

**MORMONISM
AND
THE BIBLE**

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MORMONISM

The Book of Mormon and the Bible

We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly. We also believe the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God (*Pearl of Great Price*, The Articles of Faith, 8).

I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would be nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book (Joseph Fielding Smith, *The Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 154).

The Book of Mormon is a volume of holy scripture comparable to the Bible. It is a record of God's dealings with the ancient inhabitants of the Americas and contains, as does the Bible, the fulness of the everlasting gospel (*Book of Mormon*, Introduction).

Additions to the Bible

The Book of Moses, a work containing eight chapters and covering the same general period and events as are found in the first six chapters of Genesis, contains much of this restored truth. The 1st and 7th chapters of Moses are entirely new revelations having no counterpart in Genesis. The other chapters in Moses cover the same events recorded in the first six chapters of Genesis, but the account revealed in latter-days has been so enlarged, contains so much new material, and so radically changes the whole perspective of the Lord's dealings with Adam and the early patriarchs that for all practical purposes it may be considered as entirely new matter. The whole view of the creation of all things; of pre-existence and the purpose of life; of Adam and his fall; of the primeval revelation of the gospel to man; of the terms and conditions in accordance with which salvation is offered to the living and the dead; of Enoch, his ministry and his establishment of Zion; and of Noah, his priesthood and ministry - the whole view and perspective relative to all these things is radically changed by the new revelations in the Book of Moses. This book, which is also contained in the Prophet's Inspired Version of the Bible, is one of the most important documents the Lord has ever revealed (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 509, 510).

Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words;

THE BIBLE

The Bible Alone

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (II Timothy 3:6).

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name (John 20:30, 31).

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed (Galatians 1:8).

No Additions to the Bible Permitted

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book (Revelation 22:18).

And Abraham said unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them (Luke 16:29).

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude, 3).

And the scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35).

neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written (*Book of Mormon*, II Nephi 29:10).

Errors in the Bible

Guided by the *Book of Mormon*, *Doctrine and Covenants*, and the Spirit of the Lord, it is not difficult for one to discern the errors in the Bible (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, III, 191).

Plurality of Gods

I will preach on the plurality of Gods. I have selected this text (Rev. 1:6) for that express purpose. I wish to declare I have always and in all congregations when I have preached on the subject of the Deity, it has been the plurality of Gods....

I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage and a Spirit: and these three constitute three distinct personages and three Gods....

Many men say there is one God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are only one God. I say that is a strange God anyhow - three in one, and one in three! It is a curious organization.... All are to be crammed into one God, according to sectarianism. It would make the biggest God in all the world. He would be a wonderfully big God - he would be a giant or a monster (Sermon by Joseph Smith: "The Christian Godhead - Plurality of Gods," June 16, 1844, quoted in James E. Talmadge, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 370, 372).

In the beginning the head of the Gods brought forth the Gods (Joseph's Smith translation of Genesis 1:1, from James E. Talmadge, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 371).

How many God there are, I do not know. But there never was a time when there were not Gods and worlds, and when men were not passing through the same ordeals that we are now passing through (John A. Widtsoe, *Discourses of Brigham Young*, pp. 22, 23).

Contradictory Statements from Mormon Writings

And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen (*Book of Mormon*, II Nephi 31:21).

Everything shall be restored to its perfect

No Errors in the Bible

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple (Psalm 19:7).

One God Only

Hear O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord (Deuteronomy 6:4).

Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the Lord, he is God; there is none else beside him (Deuteronomy 4:35).

I and my father are one (John 10:30).

Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the NAME of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams (Deuteronomy 13:1-3).

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me (Isaiah 43:10).

And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou has said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he (Mark 12:32).

frame, as it is now, or in the body, and shall be brought and be arraigned before the bar of Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one eternal God... (*Book of Mormon*, Alma 11:44).

And the honor be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, which is one God (*Book of Mormon*, The Testimony of the Three Witnesses - Cf. Also Mosiah 15:4; Mormon 7:7; Alma 11:28-29).

God's Physical 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 (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 130:22).

It is clear that the Father is a personal being, possessing a definite form, with bodily parts and spiritual passions (James E. Talmadge, *Articles of Faith*, p. 41).

We know that both the Father and the Son are in form and stature perfect men; each of them possesses a tangible body, infinitely pure and perfect and attended by transcendent glory, nevertheless a body of flesh and bones (James E. Talmadge, *Articles of Faith*, p. 42).

We affirm that to deny the materiality of God's person is to deny God; for a thing without parts has no whole, and an immaterial body cannot exist (James E. Talmadge, *Articles of Faith*, p. 48).

Contradictory Statement from Mormon Writings

Holy, holy God; we believe that thou art God, and we believe that thou art holy, and that thou wast a spirit, and that thou art a spirit, and that thou wilt be a spirit forever (*Book of Mormon*, Alma 31:15).

