

**A study of  
Mormonism**

**Why examine the claims of Mormonism?**  
**Orson Pratt, apostle, speaking on the book of Mormon:**  
*“If after rigid examination, it be found an imposition, it should be extensively published to the world as such; the evidences and arguments upon which the imposture was detected should be clearly and logically stated, that those who have been sincerely yet unfortunately deceived, may perceive the nature of the deception, and be reclaimed, and that those who continue to publish the delusion, may be exposed and silenced...by evidences adduced from Scripture and reason” (Orson Pratt’s Works. 1899 Edition, p.69).*

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**Why examine the claims of Mormonism?**  
**Orson Pratt, apostle, speaking on the book of Mormon:**  
*“This book must be either true or false. If true, it is one of the most important messages ever sent from God to man, affecting both the temporal and eternal interests of every people under heaven...If false, it is one of the most cunning, wicked, bold, deep-laid impositions ever palmed upon the world, calculated to deceive and ruin millions who will sincerely receive it as the word of God...” (Ibid.. Pg. 63)*

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**Why examine the claims of Mormonism?**  
**The Bible instructs us to test that which is taught:**  
**I John 4:1,** *“Beloved, believe not every spirit; but try the spirits, whether they be of God, for many false prophets are gone out into the world.”*  
**Revelation 2:2,** *“...And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;”*

**A study of  
Mormonism: A brief history**

**A. Joseph Smith**

1. Born in 1805
2. Angel Moroni visited in 1820, warning Smith not to join any religious groups
3. Another visit in 1823 revealed to Smith that there were ancient books written on golden plates, hidden near Palmyra, NY
4. Smith visited the location every year for 4 years, but was not allowed to remove the plates until 1827
5. In April 1829, Smith began to translate the “Reformed Egyptian” into English

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**A. Joseph Smith**

6. In May 1829, a resurrected John the Baptist visited Smith and gave him the Aaronic and Melchizedekian priesthoods, and authority to baptize
7. The Book of Mormon was published in 1830; Smith organized the “Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints”
8. From 1834-1844, Smith produced two more books, “Doctrine and Commandments” and “The Pearl of Great Price”

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**A. Joseph Smith**

9. In 1835, Smith oversaw the establishment of the Quorum of Twelve.
10. In 1844, Smith presented what is known as the “King Follett Discourse”. Smith purported that God was once a man who had earned god-ship, and that men and women can also become “gods” (John 10:34)
11. Shortly after, in June 1844, Smith was assassinated while in prison; the reason for which is greatly debated

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**B. History of Smith's church**

1. After Smith's death, the church splintered. Brigham Young took the main group, as well as the majority of the Quorum, and led them to Utah territory, finally settling in Salt Lake in 1847
2. Smith's son, Joseph Smith III, eventually formed the Reorganized church, now called Community of Christ, in 1860
3. There are, at least, 5 major sects of Mormonism, boasting millions of followers. All 5 sects accept and reject different portions of Smith's teachings and writings, and those of others

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**C. About the Book of Mormon**

1. Covers a period of 600 BC – 400 AD, written by numerous prophets and abridged by the prophet Mormon, recorded on golden plates
2. It details two great civilizations. One came from Jerusalem in 600 BC, which later became two nations, the Nephites and the Lamanites. The other came from one of the men at the Tower of Babel called Jared, who would spawn the Jaredites.
3. Eventually, only the Lamanites remained, and would be the principal ancestors of the American Indians

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**C. About the Book of Mormon**

4. Describes how a resurrected Jesus appeared to the Nephites, teaches them, organizes His church, and appoints 12 apostles among them
5. Moroni, the son of Mormon, was commanded to hide the plates as the people turned to wickedness
6. The Book of Mormon, and other writings of Joseph Smith, are considered to be (by some) "companions" to the Bible, and as such they contain the "fullness of the Gospel"

