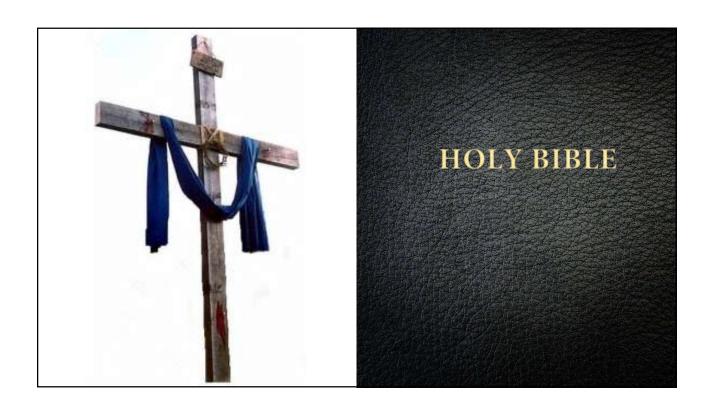
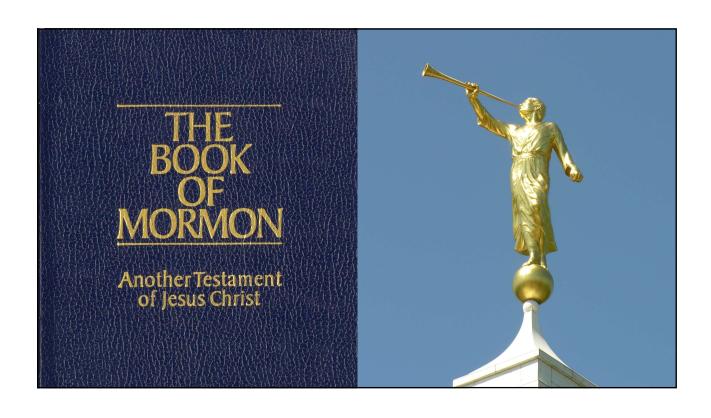
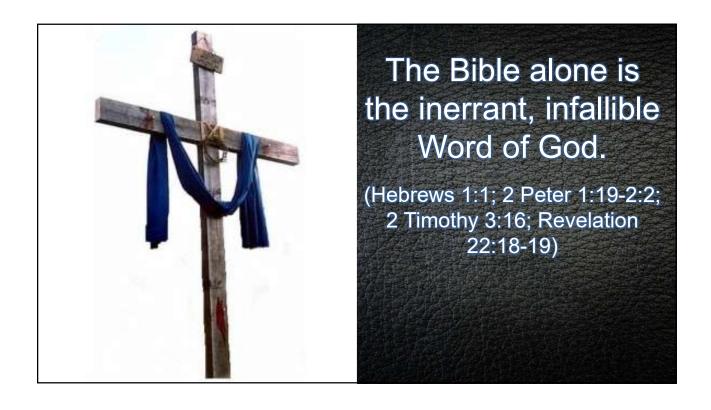


Some cults weaken the authority of the Bible by claiming additional revelation.







Mormonism denies the authority of the Bible by claiming additional revelation.

The four standard works:

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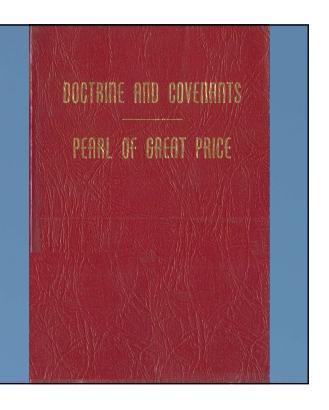
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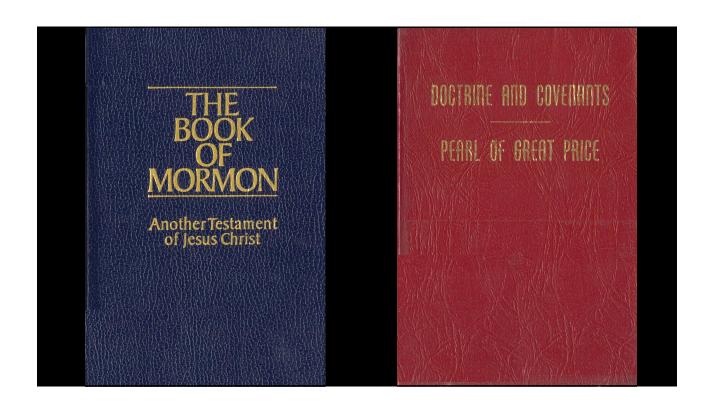


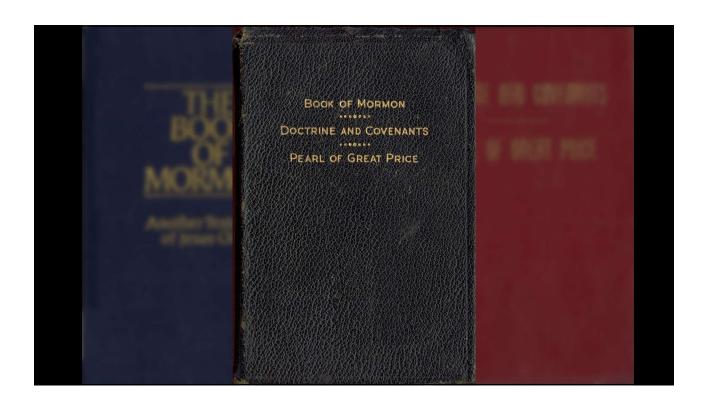
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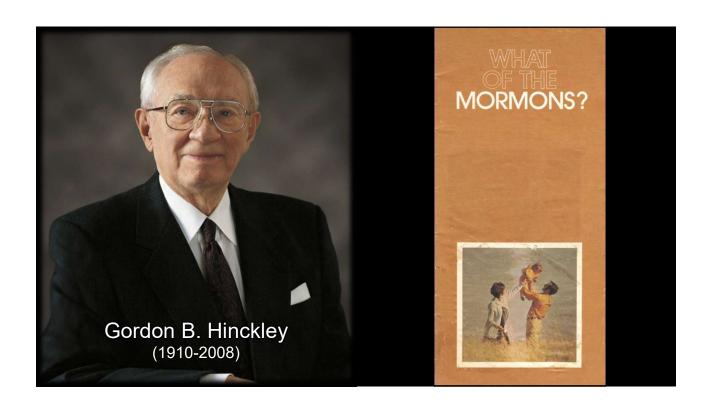
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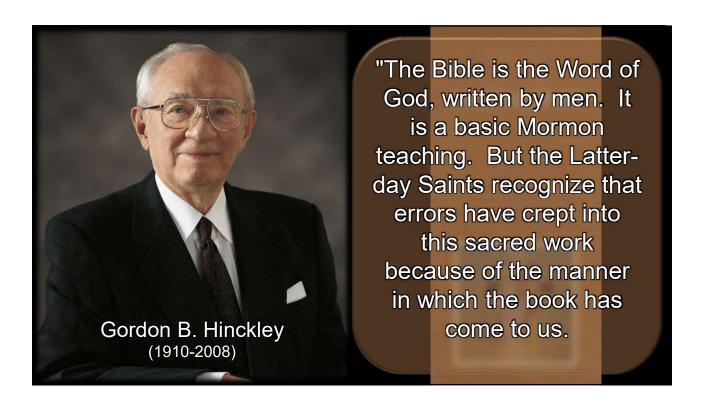
- •The Bible (correctly translated)
- •The Book of Mormon
- •The Doctrine and Covenants
- •The Pearl of Great Price

