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# Examining Mormon Prooftexts

# EXAMINING MORMON PROOFTEXTS

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# 5 IMPORTANT RULES IN ENGAGING A LATTER-DAY SAINT

1. Never tell the other person what he/she believes

Ask them, “What do you believe about \_\_\_\_\_?”

# 5 IMPORTANT RULES IN ENGAGING A LATTER-DAY SAINT

2. Never use the word “you” in a conversation

It sounds like you are accusing the person, leading to defensiveness

# 5 IMPORTANT RULES IN ENGAGING A LATTER-DAY SAINT

3. Never let words go undefined

“What do you mean by...”

“Can you define what you mean  
when you say ‘salvation’?”

# IN MORMONISM...

God = God the Father (Heavenly Father, Elohim), with a body of flesh and bones

Jesus = “A” god, literal first born of Heavenly Father/Mother in preexistence

Salvation = General vs. Individual

# 5 IMPORTANT RULES IN ENGAGING A LATTER-DAY SAINT

4. Never let them go off topic

Stay with your topic

If they want to move away, just say,  
“I’d be happy to talk about that later, but  
could we please finish this topic first?”

# 5 IMPORTANT RULES IN ENGAGING A LATTER-DAY SAINT

5. Never read a Bible verse by itself

- \* Consider the context
- \* Consider other scripture

**LET'S CONSIDER THREE COMMON  
PROOFTEXTS USED BY MANY  
MORMONS**

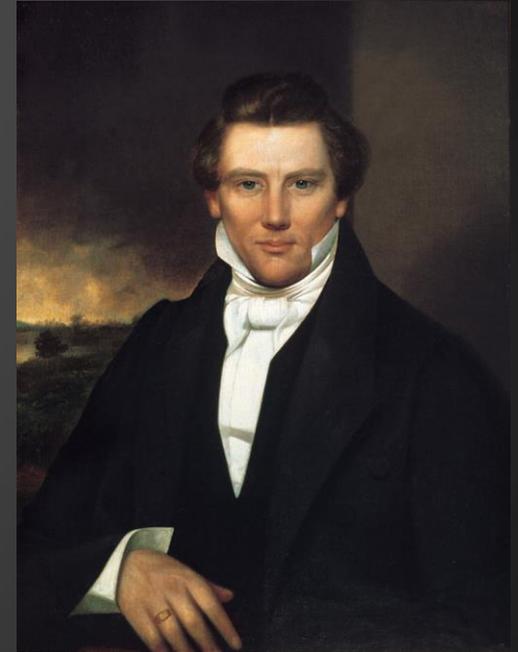


## 1. JAMES 1:5

*“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.”*

## JAMES 1:5

- A verse used by Joseph Smith to pray about which of the churches were true
- Joseph Smith-History 1:12:13: *“Never did any passage of scripture come with more power to the heart of man than this did at the time to mine . . . At length I came to the conclusion that I must either remain in darkness or confusion, or else I must do as James directs, that is, ask of God.”*



## JAMES 1:5

Apostle Bruce R. McConkie: “This single verse of scripture [James 1:5] has had a greater impact and a more far reaching effect upon mankind than any other single sentence ever recorded by any prophet in any age”

*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*  
3:246-247.



## JAMES 1:5

- Moroni 10:4: *“And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.”*
- D&C 9:8: *“But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right.”*

# JAMES 1:5

- Is it possible the author of a NT book meant to supersede the rest of the Bible?

- For instance, 1 John 4:1:

*“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”*

- *Matthew 7:15:*

*“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”*

## JAMES 1:5

- “Should I steal my neighbor’s car?” But what would you say if someone claimed, “God told me to”
- The deal is done. God said, “Thou shalt not steal.”
- Is it possible praying about a religion and its scripture(s) is the best way to determine truth?
  - Is the Mormon consistent with such a test?
  - For instance, has the Latter-day Saint prayed about the Vedas and the Bhagavad Gita (Hinduism); the Qu’ran (Islam); the Ta Te Ching (Daoism); the Watchtower magazines? If not, why not?

## JAMES 1:5

- This verse was never meant to supersede the rest of scripture
- “Should I steal my neighbor’s car?” God told me to
- Yet God said, “Thou shalt not steal.”
- Does this verse (and those from the Standard Words attached to it) be used to say we should pray about all other religions and their religious books?
- How about the Vedas and the Bhagavad Gita (Hinduism); the Qu’ran (Islam); the Ta Te Ching (Daoism), etc.

