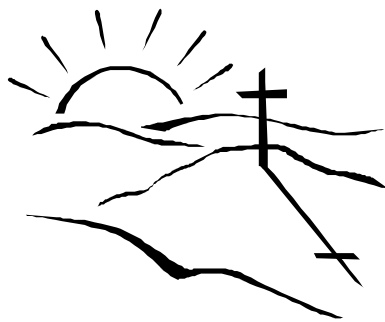


# Witnessing To Mormons With Love



By Angie Dean

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# Origins of Mormonism



Joseph Smith receiving his vision

## History of Mormonism

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has an interesting, and somewhat bizarre history. This is the foundation of the Mormon religion.

Mormon is one of the last of a line of ancient prophets that are spoken of in the book of Mormon. Hence the name of the religion (Mormonism).

### Joseph Smith claimed he was a prophet

At age 14 Joseph claimed that he was visited by Jesus and God the father (this point is disputed since there are several conflicting versions of the story, one version just says it was Jesus, others say an angel.)

They told him that all of the religions of the world were false and that he should believe none of them.

About three and a half years later on September 21, 1823, Joseph claimed he was in his room praying and asking God for forgiveness of all his sins and follies when a bright

light again appeared. It was the angel Moroni who told him that God had a work for him to do. The angel also told Joseph about a book written on gold plates by the former inhabitants of the American continent which contained "the fullness of the everlasting gospel." With the plates were "two stones in silver bows - and these stones, fastened to a breastplate, constituted what is called the Urim and Thummim." The angel said God prepared these for the purpose of translating the book. Moroni quoted several Bible verses and vanished, only to re-appear two more times that night giving the same message each time. (1)

For four consecutive years on the anniversary of his first visit, Moroni met Joseph at the Hill Cumorah where the gold plates were buried. Then on September 22, 1827, Joseph got the plates and began translating The Book of Mormon by the gift and power of God, using the Urim and Thummin.

He deciphered these plates and the book of Mormon was born.

On April 6, 1830 Joseph Smith and five other men organized the LDS Church (2)

He gained a following based on the view that the prophet is a living oracle and that whatever he says "goes" whether it is contrary to the bible, the book of Mormon, or anything else. Blind faith in Joseph Smith will gain you entrance into the kingdom of heaven.

Joseph attained some followers and he told them that after the death of Jesus' disciples, there had been an apostasy (a falling away) and that the true gospel had been distorted and lost, and that he was chosen to bring the "fullness of the gospel back into the world.

Under Smith's leadership the Church began in New York, In 1831 Joseph and his followers fled to Kirtland Ohio running from persecution, then to Independence, Missouri, and finally to Nauvoo, which by 1844 was the second largest city in Illinois.

Joseph was Mayor of Nauvoo and a candidate for President of the United States when some apostate Mormons stirred up sentiment against him through publishing the *Nauvoo Expositor* newspaper. Nauvoo authorities declared the press a nuisance and had it destroyed. For that, the state had Joseph arrested, but he was freed by the Nauvoo Municipal Court. Later, he was again arrested and charged with treason. He was jailed in Carthage, Illinois, where on June 27, 1844, an angry mob stormed the jail and shot and killed Joseph and his brother Hyrum. He died in June of 1844 at the age of 39. (3)

Brigham Young, who was President of the Twelve Apostles, was chosen as Joseph's successor and led the Mormons west to Salt Lake City, Utah. The Church headquarters has been there since 1847.

Who are the Mormons?

“The people I have grown to know in the time I have been associated with the LDS church are, almost to a man, the most clean living, honest, God fearing, and giving people I have ever met. They live lives of real dedication and Christ-like service.”

Mormons are kind and sincere, they are simply wrong.

The official name of the Mormon Church today is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It was originally named the Church of Christ, and then in 1834 the name was changed to the Church of the Latter Day Saints. In 1838 it received its current name. (4)

Joseph Smith proclaimed that God Himself had designated the LDS Church as "the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth" (5)

The LDS Church claims to have the only true priesthood that is required to act in the name of God. A Prophet/President and his two counselors govern the church. Under them are twelve apostles (Quorum) and a group of men called the Seventies. These are the highest offices in their church.

They have four books of scriptures: the *Bible*, the *Book of Mormon*, the *Doctrine and Covenants* and the *Pearl of Great Price*.

### **How many Mormons are there?**

The *Deseret News 1999-2000 Church Almanac* lists the current membership of the LDS Church at approximately 10,400,000 (p. 110). Approximately half of this number lives outside of the United States.

### **Why are Mormon missionaries coming to my door?**

The LDS Church claims to be the "only true church" and the only church with the authority to act in God's name. They do not accept any other church's baptisms. According to their teachings, their baptism is the only one recognized by the Lord. This belief, coupled with their belief in the need for a Mormon temple marriage to gain eternal life, compels them to take their message to the world.

### **Is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints just another Protestant religion?**

No, the Mormon Church does not claim to be Protestant. It claims to be a divine restoration of Christ's true church. It therefore rejects the validity of any other church. Its

basic beliefs place it outside the standard doctrines of Christianity. Mormonism teaches that the God to whom they pray is but one of a whole series of gods who at one time were mortal then progressed to godhood. The LDS Church teaches that their Heavenly Father was once born as a spirit child of a god and wife who ruled a different world. After maturing as a spirit being he was sent to another world where he was born as a human. There he grew to maturity, married, died, was resurrected, went to heaven, progressed and eventually became the God of our world. He and his resurrected wife continue to have spirit children born to them in their heavenly realm. The Mormon man, accompanied by his wife, who is faithful to his religion, pays his tithe, attends the LDS temple rituals, etc. is hoping to eventually progress to become a god of another world, just like his Heavenly Father did.

### **What is the *Book of Mormon*?**

The *Book of Mormon* contains the purported stories of three different groups who sailed to the Americas. The **Jaredites** (Book of Ether) came to the New World at the time of the tower of Babel. The **Mulekites** came to America from Jerusalem in 586 BC. The major group was the family of Lehi. Two of his sons, Nephi and Laman, became the leaders of the **Nephites** and **Lamanites**.

The last battle between the two groups, in 421 AD, wiped out almost all of the Nephites. Moroni, the last surviving Nephite, buried the records of his civilization in the Hill Cumorah. Hundreds of years later, Joseph Smith was directed to the spot by Moroni (some records say Nephi), now a resurrected being who had become an angel. Smith then "translated" the record and published it in 1830 under the title "The Book of Mormon."

### **What is the *Doctrine and Covenants*?**

The *Doctrine and Covenants* contains 138 sections and two Official Declarations. The first 135 sections contain Joseph Smith's revelations from 1823 to 1844, section 136 is a revelation by President Brigham Young in 1847, section 138 is one by President Joseph F. Smith in 1918. Declaration No. 1 is dated 1890 and is referred to as "The Manifesto" which declared an end to the practice of polygamy. Declaration No. 2 is dated 1978 and declared that "all worthy male members" could now hold the priesthood and participate in the temple ceremonies. This ended the LDS Church priesthood ban on Negroes.

### **What is the *Pearl of Great Price*?**

The *Pearl of Great Price* contains the following:

1. THE BOOK OF MOSES – "An extract from the translation of the Bible as revealed to Joseph Smith the Prophet, June 1830—February 1831."
2. THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM – "A Translation of some ancient Records, that have fallen into our hands from the catacombs of Egypt."

3. JOSEPH SMITH – MATTHEW. "An extract from the translation of the Bible as revealed to Joseph Smith the Prophet in 1831: Matthew 23:39 and chapter 24."
4. JOSEPH SMITH – HISTORY. "EXTRACTS FROM THE HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH, THE PROPHET. History of the Church, Vol.1, Chapters 1-5."
5. THE ARTICLES OF FAITH. A list of 13 specific beliefs of the LDS Church written in 1842.

### **What is the *Journal of Discourses*?**

The *Journal of Discourses* is a 26 volume compilation of LDS presidents and apostles sermons, covering about 35 years. There were several men who were officially assigned by the LDS Church to record the talks.

### **Where are the Egyptian papyri that Joseph Smith used when he translated the Book of Abraham?**

Joseph Smith bought a collection of Egyptian mummies and papyrus scrolls in 1835. One of these scrolls became the basis for Smith's Book of Abraham. After his death his wife retained ownership of the artifacts. Since she did not come to Utah with the LDS pioneers the papyri stayed in the Midwest. They eventually were acquired by a museum. The LDS Church acquired the Joseph Smith collection of papyri from the Metropolitan Museum in New York City in 1967. They are now housed at the LDS archives in Salt Lake City, Utah.

### **Why do Mormons only use the King James Version of the Bible?**

The eighth LDS Article of Faith states: "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly." The Mormons believe the Bible has gone through repeated editing that has changed the meaning of the text. Thus they are skeptical of any translation of the Bible. However, they view the King James Version as the least corrupt of the versions available today. They print their own Bible (King James Version) and also the Joseph Smith version which contains additional scriptures that were supposedly revealed to Joseph to add to the Bible. It also contains LDS footnotes, dictionary and topical guide. These cross reference to their other books of scripture and provide LDS explanations.

### **Why don't Mormon churches have crosses on them?**

Latter-day Saints object to the use of a cross on their buildings and the wearing of the cross. They view the symbolism of the cross as having a pagan origin and that it symbolizes Christ's torture and death, not his resurrection. LDS Apostle Bruce R. McConkie stated: "The sectarian world falsely suppose that the climax of his (Christ's) torture and suffering was on the cross ...-- a view which they keep ever before them by the constant use of the cross as a religious symbol. The fact is that intense and severe as

the suffering was on the cross, yet the great pains were endured in the Garden of Gethsemane. (6)

### **I'm a strong Christian in my own faith. Why should I care about what the Mormons are doing?**

Sooner or later, someone you know is going to join the LDS Church. The LDS missionaries convert over 300,000 people into their church every year. Many of these people were already members of some Christian church before joining Mormonism. You need to be informed on the issues in order to reach out to those who are being deceived.

### **I have heard that there is a lot of archeological evidence supporting the Book of Mormon. Is that true?**

It has been almost 170 years since Joseph Smith first published the *Book of Mormon*. To date, there is **not one** artifact that can be identified as being made by the people of the *Book of Mormon*. Also, there is no official map designating the location of any *Book of Mormon* city. Joseph Smith preserved an example of the supposed writing on the plates. No other sample of such writing has ever been found in the Americas. The Mormons point to the great Mayan ruins to establish that there was at one time a great civilization in southern Mexico and Guatemala. However, the Maya had their own pagan religion and history that has no connection to the supposed *Book of Mormon* people.

### **If the basis of Mormonism is false, why does it keep growing?**

Growth is not necessarily an indication that the claims are true. We have only to look at the rise of the Roman Empire with its pantheon of gods to see another ideology that had even more phenomenal success. Mormonism appeals to many people because of its good family values and moral code. Most converts know very little about its actual theology and history.

### **Does Mormonism teach that God was once a man on another world and progressed to become God of this world?**

Yes, Joseph Smith declared: "God Himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man".(7). Another one of their leaders coined the phrase: "As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become" (8) Brigham Young preached: "It appears ridiculous to the world, under their darkened and erroneous traditions, that God has once been a finite being" (9)

### **Does Mormonism teach that good Mormons can become Gods of their own worlds?**

Yes, one of their leaders wrote: "...since mortal beings are the spirit children of Heavenly Parents, as pointed out in the last chapter, the ultimate possibility is for some of them to



become exalted to Godhood." (10) Brigham Young declared: "Intelligent beings are organized to become Gods, even the Sons of God, to dwell in the presence of the Gods" (11)

### **Does the LDS Church still believe in polygamy?**

Yes, the doctrine of polygamy is still in their scriptures, *Doctrine and Covenants*, section 132. Mormons are instructed not to practice polygamy during this life but the practice will be permitted in heaven. Today if a Mormon man outlives his first wife (after having a temple marriage) he can marry again in the temple. This would guarantee him two wives in heaven.

### **Is the *Book of Mormon* a translation of ancient writings? Where are the gold plates?**

The *Book of Mormon* claims to be the record of three groups of people who emigrated from the Old World to the New World long before Columbus. One group of Hebrews supposedly arrived about 600 BC. The scribe for this group wrote: "I make a record in the language of my father, which consists of the learning of the Jews and the language of the Egyptians" (*Book of Mormon*, Nephi 1:2). These records were supposedly maintained on gold plates, later buried in the Hill Cumorah (in upstate New York). An angel directed Joseph Smith to their location where he was permitted to unearth them. After Smith finished his translation the plates were returned to the angel.

However, there is no evidence that the *Book of Mormon* people ever existed. Smith claimed to copy off from the plates a sample of the Nephite writing system. It looks more like a collection of various scripts thrown together upside down, backwards, sideward, etc. with no apparent pattern. There is no evidence that such a script was ever used. In Mexico and Guatemala there are multiple examples of Mayan writings on various buildings and monuments but there are no examples of the type of writing Smith claimed to find.

### **We have been asked to read the *Book of Mormon* and pray about it. Is this a good thing to do?**

Since the *Book of Mormon* claims to be an historical document it should be examined on that basis to determine its authenticity. Prayer can be used as a part of the process but it is not a sufficient guide. Our own desires and emotions could mislead us (James 4:3). If prayer alone were sufficient to determine truth there would not be thousands of different religions.

## **Does the *Book of Mormon* teach the doctrines of Mormonism?**

No. Many people assume that if they read the *Book of Mormon* they will get a good idea of LDS beliefs. However, the *Book of Mormon* teaches one God, not plural gods as in Mormonism. It mentions heaven and hell, not three degrees of glory, no temple marriage or secret temple ceremonies. It does not teach baptism for the dead, pre-existence of man, eternal progression or polygamy. One of the most objectionable doctrines in the *Book of Mormon* is its view of skin color. White skin is seen as desirable, dark skin is seen as a mark of God's displeasure. Smith wrote the *Book of Mormon* in the late 1820's. Over the next fifteen years his doctrines underwent radical changes which are seen in his revelations in the *Doctrine and Covenants* and the *Pearl of Great Price*.

## **What types of ceremonies are performed in a Mormon temple?**

One of the most important tenets of the LDS Church is the necessity of temple ordinances. A Mormon couple who has been married in the temple will be able to continue in the marriage relationship in heaven. The LDS Church teaches that proper priesthood authority is necessary to administer these essential rites. Joseph Smith supposedly restored the original temple ceremony of the Old Testament.

Many people are familiar with the LDS concept of baptism for the dead. But few realize that this is a minor part of the temple experience. Young people usually perform proxy baptisms. Adult Mormons, however, attend the temple to participate in the Endowment Ceremony and to perform marriages for both the living and the dead.

## **What is the Mormon Temple Endowment ceremony?**

Before a person serves a full-time mission for the LDS Church or before his/her temple marriage he/she will be required to participate in the Endowment Ceremony (where they will be "endowed" with special knowledge). When an adult Mormon attends the temple he/she only goes through the ceremony once for him/herself. After that, the person will attend the temple on behalf of a dead person of the same sex. The live Mormon stands in the place of a particular dead person and goes through the entire endowment ceremony in that person's name.

The ceremony starts with a washing and anointing ritual, performed by members of the same sex. At this point they will be given their new name for eternity (i.e. Paul, Timothy, etc. for men, Rachael, Deborah, etc. for women). The person then dresses in temple attire (white clothing, green apron) and joins a group of several dozen people in the auditorium. They then watch a film depicting the creation of our world, the fall and expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. Then Peter, James and John appear to instruct them in certain handshakes and pass words necessary to gain admittance to the Celestial Kingdom. After this ceremony the couple will be given a temple marriage ceremony in

an adjoining room. One must participate in these rituals in order to gain the highest level of heaven.

### **How wealthy is the LDS Church?**

Unlike most churches, the LDS Church does not give out a financial statement, even to its own members. However, reporters have collected as much information as possible on the church's assets. *Time Magazine* gave the following details on Mormon finances:

"The church's material triumphs rival even its evangelical advances. With unusual cooperation from the Latter-day Saints hierarchy (which provided some financial figures and a rare look at church businesses), TIME has been able to quantify the church's extraordinary financial vibrancy. Its current assets total a minimum of \$30 billion. If it were a corporation, its estimated \$5.9 billion in annual gross income would place it midway through the FORTUNE 500, a little below Union Carbide and the Paine Webber Group but bigger than Nike and the Gap."<sup>(12)</sup>

### **Do the LDS leaders receive a salary?**

The LDS Church boasts of not having a paid clergy. Many of them believe that when a man receives a salary from a particular group it compromises his integrity. LDS Apostle Boyd K. Packer explained, "In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints there is no paid ministry, no professional clergy, as is common in other churches."

Even though their leaders on the local level receive no pay for their services, this is not true of their top leadership. Many of the Mormons are not aware that their Prophet, Apostles and Seventies receive a salary. In the *Encyclopedia of Mormonism* we read:

"Because the Church has no professional clergy, it is administered at every level through LAY PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP, and officials other than the General Authorities contribute their time and talents without remuneration. ... Because the General Authorities are obliged to leave their regular employment for full-time Church service, they receive a modest living allowance provided from income on Church investments." (p.510)

Since the amount paid to the leaders is never divulged one is left to wonder what constitutes a "modest living allowance."

### **Where can I see the original sources you reference?**

Most of the sources we reference can be seen in various libraries in Utah:

- University of Utah, Marriott Library, Special Collections (Salt Lake City, UT)
- Utah State Historical Society Library (Salt Lake City, UT)

- Church of Jesus Christ of LDS, Historical Dept. (Salt Lake City, UT)
- Brigham Young University Library, Special Collections (Provo, UT)
- Utah State University Library, Special Collections (Logan, UT)

- (1) (*Ibid.*, vs. 29-46).
- (2) (*D.H.C.*, Vol. I, pp. 40-41, 75-80).
- (3) (*Ibid.*, Vol. VI, pp. 268-270, 432-434, 453-574, 612-622).
- (4) (Doctrine and Covenants, Sec.115:4).
- (5) (Doc. & Cov. Sec. 1:30).
- (6) (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p.555)
- (7) (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp.345-346)
- (8) (*The Gospel Through the Ages*, Hunter, p.105-106).
- (9) (*Deseret News*, Nov. 16, 1859, p. 290).
- (10) (*The Gospel Through the Ages*, Hunter, p.104)
- (11) (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, p.245).
- (12) (*Time*, August 4, 1997, p.52)

# Test your knowledge

What is the definition of ?...

## 1. Salvation

- a. An earned gift from God that assures us of an afterlife only if we pray.
- b. A free gift from God that assures us all resurrection regardless of our willingness to accept Christ or not.
- c. A free gift from God that assures resurrection to all who will accept Christ as their savior.
- d. A gift of God that assures us resurrection only if we are pure and free from sin.

## 2. Grace

- a. God's mercy upon all who will accept Jesus.
- b. God's mercy upon all.

- c. God's mercy upon those of faith regardless of lifestyle.
- d. God's mercy upon those who have lived a worthy life.

### 3. Born again

- a. Birth into the church after we are baptized.
- b. Spiritual rebirth after we accept Jesus as our Savior
- c. Spiritual rebirth after we are baptized by water.
- d. Spiritual rebirth after we are baptized by the Holy Spirit.

### 4. Forgiven

- a. Is granted at the end of a process of repentance and reformed behavior.
- b. Is granted when we decide we will not repeat the sin.
- c. Is granted when we take steps to turn from all evil.
- d. Is granted the moment that we turn to Christ.

## 5. Hell

- a. A place of fire and brimstone that has no way out for those who do not accept Jesus as their savior.
- b. A place depicted in parables to warn us away from our sin.
- c. A prison in which we can come and go until the resurrection.
- d. A place of torment that we will go if we do not attend church.

## 6. Heaven

- a. A place where we go if we are good people.
- b. The highest level to go to if we are the most worthy.
- c. A mythical place that God dwells in Judeo-Christian culture.
- d. A place where we will live forever if we accept Jesus as our savior.

## 7. Godhead

- a. A concept that Christians hold that says that everything around them is God. God is the earth, sun, sky etc.
- b. God the father, God the son, and God the Holy Spirit. All are separate Gods.
- c. An illustration used to help us to understand the idea of God.
- d. Three in one. God the father, God the son, and God the Holy Spirit. All are God and all are one.

## 8. Jesus

- a. The brother of every man begotten by God and his wife.
- b. The brother of every man who has been saved.
- c. The only begotten son of God. Savior and God.
- d. A good man who lived ages ago that taught us how to live a better life.



## 9. The fall of man

- a. A parable in the Bible that explains why we sin.
- b. When Adam and Eve ate of the fruit in the garden. By disobeying God sin entered into the world.
- c. When Eve ate of the fruit in the garden and sin entered the world. Only the Children of Eve are sinful. Adam was not.
- d. A planned event by God. Adam was meant to sin and it was a blessing. It allowed us the opportunity to procreate.

## 10. Virgin Birth

- a. Being overshadowed by the Holy Ghost, Mary carried and gave birth to the son of God.
- b. A physical union between Mary and Joseph that begat the son of God.
- c. A physical union between Mary and Father God that begat Jesus.
- d. A complete false story that exalted the man Jesus and fooled us all.

# Test your knowledge answer sheet

What is the definition of ?...

I'm willing to bet that you all would make bad  
Mormons

(Mormon definitions)

1.Salvation- (B) A free gift from God that assures us all resurrection regardless of our willingness to accept Christ or not.

2.Grace-(B) God's mercy upon all.

3.Born again-(A) Birth into the church after we are baptized.

4. Forgiveness- (A) Is granted at the end of a process of repentance and reformed behavior.

5.Hell- (C) A prison in which we can come and go until the resurrection.

6.Heaven-(B)The highest level to go to if we are the most worthy.

7.Godhead-(B)God the father, God the son, and God the holy spirit. All are separate Gods.

8. Jesus-(A)The brother of every man begotten by God and his wife.

9.The fall of man-(D) A planned event by God. Adam was meant to sin and it was a blessing. It allowed us the opportunity to procreate.

10. Virgin Birth-(C) A physical union between Mary and Father God that begat Jesus.

# Christianity - Mormonism

## Mormonism - The Bible

What the Bible says

God is our creator

There will be no marriage in heaven

The Bible is the word of God  
And there is no other.

God lives in heaven

If you die and have not confessed  
Jesus as your savior you will not  
Enter the kingdom of heaven.

The bible is the true word of God.

Those who love God and obey his  
Commands are the body, the church,

What the Mormons believe

We are conceived in heaven  
From a woman and sent to  
Earth to procreate and release  
all of Gods spirit sons and  
Daughters Out of heaven.

If you are married and sealed  
To each other on earth you  
Will remain married in  
Heaven.

The Bible, Book of Mormon,  
The Pearl of great Price, and  
the Doctrine and Covenants  
are all the words of God.

God lives in space, on a star  
near the planet Kolob.

After death a non-Mormon  
can be baptized into heaven.  
Mormons baptize by proxy  
For dead souls.

The bible has not been  
Translated correctly. The  
Book of Mormon is accurate  
And the bible has flaws in it.

Every church on the earth is  
wrong and an abomination in

And the bride of Christ.

God's eyes. All except the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day saints.

The priesthood was broken and no longer necessary to bridge the gap from man to God

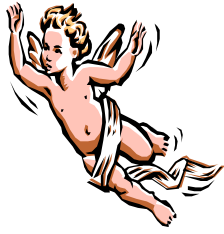
There are two orders of priesthood Melchizedek and the Aaronic priesthood. That were restored and given back to Joseph Smith.

3 in one (the trinity)

There are 3 different Gods God the father, God the son, God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was born of a Virgin.

God had sexual relations with Mary.



pre-mortal spirit baby



pass through the veil



come to the earth



purpose of life:  
to gain a body  
to prove ourselves



resurrection

or



spirit prison



death



Judgment



testial

or



terrestrial

or



cestial.

# What is the test of a true prophet?

**It is important, if you are a Mormon, to believe that Joseph Smith was truly a prophet. It is the fundamental requirement of conversion. How are we to discern whether Joseph Smith was a prophet or not? Let's put him to the test shall we?**

**The true test of a prophet lies in these things:**

**Prophets must speak the words of the Lord,**

**A prophets words must not be contrary to Gods previous commands,**

**His prophecies must be true to the character of God.**

**And the most important one: He must be 100% accurate. All prophecies must come true or happen the way they say.**

**The Bible clearly tells us that:**

“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? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shall not be afraid of him.” Deuteronomy 18:20-22

Jesus makes this law clearer in the New Testament

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God: because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” 1 John 4:1

**God is the same today, yesterday, and tomorrow.**

The Bible and the Book of Mormon state this fact. Therefore the Prophecies that are contrary to the words of God are not of God. Joseph couldn't have spoken the words of the Lord since the Lord does not **EVER** lie.

**This is not the character of GOD!**

**God does not get it right only part of the time. God does not contradict himself.**

**A prophet speaks on the Lords behalf.**

God chooses humble and obedient men to deliver his messages. Those who will not twist his words to profit from them. Men who will not mislead Gods people. Men who have a heart for Gods people. Men like Abraham who pleaded with God not to destroy Sodom. Men who would represent the true Character of God.

**Joseph Smith's prophecies were not 100% accurate. There are many, many prophecies that did not happen or were just a plain lie.**

Let's examine a few (Oh yes, there are more than this):

**“The 12 apostles of the Lamb”**

***“I finally saw the 12 in the celestial kingdom of God. I also beheld the redemption of Zion and many things which the tongue of man cannot describe in full”.***

If Mormon doctrine is correct, eight of the apostles seen by Joseph Smith "in the celestial kingdom" should never be there, because they apostatized or were excommunicated.

**This prophecy is obviously false.** According to the Book of Mormon it is impossible for the excommunicated, man to enter into the kingdom of heaven. Oops, God was wrong.

At the time that this prophecy was made the 12 apostles of the church were:

Brigham Young – Went on to become the 2<sup>nd</sup> prophet of the Mormon Church

William Smith- Was excommunicated in 1845

Wilford Woodruff- Remained an apostle

Herbert C. Kimball-Remained an apostle

Orson Pratt- Left the church in 1842

George Smith-Remained an apostle

Orson Hyde- Excommunicated in 1838

John F. Boynton- Excommunicated in 1837

William E. M'Lellin- Excommunicated in 1838

Thomas B. Marsh- Excommunicated in 1838

Luke S. Johnson- Excommunicated in 1837

Lyman Johnson- Excommunicated in 1838

The following prophecies made by Joseph Smith have not been fulfilled in over 150 years.

**Aug 16, 1834. HC 2:145. *Joseph Smith says that the Spirit of the Lord tells him that the Saints should be ready to move into Jackson County, Missouri, on September 11, 1836, "which is the appointed time for the redemption of Zion."***

This prophecy is false. If Zion was redeemed in 1836, it was unredeemed in 1839, when the Mormons abandoned Missouri.

**Feb 14, 1835. HC 2:182. *Joseph Smith preached that the coming of the Lord would be in 56 years (i.e., about 1891). This prophecy also occurs in his diary for April 6, 1843 and HC 5:336. See also D&C 130:14-17. Joseph Smith prophesies that "there of those of the rising generation who shall not taste death till Christ comes." He prophesies "in***



***the name of the Lord God - let it be written: that the Son of Man will not come in the heavens till I am 85 years old, 48 years hence or about 1890.*** (The official historians have deleted the last phrase, beginning with "48 years" from the church history, but it is contained in the original diary.)

This prophecy is false. The second coming did not occur in 1891, and the Church does not claim that it did. Nor has it occurred since. Joseph Smith did not live to be 85 years old. God must have known that he would not. Why would God make a revelation conditional upon an event which he knew would never happen?

***NATIONS SHALL TREMBLE: Nov 3, 1831. D&C 133:42 "...all nations shall tremble at thy presence."***

This prophecy is false. No one can claim that all nations tremble at the presence of the Mormons. I'm not trembling, how bout you?

***NEW YORK WILL BE DESTROYED: Sept 22-23, 1832. D&C 84:114-115. New York, Albany and Boston will be destroyed if they reject the gospel. The "hour of their judgment is nigh..."***

This prophecy is false. Newell K. Whitney and Joseph Smith went to New York, Albany, and Boston and preached there. These cities did not accept the gospel. They have not been destroyed.

***MORMON DEBTS WILL BE PAID: April 23, 1834. D&C 104: 78-83. God's promise to deliver the Saints from their debts. "It is my will that you shall pay all your debts." The Lord will soften the hearts of their creditors.***

This prophecy is false. Joseph Smith and other prominent Mormons had to flee Kirtland to avoid their creditors, leaving debts of thousands of dollars unpaid. Smith ultimately filed bankruptcy.

***PROPHECY ABOUT GEORGE MILLER: Jan 19, 1841. D&C 124:20-21. Revelation and prophecy regarding George Miller. He "is without guile; he may be trusted...; I, the Lord, love him... Let no man despise my servant George, for he shall honor me."***

This prophecy is false. On December 3, 1848, George Miller was disfellowshipped by the Mormons. Apparently God was mistaken about Miller.

***US GOVERNMENT WILL BE DESTROYED: May 18, 1843. HC 5:394, also Mill Star 22:455. Joseph Smith prophesies "by virtue of the holy priesthood... and in the name of the Lord" that if Congress or the United States will not redress the wrongs which the Mormons suffered in Missouri, and grant them protection, "the government will be utterly overthrown and wasted," they shall be "broken up as a government" and there will be nothing left of them. (A similar prophecy was made Dec 16, 1843. See Quinn p 641, Chron JS 189)***

This prophecy is false. The United States rejected the Mormons' petitions; their wrongs were not redressed; they were not protected from their enemies. The United States government was never overthrown and is still in existence.

***MORMONS WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO COOK: Feb 6, 1844. Joseph Smith prophesies that within five years the Mormons would be able to live without cooking their food. (Joseph Smith manuscript diary, omitted from the HC. Cited in Quinn, p. 642).***

This prophecy is false. The Mormons are **still** cooking their food.

***DAVID SMITH WILL BE PRESIDENT AND KING: April 1844. Joseph Smith prophesies that his unborn child will be called David, and will be "president and king of Israel." (cited in Quinn p 644)***

FULFILLMENT: The child was called David. However, he was never "president and king of Israel or of anything else." He died in 1904, at the age of 60, having spent the last 27 years of his life **in an insane asylum**. He was a member of the Reorganized Church. His highest position in that church was counselor to the president, but he never actually served as such.

**JOSEPH SMITH WAS NOT A PROPHET OF  
GOD!**

## Footnotes

- 1 HISTORY OF THE CHURCH, Deseret Books, Salt Lake City, UT., 1978, 2:380-81.
- 2 See *ibid.*, 2:187 for a list of the Twelve Apostles chosen.
- 3 *ibid.*, 2:528.
- 4 *ibid.*, 3:20
- 5 *ibid.*, pp.31-32.
- 6 *ibid.*, pp.166-167.
- 7 *ibid.*, 7:483.
- 8 See the official Sesquicentennial Reprint of the 1830 Book of Mormon by Deseret Books, 1980, p.117.
- 9 Saints Alive Newsletter, April-May 1988, citing official LDS church statistics.
- 10 History indicates that, in fact, this was a reference to Orrin Porter Rockwell; a killer who was a faithful servant of Joseph Smith and later of Brigham Young and who was frequently sent out to kill and terrorize those who opposed the Mormon church.
- 11 HISTORY OF THE CHURCH, Deseret Books, Salt Lake City, UT., 1978, 2:466.
- 12 *ibid.*, 3:284.
- 13 *ibid.*, 3:170-171
- 14 *ibid.*, 3:171.
- 15 CHURCH CHRONOLOGY, p.36, December 3, 1848.
- 16 Doctrine & Covenants, Official Declaration 1 (p.291-92, 1981 edition)
- 17 David Whitmer, An Address to All Believers in Christ, (original edition, 1887), Pacific Publishing, Concord, CA.94522, pp.30-31.
- 18 Bruce R. McConkie, MORMON DOCTRINE, Bookcraft, Salt Lake City, 1979 edition, pp.529-530.
- 19 See Ed Decker & Dave Hunt, THE GOD MAKERS, Harvest House, Eugene, OR., 1984, pp.237-240.
- 20 HISTORY, 1:426ff, 3:245-254 for example.

