

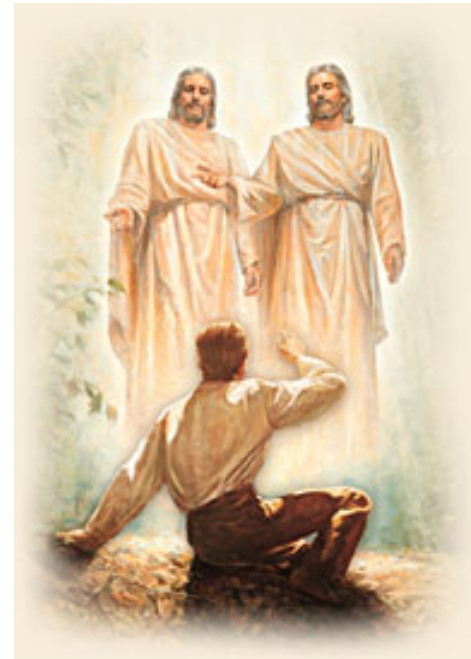
Dealing with Mormonism

by

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- History, John Smith
- Mormon Statistics
- Mormon Doctrine
- The Book of Mormon
- Racial Implications
- Baptism for the Dead
- Mormon Evangelism
- A Biblical Response



Introduction to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

After Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, His Apostles continued to receive revelation from Him on how to direct the work of His Church. However, after they were killed, members changed the teachings of the Church that He had established. While many good people and some truth remained, this Apostasy, or general falling away from the truth, brought about the withdrawal of the Church from the earth.

The Apostle Peter prophesied that Jesus would restore His Church before His Second Coming ([Acts 3:19–21](#)).

Jesus Christ began to restore His Church in its fullness to the earth through the Prophet Joseph Smith in 1820. It has grown to become a worldwide Church with over 11 million members. It has the same teachings and basic organization as the Church established by Jesus in New Testament times. We invite you to learn more about this Church.

In the beginning

- 1820- Close Encounter of the worst kind
Joseph Smith Jr.(14 years old) and Moroni
- 1823- Close Encounter II (Translation of the Golden Plates)
Who's Moroni? Leader of the Nephites who had lived in the Americas. His father compiled the Book of Mormon
- 1827- Translation Begins
Published in 1830
John the Baptist appeared to Smith & ordained him to accomplish the task
- Book of Mormon**
is the account of people who came from the middle East to the Americas

- It covers a period of about 600 B.C. to 400 A.D.
Tower of Babel, the Jaredites & the Americas
- Some Jews escaped persecution and came to America led by Nephi
His offspring divided into the Nephites & Lamanites
In 428 A.D. the Nephites were defeated by the Lamanites
- The Lamanites are known as the American Indians
Therefore the Book of Mormon is the account of the Nephite
Leader, Mormon
- It deals with their culture, civilization and appearance of Jesus
To the Americas
- Soon after its publication the Mormons were forced to move from
New York to Ohio.

What forced them to move?

- Plurality of gods

Polygamy (Joseph is said to have 27 wives)

Its strong deviation from Christianity

- From Ohio they moved to Missouri

From Missouri they moved to Nauvoo, Illinois

Is here in Illinois that Smith & his brother were jailed for destroying

A printing press

A mob later broke into jail and killed Smith & his brother

- After the shooting his widow led one group into Independence, Missouri where they are known as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Of Latter Day Saints. They claim to be the true Church

The other group led by Brigham Young went to Utah and founded Salt Lake City.

The Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter Days Saints

- As of 1997, they claim membership of 10 million worldwide
 - 5 million in the US
 - 3 million in Latin America
 - 2 million in Asia
 - 1/2 million in the South Pacific & Africa



- They are striving for evangelical recognition
- Part of this effort was winning the bid for the Olympics in Salt Lake City
- There are approximately 60,000 full time missionaries world wide
- Most of them are young males in their late teens and twenties
- They distribute over 5 million copies of the BOM each year

Interesting Quotations

- The true gospel was lost from the earth. Mormonism is its Restoration. *Mormon Doctrine*, by Bruce McConkie, p 635
- The book of Mormon is more correct than the Bible, *History of the Church*, 4:461
- There are many gods, *Mormon Doctrine*, p 163
- After you become a good Mormon, you have the potential of becoming god, *Teaching of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p 345-347, 354
- God used to be a man in another planet, *Mormon Doctrine*, p 321
- The Devil was born as a spirit after Jesus “in the morning of pre-existence,” *Mormon Doctrine*, p 192