**A study of  
Mormonism: Basic Beliefs**

**A. The Thirteen (or Fourteen) articles of faith**

1. Belief in God, the Father, His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost
2. Belief that men will be punished for their own sins, not for Adam's transgression
3. Belief that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws of the Gospel
4. Belief that the first principles of the Gospel are as follows: Faith in Christ, repentance, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost

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5. Belief that a man must be called of God, by prophecy or by the laying on of hands, to preach the Gospel
6. Belief in the same organization that existed in the "Primitive Church", namely apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc.
7. Belief in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.
8. Belief that the Bible is the word of God, so far as it is translated correctly; belief that the book of Mormon is also the word of God

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9. Belief in all that God has revealed, is revealing, and will reveal pertaining to the kingdom of God
10. Belief in the literal gathering of Israel and the restoration of the ten tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built on the American continent; that Christ will reign personally on the earth; the earth will be renewed and receive its "paradisiacal glory"
11. Claim the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may

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12. Belief in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law
13. Belief in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men
14. (Removed) Belief in the literal resurrection of the body, the dead in Christ will rise first, rest of the dead will not live until the end of the 1,000 years

Included in # 4, the Lord's Supper (removed)

**A study of  
Mormonism: Basic Beliefs**

**B. Other basic beliefs from the writings of Smith**

1. Belief in the baptism for the dead (I Cor. 15:29; I Peter 4:6)
2. Belief that only ordained individuals can baptize
3. Belief in literal indwelling of the Holy Spirit
4. Belief in a current Aaronic (Lower: deacons, teachers, priests, bishops) and Melchizedekian (Upper: Elders, High Priest, Patriarch, Apostle, Prophet) Priesthoods
5. Belief that those who are married in an ordained temple will be married in heaven (Matt. 22:30)
6. Belief in multiple levels of heaven

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7. Belief that God will grant the faithful their own worlds to rule
8. Belief that one can become a god, just as God earned His god-ship (John 10:34)

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**B. Other basic beliefs from the writings of Smith**

9. Belief that God is flesh and bone
  - a. *"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us."*  
D&C 130:22
10. Belief in some sort of inherited sin
  - a. *"Listen to the words of Christ, your Redeemer, your Lord and your God...wherefore, little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in Me, that it hath no power over them..."* Moroni 8:8

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**B. Other basic beliefs from the writings of Smith**

11. Belief in a "Great Apostasy"
  - a. *"When Jesus Christ lived on the earth He organized His church and called apostles to lead and teach the people. Christ gave His apostles the authority to act in His name...After Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension into Heaven, His apostles continued to teach His doctrine and direct His church through the revelation from Christ. After the death and martyrdom of Christ's apostles no one with Christ's priesthood remained on the earth. There was a general falling away from the truth and Christ's church and authority were taken away..."* about.com: What do Mormon's believe?

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**A. Inconsistencies**

1. The Book of Mormon was written in "Reformed Egyptian" which was supposed to have been an ancient and unknown language, necessitating the need for God to help translate the plates for Smith, using stones
  - a. Mormon 9:34, *"But the Lord knoweth the things which we have written, and also that none other people knoweth our language. And because that none other people knoweth our language, therefore He hath prepared means for the interpretation thereof;"*
  - b. Yet, Smith had Professor Charles Anthon confirm the translation

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**A. Inconsistencies**

1. Prof. Anthon reported that the translation was correct "more so" than any other he had seen translated. However, in a private letter he wrote, "*A brief examination convinced me that it was a mere hoax, and a very clumsy one. The characters were arranged in columns, like the Chinese mode of writing, and presented the most singular medley that I ever beheld. Greek, Hebrew, and all sorts of letters, more or less distorted, were intermingled with sundry delineations of half moons, stars and other natural objects, and the whole ended in a rude representation of the Mexican Zodiac.*" *Mormonism Exposed*, Hancock, pg.98; quoted from *Divine Authenticity*, Orson Pratt, pg. 295

