



WHAT IS

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**MORMONISM?**

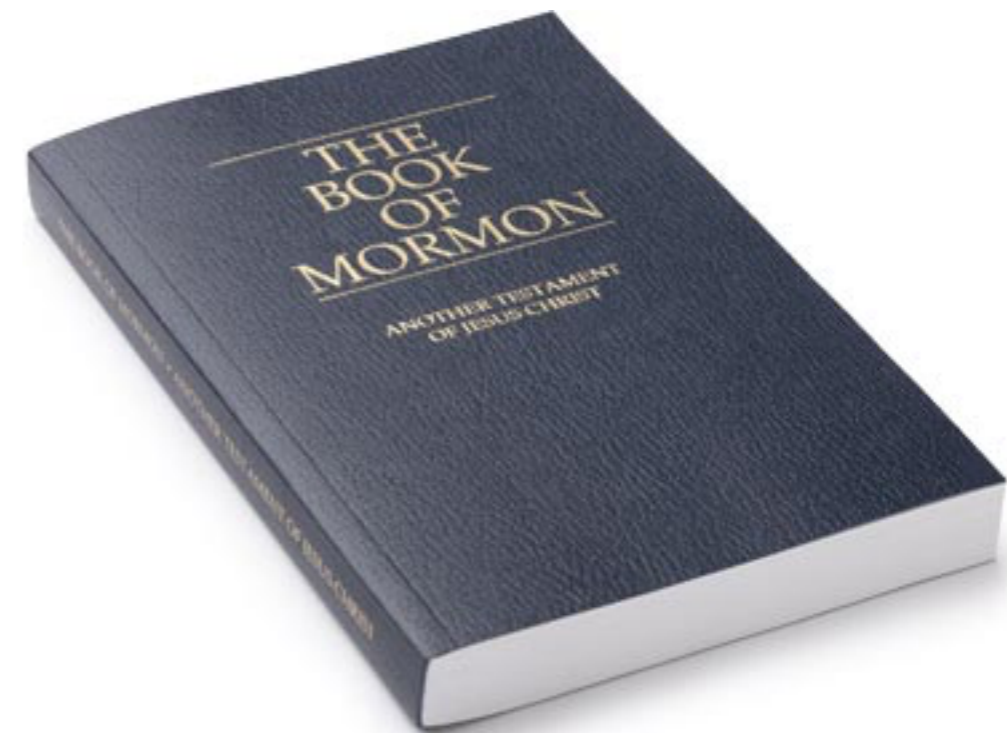
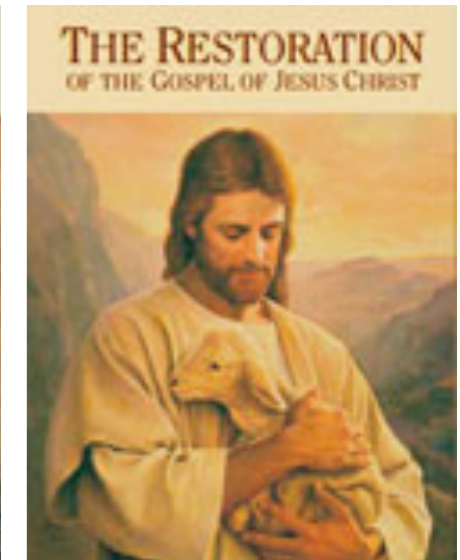
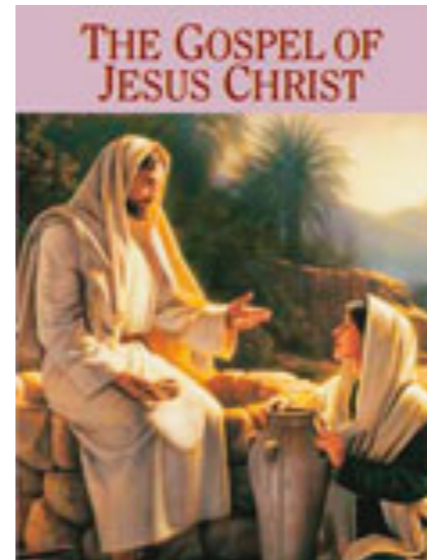
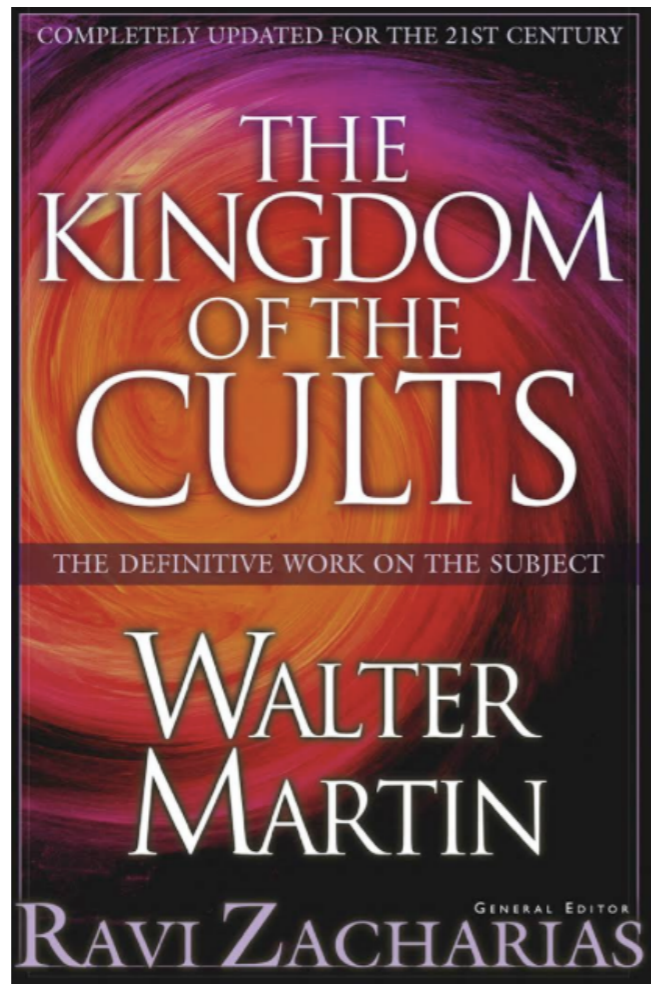
## SOURCES:

