

*“Mormonism, as it is called, must stand or fall on the story of Joseph Smith. He was either a prophet of God, divinely called, openly appointed and commissioned, or he was one of the biggest frauds this world has ever seen. There is no middle ground.” **Bill McKeever, Answering Mormons Questions***

The Mormon people should be admired and respected for their \_\_\_\_\_ (1) and \_\_\_\_\_ (2). In less than \_\_\_\_\_ (3) years the Mormon church has grown to over \_\_\_\_\_ (4) million members worldwide. With over \_\_\_\_\_ (5) thousand full-time missionaries.

*So why the controversy?*

### **(I) IS MORMONISM TRUE?**

It really begins with a comparison of \_\_\_\_\_ (6) with the Bible.

(A) Mormon Teachings that Contradict Biblical Teachings:

- (1) God has not always been God. He was once a man living on another Earth (cf. Numbers 23:19).
- (2) As an exalted man, God the father has a body of flesh and bone (cf. John 2:24).
- (3) Salvation, for worthy Mormons, includes the opportunity to one day become Gods themselves (cf. Isaiah 43:10; 44:8).

The god taught by Mormonism is very different from the traditional God of the Bible. These are not minor doctrinal differences . . . The Mormon understanding of \_\_\_\_\_ (7) and \_\_\_\_\_ (8) are so different than the God revealed in the Bible that it would really be inaccurate and misleading to define Mormonism as a \_\_\_\_\_ (9) of \_\_\_\_\_ (10) Christianity.

The Prophet Joseph Smith said the \_\_\_\_\_ (11) is the most \_\_\_\_\_ (12) of any book on Earth. So that means [we] can put the \_\_\_\_\_ (13) to the test.

(B) Events of the Bible and Book of Mormon vis-a-vis the Archaeological Record.

(1) The Bible

- (a) Has a strong record of being \_\_\_\_\_ (14). It has been consistently corroborated historically, geographically, and \_\_\_\_\_ (15).
- (b) Coins mentioned in Bible (e.g. widow's mite; denarius) have been found in abundance.
- (c) Cities mentioned in the Bible (e.g. Megiddo, Corinth, and Caperniam). . . have been located and excavated.
- (d) The Bible's translation and \_\_\_\_\_ (16) has been verified by the evidence of literally thousands of \_\_\_\_\_ (17).
- (e) Never in history has any artifact ever been excavated that \_\_\_\_\_ (18) the Bible's vast historical \_\_\_\_\_ (19).

(2) The Book of Mormon

- (a) Says that silk, steel, iron, and coins were all used for almost a \_\_\_\_\_ (20) years in America from 600 BC to about 421 AD, but . . . we can't find them.
- (b) Not even \_\_\_\_\_ (21) of the coins in the Book of Alma has ever been found.
- (c) Not one \_\_\_\_\_ (22) or remains of a \_\_\_\_\_ (23) in the Book of Mormon has ever been located.
- (d) Horses, pigs, donkeys, cows, and oxen, which are all mentioned in the Book of Mormon, were not introduced into \_\_\_\_\_ (24) until after the arrival of \_\_\_\_\_ (25) in \_\_\_\_\_ (26). That's over a thousand years after the close of the Book of Mormon. If these items actually were in America . . . would there not be some evidence uncovered by now

This is why no reputable \_\_\_\_\_ (27) has ever verified any historical or geographical statement found in the Book of Mormon.

(C) The Writings of the Mormon Church:

(1) Joseph Smith as Translator

- (a) Joseph Smith claims to have translated the Book of Mormon in the late \_\_\_\_\_ (28) from some sacred \_\_\_\_\_ (29) he unearthed near his home in Palmyra, NY. The plates were said to be inscribed in \_\_\_\_\_ (30) and translated by Smith through the gift and power of God. Unfortunately, no one can examine the plates today. The

