

Do they really say that?

- ☐ Without Joseph Smith there is no salvation.
- ☐ God was once a man.
- ☐ Man can become a god.
- ☐ Jesus appeared in America.
- ☐ There are gods on other planets.
- ☐ God has a wife.
- ☐ Dark-skinned people were accursed until 1978.

Is it true that the MORMONS — those young people who go around two by two, wearing white shirts and identification badges labelled “Elder” or “Sister” — really believe the teachings listed above? Read on and you will find out!



Is there no salvation without Joseph Smith?

Mormons say:

“If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints” [the Mormon Church].¹ So says one of the most influential Mormon theologians in the principal Mormon dictionary.

In 1820, when he was 14 years old, Joseph Smith, the American founder of the Mormon Church, claimed that he had a vision of God and Jesus. According to his account, God had told him that all other churches were “wrong”, “all their creeds were an abomination” and their “professors were all corrupt”.²

Based on this and other “revelations”, Mormons assert that Christianity went completely astray from the teachings of Jesus and the apostles. They argue that from the time of the apostles’ death until the foundation of the Mormon Church in 1830, no true Christianity — or Christians — existed.

Mormons believe that when God wanted to restore the true Church, he called Joseph Smith as his prophet. He assured him by “revelation” that the Mormon Church is “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth”.³

Was God once a man?

Mormons say:

God and all people existed first as spirits in a so-called pre-existence. The God of our planet was originally fathered by another God and his wife. He was born as a human mortal, lived a just and worthy life and attained divinity after his death.

In a sermon which Mormons consider “one of the greatest sermons ever delivered by mortal man”,⁴ Joseph Smith declared, “God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! ... 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. ... God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth.”⁵

Can man become a god?

Mormons say:

Man can become a god. “As man is, God was; as God is, man may become.” This doctrine, known as the “Eternal Progression”, is fundamental to Mormon thinking.

Joseph Smith said, “You have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves ... 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 ... until you arrive at the station of a God, and ascend the throne of eternal power, the same as those who have gone before.”⁶

According to this doctrine, whoever lives a worthy life and fulfils all the rituals of the Mormon Temple will become a god in the next life. There he will be able to procreate spiritual children and thus populate distant planets, just as God the Father did with us (and his Father did before him, etc.).⁷ This process continues for all eternity—new gods, new worlds, new gods, new worlds...

Are there gods on other planets?

Mormons say:

God lives close to a star called Kolob. This is another of Joseph Smith's discoveries, attested to by one of Mormonism's sacred writings.⁸

However, God the Father is only one among many gods. He is the principal God of this planet (though Jesus and the Holy Spirit are two other, distinct gods).⁹ But on other planets and worlds there are countless other gods. Joseph Smith taught, "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."¹⁰



Does God have a wife and a body of flesh and blood?

Mormons say:

Everyone exists as a spirit before being born in a body here on earth. These spirits are the result of intimate relations between God the Father and his goddess wife. God is a material being and cannot produce children alone. The principal Mormon dictionary tells us, "This doctrine that there is a *Mother in Heaven* was affirmed in plainness by the first Presidency of the Church (Joseph F. Smith, John R. Winder and Anthon H. Lund) when, in speaking of pre-existence and the origin of man, they said that 'man, as a spirit, was begotten and born of heavenly parents' ... and that 'all men and women are in the similitude of the *universal Father and Mother*, and are literally the sons and daughters of Deity'."¹¹

In a so-called revelation to Joseph Smith, it is claimed that "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's."¹²

Were dark-skinned people accursed until 1978?

In *The Book of Mormon* we read that some people rebelled against their leader, Nephi. For punishment, God "caused the cursing to come upon them, yea, even a sore cursing ... the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them."¹³

Another sacred Mormon writing also reveals the following: "And there was a blackness [which] came upon all the children of Canaan, that they were despised among all people,"¹⁴ and to these sons of Canaan was born "that race which preserved the curse in the land."¹⁵

In 1978, the President and Prophet of the Mormon Church received a "revelation" from God, informing him that blacks and other dark-skinned people should no longer be excluded from the privileges of Mormonism. Since that time they also have been able to enter the Mormon priesthood, attend the temples, have celestial marriages, become gods, etc. Up to that time they had not been permitted to do any of these things.

Are Jesus and Lucifer brothers?

