

Mormon (LDS) Doctrine

Acknowledgements

“Mormon Doctrines in Light of the Bible” by Pastor Rick DeMichele

1. The Marks of a False Religious Cult

A. + **(Add)** - Religious groups who utilize other books, magazines, creeds, or other literature as their “scriptural authority” **in addition** to the Bible.

NOTE: The Mormons use **four** books they consider as **scripture**: **(1)** the Bible, **(2)** the Book of Mormon “BOM”, **(3)** Pearl of Great Price “PGP” (which includes various documents such as: “Selections from the Book of Moses,” “Book of Abraham,” “Joseph Smith - Matthew,” “Joseph Smith - History,” and “Articles of Faith”), and **(4)** Doctrines and Covenants “D&C”.

Mormons also use as authority the “word” of living (modern day) “apostles” or “prophets,” so called. There are **NO** true apostles alive today, only fakers!

NOTE: The four Biblical requirements of a **TRUE APOSTLE**: **(1)** had to have seen and served with Jesus - 1 Cor. 9:1, 15:1-7; **(2)** had the miraculous signs and wonders gifts - Matt. 10:1-8; 2 Cor. 12:12; **(3)** had to be Jewish - 1 Cor. 1:22; **(4)** had to be tried (tested or proved) - Rev. 2:2 (The Mormons fail on all four qualifications!) **TRUE APOSTLE EXAMPLES:** Acts 9:32-42, 16:16-18, 20:7-12

B. - **(Subtract)** - Religious groups who **take away** from the King James Bible (KJB) as being **God’s sole (and only) Final Authority** for mankind today.

C. x **(Multiply)** - Religious groups who require **good works** to be an essential part of their “plan of salvation.”

D. ÷ **(Divide)** - Religious groups that believe **only their group is saved**, to the **exclusion** of all others.

E. This study will prove Mormons fit all four marks of a false religious cult.

F. Commands concerning altering the KJB.- Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19

2. What is God’s true Final Authority?

A. Mormons believe the Book of Mormon BoM is the **most correct** of any book on earth, i.e. the Mormon Final Authority. - Read BoM Introduction

B. God’s **only true** Final Authority is the KJB. - Ps. 12:6-7, Ps. 119:89; Prov. 30:5-6; 2 Tim. 3:16; Matt. 4:4; 2 Pet. 1:19-21

C. The fact that the KJB is God’s Final Authority **leaves no room** for Joseph Smith (or anyone else) to invent a new religion, claiming a new revelation from God.

D. **LESSON:** If a doctrine lines up with the KJB, rightly divided, it is of God; if it does not, it is of man or Satan; there are **no other possibilities**. - Isa. 8:20

E. The Book of Mormon claims the “abominable churches” have tampered with and changed the Bible. - BoM - 1 Nephi 13:26-29

- F. Mormons state in their Article of Faith #8: *“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.”*
- G. Mormons believe the BoM was translated by Joseph Smith, wearing divine glasses, and looking through these glasses into a hat.
- H. From the 1st edition of the BoM in 1830 to the present edition, there are nearly 4,000 changes, and serious errors still exist, e.g. Alma 7:9-10 (Jesus shall be born at Jerusalem). - **Contradicting BoM Footnote → Luke 2:4** (Luke 2:4-7)
- I. Mormons view those who believe the Bible **alone** as their **sole** Final Authority as **fools**. - 2 Nephi 29:6-10 (Note **“Thou fool”** in v.6)
- J. The BoM **extensively quotes** the KJB. The English grammar used in the BoM is markedly improved in the BoM when it quotes the KJB, making it obvious that whoever wrote the BoM was **already in possession** of a KJB.

3. Doctrines and Covenants (D&C)

- A. A series of “revelations” supposedly given by God to Joseph Smith between 1823 and 1844 with minor additions and changes by later successors of the Mormon hierarchy.
- B. Joseph Smith perpetrated a fraud on all Mormons (presently around 15,000,000 globally) and said that D&C is *“the foundation of the (Mormon) Church in these last days, and a benefit to the world, showing that the keys of the mysteries of the kingdom of our Savior are again entrusted to man.”* cf. Ps.12:6-7
- C. D&C teaches many anti-biblical and false doctrines, such as: vegetarianism (89:12-15), polytheism (121:28, 132:19-20), polygamy (132:1,3,4,38-40,61,62), that the “true church” ceased to exist until it was restored by Joseph Smith (20:1-2), God the Father has a physical body (130:22), and the genealogical research for the dead (128:24).

