



Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • September 29, 2016 • Bad Theology week 4 • Msg. 16-54

Mormonism in the World Today

Mormonism in America

Foundational Claim of Mormonism

Mormon History

1805	1839
1816	1843
1820	1844
1823	1846
1826	1851
1827	1852
1829	1862
1830	1890
1832	1950
1833	1967
1835	1978

Mormon Authority

1.

2.

Mormon Authority (continued)

3.

4.

5.

Teaching About God

Teaching About People

Teaching About Jesus Christ

Teaching About Salvation

Teaching About the Priesthood

Teaching About Proxy Baptism

“Burning in the Bosom”



RELIGIOUS

THEOLOGY

Week 4: *Mormonism*

Mormonism in the World Today

World Population

7.4 Billion

Claim Mormonism

15 Million

.2%

Claim Protestant

900 Million

12%

Mormonism in America

US Population

318 Million

Claim Mormonism

6.5 Million

2%

Claim Protestant

148 Million

47%

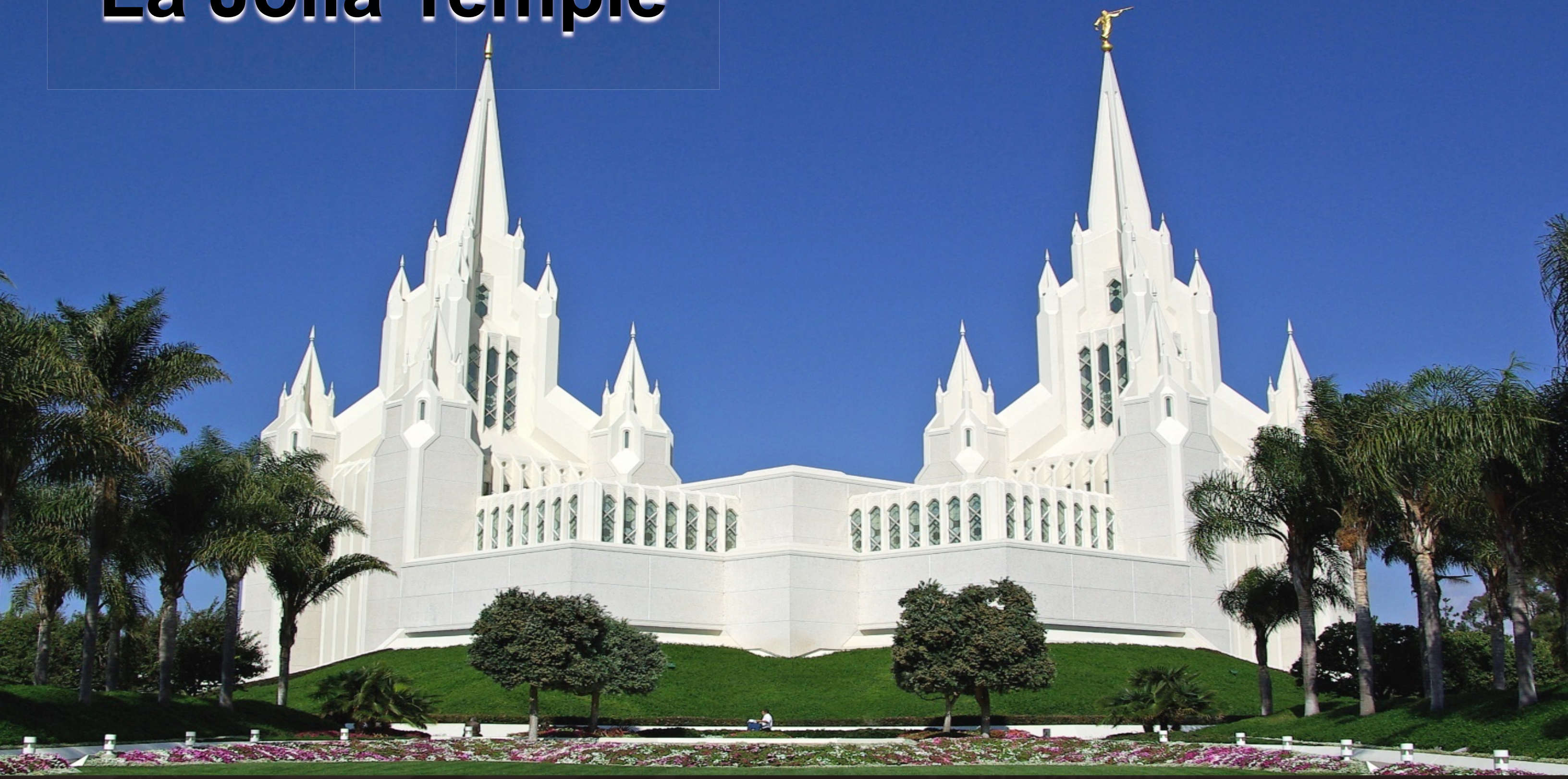
State	Membership	Population	LDS	Temples
Utah	2,040,178	2,995,919	68.10%	16
California	773,762	39,144,818	1.98%	7
Idaho	437,106	1,654,930	26.41%	4
Arizona	418,959	6,828,065	6.14%	5
Texas	341,022	27,469,114	1.24%	4
Washington	284,631	7,170,351	3.97%	3
Nevada	182,125	2,890,845	6.30%	2
Oregon	153,633	4,028,977	3.81%	2

State ↕	Membership ↕	Population ↕	LDS ▾	Temples ↕
Utah	2,040,178	2,995,919	68.10%	16
Idaho	437,106	1,654,930	26.41%	4
Wyoming	67,680	586,107	11.55%	0
Nevada	182,125	2,890,845	6.30%	2
Arizona	418,959	6,828,065	6.14%	5
Hawaii	73,740	1,431,603	5.15%	2
Montana	49,597	1,032,949	4.80%	1
Alaska	33,649	738,432	4.56%	1

