



## Mormons - Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints (Salt Lake City)

The Mormon Church was founded by Joseph Smith Jr. He was born Dec. 23 1805 in Sharon, Vermont—He and his father (before Mormonism) used to search for buried treasures using diving rods, seer stones, and ‘implements of magic’. He hired people who could find things “unseen to the human eye”

- ✓ “[People] came for Joseph on account of having heard that he possessed certain means by which he could discern things invisible to the natural eye” (*History of Joseph Smith by His Mother, 91–92*).
- ✓ Long before the idea of a Golden Bible entered their minds, in their excursions for money digging ... Joe used to be usually their guide, putting into a hat a peculiar stone he had through which he looked to decide where they should begin to dig (*Gleanings by the Way, by J. A. Clark, [Philadelphia: W. J. and J. K. Simon, 1842], 225*).

His mother, Lucy Smith, wrote ‘Biographical Sketches of Joseph Smith and His Progenitors for Many Generations’--Brigham Young (2<sup>nd</sup> leader of the Mormon church after Smith was killed) suppressed it said it “Contains many mistakes...deemed best to publish these sketches after they are corrected” *Millennial star Vol 17:297-298* It portrays Joseph Smith as a more of a con-man than a religious leader.

- ✓ 1820 God the Father & Son appeared to Joseph Smith while he was praying in the woods and anointed him a prophet to this dispensation (age) and then proceeded to tell him of all religions “everything is wrong.”
- ✓ 1823 the angel Moroni, once a man-son of Mormon, repeated this same commission three times. (found in the Pearl of Great Price)

### Book of Mormon:

A few different accounts and they have changed over the years but from Mormon record this is the best I can come up with...

- ✓ **1827** Joseph Smith received the book of Mormon on Golden tablets. These tablets were dug up Cumorah, NY. The tablet contained “reformed Egyptian hieroglyphics” – unfortunately no one has the plates and reformed Egyptian Hieroglyphics do not exist. Joseph Smith was able to translate the hieroglyphics by the “Umin and Thummim” – These were very large golden spectacles that were bigger than Joseph Smith’s head; so much so he could only look through one lens at a time....the Angel Moroni gave him gave him these spectacles.
- ✓ **1829** Joseph was translating the plates (1827–1829) when Oliver Cowdery, a traveling schoolteacher, was converted and wrote down what Joseph Smith said the tablets said. Spiritual zeal allegedly attained such heights that on May 15, 1829, John the Baptist, in person, was speedily dispatched by Peter, James, and John (Disciple) to the humble state of Pennsylvania with orders to confer the “Aaronic Priesthood” on Joseph and Oliver. *Pearl of great price History 1 29-73*

The *Book of Mormon* was published and copyrighted in the year 1830. On April 6 of the same year, the prophet, in the company with his brothers Hyrum and Samuel, Oliver Cowdery, and David and Peter Whitmer Jr., officially founded a “new religious society” entitled “The Church of Christ” (later to be named the Church of the Latter-day Saints [1834], and finally as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1838).

No one but Joseph Smith ever saw the golden plates or the spectacles. The witness who attested to have seen them at the beginning of the book of Mormon say they only saw the tablets through the “the eye of faith.” — *The testimony of the three witnesses, which appear at the front of the Book of Mormon (Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, and Martin Harris) declares that “An angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engraving thereon.”*

- ✓ Martin Harris denied that he had actually seen the plates with his “naked eyes.” In fact, when pressed, he stated, “No, I saw them with a spiritual eye” (Recollections of John H. Gilbert, 1892, Typescript, BYU, 5–6).
- ✓ The Mormons also hate to admit that all three of these witnesses were later apostatized from the Mormon faith and were described in most unflattering terms (“counterfeiters, thieves, [and] liars”) by their Mormon contemporaries (cf. *Senate Document 189*, February 15, 1841, 6–9).

**The original conference meeting of the Mormon church was held in Fayette, Pa on April 6, 1830, the nucleus of the Mormon Church moved to Kirtland, Ohio, where, in a period of six years, they increased to over 16,000-** For most of the 1830s, they lived in Kirtland, Ohio, which remained the headquarters of the church until the cost of building a large temple, financial collapse, and conflict with disaffected members encouraged Smith to gather the church to the Latter Day Saint settlement in Missouri.

While in Missouri, Smith purchased sixty-three acres, which he deemed “holy ground,” and there marked the exact spot on which he declared that the temple of Zion, the earthly headquarters of the kingdom of Jesus Christ, was eventually to be built. Sidney Rigdon (had “great hopes” for him) but he preached the “salt sermon” and almost created a battle between the state vs. “saints.” The tensions between Mormons and non-Mormons escalated into the 1838 Mormon War (not to be confused with the Utah war later in 1857 and 1858). 1838 they were expelled from Missouri ended up in Nauvoo, Illinois where they began building a second temple aided by new converts -

***In Kirtland the First Stake of Zion was established and a quorum of twelve apostles was chosen, presided over by a First Presidency of three, supervised by the president, Joseph Smith, the Seer.***

Between the years 1831 to 1844, the “prophet” received well over 135 direct revelations from God, the practice of polygamy was instituted at Kirtland and later confirmed by “divine revelation.” In 1890 President Wilford Woodruff abolished the practice of polygamy.

