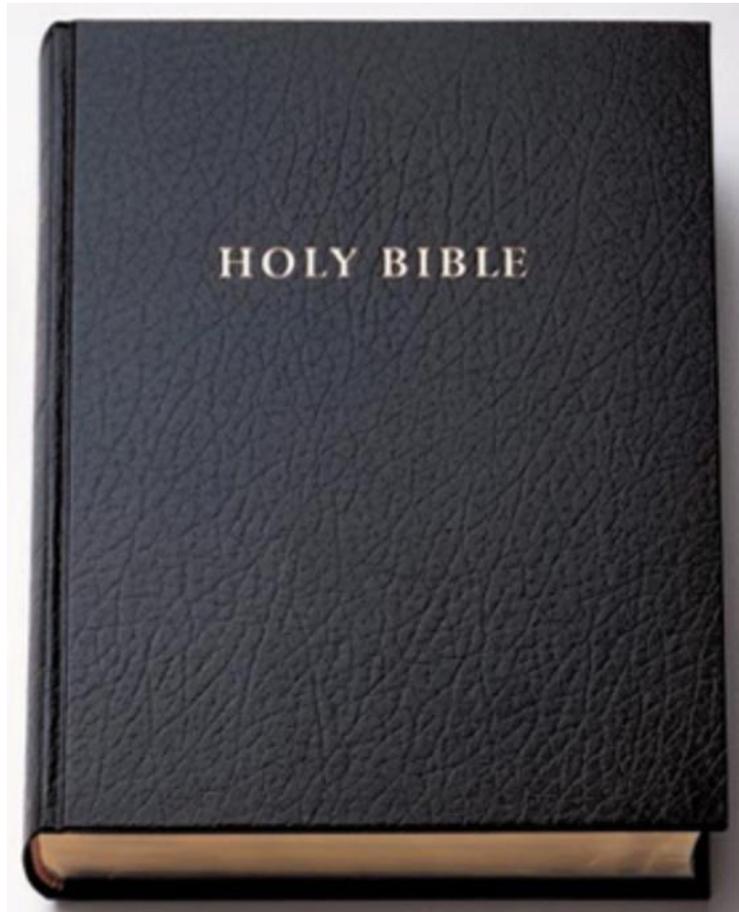


King James Bible Study



A Study Guide On
Mormonism

Dr. Joseph Speciale

Mormonism

I) BACKGROUND

1) Past

1. Mormonism, or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) was founded by Joseph Smith, Jr. in 1830
2. Joseph Smith was born on December 23, 1805 in Sharon, VT to Joseph and Lucy Mack Smith; he was the fourth of nine children
3. Joseph Smith's parents were extremely superstitious and dabbled in the occult
 - His father possessed seer stones, a ceremonial dagger, talismans, and other paraphernalia
 - His father was known as a "money-digger" or "glass looker", a con or fraud using peeping stones to locate buried treasure, widely perpetrated in the Northeastern US at the time
 - Joseph Smith was caught up in his family's occult activities, and was even arrested, convicted, and fined for "glass looking"
4. In 1817, the family moved to a farm in Palmyra, NY (near present day Rochester)
5. In the Spring of 1820, at the age of 14, Joseph Smith had his first vision- allegedly of God the Father and Jesus Christ
 - An old-time Methodist revival broke out in the area that spread to the Baptists and Presbyterians
 - Joseph Smith's mother, two of his brothers, and a sister joined the Presbyterian church

- Joseph was leaning toward the Methodists but remained uncommitted because he could not reconcile truth with the disagreements, discrepancies, and dissension he saw between all the denominations
 - During this time of difficulty and confusion, he read James 1:5 and was determined to claim the promise in the verse
 - Joseph retreated to the woods and as he began to pray, he was overcome by an invisible force that rendered him speechless and unable to move
 - A pillar of light appeared above his head and he saw two personages; one called him by name and spoke as he pointed to the other saying, “This is my beloved Son, hear Him!”
 - Joseph asked the personages which sect (denomination) was right and which one he should join, to which he was told not to join any of them because they were all wrong and their creeds an abomination
 - Joseph shared his vision with one of the Methodist preachers associated with the revival- the preacher did not deny Joseph had a vision, but sternly told him it was of the devil; that divine revelation and visions had ceased with the apostles
 - Joseph was emotionally distressed by the reaction he received from preachers regarding his vision; he felt persecuted and reviled- this led him to reject the divine warning and to continue uncommitted until further directed by the “personage” in his vision
6. On September 23, 1823, at the age of 17, Joseph Smith had his second vision- allegedly of a glorified, resurrected being named Moroni (originally it was a being named Nephi)
- Moroni was the son of Mormon (a Nephite prophet-historian who compiled and composed the writings of *The Book Of Mormon* on gold plates) and the one who hid the plates in the hill Cumorah in approximately 421 AD
 - Moroni appeared to Joseph Smith three times during the same night
 - During his first appearance, Moroni introduced himself as a messenger sent from the presence of God and told Joseph that God

had a work for him to do, and that his name would be both good and evil spoken of among all nations

- He informed him of a buried book, written on golden plates, that gave an account of the former inhabitants of the American continent and their origin, as well as the fullness of the everlasting gospel that Jesus Christ preached to these former inhabitants
- He also informed him that two stones, called the Urim and Thummim, fastened to a breastplate were deposited with the book and that these stones would enable him to translate the book
- He proceeded to quote various scriptures including part of Malachi 3, but he also misquoted Malachi 4:1,5-6 indicating that Elijah the prophet would reveal the Priesthood to Joseph
- He ended his first appearance by warning Joseph that when he obtained the plates and the Urim and Thummim he was not to show them to anyone or he would be destroyed- Joseph then had a vision in his mind of where the plates were deposited
- Shortly thereafter, Moroni made a second appearance- he reiterated all the information from the first appearance but added that grievous judgments in the form of famine, sword, and pestilence would come on the earth in that generation
- Shortly thereafter, Moroni made a third appearance- he reiterated all the information from the previous appearances but added a warning not to give in to the temptation of Satan to use the plates for financial gain or for any other purpose other than to glorify God and build his kingdom

7. The next day, Moroni appeared again to Joseph Smith

- Joseph attempted to work in the field but was utterly exhausted and useless, so his father told him to go home
- Joseph fainted on the way home and was awakened by the voice of Moroni appearing again to him
- Moroni repeated everything from the previous night and commanded Joseph to tell his father everything

