

The Cults: Mormonism  
Taught By: Tim McClain  
First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Beaver Falls  
November 15, 2009

## **The Cults**

### **Mormonism: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**

#### ***History:***

Joseph Smith (1805-1844)  
Founded 1830 (Book of Mormon published)  
Brigham Young (1801-1877) took over after Smith's death in 1845  
Young led the people to Salt Lake in 1847

#### ***Mormon Doctrine:***

##### Hierarchy:

Aaronic priesthood (12 years and up)-- Bishops, priests, deacons, & teachers  
Melchizedek priesthood (19 years and up)-- Apostles, patriarchs, high priests, elders  
Three high priests – First Presidency (pres. & 2 counselors)  
Council of the Twelve Apostles – govern geographical regions  
Quorum of the Seventy – direct evangelistic activities

##### Scriptural Authority

Revelation continues (Article 9); president is revelator  
Book of Mormon = Bible  
KJV & “Inspired Version”  
Pearl of Great Price; Doctrine and Covenants

##### God -- Plurality of gods

Father and Son both possess bodies  
Holy Ghost – spirit son of God the Father  
Father is God of earth  
Multiple other lesser gods in the universe  
God and the other gods were all men at one time  
“As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become” – Lorenzo Snow, fifth president of church

##### Jesus Christ

Is the “son of God,” not the Son, exclusive of all others – firstborn, but others born later (maybe on other planets?)  
Young taught that Adam fathered Jesus (Adam-God Doctrine). Today, Mormons deny this, saying Virgin birth

##### Salvation

General salvation – all human beings resurrected from physical death by Christ's resurrection  
Individual salvation – only those obedient to the “laws and ordinances of the gospel” (Article 3)  
(2 Nephi 25:23)

##### Blood Atonement

Young taught: a man might be killed to save his own soul.

Various sins that would apply: murder, adultery, stealing, blasphemy, marrying a black person, apostasy, lying

### Celestial Marriage

To receive fullest blessings in the Celestial Kingdom, you must be married in a Mormon temple  
Otherwise, marriage dissolves at death, eternal singleness, angel rather than a god

### The Church

LDS church only true church on earth

Seekers of truth commanded to come out of all other, apostate, churches

### Sacraments

Baptism – required for salvation; believer's, by immersion (children do not commit sin)

Baptism for the Dead – to save those souls who died before 1830

Lord's Supper – following baptism at age of 8; weekly; water instead of wine

### Temple Rituals

Only Mormons in good standing may enter a temple

Smith borrowed from the Freemasons

Special garments and symbolic gestures made

Liturgical rites

Oaths swearing that betrayal of Mormon secrets meant death (till 1930s)

### End Times

Gathering of the lost ten tribes and New Jerusalem on American continent (Article 10)

Most Mormons are the gathering of Ephraimites

Gathering of Jews from Judah and Israel will take place

Two resurrections during the Millennium:

1) Righteous meet the Lord in the air at his coming and descend to earth with him

2) The wicked, whose bodies were burned at Christ's coming, will be raised from purgatory at the end of the Millennium to fight along with Satan against Jesus

During Millennium, chief activity will be baptism for the dead

After the war with Satan, the final judgment will come, where earth will become like a star

### Mankind's Final State

Satan, fallen angels, and humans who have committed the unpardonable sin – destroyed in the lake of fire

Others in three different kingdoms:

Celestial Kingdom – gods with their spouses, continuing eternal procreation

Terrestrial Kingdom – on some planet; those who embraced the Gospel only in the afterlife

Telestial Kingdom – some other planet; lawless and wicked who suffered at the hands of Satan and will be offered salvation. Most populated one