### **Smith’s Death**

The ***Nauvoo Expositor*** was a newspaper in Nauvoo, Illinois that published only one issue, which was dated June 7, 1844. Its publication set off a chain of events that led to the assassination of Joseph Smith.

Most of the *Expositor’s* single issue was devoted to criticism of Joseph Smith (they were ex-Mormons who were angry about polygamy, believed Smith held too much power, and believed that Smith was corrupting young women by forcing, coercing or introducing them to the practice of plural marriage).

Too much power? Yes. At this time Joseph Smith was the mayor of Nauvoo (and also running for President of the United States). After two days of consultation, Smith and the Nauvoo city council voted on June 10, 1844 to declare the paper a public nuisance, and ordered the paper's printing press destroyed.

Warrants from outside Nauvoo were brought in against Smith and but dismissed in Nauvoo courts. Smith declared martial law on June 18, 1844 and called out the Nauvoo Legion, an organized city militia of about 5,000 men, to protect Nauvoo from outside violence.

Illinois Governor Thomas Ford proposed a trial by a non-Mormon jury in Carthage, the county seat, and guaranteed Smith's safety. Smith originally planned on leaving rather than surrendering but when criticized by some followers is reported to have said, "If my life is of no value to my friends it is of none to myself." (sounds a little passive aggressive). Smith reluctantly agreed and submitted to arrest.

Almost immediately Joseph and Hyrum were charged with treason against the state of Illinois for declaring martial law in Nauvoo. The judge ordered Joseph and Hyrum Smith to be held in jail until they could be tried for treason, a capital offense. On June 27, 1844, a mob comprised of some two hundred persons stormed the Carthage jail and brutally murdered Smith and his brother, Hyrum. Making him a martyr, insuring his perpetual enshrinement in Mormon history as a "true seer."

With the assassination of Joseph Smith, the large majority of Mormons accepted the leadership of Brigham Young, who was 43 at the time and had previously led the Mormons to safety from the wrath of the Missouri citizenry. In 1846, Young announced that the Saints would abandon Nauvoo. In 1847, after a brutal trek through the wilderness of the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, Young brought the first band of Mormons to the valley of the Great Salt Lake and is credited with the exclamation, "This is the place!"

### **Missions emphasis**

Before 1942 the church had a total of less than 2000 missionaries. As of 2007 there were approximately 60,000 worldwide. 75% males, 19% females, and 6% married. Birth rate 28.1/1000 National Ave=15.9/1000

- ✓ *Mormon leaders have become powerful in almost all branches of American government, headed by former Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, the late thirteenth prophet of the Mormon Church; former Treasury Secretary David M. Kennedy; former Treasurers Angela (Bay) Buchanan and the late Ivy Baker Priest; former Education Secretary Terrel H. Bell; former Michigan governor George Romney; Marriner S. Eccles; numerous U.S. ambassadors; and dozens of U.S. senators and representatives, to name but a few.*

Far from being an organization of minor influence, the Mormons are indeed a potent political and social force to be reckoned with

### **Education**

Mormonism wants their people educated in everything except Mormonism. Brigham Young University has 37,000 students, 50 schools outside the United states boasting a total of 320,000 students.

### **Church Structure**

*The organization and general administration of the Mormon Church is directed by its "General Authorities."*

- ✓ First Presidency (Currently “prophet” Thomas Monson and two “counselors”).
- ✓ President is assisted by assisted by a “Council of Twelve” or Quorum of Twelve apostles
- ✓ “First Quorum of the Seventy,” and “Second Quorum of the Seventy,”
- ✓ All authority resides in the Mormon “priesthood,” established under the titles “Aaronic” (lesser) and “Melchizedek” (higher). Almost every active male over 12 belongs to the Aaronic, and if “worthy” these are ordained to the Melchizedek priesthood at age eighteen.

**Administration:** Mormon church is divided into territories made up of “wards” and “stakes,” the former consisting of from five hundred to a thousand people. Each ward is presided over by a bishop and his two counselors. The wards are all consolidated into stakes, each of which is supervised by a stake president and two counselors, aided in turn by twelve high priests known as the “stake high council.” At the beginning of 1995, there were approximately 21,774 wards and branches, 2,008 stakes, and 303 missions functioning in the Mormon Church.

- ✓ *“I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet” (Joseph Smith-History of the Church, 6:408–409).*

### Mormon Church Presidents

1	Joseph Smith	1830-1844
2	Brigham Young	1847-1877
3	John Taylor	1880-1887
4	Wilford Woodruff	1887-1898
5	Lorenzo Snow	1898-1901
6	Joseph F. Smith	1901-1918
7	Heber J. Grant	1918-1945
8	George Albert Smith	1945-1951
9	David O. McKay	1951-1970
10	Joseph Fielding Smith	1970-1972
11	Harold B. Lee	1972-1973
12	Spencer W. Kimball	1973-1985
13	Ezra Taft Benson	1985-1994
14	Howard W. Hunter	1994-1995
15	Gordon B. Hinckley	1995-2008
16	Thomas S. Monson	2008-present

### Scripture

They use “Four Standard Works.”