- Joseph told his father of his visions and what was commanded of him, and his father replied that it was of God and that Joseph should go and do as he was commanded by the messenger
 - Joseph recalled the vision of where the plates and stones were deposited and immediately went there- the location was a hill called Cumorah
 - When he arrived, Joseph found a large rounded stone partially buried which, when he lifted up, revealed a stone box underneath containing the plates and stones
 - Moroni told Joseph that he could not remove the plates or stones until four years from that date (i.e.- until Joseph had turned 21?), and that he should return to that exact location on that exact date, every year until that time
 - Joseph did as Moroni commanded him and visited Cumorah every year on that date for four years, and in the process received additional instruction from him on what manner the Lord's kingdom was to be conducted in the last days
8. Joseph's family fell on hard times with the death of his oldest brother so Joseph took employment with Josiah Stool
 9. While employed with Stool, Joseph met Emma Hale, the daughter of his border and they were married on January 18, 1827- his wife's family did not approve of the marriage due to Smith's alleged visions so he was forced to flee with his new wife back to his father's farm
 10. On September 22, 1827, Joseph Smith went to Cumorah and received the golden plates and "Urim and Thummim" from Moroni with a charge to preserve and protect them under penalty of death, until the day they were recalled
 11. Joseph and his wife experienced increased persecution as word spread that he had possession of the plates and stones- multitudes were on alert to seize them from him by any means possible

12. The persecution was so intense that Smith was compelled to leave Palmyra for his father-in-law's house in Pennsylvania- a man named Martin Harris gave him \$50 to help him on his journey
13. It was during the time at his father-in-law's house that Joseph Smith began the task of copying the characters off the plates and translating them- the characters were allegedly "Reformed Egyptian" hieroglyphs
14. Martin Harris came to Joseph's father-in-law's house and offered to take samples of the characters and their translation to New York for review and certification from Dr. Charles Anthon (an esteemed linguist and professor at Columbia College)
15. According to Joseph Smith, Martin Harris stated that Dr. Anthon originally presented him with a certificate of authenticity of the characters (as "Reformed" Egyptian, Chaldaic, Assyriac, and Arabic), and the accuracy of the translation but when he learned that Joseph received them from an angel, he destroyed the certificate
16. Dr. Anthon later provided his testimony of the events and it contradicts Smith's- Martin Harris did present Dr. Anthon with Smith's transcription and translation but Dr. Anthon immediately declared the characters as "nonsensical"
17. Oliver Cowdery, a school teacher in the neighborhood where Joseph Smith's family lived, began boarding with them and while there was informed of Joseph's visions and possession of the plates and stones
18. On April 5, 1829, Cowdery went to Joseph Smith to inquire about the plates and stones and was convinced by his testimony- he agreed to assist in transcribing Smith's translation work and two days later they began *The Book Of Mormon*

19. On May 15, 1829, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery had a vision- allegedly of John the Baptist and had the Aaronic Priesthood conferred upon them
- Smith and Cowdery found the phrase, “baptism for the remission of sins” mentioned in the translation of the plates and went into the woods to pray for understanding of the exact meaning of the phrase
 - An entity who later identified himself as John the Baptist descended in a cloud of light and laid his hands upon them indicating that the Priesthood of Aaron was conferred upon them
 - “John the Baptist” directed Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery to baptize each other and then to lay hands on each other to complete their ordination into the Priesthood- Smith was ordained the first Elder of the Church and Cowdery the second
 - He indicated that he was acting under the direction of Peter, James, and John, who held the keys of the Priesthood of Melchizedek- a Priesthood that would be conferred upon them at a later date and alone had the power of laying on hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost
20. Later that month, while praying in the woods, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery had another vision- allegedly of Peter, James, and John and had the Melchizedek Priesthood conferred upon them
21. Work on The Book Of Mormon continued for almost a year; as Smith sat behind a curtain and read the translated text to the transcriptionist (i.e.- Cowdery, Martin Harris, or his wife Emma)
22. Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris, and David Whitmer (a friend of Smith’s) gave written testimony that they saw the golden plates and the engravings on them (i.e.- the “Testimony of Three Witnesses” that appears in the Book Of Mormon)
23. Shortly thereafter, an additional eight witnesses (Christian, Jacob, John, and Peter Whitmer, Jr., Hiram Page, Hyrum and Samuel Smith,

and Joseph Smith, Sr.) gave written testimony that they saw and handled the golden plates and the engravings on them (i.e.- the “Testimony of Eight Witnesses” that appears in the Book Of Mormon)

24. On March 26, 1830, *The Book Of Mormon* was completed- Martin Harris sold his farm to help subsidize its publication
25. On April 6, 1830, the Mormon Church was officially founded in Fayette, NY under the name of “The Church of Christ”, with six members (Joseph Smith, his brothers Hyrum and Samuel, Oliver Cowdery, and David and Peter Whitmer)- it would be renamed “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints” in 1838
26. In 1831, Joseph Smith began to “translate” the Bible without knowledge of Hebrew and Greek and without referring to Hebrew and Greek manuscripts- the result was essentially a plagiarism of the King James Bible
27. Later in 1831, the Church moved to Kirtland, OH (near present day Cleveland) and grew to 1,600 members- included in these converts were two Disciples of Christ preachers, Sidney Rigdon and Parley Pratt
28. Joseph Smith continued to receive “divine revelations” and supervised the first printing of these revelations while in Kirtland, OH
29. The first 65 of Smith’s revelations were published under the title, the *Book Of Commandments* in 1833, but later was enlarged and published under the title, *Doctrine And Covenants* in 1835
30. The first Mormon temple was built in Kirtland, OH in 1836 but rapid growth and persecution forced the Church to leave in 1837 and settle in Independence, MO in 1838- the name of the Church was officially changed in 1838 to “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints”

31. In 1838, the “Mormon War” took place in Missouri

- On July 4, 1838, Sidney Rigdon delivered the “Salt Sermon”, based on Matthew 5:13, in response to the ongoing harassment Mormon settlers received from locals
- In the sermon, Rigdon called for a “war of extermination” against the harassing mobs until “the last drop of their blood is spilled”
- Mormons formed a special group called the Danites (taken from the account given in Judges 18), who served as a band of “destroying angels” seeking revenge on any persecutors
- A number of conflicts broke out in August and October leading to deaths on both sides, but the situation exploded when 200 troops attacked the home of Jacob Haun and massacred 19 Mormons, including one child

32. In 1839, the Mormons were driven from Missouri and settled in Illinois, eventually founding the city of Nauvoo (on the Mississippi River near the IL-MO-IA borders)- by 1844, the city became the largest on Mississippi River and second largest in Illinois behind Chicago

33. In 1840, Mormon membership reached 30,000

34. Joseph Smith served as mayor of Nauvoo and formed a militia under the name of General Joseph Smith- he even attempted to run for President in 1844 with Rigdon as running mate

35. Joseph Smith was charged with polygamy in 1842 but publicly denied it; however, on July 12, 1843 he allegedly received a divine revelation approving polygamy- this would bring about events leading to his death

