

# 75 - Christian Cults – Mormons (Latter Day Saints)



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**Mormons:** A dangerous religious cult also known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, founded by Joseph Smith in 1830. Smith claims to have been visited by God the Father and Jesus and they told him that the bible had been corrupted. Later, he received directions from the angel “Maroni” on where to find “golden plates” which contained the “Book of Mormon”. Mormonism has an overall “spiritual evolution” path which tells that God the Father was originally a normal man but he was able to evolve to a powerful god by doing good works. They also believe that both Jesus and Lucifer (Satan) were created by God the Father and they are brothers. When God the Father realized humanity would need redemption due to sin, Jesus accepted the Father’s plan and Satan rejected it and rebelled. Satan took a large portion of the heavenly spirits with him.

**Founder:** Joseph Smith  
**Year Founded:** April 6, 1830  
**Non-Canon References:** Book of Mormon, Mormon Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price.  
**Leadership:** Prophet (Leader), Council of 12 Apostles, First and Second Councils of “The Seventy”, Elders of the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood.  
**Approximate Members:** 750 Million

### Joseph Smith

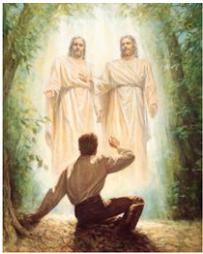
- Born in Sharon, Vermont on December 23, 1805.
- His father was a treasure hunter “money digger”.
- His mother was highly superstitious.
- He had 6 brothers and 3 sisters.
- He had as many as 51 wives some were as young as young as 14 years old and others were married.
- He had at least 11 children that are known.
- He was arrested many times for fraud and vandalism as well as possible murder implications.
- He was assassinated in prison on June 27, 1844.



### Mormon Version of God the Father

- He was a normal man who lives in the “yonder heavens” near a star called “Kolob”.
- He evolved to a god based on good works.
- He has a body of flesh and a spiritual body.
- He has a spiritual wife “mother goddess” who he is married to and she is the mother of the spiritual forms of Jesus and Lucifer.
- He has many spirit children (angels).
- He came to earth and procreated with Mary in order to create the physical body of Jesus.

1) At the age of 14 in 1820, Smith was in the woods praying and God the Father and Jesus appeared to him and told him that the bible had been corrupted and he should not join any of the current religions.



2) In 1823 at the age of 17, the angel “Maroni” (who is the son of Mormon) appeared to Smith and told him there were hidden golden plates containing a new and perfect bible “The Book of Mormon”.



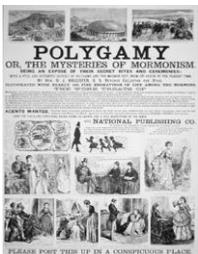
3) In 1827, the angel Maroni led Smith to the golden plates that were in Palmyra, NY where Smith happened to be living at the time. Using a “seer stone” placed in his hat and a scribe, Smith translated the golden plates from an Egyptian dialect into English. While translating the plates, John the Baptist appeared and ordained Smith to complete the divine work and to restore the real church back to the earth. The Book of Mormon was published in 1830.



4) The book of Mormon covers a period from about 600 B.C. to 450 A.D. It tells of the “Jaredites”, a people from the tower of Babel who settled in Central America. They eventually perished due to immorality. Later, a Jewish tribe led by a man called “Nephi” fled Jerusalem and settled in America due to persecution. They split into the “Nephites” and “Lamanites” who warred resulting in the defeat of the Nephites in 428 A.D. The Lamanites became the American Indians.



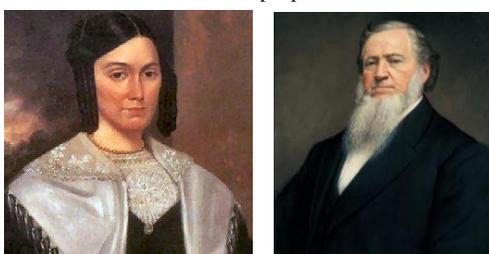
5) The Mormons grew quickly. They were so deviant from real Christianity, especially due to polygamy; they were forced to move from New York to Ohio, then Missouri and finally Nauvoo, Illinois.



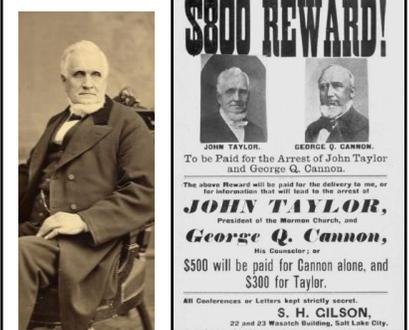
6) While in Nauvoo, Smith and his brother Hyrum were jailed for destroying a printing press being used to denounce Mormonism. A mob broke into the jail and assassinated Smith and his brother in 1844.



7) After Smith was murdered, the Mormon Church was split into two groups. One was led by his widow (Emma Smith). They are known as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and claim to be the legal succession of the Church. The other group was led by Brigham Young. They moved to Utah and eventually settled in Salt Lake City in 1847. Brigham Young had at least 25 wives and accumulated great wealth. One of his more extreme beliefs was that people lived on the moon.



8) In 1882, the U.S. Congress declared Polygamy to be illegal. John Taylor, the 3<sup>rd</sup> President of the Mormon Church, had at least 7 wives and 34 children at the time. He went into hiding and became wanted by the U.S. Government.



### Perverved Mormon Belief

Jesus paid for our Original Sin when He suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane.  
 Jesus is a created spiritual being and God the Father physically procreated with Mary to create Jesus' physical body.  
 Lucifer (Satan) is the brother of Jesus. He rebelled and fell by rejecting the Father's plan for salvation.  
 Mormons can be baptized in place of dead non-Mormons to help them achieve a higher level of heaven.  
 The book of Mormon, Pearl of Great Price, and Doctrines & Covenants.  
 God the Father was a normal man who became God based on good works.  
 People can become like god if they follow the Mormon doctrines.  
 Satan created the lie that man can be saved by grace through faith alone.  
 The Holy Spirit is an individual spirit being separate from the Father and Son.

### Real Christian Truth

Jesus needed to give His life to atone for all of our sins.  
 Jesus is wholly God and wholly man and is part of the Holy Trinity made up of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
 Lucifer is a created being (unlike Jesus who is God) and he fell and became Satan because of his great pride and sin.  
 Baptism is simply a public profession of faith after an individual has been saved. It does not save you and is not required to go to heaven.  
 The 66 books of the bible are the only true word of God.  
 God has always existed in His perfect state. He has never changed and never will.  
 People were created by God and will never be perfect or equal to God.  
 People are definitely saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.  
 The Holy Spirit is the 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Trinity.