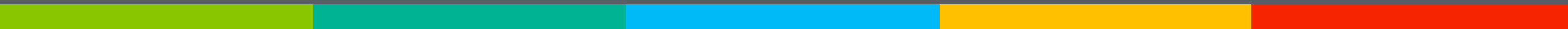


**SHARING &
DEFENDING
YOUR FAITH
WITH MORMONS**



Jesus: "And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

– John 10:16

10 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

– Romans 10:1-2

ACTS 17-28:

17:2 - "reasoned"

17:4 - "persuaded"

17:17 - "reasoning"

18:4 - "reasoning"

18:4 - "persuade"

18:13 - "persuades"

18:19 - "reasoned"

19:8 - "reasoning"

19:8 - "persuading"

19:9 - "reasoning"

19:26 - "persuaded"

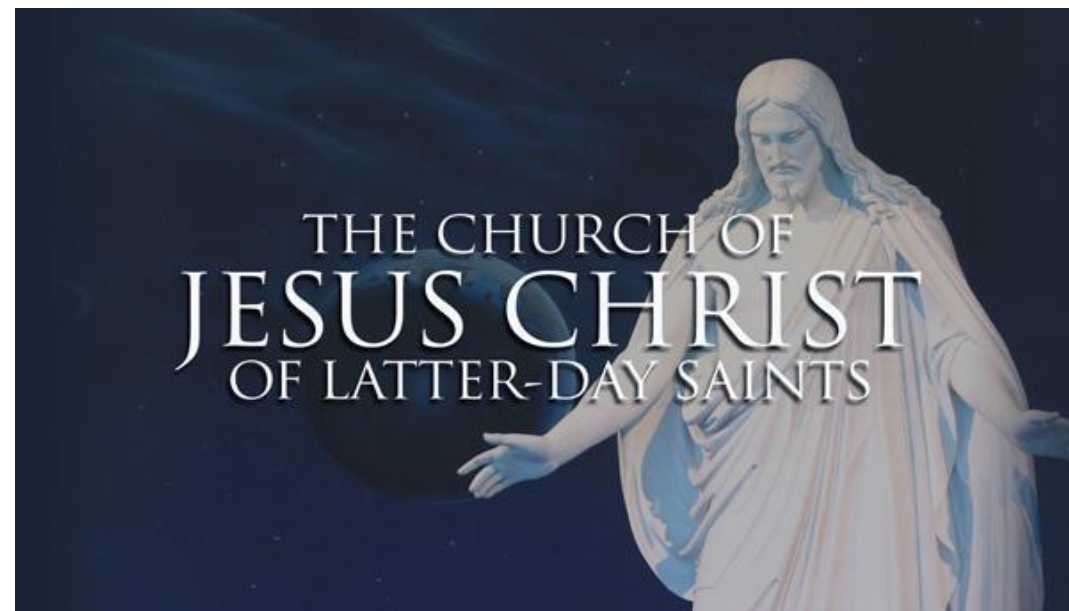
26:28 - "persuade"

28:23 - "persuade"

28:24 - "persuaded"

A History & Overview of Mormonism

According to Joseph Fielding Smith, tenth prophet and president of the LDS Church, Mormonism “must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith. He was either a prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned, or he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen” (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 1, pg. 188).



Joseph Smith: The Story Teller

Ensign (Mormon magazine), January 1992, pg. 22: *“From his mother’s account, we know that the visions Joseph experienced while receiving Moroni’s instructions must have been vivid. She wrote: “During our evening conversations, Joseph would occasionally give us some of the most amusing recitals that could be imagined. He would describe the ancient inhabitants of this continent, their dress, mode of travelling, and the animals upon which they rode; their cities, their buildings, with every particular; their mode of warfare; and also their religious worship. This he would do with as much ease, seemingly, as if he had spent his whole life with them.” (Biographical Sketches, p. 85.)”*

