



THE  
GOLDEN  
BIBLE



## Introduction to the Modern Reprint

I first read this volume shortly after I left the Mormon Church. The copy I read was a photocopy which made it difficult to read. It is true that the language and style present some difficulties for modern readers, nevertheless the arguments Rev. Lamb makes are as powerful today as they were in 1885 when he first delivered his work in lecture form at First Baptist Church in Salt Lake City.

Rev. Lamb's book is all the more interesting to me because I am involved in the same kind of ministry to Mormons that he was. For more than twenty years, I have traveled throughout the United States conducting seminars about the doctrinal errors of Mormonism. I am a minister of the Gospel, as was Rev. Lamb, who was Assistant Pastor at First Baptist in Salt Lake. I pastored an Evangelical church for nine years in Idaho Falls, Idaho—in the heart of Mormondom. One notable difference between Rev. Lamb and myself is that I was a Mormon and he was not. I was saved out of Mormonism in 1974. (I have told that story in the book *Beyond Mormonism: An Elder's Story*)\*

For all of these reasons I have long wished to make this book available to the current generation. That is what led me to produce this current edition. This project has been difficult and has hundreds of hours to accomplish. I scanned the pages of an original edition of Rev. Lamb's book which I purchased from an out-of-print bookstore in Logan, Utah while I was there with Ed Decker (author of *The God Makers*) to do a seminar on Mormonism. After the book was scanned, it was edited, reformatted, and printed out in its current crisp, clear text. Now that it is captured in digital form, thanks to modern computer typesetting technology it will never need to be out of print again.

Please read the Rev. Lamb's Preface—it describes the amazing story of how he was able to deliver his lectures on the Book of Mormon not only to overflow crowds of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City, but to thousands of Mormons throughout the West—sometimes in the pulpits of Mormon churches!

### **About the layout of this edition.**

The original book was printed on 4.5" x 7" pages. The next page is a pretty good replication of the look of the original. In this comb-bound edition I have taken the liberty of reformatting the text into double columns. This allows us to save considerable space and reduce the total number of pages. The type in this edition is very nearly the same size as the original, however it is much more readable.

I have chosen to leave the grammar and spelling as Rev. Lamb wrote it, although much will seem unusual to Twenty-First Century readers.

### **An important note regarding changes in the various editions of the Book of Mormon.**

The Book of Mormon was first published in 1830. Rev. Lamb published his *Golden Bible* in 1887. The Mormon Church has authorized thousands of grammatical and other changes to the text of the Book of Mormon since its first publication. In 1879, the Church published *The Book of Mormon* with Orson Pratt's divisions of chapters and verses, and with his references.

For a season after Pratt's 1879 edition appeared, the Mormon populace had two editions in general circulation. Therefore, Rev. Lamb's references to Book of Mormon passages appear like this:

"On page 224 (N. Edition., 249) we read the following..."

So he is saying the passage appears in the old, undivided edition on page 224, and in the new (after 1879 edition) on page 249. He does not attempt to refer to chapter and verse.

Additionally, Rev. Lamb does not attempt to differentiate among the variations in Book of Mormon text. Today we who investigate Mormon history and theology have studied the numerous, subtle, and important changes in and evolving Book of Mormon text. Rev. Lamb does not take up that task at all. His job is to point to the absurdities within the Book of Mormon regardless of the variant readings.

James R. Spencer  
October, 1998

THE GOLDEN BIBLE;

OR,

THE BOOK OF MORMON,

IS IT FROM GOD?

BY

REV. M. T. LAMB

NEW YORK:  
PUBLISHED BY WARD AND DRUMMOND, 116 NASSAU STREET  
1887.

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## PREFACE.

Why this Book? Two reasons. First, it is *new*. There is no other book like it in existence. Second, it is *needed*. The proof of this we will leave to the careful reader, and to the unfailing logic of results. But the book strikes, it is believed, a *deadly blow* at the "tap root" of Mormonism—by undermining the foundation upon which the whole system is builded.

The book has a peculiar history. It originated in *four* lectures, delivered in Salt Lake City a year ago last June, and that were asked for publication by his Excellency, Governor Murray, and others.

The following preface to said published lectures will give a clear and full account of the origin of the present work:

### REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, July 2, 1885.

*Dear Sir:*

The crowded houses, in attendance when your course of lectures were delivered in this city, suggested the propriety of giving to them a circulation beyond those who heard them, and giving to the general public the results of your research into the Book of Mormon.

With this end in view we request that you publish the course, in such form as may seem best.

Respectfully,

ELI H. MURRAY,	THOS. MARSHALL,
A. B. CARLTON,	JOSEPH R. WALKER,
G. L. GODFREY,	L. U. COLBATH,
ARTHUR L. THOMAS,	E. T. SPRAGUE,
G. S. ERB	C. K. GILCHRIST,
B. G. RAYBOULD	T. W. LINCOLN,
	ROBT. G. MCNIECE.

