

MORMONISM

The Mormon Church was organized April 6, 1830, at Fayette, N. Y., with six members, by Joseph Smith, known as "Peep-Stone Joe", because following in the steps of his father as a roving water witch, he claimed to have miraculously discovered a "peep-stone". At the age of fourteen Smith began to have visions and revelations. According to his alleged statement three years later he had a vision one night in which the angel Moroni appeared unto him and revealed the hiding place of certain plates of gold on which was inscribed the Gospel. With the aid of Harris, Cowdery and Whitmer, Smith is supposed to have translated this writing into what is now called the Book of Mormon. In 1831 Smith and a small company of converts moved to Kirtland, Ohio, but because of a scandal which occurred there they moved to Missouri. Trouble breaking out here, Smith and about fifteen thousand followers went to Nauvoo, Ill. It was here that the doctrine of polygamy was introduced, although Mormons had been accused before this of unholy relationship with numerous women.

Internal trouble arose at Nauvoo and public opinion ran high against the Mormons. Finally Smith and his brother, Hyrum were arrested on a charge of treason and lodged in the jail at Carthage. Here a mob broke into the jail and shot the two brothers. After Smith's death the Mormons split into several divisions, one under the leadership of J. J. Strang, went to Wisconsin, but died out upon the death of its leader; another group formed the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, but the main body, under the leadership of Brigham Young, immigrated in 1848 to Utah. This, even today, is by far the largest body of Mormons and has its headquarters in Salt Lake City.

GOD

MORMONISM TEACHES:

I That there are many gods.

"A general assembly, quorum or grand council

of the gods, with their president at their head, constitute the designing and creating power" (Key of Theology, page 52.)

THE BIBLE:

1. There is only one God with three in the God-head (Gen. 1: 26; Ex. 20: 1-3; Matt. 28: 19; John 1: 1-3; John 14: 25, 26; John 16: 7-10).

II. That these Gods have bodies of bones and flesh. "That which is without body, parts and passions is nothing. There is no other God in heaven, but that God who has flesh and bones. The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's." (D. and C., Sec. 130: 22.)

THE BIBLE:

1. God is an omnipresent Being (Psa. 139: 7-11; Acts 17: 28; I Cor. 3: 16).

2. God is an omniscient Being (Job 34: 21; Prov. 15: 3; John 2: 24, 24).

3. God is an omnipotent Being (Gen. 1: 1; Psa. 8: 3; 19: 1; John 1: 1-3).

NOTE: If God has flesh and bones as a man, He could not be any of these three.

4. God is a Spirit (John 4: 24; Luke 24: 39; I Cor. 15: 50).

III. That the gods have sex and marry and bear children and their children come to this world as human beings to get bodies. (Compendium (B) 287, Last sermon 1844.)

"God, angels and men are all of one species, one race, one great family" (Key of Theology, page 41.)

"Wisdom inspires the gods to multiply their species." (Key of Theology, page 52.)

"Each god, through his wife or wives, raises up a numerous family of sons and daughters" (The Seer, Vol. 1, page 37.)

THE BIBLE:

1. God's only marriage relationship is with Israel (Jer. 3: 14).
2. Christ's only marriage relationship is with Christians (Eph. 5: 23-33).
3. Christ is the husband and head of the Church (John 3: 29; Col. 1: 18).
4. No marriage relationship after death (Mark 12: 25).

IV. That Adam is God and the father of our race.

"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 the 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." (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 6, page 50.) (Pearl of Great Price, page 60.)

THE BIBLE:

1. Adam is not God, but was created by God (Gen. 1: 27; 2: 18, 20-25; 3: 8-11, 19; Ex. 20: 1-3).

V. That God is an exalted man who was once as we are and that we are to become like Him.

"God himself was once as we are now and is an exalted man and sits enthroned in yonder heavens." (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 6, page 3, sermon by Joseph Smith.)

"And you have got to learn how to be gods yourselves the same as all gods have done before you." (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 6, page 5, sermon by Joseph Smith.)

THE BIBLE:

1. Man is a created being (Gen. 2: 7).

2. Christ from His fleshly side only was like us (Isa. 7: 14; Matt. 1: 20-23).
3. No man hath ascended into heaven but Christ, proving that Adam or none before Christ ever went to heaven and that none could have become gods (John 3: 13).