Newport Beach Temple



La Jolla Temple



Los Angeles Temple



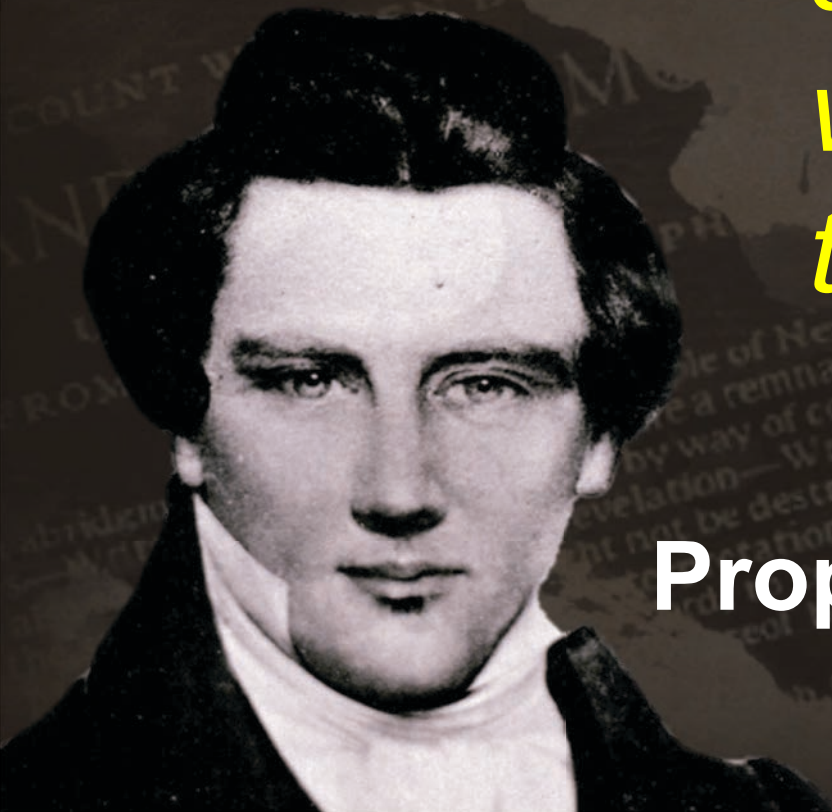
Redlands Temple



Foundational Claim of Mormonism

My object in going to inquire of the Lord which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the Personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right and which I should join.

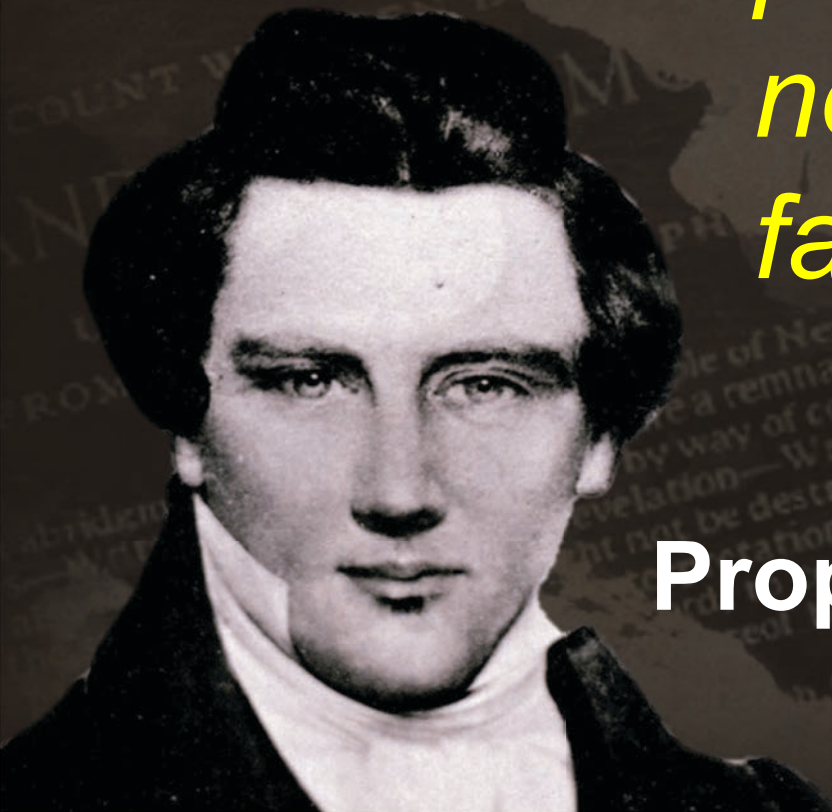
Prophet Joseph Smith, 1820



Foundational Claim of Mormonism

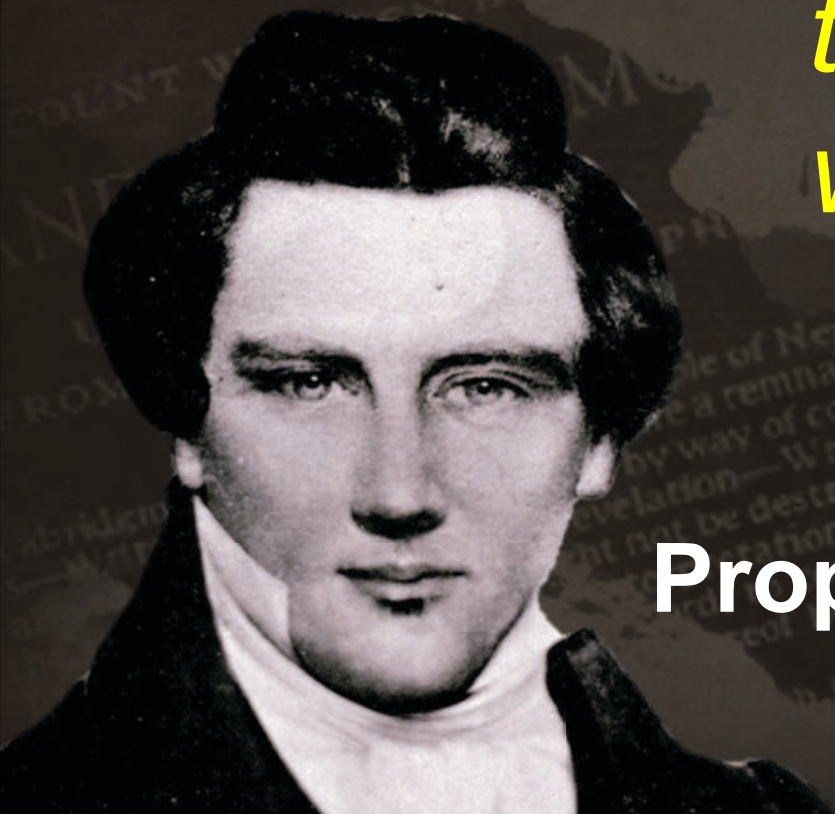
I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong, and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in His sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: “they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me,

Prophet Joseph Smith, 1820



Foundational Claim of Mormonism

they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.” He again forbade me to join any of them; and many other things did he say unto me, which I cannot write at this time.