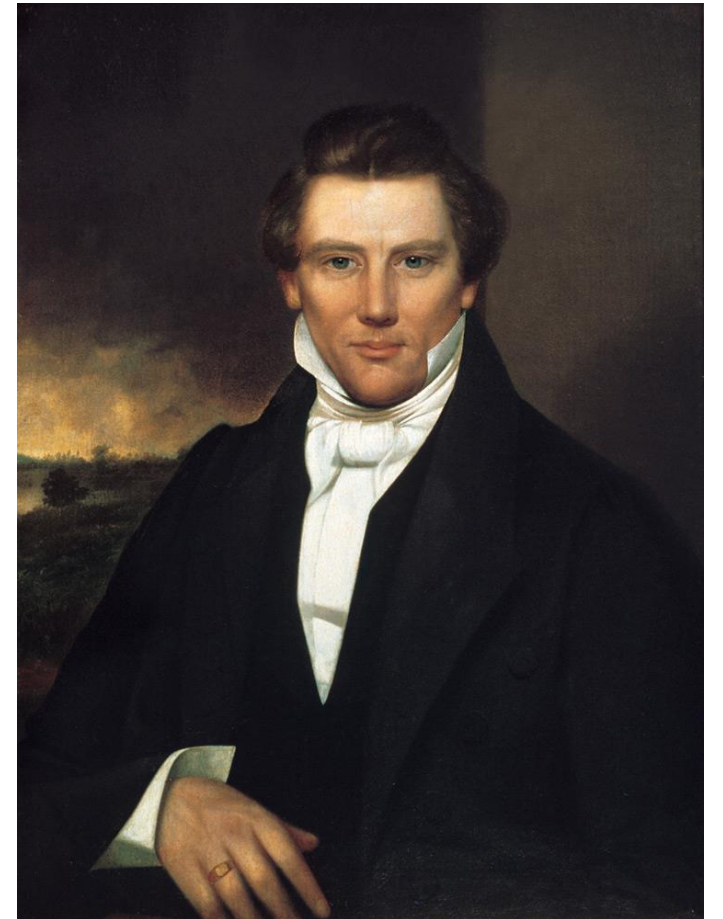
Joseph Smith: The Money Digger

Martin Harris, who financed the first edition of the Book of Mormon, explained: “There was a company there in that neighborhood, who were digging for money supposed to have been hidden by the ancients.”

Joshua Stafford said that shortly after he became acquainted with Joseph’s family around 1819/1820 “they commenced digging for hidden treasures...and told marvelous stories about ghosts, hob-goblins, caverns, and various other mysterious matters” (statement made on November 15, 1833 in E.D Howe, *Mormonism Unveiled*).

Joseph Smith: The Occult Practicer

Neighbor Fayette Lapham learned from Joseph, Sr. that he was “a firm believer in witchcraft and other supernatural things; and had brought up his family in the same belief...Lapham further recalled, “[Smith] also believed that there was a vast amount of money buried somewhere in the country; that it would some day be found; that he himself had spent both time and money searching for it, with divining rods” (qtd in *One Nation Under God*, pgs. 28-29).



Joseph Smith: The Occult Practicer

William Stafford, a neighbor and fellow money-digger, stated that Joseph Jr. used a seer stone not only to “see all things within and under the earth,” but also to discover “the spirits in whose charge these treasures were, clothed in ancient dress” (statement made on December 8, 1833 in E.D. Howe, *Mormonism Unveiled*).

Hiel Lewis, a cousin of Joseph Smith’s wife, Emma, reported the sacrifice of white dogs, black cats, and other animals “was an indispensable part or appendage of the art which Smith, the embryo prophet, was then practicing” (comments published in *Amboy Journal*, June 4, 1879).

Joseph Smith: The Occult Practicer

On some occasions, Smith made animal sacrifices to appease whatever spirits might be guarding the buried treasure. Emily M. Austin recounted one time when Joseph told his money-digging company “there was a charm on the pots of money, and if some animal was killed and the blood sprinkled around the place, then they could get it.” Austin remembered: “So they killed a dog and tried this method of obtaining the precious metal...Alas! How vivid was the expectation when the blood of poor Tray (the dog) was used to take off the charm, and after all to find their mistake...and now they were obliged to give up in despair” (Emily M. Austin, *Mormonism; or, Life Among the Mormons*, quoted in Wesley P. Walters, “Joseph Smith’s Bainbridge, N.Y., Court Trials,”).

Joseph Smith: The Glass Looker

Glass lookers were not uncommon in New York farm country in the 1820's. They were shysters and con men who claimed that by looking into a piece of glass (or sometimes a special stone) they could see things others could not, including the locations of buried treasure. They would then charge poor farmers for this service to aid them in finding these great treasures supposedly buried beneath the ground. Of course none of these "treasures" were ever found.

