

# Christianity, Cults & Religion

Scientology

New Age

Wicca



Islam

Buddhism



Christianity

Taoism



Judaism

Hinduism



Christian  
Science

Jehovah's  
Witnesses

Mormonism

# Christianity, Cults & Religion

Purpose –

- To strengthen our foundation as Christians
  - Know what others believe
  - Know what their beliefs are founded on
  - Compare those beliefs and foundations with Christianity
- To be better prepared in evangelism

# Overview

Week 1 Hinduism

Week 2 Buddhism

Week 3 New Age

Week 4 Islam

Week 5 Scientology

Week 6 Christian Science

Week 7 Jehovah's Witness

Week 8 Mormons



# MORMONS

Officially known as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS).

13. 5 million adherents

## Attraction

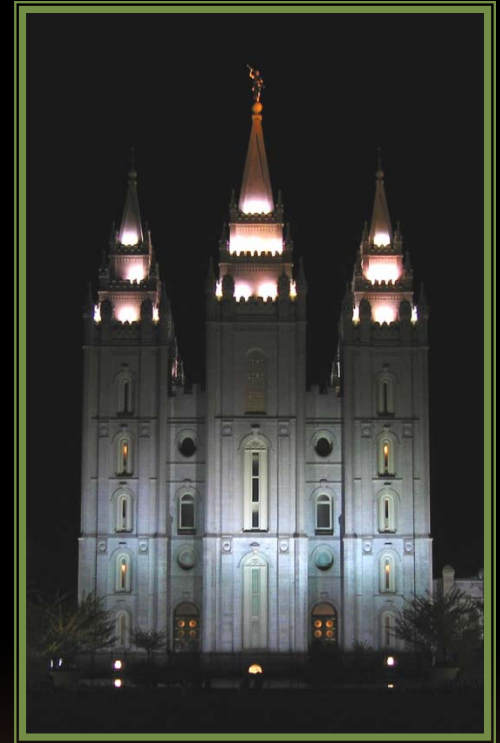
Strong emphasis on building the family

Clean living: No alcohol, tobacco, or caffeine

Mormonism disagrees with biblical Christianity ...

What is authoritative revelation (Scripture)?

Who (or what) is God?

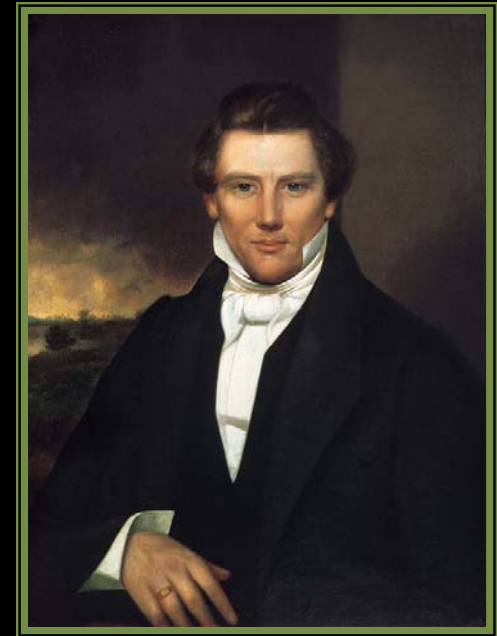


*Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah*

# MORMONS

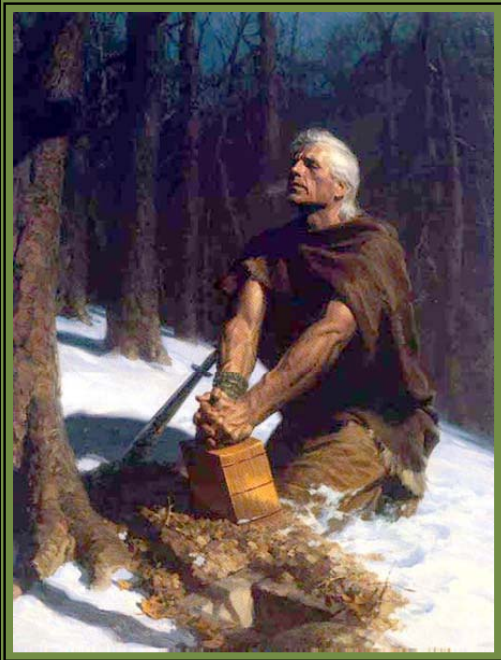
Joseph Smith 1805 – 1844

At 14 Vision of the Father and Son  
All Churches are Wrong & Corrupt



At 17 Visited by the Angel  
Moroni  
Told of book written on  
Golden Plates

# MORMONS



4 years later Joseph  
dug up the plates

Smith translated the  
plates as he sat  
behind a curtain.



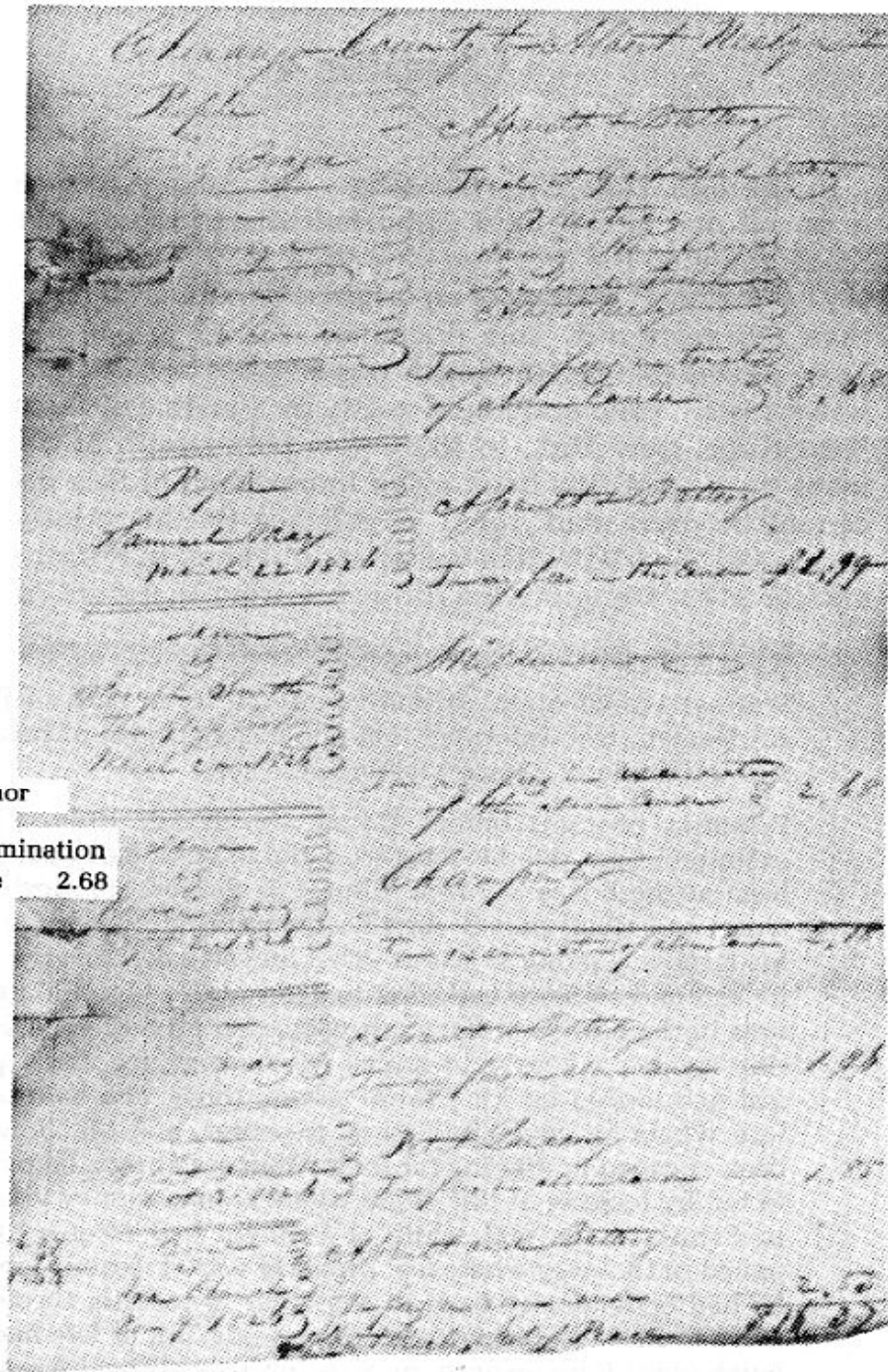
# MORMONS

A photograph of Justice Albert Neely's bill showing the costs involved in several trials in 1826

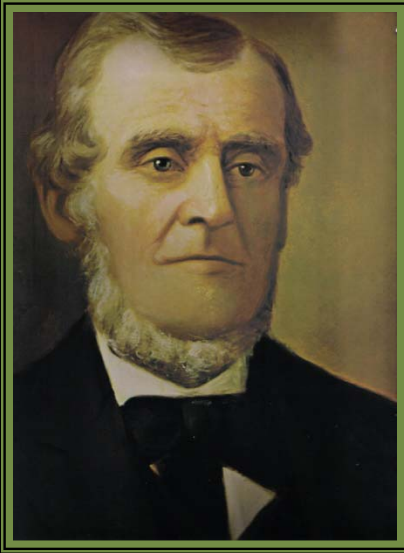
same  
vs  
Joseph Smith  
The Glass looker  
March 20, 1826

## Misdemeanor

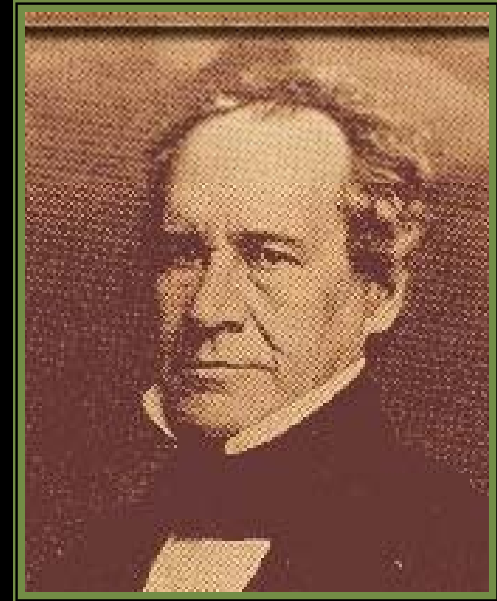
To my fees in examination  
of the above cause 2.68



# MORMONS

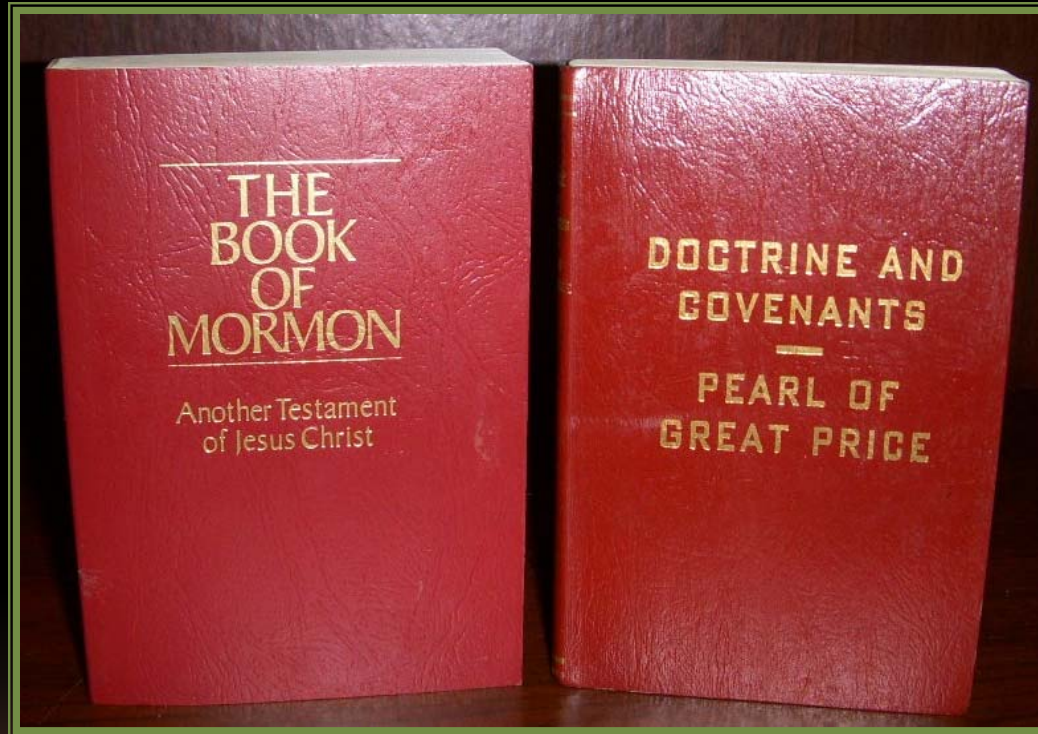


Martin Harris,  
Joseph Smith's  
assistant



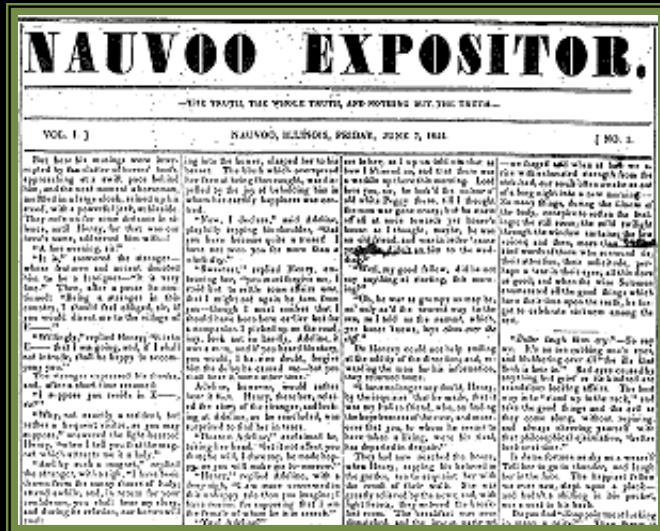
Professor Charles Anthon of Columbia College  
“The whole story about my having pronounced  
the Mormonite inscription to be ‘Reformed  
Egyptian hieroglyphics’ is perfectly false. That  
paper contained anything else but ‘Egyptian  
hieroglyphics’.”

