

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS THE MORMONS

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First of all we have to underline that we will not talk about the *Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of latter day Saints*, who are not called Mormons and who have their headquarter not in Salt Lake City, Utah, but in Independence, MO.

The Latter - Day Saints (LDS) or Mormons emulate a positive image, traditional values, respectable children, a quiet lifestyle and all those things you like in a good neighbour. It's just about convincing enough to make you want to find out where these people hang out. But before you do let's spend a bit of time and take a look behind the curtain of respectability and do some serious studying on the beliefs of the LDS church. I'll begin by noting that I am not attempting to condemn the people themselves, but to expose their theology, not to deny them the opportunity to faith in Christ, but to reject their faith.

ORGANIZATION

General Authorities	Prophet
	Counsellors
	Council of 12
	Quorum of 70
	2 nd Quorum of 70
Priesthood	Melchizedek Aaronic
Wards	Between 500 and 1000 members
Stake	Made of more "wards"

HISTORY

In the Bible (Deut 13) we read that if a prophet or dreamer of dreams appears telling the future and leading you to follow other gods, you must put him to death, even if he is your brother. In the new testament Paul says in Galatians (1:6) that should some one come to you preaching another gospel than the gospel Paul revealed to them, he shall be eternally condemned! Even if it is an angel of light it shall be damned by God.

This is an aggressive defence for the gospel, and is no small talk by Paul. The reason he, guided by the spirit, wrote this appears all the more evident when we examine Mormonism. The LDS church has its roots in the man of Joseph Smith Jr. He was born in Vermont on Dec23, 1805. His parents moved in Palmyra, NY, when he was a toddler, but he was very confused about religion. At that time his parents were Presbyterians. He is responsible for the creation of this monstrous religious empire beginning in 1830.

The “fantastic” story

Around 600 BC the two families of Lehi and Ishmael left Israel and landed on the south-west corner of South America. Nephi and Laman, two sons of Lehi, had a fight and God showed his displeasure with this and cursed the Lamanites with black skin, the ancestors of the American Indian. God guided the Nephites north and were in Central America during the time of Christ. Just after his crucifixion Christ came to America and converted both Nephites and Lamanites. 150 years later apostate Lamanites and religious Nephites had a war and in 384 AD the Nephites were wiped of the face of the earth. (In 1492 when Columbus discovers America he runs into the Lamanites).

During the war of 384 a prophet and priest of the Nephites named Moroni, noticed that they were going to be destroyed. He gathered records of his predecessors, made an abbreviated history, wrote it on some golden plates and gave it to his son Moroni who hid them in a hill near Palmyra, New York. Fifteen hundred years later this Moroni appeared as an angel to Joseph Smith (1823) and told him where to find that plates. Upon finding the plates he was given large spectacles called the Urim and the Thummin, with which, by the help of his secretary Oliver Cowdery, he could translate the hieroglyphics into English (1827). This became the book of Mormon, published for the first time in 06/09/1830.

Smith had more than one vision. The first forms the basis for the Mormons belief in the nature of God and Christ. (That they are two gods and have flesh and bone). The second relates this phenomenal claim of the plates and the book of Mormon. It is common knowledge that Joseph Smith Jr. was a superstitious youth as he was known as a peep stone addict and was involved in many treasure digging operations. There are many good sources of the day that authenticate Smiths’ strange personality, proving he was a fraud artist.

According to Smith the book of Mormon was revealed to him as the restored around everlasting gospel, the same gospel that was taken away for 1500 years, and now returned to him. Unfortunately for him, he can’t back up his statements with prophecies of the bible, for nowhere does the bible contend that the gospel would ever be removed for a time.

The book of Mormon does not appear to be an original thought. The plot is incredibly similar to a piece written in 1812 by a Christian fiction writer, Solomon Spaulding, called “Manuscript Found.”

As a matter of fact twelve pages of that document have been plagiarised. As if that wasn’t enough many passages of the bible including 15 chapters of Isaiah and two chapters of Malachi have been plagiarised. Concerning the alleged translation of this document, the reformed Egyptian hieroglyphics of the plates is a non-existent literary work. Expert language people and Egyptologists claim that there is no reformed Egyptian language, past or present. Consequently, one would want to know if anybody else has seen this event with the angel.

