

# LDS History

*"The world has been unable to place a finger upon anything that is inconsistent or out of harmony in the revelations of Joseph Smith with that which has been revealed before, or predicted by the prophets and the Lord Himself." (J. Fielding Smith, Doctrine of Salvation, Vol. 1, p. 189,302)*

*"Mormonism, as it is called, must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith. He was either a prophet of God, divinely called, properly appointed and commissioned, or he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen. There is no middle ground. If Joseph Smith was a deceiver, who willfully attempted to mislead people, then he should be exposed; his claims should be refuted, and his doctrines shown to be false, for the doctrines of an imposter cannot be made to harmonize in all particulars with divine truth. If his claims and declarations were built upon fraud and deceit, there would appear many errors and contradictions, which would be easy to detect. The doctrines of false teachers will not stand the test when tried by the accepted standards of measurement, the scriptures." (Doctrines of Salvation, Apostle President (10th) Joseph Fielding Smith, 1954; Vol. 1:188,189)*

*"If he (Joseph Smith) did not have that interview with God and Jesus Christ, the whole Mormon fabric is a failure, it is a fraud; it isn't worth anything on earth." (Prophet #7 Herber J. Grant)*

*"Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned." Galatians 1:7,8*

*"For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. No wonder for even Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising then if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve." 2 Corinthians 11:13-15*

**Joseph Smith's History:** (Born 1805 in Sharon, Vermont; moved to Palmyra and Manchester, New York)

## **Cultural trends at the time**

- burnt over district/constant revivals
- Charles Finney
- call for restoration/return to NT church
- reaction to Calvinism
- church competition/discord
- Baptismal regeneration/infant (epidemic)
- Hell temporary/second chance after death
- universalism (all go to heaven)
- fascination with Indian mounds/treasure
- Bible viewed as untrustworthy
- industrial revolution/need for family
- Spiritism/Masons/Campbell movement
- Speculation about Indians & 10 lost tribes of Israel

## **Joseph's Family**

- poor/uneducated/sought visions, revelations, miraculous signs/personal experience/against organized religion/ constantly moving/debt

## Discrepancies with the 1820 revival (1824 date, time line, churches involved, pastors)

### Different versions of Visions 1 & 2

*"Our entire case as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints rests on the validity of this glorious First Vision... nothing on which we base our doctrine... nothing we live by is of greater importance than this initial declaration. I submit that if Joseph Smith talked with god the Father and His Beloved Son, then all else of which he spoke is true. This is the hinge on which turns the gate that leads to the path of salvation and eternal life. (Present Gordon B. Hinckley, "Ensign Magazine", Nov. 1998 p. 70,71)*

*"The appearing of the Father and the Son to Joseph Smith is the foundation of the church." (David O. McKay, Gospel Ideals, 1953, p. 85; 9<sup>th</sup> President)*

1832 "the Lord"

1835 "angels"

1838 (official version) (not published until 1842 – 22 years after supposed event)

"God the Father and Jesus Christ" – separate physical beings

Ex. 33:20; John 1:18; 4:24; 1 Tim. 1:17; 6:16; Col. 1:15; 1 Jn. 4:12

**Conflicting versions of other Prophets** (Journal of Discourse)

- who came

- what was said

- age of Joseph Smith

**Discrepancies in second vision: Moroni or Nephi** (1<sup>st</sup> ed. of Pearl of Great Price)

**Joseph's private life:** (Joseph had a questionable lifestyle from 1820-1827)

-treasure seeking/glass looking/seer stones

-trouble with law/treasure deception (court document)

-occult/Jupiter talisman/dowsing rod/pentagram

-polygamy

Lied about adulterous affair with Fanny Alger (17 year old house keeper)

34-50+ wives (sisters, teens, many already married)

D & C 132:1,20,21,39,54,62 –v- Jacob 2:23,24,27,28)

-joining forbidden churches (family attended Presbyterian, Joseph and Emma attended Methodist in 1820 & 22; joined Baptist in 1824; and Methodist in 1828 after death of first born son)

