

UNDERSTANDING YOUR MORMON FRIEND

First Vision

Your Mormon friend has probably grown up in the Mormon church and has had Mormon doctrine taught to him all his life. The story of Joseph Smith is as familiar to him as the story of Jesus being born in a manger. He was told that as a boy of 14, Joseph Smith went into a grove of trees to pray about which church to join. According to Smith, God and Jesus appeared to him and told him not to join any church because they were all wrong.

Joseph was later visited by an angel he called Moroni, who showed him inscribed golden plates which were hidden in the earth. From these plates, Joseph said he translated the inscriptions into what is known now as the *Book of Mormon*.

This story has been taught to be true without any question. Songs about the golden plates and the *Book of Mormon* are as familiar to Mormon young people as "Jesus Loves Me" is to those raised in a Christian home.

LDS Testimony

Before your LDS friend entered school he was urged to stand up before his Sunday school class to give his "testimony." It most often goes something like this: "I believe Joseph Smith is a prophet of God and that [the current Mormon president] is also a prophet of God. I am thankful for my mother and father. I know that the Mormon church is the only true church and I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

High Moral Standards

In Primary, a program for young children, your friend was taught the good character traits of all the prophets. They were his ideals. He learned many songs about the prophet, heavenly Father, the early pioneers, and being a child of God. Strict moral standards were taught, using stories about children his own age and how they responded to temptation. He was also told that tobacco, alcohol, coffee, and tea were not to be taken into his body, the temple of God. This counsel is called the Word of Wisdom (see p. 23), and he was told this was given to Joseph Smith as a revelation from God.

Socialization

After the age of 12 your friend will go into either Young Women's or Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association. This includes various types of social gatherings and events. There are dances, sports, outings, drama, and musical events which give these young men and women social poise and expertise.

LDS Mission

Going on a mission is something every young Mormon, mostly boys, grows up expecting to do. Money is saved, sometimes from birth, for this purpose. No doubt you have probably been called upon by two of these clean-cut and friendly young people. They are on a mission for their church. This is a program of proselyting (converting people to the Mormon church). Their formal training begins in junior high school and continues through college in church-owned seminary buildings usually found adjacent to the public schools. These classes are for the study of Mormon doctrine and are held before or after regular school hours or during school at release time.

Gathering of Israel

Your Mormon friend has been taught that the "gathering of Israel," or bringing people into the Mormon church, is the responsibility of every member. One way he accomplishes this goal is by being kind to a nonmember. Common ways are by taking over fresh bread or a meal when someone is sick or moving into the neighborhood, and inviting them to an activity at church. This is taught as early as Primary age. Inviting a nonmember playmate to Primary is part of the "Gathering of Israel Project."

Mormon leaders have taught your friend that "Heavenly Father's chosen people, his covenant family, are known as Israel," and "Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are members of the covenant family and have the responsibility of being examples to the world." Drawing people to the Mormon church is called "Gathering of Israel."

Mormon Idea of Heaven

Hopefully, the goal of a temple marriage will be attained, this being a requirement to reach the highest level of the Celestial Kingdom. (See pp. 5 and 26 on The Mormon Idea of Heaven). Mormons believe that we all existed together with God as spirits before the earth was created. Therefore, raising a family is a special work, having the obligation of bringing spirits down to earth to gain a body, thus completing part of the cycle on the journey to reach the Celestial Kingdom. Because many spirits are waiting to gain a body, the Mormon family who has many children is looked upon favorably.

Life Is a Test

Our life here on earth, your friend is taught, is a testing place. Living a good life guarantees a place in the higher heavens. This good life includes keeping all the laws and ordinances of the Mormon church, keeping the Word of Wisdom, tithing, regular attendance at all church meetings, being morally clean, faithfully filling a job or calling in the church, being loyal to church leaders, doing temple work, baptism for the dead, and so on. The degree to which a person carries out his duties here on earth determines the degree of exaltation he receives in heaven. The Mormon who does not live up to these standards is considered a "Jack-Mormon." This type of individual is not allowed into the temple and in some cases is disfellowshipped from the church.

LDS Gospel

Gospel: When Mormons use the term "gospel," they mean all the teachings, laws, and ordinances of the Mormon church. This is *not* the gospel of the Bible. The essence of the biblical gospel is, as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, that Christ died for our sins, that He was buried, and that He was raised from the dead. Jesus made us right with God through His death, and gave us life everlasting with Him. This is a free gift from God that we cannot earn. The good news, or gospel, is that no matter how great our sins, Christ died to cleanse us from them. We are justified by His blood and saved from wrath through Him. We can never make ourselves worthy of His great love. (See John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Ephesians 2:8-9).

Knowing Your Mormon Friend

There are other things you should know about your Mormon friend. A Mormon woman, in particular, is not able to confide her doubts and other normal problems with her Mormon peers, for to do so would mean that somehow the "gospel" is not working for her. She feels that she has failed and is not living up to the high standards set by the Mormon church.

You can be the best friend a Mormon person ever had if you love them enough so that they can be open with you. And be able to share problems, heartaches, frustration, anger, resentment, hurt feelings—all the things we experience every day. Christ met people at their point of need. When a blind man asked Him to restore his eyes, Jesus did not give him religion. He gave him his sight. It was only later that He paid a second visit to give the man the message of salvation.

If you attempt to share your faith with your friend, he will probably view you with good-natured condescension. He knows that you mean well, but he feels he already knows much more than you do.

If your Mormon friend seems self-righteous, it is because he has been taught all his life that he has the truth, and he will do everything possible to get you to know it, too.

Having grown up in this atmosphere and lifestyle, your friend will probably never see your faith in Christ unless he sees Him in you.

Knowing these things, it is our prayer that you will not be "turned-off" to your Mormon friend, but will be more understanding. He has not known any other way. Even the convert has the Mormon mind-set. He does not understand grace, or the gift of God through Jesus. He has been taught that Jesus died for Adam's transgression only; His death merely guarantees release from the grave. The rest is up to the individual to earn a place in the highest of three heavens by performing correctly on earth. If he sins, he must repent and do many good things before he can be forgiven, and then he never knows if "justice has been satisfied for violated law" (*Articles of Faith*, by James E. Talmage, p. 91). Your friend never knows if he's been good enough to make it to the Celestial Kingdom. This is a heavy load to carry all of his life. If he has been "good" (kept all the laws and ordinances of the Mormon church), he still does not know what level of the Celestial Kingdom he will be in. The highest level is the station of a god. This is, of course, the most coveted goal to attain. The woman will become a goddess along with her husband.

Without the required temple marriage, however, your friend cannot reach the goal of exaltation.

As Paul prayed for the Jewish people in Romans 10, this is our prayer for the Mormon people:

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth (Romans 10:1-4).

Your Knowledge Can Open Your Friend's Eyes

Your knowledge of Mormon doctrine as compared to the Bible may be the key that could unlock a mind that has been thoroughly drilled with Mormon beliefs, but is hungry for God's love through Jesus Christ, and seen in you.

Prayerfully consider the Mormon doctrine on the following pages. We have pointed out the Mormon scripture that contradicts Mormon doctrine. It is important for the Mormon to see this, and also that the doctrine he has been taught contradicts the Bible. He has also been taught that the *Book of Mormon* is the fullness of the gospel (*Doctrine and Covenants* 20:9; 43:12; 135:3), yet it does not contain the 13 most well-known doctrines of the LDS Church:

1. Aaronic and Melchizedek priesthood
2. plurality of gods
3. God as an exalted man
4. man can become a god
5. three degrees of heaven
6. plurality of wives
7. Word of Wisdom
8. pre-existence of the human spirit
9. baptism for the dead
10. celestial marriage
11. need for a present-day prophet
12. temple works: washings, anointings, endowments, and sealings
13. organizational structure of the church

(Most of these doctrines, and others, are covered in the comparisons of Mormon doctrine, Mormon scripture, and the Bible beginning on p. 7.)

If your Mormon friend can be shown the fallacies in the Mormon church, and for once even consider the possibility that Joseph Smith was a deceiver, then there is a possibility that you may be able to share the real gospel with him. It is our fervent prayer that this will happen, and that many thousands will come out of Mormonism, accept Christ, and then serve Him with their whole lives.

This book is a tool for Christians to gently and lovingly bring out those who believe a lie. It is also a warning to those who may be investigating the Mormon religion that they may have their eyes opened.

And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men; apt to teach, patient. In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

TERMINOLOGY DIFFERENCES

by Sandra Tanner

1. PRE-EXISTENCE:

LDS — Teach that everyone pre-existed; we all exist eternally

Bible — Only Christ pre-existed, not man (John 8:58; Colossians 1:17); we didn't have a spiritual existence prior to earth (1 Corinthians 15:46)

2. FALL:

LDS — Teach it brought mortality and physical death, not fallen nature; believe Adam was given two conflicting commandments and was supposed to fall

Bible — God tempts no one (James 1:13-14); man is basically sinful (Romans 8:5-8; 1 Corinthians 2:14)

3. SIN:

LDS — Specific acts, not man's basic nature

Bible — We are in spiritual rebellion until conversion (Romans 5:6; Ephesians 2:3); we do not just commit sins, we are basically sinful (Matthew 1:21)

4. REPENTANCE:

LDS — Repent of individual acts, not sinful nature

Bible — Must repent of basic rebellion (Jeremiah 17:9; Luke 5:32)

5. ATONEMENT — SALVATION BY GRACE:

LDS — Believe Christ's death brought release from grave and universal resurrection; Salvation by grace is universal resurrection, beyond this man must earn his place in heaven

Bible — Salvation is not universal but based on belief of each individual (Romans 1:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:28)

6. REDEEMED:

LDS — From mortal death only, not sinful rebellion or spiritual death

Bible — Christ redeems from more than mortal death, redeems us from spiritual death (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1)

7. GOSPEL:

LDS — Mormon church system and doctrines

Bible — Message of Christ's death and resurrection as atonement for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Galatians 1:8)

8. BORN AGAIN:

LDS — Baptism into LDS church

Bible — We are spiritually dead until our spiritual rebirth (2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:23)

9. TRUE CHURCH:

LDS — Only Mormon church; true church taken from earth until Joseph Smith restored it

Bible — As a born-again Christian we are part of God's church (Matthew 16:18; Matthew 18:19-20; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

10. AUTHORITY PRIESTHOOD:

LDS — Believe only LDS have authority to baptize, ordain, etc; have two-part system of priesthood—Melchizedek and Aaronic

Bible — Christ brought end to Aaronic priesthood and is the *only* High Priest after manner of Melchisedec (Hebrews chapters 5-9; 2 Timothy 2:2)

Note: In Mormon references *Melchizedek* will be spelled as in LDS literature. When used as a direct quotation from the Bible (KJV), it will be spelled *Melchisedec*.

