

# The Choice: Mormonism or the Bible, Joseph Smith or Jesus Christ

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

Hebrews 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Dear Mormons and Latter Day Saints, please choose today to look at what you believe and what you have been taught with an open mind. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of our faith, yet Mormonism places an immense amount of faith in the writings of Joseph Smith and other Mormon so-called prophets. Please read this entire tract with an open mind and an honest heart. You have nothing to lose by reading this. If you are right, then you are right. If you are wrong, then make the right decision today before it is eternally too late.

1 John 4:1 commands us to question every spirit to see if they are of God. Joseph Smith was a false prophet, and I pray that this tract will help you understand this. If this pamphlet does not change your mind, at the very least, I pray that it will cause you to further examine your faith.

To believe that the teachings of Mormonism compliment and fit together with the Bible is completely illogical. Such people who promote this belief are either ignorant of what the Bible says or are deceitful. The Bible is The Word of God. It was sent from God. It is inspired by God. The Book of Mormon is nothing more than a book of fantasy. It has no redeeming spiritual value, it has no connection with actual history, and above all—it is completely contrary to the teachings of the Bible.

## Preface

Some who read this pamphlet, whether Mormon or not, may judge it to be too judgmental. To this accusation there are two easy answers: (1) The Bible does not prohibit casting judgment; it only prohibits hypocrites from judging (Matt. 7). In fact, the Bible tells us to rebuke in II Tim. 4:2 and I Tim. 5:20, judge in I Cor. 2:15, mark in Phil. 3:17-18, and to "earnestly contend for the faith" in Jude 3-4. (2) Readers of this pamphlet should understand that Mormonism is one of the most judgmental and exclusive religions in the world. Mormon doctrine teaches that Mormonism is the only way, and that those who do not believe Joseph Smith and his words are antichrists. Here is a quote from the second Mormon prophet Brigham Young:

"...and he that confesseth not that Jesus has come in the flesh and sent Joseph Smith with the fullness of the Gospel to this generation, is not of God, but is Antichrist," (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 9, pg. 312).

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1 Corinthians 14:33 "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

One of the most confusing conversations you can have is with someone attempting to explain the great number of major doctrinal differences between Mormonism and the Bible. The Book of Mormon is said to be "another testament of Jesus Christ," however, Hebrews 13:8 tells us that Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." The Jesus of the Book of Mormon is not the Jesus of the Bible, and the doctrine taught in the Book of Mormon is not the doctrine of the Bible. God is NOT the author of this confusion because God had no hand in the authoring of the Book of Mormon.

### **Contradictions between Mormonism and the Bible**

#### **You must work for salvation?**

Mormon doctrine teaches (Articles of Faith 1:3) that mankind is saved "by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel."

To understand how the quote above is interpreted by most Mormons, one must understand that Mormons believe in two different salvations. The first salvation which is often referred to as "general salvation" is the salvation which Mormons believe all men receive by grace alone, however, this salvation only means that the dead are resurrected.

"All men are saved by grace alone without any act on their part, meaning they are resurrected" (Bruce McConkie, *What Mormons Think of Christ*, LDS tract, pg.28).

The second Mormon salvation, commonly called "individual salvation" or "exaltation", is what allegedly establishes an individual's home in heaven and this salvation is based on works. Such works include, water baptism and membership in a Mormon church, good deeds, temple rituals, etc.

Spencer W. Kimball, who was the Mormon prophet from 1973 to 1985, made the following comment:

"living all the commandments guarantees total forgiveness of sins and assures one of exaltation...trying is not sufficient. Nor is repentance when one merely tries to abandon sin" (*The Miracle of Forgiveness*, pg. 164-165, 354-355).

"And, if you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God." (Mormon *Doctrines and Covenants*, 14:7)

Joseph Fielding Smith, prophet from 1970-1972, wrote:

"In order to obtain the exaltation we must accept the gospel and all its covenants; and take upon us the obligations which the Lord has offered; and walk in the light and understanding of the truth; and 'live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God' " (*Doctrines of Salvation*, 2:43).

