



Mormonism

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints




Mormonism: History



Joseph Smith (1805-44)



- Born in Sharon, Vermont
- Freemason and occultist
- Wanted to know which church to join
- 1820: visited by God the Father and Jesus
- Told “were all wrong” and their doctrines “were an abomination”

Mormonism: History



- Visited by angel Moroni
- 1827: Moroni lead Smith to Mt. Cumorah
- Found and translated golden plates
- 1830: The Book of Mormon


Mormonism: History




- Smith Used a peep stone
- Moroni checked it for spelling and grammar
- In conflict with others and the government
- First Mormon temple in Nauvoo, IL
- 1844: Joseph and brother Hyrum were killed in jail

Mormonism: History

- Smith was a polygamist who incorporated its practices into the belief system of Mormonism
- Required followers to sign their estates over
- Carried a amulet of Jupiter with him



Mormonism: History

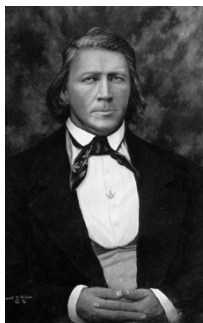


“I have more to boast of than ever any man had. I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet.” (Joseph Smith. History of the Church. Vol. 6, pp. 408-412.)

Mormonism: History

“...if any man preach any other Gospel than that which I have preached, he shall be cursed”
(Joseph Smith, Jr., The Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 366.)

Mormonism: History



- Brigham Young (1801-77)**
- Became next prophet
 - 1847: Lead Mormons to Utah
 - Made public practice of polygamy
 - Congress responded by making anti-polygamy laws

Mormonism: History

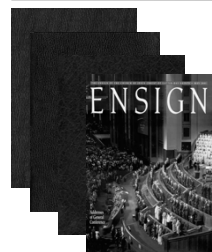
- By 1850 there were ten thousand Mormons
- By 1900 there were a quarter of a million people in Utah; all Mormons.
- By 1950 there were more than a million
- 1850-1950 all contact with outside world was done through Mormon missionaries
- The automobile industry brought an end to Mormon isolation



Mormonism: History

- 12 million Mormons in the world
- Largest cult in history
- 52,000 full time missionaries in the world
- Convert more than 310,000 people every year
- 80% converts from protestant backgrounds
- By 2020 number of Mormons will be doubled

Mormonism: Writings



- The Book of Mormon
- Doctrine and Covenants
- Pearl of Great Price
- King James Bible only or Smith's "inspired version"
- Authoritative teachings of the Mormon prophet

Mormonism: Writings

“We believe the Bible to be the word of God in so far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.” (The Articles of Faith, No. 8.)

“I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.” (Joseph Smith. History of the Church. Vol. 4, p. 461.)

Mormonism: Writings

“If you do not know whose right it is to give revelations, I will tell you. It is I.” (Brigham Young. *Times and Seasons*. October 15th, 1844, p. 683.)

“I have never preached a sermon and sent it out to the children of men, that they may not call scripture.” (Brigham Young. *Journal of Discourses*, p. 95.)

Mormonism: Writings

- Approximately 4,000 changes in the Book of Mormon since its first printing in 1830
- Doctrines and Covenants and Pearl of Great Price have had numerous changes
- Many edicts of the church that have been contradicted by later edicts
- Law of Eternal Progression—new revelation replaces earlier revelation

Mormonism: God

- God the Father (Elohim) was a man on another planet
- Progressed to godhood over time
- Elohim still has a physical body
- Lives on the planet Kolob
- Married to many women, with many children
- Mormons deny the Trinity

Mormonism: God

“I am going to tell you how God became 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... and that he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ did.” (Joseph Smith. *King Follett Discourse*, pp. 8-10.)

Mormonism: Matter

“Now, the word create came from the word baurau, which does not mean to create out of nothing; it means to organize; the same as a man would organize materials and build a ship. Hence we infer that God had materials to organize the world out of chaos—chaotic matter, which is element, and in which dwells all the glory. Element had an existence from the time He had... They had no beginning and can have no end.” (Joseph Smith. *History of the Church*, Vol. 6, pp. 302-317.)

Mormonism: Humanity

- Jesus, Satan, demons, and humanity are all siblings born in the spirit world
- Elohim and Heavenly Mother came to earth as Adam and Eve to start the human race

“The Lord created you and me for the purpose of becoming Gods like himself... We are created to become Gods like unto our Father in heaven.” (Joseph Smith. *Journal of Discourses*. Vol. 3. p. 93.)

Mormonism: Humanity

“God has abundantly confirmed that man is the supreme creation...that man is the offspring of God; that for man, and man alone, was the earth created... and that, having within him the seeds of godhood and thus being a god in embryo, man has unlimited potential for progress and attainment.” (Spencer W. Kimball. *Miracle of Forgiveness*, p. 4.)