Joseph Smith: The Glass Looker

The image shows a snippet of a handwritten document, likely a court record. The text is written in cursive and includes the name 'Joseph Smith', the title 'The Glass Looker', the date 'March 20, 1826', and the word 'Misdemeanor'. A vertical note on the left side reads 'March 20, 1826'. At the bottom right, there is a line item for 'To my fees in examination of the above cause' with the amount '2.68'.

same [i.e. The People]

vs

Joseph Smith

The Glass Looker

March 20, 1826

Misdemeanor

To my fees in examination
of the above cause 2.68

Joseph Smith: The Glass Looker



Joseph Smith: The Glass Looker



The Pattern

Story Teller



Money Digger



Occult Practicer



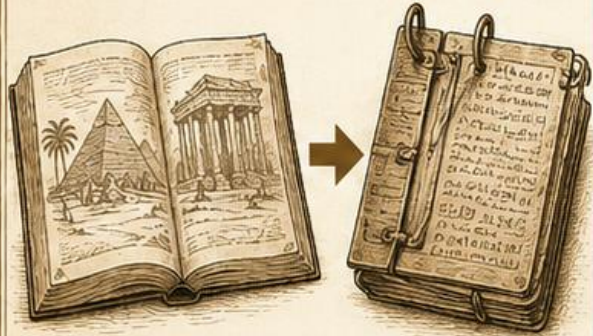
Glass Looker



These were not isolated details. They were the pattern.

The Pattern Reappears

Story Teller



Ancient stories

Book of Mormon narrative

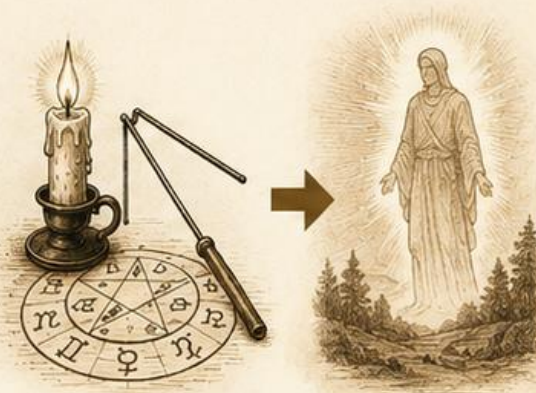
Money Digger



Buried treasure

Buried gold plates

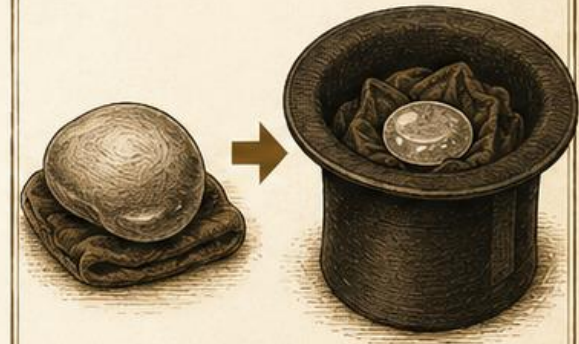
Occult Practicer



Folk magic

Moroni / supernatural guidance

Glass Looker



Seer stone

Stone-in-hat translation

The background becomes the origin story.

Important Questions: Who is God?

“It is the first principle of the gospel to know for a certainty the character of God.” – Joseph Smith

and What is the Gospel?

Lorenzo Snow Couplet:

*As man now is, God once was;
As God now is, man may be.*

1. GOD'S NATURE: ETERNAL VS. EXALTED MAN

CHRISTIANITY

God is eternal.

- *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*
— Psalm 90:2
- *God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."*
— Exodus 3:14
(this statement implies God's eternal self-existence, no beginning or end.)
- *To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.*
— 1 Timothy 1:17

MORMONISM

God is an exalted man.

- *"We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea, and take away the veil, so that you may see."*
— Joseph Smith, Founder of Mormonism (quoted in Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith)
- *"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man . . ."*
— Joseph Smith, Founder of Mormonism (quoted in Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith)
- *"As man is, God once was . . ."*
— first-half of Lorenzo Snow Couplet (Mormon doctrinal saying)

2. GOD'S UNIQUENESS: ONE VS. MANY GODS

CHRISTIANITY

There is only one true God.

- *“You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.”*
— Isaiah 43:10
- *“Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.”*
— Isaiah 44:8

MORMONISM

God is one of many gods.

