

BIBLICAL INSIGHTS #105:
MORMON “SCRIPTURES”--CONFUSING AND CONTRADICTORY
By John Temples

The Mormon church is a large (16 million-plus members), influential religious body founded by Joseph Smith in the 19th century and headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah. You’ve probably seen or been visited by Mormon “elders” (young men) on their bicycles. Mormons believe the Bible, but they also have other “scriptures” and “standard works” that they regard as sacred. They hold their Book of Mormon to be on a par with the Bible.¹ Interestingly, the Mormon church practices baptism (immersion) for remission of sins; however, other church doctrines are at odds with “mainstream” Christian teachings.

The following analysis is presented for study and consideration by both Mormons and non-Mormons. (Hereafter, the Mormons will be referred to as LDS, or Latter-Day Saints, as they prefer to be called.) This study will show that LDS scriptures contain many contradictions (two statements are contradictory when they cannot both be true in the same sense and at the same time), and should not be accepted as inspired by God.

In presenting this material, we hold no ill will toward LDS people. In general, they are hard-working, honest, moral, kind, and sincere. My wife and I lived among Latter-day Saints in Utah for 16 years, and never lived among nicer people. I believe, however, that they are enslaved by a false religious system and should come out of it (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

In making this study, we are simply doing what LDS people ask us to do: read and examine their standard works and “scriptures.” The quotations found here are not from the Bible, or from any anti-LDS sources, but only from authoritative LDS sources. Almost all of the references cited are available on the Internet.

LDS CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

¹ The LDS Articles of Faith, part 8, says, “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.”
(<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/friend/2011/12/the-articles-of-faith-of-the-church-of-jesus-christ-of-latter-day-saints?lang=eng>)

LDS Church President Joseph Fielding Smith said: “If Joseph Smith [founder of the LDS church] was a deceiver, who wilfully attempted to mislead the people, then he ought to be exposed; his claims should be refuted, and his doctrine shown to be false, for the doctrines of an imposter cannot be made to harmonize in all particulars with divine truth....” (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, Volume 1, page 188; accessed at <https://wasmormon.org/if-joseph-smith-was-a-deceiver-who-wilfully-attempted-to-mislead-the-people-then-he-should-be-exposed-but-leave-the-church-alone-wont-you/>).

CAN A LIVING PROPHET CONTRADICT A DEAD PROPHET?

Yes, he can, according to LDS thinking. The fact that one LDS source contradicts another LDS source--while both claim to be from God--shows the fallacy of the doctrine of continuing revelation. How can a religion claim to be of divine origin when in it, *truth* today may not be *truth* tomorrow? Continuing revelation as claimed by LDS leaders results only in confusion, with sincere LDS people never knowing for sure which “revelation” to follow. We believe the Bible to be God’s authoritative word for all time; that it alone is the standard for religious practice; and that it is consistent with itself and with all facts of science and history. This cannot be said of LDS writings, as the following examples clearly show.

DAVID AND SOLOMON COMMENDED FOR PRACTICING POLYGAMY (PLURAL MARRIAGE) IN ONE LDS SCRIPTURE, CONDEMNED IN ANOTHER²

“...inasmuch as you have inquired of my hand to know and understand wherein I, the Lord, justified my servants...David and Solomon...as touching the principle and doctrine of their having many wives and concubines...*David’s wives and concubines were given unto him of me*”
(*Doctrine and Covenants* 132:1, 39)

“Behold, David and Solomon had many wives and concubines, *which thing was abominable before me*, saith the Lord”
(*Book of Mormon*, Jacob 2:24)

² Once on a flight from Salt Lake City to Atlanta, a Mormon “elder” sat next to me. I pointed out this discrepancy and asked him to explain it. The flight was three hours, and he never came up with an answer.

BLACK PEOPLE UNDER A **PERMANENT** CURSE, BUT CURSE REMOVED IN 1978

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| <p>“Shall I tell you the law of God in regard to the African race? If the white man who belongs to the chosen seed mixes his blood with the seed of Cain, the penalty, under the law of God, is death on the spot. This will always be so” (Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses</i>, Volume X, page 110).</p> <p>“Negroes in this life are denied the priesthood; under no circumstances can they hold this delegation of authority from the Almighty. The gospel message of salvation is not carried affirmatively to them....Negroes are not equal with other races where the receipt of certain spiritual blessings are [sic] concerned” (Bruce McConkie, <i>Mormon Doctrine</i>, page 477)³</p> | <p>“We have pleaded long and earnestly in behalf of these, our faithful brethren, spending many hours in the upper room of the temple supplicating the Lord for divine guidance. He has heard our prayers, and by revelation has confirmed that the long-promised day has come when every faithful, worthy man in the church may receive the priesthood....Accordingly, all worthy male members of the church may be ordained to the priesthood without regard for race or color” (Deseret News, June 9, 1978, page 1)</p> |
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LDS WRITINGS SAY MAN IS AN ENEMY OF GOD...AND THAT HE IS NOT

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| <p>“For the natural man is an enemy of God....” (<i>Book of Mormon</i>, Mosiah 3:19)</p> | <p>“It is, however, universally received by professors of religion as a Scriptural doctrine that man is naturally opposed to God. This is not so...The natural man is of God” (Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses</i>, Volume 9, page 305)</p> |
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³ *Mormon Doctrine* was a controversial book in LDS circles, even though written by a church leader. It was finally removed from publication by the church in 2010.