- ✓ King James Version Bible,
- ✓ Doctrine and Covenants: Its main purpose is to instruct members and leaders about how the Mormon Church should be organized and directed. Most of the revelations were received by the Prophet Joseph Smith (133). The remaining sections (including 2 declarations) were received and written by other leaders of the Mormon Church.
- ✓ The Pearl of Great Price: The Pearl of Great Price includes these individual books:
  - **The Book of Moses** - consists of several revelations given to Joseph Smith while he was revising the Bible beginning in June 1830.

- **The Book of Abraham** - The Book of Abraham contains writings of Abraham, and claimed to be a translation from some Egyptian papyri that the Church obtained in 1835. It includes a record of the life of the patriarch Abraham and also a description of the creation of the world.
- **Joseph Smith-Matthew** - an extract from the testimony of Matthew taken from Joseph Smith's translation of the Bible.
- **Joseph Smith-History** - includes excerpts from Joseph Smith's official testimony and history, which he prepared in 1838.
- **The Articles of Faith** - thirteen untitled statements previously published in the *Times and Seasons* in March 1842.

The Book of Mormon tells the History of 2 peoples.

The first are called the Jaredites. They left Babel in 2250 BC and settled in the Americas. They were destroyed as punishment for corruption.

The second group of people were Jews, who in 600 BC left Jerusalem before it was destroyed and the subsequent Babylonian captivity. These Jews crossed the Ocean (in a type of Submarine) and landed in South America. They were righteous Jews lead by Lehi and later his son, Nephi. Eventually they ran into the same problems as the Jaredites and split into warring factions...the Nephites and the Lamanites (indians).

The Lamanites received a curse for being evil and so received darker skin. The *Book of Mormon* describes the Native-American curse as, **“they were white, and exceeding fair and delightful; that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them” (2 Nephi 5:21)**. Post-1981 editions of the *Book of Mormon* have deleted the strength of the racist overtones by changing the word “white,” in the original *Book of Mormon*, to “pure,” (cf. 2 Nephi 30:6).

Mormon’s record claims that Christ visited the American continent, revealed himself to the Nephites, preached to them the gospel, and instituted both baptism and Communion, or “the sacrament” as Latter-day Saints call it.

The Nephites, unfortunately, proved to be no match for the Lamanites, and they were defeated by them and annihilated in a great battle near the hill Cumorah, in approximately A.D. 421. The traditional view held by the LDS Church is that the hill called Cumorah in the *Book of Mormon* is the same hill where Joseph Smith dug up the gold plates.

From Golden Tablets there were said to be four classes of record plates

- 1) Plates of Nephi – tells of secular history and the smaller have some sacred rites.
- 2) Plates of Mormon – an abridgement of Nephi with notes by Mormon and notes by Moroni his son.
- 3) Plates of Ether = History of the Jaredites Abridged by Moroni.
- 4) Plates of Brass (or brass plates of Laban) - from Jerusalem in the form of Nephite records- Hebrew script

Joseph Smith said he received these plates from a resurrected personage” Moroni’ in 1827.

There are so many conflicting methods of how Smith got the plates and the methods for translating the book of Mormon that Mormon missionaries will only discuss the official version *“Joseph Smith received the golden plates with the Urim and Thummim and view the plates through the clear stones to translate the reformed Egyptian hieroglyphics into Elizabethan*

*English.*" Others who saw Smith conduct his work said he placed a seer stone into his hat and covered his face with the hat to see wonderful visions in the stone concerning the hieroglyphics.

The *Book of Mormon* purports to portray the rise and development of two great civilizations. As to just how great these civilizations were, some excerpts from the book itself adequately illustrate.

- "The whole face of the land had become covered with buildings, and the people were as numerous almost, as it were the sand of the sea" (Mormon 1:7).
- "...fine workmanship of wood, in buildings, and in machinery, and also in iron and copper, and brass and steel, making all manners of tools " (Jarom 1:8; 2 Nephi 5:15).
- "...grain ... silks ... cattle ... oxen ... cows ... sheep ... swine ... goats ... horses ... asses ... elephants ..." (See Ether 9:17–19).
- "...did multiply and spread ... began to cover the face of the whole earth, from the sea south to the sea north, from the sea west to the sea east" (Heleman 3:8).
- "...had been slain ... nearly two million" [Jaredites] (See Ether 15:2).
- "...their shipping and their building of ships, and their building of temples, and of synagogues and their sanctuaries " (Heleman 3:14. See also 2 Nephi 5:15–16; Alma 16:13).

But there is no archeological evidence what so ever for this.

The cities mentioned in the *Book of Mormon* are imaginary, that elephants never existed on this continent, and that the metals described in the *Book of Mormon* have never been found in any of the areas of contemporary civilizations of the New World. This is not a theologian attempting to discredit the Mormons on the basis of their theology, but recognized archaeological experts challenging the *Book of Mormon* on the basis of the fact that its accounts are not in keeping with the findings of science.

