

# Why I Am Not A Mormon!

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1984 (Rev. 2000)

**Introduction:** Joseph Smith was born on December 23, 1805. In 1820 at age 14, Joseph Smith had his first vision at Palmyra, New York. Two messengers, God the Father and God the Son came to him and said to him, “None of the sects is correct and that they are all corrupt and hypocritical.” A short time later, Smith calls himself an apostle. In 1823, at age 17 a second vision came to him. This was the messenger from God called “Moroni” (some earlier writings say it was “Nephi”). The prophet told him that God was going to use him for His mighty work. The prophet told him a set of golden plates giving the account of the former inhabitants of this land were given to him along with “two stones” in silver bowls fastened to a breastplate. God had prepared these stones for translating these plates. The next day Smith went up to a hill next to the town called, Culmorrah. He dug up the plates and the stones but was told not to remove them for four years. In September of 1827, he was allowed to remove the plates and begin translating. In July of 1829, Smith finished translating the book of Mormon and Martin Harris a rich farmer paid to publish 5,000 copies. On April 6, 1830, in Fayette, New York, the “Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints” was officially organized. By December of 1830 there were 1,000 members of the group. In 1844, Smith’s group broke into two factions, “The Reorganized Latter Day Saints” under Sidney Rigdon in Independence, Missouri, and “The Church of the Latter Day Saints” under Brigham Young. Brigham Young led the group Westward ultimately settling in Utah.

There are many good people in Mormonism and many Mormons have done great things. Many modern people like Glenn Beck, Mitt Romney, the Osmonds, Orin Hatch, Harry Reid, Stephen Covey, and others. However, the teachings of the Mormons contradict the Bible.

The following points are not biblical and are not found in Christianity. I could never be a “Mormon” or a member of “The Church of the Latter Day Saints” because of the following reasons.

## **1. Because Mormonism adds three books to the Bible making them equal in authority.**

The Book of Mormon (revelation from the ten tribes that settled in America with the Indians), the Doctrines and Covenants (contains the 136 revelations of Joseph Smith), and the Pearls of Great Price (contains the book of Moses and the book of Abraham, and a series of statements written by Smith entitled “articles of faith”) are all sources of authority and are equal to the Bible. Joseph Smith stated, “We also believe the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God.”<sup>1</sup> Smith also believed the revelations recorded in the Book of the “Doctrines and Covenants” by which the Bible was expanded.<sup>2</sup>

## **2. Because Mormonism believes in continuing prophecies and revelations for today.**

In September of 1830, Oliver Cowdery was told in a revelation, “Verily, verily I say unto thee, no one shall be appointed to receive commandments and revelations in this church excepting my servant, Joseph Smith, for he receiveth them even as Moses.”<sup>3</sup> Smith gave a large number of prophecies and so have other leaders of the Mormons. All fifty-eight of Joseph Smith’s prophecies failed to come true. Smith believed his prophecies now allowed him to understand the true meaning of Scripture.<sup>4</sup>

## **3. Because Mormonism believes the Bible is not a complete guide and is only God’s Word when translated correctly.**

Joseph Smith believed the Bible was not a complete guide and is only God’s Word when translated correctly. He made his own “inspired version” of the Bible, which is used by the Reorganized group in Missouri, but the group in Utah say he never finished it.<sup>5</sup>

## **4. Because Mormonism rejected all translations of the Bible as not being translated correctly.**

“The prophet Joseph Smith, from the beginning of his ministry, gave some time to revising passages in the Bible which had been translated incorrectly or so rendered as to make the meaning obscure.”<sup>6</sup>

However, Smith did not improve the translation. He had no knowledge of the Greek of the New Testament or the Hebrew of the Old Testament, nor any knowledge of textual criticism. What Smith did was completely rewrite Bible passages to conform to his new revelations. This means Joseph Smith added and subtracted from the Word of God. Smith's new Bible was entitled, "Inspired Version: The Holy Scriptures, Containing the Old and New Testaments: An Inspired Revision of the Authorized Version, A New Corrected Edition" by Joseph Smith, Independence: Herald Pub. House, 1955, originally done in 1867.<sup>7</sup>