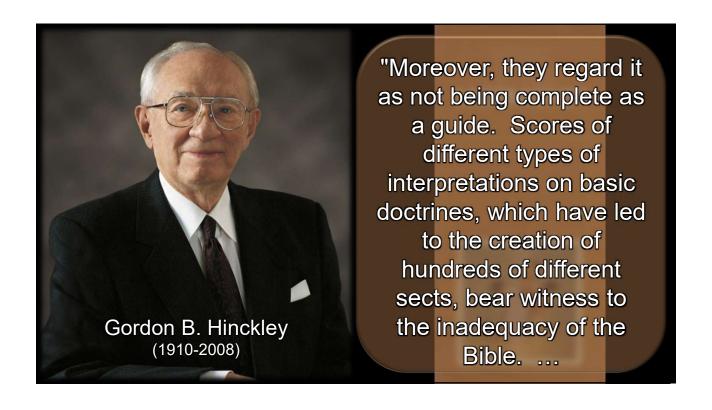


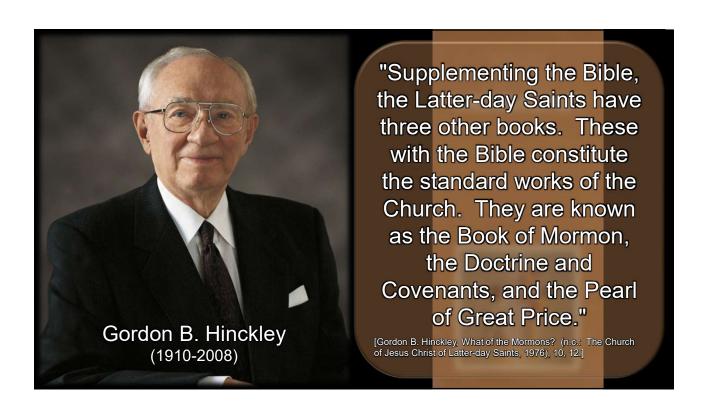


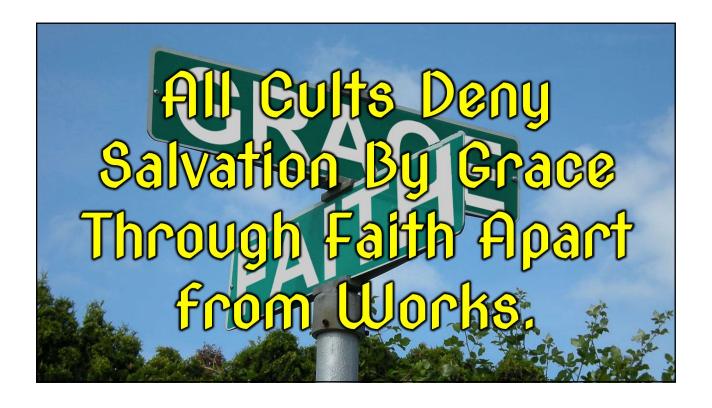


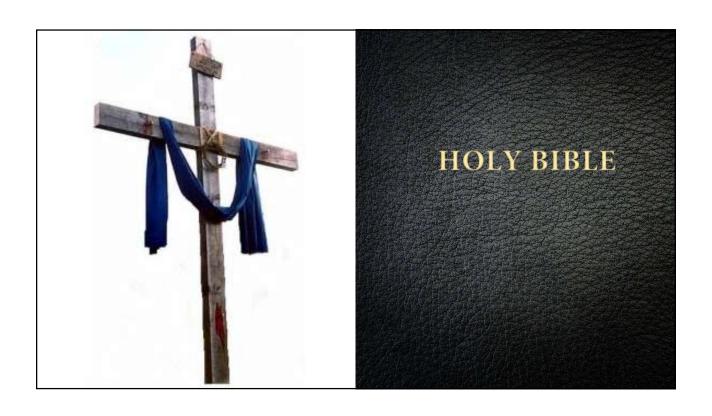


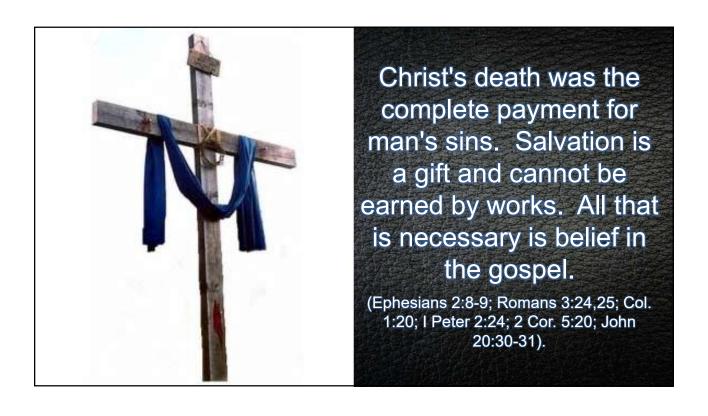








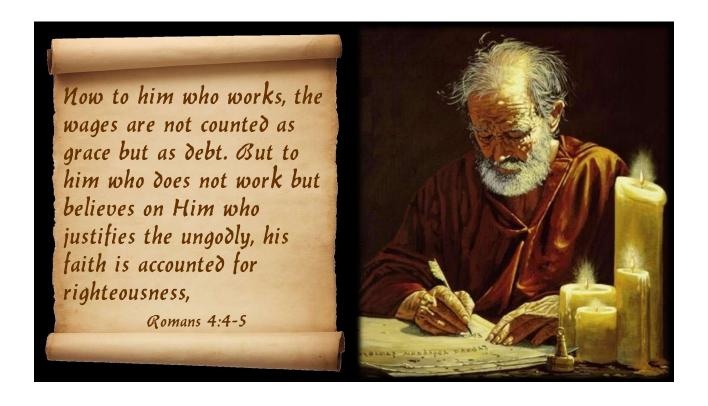


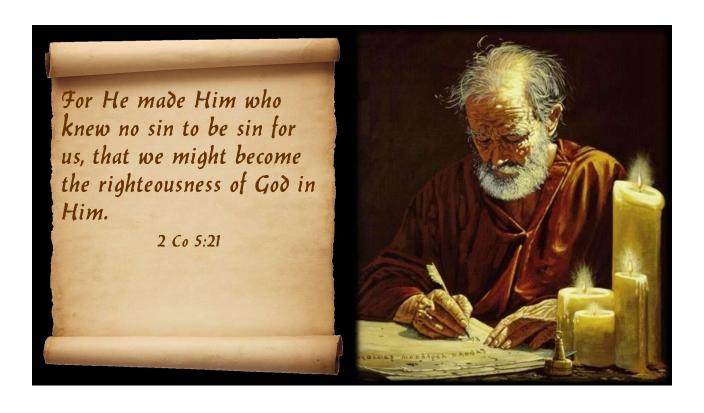


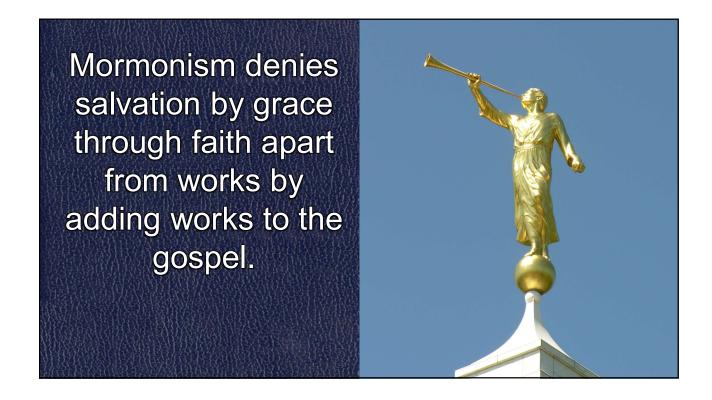


Salvation is Becoming
"like Him" (1 John 3:2)
morally not ontologically.
This means that we will
be made completely holy
and righteous as He is.

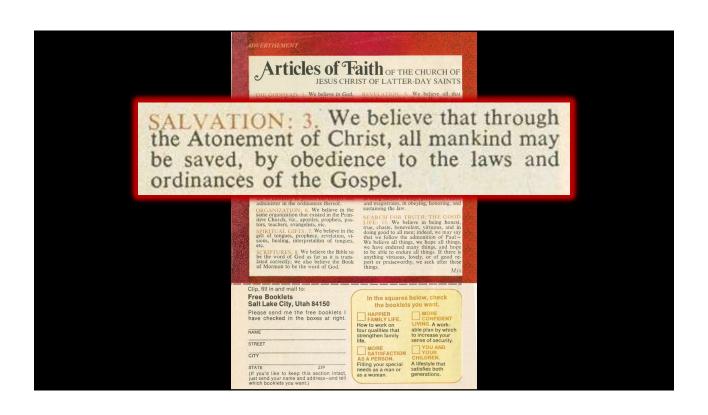
(2 Peter 1:4; Hebrews 12:10)

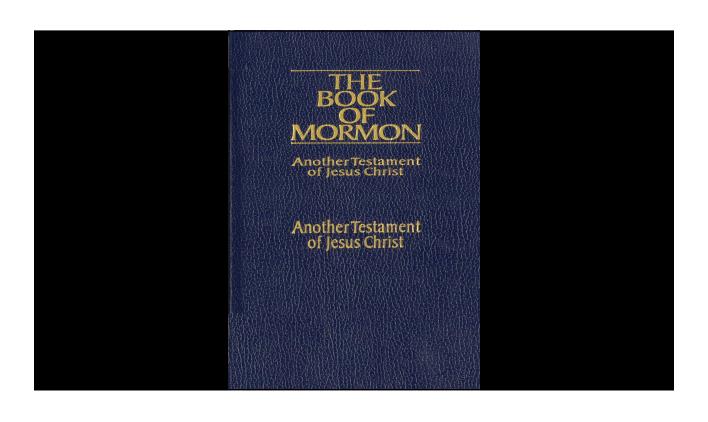






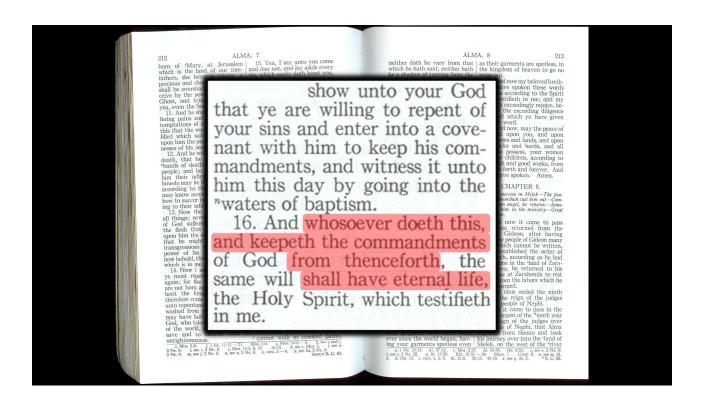


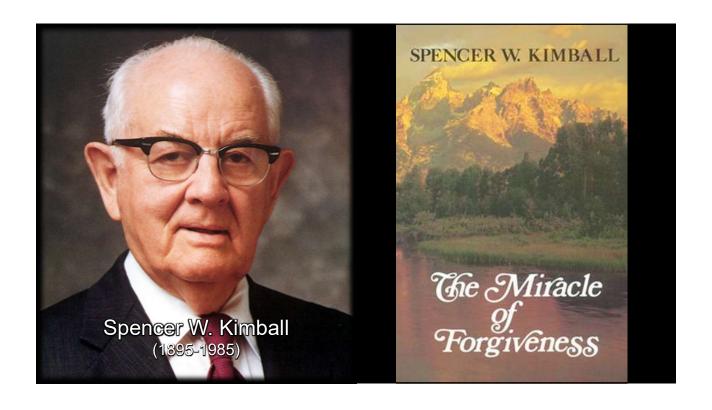


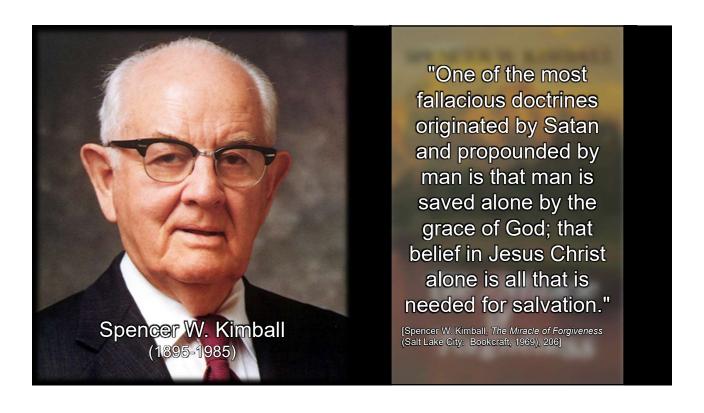


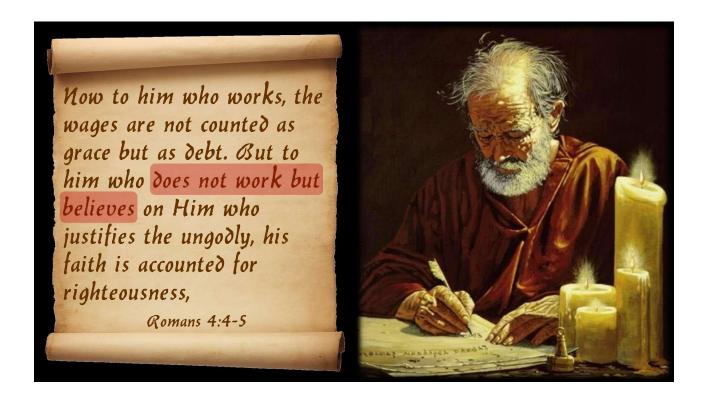
bern of 'Mary, at Jerusalem' which is the land of our fore-fathers, she being a 'Virgin, of the latth and of the process of the Holy Ghost, or the Son of God.