Prophet Joseph Smith, 1820

Foundational Claim of Mormonism

This is the only true church....

This is not a church.

This is the Church of Jesus Christ.

*There are churches of men all over the land
and they have great cathedrals,
synagogues, and other houses of worship*

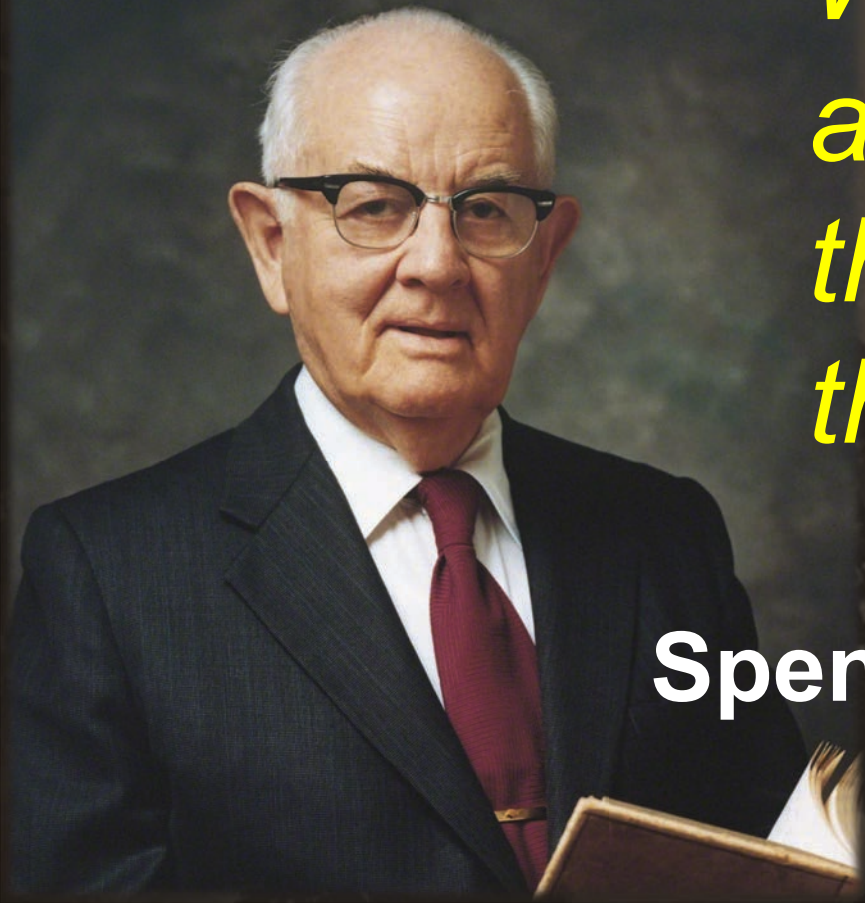


Spencer Kimball, 12th LDS President (1973 – 1985)

Foundational Claim of Mormonism

*Latter-day Saints are true Christians.
We cannot understand how anyone could
question our being Christians....
We are the true followers of Jesus Christ;
and we hope the world will finally come to
the conclusion that we are Christians, if
there are any in the world.*

Spencer Kimball, 12th LDS President (1973 – 1985)



Foundational Claim of Mormonism

This is not just another Church. This is not just one of a family of Christian churches. This is the Church and kingdom of God, the only true Church upon the face of the earth, according to the Lord's own words...



Ezra Taft Benson, 13th LDS President (1985 – 1994)

Foundational Claim of Mormonism

His Church—it bears His name and it is directed under the authority of His priesthood ... is a message that will save and exalt the souls of the children of men. There is no other way, because this is the only true message and the only true church upon the face of the whole earth.



Ezra Taft Benson, 13th LDS President (1985 – 1994)

Foundational Claim of Mormonism

Those are not my words; they are the words of the Lord Jesus Christ as found in the revelations. This gospel in its purity, now restored to the earth.



Ezra Taft Benson, 13th LDS President (1985 – 1994)

Mormon History

- 1805** Joseph Smith Jr. born in Vermont
- 1816** Family moves to Palmyra, NY
- 1820** Father & Christ appear to say all religions corrupt
- 1823** Angel Moroni appear repeatedly to teach him
- 1826** Sued for using a seer stone to find buried treasure
- 1827** Moroni gives him gold plates buried in NY
- 1829** John the Baptist grants him the Aaronic priesthood
Pt/Jms/Jn grant the Melchizedekian priesthood

Mormon History

- 1830** Book of Mormon printed & church organized
- 1832** Mormons start to settle in Missouri
- 1833** 65 revelations printed in Book of Commandments
- 1835** Practice of polygamy privately practiced
Bk of Com. revised/called Doctrine & Covenants
- 1839** 19 Mormons killed in MO. group moves to Illinois
- 1843** New revelation allowing polygamy (slowly public)
- 1844** Joseph Smith jailed and killed in mob shootout

