

A BIBLICAL & HISTORICAL EXAMINATION OF: “THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS”, or “THE MORMONS”¹

INTRODUCTION: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) is the fastest growing cult in the world. They had around ten million members as of 1997. They project an image of family solidarity and high moral standards. Their missionaries are clean and neat, wearing white shirts and ties along with name badges. They claim to be “just another Christian denomination.” Such claims are completely false, as you will see when we study their doctrinal beliefs later! They arrived in Papua New Guinea around 1980, shortly after their 1978 policy change, which declared that people with dark skin could now hold their priesthood. It is not coincidental that they never came to PNG until then. They now have missionaries and/or mission works going on in most major centres of PNG including Pt. Moresby (Gabutu, Hanuabada, Gerehu, Nine Mile, etc.), Lae, Popondetta, Kerema, Daru, Madang, Rabaul, Goroka, etc.

FINANCES: They are extremely wealthy. In America **they are the second largest financial institution west of the Mississippi river, behind only the Bank of America.** The LDS Church collects “upwards of \$4.3 billion a year from its members and another \$400 million from its many enterprises, The Arizona Republic reported...the Utah-based church also invests several hundred million dollars a year in real estate and securities, and in expanding its businesses and investments...The Church...owns or has direct influence in insurance, broadcasting, movie and television production, and newspaper and book publishing. Its holdings encompass satellite communications, private schools, property development and leasing, agriculture, department stores, a tourist attraction, hotels and stocks and bonds.

“Compared with the sales of publicly traded companies, the church’s \$4.7 billion would place it about 110th on the Fortune 500 list of industrial corporations, ranking it among Warner-Lambert, Gillette and Chiquita Brands International. The church’s business subsidiaries generate an additional \$4 billion a year in sales, which, if counted in the total, would make the Mormon Church an \$8 billion-a-year corporation, comparable with Union Carbide and Borden Products, and larger than Honeywell, General Mills and Campbell Soup, The Republic said.”

“...the Mormon Church: -Controls at least 100 companies or businesses that generate about \$400 million a year through direct contributions, dividends, trusts or investment income... (It) has become one of the nation’s (USA) largest private landowners with holdings in all 50 states. (It) has a stocks and bonds investment portfolio in excess of \$1 billion...The broadcast subsidiary, Bonneville International, operates television stations in Salt Lake City and Seattle, along with 16 radio stations, some in the nation’s biggest cities: New York City, Los Angeles, Dallas, Seattle, Chicago, Kansas City, San Francisco, Salt Lake City and Phoenix. The church paid \$12 million cash for KMEQ-AM/FM in Phoenix...Beneficial Life and four subsidiaries have more than \$14.6 billion of insurance in force, mostly in the West and Midwest...the church owns the \$18 million Security Pacific Bank Plaza in Tucson, a \$10 million shopping center in Orange County, Calif., and 315,000 acres near Orlando, Florida, conservatively valued at \$250 million. It includes some of Florida’s most prized undeveloped land.”

¹ Compiled by Rev. Mike Edwards, Baptist Chaplain, Univ. of Goroka. Originally compiled Pt. Moresby, PNG, 1993; updated: 20 December, 1999; reformatted & edited for our website, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, 02 August, 2006. **Important Explanatory Note:** This material was originally compiled in Papua New Guinea on a very old computer using an out of date operating system and software. The paper originally contained over 150 footnotes for documentation. Unfortunately when it was transferred from a floppy disc to more modern equipment & media, all of the footnotes & references were stripped off. I have not had the time to relocate all those quotes, though I eventually hope to do so. I assure you that all the statements and quotes in this paper were accurate and authoritative as of the time of the original writing. A few sources are mentioned in this paper itself. Many other non-attributed quotes & statements come from the following sources (all of which I own, except the last title): “*Mormonism, Shadow or Reality*” by Jerald & Sandra Tanner; “*The Godmakers*” by Ed Decker & Dave Hunt; “*Mormon Mirage*” by Latayne Colvett Scott; “*Mormonism, Mama & Me*” by Thelma Geer; “*God’s Word, Final, Infallible and Forever*” by Floyd McElveen; “*Mormon Claims Answered*” by Marvin W. Cowan; “*Joseph Smith Begins His Work*” the original 1830 & 1833 editions of the *Book of Mormon and Doctrines & Covenants [Book of Commandments]* published by Deseret News Press, 1963; “*Mormon Immunization Clinic*” by Hal Mason; “*Gospel Principles*” by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; “*Mormon Enigma: Emma Hale Smith*”, by Linda King Newell and Valeen Tippetts Avery; a series of transcripts of lectures given by a variety of speakers at “*The Christian Institute of Mormon Studies*” Conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah on June 13-15, 1991 (Speakers included James K. Walker, Dr. Ruth Tucker, and Sandra Tanner, and the notes were transcribed by Alfred & Irene Allin, White Rock, British Columbia, Canada) & last but not least, an 1830 critique of Mormonism by E.D. Howe (then editor of the Painesville Telegraph newspaper). The latter book was located in the high security section of the Case Western Reserve University Library, Cleveland, Ohio, and was studied & photocopied in the late 1970s by Rev. John Cook & myself.

LDS PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PROSELYTING TECHNIQUES.

The Mormons are experts at public relations, i.e. creating a pleasing image for public consumption, in order to attract more converts to their cult. They write letters to civic leaders, offer financial assistance for such things as health, education, etc., attend the meetings of such organizations as the Rotary Club, etc. They are professionals in issuing press releases to print and electronic media. They sponsor cultural festivals that are popular with countries they are working in, etc. In PNG they have managed to have hour long Christmas and Easter programmes aired by EM-TV (I'm not sure whether the "air time" was free, or if they purchased it). Without question their public relations efforts are successful. **Samoa, which was once almost completely Christian (at least in name), is now 29% Mormon! Tonga is even worse. Tonga is now 33% Latter-day Saint (Mormon)!**

PASTORS OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ARE A PRIME TARGET!

The LDS missionaries target the pastors of other churches, using various techniques to make friends with them in order to steal their people. One key Mormon leader who has written a manual on this, and travels full time teaching Latter-Day Saints how to do that, is named Darl (sp?) Anderson. His slogan is: "*Win a Minister, Influence a Thousand.*" He makes it clear that the goal is winning proselytes: "*The public image of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints will radically improve when the source of most public religious opinion has a friendly attitude. And the source of most public opinion are ministers, so we want them to have a friendly attitude. So Mormons should befriend ministers which may lead to even greater results.*" Anderson claims to have converted several Protestant pastors to Mormonism. **He gives eighteen suggestions on how to "befriend" ministers.** Some of them include:

- "Visit the minister at his church.
- Attend special events in his church.
- Invite him (out) for lunch.
- Attend clergy-councils as an observer or friend.
- Send congratulations whenever appropriate.
- Offer a special shrub or tree for a new building.
- Send flowers for special events, such as Easter and Christmas.
- Support anti-pornography efforts.
- Organize joint Thanksgiving services (an American holiday).
- Visit inter-denominational choir performances and family of the year events."

DO SUCH TECHNIQUES FOR INFLUENCING PASTORS WORK? ABSOLUTELY!

In his book, Anderson talks about the clergy curtain, similar to what we have known as the 'Iron Curtain' in Eastern Europe...he says: '*Clergy curtains have been difficult to penetrate, but with the right know-how, giving shrubs and sending flowers and taking ministers to lunch, that curtain has been broken down. Breaking down the curtain is absolutely essential. Why? Just to avoid negative publicity and to promote peace and harmony between Mormons and their neighbors.*'

"That is a major focus, but conversion is the ultimate goal...He has gone to Palmyra, NY...the very home of Joseph Smith. He writes about that. '*Palmyra, NY is known for the four Protestant churches located on one cross street intersection. Part of our missionary assignment was to help the people of these churches in Palmyra gain understanding and good-will for the Church of LDS and its members.*' He goes on to say: '*We went to ministers in Palmyra with the specific purpose to:*

Encourage them in their individual commitment to bring people to believe in Jesus Christ and keep His commandments.

To build their image in their community for their efforts to lift standards of behavior in the town, school and even in the service clubs.

To share information of the LDS programs for family, youth, welfare, etc.

To put joint ads in the paper promoting family week and help them understand Mormons.' Now this is truly amazing because Palmyra, NY is the BIRTHPLACE of Mormonism. It was there that supposedly Joseph Smith was told by God that those very churches "...were all wrong... that all their creeds were an abomination in His (God's) sight...that those professors were all corrupt..."

"How is it that Darl Anderson goes to these very churches to make friends with them? One minister challenged him on this. He said: 'Your prophet Joseph Smith said that only the Mormon Church was right and that all other churches were wrong.' But Anderson's (very clever) response was: '*I asked him if that was not the same justification the founders*

of his church used when they organized the Christian church. If not, why didn't they join the Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran or any other existing church. In fact, almost every church was organized because its founders felt existing churches were not right in some way or another, though each one may have used different words of explanation than Joseph Smith did. Still, some of the basic reasons were about the same.”

As Tucker states, “That is stretching it (to say the least) if you know history at all, but once again, it is putting the Mormon church alongside the Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, putting them in the mainstream of Christianity. Make no mistake about it, Anderson’s agenda is clearly that of making converts from out of the very parishes of the ministers he is winning as friends.”

THREE FALLACIES IN DARL ANDERSON’S ARGUMENT:

He misrepresents history. Most churches did NOT start because they felt the others were “corrupt” & an “abomination.” The various Protestant denominations throughout their history have generally been very kind to each other, fully recognizing that there were fine believers in those other groups.

Anderson’s statement that Joseph Smith just said it in “different words”, is a gross misrepresentation.

By comparing LDS criticism of other denominations with those other denominations criticism of each other, **Anderson gives the totally false idea that the LDS church is just like the Baptists, Methodists, etc.** Nothing could be further from the truth. **No Protestant denomination has EVER held and taught the gross heresies that the Mormon church teaches!** (see the following material). Anderson even has the crass audacity to distribute handouts at his seminars calling anyone who would expose Mormonism’s blatant heresies, “*Pornography Peddlers.*”!! This leads us to our next point:

THE STANDARD MORMON DEFENSE AGAINST BIBLICAL CRITICISM: WHINING!

The Mormons are good at dishing out criticism of other churches, but not so good at taking it themselves. Whenever anyone publicly exposes the false beliefs of the LDS Church, Mormon missionaries put on a hurt look, and whine. Typical is this statement from a letter I personally received a few years ago: “*I understand that there were lots of churches attacked (sic) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and which church did the Mormons attack, can you name these churches?*”(sic). Another example occurred when I met with the head of the LDS church in PNG a few years ago. He said to me, “*Why do you attack us, we don’t attack other churches!*” Such statements are either deliberate lies (in the latter case) or betray a complete ignorance of their own teachings (in the former case).

BUT WHO IS PERSECUTING WHOM?

“...the Mormon Church is guilty of the very thing the other person is being accused of, namely, persecution.” As has already been seen, the founder of Mormonism, in one of Mormonism’s inspired scriptures that is still in full use today, has said ALL OTHER churches were “*wrong...an abomination...their creeds corrupt...*” That was not an isolated statement either! Here are a few more examples of the incredibly harsh criticism that the Mormon church has leveled at other groups in both the past and present:

PAST ATTACKS BY THE LDS CHURCH LEADERSHIP ON CHRISTIAN CHURCHES:

“We talk about Christianity, but it is a perfect pack of nonsense. ...It is a sounding brass and a tinkling symbol;(sic) it is as corrupt as hell; and the Devil could not invent a better engine to spread his work than the Christianity of the nineteenth century.”

“Brother Taylor has just said that the religions of the day were hatched in hell. The eggs were laid in hell, hatched on its borders, and then kicked on to the earth.”

“The Christian world, so-called, are heathens as to their knowledge of the salvation of God.”

“And Christianity, at the present time, is no more enlightened than other systems have been. What does the Christian world know about God? Nothing...Why, so far as the things of God are concerned, they are the veriest (sic) fools; they know neither God nor the things of God.”

PRESENT ATTACKS BY LDS CHURCH AUTHORITIES ON CHRISTIAN CHURCHES: In addition to Joseph Smith’s “inspired” attack, which every LDS believes, for 160 years, from 1830-1990 in the LDS temple ceremonies Mormons had a place in each ceremony which portrayed every Protestant pastor as a “*hireling (servant) of Satan.*” **Note:** The LDS Church felt forced to change some of the most offensive parts of their occultist temple rituals in 1990, including those words, due to the extremely bad publicity it was generating against them. But their attitude has not changed at all, as the following statements make clear:

“The titles church of the devil and great and abominable church are used to identify all churches...-which are designed to take men on a course that leads away from God and his laws and thus from salvation...There is no salvation outside this one true Church...” **“There is no salvation outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”**

“Christians speak often of the blood of Christ and its cleansing power. Much that is believed and taught on this subject, however, is such utter nonsense and so palpably false that to believe it is to lose one’s salvation.”

