

Remember this!  
You are complete in Christ!

**Col 2:10** And ye are  
complete in him, which  
is the head of all  
principality and power:

# President Gordon Hinckley

- Well, **it's either true or false. If it's false, we're engaged in a great fraud.** If it's true, it's the most important thing in the world. Now, that's the whole picture. It is either right or wrong, true or false, fraudulent or true. (So let's test it!) And that's exactly where we stand with a

"I don't understand why people say we're not



# Who are the Mormons?

- The official name of the Mormon Church today is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Joseph Smith founded it at the age of 24, in the state of New York on April 6, 1830. It was originally named the Church of Christ, and then in 1834 the name was changed to the Church of the Latter Day Saints. In 1838 it received its current name (*Doctrine and Covenants*, Sec.115:4).
- Joseph Smith proclaimed that God Himself had designated the LDS Church as "the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth" (Doc. & Cov. Sec. 1:30).
- The LDS Church claims to have the only true priesthood that is required to act in the name of God. A Prophet/President and his two counselors govern the church. Under them are twelve apostles and a group of men called the Seventies. These are the highest offices in their church.
- They have four books of scriptures: the *Bible*, the *Book of Mormon*, the *Doctrine and Covenants* and the *Pearl of Great Price*.

## **Why are Mormon missionaries coming to my door?**

- The LDS Church claims to be the "only true church" and the only church with the authority to act in God's name. They do not accept any other church's baptisms. According to their teachings, their baptism is the only one recognized by the Lord. This belief, coupled with their belief in the need for a Mormon temple marriage to gain eternal life, compels them to take

# **We have been asked to read the *Book of Mormon* and pray about it. Is this a good thing to do?**

- Since the *Book of Mormon* claims to be an historical document it should be examined on that basis to determine its authenticity. Prayer can be used as a part of the process but it is not a sufficient guide. Our own desires and emotions could mislead us (James 4:3). If prayer alone were sufficient to determine truth there would not be thousands of different religions.

## How many Mormons are there?

- The official LDS web site lists the December 31, 2004 worldwide church membership at 12,275,822. At the beginning of 2005 there were approximately 5,599,177 LDS members in the United States and approximately 6,676,645 members outside of the USA. Most of those outside of the USA are in Latin American countries

# What is the *Book of Mormon*?

- The *Book of Mormon* contains the purported stories of three different groups who sailed to the Americas. The **Jaredites** (Book of Ether) came to the New World at the time of the tower of Babel. The **Mulekites** came to America from Jerusalem in 586 BC. The major group was the family of Lehi. Two of his sons, Nephi and Laman, became the leaders of the **Nephites** and **Lamanites**.
- The last battle between the two groups, in 421 AD, wiped out almost all of the Nephites. Moroni, the last surviving Nephite, buried the records of his civilization in the Hill Cumorah. Hundreds of years later, Joseph Smith was directed to the spot by Moroni (some records say Nephi), now a resurrected being who had become an angel. Smith then "translated" the record and published it in 1830 under the title "The Book of Mormon."

# What is the *Doctrine and Covenants*?

- The *Doctrine and Covenants* contains 138 sections and two Official Declarations. The first 135 sections contain Joseph Smith's revelations from 1823 to 1844, section 136 is a revelation by President Brigham Young in 1847, section 138 is one by President Joseph F. Smith in 1918. Declaration No. 1 is dated 1890 and is referred to as "The Manifesto" which declared an end to the practice of polygamy. Declaration No. 2 is dated 1978 and declared that "all worthy male members" could now hold the priesthood and participate in the temple ceremonies. This ended the LDS Church priesthood ban on Negroes.



# What is the *Pearl of Great Price*?

1. THE BOOK OF MOSES - "An extract from the translation of the Bible as revealed to Joseph Smith the Prophet, June 1830—February 1831."
- 2. THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM - "A Translation of some ancient Records, that have fallen into our hands from the catacombs of Egypt."
- 3. JOSEPH SMITH - MATTHEW. "An extract from the translation of the Bible as revealed to Joseph Smith the Prophet in 1831: Matthew 23:39 and chapter 24."
- 4. JOSEPH SMITH - HISTORY. "EXTRACTS FROM THE HISTORY OF JOSEPH SMITH, THE PROPHET. History of the Church, Vol.1, Chapters 1-5."
- 5. THE ARTICLES OF FAITH. A list of 13 specific beliefs of the LDS Church written in 1842.