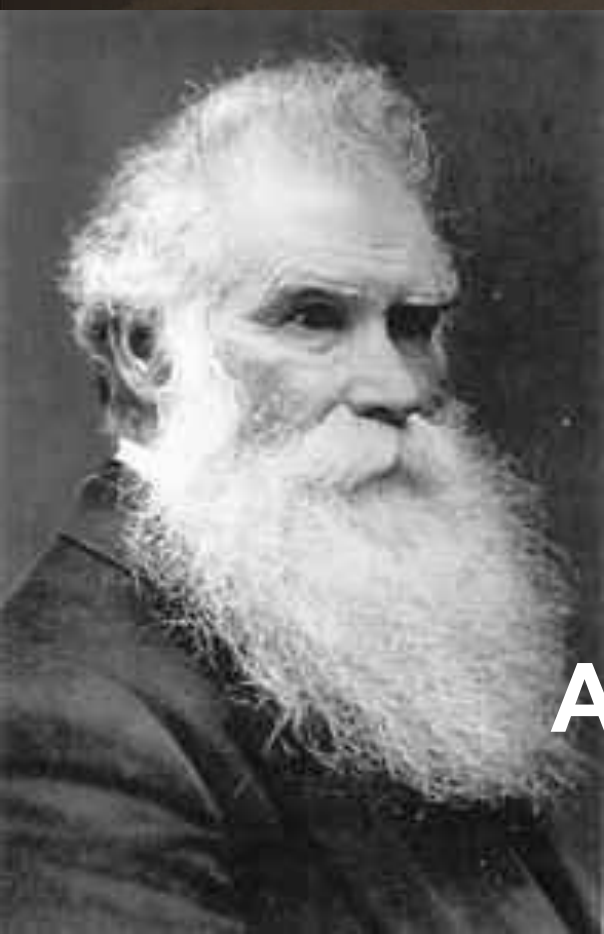
Mormon History

- 1846** Brigham Young leads LDS to future Salt Lake City
- 1851** Pearl of Great Price (added as Scripture in 1880)
- 1852** Polygamy publically taught
- 1862** Congress outlaws polygamy
- 1890** 4th President tells LDS to stop practicing polygamy
- 1950** Mormons reach 1 million members
- 1967** Book of Abraham “translated” added as Scripture
- 1978** Black men accepted into the priesthood

Mormon Authority

1. The Revised KJV Bible (by Joseph Smith – JST)

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?

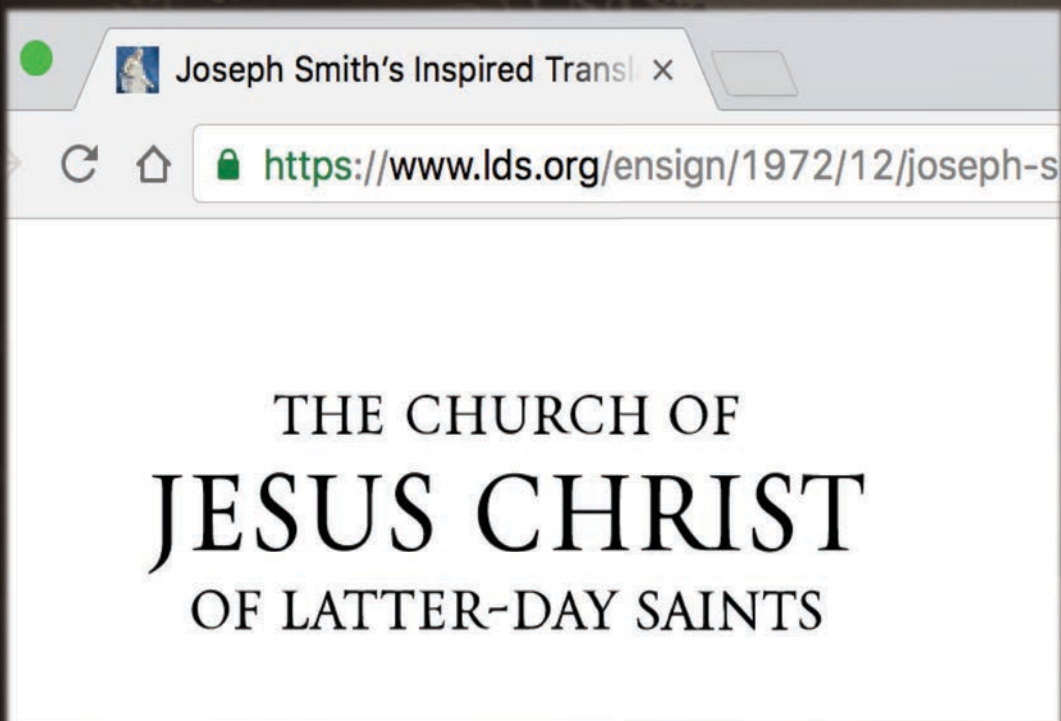


Apostle Orson Pratt; Quorum of the Twelve (1835 – 1881)

Mormon Authority

1. The Revised KJV Bible (by Joseph Smith – JST)

The Prophet's main work of revising, correcting, or translating the Bible was done during the three-year period from June 1830 to July 1833. During this time he and his scribes went through the Old and New Testaments of the King James Version and produced nearly 500 pages of manuscript, containing thousands of variant readings and new passages



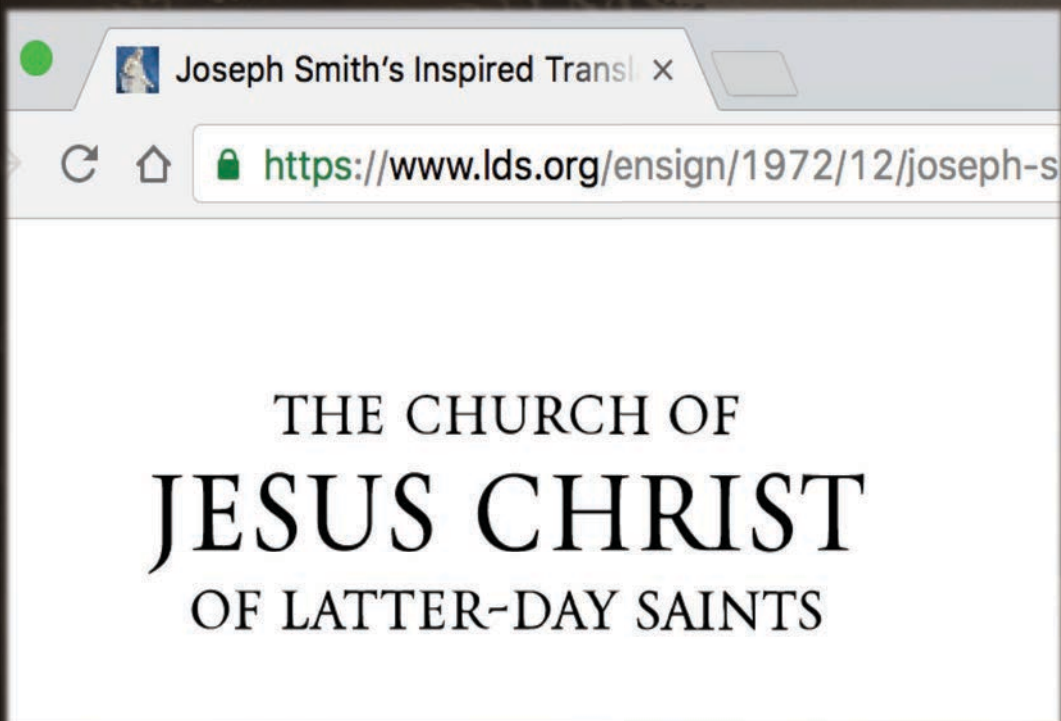
Mormon Authority

1. The Revised KJV Bible (by Joseph Smith – JST)

that clarify and enhance the message of the Bible.

