

Where the Sections of the Pearl of Great Price Came From & Elder McConkie's "5 Documents"

Book of Moses:

Translation of the Bible, mainly between 1830 and 1833, by Joseph Smith. Originally referred to as the Inspired Version, now called the JST (Joseph Smith Translation). We have about 70% of Joseph Smith's *significant* changes in our current LDS edition of the King James Bible. We have about 50% of all of Joseph Smith's changes. Moses came by revelation.

Book of Abraham:

Mummies discovered in Egypt by an Italian named Antonio Lebolo between 1818 and 1830. A Michael Chandler got hold of them and exhibited and sold them in the eastern United States. His last four mummies were sold to Joseph Smith in Kirtland, Ohio, in 1835. They contained some scrolls that interested Joseph Smith. In the process of trying to translate the scrolls, Joseph Smith received revelation which has become the Book of Abraham. Joseph Smith spent several years on the Book of Abraham: 1835 to 1844. He spent considerably less time and interest on the Book of Moses. (Prophets, like us, learn line upon line, precept upon precept.)

Joseph Smith – Matthew:

Part of Joseph Smith's translation of the Bible between 1380 and 1833.

Joseph Smith – History:

Started being written in 1838. Verses 1 and 2 provide the historical background as to why this was written. JS–H is a small segment of the 7-volume *History of the Church*. The HC is kind of like Joseph Smith's diary or journal, written by scribes.

Articles of Faith:

Part of the Wentworth Letter, written to the editor of the *Chicago Democrat* newspaper in answer to inquiries about the stand of Mormonism on currently debated or controversial religious issues of the time amongst American Christians.

Bruce R. McConkie, BYU 1984, "The Bible—A Sealed Book":

... there are approved and inspired writings that are not in the standard works. These writings also are true and should be used along with the scriptures themselves in learning and teaching the gospel. Next to the standard works five of the greatest documents in our literature are —

1. The "Wentworth Letter." [HC 4:535–541.] Written by the Prophet Joseph Smith, it contains an account of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, of the organization of the Church in this dispensation, and of the persecutions suffered by the early Latter-day Saints. The thirteen Articles of Faith are part of this letter.
2. *Lectures on Faith*. These lectures were prepared by and under the direction of the Prophet Joseph Smith and were taught by him and by others in the School of the Prophets. The Prophet said they embraced "the important doctrine[s] of salvation."
3. *The Father and the Son: A Doctrinal Exposition by the First Presidency and the Twelve*. [James R. Clark, *Messages of the First Presidency*, 5:26–34, see also 23–25.] This exposition sets forth the status and relationship of the Father and the Son, shows ways in which Christ is the Father, and through its various recitations lays to rest the false and heretical view that Adam is our Father and our God.
4. The "King Follett Sermon" and the "Sermon in the Grove." [HC 6:302–317, 473–479.] These two sermons, one in thought and content, set forth the doctrine of the plurality of Gods and of becoming joint heirs with Christ. They show that man may become as his Maker and reign in celestial exaltation forever.
5. "The Origin of Man," by the First Presidency of the Church. (*Messages of the First Presidency*, 4:200–206; see also 4:199.) This inspired writing sets forth the **official position of the Church** on the origin of man and therefore impinges on the evolutionary fantasies of biologists and their fellow travelers. As might be expected, it arouses great animosity among intellectuals whose testimonies are more ethereal than real.