### **Changes to the Book:**

The former major revision of the *Book of Mormon* was in 1920. That standard edition is still found in many public libraries and in millions of homes. In the latest revision, 1981, a subtitle was added to the cover: "Another Testament of Jesus Christ," and **no less than 100 verses were changed without consulting the missing golden plates**. A note closing the introduction to the 1981 edition says, "*Some minor errors in the text have been perpetuated in past editions of the Book of Mormon. This edition contains corrections that seem appropriate to bring the material into conformity with prepublication manuscripts and early editions edited by the prophet Joseph Smith.*" Without blushing, the Mormon Church boldly asserts the unfounded claim that the prepublication manuscripts agree with their most recent changes.

*There have been approx. 4,000 word changes in the Book of Mormon.*

### **THEY ALSO BELIEVE THE CURRENT CHURCH PROPHET SPEAKS NEW REVELATION.**

- ✓ "at every General Conference of the Church" the speakers are giving forth Scripture that is equal to anything in the Book of Mormon or the Bible. "It is just as much Scripture as anything you will find in any of ...the standard works of the Church." -Doctrine of Salvation Vol. 1, pg
- ✓ "learn to do as you are told, both old and young...if you are told by your leader to do a thing, do it. None of your business whether it is right or wrong" Pres. H.C. Kimball Jour of Discourses V6 pg32
- ✓ "Keep you eye on the Pres. of the church. If he ever tells you to do anything, and it is wrong, and you do it, the Lord will bless you for it." Ezra Taft Benson BYU devotional Feb 26 1980

- ✓ President Wilford Woodruff explained that “the Bible, the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants...would scarcely be sufficient to guide us for 24 hours....we are to be guided by the Living Oracles.” *Journal of Discourses*. Vol. 9, pg 324.

#### **God – God was a man living on another planet at some point**

- ✓ “In the beginning, the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people it” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 349).
- ✓ “God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 345).
- ✓ “The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s: the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, *but is a personage of Spirit*” (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 130:22).
- ✓ “Gods exist, and we had better strive to be prepared to be one with them” (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 7:238).
- ✓ “As man is, God once was: as God is, man may become” (Prophet Lorenzo Snow, quoted in Milton R. Hunter, *The Gospel Through the Ages*, 105–106).
- ✓ “Remember that God, our heavenly Father, was perhaps once a child, and mortal like we ourselves, and rose step by step in the scale of progress, in the school of advancement; has moved forward and overcome, until He has arrived at the point where He now is” (Apostle Orson Hyde, *Journal of Discourses*, 1:123).
- ✓ “When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives, with him. He helped to make and organized this world. He is MICHAEL, the Archangel, the ANCIENT OF DAYS! about whom holy men have written and spoken—HE is our FATHER and our GOD, and the only God with whom we have to do”(Brigham Young, in the *Journal of Discourses*, 1:50).
- ✓ The whole earth shall bear me witness that I, like the towering rock in the midst of the ocean, which has withstood the mighty surges of the warring waves for centuries, am impregnable....I combat the errors of ages; I meet the violence of mobs; I cope with illegal proceedings from executive authority: I cut the gordian knot of powers, and I solve mathematical problems of universities, with truth—diamond truth; and God is my “right hand man.” -History of the Church, Vol. 6, pg. 78.
- ✓ God used to be a man on another planet, Mormon Doctrine, p. 321. Joseph Smith, *Times and Seasons*, Vol 5, pp. 613-614; Orson Pratt, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol 2, p. 345, Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 7, p. 333.)
- ✓ "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s..." (D&C 130:22).
- ✓ God is in the form of a man, (Joseph Smith, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 6, p. 3.)
- ✓ "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!!! . . . We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345)
- ✓ God the Father had a Father, (Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, vol. 6, p. 476; Heber C. Kimball, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 5, p. 19; Milton Hunter, *First Council of the Seventy, Gospel through the Ages*, p. 104-105.)
- ✓ God resides near a star called Kolob, (*Pearl of Great Price*, pages 34-35; Mormon Doctrine, p. 428.)
- ✓ God is married to his goddess wife and has spirit children, (Mormon Doctrine p. 516.)

#### **Jesus – Not God who became a man but man who had to prove himself to become a god.**

The Visitor Information Center that shows pictures of Christ visiting the Americas depicted in the Book of Mormon show Jesus standing in front of 2 well known ancient temples, El Castillo and El Caracol, in the Yucatan. These temples are pagan, not Christian, and weren't built until after 1000AD, 900 years too late for Christ to have been there.