#### **5. Because Mormonism's founder, Joseph Smith, was a corrupt individual.**

(1.) In 1826, Joseph Smith was charged, convicted and jailed for exploiting clients with treasure hunting. He claimed he could find buried treasure through his "seer-stone," which he called a "peepstone" and he kept it in a hat. This later became part of the legend of the Moroni Urim and Thummim.<sup>8</sup> (2.) Shortly after this incident, Joseph Smith was implicated for counterfeiting money, but turned state's evidence and escaped the penalty.<sup>9</sup> (3.) In 1834, 62 residents of Palmyra, New York signed a statement to the effect that Joseph Smith was destitute of moral character and addicted to vicious habits.<sup>10</sup> (4.) In 1838, Joseph Smith was charged with criminal fraud when his "Safety Bank" at Kirtland, Ohio failed. Joseph Smith and his friend Sidney Rigdon fled to Missouri.<sup>11</sup> (5.) In 1839, he was accused of gross immorality, counterfeiting, sheltering criminals in the act of fleeing from justice, and other misdeeds in Nauvoo, Illinois, Joseph Smith was arrested.<sup>12</sup> (6.) Top this off with the fact that Joseph Smith's the Book of Mormon may have been stolen from Solomon Spaulding's unpublished and stolen novel entitled, the Manuscript Found.<sup>13</sup>

#### **6. Because Mormonism's founder, Joseph Smith, gave himself incredible titles.**

Joseph Smith made himself, "Seer, a Translator, a Prophet, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, and Elder of the church through the will of God the Father, and the grace of your lord Jesus Christ."<sup>14</sup>

#### **7. Because Mormonism had questionable and unethical beginnings.**

(1.) In 1831, while settled in Zion, Missouri, the people there did not trust the Mormons and accused them of various crimes forcing the Mormons out of the city. The Mormons denounced them as "Gentiles" and "enemies of the Lord."<sup>15</sup> (2.) In 1839, while in Nauvoo, Illinois both Joseph Smith and his followers were accused of gross immorality, counterfeiting, hiding criminals, and other crimes.<sup>16</sup> (3.) In 1849, at the close of the Mexican War while in Utah, the Mormons refused to be ruled by the United States of America.<sup>17</sup> (4.) In 1857, an entire group of immigrants who were the 126 members of the Fanner Train, on their way from Arkansas to California, were massacred at the Mountain Meadows in Southern Utah, as a planned and deliberate act of revenge on the gentiles.<sup>18</sup> Some Mormon researchers state this was a fringe group of over zealous Mormons.<sup>19</sup>

#### **8. Because Mormonism believes in an un-biblical "tri-theism."**

"Both Joseph Smith and Brigham Young postulated a trinity of three separate gods who collaborated in organizing and populating this earth. They name the three: Elohim, Jehovah, and Michael."<sup>20</sup>

#### **9. Because Mormonism believes in a plurality of Gods (polytheism).**

"The whole system of Mormon teaching is (1.) that there are many gods, (2.) that all gods are exalted men, (3.) that men become gods, and (4.) and that men are embodied spirits...."<sup>21</sup> "Gods, angels and men, are all of one species, one race, one great family, widely diffused among the planetary systems as colonies, kingdoms and nations."<sup>22</sup>

#### **10. Because Mormonism believes God was and is a polygamist. (the doctrine of pre-existence of humans and the law of eternal progression)**

Under Mormonism "God himself becomes a polygamist. It follows that every god was a man on earth at one time. These gods and their wives beget children as spirits; these spirit-children are waiting for an

opportunity to come to earth to receive bodies. Hence it is the duty of every woman to be married and every man to beget as many bodies as possible.”<sup>23</sup>

**11. Because Mormonism believes that God the Father actually became a god and thus was created.**

“The road that the Eternal Father followed to Godhood was one of living at all times a dynamic, industrious and complete religious life.”<sup>24</sup>

**12. Because Mormonism believes that God the Father has an actual body and is not a spirit.**

“The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s....” God is a literal father because he has a body and has given offspring.<sup>25</sup>