The Book of Mormon- Plagiarisms of KJV



4

4 And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ^aask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not ^btrue; and if ye shall ask with a ^csincere heart, with ^dreal intent, having ^efaith in Christ, he will ^fmanifest the ^gtruth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Moroni 10:4

- The BOM contains 25,000 words from the King James Version
- The comparison of : Moroni chapter 10 with 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Nephi 14 with Isaiah 4
2 Nephi 12 with Isaiah 2
- Reveals that the so called prophet smith made free use of the Bible to supplement his alleged revelation

Sense and Sensibility

- Mosiah 14 is a reproduction of Isaiah 53
- 3 Nephi 13:1-18 copies Matthew 6:1-23
- Mormon apologists insist that the resurrected Christ when he appeared to America, he used the same language as recorded in the Bible

• *What's the problem?*

If the Golden plates were written 1000 years before the KJV, How can The translation turned out to be without variation King James language?

- In Acts 3, Peter's classic sermon at Pentecost paraphrases Deuteronomy 18:15-19.

In the BOM 3 Nephi, this sermon is attributed to Jesus when allegedly He was preaching to the Nephites.

Historically Factual?

- The prophet overlooked the fact that at the time Jesus was Allegedly preaching this sermon, the sermon itself had not Not yet been preached by Peter!

- Contradictions*

Not only the BOM plagiarize heavily from the KJV, but it also betrays Information and background on World History

- The Jaredites enjoyed glass windows, while Nephi used steel (1 Nephi 4:9, word steel) and compass

- History shows that neither was discover nor invented at that time

- Micah 5:2 predicted that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, & Matthew 2:1 records its fulfillment.

the book of Alma 7:9,10 states that the Messiah was born in Jerusalem!

The Mongoloid factor

- Mormon Theology affirms that the American Indians are descendants of the Lamanites and they were of Semitic race
- Anthropologist based upon genetics have determine that the American Indians have no physical resemblance to the Semitic race
- As a matter of fact the physical type of the native American is basically Mongoloid, being most related to the peoples of eastern, central and Northeastern Asia.
- Archeological evidence indicates that the ancestors of the native Americans came into the New World probably over a land bridge Known to have existed in the *Bering Strait* region during the last Ice age

Archeological Evidence?

- The BOM portrays the rise and development of two great civilizations
- The book mentions buildings, machinery, iron , copper, brass, steel, (Jarom 1:8 & 2 Nephi 5:15)....Elephants (Ether 9:17-19)
- None of these things were used in the New World before 1492!
- Overall, the books mentions 38 cities, demonstrating the spread of Culture and civilization
- Where are these cities, any remains?
- Leading Archeological Researchers have gathered information leading To the impossibility of the claims of the BOM

Where does the book come from?

- Students of Mormonism agree that book was written by Solomon Spaulding, a retired minister
- He was known to have written a number of novels with Biblical background
- The “Manuscript found” contains 75 similarities to the BOM
- ^{REV 22:18} I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: *If anyone adds* anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.
- ¹⁹ And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

•*Sincerity Test*

Pray & God will lead you to the truth about the BOM

What's wrong with this approach?

Acts 17:11 is the reason for 2 Tim. 3:16-17

¹¹ Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness *and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true*

•*Reality Bites*

The BOM does not contain Mormonism!

Mormon theology is about many gods,, god being a man,

Men & woman potentially becoming gods, etc.

12 Essentials Mormon Doctrines not Found in the BOM

1. Church Organization
2. Plurality of gods
3. Plurality of Wives doctrine
4. Word of wisdom
5. God is an exalted man
6. Celestial Marriage
7. Men become many Gods
8. Three degrees of glory
9. Baptism for the dead
10. Eternal progression
11. The Aaronic Priesthood
12. Melchizedek Priesthood

So far we know that the BOM is not supported by *History*, *Archeology*, *Anthropology* nor *Biblical Theology*!

In the Old Testament God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness" ([Genesis 1:26](#)). Jacob declared that he had seen God "face to face" ([Genesis 32:30](#)). Moses also spoke with God "face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend" ([Exodus 33:11](#)).