- ✓ His [Christ's] unique status in the flesh as the offspring of a mortal mother [Mary] and of an immortal, or resurrected and glorified, Father [Elohim] (ed. 1974, 473).
- ✓ "He (Christ) was *not* begotten by the Holy Ghost. ... Jesus, our elder brother, was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the garden of Eden, and who is our Father in Heaven" (*Journal of Discourses*, 1:50–51)
- ✓ Jesus celebrated his own marriage to "Mary and Martha, and the other Mary," at Cana of Galilee, "whereby he could see his seed, before he was crucified" (Apostle Orson Hyde, *Journal of Discourses*, 4:259; 2:82)
- ✓ "When the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the Father had begotten him in his own likeness. He was *not* begotten by the Holy Ghost. And who was the Father? He is the first of the human family; and when he took a tabernacle [body], it was begotten by his Father in heaven, after the same manner as the tabernacles of Cain, Abel, and the rest of the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve; from the fruits of the earth, the first earthly tabernacles were originated by the Father, and so on in succession. ... Jesus, our elder brother, was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the garden of Eden, and who is our Father in Heaven" (*Journal of Discourses*, 1:50–51).
- ✓ The birth of the Savior was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and blood—was begotten of his Father, as we are of our fathers (*Journal of Discourses*, 8:115).
- ✓ The first spirit to be born in heaven was Jesus, (Mormon Doctrine, page 129.)
- ✓ Jesus and Satan are spirit brothers and we were all born as siblings in heaven to them both, (Mormon Doctrine, p. 163; *Gospel Through the Ages*, p. 15.)
- ✓ Jesus' sacrifice was not able to cleanse us from all our sins, (murder and repeated adultery are exceptions), (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 3, p. 247, 1856.)

### **Holy Spirit – Substance, created, active force**

- ✓ This leads to the investigation of that substance called the Holy Spirit or Light of Christ. ... There is a divine substance, fluid or essence, called Spirit, widely diffused among these eternal elements. ... This divine element, or Spirit, is immediate, active or controlling agent in all holy miraculous powers. ... The purest, most refined and subtle of all these substances and the one least understood or even recognized by the less informed among mankind is that substance called the Holy Spirit" (*Key to the Science of Theology*, ed. 1978, 24–25, 64).
- ✓ The Holy Ghost is a male personage, *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, (Le Grand Richards, Salt Lake City, 1956, page 118; *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 5, page 179.)

### **Salvation and man**

A careful reading of the *Book of Abraham* will reveal that life on this earth was designed by the gods to discipline their spirit children and at the same time provide them with the opportunities to reproduce and eventually inherit godhood and individual kingdoms of their personal possessions.

According to Mormon revelation, the site for the conception of these plans was near the great star Kolob, and it will come as no surprise to students of Mormonism to learn that Lucifer, who was a spirit brother of Jesus prior to His incarnation, fell from heaven because of his jealousy of



Christ. Christ was appointed by the gods to become the Redeemer of the race that would fall as a result of Adam's sin, and it was this office to which Lucifer aspired, hence his antipathy (*Journal of Discourse*, 13:282).

Lucifer is even quoted as saying, "Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor" (chapter 4 of the *Book of Moses*, found in the *Pearl of Great Price*, catalogs all of these events, including the fall of Satan and the establishment of the Garden of Eden in chapter 6. Joseph Smith elsewhere "revealed" was really located in Missouri and not the Mesopotamian area).

- ✓ "One of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by the grace of God; that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation." (Miracle of Forgiveness, Spencer W. Kimball, p. 206.)
- ✓ A plan of salvation was needed for the people of earth so Jesus offered a plan to the Father and Satan offered a plan to the father but Jesus' plan was accepted. In effect the Devil wanted to be the Savior of all Mankind and to "deny men their agency and to dethrone god." (Mormon Doctrine, page 193; Journal of Discourses, vol. 6, page 8.)
- ✓ Jesus' sacrifice was not able to cleanse us from all our sins, (murder and repeated adultery are exceptions), (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 3, p. 247, 1856.)
- ✓ Good works are necessary for salvation, Articles of Faith, p. 92.)
- ✓ There is no salvation without accepting Joseph Smith as a prophet of God, (Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 1, p. 188.)
- ✓ "The first effect [of the atonement] is to secure to all mankind alike, exemption from the penalty of the fall, thus providing a plan of *General Salvation*. The second effect is to open a way for *Individual Salvation* whereby mankind may secure remission of personal sins (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 78-79.)
- ✓ "As these sins are the result of individual acts it is just that forgiveness for them should be conditioned on individual compliance with prescribed requirements -- 'obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.'" (*Articles of Faith* p. 79).
- ✓ "Some of our old traditions teach us that a man guilty of atrocious and murderous acts may savingly repent on the scaffold; and upon his execution will hear the expression 'Bless God! he has gone to heaven, to be crowned in glory, through the all-redeeming merits of Christ the Lord!' This is all nonsense. Such a character will never see heaven" (Journal of Discourses, 8:61).
- ✓ Suppose you found your brother in bed with your wife, and you put a javelin through both of them, you would be justified, and they would atone for their sins, and be received into the kingdom of God. I would at once do so in such a case; and under such circumstances, I have no wife whom I love so well that I would not put a javelin through her heart, and I would do it with clean hands.
- ✓ There is not a man or woman, who violates the covenants made with their God, that will not be required to pay the debt. The blood of Christ will never wipe that out, your own blood must atone for it; and the judgments of the Almighty will come, sooner or later, and every man and woman will have to atone for breaking their covenants. ... All mankind love themselves, and let these principles be known by an individual, and he would be glad to have his blood shed. ... I could refer you to plenty of instances where men have been righteously slain, in order to atone for their sins. ... This is loving our neighbor as ourselves; if he needs help, help him; and if he wants salvation and it is necessary to spill his blood on the earth in order that he may be saved, spill it" (*Journal of Discourses*, 3:247; 4:219–220).

