



Are Mormons Christian?

By Robert Tuttle

I was recently presented with a link to an article appearing on the official LDS church website, titled, “Are Mormons Christian?” [<https://www.lds.org/topics/christians?lang=eng>] At the beginning of the article, the LDS church states, “Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints unequivocally affirm themselves to be Christians.” The remainder of the article attempts to prove that Mormons are indeed Christians. The article presents what the LDS church calls three “oft-used reasons” why people do not consider the LDS church to be a Christian church, and then proceeds to offer explanatory refutations for each of the three points. I would suggest that the “oft-used reasons” given in the LDS article are more likely the rarely used reasons why people do not consider the LDS church to be Christian, and are presented in the LDS article simply because they fit the narrative of the LDS church and are easily answered in a manipulative manner designed to present the LDS church in a “Christian” light. In the article you are now reading I will answer the three “reasons” they offer, and

then present what I believe the actual reason, the primary reason, why the LDS church should not be considered a Christian church. The three “oft-used reasons” as presented by the LDS church in their article are:

1. Latter-day Saints do not accept the creeds, confessions, and formulations of post–New Testament Christianity.
2. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints does not descend through the historical line of traditional Christianity. That is, Latter-day Saints are not Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, or Protestant.
3. Latter-day Saints do not believe scripture consists of the Holy Bible alone but have an expanded canon of scripture that includes the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.

I will comment on each of these in order, responding to the comments made by the LDS church in their article.

1. Latter-day Saints do not accept the creeds, confessions, and formulations of post–New Testament Christianity.

The LDS church claims in its article that early Christian views of God were “less abstract than those that emerged later from the creeds written over the next several hundred years.” It goes on to say that in the second century A.D., Christian doctrine began to merge with Greek philosophy. The article then sources several LDS scholars who clearly subscribe to LDS teachings in this area, as well as a few liberal scholars who loosely agree with them, and one fairly sound scholar who does not hold to the claims presented in the LDS article. The LDS claim that Christian doctrine began to merge with Greek philosophy is not entirely accurate, and reflects a view held by many pseudo-Christians and non-Christians, rather than by the majority of reputable Christian scholars.

Although Greek culture and in some cases Greek philosophy did exert an influence on Christianity, and did, in fact, spawn several unbiblical pseudo-Christian cults, it did not change any of the biblical doctrines of Christianity. Contrary to the LDS church's claim, the early Church staunchly held to the view of God as clearly expressed in the Bible.

The early Church's view of the nature of the Godhead is the same view again, as clearly expressed in Scripture. It has never changed. Scripture, and the Christian church, from day it began on Pentecost and up through our day, has always been of a Triune God. One God, and only one God (monotheistic) which consists of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three are the One True God. Each is co-eternal, co-existent, and consubstantial. There are not three Gods (tritheism), nor does God appear in three different modes or manifestations (modalism). There is only one God. This is, and has always been, a foundational belief of Christianity. Contrary to the LDS church's belief in many gods (polytheism). The Christian God of the Bible is eternal. He has always existed as fully God, and never as anything but fully God. The LDS god, on the other hand, is nothing more than an exalted human being, a man who worked his way up through Mormonism to become one of countless other

gods. The LDS view of God does not, in any way, “correspond with the views of others in the Christian world” as the LDS church claims, nor is it the true view of the Godhead as presented in Scripture and held by the Christian Church since its inception. It does, however, correspond with the view of God as held by numerous cults and non-Christian pagan religions such as the ancient Romans and Greeks, Norse mythology, Shintoism, Hinduism, and Wicca just to name a few.

2. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints does not descend through the historical line of traditional Christianity. That is, Latter-day Saints are not Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, or Protestant.

The LDS church claims in its article that they are “restored Christianity”, and that the LDS church is the “restored church of Jesus Christ.” They go on to say, “Members of creedal churches often mistakenly assume that all Christians have always agreed and must agree on a historically static, monolithic collection of beliefs. As many scholars have acknowledged, however, Christians have vigorously disagreed about virtually every issue of theology and practice through the centuries, leading to the creation of a multitude of Christian denominations.” The LDS further claims that LDS doctrine is “consistent with early Christianity.” The LDS church then goes on to cite self-admitted atheist Bart Ehrman as an expert on Christianity.

The problem with the LDS church's claims is that they are patently false. Every single Christian that has ever lived has, in complete unity, held to the exact same essential foundational beliefs as clearly taught in Scripture. Beliefs regarding the nature of God (the Triune Godhead), the Deity and humanity of Jesus Christ (simultaneously fully God and fully human), the virgin birth (but not Mary's perpetual virginity), the substitutionary atonement (the imputation of Christ's righteousness to those who are saved), salvation and justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone sans any works whatsoever, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, etc. While Christians may disagree on secondary doctrines, we are all, since the founding of the Church, in complete agreement on the primary essentials. In addition to the Bible, there are numerous extant writings from the early post-apostolic Church which verify this.

The LDS article concludes this point with the statement, “One who sincerely loves, worships, and follows Christ should be free to claim his or her understanding of the doctrine according to the dictates of his or her conscience without being branded as non-Christian.” If one follows this statement to its logical conclusion, the LDS church must then accept every single church, or group, or organization that calls itself “Christian” as a Christian church/group/organization, without branding them as non-Christian. This would include hate-groups such as the infamous Westboro Baptist church; the Aryan Nations – Church of Jesus Christ, Christian; the “Christian Identity” movement; the Anglo-Israelism groups; the Shepherd's Chapel (although both the Anglo-Israelism groups and the Shepherd's Chapel teach, as the Book of Mormon does, that African Americans are cursed by God with a black skin); the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses); Christian Science; Unitarian/Universalist churches; the Children of God; and numerous other churches/groups/organizations each claiming to be “Christian.” This LDS belief is completely contrary to God's word which explicitly details exactly what a Christian is and is not.

3. Latter-day Saints do not believe scripture consists of the Holy Bible alone but have an expanded canon of scripture that includes the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.