- 21 Larry S. Jonas, *MORMON CLAIMS EXAMINED*, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, MI., 1961, p.52.
- 22 *The Evening and Morning Star*, vol.1, issue 8.
- 23 Letter from Dick & Patty Baer, dated October 10, 1981, p.9.
- 24 *HISTORY*, 1:315-16.
- 25 *ibid.*, 3:245-254.
- 26 *ibid.*, 1:455.
- 27 *ibid.*, 2:114.
- 28 *ibid.*, 3:xxxix (introduction)
- 29 *ibid.*, 2:144-145.
- 30 *Latter-day Saint Messenger and Advocate*, April 1837 issue, p.488.
- 31 *HISTORY*, 2:467-468; see also John Whitmer's *History*, chapter 20, pp.21-22; B.H. Roberts' *COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH*, BYU Press, Provo, UT., 1965; 1:401-2; *Messenger and Advocate*, 3:560.
- 32 *The Oliver Huntington Journal*, Book 14; also found in *The Young Woman's Journal*, published by the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations of Zion, 1892, 3:263-64.
- 33 *JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES*, 13:271.
- 34 cited in Nephi Lowell Morris's *PROPHECIES OF JOSEPH SMITH AND THEIR FULFILLMENT*, Deseret Books, 1926.
- 35 *CHRONOLOGY*, p.44.
- 36 *HISTORY*, 5:336
- 37 *ibid.*, p.394.
- 38 *Mormon Neighbor*, June 19, 1844.
- 39 T.B.H. Stenhouse, *THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SAINTS*, Shepard Books, Salt Lake City, UT. 1904 edition, p.42.
- 40 *HISTORY*, 4:461.
- 41 Norman L. Geisler & William E. Nix, *A GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE*, Moody Press, Chicago, 1968, p.366.

42 *ibid.*, p.367.

43 For a complete list and discussion of the condemnation of LDS doctrine by the Book of Mormon, see our tract, *Those Plain and Precious Things*.

44 HISTORY, 1:176.

45 *ibid.*, 2:182.

46 *ibid.*, 6:408-409.

47 *ibid.*, p.618.

48 Harold Schindler, *ORRIN PORTER ROCKWELL, MAN OF GOD, SON OF THUNDER*, University of Utah Press, SLC. Utah, 1966, pages 108-109

49 *Pearl of Great Price*, Joseph Smith 2:33

## THE FALSE PROPHECIES OF JOSEPH SMITH

Remember, in the light of the following list, that according to Deuteronomy 18:20-22, it only takes one false prophecy to make a prophet false, just as it only takes one murder to make a person a murderer. As you read the many false prophecies of Joseph Smith, keep this Biblical teaching in mind.

### 1) THE ABRIDGEMENT OF D&C 137 "D&C137".

Although there are actually dozens of false prophecies we could begin with, we thought it might be appropriate to begin with one which has come to new found prominence in recent years. In 1976, the 137<sup>th</sup> section of Doctrine & Covenants (D&C) was submitted to the general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for a vote to be "sustained" as scripture. It is a narrative of a vision supposedly seen by Joseph Smith in Kirtland, OH in 1836.

What the members who voted on this new addition to scripture were not told by "the Brethren," is that whole paragraphs (216 words) of the actual revelation as recorded in The History Of The Church had been conveniently left out of the version to be included in the D&C. The reason for these omissions was that four obviously false prophecies were contained in the part of the revelation which was censored out. These were prophecies so obviously false that even the average LDS reader would pick them up. Therefore they went down the "black hole" of Mormon history.

What exactly were in these missing parts? Well, if you go to the official history of the LDS church published by the church's own publishing company, you will be easily able to find the missing prophecies. Here is what is not in the new D&C 137:

[Joseph Smith:] "...I saw the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb, who are now upon the earth, who hold the keys of this last ministry, in foreign lands, standing together in a circle, much fatigued, with their clothes tattered and their feet swollen, with their eyes cast downward, and Jesus standing in their midst, and they did not behold him. The Savior looked upon them and wept.

I also beheld Elder M'Lellin" in the south, standing upon a hill, surrounded by a vast multitude, preaching to them, and a lame man standing before him supported by his crutches; he threw them down at his word and leaped as a hart, by the mighty power of God.

Also, I saw Elder Brigham Young standing in a strange land, in the far south and west, in a desert place, upon a rock in the midst of a bout a dozen men of color, who appeared hostile. He was preaching to them in their own tongue, and the angel of God standing above his head with a drawn sword in his hand, protecting him, but he did not see it.

And I finally saw the Twelve in the celestial kingdom of God. I also beheld the redemption of Zion and many things which the tongue of man cannot describe in full"

Now, if this were true, it was a truly inspiring and wonderful declaration! Unfortunately, for the LDS faithful, a short look at the official history of the church reveals the false prophecies contained therein.

First of all, Smith claimed to see his (original LDS) Twelve apostles all in the celestial kingdom. This is difficult to imagine, since there was already division between Smith and the majority of

the Apostles, beginning with discord in Kirtland, Ohio. The first portion of the "missing words" shows his less than subtle rebuke of their resistance to his will. "...fatigued....tattered...eyes cast downward....The Savior looked upon them and wept." Smith was calling them to get into line and submit themselves to his full authority. That's the carrot offered in the last portion, "I finally saw the Twelve in the Celestial Kingdom of God."

However, his "thus saith the Lord" must have had little effect on them, since at least seven of the twelve under discussion were soon excommunicated or apostasized from the church: John F. Boynton & Luke S. Johnson (1837), Lyman Johnson (1838), William E. M'Lellin (c.1838), Thomas B. Marsh & Orson Hyde (1838), and William Smith (1845)

How could they have ever attained the celestial kingdom under those conditions? They couldn't! They were not only accursed by their very acts of apostasy or excommunication, but fell victim to the LDS Church's own scriptural denunciation. D&C 84.40-41 clearly states:

"Therefore, all those who receive the priesthood, receive this oath and covenant of my father, which he cannot break, neither can it be moved. But whoso breaketh this covenant after he hath received it, and altogether turneth there-from, shall not have forgiveness of sins in this world nor in the world to come."

Although a few of these men later returned to the church, none of them were even close to the standards necessary for attainment of that highest degree of glory. The majority remained apart for life. Therefore, the prophetic utterance, "I finally saw the Twelve in the Celestial Kingdom of God." was obviously false. It would have been false even if only one Apostle remained outside the fold.

Second, the vision of M'Lellin preaching and working miracles in the south never came true because he apostasized from the church without ever doing it! (see above).

Third, Although Brigham Young did bring the Mormons west and was a great colonizer and orator, the vision of Brigham Young preaching to "men of color" in their own language, in some strange and faraway place in the southwest never took place either or at least there is no trace of it in the very detailed records and diaries concerning his reign as prophet.

Finally, "Zion (Independence, MO.) was never redeemed, has never been redeemed in the 150+ years since the prophecy was made. (see below, for more on Zion). Is it any wonder that the Brethren chose to remove whole chunks of this "inspired" revelation? Four false prophecies for the price of one!

## 2) THE BUILDING OF THE NEW TEMPLE.

In D&C 84 (esp. vs.2-5, 31, 114-115), Smith prophesied in 1832 that a temple would be built by the generation then living in Independence, MO. during THAT generation. Allowing the widest possible latitude of 100 years for a generation, that still leaves the prophecy unfulfilled over 50 years late!

There still is no temple in Independence; although one is being commenced by the RLDS Church, a splinter off of Mormonism which the LDS church contends is a false cult! Not only that, the temple lot which Joseph Smith dedicated as the "only true site" has been owned for generations by a third Mormon splinter sect; and the Utah Mormons couldn't build a temple there if they wanted to!

### 3) THE NAUVOO HOUSE.

In D&C 124.56-60, Smith prophesied that the Nauvoo House in Nauvoo, IL. would be in his family forever (1841). It did not remain in his family, and is not owned by them today. This makes for a very false prophecy.

### 4) OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES.

In the Pearl of Great Price (PGP), Joseph Smith-History (JSH) 1.40-41, (1823) Smith claimed that the angel Moroni told him that the prophecies in Isaiah 11 were "about to be fulfilled," and that those in Joel 2 were "soon to be" fulfilled. More than 165 years have passed and that interpretation of prophecy has not yet come to pass. Those prophecies certainly will be fulfilled, but Joseph Smith and his angel sure got their dates wrong!

### 5) CONVERSION OF THE INDIAN PEOPLES.

In D&C 3.3 (1828) it says, "Remember, that it is not the work of God that is frustrated, but the work of men." This verse is considered sacred scripture by Mormons; and that means that Mormons, logically, must apply it to their history and Joseph Smith's prophecies. If Smith's prophecies were frustrated, then those prophecies were the work of men, not of God!

D&C 3.16-20 says that the Lamanites (Indians) will be converted. For a century and a half, the LDS missionaries have been trying to convert their "Lamanite brothers and have not done so. The vast majority of Indians are not Mormons, and most of the few who become LDS turn inactive. This has obviously not been fulfilled, after many years and spending vast amounts of money on programs to convert Indians.

### 6) WHITE AND DELIGHTSOME INDIANS.

Speaking of the Lamanites, the Book of Mormon (BOM) contains a prophecy about them which can easily be put to the test. 2 Nephi 30.6 prophesies that the Indians who converted would turn "white and delightsome" a few generations after joining the church. This is what is written in the original, handwritten manuscript of 2 Nephi 30. It is in the original 1830 edition of the Book of Mormon.

However, in 1840, Joseph Smith, evidently thinking to correct the "most correct book ever written," ordered the phrase changed to "pure and delightsome." Then later, Brigham Young ordered it changed back to "white and delightsome." Then in 1981, it was again changed back to "pure and delightsome", even though the correction does not clean up the parts of the BOM where they are turned from white and delightsome to "dark and loathsome."

A honest reader would have to speculate that since over 160 years have passed (4 Biblical generations) since Indians began joining the church, that at least some of them would have to turned at least a little whiter. None of them have; and this is evidently why they changed the verse without so much as a word of explanation.

### 7) GATHERING TO ZION.

D&C 57.1-3 (1831) identifies Independence, MO as the center place of Zion, the gathering place of the saints in "the land of promise." This revelation failed because, according to D&C 3.3 cited



above, any work which is of God could not be frustrated. This "gathering" in Zion was really frustrated, because the Mormons tried to gather there and were physically driven out! To this day, there are few Mormons there; and actually many, many more RLDS members by far! If God was behind this revelation, then the Mormons could not have been driven out by men.

#### 8) CONFOUND YOUR ENEMIES.

In D&C 71.6-10, the following prophecy was given: "For unto him that receiveth it shall be given more abundantly, even power. Wherefore, confound your enemies; call upon them to meet you both in public and in private; and inasmuch as you are faithful, their shame shall be made manifest. Wherefore, let them bring their strong reasons against the Lord. Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you there is no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; and if any man life his voice against you, he shall be confounded in mine own due time."

Mormons have never fulfilled this prophecy, in fact they shun it and constantly disobey it. There are over a hundred organized ministries to Mormons in the orthodox Christian church, just like ours; and no Mormon prophet or apostle has ever been willing to meet with us, in public or in private to "confound" us. Indeed, very few Mormons of any sort will meet with us, unless they are already having doubts about the Church and want some straight answers.

We have been bringing our "strong reasons" against the false god of Mormonism now for decades and official Mormonism has slunk away and refused to answer us, even though we have continually called for dialog. To the best of our knowledge, no minister to the Mormons has ever had his "shame" made manifest. If anything, there are more of us out there slugging away against the Zion empire than ever before!

The "weapons" we have used against the LDS have been primarily the Bible, and also its own published material. It is evident that these weapons have indeed prospered against the Church. We are seeing literally thousands of Mormons leave the Church for Jesus, because of the impact of our Biblical witness. We have seen the convert rate per LDS missionary drop from a high of 7.9 converts in 1982 to 6.5 converts per year (1987 figures). It is evident that our weapons are prospering and that the Church is adamantly refusing to obey its own prophecy and "confound" us. Instead, it is doing its best to pretend to ignore us altogether is a different thing!

#### 9) THE EARTH SHALL SHAKE AND REEL AS A DRUNKEN MAN.

D&C 88.87 (1832) prophesies that "...not many days hence the earth shall tremble and reel as a drunken man; and the sun shall hide his face...and the moon shall be bathed in blood; and the stars shall become exceedingly angry, and shall cast themselves down as a fig that falleth from a fig tree."

Now over 58,000 days have past (as of 1991) since that prophecy was given. By any reasonable standard, "not many days" could not be construed to be more than 58,000 days; and yet none of these things have occurred. This prophecy has obviously failed.

#### 10) THE WORD OF WISDOM.

The Mormons are noted for their Word of Wisdom revelation which forbids them from drinking liquor, coffee or tea, or to smoke. This is in D&C 89. Many Mormons do not realize that there is also a prophecy in it in vs.18-21: "And all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings,

walking in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health in the navel and marrow to their bones; and shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures; and shall run and not be weary and shall walk and not faint, and I, the Lord, give unto them a promise, that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them. Amen."

The fact is that this promise isn't working although most Mormons diligently keep this Word of Wisdom, they do not find any treasures of knowledge. They certainly run and become weary; and they certainly become faint at times from walking. In fact, many of the highest leaders of the LDS church (who presumably are keeping this commandment) are sick and dying of degenerative diseases. The entire First Presidency just a few years ago was so ill with blindness, Parkinson's disease and cancer that a Third Counselor to the Prophet had to be called to take over.

The destroying angel certainly is not passing the Mormons by; as it did the children of Israel in the Passover. Mormons die just like everyone else. Although they try hard to keep the LDS god's commandment, he does not seem to be keeping his end of the bargain, or else Joseph Smith is a false prophet!

#### 11) ZION SHALL NOT BE MOVED.

D&C 101.17-20 (1833) prophecies: "Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered. They that remain, and are pure in heart, shall return, and come to their inheritances, they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy, to build up the waste places of Zion. And all these things that the prophets might be fulfilled. And behold, there is none other place appointed than that which I have appointed; neither shall there be any other place appointed than that which I have appointed for the work of the gathering of my saints."

First of all, the Mormons were driven out. Secondly, those who were driven out never returned with their children to come to their inheritances. Thirdly, a little over a decade after this, the "gathering" place of the saints was transplanted to Utah, even though the LDS god declared that "neither shall {future tense} there be any other place appointed." Three strikes, and Joseph Smith is out!

#### 12) THE UNITED ORDER.

In D&C 104.1 (1834) a prophecy is given concerning the LDS institution, the "United Order" (a theocratic, communistic method of distributing and controlling property and goods): "...I give unto you counsel and a commandment, concerning all the properties which belong to the order which I commanded to be organized and established, to be a united order, and an everlasting order for the benefit of my church, and for the salvation of men until I come..."

LDS history reveals that this "everlasting" order had to be disbanded soon after because it failed. It is obvious that today Mormons do not practice a communal approach to property. If anything, they are in favor of capitalism and against communism. This is one of the most blatantly false prophecies of Joseph Smith.

#### 13) DESTROYER SENT FORTH.

A prophecy was given in D&C 105.13-15: (1834) "Therefore it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season, for the redemption of Zion. For behold, I do not require at their hands to fight the battles of Zion; for...I will fight your battles. Behold, the destroyer I have sent forth to destroy and lay waste your enemies; and not many years hence they shall not be left to pollute

mine heritage, and to blaspheme my name upon the lands which I have consecrated for the gathering together of my saints."

Note that the LDS god says "I have {already accomplished} sent forth..." the destroyer. History shows that the enemies of the Mormons were not destroyed or laid waste. They still haven't been to this day! The "destroyer" must be slow! This is another prophecy that was frustrated (D&C 3.3) because the Mormons were still persecuted after this and were driven out of "Zion" about 5 years later!

#### 14) THE DREADFUL DAY OF LORD IS NEAR.

In D&C 110.16, (1836) we find this prophecy: "...the keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands; and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors." Over 150 years have passed, and that "dreadful day of the Lord" has not come. Another failed prophecy!

#### 15) THE TREASURE OF THE CITY IS YOURS.

D&C 111 has a very strange revelation about treasures in Salem, MA: "I have much treasure in this city for you, for the benefit of Zion, and many people in this city, whom I will gather out in due time for the benefit of Zion, through your instrumentality...and it shall come to pass in due time that I will give this city into your hands, that you shall have power over it, insomuch that they shall not discover your secret parts; and its wealth, pertaining to gold and silver shall be yours. Concern not yourselves about your debts, for I will give you power to pay them... And the place where it is my will that you would tarry, for the main, shall be signalized unto you by the peace and power of my Spirit, that shall flow unto you. This place you may obtain by hire. And inquire diligently concerning the more ancient inhabitants and founders of this city. For there are more treasures than one for you in this city."

Neither Joseph Smith nor other LDS leaders ever found any treasures in Salem. They did not take control of Salem, nor have any Mormons since. The "many people" were never gathered out, as only 13 were baptized out of the whole city. The silver and gold prophesied was never found. They returned to Kirtland, OH without funds to pay their debts! This prophecy fails on every count!

#### 16) THOMAS MARSH'S "GREAT WORKS"?

A personal prophecy was given to Thomas B. Marsh on July 23, 1837 and recorded in D&C 112.3-12. At the time this prophecy was given, Marsh was the leader of the 12 apostles of the LDS church.

Here are key excerpts from it: "...thou [Marsh] shall bear record of my name, not only unto the gentiles, but also unto the Jew; and thou shalt send forth my word unto the ends of the earth...for I, the Lord, have a great work for thee to do, in publishing my name among the children of men...thou art chosen, and thy path lieth among the mountains, and among many nations. And by thy word many high ones shall be brought low, and by thy word, many low ones shall be exalted. Thy voice shall be a rebuke unto the transgressor; and at thy rebuke let the tongue of the slanderer cease its perverseness. Be thou humble, and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers. I know thy heart, and have heard thy prayers concerning thy brethren...pray for thy brethren of the Twelve. Admonish them sharply for my

name's sake, and let them be admonished for all their sins, and be ye faithful before me unto my name..."

In fact, Marsh was excommunicated from the LDS church less than two years later. Although he rejoined the church about 20 years later, he never did any of the mighty works listed in the above prophecy. For most of his 20 year absence he was, in fact, a bitter enemy of the Mormon church.

#### 17) THE MYSTERIOUS MISSION OF DAVID W. PATTEN

Speaking of personal prophecies, here is a failed one in D&C 114.1 (1838) "...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, in company with others, even twelve including himself, to testify of my name and bear glad tidings unto all the world.

Sadly, Patten was killed before he could fulfill this prophecy. Mormons have two arguments against this fact. One is that Patten was actually being called on a mission to the spirit world after death. Although that is a very creative response, the verse itself contradicts it since 1) he was to go on the mission with eleven other men, none of whom were killed before spring; and 2) the verse says his mission was to "the whole world." That could hardly be just the spirit world.

The other argument is that he wasn't worthy of the mission so the Lord killed him. The problem with that assertion is that Joseph Smith himself proclaimed that "Brother David Patten was a very worthy man, beloved by all good men who knew him...and died as he had lived, a man of God, and strong in the faith of a glorious resurrection...one of his last expressions to his wife wasöwhatever you do else, O! do not deny the faith.' These explanations do not hold water! The prophecy is false!

#### 18) REMEMBER OLIVER GRANGER?

Another personal prophecy of Smith's which fell to the ground was D&C 117.12-15, which says, in part: "...I say unto you, I remember my servant Oliver Granger; behold, verily I say unto him that his name shall be had in sacred remembrance from generation to generation, forever and ever, saith the Lord..."

You ask 99 out of 100 Mormons who Oliver Granger is, and they will give you a blank look. His name is supposed to be in everlasting remembrance from generation to generation, and yet most Mormons have never heard of him.

#### 19) DID JOSEPH TRIUMPH OVER HIS FOES?

This section of D&C 121 is prefaced in the LDS church introduction by being identified as "Prayers and Prophecies written by Joseph Smith the Prophet, while he was a prisoner in jail in Liberty... Note what is said in part in vs.5-15, "...My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment; And then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high; thou shalt triumph over all thy foes...And also that God hath set his hand and seal to change the times and seasons, and to blind their minds, that they might not understand his marvelous workings; and take them in their own craftiness...And not many years hence, that they and their posterity shall be swept from under heaven, saith God, that not one of them is left to stand by the wall..."

This prophecy promises that Smith and his church would triumph over all their foes. This never happened. They had just been driven out of their "Zion" in Independence, MO. Smith was to die by the hands of his foes, about five years later. The entire church was run out of the state about eight years later and had to flee to Utah! Can this be triumphing over your enemies?

Even in Utah, the power of the church was ultimately broken by the federal government who forced the church leaders to submit to government authority and to do away with their cherished doctrine of plural marriage! More recently, the church was forced to succumb to outside pressure again and change its racist position on the blacks or else lose its tax-exempt status. Likewise, its strong anti-abortion stand has been also reversed. Is this triumph?

We need to ask: When did God change the times and seasons on us (vs.12)? When did he blind the minds of Smith's enemies? When was every one of Smith's enemies "swept from under heaven"? In fact, most of them long outlived him!

## 20) THE INTEGRITY OF GEORGE MILLER

In D&C 124.20-21, (1841) we find the following revelation: "...verily, I say unto you, my servant George Miller is without guile; he may be trusted because of the integrity which he has to my testimony I, the Lord, love him. I therefore say unto you, I seal upon his head the office of a bishopric...that he may receive the consecrations of mine house, that he may administer blessings upon the heads of the poor of my people, saith the Lord. Let no man despise my servant George, for he shall honor me."

In spite of this endorsement from "the Lord," George Miller was excommunicated seven years later. Another prophecy frustrated (D&C 3.3) by the work of men?

## 21) WHERE WAS JOSEPH'S VICTORY?

D&C 127.2 contains the following prophecy, similar to the one noted above in #18: "...for to this day has the God of my fathers delivered me out of them all, and will deliver me from henceforth; for behold, and lo, I will triumph over all my enemies, for the Lord God hath spoken it."

This also promises that Smith would triumph over his enemies. Obviously he did not do so as they murdered him and drove his remaining church from pillar to post.

## 22) WAS EMMA SMITH "DESTROYED?"

One of the most significant sections of the Doctrine and Covenants is D&C #132, which deals with the plural marriage (polygamy) revelation. However, it also contains many false prophecies! "(v.6) And as pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant [i.e.. polygamy or plural marriage], it was instituted for the fullness of my glory; and he that receiveth a fullness there must and shall abide the law, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God... (v.52-54) ...let mine handmaid, Emma Smith [Joseph's first wife] receive all those [wives] that have been given unto my servant Joseph, and who are virtuous and pure before me; and those who are not pure and have said they were pure shall be destroyed, saith the Lord God...and I give unto my servant Joseph that he shall be ruler over many things; for he hath been faithful over a few things, and from henceforth I will strengthen him. And I command my handmaid, Emma Smith to abide and cleave unto my servant Joseph, and to none else. But if she will not abide this commandment [of plural marriage] she shall be destroyed, saith the Lord; for I am the Lord thy God, and will destroy her if she abide not in my

lawÖ.(v.62) 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."

Where do we begin? First of all, plural marriage was an "everlasting covenant" that only lasted about 50 years. It was officially done away with in 1890. How can something everlasting stop? Obviously false! Secondly, according to v.6, everyone who is not living in plural marriage in the LDS church is damned. That means that almost all Mormons except for 30,000 or so "fundamentalists" today (who still keep the original commandments of plural marriage) are damned!

Verse 53 says that Joseph Smith would be strengthened henceforth. That depends on one's definition of "henceforth," as he was shot dead by his enemies less than a year later. That usually doesn't strengthen one.

Verse 54 threatens Emma Smith with destruction if she doesn't let Joseph have all of his wives without complaint and acknowledge the divine origins of plural marriage. Emma never did these things. She fought against the plural marriage doctrine; and yet she lived to ripe old age; and Joseph was shot just months later. Emma was so opposed to polygamy, that she went off with Joseph's son, Joseph Smith III and started the RLDS church, which denies that Smith ever taught polygamy. That pretty well blows that prophecy out of the water!

### 23) THE "LAST TIME" THE MISSIONARIES WENT OUT

In D&C 33.3, (1830) a "revelation" given through Joseph: iFor behold, the field is white already to harvest; and it is the eleventh hour, and the last time I shall call laborers into my vineyard." Now this was in 1830, and it is quite evidently false for LDS missionaries are being "called" every day to go on missions. If the last time missionaries, who are certainly laborers in the field of harvest if anyone is, were to be called was 1830, then how can the LDS church call missionaries today and believe this scripture to be true?

### 24) "SOME REVELATIONS ARE OF THE DEVIL"

In the work, *An Address to All Believers in Christ*, David Whitmer, (one of the "Three Witnesses to the Book of Mormon) related that in the winter of 1829-1830, Joseph Smith sent Hiram Page and Oliver Cowdery on a mission to Toronto, Canada to sell the copyright to the Book of Mormon. This mission was ordered by a revelation that Smith claimed he had received from God.

Unfortunately, both the mission and the revelation were utter failures. This is yet another false prophecy. Oddly enough, when Smith was asked why the revelation had fallen to the ground, he "...enquired of the Lord about it, and behold, the following revelation came through the stone: Some revelations are of God: some revelations are of man: and some revelations are of the devil.' So we see that the revelation to go to Toronto and sell the copy-right was not of God, but of man."

But the question must be asked, if the "prophet" Joseph Smith cannot tell which of his revelations are from God and which are not; why should we trust any of them? It is a very flimsy proposition at best!

### 25) ANY NATIONS BOWING TO THE MORMON GOSPEL?

D&C 49.9-10 (1831) gives us a false prophecy, redolent with arrogance: "Wherefore, I say unto you that I have sent unto you mine everlasting covenant, even that which was from the beginning. And that which I have promised I have so fulfilled, and the nations of the earth shall bow to it; and, if not of themselves, they shall come down, for that which is now exalted of itself shall be laid low of power."

This "everlasting covenant" is term used constantly in Mormonism to refer to the LDS version of the gospel and specifically to the idea of temple marriage. Now we have yet to see any nations "bow" to the principles of the Mormon gospel, and it has been almost 160 years as of this writing, since the prophecy was given.

In fact, since this prophecy, various governments (whether rightly or wrongly) have driven the Mormons out of various states, forced them to give up their doctrines of celestial plural marriage and white racism, forbidden them to preach their weird gospel in many lands.

None of these governments or nations, including the US (which was the particular subject of death curses from the LDS temples for almost a century) have been "brought low" for not bowing down to Mormonism.

#### **26) "I, THE LORD, PROMISE THE FAITHFUL AND CANNOT LIE..."**

Joseph Smith prophesied in D&C 62.1,6, & 9 (1831) that "...the faithful among you should be preserved and rejoice together in the land of Missouri. I, the Lord promise the faithful, and cannot lie... Behold, .the kingdom is yours. And behold, and lo, I am with the faithful always..."

There are some serious problems with this prophecy as well. The "faithful" weren't preserved; they did not rejoice together in Missouri (in fact, they were run out of the state); and the "kingdom" was not theirs and God certainly did not appear to be with them. Official LDS history shows how this prophecy failed!

#### **27) WERE ALL THE PROMISES OF DOCTRINE & COVENANTS FULFILLED?**

Even the celebrated first section of D&C (1831) does not emerge without a false prophecy of massive proportions. Section 1, verse 37 states: "Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled." We have already shown over twenty places in the D&C where the prophecies were not fulfilled. There are yet more to come.

#### **28) WAS JESUS LATE?**

D&C 133.17 (1831) prophesies: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight, for the hour of his coming is nigh." This prophecy was given nearly 160 years ago, and has still not occurred. That is stretching the meaning of the word "nigh" to the breaking point!

#### **29) THE CIVIL WAR PROPHECY**

This is a long one, but it needs to be looked at closely because the Mormons [especially the LDS missionaries] like to claim this prophecy as one of Joseph Smith's true prophecies, and it just doesn't bear close scrutiny!

In D&C 87.18, (1832) we read: "Verily, thus saith the Lord concerning the wars that will shortly come to pass, beginning at the rebellion of South Carolina, which will eventually terminate in the death and misery of many souls; And the time will come that war will be pour out upon all nations, beginning at this place. For behold, the Southern States shall be divided against the Northern States, and the Southern States will call on other nations, even the nation of Great Britain...and they shall also call upon other nations, in order to defend themselves against other nations; and then war shall be poured out upon all nations.

"And it shall come to pass, after many days, slaves shall rise up against their masters, who shall be marshalled and disciplined for war. And it shall come to pass also that the remnants who are left of the land will marshal themselves, and shall become exceedingly angry, and shall vex the Gentiles with a sore vexation.

"And thus, with the sword and by bloodshed the inhabitants of the earth shall mourn; and with famine, and plague, and earthquake, and the thunder of heaven, and the fierce and vivid lightning also, shall the inhabitants of the earth be made to feel the wrath and indignation, and chastening hand of an Almighty God until the consumption decreed hath made a full end of all nations.

"That the cry of the saints, and the blood of the saints, shall cease to come up into the ears of the Lord of Sabbath, from the earth, to be avenged of their enemies. Wherefore, stand ye in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come; for behold it cometh quickly, saith the Lord. Amen."

This prophecy was given on Christmas Day, 1832, in appearance almost 30 years before the Civil War. Although the prophecy looks good on the surface, it must be realized that at the time this was brought forth, South Carolina was already involved in many rebellious acts, and this fact was available in the papers of the time. Congress had passed a tariff in July of 1832 that South Carolina had declared unacceptable.

It was during the Christmas season that the nation's press expected and wrote about the impending outbreak of civil war, beginning with this rebellion in South Carolina. Even the U.S. Army was on alert. With these facts at hand, it didn't take much of a seer to predict the unfolding events. Even a paper published by the Mormons themselves contained such news!

However, the war did not come to pass. The entire prophecy was shelved and never appeared again during Joseph Smith's lifetime. The first two editions of the History of the Church did not include it even though it was in the original manuscript. It reappeared in 1852 when the war again seemed imminent.

Aside from the dating problems, the scope of the prophecy is not in balance. In just one item, the prophecy states that war would begin locally and pour out upon all nations and shall be the direct cause of an international global war. Even the great World War I did not encompass all nations, and it was 50 years after the Civil War and had no possible relationship to it! This is a definite false prophecy that did not come to pass.

Former Mormon Dick Baer has pointed out there are at least 20 elements in this prophecy, and for it to be a true prophecy, all of those elements would have to have come to pass. In human terms, those odds are 1 in 1,048,576—a truly remarkable achievement, had Smith pulled it off. Obviously he did not.



In another example, verses 4 through 6 state that the slaves shall rise up, the remnants left in the land shall rise up against the Gentiles (non-Mormons) and the bloodshed, famines, plagues (caused by this great war) shall bring with God's wrath, "...a full end of all nations." This did not happen. In fact, Smith only got two elements out of 20 right, and those were based on current events and common sense. Sorry, this is a bad one!

### 30) PESTILENCE AND EARTHQUAKE IN THE US?

Here is an explicit false prophecy (1833) from official Church history: "And now I am prepared to say by the authority of Jesus Christ, that not many years shall pass away before the United States shall present such a scene of bloodshed as has not a parallel in the history of our nation; pestilence, hail, famine, and earthquake shall sweep the wicked of this generation from off the face of the land...flee to Zion before the overflowing scourge overtake you, for there are those now living upon the earth whose eyes shall not be closed in death until they see all these things, which I had spoken, fulfilled."

Obviously, none of these dire predictions have come to pass, and it has been over 150 years since they were given. No one is now left alive from that generation. The scope of the warning was centered on the generation in which the Mormons were still calling on their converts to leave their homes, cities and countries and Come to Zion. They have long since stopped this mandatory migration to the center of Mormonism. That generation had passed by before the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 31) DID ZION FAIL?

D&C 97.19-20 (1833) prophesies: "Surely, Zion is the city of our God, and surely Zion cannot fall, neither be moved out of her place, for God is there and the hand of the Lord is there; And he hath sworn by the power of his might to be her salvation..."

This makes Smith a false prophet or God too weak to keep his promises. "Zion" fell and the Mormons were driven out of Independence, MO in 1838-39!

### 32) WAS ZION REDEEMED AFTER "A LITTLE SEASON?"

D&C 100.13, 15 (1833) states: "And now I give unto you a word concerning Zion. Zion shall be redeemed although she is chastened for a little season...Therefore, let your hearts be comforted; for all things shall work together for good to them that walk uprightly, and to the sanctification of the church."

Again, over a century and a half has passed without this prophecy coming to pass. That would be stretching the idea of "a little season" beyond the point where the English language has any meaning at all.

### 33) SEVENTY FIVE PERCENT WRONG?

In a letter to "the Exiled Saints in Missouri," Joseph Smith declared: "Therefore this is my counsel, that you retain your lands [in Missouri], even unto the utmost, and employ every lawful means to seek redress of your enemies; and pray to God day and night to return you in peace and safety to the lands of your inheritance; and when the judge fail you, appeal unto the executive; and when the executive fail you; appeal to the president; and when the president fail you, and all

things also fail you but God alone, and you continue to weary Him with your importunings, as the poor woman did the unjust judge. He will not fail you to execute judgment upon your enemies, and to avenge his own elect that cry unto Him day and night. Behold, He will not fail you. He will come with ten thousand of his saints, and all His adversaries shall be destroyed with the breath of His lips.

Unfortunately for the Mormons, none of these things came to pass; nor have they yet. They did not retain their lands in Missouri. The god of Mormonism never destroyed their enemies; and in fact those very same enemies drove them out of the state! The only thing Smith got right was that they would petition all the authorities and be turned down. 25% accuracy doesn't cut it according to Deuteronomy 18:20-22.