# MORMONS

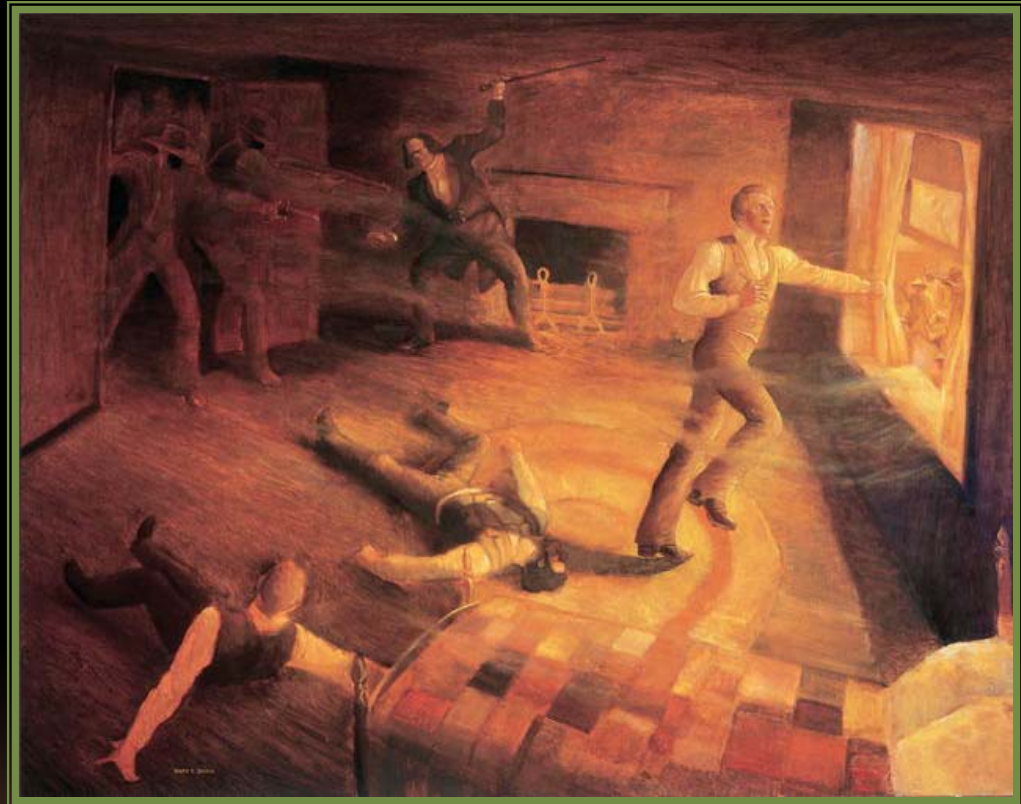


1830 Published the Book of Mormon  
1835 Published Doctrine and Covenants

# MORMONS



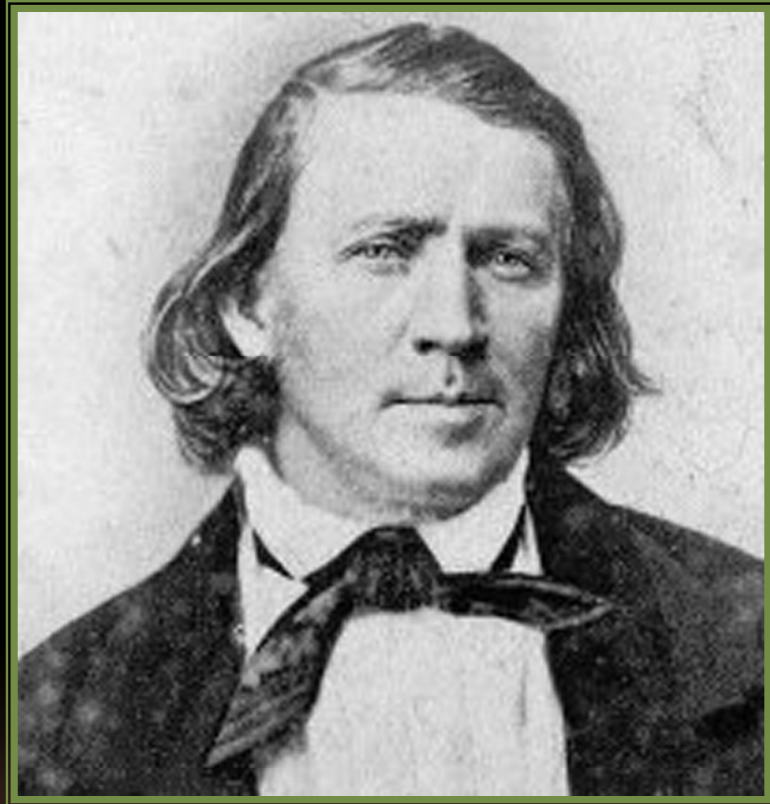
## Polygamy Exposed



Joseph Smith wound up in jail in Carthage, Illinois, crowd of 200 attacked.

# MORMONS

Brigham Young, won a power struggle and led many to Salt Lake where they settled in 1847.



Brigham Young

# MORMONS

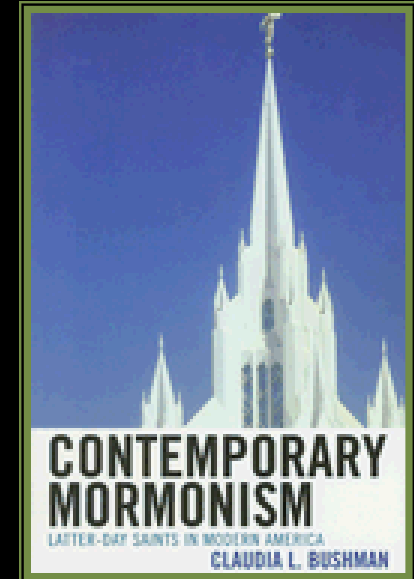
A significant minority,  
headed by Smith's wife  
Emma and son Joseph the III  
led followers in Missouri and  
Illinois and formed the  
Reorganized Church of Jesus  
Christ of Latter Day Saints,  
head quartered in  
Independence, Missouri.



# MORMONS

A more positive public image was sought to gain more converts.

A new strategy which claimed,  
“Mormonism is Christianity;  
Christianity is Mormonism; they are  
one and the same.”



# MORMONISM

*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

## FOUNDER

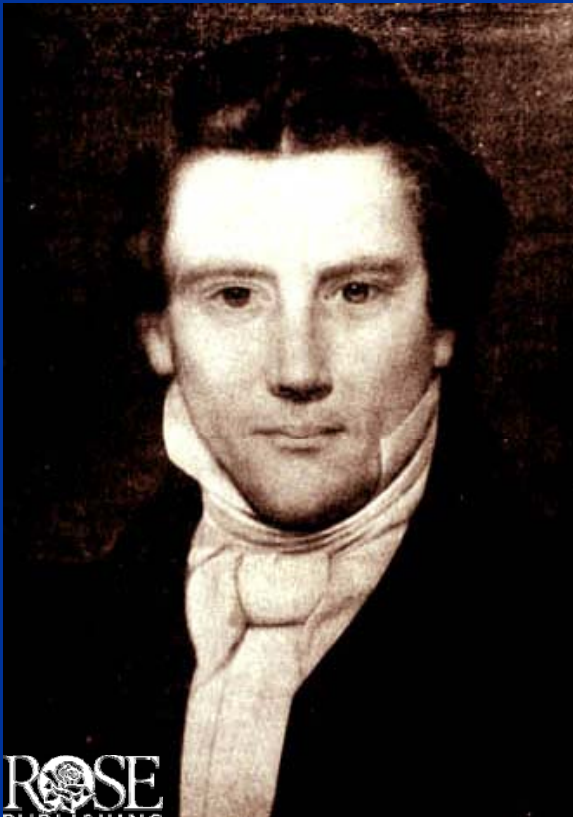
- Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844)

## DATE

- Founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in 1830

## LOCATION

- Headquarters now in Salt Lake City, Utah



ROSE  
PUBLISHING



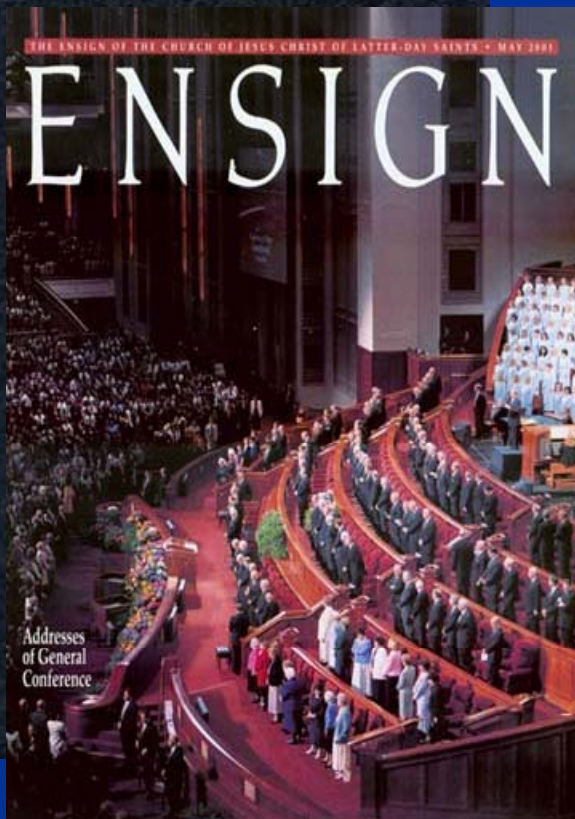
# MORMONISM

*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*



## KEY WRITINGS

- *The Book of Mormon*
- *Doctrine and Covenants*
- *Pearl of Great Price*
- The Bible (King James Version only or Smith's "Inspired Version")
- Authoritative teachings of Mormonism's prophets and other "general authorities"



# MORMONISM

*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*



## WHO IS GOD?

- God the Father was once a man, but “progressed” to godhood.
- God the Father has a physical body, as does his wife (generally called “Heavenly Mother”).
- No Trinity.
  - Father, Son, and “Holy Ghost” are three separate gods.
- Worthy men may one day become gods themselves.



**Bible**

# MORMONISM

*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*



## WHO IS JESUS?

- The Mormon Jesus is a separate god from the Father (Elohim).
- He was created as a spirit child by the Father and Mother in Heaven, and is the “elder brother” of all men and spirit beings.



# MORMONISM

*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*



## WHO IS JESUS?

- His body was created through sexual union between Elohim and Mary.
- He was married.
- His death on the cross does not provide full atonement for all sin, but does provide everyone with resurrection.



# MORMONISM

*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*



## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- In Mormonism, the “holy spirit” is different from the “Holy Ghost.”
- The “holy spirit” is not God, but is instead an influence or electricity-like emanation from God.
- The “holy spirit” is also called the “light of Christ.”



# MORMONISM

*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*



## HOW TO BE SAVED

- No eternal life without Mormon church membership.
- People are resurrected by grace, but saved (exalted to godhood and eternal life) by works, which include...
  - faithfulness to church leaders
  - Mormon baptism
  - tithing
  - ordination
  - marriage
  - secret temple rituals



# MORMONISM

*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*



## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH

- Eventually nearly everyone goes to one of three separate heavenly “kingdoms,” with some achieving godhood.
- Apostates and murderers go to “outer darkness.”



# MORMONISM

*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*



## OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- No alcohol, tobacco, coffee, or tea.
- Baptism on behalf of the dead.
- Two-year missionary commitment encouraged.



# MORMONISM

*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*



## OTHER BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- Secret temple rituals available only to members in good standing.
- Extensive social network.
- Men of African ancestry were not granted full access to Mormon priesthood and privileges until 1978.

12 Part I—Mon., June 12, 1978 Los Angeles Times •

### THE FIRST OF HIS RACE

## Black Ordained to Mormon Priesthood

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Joseph Freeman Jr., a 26-year-old telephone repairman, Sunday became the first black ordained to the priesthood of the Mormon Church. The church dropped its restriction against blacks Friday.

"I don't know if words can describe how I feel," Freeman said. "It's something we've waited a long time for."

