

created...Consequently **every earth has its redeemer**, and every earth has its tempter; and the people thereof, in their turn and time, receive all that we receive, and pass through all the ordeals that we are passing through” (Journal of Discourses 14:71-72).

Young also taught, “How many Gods there are, I do not know, But there never was a time when there were not Gods and worlds, and when men were not passing through the same ordeals that we are passing through. That course has been from all eternity, and it is and will be so to all eternity” (Journal of Discourses 7:333). If such comments were true the Mormon could be safe in assuming that there are literally millions of saviors on millions of worlds!

The Jesus of Mormonism had to “work out his own salvation”—

Bruce McConkie claimed, “Jesus kept the commandments of his Father and thereby **worked out his own salvation**, and also set an example as to the way and the means whereby all men may be saved” (The Mortal Messiah 4:434).

[It is difficult to understand why a being, who as McConkie has already stated had become a God in the preexistence, would have to work out his own salvation. Such a comment also fails to take into account that only sinners need to be saved in the first place. To say Christ had to do anything towards a “salvation” is blasphemous.]

The Jesus of Mormonism atoned for man’s sins in Gethsemane—

President Ezra Taft Benson stated, “It was **in Gethsemane** that Jesus took on Himself the sins of the world, **in Gethsemane** that His pain was equivalent to the cumulative burden of all men, **in Gethsemane** that He descended below all things so that all could repent and come to Him” (Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson, p.15).

In his book *The Promised Messiah*, Bruce McConkie wrote, “Forgiveness is available because Christ the Lord sweat great drops of blood **in Gethsemane** as he bore the incalculable weight of the sins of all who ever had or ever would repent” (p. 337).

There is no evidence that the atonement took place any where other than on the cross of Calvary. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 states clearly that Christ **died** for our sins (He did not die in Gethsemane). 1 Peter 2:24 tells us that Christ “bore our own sins in His body on the tree.” The “tree” being a reference to the cross.

The blood of the Mormon Jesus does not cleanse from all sins --

One of the pillars of the Christian faith is that it is believed that there is no sin that Christ’s blood cannot cleanse. First John 1:7 states, “*But if we walk in the light,*

as He is in the Light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth from all sin.” If the Mormons are in fact serving the same Christ, why is this not true of his blood? In the LDS tract titled, *What the Mormons Think of Christ* (1973, p. 22), it reads, “*Christians speak often of the blood of Christ and its cleansing power. Much that is believed and taught on this subject, however, is such utter nonsense and so palpably false that to believe it is to lose one’s salvation. Many go so far, for instance, as to pretend, at least, to believe that if we confess Christ with our lips and avow that we accept Him as our personal Savior, we are thereby saved. His blood, without other act than mere belief, they say, makes us clean.”*

Page 92 of *Mormon Doctrine* reads, “*But under certain circumstances there are serious sins for which the cleansing of Christ does not operate, and the law of God is that men must then have their own blood shed to atone for their sins.”*

A Different Jesus?

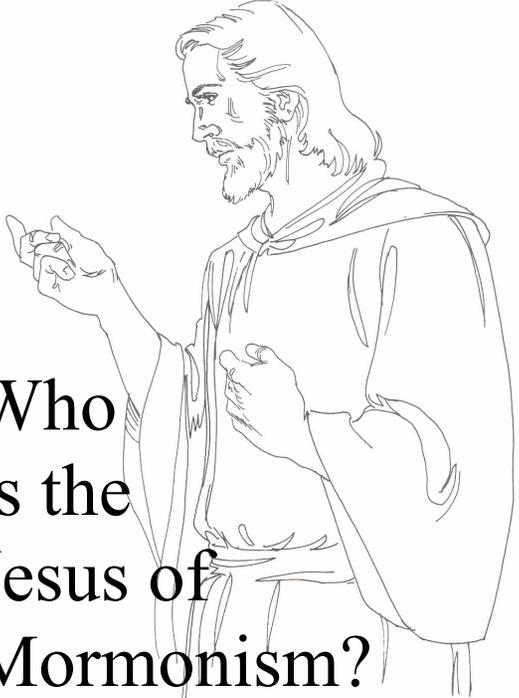
What is truly amazing is that most Mormons do not realize that some of their leaders know full well that the LDS Jesus is not the Jesus who Bible-believing Christians trust in for their salvation. Why else would McConkie also accuse Christians of abasing “*themselves before the mythical throne of a mythical Christ*” if he really thought all professing Christians served the same Jesus? (*Mormon Doctrine*, pg.269).