## What is the *Journal of Discourses*?

- The *Journal of Discourses* is a 26 volume compilation of LDS presidents and apostles sermons, covering about 35 years. There were several men who were officially assigned by the LDS Church to record the talks. Volume one of the series contains a letter from the LDS First Presidency (Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards), dated June 1,

# Why do Mormons only use the King James Version of the Bible?

- The eighth LDS Article of Faith states: "***We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly.***" The Mormons believe the Bible has gone through repeated editing that has changed the meaning of the text. Thus they are skeptical of any translation of the Bible. However, they view the King James Version as the least corrupt of the versions available today. They print their own Bible (King James Version) with additional LDS footnotes, dictionary and topical guide. These cross reference to their other books of scripture and provide LDS explanations.

# Does Mormonism teach that good Mormons can become Gods of their own worlds?

- Yes, one of their leaders wrote: "...since mortal beings are the spirit children of Heavenly Parents, as pointed out in the last chapter, the ultimate **possibility is for some of them to become exalted to Godhood.**" (*The Gospel Through the Ages*, Hunter, p.104) Brigham Young declared: "**Intelligent beings are organized to become Gods, even the Sons of God**, to dwell in the presence of the Gods" (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, p.245).

# Does Mormonism teach that God was once a man on another world and progressed to become God of this world?

- Yes, **Joseph Smith declared: "God Himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man"** (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pp.345-346). Another one of their leaders (Lorenzo Snow) coined the phrase: **"As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become"** (*The Gospel Through the Ages*, Hunter, p.105-106). **Brigham Young preached: "It appears ridiculous to the world, under their darkened and erroneous traditions, that God has once been a finite being"** (*Deseret News*, Nov. 16, 1859, p. 290).

## Does the *Book of Mormon* teach the doctrines of Mormonism?

- No. Many people assume that if they read the *Book of Mormon* they will get a good idea of LDS beliefs. However, the *Book of Mormon* teaches one God, not plural gods as in Mormonism. It mentions heaven and hell, not three degrees of glory, no temple marriage or secret temple ceremonies. It does not teach baptism for the dead, pre-existence of man, eternal

# Discrimination

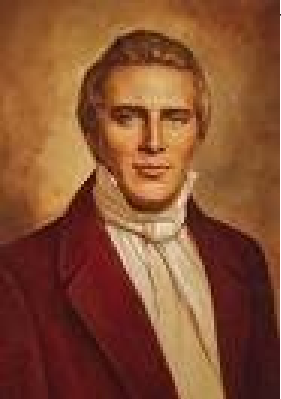
- In the Mormon publication *Juvenile Instructor* (vol. 3, p.157), the following statement appeared: "We will first inquire into the results of the approbation or *displeasure of God* upon a people, starting **with the belief that *a black skin is a mark of the curse of heaven* placed upon some portions of mankind.... We understand that when God made man in his own image and pronounced him very good, that he made him white."**

# Discrimination

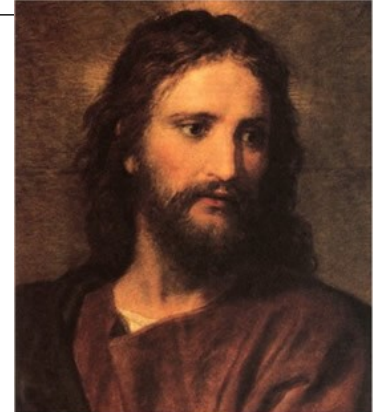
- And he had caused the cursing to come upon them, yea, even a sore *cursing*, because of their iniquity ... wherefore, as they were white, and exceeding fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did **cause a skin of blackness** to come upon them (2 Nephi 5:21).

# **If the basis of Mormonism is false, why does it keep growing?**

- Growth is not necessarily an indication that the claims are true. We have only to look at the rise of the Roman Empire with its pantheon of gods to see another ideology that had even more phenomenal success. Mormonism appeals to many people because of its good family values and moral code. Most converts know very little about its actual theology and history.