The eighth Article of Faith declares that “we believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly. ...” The translation of the Bible

by Joseph Smith shows much of what is meant by that statement.

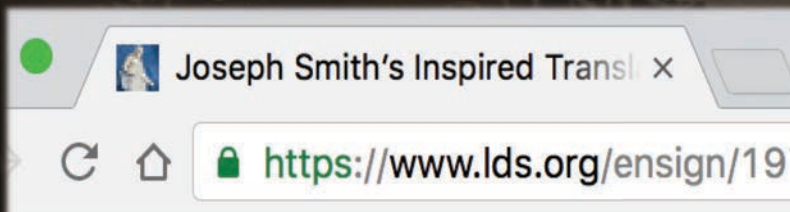


Mormon Authority

1. The Revised KJV Bible (by Joseph Smith – JST)

Genesis 50:33 (?)

33 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.

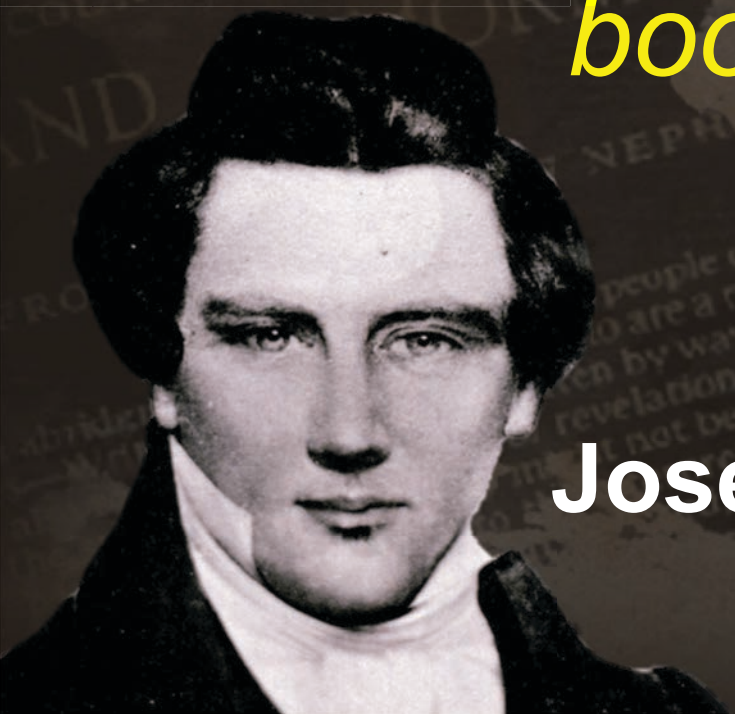


THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIS
OF LATTER-DAY SAINT

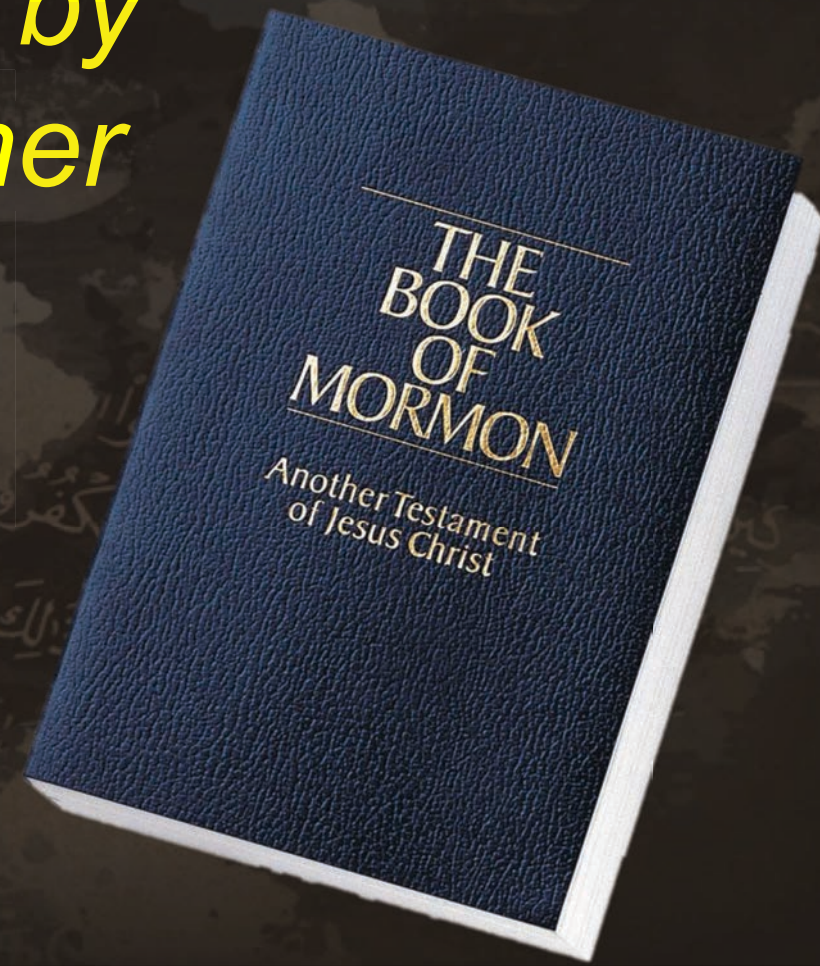
Mormon Authority

2. The Book of Mormon (1981 edition)

It 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 any other book."



Joseph Smith Jr.