God both Male and Female

I had learned to call thee Father,
Through Thy Spirit from on high;

But until the key of Knowledge
Was restored, I knew not why.

In the heavens are parents single?
No; the thought makes reason stare!

Truth is reason; truth eternal
Tells me, I've a mother there (Ben E. Rich, *Mr. Durant of Salt Lake City*, p. 77).

In the image of his own body, male and female created he them, and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created and became living souls in the land upon the

God Has No Body

God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen (I Timothy 1:17).

Take ye therefore good heed to yourselves (for ye saw no manner of similitude) on the day that the Lord spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire. Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female (Deuteronomy 4:15, 16).

Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen (I Timothy 6:16).

God is a Father Only

But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him (I Corinthians 8:6).

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24).

footstool of God (*The Pearl of Great Price*, Book of Moses 6:9).

In accordance with Gospel philosophy there are males and females in heaven. Since we have a Father, who is our God, we must also have a mother, who possesses the attributes of Godhood (John A. Widsoe, *A Rational Theology*, p. 69 - 6th edition).

God Once a Man

God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!... If you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form.... He was once a man like us; yea ... God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did... (James E. Talmadge, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 345-346).

Mormon prophets have continuously taught the sublime truth that God the Eternal Father was once a mortal man who passed through a school of earthly life similar to that through which we are now passing. He became God - an exalted being - through obedience to the same eternal Gospel truths that we are given opportunity today to obey (Milton R. Hunter, *The Gospel through the Ages*, p. 104).

Men Become Gods

Here, then, is eternal life - to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you, namely, by going from one small degree to another, and from a small capacity to a great one; from grace to grace, and from exaltation to exaltation, until you attain to the resurrection of the dead, and are able to dwell in everlasting burnings, and to sit in glory, as do those who sit enthroned in everlasting power (James E. Talmadge, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 346-347).

Then shall they be gods, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they have all power, and the angels are subject unto them (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 132:20)

As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become (President Lorenzo Snow, *Millennial Star*, pp. 54, 404).

In short, man is a god in embryo (John A. Widsoe, *A Rational Theology*, p. 26).

Thou shalt have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:3).

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me (Isaiah 46:9).

God is Not a Man

God is not a man that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent (Number 23:19).

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God (Psalm 90:2).

Men Do Not Become Gods

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil (Genesis 3:4): and: Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar and the father of it (John 8:44).

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom (Psalm 90:12).

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality (I Corinthians 15:53).

And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, it is the voice of a god, and not of man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him,

because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms and gave up the ghost (Acts 12:21-23).

Adam is God

When our father Adam came into the Garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives with him. He helped to make and organize this world. He is Michael, the Archangel, the Ancient of Days, about whom holy men have written and spoken - He is our father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, I, 50, 51)

How much unbelief exists in the minds of the Latter Day Saints in regard to one particular doctrine which I revealed to them and which God revealed to me - namely that Adam is our Father and our God (Brigham Young, *Deseret News*, June 18, 1873, p. 308).¹

And also with Michael, or Adam, the father of all, the prince of all, the ancient of days (*Doctrine and Covenants* 27:11).

Among the great and mighty ones who were assembled in this vast congregation of the righteous were Father Adam, the Ancient of Days and father of all (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 138:38).

Contradictory Statement from Mormon Writings

In the image of his own body, male and female created he them, and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created and became living souls in the land upon the footstool of God (*The Pearl of Great Price*, Book of Moses 6:9).

No Predestination

Predestination is the false doctrine that from all eternity God has ordered whatever comes to pass, having especial and particular reference to the salvation or damnation of souls. Some souls, according to this false concept, are irrevocably chosen for salvation, others for damnation; and there is said to be nothing any individual can do to escape his predestined inheritance in heaven or in hell as the case may be (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 530).

Eternity of Matter

The elements are eternal and spirit and element, inseparably connected, receive a fulness of joy (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 93:33).

How many God there are, I do not know.

Adam Was Only a Man

The first man is of the earth earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned (Romans 5:12).

And I beheld till thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of Days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool: and his throne like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire (Daniel 7:9)

God Has Predestinated All Things

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his will (Ephesians 1:11).

All Things Have a Beginning

God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands (Acts 17:24).

But there never was a time when there were not Gods and worlds, and when men were not passing through the same ordeals that we are now passing through (John A. Widtsoe, *Discourses of Brigham Young*, pp. 22, 23).

No Creation Out of Nothing

You ask the learned doctors why they say the world was made out of nothing; and they will answer, “Doesn’t the Bible say he *created* the world?” And they infer, from the word create, that it must have been made out of nothing. Now, the word create came from the word *baurau*, which does not mean to create out of nothing; it means to organize; the same as a man would organize materials and build a ship. Hence we infer that God had materials to organize the world out of chaos - chaotic matter, which is element, and in which dwells all the glory. Element had an existence from the time he had. The pure principles of element are principles which can never be destroyed; they may be organized and reorganized, but not destroyed. They had no beginning and they have no end (James E. Talmadge, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 35-352).

