

# What Does the Bible Teach About Mormonism?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

## I. THE BOOK OF MORMON VS. THE BIBLE

- A. The Book of Mormon is unnecessary, and therefore, not from God.
  - 1. Apostle Orson Pratt in "Orson Pratt's works" page 70: "If it could be proved from scripture that God had revealed all that He ever intended to reveal, then a professed revelation would not require investigation; for it would be known at once, that everything of the kind was an imposition. It would be folly in the extreme to inquire whether a professed new revelation were true or false; for if God had declared in His word that no more was to be given, all writings or books purporting to be a new revelation could not be otherwise than false."
- B. The Bible claims to be inspired and complete.
  - 1. Jesus promised to give all truth to His apostles - John 14:26, 16:13.
  - 2. Paul said he had declared the whole counsel of God - Acts 20:27.
  - 3. All scripture is given by inspiration of God - 2Tim. 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:21.
  - 4. We've been given all things pertaining to life and godliness - 2Peter 1:3.
  - 5. The Faith has once and for all been delivered (Jude 3). What would be the purpose of delivering it a second time?
  - 6. The scriptures are complete; all changes must be rejected - Gal. 1:6-12; 1Cor. 4:6; 2John 9; Rev. 22:18-19; Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:6
  - 7. God promised that His word would never be corrupted or lost.
    - a. Matt. 24:35; 1Peter 1:23, 25
  - 8. Since the apostles of Jesus Christ were never promised the Book of Mormon, never received it, never preached it, never wrote it, we must conclude that it is unnecessary, and therefore, not from God.
- C. If the book of Mormon contradicts the Bible, then those who teach Mormonism are teaching a false doctrine - Gal. 1:8-9

## II. INHERITED SIN

- A. LDS - Babies are sinners and are lost because they inherited sin from their parents. (2Nephi 2:21)
- B. The Bible teaches that children are without sin.
  - 1. Matt. 18:1-4; Ez. 18:20; Col. 3:25
  - 2. Prospects must meet the requirements of salvation.
    - a. Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16

## III. INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

- A. LDS - Use mechanical instruments of music in their churches.
- B. The Bible only authorizes vocal singing - Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16

## IV. ELDERS

- A. LDS - Young, unmarried men are qualified to be elders in Mormon churches.
- B. The Bible - 1Tim. 3:1-5; Titus 1:6

## **V. DEACONS**

- A. LDS - A boy of 12 years may become a deacon.
- B. The Bible - 1Tim. 3:12 mandates married men with children.

## **VI. THE LORD'S SUPPER**

- A. LDS - Water or any safe liquid may be used; anything called bread may be used (Doctrine & Covenant 27:1-4)
- B. The Bible specifies two substances: unleavened bread and fruit of the vine.
  - 1. Matt. 26:26-28

## **VII. APOSTLESHIP**

- A. LDS "apostles" will not attempt to perform miracles.
- B. In the Bible, Jesus told His true apostles that they would perform wonders.
  - 1. Mark 16:15-20; Heb. 2:1-4

## **VIII. A FALSE PROPHET IN CONFLICT WITH THE BIBLE**

- A. Since the Bible is inspired by God and complete, and the book of Mormon is in conflict with what the Bible says, then the book of Mormon is a false doctrine developed by heretical men.
- B. Joseph Smith was a false prophet. When a man claims to be a prophet and that which he prophesies does not come to pass, the prophet is a liar.
  - 1. Deut. 13:1-18, 18:15-22
- C. Joseph Smith said in D & C 130:14-16 that he would see Jesus at the age of 85. In 1835, he said that the second coming of the Lord would be in 1891 and everyone would see Him. It did not come to pass. (History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, edited by B. H. Roberts, p. 182)
- D. The book of Mormon contradicts itself.
  - 1. Polygamy:
    - a. Jacob 2:24 - polygamy an abomination before the Lord.
    - b. Doctrine & Covenants 132:38-39 - God gave David many wives and said David did not sin.
  - 2. State of the dead:
    - a. D & C 124 - Mormons are to be baptized for the dead.
    - b. 2Nephi 9:38 - The dead remain in their sins.
  - 3. If it contradicts itself, it is from men, not God.
- E. The book of Mormon claims to be originally written in reformed Egyptian (1Nephi 1:2, Mormon 9:32). No one can read it (Mormon 9:34).
  - 1. But, according to Joseph Smith: "Professor Anthon stated that the translation was correct, more so than any he had seen before from the Egyptian. I then showed him those which were not translated, and he said that they were Egyptian, Chaldaic, Assyriac, and Arabic; and he said they were true characters. He gave me a certificate, certifying to the people of Palmyra that they were true characters, and that the translation of such of them as had been translated was also correct." (Joseph Smith, 2:64)