MORMONS LIKE TO FOLLOW CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES! They try to “*piggy back*” on the efforts of Catholic & Protestant missionaries in foreign countries. You see, there just isn’t enough time in a 18 month to two year missionary assignment (the normal length of a LDS missionary’s career) to do tribal-type work, learn “*tok ples*” (local dialects), and/or teach people both the Bible and their erroneous teachings. So they count on Christian missionaries, including Bible translators, to teach people basic Christian history, Bible themes, etc., then they deliberately come along and continue from that point and teach their heresies to unsuspecting church members. You don’t believe it? Listen to what one Mormon authority has written:

“We Latter-day Saints owe much to Bible translators. Rarely have our missionaries begun proselytizing among a people who did not already have a Bible. Having a Bible is a vital step in preparing people to receive the ‘fullness of the gospel.’”

LDS TECHNIQUES TO PERSUADE OTHERS THAT THEY ARE “JUST ANOTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION.” One of the central keys to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints gaining new proselytes is for them to convince others that they are “*just another Christian denomination*” rather than a cult. Methods include:

INFLUENTIAL &/or EVANGELICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MORMON CAUSE:
The LDS cult has become much more accepted in recent years due to endorsements by famous people, and even by evangelical pastors, organizations and evangelists!

Former US President **George Bush**’s commendation of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, calling them “*The Nation’s Choir; they belong to all of us, they are The Nation’s Choir!*” Such statements go a long way towards giving this cult credibility.

Jerry Falwell further blurred the lines of distinction between truth and error with his now defunct political arm, “The Moral Majority.” His stated goal in starting that organization was that “He (hoped) to persuade leading Catholics, Mormons and Jews to join his board.”

LDS missionaries have in recent years gone to Norman, Oklahoma, to the headquarters of **Wycliffe Bible Translators/Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL)** where they have learned skills that can aid them in translating the Book of Mormon. Sadly, when this was brought to the attention of SIL executives, they said that they had allowed Mormons into their school, and felt they should be available to Mormons just like Catholics, etc.(sic).

Billy Graham has in past years *publicly endorsed the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in advertisements in the Reader’s Digest*, and more recently gave glowing praise to Bill Marriott, the multi-millionaire Mormon hotel owner. It is worth noting that **Marriott hotels** place Mormon literature in every room (unless they have recently changed that practice). As Tucker aptly states: “Marriott was far more than just a patriotic businessman. His well publicized financial success was never far removed from his well publicized devotion to Mormonism. And again, what message is Billy Graham giving to his constituents and to the evangelical world when he is speaking in these terms about this well known Mormon businessman?”

THE LDS CHURCH’S OWN EFFORTS TO BECOME ACCEPTED: “But the real progress in recent years in bringing Mormons into the mainstream has come through the LDS itself. Through a campaign that involves a lot more than TV advertising. What once involved Falwell and the Moral Majority in seeking support from Mormons, now involves the Mormons reaching out to the mainstream Christian groups...’Among the recent moves by Mormons was their joining in 1988 with twenty-two other faith groups, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish-‘The National Inter-Faith Cable Coalition.’”

“Two years earlier in 1986 they became part of the Religious Alliance Against Pornography. In 1984 they became affiliated with the Religion in American Life, which includes most major denominations in promoting weekly worship.

“Mormons are going to great lengths to present themselves as just another Christian denomination. A UPI report in 1982 said this: ‘**The Mormon church in seeking to re-emphasize that it is a Christian religion, renamed the Book of Mormon, adding the sub-title proclaiming it “Another Testament of Jesus Christ.”**’ “With that sub-title,” said Boyd Packer, who is a member of the church’s council of Twelve Apostles, “the Book of Mormon takes its place where it should be, beside the Old and New Testament.””

This desire to be accepted by others is the main reason behind the major changes and the removal of some of the more embarrassing practices in the secret LDS temple rituals-whose roots go back to the Masonic lodge and occult type origins.

ARE THE LDS PROMOTIONAL STRATEGIES WORKING? YES.
Are the Mormons succeeding in being welcomed by Christian denominations? Absolutely! In 1976 two LDS

missionaries told me personally that they had spoken in both Presbyterian & a Church of God churches! Darl Anderson's book includes a glowing endorsement by a Methodist minister. "A Presbyterian church in Kentucky not so long ago hired a Mormon as a youth and music minister, apparently because he was talented in those areas and was a clean cut young man."

HOW THE LDS MISSIONARIES GAIN NEW CONTACTS AND CONVERTS.

Latter-Day Saint missionaries will sometimes ask, "*Have you heard about Christ's first visit to America?*" Naturally most people will say, "No!" They will then invite you to come to their church or come to your home, to teach you about it. You will usually be given a film or videotape presentation about Joseph Smith and his alleged "**First Vision.**" Sometimes they will send letters to individuals asking for an hour of their time to see and hear the story of Joseph Smith.

An earlier standard missionary presentation began: "Mr. Brown, we represent the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. We want to share with you a wonderful program for families. We know you will find this to be the most refreshing program for family solidarity & enjoyment available today. There is no obligation whatever on your part. This is our way of making the world a better, happier place to live. All we ask is about 30 minutes with you and your family to show how you can ensure love, understanding, communication and fun for all the members of your family. Are these things you like to cultivate in your family?" (Notice, this is designed to almost guarantee a positive response!).

Once a person is contacted, Mormon missionaries will stay after them like a fly after honey! They try and revisit them several times a week. They will come and clean their house for them, take them grocery shopping, etc. For most people who often have visits from their pastor on only rare occasions, this is all very impressive.

PUNCHING SOME HOLES IN THE "SQUEAKY CLEAN" LDS IMAGE. One part of their image that the LDS Church works very hard to promote, is the impression that they have very high moral standards and exceptionally strong families. **That image is a myth!** (Many of the following statistics taken from "*The Godmakers*" by Decker & Hunt)

Latter-day Saints are very involved in the gambling industry in Las Vegas. So much so that in 1987 they changed their policy so that all their members who work in the casinos can go inside their "sacred" temples now. Previously they had allowed Mormons who are executives in the gambling industry to go into temples, but in an obvious double standard, had refused to allow LDS who deal cards, make change, etc., access. Now, all Mormons who make their living preying on other people's weakness to gamble are considered "morally worthy," in spite of their occupation.

Personal moral standards of Mormons are also no better, and possibly worse than the average person. That is obvious by looking at some statistics from the state of Utah—a state which is 70% Mormon! Consider the following facts:

1. In 1980, the state of Utah, which is 70% Mormon, ranked 13th in **child abuse** among the 50 states."
2. **Utah's divorce rate** has always been higher than the national average. Hal Mason, a missionary TO the Mormons in one of his "Mormon Immunization Clinics" which I attended in 1983, stated that the divorce rate in Salt Lake City, Utah was the same as in Hollywood, California. So much for the "*family together forever*" idea!
3. Twenty is now the most common age for women in Utah to get Divorced! Apparently family togetherness isn't as all pervasive as we have been led to believe.
4. **Utah's child murder rate** is five times higher than the national average.
5. "Half of all the babies born in Utah have teenage mothers and seven out of ten of these, are **children conceived out of wedlock** (i.e. the girls got pregnant before marriage—certainly the opposite of the image of moral purity the LDS church has sought to present).
6. Because of the fierce pressure to remain 'respectable' in Utah, **seven months has become the most common interval between marriage and childbirth.**"
7. "**Suicide** is the third highest cause of death in Utah." The previously mentioned missionary to Mormons told me in 1983 that suicide in Utah was twice the national average.
8. While Mormons boast about not smoking or drinking (which is commendable), yet "a government study conducted in 1973 indicated that 'church members take more non-barbiturate sedatives, tranquilizers, antidepressants, stimulants, pep pills, heroin, cocaine, and LSD' than non-Mormons."
9. Salt Lake City has **twice as many reported rapes** as other cities its size across America.
10. Utah is also the **fraud** ("scam") capital of the USA. "In 1981 Utah was third out of the entire fifty states for business loan defaults, and had eleven major business frauds."

The above statistics (documented in the book, *The Godmakers*, as well as other sources), coming from a state which is 70% Mormon, conclusively demonstrates the fallacy of the idea that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is

the center of family happiness, morality and decency. Certainly LDS members aren't morally worse than members of other denominations, but on the other hand, the above statistics clearly indicate that they are certainly no better-contrary to their manufactured image. Since they have a well known superiority complex, and loudly proclaim their moral superiority publicly, I felt something should be said in that regard.

THE HISTORY OF THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS or... WHO IS REALLY TELLING THE TRUTH?

LDS HISTORY...THE WAY THE MORMONS TELL IT.

When Mormon missionaries contact you they tell you the story of a young man named Joseph Smith, Jr., who in 1820 sought wisdom from God as to which church to join after a revival had occurred in his home town, Palmyra, New York. Supposedly Joseph Smith saw both God & Jesus, who appeared to him in the woods, and told him to not join any other church, since all other denominations were wrong and corrupt, and truth had been lost. LDS missionaries will also tell you that Joseph Smith discovered then that God has a body of flesh and bones just like man. **This is called Joseph Smith's "First Vision testimony" and is the foundation of Mormonism. If it is false, Mormonism is finished!**

According to Mormonism, about three years later an angel named Moroni supposedly appeared to Joseph Smith and told him of golden plates buried in the ground. Mormons claim that these plates contained a record of the history of the people who lived in North, Central & South America from 600 B.C. to 420 A.D. According to Mormonism, Joseph was given these plates, along with special "seer" devices (Urim & Thummim) to help him interpret the plates-since they were supposedly written in "*Reformed Egyptian*"(sic).

Since this story is obviously pretty hard to believe, LDS missionaries will tell you that a reliable group of three witnesses, including Joseph Smith's secretary Oliver Cowdery, as well as a group of eight other witnesses, saw the plates and confirmed that this story is true. Later, according to Mormonism, the translation of these plates was taken to a linguistic expert at Columbia University who supposedly confirmed that the translation was accurate.

Later still, according to Mormonism, Joseph Smith & Oliver Cowdery received the Aaronic priesthood from John the Baptist who allegedly appeared to them. The golden plates were eventually translated, and became the *Book of Mormon*. Mormons believe Joseph Smith continued to receive revelations from God which were written down in two other books: "*The Doctrines & Covenants*" and "*The Pearl of Great Price*."

Smith and his followers built their first temple in Kirtland, Ohio, but after being run out of town on false and slanderous accusations (according to the Mormons), they moved to Missouri, USA. There Smith was told that Jesus would come back to that location at His second coming. After being run out of that state as well, the Mormons moved to Illinois and started a town called Nauvoo, which Smith claimed meant "*Beautiful Plantation*" in Hebrew. According to LDS followers, Smith was falsely accused there and put in jail. While in jail, an unruly mob stormed the jail and killed Joseph Smith in cold-blooded murder. Mormons often tell people Smith died like a lamb, just like Jesus. After Smith's death, Brigham Young took over the leadership of the LDS church and led them west to what would become Salt Lake City, in what is now the state of Utah-a state which is still 70% Mormon today.

THE TRUE HISTORY OF MORMONISM-THE FACTS MORMONS DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW!

The Truth Regarding Joseph Smith's "First Vision."