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### WHERE TO GO?

All Mormon Scripture (The Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and The Pearl of Great Price) can be found for free at [LDS.org](http://LDS.org).

Journal of Discourses can be found at <http://jod.mrm.org>



# THE BASICS

- ▶ Mormonism is Polytheistic, which means that Mormonism teaches that there are (and will be) many gods. (KoC pg. 235-236)
- ▶ Mormonism (otherwise known as the "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints") was founded on April 6th, 1830. (KoC pg. 197)
- ▶ Mormonism was founded by Joseph Smith Jr., whom the church claims to be a prophet of God. (KoC pg. 197)
- ▶ Mormonism grows at about a rate of 300,000 converts each year. (KoC pg. 194)

TEXTS OF

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**MORMONISM**

## THE BOOK OF MORMON

- ▶ This is one of the books counted as inspired by God in Mormonism, they believe it to be translated from Golden plates by Joseph Smith into Elizabethan English. (KJV english)
- ▶ *The Book of Mormon* purports to be a history of 2 civilizations, which were located on the **American** continent. According to the Mormon version, the first of these great civilizations, named the Jeridites, left the Tower of Babel (about 2,250 B.C., by Mormon reckoning) and emigrated to the Wesern hemisphere. (KoC pg. 207)

## THE BOOK OF MORMON

- ▶ The Jaredites were destroyed as a result of “corruption” and were punished for their apostasy, their civilization undergoing total destruction.
- ▶ The second of these civilizations allegedly left Jerusalem somewhere in the neighborhood of 600 B.C., before the destruction of the city and the Babylonian captivity of Israel. According to Mormon thinking, that group crossed the Pacific Ocean, landing in the west coast of South America.
- ▶ *The Book of Mormon* is supposedly a condensation of the high points of these civilizations. The author of the abridged book was a prophet named Mormon.