**13. Because Mormonism believes Jesus Christ is a created spirit and spirit offspring.**

“Jesus Christ is not the father of the spirits who have taken or will take bodies, for he is one of them. He is the son and they are the sons and daughters of Elohim.”<sup>26</sup>

**14. Because Mormonism believes that Christ was an offspring, a spirit child.**

This means Christ had a beginning, he was a created god, as we will be. Jesus was the first son of God the Father in their belief system.<sup>27</sup>

**15. Because Mormonism does not believe that Jesus was virgin born.**

“When the Virgin Mary conceived the child Jesus... he was not begotten by the Holy Ghost. And who is his father? He is of the first human family.” “Jesus our elder brother, was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the Garden of Eden.”<sup>28</sup>

**16. Because Mormonism does not believe that Jesus is God or Divine.**

“His humanity is to be recognized as real and ordinary—whatever happened to him may happen to any of us. The divinity of Jesus, and the divinity of all other noble and stately souls, in so far as they, too, have been influenced by a spark of Deity—can be recognized as manifestations of the divine.”<sup>29</sup>

**17. Because Mormonism believes that Jesus Christ was a polygamist.**

“There are more Gods: are there more Gods than one? Yes, many. These Gods are polygamous or ‘sealed’ human beings grown divine.”<sup>30</sup>

**18. Because Mormonism believes the Holy Spirit is not God.**

“...The Holy Ghost, is the influence of Deity, the light of God, or of truth, which proceeds from the presence of God to fill the immensity of space.... The Holy Ghost as a personage of Spirit can no more be omnipresent in person than can the Father or Son....”<sup>31</sup> The Holy Spirit is referred to more of an “it.” “Like other matters, its whole is composed of individual particles. It differs.... It penetrates.... It has power.... It comprehends.... It is endowed....”<sup>32</sup>

**19. Because Mormonism believes in a form of “reincarnation.” (the law of eternal progression)**

“The reincarnation of Mormonism is not that of the Eastern religions, in which there is the possibility of regression to animal forms if accomplishments do not suffice to assure reincarnation in a human body. It is the reincarnation of the old Babylonian mystery religions where a spirit becomes human, and then at death becomes a god.”<sup>33</sup>

**20. Because Mormonism believes that men will become gods.**

Mormonism believes that humans are born here with human bodies for a period of time called “probation.” This period of probation ends with physical death. We then arise as physical-spiritual beings to enter into an enlarged sphere of existence in which we become gods.<sup>34</sup> “The Lord created you and me for the purpose of becoming gods like unto our Father in heaven.”<sup>35</sup>

**21. Because Mormonism believes Adam and the angel Michael are the same and both are gods.**  
Adam is often referred to as an “incarnation of god” and that Adam and Michael the arch angel were the same beings.<sup>36</sup>

**22. Because Mormonism believes in polygamy.**

Joseph Smith practiced polygamy and taught it as a part of Mormonism right from the beginning.<sup>37</sup> It is said that Joseph Smith had 48 wives.<sup>38</sup> One the early leaders with Joseph Smith, Parley P. Pratt, was shot and killed on April 13, 1857, while riding off on his white horse with the seduced wife of Hector McLean. She would have been Pratt’s twelfth wife.<sup>39</sup> The second Leader of Mormonism, Brigham Young had 25 wives.<sup>40</sup> The Book of Mormon as early as 1830 hinted at polygamy by using quotes such as “Behold David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines.”<sup>41</sup> The Book the Doctrine and Covenants contains a “Revelation on the Eternity of the Marriage Covenant, including Plurality of Wives, given through Joseph Smith, the Seer, in Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1843.”<sup>42</sup> “Even after President Wilford Woodruff published his manifesto against polygamy because of strong government opposition (1889), it was practiced in secret.”<sup>43</sup>

**23. Because Mormonism believes “spiritual wifery” or temple endowments.**

Joseph Smith believed that the more wives you have (polygamy) and the more children you have the bigger kingdom you will have in the future state. This was all part of being fruitful and multiplying. He also taught that these marriages are not valid for eternity except there be “spiritual affinity,” where the marriage is solemnized in the Mormon temple. “The eternal union of the sexes, in and after the resurrection, is mainly for the purpose of renewing and continuing the work of procreation.”<sup>44</sup> Mormonism’s progress in life to come is based on the sealing of marriages in this life. Unmarried people and couples whose marriages are not sealed by the temple endowments become angels. Those sealed for eternity become gods.<sup>45</sup>