Mormons say:

Jesus and Lucifer, as well as all mankind, were born of a "Heavenly Mother" in a so-called pre-existence. Therefore Jesus and Lucifer are brothers. What makes Jesus special in comparison with Lucifer is that he was the *first* spiritual son of the heavenly parents, and it was he, among all the other spiritual brothers, who was chosen by the "heavenly council" to be Saviour of this planet.¹⁶

Jesus' condition as a mortal on this earth was unique because God was his father—even from the physical standpoint. As the principal Mormon dictionary says, "Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers."¹⁷ They believe that God is a being of flesh and blood, that he descended to earth, had relations with Mary, and afterwards returned to heaven. Obviously Mary ceased to be a virgin from this time on.

Are only married people saved?

Mormons say:

For a person to go through the "Eternal Progression" and become a god or goddess, it is necessary to have a celestial wedding—which lasts for eternity.¹⁸ These marriages take place in special ceremonies in the Mormon temples.

Without a celestial marriage, a person cannot achieve full salvation¹⁹ since, according to the Mormons, there are *three* heavens.²⁰ In the highest heaven are those who have become gods and goddesses. Through sexual relations they give birth to spiritual children who will populate new planets. In the highest heaven there will also be other Mormons that never had a celestial marriage; they will be angels without children and will serve the gods.

Most of humanity will be in the other two heavens. One heaven is for good people who never became Mormons, and the other is for evil people.

Mormons ceased practising polygamy on earth in 1890, but in the celestial kingdom many of the gods will have numerous wives.²¹

Did Jesus appear in America?

One of the high points of *The Book of Mormon* is when Jesus appears to the people of America after his death and resurrection. Everybody is converted to Christianity and baptized. According to *The Book of Mormon*, these people, the American Indians, were descendants of Jews who emigrated to America 600 years before Christ. A prophet wrote their history on plates of gold and brass and hid them in the ground in 421 A.D. (Mormons believe that Columbus met the descendants of these people when he arrived in America about 1000 years later.)



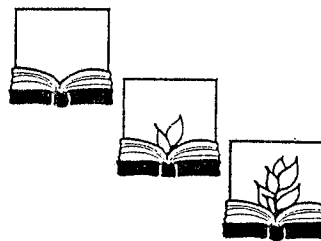
According to Joseph Smith, a "heavenly messenger" appeared to him in 1823 and indicated where the golden plates were hidden. Joseph Smith claims that he "translated" the plates from an unknown language, "Reformed Egyptian", and later returned them to the messenger, who took them away with him. In 1830 this "translation" was published as *The Book of Mormon*.

* * *

There are lots of serious problems related to *The Book of Mormon*. Here are a few:

- (1) Not a single, proven archaeological find exists to support the history of *The Book of Mormon* and of the great civilizations which supposedly covered the American Continent.
- (2) No one has ever discovered any evidence that Hebrew and "Reformed Egyptian" were used in the Americas for a period of 1000 years as *The Book of Mormon* claims.
- (3) Modern anthropologists assert categorically that the American Indians (whom Mormons

believe to be the descendants of the Jewish emigrants referred to in *The Book of Mormon*) have no connection whatsoever with the Jewish race, but rather with people of Eastern Asia.



Is Mormonism Christian?

Mormons generally present themselves as Christians. They talk about Jesus, God, repentance, faith, salvation, etc. On the surface everything appears to be biblical. However, the meanings they give to these words are totally different from those of the Bible.

Mormons tell us that the Christian churches are not "wrong", but "incomplete". This, however, is merely a word game, for they not only *add* many things to the Bible, they also *redefine* and *change* the entire content of the Christian faith. The Mormon "gospel", the Mormon god(s) and the Mormon Jesus are so completely different from those of the Bible that it is not a question of dealing with a variation of Christianity; it is a completely different religion. Read the following paragraphs to understand why.

What does the Bible say?

One thing is certain: the cosmic mythology of Mormonism is in complete contradiction to the Bible. According to the Bible, man's ambition to become a god comes from Satan,²² who is the father of all lies.²³ God is the Creator, holy and infinite. Man is a creature, sinful and finite. God is God and no one will ever be equal or similar to Him. "The LORD he is God in heaven above, and on the earth beneath: there is none else."²⁴

The god of Mormonism is not the God of the Bible. Jesus clearly stated that "God is a Spirit."²⁵ No part of the Bible teaches that God is an exalted man with a body of flesh and bones. On the contrary, it proclaims numerous times that God is eternal and infinite. He is "from everlasting", He is "the living God, and an everlasting king", the "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last", "from everlasting to everlasting, you are God".²⁶

A fundamental doctrine of the Bible, and one which Christians have affirmed in all centuries, is that there is *only one* God. We could cite many Bible passages which assert this, but these

three should suffice for the present: "I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God"; "I am God, and there is no one else"; He is "the only true God".²⁷ To affirm and believe that there are many gods, as Mormons do, is not Christianity but rather paganism.