What a person believes regarding Jesus has serious implications on that individual’s eternal welfare. In light of the above we must ask which Jesus has the power to save? The spirit-brother of Lucifer who had to work out his own salvation? Or the unique Jesus of the Bible who was and is eternally God, the one who can rightfully declare, “*I am the way, the truth and the life?*” Unfortunately, it is possible to believe in the wrong Jesus. Paul made this clear in 2 Corinthians 11:4. The question is, in which one are you trusting? Who do you say He is? (Matthew 16:15.)

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Who is the Jesus of Mormonism?

“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some [say that thou art] John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?”

(Matthew 16:13-15)

The Mormon Church claims it believes in “the living Christ,” but at the same time its leaders have described a Jesus which sounds foreign to that mentioned in the Bible. Is the Jesus of Mormonism the same Jesus worshipped and trusted by millions of Bible-believing Christians?

“As a church we have critics, many of them. They say we do not believe in the traditional Christ of Christianity. There is some substance to what they say.”

**Gordon B. Hinckley
15th Mormon President
Conference Message April 7, 2002**

Christians have adamantly held to the belief that **Jesus is absolute deity** (John 1:1, 20:28; Rom. 9:5; Titus 2:13; Heb. 1:8; 1 John 5:20) and that **He is God manifest in the flesh** (1 Tim. 3:16). As God, **Jesus is worshipped** (Matt 14:33; Luke 24:52) and **He is to be given equal honor as the Father** (John 5:23). As God, **Jesus is self-existent** (John 5:21,26; 14:6) as well as **eternal** (John 1:1). He is the One who **creates life** (John 1:3; Col. 1:16) as well as **the one who sustains life** (John 10:18; Col. 1:17). As God, **Jesus is immutable** (Heb. 13:8). Only **the Jesus of the Bible has the power to forgive sins** (Mark 2:5; Luke 7:48) and as God, **Jesus is omnipotent** (Matt 28:18; Heb. 2:8), **omniscient** (John 16:30; Col. 2:3) and **omnipresent** (Matt 18:20; 28:20). As God, **Jesus was qualified to offer complete atonement for man’s sins** when He died on the cross (Gal. 6:14; Phil. 2:8). As God, **Jesus has power over death** as demonstrated through His physical, bodily resurrection (Luke 24:36-40; John 20:20). As the resurrected Christ, Jesus is also the **judge of mankind** (John 5:22; Acts 17:31; 2 Tim 4:1).

The Mormon Jesus is one of many of God’s “literal” offspring—

“The First Presidency of the Church has written, ‘God the Eternal Father, whom we designate by the exalted name -iittle Elohim, is the literal Parent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and of the spirits of the human race’ (Messages from the First Presidency 5:26).

According to the fourth volume of the *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, *“Jesus Christ is not the Father of the spirits who have taken or yet shall take bodies upon this earth, for He is one of them. He is The Son, as they are sons and daughters of Elohim”* (4:1676).

The Mormon Jesus is Jehovah, while God the Father is Elohim—

Sixth LDS President Joseph F. Smith stated, *“Among the spirit children of Elohim, the first-born was and is Jehovah, or Jesus Christ, to whom all others are juniors”* (*Gospel Doctrine*, p.70).

[It should be noted that the English form “Jehovah” was

developed from four consonants (YHWH) known as the tetragrammaton. Since this was considered to be the personal name of God, the pious Jew felt it was too holy to pronounce and therefore did not include vowels. From these four letters we get the word “Yahweh,” translated “LORD” in many passages of the Bible. On literally hundreds of occasions, the words “Yahweh” and “Elohim” are used together to demonstrate that Jehovah is Elohim. (See Genesis 2:4-22; Deut. 4:1; Judges 5:3; 1 Samuel 2:30.) These words are also used together as “LORD our God,” “LORD my God,” “LORD his God,” “LORD your God,” and “LORD thy God.” Even Joseph Smith, in *his Inspired Version of the Bible* (also known as the *Joseph Smith Translation*) “translated” 1 Kings 8:60 as “The Lord is God” or “Jehovah is Elohim.” (See also Exodus 34:14 in the JST).]

