

# Why I'm Not Mormon

My Two Year Journey Investigating Mormonism

- What is the purpose of our lives?

-Either the point of life is to get married and sealed in the Mormon church and through obedience to Mormon laws and doctrine, become a god of my own planet...

"Here then is eternal life--to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn to be gods yourselves..."

-*Joseph Smith (Journal of Discourses Vol. 6 p. 4)*

Or...

-The point of life is to serve God and worship Him for all eternity in Heaven...

"God for his own glory has chosen to create and gather to himself a group of people to be the subjects of his eternal kingdom, to praise, honor, and serve him forever..."

-John MacArthur

"Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever."

-Westminster Shorter Catechism (1646)

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF MORMONISM

- Joseph Smith's claim

"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 could get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book."

-*Joseph Smith (History of the Church Vol. 4 p. 461)*

- The First vision

"I asked the Personages in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that **all were wrong**)-and which I should join...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 site."

- *Joseph Smith History (Pearl of Great Price)*

- "The Church of the Devil"

"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**; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth."

-*1 Nephi 14:10 (Book of Mormon)*

“We talk about Christianity, but it is a perfect pack of nonsense... Myself and hundreds of the Elders around me have seen its pomp, parade, and glory; and what is it? It is a sounding brass and tinkling symbol; it is as **corrupt as hell**; and the Devil could not invent a better engine to spread his work than the Christianity of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.”

-John Taylor (3<sup>rd</sup> LDS President) *Journal of Discourses Vol, 6 p. 167*

### **Wilford Woodruff (4th President of the Mormon church)**

-After the death of Brigham Young in 1877, the U.S. government furthered its campaign against the practice of polygamy.

-In May of 1890, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Edmunds-Tucker Act, allowing the confiscation of Mormon Church property. President Woodruff saw that the Church's temples and its ordinances were now at risk. Woodruff then prayed intensely over the matter and claimed God told him they would have to stop practicing polygamy.

-And in 1896, the territory of Utah was admitted into the union as the 45<sup>th</sup> state with a constitution that banned polygamy.

### **Additional Mormon books / Teachings**

Doctrine and Covenants – This book is described by the church as "containing revelations given to Joseph Smith, the Prophet, with some additions by his successors in the Presidency of the Church. Essentially it is a compilation of important revelations of the church.

Pearl of Great Price – Part of the canonical works of (LDS Church). Includes the Book of Moses, the Book of Abraham, an excerpt from Joseph Smith's retranslation of portions of the Gospel of Matthew, some early history of Joseph's life, as well as the Mormon Articles of Faith.

History of the Church - History of the early Latter Day Saint movement. Much of it includes Joseph Smith's writings and includes comments by Smith's scribes, as well as historians of the LDS Church. Most of the manuscript was based on Church records, Church newspaper excerpts and journals of Joseph Smith kept by various men who recorded his activities.

Journal of Discourses – “The *Journal of Discourses* is not an official publication of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is a compilation of sermons and other materials from the early years of the Church, which were transcribed and then published. “

-LDS.org

The Seer – An official periodical of the LDS Church published in 1853-1854.

Millennial Star - An official periodical of the LDS Church published in 1840-1970.

### **Collisions I Couldn't Overlook**

- The Character of Joseph Smith
- Early Church Teaching of Damnation For Not Practicing Polygamy

- Belief in Joseph Smith as a Prophet as a Requirement for Salvation
- Works Based Salvation
- Teaching That God Was Once a Man Who Became a God
- Jesus and Lucifer Being Brothers
- God Having a Body of Flesh and Bone
- The Book of Abraham Turning Out to Actually be an Egyptian Funeral Scroll
- Strange Altered Verses Changed to Fit Mormon Theology
- Appalling Racism of the Early Church Leaders

### **The Character of Joseph Smith...**

"I am learned, and know more than all the world put together."

*-Joseph Smith (History of the Church, Vol.6, p. 408-409).*

"I have more to boast of than 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 work as I."

*-Joseph Smith (History of the Church, Vol.6, pp. 408-09).*

### **Joseph and His Many Wives**

"Joseph told associates that an angel appeared to him three times between 1834 and 1842 and commanded him to proceed with plural marriage when he hesitated to move forward."

"During the third and final appearance, the angel came with a drawn sword, threatening Joseph with destruction unless he went forward and obeyed the commandment fully."

"Following his marriage to Louisa Beaman and before he married other single women, Joseph Smith was sealed to a number of women who were already married."

"Plural marriage was difficult for all involved. For Joseph Smith's wife Emma, it was an excruciating ordeal. Emma approved, at least for a time, of four of Joseph Smith's plural marriages in Nauvoo, and she accepted all four of those wives into her household."