- a. There was *no revival in Palmyra, NY in 1820!*
- b. There was *no mention of this "first vision" until 20 years later* when Smith was receiving opposition for some of his false teachings (e.g. that God has a body!).
- c. There are *nine different versions of this first vision*, no two of which agree. Smith changes who he saw, what they said to him, how old he was, why he went into the woods, etc.
- d. In 8 of the 9 versions, there is no mention of his ever having seen God-even in the only version we have in Smith's own handwriting!!
- e. According to Smith, no one can see God if he doesn't have the priesthood. So how did he see God, since this vision occurred several years before he supposedly received the priesthood?
- f. Actually, *the Bible says no man has ever seen God!* (e.g. Jn. 1:18; 6:46; I Tim. 1:16-17; 6:16; Col. 1:15). LDS missionaries will point to Moses on Mt. Sinai, but it's quite clear that while Moses saw some of God's glory, he never saw God! (Ex. 33:20).
- g. Even a later LDS prophet has publicly admitted that no one has ever seen God!
- h. Smith's claim that God has a body, is clearly false, since God is a spirit (Jn 4:24) & Jesus said that spirits do NOT have flesh and bones (Lk. 24:39)! References to God's "hand," "eye," etc., are simply symbolic expressions to help us

understand Him, as are references to His “wings,” “feathers,” etc. (Ps. 91:4). Similar expressions are used in regard to Christ, where He is called a “door,” “vine,” etc. (Jn. 10:7, 9; 15:1,5).

i. The Bible says anyone who likens God to a man (or animal) is a *reprobate*! (Rom. 1:23 cf. vv. 24, 26, 28).

j. *The idea that truth had ceased, or had been lost from the earth, is clearly false since:*

- Truth is not found in a denomination, but in a person: Jesus Christ (Jn. 14:6). Since Christ has never “ceased,” truth has never ceased!
- Truth is also found in the Bible (Mt. 5:17-18; Eph. 3:20-21; I Pet. 1:22-25) and we are guaranteed by Jesus Himself that that written truth would never pass away!
- Mormons deliberately rip Bible verses completely out of context to try and find support for this false view (e.g. II Thess. 2:3--Interestingly they only quote the first part of that verse which seems to predict a “*falling away from the truth.*” Mormons then imply that the truth has been restored through the LDS church. In reality the verse clearly teaches that *after the falling away, the antichrist will come-not a restoration of truth!* So if LDS followers wish to use that verse, then they need to be prepared to admit that Joseph Smith is the antichrist!

The Truth Regarding the “Golden Plates” & the 3 & 8 Witnesses of Them:

a. Using “seer stones” to get “revelations” was a common practice of the time.

b. There has never been even a single golden plate recovered!

c. *All three of the three witnesses later left the Mormon church!*

- Oliver Cowdery, who supposedly wrote down the translation of the Book of Mormon, later asked forgiveness & admitted his error.
- Martin Harris later left the LDS church to join the “Shakers,” a cult who danced in the nude and followed “Mother Ann Lee.” *Harris joined 13 different religious groups in all, and even claimed he had traveled to the moon!*
- David Whitmer, the last of the three witnesses, later claimed God told him in a vision to leave the Mormon church!

d. *5 of the 8 other witnesses also later left the LDS Church.* In fact, they only ones who remained were members of Smith’s own family!

e. Mormon missionaries & literature boast that the 3 & 8 witnesses never denied their testimony and were *fine, honourable men*. Yet Joseph Smith called those same witnesses “*liars, cheats, counterfeiters, thieves, deranged, demonic and too mean to mention.*”!!

f. Six of the twelve original apostles also later left the LDS Church!

g. Dr. Charles Anthon of Columbia University, who Mormons claim endorsed the translation of the Book of Mormon, wrote at least two letters vehemently denying that!

Regarding occurrences in Kirtland Ohio, Missouri, & Nauvoo, Illinois.

- Smith was run out of those towns *because of his polygamous and immoral lifestyle* (He had at least 27 wives (by the LDS Church’s own admission), but more likely 48-84 wives, some of whom were already the wives of other men- including his apostles).
- *Smith also set up a Bank in Kirtland, Ohio that had absolutely no financial backing behind it!* They were simply printing paper notes that were worth nothing!
- *Smith was arrested* in Nauvoo, Illinois, but not on false charges, but rather because he, as mayor, *had ordered the destruction of private property* (a printing press & newspaper that had exposed him and his evil doings, and which was published by his own former 1st & 2nd counsellors!).
- And “Nauvoo,” which Smith claimed meant “*Beautiful Plantation*” in Hebrew, does NOT!
- While it is true that *a mob stormed the jail* where he was held and killed him, what Mormon missionaries won’t tell you, is that *before the mob killed him, Smith shot and killed two men and wounded a third!* You won’t read or hear about that from the Mormon missionaries!

- It's worth noting too that *Smith died while giving* (but not finishing) *the Masonic distress call* ("O Lord my God, is there no help for the widow's son?") from a jail window! (The Masons are a false, works-based religious group).

A SIMPLE WAY TO ANSWER MORMONS, BASED ON JOSEPH SMITH'S FIRST VISION. (the following material taken in its entirety from Rev. Hal Mason, Missionary to the Mormons with Baptist Mid-Missions)

1. Ask: **"Do you believe Joseph Smith saw God?"** They will say yes. Then point out to them that, according to the Bible, *"No man has seen God at ANY time!"* (Jn. 1:18; cf. I Tim. 1:16-17; Jn. 6:46; I Tim. 6:16 & Col. 1:15 cf. Ex. 33:20).

2. Ask: **"Do you believe God has a body of flesh and bones like unto man's?"** They will say yes. *Then point out that God is a spirit (Jn 4:24) and a spirit does NOT have flesh & bones (Lk.24:39)!* If they respond that the Bible talks about God's "hands," "feet," etc., explain to them that God uses such symbolic terms to help us understand Him easier. They are obviously figurative, otherwise God also has wings and feathers and looks like a chicken (Ps. 91:4)! cf. Jn. 10:7, 9; 15:1, 5. If they still won't accept this truth, point out to them that people who have an image of God in the form of man are unclean, possess vile affections & a reprobate mind (Rom. 1:23 cf. vv. 24, 26, 28)!

3. Ask them: **"Do you believe truth ever ceased from the earth and needed to be restored?"** They will say yes. Then point out that truth is not found in a church group or denomination, but in a person: Jesus Christ (Jn. 14:6)! So truth never ceased from the earth! You might point out that truth is also found in God's Word-the Bible-and Jesus and the apostles said that the Bible, and the truth contained in it, would NEVER pass away (Mt. 5:17-18; I Pet. 1:22-25)! So since truth has never been lost, it doesn't need to be restored! So there is no need for Joseph Smith and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints!!

(In regard to this point, it should also be noted that many of the beliefs that Mormons claim were lost either were either never lost at all, or were "lost" because they were never part of the New Testament church to begin with!)

III. SOME MAJOR DOCTRINAL ERRORS OF MORMONISM. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has perhaps more false teachings in it, than any other false cult that I know of! This section will list some of them. When you meet a Mormon, they will often quote from their "Articles of Faith" the following statement: *"We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost."* What they won't tell you is that **their God is a different God, their Jesus is a different Jesus, and their Holy Ghost is not the one described in the Bible!** Scripture warns us to beware of those who would come and preach "another Jesus," "another spirit," and "another gospel" (II Cor. 11:4; Gal. 1:6-9)!

A. ERRORS IN THE LDS DOCTRINE OF GOD.

Mormons believe God was once a man! Joseph Smith: "First, God himself, who sits enthroned in yonder heavens, is a man like unto one of ourselves, that is the great secret...I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined that God was God from all eternity... God was once as we are now, and is an exalted man... He was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth" [Times & Seasons (hereafter TS), Vol. 5, pp. 613-614; Journal of Discourses (hereafter JD), Vol. VI, p. 5; The Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 345 cf., JD, Vol. VI, p. 3; His. of the Church, vol. 6, p. 305]. "God himself, the Father of us all, is a glorified, exalted, immortal, resurrected Man!" [Mormon Doctrine (hereafter MD), p. 643]. But the Bible says God has always been God (Mal. 3:6; Num. 23:19; Ps. 90:2; 102:26-27; Rom. 1:22-23; etc)!

Latter-day Saints (Mormons) believe that God has a wife or wives, and that we have a heavenly mother as well as a heavenly father! The LDS book "*Gospel Principles*" repeatedly refers to our heavenly parents! For example: *"Man, as a spirit, was begotten and born of heavenly parents... The first spirit born to our heavenly parents was Jesus Christ (D&C 93:21)... Because we are the spiritual children of our heavenly parents..."* [Gospel Principles (hereafter GP), p. 11-emphasis added]. cf. Brigham Young: *"Brother Kimball quoted a saying of Joseph the Prophet, that he would not worship a God who had not a Father (!); and I do not know that he would if he had not a mother(!); the one would be as absurd as the other"*[JD, Vol. 9, p. 286]. Mormon experts Jerald & Sandra Tanner comment: "Although the Mormon leaders do not worship God's wife, they teach that she is our "Eternal Mother." Bruce R. McConkie (former apostle)... stated: *'Implicit in the Christian (sic) verity that all men are the spirit children of an Eternal Father is the usually unspoken truth that they are also the offspring of an Eternal Mother. An exalted and glorified Man of Holiness (Moses 6:57) could not be a Father unless a woman of like glory, perfection, and holiness was associated with him as a Mother... 'This doctrine that there is a Mother in heaven was affirmed in plainness by the First Presidency... they said that "man, as a spirit, was begotten and born of heavenly parents..."'*" [MD, 1966, p. 516].

It is really not necessary to dignify such nonsense with a response. Needless to say, however, such a teaching is totally & absolutely foreign to the Bible." The Bible...never mentions a Mother God or that we are literally

spirit children born of an Eternal Mother and Father. We are not naturally ‘Children of God,’ but we are adopted into God’s family when we put our faith and trust in Christ, thus becoming ‘sons of God.’ (Jn. 1:12; Rom. 8:14-16; Gal. 3:26; II Cor. 6:17-18; I Jn. 3:10-11).” [Sandra Tanner, *“The Bible & Mormon Doctrine”* (hereafter B&MD), 1971, p. 20]. “There is absolutely no mention of any wives of God. There will be no marrying in heaven (see Matthew 22:29, 30)” [Ed Decker, *“Mormonism-What You Need to Know”* (hereafter WYNTK), panel 2]

Latter-day Saints believe in thousands of gods! “And then the Lord said (sic): 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” [Pearl of Great Price (hereafter PGP), Book of Abraham, 4:1]. “Joseph Fielding Smith states: ‘Joseph Smith taught a plurality of gods, and that man by obeying the commandments of God and keeping the whole law will eventually reach the power and exaltation by which he also will become a god.’” [Doc. of Sal., vol. 1, p. 98]. “The Mormon Apostle Orson Pratt made this statement concerning the Mormon doctrine of a plurality of Gods” ‘If we should take a million worlds like this and number their particles, we should find that there are more gods than there are particles of matter in those worlds’ (JD, Vol. 2, p. 345)... The Mormon Church teaches that God the Father had a Father, and that God’s Father also had a Father, and so on. Brigham Young, the second President of the Mormon Church (stated): ‘How many Gods there are, I do not know. But there never was a time when there were not Gods...’ [JD, vol. 7, p. 333].

By contrast the Bible says there is only ONE God! (Isa. 43:10-11; 44:6 cf. 44:8; 45:5, 6, 18, 21-22; 46:9; I Tim. 1:17; Gal. 3:20; I Cor. 8:4-6; Eph. 4:5-6; Mk. 12:29-32; etc.)

Mormons believe men can become gods! Joseph Smith: “You have got to learn to be gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all gods have done before you... To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation, until you arrive at the station of God” [Times & Seasons, vol. 5, pp. 613-614; His. of Church, vol. 6, p. 306]. Similarly authoritative statements have been made by other LDS leaders & publications: “*God’s exist, and we had better strive to be prepared to be one with them... The Lord created you and me for the purpose of becoming Gods like himself... We are created... to become Gods like unto our Father in heaven... man is the king of kings and lord of lords in embryo*” [Brigham Young, JD, Vol. VII, p. 238; vol. 3, p. 93 & vol. 10, p. 223]; “*As man is, God once was: as God is, man may become... As Abra’m, Isaac, Jacob, too, First babes, then men-to gods they grew. As man now is, our God once was; As now God is, so man may be,-Which doth unfold man’s destiny...*” [Lorenzo Snow, former president (prophet), Millennial Star (hereafter MS), Vol. 54; The Gospel Through the Ages, Milton R. Hunter, pp. 105-106]. “*Because we are the spiritual children of our heavenly parents, we have inherited the potential to develop their divine qualities. If we choose to do so, we can become perfect, just as they are... All good things come from God. Everything that he does is to help his children become like him—a god... Some of the blessings we can enjoy for eternity are as follows... We can be exalted as God is and receive a fulness of joy... If we prove faithful to the Lord, we will live in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom of heaven. We will become exalted, just like our Heavenly Father. Exaltation is the greatest gift that Heavenly Father can give his children... He (God) glories in the fact that it is possible for his children to become like him... These are some of the blessings of exalted people... They will become gods... They will have everything that our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ have—all power, glory, dominion, and knowledge...*” [GP, 1995, pp. 11, 9, 243 & 302].

But the Bible says no one else can be God! (Isa. 43:10). In fact, this LDS teaching is the same lie that forced Satan to be thrown out of heaven and Adam and Eve to be thrown out of the Garden of Eden (Isa. 14: 12-14; Gen. 3:5-6). Incredibly, Mormons even believe that when Adam & Eve sinned, it “*was a great blessing to all mankind*” (see below). On the contrary, the Bible says the Fall in the Garden of Eden brought death (Rom. 5:12-21; 8:20-22)!