- ✓ The blood of Christ atones for Adam's sin only which brings resurrection to all, including animals and birds. Christ's blood doesn't atone for anyone's individual sin though, these can only be paid by 100% obedience to every command. "Living all 4300 guarantees total forgiveness...complying with the formula the Lord gave us." Commandments and the promises of God page 208; Articles of faith pg 477-478; Journal of Discourses Vol 13. Pg 143
- ✓ Believe in God, believe in Jesus, and believe in Joseph his Prophet and in Brigham his successor. And I add, if you will believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph was a Prophet, and that Brigham was his successor, you shall be saved in the kingdom of God. Every spirit that confesses that Joseph Smith is a Prophet, that he lived and died a Prophet and that the Book of Mormon is true, is of God, and every spirit that does not is of anti-Christ.-Journal of Disc. Vol.6, pg. 176; Vol. 4, pg. 269; Doctrines of Salvation Vol. 1,pg. 236; Journal of Disc. Vol. 6, pg. 229; History of the Church Vol. 7, pg. 287.
- ✓ no man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the Celestial Kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith.-Journal of Discourses Vol. 7, pg 189.

### **Becoming Gods**

Mormonism teaches sin was blessing as it allowed Adam and Eve to have children so they could grow to be gods because gods have bodies but their children don't.

- ✓ "In heaven where our spirits were born, there are many Gods, each of whom has his own wife, or wives, which were given to him previous to his redemption, while yet in his mortal state" Orson Pratt "the seer pg. 37
- ✓ *Adam fell, but he fell in the right direction toward the goal...he fell upwards" Sterling W. Sill Council to the 12 Apostles Deseret news Jul 31 1965*
- ✓ "The devil told the truth I do not blame Mother Eve. I would not have had her miss eating the forbidden fruit for anything in the world...They must pass through the same ordeals as the Gods, that they may know good from evil." Brigham Young June 18 1873 Deseret news
- ✓ *Joseph F. Smith "The fall of man came as a blessing in disguise.. I never speak of the part Eve took in this as sin, nor do I accuse Adam of sin.. We can hardly look on anything resulting in such benefits as sin." Doctrine of Salvation v1 pg113*

### **Hell and Heaven**

- ✓ In Mormon theology there are three heavens: the telestial, the terrestrial, and the celestial. McConkie states that "most adults" will go to the telestial kingdom and that it is composed of *"the endless hosts of people of all ages who have lived after the manner of the world; who have been carnal, sensual, and devilish; who have chosen the vain philosophies of the world rather than accept the testimony of Jesus; who have been liars and thieves, sorcerers and adulterers, blasphemers and murders"* (Mormon Doctrine, 1966, 778). *The second kingdom (the terrestrial) will be inhabited by Christians who did not accept the Mormon message, Mormons who did not live up to their church's requirements, and men of good will of other religions who rejected the revelations of the Latter-day Saints* (Mormon Doctrine, 1966, 784). *The highest or celestial heaven is itself divided into three levels. Only in this highest level is godhood or the possession of a kingdom for one's self and one's family to be gained. This particular estate has as its prerequisite the candidate's having been sealed by celestial marriage in a Mormon temple while upon the earth. Even in the celestial kingdom, godhood is by slow progression, and in the end each who becomes a god will, with his family, rule and populate a separate planet of his own.*
- ✓ You have often heard me speak about my kindred.... Will they be saved? Yes, they will, but...they will first go to hell and remain there until the corruption with which they are

impregnated is burnt out....The day will yet come when they will come to me and acknowledge me as their savior, and I will redeem them and bring them forth from hell to where I live and make them my servants; and they will be quite willing to enter into my service. Apostle Heber C. Kimball Journal of Disc. Vol. 4, pg.223; Vol. 3, pg. 109.

### **African Americans:**

- ✓ *Shall I tell you the law of God in regard to the African race? If the white man who belongs to the chosen seed mixes his blood with the seed of Cain, the penalty, under the law of God, is death on the spot. This will always be so. Cain slew his brother...and the Lord put a mark upon him, which is the flat nose and black skin...that curse will remain upon them, and they never can hold the Priesthood or share in it until all the other descendants of Adam have received the promises and enjoyed the blessings of the Priesthood and the keys thereof. Journal of Discourses Vol 10 pg 110, Vol 7 pg 290-91.*

These views were not changed until June 6, 1978..

- ✓ "President Kimball has...received this revelation, which came to him after extended meditation and prayer in the sacred rooms of the holy temple." President N. Eldon Tanner, First Counselor in the First Presidency of the Church, 148th Semiannual General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

**Holy Underwear** – I get asked about this a lot so...

**Temple garment (Mormon underwear)** is a type of underwear worn by members of the Latter Day Saint movement, *after* they have taken part in the Endowment ceremony.

