

**Letter to a Mormon**  
Testing the Claims of  
the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

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## Introduction:

I first met members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) in the summer of 1995. Before then, my only exposure to Mormonism was through their delightful and uplifting TV commercials I saw many times as a kid.

The Mormons I met in 1995 were very kind and energetic. They encouraged me to consider the claims of their church and to pray about the Book of Mormon. So I took them up on their suggestion. It was at that time that I began research into this impressive religion.

What you will find in this essay is the culmination of over 10 years of study and prayer. Everything said about what the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints teaches comes from LDS literature and publications. Nothing is hearsay, and nothing comes from what a Mormon would consider “apostate” literature, since it all comes from actual LDS publications. Unfortunately, there are unreliable authors who have published untruths about the LDS church, and these lies are readily available on websites all over the Internet. For this reason, great care was taken in this essay to only quote from official LDS publications. In other words, I have not included “what so-and-so says the LDS church believes,” but rather have allowed the official LDS sources to speak for themselves.

I should say from the outset that there is much to be impressed with in the LDS church! It is clear that most Mormons are committed to their beliefs, faithful to family, and try very hard to serve their God. Many Mormons devote up to two years to full-time missionary work, and perform many deeds to be worthy to participate in their Temple ceremonies. I have found most of the Mormons I have met to be dedicated, zealous people, and for that I commend them.

But when I took the Mormons up on considering the claims of their church, I couldn't use the zeal of their members, nor the passion of their plea as the standard for truth. The Bible is the only true standard. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, and any doctrinal claims must be tested against the Bible.

The Bible tells us to “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). The Bereans were commended in Scripture because they “received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).

The Apostle John tells us, by inspiration of the Holy Ghost, to “believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God” (1 John 4:1).

Please take the time to read through these pages. And please believe me when I say that my intentions are neither to be contentious, nor to mock Mormons. I would never do that. I respect Mormons, and it is because of my respect for Mormons that I have taken the time to research and consider the claims of the LDS church.

Brigham Young said, “Take up the Bible, compare the religion of the Latter-day Saints with it and see if it will stand the test” (Prophet Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses* 16:46, May 18, 1873). That is exactly the purpose of this essay.

In these pages I present official teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints side-by-side with what the Bible has to say on the subjects, to make it convenient to search the Scriptures, like the Bereans, to see if what the LDS church claims is so.

May God bless you as you seek His will and truth.

“Thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

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**Overview of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints:**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) was founded by Joseph Smith Jr. on April 6, 1830.

LDS Recognized Scriptures:

- KJV Bible (insofar as it is translated correctly)
- The Book of Mormon (BOM)
- Doctrine and Covenants (D&C)
- Pearl of Great Price (PGP)

In addition, the LDS church claims to have a living prophet who speaks God’s words, and a group of Apostles, just like in Jesus’ day. The LDS 6<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith upholds this.

**Official Doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints:**

**Belief in Many Gods:**

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“In the beginning, the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people it” (Prophet Joseph Smith Jr., <i>King Follett Discourse</i>).</p> <p>“I will preach on the plurality of Gods. I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage and a Spirit: and these three constitute three distinct personages and three Gods” (Prophet Joseph Smith Jr., <i>History of the Church</i> 6:474).</p> <p>“How many Gods there are, I do not know. But there never was a time when there were not Gods.” (Prophet Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses</i> 7:333).</p> <p>“Plurality of Gods: Three separate personages: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, comprise the Godhead. As each of these persons is a God, it is evident, from this standpoint alone, that a plurality of Gods exists. To us, speaking in the proper finite sense, these three are the only Gods we worship. But in addition there is an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods” (Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, <i>Mormon Doctrine</i>, pp. 576-577).</p>	<p>“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is <u>one LORD</u>” (Deuteronomy 6:4).</p> <p>“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 <u>beside me there is no God</u>... Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; <u>I know not any</u>” (Isaiah 44:6,8).</p> <p>Jesus prayed to “<u>the only true God</u>” (John 17:3).</p> <p>“For there is <u>one God</u>, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).</p> <p>“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: <u>before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.</u>” (Isaiah 43:10).</p> <p>“I am the LORD, and <u>there is none else, there is no God beside me</u>” (Isaiah 45:5).</p> <p>“I am God, and <u>there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me</u>” (Isaiah 46:9).</p>

**God is Not Eternal:**

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“I am going to tell you how God came to be God. We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see” (Prophet Joseph Smith Jr., <i>King Follett Discourse</i>).</p>	<p>“<u>In the beginning</u> God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).</p> <p>“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even <u>from everlasting to everlasting</u>, thou art God” (Psalm 90:2).</p> <p>“Thy throne is established <u>of old</u>: thou art from <u>everlasting</u>” (Psalm 93:2).</p> <p>“The <u>eternal God</u> is thy refuge” (Deuteronomy 33:22).</p>

**God was once Like Us:**

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!...He was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did; and I will show it from the Bible” (Prophet Joseph Smith Jr., <i>History of the Church</i> 6:305).</p> <p>“I know that God is a being with body, parts and passions... Man was born of woman; Christ, the Savior, was born of woman; and God, the Father was born of woman” (Prophet Joseph F. Smith, <i>Deseret News, Church News</i>, Sept.19, 1936, p.2).</p> <p>“The Father is a glorified, perfected, resurrected, exalted man who worked out his salvation by obedience to the same laws he has given to us so that we may do the same” (Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, <i>A New Witness for the Articles of Faith</i>, p.64).</p>	<p>“God is not a man, that he should lie” (Numbers 23:19).</p> <p>“And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent” (1 Samuel 15:29).</p> <p>“I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee” (Hosea 11:9).</p> <p>“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God” (Psalm 90:2).</p> <p>“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).</p> <p>“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have” (Luke 24:39).</p> <p>“For I am the LORD, I change not” (Malachi 3:6).</p>