This belief is in direct contradiction with the Bible which teaches that salvation by grace through faith alone is what grants individuals forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and a home in heaven. Furthermore, any man who is trusting in his obedience to the law or in works for salvation is not truly born again.

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

Galations 2:21 "I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."

Romans 3:24-28 "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

John 3:15 "That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Isaiah 64:6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags..."

According to the Bible, the very best actions that man can do are nothing more than dirty rags in the eyes of God in respect to salvation. Faith is the requirement for eternal salvation, not the following of laws and the performing of works as Mormonism teaches.

### **Water baptism washes sins away?**

Mormon scriptures and prophets teach baptism by immersion for the remission of sins (Articles of Faith 1:4). The Bible, however, is quite clear that only through faith in the blood of Christ comes remission of sins and that there is no physical act or work that can take away sin.

Eph. 2:8-9 "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."

Heb. 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

According to the Bible, we are saved by faith, and faith involves things that cannot be seen. How then could being baptized have anything to do with salvation? You can see a baptismal pool.

The apostle Peter explains to us in the verse below that water baptism does NOT put away the filth of the flesh, so Mormons are in complete contradiction with the Bible to state that water baptism is for the remission of sins.

I Pet. 3:21 "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

The thief on the cross received salvation simply by believing that he was a sinner worthy of punishment and that Jesus Christ was the perfect son of God. He was not baptized by water, yet received salvation anyway.

Hebrews 9:22 "...without shedding of blood is no remission."

Only belief in what Christ did on the cross is required for the remission of sins.

Note: Mormons often cling to John 3:5 "...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit" as proof that water baptism is needed for salvation. This belief is absurd when the verse is read in context. The water birth spoken of in this chapter is clearly speaking of the actual birth of a person into this world. Jesus is teaching that people must be born twice, once from the mother's womb and the other of the spiritual nature.

### **Baptism for the dead?**

Mormons believe that only those who are baptized by Mormon authorities receive salvation. However, to compensate for the fact that this belief sounds pretty narrow and exclusive, Joseph Smith contended that baptism by proxy, or baptism for the dead, could grant salvation to friends and relatives who were already deceased.

The Bible, in all of its 66 books, references the term baptizing for the dead only once, yet this is a major doctrine of the Mormon Church. In, I Corinthians 15:29, Paul uses this phrase only in the context of making the point that there is no use to take the place and join the cause of martyred Christians if there is no resurrection of the dead (I Cor. 15:13).

The Bible is quite clear that as soon as a person dies they go immediately to heaven or hell. There is no in-between location where people can wait for some brainwashed Mormon to be baptized in their name.

Luke 16:22b-23 "...the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments..."

When the rich man died he went straight to hell. Note: this passage in Luke 16 cannot be speaking of a parable because none of the parables of Jesus ever reference actual people, yet this passage mentions three (Abraham, Lazarus, and Moses).

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

II Corinthians 5:8 "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

Furthermore, if all that is needed for non-believing friends and relatives to receive eternal life is for someone to be baptized in their name, then the need for individuals to have the personal faith and belief in Christ talked about in the Bible is pointless.

John 3:14-16 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 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."

The Bible does not say whosoever is baptized for shall have everlasting life, it says whosoever believes.

### **What is hell?**

Mormonism teaches that hell is a place of temporary suffering and guilt. Furthermore, most Mormons believe that hell is not a place of literal fire and physical pain (despite what Luke 16 teaches). Both of these beliefs are in opposition to what the Bible says.