The LDS Church teaches that God the Father has a body! “The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit” [Doctrines & Covenants (hereafter, D&C) 130:22]. “*Our Heavenly Father is a real person with a tangible, perfected body of flesh and bones...(Joseph Smith): ‘If the veil were rent today, and the great God who holds this world in its orbit... was to make himself visible—I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form’... God is a glorified and perfected man, a personage of flesh and bones.*” [GP, pp. 113, 9].

However the Bible states that a) God is a spirit (Jn. 4:24), & b) spirits DO NOT have flesh and bones (Lk. 24:39). In another place God’s Word condemns people who would liken God to animals or man, calling such people reprobates (Rom. 1:23 cf. 1:28). Note also I Tim. 1:17; 6:16; & Col. 1:15.

Mormons believe that God is constantly progressing and changing! “*God himself is increasing and progressing in knowledge, power, and dominion, and will do so, worlds without end*” [Wilford Woodruff, 4th president of the LDS church, JD, vol. 6, p. 120].

Not only does this heretical belief contradict the Bible (e.g. Mal. 3:6; Num. 23:19; Ps. 90:2; Dt. 4:39; Ex. 3:14; Ps. 139; Isa. 66:1; Jer. 23:24; etc), but it even contradicts the Mormons own Book of Mormon: “For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity”!!! (Moroni 8:18).

Mormons believe that there was a god (or more!) before God the Father! Joseph Smith: “If Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and John discovered that God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father, you may suppose that he had a Father also.” [Doc. of Salvation, Vol. 1, p. 11] “Further, as the Prophet also taught, there is ‘a God above the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...’ [McConkie, MD, p. 322, 1966 ed.].

There is absolutely no evidence, biblical or otherwise, for such an aberrant view! Note many of the verses mentioned above.

Other unbiblical teachings about God. Brigham Young clearly taught that Adam was the God who came to this earth (though Mormons will deny this strenuously). For instance, in the June 18, 1873 issue of Deseret News, Young stated: “When our father Adam came into the Garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body and brought Eve, one of his celestial wives, with him... He is our father and our God and the only God with whom we have to do.” [JD, vol. 1, p. 50]. Mormons also believe that Adam used to be called Michael the archangel: “In the spirit world Adam was called Michael the Archangel (see D&C 27:11; Jude 1:9) (sic).” [GP, p. 31].

B. ERRORS IN THE LDS DOCTRINE OF CHRIST.

Mormons believe that Jesus was once a man, who “progressed” on to exaltation and became a god. In their own words, Jesus is “a glorified, resurrected, exalted man.”

But the Bible teaches that Jesus has always been God! (Jn. 1:1; 5:18; 8:58; 10:30; Heb. 13:8; Rev. 1:8 & 11 cf. 1:17-18; etc.)

Latter-day Saints believe God the Father has a body, and came to earth and had sexual relations with Mary to produce Jesus Christ! “The birth of the Savior was a natural occurrence unattended with any degree of mysticism, and the Father God was the literal parent of Jesus in the flesh as well as the spirit... Christ was begotten of God. He was not born without the aid of Man, and that Man was God!... These name titles all signify that our Lord is the only Son of the Father in the flesh. Each of the words is to be understood literally. Only means only; Begotten means begotten; and Son means son. Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers... He was born in the same personal, real, and literal sense that any mortal son is born to a mortal father... Thus, God the Father became the literal father of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only person on earth to be born of a mortal mother and an immortal father.” [Joseph Fielding Smith, Jr., Religious Truths Defined, p. 44; President Joseph Fielding Smith, Doc. of Sal., vol. 1, p. 18 & Bruce R. McConkie, MD, 1966, pp. 546-547, 742; GP, p. 64]. Brigham Young is very blunt: “The man Joseph, the husband of Mary, did not, that we know of, have more than one wife, but Mary the wife of Joseph had another husband” [Deseret News, Oct. 10, 1866] Mormons also explicitly deny the virgin birth. “Brigham Young once stated: ‘Now remember from this time forth, and for ever, that Jesus Christ was not begotten by the Holy Ghost’ [JD, vol. 1, p. 51, in: The Changing World of Mormonism, Jerald & Sandra Tanner, 1980, p. 179].

First of all, the statements about God the Father are blasphemous, and the comments regarding Joseph & Mary are defamatory in the extreme. In addition, the Bible teaches that God has no body (see A. 5, above); while on the other hand it clearly DOES teach the miraculous virgin birth of Christ (Mt. 1:18-23; Lk. 1:34-35; Isa. 7:14)!

Mormons teach that Jesus & Lucifer (Satan) are spirit brothers! Note, for example, these statements in the LDS book Gospel Principles: “We needed a Savior to pay for our sins and teach us how to return to our Heavenly Father... Two of our brothers offered to help. Our oldest brother, Jesus Christ, who was then called Jehovah (sic)... He like our Heavenly Father, wanted us to choose whether we would obey Heavenly Father’s commandments... Satan, who was called Lucifer, also came... Satan wanted to force us all to do his will. Under his plan, we would not be allowed to choose... After hearing both sons (sic) speak, Heavenly Father said, ‘I will send the first’ (Abraham 3:27)” [GP, pp. 17-18]. “The appointment of Jesus to be the Savior of the world was contested by one of the other sons of God-Lucifer. This spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind” [Milton R. Hunter, First Council of Seventy, The Gospel Through the Ages, p. 15].

But the Bible says Jesus is God, and the creator of everything, certainly not a brother of Satan! (Jn. 1:1-3; 5:18; 8:58; 10:30; 14:9; 20:28; Col. 1:16-17; Titus 2:13; Heb. 1:8; etc.). Such teachings are blasphemous in the extreme.

The LDS Church teaches that Jesus was married! Brigham Young stated regarding the wedding of Cana in John 2 “that a careful reading of that transaction will reveal that none other than the Son of God was married then. If not, then his conduct with Mary, Martha, and the other Mary, was highly unbecoming to say the least.” Young’s statement is nothing but rank heresy! The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life. To imply otherwise is to defame

His impeccable, sinless character! Yet Mormons teach such error over and over: “Jesus was the bridegroom at the marriage of Cana of Galilee. We say it was Jesus Christ who was married, to be brought into relation whereby he could see his seed” [Orson Hyde, Apostle, JD, vol. 2, p. 82].

However, you can read John 2 upside down or right-side up and never come up with the totally baseless idea that Jesus got married at the wedding at Cana!

“Mormon apostle Orson Hyde taught that after Jesus Christ grew to manhood, he took at least three wives: Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene. Through these wives, the Mormon Jesus supposedly fathered a number of children before he was crucified. Mormon founder Joseph Smith is supposedly one of his descendants.” [Mormonism-WYNTK, 1997, panel 10]

Mormon Church prophets of the past such as Brigham Young taught that there are some sins that the blood of Christ cannot redeem. That is one reason that Utah allows people sentenced to death the option of dying by firing squad (i.e. shedding their blood), as opposed to the electric chair or lethal injection. I believe Utah is the only state that allows this option.

However the Bible teaches that Christ’s blood is efficacious to wash away any and ALL of our sins (Rom. 3:23-25; 5:9; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Heb. 9:12, 14; 10:12-14; I Pet. 1:18-19; 1 Jn. 1:7, 9; 2:1-2; Rev. 1:5; etc.)

The LDS Church teaches that Christ appeared in the Americas after His resurrection! “*Shortly after his resurrection, the Savior appeared to the Nephites and established his church in the Americas.*” [GP, p. 68]. There is no more evidence for this than for the idea that Jesus went to Mars after his resurrection!

C. **ERRORS IN THE MORMON DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Mormons evidence a great deal of confusion among themselves as to what they believe in regard to the Holy Spirit. Among their teachings:

The LDS Church has in the past taught that the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost are two different personages! This was primarily due to the fact that Joseph Smith was ignorant of the fact that the Greek word for ghost in the King James Version of the Bible is the same word that is translated “Spirit” (*Pneuma*). Thus Smith wrote and made statements that imply that the Holy Spirit is not the same as the Holy Ghost! An early Mormon apostle (John A. Widstoe) also taught similarly: “*The Holy Ghost...is the third member of the Godhead, and is a personage distinct from the Holy Spirit.*” Of course there is no such distinction! Joseph Fielding Smith, another president of the LDS church stated: “*The Holy Ghost should not be confused with the Spirit which fills the immensity of space and which is everywhere present. This other Spirit is impersonal and has no size, nor dimension; it proceeds forth from the presence of the Father and the Son and is in all things...These terms are used synonymously: Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord, Spirit of Truth, Holy Spirit Comforter; all having reference to the Holy Ghost. The same terms largely are used in relation to the Spirit of Jesus Christ, also called the light of Truth, Light of Christ, Spirit of God, and Spirit of the Lord; and yet they are separate and distinct things...*” (sic) [Doc. of Sal., Vol. 1, pp. 49, 50, 52].

Again, the above statements are wrong! There is no such distinction such as Mormon leaders claim! The above errors are solely those of the Mormon “prophets” Joseph Smith, Joseph Fielding Smith, etc. “The Bible does not teach that the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit are separate. The Greek word *pneuma* is rendered in the King James Bible as ghost or spirit... Jn. 7:39...The words ‘Spirit’ and ‘Ghost’ in this verse both read ‘*pneuma*’ in the Greek... I Cor. 3:16; 6:19... Mt. 1:20... Rom. 8:14...” [Tanner, *The Bible and Mormon Doctrine*, p. 33]

The Mormon Holy Ghost can only be in one place at a time (though they believe his influence is omnipresent)! “Who is the Holy Spirit?... He is a spirit that has the form and likeness of a man.(?) He can be in only one place at a time (!), but his influence can be everywhere at the same time.” [GP, p. 37]

By contrast, the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is present everywhere (omnipresent), possesses all the attributes of deity, and is not in the likeness of a man, since He is a spiritual being (Ps. 139:7; I Cor. 2:10-11; Gen. 1:2; 1 Jn. 5:6; Lk. 11:13; Lk. 24:39; etc.)

Another Mormon apostle said that the Holy Spirit was a “divine substance or fluid”!

Mormons are unable to satisfactorily explain why the Holy Spirit doesn’t have a body, when in Mormon theology the lack of a physical body is the ultimate curse. Mormons believe a body is necessary for eternal progression, and in LDS theology, the worst part of the punishment that Lucifer and his followers’ undergo, is that they will never get a body! “The Mormon leaders are unable to explain why God the Father should have a body and yet the Holy Ghost be without one. It is claimed that a body is necessary for eternal progression, yet the Mormon Church teaches that the Holy Ghost became a God without a body... Joseph Fielding Smith, president of the Mormon Church, states: ‘*The Holy Ghost is a personage of Spirit, and has a spirit body only... As a Spirit personage the Holy Ghost has size and dimensions. He does not fill the immensity of space, and cannot be everywhere present in person at the same time... The Holy Ghost is not a personage with a body of flesh and bones, and in this respect differs from the Father and the Son... I have never troubled myself about the Holy Ghost whether he will sometime have a body or not because it is*

not in any way essential to my salvation.” [Doc. of Sal., Vol. 1, pp. 38-39; cited in Sandra Tanner, *The Bible and Mormon Doctrine*, p. 32]

Joseph Smith even said that the “Comforter” Jesus promised to send, was not the Holy Spirit, but Jesus Himself! Such confusing and contradictory teachings as this & those above, clearly demonstrate the unbiblical nature of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints!

D. ERRORS IN THE MORMON DOCTRINE OF SALVATION.

AN INCORRECT VIEW OF CHRIST’S WORK OF ATONEMENT. The LDS Church teaches that Christ’s atonement (sacrifice) simply guarantees every person of being resurrected: *“Because of his (Christ’s) atonement, everyone born on this earth will be resurrected... Just as Jesus was resurrected, our spirits will be reunited with our bodies, ‘that they can die no more..., never to be divided’ (Alma 11:45). This condition is called immortality.”* [GP, p. 74]. *“The atonement of Jesus Christ is of a twofold nature. Because of it, all men are redeemed from mortal death and the grave, and will rise in the resurrection to immortality of the soul.”* [Joseph Fielding Smith, Doc. of Salv., vol. 1, p. 123]

Thus in the Mormon view, Christ’s atonement has nothing to do with enabling a person to go to heaven (keep in mind that they believe in 3 heavens!). So if you ask a Mormon if he is “*saved*” or has “*salvation*” he will normally answer yes, since to him that is like asking him, “Will you be resurrected” and he believes everyone will experience that.

