

Dear Mr. Mormon,

I have not forgotten the meeting we had in the development last week. I appreciate the time we could talk about spiritual and eternal things. I would like to sincerely (not argumentatively) send you this attached document via email. If you want to get together some time for lunch, I'll buy. Feel free to respond to anything I've said. If you think I have misrepresented your beliefs let me know. There is some variation in beliefs among Mormons but also similarities. I have tried to be honest with the facts in all my research. This is because your faith is only as good as the factual truth that it rests upon. I welcome your interaction and response to these questions and comments. I share these things out of sincerity and not with the objective to win an argument or pick a fight. I do believe you have a zeal in what you are doing but it is a "zeal ... not according to knowledge" (Rom. 10:2). We can be sincere about something but sincerely wrong.

Here is a good definition of a Mormon.

"A Mormon is someone who accepts Joseph Smith as a prophet and the book of Mormon (translated from the Nephi Plates) as an inspired message from God."

Mr. Mormon, I know we do not believe the same things, nor do we have the same authority base, or even the same Christ. I have not been given false information about the Mormon Church as you suggested in our meeting. Obviously one of us is wrong. Mmmm!

Here's what Mormon leaders have told their members to do.

George Albert Smith: "If a faith will not bear to be investigated; if its preachers and professors are afraid to have it examined, their foundation must be very weak." *Journal of Discourses*, Volume 14, Page 216

John Taylor: "I think a full, free talk is frequently of great use; we want nothing secret nor underhanded, and I for one want no association with things that cannot be talked about and will not bear investigation." *Journal of Discourses*, Volume 20, Page 264.

Dr. Hugh Nibley: "The *Book of Mormon* can and should be tested. It invites criticism." *An Approach to The Book of Mormon*, 1957, p. 13.

Brigham Young: "Take up the *Bible*, compare the religion of the Latter-day Saints with it, and see if it will stand the test." *Journal of Discourses*, Volume 16, p. 46, 1873

Orson Pratt: "Convince us of our errors of Doctrine, if we have any, by reason, by logical arguments, or by the Word of God and we will ever be grateful for the information and you will ever have the pleasing reflections that you have been instruments in the hands of God of redeeming your fellow beings." *The Seer*, p. 15

Mr. Mormon, you have the green light to investigate your religious beliefs. If you truly believe in Mormonism you should be able to defend it.

Do you believe that factual truth or feeling is the basis of faith? If feeling is your final test for accuracy and truth, then I reject this existentialistic approach. As young men, you should be willing to look at something objectively (not subjectively) and weigh the evidence and facts. To conclude as many Mormons do, "Pray and see if the Book of Mormon is true and right for you" (James 1:5) is a purely subjective conclusion to Mormonism and does not get to the heart of the matter. James 1:5 is contextually talking about praying for wisdom to see God's purpose in earthly trials. It's not talking about praying for wisdom to know whether or not something is right when God already says it's wrong. One need not pray about matters that God has already given His verdict on! One does not need to pray about whether to commit murder, adultery, incest, terrorize a playground, and such like, for God's mind on these issues is clear from Scripture. I don't have to pray about accepting spiritism for God has already condemned it (Deut. 18:9) and accepting other gospels because the Bible already condemns them (Gal. 1:6-8). Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" I don't think you should be putting your faith in subjective feelings that come from the heart.

Mormon missionaries want you to have a feeling about the Book of Mormon after reading it. They'll tell you that you'll receive the witness

of the Holy Ghost in the form of a "burning in the bosom" - a warm, fuzzy feeling - after reading and praying about it. This feeling is the clincher for them. It's the real "proof" that the Book of Mormon is inspired Scripture, and everything else follows from that conclusion. But think about it. How often have you felt strongly about something or someone, only to learn your feelings were misguided? Feelings, although a part of our human makeup, can't be a yardstick in matters like this. After all, some people might get a good feeling after reading anything from the *Communist Manifesto* or the Yellow Pages. They could pray about such a feeling, and they could take the lingering of the feeling as some kind of divine approbation, but no such sensation will prove the inspiration of Marx's or Bell's writings.

Mr. Mormon, my faith does not rest on subjective feelings but objective facts. Faith has substance, evidence, and conviction based upon these two things (Heb. 11:1-2). Faith is not a blind leap into the dark but a reasonable and objective adherence to truth. The Bible also says we should "prove all things" (1 Thess. 5:21; Acts 17:10-12) and "try the spirits whether they are of God" (1 John 4:1) – not pray about them and see if they are okay. By the way, which Book of Mormon would you have me pray over? The 1830 edition? The 1921 edition? Or today's edition, which has over 4,000 changes from the original 1830 edition?

Although Mormon teachers boldly claim that their religion be tested they also boldly demand total obedience regardless whether they are right or wrong. The ward teacher's message for June, 1945, stated: "When our leaders speak, the thinking has been done. When they propose a plan--it is God's plan. When they point the way, there is no other which is safe. When they give direction, it should mark the end of controversy. God works in no other way. To think otherwise, without immediate repentance, may cost one his faith, may destroy his testimony, and leave him a stranger to the kingdom of God." (Improvement Era, June 1945, p. 354) Herber C. Kimball, First Councilor to Brigham Young, clarifies further: "But if you are told by your leader to do a thing, do it. None of your business whether it is right or wrong." (Journal of Discourses, vol. 6, p.32)

My point is this. I don't have to pray about Mormonism but evaluate Mormon doctrine on the basis of the absolute standard of truth – the

Bible. What I have been praying about is that both of you nice young men would be discerning and open your ears and heart to truth, so that the true Christ of Scripture can save you and make you fit for Heaven. There are many Mormons who do break with their Mormon ties and embrace the truth of evangelical Christianity and the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. In order to do this, you must override your "feelings" with truth for Jesus said that "the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32).

To the Mormon, the ultimate test that Mormonism is true is an "inner feeling." Mormons often refer to this feeling as a "burning in the bosom." They believe their scripture (Doctrine and Covenants 9:8) gives the best test for determining truth. This test reads: ". . .study it out in your mind; then you must ask me [the Lord] if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall FEEL that it is right." The Bible, on the other hand, tells us: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15).

Joseph Smith founder of the Mormon church, boasted of doing a greater "work" than the Lord Jesus. Joseph Smith made this incredible boast: "I have more to boast of than ever any man had. 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, Volume 6, Chapter 19, Page 408)

Joseph Smith is wrong. There are many who do leave the Mormon Church and embrace the true Jesus Christ and the Gospel plan of salvation. They become like beacon lights to their former friends in the Mormon movement seeking to win them to the true Jesus Christ presented in pages of the Bible. "What think ye of Christ?" (Matt. 22:44). This is the real issue at hand. We will need to talk about Jesus Christ in this presentation of truth and fact.

Do you embrace true evangelical Christianity? You use much of the same Christian terminology or vocabulary but have a different

definition and dictionary than evangelical Christianity uses for the meaning of Christian words. I think one of the key causes of confusion about the question of whether or not Mormonism can be considered "Christian" is that Mormons have appropriated many terms and expressions that Biblical Christianity uses, but have applied different and sometimes contradictory meanings to these terms and expressions. Until one is able to distinguish between the *meaning behind* the terminology, it is likely that the confusion will persist. It should also be noted that this same confusion extends even among Mormons themselves, who often do not have a clear understanding of what the Church has historically taught about various subjects.

One thing is certain. Your founding prophet and key leaders and teachers do not embrace the truth of evangelical Christianity. If you are following in their beliefs and are truly Mormon, then you cannot agree with Biblical evangelical Christianity.

Here is what Mormon leaders say.

- Brigham Young said that the "Christian God is the Mormon's Devil..." (*Journal of Discourses*, Volume 5, page 331).
- John Taylor said that Christianity was "hatched in hell" (*Journal of Discourses*, Volume 6, page 176) and "a perfect pack of nonsense...the Devil could not invent a better engine to spread his work..." (*Journal of Discourses*, Volume 6, page 167).
- Bruce R. McConkie said, "What is the church of the devil in our day, and where is the seat of her power?... It is all of the systems, both Christian and non-Christian, that perverted the pure and perfect gospel.... It is communism; it is Islam; it is Buddhism; it is modern Christianity in all its parts. It is Germany under Hitler, Russia under Stalin, and Italy under Mussolini." (*The Millennial Messiah*, pp. 54-55.)

Mormon history notoriously has despised the presentation of evangelical Christianity. They disguise their teaching behind Christian words and vocabulary but have a different definition and understanding of the words and truth concerning salvation, grace, Father, and Jesus Christ. Mormonism is "contrary to sound doctrine" (1 Tim. 1:10).

Do you believe that the Book of Mormon replaces the Bible as the final authority? If so, I strongly disagree with you. Joseph Smith once said that the Book of Mormon is “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 Fielding Smith, History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Salt Lake City; Deseret, 1973, 4:461). Mormons believe that the Book of Mormon is God’s uncorrupted revelation to humankind and that it is the “fullness of the everlasting gospel” and “another Testament of Jesus Christ.”

Joseph Smith considered the Christian church to be a false church. Because of this basic premise, the logical conclusion would be, if the church is false, then the source of its doctrine--the Bible--must be false as well. Therefore, one can better understand the motivation behind the eighth article of faith of the Mormon church: "We believe the Bible to be the word of God **as far as it is translated correctly.** ..."

Joseph Smith has, in effect, set the stage whereby he could write the Book of Mormon and claim it is superior to the Bible. He could also rewrite the King James Bible by adding to it and establishing his own personal theology. The Mormon church denounces the inerrancy of the Bible. They claim it is true only as it has been translated properly. Mormons actually believe that because of poor transmission, large portions of the Bible have been lost through the centuries. They also believe that portions of the Bible that have survived have become corrupted because of faulty handling. They claim that what passes as the Bible today is corrupt. It can only be trusted insofar as “it is translated correctly.”

Mormon apostle Orson Pratt once said: “Who, in his right mind, could, for one moment, suppose the Bible in its present form to be a perfect guide? Who knows that even one verse of the Bible has escaped pollution?” (Orson Pratt, Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon, p. 47).

Joseph Smith is credited with a new translation of the Bible. What did he do? He took the King James Version of the Bible and added to and subtracted from it and created what he called “The Inspired

Version” of the Holy Scriptures. He obviously considered it authoritative. The Joseph Smith Translation of the King James Version is usually not used and referred to by the Mormons. Smith “corrected, revised, altered, added to, and deleted from” the King James Version (Bruce McConkie, Mormon Doctrine (Salt Lake City, Bookcraft, 1977, p. 383).

Joseph Smith predicted himself in this revisionist version of the Bible by extending Genesis chapter 50.

Genesis 50:30-33 (of the revisionist Bible):

And again, a seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins, and unto him will I give power to bring forth my word unto the seed of thy loins; and not to the bringing forth of my word only, saith the Lord, but to the convincing them of my word, which shall have already gone forth among them in the last days; Wherefore the fruit of thy loins shall write, and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write; and that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins, and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah, shall grow together unto the confounding of false doctrines, and laying down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, and bringing them to a knowledge of their fathers in the latter days; and also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord. And out of weakness shall he be made strong, in that day when my work shall go forth among all my people, which shall restore them, who are of the house of Israel, in the last days. And that seer will I bless, and they that seek to destroy him shall be confounded; for this promise I give unto you; for I will remember you from generation to generation; and his name shall be called Joseph, and it shall be after the name of his father; and he shall be like unto you; for the thing which the Lord shall bring forth by his hand shall bring my people unto salvation.

In this text, a future seer is promised who is said to be Joseph Smith. Smith claims a name shared by his father. Joseph Smith was named after his father. Smith used this addition as a way to predict of his own coming to guide the Mormon Church in truth. The fact of the matter is this. Not a single Hebrew document exists to support Smith's alteration of the Book of Genesis. *Below are just a few examples of how Joseph Smith changed the true text of the Bible to fit his Mormon doctrine.

**King James
Version**

John 1:1,4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

(v4) In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

**Joseph Smith
Translation**

John 1:1,4

In the beginning was *the gospel preached through the Son. And the gospel was the word*, and the word was with *the Son, and the Son was with God, and the Son was of God*.

(v4) In him was *the gospel, and the gospel was the life*, and the life was the light of men.

**King James
Version**

John 1:42

And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, thou art Simon the son of Jona: Thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

**King James
Version**

John 4:24

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Joseph Smith Translation

John 1:42

And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, thou art Simon the son of Jona: Thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, *a seer, or a stone*.

Joseph Smith Translation

John 4:26

For unto such hath God promised his Spirit. And they who worship him, must worship in spirit and in truth.

**King James
Version**

John 5:29 And shall
come forth; they
that have done
good, unto the
resurrection of life;
and they that have
done evil unto the
resurrection of
damnation.

Joseph Smith Translation

John 5:29*

And shall come forth; they *who*
have done good, *in* the
resurrection of *the just*; and they
who have done evil, in the
resurrection of *the unjust*.

*See D&C 76:15-17

These alterations
remove the deity of
Christ, the eternal nature of God as spirit (making him human like man), and the doctrinal teaching of eternal suffering in hell. Joseph Smith claimed authority over Scripture that not even Jesus Christ claimed.

Matthew 5:18

“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

Jesus considered the Word of God as absolutely authoritative. He dared not change it. Yet Joseph Smith claimed he has the authority to change it.

"After Joseph had translated the Book of Mormon from the gold plates, the Lord commanded him to translate the *Bible* Joseph Smith, a man of no education or learning, comparatively speaking, was commanded to translate the *Bible* by inspiration." LDS Apostle Orson Pratt, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol, 15, pp. 247 - 249, 1872.

Yet, the Mormon church has ignored the translation and has not had it canonized or made part of the books that it claims to be its scripture, although it has incorporated portions into its teachings. Why would the Mormon church ignore such an important part of their scriptures if they have a version that was translated by the "inspired" founder, first prophet, seer and president of the Mormon church, Joseph Smith?

The Book of Mormon claims to be superior to the Bible. The first hundred pages are spent laying the groundwork for this position. Its

basic presupposition is that the Bible has been altered by unscrupulous clergy in centuries past and no longer contains all the truth which God wants man to have. The Book of Mormon echoes this idea in First Nephi 13:26: "... a great and abominable church which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the lamb many parts which are plain and most precious..."

The *Church News*, a Mormon newspaper, carried this statement concerning the Bible: "It is the Word of God. It is not perfect. The prophet Joseph made many corrections in it (*Church News* (March 6, 1983, editorial page).

"The book of Mormon is more correct than the Bible" (History of the Church, 4:461.)

Mormons like to talk about the "lost books of the Bible" implying that the Bible is not all of God's Word. This leaves the door open for Mormons to argue that other books, such as the Book of Mormon, are Scripture as well. However, history will show that the early church had many other documents circulating which were rejected because they did not match apostolic teaching. The so-called lost books of the Bible were never lost – they were banned by the early church from entering the sacred text of Scripture. Therefore, the Book of Mormon must also be banned since it does not measure up to apostolic doctrine recorded in the Bible (Acts 2:42).

The Bible declares itself as a fixed revelation. Therefore, no additional information should be added to it or accepted as being authentic. In essence, God says the Bible is a done deal.

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.**"

Christ actually warns about adding to the finality and truth of Scripture.

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.”

Joseph Smith certainly did not read this portion of Scripture when he translated the Book of Mormon.

The Bible is uniquely inspired by God.

2 Timothy 3:16

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

The word “inspiration” means that the words of the Bible came from the very breath of God. No other book makes this claim nor can it substantiate this claim by its internal accuracy.

2 Peter 1:21 says:

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

Men of God wrote as they were born along or carried along by the Holy Spirit so that the words which they recorded down were the very breath of God. They were not writing machines or typewriters but were guided by God in such a way that they wrote down the very words of God and this is why the Bible is called “the word of God” (1 Thess. 2;13; Eph. 6:17) and the “word of truth” (2 Tim. 2;15).

Historical and Archeological Inaccuracy of the Book of Mormon

The Book of Mormon is a complex book covering a variety of alleged historical, religious, political, and military events in a variety of ancient communities. Much of the Book of Mormon deals with descendants of a man named Lehi, a 6th century B.C. prophet, who lived in the Jerusalem area, but was warned by the Lord to flee the area with his family and several other people. They would eventually be guided on a dangerous journey to the New World where a small civilization would be founded.

The Book of Mormon is actually the story of two groups of people that supposedly traveled by sea from Bible lands to the Americas. One group, the Jaredites (dated at about 2500 B.C.), populated Central America but eventually was destroyed. The other group, Jewish descendants of the tribe of Manasseh (with whom most of the Book of Mormon deals), came to South America about 600 B.C. and eventually migrated into Central and North America. This latter group was divided into two nations, the Nephites and Lamanites. Jesus is supposed to have revealed Himself on the American continent, where He preached the gospel and established Christianity with these two groups of people. After becoming enemies, in A.D. 385 the Lamanites destroyed the Nephites. For this reason they were “cursed” with dark skin and became the ancestors of American Indians.

It is claimed that this story was recorded in an ancient language on gold plates that were buried on a hill in New York in A.D. 421 by Moroni, the last of the Nephites. It further is claimed that between 1827 and 1829, Moroni, this time as an angel, appeared to Joseph Smith, revealing to him the existence and whereabouts of the plates. Then, by the power of God and by using “miraculous” stones called the “Urim” and “Thummim” (also referred to as “seer” stones), Smith allegedly translated these plates into English.

In essence, the Book of Mormon is allegedly an abridged account of God’s dealings with the original inhabitants of the American continent from about 2247 B.C. to A.D. 421. It claims to be the record of God’s dealings with these people, which was eventually written on golden plates by prophets of a white race, who lived in the Americas for about 1,000 years. This race was exterminated in A.D. 421. The indigenous race inhabiting the Americas when Christopher Columbus arrived in 1492 is portrayed by the Book of Mormon to be the cousins of that white race, cursed with a dark skin for having rejected God (2 Nephi 5:21; 4:33-35). It teaches that the American Indians are actually Israelites of the tribes of Judah, Ephraim, and Manasseh. Their skin curse is to be removed within a few generations after being converted to Jesus Christ through the Book of Mormon (2 Nephi 30:6 versions before 1981; 12:84). This change in skin color from black to white has supposedly taken place several times in the past, whenever they turned to the Lord (Alma 23:18; 14:20; 3 Nephi 2:14-16; 1:52-53).

Perhaps the greatest claim of the Book of Mormon is that it is preparing the way for the second coming of Jesus. Christ's second coming is to be preceded by a massive conversion of the American Indians to Christ through the Book of Mormon. These converted Indians will then exterminate the Gentiles in the Americas who will not accept it. After that, the believing Indians and the Mormons will build the New Jerusalem where Christ will return to live (3 Nephi 16:11-16; 7:35-42; 3 Nephi 21:24-25; 9:98-100). Subsequent revelation by Joseph Smith has revealed this site to be in Independence, Missouri.

Mr. Mormon, where is the proof that any of this took place? Where are the golden plates or even extant copies of them? The Bible (the true testament) and its message have been authenticated by over 6,000 ancient manuscripts and thousands of archeological studies to prove its authenticity. Where is the historical and archeological evidence that proves Joseph Smith's alleged revelation and the Book of Mormon is trustworthy. Where is the manuscript evidence? Where is the archeological evidence? Mormonism has no evidence to support its claims (none!) while Christianity has plenty of evidence to substantiate the truth taught in the Bible. Your religion and faith rests on shaky ground. It has no substance while Christianity and all true faith has substance ("Now faith is the substance of things hoped for" – Heb. 11:1).

According to the Book of Mormon the Nephite and Lamanite nations had huge populations that lived in large, fortified cities. They waged war with each other for hundreds of years which culminated in a conflict in which hundred of thousands of people were killed in A.D. 385, near Hill Cumorah, in present-day New York State (see Mormon 6:9-15, Book of Mormon). If there was a large-scale war, culminating in a conflict in which hundreds of thousands of people were killed, why hasn't any archeological evidence from non-Mormon archeologists been revealed that such a conflict occurred?

Mr. Mormon, America has been thoroughly studied by non-Mormon archeologists and institutions and none of them have come forward with any evidence that would support the claims of the Book of Mormon. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. affirmed: "Smithsonian archeologists see no direct connection between the

archeology of the New World and the subject matter of the book [of Mormon].” Similarly, the Bureau of American Ethnology asserted, “There is no evidence whatever of any migration from Israel to America, and likewise no evidence that pre-Columbian Indians had any knowledge of Christianity or the Bible.” In February 4, 1982, the National Geographic Society stated: Although many Mormon sources claim that the Book of Mormon has been substantiated by archeological finding, this claim has not been verified scientifically.” A researcher of the Mormon religion wanted to verify this for himself. Here is an actual letter that was sent back to him.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

January 11, 1990

Dear Mr. Larson:

Thank you for writing to the National Geographic Society. The Society has **never** used the Book of Mormon to locate archaeological sites, and we **do not believe** that any of the places named in the Book of Mormon can be placed geographically by the evidence of archaeology. So far as we know there is **no** archaeological evidence to verify the history of early peoples of the Western Hemisphere as presented in the Book of Mormon. I hope you will find this information useful.

Yours truly,

Pamela Tucci

Research Correspondence

If the National Geographic Society can find no archaeological evidence to support the book of Mormon - there simply isn't any! Facts are stubborn things. There remains no valid archeological support for the Book of Mormon. While there is massive archeological evidence to support the people and places mentioned in the Bible, no such evidence exists for the people and places mentioned in the Book of Mormon. This is because the Book of Mormon is manmade or fiction.

Archeological and historical summary:

1. No *Book of Mormon* cities have been located.

2. No *Book of Mormon* names have been found in New World inscriptions.
3. No genuine inscriptions have been found in Hebrew in America.
4. No genuine inscriptions have been found in America in Egyptian or anything similar to Egyptian, which could correspond to Joseph Smith's 'reformed Egyptian.'
5. No ancient copies of *Book of Mormon* scriptures have been found.
6. No ancient inscriptions of any kind in America which indicate that the ancient inhabitants had Hebrew or Christian beliefs have been found.
7. No mention of *Book of Mormon* persons, nations, or places have been found.
8. No artifacts of any kind which demonstrates the *Book of Mormon* is true has been found.
9. Rather than finding supportive evidence, Mormon scholars have been forced to retreat from traditional interpretations of *Book of Mormon* statements.