The LDS church makes several assertions in their explanatory refutation of this “oft-used reason.” They are:

A. “Latter-day Saints believe in an open canon.” *If this is true, then the LDS church must also believe that virtually every revelation professing to come from God, regardless of what that revelation contains. And what happens if “God” says something contrary to someone else? Who then is the judge that will decide which is correct? The LDS church? The Roman Catholic church? The Lutheran church? Who decides? There must be an external objective reference point by which to judge which claims are true. That external source is the closed canon of Scripture – the 66 books of the Bible. The LDS “expanded” or “open” canon, however, does not accept any book, claim, or revelation outside of their own particular additional books, specifically, the Book of Mormon (complete with its racist teachings), the Doctrine and Covenants (complete with its false prophecies), and the Pearl of Great Price (complete with its highly controversial “Book of Abraham.” More on this below).*

B. “For those making this argument, to be a Christian means to assent to the principle of *sola scriptura*, or the self-sufficiency of the Bible.” *Not only is it completely false to claim that any Christian subscribes to the belief that assent to Sola Scriptura is required for salvation; the LDS statement actually demonstrates a misunderstanding of the doctrine of Sola Scriptura. What their statement is describing is Solo Scriptura (or Nuda Scriptura). Sola Scriptura states Scripture is the Church’s only infallible and sufficient rule for deciding issues of faith and practice. Solo Scriptura states Scripture is the Christian’s only theological resource, that it can and should be denuded of its churchly context. So while “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.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17); it is not the only theological resource for the Christian. Christians have the writings of the early Church, the creeds, confessions and catechisms, and also Church leaders. However, only the Scripture is God-breathed and considered infallible. If any other resource presents anything that is contrary to the clear teaching of God’s word, it is to be disregarded.*

C. “Nowhere does the Bible proclaim that all revelations from God would be gathered into a single volume to be forever closed and that no further scriptural revelation could be received.” *This is a very carefully worded statement designed to silence any argument that the canon is closed. While it is true that there does not exist anywhere in the Bible a verse or passage that specifically states, “all revelations from God would be gathered into a single volume to be forever closed and that no further scriptural revelation could be received,” there are several passages that teach that very thing without using those exact words.*

2 Corinthians 11:4 states, “For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!” This indicates the gospel, as preached by the Apostles, is the

only acceptable gospel, and any deviance from what the Apostles had already taught was false. See also Galatians 1:8-9 which pronounces an anathema on any who preach any other gospel. This demonstrates that at least this portion of the canon was indeed closed.

Jude 3 states, “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” Note the phrase, “the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” indicates everything necessary for the faith had already been presented to the saints, once and for all. There was no more to be presented. Again, demonstrating a closed canon.

Additionally, note 2 Timothy 3:16-17 which has already been noted immediately above in B. All Scripture is profitable to make the man of God complete and thoroughly equipped. The canon was closed. There are those who will argue that this verse refers only to the Old Testament, claiming that was all the first century Church had in the way of Scripture. However, one need only look at 2 Peter 3:15-16 to see that the Apostle Peter considered the writings of Paul to be authoritative Scripture; and 1 Timothy 5:18 where Paul refers to the writings of Luke as authoritative Scripture on the same level of authority as the writings of Moses.

In addition, we have the writings of the early post-apostolic Church, including the early lists of those writings considered to be divinely inspired Scripture, and not coincidentally, those writings are the same 66 books recognized as inspired Scripture by Christians today. So, as can be clearly seen, the LDS church has rejected the clear teaching of God's word, as well as the writings of the early Church, in order to add their own non-inspired writings, and elevating them to the level of God's only revealed word.

D. “Not all Christian churches are certain that Christianity must be defined by commitment to a closed canon.” Christianity is not defined by commitment to a closed canon. However, as has been shown above in letter C, Christians, since the earliest days of the Church have believed and taught that the canon is closed, and contains only the 66 books that have been used since the earliest days of the Church and up through our day.

E. “the argument for exclusion by closed canon appears to be used selectively to exclude the Latter-day Saints from being called Christian.” While the closed canon does indeed exclude the writings of the LDS church, it also excludes the writings of every other religious group, including the apocryphal and pseudepigraphal writings accepted by many groups, including the Roman Catholic church and the Eastern Orthodox church. It is the beliefs and teachings of the LDS church that exclude it from being considered a Christian church, simply because they are antithetical to Christianity. The statement made here by the LDS church is either an example of paranoid conspiratorial beliefs, or, a manipulative attempt to paint itself in a sympathetic light as an innocent victim being excluded by Christianity.

F. “No branch of Christianity limits itself entirely to the biblical text in making doctrinal decisions and in applying biblical principles. Roman Catholics, for example, turn to church tradition and the magisterium (meaning teachers, including popes and councils) for answers.

Protestants, particularly evangelicals, turn to linguists and scripture scholars for their answers, as well as to post–New Testament church councils and creeds. For many Christians, these councils and creeds are every bit as canonical as the Bible itself.” *This is almost correct. Although Christians do indeed look to the writings of the early Church, tradition, scholars and Church leaders for their experience, Christians do not accept these extra-biblical sources as infallible. Anything put forth by these extra-biblical sources that is not completely supported by Scripture is disregarded. No true Christian places any source of information with regard to any matter of faith or the Christian life, as equal to or above God's word. And that includes the councils and creeds, which no true Christian regards as canonical or equal to accepted Scripture. To say otherwise is completely untrue.*

G. “To establish doctrine and to understand the biblical text, Latter-day Saints turn to living prophets and to additional books of scripture—the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price.” *Before the LDS church calls its presidents “prophets” perhaps the LDS church should familiarize itself with the qualifications of a prophet of God, specifically that qualification that states each and every prophecy made by that prophet must be fulfilled with 100% accuracy, otherwise that prophet is to be considered a false prophet and to be disregarded. Of course, if the LDS church held its prophets to God's standard, they would have to disregard each and every one of them that has actually made a prophetic statement; and this includes Joseph Smith who made numerous false prophecies, many of which are recorded in the LDS book of scripture known as the Doctrine and Covenants. I have already alluded to the racist teachings found within the pages of the Book of Mormon, and I will go into those in more detail below. As for the LDS book of scripture known as the Pearl of Great Price, it should be noted that it contains a section known as the “Book of Abraham.”*

The Book of Abraham was produced by Joseph Smith, and based on a some Egyptian papyri which Smith claimed he purchased from a gentleman who operated a traveling mummy exhibition. Smith claimed the papyri were written in a language known as “reformed Egyptian,” which only he could read. Smith claimed it contained, “The writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus.” It was long believed these papyri were lost during the Great Chicago fire of 1871, however, they were located in 1966 and were soon translated and found to be nothing more than a common Egyptian funerary text, part of the Egyptian Book of the Dead, and which said nothing whatsoever about Abraham. Additionally, not only have non-LDS Egyptologists studied the papyri and determined what they actually are; but LDS scholars have also examined them and have come to the same conclusion. In spite of this, the LDS church continues to embrace the Book of Abraham as inspired canonical scripture. Holding to the belief that a pagan Book of the Dead is somehow from God, is nothing short of blasphemy.