CHRIST

MORMONISM TEACHES:

- I. That Adam is God and that Christ is his son by natural generation.

“He (Adam) is our father and our God when the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the Father had begotten Him in His own likeness. He was not begotten by the Holy Spirit. And who is the Father? He is the first of the human family.” (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 1, page 50, sermon by Brigham Young.)

THE BIBLE:

1. Christ was born of the Holy Spirit (Isa. 7: 14; Matt. 1: 18-23).

- II. That Jesus was a polygamist.

“If none but God’s will be permitted to multiply immortal children, it follows that each god must have one or more wives. The evangelists do not particularly speak of the marriage of Jesus, but one thing is certain, that there were several holy women that greatly loved Jesus, such as Mary and Martha, her sister, and Mary Magdalene; and Jesus greatly loved them, and associated with them much if all the acts of Jesus were written, we, no doubt, should learn that these beloved women were His wives.” (The Seer, Vol. 1, page 158, 159.)

NOTE: If Christ is the Son of a fleshly God, then He is the son of the god of this world—the devil. This would make Christ a sinner (John 8: 44).

THE BIBLE:

1. Christ is the husband of the Church (John 3: 29; Rom. 7: 4; Eph. 5: 23-33).

THE HOLY SPIRIT

MORMONISM TEACHES:

- I. That the Holy Spirit is ethereal substance diffused through space, the purest and most refined of substances.

THE BIBLE:

1. The Holy Spirit is a personality (Matt. 28: 19; John 14: 15-17; John 16: 13, 14; Acts 5: 3, 4; 8: 29; 10: 19, 20; I John 5: 7).
- II. That there is only one mode by which the Holy Spirit is conferred and that is by the laying on of hands.

THE BIBLE:

The Holy Spirit is given in three degrees.

1. Baptismal (Acts 2: 1-4; 10: 44-47; 11: 15).
2. By the laying on of an apostle's hands (Acts 8: 12-17; 19: 6; I Tim. 4: 14; II Tim. 1: 6).

NOTE: None but an apostle could confer the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands and the apostles have no successors, for since an apostle means witness and a witness can have no successor, then the apostles could have no successors.

Spiritual gifts are conferred by the laying on of hands of an apostle and where no apostle had gone the Church was without spiritual gifts (Rom. 1: 9-11).

3. The general gift of the Holy Spirit after baptism as a Comforter or counselor (Acts 2: 39; John 14: 15-17).
- III. That the Holy Spirit can be conferred today by the laying on of hands.

THE BIBLE:

1. Only the apostles were witnesses of Christ and they only could confer the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands (Acts 8: 12-17; Acts 19: 6; I Tim. 4: 14; II Tim. 1: 6).
2. The apostles are dead and have no successors.

THE BIBLE

MORMONISM TEACHES:

- I. That the Bible is not all of the Word of God.

“Thou fool, that shall say, A Bible, a Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no other Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written.” (Book of Mormon, II Nephi 12: 53-64.)

“And they shall remain under the condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them.” (D. and C., Sec. 84: 57).

“And if thou shalt receive revelation upon revelation” (D. and C. 42: 17).

- II. That the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants are on a par with the Bible.

“Has God given many revelations to men? Ans. Yes; a great number. Where have we any account of his doing so? Ans. In the Bible, the Book of Mormons, the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and other publications of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (Catechism, Chap. III, Questions 1 and 2.)

- III. That the Bible has scarcely a verse that is not polluted.

“Indeed, no one, without further revelation, knows whether even one-hundredth part of the doctrines and ordinances of salvation are con-

tained in the few books of Scripture which have descended to our times; how, then, can it be decided that they are a sufficient guide?

What shall we say, then, concerning the Bible being a sufficient guide? Can we rely upon it in its present known corrupted state as being a faithful record of God's word? We all know that but a few of the inspired writings have descended to our times, which few quote the names of some twenty other books which are lost, and it is quite certain that there were many other inspired books that even the names have not reached us. What few have come down to our day have been mutilated, changed and corrupted in such a shameful manner that no two manuscripts agree.

Verses and even whole chapters have been added by unknown persons and even we do not know the authors of some whole books. Who knows that even one verse of the whole Bible has escaped pollution, so as to convey the same sense now that it did in the original? (Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon, pages 204, 205, 218 Orson Pratt.)

