

REACHING THE KINGDOM OF THE CULTS

Calvary Chapel Bozeman - School of Ministry

Introduction to Mormonism

Book of Mormon Introduction:

Mormons call themselves “Christians” and “Latter day Saints” but they do not believe the Bible the way a Christian does. Christians believe the Bible is the Holy, Inspired, Inerrant Word of God. Mormons believe it is a flawed book which is overruled by the “superior” Book of Mormon. This allows them the “license” to alter Biblical teachings so that the Jesus they teach and the Gospel they preach are completely different and contradictory to the Biblical Jesus and Gospel.

3 Examples:

The Biblical Jesus:

Uncreated God; Creator of all things.
(John 1:1, John 1:3, Col 1)

As God, requires no salvation.

As God, never changes
(Heb 13:8)

The Mormon Jesus:

A created being; the brother of Lucifer.
(See handout)

Worked out his own salvation.

Became a god.

Mormon “salvation” is a merit-based system of works. Mormon “salvation,” is about earning and attaining various stages of achievement in the afterlife through works and trying to become a god. (2 Nephi 25:23, D&C 132)

The Biblical Salvation Plan:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Eph 2:8-9 NKJV

The Mormon “Salvation Plan”:

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

2 Nephi 25:23

What does the Bible say?

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”

Gal 1:8-9 NKJV

Key Points:

Mormonism redefines who Jesus is.

Mormonism redefines the Gospel and in doing so, *invite eternal judgement upon themselves*.

Closing Summary Statements:

Joseph Smith said that the book of Mormon was “the most correct of any book on earth and the keystone of our religion.”

Source: LDS website

“In reality, the original text and current text of the book of Mormon is a mixture of nineteenth-century nonsense, plagiarism, and selected existing KJV scripture verses”

Jeremy Runnells

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Mormonism Practical Ministry Guide

*“The differences between the Jesus taught in Mormonism and the Jesus revealed in the Bible aren’t minor variations on a theme. They represent fundamentally different persons with radically different identities. What’s more, the distinctions carry eternal weight. **Getting Jesus wrong doesn’t just affect our theology - it determines our Eternity.**”*

“Eternity is too long to be wrong.”

The above statement contains slightly revised content from an article entitled ‘Mormonism’s Jesus vs the Bible’s Jesus: 5 Critical Differences’ found at: <https://truthstodiefor.com/mormonisms-jesus-vs-the-bibles-jesus-5-critical-differences/>

Differences between the Biblical Jesus and the Jesus taught in Mormonism

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What The Bible Says About Scripture

“All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Note: In **2 Tim 3:16**, the Greek text literally reads that Scripture is *God-breathed (*theopneustos* = θεόπνευστος)

2 Tim 3:16-17 NKJV

“The Scripture cannot be broken”

John 10:35 NKJV

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one ***jot** or one ***tittle** will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

*Jot: Greek: iota, smallest letter in the Greek alphabet - Hebrew yod, the smallest letter

*Tittle: The smallest stroke in a Hebrew letter

Matt 5:17-18 NKJV

“Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven.”

Ps 119:89 NKJV

“You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”

Deut 4:2 NKJV

“Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”

Deut 12:32 NKJV

“Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.”

Prov 30:6 NKJV

“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.”

Rev 22:18-19 NKJV

What Mormonism Says About “Scripture”:

“We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.”

Articles of Faith 8

Biblical Christianity & The Canon of Scripture:

Biblical Christianity Teaches that the Canon of Scripture is closed and that we are not to add to or take away from Scripture.

*“The law and the prophets *were* until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it. ¹⁷ And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail.”*

Luke 16:16-17 NKJV

Mormonism:

Mormonism teaches the Canon is open and has added to the “Scripture” as they see fit.

Remember...

- Cult members have been taken captive through the deceptive lies of the enemy.
- There is no salvation outside of Christ.
- Through prayerful, loving, and humble communication of the gospel, cult members can come to their senses and escape the snare of deception.
- Be prayerful and look for open doors! May the Lord use you as you avail yourself to Him!

Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter.

Proverbs 24:11 (NKJV)

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:13-18 (NKJV)

“The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.”

Ps 145:18



How can Jesus and Lucifer be spirit brothers when their characters and purposes are so utterly opposed?
Ensign - June 1986

How can Jesus and Lucifer be spirit brothers when their characters and purposes are so utterly opposed?