**Men Can Become God:**

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“The whole design of the gospel is to lead us, onward and upward to greater achievement, even, eventually, to godhood. This great possibility was enunciated by the Prophet Joseph Smith in the King Follett sermon (see <i>Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith</i>, pp. 342-62) and emphasized by President Lorenzo Snow. It is this grand and incomparable concept: As God now is, man may become!” (Prophet Gordon B. Hinkley, <i>Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley</i>, p. 179).</p> <p>“As man now is, God once was; as God now is, man may be” (Prophet Lorenzo Snow).</p> <p>“The Lord created you and me for the purpose of becoming Gods like himself. We are created to become gods like unto our father in heaven” (Prophet Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses</i> 10:223).</p> <p>“man is the king of kings and Lord of Lords in embryo” (Prophet Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses</i> 10:223).</p> <p>“The Father is a glorified, perfected, resurrected, exalted man who worked out his salvation by obedience to the same laws he has given to us so that we may do the same” (Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, <i>A New Witness for the Articles of Faith</i>, p. 64).</p>	<p>“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, <u>neither shall there be after me</u>” (Isaiah 43:10).</p> <p>“I am the LORD, and there is none else, <u>there is no God beside me</u>” (Isaiah 45:5).</p> <p>“I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and <u>there is none like me</u>” (Isaiah 46:9).</p>

### God the Father is Married to the Mother God:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“The fact that there is no reference to a mother in heaven either in the Bible, Book of Mormon or Doctrine and Covenants, is not sufficient proof that no such thing as a mother did exist there... does not common sense tell us that we must have had a mother there also?” (Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, <i>Answers to Gospel Questions, Vol. 3</i>, p. 142).</p> <p>“Brother Kimball quoted a saying of Joseph the Prophet, that he would not worship a God who had not a Father; and I do not know that he would if he had not a mother; the one would be as absurd as the other” (Prophet Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses</i> 9:286).</p>	<p>“Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD... that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, <u>neither shall there be after me</u>” (Isaiah 43:10).</p> <p>“I am the LORD, and <u>there is none else</u>, there is <u>no God beside me</u>” (Isaiah 45:5).</p> <p>“I am God, and <u>there is none else</u>; I am God, and there is none like me” (Isaiah 46:9).</p> <p>“Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and <u>he that formed thee from the womb</u>, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth <u>by myself</u>” (Isaiah 44:24).</p>

### God the Father’s Name is Elohim and He Lives on a Planet near the Planet Kolob:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“God the Eternal Father, whom we designate by the exalted name-title ‘Elohim,’ is the literal Parent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (Apostle James Talmage, <i>The Articles of Faith</i>, p. 421).</p> <p>“It is true that the earth was organized by three distinct characters, namely, Eloheim, Yahovah, and Michael” (Prophet Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses</i> 1:51).</p> <p>“At the School of the Prophets in June 1871 President Brigham Young taught, ‘Elohim, Yahova &amp; Michael, were father, Son and grandson. They made this Earth &amp; Michael became Adam’” (Prophet Joseph F. Smith, <i>Journal</i>, June 17 1871, LDS archives).</p> <p>“Kolob means ‘the first creation.’ It is the name of the planet ‘nearest to the celestial, or the residence of God’” (Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, <i>Mormon Doctrine</i>, p. 428).</p>	<p>‘Elohim’ is merely one of the Hebrew words for Deity. It occurs over 2,500 times in the Old Testament, and can even refer to false gods. Example: Exodus 20:2-3 says: “I am the Lord thy God [Elohim] which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt... Thou shalt have no other gods [elohim] before me.”</p> <p>“Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool” (Isaiah 66:1).</p>

### God the Father is Really Adam from the Garden of Eden:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“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” (Prophet Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses</i> 1:50).</p>	<p>“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth... God created man in his own image” (Genesis 1:1,27).</p> <p>“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7).</p> <p>Please note that the man (Adam) is the created being, not the Creator.</p>

Please note that the LDS church has since labeled Brigham Young’s teaching on Adam as God a heresy, which, according to Deuteronomy 13:1-3, makes Young a false prophet.

Some Mormons claim that Brigham Young was not speaking as a prophet when he taught the “Adam-God” doctrine, but Brigham Young made it clear that all his published sermons ought to be considered as Scripture. (Please see “Prophets Words are Scripture” section later in this document.)

## Men Live on the Moon and Sun:

### LDS Doctrine:

“Astronomers and philosophers have, from time almost immemorial until very recently, asserted that the moon was uninhabited, that it had no atmosphere, etc. But recent discoveries, through the means of powerful telescopes, have given scientists a doubt or two upon the old theory. Nearly all the great discoveries of men in the last half century have, in one way or another, either directly or indirectly, contributed to prove Joseph Smith to be a Prophet.

As far back as 1837, I know that he said the moon was inhabited by men and women the same as this earth, and that they lived to a greater age than we do--that they live generally to near the age of 1000 years.