- On June 7, 1844, the *Nauvoo Expositor* published its first and only issue which included an expose on Mormon polygamy
- On June 10, 1844, hundreds of Mormons stormed and destroyed the office and printing press of the *Nauvoo Expositor* under the direct orders of Smith
- Smith, along with his brother Hyrum and 14 other Mormon men, were charged with “treason”, taken into custody, and jailed in Carthage, IL
- On June 27, 1844, an angry mob stormed the jail and a gun-fight ensued- the Smiths, armed with a smuggled six-shooter and single-shot pistol killed two men and wounded another, but were outgunned and killed by the mob
- The Mormons viewed Joseph Smith’s death as a martyr’s death

36. Upon the death of Joseph Smith, the mantle of Mormon leadership passed to Brigham Young, the President of the Twelve Apostles- Young was responsible for holding the Mormons together during hardships and was held in equal esteem to Smith toward the end of the latter’s life

37. In 1846, Brigham Young and approximately 12,000 Mormon settlers left Illinois and headed westward, following the Oregon Trail- they arrived at the Great Salt Lake Valley, UT in July 1847

- Some Mormons refused to make the move westward under Brigham Young, denouncing his teachings regarding polygamy, plurality of gods, and baptism for the dead
- They chose rather chose to settle in Pennsylvania under the leadership of Sidney Rigdon
- Two years later in 1862, under the leadership of William Bickerton (who had been one of Rigdon’s counselors), the group organized under the name, “The Church of Jesus Christ”

38. In 1851, the *Pearl Of Great Price* (a compilation of additional revelations given to Joseph Smith), including the *Book Of Abraham*, was published and President Millard Fillmore appointed Brigham Young governor of the Utah Territory
39. In 1852, the Mormon population in Utah reached 15,000, Brigham Young announced polygamy as official Church policy, and a conference of disgruntled members convened in Wisconsin that ultimately led to the formation of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1860
40. In 1857, the “Utah War” and “Mountain Meadows Massacre” took place
- Brigham Young and President James Buchanan were at a stand-off on the issue of Mormon political leaders and judges in the Utah Territory- Buchanan insisted on appointing “Gentile” leaders and judges in an attempt to wrest power away from the Mormons
 - Anti-Mormon outcries prompted Buchanan to send troops to Utah to establish order after Mormons had run off “Gentile” officials
 - Although the Mormons did not fire upon the troops, they did plunder their food supplies which resulted in several hundred deaths due to winter hardships
 - On September 11, 1857, Mormon Bishop John D. Lee directed a combined force of Indians and Mormon militia disguised as Indians in an attack of a wagon train, just north of St. George, UT, bound for California from Arkansas killing all 120 people
 - Mormon leadership planned the attack as an act of revenge for years of persecution in Missouri and Illinois- in his trial, conviction, and execution (by firing squad in 1877), Lee was the scapegoat for the other Mormon leaders
41. The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was officially established in 1860 with Joseph Smith III named President

and Prophet (the Reorganized Church believes in “lineal succession”, that Church leadership should be passed from father to son)

42. In 1860, Mormon membership reached 80,000

43. Brigham Young founded Brigham Young University in 1876 and died in 1877

44. In 1880, Mormon membership reached 160,000

45. Statehood for Utah was delayed until January 4, 1896 due to the Mormon practice of polygamy

- In 1882, the Edmunds Act was passed carrying heavy penalties for the practice of polygamy
- In 1887, the Edmunds-Tucker Act was passed dissolving the Corporation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and seizing its property
- In 1890, legislation was drafted to disenfranchise all Mormons in the US prompting Church President Wilford Woodruff to issue a manifesto instructing Mormons to obey anti-polygamy laws

46. In spite of all the controversy and violence associated with its early history, Mormon membership continued to grow at an alarming rate through the 20th century- 268,000 (1900); 613,000 (1925); 1,000,000 (1947); 4,000,000 (1978); 7,000,000 (1989); 8,000,000 (1991)

2) Present

1. Growth

- Total world membership is approximately 12,000,000 with over 6,000,000 in the US

- Growth rate is about 300,000 new baptisms per year; 75% are proselytes from another professing Christian denomination
- The Mormon Church is the second wealthiest “Christian” organization, only behind the Roman Catholic Church, with over \$10,000,000,000 in assets; the Church receives over \$3,000,000 every day in tithes alone
- Mormon growth is aided by: (1) a requirement that all teenagers commit two years of their lives to mission service; and (2) a multi-million dollar advertising budget that subsidizes free distribution of copies of the Book of Mormon, family-friendly television commercials, and publication of slick brochures and periodicals

2. Groups

Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

- Founded in 1860 under the leadership of Joseph Smith’s son, Joseph Smith III
- The largest splinter group of the Mormon Church with over 250,000 members worldwide
- They reject the standard Mormon teachings regarding the plurality of gods, that God is a man (Adam), celestial marriage, and baptism for the dead
- They accept the Bible, the Book Of Mormon (1837 version), and only portions of Doctrines And Covenants as authoritative; they reject The Pearl Of Great Price as authoritative

Church of Jesus Christ (Bickertonites)

- The oldest splinter group- the founding members were those who refused to migrate west in 1846 but stayed under the leadership of Sidney Rigdon
- Worldwide membership is approximately 12,000

3. Structure

- Branches- a local congregation of Mormons numbering fewer than 200 members; the head is the Branch President
- Wards- a local congregation of Mormons numbering between 200 and 800 members, determined by geographical divisions; the head is the Bishop
- Stakes- a collection of five to 12 Wards in an area; they share the same worship facility through scheduling; the head is the Stake President
- Areas- a large geographical district of Stakes, Wards, and Branches; the Area is supervised by three members of the Quorums of the 70
- Headquarters- located in Salt Lake City, UT

4. Government

- First Presidency- consists of the Prophet and two counselors; all three are considered living oracles of God but the Prophet holds the highest rank in the Church

| # | Name | Tenure |
|----|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Joseph Smith | 1830-1844 |
| 2 | Brigham Young | 1847-1877 |
| 3 | John Taylor | 1880-1887 |
| 4 | Wilford Woodruff | 1887-1898 |
| 5 | Lorenzo Snow | 1898-1901 |
| 6 | Joseph F. Smith | 1901-1918 |
| 7 | Heber J. Grant | 1918-1945 |
| 8 | George Albert Smith | 1945-1951 |
| 9 | David O. McKay | 1951-1970 |
| 10 | Joseph Fielding Smith | 1970-1972 |
| 11 | Harold B. Lee | 1972-1973 |
| 12 | Spencer W. Kimball | 1973-1985 |
| 13 | Ezra Taft Benson | 1985-1994 |
| 14 | Howard W. Hunter | 1994-1995 |
| 15 | Gordon B. Hinkley | 1995-2008 |
| 16 | Thomas S. Monson | 2008- Present |

