

The Challenge of the Cults

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS (MORMONS)

This study is divided into three sections ...

Section One (pages 1-9) introduces the history of the Mormons, and deals with their teachings on the Trinity

Section Two (pages 9-14) deal with their teachings concerning Scripture

Section Three will deal with their doctrines on the End Times.

SECTION I

The Mormons, - also known as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), - was founded by Joseph Smith (23rd December 1805 – 27th June 1844). Smith was born in Sharon, Vermont (north-east of the US, part of the ‘burned over district’), to where his family had moved during the ‘Second Great Awakening’ [... *The First Great Awakening was the Protestant revival which swept across England and Wales and British America in the 1730s and 1740s ... with men like Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield ... The Second Great Awakening began around 1790 to 1800, and after 1820 rose rapidly among the Baptists and the Methodists, peaking in the 1850s*]. The ‘Second Great Awakening’ was largely influenced by an eschatological (‘end times’) view known as ‘postmillennialism’, which teaches Christ established His Kingdom while He was here on earth, and gave to His disciples the Great Commission to disciple all nations (Matt 28:19). Following His departure, the Holy Spirit came to direct the Church and prepare it for Christ’s return.

Postmillennialists believe Christ will return to earth after the ‘millennium’ (the ‘millennium’ could be either a literal 1,000 years or a figurative ‘long period’ of peace and harmony, a ‘Golden Age’). Through the faithfulness of the Church, the world will come to herald the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ. This view was prevalent in the 1800s when missionaries were enthusiastically travelling to parts of the world never previously touched by the Gospel. Many souls were saved at home and abroad, in such places as in Africa, China, India, and the Far East ... and this led many to believe the non-literal/symbolical 1,000 years was coming to an end, and the return of Christ was fast approaching.

In the enthusiasm, - when the Lord is working, - Satan is working also. The devil does not know when Jesus is coming back, so as far as he was concerned, he had better start working even harder in case Jesus *is about* to come back *soon!* And he concentrated upon the people who needed most to be disrupted, - he began to work among the Christians.

In the midst of this ‘Second Great Awakening’, there began to emerge and thrive such disparate groups as the Millarites, the Adventists, the Seventh-Day Adventists, Christadelphians, and the Jehovah Witnesses. They were all fanatically anticipating Christ’s return and a *restoration* to apostolic times because these groups developed their opinion that the mainstream Church had long-since departed from the true origins of the Christian faith and truth.

This was the religious climate in which young Joseph Smith lived. At the age of fourteen, according to *mormonbeliefs.org* ...

1. He found it futile to resort to the scriptures, because all the sects disagreed in their analysis of scripture. *[DG – Scripture was therefore, not sufficient]*
2. Believing he could receive an answer to prayer, Joseph inquired of God and received a vision of God the Father and Jesus Christ. This dashed his belief in Trinitarian tradition. Christ told him the early creeds of the bishops’ councils were false and that a restoration was coming and Joseph would play an important part in it.
3. God revealed the location of the Book of Mormon record, a second witness of the resurrected Christ, and Joseph began to translate it through revelation. *[DG - Smith claimed the Book of Mormon was translated from the ‘Golden Plates’, which he was led to find on 22nd September 1823 at a hill near his home in Manchester, New York, after the angel ‘Moroni’ directed him to a buried stone box. It wasn’t until, - when he was 21 years old, - in September 1827 the angel Moroni allowed him to retrieve the ‘Golden Plates’ and bring them home. The text on the plates was inscribed in ‘reformed Egyptian’ language, and he – Smith – dictated the text of the Book of Mormon over the next few years. He translated it by using a ‘seer stone’, which he placed in the bottom of a hat and then placed the hat over his face to view the words written within the stone. Smith published the translation in March 1830 as ‘The Book of Mormon: An Account Written by the Hand of Mormon upon Plates Taken from the Plates of Nephi’. After the translation was complete, he returned the plates to the angel Moroni (... and they have not been seen since!)]*
4. Through the resurrected John the Baptist, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery *[DG - one of the Three Witnesses of the Book of Mormon’s Golden Plates]* received the restored Aaronic, or Levitical Priesthood, giving them power to baptize by immersion with full authority from Jesus Christ.
5. Through the resurrected Peter and James, and the translated John the Beloved, Joseph received the Melchizedek, or higher priesthood, giving

authority to confer the Holy Ghost, enjoy the Spirit of Prophecy and perform the miracles that the Apostles performed anciently.