(Archaeology and the Book of Mormon by Hal Hougey, p. 12)

In addition, the theory that the American Indians are descendants of the Hebrews is genetically incorrect. No one questions this anymore due to the DNA testing available today which wasn't available in the 1800's.

The following metals, metal products, or metal manufacturing are mentioned in the Book of Mormon record (Bellows, Brass, Breast Plates, Chains, Copper, Iron Ore or mining, Plows, Silver Swords or metal, Steel). Independent (non-Mormon) archeological evidence shows that none of these were manufactured or used in the area and time frame of 2 Nephi 5. The Smithsonian Institution's Department Of Anthropology declares the Americas did not have steel or horses before 1492. The Book of Mormon (600 B.C. to 421 A.D.) claims both

steel (1 Nephi 4:9) and horses (Alma 18:9). Gordon H. Fraser, anthropologist and ethnologist, agrees with the Smithsonian Institution and adds that copper (Mosiah 8:10) was unknown at that early date as referred to in the *Book of Mormon*.

Changes in the So-called Inspired Book of Mormon

It can also be proven that more than 3,913 changes have been made between the time of the original writing of the Book of Mormon (published in 1830) and the ones printed through the mid-1970's. The 1981 edition introduced between one and two hundred additional word changes. Of course, some of them were spelling errors but many of them also pertained to what the text of Scripture actually says. How can this be? How can there even be spelling errors if Smith was using a seer stone through which he would see one character at a time and read it aloud to Oliver Cowdery, after which Cowdery would repeat the character to ensure accuracy, and then that character would disappear and another would appear in its place? How can this be when every letter and word was allegedly given by the power of God? (Joseph Fielding Smith, *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*, Salt Lake City: Deseret, 1973, 4:461)

Steve Benson, the grandson of the late Mormon leader Ezra Taft Benson, wrote the following in a newspaper article: "Troubling to us was the pathological unwillingness of the Mormon Church to deal forthrightly with its doctrine and history. Our personal study revealed that church canon, history, and scripture had been surreptitiously altered, skewed, rewritten, contradicted, and deleted" (Arizona Republic, 22 May 1994, P. C-1).

Mr. Mormon, do you really want to base your salvation and eternal destiny on a book that has more than 4,000 changes introduced into it since its initial publication? *It's interesting that there have been only 40 variants in thousands upon thousands of manuscripts that support the Bible but none of them affect doctrinal or the moral commandments of Christianity. There are virtually thousands of Biblical manuscripts that can be studied which prove and ensure accuracy in transmission.* The Book of Mormon does not have any support like this. If the Book of Mormon has been inspired through a

magical seer stone, and if your book has no comparative manuscripts to ensure accuracy, then how can you explain for the 4,000 changes? Mr. Mormon, there is no need to pray about it. Your Bible is founded upon false evidence.

Access to the handwritten copies of the original Book of Mormon demonstrates how they have changed their alleged inspired writings.

1. In Mosiah 21:28, it is declared that “King Mosiah had a gift from God”; but in the original edition of the book, the name of the king was Benjamin—an oversight that thoughtful Mormon scribes corrected. This is not, of course, a typographical error, as there is little resemblance between the names Benjamin and Mosiah; rather, it appears that either God made a mistake when He inspired the record or Joseph made a mistake when he translated it. But the Mormons will admit to neither, so they are stuck, so to speak, with the contradiction.

2. When compared with the 1830 edition, 1 Nephi 19:16–20 reveals more than twenty changes in the “inspired Book of Mormon,” words having been dropped, spelling corrected, and words and phraseology added and turned about. This is a strange way to treat an inspired revelation from God.

3. In Alma 28:14–29:11, more than eighteen changes may be counted from the original edition. On page 303, the phrase, “Yea, decree unto them that decrees which are unalterable,” was dropped in later editions, but strangely reappeared in 1981. (See Alma 29:4.)

4. On page 25 of the 1830 edition, the Book of Mormon declares: “And the angel said unto me, behold the Lamb of God, yea, even the Eternal Father.” Yet in 1 Nephi 11:21, the later editions of the book read: “And the angel said unto me: Behold the Lamb of God, yea even the son of the eternal Father.”

5. The Roman Catholic Church should be delighted with page 25 of the original edition of the Book of Mormon, which confirms one of their dogmas, namely, that Mary is the mother of God. “Behold, the virgin which thou seest, is the mother of God.” Noting this unfortunate lapse into Romanistic theology, Joseph Smith and his considerate editors changed 1 Nephi 11:18 (as well as 1 Nephi 11:21, 32; 13:40), so that it now

reads: "Behold, the virgin whom thou seest, is the mother of the Son of God."

From the above, which are only a handful of examples from the approximately 4,000 word changes to be found in the Book of Mormon, the reader can readily see that it in no sense can be accepted as the inspired Word of God that was dictated through a seer stone one word at a time!

Plagiarism in the Book of Mormon

How do you explain the many plagiarisms in the Book of Mormon? In reality, the Book of Mormon contains very little original information. Rather, Joseph Smith apparently reworked information which he had assimilated and then presented it as a "translation" from the golden plates. This can be demonstrated by comparing the Book of Mormon with other sources (extant sources) which were available to him. Material in the Book of Mormon appears to be plagiarized from The Maccabees, Shakespeare's Hamlet, Josephus' Wars of the Jews, Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, Solomon Spaulding's Manuscript (which spoke of the stories of Nephi and Lehi), Ethan Smith's View of the Hebrews and the King James Version of the Bible. Ethan Smith's and his view of the Hebrews was that the American Indians had Hebraic origins. The sticking parallels between the Book of Mormon and this already existing work and others cannot be coincidence. Joseph drew heavily from various sources for the writing of the Book of Mormon. For this reason the Book of Mormon cannot be trusted as a revelation from God.

The *Book of Mormon* has events similar to and/or phrases identical to or nearly identical to those found in:

- The preface to the King James *Bible*
- 21 chapters of Isaiah
- The Apocrypha (These are the books in the Catholic Bible which are between the Old and New Testament. Machabees is an example.)
- James Adair's *History of the American Indians* (This contains 23 arguments that American Indians are descendants of

- Hebrews. It also tells of buried plates (5 copper and 2 brass) kept by an Indian tribe.) (London: E.&C. Dilly, 1775)
- Josephus' *War of the Jews*
 - Ethan Smith's *View of the Hebrews* (1823, Poultney, Vermont, Smith & Shute, particularly p. 150). Ethan Smith preached in Poultney, Vermont from 1821 to 1826. Poultney, Vermont is near the location of many of the families who founded Mormonism.
 - Shakespeare's *Macbeth*
 - Shakespeare's *Hamlet*
 - The October 22, 1823 *Wayne Sentinel* story by Asa Wilds of a vision with "Great Jehovah" which said, "...every denomination was corrupt."
 - *Manuscript Found* (a manuscript written by Solomon Spalding) Strong historical evidence points to the historical story line of the *Book of Mormon* being taken from a manuscript written by Solomon Spalding called *Manuscript Found*, which was missing from the printer in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

It's easy to see that the Book of Mormon isn't an original work. It's obviously a fiction novel, heavily plagiarized from books which were freely available at the time. A study of the Book of Mormon brings us to the conclusion that it is not an ancient or divinely inspired record, but rather a product of the nineteenth century.

Mr. Mormon, here is a good question to ponder. If the Book of Mormon was first penned between 600 B.C. and A.D. 421, as claimed, how could it contain such extensive quotations from the A.D. 1611 King James Version (using King James English) **which was not written until more than 1,000 years later?** The *Book of Mormon* contains some 27,000 words from the *King James Bible*, approximately 25,000 from the Old Testament and approximately 2,000 from the New Testament.

A careful examination of the Book of Mormon reveals that it contains thousands of words from the King James Bible. In fact, verbatim quotations, some of considerable length, have caused the Mormons no end of embarrassment for many years since their version is supposed to predate the King James Bible. The King James Bible renders the Isaiah 5:25, passage "And their carcasses were torn in

the midst of the streets.” The Book of Mormon (2 Nephi 15:25) repeats the King James’ text word-for-word. The comparisons of Moroni 10 with 1 Corinthians 12:1–11; 2 Nephi 14 with Isaiah 4; and 2 Nephi 12 with Isaiah 2 reveal that Joseph Smith made free use of his Bible to supplement the alleged revelation of the golden plates. The book of Mosiah, chapter 14, in the Book of Mormon, is a reproduction of the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah the prophet, and 3 Nephi 13 copies Matthew 6 almost word-for-word. There are other instances of plagiarisms from the King James Bible including paraphrases of certain verses. One of these verses (1 John 5:7) is reproduced in 3 Nephi 11:27. Another example of this plagiarism is found in 3 Nephi 11:33–34, and is almost a direct quotation from Mark 16:16.

The words “alpha” and “omega” appear in 3 Nephi 9:18. These, of course, are the English spellings of Greek words found in the Bible (Revelation 1:8; 21:6; 22:13). Since the Book of Mormon was not recorded in Greek, why were these words used? The simple fact is, they were copied from the King James Version. 3 Nephi 20:23-26, dated at A.D. 34, refers to Moses’ prophecy about the Christ (Deuteronomy 18:15,18-19). However, the writer unwittingly used Peter’s New Testament paraphrase of this prophecy (Acts 2:22-26), which was not written until around A.D. 63. This was almost 30 years too soon, and thus proves the Book of Mormon is a hoax. In the Book of Mormon there are numerous instances where the writer uses words that were not relevant to his time. In 2 Nephi 31:13 and other places, reference is made to the “Holy Ghost.” But, the term “ghost” did not come into use until many hundreds of years after the Book of Mormon was supposed to have been inscribed on ancient plates. That the writer borrowed this from the King James Bible is indisputable. The marks of fraud are written all over the Book of Mormon. Rather, these are words peculiar to the English spoken in the early 1600s (“prayest,” “durst,” “thou,” “thee,” “thy,” “thine,” “hast,” “doth,” “knoweth,” “hearest,” “cometh,” “thirsteth,” etc.). Did God really select these words for the Book of Mormon? This obviously shows the writer’s exposure to King James terminology. Smith simply copied similar words and phrases from the King James Bible to try and sanctify the Book of Mormon.

In short, the Book of Mormon is not the translation of an ancient document, regardless of the feelings, emotions, or "burning in your

bosom," that you might have. Feelings must be regulated by truth and facts. They must correlate with the historical and archeological facts and evidence. Wanting it to be true doesn't change the facts and evidence. The Book of Mormon was not from God. It is a fictional story full of plagiarism and false claims.

Erroneous Errors in the Book of Mormon

Let me also add some further comments about the glaring errors found in the Book of Mormon. There never was a reformed Egyptian language. And Hebrews didn't write in Egyptian. Egyptians were pagans during the Old Testament era, so why would the Book of Mormon be based on pagan Egyptian writings?

- If the *Book of Mormon* is true, why do Indians fail to turn white when they become Mormons? (2 Nephi 30:6, prior to the 1981 revision).
- How did Joseph Smith carry home the golden plates of the Book of Mormon, and how did the witnesses lift them so easily? (They weighed about 230 lbs. Gold, with a density of 19.3 weighs 1204.7 lbs. per cubic foot. The plates were 7" x 8" by about 6". See *Articles of Faith*, by Talmage, page 262, 34th ed.)
- How did Nephi with a few men on a new continent build a temple like Solomon's while Solomon needed 163,300 workmen and seven years to build his temple? (1 Kings 5:13-18 and 2 Nephi 5:15-17).
- If the *Book of Mormon* is true, then why has the Mormon church changed it? Examples are: 1 Nephi 11:21; 19:20; 20:1 and Alma 29:4. Compare these with the original *Book of Mormon*. (Gerald and Sandra Tanner have counted 3913 changes in the *Book of Mormon*, excluding punctuation changes.)

(The above *Ask Your Bishop* questions were taken from a booklet entitled, *Ask Your Bishop* by Ira T. Ransom).

There is much fraudulent language recorded in the Book of Mormon. I will mention some of the errors which prove the Mormon's "other

testament” to be false and fraudulent. Alma 37:38, dated at 73 B.C., speaks of the people using a “compass.” However, such an instrument was not invented until about A.D. 1100. How could there be a divinely inspired translation of a word describing something that did not exist? This is a mark of fraud. 1 Nephi 18:25, dated at 589 B.C., speaks of “horses” and “asses.” But, these animals were unknown in the Western Hemisphere until the Spaniards introduced them about 450 years ago. Is this really divine revelation? Ether 9:19 speaks of “elephants” being in America when the Jaredites arrived, which was supposed to have been around 2250 B.C. However, it is a well-known fact that elephants were not native to America. 2 Nephi 29:3 reads, “A Bible, A Bible, we have got a Bible...” This statement is made in reference to the Jewish Old Testament, which is dated at about 550 B.C. However, the word “Bible” is the English transliteration of the Greek term “biblos,” which came into use over 1,500 years later. In using the word “Bible,” the writer of the Book of Mormon made a serious blunder that shows the book to be of recent origin and, hence, fraudulent in its claims.

Contradictions Between Book of Mormon and Bible

There are many areas of contradiction between the Bible and the Book of Mormon concerns sin and Mormon baptism at eight years of age. Moroni 8:8 states the doctrine that “little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me.” Anyone who thinks that children under age eight cannot sin has not visited the classrooms of today’s schools! The Mormon concept directly contradicts Psalm 51:5, which places sin at the point of conception. The book of Romans leaves no exemption to the sin and guilt that Adam passed on to all; no exceptions are made (Romans 5:12–15). Furthermore, it clearly states that there is none righteous (Romans 3:10–12).

The Book of Mormon contains many passages that contradict the Bible. The following examples, which still appear in recent editions, are conspicuous instances of such contradictions. The Bible says that Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1). However, the Book of Mormon reads: “And behold, he shall be born of Mary at Jerusalem” (Alma 7:10). The writer of the Book of Mormon simply did not have his facts straight. Prophets of God did not make it a practice of just

being “close” in their predictions. God would not have made such a mistake. The Bible relates that at the crucifixion there were three hours of darkness (Luke 23:44). However, the Book of Mormon states there was darkness “for the space of three days” (Helaman 14:20, 27). Of course, this is a big difference. Which one is true? Can God be responsible for conflicting statements such as these?

The Book of Mormon relates that at the tower of Babel the Jaredites had their separate language (Esther 1:34-35). The Bible, however, plainly states that “the whole earth was of **one** language” (Genesis 11:1). 3 Nephi 11:8-10 claims that after Jesus ascended to heaven, He appeared in America to the Lamanites and Nephites in A.D. 34. However, this clearly contradicts the Bible. Of the ascension of Christ to heaven God said, “Sit thou on my right hand until I make thy foes thy footstools” (Acts 2:34-35). Christ did not come to America—because He has been in heaven since His ascension (Heb. 1:3).

The Bible teaches that the church was established on the Day of Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2), which would have been approximately A.D. 33. However, Mosiah 18:17, dated at 145 B.C., has the church already in existence. This same reference from Mosiah also mentions “baptism” as the means of being added to the church. However, according to the Bible the baptism taught by Christ did not begin until New Testament times (Matthew 28:19). The Bible clearly reveals that the disciples of Christ “were called Christians first in Antioch” (Acts 11:26). This was approximately A.D. 40. However, Alma 46:13,15, dated at 73 B.C., has people already called by the Christian name. This represents a difference of over 100 years.

The people described in the Book of Mormon operated multiple temples (Alma 16:13; 23:2; 26:29). This violates the dictates of the Old Testament Scriptures on two counts: First, God commanded Israel to build only one temple to reflect that fact that there is only one true God (Deuteronomy 12:5,13-14; 16:5-6). Second, the one legitimate temple was to be built in Jerusalem (Zion), the location designated by God (The Old Testament is filled with explicit references to God choosing Jerusalem [Zion] as the place where "His name would dwell" in the temple: for example, 1 Kings 8:44,48;

11:13,32,36; 14:21; 2 Kings 21:7; 23:27; 1 Chronicles 28:4; 2 Chronicles 6:6; 7:12,16; Psalm 78:68-69; Isaiah 18:7.

These are just some of the many errors mentioned in the Book of Mormon. There are many theological errors (works salvation, false view of grace, Gospel, baptism) mentioned in the Book of Mormon as well. We will note some of them as we continue in this study.

Contradictions in Mormon Doctrine

Below is a chart that shows some of the contradictions between the Book of Mormon and the teaching of the Latter Day Saints in their other authoritative sources.

One God	Plural Gods
Book of Mormon: Alma 11:27-39, 44; 2 Nephi 31:21; Mormon 7:7; 3 Nephi 11:27 Testimony of the three witnesses	Doctrine and Covenants: Section 121:32; 132:18-20, 37
God is a Spirit	God Has a Body
B. of M. - Alma 18:26-28; 22:8-11	D. & C. - Section 130:22
God Dwells in Heart	God Does Not Dwell in Heart
B. of M. - Alma 34:36	D. & C. - Section 130:3
Creation - One God	Creation - Plural Gods
B. of M. - 2 Nephi 2:14; Jacob 4:9 Pearl of Great Price - Moses, Chapter 2	Book of Abraham - Chapters 4 and 5
God Cannot Lie	God Commands Lying
B. of M. - Ether 3:12; 2 Nephi 9:34	P.G.P. - Book of Abraham 2:22-25
God's Word Unchangeable	God's Word Can Change
B. of M. - Alma 41:8	D. & C. - Section 56:4-5

No Pre-Existence of Man	Man Pre-Existed
B. of M. - Jacob 4:9; Alma 18:28, 34-36	D. & C. - Section 93:23, 29-33 P.G.P. - Bk of Abraham 3:18, 21-23
Death Seals Man's Fate	Chance After Death
B. of M. - Mosiah 2:36-39; Alma 34:32-35	D. & C. - Section 76:106-112; 88:99
Heathen Saved Without Baptism	Baptism for Dead
B. of M. - Moroni 8:22-23 2 Nephi 9:25-26; Mosiah 15:24-27	D. & C. - Section 128:5, 17-18
Heaven or Hell	Three Kingdoms in Heaven - Most Saved
B. of M. - 2 Nephi 28:22; 1 Nephi 15:35; Most Saved - Mosiah 16:11, 27:31; Alma 41:4-8, 42:16	D. & C. - Section 76:43, 70-112
Murder Can Be Forgiven	No Forgiveness For Murder
B. of M.- 3 Nephi 30:2	D. & C. - Section 42:18
Polygamy Condemned	Polygamy Commanded
B. of M. - Jacob 1:15, 2:24, 3:5; Mosiah 11:2	D. & C. - Section 132:1, 37-39, 61
2 Nephi 26:31; Mosiah 27:5	D. & C. - Section 42:71-73; 43:12-13; 51:13-14
Wicked Promised Forgiveness For Money	Must Tithe or Be Burned at Second Coming
B. of M. - Mormon 8:32	D. & C. - Section 64:23
Adam in America	Adam in Old World
D. & C. - Section 107:53; 116; 117:8	P.G.P. - Book of Moses 3:8, 10-15

Mormons actually believe that the two sticks mentioned in Ezekiel 37:16-17 is a prophecy about the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

Ezekiel 37:16-17

“Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph (Joseph Smith??), the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.”

This passage supposedly adds authority to the Book of Mormon. However, it only adds woe and misery for the Bible clearly states that the two sticks were representative of the two kingdom of Israel (the Northern and Southern kingdom) which will one day be brought together to reign with the Messiah following His Second Coming to earth. The passage has nothing to say about the Bible and the Book of Mormon. This is a severe case of eisegesis (reading something into the Bible that is not there).

All Mormons agree that the Book of Mormon is the foundation of the Mormon religion. All Mormons agree that without the Book of Mormon, there is no basis for the Mormon religion. Based on the historical, archeological, and internal evidence, it's clear that the Book of Mormon is a work of fiction, fraudulent, and heavily plagiarized from books freely available at the time. It is difficult to believe that, after having seen the evidence, any honest person could accept the Book of Mormon as being inspired by God. There are simply too many things wrong with it. The evidence of mistakes, error, and fraud is so obvious that it stands as a barrier to any acceptance of this book.

Mormon apostle Orson Pratt wrote: “The nature of the Book of Mormon is such, that, if true, no one can possibly be saved and reject it; if false, no one can possibly be saved and receive it” (Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon, p. 124).

Tales in the Book of Mormon

The Book of Mormon contains many stories that, to say the least, are absurd and are nothing but far-fetched tales. Here are a few such accounts. 3 Nephi 28:4-8 speaks of three men who were told by

Jesus that they would never die, but would remain on earth until His second coming. However, the Bible is clear in explaining that God has “appointed” man to die (Hebrews 9:27). Such a tale is so imaginary many Mormons are reluctant to admit they believe it. The Book of Mormon teaches that black skin is a sign of God’s curse, so that white-skinned people are considered morally and spiritually superior to black skinned people (2 Nephi 5:21). In contrast, the Bible teaches that God “made of one blood all nations of men” (Acts 17:26, KJV), that in Christ distinctions of ethnicity, gender and social class are erased (Galatians 3:28), and that God condemns favoritism (James 2:1). Ether 2:6-25 and Ether 6:6 relate the story of how the Jaredites came to America in eight boats called “barges.” They were said to be “the length of a tree,” whatever that may mean. These were strange barges, for they were “peaked” at the ends in the shape of footballs and were sealed “tight like unto a dish.” They were like submarines, for they were sometimes “buried in the depths of the sea” like “whales.”

Ether 15:30-31 relates one of the most peculiar and bizarre stories in the *Book of Mormon*. It tells of A man named Coriantumr killing a man named Shiz. “And it came to pass when he had smitten off the head of Shiz, which Shiz raised upon his hands and fell; and after that he had struggled for breath, he died.” This is amusing. Imagine, a decapitated man raising up and trying to breathe! Isn’t it a fact that decapitation brings immediate death? And one is made to wonder if this “struggle” to breathe was from the mouth or the neck?