#### 34) THE MARCH OF ZION'S CAMP

In D&C 103.15ff, there is a prophecy concerning Zion's Camp. It begins: "... (v.15) Behold, I [God] say unto you, the redemption of Zion must needs come by power... (v.19) Therefore, let not your hearts faint... (v.20) Mine angels shall go up before you, and also my presence, and in time ye shall possess the goodly land... (v.24) And inasmuch as mine enemies come against you to drive you from my goodly land, which I have consecrated to be the land of Zion, even from your own lands... ye shall curse them; and whosoever ye curse, I will curse, and ye shall avenge me of mine enemies."

Leaving aside for a moment the totally un-Biblical theology of all this (Jesus told us to pray for our enemies, not to curse them; and nowhere does God ask His people to avenge Him!), this is still a failed prophecy. Zion's Camp was an armed crusade of Mormons sent out by "revelation" to go to Missouri and rescue their fellow Latter-day Saints there. Actually, the march of Zion's Camp failed miserably, and so did the prophecy of God's presence going before them and cursing their enemies!

#### 35) THE MOVE TO JACKSON COUNTY

In a letter to the High Council (8/16/1834), Joseph Smith declared, "...I shall now proceed to give you such counsel as the Spirit of the Lord may dictate... [you are to have the churches] use every effort to gather to those regions and locate themselves, to be in readiness to move into Jackson County in two years from the eleventh of September next, which is the appointed time for the redemption of Zion..."

Well, the churches did not move into Jackson County on September 11, 1836. Nor was "Zion" redeemed at that time; as church history itself shows. Was the Holy Spirit wrong, or just Joseph?

#### 36) THE KIRTLAND "ANTI-BANKING SOCIETY"

A false prophecy from the Latter-day Saint Messenger and Advocate, "This place [Kirtland, OH] must be built up, and will be built up, and every brother that will take hold and help secure these contracts [for land] shall be rich."

This one fell with a "crash!" The Mormons were driven out of Ohio and no-one became rich by helping to secure those land contracts. Ironically, most of the men who helped Smith lost their shirts and Smith himself went bankrupt because of his "funny-money" scheme in the Kirtland Anti-banking Society.

### 37) NASA, PHONE JOSEPH SMITH!

Joseph Smith, not content with banking; also tried his hand at exo-biology and astronomy. He declared in 1837: "Inhabitants of the Moon are more of a uniform size than the inhabitants of the Earth, being about 6 feet in height. They dress very much like the Quaker Style & and quite general in Style, or the one fashion of dress. They live to be very old; coming generally near a thousand years. This is the description of them as given by Joseph Smith the Seer.

Although Mormons will try and deny that Joseph Smith ever really taught this nonsense, they will find it confirmed from Brigham Young; who also taught it; and added that there were people also living in the sun! Obviously, modern science has condemned these prophecies to the ashcan of bad science fiction!

### 38) THAT POOR TEMPLE IN MISSOURI!

Another prophecy about the temple being built in Missouri is in D&C 115.1, 7-12: verily, thus saith the Lord...Let the city, Far West, be a holy and consecrated land unto me; and it shall be called most holy, for the ground upon which thou standest is holy. Therefore I command you to build a house unto me, for the gathering together of my saints, that they may worship me. And let there be a beginning of this work, and a foundation, and a preparatory work this following summer;...Thus let them from that time forth labor diligently until it shall be finished, from the cornerstone thereof unto the top thereof, until there shall not anything remain that is not finished."

The temple has never been built, although the cornerstone was laid in 1838. Since this work has been frustrated for over a century and a half, it must be a work of men, not of God (D&C 3.3). The very best one can say about Joseph Smith and company is that they failed miserably in obeying their god's commands.

### 39) THE MARCH TO JACKSON COUNTY

Joseph Smith is quoted (1839) in "Reed Peck's Manuscript" as prophesying that: "...within three years they [the Mormons] should march to Jackson County and there should not be a dog to open his mouth against them." The Mormons didn't march into Jackson County by 1842; in fact, they still haven't.

### 40) THE "ASTONISHING" ANSON CALL?

An 1842 prophecy of Joseph Smith from the "Anson Call Diary [discussing the Rocky Mountains] declared that: "...there are some of these standing here that will perform a great work in that land...There is Anson [Call], he shall go and assist in building cities from one end of the country to the other and you shall perform as great a work as has ever been done by man, and the nations of the earth shall be astonished and many of them will be gathered in that land and assist in building cities."

As it happens, Anson Call did assist in settling Millard County, Utah in the southern part of the state. However, none of the "cities" in that region are particularly large or noteworthy. Nor did Call ever build cities from one end of the country to the other. He did not do anything which "astonished" the nations; nor did he do "as great a work as has ever been done by man."

#### 41) JESUS' RETURN

Joseph Smith made this reference to the Second Coming of Jesus: "Were I going to prophesy, I would say the end [of the world] would not come in 1844, 5 or 6, or in forty years. There are those of the rising generation who shall not taste death till Christ comes.

"I was once praying earnestly upon this subject, and a voice said unto me, "My son, if thou livest until thou art eighty-five years of age, thou shalt see the face of the Son of Man." I was left to draw my own conclusions concerning this, and I took the liberty to conclude that if I did live to that time, He would make His appearance. But I do not say whether He will make His appearance or I shall go where He is. I prophesy in the name of the Lord God, and let it be written the Son of Man will not come in the clouds of heaven till I am eighty-five years old." [48 years hence or about 1890...]

Interestingly enough, this passage is taken from Smith's diary; and modern LDS "historians" have removed the phrase "48 years hence or about 1890" because it so clearly demonstrates the falsity of the prophecy .

Obviously, none of the "rising generation" ever saw Jesus' coming. Jesus certainly did not come in "about 1890." A century has passed since that date; and Smith's prophecy lies dead and buried along with that "rising generation."

#### 42) THE POTSHERD PROPHECY

Although Mormons like to vaunt their patriotism, Joseph Smith was not very fond of the US government. In 1843, he declared: "...if the government, which received into its coffers the money of citizens for its public treasury, cannot protect such citizens in their lives and property, it is an old granny anyhow; and 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...*"

Congress failed to comply with Smith's demands. It did not protect the Mormons, and did not redress the wrongs done against them. In spite of this; the congress was never overthrown; and the US government has never been destroyed, overthrown or wasted. After over 140 years, the United States is the most powerful country in the World!

#### 43) WARNING THE LAWLESS

In 1844, Joseph Smith made this "prophetic" threat: "I therefore warn the lawless not to be precipitate in any interference in our affairs, for as sure as there is a God in Israel, we shall ride triumphant over all oppression." A little over a week after this prophecy, Smith was shot to death by his enemies; and all the efforts of the Mormons in Nauvoo were brought to naught soon after that.

#### 44) DID SMITH "SWALLOW UP ALL OTHER BANKS?"

In The Millennial Star, volume 19, p.343, Smith proclaimed that his Kirtland Anti-Banking Society was to "...swallow up all other banks." As has been discussed above, in False Prophecy #36; Smith's bank failed miserably.

#### 45) NO PEACE SAVE IN ZION?

A statement of Joseph Smith's was published in Compendium in 1882 on p.271 in which he declared: "The time is soon coming when no man will have any peace but in Zion [Independence, MO.] and her stakes. More than 140 years have passed since that prophecy; and it's no more true now, than it was then.

#### 46) W.W. PHELPS JUST DIED TOO SOON!

"Joseph Smith prophesied by revelation that W.W.Phelps would not taste of death till Jesus came. Often in private and in public, did Mr. Phelps boast to the saints of this blessing, given to him by revelation and prophecy through Joseph." However, Phelps died March 7, 1872. Another blatantly false prophecy!

#### 47) THAT WONDERFULLY "CORRECT" BOOK

Joseph Smith proclaimed this in 1841: "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 its precepts, than by any other book?"

Now, if this is true, why have there been over 4,000 changes in the Book of Mormon since its 1830 publication; many of them substantive and significant? Can it still be "the most correct book" of any on earth with that many errors? How does it compare to the Bible?

Without wanting to get into a lengthy discourse on just how reliable the Bible really is; consider these simple facts: The New Testament, for example has about 20,000 lines of manuscript in it. It is roughly the same size document as the Book of Mormon, which has around 25,800 lines in it (in the 1830 edition). Playing the devil's advocate, we find that the New Testament has 0.5% (one-half of one percent) changes AT MOST in its text, between the oldest manuscripts we have, and the present translations worst case scenario.

In applying the same math to the Book of Mormon, we find that its 4,000 changes produces a change rate of 1%—twice that of the New Testament! This is extraordinarily bad for the Book of Mormon when one considers that the New Testament has gone through hundreds of years copying while the Book of Mormon has been supposedly sitting pristine in the ground on golden plates and translated by the direct power of God. Further, since its discovery, it has been completely controlled for a mere 150+ years by "living prophets."

Think of that! The New Testament has managed to acquire only half the textual changes that the Book of Mormon has, even though the NT has been in existence for nearly 2,000 years! In other words, it means that in thirteen times the time span, the NT has at most 50% fewer corrections in its text than the "most correct book."

Beyond that false prophecy, there is another element in the statement. Joseph Smith declared that the Book of Mormon could draw folks nearer to God through obeying its teachings than any other book. However, absolutely none of the distinctive commands of the LDS church are in the Book of Mormon; nor are any of its doctrines! In fact, the Book of Mormon teaches against most points of LDS theology.

Among other things, it teaches the Trinity (2 Nephi 31.21); that God was never a man, and that He never changes (3 Nephi 24.6, Moroni 8.18); that plural marriage is incredibly evil (Jacob 2.22-27); that you are saved only through faith without works (Mosiah 3.18, 5.15); and that baptism for the dead is worthless for you must be born again before death (Alma 34.32-35).

This means you could read the Book of Mormon and never have the foggiest idea of how the LDS church teaches people must attain exaltation!

#### 48) "THE HOUR IS NIGH"

In D&C 29.9-10, (1830) Joseph Smith again prophesied: "For the hour is nigh and the day soon at hand when the earth is ripe and all the proud and they that do wickedly shall be as stubble; and I will burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that wickedness should not be upon the earth; for the hour is nigh, and that which was spoken by mine apostles must be fulfilled; for as they spoke, so shall it come to pass."

Any reasonable reading of the words "nigh" and isooni would indicate Smith was prophesying the coming of the Lord in his lifetime. Over 150 years and several generations have passed away since Joseph Smith passed away and still this prophecy is unfulfilled.

#### 49) THE "UTTER ABOLISHMENT" OF NEW YORK AND BOSTON

Another "threat" prophecy was given by Smith in D&C 84.114-119 (1832) "...let the bishop go unto the city of New York, also to the city of Albany, and also to the city of Boston and warn the people of those cities with the sound of the gospel...of the desolation and utter abolishment [sic] which await them if they do reject these things. For if they do reject these things the hour of their judgment is nigh, and their house shall be left unto them desolate...(v.119) For I the Lord have put forth my hand to exert the powers of heaven; ye cannot see it now, yet a little while and ye shall see it and know that I am, and that I will come and reign with my people."

Now none of these cities ever listened to the LDS gospel to any measurable extent at all during Smith's lifetime in fact, they rejected it; and even now, the LDS church represents a very tiny minority in these urban centers. Yet these cities never suffered "desolation and utter abolishment" for their failure to heed the LDS gospel. The prophecy failed.

#### 50) THE KEYS, THE KEYS, WHO HAS THE KEYS?

A rather self-serving prophecy appears in D&C 112.15 (1837): "...rebel not against my servant Joseph; for verily I say unto you, I am with him, and my hand shall be over him; and the keys which I have given unto him, and also to you ward, shall not be taken from him till I come."

This revelation was given to Thomas B. Marsh, at the time the head of the Twelve Apostles. (see False Prophecy #15 above). The problems with it are two-fold. First, Smith was murdered in 1844 and the Lord hadn't come. That meant that the keys had to have been taken from him, or else Brigham Young would not have had them and would have been a false successor.

The Mormon might say, "Well, the promise is also to youward,' meaning the recipient of the revelation, Marsh." However, that cannot be true, because surely the Lord would have known that 2 years later Marsh would be excommunicated and have any and all keys of the priesthood stripped from him.(see #15). Although Marsh did rejoin the church, he never again was an

apostle nor held the "keys" that this prophecy promised he would hold until Jesus came again. So both Joseph Smith and Thomas Marsh failed to retain the keys promised.

#### 51) WAS LYMAN WIGHT RIGHT?

Although not as directly involving Smith as the previous 50 prophecies have, this incident in 1831 during an ordination ceremony of Lyman Wight done by Smith shows that he taught and believed that Jesus would come within a generation: "The Spirit of the Lord fell upon Joseph in an unusual manner, and he prophesied that John the Revelator was then among the Ten Tribes of Israel...He prophesied many more things I have not written. After he had prophesied, he laid his hands upon Lyman Wight and ordained him to the High Priesthood, after the holy order of God. And the Spirit fell upon Lyman and he prophesied concerning the coming of Christ. He said that there were some in the congregation that should live until the Savior should descend from heaven with a shout, with all the holy angels with him."

As we have had to observe many times before here, all the people of that generation have been in their graves for years. And Jesus hasn't come. According to the Bible, if Joseph Smith had disagreed with Lyman's prophecy, or felt he was off-base; he should have corrected him especially since he was the "senior prophet", rather than let false teaching go abroad into the congregation while he was present.(1 Cor.14:29) Smith was not usually shy about rebuking those he disagreed with, and he let this prophecy stand, primarily because it agreed with several of his own.

#### 52) "...56 YEARS SHOULD WIND UP THE SCENE."

Here is an example of Smith's own prophecies of the Second Coming from 1835 with which the above prophecy agreed: "President [Joseph] Smith then stated that the meeting had been called, because God had commanded it; and it was made known to him by vision and by the Holy Spirit. He then gave a relation of some of the circumstances attending us while journeying to Zion our trials and sufferings...[that we should]...go forth to prune the vineyard for the last time, or the coming of the Lord was nigh ó even 56 years should wind up the scene."

Now 56 years would make the year of the Lord's coming 1891, which would agree with all of the preceding prophecies on this subject, but which would disagree with reality and history!

Smith later added that if he met with a violent end, the scene would wind up a good ten years earlier. Well, 1881 and 1891 came and went without the return of Christ. Another specific test of exact prophecy and another failure.

#### 53) HAS THE MORMON CHURCH BEEN REJECTED?

In D&C 124.27-36, (1841) through Joseph Smith, the god of Mormonism gave an ultimatum to the LDS people in Nauvoo, IL in the form of this prophecy/commandment. "...build a house to my name, for the Most High to dwell in. For there is not a place found on earth that he may come to and restore again that which was lost unto you, or which he hath taken away, even the fullness of the priesthood...(v.31) I command you, all ye my saints, to build a house unto me; and I grant unto you a sufficient time to build a house unto me; and during this time your baptisms shall be acceptable unto me. But behold, at the end of this appointment, your baptisms for the dead shall not be acceptable unto me; and if you do not these things at the end of the appointment ye shall be rejected as a church, with your dead, saith the Lord God."

Now bear in mind again the principle of D&C 3.3, that if a work is frustrated it is of men. The Mormon people did not build the temple in Nauvoo, IL in anywhere near the "end of the appointment." In fact, the temple was still unfinished when Smith was shot in 1844! Even some Mormon historians doubt that the temple was ever finished before it was burned to the ground by mobs. Obviously, the building of the temple was not the work of God then; which makes this whole prophecy false!

This means that all the work which the LDS church has been doing for the dead is unacceptable to their god. Either this prophecy is false, or else the LDS church should "be rejected as a church." Which is it, reject the prophet or reject the church? Either one pulls the whole house of cards down!

FINALLY, we felt we might bring this rather dreary litany of godless failures to a close with some of the few prophecies Joseph Smith actually got right!

#### 1) Boastful Prophets

In D&C 3.4 ( given in 1828), we find this: "For although a man may have many revelations, and have power to do many mighty works, yet if he boasts in his own strength, and sets at naught the counsels of God, and follows after the dictates of his own will and carnal desires, he must fall and incur the vengeance of a just God upon him.."

Now bear that prophecy in mind, as we move ahead several years to 1844. In May of that year, Smith proclaimed this: "I have more to boast of than any man ever had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a church together since the days of Adam....Neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet."

Just 30 days from making that boast, on June 27, 1844; Joseph Smith was murdered by a mob in Carthage jail. He fell, and incurred the vengeance of a just God upon himself. Of course, that is not how our LDS friends see it; but at least this time, Joseph got it right!

#### 2) Porter Rockwell

Joseph Smith promised Orrin Porter Rockwell, his bodyguard and the great "Destroying Angel" that no bullet or blade in the hands of his enemies would harm him if he remained loyal, true to his faith and did not cut his hair. Rockwell kept his hair long and through thirty five years of fighting and countless enemies, died in bed after a hard night of drinking.

#### 3) One More On Christ's Return

On March 10, 1844 Smith said that the Second Coming of Christ would NOT be that year or for the next 40 years. He was right.

#### 4) Good and Evil

Joseph Smith said that the Angel Moroni told him that "my name should be had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds and tongues, or that it should be both good and evil spoken of [me] among all people." While the "all nations, Kindreds and tongues" may be a bit presumptuous,



since the LDS church has only reached around 100 kindreds and tongues worldwide, surely wherever Mormonism has appeared, both good and evil is spoken about Smith.

#### 5) Inspired Version Bible

Joseph Smith said that it was not the Lord's will that the Inspired Version of the New Testament portion of the Bible be published in Newspapers. He said that the Inspired New Testament and the Book of Mormon would be printed together. The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints printed and issued the two books together in 1892-1893 and thereby fulfilled the prophecy.

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#### Footnotes

1 HISTORY OF THE CHURCH, Deseret Books, Salt Lake City, UT., 1978, 2:380-81.

2 See *ibid.*, 2:187 for a list of the Twelve Apostles chosen.

3 *ibid.*, 2:528.

4 *ibid.*, 3:20

5 *ibid.*, pp.31-32.

6 *ibid.*, pp.166-167.

7 *ibid.*, 7:483.

8 See the official Sesquicentennial Reprint of the 1830 Book of Mormon by Deseret Books, 1980, p.117.

9 Saints Alive Newsletter, April-May 1988, citing official LDS church statistics.

10 History indicates that, in fact, this was a reference to Orrin Porter Rockwell; a killer who was a faithful servant of Joseph Smith and later of Brigham Young and who was frequently sent out to kill and terrorize those who opposed the Mormon church.

11 HISTORY OF THE CHURCH, Deseret Books, Salt Lake City, UT., 1978, 2:466.

12 *ibid.*, 3:284.

13 *ibid.*, 3:170-171

14 *ibid.*, 3:171.

15 CHURCH CHRONOLOGY, p.36, December 3, 1848.

16 Doctrine & Covenants, Official Declaration 1 (p.291-92, 1981 edition)

17 David Whitmer, An Address to All Believers in Christ, (original edition, 1887), Pacific Publishing, Concord, CA. 94522, pp.30-31.

18 Bruce R. McConkie, MORMON DOCTRINE, Bookcraft, Salt Lake City, 1979 edition, pp.529-530.

19 See Ed Decker & Dave Hunt, THE GOD MAKERS, Harvest House, Eugene, OR., 1984, pp.237-240.

20 HISTORY, 1:426ff, 3:245-254 for example.

21 Larry S. Jonas, MORMON CLAIMS EXAMINED, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, MI., 1961, p.52.

22 The Evening and Morning Star, vol.1, issue 8.

23 Letter from Dick & Patty Baer, dated October 10, 1981, p.9.

24 HISTORY, 1:315-16.

25 *ibid.*, 3:245-254.

26 *ibid.*, 1:455.

27 *ibid.*, 2:114.

28 *ibid.*, 3:xxxix (introduction)

29 *ibid.*, 2:144-145.

30 Latter-day Saint Messenger and Advocate, April 1837 issue, p.488.

31 HISTORY, 2:467-468; see also John Whitmer's History, chapter 20, pp.21-22; B.H. Roberts' COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH, BYU Press, Provo, UT., 1965; 1:401-2; Messenger and Advocate, 3:560.

32 The Oliver Huntington Journal, Book 14; also found in The Young Woman's Journal, published by the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations of Zion, 1892, 3:263-64.

33 JOURNAL OF DISCOURSES, 13:271.

34 cited in Nephi Lowell Morris's PROPHECIES OF JOSEPH SMITH AND THEIR FULFILLMENT, Deseret Books, 1926.

35 CHRONOLOGY, p.44.

36 HISTORY, 5:336

37 *ibid.*, p.394.

38 Mormon Neighbor, June 19, 1844.

39 T.B.H. Stenhouse, THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SAINTS, Shepard Books, Salt Lake City, UT. 1904 edition, p.42.

40 HISTORY, 4:461.

41 Norman L. Geisler & William E. Nix, A GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE, Moody Press, Chicago, 1968, p.366.

42 *ibid.*, p.367.

43 For a complete list and discussion of the condemnation of LDS doctrine by the Book of Mormon, see our tract, Those Plain and Precious Things.

44 HISTORY, 1:176.

45 *ibid.*, 2:182.

46 *ibid.*, 6:408-409.

47 *ibid.*, p.618.

48 Harold Schindler, ORRIN PORTER ROCKWELL, MAN OF GOD, SON OF THUNDER, University of Utah Press, SLC. Utah, 1966, pages 108-109

49 Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith 2:33

## Official Timeline

- 1805 Joseph Smith was born in Sharon, Vermont
- 1814 Joseph's family moves to Palmyra, New York
- 1818 Family moves to Manchester, New York
- 1820 revival Smith age 14  
1820 First Vision with the Father and Jesus. God said "do not join any religion, they are all corrupt"
- 1823 Visit from Moroni
- 1827 Joseph receives plates and begins to translate
- 1830 Book of Mormon published  
1830 Church started

## Proven Timeline

- 1805 Joseph Smith was born in Sharon, Vermont
- 1816 Joseph's family moves to Palmyra, New York
- 1823 Family moves to Manchester, New York per tax records
- 1824 Revival per Presbyterian and Methodist church records  
1824 First Vision
- 1826 Joseph Smith arrested for fraud per trial records
- 1827 Visit from Moroni
- 1828 Joseph Joins Methodist Church  
1829 Joseph received plates and begins to translate?
- 1830 Book of Mormon published  
1830 Church Started

As you can see, there is a huge difference between the two as far as dates are concerned. This leads us to believe one of two things.

1. Either Joseph was not telling the truth as far as the times and dates were concerned.
2. Or Joseph did not have an accurate recollection of the events.

IF THE LATTER IS TRUE THEN HOW CAN WE TRUST JOSEPH'S MEMORY IN REGARDS TO HIS FIRST AND SECOND VISION STORIES?

TAX RECORDS SHOW THAT JOSEPH DID NOT MOVE TO MANCHESTER UNTILL 1823. IF JOSEPH DID NOT LIVE IN MANCHESTER THEN HE COULDN'T HAVE HAD HIS FIRST VISION IN 1820 IN THE FOREST NEAR THE MANCHESTER HOUSE.

ANOTHER DISCREPENCY IS THE FACT THAT THERE WAS NO REVIVAL IN 1820.

JOSEPH'S OFFICIAL VERSION STATES THAT IN 1820 IN THE PALMYRA AREA "GREAT MULTITUDES UNITED THEMSELVES TO THE DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS PARTIES INCLUDING THE METHODISTS, PRESBYTERIANS, AND BAPTISTS".

THE REVIVAL DID NOT TAKE PLACE IN 1820. IT ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE IN 1824. CHURCH RECORDS SHOW THAT THE PRESBYTERIANS DIDN'T HAVE A REVIVAL IN 1820. BAPTISTS GAINED ONLY SIX IN 1820, AND THE METHODISTS LOST 23 MEMBERS IN 1819, SIX IN 1820, AND 40 IN 1821.

HOWEVER IN 1824 THE REVIVAL ADDED 99 PRESBYTERIANS, 94 BAPTISTS, AND 208 METHODISTS.

IT IS CLEAR THAT THE REVIVAL TOOK PLACE IN 1824 AND NOT IN 1820.

IT IS ALSO CURIOUS THAT JOSEPH WAS ARRESTED IN 1826 ON CHARGES OF FRAUD. THIS IS AFTER HIS VISION OF FATHER GOD, JESUS, AND THE ANGEL MORONI.

IN HIS VISION WITH FATHER GOD AND JESUS JOSEPH TELLS US THAT GOD COMMANDED HIM NOT TO JOIN ANY RELIGION. GOD SAID THAT THEY WERE ALL CORRUPT. BUT IF YOU LOOK, IN 1828 JOSEPH JOINED THE METHODIST CHURCH. WE ARE LEFT TO WONDER WHY HE DISOBEYED GOD.

# Joseph the Seer

Was Joseph Smith a common Thug? Joseph , as a young man found a seer stone and used it to treasure hunt. He lied to and told people that he could see hidden treasures under the ground with his stone. He cheated people out of their money one man in particular who pressed charges. On March 20 1826 he was arrested and found guilty in court on the charges of disorderly and an imposture. He also told tales of talking with Ghosts with Blood dripping from their eyes.

How did Joseph Smith translate the supposed ancient record he found in the hill? The eye-witnesses to the translation process of the Book of Mormon seem to be describing a magical event. Joseph Smith would put a stone in his hat and then the "translation" of the plates would appear on the stone. Smith's wife, Emma related: "In writing for your father, I frequently wrote day after day, often sitting at the table close to him, he sitting with **his face buried in his hat, with the stone in it**, and dictating [the Book of Mormon] hour after hour with nothing between us.'" (as quoted in Creation of the Book of Mormon, by LaMar Peterson, p.25)



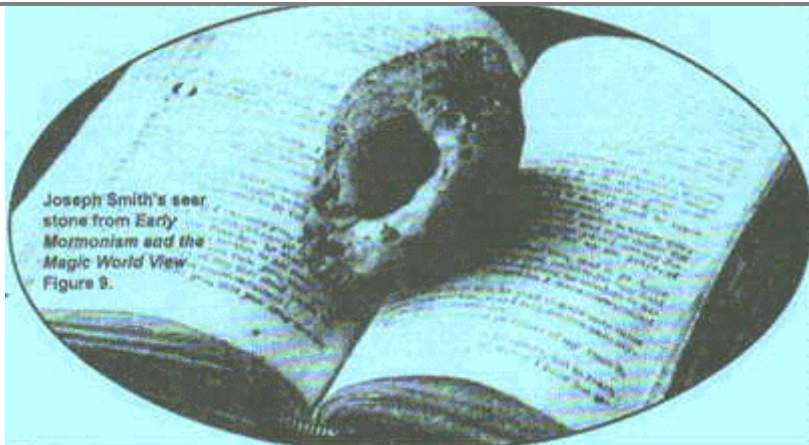
The Smith family's involvement with the occult goes back a number of years before the Book of Mormon was "translated" and printed in 1830. Michael Marquardt and Wesley Walters relate the beginnings of the Smith's magical practices: "When Joseph Smith recalled his money-digging activities for his official history, he wrote only about searching for a lost mine in 1825 for Josiah Stowell. But contemporary records suggest that this had been one of the Smith family occupations in the Palmyra/ Manchester era **since the early 1820s**. For example, Joshua Stafford of Manchester recalled that he "became acquainted

with the family of Joseph Smith, Sen. about the year 1819 or 20.

They then were laboring people, in low circumstances. A short time after this, they **commenced digging for hidden treasures..** and told marvelous stories about ghosts, hob-goblins, caverns, and various other mysterious matters." Willard Chase, another friend of the family, similarly recalled, "I became acquainted with the Smith family.. in the year 1820. At that time they were engaged in the **money digging business.**" (Inventing Mormonism, Marquardt and Walters, p.64)

As early as 1822 Joseph Smith was connected with the magic "**seer stone**" he found while digging a well for Mr. Chase. Joseph and his father later joined with a group of men to search for buried treasures, **aided by Smith's stone.** In 1825, after hearing of Smith's powers, Josiah Stowell came to Palmyra to hire the Smiths to help him look for a silver mine in Pennsylvania.

"As a young man Joseph Smith not only labored on his family's farm, but he also worked "in blessing crops, finding lost articles, predicting future events or prophesying, and using divine rods and seer stones."



Smith's mother relates that Mr. Stowell specifically sought out Joseph Smith due to his special powers. Lucy Smith wrote: "A short time before the house was completed [1825], a man by the name of Josiah Stoal came from Chenango country, New York, with the view of getting Joseph to assist him in digging for a silver mine.

He came to Joseph on account of having heard that he possessed **certain means by which he could discern things invisible to the natural eye.**" (Biographical Sketches, Lucy Smith, pp.91-92, as quoted in Early Mormon documents, Vol.1, p. 309)

This subject is further explored in LaMar Peterson's new book, **The Creation of the Book of Mormon:** "Lucy [Joseph Smith's mother] provided an even more revealing glimpse into the Smith family's involvement in

magical abracadabra and other aspects of folk magic: Let not the reader suppose that because I shall pursue another topic for a season that we stop our labor and went at trying to **win the faculty of Abrac [,] drawing Magic circles or sooth saying [sic] to the neglect of all kinds of business.** We never during our lives suffered one important interest to swallow up every other obligation but whilst we worked with our hands we endeavored to remember the service & welfare of our souls.

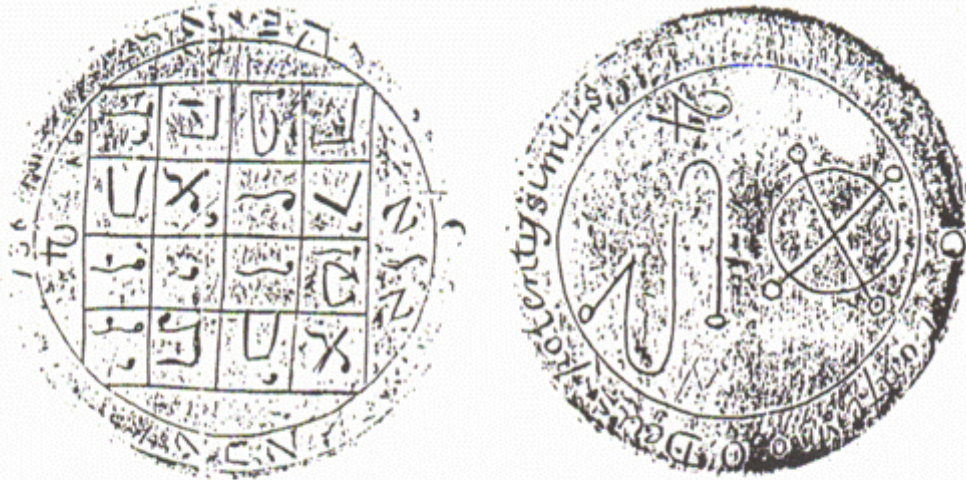


Photo of Joseph Smith's Jupiter talisman (both sides) from *Mormonism, Magic and Masonry*. D. Michael Quinn's book, *Early Mormonism and the Magic World View* also contains photos of Joseph Smith's Jupiter talisman.

Joseph Smith Jr. was wearing this medallion when he was shot while in jail. The astrological sign on this medallion is Jupiter, the planet, the planet which is supposed to bring riches. The rest of the symbolism is used in rituals while practicing witchcraft.

The Bible has this to say..... . . thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shalt not be found among you any one that . . . uses divination, or is an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits [demons], or a wizard, or a necromancer [one who communicates with the dead]. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD.



## The arrest of Joseph smith

### *State of New York v. Joseph Smith.*

Warrant issued upon written complaint upon oath of Peter G. Bridgeman, who informed that one Joseph Smith of Bainbridge was a disorderly person and an impostor. Prisoner brought before Court March 20, 1826. Prisoner examined: says that he came from the town of Palmyra, and had been at the house of Josiah Stowel in Bainbridge most of time since; had small part of time been employed in looking for mines, but the major part had been employed by said Stowel on his farm, and going to school. That he had a certain stone which he had occasionally looked at to determine where hidden treasures in the bowels of the earth were; that he professed to tell in this manner where gold mines were a distance under ground, and had looked for Mr. Stowel several times and had informed him where he could find these treasures, and Mr. Stowel had been engaged in digging for them. That at Palmyra he pretended to tell by looking at this stone where coined money was buried in Pennsylvania, and while at Palmyra had frequently ascertained in that way where lost property was of various kinds; that he had occasionally been in the habit of looking through this stone to find lost property for three years, but of late had pretty much given it up on account of its injuring his health, especially his eyes, making them sore; that he did not solicit business of this kind, and had always rather declined having anything to do with this business.