6. Through Elijah, Moses, and Elias, who visited the Kirtland Temple [*DG – the first temple to be built by the LDS in 1836 ... There are two temples in the UK, - London and Preston ... “In the LDS Church, temples are not only a House of the Lord, but are also where members of the church make covenants and perform sacred ordinances such as baptism for the dead, washing and anointing (or "initiatory" ordinances), the endowment, and eternal marriage sealings.”*] the Sunday after it was dedicated to the Lord’s service, Joseph received the keys to seal in heaven what was sealed on earth, and for the gathering of Israel and for administering the Church of Christ [*DG – Mt. 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven*].
7. The ancient biblical rite of baptism for the dead was revealed from heaven, as were the doctrines and keys for temple worship and eternal marriage.
8. The Church was organized as was Christ’s primitive church, with a prophet, apostles, seventies, etc. [*DG – the most important of which is the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (also known as the Quorum of the Twelve, the Council of the Twelve Apostles, or simply the Twelve) is one of the governing bodies in the church hierarchy. Members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are apostles, with the calling to be prophets, seers, revelators, evangelical ambassadors, and special witness of Jesus Christ.*]
9. The Church has a true lay clergy, as did Christ’s primitive church.
10. Priesthood, defined as the power and authority to act in God’s name, abides with all worthy male members, with women sharing in its power and blessings.
11. Revelation flows freely; scripture is open; the heavens are open.
12. The Kingdom of Heaven is established on earth in preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. [*DG – ‘postmillennial’*]

So, what do they believe concerning God? At a first reading, their view seems fairly innocuous. However, ‘lifting the covers’, - even slightly, - shows they teach the Godhead refers to a council of three distinct divine persons consisting of God the Father, Jesus (his firstborn Son), and the Holy Ghost. They believe the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are three separate and distinct beings, and that the Father and Jesus have perfected, glorified, physical bodies, while the Holy Spirit is a spirit without a physical body (Encyclopedia of Mormonism, (<http://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Godhead>)).

Mormonism, therefore, is ‘polytheistic’, - they believe in many gods. Whereas we believe God is the Three in One ... they believe God is three distinct and separate persons, - three gods. In the “King Follett Sermon” (7th April, 1844, a general conference consisting of 20,000+ Mormons), Joseph Smith preached, “Here, then, is eternal life—to know the only wise and true God [DG – *quotation from Jn. 17:3*]; and you have got to learn how to be gods yourselves, and to be kings and priests to God, the same as all gods have done before you, namely, by going from one small degree to another, and from a small capacity to a great one ... Thus the head-God brought forth the Gods in the grand council. ... The head God called together the Gods and sat in grand council to bring forth the world. ... In the beginning, the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods; and they came together and concocted [prepared] a plan to create the world and people it.”

And not only does Mormonism teach polytheism, they also use the term ‘eternal progression’ to describe the process of men becoming gods, “To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation, until you arrive at the station of a god, and ascend the throne of eternal power” (‘King Follett Discourse’). ... Does that not bear a likeness to the lies and deception of the serpent in the Garden? ... [Gen. 3:4](#) And the serpent said unto the woman ... [5](#) God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods.

When we look further into what they believe about God we discover Mormonism teaches God is a resurrected, ‘exalted’ human being, “God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! That is the great secret. If the veil were rent today, and the great God who holds this world in its orbit, and who upholds all worlds and all things by His power, was to make himself visible—I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form—like yourselves in all the person, image, and very form as a man ... yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an [DG – ‘an’] earth, the same as Jesus Christ Himself did” (‘King Follett Discourse’) ... “This is the way our Heavenly Father became God” (‘Gospel Principles’ 305). In other words, God was not always God.

