

“The Birth Of Mormonism”

Lesson #4

Introduction

What's In A Name?

- The Official Name Of The Church **The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints**
- “The” - The **Unique Position** Of The **Restored** Church
- “Church Of Jesus Christ” - Declares That This Is His **Restored** Church Through **Joseph Smith**
- “Latter-Day” - The **Same Church** As **The Church** Jesus Established In His Mortal Ministry But **Restored** In The Latter Days
- “Saints” - Those Who Seek To Make Their Lives **Holy By Covenanting** By To Follow Christ

The Birth Of Mormonism

1. **Joseph Smith Jr.** (1805-1844)
 - Born **December 23, 1805** In Sharon, Vermont
 - Father **Joseph Smith Sr.**
 - Mother **Lucy Mack Smith**
 - Grand-Father **Asael Smith** (Father's Side)
 - Grand-Father **Solomon Mack** (Mother's Side)
2. **The Second Great Awakening** (1790-1840's)
 - A Period Of Widespread Christian Revival In America Marked By Revival **Preaching**, Camp **Meetings**, Rapid **Growth**, Personal **Conversions**, Competition Amongst **Denominations**.
 - The Religious Environment That The Smith Family Lived In Was An Area Of Western & Central New York Called **“The Burned-Over District”**

3. **Folk Religion And Culture**

- The Practice Of Blending Formal Religious Beliefs With **Popular Traditions**, **Superstitions**, **Magic** And **Supernatural Beliefs**.

4. **First Vision** (1820)

- Joseph Smith Jr. (14) Claimed That In 1820, **Heavenly Father** And **Jesus Christ** Appeared To Him And Told Him **Not To Join** Any Existing Church. (Joseph Smith-History 1:5-20)
- Existing Churches Were Wrong, Their Creeds Were An “**Abomination**” And Their Professors “**Corrupt**”

5. **The Great Apostasy**

- **Restoration** - The LDS Belief That Heavenly Father Reestablished Christ’s Original **Church**, **Gospel**, **Revelation**, And **Priesthood Authority** Through Joseph Smith After Centuries Of Apostasy.
- **The Great Apostasy**
 - The Apostles **Died**
 - Priesthood Authority Was **Lost**
 - **False Doctrine** Entered Christianity
 - The Original Organization Of Christ’s Church **Disappeared**
 - Christianity Continued Without The **Fullness Of The Gospel** And **Proper Divine Authority**
 - A **Restoration** Became Necessary
- In Fulfillment Of Prophecy, Heavenly Father And His Son Jesus Christ Restored And Reestablished **The Church** And **The Fulness Of The Gospel**
- This Restoration Began In 1820 Through **The Prophet Joseph Smith** And Continues Today Through **Divine Revelation** Given To Modern Prophets.

6. **Moroni** (1823)

Four Appearances Of The Angel Moroni (September 21-22)

1. **First Appearance** “**The Main Message**” (September 21)

- Heavenly Father Has **Chosen You**
- Ancient **Plates** Exist.
- Smith’s Role In **Translating** And **Prophecy**

1. **Second Appearance** “**Coming Judgements**” (September 21)

2. **Third Appearance** “**Warning About Money**” (September 21)

- Smith Is Warned That **Satan** Would Tempt Him To **Obtain The Plates** For The Purpose Of Becoming **Wealthy**
- Smith Is Commanded That The Only Motive For Obtaining The Plates Was To **Glorify** Heavenly Father And **Build** His Kingdom

1. **Fourth Appearance** “**Tell Your Father**” (September 22)

Result - Joseph Smith Goes To **The Hill Where The Plates Are Located**