

Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: Bamboozled ()

Date: July 05, 2016 02:19PM

40 years ago (Fetch, has it been that long already?) the US celebrated its bicentennial. For those of you around at that time it was a pretty big deal. Lots of hype, a lot of marketing and good ol Mom, Apple Pie and Chevrolet warm fuzzies.

The church, of course, found a way to incorporate this into its missionary efforts. My parents (who were fanatically TBM at the time) proudly displayed their 'Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon' bumper sticker on the back of the family station wagon for all the gentiles to see.

Because, you see, in 1976 American Indians were Lamanites. The Book of Mormon was considered the actual history of ancient America. Every good LDS person knew it, had a testimony of it and the General Authorities in SLC would proudly proclaim it.

My, what a difference 4 decades can make.

So whenever I hear weaselly apologists or dishonest general authorities claim that the church never taught this about the BoM or that members (and the church leaders at the time) were just mistaken I still to this day get really, really cranky.

Thank you for your attention.

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: Ten Bear ()

Date: July 05, 2016 02:32PM

It's a known fact that the 3 Nephites were in attendance during the signing of the Declaration of Independence. So.... there wouldn't even be a 'MERICA!' without the Book of Mormon, ya know.

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: anybody ()

Date: July 05, 2016 02:32PM

Yes, because it was about America in 1776-1826. All of the political, religious and social debates of the Federal era are in the book.

"King Men?" Who did they think they were fooling?

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: scaredhusband ()

Date: July 05, 2016 02:44PM

I did a quick google search and found this little Deseret News gem. :) I hope you can smell the nostalgia. I am going to archive this little suppressed piece of history for posterity.

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=336&dat=19751107&id=jDMpAAAAIABJ&sjid=7n0DAAAAIABJ&pg=5364,1932125&hl=en>

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: bradley ()
Date: July 05, 2016 02:47PM

From the BoM introduction at LDS.org:

"After thousands of years, all were destroyed except the Lamanites, and they are among the ancestors of the American Indians."

So yes, they still teach that. Also on the official corporate web site, the Book of Abraham:

"A Translation of some ancient Records that have fallen into our hands from the catacombs of Egypt. The writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus."

Ah, but its changed.

Posted by: Bamboozled ()
Date: July 05, 2016 03:02PM

The Lamanites were once the principal ancestors of the American Indians. They have only recently been downgraded to "among" the ancestors.

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: gettinreal ()
Date: July 05, 2016 10:57PM

THOUSANDS of years?? I never noticed that before....
Doesn't the BofM span just about 1000 yrs?
These guys just can't keep their story straight!!

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: byuatheist ()
Date: July 05, 2016 11:22PM

The Jaredites came to America shortly after the Tower of Babel, so yes, it is "thousands" of years.

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: saddlebronctapir ()
Date: July 05, 2016 03:08PM

AND those silly mo's were having a go at the countries centennial nearly 100 yrs. before, with this crazy shite:

<http://www.josephsmithacademy.org/wiki/eminent-spirits-appear-to-wilford-woodruff/>

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: baura ()
Date: July 05, 2016 05:19PM

saddlebronctapir Wrote:

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- > AND those silly mo's were having a go at the
 - > countries centennial nearly 100 yrs. before, with
 - > this crazy shite:
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 - > <http://www.josephsmithacademy.org/wiki/eminent-spirits-appear-to-wilford-woodruff/>
 - >

From the article:

"that those men who laid the foundation of this American government and signed the Declaration of Independence were the best spirits the God of heaven could find on the face of the earth. They were choice spirits, not wicked men. General Washington and all the men that labored for the purpose were inspired of the Lord."

Yes, those slave-holders were the best spirits God could find. And Thomas Jefferson did more than hold slaves . . .

Of course, the Church was pro-slavery, and Brigham Young, as well as Joseph Smith, declared slavery to be of God. So what are we to expect?

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: bradley ()
Date: July 05, 2016 06:44PM

Surely they knew Britain had outlawed slavery in 1830.

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: elderolddog ()
Date: July 05, 2016 03:13PM

I noted the blurb at the bottom about the big doings in the Austria Mission.

And then I noted that there is no more Austria Mission!

