

Sealed or Sealed-Up Documents

2 Nephi 27

Nephi's conception of the Nephite record

Ether 3–4

Instructions to the brother of Jared concerning his record

Ether 4–5

Moroni's comments on his abridgment of the writings of the brother of Jared

Will the document be in a sealed format?	Yes. The book itself will be "sealed"	No. The record will be "sealed up"	Not indicated
Will the document be in two distinct parts?	Yes, words that are "not sealed" and words that are "sealed"	No	Yes
Will the document be supported by witnesses?	Yes, three and a few others	Not indicated	Yes, three, joined by the Godhead
When will the document come forth?	"The own due time of the Lord"	Part when Jesus comes in the flesh, part in due time	When the Gentiles repent and become clean and have faith
What does the document contain?	"A revelation from God, from the beginning of the world to the ending"	Vision of the pre-mortal Christ and "all the inhabitants of the earth"	Things the brother of Jared saw
Is there a curse associated with rejecting the record?	Yes	Not indicated	Yes
Is the document to be sealed or sealed up again?	Yes, after the text has been read	Not expected	Yes, so it would not be destroyed
Was anything else sealed up with the record?	No	Two stones	The interpreters

Sealed or Sealed-Up Documents

Key Scriptures 2 Nephi 27; Ether 3–5

Explanation Nephi, the brother of Jared, and Moroni all commented on sealed or sealed-up portions of the Book of Mormon, the brother of Jared’s vision, and Moroni’s abridgment of the brother of Jared’s writings. *Sealed* (*hatom*), as used in Jeremiah 32, has various meanings. *Hatom* means literally that a seal has been placed on a document, but it also implies that the document may be “unavailable” or “complete.” Similarly, in their discussions of the sealed portion of the Book of Mormon, Book of Mormon prophets generally used the term *sealed* to express that a document was literally closed with a seal and *sealed up* to indicate that a document was unavailable. Knowing these definitions can help readers follow the accounts in 2 Nephi 27 and Ether 3–5.

Source John W. Welch, “Doubled, Sealed, Witnessed Documents: From the Ancient World to the Book of Mormon,” in *Mormons, Scripture, and the Ancient World: Studies in Honor of John L. Sorenson*, ed. Davis Bitton (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1998), 432–33.