

## SYLVIA'S CORNER

### STICKS AND AND OTHER MYTHS

"If you can show me where it says anything about the Book of Mormon in the Bible, I'll go back to the Mormon Church," Karen said. "Ok," Mike said. Look up the scripture in Ezekiel 37:16-17. It says: "Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick and write upon it, for Judah and for the children of Israel and his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, for Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the house of Israel and his companions: and join them one to another in one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. "You see," Mike said, "the Bible is the stick of Judah, and the Book of Mormon is the stick of Ephraim or Joseph."

Karen was almost convinced but fortunately, she checked further. Someone showed her that in Strong's Analytical Concordance the Hebrew word for stick is translated to mean "gallows, helve, plank stalk, stick, stock, timber, tree, or wood." There is no mention of parchment, scroll, papyri, plate, or roll. It's just what it says, a stick. It's talking about the re-uniting of the division of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah into one.

Another thing that Karen found was that Mormons couldn't claim to come from Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, anyway. That's because the Nephites written about in the Book of Mormon claim to be descendants of Manasseh! In the Book of Mormon in Alma 10:3 it says, And Alma was a descendant of Nephi; who was the Son of Lehi who came out of the land of Jerusalem who was a descendent of Manasseh who was the son of Joseph who was sold into Egypt by the hands of his brethren."

"And what about the golden plates," she thought. "Wasn't the Book of Mormon written on golden plates? Plates and sticks are two different things!"

"Well," Mike said, "There is another scripture in the Bible in Isaiah 29:11; *And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.* It talks about the sealed book and we believe that the golden plates are being described here." Karen asked an ex-Mormon relative who was able to explain that when read in context, it was a reference to the book not being understood by the learned, but the simple. In the Bible it shows that the people that received the gospel turned out to be the unlearned.

"There is one more scripture," Mike said, not willing to give up. "It's in John 10:16 where it says, "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also must I bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." "See", Mike said, these were the people on the American continent that the Book of Mormon talks about. Look up 3rd Nephi 15:22 in the Book of Mormon.

"But wait a minute," Karen thought, as she examined the scripture Mike had shown her. "Look here," she said. "Here the other sheep are not Gentiles, but Jews, They have to be Gentiles. She grabbed the Bible. "Look at John 10:15. It says that Jesus died for us by laying down his life for the sheep. We have to be the other sheep. We need to personally accept this, invite Jesus to be our Savior, and confess our sins so that we can be included with these other sheep."

Thankfully, Karen searched and found the answers. Sticks are just sticks! The sealed book mentioned in Isaiah just means that the meaning is sealed from the learned and the sheep are believers. It's as simple as that!