Spencer W. Kimball, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and his two counselors announced Friday that the church would no longer keep black males from the priesthood. He said a "revelation" had come after hours of "supplicating the Lord for divine guidance."

The prohibition had prevented black males from entering the priesthood, for which all other males, 12 years of age and in good standing, were eligible.

Freeman was ordained an elder, one of six offices in the Mormon priesthood. The position generally is conferred at age 19. The other offices are deacon, teacher, priest, Counselor of Seventy and high priest.

Freeman said that he did not want his ordination publicized but that he realized the event was out of the ordinary.

"These are sacred things and we take them to be sacred," Freeman said. His wife, Toe, and sons, Alexander and Zacharia, were on hand at the Stakehouse—a Mormon meeting house—in the suburb of Ogden, where the ordination took place.



Joseph Freeman Jr., newly ordained, with wife, Toe.

AP Wirephoto

# 10 Questions & Answers on Mormonism



# MAIN MENU

- 1** Did the Christian Church Need to Be Restored?
- 2** Was Joseph Smith a True Prophet of God?
- 3** What Is Mormon Scripture?
- 4** Is the Bible Trustworthy Scripture?
- 5** Is the Book of Mormon an Ancient Document?
- 6** Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?
- 7** Does Mormonism Teach the Truth About Jesus?
- 8** Can We Earn Our Salvation?
- 9** Why Do Mormons Build Temples?
- 10** Does Mormonism Teach Polygamy?
- Tips for Talking with Mormons



# **1 Did the Christian Church Need to Be Restored?**

1Q:

# Did the Church Need to Be Restored?

## Mormonism Claims...

### *Complete Apostasy*

- Mormons claim that the Church slipped into “the Great Apostasy”
- Christian doctrine became thoroughly corrupted



1Q:

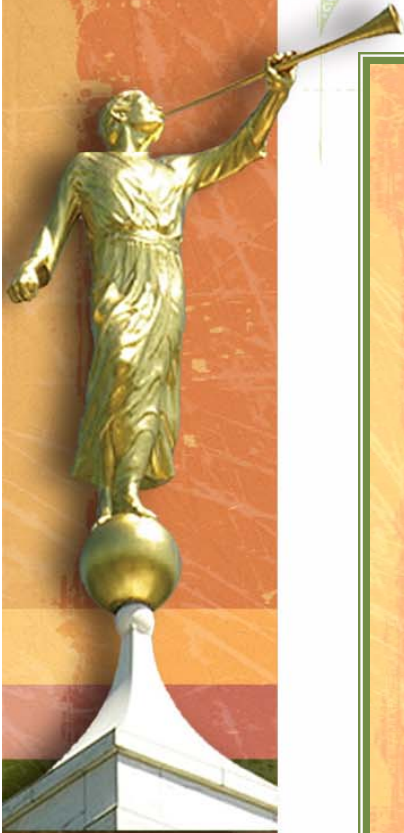
# Did the Church Need to Be Restored?

## Mormonism Claims...

### *Complete Apostasy*

*“If the alleged apostasy of the primitive Church was not a reality, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is not the divine institution its name proclaims.”*

—Mormon Apostle James Talmage

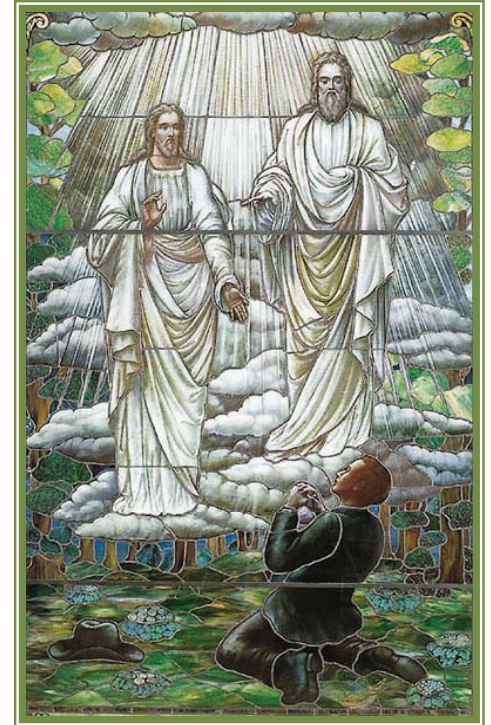


# Did the Church Need to Be Restored?

## Mormonism Claims...

### *Restoration Required*

- Mormons teach that Jesus told Joseph Smith that all churches were wrong and their creeds were “an abomination”
- God used Joseph Smith to organize His true church again in 1830



*Joseph Smith's  
“First Vision”*

# 1Q:

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## Did the Church Need to Be Restored?

### The Bible Teaches...

#### *No General Apostasy*

- “Some” shall depart from the faith
- A “complete” apostasy is not foretold
- If “some [would] depart,” others would not

*“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.”*

—1 Timothy 4:1



1Q:

## Did the Church Need to Be Restored?

### You Should Also Know...

#### *Mormonism Is Divided*

- Numerous Latter-day Saint splinter groups exist today
- The second-largest of these groups is the Community of Christ



*Community of Christ Temple  
Independence, Missouri*

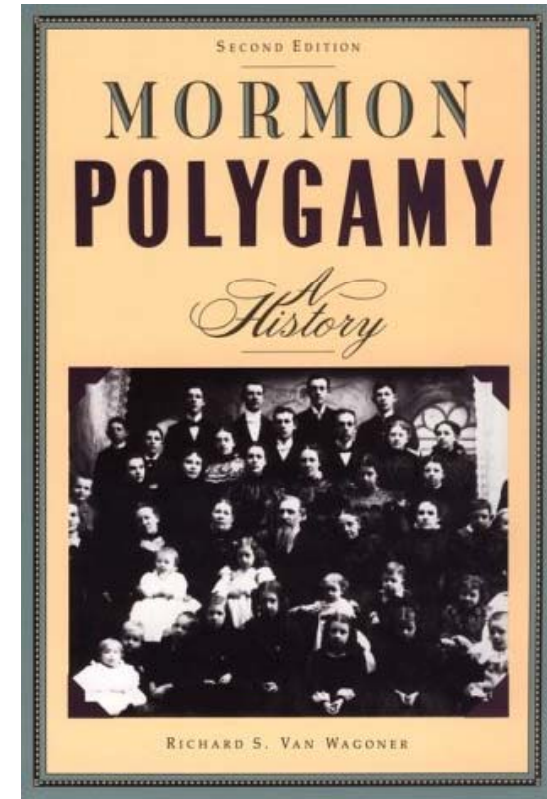
1Q:

# Did the Church Need to Be Restored?

## You Should Also Know...

### *Mormonism Is Divided*

- Several “fundamentalist” LDS groups believe that the Utah-based LDS church itself became apostate when it officially renounced polygamy in 1890





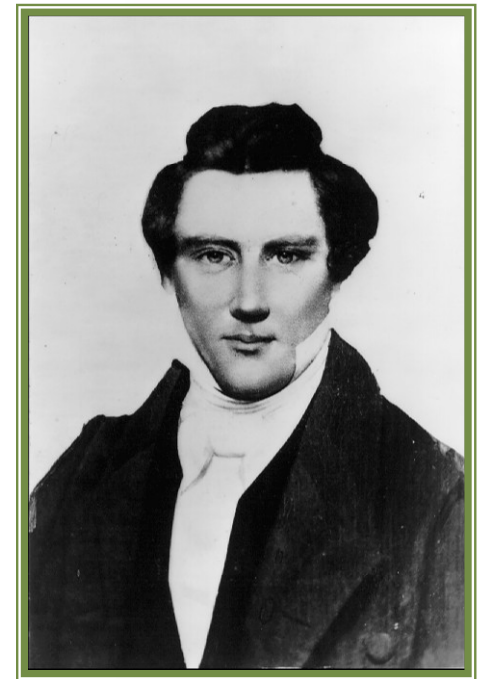
# **2 Was Joseph Smith a True Prophet of God?**

# Was Joseph Smith a True Prophet of God?

## Mormonism Claims...

### *Uniquely Important*

- Mormons claims that Joseph Smith is a modern “prophet, seer, and revelator”
- Joseph Smith is ranked second only to Jesus Himself when it comes to the salvation of mankind



*Joseph Smith*

# Was Joseph Smith a True Prophet of God?

## Mormonism Claims...

### *Uniquely Important*

- Many Mormons believe that the most convincing witness to Joseph's calling as a prophet is the Book of Mormon



*Joseph Smith receives the Book of Mormon from Moroni*



2Q:

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**Was Joseph Smith a True Prophet of God?**

## Mormonism Claims...

*Genuine or Fraud?*

- According to tenth LDS president Joseph Fielding Smith, Mormonism must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith
- “He was either a prophet of God...or one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen”



## 2Q

# Was Joseph Smith a True Prophet of God?

## The Bible Teaches...

### *Testing Prophets*

● God provided two main tests to determine a prophet's legitimacy:

1. Represents the true God of the Hebrews
  1. Deuteronomy 13:1-3
2. Correctly foretells the future
  1. Deuteronomy 18:20-22



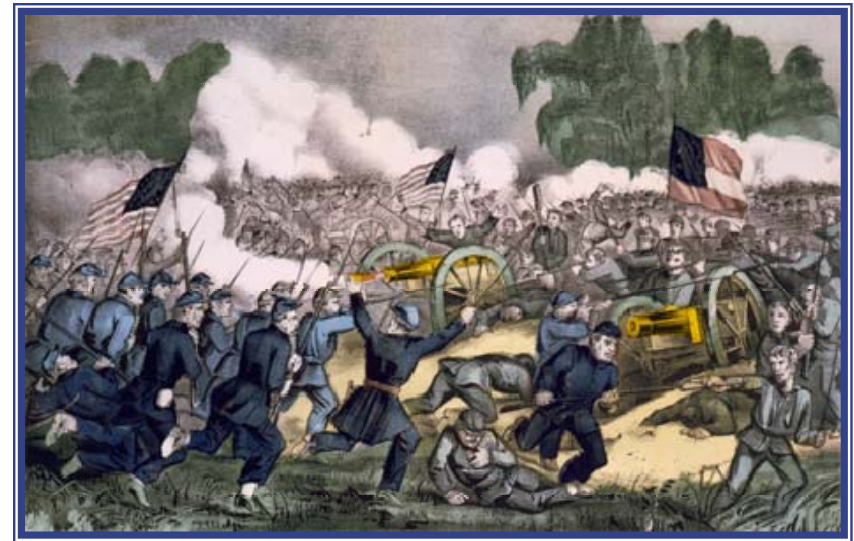
2

# Q: Was Joseph Smith a True Prophet of God?

## You Should Also Know...

### *Testing Prophets*

- Joseph Smith denied the biblical view of God
- He falsely predicted that a war between the States would literally become a world war



*Battle of Gettysburg*

2

**Q: Was Joseph Smith a True Prophet of God?****You Should Also Know...***Testing Prophets*

- The Bible warns against adding to or taking away from what God has commanded
- Joseph Smith produced his own version of the Bible in which he removed some parts and inserted others



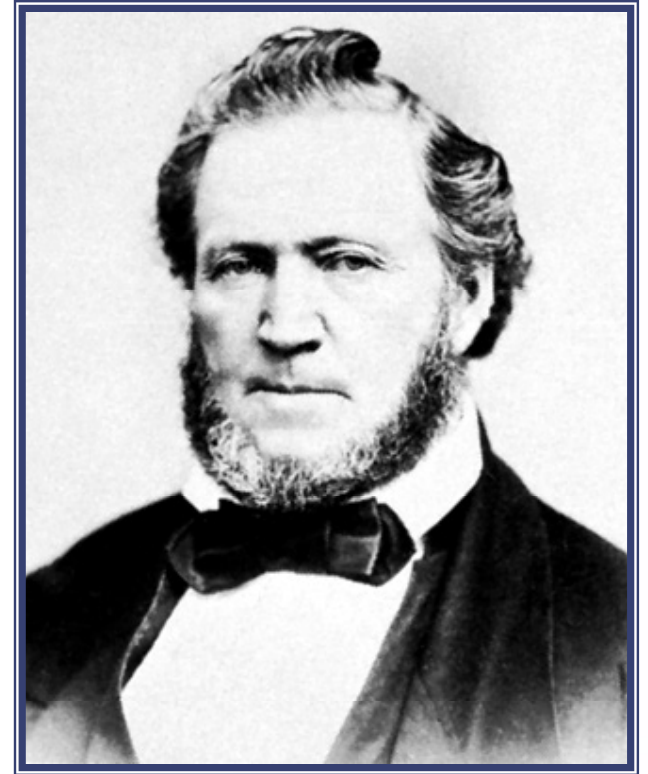
2Q

# Was Joseph Smith a True Prophet of God?

## You Should Also Know...

### *Extraordinary Claims*

● Brigham Young and George Q. Cannon both insisted that permission from Joseph Smith was required to enter the celestial kingdom



*Brigham Young*

## 2Q

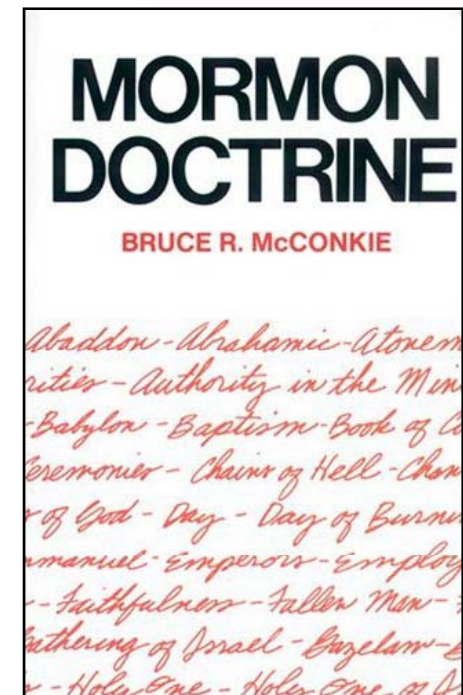
# Was Joseph Smith a True Prophet of God?