Contradictory Statement from Mormon Writings

He hath created all things, both the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are, both things to act and things to be acted upon (*The Book of Mormon*, II Nephi 2:14).

Pre-existence

We were all created untold ages before we were placed on the this earth. We discover from Abraham 3:22-28, that it was before the earth was formed that the plan of salvation was presented to the spirits, or “intelligences.” This being true, then man, animals and plants were not created in the spirit at the time of the creation of the earth, but long before (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, I, 76)

Racism

There is a reason why one may be born black and with other disadvantages, while another is born white with great advantages. The reason is that we once had an estate before we came here, and were obedient, more or less, to the laws that were given us there. Those who were faithful in all things there received greater blessings here, and those who were not faithful received less (Joseph Fielding Smith,

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).

Creation Out of Nothing

All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made (John 1:8).

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God; so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear (Hebrews 11:3).

No Pre-existence

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7).

For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it (Exodus 20:11).

No Differences In God’s Sight

And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation (Acts 17:26).

Doctrines of Salvation, I, 59).

And he had caused the cursing to come upon them, yea even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity. For behold, they had hardened their hearts against him, that they had become like unto a flint; wherefore, as they were white, and exceedingly fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them (*Book of Mormon*, II Nephi 5:21).

Now the first government of Egypt was established by Pharaoh, the elder son of Egyptus, the daughter of Ham, and it was after the manner of the government of Ham, which was patriarchal. Pharaoh, being a righteous man, established his kingdom and judged his people wisely and justly all his days, seeking earnestly to imitate that order established by the fathers in the first generations, in the days of the patriarchal reign, even in the reign of Adam, and also of Noah, his father, who blessed him with the blessings of the earth, and with the blessings of wisdom, but cursed him as pertaining to the priesthood (*Pearl of Great Price*, Book of Abraham 1:25, 26).

Contradictory Statement from Mormon Writings

He has heard our prayers, and by revelation has confirmed that the long-promised day has come when every faithful, worthy man in the Church may receive the holy priesthood, with power to exercise its divine authority, and enjoy the blessings of the temple. Accordingly, all worthy male members of the Church may be ordained to the priesthood without regard for race or color (*Doctrine and Covenants*, Declaration 2).

Adam Came from Another Planet

Though we have it in history that our father Adam was made of the dust of the earth, and that he knew nothing about his God previous to being made here, yet it is not so; and when we learn the truth we shall see and understand that he helped to make this world, and was the chief manager in that operation.

He was the person who brought the animals and the seeds from other planets to this world, and brought a wife with him and stayed here. You may read and believe what you please as to what is found written in the Bible. Adam was made from the dust of an earth, but not the dust of this earth (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, III, 319).

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).

Where there is neither Greek no Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all and in all (Colossians 3:11).

Cursed be *Canaan*; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren (Genesis 9:25).

Adam Made From the Dust of this Earth

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7).

A Physical Image of God

In the image of his own body, male and female, created he them (*Pearl of Great Price*, Book of Moses 6:9).

The Fall Not All Bad

And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end. And they would have had no children; wherefore, they would have remained in a state of innocence, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin. But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things. Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy (*Book of Mormon*, II Nephi 2:22-25).

Adam found himself in a position that impelled him to disobey one of the requirements of God. He and his wife had been commanded to multiply and replenish the earth. Adam was still immortal; Eve had come under the penalty of mortality; and in such dissimilar conditions the two could not remain together, and therefore could not fulfil the Divine requirement. On the other hand, Adam would be disobeying another command by yielding to his wife's request. He deliberately and wisely decided to stand by the first and greater commandment; and, therefore, with a full comprehension of the nature of his act, he also partook of the fruit that grew on the tree of knowledge. The fact that Adam acted understandingly in this matter is affirmed by the scriptures. Paul in writing to Timothy, explained that "Adam was not deceived; but the woman, being deceived, was in the transgression." The prophet Lehi, in expounding the scriptures to his sons, declared, "Adam fell that man might be, and men are that they might have joy (James E. Talmadge, *Articles of Faith*, p. 68 - 5th edition).

Blessed be the name of God, for because of my transgression my eyes are opened, and in this life I shall have joy (*Pearl of Great Price*, Book of Moses 5:10).

The fall of man came as blessing in disguise, and was the means of furthering the purposes of the Lord in the progress of man, rather than a means of hindering them (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, I, 114).

A Spiritual Image of God

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him (Colossians 3:10).

The Fall the Source of All Evil

Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned (Romans 5:12).

Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life (Genesis 3:16, 17).

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life (Romans 5:18).

For as by one's man disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous (Romans 5:19).

