

A Tale of Two Histories: DNA and the Book of Mormon

An evidence-based analysis of a
foundational truth claim

The Promised Land, The Principal People

“ For almost 200 years, everyone knew... all the missionaries to Ohio and to the Frontiers knew... all prophets and revelators knew who the Lamanites were. The Lamanites were Native Americans—North, Central, and South America. ”

THE BOOK OF MORMON

INTRODUCTION

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...Another remnant of the house of Israel, came from Jerusalem in 600 B.C. These, the Lamanites, and they are the concumption apples, and they are the principal ancestors of the American Indians.

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The Certainty of Prophets and Scripture



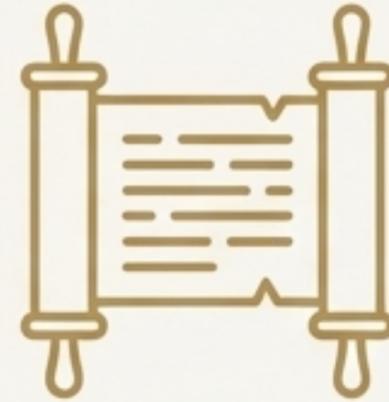
“They are not orientals... these Lamanites including the Indian are the descendants of Lehi who left Jerusalem 600 Years BC.”

– Spencer W. Kimble



“The Remnant are the Indians that now inhabit this country.”

– Joseph Smith



God told the Jaredites he would send them "to that quarter where there had **never man been.**"

– Ether 2

A Revelation From God

“...and thus you shall take your journey into the regions westward, unto the land of Missouri, **unto the borders of the the Lamanites.**”

Doctrine & Covenants 54

The identity of the Lamanites was not just a teaching, but the basis for divinely commanded missionary work. God is telling missionaries exactly where to find them—in Missouri and Ohio—because they are the Native Americans.



The Scientific Verdict: A Different Origin Story

Genetic science reveals Native American origins are in Northeast Asia, not the Middle East.



Fact 1: The first migrations to the Americas began at least 20,000 years ago.



Fact 2: 99.6% of Native American ancestral DNA is of East Asian origin.



Fact 3: There is zero detectable DNA from ancient Israel in pre-Columbian populations.

One Word, A World of Difference

Pre-2006

...the Lamanites, and they are the **principal** ancestors of the American Indians.



Post-2006

...the Lamanites, and they are **among** the ancestors of the American Indians.

In 2006, facing conclusive DNA evidence, the Church quietly altered the Book of Mormon's introduction, fundamentally changing its core historical claim.

An Inconvenient Timeline



Archaeological and genetic evidence confirms a continuous human presence in the Americas for at least 20,000 years, directly contradicting the scriptural narrative of a reserved, empty continent.

The Apologetic Pivot: When Evidence Contradicts the Claim, Change the Claim

The primary response has been to abandon the hemispheric model for a “Limited Geography Theory” (LGT), suggesting a small group of Lehites existed within a vast, pre-existing native population.

The Apologetic Frame

“Building upon this assumption, critics insist that the Book of Mormon does not allow for the presence of other large populations...”

- Gospel Topics Essay

The Original Claim

“...they began to cover the face of the whole earth from the sea South to the sea North...”

- Helaman 3

“...where there had never man been.”

- Ether 2

Apologetic Theory 1: The Founder Effect

THE CLAIM

“Nothing is known about the DNA that Lehi... and others brought to the Americas... it would be impossible to know exactly what to search for.”

- Gospel Topics Essay

THE REBUTTAL

The Book of Mormon tells us exactly what to look for.

- Lehi was of the tribe of Manasseh.
- Ishmael was of Ephraim.
- Mulek was of Judah.
- The Brass Plates were crucial because they contained their genealogy, proving they were descendants of Joseph. The expected DNA profile is explicitly defined as Israelite.