4. Pearl of Great Price (PGP)

- A. A small volume with three parts: books of Moses, Abraham, and Joseph Smith.
- B. According to Mormons, the book of Abraham was supposedly translated from some characters or hieroglyphics by Joseph Smith in 1835 from Kirtland, Ohio, with four mummies and multiple Egyptian scrolls of papyrus.
- C. The book of Abraham makes this **false proclamation**: *“A translation of some ancient records, that have fallen into our hands from the catacombs of Egypt - The writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, called the book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus.”* (By comparison, there are **NO** original handwritten documents in existence which were written by any Bible author.)
- D. The book of Abraham promotes the **false idea** that **life does not begin at birth**, but that prior to coming to earth, individuals exist as spirits. In a vision, Abraham supposedly saw that one of the spirits was “like unto God.” This

divine being, Jesus Christ, led other spirits in organizing the earth out of “materials” or “preexisting matter,” and not created or spoken into existence by God out of nothing (as the Bible clearly teaches - Gen. 1).

- E. Mormons embrace the Book of Abraham as scripture and claim it supports, expands, and clarifies the Biblical account of Abraham’s life and teachings. The book of Abraham was first published in 1842 and was canonized by the Mormons as part of the PBP in 1880.
- F. The truth is that **both Mormon and non-Mormon** apologists and Egyptologists have dated the Egyptian scrolls of papyrus to **no older than 200 B.C.**, so Abraham **could not** have written them, since he lived about 2000 B.C., thus Joseph Smith’s writings have been **proven** to be a **total fraud**.

5. The Mormon Concept of God Completely Conflicts with the KJB

- A. Mormons believe God the Father as well as Jesus Christ were originally mortal and corruptible humans (like us) with a body of flesh and bones, and were exalted to become Gods by having superior intelligence and living a righteous and good life. - D&C 130:22 cf. John 1:1-3, 18, 4:24
- B. The KJB teaches that God has **always existed** from eternity past and possesses all power, authority, omniscience, omnipotence, holiness, etc. - Num. 23:19; Isa. 43:10-11, 44:6-8, 45:5-6, 46:9; Matt. 28:18; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 19:6
- C. Joseph Smith declared *“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.”*
- D. Joseph Smith stated *“God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man...if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form - like yourselves, in all the person, image, and very form as a man, ...you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves...the same as all Gods have done before you.”*
- E. Mormons proclaim **false doctrine** in their Articles of Faith (p.430): *“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 become.’**” - cf. Rom. 1:21-23*
- F. Mormons believe in polytheism, i.e. many gods. Mormons claim to worship only three Gods...the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, but believe there are an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus **gods**. - p. 576-577 Mormon Doctrine (D&C 121:28, 32) - cf. John 10:30; 1 Tim. 2:5-6

6. The Mormon view of Jesus Christ

- A. The Bible view is **ONE GOD** as a trinity who manifests Himself in **THREE EQUAL PERSONS**, the Father, the Son (**Word**), and the Holy Ghost.- 1 John 5:7
- B. The deity of Christ is called a **mystery** in the Bible. - 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:8
- C. Mormons believe Jesus Christ is the spirit brother of Lucifer, one of the other “sons of God”. At a great council in heaven, Mormons believe God the Father appointed noble and great ones (with Jesus Christ having attained to be the mightiest of all the spirit children of the Father) to future positions of leadership after they should become mortals. According to Mormons, Jesus volunteered to be the Savior of the world and God the Father accepted Jesus’ offer and foreordained Him to that great mission. Abraham, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joseph Smith and others of the holy prophets were also foreordained to positions of leadership in their respective dispensations, and Mary was chosen to be the mother of the Son of God. Mormons believe they all were chosen because of their **intellectual superiority** and their **righteousness**. The appointment of Jesus to be the Savior of the world was contested by Lucifer, son of the morning, who desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind. Jesus supposedly said there would be certain souls that would not be saved; and Lucifer said he could save them all, but the grand council gave their vote in favor of Jesus Christ.
- D. **Question:** How could Jesus Christ be Lucifer’s spirit brother when the Bible declares that Jesus Christ is from everlasting to everlasting and created all things (including Lucifer)? - Ps. 90:2; Ezek. 28:13-15; John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16
- E. Jesus Christ is **the eternal God** and was manifested on earth in the flesh as the **“God-Man”**). Jesus Christ **DID NOT** begin as a man and become God! - 1 Tim. 3:16; Phil. 2:5-7; John 14:10-11 (**Mormons have it exactly backwards!**)
- F. Mormons do **not** believe Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost, but believe *“Our Father in heaven is the Father of Jesus Christ, both in the spirit and in the flesh. Our Savior is the Firstborn in the spirit, the Only Begotten in the flesh.”* Mormons believe Jesus was conceived in the Virgin Mary (called “the lawful wife”) by a man who was God and became Mary’s first husband. If true, this would make it an incestuous relationship with Mary as one of God’s spirit children as well as an adulterous relationship with Mary who at the time was already betrothed to Joseph. - cf. Luke 1:26-35
- G. Mormons **improperly interpret** John 2:1-2, 11-12 to make the claim that Jesus Christ was married while on earth and then falsely accuse Him of *“highly unbecoming and improper”* relationships based on *“his intimacy with Mary and Martha, and the other Mary also whom Jesus loved”*. - Journal of Discourses, Orson Hyde, Vol. 4, p. 259