THE BIBLE:

(Isa. 8: 20; Rev. 22: 18, 19).

NOTE: There are probably not less than ten thousand verses of the Bible to be found in the Book of Mormon, yet Mr. Pratt says it is doubtful that even one verse of the Bible has escaped pollution. If this be true, where does the Book of Mormon appear?

SALVATION

MORMONISM TEACHES:

I. That salvation is the resurrection of the dead.

"And the resurrection of the dead is the redemption of the soul" (D. and C. 28: 16).

THE BIBLE:

1. Both good and bad are to be resurrected. (Rev. 20: 11-15).

NOTE: If resurrection means salvation, and both good and bad are resurrected, then that would be universal salvation.

II. That salvation consists of three degrees.

"The highest" or "celestial", those who have believed, have been baptized by a Mormon, have had hands laid on by a Mormon elder for the 'conveying of the Holy Ghost,' who are thus the 'church of the first-born,' who will be taken up when Christ comes in the clouds, raised in the first resurrection to dwell with God and Christ forever and reign over the earth with bodies celestial.

"The second, or 'terrestrial'; those who died without law (Heathen); the spirits in prison, to whom Christ went and preached and who received His message; those who were blinded by craftiness of men; those will have the presence of Christ, but not that of the Father, with 'terrestrial bodies'.

"The third, or those who did not receive the Gospel, did not deny the Spirit are thrust down to hell till the last resurrection; who say they are of Paul and Apollos and Cephas, Christ, etc., but did not accept Mormonism; who are liars, sorcerers, and other vile things; at the last resurrection shall be judged and shall receive mansions according to their works, but where God and Christ dwell they can not come, worlds without end" (Doc. and Cov. 76: 51-112).

THE BIBLE:

(Matt. 20: 1-16; Matt. 25: 14-30; Matt. 28: 19; John 14: 11; I John 3: 2; Rev. 22: 4.)

III. That the dead may be saved by a living person being baptized for them.

“That they, my saints, may be baptized for those who are dead; for this ordinance belongeth to my house for which the same was instituted from the foundation of the world” (Doc. and Cov. 124: 28).

“God has made a provision that every spirit in the eternal world can be ferreted out and saved, unless he has committed that unpardonable sin (disobeying the Gospel). And so you can see how far you can be a saviour.” (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 6, pages 7, 8, Joseph Smith, speaking.)

THE BIBLE:

1. Command to obey baptism is based on hearing, believing and repenting (Rom. 10: 13-17; Matt. 28: 19, 20; Mark 16: 15, 16; Luke 13: 3; Acts 2: 38; Rev. 20: 12, 13).

THE CHURCH

MORMONISM TEACHES:

- I. That there can be no true church today without living apostles and prophets.

THE BIBLE:

1. The Church was not founded upon the personalities of the apostles and prophets, but upon the Divine teachings which they revealed (II Peter 1: 21; Acts 1: 1-3; II Peter 3: 1-3).

NOTE: If we are to have living apostles and prophets today to have a New Testament Church, then we must have a personal, living Christ on earth (Eph. 2: 20).

2. An apostle is a witness (Luke 1: 2; 24: 33; Acts 1: 1-3, 19-22; 10: 39-41; I Cor. 9: 1; I Cor. 15: 5, 7, 8; II Peter 1: 16; I John 1: 1). A witness can have no successor, so there can be no apostles personally in the Church today.

3. The twelve were to sit on twelve thrones (Matt. 19: 28, 29). Every Mormon apostle will have to stand up since there is no seat left for him.
4. Miracles are a sign of apostleship (II Cor. 12: 12).
5. So-called Mormon apostles are false apostles, for they usurp the signs of an apostle (II Cor. 11: 13).

PROPHETS

MORMONISM TEACHES:

- I. That Joseph Smith was a prophet and makes belief in him as such, an essential article of faith.

“But, behold, verily, verily, I say unto thee, no one shall be appointed to receive commandments and revelations in this church excepting my servant Joseph Smith, Jr., for he receiveth them, even as Moses” (Doc. and Cov., Sec. 28: 2).

“And I have sent forth the fullness of my gospel by the hand of my servant Joseph” (Doc. and Cov., Sec. 35: 17).