He described the men as averaging near six feet in height, and dressing quite uniformly in something near the Quaker style. In my Patriarchal blessing, given by the father of Joseph the Prophet, in Kirkland, 1837, I was told that I would preach the gospel to the inhabitants upon the moon, even the planet you can now behold with your eyes” (Oliver B. Huntington, *Young Woman’s Journal*, Vol. 3, pp. 263-264, Official LDS Church Publication, 1892).

“Who can tell us of the inhabitants of this little planet that shines of an evening called the moon?... when you inquire about the inhabitants of that sphere you find that the most learned are as ignorant in regard to them as the ignorant of their fellows. So it is in regard to the inhabitants of the sun. Do you think it is inhabited? I rather think it is. Do you think there is any life there? No question of it; it was not made in vain” (Prophet Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses 13:271*).

Please note: Modern LDS understandably try to distance themselves from this teaching, but the fact is that these claims about moon men were published in official publications of the LDS church. Also, Brigham Young was quite clear that his published sermons should be considered “Scripture,” and that includes Young’s comments about moon and sun men in *Journal of Discourses 13:271*. (Please see “Prophets Words are Scripture” section later in this document.)

## Jesus was a Polygamist and Had Children:

### LDS Doctrine:

“The Scripture says that He, the Lord, came walking in the Temple, with his train; I do not now who they were, unless his wives and children” (Prophet Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses 13:309*).

Prophet Brigham Young, answering critics who claimed polygamy as a relic of barbarism: “Yes, one of the relics of Adam, of Enoch, of Noah, of Abraham, of Isaac, of Jacob, of Moses, David, Solomon, the Prophets, of Jesus, and his apostles” (Prophet Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses 11:328*).

### The Bible Teaches:

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready” (Revelation 9:7). [NOTE: ‘wife’ is singular.]

Jesus said, “Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery” (Matthew 19:9).

If polygamy were acceptable, then this verse would make no sense. If Jesus allowed polygamy, then it would not be adultery to marry a second wife.

### History of Polygamy in the US and the LDS Church:

1862: Polygamy criminalized in the United States.

1879: U.S. Supreme Court upheld that the government had a right to enforce marital standards, and that polygamy was a barbarous practice.

1880: LDS leader Wilford Woodruff received a revelation from God promising retaliation against anyone who seeks “...to hinder my People from obeying the Patriarchal Law of Abraham...your enemies shall not prevail over you” (“Sunset Arizona” Revelation to Wilford Woodruff, v. 19, January 26, 1880).

1882: Polygamous Mormons no longer allowed to vote, run for public office, or serve on a jury.

1887: *Edmunds-Tucker Act* authorized the government to disincorporate the Church and to confiscate assets.

1889: Wilford Woodruff, now president, received a revelation from Jesus Christ who promised that he would protect the church’s practice of polygamy from attacks by the federal government” (Nov 24, 1889).

1890: Government announced it would begin to seize Temples. Prophet Wilford Woodruff received new revelation, called the “Great Accommodation” that changed church beliefs and practices, ending polygamy.

## Baptism for the Dead:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“the Lord has ordained baptism for the dead as the means whereby all his worthy children of all ages can become heirs of salvation in his kingdom” (Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, <i>Mormon Doctrine</i>, p.73).</p> <p>“this most glorious of all subjects belonging to the everlasting gospel [is] namely the baptism for the dead” (<i>Doctrine and Covenants</i>, 128:17). [NOTE: This is contradicted by Alma 7:34-35 - BOM]</p>	<p>“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but <u>after this the judgment</u>” (Hebrews 9:27).</p> <p>1 Corinthians 15:29 does not condone or institute baptism for the dead. Paul is exposing the inconsistency of false teachers who on one hand say they don’t believe in the resurrection, but yet on the other hand baptize for the dead. Why baptize for the dead if the dead not rise?</p>

## Origins of Black People:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“there is a reason why one man is born black and with other disadvantages, while another is born white with great advantages. The reason is that we once had an estate before we came here, and were obedient; more or less, to the laws that were given us there. Those who were faithful in all things there received greater blessings here, and those who were not faithful received less” (Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, <i>Doctrines of Salvation 1:61</i>).</p> <p>“Shall I tell you the law of God in regard to the African race? If the white man who belongs to the chosen seed mixes his blood with the seed of Cain, the penalty, under the law of God, is death on the spot. This will always be so” (Prophet Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses 10:110</i>).</p> <p>“The negroes are not equal with other races where the receipt of certain spiritual blessings are concerned, particularly the priesthood and the temple blessings that flow therefrom” (Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, <i>Mormon Doctrine</i>, p.527, 1966 ed.). [NOTE: This was contradicted by Declaration 2, <i>Doctrines and Covenants</i>]</p> <p>“If that Negro is faithful all his days, he can and will enter the celestial kingdom. He will go there <u>as a servant</u>, but he will get a celestial resurrection” (Apostle Mark E. Peterson, <i>Race Problems as they Affect the Church</i>, p.17).</p> <p>“And after the flood we are told that the curse that had been pronounced upon Cain was continued through Ham’s wife, as he had married a wife of that seed. And why did it pass through the flood? Because it was necessary that the devil should have a representation upon the earth as well as God” (Prophet John Taylor, <i>Journal of Discourses 22:304</i>).</p>	<p>“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that <u>God is no respecter of persons</u>: But in <u>every nation</u> he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” (Acts 10:34-35).</p> <p>“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of <u>every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation</u>” (Revelation 5:9).</p>



