

### Four Holy Books of Mormonism

"These four volumes are the standard, the measuring rods, the gauges by which all things are judged. Since they are the will, mind, and, voice of God, they are true.... The truth of all things is measured by the scriptures" (Bruce McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 764-765).

### Is Mormonism Christian?

1. Orthodox Christians hold 16 essential doctrines.
2. An unorthodox group (Cult) denies one or more of these essential doctrines.
3. Mormons deny 11 of these essential doctrines.
4. Therefore, Mormons are not orthodox Christians (but are a Cult).

Indeed, they call orthodox Christianity "apostate Christianity" (both "Catholic and Protestant churches") that is based on "man-made" "creeds" that are imposed on them by the Devil ("the...spirit from beneath"). Joseph Smith was told by God "that all their creeds were an abomination in his [God's] sight." Each Creed "was conceived in ignorance, and brought forth in folly" (McConkie, MD, 170-171).

### III. Doctrinal Evaluation

A. Comparison and Contrast:  
 B. Biblical Christianity vs. Mormonism

<b>Doctrine of Scripture</b>	
Infallible	Fallible
Complete	Not Complete
Not Corrupted	Corrupted
Confirmed by Miracles	Not Confirmed by M.
No False Prophecy	False Prophecy

### Two Good Books on Mormons

### Book of Abraham is a Fraud

1. Joseph Smith claimed to translate it from Egyptian.
2. Original Ms. now discovered and proven fraudulent by top scholars:
  - a. No reference to Abraham.
  - b. Refers to Egyptian gods.
3. It is "Book of Breathings."
4. Mormon Attorney Tom Ferguson, founder of their archaeology effort, left Mormons when he discovered that Smith could not translate Egyptian.
5. Joseph added changes in 1833 *Book of Commandments* which he claimed came from God (adding matters about the priesthood) now in *Doctrine and Covenants* (1835).

### Witnesses to Book of Mormon

**Mormon Claim:** Eleven eye-witnesses to *Book of Mormon* support its claim to be from God.

**Response:**

- 1) Smith's claim to be able to translate Egyptian has proven to be fraudulent (on *The Book of Abraham*).
- 2) The eleven witnesses could not read Egyptian either.
- 3) Witness David Whitmer later denied his testimony and left LDS.
- 4) One witness Martin Harris later conceded that he only saw the plates with "eyes of faith."
- 5) Other witnesses were not credible but hallucinatory. John Pulsipher said in his journal that he saw "a steambot past [sic] over Kirtland in the air!... Old Elser Beamon, who had died a few months before was seen in the bow of the Boat" (*Conflict in Kirtland*, 331). One former Mormon declared that: "It would appear that some of the witnesses to the Book of Mormon would follow almost anyone who had a peep stone or claimed to have been visited by an angel" (Tanners, CWM, 106).

## Book of Mormon is not Supported by Scientific Evidence

**Mormon Claim:** Indians in America are descendants of Israelite patriarch Lehi who sailed here around 600 B.C. (2 Nephi 30:4; *Doctrine and Covenants* 3:264). His descendants split into Nephites who were destroyed by their kin, the Lamanites.

**Scientific Evidence:** 1) Absolutely no scientific (DNA) evidence has been found to support this connection.

2) Extensive scientific (DNA) evidence supports an Asian, not Israeli, link. 3) Even Mormon apologists from FARMS (Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies) admit the lack of DNA evidence.

**The Dilemma:** Either, (a) reject the historicity of *The Book of Mormon* and undermine the credibility of Mormonism, or (b) continue to believe without any real evidence to support that belief (=Fideism).

## Biblical Christian vs. Mormonism

### *Doctrine of God\**

Only One God	Many Gods
Trinity	Tritheism
Unchangeable	Changed to become God
Pure Spirit	Has Physical Body
Ungenerated God	Eternal Generation of Gods

\*Some Mormon scholars now reject this polytheistic view of God for henotheism, pantheism, open theism, or even theism, but this is not the official position of Mormonism. To reject it is to reject the credibility of their founder and prophet.

## A Critique of Mormon View of God

### A. Mormons Claim that God has a physical body

"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's" (DC 130, v. 22).

**Bible Declares:** God does not have a body.

"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (Jn. 4:24). "For a spirit does not have flesh and bones..." (Lk. 24:39). "God is love" (1 Jn. 4:16) which is non-material. He is "the invisible God" (Col. 1:15), not like material things.