According to 2 Nephi 3:6-18 Joseph (of the Old Testament) allegedly prophesied that Joseph Smith would come from the “fruit of his loins.” In other words, he was to be a direct descendant of Joseph. Such an idea is so silly it hardly needs exposing. His own mother, in her biography of Joseph Smith, traced their family back five generations and 300 years to England (*Joseph Smith, The Prophet*, pp.38-44). The Book of Mormon itself tells that the last of the Jewish descendants in America, the Lamanites, became Indians. Accordingly, Joseph Smith, to be a descendant of the Jews, had to be of Indian blood. [Because it is so unbelievable, Mormon writers claim this prophecy was “figurative.” However, in the inspired language of the Bible the phrase “the fruit of his loins” always refers

to literal offspring. Stories like these, which are easily documented within the text and that are too ludicrous to accept, establish the fact that the composer of the Book of Mormon lacked credibility.

Do you believe Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God? If so, indisputable evidence proves he was a false prophet. "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." (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, Page 188).

Mr. Mormon, you need to be open and honest about this and not place blindfolds over your eyes. You need to be objective when considering the false claims and prophecies of Joseph Smith who was the founder of your religion. Joseph Smith is the Achilles heel of the Mormon religion. If he is proven to be a false prophet then none of his writings can be trusted either. This is the while crux of the whole matter regarding the Mormon Bible. If Joseph Smith was a phony then his writings are also phony.

Joseph Smith said:

"God made Aaron to be the mouthpiece for the children of Israel, and **He will make me to be God to you** in His stead, and the elders to be mouth for me; and if you don't like it, you must lump it" (*Documentary History of the Church*, vol. 6, pp 319-320).

I think I will lump it! Here are some questions to ask about anyone claiming to be a prophet:

- Have all of his prophecies come true?
- Was even one of his prophecies revised to fit what already happened?
- Does even one of his teachings utilize a small section of the Bible to the neglect of the whole?
- Does even one of his teachings contradict the God of the Bible?
- Does even one of his teachings contradict the Jesus of the Bible?

- Is he or is Christ the focus of his followers? Whose name is heard more often?
- Do any of his teachings speak negatively about other Christians?

Joseph Smith actually failed on all seven of these points while he was here on earth declaring to be a prophet of God. He has proven that he is indeed a false prophet. For instance, Joseph Smith's prophecies did not come to pass and were proven false on many occasions. There are many of them. I will just document a few of them.

In 1835 Joseph Smith prophesied concerning the coming of the Lord. At a meeting called by Joseph Smith he instructed the Latter day Saints that it was "the will of God" to go forth and "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) Eight years later he reinforced this by stating: "I prophesy in the name of the Lord God, and let it be written; the Son of Man will not come in the clouds of heaven till I am eighty five years old." (History of the Church, vol.5, p. 336). Of course, this never happened.

Joseph Smith said the moon's inhabitants were of uniform height (about 6 ft. tall), dressed like Quakers and lived nearly 1,000 years (Journal of Oliver B. Huntington, Vol. 3, p. 166 of typed copy at Utah State Historical Society and The Young Woman's Journal, pub. by the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations of Zion, 1892, Vol. 3, pp. 263,264.) O.B. Huntington gives this interesting information: "As far back as 1837, I know that he [Joseph Smith] said the moon was inhabited by men and women the same as this earth, and that they lived to a greater age than we do -- that they live generally to near the age of 1000 years. He [Smith] described the men as averaging near six feet in height, and dressing quite uniformly in something near the Quaker style." Now that man has walked on the Moon, there can be no doubt that there aren't any 6 foot tall Quakers roaming its surface.

The Prophet Brigham Young also taught in General Conference: "So it is with regard to the inhabitants of the sun. Do you think it is inhabited? I rather think it is. Do you think there is any life there? No question of it; it was not made in vain. It was made to give light to

those who dwell upon it, and to other planets; and so will this earth when it is celestialized." See Journal of Discourses, 13:271. Also see Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, Volume 1 Page 88: "Earth to be Celestialized Sun"

Joseph Smith made a number of prophecies regarding Missouri as the location of Zion and the gathering place and refuge for the saints. Since they all have the same general meaning and none of them have been fulfilled, they are dealt with together here.

March 7, 1831. D&C 45:64-74. Saints are to gather riches and purchase an inheritance to be called New Jerusalem, also called Zion, a place of refuge and safety, where the wicked will not come, and against which the wicked will refuse to battle. The righteous will come from all nations and sing songs of everlasting joy. The wicked will fear and stand afar off and tremble, and "all nations shall be afraid."

July 1831. D&C 57:1-3 Missouri is named as the land consecrated for the gathering of the Saints and the place for the City of Zion and the building of a temple at Independence. It will be purchased by the saints "for an ever-lasting inheritance."

August 13, 1831 - D&C 62:1, 6. The faithful will be preserved and rejoice in Missouri. "I, the Lord, promise the faithful and cannot lie." Sept 22-23, 1832. D&C 84:2-5, 31 - Zion will be built with its temple at Independence, "in this generation". This generation shall not all pass away until the temple will be built upon the spot. Orson Pratt in 1870 reiterated the prophecy (JD 9:71, 10:344, 13:362) and insisted that it will come to pass within the generation living in 1832.

Jan 4, 1833. HC 1:315-316. Joseph Smith says "by the authority of Jesus Christ" that "not many years shall pass away" before the wicked "of this generation" will be swept from off the face of the land and the Lost Ten Tribes will be gathered to Missouri, and that "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."

Aug 2, 1833. D&C 97:18-20.

Smith promises that if the saints are obedient the City of Zion (in Missouri) will prosper and become glorious, great and terrible, honored by the nations of the earth. Zion cannot fall or *be moved* out of its place. What really happened? Mormons were driven out of Independence and from all of their settlements in Missouri in 1839. The temple lot is not owned by the Mormon church. No one living in the generation when the prophecy was made is still alive. The wicked of that generation were no more "swept from off the face of the land" than were their contemporary Mormons. The Lost Ten Tribes have not been gathered to Missouri. Nothing in all these prophecies has been fulfilled.

Sept 22-23, 1832. D&C 84:114-115. New York, Albany and Boston will be destroyed if they reject the gospel. The "hour of their judgment is nigh..." Newell K. Whitney and Joseph Smith went to New York, Albany, and Boston and preached there. These cities did not accept the Mormon gospel but they have not been destroyed.

April 23, 1834. D&C 104: 78-83. God's promise to deliver the Saints from their debts. "It is my will that you shall pay all your debts." The Lord will soften the hearts of their creditors. Joseph Smith and other prominent Mormons had to flee Kirtland to avoid their creditors, leaving debts of thousands of dollars unpaid. Smith ultimately filed bankruptcy.

Dec 27, 1832. D&C 88:87. Earth shall tremble and reel, the sun shall not give light, the moon shall be bathed in blood, the stars shall "become exceedingly angry" and fall, all "not many days hence." More than 59,000 days have now passed, and this prophecy has not been fulfilled. It is doubtful that in any sense the stars will ever fall. (This is a paraphrase of Isa 13:10, as re-paraphrased by Matt 24:29 and Mark 13:25.)

On April 17, 1838, Joseph Smith prophesied that David W. Patten would perform a mission for him the next Spring. (*Doctrine & Covenants* 114:1). David Patten died before Spring came. (*History of the Church*, Vol. 3, p. 171, 10-25-38.)

"And thus prophesied Joseph, saying: Behold, that seer will the Lord bless; and they that seek to destroy him shall be confounded..." (2

Nephi 3:14). Joseph Smith's enemies were not confounded, but successful when they killed Joseph Smith on June 27, 1844 in Carthage, Illinois.

Is a true prophet allowed to make false prophecies? Let's see what the Bible says about this matter.

Deuteronomy 18:19-22

“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him. But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”

Joseph Smith repeatedly made prophecies that did not come to pass. This places him in the camp of a false prophet. Furthermore, if the Book of Mormon is false, then Joseph Smith was obviously a false prophet. If Joseph Smith was a false prophet, then millions of decent people have been deceived away from the truth. It has been pointed out that if one claimed to be a Mormon but denied all the basic tenets of Mormonism — that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, that the Book of Mormon is true and divinely inspired, that god was once a man who progressed to godhood through keeping the laws and ordinances of the Mormon Church, and that the Mormon Church was divinely established — the Mormon Church would reject such a person's claim to being a Latter-day Saint. One cannot fairly call oneself a Mormon if one does not believe the fundamental doctrines taught by the Mormon Church. By the same token, if the Mormon Church does not hold to even the basic Biblical truths believed by the greater Christian community down through the ages, how can Christians reasonably be expected to accept Mormonism as authentic Christianity?

Brigham Young and his statements were no better than Smiths. He claimed that these who leave the Mormon Church would turn "wrinkled" and "black." The following curse was pronounced by Brigham Young: ". . .but let them apostatize, and they will become gray-haired, wrinkled, and black, just like the Devil." (Journal of Discourses, vol. 5, p. 332) There have been tens of thousands of people leave the Mormon Church -- Where are the "black and wrinkled" ones?

The Book of Mormon is manmade. The writings and prophecies of Joseph Smith have been proven to be fraudulent. The Bible teaches and orthodox Christians through the ages have believed that the Bible is the unique, final and infallible Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:1,2; 2 Peter 1:21) and that it will stand forever (1 Peter 1:23-25). God's providential preservation of the text of the Bible was marvelously illustrated in the discovery of 6,000 manuscripts, the Dead Sea Scrolls. By contrast, the Mormon Church teaches that the Bible has been corrupted, is missing many "plain and precious parts" and does not contain the fullness of the Gospel (Book of Mormon — 1 Nephi 13:26-29; *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 3, pp. 190-191).

Former LDS President and Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith once said of his namesake, "He was either a prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned, or he was one of the biggest frauds the world has ever seen, there is no middle ground." (*Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:188).

Joseph Smith must eat his own words. He is the biggest religious fraud that the world has ever seen!

Mr. Mormon, how can you base you belief system on a false prophet and his writings that have been proven to be inaccurate, silly, and which have no substantiation? **How can you base your eternal life on a prophet who is dead!** Jesus Christ is alive. Jesus was the founder of Christianity (not Mormonism) and He is alive forevermore (Rev. 1:18). Your prophet is dead and for this reason his works and teachings have no validity. Jesus Christ is alive and this proves that He is the only true God that has ever existed and His words are trustworthy ("thou has the words of eternal life" - John 6:58).

Do you believe that God the Father was once a man who continually progressed to become a god (an exalted or glorified man)?

If so, I must disagree with your conclusion, based upon the findings of Scripture.

“God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 345).

When Mormons talk about The Father they are not speaking of the Father, which the Bible presents, but a Father who also had a Father and a Father who was once a man that also gained godhood status. The Mormon Church teaches that God the Father was once a man like us who progressed to become a God and has a body of flesh and bone (*Doctrine and Covenants* 130:22; "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!" from *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp. 345-347; *Gospel Principles*, p. 9; *Articles of Faith*, p. 430; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 321).

Apostle Bruce R. McConkie makes this claim: "God himself, the Father of us all, is a glorified, exalted, immortal, resurrected Man!" (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 643)

Ether 3:8-9 in the Book of Mormon speaks of God having “flesh and blood.” Yet the Bible states clearly that God is a “spirit,” and thus does not possess a material body (John 4:24). In *Doctrine and Covenants*, another allegedly inspired writing of the Mormon church, Joseph Smith wrote: “The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s” (section 130:22). The Bible and the *Book of Mormon* both cannot be correct on this point.

Joseph Smith also taught: "...you have to learn how to be Gods ourselves...the same as all Gods have done before you,..." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 346).

Indeed, the Mormon Church teaches that God himself has a father, and a grandfather, and so on and so on (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 373; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 577). Think of this. If the

Latter Day Saints God progressed from a man to god by works, as stated by many church leaders, then where did the first man come from? Or, conversely, if the Latter Day Saints god created the first man, where did the first Latter Day Saints God come from?

Here is my point. Your Mormon theology *humanizes God and deifies man*. It claims that the Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and all men were once spirit children or beings that existed in eternity past (the doctrine of preexistence), but at one point of time they were given physical bodies to begin advancing to their godhood status. In essence, you believe that the God of the Bible is an exalted man.

A major shift in the teachings about the attributes of God came about in Joseph Smith's King Follet Discourse at the church's April 1844 general conference, "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.".... "....you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you....." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pages 345-346). This new teaching by Joseph Smith contradicts D&C 20:17, 39:1; Moroni 7:22, 8:18; Mormon 9:9, 19; 2 Nephi 29:9; 1 Nephi 10:18; Mosiah 3:5, 8; Moses 1:3-6; Ps 90:2, 93:2, 103:17; Deut 33:27; Malachi 3:6; Heb 13:8; Rev 1:8; Is 43:10, 44:6, 8, 24 .

This new teaching introduced the doctrine of eternal progression, which Brigham also taught. Yet Moroni 8:18 says, "For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but he is unchangeable, from all eternity to all eternity." The Book of Mormon teaches there is only one God (Mosiah 15:1-5; Alma 11:28, 29; 2 Nephi 31:21). Once again, your book and teachings conflict one another. This is often the case.

Orson Hyde, a contemporary of Joseph Smith, who was a theologian recognized by the Mormon church, said: "Remember that God, our heavenly father, as perhaps once a child, and mortal like we ourselves, and rose step by step in the scale of progress, in the school of advancement; has moved forward and overcome, until He has arrived at the point where He now is" (Orson Hyde, Journal of Discourses, Vol. 1, pp. 50-51).

“Remember that God, our heavenly Father, was perhaps once a child, and mortal like we ourselves, and rose step by step in the scale of progress, in the school of advancement; has moved forward and overcome, until He has arrived at the point where He now is” (Apostle Orson Hyde, Journal of Discourses, 1:123).

“Mormon prophets have continuously taught the erroneous truth that God the Eternal Father was once a mortal man who passed through a school of earth life similar to that through which we are now passing. He became God - an exalted being - through obedience to the same eternal Gospel truths that we are given opportunity today to obey” (Hunter, op. cit., 104).

According to Mormon doctrine both the Father, Jesus Christ, and all men take a journey which advances them to a godhood status. Attaining the lofty goal of godhood involves an extended process. It begins in our preexistent state (before being physically born on earth), our mortal existence (the time we are on earth), and post-mortal existence (afterlife). The hope of the Mormon is the hope of the resurrection where he might attain a lofty position as a god. When I test this Mormon teaching by the Bible (1 Thess. 5:21 – “prove all things”) I reject it. If you believe the Bible (which you don’t), then you can’t deny what it says. God is the only God that has ever existed and will ever exist.

Hosea 11:9 states: “I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: **for I am God, and not man**; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city.”

Numbers 23:19: “**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?”

Isaiah 45:12: “I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.”

God is the eternal Creator and not a man who eventually reached a god status. The Bible clearly reveals that God is eternal.

1 Timothy 1:17: “Now unto the **King eternal**, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Psalm 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.**

Psalm 93:2: “Thy throne is established of old: **thou art from everlasting.**”

Isaiah 57:15: “For thus saith the high and lofty One that **inhabiteth eternity**, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

Isaiah 40:28: “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that **the everlasting God**, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.”

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.”

No Scripture contradicts this clear revelation. God is not a glorified physical man. God the Father does not have a body. He is spirit (John 4:24). Jesus Christ reveals God to man in bodily form (John 1:14 – “the Word was made flesh”). Even your Book of Mormon verifies that God is not a glorified man but an eternal spirit (Almah 22:10; 31:15; Moroni 8:18). I do not site your testament to indicate that it replaces the Bible in any way or has any authority over the Bible. I just want you to see that this teaching is not even consistent with the Book of Mormon.

Mormon doctrine teaches that God the Father did not create the planet that His Father had already created. No God for any world created all worlds. No God for any world created intelligence, matter, or the laws that govern them. These are eternal. Any person,

including a God for any world, eternally existed as intelligence, and not as God (Fielding Smith, The Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 373 [pre-2002 edition]; D&C 93:29-33; 131:7-8; and Abraham 3:18-28).

And yet what does the Bible say?

Revelation 4:11

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

Mr. Mormon, you can't be Christian if you reject the Biblical and historic Christian doctrine of God's eternal being and nature. Your Mormon version of the father is not the Father presented in the Bible. Your Mormon version of the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ is not the Biblical picture and truth presented about any member of the Godhead.

Do you believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three separate gods? If so, the Bible contradicts what you believe.

On the following page are the first four verses found in Book of Abraham chapter four.

THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM

TRANSLATED FROM THE PAPYRUS, BY JOSEPH SMITH

CHAPTER 4

The Gods plan the creation of the earth and all life thereon—Their plans for the six days of creation are set forth.

1 AND then the Lord said: Let us go down. And they went down at the beginning, and they, that is the Gods, organized and formed the heavens and the earth.

2 And the earth, after it was formed, was empty and desolate, because they had not formed anything but the earth; and darkness reigned upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of the Gods was brooding upon the face of the waters.

3 And they (the Gods) said: Let there be light; and there was light.

4 And they (the Gods) comprehended the light, for it was bright; and they divided the light, or caused it to be divided, from the darkness.

Mormonism teaches that somewhere in the distant past the three different gods held a counsel meeting and decided to create the universe. This passage of false Scripture proves that Joseph Smith taught the lie that there are three different gods in the Godhead.

"Many men say there is one God; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are only one God. I say that is a strange God [anyhow]--three in one and one in three. . . It is curious organization... All are crammed into one God according to sectarianism (Christian faith). It would make the biggest God in all the world. He would be a wonderfully big God--he would be a giant or a monster." (Joseph Smith, *Teachings*, 372).

The Mormon Church teaches that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are three separate Gods (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 370; *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 576-577), and that the Son and Holy Ghost are the literal offspring of the Heavenly Father and a celestial wife (Joseph Fielding McConkie, *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, vol. 2, p. 649). Both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are said to be separate and distinct gods. They are actually both spirit-children of the Heavenly Father. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints teaches that the Holy Ghost is a spirit man, another spirit son of God the Father. (*Encyclopedia of Mormonism* 2:649; cf. D&C 130:22-23; and "Holy Ghost" in the LDS Bible Dictionary).

Since the Holy Ghost is the *inseparable* third person who shares the same existence as the One true God, He is not a man that became exalted as a separate god (2 Samuel 23:2-3; Mt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; Acts 13:2). This is not the Biblical teaching of the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. There are not many gods as Mormon doctrine espouses. There is only one God and He exists in a Trinity of three persons (not three gods).

Mormon doctrine teaches that God the Father (a separate god) did not create the planet that His Father had already created. No god for any world created all worlds. No god for any world created intelligence, matter, or the laws that govern them. These are eternal.

Any person, including a God for any world, eternally existed as intelligence, and not as God (Fielding Smith, *The Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 373 [pre-2002 edition]; D&C 93:29-33; 131:7-8; and Abraham 3:18-28).

The Bible teaches there is only one God who created and rules over everything in existence. Latter Day Saints simply devalue and weaken God's unique eternal existence when they think that He did not create all the universe of time and space (Gen. 1:1; Deut. 4:39; Isa. 40:12-20; 43:10; 44:6, 8, and 24; Jn. 1:1-3; and Acts 17:24-28).

To reject the Trinitarian oneness of God is to reject the deity of each member of the Godhead as manifesting the very person and existence of God. The point is this. There is only one God – not three!

Isaiah 44:6

“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 44:8 declares:

“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 45:5

“I am the Lord, and **there is none else, there is no God beside me:** I girded thee, though thou hast not known me.”

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.”

Isaiah 43:10 states:

“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.**”

Any questions? If you truly do believe the clear revelation of the Bible, you can't deny what the Bible says. There is only one true God and this means you cannot become a god unless you believe the bill of goods that Satan sold Eve in the garden of Eden – “Ye shall be as gods” (Gen. 3:5). I'd rather believe God than Satan. The Bible teaches monotheism – not polytheism. No Scripture when properly interpreted in light of the clear revelation of the Bible will ever teach that we can become gods. The Bible simply does not teach polytheism. If you believe in many gods then you are indeed polytheistic. At least admit it.

The Bible refutes the idea that there are three separate gods. There is only one God, and He exists in a Trinity.

1. The Father is called God (“God the Father” – 1 Pet. 1:2).
2. The Son is called God (“My Lord and my God” – John 20:28).
- *The Father said to the son “Thy throne, O God is forever” (Heb. 1:8).
3. The Holy Spirit is said to be God (Acts 5:3-4).

The members of the Godhead are never called “a god” but God! God is one God and He exists in a Trinity (Gen. 1:26).

Deuteronomy 6:4

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord” (not three gods).

There are three distinct persons in the Godhead and all of them share the same existence as the one true God. They are coeternal and coequal. The Bible reveals this repeatedly. This means Jesus was not simply a god but the One and only true God that has existed from eternity past.

Mr. Mormon, you can't be Christian if you reject the historic teaching of the Trinity which holds the Biblical view of three members within the Godhead. One God in three persons – not three gods in three persons. Evangelical Christianity has always believed in the Trinity for the Bible teaches it.

Of course, the main message of the Old Testament is monotheism. There is only one God. Jesus exhorted the Jews to remain faithful to

the one true God (Mark 12:29). They took Jesus seriously and wanted to stone him for calling himself God.

John 8:58

“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”

John 10:30-33

“I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.”

Jesus claimed that both the Father and Son shared the same existence as the one true God.

It's interesting that in Alma 11:26-30, 32-33, 35, 38-39, 44 Smith seems to assure us that there's only one God, the "Son of God the very eternal Father," through whom come all things in "heaven and earth, and all things which in them, are; he is the beginning and the end, the first and the last"; all men will be judged by "Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one eternal God." Smith seems to be teaching that all three persons in the Godhead are "one eternal God." In 2 Nephi 31:21 Smith records that the "doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen." Smith comes to this same conclusion in Moroni 9:9-10 and 19. However, later in his writings Smith denies himself and claims that there are different gods in the Godhead – not just one eternal God.

As mentioned above, in Joseph Smith's King Follet Discourse at the church's April 1844 general conference, he said: "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.".... "...you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you....." "God himself was once a man as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! That is the great secret."