SALVATION via GOOD WORKS. In addition to the above error, Mormons redefine atonement, so that it includes good works that we perform, in order to earn our salvation. Notice the subtle and confusing way they word it: *“The atonement makes it possible for those who have faith in Christ to be saved from their sins (sounds good so far, right?). The Savior’s atonement makes it possible for us to overcome spiritual death. Although all people will be resurrected with a body of flesh and bone, only those who accept the Atonement will be saved from spiritual death... (But what does accepting Christ’s atonement consist of, in the Mormon view?): ... We accept Christ’s atonement by placing our faith in him. Through this faith, we repent of our sins, are baptized, receive the Holy Ghost, and obey his commandments... To make his atonement fully effective in our lives, we must strive to obey him and repent of our sins.(!)”* [GP, pp. 74-75]. Here’s another example of Mormon doubletalk: *“Then again, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel, man will receive remission of individual sins, through the blood of Christ, and will inherit exaltation in the kingdom of God, which is eternal life”* [D of S, vol. 1, p. 123]. In another place Mormons state: *“We must be baptized by immersion for the remission of our sins.”* [GP, p. 130]. Statements on their baptismal certificates reiterate this false teaching of salvation by good works.

By contrast, the Bible teaches that salvation is completely and totally by grace through faith, and that there is NOTHING, absolutely no good work or deed, that a person can perform to earn or merit salvation! (e.g. Rom. 1:17; 3:28; 4:5; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6; etc.)

MORMONS TEACH THAT SALVATION IS FOUND ONLY IN THEIR CHURCH. “There is no salvation outside the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints” [Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 670]. *“This Church (i.e. the LDS church) is the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth”* [D&C 1:30]. **These are absolutely authoritative statements by the Mormon Church, and are one major mark of a cult i.e. that they think that they are the only ones going to heaven!**

The Bible teaches no such thing. In fact the Bible makes it crystal clear that salvation is not found in a denomination or church, but in a person, Jesus Christ, and Him alone! -Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12. In opposition to this cardinal biblical truth, note what early Mormon prophet John Taylor said: “We are the only people that know how to save our progenitors, how to save ourselves, and how to save our posterity in the celestial kingdom of God; that we are the people God has chosen by whom to establish his kingdom and introduce correct principles into the world; and that we are in fact the saviours of the world...”(sic) [JD, vol. 6, p. 163] By way of response, consider the following: “Over 500 verses deal with death, and over 300 deal with salvation. Not one verse even hints that we can be saviors of the dead. The Bible tells us in Hebrews 9:27, “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”” (Mormonism-WYNTK, panel 6)

Mormons also believe that Joseph Smith will be our final judge! “No man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith. From the day that the Priesthood was taken from the earth to the winding up scene of all things, every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are” [Brigham Young, JD, vol. 7, p. 289]

E. AN OVERVIEW OF LDS THEOLOGY: “THE MORMON PLAN OF ETERNAL PROGRESSION.”

INTELLIGENCES/ETERNAL PRE-EXISTENCE. According to Mormonism, man has always existed as intelligence, i.e. man is just as eternal as God! Joseph Smith said: *“...the soul, the mind of man, the immortal spirit. All*

men say God created it in the beginning. The very idea lessens man in my estimation; I do not believe the doctrine, I know better... The mind of man is as immortal as God himself... their spirits existed co-equal with God, it has no beginning... God never did have power to create the spirit of man at all..." [Times & Seasons, vol. 5, p. 615].

However Gen 1:26-28 & 2:7, for example, make it crystal clear that man is NOT eternal, but rather is a created being! Only God is eternal. (e.g. Ps. 90:2; 93:2).

THE PRE-INCARNATE SPIRIT WORLD. Mormons teach that from the previous condition, eventually "spirit children" were born to God & his wife (or wives). One early apostle estimated that God the Father had procreated 105 billion spirit children! [The Seer, Orson Pratt, pp. 37-38]. He apparently is still procreating, according to official LDS teaching: "Since we could not progress further in heaven, our Heavenly Father called a Grand Council to present his plan for our progression (sic)...we learned if we followed his plan, we would become like him...we would become heavenly parents and have spirit children just as he does (see D&C 132:19-20)." [GP, p. 14]. Note the present tense! When another LDS Church authority was once asked why, if we ate in this alleged spirit world, we didn't develop a physical body with physical bone, blood, etc., his response was that in the spirit world the vegetables we ate were "celestial vegetables" and so they didn't produce physical characteristics.(sic)!

THE SOURCE OF DARK & LIGHT SKIN (!): During the time we all were supposedly in this pre-incarnate spirit world, there was a war there (i.e. the spirit world) between Satan and his followers and Jesus and His followers. Jesus' side eventually won (sic) and 1/3 of the spirits, the ones who followed Lucifer, were cast out. These became the evil forces on earth and they have no chance to get a body-which to a Mormon is the ultimate tragedy. "In the pre-existent eternity various degrees of valiance and devotion to the truth were exhibited by different groups of our Father's spirit offspring. One-third of the spirit hosts of heaven came out in open rebellion and were cast out without bodies,... The other two-thirds stood affirmatively for Christ;..." [MD, p. 527] "One-third of the spirits in heaven were punished for following Satan: they were denied the right to receive mortal bodies." [GP, p. 19]

Of the 2/3rds who fought on Jesus' side in that conflict, 1/3 were valiant, while the other third were not. According to Mormon teaching, you can know which of us were valiant and which were not by the color of our skin, the light skinned people being the "good guys," and the dark skinned people the "bad guys" [sic]. This is where Mormonism's racist beliefs begin. Here are a couple of sample quotes: "Of the two-thirds who followed Christ, however, some were more valiant than others... Those who were less valiant in pre-existence and who thereby had certain spiritual restrictions imposed upon them during mortality are known to us as the negroes. Such spirits are sent to earth through the lineage of Cain, the mark put upon him for his rebellion against God and his murder of Abel being a black skin (Moses 5:16-41; 7:8, 12, 22). Noah's son Ham married Egyptus, a descendant of Cain, thus preserving the negro lineage through the flood. (Abra. 1:20-27)... Negroes in this life are denied the priesthood; under no circumstances can they hold this delegation of authority from the Almighty. (Abra. 1:20-27). The gospel message of salvation is not carried affirmatively to them (Moses 7:8, 12, 22)..."

"...The present status of the negro rests purely and simply on the foundation of pre-existence. Along with all races and peoples he is receiving here what he merits as a result of the long pre-mortal probation in the presence of the Lord... The negroes are not equal with other races where the receipt of certain spiritual blessings are concerned, particularly the priesthood and the temple blessings that flow therefrom, but this inequality is not of man's origin. It is the Lord's doing, is based on his eternal laws of justice, and grows out of the lack of spiritual valiance of those concerned in their first estate" [MD, McConkie, pp. 527-528].

It's worth noting that throughout the Book of Mormon, light skin is portrayed as good, and dark skin as bad &/or a curse (e.g. 1 Nephi 12:23; 2 Nephi 5:21; Jacob 3:8-9; Alma 3:6; 3 Nephi 2:15-16). In 2 Nephi 30:6 the Mormon Church has recently even changed the wording of a verse in the Book of Mormon. Where it once was, "**white & delightful**" (e.g. 1978 ed.), it has now been changed to "**pure and delightful**" (1999 ed., c. 1981)! Of course there can be no legitimate basis for changing "*the most correct book on earth*," especially since there are no original manuscripts to consult or compare with, since the golden plates do not exist today (did they ever?). The first edition of the Book of Mormon (1830) did not have such a reading! Obviously this change was made solely for public relations purposes.

In 1978 Mormon authorities changed their prohibition on blacks holding the priesthood, finally allowing them full privileges. They have also tried to ignore and cover up their previously stated and held racist views, since they are so repugnant, as well as bad public relations. For instance, the documented statements quoted in the above paragraphs, taken directly from the book *Mormon Doctrine* (1966 edition) were rewritten beginning with the 1979 edition (Tanner, B&MD, p. 13). But there are scores and scores of incredibly racist statements published in official Mormon sources in the past, many of which were made by "prophets" who claimed to be God's direct mouthpiece here on earth! Mormon leaders usually try and excuse offensive statements and ludicrous prophecies by past prophets, saying, "They were only men, and could make mistakes like anyone else." But that's not what those prophets

thought... or taught! Brigham Young once stated: ***“I have never yet preached a sermon or sent it out to the sons of men that you can’t call Scripture!”***

In addition, there are some statements regarding race that prophets have said were forever, and which the 1978 racial policy change did not change. For example, Brigham Young once declared: *“Shall I tell you the law of God in regard to the African race. If the white man who belongs to the chosen mixes his blood with the seed of Cain, the penalty under the law of God, is death on the spot. This will always be so.”* [JD, vol. 10, p. 110] The 1978 racial policy change didn’t change that statement!

LIFE ON EARTH. Supposedly it’s a time of probation and of learning more lessons that we couldn’t learn in the spirit world. According to Mormon teaching, by receiving a body and coming into this world we undergo trials and testings that will enable us to “progress” (toward godhood).

THE FALL... A GREAT BLESSING?!? Incredibly, the LDS Church teaches that the Fall in the Garden of Eden was a great blessing to all mankind!!! *“Some people believe Adam and Eve committed a serious sin when they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. However, latter-day scriptures help us understand that their fall was a necessary step in the plan of life and a great blessing to all of us.(sic)... After the Fall, Eve said, ‘Were it not for our transgression we never should have had seed (children), and never should have known good and evil, and the joy of our redemption, and the eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient.’”* [GP, pp. 33-34]. “Sterling W. Sill, a Mormon leader, once stated: ‘Adam fell, but he fell in the right direction. He fell toward the goal... Adam fell, but he fell upward.’...Joseph Fielding Smith, President of the Mormon Church, writes: ‘This was a transgression of the law, but not a sin in the strict sense, for it was something that Adam and Eve had to do!’” [Deseret News, Church Section, July 31, 1965, p. 7; Doc. of Sal., JFS, vol. 1, p. 115; both quoted in Tanner, B&MD, p. 7]. cf. James 1:13-14!!

THE AARONIC AND MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOODS. Mormons believe that worthy LDS men receive the Melchizedek and Aaronic priesthoods. There are, of course many theological problems with this idea. For instance:

The Aaronic priesthood is not even found in the NT. In fact priests are not mentioned in the lists of church offices, since a priest implies a mediator offering sacrifices, which was completely unnecessary once Christ had made His once for all sacrifice as our high priest, on Calvary! (e.g. Heb. 9-10).

To be an Aaronic priest, you had to be from the tribe of Levi & of the seed of Aaron-Num. 18:1-7; cf. Num. 16:, 10, 30, 40; Ex. 28:1; 29:9. Mormons try to get around this problem by saying that others can receive the Aaronic priesthood if someone with the proper authority confers it on them! In fact in their Doctrines & Covenants, it implies that Jews who are from the correct line still have to have approval from LDS authorities! (D&C 68:15-20; 107:15-17).

