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## Mary and the Book of Mormon: A review

Posted by [Stephen O. Smoot](#) | [3 comments](#)



Image courtesy: VistaLatina.com

Mary the mother of Jesus is featured prominently in the early visionary account of Nephi in the Book of Mormon.

In 1 Nephi 11:14–15 she is called “a virgin...exceedingly fair and white” who is “most beautiful and fair above all other virgins.” Nephi’s angelic guide later identifies Mary as “the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh” (1 Nephi 11:18).

David Hamblin, an independent researcher, has published a volume exploring not just the role of Mary in the Book of Mormon, but her larger role in Christian and LDS thought.

In his self-published book *Mary and the Book of Mormon*, Hamblin seeks to situate Mary’s importance in history, particularly in Native American tradition. He sees contemporary fulfillment of prophetic utterances in the Book of Mormon about Mary and the destiny of Native Americans.

Hamblin’s book focuses heavily on justifying his understanding of eschatology, or the study of the events surrounding the end of the world and the judgment of humanity. Hamblin focuses mainly on the destiny of “Gentiles” and the descendants of Book of Mormon peoples in the last days, and creates an elaborate eschatology for these and other groups, including members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He even offers an overview of Latter-day Saint and modern American history in his eschatological portrait.

While the book does offer some interesting interpretations of prophecies in the Book of Mormon, it unfortunately suffers from both methodological and factual deficiencies.

One major concern is the rampant use of “parallelomania,” or the looking for parallels in disparate cultures and scriptures that, on a surface glance, look convincing, but ultimately don’t pan out. Thus,

For example, Hamblin draws parallels between Egyptian tree goddesses, Syro-Palestinian fertility goddesses, medieval Christian depictions of the Madonna and modern Mexican depictions of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Hamblin offers no rigorous methodology justifying the parallels he makes between these figures, and how they factor in the Book of Mormon’s depiction of Mary, which differ from one another by continents and millennia.

Some factual errors include Hamblin incorrectly identifying a Greek manuscript of the Gospel of John as one of the Dead Sea Scrolls. No New Testament books was discovered in the Dead Sea Scrolls, which pre-date the composition of the New Testament.

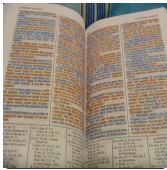
*Mary and the Book of Mormon* is also highly disjointed and hard to read on account of Hamblin’s inconsistent citation and format style. He inconsistently italicizes and bolds sections and quotations of text, and while the addition of color photographs add vitality to the text, no copyright attribution is given in the photos, which could complicate possible legal issues for Hamblin distributing the book.

On the whole, though it had some interesting ideas, *Mary and the Book of Mormon* unfortunately suffers from too many errors and questionable interpretations and arguments for me to recommend it to others. If one is interested in getting a single speculative view of Mary, Book of Mormon prophecies, and eschatology, then Hamblin’s book may be of interest. However, the reader in search of more responsible and scholarly treatments would do well to investigate before they turn to *Mary and the Book of Mormon*.

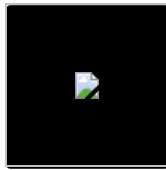
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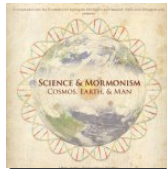
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## 3 comments



1. tom / [November 9, 2012](#)

Where is this book available? My Googling has turned up nothing.

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2. Carolyn Goodman / [January 27, 2013](#)

I ran across this book several months ago in a health food store in Spanish Fork right by K-mart–Beehive Health Essentials. I am an avid LDS single mother who has raised 11 children in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and served in several leadership positions. I was totally fed, inspired and delighted by this inspirational book. In the same way it helps to have other people share their understanding of Isaiah’s writings and prophesies, this book gives a perspective to the Book of Mormon that I have felt was there, but didn’t quite know how to piece together. It answered questions and feelings that I have had for 40 years. I was filled with the spirit as I read and my heart soared with gratitude, love, and light. It makes a lot of sense why the last several prophets have urged the