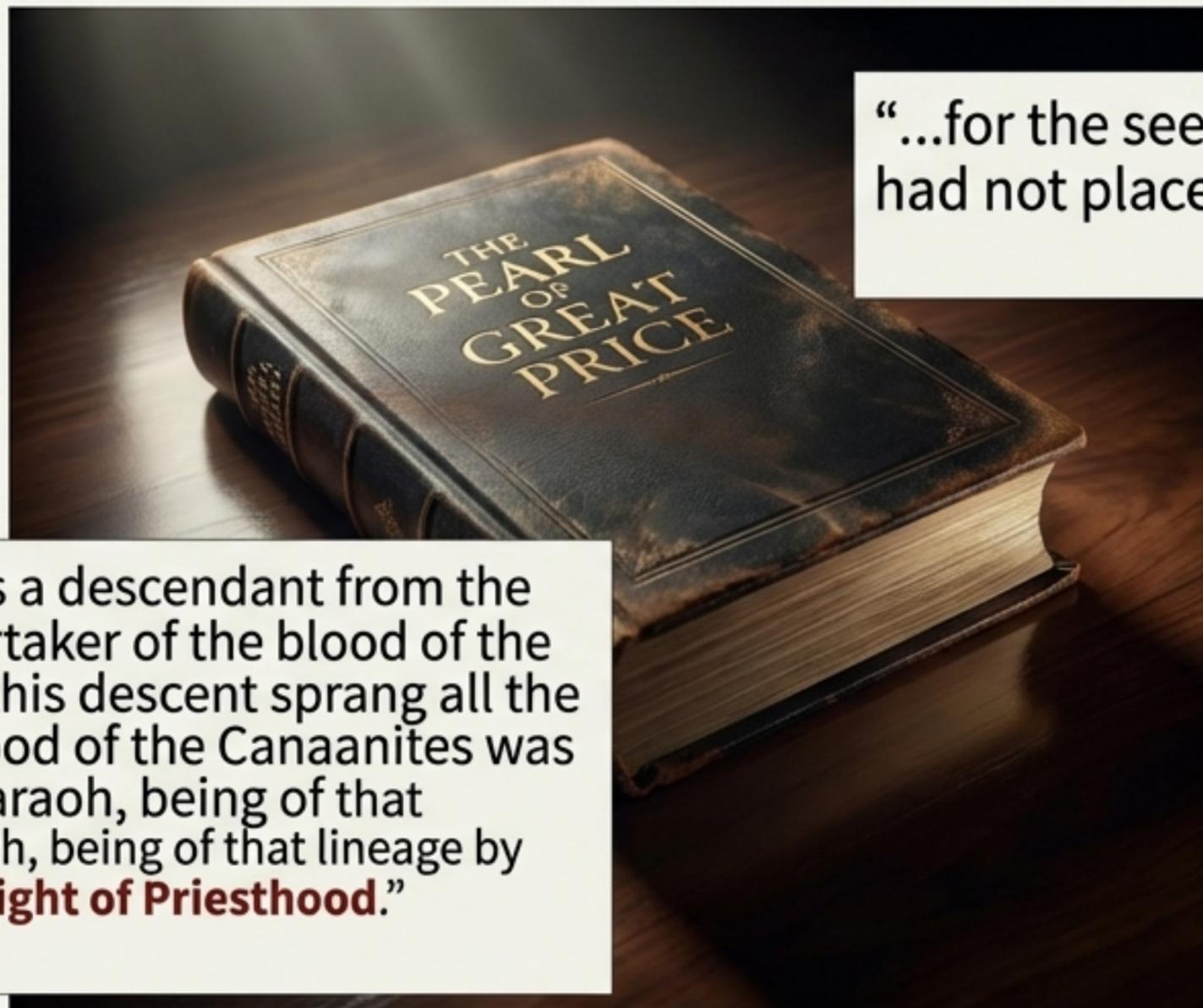
## A Modern Strategy: Change the Headings, Not the Scripture

BEFORE	AFTER
<p><b>2010 Heading for 2 Nephi 5:</b></p> <p>Because of their unbelief, the Lamanites are cursed, <del>receive a skin of blackness,</del> and become a scourge unto the Nephites.</p>	<p><b>Current Heading for 2 Nephi 5:</b></p> <p>Because of their unbelief, the Lamanites are <u>cut off from the presence of the Lord,</u> are cursed, and become a scourge unto the Nephites.</p>

- In 1981, the phrase “**white and delightsome**” in 2 Nephi 30:6 was officially changed in the U.S. edition of the Book of Mormon to “**pure and delightsome.**”

These changes demonstrate the church acknowledges the racist implications but is unwilling or unable to alter the “word of God” itself. The solution has been to soften the descriptions around the scripture.

