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DNA and the Book of Mormon: A Phylogenetic Perspective

[Michael F. Whiting](#)

Keywords

Book of Mormon, Civilization, Criticism, DNA, Geography

Abstract

This paper debunks the myth that the Book of Mormon has modern DNA evidence. Critics have tried to apply American research to the Book of Mormon without designing a study purpose. It is extraordinarily difficult to use DNA sequence in a lineage of any group with such a complex lineage history as the Lamanites. Possible hypotheses about the populations from which they came include the global colonization hypothesis (in which they came to a land void of humans) and the local colonization hypothesis (in which the land was already occupied in whole or in part by people of European heritage). The latter hypothesis, generally viewed by Book of Mormon scholars as the more accurate interpretation, is much more difficult to investigate with DNA evidence. Issues such as genetic introgression, genetic drift, and founder effects would seriously hamper any attempt to produce a funded, peer-reviewed study of Book of Mormon genetics.

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