H. “Together with the Old and New Testaments, the Book of Mormon supports an unequivocal testimony of Jesus Christ. ... The Book of Mormon is indeed “Another Testament of Jesus Christ,” as its title page proclaims.” *The Book of Mormon contains countless contradictions to the Bible, and not just contradictions, but teachings that are antithetical to the Bible. For this very fact alone it cannot legitimately be said to support “an unequivocal testimony of Jesus Christ,” nor can it*

legitimately be called “another testament of Jesus Christ.” At best it could be called “a testament to another Jesus, other than the Jesus of the Bible.” At worst, it can be called heresy.

The LDS article concludes by stating that, among other things, the ordinances of the LDS church prove that it is a Christian church. It then goes on to suggest the LDS church enriches the “Christian conversation,” and that there is no valid reason for Christians to not unite with the LDS church to address the moral and family issues faced by society and proclaim the divinity and teachings of Jesus Christ. I would like to point out that according to the official LDS church website, the LDS ordinances include: baptism, confirmation, ordination to the Melchizedek Priesthood (for men), sealing to parents, vicarious baptism for the dead, the temple endowment, and the marriage sealing.

[<https://www.lds.org/topics/ordinances?lang=eng>] These ordinances are necessary for salvation. Non-saving ordinances include: naming and blessing children, consecrating oil, and administering to the sick and afflicted, calling, dedication of a grave, and the sacrament of the Lord's supper. These ordinances are not essential to salvation. [<https://www.lds.org/topics/ordinances?lang=eng> and <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/gs/ordinances>]

The Bible, on the other hand, only teaches two sacraments or ordinances for Christians, baptism and the Lord's supper; and neither of these are necessary for salvation which is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone, and never by works of any kind (Ephesians 2:8-9). The addition of all these other requirements for salvation is another gospel, another method of salvation that is contrary to Scripture, and something which Scripture not only condemns, but anathematizes. The LDS church does not enrich the “Christian conversation” by introducing a false gospel, and this alone excludes any possibility for any form of ecumenical partnership between Christians and the LDS church according to 2 Corinthians 6:14, “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”

Before closing this essay, I would like to address a statement presented at the very beginning of the LDS article, which states, “When asked what the Latter-day Saints believe, Joseph Smith put Christ at the center: ‘The fundamental principles of our religion is the testimony of the apostles and prophets concerning Jesus Christ, ‘that he died, was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended up into heaven;’ and all other things are only appendages to these, which pertain to our religion.’”

This statement is not necessarily true, as the LDS church holds to several other fundamental principles. For instance, in 1842 Joseph Smith – the same Joseph Smith who stated the above – wrote the “13 articles of faith” as the “basic doctrines and practices of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” (see <https://www.mormon.org/beliefs/articles-of-faith>). These 13 articles contain practices and beliefs which are antithetical to the revealed word of God, as well as heretical according to the teaching and writings of the Apostles and the early post-apostolic church. In fact, only numbers 12 and 13 can find any support within the Bible. The other 11, however, are contrary to God's word. The 11 heretical articles are:

1. We believe in God the Father; His Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Ghost.

While this sounds very good, and very Christian, it is not Christian. When one looks at who Christians, from the time of Christ through now, believe Jesus Christ to be, namely the **only begotten** Son of God; versus who the LDS church has always believed and taught Jesus to be, namely only one of many begotten sons of god, along with Satan; it is clear to see that what the Mormons believe regarding Jesus is far from being Christian.

2. That men will be punished only for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression.

The LDS church teaches, "Because of the Fall of Adam and Eve, all people live in a fallen condition, separated from God and subject to physical death. However, we are not condemned by what many call the 'original sin.' ... Through the Atonement, the Savior paid the price for the transgression in the Garden of Eden (see Moses 6:53)." [see <https://www.lds.org/manual/true-to-the-faith/original-sin?lang=eng>]. This is the LDS teaching regarding original sin, and it is contrary to the word of God. First, the LDS teaching that the Atonement was for the "transgression in the Garden of Eden" is wrong. God's word tells us in 1 John 2:2, "And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." Not just for Adam's sin, but for **our** sins, and the sins of the whole world.

Additionally, although it is true we will not be punished **for** Adam's transgression of eating the forbidden fruit; we **will** be punished **because** of Adam's sin. Scripture tells us in the Epistle to the Romans, chapter 5, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned" (v12); and, "For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation," (v16b), and, "...through one man's offense judgment came to all men," (v18a), and, "...by one man's disobedience many were made sinners" (v19a). This is God's teaching regarding original sin. When Adam sinned, his sin was inherited by all mankind as an active sin nature. This is not meant to be a lengthy treatise on the biblical view of original sin, it is sufficient to say that God very clearly teaches in His word that because of Adam, we are all sinful from the moment of conception, and will remain that way throughout our life; and, unless we turn to Christ for forgiveness of our sin and live for Him, we will die in our sin and thus condemn ourselves to an eternity in hell.

3. That through Christ's Atonement, we can be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.

The very idea that one can achieve salvation by obedience to the laws and ordinances is completely contrary to what God said in His word. For example:

- John 1:12-13, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." It is not works, of any kind, that justifies, but only faith alone.
- Romans 3:28, "For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law."
- Romans 4:5-6, "But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom

God imputes righteousness apart from works”

– Ephesians 2:8-9, “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.”

– Titus 3:5-7, “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

And, not only is the LDS gospel of salvation by obedience to the law and ordinances contrary to the revealed word of God, it is, in fact, another gospel, a different gospel; and according to God's word: “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.” (Galatians 1:8-9). Read the last four words of this passage again, “Let. Him. Be. Accursed.” If anyone preaches a gospel that is not salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, Let. Him. Be. Accursed. Therefore, according to God, if someone comes and teaches a gospel of salvation through obedience to the law and the ordinances – as the LDS church teaches – Let. Him. Be. Accursed. This is the view God has of the LDS church.

4. That faith in Jesus Christ, repentance, baptism by immersion, confirmation, and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost are all necessary for salvation.

Again, this is contrary to the revealed word of God which teaches salvation is by the grace of God alone, through faith in Jesus Christ alone, and never, ever by works. See my commentary on #3 above. Although repentance is necessary for the Christian, it is not “required” to be saved. The same holds true for baptism. Both, as well as the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, are evidences of true salvation, but never the cause of salvation.

5. That leaders and teachers in the Church must be chosen and ordained by priesthood power.

Actually, according to God's word, anyone who fulfills the biblical qualifications can be a pastor, bishop, elder, etc. Those qualifications are: “if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.” (Titus 1:5-9); “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” (1 Timothy 3:1-7).