# THE BOOK OF MORMON

- ▶ The second group, who came to America about 600 B.C., were righteous Jews, led by Lehi and later his son Nephi. This group eventually met a fate similar to the Jaredites and was divided into two warring camps, the Nephites and the Lamanites (Indians). The Lamanites received a curse because of their evil deeds, and the curse took the form of dark skin.
- ▶ The Mormon record claims that Christ visited the American continent, revealed himself to the Nephites, preached to them the gospel, and instituted both baptism and Communion—or “the sacrament” as LDS call it.

• All points on this slide are from (KoC pg. 206-207)



## THE BOOK OF MORMON

- ▶ The Nephites, unfortunately, proved to be no match for the Lamanites, and they were defeated by them and annihilated in a great battle near the hill Cumorah, approximately A.D. 421.
  - ▶ The traditional view is that this hill is where Joseph Smith dug up the golden plates.
- All points on this slide are from (KoC pg. 208-209)

## THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS

- ▶ “The Doctrine and Covenants is a collection of divine revelations and inspired declarations given for the establishment and regulation of the kingdom of God on the earth in the last days. Although most of the sections are directed to members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the messages, warnings, and exhortations are for the benefit of all mankind and contain an invitation to all people everywhere to hear the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ, speaking to them for their temporal well-being and their everlasting salvation.” (<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/introduction?lang=eng>)

# THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS

- ▶ “Most of the revelations in this compilation were received through Joseph Smith Jr., the first prophet and president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Others were issued through some of his successors in the Presidency (see headings to D&C 135, 136, and 138, and Official Declarations 1 and 2).”
- ▶ “Several of the earlier sections involve matters regarding the translation and publication of the Book of Mormon (see sections 3, 5, 10, 17, and 19). Some later sections reflect the work of the Prophet Joseph Smith in making an inspired translation of the Bible, during which many of the great doctrinal sections were received (see, for example, sections 37, 45, 73, 76, 77, 86, 91, and 132, each of which has some direct relationship to the Bible translation).”

● All points on this slide are from: (<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/introduction?lang=eng>)

# DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS

- ▶ “In the revelations, the doctrines of the gospel are set forth with explanations about such fundamental matters as the nature of the Godhead, the origin of man, the reality of Satan, the purpose of mortality, the necessity for obedience, the need for repentance, the workings of the Holy Spirit, the ordinances and performances that pertain to salvation, the destiny of the earth, the future conditions of man after the Resurrection and the Judgment, the eternity of the marriage relationship, and the eternal nature of the family. Likewise, the gradual unfolding of the administrative structure of the Church is shown with the calling of bishops, the First Presidency, the Council of the Twelve, and the Seventy and the establishment of other presiding offices and quorums. Finally, the testimony that is given of Jesus Christ—His divinity, His majesty, His perfection, His love, and His redeeming power—makes this book of great value to the human family and “worth to the Church the riches of the whole Earth” (see heading to D&C 70).” (<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/introduction?lang=eng>)

# DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS

- ▶ “After the revelations had been reviewed and corrected, Church members in Missouri began printing a book titled *A Book of Commandments for the Government of the Church of Christ*, which contained many of the Prophet’s early revelations. This first attempt to publish the revelations ended, however, when a mob destroyed the Saints’ printing office in Jackson County on July 20, 1833.”
- ▶ “Upon hearing of the destruction of the Missouri printing office, Joseph Smith and other Church leaders began preparations to publish the revelations in Kirtland, Ohio. To again correct errors, clarify wording, and recognize developments in Church doctrine and organization, Joseph Smith oversaw the editing of the text of some revelations to prepare them for publication in 1835 as the *Doctrine and Covenants of the Church of the Latter Day Saints*. Joseph Smith authorized another edition of the Doctrine and Covenants, which was published only months after the Prophet’s martyrdom in 1844.”