According to the LDS three men witnessed the plates and the angel on sight, and a further eight men saw and handled the plates. Well, of the original three, one claimed a call from God to leave and separate from the Mormons. The other two were led astray by one of the other eight witnesses when he received revelations different from Smith through his peep stone. Of those two, one was excommunicated for accusing Smith of adultery and the other is described by Mormon literature as a crazy, deranged person. He changed his belief no less than seven more times in his life. Mormonism was not a solid conviction and what does that make of his original claim? So much for the three witnesses. As it turns out Joseph Smith called the remaining eight witnesses liars and counterfeiters. Although all eleven have no credibility, if you read Mormon literature they are still proud of all eleven. Now that we have addressed some of the historical foundation of the LDS church we will soon realise that these people also have a false hope.

THEOLOGY

Mormonism's theology is not found in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, rather they have four revelations from God that are used as a basis for their doctrine. They are the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price, and the Bible. Whereas the bible was revealed for the eastern hemisphere the Mormons believe that the book of Mormon to be the revealed gospel for the saints of the western world. In conjunction with this demotion of the bible they claim that the bible is imperfect because it has lost many of its truths thanks chiefly to the churches of the day. So now that we have this new literary masterpiece, how do they compare with the scriptures of the old and new testament. A little bit of study is enough to notice that they just don't measure up. Aside from that fact that they have made over 3000 deletions, additions, or changes, the Mormon book still has many contradictions with the bible.

Esther 1:34-37 tells us of how the Jaredites did not want their language confounded at the tower of Babel. They journeyed to the new world and continued to speak in the pure language of Adam. What a glaring contradiction then to with Genesis 11:9. On another occasion these Jaredites were told by God to build a barge, (Joseph Smith's fantasy with the ark story) and sail to the now known American continent. Ether 6:5,8 relates that they were propelled by a furious ceaseless wind, yet it took them three weeks short of a year to get across. That's less than 1 nautical mile and hour. Comparatively anyone can walk faster.

I hardly think that this book is without flaw. How can a book written between 600 and 500 BC have hundreds of quotes from the New Testament, and then in King James English, 2000 years before its time? If logic and reason has persuaded you maybe you could appreciate a quote from Revelation 18:22. "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book."

The Priesthood

Mormons believe that the priesthood is central to the church.

Every male above the age of 12 can be in the priesthood.

It's curious to know that blacks, who were considered an inferior race by Mormons, were allowed to be in priesthood only in 1978, after their missionaries reached Africa.

They claim they have the priesthood of Aaron (most Mormon males) and Melchizedek, which priesthood is the grand head and hold keys to the world. It is the channel of salvation from God to man.

But what does the Bible say about priesthood?

Hebrews 7:11-16, 23-25, 1 Peter 2:9-10, Rev. 1:4-6.

The priesthood belongs to Jesus and not to Mormons. The priesthood is fully in Christ, and his priesthood can't be transferred to others because He lives for ever.

This is the biblical and true priesthood we, Christians, have and believe (1 Peter 2:9-10, Revelation 1:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:11-20). The hierarchy of the priesthoods in the LDS system and the Mormon quest for world control.

Theology of God and Virgin Birth

Joseph Smith has said that the Mormon theology of God is that "God the Father has a body of flesh and bone as tangible as man." Orson Pratt has said "The substance of which God is composed is wholly material." Brigham Roberts has said that "man is the offspring of Deity not in a mystical sense but actually..." King Follet said "God was once as we are now." Lastly a quote from Brigham Young, "When our father Adam came to the garden of Eden he came into it with a celestial body and brought one of his many wives with him." From these quotes we see that the Mormon God has climbed the ladder of life just like man is now doing. We are his physical descendants and in time will become like him who has a glorified body of flesh and bone. To put this into context, we have to travel to the first pages of life.

Genesis declares that the serpent enquires and says to the woman, "you will not die, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God." Herein lies the author of Mormonism. The serpent is no longer the devil and the

devil travels in other seductive forms than the serpent, but the lie is still there. Not only will you be like God, you will become God. We are not deity nor will we become deity and here is the answer. Concerning the multiplicity – “The Lord our God is one Lord” Deut 6:4, Mark 12:29, and “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” Isaiah 44:6. For the origin of God he is “from everlasting to everlasting” Ps 90:2. Concerning physical offspring we read that “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground” in Gen 2:6.