**Book of Mormon:** God "...is that Great Spirit" (Alma 22:10). "We believe that thou art God...and that thou [God] was a spirit, and that thou art a spirit, and that thou wilt be a spirit forever" (Alma 31:15).

**Note:** Mormons, following Joseph Smith's "inspired" mistranslation of John 4:24, say "God is spirit" should be translated "for unto such hath God promised his Spirit" (McConkie, MD, 318)!

## Eternal Succession of Gods

**B. Mormons Claim: Gods are eternally generated:** "But in addition [to the plurality of Gods in the Godhead] there is an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods... If Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and... God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father also, you may suppose that he had a Father also. Was there ever a son without a father?" (McConkie, 576-577 cf. DC 132;15-23).

**Brigham Young:** "He [God] is our Father—the Father of our spirits, and was once a man in mortal flesh as we are, and is now an exalted being. How many gods there are, I do not know. But there never was a time when there were no Gods.... God has once been a finite being" (*Journal of Discourses*, vol 7, p 333).

**Apostle Orson Pratt:** "If we should take a million of worlds like this and number their particles, we should find that there are More Gods than there are particles of matter in those worlds" (JD, vol 2, 345).

**Bible Declares:** "You shall be as God" (Gen. 3:5) is of the Devil. The creature can't become the Creator as God is (Rom. 1:25).

**Reason 1 Demands:** An infinite series in the past is impossible for two reasons: 1) An infinite number can never be achieved since no matter how long the series is, one more can always be added. But it is impossible to have more than an infinite. 2) An infinite series has no end. But the present moment is the end of all moments before today. Hence, there can't be an infinite number of past moments.

## Critique of the Mormon View of God

**Reason 2 demands that an infinite series of infinite beings is impossible.**

a) Mormons claim God is "infinite" (McConkie, MD, 318; DC 20:17).

b) But there cannot be an infinite number of infinite beings because there can't be more than an infinite.

**Reason 3 demands that an infinite series of Gods**

**must involve change** since each God was "born" as a man and grew into Godhood. But an infinite being has no beginning (or end). And both the Bible and Mormonism holds that God is "unchangeable" (McConkie, MD 318).

- 1) Biblical evidence for unchangeableness: Num. 23:19—"God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind." 1 Sam. 15:29—"He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind." Psa. 102:25-27—"They will perish.... But you remain the same, and your years will never end." (cf. Heb. 1:10-12). Mal. 3:6—"I the LORD do not change." Heb. 6:18—"God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie...." Heb. 13:8—"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever." Titus 1:2—"...God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time...." Jas. 1:17—"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."
- 2) Mormonism: "For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity" (*Book of Mormon*, Moroni 8:18).

## Critique of the Mormon View of God

### Reason 4: A finite cannot become Infinite

1. They claim God was once a "finite" man (though he had an eternal intelligence).
2. But he became "infinite" by exaltation.
3. But a finite being (even if it is eternal) can never become an infinite Being.
4. For adding more to a finite—no matter how much more—only makes it a bigger finite, not an Infinite Being.

## A Critique of Mormon View of God

### C. Mormonism claims God is only one in "purpose," not in nature (McConkie, MD, 317).

#### 1. The biblical evidence for only one God (Monotheism)

Gen. 1:1—"In the beginning God [not gods] created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). Deut. 6:4—Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one." Ex. 20:3—"You shall have no other gods before me." Isa. 44:6—"I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God." Isa. 45:18—"I am the LORD, and there is no other." Mark 12:29—Jesus said, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one." 1 Cor. 8:4—"We know that an idol [is] nothing in the world, and that [there is] none other God but one." Eph. 4:6—" [There is] "...one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." 1 Tim. 2:5—"For there is one God...."

## Only One God in Book of Mormon

"Yea, there is a true and living God.... Is there more than one God? And he answered, No."

"Be arraigned before the bar of the Son, and God the father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one Eternal God" (*The Book of Mormon* [1830], Alma 11:26-31, 44).

**Note:** By 1844 Smith had rejected monotheism for polytheism, saying: "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!... I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea.... God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth.... [A]nd you have got to learn how to be gods yourselves..." (*Times and Seasons*, vol. 5, pp 613-614).