- *And they (the Gods) said: Let there be light; and there was light. And they (the Gods) comprehended the light . . .*
— Abraham chapters 4–5 in *The Pearl of Great Price* (the “Gods” is repeated over 40 times in these two chapters)
- *“In the beginning, the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods, and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world . . .”*
— Joseph Smith, *Founder of Mormonism* (quoted in *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*)

3. GOD'S BEING: SPIRIT VS. BODY OF FLESH AND BONES

CHRISTIANITY

God the Father is Spirit.

- *“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*
— Jesus (John 4:24)

MORMONISM

God the Father has a physical body of flesh and bones.

- *The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also . . .*
— *Doctrines & Covenants 130:22 (Mormon Scripture)*

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

1. JESUS' NATURE: ETERNAL GOD VS. CREATED SPIRIT BEING

CHRISTIANITY

Jesus is the eternal, uncreated Son of God—the Second Person of the Trinity. He is of the same essence as the Father, co-equal and co-eternal, not a separate God but fully divine.

- *1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God.*
—John 1:1–2 [In verse 14 we learn that the “Word” is Jesus.]
- *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*
—Hebrews 13:8
- *“And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.”*
—Jesus (John 17:5) [Jesus speaks to the Father about the glory they shared before the world began, showing that He has always existed as a divine Person.]

MORMONISM

Jesus is the firstborn spirit child of Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother. He had a beginning, became a God, and is separate from the Father (united in purpose, not essence). Jesus is also the spirit brother of Lucifer.

- *Every person who was ever born on earth was our spirit brother or sister in heaven. The first spirit born to our heavenly parents was Jesus Christ.*
—Gospel Principles (LDS Church Manual)
- *“I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage and a Spirit . . . These three constitute three distinct personages and three Gods.”*
—Joseph Smith, Founder of Mormonism (quoted in Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith)
- *The first spirit born to our heavenly parents was Jesus Christ . . . Satan, or Lucifer, also was a spirit son of God . . .*
—Gospel Principles (LDS Church Manual)

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

2. JESUS' ROLE IN SALVATION: SAVIOR BY GRACE ALONE VS. ENABLER OF EXALTATION

CHRISTIANITY

Jesus saves completely by grace through faith. His death and resurrection are sufficient for eternal life and no works are required to earn it.

- *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*
—John 3:16
- *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
—John 14:6
- *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
—Romans 6:23

MORMONISM

Jesus' atonement ensures resurrection for all, but eternal life (exaltation) must be earned through obedience, good works, and LDS ordinances.

- *"One of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by the grace of God; that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation."*
—Spencer W. Kimball (former Prophet and President of the LDS Church)
- *Because of the Atonement, everyone born on this earth will be resurrected. This condition is called immortality. Eternal life, or exaltation, is to live in God's presence and to continue as families. Only those who obey the gospel law will receive this blessing.*
—Gospel Principles (LDS Church Manual)
- *Exaltation is eternal life, the kind of life God lives . . . In order to qualify for exaltation, you must . . . receive the ordinances of the temple, including eternal marriage, and keep the covenants you make in the temple.*
—Gospel Principles (LDS Church Manual)

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

1. MESSAGE AND MEANS

Grace through Christ vs. plan of eternal progression

CHRISTIANITY

The gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again, offering full forgiveness and eternal life to all who believe. Salvation is received by grace through faith alone, alone, not earned through works or rituals.

- *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
—Romans 5:8
- *8For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9not a result of works, so that no one may boast*
—Ephesians 2:8–9
- *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*
—Jesus (John 5:24)
- *To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*
—Peter (Acts 10:43)

MORMONISM

The gospel is the “plan of happiness” or “plan of salvation,” includes faith in Jesus, repentance, baptism by LDS authority, receiving the Holy Ghost, temple ordinances, and lifelong obedience. Salvation is a step-by-step process toward eternal progression and exaltation.

- *for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.*
—2 Nephi 25:23 (Book of Mormon)
- *“When you climb a ladder, you must begin at the bottom, and ascend step by step until you arrive at the top; and so it is with principles of the Gospel: you must begin with the first, and go on you learn all the principles of exaltation.”*
—Joseph Smith, Founder of Mormonism (quoted in Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith)
- *“In order to obtain the exaltation we must accept the gospel its covenants; and take upon us the obligations which the Lord offered; and walk in the light and the understanding of the truth; live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of*
—Joseph Fielding Smith (former Prophet and President of the LDS LDS Church)

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

2. END GOAL

Eternal life with God vs. becoming a god

CHRISTIANITY

The goal of the gospel is eternal life with God, where believers enjoy Him forever as redeemed creatures—not gods. Knowing and being with God is the highest joy and reward of salvation.