What a contrast to the God John saw in the fourth chapter of the Book of Revelation! ... And He is the Creator, - He is not part of His creation ... and He has always eternally been the same, [Ps. 90:2](#) Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God ... [93:2](#) Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting ... [102:24](#)

I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days: thy years are throughout all generations ... **Is. 43:10** before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me ...¹³ Yea, before the day was I am he ...

In complete contrast, though, Mormonism rejects what the Bible says! They teach God was previously a non-divine being who was able to become God, *and in the same way*, it is possible for us mortals to also become Gods someday. ... In the same ‘King Follett Discourse’, he preached how this exalted man was named Elohim, who previously was not God, but a mortal man from another planet who, through obedience to the precepts of his God, attained exultation to godhood through ‘eternal progression’.

This ‘eternal progression’ began in eternity, for they teach we have always been, “eternal progression refers to everything that people learn and experience by their choices as they progress from premortal life, to mortality, to post-mortal spirit life, and to a resurrected state in the presence of God.” (The Encyclopedia of Mormonism). Brigham Young added, “Marriage and family life ... continue ... in the Celestial Kingdom, allowing ‘eternal increase’ through having spirit children (Young, JD 10:5) [DG – that is not what Jesus said, **Mt. 22:30** **For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage**]. ... Brigham Young, a polygamist, married 55 wives. (Polygamy is illegal in the US, but ‘sister wives’ has replaced it.)

Sometime during eternity this ‘man who had become god’ begat the spirit body of his first son. Together, with his heavenly wife (known as ‘heavenly Mother’, [http://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Mother in Heaven](http://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Mother_in_Heaven)), the Father raised his son Jesus in the council of the gods. Before the creation of this world, Jesus presented to his father a plan of salvation which would enable the billions of future human beings the opportunity of passing through mortality and returning to heaven, there to become gods of their own worlds. At the same time, another son of the Heavenly Father and brother of Christ offered a competing plan, - his name was Lucifer, - Lucifer was a spirit son of Heavenly Father and led the rebellion in the premortal life (<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/gs/lucifer>). ... When Christ’s plan was chosen, the rejected Lucifer led a rebellion of one-third of the population of the heavens and was cast out (*Gospel Principles, ch. 3*, <https://www.lds.org/manual/gospel-principles?lang=eng&r=1>). In time, Mormons believe, the Father left his heavenly wife, became a man, and came to earth in a human body [DG - therefore, God is not a Spirit, as *Jn. 4:24* states] and he, - the Father, not the Holy Spirit, - had a child by Mary (contrary to Lk. 1:34,35 ... also, it makes the Father to be an adulterer, ... or perhaps a heavenly

example of polygamy). This leaves Jesus as inferior to the Father, and did not exist from eternity. Jesus, therefore, joins a long line of gods who have preceded him, thus denying Jn. 1:1, [In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.](#)

In the Mormon's Sunday School material, the teachers are instructed,

Help the children understand the following ideas:

1. In the premortal life we were spirit children and lived with our heavenly parents ([Hebrews 12:9](#)).
2. Jesus was the firstborn spirit child of Heavenly Father ([D&C 93:21](#)) and is the older brother of our spirits.
3. Lucifer, who became Satan, was also a spirit child of Heavenly Father.
4. Heavenly Father called a meeting for all his spirit children. At this meeting he explained his plan for us to become like him. He told us that he wanted us to go to earth to get a physical body. He explained that on earth we would be tested to see if we would keep his commandments.
5. At this meeting Heavenly Father also explained that on earth we would all sin and we would all die. Heavenly Father needed someone to be the Savior, to suffer for our sins, and to die for us so that we could be resurrected.
6. Lucifer wanted Heavenly Father to change his plan. Lucifer said he would save everyone by taking away their freedom to choose, which would have made it impossible for us to make mistakes or be righteous. Lucifer also wanted all the honor ([Moses 4:1](#)).
7. Because he loved us ([John 15:13](#)), Jesus volunteered to be our Savior. He wanted to follow Heavenly Father's plan and give the glory to Heavenly Father ([Moses 4:2](#)).
8. Heavenly Father chose Jesus to be our Savior. Lucifer was angry and rebelled against Heavenly Father ([Revelation 12:7-9](#); [Moses 4:3-4](#)).
9. Heavenly Father's spirit children had to decide whether to follow Jesus or Lucifer.
10. One-third of Heavenly Father's spirit children chose to follow Lucifer, and they were all cast out of heaven. Lucifer became Satan, and the spirits who followed him became evil spirits, who try to get us to do wrong things. These spirits who followed Satan did not receive physical bodies.
11. All the spirits who chose Heavenly Father's plan and followed Jesus in the premortal life have been or will be born on earth with physical bodies of flesh and blood.
12. All the children in this classroom chose to follow Heavenly Father's plan and have been born on earth with mortal bodies.