Mormonism: Problem

- Have to become flesh and bone and then become gods on their own
- Has to experience sin at least once
- Need to overcome sin and become gods

“We believe that men shall be punished for their own sins and not for Adam’s transgression.”
(*The Articles of Faith*, No. 2.)

Mormonism: Problem

“The fall of man came as a blessing in disguise, and was the means of furthering the purposes of the Lord in the progress of man, rather than a means of hindering them. I never speak of the part Eve took in this fall as a sin, nor do I accuse Adam of a sin... It is not always a sin to transgress the law..” (Joseph Smith. *Doctrines of Salvation*. Vol. 1, pp. 114-115.)

Mormonism: Problem

“The devil told the truth, what is the mystery about it? He is doing it today. He is telling one or two truths and mixing them with a thousand errors to get the people to swallow them. I do not blame Mother Eve, I would not have had her miss eating the forbidden fruit for anything in the world.” (Brigham Young. *Deseret News*. p. 4.)

Mormonism: Jesus

- Jesus is the “elder brother” of all humanity
- Elohim had relations with Mary to produce the physical body of Jesus
- Jesus was married to three women (Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene)
- After death visited the native Indians in America



Mormonism: Jesus

“The birth of the Savior was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of a natural action. He partook of flesh and blood, was begotten of his Father, as we were of our father.” (Brigham Young. *Journal of Discourses*. Vol. 8, p. 115.)

Mormonism: Solution

- Jesus atonement was essential to salvation but is not sufficient
- Only Jesus' sweating of blood atones for humanity's sin; giving them a clean slate
- Jesus resurrection merely makes humanity's resurrection possible
- Humanity is now capable of godhood through their own works and celestial marriage
- Will be given their own planet to start the cycle over again

Mormonism: Solution

"Here then is eternal life-to know the only wise and true God; and 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." (Joseph Smith. King Follett Discourse. pp. 8-10.)

"As Man is, God once was, as God is, man may become." (Lorenzo Snow. Journal History of Church. p. 4.)

"We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel." (The Articles of Faith, No. 3.)

Mormonism: Solution

"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."

Mormonism: Solution

"Salvation is attainable only through compliance with the laws and ordinances of the Gospel; and all who are thus saved become sons and daughters unto God in a distinctive sense." (James Talmage. *Articles of Faith*. p. 422.)

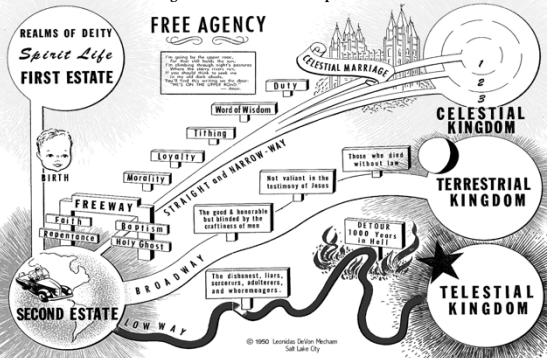
"There is no end to this development; it will go on forever. We will become gods and have jurisdiction over worlds, and these worlds will be peopled by our own offspring. We will have an endless eternity for this." (Joseph Smith. *Doctrines of Salvation*. Vol. 2, p. 48.)

Mormonism: Solution

1. Be born into a body of flesh & bone.
2. Experience sin at least once.
3. Faith in Jesus and the gospel (repentance).
4. Attain a temple recommend (every two years).
5. Baptism (by a Mormon with the proper authority of the priesthood).
6. Receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands (from the proper authority).
7. Obey all Mormon creeds, ordinances and Laws of the Gospel (especially tithing).
8. Celestial Marriage within the Mormon temple.

Mormonism: Afterlife

Official LDS Poster: It hangs in their wards and temples



Mormonism: Practices

TEMPLE RECOMMEND

Temple Recommend

- Temple entrance is necessary for salvation
- Works examined by a priest for worthiness

Mormonism: Practices

“With an Eye single to his glory, prepare yourself for temple blessings.” (Doctrines and Covenants, 88:67-68)

Mormonism: Practices

“In the Lord’s House you leave the world behind and start on the path to eternal glory.” (Doctrines and Covenants, 110:7-9)

Washington D.C. Temple
Dedicated: November 19, 1974

Cardston Alberta Temple
Dedicated: August 26, 1923

Santiago Chile Temple
Dedicated: September 15, 1983

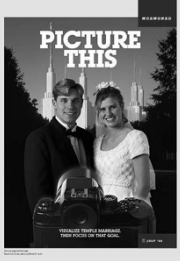
Nuku'alofa Tonga Temple
Dedicated: August 9, 1983