7. The Mormon View of Salvation

- A. Mormon doctrine is **NOT** an offer of salvation from sin and Hell, but rather a complex plan/goal of progressive good works and exaltation to godhood.
- B. Mormon Doctrine is a **complete rejection** of Biblical Christianity.
- C. **True gospel:** 1 Cor. 15:3-4, John 3:16; Rom. 3:23,5:8,6:23,10:9-10,13; Eph.2:8-9
- D. Mormons use over 40 pages of text and over 10 pages of notes to cover the following two Articles of Faith:

- **Article 2:** We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression.
- **Article 3:** We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by **obedience to the Laws and Ordinances of the Gospel**. Mormons state in their Articles of Faith: *"We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: **first**, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; **second**, Repentance (of sins); **third**, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; **fourth**, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost."* (Then they must serve the God of Israel with all their might, mind, and strength.) **NOTE:** Mormon's have no knowledge, understanding, or ability to rightly divide, e.g. Acts 2:38 - cf. Rom. 4:5, 5:1; Titus 3:5

E. Mormons believe in two levels of salvation:

- **Level One - General Salvation:** *"The extent of the atonement is **universal**, applying alike to all descendants of Adam. Even the unbeliever, the heathen, and the child who dies before reaching the years of discretion are all redeemed by the Savior's self-sacrifice from the individual consequences of the fall."* (Articles of Faith, p. 85)
- **Level Two - Individual Salvation:** *"Exaltation is given to those only who by righteous effort have won a claim to God's merciful liberality...Of the saved, not all will be exalted to higher glories. No one can be admitted to any order of glory, in short, no soul can be saved until justice has been satisfied for violated law...In the Kingdom of God there are numerous degrees of graduations provided for those **who are worthy** of them."* (Articles of Faith, p. 91)

Depending on their **individual worthiness**, men have access to **three** different kingdoms, or **three** levels of glory. - cf. Isa. 64:6; Rom. 4:1-6

1) **The Celestial Glory** - The highest kingdom reserved for those **obedient members of the Melchizedek Priesthood**, who shall become God's themselves, with their worthy wives.

2) **The Terrestrial Glory** - A secondary glory reserved for those who, though honorable, **failed to comply** with the **requirements for the highest exaltation**, or for those who proved **not valiant** in the testimony of Jesus Christ.

3) **The Telestial Glory** - The lowest tier of glory is reserved for those who had no testimony of Christ or the gospel. However, it exempts this group from the heaviest punishment, **with the exception of only a few**, who become sons of perdition. - cf. Matt. 7:13-15

Note: This false doctrine comes from the Mormon total perversion of 1 Cor. 15:35-44) ("**Telestial**" → A coined Mormon word not found in the Bible.) The correct Bible interpretation of this passage is that man is on earth with a **terrestrial** (earthly) body and will be resurrected with a **celestial** (heavenly) body. The context is the state of our bodies, **not** the state of the heavens, kingdoms, or glories, as the Mormons assert.