So, are Mormons Christian? Absolutely, they say, ... “Of course we are! No one can honestly deny that. We may be somewhat different from the traditional pattern of Christianity. But no one believes more literally in the redemption wrought by the Lord Jesus Christ. No one believes more fundamentally that He was the Son of God, that He died for the sins of mankind, that He rose from the grave, and that He is the living resurrected Son of the living Father” (President Gordon B. Hinckley, 1910-2008, President from 1965-2008 <https://www.lds.org/ensign/1998/02/excerpts-from-recent-addresses-of-president-gordon-b-hinckley?lang=eng>).

The Lord Jesus warns, **Lk. 21:8** Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. ... And also Paul, **Eph. 4:14** That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

They say the Father was once a man who became elevated and glorified, the Son is a lesser God and brother of Lucifer/Satan ... and the Holy Spirit, - their third separate God, - has not received a mortal body, even though other men have passed through mortality to reach godhood. In other words, the Holy Spirit has not progressed! Also, - like the Father and the Son, - the Holy Spirit is not omnipresent for He can only be in one place at one time. In fact, Joseph Smith taught the Holy Ghost was merely the ‘mind’ of the Father and the Son (Lectures on Faith, 48-49). All-in-all, God is neither omniscient, omnipresent, nor omnipotent ... but a man who has evolved through the various stations to become God ... something we all have the potential to do.

Joseph Smith, in the ‘King Follett Discourse’ said, “To inherit the same power, the same glory and the same exaltation, until you arrive at the station of a god, and ascend the throne of eternal power, the same as those who have gone before. What did Jesus do? Why, I do the things I saw my Father do when worlds came rolling into existence. My Father worked out His kingdom with fear and trembling, and I must do the same; and when I get my kingdom, I shall present it to My Father, so that He may obtain kingdom upon kingdom, and it will exalt Him in glory. He will then take a higher exaltation, and I will take His place, and thereby become exalted myself.” ... It is exactly the same ambition as Satan had in Is. 14, **13** For thou [*Lucifer, the son of the morning*] hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Mormonism has its roots in following the devil’s aspiration, - to **be like the most High**. Their ‘god(s)’ is/are in opposition to the God of the Bible. In their hymnbook (<https://www.lds.org/music/library/hymns?lang=eng&r=1>), they sing many of the great hymns we sing, - for example, “O God, our help in ages past”, “Glorious things of Thee are spoken”, “How great Thou art”, “A Mighty Fortress is our God”, - ... they also have many we don’t sing because they glorify their first ‘prophet’ Joseph Smith, for example, “Joseph Smith’s First Prayer”, “We thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet, “We listen to a Prophet’s Voice”

1. We listen to a prophet’s voice and hear the Savior too.
With love he bids us do the work the Lord would have us do ...
3. Hosanna! Let our praise ascend unto the Savior’s throne;
Rejoice! The prophet has confirmed that by Him we are known.
Attend, ye earth! The prophet speaks; come listen and obey.
He is the man who holds the keys of priesthood pow’r today.

