

# Mormonism



**Mark 8:36 "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?  
Mormonism -A different god! -A different Jesus! A different gospel!"**

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**Robert E. Kiser**

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### **MORMONISM**

There are many Good things that can be said about the L.D.S Church and its members. I do not have any ax to grind concerning any of its people or all of the good things that they do. My one and only objection concerning the L.D.S Church is that it is not true.

I believe that Satan has used this organization to blind the minds of its members. The people themselves are deceived and are misled.

As the Apostle Paul said

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Eph 6:12)

The people are the victims not the enemy! Always remember that! When sharing with an L.D.S member there are certainly some issues I would consider more important than others. For example the doctrine of pre-existence is not nearly important as the doctrine of salvation. Who cares if you convince them that pre-existence is un-biblical when they are still lost for trusting in a false gospel or a false Christ?

The areas where I deal with these doctrines are not intended to be a complete exposition on the subject. They are only intended to provide enough information to point out error in their false beliefs. For example showing that Jesus is not the spirit brother of Lucifer is enough to show it is a false Christ or another Jesus. However it certainly does not show who Jesus really is. What good is refuting a lie without also teaching what is true? To help a person understand the truth I would refer you to my other writings that explain and defend Christian doctrine. This can be found on my website at [ReasonableAnswers.org](http://ReasonableAnswers.org)

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### **My Testimony**

I would like to share with you my own experience of how I came to the Lord. I feel that it is unfortunate that our culture often views demons, hell and other such things like some sort of fairy tale.

I was born and raised in an active Mormon family. I had kind and loving parents for which I am thankful. I grew up believing a different gospel than that which is found in the Bible, but rather I was taught and believed Mormon doctrine. When I became a teenager I was very rebellious. Although I believed in God, I was much more interested in partying and getting in trouble. I did a lot of things back then that I am ashamed of today. One night some friends and I were watching a demonic movie. I remember my friends commenting on the movie. They were saying that, if the things that were taking place in the movie were happening to them they would leave that house. I did not see how that was an answer. I pointed out that the demons certainly were not confined to that house.

Later that night while I was working graveyard shift I was reflecting on this. I started wondering how much Satan enjoyed my lifestyle. I wondered if he had any part in my life that led to mental anguish and anger. I know this sounds crazy but the thought of this made me mad! I began to want to retaliate against him. I was alone in the shop and so I began to yell at him. I said that for every person I robbed I would tell somebody about Jesus. Not that I cared about Jesus. I just figured that would make him mad.

Right after this I was overwhelmed by the feeling that something evil was there in the shop with me. The feeling was so strong that it scared me. I began to pray and the feeling went away. For the next 3 months or so this same awful feeling would come upon me, even if I were not thinking about such things. Each time it scared me so much that I would begin to pray. Every time I prayed the feeling would go away but it always seemed to come back. Things began to get worse. Sometimes while I was driving it would feel like something would grab my steering wheel of my car. I would be pulling really hard to try and turn then suddenly it would break free like something let go and I would almost wreck. I was becoming afraid to go anywhere or do anything.

One night when I had gone home; as I began inserting my key into the lock I saw something on the other side of the glass staring back at me. I jumped back and while I was looking at what I believe was a demon, it disappeared. If I was high on drugs perhaps I could have brushed it off, but I wasn't. For me this was all I could take! I got down on my knees there in my front yard and told God that if he would just make this go away I would give my life to him. That night these things stopped happening to me. I have a friend that had become a Christian several months before this, so I began to go to church with him.

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Later I took a vacation and went to see my parents. I wanted to tell them about what had happened and the change that had taken place in my life. I figured they would be happy considering all of the hardship I had put them through in my teenage years at home. To my surprise my dad was not pleased at all. He said I might as well not go to church at all because I was going to the wrong one. He insisted that I needed to return to the Mormon Church. This caused a lot of confusion for me. I had friends saying the Mormon Church was a cult and that it that did not teach biblical truth.

I also had my family telling me the Mormon Church was the only true church.

I began to question who or what I should believe. For that matter why should I even believe the Bible? A good friend of mine directed me to the Christian bookstore. I began to study Mormonism as well as historic Christianity. After a lot of research, study and prayer I found a lot of factual reasons to accept the Bible as the word of God. I also discovered just as many reasons not to accept the Book of Mormon as the word of God. I found that Mormon doctrine is contrary to the teachings of the bible. I also found that it could be proven that Joseph Smith was a false prophet. I accepted the Lord around 1985 and have been studying on and off since then. I am glad to say that although the majority of my relatives are still Mormons. My dad who was a High Priest in the Mormon Church and served on 3 stake missions has left Mormonism. My Dad now has accepted Jesus and the doctrine of historic Christianity.

Several years after accepting the Lord the Mormon Missionaries started coming to my house. After some discussion one of them asked me if I wanted my name removed from the L.D.S Church records. I stated that only if somebody understood why. I gave them a book that I wrote which contained a portion of what is found on my web site. I stated in a letter written on the inside of the cover of that book that I would be willing to listen to anybody that could show me in the Bible where I was wrong. I further stated that I would gladly accept any correction from the Bible since I believed that it is the final authority. About a month later I received a letter in the mail stating that they were removing my name as a member of the L.D.S Church. I find it interesting that nobody within the L.D.S Church ever even attempted to show me where I was wrong in scripture in what I had written. I am not surprised however because I know that the L.D.S Church is in fact the one that has greatly abused the word of God. (The Bible)

I am aware of the many strong testimonies from L.D.S members who claim to have had supernatural experiences. Especially in the area of those who are deceased being grateful for the L.D.S members being baptized in their behalf.

To this I must say we should interpret our experiences through the Bible. We should not interpret the Bible through our experiences. The bible warns us not to even listen to an angel if they tell us something which is contrary to the bible. A spirit could seem good and do wonderful things for you, but if it contradicts the bible then you know it is not from God. Some would question why a demon might do good things for anyone. Well, if in doing so it leads you away from Jesus and the truth of the gospel then it accomplished its purpose.

Robert E Kiser

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### To the Mormon reading this book

I was born and raised in the L.D.S Church and there are many good things that I can say about people that I knew in the Church. I have no bitter memories at all that pertain to the L.D.S Church. My objection is not toward any of its people or past experiences while I was in the Church. My objection is simply that it is not true and I believe that this book proves that. I have some very good memories in the L.D.S Church when I was real young. As a teenager I decided I hated going to church, but it was not because of any dislike for the people there. I do not really know why I became so rebellious, but I did. Knowing what I know now I am thankful that I am not a Mormon. Words cannot express how grateful I am to be able to fellowship with my Dad in the Lord and to know with certainty that I will see him in heaven. My Dad never disowned me even though I gave him every reason to. In my teenage years I rebelled and made life miserable for my parents and my Uncle Philip and Aunt Louise as well.

For this I will always be ashamed and I wish I could change my past but I can't. When I first accepted Jesus as my Lord around 1985 I thought my Dad would be pleased but he wasn't. He told me that I might as well not go to church at all because I was going to the wrong one. This caused me a lot of confusion and drove me into an in depth search for truth. I had people telling me Mormonism was wrong and my Father telling me it was the only truth. I fired questions at people from both sides. For the most part the Mormons I questioned simply told me to pray about it and accept Mormonism as truth. I was greatly disappointed that they had no answers. Some such as my Dad tried to answer but the answers were not concrete in scripture (the Bible) or facts. The Christians who told me Mormonism was wrong however came up with concrete answers to my questions. Maybe not immediately but they took the time to search for the answers and were patient with me as I continued to fire more questions at them.

To change what you have been taught all of your life is a struggle. I still do not claim to know the answer to everything in fact I know very little, but I do know this; the Bible is trustworthy and when it disagrees with me it is I that am wrong and not the Bible. Granted when you first see that the Bible disagrees with you it is a struggle to let go and it makes you search and study for confirmation that you really are wrong. If the Bible says you are wrong then you are wrong and you must adjust your beliefs according to it not to what someone else has told you is truth nor even according to what you feel. Prov 14:12 tells us "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." We are also warned against false teachings and false Christs and false prophets. Mt.24:24, Gal.1:8, as we can see in Jn.8:24 it is extremely important to know who Jesus really is.

I am reminded of a couple of things I can remember my Dad saying on more than one occasion. He used to say "*I know the Church is true and I would stake my life on it*" he was of course referring to the Mormon Church. He was indeed staking his life on it as well as his eternity. If you are L.D.S then you also are staking your eternity on the idea that it is true. If we are right and the L.D.S church is not true then you are making a fatal error. This book was done out of love and concern and I hope you can see that even if you do not like what it says. But to not share the truth with you would be a sin in itself. PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER AND STUDY. Your eternity depends on it! I also remember my Dad saying that "*If the Mormon Church is not true than there is no truth.*" he now knows that is not true. The Bible is indeed the word of God and contrary to what the L.D.S authorities have said it is very trustworthy.

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I feel that it is important to say that if you leave the Mormon church and do not turn to the Jesus in the Bible and trust in him and his written word, you have gained nothing. In fact you lost out; although if you really believe Mormon doctrine you will not make it to heaven. The church itself is full of good well-meaning people. With their friendship at least you can live a better life. The Mormon Church has a good social structure, which helps to make it successful.

Terminology from different people makes discussion rather confusing many will say Jesus is the Son of God, but what does that mean to them? The Jehovah Witness says this means he is Michael the Archangel who is a god but not the Almighty God. The L.D.S authorities tell us this means he is a God who is the son of Elohim and the brother of Lucifer as well as our elder brother in the spirit world. The Bible tells us that he is part of the Godhead, God in human form, the creator and the only God that exist. 1 Jn.5:7, Phil.2:5-11, Jn.1:1&14, Col.1:15, Col.1:13-17, Is.43:10, Is.44:8.

I have found when talking to people that are opposed to what I believe whether from going door to door are people whom I have encountered at work. They may ask me questions in which I do not know the answer and I will search for the answer. When I find the answer it increases my faith. I propose the same to you; if my Dad and I are both wrong show us where and we will be forever grateful. If you do indeed posses the truth looking into these matters will only increase your faith. However if you do not posses the truth looking into these matters will destroy your faith in Mormonism as it did for my Dad and I.

I did indeed pray as to whether the Book of Mormon was the word of God. Every time I prayed this False prophecies by Joseph Smith came to mind. I feel God answered my prayer in this way. My Dad and I differ a little on what disturbed us and caused us to reject Mormonism. Still what matters most is what I replaced it with. My Dad and I replaced it with truth and a wonderful relationship with a person not a church. My relationship with Jesus is greater than anything I experienced as a Mormon. He is not just a doctrine, but a person who wants to have a real meaningful relation with you as well.

Meant with Love

Robert Kiser

# REASONABLE ANSWERS AND HOPE

1 PETER 3:15

## Mormonism

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is often referred to as the Mormon Church or is abbreviated L.D.S. I would be among the first to readily admit that most of the Mormon people are good honest and sincere people. I was born and raised in an active L.D.S family and I can certainly testify to the honesty and sincerity of most of the people. Unfortunately the Mormon Church does not teach the truth found in the bible concerning God, Jesus or salvation. The Mormon Church is in fact opposed to historic Christianity.

### L.D.S VIEW OF CHRISTIANITY

Joseph Smith History 1:18-19 (also called Joseph Smith 2) (PEARL OF GREAT PRICE)

**18 My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right,** that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong)--and which I should join.

**19 I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong;** and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: "they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof."

Discourses of Brigham Young, p.319 - p.320  
(Mormon Prophet 1847-1877)

There are, doubtless, millions of just as honest people among the several religious denominations as are amongst the professedly Latter-day Saints. But they have not the Gospel, they are in darkness with regard to the plan of salvation, and their teachers are blind guides, totally unable to give the people the living word, the way of life. If they live up to the best light and knowledge they have and can get, they are safe, and in a saved condition. **What is the sin of the ministry and people of the present Christian denominations? It is that light has come to them and they reject it.** The condemnation of the Jewish nation was that light had come into the world, but they chose darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil; so says the Savior. The same Gospel that Jesus taught to those who rejected him is entrusted to us to preach to the whole world with the same consequences which must reach them at some time, in some condition. 17:262.

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1 Nephi 14:10 (Book of Mormon)

"And he said unto me: **Behold there are save two churches only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil;** wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth."

As you have just read the Mormon Church teaches that the various denominations that compose of historic Christianity are all wrong, in sin, and of the devil. Furthermore Previous L.D.S authorities have given us the challenge to examine Mormonism in light of the bible and show them where there is any error.

By **Brigham Young** " Take up the Bible, compare the religion of the Latter-Day Saints with it and see if it will stand the test" ( Journal of Discourses V16 P46, 1873)

By **Brigham young** " No man can disprove a truth...Why not rather every man rise up and say, Let God be true, let the truth remain and let me know the truth. That is what I want-I will submit to it; and let every false theory and principle fall, to rise up no more"  
( Journal of Discourses V8, P132, 1860)

By **Orson Pratt** " If we cannot convince you by reason nor by the word of God, that your religion is wrong, we will not persecute you...we ask you the same generosity...convince us of our errors of doctrine, if we have any, by reason, by logical arguments, or by the word of God and we will be forever grateful for the information"  
(The Seer, pg.15)

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### IS IT IMPORTANT WHAT A CHURCH TEACHES ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE?

Gal 1:8-9 (NAS)

8 But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.

**(1) Do you think Paul would consider it important what a prophet or anyone else taught? (verse 8&9)**

Deut 13:1-5 (NAS)

1 **"If a prophet** or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and **gives you a sign or a wonder,**

2 **and the sign or the wonder comes true,** concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,'

3 **you shall not listen to the words of that prophet** or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

4 "You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.

5 "**But that prophet** or that dreamer of dreams **shall be put to death,** because he has counseled rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you.

**(1) What if the prophet can do miracles but he tells us of other God's should we listen to him? (verse 1-3)**

**(2) Does God take the matter of this prophet lightly? (verse 5)**

**(3) If the teachings about God or Jesus are not the same Jesus or God as the Bible tells us about is this following after other god's?**

2 Cor 11:3-15 (NAS)

3 But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

4 For if one comes and **preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached,** or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or **a different gospel** which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

5 For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles.

6 But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made this evident to you in all things.

7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge?

8 I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to serve you;

9 and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia, they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.

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10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia.

11 Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!

12 But what I am doing, I will continue to do, that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting.

**13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.**

**14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.**

**15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.**

**(1) Was Paul concerned about teachings of Jesus or the gospel ? verse 3&4**

**(2) Can these false teachers appear as honest and religious people? verse 13-15**

**(3) Why was Paul afraid for the Corinthians? verse 3**

**(4) Why would Satan or his servants want to appear as servants of righteousness?**

2 Pet 2:1 (NAS)

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as **there will also be false teachers among you**, who will secretly **introduce destructive heresies**, even denying the Master who bought them, **bringing swift destruction upon themselves**.

**(1) Does Peter think that false teachings are a serious matter?**

John 8:23-25 And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. "I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; **for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins.**" And so they were saying to Him, "Who are You?" Jesus said to them, "What have I been saying to you from the beginning?"

**(1) Does Jesus sound like it might be important to believe correctly about him?**

Prov 14:12(NAS)

**12 There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.**

**(1) Is it wise to trust emotions or what may seem right? verse 12**

After reading these verses have you reached a conclusion to whether or not it is important what a church teaches?

Why do you suppose Satan would want to introduce false prophets or false teachings about who God or Jesus is?

Do you believe that it important to know what the Bible says concerning who God or Jesus is?

If the teachings of a church about who God or Jesus is are different than that of the Bible should you attend and support that church?

If the teachings of the gospel by a church are different than that which we find in the New Testament should you attend and support that church?

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**Following are some quotes that you may also want to consider from L.D.S authors.**

Joseph Fielding Smith, Gospel Doctrine, p.325

Many of our young people, and some older ones, too, are not familiar with their own religion nor with the beautiful and striking doctrines of the gospel with which it is so laden. This class devote more time to reading useless or sensational books than they do to the study and contemplation of works that would familiarize them with the principles of the gospel. **If they were better informed in this line, and understood the saving doctrines and every-day questions of their religion, more than they do, they would not be trapped by false teachings, false leaders, and advocates of cults that are false.**

Harold B. Lee, Stand Ye In Holy Places, p.359

**The mission of this church is to bear witness of the truths of the gospel and put to flight the false teachings on every side** that are causing the restlessness and the aimlessness that threaten all who have not found the straight path and that which could be an anchor to their souls.

Bruce R. McConkie, The Mortal Messiah, Vol.2, p192 p.193

We learned from Jesus as he sat on the Mount of Beatitudes, delivering his incomparable Sermon on the Mount, that we should beware of false prophets -- of the scribes and Pharisees, of the priests and Levites, who professed to be teachers and leaders and prophets but who were in fact ravening wolves in sheep's clothing. Though they wore the mantle of religious leadership, **their false teachings tore apart the spiritual well-being of their flocks.**

There are many L.D.S doctrines that can be proven to be in error when contrasted with the bible. However there are some issues that are more important than others. One example is pre-existence and salvation. What difference does it make if someone believes in pre-existence or not, if they are lost because of a belief in a false Christ and a false gospel? Obviously salvation is more important. I believe that the key issues should be the focal point before the minor issues when engaging in conversation concerning Mormon Doctrine. The key issues are

- (1) Was Joseph Smith a true prophet of God?
- (2) Does the L.D.S church teach the truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?
- (3) Does the L.D.S church teach the true gospel?
- (4) The L.D.S Standard Works

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### THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

There are people who have made some remarkable predictions yet they are not prophets of God. For example Nostradamus is credited for making some amazing predictions, of course he did not claim to be a prophet of God. There are those that have claimed to be a prophet of God and have started a religion. Charles Taze Russell claimed to be a prophet of God and he founded the Jehovah Witnesses church known today as the Watchtower Society. Now the informed Mormon and Christian would agree that Russell was not a prophet of God nor did he found "the true church" So the question is what separates a true prophet of God and these people and is it important to distinguish the difference?

When we look to the Bible we can soon learn how to distinguish a false prophet from a true prophet. We are also told why it is important to do so.

**(One test is if they tell us to follow after a god other than the God of the Bible. Deut. 13:1-10)**

Mt 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

22 **"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'"**

23 **"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me,**

Here we learn that there are those who prophesy in Jesus name and even perform miracles, but that does not mean they are from God!

Acts 3:22-23

22 "Moses said, 'The Lord God shall raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed in everything He says to you.

23 'And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

In this passage we can see why it would be important to distinguish a false prophet from a true one. It certainly does not sound wise to ignore what someone has to say, if they really are a prophet of God.

Deut 18:18-22 (NAS)

18 'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

19 'And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

20 'But the prophet who shall speak a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he shall speak in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

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21 "And you may say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'

22 "When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

(1) In verse 18-19 We see that we should listen to a true prophet or answer to God for it.

(2) In verse 21&22 We see it is easy to tell the difference from a true prophet from a false one. If he is a true prophet and he tells us something about the future it will come to pass. Notice he does not mention any exceptions, one false prophecy makes one a false prophet.

(3) As we can see in verse 20 God does not take the matter of false prophets lightly. One might ask how can God judge the false prophet so harshly? The answer is because the prophet said God said something that he knows God did not say. God himself is the one that causes the prophecy to come true. Man when he is involved is only an instrument that God uses. Following is some scripture that shows this.

Ezek 12:25

"For I the LORD shall speak, and whatever word I speak will be performed. It will no longer be delayed, for in your days, O rebellious house, **I shall speak the word and perform it," declares the Lord GOD."**

Hab 2:2-3

Then the LORD answered me and said, "Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. "For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal, and **it will not fail.** Though it tarries, wait for it; for **it will certainly come,** it will not delay.

Here we have seen that the Lord is the one that fulfills the prophecy and the fulfillment of it is certain. We know that God does not lie and nothing is too hard for him. Heb.6:18, Jer.32:27. L.D.S scripture also tells us that the Lord fulfills the prophecy and the fulfillment is certain.

D&C 1:38

38 What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same.

It is interesting to me that many from Protestants type denominations will willingly enough put the prophecies of Joseph Smith to the test. While many Mormons are not willing to do so either because they do not believe it is important or they think it is wrong to do so. Following are a couple of statements from L.D.S authors that show that it is important to establish that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God.

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Bruce R. McConkie, A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, p.13

Conversely, if Joseph Smith was not called of God, if he was a fraud and an impostor, if he was a false prophet -- then Mormonism, as the restored gospel is often called, is itself a fraud and a delusion. In that event we as a people are in as dark, as benighted, and as fallen a state as the rest of mankind. And thus the issue is squarely put. Joseph Smith either was a prophet or he was not. He was either a revealer of Christ and God and their saving truths or he was not. His work on earth was either for good or for ill. There is no middle ground, no gray area, no room for compromise.

Paul F. Royall, BYU Speeches, December 17, 1963, p.4

**Joseph Smith was either a prophet of God, or he was a fraud.** There is no halfway mark about him. He was either what he claimed he was, or he was the greatest prevaricator that this world has ever known. **I say that it is expedient for each of us to prove to ourselves whether he was a prophet or whether he was a fraud.**

Of course there are still those Mormons who say I already believe Joseph Smith was a prophet so what need is there for me to put his prophecies to the test? I say to them that the more I have studied even what I already believed the more it has increased my faith. I can honestly say that my faith in God and his word has increased greatly by sharing this faith with people with opposed views. The truth will endure all test and through opposition faith is strengthened. Take to heart what was said in the following L.D.S Conference Report.

Bryant S. Hinckley, Conference Report, April 1939, p.62

**John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Willard Richards,** and many others were given the opportunity, not only to prove their loyalty to the Prophet, but to prove their fidelity to the truth. These men were tried in the crucible of affliction. Spurgeon once said: "The great soldiers of the Cross have been gathered from the highlands of adversity." It was true in those early days of our history. Those people were winnowed and sifted by the winds of adversity, until nothing but the wheat was left.

Following we will examine three prophecies by Joseph Smith. Your job is to decide if he was a true or false prophet. If they are not false then you must be able to explain how you can justify them as being true prophecies.

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### THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH & THE CIVIL WAR

First I would like you to look at the Civil War prophecy carefully and see if it was intended to be divided into time frames of the (1)Civil War (2)World War 1&2 (3 ) The second coming of Christ.

This is the way the L.D.S authorities have interpreted it so that it was not a false prophecy. I suggest to you that to interpret this prophecy in such a manner is not being true to the context! To help see the problem with this type of interpretation I have marked each time frame in the following way.

1. Everything to the left of #C# would have to pertain to the Civil War time period.
2. Everything to the left of #W# would have to pertain to World War 1&2 time period this section is also underlined.
3. Everything to the left of #2# would have to pertain to the 2nd coming of Christ *this section is also in italics.*

Other things that are in **Bold** are points that you should take notice of.

Date: December 25, 1832 D&C 87:1-8

1 Verily, **thus saith the Lord** concerning the wars that will shortly come to pass, **beginning at the rebellion of South Carolina**, which will eventually terminate in the death and misery of many souls; #C#

2 And the time will come that war will be poured out upon all nations, #W# beginning at this place.

3 For behold, the Southern States shall be divided against the Northern States, and the Southern States will call on other nations, even the nation of Great Britain, as it is called, and they shall also call upon other nations, in order to defend themselves against other nations; #C# and then war shall be poured out upon all nations. #W#

4 And it shall come to pass, after many days, slaves shall rise up against their masters, who shall be marshaled and disciplined for war.

5 And it shall come to pass also that the remnants who are left of the land will marshal themselves, and shall become exceedingly angry, and shall vex the Gentiles with a sore vexation. #C#

*6 And thus, with the sword and by bloodshed the inhabitants of the earth shall mourn; and with famine, and plague, and earthquake, and the thunder of heaven, and the fierce and vivid lightning also, shall the inhabitants of the earth be made to feel the wrath, and indignation, and chastening hand of an Almighty God, **until the consumption decreed hath made a full end of all nations;***

*7 That the cry of the saints, and of the blood of the saints, shall cease to come up into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, from the earth, to be avenged of their enemies.*

*8 Wherefore, stand ye in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come; for behold, it cometh quickly, **saith the Lord.** Amen.#2#*

To interpret this prophecy in the manner that the L.D.S Authorities have explained it to us including World War 1&2 we have to change time frames at least 6 times in only 8 verses.

