

DECEPTION UNVEILED

A Four Week Study on Counterfeit Christianity

Week Three:
MORMONISM

“Basic” Doctrines of Mormonism

SUPREME BEING: God the Father (Elohim) was once a man, but “progressed” to godhood. He has a physical body, as does his wife (Heavenly Mother). No Trinity. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are three separate gods. Worthy men may one day become gods themselves.

KEY FIGURE IN HISTORY: Joseph Smith, Jr. (1805-1844), founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in 1830 in New York, Headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah.

TEACHING ON CHRIST: Jesus is a separate god from the Father. He was created as a spirit child by the Father and Mother in heaven and is the “elder brother” of all men and spirit beings. His body was created through sexual union between Elohim and Mary. Jesus was married. His death on the cross does not provide forgiveness of sin, but does allow everyone resurrection.

HOLY SPIRIT: The “holy spirit” is different from the “holy ghost.” the “holy spirit is not God, but is an influence or electricity-like emanation from God (or “light of Christ”).

HOLY WRITINGS: The *Book of Mormon: Doctrine and Covenants; Pearl of Great Price*; the Bible (King James Version only or Smith’s “Inspired Version”); authoritative teachings of Mormon prophets and LDS “general authorities.”

DOCTRINE OF SALVATION: Resurrection by grace, but saved (exalted to godhood) by works, including faithfulness to church leaders, Mormon baptism, tithing, ordination, marriage, and secret temple rituals. No eternal life without Mormon membership.

LIFE AFTER DEATH: Eventually nearly everyone goes to one of three separate heavenly “kingdoms,” with some achieving godhood. Apostates and murderers go to “outer darkness.”

OTHER BELIEFS: No alcohol, tobacco, coffee, or tea. Baptism on behalf of the dead. Two-year missionary commitment encouraged. Door-to-door proselytizing. Secret temple rituals available only to members in good standing. Extensive social network. People of African ancestry were not granted full access to Mormon priesthood and privileges until 1978.

Next Week: Church of Scientology

Joseph Smith Arrest Records

- 1826 – New York Tried for the crime of pretending to find lost treasure.
- 1830 – New York Reportedly performed an exorcism
- 1837 – Kirtland, Ohio Grandison Newell accused Joseph Smith of plotting to murder him.
- 1838 – Kirtland, Ohio After a warrant was issued for Smith's arrest on a charge of banking fraud, he fled for Missouri.
- 1838 – Missouri, November 1, 1838 Joseph Smith and five others were charged with "overt acts of treason," and transferred to the jail at Liberty, Missouri to await trial.
 - o Smith and his companions tried to escape at least twice during their four-month imprisonment. On April 6, 1839, on their way to a different jail after their grand jury hearing, they succeeded in escaping by bribing the sheriff. They fled to Illinois.
- 1844 – Carthage, Illinois Arrested for ordering the destruction of the Nauvoo Expositor printing press and the burning of building in which it was housed (*after an article was written exposing the truth behind Joseph Smith's practice of polygamy and polyandry*).
- 1844 - Joseph Smith died at the Carthage Jail in Carthage on June 27, 1844, after being shot by a mob while he was in custody awaiting trial for charges related to the destruction of the Nauvoo Expositor newspaper.
 - o An armed mob stormed the jail, killing his brother Hyrum almost immediately.
 - o Joseph attempted to escape through a window but was shot, fell, and was shot again by the mob, an event known as his "martyrdom."

HOW TO EVANGELIZE TO A JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

PRAY! Your Biggest and Most effective tool

- Remember Ephesians 6:12

"Our battle is not against flesh and blood....but against Spiritual Forces"

- Remember 2 Corinthians 4:4

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

SCRIPTURE

- Isaiah 64:6

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

- Romans 3:23-24:

²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

ENCOURAGE THEM

Most Mormons are stressed over their failure at "holiness."

- Mormon Doctrine stresses service and sacrifice to the Mormon Church for their Salvation.
- Salvation is not perceived as a "free gift" but must be earned.
- The question in every Mormon's mind is, "Am I worthy enough?"