As for the belief that God has flesh and bone, Mormons by way of various texts from the bible explain that God is an exalted man and has everlasting arms Deut 33:27, a head and hair like snow Rev1:14, hands Ex15:12, feet Eph 1:22, a mouth Deut 8:3, and nostrils strong enough to pile up water Ex 15:8. Well if that’s the case, and we use the same logic, what an odd God they have. In Ps 91, “He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust.” Now he is a bird! The same thing can be done with the words of Christ. He said he is the true vine so now he is a fruit. He said he is the way so now you walk on him, and the door so now he needs hinges! Simple English will tell you that we are talking figuratively. It’s not for nothing Paul tells us that the god of this world has blinded the eyes of unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light. Romans 1:21-26 explains that although they knew God, they didn’t glorify him for they exchanged the glory of God for mortal man and because their hearts were darkened God gave them up to vile passions.

In this case the passions are polygamy. Although practised publicly during the first years of Mormonism the US federal government imposed a law that banned polygamy and now the God of the LDS was to be subservient to the state. (Other verses: Isaiah 43:10-11; 44:6-8; 45:5,21-22; Malachi 2:10; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Romans 3.30; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Timothy 2:5;)

Concerning Jesus Christ they don’t believe that he was begotten of the Holy Spirit but rather the virgin Mary became one of the wives of Adam our God and Father. The purpose for this was that Christ be their offspring by natural generation. They continue by suggesting that Jesus was a polygamist, for in the marriage at Cana he is claimed to be the bridegroom and married Mary, Martha and the other Mary. This is utter nonsense, comes from the devil and belongs in the trash. My saviour was not born by glorified sexual intercourse or much less marry the same woman that bore him. This bastardisation and blasphemy of Christ proves beyond a shadow of doubt that Mormonism is not Christian. Mormonism originates from the devil and is not the truth. It is rather obvious that they deny the indwelling of the Holy Spirit for they have never known Him or felt His power. As they destroy the Christian God it only makes sense that their salvation makes complete nonsense. To them one must believe the book of Mormon, and those other documents they have, believe that both the living and the dead must be saved (that’s why they have a baptism for the dead!) and repent and believe in the Mormon church.

In salvation they ultimately have to work their way to the top. They do not believe in justification by faith and salvation by grace, and know nothing of the greatest event in the history of the world – Christ’s death and resurrection. The Mormon saviour becomes no more than a pre existent spirit and the spirit brother of Lucifer the devil!

Theology of Blood Atonement

Mormons say that the blood of Christ cleanses our sins, but it is not powerful enough to cleanse all sins. A man has to pay with his own blood. That’s why, and this is history, there was time when Mormons who decided to leave their denomination were shot down and these actions connect with the teaching and “prophecies” of Brigham young.

But that is not what the Bible says (John 1:7, 29; Hebrew 9:14-22; Ephesians 2:8-10; Revelation 1:5).

This is only the beginning of a complex religion that has a slice of perverted Christianity, ties with masonry and the occult and is wrapped in the cloak of divine revelation. We have only dealt with the origin of the LDS and their view of God, man and salvation. Their is so much more like the relation between Joseph Smith and free masonry, and of the temple ceremonies that happen behind closed doors. We could also study the whole concept of marriage, eternal marriage and polygamy as it originated and as it is practised now. An interesting aside are the revelations of their first prophet verses the following leaders. The similarities and differences between the LDS of Utah and the reorganised LDS. The belief of how Negroes came into being and their view of blacks.

They remain a people of a polytheistic pagan cult whose membership is in the millions and have thousands of missionaries. They have multi billions of dollars in real estate holdings and the like. Truly it is an empire.

In Joseph Smith's visions he was told that all the sects of Christendom were wrong, the creeds and confessions of the protestant church were an abomination to the Lord, and claimed that their churches in error, their theology abhorrent, and their people misled.

Well I would like to underline again what Paul tells us: "to hate what is evil and to cling to what is good," we ever more cling to the gospel of the risen Christ in eager expectation of His glorious return.

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