Mormonism: Practices

Celestial Marriages

- Earthly marriages are not recognized
- To be gods must have a Mormon temple wedding
- Man is raised from the grave by Elohim
- Man raises his wife/wives from the grave

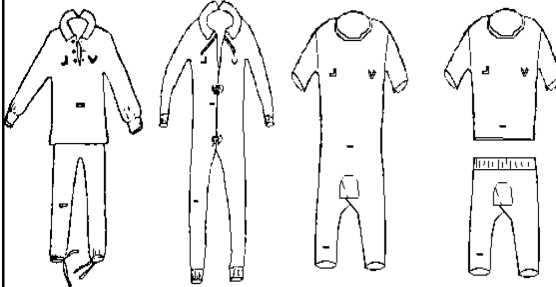
Mormonism: Practices



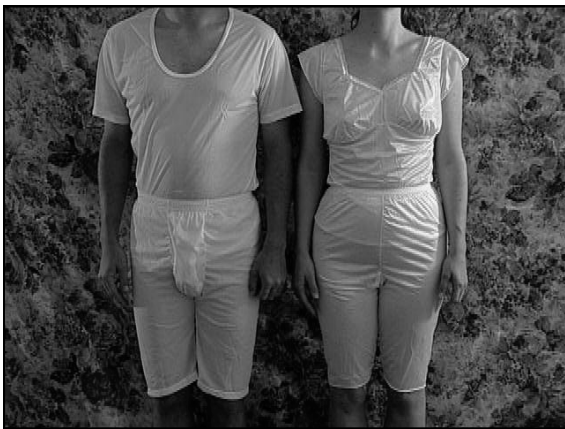
“Your dreams can become reality if you make it your goal. To marry the right person, at the right time, in the right place, and by the right authority.” (Thompson S Monson. *New Era*, Oct, 2004, p. 6.)

Mormonism: Practices

The Evolution of the Temple Garment



c1842 c1842-1975 1923-present 1979-present



Mormonism: Practices

“Motherhood lies at the foundation of happiness in the home...God has laid upon men and women very sacred obligations with respect to motherhood... In I Timothy 2:13-15, we are told that ‘Adam was first formed, then Eve...Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.’ Can she be saved without child-bearing? She indeed takes an awful risk if she willfully disregards what is a pronounced requirement of God...” (Joseph Smith. *Gospel Doctrine*. p. 288.)

Mormonism: Practices

Baptism for the Dead

- After achieving ones own salvation he can intercede for the salvation of dead relative
- During baptism they take on the name of a dead relative to enable them to get out of hell

Mormonism: Practices

Blood Atonement

- There are certain sins that the atonement of Jesus does not cover
- Before a Mormon can achieve salvation, they must personally atone for their sin by “hav[ing] their blood spilt upon the ground, that the smoke thereof might ascend to heaven as an offering for their sins.” (Brigham Young. *Journal Discourses*, p. 221.)

Mormonism: Practices

“You say, ‘That man ought to die for transgressing the law of God.’ Let me suppose a case. Suppose you found your brother in bed with your wife, and put a javelin through both of them, you would be justified, and they would atone for their sins, and be received into the kingdom of God. I would at once do so in such a case; and under such circumstances, I have no wife whom I love so well that I would not put a javelin through her heart, and I would do it with clean hands.” (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*. Vol. 3, p. 247.)

Mormonism: Prophecy

“And I prophesy in the name of the Lord God of Israel, unless the United States redress the wrongs committed upon the Saints in Missouri and punish the crimes committed by her officers that in a few years the government will be utterly overthrown and wasted and there will not be so much as a potsherd left...” (Joseph Smith, *Documentary History of the Church*. Vol. 5, p. 394.)

Mormonism: Prophecy

“Who can tell us of the inhabitants of this little planet that shines of an evening, called the Moon?... So it is with regard to the inhabitants of the Sun. Do you not 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.” (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*. Vol. 1, p. 219.)

Mormonism: Witnessing

- Are you a Christian?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
- Is Jesus the Son of God?
- Is Jesus born of a virgin?
- Is Jesus your Saviour?
- Is He your Lord?
- Do you believe in heaven?
- Do you believe in hell?
- Do you believe in salvation by grace?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

“Why are so many of the inhabitants of the earth cursed with a sin of blackness? It comes in consequence of their fathers rejecting the power of the Holy Priesthood, and the law of God. They will go down to death. And when all the rest of the children have received their blessings in the Holy Priesthood, then that curse will be removed from the seed of Cain, and they will then come up and possess the priesthood, and receive all the blessings which we now are entitled to.” (Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*. Vol. 11, p. 272.)