... I remember seeing recordings of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in an evangelical Christian bookshop, and when I suggested it should be removed, it remained ... It was the choir which sang at President Trump’s Presidential investiture ... the choir which President Reagan described as “America’s choir”. ... Not only is their god not our God, but as we shall see, neither is their hope for salvation our hope.

How do you speak with a Mormon who arrives at your door, knowing his ‘god’ is not your God? You show grace. You don’t argue because standing in front of you are lost and severely deceived young men who believe they have the truth to impart to you. And your ultimate goal is not to win arguments, but to win their souls for Christ.

In our next study, we shall consider what they believe is required for salvation, and we shall also make brief mention of their *Book of Mormon*.

The Christian God	The Mormon ‘God’
Personal and Spirit	Personal, but with a body
Creator, and Sustainer of all He has created	Organiser of the world, but subject to its laws and principles
Omnipotent	Limited in power
Omnipresent	Localised in space

Omniscient	Increasing in knowledge
Unchanging and eternal	Changing and developing
Necessary, and the only God	One of many 'Gods'

SECTION II

The Mormons have two sacred texts, - the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Also considered authoritative are *The Pearl of Great Price* and *Doctrines and Covenants* ... which basically are a compilation of revelations and writings and translations originating with Joseph Smith. Generally, though, their two sacred texts, - on equal par, - are the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

The Bible they use is the King James Version. They accept many of the Old Testament prophecies foretelling the coming of Jesus, that He lived a sinless life, suffered and died on a cross, rose bodily from the grave, and ascended into Heaven. Relating to ethical issues, they are relatively conservative, for example, they are pro-life, they view homosexuality as sinful and oppose same-sex 'marriage'. ... They uphold many of the practical values we do.

However, they qualify acceptance of the Bible in their eighth *Article of Faith*, "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly" ... They further qualify that statement by making another, "we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God".

They claim the problem with the Authorised Version, - and every other version, - is that the manuscripts upon which it depends were contaminated by various scribes. Some of its original content was altered in the process of copying and re-copying the Biblical manuscripts. Therefore, it has lost its authenticity.

This prompted Joseph Smith to affirm in the introduction that the Book of Mormon is more reliable than the Bible, for the Book of Mormon is "the most correct of any book on earth" (cf. *Gospel Principles*, 46) ... ^{1st Book of Nephi}
^{13:28} Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God. ²⁹ And after these plain and precious things were taken away it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles; and

after it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles ... because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the book ... which are taken away out of the gospel of the Lamb, an exceedingly great many do stumble, yea, insomuch that Satan hath great power over them.

In the 1830s Joseph Smith addressed these alleged defects and produced his revision of the Authorized Version, known as the *Joseph Smith Translation*. He 'corrected' where he considered it to be in error. For example, in Gen. 50, where our Bible has 26 verses ... in the *Joseph Smith Translation* of the Authorised Version, there are 38 verses. They are similar from v.1 to the beginning of v.24, but then he adds further material ...

^{Gen 50:24} And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die and go unto my fathers; and I go down to my grave with joy. The God of my father Jacob be with you, to deliver you out of affliction in the days of your bondage; for the Lord hath visited me, and I have obtained a promise of the Lord that out of the fruit of my loins the Lord God will raise up a righteous branch out of my loins; and unto thee, whom my father Jacob hath named Israel, a prophet (not the Messiah who is called Shilo); and this prophet shall deliver my people out of Egypt in the days of thy bondage. ^{Gen 50:25} And it shall come to pass that they shall be scattered again; and a branch shall be broken off and shall be carried into a far country; nevertheless, they shall be remembered in the covenants of the Lord when the Messiah cometh; for *he shall be made manifest unto them in the latter days, in the Spirit of power, and shall bring them out of darkness into light--out of hidden darkness and out of captivity unto freedom.* ^{Gen 50:26} *A seer shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a choice seer unto the fruit of my loins.* ^{Gen 50:27} Thus saith the Lord God of my fathers unto me, A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins, and he shall be esteemed highly among the fruit of thy loins; and unto him will I give commandment that he shall do a work for the fruit of thy loins, his brethren. ^{Gen 50:28} And he shall bring them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with thy fathers; and he shall do whatsoever work I shall command him. ^{Gen 50:29} And I will make him great in mine eyes, for he shall do my work; and he shall be great like unto him whom I have said I would raise up unto you, to deliver my people, O house of Israel, out of the land of Egypt; for a seer will I raise up to deliver my people out of the land of Egypt; and he shall be called Moses. And by this name he shall know that he is of thy house; for he shall be nursed by the king's daughter and shall be called her son. ^{Gen 50:30} ***And again, a seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins, and unto him will I give power to bring forth my word unto the seed of thy loins--and not to the bringing forth of my word only, saith the Lord, but to the convincing them of my word, which shall have already gone forth among them in the last days;*** ^{Gen 50:31} Wherefore, the fruit of thy loins shall write, and the fruit of the loins of Judah shall write; and that which shall be written by the fruit of thy loins and also that which shall be written by the fruit of the loins of Judah shall grow together unto the confounding of false doctrines, and laying