## You Should Also Know...

### *Extraordinary Claims*

● Mormon apostle Bruce McConkie said:

- “All men in the latter days must turn to Joseph Smith to gain salvation”
- Joseph Smith aided God the Father in the creation of the earth





# 3 What Is Mormon Scripture?

# 3Q:

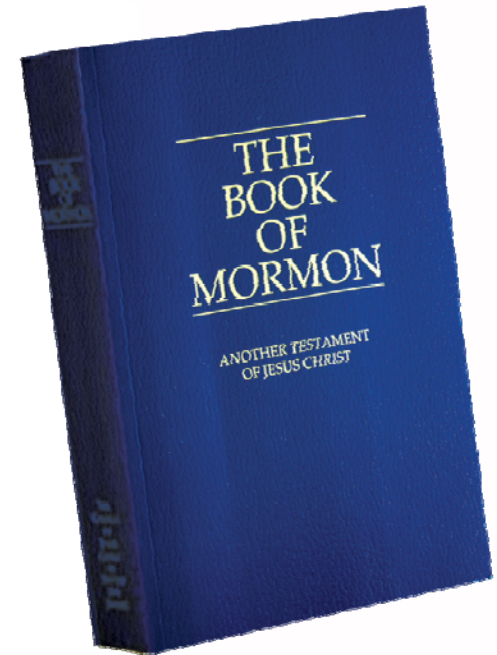
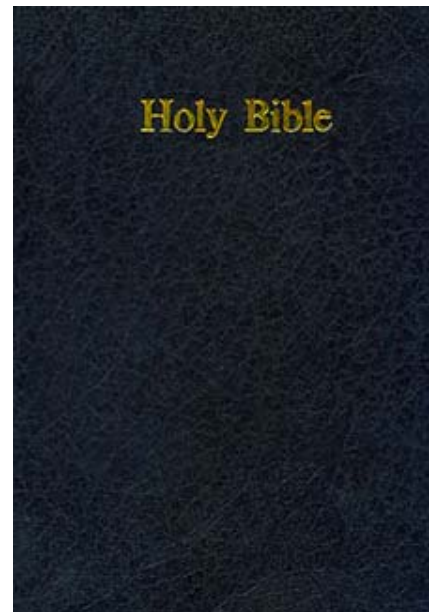
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## What Is Mormon Scripture?

### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Four “Standard Works”*

- The Bible  
(King James Version)
- The Book of Mormon



# 3Q:

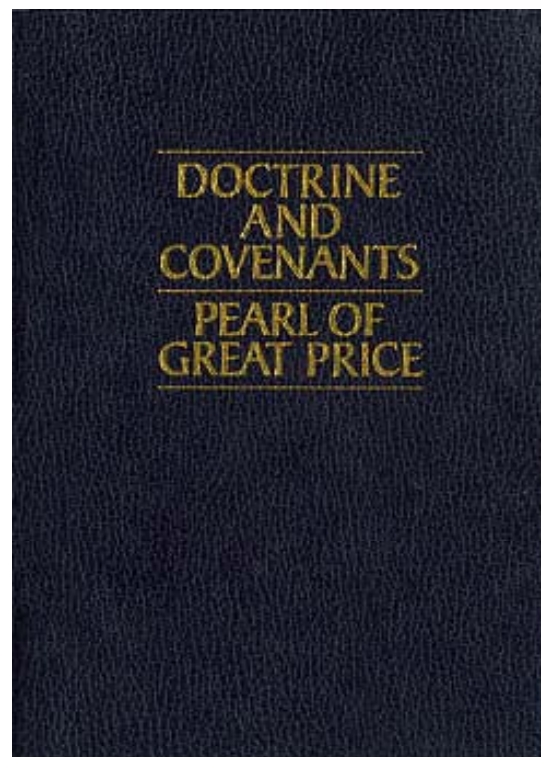
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## What Is Mormon Scripture?

### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Four “Standard Works”*

- The Doctrine and Covenants
- The Pearl of Great Price





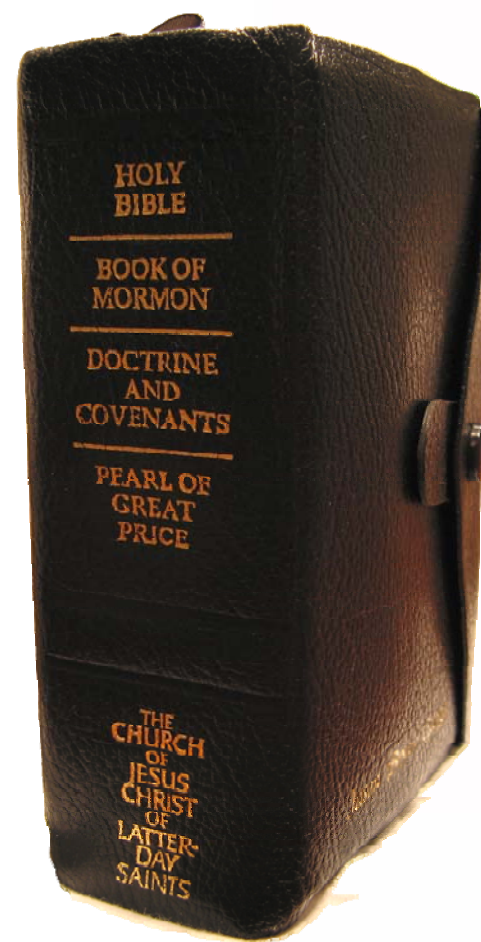
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## What Is Mormon Scripture?

### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Four “Standard Works”*

- Mormonism teaches that the Bible has been corrupted and is accepted only with qualifications





## What Is Mormon Scripture?

### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Continuing Revelation*

- We are also to accept the words of Mormonism's living prophets
- Their scriptures are not "closed," meaning that some doctrines may be changed or added





## What Is Mormon Scripture?

### You Should Also Know...

#### *Joseph Smith's Bible*

- Doctrine and Covenants 73:4 states that God commanded Joseph Smith to finish a new translation of the Bible
- This Bible, known as the *Inspired Version* or *Joseph Smith Translation* (JST), wasn't really a translation at all





## What Is Mormon Scripture?

### You Should Also Know...

#### *Joseph Smith's Bible*

- Smith had no ancient manuscripts, nor was he fluent in any biblical language
- Rather than consult ancient texts, Smith merely “corrected” whatever he felt was necessary
- Smith even added a prophecy of his own birth to Genesis 50:33





## What Is Mormon Scripture?

### You Should Also Know...



*“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.”*

*—Genesis 50:33, Joseph Smith Translation*



# **4 Is the Bible Trustworthy Scripture?**

# 4Q:

ROSE  
PUBLISHING

## Is the Bible Trustworthy Scripture?

### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Unreliable Scripture*

- The LDS church affirms that the Bible is the word of God “as far as it is translated correctly”
- “The Bible has suffered the loss of many plain and precious parts”



# 4Q:

ROSE  
PUBLISHING

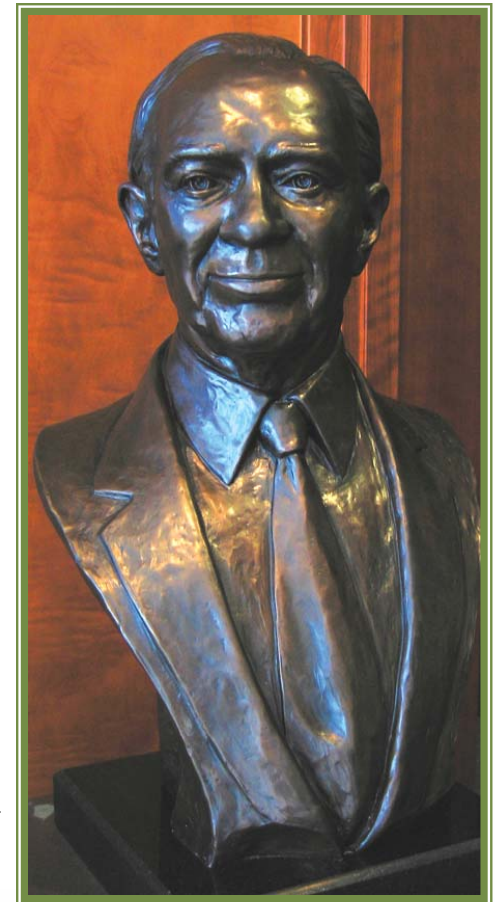
## Is the Bible Trustworthy Scripture?

### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Living Prophets Needed*

- The LDS church teaches “Latter-day revelation” from living prophets takes precedence over the ancient written word

**Current Mormon prophet  
Gordon B. Hinckley**



# 4Q:

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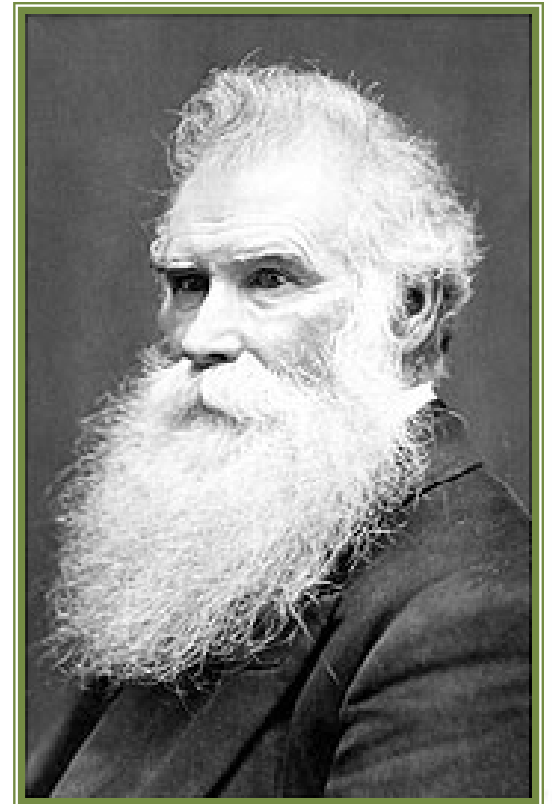
## Is the Bible Trustworthy Scripture?

### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Living Prophets Needed*

*“...who in his right mind could for one moment suppose the Bible in its present form to be a perfect guide? **Who knows that even one verse of the Bible has escaped pollution, so as to convey the same sense now that it did in the original?**”*

— Mormon Apostle Orson Pratt



# 4Q:

ROSE  
PUBLISHING

## Is the Bible Trustworthy Scripture?

### The Bible Teaches...

#### *Reliable Revelations*

- When Paul refers to “Scripture” in 2 Timothy 3:16, he means the Old Testament
- Paul also appears to quote the Gospel of Luke as Scripture

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.”*

—2 Timothy 3:16

# 4Q:

ROSE  
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## Is the Bible Trustworthy Scripture?

### You Should Also Know...

#### *Reliable Revelations*

- Most LDS criticism of the Bible alleges faulty “transmission”
- Mormons are taught that the Bible has been dishonestly revised
- Thus, many Mormons are slow to reexamine their faith when Bible passages contradict LDS teachings



# 4Q:

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PUBLISHING

## Is the Bible Trustworthy Scripture?

### You Should Also Know...

#### *Reliable Revelations*

- Critical examination of biblical manuscripts allows us to determine what the original writers wrote
- Manuscript differences are essentially minor





# **5 Is the Book of Mormon an Ancient Document?**

5Q:

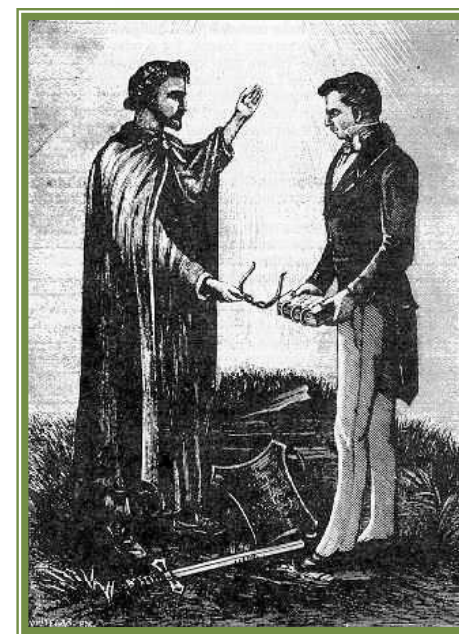
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Is the Book of Mormon an Ancient Document?