LDS Aaronic priests are not ordained in the biblical manner (see Ex. 29 & Lev. 8), **assuming that priesthood is still available-which it is not!** If Mormons wish to try and go back under the OT economy and claim something from it for themselves (i.e. Aaronic and Melchizedek priesthoods) which ended with the perfect priesthood of Christ, then they must follow the OT regulations right down the line-& they don’t! (see also, II Chron. 13:9; Ezek. 43:27; & Lev. 21:16-23);

Mormons confer such priesthoods by the laying on of hands, but there is no biblical evidence that Aaron or his sons were ordained by the laying on of hands (Ex. 29 & Lev. 8);

The Mormon Church claims to have the restored Melchizedek priesthood. However in Hebrews 7 (the most complete passage on Melchizedek and his priesthood in the entire Bible), we find that Christ holds that office, and holds it permanently! Hebrews 7:24 reads: “But this man (Christ), because he continueth ever, hath an UNCHANGABLE priesthood.” The word there for unchangeable is “*Aparabatos*” and literally means UNTRANSFERABLE. Thayer: “concerning the word *aparabatos* ‘*unchangeable and therefore not liable to pass to a successor.*” (p.54) Strong: “not passing away, i.e. *untransferable (perpetual)-unchangeable.*” Thus the Mormons are claiming to possess something that the Bible says will never be passed on to anyone; something which is the special possession of Jesus Christ alone! Walter Martin commented: “The writer of Hebrews, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, declares that the priesthood of Melchizedek is the peculiar possession of Jesus Christ, not only by virtue of the fact that He is God, and possessed of imperishable life, but because it cannot be transferred to another. It consummated the Aaronic priesthood; it terminated the Levitical order; it resides in the Son of God, and by the will of His Father, it cannot be transferred. There is no escape from the force of these revelations of Scripture, and no exegetical theologian or commentator has ever held otherwise. It is all well and good for the Mormons to claim the priestships of Aaron and Melchizedek, but it should be pointed out that they do so by contradicting the expressed teaching of the Word of God, which they claim to respect. This discrepancy no Mormon theologian has ever attempted to explain.” [Martin, Kingdom of the Cults, 1965, p. 174]

A SECOND CHANCE AFTER DEATH? (!?) According to LDS theology, Mormons will go to the Millennium, while the rest of us non-Mormons get a second chance to become Mormons through the preaching of the LDS missionaries during that time! Mormons believe that non-Mormons who change their mind at that time and become

Mormons will still need to be baptized- but they will no longer have a body to be able to do so. Consequently, according to Mormon teaching, since such “second chance converts” will no longer have a body, Mormons still alive in this world are, and will be, baptized by proxy, for those who will convert (sic) during their “second chance” in the spirit world: *“The great work of the millennium will be the salvation of the dead, and those who are on the other side will help us, too, by bringing us information... GENEALOGICAL RECORDS TO BE REVEALED IN MILLENNIUM. Those who will be living here then will be in daily communication with those who have passed through the resurrection, and they will come with this information, this knowledge that we do not have and will give it to those who are in mortality saying, ‘Now go into the temples and do this work; when you get this done, we will bring you other names.’ And in that way every soul who is entitled to a place in the celestial kingdom of God will be ferreted out, and not one soul shall be overlooked. The Lord has not overlooked these things. He has seen the end from the beginning. Every name is recorded (sic).”* [Jos. Fielding Smith, D of S, vol. 2, pp. 166-167]

THE BIBLE TEACHES NO SUCH THING! Ps. 49:7-8 gives some insight into this question. There the psalmist declares that “no man can by any means redeem his brother, or give to God a ransom for him—for the redemption of his soul is costly, and he should cease trying forever—“ (NASV) cf. v. 15. Even if the psalmist is only referring to man’s inability to intercede with God to extend another person’s physical life here on earth, if a man cannot do anything before God to extend or preserve another person’s life on earth, how much less can anyone redeem or assist another person in regard to their next life. The Scriptures clearly and unequivocally teach that individuals have one chance to obtain salvation, and that is in THIS life, not the next- and that there is NO SECOND CHANCE! (Heb. 9:27-28; Lk. 16:19-31; Isa. 38:18).

REGARDING GENEALOGIES... Scripture condemns such “endless genealogies” (1 Tim. 1:4; Titus 3:9) as well as any attempts to contact the dead for any reason whatsoever (Ex. 22:18; Lev. 19:26, 31; 20:6, 27; Dt. 18:9-12; Isa. 8:19; Jer. 27:9; etc)

THE JUDGMENT. Mormons teach: “Bodily perfection will come to all men as a free gift in the resurrection... Except for the free gift of immortality (which comes by grace alone and includes bodily or physical perfection), all rewards gained in the eternal worlds must be earned.” (i.e. salvation by works) [MD, p. 641]

THE AFTERLIFE: 3 HEAVENS & 1 HELL. Mormons have 3 heavens, instead of just one! They declare: “Contrary to the views found in the uninspired (sic) teachings and creeds of modern Christendom, there are in eternity kingdoms of glory to which all resurrected persons (except the sons of perdition) will eventually go. These are named **celestial, terrestrial, and telestial**—the glory of each being beyond mortal comprehension. (D&C 76; I Cor. 15:39-42; Rev. 21) (sic). However, only the celestial kingdom is the kingdom of God where the faithful saints will gain their eternal inheritance. All who fall short of the glory of eternal life will in greater or lesser degree be damned (even though they dwell in a kingdom of glory), for their eternal progress will be limited, and they can never go on to an eternal fulness in the Father’s presence (D&C 132:16-17).” [MD, p. 420]. There is no chance of progressing from one heaven to another, according to Mormonism: “NO ADVANCEMENT FROM LOWER TO HIGHER. It has been asked if it is possible for one who inherits the telestial glory to advance in time to the celestial glory? The answer to this question is, No!” [Joseph F. Smith, Doc. of Sal., vol. 2, p. 31]

A. **Celestial kingdom - It’s for Mormons only!** Faithful Mormons will attain Godhood (“Exaltation”). They must have been sealed (married) in a temple. Unmarried Mormons will also be there (though no Godhood?). **Before the 1978 LDS doctrinal change allowing blacks into the Mormon priesthood, blacks were not allowed to be gods, but could serve the gods!** No wonder they changed this racist teaching. Civil rights groups had a fit over such crude and unbiblical teachings. According to Mormonism, God the Father will be in the Celestial kingdom. *“Those who gain eternal life (exaltation) also gain eternal lives, meaning that in the resurrection they have eternal ‘increase,’ ‘a continuation of the seeds,’ a ‘continuation of the lives.’ Their spirit progeny will ‘continue as innumerable as the stars; or, if ye were to count the sand upon the seashore ye could not number them.’* (D&C 131:1-4; 132:19-25, 30, 55). [MD, p. 238]

B. **Terrestrial kingdom - For honorable men & women (like you!) who didn’t accept Mormonism.** These won’t see God the Father, but Jesus will be there. *“Those attaining a terrestrial kingdom will be inheritors of terrestrial glory which differs from celestial glory ‘as that of the moon differs from the sun in the firmament.’* (D&C 76:71; I Cor. 15:41 [sic])... *They ‘receive of the presence of the Son, but not of the fulness of the Father’* (D&C 76:77), *and to all eternity they remain unmarried and without exaltation.”* [MD, p. 784] *“Some of the functions in the celestial body will not appear in the terrestrial body, neither in the telestial body, and the power of procreation will be removed. I take it that men and women will, in these kingdoms, be just what the so-called Christian world expects us all to be—neither man nor woman, merely immortal beings having received the resurrection.”* (Jos. Fielding Smith, Doc. of Sal., vol. 2, p. 288]. cf. D&C 76:71-79.

C. **Telestial kingdom - This is “Criminal Heaven.”** *The heaven for thieves, liars, adulterers, murderers, etc. The Holy Spirit tends this group. “Most of the adult people who have lived from the day of Adam to the present time will*

go to the telestial kingdom... They will be the endless hosts of people of all ages who have lived after the manner of the world; who have been carnal, sensual, and devilish; who have chosen the vain philosophies of the world rather than accept the testimony of Jesus; who have been liars and thieves, sorcerers and adulterers, blasphemers and murderers (D&C 76:81-112; Rev. 22:15[sic])... And they shall be servants of the Most High (!); but where God and Christ dwell they cannot come, worlds without end.'(D&C 76:112)" [McConkie, MD, p. 778]

D. **Hell** - Satan & his followers. It's very difficult for humans to end up here, but some will, according to Mormonism. They are (not surprisingly) those who understood Mormonism fully, and then rejected it as false! (a typical cultic viewpoint). "Lucifer is Perdition. He became such by open rebellion against the truth, a rebellion in the face of light and knowledge... In rebellion with him were one-third of the spirit hosts of heaven. These are thus followers (or in other words sons) of perdition. They were denied bodies, were cast out onto the earth, and thus became the devil and his angels—a great host of sons of perdition. Those in this life who gain a perfect knowledge of the divinity of the gospel cause, a knowledge that comes only by revelation from the Holy Ghost, and who then link themselves with Lucifer and come out in open rebellion, also become sons of perdition. Their destiny, following the resurrection, is to be cast out with the devil and his angels... A man through denying the truth and leaving the Church does not become a son of perdition, unless he had had enough light to become a son of perdition..." [MD, p. 746; Jos. Fielding Smith, Doc. of Sal., vol. 1, p. 45]

THE PURPOSES OF THE MORMON TEMPLES & ITS CEREMONIES AND RITUALS. Note: Mormon temples are NOT "churches." Their regular church services are held in other buildings called "chapels," which are being built at the rate of two/day around the world! But there are only a few dozen temples, which are massive, imposing structures. No regular "church" services go on there, but rather secret ceremonies and rituals which are similar to Masonic rites, in many respects. Furthermore, only a minority (roughly 20%) of all Mormons participate in these secret ceremonies and rituals! The vast majority of the original ceremonies are almost exactly like those in Masonic rituals—since Joseph Smith had been a "Mason" and basically just dragged all of those false practices into the Mormon temples!

Main things that occur inside temples:

A. **WORTHY MORMONS RECEIVE THEIR "ENDOWMENTS"** They view dramas; get their "sacred garments" (underwear); & learn secret words, handshakes, etc., that are supposed to enable them to reach the highest heaven one day & obtain "exaltation" (i.e. become gods and goddesses).

B. **BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD.** Mormons enter temples and are baptized on behalf of living and dead relatives and friends, as well as individuals they do not know, but whom they are taught will receive a second chance to become Mormons after death! (see E. #4, above). cf. Ps. 49:7; Isa. 38:18; etc. "Baptism is the gate to the celestial kingdom... hosts of people live and die without ever entering in at the gate of baptism so as to be on the path leading to eternal life. For them a just God has ordained baptism for the dead, a vicarious-proxy labor. (D&C 124:28-36; 127:128; 1 Cor. 15:29[sic])... The dispensation of the fulness of times is the great era of vicarious ordinance work, a work which will continue during the millennial era until it has been performed for every living soul entitled to receive it." [McConkie, MD, p. 73]

C. **ETERNAL MARRIAGE.** Mormon couples are "sealed for time and eternity" & plan to procreate children throughout eternity. As one has pointed out, the "great" hope and future goal that any faithful Mormon woman has to look forward to is eternal pregnancy! "Celestial marriage is essential to exaltation. Another thing we must not forget in this great plan of redemption and exaltation (sic), is that a man must have a wife, and a woman a husband, to receive the fulness of exaltation. They must be sealed for time and for all eternity in a temple; then their union will last forever,...Parents will have eternal claim upon their posterity and will have the gift of eternal increase, if they obtain the exaltation. This is the crowning glory in the kingdom of God, and they will have no end... No man shall receive the fulness of eternity, of exaltation, alone; no woman shall receive that blessing alone;... No man can obtain that exaltation without receiving the covenants that belong to the priesthood." [Jos. Fielding Smith, Doc. of Sal., vol. 2, pp. 40, 43, 44].

If a Mormon is only married in a civil ceremony, he/she is a failure and cannot become a god or goddess in the celestial kingdom. For that, you must be sealed (married) in the temple. But the worst thing that can happen to a faithful Mormon is to not marry, & go into eternity single! Such individuals never can become a god/goddess, but get to serve the more worthy Mormons. "Except a man and his wife enter into an everlasting covenant and be married for eternity, while in this probation, by the power and authority of the holy priesthood,' the Prophet says, 'they will cease to increase when they die; that is, they will not have any children after the resurrection'... The opposite of eternal lives is eternal deaths. Those who come up separately and singly in the resurrection and who therefore do not have spirit children eternally are said to inherit 'the deaths.' (D&C 132:16-17, 25)"...Even those in the celestial kingdom, however, who do not go on to exaltation, will have immortality only and not eternal life (notice the semantical doubletalk-mwe). Along with those of the telestial and terrestrial worlds they will be 'ministering servants, to minister

for those who are worthy of a far more, and an exceeding, and an eternal weight of glory.' They will live 'separately and singly' in an unmarried state 'without exaltation, in their saved condition, to all eternity.' (D&C 132:16-17)." [MD, pp. 238, 670]

IV. THE LDS SACRED BOOKS & AUTHORITIES.

"THE BOOK OF MORMON" - The Book of Mormon purports to be the history of what happened in North, Central, and South America from around 600 B.C. to 420 A.D. "*The period covered by Book of Mormon annals extends from B.C. 600 to A.D. 421.*" [Introduction, The Book of Mormon, 1978 edition]. (Note: In the Mormon book *Gospel Principles* it states that "*The Book of Mormon is a sacred record of some of the people who lived on the American continents between about 2,000 B.C. and A.D. 400*" (p. 53). I am not sure why they have pushed the beginning date back 1400 years from what they have previously claimed, unless perhaps to try and make the totally unsubstantiated & fictitious stories in it try to jibe and correspond with some period of the early history of the Western hemisphere?!?

