

MORMONISM

A.K.A. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

ORIGIN: “In the spring of 1820, 14-year old Joseph Smith of upstate NY was pondering the beliefs of various religions in the woods. God the father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to Joseph. Jesus Christ told Joseph that many of His teachings had been changed over the centuries, and the priesthood authority found in the church He established had been taken from the earth. In fulfillment of biblical prophecy, the Lord worked through Joseph Smith to restore His Church and priesthood.” The new Mormon church was organized in 1830 and was persecuted. Smith was killed in 1844 in Carthage, IL by IL state militia. Brigham Young brought the group to the Salt Lake Valley, UT. Polygamy was prevalent among church leadership up to the late 1800’s. First temple, Kirtland, OH – tradition has it that the dedication was attended by Jesus, Moses, Elias, & Elijah. Current membership claims are 11 million in 160 countries. 60,000 missionaries. All other churches are apostates – LDS is the only true church.

BOOKS:

Book of Mormon – Another Testament of Jesus Christ (written on gold plates in reformed Egyptian given to Smith by Moroni - translated by Smith using “seer stones” – account of JC’s ministry on the American continent after his resurrection; story of ancient Isrealite prophet Lehi, and his family’s trip to America 2000 years ago – the book prophecies of the appearance of a new prophet named Joseph). Doctrine & Covenants, Pearl of Great Price, & The Bible; ***Bible is considered the least reliable.***

From Reference 3:

Mormons proclaim Jesus Christ as a) Son of God; b) Savior of the world; c) promised Messiah; d) Mediator between God & His children; e) and directs His church through a living prophet.

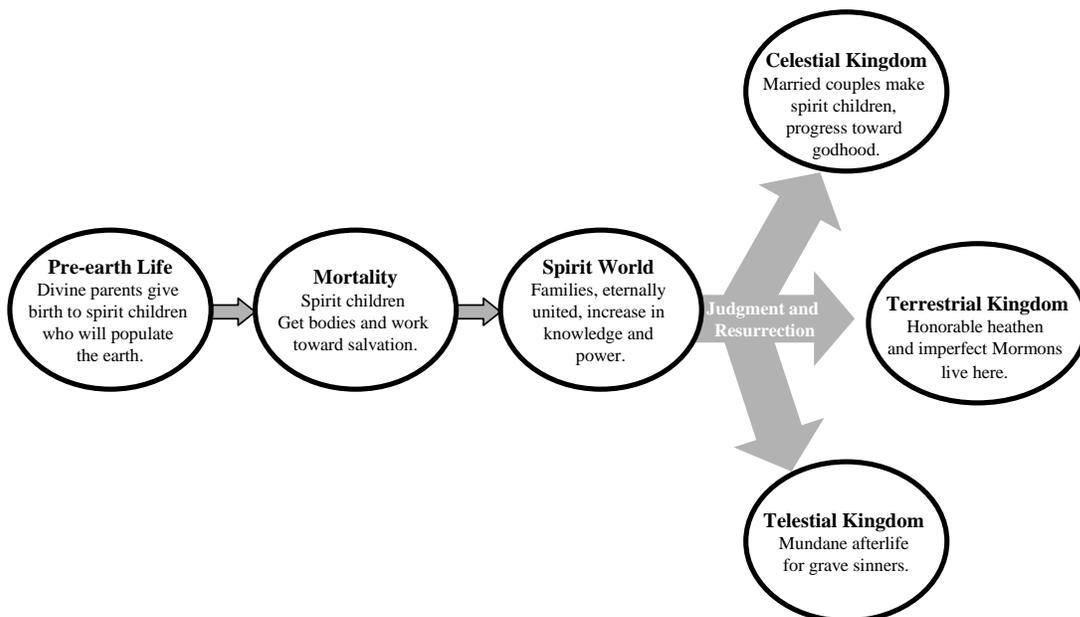
What Mormons do: a) We talk of Christ; b) We rejoice in Christ; c) We preach of Christ; d) We prophecy of Christ...that our children know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins (2 Neph 25:26).

For: Honesty, integrity, lawfulness, abstinence before marriage, fidelity within marriage, wise eating, physical fitness.

Against: Abortion, pornography, homosexuality, gambling, tobacco, alcohol, tea, coffee, drugs, other sins.

Other beliefs:

- Mankind is essentially good
- Man has divine potential – “As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become.”
- God has divine wife (the Mother) with whom he creates spirit children who eventually get bodies and come to earth. [Ref 2]
- Jesus – firstborn spirit son – only human being physically begotten by God upon a human mother, Mary. Considered Jehovah of Old Testament and savior of New Testament. [Ref. 2]
- Every individual must work out his/her salvation
- Can’t legally sin until you are 8 years old.
- Marriage is eternal if performed at a Mormon Temple under all rules and regulations
- Can baptize and marry the dead – maintain extensive genealogies
- Heavenly parents will populate other worlds
- Everybody goes to some kind of heaven as shown in diagram. [Ref. 2]



References:

1. *Misguiding Lights?* Edited by S. Miller, 1991 Bacon Hill Press.
2. Newsweek, 9/10/2001 – “Mormons: A Changing-But Still Mysterious-Religion Gets Ready for its Olympic Close-Up” p. 44–51
3. LDS Lubbock Texas Temple Handout