## Melchizedek and Aaronic Priesthoods:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“THERE are, in the church, two priesthoods, namely, the Melchizedek and Aaronic, including the Levitical Priesthood” (<i>Doctrine and Covenants 107:1</i>).</p> <p>“What is the Priesthood? It is nothing more or less than the power of God delegated to man by which man can act in the earth for the salvation of the human family... by which they may baptize for the remission of sins and lay on hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, and by which they can remit sin with the sanction and blessing of Almighty God. It is the same power and priesthood that was committed to the disciples of Christ while He was upon the earth” (Prophet Joseph F. Smith, <i>Gospel Doctrine</i>, p. 73).</p>	<p>“Seeing then that <u>we have a great high priest</u>, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God” (Hebrews 4:14).</p> <p>“And being made perfect, [Jesus] became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Called of God an <u>high priest after the order of Melchisedec</u>” (Hebrews 5:9-10).</p> <p>“But [Jesus], because <u>he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood</u>. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:24-25).</p> <p>“for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. For he testifieth, <u>Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec</u>” (Hebrews 7:15-17).</p> <p>“In that he saith, A new covenant, <u>he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away</u>. Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary” (Hebrews 8:13 – 9:1).</p> <p>“Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And <u>hath made us kings and priests unto God</u> and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever” (Revelation 1:5-6).</p> <p>“But ye are a chosen generation, <u>a royal priesthood</u>” (1 Peter 2:9).</p>
<p>“The Book of Mormon states that Joseph Smith the Prophet was a descendant of Joseph, son of Jacob. By revelation we learn also that he is of the tribe of <u>Ephraim</u>” (Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, <i>Answers to Gospel Questions</i>, Vol. 3, p. 61-64).</p> <p>“Now this king of Egypt was a descendant from the loins of Ham, and was a partaker of the blood of the Canaanites by birth. From this descent sprang <u>all the Egyptians</u>, and thus the blood of the Canaanites was preserved in the land... from Ham, sprang that race which <u>preserved the curse</u> in the land... Pharaoh, being a righteous man, established his kingdom and judged his people wisely and justly all his days, seeking earnestly to imitate that order established by the fathers in the first generations, in the days of the first patriarchal reign, even in the reign of Adam, and also of Noah, his father, who blessed him with the blessings of the earth, and with the blessings of wisdom, but <u>cursed him as pertaining to the Priesthood</u>” (Abraham 1:21-22, 24, 26 - PGP).</p> <p>“And Pharaoh called Joseph’s name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On... And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh... And the name of the second called he Ephraim” (Genesis 41:45, 50-52).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ According to Abraham 1:21-22, 24, 26, Egyptians are cursed from being priests.</li> <li>▪ Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith said that Joseph Smith Jr. was from the tribe of Ephraim.</li> <li>▪ Genesis 45 says that Ephraim is half Egyptian.</li> </ul> <p>Therefore, Joseph Smith Jr. was <b>INELIGIBLE TO BE PRIEST</b>.</p>	

## Burning in the Bosom:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall <u>ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost</u>” (Moroni 10:4 - BOM).</p>	<p>“<u>Prove all things</u>; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).</p> <p>“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and <u>searched the scriptures</u> daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).</p> <p>“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but <u>try the spirits whether they are of God</u>: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).</p>
<p>Consider this: As a Mormon, have you ever prayed about whether or not the Koran is true, or the Jehovah’s Witness Bible, or a Satanic text? Have you ever prayed about whether or not God would want you to rob a bank or commit adultery? Did you pray with a sincere heart, with real intent?</p> <p>Of course not! There is no need to pray about that which contradicts God’s Word. To do so would be to test God, which is a sin. So we need not pray about the <i>Book of Mormon</i>. We need only to test it against the Bible.</p>	

## Church Apostasy:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong)—and which I should join. I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight” (Prophet Joseph Smith Jr., <i>History of the Church 1:18-19</i> - PGP).</p> <p>“But He did send His angel to this same obscure person, Joseph Smith junior, who afterwards became a Prophet, Seer, and Revelator, and informed him that he should not join any of the religious sects of the day, for they were all wrong” (Prophet Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses 2:171</i>).</p> <p>“Again, following the death of his apostles, apostasy once more set in, and again the saving principles and ordinances of the gospel were changed to suit the conveniences and notions of the people. Doctrines were corrupted, authority lost, and a false order of religion took the place of the gospel of Jesus Christ, just as it had been the case in former dispensations, and the people were left in spiritual darkness” (Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, <i>Doctrines of Salvation</i>, p. 266).</p>	<p>“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).</p> <p>Please note that this does NOT say:</p> <p>“I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it, except between 100 AD and 1830 AD.”</p> <p>“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20).</p> <p>Please note that this does NOT say:</p> <p>“lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world, except between 100 AD and 1830 AD.”</p>
<p>Consider this: According to 3 Nephi 1-9, there remains <u>TODAY</u> three original Mormon disciples of Jesus Himself still living on the earth. They have miraculously not died, but continue to “bring the souls of men unto [Jesus].” Therefore there could not have been a full apostasy. If no full apostasy, then Joseph Smith’s first vision was wrong. (Prophet Joseph Smith Jr., <i>History of the Church 1:19</i> - PGP). Why was Joseph Smith Jr. not told to seek out the three living disciples of Jesus? Without a full apostasy, there was no need for the Mormon Church to be organized.</p>	