The Endowment ceremony was introduced by Joseph Smith and consists of symbolic acts and covenants designed to prepare participants to officiate in priesthood ordinances, and to give them the key words and tokens they need to pass by angels guarding the way to heaven.

Endowment Ceremony consists of (1) instruction (2) multiple washing and anointing ordinances, (3) being clothed in the temple garment, and (4) receiving a "New Name" in preparation for the Endowment.

The washing symbolizes being "cleansed from the blood of this generation," and being anointed to become "clean from the blood and sins of this generation."

After the washing and anointing, the patron is given the temple garment (Garment of the Holy Priesthood). This garment represents the "coats of skins" given to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Garments are worn both day and night and are required for any previously endowed adult to enter a church temple. The undergarments are viewed as a symbolic reminder of the sacred covenants made in temple ceremonies, and are viewed as an either symbolic or literal source of protection from the evils of the world.

## What does Mormonism teach?

*This is great article I thought I would give you from the Christian Apologetics Research Institute*

The doctrines of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) are very interesting. Most of the 'odd' ones are not initially taught to potential converts. But they should be. Instead, "they are revealed later as one matures and gains the ability to accept them." The LDS Church tries to make its official doctrines appear Christian but what underlies those Christian sounding terms is far from Christian in meaning.

Following are the teachings of its officials throughout the years. Please note that these teachings are documented from Mormon writers, not anti-Mormon writers.

Finally, many Mormons respond that most of the citations below are not from official Mormon writings, as if that disproves the doctrines they teach. If they are not official, fine. But, if not, then why have the Mormon apostles and high officials taught them, written them, and why are their books sold in Mormon bookstores? The following is what Mormons are taught.

### 1. **Atonement**

- A. "Jesus paid for all our sins when He suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane," (Laurel Rohlifing, "Sharing Time: The Atonement," Friend, Mar. 1989, 39.)
- B. "We accept Christ's atonement by repenting of our sins, being baptized, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and obeying all of the commandments," (Gospel Principles, Corporation of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1979, pg. 68.)

### 2. **Baptism**

- . Baptism for the dead, (Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. II, p. 141.) This is a practice of baptizing each other in place of non-Mormons who are now dead. Their belief is that in the afterlife, the "newly baptized" person will be able to enter into a higher level of Mormon heaven.

### 3. **Bible**

- . "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly. . ." *8th Article of Faith of the Mormon Church.*
  - A. "Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God." (1 Nephi 13:28).

### 4. **Book of Mormon**

- . The book of Mormon is more correct than the Bible, (History of the Church, 4:461.)

### 5. **Devil, the**

- . The Devil was born as a spirit after Jesus "in the morning of pre-existence," (Mormon Doctrine, page 192.)
  - A. Jesus and Satan are spirit brothers and we were all born as siblings in heaven to them both, (Mormon Doctrine, p. 163.)
  - B. A plan of salvation was needed for the people of earth so Jesus offered a plan to the Father and Satan offered a plan to the father but Jesus' plan was accepted. In effect the Devil wanted to be the Savior of all Mankind and to "deny men their agency and to dethrone god." (Mormon Doctrine, page 193; Journal of Discourses, vol. 6, page 8.)

### 6. **God**

- . God used to be a man on another planet, Mormon Doctrine, p. 321. Joseph Smith, Times and Seasons, Vol 5, pp. 613-614; Orson Pratt, Journal of Discourses, Vol 2, p. 345, Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 7, p. 333.)
  - A. "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's..." (D&C 130:22).
  - B. God is in the form of a man, (Joseph Smith, Journal of Discourses, Vol. 6, p. 3.)

- C. "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!!! . . . We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345)
  - D. God the Father had a Father, (Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, vol. 6, p. 476; Heber C. Kimball, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 5, p. 19; Milton Hunter, *First Council of the Seventy, Gospel through the Ages*, p. 104-105.)
  - E. God resides near a star called Kolob, (*Pearl of Great Price*, pages 34-35; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 428.)
  - F. God had sexual relations with Mary to make the body of Jesus, (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 4, p. 218, 1857; vol. 8, p. 115.) - This one is disputed among many Mormons and not always 'officially' taught and believed. Nevertheless, Young, the 2nd prophet of the Mormon church taught it.
  - G. "Therefore we know that both the Father and the Son are in form and stature perfect men; each of them possesses a tangible body . . . of flesh and bones." (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 38).
7. **God, becoming a god**
- . After you become a good Mormon, you have the potential of becoming a god, (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pages 345-347, 354.)
    - A. "Then shall they be gods, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they have all power, and the angels are subject unto them," (DC 132:20).
8. **God, many gods**
- . There are many gods, (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 163.)
    - A. "And they (the Gods) said: Let there be light: and there was light (*Book of Abraham* 4:3)
9. **God, mother goddess**
- . There is a mother god, (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 443.)
    - A. God is married to his goddess wife and has spirit children, (*Mormon Doctrine* p. 516.)
10. **God, Trinity**
- . The trinity is three separate Gods: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. "That these three are separate individuals, physically distinct from each other, is demonstrated by the accepted records of divine dealings with man." (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 35.)
11. **Gospel, the**
- . The true gospel was lost from the earth. Mormonism is its restoration, (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 182-185.)
    - A. Consists of laws and ordinances: "As these sins are the result of individual acts it is just that forgiveness for them should be conditioned on individual compliance with prescribed requirements -- 'obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.'" (*Articles of Faith* p. 79)
12. **Heaven**
- . There are three levels of heaven: telestial, terrestrial, and celestial, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 348.
13. **Holy Ghost, the**
- . The Holy Ghost is a male personage, *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, (Le Grand Richards, Salt Lake City, 1956, page 118; *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 5, page 179.)
14. **Jesus**
- . The first spirit to be born in heaven was Jesus, (*Mormon Doctrine*, page 129.)