- Council of 12 Apostles- directly under the First Presidency; the head of the Quorum of 12 usually becomes the next Prophet
- First and Second Quorums of the 70- traveling representatives of the Church who assist in church government affairs; each is assigned a geographical area of the world that he oversees; seven men are chosen from the First Quorum to preside over both groups (i.e.- the Presidency of the Quorums of the 70)
- Presiding Bishopric- three men who preside over all the bishops worldwide; they are responsible for the temporal affairs of the church including collecting tithes from Stakes, distributing funds, and building design
- General Authorities- the name attributed to all the Church officials

II) BELIEFS

1) Final Authority

1. The Bible

- Mormons do not believe that the Bible is the complete written revelation of God

“Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written. For I command all men, both in the east and in the west, and in the north and in the south, and in the islands of the sea, that they shall write the words which I speak unto them; for out of the books which shall be written I will judge the world, every man according to their works, according to that which is written.” (2 Nephi 29:10-11)

- Mormons believe that many omissions were made to the Bible by the Roman Church through the centuries

“And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the formation of that great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away. And all this have they done that they might pervert the right ways of the Lord, that they might blind the eyes and harden the hearts of the children of men. Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God. And after these plain and precious things were taken away it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles; and after it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles, yea, even across the many waters which thou hast seen with the Gentiles which have gone forth out of captivity, thou seest- because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the book, which were plain unto the understanding of the children of men, according to the plainness which is in the Lamb of God- because of these things which are taken away out of the gospel of the Lamb, an exceedingly great many do stumble, yea, insomuch that Satan hath great power over them.” (1 Nephi 13:26-29)

- Mormons believe the Bible has translation errors

“We believe the Bible to be the word of God **as far as it is translated correctly...**” (The Articles Of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, *History of the Church, Vol. 4.* p.535-541)

- Mormons prefer the King James Version with Joseph Smith’s translation added to the footnotes- Smith’s original “translation” was strikingly similar to the KJV

2. The Book Of Mormon

- Mormons believe that the Book of Mormon is inspired of God

“...we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God” (The Articles Of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, *History of the Church, Vol. 4. p.535-541*)

- The Book Of Mormon was first published in 1830 and is a collection of 15 books
 - 1 Nephi
 - 2 Nephi
 - Book of Jacob
 - Book of Enos
 - Book of Jarom
 - Book of Omni
 - The Words of Mormon
 - Book of Mosiah
 - Book of Alma
 - Book of Helaman
 - 3 Nephi
 - 4 Nephi
 - Book of Mormon
 - Book of Ether
 - Book of Moroni
- The first 12 books and chapters 1-7 of the 13th book were written by Mormon; chapters 8-9 of the 13th book and the last two books were written by Mormon’s son, Moroni
- The Book of Mormon gives the alleged history of two great civilizations that came to the American continent- the Jaredites and the Nephites and Lamanites
- The Jaredites came to America following the confusion of tongues at Babel but were eventually destroyed
- The Nephites and the Lamanites were two nations that formed after their common ancestors came to America from Jerusalem in 600 BC

- Jesus Christ came to the American continent and preached to the Nephites following his resurrection, but the Nephites were eventually destroyed. The Lamanites survived and became the ancestors of the American Indians
- Numerous chapters in the Book Of Mormon are plagiarisms from the King James Bible
 - 2 Nephi 7-8 is almost identical to Isaiah 50-52:1-2
 - 2 Nephi 12-24 is almost identical to Isaiah 2-14
 - 2 Nephi 27 is almost identical to Isaiah 29
 - Mosiah 14 is almost identical to Isaiah 53
 - 3 Nephi 13-14 is almost identical to Matthew 6-7
- The Book Of Mormon contains numerous anachronistic errors (i.e.- a person, place, or thing that is chronologically out of place) and even absurdities
 - 1 Nephi 16:10 and Alma 37:38 mention a compass in 600 BC- the first compass was used by the Chinese in 1100 AD
 - 2 Nephi refers to the baptism of Jesus Christ in the past tense in 600 BC- the baptism of Jesus took place in 29 AD
 - Jacob 7:27 records Jacob as bidding his readers “adieu” in 600 BC- 1200 years before the French language
 - Alma 58:40 (supposedly written in 600 BC) quotes Galatians 6:1- Galatians was written about 54 AD
 - Helaman 12:25-26 states that the words of John 5:29 could be read- John was written about 90 AD not 600 BC
 - Mormon 9:9 states that the words of Hebrews 13:8 and James 1:17 could be read- these books were written between 37-64 AD not 600 BC
 - Ether 15:29-31 states that after a bloody sword fight, a man named Shiz raised himself up on his hands and struggled to breathe- the absurdity is that this was done AFTER Shiz’s enemy (Coriantumr) DECAPITATED him!

- The Book Of Mormon contains statements that contradict the Bible, itself or Mormon authorities
 - 2 Nephi 25:23 states that salvation is by grace AND works and is a clear contradiction and corruption of Ephesians 2:8
 - Alma 7:10 states that Jesus was born in Jerusalem in contradiction to Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:1- "...and the Son of God cometh upon the face of the earth. And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem..." (Alma 7:10)
 - Ether 1:35-37 states that Jared, his brother, and his friends were exempt from the confusion of tongues at Babel in contradiction to Genesis 11:9
 - 2 Nephi 3:11 is an alleged prophecy of Joseph Smith, that he would be a descendant of Lehi, yet Mormon 6:11; 8:2-3 states that all the descendants of Lehi were destroyed
 - Jacob 2:27 is a clear statement against the practice of polygamy ("...For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none") yet it was a core teaching of the Church for at least 50 years- Joseph Smith had 27 wives and Brigham Young had 53 wives
 - 3 Nephi 12:2 and Moroni 8:11 state that baptism is required for remission of sins in contradiction to Doctrines And Covenants (D&C) 20:37 which states remission of sins takes place BEFORE baptism
 - Mosiah 15:2-3 and Ether 3:14 state that Jesus Christ is the Son AND the Father in contradiction to the Mormon's Articles of Faith which differentiates between the two, "We believe in God, the Eternal Father, **and in his Son, Jesus Christ...**"

- Mormons charge non-Mormons to apply the test of Moroni 10:4 to know if the Book Of Mormon is the word of God or not ("And when ye shall receive these things, I exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the

Holy Ghost.”)- based on the fact it contradicts the Bible in numerous places, the Bible condemns it as a diabolical fraud (Isa 8:20)

3. Doctrines And Covenants (D&C)

- Mormons believe that Doctrines And Covenants is divinely authoritative
- It was originally published in 1833 under the title, *the Book of Commandments*; it was published under the current title in 1835
- The current edition is the 1920 text with revised section headings from 1982
- Doctrines And Covenants consists of 138 sections and is a compilation of additional revelations and visions given primarily to Joseph Smith (one section is attributed to Brigham Young and another to Joseph F. Smith, nephew of Joseph Smith)
- It contains heresies, false prophecies, and statements contradictory to the Bible or other Mormon authorities
 - The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are said to be one God (D&C 20:28) in contradiction to multiple other Mormon sources that state they are three Gods
 - Remission of sins is said to be received before baptism (D&C 20:37) in contradiction to (3 Nephi 12:2) and multiple other Mormon sources that state baptism is a pre-requisite for the remission of sin
 - The heresy of baptism for the dead (i.e.- proxy baptism) is established (D&C 124:29-30,33; 127:5-10; 128:1-25; 138:33)
 - The heresy of celestial marriage is established (D&C 131:2-4; 132:19-20)
 - Polygamy is ratified in (D&C 132:61-62) and repealed in Official Declaration 1 (OD-1)
 - The Testimony of the Twelve Apostles to the truth of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants states at one point, “these commandments were given by inspiration of God”, and yet at

another point states, “it is evident that some errors have been perpetuated in past editions...”