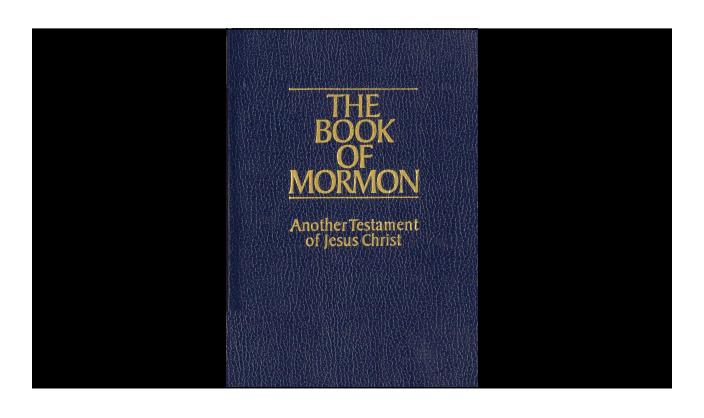
"It have been for the Holy Ghost, or the Son of God.
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2 NEPHI 25:10-17

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generation according to their iniquities; and never hath any of them been destroyed save it were Vortold them by the prophets of the L10 Wherefore, it hath been told them concerning the destruction which should come upon them, immediately after my father left 'Jerusalem; nevertheless, they 'hardened their hearts; and according to my prophecy they have been destroyed, save if be those which are 'carried away they shall be 'restored away they shall return again, and possess the land of Jerusalem; wherefore, they shall be 'restored again to the 'land of wher inheritance.

in the kingdom of God. Wherefore, my soul delighteth to prophesy con-cerning him, for I have seen his day, and my heart doth magnify his holy

thes; and never nath any of tropes of the property of them by the prophets of the property of them by the property of the property of them by the property of the property of

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again the second time to "restore his people from their lost and fallen state. Wherefore, he will proceed to do a "marvelous work and a wonder among the children of men.

to do a 'marvelous work and a wonder among the children of nen.

18 Wherefore, he shall bring forth 'his 'words unto them, which words shall 'judge them at the last day, for they shall be given them for the struck of the shall 'pudge them at the last day, for they shall be given them for the true Messiah, who was rejected by them; and unto the convincing of them that they need not look forward any more for a Messiah to come, for there should be a 'false people, for there is save one 'Messiah spoken of by the prophets, and that Messiah is he who should be rejected of the Jews.

19 For according to the words of the prophets, the 'Messiah cometh in 'six hundred years from the time 'son of God.

20 And now, my brethren, I have spoken plainly that ye cannot err. Spoken plai

2 NEPHI 25:18-23

that he should 'heal the nations after they had been bitten by the poisonous serpents, if they would cast their eyes unto the 'serpent which he did raise up before them, and also gave him power that he should smite the 'rock and the water and as well as the should smite the 'rock and the water say unto you, that as these things are 'true, and as the Lord God liveth, there is none other 'name given under heaven save it be this Jesus Christ, of which I have spoken, '21 Wherefore, for this cause hath the Lord God promised unto me that these things which I "awite shall be kept and preserved, and handed down unto my seed, from generation to generation, that the promise many seed the should never 'perish as long as the earth should stand.

22 Wherefore, these things shall go from generation to generation to generation as long as the earth shall stand; and and pleasure of God; and the nations who shall possess them shall be 'judged of them according to the words which are written.

23 For we labor diligently to write.

24 For we labor diligently to write, and to be reconciled to God; for we of; Jesus Christian and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we

BETTEY ALL OF THE PROPRIES OF THE PROPRIES

I No. 14:30; Mosiah 1:6. Hosea 13:4; Acts 4: 12; 1 Jn. 3:23 (19-24); 1 No. 10:6; 2 No. 21: 5 (4-5); Alma 12:12 (22-25). Less Christ, 12: 1. No. 10:5; Alma 12:22 (22-25). 2 (22-25). 2 (22-25). 2 (22-25). 2 (22-25). 3 (22-25). 3 (23-27): 1:33:15 (23-27): 1:33:15 (23-27): 1:33:15 (23-27): 1:33:15 (23-27): 1:34:15 (23-

[Between 559 and 545 n.c.]

15 (14-16), dr to Jesus Christ, Head of the Church.

15a To Israel, Judah, People of P [Between 559 and 545 B.c.]

2 NEPHI 25:10-17

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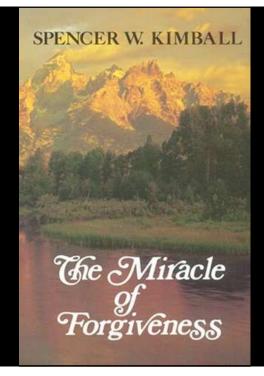
b Amos 5: 15; Alma 46: 24 (24-27). 22a 2 Ne. 29: 11; 33: 15 (10-15); 3 Ne. 27: 25 (23-27); Ether 4: 10

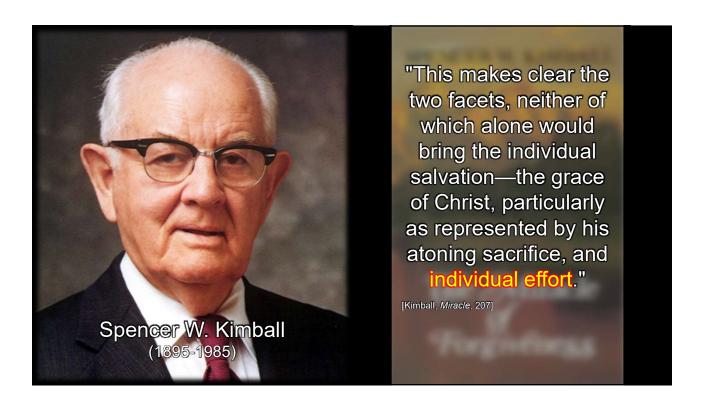
c 2 Kgs, 18: 4; Alma 33: 19; Hel. 8: 14 (14-15).
d Ex. 17: 6; Num. 20: 11; Neh. 9: 15: 1 Ne. 17: 29; 20: 21.

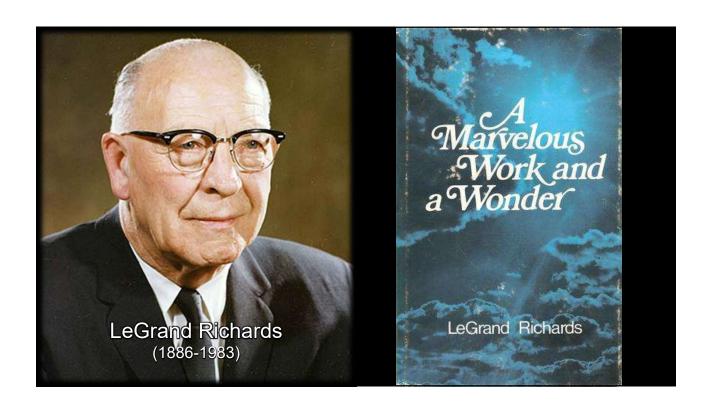
23 For we labor diligently to write, to apersuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by bgrace that we are saved, after all we can edo.

- Scattering of, c Tra Babylon. 16a Ezek. 34: 22; Morm. 5: 14. b 2 Ne. 10: 7 (5-9); 30: 7 (7-8), c Job 17: 9; D&C 88: 86, d To False Christs.

Spencer W. Kimball (1895-1985)







FALSE DOCTRINES AND UNIVERSAL APOSTASY

Apostasy from the Truth

A second great truth was revealed in the visitation of the Father and the Son to the Prophet Joseph Smith through the announcement made by the Savior of the world in answer to Joseph Smith's question as to which of the churches he should join. He was told he should join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that ... "they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the compandments of men having a form of saviliness, but they draw the mandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof." (Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith 2:19.)

This pronouncement brought to Joseph Smith the information he so much desired, for, more than anything else, he wanted to know which of all the churches he should join, and it was to obtain this information that he went to the Lord in prayer.

Erroneous Teachings of Christian Churches

Erroneous Teachings of Christian Churches

One erroneous teaching of many Christian churches is: By faith alone we are saved. This false doctrine would relieve man from the responsibility of his acts other than to confess a belief in God, and would teach man that no matter how great the sin, a confession would bring him complete forgiveness and salvation. What the world needs is more preaching of the necessity of abstaining from sin and of living useful and righteous lives, and less preaching of forgiveness of sin. This would then be a different world. The truth is that men must repent of their sins and forsake them before they can expect forgiveness. Even when our sins are forgiven, God cannot reward us for the good we are forgiven, God cannot reward us for the good we have not done.

FALSE DOCTRINES AND UNIVERSAL APOSTASY

The prophet Mormon, who lived upon the American continent about A.D. 400, foretold the coming of the plates from which the Book of Mormon should be translated and described the condition of the churches that should then be found among the people:

Yea, it shall come in a day when the power of God shall be denied, and churches become defiled and be lifted up in the pride of their hearts, yea, even in a day when the leaders of churches and teachers shall rise in the pride of their hearts, even to the envying of

them who belong to their churches.
Yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be churches built up that shall say: Come unto me, and for your money you shall be forgiven of your sins. (Mormon 8:28, 32.)

Doctrine of Predestination

Again, there is the erroneous doctrine of predestination, which teaches that without any act on our part, some are predestined to eternal life and some to eternal damnation, and that no matter in which class we find ourselves, there is nothing we can do about it. A complete analysis of this doctrine forces one to the conclusion that if it is true that all our acts, whether good or evil, were predetermined before our birth, God would be seened to be for all its ned trivial in the second. be responsible for all sin and iniquity in the world.