- A. Jesus and Satan are spirit brothers and we were all born as siblings in heaven to them both, (Mormon Doctrine, p. 163; *Gospel Through the Ages*, p. 15.)
- B. Jesus' sacrifice was not able to cleanse us from all our sins, (murder and repeated adultery are exceptions), (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 3, p. 247, 1856.)
- C. "Therefore we know that both the Father and the Son are in form and stature perfect men; each of them possesses a tangible body . . . of flesh and bones." (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 38).
- D. "The birth of the Saviour was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and blood - was begotten of his Father, as we were of our fathers." (*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 8: p. 115).
- E. "Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers" (*Mormon Doctrine*, by Bruce McConkie, p. 547).
- F. "Christ Not Begotten of Holy Ghost ...Christ was begotten of God. He was not born without the aid of Man, and that Man was God!" (Doctrines of Salvation, Joseph Fielding Smith, 1954, 1:18).
- G. "Elohim is literally the Father of the spirit of Jesus Christ and also of the body in which Jesus Christ performed His mission in the flesh ..." (First Presidency and Council of the Twelve, 1916, God the Father, compiled by Gordon Allred, pg. 150).

#### 15. Joseph Smith

. If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation [the context is the full gospel including exaltation to Godhood] outside the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, (Mormon Doctrine, p. 670.)

#### 16. Pre-existence

. We were first begotten as spirit children in heaven and then born naturally on earth, (Journal of Discourse, Vol. 4, p. 218.)

- A. The first spirit to be born in heaven was Jesus, (Mormon Doctrine, page 129.)
- B. The Devil was born as a spirit after Jesus "in the morning of pre-existence," (Mormon Doctrine, page 192.)

#### 17. Prophets

. We need prophets today, the same as in the Old Testament, (Articles of Faith, by James Talmage, p. 444-445.)

#### 18. Salvation

. "One of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by the grace of God; that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation." (*Miracle of Forgiveness*, Spencer W. Kimball, p. 206.)

- A. A plan of salvation was needed for the people of earth so Jesus offered a plan to the Father and Satan offered a plan to the father but Jesus' plan was accepted. In effect the Devil wanted to be the Savior of all Mankind and to "deny men their agency and to dethrone god." (Mormon Doctrine, page 193; Journal of Discourses, vol. 6, page 8.)
- B. Jesus' sacrifice was not able to cleanse us from all our sins, (murder and repeated adultery are exceptions), (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 3, p. 247, 1856.)
- C. Good works are necessary for salvation, Articles of Faith, p. 92.)
- D. There is no salvation without accepting Joseph Smith as a prophet of God, (Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 1, p. 188.)
- E. "The first effect [of the atonement] is to secure to all mankind alike, exemption from the penalty of the fall, thus providing a plan of *General Salvation*. The second effect is to open a way for *Individual Salvation* whereby mankind may secure remission of personal sins (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 78-79.)

- F. "As these sins are the result of individual acts it is just that forgiveness for them should be conditioned on individual compliance with prescribed requirements -- 'obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.'" (*Articles of Faith* p. 79).
- G. "This grace is an enabling power that allows men and women to lay hold on eternal life and exaltation after they have expended their own best efforts" (*LDS Bible Dictionary*, p. 697).
- H. "We know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do," (2 Nephi 25:23).

#### 19. Trinity, the

. *The trinity is three separate Gods: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. "That these three are separate individuals, physically distinct from each other, is demonstrated by the accepted records of divine dealings with man." (Articles of Faith, by James Talmage, p. 35.)*

- A. "Many men say there is one God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are only one God. I say that is a strange God [anyhow]--three in one and one in three. . .It is curious organization... All are crammed into one God according to sectarianism (Christian faith). It would make the biggest God in all the world. He would be a wonderfully big God--he would be a giant or a monster." (Joseph Smith, *Teachings*, 372).

Some Mormons may disagree with a few of the points listed on this page, but all of what is stated here is from Mormon authors in good standing of the Mormon church.

#### Books:

Kingdom of the Cults – Walter Martin

Breaking the Mormon Code – Matt Paulson

#### Websites:

Mormonism Research Ministry: <http://www.mrm.org/>

Institute for Religious Research: <http://www.irr.org/>

Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry: [www.Carm.org](http://www.Carm.org)

The original 1830 book of Mormon: <http://www.carm.org/lds/1830bom.htm>