“Every spirit that confesses that Joseph Smith is a prophet, that he lived and died a prophet, and that the Book of Mormon is true, is of God, and every spirit that does not is of “Anti-Christ.” (Millennial Star, Vol. 5, page 118, Brigham Young.)

THE BIBLE:

1. True prophecy has been given (I Cor. 13: 8; Gal. 1: 7-9; Rev. 22: 18, 19).
2. Many false prophets were to come (Matt. 7: 15; 24: 11; II Cor. 11: 13; II Peter 2: 1; I John 4: 1).

NOTE: This makes provision for Joseph Smith.

MARRIAGE

MORMONISM TEACHES:

- I. That there are two kinds of marriages, earthly and celestial.
 1. The earthly marriage bond is to have as many child-bearing wives as possible to insure a great kingdom in heaven. It is for life and eternity. "Each God, through his wife or wives, raises up a numerous family of sons and daughters for each father and mother will be in a condition to multiply forever and ever." (The Seer, Vol. 1, page 37.)
 2. The celestial marriage bond is a sealing of other men's wives to a man so that he may have enough wives in eternity. Women only who have proved their capacity in child-bearing here are desirable for celestial wives. That means men covet other men's wives. This is for eternity only.

THE BIBLE:

1. Child-bearing was to replenish the earth, not heaven (Gen. 1: 28).
2. They neither marry nor are given in marriage in heaven (Mark 12: 25; Luke 12: 35; Ex. 20: 17).
3. NOTE: How is the marriage relationship to be maintained in eternity when one is a vile sinner and the other a saint?
3. The woman is freed from her dead husband (I Cor. 7: 39).

POLYGAMY

MORMONISM TEACHES:

- I. That polygamy is a law to be obeyed and if disobeyed damnation is the penalty.

"If none but God's will be permitted to multiply immortal children, it follows that each God must have one or more wives." (The Seer, Vol. 1, page 158.)

"All those who have this law (plural or celestial marriage) revealed unto them must obey the same and if ye abide not in that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory as pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant, it was instituted for the fullness of my glory; and he that receiveth a fullness thereof must and shall abide in the law, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God" (D. and C., Sec. 132: 3, 4, 6).

"And again, as pertaining to the law of the priesthood; if any man have ten virgins given unto him by this law, he can not commit adultery, for they belong to him" (D. and C., Sec. 132: 61, 62).

THE BIBLE:

1. Man is to cleave to his "wife", not wives (Gen. 1: 18-25).
2. As Christ has one Church, man has one wife (Eph. 5: 23-33).
3. Church officers to be the husband of one wife (I Tim. 3: 2).
4. A murderer, Lamech, originated polygamy (Gen. 4: 19-24).

COMMUNION

MORMONISM:

- I. Uses water in the place of fruit of the vine in the Lord's Supper.

THE BIBLE:

1. Fruit of the vine is always used (Matt. 26: 26-29; Mark 14: 22-25; I Cor. 11: 20-34).

NAME

MORMONISM TEACHES:

- I. That it is Scriptural to wear other names, wearing the names of Latter-day Saints and Mormon.

THE BIBLE:

1. Adam and his wife wore the same name (Gen. 5: 2).
2. Adam is a figure of Christ (Rom. 5: 14).
3. Adam and his wife wearing the same name is a picture of Christ and his wife—the Church—wearing the same name.
4. Prophesied God's people would be given a NEW name (Isa. 62: 1, 2).
5. Prophecy fulfilled (Acts 2: 1-47; Acts 10: 1-48; Acts 11: 1).

NOTE: Prophecy fulfilled in that salvation had gone out from Jerusalem and the Gentiles had seen His righteousness.

6. The new name given—Christian (Acts 11: 25, 26).
7. Agrippa knew the followers of Christ wore that name (Acts 26: 28).
8. We are married to Christ and this shows marriage relationship (John 3: 29; Rom. 7: 4).
9. We are to suffer in the name, Christian, (I Peter 4: 16).
10. We are to wear Christ's name in two worlds (Rev. 22: 4).
11. No salvation promised in any other name (Acts 4: 12).

All quotations taken from the following books:

Key of Theology
Doctrine and Covenants
Journal of Discourses
The Seer
Book of Mormon