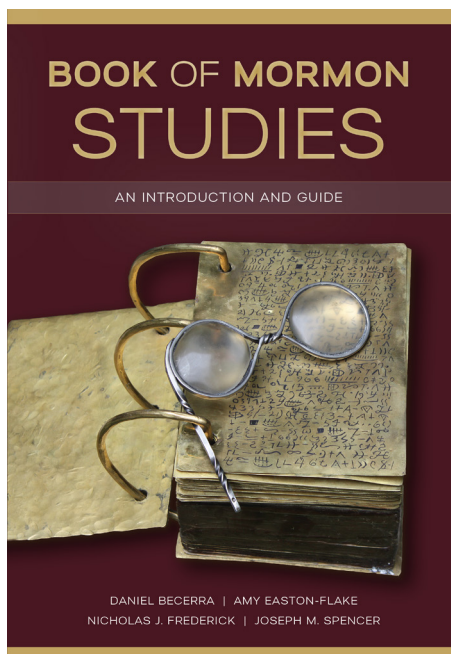


NEW FROM THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER

BOOK OF MORMON STUDIES

AN INTRODUCTION AND GUIDE



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PRAISE

"This volume works to bridge the divide between believers who read appreciatively and reverently and scholars who approach the text without regard to religious commitments. Both constituencies will benefit from a survey that so ably narrates the history of the field, identifies major contributors and developments, and charts directions for further rigorous engagement with a text increasingly recognized as endlessly complex, culturally consequential, and richly provocative."

—Terry L. Givens, author of *By the Hand of Mormon: The American Scripture That Launched a New World Religion*

PROVO, UTAH, AND SALT LAKE CITY— Latter-day Saints take the Book of Mormon seriously. They memorize its passages and mark up its pages. The Book of Mormon is so ubiquitous for the Saints, though, that some of its stories and sermons may become too familiar, losing some of their vitality and power.

Meanwhile, those coming to the Book of Mormon from outside the Latter-day Saint religious tradition often find its complexity overwhelming and the scholarly literature on the volume inaccessible and labyrinthine.

Thus, for many both inside and outside the faith, scholarship on the Book of Mormon is poised to be a significant help. Scholarship can expand the horizons of believing readers, helping them to sound the depths of scripture, just as it can help interested outsiders understand the shape and significance of the volume Latter-day Saints hold so dear. Readers of both types, however, often need some

assistance in accessing these helpful resources.

Unfortunately, Book of Mormon studies remains a closed book to many readers, its avenues and byways unclear to them without a map. This is all the more lamentable because there are more resources available today for studying the Book of Mormon seriously than ever

before. Book of Mormon studies is experiencing a golden age.

In this introduction and guide, four Book of Mormon scholars lay out the history and current shape of the field, summarize schools of thought, comment on important articles and books, and discuss challenges the discipline faces

moving forward. *Book of Mormon Studies* is a handy introduction written for budding Book of Mormon scholars, lay students of the text, and scholars from outside the Latter-day Saint tradition alike.

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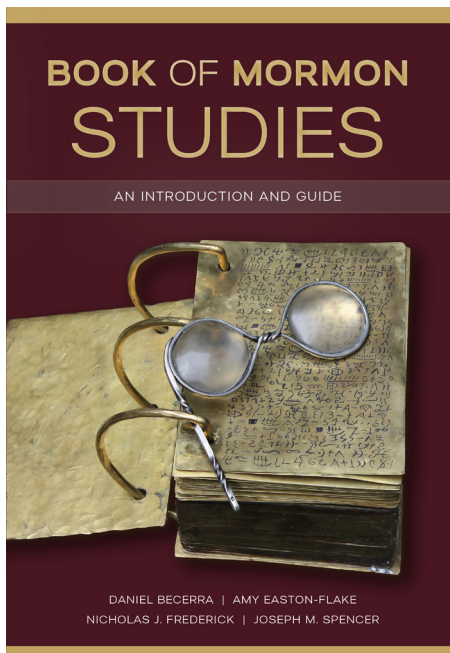
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Because it's difficult to navigate this flowering field without direction, this book breaks it down, explaining the field's history, the shape of the discipline today, central questions about the Book of Mormon, and the future of the field.

The Book of Mormon doesn't need to be handled delicately or kept on the shelf. It needs, rather, to be studied. *Book of Mormon Studies: An Introduction and Guide* is an excellent guide for those who are looking to learn more about the field

or to simply deepen their own private study of the book.

Book of Mormon Studies: An Introduction and Guide was written by Daniel Becerra, Amy Easton-Flake, Nicholas J. Frederick, and Joseph M. Spencer and copublished by the Religious Studies Center at Brigham Young University and Deseret Book. Visit rsc.byu.edu/book/book-mormon-studies for more information.

MORE PRAISE

"Gone are the days when a well-read Latter-day Saint could stay abreast of Book of Mormon scholarship with a short stack of scholarly journals and a Sunday afternoon once a month. Professors Becerra, Easton-Flake, Frederick, and Spencer are reliable guides through this fascinating landscape. Whether you're coming to Book of Mormon studies for the first time or you've followed its progress for decades, you'll find much to stimulate your mind and feed your soul in this book."

—Rosalynde Frandsen Welch, author of *Ether: A Brief Theological Introduction*

"This introduction and guide is a welcome addition to the burgeoning field of Book of Mormon studies. The authors' broad overview of the emerging discipline, from a believing context, offers its readers—both inside and outside the tradition—a fresh and informed orientation to the topic."

—John Christopher Thomas, author of *A Pentecostal Reads the Book of Mormon*

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JOSEPH M. SPENCER received a PhD in philosophy from the University of New Mexico before joining the faculty as an assistant professor of ancient scripture at Brigham Young University. He is the author of five books and many articles, and he serves as the editor of the *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*, as the associate director of the Latter-day Saint Theology Seminar, and as a vice president (and founding member) of the Book of Mormon Studies Association. His research focuses on the point of connection between philosophy and scripture. He and his wife, Karen, live in Provo with their children.