# JAMES 1:5

Rachel Nielsen: *“Ask yourself if the thought or the feeling is inviting you to do good. If it is, you can be assured that it is from God.”* --*“What If I Don’t Feel a Burning in the Bosom?”* *New Era*, June 2014, 19.

## Problem:

- Jeremiah 17:9: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”
- Proverbs 14:12: There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.
- All the good feelings in the world cannot override false LDS teachings

# JAMES 1:5

- Context of the passage: Gaining wisdom, *not* knowledge
- Wisdom is the proper application of knowledge
- According to this passage, wisdom can be sought when undergoing trials and temptations
- While Christians should certainly pray for guidance, abandoning logical and biblical discernment is NOT the answer
- Good feelings do not replace facts

## 2. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:29

- *“Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?”*

# 1 CORINTHIANS 15:29

“Not a few commentators have tried to explain away [this passage’s] true significance; but its context proves plainly that in the days of the apostles there existed the practice of baptism for the dead; that is, living persons were immersed in water for and in behalf of those who were dead—not who were ‘dead to sin’ but who had ‘passed to the other side’”

--President David O. McKay, *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: David O. McKay*, 129.



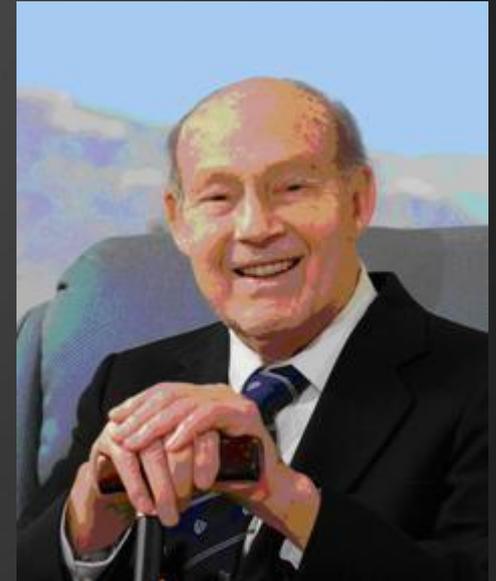
# BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD: PROBLEM 1

- **This was not a common practice of the early church (historical)**
- **D.A. Carson: “There is no good evidence for vicarious baptism anywhere in the New Testament or among the earliest apostolic fathers. By the same token, there is no hint that this vicarious baptism (if that is what it was) was intended by the Corinthian believers to cover as many deceased people as could be named. If the practice existed at all, it may have been tied to a few people or special cases—for example, when a relative died after trusting the gospel but before being baptized. We really do not know. If it were something like that, one could understand why Paul does not make a federal case of it. In any case, Paul’s clear emphasis is that people are justified by grace through faith.” (“Did Paul Baptize for the Dead?” *Christianity Today*, August 19, 1998)**

# BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD: PROBLEM 1

**“Apart from a possible reference in Tertullian (De res, 48c), there is evidence of such a practice only among heretical groups like the Cerinthians and the Marcionites,” and neither of these groups existed when 1 Corinthians was written”**

**--“Baptism for the Dead,” in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, ed. Bromiley, 1:426).**



G.W. Bromiley

# BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD: PROBLEM 2

- **Why did Paul use the “third person” pronoun (“they”) when the context uses “first person”?**
- **Charles R. Harrell, BYU professor, “It should be noted that the voice changes from ‘we’ to ‘they’ for this verse only: Else what shall ‘they’ do? And why are ‘they’ baptized for the dead? Then the shift is back to ‘we’—why stand ‘we’ in jeopardy? Could Paul be alluding to a practice that only ‘they’ (not ‘we’) were participating in?” (*This is My Doctrine: The Development of Mormon Theology*, 355.**

# BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD: PROBLEM 3

- **Why are there no other places to support such an important teaching?**
- **D.A. Carson: “The reason is not that God must say things more than once for them to be true or binding. The reason, rather, is that if something is said only once it is easily misunderstood or misapplied. When something is repeated on several occasions and in slightly different contexts, readers will enjoy a better grasp of what is meant and what is at stake. That is why the famous ‘baptism for the dead’ passage (1 Cor. 15:29) is not unpacked at length and made a major plank in, say, the Heidelberg Catechism or the Westminster Confession.”**

# BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD

## PROBLEM 3

**“Over forty interpretations of that passage have been offered in the history of the church. Mormons are quite sure what it means, of course, but the reason why they are sure is because they are reading it in the context of other books that they claim are inspired and authoritative”**

**-- “Must I Learn How to Interpret the Bible?” *Modern Reformation* 5:3 (May/June 1996), 18-22.**



D.A. Carson

# BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD

## FINAL ISSUES

- **Chapter 15 is all about the bodily resurrection**
- **Paul is not attempting to make a case (in one verse even) for a doctrine that is not at all the issue**
- **Besides contradicting the Bible (Heb. 9:27 and 2 Cor. 6:2), such a teaching contradicts the Book of Mormon (Alma 34:32ff)**

## ALMA 32:32-35

***“For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors. . . . do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; for after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed. . . . if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until death, behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his; therefore, the Spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you, and hath no place in you, and the devil hath all power over you; and this is the final state of the wicked.”***

### 3. JAMES 2:20

*“But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”*

# UNDERSTANDING TERMS

As talked about earlier, understanding the difference in language is vital if we want to comprehend the difference between Mormonism and Christianity's take on important issues

# TWO TYPES OF SALVATION

10<sup>th</sup> President Joseph Fielding Smith

“Salvation is twofold: General—that which comes to all men irrespective of a belief (in this life) in Christ—and, Individual—that which man merits through his own acts through life and by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.”

--*Doctrines of Salvation* 1:134



# FAITH AND WORKS

- “Grace” (and the Atonement) is available to all humans (because of obedience in the preexistence)
- Everyone (except “Sons of Perdition”) will receive one of the three kingdoms of glory
- Top kingdom (Celestial) is known as “eternal life” or “exaltation,” also referred to as “godhood” and the ability to be together with one’s family forever
- Based on this verse, Mormons will want to show how grace, by itself, is not enough to “exalt” a person in the celestial kingdom

# JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION

- Justification: Receiving a right standing before God, based completely on God's grace and mercy
  - Romans 3:28: "a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."
  - Grace
  - Mercy
  - Imputation
- Ephesians 2:8-9: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."

# JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION

- Sanctification: Holiness shown through actions
- Ephesians 2:10: “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
  - Context of the James 2 passage:
    - Verse 14: “Can such faith save him?”
    - Verse 17: “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”
- Philippians 2:12: “Work out your salvation with fear and trembling”

# FAITH AND WORKS

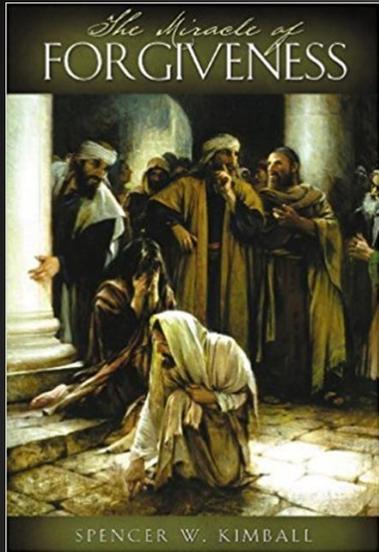
- Often overlooked by Mormons is James 2:10 – *“For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.”*
- According to Mormon commentators D. Kelly Ogden and Andrew C. Skinner:

*“Joseph Smith said, ‘Any person who is exalted to the highest mansion has to abide a celestial law, and the whole law too’ (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 331). To be exalted we must be cleansed from all sin (D&C 50:28-29). One sin can damn a person”*

*--Verse by Verse: Acts Through Revelation, 268.*

# REVIEW WHEN DEALING WITH A SCRIPTURAL VERSE

1. Remember that just because a verse is used and even sounds like it supports a teaching does not make it sufficient support for any doctrine.
2. Consider the context of any verse that is used
3. Consider the rest of scripture
4. Define your terms
5. Be familiar with the passages most often used by Latter-day Saints to support their unique doctrines