2. If only Joseph Smith was allowed to translate them, and the translation came through supernatural means, how did Professor Anthon know that the translations by Smith were correct?
3. What Professor Anthon actually said was: "A brief examination convinced me that it was a mere hoax, and a very clumsy one. The characters were arranged in columns, like the Chinese mode of writing, and presented the most singular medley that I ever beheld. Greek, Hebrew, and all sorts of letters, more or less distorted, were intermingled with sundry delineations of half-moons, stars and other objects, and the whole ended in a rude representation of the Mexican Zodiac." (Mormonism Exposed, Hancock, p. 98)

## **Addendum for Additional Study**

### **IX. NOTABLE ERRORS OF MORMONISM**

- A. While most Mormons are morally orderly people, they do not believe and practice sound doctrine according to the faith, which means that they are not Christians. They try to make themselves appear to be godly, but Mormonism is a cult which started around 200 years ago by an ersatz prophet Joseph Smith. He claimed to have been visited by God Who gave him the power to create a second gospel of Jesus Christ.
- B. The Latter Day Saints believe in salvation by meritorious works, they teach that God was a super man created on another planet who became God. They advocate that God had a wife, and that He created Jesus and Satan with His wives which makes them spirit brothers. They deny Jesus role in salvation, and they deny the Biblical teachings of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, Mormons insist that one can become a God by being a Mormon.
- C. Joseph Smith wrote in arrogance: "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, John, 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. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see. I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth."
- D. Answering Mormonism with inspired scripture: Gal. 1:8-9; Matt. 24:24-25; 2Cor. 11:4-6; 1Tim. 4:1; 1John 4:1-2; 2Peter 2:1-2; Matt. 7:15-16
- E. Joseph Smith claimed to see God - 1Tim. 6:15-16; John 1:18
- F. Joseph Smith said God was once a man and denies that Jesus is God in the flesh - Mal. 3:6; John 1:1-4, 14, 10:30-34
- G. Mormons believe the Book of Mormon is more accurate than the Bible.
  1. Article 8 of the Mormon Articles of Faith reads, "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."

2. Mormonism doesn't view the Bible and the Book of Mormon equally. The Bible's status as God's Word is relativized by the phrase "as far as it is translated correctly." The Book of Mormon is the word of God; the Bible merely contains the Word of God among the bits that are correctly translated. Mormonism doesn't view the Bible and the Book of Mormon equally. They believe that the non-Mormon churches have corrupted the Bible.
  3. "Thou seest the formation of that great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious. And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord, that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men. 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 13:26–28)
  4. However, God promised His Word will endure: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isa. 40:8).
- H. Mormons believe in ongoing revelation. The three written sources of revelation in the LDS Church are the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. The church has developed its doctrine and practice over time, even after the death of its founder. Its president is considered a living prophet, and individual members are encouraged to seek personal revelation. According to the church, "Latter-day Saints believe in an open scriptural canon, which means that there are other books of scripture besides the Bible (such as the Book of Mormon) and that God continues to reveal His word through living prophets."
- I. Mormons believe in a plurality of gods, who preexisted as material spirits, is foundational to LDS belief. The God of this world was once a man who became a god. Smith said: "God himself was once as we are now and is an exalted man. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea. God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did." As God ascended to godhood, so also righteous men and women can become gods. This idea was summarized by former church president Lorenzo Snow like this: "As man now is, God once was; as God now is, man may be."
- J. Mormons believe that we lived before birth in this world. According to Mormon theology, men and women are the spirit sons and daughters of God. We lived in a premortal spirit existence before birth. In this first estate we grew and developed in preparation for the second estate. In this second estate we walk by faith. A veil of forgetfulness has been placed over our minds so we don't remember what we did and who we used to be in our premortal existence. Our purpose in this life is to grow and mature in a physical body to prepare us for our final eternal state.
- K. Mormons believe in the power of an earthly temple. Couples must be married in a Mormon temple to have an eternal marriage, and every Mormon must be