If Joseph smith was right about God, when was he right? Was it *before*, when he wrote about God's one eternal being in the book of Mormon (Mosiah 15:1-5; Alma 11:28, 29; 2 Nephi 31:21), or *after* he

changed his mind about God's being and existence in the King Follet Discourse and the revisionist Bible, when he tried to destroy Christ's deity as the one eternal God (John 1:1-4)? Take your pick, but you can't pick both, and neither can any other Mormon. If a latter day saint chooses one of Smith's teachings, as being correct, and admits the other one is wrong, then Smith's credibility as a prophet collapses. Of course, Mormons will try and synchronize Smith's teachings by saying that there is only one God that runs the planet on which we live but there are other gods on other planets. This is simply erroneous and eisegesis (reading into the statements of the Bible) since the Bible mentions nothing about other gods running planets. Smith came to reject the truth that there was only one true and living God that existed from eternity past. He became another victim of the "doctrines of devils" (1 Tim. 4:1).

Do you believe there are many other gods that exist and that you too will someday become a god? If so, I can't accept this anti-biblical conclusion.

Exodus 20:3 says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." This includes those who think they can become as God. The Mormon Church teaches that there are many gods and that we can become gods and goddesses in the celestial kingdom (*Doctrine and Covenants* 132:19-20; *Gospel Principles*, p. 245; *Achieving a Celestial Marriage*, p. 130). It also teaches that those who achieve godhood will have spirit children who will worship and pray to them, just as we worship and pray to God the Father (*Gospel Principles*, p. 302).

According to Mormon doctrine there are many gods who create and rule over other worlds, and on those worlds, worship excludes the God of our world. So there is only one God *for us*, and this God is typically referred to as the Heavenly Father. Mormons may also speak of the term "God" in reference to "the Godhead", which is a team of separate Gods (McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 576-7; Joseph Fielding Smith, ed., *The Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 346-7 [pre-2002 edition]; Abraham 4:1, *Pearl of Great Price*; *Gospel Principles*, 245 [1997 edition], and 302; "God", *LDS Bible Dictionary*; and Blake Ostler, "Review of *The Mormon Concept of God: A*

Philosophical Analysis by Francis J. Beckwith and Stephen E. Parrish" [Provo, UT: FARMS, 1996], 99-146).

"Gods exist, and we had better strive to be prepared to be one with them" (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 7:238).

"Each of these Gods, including Jesus Christ and His Father, being in possession of not merely an organized spirit, but a glorious immortal body of flesh and bones" (Parley P. Pratt, *Key to the Science of Theology*, ed. 1978, 23).

"As man is, God once was: as God is, man may become" (Prophet Lorenzo Snow, (*Encyclopedia of Mormonism* 4:1474; also quoted in Milton R. Hunter, *The Gospel Through the Ages*, 105–106).

Mr. Snow claimed this doctrinal teaching came to him via revelation in 1840. Later, Joseph Smith told him it was a "true gospel doctrine" revealed "from God to you." (LeRoi C. Snow, "Devotion to a Divine Inspiration," *Improvement Era*, June 1919, page 656).

Several recent issues of *Ensign Magazine* teach the concept of Eternal Progression (Mormons can eventually become gods) as a true and reveal that is still a current doctrine of the LDS Church.

- **July 1982:** "It is clear that the teaching of President Lorenzo Snow is both acceptable and accepted doctrine in the Church today." ("I have a question," Gerald Lund, page 38)
- **August 1995:** "...our Heavenly Father proposed that all of his spirit children who lived with him in heaven might obtain the same blessings and privileges of Deity he enjoys. The process includes our gradually obtaining a clear understanding of the eternal principles that prepared and placed him in his current exalted condition." ("Learning to Live for Eternal Life," Seventy Carlos H. Amado, page 38)
- **July 1996:** "Knowing what we know concerning God our Father—that he is a personal being; that he has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as our own; that he is an exalted and glorified being; that he was once a man and

dwelt on an earth..." ("The Eternal Gospel," Robert L. Millet, page 53)

- **February 2002:** "God Himself is an exalted man, perfected, enthroned, and supreme. ...even as the infant son of an earthly father and mother is capable in due time of becoming a man, so the undeveloped offspring of celestial parentage is capable, by experience through ages and aeons, of evolving into a God." ("The Origin of Man," First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, reprint of November 1909 statement, page 30)
- **January 2006:** "...if we are faithful and true to the commandments of the Lord, to become sons and daughters of God, joint heirs with Jesus Christ; and in His presence to go on to a fulness and a continuation of the seeds forever, and perhaps through our faithfulness to have the opportunity of building worlds and peopling them." ("Adam's Role in Bringing Us Mortality," President Joseph Fielding Smith, reprint of October 1967 General Conference address, page 52)

Worthy Mormons can become gods to create, rule over, and receive worship from their own worlds some day. They will do this exclusively as the god or the team of gods for that world or that set of worlds (like the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are for this world or this set of worlds), and thus the God of this world will not perform those functions there (D&C 76:50-58 and 95, 132:15-23, 29, and 37; and *Gospel Principles*, 302 [1997 edition]).

Mormon doctrine also recognizes a Mother God. "This doctrine that there is a Mother in Heaven was affirmed in plainness by the First Presidency of the church..." and teaches that our spirits were born from the Father God and the Mother God. MMD, p. 516.

God the Father has *at least* one wife that He needed in order to become exalted to Godhood, and by *at least* one wife we on this world were all literally born as spirit children prior to taking on our tangible bodies of flesh and bones via our mortal parents (McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 516-7; Brigham Young, *The Journal of Discourses*

1:50; *Gospel Principles*, 15 [1997 edition]; and the popular hymn "O My Father").

"Mortal persons who overcome all things and gain an ultimate exaltation will live eternally in the family unit and have spirit children, thus becoming Eternal Fathers and Eternal Mothers." MMD, p. 517.

Mormons place a heavy emphasis on marriage for they teach that they can be eternally married to their wife or wives throughout eternity and bear spirit children. The key is this. You must pass through an ordained marriage on earth in a Mormon temple, so that you can be promised an eternal marriage in the next life and throughout eternity. In short, you can enter a marital state of godhood and produce spirit children through this eternal bond of marriage.

The Mormon Church actually teaches two types of marriage. One ends at death. The other is for "time and eternity." If the couple is married in a Mormon temple by someone with authority it is believed they will stay married in the next life. This kind of marriage is needed if they are to progress, not only as husband and wife, but as God and Goddess.

Here is how it works:

"An eternal marriage must be performed by one who holds the sealing powers and authority" (*Gospel Principles*, 233) --one who holds the priesthood authority. The marriage "must also be done in the proper place. The proper place is in one of the holy temples of our Lord. The temple is the only place this holy ordinance can be performed" (*Gospel Principles*, 233). Mormons believe that if they are married by any other authority the marriage is for this life only and therefore negates their opportunity for celestial exaltation as a god.

William Clayton, Hyrum Smith's clerk, was present when Joseph Smith first announced the revelation regarding plural and celestial marriage. Clayton wrote that from Joseph he "learned that the doctrine of plural and celestial marriage is the most holy and important doctrine ever revealed to man on earth, and that without obedience to that principle no man can ever attain to the fullness of exaltation in celestial glory" (*Gospel Principles*, 233).

This revelation was first given publicly at Nauvoo, Illinois, July 12, 1843. In May of that year Joseph revealed that "In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees; and in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting covenant of marriage]; and if he does not, he cannot obtain it."(Donna Hill, *Joseph Smith: The First Mormon* (Midvale, UT: Signature Books, 1977, 345). Joseph goes on to reveal that "if ye abide not that covenant, then are ye damned" (Doctrine and Covenants 131:1-3).

It will be pointed out in a further answer that every Mormon individual does receive a measure of salvation regardless of his disposition in life. Of course, the question that remains is, Why should a Mormon subject themselves to the regimen of the church (the hassles) if they will receive salvation anyway? We find the answer further in the revelation. "We must be obedient to every covenant that we make in the temple of the Lord. He (God) has said that if we are true and faithful we shall pass by the angels to our exaltation. We will become gods."(Doctrine and Covenants 131:1-3).

LDS Apostle Bruce McConkie, stated: "Thus those who gain eternal life receive exaltation ... They are gods." (Bruce McConkie, "Mormon Doctrine," Page 237).

Evangelical theologian James A. Beverley wrote: "Mormons can progress to godhood in the next world through following temple endowment rituals." (Bill McKeever, "As God is, man may become?" Mormonism Research Ministry).

Yes, Mormons do believe they will become gods in the next life. They truly are god makers. The Mormon hopes to become a god himself but only if he is in complete compliance with the churches view on marriage and Mormon laws. In conclusion, it seems that the motivation for entering into celestial marriage is based on the teaching that one can become a god or a goddess in eternity.

The Mormons try and base there "many gods" on such verses as Psalm 8:2; John 10:34, 1 Corinthians 8:5, and Romans 8:17. The Hebrew word for God (Elohim) is sometimes used of human beings. For instance, the judges in Psalm 82:1, 4, and 6 were called "gods"

not because they were actually deity, but because they pronounced life and death judgments over people. They were standing in the place of God when acting as judges. The text in Psalm 82:6 goes on to say that they were actually men and would in fact die as men (vs. 7). Let's study the Bible! Humans are not gods. In addition, the Mormon teaching does not even believe that people become gods in this life so these alleged proof texts do not even properly support Mormon doctrine.

All men are only creatures of the one true God (Gen. 1:26-27). Man was made in the image of God but this does not mean becomes a god. It means that every man reflects certain attributes of God (moral dimension, intellectual dimension). In 1 Corinthians 8:5 is sometimes cited to prove that there are other gods but this was spoken in irony for the very next verse says there is only one God (1 Cor. 8:6). The fact that we share in the spiritual blessings of Christ (Rom. 8:17) does not mean we are absorbed into a godhood status. Rather, it means that grace has blessed us with great spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:3). Mr. Mormon, we will never be a god. Becoming gods was the lie of Satan that was promoted from the very beginning of time in the Garden of Eden.

Satan is recorded as saying in Genesis 3:5:

“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.”

Mr. Mormon, have you bought into this lie? Don't believe the devil for he is the father of lies (John 8:44).

Brigham young even taught that Adam was God when he came into the world. Historically the doctrine of Adam-God (that Adam was actually God) was hard for even faithful Mormons to believe. As a result, on June 8, 1873, Brigham Young stated: “How much unbelief exists in the minds of the Latter-day Saints in regard to one particular doctrine which I revealed to them, and which God revealed to me — namely that Adam is our father and God.

Brigham Young concluded that God revealed Adam-God doctrine to him and that Adam holds the keys of everlasting life and salvation to all. Deseret News, p. 308 (June 18, 1873)

"President B. Young taught that Adam was the father of Jesus and the only God to us." *Diary of Hosea Stout*, vol. 2, p. 435 (April 9, 1852)

Brigham Young concluded that Adam came into the garden of Eden with a celestial body and one of his many wives, he is our Father and God. The Father, not the Holy Spirit, conceived Jesus with the Virgin Mary. *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 1, p. 50 (April 9, 1852)

Later Mormons rejected this idea or notion (Conference Report, p. 115, October 1-3, 1976) but it stands to reason that the early presidents and prophets who were foundational to Mormonism cannot be trusted. They are false prophets and teachers.

2 Peter 2:1 says, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

Do you believe that Jesus was created as a spirit child by the Father and Mother in Heaven? If you do believe this, then you deny the deity of Jesus Christ or that He exists as the One and only true God from eternity past. The Mormon Church actually teaches that Jesus Christ is our "elder brother" who progressed to godhood, having first been procreated as a spirit child by Heavenly Father and a heavenly mother; He was later conceived physically through intercourse between the Heavenly Father and the Virgin Mary (*Achieving a Celestial Marriage*, p. 129; *Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 546-547; 742). Mormon doctrine also affirms that Jesus and Lucifer are brothers (*Gospel Principles*, pp. 17-18; *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 192).

Let me just say one thing. Jesus is not my brother – He is "my Lord and my God" (John 20:28). Mormons claim that Jesus was the first-born of the Heavenly Father, a spirit-brother of Lucifer (Satan) and of all humanity. He is distinguished from the rest of humanity in that he was physically conceived by a union of the Heavenly Father and Mary. Instead of the eternal Jesus co-equal with the Father, the Mormon Jesus was once a man who achieved godhood by his own virtuousness during a preincarnate existence. His spirit was then

impregnated into the virgin Mary by the "Eternal Father" who came from the planet Kolob (signifying the first creation, nearest to the celestial, or the residence of God) for the physical union with her.

Latter Day Saints Apostle Bruce R. McConkie explains:
"Christ is the Firstborn, meaning that he was the first Spirit Child born to God the Father" (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 281).

The official LDS publication: *Gospel Principles*, declares:
"The first spirit born of our heavenly parents was Jesus Christ" (9).

Jesus, like all other gods before Him, had to become a God. He is the literal Son of God like we are children of God, but He's without sin (Fielding Smith, *The Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 346-7 [pre-2002 edition]).

The Mormon Jesus is not the Jesus of the Bible! It is "another Jesus" (2 Cor. 11:4).

"It is true that many of the Christian churches worship a different Jesus Christ than is worshipped by the Mormons or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." LDS Quorum of the Seventy member Bernard P. Brockbank, *The Ensign*, May 1977, p. 26

"In bearing testimony of Jesus Christ, President Hinckley spoke of those outside the Church who say Latter-day Saints 'do not believe in the traditional Christ.' 'No, I don't. The traditional Christ of whom they speak is not the Christ of whom I speak. For the Christ of whom I speak has been revealed in this the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times. He together with His Father, appeared to the boy Joseph Smith in the year 1820, and when Joseph left the grove that day, he knew more of the nature of God than all the learned ministers of the gospel of the ages'" (*LDS Church News*, June 20, 1998, p. 7).

Mormon doctrine deviates significantly from the Bible, which teaches that Jesus is eternal and not procreated. Although Mormons teach that Jesus is eternal, what they mean is that He existed as a spirit child prior to His incarnation. Being an offspring of Elohim means He was created at some point in time. Jesus, like all other gods before Him, had to become a God. He is the literal Son of God like we are

children of God, but He's without sin (Fielding Smith, *The Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 346-7 [pre-2002 edition]).

The Bible says that Jesus as the Son was eternal and that He coexisted eternally with the Father as the One and only true God.

John 8:58

“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”

Hebrews 1:3 speaks of Christ:

“Who being the brightness of his glory, and **the express image of his person**, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

John 1:1

“In the beginning was the Word (logos), and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**”

Jesus Christ was the logos or the revelation of God's very being and existence on earth. Jesus exegeted God to mankind while He was here on earth (John 1:18).

John 5:18

“Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, **making himself equal with God.**”

Hebrews 1:8

“But **unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God**, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.”

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.”

The Bible also says that Jesus was the creator of everything.

John 1:3 says:

“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

Colossians 1:16 says this of Christ:

“For by him 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”

Mormonism rejects this Biblical truth.

Jesus being the literal son of exalted human gods obviously did not create all things either. For example, He did not create the planet He was born on as a spirit child (*Ibid.*; *Gospel Principles*, 17-20 [1997 edition]; and 27-29).

Jesus was not a created spirit. He was and always will be the eternal and unchangeable God. He was the Creator and Designer of the universe for the simple reason that He shares the same existence with the eternal and true God.

Malachi 3:6

“For I am the Lord, I change not ...”

God never changes in His character and being for He is the eternal and only true God. Mr. Mormon, you can't be Christian if you reject the deity of Jesus Christ, or that He was the eternal, unchanging, and only true God and Creator of everything that exists. You believe in “**another Jesus**” (2 Cor. 11:4) – not the one I believe in and base my salvation upon.

Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Another Jesus who is not the eternal and unchanging God cannot save you. Only the true Jesus Christ revealed in the Bible and which historic Christianity accepts, as God (the only God), can save you from hell. You claim that you believe in the deity of Christ (that Christ

is God) but what you really mean is that you believe that Jesus Christ is a god which has reached an exalted state of godhood. You have similar names in your Mormon doctrine but you have a different dictionary! My point is this. If you reject who Jesus was then you can't be Christian, as you say, since historic Christianity has always accepted the truth that Jesus Christ was coequal with the Father because He shares the same existence as God.

Do you believe that Jehovah and Elohim are two distinct gods?

Some Mormons teach that Elohim is the greater God (the Father) and Jehovah the lesser god (who is Jesus). If so, you are wrong again. These names refer to the same God!

Genesis 27:20

And Isaac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the Lord (Jehovah) thy God (Elohim) brought it to me.

Exodus 3:6-7

“Moreover he said, I am the God (Elohim – the Strong One) of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. And the Lord (Jehovah) said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows.”

Jeremiah 32:18

“Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God (Elohim), the Lord (Jehovah) of hosts, is his name.”

The Mormon idea that Elohim is the Father and Jehovah is Jesus cannot be substantiated by Scripture. Again, this teaching rejects the deity of Jesus Christ and becomes antichristian and unorthodox.

We might add that Christ is called Elohim in various verses.

Isaiah 40:3 prophecies what John the Baptist would say of Christ:

“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Jehovah), make straight in the desert a highway for our God” (Elohim).

Here, within the confines of a single verse Christ is called both Jehovah and Elohim. Jesus is not a lesser god than Elohim. Jesus is Elohim. He is the only true and eternal God.

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 (Elohim), The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Do you pray to Jesus? If not, you are in error for refusing to accept Jesus as God and worthy of worship, praise, and prayer.

Jesus is not worshipped equally with the Father, since Jesus is not our begetter. Jesus is not even directly prayed to. Prayer is directed only to the Father *in the name* of Jesus (*Gospel Principles*, 41 [1997 edition]; McConkie, *BYU Devotional* [March 2, 1982], 17, 19, and 20). Did you know that in the Book of Mormon (3 Nephi 19:18) Jesus is prayed to!

Concerning the concept of a personal relationship with Christ, the late LDS Apostle, Bruce McConkie made the following infamous speech (note that McConkie even goes as far as denying the pattern of praying *through* the Son):

"Some ("holier-than- thou" students) begin to pray directly to Christ because of some special friendship they feel has been developed. In this conception a current and unwise book, which advocates gaining a special relationship with Jesus, contains this sentence - quote: "Because the Saviour is our mediator, our prayers go through Christ to the Father, and the Father answers our prayers through his son. " Unquote. This is plain sectarian nonsense. Our prayers are addressed to the Father, and to him only. They do not go through Christ...You have never heard the First Presidency or the Twelve...advocate this excessive zeal that calls for gaining a so called special and personal relationship with Christ...never, never at

any time have they taught or endorsed the inordinate and intemperate zeal that encourages endless, sometimes day-long prayers, in order to gain a personal relationship with the Saviour...I wonder if it is not part of Lucifer's system to make people feel they are special friends of Jesus when in fact they are not following the normal and usual pattern of worship found in the true Church." (*Bruce McConkie, Speech at BYU on March 2 1982*).

McConkie also stated:

"We worship the Father and him only and no one else. We do not worship the Son and we do not worship the Holy Ghost. I know perfectly well about what the scriptures say about worshipping Christ and Jehovah, but they are speaking in an entirely different sense - the sense of standing in awe and being reverentially grateful to Him who has redeemed us. Worship in the true and saving sense is reserved for God first, the Creator." (*Ibid.*).

McConkie also said the following words in his book *Mormon Doctrine*:

"Prayers of the saints are expected to conform to a prescribed standard of divine excellence...They are to be addressed to the Father; should always be made in the name of Jesus Christ; ..." (*Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p. 581*).

In the same book, under the subject heading of "Prayer Books", and how they relate to some Christian traditions, McConkie has the following to say:

"As an indication of how far removed most of them [the churches] are from the true form of prayer is the fact that many of them are not made in the name of Christ, while others are addressed directly to Christ or the Holy Ghost rather than to the Father."

Mr. Mormon, you will remember that Jesus accepted worship (John 9:38; 20:28; Matt. 8:2; 9:18; 28:16-17) even as the Father accepted worship (Ex. 34:14). This tells us that Jesus is not a lesser god but the same God as the Father. The modern claim by Mormons is that Jesus should not be prayed to. However, Mormons must remember their own teaching at this point. You claim that Jesus is Jehovah. The Jehovah of the Old Testament accepted worship (Deut. 4:7; 2 Chron.

7:14; Ps. 5:2; 32:6; Jer. 29:7, 12). If Jesus is Jehovah, as the Mormons claim, and if prayers are to be offered to Jehovah, then shouldn't prayer be offered to Jesus? Furthermore, there are clear New Testament references where prayer is made directly to Jesus (Acts 7:59; Rom. 10:12).

If praying to Christ *directly* was wrong, then did Stephen fall into apostasy just before he died? Of course not. Stephen recognised that praying to His Saviour was right and the pattern of the early Church who were known as those who "called upon the name of the Lord" (Acts 9:14; 21; 22:16; 2 Cor. 1:2).

The distinction in godhood status between the Father and Jesus is simply erroneous and unorthodox. Demoting Jesus has always been a sign of a cult. Mormonism is a cult – not a Christian church or denomination.

- The Jesus of the Bible is prayed to (Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 116:4 and Zech. 13:9 with 1 Cor. 1:1-2).
- The Jesus of the Bible is worshiped (Matt. 2:2,11; 14:33; 28:9; John 9:35-38; Heb. 1:6)
- The Jesus of the Bible called God (John 20:28; Heb. 1:8).

Do you believe that the body of Jesus was created through a sexual union between Elohim and Mary? If so, I must reject this teaching based on the Bible. The Bible clearly reveals that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary through the direct conception of the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35). You should know that even your Book of Mormon teaches that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Alma 7:10). And yet the successor Christ was not begotten of the Holy Ghost...He was not born without the aid of Man, and that Man was God." Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:18

Brigham Young wrote, "He [Christ] was not begotten by the Holy Ghost ... Jesus, our elder brother, was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the garden of Eden, and who is our Father in Heaven" (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 1, p. 123).

"Now remember from this time forth, and for ever, that Jesus Christ was not begotten by the Holy Ghost. ...If the Son was begotten by the Holy Ghost, it would be very dangerous to baptize and confirm females, and give the Holy Ghost to them, lest he should beget children to be palmed upon the Elders by the people bringing the Elders into great difficulties." Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 1:51

And yet your own book of Mormon seems to conclude that Jesus was virgin born by the Holy Spirit when it says, "And behold, he shall be born of Mary ... a virgin, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yes, even the Son of God" (Almah 7:10). There seems to be a contradiction between Mormon teaching on the virgin birth and the Book of Mormon.