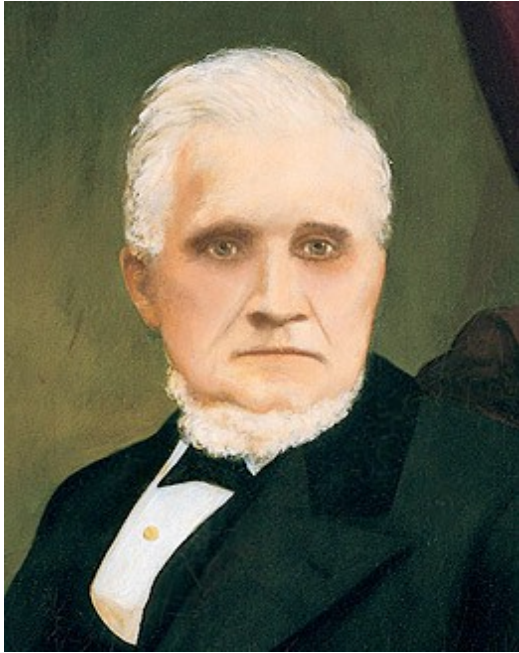


## Joseph greater than Jesus?



- Joseph Smith: founder, "Come on! ye prosecutors! ye false swearers! All hell, boil over! Ye burning mountains, roll down your lava! for I will come out on top at last. **I have more to boast of than ever any man had.** I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, **nor Jesus** ever did it. I boast that no man ever did such a work as I. The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-day Saints never ran away from me yet...When they can get rid of me, the devil will also go." (*History of the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 408, 409)

# Polygamy



- John Taylor, third president, once declared: ". . . we are not ashamed...to declare that we *are polygamists*....that we are firm, conscientious *believers in polygamy*, and that it is part and parcel of our religious creed'" (*Life of John Taylor*, p. 255).

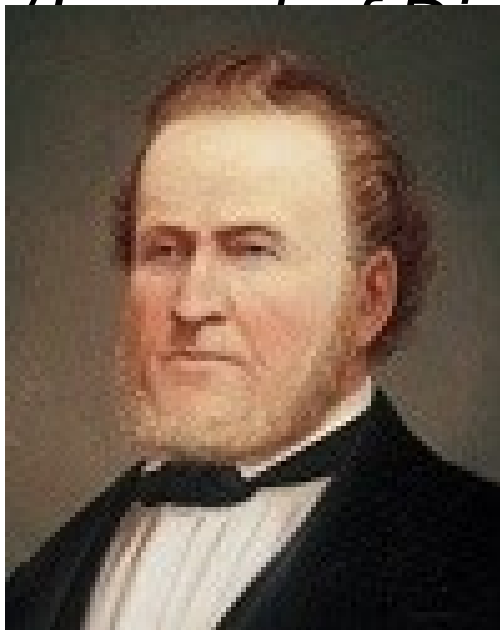
**Latter-day Prophets**

**John Taylor**

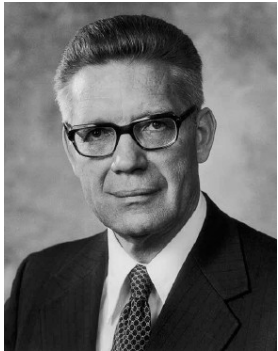
*3rd President of the Church, 1880-1887*

# Polygamy

- Brigham Young, the second president of the church, once stated: "***The only men who become Gods, even the Sons of God, are those who enter into polygamy***" (The Works of Brigham Young, vol. 11, p.269).



# Polygamy in Mormonism Today



**Ordained  
Apostle  
and  
sustained  
to the  
Twelve  
1972**

- **Bruce R. McConkie** (council of the 12), "Plural marriage is *not essential* to salvation or exaltation" (*Mormon Doctrine*, 1958, p.523).
- "Any who pretend or assume to engage in plural marriage in this day,... *are living in adultery*, have already sold their souls to satan, and... will be damned in eternity" (*Ibid.*, pp.522-23).

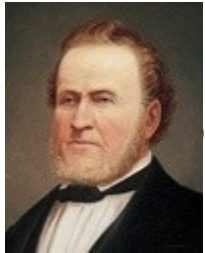
# Ever Changing

- Oh, of course. We believe in continuous revelation. We believe this church is guided by revelation. We pray, we ponder, we think, we ask, and we receive direction as to what



# Polygamy & The USA Law

- The revelation on polygamy contradicts section 58, verse 21 of the *Doctrine and Covenants*, which reads as follows: "Let no man break the laws of the land, for he that keepeth the laws of God hath no need to break the laws of the land."



Brigham Young commented: "If I had forty wives in the United States, they did not know it, and could not substantiate it, neither did I ask any lawyer, judge, or magistrate for them. *I live above the law*, and so do this people" (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 1, p.361).

# Polygamy & The Wife



- In the revelation on polygamy (Doctrine and Covenants 132:54) Emma Smith, Joseph's wife, is threatened with destruction: "... I am the Lord thy God, and will destroy her if she abide not my law."
- The Doctrine and Covenants 132:64 reads: "And again, verily, verily, I say unto you, if any man have a wife, holds the keys of this power, and he teaches unto her the law of my priesthood, as pertaining to these things, then shall she believe and administer unto him, or she shall be destroyed, saith the Lord your God; for I will destroy her; for I will magnify my name upon all those who receive and abide in my law."