- F. Mormons believe in **works for salvation**, i.e. that "Jesus Christ **did His part**," **and** "we have to **do our part**." - cf. Isa. 64:6, Rom. 4:5, 5:1; Tit. 3:5; Eph. 2:8-9
- G. Mormons believe "*The President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints hold the keys of salvation for all men now living because he is the only one by whose authorization the sealing power of the priesthood can be used to seal up men to salvation and exaltation in the kingdom of God.*" Mormon Doctrine, by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 411 - cf. John 14:6; Acts 4:12
- H. On February 8, 1857, Mormon President Brigham Young stated: "...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 or woman in this house but would say 'shed my blood that I may be saved and exalted with the Gods?' - (Salvation by suicide?!?!) - cf. Lev. 17:11; Rom. 5:8-9; Eph. 1:7, 2:13; Col. 1:14; 1 John 1:7
- I. Joseph Smith taught: "*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**."*
- J. Those who adhere to Mormon doctrine **ARE LOST!** - Luke 19:10

8. The Mormon Unbiblical Concept of Pre-Existence

A. Mormons believe each person has **always existed**, and were **eternal intelligences**, and that the heavenly Father cohabitated with one or more heavenly mothers which resulted in spirit beings being created over time. Somehow, these intelligences became spirits and they had to stay in heaven until bodies were created for them on this earth. Mormons believe the first of these spirits was Jesus and the second was Lucifer. When Jesus planned to redeem only those who wanted it, Lucifer got upset and rebelled and became Satan. One-third of the spirit children sided with Lucifer and together they were cast out of heaven and became the devil and his angels.- cf. Gen. 1:26-27

9. The Mormon Concept of What Happens at Death

- A. Mormons believe that **all people** are on **probation** in this life and depending on **what they do (works)**, all will go to one of the three **degrees of glory**, with all three glories (kingdoms) **being better than** people now have it on earth.
- B. Mormons hold to the unbiblical (false) concept of reincarnation. - cf. Heb. 9:27
- C. For the **saved believers**, what happens at death is **very clear** from the scriptures. - John 3:16-18; 14:6; 2 Cor. 5:1-8; Phil. 1:21-23; Ps. 116:15
- D. At death, **all lost souls** go instantaneously to the eternal flames and torments of hell fire. - Ps. 9:17; Matt. 13:40-42; Luke 16:22-24; Rev. 14:9-11, 20:11-15

10. The Mormon Baptism for the Dead. - 1 Cor. 15:29 (See Separate Handout)

- A. Mormons believe “baptism for the dead” means that after death, there is a second chance at **salvation by proxy** (vicariously) via a living member of the Mormon “church” being water baptized for someone who has already died. (Mormons are dead wrong!) - cf. Ps. 49:7-8; John 8:24; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 22:11
- B. What’s wrong with the Mormon interpretation? Water baptism **never has** and **never will** remit sins or save anybody’s soul. Also, nowhere in the Bible is there any hint of a second chance for salvation after physical death.
- C. This explains why Mormons have an elaborate library for genealogical research (which is the largest anywhere in the world) located across the street from the Mormon temple in Salt Lake City, Utah. - cf. 1 Tim. 1:4; Titus 3:9
- D. Mormons believe “...the **righteous spirits in paradise** have been commissioned to carry the message of salvation to the **wicked spirits in hell.**” - Mormon Doctrine, by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 755 - cf. John 3:14-18
- E. Joseph Smith stated, “The **greatest responsibility** in this world that God has laid upon us, is to **seek after the dead.**” - Times and Seasons, Vol. 5, p. 616 - cf. Mark 12:28-31

