
Christian Restoration Continues

Part 5: Recovering Scripture

As Narrated by Denver C. Snuffer, Jr.

In 1831, Joseph Smith warned that “except the church [receive] the fullness of the Scriptures that they would yet fall.” Fullness of the Scriptures included the Book of Mormon, the revelations, and most importantly a new, inspired Bible with many revisions. In September 1832, less than one year later, believers were condemned by the Lord and commanded to “repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written.” This was not merely failing to obey what was written, but also believers had failed to accurately preserve the revelations God provided. Therefore, their scriptures were corrupted. But repentance did not happen, and the fullness was not completed.

After 182 years, a few people were inspired to recover and reclaim the former commandments and Book of Mormon. After 185 years, a body of believers repented, presented their scriptures to the Lord, and asked God to remove the condemnation. God approved their work and removed their condemnation. God also committed to covenant with them and restore promises given to the patriarchal fathers.

Corrected and completed scriptures have now been published and are accurate as far as it is possible to presently recover. These new scriptures prune away the uninspired alterations men have made. They are truer to the restoration, and the Lord’s intent, than any other scriptures available today.

This new edition of scripture is a witness to the whole world. It is a sign that the moment has arrived when things prophesied in scripture will occur in a single generation. Mankind doesn’t have to accept the witness; they don’t even have to notice the witness. God is only obligated to send the witness. Once He sends the witness, God has done His part.

Although previous scriptures were titled the Old Testament, New Testament and Doctrine and Covenants, the new scriptures are titled: The Old Covenants, The New Covenants and Teachings & Commandments.

The Old Covenants contains those covenants God made with Adam, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Moses. The new title more accurately reflects the record.

The New Covenants include both the New Testament and Book of Mormon. Joseph Smith intended to publish them in a single volume. Both books contain covenants established through Jesus Christ during His lifetime and immediately following His resurrection.

The Teachings & Commandments includes the revelations given to Joseph Smith, as well as revelations from today. Joseph's revelations were first published in 1833 and titled "Book of Commandments." An expanded volume, "Doctrine and Covenants", was published in 1835. The name-change referred to "doctrine" meaning the Lectures on Faith, and "covenants" meaning the revelations to Joseph Smith. All the "Mormon" institutions removed the "doctrine" — the Lectures on Faith. The "doctrine" is restored in the "Teachings & Commandments". The name reflects the content — teachings, which instruct and invite, and commandments, which are required of mankind and are necessary for salvation. Teachings and Commandments is a living, expanding canon. People with a living covenant with God always have an open canon and expect additional revelation and scripture.

The hand of the Lord was present helping those involved in the process of preparing the new scriptures. These scriptures were the first step to resuming the restoration. Upon taking that step, God responded and established a new covenant with His people today.