### Book of Mormon Changes:

LDS Doctrine:	Evidence:								
<p>In 1844 Joseph Smith declared that the Book of Mormon was “the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts than by any other book” (<i>Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith</i>, p. 194, and <i>History of the Church</i> 4:461).</p> <p>“there was not one thing in the Book of Mormon or in the second edition or in any other edition since that in any way contradicts the first edition... there was no change of doctrine. Now, these sons of Belial who circulate these reports evidently know better. I will not use the word that is in my mind” (Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, <i>The Improvement Era</i>, pp.924-925, 1961).</p>	<p>In fact there have been 3,913 changes made to the Book of Mormon since the original 1830 edition, and many of them are not typographical or spelling changes.</p> <p>Significant changes in the Book of Mormon at:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">1 Nephi 11:18</td> <td style="width: 50%;">2 Nephi 30:6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 Nephi 13:40</td> <td>3 Nephi 22:4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 Nephi 20:1</td> <td>Mosiah 21:28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alma 29:4</td> <td>more...</td> </tr> </table> <p>For a complete side-by-side list of significant changes in the Book of Mormon, go to:  <a href="http://www.mazeministry.com/machine/machine.htm">http://www.mazeministry.com/machine/machine.htm</a></p>	1 Nephi 11:18	2 Nephi 30:6	1 Nephi 13:40	3 Nephi 22:4	1 Nephi 20:1	Mosiah 21:28	Alma 29:4	more...
1 Nephi 11:18	2 Nephi 30:6								
1 Nephi 13:40	3 Nephi 22:4								
1 Nephi 20:1	Mosiah 21:28								
Alma 29:4	more...								

### Book of Mormon Errors:

Evidence:
<p>Alma 7:10 says Jesus was born in Jerusalem.</p> <p>The Bible teaches that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, not Jerusalem. (Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1, 2:5, 2:6, Luke 2:15, John 7:42).</p> <p>2 Nephi 19:1 adds the word “Red Sea” when that is a geographic impossibility.</p>

### Book of Mormon Plagiarism:

Evidence:
<p>The BOM contains at least 25,000 words from the 1611 KJV. BOM even contains <i>italicized</i> words!</p> <p>Compare 3 Nephi 24:10 with Malachi 3:10.</p> <p>BOM contains KJV translation errors at 2 Nephi 14:5 and 2 Nephi 15:25. (Should be <i>canopy</i>, not <i>defense</i> in the former, and <i>filth</i>, not <i>torn</i> in the latter.)</p> <p>The Golden Plates were allegedly buried by Moroni in 421 A.D., yet the BOM contains translation errors and italicized words that didn't occur until 1,190 years later! Therefore, the claim that the Book of Mormon was written in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century is shown to be false. It is not a 5<sup>th</sup> Century book of antiquity, but a relatively modern book (19<sup>th</sup> Century) that plagiarized a 17<sup>th</sup> Century translation readily available to Joseph Smith Jr.</p>

### Book of Mormon Contradicts Other LDS Scriptures:

Evidence:
<p>“the idea that the Father and the Son dwell in a man’s heart is an old sectarian notion, and is false” (<i>Doctrine and Covenants</i> 130:3).</p> <p>“And this I know, because the Lord hath said he dwelleth not in unholy temples, but in the hearts of the righteous doth he dwell” (Alma 34:36, <i>Book of Mormon</i>).</p>

## Book of Mormon Anachronisms:

### Evidence:

The following crops are mentioned in the *Book of Mormon*, but did not actually exist in the area at the time of the events of the BOM:

- barley
- figs
- grapes
- wheat

The following animals/animal products are mentioned in the *Book of Mormon*, but did not actually exist in the area at the time of the events of the BOM:

- asses
- bulls
- calves
- cattle
- cows
- butter
- elephants
- milk
- flocks
- goats
- herds
- horses
- oxen
- sheep
- sow
- swine

The following metal/metal products are mentioned in the *Book of Mormon*, but did not actually exist in the area at the time of the events of the BOM:

- bellows
- brass
- breast plates
- chains
- copper
- iron
- ore
- plows
- silver
- swords
- steel

American Indians are not descendants of the Hebrews as is claimed by the *Book of Mormon*. DNA evidence has proven this. Also, American Indian languages are not at all linguistically related to the Hebrew language.

The *Book of Mormon* mentions “cimeters,” but scimitars (current spelling) were not invented until after 500 A.D.

The *Book of Mormon* mentions silk, even though silk did not exist in the America’s during that time period.

Not one piece of independent, non-Mormon archeological evidence supports the *Book of Mormon*.

The Smithsonian Institute has drafted a formal response rejecting LDS claims that the Smithsonian ever used the *Book of Mormon*. The Smithsonian goes further to reject the claims of the *Book of Mormon*.

## Book of Mormon Fails Being Tested:

### Evidence:

“[The Book of Mormon] must be either true or false. If true, it is one of the most important messages ever sent from God.... If false, it is one of the most cunning, wicked...impositions ever palmed upon the world, calculated to deceive and ruin millions” (Apostle Orson Pratt, *Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon*, pp. 1-2, 1851).

“The Book of Mormon is not the translation of an ancient document, regardless of any feelings, emotions, ‘burning in your bosom,’ or testimony. ‘Knowing’ that it’s true doesn’t correlate with the historical and archeological facts and evidence. Wanting it to be true doesn’t change the facts and evidence. The Book of Mormon was not from God” (<http://www.whatismormonism.com>).