# The Temple



- The temple, in your words, **is a bridge between here and the hereafter**, almost as if it is a concrete symbol of the afterlife. What happens in the temple that is distinctive to the LDS Church?
- Well, every temple that we build is a testimony of our belief in the immortality of the human soul. Everything connected with the temples is in terms of eternal life, eternal purposes, eternal existence. And the temple in effect **becomes a bridge** from mortality to immortality. If there were no immortality there would be no need for temples. There would be no need for eternal marriage if there were no eternity.

# Masons & Mormons

- **Many of the Saints were Masons**, such as Joseph's brother Hyrum, Heber C. Kimball, Elijah Fordham, Newel K. Whitney, James Adams, and John C. Bennett....
- With the acquiescence of the Prophet, *members of the Church already Masons petitioned the Grand Master of Illinois for permission to set up a lodge in Nauvoo*. In answer they were granted permission, in October, 1841, to hold lodge meetings; but it was March 15, 1842, before authority was given to set up a lodge in Nauvoo and to induct new members. *Joseph Smith became a member (Evidences and Reconciliations, 1 vol., pp.357-58).*

## Masons & Joseph Smith



- The following statement is recorded in Joseph Smith's *History of the Church*, volume 4, page 551, under the date of March 15, 1842: **"In the evening I received the first degree in Free Masonry** in the Nauvoo Lodge, assembled in my general business office." The record for the very next day reads: "I was with the Masonic Lodge and rose to the sublime degree" (vol. 4,

## Masons & Mormon Temple ceremonies

- Less than two months later (May 4, 1842), Joseph Smith introduced the temple endowment ceremony. According to Joseph Smith's *History of the Church*, vol. 5, pp.1-2), it was in the same room "where the Masonic fraternity meet occasionally":

# From a website listing famous Masons in History

## Some Notable & Famous Masons Men of Character And Integrity Join the Masons

**Smith, Joseph** - Founder of the Mormon  
Church



# Temple Marriage



If you want ***salvation in the fullest***, that is exaltation in the kingdom of God, so that you may become his sons and his daughters, ***you have got to go into the temple of the Lord and receive these holy ordinances*** which belong to that house, which cannot be had elsewhere (*Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 2, p.44).



## Temple Marriage

- Milton R. Hunter remarked: "Marriage is not only a righteous institution, but obedience to this law is **absolutely necessary in order to obtain the highest exaltation in**

# Baptism for the Dead

- The Mormon doctrine of baptism for the dead was first practiced in Nauvoo, Illinois. Wilford Woodruff reported that "Joseph Smith himself ... went into the Mississippi River one Sunday night after meeting, and baptized a hundred. I baptized another hundred. The next man, a few rods from me, baptized another hundred. We were strung up and down the Mississippi, baptizing for our dead. But there was no recorder,... the Lord told Joseph that he must have recorders present ... Of course, we had to do the work over again. Nevertheless, that does not say the work was not of God" (*The Deseret Weekly*, vol. 42:554, as quoted in *Temples of the Most High*, by N. B. Lundwall, 1962, p.69).

# Why baptize for the dead?

The Mormon leaders teach that the spirits of people who have died cannot enter the celestial kingdom of heaven until a Mormon is baptized for them by proxy—i.e., a living person is immersed on behalf of the dead person

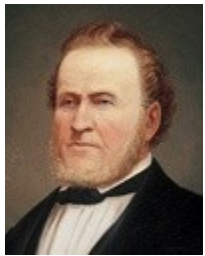


# Adam, our God?

- On April 9, 1852, Brigham Young publicly preached the Adam-God doctrine. In this sermon he declared:
- When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives, with him. He helped to make and organize this world. He is Michael, the Archangel, the Ancient of Days! about whom holy men have written and spoken—*He is our Father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do.* Every man upon the earth, professing Christians or non-professing, must hear it, and will know it sooner or later ... the earth was organized by three distinct characters, namely, Eloheim, Yahovah, and Michael, these three forming a quorum, as in all heavenly bodies, and in organizing element, perfectly represented in the Deity, as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 1, pp.50-51).

# Do we need a prophet today?

- 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:10-13
- Luke 7
- Hebrews 1:1-2



# Helpful websites!

---

[carm.org](http://carm.org)

[lds.org](http://lds.org) (the official LDS site)

[utlm.org/](http://utlm.org/)

# Fear of leaving the priesthood!

---

Doctrine & Covenants 84:32-46

But whoso breaketh this covenant after he hath revived it, and altogether turneth therefrom, shall not have forgiveness of sins in this world nor in the world to come.