11. BAPTISM:

LDS — Must be performed by LDS priesthood

Bible — Emphasis is on believer, not priesthood authority (Mark 16:15-16)

12. SONS OF GOD:

LDS — We are all literal spirit children of God

Bible — We become a child of God at conversion (John 1:12)

13. ETERNAL LIFE:

LDS — Exaltation in Celestial Kingdom; ability to bear children in heaven; must have a Temple marriage

Bible — Not limited to certain ones in heaven; no mention of parenthood or temple marriage but is given to *all* Christians (1 John 5:12-13)

14. IMMORTALITY:

LDS — Universal gift; ability to live forever but not eternal life

Bible — Makes no distinction between immortality and eternal life (2 Timothy 1:10)

15. HEAVEN:

LDS — Divided into three kingdoms—Celestial, Terrestrial, and Telestial; place for almost everyone (misuse 1 Corinthians 15:40-41)

Bible — Only mentions two conditions, everlasting punishment or life eternal (Matthew 25:31-46)

16. KINGDOM OF GOD:

LDS — Means Celestial Kingdom, only those in Celestial Kingdom are in God's presence; those in Terrestrial or Telestial Kingdom aren't in presence of Father

Bible — All redeemed will be in God's presence (Revelation 21:1-3); all believers are part of kingdom (Matthew 13:41-43)

17. HELL:

LDS — Hell as an institution is eternal; inmates come and go as in jail, don't spend eternity there, stay until one has paid debt to God

Bible — No mention of people getting out of hell (Revelation 21:8; Matthew 13:24-43; 47-50; Luke 16:26)

18. GODHEAD:

LDS — Father God is a resurrected man with physical body, Christ is a separate resurrected man with physical body, Holy Ghost is a separate man with a spiritual body—three totally separate Gods

Bible — God not a man (Numbers 23:19); only one God (Isaiah 43:10-11; 44:6; 45:21-22); Father is Spirit and invisible (John 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17)

19. HOLY GHOST:

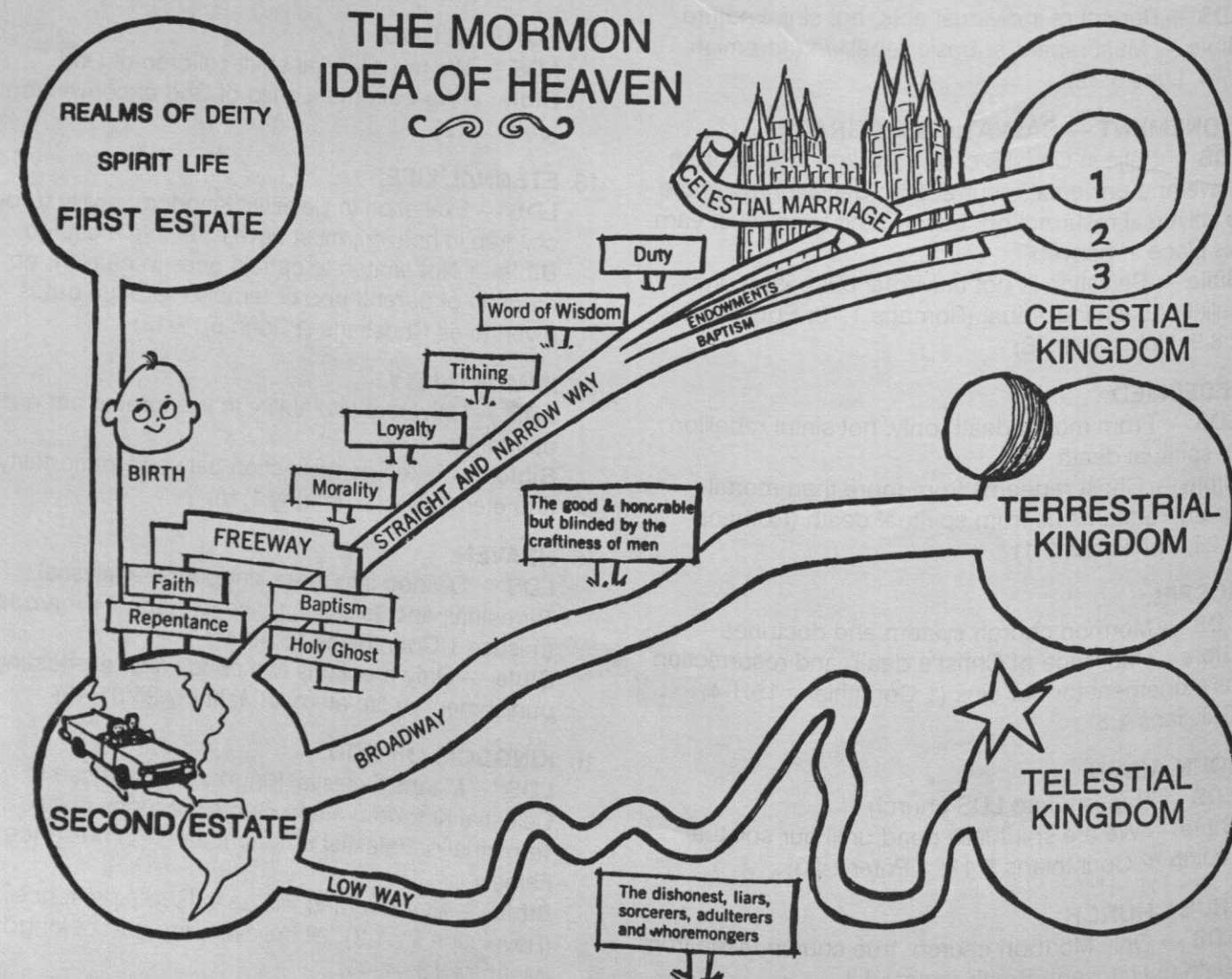
LDS — Is a separate God from Father and Son, different from Holy Spirit; Holy Ghost is a person; Holy Spirit is influence from Father and not personal

Bible — Same Greek word used for Holy Ghost and Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19)

20. VIRGIN BIRTH:

LDS — Believe God, as a resurrected physical man, is literal Father of Jesus; same manner in which men are conceived on earth; believe Matthew 1:18 in error

Bible — Says Mary was "with child of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 1:18)



WHY COMPARE MORMON DOCTRINE, MORMON SCRIPTURE AND THE BIBLE?

Comparisons are in three adjacent columns on the following pages.

FIRST COLUMN

The first column is Mormon doctrine. This is the accepted teaching of the Mormon church. The doctrine is first presented with a few words, followed by quotes. Generally these will be quotes by Joseph Smith, founder of the church, and then a quote from one or more of the recognized Mormon authorities on Mormon doctrine.

SECOND COLUMN

The second column is Mormon scripture. This will contain selected quotes taken from one of the three books Mormons accept as scripture. These are the *Book of Mormon*, *Doctrine and Covenants*, and *Pearl of Great Price*. This column will show Mormon scripture that contradicts Mormon doctrine.

THIRD COLUMN

The Bible is also accepted by LDS as one of their four standard works, but only "as far as it is translated correctly" (*Articles of Faith*: eight).

The third column is from the King James Version of The Bible (the only acceptable version to Mormons). This column also contradicts Mormon doctrine, showing that LDS doctrine not only differs from God's Word but doesn't agree with accepted LDS scripture.

DIFFERENCES ARE CLEAR

Joseph Smith was supposed to have been visited by God and Jesus. He was told by them that all the creeds of that day were wrong. These were Bible-based churches. Joseph then was

shown inscribed golden plates by an angel he called Moroni. From these plates Joseph said he wrote all of the words contained in the *Book of Mormon*. (see *Pearl of Great Price*, Joseph Smith — History)

The Mormons' whole basis for existence is Joseph Smith's story of his visitations by heavenly beings and subsequent writing of the *Book of Mormon* from golden plates.

If present Mormon doctrine does not agree with what was first presented as being from God, namely the *Book of Mormon*, and LDS doctrine does not agree with biblical Christianity, then where does that leave the Mormons?

THE CHOICE IS THE READER'S

The biblical position is presented here. The hope is that truth may be seen through these comparisons. The choice is the reader's.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).

The best thing you can do now, after showing your friend these comparisons, is to continue to love him and allow Christ's light to shine through you. Continue to lift him up in prayer—that the seeds you have planted will take root. Trust God for the outcome.

Mormon Doctrine says:

THERE IS MORE THAN ONE GOD

"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" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, pp. 576-577).

"I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and that the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage and a Spirit: and these three constitute three distinct personages and three Gods" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 370).

Mormon Scripture says:

THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

"And gave unto them commandments that they should love and serve him, the only living and true God, and that he should be the only being whom they should worship. Which Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are one God, infinite and eternal, without end. Amen" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 20:19,28).

"And now, behold, my beloved brethren this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen" (*Book of Mormon*, 2 Nephi 31:21).

"And thus will the Father bear record of me, and the Holy Ghost will bear record unto him of the Father and me; for the Father, and I, and the Holy Ghost are one" (*Book of Mormon*, 3 Nephi 11:36).

"And the honor be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, which is one God. Amen"

Oliver Cowdery
David Whitmer
Martin Harris

(From the final line of "The Testimony of Three Witnesses" located in the front of the *Book of Mormon*).

The Bible says:

THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

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

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD" (*Deuteronomy* 6:4).

"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" (*Isaiah* 44:6,8).

"I and my Father are one" [Jesus speaking] (*John* 10:30).

"For thou shalt worship no other god; for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (*Exodus* 34:14).

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" (1 *John* 5:7).

Mormon Doctrine says:

GOD WAS ONCE A MAN

"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens...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...It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for a certainty the Character of God, and to know that we may converse with him as one man converses with another, and that 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" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith, pp. 345-346).

"As man is God once was, as God is man may be" (*The Life of Lorenzo Snow* by Dr. Thomas C. Romney, p. 46).

Mormon Scripture says:

GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOD

"For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing? And now if ye have imagined up unto yourselves a god who doth vary, and in whom there is shadow of changing, then have ye imagined up unto yourselves a god who is not a God of miracles.

But behold, I will show unto you a God of miracles, even the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and it is that same God who created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are" (*Book of Mormon*, *Mormon* 9:9-11).

"And if there were miracles wrought then, why has God ceased to be a God of miracles and yet be an unchangeable Being? And behold, I say unto you he changeth not; if so he would cease to be God; and he ceaseth not to be God, and is a God of miracles" (*Book of Mormon*, *Mormon* 9:19).