## Rejection of the “Immutable” Nature of God:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>New prophecies and revelations can contradict and void out older prophecies and revelations.</p> <p>One example is the church’s position on Black people and the Mormon priesthood. LDS prophets had spoken “in the name of the Lord” that Blacks were ineligible to be priests.</p> <p>However, in 1978, a new and contradictory revelation was published called “Official Declaration 2” that reversed previously-established Scripture.</p> <p>Mormon Apostle Bruce R. McConkie said the following:</p> <p>“There are statements in our literature by the early Brethren which we have interpreted to mean that the Negroes would not receive the priesthood in mortality. I have said the same things, and people write me letters and say, ‘You said such and such, and how is it now that we do such and such?’ And all I can say to that is that it is time disbelieving people repented and got in line and believed in a living, modern prophet. Forget everything that I have said, or what President Brigham Young or President George Q. Cannon or whomsoever has said in days past that is contrary to the present revelation... We have now had added a new flood of intelligence and light on this particular subject, and it erases all the darkness and all the views and all the thoughts of the past. They don’t matter any more.</p> <p>It doesn’t make a particle of difference what anybody ever said about the Negro matter before the first day of June of this year, 1978” (Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, <i>All Are Alike unto God</i>, 18 August, 1978, <a href="http://speeches.byu.edu">http://speeches.byu.edu</a>).</p> <p>Another example has to do with the LDS prophetic utterances about polygamy.</p> <p>In 1880, then LDS leader Wilford Woodruff received a revelation from God promising retaliation against anyone who seeks “...to hinder my People from obeying the Patriarchal Law of Abraham...your enemies shall not prevail over you” (“Sunset Arizona” Revelation to Wilford Woodruff, v. 19, January 26, 1880).</p> <p>In 1889, Wilford Wilson, now President, received a revelation from Jesus Christ who promised that he would protect the church’s practice of polygamy from attacks by the federal government” (Nov 24, 1889).</p> <p>In 1890, after the U.S. Government announced its intentions to seize Mormon Temples, Prophet Wilford Wilson received new revelation, called the “Great Accommodation” that contradicted earlier revelation, ending polygamy.</p>	<p>New prophecies can never contradict previously-revealed Scripture.</p> <p>New prophecies can add to and build on previous revelation, but not contradict. Isaiah didn’t negate Jeremiah, and Haggai didn’t cancel out Micah.</p> <p>“For I am the LORD, I change not” (Malachi 3:6).</p> <p>“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8).</p>

## The Prophet Joseph Smith, Jr.:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“Mormonism, as it is called, must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith. He was either a prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned, or he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen. There is no middle ground” (Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, <i>Doctrines of Salvation</i>, p. 188).</p> <p>Some Official Prophecies of Joseph Smith Jr.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jesus will return before 1891 (<i>History of the Church</i> 2:182).</li> <li>▪ David W. Patten would perform a mission for him the next Spring (<i>Doctrine &amp; Covenants</i> 114:1). David Patten died before spring came (<i>History of the Church</i> 3:171).</li> <li>▪ A Temple will be built in Jackson City Missouri during Joseph Smith Jr.’s generation (<i>Doctrine and Covenants</i> 84:3-5). As of 2007, this has not come to pass. “Zion” has moved to Salt Lake City.</li> <li>▪ The US Civil War would be poured out upon all nations (<i>Doctrine and Covenants</i> 87:1-2).</li> <li>▪ God would give the gold of Salem Massachusetts into Smith’s hands to pay debts (<i>Doctrine and Covenants</i> 111:2,4-5). This never occurred.</li> <li>▪ U.S. Government overthrown for “wrongs” against Mormons. (<i>History of the Church</i> 5:394).</li> </ul>	<p>“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, <u>if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken</u>, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him” (Deuteronomy 18:21-22).</p>

## The Prophet Brigham Young:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>Some Official Prophecies of Brigham Young:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Civil War will not free the slaves (Prophet Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses</i> 10:250).</li> <li>▪ Jackson County will be built up in his generation (Prophet Brigham Young, <i>Times &amp; Seasons</i>, vol. 6, p. 956).</li> </ul>	<p>“<u>Beware of false prophets</u>, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Matthew 7:15).</p> <p>“And <u>many false prophets shall rise</u>, and shall deceive many” (Matthew 24:11).</p> <p>“Beloved, <u>believe not every spirit</u>, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).</p>

## The Changing God of Mormonism:

### LDS Doctrine:

The nature of God has changed significantly over the years in Mormonism.