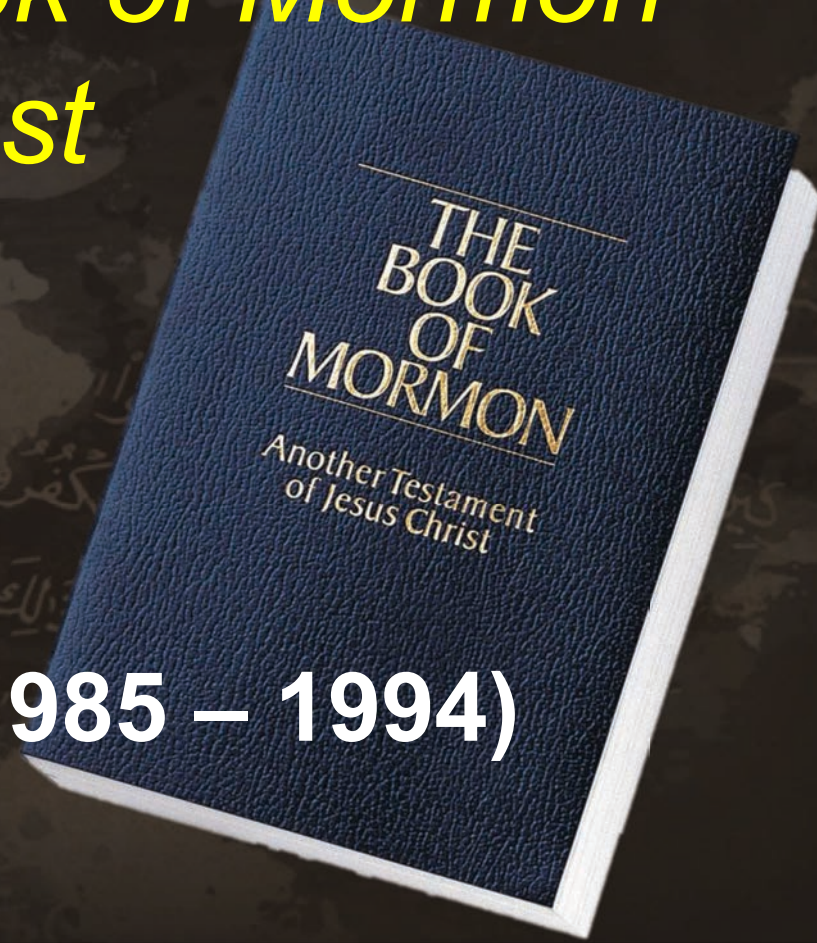
Mormon Authority

2. The Book of Mormon (1981 edition)

Unlike the Bible, which passed through generations of copyists, translators, and corrupt religionists who tampered with the text, the Book of Mormon came from writer to reader in just one inspired step of translation.



Ezra Taft Benson, 13th LDS President (1985 – 1994)



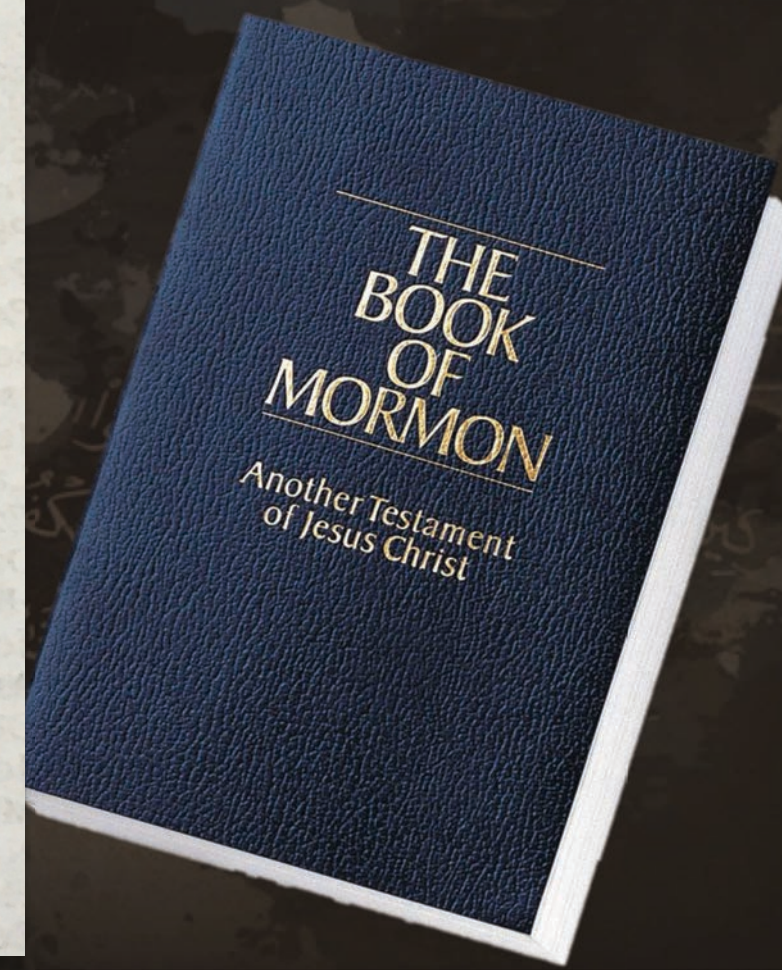
Mormon A

2. The Book

- 15 Books

NAMES AND ORDER OF BOOKS IN THE BOOK OF MORMON

Name	Page
First Book of Nephi	1
Second Book of Nephi	53
Book of Jacob	117
Book of Enos	136
Book of Jarom	138
Book of Omni	140
The Words of Mormon	143
Book of Mosiah	145
Book of Alma	207
Book of Helaman	368
Third Nephi	406
Fourth Nephi	465
Book of Mormon	469
Book of Ether	487
Book of Moroni	518

