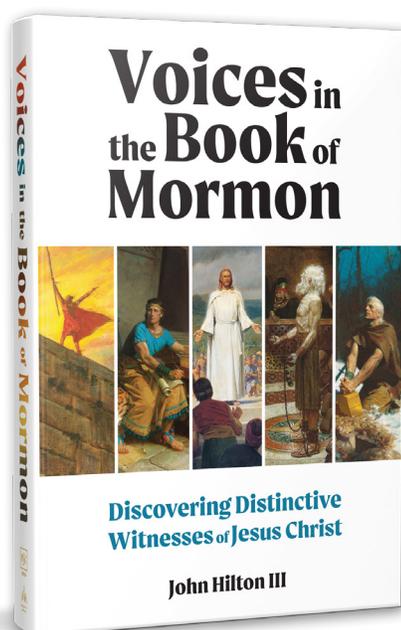


NEW FROM THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER

Voices in the Book of Mormon



PROVO, UTAH, AND SALT LAKE CITY—Hidden from the world for centuries, the words of ancient Book of Mormon prophets whisper from the dust their witness of Jesus Christ. These prophets were individuals with distinctive speaking patterns that are unique in vocabulary, style, and thematic emphasis.

The fruit of more than a decade of research, *Voices in the Book of Mormon: Discovering Distinctive Witnesses of Jesus Christ* compares the linguistic fingerprints of many major speakers in the Book of Mormon, from Nephi and Mormon to Jacob and Jesus Christ. It also shows voices speaking in harmony as later prophets use powerful phrases from their predecessors. Each chapter ends with thoughtful discussion of how identifying a speaker's unique voice can spark greater understanding and application of his message.

Preserved in the Book of Mormon are nearly 150 voices from the ancient past. Mormon, its principal editor, often

tells readers he is using the direct words of another person, and some authors are clearly speaking in their own voices without redaction. So at least some voices should remain intact and discoverable in the text, and that is exactly what close analysis indicates.

In this book, author John Hilton III examines the speaking styles of more than a dozen major speakers in the Book of Mormon and identifies discernible patterns of distinctive language use, consistent with multiple authorship. Such findings foster fruitful discussion of how identifying a speaker's distinctive voice can spark greater understanding and application of his message. Hilton's analysis of these voices highlights the textual richness and complexity of the Book of Mormon, providing meaningful evidence that Joseph Smith did not write it. More importantly, it sheds new light on Book of Mormon prophets' powerful testimonies of Jesus Christ.

Voices in the Book of Mormon: Discovering Distinctive Witnesses of Jesus Christ was copublished by the Religious Studies Center at Brigham Young University and Deseret Book. Visit rsc.byu.edu/book/voices-book-mormon for more information.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

JOHN HILTON III is a professor of religious education at Brigham Young University. He has a master's degree from Harvard and a PhD from Brigham Young University, both in education. John has published several books, including *Considering the Cross: How Calvary Connects Us with Christ*. He is also the author of the video course and podcast *Seeking Jesus*. John and his wife, Lani, have six children. John loves teaching, reading, spending time with his family, doing humanitarian work, snowboarding, and practicing magic tricks.

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