## A Critique of Mormon View of God

### C. There is only one God, not many gods (cont.)

1. The biblical evidence for monotheism
2. The rational arguments for monotheism
  - a. Anthropoc principle—points to One Mind.
  - b. Laws of physics & math—point to One Mind.
  - c. Laws of biology—point to One Intelligent Designer
  - d. Laws of Logic—point to only one Ultimate
    - 1) Two Ultimates are not possible.
    - 2) Two Perfect beings are not possible.

## Biblical Christianity vs. Mormonism

### Doctrine of Christ

Eternal	Not Eternal
Uncreated	Procreated
Unique Son of God	Brother of Lucifer
Same Essence as God	Not Same Essence
One with God	A Separate God
Needed no Salvation	Earned Salvation
Unmarried Monogamist	Married Polygamist

## Christ Was not Generated: He is Eternal

John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 8:58: "Before Abraham was, I AM"

John 17:5: "Father glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world began" (cf. Isa. 42:8).

Isa. 43:10: "Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior."

## Jesus is Equal to God in Nature

John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 8:58: "Before Abraham was, I AM"

John 17:5: "Father glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world began."

Isaiah 42:8: "I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other."

Col. 2:9: "In him [Christ] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

Heb. 1:3: "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...."

John 10:30: "I and the Father are one [in nature]." Otherwise, they would not have attempted to stone him, saying, "you, being a man, made yourself God" (v. 33).



Biblical Christianity vs. Mormonism

**Doctrine Salvation\***

Fall of Man was Bad	Fall was Good
Atonement Complete	Not Complete
Faith Alone Needed	Works Needed
No Levels of Heaven	Levels of Heaven
Living <i>with</i> God	Living <i>as</i> God
Marriage for Life	Marriage Forever

\*Some Mormon scholars now favor a more evangelical view of salvation, but this would repudiate their prophet's position. The LDS prophet (president) and apostles do not agree with them.

Was Joseph Smith a False Prophet?



Biblical Tests for False Prophets:

- 1. Belief in Other Gods.**  
"If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and...if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known...you shall not listen to the words of that prophet..." (Deut. 13:2-3).
- 2. Making False Prophecies.**  
"When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken" (Deut. 18:22).
- 3. Denying the Full Deity of Christ (Col. 2:8-9).**
- 4. Offering false teaching as from God (1 Jn. 4:1).**
- 5. Use of occult objects (Deut. 18:10) with which to divine results.**

Biblical Tests for False Prophets:

**Note: Joseph Smith fails on every test.**

- 1. Belief in other gods (see above).**
- 2. Denying the full Deity of Christ (JD, 1, 50-51).**
- 3. Offering false teaching as inspired of God (above).**
- 4. Use of occult objects with which to divine results (BM. "Origin..." in Forward).**
- 5. Making false prophecies (see next).**

Joseph Smith's False Prophecies



**1832**--Temple would be built in Missouri before those then living would die.

**1832**--Civil war would involve all nations.

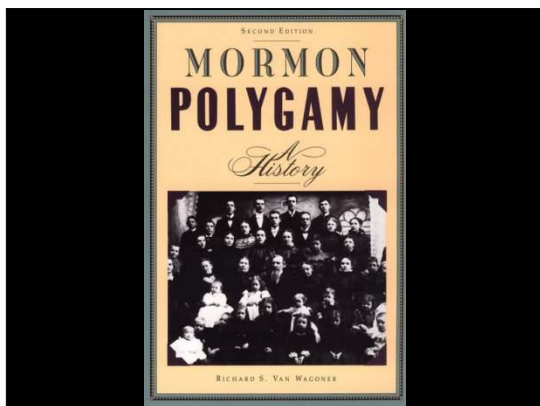
**1835**--Coming of the Lord would be within 56 years (by 1891).

**1887**--Copyright of *Book of Mormon* would be sold in Canada by Smith's reps. (See Tanner, CWM, Chap. 14).

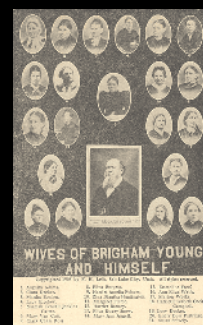
**Brigham Young** predicted: "Will the present struggle [Civil War] free the slaves? No.... For Ham must be a servant of servants until the curse is removed. Can you destroy the decrees of the Almighty? You cannot" (JD, 10:250).