"For behold, God knowing all things, being from everlasting to everlasting, behold, he sent angels to minister unto the children of men, to make manifest concerning the coming of Christ; and in Christ there should come every good thing" (*Book of Mormon*, *Moroni* 7:22).

The Bible says:

GOD WAS NOT A MAN

"These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes" (*Psalms* 50:21).

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (*Numbers* 23:19).

"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things" (*Romans* 1:22-23).

Mormon Doctrine says:

GOD IS PROGRESSIVE

"What did Jesus do? Why; I do the things I saw my Father do when worlds came rolling into existence. My Father worked out his kingdom with fear and trembling, and I must do the same [that is, Christ must do the same]; and when I get my kingdom, I shall present it to my Father, so that he may obtain kingdom upon kingdom, and it will exalt him in glory. He [God the Father] will then take a higher exaltation, and I [Christ] will take his place, and thereby become exalted myself. So that Jesus treads in the tracks of his Father, and inherits what God did before; and God is thus glorified and exalted in the salvation and exaltation of all his children" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith, pp. 347-348).

"If Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and John discovered that God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father, you may suppose that He had a Father also" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 373).

"We believe in a God who is Himself progressive, whose majesty is intelligence; whose perfection consists in eternal advancement—a Being who has attained His exalted state by a path which now His children are permitted to follow, whose glory it is their heritage to share. In spite of the opposition of the sects, in the face of direct charges of blasphemy, the Church proclaims the eternal truth: 'As man is, God once was; as God is, man may be'" (*Articles of Faith* by James E. Talmage, p. 430).

Mormon Scripture says:

GOD IS UNCHANGING

"For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity" (*Book of Mormon*, Moroni 8:18).

"Thereby showing that he is the same God yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.

"By these things we know that there is a God in heaven, who is infinite and eternal, from everlasting to everlasting the same unchangeable God, the framer of heaven and earth, and all things which are in them" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 20:12,17).

"For behold, I am God: and I am a God of miracles, and I will show unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and I work not among the children of men save it be according to their faith" (*Book of Mormon*, 2 Nephi 27:23).

The Bible says:

GOD IS UNCHANGING

"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 saviour" (Isaiah 43:10-11).

"For I am the LORD, I change not" (Malachi 3:6).

"And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail" (Hebrews 1:12).

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

Mormon Doctrine says:

GOD HAS A BODY OF FLESH AND BONE

"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" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 130:22).

"His powers of transferring Himself from place to place are infinite; plainly, however, His person cannot be in more than one place at any one time. Admitting the personality of God, we are compelled to accept the fact of His materiality; indeed, an 'immaterial being,' under which meaningless name some have sought to designate the condition of God, cannot exist, for the very expression is a contradiction in terms. If God possesses a form, that form is of necessity of definite proportions and therefore of limited extension in space. It is impossible for Him to occupy at one time more than one space of such limits; and it is not surprising, therefore, to learn from the scriptures that He moves from place to place" (*Articles of Faith* by James E. Talmage, p. 43).

Mormon Scripture says:

GOD IS A SPIRIT

"And then Ammon said: Believest thou that there is a Great Spirit? And he said, Yea. And Ammon said: This is God. And Ammon said unto him again: Believest thou that this Great Spirit, who is God, created all things which are in heaven and in the earth?" (*Book of Mormon*, Alma 18:26-28).

"And the king said: Is God that Great Spirit that brought our fathers out of the land of Jerusalem? And Aaron said unto him: Yea, he is that Great Spirit, and he created all things both in heaven and in earth. Believest thou this? And he said: Yea, I believe that the Great Spirit created all things, and I desire that ye should tell me concerning all these things, and I will believe thy words" (*Book of Mormon*, Alma 22:9-11).

The Bible says:

GOD IS A SPIRIT

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

"Behold my hands and my feet, [Jesus speaking] 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).

"Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? Saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? Saith the LORD" (Jeremiah 23:24).

"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me" (Psalm 139:7-10).

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

"Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? Or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?" (Isaiah 29:16).

Mormon Doctrine says:

ALL ARE SPIRITS IN PRE-EXISTENCE, CONCEIVED BY HEAVENLY PARENTS

"All men and women are...literally the sons and daughters of Deity....Man, as a spirit, was begotten and born of heavenly parents, and reared to maturity in the eternal mansions of the Father, prior to coming upon the earth in a temporal [physical] body" (Joseph F. Smith, "The Origin of Man," *Improvement Era*, Nov. 1909, pp. 78, 80) (as quoted in *Gospel Principles*, p. 11).

"Man was also in the beginning with God. Intelligence, or the light of truth, was not created or made, neither indeed can be" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 93:29).

"Now the Lord had shown unto me, Abraham, the intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these there were many of the noble and great ones" (*Pearl of Great Price*, Abraham 3:22).

"But if I am right, I might with boldness proclaim from the housetops that God never had the power to create the spirit of man at all. God himself could not create himself.

"Intelligence is eternal and exists upon a self-existent principle. It is a spirit from age to age, and there is no creation about it. All the minds and spirits that God ever sent into the world are susceptible of enlargement" (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 354).

Mormon Scripture says:

GOD MADE MAN AFTER HIS OWN IMAGE

"And I, God, said unto mine Only Begotten, which was with me from the beginning: Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and it was so" (*Pearl of Great Price*, Moses 2:26a).

The Bible says:

GOD CREATED MAN AND HE BECAME A LIVING SOUL

"Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual" (1 Corinthians 15:46).

"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).

"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth" (Psalm 33:6).

"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:3-4).

"For by him [Jesus] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Colossians 1:16-17).

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counselor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen" (Romans 11:34-36).

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

Mormon Doctrine says:

JESUS, SPIRIT-BROTHER OF LUCIFER

"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" (*The Gospel Through the Ages* by Milton R. Hunter, p. 15).

"Christ, the Firstborn, was the mightiest of all the spirit children of the Father" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 590).

"The devil is a spirit son of God who was born in the morning of pre-existence" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 192).

"Jesus was willing to come to the earth, give his life for us, and take upon himself our sins. He, like our Heavenly Father, wanted us to choose whether we would obey Heavenly Father's commandments. He knew we must be free to choose in order to prove ourselves worthy of exaltation. Jesus said, 'Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever' (Moses 4:2). Satan, who was called Lucifer, also came, saying, 'Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor' (Moses 4:1). Satan wanted to force us all to do his will. Under his plan, we would not be allowed to choose. He would take away the freedom of choice that our Father had given us. Satan wanted to have all the honor for our salvation...After hearing both sons speak, Heavenly Father said, 'I will send the first' (Abraham 3:27)" (as quoted in *Gospel Principles*, pp. 17-18, 1997 edition).

Mormon Scripture says:

CHRIST IS GOD

"And because he said unto them that Christ was the God, the Father of all things, and said that he should take upon him the image of man, and it should be the image after which man was created in the beginning; or in other words, he said that man was created after the image of God, and that God should come down among the children of men, and take upon him flesh and blood, and go forth upon the face of the earth" (*Book of Mormon*, Mosiah 7:27).

"Thus saith the Lord your God, even Jesus Christ, the Great I AM, Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the same which looked upon the wide expanse of eternity, and all the seraphic hosts of heaven, before the world was made; The same which knoweth all things, for all things are present before mine eyes; I am the same which spake, and the world was made, and all things came by me" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 38:1-3).

The Bible says:

JESUS IS GOD

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (1 Timothy 3:16).

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

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58).

"I and my Father are one [Jesus speaking]...The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God" (John 10:30,33).

"And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God" (Revelation 19:13).

"And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life" (1 John 5:20).

"Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?" (John 14:9).

Mormon Doctrine says:

SOME SINS CANNOT BE REMITTED BY CHRIST'S BLOOD

"Man may commit certain grievous sins—according to his light and knowledge—that will place him beyond the reach of the atoning blood of Christ. If then he would be saved he must make sacrifice of his own life to atone—so far as in his power lies—for that sin, for the blood of Christ alone under certain circumstances will not avail" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 93).

"Joseph Smith taught that there were certain sins so grievous that man may commit, that they will place the transgressors beyond the power of the atonement of Christ. If these offenses are committed, then the blood of Christ will not cleanse them from their sins even though they repent. Therefore their only hope is to have their own blood shed to atone, as far as possible, in their behalf. This is scriptural doctrine, and is taught in all the standard works of the Church" (*Doctrines of Salvation* by Joseph F. Smith, Vol. 1, p. 135).

"This doctrine can only be practiced in its fulness in a day when the civil and ecclesiastical laws are administered in the same hands...it was not and could not be practiced in this dispensation, except that persons who understood its provisions could and did use their influence to get a form of capitol punishment written into the laws of the various states of the union so that the blood of murderers could be shed" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 93).

Mormon Scripture says:

NOTHING EXCEPT JESUS' BLOOD WILL BE SUFFICIENT FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD

"For it is expedient that there should be a great and last sacrifice; yea, not a sacrifice of man, neither of beast, neither of any manner of fowl; for it shall not be a human sacrifice; but it must be an infinite and eternal sacrifice.

"But the law requireth the life of him who hath murdered; therefore there can be nothing which is short of an infinite atonement which will suffice for the sins of the world" (*Book of Mormon*, Alma 34:10,12).

"That he came into the world, even Jesus, to be crucified for the world, and to sanctify the world, and to cleanse it from all unrighteousness" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 76:41).

"Wherefore, it must needs be an infinite atonement—save it should be an infinite atonement this corruption could not put on incorruption. Wherefore the first judgment which came upon man must needs have remained to an endless duration. And if so, this flesh must have laid down to rot and to crumble to its mother earth, to rise no more" (*Book of Mormon*, 2 Nephi 9:7).

The Bible says:

BLOOD OF JESUS CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment" (Matthew 5:21-22).

"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:33-34).

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Romans 5:8-9).

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (1 John 1:7-10).

"And having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven" (Colossians 1:20).

Mormon Doctrine says:

ATONEMENT IS UNIVERSAL AND MAN WILL INHERIT ONE OF THREE HEAVENS

"Some degree of salvation will come to all who have not forfeited their right to it; exaltation is given to those only who by righteous effort have won a claim to God's merciful liberality by which it is bestowed...In the Telestial world there are innumerable degrees comparable to the varying light of the stars. Yet all who receive of anyone of these orders of glory are at last saved, and upon them Satan will finally have no claim" (*Articles of Faith* by James E. Talmage, pp. 91-92).

"Eternal punishment is God's punishment; everlasting punishment is God's punishment; or in other words, it is the name of the punishment God inflicts, he being eternal in his nature.

"Whosoever, therefore, receives God's punishment receives eternal punishment, whether it is endured one hour, one day, one week, one year, or an age" (*Plan of Salvation* by Elder John Morgan, p. 30; pamphlet put out by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints).