Father Adam was one of the most noble and intelligent characters who ever lived.... He is the head of all gospel dispensations, the presiding high priest (under Christ) over all the earth; presides over all the spirits destined to inhabit this earth; holds the keys of salvation over all the earth; and will reign as Michael, our prince, to all eternity. We, the children of Adam and Eve may well be proud of our parentage (John A. Widtsoe, *Evidences and Reconciliations*, p. 195).

No Sin in Eating the Forbidden Fruit

I never speak of the part Eve took in this fall as a sin, nor do I accuse Adam of a sin. One may say, "Well did they not break a commandment?" Yes. But let us examine the nature of that commandment and the results which came out of it (Josph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, I, 114).

Contradictory Statement from Mormon Writings

How did Adam and Eve sin? Did they come out in direct opposition to God and to his government? No. But they transgressed a command of the Lord, and through that transgression sin came into the world (John A. Widtsoe, *Discourses of Brigham Young*, p. 103).

Disobedience Necessary for Procreation

Were it not for our transgression, we should never have had seed (*Pearl of Great Price*, Book of Moses 5:11).

No Original Sin

We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression (*Pearl of Great Price*, The Articles of Faith, 2).

Sinlessness of Infants

Every spirit of man was innocent in the beginning; and God having redeemed man from the fall, men became again, in their infant state, innocent before God (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 93:38).

Free Agency

Agency is the ability and freedom to choose good or evil. It is an eternal principle, which has existed with God from all eternity. The spirit offspring of the father had agency in pre-existence and were thereby empowered to follow Christ or

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive (I Corinthians 15:22).

If I covered my iniquity as Adam, by hiding mine iniquity in my bosom (Job 31:33).

Eating the Forbidden Fruit was Sin

And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgressions (I Timothy 2:14).

Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come (Romans 5:14).

Procreation Commanded Before the Fall

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth (Genesis 1:28).

Original Sin

Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned (Romans 5:12).

Sinfulness of Infants

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me (Psalm 51:5).

No Free Will

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever commiteth sin is the servant of sin (John 8:34).

For it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

Lucifer according to their choice. It is by virtue of the exercise of agency in this life that men are enabled to undergo the testing which is an integral part of mortality (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 25).

Christ not Unique

And now, verily I say unto you, I was in the beginning with the Father, and am the First-born; and all those who are begotten through me are partakers of the glory of the same, and are the church of the First-born. Ye were also in the beginning with the Father... (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 93:21-23).

Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 135:3).

Christ Not the Only

Prophet, Priest and Head of the Church

And again, the duty of the President of the office of the High Priesthood is to preside over the whole church, and to be like unto Moses - Behold, here is wisdom; yea, to be a seer, a revelator, a translator, and a prophet, having all the gifts of God which he bestows on the head of the church (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 107:91, 92).

Christ the Brother of Satan

As for the Devil and his fellow spirits, they are brothers to man and also to Jesus and sons and daughters of God in the same sense that we are (John Henry Evans, *An American Prophet*, p. 241).

Adam the Father of Christ

When the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the father had begotten him in his own likeness.... And who is the Father? He is the first of the human family; and when he took a tabernacle, it was begotten by his Father in heaven, after the same manner as the tabernacles of Cain, Abel, and the rest of the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve.... Jesus, our elder brother, was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the Garden of Eden, and who is our father in Heaven (Brigham Young in *Journal of Discourses*, I, 50, 51).

No Virgin Birth

Our Father in Heaven is the Father of Jesus Christ, both in the spirit and in the flesh.... I believe

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will (Prov. 21:1).

Christ Only

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him (John 1:18).

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

Christ Alone

For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.... Unto you first, God having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities (Acts 3:22, 26).

Christ the Only Begotten Son

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

God the Father of Christ

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35).

But while he thought on these things, Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 1:20).

Christ Born of Virgin

firmly that Jesus Christ is the Only-Begotten Son of God in the flesh.... Christ was begotten of God. He was not born without the aid of Man, and that Man was God (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, p. 18).

Elohim is literally the Father of the spirit of Jesus Christ and also of the body in which Jesus Christ performed his mission in the flesh.... He is essentially greater than all others, by reason . . . of His unique status in the flesh as the offspring of a mortal mother and of an immortal, or resurrected and glorified, Father (James E. Talmadge, *Articles of Faith*, pp. 466, 472).

The birth of the Saviour was as natural as are the births of our children: it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and blood- was begotten of the Father, as we were of our fathers (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, VIII, p. 115).

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 (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, XI, p. 268).

Jesus Born in Jerusalem

And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and shall bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God (*The Book of Mormon*, Alma 7:10)

Christ Married (Polygamously)

If at the marriage of Cana of Galilee, Jesus was the bridegroom and took unto him Mary, Martha and the other Mary, it shocks not our nerves. If there was not attachment and familiarity between our Saviour and these women, highly proper only in the relation of husband and wife, then we have no sense of propriety (Orson Hyde in *Journal of Discourses*, II, 81-82).