(1) I cannot find any wording in the context of this passage that would suggest that it was intended to be interpreted in these time frames? If so what is it?

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- (2) Interpreting this prophecy in this way how would one explain the fact that World War 1&2 are brought into the picture it is right in the middle of a sentence in verse 2 which is referring to the Civil War and then the subject changes back to the Civil War?
- (3) Considering the fact that this passage starts out and ends with "saith the Lord" Do you think this was intended to be a prophecy or just Joseph Smith's opinion?
- (4) According to verse 1&2 war was to be poured out on all nations beginning at what place? Did this happen in the Civil War time period?
- (5) If you are true to the context when should there be a full end to all nations?
- (6) Is this a true or false prophecy? How should you respond according to the Bible? Duet.18:18-22

Herber Kimball a member of the first presidency made the following statement. Keep in mind the civil war took place from 1861-1865

Journal of Discourses, Vol.9, p.54 - p.55,

Heber C. Kimball, April 14, 1861

There are many good books for you to read, and that are full of good instruction. Here are the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and Book of Doctrine and Covenants. You will see many revelations in the last-named book that are already fulfilled, and there are others that are still in the future. The Almighty through his Prophets foretold that the nation would make war upon this people, and that he would come out of his hiding place, and pour out his judgments upon those that rebel against him, and who persecuted his people, and set themselves against his house. Then it shall go forth like a mighty whirlwind upon the face of the whole earth. **In this country the North and the South will exert themselves against each other, and ere long the whole face of the United States will be in commotion, fighting one against another, and they will destroy their nationality.** They have never done anything for this people, and I don't believe they ever will. I have never prayed for the destruction of this Government, but I know that dissolution, sorrow, weeping, and distress are in store for the inhabitants of the United States, because of their conduct towards the people of God. Then the judgments will go forth to the nations of the earth. I have an understanding of these things, and I sincerely hope that you comprehend as clearly as I do. If you do, you will strive to prepare for those things that are coming upon the earth in these last days

Does it sound like Herber Kimball understood the civil war prophecy was to all be fulfilled at that time when he said "and they will destroy their nationality" ?

Even if you interpret this prophecy as something that was to all take place in one time period as I believe it was intended.(making it a false prophecy) One would still wonder about the parts of the prophecy that did come true. I am referring to the fact that the Civil War did take place, it did begin in South Carolina. How could Joseph have known that much before it happened? It might not be as amazing as you think if you take a look at what was happening in history at the time of his prophecy.

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For Example the tension was bad enough between the north and the south that John Quincy Adams (then Secretary of State) predicted civil war himself 12 years earlier than Joseph Smith. The following can be found in the L.D.S Collectors Library under the bonus title American History, "An apprehensive view of the Missouri compromise"

AUTHOR: Thomas Jefferson

DATE: 1820

SOURCE: America, Vol.5, Pg.305

[THE Missouri Compromise was the first of the great measures that followed the spirit of mutual accommodation found in the Constitution itself. It was an arrangement between the free and slave States, embodied in an Act of Congress approved March 6, 1820, which provided for the admission of Missouri into the Union as a slave State, but which prohibited slavery in all other Louisiana territory north of the southern boundary line of Missouri.

Jefferson betrays both apprehension and alarm for the future of the Union, in these three letters written in 1820. It is the Southern view of a lukewarm slave holder. Following it is the Northern view taken from the journal of **John Quincy Adams**, then (1820) Secretary of State. **His prophecy of civil war, in the third paragraph, was fulfilled in 1861**. Niles, whose moderate view follows, founded (1815) and edited "Niles' Weekly Register," the files of which are an invaluable record of contemporary events.]

Still this leaves the fact that Joseph Smith stated that the rebellion would begin in South Carolina. This is what a lot of people would have expected at that time. Before Joseph Smith's prophecy Congress passed a tariff act that South Carolina refused to accept and President Andrew Jackson alerted the troops to be ready for war. The following can be found in the L.D.S Collectors Library (bonus title)

History of the American People, Vol.4, Pg.36 - Pg.37

The election over, General Jackson once more chosen, her party ties broken, her principles of opposition still unsanctioned and untested, South Carolina proceeded with her radical programme of redress. **On the 24th of November (1832)** a state convention, summoned for the purpose and formed upon the model of a constitutional convention, adopted and promulgated a formal Ordinance of Nullification, which declared the tariff Acts of 1828 and 1832 null and void and without force of law within the jurisdiction of **South Carolina, and gave solemn warning to the rest of the country that any attempt on the part of the federal government to enforce the nullified laws within her limits would sever South Carolina's connection with the Union and force her to organize a separate government**. The legislature of the State immediately took steps looking towards a resumption of some of the powers before formally surrendered to the Union, and provided for **putting the State in readiness to resist coercion by force of arms**. Mr. Hayne was recalled from Washington to become governor of the State; and Mr. Calhoun resigned the vice presidency to take his place upon the floor of the Senate, that he might, there contest every inch of the ground in debate.

In summary this prophecy by Joseph Smith did not come true. War was not poured out on all nations beginning at South Carolina. There also was not an end to all nations. The part that Joseph Smith did get right was common knowledge to the people at that time.

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### THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH & THE MISSOURI TEMPLE

Lets start by examining just what Joseph Smith prophesied concerning the temple in the western boundaries of Missouri.

Date: September 22 and 23, 1832

Place: Kirtland, Ohio

To: Joseph Smith and Six Elders

D&C 84:1-5

1 **A revelation of Jesus Christ unto his servant Joseph Smith**, Jun., and six elders, as they united their hearts and lifted their voices on high.

2 Yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city of New Jerusalem.

3 **Which city shall be built, beginning at the temple lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith, Jun.**, and others with whom the Lord was well pleased.

4 Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which **temple shall be reared in this generation**.

5 For verily **this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord**, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill the house.

Questions for D&C 84:1-5

**Verse 1.** Through what man did this prophecy come?

**Verse 2.** Was this intended to be just a hope of Joseph Smith's or was it to be a word from the Lord.

**Verse 3.** Where was this city and temple to be built? & By whose hand will it be dedicated?

**Verse 4.** When was this city and temple to be built?

**Verse 5.** This prophecy was given in 1832, was it that generation that should not all pass away until the city and temple were to be built in western Missouri and dedicated by the Hand of Joseph Smith? If not where in the text do you see the change in time frames? There was not a city or temple built in that generation in western Missouri. I believe there was recently a temple built in Missouri I am not sure of what County it is in but it does not matter. The generation of 1832 has died out and Joseph Smith is not around to dedicate the temple. Does this make it a false prophecy according to Duet.18:18-22?

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This is a question that the 10th President Joseph Fielding Smith addressed and it can be found in:

Answers to Gospel Questions, Vol.4, p.112

"It may be reasonable to assume that in giving this revelation to the Prophet the Lord did have in mind the generation of people who would still be living within the one hundred years from the time of the announcement of the revelation, and that they would enjoy the blessings of the temple, and a glorious cloud would rest upon it. It is also reasonable to believe that no soul living in 1832, is still living in morality on the earth. Notwithstanding this there is nothing in the commandment given to Nephi, neither in his assurance that the Lord would bless him in obtaining the plates that were so essential to the welfare spiritually and temporally of the descendants of Nephi, that in any sense is in conflict with the commandment or promise that was made by the Lord in the revelation given to the Prophet Joseph Smith. We read in another revelation given to the Church in January 1841, where the Lord absolves the members of the Church from the obligation of building the temple, in the following words:" (D&C 124:49-54)

### A REVELATION FROM THE LORD

Verily, verily, I say unto you, that when I give a commandment to any of the sons of men to do work unto my name, and those sons of men go with all their might and with all they have to perform that work, and cease not their diligence, and their enemies come upon them and hinder them from performing that work, behold, it behooveth me to require that work no more at the hands of those sons of men, but to accept of their offerings.

And the iniquity and transgressions of my holy laws and commandments I will visit upon the heads of those who hinder my work, unto the third and fourth generation, so long as they repent not, and hate me, saith the Lord God.

**Therefore, for this cause have I accepted the offerings of those whom I commanded to build up a city and a house unto my name, in Jackson county, Missouri, and were hindered by their enemies, saith the Lord your God.**

And I will answer judgment, wrath, and indignation, wailing and anguish, and gnashing of teeth upon their heads, unto the third and fourth generation, so long as they repent not, and hate me, saith the Lord your God. And this, I make an example unto you, for your consolation concerning all those who have been commanded to do a work and have been hindered by the hands of their enemies, and by oppression, saith the Lord your God.

For I am the Lord your God, and will save all those of your brethren who have been pure in heart, and have been slain in the land of Missouri, saith the Lord.

The prophecy that was given in D&C 124:49-54 has a couple of problems that should be questioned. First of all this is supposed to be a word from the Lord that was relayed to us by Joseph Smith January 19, 1841 in Nauvoo, Illinois The original prophecy concerning the Temple that was to be built in the western part of Missouri took place in September 1832 nine years earlier. By this time Joseph Smith was very well aware of the fact that he could not go to Missouri and certainly he could not build a city and a temple there. This would seem to be a message of convenience to let him off of the hook to those who would still inquire when they would go to Missouri to build the city and temple.

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There is a strong contrast between this message excusing them for not building the temple because they tried with all of their might and what Joseph Smith's friend believed when only 3 years had elapsed since his prophecy. John Whitmer is one of the 8 witnesses who is mentioned in the preface of the Book of Mormon. The following can be found in a Mormon publication by him.

Messenger and Advocate (Sept. 1835)

John Whitmer "Cleanliness," p.189

"The Lord has said that he would hold no one guilty, that should go with an open heart, up to the land of Zion; after five years from September, 1831. And the Lord has said that he would gather his people and specified the place where:

[D&C 84:1-4] "A revelation of Jesus Christ unto his servant Joseph Smith, jr. and six elders, as they united their hearts and lifted their voices on high; yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church established in the last days for the gathering of his saints to stand upon mount Zion, which shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith, jr. and others, with whom the Lord was well pleased.

**Verily, this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation; for verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill the house."** Cov. Sec. IV. Par. I.

Isaiah 66:18, "For I know their works, and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory."

According to this quotation the glory of the Lord shall appear; but they must come to a certain place in order that they can see it. Our former quotation determines the place, and who dare dispute it? **The Lord has said by the mouth of Isaiah; that he would perform his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.**"

Obviously at this point it was still believed that the temple would be built in their generation and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith. More important is the contrast between the nature of the God of in D&C 124:49-54 and the God mentioned in the Bible. The God we learn of in the Bible declares that he himself will see to it that his prophets prophecy will come to pass and nothing is too hard for him. Scripture previously quoted showing this was Ezek.12:12-25, Hab.2:2-3, Heb.6:18, Jer.32:27 also the D&C 1:38

In contrast the God we learn of in D&C 124 excuses them for not fulfilling the prophecy Joseph Smith gave concerning the building of the temple because they tried with all of their might (verse 49). I ask you by who's power is a prophecy fulfilled, is it by Gods power or mans? Does your answer line up with what the Bible says?

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The passage quoted in the D&C 124:49-54 is in conflict with the nature of God in the Bible. In the Bible we are told how to identify a false prophet. The test we are told is that if a prophet tells us of future events and they do not come to pass that this is a false prophet. The only exception we are ever given in the Bible is when coming judgment is stopped due to repentance. Jonah and Ninevah would be an example of this. In the D&C we are told that although the prophecy did not come to pass they are excused because they tried with all of their might.

It is not reasonable to accept Joseph Smith's word for what he says the Lord said in D&C 124:49-54 when he has already proven to be a false prophet according to the Bible. This section in the D&C was clearly a prophecy of convenience for Joseph Smith; he was trying to cover up his own false prophecy with another so-called word from the Lord. It only takes one false prophecy to become a false prophet.

### THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH AND THE 56 YEARS

History of the Church, Vol.2, Ch.13, p.181  
Kirtland, February 14, 1835--

This day, a meeting was called of those who journeyed last season to Zion for the purpose of laying the foundation of its redemption, together with as many other of the brethren and sisters as were disposed to attend.

President Joseph Smith, Jun., presiding, read the 15th chapter of John, and said: Let us endeavor to solemnize our minds that we may receive a blessing, by calling on the Lord. After an appropriate and affecting prayer, the brethren who went to Zion [in Zion's camp] were requested to take their seats together in a part of the house by themselves.

President Smith then stated that the meeting had been called, because God had commanded it; and it was made known to him by vision and by the Holy Spirit. He then gave a relation of some of the circumstances attending us while journeying to Zion--our trials, sufferings; and said God had not designed all this for nothing, but He had it in remembrance yet; and it was the will of God that those who went to Zion, with a determination to lay down their lives, if necessary, should be ordained to the ministry, and go forth to prune the vineyard for the last time, or the coming of the Lord, which was nigh--even fifty-six years should wind up the scene.

The President also said many things; such as the weak things, even the smallest and weakest among us, shall be powerful and mighty, and great things shall be accomplished by you from this hour; and you shall begin to feel the whisperings of the Spirit of God; and the work of God shall begin to break forth from this time; and you shall be endowed with power from on high.

In this text we can see that Joseph Smith was the one leading this meeting and the quotes in this section are things he said.

We also learn that God has called the Meeting and the things mentioned in the meeting are not just an opinion or estimation. Rather the things mentioned in the meeting were made known to him by revelation and by the Holy Spirit.

We learn that the people who went to Zion were in the meeting.

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We learn that the people that went to Zion were the ones that were to go and prune the vineyard for the Last time.

We learn that the pruning of the vineyard or the coming of the Lord should come about within 56 years.

Collected Discourses, Vol.5, Francis M. Lyman,  
April 5, 1896

On that day also the Prophet announced that they were to be called into the ministry and to go forth to prune the vineyard for the last time, "for the coming of the Lord, which is nigh, even fifty-six years should wind up the scene." The harvest was ripe, and the laborers were few, and they were to cast in their might and their labors for the accomplishment of the purposes of the Lord; and he announced, at that time, that in fifty-six years the scene should be wound up, that some scene was to be wound up in 1891--fifty-six years added to 1835. And thus many of the older brethren were expecting to discover something in 1891 that perhaps it has been felt has not been accomplished.

..... **In the culmination of these events we recognize the fulfillment of the prediction of the Prophet Joseph Smith, that about 1890 or 1891, the scene would change, and the conditions that had existed from those early days of persecutions and troubles should be wound up and cease forever.** The Prophets Brigham Young and John Taylor laid down their lives while carrying forward the great work, though it was not their good fortune to witness the relief and the independence and the measure of sovereignty of statehood that the people of this state enjoy today. But after that time when the Lord had indicated that the scene should change, and the winding up of the conditions that had formerly existed, from that time till now, everything has moved in harmony with the directions and counsels of the Lord through His servants. Think of the change of feeling from hostility to friendliness in the people of the United States toward the people of this state. We not only have the governor and judges of our own choice, and courts organized here in this state, but we have our senators in congress, and our representative, and they are as honored and equally influential as are those of any other state in the Union; and the Lord has magnified His people and **verified the prophesy of His servant Joseph in regard to this great change. Is it not clear that the inspiration in the Prophet Joseph at that time indicated and pointed to the conditions that we see today?** The scene is changed, and it has changed to remain, and will never return to the old conditions again.

After reading what Joseph Smith said in the meeting and a related passage by Lyman some logical questions that should follow concerning this prophecy are.

1. The meeting was commanded by God and the contents of the meeting were made known to Joseph Smith by revelation and by the Holy Spirit. Considering this and the fact that Francis M. Lyman called this a prophecy why shouldn't we view it as such? Was there anything in the context of what Joseph Smith said in the meeting to justify Lyman's interpretation of the 56 years as being a change in persecution and political parties?

2. How can the 56 years be taken as just an opinion when the text says these things were made known to Joseph Smith by revelation and by the Holy Spirit?

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3. Isn't the pruning of the vineyard for the last time a reference to the harvesting of souls similar to what Jesus said in Matthew 9:37-38 & 13:36-39. If so why would it be the last time unless the Lord was expected to return? Is not this harvest still taking place today?

Joseph Smith did make other statements on other occasions that seem contrary to his prophecy that Christ should return in 56 years. This does not change the fact that in the meeting held in February 14, 1835 Joseph Smith did tell them that the pruning of the vineyard and the coming of the Lord should be wound up in 56 years. This was supposedly made known to him by revelation and by the Holy Spirit.

1. Joseph Smith prophesied the return of Christ within 56 years. History of the Church Vol.2, Ch.13, p.181-182.

2. Joseph Smith said "I prophesy in the name of the Lord God, and let it be written--the Son of Man will not come in the clouds of heaven till I am eighty-five years old.

History of the Church, Vol.5, Ch.17, p.336

3. Joseph Smith said after praying to know when Christ would return he heard a voice and after hearing it he said. "I was left thus, without being able to decide whether this coming referred to the beginning of the millennium or to some previous appearing, or whether I should die and thus see His face." History of the Church, Vol.5, Ch.17, p.324

4. Joseph Smith said "**Jesus Christ never did reveal to any man the precise time that He would come.** Go and read the Scriptures, and you cannot find anything that specifies the exact hour He would come; and **all that say so are false teachers.**"

History of the Church, Vol.6, Ch.10, p.254

How can these 4 statements be reconciled? They are contradictory and from a man who claims he is relaying Gods word to us? Considering the facts it is not reasonable to accept him as a prophet of God.

When looking at statements by Joseph Smith as in historical documents it is helpful to know how those around him understood what he meant. Following are some sources that show that those who listened to and believed Joseph Smith fully expected to see Christ return in their lifetime.

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History of the Church, Vol.1, p.176, Footnotes

In addition to the spiritual manifestations already mentioned as having occurred at this conference of June 3rd-6th it should be said that according to John Whitmer's History of the Church (ch. v): "**The Spirit of the Lord fell upon Joseph** in an unusual manner, and **he prophesied** that John the Revelator was then among the Ten Tribes of Israel who had been led away by Shalmaneser king of Assyria to prepare them for their return from their long dispersion to again possess the land of their fathers. He prophesied many more things that I have not written After he had prophesied he laid his hands upon Lyman Wight and ordained him to the High Priesthood (i.e. ordained him a High Priest), after the holy order of God **And the Spirit fell upon Lyman and he prophesied concerning the coming of Christ He said that there were some in the congregation that should live until the Savior should descend from heaven with a shout, with all the holy angels with Him. (end quote)**

Right after Joseph Smith ordained Lyman Wight to the office of High Priest, Lyman prophesied that some people there would be alive when Christ returned. Why is there no record here of Joseph Smith rebuking him since know man knows when Jesus will return? It would seem that this was so because that is precisely what Joseph Smith taught. Lyman Wight himself made a false prophecy here right after the Spirit of the Lord fell upon Joseph and he ordained Lyman a High Priest.

History of the Church, Vol.1, Ch.23, p.323

"I asked of him a father's blessing, which he granted by laying his hands upon my head, in the name of Jesus Christ, and declaring that **I should continue in the Priest's office until Christ comes.**" (end quote)

The blessing was that this man should continue in the Priest's office until Christ comes. If this continuation of the Priest's office still holds after his death why does it end upon the return of Christ? Or could it be that it was believed that this man would live until the return of Christ due to Joseph Smith's prophecy?

History of the Church, Vol.2, Ch.13, p.186-189

**President Joseph Smith, Jun.**, said that the first business of the meeting was, for the Three Witnesses of the Book of Mormon, to pray, each one, and then proceed to choose twelve men from the Church, as Apostles, to go to all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people. The Three Witnesses were then blessed by the laying on of the hands of the Presidency. The Witnesses then, according to a former commandment, proceeded to make choice of the Twelve. Their names are as follows:

1. Lyman E. Johnson,
2. Brigham Young,
3. Heber C. Kimball,
4. Orson Hyde,
5. David W. Patten,
6. Luke S. Johnson,
7. William E. M'Lellin,
8. John f. Boynton,
9. Orson Pratt,
10. William Smith,
11. Thomas P. Marsh,
12. Parley P. Pratt,

Lyman E. Johnson, Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball came forward; and the Three Witnesses laid their hands upon each one's head and prayed, separately.

**The blessing of Lyman E. Johnson was, in the name of Jesus Christ**, that he should bear the tidings of salvation to nations, tongues, and people, until the utmost corners of the earth

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shall hear the tidings; and that he shall be a witness of the things of God to nations and tongues, and that holy angels shall administer to him occasionally; and that no power of the enemy shall prevent him from going forth and doing the work of the Lord; and that **he shall live until the gathering is accomplished**, according to the holy prophets; and he shall be like unto Enoch; and his faith shall be like unto his; and he shall be called great among all the living; and Satan shall tremble before him; and **he shall see the Savior come and stand upon the earth with power and great glory.**

.....**Heber C. Kimball's blessing was**, in substance, that he shall be made like unto those who have been blessed before him; and be favored with the same blessing. That he might receive visions; the ministration of angels, and hear their voice; and even come into the presence of God; that many millions may be converted by his instrumentality; that angels may waft him from place to place, and **that he may stand unto the coming of our Lord**, and receive a crown in the Kingdom of our God; that he be made acquainted with the day when Christ shall come; that he shall be made perfect in faith; and that the deaf shall hear, the lame shall walk, the blind shall see, and greater things than these shall he do; that he shall have boldness of speech before the nations, and great power. (end quote)

Here again Joseph Smith is present the Lord's work is taking place and Heber C. Kimball and Lyman E. Johnson are said they would live to see the 2nd coming of Christ. How can we possibly say that Joseph Smith did not put a date to the return of Christ? Certainly those who were close to him believed some of them would be alive when Christ returned. By Joseph Smith's own words this makes him a false teacher.

History of the Church, Vol.6, Ch.10, p.254

**Jesus Christ never did reveal to any man the precise time that He would come.** Go and read the Scriptures, and you cannot find anything that specifies the exact hour He would come; and **all that say so are false teachers.** (end quote)

So far we can conclude Joseph Smith did indeed prophecy the return of Christ within 56 years. Some of those that were close to him believed they would also live to see the return of Christ. These events were recorded supposedly while doing the Lord's work. Joseph Smith also made contradicting statements that cannot be reconciled. Robert A. Morey has a book titled "How to answer a Mormon" the majority of this book of 119 pages is false prophecies by Joseph Smith. I only mentioned 3 here. Remember it only takes one false prophecy to be a false prophet.

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### A DIFFERENT GOD

Deut 13:1-3 "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' **you shall not listen to the words of that prophet** or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

False prophecies are not the only reason why we should reject a prophet. If the prophet tells us to follow after other gods then we are not to listen to that prophet. Have the prophets of the Mormon Church taught us of the God of the Bible? Or have these prophets instead encouraged us to follow after another god?

The God of Mormonism is not the God of the Bible. In the following quotes from L.D.S authorities we learn:

- (1) There are 3 separate Gods in the Godhead.
- (2) God himself was once a man as we are.
- (3) God the Father has a body of flesh and bones.

Encyclopedia of Mormonism, Vol.2, GODHEAD

On June 16, 1844, in his last Sunday sermon before his martyrdom, Joseph Smith declared that "in all congregations" he had taught "the plurality of Gods" for fifteen years: "I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and that the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage and a Spirit: and these three constitute three distinct personages and **three Gods**"

The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, p.4

**There are three Gods:** the Eternal Father, Elohim, to whom we pray; Christ or Jehovah; and the Holy Ghost who testifies of the others and witnesses to us the truth of all things.

Journal of Discourses, Vol.6, p.3-4,

Joseph Smith, April 6, 1844

In order to understand the subject of the dead, for the consolation of those who mourn for the loss of their friends, it is necessary that we should understand the character and being of God, and how he came to be so; for I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and will take away and do away the vail, so that you may see.

These are incomprehensible ideas to some; but they are simple. It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for a certainty the character of God and to know that we may converse with him as one man converses with another, and that **he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth the same as Jesus Christ himself did;** and I will show it from the Bible.

D&C 130:22 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. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us.

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### The Bible does not agree with these Mormon concepts.

The Godhead of Mormonism contains 3 Gods. The Godhead in Christianity contains only one God.

