

Types and Shadows and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon

The Gospel contains many types and shadows which help us see patterns and increase our understanding. Many years ago I was asked how the Church explained the burying of the Golden Plates, the coming forth and translation of them when that pattern is not found in the bible.

The answer is the history of the Golden Plates burial, unearthing, translation and ascension to heaven is a shadow of the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ as follows:

The Story from 2000 years ago

- Christ, the Savior of the world, died.
- Christ was buried in a hewn cave of rock (a stone): sealed up with a different large stone.
- Christ emerged from the tomb in the accompaniment of angels.
- Enemies made up lies to discredit the Resurrection of Christ
- After His resurrection, He was seen by the remaining 11 apostles and others. Three of the Apostles recently experienced (although not between death and ascension) divine manifestations on the Mount of Transfiguration. We have the written testimonies of some of these 11 apostles.
- He continued to teach the Apostles; even though he had taught them for three years as disciples and apostles. He explained the scriptures to some to aid in their understanding.
- Christ ascended into Heaven accompanied by Angels.

The Golden Plates

- The Nephite Nation, those who lastly believed in Christ and keep the records of Him, died. Specifically, the Golden Plates name the Savior, on average, more often than every other verse. These plates are clearly the “Words of Christ”.
- The plates were placed and buried in a stone box that was hidden and covered by another large stone.
- The Angel Moroni accompanied Joseph Smith during each visit and opening of the box.
- Enemies made up lies to discredit the reality of the plates and ultimately the Book of Mormon.
- 11 honest and just men witnessed the existence of the Golden Plates. Three of those experienced a divine manifestation. The other eight each saw and touched the plates. These powerful testimonies are printed in each copy of the Book of Mormon.
- The Prophet Joseph Smith was taught by Moroni each year for four years and learned more while translating the plates; he was ordained and baptized at this time.
- The plates were taken to Heaven by the Angel Moroni.