● All points on this slide are from: (<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/introduction?lang=eng>)

# DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS

- ▶ “Each new edition of the Doctrine and Covenants has corrected past errors and added new information, particularly in the historical portions of the section headings. The present edition further refines dates and place-names and makes other corrections. These changes have been made to bring the material into conformity with the most accurate historical information. Other special features of this latest edition include revised maps showing the major geographical locations in which the revelations were received, plus improved photographs of Church historical sites, cross-references, section headings, and subject-matter summaries, all of which are designed to help readers to understand and rejoice in the message of the Lord as given in the Doctrine and Covenants. Information for the section headings has been taken from the *Manuscript History of the Church* and the published *History of the Church* (collectively referred to in the headings as Joseph Smith’s history) and the *Joseph Smith Papers*.” (<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/dc-testament/introduction?lang=eng>)

# PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

- ▶ “The Pearl of Great Price is a selection of choice materials touching many significant aspects of the faith and doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. These items were translated and produced by the Prophet Joseph Smith, and most were published in the Church periodicals of his day.”
- ▶ “The first collection of materials carrying the title Pearl of Great Price was made in 1851 by Elder Franklin D. Richards, then a member of the Council of the Twelve and president of the British Mission. Its purpose was to make more readily accessible some important articles that had had limited circulation in the time of Joseph Smith. As Church membership increased throughout Europe and America, there was a need to make these items available. The Pearl of Great Price received wide use and subsequently became a standard work of the Church by action of the First Presidency and the general conference in Salt Lake City on October 10, 1880.”

• All points on this slide are from (<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/pgp/introduction?lang=eng>)

# PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

- ▶ “Several revisions have been made in the contents as the needs of the Church have required. In 1878 portions of the book of Moses not contained in the first edition were added. In 1902 certain parts of the Pearl of Great Price that duplicated material also published in the Doctrine and Covenants were omitted. Arrangement into chapters and verses, with footnotes, was done in 1902. The first publication in double-column pages, with index, was in 1921. No other changes were made until April 1976, when two items of revelation were added. In 1979 these two items were removed from the Pearl of Great Price and placed in the Doctrine and Covenants, where they now appear as sections 137 and 138. In the present edition some changes have been made to bring the text into conformity with earlier documents.” (<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/pgp/introduction?lang=eng>)



# PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

▶ “Following is a brief introduction to the present contents:

1. Selections from the Book of Moses. An extract from the book of Genesis of Joseph Smith’s translation of the Bible, which he began in June 1830.
2. The Book of Abraham. An inspired translation of the writings of Abraham. Joseph Smith began the translation in 1835 after obtaining some Egyptian papyri. The translation was published serially in the Times and Seasons beginning March 1, 1842, at Nauvoo, Illinois.
3. Joseph Smith–Matthew. An extract from the testimony of Matthew in Joseph Smith’s translation of the Bible (see Doctrine and Covenants 45:60–61 for the divine injunction to begin the translation of the New Testament).
4. Joseph Smith–History. Excerpts from Joseph Smith’s official testimony and history, which he and his scribes prepared in 1838–1839 and which was published serially in the Times and Seasons in Nauvoo, Illinois, beginning on March 15, 1842.
5. The Articles of Faith of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A statement by Joseph Smith published in the Times and Seasons March 1, 1842, in company with a short history of the Church that was popularly known as the Wentworth Letter.

● All points on this slide are from (<https://www.lds.org/scriptures/pgp/introduction?lang=eng>)

# THE BIBLE

- ▶ Mormons believe in only the King James Version of the Holy Bible.
- ▶ Often you will hear when one asks a Mormon if they believe in the Bible "Yes, as far as it is translated accurately." And often (almost every time) they will mean "As long as it is interpreted to harmonize with the *Book of Mormon*"

THE HISTORY OF

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**MORMONISM**

# IT ALL BEGINS WITH A “PROPHET”

- ▶ Joseph Smith Jr., better known to residents as “Joe Smith” of Palmyra, New York was born in Sharon, Vermont on December 23, 1805 as the fourth child to Lucy and Joseph Smith Sr. (KoC pg. 197)
- ▶ Joseph Smith Sr. was a mystic, a man who spent much of his time riffing for imaginary buried treasure. (KoC pg. 197)