## Mormonism Claims...

### *Miraculous Translation*

- Mormons teach that The Book of Mormon is a translation of an ancient document
- Joseph Smith interpreted the characters on gold plates that the angel Moroni gave him in 1827



*Joseph Smith  
receiving golden plates*

# 5

ROSE  
PUBLISHING

## Q: Is the Book of Mormon an Ancient Document?

### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Ancient Peoples*

- The Book of Mormon gives an account of three people groups that migrated to the American continents “between about 2,000 BC and AD 400”



# 5

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## Q: Is the Book of Mormon an Ancient Document?

### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Biblical Prophecy*

- The LDS church teaches that the Book of Mormon was foretold in Ezekiel 37:16, 17, in which the “sticks” described are two books: the Bible and the Book of Mormon



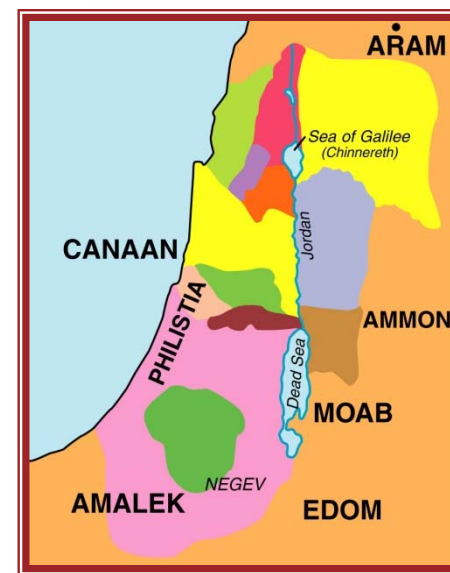


## 5Q: Is the Book of Mormon an Ancient Document?

### The Bible Teaches...

#### *Nations—Not Books*

- The Hebrew word for “stick” is never used in connection with books
- In Ezekiel 37:18-23, the sticks represent two *nations*—the ten northern tribes of Israel and the two southern tribes of Judah



5

ROSE  
PUBLISHING

Q: Is the Book of Mormon an Ancient Document?

## You Should Also Know...

### *Missing Evidence*

- The Book of Mormon is published without maps
- The LDS church cannot locate even one unique Book of Mormon city
- The LDS church has failed to provide undisputed proof that the peoples it describes really existed



5Q:

ROSE  
PUBLISHING

## Is the Book of Mormon an Ancient Document?

### You Should Also Know...

#### *Historical Problems*

- The Book of Mormon's 19th-century origin is exposed by the way it quotes passages from the New Testament
- It mentions topics relating to freemasonry and doctrinal controversies that were hotly disputed during Smith's lifetime



*Masonic emblem*



5

ROSE  
PUBLISHING

Q: Is the Book of Mormon an Ancient Document?

You Should Also Know...

*Other Problems*

- The Book of Mormon mentions types of animals, weaponry, and plants which were not present in the New World during the Book of Mormon time period



5Q:

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PUBLISHING

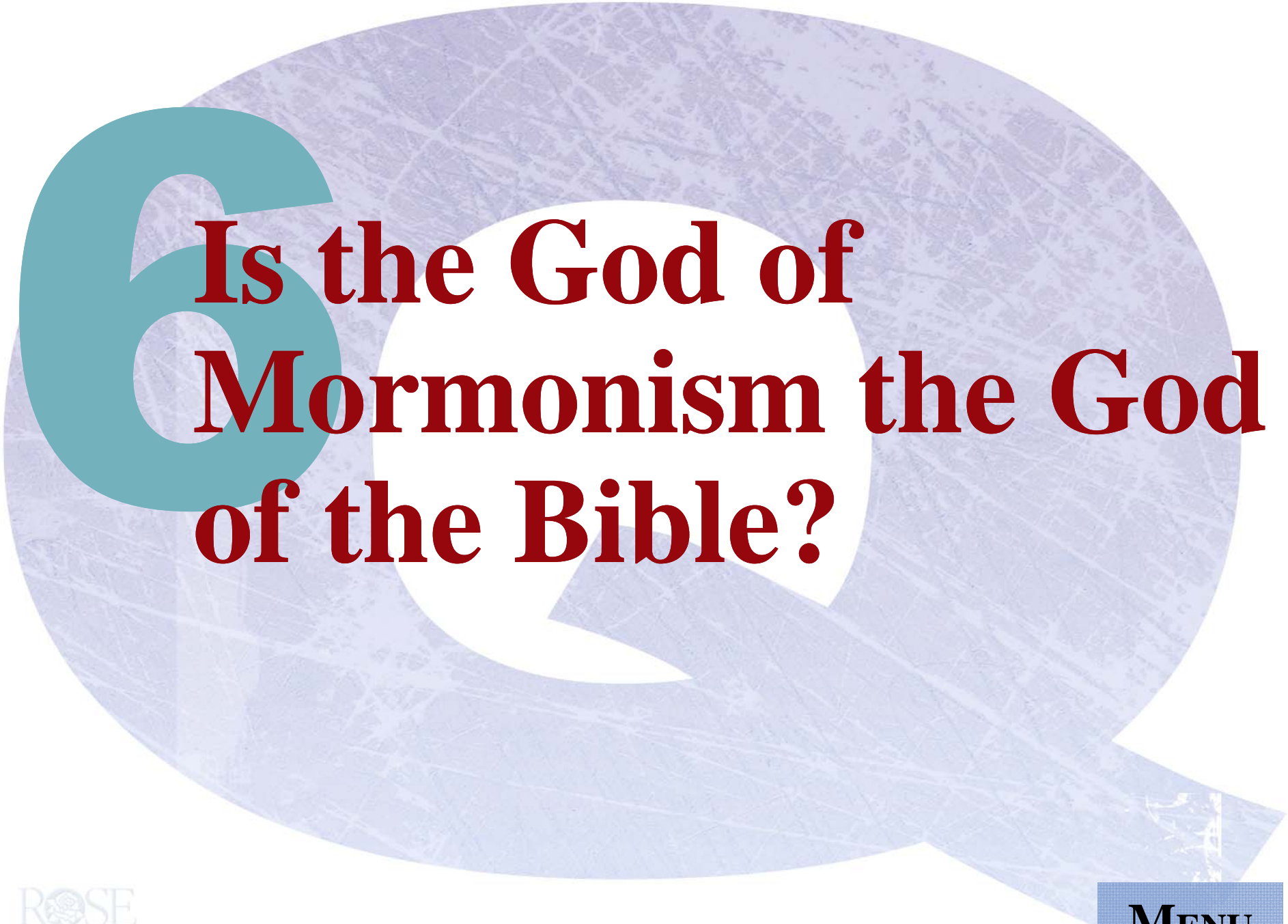
## Is the Book of Mormon an Ancient Document?

### You Should Also Know...

#### *Other Problems*

- New DNA research undermines the Mormon claim that the “Lamanites” are actually of Semitic origin





# **Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?**

# 6Q:

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Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?

## Mormonism Claims...

### *Many Gods*

- Mormons claim that the one whom Christians call “Heavenly Father” is one God among *many* Gods
- Our God was once a mortal man who *became* God by obeying eternal laws and principles



6Q:

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PUBLISHING

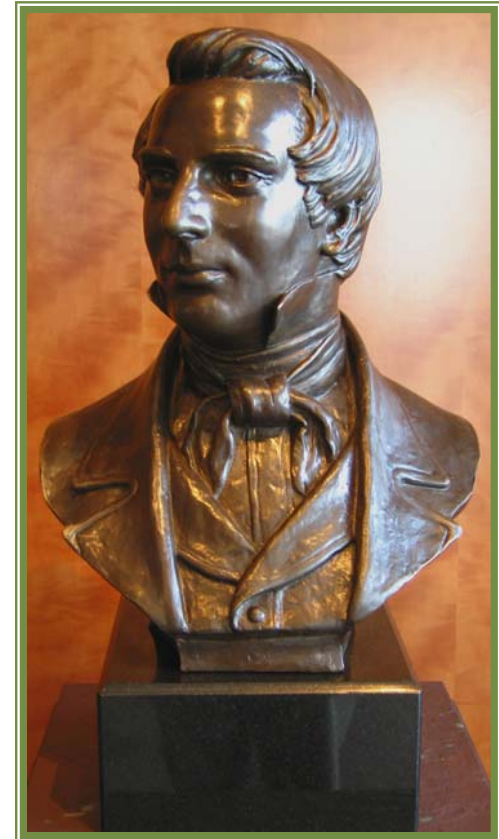
Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?

## Mormonism Claims...



*“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 veil, so that you may see.”*

—Joseph Smith



# 6Q:

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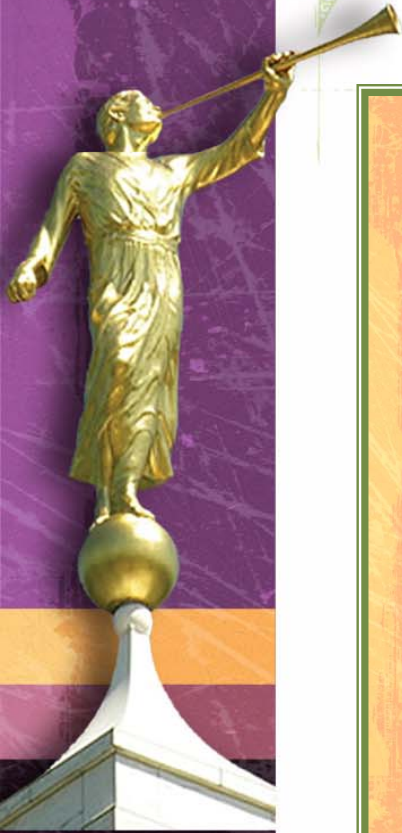
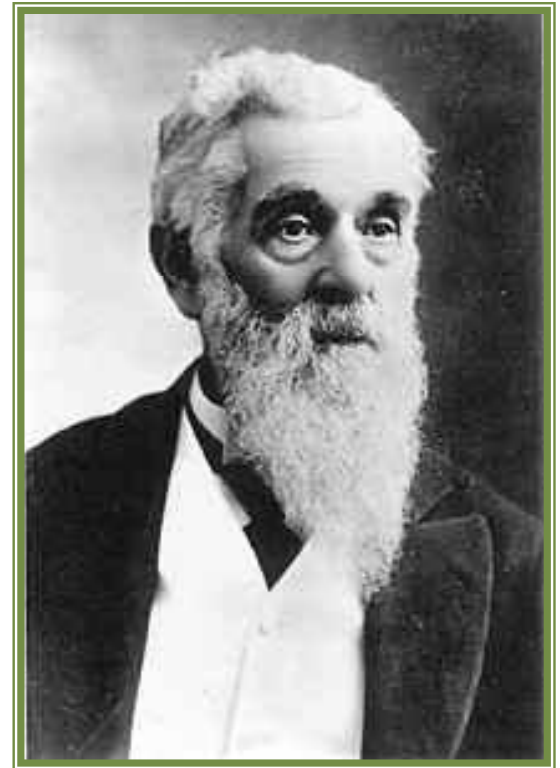
## Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?

### Mormonism Claims...

*We Can Become Gods*

*“As man is, God  
once was; as God  
is, man may  
become.”*

—Fifth LDS President  
Lorenzo Snow



# 6Q:

ROSE  
PUBLISHING

Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?

## Mormonism Claims...

### *A Finite God*

- The LDS church teaches that God the Father has a body of flesh and bones
- God the Father can only be at one place at any one time
- The view of God held by millions of Christians is a perversion of the truth



6Q:

ROSE  
PUBLISHING

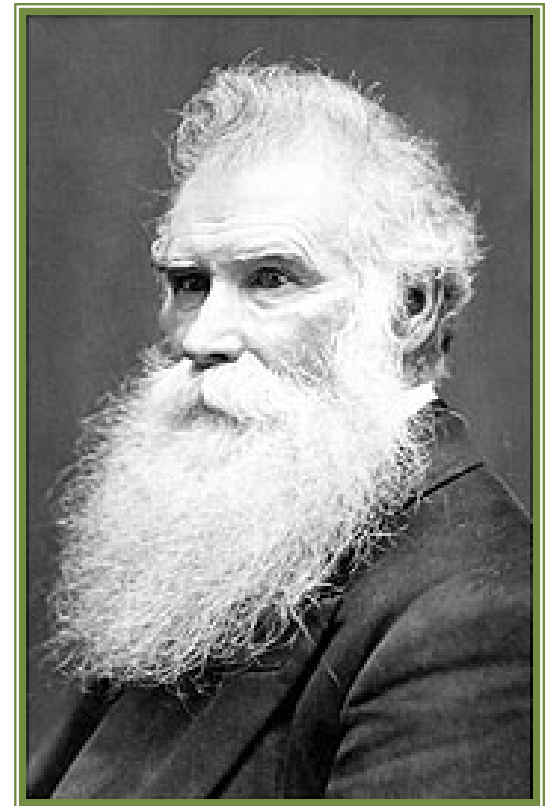
Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?

## Mormonism Claims...

*Many Gods*

*“If we should take a million of worlds like this and number their particles, we should find that there are more Gods than there are particles of matter in those worlds.”*

—Mormon apostle Orson Pratt



6Q:

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Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?

## The Bible Teaches...

### *Only One Eternal God*

- God has always been eternally God
- He is responsible for all things created
- God is spirit
- There is only one God



6Q:

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Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?