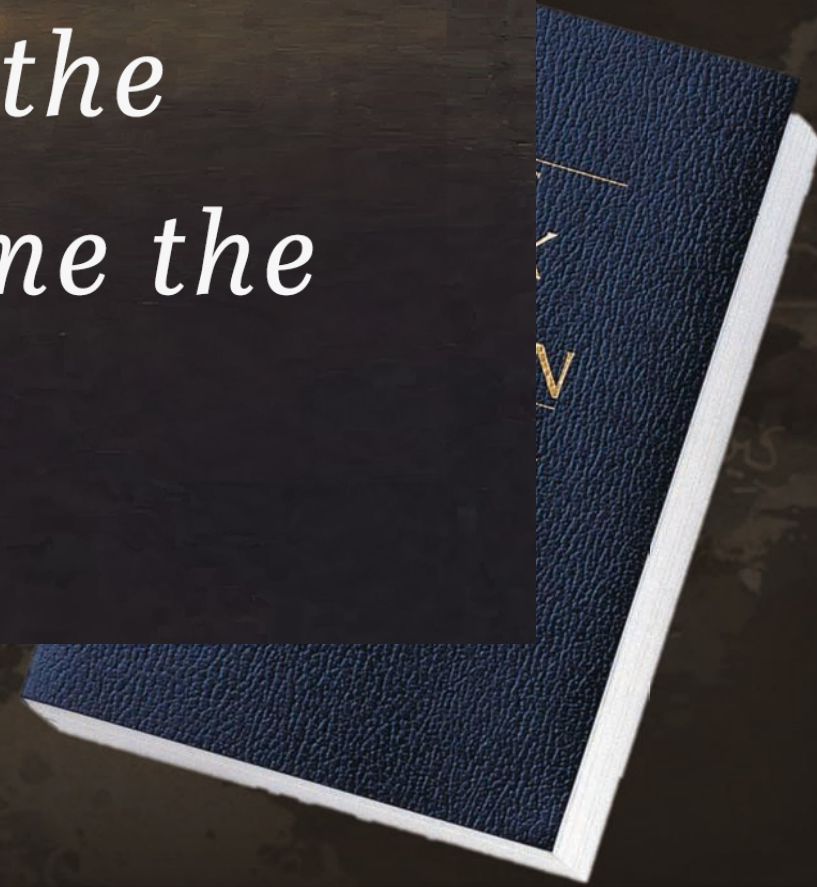


Mormon Authority

2.



*I obtained them [the plates],
and the Urim and Thummim
with them; by the means of
which, I translated the
plates; and thus came the
book of Mormon.*



Mormon Authority

3. Doctrine and Covenants (1981 edition)

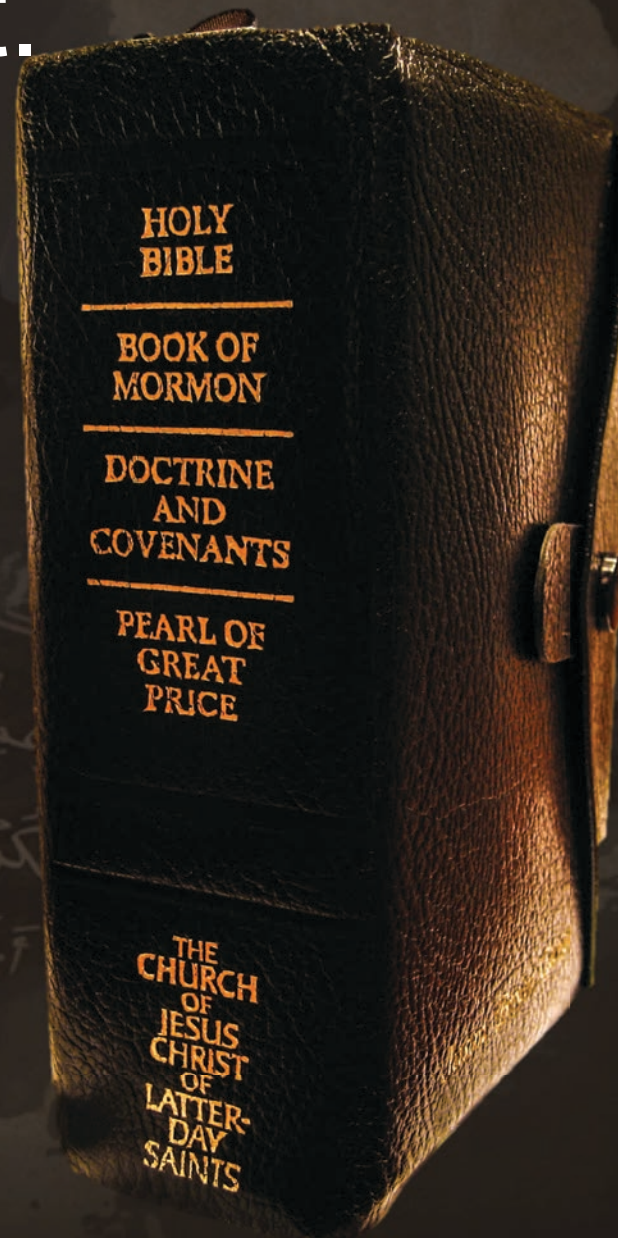
- 138 Revelations from God the Son (mostly)
- Reveled to Joseph Smith (primarily)
- e.g.: Baptisms for the Dead (§ 124)
- e.g.: Celestial Marriage (§ 131)
- e.g.. Polygamy (§ 132)
- Different editions bore Different Names
- Various Changes & Deletions over the Years



Mormon Authority

4. Pearl of Great Price

- Excerpts of Smith's translation of Gen. & Mt.
- Book of Abraham
 - Claimed to be a translation of an Egyptian Papyrus
- Excerpts of Joseph Smith autobiography
- Articles of Faith (selective doctrines)



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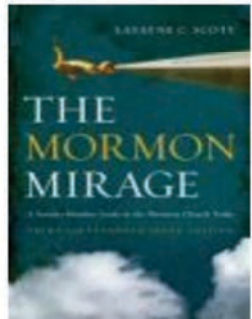


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Written by an international team of respected Christian scholars, this freshly researched rebuttal of Mormon truth will aid those sharing the gospel with Mormons and those investigating Mormonism on their own. It will help readers to accurately understand Mormonism through ... more

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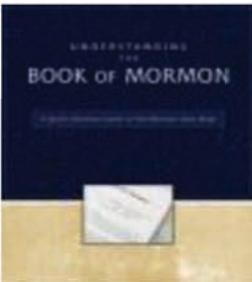


The Mormon Mirage by Latayne C. Scott

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Understanding the Book of Mormon by Ross Anderson

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Mormon Authority

5. Living Prophets (President of the Council of 12)

“President Grant used to say to us ... ‘Brethren, keep your eye on the President of this Church. If he tells you to do anything and it is wrong and you do it, the Lord will bless you for it. But you don’t need to worry; the Lord will never let his mouthpiece lead this people astray.’”



Harold B. Lee, 11th LDS President (1972 – 1973)

Mormon Authority

5. Living Prophets (President of the Council of 12)

Lucifer wins a great victory when he can get members of the Church to speak against their leaders and to do their own thinking... 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.

