Editors

Journal of the Book of Mormon and Restoration Scripture

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their conclusions. This is the nature of academic discourse. It takes time and patience, but it is through this critiquing, reviewing, and offering alternative explanations that we advance our understanding of the issues raised through a study of the meaning, history, and contexts of texts. We hope our readers will be open to the idea that final answers are not yet available for many interesting and important questions related to the scriptures of the restoration, and that they will be patient with scholars’ efforts to work through the issues leading to those answers.

One might argue that if there has been a weakness in LDS scholarship in the past—especially regarding the Book of Mormon—it has been a tendency on the part of some to base their acceptance of a given explanation on its apologetic tone rather than on the relative strength of its argument and the evidence that can be adduced in its favor. To be sure, maintaining scholarly standards when dealing with questions that are related to one’s faith can be difficult, but both faith and knowledge are the ultimate beneficiaries of doing so. Through quality peer review, source-checking, and dialogue with the authors we hope to make each paper’s argument as sound and rigorous as possible, and ask contributors to be patient with the reviewing and editing of their manuscripts.

Longtime readers of the Journal will notice a change in how we have cited the sources used in the articles. Rather than being placed in the back of the Journal, the sources for each article are cited in endnotes immediately following the article. We have also adopted a larger font for the references. All this has been done in an effort to make the references more accessible to readers interested in examining an author’s sources for themselves.

Without further ado, then, we are pleased to present our readers with this issue of the Journal of the Book of Mormon and Restoration Scripture, and at the same time issue a standing call for papers on the background, context, history, development, language, and meaning of latter-day scripture. The field, we believe, is wide-open, and we look forward to exploring it with you through the best efforts that faithful scholarship has to offer.

—The Editors