God the Father of Mormonism has not always been God and he has a body of flesh and bones. God the Father in the Bible has always been God, he does not change and he does not have a body of flesh and bones.

Ps 90:1-2 Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were born, or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.

Isa 43:13 "Even from eternity I am He; and there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"

Isa 44:6 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides me.

In these 3 verses we have just seen that God has been God from everlasting to everlasting even from eternity. He is the first and the last and there is no God besides him. If that does not mean he has always been God what does it mean?

If God was once a man like us and through eternal progression became God then he certainly changed a lot. You would have to change a lot to be like God wouldn't you? The Bible says that God has not changed.

Mal 3:6 "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

So God has always been God and he does not change. As we will see he also does not have a body of flesh and bones.

John 4:23-24 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. **"God is spirit,** and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Luke 24:39 "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for **a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.**"

Jesus made both of the above statements. Speaking of the Father he said "God is spirit" Jesus also said "a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." So from Jesus we learn that the Father is spirit and that a spirit does not have a body of flesh and bones.

The Book Of Mormon also states that God is Spirit.

Alma 18:26-27 And then Ammon said: Believest thou that there is a Great Spirit? And he said, Yea. And Ammon said: This is God.

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Alma 22:8-11 And now when Aaron heard this, his heart began to rejoice, and he said: Behold, assuredly as thou livest, O king, there is a God. And the king said: Is God that Great Spirit that brought our fathers out of the land of Jerusalem? And Aaron said unto him: Yea, **he is that Great Spirit**, and he created all things both in heaven and in earth. Believest thou this? And he said: Yea, I believe that the **Great Spirit created all things**, and I desire that ye should tell me concerning all these things, and I will believe thy words.

The Book of Mormon tells us there are no other Gods.

Alma 11:21-22, Alma 11:28-29

And this Zeezrom began to question Amulek, saying: Will ye answer me a few questions which I shall ask you? Now Zeezrom was a man who was expert in the devices of the devil, that he might destroy that which was good; therefore, he said unto Amulek: Will ye answer the questions which I shall put unto you? And Amulek said unto him: Yea, if it be according to the Spirit of the Lord, which is in me; for I shall say nothing which is contrary to the Spirit of the Lord.

vs.28-29 Now Zeezrom said: Is there more than one God? And he (*Amulek*) answered, No.

### **Brigham Young taught that Adam was God:**

The Mormon Church no longer believes that Adam was God. In fact they try to deny that this was ever taught. The problem is that this doctrine is still in their own records spoken by their former prophet.

Journal of Discourses, Vol.1, p.50 - p.51,  
Brigham Young, April 9, 1852

Now hear it, O inhabitants of the earth, Jew and Gentile, Saint and sinner! 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 organize 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. Every man upon the earth, professing Christians or non-professing, must hear it, and will know it sooner or later.

Adam God can also be found in  
Journal of Discourses, Vol.5, p.331-332  
(Desert News June 14th 1873, June 18th, 1873) (Mellineal Star, Vol.15, p.801& 825, Vol.16, p.482, 530, 534, Vol.17, p.195)

### **Brigham Young's words are as good as scripture:**

Journal of Discourses, Vol.13, p.95,  
Brigham Young, January 2, 1870

The Lord is in our midst. He teaches the people continually. I have never yet preached a sermon and sent it out to the children of men, that they may not call Scripture. Let me have the privilege of correcting a sermon, and it is as good Scripture as they deserve.

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### A DIFFERENT JESUS

The Jesus of Mormonism is the literal spirit brother of Lucifer and our elder brother.

The Jesus of the Bible is our creator and he created angels including Lucifer.

The Jesus of Mormonism has not always been a God.

The Jesus of the Bible has always been God.

The Jesus of Mormonism was born through a sexual relation between God the Father and Mary.

The Jesus of the Bible was born by miraculous conception through the Holy Spirit to the virgin Mary.

Keep in mind that we are warned about false Christs and wrong beliefs about who he is. Mk.13:6-23, Mt.24:5-24, 2 Pet.2:1-3, 2 Cor.11:3-4, Jn.8:24

(The following L.D.S quotes are numbered #1-#8 for point of reference to comment on.)

#1, James R. Clark,

Messages of the First Presidency, Vol.4, p.266

He said, "**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. Who is our "Father in Heaven"? Here is what President Young said about him; "Our Father in heaven begat all the spirits that ever were or ever will be upon this earth and they were born spirits in the eternal world."

#2, Journal of Discourses, Vol.6, p.207 - p.208,

Joseph Young, October 11, 1857

Who is it that is at the head of this? It is the Devil, the mighty **Lucifer**, the great prince of the angels, **and the brother of Jesus**. He left the province of his Father, and took with him a third part of his Father's kingdom, and there was no other alternative but to banish him.

#3, Discourses of Brigham Young, p.53-54

(Compare to Is.44:24 God created all alone)

The Council in heaven said, "Let there be an earth, and let there be a firmament above and beneath it," and it was so. They said, "Let there be heat and cold," and it was so. They said, "Let there be spring and summer, autumn and winter," and it was so. "Who will redeem the earth, who will go forth and make the sacrifice for the earth and all things it contains?" **The Eldest Son** said: "Here am I"; and then he added, "Send me." But **the second one, which was "Lucifer, Son of the Morning,"** said, "Lord, here am I, send me, I will redeem every son and daughter of Adam and Eve that lives on the earth....."

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#4, Times and Seasons, Vol.5, p.758  
(Mormon publication)

And again, we exclaim, O Mormonism! No wonder that **Lucifer**, son of the morning, **the next heir to Jesus Christ, our eldest brother**, should fight so hard against his brethren; he lost the glory, the honor, power, and dominion of a God: and the knowledge, spirit, authority and keys of the priesthood of the son of God!

#5, Bruce R. McConkie, (L.D.S Apostle)  
A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, p.66

Our Blessed Lord is the firstborn spirit child of the Father of Spirits; all others are junior to him. His is the eternal birthright and the everlasting right of presidency. "I was in the beginning with the Father," he says, "and am the Firstborn." (D&C 93:21.) Paul says he is "the image of the invisible God the firstborn of every creature." (Colossians 1:15.) The body he then possessed was a spirit body, a body made of spirit element, a body like those of all the spirit hosts of heaven. Appearing to the brother of Jared, he said: "This body, which ye now behold, is the body of my spirit." (Ether 3:16.) **In that spirit state he advanced and progressed until, in power, dominion, and intelligence, he became "like unto God."** (Abraham 3:24.) It was then that he created all things and was foreordained to be the Savior and Redeemer.

#6, Bruce R. McConkie,  
A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, p.382

This recitation of how **Christ worshipped the Father, thus gaining exaltation for himself**, has been revealed to us in this day for a specific reason. "I give unto you these sayings," he says -- those sayings that set forth how he was saved by worshipping the Father -- that you may understand and know how to worship, and know what you worship, that you may come unto the Father in my name, and in due time receive of his fulness. For if you keep my commandments you shall receive of his fulness, and be glorified in me as I am in the Father; therefore, I say unto you, you shall receive grace for grace." (D&C 93:12-20.)

Under EXALTATION in Mormon Doctrine on pg.257 They inherit in due course the fulness of the glory of the Father, meaning that they have all power in heaven and on earth. (D. & C. 76:50-60; 93:1-40.) **"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." (D. & C. 132:16-26; Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 2, pp. 35-79.)

#7, Bruce R. McConkie,  
A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, p.67 - p.68

**All men (Christ included) were born as the sons of God in the spirit**; one man (Christ only) was born as the Son of God in this mortal world. He is the Only Begotten in the flesh. God was his Father; Mary was his mother. His Father was an immortal man; his mother was a mortal woman. He is the Son of God in the same literal, full, and complete sense in which he is the son of Mary. There is nothing symbolic or figurative about it. He is God's Almighty Son and as such is distinguished from the Father in the same way any son is a separate person from his father.

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#8, Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p.546

### ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

See BELOVED SON, CHRIST, SON, SON OF GOD. Christ is the Only Begotten (Moses 1:6, 17, 21, 33; 2:1, 26-27; 3:18; 4:1), the Only Begotten Son (Jac. 4:5, 11; Alma 12:33-34; 13:5; D. & C. 20:21; 29:42; 49:5; 76:13, 25; John 1:18; 3:16), the Only Begotten of the Father. (Moses 5:9.) These name-titles all signify that our Lord is the only Son of the Father in the flesh. Each of the words is to be understood literally. Only means only; Begotten means begotten; and Son means son. **Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers.**

In #1, #2,#3,#4 we learned that the Jesus of Mormonism is our elder brother and the literal brother of Lucifer.

### **The Jesus of the Bible is our creator; yes even the creator of angels.**

Col 1:13-17 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

All things whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. I would say that includes just about everything including us and angels. (See also Jn.1:3, Heb.1:2. )

### **Satan was created.**

Ezek 28:13-15 "You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared."You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. "You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you.

So Jesus created angels including Lucifer. How can Jesus be the literal spirit brother of his own creation? He cannot therefore this Mormon concept of Jesus is also false. Jesus is also our creator therefore he cannot be our literal elder brother. Furthermore scripture never implies that angels become people or that people become angels.

In #5 & #6 we learned that the Jesus of Mormonism is not eternal he was born just as we were. The Jesus of Mormonism has not always been a God he achieved this state through exaltation.

### **The Jesus of the Bible is eternal and he has always been God.**

Micah 5:2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."

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John 1:1&14

1 **In the beginning was the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God**.

14 And the **Word became flesh, and dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Rev 1:7-8 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Rev 22:13-16 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying. "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star."

In # 5 on page 35 in this book the word firstborn was misused from Col.1:15, the word firstborn there is from word # 4416

(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

FIRST-BEGOTTEN, FIRSTBORN

protokos ^4416^, "firstborn" (from protos, "first," and tikto, "to beget"), is used of Christ as born of the Virgin Mary, <Luke 2:7>; further, in His relationship to the Father, expressing His priority to, and preeminence over, creation, not in the sense of being the "first" to be born. It is used occasionally of superiority of position in the OT, see <Exod. 4:22; Deut. 21:16,17>, the prohibition being against the evil of assigning the privileged position of the "firstborn" to one born subsequently to the "first" child.

This use of this word as described in Vine's dictionary is also shown in the context of the passage

Col 1:18 "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." (KJV)

Jesus is said to have preeminence and is called firstborn from the dead showing the L.D.S use of the word firstborn in this passage is in error.

In #7 & #8 we learn that the Jesus of Mormonism was begotten through a sexual relation between Mary and God the Father. **The Jesus of the Bible was a miraculous conception where a virgin gave birth by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Luke 1:34-35 And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.

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### **The Jesus of Mormonism was born at Jerusalem.**

Book of Mormon, Alma 7:10 And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God.

### **The Jesus of the Bible was born in Bethlehem.**

Micah 5:2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."

Matt 2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem,

## **A DIFFERENT HOLY SPIRIT**

Whether or not the Holy Spirit of Mormonism is a person or a fluid not depends upon which Mormon source you choose to quote. The Holy Spirit of Mormonism is only able to be in one place at a time. **God the Holy Spirit of the Bible is a person and he can be in more than one place at a time.**

Messages of the First Presidency, Vol.2, p.237

"Man has been accustomed to associate wisdom, knowledge, love, joy, and all the other faculties and passions, with an organized being or personality. Therefore, when he is informed that the Holy Spirit possesses all these attributes, he, from habit, supposes it to be a person; but there is no necessary connection between these attributes and a personality. Indeed, there is no reason why these attributes may not also belong to a fluid substance.

Reynolds and Sjodahl,

Commentary on the Book of Mormon, Vol. 4, p.360

[p.360] The Holy Spirit. But, according to the Book of Mormon, as well as other scripture, there is also a Holy Spirit, sometimes called the Holy Ghost, which is not a person, but rather a divine essence, a force, or fluid—for want of a better term—which permeates all that exists.

Bruce R. McConkie,

Mormon Doctrine, p.358 HOLY GHOST

The Holy Ghost is the third member of the Godhead. He is a Personage of Spirit, a Spirit Person, a Spirit Man, a Spirit Entity. He can be in only one place at one time and he does not and cannot transform himself into any other form or image than that of the Man whom he is, though his power and influence can be manifest at one and the same time through all immensity. (D. & C. 130:22-23; Teachings, p. 190, 275-276; Gospel Doctrine, 5th ed., pp. 59-62.) (no other image than that of man see Mk.1:10, JN.1:32

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The Holy Spirit is a person. There is not a verse that directly states that the Holy Spirit is a person. However there are passages that attribute things that are applied only to a person and not to a force or power.

The Holy Spirit is referred to as "He" and He teaches. Jn.14:26, 1 Jn.2:27

The Holy Spirit is referred to as "He" and convicts the world of sin. Jn. 16:7-8

The Holy Spirit speaks, Acts 4:8, 8:29, 10:19, 13:2, Heb.3:7

The Holy Spirit intercedes, Rom.8:26

The Holy Spirit leads and directs, Gal.5:18, Acts 16:6

The Holy Spirit appoints men to service, Acts 13:2,  
Acts 20:28

The Holy Spirit bears witness of Jesus, Jn.15:26

The Holy Spirit can be grieved, Eph 4:30

The Holy Spirit is called God and he can be lied to,  
Acts 5:3-4

The Holy Spirit can be insulted and blasphemed, Heb.10:29, Mt.12:31

These types of references are only applied to a person with a personality. These are not references that one would use for a force or power.

**The Holy Spirit can be in more than one place at a time.** Here again there is not a verse that states this directly, but it is implied.

John 14:16 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Jesus told his disciples that the Holy Spirit would be with them forever. Certainly Jesus knew that all of the disciples would not stay grouped together forever. The only way that the Holy Spirit could do this is to be in more than one place at once. This is an attribute of God that the Father, Jesus & the Holy Spirit all possess since the 3 constitute only one God.

**As far as the Holy Spirit being referred to as a "fluid" there is no passage in the Bible that gives a hint of any such thing.** This comes only from the minds and imagination of the L.D.S authorities.

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### A DIFFERENT GOSPEL

#### THE WARNING

Gal 1:8-9 But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.

**The L.D.S 3rd article of faith** states: "We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel"

Even if we took this 3rd article of faith at the true meaning of the word "saved" it would be an untrue statement. We are not saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel. So if we take this 3rd article of faith at face value then the issues between Christianity and Mormonism would be **What does it mean to be saved?** and **Grace Versus Works**. Unless otherwise noted scripture is from the New American Standard.

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SAVED?

I believe a good place to start this discussion is to see what the words saved and salvation actually mean.

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary tenth edition

**SAVED 1. a:** to deliver from sin **b:** to rescue or deliver from danger or harm **c:** to preserve or guard from injury, destruction or loss

**SALVATION 1. a:** deliverance from the power and effects of sin.

Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

**SALVATION:** Deliverance from the power of sin; redemption. In the Old Testament, the word salvation sometimes refers to deliverance from danger <Jer. 15:20>, deliverance of the weak from an oppressor <Ps. 35:9-10>, the healing of sickness <Is. 38:20>, and deliverance from blood guilt and its consequences <Ps. 51:14>. It may also refer to national deliverance from military threat <Ex. 14:13> or release from captivity <Ps. 14:7>. But salvation finds its deepest meaning in the spiritual realm of life. Man's universal need for salvation is one of the clearest teachings of the Bible.

The term saved and salvation means that we are rescued and delivered. So a logical question would be rescued and delivered from what? When we turn to Christ we are saved from receiving God's wrath.

Rom 5:8-9 "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

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1Thes 1:9-10 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.

The scripture is clear that to be saved means that we will escape the wrath of God. According to the L.D.S 3rd Article of Faith "all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel" The Bible however states that salvation comes apart from works. In other words we are not saved because of "obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel".

Gal 3:2-3 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Rom 4:1-5 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

John 6:28-29 They said therefore to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace **you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the **gift of God; not as a result of works**, that no one should boast.  
(See also Rom.6:23)

Notice that salvation is a gift of God. You do not work for and earn a gift. If you work for something it is wages due and no longer a gift. Mormons will of course refer to the book of James to show try to show that we are saved by works. In context James is not contradicting Paul he simply is showing that genuine faith produces works. We are not saved by our good works. However if we really are saved we will naturally have good works. One does not say baa baa to become a sheep. One says baa baa because one is a sheep.

The L.D.S 3rd Article of Faith also redefines the word saved to mean something other than how the Bible defines the word saved. Remember saved means delivered from the wrath of God Rom.5:8-9

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Bruce R. McConkie (Mormon Apostle)  
Mormon Doctrine, p.670-671 Salvation by Grace

Since all good things come by the grace of God (that is, by his love, mercy, and condescension), it follows that salvation itself -- in all its forms and degrees -- is bestowed because of this infinite goodness. However, one of the untrue doctrines found in modern Christendom is the concept that man can gain salvation (meaning in the kingdom of God) by grace alone and without obedience. This soul-destroying doctrine has the obvious effect of lessening the determination of an individual to conform to all of the laws and ordinances of the gospel, such conformity being essential if the sought for reward is in reality to be gained.

Immortality is a free gift and comes without works or righteousness of any sort; all men will come forth in the resurrection because of the atoning sacrifice of Christ.

(1 Cor. 15:22.) In and of itself the resurrection is a form of salvation meaning that men are thereby saved from death, hell, the devil, and endless torment. (2 Ne. 9:17-27.) "O the wisdom of God, his mercy and grace! For behold, if the flesh should rise no more our spirits must become subject to that angel who fell from before the presence of the Eternal God, and became the devil, to rise no more." (2 Ne. 9:8) In this sense, the mere fact of resurrection is called salvation by grace alone. Works are not involved, neither the works of the Mosaic law nor the works of righteousness that go with the fullness of the gospel.

The trouble with Bruce McConkie's statement is that saved does not mean resurrected no matter what dictionary you use. The Bible does not teach universal salvation. In other words not everyone will be saved.

John 3:17-18 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Luke 8:11-12 (Jesus speaking) "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God." And those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they may not believe and be saved.

It is obvious in these 2 passages that not everyone will be saved. So it cannot mean resurrection in the way Bruce McConkie uses it. Everyone will not be saved but everyone will be resurrected as you can see in the next two passages.

Dan 12:2 "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

John 5:28-29 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

In summary we are not saved by works but by grace alone. We do good works because we are saved not to become saved. Not everyone will be saved but everyone will be resurrected some to eternal life others to eternal judgment. Therefore the 3rd article of faith and Bruce McConkie's book Mormon Doctrine are both incorrect because the Bible disagrees with them.

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### GRACE VS WORK

Some people say we are saved by grace while others say we are saved by works. For some we need to first define what this means. First of all let's look at the dictionaries definition of these words.

GRACE: (1) a: unmerited divine assistance given man for his regeneration or sanctification.  
(from Webster's tenth Collegiate Dictionary)

GRACE: Favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that same person deserves. Grace is one of the key attributes of God. The Lord God is "merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth" <Ex. 34:6>. Therefore, grace is almost always associated with mercy, love, compassion, and patience as the source of help and with deliverance from distress.  
(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

WORK: (8) pl: performance of moral or religious acts (salvation by ~ s)  
WORKS: (1) in process of preparation, development, or completion.  
(From Webster's tenth Collegiate Dictionary)

WORKS: Acts or deeds. God's works are praised often in the Book of Psalms <Ps. 33:4; 92:5; 104:24> and Christ's works are thoroughly discussed in the Gospel of John <John 10:25-38>. Man's works are either good or bad, and these two categories are often mentioned together <Rom. 13:3,12; Heb. 6:1, 10>. Christians are taught to display good works <Matt. 5:16; Rev. 3:8>. (From Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

To say a person is saved by grace means this.

No one by their own merits or good deeds will ever earn or gain eternal life. In other words no matter how good of a person you are you will never make it to heaven on that basis. Now to say that a person is saved by works means this. If you live a good clean moral life you will go to heaven when you die. This is basically saying that by trying to be obedient to God's laws you have earned the right to be in heaven. Scripture clearly shows that we are saved by grace alone. There are verses that some have stumbled over believing they show we are saved by our works or good deeds. Therefore it is important that we consider these verses as well.

Rom.3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law."

John 6:28-29 They said therefore to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

Titus 3:5"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit"

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Eph 2:8-10 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Paul here says salvation is a gift of God. When you work for something you receive what is owed to you. Webster's Dictionary defines a gift as, "something voluntarily transferred from one person to another without compensation". We receive salvation as a gift from God. There is no way that we can compensate for it! Not only have we seen that we are not saved by our deeds, but scripture tells us that we could not even come close by our works or good deeds.

Isa 64:6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Rom 3:20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Ps 39:5 Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah. (KJV)

James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

I Jn 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Considering these passages how can we possibly be good enough? We can't! That is why Jesus died on the cross for us. We must accept his payment for our sins to be saved. We cannot earn our way to heaven by being "good".

Now there are those that try to abuse grace. Some people think they can say a prayer accepting Jesus as their Lord and then live however they want. The idea is like buying fire insurance; once you got it then it might be OK to play with fire. The problem with this thinking is that God is able to judge the thoughts and intents of our heart Heb.4:12. We are not saved by saying certain words in the form of a prayer we are saved by faith.

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In Webster's tenth Collegiate Dictionary one of the definitions of faith is "*belief and trust in and loyalty to God*" Those that say they believe in God and claim they said a prayer accepting Jesus as Lord should have some change in their life. The Bible tells us even the demons believe there is one God James 2:19. The demons believe, but they do not trust in nor are they loyal to God. Unfortunately this also describes many people claiming to be Christians. Granted becoming a Christian does not mean you become perfect, but it does mean there is a change in your life 2 Cor.5:17. A Christian does not become sinless here in this life I Jn 1:8-10. This change that takes place in a genuine Christian will continue on for their whole life Phil.1:6 (see also I Jn 2:4-5, Mat.7:21-23, Rev.3:15-16, Lk.6:44-46)

Some people in the time of the New Testament also tried to take a similar attitude that I described as buying fire insurance. It is this very issue that James addressed that some people take out of context to try and show we are saved by works.

**James 1:22- 2:26 (chapter 1) (22)**But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; (24) for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. (25) But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does. (26) If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless. (27) This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, {and} to keep oneself unstained by the world. (Chapter 2) (1) "My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism.(2) For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, (3) and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,(4)" have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?(5) Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world {to be} rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?(6) But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?(7) Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?(8) If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.(9) But if you show partiality, you are committing sin {and} are convicted by the law as transgressors.(10) For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.(11) For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not commit murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.(12) So speak and so act, as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.(13) For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.(14)What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?(15) If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,(16) and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? (17) Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. (18) But someone may well say, "You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." (19) You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.(20) But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? (21) Was

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not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? (22) You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; (23) and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." and he was called the friend of God. (24) You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone. (25) And in the same way was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? (26) For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

People that say we are saved by works will generally focus on the part of this passage that is in **bold lettering** in verses 2:21-26. Take another look at 1:22, James declares that those that do not live their faith are deceiving themselves. Then again in 1:26 he uses the persons words as an example. James says if they do not control what they say their religion is worthless. Jesus himself said that a persons words showed what was in their heart Lk.6:45, Mt.12:34. In Js.1:27 James defines true religion as one that has action taking care of those in need and living a godly life. In 2:1 he is dealing with attitudes, which is another matter of the heart. Just as Jesus said "for the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart." James is saying that our actions also show that which fills the heart. The point James is making is this, if you have genuine faith then your heart is right with the Lord and it should show in your life. Those that think they are saved by works should take a good look at James 2:9-10. According to James one sin makes you guilty of all. Considering that the wages of sin is death Rom.6:23 this paints a grim picture. Then in 2:14 James ask a very important question. " *What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?*" The answer to this question is no! As James goes on to show faith without works is dead. In other words if you have genuine faith you produce fruit. The illustration James used shows Abraham had a genuine faith. This is shown in his obedience to do as the Lord said. Then in 2:23 "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," His righteousness came from belief. Abraham's belief resulted in obedience. To say a person is saved by works is like putting the cart before the horse, it just doesn't work. Sheep don't say baaa baaa to become sheep. They say baaa baaa because they are sheep. We as Christians do not do good works so that we can be saved. We do good works because we are saved.