down of contentions, and establishing peace among the fruit of thy loins, ***and bringing them to a knowledge of their fathers in the latter days***, and also to the knowledge of my covenants, saith the Lord. ^{Gen 50:32} And out of weakness shall he be made strong in that day when ***my work shall go forth among all my people, which shall restore them who are of the house of Israel in the last days.*** ^{Gen 50:33} ***And that seer will I bless, and they that seek to destroy him shall be confounded; for this promise I give unto you; for I will remember you from generation to generation; and his name shall be called Joseph, and it shall be after the name of his father; and he shall be like unto you; for the thing which the Lord shall bring forth by his hand shall bring my people unto salvation.*** ^{Gen 50:34} And the Lord sware unto Joseph that he would preserve his seed forever, saying, I will raise up Moses, and a rod shall be in his hand; and he shall gather together my people, and he shall lead them as a flock; and he shall smite the waters of the Red Sea with his rod. ^{Gen 50:35} And he shall have judgment and shall write the word of the Lord. And he shall not speak many words, for I will write unto him my law by the finger of mine own hand. And I will make a spokesman for him, and his name shall be called Aaron. ^{Gen 50:36} And it shall be done unto thee in the last days also, even as I have sworn. Therefore, Joseph said unto his brethren, God will surely visit you and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware unto Abraham, and unto Isaac, and to Jacob. ^{Gen 50:37} And Joseph confirmed many other things unto his brethren and took an oath of the children of Israel, saying unto them, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence. ^{Gen 50:38} So Joseph died when he was a hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and they put him in a coffin in Egypt; and he was kept from burial by the children of Israel, that he might be carried up and laid in the sepulcher with his father. And thus they remembered the oath which they sware unto him.

Another example of this Scriptural deviation is in Jn. 1, ***1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*** Smith changed this to, “In the beginning was the gospel preached through the Son. And the gospel was the word [DG – note the small ‘w’], and the word was with the Son, and the Son was with God, and the Son was of God”.

Footnotes at the bottom of each page make references to the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, the Pearl of Great Price, and topical index and dictionary suited to the Mormon teachings.

Why do they use the King James’ Version? They use it because “[w]hile other Bible versions may be easier to read than the King James Version, in doctrinal matters latter-day revelation supports the King James Version in preference to other English translations”. . . . Note the term, “latter-day”. . . .For further analyses, see *Mormonism and the Bible* (<http://mit.irr.org/category/mormonism-and-bible>).

The Book of Mormon has been produced and distributed over 150 million times ... However, it has undergone literally thousands of textual changes since its introduction in 1830. It has been added to and deleted, tampered with and adjusted [see <http://mit.irr.org/changes-latter-day-scripture>]. ... Reputed to have been engraved on 'golden plates', and written in the 'reformed Egyptian' language (... there is no such language), its pivotal event is the appearance by Jesus Christ in the Americas after the resurrection.