An examination of early LDS history quickly reveals that virtually all of the prophet/presidents, the bishops, the apostles, the pastors, and just about every leader in the early LDS church did not meet the qualifications set forth by God to be in the positions they were in. Polygamy alone disqualified most of them, including Joseph Smith (who had up to 40 wives) and Brigham Young (who had 55 wives). Polygamy was so widespread in the LDS church from 1831 until the practice was officially terminated in 1890 (although many continued the practice until 1904 when a second official manifesto had to be issued to finally stop the practice altogether. It is still practiced on a spiritual level though); that virtually every LDS leader had multiple wives, thus were disqualified by the “husband of one wife” qualification alone.

The qualifications of “not quick-tempered,” “not violent,” “but hospitable, a lover of what is good” disqualified a huge number of LDS leaders in the 19th century by virtue of their violent tempers as demonstrated in situations such as the “Mormon War” of 1838, the “Mormon Rebellion” of 1857-1858, and Mountain Meadows Massacre of September 1857 where several LDS leaders, including William Dame, Isaac Haight, Philip Klingensmith, and John D. Lee dressed up as Native Americans and viciously attacked the Baker-Fancher emigrant wagon train, and murdered at least 120 men, women, and every child over the age of 7 (17 children all younger than 7 were spared and distributed to Mormon families who kept them and raised them as their own); all allegedly by order of then prophet/president Brigham Young. Young, who was fearful of a possible invasion of Mormon territory and xenophobic about outsiders, is believed to have given the orders to wipe out the wagon train.

Clearly, the LDS church was founded by, and lead by, a large group of men who were biblically disqualified from holding any leadership position in a Christian church. This simple fact is further evidence that the LDS church is not a Christian church.

Regarding the LDS doctrine of “priesthood power,” quite simply put, there is no such thing. It is a modern-day creation of the LDS church and has no biblical support whatsoever.

6. That Christ’s Church today is organized as it was when He first established it.

The original Apostle's were all hand picked by Jesus. All 13 of them. The 14th Apostle, Matthias, was chosen by the 11 original Apostles (minus Paul) to replace Judas. Not one of the LDS apostles were hand picked or chosen by Jesus or the other Apostles who had been hand picked by Jesus. Once the 14 Apostles had passed away, there were no more Apostles in the Christian Church. Not one. The only churches which have apostles are the Roman Catholic church (which considers the papacy to be filled via apostolic succession), and the “New Apostolic Reformation” movement; neither of which can be considered to be Christian churches. The use of apostles by the LDS church is simply an addition used by the LDS church to make it appear Christian.

7. In modern-day revelation and priesthood healing and blessing.

The very idea of modern day revelation is antithetical to Scripture and to Christianity. Scripture states in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, “16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” This tells us that all of Scripture (the 66 books of the Bible)

is: 1. “given by inspiration of God.” The Greek rendering is “breathed out by God.” It is as if God Himself breathed out the very words of God to those who were writing it, so as to ensure what they wrote was exactly what God wanted them to write. This is reiterated in 2 Peter 1:21 which states, “...prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” 2. All Scripture (again, the 66 books of the Bible) are “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”... so that “the man of God may be **complete**, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” There is absolutely nothing else needed, outside of the 66 books of the Bible, to make the Christian thoroughly equipped for the Christian life. Nothing else is needed.

In addition, Jude 3 states, “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” Note the phrase, “...the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” the phrase, “once for all” is translated from the Greek word hapax, which literally means, “once for all” as in perpetually conclusive and perpetually valid. There is no other faith. Nothing needs to be added, and, if something is added, then it is false and not of God. Note also the word “delivered.” In the Greek it is an aorist passive participle, which in this context indicates an act that has been completed in the past, and with no continuing element. The passive voice means it (the faith) was something that was given to men by God. In other words, what Jude 3 is saying is, the Christian faith, as delivered in the Bible, was given to men by God, and is perpetually conclusive and perpetually valid, with nothing else needed nor to be added to it. The Scriptures are authoritative, and they are final. Period. This means any and all new prophecies or revelations which are contrary to or which add to the 66 books of the Bible, are to be considered as false. As John Owen once said, “If private revelations agree with Scriptures, they are needless; and if they disagree, they are false.”

Furthermore, not only does Joseph Smith – and by extension the LDS church – insist upon the acceptance of modern-day prophecies and revelations, he actually makes them a requirement for salvation! Smith stated in July 1839, “Salvation cannot come without revelation; it is in vain for anyone to minister without it. ... No man can be a minister of Jesus Christ except he has the testimony of Jesus; and this is the spirit of prophecy.” {History of the Church, 3:389–90; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith about July 1839 in Commerce, Illinois; reported by Willard Richards. <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-joseph-smith/chapter-16?lang=eng>} As noted above, this, as well as any addition to the biblical doctrine of salvation by grace alone through faith alone is completely contrary to Scripture.

So important to the Mormon faith are new revelations (even though they are antithetical to God's revealed word) that Smith said of them, “The President of the Church is appointed to receive revelation from God for the Church; individuals may receive revelation for their own responsibilities.” {<https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-joseph-smith/chapter-16?lang=eng>}. In other words, every Mormon is to receive new revelation from God.

Additionally, in 1834, Smith stated at a church conference that the personal revelations, coupled with the Book of Mormon are the true foundation of the Mormon faith. Smith said, “Take away the Book of Mormon and the revelations, and where is our religion? We have none.” {History of the Church, 2:52;

punctuation modernized; paragraph divisions altered; from the minutes of a Church conference held on Apr. 21, 1834, in Norton, Ohio; reported by Oliver Cowdery. <https://www.lds.org/manual/teachings-joseph-smith/chapter-16?lang=eng>} As we can see, according to the founder and first president of the LDS church, new revelations from God are not only necessary for salvation, but they are the very foundation of Mormonism. So much for Smith's later proclamation, "The fundamental principles of our religion is the testimony of the apostles and prophets concerning Jesus Christ, 'that he died, was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended up into heaven;' and all other things are only appendages to these, which pertain to our religion." {"What are the fundamental principles of your religion?" Published in *Elders' Journal 1* (July 1838): 44, available at www.josephsmithpapers.org; republished with punctuation changes in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 49.}

Smith's overemphasis on new, personal, and private revelations from God should, in and of itself, raise serious red flags of doubt as to the truthfulness of Mormonism; as this is historically a very common tactic among those who introduce a new religious movement outside of biblical Christianity. And, when compared to Scripture and to the writings of the early post-apostolic Church (which staunchly believed that God's revelation to mankind was restricted to the established and accepted 66 canonical books of Scripture) should easily reveal the falsity of the teachings of the LDS church. If Smith's overemphasis on new, personal, and private revelations from God does not raise any red flags, the issue of Smith's own false prophecies should. For example:

A. The Temple and the City of New Jerusalem will be built in Missouri.

Doctrine and Covenants Section 84, verses 1-5, "Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Kirtland, Ohio, September 22 and 23, 1832....1-5, The New Jerusalem and the temple will be built in Missouri." "1 A revelation of Jesus Christ unto his servant Joseph Smith, Jun., and six elders, as they united their hearts and lifted their voices on high. 2 Yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city of New Jerusalem. 3 Which city shall be built, beginning at the temple lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith, Jun., and others with whom the Lord was well pleased. 4 Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation. 5 For verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill the house."