# TREASURE DIGGING?

- ▶ “Former Mormon historian Dr. D. Michael Quinn has thoroughly documented the fact that both Joseph Smith Sr. and Joseph Smith Jr. were avid treasure-seekers. In his book entitled *Early Mormonism and the Magic World View* (1987), Quinn writes, “Joseph Smith, the founding prophet and president of the new church organized on 6 April 1830, had unquestionably participated in treasure seeking and seer stone divination and had apparently also used divining rods, talismans, and implements of ritual magic. His father, one of the Eight Witnesses to the divinity of the Book of Mormon and later the church patriarch, had also participated in divining and the quest for treasure.” (*EMMWV, 194*)” (KoC pg. 197)

# THE “PROPHETS CALL”

- ▶ In 1820, Joseph Smith allegedly received a vision in which he seen God the Father and God the Son materialized and they spoke to him as he prayed in a neighboring wood. (KōC pg. 198)
- ▶ We will look next at Joseph’s own testimony of how this happened. The context of the following passage is that Joseph saw all the different denominations of the Christian religion, and could not decide which one was right, he said this caused great “cry” and “excitement” in his mind. He then wrote this...

# JOSEPHS “TESTIMONY”

- ▶ 11. While I was laboring under the extreme difficulties caused by the contests of these parties of religionists, I was one day reading the Epistle of James, first chapter and fifth verse, which reads: *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.* 12. Never did any passage of scripture come with more power to the heart of man than this did at this time to mine. It seemed to enter with great force into every feeling of my heart. I reflected on it again and again, knowing that if any person needed wisdom from God, I did; for how to act I did not know, and unless I could get more wisdom than I then had, I would never know; for the teachers of religion of the different sects understood the same passages of scripture so differently as to destroy all confidence in settling the question by an appeal to the Bible. (Pearl of Great Price, History of Joseph Smith 1:11-12)

# WHY GO TO THE BIBLE TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE??

- ▶ Joseph, says that once he knelt to pray, the two “personages” appeared to him and he asked them which “sect” was the true one, and the answer from “Jesus” was this:
- ▶ 19. I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: “they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.” (Pearl of Great Price, History of Joseph Smith 1:19)



# THE BIRTH OF A CULT, BUT NOT BEFORE...

- ▶ The Mormon church, then claims to be the only true church, who alone represents "true Christianity". (KoC pg. 198)
- ▶ It is interesting to note, that after all that marvelous experience, Joseph went back to treasure digging with his father and brother. They were determined to find treasure using "peep stones", "divining rods" or "just plain digging". (KoC pg. 199)
- ▶ History tells us that Smith never succeeded in his multitudinous attempts at finding treasure, but innumerable craters in the Vermont and New York countryside testify to their apparent zeal without knowledge. (KoC pg. 199)

# DENIAL

- ▶ Smith denies such treasure seeking events:
- ▶ 56. In the year 1823 my father's family met with a great affliction by the death of my eldest brother, Alvin. In the month of October, 1825, I hired with an old gentleman by the name of Josiah Stoal, who lived in Chenango county, State of New York. He had heard something of a silver mine having been opened by the Spaniards in Harmony, Susquehanna county, State of Pennsylvania; and had, previous to my hiring to him, been digging, in order, if possible, to discover the mine. After I went to live with him, he took me, with the rest of his hands, to dig for the silver mine, at which I continued to work for nearly a month, without success in our undertaking, and finally I prevailed with the old gentleman to cease digging after it. Hence arose the very prevalent story of my having been a money-digger. (Pearl of Great Price, History of Joseph Smith 1:56)

# WHAT DOES HISTORY SAY?

- ▶ In *Historical Magazine*, May 1870 Joseph Smith Sr. (his father), in an article later published, clearly stated that the prophet had been a peep stone enthusiast and treasure digger in his youth, and, further, that he had also told fortunes and located lost objects by means of a peep stone and alleged supernatural powers therein. (KoC pg. 199-200)
- ▶ Substantiating this claim, Reverend Dr. John A. Clark, after “exhaustive research” writes “Long before the idea of a Golden bible entered their minds, in their excursions for money digging... Joe used to be usually their guide, putting into a hat a peculiar stone he had, through which he looked to decide where they should begin to dig. (*Gleanings by the Way* by J. A. Clark, [Philadelphia: W. J. and J. K. Simon, **1842**], 225)

# TAKEN TO COURT!

- ▶ The proceedings of a court hearing dated March 20, 1826 –*New York vs. Joseph Smith*–revealed that Joseph Smith “had a certain stone which he had occasionally looked at to determine where hidden treasures in bowels of the earth were... and had looked for Mr. Stoal several times.” The hearing ruled the defendant guilty of money digging.
- ▶ Peep-stone gazing was one of several occult practices deemed illegal in the 1820’s.