BOOK OF MORMON "INSPIRED" WRITERS DISAVOW INSPIRATION

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| <p>"[Joseph Smith] translated the Book of Mormon by the gift and power of God, <i>which book is comparable to the Bible itself...</i>and contains the fulness of the everlasting gospel" (Bruce McConkie, "Joseph Smith--the Mighty Prophet of the Restoration," <i>Ensign</i> magazine, May 1976, page 95)</p> <p>"We also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God." (Eighth Article of Faith of the LDS Church)</p> | <p>"Nevertheless, I do not write anything upon plates save it be that I think it to be sacred. And now, if I do err, even did they err of old" (<i>Book of Mormon</i>, 1 Nephi 19:6)</p> <p>"I have written according to the best of my knowledge" (<i>Book of Mormon</i>, Jacob 7:26; cf Mormon 9:31-32)</p> |
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BOOK OF MORMON SAYS PRECIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS WERE FOUND IN ABUNDANCE; NEXT VERSE SAYS OPPOSITE

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| <p>"And I did teach my people to build buildings, and to work in all manner of wood, and of iron, and of copper, and of brass, and of steel, and of gold, and of silver, and of precious ores, which were in great abundance" (<i>Book of Mormon</i>, 2 Nephi 5:15)</p> | <p>"And I, Nephi, did build a temple; and I did construct it after the manner of Solomon; save it were not built of so many precious things; for they were not to be found upon the land" (<i>Book of Mormon</i>, 2 Nephi 5:16)</p> |
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LDS WRITINGS IN CONFLICT OVER THE CHANGEABILITY OF GOD

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| <p>"For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity" (<i>Book of Mormon</i>, Moroni 8:18)</p> <p>"For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing?" (<i>Book of Mormon</i>, Mormon 9:9)</p> | <p>"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man...We have imagined and supposed that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea" (Brigham Young, <i>Journal of Discourses</i>, Volume 6, page 3)</p> <p>"God himself is increasing and progressing in knowledge, power, and dominion...."(Wilford Woodruff, <i>Journal of Discourses</i>, Volume 6, page 120)</p> |
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LDS "PRESIDENT" DENIES BIBLE AND BOOK OF MORMON CONCERNING THE CONCEPTION OF JESUS

"And behold, he shall be born of Mary... she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God" (*Book of Mormon*, Alma 7:10)

"They tell us the Book of Mormon states that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Ghost. I challenge that statement. The Book of Mormon teaches no such things! Neither does the Bible" (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, Volume 1, accessed at <https://ia800905.us.archive.org/34/items/Doctrines-of-Salvation-volume-1-joseph-fielding-smith/JFSDoctrinesofSalvationv1.pdf>)

PLURAL MARRIAGE, AN "EVERLASTING" AND "ESSENTIAL" COVENANT, DECLARED UNESSENTIAL AND NO LONGER IN FORCE

"I reveal to you **a new and everlasting covenant**; and if you abide not in that covenant, then are ye damned; for no one can reject this covenant and be permitted to enter into my glory...if any man espouse a virgin, and desire to espouse another, and the first give her consent...then is he justified; he cannot commit adultery for they are given unto him...." (*Doctrine and Covenants*, 132:4, 61, 62)

"Plural marriage was openly taught and practiced until the year 1890. At that time conditions were such that **the Lord by revelation withdrew the command to continue the practice**" (Bruce McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, pages 578-579)

"Plural marriage is **not essential to salvation or exaltation**" (Ibid, page 578)

LDS PRACTICE OF BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD DECLARED TO BE FUTILE IN THEIR OWN SCRIPTURES

“Jesus Christ taught that baptism is essential to the salvation of all who have lived on earth (see John 3:5). Many people, however, have died without being baptized. Others were baptized without proper authority. Because God is merciful, He has prepared a way for all people to receive the blessings of baptism. By performing proxy baptisms in behalf of those who have died, Church members offer these blessings to deceased ancestors. Individuals can then choose to accept or reject what has been done in their behalf”

(<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/gospel-topics/baptisms-for-the-dead?lang=eng>)

“A church without salvation for the dead, according to the revealed will of God to the Prophet Joseph Smith, cannot be the Church of Christ”
(Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, Volume 1, page 163, accessed at <https://ia800905.us.archive.org/34/items/Doctrines-of-Salvation-volume-1-joseph-fielding-smith/JFSDoctrinesofSalvationv1.pdf>)

“Behold, **this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God**; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors. And now, as I said to you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore, I beseech of you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; for after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed. Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye cannot say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at that time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world. For behold, **if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until death, behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his**; therefore, the Spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you, and hath no place in you, and the devil hath all power over you; and **this is the final state of the wicked**” (*Book of Mormon*, Alma 34:32-35)

It is a long-standing and proven axiom that true Scripture comes from God and cannot contradict itself. The Bible passes this test; LDS “scripture” does not. The

Bible alone is the rule of faith and practice for all people today. No ill will is wished toward those who follow the LDS religion. Rather, our purpose is to lead them to knowledge of the truth that they might be saved. --John Temples