The Temple and the city of New Jerusalem was never built in the "western boundaries of the State of Missouri," at anytime, much less during the generation of people alive when the prophecy was made. Joseph Smith's so-called prophecy from God was obviously false.

B. The Temple will be built at Zion, Jackson County, Missouri, God will dwell there, the pure in heart will see God, and the city of Zion cannot fall.

Doctrine and Covenants Section 97, verses 10-21. "Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Kirtland, Ohio, August 2, 1833. This revelation deals particularly with the affairs of the Saints in

Zion, Jackson County, Missouri” “10 Verily I say unto you, that it is my will that a house should be built unto me in the land of Zion, like unto the pattern which I have given you. 11 Yea, let it be built speedily, by the tithing of my people. 12 Behold, this is the tithing and the sacrifice which I, the Lord, require at their hands, that there may be a house built unto me for the salvation of Zion—13 For a place of thanksgiving for all saints, and for a place of instruction for all those who are called to the work of the ministry in all their several callings and offices; 14 That they may be perfected in the understanding of their ministry, in theory, in principle, and in doctrine, in all things pertaining to the kingdom of God on the earth, the keys of which kingdom have been conferred upon you. 15 And inasmuch as my people build a house unto me in the name of the Lord, and do not suffer any unclean thing to come into it, that it be not defiled, my glory shall rest upon it; 16 Yea, and my presence shall be there, for I will come into it, and all the pure in heart that shall come into it shall see God. 17 But if it be defiled I will not come into it, and my glory shall not be there; for I will not come into unholy temples. 18 And, now, behold, if Zion do these things she shall prosper, and spread herself and become very glorious, very great, and very terrible. 19 And the nations of the earth shall honor her, and shall say: Surely Zion is the city of our God, and surely Zion cannot fall, neither be moved out of her place, for God is there, and the hand of the Lord is there; 20 And he hath sworn by the power of his might to be her salvation and her high tower. 21 Therefore, verily, thus saith the Lord, let Zion rejoice, for this is Zion—the pure in heart; therefore, let Zion rejoice, while all the wicked shall mourn.”

The temple was never built, Zion is a very small community, Joseph Smith was killed in a gun battle, and the Mormons were driven out after engaging in a “war” (the great Mormon War) with the citizens of Missouri. Another false prophecy of Joseph Smith.

C. The American Civil War would lead to a war among all nations.

Doctrine and Covenants Section 87:3, “Revelation and prophecy on war, given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at or near Kirtland, Ohio, December 25, 1832.” “3 For behold, the Southern States shall be divided against the Northern States, and the Southern States will call on other nations, even the nation of Great Britain, as it is called, and they shall also call upon other nations, in order to defend themselves against other nations; and then war shall be poured out upon all nations.”

Although Smith did, albeit ambiguously, predict a civil war in America, this could have been easily done by anyone who kept an eye on the political climate of the time. Had he predicted when it would start then it could be counted as an actual accurate prophecy. In addition to his inexact prediction of a civil war, he inaccurately prophesied the American Civil War would include other nations, including, specifically, Great Britain. He went on in his prophecy to state unequivocally that the American Civil War would eventually include all nations. History clearly shows none of this happened. Joseph Smith's prophecy was false.

D. Riches of Salem, Massachusetts to pay church debt.

Doctrine and Covenants Section 111, verses 1-5. “Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Salem, Massachusetts, August 6, 1836. At this time the leaders of the Church were heavily in debt due to their labors in the ministry.” “1 I, the Lord your God, am not displeased with your coming this journey, notwithstanding your follies. 2 I have much treasure in this city for you, for the benefit of

Zion, and many people in this city, whom I will gather out in due time for the benefit of Zion, through your instrumentality. 3 Therefore, it is expedient that you should form acquaintance with men in this city, as you shall be led, and as it shall be given you. 4 And it shall come to pass in due time that **I will give this city into your hands, that you shall have power over it**, insomuch that they shall not discover your secret parts; **and its wealth pertaining to gold and silver shall be yours.** 5 **Concern not yourselves about your debts, for I will give you power to pay them.**" [emphasis mine]

There are four specific aspects to the prophecy given here by Joseph Smith. 1. God will give the city of Salem, Massachusetts into his hands; 2. Joseph Smith will have power over it; 3. The wealth of gold and silver will be given to Joseph Smith; and, 4. God will give Joseph Smith the power to pay the huge debts that had been incurred by the Mormon church, the implication in the prophecy is that the "wealth pertaining to gold and silver" would pay off the church's debt. In reality, however, none of this came true. The city was not given over to Smith, he had no power over it, he received no wealth, and the church remained in debt. Another false prophecy given by Joseph Smith.

E. Apostle David W. Patten to go on mission in Spring 1839.

Doctrine and Covenants Section 114:1, "Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Far West, Missouri, April 11, 1838." "1 Verily thus saith the Lord: It is wisdom in my servant David W. Patten, that he settle up all his business as soon as he possibly can, and make a disposition of his merchandise, that he may perform a mission unto me next spring, in company with others, even twelve including himself, to testify of my name and bear glad tidings unto all the world."

David W. Patten was shot in Oct. of 1838, just under six months after this prophecy was given by Joseph Smith. This begs the question, wouldn't God have known Patten was going to die before the next spring when he was to go on a mission trip? Since God is omniscient (all-knowing), then yes, He would have known. This simple fact alone is evidence that this is yet another false prophecy given by Joseph Smith.