4. Pearl Of Great Price

- Mormons believe the Pearl Of Great Price is divinely authoritative
- It was originally published in 1851; the current edition is from 1982
- The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ (LDS) rejects the Pearl of Great Price
- It consists of five (5) sections and is a compilation of writings produced by Joseph Smith that were originally published in the Church periodicals of his day

The Book of Moses

- An extraction of the first six chapters of Genesis from Joseph Smith’s translation of the Bible
- It contains heresies, absurdities, and statements that are contradictory to the Bible
 - Moses sees God face to face (1:2) in contradiction to (Exo 33:20)- the explanation given later to justify this contradiction is that Moses was transfigured and saw God with “spiritual eyes” not natural eyes (1:11)
 - Moses is tempted by Satan (1:12-24) in a manner similar to the Lord Jesus in (Matt 4:8-11)- Moses does not know who Satan is at first (1:13) but later addresses him as “Satan” (1:18) even though Satan’s identity was not disclosed to him
 - Satan offered to become man’s redeemer before Jesus did (4:1) but God rejected him and accepted Jesus’ offer (4:2)
 - Satan agreed to deliver Abel into Cain’s hands and enticed him to take a blood oath involving a “secret”; Cain became “Master Mahan (Mind)” (5:29-31)

- The “plan of salvation” from the very beginning was the message of Acts 2:38: “repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (6:52,62; 8:24)
- Adam was baptized by God and became born again (6:64-65)
- God cursed Cain in the form of black skin, and he and his descendants were forbidden to mix seed with the rest of the sons of Adam (7:22)
- Enoch saw Noah build the ark (7:42-43) in contradiction to the genealogy contained in (Gen 5) that has Enoch being translated to heaven about 550 years before God told Noah to build an ark
- Enoch and all his people were received up into heaven (7:69) in contradiction to (Gen 5:24; Heb 11:5) which says Enoch (alone) was translated
- All the days of Enoch were 430 years (8:1) in contradiction to (Gen 5:23) which states they were 365 years
- The sons of men saw daughters and took them wives (8:14) in contradiction to (Gen 6:2) which states the sons of God (i.e.-angels) did so

The Book of Abraham

- A translation from some Egyptian papyri that Joseph Smith allegedly obtained in 1835, that contained writings of Abraham during the time he was in Egypt
- It contains heresies, absurdities, and statements that are contradictory to the Bible
- There was a place in Ur of the Chaldees called “Potiphar’s Hill” (1:10,20)
- The Lord called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees in a vision as Abraham was about to be offered as a sacrifice to false gods (1:12,15-16) in contradiction to (Gen 12:1)
- The land of Egypt was discovered by a woman called Egyptus, the daughter of Ham, who discovered the land under water but later

settled there with her sons (her oldest son was named “Pharaoh” and he became the first leader of Egypt) (1:23-25)- this contradicts (Gen 10:6) which states that Mizraim, one of the sons of Ham, founded Egypt

- The Lord told Abraham to take Lot with him out of Haran (2:6) in contradiction to (Gen 12:1)
- Abraham was 62 years old when he departed from Haran (2:14) in contradiction to (Gen 12:4) which clearly states he was 75 years old
- The Lord told Abraham to lie about his relationship with Sarah (2:22-24) in contradiction to (Gen 12:11-13)
- Abraham was given the Urim and Thummim while in Ur of the Chaldees (3:1) in contradiction to (Exo 28:30) which is the first appearance of the Urim and Thummim in the Bible, and it in the context of the establishment of the Aaronic priesthood under the law
NOTE: the “Urim and Thummim” here and that of Joseph Smith could be the Luciferian breastplate described in (Eze 28:13)
- Abraham used the Urim and Thummim to view all the stars in the universe (3:2)
- The greatest star (planet) of all is Kolob because it is nearest to the throne of God; one complete revolution of Kolob (i.e.- one day) equates to 1,000 years (3:4)- this is taken from (2 Pet 3:8) and falsely applied to a mythical place
- The Lord asked the heavenly host who would be willing to be the redeemer of men and two came forth and answered, “here am I, send me”; the first was accepted and the second rejected (as a result the second left his first estate) in contradiction to what is stated in Moses 4:1-4, another book in the Pearl of Great Price
- The Gods created the heaven and the earth (4:1,3-12,14,16-18,20-22,24-29,31; 5:1-5,7-9,11-12,14-16,20) in contradiction to (Gen 1-2)

Joseph Smith-Matthew

- An extraction of Matthew 23:39 and chapter 24 from Joseph Smith’s translation of the Bible

- A translation of Matthew 24:6-8 regarding the “beginning of sorrows” has been conveniently omitted
 - Joseph Smith-History- excerpts from Joseph Smith’s official testimony and history including his alleged commission as prophet, leading up to his ordination into the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods
 - The Articles of Faith- 13 verses covering Mormon beliefs regarding God, man, sin, salvation, the church, spiritual gifts, divine authority, Israel, the Second Coming of Christ, worship, civil obedience, and conduct

1) The Living Prophets

- Mormons believe that the Prophet (the head of the Mormon Church) is a living oracle of God that receives ongoing direct revelation
- The revelation of the current living Prophet supersedes those given to previous Prophets

2) GOD

- Mormons believe in God but are polytheistic- they believe use of the word “gods” in the Bible proves there are numerous gods

“We believe in God, the Eternal Father...” (*The Articles of Faith*, 1)

“In the beginning, the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and the people in it” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p.349)

“In the very beginning the Bible shows there is a plurality of Gods beyond the power of refutation...The word *Elohim* ought to be in the plural all the way through- Gods. The heads of the Gods appointed one God for us; and when you take view of the subject, it sets one free to see

all the beauty, holiness, and perfection of the Gods.” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p.372)

- Mormons believe that God the Father is a physical being, a man who once dwelt on a planet like earth and was exalted to godhood

“God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man...” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p.345)