Paul used this same illustration with Abraham to show that we are not saved by works.

Rom 4:1-5 "What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness"

Some people would argue that man is not saved by faith alone. Then you would be led to James 2:24 You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.

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At first glance this can almost seem to prove their point. However we must remember that if other scripture seems to contradict the passage being looked at then it needs further investigation. Remember what Paul said in his letter to the Ephesians.

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the **gift** of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

This passage seems clear that works is not part of what saves us. So how does that tie in with James 2:24?

There are actually two separate issues here. James said man is justified by works. He did not say man is saved by works. Saved means rescued or delivered.

Lets look at the definition of this Greek word translated as justified in our bible.

Justified, (Thayer's Definition of Biblical Words)

1344 dikaioo-

1) to render righteous or such he ought to be

2) to show, exhibit, evince, one to be righteous, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered

3) to declare, to pronounce one to be just, righteous, or such as he ought to be

I had to look up "evince" it means ( to constitute outward evidence of)

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 10th Edition

James 2:21-24 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.

Take notice of the two different words used here. Believed and justified have different meanings.

Abraham **believed** God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,"

Was not Abraham our father **justified** by works,

Abraham's belief is where he was declared righteous. He was "saved" by his belief not his works. Eph.2:8:9.

Abraham was "justified" by his works. Part of the definition of justified is to show outward evidence of. This fits the context of what James was saying.

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When examining James 1:22- 2:26, Rom 4:1-5 and Eph.2: 8-9 closely we find that the following three statements are true.

Abraham was saved by faith alone.  
Abraham was justified by works.  
Abraham was not justified by works alone.

James explained how Abraham's works and faith worked together showing justification before men. This is the evidence before man that one really is saved. James shows the fruit of justification while Paul shows the root of it. Paul showed that justification before God was not by works in Rom. 4:1-5 & Titus 3:5. Yet in Eph.2:8-10 Paul states that we were created for good works that we should walk in them. Both Paul and James mention that Abraham was declared righteous because of his belief. Both James and Paul declare that we should have good works. James shows the fruit or evidence before men. While Paul shows we are saved before God because of our belief and God's mercy.

Some have said we are saved by faith to begin with when we first accept the Lord. Then after this point we are saved by or actions. This is irrational thinking. The Bible tells us that Christ died for our sins 1 Cor.15:3 and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from **all sin I Jn 1:7**. Now I ask you how many sins had you committed when Christ died for them 2000 years ago? None of them right? They were all in the future. Which sins does the blood of Christ cover? The Bible says **ALL sin**. Since all of our sins were paid for on the cross before we were born. How could we now after accepting the Lord be saved by our works?

Paul also addressed this issue.

Gal 2:20-3:3

**(20)** "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

**(21)** "I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

**(Ch.3vs.1)** You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?

**(2)** This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? **(3) Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?** (see also Gal.5:1-6)

Paul here is very clear that we are saved by grace. He even states that if this were not so then Christ died for nothing. He considered the idea of after receiving the Lord to then be perfected by works foolishness. There is another statement Paul made, that some people misunderstand thinking we are saved by works. While reading it keep in mind what he said here in Galatians chapter 2 & 3.

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Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling.**

Is Paul contradicting himself here? No not at all. In this same letter he said  
Phil 1:6 "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.".....

Phil 1:27-29 "conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by your opponents-- which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too from God. For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake"

There are a couple of views of this and I believe both are correct and applicable to the context. First of all Paul declared in this letter that the Lord is the one that began this good work in them. He then admonished them to conduct themselves in a worthy manner just as we seen that James did in his letter. By Paul saying work out your own salvation he was encouraging them to live in a manner worthy of their salvation. It is important that you recognize he said "work out your salvation" Paul did not say "work for you salvation" Perhaps it might be easier understood like this. You have a body, and when you exercise your body it is called a work out. You are working out your body. When you are already saved and you continue to live in a manner worthy of the Lord, you are working out your salvation. You are not working for your salvation.

The second view is that since salvation also means deliverance Paul was telling them through Christ to work through their hardships. By the Phillipian church standing firm in one spirit it was a sign of destruction to their opponents. It was also a sign that they were saved. The same as James was saying in his letter their works was the sign that they were saved. It was important that they stood firm even in hard times. As Paul said they were" *granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake*"

We are saved by faith not works. But good works should be very important to the true believer. Remember what Jesus said "why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? Luke 6:46

Following is some related scripture that shows we are saved by grace not works for those that would like to look into this further. Gen. 15:6, Matt 19:23-29, Luke 7:49-50, Luke 8:11-15, Acts 15:8-11, Acts 16:30-31, Rom. 3:19-28, Rom. 4:4-5, Rom. 8:8, Rom 10:9, Rom 10:13, Rom. 11:6.

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The writings from church leaders in the first couple of centuries are not scripture. They are however helpful in determining if the Church has changed any major doctrine or the interpretation of scripture.

The following quotes can be found in:

THE ANTE-NICENE FATHERS by Rev. Alexander Robertd, D.D., and James Donaldson, LL.D., editors, Translations of the Writings of the Fathers down to A.D. 325, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company) 1989.

Polycarp, c.69-c.155, bishop of Smyrna, and disciple of the Apostle John.

THE EPISTLE OF POLYCARP TO THE PHILIPPIANS CHAP. I & II

our Lord Jesus Christ, who for our sins suffered even unto death, [but] “whom God raised froth the dead, having loosed the bands of the grave.” “In whom, though now ye see Him not, ye believe, and believing, rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory; “ into which joy many desire to enter, knowing that “by grace ye are saved, not of works,” but by the will of God through Jesus Christ. “Wherefore, girding up your loins,” “serve the Lord in fear” and truth, as those who have forsaken the vain, empty talk and error of the multitude, and “believed in Him who raised up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, and gave Him glory,” and a throne at His right hand. To Him all things in heaven and on earth are subject.

Clement I, d. AD 101, called Clement of Rome, he was the bishop of Rome, c.92 to 101

He was also a companion to both Peter and Paul, Phil.4:3

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF CLEMENT TO THE CORINTHIANS .CHAP. XXXII.

And we, too, being called by His will in Christ Jesus, are not justified by ourselves, nor by our own wisdom, or understanding, or godliness, or works which we have wrought in holiness of heart; but by that faith through which, from the beginning, Almighty God has justified all men; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Clement I, d. AD 101, called Clement of Rome, he was the bishop of Rome, c.92 to 101.

He was also a companion to both Peter and Paul, Phil.4:3

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF THE BLESSED CLEMENT

THE DISCIPLE OF PETER THE APOSTLE CHAP. II

For not by eloquence or renown, by station and descent, or by beauty or strength, or by length of life, is the kingdom of heaven obtained; but it is obtained by the power of faith, when a man exhibits the works of faith. For whosoever is truly righteous, his works testify concerning his faith, that he is truly a believer, with a faith which is great, a faith which is perfect, a faith which is in God, a faith which shines in good works, that the Father of all may be glorified through Christ.

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### BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD

Baptism for the dead is a very old idea that is still practiced by some groups in our era in which we live today. Mormons usually think that this idea is unique to their religion however this is not entirely true as you can see in the quote from the Encyclopaedia Britannica below.

**New Apostolic Church:** church organized in Germany in 1863 as the Universal Catholic Church, by members of the Catholic Apostolic Church who believed that new apostles must be appointed to replace deceased apostles and rule the church until the Second Coming of Christ. The present name was adopted in 1906. Its doctrines are similar to the parent church, but the new church was influenced by continental Protestantism, and over time its worship services and tendencies became less Catholic and more Protestant.

The church emphasizes the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which include prophecy, speaking in tongues, and miraculous healing. Sacraments are **baptism**, Holy Communion, and holy sealing (the "dispensing and reception of the Holy Spirit"). Sealing can only be conferred by the laying on of hands on the head of a member by an apostle, and it assures the member of participation in Christ's rule on Earth for 1,000 years after he returns. **Like the Latter-day Saints, the New Apostolic Church teaches that the sacraments can be received by a living member for a dead person.**

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Since baptism for the dead is far more associated with Mormonism the rest of this study will deal with their view and what the bible says. So what does baptism for the dead mean to the Mormon? The best way to answer that is to quote from Mormon authorities.

Smith, Joseph Fielding. Doctrines of Salvation. Compiled by Bruce R. McConkie. 3 vols. Salt Lake City, Utah: Bookcraft, 1954-56. (Vol.2, Chapter9, pg.161-162)

#### BAPTISM FOR DEAD

**NO SALVATION WITHOUT BAPTISM.** One of the most emphatic and positive statements of our Savior was his saying to Nicodemus: Verily, verily, I say unto thee. Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." **That to be born of water means to be baptized** is so clear it will not admit of successful dispute. To be born of the Spirit is just as positive a statement in relation to the gift of the Holy Ghost, which is received by the laying on of hands.

Nor did the Savior limit his remark by any qualifying clause to refer only to men who are living and with the opportunity of hearing the gospel, or to eliminate from his command those who have passed beyond. The statement is dogmatic, positive, and without qualification: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God!"

"PERFORMANCE OF VICARIOUS ORDINANCES. Baptism is an ordinance belonging to this life, as also are confirmation and ordination to the priesthood, and the man who does not receive these blessings here cannot receive them in the spirit world. There he may repent and believe and accept the truth, but he cannot be baptized, confirmed, or ordained, or endowed, for these ordinances belong here. What is to be done in the matter? We are going to take substitutes who will act vicariously, which means one acting for another, and in the temples they will stand for those who are dead and there, in the behalf of the dead, receive all these blessings for them. When they do this, if the dead accept the labor performed, it is accounted

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unto them the same as if they had acted for themselves. The Lord did a great vicarious work for all men, and he has delegated power to us in a lesser degree to perform a vicarious work for the dead. So we, too, may become saviors to our fellow men in this manner, performing work for them that they cannot perform for themselves."

McConkie, Bruce R. Mormon Doctrine. 2d ed. Salt Lake City, Utah:  
Bookcraft, 1966. page 72-73,  
Baptism For the Dead

"Based on the eternal principle of vicarious service, **the Lord has ordained baptism for the dead as the means whereby all his worthy children of all ages can become heirs of salvation in his kingdom. Baptism is the gate to the celestial kingdom**, and except a man be born again of water and of the Spirit he cannot gain an inheritance in that heavenly world. (John 3:3-5.) Obviously, during the frequent periods of apostate darkness when the gospel light does not shine, and also in those geographical areas where legal administrators are not found, hosts of people live and die without ever entering in at the gate of baptism so as to be on the path leading to eternal life. For them a just God has ordained baptism for the dead, a vicarious-proxy labor. (D. & C. 124:28-36; 127; 128; 1 Cor. 15:29.)"

Mormon Doctrine, by Bruce McConkie,  
Second Chance Theory, page 685-687

**"There is no such thing as a second chance to gain salvation by accepting the gospel in the spirit world after spurning, declining, or refusing to accept it in this life.** It is true that there may be a second chance to hear and accept the gospel, but those who have thus procrastinated their acceptance of the saving truths will not gain salvation in the celestial kingdom of God. **Salvation for the dead is the system by means of which those who "die without a knowledge of the gospel"** (D. & C. 128:5) may gain such knowledge in the spirit world and then, following the vicarious performance of the necessary ordinances, become heirs of salvation on the same basis as though the gospel truths had been obeyed in mortality. **Salvation for the dead is limited expressly to those who do not have opportunity in this life to accept the gospel but who would have taken the opportunity had it come to them.**.....

Thus the false and heretical doctrine that people who fail to live the law in this life (having had an opportunity so to do) will have a further chance of salvation in the life to come is a soul-destroying doctrine, a doctrine that lulls its adherents into carnal security and thereby denies them a hope of eternal salvation. (Doctrines of Salvation, vol. 2, pp. 181-196.)"

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To sum it up the Mormons believe that one cannot be saved or in other words enter into the kingdom of God or what is known as the celestial kingdom unless they are baptized. (Note sometimes L.D.S also define saved as being resurrected, Mormon Doctrine, pg. 671) People that do not have the opportunity to hear the gospel according to Mormonism can hear and accept it in the life to come. When a person in the L.D.S church is baptized in their behalf the deceased can then accept the Mormon gospel and enter into the celestial kingdom. This is the reason why the Mormon Church is heavily involved in genealogical research. In the quotes from the Mormon authorities we are given two bible references. One reference mentions baptism for the dead and one that does not mention baptism at all. (1 Cor.15: 29 & John 3:3-5) It is not wise to build a doctrine on one obscure verse in the bible especially if it is in conflict with scripture that is clear and comprehensible. We should use the clear passages to help us understand those passages that are harder to understand.

### **The following truths are in conflict with this Mormon doctrine:**

1. One can be saved without being baptized.
2. Salvation comes through faith; it is a matter of the heart.
3. There is no biblical reference instructing or suggesting that one does genealogical research. (A necessary step preceding baptism for the dead)
4. Born of water does not mean baptized.
5. There is no second chance even for those who have not heard the gospel.
6. The context of 1 Corinthians chapter 15 is about the resurrection, not baptism.

### **1. One can be saved apart from being baptized.**

If a person had to be baptized to be saved, you would think that we would find people like Jesus and the Apostle Paul baptizing converts on a regular basis. Furthermore if baptism for the dead were true it would certainly be an important practice. However Paul was thankful that he did not baptize very many people. Also Jesus did not baptize anyone that we know of. This would make no sense if either of these concepts were true.

**1 Cor 1:14-17** I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, that no man should say you were baptized in my name. Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, that the cross of Christ should not be made void.

**John 4:1-2** When therefore the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were)

Take another look at 1 Cor 1:17. Paul said “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel”. Paul here separates baptism from the gospel. In other words he did not include baptism as part of the gospel. Yet we are saved by the gospel in the following verse.

**1 Cor 15:1-2** Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

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### Following are two examples of someone who was saved apart from baptism

In Luke 23:39-43 we read of a thief who was crucified with Jesus. This man rebukes the other thief for mocking Jesus then we read: **Luke 23:42-43** *And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."* This thief obviously was not taken down from the cross and baptized! Yet this thief was saved that is he is now in the presence of God.

I should mention that there is a difference of opinion about where Paradise was. Some would argue that Paradise was not heaven, but rather Abraham's bosom. Three days after being crucified and buried Jesus said Mary "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father" John 20:17. Yet Jesus told the thief that *"today you shall be with Me in Paradise."* Some believe Abraham's bosom was a holding place for the righteous dead separate from Hades.

This was before Jesus atoned for our sins. This is derived from Luke 16:19-31. Some believe they could not be in the presence of the Father yet because Jesus had not yet paid the price for their sins.

Others would argue that Jesus did indeed go directly into the presence of the Father. Right after Jesus told the thief he would be with him in Paradise Jesus said "Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit." The spirit of Jesus went directly into the presence of the Father, but his body went to the grave. When 3 days after Jesus' crucifixion he said "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father" John 20:17 Jesus was referring to his physical body. Furthermore Paradise was the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven according to 2 Cor. 12: 2-4.

The 3 heavens are

- (a) the sky where the eagles fly
- (b) the stars in outer space
- (c) the dwelling place of God.

The Old Testament saints also went directly into the presence of the Father. Examples of this would be Enoch Gen.5: 24, Heb.11: 5, also Elijah 2 Kings 2:1-11

Paul also indicated that now if we die as a Christian we go directly into the presence of the Lord 2 Cor.5: 8, Phil.1: 23.

Whichever view one takes we still have the thief in the presence of the Father without being baptized.

The second example can be found in the text below.

**Acts 10:44-47** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized **who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did**, can he?"

These Gentiles in this text were baptized, but this was after they had received the Holy Spirit. Even those that say you must be baptized to be saved recognize that un-saved people do not have the Holy Spirit. These people were saved first and even speaking in tongues which is a gift of the Holy Spirit before they were baptized. They were saved first and then baptized 2nd. Therefore baptism in itself is not what saved them.

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**There are a couple of other texts some may use to show we are saved by baptism. So we should look at those texts as well.**

**Mark 16:16** "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

The key in this passage for those that shall be saved is their belief. Notice this verse shows that unbelief is the reason for being condemned not the lack of being baptized.

### **1 Pet 3:18-21**

18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,

20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

21 And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Noah and his family were saved through the water because Noah was obedient and built the ark like he was told. Noah first believed God and then followed instructions. Corresponding to that we first put our trust in God and follow his instructions to be baptized. Yet it is not the dunking in the water that saves us, rather our appeal to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus.

Noah would not have been saved if he did not use the ark. Being dunked in water does not save without the heart being purified by the Holy Spirit. Baptism by itself with an unregenerate heart saves nobody. However the thief on the cross is an example of someone who was saved by a regenerate heart without baptism.

### **2. Salvation comes through faith; it is a matter of the heart.**

When we read MT.19:16 we learn that a rich young man was asked specifically how to gain eternal life. He was told to sell his possessions and follow Jesus. (This is a matter of the heart!)

When we read LK.10:25 we learn a lawyer asked Jesus specifically how to gain eternal life. He was told "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Again a matter of the heart

When we read Acts 16:30 we learn a jailer asked Paul and Silas what they had to do to be saved. They were told believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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### 3. There is no biblical reference instructing or suggesting that one does genealogical research.

#### (A necessary step preceding baptism for the dead)

If baptism for the dead were a true doctrine it certainly would be important. One would expect to find it clearly taught in the bible, which a reading of the New Testament shows it is not. Furthermore since genealogy is a necessary step preceding baptism for the dead we would also expect to find reference to it in the bible. Aside from the genealogies of Jesus showing that he is the Messiah told about in the Old Testament genealogy is only mentioned twice in the New Testament.

Titus 3:9 But **shun** foolish controversies and **genealogies** and strife and disputes about the Law; for they are unprofitable and worthless.

1 Tim 1:3-4 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith.

Granted these texts have nothing to do with baptism for the dead. They are however our only references to genealogy in the New Testament. They certainly in no way encourage anybody to do genealogical work.

### 4. Born of water does not mean baptized.

In Doctrines of Salvation we were told that born of water means to be baptized.

John 3:3-8 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**" "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

The word "*baptized*" is not in this passage. Although the Jewish mind may connect baptism with the use of the word "water" I believe the usage of the word is much deeper than that. The passage is referring to someone that is born again. We are first born physically. Before we are born spiritually we are said to be dead in our trespasses and sins, Eph.2:1-5, Col.2:13.

In other words until you are born again even though you are physically alive, you are spiritually dead. The second birth is spiritual, when you are "born again" you are both physically and spiritually alive. The Mormons of course focus on the part of the text that reads: **"unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God"**

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We will take this in two parts.

A. **"Born"** does not mean baptized.

B. **"water"** does not mean baptized.

A. "Born" does not mean baptized. The word "born" in this passage is defined by Strong's definition of Greek words in the following manner.

1080 gennaō (ghen-nah'-o); from a variation of 1085; to procreate (properly, of the father, but by extension of the mother); **figuratively, to regenerate**:

KJV-- bear, beget, be born, bring forth, conceive, be delivered of, gender, make, spring.

B. Water does not mean baptized either.

Thayers definition of Greek words.

5204 hudor-

water:

a) used of water in rivers, in fountains, in pools

b) used of the water of the deluge

c) used of water in any of the earth's repositories

d) used of water as the primary element, out of and through which the world that was before the deluge, arose and was compacted

e) used of the waves of the sea

f) figuratively, used of many peoples

"Water" is not a reference to baptism. This word "water" in this passage by definition can mean literal water. This Greek word however is not bound only to this literal definition. This same Greek word "water" found in John 3:5 is also used in the following passage. Eph.5:26

Eph 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

(The next two verses give us a little more insight.)

1 Pet 1:23 for you have **been born again** not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, **through the living and abiding word of God.**

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

Notice the preceding verse declares that we are not saved by deeds done in righteousness. In the following text we will see that Jesus declares his baptism is a deed to fulfill all righteousness.

Matt 3:13-15 Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him.

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Furthermore Jesus when asked about doing the works (or deeds) of God he simply says they must believe in him as you can see in the following text.

John 6:28-29 They said therefore to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

Let us consider again 1 Pet.1:23 we find that these ones that have been born again have done this through the word of God. How are they born again? They are born again through the word of God. Remember Jesus was talking to Nicodemus about being born again in John CH.3.

Take special notice of how Eph 5:25-27 said that Christ cleansed his church. (having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word) Water in this case is used in reference to the word of God. Christ church is cleansed by the washing of **water** with the word. The Church in Eph. 5:25-27 is made up of "born again believers" Since Jesus said that "unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" John 3:3 we can conclude that his church is born again. Christ's church is born again through the word of God by the washing of water with the word as well as the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit Titus 3:5.

In the very next chapter after the discussion between Jesus and Nicodemus we find Jesus talking to a Samaritan woman. Here again we see Jesus using water as an illustration that does not mean baptism, but rather Jesus is referring to eternal life which is salvation.

John 4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

Isa 12:3 Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation.

Jesus talked to Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman using "water" as an illustration. In both cases Jesus was talking about eternal life. The word "baptism" is not in either text. Jesus certainly knew that a Jewish mind might connect baptism with the use of the word "water". However the bible also shows us that the usage of the word "water" is much more than the act of baptism. The Jewish mind would be very aware of that as well. The bible shows us that the term "water" has to do with our regeneration by the Holy Spirit through the word of God. Baptism is our act of obedience to God's command and our proclaiming to the world that we have been regenerated through the Holy Spirit and the word of God.

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### **Born again is only found 4 times in scripture.**

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (KJV says begotten us again in this verse)

1 Pet 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.

### **Born of water is only found once.**

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

None of these texts clearly connect baptism with being born again. There are writings where some of the early church fathers did connect the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus with baptism. In a similar fashion works are tied in with saving faith as James points out in his letter. Still we are told that our works do not save us. This was covered under the subject heading "Grace vs. Works." Our works is the fruit showing we are saved. Baptism is not a suggestion it is a command. The true believer that has been regenerated by the Holy Spirit acts in obedience to this and identifies himself with Jesus Christ. The believer is not saved merely because he has been dunked in water. It is an act of obedience that confesses he has been regenerated and identifies with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

There are examples in scripture of people being saved before baptism and apart from baptism. There are no examples of anybody being saved without a change in heart. Furthermore the bible shows us that genuine faith will produce works. Yet it clearly states that we are not saved by our works.

### **5. There is no second chance even for those who have not heard the gospel.**

There is no second chance even for people that have not heard the Mormon gospel or the real gospel, after death comes the judgment. There is no record in the entire bible of anyone receiving salvation after they had already died. Once they are judged there is no record of an appeal like we have in our courts. (Judgment comes after death)

Heb 9:27 And inasmuch as **it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.**

According to the first chapter in Romans people are held accountable for knowing there is a God, because of creation. Creation itself tells us that God exist. Therefore Man is responsible for what he has done with this knowledge of knowing that God exist.

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Rom 1:16-23 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith." For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that **they are without excuse.** For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

This accounts for those who have not heard the gospel. Creation itself testifies of God's existence. These people are held accountable for what is done with that knowledge of God and as the text states "they are without excuse".

### **6. The context of 1 Corinthians chapter 15 is about the resurrection, not baptism.**

Many Mormons have a testimony declaring that deceased people have appeared to them thanking them for being baptized on their behalf. To this I must state that our experiences should be interpreted through the Bible. The Bible should not be interpreted through our experiences. Baptism for the dead and its implications are in conflict with what the bible teaches. Therefore it is not wise to accept even what a spirit may have told them concerning this. Demons have been around for a long time and can easily deceive people by masquerading as a deceased person and help promote that which is contrary to the word of God. (The Bible) We are in fact warned not to believe every spirit,

1 John 4:1, Galatians 1:8

Having said that we will now examine the context of 1 Corinthians Chapter 15.

We will see that Paul is aware of some people who practiced baptism for the dead. Paul argued that it was not logical for those people to believe in baptism for the dead and then deny the resurrection.

The Scripture is from The New American Standard and I added my commentary in boxes throughout the text.