11. Joseph Smith (1805-1844) - The Mormon "Christ"

- A. The Mormon cult is built around the idolization and extreme devotion to the man Joseph Smith. - cf. Prov. 28:26; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:8
- B. Mormonism is **NOT** founded on faith/trust alone in the D/B/R of Jesus Christ, but it is founded on the teachings and mission of Joseph Smith, a false prophet.
- C. Joseph Smith taught that **all** churches had totally apostatized and had become abominations by his time, and that the true gospel had been lost until **he** restored it through **his** revelations, **his** teachings, and **his** Mormon "church".
- D. In pride, Mormon's believe they are the **only** real Christians. - cf. Isa. 14:12-15
- E. By contrast, Jesus taught the true church never totally apostatized from the face of the earth. - Matt. 16:13-18
- F. Joseph Smith arrogantly stated "*But I am learned, and **know more than all the world put together.***" Mormonism stands or falls on the beliefs of Joseph Smith.
- G. Joseph Smith was either a prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned, or he was one of the **biggest frauds** this world has ever seen; **there is no middle ground.**
- H. "***If** Joseph Smith was verily a prophet, and **if** he told the truth when he said that he stood in the presence of angels sent from the Lord, and obtained keys of authority, and the commandment to organize the Church of Jesus Christ once again on the earth, then this knowledge is of the most vital importance to the entire world. No man can reject that testimony without incurring the most dreadful consequences, for he cannot enter the kingdom of God. It is, therefore, the duty of every man to investigate that he may weigh this matter carefully and know the truth.*" Doctrines of Salvation by Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 1, pp. 188-190
- I. Mormons believe "*It is because the Lord called Joseph Smith that salvation is again available to mortal men. Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it.*" - D&C 135:3
- J. Jesus also taught that **the faith** (belief in the KJB, rightly divided) was **ONCE DELIVERED**. According to the Bible, it was **NOT** once delivered, then lost, then recovered and redelivered by Joseph Smith (or anyone else). - Jude 1:3
- K. It is obvious that Mormonism is **NOT** the true gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but is rather the glorification of the **message** and the **man** Joseph Smith. That message is the total rejection of the salvation provided through faith/trust in the blood (D/B/R) of Jesus Christ at Calvary. - Rom. 3:24-26
- L. Joseph Smith **changed the KJB in many places** and taught false doctrine. For example, Joseph Smith changed Rom. 4:5 to read: "*But to him that seeketh not to be justified by the law of works, but believeth on him who justifieth **not** the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*"(Opposite meaning!) Also, Joseph Smith changed Matt. 4:1 to read: "*Then Jesus was led up of the Spirit, into the wilderness, to **be with God.***" (Is the devil Joseph Smith's god?)

- M. Joseph Smith also made predictions that never came true. For example:
- Joseph Smith's enemies were to be swept away not many years from 1839. - D&C 121:5-15
 - New York City and Albany (NY), and Boston would be destroyed if they did not accept Mormonism (prophecy given in 1832). - D&C 84:114-115
- N. God's condemnation of false prophets, such as Joseph Smith. - Deut. 18:20; 2 Pet. 2:1-3

12. Conclusion - Mormonism is a Heretical Cult and a False Religious System

- A. Mormonism is a religion based on man. - cf. Isa. 2:11-18; John 14:6; Acts 4:12
- B. Mormonism is based on a false "Aaronic Priesthood"; and Mormon "priests" have **never** fulfilled the biblical duties of the priest in offering the required Old Testament sacrifices. - Ex. 29:35-44; Heb. 5:1, 8:3
- C. The Mormon "church" teaches that nobody has the authority to baptize or preach the gospel unless he is ordained by someone who held the Aaronic Priesthood (and is in the line of the Melchisedec Priesthood). Since the Aaronic Priesthood was dissolved after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, by their own admission the Mormons have **no biblical authority** to preach or baptize anybody! - cf. Matt. 11:13; John 1:17; Rom. 3:28; Gal. 2:16
- D. The Mormon "church" makes the **false claim** that John the Baptist appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in May 1829 and conferred the Aaronic Priesthood on them. - PGP 2:68-73
- E. Offering of sacrifices under the Law are ineffective and no longer needed now since Jesus Christ as the "**great high priest**" superseded and replaced the Aaronic Priesthood and became the "**once for all**" sacrifice. - Heb. 4:14, Heb. 10:10-12; 1 Tim. 2:5-6
- F. God made it clear to Moses that **ONLY** Aaron's descendants (sons) could hold the Aaronic Priesthood. - Num. 3:1-10
- G. Most Mormons claim to be descended from the tribe of **Ephraim**; therefore they could **never** rightfully hold the Aaronic Priesthood. (Bad choice of tribe!)
- H. God's condemnation of the tribe of Ephraim. - Hos. 4:17, 5:3-5, 7:1-16, 8:11, 9:11-17; Ps. 78:8-11, 65-68
- I. God's condemnation is likely why **Ephraim is not sealed**. - Rev. 7:4-8
- J. **Jesus Christ** is the **forever high priest** after the order of Melchisedec. - Gen. 14:18; Ps. 110:4; Heb. 5:6-10, 6:20, 7:1-28
- K. It is blasphemy when the Mormons claim the Melchisedec Priesthood when the Bible teaches only the Lord Jesus Christ is the High Priest over all believers. The Mormon "church" has thousands of "high priests" today who are not descendants of Aaron, nor do they have the right to the Melchisedec Priesthood, so they are biblically illegitimate.
- L. **Final Conclusion:** Mormon doctrines are damnable heresies. Mormonism is a false religious cult and is **NOT** true Bible-believing Christianity!