

# The Cults Exposed

Mormonism – Part II  
Mormonism Doctrinal Issues



"Doing Missionary Work"  
Wife No. 19, p. 178

**Introduction:**        ***Peter's Warning!***

*"But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up." -- **2 Peter 2:1-3***

## **Doctrinal Issues:**

### **I. Their Source(s) of Authority**

**The King James Bible** "as far as it is translated correctly" [*Articles of Faith*, 8]

**The Book of Mormon** [Smith's English translation of the original "Reformed Egyptian"]

no archaeological support for historical accounts

no anthropological basis that native Americans are semites

numerous corrections made to original to correct spelling and errors (ex. 1 Nephi 11:18 originally calls the virgin (Mary) the "mother of God" and is changed to "the mother of the Son of God.")

whole sections duplicate Biblical passages often using KJV English. (Compare: Mosiah 14 with Isaiah 53). Numerous other KJV quotes (Note: KJV was translated in 1611 by men making no claim to inspiration, yet Joseph Smith's "inspired" translation adopts their phrasing.)

**The Doctrine & Covenants** [written and revised record of revelations to Smith, et al.]

**Pearl of Great Price**

*Book of Moses*

*Book of Abraham*

Smith's translation of *Matthew 24*

Smith's, *History of Joseph Smith* (Chapter 1-5)

*Thirteen Articles of Faith*

## The Living Prophet [Smith, Young, the Presidency]

### **NOTE: Weathervane Theology: The Case of Polygamy**

- 1830 - Book of Mormon condemns David and Solomon's polygamy.  
"Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord." [*Jacob 2:24*]
  - 1831 - Smith already polygamous secretly.  
"Although the revelation [*D&C 132*] was recorded in 1843, it is evident from the historical records that the doctrine and principles involved in this revelation had been known by the Prophet since 1831." [Heading to *D&C 132*, LDS ed.]
  - 1835 - *Article on Marriage* passed by the Twelve in Smith's absence.
  - 1843 - Smith's revelation of celestial marriage and plural marriages. [*D&C, 132*]
  - 1852 - Young publically endorses polygamy.
  - 1890 - President Wilford Woodruff, under Supreme Court injunction, advises against polygamy and the church leaders concur. [*D&C, Declaration #1*]
- YET: Developed Mormon theology presents celestial marriage as the ideal and plural marriage as the design of God. (They say Adam and Jesus were polygamists!). Any claim that Mormons no longer believe in polygamy is false, they may not *practice* it for pragmatic reasons, but they do *believe in* it.
- Splinter churches rejecting plural marriage and Brigham Young:  
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ, LDS (RLDS)  
Church of Christ (Temple Lot)  
Church of Jesus Christ (Bickertonites)

## II The Doctrine of God

### **Early Statements in Book of Mormon strongly imply Trinitarianism.**

"And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen." [*2 Nephi 31:21*]

"Every thing.. shall be arraigned before the bar of Christ, the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one Eternal God, to be judged according to their works..." [*Alma 12:44*]

### **Early Statements in Book of Mormon affirm monotheism.**

"And Zeezrom said to him: Thou sayest there is a true and living God? And Amulek said: Yea, there is a true and living God. Now Zeezrom said: Is there more than one God? And he answered, No. And Zeezrom said to him: How knowest thou these things? And he said: An angel has made them known unto me." [*Alma 11:26-31*]

### **Later Statements endorse a polytheism and embrace a polytheistic cosmology.**

"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 the people in it." [Joseph Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 349]

"And the Lord said: Let us go down. And they went down at the beginning, and they -- that is: the Gods, organized and formed the heavens and the earth... And they (the Gods) said let there be light, and there was light." [*Abraham 4:1, 3*]

Note: This section is a paraphrase of the Genesis account. Genesis uses the Hebrew term "elohim" for God [a plural of majesty—similar to the "royal we" in English]. Smith, supposedly translating from 'Reformed Egyptian,' uses the phrase "they (the Gods)" which is clearly polytheistic.

"Gods exist, and we had better strive to be prepared to be one with them." [Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 7:238]

### **Later Statements endorse the doctrine of Adam-God.**

"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 is our Father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do." [Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 1:50]

### **Later Statements present a concept of God who evolves; this is foundational to their theology-man's quest to become a God.**

"God himself was as once as we are now, and is an exalted man,..." [Joseph Smith, *Teaching of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345]

"As man is, God once was: as God is, man may become." [Lorenzo Snow]

"Remember that God, our heavenly Father, was perhaps once a child, and mortal like we ourselves, and rose step by step in the scale of progress, in the school of advancement: he has moved forward and overcome, until He has arrived at the point where He is now." [Apostle Orson Hyde, *Journal of Discourses*, 1:123]

## **III. The Restored Priesthood**

### **Mormon History**

**May, 1829 -- John the Baptist confers the Aaronic Priesthood on Smith and Cowdery.** This continuing priesthood contains the offices of deacons, teachers, priests and bishops. [*JS-H*, 1:68-72; *D&C* 13]

**June, 1829 -- Peter, James and John confer the Melchizedek Priesthood on Smith and Cowdery.** This continuing priesthood is the channel of revelation regarding doctrine and the plan of salvation. Presidents, Prophets and the Twelve come from this priesthood. [*JS-H* 1:72, *D&C* 27:12; 84:14-19; 107:8-9]

**NOTE:**

- 1. Mormonism teaches a continuity of these two priesthoods.**  
They consider the priesthood of Melchizedek as a higher priesthood yet co-existent with and complementary to the Aaronic priesthood, not a replacement for it.

YET: The Book of Hebrews says the priesthood of Melchizedek [the new covenant] replaces and eliminates the Aaronic priesthood [the old covenant]. Hebrews 7:22-28; 8; 10.