Josiah Stowel sworn: says that prisoner had been at his house something like five months; had been employed by him to work on farm part of time; that he pretended to have skill of telling where hidden treasures in the earth were by means of looking through a certain stone; that prisoner had looked for him sometimes; once to tell him about money buried in Bend Mountain in Pennsylvania, once for gold on Monument Hill, and once for a salt spring; and that he positively knew that the prisoner could tell, and did possess the art of seeing those valuable treasures through the medium of said stone; that he found the [word illegible] at Bend and Monument Hill as prisoner represented it; that prisoner had looked through said stone for Deacon Attleton for a mine, did not exactly find it, but got a p--[word unfinished] of ore which resembled gold, he thinks; that prisoner had told by means of this stone where a Mr. Bacon had buried money; that he and prisoner had been in search of it; that prisoner had said it was in a certain root of a stump five feet from surface of the earth, and with it would be found a tail feather; that said Stowel and prisoner thereupon commenced digging, found a tail feather, but money was gone; that he supposed the money moved down. That prisoner did offer his services; that he never deceived him; that prisoner looked through stone and described Josiah Stowel's house and outhouses, while at Palmyra at Simpson Stowel's, correctly; that he had told about a painted tree, with a man's head painted upon it, by means of said stone. That he had been in company with prisoner digging for gold, and had the most implicit faith in prisoner's skill.

Arad Stowel sworn: says that he went to see whether prisoner could convince him that he possessed the skill he professed to have, upon which prisoner laid a book upon a white cloth, and proposed looking through another Stone which was white and transparent, hold the stone to the candle, turn his head to book, and read. The deception appeared so palpable that witness went off disgusted.

McMaster sworn: says he went with Arad Stowel, and likewise came away disgusted. Prisoner pretended to him that he could discover objects at a distance by holding this white stone to the sun or candle; that prisoner rather declined looking into a hat at his dark colored stone, as he said that it hurt his eyes.

Jonathan Thompson says that prisoner was requested to look for chest of money; did look, and pretended to know there it was; and that prisoner, Thompson, and Yeomans went in search of it; that Smith arrived at spot first; was at night; that Smith looked in hat while there, and when very dark, told how the chest was situated. After digging several feet, struck upon something sounding like a board or plank. Prisoner would not look again, pretending that he was alarmed on account of the circumstances relating to the trunk being buried, [which] came all fresh to his mind. That the last time he looked he discovered distinctly the two Indians who buried the trunk, that a quarrel ensued between them, and that one of said Indians was killed by the other, and thrown into the hole beside the trunk, to guard it, as he supposed. Thompson says that he believes in the prisoner's professed skill; that the board which he struck his spade upon was probably the chest, but on account of an enchantment the trunk kept settling away from under them when digging, that notwithstanding they continued constantly removing the dirt, yet the trunk kept about the same distance from them. Says prisoner said that it appeared to him that salt might be found at Bainbridge, and that he is certain that prisoner can divine things by means of said stone. That as evidence of the fact prisoner looked into his hat to tell him about some money witness lost sixteen years ago, and that he described the man that witness supposed had taken it, and the disposition of the money:

And therefore the Court find the Defendant guilty. Costs: Warrant, 19c. Complaint upon oath, 25 1/2c. Seven witnesses, 87 1/2c. Recognisances [sic], 25c. Mittimus, 19c.

Recognisances [sic] of witnesses, 75c. Subpoena, 18c. - \$2.68.

.....

<p>Chenango County to Albert Neely, Jr.          People          vs.          _____ Brazee [?]          Trial at G.A. Leadbetter's [?]          Same          vs.          Peter Brazee [?]          Same          vs.          John Sherman [?]</p>	<p>Assault &amp; Battery</p> <p>Justices          James Humphrey          Zechariah Tarbil [Tarble?]          Albert Neely          To my fees in trial          of above cause 3.68</p>
<p>People          vs.          Samuel May          March 22, 1826</p>	<p>Assault &amp; Battery          To my fees in the cause 1.99</p>
<p>Same          vs.          Joseph Smith</p>	<p>Misdemeanor</p>

The Glass Looker March 20, 1826	To my fees in examination of the above cause 2.68
Same vs. Newel Evans [?]	Champerty To examination of above cause 2.18
Same vs. Josiah Evans	Assault & Battery To my fees in above cause — 1.46
Same vs. Robert Darnell [?] October 3, 1826	Petit Larceny To fees in above cause — 1.85
Same vs. Ira Church	Assault & Battery to fees in above cause — 2.53
Nov 9, 1826	Albert Neely, Just. Of Peace \$16.37 <sup>(6)</sup>

The other bill was that of the constable in the case, Philip De Zeng, which states only the year 1826 and lists thirty plus lines of billed services, presumably rendered during that year. The relevant passage states as follows:

Serving Warrant on Joseph Smith & travel	1.25
Subpoenaing 12 Witnesses & travel	2.50
Attendance with Prisoner two days & 1 night	1.75
Notifying two Justices	1.—
10 miles travel with Mittimus to take him	1.— <sup>(7)</sup>

Before considering these bills and what Reverend Walters (their discoverer) claims they tell us vis-à-vis the accounts of the trial previously published, let us first consider the law in force in New York in 1826.

## **The 1826 Trial**

Joseph Lewis said that Joseph Smith should not be kept on the Methodist Class roll because he was a "practicing necromancer" and "dealer in enchantments and bleeding ghosts." On March 20, 1826, Joseph Smith was brought to trial for deceiving people into thinking he could find buried treasures by looking through a certain stone. He was charged court costs of \$2.68 by Justice Albert Neely. (Fraser's Magazine, February, 1873, Vol. VII, pp. 229-230). LDS author, Francis Kirkham did not believe the report in Fraser's magazine and challenged it by writing:

If such a court record confession could be identified and proved, then it follows that his believers must deny his claimed divine guidance which led them to follow him... How could he be a prophet of God, the leader of the Restored Church to these tens of thousands if he had been the superstitious fraud which 'the pages of a book'

declared he confessed to be? (A New Witness for Christ in America, Vol. I, pp. 486-487).

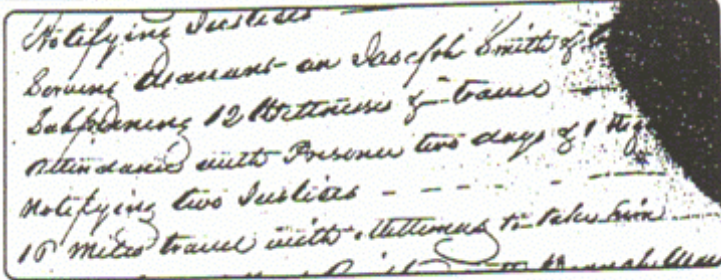
And on p. 386 of the same volume, he declared, "No such record was ever made." But Wesley Walters found it in the basement of the Chenango County jail in Norwich, New York! Photo copies of it are available from Utah Lighthouse Ministry.

Kirkham knew that Joseph Smith claimed the angel Moroni visited him annually from 1823 until 1827 when he received the gold plates and translated them by the gift and power of God. He also knew that angel visits and using magic stones to find buried treasure do not belong together. Jesus also said, "No man can serve two Masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon" (Matt. 6: 24).

".. LDS Church writers were extremely reluctant to recognize its authenticity as it seems that such examinations before a justice of the peace were not usually recorded. Also the fact that it was published through the instrumentality of Episcopal Bishop Daniel S. Tuttle did not enhance its value. In 1961 Hugh W. Nibley, professor of history and religion at Brigham Young University, explained the seriousness of the alleged trial.

"You knew its immense value as a weapon against Joseph Smith **if** its authenticity could be established.. **if** this court record is authentic, it is the most damning evidence in existence against Joseph Smith.

"The first part and conclusion of the court record published by Bishop Tuttle is here reproduced, which indicates that young Joseph admitted to using his seer stone to search for lost property, buried coins, hidden treasures, and gold mines:



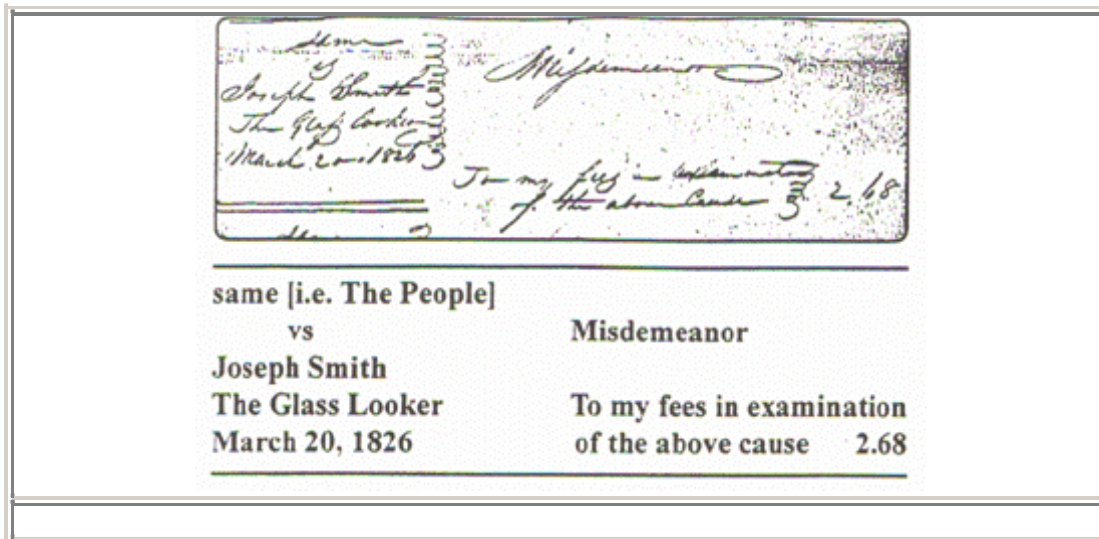
A snippet of a handwritten court record in cursive script, showing a list of legal actions and their associated costs. The text is partially obscured by a dark shadow on the right side.

Serving Warrant on Joseph Smith & travel .....	1.25
Subpoening 12 Witnesses & travel .....	2.50 (3.50?)
Attendance with Prisoner two days & 1 night .....	1.75
Notifying two Justices .....	1.—
10 miles travel with Mittimus to take him .....	1.—

People of the State of New York vs. Joseph Smith.

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"Recent discoveries have confirmed the reality of the 1826 pre-trial examination of 'Joseph Smith The Glass Looker' before Albert Neely, a justice of the peace." (The Creation of the Book of Mormon, LaMar Petersen, Freethinker Press, 1998, pp.29-32)



# **The Stolen Manuscript: The lost 116 Pages of the Book of Mormon**

The Stolen Manuscript.

This event, as related by Mr. Smith's friends, is something like this:

Mr. Martin Harris, who was employed as Mr. Smith's scribe at the beginning of the translation, had written out with his own hand 116 pages of manuscript. By long and persistent coaxing, and the most faithful promises of secrecy, he secured Mr. Smith's permission to carry said manuscript to his own house for his wife's inspection—a woman who is accredited with a very bad temper. Before the precious treasure was returned to its owner, a sad domestic quarrel so thoroughly provoked Mrs. Harris, that in an evil hour she put the manuscript forever out of the way. The general belief was that she burned it. But the prophet Joseph evidently was afraid she had not, but had secretly hid it, for the purpose of entrapping him, should he ever attempt to reproduce the pages. If the work was really of God, the manuscript could be reproduced word for word without a mistake. If, however, Joseph inspired it himself, his memory would hardly be adequate to such a task, without numberless changes or verbal differences—and thus "give himself away," since he loudly professed to be all the time aided "by the gift and power of God."

The result was, that, in time, God gave Joseph a lengthy revelation. In it God supposedly told Joseph that Satan had put it into the hearts of the enemies of the truth to alter the words of that stolen manuscript so that should Mr. Smith reproduce them, they would lie about it, and say the two did not match.

God chastised him by taking the plates that contained the missing pages away from Joseph Smith for a time, the gift of translation, and also possession of the plates and Urim and Thummim; but through sincere repentance, he was received again into the favor of the Lord.. The Lord revealed this plot to Joseph Smith, and warned him not to translate again Moroni's abridgment of the Book of Lehi—which comprised so much of the manuscript as had been entrusted to Harris. It was because the men that had taken them would change the words and lie about it and say that Joseph could not recreate the translation. On the contrary, he was commanded to translate what are called in the Book of Mormon the "Smaller Plates of Nephi," and let that stand in the place of the translation of the Book of Lehi which Harris had lost.. and that is after all a great deal better and more desirable than the stolen record: He revealed to Joseph that there is another record he may use, abridged not by Mormon but by Nephi,

Now several questions naturally come to mind.

1. HOW could Satan so easily circumvent the Lord? The golden plates from which these 116 pages were translated had been preserved for 1400 years by the special providence of God—been carefully translated by the gift and power of God. But now,

after all this trouble and pains, the Lord is beaten by a wrathful woman, and all this trouble, labor and watch care proves "love's labor lost" !

2. HOW does it happen that neither God himself nor his angel found out Mr. Smith was translating the wrong plates until Martin Harris stole those 116 pages?

3. If Joseph Smith was making a sad blunder in translating a second-rate, discarded set of plates, why should the Lord so terribly scold him and punish him for letting Mr. Harris take that manuscript home—since it was the best thing that could have happened for the cause of truth?

4. Does the Lord Himself come out of this affair entirely unscathed? Either He made a mistake in the first instance, and had to back out and do His work over again—or he perpetrated a fraud in the second case, a trick, a silly trick that has not even the merit of being a sharp one, so "thin," in fact, that no special acuteness is required to see through it.

But now, dear reader, after learning all these facts, doesn't it seem clear that the reason Joseph did not retranslate the plates is because he couldn't remember what he wrote?

## Doctrine and Covenants Section 10

Section 10

Date: Summer 1828

Place: Harmony, Pennsylvania

To: Joseph Smith

**1** Now, behold, I say unto you, that because you delivered up those writings which you had power given unto you to translate by the means of the Urim and Thummim, into the hands of a wicked man, you have lost them.

**2** And you also lost your gift at the same time, and your mind became darkened.

**3** Nevertheless, it is now restored unto you again; therefore see that you are faithful and continue on unto the finishing of the remainder of the work of translation as you have begun.

**4** Do not run faster or labor more than you have strength and means provided to enable you to translate; but be diligent unto the end.

**5** Pray always, that you may come off conqueror; yea, that you may conquer Satan, and that you may escape the hands of the servants of Satan that do uphold his work.

6 Behold, they have sought to destroy you; yea, even the man in whom you have trusted has sought to destroy you.

7 And for this cause I said that he is a wicked man, for he has sought to take away the things wherewith you have been entrusted; and he has also sought to destroy your gift.

8 And because you have delivered the writings into his hands, behold, wicked men have taken them from you.

9 Therefore, you have delivered them up, yea, that which was sacred, unto wickedness.

10 And, behold, Satan hath put it into their hearts to alter the words which you have caused to be written, or which you have translated, which have gone out of your hands.

11 And behold, I say unto you, that because they have altered the words, they read contrary from that which you translated and caused to be written;

12 And, on this wise, the devil has sought to lay a cunning plan, that he may destroy this work;

13 For he hath put into their hearts to do this, that by lying they may say they have caught you in the words which you have pretended to translate.

14 Verily, I say unto you, that I will not suffer that Satan shall accomplish his evil design in this thing.

15 For behold, he has put it into their hearts to get thee to tempt the Lord thy God, in asking to translate it over again.

16 And then, behold, they say and think in their hearts—We will see if God has given him power to translate; if so, he will also give him power again;

17 And if God giveth him power again, or if he translates again, or, in other words, if he bringeth forth the same words, behold, we have the same with us, and we have altered them;

18 Therefore they will not agree, and we will say that he has lied in his words, and that he has no gift, and that he has no power;

19 Therefore we will destroy him, and also the work; and we will do this that we may not be ashamed in the end, and that we may get glory of the world.

20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, that Satan has great hold upon their hearts; he stirreth them up to iniquity against that which is good;

21 And their hearts are corrupt, and full of wickedness and abominations; and they love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil; therefore they will not ask of me.



22 Satan stirreth them up, that he may lead their souls to destruction.

23 And thus he has laid a cunning plan, thinking to destroy the work of God; but I will require this at their hands, and it shall turn to their shame and condemnation in the day of judgment.

24 Yea, he stirreth up their hearts to anger against this work.

25 Yea, he saith unto them: Deceive and lie in wait to catch, that ye may destroy; behold, this is no harm. And thus he flattereth them, and telleth them that it is no sin to lie that they may catch a man in a lie, that they may destroy him.

26 And thus he flattereth them, and leadeth them along until he draggeth their souls down to hell; and thus he causeth them to catch themselves in their own snare.

27 And thus he goeth up and down, to and fro in the earth, seeking to destroy the souls of men.

28 Verily, verily, I say unto you, woe be unto him that lieth to deceive because he supposeth that another lieth to deceive, for such are not exempt from the justice of God.

29 Now, behold, they have altered these words, because Satan saith unto them: He hath deceived you—and thus he flattereth them away to do iniquity, to get thee to tempt the Lord thy God.

30 Behold, I say unto you, that you shall not translate again those words which have gone forth out of your hands;

31 For, behold, they shall not accomplish their evil designs in lying against those words. For, behold, if you should bring forth the same words they will say that you have lied and that you have pretended to translate, but that you have contradicted yourself.

32 And, behold, they will publish this, and Satan will harden the hearts of the people to stir them up to anger against you, that they will not believe my words.

33 Thus Satan thinketh to overpower your testimony in this generation, that the work may not come forth in this generation.

34 But behold, here is wisdom, and because I show unto you wisdom, and give you commandments concerning these things, what you shall do, show it not unto the world until you have accomplished the work of translation.

35 Marvel not that I said unto you: Here is wisdom, show it not unto the world—for I said, show it not unto the world, that you may be preserved.

36 Behold, I do not say that you shall not show it unto the righteous;

37 But as you cannot always judge the righteous, or as you cannot always tell the wicked from the righteous, therefore I say unto you, hold your peace until I shall see fit to make all things known unto the world concerning the matter.

38 And now, verily I say unto you, that an account of those things that you have written, which have gone out of your hands, is engraven upon the plates of Nephi;

39 Yea, and you remember it was said in those writings that a more particular account was given of these things upon the plates of Nephi.

40 And now, because the account which is engraven upon the plates of Nephi is more particular concerning the things which, in my wisdom, I would bring to the knowledge of the people in this account—

41 Therefore, you shall translate the engravings which are on the plates of Nephi, down even till you come to the reign of king Benjamin, or until you come to that which you have translated, which you have retained;

42 And behold, you shall publish it as the record of Nephi; and thus I will confound those who have altered my words.

43 I will not suffer that they shall destroy my work; yea, I will show unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil.

44 Behold, they have only got a part, or an abridgment of the account of Nephi.

45 Behold, there are many things engraven upon the plates of Nephi which do throw greater views upon my gospel; therefore, it is wisdom in me that you should translate this first part of the engravings of Nephi, and send forth in this work.

46 And, behold, all the remainder of this work does contain all those parts of my gospel which my holy prophets, yea, and also my disciples, desired in their prayers should come forth unto this people.

# Is Polygamy Part of God's Plan for Marriage?

by Sandra Tanner

When God created humans He instituted His plan for marriage: one man should have one wife. In Genesis 2:18 we read:

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

Verse 22 relates the creation of Eve, again showing that there was to be just one woman for each man. Verse 24 states:

"Therefore shall **a man** leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto **his wife**; and they shall be **one** flesh."

The first mention of polygamy in the Bible is Genesis 4:19:

"And Lamech [a descendant of Cain] took unto him two wives..."

If there was ever a justification for polygamy it would seem to have been needed when Adam and Eve were to populate the earth. Yet we see the pattern of just one woman and one man.

The same pattern is carried out by Noah at the time of the Ark (Genesis 7:7). Noah took his one wife into the ark. Again, if polygamy were ordained of God, why didn't He tell Noah to take additional wives to repopulate the earth faster?

God instructed Moses that the kings of Israel were to have only one wife:

"Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, **that his heart turn not away.**" Deut. 17:17

This is exactly what happened with Solomon. We read in I Kings 11:4:

"For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that **his wives turned away his heart after other gods**; and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father."

David's heart was right with God because he did not turn to other gods, not because he practiced polygamy.

LDS will sometimes point to 2 Samuel 12:8 to prove that David's wives were approved by God. But that verse indicates that he inherited Saul's wives, not that David actually married them by God's appointment. It was the custom of the time for the succeeding ruler to receive all of the prior ruler's property and women. This is not a proof that God

intends people to practice polygamy. It is contrary to the pattern of marriage established with Adam and Eve and His instructions in Deuteronomy.

Just as divorce was permitted, so too was polygamy. But it does not represent God's will. In Matt. 19:3-9 the Pharisees asked Jesus about divorce and Jesus answered:

"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 to his wife; and they **twain** [two] shall be one flesh?

"Wherefore they are no more **twain** [two], but **one** flesh."

The Pharisees then asked him why Moses allowed for divorce. Jesus answered:

"Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so" (Matt.19:7).

In the New Testament the practice of polygamy would have kept a man from leadership in the church. Paul instructed Timothy:

"A bishop then must be blameless, the **husband of one wife...**" (I Tim.3:2)

Paul also wrote to Titus:

"...ordain elders in every city...if any be blameless, the **husband of one wife...**" (Titus 1:6)

Even the Book of Mormon condemns polygamy. In Jacob 2:24 we read:

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

Mormons will sometimes appeal to Jacob 2:30, saying God could make exceptions to verse 24 and command polygamy. It says:

"**For if I will**, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people; **otherwise** they shall hearken unto these things [instruction in Jacob 2:24]."

But the justification for polygamy seems to be when God wants to speed up reproduction. Smith's polygamy did not achieve this (as there are only two or three children suspected to be from Smith's plural wives) so what is the justification? Also, Smith seems to have begun practicing polygamy even before his revelation. Joseph Smith's revelation on polygamy is recorded in the *Doctrine and Covenants*, section 132. But verse 52 instructs Smith's wife, Emma, to "receive all those that HAVE BEEN

GIVEN unto my servant Joseph, and who are virtuous and pure before me; and those who are not pure, and have said they were pure, shall be destroyed, saith the Lord God."

Mormons will sometimes argue that the date on the revelation (July 12, 1843) is only the date when the revelation was committed to paper, not when it was actually given. But verse 52 demonstrates that Smith had already taken plural wives before the revelation was given, no matter what the date.

The second half of verse 52 seems to suggest that Smith had also taken some unvirtuous women as wives.

In a *Salt Lake Tribune* review of Todd Compton's new book on Smith's polygamy we read:

"In identifying 33 well-documented wives of [Joseph] Smith -- other researchers have placed the figure as high as 48 -- Compton found that in the case of 11 women, Smith's polygamy was polyandrous. That is, the women were married and cohabiting with their husbands, who mostly were faithful Mormons, when Smith married them.

"Yet not one divorced her 'first husband' when Smith was alive. Indeed, they continued to live with their civil spouses while married to Smith.

" 'If one superimposes a chronological perspective, one sees that of Smith's first 12 wives, nine were polyandrous....'

"Compton, a practicing Mormon...spent much of the 1990's combing pioneer records, diaries and reminiscences.

...

"Eleven of Smith's wives were between ages 14 and 20, nine were in their 20s, eight were in Smith's own peer group of 31 to 40, two were in their 40s and three in their 50s.

...

"Toward the end of Smith's life, knowledge of his secret marriages began to leak out. William Law, Smith's second counselor ... filed suit against the church leader for living 'in an open state of adultery' with 19-year-old Maria Lawrence.

"In a speech a month before his death, Smith responded by flatly denying polygamy, which was illegal under federal law. 'What a thing it is for a man to be accused of committing adultery, and having seven wives, when I can only find one,' he said." [See Smith's entire speech in *History of the Church*, vol. 6, pp.408-412.]

(*Salt Lake Tribune*, December 13, 1997, p.C2)

## Joseph Smith, Plural Wives

Source: Todd Compton, *In Sacred Loneliness: The Plural Wives of Joseph Smith*, pp. 4-9.

Name at Time of Marriage	Marriage Date	Status	Age	Later Life
1. Fanny Alger	[early 1833]	single	[16]	Fanny separated from JS and married Solomon Custer, non-LDS.
2. Lucinda Pendleton (Morgan Harris)	[1838?]	married	37?	Lucinda remained with polyandrous first husband, George Harris, LDS; married by proxy in Nauvoo temple to JS {Harris}; later divorced Harris.
3. Louisa Beaman	5 April 1841	single	26	Louisa was married by proxy to JS {BY}.
4. <a href="#">Zina Diantha Huntington (Jacobs)</a>	27 Oct. 1841	married	20	Zina remained with polyandrous first husband, Henry B. Jacobs, LDS; polyandrous proxy marriage to JS {BY} but remained with Jacobs; eventually left Jacobs and became BY's connubial wife.
5. <a href="#">Presendia Lathrop Huntington (Buell)</a>	11 Dec. 1841	married	31	Presendia remained with polyandrous first husband, Norman Buell, disaffected LDS; polyandrous proxy marriage to JS {HCK} but stayed with Buell; eventually left Buell and became HCK's connubial wife.
6. Agnes Moulton Coolbrith (Smith)	6 Jan. 1842	widowed	33	Agnes was married by proxy to Don Carlos Smith {G.A. Smith}. Don Carlos was JS's deceased brother and Agnes's first husband. She then married William Pickett, erratic LDS, in a technically polyandrous union; eventually separated from Pickett.
7. <a href="#">Sylvia Sessions (Lyon)</a>	8 Feb. 1842	married	23	Sylvia remained with polyandrous first husband, Windsor Lyon, LDS; polyandrous proxy marriage to JS {HCK}; remained with Lyon until his death; married Ezekiel Clark, non-LDS; divorced Clark; moved to Utah (to be with HCK?).
8. <a href="#">Mary Elizabeth Rollins (Lightner)</a>	late Feb. 1842	married	23	Mary remained with polyandrous first husband, Adam Lightner, non-LDS; polyandrous proxy marriage to JS {BY}, but stayed with Lightner till his death.
9. Patty Bartlett (Sessions)	9 March 1842	married	47	Patty remained with polyandrous first husband, David Sessions, LDS, till his

				death; married John Parry for time.
10. Marinda Nancy Johnson (Hyde)	Apr. 1842	married	27	Marinda remained with polyandrous first husband, Orson Hyde, LDS apostle, and was married eternally to him in the Nauvoo temple; later eternal proxy marriage to JS; eventually divorced Hyde.
11. Elizabeth Davis (Goldsmith Brackenbury Durfee)	<June 1842	married	50-51?	Elizabeth apparently remained with polyandrous first husband, Jabez Durfee, LDS, after JS's death; separated from Durfee; proxy marriage to JS {Cornelius Lott}; separated from Lott.
12. Sarah Kingsley (Howe Cleveland)	<29 June 1842	married	[53-54]	Sarah remained with polyandrous first husband, John Cleveland, non-LDS; polyandrous proxy marriage to JS {John Smith}; stayed with Cleveland to her death.
13. Delcena Johnson (Sherman)	<July 1842	widowed	[37-38]?	Delcena was married by proxy to Lyman Sherman {Almon Babbitt}.
14. <a href="#">Eliza Roxcy Snow</a>	29 June 1842	single	38	Eliza was married by proxy to JS {Brigham Young}.
15. <a href="#">Sarah Ann Whitney</a>	27 July 1842	single	17	Sarah separated from Joseph Kingsbury, her "pretend" polyandrous husband; proxy marriage to JS {HCK}.
16. <a href="#">Martha McBride (Knight)</a>	Aug. 1842	widowed	37	Martha married by proxy to JS {HCK}; separated from HCK?
17 Ruth Vose (Sayers)	Feb. 1843	married	33	Ruth remained with polyandrous first husband, Edward Sayers, non-LDS, till his death.
18. Flora Ann Woodworth	spring 1843	single	16	Flora married [Carlos] Gove, non-LDS.
19. Emily Dow Partridge	8 March 1843	single	19	Emily married by proxy to JS {BY}.
20. Eliza Maria Partridge	8 March 1843	single	22	Eliza married by proxy to JS {Amasa Lyman}. Later divorced Lyman.
21 Almera Woodward Johnson	2-22 April 1843	single	30	Almera married Reuben Barton (proxy marriage?).
22. <a href="#">Lucy Walker</a>	1 May 1843	single	17	Lucy married by proxy to JS {HCK}.
23. <a href="#">Sarah</a>	May	single	17	Sarah married by proxy to JS {HCK};

<a href="#">Lawrence</a>	1843			divorced HCK; married Joseph Mount.
24. Maria Lawrence	May 1843	single	19	Maria married by proxy to JS {BY}? Separated from BY? Proxy marriage to JS {Almon Babbitt}.
25. <a href="#">Helen Mar Kimball</a>	May 1843	single	14	Helen married by proxy to JS {Horace Whitney}.
26. Hannah Ells	<mid-1843	single	29-30	Hannah never remarried. Died [1845].
27. Elvira Annie Cowles (Holmes)	1 June 1843	married	29	Elvira remained with polyandrous first husband, Jonathan Holmes, LDS; proxy marriage to JS {Holmes}.
28. <a href="#">Rhoda Richards</a>	12 June 1843	single	58	Rhoda married by proxy to JS {BY}; separated from BY or never cohabitated.
29. <a href="#">Desdemona Fullmer</a>	July 1843	single	32-33	Desdemona married by proxy to JS {Ezra Taft Benson}; separated from Benson; married HArrison McLane but later separated.
30. Olive G. Frost	summer 1843	single	27-28?	Olive married by proxy to JS {BY}.
31. <a href="#">Melissa Lott</a>	20 Sept. 1843	single	19	Melissa married by proxy to JS {John Bernhisel}; separated from Bernhisel; married Ira Willis.
32. <a href="#">Nancy M. Winchester</a>	[1842-1843?]	single	[14?]	Nancy married by proxy to JS {HCK}; divorced HCK; married Amos Arnold.
33. <a href="#">Fanny Young (Carr Murray)</a>	2 Nov. 1843	widowed	56	Fanny never remarried.

### Possible Wives

Name at Time of Marriage	Marriage Date	Status at Time of Marriage to Smith	Age	Later Life
1. Vienna Jacques	1832-33 / 41-43?	single/married?	43-44? 54-57?	Vienna married Daniel Shearer in 1838; separated by 22 Jan. 1846.
2. Hannah Ann Dubois (Smith)	11 Feb. 1841?	widowed?	32-33?	Hannah married Philo Dibble 11 Feb. 1841; sealed to Dibble for eternity in Nauvoo temple 15 Jan. 1846.
3. Sarah Bapson	<June 1842?	single?	48-51?	?



4. Mrs. G*****	June 1842?	married/widowed?	?	?
5. <a href="#">Sarah Scott (Mulholland)</a>	1841-43?	widowed	24-27?	Sarah married by proxy to James Mulholland {HCK}, 3 Feb. 1846.
6. <a href="#">Mary Houston</a>	1841-43?	single	23-26?	Mary married by proxy to JS {HCK}, 3 Feb. 1846.
7. Mrs. Tailor	1841-43?	married/widowed	?	?
8. Mary Heron (Snider)	1842/3?	married	38-39?	Mary continued with polyandrous first husband, John Snider.

### Early Posthumous Marriages to Joseph Smith

*The following were sealed to Joseph Smith after his death (see proxy marriage below). There is no evidence that these women married him during his lifetime. Morley, in fact, stated that she had not married Joseph before his death.*

Olive Andrews	January 15, 1846, Brigham Young proxy
Jane Tibbetts	January 17, 1846, Elam Luddington proxy
Phebe Watrous (Woodworth)	January 17, 1846, Lucien Woodworth proxy
Aphia Sanborn (Dow Yale)	January 27, 1846, Gad Yale Proxy
<a href="#">Cordelia Morley</a>	January 27, 1846, Frederick Cox proxy
Mary Ann Frost (Sterns Pratt)	February 6, 1846, Parley P. Pratt proxy
Sally Ann Fuller	January 29, 1847, Samuel Gully proxy
Lydia Kenyon (Carter)	possibly sealed in late 1844, HCK proxy

### Key to Abbreviations

<	earlier than
?	unknown
[ ]	unverified
{ }	"proxy"
single	single at time of marriage to Smith
widowed	widowed at time of marriage to Smith
married	married to another man at time of marriage to Smith, creating polyandry, as the woman continued to cohabit with the "first husband"
BY	Brigham Young
HCK	Heber C. Kimball

## Doctrine and Covenants

### Section 132

Date: July 12, 1843

Place: Nauvoo, Illinois

To: Joseph Smith

**1** Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servant Joseph, that inasmuch as you have inquired of my hand to know and understand wherein I, the Lord, justified my servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as also Moses, David and Solomon, my servants, as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and concubines—

**2** Behold, and lo, I am the Lord thy God, and will answer thee as touching this matter.

**3** Therefore, prepare thy heart to receive and obey the instructions which I am about to give unto you; for all those who have this law revealed unto them must obey the same.

**4** For behold, I reveal unto you a new and an everlasting covenant; and if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory.

**5** For all who will have a blessing at my hands shall abide the law which was appointed for that blessing, and the conditions thereof, as were instituted from before the foundation of the world.

**6** And as pertaining to the new and everlasting covenant, it was instituted for the fulness of my glory; and he that receiveth a fulness thereof must and shall abide the law, or he shall be damned, saith the Lord God.