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**The whole chapter in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 is on the resurrection. This chapter is not a teaching on baptism!**

### 1 Corinthians Chapter 15

1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,

2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

**Verses 1-4** Paul tells us the gospel is that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

8 and last of all, as it were to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

**Verses 5- 10** Paul gives an account of the appearances of Jesus after he was resurrected.

11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

**Verses 11-12** Paul brings up the fact that some among the Corinthians did not believe in the resurrection of the dead.

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;

14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

15 Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.

16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;

17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

**Verses 13-19** Paul declares that if Jesus did not rise from the dead, then they are false witnesses and our faith is worthless because we are still in our sins.

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- 21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.  
22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.  
23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

**Verses 21-23** We are told Jesus has indeed risen from the dead. Through Adam mankind receives death but through Jesus we will live. Jesus is the first fruits of the resurrection; those that belong to Jesus will be resurrected at his return.

- 24 then come the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.  
25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.  
26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.  
27 For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.  
28 And when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all.

**Verses 24-28** After the return of the resurrected Christ and the resurrection of the saints the end will come. That is the end of this age then Christ shall abolish all authority and he shall reign until all enemies are subject to him. Jesus will conquer even death.

- 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?  
30 Why are **we** also in danger every hour?

**Verse 29-30** Paul ask why certain people who he simply refers to as "**they**" do baptism for the dead if they do not believe in the resurrection. He is pointing out that these two beliefs are inconsistent with each other.

Paul ask also why he and other Christians would stand in jeopardy? Since they were persecuted for teaching the resurrection it would be inconsistent and irrational to also declare there was no resurrection.

Did you notice the contrast between verse 29 & 30? In verse 28 Paul refers to some people that he does not include as being in unity with himself or other Christians. These people practice baptism for the dead and he refers to them as "**they**"(KJV) or "**they and those**" (NAS). Then in the next verse Paul includes himself with other Christians who proclaim the resurrection. Here in verse 30 Paul uses the word "**we**". The contrast is between "they" and "we". One group includes himself and others who proclaim the resurrection ("we"). The other group of people Paul makes no connection with between himself and other Christians. Paul simply states that "**they**" practice baptism for the dead.

In Acts 17:23-33 we see where Paul used an idol with the inscription of an unknown god to proclaim the true God to them. Paul did not believe in their idol anymore than he believed in baptism for the dead here. Paul only pointed to their own false belief as a reference they could relate to teach them about the truth of God and the resurrection.

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32 If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.

33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

34 Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

**Verse 31-34** Paul declares that unless there is a resurrection there is no reason to undergo persecution for proclaiming the resurrection. Without the resurrection he might as well adopt the heathen philosophy of "let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." Paul then tells them not to be deceived by this teaching from those who have no knowledge of God, thus denying the resurrection. This corrupt doctrine denying the resurrection promotes sin which they are to abstain from.

35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?"

36 You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies;

37 and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else.

38 But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.

39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and

40 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another.

41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body it is raised an imperishable body

43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.

47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.

48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.

49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

**Verse 35-50** Paul explains concerning the bodies of the resurrected dead.

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51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,  
52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound,  
and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.  
53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.  
54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put  
on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in  
victory.  
55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"  
56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;  
57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work  
of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

### END OF CHAPTER

**Verse 51-58** Paul explains concerning the bodies of the translated living.

One could certainly expound more on this chapter, but the main point is that from start to finish 1 Corinthians chapter 15 is about the resurrection.

The context of this chapter is not about baptism.

### Carefully consider the purpose and depth of the Apostle Paul's ministry.

Rom 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Rom 15:15-16 But I have written very boldly to you on some points, so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me from God, to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, that my offering of the Gentiles might become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

1Thes 2:2 but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

1 Tim 1:11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

Acts 20:20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,

Acts 20:27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

1Thes 2:9 For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

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1 Cor 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, that the cross of Christ should not be made void.

All scripture is indeed inspired by God 2 Tim.3: 16. Dealing with the subject of salvation some people seem to look only at a few obscure and hard to understand passages and ignore the rest of the teachings on the subject. It almost seems to be Paul verses an obscure passage by James, John, Mark or Peter. We need to remember that when scripture appears to contradict itself it means we do not understand something and need to dig a little deeper for answers. This has always been the case in my own studies.

I certainly do not want to say that we should ignore any scripture, but I would like you to follow me along a line of logic and reasoning for a moment. Those who believe that baptism or works are conditions of salvation should carefully consider the purpose of the Apostle Paul's ministry. Paul was set apart by God to preach the gospel. He declares that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. He did not shrink back from declaring the whole purpose of God or anything that was profitable. Paul wrote 13 of the 27 books in our New Testament. Paul said he did not come to baptize.

Paul never connects baptism as a condition of salvation. Paul was very clear that we are saved apart from works Rom.3:28, Eph. 2:8-9, 2 Tim.1:9, Titus 3:5. There are some passages in scripture that are hard to understand. It is best to let the clear passages shed light on the harder to understand passages. Paul never taught that works or baptism were conditions of our salvation. His whole purpose was to preach the gospel so that we might be saved. Considering this fact wouldn't you find that rather odd that he did not ever clearly explain works or baptism as conditions of salvation, if those things were true?

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### L.D.S STANDARD WORKS

The standard works of the L.D.S church is the 4 books they call scripture. The Book of Mormon, The Pearl of Great Price, The Doctrine & Covenants and the Bible.

#### L.D.S VIEW OF THE BIBLE

The L.D.S 8th Article of Faith "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."

J. Reuben Clark, Jr., On the Way to Immortality and Eternal Life, p.202

As to the Bible, **the Prophet Joseph** on another occasion (October 15, 1843) **said:**

"I believe the Bible as it read when it came from the pen of the original writers. **Ignorant translators, careless transcribers, or designing and corrupt priests have committed many errors.**"

James E. Talmage, Articles of Faith, Ch.13, p.248 (Mormon Apostle)

The present is too late a time and the separating distance too vast to encourage the reopening of the question. The New Testament must be accepted for what it claims to be; and though, perhaps, **many precious parts have been suppressed or lost, while some corruptions of the texts may have crept in, and errors have been inadvertently introduced through the incapacity of translators**, the volume as a whole must be admitted as authentic and credible, and as an essential part of the Holy Scriptures

Joseph Fielding Smith, Answers to Gospel Questions, Vol.2, p.65 (Mormon Prophet)

There are no original manuscripts. Second, through the years scribes were busy making copies of the scriptures, and they inadvertently, or otherwise, made some changes. There is no original copy of any of the books of the Bible known to man today; that eliminations could have occurred is very possible. Third, in later translations after the scriptures fell into the hands of Christian scholars who did not accept baptism by immersion, other errors could have occurred. Especially was this the case as it was revealed to Nephi by the angel of the Lord. On this point Nephi wrote:1 Nephi 13:26 (book of Mormon) And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the foundation of a 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 also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away.** 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.

As you can see the Bible although believed to be the word of God is not believed to be accurate by L.D.S authorities. Their statements show their ignorance of the subject. There are actually thousands of manuscripts validating the accurate transmission of the New Testament. As far as the Old Testament the Dead Sea scrolls contain a portion of every book in the Old Testament with the exception of Ester. The whole book of Isaiah was found in the Dead Sea scrolls. These manuscripts verify that our Hebrew Text today has not changed from what they had back then.

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Keep in mind that the Dead Sea scrolls date back before the Lord Jesus Christ. If the text was corrupt in Jesus' time period he certainly would know about it. Well Jesus seemed to consider the text reliable.

Matt 5:18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.

Matt 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.

Luke 24:25-27 And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me;

Jesus said not the smallest letter would pass away. How could they know that if the text was corrupt already?

Jesus said his words would not pass away. Are we now to believe that Jesus was wrong and his words have passed away?

Jesus told them they were foolish for not believing ALL that the prophets spoke. Then beginning with Moses and all of the prophets Jesus explained the scriptures concerning himself. Does this sound like he believed they could not trust the scriptures?

Jesus said the Old Testament testified of him and although they searched the scriptures they were unwilling to come to him. This would be an unfair statement if the text were really corrupt.

Are we now to believe that even though the Dead Sea scrolls verify the accuracy of the text in Jesus' day that we cannot trust them even though Jesus trusted in them?

Are we now to ignore the thousands of manuscript evidence showing the accuracy of the New Testament simply on their word without any evidence to back up their statement?

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### THE INSPIRED VERSION OF THE BIBLE BY JOSEPH SMITH, JUNIOR

I recognize that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints does not use this Bible on a regular basis. I have had Mormons refer to it after I pointed out that the bible disagrees with their doctrine. The fact remains that the Prophet and founder of the L.D.S church produced this "inspired version". The first thing I noticed when I got my copy of it is, the verses do not always line up with a regular Bible. That is because he added text to the Bible wherever he saw fit. This should present problems to the person that stops and thinks about this. Bible translators constantly go back to the Greek and Hebrew manuscripts to check the accuracy of the text. There is no manuscript evidence what so ever to support what Joseph Smith did to the Bible. Even if we assumed that God told him to revise certain passages. Would God have him put words into other peoples mouths? Joseph has people saying things that as far as we know they never said. If this were not bad enough he also added a prophecy in the Book of Genesis. Take a look in a regular Bible in Genesis chapter 50 it ends on verse 26 right? Well in the inspired version it ends on verse 38. That is because Joseph added a prophecy. As far as I can tell he is prophesying himself coming in the future. I do know that it is not right to add to what God has already established as scripture by speaking to prophets long ago.

Prov 30:5-6 Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.

Deut 4:2 "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Following is the comparison of the King James and the Joseph Smith Inspired Version.

Gen 50:24-26 (KJV)

24 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

25 And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.

26 So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

(King James Version) END OF CHAPTER

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### Joseph Smith Translation

Genesis 50:24

24 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die, and go unto my fathers; and I go down to my grave with joy. The God of father Jacob be with you, to deliver you out of affliction in the days of your bondage; for the Lord hath visited me, and I have obtained a promise of the Lord, that out of the fruit of my loins, the Lord God will raise up a righteous branch out of my loins; and unto thee, whom my father Jacob hath named Israel, a prophet; (not the Messiah who is called Shilo;) and this prophet shall deliver my people out of Egypt in the days of thy bondage.

25 And it shall come to pass that they shall be scattered again; and a branch shall be broken off, and shall be carried into a far country; nevertheless they shall be remembered in the covenants of the Lord, when the Messiah cometh, for he shall be made manifest unto them in the latter days, in the Spirit of power; and shall bring them out of darkness into light; out of hidden darkness, and out of captivity unto freedom.

26 A seer shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a choice seer unto the fruit of my loins.

27 Thus saith the Lord God of my fathers unto me, A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins, and he shall be esteemed highly among the fruit of thy loins; and unto him will I give commandment that he shall do a work for the fruit of thy loins, his brethren.

28 And he shall bring them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with thy fathers; and he shall do whatsoever work I shall command him.

29 And I will make him great in mine eyes, for he shall do my work; and he shall be great like unto him whom I have said I would raise up unto you, to deliver my people, O house of Israel, out of the land of Egypt; for a seer will I raise up to deliver my people out of the land of Egypt; and he shall be called Moses. And by this name he shall know that he is of thy house; for he shall be nursed by the king's daughter, and shall be called her son.

30 And again, a seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins, and unto him will I give power to bring forth my word unto the seed of thy loins; and not to the bringing forth of my word only, saith the Lord, but to the convincing them of my word, which shall have already gone forth among them in the last days;

31 Wherefore the fruit of thy loins shall write, and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write; and that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins, and also that which shall be written by the the fruit of the loins of Judah, shall grow together unto the confounding of false doctrines, and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, and bringing them to a knowledge of their fathers in the latter days; and also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord.

32 And out of weakness shall he be made strong, in that day when my work shall go forth among all my people, which shall restore them, who are of the house of Israel, in the last days.

33 And that seer will I bless, and they that seek to destroy him shall be confounded; for this promise I give unto you; for I will remember you from generation to generation; and his name shall be called Joseph, and it shall be after the name of his father; and he shall be like unto you; for the thing which the Lord shall bring forth by his hand shall bring my people unto salvation.

34 And the Lord sware unto Joseph that he would preserve his seed for ever, saying, I will raise up Moses, and a rod shall be in his hand, and he shall gather together my people, and he shall lead them as a flock, and he shall smite the waters of the Red Sea with his rod.

35 And he shall have judgment, and shall write the word of the Lord. And he shall not speak many words, for I will write unto him my law by the finger of mine own hand. And I will make a spokesman for him, and his name shall be called Aaron.

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36 And it shall be done unto thee in the last days also, even as I sworn. Therefore, Joseph said unto his brethren, God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, and unto Isaac, and to Jacob.

37 And Joseph confirmed many other things unto his brethren, and took an oath of the children of Israel, saying unto them, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.

38 So Joseph died when he was an hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and they put him in a coffin in Egypt; and he was kept from burial by the children of Israel, that he might be carried up and laid in the sepulcher with his father. And thus they remembered the oath which they sware unto him.

### END OF CHAPTER

### In the Joseph Smith Inspired Version

**THE BOOK OF MORMON-** For some reason people look to both the North America continent and the South America continent for archeological evidence to confirm something in the Book of Mormon. To look for archeological evidence for the Book of Mormon in South America is to look in the wrong place to begin with. Also we are not just looking for some obscure village, but rather a great nation. The lack of any evidence for the Book of Mormon made more of an impact on me when I realized how big of a nation that it was that was supposed to have disappeared without a trace.

First of all I would like to show just where we should begin our search for evidence of these people mentioned in the Book of Mormon. Next I will show just how big of a nation these people were supposed to have grown into and some of the things they had.

In the preface of the Book of Mormon we are told how Joseph Smith was led to some gold plates by an angel he later translated into the book of Mormon. The full story is also found in the book called the Pearl of Great Price in the section titled Joseph Smith

History 1:34 (also called Joseph Smith 2, 1:34)

( He said there was a book deposited, written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the source from whence they sprang. He also said that the fullness of the everlasting Gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants; )

At the beginning of this chapter in verses 3-5 we are told this took place in Manchester, New York. Since the angel told Joseph while in New York that these gold plates told "of the former inhabitants of this continent" we know to search for evidence on the North American Continent. The next logical question is how big was this nation? And what sort of things did they have that we should look for? We can look to the Book of Mormon to supply us with these answers.

They had all manner of tools Ether 10:25.

They had silks, horses, gold, silver and various animals including elephants Ether 9:16 -19.

There was so many people they spread upon the face of the land. They had buildings, machinery, and metals including steel Jarom 1:8.

There was so many people they could be found from coast to coast Helaman 3:8.

They had wars where as many as 10,000 people died in a single battle Mormon 6:11.

Not only was there people from coast to coast but there was building as well Mormon 1:7.

They built ships, Temples, synagogues etc Helaman 3:14.

They had a money system which included lots of different types of coins Alma 11:4-19.

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It is hard to imagine that a people that were spread from coast to coast and built ships, buildings, machinery and so forth could disappear and not leave any trace. People have constantly used archeology to confirm things written in the Bible and going back in time just as far as the time period that the book of Mormon covers on this continent.

It stands to reason that if the Book of Mormon is true or has any historical significance at all that there would be some confirmation of it by archeology. Out of all of the research and study done on this continent there has not been a single thing found in archeological diggings that connects to the Book of Mormon. In fact the geography of the land with mountains, rivers, valleys etc. have never been matched up with this or any other continent.

The book of Mormon mentions silk, steel, horses and other such things that are known not to have even been here pre-Columbian times. (See the letter from Smithsonian pg.120-122) Inside the Book of Mormon we are told of several sets of ancient plates that contained the history of these people in America from 600 B.C to 421 A.D. I find it interesting that no one knows where any of these plates are. None of these plates have ever been found. There have been claims that archeology has confirmed the book of Mormon by some members of the church. One of the more well known claims said that the Smithsonian institute had found proof and was using the Book of Mormon as a guide to study America. This claim became so well known that the Smithsonian Institute was forced to prepare a letter for the many inquires that they received concerning this.

I wrote the Smithsonian Institute myself and have included the letter that they sent me on page 74

I would like to conclude the thoughts concerning archeology and the Book of Mormon with a quote.

Encyclopedia of Mormonism, Vol.1, ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological data from the ancient Near East and the Americas have been used both to support and to discredit the Book of Mormon. Many scholars see no support for the Book of Mormon in the archaeological records, since no one has found any inscriptional evidence for, or material remains that can be tied directly to, any of the persons, places, or things mentioned in the book (Smithsonian Institution).

Not only do we have no archeological evidence, but the Book of Mormon also gives false information about events that took place in other areas as well. I would like to share two examples of this here. The Bible and history say that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This can be verified in Grolier's Multimedia Encyclopedia and Matthew 2:1 yet the Book of Mormon claims Jesus was to be born at Jerusalem Alma 7:10. " And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers,"

The second example I want to show in the Book of Mormon is found at 1 Nephi 2:8 " And it came to pass that he called the name of the river, Laman, and it emptied into the Red Sea; and the valley was in the borders near the mouth thereof."

The problem with this verse in 1 Nephi is that there is no river Laman that empties into the Red Sea. In fact there is no river at all that empties into the Red Sea.

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### Encyclopaedia Britannica, Multimedia Disc

At the Strait of Mandeb the channel is kept open by blasting and dredging. No water enters the Red Sea from rivers, and rainfall in the desert climate is scant; but the evaporation loss, in excess of 80 inches (2,000 mm) per year, is made up by an inflow of water through the eastern channel of the Strait of Mandeb from the Gulf of Aden.

### (International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, Electronic Database)

The Red Sea has a length of 1,350 miles and an extreme breadth of 205 miles. It is remarkable that while it has no rivers flowing into it and the evaporation from its surface is enormous, it is not much saltier than the ocean, from which it is inferred that there must be a constant influx of water from the Indian Ocean through the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, together with an outflow of the more saline water beneath the surface.

**THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS** contains known false prophecies. Examples shown were

D&C Section 84 & 87. (See page 20-26) This leads to the logical conclusion that it is not the word of God.

**THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE** contains the Book of Abraham, which is a proven fraud. The book of Abraham was supposed to have been translated by Joseph Smith from some papyrus that Joseph Smith had acquired. The problem is that the papyrus that Smith used to supposedly translate the book of Abraham and conveniently disappeared resurfaced. It was hoped by the church to be a very significant find. However it turned out to be a fraud. Rather than the text we see in the Pearl of Great Price it turned out to be an Egyptian book on the dead. For a detailed documented examination I would refer the reader to the book "Mormonism Shadow or Reality" By Sandra and Jerald Tanner pages 294-396 see resources at the back of this book to find it.

I will just give a couple of quotes here.

### Michael Dennis Rhodes, *BYU Studies*, Vol. 17, No. 3, p.274 .

(L.D.S Collectors Library 97 by Infobases.)

#### Conclusion

Although we can, with the help of other similar texts, reconstruct the text and figures of the Joseph Smith Hypocephalus with a fair degree of accuracy, we are still far from completely understanding the message which the Egyptians meant to convey by it. The text of the hypocephalus itself seems to be an address to Osiris, the god of the Dead, on behalf of the deceased, Sheshonk. As is the case with most Egyptian text (especially religious text), it is full of references to matters either obscure or unknown to us, although undoubtedly clear to the Egyptians. Needless to say, much work is still to be done before we can fully understand the import of the Joseph Smith Hypocephalus, and hypocephali in general. Unfortunately, there has been little or no work done on them since the end of the last century. I hope, however, that I have been able to contribute to our knowledge of this interesting group of texts.

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(Quote found in Mormonism Shadow or Reality pg.332)

Naomi Woodbury a Mormon who studied Egyptology had this to say which is found in “**A Journal of Mormon Thought**” Autumn 1968, page 8

“I myself studied Egyptian hieroglyphics at UCLA several years ago in hope of resolving some of the problems connected with the ‘Book of Abraham’ in Joseph Smith’s favor. Unfortunately, as soon as I learned the language well enough to use a dictionary I was forced to conclude that Joseph Smith’s translation was mistaken, however sincere it might have been. Facsimile No.2 in the Pearl of Great Price contained enough readable writing to convince me that it had purely Egyptian significance. This was a disappointment to me, but the discovery has given me more time to restructure my thinking about Joseph Smith and the Book of Abraham than most of your readers will yet have had. My faith in the Church rest on personal feelings, but it has to find a place in historical facts as well.

“After the appearances of the photographs of the papyri ... I made some attempts to translate the ‘Book of Breathing(s)’ text, with the help of.. a book, which included..a fairly good text of the Book of Breathings... It belongs to a kind of literature, which is alien to Christianity and our Church...

Let us not lose sight of what I think is the primary importance of this papyri find. It can free us from our dilemma about excluding Negroes from the Priesthood. Perhaps our Father in Heaven intended the papyri to come to light now for just this purpose.”

I find it interesting that Naomi here justifies the idea that a so-called prophet of God, here translating Gods written word, under God’s authority entirely mistakes an Egyptian book on the dead to in fact be the Book of Abraham. Then God only brings this mistake to anyone’s attention a hundred years or so later to allow the Negro to have the priesthood. That is a pretty major mistake for God and his prophet to make.

(Quote found in Mormonism Shadow or Reality? pg.321)

**Improvement Era, Vol.16, page 615**

More than fifty years ago the Egyptologist Samuel A.B. Mercer made this observation concerning Joseph Smith's work in the Egyptian language:

"All scholars came to the same conclusion, viz: That Smith could not at all correctly translate any Egyptian text, as his interpretation of the facsimiles shows. Any pupil of mine who would show such an absolute ignorance of Egyptian as Smith does, could not possibly expect to get more than zero in an examination in Egyptology.....

"I speak as a linguist when I say that if Smith knew Egyptian and correctly interpreted the facsimiles which you submitted to me, then I don't know a word of Egyptian, and Erman's Grammar is a fake, and all modern Egyptologist are deceived."

The next two pages is a letter I received from the Smithsonian Institute when I wrote them regarding the Book of Mormon.

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*Information from the* National Museum of Natural History  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

Your recent inquiry concerning the Smithsonian Institution's alleged use of the Book of Mormon as a scientific guide has been received in the Smithsonian's Department of Anthropology.

The Book of Mormon is a religious document and not a scientific guide. The Smithsonian Institution has never used it in archeological research and any information that you have received to the contrary is incorrect. Accurate information about the Smithsonian's position is contained in the enclosed "Statement Regarding the Book of Mormon," which was prepared to respond to the numerous inquiries that the Smithsonian receives on this topic.

Because the Smithsonian regards the unauthorized use of its name to disseminate inaccurate information as unlawful, we would appreciate your assistance in providing us with the names of any individuals who are misusing the Smithsonian's name. Please address any correspondence to:

Anthropology Outreach Office  
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### STATEMENT REGARDING THE BOOK OF MORMON

1. The Smithsonian Institution has never used the Book of Mormon in any way as a scientific guide. Smithsonian archeologists see no direct connection between the archeology of the New World and the subject matter of the book.
2. The physical type of the American Indian is basically Mongoloid, being most closely related to that of the peoples of eastern, central, and northeastern Asia. Archeological evidence indicates that the ancestors of the present Indians came into the New World - probably over a land bridge known to have existed in the Bering Strait region during the last Ice Age - in a continuing series of small migrations beginning from about 25,000 to 30,000 years ago.
3. Present evidence indicates that the first people to reach this continent from the East were the Norsemen who briefly visited the northeastern part of North America around A.D. 1000 and then settled in Greenland. There is nothing to show that they reached Mexico or Central America.
4. One of the main lines of evidence supporting the scientific finding that contacts with Old World civilizations if indeed they occurred at all, were of very little significance for the development of American Indian civilizations, is the fact that none of the principal Old World domesticated food plants or animals (except the dog) occurred in the New World in pre-Columbian times. American Indians had no wheat, barley, oats, millet, rice, cattle, pigs, chickens, horses, donkeys, camels before 1492. (Camels and horses were in the Americas, along with the bison, mammoth, and mastodon, but all these animals became extinct around 10,000 B.C. at the time when the early big game hunters spread across the Americas.)
5. Iron, steel, glass, and silk were not used in the New World before 1492 (except for occasional use of unsmelted meteoric iron). Native copper was worked in various locations in pre-Columbian times, but true metallurgy was limited to southern Mexico and the Andean region, where its occurrence in late prehistoric times involved gold, silver, copper, and their alloys, but not iron.
6. There is a possibility that the spread of cultural traits across the Pacific to Mesoamerica and the northwestern coast of South America began several hundred years before the Christian era. However, any such inter-hemispheric contacts appear to have been the results of accidental voyages originating in eastern and southern Asia. It is by no means certain that even such contacts occurred; certainly there were no contacts with the ancient Egyptians, Hebrews, or other peoples of Western Asia and the Near East.
7. No reputable Egyptologist or other specialist on Old World archeology, and no expert on New World prehistory, has discovered or confirmed any relationship between archeological remains in Mexico and archeological remains in Egypt.
8. Reports of findings of ancient Egyptian, Hebrew, and other Old World writings in the New World in pre-Columbian contexts have frequently appeared in newspapers, magazines, and sensational books. None of these claims has stood up to examination by reputable scholars. No inscriptions using Old World forms of writing have been shown to have occurred in any part of the Americas before 1492 except for a few Norse rune stones which have been found in Greenland.