- *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...*

—Romans 1:16

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

—Jesus (John 17:3)

MORMONISM

The ultimate goal of the gospel is exaltation—to become a god, inherit a kingdom, and rule with a spouse over spirit children, continuing eternal progression.

- *“ Here, then, is eternal life—to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you.”*

—Joseph Smith, Founder of Mormonism (quoted in *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*)


- *“ As man is, God once was; As God is, man may be”*
—second-half of Lorenzo Snow Couplet is underlined (Mormon doctrinal saying)

For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

– 2 Corinthians 11:4



⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. – Galatians 1:8-9



CHRISTIANITY: WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

PURPOSE OF SACRED SPACES: church buildings gather believers; God's presence is not accessed through a building.

CHURCH BUILDINGS

serve as places for believers to gather for worship, teaching, prayer, and fellowship. While no physical building is required to access God's presence, the church community gathers to glorify God and grow in faith.

“

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

—1 Corinthians 3:16

“

What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.'”

—2 Corinthians 6:16

Paul teaches that God's presence now dwells in His people, not in a physical building. This reflects the New Covenant shift from sacred buildings (Old Testament temple) to a spiritual temple (the church and believers themselves).

MORMONISM: ORDINANCES FOR EXALTATION

PURPOSE OF SACRED SPACES: temples are presented as sacred places for essential ordinances and covenants.

MORMONISM

Temples are sacred buildings where essential ordinances - like eternal marriage, baptisms for the dead, endowments, and sealings - are performed for exaltation. These are seen as necessary steps toward becoming like God.

Examples named on the page:

eternal marriage

baptisms for the dead

endowments

sealings



LDS Church manual excerpts

“ *In the temples, members of the Church receive the ordinances of exaltation.*

—Gospel Principles (LDS Church Manual)

“ *Temples are built so that worthy members can receive these ordinances and make covenants with God.*

—Preach My Gospel (LDS Church Manual)

“ *In order to qualify for exaltation, you must . . . receive the ordinances of the temple, including eternal marriage.*

—True to the Faith (LDS Church Manual)

ROBERT D. HALES: "BLESSINGS OF THE TEMPLE"

In the October 2009 Ensign, LDS Apostle Robert D. Hales wrote these excerpts about the temple.

- 1** *"The temple endowment blessings are as essential for each of us as was our baptism . . ."*
- 2** *"The temple's saving ordinances are essential to-and even the central focus of-the eternal plan of happiness . . ."*
- 3** *"The primary purpose of the temple is to provide the ordinances necessary for our exaltation in the celestial kingdom . . ."*
- 4** *" . . . know the importance of the saving temple ordinances and temple covenants and their necessity in achieving eternal goals . . ."*
- 5** *"The temple is a sacred edifice, a holy place, where essential saving ceremonies and ordinances are performed to prepare us for exaltation . . ."*
- 6** *"Our objective is...to be worthy to stand and live in the presence of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, for all eternity-to achieve what is called eternal life."*

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE?

1. TEST OF TRUTH

Scripture and history vs. inner feelings and private revelation

CHRISTIANITY

Truth is tested by the objective Word of God and verified by historical events, especially the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

• *3 . . . that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time . . .*

—1 Corinthians 15:3–6

• *For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

—2 Peter 1:16

MORMONISM

Truth is confirmed through personal feelings and continuing revelation, especially a “burning in the bosom.”

• *The Book of Mormon builds testimony and invites personal revelation . . . to help people have spiritual experiences, especially a witness from the Holy Ghost that the book itself is the word of God. By gaining a testimony . . . we can know that Joseph Smith was a prophet. Revelation continues today through living prophets.*

—Preach My Gospel (LDS Church Manual)

• *But, behold, 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.*

—Doctrine and Covenants 9:8 (Mormon Scripture)

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE?

2. RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY

Final Word in Scripture vs. ongoing revelation through prophets

CHRISTIANITY

The Bible is the final, sufficient, and authoritative Word of God. No new prophets or scriptures are needed.

- *16All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

—2 Timothy 3:16–17

- *1Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

—Hebrews 1:1–2

MORMONISM

Religious authority continues through living prophets and ongoing revelation. Alongside the KJV Bible (used conditionally), the LDS Church accepts the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price as additional, authoritative scripture.