The book is divided into fifteen smaller books, named after the individuals who are alleged to have authored them, - I Nephi, 2 Nephi, Jacob, Enos, Jarom, Omni, Words of Mormon, Mosiah, Alma, Helaman, 3 Nephi, 4 Nephi, Mormon, Ether, Moroni ... and they are further divided into chapters and verses. The Mormons believe these are a historical record of God's dealings with ancient inhabitants of the Americas.

The first six books, - from Nephi to Omni, - tell the story of Lehi and his family and others who God led out of Jerusalem prior to the fall of the city in 586 BC. They travelled across the Arabian Peninsula and were taken by ship to the Americas, landing somewhere in the Panama region. The six books relate how from about 600 BC to 130 BC, they grew and divided into four factions, - the Nephites, the Lamanites, the Jaredites, and the Mulekites ... which, - especially the Nephites and the Lamanites, - frequently fought against each other. They moved northwards from Panama, through America and into Canada.

Following this 'historical' section is the Words of Mormon. Mormon was the leader and prophet-historian who belonged to the Nephites, who had settled in the Americas. His book is basically a short introduction to the books of Mosiah, Alma, Helaman, 3 Nephi, 4 Nephi. ... It is 3rd Nephi chapter 13 which relates the visit of Jesus to the Americas, after his resurrection and ascension.

The greatest portion of the Book of Mormon is called the Book of Mormon. It includes records of wars and victories, which were passed to Mormon's son Moroni, on his death, - the prophet Mormon ('a member of a tribe of indigenous Americans known as the Nephites') wrote the first seven chapters, and Moroni wrote the final two chapters.

Moroni then wrote the Book of Ether [*a prophet*], - an abridgement, - based on a record of the Jaredites. It relates back to about 2500 BC, to a group of families

who were led from the Tower of Babel to the Americas, by a man named Jared and his brother.

The Book of Moroni then details the final destruction of the Nephites and their idolatrous society. It includes doctrinal teaching and concludes with Moroni's testimony and a strong sense of the truthfulness of what he has been saying.

Through time though, the decline of the Nephites was followed by the departure from the faith of the Lamanites, the Jaredites, and the Mulekites ... and they became apostate. The faith was only retrieved in the nineteenth century when the angel Moroni appeared to Joseph Smith and he was used to reintroduce the 'true' religion, in accordance with the visions he so 'miraculously' received.

What can be said about this Book of Mormon? ... From the alleged existence of the golden plates through every orifice of its allegations, verifiable truth is severely lacking. Its historicity has no foundation. Its characters have no credibility. ... It defies any serious examination ... and yet over 15 million Mormons set it on a par with the Bible!

With its additions and innuendoes, it mutilates the true Scriptures. Far from it coming from God, its origins are in the one who defies God, - Satan. The Book of Mormon is not simply *error*, but it is a deception of the devil who, - as the Garden of Eden and his attempts with Jesus show, - is the prime perverter of God's Holy Word ... and we are explicitly warned, **Dt. 4:2** *Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you ...* **Rev. 22:18** *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: ¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

Indeed, *all* their Scriptures, from beginning to end, - their King James Version presented in the *Joseph Smith Translation*, as well as the *Book of Mormon*, *The Pearl of Great Price* and the *Doctrines and Covenants*, - are a blatant contradiction of the genuine truth of God's Word. It is an illustration of Paul's prophecy to Timothy concerning *seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils* (I Tim. 4:1). ... They contain images and lessons from the Bible which are recalibrated and are condemning its exponents to a lost eternity. ...

Once again, they need our prayers for the Lord to lead many of them out of this grave error. Scotland has the second highest Mormon membership in the UK, - the highest membership is in England. Last year, in Scotland there were a reputed 13,743 Mormons in 39 congregations ... one of them here in Kirkcaldy.

Pray for them ... If they come knocking on your door, see them as lost souls who need to be saved. The 'Jesus' they speak about is not our Jesus of the Bible. The god they worship is not our God and, therefore, their hope is groundless and false. We have one more study concerning the teachings of the Mormons and it is to do with what they believe concerning the end times and the coming of the Messiah.