We say it was Jesus Christ who was married whereby He could see His seed before He was crucified. I shall say here that before the Saviour died He looked upon His own natural children as we look upon ours. When Mary came to the sepulchre she saw two angels and she said unto them "they have taken away my Lord or husband (Orson Hyde in *Journal of Discourses*, IV, 210).

Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35).

Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us (Matthew 1:23).

And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus (Matthew 1:25).

Jesus Born in Bethlehem

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king (Matthew 2:1).

Christ Unmarried

And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: and both Jesus was called, and his disciples to the marriage (John 2:1, 2).

And when the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, and saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now (Luke 2:9, 10).

Redemption Without Faith

For behold, and also his blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam, who have died not knowing the will of God concerning them, or who have ignorantly sinned (*Book of Mormon*, Mosiah 2:11).

The statement that the heathen dead will have place in the first resurrection is sustained by the word of scripture, and by a consideration of the principles of true justice according to which humanity is to be judged. Man will be accounted blameless or guilty, according to his deeds as interpreted in the light of the law under which he is required to live (James E. Talmadge, *Articles of Faith*, p. 404 - 5th edition).

No Salvation Through Faith Alone

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 ones salvation. Many go so far, for instance, as to pretend, at least, to believe that if we confess Christ with our lips and avow that we accept him as our personal Savior, we are thereby saved. His blood, without other act than mere belief, they say, makes us clean (Bruce R. McConkie, *What the Mormons Think of Christ*, p. 27).

No Justification by Faith Alone

Justification by *belief* alone is a most pernicious doctrine (James E. Talmadge, *Articles of Faith*, p. 107).

The sectarian dogma of justification by faith alone has exercised an influence for evil since the early days of Christianity (James E. Talmadge, *Articles of Faith*, p. 120 - 5th edition).

Redemption by Works

But besides this universal application of the atonement, whereby all men are redeemed from the effects of Adam's transgression both with respect to the death of the body and inherited sin, there is application of the same great sacrifice as a means of propitiation for individual sins through the faith and good works of the sinner.

The individual Effect of the Atonement makes it possible for any and every soul to obtain absolution from the effect of personal sins, through the mediation of Christ; but such saving intercession is to be invoked by individual effort as manifested through faith, repentance, and continued works of

No Salvation Without Faith

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God (John 3:18).

For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law (Romans 2:12).

And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life (Revelation 21:27).

Salvation Through Faith Alone

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart, that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved (Romans 10:8, 9).

But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted fro righteousness (Romans 4:5).

Justification by Faith Alone

But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness (Romans 4:5).

Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom the God imputeth righteousness without works (Romans 4:6).

No Power or Merit in Works

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away (Isaiah 64:6).

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that no of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him; and I will raise him up in the last day (John 6:44).

righteousness (James E. Talmadge, *Articles of Faith*, pp. 86-87).

3. We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel (James E. Talmadge, *Articles of Faith*, p. 479).

Very gladly would the Lord give to every one eternal life, but since that blessing can come only on merit - through the faithful performance of duty - only those who are worthy shall receive it (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, II, 5, 6).

Christ's Redemption Limited

Joseph Smith taught that there were certain sins so grievous that man may commit, that they will place the transgressors beyond the power of the atonement of Christ. If these offenses are committed, then the blood of Christ will not cleanse them from their sins even though they repent. Therefore their only hope is to have their own blood shed to atone, as far as possible, in their behalf (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, I, 135).

Mormons the Only True Church

The Latter-day Saints declare their high claim to be the true church organization, similar in all essentials to the organization effected by Christ among the Jews. This people of the last days profess to have the Priesthood of the Almighty, the power to act in the name of God, which power commands respect both on earth and in heaven (James E. Talmadge, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 119).

Every spirit that does not confess that God has sent Joseph Smith, and revealed the everlasting gospel and through him, is of Antichrist (Brigham Young, *Discourses of Brigham Young*, p. 435).

From the facts already stated, it is evident that the Church was literally driven from the earth; in the first ten centuries immediately following the ministry of Christ, the authority of the priesthood was lost from among men, and no human power could restore it. But the Lord in His mercy provided for the re-establishment of His Church in these last days, and for the last time.... It has been already shown that this restoration was effected by the Lord through the Prophet Joseph Smith (James E. Talmadge, *Articles of Faith*, p. 68 - 5th edition).

Knowing that a man is not justified by the work of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified (Galatians 2:16).

So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do (Luke 17:10).

No Transgression Beyond Forgiveness

And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more (John 8:11).

Mormons Not the Only True Church

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world (I John 4:1).

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any preach any other gospel unto you than that which ye have received, let him be accursed (Galatians 1:8, 9).

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18).

If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 603).

My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my hearts that all were wrong) - and which I should join. I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: "they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof. (*Pearl of Great Price*, Joseph Smith - History, 1:18, 19).