*To the Rev. Mr. M. T. Lamb.*

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*Rev. M. T. Lamb, Assistant Pastor First Baptist Church, Salt Lake City, Utah;*

*Dear Brother:*

It is with great pleasure that I submit the following, being a resolution unanimously adopted by the members of the First Baptist Church, convened in a regular meeting last evening:

"Having been exceedingly interested and instructed by the lectures recently delivered by Brother Lamb, assistant pastor of this church, on the Book of Mormon, and being fully persuaded of his capability and skill in handling this important subject suc-

cessfully, and to the interests of the cause of Christ,

"BE IT RESOLVED, That we, as a church, heartily unite in the request already made by His Excellency, Governor Eli H. Murray, and others, that Bro. Lamb take steps immediately to have said lectures published in order that they may be brought within the reach of all."

Yours truly,

F. W. BLOHM,

Church Clerk.

### A WORD OF EXPLANATION.

The preparation and delivery of the following lectures was undertaken with great diffidence and hesitation. Among those consulted only one person favored it. The majority of his own people were not present at the delivery of the first lecture. They had heard so much upon the various peculiarities of the Mormon Church that the subject had become nauseous, and the Mormons themselves had become so used to the sallies of their opponents that they took it as a matter of course and only smiled when a new announcement was made. After studying the situation carefully, however, the author became satisfied that he had something somewhat out of the usual beaten path, and that if honestly, earnestly and kindly presented, it would receive attention and accomplish some good. He accordingly posted a few notices in the neighborhood of his church, and advertised in the various city papers, nearly all of which kindly made a special note of the lecture.

The Sunday morning *Herald*, for instance, contained a local item somewhat after this fashion:

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### SOMETHING NEW!

Rev. Mr. Lamb, of the Baptist church, has posted a few handbills in the neighborhood of his church, announcing a lecture upon the book of Mormon tonight, promising 'a calm, earnest discussion, entirely free from any abuse or slander or ill will,' etc. If the gentleman succeeds in fulfilling his pledge, and can get through the entire lecture without descending to abuse or slander or exhibiting ill will, he will deserve a candid hearing, especially as he promises something new and fresh in the line of a discussion of the Mormon problem."

This notice in the *Herald*, probably, had mainly to do with the bringing out a large number of Mormons, who packed the house to overflowing, so that aside from the one hundred extra chairs brought into requisition, many

remained standing during the entire service.

The promise of the lecturer was so faithfully carried out that the Mormons almost universally expressed their satisfaction and pleasure, and determined to hear the course through. Next Sabbath evening the schoolroom in the rear of the main audience room was thrown open and partially seated, and almost every available inch of sitting or standing room in the entire building was occupied. And the same was repeated the third evening, multitudes going away who could not get in even at the door, while the fourth lecture was given by request, at the Walker Opera House.

The unusual and, to the author, the altogether unexpected interest taken in the lectures during their delivery, added to the very kind request of His Excellency, Gov. Murray, and the other honorable gentlemen whose names are associated with his, backed up by the unanimous vote of his own church, is the author's only excuse for thus presenting his humble efforts to the public.

He would have been glad had time and opportunity permitted a careful and thorough review. His prayer is that in their wider field they may awaken thought, lead to investigation, and finally result in the establishment of truth.

Believing, as his intercourse with Mormon neighbors and his contact with a large number of Mormon families has led him to believe, that the majority of them are honest and sincere in their convictions, and regard the Book of Mormon as inspired of God, he feels

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profoundly moved as he ventures to come before them with so unwelcome a message as the word "fraud" must necessarily be. And yet, having reached this conclusion by what seems to him irresistible logic and unanswerable arguments, he dare not, as an honest and conscientious Christian man, who must answer at the bar of God for faithfulness or neglect, withhold his conclusions.

And he takes this opportunity of asking sincerely and earnestly any honest Mormon, who after carefully weighing the arguments herein presented against the divine origin of the Book of Mormon, if he can present a real satisfactory reply, to do so through the public press, or by private correspondence, only hoping that any replies made, whether public or private, shall be made in the same kind, charitable, Christian spirit the author has, at least, tried to maintain throughout this discussion.

M. T. LAMB,

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, JULY, 1885.

Quite unexpectedly to the author, the lectures, when published, met with an unusually kind reception. From all portions of our country both the religious and the secular press, so far as they had opportunity for examination, spoke

kindly of the little book—and with almost one voice urged that it ought to be placed in the hands of all thoughtful and candid Mormons who were willing to reason upon the subject. And with equal unanimity the conviction was expressed by the pastors of all the evangelical denominations and other leading Gentiles of the territory, that the lecturer ought to travel over Utah and deliver the lectures in the leading Mormon communities.