F. Build a temple in Nauvoo and house for Joseph Smith and his family.

Doctrine and Covenants Section 124. "Revelation given to Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Nauvoo, Illinois, January 19, 1841." "22 Let my servant George [Miller], and my servant Lyman [Wight], and my servant John Snider, and others, **build a house unto my name**, such a one as my servant Joseph shall show unto them, upon the place which he shall show unto them also. 23 **And it shall be for a house for boarding**, a house that strangers may come from afar to lodge therein; therefore let it be a good house, worthy of all acceptance, that the weary traveler may find health and safety while he shall contemplate the word of the Lord; and the cornerstone I have appointed for Zion. 24 This house shall be a healthful habitation if it be built unto my name, and if the governor which shall be appointed unto it shall not suffer any pollution to come upon it. It shall be holy, or the Lord your God will not dwell therein. 25 And again, verily I say unto you, let all my saints come from afar. 26 And send ye swift messengers, yea, chosen messengers, and say unto them: **Come ye, with all your gold, and your silver, and your precious stones, and with all your antiquities**; and with all who have knowledge of antiquities, that will come, may come, and bring the box tree, and the fir tree, and the pine tree, together with all the precious trees of the earth; 27 And with iron, with copper, and with brass, and with

zinc, **and with all your precious things of the earth; and build a house to my name, for the Most High to dwell therein.** ... 31 But I command you, all ye my saints, to **build a house unto me;** and I grant unto you a sufficient time to build a house unto me; and during this time your baptisms shall be acceptable unto me. ... 40 And verily I say unto you, let this house be built unto my name, that I may reveal mine ordinances therein unto my people; 41 For I deign to reveal unto my church things which have been kept hid from before the foundation of the world, things that pertain to the dispensation of the fulness of times. 42 And I will show unto my servant Joseph all things pertaining to this house, and the priesthood thereof, and the place whereon it shall be built. 43 **And ye shall build it on the place where you have contemplated building it, for that is the spot which I have chosen for you to build it...** 55 And again, verily I say unto you, **I command you again to build a house to my name, even in this place,** that you may prove yourselves unto me that ye are faithful in all things whatsoever I command you, that I may bless you, and crown you with honor, immortality, and eternal life. 56 And now I say unto you, as pertaining to my boarding house which I have commanded you to build for the boarding of strangers, let it be built unto my name, and let my name be named upon it, and let my servant Joseph and his house have place therein, from generation to generation. ... 60 **And let the name of that house be called Nauvoo House;** and let it be a delightful habitation for man, and a resting-place for the weary traveler, that he may contemplate the glory of Zion, and the glory of this, the cornerstone thereof; ... 85 **Let no man ago from this place who has come here essaying to keep my commandments.** 86 **If they live here let them live unto me; and if they die let them die unto me;** for they shall rest from all their labors here, and shall continue their works.” [emphasis mine]

There are four specific prophetic commands contained in this lengthy (145 verses total) prophecy made by Joseph Smith. They are: 1. Joseph Smith is to build a temple in Nauvoo, Illinois; 2. Joseph Smith is to build a boarding house in Nauvoo, Illinois and it will be called the “Nauvoo House”; 3. Mormons from all over the world are to converge in Nauvoo, Illinois bringing with them all of the gold, silver, precious jewels, and antiques (to give to Joseph Smith to fund the building project); and, 4. No Mormon who arrives in Nauvoo for the purpose of keeping God's commands is to ever leave Nauvoo, even under the threat of death. Not one of these prophecies came true. Not only were the temple and the Nauvoo House never built in Nauvoo (where the Mormon god commanded them to be built); and not only did Mormons from around the world not converge on Nauvoo with all their treasures; but after Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum died in a violent gun battle between Smith and what was ostensibly a lynch mob (how Joseph Smith managed to get a loaded pistol while in jail is unknown), the Mormons all left Nauvoo in spite of the Mormon god commanding them all to stay there, and die there if necessary. Yet another false prophecy of Joseph Smith.

G. Christ to return in 1890-1891 period.

Doctrine and Covenants Section 130:14-15. “Items of instruction given by Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Ramus, Illinois, April 2, 1843.” “14 I was once praying very earnestly to know the time of the coming of the Son of Man, when I heard a voice repeat the following: 15 Joseph, my son, if thou livest until thou art eighty-five years old, thou shalt see the face of the Son of Man; therefore let this suffice, and trouble me no more on this matter.”

Given that Joseph Smith was born in 1805, the Mormon god is telling Smith that Christ will return to earth sometime in 1890/91. Although Smith goes on to write in verse 16 that he was not able to determine “whether this coming referred to the beginning of the millennium or to some previous appearing, or whether I should die and thus see his face” it is very clear that the Mormon god is saying that Christ will return sometime during what would have been the 85th anniversary of Joseph Smith's birth (1890/91). As with the rest of the prophecies made by Joseph Smith, allegedly under the inspiration of God, this one was false as well.

The Bible is very clear in its denunciation of those who give false prophecies such as Joseph Smith gave over and over and over again. It states in Deuteronomy 13:1-3, “1 If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’ 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

And in Deuteronomy 18:20-22, “20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ 21 And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?’— 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”

God tells us we are not to listen to those, like Joseph Smith, who prophesy falsely. In fact, if you look at Deuteronomy 13:3, God states that false prophets, like Joseph Smith, are a test to see if you actually “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” If you do not listen to a false prophet, then that is evidence that you do love the Lord God; but if you do listen to and follow that false prophet, such as Joseph Smith, then that is proof positive that you do not love the Lord God.

Joseph Smith was a false prophet, and he created a false church. But this should come as no surprise as we are warned time and again by God Himself, in His Holy Word, that false prophets like Smith will come. Jesus said in Matthew 7:15, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” And the Apostle Peter states in 2 Peter 2:1, “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.” And the Apostle John writes under the inspiration of God in 1 John 4:1, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

We know false prophets will arise, and that they have done so since the beginning of the Church founded by Jesus Christ; and we know, according to Deuteronomy 13:3 that their very existence and their false prophecies are a test that determines whether or not we really do love God.

8. That the Bible and Book of Mormon are both divinely revealed scripture.

The Bible has numerous evidences that support its validity. Archaeological evidence, scientific evidence, literary evidence, manuscript evidence, and, supernatural evidence comprised of, among other things, 100% accurately fulfilled prophecy – not one, or two, or even a dozen, but hundreds of 100% accurately fulfilled prophecies. The Bible contains not one true contradiction (contrary to popular belief), and has been preserved, accurately, since the day it was written. There is no question that the Bible is divinely revealed Scripture. The Book of Mormon, on the other hand, has no actual evidence to support its validity. There is, however, ample evidence that it is not divinely revealed. One piece of evidence that demonstrates the Book of Mormon is not divinely revealed is that it contains teachings that are contrary to the Bible. One of these concerns the Book of Mormon view of African Americans and other people of color such as Native American Indians, and Mexicans.