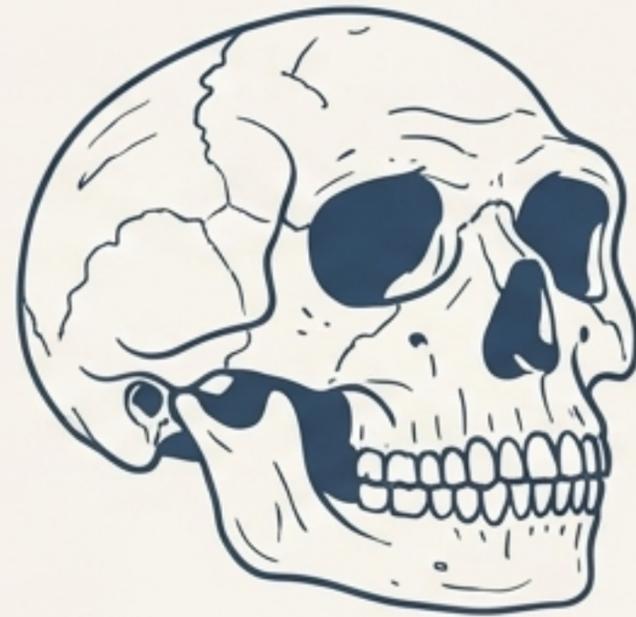
Apologetic Theory 2: The Lost DNA

THE CLAIM

The Lehite DNA signature was erased by population bottleneck (war, disease) and genetic drift (random loss over time).

THE REBUTTAL

Statistically Impossible and Contradicted by Technology.



40,000 YEARS

DNA DETECTED



2,500 YEARS

DNA VANISHED

The human genome contains 30 billion base pairs. The idea of randomly erasing an entire ancestral signal of that magnitude from a population of millions is mathematically inconceivable.

The Apologist's Dilemma: To Save the Book of Mormon, You Must Sacrifice the Bible

Apologetic Strategy: Cite ancient West Asian DNA in Americas (e.g., the 24,000-year-old "Mal'ta Boy").

This proves...

Human presence & genetic mixing in the Americas **20,000+ years ago.**

Logically Refutes:

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Logically Refutes:

 A literal Adam and Eve (~6,000 years ago).

 A global flood that wiped out all other populations.

 The Tower of Babel (the Jaredite origin story).

Using this argument destroys the very biblical foundation required for the Book of Mormon's narrative to exist.

The Verdict on the Science

“The picture is just like watching a photo load. It starts blurry, it starts to get clear... and we are just getting clearer and clearer, and it is still not jiving.”

— Jamie Hannah Handy, Geneticist



Early Data



Increased Resolution



Current Understanding

Advances in science continuously confirm the East Asian origin of Native Americans. Every technological leap makes the Book of Mormon's claims *less* plausible, not more. The window for a Middle Eastern connection is closing.

Summary: A Cascade of Failed Claims

1 THE UNAMBIGUOUS CLAIM

The Church, its prophets, and its scriptures taught for nearly 200 years that Native Americans are the direct descendants of an Israelite group that populated an empty continent.

2 THE SCIENTIFIC REFUTATION

Every relevant field of science—genetics, archaeology, and linguistics—conclusively refutes these claims, showing a 20,000+ year history of migration from Northeast Asia.