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

Matthew 25:41 "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels"

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

Mark. 9:43 "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:"

Revelation 20:10 "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

### **Are there three heavens?**

Mormons have long referenced II Corinthians 12:2 which uses the term "third heaven" as Biblical proof for their prominent belief in three kingdoms of glory in heaven: Celestial, Terrestrial, and Telestial. It should be noted, however, that the three heavens that the Bible teaches are in no way like the three heavens described in Mormon doctrine. The first heaven, which Jer. 4:25 and Rev. 19:17 say birds fly through and that humans can see with their eyes in Psalm 19:1, is simply earth's atmosphere (the sky). The second heaven, which Genesis 22:17 teaches contains the stars, is the universe (space). And the third heaven or the highest heaven; as taught in Deut. 10:14, Job 22:12, and II Cor. 12:2; is God's abode.

### **What is the nature of God?**

"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's" (*Mormon Doctrine and Covenants* 130:22)

Another mainstream Mormon doctrine is that God the Father has a body of flesh and bones. This belief does not line up with what the Bible teaches.

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

And what is a spirit according to the Bible?

Luke 24:39 "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have."

Interestingly enough, Mormon scriptures are in contradiction with one another on this topic as the Book of Mormon in Alma 18:2-5, 24-28, and 22:9-11 declares God is a spirit.

Furthermore, it is clear that God the father could never have been a human that turned into a spirit because the Bible states that God has never changed. Yet, despite what the Bible says, there are numerous quotes by Mormon leaders explaining how God is an exalted man.

This quote is from Joseph Smith:

"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted Man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens. That is the great secret... It is the first principle of the Gospel to know for a certainty the character of God and to know...that he was once a man like us. Here, then, is eternal life--to know that only wise and true God, and you have got to learn how to become Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you. .. God himself, the father of us all dwelt on an earth the same as Jesus Christ." (*Journal of Discourses* 6:3-4)

Along with Joseph Smith, the prophets and apostles Orson Pratt, Brigham Young, and Bruce McConkie, also taught that God the father was once a mere man like you and I. Today many Mormon leaders attempt to deny the teachings of past prophets on this matter, but their attempts are futile because of the plethora of quotes available. There is no getting around it, Mormons have taught that God was once a man—which completely contradicts what the Bible says. To believe in Mormonism one must choose to believe the prophets or the Bible because it is clear that it is impossible to believe both.

Psalms 90:2 "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."

Revelation 22:13 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

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

### **God the Father actually had sex with Mary?**

Although most Mormons attempt to deny this as a church doctrine, it is a documented fact that Brigham Young, who served as the prophet from 1847 to 1877 and is revered as the second most important figure in Church history, taught God the Father had sexual relations with Mary.

Here are a couple of Young's blasphemous quotes:

"When the time came that His first-born, the Saviour, should come into the world and take a tabernacle, the Father came Himself and favoured that spirit with a tabernacle instead of letting any other man do it," (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 4, pg. 218).

"The birth of the Savior was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and blood -- was begotten of his Father, as we were of our fathers." (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 8, pg. 115)

The Bible in Matthew chapter one twice states that Mary's unborn child was of the Holy Ghost. Young completely denied this:

"I have given you a few leading items upon this subject, but a great deal more remains to be told. Now, remember from this time forth, and for ever, that Jesus Christ was not begotten by the Holy Ghost." (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 1, pg. 51).

The definition of a prophet includes inerrancy. A prophet cannot be wrong even once, or he is more of a guesser than a prophet. For Mormons to say that Brigham Young was just wrong in this point is to say that Young was not an actual prophet—this would be a definite blow to Mormonism, however, considering Young's influence on the church.

### **There are multiple gods?**

Another mainstream Mormon doctrine which contradicts the Bible is teaching of multiple gods. In fact, Mormon doctrine teaches that humans can become gods as well, and Brigham Young taught that to become a god is the purpose for which God the Father created us.

In Joseph Smith's Pearl of Great Price, the book of Abraham uses the term "Gods" over 40 times, and teaches us in chapter 4 that "Gods" created the earth.