In his effort to destroy truth, Satan could hardly

have hoped to deceive men more effectively and com-pletely than to take from them, through the teaching of such doctrines, a consciousness of their responsibilities.

One Heaven and One Hell

There is also the false teaching of one heaven and one hell, with the thought that all who reach heaven will share alike, and the same will be true of those who are assigned to hell.

The truth, as restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith, emphasizes the fact that every man will receive

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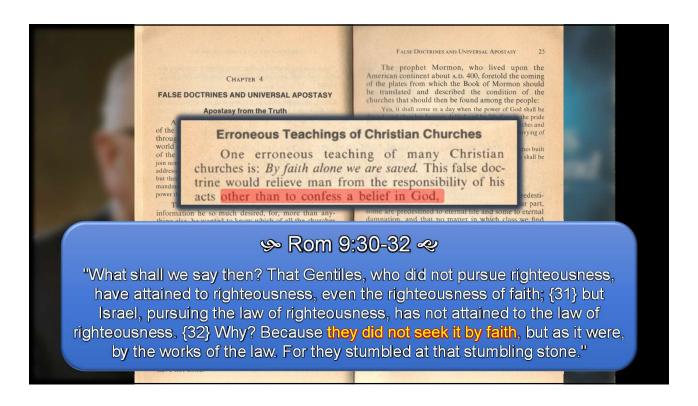
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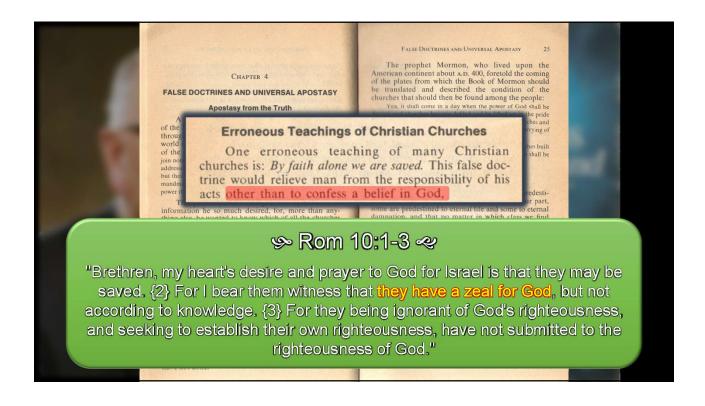
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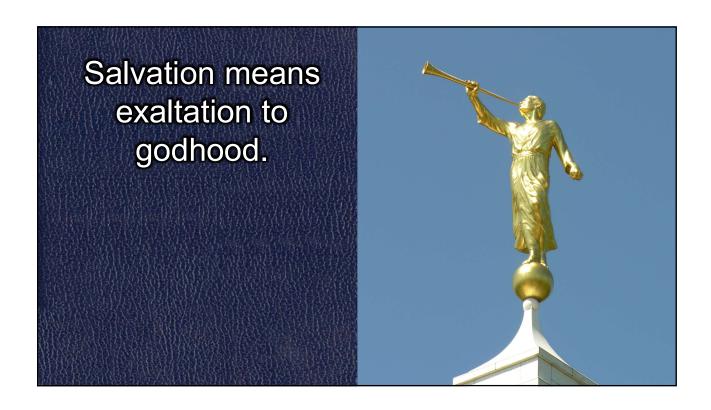
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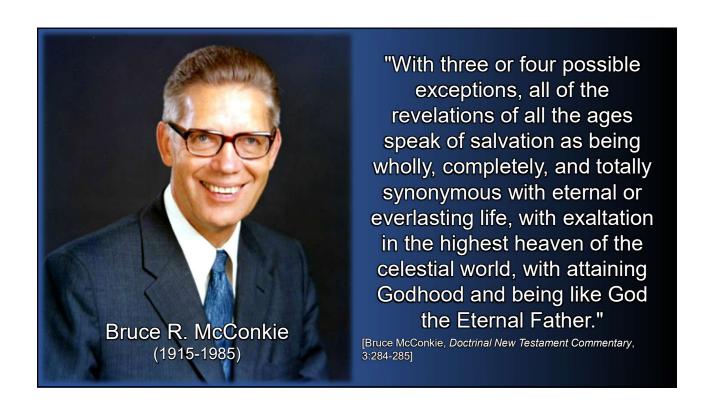
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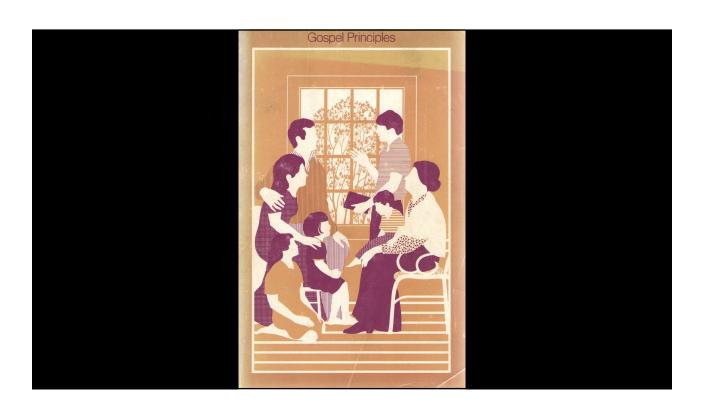
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edge and all wisdom. He is the father of spirit children. He is a creator. We can become Gods like our Heavenly Father. This is exaltation.

If we prove faithful and obedient to all the commandments of the Lord, we will live in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom of heaven. We will become exalted, just like our Heavenly Father. Exaltation is the highest reward that our Heavenly Father can give his children. The Lord has said that exaltation is the greatest gift of all the gifts of God (see D&C 14:7).

BLESSINGS OF EXALTATION

BLESSINGS OF EXALIATION
Our Heavenly Father is perfect. However, he is not jealous of his wisdom and perfection. He glories in the fact that it is possible for his children to become like him. He has said:
"This is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man" (Moses 1:39).

Those who live the commandments of the Lord a eternal life (exaltation) in the celestial kingdom will receive special blessings. The Lord has said: "All [things] are theirs" (O&C 76:59). These are some of the special blessings given to exalted persons:

1. They will live eternally in the presence of our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ (see D&C 76).

2. They will become gods.

- 2. They will become gous.
 3. They will have their righteous family members with them and will be able to have spirit children also. These spirit children will have the same relationship to them as we do to our Heavenly Father. They will be an eternal family.
- 4. They will receive a fullness of joy.
- 4. Iney will receive a fullness of joy.
 5. They will have everything that our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ have, all power, glory, dominion, and knowledge. President Joseph Fielding Smith wrote: "The Father has promised through the Son that all that he has shall be given to those who are obedient to his commandments. They

shall increase in knowledge, wisdom, and power, going from grace to grace, until the fullness of the perfect day shall burst upon them" (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:36).

REQUIREMENTS FOR EXALTATION

REQUIREMENTS FOR EXALTATION
Latter-day Saints are taught that now is the time to fulfill the requirements for exaltation (see Alma 34:32–34). President Joseph Fielding Smith said, "In order to obtain the exaltation we must accept the gospel and all its covenants; and take upon us the obligations which the Lord has offered; and walk in the light and understanding of the truth; and "live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God" (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:43).

There are specific ordinances we must have received to be

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- 1. We must be baptized and confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ.
- 2. We must receive the Holy Ghost.
- We must receive the temple endowment.
- We must be married for time and all eternity.

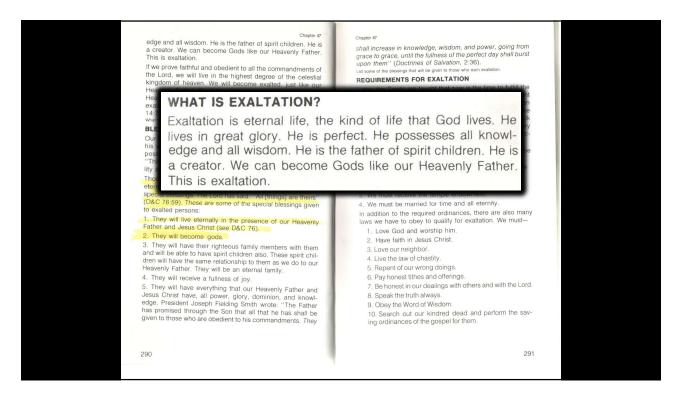
In addition to the required ordinances, there are also many laws we have to obey to qualify for exaltation. We must—

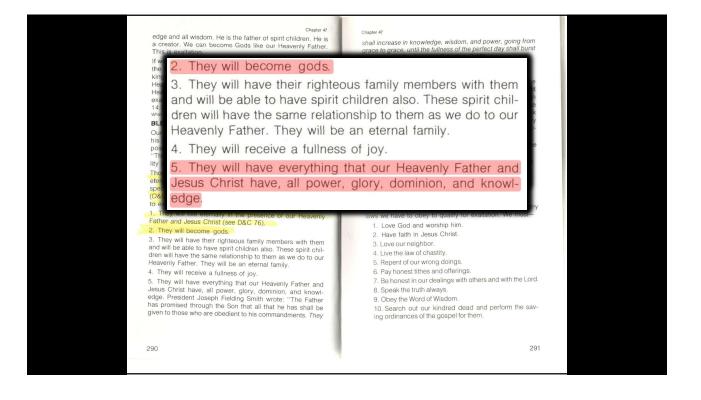
- 1. Love God and worship him.
- 2. Have faith in Jesus Christ. 3. Love our neighbor.
- 4. Live the law of chastity 5. Repent of our wrong doings.
- Pay honest tithes and offerings.
- 7. Be honest in our dealings with others and with the Lord.
- 8. Speak the truth always.
- Obey the Word of Wisdom.

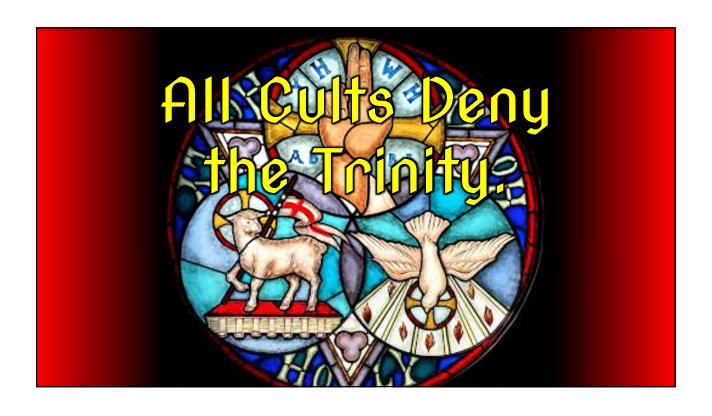
10. Search out our kindred dead and perform the saving ordinances of the gospel for them.