So much was said, and from such sources, with no dissenting voices, that the author felt it his duty to accede, and giving up everything else, has devoted him self assiduously to the one thing ever since. He has gone into an investigation of this subject more carefully

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and thoroughly, it is believed, than was ever undertaken before. And at the same time has had abundant proof of the practicability of his work, by visiting a dozen of the leading cities of the territory and securing a hearing from the Mormons such as has never before been accorded a protestant clergyman in Utah while venturing to oppose their cherished principles. He very cheerfully testifies to the uniform and unexpected courtesy shown him, having been invited upon several occasions to speak at their Sabbath services—upon two occasions cheerfully allowed the use of their school houses, on one occasion the *bishop* himself presiding.

And, what is of more consequence, the Mormons, especially the younger class, have everywhere manifested an unusual interest in the discussion—not only coming in crowds, so that scarcely a place has been found large enough to hold those willing to come—but listening with the greatest interest and attention, without a single hostile demonstration anywhere, and after listening for an hour and a half, many of them have accepted, and frequently paid for copies of the published lectures. (Above 500 copies have been gratuitously distributed in the dozen places so far visited).

Thus two practical facts have been demonstrated:

1. That the Mormons, many of them at least, are willing to listen to such a discussion, so long as their cherished convictions are treated with candor and kindness.

2. That they will accept and read whatever the author is willing to put into their hands upon this subject, provided it is written in the same kindly spirit.



These two points settled, the next important consideration was to place in the hands of those willing to investigate, the *very best thing that could be provided for them*. The lectures already published represented only a few weeks of study; *a year's* careful investigation since made it very apparent, to the author at least, that the little book as then existing was a very imperfect presentation of the subject, and not at all what he would wish to place in the hands of an honest Mormon who had become willing to carefully and thoroughly examine the whole subject.

He accordingly came east to consult with eminent *antiquarians* as to the points made in the historical argument, and at the same time secure the assistance of other scholars in criticizing and putting in better shape the various materials he had gathered together.

And now, after six months of earnest toil in the east, he ventures before the public with a work which, although full of imperfections and upon many points far too hurriedly prepared, yet represents more thought and study and research than has ever before been given to this peculiar subject.

The book is not written for the literary critics. It makes no pretensions whatever to any literary excellences. The writer has aimed to present in a kind, simple, straightforward manner the objections he has himself discovered against the Book of Mormon as a professed revelation from God. And he fondly hopes his effort will prove of special service to at least the following classes:

1. To all honest, candid Mormons, however thoroughly

grounded in their faith, who are willing carefully to read it.

2. To *fifty thousand* young people in Utah, whose faith in their parents' religion is already beginning to be shaken—many of whom, therefore, are not only willing, but *court* precisely such an investigation as this book will furnish them.

3. To many persons in all portions of our country and in Europe, who will hereafter come in contact with Mormon missionaries, and be liable to be led into this fatal delusion. "An *ounce* of prevention is worth a *pound* of cure," and it is confidently believed that no sane person could ever become a Mormon after reading the following discussion.

4. It will be found of great service to any ministers of the gospel or other Christian workers in any portion of the world who have been, or are likely to be troubled with the

irrepressible emissaries of this the most completely organized religious propaganda upon earth. Our pastors, as a rule, are not sufficiently acquainted with Mormon views and methods to meet successfully its traveling missionaries, who are usually very well equipped for their work, know precisely what to say, and how to meet all the usual arguments of their opponents. This book carefully read by such pastors or Christian workers would make Mormon propagandism almost impossible, at least among our Christian churches, from whence their recruits have largely come in the past.

5. Though chiefly prepared for the above classes, it may also be found of service to some who are examining the *evidences of Christianity*, to students of "*com*

*parative religion*," and to all in general who wish to become acquainted with Mormonism in its sources of faith and life.

The author desires to acknowledge his great obligations to Dr. Brisbin, of Philadelphia, and Dr. Augustus Le Plungeon of Brooklyn, two of the most accomplished antiquarians now living, for valuable suggestions in their special lines of study. Also to Rev. H. G. Weston, D. D., President of Crozier Theological Seminary; Rev. T. J. Morgan, D.D., Principal of the State Normal School, Providence, R. I.; Rev. J. W. Wilmarth, D. D., of Philadelphia; Rev. A. J. Rowlands, D. D., of Baltimore; Rev. G. F. Genung, of New London, Ct., and Rev. T. F. Day, of the Presbyterian Board of Utah, for valuable criticisms and suggestions. And especially to the Rev. G. W. Hervey, D. D., of New York, for a careful and painstaking examination of the entire work.

Such as it is, accompanied with the earnest prayers and the kindly sympathies of thousands, both east and west, who have listened to the author's appeals, and without who's material aid this work could not have been completed, it is now dedicated to the two hundred thousand honest, but mistaken, souls, who have pinned their faith to a sad delusion, and have boarded a craft whose inevitable destination is perdition.

Dec., 1886.

M. T. LAMB.

(P.S.—It may be proper to state in this connection, that this work has been wholly a "work of love," a benevolent and not a mercenary enterprise. The author has given a year without salary or compensation to the work, and all contributions made, aside from the bare support of his family, will be sacredly used in distributing copies of the book among the Mormons. M. T. L.)