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

Mormon Scripture says:

THE DEVIL TEACHES NO HELL

"And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell.

"And behold, others he flattereth away, and telleth them there is no hell; and he saith unto them: I am no devil, for there is none and thus he whispereth in their ears, until he grasps them with his awful chains, from whence there is no deliverance" (*Book of Mormon*, 2 Nephi 28:21-22).

"And now I say unto you, that mercy hath no claim on that man; therefore his final doom is to endure a never-ending torment" (*Book of Mormon*, Mosiah 2:39).

"And if they be evil they are consigned to an awful view of their own guilt and abominations, which doth cause them to shrink from the presence of the Lord into a state of misery and endless torment, from whence they can no more return; therefore they have drunk damnation to their own souls" (*Book of Mormon*, Mosiah 3:25).

The Bible says:

ONLY TWO PLACES, HEAVEN OR HELL

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:16-18).

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17).

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15).

"And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name" (Revelation 14:11).

Mormon Doctrine says:

TOTAL APOSTASY

"With the loss of the gospel, the nations of the earth went into a moral eclipse called the Dark Ages. Apostasy was universal. 'Darkness covereth the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people, and all flesh has become corrupt before my face' (*Doctrine and Covenants* 112:23). And this darkness still prevails except among those who have come to a knowledge of the restored gospel (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Vol. 3, pp. 265-326)" (as quoted in *Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 44).

"Mankind's rejection of the gospel resulted in the loss of gospel truths and authority from the earth, a condition which existed at the time of Joseph Smith" (*Missionary Discussions Handbook*, 4th Discussion, Truth versus Error, Concept 2).

"Nothing less than a complete apostasy from the Christian religion would warrant the establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" (*History of the Church*, Vol. 1, Introduction XL).

"From the Son young Joseph received the astonishing announcement that he should join no existing church, but that he was to aid in the restoration of the pure gospel of Jesus Christ in these latter days" (From: *The Falling Away and Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ Foretold*, a pamphlet put out by the Missionary Department of the LDS church).

Mormon Scripture says:

ALL HAVE GONE ASTRAY EXCEPT A FEW HUMBLE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

"They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, and abominations, and whoredoms, they have all gone astray save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ; nevertheless, they are led, that in many instances they do err because they are taught by the precepts of men" (*Book of Mormon*, 2 Nephi 28:14).

The Bible says:

CHRIST BOUGHT THE CHURCH WITH HIS OWN BLOOD, IT CANNOT FALL.

"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).

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11).

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

"As for God, his way is perfect: the Word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. For who is God save the LORD? Or who is a rock save our God?" (Psalm 18:30-31).

"But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (1 Peter 1:25).

Mormon Doctrine says:

REVELATION CONTINUES TODAY THROUGH LATTER-DAY PROPHETS

"We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God" (*Articles of Faith*, Number 9).

"Salvation cannot come without revelation; it is in vain for anyone to minister without it. No man is a minister of Jesus Christ without being a Prophet" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph F. Smith, p. 160).

"Woe be unto him that shall say: We have received the word of God, and we need no more of the word of God, for we have enough!" (*Book of Mormon*, 2 Nephi 28:29).

"Could we read and comprehend all that has been written from the days of Adam, on the relation of man to God and angels in a future state, we should know very little about it. Reading the experience of others, or the revelation given to *them*, can never give *us* a comprehensive view of our condition and true relation to God. Knowledge of these things can only be obtained by experience through the ordinances of God set forth for that purpose" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph F. Smith, p. 324).

Mormon Scripture says:

WHOEVER DECLARES MORE OR LESS THAN MY DOCTRINE COMES OF EVIL

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, that this is my doctrine, and whoso buildeth upon this buildeth upon my rock, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them.

"And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock; but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell stand open to receive such when the floods come and the winds beat upon them" (*Book of Mormon*, 3 Nephi 11:39-40).

"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" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 3:4).

The Bible says:

GOSPEL HAS BEEN DECLARED

"For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the council of God" (Acts 20:27).

"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar" (Proverbs 30:5-6).

"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever" (Psalm 12:6-7).

"The counsel of the LORD standeth forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations" (Psalm 33:11).

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).

"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:10-11).

Mormon Doctrine says:

GOD AND JESUS APPEARED TO JOSEPH SMITH

"But, exerting all my powers to call upon God to deliver me out of the power of this enemy which had seized upon me, and at the very moment when I was ready to sink into despair and abandon myself to destruction—not to an imaginary ruin, but to the power of some actual being from the unseen world, who had such marvelous power as I had never before felt in any being—just at this moment of great alarm, I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me. It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!" (*Pearl of Great Price*, Joseph Smith – History 2:16-17).

"GOSPEL AND PRIESTHOOD NEEDED TO SEE GOD. We cannot tie the hands of the Lord. The Father and the Son appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith before the Church was organized and the priesthood restored to the earth. Under those conditions the Lord could appear to one who sought for light as he did in the case of Joseph Smith. Now that the Church is organized and the power of the priesthood is here, no one can see the face of God, even the Father, without the blessing of the gospel and the authority of the priesthood" (*Doctrines of Salvation* by Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 1, p. 4).

Mormon Scripture says:

The Bible says:

NO MAN CAN SEE GOD AND LIVE

"And he said, Thou canst not see my face; for there shall no man see me, and live" (Exodus 33:20).

"And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice" (Deuteronomy 4:12).

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

"Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father" (John 6:46).

"And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape" (John 5:37).

"No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us" (1 John 4:12).

"Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen" (1 Timothy 6:16).

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

Mormon Doctrine says:

JOSEPH SMITH WAS A PROPHET OF GOD

"In the spring of 1820, when the hour had come for the opening of the final gospel dispensation, young Joseph, then 14 1/2 years of age beheld in glory the Father and the Son. Thereafter Moroni visited him; he received, translated, and published the ancient Nephite record; other messengers came bringing keys, power, priesthood, and authority; revelations in great number were showered upon him; and by the power and commandment of the Lord Omnipotent he organized again on earth God's literal kingdom, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 396).

"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.*

"If Joseph Smith was a deceiver, who willfully attempted to mislead the people then he should be exposed; his claims should be refuted, and his doctrines shown to be false, for the doctrines of an imposter cannot be made to harmonize in all particulars with divine truth. If his claims and declarations were built upon fraud and deceit, there would appear many errors and contradictions, which would be easy to detect. *The doctrines of false teachers will not stand the test when tried by the accepted standards of measurement, the scriptures*" (*Doctrines of Salvation* by Joseph F. Smith, Vol. 1, p. 188).

Mormon Scripture says:

REVELATION GIVEN THROUGH JOSEPH SMITH

"For his word [Joseph's] ye shall receive, as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 21:5).

(September 22-23, 1832)

"A revelation of Jesus Christ unto his servant Joseph Smith, Jun., and six elders, as they united their hearts and lifted their voices on high.

"Yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city of New Jerusalem.

"Which city shall be built, beginning at the temple lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith, Jun., and others with whom the Lord was well pleased.

"Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation. For verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill the house" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 84:1-5).

(See the following page of *Witness to Mormons* for other revelations given by Joseph Smith.)

The Bible says:

THERE WILL BE MANY FALSE PROPHETS

"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:11).

"The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it" (Luke 16:16).

"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 shalt not be afraid of him" (Deuteronomy 18:21-22).

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

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (1 Timothy 4:1).

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son" (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Unfulfilled Prophecies of Joseph Smith

SOME OF THE PROPHECIES OF JOSEPH SMITH, FIRST PROPHET, SEER, AND REVELATOR TO THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

February 14, 1835:

"President 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, sufferings; and said God had not designed all this for nothing, but He had it in remembrance yet; and it was the will of God that those who went to Zion, with a determination to lay down their lives, if necessary, should be ordained to the ministry, and go forth to prune the vineyard for the last time, or *the coming of the Lord, which was nigh—even fifty-six years should wind up the scene*" (*History of the Church*, Vol. 2, p. 182, emphasis added).

December 25, 1832:

"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 poured 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, as it is called, 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" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 87:1-3).

This information was in newspapers across the land six months prior to this prophecy. On July 14, 1832, Congress passed a tariff act which South Carolina refused to accept, declaring it null and void. President Andrew Jackson alerted the U.S. troops and the nation expected war. United States history books and the Mormon paper, *The Evening and Morning Star* record the details. [comment]

August 2, 1833:

"And the nations of the earth shall honor her, and shall say: 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" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 97:19).

Two weeks prior to this prophecy [July 20, 1833] Zion was moved and leading LDS officials were run out of town. Joseph Smith was away in Kirtland, Ohio, and unaware of this when he gave this revelation. [comment]

April 23, 1834:

"Verily I say unto you, my friends, 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" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 104:1).

The United Order in Mormonism has ceased to exist. [comment]

August 6, 1836:

"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, inasmuch that they shall not discover your secret parts; and its wealth pertaining to gold and silver shall be yours" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 111:4).

There is no record of the city or its wealth being given to Smith who died eight years later. [comment]

"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 will sweep the wicked of this generation from off the face of the land, to open and prepare the way for the return of the lost tribes of Israel from the north country. The people of the Lord, those who have complied with the requirements of the new covenant, have already commenced gathering together to Zion, which is in the state of Missouri; therefore I declare unto you the warning which the Lord has commanded me to declare unto this generation, remembering that the eyes of my Maker are upon me, and that to Him I am accountable for every word I say, wishing nothing worse to my fellowmen than their eternal salvation; therefore, 'Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come.' Repent ye, repent ye, and embrace the everlasting covenant, and 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 have spoken, fulfilled. Remember these things; call upon the Lord while He is near, and seek Him while He may be found, is the exhortation of your unworthy servant" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 17-18).

"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" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 302).

History records no redress. [comment]

"Therefore, let my servant Joseph and his seed after him have place in that house, from generation to generation, forever and ever, saith the Lord. And let the name of that house be called Nauvoo House; and let it be a delightful habitation for man, and a resting-place for the weary traveler, that he may contemplate the glory of Zion, and the glory of this, the cornerstone thereof" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 124:59-60).

Joseph Smith was killed in 1844. The Mormons were driven from Nauvoo and the house no longer belonged to the Smith family.

(See *False Prophecies of Joseph Smith* as compiled by Dick Baer and Jim Robertson for Concerned Christians. This contains 56 false prophecies of Joseph Smith.)