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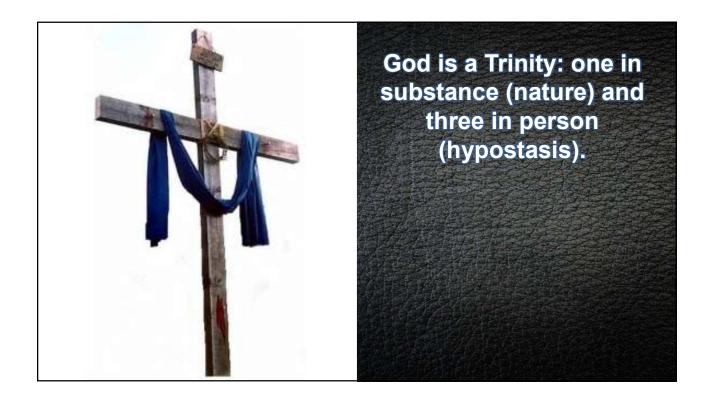


Two Types of Denial

Affirm a view to which they give the name 'Trinity' though the view is not the true doctrine of the Trinity

Deny any belief in the Trinity while holding a distorted view of what the true doctrine of the Trinity even is







Biblical Argument

- 1. There is only one God.
- 2. The Father is God.
- 3. The Son is God.
- 4. The Spirit is God.
- 5. The Father is not the Son.
- 6. The Son is not the Spirit.
- 7. The Spirit is not the Father.



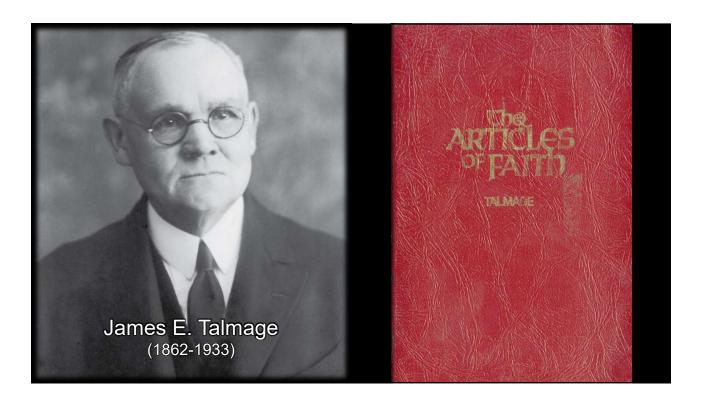
"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.' "



"When He had been baptized,
Jesus came up immediately from
the water; and behold, the
heavens were opened to Him,
and He saw the Spirit of God
descending like a dove and
alighting upon Him. And
suddenly a voice came from
heaven, saying, 'This is My
beloved Son, in whom I am well
pleased.'"

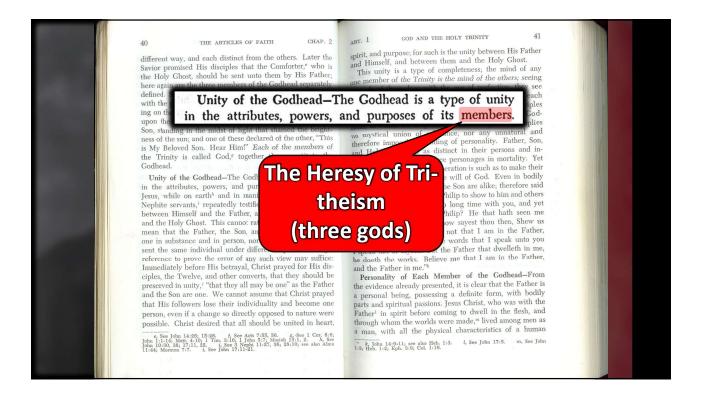
Though Mormons claim to believe in the Trinity, the Mormon view is not the true, orthodox view of the Trinity.



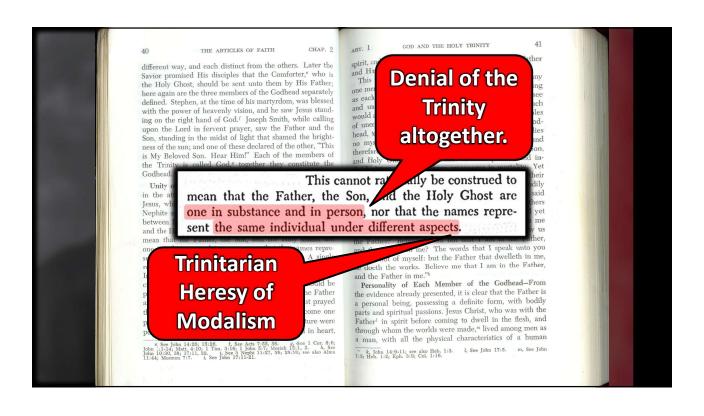


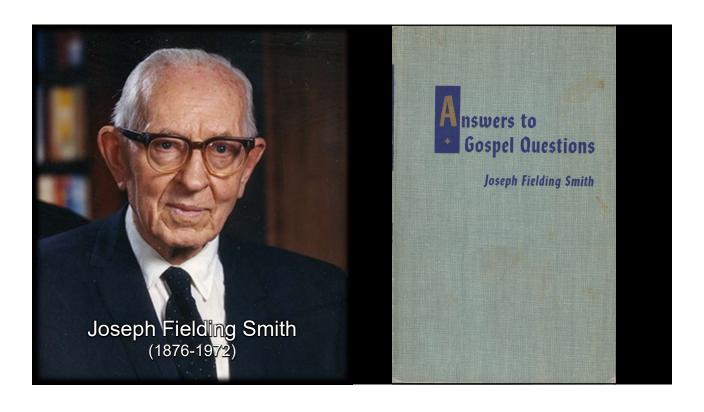
GOD AND THE HOLY TRINITY 40 THE ARTICLES OF FAITH CHAP. 2 spirit, and purpose; for such is the unity between His Father spirit, and purpose; for such is the unity between His Father and Himself, and between them and the Holy Ghost.

This unity is a type of completeness; the mind of any one member of the Trinity is the mind of the others; seeing as each of them does with the eye of perfection, they see and understand alike. Under any given conditions each would act in the same way, guided by the same principles of unerring justice and equity. The one-ness of the Godhead, to which the scriptures so abundantly testify, implies no mystical union of substance, nor any unnatural and therefore impossible blending of personality. Father. Son different way, and each distinct from the others. Later the Savior promised His disciples that the Comforter, who is the Holy Ghost, should be sent unto them by His Father; here again are the three members of the Godhead separately defined. Stephen, at the time of his martyrdom, was blessed with the power of heavenly vision, and he saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God. Joseph Smith, while calling upon the Lord in fervent prayer, saw the Father and the Son, standing in the midst of light that shamed the bright-Son, standing in the limits of light that standard the bright-ness of the sun; and one of these declared of the other, "This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!" Each of the members of the Trinity is called God, together they constitute the therefore impossible blending of personality. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are as distinct in their persons and individualities as are any three personages in mortality. Yet dividualities as are any three personages in mortanty. Fet their unity of purpose and operation is such as to make their edicts one, and their will the will of God. Even in bodily appearance the Father and the Son are alike; therefore said Christ when importuned by Philip to show to him and others Unity of the Godhead—The Godhead is a type of unity in the attributes, powers, and purposes of its members. Jesus, while on earth^h and in manifesting Himself to His Christ when importuned by Philip to show to him and others the Father: "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father, in me?" Nephite servants, repeatedly testified of the unity existing between Himself and the Father, and between them both and the Holy Ghost. This cannot rationally be construed to mean that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one in substance and in person, nor that the names represent the same individual under different aspects. A single reference to prove the error of any such view may suffice: Immediately before His betrayal, Christ prayed for His disciples, the Twelve, and other converts, that they should be and the Father in me."k Personality of Each Member of the Godhead-From the evidence already presented, it is clear that the Father is preserved in unity,¹ "that they all may be one" as the Father and the Son are one. We cannot assume that Christ prayed a personal being, possessing a definite form, with bodily parts and spiritual passions. Jesus Christ, who was with the that His followers lose their individuality and become one Father in spirit before coming to dwell in the flesh, and through whom the worlds were made," lived among men as a man, with all the physical characteristics of a human person, even if a change so directly opposed to nature were possible. Christ desired that all should be united in heart, e, See John 14:26; 15:26. f, See Acts 7:55, 56. g, See 1 Cor. 8:6; John 1:1-14; Matt. 4:10; 1 Tim. 3:16; 1 John 5:7; Mosiah 15:1, 2. h, See John 10:90, 38; 17:11, 22. f, See 3 Nephi 11:27, 36; 28:10; see also Alma 11:44; Mormon 7:7. f, See John 17:11-21. k, John 14:9-11; see also Heb. 1:3. l, See John 17:5. m, See John 1:3; Heb. 1:2; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16.