● All points on this slide are from (KoC pg. 200)

### WHAT ELSE?

- ▶ The original bill of 1826, charging Smith with “glass looking,” was discovered by Rev. Wesley P. Walters, in 1971, at the Chenango County Jail, Norwich, New York. The trial for the misdemeanor crime cost two dollars and sixty eight cents, which Smith apparently paid. A copy of the original court bill is reproduced in Walter Martin’s *The Maze of Mormonism* (Santa Ana: Vision House 1978, 37). (KoC pg. 200)
- ▶ “Glass looking” apparently is looking into a glass which supposedly has powers to allow one to see things invisible to the naked eye, and apparently is also how Joseph found his peep stone...

# FINALLY...

- ▶ In 1820 Joseph Smith Jr. claimed a heavenly vision that he said singled him out as the Lord's anointed prophet for this dispensation, though it was not until 1823, with the appearance of the angel Moroni at the quaking Smith's bedside that Joe began his relationship to the fabulous "golden plates," or what was to become *The Book of Mormon*" (KoC pg. 200)

# SUPPOSEDLY...

- ▶ According to Smith's account of this extraordinary revelation, which is recorded in *The Pearl of Great Price* (Joseph Smith–History, 1:29-54), the angel Moroni, the glorified son of one Mormon, the man for whom the famous book of the same name is entitled, appeared beside Joseph's bedside and thrice repeated his commission...
- ▶ This confuses things, because in the 1851 edition of the *Pearl of Great Price* the messenger is identified as Nephi, and totally different character found in the *Book of Mormon*. This apparently makes little difference to the faithful Mormons.

# GOLDEN PLATES

- ▶ In 1827, Smith claimed to receive the golden plates which he “translated” the *Book of Mormon* from.
- ▶ They are said to be in “Reformed Egyptian” hieroglyphics, inscribed thereupon by the “Urim and Thummim,” a type of miraculous spectacles, which the angel Moroni had the foresight to provide for the budding seer.

- All points on this slide are from (KoC pg. 201)



# OLIVER ARRIVES

- ▶ During the period when Joseph was translating the plates (1827-1829), one Oliver Crowder, an itinerant schoolteacher, visited Smith at the home of his father-in-law...where he was duly "converted" to the prophets religion and soon after became one of several "scribes" who faithfully wrote down what Joseph said the plates read, in spite of the fact that he and Smith were separated by a curtain during the "translation." (KoC pg. 201)

# SO DOES JOHN THE BAPTIST!

- ▶ Such a spiritual zeal took place during the translation that on May 15, 1829, John the Baptist, in person, was speedily dispatched by Peter, James, and John to the humble state of Pennsylvania with orders to confer the “Aaronic Priesthood” on Joe and Oliver. (KoC pg. 201)
- ▶ The text of this happening is on the next slide for our own reading.

# AS JOE RECORDS IT:

- ▶ 68. We still continued the work of translation, when, in the ensuing month (May, 1829), we on a certain day went into the woods to pray and inquire of the Lord respecting baptism for the remission of sins, that we found mentioned in the translation of the plates. While we were thus employed, praying and calling upon the Lord, a messenger from heaven descended in a cloud of light, and having laid his hands upon us, he ordained us, saying: 69. Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah, I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; and this shall never be taken again from the earth until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness. 70. He said this Aaronic Priesthood had not the power of laying on hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, but that this should be conferred on us hereafter; and he commanded us to go and be baptized, and gave us directions that I should baptize Oliver Cowdery, and that afterwards he should baptize me. 71. Accordingly we went and were baptized. I baptized him first, and afterwards he baptized me—after which I laid my hands upon his head and ordained him to the Aaronic Priesthood, and afterwards he laid his hands on me and ordained me to the same Priesthood—for so we were commanded. 72. The messenger who visited us on this occasion and conferred this Priesthood upon us, said that his name was John, the same that is called John the Baptist in the New Testament, and that he acted under the direction of Peter, James and John, who held the keys of the Priesthood of Melchizedek, which Priesthood, he said, would in due time be conferred on us, and that I should be called the first Elder of the Church, and he (Oliver Cowdery) the second. It was on the fifteenth day of May, 1829, that we were ordained under the hand of this messenger, and baptized. 73. Immediately on our coming up out of the water after we had been baptized, we experienced great and glorious blessings from our Heavenly Father. No sooner had I baptized Oliver Cowdery, than the Holy Ghost fell upon him, and he stood up and prophesied many things which should shortly come to pass. And again, so soon as I had been baptized by him, I also had the spirit of prophecy, when, standing up, I prophesied concerning the rise of this Church, and many other things connected with the Church, and this generation of the children of men. We were filled with the Holy Ghost, and rejoiced in the God of our salvation. (Pearl of Great Price, History of Joseph Smith 1:68-73)