In a 2/26/2013 LDS Living article, the author put membership in Austria at "over 4,000". Looking at LDS stats today, the church says they have 4,641, in 17 congregations, for an average of 273 per congregation. There are two stakes...

The 21st century is not being kind to the church in first world countries. Too bad the Morridor is stuck in the mid-20th century.

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: baura ()
Date: July 05, 2016 05:29PM

elderolddog Wrote:

-
- > In a 2/26/2013 LDS Living article, the author put
 - > membership in Austria at "over 4,000". Looking at
 - > LDS stats today, the church says they have 4,641,
 - > in 17 congregations, for an average of 273 per
 - > congregation. There are two stakes...

That comes out to average 273 per congregation. I would bet money that average attendance per congregation is below 100.

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: Villager ()
Date: July 05, 2016 03:38PM

For the blessing of the Lamanites
(from an old post)

<http://exmormon.org/phorum/read.php?2,1319023>

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: ificouldhietokolob ()
Date: July 05, 2016 05:11PM

Speaking of Lamanites...there's a worshipful article about George Lee (the first Lamanite GA) in that same issue (scroll back a few pages).
Hehe.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_P._Lee)

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: dydimus ()
Date: July 05, 2016 05:14PM

I read the title of the post and all I could think of and hum was "All American Prophet" from the musical Book of Mormon. Ha! Now I have an earworm.

<https://youtu.be/-MXCCrxsWWQ>

Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.

Posted by: kentish ()
Date: July 05, 2016 05:15PM

For my centennial project I read the book "Those Damn Rebels" an account of the revolutionary war taken from official British sources, letters and impressions of those fighting on the British side. It's by Michael Pearson. Amazing how different the story can

be when written from the other side.

[Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.](#)

Posted by: dydimus ()
Date: July 05, 2016 05:40PM

Paul Revere rode 20 miles, yet 16 yr old Sybil Ludington rode 40 miles?!?! Yet, we forget about her?!?!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sybil_Ludington

Friedrich Wilhem von Steuben a homosexual German, was kicked out of Prussia and France ...yet became one of our greatest generals and created the American Army.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Wilhelm_von_Steuben

James Buchanan the gay President, declared war on the Mormons because of their refusal to accept Federal judges and officers. the Utah War!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Buchanan

[Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.](#)

Posted by: Dave the Atheist ()
Date: July 06, 2016 02:10AM

40 miles on a horse overnight ?

[Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.](#)

Posted by: blueorchid ()
Date: July 06, 2016 10:33AM

We were so smug and arrogant back then about the Book of Mormon being not only the Word of God, but a great historical document. No apologetics were necessary.

The false rumor persisted that the Smithsonian referred to it often. All the ruins of Latin America were touted as the remains of the Nephite/Lamanite empire.

We gloated. We knew we had special knowledge. We knew we were leading the world to the truth-- a world that was slow to understand our superiority as God's chosen.

What a difference a few decades make.

[Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.](#)

Posted by: Eric K ()
Date: July 06, 2016 11:38AM

I cringe when I think of the smugness I felt as to having the truth™ back in the 70's. It was a different time. General authorities and Mormon apologists now obfuscate previously clearly understood words and phrases from the Book of Mormon. It is

difficult to comprehend how any one can be excited to be a Mormon today when Mormon scriptures have become so ambiguous.

[Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.](#)

Posted by: blueorchid ()
Date: July 06, 2016 11:53AM

That is it, isn't it!

Certainty was the great Mormon strength and now their great and only hope is ambiguity.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Trying to Nail Jello to the Wall?

[Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.](#)

Posted by: elderolddog ()
Date: July 06, 2016 01:17PM

I think the fossils have fooled the sheep into thinking 'wall' means floor, thus making the jello just sit there, until they have to punt it out of sight; exit, stage left...

[Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.](#)

Posted by: blueorchid ()
Date: July 06, 2016 01:28PM

Please. You are giving them ideas.

[Re: Discover America in 76. Read the Book of Mormon.](#)

Posted by: Bamboozled ()
Date: July 06, 2016 01:18PM

A different time and a different church. What drives me even more insane is that many members our age who remember that time have memory-holed the church of then and claim that the church of today is no different than when we were kids.