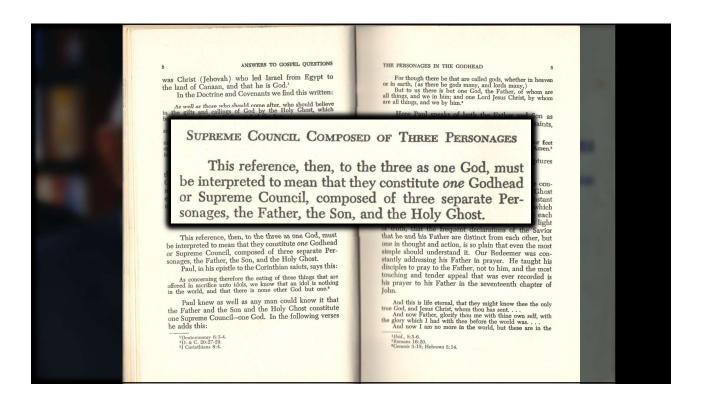


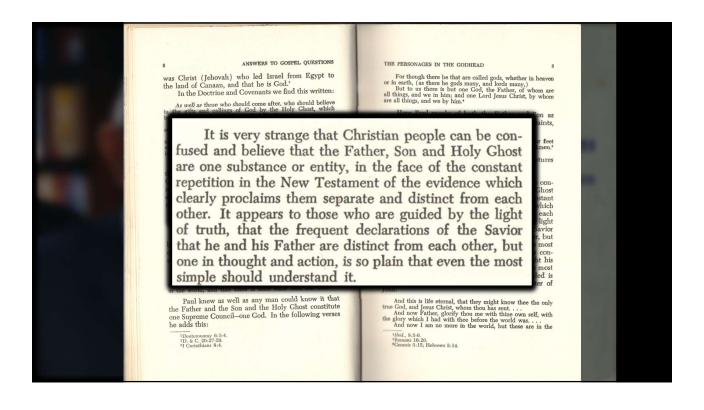


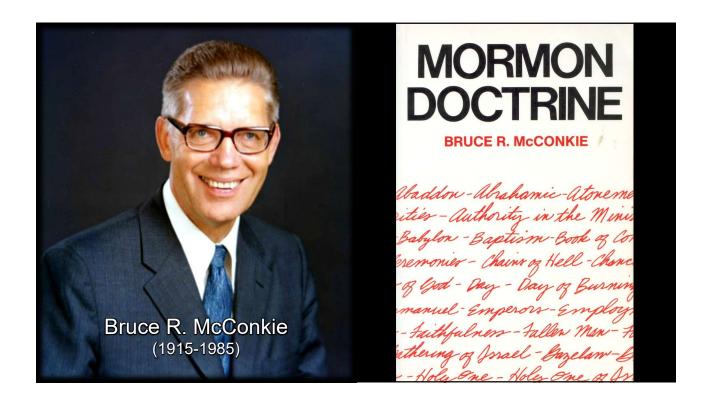
ANSWERS TO GOSPEL QUESTIONS THE PERSONAGES IN THE CODHEAD was Christ (Jehovah) who led Israel from Egypt to the land of Canaan, and that he is God. In the Doctrine and Covenants we find this written: For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many.)

But to us there is but one God, 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. As well as those who should come after, who should believe the gifts and callings of God by the Holy Chost, which beared that of the Father and of the Son; which are the state, son, and Holy Chost are one God, infinite and eternal, without end. Amen.

And we know that all men must repent and believe on the name of Jesus Christ, and worship the Father in his name, and endure in faith on his name to the end, or they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God.² Here Paul speaks of both the Father and Son as God. Near the close of his epistle to the Roman saints, And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen. The "God of peace," who according to the scriptures This is very clear, and there is no confounding of the Personages of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Therefore the statement that they are "one God" must refer to something other than that they are "one essence" and "without body parts and passions" as so many Christian people believe. is to bruise Satan, is Jesus Christ. It is very strange that Christian people can be confused and believe that the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are one substance or entity, in the face of the constant repetition in the New Testament of the evidence which clearly proclaims them separate and distinct from each other. It appears to those who are guided by the light of truth, that the frequent declarations of the Savior that he and his Father are distinct from each other, but one in thought and action, is so plain that even the most simple should understand it. Our Redeemer was constantly addressing his Father in prayer. He taught his disciples to pray to the Father, not to him, and the most touching and tender appeal that was ever recorded is his prayer to his Father in the seventeenth chapter of John. Supreme Council Composed of Three Personages This reference, then, to the three as one God, must be interpreted to mean that they constitute one Godhead or Supreme Council, composed of three separate Per-sonages, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Paul, in his epistle to the Corinthian saints, says this: As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. Paul knew as well as any man could know it that He Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost constitute one Supreme Council—one God. In the following verses he adds this: And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent... And now Father, glorify thou me with thine own self, with the glory which I had with thee before the world was... And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the ¹Deuteronomy 6:3-4 ²D. & C. 20:27-29. ³I Corinthians 8:4.







GOD AS A SPIRIT

and savanou.

p. 9.)

"There is a God in heaven, who is infinite and eternal, from everlasting to everlasting the same unchangeable God, the framer of

is infinite and eternal, from ever-lasting to everlasting the same un-changeable God, the framer of heaven and earth, and all things which are in them." (D. & C. 20: 17.) He is not a progressive being in the sense that liberal religionists profess to believe; he was not cre-ated by man; and he was not a God of vengeance and war in Old Testament times and a God of love and mercy in a later New Testa-ment era. He is the same yester-day, today, and forever. God is known only by revela-tion; he stands revealed or remains forever unknown. He cannot be discovered in the laboratory, or by viewing all immensity through giant telescopes, or by cataloging all the laws of nature that do or have existed. A knowledge of his powers and the laws of nature which he has ordained does not re-veal his personality and attributes to men in the true gospel sense. Certainly a knowledge of these laws and powers enables man to learn truths which are faith proto men in the true gospel sense. Certainly a knowledge of the sensoring and which help him to understand more about Detty; but saving knowledge of God comes only by revelation from the Holy (Inspired Version, John 4:25-28.

principle dwell; and that he is the Father of lights; in him the principle of faith dwells independently, and he is the object in whom the faith of all other rational and accountable beings centers for life and salvation." (Lectures on Faith, p. 9.)

"There is a God in heaven, who is infinite and eternal, from everlasting to everlasting the same unchangeable God, the framer of

GOD ALMIGHTY

GOD AS A SPIRIT.

GOD AS A SPIRIT.

See APOSTASY, CREEDS, GOD.

False creeds teach that God is a spirit essence that fills the immensity of space and is everywhere and nowhere in particular present. In a vain attempt to support the doctrine, formulated by councils in the early days of the great apost the common for application of the property of the great property it is common for application. the early days of the great ape tasy, it is common for apologists point to the statement in the King James Bible which say "God is a Spirit." (John 4:22-2 The fact is that this passage mistranslated; instead, the corr statement, quoted in context rea "The hour cometh, and now when the true worshippers showship the Father in spirit and

e Christ, Father in Heaven, GOD, GODHOOD, HOLY GHOST, LURALITY OF GODS. Three glori-District of the control of the contr That Article of Faith, "Everlastic covenant was made between between the personages," the Prophet was a search, and relates to their dissearch, and relates to their dissearch, and relates to their dissearch, and relates to their dissearch with; these personages, according to Abraham's record, are called odd the first, the Creator; God the cond, the Redeemer, and God the

However, it is true that God may said to be a Spirit, but this afternent must be understood to san that he is a Spirit in the may see that a resurrected man as a spirit. When the apostles, beyolding the resurrected Low, sere terrified and affrighted, and apposed that they had seen a possed that they had seen a spirit "Cluke 24:36-43), there was the slightest intimation than "spirit" was a vaporous nothagess that filled immensity, spirits are personages. God the rather is a glorified and perfected than, a Personage of flesh and smes (D. & C. 130:22), in which agible body an eternal spirit is aussed. It is in this sense that God as Spirit. Though each God in the Godhead is a personage, separate and distinct from each of the others, yet they are "one God" (Teatimony of Three Witnesses in Book of Mormon), meaning that they are united as one in the attributes of perfection. For instance, each has the fulness of truth, knowledge, charity, power, justice, judgment, mercy, and faith. Accordingly they all think, act, speak, and are alike in all things; and yet they are three separate and distinct entities. Each occupies space and is and can be in but one place at one time, but each has power and influence that is everywhere present. The oneness of the Gods is the same unity that should exist among the saints, (John 17; 3 Ne. 28:10-11.)

Perhaus no better extensions

11.)
Perhaps no better statement defining the Godhead and showing the relationship of its members to each other has been written in this each other has been written in this dispensation than that given by the Prophet Joseph Smith in the Lectures on Faith. "There are two personages who constitute the great, matchless, governing, and supreme, power over all things, by whom all things were created and made, that are created and made, whether visible or invisible, whether in heaven, on earth, or in the earth, under the earth, or throughout the immensity of space. They are the Father and the Som—the Father being a personage of spirit 199

GODHEAD

GODHEAD

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Father of lights; in him the principle of faith dwells independently,
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17) He is not a prose in the sense that liber profess to believe, he ated by man; and food of vengeance and Testament times and and mercy in a later ment era. He is the day, today, and forever God is known on tion; he stands reveal forever unknown. He discovered in the labs viewing all immensions telescopes, or label to the some control of the source of the universe.

