

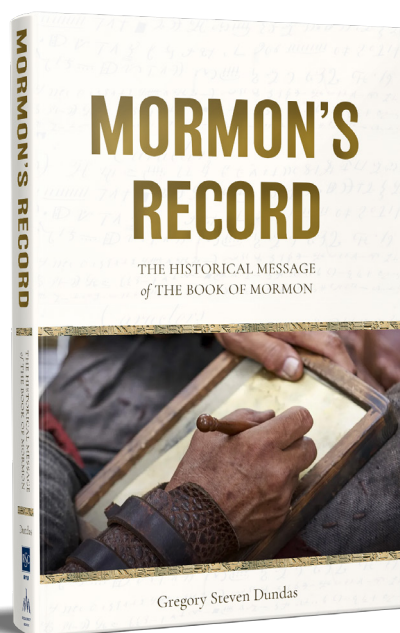
NEW FROM THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER

MORMON'S RECORD

THE HISTORICAL MESSAGE of THE BOOK OF MORMON

PROVO, UTAH, AND SALT LAKE CITY—The Book of Mormon is widely read for a number of reasons. Topping the list is certainly its witness of Jesus Christ, along with its gospel teachings, doctrinal content, and moral message. Yet while the Book of Mormon clearly contains profound doctrinal and theological content, it is foremost a history—and affords additional insights if read that way.

In *Mormon's Record: The Historical Message of the Book of Mormon*, author Gregory Dundas offers a fresh reading of what he calls “Mormon's record,” or the large plates portion of the scripture minus the book of Moroni. Dundas examines that record as a legitimate work of ancient history typifying the historiographical conventions of a pre-modern milieu. His focus is not to argue for the text's historicity but to explore what it says as a work of history crafted to convey sacral themes of great importance.



Mormon's Record begins with an exploration of the ancient sacral worldview, touching on topics such as the Gods, humankind, moral order, kings, justice, war, and temples. Next is a focus on the nature of sacral history as illustrated by important historical works from ancient Mesopotamia,

Egypt, Israel, Greece, Rome, and medieval Europe. The last section describes Mormon's historiographical method and identifies his sacral themes before offering an instructive narrative and thematic reading of his record. Thus situated, the Book of Mormon's sobering theological message is shown to emerge from the historical accounts that inform it.

Readers will see Mormon reenthroned as an inspired author-historian whose words, ideas, worldview, and faith permeate his history more than many readers realize. It is his morally tinged historical consciousness and craftsmanship that powerfully support the gravity of the record's sublime theological message.

Mormon's Record: The Historical Message of the Book of Mormon was copublished by the Religious Studies Center at Brigham Young University and Deseret Book. Visit rsc.byu.edu/book/mormons-record for more information.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gregory Steven Dundas received his PhD in Greek and Roman history from UCLA, a BA in history and classics from San Diego State University, and a JD from the University of Michigan Law School. He is the author of *Explaining Mormonism: A Believing Skeptic's Guide to the Latter-day Saint Worldview* (2022). For several years he taught classes in history and classics and then went on to work for two decades as an attorney with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. He now pursues his passion for studying and writing about ancient cultures, especially ancient religious worldviews. He and his wife, Macedonia, have two sons.

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DETAILS

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