Jess L. Christensen, Institute of Religion director at Utah State University, Logan, Utah. On first hearing, the doctrine that Lucifer and our Lord, Jesus Christ, are brothers may seem surprising to some—especially to those unacquainted with latter-day revelations. But both the scriptures and the prophets affirm that Jesus Christ and Lucifer are indeed offspring of our Heavenly Father and, therefore, spirit brothers. Jesus Christ was with the Father from the beginning. Lucifer, too, was an angel “who was in authority in the presence of God,” a “son of the morning.” (See [Isa. 14:12](#); [D&C 76:25–27](#).) Both Jesus and Lucifer were strong leaders with great knowledge and influence. But as the Firstborn of the Father, Jesus was Lucifer’s older brother. (See [Col. 1:15](#); [D&C 93:21](#).)

How could two such great spirits become so totally opposite? The answer lies in the principle of agency, which has existed from all eternity. (See [D&C 93:30–31](#).) Of Lucifer, the scripture says that because of rebellion “he became Satan, yea, even the devil, the father of all lies.” ([Moses 4:4](#).) Note that he was not created evil, but *became* Satan by his own choice.

When our Father in Heaven presented his plan of salvation, Jesus sustained the plan and his part in it, giving the glory to God, to whom it properly belonged. Lucifer, on the other hand, sought power, honor, and glory only for himself. (See [Isa. 14:13–14](#); [Moses 4:1–2](#).) When his modification of the Father’s plan was rejected, he rebelled against God and was subsequently cast out of heaven with those who had sided with him. (See [Rev. 12:7–9](#); [D&C 29:36–37](#).)

That brothers would make dramatically different choices is not unusual. It has happened time and again, as the scriptures attest: Cain chose to serve Satan; Abel chose to serve God. (See [Moses 5:16–18](#).) Esau “despised his birthright”; Jacob wanted to honor it. ([Gen. 25:29–34](#).) Joseph’s brothers sought to kill him; he sought to preserve them. ([Gen. 37:12–24](#); [Gen. 45:3–11](#).)



It is ironic that the agency with which Lucifer rebelled is the very gift he tried to take from man. His proposal was that all be forced back into God's presence. (See [Moses 4:1, 3](#).) But the principle of agency is fundamental to the existence and progression of intelligent beings: as we make wise choices, we grow in light and truth. On the other hand, wrong choices—such as the one Satan made—stop progress and can even deny us blessings that we already have. (See [D&C 93:30–36](#).)

In order for us to progress, therefore, we must have the opportunity to choose good or evil. Interestingly, Satan and his angels—those who opposed agency—have become that opposition. As the prophet Lehi taught, “Men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil; for he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself.” ([2 Ne. 2:27](#).)

Although the Father has allowed Satan and his angels to tempt mankind, he has given each of us the ability to rise above temptation. (See [1 Cor. 10:13](#).) He has also given us the great gift of the Atonement.

When the Lord placed enmity between Eve's children and the devil, Satan was told that he would bruise the heel of Eve's seed, but her seed would bruise his head. (See [Moses 4:21](#).) President Joseph Fielding Smith explained that “the ‘God of peace,’ who according to the scriptures is to bruise Satan, is Jesus Christ.” (*Answers to Gospel Questions*, Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1957, 1:3.) Satan would bruise the Savior's heel by leading men to crucify Him. But through his death and resurrection, Christ overcame death for all of us; and through his atonement, he offers each of us a way to escape the eternal ramifications of sin. Thus, Satan's machinations have been frustrated and eventually he will be judged, bound, and cast into hell forever. (See [Rev. 20:1–10](#); [D&C 29:26–29](#).)

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In Hebrew, the word *bruise* means “to crush or grind.” Therefore, the very heel that was bruised will crush Satan and will help us overcome the world and return to our Father. As we use our agency to choose good over evil, the atonement of Christ prepares the way for us to return to our Father in Heaven.

We can only imagine the sorrow of our Heavenly Father as he watched a loved son incite and lead a rebellion and lose his opportunity for exaltation. But we can also imagine the Father’s love and rejoicing as he welcomed back the beloved son who had valiantly and perfectly fought the battles of life and brought about the great Atonement through his suffering and death.

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<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1986/06/i-have-a-question/how-can-jesus-and-lucifer-be-spirit-brothers-when-their-characters-and-purposes-are-so-utterly-opposed?lang=eng>