In the New Testament, when the Resurrected Christ appeared to His Apostles, He told them, "handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have" ([Luke 24:39](#)). Later Stephen testified that he saw Jesus "standing on the right hand of God" ([Acts 7:56](#)).

Modern-day revelation confirms these teachings from the Bible. God the Father and His son Jesus Christ, [appeared to Joseph Smith](#) in the spring of 1820. Joseph revealed that the Father and the Son each have a "body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's" ([D&C 130:22](#)).

God is our Heavenly Father, and we are created in his image

The Mormon Doctrine of God

- "And *they* (the Gods) said: Let there be light: and there was light (*Book of Abraham 4:3*)
- "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)
- "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's" (*Doctrine and Covenants 130:22. Compare with Alma 18:26-27; 22:9-10*)
- 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.* – Young, the 2nd prophet of the Mormon church taught it.

The Biblical Doctrine of God

- There is only one God (*Isaiah 43:11; 44:6,8; 45:5*)
- God has always been God (*Psalms 90:2; Isaiah 57:15*)
- God is a spirit without flesh and bones (*John 4:24; Luke 24:39*)
- What about the expressions that represent God as having bodily parts?
- They are *anthropomorphic* and symbolic representations which serve to make God real and to express His various interests, powers and activities (*Lectures in Systematic Theology, Henry Thiessen, p. 76*)

DT 6:4 **Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one**

The Father

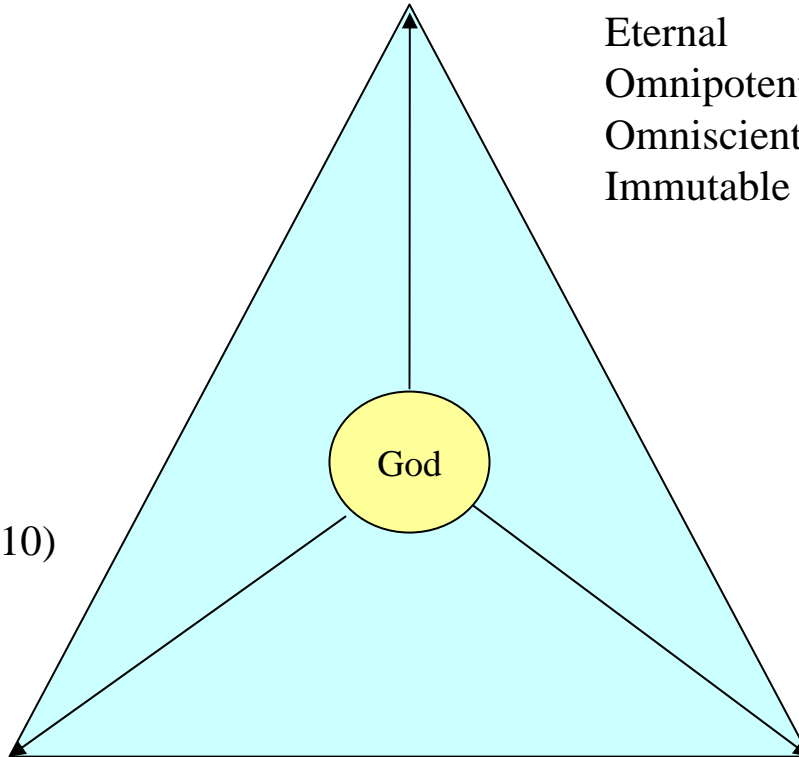
Lord
Creator
Eternal
Omnipotent
Omniscient
Immutable

Creator (Mt. Ge. 1:2)
Eternal (He. 9:14)
Omniscient (1 Cor. 2:10)
Omnipotent (Lk. 1:35)
Omnipresent (Psal. 139:7-10)

Eternal (Jn. 17:5,24)
Omnipresent (Mt. 28:20)
Omniscient (Jn. 16:30)
Omnipotent (Jn. 5:19)
Immutable (He. 1:12; 13:8)
Forgive sins (Mt. 9:2,6)
Creator (He. 1:10-12)

The Holy Spirit

The Son



The Mormon Doctrine of Jesus

- "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 were of our fathers."
(*Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 8: p. 115)
- "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)
- "Jesus is the literal spirit-brother of Lucifer, a creation."
(*Gospel Through the Ages*, p. 15)

The Biblical Jesus

- Jesus was born of the virgin Mary (*Isaiah 7:14; Matt.1:23*)
- Jesus is the eternal Son.
- He is second person of the Trinity.
- He has two natures.
- He is God in flesh and man (*John 1:1, 14; Col. 2:9*)
- He is creator of all things (*Col. 1:15-17*)

Understanding Christ's Hypostatic

As God...