Mr. Mormon, if you reject the supernatural birth of Christ by the Holy Spirit, you deny the deity or divinity of Christ. Christ was conceived without the taint of human sin (Heb. 7:26) and the virgin birth by the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit proves that Jesus Christ was Immanuel - God with us (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23). Jesus was not one of many gods, or a lesser god than the Father, but Immanuel – the very expression of God's being and existence. Cults always attack the virgin birth of Christ through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit for the simple reason that Christ's virgin birth is the identifying marker that He is the One and only true God.

Do you believe Jesus was the spirit brother of Lucifer and that Jesus is our elder brother? If so, I reject these teachings on the basis of Scripture. Mormonism teaches that Jesus and Lucifer are brothers who competed for the opportunity to become the savior of planet earth. Jesus' plan won approval and Lucifer rebelled and became the tempter and deceiver of planet Earth. Mormonism teaches that Jesus is only one of many saviors who are each responsible for the salvation of the population of other planets like our own.

"In the beginning, the head of the gods called a council of the gods; and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and (the) people in it." Joseph Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1976, 349).

Mormon doctrine teaches that a race of gods, (advanced humanoids from a planet orbiting the mysterious star Kolob) who were once only men but through adherence to Mormon teachings became gods, called a council and decided that Jesus would be the God and savior of planet Earth. Lucifer, spirit brother of Jesus, wanting to be God and savior of Earth, lead a rebellion and lost. The followers of Lucifer became demons and therefore denied bodies of flesh and blood for all eternity. This explains the Mormon doctrine of the Pre-existence of souls.

In the Discourses of Brigham Young, on Pg.53-54, he lets it be known that Lucifer is the second son, the one known as "Son of the Morning." "Who will redeem the earth, who will go forth and make the sacrifice for the earth and all things it contains?" The Eldest Son said: "Here am I"; and then he added, "Send me." But the second one, which was "Lucifer, Son of the Morning," said, "Lord, here am I, send me, I will redeem every son and daughter of Adam and Eve that lives on the earth, or that ever goes on the earth."

Mormons teach that "the council of the Gods" presented a plan to redeem the earth. Jesus wanted to give man free choice, but Lucifer contested this plan.

Bruce R. McConkie tells us:

When the plan of salvation presented . . . and when the need for a Redeemer was explained, Satan offered to come into the world as the Son of God and be the Redeemer. "Behold here am I, send me," he said. . . . But then, as always, he was in opposition to the full plan of the Father, and so he sought to amend and change the terms of salvation; he sought to deny men their agency and to dethrone God (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 193).

Mr. Mormon, virtually all non-Christian cults reduce Jesus Christ to a mere created being. *Christian Science* teaches Jesus was just a man that merely had attained a "Christ mind," hence Jesus was not the Christ who was to come, the Savior of the world. *Jehovah's Witnesses* teach that Jesus is Michael the archangel, "a god" with a little "g" the first of Jehovah's creations. *Mormons* teach that Jesus is Satan's literal brother - a created spirit child. In Mormon theology, we

all pre-existed in Heaven, procreated by the God the Father and one of His wives. Jesus was the first spirit child of Elohim (God the Father) and one of His wives.

Colossians 1:16 is says of Christ:

“For by him 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.”

Lucifer was in the realm of spirit being (Ezekiel 28:13-19) and Christ created all the angels. Lucifer was created by Christ (Ezekiel 28:13-14) - not the brother of Christ.

"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 sprit-filled brother of Jesus desperately tried to become the Savior of mankind." (Milton R. Hunter, *Gospel Through the Ages*, p. 15). No where in the Bible does it say that Satan wanted to become the Savior of the world (Heb. 2:14-15).

Mormon doctrine would have us believe that both Christ and Lucifer were a “son of God” in some kind of preexistent spirit world of life. As already mentioned, your Mormon doctrine espouses the view that all men existed in eternity past, as spirit beings, before they were given physical bodies (“Ye were also in the beginning with the Father” - Doctrine of Covenants, 93:21, 23). This is why Mormons call Jesus our “elder brother.” It’s held that Jesus Christ was simply a spirit being like the rest of us before He came to the earth. If Lucifer was the brother of Jesus and we are all brothers, then this must mean that Satan is also my brother. Perish the thought! The Bible teaches otherwise. It teaches that man did not exist until he was created by God (Gen. 1:26-27) to resemble God – not become like God. By contrast, Christ was not created; He did exist in eternity past (John 1:1, 14), as the only true God and Creator of everything that exists (John 1:3).

Do you believe in the planet Kolob and life on other planets? If you do, I can’t agree with this space doctrine and the Mormon theory

of life and gods inhabiting other planets. It's very bizarre to say the least!

The Bible only talks about creating man on planet earth (Deuteronomy 4:32; Isaiah 45:12). It never mentions about life being created on other planets, let alone gods ruling on other planets in the universe. This is beyond Scriptural revelation and is science fiction in nature.

Smith seems to have believed that life existed on other planets and that God was actually living on the star base of a planet called Kolob.

The Book of Abraham 3:3

And the Lord said unto me: These are the governing ones; and the name of the great one is Kolob, because it is near unto me, for I am the Lord thy God: I have set this one to govern all those which belong to the same order as that upon which thou standest.

Joseph Smith said: "Kolob is 'the great governing star of our universe' and 'the residence of God.'" See Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith's "Church History and Modern Revelation" Volume 3, Page 60.

Kolob, signifying the first creation, nearest to the celestial, or the residence of God. First in government, the last pertaining to the measurement of time. The measurement according to celestial time, which celestial time signifies one day to a cubit. One day in Kolob is equal to a thousand years according to the measurement of this earth, which is called by the Egyptians Jah-oh-eh (Pearl of Great Price, Abraham chapter 3, Joseph Smith).

Some of this revelation has already taken place. For instance: We know that on Kolob, where the Lord's time prevails, a day is 1,000 years of our time. (Abraham 3:4; 2 Peter 3:8.) Thus it is that the time element in the creation of this earth was reckoned "after the Lord's time, which was after the time of Kolob; for as yet the Gods had not appointed unto Adam his reckoning." (Abraham 5:13 - Mormon Doctrine; Time, Bruce R. McConkie, 1966).

Mr. Mormon, what's up with this space doctrine? It's very hard to believe in a god that lives near or either on a planet in outer space

(called Kolob) who has a large harem to take care of his needs and produces spirit children, like you and me, who eventually come to earth in human form. The Mormon space doctrine is rather bizarre to say the least. The Bible does not say we are spirit beings in a previous life but that He forms the spirit of man within us at conception (Zechariah 12:1).

I found this somewhere on the Internet. I include it, not for mockery, but because it really does reflect Mormon beliefs.

THE MAN FROM KOLOB

“There once was an ambitious man from Kolob,
Who progressed and got a new job.
Elohim, Mormons say, is his name,
And the "Council of gods" made earth his domain.

This "eternal progression" they also strive to follow,
If only all of Mormonism they would but swallow!
Gods and goddesses they say they too can be,
Faith in "the only true church" is the entry key.

Now this "heavenly Father" of flesh and bone,
Was not content to just sit on his throne.
He had many wives and was busy as a bee,
Producing spirit children throughout all eternity.

Then two of his kids strongly disagreed,
Over who's plan would best succeed.
Jesus and Lucifer were they;
One was redeemer and one was the devil,
A strange brotherhood, I'd say!

Elohim looked on down,
For a choice virgin to be found;
Mary was his daughter, then became his wife,
Together they produced Jesus for this life.

This elder brother only purchased their resurrection,
For by their own good works they can come to perfection.

Of the cross there is surely no need,
But by their own laws and covenants they'll succeed!"

JOSEPH SMITH HAS TOLD YOU A LIE!

In addition, many Mormons actually believe that there is life on other planets. God created all the planets in our solar system with the explicit "law" to support human life. The other planets in our solar system are already populated or are able to support human life (See "The Essential Orson Pratt, p.373").

"Thus the Lord has given us the information regarding his creations, and how he has made many earths, for there never was a beginning, never was a time when man did not exist somewhere in the universe, and when the time came for this earth to be peopled the Lord, our God, transplanted upon it from some other earth, the life which is found here" (Improvement Era, Vol 23:389-393; Joseph Fielding Smith; "The Origin and Destiny of Man"; 1919).

The thought of life on other worlds was clearly taught by both Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. According to Oliver B. Huntington, Joseph Smith instructed, "The inhabitants of the moon are more of a uniform size than the inhabitants of the earth, being about six feet in height. They dress very much like the Quaker style and are quite general in style or the one fashion of dress. They live to be very old; coming generally, near a thousand years" (History of the Life of Oliver B. Huntington, pg. 10, typed copy, University of Utah). Huntington also records: "In my patriarchal blessing, given by the father of Joseph the Prophet, in Kirtland, 1837, I was told that I should preach the gospel before I was 21 years of age; that I should preach the gospel to the inhabitants upon the islands of the sea, and -- to the inhabitants of the moon, even the planet you can now see with your eyes" (The Young Women's Journal 3:264, 1892).

Huntington's comment seems pale in comparison to those made by Brigham Young. Not only did Young acknowledge that the moon was inhabited, but he also insisted that the sun was inhabited as well! In a sermon given on July 24, 1870, Young declared:

"Who can tell us of the inhabitants of this little planet that shines of an evening, called the moon? When we view its face we may see what is termed "the man in the moon," and what some philosophers declare are the shadows of mountains. But these sayings are very vague, and amount to nothing; and when you inquire about the inhabitants of that sphere you find that the most learned are as ignorant in regard to them as the most ignorant of their fellows. So it is with regard to the inhabitants of the sun. Do you think it is inhabited? I rather think it is. Do you think there is any life there? No question of it; it was not made in vain. It was made to give light to those who dwell upon it, and to other planets; and so will this earth when it is celestialized" (Journal of Discourses 13:271).

Joseph Smith, in his "Inspired Version" (a.k.a. Joseph Smith Translation) of the Bible, states in Genesis 14:34: "And his people wrought righteousness, and obtained heaven, and sought for the city of Enoch which God had before taken, separating it from the earth, having reserved it unto the latter days, or the end of the world."

According to Mormon folklore, this city of Enoch was transported, land and all, toward the throne of God. LDS President Joseph Fielding Smith wrote: "The Lord, who created the earth, certainly controls it. Why try to deny him this power? Moreover, we are taught that portions of this earth have been taken from it, such as the city of Enoch, which included the land surface as well as the people. Yet the earth has maintained its steady course, and `abideth the law' which was given to it." (Doctrines of Salvation 2:316).

Joseph Young, an LDS Seventy and brother of Brigham Young, wrote in his History of the Organization of the Seventies, "Joseph Smith said, on another occasion, in the hearing of some of the saints still surviving, that the City of Enoch would again take its place in the identical spot from which it had been detached, now forming that chasm of the earth, filled with water, called the Gulf of Mexico" (p. 12).

President Joseph Fielding Smith, the tenth president of the Mormon Church, wrote the following in a book appropriately titled Doctrines of Salvation: "We are not the only people that the Lord has created. We have brothers and sisters on other earths. They look like us because

they, too, are the children of God and were created in his image, for they are also his offspring" (1:62). Smith also taught that just as there are millions of galaxies, there are also millions of Gods. He wrote, "...the great universe of stars has multiplied beyond the comprehension of men. Evidently each of these great systems is governed by divine law; with divine presiding Gods, for it would be unreasonable to assume that each was not so governed" (Answers to Gospel Questions 2:144).

In his book, *A Wonderful Flood of Light* (p.25), *LDS Apostle Neal A. Maxwell* wrote, "We do not know how many inhabited worlds there are, or where they are. But certainly we are not alone." *On page 38 of Maxwell's Not My Will, But Thine, he wrote, "Of these worlds we learn further that 'the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God' (D&C 76:24). It is all more than we can really comprehend."*

Yes, it is all more than we can really comprehend! This is because there is not an ounce of truth in it! Mr. Mormon, these comments are science fiction and they certainly do not have a place in either the Bible or true Christianity. Unfortunately, many sincere Latter-day Saints consider the above men to be divinely inspired men of God. In any other setting, statements such as the above would be taken no more seriously than those made by Marshall Applewhite, who committed suicide with most of his followers in the Heaven's Gate cult. Let's be honest. These beliefs are outlandishly false and make your prophets and teachings suspect.

To some Mormon thinkers, resurrected Mormons will in fact go on to be gods themselves, of their own worlds, which they will populate with their spiritual children. (This is only for the males, of course). Mormonism likes to think there is life on other planets in order to convey the truth that they can become a god and someday be part of the celestial gods of eternity. Some Mormons actually believe and teach that there are "billions of highly evolved humanoids" in space ruling their own planets. Worthy Mormons may become gods to create, rule over, and receive worship from their own worlds some day (D&C 76:50-58 and 95, 132:15-23, 29, and 37; and *Gospel Principles*, 302 [1997 edition]).

A woman was interviewed who said that her goal as a Mormon was to be “eternally pregnant” producing spirit children for eternity. Mormonism teaches that “infinite gods” populate planets through “celestial sex” with their “goddess wives.” Most Mormons who are taught this are embarrassed to admit this doctrine.

Joseph Smith explained, "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. 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" (*LDS History of the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 305). "The Father has promised us that through our faithfulness we shall be blessed with the fullness of his kingdom. In other words we will have the privilege of becoming like him. To become like him we must have all the powers of godhood; thus a man and his wife when glorified will have spirit children who eventually will go on an earth like this one we are on and pass through the same kind of experiences, being subject to mortal conditions, and if faithful, then they also will receive the fullness of exaltation and partake of the same blessings. There is no end to this development; it will go on forever. We will become gods and have jurisdiction over the world, and the world will be peopled by our own offspring. We will have an endless eternity for this" (*Doctrines of Salvation*, Vol. 2, p. 48). .

Mr. Mormon, do you believe in celestial parenthood? In Mormon theology, there are three levels of heaven, terrestrial, telestial, and celestial. It teaches that almost everyone will make it to the first level, terrestrial, but Mormons seek entrance to celestial heaven, because there they are exalted to godhood. Once a man is exalted to godhood, he and his wife will reproduce offspring for eternity. These spirit children will in turn inhabit physical bodies and have the opportunity to become gods as well. This privilege is reserved for those who go through the sacred marriage ceremony in the Temple and live in obedience to Mormon teachings. The highest heaven is for those who worked hardest, did all the temple duties, got married and had a faithful wife (or wives), and who were sealed to them for 'time and eternity' in a secret temple rite. They get to be gods populating their own planets with their spirit children. The wife gets to be eternally pregnant!

Mormons, who marry within the context of the church, and remain obedient, shall be resurrected together. They shall then inherit thrones and kingdoms and are then declared gods because they will then rule together for eternity.

Church president James Talmage says,
"[W]e are to understand that only resurrected and glorified beings can become parents of spirit offspring . . . and the spirits born to them in the eternal worlds will pass in due sequence through the several stages or estates by which the glorified parents have attained exaltation" James Talmage, *The Articles of Faith* (Salt Lake: Deseret Book Company, 1984, 421).

The following are the words of Joseph S. Peery, published in *Improvement Era* (Vol. XVII. September 1914 No. 11): "We will receive the salvation we earn and no more."

The same author, published in *Improvement Era* (Vol. XXII. November 1918 No. 1): "Many people seem to be satisfied with baptism, thinking thereby they will get to heaven. It is true that baptism is the door to the Kingdom of God, but there are various degrees in that kingdom. Paul compares the degrees to the sun, moon and stars. Heaven will be strictly a merit system. We get what we earn. That is all we are entitled to. Should we send up no good works, by what right can we expect a good place? If we make the Celestial degree, it will depend upon our works. It will not be attained through indifference. Things worth while are won by effort. The Lord is a good pay-master. Will I get a mansion or a dug-out? That depends on what I earn."

"As man now is, God once was. As God now is, man may become." This aphorism, coined in 1837 by Mormon apostle Lorenzo Snow, neatly summarizes the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' doctrines relating to the nature of God and the nature of man.

These words give hope to the Mormon, promising him divinity in the next life and the rule over his own universe, which, with his wives, he will people, just as God peopled this universe with his children after having progressed to godhood.

Latter Day Saint Apostle Orson Pratt wrote, "Each father and mother will be in the condition to multiply forever and ever" (The Seer, 37).

"Men can still be sealed for eternity (not time) to women other than their wives" (Doctrine and Covenants 132; Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses 11:269). The practice of polygamy in the Mormon church has been discontinued, but the doctrine of polygamy has never been revoked. D&C 132 is still part of the LDS canon. Some Mormons teach that they have the hope of gaining additional wives for eternity and populating their own planet with spirit children.

One Ex-Mormon writes:

"The reason why some call LDS men "Godmakers" is because of the LDS doctrine of Celestial Marriage. They believe that Temple Marriage (being sealed for time and eternity in their temples) gives them right to the 3rd degree of the Celestial glory. There, they believe, they will be as Gods creating spirit children and populating their own planets and be as this planet's God."

Mormon's won't tell you that women actually receive their exalted place in heaven only through their Mormon husbands and that they must remain pregnant for all eternity. This is the greatest exaltation that women can have throughout eternity.

"Goddesses are always subject to a god. Women are denied the Priesthood (meaning they are denied authority—not the same as Catholic priesthood). In the LDS universe, theologically described as the real eternal universe, each man who achieves the highest degree of the Celestial Kingdom is worth many times more than each woman, even the women who qualify at that highest Celestial level, because each man who achieves Godhood-level may have numerous God-wives, but each God-wife may have only one husband. This can only mean that each "heavenly father" is worth many times more than each "heavenly mother." And, even if the ratio were strictly one to one, the male God, not the female God, holds the priesthood authority and is the only one of the God parents to whom his earth-mortality children are allowed to pray. So Mormon women can never, NEVER achieve equality with men, no matter how outstanding or righteous the women are. That's just the way it's set

up” (MORMON WOMEN, PROZAC® and THERAPY By Kent Ponder, Ph.D.).

Mr. Mormon, do we have a future as space aliens? Are we going to have a wife or wives in eternity? Will Mormon women give birth forever and ever to spirit-babies?

Jesus said in Matthew 22:30

“For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”

Do you believe that the true Gospel was lost and restored by the Mormon Church? If so, I reject this teaching. Mormonism will often teach that the true gospel was lost from the earth and was restored by the Mormon church through adherence to church ordinances (Articles of Faith, by James Talmage, p. 182-185). In our meeting I asked you what the Gospel was and you could not tell me. This is because you embrace another gospel (Gal. 1:6) that promotes good works and Mormon doctrine.

To the average Mormon, the Gospel consists of their baptism and keeping laws and ordinances: "As these sins are the result of individual acts it is just that forgiveness for them should be conditioned on individual compliance with prescribed requirements -- 'obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.'" (*Articles of Faith* p. 79)

The Mormon fourth Article of Faith unmistakably declares:

“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.”

Mr. Mormon, the Mormon church does not teach the true Gospel message which consists only of what Jesus Christ has done for us. The true Gospel (good news) has nothing to do with keeping certain ordinances or laws. There is no good news in this message. We are all doomed to die and go to hell if we think law-keeping will save us.

Romans 3:20

“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

Here is the true Gospel as outlined in the Bible.

1 Corinthians 15:1-3 states:

“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.”

Christ died for our sins (paying sin’s penalty), He was buried (proving the finality of His death), and rose again the third day (providing evidence that the Father had accepted the Son’s sacrifice). This is the only true Gospel. It’s the Gospel of evangelical Christianity. Christ died on the cross and rose again to save us from hell and damnation. This is good news! And this is what the word “gospel” means.

By definition the Mormon church teaches that the gospel is the Mormon church system and its doctrine. The church and its doctrine becomes the good news--their gospel. For the Christian it's not an organization but a Person who represents the gospel, and that Person is God's only begotten son, Jesus Christ. It is the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ that embodies the gospel for the true Christian. Jesus is man's savior. The Bible tells us that *JESUS* is the only way to God the Father (John 14:6).

By contrast, Brigham Young says: "No man or woman in this dispensation will ever enter into the celestial Kingdom of God without the consent of Joseph. . . ." "He reigns there as supreme a being in his sphere, capacity, and calling as God does in heaven" (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 7, 289. See also, *Doctrines of Salvation*, Vol. 1, 198-90).

So for the Mormon, Joseph Smith and the Mormon church has really become their savior. They must adhere to church teachings and what Joseph Smith says. Volume One of *Doctrines of Salvation* says this

about Joseph Smith: "No salvation without accepting Joseph Smith. If Joseph Smith was verily a prophet, and if he told the truth...then this knowledge is of the most vital importance to the entire world. No man can reject that testimony without incurring the most dreadful consequences, for he cannot enter the Kingdom of God" (Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 1).

The true Gospel is veiled behind Mormon laws and works as they try to merit salvation in the afterlife as a god.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 says:

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world (Satan) 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."

Do you believe that salvation comes by adherence to laws? If so, I reject this teaching upon the foundation of the Bible. We are saved only by Jesus Christ from start to finish. There are no laws that enter into the glorious picture of salvation. We are only saved through the Jesus Christ that is presented in the Bible.

John 14:6

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

In Mormon teaching good works are a necessary requirement of salvation and right standing before God (1 Ne. 3:7; 2 Ne. 25:23; Alma 5:27-28; 11:37; 34:33-35; Moroni 10:32; D&C 1:24-33; 25:15-16; 42:18-29; 58:34-43; 82:5-7; 3rd *Article of Faith*; *Gospel Principles*, 74-78 [1997 edition]; and 122-127). According to the Bible, salvation (deliverance from hell and eternal life) is a free gift that must be received through faith alone, and this automatically is *demonstrated* by the overall good life produced by it (Rom. 11:6; Gal. 3:11, 23-26, and 5:6; Eph. 2:8-10; and 1 Jn. 5:10-13).

There is a twofold approach to salvation taught in the Mormon church. First, Mormonism seems to teach that there is *general* or universalistic salvation that all men enter and partake of through Christ's death (atonement). Initial salvation comes to the Mormon by

the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, and there is no need for obedience to the Mormon church and its doctrines or laws for this universal type of salvation. It's basically salvation from the effects of the Fall. However, to obtain *individual* salvation or a god status in the celestial kingdom of the next life one must place faith in Christ and meet the conditions set forth by the church (see Gospel Principles, Salt Lake City, UT: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1978, revised 1986, 291).