Joseph Smith also said the following:

"The doctrine of a plurality of Gods is prominent in the Bible. The heads of the Gods appointed our God for us..." (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pg. 372).

And the Mormon apostle Orson Pratt added, "there are more gods than there are particles of matter" (*Journal of Discourses*, vol.2, pg. 345).

This is another example of a Mormon doctrine blatantly contradicting the Bible.

I Tim. 2:5 "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

Eph. 4:5-6 "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all..."

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

Isaiah 46:9 "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,"

And no... It is impossible for humans to become gods according to the Bible.

Isaiah 43:10 "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."

Oddly enough, even the Book of Mormon contradicts the Mormon belief that there are multiple gods.

Alma 11:28-31 "Now Zeezrom said: Is there more than one God? And he answered, No. Now Zeezrom said unto him again: How knowest thou these things? And he said: An angel hath made them known unto me"

### **The Trinity as taught in I John 5:7**

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

This verse is probably one of the most misquoted verses in the history of the Bible. Mormons cannot help but finish the verse as "these three are one... in purpose." The Bible does not say "in purpose" though, and to add these words is unbiblical. Mormons do this as a means to negate the fact that the Bible teaches that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are the composition of one God. Admittedly, this is a difficult concept for the human brain to grasp, yet this is no reason for Mormons to go against what the Bible says.

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

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ and The everlasting Father are one. Here are just four of many verses which prove this:

Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Colossians 2:9 "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

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

Matthew 1:13 "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

The very fact that Jesus is called God should be enough to convince Mormons of the Trinity because the Bible clearly states "there is one God" in I Tim. 2:5.

### **Will some people remain married to each other in heaven?**

While many Mormon doctrines seem to come and go and evolve with time and as needed, one teaching that has remained constant from the founding of the church until today is that a man and woman who are married in the temple can be married to one another for eternity. The Bible explicitly contradicts this claim.

Matthew 22:30 "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven."

Mark 12:25 "For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven."

Luke 20:34-35 "And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:"

## **Racism**

The Bible is clear that race and skin color have absolutely no bearing on spiritual matters at all.

Acts 17:26b "...And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth,"

Acts 10:34-35 "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."

Mormon doctrine regarding race, on the other hand, is convoluted and seems to evolve with the times. It wasn't until 1978 the LDS church declared God had removed the curse and that black men could now receive the priesthood. This decision arrived at by LDS President, Spencer W. Kimball, was in direct contradiction with the renowned Mormon prophet Brigham Young who stated that the curse upon black men would not be removed until after this life at the resurrection (*Journal of Discourses*, 7:290-91).

The 1970s prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, 10th president of the LDS Church, was also very vocal about his racist beliefs.

"Not only was Cain called upon to suffer, but because of his wickedness he became the father of an inferior race. A curse was placed upon him and that curse has been continued through his lineage and must do so while time endures. Millions of souls have come into this world cursed with black skin and have been denied the privilege of Priesthood and the fullness of the blessings of the Gospel. These are the descendants of Cain. Moreover, they have been made to feel their inferiority and have been separated from the rest of mankind from the beginning... we will also hope that blessings may eventually be given to our Negro brethren, for they are our brethren--children of God---notwithstanding their black covering emblematical of eternal darkness (*The Way to Perfection*, pg. 101-02, emphasis added).

Many other Mormon authorities including, LDS apostles Mark E. Peterson, Bruce R. McConkie, and Orson Pratt, also contended that blacks are a fallen and cursed race that is unworthy of the priesthood—and they too believed that the curse would not be removed during this life.

The Mormon Church has officially changed its stance on blacks, but this does not negate the fact that the Book of Mormon is still one of the most racist books on earth. The Bible never states that skin color is a curse, but the Book of Mormon has multiple references to this. Here are just a few:

Alma 3:6 "And the skins of the Lamanites were dark, according to the mark which was set upon their fathers, which was a curse upon them because of their transgression and their rebellion."