Regardless, **the Book of Mormon has absolutely NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPPORT OR EVIDENCE OF ANY KIND WHATSOEVER!** The Smithsonian Institution, Columbia University, etc., have repeatedly issued public letters stating the total lack of any archaeological support for anything in the Book of Mormon. Not one city, one place, one coin, or anything else has ever been found that in any way corresponds or supports the story found in the Book of Mormon. **Even Mormon archaeologists admit this!** The following statements are from Brigham Young University archaeologists (their own university!):

"In the first place, the statement that the Book of Mormon has already been proven by archaeology is misleading. The truth of the matter is that we are only now beginning to see even the outlines of the archaeological time-periods which could compare with those of the Book of Mormon. How then, can the matter have been settled once and for all? That such an idea could exist indicates the ignorance of many of our people (Mormons) with regard to what is going on in the historical and anthropological sciences... As for the notion that the Book of Mormon has already been proved by archaeology, I must say with Shakespeare, 'Lay not that flattering unction to your soul.'" [Dr. Ross T. Christensen, Univ. Archaeology Society Newsletter #64, Brigham Young University]."

In a critique of "*Book of Mormon Evidences in Ancient America*," a popular book written by Mormon author Dewey Farnsworth, which claims to give archaeological evidence supporting the Book of Mormon, a BYU archaeologist has written: "*Turning to the author's preparation in archaeology for this work we note the staggering statement that he 'has read all the literature and books...available' on the material he treats. No competent archaeologist, had he read for 75 years, would make such an impossible claim... Sixty-seven works in the bibliography are what could be termed non-scientific popularizations... A summary of the book appears on the flap of the dust cover. Of the sixteen points listed there which are said to be supported by archaeological findings, not over four or five, and those so general in nature as to be of little importance, are acceptable to archaeologists. All others are unproved or in error.*" [Dr. John L. Sorenson, Brigham Young University, *Progress in Archaeology, An Anthology*, pp. 103-106].

A book by Mormon apologist Dr. Hugh Nibley, called "The World of the Jaredites," also gets canned: "Unfortunately, a number of difficulties encountered in Dr. Nibley's work stand in the way of acceptance of many of his concepts. First of these are the confusing references to the place of origin of the Jaredites...Even more serious was the author's failure in making use of misleading, as well as actual errors of fact... A mistaken picture of the warfare of the Jaredites is given when he says they were 'continually falling back on this or that wilderness.' There is only one wilderness spoken of in these wars... Contrary to what is stated here, true nomads do not build cities, and were not the greatest builders of all time; and the Book of Mormon does not say that the Jaredites buried their dead in mounds...The World of the Jaredites offers interesting reading. The more one looks into it, however, the harder it becomes to verify certain points and to accept many of the author's interpretations." [Bruce W. Warren, scientist at BYU, former editor of the University Archaeological Society Newsletter, from, "Progress in Archaeology, An Anthology" compiled and edited by Ross T. Christensen].

I think that the above sampling makes clear the point that in spite of all the filmstrips, books, and pamphlets that the Mormons distribute and promote, the idea that the Book of Mormon is supported, and even proved by archaeology, is a very wishful fantasy. Statements by the world's greatest archaeologists are even harsher than that!

THE CONTENTS OF THE BOOK OF MORMON. The Book of Mormon is basically a nice fairy tale. There is no more evidence for it than there is for the story of Alice in Wonderland. But it's really quite an innocuous book, since **there is virtually nothing of Mormon theology in it. In fact, most of the blatantly false doctrines which the LDS Church teaches are even contradicted by their own Book of Mormon!** For example:

A. Mormonism teaches a plurality of Gods cf. Alma 11:21-22 cf. 28-29, 44; Mosiah 15:2-5; 3 Nephi 11:14; 2 Nephi 31:21; Ether 2:7-8, all of which teach that God is one &/or that there is only one God!

B. Mormonism teaches that God once a man that has changed and progressed cf. Alma 31:17; 11:27-29; Mormon 9:9-11, 19; Moroni 7:22; 8:18, which tell us that God is unchangeable and from everlasting! D&C 20:17 also refutes the heresy that God was once a man or progressed.

C. Mormonism teaches that God has a body cf. Alma 18:22-28; 22:9-11, where we are told that God is a Great Spirit (cf. Lk. 24:39 Jesus said that spirits do NOT have flesh and bones);

D. Mormonism teaches that God & Christ separate persons cf. 2 Nephi 11:7; 3 Nephi 11:14, 27; Mosiah 15:1, 5; Alma 11:38-39, 44; Ether 3:14 where we read the exact opposite. (In the last reference we are told that Christ is both the father and the son. *Talk about confusion!*)

E. Mormonism teaches the procreation of mankind by God the Father, as we procreate our children cf. Jacob 4:9 which attributes creation of the earth and man to God's spoken word of power;

F. Mormonism teaches that God the Father, not the Holy Spirit, was the father of Jesus cf. Alma 7:10 which teaches that Jesus Christ WAS conceived by the Holy Spirit!

G. Mormonism teaches that we should seek to become Gods cf. the Book of Mormon which teaches that Lucifer aspired to become like 'the most high' and was punished for this! (2 Nephi 24:12-16)

H. Mormonism practices baptism for the dead for little children who have died & those who have died without having the opportunity to receive the LDS "gospel," cf. Moroni 8:19-23; Mosiah 15:24-27 which teach that those very people will have eternal life (sic).

I. Mormonism teaches a second chance to believe after death cf. Alma 34:32-35; Mosiah 15:26-27 which clearly teach that there is no second chance to repent and change after death!

J. Mormonism denies the need and condition of being "born again" cf. Mosiah 27:22-26, where it states that "all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, must be born again..."!!

K. Mormonism ridicules the idea that Christ, through the Spirit can dwell in a believer's heart cf. Alma 18:34-35; 34:36 which says that "...the Lord hath said he dwelleth not in unholy temples, but in the hearts of the righteous doth he dwell..." (cf. Jn. 17:23; Rom. 8:10; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17; & Col. 1:27).

Joseph Smith and various other LDS Church authorities claim that the Book of Mormon contains "THE FULLNESS OF THE GOSPEL" (D&C 20:9; 42:12; 135:3), yet virtually none of the cardinal, major, "restored" Mormon doctrines are in it!! For example:

- a. The Mormon Church organization cannot be found in the Book of Mormon,
- b. The Mormon "Melchizedek priesthood order" cannot be found in the B of M,
- c. The Mormon "Aaronic priesthood order" cannot be found in the B of M,
- d. The Mormon doctrine of the "three degrees of glory" cannot be found there,
- e. The LDS doctrine of the plurality of wives cannot be found there,
- f. The Mormon doctrine of "Celestial marriage," including the elaborate Temple ceremonies and oaths cannot be found in the B of M (note: In 1990 they got rid of some of the more offensive trappings in their temple ceremonies, due to negative publicity),
- g. The Mormon doctrine of "Pre-existence" cannot be found there,
- h. The LDS doctrine of "Eternal Progression" cannot be found there, and,
- i. The Mormon doctrine of a "Heavenly mother" cannot be found in the Book of Mormon!

So... either the Book of Mormon does NOT contain the "*fullness of the gospel*," or the vast majority of Mormonism's doctrines, teachings and practices are heretical, even by the standards of their own book!

THE MOST CORRECT BOOK ON EARTH? Joseph Smith also claimed that the Book of Mormon was "*the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts than by any other book*" [HC, 4:461, cited in GP, p. 53]. Other Mormon authorities have boasted that "the angel made 15 trips to this planet from the throne of God to see that this book was properly translated and printed..." and that when Joseph Smith was translating it, "...sentences would appear and were read by the Prophet and written..." and if correctly written, that sentence would disappear and another appear in its place; but if not written correctly it remained until corrected." [President W. Aird MacDonald, Address on the Book of Mormon; Martin Harris]. And yet, there have been nearly 4,000 changes to it, since it's original publication! And these are not just corrections in minor things like punctuation, as Mormon missionaries often assert! For example:

a. **Various items mentioned prior to their invention, &/or use in the New World:** *steel* (1 Nephi 4:9 -600 B.C.[sic]); *Wheat & barley* in New World prior to their arrival (Mosiah 9:9); *Cows, hogs, asses, sheep and horses* way before the colonists who actually brought them (Ether 9:17-19); “*Churches*” mentioned BEFORE Christ (1 Nephi 14:10-11; 2 Nephi 9:2; 26:20-21; 28:3; Alma 4:4, 6, 11) cf. Mt. 16:18; “*Christians*” before Christ! (Alma 46:15; 48:10) cf. Acts 11:26; *Glass* (Ether 3:1, 4); A *Compass* (Alma 37:38 -c. 73 B.C. cf. 1st compasses in use around 1000-1100 A.D.; etc.;

b. **Insensible statements &/or incredibly poor grammar** (e.g. Ether 15:29-32; Heleman 9:6; Alma 46:19-original edition; 3 Nephi 21:1-7, *a sentence 392 words long*);

c. **Textual changes, deletions, & additions from original 1830 edition:** “*Mother of God*” (1 Nephi 11:21, p. 25, 1830 ed.) cf. “Mother of Son of God” today; “*Lamb of God, even the eternal Father* (1 Nephi 13:40, 1830 ed., p. 32) vs. “Lamb of God is the Son of the eternal Father; the phrase “*yea, decreeth unto them decrees which are unalterable*” has been removed (Alma 29:4, 1830 ed., p. 303) cf. complete removal today; “*Benjamin*” (Mosiah 21:28, 1830 ed., p. 200) cf. “Mosiah” in today’s version; 1 Nephi 19:16-20:1 -13 *words removed or added*; Alma 28:14-29:11 -10 words either removed or added; 3 Nephi 22:4 -Nine words added that are not in the original, to just one verse; etc.

d. **Incorrect statements/prophecies:** *Joseph Smith would bring great restoration to Israel* (2 Nephi 3:1-24) cf. he did nothing for them; *Book of Mormon contains the “fullness of the gospel”* (D&C 20:8, 9; 27:5; 42:12; PGP 51:34), so why were more books added?; *Darkness 3 DAYS at Christ’s death* (1 Nephi 19:10; Hel. 14:20, 27) cf. 3 hours; *Those seeking to destroy Joseph Smith would be confounded* (2 Nephi 3:14) cf. history, i.e. he was killed on June 27, 1844; *Jesus was born in Jerusalem* (Alma 7:9-10) cf. Bethlehem. On this one, Mormons try to appeal to the phraseology “*LAND of Jerusalem*” implying that it meant the general area and that such terminology was commonly used at that time. But in comparison with the book of Jeremiah (written contemporaneous to when Mormons claim these verses were), there is NO SUCH terminology-and Jeremiah refers to Jerusalem at least 107 times! *In fact, that phrase is never found in the Bible at all! In fact, even the Book of Mormon calls Jerusalem a CITY* (1 Nephi 1:4)!; “*Egyptian the language of my (Lehi’s) father*” (1 Nephi 1:2) contradicts everything we know about Jewish history!; *The gift of the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues* (Alma 9:20-ff) over 100 years prior to their being given by Christ; *quoting of a portion of a verse that didn’t even exist at the alleged time of the quote* (Mormon 9:9 cf. James 1:17b); etc.

“DOCTRINES & COVENANTS” (D&C). This book contains many of Joseph Smith’s false prophecies, as well of some of the more heretical teachings of the LDS Church. **A few false prophecies include:**

- **The temple to be built in Jackson County, Missouri in THAT generation (D&C 84:3-4, 31).** This “prophecy” was first uttered in Sept. 1832! In another LDS source a loyal follower declared that Smith stated it would be finished by 1891. The land sits vacant yet today!
- **The “Civil War” prophecy (D&C87).** Note: **It didn’t “shortly come to pass”** (1832 vs. 1861) & a study of the history of the time will show that Smith was simply parroting the rumors that were rife at the time, since it appeared South Carolina was about to secede from the Union in 1832; **war was not poured out upon all nations; Great Britain did not get involved in the war; slaves did not rise up against their masters; the remnants did not vex the Gentiles, but were vexed by Gentiles themselves; earthquakes, thunder, lightning, plague, etc., did not occur; a full end of all nations did not come to pass; etc.**
- **David Patten** did not go the following spring on a mission trip, since he died the winter before (D&C 114).
- **Oliver Granger’s name has not “been had in sacred remembrance from generation to generation, forever and ever...”** (D&C 117:12); etc.

In addition to the many false prophecies & silly statements in Doctrines & Covenants (e.g. **D&C 129-the “handshake” test**, for determining whether a person is an angel, a man, or the devil!), **thousands of changes, deletions, additions, and corrections have been made to the alleged “revelations,” since they were originally published.** **MAJOR changes!** Many unbiblical and erroneous words and statements have been removed in later editions, and a HUGE amount of editing has been done to various sections (chapters) in this book! This fact will normally be denied by Mormon missionaries. But anyone who has a copy of the original 1st edition (1830) of the Book of Mormon, or a copy of the original first edition (1833) of the Book of Commandments (later renamed Doctrines & Covenants) can prove this fact irrefutably!