- golden plates were allegedly taken up into \_\_\_\_\_ (31).
- (b) Joseph Smith's skill as a translator can be tested however by examining another Mormon scripture called the \_\_\_\_\_ (32).
- (i) Joseph Smith claimed to translate this scripture from some \_\_\_\_\_ (33) documents . . . Joseph Smith . . . claimed to be able to translate the documents through the power of God and he even prepared an alphabet and a grammar of the \_\_\_\_\_ (34) language.
- (ii) We now know exactly what Joseph Smith's \_\_\_\_\_ (35) documents said . . . Joseph Smith did not get \_\_\_\_\_ (36) word right in the \_\_\_\_\_ (37) translation.
- (2) The Mormon Church has made over \_\_\_\_\_ (38) changes in the Book of Mormon since it was first written in \_\_\_\_\_ (39), including historical and doctrinal changes.

## (II) TESTING THE SPIRITS

Mormons were encouraged to pray and trust the feelings and leadings of the \_\_\_\_\_ (40).

In addition to the Holy Spirit, the Bible says there are also \_\_\_\_\_ (41) that can masquerade as messengers of God. That's why the Bible warns of \_\_\_\_\_ (42).

How do you test a spirit? By a comparison of \_\_\_\_\_ (43).

The Holy Spirit, who inspired the Bible, cannot be the same spirit who inspired Joseph Smith.

## (III) SALVATION

The Prophet Joseph Smith said that we receive salvation from Christ through our own obedience to the \_\_\_\_\_ (44) and \_\_\_\_\_ (45) of the gospel. But the Bible teaches that we are not saved by our obedience to God's law because . . . we are not \_\_\_\_\_ (46) . . . no one except \_\_\_\_\_ (47) was able to obey all the laws.

All of us break God's law through \_\_\_\_\_ (48).

This is precisely why we need a \_\_\_\_\_ (49), because no one can make themselves \_\_\_\_\_ (50) by their own obedience to laws and ordinances.

Jesus provided a way for us to receive forgiveness of sins based on his \_\_\_\_\_ (51) and \_\_\_\_\_ (52) and not our own.

Mormonism begins when you make yourself \_\_\_\_\_ (53). Christianity begins when you realize you're not \_\_\_\_\_ (54).

Salvation is a result of the \_\_\_\_\_ (55) of God because of His \_\_\_\_\_ (56) for [us].

Jesus didn't die so I would \_\_\_\_\_ (57 ). He died to pay the price for [our] sins.

### **KEY SCRIPTURES:**

*Numbers 23:19; John 4:24; Isaiah 43:10; 44:8; 1 John 1:4; Isaiah 43: 10; 44: 8; Matthew 11:28; Titus 3:5*

### **RECOMMENDED FURTHER READING:**

- Mormonism Explained: What Latter Day Saints Teach and Practice, *Andrew Jackson*
- Answering Mormon's Questions: Simple Biblical Explanations to the Most Common Questions that Mormons Ask, *Bill McKeever*
- I Love Mormons: A New Way to Share Christ with Latter-day Saints, *David L. Rowe*
- Everything you Ever Wanted to Know about Mormonism, *John Ankerberg & John Weldon*
- Out of Mormonism: A Woman's True Story, *Judy Robertson*



1. sincerity
2. zeal
3. 200
4. 14
5. 50
6. Mormon teachings
7. God
8. salvation
9. form
10. Biblical
11. Book of Mormon
12. correct
13. Book of Mormon
14. dependable
15. archaeologically
16. transmission
17. ancient manuscripts
18. contradicts
19. claims
20. thousand
21. one
22. city
23. city
24. the New World
25. Columbus
26. 1492
27. archeological organization
28. 1820's
29. golden plates
30. Reformed Egyptian Hieroglyphics
31. Heaven
32. Book of Abraham
33. Egyptian
34. Egyptian
35. Egyptian
36. one
37. entire
38. 4000
39. 1830
40. Mormon church
41. unholy spirits
42. spiritual testimonies
43. scripture
44. laws
45. ordinances
46. obedient
47. Christ
48. sin
49. savior
50. worthy
51. goodness
52. righteousness
53. worthy
54. worthy
55. grace
56. love
57. work harder