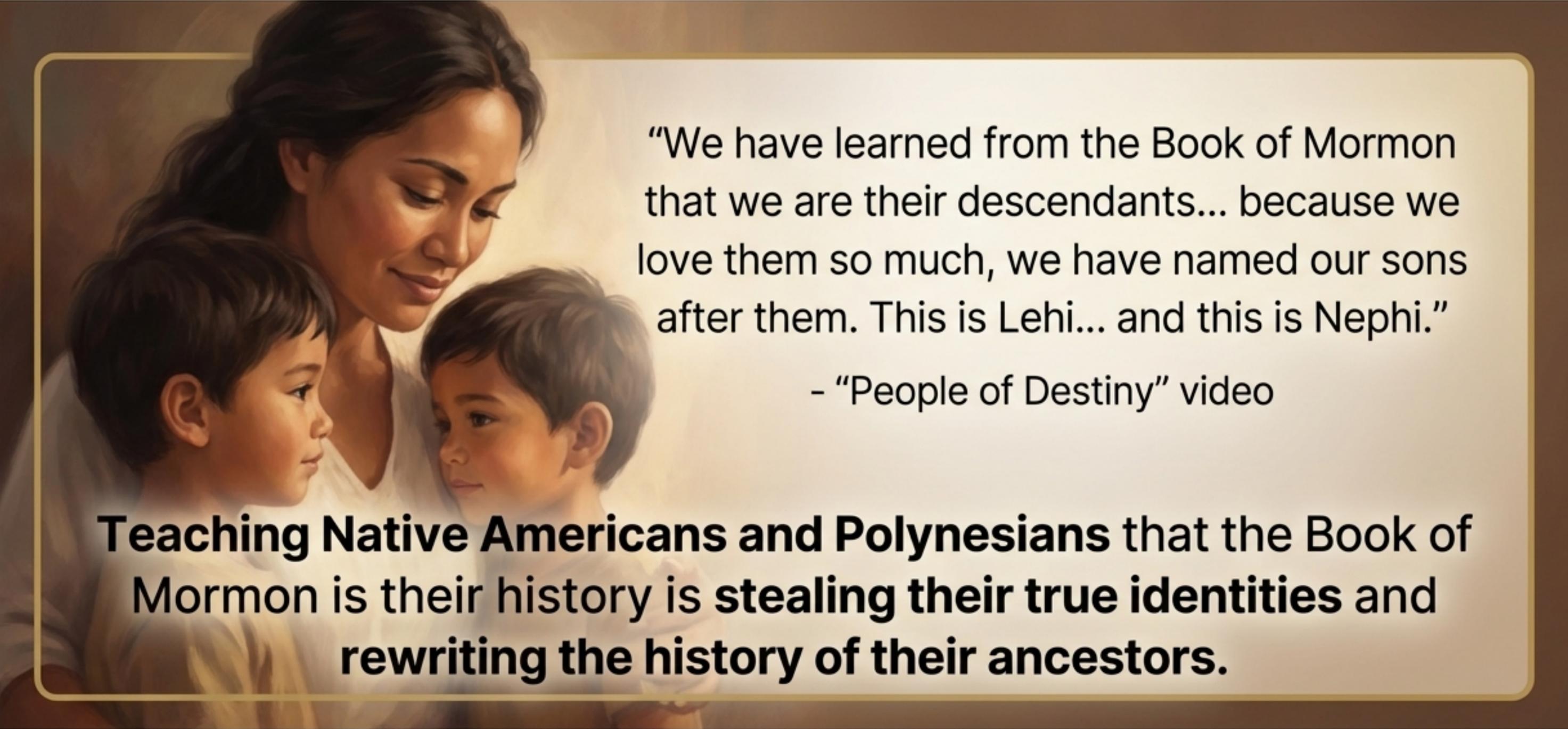
3 THE FAILED DEFENSE

Apologetic responses require abandoning the original claims, contradict the scriptural text, and are scientifically and statistically untenable.

4 THE INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION

The Book of Mormon cannot be a literal history of the ancient peoples of the Americas.

The Human Cost of a False History

A woman with dark hair, looking down at two young boys. The scene is softly lit, suggesting a warm, intimate moment. The woman is on the left, and the boys are in the center and right. The background is a warm, golden-brown color.

“We have learned from the Book of Mormon that we are their descendants... because we love them so much, we have named our sons after them. This is Lehi... and this is Nephi.”

- “People of Destiny” video

Teaching Native Americans and Polynesians that the Book of Mormon is their history is stealing their true identities and rewriting the history of their ancestors.

**If the foundational
evidence is disproven,
what remains?**

For a complete analysis and source documentation, visit: LDSDiscussions.com