

The Joseph Smith Translation

The Lord restored additional teachings through the Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible.

Can you find the book of Moses in your scriptures? The Lord restored additional knowledge through the Joseph Smith Translation, including visions and teachings of Moses and others. These are contained in the Book of Moses in the Pearl of Great Price.

Read Moses 1:3–4, 6, 8, 39. Look for what Moses learned about himself and the Lord during his visions. (You could also search for favorite verses in the Book of Moses.)

- How can the teachings in these verses help us as we strive to follow the Savior?
- Why might someone feel grateful for what the Lord revealed in these verses?

The Lord restored “plain and precious” truths through the Joseph Smith Translation.

Have you ever heard that some important truths may be missing or unclear in the Bible? The Bible is a trusted and inspired book. However, Nephi taught that some “plain and precious things” are missing or unclear (1 Nephi 13:28–29). For example, baptism is not directly mentioned in the Bible until the New Testament, and the biblical account of Noah doesn’t explain that the Lord warned the people and gave them a chance to repent before sending the flood.

Read Moses 6:64–66; 8:16–17, 20 to see how the Lord restored precious truths in the Joseph Smith Translation.

- How can it help us today to know that the baptism was a commandment since the days of Adam?
- How can it help us to know that the Lord always invites us to repent and is willing to forgive us?
- How do these truths help lead us to salvation through Jesus Christ?

The Lord’s revelations in the Joseph Smith Translation led to further revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants.

Has scripture study ever helped you receive additional revelation? It did for Joseph. Soon after he learned in the inspired translation about Enoch and his people establishing Zion (see Moses 7:18–21), the Lord revealed instructions to Joseph to help the Saints become a Zion people (see Doctrine and Covenants 38, 42, 45).

Another example of this happened when Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon were translating John 5:29. They had questions about heaven and hell that led to a remarkable vision now recorded in Doctrine and Covenants 76. This vision included truths about the three degrees of glory people can inherit after this life.

Read Doctrine and Covenants 76:22–24, 50–53, and 58–62, and mark what you learn about Jesus Christ and how we can return to live with Him and Heavenly Father.

- What words or phrases did you mark? Why?
- Why might someone feel grateful to know these truths?

The Lord provided doctrinal clarity and additional insights into verses of the Bible through the Joseph Smith Translation.

Other than in the Pearl of Great Price, do you know where to find Joseph Smith Translations of the Bible? Many are located in Selections from the Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible in the back of the scriptures or in the

Joseph Smith Translation Appendix found in the Study Helps section in the Gospel Library app. Learn how to use these resources by looking at the example and explanation below.

SELECTIONS FROM THE JOSEPH SMITH TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE

Following are selected portions of the Joseph Smith Translation of the King James Version of the Bible (JST). The Lord inspired the Prophet Joseph Smith to restore truths to the Bible text that had become lost or changed since the original words were written. These restored truths clarified doctrine and improved scriptural understanding.

Because the Lord revealed to Joseph certain truths that the original authors had once recorded, the Joseph Smith Translation is unlike any other Bible translation in the world. In this sense, the word *translation* is used in a broader and different way than usual, for Joseph's translation was more revelation than literal translation from one language into another.

Joseph Smith's translation of the Bible has connections with or is mentioned in several sections of the Doctrine and Covenants (see sections 37, 45, 73, 76, 77, 86, 91, and 132). Also, the book of Moses and Joseph Smith—Matthew are excerpts from the Joseph Smith Translation.

For more information about the Joseph Smith Translation, see "Joseph Smith Translation (JST)" in the Bible Dictionary.

The following illustration shows a sample selection from the Joseph Smith Translation:

JST, Matthew 4:1, 5–6, 8–9.
Compare Matthew 4:1, 5–6, 8–9; similar changes were made in Luke 4:2, 5–11

Jesus is led by the Spirit, not by Satan.

1 Then *Jesus was* led up of the Spirit, into the wilderness, to be *with God*.

5 Then *Jesus was taken up* into the holy city, and *the Spirit* setteth him on the pinnacle of the temple.

6 Then *the devil came unto him and said*, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down, for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee, and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

8 And again, *Jesus was in the Spirit*, and it taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them.

9 And *the devil came unto him again, and said*, All these things will I give *unto* thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

This reference in bold type is the passage in Joseph Smith's translation of the King James Bible. Because his translation restored words to the Bible text, the verse numbers may differ from the edition you are using.

This cross-reference indicates the passage in your Bible you should compare to Joseph Smith's translation.

This statement explains what doctrine Joseph Smith clarified with his translation.

This is the text as Joseph Smith translated it. (Italics have been added to show differences from the King James Version wording.)

In some languages, passages of the Joseph Smith Translation can be found in the footnotes of the Latter-day Saint edition of the Bible or in "Related Content" on digital devices.

Read the following passages in the Bible, then use the Joseph Smith Translation to identify the inspired changes.

John 1:16–18 (Joseph Smith Translation, John 1:16–19)

John 4:24 (Joseph Smith Translation, John 4:26)

John 6:44 (Joseph Smith Translation, John 6:44)

- What do these inspired changes teach you about Jesus Christ?
- Why is it a blessing to better understand these things?