As for the Mormon beliefs that God has a wife and that Jesus is Lucifer's brother and the carnal son of God and Mary, no comment is necessary. They completely contradict the Bible and Christianity.

Finally, the Mormon doctrines regarding "celestial marriages" and the curse on dark-skinned people have nothing whatsoever to do with the Bible's message. In the Bible, God proclaims the liberating truth that all people, regardless of their race or marital status, have always had equal access to salvation. God does not make a distinction between people.²⁸

Why this leaflet?

This leaflet is not a personal attack on Mormons. Many of them really are friendly and dedicated people. Rather, because of the widespread *ignorance* of what Mormonism teaches, the leaflet is an attempt to *inform* about some of its many doctrines which conflict with basic Christian teaching.

All the quotations are taken from books published by the Mormon Church. Several Mormon missionaries have read the relevant paragraphs describing the Mormon doctrine, and they all confirm that the descriptions correspond to what they believe, although they rarely present these beliefs in their door-to-door activities.

Now what?

If you have never received the biblical Jesus as the Saviour and Lord of your life, we strongly encourage you to do so. It will transform your life. You do not need the Mormon system with its church, priesthood, baptisms, prophets, etc. to live as a son or daughter of the heavenly Father. All you need is a person — JESUS. Read the New Testament of the Bible and begin to get to know the authentic Jesus.²⁹ If you need more help, please contact us at the address below.

Notes

By way of information, the sacred writings of the Mormons are the following:

- * *The Book of Mormon*
- * *The Doctrine and Covenants*
- * *The Pearl of Great Price*
- * *The Bible*

- 1 *Mormon Doctrine*, Bruce McConkie, p. 670, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1979.
- 2 *Pearl of Great Price*, Joseph Smith, History 1:19.
- 3 *Doctrine and Covenants*, 1:30.
- 4 *Mormon Doctrine*, Bruce McConkie, p. 421.
- 5 *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 345-346, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 6 *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 346-347. See also *Doctrine and Covenants*, 132:20.
- 7 Joseph Smith declared: "If Jesus had a Father, can we not believe that He had a Father also? I despise the idea of being scared to death at such a doctrine, for the Bible is full of it." [!] *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 373. See also *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 322, which confirms this doctrine.
- 8 *Pearl of Great Price*, Book of Abraham, 3:3, 9, 16. See also *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 428.
- 9 "These three constitute three distinct personages and three Gods. ... We have three Gods anyhow, and they are plural." *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 370.
- 10 *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 349.
- 11 *Mormon Doctrine*, Bruce McConkie, p. 516.
- 12 *Doctrine and Covenants*, 130:22.
- 13 *Book of Mormon*, 2 Nephi 5:21-23. See also 1 Nephi 12:23.
- 14 *Pearl of Great Price*, Book of Moses, 7:8.
- 15 *Pearl of Great Price*, Book of Abraham, 1:24. See also 1:21-27 where dark-skinned persons are prohibited from the priesthood.
- 16 *Pearl of Great Price*, Book of Abraham, 3:24-28 and Book of Moses 4:1-4. See also *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 164.
- 17 *Mormon Doctrine*, Bruce McConkie, p. 547.
- 18 *Doctrine and Covenants*, 132:15-20.
- 19 *Doctrine and Covenants*, 131:1-4.
- 20 *Doctrine and Covenants*, 76:50-113 and 131:1.
- 21 *Doctrine and Covenants*, 132:61-63.
- 22 Genesis 3:1-5; Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:1-10.
- 23 John 8:44.
- 24 Deuteronomy 4:39.
- 25 John 4:24.
- 26 Psalm 93:2; Jeremiah 10:10; Revelation 22:13; Psalm 90:2.
- 27 Isaiah 44:6; Isaiah 45:22; John 17:3. See also Isaiah 43:10-11 and 45:5-6; Deuteronomy 32:39; James 2:19.
- 28 Romans 2:11; Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11.
- 29 Begin your reading with the Gospels of John and Luke. These are biographies of Jesus.

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