Jesus Christ is a high priest forever with no need for successors. He is a priest of the order of Melchizedek but not Aaron. Smith claims to be a priest of both orders!"

- 2. Historic Mormonism has restricted the priesthood to worthy, non-black Mormon males.**

**1830** - The theological position of the Book of Mormon is that black skin was a curse for rebellion. For almost 150 years this justified blatant Mormon prejudice against blacks.

"Behold, they hardened their hearts against him [i.e. Nephi], that they had become like flint; wherefore, as they were white, and exceedingly fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing to my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them. And thus saith the Lord God: I will cause that they shall be loathsome unto thy people, save they shall repent of their iniquities. And cursed shall be the seed of him that mixeth with their seed: for they shall be cursed even with the same cursing. And the Lord spake it and it was done. And because of their cursing which was upon them they did become an idle people, full of mischief and subtlety..." [2 *Nephi* 5:21-24]

**1978** - The LDS Church opened the priesthood of Melchizedek and temple admission to blacks in response to a "revelation" to Spencer Kimball.

"Witnessing the faithfulness of those from whom the priesthood has been withheld, we have pleaded long and earnestly in behalf of these, our faithful brethren, spending many hours in the Upper Room of the Temple supplicating the Lord for Divine guidance. He has heard our prayers, and by revelation has confirmed that the long-promised day has come when every faithful man may receive the holy priesthood... including the blessings of the temple... accordingly, all worthy male members of the Church may be ordained to the priesthood with out regard to race or color." [*D&C, Declaration #2*. Announced by President Kimball and approved unanimously by the LDS assembly.]

YET: All believers (male or female, of any ethnic origin or age, worthy or not) are called priests according to the New Testament [1 Peter 2:9; Rv. 1:4-5]. In the NT elders, deacons, pastor-teachers are never called priests.

The Mormon contention that the priesthoods of Aaron and Melchizedek were restored through Joseph Smith is contrary to the NT, yet in the structure of the LDS Church the priesthood is at the heart of their teaching regarding salvation and exaltation--it is indispensable not incidental.

#### IV. Other Distinctives Baptism for the Dead

**Practice** - Mormonism practices water baptism not only for “believers” but also baptizes the living on behalf of the dead. These “proxy baptisms” must be performed in a Temple and be carefully recorded. Exhaustive genealogical research is done with a view to find names of ancestors who need the benefits of this ritual. Those born before the rediscovery of the gospel by Smith [as was the case of Smith’s brother Alvin who died in 1823] get a second chance to respond to the gospel as a benefit of proxy baptism. They may accept and be saved or reject it and be damned.

John Taylor [their 3<sup>rd</sup> President] says, “...we are the saviours of the world, if they are ever saved. (Cited in Tanner, *Mormonism: Shadow or Reality*, p. 452)

Wilford Woodruff [their 4<sup>th</sup> President] was baptized for John Wesley, Christopher Columbus, the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and all of the Presidents of the US except three. (Cited in Tanner, *Mormonism: Shadow or Reality*, p. 452)

More recently one woman according to a Mormon elder has been baptized for over 30,000 deceased friends and relatives including Alexander the Great, Nebuchadnezzar, Julius Caesar, Napoleon and Cleopatra. (Cited in Tucker, *Another Gospel*, p. 80)

**Basis** - There is no mention of this practice in the Book of Mormon, in fact, *Alma 34:33-35* seems to preclude repentance after death.

**1 Corinthians 15:29** - Paul mentions baptism for the dead. There is no other NT reference.

“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?” (NASV)

Note:

Paul shifts from “we” to “they” in describing the practice.

Paul doesn’t endorse the practice.

Paul doesn’t explain the significance of the practice.

Paul does say the practice presupposes resurrection of the dead which is the theme of the chapter.

The exact meaning and background of this remark is unclear.

**D&C 124, 127 and 128** - detail the revelation of “baptism for the dead” to Joseph Smith and proper implementation of this practice.

**D&C 138** - is a recorded revelation given in 1918 to President Joseph F. Smith (the son of Hyrum Smith) relating 1 Peter 3:18-20 and 1 Peter 4:6 to their theory of Christ preaching to the dead that they may be yet saved by: faith, repentance, vicarious baptism, and the gift of the Holy Ghost through laying on of hands. He also says that “Faithful elders of this dispensation when they depart this mortal life” continue the work of preaching the gospel “among those who are in darkness and under the

bondage of sin in the great world of the spirits of the dead.” [D&C 138:57]

*NOTE: It is not uncommon for cults to make difficult passages from the Bible the basis for their central doctrines, even if these doctrines are contradicted by numerous clear Bible texts. Sound methodology takes the clear passages as the basis by which the difficult passages are evaluated.*

#### **Lord’s Supper: Bread and Water**

**Practice** - Mormons observe the Lord’s Supper weekly using bread and water and the elements.

**Basis** - This practice began in 1830 when Smith was traveling to purchase wine for use in the sacrament. A heavenly messenger appeared and told him it didn’t matter what he ate or drank in partaking the sacrament [D&C 27:2] and that he should refrain from purchasing strong drink from his enemies.

**Afterlife: Three Kingdoms** (see chart)

## **V. Proof that Mormonism is True**

**The “Burning in the Bosom”...**

“And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask of God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if you ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.” [Book of Mormon, *Moroni 10:4-5*]

**NOTE:** Experiential validation of truth is advocated. This makes it hard to argue against. It presupposes also that if you don’t get this confirmation something is wrong with your faith or that you are insincere.

**Or Heartburn ?**

**Acts 17:11** “Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

**John 20:30** Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**Gal. 1:8-9** “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!”