"But Emma likely did not know about all of Joseph's sealings. She vacillated in her view of plural marriage, at some points supporting it and at other times denouncing it."

Joseph was about 36 years old when he married a 14 year old girl named Helen Mar Kimball two years before his death.

"The revelation on marriage required that a wife give her consent before her husband could enter into plural marriage. Nevertheless, toward the end of the revelation, the Lord said that if the first wife "receive not this law"—the command to practice plural marriage—the husband would be "exempt from

the law of Sarah," presumably the requirement that the husband gain the consent of the first wife before marrying additional women. Her decision to "receive not this law" **permitted him to marry additional wives without her consent.** "

"Careful estimates put the number at 30 to 40."

<https://www.lds.org/topics/plural-marriage-in-kirtland-and-nauvoo?lang=eng>

### **Damnation For Not Practicing Polygamy**

"From the passage in the forty-fifth Psalm, it will be seen that the great Messiah who was the founder of the Christian religion, **was a Polygamist...**"

-Apostle Orson Pratt (*The Seer Page 172*)

"The grand reason of the burst of public sediment in anathemas upon Christ and his disciples, causing his crucifixion, was evidently based upon 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"."

-Apostle Jedediah M. Grant (*Journal of Discourses Vol. 1 p. 346*)

"Some people have supposed that the doctrine of plural marriage was a sort of superfluidity, or non-essential to the salvation or exaltation of mankind..."

-Joseph F. Smith (6<sup>th</sup> LDS Church President) *Journal of Discourses Vol. 20 p. 31 (1878)*

"..I understand the law of celestial marriage to mean that every man in this church, who has the ability to obey and practice it in righteousness and will not, **shall be damned.**"

-Joseph F. Smith (6<sup>th</sup> LDS Church President) *Journal of Discourses Vol. 20 p. 28 (1878)*

"Now if any of you will deny the plurality of wives, and continue to do so, I promise that you will be damned,"

-Brigham Young (2<sup>nd</sup> LDS Church President) *Journal of Discourses, vol. 3, p. 266*

"Also, the only men who become gods, even the sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy."

-Brigham Young (2<sup>nd</sup> LDS Church President) *Journal of Discourses Vol. 11 Pg. 269*

- The end of polygamy for the church

Under pressure from the US government, Wilford Woodruff claimed he received a revelation from God. He advised the Mormon Church that the practice of polygamy would have to cease and thus would no longer be a requirement for the Church.

### **Salvation through Joseph Smith**

"Every intelligent person under the heavens that does NOT, when informed, acknowledge that Joseph Smith, jun. , is a prophet of God, is in darkness, and is opposed to us and to Jesus and his Kingdom on earth..."

“...Every spirit that confesses that Joseph Smith is a Prophet, that he lived and died a Prophet and that the Book of Mormon is true, is of God, and every spirit that does not is of anti-Christ.”

-Brigham Young -History of the Church vol. 7: pg. 287

Orson Pratt- “Every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are.”

-Journal of Discourses Vol. 7 p. 289

“Believe in God, believe in Jesus, and believe in Joseph his Prophet, and in Brigham his successor. And I add, “If you will believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph was a Prophet, and that Brigham was his successor, you shall be saved in the kingdom of God,” which I pray, in the name of Jesus, may be the case. Amen.”

-Joseph Young – Journal of Discourses Vol. 6 p.229

### **Works Based salvation**

Mormonism teaches that you must obey all the Mormon laws and ordinances to receive salvation as it’s described in the Book of Mormon in 2 Nephi 25:23 which states...

- “For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, **after all we can do.**”

-2 Nephi 25:23

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

-Mormon articles of faith 1:3

- But the Bible says...

We know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, **not by obeying the law.** For **no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.** For if keeping the law could make us right with God, **then there was no need for Christ to die.** Those who depend on the law to make them right with God **are under his curse.**

-Galatians Chapter 2

For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, **you have been cut off from Christ!**

-Galatians Chapter 5

For **no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands.** The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

-Romans Chapter 3

- Again, what do Mormons teach?

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

### Teaching that God was Once a Man Like Us Who Became a God

- Joseph Smith says...

"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! That is the great secret. 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."

"He was once a man like us, yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an Earth."

-Joseph Smith (*Journal of Discourses Vol. 6 p. 3*)

- But The Bible Says...

"Understand that I alone am God. There is no other God—there never has been, and there never will be. From eternity to eternity I am God."

-Isaiah 43:10-13

"...the number of His years is unsearchable"

-Job 36:26

"From everlasting to everlasting, you are God..."

-Psalms 90:2

- Joseph Smith says...

"Here then is eternal life--to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn to be gods yourselves..."

-Joseph Smith (*Journal of Discourses Vol. 6 p. 4*)

- But The Bible Says...