The Improvement Era “Ward Teacher’s Message”

I will follow
the Prophet



Mormon Authority

5. Living Prophets (President of the Council of 12)

The words of our living prophets are also accepted as scripture.... In addition to these four books of scripture, the inspired words of our living prophets become scripture to us. Their words come to us through conferences, Church publications, and instructions to local priesthood leaders.

Gospel Principles

*They shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer
and the very points of his doctrine, that they
may know how to come unto him and be saved.*

1 Nephi 15:14



Gospel Principles (official LDS Study Guide)

Teaching About God

- God was Once a Man
- God the Father has a Father
- He Progressed to Become a God by Obedience
- God is a Physical Being
- No Trinity. The Three are Three Gods
- Every Father God has a Heaven Wife (or Wives)
- They Produce Millions of Spirit Beings
- He Makes a World & Send Them to Inhabit Bodies

Teaching About People

- Human Beings Preexisted (eternal spirit)
- You Engaged in “Pre-Mortality” Deeds
- You will Engage in “Post-Mortality” Deeds
- Sin on Earth = Conscious Deeds (not Inherited)
- God Created Us to Become Gods Like Him
- Goal of Our Existence is to Attain Godhood
- “Eternal Life” = Godhood
- Dark Skin was a Punishment (Lamanites)

Teaching About Jesus Christ

- A Preexisting Spirit Like Us
- Jesus is the Father's Firstborn Spirit
- We are Literal Brothers & Sisters of Christ
- Jesus Divinity is Not Unique
- Lucifer is Also His & Our Brother
- Jesus = "Jehovah" of the OT (Father = Elohim)
- Jesus Incarnation was by Elohim's Sex Act

Teaching About Salvation

- Christ “Atoned” for Adam’s Sin (not yours)
- Jesus Helped Us as Our Savior, Now Do Your Part
- Jesus’ “Atonement” overcomes Physical Death
- Jesus gives Us General Salvation, not Individual
- People Must Progress Toward Increasing Perfection
- Baptism is Necessary for Salvation
- Hell for Satan & a Temporary place to hear Gospel
- 3 Levels of Heaven: Telestial / Terrestrial / Celestial

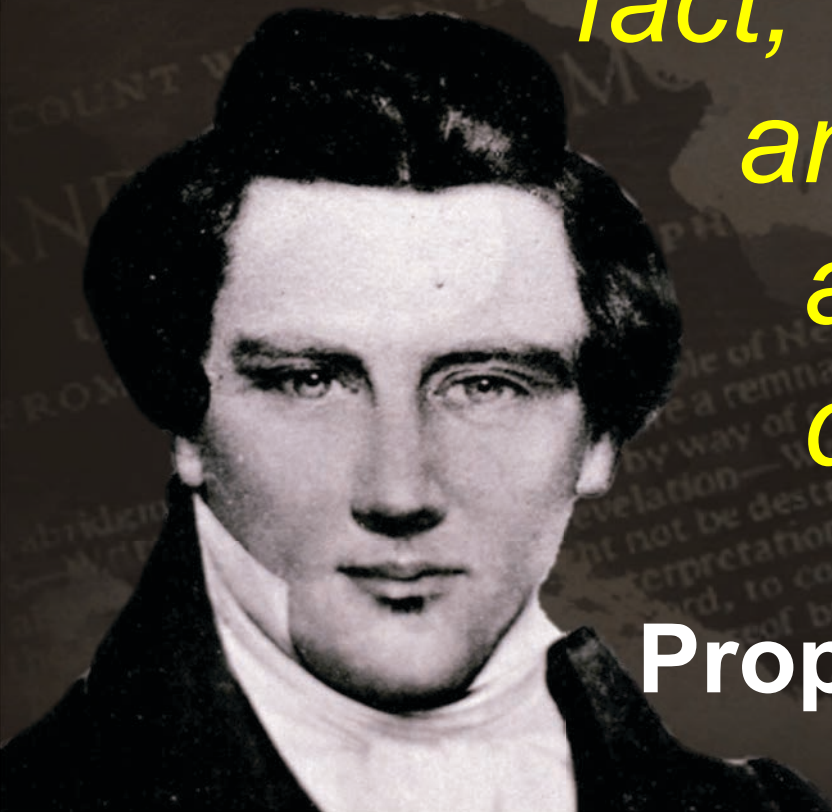
Teaching About The Priesthood

- Restored Aaronic / Levitical Priesthood (3 levels)
(Once baptized...)
 - Deacons = 12 years old
 - Teachers = 14 years old
 - Priests = 16 years old
- Seen as a Preparatory Priesthood
- For the Temporal Needs of the Church
- Assist the Melchizedek Priests

Teaching About The Priesthood

- Restored Melchizedekian Priesthood

Those holding the fullness of the Melchizedek Priesthood are kings and priests of the Most High God, holding the keys of power and blessings. In fact, that Priesthood is a perfect law of theocracy, and stands as God to give laws to the people, administering endless life to the sons and daughters of Adam



Prophet Joseph Smith

Teaching About The Priesthood

- Restored Melchizedekian Priesthood
- Mormonism claims to be a Theocratic Gov.'t for God
- Three Levels
 - Elder
 - Seventy
 - High Priest
- Need a Recommend to the Priesthood
 - 18+ yrs / on a Mission / Married in Temple

Teaching About Proxy Baptism

- AKA “Baptism for the Dead”
- Performed in the Mormon Temples
- Based on the Belief that Baptism Saves
- Offered for the Dead, Dead Then Choose to Accept it
- Done on Behalf of Those Who have Not Heard
- Point to 1 Corinthians 15:29 as Prooftext

“Burning in the Bosom”

- Doctrine & Covenants 9:8-9a

I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me 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. But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings...

- Dallin H. Oaks (Quorum of the Twelve)

The word ‘burning’ in this scripture signifies a feeling of comfort and serenity. That is the witness many receive. That is way revelation works.

The image is a complex, layered composition. At the top, the word "BRAIN" is written in a large, bold, black serif font. Below it, the word "Theology" is written in a large, bold, black serif font. The background is a collage of various elements: a world map, a large golden triangle, and various text elements. The text elements include "BRAIN" in a large, bold, black serif font, "Theology" in a large, bold, black serif font, and various other text elements in different fonts and colors, including "BRAIN" in a large, bold, black serif font, "Theology" in a large, bold, black serif font, and various other text elements in different fonts and colors. The overall style is abstract and intellectual, with a focus on the intersection of science and religion.