“Remember that God, our heavenly Father, was perhaps once a child, and mortal like ourselves, and rose step by step in the scale of progress, in the school of advancement; has moved forward and overcome, until He has arrived at a point where He now is” (Apostle Orson Hyde, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 1, p.123)

“The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s...” (D&C 130:22)

“God himself the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth the same as Jesus Christ himself did” (Prophet Joseph Smith, *Journal of Discourses*, 6:3)

“The matter that seems such a mystery is the statement that our Father in heaven at one time passed through a life and death and is an exalted man.” (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:10)

- Some Mormons believe that God the Father is Adam and Michael the archangel

“When our father Adam came in the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body. And brought Eve, one of his wives, with him. He helped 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*, Vol.1, p.50)

“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 God. Our Father Adam helped make this earth, it was created expressly for him, and after it was made he and his companions came here. He brought one of his wives with him, and she was called Eve.” (Brigham Young, *Desert News*, 18 June 1873)

- Mormons do not believe in the Bible doctrine of the Trinity but believe the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three separate 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.” (Joseph Smith, *Documentary History of the Church*, 6:476)

“We hear the voice of false Christs when we hear the Athanasian Creed proclaim that ‘whosoever will be saved’ must believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are incomprehensible and uncreated, that they form a Trinity of equals” (Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, *The Millennial Messiah*, p.48)

“*Elohim*, as understood and used in the restored Church of Jesus Christ, is the name-title of God the Eternal Father, whose firstborn Son in the spirit is Jehovah- the only Begotten in the flesh, Jesus Christ.” (Apostle James Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*, p.38)

This stands in contrast to a passage in Doctrines And Covenants that states: “Which Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are one God, infinite and eternal, without end. Amen.” (D&C 20:28)

- Mormons believe in a heavenly Mother that is married to God the Father

“A Heavenly Mother shares parenthood with the Heavenly Father. This concept leads Latter-day Saints to believe that she is like him in glory, perfection, compassion, wisdom, and holiness...though the scriptures contain only hints, statements from presidents of the church over the years indicated that human beings have a Heavenly Mother as well as a Heavenly Father.” (Elaine A. Cannon, *Mother in Heaven, Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, 4:961)

“Man, as a spirit, was begotten and born of heavenly parents, and reared to maturity in the eternal mansions of the Father...all men and women are in the similitude of the universal Father and Mother, and are literally the sons and daughters of Deity.” (Joseph F. Smith)

“Logic and reason would certainly suggest that if we have a Father in Heaven, we have a Mother in Heaven. That doctrine rests well with me. However, in light of the instruction we have received from the Lord Himself, I regard it as inappropriate for anyone in the Church to pray to our Mother in Heaven...The fact that we do not pray to our Mother in Heaven in no way belittles or denigrates her...none of us can add to or diminish the glory of her of whom we have no revealed knowledge.” (President Gordon B. Hinckley)

3) Jesus Christ

- Mormons do not believe in the eternal pre-existence of Christ but believe he had a beginning and was begotten twice by the Father, once in heaven and once on earth

“Implicit in his spirit birth as the Firstborn is the fact that, as with all the spirit children of the Father, he had a beginning; there was a day when he came into being as a conscious identity, as a spirit entity, as an

organized intelligence.” (Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, *The Promised Messiah*, p.165)

“How then is he the Eternal One? It might be said that he is eternal, as all men are, meaning that spirit element- the intelligence which was organized into intelligences- has always existed and is therefore eternal.” (Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, *The Promised Messiah*, p.165)

“Jesus Christ is the Son of Elohim both as spiritual and bodily offspring; that is to say, 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.” (Apostle James Talmage, *The Articles of Faith*, p.466)

- Mormons believe that Jesus Christ and Lucifer are spirit brothers

“The appointment of Jesus to be the Savior of the world was contested by one of the other sons of God. He was called Lucifer, son of the morning. Haughty, ambitious, and covetous of power and glory, this spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind.” (Milton Hunter, *Gospel Through the Ages*, p.15)

“Our Father said, 'Whom shall I send?' (Abraham 3:27). Two of our brothers offered to help. Our oldest brother, Jesus Christ, who was then called Jehovah, said, 'Here am I, send me'....Satan, who was called Lucifer, also came, saying, 'Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor' (Moses 4:1)." (*Gospel Principles*, 1997, p.17-18). "After hearing both sons speak, Heavenly Father said, 'I will send the first.' (Abraham 3:27)." (*Gospel Principles*, 2009, p.15).

"In the grand council called to ratify the Father's plan, a great difference arose. The majority, led by the First Born of the Father, our Elder Brother, Jesus the Christ, was ready to accept the plan with all its conditions. The minority, led by Lucifer, a 'son of the morning,' feared

the isolation and the pains and ills of earth. For them Lucifer proposed that they should be sent to earth, but that provisions should be made by which they would suffer no pain and would not have to make any sacrifices. All of them would be returned with earthly bodies irrespective of their works on earth. This latter plan seemed desirable that one-third of those present favored it, in direct opposition of God's plan. Lucifer and his followers were thrown out of the council, and as opponents of God's plan, became the devil and his angels, who strive ever to tempt men to disobey the laws of God." (John A. Widtsoe, *Joseph Smith - Seeker After Truth*, p.156-157)

"According to our teachings, Satan and an army of supporters were cast down to earth from the pre-mortal spirit world. They are spirit brothers of ours, and are real persons having spirit bodies." (Mormon Apostle Joseph F. Merrill, *Conference Report*, April 1941, p.49)

- Mormons do not believe in the virgin birth of Christ but believe he was conceived through sexual relations between God the Father and Mary

"He (Christ) was not begotten by the Holy Ghost...Jesus, our elder brother, was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the Garden of Eden (Adam), and who is our Father in Heaven." (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol.2, p.4)

"The man Joseph, the husband of Mary, did not, that we know of, have more than one wife, but Mary the wife of Joseph has another husband...That very babe that was cradled in the manger, was begotten, not by Joseph, the husband of Mary, but by another Being. Do you inquire by whom? He was begotten by God our heavenly Father." (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 11:268)

"The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the most literal sense. The body in which He performed His mission in the flesh was sired by that same Holy Being

we worship as God, our Eternal Father. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, nor was He begotten by the Holy Ghost. He is the Son of the Eternal Father.” (Prophet Ezra Taft Benson, *Teachings of the Prophet Ezra Taft Benson*, p.7)

“That Child to be born of Mary was begotten of Elohim, the Eternal Father, not in violation of natural law but in accordance with a higher manifestation thereof; and, the offspring from that association of supreme sanctity, celestial Sireship.” (Apostle James Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*, p.81)

“His (Christ’s) unique status in the flesh as the offspring of a mortal mother (Mary) and of an immortal, or resurrected and glorified, Father (Elohim).” (*The Articles of Faith*, p.473)