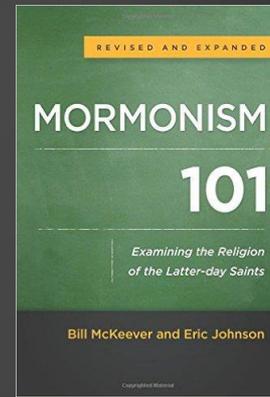
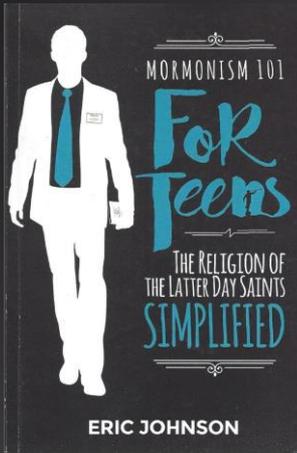


\$10 (highlighted ed., with notes)



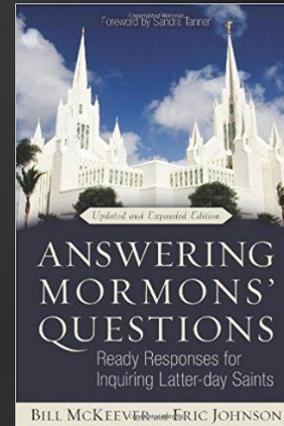
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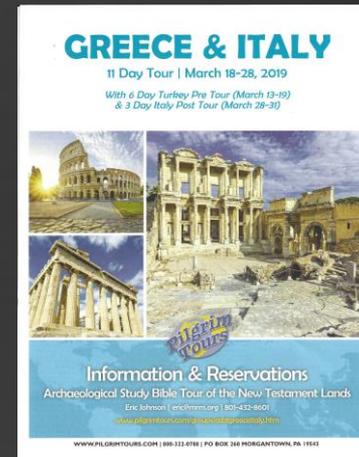


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Mormonism contrasted with Christianity

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Answers to common questions



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# A CORRUPT BIBLE

Joseph Smith: “Ignorant translators, careless transcribers, or designing and corrupt priests have committed many errors” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pg. 327).

## Proof-text:

- *Articles of Faith*: “We believe the Bible as far as it is translated correctly....” (Article 8).



## A CORRUPT BIBLE

What does it mean to be “translated correctly”?

“Translated” = Taking one language and moving it into another

“Transmitted” = Passing down text one generation to the next



# EXPLAINED

## Accuracy of the Old Testament:

- Gleason Archer – “A careful study of the variants (different readings) of the various earliest manuscripts reveals that none of them affects a single doctrine of Scripture. The system of spiritual truth contained in the standard Hebrew text of the Old Testament is not in the slightest altered or compromised by any of the variant readings found in the Hebrew manuscripts....It is very evident that the vast majority of them are so inconsequential as to leave the meaning of each clause doctrinally unaffected” (*A Survey of the Old Testament*, p. 25).

# EXPLAINED

## Accuracy of the New Testament:

Norman Geisler and William Nix – “Only about one-eighth of all the variants had any weight, as most of them are merely mechanical matters such as spelling or style. Of the whole, then, only about one-sixtieth rise above ‘trivialities,’ or can in any sense be called ‘substantial variations.’

Mathematically this would compute to a text that is 98.33 percent pure” (*A General Introduction to the Bible*, pg. 365).

# EXPLAINED

- **BYU Professor Richard L. Anderson - “For a book to undergo progressive uncovering of its manuscript history and come out with so little debatable in its text is a great tribute to its essential authenticity. First, no new manuscript discovery has produced serious differences in the essential story. This survey has disclosed the leading textual controversies, and together they would be well within one percent of the text. Stated differently, all manuscripts agree on the essential correctness of 99 percent of all the verses in the New Testament”**  
*(Fourteenth Annual Symposium of the Archaeology of the Scriptures, Brigham Young University, 1963).*

# MEN CAN BECOME GODS?

## Proof-text:

- I John 3:2 — “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we *shall be like him*; for we shall see him as he is.”
- What does “shall be like him” mean?
  - Omniscient? Omnipresent? Omnipotent?

# MEN CAN BECOME GODS?

## Proof Text:

- John 10:34 – “Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, *Ye are Gods?*”
- A reference to Psalm 82:6. Notice also Jesus uses present tense.

