

MORMONS

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Key Terms

Book of Abraham

Mormon scripture, now published as part of the Pearl of Great Price. In 1835 Joseph Smith purchased Egyptian artifacts from a traveling showman, announcing that they contained the writings of the biblical patriarch Abraham. The “translation” he produced, called the Book of Abraham, was debunked when papyri from the collection were rediscovered in 1967.

Book of Mormon

Mormon scripture said to have been translated by Joseph Smith from gold plates he received from the angel Moroni in 1827. It purports to tell the story of three people groups (the Lehites, Jaredites, and Mulekites) that migrated from the Middle East to the Americas, roughly between 2000 BC and 400 AD. After being translated, the plates were taken back to heaven

Celestial Kingdom

The highest of three heavenly “degrees of glory” awaiting faithful Latter-day Saints. Entrance into this kingdom is gained by complete obedience to the Mormon gospel, and those who reach its highest level become gods.

Doctrine and Covenants

Mormon scripture containing modern revelations, most given by Joseph Smith.

Endowment Ceremony

Secret temple ritual performed by living persons, sometimes on behalf of the dead. Required for exaltation.

Eternal Progression

Human progression starting from a pre-existent spirit, then into a human body, and then finally on to godhood.

Exaltation

Synonymous with eternal life. Only Mormons who gain exaltation have the ability to become gods and procreate throughout eternity.

Freemasonry (Masonic Lodge)

A secret society founded in London in the 18th century. Known for its use of symbolism and secret rituals. Elements of Freemasonry are found in the Mormon temple endowment ceremony.

Inspired version

Also known as the Joseph Smith Translation, this adaptation of the Bible was completed by Joseph Smith in 1833.

Lamanites and Nephites

According to the Book of Mormon, followers of Nephi and Laman, the sons of the Prophet Lehi who led his family to the New World prior to the capture of Jerusalem (600 BC). Those who followed the wicked Laman were shown God’s displeasure by being cursed with a dark skin (2 Nephi 5:21-25); they are considered the ancestors of the American Indians and Polynesians.

Moronic

Ancient Nephite leader who buried the gold plates containing the book of Mormon and later appeared as an angel to Joseph Smith to tell him of their location. His image is found on many LDS temples throughout the world.

Pearl of Great Price

Mormon scripture containing the Book of Abraham, Book of Moses, and other short works.

Polygamy

Between 1852 and 1890 the practice of plural marriage became essential for any Mormon man hoping to achieve exaltation. The Mormon Church's sixth president had five wives and fathered 43 children. The Mormon Church renounced polygamy in 1890, and Utah was then granted statehood when anti-polygamy laws were written into the state constitution

Priesthood

The basis on which Mormon males have power and authority to act on behalf of God. It consists of two orders: the Aaronic (lesser) priesthood, and the Melchizedek priesthood. Males of African descent were denied the Mormon priesthood until 1978.

Telestial Kingdom

The lowest of three heavenly "degrees of glory" to which the worst sinners are sent to after death. The Holy Ghost will visit people in this kingdom, but the Father and Son will not.

Temples

Special buildings reserved for ordinances for the dead (including baptism for the dead), marriages for "time and eternity" and "sealings" of families for eternity.

Terrestrial Kingdom

The middle of three heavenly "degrees of glory" to which good people who are not Mormons are sent to after death. Jesus will visit people in this heaven, but God the Father will not.

Urim and Thummim

a translation device described by Joseph Smith as "two stones in silver bows". Allegedly received from Moroni together with the gold plates containing the text of the Book of Mormon. (said to be the same as the Urim and Thummim mentioned in such biblical passages as Exodus 28:30)

Word of Wisdom

Section 89 in Doctrine and Covenants which prohibits the consumption of caffeine drinks, alcohol, and tobacco.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

a. Galatians 1:6-8 “even if an angel”.

~ Galatians 1:6-8 “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse!”

b. Isaiah 43:10 no gods before or after God

~ Isaiah 43:10 “You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me”

c. Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Romans 1:22-23 God is not a man

~ Numbers 23:19 “God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind.

Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?”

~Hosea 11:9 “I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man— the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities.”

~Romans 1:22-23 “Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

d. John 1:1 (Matthew 1 and Luke 1) Jesus has always been God

~John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

e. Romans 3:20-23,6:23 Ephesians 2:8-10 The gospel of salvation

~Romans 3:20-23 “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.”

~Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in[a] Christ Jesus our Lord.”

~Ephesians 2:8-10 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

f. Matthew 16:18 Jesus preserves His church

~Matthew 16:18 “And I tell you that you are Peter,[a] and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades[b] will not overcome it.”

g. 1 John 4:1 Testing prophets

~1 John 4:1 “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Mormon Missionaries at your door

a. Don’t question their motives

b. Don’t ridicule their beliefs

c. Don’t let them pray for you

d. Don’t agree to pray about the Book of Mormon; instead test by scripture Acts 17:11

e. Take them through scripture

f. Tell them what Jesus has done for you 1 John 5:10-13

g. End on a positive note