- *A prophet is a man called by God to be His representative on earth. When a prophet speaks for God . . . He receives revelations and directions from the Lord for our benefit. He may see into the future and foretell coming events . . .*

—Gospel Principles (LDS Church Manual)

- *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 that a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.”*

—Joseph Smith, Founder of Mormonism (quoted in Introduction to the Book of Mormon)

RESPONSES
TO THE MORMON
TESTIMONY



1

BURNING OF THE BOSOM (D&C 8 – 9)

1

BURNING OF THE BOSOM (D&C 9:8–9)

“Can I show you how the Bible characterizes a ‘burning of the bosom’?”



Luke 24:32 — *And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?” [Full passage: Luke 14:13–35]*



Notice that the feeling they experienced (a heart that burned within them) resulted from the teaching of the scriptures. Verse 27 states, *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he [Jesus] expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

“How does this differ from the LDS teaching about a burning of the bosom?”

- According to D&C 9:8–9, the feeling comes after prayer. In the experience with Jesus as recorded in the Bible, the feeling came after they were taught the scriptures and realized the truth about what the Messiah would do and endure.



BURNING OF THE BOSOM (D&C 9:8–9)

2



FALSE FEELINGS

2

FALSE FEELINGS

“Have you ever felt strongly that something was true, and then later found it to be false?”

Examples:



a relationship that you felt was “the one” but it turned out not to be



a career direction or major in college that you felt was the way to go, but later you realized that it wasn’t for you



someone you felt that you could trust, but they turned out to be untrustworthy



a time in which you felt anger or a particular desire, which you purposefully didn’t act on because you realized the feeling was wrong or inappropriate

“Do you think we should always let our feelings lead us, or do you think it’s important to keep our feelings ‘in check’ sometimes?”

- Feelings are a good thing when they reflect truth. Feelings of anger toward injustice or happiness following good news are right and healthy. But feelings of jealousy or covetousness over something that doesn’t belong to us, or sinful desires to be unforgiving or unloving are emotions that should not guide our actions.

2

FALSE FEELINGS

3

THEFT & ADULTERY

3

THEFT AND ADULTERY

“Would you consider ‘praying about’ theft or adultery?”



Obviously, we know the Bible teaches that theft and adultery (and many other acts) are sinful behaviors.



Praying about something that God has already commanded or prohibited is inappropriate.

“If I have reasons for believing that Mormonism is false, can you see why I think it would be inappropriate for me to pray about whether or not Mormonism (or the Book of Mormon) is true?”

- At this point, be ready to share why you think Mormonism is false, why the Book of Mormon is false, and/or why Joseph Smith was a false prophet.

3

THEFT AND
ADULTERY

5

MORONI 10:4

5

MORONI 10:4

“How do I know Moroni 10:4 is true?”



Moroni 10:4—“And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.”



According to Moroni 10:4, the way in which I can know that the Book of Mormon is true is to pray about the Book of Mormon. But where is the command to pray about it found? In Moroni 10:4. Where is Moroni 10:4 found? In the Book of Mormon. So now I’m back to the question of whether or not the Book of Mormon is true.

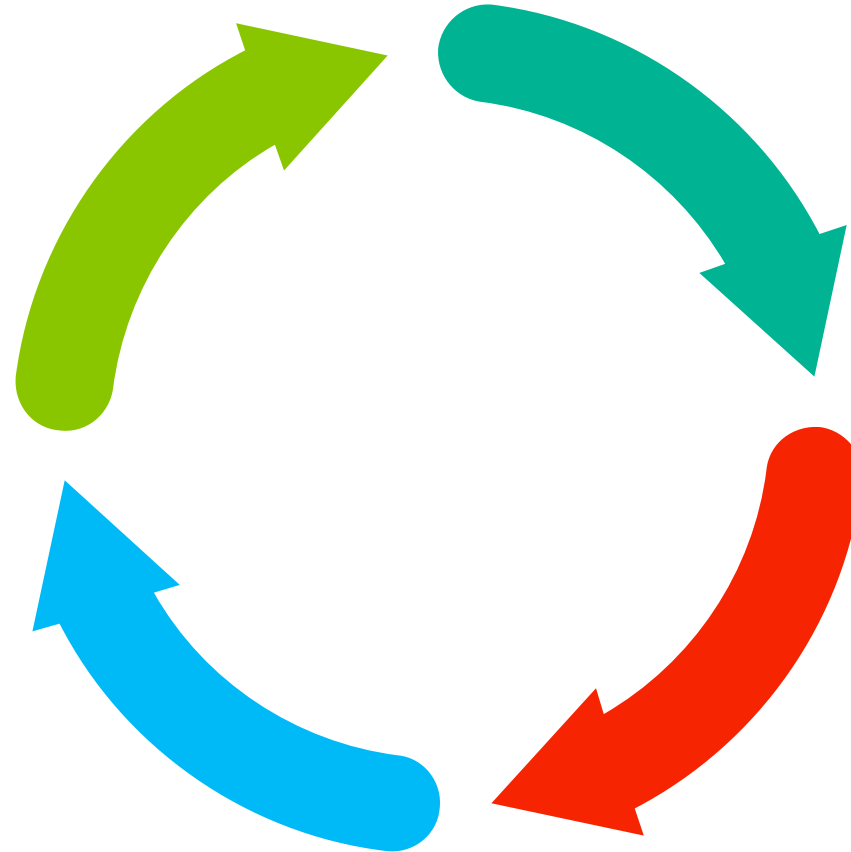
HOW DO I KNOW BOM IS TRUE?