**7** And verily I say unto you, that the conditions of this law are these: All covenants, contracts, bonds, obligations, oaths, vows, performances, connections, associations, or expectations, that are not made and entered into and sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, of him who is anointed, both as well for time and for all eternity, and that too most holy, by revelation and commandment through the medium of mine anointed, whom I have appointed on the earth to hold this power (and I have appointed unto my servant Joseph to hold this power in the last days, and there is never but one on the earth at a time on whom this power and the keys of this priesthood are conferred), are of no efficacy, virtue, or force in and after the resurrection from the dead; for all contracts that are not made unto this end have an end when men are dead.

**8** Behold, mine house is a house of order, saith the Lord God, and not a house of confusion.

9 Will I accept of an offering, saith the Lord, that is not made in my name?

10 Or will I receive at your hands that which I have not appointed?

11 And will I appoint unto you, saith the Lord, except it be by law, even as I and my Father ordained unto you, before the world was?

12 I am the Lord thy God; and I give unto you this commandment—that no man shall come unto the Father but by me or by my word, which is my law, saith the Lord.

13 And everything that is in the world, whether it be ordained of men, by thrones, or principalities, or powers, or things of name, whatsoever they may be, that are not by me or by my word, saith the Lord, shall be thrown down, and shall not remain after men are dead, neither in nor after the resurrection, saith the Lord your God.

14 For whatsoever things remain are by me; and whatsoever things are not by me shall be shaken and destroyed.

15 Therefore, if a man marry him a wife in the world, and he marry her not by me nor by my word, and he covenant with her so long as he is in the world and she with him, their covenant and marriage are not of force when they are dead, and when they are out of the world; therefore, they are not bound by any law when they are out of the world.

16 Therefore, when they are out of the world they neither marry nor are given in marriage; but are appointed angels in heaven, which angels are ministering servants, to minister for those who are worthy of a far more, and an exceeding, and an eternal weight of glory.

17 For these angels did not abide my law; therefore, they cannot be enlarged, but remain separately and singly, without exaltation, in their saved condition, to all eternity; and from henceforth are not gods, but are angels of God forever and ever.

18 And again, verily I say unto you, if a man marry a wife, and make a covenant with her for time and for all eternity, if that covenant is not by me or by my word, which is my law, and is not sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, through him whom I have anointed and appointed unto this power, then it is not valid neither of force when they are out of the world, because they are not joined by me, saith the Lord, neither by my word; when they are out of the world it cannot be received there, because the angels and the gods are appointed there, by whom they cannot pass; they cannot, therefore, inherit my glory; for my house is a house of order, saith the Lord God.

19 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; and if it be after the first resurrection, in the next resurrection; and shall

inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities, and powers, dominions, all heights and depths—then shall it be written in the Lamb's Book of Life, that he shall commit no murder whereby to shed innocent blood, and if ye abide in my covenant, and commit no murder whereby to shed innocent blood, it shall be done unto them in all things whatsoever my servant hath 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 hath been sealed upon their heads, which glory shall be a fulness and a continuation of the seeds forever and ever.

20 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.

21 Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye abide my law ye cannot attain to this glory.

22 For strait is the gate, and narrow the way that leadeth unto the exaltation and continuation of the lives, and few there be that find it, because ye receive me not in the world neither do ye know me.

23 But if ye receive me in the world, then shall ye know me, and shall receive your exaltation; that where I am ye shall be also.

24 This is eternal lives—to know the only wise and true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent. I am he. Receive ye, therefore, my law.

25 Broad is the gate, and wide the way that leadeth to the deaths; and many there are that go in thereat, because they receive me not, neither do they abide in my law.

26 Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man marry a wife according to my word, and they are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, according to mine appointment, and he or she shall commit any sin or transgression of the new and everlasting covenant whatever, and all manner of blasphemies, and if they commit no murder wherein they shed innocent blood, yet they shall come forth in the first resurrection, and enter into their exaltation; but they shall be destroyed in the flesh, and shall be delivered unto the buffetings of Satan unto the day of redemption, saith the Lord God.

27 The blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, which shall not be forgiven in the world nor out of the world, is in that ye commit murder wherein ye shed innocent blood, and assent unto my death, after ye have received my new and everlasting covenant, saith the Lord God; and he that abideth not this law can in nowise enter into my glory, but shall be damned, saith the Lord.

28 I am the Lord thy God, and will give unto thee the law of my Holy Priesthood, as was ordained by me and my Father before the world was.

29 Abraham received all things, whatsoever he received, by revelation and commandment, by my word, saith the Lord, and hath entered into his exaltation and sitteth upon his throne.

30 Abraham received promises concerning his seed, and of the fruit of his loins—from whose loins ye are, namely, my servant Joseph—which were to continue so long as they were in the world; and as touching Abraham and his seed, out of the world they should continue; both in the world and out of the world should they continue as innumerable as the stars; or, if ye were to count the sand upon the seashore ye could not number them.

31 This promise is yours also, because ye are of Abraham, and the promise was made unto Abraham; and by this law is the continuation of the works of my Father, wherein he glorifieth himself.

32 Go ye, therefore, and do the works of Abraham; enter ye into my law and ye shall be saved.

33 But if ye enter not into my law ye cannot receive the promise of my Father, which he made unto Abraham.

34 God commanded Abraham, and Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham to wife. And why did she do it? Because this was the law; and from Hagar sprang many people. This, therefore, was fulfilling, among other things, the promises.

35 Was Abraham, therefore, under condemnation? Verily I say unto you, Nay; for I, the Lord, commanded it.

36 Abraham was commanded to offer his son Isaac; nevertheless, it was written: Thou shalt not kill. Abraham, however, did not refuse, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness.

37 Abraham received concubines, and they bore him children; and it was accounted unto him for righteousness, because they were given unto him, and he abode in my law; as Isaac also and Jacob did none other things than that which they were commanded; and because they did none other things than that which they were commanded, they have entered into their exaltation, according to the promises, and sit upon thrones, and are not angels but are gods.

38 David also received many wives and concubines, and also Solomon and Moses my servants, as also many others of 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.

39 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; and, therefore he

hath fallen from his exaltation, and received his portion; and he shall not inherit them out of the world, for I gave them unto another, saith the Lord.

40 I am the Lord thy God, and I gave unto thee, my servant Joseph, an appointment, and restore all things. Ask what ye will, and it shall be given unto you according to my word.

41 And as ye have asked concerning adultery, verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man receiveth a wife in the new and everlasting covenant, and if she be with another man, and I have not appointed unto her by the holy anointing, she hath committed adultery and shall be destroyed.

42 If she be not in the new and everlasting covenant, and she be with another man, she has committed adultery.

43 And if her husband be with another woman, and he was under a vow, he hath broken his vow and hath committed adultery.

44 And if she hath not committed adultery, but is innocent and hath not broken her vow, and she knoweth it, and I reveal it unto you, my servant Joseph, then shall you have power, by the power of my Holy Priesthood, to take her and give her unto him that hath not committed adultery but hath been faithful; for he shall be made ruler over many.

45 For I have conferred upon you the keys and power of the priesthood, wherein I restore all things, and make known unto you all things in due time.

46 And verily, verily, I say unto you, that whatsoever you seal on earth shall be sealed in heaven; and whatsoever you bind on earth, in my name and by my word, saith the Lord, it shall be eternally bound in the heavens; and whosoever sins you remit on earth shall be remitted eternally in the heavens; and whosoever sins you retain on earth shall be retained in heaven.

47 And again, verily I say, whomsoever you bless I will bless, and whomsoever you curse I will curse, saith the Lord; for I, the Lord, am thy God.

48 And again, verily I say unto you, my servant Joseph, that whatsoever you give on earth, and to whomsoever you give any one on earth, by my word and according to my law, it shall be visited with blessings and not cursings, and with my power, saith the Lord, and shall be without condemnation on earth and in heaven.

49 For I am the Lord thy God, and will be with thee even unto the end of the world, and through all eternity; for verily I seal upon you your exaltation, and prepare a throne for you in the kingdom of my Father, with Abraham your father.

50 Behold, I have seen your sacrifices, and will forgive all your sins; I have seen your sacrifices in obedience to that which I have told you. Go, therefore, and I make a way for your escape, as I accepted the offering of Abraham of his son Isaac.

51 Verily, I say unto you: A commandment I give unto mine handmaid, Emma Smith, your wife, whom I have given unto you, that she stay herself and partake not of that which I commanded you to offer unto her; for I did it, saith the Lord, to prove you all, as I did Abraham, and that I might require an offering at your hand, by covenant and sacrifice.

52 And let mine handmaid, Emma Smith, receive all those that have been given unto my servant Joseph, and who are virtuous and pure before me; and those who are not pure, and have said they were pure, shall be destroyed, saith the Lord God.

53 For I am the Lord thy God and ye shall obey my voice; and I give unto my servant Joseph that he shall be made ruler over many things; for he hath been faithful over a few things, and from henceforth I will strengthen him.

54 And I command mine handmaid, Emma Smith, to abide and cleave unto my servant Joseph, and to none else. But if she will not abide this commandment she shall be destroyed, saith the Lord; for I am the Lord thy God, and will destroy her if she abide not in my law.

55 But if she will not abide this commandment, then shall my servant Joseph do all things for her, even as he hath said; and I will bless him and multiply him and give unto him an hundredfold in this world, of fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, houses and lands, wives and children, and crowns of eternal lives in the eternal worlds.

56 And again, verily I say, let mine handmaid forgive my servant Joseph his trespasses; and then shall she be forgiven her trespasses, wherein she has trespassed against me; and I, the Lord thy God, will bless her, and multiply her, and make her heart to rejoice.

57 And again, I say, let not my servant Joseph put his property out of his hands, lest an enemy come and destroy him; for Satan seeketh to destroy; for I am the Lord thy God, and he is my servant; and behold, and lo, I am with him, as I was with Abraham, thy father, even unto his exaltation and glory.

58 Now, as touching the law of the priesthood, there are many things pertaining thereunto.

59 Verily, if a man be called of my Father, as was Aaron, by mine own voice, and by the voice of him that sent me, and I have endowed him with the keys of the power of this priesthood, if he do anything in my name, and according to my law and by my word, he will not commit sin, and I will justify him.

60 Let no one, therefore, set on my servant Joseph; for I will justify him; for he shall do the sacrifice which I require at his hands for his transgressions, saith the Lord your God.

61 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 is he 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.

62 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 is he justified.

63 But if one or either of the ten virgins, after she is espoused, shall be with another man, she has committed adultery, and shall be destroyed; for they are given unto him to multiply and replenish the earth, according to my commandment, and to fulfil the promise which was given by my Father before the foundation of the world, and for their exaltation in the eternal worlds, that they may bear the souls of men; for herein is the work of my Father continued, that he may be glorified.

64 And again, verily, verily, I say unto you, if any man have a wife, who holds the keys of this power, and he teaches unto her the law of my priesthood, as pertaining to these things, then shall she believe and administer unto him, or she shall be destroyed, saith the Lord your God; for I will destroy her; for I will magnify my name upon all those who receive and abide in my law.

65 Therefore, it shall be lawful in me, if she receive not this law, for him to receive all things whatsoever I, the Lord his God, will give unto him, because she did not believe and administer unto him according to my word; and she then becomes the transgressor; and he is exempt from the law of Sarah, who administered unto Abraham according to the law when I commanded Abraham to take Hagar to wife.

66 And now, as pertaining to this law, verily, verily, I say unto you, I will reveal more unto you, hereafter; therefore, let this suffice for the present. Behold, I am Alpha and Omega. Amen.



# SISTERS MARRIED TO JOSEPH ?

Emily Dow Partridge, for instance, testified that she and her sister were married to Joseph without Emma's consent:

"...the Prophet Joseph and his wife Emma offered us a home in their family,... We had been there about a year when the principle of plural marriage was made known to us, and ***I was married to Joseph Smith*** on the 4th of March 1843, Elder Heber C. Kimball performing the ceremony. My sister ***Eliza was also married to Joseph*** a few days later. This was done ***without the knowledge of Emma Smith***. Two months afterward she consented to give her husband two wives, providing he would give her the privilege of choosing them. She accordingly chose my sister Eliza and myself, and ***to save family trouble Brother Joseph thought it best to have another ceremony performed***. Accordingly on the 11th of May, 1843, we were sealed to Joseph Smith a second time, in Emma's presence,... From that very hour, however, Emma was our ***bitter enemy***. We remained in the family several months after this, but things went from bad to worse until we were obligated to leave the house and find another home." (*Historical Record*, vol. 6, page 240)

Moreover, Joseph Smith went so far as to take two young women into his house, become their personal guardian, and then lure them into becoming his wives. Mormon scholars Linda King Newell and Valeen Tippets Avery wrote:

"The Lawrence sisters had come to Nauvoo from Canada without their parents in 1840 when Maria was about eighteen and Sarah fifteen. Emma and Joseph offered them a home. According to William Law's account, the girls had inherited about eight thousand dollars in 'English gold.' Law said, 'Joseph got to be appointed their guardian,'... Joseph's history dated May 30, 1843, reads, 'I superintended the preparation of papers to settle the Lawrence estate,' and four days later the 'accounts of the Lawrence estate were presented to the probate judge, to which he made objection.' " (*Mormon Enigma: Emma Hale Smith*, 1984, page 144)

In 1981, Andrew F. Ehat, a Mormon scholar who is very knowledgeable about early Mormon history, wrote his Master of Arts thesis at Brigham Young University. It is entitled, "Joseph Smith's Introduction of Temple Ordinances and the 1844 Mormon Succession Question." Speaking of Joseph Smith, Ehat wrote:

"In particular, he knew his responsibility as guardian to the Lawrence Estate could be misunderstood given the fact that he was sealed to Maria Lawrence -- a fact that made him particularly vulnerable to William Law.

"In June 1841, Joseph Smith, Hyrum Smith and William Law had assumed the responsibility of the deceased Edward Lawrence's estate valued at \$7,750.06. ***Joseph was named as guardian of the Lawrence children***. Somehow during his period of indecision, William Law found out that Maria Lawrence was sealed as a wife to Joseph; in fact, Law,

he later stated, found Joseph in a compromising situation with Maria on 12 October 1843. Two weeks later, 26 October 1843, Joseph ostensibly sealed Maria for time to John M. Bernhisel... But in January 1844, Joseph apparently felt this would no longer calm the angered William Law. The day after Joseph and William's final confrontation, Joseph began arrangements to relinquish the estate affairs entirely.... Undoubtedly, if William Law, one of the appointed trustees of the estate, 'claimed' that Joseph had not only extorted the funds of the estate, but had also ***committed adultery with the eldest child of whom he was personal guardian***, that would make an explosive expose.... What was said and done in public was guarded and carefully worded in order to protect both the Church and his faithful colleagues as they entered practices ***illegal*** in the sight of man yet covenants they were assured were commanded by God.... Law appeared before the first sitting of the Grand Jury of the Hancock County circuit court to swear out charges against Joseph. Law filed charges and presented such evidence that the Grand Jury authorized an indictment against Joseph Smith for 'adultery and fornication.' " (pages 132-134)

George D. Smith did a great deal of research on polygamy in the early years of Mormonism. He discovered that Joseph Smith was not only sealed to a fourteen-year-old girl, but also to a fifteen-year-old girl and to two girls who were sixteen years old. All of these sealings to young girls occurred when Joseph Smith was between thirty-seven and thirty-eight years of age.

In his article George Smith included a list of 153 men who took plural wives in the early years of the Mormon Church. When we examined this list, we noted that two of the young girls ***were only thirteen years old*** when they were lured into polygamy. Thirteen girls were only ***fourteen years old***. Twenty-one were ***fifteen years old***, and fifty-three were ***sixteen years old*** when they were secretly enticed into this degrading lifestyle.

Fanny Stenhouse, who at one time had been a firm believer in Mormonism and had even allowed her husband to take another wife, wrote the following:

"It would be quite impossible, with any regard to propriety, to relate all the horrible results of this disgraceful system.... Marriages have been contracted between the nearest of relatives; and old men tottering on the brink of the grave have been united to little girls scarcely in their teens; while unnatural alliances of every description, which in any other community would be regarded with disgust and abhorrence, are here entered into in the name of God...

"It is quite a common thing in Utah for a man to marry two or even three sisters.... I know also another man who ***married a widow*** with several children; and when one of the girls had grown into her teens he ***insisted on marrying her also...*** and to this very day the daughter bears children to her step-father, living as wife in the same house with her mother!" (*Tell It All*, 1874, pages 468-69)

# Can we become Gods?

## 27 Biblical Passages Which Explicitly Teach There is Only One God

There are not a few ambiguous Biblical passages that teach that there is only one God, but many explicit passages that clearly declare this cardinal truth. Each of the following 27 passages explicitly teach that there is one — and only one — true and living God. The Mormon plurality of Gods doctrine (found most explicitly in the Pearl of Great Price/Book of Abraham 4-5) contradicts this fundamental biblical teaching.

**1. DEUTERONOMY 4:35,39** — Unto thee it was shown, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; **there is none else beside him.** (39) Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: **there is none else.**

**2. DEUTERONOMY 6:4** — Hear, O Israel: **The LORD thy God is one LORD.** [Note in Mark 12: 28-34 how Jesus and a Jewish scribe he encountered understood this text.]

**3. DEUTERONOMY 32:39** — See now that I, even I, am he, and **there is no god with me:** I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

**4. 2 SAMUEL 7:22** — Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God; for there is none like thee, **neither is there any God beside thee,** according to all that we have heard with our ears.

**5. 1 KINGS 8:60** — That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, **and that there is none else.**

**6. 2 KINGS 5:15** — And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that **there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel;** now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

**7. 2 KINGS 19:15** — And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, **even thou alone,** of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.

**8. NEHEMIAH 9:6** — Thou, even **thou, art LORD alone;** thou has made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

**9. PSALM 18:31** — For **who is God save the LORD?** or who is a rock save our God?

**10. PSALM 86:10** — For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: **thou art God alone.**

**11. ISAIAH 37:16,20** — O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, **even thou alone,** of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou has made heaven and earth. (20) Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, **even thou only.**

**12. ISAIAH 43:10,11** — 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.** I, even I, am the LORD; **and beside me there is no savior.**

**13. ISAIAH 44:6,8** — Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; **I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.** Fear ye not, neither be afraid; have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. **Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.**

**14. ISAIAH 45:21** — Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time: who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and **there is no God else beside me;** a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me.

**15. ISAIAH 46:9** — For I am God, **and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.**

**16. HOSEA 13:4** — Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me; **for there is no savior beside me.**

**17. JOEL 2:27** — And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that **I am the LORD your God, and none else:** and my people shall never be ashamed.

**18. ZECHARIAH 14:9** — And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.

**19. MARK 12:29-34** — And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; **The Lord our God is one Lord:** And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: **for there is one God; and there is none other but he:** And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou

art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

**20. JOHN 17:3** — And this is life eternal, that they might know thee **the only true God**, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

**21. ROMANS 3:30** — **Seeing it is one God**, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

**22. 1 CORINTHIANS 8:4-6** — As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that **there is none other God but one**. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) **But to us there is but one God**, the Father, of whom all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

**23. GALATIANS 3:20** — Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, **but God is one**.

**24. EPHESIANS 4:6** — **One God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

**25. 1 TIMOTHY 1:17** — Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, **the only wise God**, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**26. 1 TIMOTHY 2:5** — **For there is one God**, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

**27. JAMES 2:19** — Thou believest that **there is one God**; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

# Heaven

## celestial, telestial, terrestrial

The LDS doctrine believes that there are 3 levels of heaven ( or three degrees of glory). They use the term heaven to describe the place of those who have received the reward of a glorious afterlife. The [celestial, terrestrial, and the telestial](#).

The Celestial is the highest and is saved for those who have become perfect, received their temple endowments (baptize for the dead to redeem them out of the telestial kingdom) , and be married in the temple. Only they may become Gods and live forever. In this Celestial kingdom they will live with father God and share relationship with him.

The terrestrial is saved for those religious people who aren't Mormons, or for Mormon's who have not met the requirements to enter the celestial kingdom. They do not have the opportunity to enter into the exalted state of Godhood. While they do not dwell in the presence of God the Father, they will be ministered to by Jesus Christ.

The telestial is for only those who refuse to become Mormon, commit serious sins such as murder, adultery, lying, do not believe in Joseph Smith, and make no effort to better themselves and do not repent in mortality. They cannot be ministered to by Jesus or live with the father but they can have fellowship with the holy ghost. Mormons believe that these people will become the servants of God.

# Married in heaven

## How the LDS Husband Hopes to Resurrect His Wife According to the LDS Temple Ceremony

By Sandra Tanner

The LDS Church teaches that at the end of the world everyone will be resurrected. They also believe that almost everyone will go to heaven, which is divided up into three main levels. Bad people go to the lowest, the **Telestial Kingdom** (*Doctrine and Covenants* 76:81-86). Good people, who were not Mormons, will go to the middle level, the **Terrestrial Kingdom** (*D&C* 76:71-79). Mormons will go to the highest level, the **Celestial Kingdom** (*D&C* 76:50-70). However, only those who merit the highest part of the Celestial Kingdom will have **Eternal Life** [the ability to live in a marriage relationship and continue to beget children—see [D&C 132:20-24](#), also see [Mormons Hope to Become Gods of Their Own Worlds](#)]. All others have **immortality** [which is defined as the ability to live forever in a single condition, not married and no future children] but do not have Eternal Life. One must be married in the LDS temple and then obey all of the Mormon regulations to get to the highest degree of heaven. The first time a Mormon attends the temple endowment ceremony he/she will be given a new name [usually a Bible name like Peter or Mary or the name of European royalty]. These will supposedly be their names in eternity. The wife must tell her husband her new name, and no one else, as he is supposed to call her up in the resurrection. If he does not call her up she would still resurrect, but not as his wife. When a Mormon returns to the temple, on various occasions, to go through the endowment ceremony, he/she will stand in by proxy for a dead person. For instance, a man may be going through the ritual in behalf of his dead uncle. A new temple name would be assigned to the dead person, which could be Joseph, David, Paul, etc. In the case of a dead woman, a Mormon woman would stand in by proxy for her, and the dead woman would be given a new temple name, like Rachael, Eve, Rebecca, etc.

LDS Apostle Charles W. Penrose wrote:

In the divine economy, as in nature, the man "is the head of the woman," and it is written that "he is the savior of the body." But "the man is not without the woman" any more than the woman is without the man, in the Lord. Adam was first formed, then Eve. In the **resurrection**, they stand side by side and hold dominion together. **Every man** who overcomes all things and is thereby **entitled to inherit all things, receives power to bring up his wife** to join him in the possession and enjoyment thereof.

In the case of a man marrying a wife in the everlasting covenant who dies while he continues in the flesh and marries another by the same divine law, each wife will come forth in her order and enter with him into his glory. (*"Mormon" Doctrine Plain and Simple, or Leaves from the Tree of Life*, by Charles W. Penrose, p.66, 1897, Salt Lake City, UT.)

LDS Apostle Erastus Snow preached the following on Sunday, Oct. 4, 1857:

Do the women, when they pray, remember their husbands?... Do you uphold your husband before God as your lord? "What!—my husband to be my lord?" I ask, **Can you get into the celestial kingdom without him?** Have any of you been there? You will remember that you never got into the celestial kingdom [during the temple ceremony] **without the aid of your husband.** If you did, it was because your husband was away, and some one had to act proxy for him. **No woman will get into the celestial kingdom, except her husband receives her,** if she is worthy to have a husband; and if not, somebody will receive her as a servant. (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 5, p. 291)

William Clayton, secretary to Joseph Smith, also discussed some of the temple work in his journals. In the Introduction to [\*An Intimate Chronicle: The Journals of William Clayton\*](#) we read:

Clayton described the temple endowment, a ritualized drama of the creation, fall, and redemption of Adam, during which its participants promise obedience and loyalty to the church, and repeat passwords and signs they believe will enable them to enter into the celestial or highest kingdom of heaven. He wrote about washings and anointings, preparatory rituals for the endowment ceremony, and described dramatic role-playing in which church members act out the Garden of Eden story of Adam, Eve, and the serpent.

As church members rehearsed this celestial drama, they wore special clothing and volunteered the necessary words and signs to enter the highest heaven, the Celestial Kingdom. Clayton recorded that "The tokens and covenants are. . . the key by which you approach God and be recognized." **In this ceremony, each husband escorted his wife through a veil, calling her by a "new temple name." The woman's salvation would depend upon her husband's priesthood authority.** Clayton reported Brigham Young saying that "the man must love his God and the woman must love her husband," adding that "**woman will never get back, unless she follows the man back.**" (Introduction to [\*An Intimate Chronicle: The Journals of William Clayton\*](#), edited by George D. Smith, Signature Books, p. xxxvi-xxxvii; see also p. 204-240.)

Writing in 1870, former Mormon Mary Ettie Smith related her experience with the LDS Church and the temple ritual:

My husband,...and myself, were called to the [Nauvoo] Temple to receive our "Endowments." . . .



The room I had entered was nearly filled with women; no men were in this room; and no women were in the room at the right, where Wallace had entered. Here we were undressed and washed in a large tub of warm water . . . and then anointed with "consecrated oil," . . . we were then dressed with a white night-gown and skirt, and shoes of bleached drilling, and with our hair loose and dripping with consecrated oil, **each received a new name**, and were instructed that we were never to pronounce this name on earth but once: and that, when we came to enter within the "Veil," hereafter described.

The same process is gone through with in the men's washing-room . . . and when all was ready in both rooms, each party was piloted by one of their own sex into a common room, fitted up to represent, and called the Garden of Eden. . . . "We . . . each put on the "garment," [Special LDS underwear. An abbreviated version is still worn by faithful Mormons today.] which is so arranged as to form a whole suit at once; and the "robe," which is a strip of white muslin [cotton], say three-fourths of a yard wide, and long enough to reach to the feet, gathered in the middle, and tied by a bow, to the left shoulder, and brought across the body, and the edges fastened together on the right side, with a belt around the waist of the same. Over this was put the apron we had received in the "first glory;" and the women wore what is called a veil . . .

We were next led into what is called the Terrestrial Glory; where Brigham Young received us, . . . he gave each a pass-word and grip necessary, he said, to admit us into the "Celestial Glory;" . . . there are many gods, and they do not acknowledge the one Triune God of the Bible, but that every man will sometime be a "god;" and that women are to be the ornaments of his kingdom, and **dependent upon him for resurrection and salvation**; and that our salvation is dependent upon the recollection of these passwords; . . ." (*Mormonism: Its Rise, Progress, and Present Condition. Embracing the Narrative of Mrs. Mary Ettie V. Smith, of Her Residence and Experience of Fifteen Years with the Mormons*...., by N. W. Green, Hartford, 1870, p. 42-48)

After Mrs. Smith and her first husband, Wallace Henderson, left Nauvoo and headed west, their marriage began to fall apart. Among other indiscretions, Mr. Henderson took another wife and Ettie left him. When she later explained to Apostle Orson Hyde why she had left her husband, Mr. Hyde replied:

"The reasons you have given do not constitute a lawful excuse for leaving your husband, according to the laws of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints."

I then rose up to go, as I did not propose to discuss the matter with him. But he stopped me, and said, "You may, if you wish, be 'sealed' to me, and then you know there would be no risk to run, in case you should die. Otherwise, if by chance you should drop away, **having no husband to raise you at the last day, you could not be 'resurrected' as a saint**, and would only be raised like any Gentile, as a servant for the Saints, i.e., for the Mormons.' "

I was so much disgusted with this proposition, that I left him in the most unceremonious manner, in the midst of his disinterested effort for my salvation. Orson

Hyde was, at this time, forty years of age, and had at least three wives and one daughter about my own age. I was then nineteen years old. ([Mormonism: Its Rise, Progress, and Present Condition](#), p. 132)

Later in her book, Mrs. Smith discussed the LDS concept of priesthood and salvation:

The priesthood, in some form, is understood to be necessary to the salvation of a male, or at least, to his exaltation; and **a female cannot be saved without being "sealed" to some male who is a Priest.** Hence all true Mormons are Priests, and women really do not amount to much in themselves, . . . Hence women are often "sealed," that is married to men, when they do not intend to live with them as an earthly wife, but merely that **they may be saved by them:** in that case they are "sealed" for eternity, as it termed. But when they are married for the natural purposes of a wife, i.e. to have children, they are then said to be "sealed" for time; and they may be "sealed" for one alone, or for both [Thus they can be married for time only, for time and eternity or for just eternity.] If a woman's husband is dead, she need not be sealed again, unless she chooses, and when she does marry again, she is "sealed" only for time, as **when she dies, her first husband will "resurrect," i.e. save her; and she will be his in the next world.** ([Mormonism: Its Rise, Progress, and Present Condition](#), p. 154 )

The following is a summary of the early Utah temple ceremony as found in *History of Utah, 1540-1886*, by H. H. Bancroft:

[During the washing and anointing ceremony] The eyes are touched, that they may be quick to see; the ears, that the hearing may be sharp; the mouth, to bestow wisdom upon speech; and the feet, that they be swift to run in the ways of the Lord. Then **a new name**, which is rarely to be mentioned, is whispered into the ear, and all are marched into room No. 2, where they are seated, the sexes on opposite sides of the room, and facing each other. Here they are told by a priest that any person not strong enough to proceed may retire; but if any portion of the ceremony is disclosed, the throat of the person so offending will be cut from ear to ear. [In 1990 the Mormon Church removed the signs of the death penalties from the ceremony. See [Salt Lake City Messenger #75 TEMPLE RITUAL ALTERED](#).] Those faltering, if any, having retired, the remainder are taken into room No. 3, where a representation of the creation, the temptation, and fall is given.

Each candidate then puts on over his robe an apron of white linen, upon which are sewn pieces of green silk representing fig-leaves, and also the cap or veil. All good Mormons are buried in their endowment robes, and **the veil worn by the women covers their faces when they are consigned to the grave. In the morning of the resurrection, this veil is to be lifted by the husband; otherwise no woman can see the face of the almighty in the next world.** This ends the first degree; and the initiated are now driven out of Eden into room No. 4, which represents the world, where they encounter many temptations, the chief of which is the false gospel preached by methodists, baptists, etc.

Finally St James and St John appear and proclaim the true gospel of Mormonism, which all gladly embrace. After this they receive certain grips and pass-words, and all are

arranged in a circle, kneel, and the women lower their veils. Then, with the right hand uplifted, an oath is taken to avenge the death of Joseph Smith, jun., upon the gentiles who had caused his murder, to teach the children of the church to do likewise, [The oath against the murderers of the Smiths has since been removed.] to obey implicitly and without murmur or question all commands of the priesthood, to refrain from adultery, and finally, eternal secrecy concerning all that transpired in the endowment house is promised.

Then comes an address, after which another room is entered, leading from which is a door with a hole in it, covered with a piece of muslin [cotton]. The men approach this door in turn and ask to enter. Then a person behind the door reaches through the opening, and with knife in hand cuts a certain mark on the left breast of the shirt, another over the abdomen, and one over the right knee, which marks are faithfully copied by the women in their own garments after returning to their homes. [These markings are already sewn on the garments today.] The man then mentions his **new name**, gives the grip of the third degree, and is permitted to pass in. This is called going behind the veil.

When the men are all in, **each woman is passed through by her husband**, or having none, by one of the brethren. This concludes the ceremony, with the exception of marriage, which will be noticed elsewhere. Of these ceremonies Mrs Stenhouse, from whose account the foregoing is partly taken, says: "About what was done in Nauvoo, I can only speak by hearsay, but have been told many strange and revolting stories about the ceremonies which were there performed. Of the endowments in Utah, everything was beautifully neat and clean, and I wish to say most distinctly that, although the initiation appears now to my mind as a piece of the most ridiculous absurdity, there was, nevertheless, nothing in it indecent or immoral. . . ." (*History of Utah, 1540-1886*, by H. H. Bancroft, 1889, ch. 15, no. 17, p. 357-358)

# IS ADAM GOD OR NOT?

The Adam-God doctrine was taught by a number of prominent men in the Mormon church starting with the second President and Prophet Brigham Young. Although this doctrine was not publicly taught until 1852, Adam was held in high esteem at the very beginning of the Mormon church. Apostle John A. Widtsoe said that "In Joseph Smith's philosophy of existence Adam and Eve were raised to a foremost place among the children of men, second only to the Savior. Their act was to be acclaimed. They were the greatest figures of the ages.

Within Mormon angelology **Adam is Michael the Archangel, it is also preached that he is the ancient of Days or Heavenly Father.** So which is it? It is said that he assisted in the creation process and will assist in the resurrecting of the dead. He holds positions of importance next to the members of the Godhead. Indeed, Adam was so highly regarded within early Mormonism that Brigham Young elevated him to the status of God (1) On April 9, 1852, Brigham Young publicly preached the Adam-God doctrine. In this sermon he declared:

Now hear it, O inhabitants of the earth, Jew and Gentile, Saint and sinner! 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. Every man upon the earth, professing Christians or non-professing, must hear it, and will know it sooner or later ... the earth was organized by three distinct characters, namely, Eloheim, Yahovah, and **Michael**, these three forming a quorum, as in all heavenly bodies, and in organizing element, perfectly represented in the Deity, as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Journal of Discourses, vol. 1, pp.50-51).