# EXPLAINED



**“Divinely Appointed Judges Called ‘gods.’ — In Psalm 82.6, judges invested by divine appointment are called ‘gods.’ To this scripture the Savior referred in His reply to the Jews in Solomon’s Porch.”**

**LDS Apostle James Talmage**  
***Jesus The Christ, p.501***

# EXPLAINED

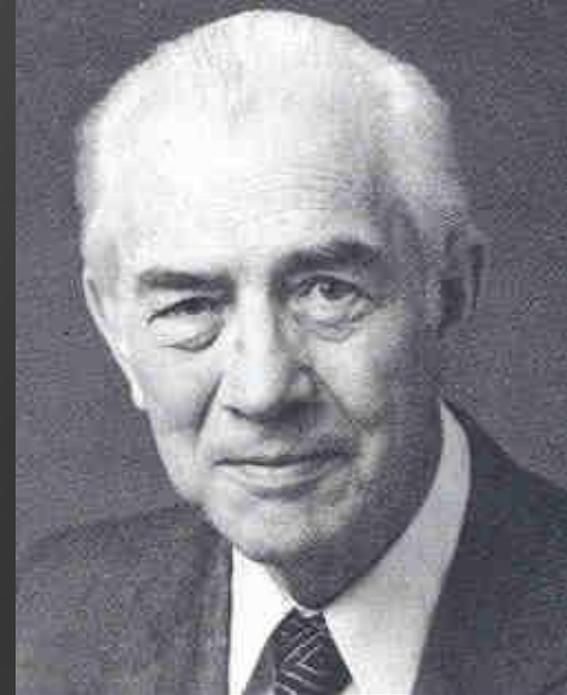
- Psalm 82:6,7 – “I said, You are gods [Elohim]; and all of you are children of the Most High. **But you shall die like men...**”
- Exodus 21:6 – “Then his master shall bring him unto the judges [Elohim]...”
- Exodus 22:8 – “If the thief is not found, then the master of the house shall be brought to the judges [Elohim]....”

# THE NEED FOR LATTER-DAY PROPHETS

- Mark E. Petersen: “Amos of old, the inspired seer of the Lord, taught that God does His work through prophets. In fact, he said that God actually will do nothing without revealing His plans to His servants the prophets. (See Amos 3:7.)” (“The Angel Moroni Came!,” *Ensign*, November 1983, p.29).

## Proof-text:

- Amos 3:7 – “Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret unto His servants the Prophets.”

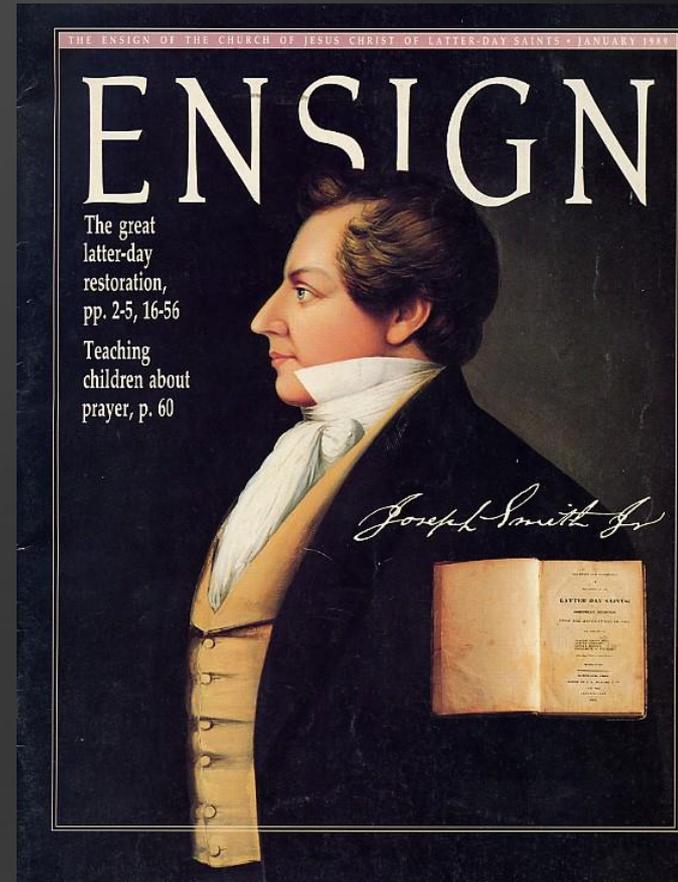


# EXPLAINED

- What does the context of Amos mean?
- This has nothing to do with impending judgment on Israel. God will not punish (see vs.2) prior to warning the people through His prophets.
- Hebrews 1:1,2 – “God, who at various times and in various ways **spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets**, has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*....”