"There is no other God but me."

-Deuteronomy 32:39

"I am the first, and I am the last; beside me there is no God.

Is there a God beside me? Yea, there is no God; I know not any."

-Isaiah 44:6-8

"I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me....I am the Lord, and there is none else."

Joseph Smith quoting Jesus, "My Father worked out his kingdom with fear and trembling, and I must do the same..."

*-Degrees of Glory: The Celestial Kingdom P. 190*

- Brigham Young (2nd President of the Church) states...

"God himself is increasing and progressing in knowledge, power, and dominion, and will do so, worlds without end,"

*-Journal of Discourses, vol. 6, p. 120*

- But The Bible Says...

*"Shall any teach God Knowledge?"*

*-Job 21:22*

*"Who is able to advise the Spirit of the Lord? Who knows enough to give him advice or teach him? Has the Lord ever needed anyone's advice? Does he need instruction about what is good? Did someone teach him what is right or show him the path of justice?"*

*-Isaiah 40:13-14*

*"I the Lord do not change"*

*-Malachi 3:6*

*"Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever."*

*-Hebrews 13:8*

### **Jesus is Lucifer's Brother**

Mormons believe Jesus, Lucifer, and all of humanity are spirit offspring of God and his Goddess wife. Therefore, Jesus and Lucifer are spirit brothers.

*"Mankind are here because they are the offspring of parents who were first brought here from another planet, and power was given to them to propagate their species."*

*-Brigham Young (Journal of Discourses Vol. 7 p. 285)*

*"We have now clearly shown that God the Father had a plurality of wives, one or more being in eternity, by whom He begat our spirits, as well as the spirit of Jesus His first born..."*

*-Apostle Orson Pratt (The Seer p. 172)*

*"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. 51)*

*"Lucifer, son of the morning, through diligent search for truth and the use of it, had become one of the foremost in the assembly of those invited to undertake the experiences of earth. But, in that Great*

Council, his personal ambition and love of power overcame him. He pitted his own plan and will against the purposes of God.”

-Apostle John A. Widtsoe

“He strove to gain the birthright of his Elder Brother, Jesus the Christ. When his proposition was rejected, he forsook all that he had gained, would not repent of his sin, defied truth, and of necessity lost his place among the followers of God.”

-Apostle John A. Widtsoe (*Evidences and Reconciliations*, Pg.209)

- But the Bible Says...

“Great is the mystery of Godliness: God was manifest in the flesh.”

-1 Timothy 3:16

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

-John 1:1

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God.”

-Philippians 2:5-6

“...all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father.”

-John 5:23

“In Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.”

-Colossians 2:9

“Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!”

-John 14:8-9

“The Father and I are one.”

Once again the people picked up stones to kill him. Jesus said, “At my Father’s direction I have done many good works. For which one are you going to stone me?”

They replied, “We’re stoning you not for any good work, but for blasphemy! You, a mere man, claim to be God.”

-John 10:30-33

- **God has a body of flesh and bones...**

“The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s.”

-*Doctrine and Covenants 130:22*

- But The Bible Says...

“True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For **God is Spirit**, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

-*John 4:23-24*

“...a spirit **hath not** flesh and bones.”

-*Luke 24:39*

“Christ, who is the image of the **invisible God**.”

-*Colossians 1:15*

### **Book of Abraham actually an Egyptian funeral scroll...**

Joseph Smith produced the Book of Abraham in 1835. Joseph claimed he translated the Book of Abraham from ancient papyri containing Egyptian writing that he bought from a traveling mummy expedition. Joseph believed the book was written by Abraham’s own hand, and described Abraham’s travels and life. The book contains Mormon doctrines like the plurality of Gods, the idea that God cannot create things out of nothing, but must use pre-existing materials, and exaltation of humans to Gods.

- The LDS Church confession...

“None of the characters on the papyrus fragments mentioned Abraham’s name or any of the events recorded in the book of Abraham. Mormon and non-Mormon Egyptologists agree that the characters on the fragments do not match the translation given in the book of Abraham...”

“...Scholars have identified the papyrus fragments as parts of standard funerary texts that were deposited with mummified bodies. These fragments date to between the third century B.C.E. and the first century C.E., long after Abraham lived.”

[-https://www.lds.org/topics/translation-and-historicity-of-the-book-of-abraham?lang=eng](https://www.lds.org/topics/translation-and-historicity-of-the-book-of-abraham?lang=eng)

### **Strange Altered Verses...**

- The LDS Church’s view of the Bible...

“Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and **precious** things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God.”

-*1 Nephi 13:28*

“We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly.”

-*8<sup>th</sup> Mormon Article of Faith*

“And Abraham believed in the LORD and he counted it to him for righteousness.”