**24. Because Mormonism believes in “celestial marriage” or marriage for eternity.**

In order for a man to receive “full salvation” or the “fullness of exaltation” a man must have a wife and a woman must have a husband.<sup>46</sup>

**25. Because Mormonism believes that men-gods procreate the earth.**

When humans achieve godhood, a man and his “wife/wives” will produce an infinite number of spirit children. Their spirit children will eventually complete the cycle by being given mortal bodies for their period of “probation.”<sup>47</sup>

**26. Because Mormonism believes the Devil and the demons are Jesus’ brothers.**

“As for the Devil and his fellow spirits, they are brothers to man and also to Jesus and sons and daughters of God in the same sense that we are.”<sup>48</sup>

**27. Because Mormonism does not believe in the imputation of Adam’s sin on the human race.**

Mormons deny the responsibility of man for Adam’s sin. They do not believe Adam was their representative and that his sin was imputed unto all men as original sin. They also believe that Adam fell so that man might have joy.<sup>49</sup>

**28. Because Mormonism does not believe in justification by faith alone.**

“The sectarian dogma of justification by faith alone has exercised an influence for evil since the early days of Christianity.”<sup>50</sup>

**29. Because Mormonism believes that salvation is not through Christ’s blood.**

“The very germs of these God like attributes (of the father and son) being engendered in man, the offspring of Deity, only need cultivating, improving, developing and advancing by means of a series of changes, in order to arrive at the fountain head, the standard, the climax of Divine Humanity.”<sup>51</sup>

**30. Because Mormonism believes in various degrees of salvation.**

“The highest degree of salvation is sometimes called ‘eternal life’ and sometimes ‘exaltation.’ To gain eternal life means to partake of the same life which the Father possesses. Receiving ‘exaltation’ means to become like God (be made a god). To become eligible for this highest degree of salvation, however, one must obey all the commands of God.”<sup>52</sup>

**31. Because Mormonism believes that salvation, the remission of sins, comes through baptism.**

“There are thirty-eight references to baptism in the Doctrine and Covenants. They [Mormon leaders] insist that remission of sins is gained by the administration of baptism by an authorized person.”<sup>53</sup>

**32. Because Mormonism believes in “exaltation to salvation” or the highest degree of salvation of becoming a god.**

The Mormon goal is perfection, to become even as God. This is achieved by taking best advantage of the time allowed to each man on earth. What he gains here determines his status there. Thus salvation becomes based on good works.<sup>54</sup> “Every man who is eventually made perfect, raised from the dead, and filled or quickened with the fullness of celestial glory, will become like them (the father and the son) in every respect, physically and in intellect, attributes and powers.”<sup>55</sup>

**33. Because Mormonism believes in the baptism for the dead.**

“Mormon doctrine insists that there is no salvation except by baptism by immersion, administered by a qualified Mormon priest. Mormons extended the teaching to include all of the millions who have lived and died on the earth without receiving a knowledge of the restored gospel as it was revealed to Joseph Smith. ...Not that the person who is baptized by proxy is saved, but that he will have another chance, after his resurrection, to hear and accept the Mormon gospel.”<sup>56</sup>

**34. Because Mormonism believes only Mormonism has authority as the church today.**

“Joseph Smith claimed, the established church of his day had lost its authority and had no priests capable of administering the rites of the church. The Mormon ‘authority’ is based on the authenticity of the priesthood, which goes back to a claimed incident in the experience of Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery as they were translating the Book of Mormon.”<sup>57</sup>

**35. Because Mormonism believes the church today has lost its authority through apostasy.**

“...The holy priesthood must be restored to the world from which it was lost by apostasy of the Primitive Church.”<sup>58</sup>

**36. Because Mormonism believes the church today is without further guidance.**

“Mormon contention is that a church without further revelation is a church completely without divine guidance.”<sup>59</sup> Mormons believe that even though they have three more sacred books than the Bible, they do not end the divine revelations because the office of president of the church possesses the power of receiving further revelations.<sup>60</sup>