As 10th President Joseph Fielding Smith noted, however, there are two kinds of salvation: One is unconditional, the triumph over death which the resurrection will bring to all, and the other is conditional. Based upon one's worthiness, one will be "saved" in one of the three kingdoms of glory. The only ones not so saved will be sons of perdition (D&C 88:21-32; DS 2:1-34).

Mormonism teaches that their brand of salvation (exaltation in the next life) and eternal life with God is conditional and based upon their human works. These conditions are clearly defined in their third article of faith written by Joseph Smith. The third of the Mormon Articles of Faith contains the core of the Mormon doctrine of Salvation:

"We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel."

Salvation to the Mormon is eternal life. *For Mormons the ideal of salvation is to live forever as a family in the highest heaven of the celestial kingdom.* Mormons believe that human beings get this exalted status of salvation through the grace of God and their own actions. Part of the work of salvation has been done by the atonement of Jesus Christ, in that all human beings are guaranteed resurrection, but to attain the full quality of eternal life (full exaltation in the next life), human beings also have work to do.

Joseph Smith claimed: "... it was apparent that many important points touching the salvation of men, had been taken from the Bible, or lost before it was compiled" (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.10). Smith made this statement do he could add works or human merit to the plan of salvation.

For a Mormon to achieve salvation they must do the following:

- Believe in Jesus Christ (their version of Jesus Christ).
- Be baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands by a person with priesthood authority.
- Endure the tests of their life on earth.
- Follow the teachings of Christ and his Apostles.
- Keep God's commandments.
- Repent of their sins.
- Undo any wrongs they may commit.
- Treat other people in the way they would want to be treated.

In other words, one must not only express faith in Christ but make sure they do all these things in order to reach the highest exalted state of salvation in the next life. In order to reach the highest level of glory, a person must also have been sealed in an eternal marriage in a Mormon temple.

The Mormon church teaches that all men will receive a degree of salvation and that there really is no permanent place known as hell (Richards, 271. See also, John A. Widtsoe, *Joseph Smith, Seeker After Truth*, 177-78). By incorporating this doctrine into the church, they have attempted to undercut the explicit teachings of the Bible. Furthermore, the church teaches that it ALONE is the only hope for salvation.

Although salvation may be defined in many ways to mean many things, in its most pure and perfect definition it is a synonym for exaltation (Mormon Doctrine, 1966).

A true Christian is saved from the wrath of God. The word salvation means to be rescued or delivered from danger or harm which is the punishment we deserve in hell.

Romans 5:9

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, **we shall be saved from wrath through Him.**”

Salvation has nothing to do with exaltation in the next life through adherence to the laws of the Mormon church.

Bruce McConkie, the Mormon scholar, says this regarding salvation: "If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation outside of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" (John Taylor, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 6).

Many Mormons, who may no longer fully believe the church's teachings, find themselves in a dilemma. They have been so persuaded that only the Mormon church offers a hope for salvation. As a result, they lose all hope for ever obtaining it.

For the Mormon, this salvation, called "eternal life," means an exalted state of godhood. It looks forward to resurrection and the ultimate godhood state that we can achieve. For the most part, the Mormon has never clearly understood the concept of salvation and the Gospel of Jesus Christ because his church has so distorted this Christian teaching. Salvation means deliverance from hell and damnation (John 3:16, 36; Rev. 20:12-15) and entrance into the same Heaven by all Christians (Heb. 12:22-24). It has nothing to do with obtaining godhood status by conformity to sacred laws in the Mormon church. The outcome of this distorted view of salvation is that Joseph Smith has stripped Jesus of His free gift to mankind (Rom. 6:23 – “the gift of eternal life”) and he, Joseph, has taken the rightful place of our Lord and Savior. The Bible simply teaches that man must humble himself and receive the work that the true Jesus Christ did for him upon the cross and in His resurrection.

John 1:12

“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.”

Do you teach that your baptism and good works save you? If so, I reject this teaching, based upon the Biblical teaching of grace. I also reject the baptism for the dead theory based on a misunderstanding of 1 Corinthians 15:29. Mormons teach that salvation is available in

the next world to those who have not become Mormons in this life. Since you teach baptism is necessary for salvation, you also believe that Mormons who are alive should be baptized for the dead (Mormon ancestors), so that those who have believed after death can become Mormons. Thus, your Mormon doctrine teaches being baptized for those have been deceased.

"The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us is to seek after our DEAD." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 356).

The Bible teaches something altogether different about death and the afterlife.

Hebrews 9:27 states:

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

In the Book of Mormon, for instance, (3 Nephi 12:2; Moroni 8:11) the remission of sins is the accomplishment of baptism: "Yea, blessed are they who shall be baptized, for they shall receive a remission of their sin. Behold baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling the commandments unto the remission of sin."

Mormons normally believe that baptism in a Mormon church, regular church attendance, consistent good works, attaining "worthiness" and engaging in "temple work" are all part of the salvation process. Of course, this is diametrically opposed to the Biblical teaching of grace.

One again, here is the clear statement given by the Mormons:

"We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinance of the Gospel" (Article 3 of "The Articles of Faith of The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints," Pearl of Great Price, p. 60).

Mormon leaders have consistently attacked the Biblical doctrine of salvation by God's grace through Faith alone. In Apostle James Talmage's book, The Articles of Faith, twice he refers to justification by Faith alone as a "pernicious doctrine," and further declares: "The

Sectarian Dogma of Justification by Faith Alone has exercised an influence for evil." (pp. 107,480)

2 Nephi 25:23:

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.**

This is a good example of the Book of Mormon's attempt to restore "plain and precious things" to the Bible which end up in distorting the true Gospel of grace. This is precisely the type of distortion of the gospel that brings to bear the anathemas of the New Testament (Gal. 1:6-9).

"One of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by the grace of God; that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation." (Miracle of Forgiveness, Spencer W. Kimball, p. 206).

These statements are a perversion of the doctrine of grace as outlined in the Bible.

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, lest any man should boast."

Place these Bible verses against the Book of Mormon passage (2 Nephi 25:23: "...for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do"). In the Bible God offers sinful people eternal life as a *free* gift through Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:23); the Book of Mormon promises eternal life only *after all we can do!* There is no dispute regarding the wording of this passage. One says we are saved by grace through faith, the other that we are saved by grace after all we can do!

Mr. Mormon, you said that you believe in grace, but I don't think you truly understand what grace is all about. Grace consists of God giving us a free gift without works of any kind.

Romans 6:23 says:

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The gift of eternal life cannot be earned. A gift is free. Wages are earned. And the wages (penalty) for sin is death (Rom. 6:23).

Romans 4:4-5

“Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”

Mr. Mormon, when you work for something then your reward has nothing to do with grace. The fact is this. Your reward or wages is death (hell) – Rom. 6:23. However, when you believe in Christ then you can know that you are justified (declared legally righteous before God) on the basis of grace. If you need to be baptized to be saved then this cancels out grace, since baptism is something you must do to be saved. Your brand of salvation (exaltation in the next life) is earned by human works in addition to your faith in the Jesus that you believe in. You view grace as something God gives to you in response to your human achievements in life.

Mr. Mormon, you view grace as something God gives to you so you can earn or merit your salvation. To Mormons grace is often viewed as a power to help them to their ultimate goal of salvation which is godhood.

"This grace is an enabling power that allows men and women to lay hold on eternal life and exaltation after they have expended their own best efforts" (*Latter Day Saints Bible Dictionary*, p. 697).

Complete salvation, which is full and eternal life, results from man's full endeavor to conform to the laws of life, the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why we often say that men save themselves with the aid of the Lord (LDS apostle John Widtsoe, *Evidences and Reconciliations*, 1960. p. 190).

Grace to you is like enabling power that helps you be resurrected and exalted in the next life. Your view of grace seeks to aid your personal

efforts so you might attain perfection. Any way you look at it, grace is canceled out when human works enter into the picture.

Romans 11:6 says:

“And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”

The Bible teaches the moment we believe in Jesus Christ we are justified (declared legally righteous) before God on the basis of Christ’s merits (not ours).

Romans 3:28 declares:

“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

Galatians 2:16

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

Blessed noonday truth! No works are involved! You can be justified before the true God of Heaven if you will believe in the Jesus of the Bible and accept His free gift of salvation. The Bible teaches and orthodox Christians through the ages have believed that apart from the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross we are spiritually "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1,5) and are powerless to save ourselves. By grace alone, apart from self-righteous works, God forgives our sins and makes us worthy to live in His presence (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6). Our part is only to cling to Christ in heartfelt faith. By contrast, the Mormon Church teaches that eternal life in the presence of God (which it terms "exaltation in the celestial kingdom") must be earned through obedience to all the commands of the Mormon Church, including exclusive Mormon temple rituals. Works are a requirement for salvation (entrance into the "celestial kingdom") — Gospel Principles, p. 303-304; Pearl of Great Price — Third Article of Faith; Mormon Doctrine, pp. 339, 671; Book of Mormon — 2 Nephi 25:23.

Mormons appeal to Matthew 5:48 and teach that we should live perfectly and seek to obtain our salvation or godhood status in the next life. The word "perfect" must be understood in the light of the context. It does not mean sinless or flawless. The previous verses explains that to be perfect means to love those who hate us, to pray for those who persecute us, and to show kindness to both friend and foe. The word "perfect" in the context of Christian living means to reach a goal. Perfection here is that spiritual maturity which enables a Christian to imitate God in dispensing love and blessing to everybody without partiality.

The Book of Mormon claims to restore those "plain and precious things" which are necessary for the salvation of mankind (1 Nephi 13:26-40; 3:166-193). Because Mormons believe that we originally lived with God as spirits, before being sent to this world, salvation in the Mormon sense means returning to God after this life to continue their search for godhood.

Mormons believe salvation and eternal life with God is attained through a combination of faith in the Atonement of Christ and good works, with emphasis on the good works. Once again, the Mormon article three states: "We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel." There you have it straight from the Mormon documents of faith.

"If you are to return to live with God eternally, you must keep His commandments, accept Jesus Christ's Atonement, and follow His example while you are on Earth." (The eternal nature of God's children" at Mormon.org)

There is no grace in this message! Works cancel out grace!

Do you teach that faith plus works is necessary for salvation? If so, you are wrong again. Mormons want to mix faith in Christ with their own human achievements in this life as the means of entrance into the next exalted state of life in heaven.

The Mormon fourth Article of Faith declares,

“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.”

For Bible believing Christians, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is not just the *first of several things* that God requires for men to be saved and have eternal life with Him, but it is **all** that He requires. Texts like John 3:15-18, 36; 5:24; 6:47; Romans 1:16-17; 3:19-28; 10:9-10; 1 John 5:10-13 make this abundantly clear. It's faith alone in Christ alone!

Jesus said in John 3:36:

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

Jesus also said in John 6:47:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.”

But Mormon James Talmage said, “Faith in a passive sense, that is, as mere belief in the more superficial sense of the term is inefficient as a means of salvation.... A most pernicious doctrine [is] that of justification by belief alone. The Savior taught that works were essential to the validity of profession and the efficacy of faith.... Yet, in spite of the plain word of God, dogmas of men have been promulgated to the effect that by faith alone may salvation be attained.” And later he said, “The sectarian dogma of justification by faith alone has exercised an influence for evil” (The Articles of Faith, pp. 107-108 & 479).

Who will you believe – Jesus Christ or James Talmage?

Paul declared that God is “the Justifier of him who believes in Jesus,” and then asked, “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 [apart from] the deeds of the law” (Rom. 3:26-28). Biblical Christians do not believe their works help save them, they believe that *faith alone in Christ alone* saves

them. They also believe their works are the *evidence* of their faith (James 2:18).

Yes, Mormons claim that the object of their faith is the faith they have in Jesus Christ for their salvation. They sound very orthodox when making this statement. But as we have already discussed, the Jesus of Mormonism is not the same Jesus that the Bible presents. Therefore, even when the Mormon fourth Article begins with "Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ," it is not referring to faith in the Jesus that the Bible presents nor is it referring to faith only in Jesus Christ.

John 1:1 declares:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Bible believing Christians understand that "the Word" refers to Christ, as John 1:14 confirms. Thus, Christ was God manifested in the flesh just as Paul said.

1Timothy 3:16

"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."

Jesus Christ is the One and only true God who came to this world in human flesh. The faith Mormon's possess is in a Jesus who is not the only true God. In addition, the salvation that the Mormons look forward to is not salvation from everlasting hell fire and brimstone (Rev 20:12-15) but exaltation in the next life as a god, as they dwell with their elder god and brother Jesus.

Do you believe mankind is basically good? If so, I reject your teaching. Mormons believe in pre-mortality or pre-mortal existence, or "first estate." It is the belief among Mormons that all humans are literal spirit-children of Heavenly Father (and a Heavenly Mother); prior to birth on earth, all humans existed in Heaven. Their degree of worthiness in Heaven dictates whether or not they are worthy to be born on earth; it also dictates the "station" of life into which one is born. For this reason mankind is basically good (albeit with a capacity

for evil), since the very fact that one is on earth indicates that there was some qualification or merit in his pre-existent life.

The Bible has a different story on mankind. It concludes that sin not just a mistake but an enslaving (Eph. 2:1-2), death-producing (Rom. 6:23) condition involving moral rebellion against God (Luke 15:18, 21 – “I have sinned against heaven”) that will be punished with everlasting destruction (2 Thess. 1:9).

Romans 3:10-12 paints a terrible picture of man in his sins:
“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

Romans 3:23 states:
“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

Mankind is pictured as being totally depraved in sin and uncleanness before God and in need of deliverance from hell. Jesus’ view of sin squashes the hope of anyone living in a certain manner whereby they can obtain a godhood status. Mormons do not view sin in the same way God does and as the Bible presents it. They seem to stress their own works and goodness over the wicked sin principle that is still residing in them (Rom. 7:18, 24).

“We are notwithstanding our weaknesses, the best people in the world.” LDS President Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, Vol. 1, p. 236.

Do you believe that man will be punished for Adam’s transgression? If not, I disagree with you based on the record of the Bible. Mormons teach that they will not be punished for Adam’s transgression.

"We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam’s transgression." Article 2 of the Articles of Faith

Mormons do not believe in the idea of original sin, that all human beings are tarnished with sin from birth, because Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.

The Bible paints a different picture.

Romans 5:12-14 clearly states:

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.”

Every person born in this world has been imputed with Adam's sin. For this reason we are born sinners and will die sinners. This is because we have received Adam's own sin nature and are morally polluted with sin. We are “by nature children of wrath” (Eph. 2:3) – under God's wrath in view of our identification with Adam's sin. Mormons believe that people arrive in this world without sin, but that they soon misbehave and need to be saved from the consequences of their own actions. Not until age eight do Mormons become responsible sinners before God (Gospel Principles, Salt Lake City, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1985. p. 29). But the Bible has a different picture of man. He is born in sin for he has inherited Adam's sin nature.

Psalm 51:5

“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

Do you believe the fall of Adam was something good? If so, I disagree with you as an evangelical Christian. Mormons also believe that the Fall was a necessary part of God's plan, that it was necessary for human beings to achieve exaltation or a status as a god in the next life. This is because human beings have to go through bodily life on earth as part of their spiritual development, and if Adam and Eve had not "fallen" this would not happen. Mormons view the fall of man in a favorable light and look at the Fall as a blessing. The Bible teaches and orthodox Christians teach that the disobedience of

our first parents Adam and Eve was a great evil which brought a curse upon all of mankind (Gen. 3). Through their fall sin entered the world, bringing all human beings under condemnation and death (John 3:16-18). Thus we are born with a sinful nature, and will be judged for the sins we commit as individuals. (Ezekiel 18:1-20; Romans 5:12-21).

By contrast, the Mormon Church teaches that Adam's sin was "a necessary step in the plan of life and a great blessing to all of us" (*Gospel Principles*, p. 33; Book of Mormon — 2 Nephi 2:25; *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 1, pp. 114-115). Mormons teach that the "fall" of humanity was a necessary step in the "plan of salvation" (to become a god). The early leaders taught that the fall was really a "**fall upwards**" or something that God wanted so that mankind may become "gods." Mormons also believe that the Fall was a necessary part of God's plan, that it was necessary for human beings to achieve exaltation. Without the fall there could be no procreation, and therefore no earthly dwelling for the pre-existing spirit children, and consequently no opportunity for exaltation as a god.

"The Lord never intended that we should partake of the tree of life and thereby gain full access to perfecting grace before we had stumbled and groped to learn all we can from the disappointments and surprises of this vale of tears" (*Elder Bruce C. Hafen*).

Do you believe that salvation is essentially resurrection and exaltation in the next life? And do you believe there are different levels of heavenly existence? If so, you have misunderstood what salvation is and the Bible refers to when it speaks of resurrection. To a Mormon salvation in its true and fullest meaning is synonymous with exaltation or eternal life and consists in gaining an inheritance in the highest of the three heavens within the celestial kingdom. This is the salvation which a Mormon seeks. It is of this which the Lord says, "*There is no gift greater than the gift of salvation.*" (D. & C. 6:13.) This full salvation is obtained in and through the continuation of the family unit in eternity, and those who obtain it are gods (D. & C. 131:1-4; 132). It is therefore crucial to understand that the Mormon Church teaches that "full salvation" or "eternal life" is the goal of every faithful member, and this is NOT obtained by grace alone but by "obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel."

Furthermore, to the Mormon, initial salvation is viewed as a universal gift (given to all humanity - righteous and wicked alike), but emphasizes the resurrection of the body from the dead and to the ultimate exaltation of the person as a god.

In one sense, salvation is universal immortality and resurrection by grace alone, and is given to primarily everyone. In another sense, salvation is eternal life or exaltation into the highest kingdom as a god. The latter is dependent on faith in Christ and one's works (2 Ne. 25:23; D&C 76:40-44; and Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 669-71).

Exaltation, according to an official Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints publication, "is eternal life, the kind of life that God lives. He lives in great glory. He is perfect. He possesses all knowledge and all wisdom. He is the father of spirit children. He is a creator. We can become gods like our Heavenly Father. This is exaltation" (*Gospel Principles*, Salt Lake City, UT: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1978, revised 1986, 289).

Regarding post-mortality, Mormons teach that at the moment of death a person's spirit enters the spirit world. Mormons go to a place called "paradise" where they continue in their efforts to attain godhood. Non-Mormons go to a spirit prison where Mormon spirits evangelize them in missionary activities. If a spirit in prison accepts Mormonism, that spirit can leave the prison and enter into paradise as long as someone (a living relative) has been baptized on his or her behalf in a Mormon temple.

Only at the resurrection do Mormons enter their godhood state with the hope of being in the highest celestial kingdom and state of exaltation through their good works. The "gift" of salvation then is what enables humans to continue the process of exaltation in the after life and which eventually allows them to earn the right to become gods in the resurrection. However, the Bible clearly says that salvation is something we receive in this life the moment we believe (Acts 16:31, Rom. 10:13) and gives us a perfectly justified standing before God forever (Rom. 5:1, 9). Salvation is not to be viewed as a continuing process in the next life.

The Bible teaches that salvation means to be delivered from everlasting hell. It has nothing to do with exaltation to a godhood status. Mormons downplay the true nature of hell.

Jesus said in 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.”

In Matthew 25:46 Jesus concludes by saying:

“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

2 Thessalonians 1:9

“Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.”

Salvation does not mean resurrection to become a god and give birth to spirit children in the afterlife. Nothing could be further from the truth. Mr. Mormon, I think you believe that Jesus did His part, now you must do you part, so you can be resurrected to an exalted state of godhood, to the alleged three heavenly kingdoms that resurrected beings enter.

Of course, the Bible only speaks about heaven and hell. It does not speak about three heavenly kingdoms (the celestial, terrestrial, and telestial - Section 76 of Doctrine and Covenants). According to Mormon theology the first heaven is a *celestial* kingdom. This is said to be the highest level of glory that will be inhabited by faithful Mormons. On this level people can attain ultimate exaltation to godhood. It seems that the highest levels of the *Celestial Kingdom* are mainly reserved for Mormon couples who have been married in a Mormon temple and thus have had their marriage sealed for eternity. The couples can eventually become a God and Goddess. They will have an eternal family and govern it as God governs His family. Non-Mormons who have led exceptional lives will also spend eternity in the Celestial Kingdom provided that they accept the gospel in the interim Spirit World, and have the ordinances of the gospel performed for them vicariously.

The second level or degree of glory is the terrestrial kingdom. This kingdom is reserved for less faithful Mormons and non-Mormons who live moral lives as well but who do not measure up to the expectations and requirements in the Mormon church. The intermediate *Terrestrial Kingdom* is visited by Jesus but not by the Father. It is reserved for people who have led good lives, but have never accepted the gospel as interpreted by the LDS church.

The lowest degree of glory is the telestial kingdom, which is where the great majority of people go. It is reserved for those who have been carnal and sinful throughout life. The occupants must temporarily suffer through hell ("outer darkness") before entering this place.

Black Holes are "outer darkness" where God will cast those sons of perdition that deny His spirit. This includes all Ex-Mormons (See "The Creation," page 146 and D&C 101:90-91).

The Mormon teaching about hell is that it's a place of torment from which the worst of sinners are resurrected (if they repent) into the Telestial kingdom. Only a limited number remain in hell forever - the devil and the demons and apostates who consciously reject and work against Mormonism. However, the Bible and Jesus Himself concluded that great masses of people will be judged in hell (Matt. 7:13-14). According to Mormon theology, after people suffer in full for their sins, they are then permitted to enter into this third lower kingdom. This is almost like a Catholic purgatory. They suffer for their sins and then finally gain entrance into the lowest heaven.

It is speculated that individuals will learn and progress within the Kingdom to which they are assigned at death. However, they are not allowed to progress to the next higher level. (D&C 76:70-107 and 1 Corinthians 15:40-42)

Mormons actually believe there is support in the Bible for this belief in three heavens and find in 1 Corinthians 15:42-50. Mr. Mormon, the different bodies you spoke about in 1 Corinthians 15:42-50 have to do with the differences between the physical body we now possess and the resurrection body we will someday receive as God's true children. The passage is not speaking about different levels of godhood status

or different types of heavenly kingdoms but differences between our present and future body that Christians will receive who are saved. Furthermore, the mansions that you spoke about (John 14:1-2) are not heavenly kingdoms or rewards received for living a certain way. They are simply part of the blessing of Heaven that all will experience who enter through faith in the true Jesus Christ.