Smith "Inspired Revision" of the Bible was not Inspired

- McConkie admits that "important changes were made in several thousand verses..." (385).
- Sandra Tanner notes that "The contents of the "inspired revision" actually contradict doctrines that are now taught in the Mormon Church" (CWM, 385).
- Smith omits the whole book of *The Song of Solomon*.
- No so-called "missing book" is restored to the Bible.
- Mormon scholar Richard Howard admits that changes were made as many as three times, revealing that Smith could not make up his mind.
- His racial bias against Blacks is revealed in several changes in the text (cf. Gen. 7:10, 14, 29).
- 1 Jn. 5:7 (on the Trinity) is left in which almost all scholars admit was not in the original.



Brigham Young's Many Wives



## Mormon Teaching on Polygamy

### 1. Early Mormon teaching on monogamy

*The Book of Mormon* (p. 111, vv. 23-24, 27):

"This people begin to wax in iniquity; they understand not the scriptures, for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son. Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me, saith the Lord. . . . For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none."

1835—1875 DC (Sect. 101) Opposed to polygamy: "Inasmuch as this church of Christ has been reproached with the crime of fornication, and polygamy: we declare that we believe, that one man should have one wife; and one woman but one husband, except in the case of death. . . ." [This was deleted in 1876, and Sect. 132 was added that approves of polygamy.]

### 2. Later "revelation" in favor of polygamy

1831—Private Revelation to Joseph Smith and later one that his reluctant wife should agree to it.

1830s—According to Mormon sources, Joseph Smith practiced polygamy with 27 to 60 plus women (Tanner, CWM, 231).

1843—Published revelation favoring polygamy:

"For all those who have this law [of plural marriages] revealed unto them must obey the same. For, behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned. . . . And if they abide by it, then shall they be gods, because they have no end. . ." (DC, 132).

But Apostle Orson Pratt contradicted this, claiming that "The Book of Mormon, therefore, is the only record (professing to be divine) which condemns the plurality of wives as being a practice exceeding abominable before God (JD, vol. 6, 351).

### 3. Polygamy is necessary for heaven

Brigham Young: "Monogamy, or restrictions by law to one wife, is not part of the economy of heaven among men" (*Desert News*, Aug 6, 1862).

"President Woodruff, President Young, and President John Taylor, taught me and all the rest of the ladies here in Salt Lake that a man in order to be exalted in the Celestial Kingdom must have more than one wife, that having more than one wife was a means of exaltation" (*Temple Lot Case*, 362).

President and Apostles 1891 Appeal to US President:

"We formerly taught to our people that polygamy or Celestial Marriage as commanded by God through Joseph Smith was right; that it was a necessity to man's highest exaltation in the life to come" (*Reed Smoot Case*, vol. 1, 18).

### 4. US Supreme Court Forbids Polygamy (Reynolds, 1878).

#### 5. Current Mormon Position on Polygamy

##### a. It was once Divinely Approved on earth

"...plural marriages was openly taught and practiced until the year 1890. At that time conditions were such that the Lord by revelation withdrew the command to continue the practice, and President Wilford Woodruff issued the Manifesto directing that it cease" (McConkie, MC, 578).

##### b. It is No Longer Permitted on earth—

"According to the Lord's law of marriage, it is lawful that a man have only one wife at a time, unless by revelation the Lord commands plurality of wives in the new and everlasting covenant" (DC 49:15-17).

##### c. It Will be Permitted after the Second Coming

"Obviously, the holy practice will commence again after the Second Coming of the Son of Man and the ushering in of the millennium" (McConkie, MD 578).

## The Bible is Against Polygamy

### The Bible teaches Monogamy:

1. By precedent—God made only one wife for the first man Adam (Gen. 2).
2. By proportion—since about half of all babies born are female.
3. By practice—polygamy arose in a sinful society when Lamech took two wives (Gen. 4).
4. By principle—in the 10<sup>th</sup> command not to covet one's neighbor's "wife" (singular).
5. By punishment—God punished Solomon for his polygamy (1 Kgs. 11).
6. By precept in OT—"You shall not multiply wives" (Deut 17:17).
7. By prescription in NT—"Each may should have his own wife and each woman her own husband" (1 Cor. 7:2; 1 Tim. 3:2).

Note: God permitted it in the OT but never prescribed it. He tolerated it but never commanded it (see Mt. 19:8).

