

LIGHT IT UP!

Witnessing to Mormons - "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints"

Various Scriptures

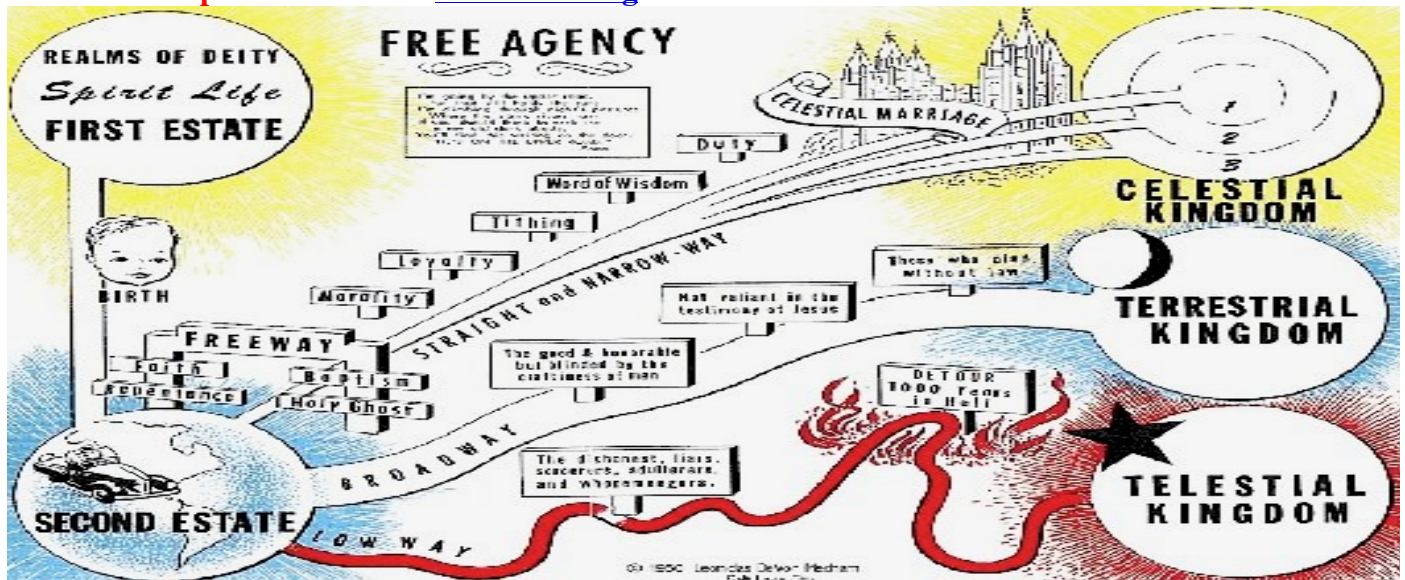
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Mormon Theology (All points are supported with references to Mormon Scripture/literature [carm.org])