A Mormon Priesthood

So long as the Lord has any communication to make to the children of men, or any instructions to impart to His Church, he will make such communication through the legally appointed channel of the Priesthood; He will never go outside of it, as long, at least, as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints exists in its present form on the earth (*A Brief Statement of the Principles of the Gospel*, p. 222).

Christians Before Christ

And he bowed himself to the earth, and he prayed mightily unto his god for the blessings of liberty to rest upon his brethren, so long as there should a band of Christians remain to possess the land - For thus were all the true believers of Christ, who belonged to the church of God, called by those who did not belong to the church. And those who did belong to the church were faithful; yea, all those who were true believers in Christ took upon them, gladly, the name of Christ, or Christians as they were called, because of their belief in Christ who should come (*Book of Mormon*, Alma 46:13-15).

Baptismal Salvation

Thou shalt declare repentance and faith on the Savior, and remission of sins by baptism (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 19:31).

Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son (I John 2:22).

And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (Matthew 28:20).

Christ the Only Mediator

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (I Timothy 2:5).

No "Christians" Until After Christ

And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts 11:26).

No Saving Power in Water Baptism

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel (I Corinthians 1:17).

Verily, verily, I (Christ) say unto you (Joseph Smith), they who believe not on your words, and are not baptized in water in my name, for the remission of their sins, that they may receive the Holy Ghost, shall be damned (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 84:74).

And he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not, and is not baptized shall be damned (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 112:29).

And their children shall be baptized for the remission of their sins when eight years old, and receive the laying on of the hands (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 68:27).

Baptism for the Dead

Herein is glory and honor, and immortality and eternal life - The ordinance of baptism by water, to be immersed therein in order to answer to the likeness of the dead, that one principle might accord with the other; to be immersed in the water is in the likeness of the resurrection of the dead in coming forth out of their graves; hence, this ordinance was instituted to form a relationship with the ordinance of baptism for the dead, being in the likeness of the dead.

And now, my dearly beloved brethren and sisters, let me assure you that these are the principles in relation to dead and the living that cannot be passed lightly over, as pertaining to our salvation. For their salvation is necessary and essential to our salvation, as Paul says concerning the fathers - that they without us cannot be made perfect - neither can we without dead be made perfect (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 128:12, 15).

Millions of earth's sons and daughters have passed out of the body without obeying the law of baptism. Many of them will gladly accept the word and law of the Lord when it is proclaimed to them in the spirit world. But they cannot there attend to ordinances that behold to the sphere which they have left. Can nothing be done in their case? Must they forever be shut out of the kingdom of heaven? Both justice and mercy join in answering "yes" to the first, "no" to the last question. What, then, is the way of their deliverance?

The living may be baptized for the dead. Other essential ordinances may be attended to vicariously. This glorious truth, hid from human knowledge for centuries, has been made known in this greatest of all divine dispensations (C. Penrose, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 48).

For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord God (Jeremiah 2:22).

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (Mark 16:16).

Baptism for the Living

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).

And he said unto me, These are thy which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the lamb (Revelation 7:14).

And as it is appointed unto men once to die but after this the judgment... (Hebrews 9:27).

Celestial Marriage

And again, verily I say unto you, if a man marry a wife by my word, which is my law, and by the new and everlasting covenant, and is sealed unto them by the Holy Spirit of promise, by him who is anointed, unto whom I have appointed this power and the keys of this priesthood ... it shall be done unto them in all things whatsoever my servant shall put upon them, in time, and through all eternity; and shall be of full force when they are out of the world; and they shall pass by the angels, and the gods, which are set there, to their exaltation and glory in all things, as has been sealed upon their heads, which glory shall be a fulness and continuation of the seeds forever and ever (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 132:19).

The most important single thing that any member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can ever do in this world is to marry the right person by the right authority in the right place (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 111).

Polygamy

David also received many wives and concubines, and also Solomon and Moses my servants, from the beginning of creation until this time; and in nothing did they sin save in those things which they received not of me. David's wives and concubines were given unto him of me, by the hand of Nathan, my servant, and others of the prophets who had the keys of this power; and in none of these things did he sin against me save in the case of Uriah and his wife (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 132:38, 39).

And again as pertaining to the law of the Priesthood - if any man espouse a virgin, and desire to espouse another, and the first give her consent; and if he espouse the second, and they are virgins, and have vowed to no other man, then he is justified; he cannot commit adultery, for they are given unto him; for he cannot commit adultery with that that belongeth unto him and to no one else. And if he have ten virgins given unto him by this law, he cannot commit adultery for they belong to him, and they are given unto him, therefore he is justified (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 132:61, 62).

Abraham received concubines and they bare him children, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness. Go ye therefore and do the works of Abraham, enter ye into my law, and ye shall be saved. But if ye enter not into my law (of polygamy), ye cannot receive the promise of my

Marriage Only in This Life

The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: but they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection (Luke 20:34, 35).

But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: but he that is married careth for the things of the world, how he may please his wife (I Corinthians 7:32, 33).