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### **THE CHURCH DID NOT NEED TO BE RESTORED; IT NEVER LEFT**

According to Mormonism Christ's church was non-existent soon after the apostles and was restored upon the earth in the 1800's through Joseph Smith. Following are some quote from L.D.S sources.

#### **Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith 2:17-19**

17 It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me **I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other--This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!**

18 **My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join.** No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right **(for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong)--and which I should join.**

19 **I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong;** and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: "they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof."

Here in L.D.S scripture we find that Joseph Smith declared that he should not join any of the churches in his day because they were all wrong and their creeds were an abomination to the Lord.

#### **D&C 1:29-30**

29 And after having received the record of the Nephites, yea, even my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., might have power to translate through the mercy of God, by the power of God, the Book of Mormon.

30 And also those to whom these commandments were given, might have power to lay the foundation of this church, and to bring it forth out of obscurity and out of darkness, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I, the Lord, am well pleased, speaking unto the church collectively and not individually--

Here in this L.D.S scripture we learn that Joseph Smith was to be used lay the foundation of the Lord's church.

Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine,p.43 APOSTASY

This universal apostasy began in the days of the ancient apostles themselves

According to this Mormon Apostle this apostasy where the church disappeared from the face of the earth began in the first century.

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### Encyclopedia of Mormonism, Vol.4,TRUE AND LIVING CHURCH

However, as Christ and his apostles had prophesied, the "true" Church they established was lost from the earth through apostasy (JS—M 1:7-9, 22; 2 Thes. 2:3). Therefore there was a need for a restoration. Guided by angelic messengers and by revelation from God, Joseph Smith and his successors have reestablished Christ's Church in these "latter days." Members bear testimony that the Church is true because they believe it is the restored Church of Christ, with the same authority, teachings, organization, and spirit found in the Church that the Savior originally established.

The Bible does tell us of a falling away in the last days. It does not however declare that Christ' church would disappear all together from the face of the earth.

**Isa 9:6-7** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

What is his government? It is his rule or dominion that will increase and there will be no end. God rules over and has dominion over his church. God says there will be no end to this government from the time of Christ is born till forevermore. He does not say there will be a break in it for almost 2,000 years and then I will restore it through Joseph Smith.

**Eph 3:21** to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

(Paul declares here to God be the glory in the church and in Jesus forever.)

**Luke 1:32-33** "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end."

**1 Cor 4:20** For the kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power.

(Here an angel declares Jesus will reign over the house of Jacob forever and his kingdom would have no end. Paul declares that the kingdom of God consist of power. Are we to believe that the Lord had no power upon the earth for almost 2000 years and there was a multiple generation gap of Jesus' reign over the house of Jacob?)

**Matt 16:18** "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.

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The Rock is Christ

**1 Cor 10:4** and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

Here Christ church is even stronger than the gates of Hell. Nothing or no one can break it not even for a short time. God the Father, Jesus in the flesh, an Angel and Paul all indicated there would be no end to Christ's church. They said nothing about there being a break in it. So why restore something that is not gone? All throughout the judgment in the book of Isaiah God leaves a remnant, a few people. In Genesis chapters 6-9 when God flooded the world he saved Noah and his family. When God wiped out Sodom & Gomorra He spared Lot and his daughters (Gen.chapter 18-19). Elijah thought he was the only one left who served God yet God said he reserved 7,000 others (1 Kings 19:13-18) God has always been capable of keeping his followers from being wiped out and He promised to do so.

Then comes along Joseph Smith who says the church is gone and says God gave him a whole new revelation. Joseph then builds a church that does not believe the doctrines found in the Bible.

### **GOD'S FOREKNOWLEDGE NOT PRE-EXISTENCE**

The Mormon Church teaches that all people were first born in the spirit world through heavenly parents prior to being born on this earth. Following is a couple of L.D.S sources that show this belief.

### **Encyclopedia of Mormonism, Vol.3, PRE-EXISTENCE**

[The term "pre-existence," or more accurately, "premortal existence," refers to a period of individual conscious and accountable life before birth into mortality on this earth. It is Latter-day Saint doctrine that living things existed as individual spirit beings and possessed varying degrees of intelligence in an active, conscious spirit state before mortal birth and that the spirit continues to live and function in the mortal body. The revelations teach that premortal spirit bodies have general resemblance to their physical counterparts.

### **Joseph Fielding Smith, Answers to Gospel Questions, Vol.1, p.7**

In an article published in The Improvement Era<sup>7</sup> President Joseph F. Smith and his counselors John B. Winder and Anthon H. Lund said the following in relation to Adam:

Adam; our progenitor; the first man, was like Christ, a pre-existent spirit, and like Christ he took upon him an appropriate body, the body of a man, a "living soul." The doctrine of the pre-existence--revealed so plainly, particularly in latter days--pours a wonderful flood of light upon the otherwise mysterious problem of man's origin. It shows that a man, as a spirit, was begotten and born of heavenly parents, and reared to maturity in the eternal mansions of the Father, prior to coming upon the earth in a temporal body to undergo experience in mortality. It teaches that all men existed in the spirit before any man existed in the flesh, and that all who have inhabited the earth since Adam have taken bodies and become souls in like manner.

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The Bible tells us that God has always existed. In the Bible we can find that angels are created yet pre-date mankind. We also find that God has knowledge of events before they take place. Furthermore God knows details of people before they are even born. We can show from the Bible that God has perfect detailed knowledge of the future. Nowhere does the Bible teach that mortal man has existed in any other state prior to being conceived by our mortal parents here on this earth. In fact the Bible indicates that our spirit was formed within our body while we were in our mother's womb; before this we did not exist. Consider the following passages from the bible.

**Rom 4:17** (as it is written, "A father of many nations have I made you") in the sight of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.

**Ps 139:16** Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Thy book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me when as yet there was not one of them.

**Isa 44:24** Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb. "I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens by myself, and spreading out the earth all alone,

**Zech 12:1** The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel. Thus declares the LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him.

We can glean the following from the previously quoted passages in the Bible.

- (1) That which does not exist as we see in Rom.4:17 is a pretty strong statement and the context is people. It does not even give room for the belief of existing in some other form.
- (2) It seems the spirit is created in the womb Isa 44:24 & Zech.12:1. The body of man would have to exist before the spirit, if God "forms the spirit of man within him".
- (3) In Psalm 139:16 we see that man did not have a body beforehand. (I say that because a body is not an "unformed substance".) In this same Psalm we see he did not yet have any days.
- (4) We are formed in the womb Is.44:24 and our spirit is formed within the body Zech 12:1. Before that we did not exist Rom.4:17.

God has always been able to see the past, present and the future. We can sometimes see in scripture that God has knowledge of people's future. For example we are told in Isaiah 44:28-45:1 about Cyrus. This is a prophecy that came true although Cyrus was not yet born. This was fulfilled about 160 years later. Because God knew Cyrus by name does not mean he had a pre-existence. It simply means God knows the future.

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### PRIESTHOOD

To the Mormon the matter of priesthood authority is very important. It is believed that without the priesthood authority certain acts such as baptism are meaningless. They claim that the Aaronic and Melchizedek priesthood were restored and exist only within the Mormon Church. Furthermore they claim that the same organization that existed in the primitive Church prevails now in the L.D.S church. The problem is that that the Mormon Church is not patterned after the early church as we see in the New Testament. Added to this according to the Bible the Aaronic priesthood after the order of Aaron properly referred to as the Levitical priesthood became obsolete. This is due to the complete fulfillment of the priesthood by Jesus Christ dying on the cross and being our only mediator with God the Father. Furthermore the Melchizedek priesthood is only stated to be in existence now in Jesus Christ. Jesus is said to hold this office forever. Therefore we have no need for this priesthood to be passed to a successor since Jesus lives forever.

Following are some references from the Mormons showing their view of the priesthood.

#### **Encyclopedia of Mormonism, Vol.3, PRIESTHOOD**

The word "priesthood" has several meanings for Latter-day Saints:

1. Priesthood is power, the power of God, a vital source of eternal strength and energy delegated to men to act in all things for the well-being of mankind, both in the world and out of it (DS 3:80; Romney, p. 43).
2. Priesthood is authority, the exclusive right to act in the name of God as his authorized agents and to perform ordinances for the purpose of opening certain spiritual blessings to all individuals.
3. Priesthood is the right and responsibility to preside within the organizational structure of the Church, but only in a manner consistent with the agency of others.
4. Sometimes the word priesthood is used to refer to the men of the Church in general (as in "the priesthood will meet in the chapel").

#### **The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, p.494**

Priesthood is only in the restored Church. There is no priesthood anywhere else today than in this restored Church. There is priestcraft, but no priesthood

**Mormon Doctrine, by Bruce McConkie p.140** "the same organization that existed in the primitive Church prevails now. (Sixth Article of Faith.)"

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### **Mormon missionary handbook, A Uniform System For Teaching Investigators, pg.15.**

"Elder: Why is the Priesthood so important?"

"Brown: Because a man must have it to do those things.

"Elder: He certainly must. Suppose a priest or minister baptizes without the priesthood, what does that mean in the sight of the Lord?"

"Brown: It doesn't mean anything.

"Elder: Why is that?"

"Brown: Because he would lack the necessary authority.

"Elder: Right. So even though a minister might be sincere, unless he has the priesthood, will the Lord recognize a baptism performed by him?"

" Brown: No.

In the Bible Jesus once rebuked John for having a belief similar to this.

**Luke 9:49-50** And John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name; and we tried to hinder him because he does not follow along with us." But Jesus said to him, "Do not hinder him; for he who is not against you is for you."

As previously stated the Mormon Church is not patterned after the early church in the New Testament. For example the L.D.S Church is led by First Presidency, The Bible says nothing about a First Presidency. Even if we accept that there should today be 12 Apostles this still presents the problem that the L.D.S Church has 3 men in addition to the Council of the 12. How is this patterned after the primitive church?

In the L.D.S Church 12 year old boys are ordained Deacons. But in the Bible we find.

**1 Tim 3:12** *Let deacons be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households.*

Ironically even the Mormons own scripture would suggest that Deacons should be older than 12 years of age.

**D&C 84:111** *And behold, the high priests should travel, and also the elders, and also the lesser priests; but the deacons and teachers should be appointed to watch over the church, to be standing ministers unto the church.*

L.D.S scripture claims that an Elder is an office in the Melchizedek Priesthood. Although the Melchizedek priesthood is never associated with the office of an elder in the bible.

**Doctrine & Covenants 107:7** " The office of an Elder comes under the priesthood of Melchizedek."

It is interesting that although the Mormons claim that the priesthood is absolutely necessary none of the leaders in Mormon Church had it in the beginning.

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The following is a statement by Joseph Smith concerning a conference held in June, 1831, **History of the Church, Vol.1, Ch.15, p.175** "the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood was manifested and conferred for the first time upon several of the Elders."

This is confirmed by John Whitmer. He was the Church Historian.

**John Whitmer Book of John Whitmer, typescript, BYU-A, p.8-9**

June 3, 1831, a general conference was called, and a blessing promised, if the elders were faithful, and humble before him. Therefore, the elders assembled from the East and the West, from the North and the South. And also many members. Conference was opened by prayer and exhortation by Joseph Smith, Jr., the Revelator. After the business of the Church was attended to according to the covenants. **The Lord made manifest to Joseph that it was necessary that such of the elders as were considered worthy, should be ordained to the High Priesthood**

The spirit of the Lord fell upon Joseph in an unusual manner. And prophesied that John the Revelator was then among the ten tribes of Israel who had been led away by Salmanasar King of Israel [should be Assyria], to prepare them for their return, from their long dispersion, to again possess the land of their fathers. He prophesied many more things that I have not written. After he had prophesied he laid his hands upon Lyman Wight [and ordained him] to the High Priesthood after the Holy Order of God. And the spirit fell upon Lyman, and he prophesied, concerning the coming of Christ, he said that there were some in the congregation that should live until the Savior should descend from heaven, with a shout, with all the holy angels with him.

If the Melchizedek priesthood is really necessary it is certainly odd that the Elders were able to function from the organization of the church until June 1831 without it.

The historian B.H Roberts made the following admission concerning the restoration of the Melchizedek priesthood.

**B.H. Roberts, The Seventy's Course in Theology, Second Year, p.218**

The Line of the Restoration of the Melchizedek Priesthood: The promise to confer upon Joseph and Oliver the Melchizedek Priesthood was fulfilled; but as there is no definite account of the event in the history of the Prophet Joseph, or, for matter of that, in any of our annuals, the evidences of the fact of their ordination to the higher or Melchizedek priesthood promised them by John the Baptist, are presented now, together with a consideration of the place where, and the time when, the great event occurred.

One should keep in mind that the Melchizedek Priesthood could only be passed on by someone who had it. Only Jesus and Melchizedek are ever said to have had it in the Bible. Neither Jesus, nor Melchizedek are said to have been the ones to restore it to the L.D.S Church.

Journal of Discourses, Vol.10, p.371-372 Heber C. Kimball, November 29, 1864

"Joseph was a kind-hearted, obedient, good boy. He was fourteen years of age the third day of last April, and was an excellent scholar;..... Joseph was never cross, he was always pleasant to all persons. Eight years ago he came near dying; I was impressed to ordain him a High Priest. I ordained him, and I do know that had a saving effect upon the boy"

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Notice that we are told he is 14 years old. 8 years before this he ordained a High Priest. That means this boy Joseph was ordained a High Priest at 6 years old. This is not patterned after the primitive church as claimed in McConkie's book Mormon Doctrine and the 6<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith.

The fact that the structure is not patterned after the primitive church is only the beginning of the problems. Let's look at what the Bible says in Hebrews Chapters 7-10. It says the Levitical priesthood which is after the order of Aaron ended. Our High Priest after the order Melchizedek is Jesus Christ and nobody else has this priesthood. The only other priesthood mentioned in the Bible after the priesthood ended is called a holy or royal priesthood. This is found in 1 Peter 1:23-2:9 in the context born again believers have this priesthood.

First I will start with Hebrews and Genesis. What ended here in the book of Hebrews is the Levitical Priesthood after the order of Aaron. There is nothing called the Aaronic priesthood in the Bible. In fact the word Aaronic is not in the Bible. The word Melchizedek or Melchisedec as in the KJV is only found in Gen.14:18, Ps.110:4 and the book of Hebrews 5:6&10, 6:20, 7:1,10,11,15,17. The one in Psalm is a prophetically speaking concerning Jesus. In Genesis we have an actual person called Melchizedek.

Nothing is said about Melchizedek's origin in Genesis. We have no mention of his Mom or Dad. This is strange because Genesis is a book of families. When we see a man mentioned who is important in the genealogical line (as this man Melchizedek seems to be) his Dad and Mom are mentioned "he is the son of so and so" or these are the generations of so and so". But we do not have the generations of Melchizedek. The writer of Hebrews makes it clear that the reason there is no record of Melchizedek's family line is because the priesthood of Jesus Christ in its inception is after the order of Melchizedek.

The priesthood of Jesus is after the order of Melchizedek in the practical sense as Jesus is our mediator Heb.9:15. Just as the priest in the Old Testament acted as a mediator by entered the holy of hollies to offer sacrifice for the peoples sins. Jesus offered himself as the sacrifice for our sins and is the mediator between Christians and the Father. Christ in his priesthood does perpetually what was done in the Levitical priesthood after the order of Aaron. In his person Jesus had no beginning or ending of days Jn.1:1, Micah 5:2, Rev. 1:7-8, 1:17-18, 21:6, 22:13-16. Jesus has always existed.

In the person Melchizedek we have a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus had no beginning or ending of days and neither did Melchizedek.

Heb 7:1-3 (1)For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, (2) to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils was first of all, by the translation of his name king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.(3) Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he abides a priest perpetually.

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We are told here Melchizedek is a priest perpetually. The same is true of Jesus Heb 7:17 *For it is witnessed of Him "Thou art a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."* Another contrast is Melchizedek is king of peace Heb.7:2. Jesus is called prince of peace. Melchizedek was called a great man Heb.7:4, Jesus certainly fits this description also. These 2 Melchizedek who seems to be a picture of Christ and Jesus are the only ones in the Bible to hold the Melchizedek priesthood.

Why do you suppose Melchizedek brought forth bread and wine in Gen. 14:18?

Gen 14:18-20 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tenth of all.

I believe it is because as it says in 1 Cor 11:26 *"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."* The Sacrament is taken today in symbolism of the Lord's death. It stands to reason that it was taken then as a symbolic gesture of what was to come. (Christ death for all sins) The Lord Jesus is the great High Priest for the world today. The Lord Jesus is after the order of Melchizedek not after the order of Aaron. The Levitical priesthood after the order of Aaron was for Israel and the sacrifices were done away with. There is no more need for sacrifice because the blood of Jesus covers all sin 1 John 1:7.

There are some verses I want to comment on. I feel that they are important. You should read Hebrews chapters 7-10 several times to become familiar with the context. It tells us Jesus Christ is our High Priest and the Levitical Priesthood or the Aaronic Priesthood, as the L.D.S would call it ended. There is no more need for it because Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice and he takes its place as our mediator. The writer of Hebrews makes a comparison and contrast of the priesthood of Melchizedek and the priesthood after the order of Aaron.

The text is from the New American Standard Version and my commentary concerning the text is in the boxes.

### HEBREWS CHAPTER 7

- 1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,
- 2 to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils was first of all, by the translation of his name king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.
- 3 Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he abides a priest perpetually.
- 4 Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils.
- 5 And those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest's office have commandment in the Law to collect a tenth from the people, that is, from their brethren, although these are descended from Abraham.

**Verse 4** Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek. He recognized that Melchizedek was above him and that he was the priest of the most high God.

**Verse 5** The sons of Levi who were descended from Abraham collected tithes from their brethren. But Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek. This shows us that positional Melchizedek was superior to Aaron and his family

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- 6 But the one whose genealogy is not traced from them collected a tenth from Abraham, and blessed the one who had the promises.
- 7 But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater.
- 8 And in this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one receives them of whom it is witnessed that he lives on.
- 9 And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes,
- 10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.
- 11 Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?
- 12 For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also.

**Verse 8** "in this case" refers to the Levitical priest, "in that case" refers to Melchizedek and his priesthood.  
(here & there in KJV)

**Verse 11** indicates to us that the Levitical or Aaronic priesthood as L.D.S would say, was incomplete. (It never brought perfection, complete communion with God. It never gave redemption and acceptance before God to the people. Therefore we need Christ.)

**Verse 12** The change in law. We are not under Mosaic law. The Mosaic law and the Levitical or Aaronic priesthood go together. They offered blood sacrifices we do not Christ is our Passover 1 Cor.5:7 his sacrifice is what Christians claim for atonement for sins.

- 13 For the one concerning whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar.
- 14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests.
- 15 And this is clearer still, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek,
- 16 who has become such not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life.
- 17 For it is witnessed of Him "Thou art a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."
- 18 For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness
- 19 (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.
- 20 And inasmuch as it was not without an oath
- 21 (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but He with an oath through the One who said to Him, "The Lord has sworn And will not change His mind, 'Thou art a priest forever'");
- 22 so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

**Verses 13-14** Jesus came from the tribe of Judah therefore he could never have been a priest here on earth. Only certain Levites could hold the Levitical or Aaronic priesthood in the Old Testament. The priesthood however was changed and Christ is after the order of Melchizedek.

**Verse 15** This priest to rise in the order of Melchizedek is a fulfillment of the prophecy in P.110:4

**Verse 16&17** Christ became a priest according to the order of Melchizedek. Since he rose from the dead he has endless life.

**Verse 18** The Levitical system was faulty. It never gave mankind what he needed. Its weakness was man himself as we see in verse 28

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- 23 And the former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers, because they were prevented by death from continuing,
- 24 but He, on the other hand, because He abides forever, holds His priesthood permanently.
- 25 Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- 26 For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;
- 27 who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.
- 28 For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever.

**Verse 23** In other words the men in Levitical or Aaronic priesthood would die.

**Verse 24** Jesus is our High Priest now and he will never die. So his priesthood last forever.

### HEBREWS CHAPTER 8

- 1 Now the main point in what has been said is this we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,
- 2 a minister in the sanctuary, and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.
- 3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; hence it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer.
- 4 Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law;

**Verse 1-3** The main point in what has been said is a priest must have something to offer. Jesus sacrificed himself once for all time. In verse 2 we see man made a tabernacle built by hands of man. This tabernacle heaven was not made by man.

- 5 who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain."
- 6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.
- 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.
- 8 For finding fault with them, He says, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, when I will effect a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;
- 9 Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers On the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not continue in My covenant, and I did not care for them, says the Lord.
- 10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, and I will write them upon their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

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**Verse 6** Christ mediates in a much better covenant. (Christ blood is at the base of this new covenant)

**Verse 7** If the first covenant (the Levitical system or Aaronic Priesthood) had been faultless there would be no need for the new covenant.

**Verse 8** God found fault with this system and declared there would come a time he would establish a new and better covenant.

**Verse 10** The new covenant is not the Mosaic law but the law is found in the hearts and minds of his people.

11 "And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, and everyone his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest of them.

12 "For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

13 When He said, "A new covenant " He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

**Verse 11-12** He will remember their sins no more. Why? because Christ paid for them on the cross. verse 11 says "Know the Lord" to even come to the Lord then the people had to go through the priest to God. Man now goes straight through Jesus our High Priest who made a sacrifice in our behalf that last forever. (of course you must accept this sacrifice Jn.3:16-17)

**Verse 13** Notice the word obsolete. What is obsolete? The context in chapter 7-8 was what you call the Aaronic priesthood this is obsolete. The Levitical system that required us to go through the priest or priesthood to come to God is obsolete. The KJV on this verse reads "In that he saith A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away. The Aaronic priesthood decayed, waxed old and vanished away. It is now obsolete.

## HEBREWS CHAPTER 9

1 Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.

2 For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place.

3 And behind the second veil, there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies,

4 having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant.

5 And above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

6 Now when these things have been thus prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, performing the divine worship,

7 but into the second only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.

8 The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed, while the outer tabernacle is still standing,

9 which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience,

10 since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.

11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;

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12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh,

14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

**Chapter 9 Verses 1-10** explain the earthly priesthood.

**Verses 11-14** explains Christ priesthood. Notice verse 12, " once for all, having obtained eternal redemption."

15 And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

16 For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it.

17 For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.

18 Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood.

19 For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,

20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you."

21 And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood.

22 And according to the Law, one may almost say all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

23 Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

25 nor was it that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood not his own.

26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

**Verse 15** Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant.

27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

### HEBREWS CHAPTER 10

1 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near.

2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?

3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year.

4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

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- 5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, but a body Thou hast prepared for me;
- 6 In whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast taken no pleasure.
- 7 "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (in the roll of the book it is written of me) to do Thy will, O God.'"
- 8 After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast not desired, nor hast Thou taken pleasure in them (which are offered according to the Law),
- 9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Thy will." He takes away the first in order to establish the second.
- 10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
- 11 And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;
- 12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,
- 13 waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet.
- 14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.
- 15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,
- 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, and upon their mind I will write them," He then says
- 17 "And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."
- 18 Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.
- 19 Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,
- 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,
- 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
- 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
- 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;
- 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,
- 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.
- 26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,
- 27 but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.
- 28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

**Verses 16-18** Notice the New Covenant is not being under the law of the Old Testament. This is different.

- 29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?
- 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people."
- 31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
- 32 But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,
- 33 partly, by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.