# The Priesthood Ban's Origin: The “Curse of Cain” in Scripture



“...for the seed of Cain were **black**, and had not place among them.”

(Book of Moses 7:22)

“Now this king of Egypt was a descendant from the loins of Ham, and was a partaker of the blood of the Canaanites by birth. From this descent sprang all the Egyptians, and thus the blood of the Canaanites was preserved in the land... Pharaoh, being of that preserved in the land... Pharaoh, being of that lineage by which he **could not have the right of Priesthood.**”

(Book of Abraham 1:26-27)

Joseph Smith wrote the justification for the priesthood ban directly into scripture, linking it to a cursed lineage with black skin.

# Church Leaders Unequivocally Called the Ban “Doctrine”

OFFICIAL FIRST PRESIDENCY  
OF CORMORANS, NS15R68

27, 1947

“From the days of the Prophet Joseph even until now, it has been **the doctrine of the church**, never questioned by any of the church leaders, that the Negroes are not entitled to the full blessings of the Gospel... The intermarriage of the Negro and white races... **does not have the sanction of the church is contrary to church doctrine.**” – 1947 First Presidency

Letter to Dr. Lowry Nelson

The following  
the cures in the full lower stud.

Sincerely,

*George Albert Smith*  
George Albert Smith

**This was not policy. This was declared as doctrine by the highest governing body of the church.**

1947.

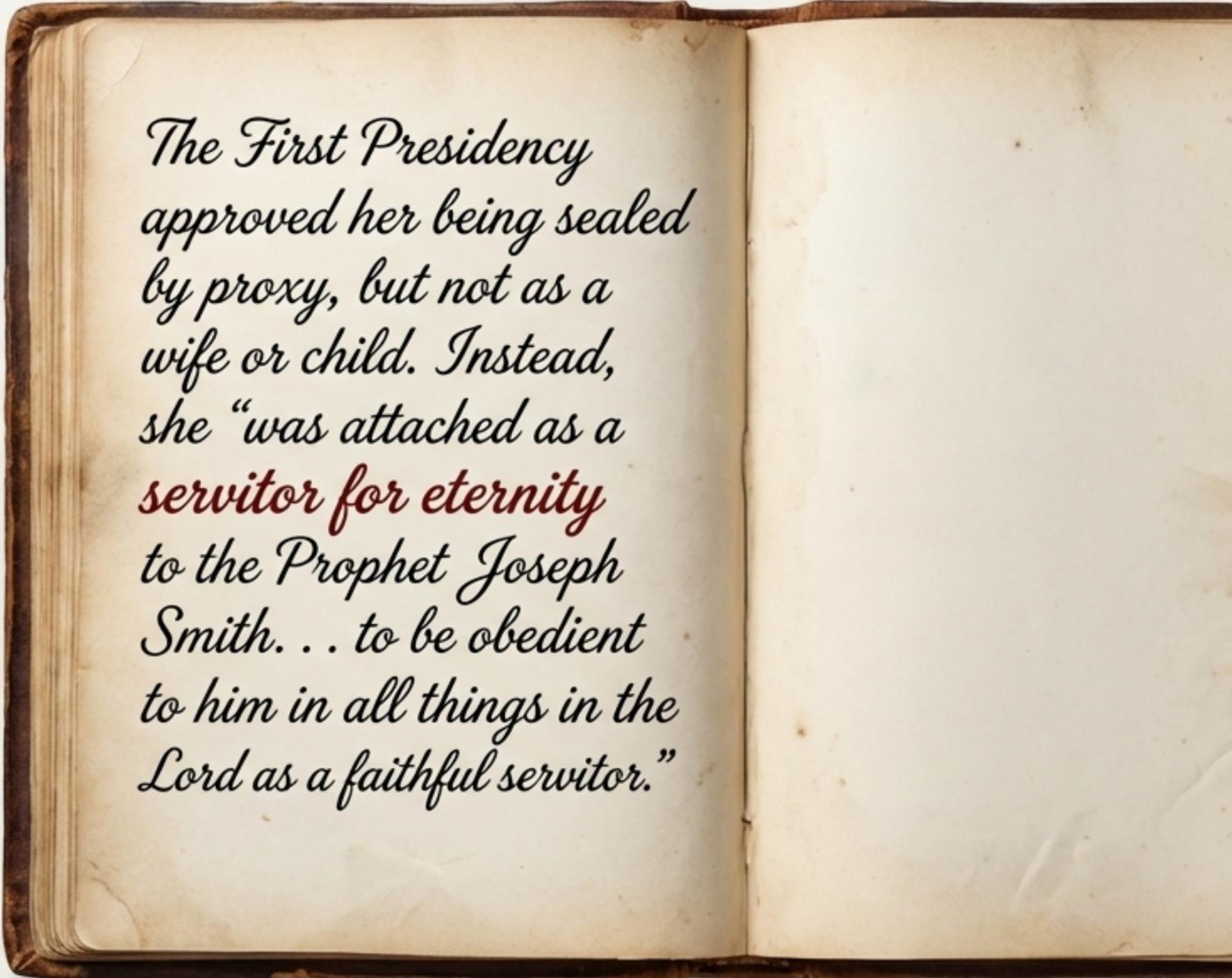
# More Than a Priesthood Ban, It Was a Ban on Exaltation