This sermon was printed in The Latter-Day Saints' Millennial Star on December 10, 1853, an article entitled, "Adam, the Father and God of the Human Family" appeared in the Millennial Star. In this article the following statements are found:

" And while the sentiment may have appeared blasphemous to the Ignorant it has no doubt given rise to some serious reflections with the more candid and comprehensive mind ... Adam is really God! And why not?" (Millennial Star, vol.15, p.801).

On page 825 of the same volume the following appeared: "It has been said that Adam is the God and Father of the human family, and persons are perhaps in fear and great trouble of mind, lest they have to acknowledge him as such in some future day. For our part we would much rather acknowledge **Adam to be our Father**, than hunt for another, and take up with the devil."

In volume 17, page 195, of the Millennial Star this statement was made: "...every Knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that he is the God of the whole earth. **Then will the words of the Prophet Brigham, when speaking of Adam, be fully realized--'He is our Father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do.'** "

Elder James A. Little confessed: "I believe in the principle of obedience; and if I am told that Adam is our Father and our God, I just believe it" (Millennial Star, vol.16, p.530).

This appeared on page 534 of the same volume: "Concerning the item of doctrine alluded to by Elder Caffall and others, viz., **that Adam is our Father and God**, I have to say do not trouble yourselves, neither let the Saints be troubled about this matter.... If, as Elder Caffall remarked, there are those who are waiting at the door of the Church for the objection to be removed, tell such, the Prophet and **Apostle Brigham Young has declared it, and that it is the word of the Lord**" (Millennial Star, vol. 16, p.534).

"Oct. 6th attend Conference, a very interesting Conference, for at this meeting President Brigham Young said thus, that Adam and Eve, were the names of the first man and woman, of every Earth that was ever organized, and that Adam and Eve were the natural father and mother of every spirit that comes to this planet, or that receives, tabernacles on this planet, consequently we are brothers and sisters, and that Adam was, God our Eternal Father, this as Brother Heber remarked was letting the cat out of the Bag, and it came to pass, I believed every word ... our Beloved Brother Orson Pratt[t] told me he did not believe it. He said he could prove by the Scriptures it was not correct. I felt very sorry to hear professor, Orson Pratt[t] say that, I feared lest he should apostacize ..." (Journal of Joseph Lee Robinson, Microfilm copy in LDS Genealogical Library).

According to the "Minutes of the School of the Prophets," held in Provo, Utah, the Apostle Lyman as well as Orson Pratt opposed Brigham Young's Adam-God doctrine. Under the date of June 8, 1868, we read:

The doctrine preached by Pres. Young for a few years back wherein he says that Adam is our God--the God we worship--that most of the people believe this ... Amasa Lyman stumbled on this he did not believe it--he did not believe in the atonement of Jesus--Orson Pratt has also told the President that he does not believe it--this is not the way to act--we should not suffer ourselves to entertain one doubt--we are not accountable on points of Doctrine if the President makes a statement it is not our prerogative to dispute it ("Minutes of the School of the Prophets," Provo, Utah, 1868-71, p.38 of typed copy at Utah State Historical Society).

In spite of the opposition, Brigham Young continued to teach the Adam-God doctrine. In 1873, just a few years before his death, he declared:

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 to make this earth, ... he and his companions came here. He brought one of his wives with him....

A photograph of the Deseret News, June 18, 1873. Brigham Young claimed that:

Our Father Adam is the man who stands at the gate and holds the keys of everlasting life and salvation to all his children who have or who ever will come upon the earth.... We say that Father Adam came here and helped to made the earth. Who is he? He is Michael.... He was the first man on the earth, and its framer and maker. He, with the help of his brethren, brought it into existence. Then he said, "I

want my children who are in the spirit world to come and live here. I once dwelt upon an earth something like this, in a mortal state. I was faithful, I received my crown and exaltation. I have the privilege of extending my work, and to its increase there will be no end. I want my children that were born to me in the spirit world to come here and take tabernacles of flesh, that their spirits may have a house, a tabernacle or a dwelling place as mine has, and where is the mystery?" (Deseret News, June 18, 1873).

There are four important points that should be noted concerning the Adam-God doctrine.

## **Not Created of the Dust of This Earth**

In a sermon delivered in 1852, Brigham Young stated: "When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body... . He helped to make and organize this world" (Journal of Discourses, vol. 1, p.50). Brigham Young also taught: "You believe Adam was made of the dust of this earth. This I do not believe, though it is supposed that it is so written in the Bible; ... I have publicly declared that I do not believe that portion of the Bible as the Christian world do," (vol. 2, p.6). "Adam was made from the dust of an earth, but not from the dust of this earth. He was made as you and I are made, and no person was ever made upon any other principle" (vol. 3, p.319).

Rodney Turner, of Brigham Young University, adds the following comment concerning this matter: "Apparently President Young means that Adam was provided with a physical body through the normal pattern of conception, embryonic development, and birth, since that is [the] method by which 'you and I are made'" (The Position of Adam in Latter-day Saint Scripture and Theology," M.A. thesis, BYU, August 1953, p.20).

## **The Only God with Whom We Have to Do**

Brigham Young stated: "He is our Father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do" (Journal of Discourses, vol. 1, p.50). In the book Women of Mormondom, page 196, we read: "When Brigham Young proclaimed to the nations that Adam was our Father and God, and Eve, the Mother of a world--both in a mortal and celestial sense--he made the most important revelation ever oracled to the race since the days of Adam himself." The reader will also remember that we quoted this statement from the "Minutes of the School of the Prophets": "...Pres. Young ... says that Adam is our God--the God we worship--that most of the people believe this...."

## **The Father of Our Spirits**

Brigham Young also taught that Adam was the Father of our spirits. In 1873 he stated: "... Father Adam came here and helped make the earth.... Then he said, '**want** my children who are in the spirit world to come and live here.... I want my children that were born to me in the spirit world to come here and take

tabernacles of flesh ..." (Deseret News, June 18, 1873). Joseph Lee Robinson explained that Brigham Young taught that "Adam and Eve were the natural father and mother of every spirit that comes to this planet, or that receives, tabernacles on this planet, ... and that Adam was God our Eternal Father...." On page 180 of Women of Mormondom we are told that "Adam and Eve are the names of the fathers and mothers of worlds.... These were father and mother of a world of spirits who had been born to them in heaven."

## **The Father of Jesus Christ**

Since Brigham Young was teaching that Adam was the father of our spirits, it was very easy to teach that Adam was also the father of Jesus. In a discourse delivered April 9, 1852, Brigham Young declared:

When the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus, the Father had begotten him in his own likeness. He was not begotten by the Holy Ghost. And who is the Father? He is the first of the human family ... I could tell you much more about this; but were I to tell you the whole truth, blasphemy would be nothing to it, in the estimation of the superstitious and over-righteous of mankind. However, I have told you the truth as far as I have gone.... 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. Now, let all who may hear these doctrines, pause before they make light of them, or treat them with indifference, for they will prove their salvation or damnation. (Journal of Discourses, vol. 1, pp.50-51).

John A. Widtsoe, who recently served as an Apostle, denied that Brigham Young taught Adam was the Father of Christ. He claimed that only "Enemies of the Church or stupid people" could reach such a conclusion. It is very easy to show that Apostle Widtsoe's statement is false, for the evidence shows that many good Mormons in Utah held to this belief. For instance, Hosea Stout, who was a prominent Mormon, recorded the following in his diary under the date of April 9, 1852: "Another meeting this evening. President B. Young taught that Adam was the father of Jesus and the only God to us. That he came to this world in a resurrected body and more hereafter" (On the Mormon Frontier, The Diary of Hosea Stout, University of Utah Press, 1964, vol. 2, p.435).

In the Women of Mormondom we read: "Adam is our Father and God. He is the God of the earth. So says Brigham Young... . He **is** the father of our elder brother, Jesus Christ--the father of him who shall also come as Messiah to reign. He is the father of the spirits as well as the tabernacles of the sons and daughters of man. Adam!" (Women of Mormondom, p.179).

Heber C. Kimball, first counselor to Brigham Young, claimed that "there is but one God that pertains to this people, and he is the God that pertains to this earth--the first man. That first man sent his own Son to redeem the world ..." (Journal of Discourses, vol. 4, p.1).

### **ON THE CONTRARY**

When the Mormon church was accused of teaching that "Adam is God ... and that Jesus is his son," the Mormon historian B. H. Roberts replied: "As a matter of fact, the 'Mormon' Church does not teach that doctrine. A few men in the 'Mormon' Church have held such views: and several of them quite prominent in the councils of the Church, ... Brigham Young and others may have taught that doctrine ..." (Deseret News, July 23, 1921).

Brigham Young's Adam-God doctrine has brought much confusion into the Mormon church. Wilford Woodruff, the fourth president of the church, once stated:

Cease troubling yourselves about who God is; who Adam is, who Christ is, who Jehovah is. For heaven's sake, let these things alone ... God is God. Christ is Christ. The Holy Ghost is the Holy Ghost. That should be enough for you and me to know ... I say this because we are troubled every little while with inquiries from Elders anxious to know who God is, who Christ is, and who Adam is. I say to the Elders of Israel, stop this. (Millennial Star, vol. 57, pp.355-56).

**In all fairness to the Mormon leaders it should be stated that they no longer teach the Adam-God doctrine, even though some members of the church still believe it. Anyone who is caught teaching this doctrine is liable to be excommunicated. This, however, shows the inconsistency of the Mormon church, for they say that Brigham Young was a prophet, and at the same time they will excommunicate a person for believing in his teachings.**

Some of the Mormon leaders now claim that Brigham Young was misquoted. This claim is completely untrue. Rodney Turner, who now teaches religion at Brigham Young University, feels that it is impossible to maintain such a position:

Was Brigham Young Misquoted? It is the writer's opinion that the answer to this question is a categorical no. There is not the slightest evidence from Brigham Young, or any other source, that either his original remarks on April 9, 1852, or any of his subsequent statements were ever misquoted in the official publications of the Church....

In the light of Brigham Young's attitude toward the errors of others, and in view of the division created by his remarks concerning Adam, it would be stretching one's credulity to the breaking point to believe that he would have remained silent had he been misquoted.... The complete absence of any real evidence to the contrary obliges the writer to conclude that Brigham Young has not been misquoted in the official publications of the Church ("The Position of Adam in Latter-day Saint Scripture and Theology," M.A. thesis, BYU, pp.45-47).

On page 58 of the same thesis, Rodney Turner declares: "A careful, detached study of his available statements, as found in the official publications of the Church, will admit of no other conclusion than that the identification of Adam with God the Father by President Brigham Young is an irrefutable fact."

So I will leave it to the reader. Is Adam God, Michael, or Heavenly Father?

Do Mormons even know?



# Baptism for the dead

A unique teaching of Mormonism is the practice of baptizing on behalf of the dead. This is a very important belief of Mormons today.

In every active Mormon Temple proxy baptisms for the dead take place in which living Mormons temporarily assume the names of dead people to perform baptism on their behalf. Mormons leaders teach that this activity was practiced by the first century Christian churches and quote 1 Corinthians 15:29 as proof.

1 Corinthians 15:29

"Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?"

It is important to keep this verse in context in order to decipher it's meaning.

If we examine the chapter we will find that Paul is discussing the topic of resurrection.

False teachers had infiltrated the church at Corinth, teaching "that there is no resurrection of the dead," (15:13). ). Paul had stated that the heart of the gospel was Christ's resurrection (15:1-14). Christ died on the cross for mankind's sins, was buried, and that He rose again the third day. To be saved one must turn from their sins, believe that Christ died for our sins and accept that gift of sacrifice.

But there were cultic leaders at Corinth that believed and taught that there was no resurrection. The whole chapter is devoted to reasons why this is a false teaching.

In verses 20-28, Paul explains that Christ has been raised. He is the "first fruits" of all that will be raised and that all "enemies" including death have been subjected and conquered by Christ. Then in verse 29, Paul says: "Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?"

The apostle is pointing out an inconsistency in the practice of these false teachers. Apparently, they did not believe that the dead would rise (15:12), but they practiced baptism for the dead. If the dead do not rise, why did they baptize them after death? It was a contradiction. By carefully noticing the pronouns, one can see who was actually practicing baptism for the dead.

Paul says, "...what shall **they** do which are baptized for the dead...why are **they** then baptized for the dead?" (emphasis added).

Paul was not referring to the Christians or he would have used the pronouns,

"Why are you,

why are we,

why then am I

not baptized for the dead?

He was asking, in effect, why these false teachers, who did not even believe in the resurrection, would want to baptize for the dead if the dead do not rise at all.

People who deny the resurrection for the dead ought not to get baptized for the dead!"

The teaching of this doctrine is alluring to many Mormons and new converts. It seems to solve a theological dilemma, what then happens to those who do not accept Christ while they are here on the earth? God would be unfair if he did not offer the gospel to those in the spirit world who never heard it in mortal life. What happens to the very young, and those who have never heard the gospel? This doctrine brings comfort and hope to those who have had "unsaved" loved ones pass on. The Bible alludes to the fact in Romans 1 and 2, that the fate of those who die without hearing the gospel does not threaten divine justice, for such people will be judged only on the basis of the light they did have from creation and conscience.

Many Christians are unprepared to counter this elaborate doctrine that has provided millions of Mormons with a false hope of salvation in the hereafter.

We know that "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). There is not one shred of evidence anywhere in the New or Old Testaments that there is anything that the living can do that can have an influence over the fate of the dead. Thus, baptism in behalf of the dead would be a complete contradiction to everything which the bible teaches with regard to our salvation.

### Baptism for the Dead and the Book of Mormon

If we take a close look at the Book of Mormon we find that this practice is not found anywhere. This poses a problem. The Doctrine and Covenants teaches that the Book of Mormon contains: "...the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles and to the Jews also," (Section 20:9). It also teaches that "...this most glorious of all subjects belonging to the everlasting gospel [is] namely the baptism for the dead," (Section 128:17).

Although baptism for the dead is "the most glorious of all subjects belonging to the everlasting gospel," and the Book of Mormon contains the "fullness of the gospel," baptism for the dead cannot be found in the Book of Mormon. In fact, the Book of Mormon teaches just the opposite. In Alma 34:34,35, the Book of Mormon teaches that: "Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis [death], that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye cannot say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world. "For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until death, behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his; therefore, the Spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you, and the devil hath all power over you; and this is the final state of the wicked" (emphasis added).

"The Book of Mormon forcefully and repeatedly teaches that the eternal destiny of those who hear and reject the truth in mortality is fixed at death. ... Taken together with the silence of the Book of Mormon on baptism for the dead, these positive objections ... constitute a serious contradiction between Latter-day scripture and practice."

Several Bible passages also contradict the Mormon doctrine of salvation for the dead. Hebrews 9:27, Luke 16:19-31 and 2 Corinthians 6:2 teach us that our eternal destiny is fixed at death."

## **Genealogy**

### **Family History**

Finally, a vital companion doctrine to baptism for the dead is the practice of genealogy, or tracing one's "roots" to determine the names of dead relatives. This is practiced in Mormonism so that those dead ancestors can have temple works performed by proxy. The Bible soundly condemns the practice of genealogy for religious purposes (1 Timothy 1:4 and Titus 3:9).

"It's hard to lose in Mormonism," "The worst heaven ?? the lowest, the telestial ?? is better than this earth. So it kind of works out for everybody."

The word of wisdom is a set of rules that the worthy Mormon must obey. They must obey these rules to get a temple recommend and be worthy to enter the kingdom of heaven. These set of rules originated in the Doctrine and Covenants Section 89.

They instruct the Mormon to: Stay away from coffee and tea (hot drinks). They are to not use tobacco, drink alcohol, and not eat too much meat.

Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Kirtland, Ohio, February 27, 1833. HC 1: 327-329. As a consequence of the early brethren using tobacco in their meetings, the Prophet was led to ponder upon the matter; consequently he inquired of the Lord concerning it. This revelation, known as the Word of Wisdom, was the result. The first three verses were originally written as an inspired introduction and description by the Prophet.

1-9, Use of wine, strong drinks, tobacco, and hot drinks proscribed; 10-17, Herbs, fruits, flesh, and grain are ordained for the use of man and of animals; 18-21, Obedience to gospel law, including the Word of Wisdom, brings temporal and spiritual blessings.

A Word of Wisdom, for the benefit of the council of high priests, assembled in Kirtland, and the church, and also the saints in Zion—

**2** To be sent greeting; not by commandment or constraint, but by revelation and the word of wisdom, showing forth the order and will of God in the temporal salvation of all saints in the last days—

**3** Given for a principle with promise, adapted to the capacity of the weak and the weakest of all saints, who are or can be called saints.

**4** Behold, verily, thus saith the Lord unto you: In consequence of evils and designs which do and will exist in the hearts of conspiring men in the last days, I have warned you, and forewarn you, by giving unto you this word of wisdom by revelation—

**5** That in as much as any man **drinketh wine or strong drink** among you, behold it is not good, neither meet in the sight of your Father, only in assembling yourselves together to offer up your sacraments before him.

**6** And, behold, this should **be wine, yea, pure wine of the grape of the vine**, of your own make.

**7** And, again, strong drinks are not for the belly, but for the washing of your bodies.

**8** And again, **tobacco is not for the body, neither for the belly, and is not good for man**, but is an herb for bruises and all sick cattle, to be used with judgment and skill.

**9** And again, **hot drinks** are not for the body or belly.

10 And again, verily I say unto you, all wholesome herbs God hath ordained for the constitution, nature, and use of man—

11 Every herb in the season thereof, and every fruit in the season thereof; all these to be used with prudence and thanksgiving.

**12 Yea, flesh also of beasts and of the fowls of the air, I, the Lord, have ordained for the use of man with thanksgiving; nevertheless they are to be used sparingly;**

**13 And it is pleasing unto me that they should not be used, only in times of winter, or of cold, or famine.**

14 All grain is ordained for the use of man and of beasts, to be the staff of life, not only for man but for the beasts of the field, and the fowls of heaven, and all wild animals that run or creep on the earth;

15 And these hath God made for the use of man only in times of famine and excess of hunger.

16 All grain is good for the food of man; as also the fruit of the vine; that which yieldeth fruit, whether in the ground or above the ground—

17 Nevertheless, wheat for man, and corn for the ox, and oats for the horse, and rye for the fowls and for swine, and for all beasts of the field, and barley for all useful animals, and for mild drinks, as also other grain.

18 And all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health in their navel and marrow to their bones;

19 And shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures;

20 And shall run and not be weary, and shall walk and not faint.

21 And I, the Lord, give unto them a promise, that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them. Amen.

# Joseph Smith,

# Freemasonry, and the Occult

## **SATANISM**

**ORIGIN:** Satan, exact time frame unknown. First mentioned in the

11th century. Baal worship mentioned in Old Testament

### **Use of a ritual, or ceremony as follows:**

Reduced to nude, then covered with a black "shield."

Ceremony of washing and anointing of the body performed

### **Use of a secret name necessary.**

Claim to have the Melchizedek Priesthood.

**Use of an apron** in ceremony (green) worn by Pontiff

**Use of specific hand clasps or "grips" during the ceremony.**

**Secret oaths** associated with each hand clasp or grip.

**Death** is the penalty for revealing the signs or tokens

**Ultimate goal:** to progress to godhood.

## **FREEMASONRY**

**ORIGIN:** Unknown, exactly. First mentioned in records in 680 A.D.

**Use of a ritual, or ceremony as follows:**

Reduced to nude, then redressed and prepared for ceremony.

Ceremony of washing and anointing the candidate.

**Use of a new name:** "The name is caution."

Claim to have the Melchizedek Priesthood.

**Use of an apron** in ceremony (white) worn by members.

**Use of specific hand clasps or "grips" during ceremony.**

**Secret oaths** associated with each hand clasp or grip.

**Death** is the penalty for revealing the signs or tokens.

## **MORMON**

**ORIGIN:** Joseph Smith. Temple ceremonies started in May, 1842.

**Use of a ritual, or ceremony as follows:**

Reduced to nude, then covered with a white "shield."

Ceremony of washing and anointing of the body performed.

**Use of a new SECRET sacred name,** can't tell

Claim to have the Melchizedek Priesthood.

**Use of an apron** in ceremony (green) worn by each "patron"

**Use of specific hand clasps or "grips" during ceremony.**

**Secret oaths** associated with each hand clasp or grip.

**Death** is the penalty for revealing the signs or tokens

**Ultimate goal:** to become gods and goddesses.

Practice communication with the dead.

## **USE OF SYMBOLS**

Sun

Moon

Stars/Pentagrams

Compass

Square

All Seeing Eye

24" gauge

## **MEANING OF SYMBOLISM**

Pentagram = Satan's symbol. Very important symbol in Satanism. Upright - symbol of goddess.

Inverted\* = symbol of goatshead.

Inverted Pentagram, especially evil.

**Compass** = female.  
Symbol of witch's circle  
drawn with compass.

**Compass** = male, the  
active part, or the  
generative part.  
"Circumscribing our  
passions, and keeping  
our desires within due  
bounds.

**Compass** - "signifying  
that desires, appetites,  
and passions are to be  
kept within the bounds  
the Lord has established,  
and that all truth can be  
circumscribed into one  
great whole.

**Eighth token** = Sign of  
the Nail.  
The hand vertical, the  
fingers close together  
and the thumb extended,  
and the person giving  
the token placing the tip  
of the forefinger of his

**First token** of the  
Melchizedek Priesthood,  
or the Sign of the Nail.  
*"This token is received  
by bringing the right  
hand into this position:  
the hand vertical, the  
fingers close together  
and the thumb extended,  
and the person giving  
the token placing the tip  
of the forefinger of his  
right hand in the center  
of the palm and the  
thumb opposite on the  
back of the hand of the  
one receiving it.  
The "Nail" means Satan.*

Baptism for the dead.

#### **USE OF SYMBOLS**

Sun  
Moon  
Stars/Pentagrams  
Compass  
Square  
All Seeing Eye  
24" gauge

#### **USE OF SYMBOLS**

Sun  
Moon  
Stars/Pentagrams  
Compass  
Square  
All Seeing Eye  
24" gauge

#### **MEANING OF SYMBOLISM**

Pentagram = symbol of  
evil, Satan, Mendez,  
Lucifer, and Lilith.  
Called the Goatshead  
Star, or the Goat of  
Mendez Star, when  
inverted.

#### **MEANING OF SYMBOLISM**

Pentagram used  
extensively in early  
Mormon architecture.  
Still used in modern  
Mormon architecture.

**Fifth Degree token** =  
Sign of the Lion of the  
Tribe of Judah.  
This token is given by  
clasping the right hands,  
interlocking the little  
fingers, and placing the  
tip of the forefinger on  
the center of the wrist of  
each person.

**Uses the "Five Points  
of Fellowship."**



"Five Points of Fellowship: as follows: foot to foot, knee to knee, arm to back, breast to breast, mouth to ear."

"Five Points of Fellowship: as follows: 1st - foot to foot, 2nd - knee to knee, 3rd - breast to breast, 4th - hand to back, 5th - cheek to cheek or mouth to ear."

"Five Points of Fellowship: as follows: inside of right foot by side of right foot, knee to knee, breast to breast, hand to back, and mouth to ear."

Uses three knocks.

Uses three knocks at the Veil

The Five Points of Fellowship are given at the end of the black (Satanic) mass as a benediction. During the giving of the Five Points of Fellowship, the

"In this position (as explained above) alone are you permitted to give the word, Mahhah-bone..."

"This is the name of the token:

*Health in the navel, marrow in the bones, strength in the loins and in the sinews, power in the Priesthood be upon me and my posterity through all generations of time and throughout* candidate receives the whispered secret name of the god and goddess. To the man: *"May you have health in the navel, marrow in the bones, strength in the penis and in the sinews; and power in the priesthood be upon you and your posterity through all generations of time and throughout all eternity."* To the woman: "May you have fertility in your womb, strength in your thighs, lust in your vagina and your innermost being; that you may please your Master and his priesthood throughout all generations of time,

*right hand in the center of the palm, and the thumb opposite on the back of the hand of the one receiving it..."* The name of this token is "The Son," meaning the Son of God.

**Second token** of the Melchizedek Priesthood, the Patriarchal Grip or sure Sign of the Nail. This token is given by clasping the right hands, interlocking the little fingers, and placing the tip of the forefinger on the center of the wrist of each person.

**Uses the "Five Points of Fellowship."**

**Real Grip.** Master Mason. Called the strong Grip of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. This token is given by clasping the right hands, with first and second fingers on the top of the wrist, third and fourth fingers on bottom of the wrist.

**Uses the "Five Points of Fellowship."**

and throughout all  
eternity."

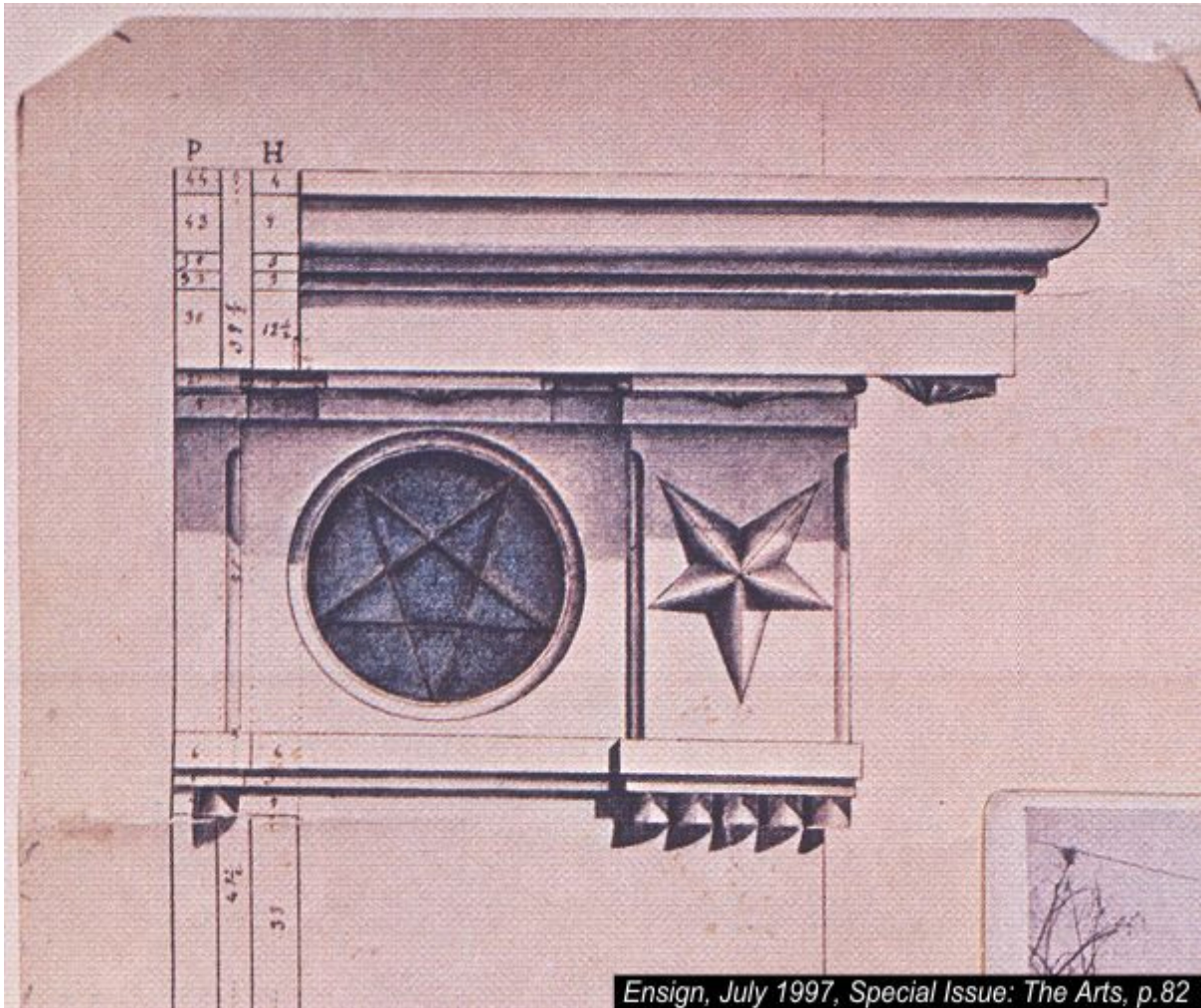
*all eternity."*  
(Both men and women  
recite the same.)

(Compare italicized  
words in Satanic  
ceremony.)



The Mormon Church has received plenty of criticism regarding the many inverted pentagrams that are displayed on both the exterior and interior of the temple in Nauvoo, Illinois. Several of them are located on the perimeter of the temple and as many as 138 inverted stars can be found in the assembly room. Inverted pentagrams can also be found on the upper walls and embroidered into the curtains of the celestial room. Some have wondered why a church claiming to be Christian would blatantly use emblems currently associated with Satanism as a temple decoration?

These next sets of pictures are just a few of the many pentagrams on the Mormon temples.



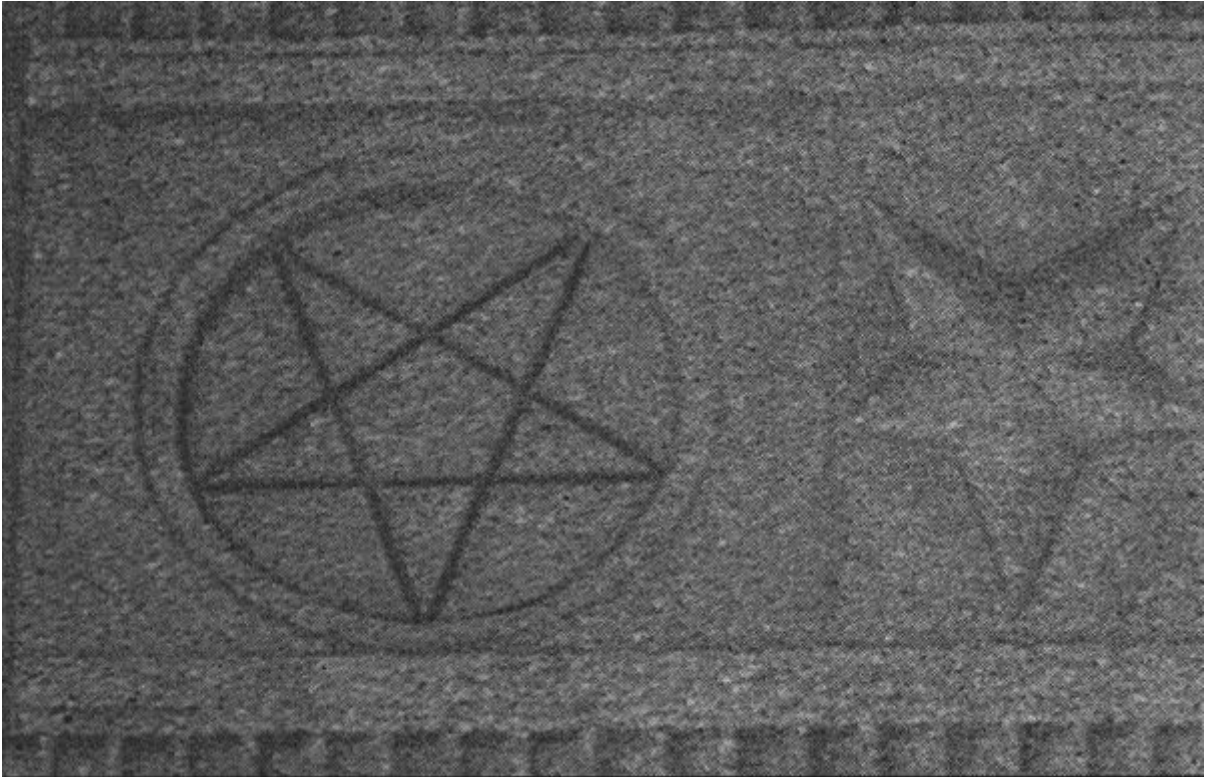
Architect's drawing of the stars for the Nauvoo Temple.



On the planter boxes in front of the statue of Christ in the Salt Lake Visitors Center, Notice the elongated bottom of the star. Looks like the Goat head Satanic star. (See below)



Symbol of Satan Baphomet notice elongated bottom.



On the front entrance, upper left-hand corner, of the LDS Historical Museum (west of temple square).

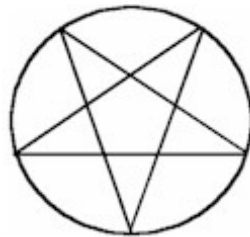
	<p><i>Pay particular attention to the circled area to the top far left. The circle on the right is the sun stone.</i></p>
<p><i>Let's take a closer look into the far top left hand corner and see what it is we find. We have two inverted pentagrams both a little different from the other. But none the less they are still inverted pentagrams and Satanic symbols. The one on the left of the two is the most important.</i></p>	



*Now let's take a look at the symbol that is on the front cover of the Satanic Bible.*



*Here is a picture of one of the window frames to be installed in the NEW REBUILT Nauvoo Illinois Temple*



Here is a pentagram used by Satanists and Wiccans alike.