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34 For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one.

35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

37 For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay.

38 But My righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

**END OF CHAPTER**

So here is what we have, the Aaronic priesthood and the Mosaic Law ended. They were replaced because they were not complete. Man had to go through a priest to God and the priest had to continually offer sacrifices which were not complete or sufficient. Christ offered himself once for all time and his priesthood is after the order of the Melchidezek which is everlasting. Jesus is our High Priest forever.

The Levitical or Aaronic priesthood passed away. Jesus Christ who still is our High Priest took its place when he offered his sacrifice in our behalf once and for all time.

**What need is there to restore then what God done away with?**

The Priesthood's purpose was for a way in which man could come to God. For this there had to be a blood offering Hebrews 9:22. Well Christ done this once for all time. I would like to remind you that only the Levites could hold the priesthood. (All Mormons are not Levites)

Paul mentions the New Covenant in 2 Cor 3:6 "who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life".

The new covenant is the message of the grace in Christ.

Matt 26:28 "for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins."

The letter kills but the spirit gives life. The letter stands for the whole Mosaic law. It kills because in and of its self it could not give life.

Acts 13:39 "and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses."

The law was to define sin and make man conscious of it, this made man legally guilty.

Gal 3:21-25 Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. But the Scripture has shut up all men under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

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1 Tim 1:9 realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers

The spirit by contrast gives life to believers. Man cannot live the law no matter how hard he tries. This is why we need to rely on the blood of Christ and his grace.

The veil that tore in the temple at the time of Christ death Mat. 27:51 did separate the holy of holies from the rest of the temple EX.26:36-37, Heb.9:3.

This veil was ripped from top to bottom. This signified that this new and living way was now open for man to

come to God. Heb.10:20 & Eph.2:11-12. This is another good example of the Aaronic priesthood ending. Realizing that the purpose of the priesthood was through sacrifices in the temple to have a mediator, a High Priest by which we could come to God. What need would there be to restore this?

### Jesus said

I am the true vine

I am the vine you are the branches John 15:1-5

I am the way the truth and the life.....John 14:6

I am the resurrection and the life.....John 11:25

I am the good shepherd.....John 10:11-14

I am the bread of life.....John 6:35-48

I am the light of the world.....John 8:12

I am the door.....John 10:7-9

John 3:16 It seems to me that Jesus is the way to eternal life with God not a church, priesthood, baptism or anything else. Jesus said he "I am the way" he did not say some church is the way.

Col 2:8-10 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority

Since I am complete in Christ why do I need anything else? There are two more things I mention. It is maintained that Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery received the Aaronic priesthood from John the Baptist on May 15, 1829. The problem I see with this is I do not see where John the Baptist ever had the priesthood in scripture. No where do you see him doing any temple duties or anything of a priest.

Also I want to point out that in Hebrews 7:24 the word "permanently" in the NAS and "unchangeable" in the KJV.

Heb 7:24 but He, on the other hand, because He abides forever, holds His priesthood permanently.

This word from the Greek carries a note of finality. Strong's definition of Greek words says the following: 531 aparabatos (ap-ar-ab'-at-os); from 1 (as a negative particle) and a derivative of 3845; not passing away, i.e. **untransferable** (perpetual): KJV unchangeable.

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Thayer's definition of Greek words says the following: 531 aparabatos-

- 1) unviolated, not to be violated, inviolable
- 2) unchangeable and therefore **not liable to pass to a successor**

My question is if this Melchizedek priesthood is untransferable and not liable to pass to a successor, how could the L.D.S church have it?

Lets not forget the only place you will find the word "priesthood" in the New Testament is Hebrews 7:5,11,12,14,24 & 1 Peter 2:5,9. I also want to point out that whenever you see the word "ordained" in the New Testament it does not say anybody was ordained to the priesthood. They were ordained to preach or witness etc. In Hebrews 8:3 it mentions priesthood with it but it is talking about the High Priest of the Old Testament. In Acts 14:23 it says they were ordained Elders but this is not Priesthood it is a position of leadership in the church. No where in the New Testament do you see Elders, Bishops or Deacons receiving the priesthood by the laying on of hands. This is a Mormon concept it does not come from the Bible.

In 1 Peter 2:5 & 9 we find a holy or a royal priesthood. Not a Aaronic or Melchizedek priesthood.

1 Pet 2:5 "you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

How are we living stones?

1 Pet 1:23 "for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God."

Notice in the context here this is who is being talked to. These people who are born again are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood. You will recall that after Peters confession Matt 16:16 "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Then Jesus said to him "you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church" The name Peter means Rock. Jesus was saying to him in effect, you are going to be a little stone a pebble, but on this foundation stone (Christ 1Cor.3:11& 10:4) I am going to build my church. Jesus Christ is the Corner stone of the foundation 1 Peter 2:6. I believe Peter understood Jesus in this way because he (Peter) said "you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house" When you are born again you become a child of God and you become part of this spiritual house. Born again believers are the church and are called the body of Christ. Jesus told Nicodemus "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3 These people that Peter was talking to in 1 Peter where the holy and royal priesthood are mentioned are born again. The only sense in which anyone will have a holy or royal priesthood is to be born again.

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There are two verses in the Old Testament that may still confuse some.

Num 25:11-13 (KJV) Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

Exod 40:15 (KJV) And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office: for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.

The question is how could they have had "an everlasting priesthood" ,if in fact the priesthood came to an end?

Phinehas was Aaron's grandson and because the Lord was pleased with him the Levitical priesthood was channeled through him. As you are already well aware the Levitical priesthood ends in the book of Hebrews. So this leaves the question how can it be an everlasting priesthood and then come to an end?

The answer lies within the meaning and use of the Hebrew word used here in Ex.40:15 & Num. 25:13. More often than not the word "everlasting" is used in the way that we would expect. That it is something that continues forever, but this is not always the case. First let us look at 4 different sources as to the meaning of this Hebrew word.

Then we will look at some bible verses where this same Hebrew word is used. You can verify this by using your Strong's Concordance.

### (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

#### EVER, EVERLASTING

`olam ^5769^, "eternity; remotest time; perpetuity." This word has cognates in Ugaritic, Moabite, Phoenician, Aramaic, Arabic, and Akkadian. It appears about 440 times in biblical Hebrew and in all periods.

First, in a few passages the word means "eternity" in the sense of not being limited to the present. Thus, in <Eccl. 3:11> we read that God had bound man to time and given him the capacity to live "above time" (i. e., to remember yesterday, plan for tomorrow, and consider abstract principles); yet He has not given him divine knowledge: "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end." .....

.....**the word is used hyperbolically meaning "for a long time"**: "I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, and refrained myself..." This word may include all the time between the ancient beginning and the present:

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### Brown-Driver-Briggs'-Defenition

**5769** `owlam or `olam-

long duration, antiquity, futurity, forever, ever, everlasting, evermore, perpetual, old, ancient, world

a) ancient time, long time (used of the past)

b) (used of the future)

1) forever, always

2) continuous existence, perpetual

3) everlasting, indefinite or unending future, eternity

### Strong's Definition

**5769** `owlam (o-lawm');

or `olam (o-lawm'); from 5956; properly, concealed, i.e. the vanishing point; generally, time out of mind (past or future), i.e. (practically) eternity; frequently, adverbial (especially with prepositional prefix) always:

KJV-- alway (-s), ancient (time), any more, continuance, eternal, (for, [n-]) ever (-lasting, -more, of old), lasting, long (time), (of) old (time), perpetual, at any time, (beginning of the) world (+without end). Compare 5331, 5703.

### (from International Standard Bible Encylopaedia, Electronic Database)

#### EVERLASTING

(ev-er-last'-ing) (olam, `adh; aidios, aionios): "Everlasting," in strictness, is that which endures forever; either that which has no beginning and will have no end (in which sense it is applicable to God only), or that which, having a beginning, will have no end, but henceforth will exist forever (thus of beings created for immortality; see IMMORTALITY). Figuratively also the term is applied to objects of impressive stability and long duration, as mountains, hills (e.g. <Gen 49:26; Hab 3:6>).

Looking at these 4 sources of this Hebrew word we can see that the word "everlasting" can and often does mean literally forever. However this is not always the case in every instance. So next look at the Bible to see where this same Hebrew word is used in a way that is not literally forever. You can use you Strong's Concordance for verification that these instances are indeed the same Hebrew word.

In the next 2 verses we read of the everlasting hills using the same Hebrew word.

Gen 49:26 (KJV) The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.

Hab 3:6 (KJV) He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting.

Are the hills going to literally last forever? According to Peter they will come to an end.

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2 Pet 3:10 (KJV) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

So what we have here is the same Hebrew word in two instances being used to describe an “everlasting” priesthood. Then this same Hebrew word is used to describe “everlasting” hills or mountains. The New Testament tells us the Priesthood came to an end and it also tells us the mountains will come to an end. The Hebrew word by definition can be used for eternity or an extended period of time. The priesthood and the mountains are examples where the Hebrew word describes an extended period of time.

In Summary Phinehas was Aaron's grandson and because the Lord was pleased with him the Levitical priesthood was channeled through him. In this case the word "everlasting" indicated a long period of time. This was actually a few thousand years, but it did come to an end in the book of Hebrews when Jesus paid the ultimate and final sacrifice for our sins. After the Levitical Priesthood ended all we have is the Melchizedek priesthood which only Jesus Christ holds and that which is referred to as a holy priesthood or a royal priesthood which when you examine the context belongs to born again believers.

### TOPIC MARRIAGE FOR ETERNITY & POLYGAMY

The following is a statement by Brigham Young,  
August 19, 1866

Journal of Discourses, Vol.11, p.268 - p.269,

"The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy."

Some people in the Old Testament did have more than one wife, but it was never condoned by God. It was certainly never commanded by God. The leaders in the Mormon Church ignored the New Testament on this all together.

1 Tim 3:2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

1 Tim 3:12 Let deacons be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households.

Titus 1:5-7 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man be above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,

Joseph Smith used the polygamous practices of David and Solomon as justification for polygamy. But this is a very direct contradiction to the teachings of the Book of Mormon. Then the Book of Mormon contradicts the Doctrine & Covenants.

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Jacob 2:23-24 But the word of God burdens me because of your grosser crimes. For behold, thus saith the Lord: This people begin to wax in iniquity; they understand not the scriptures, for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son.

24 Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord.

D&C 132:1 Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servant Joseph, that inasmuch as you have inquired of my hand to know and understand wherein I, the Lord, justified my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as also Moses, David and Solomon, my servants, as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and concubines--

D&C 132:39 David's wives and concubines were given unto him of me, by the hand of Nathan, my servant, and others of the prophets who had the keys of this power; and in none of these things did he sin against me save in the case of Uriah and his wife; and, therefore he hath fallen from his exaltation, and received his portion; and he shall not inherit them out of the world, for I gave them unto another, saith the Lord

So we have read that Brigham Young said that you have to practice polygamy to become a God. The Bible says a Church leader should only have one wife. Then the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants contradict each other on the same subject!

Now if you have to be married in the L.D.S temple to reach exaltation. Why then did Jesus say the following?

Matt 22:30 "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

Matt 19:12 "For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are also eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept this, let him accept it."

I would think Jesus would want me to reach exaltation. But by his statement I would say that he is not concerned about this or it is not true that I must be married in the L.D.S temple to reach exaltation. Or there is no exaltation.

Paul also said things that would seem to conflict with this Mormon concept.

1 Cor 7:8 But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I.

The reason why Paul said it was good to be single is explained later in this chapter.

1 Cor 7:32-33 But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife,

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Now I know that there is nothing wrong with being married as Paul also said in this chapter. This does seem to conflict with the idea that I must be married in the L.D.S temple to reach exaltation. Otherwise Paul would not say that it was good to be single so that I could focus more on the Lord.

I know the L.D.S church no longer practices polygamy. The only reason why I bring it up is because stuff like this did come from a man who claimed to be a prophet of God. The reason why I point out that the Book of Mormon contradicts the Doctrine and Covenants in major error is because they too are regarded as the word of God to L.D.S. The fact is they cannot stand up to or compare to the bible. The Doctrine and Covenants contradicts the Bible.

D&C 132:65 Therefore, it shall be lawful in me, if she receive not this law, for him to receive all things whatsoever I, the Lord his God, will give unto him, because she did not believe and administer unto him according to my word; and she then becomes the transgressor; and he is exempt from the law of Sarah, who administered unto Abraham according to the law when I commanded Abraham to take Hagar to wife.

The Bible says nothing about God commanding Abraham to take Hagar to wife. Rather we are told Abram listened to Sarai

Gen 16:2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

In verse 5 it is clear that Abram and Sarai sinned in this matter.

Gen 16:5 And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done me be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms; but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight. May the LORD judge between you and me."

Although some of the kings in the Old Testament had many wives the Bible itself condemned this practice.

Deut 17:17 "Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself.

There is no mention of any of the Apostles practicing polygamy in fact 1 Timothy 3:2-12 & Titus 1:5-6 indicates that they should only have one wife. Just because some people are recorded as practicing it in the Old Testament does not mean that it is right in the sight of God. When a book such as the Doctrine and Covenants or the Book of Mormon contradict the Bible. Rest assured it is not the Bible that is wrong.

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Journal of Discourses, Vol.11, p.127 - p.128,  
Brigham Young, June 18, 1865

The founders of that ancient empire were robbers and women stealers, and made laws favoring monogamy in consequence of the scarcity of women among them, and hence this monogamic system which now prevails throughout all Christendom, and which has been so fruitful a source of prostitution and whoredom throughout all the Christian monogamic cities of the Old and New World, until rottenness and decay are at the root of their institutions both national and religious. Polygamy did not have its origin with Joseph Smith, but it existed from the beginning. So far as I am concerned as an individual, I did not ask for it; I never desired it; and if I ever had a trial of my faith in the world, it was when Joseph Smith revealed that doctrine to me; and I had to pray incessantly and exercise faith before the Lord until He revealed to me the truth, and I was satisfied. I say this at the present time for the satisfaction of both saint and sinner. Now, here are the commandments of the Lord, and here are the wishes of wicked men, which shall we obey? It is the Lord and them for it.

Does this sound like a prophet of God to you?

Journal of Discourses, Vol.1, p.50 - p.51,  
Brigham Young, April 9, 1852

Now hear it, O inhabitants of the earth, Jew and Gentile, Saint and sinner! 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.

Sounds like a different story than where I read God created Adam and Eve in the Book of Genesis. Compare what Joseph F. Smith says in the next 2 statements to what Brigham Young said, "The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy." Journal of Discourses, Vol.11, p.268 - p.269

Journal of Discourses, Vol.20, p.29 - p.30,  
Joseph F. Smith, July 7, 1878

If, then, this principle was of such great importance that the Prophet himself was threatened with destruction, and the best men in the Church with being excluded from the favor of the Almighty, if they did not enter into and establish the practice of it upon the earth, it is useless to tell me that there is no blessing attached to obedience to the law, or that a man with only one wife can obtain as great a reward, glory or kingdom as he can with more than one, being equally faithful.

Journal of Discourses, Vol.20, p.31,  
Joseph F. Smith, July 7, 1878

I understand the law of celestial marriage to mean that every man in this Church, who has the ability to obey and practice it in righteousness and will not, shall be damned, I say I understand it to mean this and nothing less, and I testify in the name of Jesus that it does mean that.

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I realize some of these statements might seem offensive to you. I did not copy this to offend you but rather to point out that Joseph Smith and Brigham Young are not prophets of God. I came to this conclusion because of their own statements. If you find these statements offending I hope you realize all I did was quote who I am told were prophets of God. It also is not wrong for me to point out the L.D.S scriptures contradict; all truth should be able to stand the test. The Bible has had numerous critics and the truth of it shines all the more. This will continue to be true because the Bible is the word of God.

### NO OTHER GODS

I know that Mormons try to use the Bible to support their belief in more than one God as well as the idea that man can become a God. So next I suppose I should review some of these so-called proof text used by L.D.S members.

Gen 3:5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

The one speaking here is Satan this is what he said to Eve. The following verse in what Jesus said about him should explain why I do not consider his words a credible source in which to build a doctrine.

John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies."

1 Cor 8:1-6 (1) **Now concerning things sacrificed to idols**, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies. (2) If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; (3) but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him. (4) Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that **there is no God but one**. (5) For even if there are **so-called gods** whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, (6) yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

Most Mormons I have talked with start reading this text right in the middle of verse 5. The context of this whole chapter is concerning eating of food that has been sacrificed to idols as you can see in verse 1 here. Paul in verse 4 said there is no God but one. Then he goes on to talk about these idols and calls them so-called gods in verse 5 because the people considered these idols gods. Then Paul said there are many gods and many lords. He is still talking about the idols when he said this. There indeed was many idols that people considered a god or a lord. This however does not make them a god they are just an idol; which amounts to nothing. There are many false gods today but this does not make them a god. Paul says for us there is but one God the Father and one Lord Jesus Christ because the Christian is not supposed to have any thing to do with idols.

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Satan is also called god of this world 2 Cor.4:4 but he is no real God at all. He does not have any of God's attributes he cannot create nor does he possess the knowledge or power that God has. He has a title in this respect because of his authority or rule over this planet. He is even worshipped as God by some, but he is a false god in fact he will end up in the lake of fire Rev.20:10

### Does John 10 show that there are other Gods?

John 10:29-39

- 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.
- 30 "I and the Father are one."
- 31 The Jews took up stones again to stone Him.
- 32 Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?"
- 33 The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God."
- 34 Jesus answered them, "Has it not been written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'?"
- 35 "If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken).
- 36 do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"
- 37 "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;
- 38 but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."
- 39 Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp.

In the text here Jesus claimed to be God in verse 30 by saying "I and the Father are one" Verse 33 shows this is how his enemies also interpreted it. Jesus then used Psalm 82:6 for his own defense. So let's look at that passage.

Ps 82:1-8 (NAS)

- 1 God takes His stand in His own congregation; He judges in the midst of the rulers.
- 2 How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality to the wicked? Selah.
- 3 Vindicate the weak and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute.
- 4 Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them out of the hand of the wicked.
- 5 They do not know nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- 6 I said, "You are gods, and all of you are sons of the Most High.
- 7 "Nevertheless you will die like men, and fall like any one of the princes."
- 8 Arise, O God, judge the earth! For it is Thou who dost possess all the nations.

Here in the text that Jesus quoted from we see that these men who were given the title of "gods" were in fact unjust judges. This title "gods" was their position of authority as judges. Notice verse 1 God judges in the midst of the rulers. Who are these rulers? They are the ones who are judging unjustly verse 2. They are then exhorted to act, as they should in their position of authority verse 3-5. These judges are reminded that they are called "gods".

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Also they are sons of the Most High. Then we see in verse 7 in spite of this position they will die like men. Does this text sound like it is speaking of actual Gods or judges?

Not only does the context here speak of actual judges, but also the same Hebrew word translated “gods” here is also translated judges in Ex.21:6, Ex. 22:8&9

The word “judges” below is the same Hebrew word translated “gods” in Ps.82:6. You can verify this using the back of the Strong’s Concordance.

Exodus 22:8 "If the thief is not caught, then the owner of the house shall appear before the **judges**, to determine whether he laid his hands on his neighbor's property.

Following is two different definitions of this Hebrew word.

Strong’s definitions of Hebrew words

430 'elohiym (el-o-heem');

plural of 433; gods in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural thus, especially with the article) of the supreme God; occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates; and sometimes as a superlative:

KJV-- angels, X exceeding, God (gods)- dess, -ly), X (very) great, judges, X mighty.

Brown-Driver-Briggs’ definition of Hebrew words.

430 'elohiym-

1) (plural) (a) rulers, judges (b) divine ones (c) angels (d) gods

2) (plural intensive -singular meaning) (a) God, a god, a goddess ( b) god-like one

(c) works or special possessions of God (d) the one true God (e) God

So here in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Psalm not only is the context speaking of unjust judges, but the Hebrew word is sometimes translated judges. These are merely men not literal Gods.

Now back to our original text in John 10. Jesus claimed to be God by saying, “I and the Father are one” in verse 30. Even his enemies understood what he meant

Verse 33. They said they were going to stone Jesus because he being a man made himself out to be God. Jesus then used the 82<sup>nd</sup> Psalm in his own defense. Jesus using this passage reminds them that even mere men who were judges have been called gods in scripture.

Certainly then he who really was God had a right to the title. Jesus said they did not believe that he and the Father were one (i.e. God) by his own words. So he challenged them to consider the works that he did that they may know that “the Father is in me and I in the Father”. The Jews understood this again as a claim to be God that is why they tried to seize him, verse 39.

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I know the Book of Mormon is not the word of God still I find it interesting that according to it there are no other Gods.

### Alma 11:21-29 existence

21 And this Zeezrom began to question Amulek, saying: Will ye answer me a few questions which I shall ask you? Now Zeezrom was a man who was expert in the devices of the devil, that he might destroy that which was good; therefore, he said unto Amulek: Will ye answer the questions which I shall put unto you?

22 And Amulek said unto him: Yea, if it be according to the Spirit of the Lord, which is in me; for I shall say nothing which is contrary to the Spirit of the Lord. And Zeezrom said unto him: Behold, here are six onties of silver, and all these will I give thee if thou wilt deny the existence of a Supreme Being.

23 Now Amulek said: O thou child of hell, why tempt ye me? Knowest thou that the righteous yieldeth to no such temptations?

24 Believest thou that there is no God? I say unto you, Nay, thou knowest that there is a God, but thou lovest that lucre more than him.

25 And now thou hast lied before God unto me. Thou saidst unto me--Behold these six onties, which are of great worth, I will give unto thee--when thou hadst it in thy heart to retain them from me; and it was only thy desire that I should deny the true and living God, that thou mightest have cause to destroy me. And now behold, for this great evil thou shalt have thy reward.

26 And Zeezrom said unto him: Thou sayest there is a true and living God?

27 And Amulek said: Yea, there is a true and living God.

28 Now Zeezrom said: Is there more than one God?

29 And he answered, No.

### "How is it that God is not aware of any other Gods, if in fact they exists?"

Isa 44:8 'Do not tremble and do not be afraid; have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides me, or is there any other Rock? I know of none.'"

"How can one become a God as the L.D.S Church teaches, if there was no God formed before Him and there will never be a God formed after Him?

Isa 43:10 "You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am He. Before me there was no God formed, and there will be none after me.

Deut 4:35 "To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him.

Deut 4:39 "Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.

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Deut 32:39 `See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides me; it is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded, and it is I who heal; and there is no one who can deliver from My hand.

1 Sam 2:2 "There is no one holy like the LORD, indeed, there is no one besides Thee, nor is there any rock like our God.

2 Sam 22:32 "For who is God, besides the LORD? And who is a rock, besides our God?

Isa 44:6 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides me.

Isa 45:5-6 "I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known me; That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other,

Isa 45:14 Thus says the LORD, "The products of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush And the Sabaeans, men of stature, will come over to you and will be yours; they will walk behind you, they will come over in chains and will bow down to you; they will make supplication to you: 'Surely, God is with you, and there is none else, no other God."

Isa 45:21 "Declare and set forth your case; indeed, let them consult together. Who has announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none except me.

Isa 46:9 "Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like me,

Ps 18:31 For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God,

Neh 9:6 "Thou alone art the LORD. Thou hast made the heavens, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. Thou dost give life to all of them and the heavenly host bows down before Thee.

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. (KJV)

Ps 96:5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

The Mormon idea "As man is God once was and as God is man may become" falls apart if there are no other Gods!

The Mormon idea in the 1st article of faith as in believing that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are 3 separate Gods falls apart if there is only 1 God!

The Mormon leaders become false witnesses saying that there are many other Gods but only one for us if in fact there is no other Gods!

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Any verse a Mormon can come up with in the Bible to show there is more than one God will have to be taken out of context to make it appear to be so. Still this would not answer the question "How is it that God is not even aware of them?"