## DEPICTION BY THE MORMONS



# FINALLY DONE...

- ▶ Joseph finished “translating” the *Book of Mormon* having it published and copyrighted in the year 1830.
- ▶ On April 6 of the same year, the prophet, in company with his brothers Hyrum and Samuel, Oliver Crowder, and David and Peter Whitmer Jr., officially founded a “new religious society” entitled “The Church of Christ” (later to be named the Church of Latter-day Saints [1834], and finally the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1838).

● All points on this slide are from (KoC pg. 201-202)

# CONVERTS START TO ARRIVE...

- ▶ In September of 1830, Parley P. Pratt (preacher) was converted.
- ▶ In November 1830, Sidney Rigdon (Cambellite preacher from Ohio) converted more than 100 of his own congregation.
- ▶ Mormonism had begun to take root outside of New York State and Pennsylvania.

● All points on this slide are from (KoC pg. 202)

# CONVERTS MULTIPLY

- ▶ After a conference meeting in Fayette, on April 6, 1830, the nucleus of the Mormon church moved to Kirkland, Ohio, where in a period of six years they increase to over 16000 souls.
- ▶ In Kirkland, the First Stake of Zion was established and a quorum of twelve apostles was chosen, presided over by a First Presidency of three, supervised by the president Joseph Smith, the Seer.
- ▶ It seemed the reason for the move was the unpopularity Smith received from those who knew him best. Of course, Joseph received a personal revelation from God, that he needed too...

# REVELATIONS, REVELATIONS

- ▶ Between years 1831-1844 the “prophet” received no less than 135 direct revelations from god.
- ▶ These revelations helped build Kirkland, and, later, moved Mormonism into Nauvoo, Illinois.
- ▶ Smith’s famous practice of polygamy began in Kirkland and confirmed by “divine revelation”.

● All points on this slide are from (KoC pg. 203)



# NAY-SAYERS

- ▶ Some try to deny Smith's polygamy, but we only need to go to the New York Public Library for volumes of primary information to the contrary.
- ▶ Gradually, of course, polygamy filtered down through the Mormon Church, so that it was necessary for the United States government to threaten complete dissolution as well as to confiscate all Mormon property in order to stamp out the accepted practice.

● All points on this slide are from (KoC pg. 203)

# THE LAW'S THE LAW FRIENDS

- ▶ Heber J. Grant, Mormonism's 7th prophet was fined \$100 after pleading guilty to unlawful cohabitation in September 1899.
- ▶ Joseph F. Smith was found guilty of the same and fined \$300 in 1906. Following his plea, Smith stated "When I accepted the manifesto issued by President Wilford Woodruff, I did not understand that I would be expected to abandon and discard my wives." (*Deseret Evening News*, November 28, 1906)
- ▶ In 1890 President Wilford Woodruff officially abolished polygamy as a practice of the Mormon Church.