- Mormons believe that Jesus was married to multiple wives and had children

“The grand reason of the burst of public sentiment in anathemas upon Christ and his disciples, causing his crucifixion, was evidently based upon polygamy...A belief in the doctrine of a plurality of wives caused the persecution of Jesus and his followers. We might almost think they were ‘Mormons’” (Jedediah M. Grant, *Journal of Discourses*, 1:346)

“Jesus Christ was married at Cana of Galilee...Mary, Martha, and others were his wives, and...he begot children.” (Apostle Orson Hyde, *Journal of Discourses*, 2:210)

4) The Holy Spirit

- Mormons believe there is a difference between the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Ghost is a spirit man

“The Holy Ghost should not be confused with the Spirit which filled 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. We should speak of the Holy Ghost as a personage as ‘he’ and this other Spirit as ‘it’” (Joseph F. Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:50)

“The Holy Ghost is a spirit man, a spirit son of God the Father...a personage of spirit separate and distinct from both the Father and the Son...the third member of the Eternal Godhead.” (*Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, 2:649)

5) Man

- Mormons believe in Pre-Mortal Existence, that all men pre-existed as “spirit children” but have forgotten their pre-existence

“All people first existed as spirits in the spirit world, born of spirit fathers and mothers.” (*Hymn of Eliza R. Snow*, p.15)

“In another point of view, we look at him (man) as emanating from the Gods- as a God in embryo- as an eternal being who had an existence before he came here” (John Taylor, Presidency member, *Journal of Discourses*, 8:1)

“Man is a spirit clothed with a tabernacle. The intelligent part of which was never created or made, but existed eternally- man was also in the beginning with God.” (Joseph F. Smith, *Progress of Man*)

“Without doubt, Jesus came into the world subject to the same condition as was required of each of us- he forgot everything, and he had to grow from grace to grace. His forgetting, or having his former knowledge taken away, would be requisite just as it is in the case of each of us, to complete the present temporal existence.” (Joseph F. Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:32)

- Mormons believe that black people were less than fully loyal spirit children in their pre-existent state

“In this great rebellion in heaven, Lucifer, or Satan, a son of the morning, and one-third of the hosts thereof were cast out into the earth because Lucifer sought to destroy the free agency of man and one-third of the spirits sided with him. He sought the throne of God, and put forth his plan in boldness in that great council, declaring he would save all, that not one soul should be lost, provided God would give him the glory and the honor. When his plan was rejected for a better one (Christ’s), he rebelled...There were no neutrals in the war in heaven. All took sides either with Christ or with Satan...Every man had his agency there, and men receive rewards here based upon their actions there, just as they will receive rewards hereafter for deeds done in the body. The Negro, evidently, is receiving the reward he merits.” (Joseph F. Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:64-66)

“We naturally conclude that others among the two-thirds did not show the loyalty to their Redeemer that they should. That the Negro race, for instance, has been placed under restrictions because of their attitude in the world of spirits, few will doubt.” (Joseph F. Smith, *The Way to Perfection*, p.43)

- Mormons do not believe Adam sinned, he simply transgressed, and his transgression was not passed upon the human race

“I never speak of the part Eve took in this fall as a sin, nor do I accuse Adam of a sin. It is true, the Lord warned Adam and Eve that to partake of the fruit they would transgress a law, and this happened. But it is not always a sin to transgress a law...that is, his transgression was in accordance with law.” (Joseph F. Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:114)

“We believe than men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam’s transgression.” (*The Articles of Faith*, 2)

- Mormons believe that man's destiny is become a god with goddess wives over his own earth

“When you have learned to become obedient to the Father that dwells upon this earth, to the Father and God of this earth, and obedient to the messengers He sends- when you have done all that, remember you are not going to leave this earth. You will never leave it until you become qualified, and capable, and capacitated to become a father of an earth yourselves.” (Heber C. Kimball, *Journal of Discourses*, 1:356)

“The Father has promised us that through our faithfulness we shall be blessed with the fullness of his kingdom. In other words we will have the privilege of becoming like him. To become like him we must have all the powers of godhood; thus a man and his wife when glorified will have spirit children who eventually will go on an earth like this one we are on and pass through the same kind of experiences, being subject to mortal conditions, and if faithful, then they also will receive the fullness of exaltation and partake of the same blessings. There is no end to this development; it will go on forever.” (Joseph F. Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 2:48)

6) Salvation

- Mormons believe that Christ atoned only for Adam's transgression and that each man is still responsible to pay his own sin debt

“Jesus Christ redeemed all from the fall; he paid the price; he offered himself as a ransom; he atoned for Adam's sin (which contradicts what is stated under E-3-a), leaving us responsible only for our own sins.” (Apostle LeGrand Richards, *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, p.98)

“There is not a man or woman, who violates the covenants made with their God, that will not be required to pay the debt. The blood of Christ will never wipe them out, your own blood must atone for it.” (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol.3, p.247)

- Mormons believe that works (e.g.- baptism) are necessary for salvation and that faith in Christ is not sufficient

“We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel. We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (*The Articles of Faith*, 3-4)

“...For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.” (2 Nephi 25:23)

“What is meant by ‘after all we can do’? ‘After all we can do’ includes extending our best effort. It includes living his commandments. ‘After all we can do’ includes loving our fellow men and praying for those who regard us as their adversary. It means clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, and giving “succor [to] those who stand in need of our succor” ([Mosiah 4:16](#))—remembering that what we do unto one of the least of God’s children, we do unto him. ‘After all we can do’ means leading chaste, clean, pure lives, being scrupulously honest in all our dealings and treating others the way we would want to be treated.” (Ezra Taft Benson)

“Among the covenants are these, that they will cease from sin and from all unrighteousness; that they will work righteousness in their lives; that they will abstain from the use of intoxicants, from the use of strong drinks of every description, from the use of tobacco, from every vile thing, and from extremes in every phase of life; that they will not take the name of God in vain; that they will not bear false witness against their neighbor; that they will seek to love their neighbors as themselves; to carry out the golden rule of the Lord, do unto others as they would that others should do unto them. These principles are involved in the covenants that the people have made in the Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-day Saints...Those who have entered into the covenant of the gospel will keep the commandments of the Lord, will obey the dictates of the Spirit of the Lord unto them, will work righteousness in the earth, and will go right on in the path that Almighty God has marked out for them to pursue, fulfilling and accomplishing his will and his purposes concerning them in the latter day.” (Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, p.107)

“That by keeping the commandments they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins....” (D&C 76:52)

“Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind, and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God.” (Moroni 10:32)

“Behold I say unto you that this thing shall ye teach- repentance and baptism unto those who are accountable and capable of committing sin; yea, teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their little children. And their little children need no repentance, neither baptism. Behold, baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling the commandments unto remission of sins.” (Moroni 8:10-11)

“Some of our old traditions teach us that a man guilty of atrocious and murderous acts may savingly repent on the scaffold; and upon his execution will hear the expression ‘Bless God! He has gone to Heaven to be crowned in glory, through the all-redeeming merits of Christ the Lord!’ This is all nonsense. Such a character will never see Heaven.” (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol.8, p.61)

- Mormons believe that people can be saved after death through proxy baptisms into the Mormon Church

Note: This false doctrine is based on mis-interpretations of 1 Corinthians 15:29 (“**baptized for the dead**”) and 1 Peter 4:6 (“**the gospel preached also to them that are dead**”) and explains why Mormons are pre-occupied with genealogies.