He is worshiped ([Matt. 2:2,11; 14:33](#)).

He was called God ([John 20:28; Heb. 1:8](#))

He was called Son of God ([Mark 1:1](#))

He is prayed to ([Acts 7:59](#)).

He is sinless ([1 Pet. 2:22; Heb. 4:15](#)).

He knows all things ([John 21:17](#)).

He gives eternal life ([John 10:28](#)).

All the fullness of deity dwells in Him ([Col. 2:9](#)).

As Man...

He worshiped the Father ([John 17](#)).

He was called man ([Mark 15:39; John 19:5](#)).

He was called Son of Man ([John 9:35-37](#))

He prayed to the Father ([John 17](#)).

He was tempted ([Matt. 4:1](#)).

He grew in wisdom ([Luke 2:52](#)).

He died ([Rom 5:8](#)).

He has a body of flesh and bones ([Luke 24:39](#)).

The Mormon Doctrine of The Holy Spirit

- Mormonism distinguishes between the Holy Spirit (God's presence via an essence) and the Holy Ghost (*the third god in the Mormon doctrine of the trinity*).
- "He [the Holy Ghost] is a being endowed with the attributes and powers of Deity, and not a mere force, or essence (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 144)
- The Holy Ghost is a male personage, *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, by Le Grand Richards, Salt Lake City, 1956, page 118; *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 5, page 179

The Trinity

- The doctrine of the trinity is not truth from natural theology, but of revelation
- The Athanasian Creed:
“We worship one God in the trinity, and the trinity in unity; we distinguish among the persons, but we do not divide the substance”
- This doctrine is not in conflict with the unity of God
- Classic text: Matt. 3:16,17
*As soon as **Jesus** was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "**This is my Son**, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”*