- 1. Book of Mormon – nearly 4000 changes have been made to the original 1830 version of the Book of Mormon which is a huge problem for those holding to the inspiration of the BOM. Archaeology has not found any evidence to support it. No people, cities, nations, places, or names peculiar to the BOM have ever been found.**
 1. The book of Mormon is more correct than the Bible, (*History of the Church*, vol. 4, p. 461). [Other Scriptures: Doctrine & Covenants; Pearl of Great Price; and the Bible (when translated correctly)].
 2. (Joseph Smith claims that in 1823, the angel Moroni appeared to him near Palmyra, NY and told Smith that golden plates were buried in a nearby hillside in Cumorah, NY. In 1827, the plates were retrieved by Smith and translated using the "Urim and Thummin" and the translation of these plates was published in 1830. This translation, **the Book of Mormon**, claims to contain the religious writings of civilizations in Ancient America between 2200 B.C. and 421 A.D. It teaches that Jesus, after His resurrection in Jerusalem, came to America performing miracles and chose 12 men from a people known as Nephites to be His American disciples.)
- 2. God – the God of this planet (Elohim) used to be a man on another planet and progressed to be god of this world. He along with his spirit wives gave birth to spirit children that are populating this world.**
 1. God (Elohim) used to be a man on another planet (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 321; Joseph Smith, *Times and Seasons*, vol. 5, p. 613-614; Orson Pratt, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 2, p. 345; Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 7, p. 333).
 2. "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's..." (D&C 130:22).
- 3. Becoming a god – Mormons teach that all are saved but to different levels and that through obedience, males can become gods reigning over planets with wives helping.**
 1. After you become a good Mormon, you have the potential of becoming a god (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p.345-354). "As man now is, God once was; as God is now man may be."
 2. There are many gods (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 163).
- 4. God, Trinity – Mormons deny the Trinity.**
 1. The trinity is three separate Gods: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost (*Articles of Faith*, p. 35).
- 5. Jesus – firstborn of a long line of spirit children. Not to be worshiped in the same way as the Father.**
 1. Jesus and Satan are spirit brothers and we were all born as siblings in heaven to them both, (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 163).
 2. "Therefore we know that both the Father and the Son are in form and stature perfect men; each of them possesses a tangible body...of flesh and bones," (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 38).
 3. "The birth of the Saviour was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action," (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 8, p. 115).
 4. "Elohim is literally the Father of the spirit of Jesus Christ and also of the body in which Jesus Christ performed His mission in the flesh..." (*First Presidency and Council of the Twelve*, 1916, p. 150).
- 6. Joseph Smith – was a polygamist. LDS historian Andrew Jensen listed 27 wives of Smith. He was arrested for destroying a printing press critical of the polygamous practices of Mormons. While in prison in 1844, Smith died in a shootout at the prison in Carthage, IL after he had shot 3 men. Mormons call him a martyr.**
 1. If it had not been for Joseph Smith and the restoration, there would be no salvation. There is no salvation [inc. exaltation to Godhood] outside the Mormon church (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 670).
- 7. Salvation – LDS salvation is a works salvation. Faith in Jesus Christ is just one of 7 requirements.**
 1. "One of the most fallacious doctrines originated by Satan and propounded by man is that man is saved alone by the grace of God; that belief in Jesus Christ alone is all that is needed for salvation," (*Miracle of Forgiveness*, by Spencer W. Kimball, p. 206).
 2. A plan of salvation was needed for the people of earth so Jesus offered a plan to the Father and Satan offered a plan to the Father but Jesus' plan was accepted. In effect the Devil wanted to be the Savior of all Mankind and to "deny men their agency and to dethrone god," (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 193; *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 6, p. 8).
 3. Jesus' sacrifice was not able to cleanse us from all sins (*Journal of Discourses*, vol. 3, 1856, p. 247).

4. Good works are necessary for salvation (*Articles of Faith*, p. 92).
5. No salvation without accepting Smith as a prophet of God (*Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 1, p. 188).
6. Requirements for salvation: 1) faith in Jesus Christ (Joseph Smith), 2) repentance, 3) baptism, 4) laying on of hands, 5) church membership, 6) keeping commandments, 7) temple work (i.e. marriage; mission trips).
7. There are three levels of heaven: telestial, terrestrial, and celestial.
8. **Helpful resources:** www.carm.org



Important Reminders:

- Mormons are people who are sincerely trying to have a relationship with God and follow Him in their lives but sadly have been deceived into believing false doctrines and teachings.
- When witnessing, always share the truth in love without getting into heated arguments.

Witnessing:

1. Ask them "If the Book of Mormon teaches what you believe, then why do the following passages in the Book of Mormon teach different doctrines than what you believe as a Mormon?"

- 1) Mormons believe there are many gods. Book of Mormon, however, actually teaches there is only one true God.** (Alma 11:22, 28-29, 38-39; 2 Nephi 11:7, 31:21; 3 Nephi 11:14,27,36; Mosiah 15:1-5, 16:15)
- 2) Mormons believe that our God (Elohim) is a god of flesh and bones. Book of Mormon, however, actually teaches that God is a spirit.** (Alma 18:24-28; 22:9-11)
- 3) Mormons believe the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three gods. Book of Mormon, however, actually teaches that God is triune.** (2 Nephi 31:21; Mosiah 15:2-5)
- 4) Mormons believe in progression toward godhood, so God changes. Book of Mormon, however, actually teaches that God is unchanging.** (Alma 18:24-28; 22:9-11)

When Mormons Say:

1. There is more than one God
2. God has a body of flesh and bones
3. Christ was created
4. Salvation is by works

When Mormons Challenge with:

1. Matthew 7:21 "does will of my Father"
2. Rev. 20:13 "judged according to what done"
3. Acts 2:38 "be baptized"
4. John 17:22 "one as we are one"
5. 1 Corinthians 15:22 "all be made alive"

Show Them:

1. Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6; Mark 12:29
2. John 4:24; Luke 24:37-39
3. John 1:1; Colossians 2:9; Philippians 2:6-8
4. Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 10:43; John 3:16

Respond with:

1. John 6:40 - will of Father is to believe in Jesus
2. No Christians at this judgment. 1 Cor. 3:11-15
3. Not baptized to get remission of sins but because of it. Greek preposition "for" = "on the basis of"
4. Jesus prayed this before the Holy Spirit was given, which made believers one body in Christ. 1 Cor. 12:13
5. "Context is King," next verse shows "being made alive" is only for Christians. 1 Cor. 3:23; Galatians 3:26-29