● All points on this slide are from (KoC pg. 203)

# YE SHALL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUIT

- ▶ Pomeroy Tucker, in *The Origin, Rise, and Progress of Mormonism* (New York 1861) collected a number of duly sworn neighbors of the Smith family and by acquaintances of Joseph Smith Jr. particularly. Joseph was known for “his habits of exaggeration and untruthfulness...by reason of his extravagances of statement, his word was received with the least confidence by those who knew him best. He could utter the most palpable exaggeration or marvelous absurdity with the utmost apparent gravity.” (16) All points on this slide are from (KoC pg. 203)

# YE SHALL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUIT

- ▶ E. D. Howe, a contemporary to Joseph Smith Jr. who did tremendous research during Joseph's lifetime. The following statement was signed by 62 residents of Palmyra, New York:
- ▶ We, the undersigned, have been acquainted with the Smith family for a number of years while they resided near this place, and we have no hesitation in saying that we consider them destitute of that moral character which ought to entitle them to the confidence of any community. They were particularly famous for visionary projects, spent much of their time in diggings for money, which they pretended was hid in the earth; and to this day, large excavations may be seen in the earth, not far from their residence, where they used to spend their time in rifling for hidden treasures. Joseph Smith Sr., and his son Joseph, were in particular considered entirely destitute of *moral character and addicted to vicious habits.* (*Mormonism Unveiled* [Painsville, Ohio, 1834] 261)

# UNFAIR?

- ▶ Some persons reading this may feel that it is unfair to quote only one side of the story; what bayou those who are favorable to the Mormons, they will ask. In answer to this, the amazing fact is that *there exist no contemporary pro-Mormon statements from reliable and informed sources who knew the Smith family and Joseph intimately.*  
(KoC pg. 204)

# CRITICISM AROSE

- ▶ A general distrust of the prophet began as the practice of polygamy began to be known in Nauvoo, Illinois. John C. Bennet boldly exposed the practice.
- ▶ When the prophet (or general as he liked to be called in this phase) could tolerate no more criticism, he ordered the destruction of its most threatening mouthpiece, and anti-mormon publication entitled *The Nauvoo Expositor*, the State of Illinois intervened, however.

● All points on this slide are from (KoC pg. 204-205)

# THE DEATH OF THE “PROPHET”

- ▶ Joseph, and his brother Hyrum, were placed in a jail in Carthage, Illinois to await trial for their part in the wrecking of the *Expositor*. However, on June 27, 1844 a mob murdered Smith and his brother, Hyrum, thus forcing upon the vigorously unwilling prophet's head the unwanted crown of early martyrdom, insuring his perpetual enshrinement in Mormon history as a “true seer”. (KoC pg. 205)

# BRIGHAM YOUNG

- ▶ After Smith's death, the Mormons accepted the leadership of Brigham Young, when he was 43 years old.
  - ▶ In 1846, Brigham Young announced that the Saints would abandon Nauvoo. In 1847, after a brutal trek through the wilderness of the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, Young brought the first band of Mormons to the valley of the Great Salt Lake and is credited with the exclamation: "This is the place!" The destiny of the Saints was sealed- they were in what was to become the state of Utah.
- All points on this slide are from (KoC pg. 205)



# BRIGHAM YOUNG

- ▶ For thirty years Brigham Young ruled the Mormon church, and as is still the case, the divinely appointed prophet mantle of the first prophet.
- ▶ So is each succeeding president of the Mormon church claims the authority of the first prophet—an infallible prophetic succession.
- All points on this slide are from (KoC pg. 205)

# BRIGHAM YOUNG

- ▶ Young had courage, but he was given to fits of rage now and then, and this has been “forgotten” by Mormon historians.
- ▶ One account was his determination to control Utah and his order that he gave to those involved in the massacre of around 120 non-Mormon immigrants to remain quiet about what has now become known as the infamous “Mountain Meadows Massacre”.
- ▶ In September 1857, John D. Lee and a group of LDS cohorts devised a plan to mercilessly annihilate a wagon train of virtually helpless immigrants. 20 years later he was executed by the U.S. government for this action.

- All points on this slide are from (KoC pg. 205-206)

# DO MORMONS KNOW THIS?

- ▶ Let the answer be an assured **NO!**
- ▶ Most mormons have no clue as to the history or lack (most of the time contrary) evidence that concerns their beliefs.
- ▶ Most mormons have not ventured outside the teaching of their own religion, and sadly to say, Christians can't boast of this achievement themselves.
- ▶ That's why we are here now!