# Joseph Smith the Mason

Joseph Smith admitted to being a Mason in his History of the Church, volume 4, page 551. Under the date of March 15, 1842 it reads: "In the evening I received the first degree in Free Masonry in the Nauvoo Lodge, assembled in my general business office." The record for the next day reads, "I was with the Masonic Lodge and rose to the sublime degree" (page 552). (see attached)

## **SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE MASONIC RITUALS AND THE MORMON TEMPLE ENDOWMENTS**

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### **MASONIC PREPARATION ROOM**

"He is ushered into the "preparation room" where he meets the Junior Deacon and Stewards who divest him of all his clothing except his shirt. He is then handed an old pair of drawers which he puts on; ..."

### **MORMON DRESSING ROOM**

"The candidate, being directed to these washing and dressing rooms and having divested himself of all his clothing, awaits his time in bath with his special inner garments over his shoulder."

---

### **MASONIC COMPASS**

"The candidate then enters, the Senior Deacon at the same time pressing his naked left breast with the point of the compass,..."

### **MORMON COMPASS**

"... on the garments -- the compass on the left [breast]..."

---

### **MASONIC SQUARE**

"As he enters, the angle of the square is pressed hard against his naked right breast,..."

### **MORMON SQUARE**

"...the square on the right side [of the garment]..."

---

## **MASONIC ENTERED APPRENTICE VS. FIRST TOKEN OF THE AARONIC PRIESTHOOD**

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### **MASONIC PENALTY SIGN**

"Made from the due-guard by dropping the left hand carelessly; at the same time raise the right arm and draw the hand, still open, across the throat, thumb next [to] the throat, and drop the hand perpendicular by the side."

### **MORMON PENALTY SIGN**

"In executing the sign of the penalty, the right hand, palm downward, is drawn sharply across the throat, then dropped from the square to the side"



### **MASONIC GRIP**

"The right hands are joined together as in shaking hands and each sticks his thumb nail into the third joint or upper end of the fore finger."

### **MORMON GRIP**

"The Grip -- Hands clasped, pressing the knuckle of the index finger with the thumb"

---

### **MASONIC OATH**

"... binding myself under no less penalty than to have my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by the roots ..."

### **MORMON OATH**

"We and each of us, covenant and promise that we will not reveal any secrets of this... Should we do so, we agree that our throats be cut from ear to ear and our tongues torn out by their roots."

---

## **MASONIC FELLOW CRAFT VS. SECOND TOKEN OF THE AARONIC PRIESTHOOD**

---

## **MASONIC OATH**

"...binding myself under no less penalty than to have my left breast torn open and my heart and vitals taken from thence and thrown over my left shoulder."

## **MORMON OATH**

"We and each of us do covenant and promise that we will not reveal the secrets of this ... Should we do so, we agree to have our breasts cut open and our hearts and vitals torn from our bodies "



## **MASONIC PENALTY SIGN**

"The sign is given by drawing your right hand flat, with the palm of it next to your breast from the left to the right side with some quickness, and dropping it down by your side"

## **MORMON PENALTY SIGN**

"The Sign is made by placing the left arm on the square at the level of the shoulder, placing the right hand across the chest with the thumb extended and the drawing it rapidly from the left to right and dropping it"



## **MASONIC GRIP**

"Take each other's hands as in ordinary hand-shaking and press the top of your thumb hard against the space between the first and second knuckles of the right hand."

## **MORMON GRIP**

"The Grip is given by clasping the hand and pressing the thumb in the hollow between the first and second knuckle of the hand."

---

## **MASONIC MASTER MASON VS. FIRST AND SECOND TOKEN OF THE MELCHIZEDECH PRIESTHOOD**

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### **MASONIC SIGN**

"The sign is given by raising both hands and arms to the elbows, perpendicular, one each side of the head, the elbows forming a square."

### **MORMON SIGN**

"The sign is made by bringing both hands to the square, palms to the front"

---



### **MASONIC PENALTY SIGN**

"The Penal Sign is given by putting the right hand to the left side of the bowels, the hand open, with the thumb next to the belly, and letting it fall; this is done tolerably quick."

### **MORMON PENALTY SIGN**

"As the last words are spoken the hands are dropped till the thumbs are in the center of the stomach and drawn swiftly across the stomach to the hips, and then dropped to the sides."

---

### **MASONIC OATH**

"binding myself under no less penalty than to have my body severed in two in the midst..."

### **MORMON OATH**

"We and each one of us do covenant and promise that we will not reveal any of the secrets of this... Should we do so, we agree that our bodies be cut asunder in the midst and all our bowels gush out."

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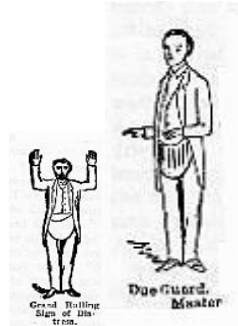


### **MASONIC GRIP**

"Grasp each other's right hands very firmly, the spaces between the thumb and first finger being interlocked and the tops of the fingers being pressed hard against each other's wrist where it joins the hand, the fingers of each being somewhat spread."

### **MORMON GRIP**

"The Grip is made by grasping the hand, the forefinger on center of the wrist and little fingers locked"



### **MASONIC GRAND HAILING SIGN AND DUE GUARD**

"The sign is given by raising both hands and arms to the elbows, perpendicularly, one on each side of the head, the elbows forming a square."

"The due guard is made by holding both hands in front, palms down..."

### **MORMON PAY, LAY, ALE**

"The sign is made by elevating both the arms above the head ... the arms dropped to the square,... and then to the sides."

---

## **MASONIC RAISING OF HIRAM ABIFF vs. MORMON VEIL**

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### **MASONIC FIVE-POINTS OF FELLOWSHIP AS HIRAM ABIFF'S DEAD BODY IS RAISED**

"He (the candidate) is raised on what is called the five points of fellowship, which are foot to foot, knee to knee, breast to breast, hand to back and mouth to ear."

### **MORMON FIVE-POINTS OF FELLOWSHIP AT THE VEIL**

"The five points of fellowship are given by putting the inside of the right foot to the inside of the Lord's, the inside of your knee to his, laying your breast close to his, your left hands on each other's backs, and each one putting his mouth to the other's ear...."

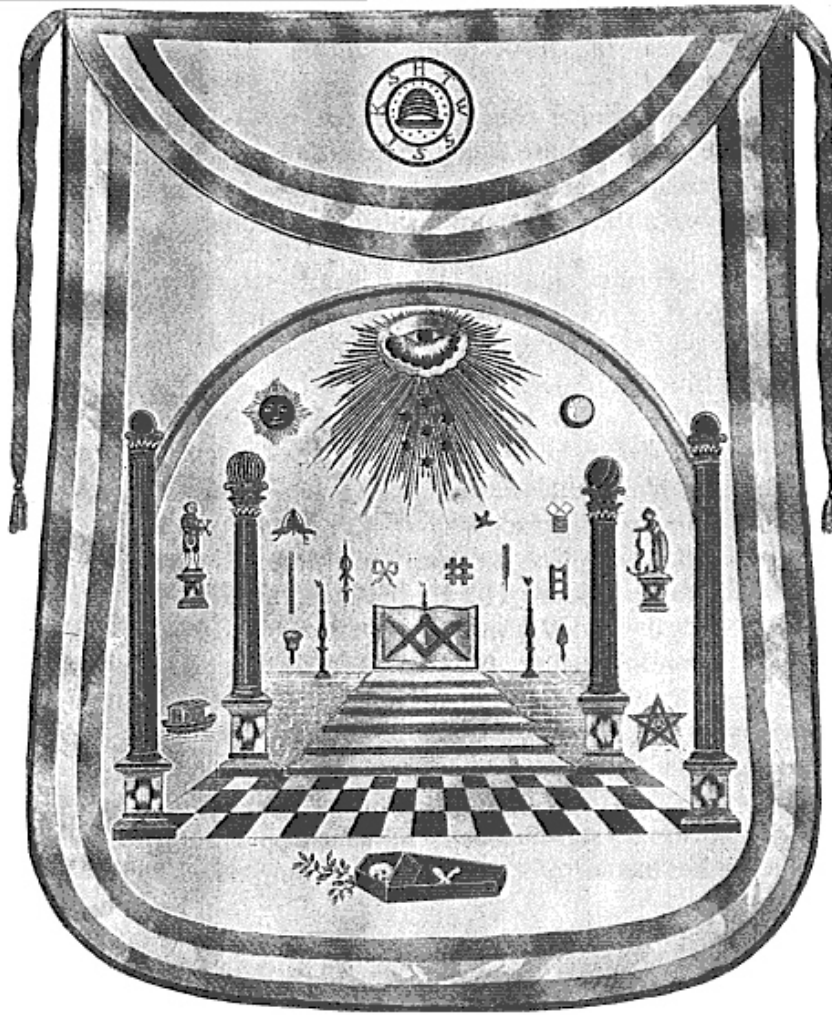
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On March 15, 1842 Joseph Smith became a Mason in his general business office (History of the Church, vol. 4, pg. 551)

When did Joseph Smith instruct the other LDS Church leaders regarding the endowment and communication of key?

On May 4, 1842 Joseph Smith instructed the other LDS Church leaders on the principles and order of the Priesthood, attending to the washings, anointing, endowments and communication of keys. (History of the Church, vol. 5, pg. 2) This instruction took place only weeks after Joseph Smith became a Mason and in Joseph Smith's business office, the exact same place where he received the Masonic rites just weeks earlier. In addition, Joseph Smith's business office was the Masonic lodge room. Joseph Smith's temple records even indicate that he received his endowments on May 4, 1842 (Family Group Sheet-Father Temple Index Bureau).



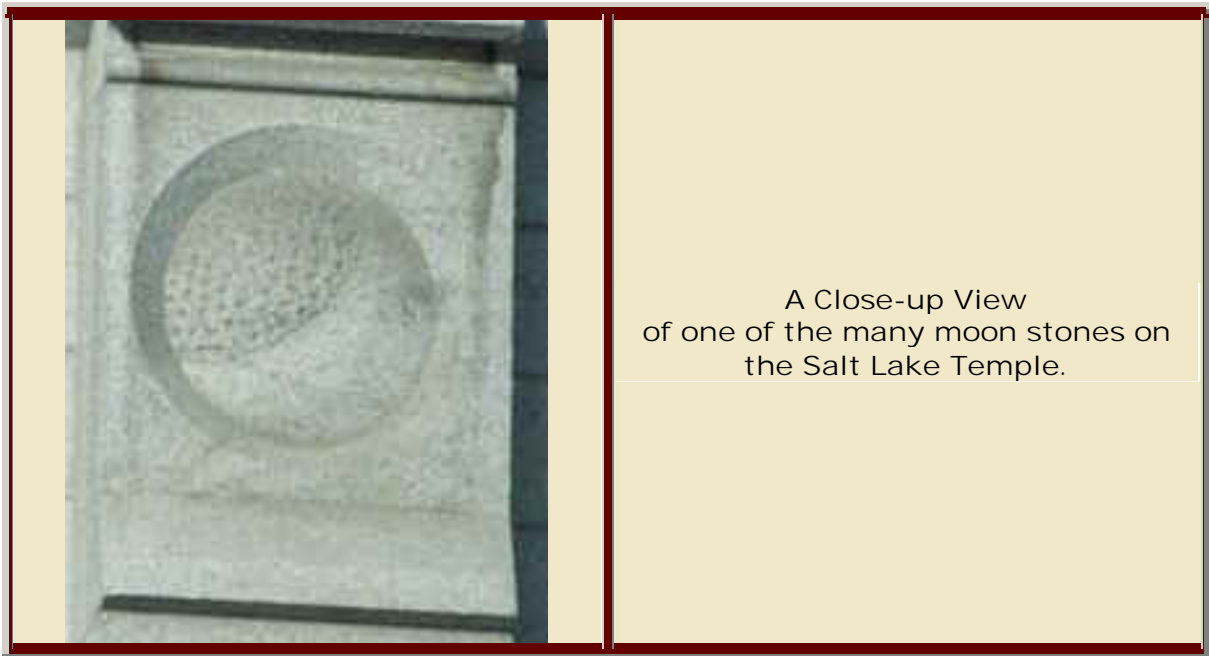
*THE APRON PRESENTED TO WASHINGTON BY LAFAYETTE*

Looking closely at this apron you will find:

1. Middle top – The all seeing eye
2. Right of eye - Moon
3. Left of eye – Sun
4. Above eye - Beehive
5. Below eye – Compass and Square
6. Bottom right – Pentagram

Let's now look for these on the Mormon temple....

Sunstones shown on each column.



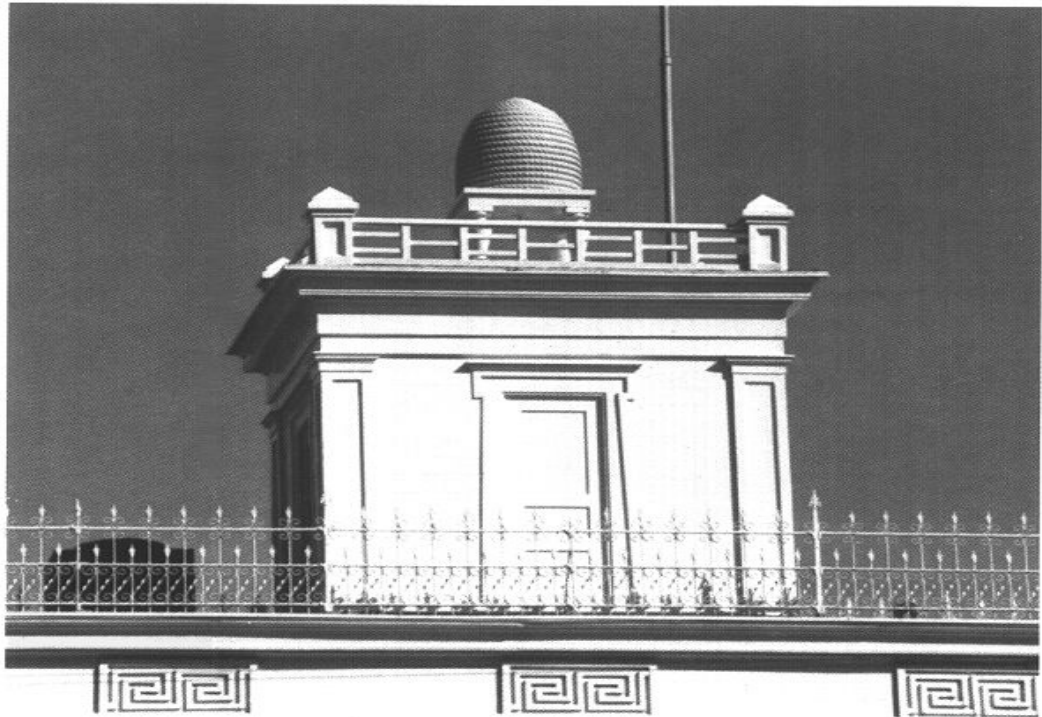
A Close-up View  
of one of the many moon stones on  
the Salt Lake Temple.



**The all seeing eye**

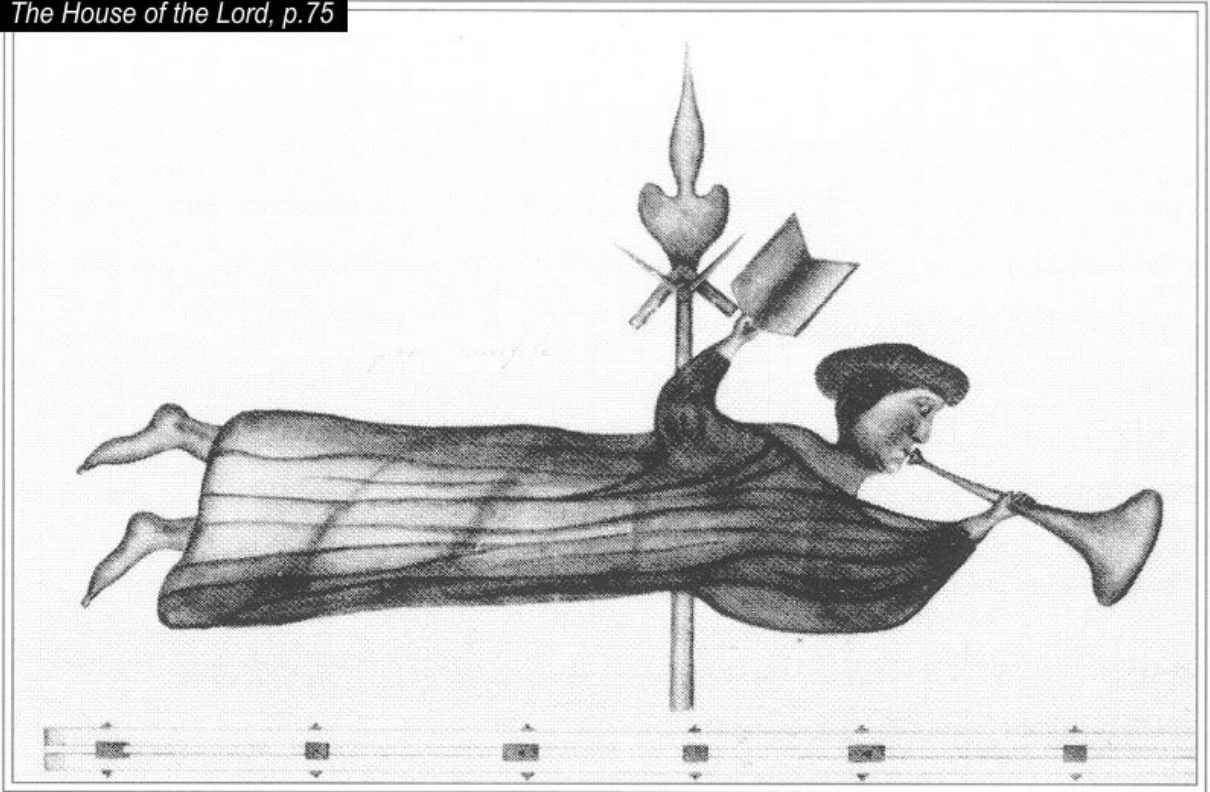


*The Salt Lake Temple, p.156*



*The Salt Lake Temple, p.172*

**On top of this building is the beehive.**



Original architect's drawing of the Nauvoo Temple weather vane.  
Notice the compass and square above the angel.

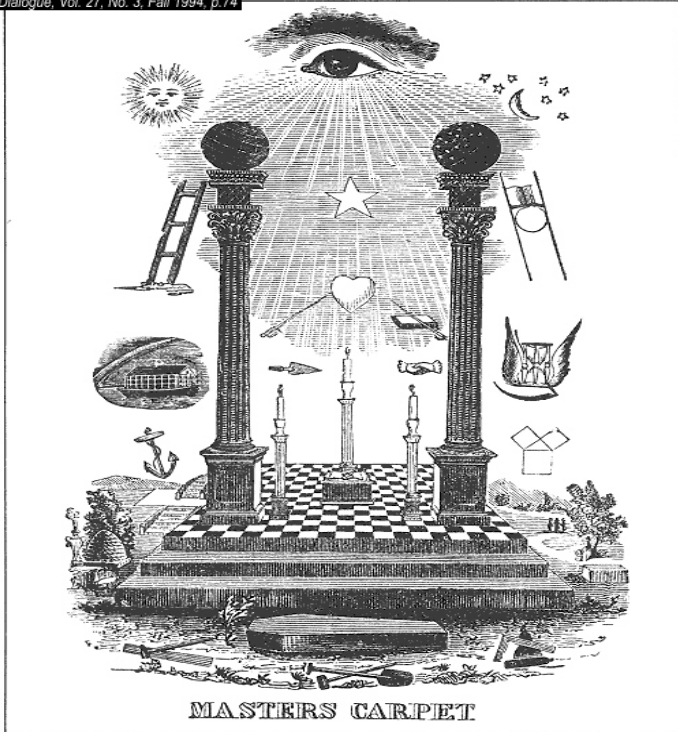


Illustration 6. The "Masters Carpet," published by Masonic writer and lecturer, Jeremy Cross, in *The Masonic Monitor* in 1820, includes most of the Masonic symbols subsequently adopted by Mormonism, including the square, compass, level, beehive, all-seeing eye, sun, moon, and stars. (Cross, 1.)

**Again notice the symbols. Added to this one is the handshake in the middle.**

**Let's find this one on the temple.**



There is no denying that Joseph Smith borrowed much from Masonry and the occult.

Joseph claimed that these signs and symbols were given from God.

So then is Masonry and the Occult his god?

# The Temple Garment

Another connection to Masonry is the holy Mormon underwear known as temple garments.

- ◇ A Mormon receives his or her first pair after having taken out their endowments in the Temple (i.e., undergone the temple endowments ceremony). This is usually when a Mormon gets married or goes on a mission, whichever comes first, though a few people go through the Temple endowment apart from either of these events.
- ◇ Practically speaking, the garments provide a continuous reminder of the covenants made in the temple
- ◇ Of the high standards the Saints are expected to exemplify and uphold.
- ◇ And provide divine protection from harm.
- ◇ They are allowed to be taken off during bathing, swimming, sporting activities, and intercourse.
- ◇ Women wear their bras over the garments (which sounds very uncomfortable).
- ◇ This is Deborah Laake's description of them, in her **book *Secret Ceremonies: A Mormon Woman's Intimate Diary of Marriage and Beyond***:  
*In those days [the 1970s] garments were one-piece, made of thick nylon, and cut like very loose teddies; they had a scoop neck and little cap sleeves and they came to the knee. The amount of coverage wasn't accidental: One of the purposes of "garments" is to make sure that Mormons eschew daring clothing.*
- ◇ The underwear's holy nature is expressed by small markings sewn into the cloth over each breast, the navel, and one knee. (The markings signify comforting homilies like "deal squarely with your fellow men," and are intended to serve as reminders of temple covenants.
- ◇ The symbols themselves derive from the fact that Joseph Smith was a newly initiated and enthusiastic Freemason when he originated the Mormon temple rites in 1842, and so the Masonic compass, square, and gauge appear on the left and right breasts and on the navel of the Mormon garments.)





## THE SQUARE, THE COMPASS, AND THE GAUGE.



# Archaeology and the book of Mormon

## National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

January 11, 1990

Dear Mr. Larson:

Thank you for writing to the National Geographic Society.

The Society has never used the Book of Mormon to locate archaeological sites, and we do not believe that any of the places named in the Book of Mormon can be placed geographically by the evidence of archaeology. So far as we know there is no archaeological evidence to verify the history of early peoples of the Western Hemisphere as presented in the Book of Mormon.

I hope you will find this information useful.

Yours truly,

Pamela Tucci  
Research Correspondence

# **STATEMENT REGARDING THE BOOK OF MORMON**

## **From the Smithsonian Institution**

1. The Smithsonian Institution has never used the Book of Mormon in any way as a scientific guide. Smithsonian archeologists see no direct connection between the archeology of the New World and the subject matter of the book.

2. The physical type of the American Indian is basically Mongoloid, being most closely related to that of the peoples of eastern, central, and northeastern Asia. Archeological evidence indicates that the ancestors of the present Indians came into the New World - probably over a land bridge known to have existed in the Bering Strait region during the last Ice Age - in a continuing series of small migrations beginning from about 25,000 to 30,000 years ago.

3. Present evidence indicates that the first people to reach this continent from the East were the Norsemen who briefly visited the northeastern part of North America around A.D. 1000 and then settled in Greenland. There is nothing to show that they reached Mexico or Central America.

4. One of the main lines of evidence supporting the scientific finding that contacts with Old World civilizations if indeed they occurred at all, were of very little significance for the development of American Indian civilizations, is the fact that none of the principal Old World domesticated food plants or animals (except the dog) occurred in the New World in pre-Columbian times. American Indians had no wheat, barley, oats, millet, rice, cattle, pigs, chickens, horses, donkeys, camels before 1492. (Camels and horses were in the Americas, along with the bison, mammoth, and mastodon, but all these animals became extinct around 10,000 B.C. at the time when the early big game hunters spread across the Americas.)

5. Iron, steel, glass, and silk were not used in the New World before 1492 (except for occasional use of unsmelted meteoric iron). Native copper was worked in various locations in pre-Columbian times, but true metallurgy was limited to southern Mexico and the Andean region, where its occurrence in late prehistoric times involved gold, silver, copper, and their alloys, but not iron.

6. There is a possibility that the spread of cultural traits across the Pacific to Mesoamerica and the northwestern coast of South America began several hundred years before the Christian era. However, any such inter-hemispheric contacts appear to have been the results of accidental voyages originating in eastern and southern Asia. It is by no means certain that even such contacts occurred; certainly there were no contacts with the ancient Egyptians, Hebrews, or other peoples of Western Asia and the Near East.

7. No reputable Egyptologist or other specialist on Old World archeology, and no expert on New World prehistory, has discovered or confirmed any relationship between archeological remains in Mexico and archeological remains in Egypt.



8. Reports of findings of ancient Egyptian Hebrew, and other Old World writings in the New World in pre-Columbian contexts have frequently appeared in newspapers, magazines, and sensational books. None of these claims has stood up to examination by reputable scholars. No inscriptions using Old World forms of writing have been shown to have occurred in any part of the Americas before 1492 except for a few Norse rune stones which have been found in Greenland.

## **Archaeology for the Book of Mormon is non-existent**

It has been almost 170 years since Joseph Smith first published the *Book of Mormon*. To date, there is not one artifact that can be identified as being made by the people of the *Book of Mormon*. Also, there is no official map designating the location of any *Book of Mormon* city. Joseph Smith preserved an example of the supposed writing on the plates. No other sample of such writing has ever been found in the Americas. The Mormons point to the great Mayan ruins to establish that there was at one time a great civilization in southern Mexico and Guatemala. However, the Maya had their own pagan religion and history that has no connection to the supposed *Book of Mormon* people.

Dr. Michael D. Coe, who is chairman of the Department of Anthropology at Yale University and one of America's foremost archaeologists, writes concerning archaeology and the Book of Mormon, "Mormon archaeologists over the years have almost unanimously accepted the Book of Mormon as an accurate, historical account of the New World between about 2,000 B.C. and A.D. 421... "Let me now state uncategorically that as far as I know THERE IS NOT ONE PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED ARCHAEOLOGIST, WHO IS NOT A MORMON, WHO SEES ANY SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION FOR BELIEVING THE FOREGOING (Book of Mormon) TO BE TRUE... The bare facts of the matter are that NOTHING, ABSOLUELY NOTHING, HAS EVER SHOWN UP IN ANY NEW WORLD EXCAVATION WHICH WOULD SUGGEST to a dispassionate observer THAT THE BOOK OF MORMON, as claimed by Joseph Smith, IS A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF EARLY MIGRANTS TO OUR HEMISPHERE... In conclusion...forget the so-called fruitless quest for the Jaredites, Nephites, Mulekites, and the lands of Zarahemla and Bountiful, there is no more chance of finding them than of discovering the ruins of the bottomless pit described in the book of Revelations." Dr. Coe has spent a large part of his time for the past several years in archaeological expeditions in Mexico, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. His article, from which the material quoted above was taken, appeared in "Dialogue, A Journal of Mormon Thought," Vol. 8, No. 2, 1973, pp. 40-48.

Dee F. Green, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Weber State College, who studied archaeology at Brigham Young University, and is a Book of Mormon believer writes, "In assessing the future relationship of the Book of Mormon to archaeology, one must first consider how long it will take us to rid ourselves of the unfortunate myths we have built up around the relationship...THE FIRST MYTH WE NEED TO ELIMINATE IS THAT BOOK OF MORMON ARCHAEOLOGY EXISTS"... he concludes with a statement that, "THOSE WHO DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THE BOOK OF MORMON WILL HAVE TO TAKE IT BY FAITH, NOT PROOF AND NOT ARCHAEOLOGY..." (Dialogue, "Vol. 4, No. 2 pp. 71-80.)

Joseph Smith also taught that the American Indians were the descendants of the Lamanites. The History of the Church records an incident from June 1834 in which he identified, by divine guidance, a skeleton found in an Indian burial mound in Illinois as that of the Lamanite warrior Zelph:

. . . the visions of the past being opened to my understanding by the Spirit of the Almighty, I discovered the person whose skeleton was before us was a white Lamanite, a large, thick-set man, and a man of God. His name was Zelph . . . who was known from the Hill Cumorah, or eastern sea to the Rocky mountains.<sup>5</sup>

The LDS Church continues to teach that Native Americans are the direct descendents of Book of Mormon peoples. For example, the "Introduction" in current editions of the Book of Mormon (since 1981), describes the Lamanites as, "the principal ancestors of the American Indians." Archaeological evidence shows conclusively that the western hemisphere was populated at least as far back as 10,000 B.C. by East Asian peoples who migrated across the Bering Strait. It is these Mongolian peoples who are the ancestors of the American Indians, according to the Smithsonian Institution:

### **An LDS Archaeologist's Conclusion**

As was noted earlier, the Bible and the Book of Mormon are alike in presenting themselves as records of ancient history. However, whereas the authenticity of the Bible is widely accepted even by secular scholars, no non-LDS archaeologist accepts the Book of Mormon as authentic history, and now even many LDS scholars no longer support its historicity. Why do archaeologist take such a dim view of the Book of Mormon?

One of the best answers to this question was offered by former Brigham Young University anthropology professor, Dr. Raymond T. Matheny at an August 25, 1984 Sunstone conference in Salt Lake City. After working in the area of Mesoamerican archaeology for twenty-two years, Prof. Matheny reported his conclusion that the scientific evidence simply does not support the existence of the peoples and events chronicled in the Book of Mormon, be it in Central America or anywhere else in the western hemisphere.

Dr. Matheny described the Book of Mormon as filled with anachronisms — things that are out of place historically and culturally. It introduces Old World cultural achievements into the pre-Columbian Americas, though the archaeological evidence shows no such levels of culture were attained during this period.

### **An Iron Industry**

Nephite civilization is depicted as having iron and other metal industries; we read of metal swords and breastplates, gold and silver coinage, and even machinery. However, according to Matheny, there is no evidence that any Mesoamerican civilization attained such an industry during Book of Mormon times (terminus ad quo: A.D. 421). He pointed out that an iron industry is not a simple feat involving a few people, but a complex process that requires a specialized socio-economic context and leaves virtually indestructible archaeological evidence. However, Matheny reports that:

No evidence has been found in the new world for a ferrous metallurgical industry dating to pre-Columbian times. And so this is a king-size kind of problem, it seems to me, for so-called Book of Mormon archeology. The evidence is absent.

### **Old World Agricultural Products**

The Book of Mormon depicts the Nephites as producing:

Wheat  
Barley  
Flax (linen)  
Grapes  
and Olives.

**But none of these products existed in pre-Columbian Mesoamerica.**

As with iron, Matheny pointed out that a complex economic and social level is required to produce these products as they are portrayed in the Book of Mormon:

There's a whole system of production of wheat and barley . . . It's a specialized production of food. You have to know something to make flax [the source of linen], and especially in tropical climates.

The Book of Mormon tells of Domesticated Animals that were raised in the Nephite culture such as:

Asses  
Cows  
Goats  
Sheep  
Horses  
Oxen  
Swine  
and Elephants

**These domesticated animals did not exist in the Pre-Columbian Americas.**

**No Place in the New World**

Matheny's overall assessment is that archaeology offers no support for the Book of Mormon as history: "I would say in evaluating the Book of Mormon that it has no place in the New World whatsoever."

The bare facts of the matter are that nothing, absolutely nothing, has ever shown up in any New World excavation which would suggest to a dispassionate observer that the Book of Mormon, as claimed by Joseph Smith, is a historical document relating to the history of early immigrants to our hemisphere.-Michael Coe (Mesoamerican archaeologist)

“It is safe to surmise that the events in the book of Mormon are nothing more than fiction and fairytales.”

## **The Mormon Church**

### ***The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-day Saints***

#### **Difficult Questions for Mormons**



***Close-up of the golden Nephi Plates that were allegedly written in "Reformed Egyptian"***

#### **General questions:**

1. Why did the angel take Nephi Plates back to heaven? Do they not belong with man? Would not their existence prove once for all that Mormonism is truth? God allowed the Jews to carry the 10 commandments for several centuries in their original physical form, written by the finger of God Himself!
2. "Will you, as a Mormon, please read the Bible cover to cover and ask God to reveal to you that it contains all of God's message to man and that parts are not lost or altered and that the Book of Mormon is false?"
3. If the original 1830 Book of Mormon was inspired than why were there so many errors and changes and additions and deletions, when compared to current editions?
4. How can we be assured that the translation of the B of M into French or any other language is correct? Only the English translation is claimed to be inspired!
5. How do you account for the stunning parallels in both content and order between the B of M and the View of the Hebrews, by Ethan Smith? Published in 1823 (7 years before the B of M) less than 100 miles from the Joseph Smith's parents home.