3 Nephi 2:14-16 "Lamanites who had united with the Nephites were numbered among the Nephites; And their curse was taken from them, and their skin became white like unto the Nephites and...became exceedingly fair..."

Jacob 3:5 (Lamanites cursed) "whom ye hate because of their filthiness and the cursing which hath come upon their skins..."

## **Factual differences between the Book of Mormon and Bible**

The Bible says that disciples of Christ were first called Christians in Antioch at around 40 A.D., yet the Book of Mormon teaches that Nephites were called Christians around 73 B.C.

Acts 11:26 "And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."

Alma 46:13-16 "And those who did belong to the church were faithful; yea, all those who were true believers in Christ took upon them, gladly, the name of Christ, or Christians as they were called, because of their belief in Christ who should come. And therefore, at this time, Moroni prayed that the cause of the Christians, and the freedom of the land might be favored."

One of many other factual differences regards how long darkness was upon the earth when Christ died. The Bible says three hours, the Book of Mormon says three days.

Luke 23:34 "And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour."

Heleman 14:20-27 "But behold, as I said unto you concerning another sign, a sign of his death, behold, in that day that he shall suffer death the sun shall be darkened and refuse to give his light unto you; and also the moon and the stars; and there shall be no light upon the face of this land, even from the time that he shall suffer death, for the space of three days, to the time that he shall rise again from the dead... And he said unto me that while the thunder and the lightning lasted, and the tempest, that these things should be, and that darkness should cover the face of the whole earth for the space of three days."

Another difference is that the Book of Mormon in Alma 7:10 prophesies that Jesus will be born in Jerusalem, while the Bible teaches that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Mormons will often defend this point by saying that Jerusalem is close to Bethlehem, but what good is a prophesy if it is only close to being right?

### **Are the words of God preserved completely and accurately in the Bible?**

"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." (*Mormon Articles of Faith* 1:8)

Joseph Smith, in disregard of the four following verses, believed the Bible as seen in the King James Version (or any other version of his day for that matter) was not translated correctly at all.

Psa. 12:6-7 "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."

I Peter 1:23-25 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the Word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

Matt. 24:35 "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

Matt. 5:17-19 "...Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled..."

Despite these promises that God's word will last forever and that no parts of it will be lost, Joseph Smith was so confident that the King James Version of the Bible had errors in it that he made his own revised edition of the KJV which he called the Inspired Version. This revision contains at least 3,400 verse omissions, additions and rearrangements. Joseph Smith's adding and subtracting to the word of God goes completely against what the Bible commands us.

Deuteronomy 4:2 "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."

Proverbs 30:5-6 "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."

Revelation 22:18 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:"

A common defense used by Mormons is that these verses mean people should not add or subtract from the books of Deuteronomy, Proverbs, and Revelation. While this defense is false, because each of these verses is talking about the words of God in general (and II Tim. 3:16 tells us that all scripture is given by inspiration of God), it is also an argument which is not applicable given the fact the Joseph Smith made changes to each of these three books including over 80 changes to the book of Revelation!

Put bluntly, Joseph Smith thought he was above the Bible and that he did not have to obey its commandments. The worst part of this however, is that Mormons continue to believe this disobedient and false prophet today.

Under the leadership of Joseph Smith III, the Inspired Version was first published in 1867. It has since had many corrections and revisions. In 1979, the LDS church published a KJV which included the "inspired revisions" of Joseph Smith as footnotes and in an appendix.

Ironically, despite countless claims by Joseph Smith and other Mormon leaders that the Inspired Version restored lost parts of scripture and corrected errors which had crept into the Bible through time, the Mormon Church predominately uses a KJV which only has Joseph Smith's "corrections" in the margins.

