

Mormonism: The Bible vs. Mormon Documents

The Book of Mormon

Brief Summary *The Book of Mormon* claims to be an ancient record of Israelites who migrated to the Americas around 600 BC. It narrates their civilizations, wars, prophets, and a post-resurrection appearance of Jesus Christ in the New World. It is presented as “another testament of Jesus Christ” and foundational to LDS theology.

Talking Points / Points of Concern

- **No archaeological support** for the civilizations described (Nephites, Lamanites, Jaredites, and cities mentioned in the MoM, etc.).
- **Anachronisms:** mentions of **horses, elephants, steel, wheat, chariots**, and other items not present in pre-Columbian North America.
- **No linguistic connection** between Hebrew and Native American languages.
- **DNA evidence** does not support the claim that Native Americans descended from Israelites.
- **Theologically adds to Scripture** despite Revelation 22:18–19 and the Protestant conviction of a closed canon.
- **Christ’s appearance in the Americas** contradicts the biblical narrative of the gospel spreading through the apostles.
- **Adding to the Salvation requirements:** It’s not “works plus grace” (Mormonism); it should be “salvation by grace alone” (Christianity).

Doctrine and Covenants

Brief Summary *Doctrine and Covenants (D&C)* is a collection of revelations given to Joseph Smith and later LDS leaders. It outlines LDS church governance, priesthood authority, temple rituals, celestial marriage, and unique doctrines such as baptism for the dead and the pre-mortal existence of souls.

Talking Points / Points of Concern

- **Revelations elevate Joseph Smith’s authority** to a prophetic status equal to or above biblical prophets.
- **Priesthood restoration claims** (Aaronic and Melchizedek priesthoods restored by angelic visitation) have no biblical or historical support.
- **Doctrines such as baptism for the dead, celestial marriage, and three degrees of glory** contradict clear biblical teaching.
- **Changes over time:** several revelations were revised, removed, or altered—raising questions about divine origin.
- **Adds new requirements for salvation** beyond faith in Christ alone (temple ordinances, priesthood authority, etc.).

Pearl of Great Price

Brief Summary *The Pearl of Great Price* contains several distinct works: the Book of Moses, the Book of Abraham, Joseph Smith's translation of Matthew 24, and personal writings of Joseph Smith. It expands LDS teachings on creation, pre-mortal life, the nature of God, the future of this world, and the origins of humanity.

Talking Points / Points of Concern

- **Book of Abraham controversy:**
 - Joseph Smith claimed to translate Egyptian papyri into scripture.
 - Modern Egyptologists unanimously agree the papyri are ordinary funerary texts, not Abrahamic writings.
- **Teaches a plurality of gods**, contradicting biblical monotheism.
- **Introduces pre-mortal existence and spirit-children of God**, which are not found in Scripture.
- **Joseph Smith's "translation" of Genesis and Matthew** adds doctrinal content not present in any manuscript tradition.
- **Historical and textual problems** undermine claims of divine revelation.

Pastor Joe's Concerns:

Here are my concerns:

Authority: These books claim prophetic authority equal to Scripture, but Protestants hold to *sola Scriptura* and a closed canon.

History: The historical claims of LDS scripture do not align with archaeology, history, linguistics, or textual scholarship.

Theology: LDS scriptures introduce doctrines that conflict with core Christian beliefs—monotheism, the nature of Christ, salvation by grace alone, and the sufficiency of Scripture.

Revelation: Protestant Christians believe God's revelation is complete in the Old and New Testaments; LDS texts represent an entirely different theological system.

Salvation: Mormonism represents "salvation by works," Christian teaches "salvation by grace alone."

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CONCERN: My primary issue with any religious institution that promotes a "work-based" means of being saved is that **His (Christ's) blood and His Word was not enough.** With Mormon theology, I'm also grieved God's Son was not enough. **The Jesus of Mormonism is not the Jesus of Christianity.** (Jesus was never us and we will never be Him. Jesus has always been holy, is holy and will—forever—be holy. **We are declared holy only by the grace of God—not our works!**)

– Pastor Joe