

- **Introduction and Purpose of the Series**
 - Purpose: awareness, refuting false doctrine, lovingly leading people to Christ
 - Importance of regular Scripture study
 - 2 Tim 2:15 — be diligent, rightly dividing the word of truth
 - Acts 17:11 — the Bereans searched the Scriptures daily
 - Key starting point: who is Jesus?
 - Is He eternal?
 - Is He created or the Creator?
 - Is He God in the flesh?
 - Is His death sufficient to save?
 - Did He truly rise from the dead?
 - Approach: ask questions, avoid argument, treat people as image-bearers of God
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- **Mormonism — Concluding the Study**
 - **Background**
 - Founded by Joseph Smith in the early 1800s
 - Claims origin from translated metal plates — the Book of Mormon
 - Claims to be the only true church on earth
 - Contradicts, modifies, and expands on the Bible
 - Supplementary books claimed to be divinely inspired
 - **LDS Teaching on the Nature of God**
 - God is physically like man, based on a literal reading of Genesis 1:26-27
 - Joseph Smith's core claim: "God himself was once as we are now"
 - God the Father has a history — was once mortal, then became exalted
 - Contrasted with biblical teaching on God's eternal nature
 - Psalm 90:2 — God is from everlasting to everlasting
 - Isaiah 43:10 — no God formed before or after Him
 - Isaiah 44:6 — He is the first and the last
 - Isaiah 45:5 — there is no God beside Him
 - Malachi 3:6 — God does not change
 - John 1:1 — the Word already exists at creation
 - John 8:58 — Jesus declares "I am" before Abraham
 - Summary comparison: Historic Christianity vs. LDS teaching
 - God is eternally God vs. God was once as we are
 - God did not become God vs. God became exalted
 - God is not a mortal man vs. God is an exalted man
 - God is not limited to a physical body vs. God has a physical form
 - One eternal God vs. plurality of gods/exalted beings
 - **Key LDS Doctrines**
 - **Book of Mormon**
 - Considered the keystone of LDS religion (Bruce McConkie)
 - LDS holds prophets and additional scriptures as more reliable than the Bible
 - **The Devil**

- Born as a spirit after Jesus in pre-existence
 - Jesus and Satan are spirit brothers
 - All humanity born as spirit siblings in heaven
- **God**
 - God was once a man on another planet
 - God has a tangible body of flesh and bones (D&C 130:22)
 - Potential for faithful Mormons to become gods
 - Many gods exist
 - There is a mother goddess
 - God is married to a goddess wife and has spirit children
- **The Trinity**
 - Three separate, physically distinct Gods
 - Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are not one being
- **Heaven**
 - Three levels: telestial, terrestrial, and celestial
- **The Holy Ghost**
 - A male personage
- **Jesus**
 - Father and Son both have tangible bodies of flesh and bones
 - Jesus' birth described as a natural birth from a physical act of the Father
 - Elohim is the literal father of both Jesus' spirit and physical body
- **Joseph Smith**
 - No salvation without Joseph Smith and the restoration
 - No salvation outside the LDS Church
- **Pre-existence**
 - All people were first begotten as spirit children in heaven
 - Jesus was the first spirit born in heaven
 - Lucifer was born as a spirit after Jesus
- **Salvation**
 - Salvation by grace alone rejected as a doctrine of Satan
 - Jesus' sacrifice cannot cleanse all sins (murder and repeated adultery excluded)
 - Good works are necessary for salvation
 - Accepting Joseph Smith as prophet required for salvation
- **Questions to Ask Mormons**
 - Has the LDS Church found scientific evidence that the moon and sun are inhabited, as Brigham Young taught?
 - Why did Brigham Young teach that Adam is "our Father and our God" when the Bible and Book of Mormon say Adam is a creation of God?
 - How do you decide which LDS prophet is correct when they contradict each other?
 - How did the LDS Church choose the correct account of Joseph Smith's first vision among several contradictory versions?
 - Can you show in the Bible that all must stand before Joseph Smith on the Day of Judgment?

