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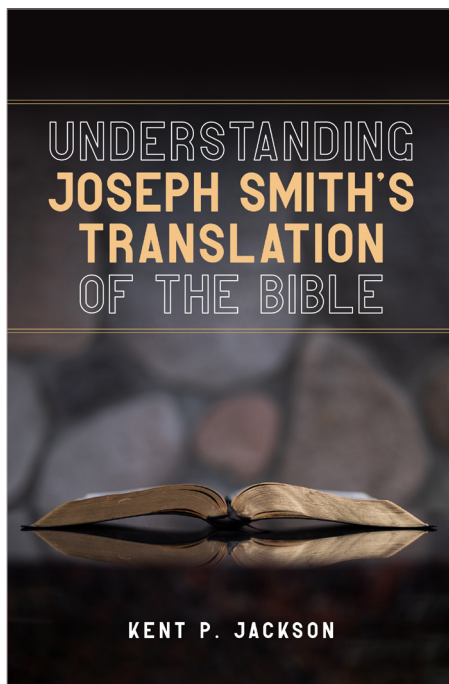
UNDERSTANDING JOSEPH SMITH'S TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE

One of the greatest evidences of the prophetic calling of Joseph Smith is his inspired translation of the Bible (JST). In general, too few of the Latter-day Saints have spent the time or made the effort to uncover what precious doctrinal truths are to be found in this prophetic work or to discover how the JST fits within the overall "restitution of all things." Professor Kent P.

Jackson has paid a significant price to know both the historical backgrounds and the doctrinal significance of what the Prophet Joseph referred to as "this branch of my calling." Reading this book will expand one's understanding and strengthen one's faith in and commitment to the restored gospel. I recommend it wholeheartedly.

—Robert L. Millet,

Professor Emeritus of Ancient Scripture
and Former Dean of Religious Education at BYU



KENT P. JACKSON

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KENT P. JACKSON is a professor emeritus of ancient scripture at Brigham Young University. He earned MA and PhD degrees in ancient Near Eastern and biblical studies from the University of Michigan. He joined the BYU faculty in 1980. He has published on the intersection of the Bible and Latter-day Saint history and beliefs and, in particular, on the Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible.

PROVO, UTAH, AND SALT LAKE CITY—Joseph Smith, the Prophet of the Restoration, began a new translation of the Bible shortly after the publication of the Book of Mormon and the organization of the latter-day Church of Jesus Christ. This book takes a fresh new look at what the Joseph Smith Translation is, what it contains, what it teaches, and how the Prophet arrived at its text. Written for scholars and general audiences alike, this book is the ideal introduction into this important part of Joseph Smith's prophetic ministry.

In June 1830, Joseph Smith dictated to a scribe a text containing the account of a series of visions experienced by the Old Testament prophet Moses. The account is remarkable, but even more remarkable is the fact that with that account Joseph Smith, a twenty-four-year-old farmer, had begun a new translation of the Bible. The account of Moses's visions was just the beginning, the beginning of a process through which the young Prophet revised the Bible from cover to cover, making thousands of changes under the authority of what he and his followers

believed was a divine calling. To him and to his contemporaries, the Bible revision would be known as the New Translation. Today most Latter-day Saints refer to it as the Joseph Smith Translation.

This book is an examination of what the New Translation is, what it contains, what it teaches, and how Joseph Smith arrived at its text. Its focus is on what the original manuscripts and later copies and printings tell us about the Joseph Smith Translation, its history, its role in the Restoration, and its place alongside other Latter-day Saint scriptures. At the center will be the documents and the text they preserve, with their special message of the eternal ministry of Jesus Christ.

Understanding Joseph Smith's Translation of the Bible was written by Kent P. Jackson and copublished by the Religious Studies Center at Brigham Young University and Deseret Book. Visit rsc.byu.edu/book/understanding-joseph-smiths-translation-bible for more information.

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