When a Mormon is asked, "If you were to die today, do you know for certain that you would go to heaven?" he is likely to respond by saying, "Which heaven? I believe in three different heavens." Let me restate the question: Mr. Mormon, if you were to die today, do you know that you have eternal life? Are you certain that you will spend all eternity with God the Father? This gets to the heart of the matter because a knowledgeable and honest Mormon must answer these questions with the word "No!" You can't know for sure that you are going to heaven when you are basing it upon your works or human merit. Who can really know if they are good enough, have worked hard enough, and will have God's approval in the end.

The Bible actually teaches that all saved people will be in one location within Heaven.

Hebrews 12:22-23

"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect."

All the unsaved will be in the one location of hell and they will not have a chance to be redeemed by a Mormon being baptized for them. The afterlife involves Heaven or hell and not three degrees of glory or three kingdoms.

Revelation 20:15

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

Hebrews 9:27

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

The Bible actually says that all Christ rejecters will end up in outer darkness forever and forever.

2 Peter 2:17 says:

“These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to **whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.**”

Matthew 8:12

“But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 22:13

“Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Jesus said in Matthew 25:30:

“And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

There is no eternal hell according to *current* Mormon teaching. Even though the Book of Mormon teaches about hell, many Mormons deny its existence. The truth of the matter is this. You will either end up in Heaven or hell based upon your faith in the true Jesus Christ.

John 3:36

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

Do you believe that Christ’s atonement (death) is the only means (way) to experience eternal life with God? If you reject the death of Christ, as the only ground for eternal life with God, then you have erred in your doctrine. Mormons have a different version of the death of Christ than evangelical Christians. I have commented on this somewhat already.

The Mormon Article of Faith #3 once again states:

"We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel."

In other words, the death of Christ needs additional help to provide forgiveness of sins. In Mormon doctrine or teaching the atonement (death of Christ) gives everyone salvation from Adam's original sin. This is why Mormons don't have to worry about being born with Adam's sin hanging over their heads.

"It is not fully comprehended why it was necessary that Jesus Christ should leave the heavens, ...and come upon the earth to offer himself up a sacrifice; ...why this should be, why it was necessary that his blood should be shed is an apparent mystery. ...what sins of the world did he take away? We are told that it is the sin which Adam committed." LDS Prophet John Taylor, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 10. pp. 114-115, 1863

"The sin which our first parents committed in the Garden of Eden is called original sin; and the sins committed individually by the inhabitants of the earth, are called actual sin. ...the apostles sent forth to preach the Gospel by our Savior himself, taught the people that through the shedding of Christ's blood remission of sin might come to all and that mankind might be redeemed from sin, original and actual. But we find this distinction...that the blood of Christ redeems mankind from the effects of the fall...but that while people had nothing whatever to do with the sin which Adam committed and therefore have nothing whatever to do with the work of atonement for that sin, yet for their own sins there is some action required on their part that they may obtain redemption therefrom, inasmuch as the blood of Christ was shed for original sin unconditionally, but for the remission of actual sin conditionally." LDS President Charles W. Penrose, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 21, pp. 81 - 82.

Mormon doctrine makes a distinction between the sin of Adam and Eve and the sins of humanity and says that Christ's death was for Adam and Eve only and not for the actual sins of the rest of humanity. Forgiveness is "conditional" and is not being applied unless individuals satisfy certain requirements or "conditions" that are imposed by the "gospel" as defined by Mormon doctrine. These

requirements or "conditions" are human works and are defined by the Mormon church. According to the Mormon church, the shedding of Christ's blood and His death is not powerful enough or adequate to provide for the forgiveness of actual sins committed in this life, but human works, done by sinners themselves, are powerful and adequate to do the job.

"But some one may ask, 'Is there no efficacy, for actual sin, in the atonement wrought out by Jesus Christ? Is there no method by which people can obtain a forgiveness of their individual sins?' Yes, ...and that is the plan of the true gospel, but it does not consist in mere belief in the righteousness of another; mere belief in the righteousness [of] somebody else will not make us any better ourselves." LDS President Charles W. Penrose, <>, Vol. 21, pp. 84 – 85, 1880.

"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."

The Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 25:23

"When we cling to what Jesus Christ has done for us, do you not see that our part will never be done?"

LDS Apostle Amasa M. Lyman, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 7, p. 297, 1859.

"I want you to see this, and to comprehend that the whole matter of your salvation is your own business and work. What else has Jesus done? ... You examine principle in the Gospel as it is taught to you, and what requirement of that Gospel has been obeyed for you [by Christ]? None." LDS Apostle Amasa M. Lyman, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 7, p. 301, 1859.

As a consequence of this doctrine, as taught by the Mormon church, the death of Christ has little or no relationship to the forgiveness of sins. According to Mormon teaching, every individual after Adam and Eve cannot have their sins taken away by the death of Jesus Christ. His death is not adequate to accomplish the task. The Bible teaches a doctrine that is clearly opposite of this. The Biblical teaching is very

complete, clear, and understandable. The Bible pictures Christ dealing with all the sins of humanity in His death. Christ took all of our sins upon Himself when He died. Furthermore, He died to free us and forgive us of all our sins once and for all and forever. This means we don't have to work for any of our sins to be forgiven.

Isaiah 53:6

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him **the iniquity of us all.**"

1 John 2:2

"And he is the propitiation (satisfaction) for our **sins**: and not for ours only, but also for the **sins** of the whole world."

1 John 2:12

"I write unto you, little children, because your **sins** are forgiven you for his name's sake."

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ bore the penalty for our sins upon Himself. The penalty was God's wrath and judgment.

Galatians 3:13

"Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."

When Jesus died in our place He took the curse that we deserved and provided the necessary sacrifice that could provide complete acquittal or forgiveness before God of all our sins.

1 John 1:7

"... the blood of Jesus Christ his Son **cleanseth us from all sin.**"

"There is not a man or woman, who violated the covenants made with their god that will not be required to pay the debt. The blood of Christ will never wipe that out, your own blood must atone for it..."
LDS Prophet and President Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 3, p. 247, 1856.

We may talk of men being redeemed by the efficacy of his blood; but the truth is that that blood has no efficacy to wash away our sins. That must depend upon our own action. LDS apostle Amasa M. Lyman, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 7, p. 229, 1859.

Who will you believe - the Bible or Mormon doctrine?

Colossians 1:14 states:

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the **forgiveness of sins.**”

Ephesians 1:7

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, **the forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of his grace.”

Mr. Mormon, if you will believe in the true Jesus, who is the One and only true God, and express faith in His death and resurrection, then you can be forgiven of all your sins and saved from hell.

Think of this. If all of your sins are not yet forgiven, then what will happen to you in the next life? Furthermore, you are a sinner just like everyone else (Romans 3:23). Your sins are not simply wrong judgments, mistakes, or imperfections. They are sins against God and His holiness.

Whenever you lust, whenever you have a wrong thought – these are sins against God.

Psalms 51:4

“Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight.”

Your sins, which are against God, will bring His judgment against you.

Romans 2:5

“But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”

Judgment is sure unless you are saved through faith in Christ's sacrifice.

Romans 10:13

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Mr. Mormon, you can't downplay sin or overlook any of your sins. Your sins will bring God's judgment against you in the next life if you don't allow Christ to forgive all of them right now in this life. “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). You are a sinner that has broken God's law and the Bible says if you break one part of the law you become guilty of breaking it all and need to be eternally condemned.

James 2:10 says:

“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

You can never be perfect! So what happens when you break one of the laws of God? What are you going to do with your sin which comes before you and God?

Isaiah 59:2

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

You may say that you will ask God for forgiveness if you sin. But the god and Jesus Christ of the Mormon church cannot provide forgiveness since they are not the true God of the Bible. The answer to your sin problem is to *believe* in the true Jesus Christ. It's Jesus Christ alone, the One and only true God manifested in the flesh, and who died and rose again, that can save your soul forever from hell. Furthermore, there can be no forgiveness for anybody who places themselves under and law and trusts in their works to save and exalt their lives. If you want to live by the law/works principle then you are on your own and will have to be judged by God's law and remain under the curse and condemnation of His broken law.

Galatians 3:10

“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”

It's either law all the way or grace all the way. You can't have your cake and eat it to.

Mormon doctrine teaches that after initial atonement (freedom from Adam's sin) there comes a long process where a person needs to work and serve in order to provide forgiveness for their sins. In other words, atonement only frees people from their own personal sins if they do their part; repenting of their sins and living good lives, as God has ordered. They must follow all the requirements of the Mormon church to be sure the atonement will save them. One again, this is a mixture of grace and works.

The Mormon Article of Faith #3 once again states:

"We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel."

Mormons believe that Christ atoned for all sins a person may commit, provided that person obeys the laws of the Mormon church ("the laws and ordinances of the gospel" - as article #3 states). These laws include:

- Be baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands by a person with priesthood authority.
- Endure the tests of their life on earth.
- Follow the teachings of Christ and his Apostles.
- Keep God's commandments.
- Repent of their sins.
- Undo any wrongs they may commit.
- Treat other people in the way they would want to be treated.

The clear teaching of the Mormon church is that Christ's atonement or death is not sufficient to erase all sins without human works or achievement. Let the teachers of Mormonism speak for themselves.

"We accept Christ's atonement by repenting of our sins, being baptized, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and obeying all of the commandments," (Gospel Principles, Corporation of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1979, pg. 68.)

"The first effect [of the atonement] is to corporately secure and save all mankind alike, thus providing a plan of *General Salvation*. The second effect is to open a way for *Individual Salvation* whereby mankind may secure remission of personal sins (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 78-79.)

One common erroneous concept is that belief alone in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only requirement for salvation... Salvation comes through living the Lord's commandments and doing good works. LDS apostle LeGrand Richards, *Deseret News*, Church News, November 14, 1973, p. 11.

What is it that frees us from sin? ...truth exists all around us to a vast infinity, yet we pass on in our darkness from year to year, and add folly to our transgressions, and still continue to hope that yet, through Jesus, we shall be redeemed; but it will be when, by our own actions, we shall be released from the thralldom of sin. LDS apostle Amasa M. Lyman, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 7, p. 299, 1859

The LDS Church does not accept the biblical idea that Christ's blood was shed on the cross to wash away our sins - present, past and future. Mormons fail to realize that the empty cross and grave is for Christians the symbol of their salvation and the fulfillment of God's promise.

Under the Mormon system of theology, one must in effect, earn their way into heaven. In the LDS Articles of Faith, Mormon apostle James Talmadge states that since your "sins are the result of individual acts it is just that forgiveness for them should be conditioned on individual compliance with prescribed requirements - 'obedience to the laws and ordinances of the [LDS] Gospel.'" [James Talmadge*, *Articles of Faith*, p. 87.] "Christ's atonement makes it possible to be saved from sin if we do our part," says Elder Boyd K. Packer, an apostle of the LDS Church. Doing "our part" refers a need to work out our own salvation.

For Mormons, Christ has made only a down payment. They must work for the rest of their lives, always hoping that they have done enough to reach highest exaltation, while at the same time convince themselves that they will at least achieve the " <i>lowest heaven</i> "

(another un-Biblical doctrine!). Actually, according to other Mormon teaching, Christ atoned only for Adam's sin, and left "us responsible for our own personal sins."

This is in disagreement with the New Testament's teaching of grace and salvation (See Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:21-25; Romans 5; Titus 3:5; Luke 18:10-14, Romans 4:5, Galatians 3 and 5:4).

Statements by Mormon authorities make it clear that they really believe that the atonement was not completely provided by Christ.

"Christians speak often about the blood of Christ and its atoning power. Much that is believed and taught on this subject, however, is such utter nonsense and so palpably false that to believe it is to lose ones salvation. Many go so far, for instance, as to pretend, at least, to believe that if we confess Christ with our lips and avow that we accept Him as our personal Saviour, we are thereby saved. His blood, without other act than mere belief, they say, makes us clean." (What the Mormons think of Christ, Bruce R. McConkie, p.27)

Mormons fail to realize that keeping laws has never been the basis of anyone's righteousness in the sight of God: "By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in His sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin" - the Bible teaches that righteousness is "without," or apart from the law (Romans 3:20-21), for believers are justified "freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath sent forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood" (Romans 3:24-25). The Bible teaches different doctrine from that brought to your door by Mormons who fail to realize that faith alone in Christ justifies us (declares us legally righteous in God's eyes) and provides us with the absolute assurance of everlasting life with God through the free gift of salvation (Rom. 6:23).

In addition, according to Mormonism, Christ's atonement is viewed as resulting in the physical resurrection of all humankind. In the atonement Christ overcame physical death for us and so we can overcome physical death through resurrection and be exalted in the next life as a god. According to a Mormon, Jesus paid the price for us to rise from the grave. The true atonement is that we shall live again in the resurrection in an exalted godhood state.

The official Gospel Principles manual tells us that Jesus “became our savior and he did his part to help us return to our heavenly home. It is now up to each of us to do our part and to become worthy of exaltation” (Gospel Principles (Salt Lake City: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day saints, 1981).

Mormons view the atoning work of Christ as providing the way to advance in their spiritual journey (as they follow the laws of the Mormon church) so they can become a god in the next life, and their ultimate resurrection triumph to be a god for all eternity in the celestial kingdom.

The Bible teaches and orthodox Christians through the ages have believed that the purpose of the atoning work of Christ on the cross was to provide the complete solution for humanities sin problem. However, those who reject God’s grace in this life will have no part in this salvation but are under the judgment of God for eternity (John 3:36; Hebrews 9:27; 1 John 5:11-12). By contrast, the Mormon Church teaches that a key purpose of the atonement was to bring resurrection and immortality to all people. Christ’s atonement is only a partial basis for worthiness and eternal life, which also requires obedience to all the commands of the Mormon church, including exclusive Mormon temple rituals (Gospel Principles, pp. 74-75; Mormon Doctrine, p. 669).

Do you believe there is a curse upon the black race? If so, you have believed a falsehood.

The races are determined by how worthy individuals were prior to this mortal life. Blacks were not as faithful in their first estate. The Book of Mormon teaches that God cursed certain Israelite American Indians with dark skin, and this was meant to keep them from interbreeding with their white brethren. This scripture also teaches that God blessed some who repented with white skin. Nothing concerning the revelation in 1978 to give "all worthy males members" the priesthood invalidates these beliefs (Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation* 1:61-7; McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 527-8; Alma 3:6-9; 2 Ne. 5:21-4; and 3 Ne. 2:14-6).

Joseph Smith actually taught that the curse on the rebellious "white and delightsome" Nephites was to have their skin turn black.

"And he caused the cursing to come upon them, yea, even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity. For behold, they had hardened their hearts against him, that they had become like unto a flint; wherefore, as they were white, and exceeding fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them." (Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 5:21)
"And it came to pass that those 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 their young men and their daughters became exceedingly fair, and they were numbered among the Nephites, and were called Nephites." (Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 2:14 – 16)

Apparently all that a Lamanite (Native American) had to do was to become a member of the Nephite group and follow their dictates to become "white and exceedingly fair" once again. An amazing revelation!

"And then shall they rejoice; for they shall know that it is a blessing unto them from the hand of god; and their scales of darkness shall begin to fall from their eyes; and many generations shall not pass away among them, save they shall be a white and delightsome people." (Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 30:6)

Smith taught that when the Gentiles received the gospel of Jesus Christ and the teaching of the fathers of the Nephites, their skin color began to change from dark to light. In just a few generations they would become a "white and delightsome people." This wording has since been changed from the 1830 version and now reads, "pure and delightsome". Apparently, some in the Mormon church decided that Joseph Smith's "inspired" words directly from God were not proper, and changed the words to make them more socially acceptable. But even the change betrays the underlying meaning; dark skinned people are "unpure" and white skinned people are "pure." It does not matter how the words are changed, the fact is this. Your prophet and original Mormon beliefs taught that darker skinned people were inferior to lighter skinned people.

"...from Ham sprang the race which preserved the curse in the land."
LDS Prophet Joseph Smith, *Pearl of Great Price*, Abraham 1:24

"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." LDS Prophet Joseph Smith, *Pearl of Great Price*,

Moses 7:8

"And it came to pass that Enoch continued to call upon all people, save it were the people of Canaan, to repent." LDS Prophet Joseph Smith, *Pearl of Great Price*, Moses 7:12

Smith actually taught that the people of Canaan, the Canaanites, are the descendants of Cain, who killed his brother Able. As a result of this murder, God cursed Cain and his descendants with a black skin. It is even claimed, in the above Moses 7:12, that God even withheld the message and call to repentance from the people of Canaan because of their dark skin. Not only are the black skinned people considered inferior, but they were unworthy even to receive the message of repentance, let alone to receive forgiveness.

The Bible teaches that God blesses humanity with different colors of skin (Acts 17:26) and no skin color is more favorable to Him than another.

Do you believe that people can die and atone for their own sins?

Your prophets did. Hear them out.

"Joseph Smith taught that there were certain sins so grievous that man may commit, that they will put the transgressors beyond the power of the atonement of Christ. If these 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, on their behalf...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." (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, p.134-135).

So who decides when a sin is so heinous that it requires the alternative kind of blood atonement? Are the Latter Day Saints still practicing this doctrine! If not, why did they stop when they claim this to be a doctrine of God? What deficiency in the sacrifice of Christ makes it inadequate to atone for such sins?

Christ did *not* atone for the murderer, since there is no forgiveness for him "in this world, nor in the world to come." And Christ did *not* pay for more than a one-time offense of adultery, since such violators cannot be forgiven either (D&C 42:18 and 25-29). Latter Day Saints prophets have taught that there are certain "sins" that one may commit that are beyond the atonement of the Son of God, and one's own blood must be shed in such cases (Young, *The Journal of Discourses* 3:247; 4:53-54; 4:219-20).

While many Mormon scholars would like to scoff at those who have seriously studied this matter, there is incontrovertible proof that Brigham Young, the second prophet of the Mormon Church, publicly preached a doctrine called "blood atonement." Although one might think that the name of this doctrine came from the atonement of Jesus on the cross, the truth of the matter is that it relates to people being put to death. Brigham Young explained this in a sermon given on September 21, 1856:

"There are sins that men commit for which they cannot receive forgiveness in this world, or in that which is to come, and if they had their eyes open to see their true condition, they would be perfectly willing to have their blood spilt upon the ground, that the smoke thereof might ascend to heaven as an offering for their sins; and the smoking incense would atone for their sins, whereas, if such is not the case, they will stick to them and remain upon them in the spirit world.

"I know, when you hear my brethren telling about cutting people off from the earth, that you consider it is strong doctrine; but it is to save them, not to destroy them...." And further more, I know that there are transgressors, who, if they knew themselves, and the only condition

upon which they can obtain forgiveness, would beg of their brethren to shed their blood, that the smoke thereof might ascend to God as an offering to appease the wrath that is kindled against them, and that the law might have its course. I will say further; I have had men come to me and offer their lives to atone for their sins.

"It is true that the blood of the Son of God was shed for sins through the fall and those committed by men, yet men can commit sins which it can never remit.... There are sins that can be atoned for by an offering upon an altar, as in ancient days; and there are sins that the blood of a lamb, or a calf, or of turtle dove, cannot remit, but they must be atoned for by the blood of the man." (Sermon by Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, Vol. 4, pages 53-54); also published in the Mormon Church's Deseret News, 1856, page 235)

On another occasion Brigham Young made this chilling statement regarding a person's obligation to spill the blood of those who committed serious sins:

"Now take a person in this congregation who has knowledge with regard to being saved... and suppose that he is overtaken in a gross fault, that he has committed a sin that he knows will deprive him of that exaltation which he desires, and that he cannot attain to it without the shedding his blood, and also knows that by having his blood shed he will atone for that sin and be saved and exalted with the Gods, is there a man or woman in this house but what would say, 'shed my blood that I may be saved and exalted with the Gods?' All mankind love themselves, and let these principles be known by an individual, and he would be glad to have his blood shed. That would be loving themselves, even unto an eternal exaltation. Will you love your brothers and sisters likewise, when they have committed a sin that cannot be atoned for without the shedding of their blood? Will you love that man or woman well enough to shed their blood?

"I could refer you to plenty of instances where men have been righteously slain, in order to atone for their sins. I have seen scores and hundreds of people for whom there would have been a chance... if their lives had been taken and their blood spilled on the ground as a smoking incense to the Almighty, but who are now angels to the Devil... I have known a great many men who have left this Church for

whom there is no chance whatever for exaltation, but if their blood had been spilled, it would have been better for them.... "This is loving our neighbor as ourselves; if he needs help, help him; and if he wants salvation and it is necessary to spill his blood on the earth in order that he may be saved, spill it.... if you have sinned a sin requiring the shedding of blood, except the sin unto death, would not be satisfied nor rest until your blood should be spilled, that you might gain that salvation you desire. That is the way to love mankind." (Sermon by President Brigham Young, delivered in the Mormon Tabernacle, February 8, 1857; printed in the Deseret News, February 18, 1857; also reprinted in the Journal of Discourses, Vol. 4, pages 219-220)

"If the white man who belongs to the chosen seed mixes his blood with the seed of Cain (black people), the penalty under the law of God is death on the spot. This will always be so." (JoD, 10, p.110)

Joseph Smith's own brother, William, testified in court in 1893 that, as early as 1845, in Nauvoo, his life was in danger: "...if I remained there, because of my objections and protests against the doctrine of Blood Atonement and other new doctrines that were brought into the church." (Temple Lot Case, p.98)

Mr. Mormon, how can you follow any teachings from men who actually believed that a person could atone for their sins through their own death. Instead of Christ dying on the cross to cancel out every sin there are some sins that a person must atone for by their own death. This is a damnable doctrine to say the least.

The Bible teaches that Christ atoned for *all* sins (Adam's as well as everyone else's). The Lord Jesus took the punishment of everyone on the cross. The debt we could never pay has been completely paid by the Lamb of God, and to those who receive this *gift*, they are declared "justified" or "not guilty". This is the *good news* (the gospel) for everyone, including the adulterer and the murderer (Isa. 53:3-12; Mt. 18:21-22; Rom. 3:24; 4:5; 5:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:14-21; 1 Pt. 2:24; and 1 Jn. 1:8-2:2).