Mormon Doctrine says:

PRIESTHOOD AUTHORITY NECESSARY TO ACT FOR GOD

"Man cannot act legally in the name of the Lord unless he is vested with the priesthood, which is divine authority. No man has the power or the right to take this honor to himself. Unless he is called of God, as was Aaron, he has no authority to officiate in any of the ordinances of the gospel; should he do so his act is not valid or recognized in the heavens" (*Doctrines of Salvation* by Joseph F. Smith, Vol. 3, p. 80).

"While translating the Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith and his scribe, Oliver Cowdery, constantly sought divine inspiration and understanding. On one occasion they went into the woods near their home to pray. While they were praying, Peter, James, and John, three of the original apostles of Jesus Christ, visited them and gave them important power and authority from the Lord. They told Joseph and Oliver that this priesthood included the authority to restore the church of Jesus Christ on the earth. This is important to you because you can be assured that those who officiate in the church of Jesus Christ do so with his full Authority" (*Missionary Discussions Handbook*, 1st discussion, The Restoration, Concept 4).

"That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 121:36).

Mormon Scripture says:

NO RECORDED EVIDENCE OF THE APPEARANCE OF PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN

There is no record of the appearance of Peter, James, and John to Joseph Smith or Oliver Cowdery in either the *Book of Mormon*, *Doctrine and Covenants*, or *Pearl of Great Price*. The promise that "in due time the Priesthood of Melchizedek would be conferred upon them" is in *Doctrine and Covenants* 13 and the "prior ordination" to the Apostleship is stated in *Doctrine and Covenants* 27:12.

The Bible says:

CHRIST IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST IN HEAVEN

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession" (Hebrews 4:14).

"And being made perfect, he [Jesus] became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec" (Hebrews 5:9-10).

"But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. 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).

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Hebrews 8:1-2).

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" (Hebrews 9:24).

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:18-19).

Mormon Doctrine says:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LDS CHURCH HOLDS THE KEYS OF SALVATION

"The President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints holds the keys of salvation for all men now living because he is the only one by whose authorization the sealing power of the priesthood can be used to seal men up to salvation and exaltation in the kingdom of God" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 411).

"And without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh; "And also all they who receive this priesthood receive me, saith the Lord" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 84:21,35).

AARONIC PRIESTHOOD (DEACON) AT AGE 12

"It is the practice of the Church in this dispensation—a practice dictated by the needs of the present-day ministry and confirmed by the inspiration of the Spirit resting upon those who hold the keys of the kingdom—to confer the Aaronic Priesthood upon worthy young men who are 12 years of age and to ordain them to the office of a deacon in that priesthood. Notwithstanding the fact that this is the lowest priesthood office, it is yet a high and holy one in God's kingdom. In the meridian of time the needs of the ministry were such that adult brethren were ordained deacons" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 183).

Mormon Scripture says:

NO OTHER NAME NOR MEANS WHEREBY SALVATION CAN COME BUT CHRIST

"And moreover, I say unto you, that there shall be no other name given nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent. For behold he judgeth, and his judgment is just; and the infant perisheth not that dieth in his infancy; but men drink damnation to their own souls except they humble themselves and become as little children, and believe that salvation was, and is, and is to come, in and through the atoning blood of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent" (*Book of Mormon*, Mosiah 3:17-18).

"And now, behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen" (*Book of Mormon*, 2 Nephi 31:21).

The Bible says:

MEN CAN CALL ON NO NAME BUT JESUS TO SAVE THEM

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

"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God, which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son" (1 John 5:9-11).

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

(see also John 5:24)

DEACONS ARE ADULT MEN

"Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well" (1 Timothy 3:12).

Mormon Doctrine says:

GRACE GRANTED IF WE ARE RIGHTEOUS

"There are some who have striven to obey all the divine commandments, who have accepted the testimony of Christ, obeyed 'the laws and ordinances of the Gospel' and received the Holy Spirit; these are they who have overcome evil by godly works and who are therefore entitled to the highest glory" (*Articles of Faith* by James E. Talmage, pp. 91-92).

"That by keeping the commandments they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 76:52).

"Grace is granted to men proportionately as they conform to the standards of personal righteousness that are part of the gospel plan" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce McConkie, p. 339).

"For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do" (*Book of Mormon*, 2 Nephi 25:23).

Mormon Scripture says:

GRACE GRANTED THROUGH FAITH, NOT WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5).

"Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 18:10-14).

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

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" (Galatians 5:4).

(see also John 6:28-29,47; Romans 3:20-22, 5:1-2; Galatians 2:16, 20-21)

Mormon Doctrine says:

OBEYING WORD OF WISDOM DETERMINES TEMPLE WORTHINESS

"The word of wisdom, showing forth the order and will of God in the temporal salvation of all saints in the last days—I have warned you, and forewarn you, by giving unto you this word of wisdom by revelation—That inasmuch as any man drinketh wine or strong drink among you, behold it is not good...And, again tobacco is not for the body...and again hot drinks are not for the body or belly..." (*Doctrine and Covenants* 89:2b,4,5,8,9).

"Three types of things are prohibited to man by the Word of Wisdom—tobacco, strong drinks, and hot drinks. By strong drinks is meant alcoholic beverages; hot drinks, according to the Prophet's own statement, mean tea and coffee...Abstinence from these four things has been accepted by the Church as a measuring rod to determine in part the personal worthiness of church members. When decisions are made relative to the granting of temple recommends or approving brethren for church positions or ordinations, inquiry is made relative to these four items" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 845).

"In other words, through the cleanliness resulting from keeping this law of health, and by 'walking in obedience to the commandments' (*D&C* 89:18), the saints will qualify for the companionship of the Holy Spirit with great spiritual endowments coming as a result thereof (*Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed., pp. 365-368)" (as quoted in *Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, second edition, 1966, p. 846).

Mormon Scripture says:

ALL THINGS WHICH COME OF THE EARTH TO BE USED WITH JUDGMENT

"Yea, and the herb, and the good things which come of the earth, whether for food or for raiment, or for houses, or for barns, or for orchards, or for gardens, or for vineyards;

"Yea, all things which come of the earth, in the season thereof, are made for the benefit and the use of man, both to please the eye and to gladden the heart;

"Yea, for food and for raiment, for taste and for smell, to strengthen the body and to enliven the soul.

"And it pleaseth God that he hath given all these things unto man; for unto this end were they made to be used, with judgment, not to excess, neither by extortion" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 59:17-20).

The Bible says:

JESUS SAID: IT'S NOT WHAT GOES INTO THE MOUTH THAT DEFILES THE MAN BUT WHAT COMES OUT OF THE MOUTH FROM THE HEART

"Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man" (Matthew 15:17-18).

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men" (Romans 14:17-18).

"Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances. (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh" (Colossians 2:20-23).

"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein" (Hebrews 13:9).

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9).

Mormon Doctrine says:

BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD NECESSARY FOR SALVATION

"And now, my dearly beloved brethren and sisters, let me assure you that these are principles in relation to the dead and the living that cannot be lightly passed over, as pertaining to our salvation. For their salvation is necessary and essential to our salvation" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 128:15).

"This doctrine presents in a clear light the wisdom and mercy of God in preparing an ordinance for the salvation of the dead, being baptized by proxy, their names recorded in heaven and they judged according to the deeds done in the body. This doctrine was the burden of the scriptures. Those Saints who neglect it in behalf of their deceased relatives, do it at the peril of their own salvation" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph F. Smith, p. 193).

"Thus in the mercy of God, His erring, mortal children, who have taken upon themselves the name of Christ on earth, may become, in a limited sphere, each a savior in the house of his fathers, by vicarious labor and sacrifice, rendered in humility, and, as represented in the baptismal ordinance, typical of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Redeemer" (*Articles of Faith* by James E. Talmage, p. 152).

Mormon Scripture says:

NO CHANCE FOR SALVATION AFTER DEATH

"And now, as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore, I beseech of you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; for after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed.

"Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, 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 hath no place in you, and the devil hath all power over you; and this is the final state of the wicked" (*Book of Mormon*, Alma 34:33-35).

The Bible says:

NO SECOND CHANCE FOR SALVATION AFTER DEATH

"When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth" (Proverbs 11:7).

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

"None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever)" (Psalm 49:7-8).

"And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

"Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

"For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

"Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

"And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

"And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:26-31).

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

"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

(see also Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Isaiah 8:19; 19:3; 2 Corinthians 6:2)

Mormon Doctrine says:

COMPLETED GENEALOGY REQUIRED IN BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD

"Before vicarious ordinances of salvation and exaltation may be performed for those who have died without a knowledge of the gospel, but who presumably would have received it had the opportunity come to them, they must be accurately and properly identified. Hence, *genealogical research is required*" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 308).

SPIRITS SPEAK FROM THE DEAD

"The spirits of the just are exalted to a greater and more glorious work; hence they are blessed in their departure to the world of spirits. Enveloped in flaming fire, they are not far from us, and know and understand our thoughts, feelings, and motions, and are often pained therewith" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph F. Smith, p. 326).

"Sometimes the veil between this life and the life beyond becomes very thin. Our loved ones who have passed on are not far from us (President Ezra Taft Benson in Conference Report, Apr. 1971, p. 18; or *Ensign*, June 1971, p. 33)" (as quoted in *Gospel Principles* p. 290, 1997 edition).

"The dead will be after you, they will seek after you as they have after us in St. George. They called upon us, knowing that we held the keys and power to redeem them" (Wilford Woodruff, September 16, 1877, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 19, p. 229).

Mormon Scripture says:

The Bible says:

AVOID GENEALOGIES FOR THEY ARE UNPROFITABLE AND VAIN

"Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do" (1 Timothy 1:4).

"But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain" (Titus 3:9).

SEEK GOD, NOT THE DEAD

"And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is because there is no light in them*" (Isaiah 8:19-20).

"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God" (Leviticus 19:31).

"So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking *counsel* of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it" (1 Chronicles 10:13).

Mormon Doctrine says:

COUPLES HAVING CELESTIAL (TEMPLE) MARRIAGE BECOME GODS IN ETERNITY

"But if we are married for time and for all eternity and it is sealed upon our heads by those who have the authority so to seal, and *if we then keep our covenants and are faithful to the end*, we shall come forth in the resurrection from the dead and receive the following promised blessings:

"*Then shall they be gods*, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue; then shall they be *above all*, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they be gods, because they have *all power*, and the angels are subject unto them (D&C 132:20)" (as quoted in *Doctrines of Salvation* by Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 2, p. 62).

"Celestial marriage is a holy and an eternal ordinance; as an order of the priesthood, it has the name the *new and everlasting covenant of marriage*. Adam was the first one on this earth to enter into this type of union, and it has been the Lord's order in all ages when the fulness of the gospel has been on earth. Its importance in the plan of salvation and exaltation cannot be overestimated.