The Mormon Jesus Became a God in the Pre-existence—

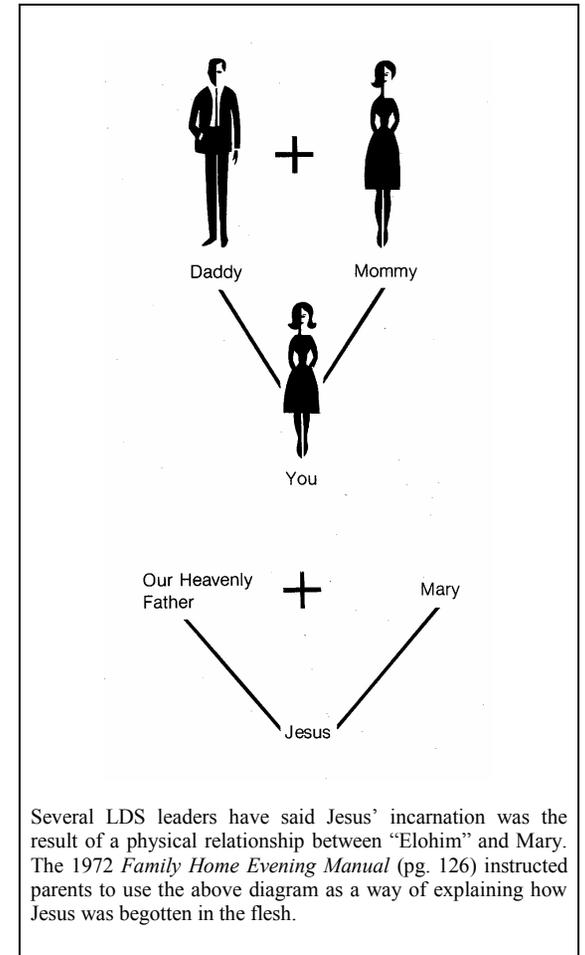
Mormon theology tells us that all mortals lived prior to this life in what is called the “pre-existence.” Mormon Apostle Bruce McConkie stated that it was in the pre-existence that Jesus attained the status of a God. Wrote McConkie, *“He is the Firstborn of the Father. By obedience and devotion to the truth he attained that pinnacle of intelligence which ranked him as a God, as the Lord Omnipotent, while yet in his pre-existent state”* (*Mormon Doctrine*, 1966, p. 129).

The Mormon Jesus is the spirit-brother of Lucifer—

Twelfth LDS President Spencer W. Kimball wrote, *“Long before you were born a program was developed by your creators...The principal personalities in this great drama were a Father Elohim, perfect in wisdom, judgment, and person, and two sons, Lucifer and Jehovah.”* (*Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, pp. 32-33). Ironically, the same passages of Scripture which expound on Christ’s eternal Godhood also shows that Lucifer could not be the brother of Christ. John 1:1-3 tells us that **all** things (including Lucifer) were made by the Christ who was in the beginning, God. Colossians 1:16 tells us that **all** things, including things visible and invisible, principalities or powers, were created by the preeminent Jesus Christ, the eternal God. The Bible forcefully declares Lucifer to be a creation of Jesus, not in any way the brother of Jesus.

The Mormon Jesus’ incarnation was the result of a physical procreative act between “Elohim” and Mary—

Sixth LDS President Joseph F. Smith stated, *“Now, we are told in scriptures that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God in the flesh. Well, now for the benefit of the older ones, how are children begotten? I answer just as Jesus Christ was begotten of his father...Jesus is the only*



person who had our Heavenly Father as the father of his body” (*Family Home Evening Manual*, 1972, pp.125,126).

13th LDS President Ezra Taft Benson wrote, *“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the most literal sense. The body in which He performed His mission in the flesh was sired by that same Holy Being we worship as God, our Eternal Father. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, nor was He begotten by the Holy Ghost. He is the Son of the Eternal Father”* (*Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson*, p.7).

The Jesus of Mormonism is only one of a myriad of “Saviors”—

Brigham Young, the second prophet of Mormonism, declared, *“Sin is upon every earth that ever was*