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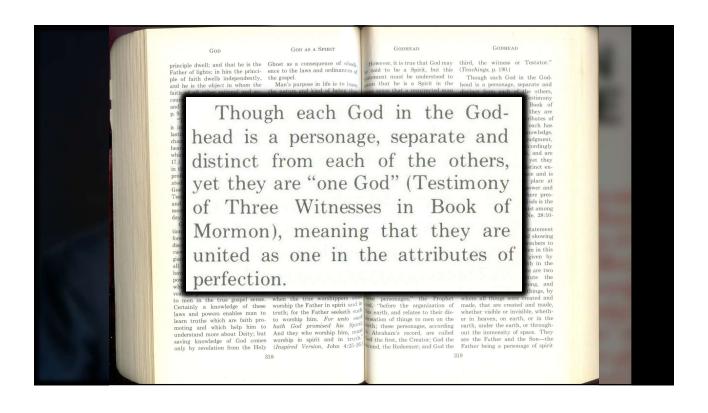
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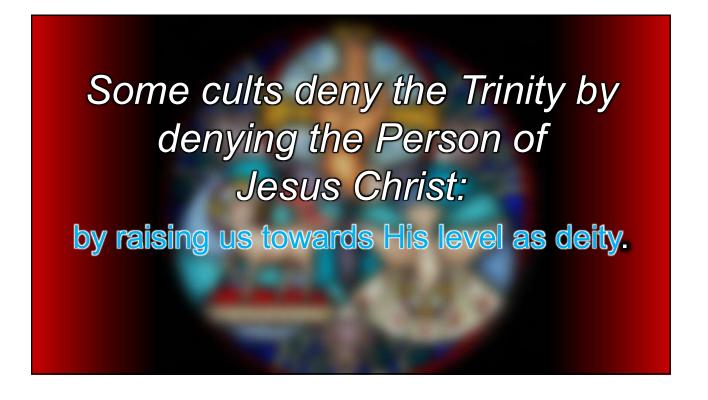
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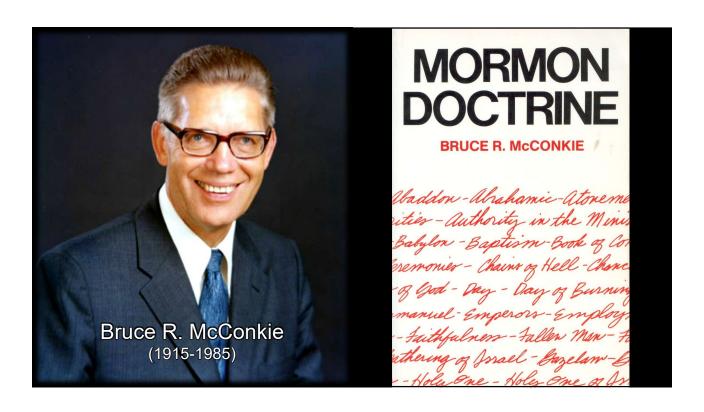
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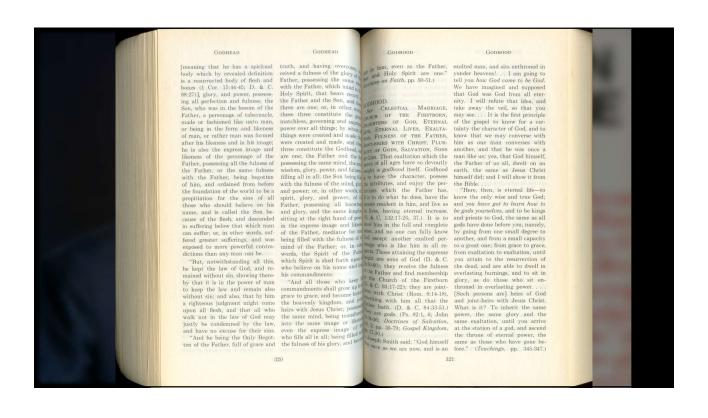
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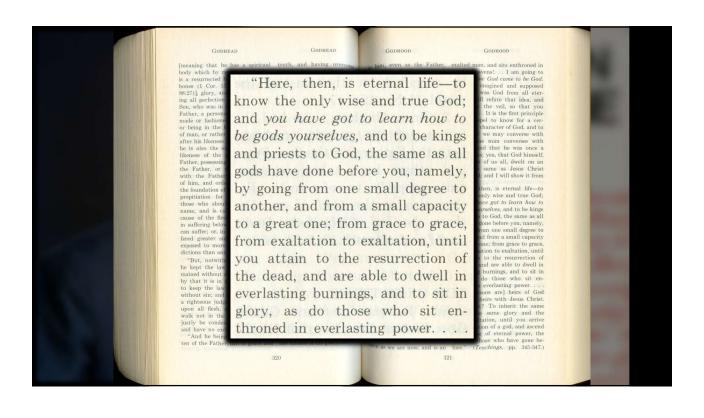
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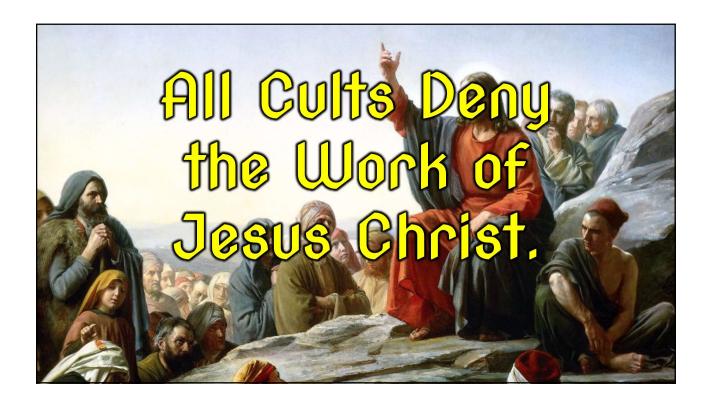


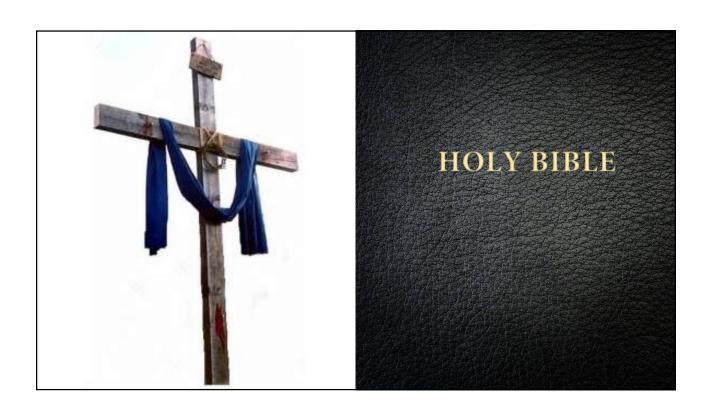


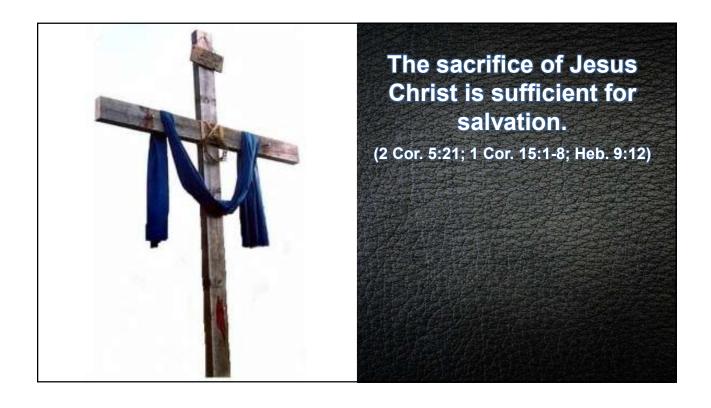




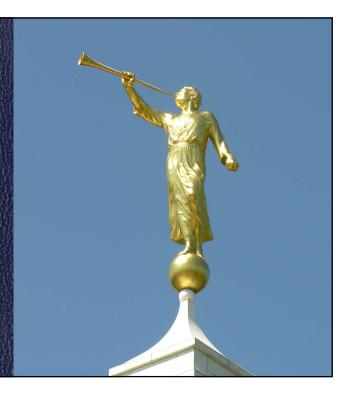


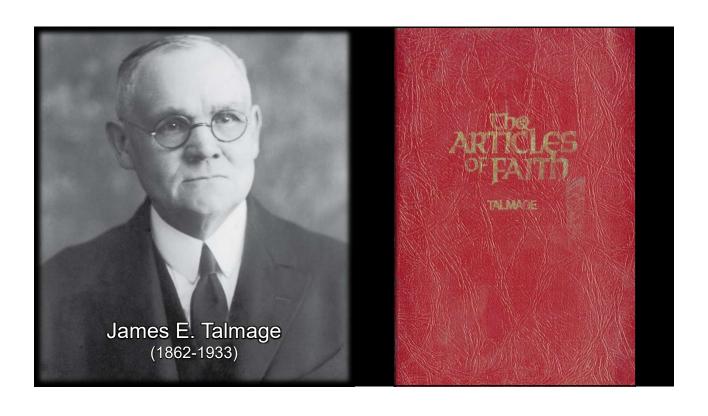






Mormonism denies the work of Jesus Christ by claiming that it is incomplete.





88 THE ARTICLES OF FAITH CHAP.

to the ills of mortality; but through Christ's atonement they are all redeemed from the curse of this fallen state. The debt, which comes to them as a legacy, is paid for them and thus are they left free. Children who die before reaching the state of accountability for their acts are innocent in the eyes of God, even though they be the offspring of transgressors. We read in the Book of Mormon: "Little children cannot repent; wherefore, it is awful wickedness to deny the pure mercies of God unto them, for they are all alive in him because of his mercy. ° ° For behold that all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without the law. For the power of redemption cometh on all them that have no law."

all them that have no law, .

The prophet Mormon, writing to his son Moroni, expressed in the following manner his conviction of the innocence of children: "Listen to the words of Christ, your Redeemer, your Lord and your God. Behold, I came into the world not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance; the whole need no physician, but they that are sick; wherefore, little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me, that it hath no power over them. * * * Behold I say unto you that this thing shall ye teach—repentance and baptism unto those who are accountable and capable of committing sin, yea, teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their little children. And their little children need no repentance, neither baptism. Behold, baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling the commandments unto the remission of sins. But little children are alive in Christ, even from the foundation of the world."

In a revelation through the Prophet Joseph Smith in this

i, Moroni 8:19-22. j, Moroni 8:8-12.

ART. 3 SALVATION

dispensation, the Lord has said: "But behold, I say unto you, that little children are redeemed from the foundation of the world through mine Only Begotten; Wherefore, they cannot sin, for power is not given unto Satan to templ little children, until they begin to become accountable before me." President John Taylor, after citing instances of Christ's affection for little children, and proofs of the innocent condition in which they are regarded in heaven, says: "Without Adam's transgression those children could not have existed; through the atonement they are placed in a state of salvation without any act of their own. These would embrace, according to the opinion of statisticians, more than one-half of the human family who can attribute their salvation only to the mediation and atonement of the Savior."

The Individual Effect of the Atonement makes it possible for any and every soul to obtain absolution from the effect of personal sins, through the mediation of Christ; but such saving intercession is to be invoked by individual effort as manifested through faith, repentance, and continued works of righteousness. The laws under which individual salvation is obtainable have been prescribed by Christ, whose right it is to say how the blessings made possible by His own sacrifice shall be administered. All men are in need of the Savior's mediation, for all are transgressors. So taught the apostles of old: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." And again: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." That the blessing of redemption from individual sins, while open for all to attain, is nevertheless conditioned on individual effort, is as plainly declared as is the truth of unconditional redemption from death as

k, D.&C. 29:46, 47. l, Mediation and Atonement, p. 148; see also Appendix 4:3. m, Rom. 3:23. n, 1 John 1:8.