"*The most important things that any member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ever does in this world are: 1. To marry the right person, in the right place, by the right authority; and 2. To keep the covenant made in connection with this holy and perfect order of matrimony—thus assuring the obedient persons of an inheritance of exaltation in the celestial kingdom*" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 118).

Mormon Scripture says:

The Bible says:

LAW OF MARRIAGE IS FOR LIFE ON EARTH, NOT HEAVEN; CHRISTIANS WILL BE MARRIED TO CHRIST IN HEAVEN

"Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven" (Matthew 22:29-30).

"Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God" (Romans 7:1-4).

"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:2).

"And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God" (Revelation 19:9).

Mormon Doctrine says:

LATTER-DAY SAINTS SEEK GODHOOD

"That exaltation which the saints of all ages have so devoutly sought is *godhood* itself. Godhood is to have the character, possess the attributes, and enjoy the perfections which the Father has. It is to do what he does, have the powers resident in him, and live as he lives, having eternal increase" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 321).

"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.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye abide my law ye cannot attain to this glory" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 132:20-21).

"But they shall be heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. What is it? To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation, until you arrive at the station of a God, and ascend the throne of eternal power, the same as those who have gone before" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph F. Smith, p. 347).

"And every man who reigns in celestial glory is a God to his dominions" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph F. Smith, p. 374).

"But 'Mormonism' is bolder yet. It asserts that in accordance with the inviolable law of organic nature—that like shall beget like, and that multiplication of numbers and perpetuation of species shall be in compliance with the condition 'each after his kind,' the child may achieve the former status of the parent, and that in his mortal condition man is a God in embryo" (*Articles of Faith* by James E. Talmage, p. 530).

Mormon Scripture says:

The Bible says:

THE TEMPTATION TO HAVE THE POWER OF GOD IS THE OLDEST TEMPTATION ON EARTH

"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:4-5).

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit" (Isaiah 14:12-15).

"These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes" [God speaking] (Psalm 50:21).

"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).

"... but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves... Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant..." (Philippians 2:3-7).

Mormon Doctrine says:

POLYGAMY IS AN ORDINANCE OF THE MORMON CHURCH

"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.

"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" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 132:61-62).

"In the early days of this dispensation, as part of the promised restitution of all things, the Lord revealed the principle of plural marriage to the Prophet. Later the Prophet and leading brethren were commanded to enter into the practice, which they did in all virtue and purity of heart despite the consequent animosity and prejudices of worldly people. After Brigham Young led the saints to the Salt Lake Valley, plural marriage was openly taught and practiced until the year 1890. At that time conditions were such that the Lord by revelation withdrew the command to continue the practice, and President Wilford Woodruff issued the Manifesto directing that it cease (*Discourses of Wilford Woodruff*, pp. 213-218). Obviously the holy practice will commence again after the Second Coming of the Son of Man and the ushering in of the Millennium" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, p. 578).

Mormon Scripture says:

POLYGAMY SHOULD NOT BE PRACTICED

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

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

"Behold, the Lamanites your brethren, whom ye hate because of their filthiness and the cursing which hath come upon their skins, are more righteous than you; for they have not forgotten the commandment of the Lord, which was given unto our Fathers—that they should have save it were one wife, and concubines they should have none, and there should not be whoredoms committed among them" (*Book of Mormon*, Jacob 3:5).

"Inasmuch as this church of Christ has been reproached with the crime of fornication, and polygamy: We declare that we believe, that one man should have one wife; and one woman, but one husband, except in case of death, when either is at liberty to marry again" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 101:4, 1835 edition, p. 251).

The Bible says:

MAN SHOULD HAVE ONE WIFE

"Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away" (Deuteronomy 17:17).

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

"And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh" (Matthew 19:5).

"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach.

"Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well" (1 Timothy 3:2,12).

"And ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly" (Titus 1:5-6).

Mormon Doctrine says:

NEGROES ARE DENIED THE PRIESTHOOD (PRIOR TO 1978)

"Negroes in this life are denied the priesthood; under no circumstances can they hold this delegation of authority from the Almighty. The gospel message of salvation is not carried affirmatively to them...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, but this inequality is not of man's origin. It is the Lord's doing, is based on his eternal laws of justice, and grows out of the lack of spiritual valiance of those concerned in their first estate" (*Mormon Doctrine* by Bruce R. McConkie, 23rd Printing, 1977, pp. 527-528).

"For behold, the Lord shall curse the land with much heat, and the barrenness thereof shall go forth forever; and there was a blackness came upon all the children of Canaan, that they were despised among all people.

"And he gave unto me a commandment that I should baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, which is full of grace and truth, and of the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of the Father and the Son. And it came to pass that Enoch continued to call upon all the people, save it were the people of Canaan, to repent" (*Pearl of Great Price*, Moses 7:8,11-12).

"The first presidency, the twelve, the high counsel, the Bishopric, and all elders of Israel, suppose we summon them to appear here, and here declare that it is right to mingle our seed, with the black race of Cain, that they shall come in with us and be partakers with us of all the blessings God has given to us. On that very day, and from the hour we should do so, the priesthood is taken from this Church and kingdom, and God leaves us to our fate. The moment we consent to mingle with the seed of Cain, the Church must go to destruction,—we should receive the

Mormon Scripture says:

ALL ARE ALIKE UNTO GOD

"Behold, hath the Lord commanded any that they should not partake of his goodness? Behold I say unto you, Nay; but all men are privileged the one like unto the other, and none are forbidden" (*Book of Mormon*, 2 Nephi 26:28).

"For none of these iniquities come of the Lord; for he doeth that which is good among the children of men; and he doeth nothing save it be plain unto the children of men; and he inviteth them all to come unto him and partake of his goodness; and he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; and he remembereth the heathen; and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile" (*Book of Mormon*, 2 Nephi 26:33).

Spencer W. Kimball, president of the Mormon church, received a revelation which allows blacks to hold the priesthood, on June 1, 1978. A public announcement was made on June 9, 1978, in Salt Lake City, Utah (*Doctrine and Covenants*, Official Declaration 2).

curse which has been placed upon the seed of Cain, and never more be numbered with the children of Adam who are heirs to the Priesthood until that curse be removed" (*Brigham Young Addresses*, Feb. 5, 1852, Ms d 1234, Box 488, Folder 3, LDS Archives).

The Bible says:

GOD DOES NOT SHOW FAVORITISM

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" Acts 10:34-35).

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

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

"For there is no respect of persons with God" (Romans 2:11).

"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:12-13).

"And he arose and went: and, behold a man of Ethiopia, [a black] an eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship...And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him" (Acts 8:27,36-38).

WHY COMPARE ORIGINAL MORMON BOOKS VERSUS CURRENT?

The following pages are comparisons of the current editions of the *Book of Mormon* and *Doctrine and Covenants*, with the original editions. We have compared a few of the changes which are significant in the teachings of the Mormon church today. For a more thorough treatment of these changes see 3,913 *Changes in the Book of Mormon* by Jerald and Sandra Tanner.

We have also compared the original 14 Articles of Faith with today's 13. Please read these carefully and notice the changes.

The reason these comparisons are important is that Mormons believe these words to be direct revelation from God. The content of these standard works, as they are called, has been changed from the original in very important areas, altering their doctrine.

By contrast, God's Word, the Bible, has stayed intact over hundreds of years.

The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever (Psalm 12:6-7).

God Himself has preserved them for us.

The manner in which the Bible has been carefully handled with deep reverence throughout the ages is worth looking into. Men have devoted their lives to the job of preserving and transmitting the Bible. A complicated system of safeguards was devised so that no errors would be made. For example:

1. A scroll must be written on skins from clean animals.
2. Preparation of scrolls must be by a Jew.
3. Scrolls fastened together with strings from clean animals.
4. Every skin must contain a certain number of columns, equal throughout the entire codex.
5. The length of each column must not extend over less than 48 or more than 60 lines, and breadth must consist of 30 letters.
6. The whole copy must be first lined, and if 3 words be written without a line, it is worthless.
7. The ink is prepared from a definite recipe, color must be black, no other color.
8. An authentic copy must be the exemplar and transcriber ought not in the least deviate.
9. No word, letter or jot must be written from memory.
10. Between each new parashal or section, the breadth of 9 consonants.
11. Between every consonant the space of a hair or thread.
12. Between each book, 3 lines.

13. The 5 books of Moses must terminate exactly with a line, the rest need not.
14. The copyist must sit in full Jewish dress, with his whole body having been washed.
15. Cannot begin to write the name of God with a pen newly dipped in ink.
16. Should a king address him while writing the name of God, he must take no notice of him.

Some excellent sources for looking more deeply into this subject are: *New Evidence That Demands A Verdict* by Josh McDowell; *God's Word, Final, Infallible and Forever* by Floyd McElveen; and *Surprised By Faith* by Don Bierle.

Joseph Smith said: "I believe the Bible as it read when it came from the pen of the original writers. Ignorant translators, careless transcribers, or designing and corrupt priests have committed many errors" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 327).

Concluding this to be so, Joseph Smith went about translating the Bible the way he felt it should be done. The result is known as the "Inspired Version" of the Bible contained in limited editions of the LDS "four standard works" or "quad," as it is called by Mormons.

If the Bible is indeed correct as it is translated, then Joseph Smith has proven himself to be a false prophet.

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness (1 Corinthians 3:18-19).

BOOK OF MORMON

Joseph Smith, founder and first president of the LDS church said: "I told the Brethren that the *Book of Mormon* was the most correct book on earth" (*Book of Mormon*, Introduction; *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 194).

(Highlighted words show changes from 1830 to current edition.)

BOOK OF MORMON, FIRST EDITION, 1830

"And he said unto me, Behold, the virgin which thou seest, is the **mother of God**, after the manner of the flesh.

"And it came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away in the spirit; and after that she had been carried away in the spirit for the space of a time, the angel spake unto me, saying, look! And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms. And the angel said unto me, behold the Lamb of God, yea, **even the Eternal Father!**" (First Book of Nephi, p. 25).

"And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me again, saying; look! And I looked and beheld the Lamb of God, that he was taken by the people; yea, **the Everlasting God**, was judged of the world; and I saw and bear record" (First Book of Nephi, p. 26).

"And the angel spake unto me, saying: These last records which thou hast seen among the Gentiles, shall establish the truth of the first, which is of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them; and shall make known to all kindreds, tongues, and people, that the Lamb of God is **the Eternal Father** and the Saviour of the world; and that all men must come unto Him, or they cannot be saved" (First Book of Nephi, p. 32).

"And now Limhi was again filled with joy, on learning from the mouth of Ammon that **King Benjamin** had a gift from God, whereby he could interpret such engravings; yea, and Ammon also did rejoice" (Book of Mosiah, p. 200).