WHERE IS
MORONI 10:4
FOUND? BOM

SOURCE?
MORONI 10:4

HOW DO I
KNOW BOM IS
TRUE?

PRAY ABOUT IT



“Since I believe the Bible, wouldn’t it be fair for me to compare Mormonism to the Bible’s teachings?”

- If they agree with your reasoning, be prepared to share how Mormon teachings and the Bible differ in a number of areas, which is why you believe the Book of Mormon/Mormonism to be false.



MORONI 10:4

6

TRUSTING YOUR HEART

6

TRUSTING YOUR HEART

“Can I share with you what the Bible says about trusting your heart?”



Proverbs 14:12—*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*



Proverbs 28:26—*He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.*



Jeremiah 17:9—*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*



Mark 7:20-23—*And he [Jesus] said, “That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”*

6

TRUSTING
YOUR HEART

Couple Follows Their Hearts; Billions Dead

NEWSWORTHY PHOTOS · Jun 9, 2016 · BabylonBee.com



“Since our heart can easily lead us away from the truth, what should we look to for answers about God?”

- The truth about God is to be found in the scriptures. But which scriptures? Let us make such a determination not from feelings, but based on the evidence showing that they are trustworthy.



TRUSTING YOUR
HEART

11

TEST OF A PROPHET

11

TEST OF A PROPHET

(Source for approach —*Witness to Mormons in Love: The Mormon Scrapbook, Revised Edition*, by Daniel G. Thompson. See pages 104–106.)

“Since Joseph Smith claimed to be a prophet of God, have you looked at the test of a prophet found in the Bible to see if Smith passed the test?”



The Israelites had the same issue that I’m having: How can I know whether someone who claims to be a prophet (Joseph Smith) is an actual prophet of God?



Deuteronomy 18:20–22—But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.



So if Joseph Smith has ever given a false prophecy even once, then he is a false prophet according to the Bible.

“Did you know that there are examples of false prophecies even in the Doctrines and Covenants?”

- See D&C 114:1. Was it fulfilled? David Patten died in battle before the next Spring, so he was unable to go on the mission, which means this prophecy did not come to pass.
- See D&C 84:1–5, 31. Was it fulfilled? Over 180 years has passed since the prophecy that a temple would be built in Independence, Missouri, which was supposed to happen in the generation living in that time. The “Temple Lot” still stands empty, so this prophecy did not come to pass.
- How many false prophecies does it take to disqualify a prophet?
- Shouldn't evidence that Joseph Smith was a false prophet override any personal testimony or feelings that someone has about Mormonism?

12

TRUTH AND THE BIBLE

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TRUTH AND THE BIBLE

“Did you know the Bible teaches that we should look to Scriptures—not to feelings—to determine the truth about correct Christian doctrine?”



Acts 17:11—These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so...



Notice how they were considered noble for even checking the apostle Paul’s teachings against their Old Testament Scriptures.



2 Timothy 3:16—All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

“Have you compared the teachings of Mormonism to the Bible?”

- If the LDS person says that have done this, ask them for specifics of what they've found.
- If the LDS person says they have not done this, share with them the differences between the Bible and Mormon teachings.

**SHARING &
DEFENDING
YOUR FAITH
WITH MORMONS**