Do you believe in polygamy? If so, I must reject this unbiblical perversion of the teaching of marriage (Gen. 2:21-22). Both Joseph

Smith and Brigham Young believed that Jesus Christ was a polygamist and believed in polygamy. You can't deny this when reading their writings.

The grand reason of the burst of public sentiment in anathemas upon Christ and his disciples, causing his crucifixion, was evidently based on polygamy, a belief in the doctrine of a plurality of wives caused the persecution of Jesus and his followers. We might almost think they were 'Mormons.'" Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 1:345-346

Apostle Orson Pratt makes these unbelievable statements: "...the great Messiah who was the founder of the Christian religion, was a Polygamist. . . .the Messiah chose to take upon himself his seed; and by marrying many honorable wives himself, show to all future generations that he approbated the plurality of Wives under the Christian dispensation. . . .God the Father had a plurality of wives....the Son followed the example of his Father....both God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ inherit their wives in eternity as well as in time;..." (The Seer, p. 172).

Nowhere in the Bible does it indicate that God the Father and Jesus Christ are married or polygamists.

"The Lord has said, that those who reject this principle (polygamy) reject their salvation, they shall be damned, saith the Lord . . . they will finally go down to hell and be damned if they do not repent." (O. Pratt, J of D, vol. 17, pp. 224-225).

And yet the Book of Mormon condemns polygamy (Jacob 1:15;2:23, 24, 27, 31; 3:5; Mosiah 11:2,4; Ether 10:5, 7). This is another glaring inconsistency!

"The only men who become Gods . . . are those who enter into polygamy." (B. Young, J of D, vol. 11, p. 269)

"I bear my solemn testimony that plural marriage is as true as any principle that has been revealed from the heavens. I bear my testimony that it is a necessity, and that the Church of Christ in its fullness never existed without it. Where you have the eternity of marriage you are bound to have plural marriage; bound to and it is

one of the marks of the Church of Jesus Christ in its sealing ordinances.” (G. Teasdale, J of D, vol. 25, p. 21)

So yes polygamy is essential and for those who do not practice it? “. . . he that abideth not this law (polygamy) can in no wise enter into my glory, but shall be damned, saith the Lord.” (D & C, 132:27)

Joseph Smith was a Prisoner for Polygamy. It has been carefully documented by Compton (a Mormon!) that Smith had 33 wives - Todd Compton, “In Sacred Loneliness: The Plural Wives of Joseph Smith” (Signature Books, 1997) 788 pages, cloth, ISBN 1-56085-085-X. I do not agree with all of this man’s conclusions but one thing is certain. The historical evidence is there for Smith’s polygamous marriages. It can’t be denied.

Since the majority of Latter-day Saints and their non-LDS neighbors considered polygamy to be immoral, Joseph Smith’s highly secretive practice of it produced some understandably extreme reactions. For example, when Smith asked Benjamin Johnson’s for his sister Almera, claiming God had commanded him again to take more wives, he said:

"His words astonished me and almost took my breath—I Sat for a time amazed and finally almost Ready to burst with emotion . . . In almost an agony of feeling . . . I looked him Straight in the Face & Said: ‘Brother Joseph This is Something I did not Expect & I do not understand—You know whether it is right. I do not. I want to do just as you tell me, and I will try. But if I [ever] should Know that you do this to Dishonor & debauch by Sister I will kill you as Sure as the Lord lives’" (p. 296, Compton).

Rumors about polygamy circulated in the late 1830s and 1840s, during Joseph Smith’s lifetime. However, the revelation about polygamy, recorded today in the Doctrine and Covenants as Section 132, was not written down until July 12, 1843, at the request of his brother Hyrum.

Mormons consider Polygamy a righteous principle which will be practiced in heaven. Although there is nothing in the Bible that will support this thinking, current Mormon Scripture has this to say: "...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 adultery. . . . And if he have TEN VIRGINS given unto him by this law, he cannot commit adultery. . . ." (Doctrine and Covenants 132:61,62)

Mormons today believe God the Father is married and past leaders have taught both God the Father and Jesus Christ are polygamists. However, nowhere in the Bible does it indicate that God the Father and Jesus Christ are married or polygamists.

To their credit most modern church leaders in the Mormon church no longer teach polygamy even though their doctrine still allows for it. The practice of men having more than one wife was started by Joseph Smith in the early/mid 1830's and ended in 1890. For the most part it is no longer practiced within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Mormon Church headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah. Members found practicing it are excommunicated. While the practice was ended, the revelation teaching it is still in Mormon scripture (D&C 132). Some Mormon splinter groups believe the teaching was for eternity and still practice it. These modern-day polygamists number in the 30,000-50,000 range.

One thing is certain. Their key founders and leaders of the past did believe in it and promote it. Brigham young actually believed that Mary and Martha (the sisters of Lazarus) and Mary Magdalene were the wives of Christ. Young also taught that the bridal feast in Cana of Galilee was the occasion of one of Christ's own marriages. Nowhere in the Bible do we find God endorsing polygamy. Actually, He clearly condemns this practice (Deuteronomy 17:14-18). Instead of polygamy the Bible teaches the sacredness of the commitment of one man and woman together in marriage until death (1 Cor. 7:39). An "elder" was to be the husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:5-6). It's interesting that the *elders* in the history of the Mormon church have not always obeyed this sacred truth. Nowhere in the Bible do we find that Jesus Christ was married to multiple wives nor do we find God endorsing polygamy. It is obvious that the Mormons have rewritten the Bible to match their theology instead of taking their theology from the Bible.

Do you drink hot beverages and wear holy undergarments?

I know, it's really none of my business!

“And again, hot drinks are not for the body or belly” (D&C 89:9).

Joseph Smith, himself, is quoted as having taught: "I understand that some of the people are excusing themselves in using tea and coffee, because the Lord only said 'hot drinks' in the revelation of the Word of Wisdom. Tea and coffee are what the Lord meant when he said 'hot drinks.'" (John A. Widstoe, *The Word of Wisdom*, pp. 75-92.)

1Timothy 4:3-4 speaks of the doctrines of false teachers:

“Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving.”

Colossians 2:20-21

“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.”

What about undergarments? These "garments" must always touch the body for the rest of life. This is supposed to keep the "anointing oil" of the temple ceremony from escaping. Some irreverently call them "angel pants." It is believed by some Mormons that only those who marry in the Temple, keep the "Word of Wisdom," and wear their holy "garments" can get to the Celestial kingdom (highest heaven and exaltation to godhood).

Latter-day Saints believe that all such clothing is symbolic of the submission, sanctification, and spotless purity of those who desire to serve God and Christ and ultimately regain their eternal presence (D&C 61:34; 135:5). In a Messianic passage Isaiah declared: "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness" (Isa. 61:10). In the current dispensation, the principle has been reaffirmed in prophetic idiom:

"Zion must increase in beauty,...and put on her beautiful garments" (D&C 82:14).

(Bibliography for these findings - Nibley, Hugh W. Sacred Vestments, 38 pages. Provo, Utah, 1984. Packer, Boyd K. The Holy Temple. Salt Lake City, 1980)

In the present dispensational order (Rom. 6:14) the typical lessons behind clothing are no longer binding upon Christians. The shadows give way to the reality of true holy living.

Do you believe that Joseph Smith has restored the priesthood?

If so, I disagree with you. Some Mormons (the reorganized church of Latter Day Saints does not teach this) believe that both the Melchizedek and Aaronic priesthoods have been restored in the Mormon church. The Melchizedek ranks are elder, seventy, and high priest. The other priesthood (the Aaronic) is the lesser of the two and is concerned with the temporal affairs of the church, and its ranks are known as deacon, teacher, and then priest. At age twelve boys become deacons and thus enter the alleged "Aaronic priesthood." Later they enter the Aaronic priesthood and become elders. Without the authority of the priesthood men can act legally in the name of the Lord (D&C, *Official Declaration--2*; 84:6ff.; and Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation* 3:80).

The Mormon church teaches that the priesthood is their authority from God to act in his name and do his work. The Aaronic Priesthood was allegedly given to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery by John the Baptist on May 15, 1829, and sometime later, but before August 1830, they received the Melchizedek Priesthood from Apostles Peter, James and John.

The Doctrine and Covenants (1981 edition) has the following about the early history of the LDS priesthoods. These revelations are in their chronological order. Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah (4) the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. (Sept. 21, 1823, Doctrine and Covenants 2:1).

Since the Melchizedek priesthood is an eternal priesthood, Mormons claim that the priesthood can and does exist only in the Mormon church. They base their faulty logic on Psalm 110:4:

Psalm 110:4

“The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”

This Psalm is a clear prophecy of the Messiah (a messianic psalm) prophetically pointing to the person and work of Jesus Christ (vv. 1-4). Hebrews 5-8 and other New Testament passages apply Psalm 110 to Christ alone, not to human pretenders who have inherited the divine priesthood. Jesus quoted this Psalm in demonstrating that He alone was the divine Messiah and David's Lord (Mark 12:36). It's Christ (not Joseph Smith or any other person – the Mormon church) who is a priest after the order of Melchizedek. This means that Christ's priestly work and ministry is eternal, just like Melchizedek's priestly ministry (Heb. 7:24-28; 10:10). There is not a single example of the apostles or Christ's followers joining any kind of priesthood. This is pure fiction. Furthermore, there is no command in the New Testament Scriptures for believers to seek ordination into this priesthood. Furthermore, to be part of the Aaronic priesthood one had to be an actual descendent of Aaron (Numbers 3:6-12). This was a requirement that God set for the Aaronic priesthood along with the duties of offering sacrifices as outlined in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The whole idea of a continuing and restored priesthood is anti-biblical.

The New Testament is very clear that the Aaronic priesthood (including laws and ordinances) was abolished when our Lord died on the cross (Gal 3:19, 23-25; Col 2:14-17; Heb 10:1-10). There was in fact a change in the priesthood - it was abolished and even Christ did not hold the Aaronic priesthood (Heb 7:11-14). The New Testament tells us that all true born-again Christians are priests by the blood of Christ (Rev 1:5-6). This priesthood of believers has nothing to do with the old Aaronic priesthood because it is far superior! It is a royal priesthood of believers who are linked to the living Christ, who is our great High Priest forever (1 Pet. 2:9-10). The Bible does say a little about Melchizedek (Gen 14:17-20, Ps 110:4, Heb 4:14 to 8:4). The only Melchizedek priest in the Old Testament was the King of Salem.

In the New Testament only Jesus Christ has the right to be the Melchizedek priest and he was appointed by God (Heb 5:5-6, 10). No priestly succession is ever mentioned.

The Book of Mormon teaches that “Melchizedek...did reign under his father” (Alma 13:18). Yet the Bible reveals that Melchizedek was a priest under no one! His priesthood typified the priesthood of Christ, and therefore was unique. In contrast to the Book of Mormon, the Bible states that Melchizedek was “without father, without mother, without descent” - emphasizing that he did not inherit his priesthood (Hebrews 7:3). The writer of the Book of Mormon did not know his Bible very well. In order to qualify for the Melchizedek priesthood you must live forever, or you must have no beginning, as well as no end. You need to have personally received an oath from God promising that He has made you the Messiah of the world. There can be no blemish of inadequacy in your life and you are required to live completely free from sin. You must be the eternal Son of God who meets the seven qualifications of sonship as outlined in Hebrews 1:1-4. There can't be any priestly succession or membership in this priesthood!

Do you believe that the Mormon Church is the true restored church? If so, I reject this teaching.

According to the Mormon teaching, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the only true church (Doctrine and Covenants [D&C] 1:30); all other churches are "wrong", all their creeds an "abomination", and all who profess them are "corrupt" (Joseph Smith, History 1:19, *Pearl of Great Price*). The Book of Mormon says in 1 Nephi 13:26-28, that the Bible has many "plain and precious" parts taken out of it. 1 Nephi 14:10 condemns *all* churches as being of the devil. It says: Behold, there are save **two churches only**, the one is the church of the Lamb of God and the other is the church of the devil... (1 Nephi 14:10).

Joseph Smith taught that everybody but Mormons will be damned (*History of the Church* 3:28), and the Book of Mormon teaches that if an individual doesn't repent in "this life" then one is sealed to the devil and "this is the final state of the wicked" (Alma 34:32-35). For LDS, this Book of Mormon passage typically means that apostates or these

sons of perdition who willfully deny Christ and His Church after being a part of it end up in "outer-darkness" forever excluded from the presence of God in His *celestial kingdom*. But depending on how good the other non-members are in this life and the next determines their place in one of two lower heavenly kingdoms or "degrees of glory"--the *telestial* and *terrestrial kingdoms*--both of which are still outside the presence of God in His kingdom (D&C 76). Whether there may be any possible advancement out of these kingdoms still depends on acceptance of the LDS Church as the only true church.

The Bible does not contain the promise of a restored church. Your name "latter day saints" suggests that you are the restored true church that Jesus Christ established while He was here on earth. To say that the church after the days of the apostle totally apostatized and needed restoration is a fanciful interpretation of the Bible. The warning of apostasy is given (Acts 20:28-29) but the Bible never says that total apostasy would overtake the evangelical church throughout its history on earth. Jesus said that He would build the Church "and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). This does not sound like apostasy would completely overtake the institution of the church. Jesus promised that His sustaining power would be with His followers unto the end (Matt. 28:20 – "lo, I am with you always"). Jesus could never be with His followers to the end of the age if there would be a total apostasy.

Paul said in Ephesians 3:21

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

The church would exist throughout all ages! There is no hint of total apostasy and the need for a newly restored church. This is the fanciful dream of Mormonism. The Acts 3:20-21 passage teaches the restoration of national Israel ("Ye men of Israel – vs. 12) in the future earthly kingdom which is called the Millennium, or 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth (Rev. 20:1-6). It has nothing to do with a restored church. The 2 Thessalonians 2:3 passage refers to a total apostasy that is future (not past). It's an apostasy that will occur in relationship to Christ's Second Coming to earth following the Rapture of the true Church from planet earth (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

If the Mormon Church really believes it is the only true Christian Church, it should not attempt to publicly present itself as a part of a broader Christian community. Instead it should tell the world openly that those who claim to be orthodox Christians are not really Christians at all (they are apostate) and that the Mormon Church is the only true Christian Church. This in fact is what it teaches privately, but not publicly.

The Mormon Church teaches ALL other Churches are WRONG; ALL their creeds are an ABOMINATION in the sight of God; and ALL their teachers are CORRUPT. One of the Mormon Books of Scripture, The Pearl of Great Price, says this about non-LDS churches: "...they were ALL WRONG; and the Personage who addressed me said that ALL their creeds were an ABOMINATION in his sight; that those professors were ALL CORRUPT;. . ." (Joseph Smith, 2:19)

The Mormon is a confused church but not a restored church!

What makes you any different than the Jehovah's Witnesses, Moonies, Way International, or Christians Scientists groups who also reject that Jesus shares God's existence and which all claim to be the true restored church? I'm sure that all of you are the restored church that God favors above historic evangelical Christianity!

Mr. Mormon, you are following the teachings of an alleged restored church that was founded in the spring of 1820 by a 14 year old boy (Joseph Smith) who claimed to be a prophet. He is a man who is now dead. Something doesn't compute. The founding prophet of your religion is dead. The founder of evangelical Christianity, Jesus Christ, is alive forevermore (Rev. 1:18). Your variant teachings from the Bible, which have been propagated by Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, are weighed and found wanting. Furthermore, Christianity and the Bible, which is substantiated by 6,000 ancient manuscripts and thousands of archeological finds (the Book of Mormon has none!) have long outlived Mormonism.

Mormons would have me believe that one vision given to a 14-year-old boy in up-state New York, back in 1820, a boy who was directed by an angel Moroni to golden plates in order to

translate the Book of Mormon (with the help of magical stones) has wiped out 18 centuries of historical Christianity! I can't buy it!

The angel Moroni was an alleged angel that Joseph Smith, Jr. said visited him on numerous occasions, beginning on September 23, 1823. The angel was the guardian of the golden plates, which Smith said were buried in a hill near his home in western New York, and which he said were the source material for the Book of Mormon. Moroni is said to be the same person as a Book of Mormon prophet-warrior named Moroni, who was the last to write in the golden plates. The book says that Moroni buried them before he died after a great battle between two pre-Columbian civilizations. After he died, he was resurrected, became an angel, and was tasked with guarding the golden plates, and with eventually directing Joseph Smith to their location in the 1820s.

Galatians 1:8 says:

“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.”

Let me conclude. If you claim to be evangelical in your thinking and teaching then why don't you leave the Mormon church? The truth is this. Since you reject the core teachings of Biblical Christianity and redefine them (change their meanings), you should at least be honest and say that your church is not Christian. You claim that you are not Catholic or Protestant. However, it just so happens that you are not Christian either, since you reject the historic teachings of the Bible and the beliefs of Christianity. If you want to be intellectually honest, you can't be Christian and not believe in historic Christian beliefs the way the Bible and orthodox Christianity presents them.

The Bible simply contradicts the Mormon teachings about gods, The Father, Jesus Christ, grace, salvation, and the afterlife. Your Mormon teachings, extra-biblical writings, and sources of authority outside the Bible (Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price) do not line up with the clear revelation of the Bible. The Bible is placed in a weakened position next to your writings and the Book of Mormon according to your eighth Article of Faith is said to be the

word of God. How can this be since the Bible was officially closed (Jude 1:3, Rev. 22:17) as God's revelation to mankind?

The "latter day church" has become latter-day confusion. Your beliefs and practices bear little resemblance to the true teaching of God's Word and Christianity. Your prophet is wrong, your other testament has no manuscript or archeological evidence to support it, it's full of false prophecies that never came to pass, your extra-biblical sources of authority are in error, your teachings contradict each other, you misinterpret clear truths presented in the Bible, and do not believe in the same Father, Christ, or plan of salvation that is presented in the Bible. John says that you are against Christ – the true Christ of the Bible (1 John 2:18 – "even now are there many Antichrists"). Mr. Mormon, you are against Christ because you do not believe He is the eternal and unchanging God (John 1:1-3) who alone justifies you before God's presence (Rom. 5:9) without works (Rom. 3:28).

I'm glad I had the opportunity to meet with you the other week. Both of you seem to be real nice young men who think they have stumbled on to something that is true. However, Mormon teaching has been proven to be debunked from both a Biblical and apologetic standpoint. My heart really goes out to you men. This is why I have taken the time to create this document. When I saw you walking down the sidewalk the other day I felt compelled to try and point you to the eternal and unchanging truth. I thank God for the Bible which is the only true book and finality of truth (1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 2:15) for today. I'm not trying to win any arguments. I want to see you men embrace the true Christ of the Bible and receive Him as the true God, true Christ, and your only Savior.

Acts 16:31

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

Mr. Mormon, to say we believe the same things is simply not true. There is a Grand Canyon between our belief systems. **Another testament? Another Father? Another Christ? Another Gospel?**

"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." (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, Page 188).

The story is out. He was a fraud! His writings were spurious. Mr. Mormon, Joseph Fielding Smith was right on one thing. There is no middle ground. Mormonism and Biblical Christianity cannot coincide together. The one cancels out the other.

You people disguise yourselves as messengers of light but in reality the Bible says that you are messengers of Satan (2 Cor. 11:13-15) and wolves in sheep's clothing (Matt. 7:15). You refuse to accept that Jesus is the same eternal God of Old Testament revelation who has come in the flesh. Since you refuse and reject this important key truth John calls you a liar (1 John 4:2-3). I know it's a tough pill to swallow but let God be true and every man a liar (Rom. 3:4). You demote both the Father and Jesus by refusing to teach and believe that they share the same existence as the One eternal God. You refuse to believe that Christ died to cancel out every sin (1 John 1:7) and give a person complete and final redemption (Heb. 9:12) and justification before His presence (Rom. 5:1). My desire is that you will come to know the truth.

Jesus said in John 8:32:

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Mr. Mormon, you are a dreadful sinner, just like any other person (Rom. 3:23), who needs to understand that Jesus Christ, as the one and only true God, died in your place and rose again the third day, in order to give you eternal life.

Jesus said in John 6:47:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."

You must believe in the *real* Jesus and understand that He died to save you from hell – not exalt you to a godhood status in the next life. Jesus wants to save you today from the horrors of an everlasting hell.

Revelation 3:20

“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.”

Don't listen to one of your teachers. Mormon Apostle Bruce R. McConkie has warned his people against a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. McConkie made these shocking statements at a speech given at BYU. "...gaining a special, personal relationship with Christ that is both improper and perilous. . . . Now, I know that some may be offended and the counsel that they should not strive for a special and personal relationship with Christ. . . .But you been warned, and you have heard the true doctrine taught." (Church News, week ending March 20, 1982, p.5)

In opposition to this, Jesus gives us a personal invitation: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28). You can have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ today, just like I have. Jesus Christ has changed my life (2 Cor. 5:17) in so many ways and has given me the blessed hope of eternal life based upon His matchless grace. You can have this hope as well. Instead of looking to Mormon doctrine which changes the truth about Christ's person, grace, and the afterlife, you can place faith in the Jesus Christ of the Bible, be saved from the damnation of hell ("how shall ye escape the damnation of hell? – Matt. 23:33), and know that you have the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:23). Remember that a gift is something you can't earn!

Here is the wonderful promise.

1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

I have discovered that Individual Mormons differ on some matters of belief. Younger Mormons don't know what their church teaches. Various doctrines are taught in varying degrees throughout Mormon wards, and believed by individual members. Two reasons for this are 1) the lack of specialist, trained clergy in the Church, and 2) the lack of official statements on details of doctrine. Teachers are merely

members like the students and they share feelings, ideas and testimony. The Church tolerates varied opinions on some minor matters, as long as it is not presented as official church doctrine.

Mr. Mormon, if you believe these facts of Mormonism are false, as stated in this document, please prove it by using Mormon Scripture and sources. Your eternity is at stake. I truly want you to see the light of truth and the Light of the World (the true Jesus Christ). I want you to see *who* Jesus Christ really is and *what* He has accomplished for you in His death and resurrection which is total forgiveness and eternal life in God's presence forever.

Jesus said in John 12:36:

"While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light."

"Come to the Light,
'Tis Shining for Thee
Sweetly the Light
Has dawned upon me.
One I was blind but now I can see
The Light of the World is Jesus."

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Kelly Sensenig