## The Bible Teaches...

*Only One Eternal God*

- God has always been eternally God

**Psalm 90:2**

**Before the mountains were brought forth, Or  
ever You had formed the earth and the world,  
Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are  
God.**



6Q:

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Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?

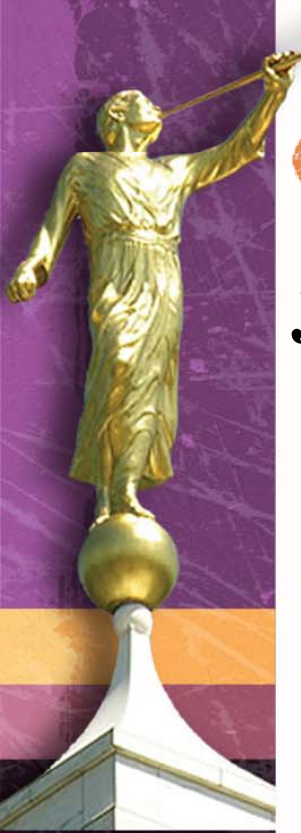
## The Bible Teaches...

*Only One Eternal God*

- He is responsible for all things created

**John 1:3**

**All things were made through Him, and  
without Him nothing was made that was made.**



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Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?

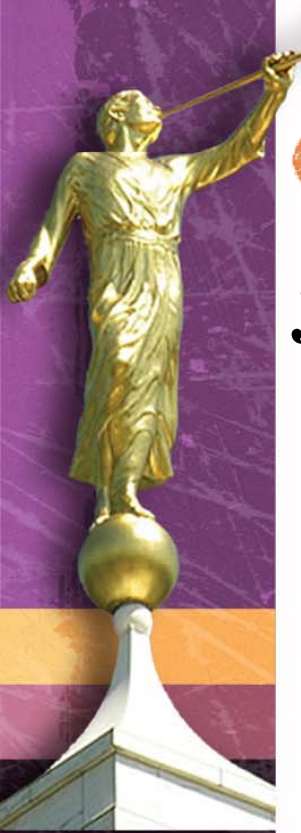
## The Bible Teaches...

*Only One Eternal God*

● God is spirit

**John 4:24**

**God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”**



6Q:

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Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?

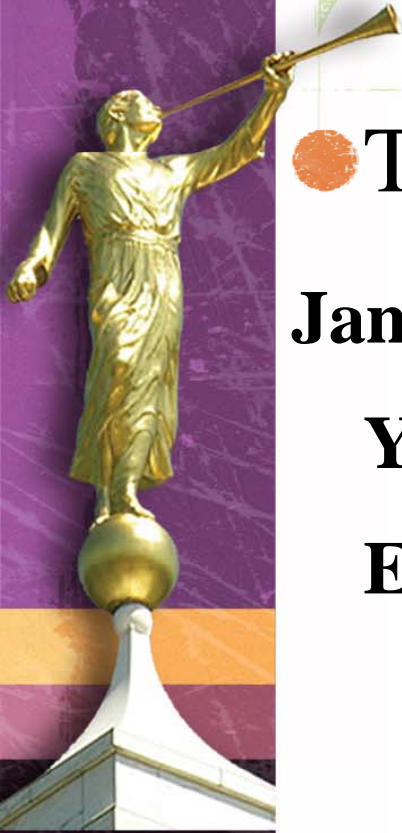
## The Bible Teaches...

*Only One Eternal God*

- There is only one God

**James 2:19**

**You believe that there is one God. You do well.  
Even the demons believe—and tremble!**



6Q:

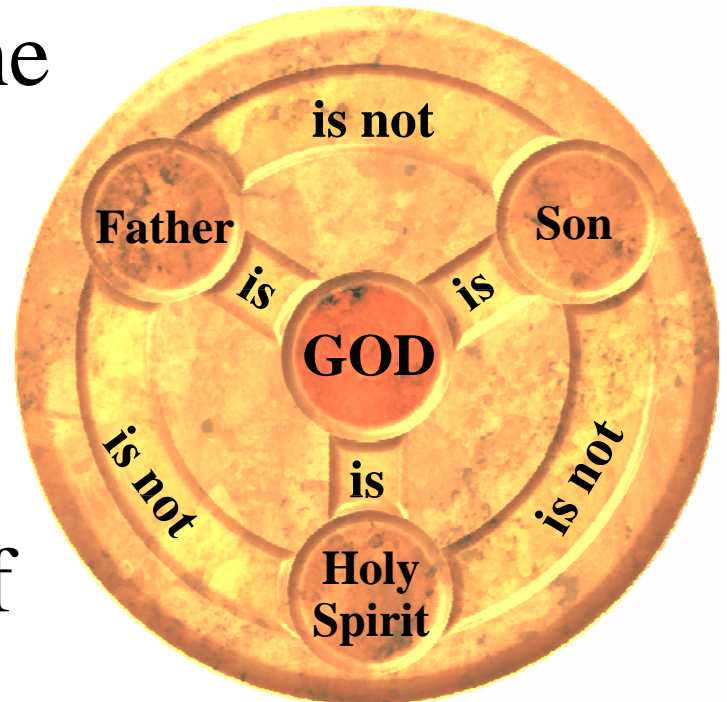
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Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?

## The Bible Teaches...

### *Only One Eternal God*

- The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God
- God is one, but there is a clear distinction among the persons of the Trinity



6Q:

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**Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?**

## **The Bible Teaches...**

### *The Eternality of God*

**Isaiah 43:10**

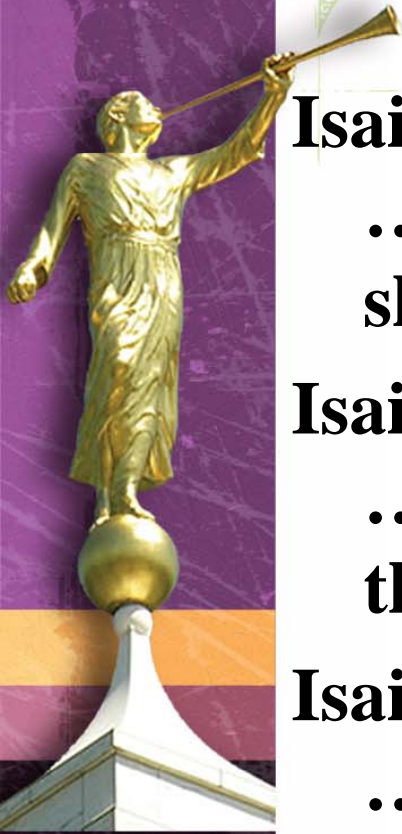
**...Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.**

**Isaiah 44:6**

**...I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.**

**Isaiah 44:8**

**...Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.**



6Q:

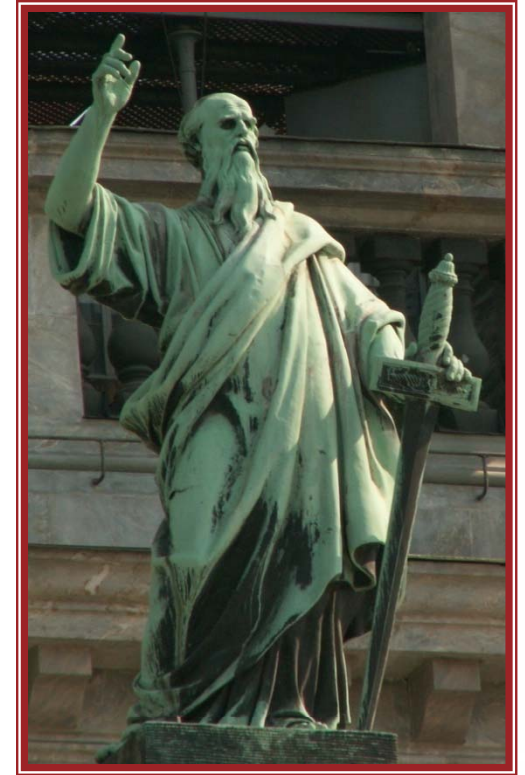
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Is the God of Mormonism the God of the Bible?

## The Bible Teaches...

### *A Unique God*

- The Apostle Paul noted the foolishness of those who change the glory of the incorruptible God into an image like that of corruptible man



*Apostle Paul*



# **Does Mormonism Teach the Truth About Jesus?**

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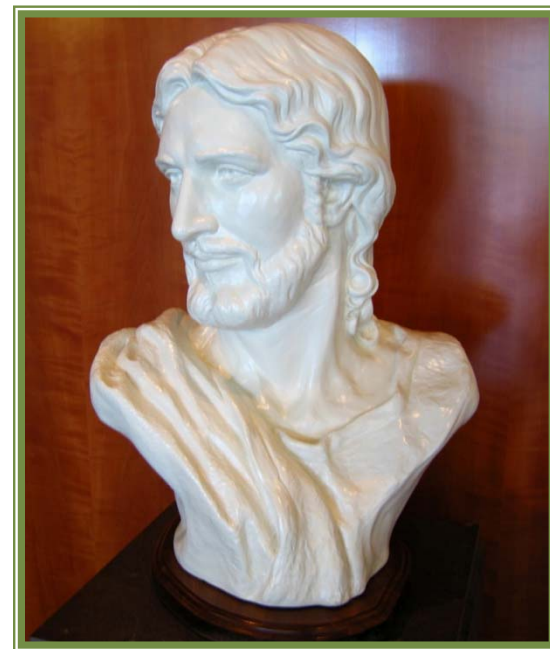
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Does Mormonism Teach the Truth About Jesus?

## Mormonism Claims...

*Jesus “Preexisted” with Us*

- Mormons teach that Jesus preexisted in Heaven before He became a man, died, rose, and ascended
- All humans preexisted in Heaven before becoming human



7Q:

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Does Mormonism Teach the Truth About Jesus?

## Mormonism Claims...

### *Jesus Not Equal to the Father*

- The LDS church claims that Jesus is the firstborn of God's spirit children and the first of us to become a God
- We should not pray to Jesus
- As a human being, Jesus is the *literal* son of God the Father



# Does Mormonism Teach the Truth About Jesus?

## Mormonism Claims...

### *Jesus' Death and Resurrection*

- The LDS church claims that by His death and resurrection, Jesus saved practically all human beings
- After He rose, Jesus went to the Americas to preach to the Nephites there



7Q:

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PUBLISHING

Does Mormonism Teach the Truth About Jesus?

## The Bible Teaches...

### *One of a Kind*

- Jesus Christ is not the first of God's billions of preexistent spirit children
- Instead, He is the *only* human being to have preexisted as a spirit in Heaven
- Jesus is from Heaven; we are not



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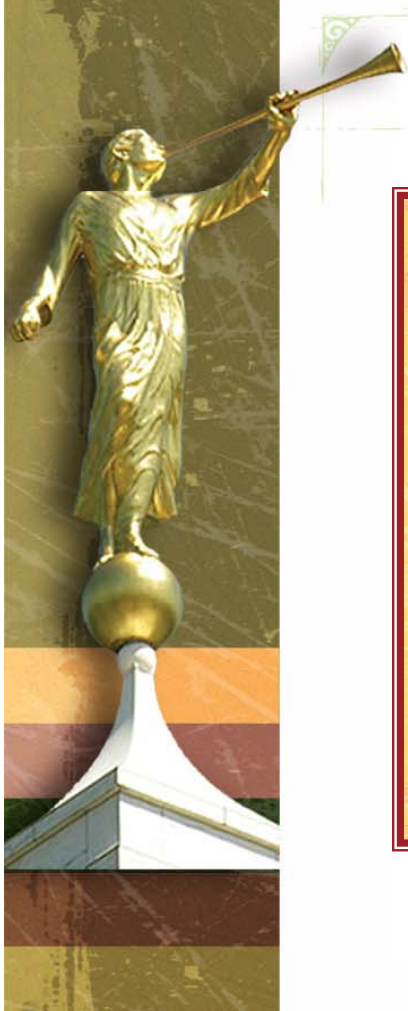
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Does Mormonism Teach the Truth About Jesus?

**The Bible Teaches...**

*“He who is of the earth is  
from the earth and speaks  
of the earth. He who comes  
from heaven is above all.”*

—John the Baptist, speaking of Jesus (John 3:31)



7Q:

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Does Mormonism Teach the Truth About Jesus?

## The Bible Teaches...

### *God and Savior*

- Since He is God, we can address Jesus in prayer
- Jesus was not born by a sexual union, but was conceived by the Holy Spirit
- By His death and resurrection, Jesus saved only those whom God redeems through faith



# Does Mormonism Teach the Truth About Jesus?

## The Bible Teaches...

### *Coming Again—But Not Yet*

- Jesus will remain in Heaven until He returns in glory
- Therefore, He did not go to the Americas



*The Ascension*



7Q:

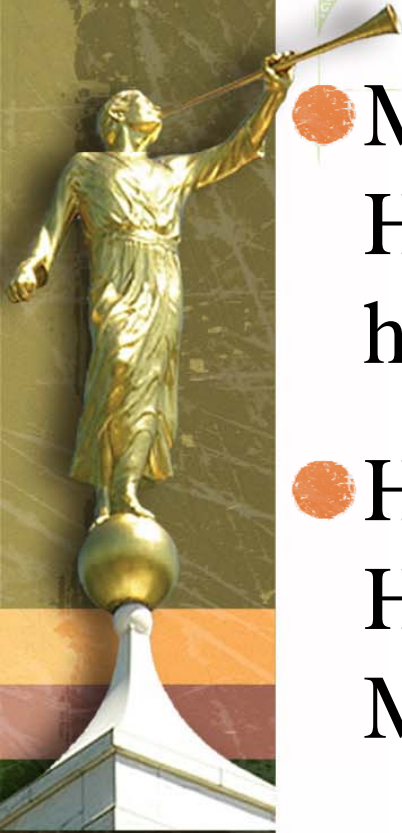
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Does Mormonism Teach the Truth About Jesus?