“PEARL OF GREAT PRICE” (PGP). This book contains several divisions:

1. Some supposed writings of Moses,

2. Smith's account of the founding & early history of the LDS Church. Here is found the alleged blanket condemnation God gave Smith regarding all Christian denominations, as well as Smith's false statements in regard to tricking a man named Josiah Stool out of his money via Smith's "glass looking" (money digging),
3. The Book of Abraham, which are purported translations of some early Egyptian papyrus fragments. This section, in particular, has become a severe embarrassment to the LDS Church, since Egyptologists have since translated the hieroglyphics (which are printed in PGP), and have shown conclusively that **Joseph Smith did not get even ONE WORD right!**

THE "GENERAL AUTHORITIES." In addition to the above books, which Mormons call the "standard works," Latter-day Saints also believe they can get new revelation from their "Prophet" (the President of the Church), as well as other church leaders. (Note: They believe they still have twelve apostles & allege that that is one of the important parts of Christ's church which had been lost and supposedly needed to be restored. Such main leaders are called "General Authorities," and their official pronouncements are to be considered on a plane equal with (or even above) the written scriptures! An example:

"In addition to these four books of scripture (sic), the inspired words of our living prophets become scripture to us. Their words come to us through conferences, Church publications, and instructions to local priesthood leaders... Many people find it easy to believe in the prophets of the past. But it is much greater to believe in and follow the living prophet... We should study his words. We can listen to his conference addresses or read them in Church publications. We should follow his inspired teachings completely. We should not choose to follow part of his inspired counsel and discard that which is unpleasant or difficult. The Lord commanded us to follow the inspired teachings of his prophet...(D&C 21:4-5)" [GP, pp. 55, 49-50]. Amazingly, contradictions between past and present prophets and their statements do not faze Mormons at all. An LDS authority once remarked: "Mormon doctrine is what Joseph Smith says, unless Spencer W. Kimball says differently."(!)

V. THE MORMON "PROPHETS."

JOSEPH SMITH:

- **Smith was a false prophet.** Out of 64 prophecies that he uttered, between 52 & 58 (depending on who's counting) never came to pass! cf. Dt. 18:20-22; 13:1-3, where the Bible indicates that even 1 false prophecy makes you a false prophet! (e.g. Oliver Granger, David Patton, Civil War, temple to be built in that (1800's) generation, people living on the moon, etc.)
- **Smith was immoral.** The LDS church admits Joseph Smith had at least 27 wives, though the true total is actually between 48-84 wives, according to historians and early records! And many of these marriages were not just "spiritual" marriages, as Mormons often like to assert, since they produced physical progeny! cf. Jer. 23:14
- **Smith taught false doctrine.** (see the above examples)
- **Smith lied.** PGP incident in regard to swindling a Mr. Josiah Stool out of his money via glass-looking (money digging). Mormon apologist Hugh Nibley once remarked that if proof of that could ever be found, "it would be the most damning evidence that could ever be found against Joseph Smith." Guess what? That court record was found a number of years ago.
- **Smith's incredible pride & egotism.** Joseph Smith once declared, "I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet" [Joseph Smith, His. of the Ch., vol. 6, pp. 408-409]. In another time & place, Smith called God the Father his "right-hand man."(!)

BRIGHAM YOUNG:

- **He was immoral & ruthless.**
- **He also uttered false prophecies.**
- **He also made absurd statements** (e.g. He once remarked that he believed there were people living on the sun!). Mormon authorities often try to excuse such embarrassing statements by men who they claim were mighty prophets, by stating that "a prophet is only a prophet when speaking as a prophet...(and that) these men were human, and could make mistakes." But that's not what those men thought, nor is that what the Mormon Church teaches even today! Brigham Young once stated: "***I have never yet preached a sermon or sent it out to the sons of men that you can't call it scripture!***"

Compare these present day statements from the LDS book *Gospel Principles*: “The Lord will never allow the president of the Church (the Prophet) to lead us astray... When we do as our prophet directs, blessings pour down from heaven... President Wilford Woodruff said that a prophet will never be allowed to lead the Church astray: ‘I say to Israel (Mormons), the Lord will never permit me or any other man who stands as president of this Church to lead you astray. It is not in the program. It is not in the mind of God. If I were to attempt that the Lord would remove me out of my place, and so he will any other man who attempts to lead the children of men astray from the oracles of God and from their duty. God bless you’” [GP, pp. 50; The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff, pp. 212-213, cited in GP, p. 49].

Consequently it will not work to excuse the Mormon false prophets and their silly and false prophecies by appealing to the fact that they were “just men.” These men claimed to be inerrant mouthpieces of God!

SUBSEQUENT PROPHETS. Mormon prophets are almost always very old men, since the prophet comes from their pool of “12 apostles.” Their claim to having living apostles also contradicts Scripture, which teaches that when the original apostles wanted to replace Judas Iscariot, one clear criteria they set down was that it would have to be someone who had been with Jesus during his 3 year earthly ministry. Thus for someone to have a true apostle that meets that standard, he would have to be approximately 2,000 years old. Paul was the only exception to this, and he saw Jesus personally on the road to Damascus and received his apostleship directly from Him. (Acts 1:20-22)

A “NON-PROPHET” ORGANIZATION. Mormon missionaries boast about having living prophets. But the fact is, those “prophets” virtually never prophesy! The rare times they have claimed to have done so, it was usually in response to pressure from inside or outside the organization to change an offensive policy or practice. And there is no indication that they received a genuine revelation even at those times. It was more along the lines of a corporate decision by a CEO. For example:

- **Changing the style of the sacred garments (underwear)**-which, interestingly, Joseph Smith had earlier said was revealed by God and was never (!) to be changed.
- **Changing the LDS policy on blacks in 1978.** allowing them to hold the “Melchizedek” & “Aaronic” priesthoods, after 148 years of denial. This change was primarily due to civil rights pressure in the USA, and the difficulty of finding “pure whites” in Brazil (where the Mormons were finishing the construction of a new temple at that time, and were having difficulty determining who were the pure ones who would be able to go into the temple and engage in its ceremonies). There was no “revelation.” Basically, the Prophet and 12 apostles simply discussed the pro’s & con’s of changing the policy, then a week later they met together again and voted to change the policy. In the LDS announcement, they even tried to blame God for their racist policy. But God holds no such racist views (e.g. Acts 10:28, 34, 43; Rom. 2:11; II Chron. 19:7; etc)
- **Changing/eliminating some of the more embarrassing Mormon temple rituals.** This occurred around 1990, after the Christian film titled “The God makers” had exposed the LDS Church & generated a lot of negative publicity for them.

PROSYLETING TRICKS & SEMANTICAL DOUBLE TALK. It is extremely important to keep in mind that Mormons, especially Mormon missionaries, use the same theological terms Christians use (e.g. heaven, salvation, God, Jesus Christ, etc.), but with TOTALLY DIFFERENT MEANINGS!

WITNESSING TO MORMONS:

- **BE BOLD!** Mormons, especially Mormon missionaries, interpret any “softness” or a gentle, apologetic attitude on your part, as weakness, and a proof that you are wrong. *They are taught that they alone have the truth, since they alone hold the priesthood.* Thus any tentative, apologizing type of comments by you only encourages them in their conviction that they are right-“since you were tentative in talking with them.” **So be blunt. Be bold. Be unapologetic.** This is not what I would recommend with some other groups, but I definitely would with members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints-**especially their missionaries.**
- **DON’T WASTE TIME ON MORMON MISSIONARIES.** You will not convert them! One of the greatest missionaries TO Mormons during this past half-century, has stated that he does not personally know of any LDS missionary who has ever been saved while on his two year mission! So I doubt if you or I will be the first one to lead one to Christ. They normally will not read or possess any “anti-Mormon” literature. They live and work in pairs, so that if one begins to have doubts or questions, the other one can quickly change the focus. But there ARE a goodly number of examples of Mormons who have been saved AFTER their two year mission term was over and they went back to being “Joe Average Mormon.”

So with Mormon missionaries, your goal should be to plant seeds of doubt in their minds and get them to honestly look at and question the truthfulness of their faith (*It may be the first time they have ever done so!*). Try to get them to

take & read literature exposing the errors of Mormonism. BUT make them promise you that they will read it completely! Otherwise they most likely will dispose of it and never read it. Often they will refuse to promise to read it. Even if they do promise to read it, check back with them later. Ask them: “*Did you read it, all of it?*” They will often simply throw it away. If they did so though, perhaps their conscience will convict them of having lied to you. Mormon missionaries will often say that the literature you gave them “*is full of errors,*” or is, “*twisted.*” Don’t settle for that. Ask them to show you what parts are in error, what parts are “*twisted.*” Hopefully the end result will be a willingness by them to honestly, objectively, compare Mormonism with the Bible. Then Pray. We know the Word of God does not return void (Isa. 55:10-11; Heb. 4:12), and only eternity will reveal what God may do as we sow the seed of the Word of God in sincere but misguided Mormon hearts (1 Cor. 3:6).

- **“BEARING THEIR TESTIMONY.”** Mormons, especially missionaries, will “*bear their testimony*” often, especially when they are in a jam i.e. facing questions and evidence that they can’t answer. It is a memorized little statement that goes something like this: “*I bear you my testimony that Joseph Smith is a true prophet, and that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the true church, and I say this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!*” Usually when a Mormon does this, he’s in trouble. Don’t let him finish. Cut him right off in mid-sentence and ask him: “*But how do you know he’s a prophet. Look at Smith’s false teachings, his false prophecies,..*” Don’t let them finish this, since this is just an escape hatch for them, and a bit of memorized mind control. Keep the heat on them. And when you are ready to say goodbye, YOU suggest closing in prayer, and YOU pray. Hold hands with them if you can. Mormon missionaries are trained to take control of the visit, the discussion, etc. So YOU need to reverse that and take control instead!

USE THE THREE QUESTIONS MENTIONED EARLIER IN THIS PAPER. i.e. “Do you believe Joseph Smith saw God?”, “Do you believe God has a body of flesh and bones like unto man’s?” & “Do you believe truth ever ceased from the earth and needed to be restored again?”

AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD (taken & adapted from a paper called “KISS Method of Witnessing to a Mormon,” by Dick Baer): Ask a Mormon: “***Do you believe God the Father is a glorified, resurrected, exalted man?***” (Yes-it can be no other, if he knows anything about what his church teaches). “***Do you believe Jesus Christ is the spirit brother of Lucifer?***” (Yes). “***We are worshipping a different God and a different Jesus! Can you agree that one of us has to be wrong?***” (Yes).

Then ask your Mormon friend: “**Who told you that God is a glorified, resurrected, exalted man and that Jesus is the spirit brother of Lucifer?**” (He should answer that Joseph Smith said so, or that the Mormon books &/or authorities teach that). You might then ask your friend: “**Could Joseph Smith be wrong?**” He will probably respond that Joseph Smith was not wrong because he was a prophet.

Ask him: “**How do you know that Joseph Smith was a prophet?**” &/or “How do you know Joseph Smith wasn’t wrong?” Your Mormon friend will probably then allude to that fact that he knows Smith is true because he has had a “*burning in his bosom,*” a “*warm feeling in his chest*”, etc. (Mormons are taught to know if something is true or not, by FEELINGS-Moroni 10:3-5; D&C 9:8).

You might then try to show your friend that the Bible clearly teaches that Satan is very happy to counterfeit a feeling, or appear as an angel of light to someone! (2 Cor. 11:13-15). Help them to see that we can’t trust our physical senses, but must rely always and only on the Bible (Isa. 8:20; Gal. 1:6-9).

A CLOSING WORD TO ANY MORMON WHO MAY READ THIS PAPER: The apostle Paul on more than one occasion had to forcefully and publicly expose and rebuke false teachers (sometimes even in writing-e.g. Galatians!), lest true followers of Christ be deceived and confused. *Paul realized that by doing so he risked offending someone,* but his comment was: “*Have I therefore become your enemy by telling you the truth?*” (Gal. 4:16-NASV). To any Mormon who may happen to read this and have thus become upset by the facts presented here, please listen to me. **I assure you that my only desire for you is that you will come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ! The Jesus Christ of the Bible, not the false one you have been taught in your Mormon Church.** You have been taught that there is no truth outside of your church, and you may be saying, “*Well if the LDS Church is wrong, there’s nothing else left.*” But there is! If you will come to Christ, he will not turn you away. Put your faith in Him alone, instead of an organization, and discover the difference between obedience to a manmade institution, and a personal relationship with the living God! I sincerely echo the apostle Paul’s words:

“AM I THEREFORE BECOME YOUR ENEMY BECAUSE I TELL YOU THE TRUTH?”

(Galatians 4:16)