The Bible makes it clear that God is no respecter of persons. He does not look at people and see Black people and White people and Brown people, etc. He sees neither skin color, nor ethnicities, nor cultural differences. He simply sees people. In God's eyes there are only two kinds of people. Those who belong to Him and those who reject Him. The Book of Mormon, on the other hand, says the complete opposite.

The LDS church has long taught the preexistence of the soul. According to Mormon theology, the Mormon god was once a human man. Once he achieved godhood and was permitted to create his own planet, which was earth. He eventually came to a point where he needed to present a plan of salvation for the inhabitants of his planet earth, which he did. The “Council of Gods” approved the plan, and now he needed someone to deliver it to his earth. His son Jesus volunteered as did his son Lucifer. Jesus was chosen and Lucifer became mad and caused a rebellion. Some of the Mormon gods spirit children fought alongside the Mormon Jesus, and others fought alongside Lucifer. Others, however, took a more neutral stand, and simply refused to fight alongside the Mormon Jesus. According to Mormon theology, those who actively fought alongside the Mormon Jesus were rewarded by being placed in white babies when those babies were born. Those who actively fought alongside Lucifer became the demons. Those who actively chose not to fight alongside the Mormon Jesus were punished because of their decision, and their punishment was to be placed into black babies and other dark skinned babies when those babies were born.

The Book of Mormon reflected this teaching, and, in fact, still does. In 1981, however, the LDS church made an attempt to appease those who had been accusing the LDS church of systemic racism against people of color. To achieve this, the LDS church actually changed the wording of the Book of Mormon in, 2 Nephi, chapter 30, verse 6. Originally, in 1830, the verse read (regarding people of color who become Mormons), “...they shall be a white and a delightsome people.” In 1981 the LDS church changed the wording of this verse to, “...they shall be a pure and a delightsome people.” Since the Book of Mormon, and the LDS church does not teach that White people will become a “pure and delightsome people” if the convert to Mormonism, the LDS church still needs to explain how and why people of color are somehow less than “pure and delightsome” prior to converting to Mormonism.

Changing this single verse, however, did not change the LDS teaching regarding people of color. They are still considered to be cursed with a non-white skin; and the Book of Mormon still teaches this. Not

in 2 Nephi 30:6 (which has been changed), but in several other passages. For example:

In speaking of the Lamanites, a Native American tribe who received the cursed spirit children into their bodies as infants:

A. Mormon 5:15 “15 And also that the seed of this people may more fully believe his gospel, which shall go forth unto them from the Gentiles; for **this people shall be scattered, and shall become a dark, a filthy, and a loathsome people**, beyond the description of that which ever hath been amongst us, yea, even that which hath been among the Lamanites, and this because of their unbelief and idolatry.” [emphasis added] [see <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/morm/5?lang=eng>]

B. 1 Nephi 12:23 “And it came to pass that I beheld, after they had dwindled in unbelief **they became a dark, and loathsome, and a filthy people, full of idleness and all manner of abominations.**” [emphasis added] [see <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/1-ne/12.9-10>]

And if one leaves Mormonism, they are cursed with a dark skin, and will change from White skinned people to dark skinned people:

C. 2 Nephi 5:21 “And **he had caused the cursing to come upon them**, yea, even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity. For behold, they had hardened their hearts against him, that they had become like unto a flint; **wherefore, as they were white, and exceedingly 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.**” [emphasis added] [see <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/2-ne/5.16>]

However, if a person of color converts to Mormonism, the curse will be lifted, and their skin will become white, just as Jesus is white:

D. 1 Nephi 13:15 “And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles, and they did prosper and obtain the land for their inheritance; **and I beheld that they were white, and exceedingly fair and beautiful, like unto my people** [the Nephites] before they were slain.” [emphasis added] [see <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/1-ne/13.40>]

E. 3 Nephi 2:14-16 “14 And it came to pass that those Lamanites who had united with the Nephites were numbered among the Nephites; 15 **And their curse was taken from them, and their skin became white** like unto the Nephites; 16 And **their young men and their daughters became exceedingly fair**, and they were numbered among the Nephites, and were called Nephites. And thus ended the thirteenth year.” [emphasis added] [see <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/3-ne/2?lang=eng>]

F. 3 Nephi 19:25, 30 “25 **And it came to pass that Jesus blessed them** as they did pray unto him; and his countenance did smile upon them, and the light of his countenance did shine upon them, **and behold they were as white as the countenance and also the garments of Jesus**; and behold the whiteness thereof did exceed all the whiteness, yea, even there could be nothing upon earth so white as the whiteness thereof. ... 30 And when Jesus had spoken these words he came again unto his disciples; and behold they did pray steadfastly, without ceasing, unto him; and he did smile upon them again; **and behold they were white, even as Jesus.**” [emphasis added] [see

<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bofm/3-ne/19.23>

While the LDS church insists that the word “white” is simply a synonym for “pure”, this excuse flies in the face of what was official LDS teaching, based on these passages, for nearly 150 years, that ALL people of color were cursed, with their skin as evidence of that curse. This, of course, led to a systemic institutional racism against people of color within the LDS church. For instance, Brigham Young, the second prophet/president of the LDS church taught that people of color, specifically those of African descent, were cursed with a dark skin as punishment. He believed that Cain, the son of Adam and Eve who killed his brother Abel, was cursed with a dark skin because of his sin. In 1852, Young clearly expressed his racism when he said, “**Any man having one drop of the seed of Cane in him cannot hold the priesthood.**” Young also regarded racially mixed marriages to be a grave sin, saying the only way one could atone for such a thing was to **have his head cut off and his blood spilled out upon the ground.** Regarding those who leave Mormonism, Brigham Young espoused his version of 2 Nephi 5:21 when he said of those who leave, “But let them apostatize, and they will become gray-haired, wrinkled, **and black, just like the Devil.**” (Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses, vol. 5, p. 332; emphasis added)

Nor was Brigham Young the only LDS leader who taught these things. Joseph Fielding Smith (1876-1972), the Tenth President of the LDS church, said, “There is a reason why one man is born black and with other disadvantages, while another is born white with great advantages. The reason is that we once had an estate before we came here, and were obedient; more or less, to the laws that were given us there. Those who were faithful in all things there [pre-existence] received greater blessings here, and those who were not faithful received less. . . . There were no neutrals in the war in Heaven. All took sides either with Christ or with Satan. Every man had his agency there, and men receive rewards here based upon their actions there, just as they will receive rewards hereafter for deeds done in the body. **The Negro, evidently, is receiving the reward he merits.**” (Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, 1:61, 65-66; emphasis added).

