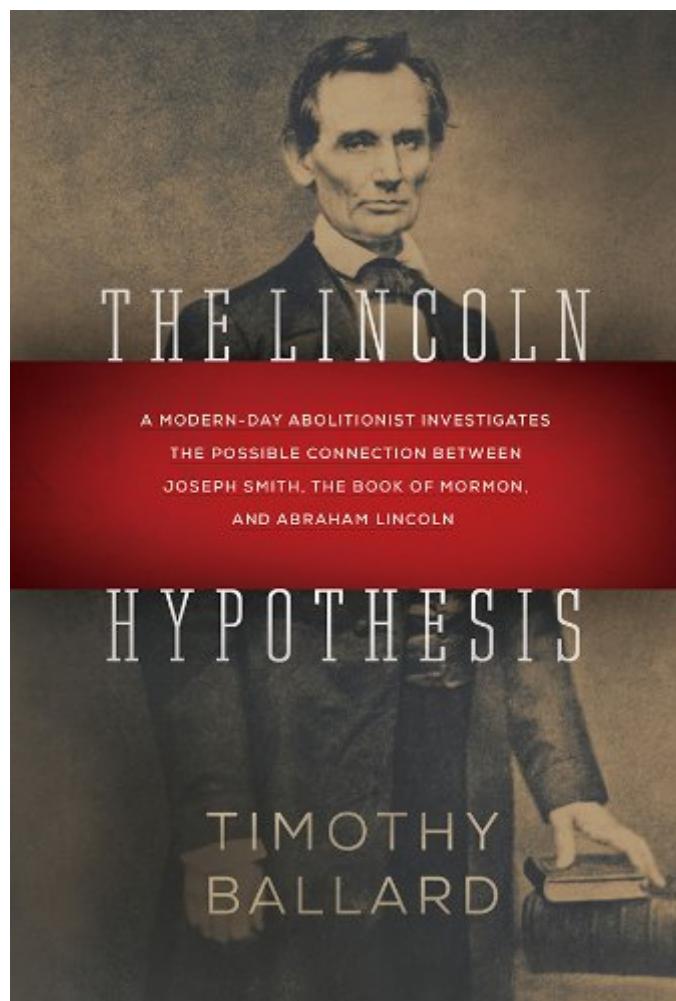


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# The Lincoln Hypothesis



## **Synopsis**

Abraham Lincoln became the sixteenth US president during a very dark time in America's history. Author Timothy Ballard explores the crucial role that President Lincoln played to bring this nation closer to heaven. Readers will see Lincoln as a man inspired of God who invoked a covenant relationship between America and its makerâ "not unlike the national covenants invoked by righteous leaders in the Book of Mormon. In addition, The Lincoln Hypothesis reveals documented evidence that Abraham Lincoln did, in fact, check out the Book of Mormon as he struggled with making some of the most critical decisions of his presidency. Did he read it? Did it influence him? Was the Book of Mormon a key factor in Lincoln's success and the healing of a nation? The author states, "As you read, you will, like a prosecutor reviewing a case, or like a jury determining a verdict, identify valuable pieces of evidence that can be fully substantiated. You will also identify pieces of evidence that cannot. I ask you to consider all the evidence and weight it accordingly. Through this study, many questions regarding the interplay between the restored gospel and the Civil War will be answered. New questions may emerge that will not be so easily answered. Either way, in the end you will find yourself on a most exhilarating investigative journey."

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

I enjoyed this book. It taught me something about Abraham Lincoln I never knew: he borrowed a first edition copy of the Book of Mormon from the Library of Congress and didn't return it for eight months. This is a fact I've never seen anywhere else. But it is a fact. The rest of Timothy Ballard's book is, as he readily admits, speculation. Did Lincoln read the book? He had it for eight months, so maybe he did. But there is simply no way of knowing. Ballard believes that Lincoln did read the book, and that Lincoln's understanding of the meaning of the Civil War came from his study of that book. This is all well and good, and it is fun to speculate. But speculation is not history. As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I WANT to believe it. Certainly Lincoln went through a period of profound religious growth during the war. This has been documented by many well-known and non-Mormon historians. And it was during the time of his greatest growth, after the death of his son Willie in February of 1862, that Lincoln had the book. Still, we can never know if Lincoln read the book, and even if he did, we can't be sure that it influenced him at all. I enjoyed many of the author's speculations, for they seemed logical. Others, however, were extremely far-fetched. One of my criticisms of Timothy Ballard's previous book (**THE COVENANT, LINCOLN, AND THE WAR**) was that he was a little careless with the facts. This is a problem with this book as well. Ballard repeats the mistake of saying that there were 50,000 dead at the Battle of Gettysburg. There were 50,000 casualties at Gettysburg--killed, wounded, and missing. But only about 7,000 of these were actual battlefield deaths. There are several similar mistakes in the book.

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