### **WAS JOSEPH SMITH AN HONEST MAN?**

Joseph Smith is the founder of the Mormon Church. I have already offered evidence showing he was a false prophet. Next is the question was he himself deluded or was he dishonest? If a heavenly messenger visited me and had conversations with me I am quite sure it is something I would not forget. In the case with Joseph Smith there seems to be a lot of confusion surrounding the events of Joseph's first visions or encounters. It would seem that either Joseph Smith cannot seem to recall the facts surrounding these events, or other L.D.S authorities changed or made up the stories that are now the foundation of the L.D.S Church. Although there are several versions I will only bring up a couple concerning his first vision and a later one where he was told about some gold plates.

**First vision #1** found in BYU studies volume 9 1968-1969, Number 3- Spring 1969, The Early accounts of Joseph Smith's first vision pp.280-281. In this account Joseph was 16 years old and he was not praying to find out which church was true he already knew they were all wrong. He was seeking forgiveness of sin and Jesus alone appeared to him and granted him forgiveness.

**First vision #2** found in BYU Studies, Vol. 9, No. 3, p.283

In this account Joseph was 14 and his tongue seemed swollen so he could not pray. Two beings appeared to him in this account which are unidentified and he also seen many angels.

**First vision #3** Found in the current edition of the Pearl of Great price, Joseph Smith-History chapter 1:7-20. In this account Joseph was 15 and he was seeking to know which church was true and 2 beings appeared to him one of them said " this is my beloved Son hear Him" so it is presumed to be God the Father and Jesus and he was told to join none of the churches. There is no mention of forgiveness of sins or angels.

**Gold plates message # 1** found in an early L.D.S periodical called Messenger and Advocate (Feb 1835) Oliver Cowdery "Letter IV," p.77 In this account Joseph was 17 years old and it was the angel Moroni who appeared to him and forgave him of his sins and proceeded to inform him of the Plates which he was to later translate into the Book of Mormon.

**Gold plates message # 2** found in an early L.D.S periodical called Times and Seasons Vol. 3, pg. 748 - 753 In this account Joseph was between 14 and 15 years old and it was the angel Nephi who appeared to him then proceeded to inform him of the Plates which he was to later translate into the Book of Mormon. There is no mention of forgiveness of sins here.

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Some Mormons would have us believe that these accounts are various views of the same events. I can understand how one might forget exactly how old they were at the time but you would think that you would certainly remember if the angel that told you about some sacred gold plates was named Moroni or Nephi. Certainly you would remember if Jesus alone appeared to you or whether it was God the Father and Jesus or whether there was also lots of angels or not. Also in sharp contrast is that he was praying to see what church was true and that he already knew none of them were true and was merely praying for forgiveness of sins. One cannot help to consider that the reason why the story changes so much is perhaps there was no first vision at all and Joseph Smith or some other early church leader made up the whole story. The contrast in the stories hold stronger to the idea that the stories are a lie than they do simply different versions of the same stories.

### **Other interesting quotes concerning this subject.**

Journal of Discourses, Vol.2, p.171,

Brigham Young, February 18, 1855

But as it was in the days of our Savior, so was it in the advent of this new dispensation. It was not in accordance with the notions, traditions, and pre-conceived ideas of the American people. The messenger did not come to an eminent divine of any of the so-called orthodoxy, he did not adopt their interpretation of the Holy Scriptures. **The Lord did not come** with the armies of heaven, in power and great glory, nor send His messengers panoplied with aught else than the truth of heaven, to communicate to the meek the lowly, the youth of humble origin, the sincere enquirer after the knowledge of God. **But He did send His angel to** this same obscure person, **Joseph Smith Jun.**, who afterwards became a Prophet, Seer, and Revelator, and **informed him that he should not join any of the religious sects of the day, for they were all wrong;** that they were following the precepts of men instead of the Lord Jesus; that He had a work for him to perform, inasmuch as he should prove faithful before Him.

Journal of Discourses, Vol.20, p.166 - p.167 - p.168,

John Taylor, March 2nd, 1879

(John Taylor was the 3rd President of the church)

I had a visit from some of your folks during the session of the Legislature. How was it, and which was right? None of them was right, just as it was when **the Prophet Joseph asked the angel which of the sects was right that he might join it.** The answer was that none of them are right. What, none of them? No. We will not stop to argue that question; the angel merely told him to join none of them that none of them were right

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Journal of Discourses, Vol.12, p.334,

George Albert Smith, November 15, 1868

(George Albert Smith was sustained first counselor in the first presidency in 1868)

Joseph Smith had attended these meetings, and when this result was reached he saw clearly that something was wrong. He had read the Bible and had found that passage in James which says "If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not," and taking this literally, he went humbly before the Lord and inquired of Him, and the Lord answered his prayer and revealed to Joseph, by the ministration of angels, the true condition of the religious world. **When the holy angel appeared, Joseph inquired which of all these denominations was right and which he should join, and was told they were all wrong**--they had all gone astray, transgressed the laws, changed the ordinances and broken the everlasting covenant, and that the Lord was about to restore the priesthood and establish His Church, which would be the only true and living Church on the face of the whole earth.

Why do they not teach it was an angel that appeared to Joseph now?

### WHAT ABOUT THE PROPHET TODAY GORDON B. HINCKLEY?

Since Joseph Smith is the founder of the Mormon Church and he was a false prophet and a dishonest man it is not reasonable to expect the church to be true today. However one may still wonder so here is some food for thought. It is well known that the Mormon Church teaches that God was once a man and that we may become a God. I went to the library and obtained 2 articles where Gordon B. Hinckley was interviewed. they are (A) The San Francisco Chronicle, Sunday, April 13, 1997. This is a 7 page article starting on page 3/Z1 (B) Time Magazine, 8-4-1997, page 51-57. In the San Francisco Chronicle Don Lattin asked Gordon B Hinckley "There are some significant differences in your beliefs. For instance, don't Mormons believe that God was once a man?" Hinckley's answer was "I wouldn't say that. There is a little couplet coined, "As man is, God once was. As God is, man may become." Now that's more that a couplet than anything else. That gets into some pretty deep theology that we don't know very much about."

The reporters for Time Magazine were S.C. Gwynne and Richard N. Ostling they report the following from Gordon B. Hinckley "On whether his church still holds that God the Father was once a man, he sounded uncertain, "I don't know that we teach it. I don't know that we emphasize it...I understand the philosophical background behind it, but I don't know a lot about it, and I don't think others know a lot about it."

I find it quite interesting that he said "I don't know that we teach it" as well as That gets into some pretty deep theology that we don't know very much about." and I don't know a lot about it, and I don't think others know a lot about it." Oddly enough Joseph Smith, James Talmage and Bruce McConkie seem to have known this.

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James E. Talmage, Articles of Faith, Ch.24, p.430 - p.431

We believe in a God who is Himself progressive, whose majesty is intelligence; whose perfection consists in eternal advancement -- a Being who has attained His exalted state by a path which now His children are permitted to follow, whose glory it is their heritage to share. In spite of the opposition of the sects, in the face of direct charges of blasphemy, the Church proclaims the eternal truth: "As man is, God once was; as God is, man may be." With such a future, well may man open his heart to the stream of revelation, past, present, and to come; and truthfully should we be able to say of every enlightened child of God, that he "beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p.321 GODHOOD

Joseph Smith said: "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! I am going to tell you how God came to be God. 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. It is the first principle of the gospel to know for a certainty the character of God, and to know that we may converse with him as one man converses with another, and that **he was once a man like us**; yea, that God himself the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did; and I will show it from the Bible. "Here, then, is eternal life -- to know the only wise and true God and you have got to learn how to be gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all gods have done before you, namely, by going from one small degree to another, and from a small capacity to a great one; from grace to grace, from exaltation to exaltation, until you attain to the resurrection of the dead, and are able to dwell in everlasting burnings, and to sit in glory, as do those who sit enthroned in everlasting power. . . . [Such persons are] heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. What is it? To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation, until you arrive at the station of a god, and ascend the throne of eternal power, the same as those who have gone before." (Teachings, pp. 345-347.) Again: "Every man who reigns in celestial glory is a god to his dominions." (Teachings, p. 374)

**Should we conclude that the current President of the Mormon Church does not know Mormon doctrine?** I find this very unlikely. We are then left with 2 options the doctrine of God is currently being changed by the Mormon Church or Gordon B. Hinckley lied. I came to the conclusion that he lied. Why I do not know possibly because such things as this would hinder missionary efforts in getting converts. Mormon missionaries certainly do not come to your door and say God was once a man and you can become a God. Nor do they say Jesus and Lucifer are brothers and our elder brothers. I believe if they were up front about these L.D.S teachings less people would become Mormons. Someone recently suggested they might say "milk before meat" In other words basics before deep theology. I could understand that position. However, if that were the case then that is what he should have said instead of lying about it!

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### The Challenge by L.D.S authorities!

By **Brigham Young** " Take up the Bible, compare the religion of the Latter-Day Saints with it and see if it will stand the test" ( Journal of Discourses V16 P46, 1873)

By **Brigham young** " No man can disprove a truth...Why not rather every man rise up and say, Let God be true, let the truth remain and let me know the truth. That is what I want-I will submit to it; and let every false theory and principle fall, to rise up no more"  
( Journal of Discourses V8, P132, 1860)

By **Orson Pratt** " If we cannot convince you by reason nor by the word of God, that your religion is wrong, we will not persecute you...we ask you the same generosity...convince us of our errors of doctrine, if we have any, by reason, by logical arguments, or by the word of God and we will be forever grateful for the information"  
(The Seer, pg.15)

### The authority of the L.D.S leaders? Or the arrogance?

The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff, p.212 - p.213

"the Lord will never permit me or any other man who stands as president of this Church to lead you astray. It is not in the program"

Journal of Discourses, Vol.6, p.32, Heber C. Kimball, November 8, 1857

learn to do as you are told.....if you are told by your leader to do a thing, do it. None of your business whether it is right or wrong.

Louis Midgley, Review of Books on the Book of Mormon, p.11

"The membership of the Mormon church," Smith writes, "is taught not to 'question the mysteries': 'When the Prophet speaks, the thinking has been done

History of the Church, Vol.6, Ch.19, p.408

(Joseph Smith speaking here.)

In all these affidavits, indictments, it is all of the devil--all corruption. Come on! ye prosecutors! ye false swearers! All hell, boil over! Ye burning mountains, roll down your lava! for I will come out on the top at last. 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.

If Joseph Smith was not a follower of Jesus Christ then whom was he following?

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### **L.D.S say Jesus is the one who got married where he turned the water into wine:**

Journal of Discourses, Vol.2,p.82, Orson Hyde,10/6 1854

Gentlemen, that is as plain as the translators, or different councils over this Scripture, dare allow it to go to the world, but the thing is there; it is told; Jesus was the bridegroom at the marriage of Cana of Galilee, and he told them what to do. Now there was actually a marriage; and if Jesus was not the bridegroom on that occasion, please tell who was. If any man can show this, and prove that it was not the Savior of the world, then I will acknowledge I am in error. We say it was Jesus Christ who was married, to be brought into the relation whereby he could see his seed, before he was crucified.

B. H. Roberts, Defense of the Faith and the Saints, Vol.2, p.309

" Jesus himself was married, and was probably a polygamist."

### **Jesus was invited to this wedding:**

John 2:1-2 And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and Jesus also was invited, and His disciples, to the wedding.

Why would someone be invited to his own wedding? There is nothing in the text that even slightly indicates Jesus was married.

### **Brigham Young taught that Adam was God:**

Journal of Discourses, Vol.1, p.50 - p.51,

Brigham Young, April 9, 1852

Now hear it, O inhabitants of the earth, Jew and Gentile, Saint and sinner! 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 organize 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. Every man upon the earth, professing Christians or non-professing, must hear it, and will know it sooner or later.

Journal of Discourses, Vol.5, p.331 - p.332,

Brigham Young, October 7, 1857

Their belief reminds me that brother Joseph B. Nobles once told a Methodist priest, after hearing him describe his god, that the god they worshipped was the "Mormons" devil--a being without a body, whereas our God has a body, parts, and passions. The Devil was cursed and sent down from heaven. He has no body of his own; therefore he is constantly endeavouring to obtain possession of the tabernacles belonging to others. Some have grumbled because I believe our God to be so near to us as Father Adam. There are many who know that doctrine to be true. Where was Michael in the creation of this earth? Did he have a mission to the earth? He did. Where was he? In the Grand Council, and performed the mission assigned him there. Now, if it should happen that we have to pay tribute to Father Adam, what a humiliating circumstance it would be! Just wait till you pass Joseph Smith; and after Joseph lets you pass him, you will find Peter; and after you pass the Apostles and many of the Prophets, you will find Abraham, and he will say, "I have the keys, and except you do thus and so, you cannot pass;" and after a while you come to Jesus; and when you at length meet Father Adam, how strange it will appear to

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your present notions. If we can pass Joseph and have him say, "Here; you have been faithful, good boys; I hold the keys of this dispensation; I will let you pass;" then we shall be very glad to see the white locks of Father Adam. But those are ideas which do not concern us at present, although it is written in the Bible--"This is eternal life, to know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent."

### **Brigham Young's words are as good as scripture:**

Journal of Discourses, Vol.13, p.95,

Brigham Young, January 2, 1870

The Lord is in our midst. He teaches the people continually. I have never yet preached a sermon and sent it out to the children of men, that they may not call Scripture. Let me have the privilege of correcting a sermon, and it is as good Scripture as they deserve.

### **Jesus crucified because of polygamy?**

**Journal of Discourses, Vol.1, p.346,**

**Jedediah M. Grant, August 7, 1853**

The grand reason of the burst of public sentiment in anathemas upon Christ and his disciples, causing his crucifixion, was evidently based upon polygamy, according to the testimony of the philosophers who rose in that age. A belief in the doctrine of a plurality of wives caused the persecution of Jesus and his followers. We might almost think they were "Mormons."

Grant here is quoting a philosopher not Mormon Doctrine. However his response to the quote is amazing. The first time I read this it made me mad. Grant on the other hand is does not bothered at all. Also interesting is he does admit that Jesus and his disciples were not Mormons.

### **If a white man has relations with a Negro God will kill him. It sounds racial to me!**

Here is another interesting quote from Brigham Young.

Journal of Discourses, Vol.10, p.109,

Brigham Young, March 8, 1863

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.** The nations of the earth have transgressed every law that God has given, they have changed the ordinances and broken every covenant made with the fathers, and they are like a hungry man that dreameth that he eateth, and he awaketh and behold he is empty.

Who says white man is a chosen seed? What nationality is that? The New Testament does not agree with this racial attitude.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him;

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Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Col 3:10-11 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

### **A council of Gods made up the plan of creation**

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, Section Six 1843–44, p.349

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. When we begin to learn this way, we begin to learn the only true God, and what kind of a being we have got to worship. Having a knowledge of God, we begin to know how to approach him, and how to ask so as to receive an answer. When we understand the character of God, and how to come to him, he begins to unfold the heavens to us, and to tell us all about it. When we are ready to come to him, he is ready to come to us.

### **God says he created all by himself with no help:**

Isa 44:24 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, "I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens by myself, and spreading out the earth all alone,

### **Mormons are told not to eat meat except in cold or famine (not summer)**

D&C 89:12-13

12 Yea, flesh also of beasts and of the fowls of the air, I, the Lord, have ordained for the use of man with thanksgiving; nevertheless they are to be used sparingly;

13 And it is pleasing unto me that they should not be used, only in times of winter, or of cold, or famine.

### **The Bible says Adam sinned a Mormon prophet disagrees with the Bible.**

Joseph Fielding Smith Jr.,

Doctrines of Salvation, Vol.1, p.114

It is true, the Lord warned Adam and Eve that to partake of the fruit they would transgress a law, and this happened. But it is not always a sin to transgress a law. I will try to illustrate this. The chemist in his laboratory takes different elements and combines them, and the result is that something very different results. He has changed the law. As an example in point: hydrogen, two parts, and oxygen, one part, passing through an electric spark will combine and form water. Hydrogen will burn, so will oxygen, but water will put out a fire. This may be subject to some disagreement by the critics who will say it is not transgressing a law. Well, Adam's transgression was of a similar nature, that is, his transgression was in accordance with law.

The transgression of Adam did not involve sex sin as some falsely believe and teach. Adam and Eve were married by the Lord while they were yet immortal beings in the Garden of Eden and before death entered the world.

ADAM AND EVE REJOICED IN FALL. Before partaking of the fruit Adam could have lived forever; therefore, his status was one of immortality. When he ate, he became subject to

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death, and therefore he became mortal. This was a transgression of the law, but not a sin in the strict sense, for it was something that Adam and Eve had to do!

I am sure that neither Adam nor Eve looked upon it as a sin, when they learned the consequences, and this is discovered in their words after they learned the consequences.

Adam said: "Blessed be the name of God, for because of my transgression my eyes are opened, and in this life I shall have joy, and again in the flesh I shall see God."

Eve said: "Were it riot for our transgression we never should have had seed, and never should have known good and evil, and the joy of our redemption, and the eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient."

We can hardly look upon anything resulting in such benefits as being a sin, in the sense in which we consider sin. (End of quote)

The Bible never tells us Adam and Eve rejoiced in the fall. Adam and Eve never said what this former Mormon prophet quotes them as saying from the Book of Mormon. The bible says it was a sin. Furthermore God punished them for it. (Genesis chapter 3)

Rom 5:12-15 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-- for until the Law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.

**Joseph Smith was not a martyr.** He died in a gunfight shooting at those trying to kill him. Now I am not saying it is wrong to defend yourself when a mob comes to kill you. I am saying however that he was not a martyr.

Doctrine & Covenants 135:4

When Joseph went to Carthage to deliver himself up to the pretended requirements of the law, two or three days previous to his assassination, he said: "I am going like a lamb to the slaughter; but I am calm as a summer's morning; I have a conscience void of offense towards God, and towards all men. I SHALL DIE INNOCENT, AND IT SHALL YET BE SAID OF ME--HE WAS MURDERED IN COLD BLOOD."--The same morning, after Hyrum had made ready to go--shall it be said to the slaughter? yes, for so it was--he read the following paragraph, near the close of the twelfth chapter of Ether, in the Book of Mormon, and turned down the leaf upon it:

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**Read the account and ask yourself does this sound like a lamb led to slaughter or a martyr to you?**

History of the Church, Vol.6, Ch.34, p.617

It is said that the guard elevated their firelocks, and boisterously threatening the mob discharged their firearms over their heads. The mob encircled the building, and some of them rushed by the guard up the flight of stairs, burst open the door, and began the work of death, while others fired in through the open windows.

In the meantime Joseph, Hyrum, and Elder Taylor had their coats off. Joseph sprang to his coat for his six-shooter, Hyrum for his single barrel, Taylor for Markham's large hickory cane, and Dr. Richards for Taylor's cane. All sprang against the door, the balls whistled up the stairway, and in an instant one came through the door.

Joseph Smith, John Taylor and Dr. Richards sprang to the left of the door, and tried to knock aside the guns of the ruffians.

Hyrum was retreating back in front of the door and snapped his pistol, when a ball struck him in the left side of his nose, and he fell on his back on the floor saying, "I am a dead man!" As he fell on the floor another ball from the outside entered his left side, and passed through his body with such force that it completely broke to pieces the watch he wore in his vest pocket, and at the same instant another ball from the door grazed his breast, and entered his head by the throat; subsequently a fourth ball entered his left leg. A shower of balls was pouring through all parts of the room, many of which lodged in the ceiling just above the head of Hyrum.

Joseph reached round the door casing, and discharged his six shooter into the passage, some barrels missing fire. Continual discharges of musketry came into the room Elder Taylor continued parrying the guns until they had got them about half their length into the room, when he found that resistance was vain, and he attempted to jump out of the window, where a ball fired from within struck him on his left thigh, hitting the bone, and passing through to within half an inch of the other side. He fell on the window sill, when a ball fired from the outside struck his watch in his vest pocket, and threw him back into the room.

After he fell into the room he was hit by two more balls, one of them injuring his left wrist considerably, and the other entering at the side of the bone just below the left knee. He rolled under the bed, which was at the right of the window in the south-east corner of the room.

While he lay under the bed he was fired at several times from the stairway; one ball struck him on the left hip, which tore the flesh in a shocking manner, and large quantities of blood were scattered upon the wall and floor.

When Hyrum fell, Joseph exclaimed, "Oh dear, brother Hyrum!" and opening the door a few inches he discharged his six shooter in the stairway (as stated before), two or three barrels of which missed fire.

Joseph, seeing there was no safety in the room, and no doubt thinking that it would save the lives of his brethren in the room if he could get out, turned calmly from the door, dropped his pistol on the floor and sprang into the window when two balls pierced him from the door, and one entered his right breast from without, and he fell outward into the hands of his murderers, exclaiming. "O Lord, my God! "

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### Blood Atonement

Journal of Discourses, Vol.3, p.247, Brigham Young, March 16, 1856

You say, "That man ought to die for transgressing the law of God." Let me suppose a case. Suppose you found your brother in bed with your wife, an 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. But you who trifle with your covenants, be careful lest in judging you will be judged.

Every man and women has got to have clean hands and pure heart, to execute judgment, else they had better let the matter alone.

Again, suppose the parties are not caught in their iniquity, and it passes along unnoticed, shall I have compassion on them? Yes, I will have compassion on them, for transgressions of the nature already named, or for those of any other description. If the Lord so order it that they are not caught in the act of their iniquity, it is pretty good proof that He is willing for them to live; and I say let them live and suffer in the flesh for their sins, for they will have it to do.

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. To what degree? Will they have to go to hell? They are in hell enough now. I do not wish them in a greater hell, when their consciences condemn them all the time. Let compassion reign in our bosoms. Try to comprehend how weak we are, how we are organized, how the spirit and the flesh are continually at war.

Journal of Discourses, Vol.4, p.53,  
Brigham Young, September 21, 1856

There are sins that men commit for which they cannot receive forgiveness in this world, or in that which is to come, and if they had their eyes open to see their true condition, they would be perfectly willing to have their blood spilt upon the ground, that the smoke thereof might ascend to heaven as an offering for their sins; and the smoking incense would atone for their sins, whereas, if such is not the case, they will stick to them and remain upon them in the spirit world. I know, when you hear my brethren telling about cutting people off from the earth, that you consider it is strong doctrine; but it is to save them, not to destroy them.

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Journal of Discourses, Vol.4, p.219,

Brigham Young, February 8, 1857

Now take a person in this congregation who has knowledge with regard to being saved in the kingdom of our God and our Father, and being exalted, one who knows and understands the principles of eternal life, and sees the beauty and excellency of the eternities before him compared with the vain and foolish things of the world, and suppose that he is overtaken in a gross fault, that he has committed a sin that he knows will deprive him of that exaltation which he desires, and that he cannot attain to it without the shedding of his blood, and also knows that by having his blood shed he will atone for that sin, and be saved and exalted with the Gods, is there a man of woman in this house but what would say, "shed my blood that I may be saved and exalted with the Gods?"

Blood atonement was indeed practiced by the early Mormon Church. Also other forms of punishment such as whipping and castration were practiced. Documentation for this can be found in *Mormonism Shadow or Reality?* by Sandra & Jerald Tanner in Chapters 25 and 36. What I want to point out here is that one needs not spill their own blood to atone for their sins.

I Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from ALL sin.

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### RESOURCES

The majority of the quotes by L.D.S authors that were used can be found in the L.D.S Collectors Library on CD Rom by Infobases. Infobases Inc. can be contacted at 305 N 500 W, Provo, Utah 84601-2644, Phone (801) 375-2227.

There is one book that I would highly recommend for anyone that is serious about studying Mormonism. The book is "Mormonism Shadow or Reality" by Jerald & Sandra Tanner the book is 576 pages and full of direct quotes from L.D.S authorities. The cost is \$16.95 hardback or \$13.95 plastic cover + 10% shipping. Purchase from Utah Lighthouse Ministry P.O.Box 1884, Salt Lake Utah 84110 (E-Mail [ulm@utah-inter.net](mailto:ulm@utah-inter.net)).

There is also a free newsletter dealing with Mormonism that you can get by writing to: UMI, PO Box 348, Marlow, OK 73055, or by calling (800) 654-3992

<http://www.utlm.org/> (The Tanners)

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