LDS scholar and Apostle (from 1972-1985), Bruce R. McConkie (1915-1985) said, “**Those who were less valiant in pre-existence and who thereby had certain spiritual restrictions imposed on them during mortality are known to us as the negroes.** Such spirits are sent to earth through the lineage of Cain, **the mark put upon him for his rebellion against God, and his murder of Able being a black skin.** . . . Noah's son married Egyptus, a descendant of Cain, thus preserving the negro lineage through the flood. . . . **the negro are not equal with other races where the receipt of certain spiritual blessings are concern.** . . . ” (Mormon Doctrine, 527-28; 1966 orig. ed., changed in the current ed.; emphasis added).

And to give just one more example (though there are many, many more, all documented), LDS Apostle and member of the Quorum of the Twelve from 1944 to 1984, Mark E. Peterson (1900-1984) said, “President Woodruff added, **The Lord said, 'I will not kill Cain, but I will put a mark upon him, and that mark will be seen upon every face of every Negro, upon the face of the earth.** And it is the decree of God that [the] mark should remain upon the seed of Cain, until the seed of Able shall be

redeemed, and Cain shall not receive the Priesthood until the time of that redemption. **Any man having one drop of the blood of Cain in him cannot receive the Priesthood**” (*Race Problems-- As They Affect the Church*, address given by Mark E. Peterson at BYU; emphasis added)

One might expect this type of racism in the pre-Civil Rights Era south, but not in a church that claims to be a Christian church, as it is antithetical to Christianity.

And so it went for nearly 150 years. No man of color was permitted to hold the priesthood, which prevented him from receiving the Temple Covenants, prevented him from administering the sacraments and so on. Understanding that all Mormon men strive to receive the priesthood, else they be looked down upon; and until 1978 people of color, especially men of color, were looked down upon and relegated to a second class standing in the LDS church. All based on racist teachings that are still contained within the Book of Mormon.

When the racist, bigoted and hateful teachings of the Book of Mormon (especially when one considers how they were put into action in the LDS church) are compared with the repeated teaching of the New Testament to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, that Christians are commanded to love others, and that anyone who claims to be a Christian and yet looks down on another as inferior is not actually a Christian; the glaring contradiction between Christianity and Mormonism is painfully obvious. And just as obvious is the fact that while the Bible is divinely revealed, the Book of Mormon is not. Not by a long shot.

9. That God has communicated with and will continue to communicate with humankind.

See number 7 above. As has been shown, God did not and does not continue to communicate with mankind outside of His revealed word, the 66 books of the Bible

10. In the literal gathering of Israel and the restoration of the ten tribes, and that Zion will be built on the American continent when Christ reigns on the earth.

Again, see number 7 above. Joseph Smith prophesied that Jesus would return in 1890/91 (a false prophecy), and he prophesied the temple would be built in Zion, Missouri as well as in Nauvoo, Illinois (two more false prophecies). Like the Jehovah's Witnesses who predicted Jesus' return in 1874, 1914, 1918, 1925, and 1975; and Herbert W. Armstrong's predictions that He would return in 1935, 1943, 1972 & 1975; and Harold Camping's prediction's that He would return on September 6, 1994, May 21, 2011, and October 21, 2011; and the dozens of other false prophets over the centuries that have predicted His return, predicted where the New Jerusalem would be built, as well as numerous other end times prophecies that have all, thus far, failed to come to pass; the LDS church is no different. The Scripture is very clear that no one knows when Jesus will return, and no one knows for certain just exactly how all the different eschatological prophecies will come to pass. But that does not stop the false prophets from making these kind of prophecies, and it has become a common practice used by false prophets to manipulate their followers.

11. In worshipping God according to our own dictates and allowing others to do likewise.

Worshipping God according to your own dictates makes Christianity a subjective religion, with no one

actually wrong and everyone subjectively right. It means everyone who calls themselves “Christian” is going to heaven regardless of their beliefs and teachings. All that is necessary is that they call themselves “Christian,” and worship God according to their own dictates. This includes the Westboro Baptists (who hate homosexuals, the military, and just about everyone else), the “Christian” Identity movement (comprised of racist white nationalists), the Aryan Nations – Church of Jesus Christ, Christian (anti-Semitic, racist, terrorist group), the Anglo-Israelites (who believe that whites from Britain and America are the lost tribes of Israel and God's only chosen people, they also promote the “serpent seed” ideology which states all black people are descended from the offspring of Eve and Satan and are, therefore, cursed), as well as many other pseudo-Christian cults and hate groups. These are the people who are included in the LDS belief that we all get to worship God according to our own dictates. But this is not what God has said. It is what the LDS church says, but God disagrees with them. God's word is very specific regarding how He is to be worshiped, and very specific regarding exactly what a Christian is and is not. Clearly, the LDS church is not, in any way, shape or form, Christian. The LDS church teaches a different God, a different Jesus, a different set of scriptures, and a different gospel. The LDS church does not and cannot offer any manner of true salvation, nor are they able to teach or even understand the God of the Bible (see 1 Corinthians 2:14).

However, if you would like to know about the true gospel, that leads to the true Jesus and the true God, and true salvation, then read this:

The Bible, God's Word to us, says that we are all sinners ([Rom. 3:23](#)). This means that we have all offended God. We have all broken His law. Therefore, we are guilty of having sinned. Because of this, we are separated from God ([Isaiah 59:2](#)), are dead in our sins ([Rom. 6:23](#), [Eph. 2:3](#)), cannot please God ([Rom. 3:10-11](#)), and will suffer eternal damnation ([2 Thess.1:9](#)) as the just penalty for violating God's laws. The only way to escape this judgment is by believing in Jesus Christ — by believing in His substitutionary death on the cross (He took your place, and paid your penalty for your sins) and trusting in what Jesus did for you on the cross ([John 14:6](#), [Acts 4:12](#), [Rom. 3:25](#) ; [1 Pet. 2:24](#); [1 John 2:2](#); [1 John 4:10](#)); by sincerely believing in His death, burial and physical resurrection ([1Cor. 15:3-8](#)); repenting of your sins ([Luke 5:32](#)); and by living in loving obedience to Him ([John 14:15,21,23](#); [1 John 5:3](#)).

When one compares the LDS church with God's revealed word – the 66 books of the Bible; as well as with the teachings of the early Church, it is not long before the LDS church is revealed to be a false, pseudo-Christian church, founded by and lead by false prophets and false teachers; and which teaches a false god and a false Jesus, and which teaches a false gospel. The LDS church is not, in any way, shape, or form, a Christian church.