BOOK OF MORMON, CURRENT EDITION

"And he said unto me: Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the **mother of the Son of God**, after the manner of the flesh.

"And it came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away in the Spirit; and after she had been carried away in the Spirit for the space of a time the angel spake unto me, saying: Look!

"And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms.

"And the angel said unto me: Behold the Lamb of God, yea, **even the Son of the Eternal Father!**" (1 Nephi 11:18-21).

"And it came to pass that the angel spake unto me again, saying: Look! And I looked and beheld the Lamb of God, that he was taken by the people; yea, **the Son of the everlasting God** was judged of the world: and I saw and bear record" (1 Nephi 11:32).

"And the angel spake unto me, saying: These last records, which thou hast seen among the Gentiles, shall establish the truth of the first, which are of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them; and shall make known to all kindreds, tongues, and people, that the Lamb of God is **the Son of the Eternal Father**, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him, or they cannot be saved" (1 Nephi 13:40).

"And now Limhi was again filled with joy in learning from the mouth of Ammon that **King Mosiah** had a gift from God, whereby he could interpret such engravings; yea, and Ammon also did rejoice" (Mosiah 21:28).

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS

Book of Commandments enlarged and reprinted in 1835 under the title *Doctrine and Covenants*.
(Highlighted words show changes from 1833 to 1835 edition.)

BOOK OF COMMANDMENTS 1833 EDITION

"A Revelation given to Joseph and Martin, in Harmony, Pennsylvania, March, 1829, when Martin desired of the Lord to know whether Joseph had, in his possession, the record of the Nephites" (Introduction to Section 4).

"And he has a gift to translate the book, and I have commanded him that he shall pretend to no other gift, for I will grant him no other gift" (*Book of Commandments* 4:2).

"A revelation given to Joseph and Oliver, in Harmony, Pennsylvania, April, 1829, when they desired to know whether John, the beloved disciple, tarried on earth. Translated from parchment, written and hid up by himself" (Introduction to Section 6).

"And the Lord said unto me, John my beloved, what desirest thou? and I said, Lord, give unto me power that I may bring souls unto thee. And the Lord said unto me: Verily, verily I say unto thee, because thou desiredst this, thou shalt tarry till I come in my glory:

"And for this cause, the Lord said unto Peter: If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? for he desiredst of me that he might bring souls unto me: but thou desiredst that thou might speedily come unto me in my kingdom: I say unto thee, Peter, this was a good desire, but my beloved has undertaken a greater work.

"Verily I say unto you, ye shall both have according to your desires, for ye both joy in that which ye have desired" (*Book of Commandments* 6).

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS CURRENT EDITION

"Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Harmony, Pennsylvania, March, 1829. Three witnesses to the *Book of Mormon* are promised, of whom Martin Harris is to be one if he shall prove himself worthy (Introduction to Section 5).

"And you have a gift to translate the plates; **and this is the first gift that I bestowed upon you**; and I have commanded that you should pretend to no other gift **until my purpose is fulfilled in this**; for I will grant unto you no other gift **until it is finished**" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 5:4).

"Revelation given to Joseph Smith the Prophet, and Oliver Cowdery, at Harmony, Pennsylvania, April, 1829, when they inquired through the Urim and Thummim as to whether John, the beloved disciple, tarried in the flesh or had died. The revelation is the translated version of the record made on parchment by John and hidden up by himself" (Introduction to Section 7).

"And the Lord said unto me: John, my beloved, what desirest thou? **For if you shall ask what you will, it shall be granted unto you.**

"And I said unto him: Lord, give unto me power **over death**, that I may **live** and bring souls unto thee.

"And the Lord said unto me: Verily, verily, I say unto thee, because thou desiredst this thou shalt tarry until I come in my glory, **and shalt prophesy before nations, kindreds, tongues and people.**

"And for this cause the Lord said unto Peter: If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? For he desired of me that he might bring souls unto me, but thou desiredst that thou mightest speedily come unto me in my kingdom.

"I say unto thee, Peter, this was a good desire; but my beloved has desired that he might do more, or a greater work yet among men than what he has before done.

"**Yea, he has undertaken a greater work; therefore I will make him as flaming fire and a ministering angel; he shall minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation who dwell on the earth.**

"**And I will make thee to minister for him and for thy brother James; and unto you three I will give this power and the keys of this ministry until I come.**

"Verily I say unto you, ye shall both have according to your desires, for ye both joy in that which ye have desired" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 7).

BOOK OF COMMANDMENTS
1833 EDITION

"And if you know that they are true, behold I give unto you a commandment, that you rely upon the things which are written; for in them are all things written, concerning my church, my gospel, and my rock.

"Wherefore if you shall build up my church, and my gospel, and my rock, the gates of hell shall not prevail against you" (*Book of Commandments* 15:3-4).

A Commandment to the Church of Christ, given in Harmony, Pennsylvania, September 4, 1830 (Introduction to Section 28).

"Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Lord, your God and your Redeemer, whose word is quick and powerful.

"For behold I say unto you, that it mattereth not what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, when ye partake of the sacrament, if it so be that ye do it with an eye single to my glory;

"Remembering unto the Father my body which was laid down for you, and my blood which was shed for the remission of your sins:

"Wherefore a commandment I give unto you, that you shall not purchase wine, neither strong drink of your enemies:

"Wherefore you shall partake of none, except it is made new among you, yea, in this my Father's kingdom which shall be built upon the earth.

"Behold this is wisdom in me, wherefore marvel not, for the hour cometh that I will drink of the fruit of the vine with you, on the earth, and with all those whom my Father hath given me out of the world:

"Wherefore lift up your hearts and rejoice, and gird up your loins and be faithful until I come: even so. Amen" (*Book of Commandments* 28:1-7).

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS
CURRENT EDITION

(Highlighted words show words added to the current edition.)

"And if you know that they are true, behold, I give unto you a commandment, that you rely upon the things which are written;

"For in them are all things written concerning **the foundation of my church, my gospel, and my rock.**"

"Wherefore, if you shall build up my church, upon the foundation of my gospel and my rock the gates of hell shall not prevail against you" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 18:3-5).

"Revelation given to Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Harmony, Pennsylvania, August, 1830. In preparation for a religious service at which the sacrament of bread and wine was to be administered. Joseph set out to procure wine for the occasion. He was met by a heavenly messenger, and received this revelation, the first four paragraphs of which were written at the time, and the remainder in the September following. Water is commonly used instead of wine in the sacramental services of the Church—Warning against the use of wine of unassured purity in the sacrament—Many ancient prophets named, with whom, as with the Latter-day prophets, the Lord promises to partake at a time yet to come—The prior ordination of Joseph Smith, Jun., and Oliver Cowdery to the Apostleship Avowed—encouraging admonition given" (Introduction to Section 27).

"Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Lord, your God, and your Redeemer, whose word is quick and powerful.

"For, behold, I say unto you, that it mattereth not what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink when ye partake of the sacrament, if it so be that ye do it with an eye single to my glory—remembering unto the Father my body which was laid down for you, and my blood which was shed for the remission of your sins.

"Wherefore, a commandment I give unto you, that you shall not purchase wine neither strong drink of your enemies;

"Wherefore, you shall partake of none except it is made new among you; yea, in this my Father's kingdom which shall be built up on the earth.

"Behold, this is wisdom in me; wherefore, marvel not, for the hour cometh that I will drink of the fruit of the vine with you on the earth, **and with Moroni, whom I have sent unto you to reveal the Book of Mormon, containing the fulness of my everlasting gospel, to whom I have committed the keys of the record of the stick of Ephraim**" (*Doctrine and Covenants* 27:1-5).

Eleven verses have been added to the original 7. However, space does not allow the printing of the entire section of *Doctrine and Covenants* 27.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

ORIGINAL EDITION

(Only those articles that have been changed are included.)

4. We believe that these ordinances are: 1st, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; 2nd, Repentance; 3rd, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; 4th, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Spirit; 5th, The Lord's Supper.

5. We believe that men must be called of God by inspiration, and by laying on of hands by those who are duly commissioned to preach the Gospel, and administer in the ordinances thereof.

7. We believe in the powers and gifts of the everlasting Gospel, viz., the gift of faith, discerning of spirits, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues, wisdom, charity, brotherly love, etc.

8. We believe in the Word of God recorded in the Bible; we also believe the Word of God recorded in the Book of Mormon, and in all other good books.

9. We believe all that God has revealed; all that he does now reveal; and we believe that he will yet reveal many more great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God, and Messiah's second coming.

11. We believe in the literal resurrection of the body, and that the dead in Christ will rise first, and that the rest of the dead live not again until the thousand years are expired.

CURRENT EDITION

4. We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: First, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; Second, Repentance; Third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; Fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

5. We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands, by those who are in authority to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.

7. We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.

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.

9. We believe all that God has revealed, all that he does now reveal, and we believe that he will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

(In the current edition, the original Article of Faith, number 11, was eliminated, leaving 13 Articles out of an original 14.)

JOSEPH SMITH VERSUS JESUS

A COMPARISON OF STATEMENTS MADE BY JOSEPH SMITH WITH THOSE OF JESUS CONCERNING THE SAME SUBJECTS

JOSEPH SMITH SAID:

"I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 370).

"Salvation cannot come without revelation; it is in vain for anyone to minister without it. No man is a minister of Jesus Christ without being a prophet" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 160).

"A murderer, for instance, one that sheds innocent blood, cannot have forgiveness" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 339).

"This doctrine presents in a clear light the wisdom and mercy of God in preparing an ordinance for the salvation of the dead, being baptized by proxy, their names recorded in heaven and they judged according to the deeds done in the body. This doctrine was the burden of the scriptures" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 193).

"I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. 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" (*History of the Church*, Vol. 6, pp. 408-409).

"No official member in this Church is worthy to hold an office after having the Word of Wisdom (the abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, coffee, and tea) properly taught him; and he, the official member, neglecting to comply with and obey it" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 117).

JESUS SAID:

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

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:33-34).

"And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:30-31).

"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).

"Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man" (Matthew 15:11).

(Highlighted words show differences between Joseph's words and those of Jesus.)

JOSEPH SMITH SAID:

"I have another subject to dwell upon, which is **calculated to exalt man**; but it is impossible for me to say much on this subject. I shall therefore just touch upon it, for time will not permit me to say all. It is associated with the subject of the resurrection of the dead,—namely, the soul—the mind of man—the immortal spirit. Where did it come from? All learned men and doctors of divinity say that God created it in the beginning; but it is not so: the very idea lessens man in my estimation. I do not believe the doctrine; I know better. Hear it, all ye ends of the world; for God has told me so; and if you don't believe me, it will not make the truth without effect. I will make a man appear a fool before I get through; if he does not believe it. I am going to tell of things more noble" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 352).