Monogamy

And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning, made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh (Matthew 19:4, 5).

So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress (Romans 7:3).

A bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, or good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach (I Timothy 3:2).

Father, which he made unto Abraham (Joseph Smith, *Celestial Marriage*, 12, 14).

Contradictory Statements from Mormon Writings

Behold David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which things was abominable before me, saith the Lord.

Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none (*The Book of Mormon*, Jacob 2:24, 27).

Three Levels of Glory

And thus we saw, in the heavenly vision, the glory of the telestial, which surpasses all understanding; and no man knows it except him to whom God has revealed it. And thus we saw the glory of the terrestrial which excels in all things the glory of the telestial, even in glory, and in power, and in might, and in dominion. And thus we saw the glory of the celestial, which excels in all things - where God, even the Father reigns upon his throne forever and ever, before whose throne all things bow in humble reverence, and give him glory forever and ever (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 76:89-92).

One Glory for All Believers

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28, 29).

ADDITIONAL ANOMALIES AND CONTRADICTIONS IN MORMON WRITINGS

Note the following assertions:

It is noticeable that we make no reservation respecting the Book of Mormon on the ground of incorrect translation. To do so would be to ignore attested facts as to the bringing forth of that book. Joseph Smith the prophet, seer, and revelator, through whom the ancient record has been translated into our modern tongue, expressly avers that the translation was effected through the gift and power of God, and is in now sense the product of linguistic scholarship (James E. Talmadge, *The Vitality of Mormonism*, p. 127).

I told the brethren 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 in its precepts than by any other book (Joseph Fielding Smith, *The Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 154).

Compare the following:

The Book of Abraham. Translated from the Papyrus, by Joseph Smith. A translation of some ancient Records, that have fallen into our hands from the catacombs of Egypt. - The writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus (*Pearl of Great Price*, Book of Abraham, Introduction - in this book the papyrus itself is reproduced in three drawings and has been identified with a papyrus in the New York Metropolitan Museum. It is in fact part of a pagan Egyptian funereal text called the "Book of Breathings," and bears no relation whatsoever to the Book of Abraham).

And it came to pass that after they had bound me inasmuch as I could not move, the compass, which had been prepared of the Lord, did cease to work (*Book of Mormon*, I Nephi 18:12 - compass invented around A.D. 1000, this incident dated by Mormons around 600 B.C.).

And I make an end of my writing upon these plates, which writing has been small; and to the reader I bid farewell, hoping that many of my brethren may read my words. Brethren, *adieu* (*Book of Mormon*, Jacob 7:27 - a book dated 544 B.C. and A.D. 421. The earliest French developed from Latin about A.D. 700).

They also had horses, and asses, and there were elephants and cureloms and cumoms; all of which were useful unto man, and more especially the elephants and cureloms and cumoms (*Book of Mormon*, Ether 9:19 - supposedly records history around 600 B.C. Horses, however, were first introduced to the New World by the Spanish Conquistadors in the 16th Century A.D).

And the Lord will surely prepare a way for his people, unto the fulfilling of the words of Moses, which he spake, saying: A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall be that all those who will not hear that prophet shall be cut off from among the people (*Book of Mormon*, I Nephi 22:20 - allegedly written between 588 and 570 B.C. Quotes from Acts 3:22, 23 which was not written until 600 years later).

But behold, they have received many wounds; nevertheless they stand fast in that liberty wherewith God has made them free (*Book of Mormon*, Alma 58:40 - allegedly written around 62 B.C.. Quotes from Galatians 5:1, written over 100 years later).

Yea, even doth not Isaiah say: who hath believed our report, and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground; he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not (*Book of Mormon*, Mosiah 14:1-3 - supposedly written in 148 B.C. Yet an exact quotation from the English Authorized Version of 1611, Isaiah 53:1-3. Cf. also III Nephi 13:14, 24 and Matthew 6:14, 24; III Nephi 15:17, 21, 22 and John 10:16; Mormon 9:8, 9, Hebrews 13:8, and James 1:17).

Wherefore, after he was baptized with water the Holy Ghost descended upon him in the form of dove (*Book of Mormon*, II Nephi 31:8 - supposedly written between 559 and 545 B.C. Records the baptism of Jesus in the past tense nearly 600 years before the baptism of Jesus).

And it came to pass that after he had smitten off the head of Shiz, that Shiz raised up his hands and fell; and after that he had struggled for breath he died (*Book of Mormon*, Ether 15:31).

* * * * *

Notice this testimony:

Be it known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, unto whom this work shall come: That we, through the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, have seen the plates which contain this record, which is a record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites, their brethren, and also the people of Jared, who came from the tower of which hath been spoken. And we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of God, for his voice hath declared it unto us; wherefore we know of a surety that the work is true. And we also testify that we have seen the engravings which are upon the plates; and they have been shown to us by the power of God, and not of man. And we declare with words of soberness, that an angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings thereon; and we know that it is by the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, that we beheld and bear record that these things are true (*Book of Mormon*, The Testimony of the Three Witnesses).