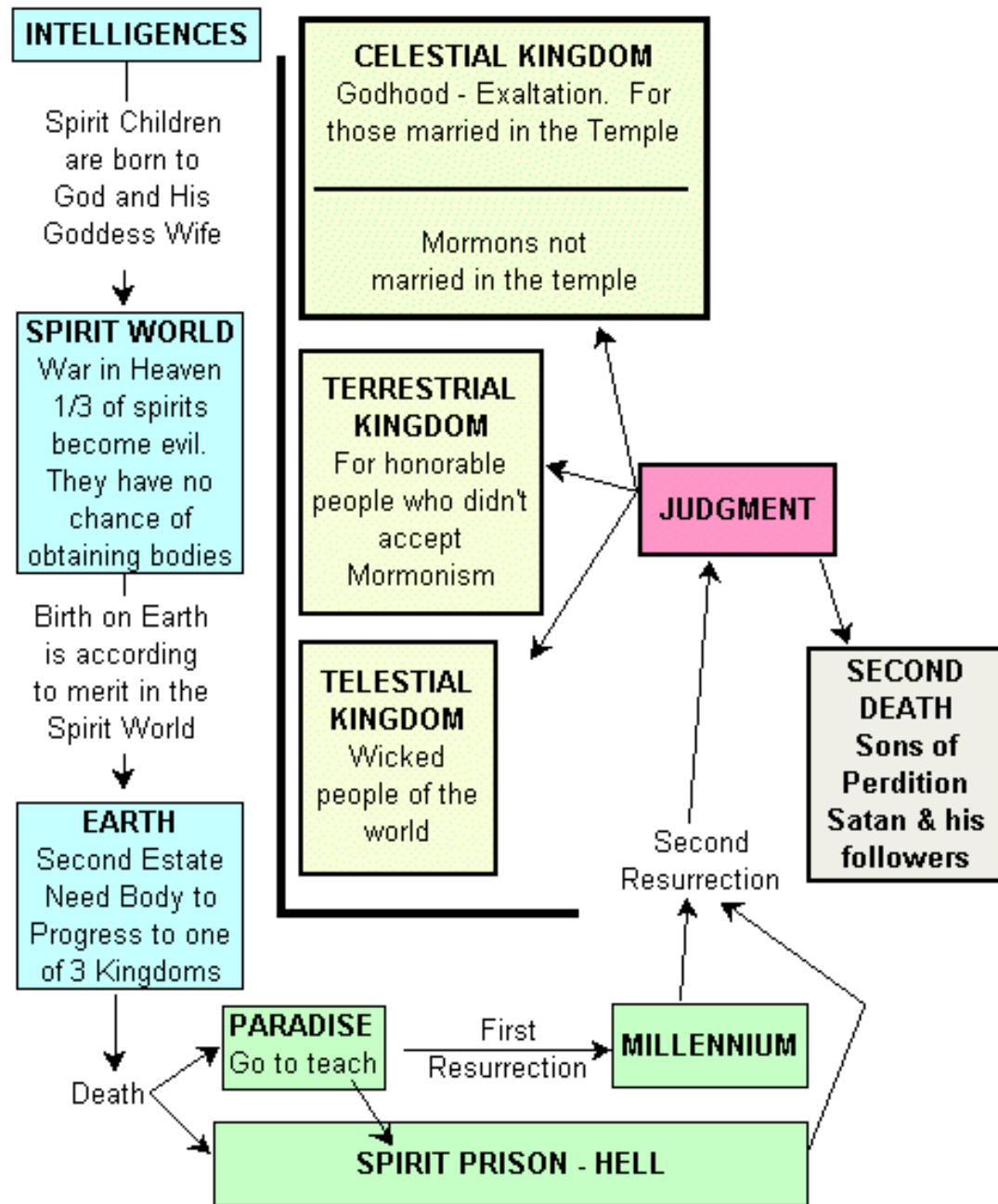
The Trinity

	<u>Father</u>	<u>The Son</u>	<u>Holy Spirit</u>
Eternal	Psalm 90:2	Micah 5:2	Rom. 8:11
Omnipresent	1 Kings 8:27	Matt. 28:20	Psalm 139:7-10
Omniscient	1 Jn. 3:20	Jn. 16:30; 21:17	1 Cor. 2:10-11
Omnipotent	Gen. 17:1	Matt. 28:18	Luke 1:35
Immutable	James 1:17	Heb. 1:13; 13:8	Rev 19:10
Called God	Phil. 1:2	Jn. 1:1,14; col.2:9	Acts 5:3-4
Creator	Isa. 64:8	Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:15-17	Job 33:4, 26:13
Resurrects	1 The. 1:10	Jn. 2:19; 10:17	Rom. 8:11
Indwells	2 Cor. 6:16	Col. 1:27	Jn. 14:17
Sanctifies	1 Thes. 5:23	Heb. 2:11	1 Pet. 1:2
Life Giver	Gen. 2:27	Jn. 1:3; 5:21	2 Cor. 3:6,8
Searches/ heart	Jer. 17:10	Rev. 2:23	1 Cor. 2:10

Salvation

- 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.*
- 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.*

The Mormon Plan of : Eternal Progression



The Biblical Position

- Salvation is the forgiveness of sin and deliverance of the sinner from damnation. It is a free gift received by God's grace (*Eph. 2:8; Rom. 6:23*) and cannot be earned (*Rom. 11:6*).

- Salvation (forgiveness of sins) is not by works (*Eph. 2:8; Rom. 4:5; Gal. 2:21*)

- Salvation has Three stages:

Justification- God Forgives the sins-*deals with the past*

Sanctification-God purifies our lives- *deals with present*

Glorification-God will clothe us with new bodies/sinless nature-*future*

Baptism for the Dead

- 1 Cor. 15:29?

"Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them?" (NASB).

- 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.

Our Position

- 1CO 15:29 *Now if there is no resurrection*, what will *those* do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?
- Who are “*those*”? Christians?, Pagans?, Bad Christians?
- Eleusis, town north of Corinth, where baptism for the dead was a common practice (*Hymn to Demeter, Homer, p 478-79*)
- Paul is using this examples from the pagans!
- Otherwise the text would show a “*we*” instead of those/they !

Mormon Church Structure