Jude 1:3 "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

This verse in Jude makes it clear to Christians that "the faith" has already been delivered, and that it was delivered once. The Book of Mormon, the Inspired Version, and all other Mormon "scriptures" are nothing more than man-made fairytales. The complete words of God did not pass away for 2,000 years and then return in the Inspired Version.

While Joseph Smith clearly believed the Bible to have errors, he was quick to praise the Book of Mormon as the most accurate book on earth. A quick glance at the Book of Mormon, however, proves otherwise.

"I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book." – Joseph Smith

### **Changes to the Book of Mormon**

Since it was first published in 1830, there have been over 3,900 changes made to the Book of Mormon. Mormon leaders have tried to conceal this fact for years, and Mormons today are shocked when they learn of it. The alterations include changes to words, the spelling of words, sentence structure, and the complete meaning of verses. Multiple revised editions have been published including new editions in 1837, 1840, 1841, 1879, 1920, and 1981.

In response, some Mormons point to the KJV Bible and say that it has been changed over time as well. However, this point carries very little weight considering the only changes the KJV has received were made to reflect the shift from the Middle English used in 1611 to Modern English.

On the other hand, the English language has changed very little since 1830, so this answer does not work for why the Book of Mormon has continued to change over the years. The defense, "all the changes are minor" also does not work. Many of the changes to the Book of Mormon are of huge doctrinal significance.

Here are just a few of the changes made to the Book of Mormon:

I Nephi, pg. 25 (1830): "Behold, the virgin which thou seest, is the mother of God..."

I Nephi 11:18 (today): "Behold, the virgin which thou seest is the mother of the Son of God..."

I Nephi, pg. 25 (1830): "...behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Eternal Father!"

I Nephi 11:21 (today): "...yea, even the Son of the Eternal Father!"

Mosiah, pg. 200 (1830): "...on learning from the mouth of Ammon that king Benjamin had a gift from God..."

Mosiah 21:28 (today): "...on learning from the mouth of Ammon that king Mosiah had a gift from God..."

While the Book of Mormon has been changed many times, there still are some verses in the text which leave even the most devout Mormons scratching their heads. Here's one such example which gives us a story of a headless man rising up on his hands.

Ether 15:30-31: " And it came to pass that when Coriantumr had leaned upon his sword, that he rested a little, he smote off the head of Shiz. And it came to pass that after he had smitten off the head of Shiz, that Shiz raised up on his hands and fell; and after that he struggled for breath, he died."

## **Contradictions between Mormonism and History:**

Mormon teachers contend that Joseph Smith was simply another prophet sent by God. They contend that Joseph Smith is similar to the prophets and writers of the Bible such as Moses, Isaiah, Amos, and so on. However, one major difference between the writers of the Bible and Joseph Smith is the fact that historical evidence ALWAYS matches the accounts given in the Bible, yet there is no historical or archeological evidence whatsoever to validate the accounts of the Book of Mormon. The civilizations, kings, wars, and technology referenced in the Bible are always backed by archeological evidence and other historical documents. The Book of Mormon, on the other hand, and its numerous civilizations, kings, wars, and technology are nowhere to be found in archeological searches or recorded history.

### **No archeological evidence for cities, buildings, weapons, and technology spoken of in the Book of Mormon**

Alma 1:7 “The whole face of the land had become covered with buildings, and the people were as numerous almost, as it were the sand of the sea.”

The Book of Mormon teaches that the “whole face” of the land was covered with buildings, yet no archeological evidence for these buildings has ever been found. It seems the only person to find evidence of these civilizations was Joseph Smith himself who miraculously found the gold plates in New York. Mysteriously, the golden plates from which he allegedly translated the Book of Mormon, like all other remains from Mormon history, seem to have disappeared.

There are also multiple references to large wars and various weapons. The passage below explains what some of the weapons were made out of (including steel which is mentioned five times in the Book of Mormon yet steel metallurgy wasn't invented until hundreds of years later). The fact that such materials as iron, copper, brass, and steel do not easily decompose leads experts to believe that archeological searches should be able to provide the evidence of such weapons—yet no evidence has ever been found.