Compare it with:

Why, I did not see them as I do that pencil case. I saw them with the eye of faith. I saw them as distinctly as I see anything around me - though at the time they were covered over with a cloth (Martin Harris - one of the three witnesses in Robert F. Boyd, "Mormonism," *Interpretation*, X, No. 4, Oct. 1956).

Suppose that you had a friend whose character was such that you knew it impossible that he could lie: then if he described a city to you which you had never seen, could you not by the eye of faith see the city just as he described it (David Witmer - one of the three witnesses in Robert F. Boyd, "Mormonism," *Interpretation*, X, No. 4, Oct. 1956).

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Note these assertions:

Bring up the first idea, the first sentence that I have delivered to people as counsel that is wrong. I really wish they would do it; but they cannot do it, for the simple reason that I have never given counsel that is wrong; this is the reason (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, XVI, 161).

When did I ever teach anything wrong from this stand?... I never told you I was perfect; but there is not error in the revelations which I have taught (Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, VI, p. 273).

Compare the following changes in Mormon teaching:

(1854) I dare not even call a man to be a Deacon, to assist me in my calling, unless he has a family. It is not the business of an ignorant young man (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, II, 89).

(1986) When a boy has been baptized and confirmed a member of the church and is worthy, he may be ordained to the office of deacon when he is twelve years old (*Gospel Principles*, p. 81 - 1986 edition).

(1844) As the child dies, so shall it rise from the dead, and be forever living in the learning of God. It will never grow: it will still be the child, in the same precise form as it appeared before it died out of its mother's arms, but possessing all the intelligence of a God (Joseph Smith, *Journal of Discourses*, VI, 10).

(1986) All spirits are in adult form. They were adults before their mortal existence, and they are in adult form after death, even if they die as infants or children (*Gospel Principles*, p. 278 - 1986 edition).

(1835) There are two personages who constitute the great, matchless, governing and supreme power over all things - by whom all things were created and made, that are created and made, whether visible or invisible: whether in heaven, on earth, or in the earth, under the earth, or throughout the immensity of space - They are the Father and the Son: The Father being a personage of Spirit, glory and power: possessing all perfection and fulness: The Son, who was in the bosom of the Father, a personage of tabernacle, made, or fashioned like unto a man, or being in the form and likeness of man, or rather, man was formed after his likeness, and in his image (*Doctrine and Covenants*, Lecture Fifth of Faith, V, 2, pp. 52, 53 - 1835 edition, removed without membership consent in 1921).

(1981) 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 (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 130:22).

UNFULFILLED PROPHECIES

And again, the duty of the President of the office of the High Priesthood is to preside over the whole church, and to be like unto Moses - Behold, here is wisdom; yea, to be a seer, a revelator, a translator, a prophet, having all the gifts of God which he bestows on the head of the church (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 107:91, 92).

But the prophet which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? What a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the things which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him (Deuteronomy 18:20-22).

Which city shall be built, beginning at the temple lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith, Jun., and other with whom the Lord was well pleased. Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which shall be reared in this generation (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 84:3, 4, "Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet at Kirtland, Ohio, September 22 and 23, 1832").

I prophesy in the name of the Lord God of Israel, unless the United States redress the wrongs committed upon the Saints in the state of Missouri and punish the crimes committed by her officers that in a few years the government will be utterly overthrown and wasted, and there will not be so much as a potsherd left, for their wickedness in permitting the murder of men, women and children (Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, V, p. 394, May 18, 1843).

Verily thus saith the Lord: It is wisdom in my servant David W. Patten, that he settle up all his business as soon as he possibly can, and make a disposition of his merchandise, that he may perform a mission unto me next spring (1839), in company with others, even twelve including himself, to testify of my name and bear glad tidings unto all the world (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 114:1 - David Patten was killed in a gun battle in October, 1838; "In the pursuit, one of the mob fled from behind a tree, wheeled, and shot Captain Patten, who instantly fell, mortally wounded, having received a large ball in his bowels" - Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, III, p. 171).

Will the present struggle free the slave? No; but they are now wasting away the black race by thousands (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, X, p. 250, October 6, 1863).

Do you think that we shall ever be admitted as a State into the Union without denying the principle of polygamy? If we are not admitted until then, we shall never be admitted (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, XI, p. 269, August 19, 1866).

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If Joseph Smith was a deceiver, who wilfully attempted to mislead the people, then he should be exposed; his claims should be refuted, and his doctrines shown to be false, for the doctrines of an imposter cannot be made to harmonize in all particulars with divine truth (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, I, p. 188).

1. This doctrine is generally not now taught by Mormons though it was vigorously defended as late as 1950 by W. Gordon Hackney of Brigham Young University 1950 in a pamphlet, "The Adam-God Doctrine." The problem is that Brigham Young as President is also regarded as a prophet (see above).