# DOES THE BIBLE SPEAK OF JOSEPH SMITH?

“Malachi prophesied of the Prophet Joseph Smith’s role as the Lord’s ‘forerunner’ to the latter days, when he recorded the Lord’s words: ‘Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.’”  
(Mal 3:1.)



*Ensign*, Jan 1989, p.23

# EXPLAINED

- Who is the messenger referred to in this passage?
- Matthew 11:10,11 – “For this is *he* of whom it is written: ‘*Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.*’ Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than **John the Baptist.**”

# DOES THE BIBLE SPEAK OF JOSEPH SMITH?



## Proof Text:

- Isaiah 40:3 – “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’”
- Joseph Fielding Smith – “You may apply this to John if you will, and this is true...But I will go further and maintain that Joseph Smith was the messenger whom the Lord sent to prepare the way before him”  
(*Doctrines of Salvation* 1:194-195).

# EXPLAINED

- Who is being referred to in this text?
- Matthew 3:1-3 – “In those days **John the Baptist** came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” **For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah**, saying: *‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’”*

# IS THE BOOK OF MORMON MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE?

## Proof-Text:

- Ezekiel 37:16-17 – “Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.’ Then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and *for* all the house of Israel, his companions.’ Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.”

# IS THE BOOK OF MORMON MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE?



“In ancient times it was the custom to write on parchment and roll it on a stick. Therefore, when this command was given, it was the equivalent of directing that two books or records be kept.”

**LeGrand Richards, *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, pg. 67**

# EXPLAINED

- Does “sticks” mean “books”?
- Ezekiel 37:21,22 – “Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, **and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.**”

# EXPLAINED

## The “Sticks” (Hebrew “aits”)

- 1 Kings 17:12- “So she [widow at Zarephath] said, “As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, **I am gathering a couple of sticks** that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”
- 2 Kings 6:6- “But as one was cutting down a tree, the iron ax head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, ‘Alas, master! For it was borrowed.’ So the man of God said, ‘Where did it fall?’ And he showed him the place. **So he cut off a stick**, and threw it in there; and he made the iron float.”

# “OTHER SHEEP” – NEPHITES?

## Proof Text:



- John 10:16 – “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they will hear my voice; and there will be one flock, and one shepherd.”
- LDS Apostle James E. Talmage – “The ‘other sheep’ here referred to constituted the separated flock or remnant of the house of Joseph, who, six centuries prior to the birth of Christ, had been miraculously detached from the Jewish fold in Palestine, and had been taken beyond the great deep to the American continent” (*Jesus the Christ*, p.419).

# EXPLAINED

- Who are the “other sheep”?
- Isaiah 56:3,5 – “Do not let the son of the foreigner Who has joined himself to the LORD Speak, saying, ‘The LORD has utterly separated me from His people’ ... Even to them I will give in My house And within My walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name That shall not be cut off.”

# BAPTISMAL REGENERATION

## Proof-text:

- Acts 2:38 – “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ *for* [eis] the remission of sins.”
- “I went to the store to get some aspirin *for* my headache.” Did you go to the “in order to get” your headache, or because you already had a headache?

# EXPLAINED

- **Matthew 12:41** – “The men of Nineveh will rise up in judgment with this generation, and condemn it: because they repented **at** [eis] the preaching of Jonah; and indeed, a greater than Jonah is here.”
- **Question:** Did the Ninevites repent “in order to get” the preaching of Jonah, or “because of” the preaching of Jonah?

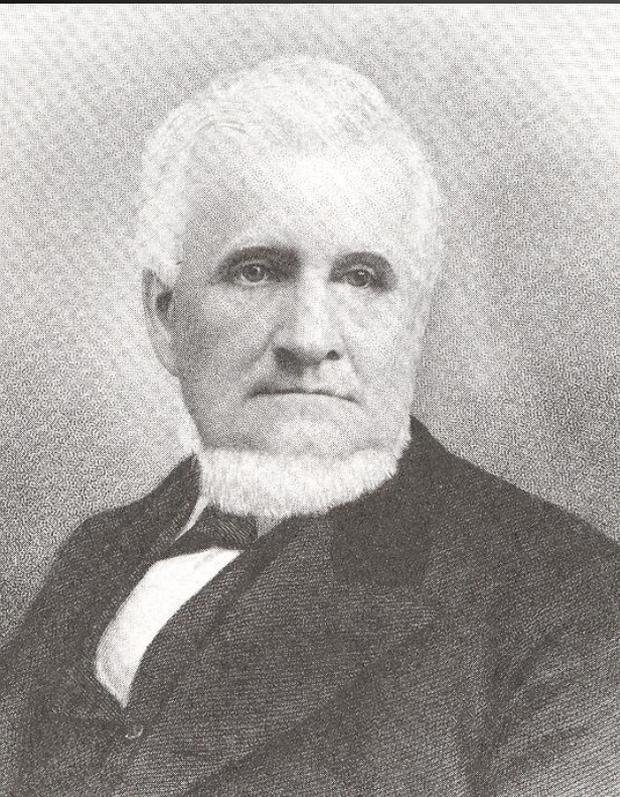
# IF BAPTISM IS A REQUIREMENT, THEN:

- **Acts 3:19: “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”**
- **Acts 10:44-47: “While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

## ACTS 10

**46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.**

# A PLURALITY OF GODS



John Taylor, *The Gospel Kingdom*, p. 27

- “...it may be well enough to say at the outset that Mormonism embraces a plurality of Gods--as the Apostle Paul said, there were "gods many, and lords many," (I Corinthians 8:5.)

## Proof Text:

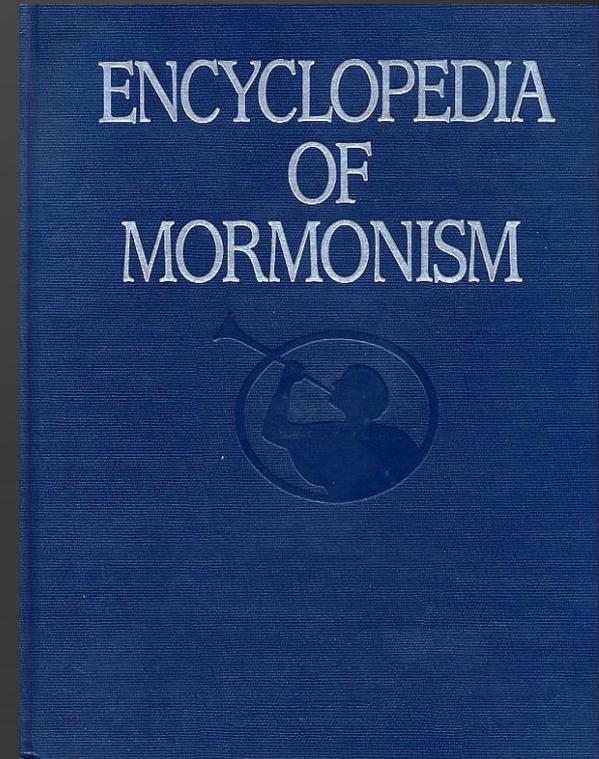
- I Corinthians 8:5 – “For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God.”

# EXPLAINED

- Notice verse 6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."
- Galatians 4:8 – "But then indeed, when you did not know God, you served **which by nature are not gods.**"
- Jeremiah 2:11 – "Has a nation changed its gods, **which are not gods?**"
- Alma 11:26-29 – "And Zeezrom said unto him: Thou sayest there is a true and living God? And Amulek said: Yea, there is a true and living God. Now Zeezrom said: **Is there more than one God? And he answered, No.**"
- Other verses to show the existence of only one God include: Deut. 4:35; 6:4; Is 43:10; 44:6; 44:8; 45:5; 45:6; 45:14; 45:18; 45:21; 45:22; 46:9; Mk 12:29-34; James 2:19.

# GOD HAVING A PHYSICAL BODY

- *Encyclopedia of Mormonism* (1:548): “Latter-day Saints perceive the Father as an exalted Man in the most literal, anthropomorphic terms. They do not view the language of Genesis as allegorical; human beings are created in the form and image of a God who has a physical form and image (Gen. 1:26).”