## You Should Also Know...

### *A Heavenly Mother?*

- Mormons believe that in addition to a Heavenly Father, all humans and spirits have a Heavenly Mother
- However, there is no mention of a Heavenly Mother in the Bible—or *any* Mormon scripture





# 8 Can We Earn Our Salvation?

# 8Q:

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## Can We Earn Our Salvation?

### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Immortality for All*

- “Salvation by grace” enables humans to be resurrected from the dead
- However, a life of obedience to God’s commandments is necessary to have one’s sins forgiven and receive “eternal life” in the celestial kingdom



# 8Q:

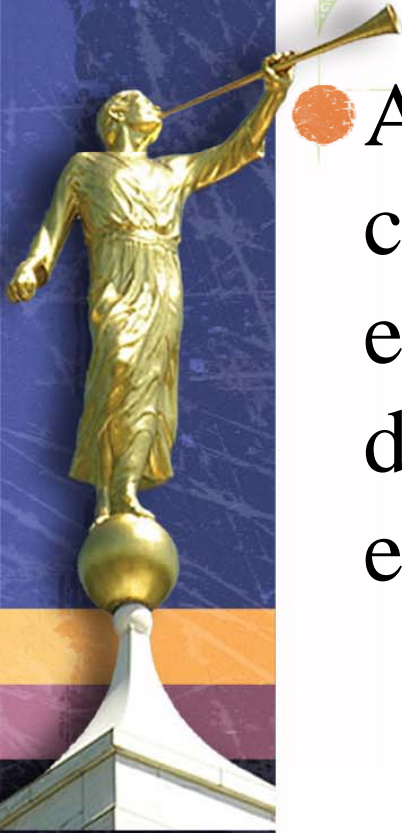
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## Can We Earn Our Salvation?

### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Eternal Life by Our Efforts*

- According to the LDS church, each person's eternal destination depends on his or her efforts here on earth

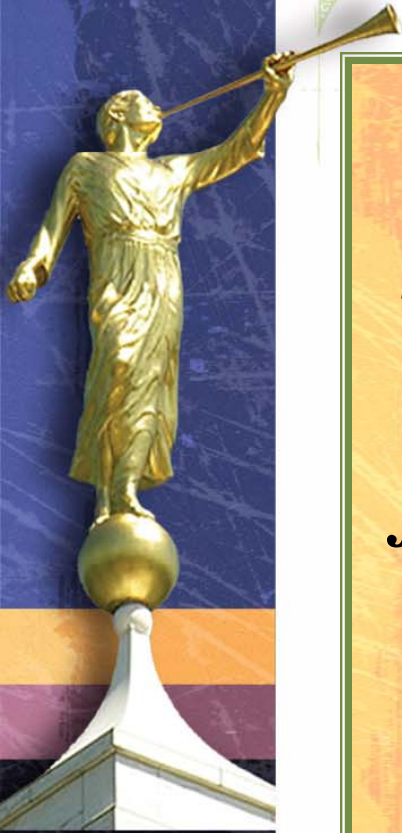


# 8Q:

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## Can We Earn Our Salvation?

### Mormonism Claims...



*“It is the celestial glory which we seek. It is in the presence of God we desire to dwell. It is a forever family in which we want membership. Such blessings must be **earned**.”*

—Mormon Apostle Thomas Monson

# 8Q:

ROSE  
PUBLISHING

## Can We Earn Our Salvation?

### The Bible Teaches...

*Eternal Life by Grace Through Faith*

- Sinful man cannot meet the standard of perfection necessary to abide in God's presence
- Jesus paid for the sins of all believers, making them righteous before God



# 8Q:

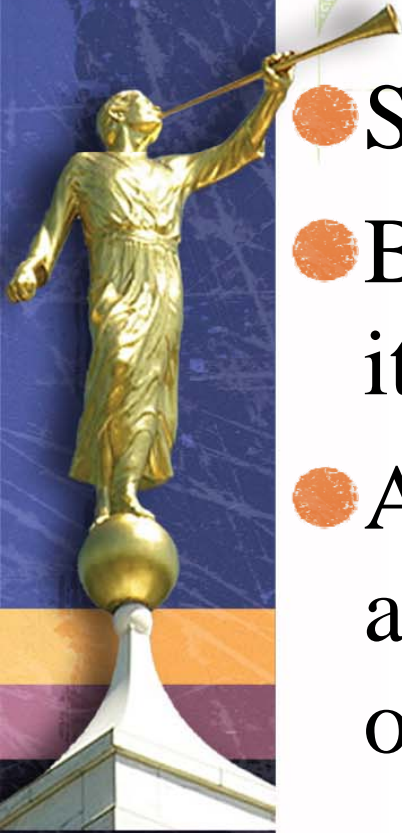
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## Can We Earn Our Salvation?

### The Bible Teaches...

#### *Eternal Life by Grace Through Faith*

- Salvation is not based on good deeds
- Believers are justified by faith;  
it is a free gift given by God's grace
- A true, living faith will result in  
a desire to live a holy, loving life  
of good works



# 8Q:

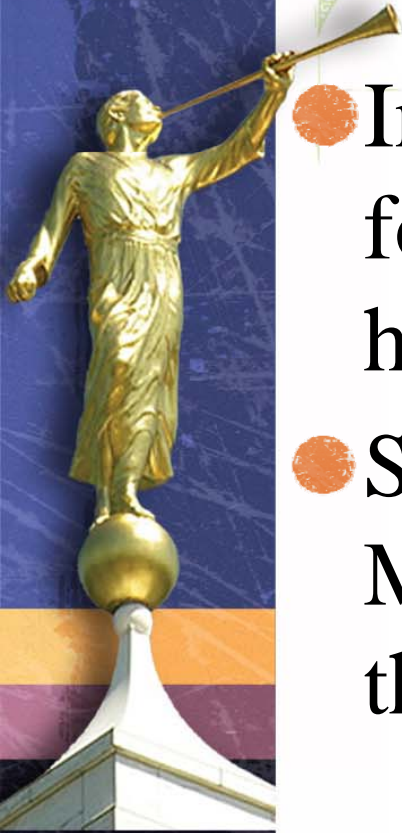
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## Can We Earn Our Salvation?

### You Should Also Know...

#### *Grace vs. Perfect Repentance*

- In Mormonism, “those who receive forgiveness and then repeat the sin are held accountable for their former sins”
- Sin that is not overcome robs the Mormon of any assurance of reaching the celestial kingdom



# 8Q:

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## Can We Earn Our Salvation?

### You Should Also Know...



*“Living **all** the commandments guarantees total forgiveness of sins and assures one of exaltation....”*

—Mormon prophet Spencer W. Kimball

SPENCER W. KIMBALL

*The Miracle  
of  
Forgiveness*

# 9 Why Do Mormons Build Temples?

**MENU**

# 9

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## Q: Why Do Mormons Build Temples?

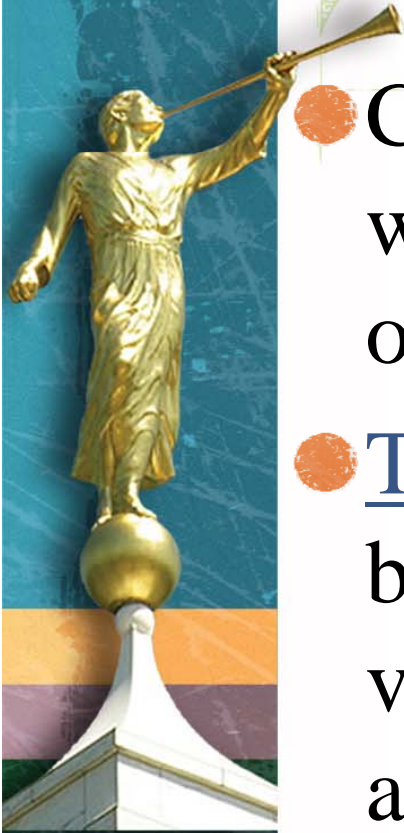
### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Rituals for Both Living and Dead*

- Chapels are buildings where Mormons meet on a weekly basis
- Temples are special buildings in which various rites are performed



*Mormon Temple in  
Washington D.C.*



# 9

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## Q: Why Do Mormons Build Temples?

### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Rituals for Both Living and Dead*

- The ritual most often performed is baptism for the dead, whereby a living substitute is baptized on behalf of a deceased person



*Mormon Temple in  
Houston, Texas*



# 9

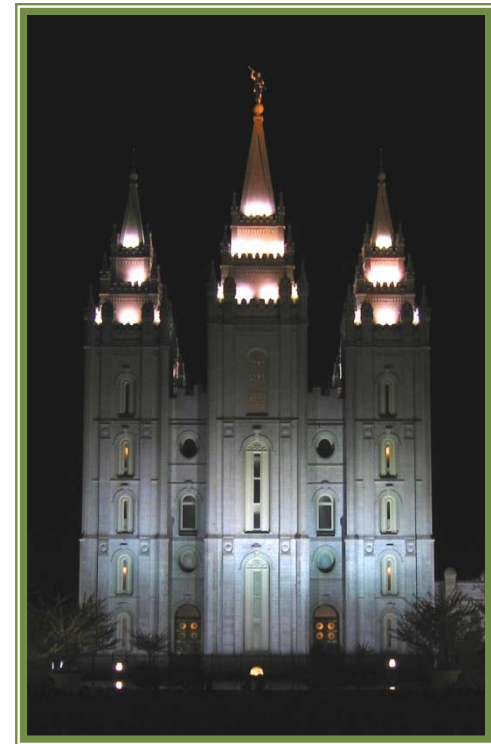
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## Q: Why Do Mormons Build Temples?

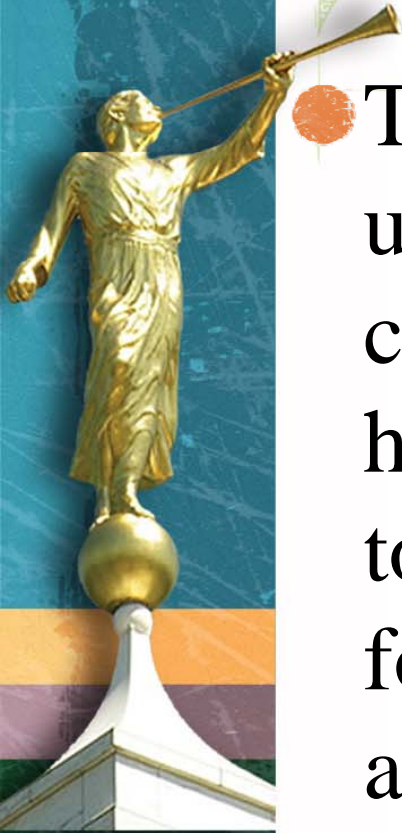
### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Rituals for Both Living and Dead*

- Temples are also used for marriage ceremonies binding husband and wife together not only for “time,” but also for eternity



*Mormon Temple in  
Salt Lake City, Utah*



9

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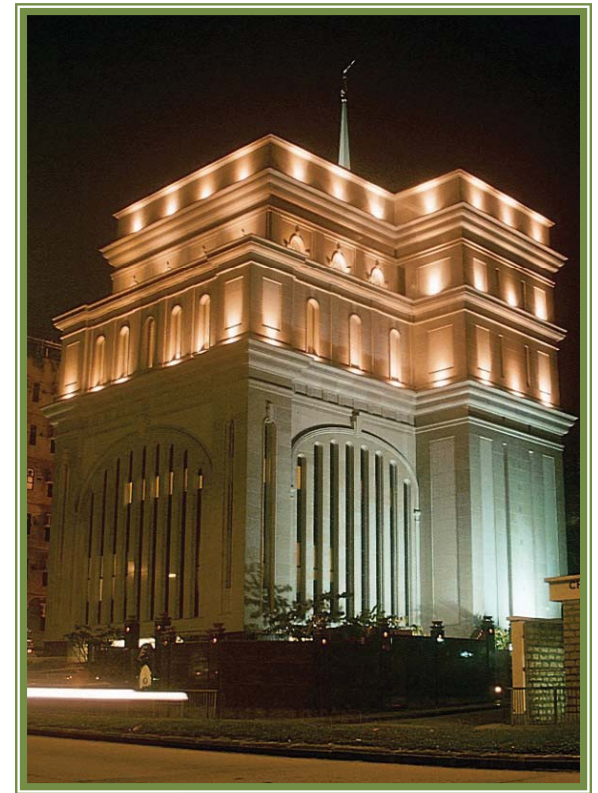
## Q: Why Do Mormons Build Temples?

