

Independent Restoration Branch Declarations about the Brazil Plates Movement

Odessa Restoration Branch July 2018

Concerning the production of the alleged Book of Mormon plates by one Mauricio Berger in Brazil, having given the subject much thought, discussion, and prayer, the priesthood of the Odessa Restoration Branch of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints declare that it is our determination that the plates are a forgery brought forth to deceive the Saints.

Presented here are just a few of the problems testifying against the legitimacy of the plates from Brazil and on which the Odessa Restoration Branch bases this declaration:

- 1. The claim that the Sealed Portion of the Book of Mormon is divided into two parts:** This claim is not scripturally supported, as all references to the Sealed Portion of the Book of Mormon are singular, none being plural.
- 2. The timing of the translation of the Sealed Portion of the Book of Mormon:** The scriptures state that the translation of the Sealed Portion of the Book of Mormon will not come forth until the Gentiles shall exercise faith even as the Brother of Jared, and this has not occurred:

Behold, I (Moroni) have written upon these plates the very things which the Brother of Jared saw; and there never was greater things made manifest, than that which was made manifest unto the Brother of Jared; wherefore, the Lord hath commanded me to write them; and I have written them. And he commanded me that I should seal them up; and he also hath commanded that I should seal up the interpretation thereof; wherefore I have sealed up the interpreters, according to the commandment of the Lord. For the Lord said unto me, They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord; and in that day that they shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the Brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the Brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are. (Ether 1:98–101)

- 3. Joseph Frederick Smith chosen as the Prophet/Head of the Church:** Although Joseph F. Smith is a great-grandson of Joseph Smith Jr., he has not been baptized by one holding authority to do so and, therefore, is not a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and holds no priesthood authority.
 - a. Joseph F. Smith was baptized by his father, an apostle of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) in 1943, eighteen years after his father left the RLDS Church, becoming an apostate and relinquishing his priesthood authority.
 - b. Joseph F. Smith was ordained by his father to the office of elder in the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) in 1953.
 - c. In statements he has made to date, Joseph F. Smith believes that he has authority based on the baptism and ordination conducted by his father.
- 4. Joseph F. Smith has declared that the office of high priest of the Melchisedec priesthood is illegitimate and that he intends to discard the office once he has control of the church.**
- 5. Mauricio Berger asked Jader Pereira to lie about seeing the angel Moroni and the plates:**
 - a. Mauricio Berger admitted to asking his friend, Jader Pereira, to lie and claim that he saw the angel Moroni and the plates when he had not: <https://thecauseofzion.org/mauricio-artur-berger/maurisios-writings-clarifications-by-mauricio-a-berger-05-23-2018-english-version/> and <http://>

restorationbookstore.org/Mauricio_lied.pdf.

6. **There exist many discrepancies in the descriptions of the Book of Mormon plates and interpreters between the witnesses associated with Joseph Smith Jr. and the witnesses of the Brazil plates, a few of which are listed here:**
 - a. The ring shape: early witnesses describe the rings to be shaped like a capital letter D; the Brazil plate rings are in a U-shape.
 - b. No breastplate for the interpreters is associated with the Brazil plates.
 - c. Interpreter stones described as three-sided by Lucy Mack Smith; interpreters used for Brazil plates described as five-sided stones.
7. **See pamphlet titled *Indisputable* published by Price Publishing and available for download from the Restoration Bookstore website: http://restorationbookstore.org/Brazil_Plates_Labans_Sword_v2-4.pdf.**

For these and other reasons not listed, the Odessa Restoration Branch declares our belief that this movement is counter to the course of our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, and that it is a deception of the Adversary crafted to lure the Saints away from the straight and narrow path. This faction has thus far, and continues, to declare false and heretical teachings and the Odessa Restoration Branch will have nothing to do with this division.

Glendale Restoration Branch October 2018

We, the priesthood of the Glendale Restoration Branch, Independence, Missouri, unequivocally state that we do not believe that the Brazil plates movement—with Mauricio Berger as the seer and translator of their alleged sealed portion of the Book of Mormon and Joseph F. (Frederick) Smith as the prophet of their newly established church—is of God. We have chosen to make this stand according to the counsel given in Jude, verse 3, which states that we “should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” For the last year, we have warned our branch members against the follies of this movement, and we now make a written statement of our beliefs to the Church at large, hoping that the priesthood of all the other independent Restoration branches will instruct their members and make a formal stand against this movement.

After observing some of the actions of this movement and hearing the testimonies of their eight witnesses, we believe it is false because it does not, even closely, fit the pattern God has given us for His Gospel and His Church. In DC 52:4b the Lord states, “I will give unto you a pattern in all things, that ye may not be deceived; for Satan is abroad in the land, and he goeth forth deceiving the nations. . . .” *Some* of their allegations which do not fit this pattern are as follows:

1. On July 24, 2018, Joseph F. Smith produced a “prophecy” which states, “I have begun the setting of My hand the *second time* to gather My scattered sheep as you have been told by My servants of old. You have been given the opportunity to work with Me as I prune My vineyard for the last time. Come, abide My counsel, *forsaking the philosophies and pathways that failed your forefathers*” (<https://thecauseofzion.org/josephfsmith/revealed-word-of-god/07-24-18-revelation-through-joseph-f-smith/>; italics added). Obviously, Joseph F. Smith believes the original Church (established by Joseph Smith Jr. and continued through Joseph Smith III in the Reorganization) is dead and needs to be established a second time to facilitate the gathering. In addition, since Joseph F. Smith’s forefathers were Joseph Smith Jr. of the original Church and Alexander Smith of the Reorganization, this implies that both men followed false doctrines. However, we know that Joseph Smith Jr. was *not* a fallen prophet and that Alexander Smith remained faithful to the true Gospel all of his life. Also, we know that the Church is not dead, but it resides today in independent Restoration branches (see *The RLDS Church Shall Survive*, Price Publishing Company; DC 84:3b).

2. The pattern given in the Scriptures and in Church history regarding the interpreters (Urim and Thummim) and the sealed portion of the Book of Mormon plates does not match the allegations of this movement as to the
 - a. definition of the sealed portion and the timing of its translation;
 - b. descriptions and irreverent treatment of the interpreters;
 - c. Moroni's method of delivery of the Book of Mormon plates, interpreters, and sword of Laban;
 - d. Moroni's care of these artifacts.

(For the correct pattern, see Ether 1:100–101; Mosiah 12:19–20; Ether 1:88–89; *Times and Seasons* 3:707; Mosiah 12:21; Mosiah 5:77–78)

3. Photographs of the alleged sword of Laban provided by Mauricio, and his story of caring for it, do not match Nephi's description or that of an actual sword of that time period. In addition, characters engraved on the plates match forgeries of Mark Hoffmann, and the engravings themselves appear to be machine made. (See the booklet, *Indisputable* by David M. Price, www.restorationbookstore.org.)
4. Lies have been told by them. This group said that they were not going to create a new church, yet one has been established. They said that they were not looking for monetary support, yet their web site is set up to take donations. Also, Mauricio lied about Jader's involvement with the group (see *ibid.*). Of course, we are admonished many times in the Scriptures not to lie.

It is our hope and prayer that all will discern the fallacies of this movement and stand against it for their sake and for the sake of the Lord, His true Church and Gospel, and the coming of Zion.