- Why did Joseph Smith condone polygamy when the Book of Mormon had already condemned it?
- If God has a body of flesh and bones, why does Alma 18:26-28 and John 4:24 say God is a spirit?
- Why does the Book of Mormon say Jesus was born in Jerusalem when the Bible says Bethlehem?
- If the Book of Mormon is the most correct book on earth, why does it contain over 4,000 changes from the 1830 edition?
- Why baptize for the dead when Mosiah 3:25 and the Bible say there is no salvation after death?
- Why does the Book of Mormon quote the Bible word for word if the Bible has been corrupted?
- If marriage is essential for exaltation, why did Paul say it is good for a man not to marry (1 Corinthians 7:1)?
- Why does the LDS Church teach marriage in heaven when Jesus said there is no marriage in the resurrection (Matthew 22:30)?
- How can Mormon males become gods when Isaiah 43:10 says no God was formed before or after Him?
- Why does the LDS Church teach Elohim had sexual relations with Mary when Matthew and Luke teach she was a virgin?
- Why does the LDS Church teach Jesus and Lucifer are spirit brothers when John and Colossians say Jesus is the Creator of all things?
- Has the LDS Church reconsidered whether Joseph Smith and Brigham Young were true prophets given the biblical standard of 100% prophetic accuracy (Deuteronomy 18:20-22)?
- **Summary Contrast of Who Jesus Is Across Belief Systems**
 - Jehovah's Witnesses: Jesus is Michael the Archangel
 - Mormons: Jesus is the spirit brother of Lucifer
 - Islam: Jesus is only a prophet
 - Key reminder: always bring conversations back to Jesus, Scripture, sin, grace, and salvation
- **General Questions to Ask Anyone of a Different Faith**
 - What must a person do to be saved?
 - Is Jesus created or eternal?
 - Where does final authority come from?
 - Reminder: speak as a rescued sinner, not a religious expert; truth should produce humility, not harshness

- **Introduction to Islam**

- **Holy Books**
 - Christians rely on the Bible
 - Muslims rely on the Quran
- **Core Islamic Doctrine: Tawhid**
 - Absolute oneness and uniqueness of God

- God was not born and has no children
 - God has no partners or equals
 - All worship belongs to Him alone
- **The Shahada**
 - "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah"
 - Qur'an 112:1-4 — God is one, self-sufficient, neither begets nor is begotten, none comparable to Him
- **Key Theological Difference with Christianity**
 - Christianity: one God in three persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - Islam: rejects the Trinity and rejects Jesus as God
- **Who Is Jesus in Islam?**
 - Known as Isa
 - Real historical person
 - Born of the Virgin Mary
 - A prophet and messenger of God
 - A worker of miracles by God's permission
 - The promised Messiah
 - Not believed to be God or the Son of God
 - Qur'an 4:171 — Jesus described as a messenger and a created spirit, not divine; Trinity explicitly rejected
 - Jesus placed among great prophets: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, and Muhammad
- **Muhammad**
 - Born in Mecca around AD 570
 - Began receiving revelations around age 40
 - Revelations continued approximately 22-23 years
 - Died AD 632
 - Considered the final prophet — the seal of the prophets (Qur'an 33:40)
 - Muslims believe the Quran constitutes the revelations he received from God
- **Islam's View of the Bible**
 - Recognizes the Torah, Psalms, and Gospel
 - Believes these texts have been altered from their original form
 - Does not consider current versions fully authentic

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- **Addressing the Claim That the Bible Has Been Corrupted**
 - Common tactic across cults: discredit the Bible, claim it has been altered
 - No one has ever produced an original uncorrupted Bible to compare against the current one
 - No original copy of any alleged uncorrupted version has been presented as evidence
 - Cults elevate their own prophets as the final authority over Scripture
 - **The Broken Clock Illustration**
 - A broken clock is right twice a day — partial truth is not the same as truth

- Cults and false religions affirm certain true things
 - They acknowledge a creator
 - They reference Scripture
 - They recognize Jesus as a historical figure
- Partial truth without full truth can still lead people in the wrong direction
- Illustrated by a GPS that is mostly accurate but fails to warn of a collapsed bridge
- **The Biblical Standard for a True Prophet**
 - Deuteronomy 18:20-22 — a prophet who speaks presumptuously or whose words do not come to pass is not from God
 - 100% accuracy required
 - Application: LDS and other movements with prophets whose prophecies failed do not meet this standard