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**A. Inconsistencies**

2. At one point, the plates were taken away from Smith because he offended an angel, and was eventually given a "seer stone" to discern God's word.
  - a. "*The angel being in possession of the plates and spectacles, finally when Smith fully repented of his rash conduct, he was forgiven. The plates, however, were not returned; but instead Smith was given by the angel a Urim and Thummim of another pattern...this seer stone he was instructed to place in his hat, and on covering his face with the hat the character and translation would appear on the stone. This worked just as satisfactorily as the old method...*" David Whitmer; *Mormonism Exposed*, Hancock, pg.104

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**A. Inconsistencies**

3. All eleven "eye witness" testimonies, found at the beginning of the Book of Mormon, are suspect. Three witnesses claimed to have seen the angel and the golden plates, yet all three were denounced and cast out of the church. The eight that claimed to see and hold the plates, but not the angel, are also suspect. Three of the eight denounced Mormonism and left on their own. Three of the remaining five were members of Smith's family. *Did the Book of Mormon come from God?* A.G. Hobbs, pg. 7

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**A. Inconsistencies**

4. The Book of Mormon claims to have been initially written in the years covering 600 BC-400 AD, yet it quotes verbatim many verses from the KJV of the Bible, which was not published until 1611 AD. (i.e. 3 Nephi 12-14, Matt. 5-7) Also there are references to "masonry", "republican government", "infant baptism", the "compass", and the use of the abbreviation "etc." hundred of years before these were ever known

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**A. Inconsistencies**

4. "*This one fact that over 5,000 corrections have been made in grammar, compositions, thought and teaching in the Book of Mormon, explodes the idea that it was written by inspired men and translated by inspiration. Couple with this the fact that after all this revision the book still remains a monstrosity in its errors, and the claim of inspiration in writing and translating is transcendent blasphemy.*" (Braden-Kelly Debate, pg.184)

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**A. Inconsistencies**

5. Absurdities abound. Consider:
  - a. God commanded boats with holes in the bottom and the top to be built, Ether 2:17-20, 1:43-53
  - b. The Lord was overpowered by man, Jared, Ether 12:21, 5:21
  - c. Three disciples, and the apostle John, have been alive for more than 2,000 years, 3 Nephi 28:7, Ether 5:17

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**A. Inconsistencies**

**5. Absurdities abound. Consider:**

- a. Some writers acknowledge imperfections and lack of divine inspiration.
  - i. **1 Nephi 1:2-3**, *“Yea, I make a record in the language of my father, which consists of the learning of the Jews and the language of the Egyptians. And I know that the record which I make is true; and I make it with mine own hand; and I make it according to my knowledge.”*

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**A. Inconsistencies**

**5. Absurdities abound. Consider:**

- a. Some writers acknowledge imperfections and lack of divine inspiration.
  - ii. **1 Nephi 19:6**, *“Nevertheless, I do not write anything upon plates save it be that I think it be sacred. And now, if I do err, even did they err of old; not that I would excuse myself because of other men, but because of the weakness which is in me, according to the flesh, I would excuse myself.”*

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**A. Inconsistencies**

**5. Absurdities abound. Consider:**

- a. Some writers acknowledge imperfections and lack of divine inspiration.
  - iii. **Mormon 9:31-33**, *“Condemn me not because of mine imperfection, neither my father, because of his imperfection, neither them who have written before him; but rather give thanks unto God that He hath made manifest unto you our imperfections, that ye may learn to be more wise than we have been. And now, behold, we have written this record according to our knowledge...and if we could have written in Hebrew, behold, ye would have had no imperfection in our record.”*

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**A. Inconsistencies**

**6. Polygamy**

- a. **Jacob 2:24**, *“Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before Me, saith the Lord.”*
- b. **D&C 132:38-39**, *“David also received many wives and concubines, and also Solomon and Moses my servants...and in nothing did they sin save in those things which they received not of Me. David's wives and concubines were given unto him of Me...and in none of these things did he sin against Me save in the case of Uriah and his wife...”*