Year	Teaching	Reference
1830	There is only one God, made up of three separate personages: Father, Son, and Spirit	<p>“Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one Eternal God” (Alma 11:44 - BOM).</p> <p>“the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one” (3 Nephi 11:27 - BOM).</p> <p>“unto the Father, and unto the Son, and unto the Holy Ghost, which are one God” (Mormon 7:7 - BOM).</p>
1833	Father is spirit, but Son is flesh. The “holy spirit” is not a person, but the joint mind of Father and Son. Only two members of the godhead.	<p>“There are two personages...They are the Father and the Son: The Father being a personage of spirit, glory and power... the Son... a personage of tabernacle... possessing the same mind with the Father, which mind is the Holy Spirit” (1835 Doctrine and Covenants, Lecture Fifth of Faith, 5:1-2).</p> <p>“Q. How many personages are there in the Godhead? A. Two: the Father and the Son” (1835 Doctrine and Covenants, Lecture Fifth of Faith, page 55).</p> <p>Please note: This section was removed from D&amp;C in 1921.</p>
1843	Father is no longer a spirit, but flesh, and the Holy Spirit has been upgraded to a personage. Now three members of godhead.	<p>“The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us” (D&amp;C 130:22).</p>
1844	Father was once a man who earned godhood, and we can become a god someday too.	<p>“God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits introned in yonder heavens!...He was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did; and I will show it from the Bible” (Prophet Joseph Smith Jr., <i>History of the Church</i> 6:305).</p>

Consider this: Joseph Smith encouraged people to serve a radically different God in 1830, 1833, 1843, and 1844. Furthermore, the LDS church today encourages people to serve a different God than Joseph Smith did. This is significant because they claim that Smith was a prophet, and that they are run by a prophet today.

Please consider Deuteronomy 13:1-3: “If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul” (emphasis mine).

This Scripture teaches that a man must be considered a false prophet if he encourages people to serve a false God.

This introduces an unanswerable dilemma for the Mormon. If the current LDS prophet is right about who God is, then Joseph Smith must be false prophets because he did not teach the same god that the current LDS prophet teaches. If Joseph Smith was correct, then the current LDS prophet must be false for the same reason. Moroni 8:18 says: “For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity.” This was written in 1830. Yet Joseph Smith’s teachings about God changed very much from 1830 to 1844, making it evident that he could not have been a true prophet from God.

## Joseph Smith Jr. and Salvation:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“no man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph Smith... every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are” (Prophet Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses 7:289).</p> <p>“he that confesseth not that Jesus has come in the flesh and sent Joseph Smith with the fullness of the Gospel to this generation, is not of God, but is anti-christ” (Prophet Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses 9:312).</p> <p>“If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints” (Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, <i>Mormon Doctrine</i>, p. 670).</p>	<p>“For there is one God, and <u>one mediator between God and men</u>, the man <u>Christ Jesus</u>” (1 Timothy 2:5).</p>

## Salvation through Keeping Commandments:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“None shall receive eternal life save it be those who keep the commandments of the Lord and are entitled thus to enter into his presence” (Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, <i>Doctrines of Salvation: Sermons and Writings of Joseph Fielding Smith</i>, 2:4).</p> <p>“Jesus kept the commandments of his Father and thereby worked out his own salvation, and also set an example as to the way and the means whereby all men may be saved” (Apostle Bruce R. McConkie, <i>The Mortal Messiah</i>, Vol.4, p.434).</p>	<p>“<u>Not by works of righteousness</u> which we have done, <u>but according to his mercy he saved us</u>, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Titus 3:5).</p>

## Salvation by Grace, Faith, and Works:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“Salvation comes by grace, faith, and works. Unless a man will adhere to the doctrine and walk in faith, accepting the truth and observing the commandments as they have been given, it will be impossible for him to receive eternal life, no matter how much he may confess with his lips that Jesus is the Christ, or believe that his Father sent him into the world for the redemption of man” (Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, <i>Doctrines of Salvation: Sermons and Writings of Joseph Fielding Smith</i>, 2:311).</p>	<p>“What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? <u>Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness</u>. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom <u>God imputeth righteousness without works</u>. Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin” (Romans 4:1-8).</p> <p>“And <u>if by grace</u>, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But <u>if it be of works</u>, then is it no <u>more grace</u>: otherwise work is no more work” (Romans 11:6).</p> <p>The Bible is clear: <b>Grace + Works ≠ Grace.</b></p>



### Believing in Jesus is Not Enough:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“One of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by the grace of God; that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation” (Prophet Spencer W. Kimball, <i>The Miracle of Forgiveness</i>, 1972 edition, pp. 206-207).</p>	<p>“we believe that <u>through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved</u>” (Acts 15:11).</p> <p>“<u>Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ</u>, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31).</p> <p>“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt <u>believe in thine heart</u> that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Romans 10:9).</p>

### The Blood of Christ is Not Enough:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“There is not a man or woman, who violates the covenants made with their God, that will not be required to pay the debt. The blood of Christ will never wipe that out, your own blood must atone for it” (Prophet Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses</i> 3:247; see also, 4:53-54, 219-220).</p>	<p>“the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all <u>sin</u>” (1 John 1:7).</p>

### Salvation Requires Grace Plus Works:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do” (2 Nephi 25:23 - BOM).</p>	<p>“For <u>by grace are ye saved</u> through faith; and <u>that not of yourselves</u>: it is the gift of God: <u>Not of works</u>, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).</p>

### Salvation for Females Depends on Her Husband:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“Do you uphold your husband before God as your Lord?... I ask, Can you get into the celestial kingdom without 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” (Apostle Erastus Snow, <i>Journal of Discourses</i> 5:291).</p>	<p>“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, <u>there is neither male nor female</u>: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26-28).</p> <p>The Bible is clear: Men and Women are saved <u>the same way!</u></p>

### Jesus is the Brother of the Devil:

LDS Doctrine:	The Bible Teaches:
<p>“The appointment of Jesus to be the Savior of the world was contested by one of the other sons of God. He was called Lucifer, son of the morning. Haughty, ambitious, and covetous of power and glory, this spirit-brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind” (Milton Hunter, LDS First Council of the Seventy, <i>The Gospel Through the Ages</i>, p. 15).</p>	<p>“For by [Jesus] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether <i>they be</i> thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him” (Colossians 1:16).</p> <p>The Devil is a created being, whereas Jesus is the Creator. They are not brothers.</p>