**Key Events:**

1820 First Vision

1823 Second Vision

1827 Allowed to translate plates (Book of Mormon)

1827 Married Emma Hale

1829 Priesthood given (Aaronic/Melchizedek)

1830 Book of Mormon published

- 1830 Church began in Fayette New York/Joseph Smith Translation of Bible
- 1831 Kirkland, Ohio
  - Anti-banking scheme
  - United order
  - Revelations/Book of Commandments 1833 changed to Doctrine and Covenants 1835
  - Book of Abraham
  - Polygamy begins
  - Raised an army
- 1833 Independence, Missouri
  - "Evening and Morning Star" published
  - Zion (the "gathering" revelation)
  - Temple never finished
- 1836 Far West
  - Sidney Rigdon (influential leader)
  - Danites-secret police
  - Official version of first vision presented (1838)
  - Threat of war (Battle of Crooked River/Haun's mill Massacre)/voting fraud/riots
  - Church leaders in jail for charges of treason, murder, robbery, perjury
- 1839 Nauvoo
  - Joseph Smith was mayor, judge, general (organized small army), possible bid for US president
  - Built a Temple
  - "Times and Seasons" published
  - Immigration from England
  - King Follett Discourse (plurality of gods)
  - False doctrines: plurality of gods/wives, baptism for dead, temple ceremonies, eternal marriage
  - Kinderhook plates mis-translated (proved later to be a forgery/hoax)(1843)
  - "Expositor" printing press destroyed (frustrated Mormons over Joseph Smith's lifestyle- polygamy, rape, land grabs, abuse of power secret practices, fraud, anti-government, harboring fugitives, perjury, inquisitions/false doctrine & prophecy)"There is a point where forbearance ceases to be a virtue"
  - Arrest and murder by mob at Carthage jail (Smith had a gun in jail)
- 1844 Brigham Young successor
- 1886/87 Headed west because of persecution – Salt Lake, Utah ("This is the place")
- 1892 Salt Lake Temple built
- 1896 Utah became the 45<sup>th</sup> State of the Union
  - (Utah: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints – Prophet/President Tomas S. Monson)
  - [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org)
  - Emma Smith and Joseph's son stayed east and began the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ
  - (Now the Community of Christ - Prophet/President Steven Veazey)
  - [www.cofchrist.org](http://www.cofchrist.org)

**Book Of Mormon:** (False history of Americas: Jaredites (2200BC), Nephites (600BC), Lamanites)

*Apostle Orson Pratt said, "If we compare the historical, prophetic, and doctrinal parts of the Book of Mormon with the great truths of science and nature, we find no contradictions - no absurdities - nothing unreasonable. The most perfect harmony therefore exists between the great truths revealed in the Book of Mormon and all other known truths, whether religious, historical, or scientific." (Divine Authenticity of the Book of Mormon, p.56) (Talmage, Articles of Faith, p. 505)*

*"The book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding its precepts, than by any other book." (J. F. Smith, Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 194)*