**37. Because Mormonism believes that only Mormonism has the knowledge of the “restored gospel” as it was revealed to Joseph Smith.**

This was supposedly revealed to Joseph Smith in his first vision. He was given the “restored gospel” because all of the other churches had corrupted or apostasized from the true gospel.<sup>61</sup>

**38. Because Mormonism uses the tithes of its people not to advance the gospel or provide relief efforts, but to buy and invest in materialism.**

Though no one is sure how much the Mormon religion is really worth and what they really own, it is a fact that they have owned a supermarket chain, food processors that supply these chains, control over the sugar beet industry in America, have owned an automobile factory, controlled a few railroads, controlled a few paper mills, controlled a few newspapers, controlled the copper producing industry in America,

organized a few insurance companies, a few savings and loan associations, controlled a bank second to the Bank of America, controlled a large part of the industry in Las Vegas, and the list goes on and on.<sup>62</sup>

### **39. Because Mormonism practices prejudice toward blacks.**

“Lucifer convinced one-third of the spirits destined for earth to fight with Elohim and revolt. Thus Lucifer became the devil and his followers the demons. Those with Lucifer were sent into the world in spirit form forever denied bodies. Those neutral in the battle were cursed to be born with black skin. This is the Mormon explanation of the black race.”<sup>63</sup>

### **40. Because Mormonism believes in three kingdoms or heavens and “three kinds of heavenly bliss.”**

Mormons are graded as to what category of heaven they will enter. (1.) The kingdom located on earth after its renewal (celestial kingdom) for good Mormons and it has three levels of heavenly bliss, highest is for those who have a celestial marriage, middle for those who received endowments, and lowest for those who were baptized.<sup>64</sup> (2.) The kingdom that will be located on some sphere other than earth, presumably another planet (terrestrial kingdom) for the good and honorable, but blinded by the craftiness of men.<sup>65</sup> (3.) The kingdom that will be found on still another earth (telestial kingdom) for dishonest, liars, sorcerers, adulterers, and whoremongers.<sup>66</sup>

### **41. Because Mormonism believes the Native American Indians were the lost tribes of Israel.**

Even though the Puritans who migrated to Massachusetts in the seventeenth century spread the teaching that the Native American Indians were the lost tribes of Israel, Joseph Smith picked up their teaching from six books and added it to his new religion. The “Book of Mormon” made the Native American Indians the escaped Israelites from the Jewish captivity in Babylon in around 600BC and traveled to the shore of the west coast of America.<sup>67</sup> The Book of Mormon covers a period of 1,000 years, from 600BC to 400AD. The central story is a man named Lehi who flees Jerusalem, has a series of trying experiences, crossed the ocean to the shore of South America, and has descendants. “However, the historical accuracy of the book of Mormon presents an interesting problem.”<sup>68</sup>

### **42. Because Mormonism’s Book of Mormon contains many anachronisms.**

“The whole array of anachronisms in the book stamps it as written by someone who knew nothing about ancient America and presumed that no one ever would know. The Book of Mormon is total fiction, done by one who assumed that cultures in ancient America would probably be about the same as those of our own north-eastern states in the nineteenth century. ...Mormons believe these writings because of their source.”<sup>69</sup> Joseph Smith himself has stated that we have no authentic evidence that the facts of the Book of Mormon are historically accurate.<sup>70</sup>

### **43. Because Mormonism’s Book of Mormon follows the translation of the King James Bible.**

The books translated by Joseph Smith were supposedly written in “reformed-Egyptian Characters” which could only be translated by special glasses worn by Joseph Smith, yet the translation, with various quotes, is exactly like the verbage of the King James Bible (1611) while supposedly quoting an author of 420AD.<sup>71</sup>

### **44. Because Mormonism’s Book of Mormon contains Biblical errors.**

The Book of Mormon, “...puts words of Jesus (though often twisted) into the mouths of men alleged to have lived centuries before Christ. It was not only written in a poor translation of Biblical style; it also undermines the Bible by declaring it insufficient, by adding to and changing many Biblical passages, and claiming divine revelation.”<sup>72</sup>

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