## No Marriage in Heaven

Jesus declared there will be no marriage in Heaven: "In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven." Note: Jesus is speaking about not being married in heaven, not just no marriage ceremony there (as Mormons claim) since the question was "Whose wife [of the 7 she to whom she was married on earth] will she be?" in heaven (v. 28). Christ's Bride (the Church) will be married to Christ and living on a higher spiritual plain (Eph. 5).

Marriage is only till death on earth: "A married woman is bound by the law to her husband while he lives, but if the husband dies she is released from the law of marriage" (Rom. 7:2 cf. Mt. 19:6).

## No Baptism for the Dead

### Mormon View on Baptism for the Dead:

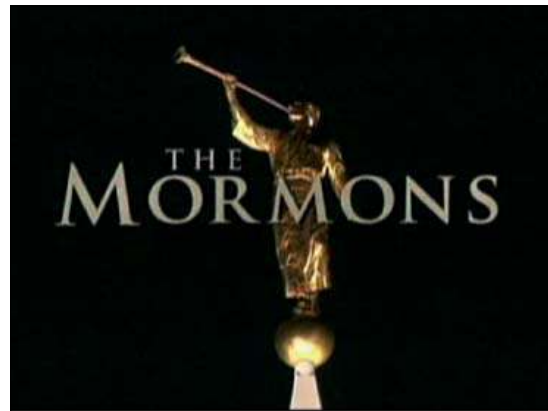
Baptism by proxy is possible for all who died w/o entering the gate of baptism to the Celestial Kingdom which is necessary for salvation (DC, 124, 127, 128). McConkie wrote: "Based on the eternal principle of vicarious service, the Lord has ordained baptism for the dead as the means whereby all his worthy children of all ages can become heirs of salvation in his kingdom. Baptism is the gate to the celestial kingdom. . . . Since many have died without a Mormon baptism, "God has ordained baptism for the dead, a vicarious-proxy labor" (MD, 73).

Note: Mormon interest in genealogy is motivated by this.

### Biblical Response:

1. Baptism is not necessary for salvation. We are saved by grace apart from works of righteousness (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6) such as baptism is (Mt. 3:15).
2. Baptism is not part of the Gospel (1 Cor. 1:17), but we are saved by the Gospel (Rom. 1:16). Hence, we are not saved by baptism.
3. Faith alone (Rom. 4:5) is the condition for receiving the gift (Rom. 6:23) of eternal life (Jn. 3:16, 18, 36; 4:14).
4. There is no proxy faith. Each person is responsible for his own decision before God (Eze. 18:20; Rom. 14:12).
5. The reference in 1 Cor. 15:29 to "baptism for the dead" is only descriptive not prescriptive. Further, as an isolated text, no doctrine should be based on it. At best, it is simply a reference to an unbiblical practice in Corinth, a place known for its unchristian behavior (notice use of "they").
6. Even *The Book of Mormon*, which claims to have "the fullness of the Gospel," has no reference to baptism for the dead.

*"Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness" (2 Cor. 11:14-15).*



### C. Mormon Similarities to Islam



#### VIEW of GOD

- Deny the Trinity
- Deny Jesus is God

#### REVELATION

- Original message on golden plates
- An angel brought the message
- Prophet had ecstatic visions
- Only the prophet heard the voice

#### VIEW of the BIBLE

- Not a complete revelation
- Has been corrupted
- Needs to be supplemented

#### THEIR HOLY BOOKS

- Their Holy Book(s) is the final revelation
- Their Holy Book supersedes the Bible
- Made changes in their revelations

#### RELIGION

- All other religions are corrupted
- Claims to be the only true religion

#### RELATION TO CHRISTIANITY

- Came to fulfill Jesus' words
- Opposed to orthodox Christianity

#### JESUS

- Was not the supreme God and Creator
- He made no complete atonement for sin

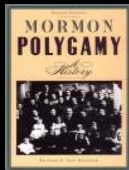


#### ETHICS

- Theocratic Nationalism
- Unbelievers are second class citizens
- Codes of Modesty
- Polygamy practiced
- Eternal sex in heaven

#### THEIR PROPHET

- Latest of the prophets
- Their prophet was predicted by Jesus
- Expelled from his home town
- Had many wives
- Established a Holy City



#### THEIR FOLLOWERS

- World-wide
- Split into two main groups
- Smaller group (blood-line)

#### SALVATION

- Works salvation
- Have sacred occult ceremonies

#### PRACTICES

- Wear special clothing
- Reject certain foods and drink
- (Based on a list by Ergun Caner)