“We have a work to do just as important in its sphere as the Savior’s work was in its sphere. Our fathers cannot be made perfect without us; we cannot be made perfect without them. They have done their work and now sleep. We are now called upon to do ours; which is to be the greatest work man ever performed on the earth. Millions of our fellow creatures who have lived upon the earth and died without a knowledge of the Gospel must be officiated for in order that they may inherit eternal life.” (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 18:213)

- Mormons believe in universal salvation, that even those in hell will come out at the last resurrection

“The extent of the Atonement is universal, applying alike to all descendants of Adam. Even the unbeliever, the heathen and the child who dies before reaching the years of discretion all are redeemed by the Saviour’s self-sacrifice from the individual consequences of the fall.” (Apostle James Talmage, *The Articles of Faith*, p.85)

“These are they who received not the gospel of Christ...These are they who are thrust down to hell. These are they who shall not be redeemed from the devil until the last resurrection, until the Lord, even Christ the Lamb, shall have finished his work.” (D&C 76:82,84-85)

“These are they who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loves and makes a lie. These are they who suffer the wrath of God on earth. These are they who suffer the vengeance of eternal fire. These are they who are cast down to hell and suffer the wrath of Almighty God, until the fulness of times, when Christ shall have subdued all enemies under his feet, and shall have perfected his work;” (D&C 76:103-106)

- Mormons believe all men will dwell in one of three different kingdoms (D&C 76:89-99)-“...of the saved not all will be exalted to the higher glories...In the kingdom of God there are numerous levels of graduations provided for those who are worthy of them.” (Apostle James Talmage, *The Articles of Faith*, p.91)

- The Telestial Kingdom (D&C 76:81-88,100-113)

1. The lowest of the three kingdoms
2. The inhabitants are as innumerable as the stars of heaven
3. The glory of the inhabitants is likened to the glory of the stars
4. Reserved for those who did not receive the gospel of Christ in this life and did not get the opportunity after death through proxy baptism, those who were thrust down to hell, those who performed wicked works in this life including liars, sorcerers, adulterers, whoremongers, and whosoever loves and makes a lie
5. All these were brought up out of hell at the last resurrection and bowed the knee to God and confessed with their tongue that Jesus Christ is Lord
6. They shall be servants of God but they cannot come where God and Christ dwell forever
7. “Most of the adult people who have lived from the day of Adam to the present time will go the telestial kingdom...for all such have lived a telestial law. ‘And they shall be servants of the Most High; but where God and Christ dwell they cannot come, worlds without end’.” (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p.778)

- The Terrestrial Kingdom (D&C 76:71-80)

1. The middle of the three kingdoms

2. The glory of the inhabitants is likened to the glory of the moon
3. Reserved for those who died without law, those who did not receive the gospel of Christ in this life but did so after death through proxy baptism, those who lived honorably on the earth but may have been deceived by men
4. They shall receive of God's glory but not of his fullness; they shall receive of the presence of the Son but not the fullness of the Father
5. "To the terrestrial kingdom will go: 1. Accountable persons who die without law; 2. Those who reject the gospel in this life and who reverse their course and accept it in the spirit world; 3. Honorable men of the earth who are blinded by the craftiness of men and who therefore do not accept and live the gospel law; and 4. Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who have testimonies of Christ and the divinity of the great latter-day work and who are not valiant, but who are instead lukewarm in their devotion to the Church and to righteousness." (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p.784)

○ The Celestial Kingdom (D&C 76:50-70)

1. The highest of the three kingdoms
2. The glory of the inhabitants is likened to the glory of the sun
3. Reserved for those who received the testimony of Jesus Christ and believed on his name, were baptized, kept the commandments, and received the Holy Spirit by laying on of hands; those who have part in the first resurrection; just men made perfect through Jesus the mediator of the new covenant; those who have entered into the covenant of celestial marriage

4. They are the church of the Firstborn and are gods, kings, and priests after the order of Melchizedek
5. They shall receive the fullness of both the Son and the Father, will come to Mount Zion and the city of God, and shall dwell in the presence of God and Christ forever
6. “An inheritance in this glorious kingdom is gained by complete obedience to gospel or celestial law (D&C 88:16-32). By entering the gate of repentance and baptism candidates find themselves on the strait and narrow path leading to the celestial kingdom. By devotion and faithfulness, by enduring to the end in righteousness and obedience, it is then possible to merit a celestial reward (2 Nephi 31:17-21)...In the same sense that baptism starts a person out toward an entrance into the celestial world, so celestial marriage puts a couple on the path leading to an exaltation in the highest heaven of that world (D&C 131:1-4; 132).” (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 116)
7. There are three degrees to the celestial kingdom and the highest degree cannot be obtained except through celestial marriage (D&C 131:1-4)

- Mormons believe in celestial (eternal) marriage (in contrast to the clear teaching of Matthew 22:29-30) and that it leads to godhood and the right to procreate gods

“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 it 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; and it shall be said unto them- Ye shall come forth in the first resurrection...- then shall it be written in the Lamb’s Book of Life...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.” (D&C 132:19-20)

7) The Church

- Mormons believe that all Christian denominations have apostasized from the truth of the gospel and that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the true Church restored

“My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to 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.’ He again forbade me to join with any of them...” (Joseph Smith, *History*, 1:18-20)

“And after having received the record of the Nephites, yea, even my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., might have power to translate through the mercy of God, by the power of God, the Book of Mormon. And also those to whom these commandments were given, might have power to lay the foundation of this church, and to bring it forth out of obscurity and out of darkness, the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth, with which I, the Lord, am well pleased...” (D&C 1:29-30)

“Since the departure from the true gospel of Christ was to be universal, as the prophets foretold, and since such universal apostasy was confirmed in the statement of Jesus to Joseph Smith, it would follow that a restoration would be necessary.” (LeGrand Richards, *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, p.32)

- Mormons believe that salvation is only possible through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

“If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation outside the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.” (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p.670)

“No salvation without accepting Joseph Smith...If Joseph Smith was verily a prophet, and if he told the truth...then this knowledge is of the most vital importance to the entire world. No man can reject that testimony without incurring the most dreadful consequences, for he can not enter the Kingdom of God.” (Joseph F. Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, p.189-190)