- There is no archeological evidence (no cities, names, inscriptions, copies of scriptures, maps, artifacts) (No Iron, steel, glass, silk, horses, chickens, donkeys, elephants, wheat, barley, cattle, pigs until 1492.)  
Quetzalcoatl "great white god" (rumored died around 1000AD/not virgin born/pagan worship practice /sinful-seduced a maiden/sacrificed human hearts/name="feathered serpent")(no way true of Jesus)  
*Roberts, Director of Bureau of American Ethnology stated, "There is no evidence whatever of any migration from Israel to America and likewise no evidence that pre-Columbian Indians had any knowledge of Christianity or the Bible."*  
*Archaeologist Michael Coe, Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought, Summer 1973, p. 42.46 "...as far as I know, there is not one professionally trained archaeologist, who is not a Mormon, who sees any scientific justification for believing the (Book of Mormon) to be true... absolutely nothing... has ever shown up in any New World excavation which would suggest to a dispassionate observer that the Book of Mormon... is a historical document relating to the history of early migrants to our hemisphere."*  
*Dee F. Green said, "The first myth we need to eliminate is that Book of Mormon archaeology exists... no Book of Mormon location is known with reference to modern topography..." Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought, BYU Summer 1969, p. 77,78) Thomas Stuart Ferguson - New World Archaeological Foundation, "I must agree with Dee Green... there is no Book of Mormon geography." Later he said in a letter to H. W. Lawrence, "... it is fictional and will never meet the requirements of the dirt archeology."*  
*Matheny said, "While some people choose to make claims for the Book of Mormon through archaeological evidences, to me they are made prematurely, and without sufficient knowledge." "I do not support the books written on this subject including The Messiah in Ancient American... I believe that the authors are making cases out of too little evidence and do not adequately address the problems that archaeology and the Book of Mormon present. I would feel terribly embarrassed if anyone sent a copy of any book written on the subject to the National Museum of Natural History - Smithsonian Institution... making claims that cannot as yet be substantiated... there are very severe problems trying to make correlations with the scriptures... Speculation, such as practiced so far by Mormon authors has not given church members credibility." (Letter by Ray T. Matheny, Dec. 17, 1987)*
- There is no "reformed Egyptian" (Prof. Anthon's testimony)
- DNA evidence against Indians (Lamanites) being Semitic
- Testimony of three/eight witnesses (David Whitmer, Oliver Cowdery, Martin Harris left the church)  
"saw the plates with the eyes of faith" (see intro. of Book of Mormon)

- Problem with translation process (Urim and Thummin or seer stone placed in a hat)
- Different doctrine from Doctrine and Covenants (B of M: salvation by faith alone, original sin, God is Spirit, God is one, God is unchangeable, works not justify, Jesus created all things, eternal hell, Christ's atonement sufficient)
- "Fullness of the everlasting gospel" yet lacking essential doctrines (D & C: god having a physical body/exalted man, eternal progression, plurality of gods, men become gods, pre-existence, celestial marriage, three heavens, high priest)
- Changes from 1830 ed./Plagiarism of KJV Bible (Isaiah, Malachi, Matthew, 1 Corinthians, 1 John)
- Absurdities (Ether 15:31; 2:20; 2 Nephi 5:21; 3 Nephi 2:15,16; Jacob 7:27)
- Biblical contradictions (Jesus birth Jerusalem (Alma 7:9,10), Called Christians in 73BC (Alma 46:15 –v- Acts 11:26))

### Doctrine & Covenants:

- False prophecies
- Changes from Book of Commandments
- Major doctrines different from book of Mormon
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>baptism for dead (124,127,128:5,17,18)</li> <li>God's physical body (130:22)</li> <li>plurality of gods/godhood(121, 132)</li> <li>exaltation (132)</li> <li>spirit world missions (138)</li> <li>priesthood (84, 107)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>celestial marriage (131)</li> <li>polygamy (132:1,37-39,61)</li> <li>three heavens (76:43,70-112)</li> <li>Word of Wisdom (89)</li> <li>preexistence (93:23,29-33)</li> </ul>
--	--
- Two Official Declarations
  - 1890 Discontinuation of plural marriage
  - 1978 Blacks able to receive the priesthood

### Pearl Of Great Price:

- Book of Abraham (Egyptian funeral directions)
  - ch. 3 preexistence/ ch. 4,5 plurality of gods
- Creation account – reshaping preexisting matter
  - (That which is eternal: matter, mind (Intelligences), Law/ yet god is not)
  - (Abraham 1:31; 3:18,24; 4:1-3,14-18,27; D & C 93:10,29,30,33; 88:13; Moses 3:5,7)
  - (Gen. 1:1; John 1:3; Ps. 33:6,9; Rom. 4:17; Heb. 11:3)
- Account of the fall
- 13 Articles of faith
- Joseph Smith's history

*"Wherefore, confound your enemies; call upon them to meet you both in public and in private; in as much as ye are faithful their shame shall be made manifest." (Joseph Smith, Doctrine and Covenants, 71:7; 1831)*