-Genesis 15:6

VS.

“And Abraham received concubines, and it was accounted unto him as righteousness.”

-Doctrine and Covenants 132:36

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

-John 1:1

VS.

“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.”

-John 1:1 (Joseph Smith Translation)

“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

-John 17:3

VS.

"Here then is eternal life--to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn to be God's yourselves..."

-Joseph Smith Teachings section 6 1843-44 p. 346

“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

-Romans 10:9

VS.

“If you will believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is the Christ, that Joseph was a Prophet, and that Brigham was his successor, you shall be saved in the kingdom of God...”

-Joseph Young - Journal of Discourses 6:229

### **Racism**

“There were no neutrals in the war in heaven. All took sides either with Christ or with Satan. Every man had his agency there, and men receive rewards here based upon their actions there, just as they will receive rewards hereafter for deeds done in the body. The Negro, evidently, is receiving the reward he merits.”

-Joseph Feilding Smith (Doctrines of Salvation)1954

“There is a reason why one man is born black and with other disadvantages, while another is born white with great advantages. The reason is that we once had an estate before we came here, and were

obedient, more or less, to the laws that were given us there. Those who were faithful in all things there received greater blessings here, and those who were not faithful received less.

*-Joseph Fielding Smith (Doctrines of Salvation)1954*

“Those who were less valiant in the pre-existence and who thereby had certain spiritual restrictions imposed upon them during mortality are known to us as the negroes. Such spirits are sent to earth through the lineage of Cain, the mark put upon him for his rebellion against God and his murder of Abel being a black skin...”

*-Bruce R. McConkie (Mormon Doctrine) 1966*

“Had I anything to do with the negro, I would confine them by strict law to their own species...”

*-Joseph Smith, January 2, 1845, History of the Church, v. 5, pp. 216-218*

“Cain slew his brother.... and the Lord put a mark upon him, which is the flat nose and black skin.”

*-Prophet Brigham Young, Brigham Young Addresses, Feb. 5, 1852, LDS historical department*

“You must not think, from what I say, that I am opposed to slavery. No! The negro is damned, and is to serve his master till God chooses to remove the curse of Ham.”

*-Prophet Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, v. 7, pp. 290-291*

“Suppose we summons them to appear here, and here declare that it is right to mingle our seed with the black race of Cain, that they shall come in with us and be partakers with us of all the blessings God has given to us. On that very day, and hour we should do so, the priesthood is taken from this Church and the Kingdom of God leaves us to our fate.”

*-The Teachings of President Brigham Young Volume 3 1852-1854 Page 46*

“It is very clear that the mark which was set upon the descendants of Cain was a skin of blackness... It has been noticed in our day that men who have lost the spirit of the Lord, and from whom His blessings have been withdrawn, have turned dark to such an extent as to excite the comments of all who have known them.”

*-Prophet Joseph Fielding Smith, (10th President from 1970-1972) The Improvement Era, v. 27, n. 6, p. 565*

“Shall I tell you the law of God in regard to the African race? If the white man who belongs to the chosen seed mixes his blood with the seed of Cain, the penalty, under the law of God, is death on the spot. This will always be so.”

-Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses, Volume 10, page 110*

“And after the flood we are told that the curse that had been pronounced upon Cain was continued through Ham's wife, as he had married a wife of that seed. And why did it pass through the flood? **Because it was necessary that the devil should have a representation upon the earth** as well as God...”

-John Taylor (3rd president of the church) *Journal of Discourses 22:304*

“And if any man mingle his seed with the seed of Cain the only way he could get rid of it or have Salvation would be to come forward and have his head cut off and spill his blood upon the ground- it would also take the life of his children.”

-Wilfred Woodruff *Journal 4th President of LDS*

- An Apology from the LDS Church.

“Forget everything I have said, or what...Brigham Young...or whomsoever has said...that is contrary to the present revelation. We spoke with a limited understanding and without the light and knowledge that now has come into the world.”

-Elder Bruce McConkie (1978)

“Today, the Church disavows the theories advanced in the past that black skin is a sign of divine disfavor or curse, or that it reflects actions in a premortal life; that mixed-race marriages are a sin; or that blacks or people of any other race or ethnicity are inferior in any way to anyone else. Church leaders today unequivocally condemn all racism, past and present, in any form.”

-LDS.org (*Gospel Topics*)

### **So How Do We Get To Heaven?**

- Peter tells us how to be saved...

“God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today...So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!” Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter replied, “Each of you must **repent of your sins** and turn to God, and be **baptized** in the name of **Jesus Christ** for the **forgiveness** of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the **Holy Spirit**. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.”

-Acts Chapter 2

**We are saved by repenting and trusting in Jesus Christ alone!**