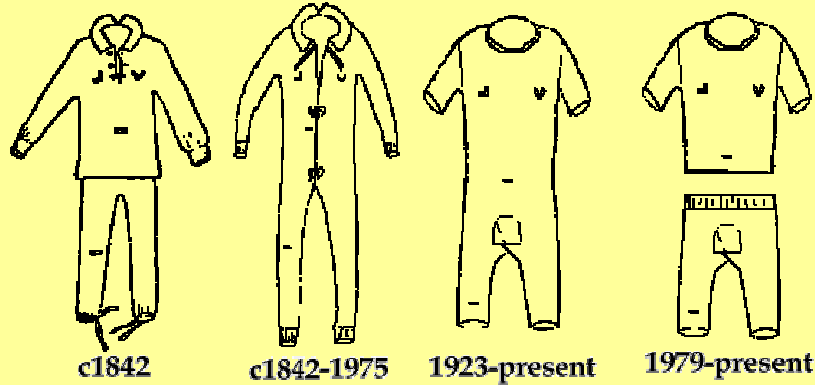
## Evolving Temple Garments:

### LDS Doctrine:

“The Saints should know that the pattern of endowment garments was revealed from Heaven and that the blessings promised in connection with wearing them will not be realized if any unauthorized change is made in their form or in the manner of wearing them” (Prophet Joseph F. Smith, *Messages of the First Presidency 5:110*, June 28 1906).

Despite what the Prophet Joseph F. Smith said, the temple garments had in fact changed, and have continued to change.

### The Evolution of the Temple Garment



## Prophets Words are Scripture:

### LDS Doctrine:

In regard to what LDS prophets proclaim, the prophet Brigham Young said, “I say now, when they are copied and approved by me they are as good Scripture as is couched in this Bible” (Prophet Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses 13:264*).

Brigham Young compared his sermons with Scripture. “I have never yet preached a sermon and sent it out to the children of men, that they may not call Scripture. Let me have the privilege of correcting a sermon, and it is as good Scripture as they deserve. The people have the oracles of God continually” (Prophet Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses 13:95*).

LDS official website says that prophets speak God’s words: “A prophet speaks for God, with divine power and authority... There is a living prophet on the earth today who communicates God’s will and stands as His special witness” (<http://www.mormon.org>). See also the LDS 6<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith.

Thank you for taking the time to read this essay. I appreciate your willingness to consider what the Bible has to say about the claims of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

The bedrock of Biblical faith is the 10 Commandments. Exodus 20:3 says emphatically, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." The 10 Commandments also orders us not to create a "god" to suit ourselves. The Mormon Church presents a god who is one of an infinite number of gods. The LDS god was once a man, and became God through good deeds, and who calls us to strive to become a God too. This is not the God of the Bible. The Bible teaches, "Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel... I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God... Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any" (Isaiah 44:6,8). Can we progress to godhood as the Mormon Church teaches? The Bible says, "before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me" (Isaiah 43:10).

Be warned: to believe in the god of Mormonism is to put another god before the True and Living God of the Bible. Acts 17:31 warns us that God "hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness." On that day, those who follow the LDS god will be found guilty of transgressing the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> commandments. And God will be just in casting that person to hell forever. "*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*" (Hebrews 10:31).

The most important question everyone must answer is: "If you were to die today, do you know for certain that you have eternal life? Are you certain that you will spend all eternity with God the Father?"

Despite the impressive zeal and devotion of many Mormons, following the wrong god is a serious matter. Romans 10:2 tells us it is possible to have zeal without knowledge of the True God. This is the case with the LDS Church.

The Biblical gospel is that we are all guilty of transgressing the Law of the One True God. All our works are like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). If we try to reach God on our merits, we will fail every time.

But in God's great love and mercy, He came down in the form of a man and died on the cross, not just to offer us a resurrection, but to offer us salvation! "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14). "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

Just as a criminal can be set free if someone pays his fine, so can we be set free by Jesus paying our fine.

We must repent, which means turning from sin and seeing it as awful as it is, and put our faith in the Christ of the Bible.

If you repent of your sins and put your trust in Jesus, you will be saved from hell immediately, and will enter God's Kingdom. When you do that, the Bible says that you are a new creation, and you get to go to heaven, not because you are a good person, but because you are a bad person who was forgiven by a very good God! No one in heaven will be able to boast that they earned their own way there, because none of us deserve it. It is the free gift of God so he gets all the credit and glory!

As a fallen creation, we are in dire need of forgiveness. Mormonism offers a solution (do this, do that, and then you can become a little god), but it's a false gospel. The God of the Bible offers the only true solution to our sin problem. Jesus will forgive all our sins, past, present, and future, when we repent and put our faith in him (the True Jesus of the Bible.)

Please be reconciled to God through repentance and faith.

I know this is all true because of my testimony as a redeemed and born-again child of God, and this testimony conforms to the Bible. The One True God gets all the glory and honor and praise!

Unless we have the righteousness of Christ that comes by faith and repentance in Him, we will perish on the Day of Judgment. I beg you to be reconciled to Christ today, because you might not have tomorrow.

with concern,

Mark Edward Sohmer

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