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**A. Inconsistencies**

**7. State of the Dead**

- a. **D&C Section 124**, among other passages, enjoins upon the saints that an individual can be baptized for the un-baptized dead
- b. **2 Nephi 9:38**, *“And, in fine, wo unto all those who die in their sins; for they shall return to God, and behold His face, and remain in their sins.”* See also **Alma 34:32-35, 40:14**

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**B. Contradictions with the Bible**

1. Claims that the priesthood was eliminated and reinstated as a hierarchy
  - a. The Bible says all Christians are priests, priesthood “unchangeable” – **1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Heb. 7:24**
2. Claims Jesus was born at Jerusalem – **Alma 7:10, 5:19**
  - a. The Bible says Bethlehem – **Matt. 2:5**
3. Claims the church was established 147 years before Christ – **Mosiah 18:17, 9:49**
  - a. The Bible, Jesus, says it “will” be established after Christ’s death – **Matt. 16:18, Acts 2**

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**B. Contradictions with the Bible**

4. Claims that disciples were called "Christians" by 73 BC – Alma 46:15, 21:45-46
  - a. The Bible says the disciples were first called "Christians" in Antioch around 44 AD – Acts 11:26
5. Claims that the Father is flesh and bones – D&C 130:22
  - a. The Bible teaches that the Father is a Spirit (Jn. 4:24) and spirits do not have flesh and bone (Lk. 24:39)

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**B. Contradictions with the Bible**

6. Claims the Bible is not complete – 2 Nephi 29:6, "Thou fool, that shall say; 'A Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible...'; 29:10, "Wherefore because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written"
  - a. Acts 20:27 – Paul declared the whole counsel of God
  - b. II Pet. 1:3 – We have all things that pertain to life and godliness
  - c. Matt. 24:35 – Christ's words will never pass away
  - d. John 14:26, 16:13 – The Spirit would guide the apostles into "all truth"
  - e. I Pet. 1:23, 25 – God's word abides forever

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**B. Contradictions with the Bible**

7. Claims, in some form, inherited sin – 2 Nephi 2:21, "...For He gave commandment that all men must repent; for He showed unto all men that they were lost, because of the transgression of their parents"
  - a. Ezek. 18:20 – The child shall not bear the sins of the parent
  - b. I John 3:4 – Sin takes place when an individual transgresses the law

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**C. The entire belief system is based upon "Continuous Revelation"**

1. "If it could be proved from Scripture that God had revealed all that He ever intended to reveal, then a professed revelation would not require investigation; for it would be known at once, that everything of the kind was an imposition. It would be folly in the extreme to inquire whether a professed new revelation were true or false; for if God had declared in His word that no more was to be given, all writings or books purporting to be a new revelation could not be otherwise than false." (Orson Pratt's Works, pg.70)

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**C. The entire belief system is based upon "Continuous Revelation"**

2. What does the Bible say?
  - a. Jude 3 – The faith (Gospel) was "once for all delivered to the saints" (I Cor. 13:8-10)
    - a. Hapax – "Used of what is so done as to be of perpetual validity and never need repetition, once for all" (Thayer, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, pg.54)
  - b. II Pet. 1:3 – We have all things that pertain to life and godliness
  - c. Gal. 1:8-9 – Even if Paul or an angel were to deliver anything "new", he would be accused
  - d. Heb. 1:2–God speaks now through His Son, not men

**A study of Mormonism: Issues with Smith's writings**

**Conclusion: The Mormon faith is based upon false concepts and faith in one man. Millions will lose their soul as a result!**

- There are inconsistencies that invalidate the writings
- There are contradictions within its own recordings
- It plainly and obviously contradicts the Bible
- If there is no difference between the Bible and the Book of Mormon (as purported they are companions), then there is no need for Mormonism
- If Mormonism is different, it is another Gospel, and all who preach it are accursed, even angels

**Which will you believe?**