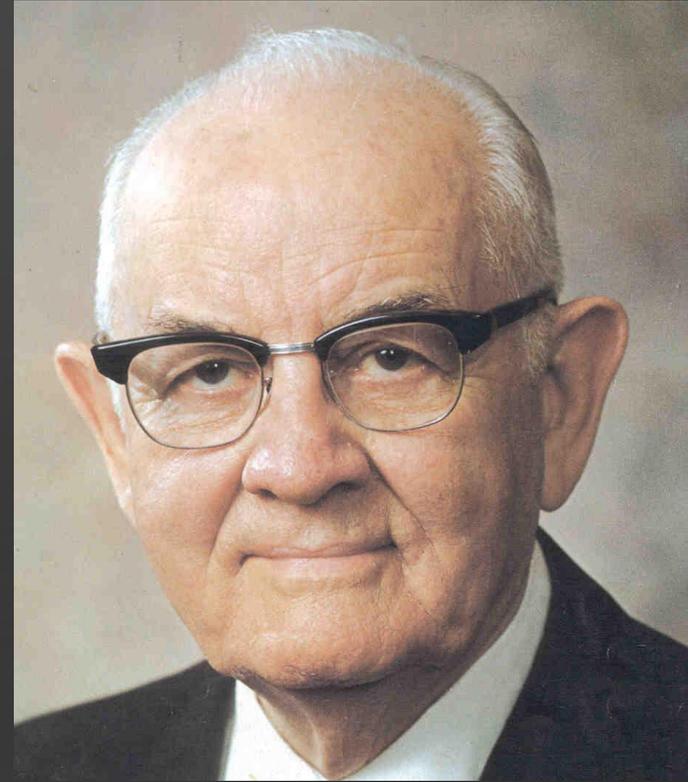
# EXPLAINED

- Ephesians 2:11-14 – “Therefore remember that you, once **Gentiles** in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.** For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation....”
- See also Is. 49:6; 60:3; Ps. 86:9; Rom 11:11; Eph. 3:6

# FAITH AND WORKS

## Proof Text:

- “This progress toward eternal life is a matter of achieving perfection. Living all the commandments guarantees total forgiveness of sins and assures one of exaltation through that perfection which comes by complying with the formula the Lord gave us. In his Sermon on the Mount he made the command to all men: **‘Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.’** (Matt. 5:48.) Being perfect means to triumph over sin... *Perfection therefore is an achievable goal.*”



Spencer W. Kimball  
*The Miracle of Forgiveness,*  
pp.208-209

# EXPLAINED

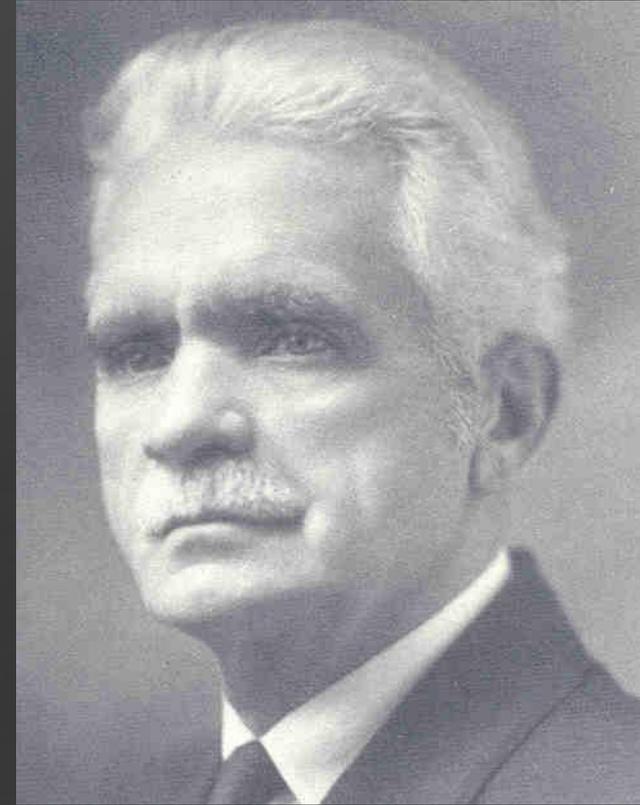
- Matt. 5:43-48 – “**You have heard that it was said, ‘*You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.*’** But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

# COMPLETE APOSTASY

- LDS Seventy B.H. Roberts: “Nothing less than a complete apostasy from the Christian religion would warrant the establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints” (Introduction to the *DHC*, 1:XL).

## Proof-text:

- 2 Thess. 2:3 – “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [the day of Christ] shall not come, except there come a falling away first...”



## EXPLAINED

- What does “falling away” mean?
- I Timothy 4:1: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times **some** shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.”
- Matt 16:18: “...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”