THE ARTICLES OF FAITH

ART

SALVATION

89

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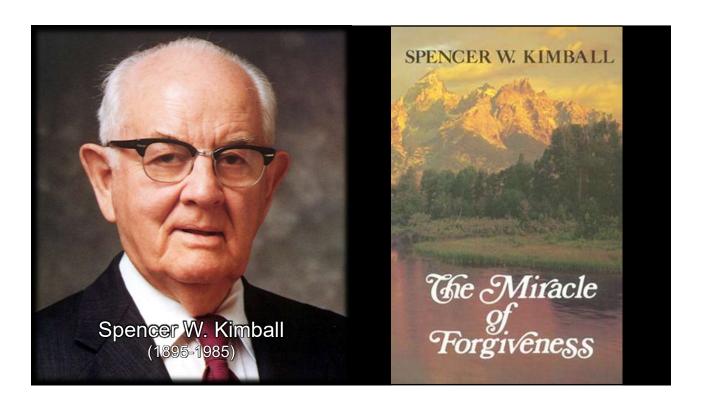
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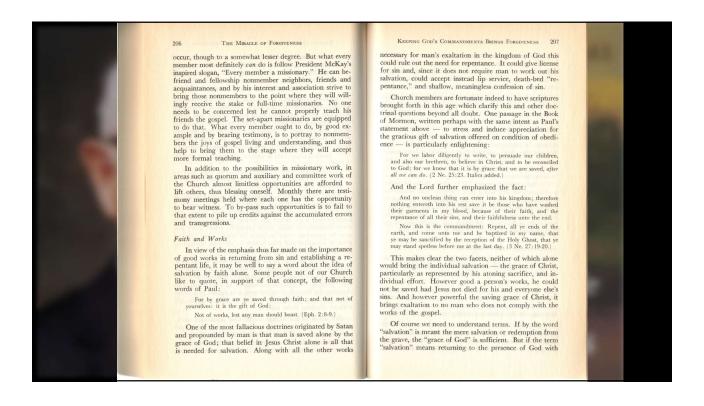
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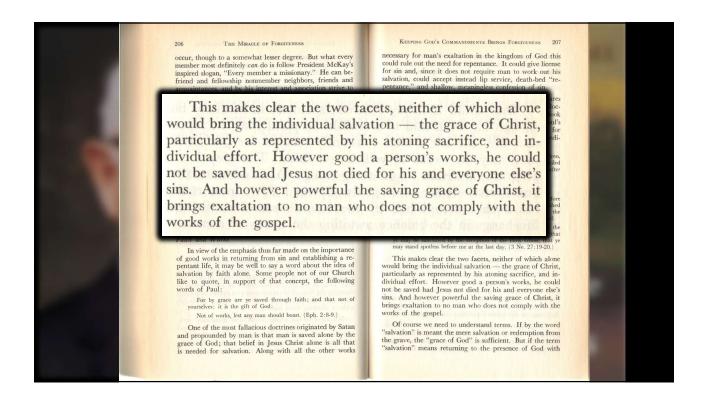
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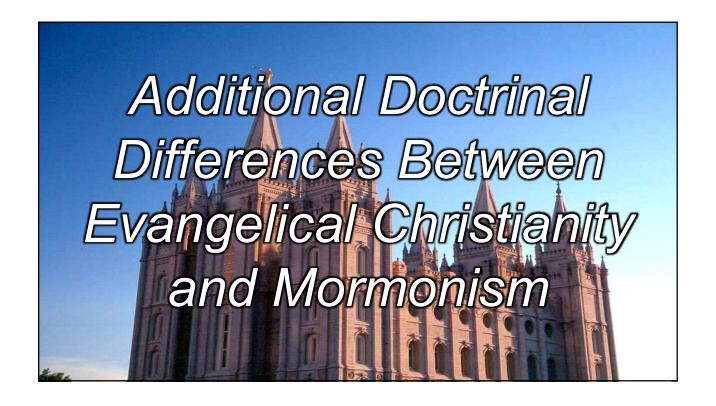
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Number of Gods

There is only one God. This does not mean merely that there is only one God with whom we have to do, but rather that there is only one Supreme Being in existence.

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!" (Deuteronomy 6:4)

"Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me." (Isaiah 46:9)

There are many Gods.

"And they (the Gods) said 'Let there be light' and there was light." [Pearl of Great Price, "Book of Abraham" 4:3]

Mormonism

"According to that which was ordained in the midst of the Council of the Eternal God of all other gods before this world was ..." [Doctrine & Covenants 121:32]

Mormonism

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"Three separate personages—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—comprise the Godhead. As each of these persons is a God, it is evident, from this standpoint alone, that a plurality of Gods exists. To us, speaking in the proper finite sense, these three are the only Gods we worship. But in addition there is an infinite number of holy personages, drawn from worlds without number, who have passed on to exaltation and are thus gods." [McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, s.v. "Plurality of Gods," p. 577, emphasis in original]

Christianity

Mormonism

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"If Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and John discovered that God the Father of Jesus Christ had a Father, you may suppose that he had a Father also. Where was there ever a son without a father? And where was there ever a father without first being a son?" [Joseph Smith, Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 374, as cited in McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, s.v. "Plurality]

Mormonism

Nature of God

God is a spirit, without flesh and bone.

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24)

"Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." (Luke 24:39) God is a personage of flesh and bone (physical).

"The Father has a body of flesh, and bones as tangible as man's." [Doctrine & Covenants 130:22]

Christianity

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"We affirm that to deny the materiality of God's person is to deny God; for ... an immaterial body cannot exist." [James E. Talmage, A Study of the Articles of Faith (Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1971), 48]

Mormonism

Eternity of God

God has always been God.

"Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." (Psalm 90:2)

"And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me." (Isaiah 43:10)

God was once a mere man.

"God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens! ... I am going to tell you how God came to be God. Ye have imagined and suppose that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea ... he was once a man like us; yea, that God himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ himself did." [Joseph Smith, Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 345-347, as cited in McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, s.v. "Godhood," p. 321]

Christianity

Mormonism

Pre-Existence of Man

Man has an immortal soul which is not made from any pre-existing spiritual "stuff" but is created by God. (Gen. 1:26; 2:7)

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Gen 1:26)

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (Gen 2:7) Man's spirit is from an eternal self-existent "spirit element." As individuals, men pre-exited this world.

"Man is a spirit clothed with a tabernacle the intelligent part of which was never created or made but existed eternally—man was also in the beginning with God." [Joseph Fielding Smith, *Progress of Man* (Salt Lake City: genealogical Society of Utah, 1938), as cited in Gordon H. Fraser, *Is Mormonism Christian?: Mormon Doctrine Compared with Biblical Christianity* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1977), 57]

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"Spirit element has always existed; it is co-eternal with God. Portions of the self-existence spirit element were born as spirit children, or in other words the intelligence which cannot be created or made because it is self-existent, is organized into intelligences." [McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, s.v. "Spirit Element," p. 751]

Christianity

Mormonism

Pre-Existence of Man

Man has an immortal soul which is not made from any pre-existing spiritual "stuff" but is created by God. (Gen. 1:26; 2:7)

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Gen 1:26)

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (Gen 2:7) Man's spirit is from an eternal self-existent "spirit element." As individuals, men pre-exited this world.

"The intelligence or spirit element became intelligences after the spirits were born as individual entities. Use of this name designates both the primal element from which the spirit offspring were created and also their inherited capacity to grow in grace, knowledge, power, and intelligence itself, until such intelligences, gaining the fulness of all things, become like their Father, the Supreme Intelligence."
[McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, s.v. "Intelligences," p. 387]

Mormonism

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"What is [man]? He had his being in the eternal worlds; he existed before he came here." [John Taylor, Teachings of the Presidents of the Church: John Taylor, (Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 2001), 2]

Christianity

Mormonism

Immortality

Man has the opportunity, by God's grace through faith, to be present with the Lord after death, but will never become a God.

"We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord." (2 Cor. 5:8)

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. {17} Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thes. 4:16-17)

Man's destiny is to progress into Godhood and occupy the highest of the three-leveled heaven.

"And when he shall be perfected, and have progressed to maturity, he will be like his Father—a God, being indeed His offspring. As the horse, the ox, the sheep, and every living creature, including man, propagates its own species and perpetuates its own kind, so does God perpetuate his." [John Taylor, *Teachings*, 3]

Mormonism

Heaven

The eternal abode of all who are saved is to be with the Lord in heaven where awaits for all of the redeemed an eternal reward. (1 Corinthians 5:1-2; 1 Peter 1:4)

"For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. {2} For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven." (2 Cor. 5:1-2)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you." (1 Pet. 1:3-4)

There are three levels of heaven:

- * Celestial faithful Mormons
- Terrestrial- honorable men who are not Mormon
- Telestial those who received not the testimony of Jesus

"One of the great errors in the teachings of the Christian religions is the doctrine of one heaven and one hell ..." [LeGrand Richards, *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1976), 253]

Christianity

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There are three levels of heaven:

"Wherefore, ... they are gods, even the sons of God ... These are they whose bodies are celestial ..."[Doctrine & Covenants, 76:58]

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There are three levels of heaven:

y→ Terrestrial
√

"...these are they who die without the law ... who receive not the testimony of Jesus in the flesh, but afterwards received it ... who are honorable men of the earth ...they are bodies terrestrial ..." [Doctrine & Covenants, 76:70, 74, 75, 78]

Christianity

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There are three levels of heaven:

y→ Telestial

"...these are they who received not the gospel of Christ, neither the testimony of Jesus ... these are they who receive not his fullness in the eternal world ... and thus we saw ... the glory of the telestial" [Doctrine & Covenants, 76:82, 86]

Mormonism

Hell

There is eternal punishment for sin.

"Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, {10} he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. {11} And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.' " (Rev. 14:9-11)

To be damned means to limit one's progress to Godhood. Eternal punishment does not necessarily mean endless punishment. The lowest level (perdition) is reserved for apostate Mormons. It is likely not eternal.

"Whosoever, therefore, received God's punishment receives eternal punishment, whether it is endured one hour, one day, one year, or an age." [n.a., *Plan of Salvation* (n.c.: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, n.d.): 30]

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"The false doctrine that the punishment to be visited upon erring souls is endless ... must be regarded as one of the most pernicious results of misapprehension of scripture. ... The punishment in any case is sufficiently severe without the added and supreme horror of unending continuation. Justice must have her due; but when 'the uttermost farthing' is paid, the prison doors shall open and the captive be free." [Talmage, Study, 61]

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To be damned means to limit one's progress to Godhood. Eternal punishment does not necessarily mean endless punishment. The lowest level (perdition) is reserved for apostate Mormons. It is likely not eternal.

"Thus saith the Lord concerning all those who know my power ... and to deny the truth and defy my power—they are they who are the sons of perdition ... vessels of wrath, doomed to suffer the wrath of God, with the devil and his angels in eternity." [Doctrine & Covenants, 76:31-33]