The inability to enter the temple meant Black members were barred from the “saving ordinances” required for the highest degree of heaven and being sealed to their families for eternity.

Jane Manning James, a faithful, early Black pioneer, was denied the ability to be sealed to her family.

She repeatedly petitioned to be sealed to Joseph Smith’s family to ensure her salvation.

She was not even permitted to enter the temple for this ordinance; a white proxy stood in for her.



*The First Presidency approved her being sealed by proxy, but not as a wife or child. Instead, she “was attached as a **servitor for eternity** to the Prophet Joseph Smith. . . to be obedient to him in all things in the Lord as a faithful servitor.”*

## The Official Narrative: A Miraculous Revelation from God

“There was a hallowed and Sanctified atmosphere in the room. For me, it felt as if a **conduit opened between the Heavenly throne and the kneeling, pleading prophet of God** who was joined by his Brethren... Not one of us who was present on that occasion was ever quite the same after that.”

- Gordon B. Hinckley

The church presents the lifting of the ban as a singular, divine event—a direct revelation from God in response to prayer.

## The Reality: A Pragmatic Solution Driven by Earthly Pressures

- **The Trigger:** “Down in Brazil, there is so much negro blood... We just built a temple down there... if we don’t change, then they can’t even use it.”
- **The Process:** President Kimball “interviewed each of us personally,” then “we discussed it as a group.”
- **The “Revelation”:** “The Presidency came with this little document written out... some of the members of The Twelve suggested a few changes... then in our meeting there we all voted in favor of it.”

**The Interviewer’s Question:** “There wasn’t a special document as a revelation that he had and wrote down?”

**Richards’ Reply:** “...We discussed it in our meeting... and we decided that was sufficient.”

# A Product of 19<sup>th</sup>-Century America

## 19<sup>th</sup>-Century American Beliefs

- **The Mound Builder Myth:** A widespread theory that a sophisticated white race built the great earth mounds in North America and were later wiped out by **savage, darker-skinned natives**. This justified westward expansion.
- **Israelite Ancestry:** A common belief among early Americans that Native Americans were a remnant of the “Lost Ten Tribes of Israel.”

## The Book of Mormon Narrative

- **The Nephite/Lamanite Story:** A sophisticated, “white, and delightsome” **race** (Nephites) is wiped out by a **savage, dark-skinned race** (Lamanites) who are cursed by God.
- **Jerusalem Origins:** Teaches that Native Americans are descendants of a family that left Jerusalem around 600 B.C.

**The Book of Mormon’s core narrative is not just compatible with 19th-century racial theories—it is a direct reflection of them, codified as scripture.**

# The Unresolvable Dilemma

The evidence shows that racism in Mormonism is not a historical footnote, but a foundational doctrine originating in its scripture. **Prophets** from Joseph Smith to Spencer W. Kimball interpreted these scriptures literally, calling their own racial biases “the doctrine of the church.” The church’s modern attempts to revise headings and reinterpret words, while leaving the core **scriptures intact**, reveal an institution struggling with its own canon.

If prophets and apostles for 150 years could not discern  
percuheiolend apostles for 150 years could not tiscern between  
God’s will and the racial prejudices of their time, and if the  
foundational scriptures themselves contain these ideas ...

**What is the basis for their divine authority today?**