### Mormonism Claims...

*Rituals for Both Living and Dead*

- “Sealing” ceremonies are performed to unite children with their parents for eternity

*Mormon Temple in Hong Kong*



# 9

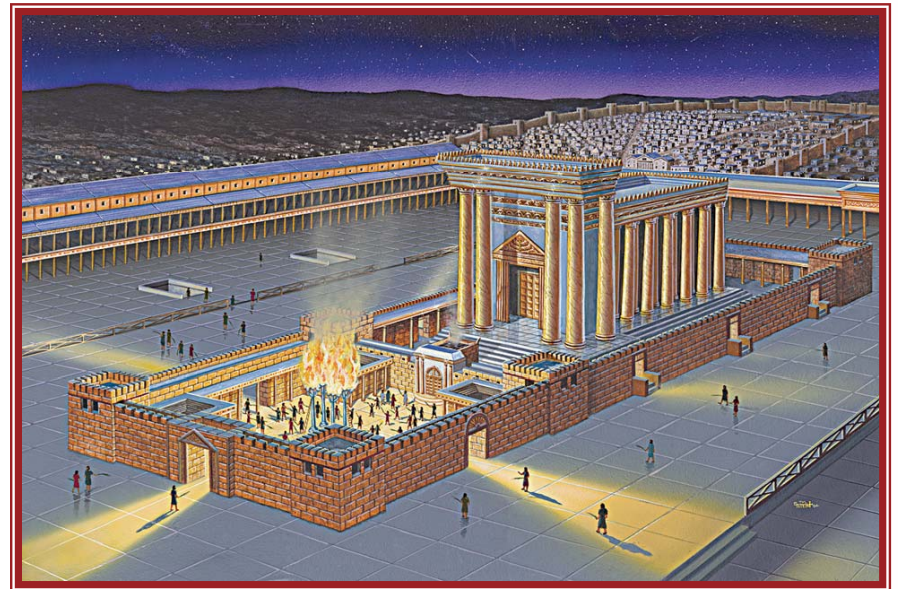
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## Q: Why Do Mormons Build Temples?

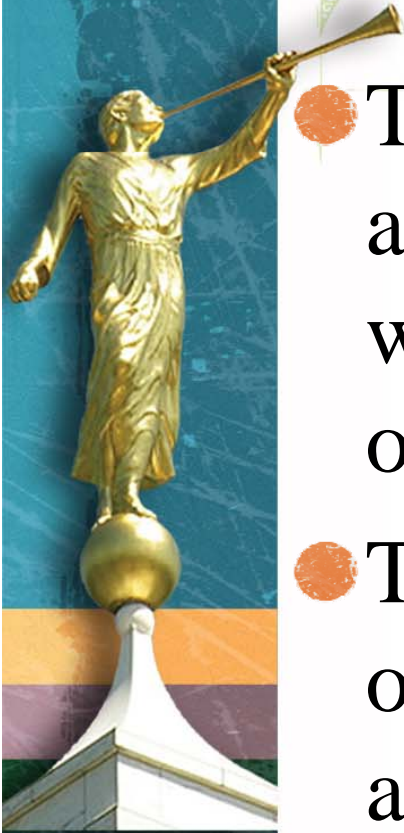
### The Bible Teaches...

#### *Sacrifices—Not Sealings*

- The primary function of the temple in ancient Israel was the sacrifice of animals
- The focus was on repentance and forgiveness



*Herod's Temple*



# 9

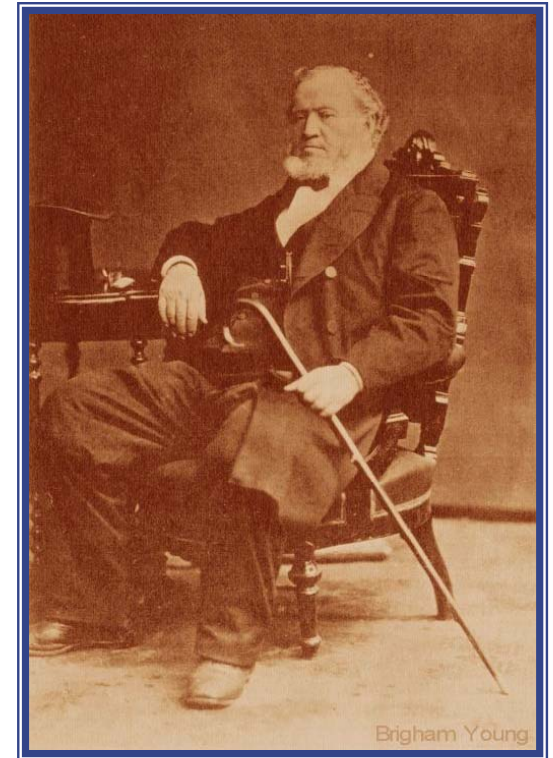
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## Q: Why Do Mormons Build Temples?

### You Should Also Know...

#### *Sacred and Secret*

- Brigham Young taught that knowledge of tokens, signs, and key-words will be necessary in order to pass the angelic sentinels who guard the way back to the presence of God



*Brigham Young*

# 10

## **Does Mormonism Teach Polygamy?**

# 10Q:

ROSE  
PUBLISHING

## Does Mormonism Teach Polygamy?

### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Once Essential*

- From 1852 to 1890 the practice of polygamy was essential for any Mormon hoping to achieve exaltation



*Portrait of sixth president Joseph F. Smith and family*

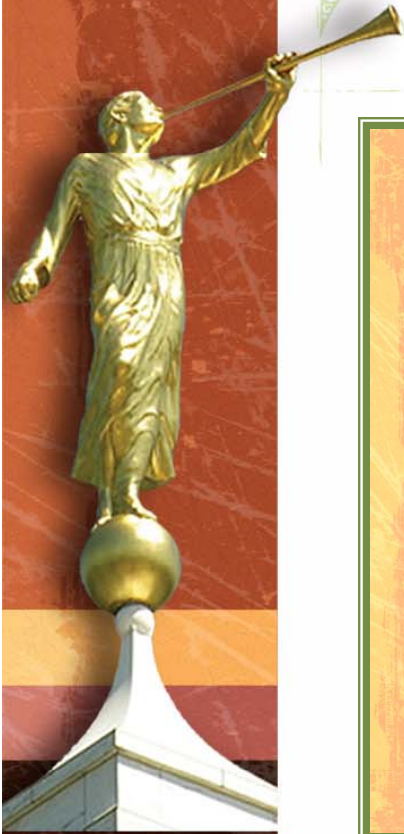


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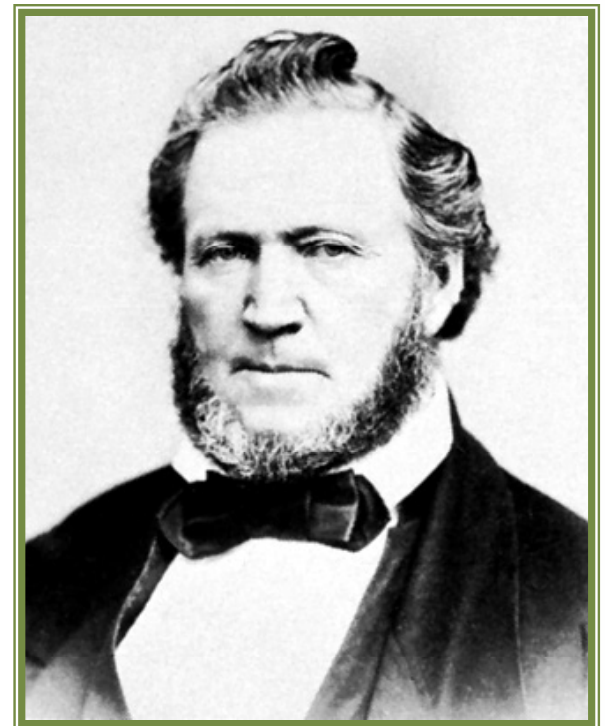
# Does Mormonism Teach Polygamy?

## Mormonism Claims...



*“The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy.”*

—Brigham Young



# 10

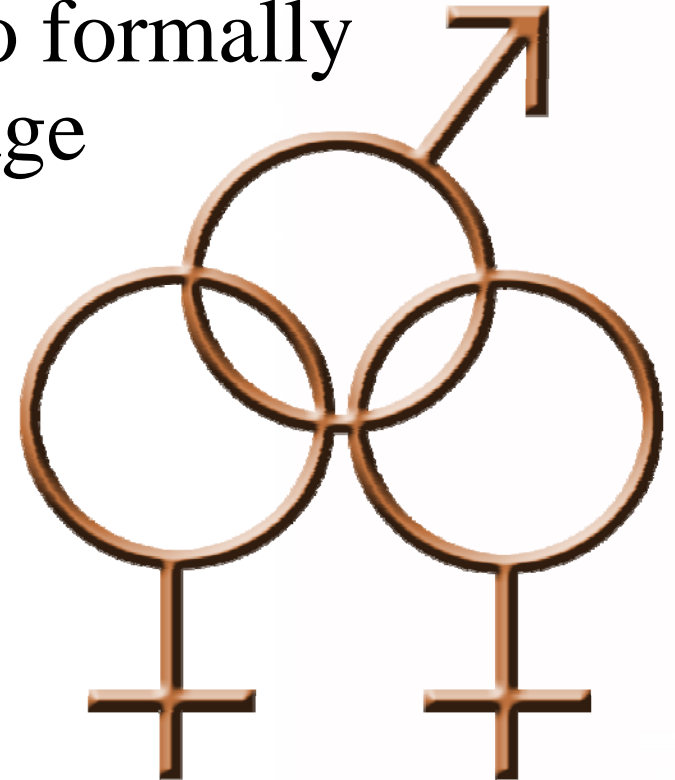
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## Does Mormonism Teach Polygamy?

### Mormonism Claims...

#### *Still Valid*

- Mormon leaders had to formally renounce plural marriage
- The principle still remains valid, and Mormons claim that the earthly practice of polygamy will one day resume



# 10

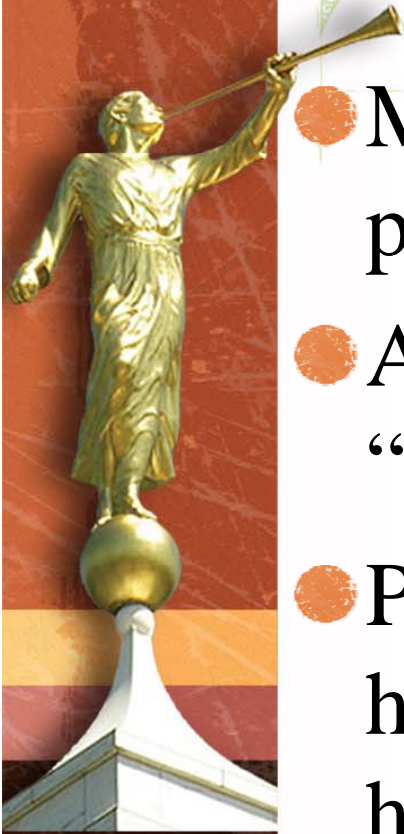
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## Does Mormonism Teach Polygamy?

### The Bible Teaches...

#### *One Husband, One Wife*

- Monogamy was always the rule, and polygamy was always the exception
- A man is to cleave to his wife, and these “two” shall become one
- Paul wrote that every man should have his own wife and every woman her own husband



The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a supportive grip. The hands are light-skinned and appear to be resting on a light blue surface. The lighting is soft, creating a warm and comforting atmosphere.

# **Tips for Talking with Mormons**



# Tips for Talking with Mormons

## DON'T...

assume that a Mormon defines a word in the same way you do.

## Do...

define your terms — and have them define theirs.



# Tips for Talking with Mormons

## DON'T...

assume you already know what an individual Mormon believes.

- Not all Mormons agree with their leaders.
- This could be because they are not aware of what their leaders have taught.

# Tips for Talking with Mormons

Do...

ask Mormons  
what they believe.

- Rather than accusing,  
ask them a question.





# Tips for Talking with Mormons

## DON'T...

dwell on offensive or  
 peripheral issues.

- Talking about the temple ceremony, the sacred garments, polygamy or racism will almost certainly bring the discussion to a close.



# Tips for Talking with Mormons

Do...

concentrate on core issues.

- Find out what the Mormon believes about God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and salvation.
- Ask if they have the assurance that all of their sins are forgiven.



# Tips for Talking with Mormons

## DON'T...

be surprised if Mormons are suspicious of Christian literature.

- Mormons often feel that information written about their church is inaccurate.
- Instead, ask Mormons to show you where the information might be wrong.



# Tips for Talking with Mormons

## Do...

memorize certain points and quotes.

- Quote directly from Mormon sources if possible.
- Remember that statements from LDS leaders work best.



# Tips for Talking with Mormons

## DON'T...

try to cover every topic in one sitting.

- dealing with one or two subjects makes it easier to remember what you talked about.

## Do...

● be patient.

- Leaving their church is not a decision most Mormons make in an instant.

## **Galatians 1:8**

**But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.**

# Christianity, Cults & Religion

Scientology

New Age

Wicca



Islam

Buddhism



Christianity

Taoism



Judaism

Hinduism



Christian  
Science

Jehovah's  
Witnesses

Mormonism