baptized in one of their 135 authorized Temples. Because of the importance of baptism in the Temple, baptisms for the dead are extremely common. Mormons keep detailed genealogical records so that their ancestors can be properly baptized. By one estimate more than 100 million deceased persons have been baptized by proxy baptism in Mormon temples. Those who received this baptism are free in the afterlife to reject or accept what has been done on their behalf.

## **X. MORMON BACKGROUND HISTORY**

Joseph Smith was born in rural Vermont in 1805, the fourth of nine children. With little success farming in Vermont, the Smith family moved west to Palmyra, New York. There Joseph Smith was exposed to different revival movements, and most of his family became Presbyterians, though Smith later said he leaned toward Methodism.

The presence of so many variations of Christianity bothered Smith. Which one was right? How could he choose? At one revival meeting, a preacher quoted from James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” (KJV). Smith, 14 years old at the time, went home, reflected on these words, and went into the woods to pray.

According to Mormon tradition, this is when Joseph Smith had his first vision. In this vision, which is foundational to the Mormon faith, Smith claimed to see two “personages.” The one—God the Father—pointed to the other and said, “This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!” Smith asked them what sect he should join. They answered that he should join none of them. They were all wrong. All their creeds were an abomination, and all their believers were corrupt.

Three years later, Mormons believe Smith received another vision. In this vision the angel Moroni told Smith of golden plates buried under a hill near Palmyra. The plates were revealed in 1827 when Smith was provided with two reading crystals—Urim and Thummim—by which he could translate the writing (Smith claimed the plates were written in hieroglyphics). In 1830 Smith published *The Book of Mormon*, which contains the story of the lost Israelites who migrated to America in the sixth century BC but were killed in battle in AD 428. Smith later received another vision from John the Baptist giving him the Aaronic Priesthood.

That same year (1830) Smith founded the “Church of Christ.” In 1838 he changed the name to “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.”

Smith continued to receive revelations telling him to move from New York to Ohio to Missouri and eventually to Illinois where he and his followers built a town called Nauvoo. There Smith and his followers tried to live out a utopian vision of society. They also instituted polygyny as early Mormon leaders argued that Jesus had had many wives. Smith and his brother were arrested in 1844. Later a mob stormed the jail and killed them both. Mormons consider Smith a martyr. Others say he died in a violent shoot-out.

Following Smith’s death there was a schism. A small group called the Josephites became the Reorganized Church with headquarters in Missouri. Most followed Brigham Young, who became their First President and prophet. In 1847, Young took the followers to Utah and built Salt Lake City.

Today, according to LDS figures, there are nearly 17 million Mormons worldwide—with about 7 million living in the United States. Mormonism is the largest new religious movement from the West since Christianity (which can be said, more accurately, to have come from the Near East). Mormonism is also the first homegrown American religion. Mormonism continues to grow (though at a slower rate) because of its missionary impulse, its relatively high birthrate, and its commitment to doctrinal and ethical distinctions.

Seventeen presidents have presided over the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints since its inception. Next to Smith, Young, the second president of the church, is the most prominent figure in the church's history.

There have been numerous influential Mormons in education, media, entertainment, sports, and politics. Among the most celebrated Mormon athletes are NFL quarterback Steve Young (a descendant of Brigham Young); heavyweight boxing champion Jack Dempsey; and NBA player, coach, and executive Danny Ainge. Former U.S. senators Harry Reid and Orrin Hatch are practicing Mormons. Senator Mitt Romney is one of the most recognized members of the LDS Church today. Prominent current and former Mormons in entertainment include Glenn Beck, Aaron Eckhart, Gladys Knight, and Donny and Marie Osmond.