6. Mormon Article of Faith #8: "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." Why do you only add the phrase, "as far as it is translated correctly" to describe the Bible and not after the book of Mormon when in fact there are far more translating errors in the Book of Mormon than the Bible?
7. If the Book of Mormon is true, then why has the Mormon Church changed it? Examples are: 1 Nephi 11:21; 19:20; 20:1 and Alma 29:4. Compare these with the original Book of Mormon. (Gerald and Sandra Tanner have counted 3913 changes in the book of Mormon, excluding punctuation changes.)
8. How did Joseph Smith carry home the golden plates of the Book of Mormon, and how did the witnesses lift them so easily? (They weighed about 230 lbs. Gold, with a density of 19.3 weighs 1204.7 lbs. per cubic foot. The plates were 7" x 8" by about 6". See Articles of Faith, by Talmage, page 262, 34<sup>th</sup> ed.)
9. If Moroni devoutly practiced the Mormon Gospel, why is he an angel now rather than a God? (Doc. & Cov. 132:17,37)
10. Why do Mormons emphasize part of the Word of Wisdom and ignore the part forbidding the eating of meat except in winter, cold or famine? (Doc. & Cov. 89:12,13).
11. When Christ died, did darkness cover the land for three days or for three hours? (Luke 23:44 and 3 Nephi 8:19, 23).
12. Joseph Smith said that there are men living on the moon who dress like Quakers and live to be nearly 1000 years old. Since he was wrong about the moon, is it safe to trust him regarding the way to Heaven? (The Young Woman's Journal, Vol. 3, pages 263-264. See reprint in Mormonism --Shadow or Reality? By Jerald and Sandra Tanner, page 4.)
13. Joseph Smith prepared fourteen Articles of Faith. Why has the original No. 11 been omitted? (Joseph Smith Begins His Work, Vol. 2, three pages after page 160, among the photos.)
14. Why did the Nauvoo House not stand forever and ever? (Doc. & Cov. 124:56-60).
15. How can a man who is not a descendant of Aaron hold the Aaronic Priesthood? (Numbers 16:40; Heb. 7:13,14).
16. Since Mormonism teaches that only God the Father had a physical body at the time Adam was created, why did God say, "Let us make man in OUR image"? Why didn't He say, "Let us make man in MY image?" (Gen. 1:26).
17. If Jesus was conceived as a result of a physical union between God and Mary, how was Jesus born of a virgin? (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 1, page 50).
18. How did Nephi with a few men on a new continent build a temple like Solomon's while Solomon needed 163,300 workmen and seven years to build his temple? (1 Kings 5:13-18 and 2 Nephi 5:15-17).
19. Why was Joseph Smith still preaching against polygamy in October 1843 after he got his revelation in July 1843 commanding the practice of polygamy? (Doc. & Cov. 132; and History of the Church Vol. 6, page 46, or Teachings of the Prophet, page 324).
20. God rejected the fig leaf aprons which Adam and Eve made (Gen. 3:21). Why do Mormons memorialize the fall by using fig leaf aprons in the secret temple ceremonies?

21. How do you explain the fact that 2 Nephi 16:2 is copied from an older version of the KJV of the Bible in Isa 6:2? This is proven because this older KJV (the mistake is corrected in current versions) made a rare grammatical error by using the incorrect plural form of "*seraphims*" rather than "seraphim".

## ***Book of Mormon Culture***

1. Why does the Book of Mormon mention Silk (Alma 1:29)? LDS Apologist John Welch cites several New World fabrics as possible matches for Linen and Silk (Reexploring the Book of Mormon, pg. 162). Agave fibers and fig bark for Linen? Ceiba fibers, pineapple fibers and rabbit hair for Silk? Welch concludes with the staggering claim 'Mesoamerica evidently exhibits almost an embarrassment of riches for the "silk" and "linen" of Alma 1:29. All but the most trivializing critics should be satisfied with the parallels.' (pg. 164) My response to Welch: You'll have to forgive my trivializing nature but rabbit hair doesn't equal silk in my book.
2. What about Chariots (Alma 18:9)? There is no evidence of actual wheeled vehicle usage in the 2,000 BC to 400 AD time frame in Ancient America.
3. Why does the Book of Mormon imply a seven day week (Mosiah 13:18) when it was not known to Ancient Americans? The Mesoamericans used a variety of calendars, none of which match the Old World calendar. The Maya seemed to be oversupplied in the calendar department. One calendar consisted of a 260-day cycle divided into 13 'months' of twenty days. (This calendar was used by most of the ancient Mesoamericans). Each day was presided over by its own god. Another consists of a 365-day cycle, also divided into 'months' of twenty days, eighteen of them in fact. The five leftover days were called the 'resting, or sleep of the year'. Another consists of a 3276-day cycle divided into four quadrants of 819 days (the product of 7\*9\*13, all sacred numbers to the Maya). And then, of course, there was the so-called 'long count' calendar, which simply counted days from the creation of the world (August 11, 3114 BC, if anyone wants to know). (Linda Schele, 'A Forest of Kings', pg. 78).
4. Why are Cimicers, an Old-World weapon of war, mentioned in Mosiah 9:16 and other verses when none have been found to exist in the New World? John Sorenson cites a Mesoamerican 'maccuahuitl' for a Cimicer (An Ancient American Setting for the Book of Mormon, pg. 262). The Maccuahuitl was a hardwood club with obsidian blades. A Cimicer is a heavy, two-handed steel blade. What's wrong with this picture?
5. Why have some (like Elder Peterson and Elder Brewerton) used the Quetzalcoatl legend to "prove" the Book of Mormon's Christ when the Quetzalcoatl (or feathered serpent) legend dates to 1,000 years before the Book of Mormon's Christ?
6. When the Nephites landed in the Americas there were already millions of inhabitants in the land with large cities and infrastructure. Why are these people not mentioned? The Book of Mormon seems to indicate that the continent was empty at the time. 2 Nephi 1:8 One wonders if 'knowledge' of the land had been kept from the natives who had already been there for thousands of years?

7. Why didn't Nephi compare and contrast the New World with Jerusalem? These were two vastly different places.

### ***Book of Mormon Metallurgy***

1. Why does the Book of Mormon mention Bellows (1 Nephi 17:11), Brass (2 Nephi 5:15), Breast Plates & Copper (Mosiah 8:10), Iron (Jarom 1:8), Gold and Silver currency (Alma 11), Silver (Jarom 1:8), and Steel Swords (Ether 7:9)? No evidence indicates that these items existed during Book of Mormon times. Tom Ferguson: "Metallurgy does not appear in the region until about the 9th century A.D."
2. Why doesn't the art (which is abundant) of the supposed Book of Mormon cultures portray the existence of metallurgical products or metallurgical activity?

### ***Book of Mormon Animals***

1. Why does the Book of Mormon mention the following animals: Ass, Bull, Calf, Cattle, Cow, domestic Goat (the Nephites claimed to have found the domestic goat!), Horse (the horse plays a major role in the Nephite and Lamanite societies), Ox, domestic Sheep, Sow, Swine, & Elephants (contrary to the dated information on this site, non-LDS indicate that there is no evidence of elephants in the New World and the mammoth and mastodon of North America have been extinct for thousands years--see Stan Larson's "Quest for the Gold Plates" pages 184-188? None of these animals even existed in America during the era and timescale of Book of Mormon times.
2. Why aren't animals such as Coatimundis, Deer, Jaguars, Tapir, Monkeys, Sloths, Turkeys, etc..? mentioned when they were animals that existed? They were unknown to Joseph Smith, but later discovered to have lived here at the time the Nephites were supposed to have co-existed with them.

### ***Book of Mormon Crops***

1. Why is plow agriculture such as Barley (Alma 11:7) and Wheat (Mosiah 9:9) included in the Book of Mormon when it didn't exist during that time period? "There's a whole system of production of wheat and barley . . . It's a specialized production of food. You have to know something to make flax [the source of linen], and especially in tropical climates. Grapes and olives . . . all these are cultures that are highly developed and amount to systems, and so the Book of Mormon is saying that these systems existed here." (BYU anthropology professor, Dr. Raymond T. Matheny, August 25, 1984 Sunstone conference in Salt Lake City). Welch claims barley existed in the Book of Mormon based on one find in Phoenix, Arizona! Arizona is hardly the setting of the Book of Mormon.
2. Why aren't the foods known to ancient America such as chocolate, lima beans, squash, potatoes, tomatoes, manioc, etc. included in the Book of Mormon?



## ***Book of Mormon Geography***

1. Why isn't the terrain of Central America described?
2. Why is it that numerous LDS books and papers describe proposed Book of Mormon locations for cities and the "narrow neck of land"? No city has been identified as being Nephite, Lamanite, Jaredite, etc. For example, Zarahemla was occupied for hundreds of years, but we still don't have any real evidence of it ever existing. The Book of Mormon describes a time period from 2000 BC to 400 AD and millions of people. No city they occupied has yet to be found.
3. Why didn't any of the place names from the Book of Mormon still exist when Columbus arrived?
4. Where was the Hill Cumorah? Was it in New York or Central America? If it was in Central America, why hasn't it been found? If it was in New York, how did they move that quickly and where are all the remains?
5. Why don't gaps exist in the archeological record of Mesoamerica if these missing people existed?
6. Did the Book of Mormon take place outside of Mesoamerica? The History of the Church records an incident from June, 1834 in which JS identified a skeleton found in an Indian burial mound in Illinois: ". . . the visions of the past being opened to my understanding by the Spirit of the Almighty, I discovered the person whose skeleton was before us was a white Lamanite, a large, thick-set man, and a man of God. His name was Zelph . . . who was known from the Hill Cumorah, or eastern sea to the Rocky Mountains." (HOC 1948 ed., II: 79-80).
7. Why don't any archeologists theorize any Hebrew or Egyptian linkages or influences in Mesoamerica?

## ***Book of Mormon Script***

1. Why are Greek names such as Lachoneus, Timothy, Jonas, and Alpha & Omega in a book that should have absolutely no Greek influence?
2. Why aren't there other examples of "Reformed Egyptian" in Ancient America?
3. Why doesn't a linguistical relationship exist between any Native American language and ancient Egyptian or Hebrew?
4. How did the Book of Mormon language evolve so rapidly into non-related Indian languages? Indo-European is much older than the Book of Mormon time period, yet vestiges of Indo-European exist through all of Europe and parts of Asia.
5. Why are only four main types of Mesoamerican writing systems known (and none in pre-Columbus North America): (Aztec, Mixtec, Zapotec, and Maya)?
6. Why can't the Anthon transcript (which contains copies of the supposed Reformed Egyptian characters) be identified with any forms of Egyptian? The only three Egyptologists that have looked at it say it does not contain any Egyptian (Ferguson Collection, BYU)
7. If the Book of Mormon took place outside of Mesoamerica (like in New York where the Hill Cumorah supposedly is), why are written languages of ancient America only found in Mesoamerica?

8. Why haven't any of the Book of Mormon proper names such as Nephi, Laman, Zarahemla, etc. been found in all of the many writings that have been found in Mesoamerica?

### ***Book of Mormon Races***

1. If the Book of Mormon is true, why do Indians fail to turn white when they become Mormons? (2 Nephi 30:6, prior to the 1981 revision).
2. Why aren't any of the Indian tribes racially or genetically the same as Hebrews? American Indians are all of Mongoloid origin.
3. Why did Joseph Smith send missionaries to the "Lamanites" if the American Indians at the time weren't really "Lamanites"? (D&C 10:48, 28:8, 54:8, etc.) He certainly considered the Indians to be Lamanites (even if the current leaders of the church no longer believe them to be so). 'The Book of Mormon is a record of the forefathers of our western tribes of Indians. By it we learn that our western tribes of Indians are descendants from that Joseph who was sold into Egypt, and that the land of America is a promised land unto them.' (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg. 17). 'He told me of a sacred record which was written on plates of gold, I saw in the vision the place where they were deposited, he said the Indians were the literal descendants of Abraham.' (Personal Writings of Joseph Smith, Diary 1835-1836, pg. 76). (Note - this was one of Smith's 'founding visions'. Apparently, Moroni was not aware that there were other, non-Semitic natives in America either).

### ***Book of Mormon Witnesses***

1. Why were the witnesses only allowed to see the plates with "spiritual eyes"?
2. If the plates were real, why would it take faith to see them? (D&C17:2) (How could he have translated without the plates, as his scribes said, if he was doing a literal translation of a physical object?)
3. Why does the church now extol the witnesses when Joseph Smith condemned them?
4. Why would most of them leave the church?
5. Why did Brigham Young say that the 3 witnesses doubted and disbelieved in their experience? "Some of the witnesses of the Book of Mormon, who handled the plates and conversed with the angels of God, were afterwards left to doubt and disbelieve that they had ever seen an angel." (JOD 7:164 1859).
6. Why were all of the witnesses (except Martin Harris) related to Joseph Smith or David Whitmer?

### ***Book of Mormon Style and Inconsistencies***

1. If God was inspiring the translation process of the Book of Mormon, why were 3,800 changes necessary?
2. Why do the stories and the characters in the Book of Mormon repeat with only minor variations in content and different names given to the characters? Example:

Nephi and Moroni sound and act like the same character. "There were other Anti-Christ among the Nephites, but they were more military leaders than religious innovators . . . they are all of one breed and brand; so nearly alike that one mind is the author of them, and that a young and undeveloped, but piously inclined mind. The evidence I sorrowfully submit, points to Joseph Smith as their creator. It is difficult to believe that they are the product of history that they come upon the scene separated by long periods of time, and among a race which was the ancestral race of the red man of America." (B. H. Roberts - Studies of the Book of Mormon, page 271).

3. Why was the Book of Mormon cast into the KJV style? "...there is a continual use of the 'thee', 'thou' and 'ye', as well as the archaic verb endings 'est' (second person singular) and 'eth' (third person singular). Since the Elizabethan style was not Joseph's natural idiom, he continually slipped out of this King James pattern and repeatedly confused the norms as well. Thus he lapsed from 'ye' (subject) to 'you' (object) as the subject of sentences (e.g. 'Mos. 2:19; 3:34; 4:24), jumped from plural ('ye') to singular ('thou') in the same sentence (Mos. 4:22) and moved from verbs without endings to ones with endings (e.g. 'yields . . . puteth,' 3:19)." (The Use of the Old Testament in the Book of Mormon, by Wesley P. Walters, 1990, page 30).
4. Was there a room full of plates in a secret chamber in the hill near Joseph's house as he and Brigham Young said?
5. Why were cliched Indian phrases like "Nine Moons" in (Omni 1:21) or "Great Spirit" in (Alma 19:25-27) included?
6. How did the Jaredites come up with the same rare idea of writing on plates 2,000 years before Lehi when such a record keeping system is virtually unknown?
7. Why include the ridiculous prayer of the Zoramites in Alma 31?
8. Why is the Passover mentioned 71 times in the Bible, but -0- times in the Book of Mormon?
9. How did Book of Mormon characters get the priesthood when they weren't from the tribe of Levi?
10. Why was Shakespeare used?
11. What was the purpose in Moroni taking the plates back? Similarly, what ever happened to the parchment written by John of the New Testament? (D&C 7) Why weren't the supposed writings of Abraham (which were actually common A.D. funerary texts) also taken similarly back?
12. Why did Joseph's own accounts confuse whether he was visited by Moroni or Nephi. "He called me by name, and said unto me that he was a messenger sent from the presence of God to me, and that his name was Nephi." (J. Smith - Times & Seasons Vol. 3, p. 753 1842) also (J. Smith 1851 PoGP p. 41).

### ***Prophecies in the Book of Mormon***

1. Why are the prophecies in the Book of Mormon dealing with events that already occurred unrealistically specific?
  - o Three Witnesses.

- Charles Anthon story.
  - Columbus described.
  - Joseph Smith's name given.
  - Smith called to be the translator of the Mormon record.
  - Jerusalem destroyed.
  - 600 years until Jesus is born.
  - Martin Harris and the lost manuscripts. (1 Nephi 9, Words of Mormon)
  - Why do the unfulfilled prophecies in the Book of Mormon remain unfulfilled? Example: Jews becoming Christian in mass.
1. Why is the Book of Mormon quite specific about Christ but does not add anything that the New Testament does not address (for example, what Christ did from age 12 - 30)?
  2. Why does the Book of Mormon prophesy that the Jews would be restored to the land of their inheritance if they believed in Christ (they are occupying it now w/o believing in Christ)? (2 Nephi 10:7)
  3. Why did Alma not know when Christ was coming (Alma 13:21-26) even though he possessed plates and Lehi and Nephi had written precisely when he would arrive?

### ***Influenced by Joseph Smith's background***

1. Why are themes of the revolutionary war and patriotism (liberty, freedom, country, religion, flags, etc.) woven throughout a book supposedly written over a thousand years before the revolutionary war?
2. Why is an agrarian society similar to the society Joseph was most familiar with described as the setting for the entire book?
3. Why is a democracy after a monarchy described? (Mosiah 23, 29) - As happened in the history of the U.S.
4. Is it purely coincidental that there was much speculation in Joseph Smith's area about Indian Mounds and battles?
5. Why does the Book of Mormon describe wood forts with pickets to protect people--much like the forts of frontier?
6. Is it purely coincidental that Lehi had six sons as did Joseph Smith Sr., Sam/Samuel were sons of both, and Nephi and Joseph Smith Jr. were so similar?
7. Why did Mormon, Nephi and other "heroes" of the Book of Mormon have so many common traits with Joseph Smith? (large in stature, had visions while a teenager, etc. -- see "The Refiner's Fire" by John Brooke for many more similarities)
8. Why does the Book of Mormon repeatedly addresses 19th century readers?
9. Why is the anti-Masonic excitement that arose near Smith's home in 1827 reflected? (Gadianton Robbers / Secret Combos)
10. Why is infant baptism (a much discussed issue in the early 19th century) condemned in Chapter 8 of Moroni when it wasn't even an issue in the Bible?

## ***Influenced by the KJV of the Bible***

1. Why does the B of M use old KJV type English at a time when it was not currently used.
  2. Why is about 1/8th of the B of M copied directly from the KJV (1611AD) when it was alleged to have been written some 1200-2000 years before the KJV existed?
  3. How do you explain the fact that Joseph Smith copied from the KJV but deleted the italicized words in the KJV because he figured they were not in the original?  
"Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips"  
Isa 6:5, The words "is & am" are deleted in the Book of Mormon.
  4. Why are portions of Isaiah quoted off of the plates of brass when these items weren't written until after Nephi supposedly got the plates out of Laban's treasury?
  5. Why was Paul referred to before his time? (Paul said, "Death where is thy sting")
  6. Why is it that of the 350 names in the Book of Mormon, 100 are found in the Bible, others are place names found on early 19th century maps, and the rest are derivatives of Bible names?
  7. Why didn't Joseph Smith ever acknowledge using the KJV of the Bible to "translate"?
  8. Why were the following phrases used out of the New Testament supposedly before the New Testament was even thought of--much less written?
    - 1. "oh wretched man that I am" Romans 7:24 / 2 Nephi 4:17
    - 2. "earthquake, rocks rent" Matt 27:51 / 1 Nephi 12:14
    - 3. "old serpent, which is the devil" Rev 20:2 / 2 Nephi 2:18
    - 4. "one faith, one baptism" Ephesians 4:5 / Mosiah 18:21
    - 5. "One man perish" Jesus/Laban / John 11:50 / 1 Nephi 4:13
- 
1. Why is a Greek word like "Christ" used throughout the Book of Mormon?
  2. Why does the Book of Mormon always follow KJV errors?
  3. Why don't the Book of Mormon quotes from out of the Old Testament agree to earlier Latin, Syriac, Coptic, or Patristic texts?
  4. Example: Matthew 5:27 and 3 Nephi 12:27 "by them of old time" not included in earliest Greek (should have said "to them of old")
  5. Matthew 6:4, 6, 18 and 3 Nephi :4, 6, 18 "openly" added later
  6. Matt 6:13 and 3 Nephi 13:13 "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" should have said, "and do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one".
  7. Why does the phrase "the lamb of God" appear only in the New Testament portion of the Bible yet it appears in the Book of Mormon over 30 times--28 times in 1 Nephi alone?
  8. Why do the words of Malachi 4:1 appear in 1 Nephi 22:15 over a hundred years before Malachi wrote them?
  9. Why do so many stories seem like exaggerated borrowings from the Bible?  
Examples:

- Ammon killed six sheep rustlers with a sling (Alma 17:36) vs. David's killing of Goliath. (1 Samuel 17:50)
- Pillar of Fire. (Exodus 13:21) vs. (1 Nephi 1:6)
- Lord instructs Noah to build the Ark (Genesis 6:14) / Lord instructs Nephi to build ship (1 Nephi 17:8) / Lord instructs Jaredites to build barges (Ether 2:16)
- Jaredites brought flocks, two of a kind, seeds. (Ether 2:1) vs. Noah doing the same in (Genesis 7:9)
- Raising dead. (Matthew 10:8) vs. (3 Nephi 19:4)
- Temple of Solomon supposedly took 180,000 people seven and a half years to build (1 Kings 5, 6) / The few in number Nephites supposedly did it in less than 20 years after arriving (2 Nephi 5).
- Calming Storm (1 Nephi 18:8-21) vs. (Matthew 8:23-27).
- Men in Fire (Helaman 5:22-24) vs. (Daniel 3).
- Feeding Multitude (3 Nephi 20:3-7) out of nothing / In Bible, Christ multiplied existing food (Matthew 14).
- Christ heals masses in Book of Mormon (3 Nephi 17:9) / in Bible Jesus healed as he encountered (Luke 9:42).
- Multitude feels wounds in Book of Mormon (3 Nephi 11:13) / In Bible, Thomas felt wounds (John 20:27).
- Book of Mormon prophecies of Christ specific / Bible prophecies veiled (actually non-existent unless scripture misquoted or "prophecies" stretched to have two meanings).
- Book of Mormon Christ is completely accepted / In Bible he is rejected.
- Aminadi deciphered writing on the wall (Alma 10:2-3) like Daniel (Daniel 5).
- Daughter of Jared danced before the king (Ether 8) like the daughter of Herodias (Matthew 14) (decapitation followed in both cases).
- Daughters of Lamanites abducted like the daughters of Shiloh.
- Jews of Old Testament were monotheists / Pre-Christ Jews of Book of Mormon were not.

### ***Influenced by happenings of early 19th century America***

1. Why does the Book of Mormon confuse the Old and New Covenants? It stresses that before Christ, the faithful kept the Law of Moses (2 Nephi 5:10; 25:23-25, 20; Alma 30:3), yet they also established churches, taught and practiced Christian baptism, and were conversant with New Testament doctrines and events (e.g. 2 Nephi 9:23; Mosiah 18:17). In the Bible, the Old Covenant is taken away to establish the New according to Paul and his followers (Heb. 10:9). The Book of Mormon intermingles the covenants. Paul was the man who first tried to reconcile the Old to the New covenant--not anyone during Old Testament times.
2. Why does the Book of Mormon discuss the concept of infinite sins paid by an infinite being? (Alma 12) This idea was originated by Anselm of Canterbury and was a raging debate during the time of Joseph Smith.

3. Why does the Book of Mormon's teachings reflect the religious conflicts of the early 19th century including: grace, infant baptism, ordination, authority, repentance, resurrection, eternal punishment, fall of man, nature of man, fasting, etc.?
4. Why were there missionaries in the Book of Mormon before Christ? That certainly wasn't the case in the Old World.
5. Why is King Benjamin's oratory like a 19th century camp meeting?
6. Revival gathering (Mosiah 2)
7. Guilt ridden falling exercise (4:1-2)
8. Petition for spiritual emancipation (4:2)
9. Absolution and ecstasy (4:3)
10. Repentance (4:4-8)
11. Born again (5:7)
12. Take name of Christ (5:8-15)
13. Why do other works early in Joseph Smith's lifetime teach that the Indians were descended from the Hebrews?
14. Was "View of the Hebrews" one of the sources? B. H. Roberts (Studies of Book of Mormon pp.240,242) said, "But now to return . . . to the main theme of this writing -- viz., did Ethan Smith's View of the Hebrews furnish structural material for Joseph Smith's Book of Mormon? It has been pointed out in these pages that there are many things in the former book that might well have suggested many major things in the other. Not a few things merely, one or two, or a half dozen, but many; and it is this fact of many things of similarity and the cumulative force of them that makes them so serious a menace to Joseph Smith's story of the Book of Mormon's origin . . ."
15. Was Josiah Priest's book "The Wonders of Nature and Providence", copyrighted by him June 2nd, 1824, and printed soon afterwards in Rochester, New York, only some twenty miles distant from Palmyra a source?
16. Was James Adair's "A History of the American Indians" a source? On pages 377-378, he wrote the following about the Indians: "Through the whole continent, and in the remotest woods, are traces of their ancient warlike disposition. We frequently met with great mounds of earth, either of a circular, or oblong form, having a strong breast-work at a distance around them, made of the clay which had been dug up in forming the ditch on the inner side of the enclosed ground, and these were their forts of security against an enemy... About 12 miles from the upper northern parts of the Choktah country, there stand...two oblong mounds of earth...in an equal direction with each other... A broad deep ditch enclosed those two fortresses, and there they raised a high breast-work, to secure their houses from the invading enemy." In Alma it states, "Yea, he had been strengthening the armies of the Nephites, and erecting small forts, or places of resort: throwing up banks of earth round about to enclose his armies...the Nephites were taught...never to raise the sword except it were against an enemy... they had cast up dirt round to shield them from the arrows...the chief captains of the Lamanites were astonished exceedingly, because of the wisdom of the Nephites in preparing their places of security...they knew not that Moroni had fortified, or had built forts of security in all the land roundabout ...the Lamanites could not get into their forts

of security...because of the highness of the bank which had been thrown up, and the depth of the ditch which had been dug round about...they (the Lamanites) began to dig down their banks of earth...that they might have an equal chance to fight...instead of filling up their ditches by pulling down banks of earth, they were filled up in a measure with their dead...And (Moroni) caused them to erect fortifications that they should commence laboring in digging a ditch round about the land...And he caused that they should build a breastwork of timbers upon the inner bank of the ditch: and they did cast up dirt out of the ditch against the breastwork of timbers".

17. Why are there other direct word parallels between Adair and the Book of Mormon such as Omni 1:21 and page 125 of Adair which says, "...for the space of four moons..." or page 122 which says "for the space of three days and nights..." and Alma 36:10.

### ***Main themes of Mormonism not in Book of Mormon:***

1. Why isn't the Elohim (God) being the father of Jehovah (Jesus) and being once a mortal man discussed? (In fact, God and Jesus appear to be one in the same being in the Book of Mormon--especially in the first edition).
2. What about God having a body of flesh and bones, God being married, men becoming Gods, temple participation necessary for exaltation, baptism for the dead, Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood, word of wisdom, and 3 degrees of glory?
3. Why is polygamy condemned in the Book of Mormon, but condoned in the D&C and still believed to be necessary in church doctrine for exaltation in the after-life?
4. Where are such doctrines as a man having to marry in order to be exalted, member having to wear sacred undergarments, official doctrine being voted upon by the general membership, God being the offspring of another God, etc.?

### ***Treasure Hunting and Magic***

1. Why was Joseph Smith arrested for "money digging" and convicted of being a disorderly person? He admitted to being a money digger, though he said it was never very profitable for him (History of the Church, V. 3, p. 29). He and his father's money digging continued until at least 1826. On March 20th, 1826, Joseph was arrested, brought before a judge, and charged with being a "glass-looker" and a disorderly person. The laws at that time had what was known as the "Vagrant Act." It defined a disorderly person as one who pretended to have skill in the areas of palmistry, telling fortunes or discovering where lost goods might be found. According to court records Justice Neely determined that Joseph was guilty, though no penalty was administered, quite possibly because this was a first offense (Inventing Mormonism, Marquardt and Walters, SLC: Signature Books, 1994, pp.74-75).
2. Why did Joseph Smith have to use a seer stone both before and after being called as a prophet?



3. Why did the Book of Mormon have to be translated while he looked into the seer stone placed in a black top hat? D. Michael Quinn writes: "During this period from 1827 to 1830, Joseph Smith abandoned the company of his former money-digging associates, but continued to use for religious purposes the brown seer stone he had previously employed in the treasure quest. His most intensive and productive use of the seer stone was in the translation of the Book of Mormon. But he also dictated several revelations to his associates through the stone" (Early Mormonism and the Magic World View, D. Michael Quinn, Signature Books, SLC, 1987, p. 143). Richard S. Van Wagoner writes: "This stone, still retained by the First Presidency of the LDS Church, was the vehicle through which the golden plates were discovered and the medium through which their interpretation came" (Sidney Rigdon: A Portrait of Religious Excess, Signature Books, SLC, 1994, p.57).
4. Why would a prophet need to send members to seek for treasure seen in a vision? See D&C 111. Why wasn't any found when the revelation states they would?
5. Did the Jaredites magic stones have anything to do with Joseph's acquaintance with magic stones?
6. Why does the Book of Mormon discuss "slippery treasure" so much?

### ***First Vision***

1. Why do the accounts differ with respect to who was in the vision? See "The New Mormon History: Revisionist Essays on the Past " for more on this.
2. Why doesn't Jesus show up (separate from God) until after the God doctrine had evolved into a plurality of Gods? (i.e., after 1835)
3. Why don't the early "prophets" even know the story accurately? "The Lord did not come with the armies of heaven...But he did send His angel to this same obscure person, Joseph Smith jun...And informed him that he should not join any of the religious sects of the day, for they were all wrong" (B. Young - JOD Volume 2 p.171 1855).
4. "How did it (the organization) come? By the ministering of an holy angel from God, out of heaven, who held converse with man, and revealed unto him the darkness that enveloped the world...He told him the Gospel was not among men, and that there was not a true organization of His kingdom in the world." (Wilford Woodruff - JOD Volume 11 p.196 1855).
5. "How did the state of things called Mormonism originate? We read that an angel came down and revealed himself to Joseph Smith and manifested unto him in a vision the true position of the world in a religious point of view. He was surrounded with light and glory while the heavenly messenger communicated these things to him." (John Taylor - JOD Volume 10 p.127 1863).
6. "When the holy angel appeared, Joseph inquired which of all these denominations was right and which he should join, and was told they were all wrong." (George A. Smith - JOD Volume 12 p.334 1863).
7. Why doesn't any published source mention the "official" first vision account until 1842--22 years after the "official" event supposedly happened?

8. Why doesn't the 1st vision play an important role in Mormon history until the 1860s? No one seems to mention it before then even though it is now deemed by Mormons to be the most important event in almost 2,000 years.
9. Why isn't there evidence to support the revival described by Joseph Smith in early 1820--yet there is evidence to support revivals several years later? Joseph Smith's neighborhood experienced no revival in 1820 such as he described, in which great multitudes joined the Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian churches. According to early sources, including church conference reports, newspapers, church periodicals, presbytery records and published interviews, nothing occurred in 1820-21 that fits Joseph's description. There were no significant gains in church membership in the Palmyra-Manchester, New York area, during 1820-21 such as accompany great revivals. For example, in 1820, the Baptist Church in Palmyra only received 8 people through profession of faith and baptism, the Presbyterian church added 14 members, while the Methodist circuit lost 6 members, dropping from 677 in 1819 to 671 in 1820 and down to 622 in 1821 (see Geneva area Presbyterian Church Records, Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, PA; Records for the First Baptist Church in Palmyra, American Baptist Historical Society, Rochester, NY; Minutes of the [Methodist] annual Conference, Ontario Circuit, 1818-1821, pp. 312, 330, 346, 366).
10. Why does Lucy Smith (his mother) indicate that the revival occurred around 1824? Her son, Alvin died on November 19, 1823, and following that painful loss Lucy Smith reports that, "about this time there was a great revival in religion and the whole neighborhood was very much aroused to the subject and we among the rest, flocked to the meeting house to see if there was a word of comfort for us that might relieve our over-charged feelings" (First draft of Lucy Smith's History, p. 55, LDS Church Archives). Church records from that time period show outstanding increases in membership due to the reception of new converts. The Baptist Church received 94, the Presbyterian 99, while the Methodist work grew by 208. "You will recollect that I mentioned the time of a religious excitement, in Palmyra and vicinity to have been in the 15th year of our Brother J. Smith Jr's, age that was an error in the type- it should have been the 17th...This would bring the date down to the year 1823." (Oliver Cowdrey - Times & Seasons Vol. 2, p. 241 1840). For further details see, Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought, spring 1969, pp. 59-100.
11. Why does his first autobiography not even mention the "first vision"?
12. Why does Joseph Smith have Lehi make such a statement as 1 Nephi 8:2? Is he equating a dream to an actual, physical vision or visitation from God?

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You may email Angie Dean at: [angiedean11@hotmail.com](mailto:angiedean11@hotmail.com)