"I told Stephen Markham that if I and Hyrum were ever taken again we should be massacred, or I was not a prophet of God. I want Hyrum to live **to avenge** my blood, but he is determined not to leave me" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith pp. 376-377).

"Look at Heb. vi: 1 contradictions—'Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection.' If a man leaves the principles of the doctrine of Christ, how can he be saved in the principles? This is a contradiction. I don't believe it. **I will render it as it should be**—'Therefore not leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment,' (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 328).

JESUS SAID:

"**For whosoever exalteth himself** shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 14:11).

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. But I say unto you, **Love your enemies**, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:38,39,44).

"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:19).

JOSEPH SMITH SAID:

"It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!" (*Pearl of Great Price*, Joseph Smith — History 2:17).

"But they shall be heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. What is it? To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation, until you arrive at the **station of a God**, and ascend the throne of eternal power, the same as those who have gone before" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 347).

JESUS SAID:

"And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, Lo, he is there; believe him not: For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things. But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:21-26,37).

"And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day" (Luke 17:23-24).

"At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them. And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and **become as little children**, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall, **humble himself as this little child**, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:1-4).

CORNERSTONE OF THE LATTER-DAY SAINT CHURCH

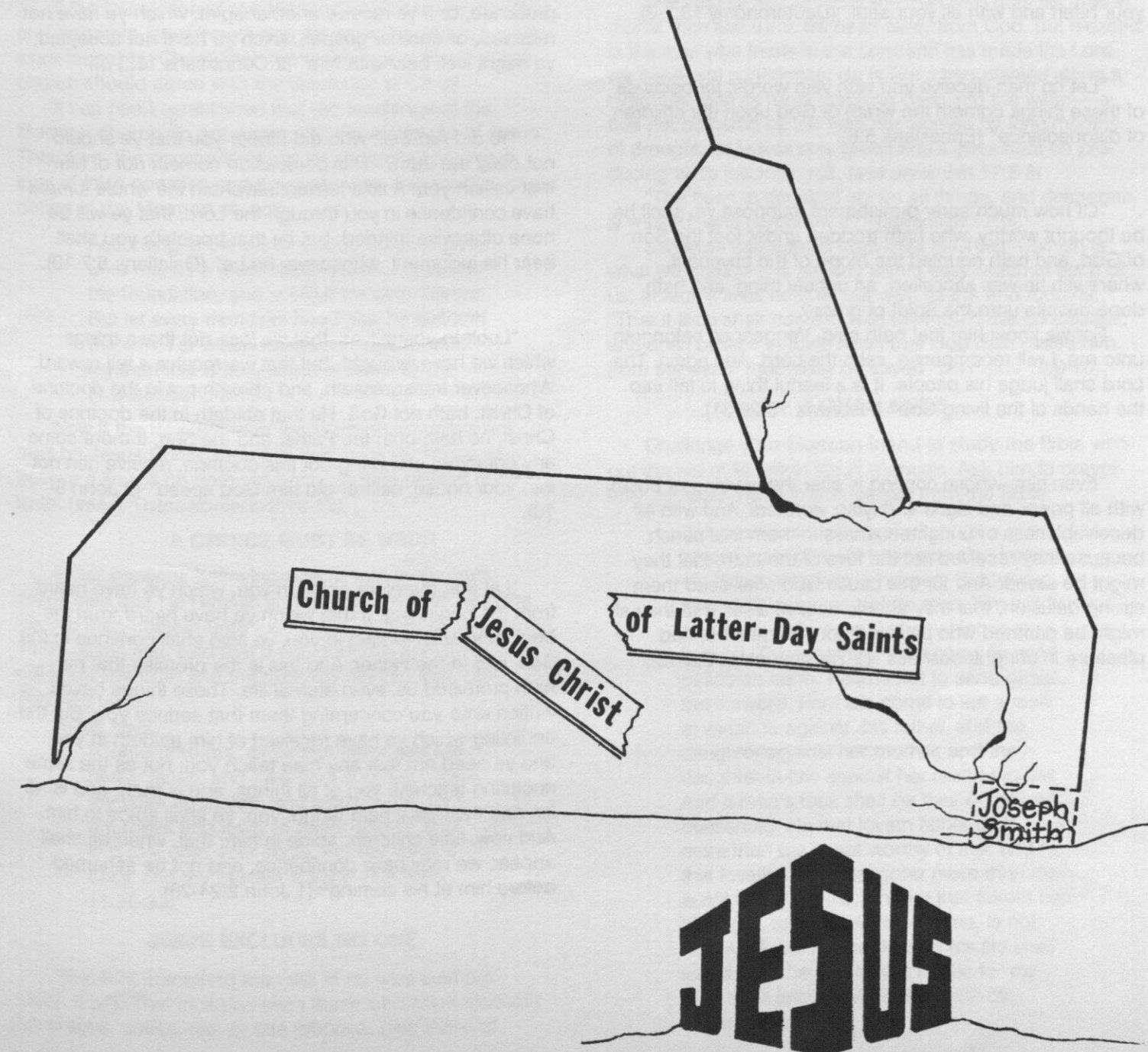
The Mormon church claims their cornerstone is Jesus Christ. Yet it is obvious by the foregoing presentation that the Mormon church's chief cornerstone is Joseph Smith. If the chief cornerstone is Jesus, then Mormon doctrine would be filled with His words. Instead, Mormon doctrine is filled with Joseph Smith's words. Jesus' words and Joseph Smith's words do not agree.

Brigham Young said that we must have Joseph Smith's consent for entrance into heaven (*Journal of Discourses*,

Vol. VII, p. 289).

Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

"This is the stone [Jesus] which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:11-12).



CONSEQUENCES OF ACCEPTING MORMONISM

"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" (Deuteronomy 13:1-3).

"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 5:6).

"Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:29-31).

"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12).

REWARDS OF REJECTING MORMONISM

"The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going" (Proverbs 14:15).

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him" (2 Corinthians 11:3-4).

"Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be" (Galatians 5:7-10).

"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed" (2 John 8-10).

"Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming" (1 John 2:24-28).

We have established in the preceding pages that Mormon doctrine does not agree with the Bible. Biblical Christianity is based solely on the Bible. The Mormon church claims to be founded on biblical Christianity as shown by the *Article of Faith*, number 6 which states: "We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, viz., apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc."

If the Mormon church claims to be based on biblical Christianity, and biblical Christianity is wrong (all creeds are wrong according to Joseph Smith, *Pearl of Great Price*, Joseph Smith - History 2:19), then the Mormon church can't be right either.

If the foundation of the Mormon church is the apostles and prophets, as claimed, and the apostles and prophets were taught by Christ, then the teachings of the Mormon church should agree with the teachings of Christ.

It has been established that the teachings of the Mormon church do not agree with the teachings of Jesus. Therefore, the conclusion must be made that the teachings of false apostles and prophets were used as the foundation of the Mormon church.

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:10-11).

Now if the foundation of the Mormon church is not built on Jesus Christ, then it is built on a lie. Those who believe a lie will be damned because they believe not the truth. (see 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12)

A CHOICE MUST BE MADE

Either continue believing a lie or turn to the truth. Jesus said that He Himself is "the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father, except by me" (John 14:6). Jesus also said that if you continue in His Word, you will know the truth and the truth will set you free. (see John 8:31-32)

Jesus says,

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

JESUS EXCLUDES NO ONE.

"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). That includes even those who drink alcoholic beverages, coffee, tea, or use tobacco. (see Word of

Wisdom, p. 23) He said He did not come to call the righteous but the sinner to repentance. (see Mark 2:17)

Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

He extends this invitation to all—but each person must personally invite Him in.

A choice must be made by each Mormon, either to trust Jesus with the care of his soul for eternity, or to trust in the precepts and doctrine of man. Matthew 15:9 says: "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

The Lord says: Cursed is the man who puts his trust in mortal man and turns his heart away from God. But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and has made the Lord his hope and confidence. He is like a tree planted along a riverbank, with its roots reaching deep into the water—a tree not bothered by the heat nor worried by long months of drought. Its leaves stay green and it goes right on producing all its luscious fruit. (see Jeremiah 17:5-8)

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9).

Salvation that comes from trust in Christ—which is what we preach—is already within easy reach of each of us; in fact, it is as near as our own hearts and mouths. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9-10).

A CHALLENGE

Challenge your Mormon friend to study the Bible without the aid of Mormon study manuals. Ask him to prayerfully consider the following verses from the Bible:

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it" (Matthew 10:32-39, emphasis added).

SINCERITY IS NOT ENOUGH!

In Philipians 3 Paul tells of how he tried to earn salvation by trying to be good. He obeyed every Jewish law and custom. He was so sincere in his belief that he was right, that he did everything he could to persecute the Christians. But all the things he thought were worthwhile, he renounced to put all his trust and hope in Christ alone. He no longer counted on being saved by being good enough or by obeying God's laws, but by trusting Christ to save him. For God's way of making us right with Himself depends on faith—counting on Christ alone.

The Mormons have been deceived in the same way Paul was before his conversion, believing their status in heaven depends upon how good they are and how well they obey the laws and ordinances of the Mormon church. Challenge your Mormon friend to take a look at what he considers righteous and then to look at Jesus, study about Him, and finally trust in Him alone to save. God bless you in your concern for, and in reaching out to those lost in Mormonism.

If you have found this booklet helpful and have further questions, please feel free to write us in care of Concerned Christians, Inc., P.O. Box 18, Mesa Arizona 85211.
Telephone: 480-833-2LDS

Web site: **www.ConcernedChristians.org**
We also have speakers available.

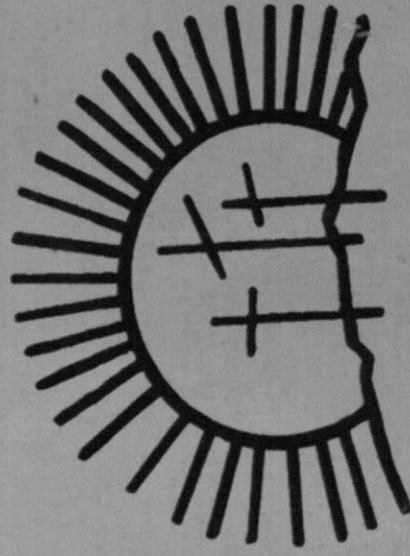
Some of us have gone through what you may be experiencing right now. It is our desire to help in any way we can. God loves you and so do we.

-CONCERNED CHRISTIANS, INC.

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Witness to Mormons



by Concerned Christians