Jarom 1:8 “And we multiplied exceedingly, and spread upon the face of the land, and became exceedingly rich in gold, and in silver, and in precious things, and in fine workmanship of wood, in buildings, and in machinery, and also in iron and copper, and brass and steel, making all manner of tools of every kind to till the ground, and weapons of war—yea, the sharp pointed arrow, and the quiver, and the dart, and the javelin, and all preparations for war.”

Also, Alma 37:38 teaches that the people used a compass in 73 B.C., however, the compass was not invented until around A.D. 1100.

### **Animals spoken of in Book of Mormon not possible**

The Book of Mormon teaches us that horses and asses (I Nephi 18:25) were in America in 589 B.C., and that honey bees were here around 2000 B.C. (Ether 2:3). However, it is a documented fact none of these were known to the Western Hemisphere around this time period until the Spanish introduced them in the 1500s. Ether 9:19 also teaches that elephants were part of the wildlife despite the fact that elephants are not native to America. Some Mormons try to answer this error by saying that perhaps the Jaredites brought animals in their boats when they first arrived, but this answer does not explain why the natives did not have horses when the Spanish arrived later in history. Why would all of the horses, and elephants for that matter, die off?

## **Contradictions between Mormonism and Science**

### **American Indians are not of Jewish ancestry**

The tribes spoken of in the Book of Mormon are said to have been of Jewish Ancestry. In addition, one of these tribes, the Lamenites, are reportedly the ancestors of Native Americans. However, many scientists are in agreement today that this Mormon belief cannot be true because the genetic makeup of Native Americans shows no signs of the distinctive genetic characteristics of Hebrew people. Genetic studies have led experts to believe that Native Americans share genetic information distinctive to Siberian Asians.

Along these same lines, because the people described in the Book of Mormon were of Hebrew ancestry and spoke Hebrew, logic would suggest that the language of Native Americans would show at least a slight resemblance to Hebrew. No such resemblance has ever been proven to exist.

## **All books in Book of Mormon written in same style**

When you read the Bible it is clear that many different authors wrote the 66 books. Unique words are used, specific areas of expertise are shown (for example the book of Luke contains more medical terms because it was written by Luke “the beloved physician”), and different writing styles are used. Experts have conducted computer analysis on the Book of Mormon, as well as the Pearl of Great Price, and have stated that these were all written by the same man. Joseph Smith was supposed to be simply the man who translated the writings of Mormon forefathers into English, yet evidence is clear that he simply concocted all of the words on his own.

## **Conclusion**

The Book of Mormon is backed by no physical or logical evidence and contains errors and contradictions. This should be alarming for Mormon followers.

However, the fact that Mormonism is a faith that evolves, contradicts itself, and contradicts the Bible should be even more frightening. One prophet says blacks cannot be priests, while another says they can, one prophet says men can have multiple wives, while another says they can't... The foundation of Mormonism appears to be built on sand which can bend, sink, and shape with the changing of time. The foundation of Christianity, on the other hand, is the Bible, a book that does not change and which teaches of a God that does not change or go against his own words.

When a Mormon prophet makes a new proclamation which is in direct contradiction with the words of the Bible, which will you believe? Will you believe the words of Jesus Christ, or follow the false prophet?

In the Bible's book of Galatians, the apostle Paul warns us about people who preach doctrine which is contrary or outside of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:6-9 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

The only thing mankind needs to glory in is Jesus Christ, yet Mormonism glories in Joseph Smith. Do not be deceived by Mormonism's false prophets and books of fiction.

Galatians 6:14 “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”

I pray that you will choose to put Jesus Christ and the Bible first and separate from the cult that is Mormonism. Become a true Bible believer!

**Logan Fowler**

Pioneer Baptist Church

[www.biblevslies.com](http://www.biblevslies.com)